

# NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT

## 'RESOLUTE EFFORTS' TO END LATIN AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR



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**BOGOTA:** Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos gestures before a press conference after winning the Nobel Peace Prize 2016 yesterday in Bogota. — AFP

OSLO: Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos won the Nobel Prize yesterday for his "resolute" efforts to end five decades of war in his country, despite voters' shock rejection of a historic peace deal. The award was unexpected after voters rejected the accord Santos signed last month with FARC leader Rodrigo Londono, alias Timoleon "Timochenko" Jimenez, with some observers expressing surprise the rebel chief did not jointly receive the prize.

But the FARC chief congratulated his former enemy and said the only prize the Marxist guerrillas wanted was "peace with social justice for Colombia.. peace in the streets."

The Norwegian Nobel committee said the award recognized Santos' "resolute efforts" to bring Latin America's longest war to end and hailed his decision to put the peace deal to the people despite knowing it was controversial.

Committee chairwoman Kaci Kullmann Five paid tribute to other players in the peace

process, without mentioning the FARC leader by name. "By awarding this year's Peace Prize to President Juan Manuel Santos, the Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to encourage all those who are striving to achieve peace, reconciliation and justice in Colombia," she said.

The deal, signed on September 26 after nearly four years of talks, was supposed to be ratified following an October 2 referendum but voters shot it down, leaving Colombia teetering between war and peace.

The result caught Nobel watchers off guard, with most experts predicting the referendum would scupper Colombia's chances. But the committee said the aim was to encourage peace efforts, which are now in "real danger" of collapse. "We hope that it will encourage all good initiatives and all the parties who could make a difference in the peace process and give Colombia-finally a peace after decades of

war," Kullmann Five said.

Santos said he was honoured by the award, which he dedicated to "all Colombians, especially the millions of victims of this conflict that we have suffered for more than 50 years."

In remarks to the Nobel Foundation, he also said an end to the conflict was "very, very close" and that the award was "a great stimulus" in the quest for peace. "The message is that we have to persevere and reach the end of this war. We are very, very close, we just need to push a bit further."

More than 260,000 people have been killed and 45,000 gone missing in the Colombian conflict which has involved leftist guerrilla groups, rightwing paramilitaries and drug gangs. Under the terms of the deal, FARC was to relaunch as a political party, but the agreement was struck down following a successful campaign by rightwing hardliners angered by the offer of impunity for the rebels. — AFP



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# KUWAIT ARRESTS 2 IRANIANS AHEAD OF SHIITE MEMORIAL

## TWO MEN TAKE 'SUSPICIOUS PHOTOS'

**KUWAIT:** Authorities in Kuwait say two Iranians have been arrested after being seen photographing Shiite congregation halls ahead of a major religious ceremony. Kuwait's Interior Ministry issued a statement late Thursday saying the two men took "suspicious photos" of the halls, also known as husseiniyahs. It said the two men entered Kuwait separately in the past two months. It wasn't immediately clear if the men had lawyers. Their arrests come ahead of next week's Shiite commemoration of Ashoura, which marks the death of Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at the Battle of Karbala in present-day Iraq in the 7th century. Kuwaiti police have promised increased security ahead of Ashoura. An Islamic State-claimed suicide bombing in 2015 targeting a Shiite mosque in Kuwait City killed 27 people and wounded scores.—AP



**KUWAIT:** Photos show two Iranians arrested after being seen photographing Shiite congregation halls on Thursday. — Photos by Hanan Al Saadoun

# KUWAIT REALTY SECTOR STAGNANT BUT MAY REVIVE EARLY NEXT YEAR

**KUWAIT:** Domestic realty sector is currently lackluster due to oversupply and low demand, according to experts. The local market is likely to witness deeper stagnation in the foreseeable future, largely after a large segment of traders in Boursa Kuwait (formerly Kuwait stock

exchange) shifted to the property sector with "random loans from local banks." Secretary General of the Real-Estate Union Qais Al-Ghanim said in an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the local market usually witnesses inactivity during summer, forecasting some trades in the year's remaining time, when many residents would seek to rent apartment flats.

However, if demand for such residential units does not materialize in November and December, rents may drop by KD 50, considering current hard economic conditions and excessive supply. In such an eventuality, other sectors will be negatively affected too. Seeing billboards in public offering rented with specific rent "is an indication landlords are not in good condition," he opines. Al-Ghanim added that the sector was also negatively affected when a large number of investors-inexperienced in the realty business-in the local bourse shifted to real-estates, taking loans from banks in a random fashion and without sound calculations.

Citing other factors, he mentions recent Government's distribution of

large residential complexes to the citizens and expatriate investors' shifting to the business sector. Moreover, Al-Ghanim advises citizens planning to purchase realty plots to wait till January, when prices are forecast to drop. Meanwhile, Mohammad Al-Musawi, manager of Al-Musawi Property Company, concurred that prices in the housing and investment sectors would drop due to the abovementioned reasons.

Investors are concerned that the Central Bank of Kuwait may issue stringent regulations for property crediting, he says. A residential plot located in the second row of houses close to the beach in the beach-side Sabah Al-Ahmad district used to be traded for KD 190,000, but now its cost ranged between KD 105,000 and KD 90,000. Many citizens now favor this seaside district for state-owned chalets, he says, adding that Sabah Al-Ahmad district is quite feasible regarding investments because of abundant available services and utilities. He also forecast that rents of residential apartments will drop by 15 percent in the foreseeable future. — KUNA



Photo shows Kuwait skyline from the Arabian Gulf Road. — KUNA



Secretary General of the Real-Estate Union Qais Al-Ghanim



**KUWAIT:** The National Guards Protection and Reinforcements commander Maj General Faleh Shoja Faleh recently inaugurated five training courses at the training center. The courses included Knife Combat, Stick Combat, Riot Combat, Artillery and Military Police' skills.



# AMIR IN THAILAND FOR ACD SUMMIT

## ASIAN LEADERS TRY TO BOOST INTEGRATION

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah kicked off his official visit to Thailand yesterday as a part of an Asian tour that also includes the Kingdom of Brunei. The visit, the second of His Highness the Amir to Thailand since he ascended to power in 2006, is meant to give impetus to bilateral relations and cooperation among Asian countries. During his stay, His Highness the Amir will partake in the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit, to be held in Bangkok during the period 8-10 October.

In this Summit, to be held under the theme: "One Asia, Diverse Strengths", the conferees will tackle a plethora of key issues related to the political, economic, commercial, social and environmental cooperation among other issues, as well as integration among Asian countries and other countries of the world. They will also discuss matters of mutual concern and will use this forum to encourage all ACD member states to utilize the strength of the Asian diversity in driving the capability of all Asian countries to balance the global economy.

The first summit was held in Kuwait in 2012 upon an initiative made by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad during the 10th ministerial Asia cooperation dialogue forum, hosted by Kuwait in October 2011. The initiative reflected His Highness the Amir's vision to make Asia an integral part of Kuwait's ambitious plan to turn into a regional commercial and financial hub. During Kuwait Summit, His Highness the Amir

proposed the launching of a fund for finance development projects in Asian non-Arab countries with a capital of \$2 billion, to which Kuwait pledged \$300 million.



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.**

Policymakers from all ACD member states participate annually in discussions and exchanges of ideas on regional cooperation, which will enhance understanding and trust among members, as well as consolidating strengths and fortify competitiveness of the member countries. With 18 founding members at its inception, ACD have expanded and now constitutes 34 members from all

sub-regions in Asia. Nepal is the newest ACD member state (March 2016). On the Kuwaiti-Thai relation, the two countries have diplomatic relations since 1963. Thailand inaugurated its embassy in Kuwait in 1983 and Kuwait opened an embassy in Thailand in 1997.

During the Iraqi occupation of the Kuwait, the Kingdom of Thailand condemned the Iraqi move and expressed full support to Kuwait. After liberation, Thailand contributed to the UN peace-keeping forces deployed on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders.

Economic relations date back to 1987, when the two countries signed an economic and commercial cooperation agreement and formed a joint higher committee. In 1998, Kuwait and Thailand inked an agreement to avoid tax duplication and a third agreement was signed in 2003 to encourage mutual investments.

In 2010, Kuwait hosted a forum for enhancement of commercial partnership between Kuwait and Thailand which was attended by the then Thai premier Yingluck Shinawatra who announced that the trade exchange between the two countries surged by 185 percent in the previous five years. On tourism, Thailand has been a favorite destination for Kuwaiti travelers due to its impressive nature and competitive services and prices. On the humanitarian level, Kuwait was one of the first world countries to rush to help Thailand and other south Asian countries with a \$100 million-worth of relief aid after the devastating 2004 tsunami.—KUNA

## KUWAIT UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATES IN AMMAN INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

**AMMAN:** The Kuwait University is actively participating in the 16th Amman International Book Fair, with a special pavilion displaying publications that reflect its high scientific and cultural status. The pavilion is being taken care of by director of the Wiring and Arabization Committee of the University's scientific publication council Ghada Al-Hassan, and director of the Kuwait Journal of Science Mashael Al-Abdullah. The fair aims to highlight the scientific production of the University, Al-Hassan said yesterday on the sidelines of the event. It is also out of keenness on active presence in the major cultural events. In addition, the University is eager to further spread its publications, which include deep research and studies covering various fields of science and knowledge, she added. The Kuwait Ministries of Information, and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs are present at the fair with two pavilions displaying their publications and specialized researches. The Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait is also participating. Up to 350

Arab and foreign publishing houses are taking part in the 16th Amman International Book Fair, where Palestine

is the guest of honor. The fair was opened for the public ten days ago and closed yesterday.—KUNA



## News

In brief

### Yemen's minister praises GCC humanitarian efforts

**RIYADH:** Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Sameera Obaid yesterday expressed the Yemeni government's appreciation to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member States for their role in providing humanitarian and food assistance to Yemeni people. During a meeting of the GCC Coordination Office for Humanitarian and Food Assistance held in Riyadh, the Yemeni minister, who is also deputy chairperson of the Supreme Committee for Relief in Yemen, lauded the GCC's keenness to exert efforts for supporting development sectors in Yemen. The minister provided a detailed report regarding the humanitarian situation in Yemen due to a stifling siege imposed on several Yemeni governorates. The meeting discussed relief and humanitarian aid provided to Yemeni people last month, together with a number of relief and development issues.

### Amir congratulates UN chief nominee Guterres

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has sent a congratulatory cable to former Portuguese prime minister Antonio Guterres on his nomination to be the next UN Secretary General. In his cable, His Highness the Amir wished Guterres success in continuing his predecessors' efforts to fulfill world people's aspirations for peace and security. He expressed hope that the UN would exert more effort to resolving humanitarian issues, promoting principles of justice and equality; in addition, to ending the suffering of those in distress anywhere in the world. His Highness the Amir emphasized that Kuwait would remain a staunch supporter and an effective member in the United Nations. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Guterres.

### Kuwait assists developed, underdeveloped nations

**GENEVA:** Kuwait has financially contributed to a special UN fund for aiding developed and underdeveloped countries, namely those inhabiting small islands. The voluntary contribution was given by Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the UN headquarters in Europe, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghneim yesterday, to the special fund, affiliated to the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees. The token payment (\$10,000) was granted to those needy peoples in line with the State's leading role in supporting small countries. Ambassador Al-Ghneim meanwhile revealed that all member states of the UNHCR took part, for the first time, in the June UNHCR session.



**Ambassador  
Jamal Al-Ghneim**

### Kuwait players win 5 medals in Gulf squash tournament

**DOHA:** Kuwait players have dominated individuals' competitions in the 22nd Gulf squash tournament currently held in Doha, after winning five medals on Thursday. In under-15 category, Kuwaiti players Badr Al-Maghrebi, Yusuf Al-Najar and Hussein Al-Zaatari snatched the gold, silver and bronze medals respectively. In under-19 category, their compatriots Mohammad Al-Turki and Ali Al-Qallaf grabbed the gold and bronze medals respectively. In a statement to KUNA, head of Kuwait's mission Fayez Al-Mutari and the team coach Badr Al-Ramzi lauded the impressive performance of the players and their eagerness to win the first places and better represent Kuwait in regional and international events.

## REMITTANCES FROM GCC COUNTRIES DOWN

**WASHINGTON:** Remittance flows from GCC countries are down, with lower oil prices partly responsible, the World Bank said. "Policies favoring employment of nationals over migrant workers have discouraged demand for migrant workers in the GCC countries," the institution's latest paper on Migration and Development said. Anti-money laundering efforts have also "prompted banks to close down accounts of money transfer operators,

diverting activity to informal channels," the paper noted.

On a global scale however, remittances to developing countries are expected to increase 0.8 percent to \$442 billion, the Bank said. "The modest recovery this year is largely driven by increases in remittances sent to Latin America and the Caribbean," it noted. Remittances remain "an important component of the global economy, surpassing international aid," and weak

growth "could present challenges for millions of families that rely heavily on these flows," it said. However, remittances into the Middle East and North Africa are expected to increase by 1.5 percent in 2016, the paper added.

### Kuwait oil up 12 cents

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti oil barrel rose 12 cents on Thursday reaching \$46.58 per barrel, compared to \$ 46.46 pb on Wednesday,

said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. Producers are anxiously awaiting the upcoming meeting of OPEC next November, where member-states are expected to take decision on limiting production.

Brent crude oil rose 65 cents or by 1.3 percent upon settlement, reaching \$52.51 per barrel, while West Texas crude oil also rose 61 cents or by 1.2 percent reaching \$50.44 pb. — Agencies



## Crime

Report

### 'Wanted man' nabbed

KUWAIT: A citizen who had been wanted for two different cases was recently arrested in Sharq, said security sources noting that the suspect also insulted policemen during arrest. In another development, a citizen wanted for four robbery cases was recently arrested in Mahboula.

### Kuwaitis on the run

A search is on for a citizen who abandoned his car in Saad Al-Abdullah area on seeing policemen approaching and ran away. Policemen searched the car and found four bottles of imported liquor inside. Separately, police are looking for a Kuwaiti who had insulted and assaulted traffic police along the Fourth Ring road and deliberately drove his vehicle towards a police major - hitting him before fleeing the scene.

### Ex-wife 'steals furniture'

A citizen reported that his ex-wife stole the furniture in his Salmiya apartment while he was out of the country.

### 'Attempted suicide'

A female citizen recently rushed her daughter to Adan hospital after she found her unconscious. There was also an empty medicine pack beside her, security sources said, noting that a suicide case was filed.

### KD 520,000 embezzled

Two female citizens working for the Ministry of Telecommunications were recently sentenced to seven years with hard labor. They were also sacked and told to pay back KD 520,000 which they had embezzled. Also, a court recently released a police major who caught red-handed while receiving bribes to release some detainees on bail.

### Blogger released

A court has released a blogger, Sara Al-Drais who had been arrested for insulting HH the Amir, on a KD 500 bail. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa, Al-Qabas

## 4-MEMBER GANG ARRESTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Mol's Relations and Security Media Department said police have arrested a four-member Egyptian gang who are wanted for currency, visas, residency and civil ID forgeries. Case papers indicate that Hawalli detectives had been tipped off concerning one of the suspects' activities. Three passports with fake residency visa stamps were found their possession. The suspect also admitted to forging KD 10 revenue stamps in collaboration with three other suspects. The suspects also confessed to forging Kuwaiti dinar.

### Robbery suspect

An Egyptian has been arrested for stealing a hand bag from an Iranian man including KD 600, a mobile phone and a mini router, security sources said. The Iranian reported that someone snatched away his hand bag and ran away. The man added that he pursued the suspect but could not catch him. The suspect was arrested two days later. He confessed to stealing the bag.

### Drug trafficking

A citizen was recently arrested for drug trafficking, said security sources noting that the suspect was caught red-handed while trying to sell two bars of hashish to a secret agent for KD 100. The sources added that the suspect led the police to another citizen who usually provides him with the drug. The second suspect was later arrested and a quarter kilo of Hashish was found in his possession.



## KFH RENEWS ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH ISLAMIC FINANCE CLUB

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has renewed the strategic partnership with the Islamic Finance Club for the seventh consecutive year as part of KFH's continuous support to the club's activities and in attempt to increase the values of Islamic banking and the Islamic finance industry for students at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST).

The Head of Islamic Finance Club, Mohammad Alsaman applauded KFH's significant role in providing support to the club, while remains a major source and a reliable reference for students in their researches. In addition, he valued the great contributions of the bank and its keenness to shoulder the social responsibility. He

affirmed that the club will continue its efforts in increasing the awareness of Islamic banking by holding workshops and training courses about the shariah-compliant products and services that are integral part of the global financial system.

The strategic partnership affirms KFH's role in supporting youths and students and sponsoring the activities of the club, where the bank participates in lectures and workshops that come in line with its endeavors in raising the youth's knowledge in the fields of Islamic finance, consolidating the Islamic economy and spreading the awareness of the importance of the products and services that are compatible with sharia, especially that KFH is a global leading Islamic financial institution.



**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Emergency, Commercial Control and Consumer Protection teams recently inspected a number of cooperatives across Kuwait. The inspection teams headed by the Assistant Undersecretary Eid Al-Rasheedi filed 20 citations over visible mold, inaccurate weight, lack of licenses, not displaying prices and expired items.



## IBTIKAR ON A MISSION TO EXPLORE AND DEVELOP STUDENTS TALENTS

**KUWAIT:** CEO of Ibtikar Kuwait Initiative for research and projects Hessa Al-Ali said that one of the main aims of Sheikh Fadya Al-Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah's Scientific Competition is to explore female students' talents in all three educational stages and develop them in a way that enhances the spirit of cooperative and communal work amongst the participants. Speaking after an awareness convention recently held at Ibn AL-Ameed School in the presence of a number of MoE officials, Al-Ali stressed that the competition also targets promoting scientific research and patriotism amongst participants. Al-Ali Said that this year's competition will go beyond science. It will include PC, recycling and Arabic. The administrators and supervisors of the winners would also get special awards. The competi-



**Sheikh Fadya Al-Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah**

tion was launched in 1999 for secondary school students in Kuwait and it then expanded to include secondary school students in GCC states.





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# International

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ALEPPO: Syrian pro-government soldiers hold a position as they advance in Aleppo's restive Bustan Al-Basha neighborhood. — AFP

## SYRIA ARMY MAKES GAINS IN ALEPPO

### UN SECURITY COUNCIL PREPARES EMERGENCY MEET

**BEIRUT:** Syrian government troops advanced gradually against rebels inside ravaged second city Aleppo yesterday, as the UN Security Council prepared to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the violence. The assault on rebel-held districts of the divided city has raised international concern, with UN envoy Staffan de Mistura warning east Aleppo could be "totally destroyed" by year's end.

Fierce fighting rocked several districts of the city, which has been divided between government control in the west and rebel control in the east since 2012. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said government forces captured a hilltop in the Sheikh Saeed district in the south of the city, but the rebels retook other parts of the neighborhood previously captured by the regime.

The Britain-based monitoring group also reported clashes in the Salaheddin, Bustan Al-Basha and Suleiman Al-Halabi neighborhoods on the city's front line. Once Syria's economic powerhouse, Aleppo has been ravaged by the war, which has killed more than 300,000 people since it began with anti-government protests in March 2011. More than 250,000 people remain in the east of the city, which has been under near-continuous siege since mid-July and has been pounded relentlessly since the government launched its offensive on September 22. The rebels have responded by intensifying their rocket fire on west Aleppo, where four people were

killed in the Midan neighborhood yesterday, state television reported. On Thursday, rebel fire killed at least 11 people in the Al-Jamaliyah neighborhood, the Observatory said.

#### 'No option' but rebel exit: Assad

The army said earlier this week that it would rein in its bombardment of the east, and the Observatory said there had been a reduction of the bombing that has killed hundreds and destroyed the largest hospital in the rebel-held sector. But it has pressed on with its ground offensive, with President Bashar al-Assad saying his forces had "no option" but to expel rebels from the city unless they agreed a deal with the government.

In an interview with Danish broadcaster TV2 aired on Thursday, Assad said Aleppo's "best option" would be a reconciliation deal like those the government has negotiated with rebels elsewhere. Opposition forces say those deals have been forced upon them by a government strategy of "surrender or starve."

Assad said that without an agreement, he would "continue the fight with the rebels till they leave Aleppo... There's no other option." State television reported yesterday that people were leaving east Aleppo through humanitarian corridors but gave no further details and showed no images. An AFP correspondent said he saw no sign of people leaving, and resi-

dents have previously said they feared entering government-controlled territory.

#### Security Council to meet

The assault on Aleppo, which began after the collapse of a truce deal negotiated by Russia and the United States, has sparked international condemnation. On Thursday, UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura warned of the operation's consequences. "In maximum two months, two-and-a-half months, the city of eastern Aleppo may be totally destroyed," he told reporters. He urged jihadists of the former Al-Nusra Front now known as Fateh Al-Sham Front after splitting with Al-Qaeda to leave the city under a deal to halt the government's assault.

"If you decide to leave with dignity... I am personally ready to physically accompany you," he said. The Security Council is to hold an emergency meeting at the request of Russia to receive a briefing from de Mistura. Council members are also discussing a French-drafted resolution calling for a ceasefire in Aleppo. After holding talks in Moscow on the proposal, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault is to visit Washington to discuss the text, which also calls for a halt to all flights over the city. France's UN ambassador Francois Delattre said Thursday "we have a strong determination to go to a vote" on the draft. — AFP



**SALE:** Supporters of the ruling Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) gather during a party meeting. — AFP

## MOROCCANS VOTE AMID WORRIES ABOUT JOBS, ISLAMIC EXTREMISM

‘WE ARE JUST HOPING FOR THE BEST’

**RABAT:** Millions of Moroccans headed out to vote yesterday, with worries about joblessness and extremism on their minds as they chose which party will lead their next government. Adultery scandals and thwarted election-day attacks marked the unusually venomous campaign in this North African nation, which is allied with the US and seen as a model of stability and relative prosperity in the region.

Top contenders are a moderate Islamist party and an up-and-coming rival party seen as close to the royal palace. The palace pledged to loosen control over Moroccan politics after Arab Spring protests five years ago, but still retains control over major policy decisions. “It’s in God’s hands now,” Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane told The Associated Press after casting his ballot.

Voter Fatima Ibn Abou, voting in the same polling station as the prime minister, at the Mouad Ibn Jabal middle school in Rabat, said, “We are just hoping for the best” after the harsh campaign. Since the last legislative elections in 2011, Benkirane’s Islamist Party of Justice and Development (PJD) has dominated parliament and led a government coalition comprised of several parties with differing ideologies.

The PJD faces tough competition from the Party of Authenticity and Modernity (PAM), widely regarded as close to the palace. It was founded in 2008 by Fouad Ali El Himma, childhood friend of King Mohammed VI and a cur-

rent royal adviser. To help illiterate voters, each party is represented by a symbol on the ballot as well as its name - a lamp for the PJD, a tractor for the PAM, and other symbols for the other 26 parties. The election will determine which party leads the government and the makeup of the Chamber of Representatives, which has the final say in Moroccan legislation. The chamber is comprised of 395 seats, 90 of them reserved for women and youth. Nearly 7,000 candidates are running in 92 voting districts. Definitive results are expected today.

### Public spats

Benkirane has clashed in recent public spats with Ilyas El-Omari, head of the PAM. This week, Benkirane slammed El-Omari for comments he made to The Associated Press suggesting that state-funded associations were among groups involved in radicalizing Moroccan youth. With high unemployment and relatively low literacy, Morocco has been fertile recruiting ground for extremists. As many as 1,000 Moroccans have joined the ranks of the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. On Monday, authorities dismantled a 10-member terror cell comprised entirely of women with alleged ties to IS.

Abdelhak Khiamé, head of Morocco’s Central Bureau of Judicial Investigations, said the cell planned to carry out attacks on election day according to Morocco’s state news agency MAP. Seven of the 10 members were underage, he said. In

addition to security, Morocco’s economic ills are a top concern, including youth joblessness and record high foreign debt. Many voters are frustrated with the status quo, especially in rural areas.

Imad Agrili, 31, a painter from the rural town of Skoura, was voting for the first time and opted for the Federation of the Democratic Left. “They seem clean and transparent,” he said. For others, like the banned Islamist Adl wal Ihsan (Justice and Charity) movement, the election in Morocco is futile. The movement, which is boycotting the election, denounces the centralization of power and the decision-making by the monarchy. “The person who governs is the king and his entourage and they have deeply rooted powers,” said Hassan Bennajeh, spokesman for Adl wal Ihsan.

More than 15.7 million Moroccans have registered to vote but last time voter turnout was only around 5 million, said Abdul-Wahab Kayyali, doctoral candidate in political science at George Washington University. “These elections, specifically, matter a lot ... and will show whether 2011 was just a blip on the radar screen” in gauging Morocco’s path toward reform, he said. The 2011 Arab Spring uprisings have left a mixed legacy in North Africa - Tunisia built a fragile democracy, Egypt elected Islamists who were then ousted by the military and Libya has descended into deadly chaos. Some 4,000 Moroccan and international observers are monitoring the elections. — AP

## THE LIKELY SUCCESSORS TO PALESTINIAN PRESIDENCY

**RAMALLAH:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas received a clean bill of health after undergoing an emergency heart procedure on Thursday. But his brief hospitalization drew attention to the lack of a clear successor to the aging leader and the ongoing rift between rival governments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abbas, leader of the Fatah Party, was elected president of the Palestinian Authority in 2005 in what was supposed to be a four-year term. One year later, the rival Hamas militant group defeated Fatah in parliamentary elections and violently seized control of Gaza in 2007. Abbas has remained in control of parts of the West Bank ever since, while no national elections have been held. Despite his age, plummeting popularity and history of health issues, Abbas has ignored calls over the years to appoint a successor. A long list of senior officials and security chiefs would likely covet the job, though there is no clear front-runner. Here are some possible successors to Abbas:

### NASSER AL-KIDWA, 63

The nephew of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is popular among Palestinians. Al-Kidwa served as Palestinian foreign minister and as the Palestinian representative to the United Nations. Originally from Gaza, Al-Kidwa spent decades living abroad in New York, Cairo and Paris before moving to Ramallah in the West Bank. Al-Kidwa is a member of the Fatah Central Committee, but some in Fatah oppose him because of his close ties to Abbas’ rival Mohammed Dahlan.

### MOHAMMED GHONEIM, 79

Ghoneim is the second most powerful figure in the Fatah movement. Although he is a political unknown, he is seen as a possible interim leader and a guarantor of Fatah unity. Ghoneim is among the founders of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Raised in Jerusalem, Ghoneim lived in exile in Tunisia for years, and opposed the Oslo interim peace accords. In 2008, he moved to Ramallah. Palestinians have raised eyebrows at his advanced age and low profile.

### SAEB EREKAT, 61

The veteran Palestinian negotiator with Israel is seen as Abbas’ closest aide and favored successor, having displayed unwavering loyalty to the Palestinian leader. Late last year, Abbas appointed Erekat as secretary-general of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the same position Abbas once used as a springboard to the presidency following the death of Arafat in November 2004. Erekat is seen by some in Fatah as an outsider, and polls indicate he would do poorly in elections for president of the Palestinian Authority, the self-rule government set up in the 1990s.

### MARWAN BARGHOUTI, 57

The Palestinian uprising leader, who is serving multiple life terms in an Israeli prison, is expected to run for president from his cell once Abbas is out of the picture, according to his inner circle. Opinion polls have consistently shown Barghouti to be the most popular Palestinian politician. At a time when two-thirds of Palestinians want Abbas to resign, opinion polls suggest Barghouti would handily defeat a Hamas challenger, such as former Gaza-based Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, in presidential elections. It’s not clear, however, if Palestinians would choose a leader who is in Israeli jail during an actual election. Israel also has given no indication it would be willing to release him.

### SALAM FAYYAD, 63

Serving as Abbas’ prime minister from 2007-2013, the economist won praise from the international community for cleaning up the Palestinian Authority’s finances. At the same time, the political independent has failed to build broad political support at home. Over the past year, he has made overtures to former nemesis Hamas, an odd alliance that could help him in a leadership bid. — AP





POTSDAM: Muslim men attend the Friday prayer at the green Orangerie of the Biosphaere Potsdam Tropical World theme park. — AP

## FRIGHTENED SYRIANS STUCK IN EAST GERMANY MULL LEAVING

‘THERE ARE NO JOBS, NO CONTACT WITH LOCALS’

**FREITAL:** One had a beer bottle flung at him on a train. Another was woken at midnight as three men holding wooden slats rang his doorbell. A third had her headscarf pulled off by a stranger in the street. A year after they arrived in Germany seeking refuge from war, some Syrians say they have experienced so much animosity that they are contemplating leaving.

The trouble is, they have landed in the eastern state of Saxony—a flashpoint zone home to the Islamophobic PEGIDA movement that has seen a spate of racist hate crimes. “It’s too scary here,” said Fares Kassas, victim of the train aggression. “The man threw the bottle just as the door was closing and the train left the station. There was nothing I could do,” said Kassas, who has obtained refugee status in Germany but is now contemplating leaving for Turkey, where his parents are living.

Mohammad Alkhodari, who spoke of a car that pulled up next to him with men preparing to beat him before he ran away, said he avoids going out after 6:00 pm. “I am so stressed that I have developed a stomach problem,” he said. In Saxony, the number of far-right crimes, including assaults against asylum seekers and arson at refugee homes, tripled to 784 last year compared with 235 in 2014.

Both Kassas and Alkhodari are in the town of Freital, scene of anti-migrant demonstrations a year ago. The area is linked to two neo-Nazi groups that plotted attacks against refugees but were dismantled by security forces last year. In a report last month taking stock of the quarter century since reunification, the government warned that growing xenophobia and right-wing extremism now threaten peace in eastern Germany. “Eastern states are bad states for

refugees. It’s hard to find apartments. There are no jobs and no contact with locals,” said Alkhodari, a dental hygienist who desperately wants to move to western Germany.

### ‘New level of hate’

The arrival of 890,000 refugees last year has deeply polarized Germany, and misgivings against the newcomers run particularly deep in eastern states like Saxony. The former communist state has become fertile ground for the far right, with unemployment fuelling resentment and xenophobia. “They should all just disappear,” said a man in his fifties, when asked what he thought of the refugees in Saxony. Enrico Schwarz, who runs an association in Freital that has been helping Kassas and Alkhodari, said “latent racism and latent right-wing radicalism” has always existed in German society, but “at this time of the refugee movement, they have become bolder.”

He said eastern Germans were more susceptible to xenophobia because many felt like migrants in a new country when Germany reunited. “And (they feel) threatened by other migrants who are arriving now,” he said. Right-wing extremists are capitalising on fears with arguments such as “they’re taking jobs away, or they’ll drive health insurance contributions up”, and lines are gradually blurring between those who are stirring up hate, and others who are simply worried about their future. “Who is the ‘concerned citizen’, and who is the violent citizen? Who is the extremist citizen and who is the one who only has fears? It’s no longer so clear,” Schwarz said.

Erdmute Gustke, pastor at a church in Heidenau—another Saxony village hit by violent anti-refugee demonstrations—said some saw the migrant influx as another

unwanted change affecting their lives. “There is a feeling of ‘leave us in peace, we’ve only just found our way after reunification and now we’re facing something new again,’” she said. Social media has also lifted the expression of hatred for foreigners to a “new level”, said refugee aid volunteer Marc Lalonde. “Before this social media explosion, people were probably racist but they kept it to themselves,” he said. Now they see that “they are not alone.”

### ‘No one to talk to’

Lalonde helps out weekly at a small village that few had heard of before February. But Clausnitz gained notoriety after a bus carrying refugees was mobbed by a marauding crowd. “They shouted things like ‘we will kill you’. They were drunk. We were so scared,” said Afghan asylum seeker Sadia Azizi. Six months on, two dozen refugees still living there complain of isolation as most locals have kept a distance and only German is spoken. “There is no one to talk to,” said Lebanese asylum seeker Majdi Khatun. Some however have made an effort to reach out. Khatun’s son Luai, 15, spoke of schoolmates who help with homework or lend him notes to copy when the teacher’s German is too rapid for him. “There are no Nazis here,” Luai said before greeting an elderly German couple. “Did you like the marmalade? I’ve also packed some cake for you,” said the woman who called herself “Luai’s Deutsche Oma”, or German grandma. Lalonde admitted that it is “discouraging” that these efforts are often overshadowed by xenophobia.

“But I get motivated when I hear about a new attack because it means we have more work to do,” he said. “And we can’t give up.” — AFP

## CALAIS MIGRANTS DIVIDED ON FUTURE AS CAMP SHUTS

**CALAIS:** As France prepares to close down the squalid ‘Jungle’ migrant camp in the northern port of Calais, Amjad from Pakistan can’t wait to get away. “That’s six months they have been telling us that the ‘Jungle’ is done with... but it never ends,” he said. “Everyone here knows that they will soon have to leave and are wondering what they are going to do,” he said. “Me, I’ll take the train to Paris.”

Work to tear down the sprawling slum in the Channel port could start before the end of the month, according to French officials. The plan is to scatter the migrants from the ‘Jungle’ to around a hundred reception centers across France, and at least some camp residents seem willing to make a go of it. “It’s good that the dismantling is coming,” said Noah, a young Sudanese migrant. “When the ‘Jungle’ is destroyed we will be spread around to better places.”

President Francois Hollande announced during a visit to Calais last week that the camp would be dismantled by the end of the year. The makeshift settlement has become the focal point in France of Europe’s migrant crisis, fought over by politicians and a constant source of tension with Britain.

### Falling numbers

But aid workers helping the migrants in the camp say that the number of residents has already gone down in the last few weeks. The main ally of the camp was almost empty this week. Only a couple of grocers and an Afghan restaurant were open for business, the smell of their cooking adding spice to the air on a fresh autumn morning. As recently as mid-September, two aid groups reckoned that an influx this summer had taken the number of migrants at the camp to just over 10,000 — but not anymore, judging by the numbers turning up for meals.

“We have dropped back down below the level of 3,000 meals a day, when just three weeks ago we were at 4,500,” said Stephane Duval, the head of a centre at the camp that offers food and some accommodation. It is a similar story from L’Auberge des Migrants, one of the main associations working on the site. “We’re at 4,000 meals a day as opposed to 5,000 two weeks ago,” said its president Christian Salome. “Our view is the people who don’t want to stay in France have already left, mainly to Grande-Synthe,” a camp further east along the northern coast.

At the same time, said Duval, there has been a surge of migrants taking shelter in a more permanent part of the camp, amid concerns about the coming chaos as the dismantling gets under way. As a result all 1,500 places at his centre were now occupied.

### ‘England or nothing’

But not everyone is willing to abandon the north coast of France across the Channel from Britain. Some migrants still have their sights set on England, despite the dangers of trying to stow away in lorries heading across the Channel. Only last month a 14-year-old Afghan boy died trying to board a truck.

“It’s England or nothing,” Aldon, a 20-year-old Sudanese migrant, insisted, saying he was determined to stay in the Calais area even after the ‘Jungle’ was gone. “I’ll stay here as long as I can and when they dismantle it, I’ll move away but not too far,” he said. For Salome at L’Auberge des Migrants, that is a problem. “We don’t know where they are going to go,” he said. His concern is that they could end up sleeping in “public gardens, under bridges or in the fields”. So as well as calling for bags and suitcases to help those migrants moving on, the organization has appealed for tents and sleeping bags. The centre has already received more than 1,500 items of luggage. While the closure of the southern part of the ‘Jungle’ in March provoked fierce clashes between riot police and the migrants, news of this final shutdown has not, for the moment at least, generated the same level of resistance.

Salome said: “We don’t want this shanty town to go on. Now there’s a chance for the migrants who stay in France to be better off.” But special arrangements will have to be made for the children at the site. French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said this week there were up to 950 children living in the ‘Jungle’, many unaccompanied. Campaigners also say that many of the children have family in Britain and should be allowed to travel there. — AFP



STRASBOURG: Journalists stand in front of the Hospital De Hautepierre where UKIP (UK Independence Party) MEP Steve Woolfe is recovering following an altercation with another colleague in the European Parliament. — AFP

## UKIP 'AT BREAKING POINT' AFTER EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BUST-UP

### POLITICIANS GET PHYSICAL AS BREXIT ISSUES GROW

**LONDON:** British UKIP MEP Steven Woolfe is being kept in hospital until tomorrow after he collapsed following a bust-up in the European Parliament that threatens to bring down a key driving force behind Brexit.

UKIP colleague Nathan Gill said yesterday that Woolfe, favorite to take over from Nigel Farage as party leader, was asked to stay in Strasbourg "for observation in the hospital's neurological ward for the next couple of days".

Woolfe fell unconscious on an elevated walkway in the parliament on Thursday after a fight with fellow MEP Mike Hookem, who denied punching him and dismissed the altercation as a "scuffle" and "handbags at dawn". The dispute broke out after Woolfe, a former barrister who grew up in a deprived area of Manchester in northern England, admitted that had considered joining Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative Party following the Brexit vote.

"Mike came at me and landed a blow," Woolfe was quoted by the Daily Mail as saying from his hospital bed. But Hookem said Woolfe had started the fight, challenging him to go "mano a mano". "He came at me. I defended myself. There were no punches thrown," said Hookem, a military veteran. The UK Independence Party's interim leader Farage, whose resignation announcement after the June vote to leave the EU brought party tensions to the surface, announced an internal investigation.

Farage on Thursday said the fight was "one of these things that happens between men". "You see third world parliaments where this sort of thing happens," he told reporters near the hospital. European Parliament President Martin Schulz also initiated an investigation, saying that the reported facts were "extremely serious" and "disrespectful and violent behavior" had no place in the parliament. Woolfe was rushed to hospital and initially said to be in a serious condition after suffering two "epileptic-like fits" and passing out. French police have not been asked to investigate.

#### 'Breaking point'

The incident caps an extraordinary week for the party that effectively forced then Prime Minister David Cameron to call a referendum on European Union membership and was the third largest party by votes cast in last year's election. Diane James, UKIP's newly-nominated leader, announced she was stepping down on Tuesday, just 18 days after winning a leadership contest, saying she did not have the "full support" of the party's MEPs. Party chairman Paul Oakden said James was shaken after being spat at in a London train station shortly after the leadership announcement.

UKIP's main backer Arron Banks has threatened to leave the party, saying there were "Tory troublemakers and fifth columnists" in its ranks. "People have worked too long and too hard to

get UKIP where it is today, but it is clear that we ourselves are at breaking point," Banks said on Thursday. The insurance millionaire is reportedly considering setting up a new right-wing party.

#### 'UKIP's day is done'

Woolfe accused Hookem of hitting him when the two men stepped out from a heated party meeting. "I wasn't bruising for a scrap. I asked to deal with the matter outside of the room because it was flaring up in the meeting and upsetting everybody and Mike clearly read that totally the wrong way. "The door frame took the biggest hit after I was shoved into it and I knew I'd taken a whack and was pretty shaken," he told the Daily Mail.

Later he said he began "feeling woozy" and started walking towards the medical centre before passing out. "Next thing I know, I woke up surrounded by parliament staff, lying on the floor," he said. Hookem described the incident differently, saying that the two men were "grappling" and Woolfe fell onto another UKIP MEP after Hookem let go of him. Commentators said the incident underlined the struggle unleashed after Farage announced in July he was stepping down, having achieved his life's ambition of a vote to leave the EU. "UKIP Out For the Count," read a front-page headline in the Daily Mail, whose columnist Dominic Sandbrook wrote: "Unless it can somehow rise above its vicious court politics, UKIP's day is done." — AFP

## 10 YEARS ON, POLITKOVSKAYA MURDER REMAINS UNSOLVED

**MOSCOW:** An empty chair and a small potted palm still stand in Anna Politkovskaya's former office, preserved as a shrine by her colleagues at the Novaya Gazeta opposition newspaper. An uncompromising critic of Russia's bloody suppression of its opponents in Chechnya, the journalist was gunned down on October 7, 2006 in the entrance hall of her apartment block. She was 48.

The murder, committed on President Vladimir Putin's birthday, caused shockwaves round the world particularly in the West where Politkovskaya was widely known for her investigative reporting on Chechnya. "We asked her many times to stop covering Chechnya because it had grown too dangerous," said the newspaper's deputy editor Sergei Sokolov, her former colleague. "But Anna said she could not turn a blind eye to what the Russian authorities were doing there," he told AFP. For two days after Politkovskaya's murder, Putin pointedly made no public comment despite the storm of media interest. He finally broke his silence to promise an "objective investigation." The investigation and the trial saw a series of dramatic twists: the authorities unexpectedly replaced the investigative team, the suspected killer fled to Siberia, three suspects were acquitted and then the Supreme Court overturned the verdict. "It was very hard," Politkovskaya's son Ilya told AFP. "And in the end, there was no kind of justice."

#### 'Justice not done'

In June 2014 after eight years, a Moscow court finally handed long sentences to the five defendants-four of whom were ethnic Chechens. Rustam Makhmudov, who fired the fatal shots, and his uncle Lom-Ali Gaitukayev, identified as the murder's organizer, are serving life terms. The court also handed long sentences to their accomplices: 20 years for former Moscow police officer Sergei Khadzhiurbanov and 12 and 13 1/2 years respectively for the gunman's two brothers Ibragim and Dzhabrail Makhmudov. But despite the harshness of the sentences, the verdict did not provide an exhaustive explanation as demanded by Politkovskaya's loved ones.

"Justice has not been done," said Sokolov. "Yes, those who killed her are in prison, but not their boss, nor the boss of their boss." For her son, "justice stopped halfway." "Many politicians say the case is closed, but that's a lie. We're nowhere near. The organizers have yet to go on trial." And a group of investigators set up to identify the masterminds has made no breakthrough for two years. "All the trails lead back to Chechnya, to the highest level of its elite, but the Russian authorities are stalling the investigation," said Pavel Kanygin, a journalist at Novaya Gazeta. "Until there is a change of political regime in Russia, those who gave the order will remain free."

#### Similarities to Nemtsov murder

The gunning down of the opposition politician and former deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov close to the Kremlin on February 27, 2015, revived painful memories for Politkovskaya's relatives. "We quickly noticed a large number of similarities in the way (Nemtsov's) murder was carried out," said her son Ilya. "They caught the guys who killed him immediately and made them testify in front of television cameras before arresting them very quickly, plus they are mainly Chechens," he said. "Even the court process, which has just started, is very similar." For Politkovskaya's son, Nemtsov's murder leads to an uncomfortable conclusion—"that nothing has changed." — AFP



MOSCOW: A man holds a portrait of slain Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya during a rally marking the 10th anniversary of her murder. — AFP

## TWIN BLASTS KILL SIX IN PAKISTAN TRAIN ATTACK

**QUETTA:** Two explosions targeting military personnel on a passenger train killed at least six people and wounded 19 others in Pakistan's troubled southwestern Balochistan province yesterday, officials said. The attack, claimed by the separatist Baloch Liberation Army, came as the Rawalpindi-bound Jaffer Express was passing the town of Much, 55 kilometers east of Balochistan's provincial capital Quetta.

"The explosions damaged two passenger carriages and killed six people besides wounding 19 others," senior local Pakistan Railways official Imtiaz Ahmad told AFP, updating the earlier toll of three deaths. He said the fresh toll came after railway officials finalized the list of dead and injured. It was also confirmed by a senior doctor at the local hospital Noor Baluch.

Earlier, provincial home secretary Akbar Harifal told AFP rescue teams had been rushed to the accident site. Oil and gas rich Balochistan borders Iran and Afghanistan, and has been roiled for years by violent separatist, sectarian and Islamist insurgencies. The Pakistani military is accused of committing widespread abuses in the fight against the insurgents, which it denies.

A spokesman for the Baloch Liberation Army said the attack had targeted "military personnel who travel to Rawalpindi by this train". Balochistan is also the site of China's ambitious \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor infrastructure project linking its western province of Xinjiang to the Arabian Sea via Pakistan. Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif "strongly condemned the attack and directed authorities concerned to find the culprits and bring them to task immediately," an official statement said. —AFP

## PAKISTAN SC SETS DATE FOR BIBI BLASPHEMY APPEAL

**ISLAMABAD:** The accused in Pakistan's most infamous blasphemy case has been granted a fresh chance to escape the gallows after the Supreme Court confirmed yesterday that next week it will hear Asia Bibi's appeal against her execution. Bibi, a Christian mother of five, has been on death row since 2010 in what some activists have called a battle for Pakistan's soul as the state walks a sharp line between upholding human rights and appeasing populist hardliners.

"The Supreme Court of Pakistan under the chair of Justice Saqib Nisar will hear Asia Bibi's appeal against her death sentence on Thursday, October 13 in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad," her lawyer Saiful-Mulook told AFP. "I am very hopeful and confident that my client will get justice... and she will be able to spend her life with her children." The court confirmed yesterday that the date had been set.

Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in deeply conservative, Muslim-majority Pakistan. Anyone even accused of insulting Islam risks a violent and bloody death at the hands of vigilantes. Rights groups complain the controversial legislation is often abused to carry out personal vendettas, mainly against minority Christians. Bibi was convicted and sentenced to hang in 2010 after an argument with a Muslim woman over a bowl of water. Her supporters maintain her innocence and insist it was a personal dispute.

Supporters of Mumtaz Qadri, an Islamist who assassinated provincial governor Salmaan Taseer after he advocated for Bibi in 2011, regularly call for her hanging. A decision by the court in her favor would "send a powerful message to the world that Pakistan respects the rule of law and not the mob," Mustafa Qadri, an expert on human rights in South Asia, told AFP recently. He also predicted that supporters of the assassin Qadri would react violently to such a decision. The Islamist was hung earlier this year, bringing hardliners into the streets chanting slogans against Bibi, although they dispersed after several days. — AFP



In this photograph taken on September 14, 2010, US army officers with the 101st Airborne Division pay their respects by the boots, gun, helmet and dog-tags of US army First Lieutenant Todd W Weaver displayed during a memorial ceremony in his honor at Combat Outpost Terra Nova on the outskirts the Arghandab Valley's Jellawar village. —AFP

## 15 YEARS ON, AFGHAN WAR STILL DEFIES US TIMELINES

### IS AFGHANISTAN STILL A VITAL AMERICAN STRATEGIC INTEREST?

**WASHINGTON:** Fifteen years after the US invasion of Afghanistan, President Barack Obama and the American military have dug in for a long campaign that defies rigid timelines and easy barometers of victory. On October 7, 2001, in response to the 9/11 attacks, President George W Bush launched Operation Enduring Freedom to dislodge the Taliban and capture or kill Al-Qaeda militants they were harboring. For much of the 15 years since, the US has groped for a strategy-flitting between trying to chase down jihadis, take accursed terrain, stand up a fragile government or beat back a dogged Taliban insurgency.

Obama came to office in 2009, promising a war-weary US electorate that he would bring the troops home. But, after a series of missed deadlines and some semantic gymnastics about the definition of combat, he finally abandoned his pledge during his last year in office. Insisting that he opposes "the idea of endless war," Obama has acknowledged his presidency will end before America's longest conflict does.

Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton, who have barely discussed Afghanistan on the campaign trail, will inherit a much smaller war-with some 9,000 US troops on the ground-but one with no clear end in sight. "Right now we don't have a time-bound commitment," said a senior US administration official, who asked not to be named. "It will be up to the next administration to determine how it wants to proceed."

#### War without end

That debate is likely to start with a fundamental question: Is a secure Afghanistan still a vital American strategic interest? "You could ask, now that Al-Qaeda has been decimated, do we still

have a reason to be in this region? It's a very legitimate question and certainly a question the next administration will ask very early on," said the official. Afghan officials argue that the administration of Ashraf Ghani is trying hard to root out the corruption and bad governance that defined Hamid Karzai's decade in power. "It would be an incredible mistake not to safeguard the progress that has been made," a senior Afghan official told AFP.

Afghan security forces still need training and US air power, the official said, as well as help in stopping Pakistan from harboring Taliban and Haqqani network leaders. Few US officials, either current and former, would disagree with that assessment. Many point to the experience of the 1990s as evidence for the need to stay. Back then Washington, having watched their mujahedeen allies oust the Soviets, began to disengage.

"Ignoring Afghanistan proved unwise," a group of respected generals and ambassadors-including Ryan Crocker and David Petraeus-recently wrote in an open letter urging a sustained US commitment. "The turmoil that ensued in Afghanistan after 1989 ultimately gave rise to the Taliban-and then to the sanctuary for Al-Qaeda that the Taliban provided Osama bin Laden."

#### Timelines and deadlines

Unlike Bush, Obama has been willing to bring the Taliban into the peace negotiations with Kabul, so long as they respect the rule of law and hard-won progress on things like women's rights. But so far, neither the US killing of hard-line Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour nor Kabul brokering a peace deal with a notorious warlord has convinced militants to come to the negotiating table.

Earlier this month Taliban insurgents launched an assault to retake Kunduz and so delegitimize the government, before being repelled. Washington is betting it's a matter of time before the Taliban, increasingly confined to rural areas and facing stiffer opposition from Afghan forces, change their calculus. "The Taliban, who are equally resilient I'll grant you that, are learning that they are not able to gain their objectives," the US official said. "They have not be able to gain control and hold strategic terrain." "So the question is, how long will they persist in this strategy?"

For much of Obama's tenure, it was an open question how long the United States would wait to find out. His declarations of timelines and determination to drawdown forces has been criticized for sending mixed signals about US commitment and thus encouraging the Taliban and elements in the Pakistani security services to wait Washington out.

The administration argues they have offered a vital leverage. "The Afghan security forces, I'm positive of this, would not have developed in the manner they have developed-which in general has been very, very positive-had it not been for the requirement imposed upon them by the international community for them to become more self-reliant," said the US official. But setting a hard timeline of ending the war in 2014 was "the explicit announcement that the Taliban just capitalized on," said Vanda Felbab-Brown of the Brookings Institution. Obama's departure is likely to make such timelines and troop numbers less of a political hot potato. That may be fitting in a war where victory is illusive and success or failure cannot be easily measured by the number of boots on the ground. — AFP



MANILA: In this picture taken on September 24, 2016, police officers investigate the dead body of an alleged drug user gunned down. — AP

# DUTERTE DARES THE CIA TO 'OUST' HIM

## BRANDS CRITICS OF CRIME WAR AS 'ANIMALS'

**DAVAO:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday dared the United States' CIA spy agency to try and oust him, as he branded Western critics of his deadly crime war "animals" and vowed many more killings. In two fiery speeches to mark his 100 days in office, Duterte repeatedly raised the prospect of local or foreign opponents seeking to remove him from power in an effort to stop the violence. But he insisted he would not be intimidated and that his campaign against drugs, in which an average of more than 33 people a day are being killed, would not end.

"You want to oust me? You want to use the CIA? Go ahead," Duterte said in a speech in his southern home town of Davao city, referring to the Central Intelligence Agency, while railing against US President Barack Obama and other critics. Last month Duterte accused the CIA of plotting to kill him, but gave no specifics.

Also yesterday he referred to a local newspaper columnist who warned a "People Power" movement could form to try and topple Duterte, using the term coined for the revolution that overthrew dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. "Be my guest. I don't give a shit," he said. "I'll be ousted? Fine. (If so) it's part of my destiny. Destiny carries so many things. If I die, that's part of my destiny. Presidents get assassinated."

Duterte was elected in a landslide this year mainly on a pledge to eradicate illegal drugs in society by killing tens of thousands of people. Since taking office on June 30, police have killed 1,523 people and 1,838 others have died in unexplained circumstances, according to official figures. A poll released this week showed Filipinos overwhelmingly approved of Duterte's

first 100 days as president. But rights groups have warned extrajudicial killings are out of control, with shadowy assassins murdering drug addicts, traffickers, petty criminals and opponents of powerful figures.

Duterte insists police are only killing in self-defense and the unexplained deaths are mainly due to drug gangs suddenly fighting each other. Duterte fuelled international concerns last week when he said he was "happy to slaughter" three million drug addicts, as he likened his campaign to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's efforts to exterminate Jews. He later apologized for the Hitler reference, but said he was "emphatic" about wanting to kill millions of addicts.

Yesterday, Duterte again promised there would be no let-up. "The drug campaign will not end. It will result in so many deaths and I do not apologize for it," he said in Davao. In a barrage of separate tirades against his Western critics, Duterte told them not to think they were smarter than him and he would be prepared with many counter questions if they interrogated him. "If they are unable to answer, son of a whore, go home, you animal. I will kick you now. Do not piss me off. It cannot be that they are brighter than me, believe me," he said.

### Market blast suspects caught

Meanwhile, Philippine troops have captured three suspects in the bombing of a night market that killed 15 people and seized a cellphone video of the blast from them that they apparently took for propaganda purposes, the defense chief said yesterday. The Sept 2 blast wounded 69 other people in President Rodrigo Duterte's hometown of southern Davao city and prompted

him to declare a "state of lawlessness" that empowered the government to use the military in countering terror threats in urban areas.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the suspects are members of Maute, a small and relatively new Muslim militant group based in southern Lanao del Sur province that has wanted to align itself with the Islamic State movement. Philippine forces launched an offensive against Maute earlier this year. Military officials identified the three as TJ Tagada Macababang, Wendel Apostol Facturan and Musali Mustapha. They said the suspects were arrested Tuesday after they tried to evade law enforcers at a checkpoint while riding on a motorcycle without a license plate in southern Cotabato city.

Troops seized bomb-making materials, a submachine gun and a pistol from them, they said. "The operation recovered solid pieces of evidence showing that they are indeed the terrorists who bombed Davao City market," Lorenzana said. The three suspects were presented at a news conference but not allowed to speak. Lorenzana said seven other militants were allegedly also involved in the Davao city blast and are still being hunted.

The cellphone video, which was shown at the news conference, showed the night market scene, followed by a huge flash of light as the bomb went off, yells of "Allahu akbar," or "God is great," and then chaos as the victims screamed and yelled for help. Lorenzana said one of the three suspects planted the bomb at a massage area beside food stalls, while another called a cellphone attached to the bomb to set it off and the third took the video. — Agencies

## JAPANESE LAWYERS SEEK END TO DEATH PENALTY

**TOKYO:** Japan's biggest lawyers' group yesterday called for the abolition of the death penalty, a controversial move in country where a large majority of the public supports executing criminals convicted of the most serious offences. Human rights advocates have long denounced Japan's capital punishment system, under which prisoners are told without warning they will be hanged within hours, but there has been little momentum for change.

Some 80 percent of the public and the core of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling party favor capital punishment. Japan and the United States are the only two members of the Group of Seven advanced economies to practice it. The Japan Federation of Bar Associations issued a declaration calling for the abolishment of the death penalty by 2020, citing the possibility of wrongful convictions and international trends against capital punishment. It also said there was little evidence that it deterred crime.

"There's a serious risk of false charges under Japan's criminal justice system, which has fatal flaws in the disclosure of evidence and long periods of detainment and interrogation," the statement said. The death penalty is currently used for crimes including murder, coups and arson or rape that causes death. The move by the lawyers' group was expected to be opposed by a politically vocal victims' rights group, which has consistently urged that the death penalty be maintained.

"When a life is taken by crime, that life will never return," the group said on its homepage. "For the dead person's loved ones to want heavy punishment is only natural." The danger, said Shizuka Kamei, a former Cabinet member who was a police official for decades before entering politics, was that an innocent person may end up condemned. "Depriving an innocent, defenceless person of their life is a heinous killing on the part of the nation," Kamei, head of an anti-death penalty lawmakers group, said during a news conference on Thursday. — Reuters

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS FOR SALE: CHINA'S UNREGULATED NARCOTIC

**SHANGHAI:** It's one of the strongest opioids in circulation, so deadly an amount smaller than a poppy seed can kill a person. Until July, when reports of carfentanil overdoses began to surface in the US, the substance was best known for knocking out moose and elephants - or as a chemical weapon. Despite the dangers, Chinese vendors offer to sell carfentanil openly online, for worldwide export, no questions asked, an Associated Press investigation has found. The AP identified 12 Chinese businesses that said they would export carfentanil to the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium and Australia for as little as \$2,750 a kilogram.

Carfentanil burst into view this summer as the latest scourge in an epidemic of opioid abuse that has killed tens of thousands in the US alone. In China, the top global source of synthetic drugs, carfentanil is not a controlled substance. The US government is pressing China to blacklist it, but Beijing has yet to act. "We can supply carfentanil ... for sure," a saleswoman from Jilin Tely Import and Export Co. wrote in broken English in a September email. "And it's one of our hot sales product." The AP did not actually order any drugs, or test whether the products on offer were genuine.

China's Ministry of Public Security declined multiple requests for comment. For decades before being discovered by drug dealers, carfentanil and substances like it were researched as chemical weapons by the US, UK, Russia, Israel, China, the Czech Republic and India, according to publicly available documents. They are banned from the battlefield under the Chemical Weapons Convention. "It's a weapon," said Andrew Weber, assistant secretary of defense for nuclear, chemical and biological defense programs from 2009 to 2014. "Companies shouldn't be just sending it to anybody." Carfentanil is 100 times more powerful than fentanyl, a related drug that is itself up to 50 times stronger than heroin. Forms of fentanyl are suspected in an unsuccessful 1997 attempt by Mossad agents to kill a Hamas leader in Jordan, and were used to lethal effect by Russian forces against Chechen separatists who took hundreds of hostages at a Moscow theater in 2002. — AP

# TRUMP GETS SOFTBALLS AS DEBATE LOOMS

## 'FORGET DEBATE PREP, GIVE ME A BREAK'

**SANDOWN, NH:** It had the trappings of a town hall debate. There was a moderator. The audience members had questions. There was a two-minute countdown clock for answers. And Donald Trump carried a microphone while patrolling a small stage. But the similarities between what Trump faced Thursday night in New Hampshire in a warm-up town hall and what he'll see tomorrow night in St Louis versus Hillary Clinton end there.

Trump didn't actually interact with the audience, instead only conversing with a friendly moderator who read the questions - nearly all softballs submitted from the invitation-only crowd. And he publicly scoffed at his aides' previous framing of the event as a warm-up for his pivotal second debate against Clinton. "This isn't practice. This has nothing to do with Sunday. We're just here because we just wanted to be here," Trump told the crowd in Sandown, which was comprised solely of supporters and local Republican leaders. "I said, 'Forget debate prep.' I mean, give me a break," said Trump, who mocked Clinton for spending days preparing. "She's resting. She wants to build up her energy for Sunday night. And you know what? That's fine. But the narrative is so foolish."

For presidential candidates, a town hall debate is a test of stagecraft as much as substance. Trump and Clinton - she has far more experience in the format - will be fielding questions from undecided voters seated nearby. In an added dose of unpredictability, the format allows the candidates to move around the stage, putting them in unusually close proximity.

"There's a lot more interaction, physical interaction," says Judd Gregg, the former New Hampshire senator who helped President George W Bush prepare for debates. Gregg said a candidate who is too aggressive in a town hall, either with the voters or a rival, "can come across looking really chippy, not looking presidential."

### Unique challenges

After his uneven showing in their first debate, Trump's candidacy may rise or fall on his ability to avoid that trap. The Republican repeatedly interrupted Clinton in their opening contest and grew defensive as she challenged his business record and recited his demeaning comments about women.

Those close to Trump have steadfastly insisted that the candidate did well in the first debate, but the hastily added New Hampshire town hall was a tacit acknowledgement that this particular format poses unique challenges and that Trump needed to fine-tune some of his responses to Clinton's barbs. The Republican nominee has reviewed video of the first



**NEW JERSEY:** In this Wednesday, July 6, 2016 file photograph, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton stands near the faded sign of the Trump Plaza casino, which closed permanently on September 16, 2014, as she waits to address a gathering on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City. — AP

debate and his aides have stressed the need to stay calm and to not let Clinton's attacks - such as her invocation of a former beauty queen that sent Trump into a days-long tailspin - get under his skin.

Trump has tried out some new attack lines in recent days, though most of his debate prep continues to be rapid-fire, question-and-answer sessions with advisers on his plane as he kept up a busy campaign schedule that took him to Virginia, Colorado, Arizona and Nevada in the first half of the week. But while the campaign has built in more rehearsal time in the days before the second debate, no other mock debates are planned and the campaign is not using a stand-in for Clinton.

That stands in stark contrast to the meticulous debate preparations undertaken by the previous Republican nominee, Mitt Romney. The former Massachusetts governor prepared for the debates months in advance, studying President Barack Obama's positions and style, exchanging briefing books with

staff, and starting full-fledged practice debates several weeks ahead of their meeting.

The rehearsals were comprehensive. Podiums were built to the exact specifics of those on the debate stage and the mock debates were precisely timed. At a campaign retreat and in hotels across the country, the dimensions of the town hall format were copied to give Romney chances to practice walking around while answering audience questions.

Aides created the stage set up, complete with where the candidates would stand and where the moderator and questioners would sit. Knowing that town hall events are different animals, they focused on Romney presenting himself: how he should walk, how he should gesture and smile, and how he should take the answer to a potentially specific audience question and broaden it to make a larger point or use it to pivot to an attack on Obama. In total, Romney did 16 mock debates. — AP

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## CREEPY CLOWNS SPOOK AMERICA

**LOS ANGELES:** A series of creepy clown sightings across the United States has caused a wave of hysteria, forcing police and schools to scramble to contain spreading jitters, and even the White House to weigh in. The spooky sightings were first reported in August in South Carolina when police were called in to investigate what turned out to be bogus accounts of men dressed as clowns trying to lure children into the woods. But similar sightings have since been reported in more than a dozen states with authorities forced to react to stories of clowns lurking outside schools or businesses, armed clowns driving around in a van or clowns prowling neighborhoods.

One school in Ohio even shut down over security concerns after a woman said she was attacked by a man dressed as a clown. And hundreds of students at Penn State University, in Pennsylvania, went on the hunt for jesters Tuesday night after reports of creepy clown sightings.

Coming just weeks before Halloween, when millions of children across the United States don costumes and go house-to-house trick-or-treating, the frenzy has become a social media sensation with the hashtag #IfISeeAClown trending on twitter and the @SpookyClowns account attracting 186,000 followers.

### Targeting schools?

Meanwhile Instagram has exploded with posts of people dressed in clown costumes staring menacingly at the camera or photos of clowns appealing for understanding or offering free hugs. The hysteria spread further this week with officials in California and Oregon forced to respond to numerous clown sightings—largely considered to be hoaxes—and social media threats against schools, also considered to be pranks. Sergeant Juan Briseno, of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, told AFP that patrols outside schools had been increased in the city of Carson, south of downtown Los Angeles, following a threatening message on Twitter about clowns targeting an area high school. "I have sent our school deputy to go speak with every school within our jurisdiction and make them aware of the situation," Briseno said.

The city of Lancaster, north of Los Angeles, was also swept into the frenzy this week after men wearing clown masks—and possibly carrying kitchen knives — were seen walking around in what police said was an attempt to frighten people. At one school in Oregon, officials sent an email to worried parents this week reassuring them after a rumor spread about clowns planning to harm local students.

### No laughing matter

"This rumor has surfaced across the country, mostly due to people reposting or sharing previous (social media) posts," the email states. "We are working with our partners at Portland police to monitor this issue." The White House weighed in on the phenomenon this week saying the sinister sightings that have led to about a dozen arrests should be taken seriously and that the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security had been consulted on how to handle the scare.

"Obviously, this is a situation that local law enforcement authorities take quite seriously and they should carefully and thoroughly review, you know, perceived threats to the safety of the community and they should do so prudently," said White House spokesman Josh Earnest.

Experts said the epidemic of real or imagined sightings and ensuing hysteria could be explained by "coulrophobia", a long-documented phenomenon which increased in the wake of the 1986 Stephen King novel "It" featuring a malevolent clown, later turned into a hit movie. "The last number that I have heard is that one in almost 10 people report a phobia of clowns," said Matthew Lorber, director of the child and adolescent psychiatry program at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York.

"For kids, to not be able to see somebody's real face is what makes the clown so scary," he added. Lorber said social media was feeding the current scare, which he warned could cause lasting trauma and panic attacks among younger children. "Dangerous fads tend to catch and social media really fuels them," he said. "The idea of scaring people with clowns and posting their reactions online is garnering so much attention that it's happening more and more." — AFP



**NORHT PALM BEACH:** A billboard canvas flaps in the wind after Hurricane Matthew passed off shore. — AP

# HURRICANE MATTEW SLAMS COAST WITH WIND AND RAIN

STATE'S MOST DANGEROUS HURRICANE IN LIVING MEMORY

**MIAMI:** Hurricane Matthew unleashed torrential rains and up to 120 mile-an-hour winds as it hugged the Florida coast yesterday, after a blast through the Caribbean that reportedly left more than 300 dead in Haiti. Matthew was downgraded to a Category Three storm early yesterday by the National Hurricane Center, as its wind speed dropped slightly. But Florida still faced its most dangerous hurricane in living memory.

Local media showed empty streets battered by wind as horizontal rain pounded the coast at dawn, with downed power lines and trees blocking streets and keeping residents trapped in place. The storm caused havoc as it hit Haiti's southern coast on Tuesday, killing more than 300 people, according to a senator from the region, Herve Fourcand. The government toll stands at 122 deaths and Radio Television Caribes reported 264 dead. A definitive tally will take some time to collect because the damage is so intense.

Aerial footage by journalists who made it to the hardest hit towns showed a ruined landscape of metal shanties with their roofs blown away and downed trees everywhere. Brown mud from overflowing rivers covered the ground. In the town of Jeremie, 80 percent of the buildings were knocked down, said the NGO Care. That town of 30,000 "is completely destroyed," said Jean-Michel Vigreux, director of Care Haiti. The aerial footage is reminiscent of the aftermath of the killer earthquake that ravaged Haiti in 2010.

### Death in the face

Further south, the town of Cayes, the third largest in Haiti, was battered by the storm for hours. "I thought I was going to die. I looked death in the face," said 36-year-old Yolette Cazenor, standing in front of a house smashed in two by a fallen coconut palm. In Florida, the NHC said the storm was moving parallel to and just off the east coast before dawn yesterday. The big question was when and if it will hit the coast and how: A direct hit would have devastating impact, but a side-swiping blow could still be catastrophic.

Over the course of the day, Matthew could scour its way up a 600-mile strip of coast from Boca Raton in Florida to just north of Charleston, South Carolina, driving seawater and heavy rain inland. Only a handful of hurricanes of this strength have ever made landfall in Florida, and none since 1898 has threatened to scythe its way north along the low-lying, densely populated coast into Georgia and beyond.

As the first bouts of heavy rain and powerful gusts arrived at seafont resorts presaging the storm beyond, more than 400,000 homes and businesses in Florida had lost power. Evacuation orders were issued for areas covering some three million residents and major cities like Jacksonville, Florida and Savannah, Georgia lay in the path of the terrible storm. Matthew has already battered Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas and US officials are taking no chances, warning that loss of life is a virtual certainty.

"This storm is a monster," declared Florida's Governor Rick Scott. "I want everybody to survive this. We can rebuild homes. We can rebuild businesses... We can't rebuild a life." As of 1100 GMT, the storm was about 35 miles east of Cape Canaveral—about half way up the peninsula—which is home to the Kennedy Space Center. It was moving northwest at 14 miles per hour, the National Hurricane Center said. South Florida including Miami was thus spared the worst of the storm, after it took a slight turn to the north and east.

### Storm surge

The storm will threaten Florida's beaches and ports with ferocious, howling wind and storm surges of up to 11 feet. "And when you get the wind you will get immediate flooding, strong rip current, beach erosion. The risk of tornados," Scott warned. "Think about this: 11 feet of possible storm surge. And on top of that, waves. So if you are close, you could have the storm surge and waves over your roof."

The National Weather Service issued a statement with a stark warning: "There is NO local living memory of the potential of this event. If a direct landfall occurs this will be unlike any hurricane in the modern era." Highways were jammed with people streaming inland to escape the storm, forecast to be strong enough to snap trees and blow away roofs or entire houses.

As US gas stations ran dry, frantic shoppers flocked to stores for batteries, transistor radios, bread, canned goods, bottled water, ice and pet food. Earlier this week, at least four people—three of them children—were killed in Haiti's neighbor the Dominican Republic and more than 36,500 were evacuated, with 3,000 homes destroyed, flooded or damaged. The wealthier Bahamas, which had more time to prepare, was less badly hit and there were no reports of fatalities, but there were power outages, some roads were cut and there was property damage. — AFP

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FRANKFURT: The photo taken with the camera rotated during a long exposure shows headquarters of Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, Germany. — AP

## QATAR UNLIKELY TO SELL DEUTSCHE BANK SHARES

### QATARIS, INVESTING FOR LONG TERM, EYE MORE SHARES

**DOHA/FRANKFURT:** Qatari investors who own the largest stake in Deutsche Bank do not plan to sell their shares and could consider buying more if the embattled German bank decides to raise capital, sources familiar with Qatari investment policy told Reuters.

Funds controlled by Qatar's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim Al-Thani bought 6.1 percent of Deutsche in mid-2014 and increased their stake to just under 10 percent, including options, in July this year. But Germany's biggest bank has been engulfed by a crisis of confidence since last month after the US Department of Justice demanded up to \$14 billion to settle claims that the bank misold US mortgage-backed securities before the financial crisis. It is fighting the fine but may have to turn to investors for more money if it is imposed in full.

Deutsche shares plunged to record intraday lows below 10 euros last week yesterday and although they have since rebounded to just above 12 euros, they are 13 percent below last month's peak and 46 percent below their close at the end of last year.

That implies the Qataris may have lost,

on paper, over \$1.2 billion on their investments in the bank. However a Qatari source, who is close to Sheikh Hamad's office but stressed that he was not involved in the Qataris' internal discussions about Deutsche, said he expected Sheikh Hamad to stand by the bank.

"Purchasing more stock - that could be considered ... which is not to say there are any imminent plans to do that," said the source, declining to be named as the matter is confidential.

Officials in Sheikh Hamad's office did not immediately comment, while Deutsche declined to comment. A second source said the Qataris had no intention of selling out. "This is a long-term investment. Qatar believes it will all work out well for the bank in the end."

If a capital hike does turn out to be required, "they would probably take part in it as they want to keep their roughly 10 percent stake. But they want to stay below the 10 percent threshold" for regulatory reasons, the source added. Any investor owning a stake of more than 10 percent in a listed

German company is subject to stricter public disclosure rules.

#### MANAGEMENT

The first source also said that since the US Department of Justice's claim in September, he was not aware of any formal correspondence between Sheikh Hamad's investment vehicles -Paramount Services Holdings and Supreme Universal Holdings - and Deutsche's management. The second source said, however, that Qatar's continued involvement in the bank would be under the condition that it resumed focusing on its daily business and did not lose more market share in key businesses such as investment banking.

"They are too much focused on legal issues, the whole bank is ruled by lawyers at the moment. This needs to be changed." Lawyer Stefan Simon was nominated to Deutsche's supervisory board in July at the suggestion of the two Qatari investment vehicles. He was placed on the board to keep an eye on the bank's execution of its strategy, the source said.

The source added, however, that at the

moment there was no pressure from Qatar for any changes in top management at Deutsche. "Execution is the issue, not strategy." Qatar's ruling family and the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), the country's sovereign wealth fund, have suffered a string of paper losses on high-profile portfolio investments in recent years, including a stake in Germany's Volkswagen, which is facing fallout from a damaging emissions scandal.

Meanwhile, low energy prices have pressured the economy of Qatar, the world's top liquefied natural gas exporter, causing the government to restrain spending. Nevertheless, there is no sign of serious financial pain in Qatar - the QIA's assets are estimated at \$335 billion - and Qatari investors continue to buy assets around the world. In June, QIA agreed to buy a major office building in Singapore for about \$2.5 billion. "Hamad bin Jassim, and Qatar for that matter, enter investments looking way down the road," said Syed Bashar, a former economist with Qatar's central bank.

"They don't think in years but in generations. Waiting is okay for them." — Reuters

## CAUTIOUS VIEW OF OPEC DEAL STIFLES OIL PRICE REVIVAL HOPES

**LONDON:** Oil analysts are not convinced that OPEC's proposal to cut output for the first time since 2008 will result in much higher prices, as doubts run high over the feasibility of the group's decision, a Reuters poll showed yesterday. The 32 analysts and economists surveyed cut their 2016 average Brent price outlook to \$44.74 a barrel from the \$45.44 forecast in August, the second straight downward revision after successive upgrades in the five preceding surveys.

Brent, which has averaged \$43.34 this year, was forecast at \$57.28 a barrel in 2017 as against the previous outlook of \$57.90. "We are pessimistic about the chances of a comprehensive deal being reached at OPEC's November meeting due to a history of reluctance

from producers to agree to, or adhere to individual output quotas," Morgan Stanley analyst Ashley Petersen said.

In an informal meeting in Algiers last month, OPEC agreed to reduce output to a range of 32.5-33.0 million barrels per day, in a bid to end the "production war" that has caused a supply glut and led to an over 50-percent slump in prices since mid-2014.

The cartel is likely to seek support from non-OPEC members like Russia ahead of its next formal meeting in late November, when it is expected to make a decision on production quotas for its member countries. Energy ministers from Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq will be among representatives of key OPEC producers meeting with Russia for informal talks next week on the

sidelines of a major energy conference in Istanbul. "The biggest stumbling block in the whole process is going to be whether they can get all countries to agree upon quota levels," said FirstEnergy Capital analyst Martin King.

"It has been a sticky point for the cartel in the last couple of years." Supply from OPEC has risen to 33.60 million bpd in September from a revised 33.53 million bpd in August, according to a survey based on shipping data and information from industry sources. Oversupply is expected to continue presenting challenges for the market since inventories have risen to multi-year highs in numerous locations, said Giorgos Beleris, analyst at Thomson Reuters Oil Research and Forecasts. A rebalancing before mid-

2017 was unlikely, even though global demand could increase by over 1 million bpd next year, analysts said. "We expect any gains in a freeze scenario will be quickly reversed as production will be frozen at very high levels, thus still leaving the market with excess supply, which only pushes back further into late 2017 the prospect of a rebalancing in the oil market," BNP Paribas Global Head of Commodity Markets Strategy Harry Tchilinguirian said.

The poll forecast US light crude will average \$43.49 a barrel in 2016 and \$55.46 in 2017, compared with the \$41.69 average this year. Morgan Stanley had the lowest 2016 forecast for Brent at \$42 a barrel, while Bernstein and ABN Amro had the highest at \$50. — Reuters



**NEW YORK:** Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) yesterday in New York City. —AP

# OPEC OFFICIALS SET FOR FLURRY OF MEETINGS

## ISTANBUL MEETING TO NAIL DOWN DEAL DETAILS

**DUBAI/LONDON:** OPEC officials are embarking on an unusual flurry of meetings in the next six weeks, OPEC sources said yesterday, to nail down details of their deal to cut production agreed last week in Algiers.

The chain of meetings, starting with ministers in Istanbul next week, signal that unlike in the first half of 2016, the exporting group is more serious now about managing the global supply glut and propping up prices. First up, OPEC energy ministers will be meeting each other and Russian officials for informal talks on oil output in Istanbul next week as the Turkish city hosts the World Energy Congress from Oct. 9-13.

Citing Energy Minister Alexander Novak, Russia's energy ministry said in a statement yesterday it expected an output freeze deal could be reached before the OPEC meeting on Nov 30. No decision however is expected to be taken in Istanbul, OPEC sources said, but the meeting will be a chance for the officials to discuss the next step after the Algiers deal, which was agreed after intensive shuttle diplomacy. "I have been

extremely engaged in recent weeks," said an OPEC official involved in the talks. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries on Sept. 28 agreed to reduce output to a range of 32.50 million barrels per day to 33.0 million bpd, its first output cut since the 2008 financial crisis. But ministers left aside the delicate and critical issue of how much each of the 14 OPEC members will produce, handing the matter to what the group terms a High Level Committee.

This committee, which will probably include OPEC governors and national representatives - officials who report to their respective ministers - will work out details of country allocations ahead of OPEC's next ministerial meeting on Nov 30. "Everyone will be very busy until the end of November," said another OPEC source. The committee's first meeting is expected to take place at OPEC's Vienna headquarters around Oct 28-29, OPEC sources said. This will be followed by meetings of the OPEC governors to discuss OPEC's long-term strategy - delayed due to disagreements last year - and other administrative issues from Nov 1-4.

Then, a technical meeting of OPEC's national representatives will again meet in Vienna on Nov. 23-24, followed possibly by a second meeting of the High Level Committee on Nov. 25, OPEC sources said, which will then present its recommendations to the ministers when they meet on Nov 30. The number of meetings is not on the scale of the early 2000s, when OPEC oil ministers met as many as seven times a year to micro manage supply policy, but it represents an increase in activity from the last few years. "Consultations remain ongoing among the OPEC-14, the High Level Committee initiated by the OPEC conference is moving forward on the implementation of the Algiers decision," said OPEC Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo in a speech at the G-24 ministerial meeting in Washington. "Steps are being taken to further develop a framework for high-level consultations between OPEC and non-OPEC oil-producing countries. We believe there is firm and common ground for continuous collaborative efforts among producers, both within and outside OPEC." — Reuters

## OMAN CENTER-STAGE IN MIDEAST LOAN MARKET

**LONDON:** Oman is becoming a focus of the Middle Eastern loan market as more Omani companies line up to tap the international loan market, but the sudden upturn in borrowing from the Sultanate is stretching banks' exposure limits, bankers said yesterday. Oman's government and state-linked firms are turning to the syndicated loan market as low oil prices weaken government finances and make it harder for the state to fund projects from internal resources.

"Activity at the moment in the Middle East is essentially centred around Oman, with a little bit in the UAE," a banker said. Oman Oil Company Exploration & Production (OOC) appointed Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp as financial advisor this week on a loan that is likely to exceed US\$1bn, banking sources said.

Talks are still at an early stage and the upstream oil and gas company, a subsidiary of state-owned Oman Oil Co, is expected to raise the financing early next year, the sources said. The deal is likely to have a secured pre-export financing structure. Parent Oman Oil Co (OOC) is also in talks with banks to amend the terms of a US\$1.85bn revolving credit facility dated September 2014.

The company is aiming to extend the maturity of the loan, one tranche of which is due to mature in 2017.

OCC's existing 2014 loan consists of a US\$1bn three-year facility and a US\$850m five-year facility which was signed by 16 banks. J P Morgan and the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi co-ordinated the deal.

The company was originally planning to extend the three-year 2017 tranche into a five-year tranche maturing in 2019 but OCC is now considering extending the maturity of the whole loan, including the five-year tranche, a second banker said, adding that the pricing will also be amended.

Another OOC-related deal was launched last month when MUG launched the US\$700m Salalah liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) project financing, which includes an equity bridge loan - the sponsor is Oman Oil Company, according to Project Finance International magazine. Despite a shortage of Middle Eastern loans, mounting Omani exposure is leading bankers to question if there is sufficient bank appetite for the deals.

"If it is a well-structured deal which pays well banks will find a way to do this even if they have exposure. These deals have always had a good following," a third banker said.

Two large recent Omani loans, a US\$1bn sovereign loan which closed at the end of the year and a US\$4bn for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), another upstream oil business - have already used up banks' Omani credit limits. "Bank capacity is an issue.

Not only have we had the PDO and Oman sovereign deals but historically Oman has done a lot of project finance type loans which banks still have long dated exposure to - it will be difficult to juggle limits. Banks will have to pick and choose carefully what they can do," the first banker said.

Last month the Omani government also raised a US\$2.5bn bond, its first in almost 20 years, as part of a plan to borrow up to US\$10bn abroad. — Reuters



## EUROPEAN INDUSTRY REBOUNDS AFTER BREXIT BLIP

**FRANKFURT:** Industrial output surged in August in three of the eurozone's top economies, data released yesterday showed, providing evidence to of a rebound from the Brexit vote shock.

Meanwhile output unexpectedly dropped in Britain after having initially held up following the June vote to leave the European Union. Industrial production in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, shot up 2.5 percent higher in August from July, when it tumbled by 1.5 percent, according to data from the federal statistics office Destatis corrected for price, seasonal, and calendar effects. Analysts surveyed by Factset had predicted an increase of just 1.0 percent. Meanwhile in France, industrial output jumped 2.1 percent in August, having slid 0.5 percent in July, the French statistics office Insee said. In Spain, industrial output climbed 1.4 percent after having been essentially flat

in July, according to data from Ine. The results suggest "the initial Brexit shock has been digested" in the wake of Britain's June 23 vote to quit the EU, analyst Carsten Brzeski at ING Diba bank said after the German figures were released.

"The outlook for the third quarter all of a sudden looks much brighter," he added. Meanwhile economist Stephen Brown at Capital Economics said that sharp rises "suggest that industry might contribute positively to eurozone GDP growth" in the third quarter. He called the strong numbers from France and Spain a surprise, noting that the consensus forecast had been for a 0.7 percent gain in France and a 0.1 percent dip in Spain. The data provides hard evidence to back up surveys of businesses that pointed to quick recovery for the European economy, although analysts have warned of a further impact as Brexit negotiations

approach and get underway next year. Britain's finance minister Philip Hammond warned earlier this week of "some turbulence as we go through this negotiating process". Comments by British Prime Minister Theresa May and European leaders this week suggesting a toughening of positions towards a "hard" Brexit that would see Britain lose access to the EU single market has sent the pound to 31-year lows. Meanwhile industrial output in Britain contracted by 0.4 percent in August, after having edged up 0.1 percent in July, data released by the ONS yesterday showed. That confounded expectations of analysts surveyed by Bloomberg who had expected an increase of 0.1 percent. However the British manufacturing sector still increased by 0.2 percent, with the overall drop due to the energy sector which has been suffering from low global crude prices. — AFP

## US PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM HARBOURVEST EXTENDS \$1.35BN SVG BID

**NEW YORK:** US private equity firm HarbourVest Partners said it had extended its \$1.35 billion offer for smaller rival SVG Capital, even after the British firm accepted an offer for its investment portfolio from Goldman Sachs and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. Boston-based HarbourVest said yesterday that an extension provides shareholders with additional time to consider its "compelling and final" offer.

The acceptance period for HarbourVest's hostile bid was extended to Oct 13 from Oct. 6, the company said, adding that it had received valid acceptances for 27.7 percent of SVG's shares by Thursday afternoon, 26.6 percent of which were subject to letters of intent. HarbourVest launched its SVG bid on Sept. 12 at 650 pence a share, saying it was taking advantage of a weaker pound, following the Brexit vote, to snap up assets with good short-term growth prospects.

Yesterday, SVG again urged shareholders to not accept HarbourVest's offer. Investor Old Mutual, which signed a non-binding letter of intent earlier to back HarbourVest's offer, withdrew its support in respect of about 8.8 percent of SVG's share capital, HarbourVest said in a statement that followed SVG's announcement. Old Mutual had owned a 9.09 percent stake as at Sept. 13, according to Thomson Reuters data. Old Mutual's move follows similar withdrawals by Aviva Investors and Legal & General Investment Management, which together own about 7.3 percent of SVG's shares. SVG first rejected HarbourVest's hostile approach last month saying it was talking to other suitors who might offer a better price. SVG recommended shareholders vote in favour of the joint offer by the Goldman consortium at its general meeting, which SVG had earlier said would likely take place in early December. SVG said it would update investors before Oct. 13. — Reuters



**COLOMBO:** A Sri Lankan vendor carries woven reed bags and baskets for sale on a street in Colombo yesterday. Sri Lanka's unity government faced opposition from business leaders and the opposition to proposals to increase VAT by four per cent, from 11 percent to 15 percent. —AFP



**PARIS:** French President Francois Hollande (C-bottom) poses with African business leaders following a meeting at the Elysee presidential Palace in Paris yesterday. — AFP

## FINANCE LEADERS GRAPPLE WITH ANTI-TRADE BACKLASH

### G20 MINISTERS TO CONCLUDE TALKS TODAY

**WASHINGTON:** World finance officials, still searching for ways to rejuvenate a sluggish global economy, now face the added problem of dealing with a growing anti-trade backlash that threatens to make the economic situation worse. Officials say the solution is not to abandon support for trade but to make sure the benefits are more widely shared.

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the world's 20 major economies are scheduled to wrap up their talks today. Attacks on globalization have risen in prominence with the June vote in Britain to leave the European Union and the US presidential campaign of Donald Trump.

The G20 talks were being held in advance of the annual meetings of the 189-nation International Monetary Fund and its sister lending organization, the World Bank.

Trump has made attacks on immigrants in the US illegally and America's huge trade deficits central tenets of his campaign. The root cause of both issues has been a prolonged anemic recovery from the Great Recession that followed the 2008 financial crisis, something that officials readily acknowledge. "We see growth as too low for too long and benefiting too few," IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde told reporters on Thursday. "It's fertile ... ground for political dynamics that can depress global growth even more." Lagarde said finance leaders need to pursue broader policies to boost anemic growth rates that go beyond the current heavy reliance on monetary policy to include increased gov-

ernment spending and tax cuts where feasible and attacking structural impediments to growth. She said it was critical to make greater efforts to make sure that the economic benefits were more widely shared. Speaking at an opening news conference, Lagarde refused to specifically address the attacks being made by Trump, who contends that Washington policymakers have failed to reach good trade deals and are letting China, Mexico and other countries pursue unfair trade practices that have cost millions of American jobs and resulted in stagnant wage growth. Trump has also vowed to crack down on illegal immigration.

#### US election

"I don't comment on US elections. I simply note that trade has been ... a great engine for growth," Lagarde said, adding that trade has helped lift millions of people around the world out of poverty. In Britain, the June 23 vote to leave the EU was also seen as a backlash against globalization and rising levels of immigration in Europe. Lagarde said instead of abandoning efforts to lower trade barriers, now was the time to make sure the benefits of trade were more equally shared. She said there was a need for "inclusiveness, the determination to make it work for all, to pay attention to those at risk of being left out." World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said there are now more developing nations in recession than at any time since 2009 at the depths of the Great Recession. — AP



United Auto Workers assemble a 2017 Ford F-Series Super Duty truck at the Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville, Ky. Yesterday, the US government issued the September jobs report. — AP

## US JOB GROWTH SLOWS IN SEPT; FED HIKE UNCERTAIN

### US PAYROLLS GROW BY 156,000 IN SEPTEMBER

**WASHINGTON:** US employment growth unexpectedly slowed for the third straight month in September and the jobless rate rose, which could make the Federal Reserve more cautious about raising interest rates. Nonfarm payrolls rose 156,000, down from a gain of 167,000 jobs in August, the Labor Department said yesterday. Although the employment report suggested the US economy was still expanding, it was expected to further reduce the chance of a rate increase at the Fed's November policy meeting. There is, however, a much higher likelihood of a hike at the US central bank's last meeting of the year in December.

"It's strong enough that you're not worried about the US slipping" into an economic slump, said Michael Jones, an investment officer at RiverFront Investment Group in Richmond, Virginia. "But it's not so strong that it precipitates

immediate action from the Fed." US stock futures moved sharply higher after the payrolls report, while the dollar pared gains against a basket of currencies. Prices for US Treasuries rose. Fed Chair Janet Yellen has said the economy needs to create less than 100,000 jobs a month to keep up with population growth. Average monthly job gains have been about 180,000 this year, which Yellen has described as "unsustainable."

Economists polled by Reuters had expected employers to add 175,000 jobs last month. The government said 7,000 fewer jobs were created in August and July than had been previously reported. The unemployment rate ticked up a tenth of a percentage point to 5.0 percent in September. The increase was driven by Americans rejoining the labor force, which suggests slack remains in the job market. Hourly wages for private sector workers rose 2.6 percent in September from the

same month a year earlier, in line with economists' expectations. The annual growth rate in hourly wages has shown signs of accelerating over the last year although it remains slower than before the 2007-2009 recession. Yesterday's employment report will be the last before the Fed's Nov. 1-2 policy meeting. Investors see almost no chance of a rate increase at that meeting given how close it is to the Nov. 8 US presidential election.

#### DIVIDED FED

Yellen said last month that the Fed will likely raise rates once this year, but prices on fed funds futures suggest just above even odds the increase will come in December. Three Fed policymakers voted for a hike last month when the central bank kept rates steady. However, yesterday's data could boost the case of Fed policymakers who have vocally defended a go-slow approach to rate increases. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has accused the Fed of playing politics by holding rates low, a charge Yellen and other Fed policymakers have denied. Trump has also made reversing job losses at US factories a central campaign promise. Manufacturing employment fell by 13,000 jobs in September and the sector has shed jobs in three of the last five months. At the same time, the job market on balance continues to firm, even if at a slower pace, which could be an asset for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. She has argued that Democratic President Barack Obama's policies have helped the economy create millions of jobs. The Fed lifted its benchmark overnight interest rate at the end of last year for the first time in nearly a decade, but has held it steady so far this year amid concerns over persistently low inflation. — Reuters

## UK TO RESTART SELLING DOWN STAKE IN LLOYDS BANKING GROUP

**LONDON:** The British government will restart selling down its 3.6 billion pound (\$4.45 billion) stake in Lloyds Banking Group, the body set up to manage the process said yesterday, after it was delayed following the vote to leave the European Union. UK Financial Investments Limited, which manages the government's stakes in the banks, said it has recommended scrapping plans to sell the remaining stake via a discounted public selloff.

"The design of the trading plan allows us to ensure that all sales will represent value for money for the tax-

payer," said James Leigh Pemberton of UKFI in the statement.

UKFI said the trading plan would last until the end of 6 October 2017 and the shares will be sold by Morgan Stanley. The government currently owns about 6.5 billion ordinary shares in the Lloyds, which represents about 9 percent of the bank's shares.

Lloyds was rescued with a 20.5 billion pound taxpayer-funded bailout during the 2007-09 financial crisis, leaving the state holding 43 percent. The finance ministry began selling off its stake in September 2013. — Reuters

## BUSINESS LEADERS CALL TRUMP BAD FOR ECONOMY IN LETTER

**WASHINGTON:** A dozen big-name business leaders, including lifelong Republicans and independents, say they won't support real estate mogul Donald Trump for president. They say he would be bad for the economy, and they question how successful he's been as a businessman. "For sustained investment, economic growth and job creation, American business needs as much predictability, reliability and stability in our government as possible," they write. "Donald Trump is simply too reckless for American business." A copy of the letter was given to The Associated Press ahead of the group's push for others to sign on, as well as the release of the group's new website on Friday. It comes on the heels of an open letter by more than 30 former GOP members of Congress condemning the Republican presidential nominee as "disgraceful."

Signatories of the latest letter include Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, famed chef Jose Andres and Carlos Gutierrez, US secretary of Commerce under President George W Bush and the former chief executive officer of the Kellogg Company. Andres is tussling with Trump over his decision to pull his planned restaurant out of Trump's new hotel at the Old Post Office in Washington.

Jack McGregor said he hopes the effort convinces undecided voters to choose Democrat Hillary Clinton. He's a Republican former Pennsylvania state senator and founder of the National Hockey League team the Pittsburgh Penguins.

"I believe we can reach thinking Republicans like the ones I served with in Pennsylvania," he said. The group came together as John Stubbs, who has been organizing Republicans who back Clinton, realized that business leaders - of all political persuasions - have particular concerns about a Trump presidency, Stubbs said. A former Republican staffer in Washington, Stubbs said he has not been working with the Clinton campaign. Trump has many business leaders in his corner. Some of his highest profile supporters include investor Carl Icahn, financier T. Boone Pickens and PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel.

The anti-Trump letter makes a two-front case against the Republican nominee. They say he has not been particularly successful in his decades in real estate. And they believe he is offensive and dangerously erratic. "Trump's harmful rhetoric regarding immigrants, women, racial and religious minorities, the disabled and American veterans is not only unacceptable, it creates an atmosphere of vulgarity that poisons the climate, as does his general approach to business and many of his economic ideas," they write. "And how do you lose nearly a billion dollars in a single year?"

The New York Times said it obtained several pages of Trump's 1995 state income tax filings that showed he took a net loss of \$915,729,293 in federal taxable income for the year. The letter cites Trump's businesses' six business bankruptcies, several thousand lawsuits and repeated failure to pay subcontractors as evidence that he's not a successful businessman. — AP



TOKYO: A trader checks computer screens showing the Japanese yen rate against the British pound at a brokerage in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

## CHINA SEPT FOREX RESERVES FALL TO \$3.166 TRILLION

**BEIJING:** China's foreign exchange reserves fell for a third straight month in September and by slightly more than markets had expected, suggesting fresh capital outflows from the world's second-largest economy. Forex reserves fell to \$3.166 trillion from \$3.185 trillion in August, central bank data showed yesterday. Economists polled by Reuters had expected reserves to ease to \$3.18 trillion, after dropping to the lowest since 2011 in August after the central bank intervened to support the yuan currency as it weakened to near six-year lows.

China's reserves, the largest in the world, fell by a record \$513 billion last year after Beijing devalued the

yuan currency, sparking a flood of capital outflows that threatened to destabilize the world's second-largest economy and alarmed global financial markets.

But declines had slowed sharply in the first half of this year as authorities tightened capital controls and cracked down on forex trading which they suspected to be speculation. Tentative signs of stabilization in the economy and investment inflows were also believed to be offsetting outflow pressures. However, while September's \$18.8 billion drop was small compared with overall reserves, it was larger than a decline of \$15.89 billion in August and was the biggest in four months.

Traders believe the central bank has stepped in via state-run banks since July to slow the pace of depreciation in the yuan, which has weakened 2.7 percent against the US dollar so far this year.

But most market watchers expect the PBOC will allow the yuan to slowly resume its gradual descent later this year, especially if the chances of a US interest rate hike are seen rising, buoying the dollar. Recent data showed net foreign exchange sales by China's commercial banks in August fell to the lowest in about a year, suggesting outflow pressures were easing.

China's cross-border capital flows will remain normal in the second half of 2016, thanks to positive factors

such as more transparency in how the yuan exchange rate is managed and also due to receding pressures to service huge offshore debts held by Chinese companies, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), China's foreign exchange regulator, said last month.

Regulators will continue to crack down on forex violations and strengthen monitoring of cross-border capital flows, SAFE said, adding it will also push forward to achieve capital account convertibility in an orderly manner. China's gold reserves rose to \$78.169 billion at the end of September, from \$77.18 billion the previous month, the People's Bank of China said on its website. — Reuters

## SWAP MAIZE FOR MILLET? ZIMBABWE FARMERS SAY NO

**BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe:** In the battle for food security, Fanuel Dube is resisting his government - and giving in to his children. As Zimbabwe's sowing season nears, the small-scale farmer from Filabusi, a village about 100km (63 miles) south of Bulawayo, intends to continue planting maize.

He has refused the entreaties of government agriculture officers to grow smaller, naturally drought-resistant grains such as sorghum and millet. The problem, he says, is that "our children do not like it". "We ate sorghum when we were younger ourselves, but we have been planting maize for so long now it's the only food our children know," Dube explained.

Dube is not the only farmer reluctant to abandon southern Africa's staple grain, even as harvests of it plummet. Maize production dropped by 40 percent in Zimbabwe in 2015-16 due to poor rains, according to the Commercial Farmers Union. The government has pushed farmers to begin growing small grains as the future of the country's food security in a time of persistent drought. But small-scale farmers have been slow in making the change, and last year the agriculture ministry reported a shortage of even the seeds to grow small grains, because farmers are not planting enough to generate new stocks.

### NO TASTE FOR CHANGE

According to research by Chipso Zishiri, a small-grains specialist at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development, Zimbabwe has witnessed a decline in the production of small grains over the past 14 years because farmers are unwilling to grow sorghum, millet and other varieties.

"Tastes and preferences are a contributory factor that is derailing the production of small grain," said Zishiri. But in a time of climate variability and increased frequency of drought, "improving productivity of small grains is the key to food and nutrition security," she said.

Tapuwa Gomo, a development expert at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said the refusal by farmers to switch crops "demonstrates lack of research and community consultation" by the government. According to the agriculture ministry, up to 80 percent of the country's maize production comes from small-scale farmers, and poor harvests this year resulted in the country having to import 700,000 tons of maize to avert hunger.

The country's primary maize seed manufacturer, Seed Co, has invested in new drought-resistant varieties. But Stephen Chengetai, an agriculture extension officer at the agriculture ministry, told Thomson Reuters Foundation that one problem in seeing them distributed is that they often "are very expensive". "They are expensive not just for farmers themselves but more worryingly for government which distributes farming inputs for free," Chengetai said. A 25kg bag of more traditional maize seed that takes four months to mature costs around \$80 while a variety that is ready for harvest in two months costs \$120 at retail outlets. — Reuters



**WASHINGTON:** Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei (right) and Germany's Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble speak at a news conference after the G20 Finance Minister and Central Bank Governors conference at the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings at IMF headquarters in Washington yesterday. —AP

## GERMANY RAISES GROWTH FORECAST, UPS SPENDING

### GOVT LIFTS 2016 GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO 1.8%

**BERLIN:** The German economy will grow slightly faster than expected this year due to state spending on migrants and soaring private consumption, the Economy Minister said yesterday, and he called for more public investment in schools and roads. Sigmar Gabriel also warned Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives against limiting the state's spending ability by promising "gigantic tax cuts" ahead of next year's election.

"The level of investment is always a yardstick for how firmly a country believes in its future and how it is willing to tackle this," said Gabriel, head of the Social Democrats, junior partner in Merkel's coalition government. "It's clear that we need significantly more investment in education and schools," he said, adding that more roads needed to be modernized and Internet connections had to become faster. The government lifted its 2016 growth forecast for Europe's biggest economy to 1.8 percent from 1.7 percent previously, which would be the strongest growth in

half a decade. Germany's solid public finances are mainly due to the European Central Bank's ultra-low interest rates, which help the national budget to the tune of some 20 billion euros per year, Gabriel said. But he added: "Interest rates can rise again." Therefore it would not be smart for the government to lower taxes only to find itself forced to raise revenue somewhere else sooner or later, he said.

Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) have made tax cuts of up to 15 billion euros a cornerstone of their election campaign less than one year before the next federal vote. Gabriel's Social Democrats have made boosting investment their platform.

### SOLID UPSWING

The government revised down its estimate for next year, however, predicting an expansion of 1.4 percent instead of 1.5 percent. But adjusted for the number of work days, the economic slowdown is expected to be less severe with a predicted growth

rate of 1.6 percent in 2017. For 2018, the government expects growth to pick up again to 1.6 percent. "The upswing in the German economy is solid," Gabriel said, adding that companies were holding their ground especially against the backdrop of sluggish global demand. "The world economy is not running smoothly," Gabriel said, adding that Britain's decision to leave the European Union has had a limited impact on the economy but it would be felt harder in the medium term.

He said household spending remained the most important growth driver, also helped by the government's decision to introduce a national minimum wage last year and to increase pension entitlements by the most in more than two decades this year. The government expects the number of people in employment to hit a record of 43.6 million this year and 44 million in 2017. That should further propel domestic demand and push up tax revenue, enabling the government to increase state spending or reduce levies. — Reuters

# 'FLASH CRASH' DECIMATES STERLING

## S&P 500 FUTURES LITTLE CHANGED, EUROPEAN STOCKS FALL

**LONDON:** Sterling lost a tenth of its value in minutes yesterday, in what traders said was a "flash crash" driven by computer-initiated sell orders that left the pound at a fresh 31-year-low and heading for its worst week since January 2009.

A sterling plunge and underwhelming US jobs data yesterday muddled the outlook for world financial markets, with investors left questioning central bank policy as a messier-than-expected Brexit fallout and US presidential election loom. Sterling recouped some losses after plunging almost 10 percent as growing fears of a "hard" exit by Britain from the European Union sent a shiver through world markets.

S&P 500 futures pointed to a flat open on Wall Street, with its advance from recent lows having stalled this week. The pound has been under pressure for most of this week as anxiety grows that Britain will opt for a "hard" exit from the European Union. Yesterday, it dived about 10 percent from levels around \$1.2600 to \$1.1378 in a matter of minutes in thin early Asian trade.

That low was later revised to \$1.1491 — still the weakest level for sterling since 1985 — by Thomson Reuters, which owns the Reuters foreign exchange brokerage platform RTSL and said an outlying trade had been cancelled. The drop in Asia came after French President Francois Hollande said the EU needed to remain firm with Britain, after it appeared Prime Minister Theresa May had opted for a tougher exit from Europe. The hardline stance from both parties left investors fretting about the pound's future.

"Of course, some in the market may see sterling's overnight volatility to be the result of French President Hollande demanding tough Brexit negotiations," said Hans Redeker, head of currency strategy at Morgan Stanley. "The new British government under May appears to have chosen an economic course which could bear substantial risks."

Sterling recovered and was last fetching \$1.2275, still down 2.7 percent on the day. The euro also rose to 94.03 pence, its highest since early 2009, before easing to 90.66 pence, up 2.5 percent. All of which saw the sterling trade-weighted index down 1.6 percent at 74.7, its lowest since January 2009.

Global markets have been on edge in recent days on worries about how Britain will exit the EU and about May's comments on loose monetary policy, which some saw as a thinly veiled attack on the Bank of England. Many investors think May's government is leaning towards a hard Brexit, where Britain gives up full access to the single market in order to impose full control on its borders. Some fear that could hinder trade and constrict the foreign investment needed to fund Britain's huge current account deficit, one of the biggest in the developed world.

HSBC said yesterday it forecast the pound to drop to \$1.10 and parity against the euro by the end of 2017. "The pound used to be a relatively simple currency that used to trade on cyclical events and data, but now it has become a political and structural currency. This is a recipe for weakness given (Britain's) twin (budget and current account) deficits," HSBC's global head of FX research David Bloom said.

### MODERN VERSION OF SOROS

Sterling is set for a weekly loss of 5.4 percent, trading below the psychological \$1.25 mark and removing various technical support levels on the move lower, spooking traders, including computer-driven algorithms. "Once the pound started moving lower, then more technical algos could have followed suit, compounding the short, sharp, selling pressure," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at City Index. "Thus, the pound has



**LONDON:** This file photo taken on August 17, 2016 shows an arrangement of British 20 pound bank notes. The pound suffered a "flash crash" in Asia on a computer-generated sell-off in the beleaguered currency yesterday as tough talk from French President Francois Hollande underscored the perils ahead for Brexit-bound Britain. — AFP

been the victim of the digital, headline-driven world that we live in. For sterling, algorithms have become the modern-day version of a George Soros." Billionaire Soros earned fame in 1992 by betting against the pound, which was eventually forced out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism and sharply devalued on Black Wednesday.

Earlier this year, the South African rand suffered a similar plunge and analysts said the sharp drop in sterling will do nothing for confidence in a market that has seen volumes drop as tougher regulations for banks, traditionally the dominant force, bite and curtail trading by humans.

"The greater share of the market that automated algorithmic trading takes in a less reliably liquid market, the greater the risk of these types of moves going forward," said Derek Halpenny, head of research at Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi.

### Policy shift

Markets have been dominated by a policy shift from the Bank of Japan last month, the resurgence in talk of the European Central Bank possibly tapering its bond buying program, and the cloudy outlook for a Fed rate hike. The sustainability of unconventional easing programs conducted by the world's major central banks, and whether they may be counterproductive, are at the front of investors' minds, Goldman Sachs analysts said in a note.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has this week set a March deadline for beginning the formal departure process from the EU, and stressed the bad side-effects of low rates and quantitative easing (QE). A growing market belief that Britain is heading for a 'hard Brexit' outside the European Union's single market, which could hurt manufacturers and the vital financial services

industry, has pummeled the pound this week. — Reuters

Sterling slumped as much as 10 percent in Asia as it crashed through key support levels, triggering a wave of selling. It recovered in European trading but was still down 2.7 percent at \$1.2271.

"This move has shaken things in sterling and a huge amount of any outstanding positioning will have been washed out, and we may be starting from a new, even more nervous footing," said Citi FX trader Sam Underwood.

While the FTSE 100, dominated by global, dividend-paying bluechips rose, the more domestically focused UK midcaps index erased earlier gains and fell 0.5 percent in a sign of risk aversion among investors towards UK assets. The STOXX 600 has fallen by around 7 percent since the start of 2016, with investors pulling funds from European equities for 35 straight weeks, the longest streak on record, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch. — Reuters

## STERLING 'FLASH CRASH': WHO HOLDS UK ASSETS?

**LONDON:** A 10 percent "flash crash" in sterling yesterday was the latest sign of how far Britain's impending exit from the European Union has rattled financial markets, with the UK's currency, stocks and government bonds all falling for a second straight day.

With a current account deficit of nearly 6 percent of economic output, Britain is highly reliant on foreign investment. Here is a closer look at overseas holdings of its main financial assets: Around 5 percent of the world's known central bank foreign currency reserves are in British pounds, the equivalent of more than \$350 billion, according to the International Monetary Fund.

That is the third largest holding, behind US dollars (63 percent) and euros (20 percent).

\* More than half of UK stocks are held by overseas investors, according to Britain's Office for National Statistics (ONS). Foreign holdings were less than 10 percent in the 1970s and 1980s, and stood at around 35 percent at the turn of the century.

\* Nearly a third of investors in British government bonds are from outside the country, ONS data shows. That equated to 500 billion pounds' worth at the end of June. — Reuters

## GOLD FIRMS AHEAD OF JOBS DATA BUT EYES WORST WEEK THIS YEAR

**LONDON:** Gold edged higher yesterday ahead of US non-farm payrolls data but remained on track to slide nearly 5 percent this week after a jump in the dollar pushed it through major price chart levels. A crash in the pound sent gold priced in sterling to a three-month high.

Spot gold was at \$1,255.91 an ounce at 1135 GMT, up 0.1 percent, while US gold futures for December delivery were up \$5.30 at \$1,258.30. Gold has fallen for the last eight sessions, hitting its lowest since early June on Thursday. The dollar index posted its biggest weekly rise since November this week after upbeat US jobs and manufacturing data

reinforced expectations the Federal Reserve would lift interest rates this year.

That pressured gold, and its downward move accelerated as it slipped through \$1,300 an ounce, which has underpinned prices since Britain's vote to leave the European Union in June. "The stabilization we see now is because players don't want to push it further ahead of the US employment report," Georgette Boele, an analyst at ABN Amro, told the Reuters Global Gold Forum. "If it comes in strong and Fed speakers are hawkish the move will be restarted." — Reuters

# WEEKENDER



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



US dance group iLuminate performs on stage inside the 'convention hall' at Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University in the Saudi capital Riyadh. — AFP

## Saudi grooves to new beat as entertainment opens up

SEE PAGE 23



Models present creations by Emirati fashion designer Lamyia Abedin at the Arab Fashion Week in Dubai.

## Emirati designer brings vintage vibe to Dubai catwalk

A vintage carnival in Australia provided the inspiration for Emirati designer Lamyia Abedin's show at Arab Fashion Week in Dubai that combined frills and sequins with Muslim modesty. Abedin said she followed every detail of the century-old fair, which she visited while travelling with her husband and children, for her collection "Voyage of the Carnival"—right down to the music and make-up. "I loved the vibes," the designer told AFP in an interview following her Thursday night show.



Emirati fashion designer Lamyia Abedin poses on the runway following her show at the Arab Fashion Week in Dubai. — AFP photos

"There were the crazy mirrors, the music, the whole ambience attracted me. I felt that this is my inspiration," added the mother of three, who was accompanied during the show by her husband, uncle, and children. "I

wanted to show how in vintage fairs in the past people used to dress up" unlike today when they just wear jeans and T-shirts, she said. To achieve this look, "I mixed modernity with the vintage feel," explained Abedin, dressed in a long silver sequin-studded coat and a traditional black scarf covering most of her hair.

Her show was preceded by men in tailcoats and black hats on unicycles and stilts entertaining an audience of mostly women—some in mini-dresses and others in traditional black Abayas and even a niqab face veil—before her assistant came in singing an American dance-pop song. Carnival music accompanied a background video of acrobats and a circus tent as models in strawberry blond wigs with hats and flower headbands strutted down the catwalk, some in chequered circus stockings. "I follow a theme," said Abedin. "The look should be complete with the theme so I could let the people live the story," she added.

"This time the story is happiness." Dressed in a long purple dress and a flower headband, Brazilian model Karine Graf said she found the concept "very funny" and "unique". "I think it's a very cool collection and very new," she told AFP backstage. Abedin's collection is mainly made up of flowing layered dresses and skirts mixing tulle, dentelle, sequins, embroidery, jacquard, and brocade—all in vibrant colors. "We did lots of patchwork and panel work. There was art and craft in the outfits," accompanied by belts, hats, and even handbags. "We wanted to show how you could change your clothes using accessories... It was more of a styling show than anything else," she said.

### 'Long dresses, sleeves'

While she steered away from traditional Gulf Arab clothing, Abedin still made sure her models do not reveal much skin in accordance with her society's Muslim codes. Abedin's local



Emirati fashion designer Lamyia Abedin speaks to people following her show.

touch is evident from the "very conservative" look of her models, said Noura Khaled, a 23-year-old Emirati attending the show. "The long dresses (and) long sleeves reflect the culture." Abedin acknowledged that she made sure models in short dresses wore stockings to cover their legs "because I would wear it like that... But it's a personal choice."

In a wedding dress, Czech model Kaya noted the difference between the five-day Arab Fashion Week that opened Thursday in Dubai and similar events in Milan which she said were actually "more conservative" in their presentation. "Nude make up, sleek hair and us going straight and back without thinking of the concept so much," she said of the Milan catwalks. "I like that this show has an idea: circus." Abedin's show featured three bridal gowns—one was light and short suitable for beach weddings, the second a little more formal.

But it was the third dentelle gown that was

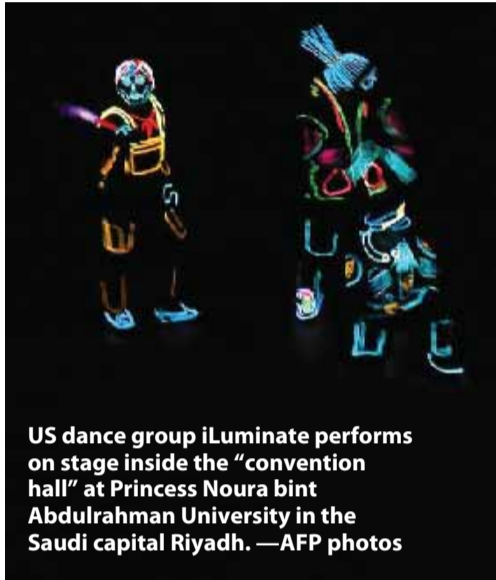
more formal with a vintage touch that she said was similar to her own wedding dress. She made a similar peach-coloured one for her own little daughter who made an appearance hand-in-hand with the model wearing the final bridal gown, drawing applause from the audience. Even the wedding dresses were inspired by the Australia carnival where she saw three brides coming for a photo shoot at the fair, Abedin said. "I loved the idea!"

One of the brides was even wearing a blue bridal gown. "It was very cute," said Abedin. "I felt they're happy."

The Emirati designer, who has her own brand titled "Queen of Spades", said the aim of her show is to spread joy among her audience. "We are living in a country where we're always busy and have lots of work, so it's nice to switch off and live in a different bubble" even briefly through an array of light, colorful fabrics. — AFP

# Saudi grooves

## to new beat as entertainment opens up



US dance group iLuminate performs on stage inside the "convention hall" at Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University in the Saudi capital Riyadh. —AFP photos



Saudis gather inside the 'convention hall' at Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University.

popcorn and donuts. Saudi women lined up for their snacks dressed from head-to-toe in black abaya robes, according to local custom. Entertainment-starved expatriates were among the youthful audience who spent between 50 and 900 riyals (\$13.33-\$240) for tickets.

### 'Feel the love'

Salman Ziauddin, 30, of India, said that in his eight years in Saudi Arabia he had never seen such a show and hopes there will be more like it. The creator of iLuminate, Miral Kotb, told reporters it was an honor to bring "such a differ-

With pumping hip hop beats and electrifying dancers, Saudi Arabia has launched what's being hailed as an entertainment revolution for the ultra-conservative kingdom, which usually tightly restricts music, dance and theatre. Hundreds of men and women, side-by-side, hooted their appreciation and clapped to the beat as New York-based theatrical group iLuminate took to the stage in Riyadh on Thursday evening.

Anywhere else, it would have been a normal night out. But in a country without public cinemas or theatres, iLuminate's stage show was a rarity. That is about to change, according to the kingdom's General Authority for Entertainment, which has lined up WWE wrestling, Arabs Got Talent performances, a food festival, comedy, Monster Jam motor sports and other events in the coming weeks. It is the latest sign that the sands are shifting in the oil-flush desert kingdom, where a new generation of royals is gaining growing influence. "This signals a new era in Saudi Arabia," said Ahmed Al-Hemedy, 27, who watched the iLuminate show with a group of friends. "I never expected to see something this magnificent in front of my eyes," he said, questioning why this type of entertainment didn't come sooner.

"The show was brilliant!" The iLuminate dancers performed on a darkened stage in electrified glow-in-the-dark suits, telling the stories of urban America against the thumping backdrop of its beats. Wahhabi Islamic thought, on which Saudi Arabia is founded, frowns upon music and forbids paintings of the human form. The kingdom took a more conservative course, including the banning of cinemas, after fundamentalists in 1979 seized Islam's holiest site, the Grand Mosque in Mecca, to oppose perceived Westernization. They were eventually dislodged in a deadly assault by security forces.

Many Saudis spend their entertainment dollars in neighboring Bahrain and Dubai. The kingdom outlaws alcohol, even in luxury hotels, and unrelated men and women are forbidden from mixing. That means "single" men eat in a separate section at restaurants. But in a sign of flexibility, there was no segregation at Thursday night's show, where men and women sat together inside the "convention hall" at Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University, a campus exclusively for women.

The hall bore a striking resemblance to an impressive theatre, with red seats, balconies, and an atrium lobby where vendors sold nachos,



ent type of theatre and art to this culture" where the audience was so receptive. "They've been some of our best that we've had, and we've performed these shows worldwide. Because you can feel the love and the energy and excitement that they have" in Saudi Arabia.

Since last year the younger generation has had one of its own at the heights of power in the kingdom, where more than half the population is under 25. Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, a 31-year-old son of King Salman, is the driving force behind Vision 2030, an economic and social diversification plan which he released in April to wean the kingdom off oil. Among its wide-ranging goals is development of tourism and entertainment. "We are well aware that the cultural and entertainment opportunities currently available do not reflect the rising aspirations of our



Saudi women queue outside the "convention hall" at Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University.

citizens and residents," Vision 2030 admits. British ambassador Simon Collis, who attended the show, said the kingdom's "new approach" to entertainment is "a very positive development for young people. It will generate income. It will create jobs. People will be happier." He said Britain has already exchanged ideas with the entertainment authority about how they might be able to work together. "There's a lot of energy around. It's a time of significant change," he said. Hundreds of people each night attended six Riyadh performances of iLuminate which now moves to Jeddah. Ahmed Al-Khateeb, who heads the entertainment authority, told reporters his agency wants to develop a one-year timetable of events, so that "instead of thinking where to go and having no options now you will have three, four" on a weekend. There are 14 different programs for the remainder of this year. "Greater things will come, God willing," he said. — AFP



A man stands and looks at floral tributes outside Fabric nightclub in London.



A man walks past Fabric nightclub in London. — AFP photos

# London nightlife reels from Fabric closure

**R**est in peace reads a note outside the Fabric nightclub as London revelers mourn the loss of the flagship nightspot just the latest music venue to shut its doors in the British capital. Clubbers would find their way to Fabric down a small street behind Smithfield Market, not far from the skyscrapers of the City financial district. The venue built an international reputation since it opened in 1999, leading to lengthy queues outside. But after it was shut down in September, the lines of clubbers have been replaced by bouquets of flowers and notes left by former patrons.

"A temple, a sanctuary, a place of retreat for those seeking peace in the

passion of music," read a message signed by Ophelie. Authorities revoked Fabric's license following the deaths by overdose of two 18-year-olds, with the local council concluding the club had a "culture of drug use" which its staff were "incapable of controlling". The decision shocked the clubbing world, with celebrated DJ Goldie threatening to melt his Member of the Order of the British Empire medal.

### 'A miserable day'

Clubbing institution Ministry of Sound described the closure of its rival as "a miserable day for London's clubbing landscape", as controversy swirled

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. At one of the city's most well-known nightspots, an AFP journalist saw dealers both outside and inside the club. "Look at people's faces! Everyone is stoned!" said one clubber, smoking a joint on the terrace of the nightclub. For Alan Miller, president of the Night Time Industries Association, stripping Fabric of its licence was a "hypocritical" move which sought to blame one nightclub for the broader problem of drug-taking in the UK.

"In many ways Fabric is the jewel in the crown in Britain," he said. Duncan Dick, a journalist at Mixmag dance music and clubbing magazine, praised Fabric for becoming a superclub which maintained its underground feel. "Not through snobbishness or affectation but through authenticity and a commitment to what was most important," he said.

### 'Save our culture'

With three dance floors installed in a former meat warehouse, Fabric was a labyrinth of brick walls and metal beams. Hosting some of the world's most famous DJs, the nightclub had an impressive sound system which emitted bass frequencies from the dance floor up through clubbers' feet. Dick described the venue as "one of the best clubs in the world" and said shutting its doors was a setback for London, which has just celebrated the opening of a 24-hour metro. Nor is Fabric an isolated case in the British capital, Miller explained: "In the last three years over 10 of the biggest nightclubs have closed and they haven't been replaced".

Such closures are seen as being down to strict regulations and the high price of property, with Miller calling for clubs to be kept open for the country's youth. "If we want to see more generations of people who are pushing the boundaries of our musical experiences but also people in fashion, in films and elsewhere who get inspired in our dance floors," he said. There is still some hope for the city's night owls—an online appeal launched by Fabric has so far raised more than £235,000 pounds (269,000 euros, \$300,000). The campaign is supported by three simple phrases: "Save Fabric", "Save nightlife", "Save our culture". — AFP



Floral tributes are pictured outside Fabric nightclub in London.



A Summary Review of License notice is pictured outside Fabric nightclub.

around the local Islington council's decision. Fiona Measham, a criminology professor at Durham University and head of The Loop organization which carries out forensic testing of drugs at nightclubs and festivals, said Fabric took its responsibilities seriously, carrying out strict searches. But with around half of clubbers taking dance drugs like ecstasy in the UK, according to her research, Measham said it is not possible to completely eliminate risk. "We can't search people's body cavities so you will always get drugs into clubs, as you always get drugs into prison," she told AFP.

The problem is even more noticeable in London, which is Europe's cocaine capital and ranks second after Amsterdam for ecstasy, according to the



Inspector Samuel Ojobira, known as "OJ", singing his hit song "Physically Fit". — Photo: Screenshot from music video.

## Beats, not batons: Uganda's singing cop makes waves

**A** Ugandan policeman has turned to rap and breakdancing to win over a sceptical public in a popular music video extolling the virtues of the police service. Inspector Samuel Ojobira, known as "OJ", is making waves with his hit song "Physically Fit", although some Ugandans feel officers should spend more time enforcing the law than singing about it. "The police of today is not like the past," Ojobira croons in the catchy video, featuring uniformed officers breakdancing, and an obligatory troupe of good-looking women writhing in camouflage trousers and berets.

The officer, a member of the police's music, dance and drama department, sings in both Luganda and English while the video plots how heavily armed officers foil a kidnapping following a tip-off from a member of the public. "I wanted to bridge the gap between the public and the police to let the public know we are now a professional force," said Ojobira.

"I also wanted to boost the morale of my fellow officers with patriotic music that encourages them to serve the country despite the fact that we have difficult working conditions." Indeed the president and inspector general of police both get special praise and thanks in the song. "It took some time to convince my superiors to let me go ahead," explains Ojobira. The production cost about \$1,500 (1,300 euros), with Ojobira contributing about \$600 of his own money, a significant sum given the low wages of a Ugandan police officer. Ojobira hopes that the song will change public perception of a force that has often been criticized for corruption and heavy handedness. "The public have been surprised because some people think the police is only about tear gas and baton charges but we are a service for all Ugandans," he said. National police chief Kale Kayihura is pleased that Ojobira's project has been a success. "We are proud of him. Singing is a means for community mobilization and sensitization of communities," he said in a statement.

Out on the streets of the Ugandan capital, Kampala, rank and file police officers agreed. Sitting in the repurposed shipping container that serves as the police post in Kamwokya market officers praised the video. — AFP



# Transitioning outdoor spaces for fall

Outdoor decorating often focuses on turning decks, patios and porches into summer destinations. But some people love their outdoor entertaining space even more when the weather turns colder. "Being outside with friends and family on a slightly chilly evening is about as good as it gets," says Florida-based interior designer Andrew Howard. "I have a lot of great memories with drinks and good friends sitting around a fire. Often I don't remember the weather, but more that we enjoyed each other's company."

New York interior designer Young Huh agrees: "I love being outdoors as the air becomes crisp and cold," she says. "The light seems brighter and glows more golden in the evenings." We've asked Howard, Huh and Massachusetts-based designer Kristina Crestin for tips on the perfect mix of accessories, colors, scents and firelight to make an outdoor entertaining space fall-friendly.



## Small additions

Crestin has decorated her patio in Massachusetts in shades of turquoise and chartreuse, which look cool in summer. Then she easily updates the look for fall by adding throw blankets and other accessories in plum tones. The same concept works if you've got a crisp blue and white color scheme outside: It looks nautical and cooling all summer long, but with the addition of throw blankets in navy and camel-colored fleece, or woolen plaids, the space feels right for fall.

To make these transitions easier, keep a set of outdoor pillows specifically for colder weather, Huh says. Or change the pillow covers out for some warmer tones as the weather changes. Consider your current color scheme, and then get creative. Huh suggests considering patterns like a brown-and-white check, a tartan plaid in shades of brown, orange and cream, or even warm, orange polka dots.

Photos provided by Kristina Crestin show an outdoor space in Essex, Mass, designed by Crestin. — AP photos



Fall plants can also change the space. Huh loves yellow, orange and red chrysanthemums in rustic baskets, and uses hay bales at different heights to create high and low displays for dahlias and chrysanthemums, dried corn, pumpkins and other items.

Another powerful transformer: scented candles. Howard recommends them year-round; they can keep mosquitoes at bay in summer, and scent the air in fall, winter and spring. Cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and pine are great choices. Table accessories can also signal the transition of seasons: "Fall is the ultimate 'eat outside' season," says Howard. Opt for table linens and dishware in fall colors that complement your outdoor table and chairs. Huh says touches like bowls of apples with walnuts and pecans can finish the look.

## Furniture

If you'll be buying any new outdoor furniture at end-of-summer sales, look for pieces with thick, deep cushions. They "allow for more pillows and blankets," Crestin says, and let you nestle deep into the cushions for

warmth and comfort on cold nights. Another consideration when buying seat cushions and pillows for use in the fall: They might get sooty if they're close to a fire pit, so choose items that are machine washable or easily replaceable, Crestin says.

She also suggests looking for flexible seating options that are durable but also easy to relocate if guests want to move closer to a fire or cluster together in cooler weather. She uses ceramic stools that are "heavy enough that they're not going to blow away" but are easy to lift.

## Firelight

A fire pit is often the most crucial piece of an appealing outdoor space in colder weather. "I would rather have a fire and a great conversation than worry about pillows and changing them by season," says Howard. Even in Florida, "I put in fire pits all the time." Beyond warmth, a fire offers beauty and a focal point. "An outdoor fire is like nature's TV," says Huh. "Wood fires are mesmerizing to watch, smell good, and give us a wonderful

sense of coziness and wellbeing."

A wide range of styles and sizes of fire pits are available. "I love a simple copper kettle fire pit," says Huh. "They look warm and lovely even in the daytime without a fire. Of course, if you can manage it, having a built-in stone fire pit can fit in both modern and traditional styles." Fire pits don't have to be large, says Howard. And the location can vary depending on your space and preference.

"Ours is sunk into the patio" along the edge of the grass, says Crestin. Guests sit in chairs or stand nearby, or they can spread out a blanket on the grass nearby. Crestin recommends using color bricks that you can throw in the fire to add color to the flames. "They're almost like a graham-cracker size," she says. "It isn't totally seasonal, but I find that we're using those more in the fall." And if you'd prefer not to light a fire or you're seeking even more warmth, "outdoor heaters are a wonderful new invention," Huh says. "Clustering a few around a seating area can really emit a warm and cozy feeling even on the chilliest fall evenings." — AP

## Last surviving member of the Bee Gees comes back for more

If anyone had said the Bee Gees' music would stand the test of time, most serious music people would have scoffed. Rulers of the disco era, the fraternal purveyors of nine #1 hits, including "Stayin' Alive" and "Night Fever," seemed destined to have their songs trotted out for nostalgic purposes only - on Oldies Night, say, in the lounge of the airport Holiday Inn. But then Al Green covered "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart" so well no one else had to sing it again. And songs like "How Deep Is Your Love" showed staying power with their delicate sense of melody.

But this is 2016, several decades on, and the new release up for consideration is "In the Now." It comes from the last surviving Bee

Gee, Barry Gibb, who soldiers on without his late brothers, Robin and Maurice. Gibb, who did a nostalgia tour a few years ago, is doing something braver now: offering original music. The songs, co-written with his two sons, are sometimes corny and too wordy. But Gibb still has a striking sense of melody, and there are poignant lyrics here - most notably on songs that are themselves nostalgia trips, like "End of the Rainbow" and "Home Truth Song." Gibb seems to honor his brothers on that one when he sings: "We stand together in a one-man show." Will the new songs hold up? Hey, no predictions here. A lot of us were wrong the first time. — AP



This CD cover image released by Columbia Records shows "In the Now," by Barry Gibb. — AP

## 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' on hold after robbery

The E! Network has shut down production on "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" since Kim Kardashian West was held up in Paris. A spokesperson for the network tells Variety that "Kim's well-being is our core focus right now" and "no decision has been made as to when production will resume."

E! said in a statement Monday that the show wasn't filming at the time of the robbery. Police in Paris say they are investigating the heist in which armed robbers forced their way into a private residence where Kardashian was staying, tied her up and locked her in a bathroom, then stole \$10 million worth of jewelry. No arrests have been made. — AP



A view outside Paisley Park in Chanhassen, Minnesota. — AFP photos



A portrait of Prince by artist Daniel Lacey hangs outside Paisley Park in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

# Prince's secretive studio complex opens to the public

Music fans around the world and Minnesota residents have long wondered about Paisley Park, the late pop icon Prince's mysterious studio complex to which few have had full access. On Thursday, the mystery came to an end for some fans who snared tour tickets and descended on the Minneapolis suburb of Chanhassen to see inside the late "Purple Rain" star's 55,000-square-foot (5,100-square-meter) inner sanctum. The unveiling was decidedly muted. Organizers required ticket holders to meet at an offsite location and be bused into the complex in groups.

Fans described the tour as an emotional experience, especially when they were confronted by Prince's ashes in a Paisley Park replica urn. Sonja Fagan, a 37-year-old from Dublin, arrived with a bouquet of roses, saying Paisley Park was now a place of mourning. "His legacy is going to live on, and that's what he would have wanted," she said. Fan Rhonda Watson traveled 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) from Tennessee to tour the complex.

"It is very unique and very distinctive, and it's a very creative space, just like the musician," she

said. "I am very grateful that I am one of the people that got to experience that today." Prince died on April 21 from an accidental overdose of painkillers, at the age of 57. The complex opens one week before a memorial tribute concert in St. Paul, which is adjacent to Minneapolis.

The public opening of the studio complex is a milestone for music lovers and historians. It was the pop legend's "playground," said Mobeen Azhar, author of the book "Prince: Stories from the Purple Underground." "Paisley Park is where he would play, experiment and most importantly create," Azhar said. "That spirit of creativity is just so strong. For that reason, as far as I'm concerned, Paisley Park is holy ground."

The complex opened in 1987, and was a fully functional recording studio used by a number of artists during its peak in the 1990s, including the Stone Temple Pilots, REM and Madonna. Prince also arranged impromptu free shows and parties there for small groups of fans. Rashad Shabazz, a professor of cultural geography at the University of Arizona, said he attended one such show in which Prince took the stage at 12:30 am before an audience of about 50 people.

The star performed for three hours—playing every instrument and stepping into the crowd to direct the band from the floor. "You didn't have to have a ticket. You just walked in. You stood at the stage five feet from him," Shabazz said. "Those free shows gave people, poor people, particularly students... access to him."

## 'We're Liverpool and he's The Beatles'

Prince has drawn tourists from all over the world to the Minneapolis area ever since the 1984 release of "Purple Rain," said Michaelangelo Matos, a Minnesota-based music critic and author of a book about Prince's album titled "Sign O' the Times." "We're Liverpool and he's The Beatles," Matos said. While some parts of Paisley Park were now outfitted to exhibit memorabilia, other areas—such as his working studio—have been left untouched since the singer's death, tour attendees said.

Rooms in the studio complex were themed according to Prince's albums, like Graffiti Bridge or Purple Rain. The superstar's vast collection of distinctive costumes, pianos and guitars from each time period were on display throughout.

Another room was dedicated to his electrifying 2007 Super Bowl halftime show, featuring a video of the performance that is widely regarded as one of the sporting event's most legendary. "He was bigger than life, and you see that," said fan Jennifer Wolf. Phyllis Jackson, a 77-year-old Minnesota resident, left the tour with two Prince posters.

"I've been to Graceland several times," Jackson said, "This is so much more. You can see that he was thinking of it as a museum before he died, because there was so much in there." Public access to Paisley Park was expected to be short-lived, as Chanhassen city officials granted temporary permits on three dates for the complex to offer tours. A broader permit that would turn the site into a permanent museum—akin to Elvis Presley's Graceland—was delayed earlier this week, over concerns that the estimated 600,000 fans expected to visit year would create traffic jams and congestion in the town of 24,000. City officials asked the site's administrator, the Bremer Trust, to formulate a detailed plan to address those concerns with a more detailed plan to address the tourism impact. — AFP

## 'Revolution Radio' is Green Day back on straight and narrow

Revolution Radio sees Green Day back on the straight and narrow, a dozen potent tunes encasing the punk attitude with plenty of pop hooks. The band shakes off a few years in the wilderness, including personal crises



This cover image released by Warner Bros Records shows "Revolution Radio," the latest release by Green Day. — AP

and artistic diversions, with a no-frills collection in which they work from a clean slate without losing their collective memory. There's no overall concept, nothing really innovative, but there's room for the topical and ample rawness in sounds and feelings.

First single "Bang Bang" is inhabited by the "semi-automatic lonely boy" who seeks to be a "celebrity martyr," while "Outlaws" is a doomed power-cum-murder ballad with a quiet/loud/quiet dynamic like Radiohead's "Creep." Also making their mark are "Bouncing Off the Wall," a bit of anarchy in the USA; "Forever Now," which hides a three-part, seven-minute opus behind a much-used title while closing with a reprise of opening track "Somewhere Now;" and "Still Breathing," a kind of survival of the least disturbed where a "home that's for the restless" is about as good as it gets.

There are some echoes of early Clash in the title track, mostly the opening riff, the song title and a few lines like "legalize the truth." It's easy to imagine the late Joe Strummer commenting on "the dawn of the new airwaves for the anti-social media," wondering why kids are checking his boom box for a Bluetooth connection.

Singer and guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong's most recent New Year's resolution was "to destroy the phrase 'pop-punk' forever." On "Revolution Radio," he and the rest of band fail splendidly. — AP

## Bruno Mars returns with party anthem

Bruno Mars, whose slew of hits made him one of the most successful pop stars before taking a brief hiatus, returned yesterday with an unapologetically retro party anthem.

The funk-pop artist released "24K Magic," the first single off an album of the same name to come out on November 18.

A feel-good song about enjoying a night out with women, "24K Magic" carries echoes of early Janet Jackson with a heavily synthesized and readily danceable beat. Mars summed up the sound of "24K Magic" when he announced it on Instagram, writing: "You can call it my first single, but I call it the invitation to the party."

The singer and multi-instrumentalist from Hawaii, who turns 31 on Saturday, became a fixture on Top 40 radio with his last album, 2012's "Unorthodox Jukebox," which took on a funky pop feel reminiscent of 1980s hit music.

With his song "When I Was Your Man," Mars became second only to the late Elvis Presley in the speed with which he achieved five number-one hits on the US singles chart.

Mars also notably featured on the viral hit "Uptown Funk" led by Mark Ronson which came out in late 2014. He performed the song in February at the Super Bowl, the most-watched annual event on US television, in a halftime show led by Beyonce. But "24K Magic" marks the first solo work by Mars since "Unorthodox Jukebox." — AFP



# Bruce Springsteen talks depression, family and new memoir

**B**ruce Springsteen credits his music with helping him navigate depression and says playing marathon shows until he was exhausted helped chase away the blues. The legendary rock star spoke to a sold-out crowd in San Francisco on Wednesday night in a one-hour, 20-minute on-stage interview as part of a nationwide tour for his best-selling new autobiography "Born To Run."

"The Boss" has a storyteller's knack for recounting the past in vivid detail, with quick wit and humor. He discussed the labored process of writing the book, which took seven years, his troubled relationship with his father, sweet memories of raising his children with wife and longtime backup singer, Patti Scialfa, and his history with depression, as he does in the book. "I think music was the way that I medicated myself in the beginning. It was the first thing that centered me and chased away the blues," Springsteen said, seated in an armchair beside his interviewer on stage at the historic Nourse Theater.

"I found that the experience of playing cleared my mind and gave me a brief moment of respite from the things that tended to disturb me," he said. "I found out that exhaustion was my friend. Because if I got



Musician Bruce Springsteen talks about his book "Born to Run" with Dan Stone, right, during an event at the Nourse Theater in San Francisco. — AP

myself tired enough, I was simply too tired to be depressed." Dressed in his uniform of jeans and a black leather jacket, Springsteen is a youthful 67. The only visible nods to his age: A slightly receding hairline and a need for reading glasses - he calls them "cheaters" - when

asked to read from his book. He joked about the seven-year writing process for his 508-page book: "Yeah, that sounds like I did a lot more work than I did," drawing laughter.

He wrote when it moved him, dictating one section at a time to an assistant, "who would put it in the computer." He edited and rewrote until he figured, "Well, that's as good as I can do without somebody's help." The father of three said he tried to keep his stardom away from home.

"There wasn't any memorabilia around the house, we didn't have any of that stuff out. We had some guitars and a piano," Springsteen said. "We never made a big deal of it in the house."

Well into their teens, his children were "relatively unfamiliar with most of the work I'd done," he said, "which is very normal. I mean, I wasn't out there looking for three more fans," pausing for laughter. "Your job is you're supposed to be their audience. They're not supposed to be yours," Springsteen said. The book "Born to Run" came out in late September and has risen to the top of best-seller lists. But Springsteen doubts he's got a sequel in him: "I think this is my swan song. I can't imagine writing another one." — AP

## Another slave film? Some are weary, others want more history

**M**onica Mingo had sworn off watching slave movies after seeing the Oscar-winning "12 Years a Slave": The horrifying depictions of black people being beaten, raped, and dehumanized became all too much. "That was the pinnacle of what it meant to be a slave - the feelings, the brutality. That one for me was it," said the 47-year-old of Gautier, Mississippi, resident about the 2013 film. But at the Sundance Film Festival in January, when she heard about the buzz created by Nate Parker's "Birth of a Nation," she broke her vow and saw the film, about the gruesome, two-day Virginia slave rebellion led by Nat Turner. It, too, includes the rape and murder of slaves, and in one scene, a slave's teeth are knocked out.

It only served to cement her earlier view. "I'm really sick of the slave narrative," Mingo said. "Because of my parents, I knew my history. If you want to keep talking about (slavery), pick up a book." Yet the narrative continues in Hollywood. This year in particular, slavery projects have been particularly prominent. Besides "Birth of a Nation," opened yesterday, there was the reboot of the groundbreaking TV miniseries "Roots" this spring; WGN's new

series "Underground" was a ratings success and renewed for a second season; and there was the movie "Free State of Jones," starring Matthew McConaughey, which included slavery as a main plot point.

### American racism

Last year, BET aired the miniseries "The Book of Negroes"; in 2013, there was movie "Belle," about a free black woman in a time of slavery along with "12 Years a Slave," and 2012's "Django: Unchained" became a blockbuster and an Oscar nominee. Some observers note the context in which the recent films have emerged. The election of the first black president, Barack Obama, could represent for some a racial victory in the enduring battle against American racism that allows for a look at slavery that feels cathartic. That the country is marking the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War means that no one alive today experienced the cruelties of slavery. And a recent trailer for "Birth of a Nation" splices scenes from the film with footage from the front lines of the Black Lives Matter protests.

"Slave films tend to reflect the politics of the moment," said Dexter Gabriel, a historian at the

University of Connecticut. "We have a hard time talking about slavery to each other, so films become the surrogate. But we want to see it in ways that make us feel better in the present." Gabriel said there will be some people who are tired of seeing slave films, but added that it may also be a certain type of story that the public has grown weary of seeing: one too steeped in a "white savior" narrative, or the "Mammy" or "Uncle Tom" character. "We're in an era now where we're seeing people look for more diverse ways slavery can be depicted," he said. "Birth of a Nation" is definitely attempting to appeal to this era of black resistance."

### Slave rebellion

Other projects have appealed to this as well. Quentin Tarantino's "Django: Unchained" was a Spaghetti Western-inspired revenge flick where a slave kills white oppressors in a bid to save his love, a fellow slave. In the new version of "Roots," one of the major slave characters, Fiddler, dies trying to fight off whites as he tries to help slave Kunta Kinte run away; in the original version in that aired in the 1970s, the character died of old age, still a slave. "Underground" is based on slave rebellion, and Viola Davis is working on the biopic of one of the most famous slave liberators, Harriet Tubman. The depiction of slaves as more than just defeated and abused is what made Khalil Johnson see "Django: Unchained" and an early screening of "Birth of a Nation." "I wouldn't say I'm tired of slave films, especially now that they're being told honestly," the 36-year-old Beltsville, Maryland, resident said. "Twelve Years a Slave" was a hit because ... it was something you did not know about. I think untold stories are good, and not just 'master bad, master sees the light' stories." These latest films can help counter long-standing stereotypes about black people, said University of Pennsylvania's English professor and cultural critic Salamishah Tillet. "We should not be exhausted by these stories," Tillet said. "Slavery is in the DNA of so many parts of our life ... To deny that story is to deny us. The idea that we're over it is impossible." Johnson expects he'll be interested in whatever the next film about slavery is, no matter how soon it comes out. — AP



This image released by Fox Searchlight Films shows Nate Parker as Nat Turner, center, in a scene from "The Birth of a Nation." — AP

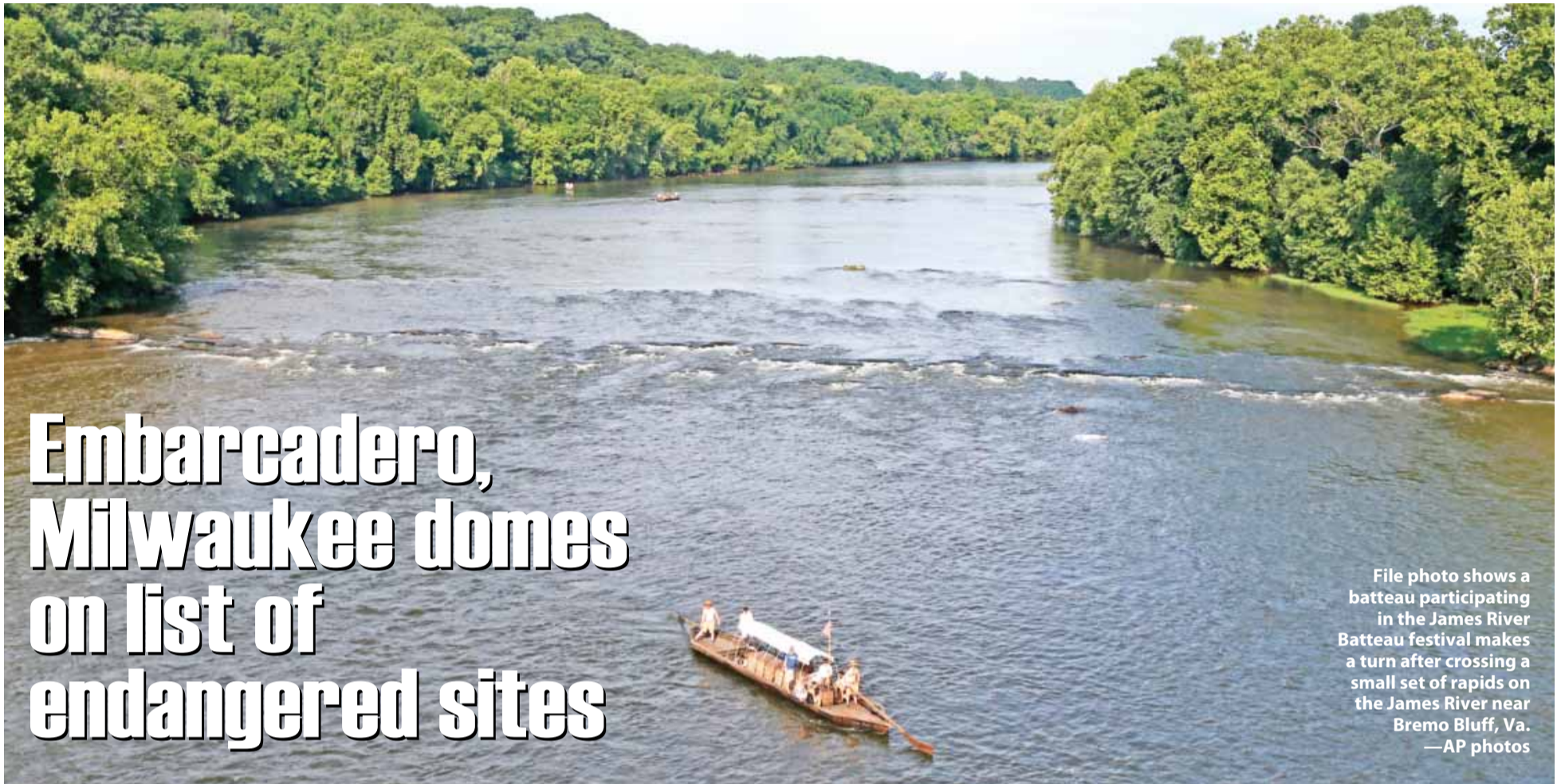
## Indian village cancels Hindu play over Muslim Bollywood star

**A**n Indian village had to cancel a performance of a traditional Hindu play moments before it was due to start after far-right activists opposed the participation of a Muslim Bollywood star, reports said yesterday. Nawazuddin Siddiqui, best known outside of India for his role in "The Lunchbox", had been due to perform in a theatre production based on the "Ramayana" in his home village of Budhana in Uttar Pradesh state. But organizers cancelled the event after activists from the ultra-nationalist Shiv Sena said they were opposed to a Muslim actor taking part in the Hindu play, according to reports.

"A few members of the Shiv Sena didn't want a Muslim man to play a character in Ram Leela," Damodar Prasad Sharma, president of the Ram Leela Committee, told the Indian Express newspaper. "Then the police told us that we should not let Nawazuddin participate and, if at all we do, and there is a problem during the show, we will have to take responsibility." "There were just too many people in the audience, we couldn't have controlled the crowds in case of a ruckus," Sharma added.

The Times of India quoted local Shiv Sena official Mukesh Sharma as saying: "In the 50-60 year history of the Budhana Ramleela, no Muslim artist has set foot on the stage. We couldn't allow that now. It's about tradition." The Press Trust of India said the performance had been cancelled while Siddiqui took to Twitter to express his disappointment. "My childhood dream could not come true, but will definitely be a part of Ramleela next year," he tweeted late on Thursday. "Ramlila"-meaning "Rama's play"-re-enacts the life of Lord Ram over several nights, culminating in his defeat of a wicked king, a victory symbolizing the triumph of good over evil in Hindu mythology.

Supporters of Shiv Sena, which shares power with India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the western state of Maharashtra, is often accused of being anti-Muslim and regularly uses intimidation tactics. Last year activists threw ink over the organizer of the launch in Mumbai of a book by a former Pakistani foreign minister. It was also accused of using threats to force the cancellation of an appearance in Mumbai by Pakistani singer Ghulam Ali. — AFP



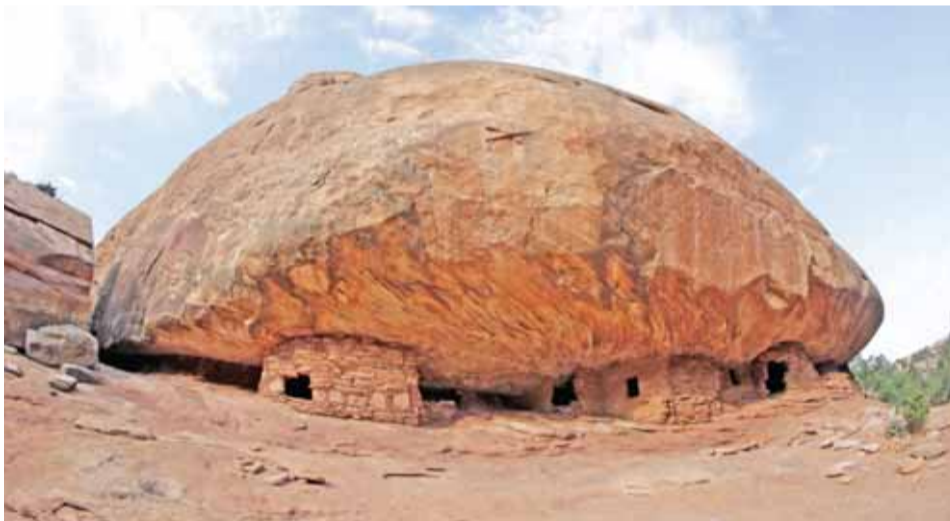
# Embarcadero, Milwaukee domes on list of endangered sites

File photo shows a batteau participating in the James River Batteau festival makes a turn after crossing a small set of rapids on the James River near Brems Bluff, Va. —AP photos

**S**an Francisco's Embarcadero District, Milwaukee's Mitchell Park domes and Utah's Bears Ears area were cited Wednesday as being among America's "most endangered" historic places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington. The National Trust, a private nonprofit, describes the annual list as a way of identifying "important examples of the nation's architectural and cultural heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage." Being listed by the trust as an endangered place can mobilize grassroots and political support along with funding for preservation. Fewer than 5 percent of the more than 250 sites the group has highlighted in the past have been lost.

But the listings are not without controversy. Some projects require enormous funding commitments; others may involve stopping or changing redevelopment proposals. Restoring all three glass-and-concrete domes in Milwaukee's Mitchell Park, for example, could cost up to \$71 million, according to a Milwaukee government website.

And in Utah, a majority of state legislators oppose a proposal from a coalition of tribes to designate the Bears Ears area as a national monument, saying that closing the area off to development will hurt the local economy. The National Trust, in contrast, said Bears Ears' 1.9 million-acre "cultural landscape" of archaeologi-



File photo shows the "House on Fire" ruins in Mule Canyon, near Blanding, Utah.

cal sites, cliff dwellings and petroglyphs is threatened by "looting, mismanaged recreational use and energy development." The trust describes the Embarcadero as an "iconic waterfront" that needs "long-term planning" to cope with rising sea levels and earthquake vulnerability.

**Other sites listed by the National Trust as endangered:**

- 1- Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin,

Texas, cited as an "unheralded civil rights landmark" as one of the South's first desegregated municipal golf courses. The National Trust said the site faces development pressure.

- 2- Azikiwe-Nkrumah Hall at Pennsylvania's Lincoln University, cited as "the oldest building on the campus of the first degree-granting institution in the nation for African Americans." The empty building now "faces an uncertain future."

- 3- South Carolina's Charleston Naval Hospital

District, a re-entry point for US servicemen injured in Europe and Africa during World War II. The National Trust expressed concern over a rail line proposed for the area.

- 4- The Delta Queen, a 1926 steamboat in Houma, Louisiana. The Trust would like to see the boat return to overnight passenger cruising as a way of "securing" its future.

- 5- The El Paso neighborhoods, Chihuahuita and El Segundo Barrio, where the National Trust says "homes and small businesses are threatened by demolition."

- 6- Historic buildings in Flemington, New Jersey, including the Union Hotel, which housed people involved in the 1935 Lindbergh baby kidnapping case, known as the "trial of the century." The National Trust says the buildings would be demolished under a development proposal.

- 7- founded in 1607. The National Trust cited a proposed transmission line as threatening the river's "scenic integrity."

- 8- A 2-mile corridor of midcentury modern architecture on Tucson's Broadway Boulevard, which the National Trust says could face demolition for a transportation project.

The National Trust chooses its "most endangered" sites from nominations using three criteria: national significance, urgency and potential solutions, including the strength of local efforts. — AP



File photo shows residents stand near a mural with Chicano historical figures in the Segundo Barrio of El Paso, Texas.



File photo shows the riverboat Delta Queen moves up the Ohio River.



Photo provided by Disneyland in Anaheim, California, shows The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror at night.



Photo provided by Six Flags Over Georgia in Austell, Ga, shows zombies on the Goliath coaster during the park's Fright Fest.

# Halloween attractions

## Virtual reality and interaction

**V**irtual reality, spooky Airbnb rentals and the start of a final season for Disneyland's Twilight Zone of Terror are all part of this Halloween's freaky fun. Here's a sample of what's happening around the country. Check with individual venues for dates, times, prices and ages.

### Disney

It's the final Halloween season for Twilight Zone of Terror at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. If you visit after twilight, you'll get a chance to free fall in the haunted elevator shaft in total darkness. The tower closes for good Jan 2.

Also at Disneyland this season is the "Frightfully Fun Parade" at Mickey's Halloween Party, featuring grinning ghosts, Disney villains and the headless horseman from Sleepy Hollow. Two other attractions have been given holiday makeovers: Space Mountain is Space Mountain Ghost Galaxy and Haunted Mansion is now Haunted Mansion Holiday, combining themes from Halloween and Christmas.

In addition, there's a giant Mickey Mouse jack-o-lantern on the theme park's Main Street, USA, and the Mexican "Dia de los Muertos" tradition is celebrated with a skeleton display in Frontierland, near Rancho del Zocalo restaurant. In Lake Buena Vista, Florida, Walt Disney World hosts Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party, Mickey's Boo-To-You Halloween Parade and a green-and-orange fireworks display called HalloWishes.

### Universal

Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios Hollywood in Los Angeles include the transformation of the theme park's famous tram ride into a "Terror Tram," themed on the story of a celebrity clown turned murderer, created by horror-genre filmmaker Eli Roth. The Hollywood park also features a "Walking Dead" attraction that opened this past summer. New for Halloween at Universal Orlando Resort is The Repository, a virtual reality experience in which participants undo an ancient curse by following clues through rooms in an old warehouse. Halloween Horror Nights at Universal parks on both coasts also feature haunted houses, scare zones and freaky mazes. Many attractions are



In this photo provided by Universal Orlando, an unidentified woman, left, experiences the new immersive interactive experience, "The Repository," at Universal Orlando Resort in Orlando, Fla.

themed on horror films like "The Exorcist" and "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre."

### Zombies, virtual reality and more

According to the Haunted Attraction Association, technology and interactive experiences are playing a bigger role in Halloween than ever before, with escape rooms, virtual reality monsters and zombie battles. It's Fright Fest season at Six Flags parks. At Six Flags Over Georgia in Austell, Georgia, in addition to mazes, scare zones and more than 400 zombies and monsters, guests can don VR headsets to experience an interactive virtual reality roller coaster, Rage of the Gargoyles at Dare Devil Dive, that includes a simulated helicopter ride and a futuristic battle with gargoyles.

At Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, the "Terror Behind the Walls" attraction challenges guests to become part of the story of escaping what was once an actual prison. Guests can either explore the prison and watch, or they can mark themselves for interaction with the freaky prisoners. At Creepy Hollow Haunted House outside Houston, guests can play a virtual reality zombie first-person shooter game wearing VR headsets. The Fear Factory in Salt Lake City offers a VR haunted house. Lake EERIE Fear

Fest at Ghostly Manor Thrill Center in Sandusky, Ohio, offers five haunted houses including "The Haunted Mine Ride," a motion-theater experience using VR technology to create a roller coaster with 4-D effects. Derailed Haunted House in Ramer, Tennessee, is offering a new technology that lets users control colors, flickers and strobe lighting they see.

Zombie laser tag is part of Shocktoberfest in Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania. In Pittsburgh, at "The Basement" at the Scarehouse, guests 18 years and older must sign a waiver allowing themselves to be touched, restrained and blindfolded. For those who don't mind being scared silly all night, the Wisconsin Fear Grounds in Waukesha are offering an overnight event called "Night Terrors: 13 Hours of FEAR!" on Oct. 8, complete with tents, fright trail, bonfire ghost stories and scary movies. Nashville Nightmare in Tennessee is offering Night Terrors Haunted House, billed as "an industrial horror complex."

### Haunted screens

If you prefer Halloween with an artsy veneer, the Milwaukee Art Museum is hosting a show called "Haunted Screens: German Cinema in the 1920s." The traveling exhibition, opening October 21, looks at a groundbreaking period in

filmmaking during the Weimar era in Germany after World War I. The display of art and artifacts from the Expressionist movement includes set design drawings, photos, posters, documents, equipment and film clips. The aesthetic is very much in keeping with Halloween sensibilities, including what the museum describes as dramatic lighting, shadows, off-kilter framing and distorted perspectives. Classics explored in the show include "The Cabinet of Dr Caligari" and the murder mystery "M."



This undated image provided by Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia shows a scene from the site's "Terror Behind the Walls" Halloween attraction. — AP photos

### Airbnb

Airbnb hosts are offering some spooky accommodations for Halloween. Listings include a 600-year-old dwelling in Yorkshire, England, billed as a "madness chamber"; a rental in New Orleans' Parks-Bowman Mansion that the owners advertise as "The Haunted Bedroom"; and a Victorian home in the "Haunted Castle House" in Brumley, Missouri, that cheerfully claims to have more than "a century of paranormal activity." —AP



**NEW YORK:** In this July 29, 2015, file photo, an Amazon Echo sits on a table.—AP

## 'SMART SPEAKERS' ARE ANGLING TO COLONIZE YOUR LIVING ROOM

**NEW YORK:** Does your home really need a "smart speaker" that can answer questions, call you an Uber, turn off the lights or play music when you ask? You may be about to find out.

Two years ago, Amazon introduced the Amazon Echo, an unassuming, \$180 cylinder that sits atop a kitchen counter or bookshelf, acting as a personal assistant that listens to you and does your bidding. Initially, the gadget's main purpose was a little difficult to discern. But Echo and its Alexa voice recognition software have since become a sleeper hit, with an estimated 3 million gadgets sold as of April, according to research firm Consumer Intelligence Research Partners.

### Making the home "smart"

Now the Echo is getting some company. On Tuesday, Google announced a similar smart speaker called Google Home, which will be available in November for \$129. It will perform many of the same tasks as Echo, including playing music and fielding questions plus controlling compatible lights and appliances. The Google Assistant that works with Home will also be able to access your calendar, Google Maps and other services if you allow.

Apple has opened up its Siri personal assistant so that third-party developers can create new features for it, much the way Amazon has done with its Alexa software. Google Assistant is also opening up to outside apps in December. Sony is working on Xperia Agent, a digital assistant that connects to devices in the home.

All these companies are chasing the smart-home market, which could grow to be a \$71 billion global industry by 2018, up from \$33 billion in 2013 and \$25 billion in 2012, according to Juniper Research. That's growing fast, although it's still much smaller than the smartphone market, which the research firm IDC valued at about \$412 billion in 2015.

But while the Echo carved out an early success, it remains to be seen whether voice-recognition smart speakers will truly break into the mainstream. "They're early, (but) the market is early, and we have a long way to go," said David Smith, an analyst at research firm Gartner.

### Learning new skills

One key to the Echo's success was Amazon's willingness to work with third-party developers, allowing it to add new functions each week, making it easy for owners of the speaker to discover new ways to use it. (It launched with a few dozen so-called 'skills' and now has thousands). "Initially we got it for music," said Brian Bishop, a business analyst in Tomball, Texas, whose family uses two Echos. "Later, when it controlled the lights and fans and outlets, that just made it even better."

Interest in smart homes appears to be rising as more people become enamored with their smartphones. A recent online survey of more than 4,600 adults in the US by Forrester Research's Technographics found 57 percent of them either had used or were interested in using a smart home device such as lights or thermostats designed for remote control.

The Echo's hands-free operation filled an undiscovered niche in the smart-home universe. Users can just say the wake word "Alexa" and direct it to do a task like turn on lights or set a timer. Since you don't need to use a smartphone or tablet, that sets it apart from other smart home systems like those offered by Samsung or Apple.—AP

# BACKPAGE.COM RAIDED, CEO ARRESTED FOR SEX-TRAFFICKING

## ESCORT ADS POSTED ON SITE

**DALLAS:** State agents raided the Dallas offices of adult classified ad portal Backpage.com and arrested Chief Executive Officer Carl Ferrer following allegations that adult and child sex-trafficking victims were forced into prostitution through escort ads posted on the site.

Ferrer, 55, was arrested on a California warrant after arriving Thursday in Houston on a flight from Amsterdam. Authorities also issued warrants for the arrest of the site's controlling shareholders, Michael Lacey, 68, and James Larkin, 67.

"Making money off the backs of innocent human beings by allowing them to be exploited for modern-day slavery is not acceptable in Texas," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, said in a statement.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris said that Ferrer was arrested on felony charges of pimping a minor, pimping, and conspiracy to commit pimping. He is being held in lieu of \$500,000 bond and will face an extradition hearing before he can be returned to California.

Under California's law, felony pimping is defined as making money off prostitutes or soliciting customers for prostitution. "Raking in millions of dollars from the trafficking and exploitation of vulnerable victims is outrageous, despicable and illegal," said Harris, a Democrat who is running for the US Senate in next month's election. "Backpage and its executives purposefully and unlawfully designed Backpage to be the world's top online brothel."

### No responses

An attorney representing Backpage.com, Liz McDougall, did not immediately respond to telephone and

email messages left by The Associated Press.

Lacey and Larkin are former owners of the Village Voice and the Phoenix New Times. An attorney who previously



**DALLAS:** This photo released by the Texas Office of the Attorney General on Thursday shows Carl Ferrer.—AP

represented the two men, Michael Manning, did not immediately respond to a telephone message from The AP.

Backpage.com advertises a wide range of services, but the California arrest warrant alleges that internal business records obtained through a search warrant show that 99 percent its revenue came from its adult services section between January 2013 and March 2015. California officials said the site collects fees from users who use coded language and nearly nude photos to offer sex for money.

Worldwide revenue from sex ads topped \$3.1 million in just one week last year, according to a court affidavit. It says Ferrer expanded Backpage.com's share of online sex marketing by creat-

ing affiliated sites including EvilEmpire.com and BigCity.com with related content.

Larkin and Lacey each received \$10 million bonuses from the website in September 2014, according to the court filing. It says Backpage.com was created in 2004, but since 2014 has been owned by a Netherlands-based company that has Ferrer as its only named partner.

California authorities said the state's three-year investigation found many of the ads include victims of sex trafficking including children under the age of 18.

One of the advertisers, identified only as 15-year-old "E.S.," "was forced into prostitution at the age of 13 by her pimp," according to an affidavit filed with the complaint. She used other online advertising services until they were shut down, the court filing says, when she turned to Backpage.com. "I mean really, coming from someone my age, there is too much access, like it's too easy for people to get on it and post an ad," she told California Special Agent Brian Fichtner, according to his affidavit.

California officials said their investigation was prompted in part by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which reported 2,900 instances to California authorities since 2012 when suspected child sex trafficking occurred using Backpage.com.

The criminal complaint includes allegations that five minors, three of them including "E.S." under age 16, paid to post advertisements on Backpage.com. The charges against Ferrer could bring him nearly 22 years in prison, while Larkin and Lacey face a maximum six years. A US Senate subcommittee that has investigated the company estimated its annual revenues at more than \$150 million.—AP

# JUDGE QUESTIONS AIRBNB IN FIGHT OVER SAN FRANCISCO LAW

**SAN FRANCISCO:** A federal judge expressed skepticism Thursday that a San Francisco ordinance setting fines for short-term rental websites that process bookings for unregistered units violates federal law.

The ordinance does not prevent companies such as Airbnb from listing ads for units that are not registered with the city, US District Court Judge James Donato said. He said it only penalizes the booking of those places through the companies.

Donato made the comments during a hearing on Airbnb's request for an injunction blocking enforcement of the law. He did not immediately issue a ruling.

San Francisco-based Airbnb is the world's largest short-stay online rental company. Critics have long

complained that its business model encourages landlords to take already scarce rentals off the market.

Airbnb supporters say they couldn't continue to live in San Francisco without the extra money they make renting out space. The ordinance passed earlier this year carries fines up to \$1,000 per violation and possible criminal prosecution. San Francisco allows short-term rentals but requires hosts to register with the city and limit the length of stays.

The city says the vast majority of San Francisco listings on Airbnb are unregistered. Airbnb lawyer Jonathan Blavin said the ordinance would force Airbnb to screen and remove listings because the company would not want listings for units

that could not legally be booked.

Airbnb has argued that role would violate a 1996 federal law that prohibits internet companies from being held responsible for content posted by users. "The practical effect of the ordinance is that it will require Airbnb to screen and remove listings, including ones that are potentially lawful," Blavin said.

Donato also questioned how the city could ensure Airbnb and similar sites could quickly check whether a unit was registered before processing the booking. "You hold all the information about who is legally registered," he told an attorney for the city. "What are you going to do to make that totally transparent for these companies, so they don't get criminally prosecuted."—AP

## FACEBOOK'S OCULUS TO START SELLING HAND CONTROLLERS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Facebook says it's working to make virtual reality more social as the industry gets more crowded. With a host of leading tech companies now selling VR products, Facebook's Oculus division is hoping to distinguish its offerings with more interactive and social experiences. At an event Thursday, the company announced a long-awaited shipping date - Dec. 6 - for its Oculus Touch hand controllers, designed to let users make gestures and grasp virtual objects within the simulated worlds projected by Oculus Rift headsets.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, meanwhile, donned one of those headsets for an onstage demonstration in which he visited Mars, played virtual cards with two other people, then made a video call to his wife while standing in a digital simulation of his living room.

Zuckerberg said his company has invested \$250 million to back developers building new games and other virtual-reality programs for Oculus, and is vowing to double that amount. He also said the company is working on a prototype for a mobile VR headset that doesn't have to be linked to a personal computer, which the Oculus Rift requires, while promising a better experience than current headsets powered by smartphones, like those sold by Samsung and Google.

Other Oculus executives showed a host of new virtual-reality games for their platform and new tools for software developers to build programs in which multiple players can interact.

In addition to Zuckerberg, Oculus CEO Brendan Iribe and other company leaders spoke during a two-hour presentation, but co-founder Palmer Luckey did not appear on stage. Luckey recently made a public apology for donating \$10,000 to a political group that boasted of creating negative social media posts about Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton.

Oculus has been showing prototypes of its Touch hand controllers since last year, but started shipping its high-end virtual-reality headsets without them this spring. Gartner tech analyst Brian Blau said the controllers will let people do more with the Oculus system, which should increase consumer interest.

But they won't be cheap. Oculus will sell a pair of controllers, with a sensor device, for \$199. Oculus says they're designed to be more comfortable and intuitive than traditional video game controllers, which can be purchased for less than \$50.—AP



**SAN FRANCISCO:** This photo provided by Oculus shows a set of Oculus Touch hand-held controllers, expected to go on sale Dec. 6, 2016.—AP



**SEOUL:** In this photo taken on Wednesday, Oct 5, 2016, shows the corporate logo of Samsung Electronics Co. is seen at its shop.—AP

## SAMSUNG TIPS HIGHER-THAN-EXPECTED PROFIT

### DESPITE RECALL COSTS

**SEOUL:** Samsung Electronics Co. estimated its profit rose more than expected in the July-September quarter likely helped by its component businesses that helped offset the cost from an unprecedented recall of its flagship smartphones.

The South Korean company said in an earnings preview yesterday that its third-quarter operating income rose 6 percent to 7.8 trillion won (\$7 billion), compared with 7.4 trillion won a year earlier.

That was slightly higher than forecasts. According to financial data provider FactSet, analysts expected a figure of 7.5 trillion won. Samsung said sales fell 5 percent from a year earlier to 49 trillion won (\$43.9 trillion) during the three-month period. The company will disclose its full results including earnings and divisional breakdowns later this month.

#### Clues

The results give clues about the short-term financial impact of its first global recall of smartphones. Last month Samsung recalled 2.5 million units of the Galaxy Note 7 just two weeks after its debut as consumers reported that batteries were overheating and catching fire.

That was followed by global airlines banning the phone during flights and official recalls by the governments in the US and Canada. Analysts estimate the cost of the recall could be as much as \$1.8 billion as Samsung shipped the phones back and replaced them with a new Note 7 phone with safe lithium-ion batteries.

But they also said the damage

would be outweighed by Samsung's other businesses, especially its sales of advanced computer chips and high-end smartphone displays.

"We'll see an earnings surprise in the display and memory chip businesses," said Kim Young Woo, an analyst at SK Securities. "The numbers will show that they are the two growth engines for Samsung."

According to Kim's estimates, nearly half of the income was generated by Samsung's component business during the last quarter, including the chips and the displays. He said the profit from Samsung's mobile business plunged to its lowest level in three quarters.

Samsung is the world's largest maker of the computer memory chips and the world's dominant supplier of advanced mobile-phone screens known as OLED. Samsung uses the lucrative OLED screens for its top-end phones, including the Galaxy S7 and

Galaxy S7 Edge phones, whose sales were not affected by the Note 7 recall.

The analysts also believe that the third quarter would be the bottom for Samsung's earnings. OLED screens for mobile devices and Samsung's advanced chips for computers will likely fuel a huge profit growth for the company in coming quarters, they said.

That means that Samsung will have a buffer for its bottom line even as its smartphone battery crisis continues to damage its brand reputation.

The latest blow to Samsung's brand happened earlier this week when a US domestic plane with 75 passengers had to be evacuated because of a Samsung phone emitting smoke before the plane's takeoff. Southwest Airlines Co. and the Federal Aviation Agency are investigating the Wednesday incident but declined to confirm whether the Samsung phone was the replaced Note 7 smartphone that Samsung had said was safe to use.—AP

## SPANISH AGENCY TO PROBE FACEBOOK/WHATSAPP DATA SWAP

**MADRID:** Spain's data protection agency says it will investigate whether the recently announced exchange of personal data between WhatsApp and Facebook meets Spanish data protection legislation.

The watchdog body said it will study what information collected from WhatsApp users is sent to Facebook, for what purpose, how long it is kept and what options customers are offered if they wish to

object. It said it will coordinate with its counterparts in Germany, Italy and Britain, which have announced similar probes. Facebook took over the WhatsApp messaging service two years ago and announced recently that WhatsApp would begin sharing user data with the social network as part of a program to synchronize the two businesses. The agency announced its investigation in a statement Wednesday.—AP

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

04:25 Wildest Africa  
 05:15 Gator Boys  
 06:02 Deadliest Place On Earth  
 06:49 Rugged Justice  
 07:36 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
 08:25 Biggest And Baddest  
 09:15 Toucan Nation  
 10:10 The Vet Life  
 11:05 The Lion Queen  
 12:00 Treehouse Masters  
 12:55 Hello World!  
 13:50 Wildest Africa  
 14:45 Operation Whale  
 15:40 Wildest Africa  
 19:20 Gangland Killers  
 20:15 Operation Whale  
 21:10 The Vet Life  
 22:05 Gangland Killers  
 23:00 Mermaids: The New Evidence  
 23:55 Rabid  
 00:50 Living With Man Eaters  
 02:40 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger  
 03:35 Killer Swarms

16:15 New Tricks  
 19:00 Doctors  
 19:30 Eastenders  
 20:05 The Coroner  
 21:00 Death In Paradise  
 22:00 Death In Paradise  
 22:55 Unforgotten  
 23:45 The Kettering Incident  
 00:40 Doctors  
 01:10 Eastenders  
 01:45 The Coroner  
 02:30 Unforgotten  
 03:20 Death In Paradise

**COMEDY CENTRAL**

04:00 Nathan For You  
 04:25 Workaholics  
 04:50 Workaholics  
 05:15 Key And Peele  
 05:40 Ridiculousness  
 06:30 Frankenfood  
 07:20 Key And Peele  
 08:15 Ridiculousness  
 09:30 Workaholics  
 10:20 Tosh.0  
 11:10 Catch A Contractor  
 11:35 Key And Peele  
 12:25 Ridiculousness  
 12:50 Catch A Contractor  
 14:05 Workaholics  
 14:30 Workaholics  
 14:55 Tosh.0  
 15:45 Workaholics  
 16:10 Key And Peele  
 16:35 Tosh.0  
 17:30 Key And Peele  
 18:50 Tosh.0  
 20:03 Ridiculousness  
 20:50 Brotherhood  
 21:13 Lip Sync Battle  
 21:37 Lip Sync Battle  
 22:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition  
 22:30 South Park

22:54 Broad City  
 23:18 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show  
 00:05 Inside Amy Schumer  
 00:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition  
 01:00 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail  
 01:25 Lip Sync Battle  
 01:50 South Park  
 02:15 Broad City  
 02:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition  
 03:05 Lip Sync Battle  
 03:30 Broad City

**Discovery CHANNEL HD**

04:15 Deals, Wheels And Steals  
 04:40 How Do They Do It?  
 07:00 Storage Hunters  
 07:25 Storage Hunters  
 09:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
 11:10 Gold Divers  
 12:00 Deadliest Catch  
 12:50 Railroad Australia  
 13:40 Fast N' Loud  
 17:50 Boy To Man  
 18:40 The Island With Bear Grylls: USA  
 19:30 Extreme Car Hoarders  
 20:20 Harley And The Davidsons  
 22:00 Curiosity: X-Ray: Yellowstone  
 22:50 Railroad Alaska  
 23:40 Jungle Gold  
 00:30 Fire In The Hole  
 01:20 Chaos Caught On Camera  
 01:45 Jungle Gold

**Discovery Family**

04:00 What Happened Next?

04:25 What Happened Next?  
 04:50 Ultimate Survival  
 05:40 How It's Made  
 06:05 How It's Made  
 06:30 Storm Chasers  
 07:20 Mythbusters  
 08:00 Kenny The Shark  
 08:25 Kenny The Shark  
 08:50 Kids vs Film  
 09:15 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild  
 09:40 Must Love Cats  
 10:30 Must Love Cats  
 13:50 Mythbusters  
 18:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 18:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 19:40 The Big Brain Theory  
 20:30 The Big Brain Theory  
 21:20 Risking It All  
 22:10 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand  
 22:35 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand  
 23:00 What Happened Next?  
 00:40 Curiosity: Nefertiti - Mummy Queen Mystery  
 01:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 02:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 03:10 Storm Chasers

**Discovery SC SCIENCE**

04:00 USA Memory Championships  
 04:48 Prototype This  
 05:36 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger  
 06:00 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger  
 06:24 Close Encounters  
 06:48 Close Encounters  
 07:12 How Do They Do It?  
 07:36 Food Factory  
 08:00 How Do They Do It?  
 08:26 Food Factory  
 10:26 Strip The Cosmos  
 12:02 Close Encounters  
 14:26 How Do They Do It?  
 16:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
 17:14 Redesign My Brain  
 18:02 Mind Control Freaks  
 18:26 Mind Control Freaks  
 18:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
 19:40 USA Memory Championships  
 20:30 Prototype This  
 00:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
 01:30 Redesign My Brain  
 02:20 Mind Control Freaks  
 02:45 Mind Control Freaks  
 03:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

**OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**

04:00 Superstore  
 04:30 The Goldbergs  
 05:00 Living With Fran  
 05:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
 06:30 George Lopez  
 07:00 The Bernie Mac Show  
 07:30 Suburgatory  
 08:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
 09:00 Living With Fran  
 09:30 George Lopez  
 10:00 Superstore  
 10:30 The Goldbergs  
 11:00 New Girl  
 11:30 Suburgatory  
 12:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
 13:00 The Bernie Mac Show  
 13:30 Living With Fran  
 14:00 George Lopez  
 14:30 Suburgatory  
 15:00 The Goldbergs  
 15:30 The Goldbergs  
 16:00 New Girl  
 16:30 Two And A Half Men  
 17:00 Two And A Half Men  
 17:30 The Bernie Mac Show  
 18:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
 19:00 The Mindy Project  
 19:30 The Mindy Project  
 20:00 Baby Daddy  
 20:30 Fresh Off The Boat

21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
 22:00 Two And A Half Men  
 22:30 Two And A Half Men  
 23:00 Saturday Night Live  
 00:00 Man Seeking Woman  
 00:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
 01:30 Two And A Half Men  
 02:00 Two And A Half Men  
 02:30 Saturday Night Live  
 03:30 Man Seeking Woman

**OSN FIRST HD**

04:00 Bates Motel  
 05:00 Good Morning America  
 07:00 The Amazing Race  
 08:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow  
 09:00 Rosewood  
 10:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 11:00 The Amazing Race  
 12:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow  
 13:00 Rosewood  
 14:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 15:00 Marvel's Agent Carter  
 16:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend  
 17:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 18:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 19:00 Rosewood  
 20:00 The Amazing Race  
 21:00 The Blacklist  
 22:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow  
 23:00 Supernatural  
 00:00 Grimm  
 01:00 Prison Break  
 02:00 The Blacklist  
 03:00 Supernatural

**OSN FIRST HD Home of HBO**

04:00 Westworld  
 05:00 The Knick  
 06:00 An American Girl: Chrissa Stands Strong  
 07:30 The Life And Death Of Peter Sellers  
 10:00 Confirmation  
 12:00 Mrs. Harris  
 13:45 The Fever  
 15:15 Sugar  
 17:15 Mrs. Harris  
 19:00 Any Given Wednesday With Bill Simmons  
 19:30 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver  
 20:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson  
 21:00 Six Feet Under  
 22:00 Eastbound & Down  
 22:30 High Maintenance  
 23:00 Quarry  
 00:00 Angry Boys  
 00:30 Getting On  
 01:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson  
 02:00 Six Feet Under  
 03:00 Eastbound & Down  
 03:30 High Maintenance

**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

05:00 Hercules Reborn  
 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 09:00 Batman vs. Robin  
 11:00 Panic Room  
 13:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters  
 15:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 17:00 Swelter  
 19:00 Panic Room  
 21:00 Automata  
 23:00 Con Air  
 01:00 Get Lucky  
 03:00 Area 407

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

05:00 The Invention Of Lying  
 07:00 All About Steve  
 09:00 10 Things I Hate About You  
 11:00 The Invention Of Lying  
 13:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic  
 15:00 Hot Rod  
 17:00 10 Things I Hate About You  
 19:00 A Lot Like Love  
 21:00 Now Add Honey  
 23:00 Please Give

01:00 Three Night Stand  
 03:00 A Lot Like Love

**OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**

04:00 Frontera  
 06:00 Stolen From Suburbia  
 08:00 A Stranger In Paradise  
 10:00 The Melancholy Fantastic  
 12:00 Fast Girls  
 14:00 Anna  
 16:00 Red Wing  
 18:00 The Melancholy Fantastic  
 20:00 5 To 7  
 22:00 Frank  
 00:00 Madame Bovary  
 02:00 Red Wing

**OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**

04:00 National Treasure  
 06:15 Beyond The Mask  
 08:15 The Mighty Ducks  
 10:00 Big Baby  
 12:00 Coraline  
 14:00 Tangled  
 16:00 The Pacifier  
 18:00 Bark Ranger  
 20:00 Earth To Echo  
 22:00 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets  
 00:15 The Pacifier  
 02:15 Earth To Echo

**OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**

04:45 Lost River  
 06:30 Searching For Bobby Fischer  
 08:30 Monkey Kingdom  
 10:00 Second Coming  
 12:00 Searching For Bobby Fischer  
 14:15 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike  
 16:30 Reds  
 20:00 The Village  
 22:00 What Maisie Knew  
 00:00 Taking Lives  
 02:00 Reds

**OSN MOVIES HD**

04:00 Ghost Squad  
 06:00 Tarzan  
 08:00 Zootropolis  
 10:00 Curious George: Back To The Jungle  
 11:30 The Imitation Game  
 13:30 Paddington  
 15:15 Zootropolis  
 17:15 Tracers  
 19:15 Miss You Already  
 21:15 She's Funny That Way  
 23:00 Grandma  
 00:30 Crimson Peak  
 02:30 Cut Bank

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

05:30 Cher Ami  
 07:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie  
 08:30 Memory Loss  
 10:15 Rugrats Go Wild  
 12:00 Worms  
 13:45 Yellowbird  
 15:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase  
 17:00 The Wild Thornberrys Movie  
 19:00 Rugrats Go Wild  
 21:00 Blue Elephant 2  
 23:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase  
 00:30 The Wild Thornberrys Movie  
 02:15 Memory Loss  
 03:45 Blue Elephant 2

**OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE**

05:00 The Mark  
 07:00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This  
 09:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness  
 11:00 A Promise



GHOST SQUAD ON OSN MOVIES HD



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016

- 13:00 Bill
- 15:00 The Marine 4: The Moving Target
- 17:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness
- 19:00 Project Almanac
- 21:00 Stealing Cars
- 23:00 No Escape
- 01:00 The Devil You Know
- 03:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness.



- 04:15 The Hive
- 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:10 Hank Zipzer
- 05:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 06:00 Violetta
- 06:45 The Hive
- 06:50 Mouk
- 07:00 Jessie
- 07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 07:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 08:20 Star Darlings
- 08:25 Austin & Ally
- 08:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 08:55 Jessie
- 09:20 Descendants Wicked World
- 09:25 Backstage
- 09:50 Star Darlings
- 09:55 Alex & Co.
- 10:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 10:25 Girl Meets World
- 10:50 Stuck In The Middle
- 11:15 Disney Cookabout
- 11:40 Cheetah Girls 2
- 13:10 The 7D
- 13:20 Best Friends Whenever
- 15:25 Austin & Ally
- 16:15 Bunk'd
- 16:40 Bunk'd
- 17:05 Descendants Wicked World
- 17:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 18:00 Gravity Falls
- 18:25 Teen Beach Movie
- 20:00 Star Darlings
- 20:05 Disney Cookabout
- 20:30 Jessie
- 20:55 Liv And Maddie
- 21:20 Best Friends Whenever
- 21:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 22:10 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
- 00:10 Hank Zipzer
- 00:35 Binny And The Ghost



- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calimero
- 04:35 Zou
- 04:45 Loopdidoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopdidoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopdidoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 The Hive
- 08:10 Zou
- 08:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 08:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 09:00 Sofia The First
- 09:30 Goldie & Bear
- 10:00 PJ Masks
- 10:30 Doc McStuffins
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:30 Goldie & Bear
- 12:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 13:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 13:15 PJ Masks
- 13:40 Doc McStuffins
- 14:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 14:30 Sofia The First
- 15:00 Doc McStuffins
- 15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse



PANIC ROOM ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 16:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:00 The Lion Guard
- 17:30 PJ Masks
- 18:00 Sofia The First
- 18:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:00 PJ Masks
- 20:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 21:00 Doc McStuffins
- 21:30 Sofia The First
- 22:00 Goldie & Bear
- 22:30 Goldie & Bear
- 23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 00:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:20 Calimero



- 04:40 WAGs
- 05:35 WAGs
- 06:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 07:00 WAGs
- 07:55 E! News
- 08:10 WAGs
- 09:10 E! News
- 10:05 WAGs
- 14:15 E! News
- 14:45 Fashion Bloggers
- 15:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 16:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 17:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 20:00 E! News
- 21:00 Botched
- 23:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 00:00 WAGs
- 02:50 E! News
- 03:50 Christina Milian Turned Up



- 04:15 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 04:40 Shark Wranglers
- 05:30 American Restoration
- 06:00 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 07:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 07:50 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 08:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 09:05 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 09:30 Counting Cars
- 09:55 Ax Men

- 10:45 American Restoration
- 11:10 American Restoration
- 11:35 Shipping Wars
- 12:00 Shipping Wars
- 12:25 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 12:50 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 13:15 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 14:05 Inside Alcatraz: Legends Of The Rock
- 14:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 15:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 15:45 Time Team
- 16:35 Counting Cars
- 17:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 17:25 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 17:50 American Restoration
- 18:15 American Restoration
- 18:40 Shipping Wars
- 19:05 Shipping Wars
- 19:30 Pawn Stars
- 19:55 Storage Wars
- 20:20 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 20:45 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 21:10 Alone
- 22:00 Barbarians Rising
- 23:00 Forged In Fire
- 23:50 Time Team
- 00:40 Alone
- 01:30 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 02:20 Barbarians Rising
- 03:20 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 03:45 Big Rig Bounty Hunters



- 04:10 Emmerdale
- 04:55 Coronation Street
- 07:00 Catchphrase
- 07:35 Cameraman To The Queen
- 08:30 Victoria
- 09:25 Royal Stories
- 09:50 The Chase
- 10:35 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 11:30 Murdoch Mysteries
- 12:20 Murdoch Mysteries
- 13:15 Grantchester
- 14:10 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 15:05 Cameraman To The Queen
- 16:00 Royal Stories
- 16:30 Victoria
- 17:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 18:10 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
- 19:05 Cameraman To The Queen
- 20:00 Grantchester
- 20:55 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 21:50 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
- 22:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 23:40 Coronation Street
- 02:00 Tonight At The London Palladium

- Palladium
- 02:50 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 03:15 Coronation Street
- 03:40 Coronation Street



- 04:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 04:55 Croatia's Finest
- 05:20 Croatia's Finest
- 05:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 06:10 Glamour Puds
- 06:35 Andy And Ben Eat The World
- 07:00 Andy And Ben Eat The World
- 07:25 Poh & Co
- 07:50 Raw Travel
- 08:15 Maximum Foodie
- 08:40 Eat Street
- 09:05 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 09:30 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 09:55 Croatia's Finest
- 10:20 Croatia's Finest
- 10:45 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 11:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 12:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 12:50 Dog Whisperer
- 13:40 Street Food Around The World
- 14:05 Carnival Eats
- 14:35 The Food Files
- 15:00 Raw Travel
- 15:30 Raw Travel
- 15:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 16:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 16:50 Croatia's Finest
- 17:20 Croatia's Finest
- 17:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 18:15 Glamour Puds
- 18:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 19:10 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 20:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 21:00 Croatia's Finest
- 21:25 Croatia's Finest
- 21:50 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 22:15 Glamour Puds
- 22:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 23:05 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 23:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 23:55 Street Food Around The World
- 00:20 Carnival Eats
- 00:45 The Food Files
- 01:10 Raw Travel
- 01:35 Raw Travel
- 02:00 Andy And Ben Eat The World
- 02:25 Eat: The Story Of Food
- 03:15 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 03:40 A Marriage Of Flavours



- 04:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 04:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 04:48 Henry Danger
- 05:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 05:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 06:00 Max & Shred
- 06:24 Henry Danger
- 06:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 07:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 07:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 08:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 08:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 08:48 Winx Club
- 09:12 Harvey Beaks
- 09:36 Breadwinners
- 10:00 Get Blake
- 10:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 10:48 Lost In The West I
- 11:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 12:00 Winx Club
- 12:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 13:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 14:00 Breadwinners
- 14:24 The Loud House
- 14:48 Harvey Beaks
- 15:12 Rabbids Invasion
- 15:36 Henry Danger
- 16:00 Game Shakers
- 16:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 16:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 17:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 17:36 The Loud House
- 18:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 18:24 Harvey Beaks
- 18:48 Breadwinners
- 19:12 Henry Danger
- 19:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 20:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 20:24 Game Shakers
- 20:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 21:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 21:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 22:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 22:24 Breadwinners
- 22:48 Breadwinners
- 23:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:36 Sanjay And Craig
- 00:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 00:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 00:48 Henry Danger
- 01:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 01:36 Max & Shred

- 02:00 The Haunted Hathaways
- 02:24 Sanjay And Craig
- 02:48 Sanjay And Craig
- 03:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 03:36 SpongeBob SquarePants



- 04:23 Paw Patrol
- 04:46 Paw Patrol
- 05:10 Wanda And The Alien
- 05:19 Wanda And The Alien
- 05:30 Dora And Friends
- 05:53 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 06:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 07:00 Paw Patrol
- 07:13 Paw Patrol
- 07:36 Dora The Explorer
- 08:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 08:11 Zack & Quack
- 08:22 Dora And Friends
- 08:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 09:10 Paw Patrol
- 09:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 09:58 Dora The Explorer
- 10:21 Paw Patrol
- 10:45 Little Charmers
- 10:57 Bubble Guppies
- 11:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 11:40 Zack & Quack
- 11:52 Team Umizoomi
- 12:15 Louie
- 12:22 Louie
- 12:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 12:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 12:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 13:03 Max & Ruby
- 13:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 13:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 13:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 14:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 14:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 14:45 Zack & Quack
- 14:55 Zack & Quack
- 15:05 Team Umizoomi
- 15:28 Louie
- 15:35 Louie
- 15:42 Louie
- 15:48 Paw Patrol
- 15:58 Paw Patrol
- 16:23 Paw Patrol
- 16:46 Paw Patrol
- 17:10 Wanda And The Alien
- 17:19 Wanda And The Alien
- 17:30 Dora And Friends
- 17:53 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 18:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines



# Make a **Chicken Tikka Masala** that's easy and full of flavor

I'm a big fan of saving takeout and delivery food for true cravings, not convenience. Even the healthiest of eaters has a few culinary vices - for us, it's Indian and Thai food and pizza delivery.

Sometimes, we just want our favorite pizza delivered ("doorbell pizza" my girls called it when they were younger), and no homemade version will scratch the itch. Fine. But calling in an order of pad thai and dumplings just because we can't be bothered to spend a few minutes to make our own food is a troubling slippery slope. Delivery isn't the devil; but save it for cravings.

The key to fending off the temptation to order in takeout as a convenience on a busy weeknight is to have a few easy recipes in your toolkit that you can whip out at a moment's notice. And, it has to be easy enough to execute, even if I don't think of it until 5 p.m.

For me, bonus points if it's ethnic food. Since we don't have an Indian restaurant within a 20-minute radius of my house, I've been recreating the flavors at home.

Today's recipe, Weeknight Chicken Masala, is a bit of a recipe hack; not fully authentic, I'll admit. But the spices are easy to keep on hand (and truth: if you are missing one of them, make the recipe anyway and the world will continue to spin), the recipe is fast to prepare since it uses boneless, skinless chicken breast, and it can be made totally non-spicy or loaded up with whatever spice I have on hand, from sriracha to fresh serranos, or even just cayenne pepper.

Frozen chicken breasts won't slow you down either: microwave for a minute or two until the meat is thawed enough to cut into cubes small enough to thaw quickly. I

indulge in a small amount of cream added at the end, which brings a lushness that is worth the few extra grams of fat, but feel free to sub plain Greek yogurt if you wish.

This dish hits all the marks - full of flavor, easy, inexpensive, healthy and quick. Serve it over brown rice, zucchini noodles, cauliflower rice or just plain raw baby spinach leaves for extra nutrition.

## Ingredients:

Start to finish: 1 hour

Servings: 4

Marinade:

1/4 cup plain yogurt (Greek or regular)  
1 tablespoon lime juice  
1 teaspoon lime zest  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons fresh ginger  
3 chicken breasts, cut into 1 1/2 inch cubes  
3/4 cup chopped onion  
1 tablespoon vegetable or olive oil, divided  
1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
2 teaspoons paprika  
1 1/2 teaspoons coriander  
1 1/2 teaspoons cumin  
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom  
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg (or cinnamon)  
3/4 teaspoon smoked paprika  
1 teaspoon sriracha (optional) (or dash cayenne)

1/4 cup tomato paste  
1 14-ounce can crushed tomatoes  
3 tablespoons heavy cream (or 1/4 cup plain Greek yogurt)  
Chopped cilantro, for garnish  
Lime wedges, for garnish

## Preparations:

In a medium bowl, whisk together all the marinade ingredients, and stir in the chicken cubes to coat. Let sit for at least 10 minutes or refrigerate up to a few hours.

In a large heavy sauce pan, cook the onion in half the oil over medium high heat until onion begins to soften, about 5 minutes. Add the ginger and garlic and stir. Add in the dry spices and stir with a wooden spoon until very fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the sriracha and tomato paste and cook until tomato paste has deep color and aroma, stirring, about 2 minutes. Add the crushed tomatoes and bring to a simmer.

Meanwhile, in a large nonstick saute pan, heat the remaining oil over medium high heat and brown the chicken (remove any excess marinade). Cook the chicken on all sides until golden - it will not be fully cooked in center.

Pour the chicken cubes into the bubbling sauce, add between 1/3-3/4 cup water and let it all cook together for 10 minutes, or up to 30 minutes. Remove the pot from the heat, stir in the heavy cream or Greek yogurt and serve with chopped cilantro and lime for garnish.

Nutrition information per serving: 261 calories; 98 calories from fat; 11 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 81 mg cholesterol; 436 mg sodium; 18 g carbohydrate; 5 g fiber; 9 g sugar; 24 g protein. — AP

# Early Grey lemon teacakes offer dessert without much guilt

I love dessert. I also love being healthy. My four kiddos also love sweets. So over the years, I've created some great strategies for getting some dessert in our lives while also honoring our bodies, which frankly do not need as much sugar as our palates seem to crave.

If you (or your family) loves baked goods too, go ahead and preheat that oven and listen in - I've got some tips for keeping dessert alive while staying reasonable. First: Make your own.

I have a lot more leeway with homemade treats than for the packaged and processed versions from the store. Not only can I manage what is going in them (so I reduce sugar, skip preservatives and artificial stuff), but making my own baked treats puts a minimum half-hour buffer between me and a pan of brownies, which means we all will eat treats mindfully, instead of grabbing a box of cookies and nibbling my way through them unnoticed while watching an episode of "The Goldbergs."

Second healthy dessert tip: Cut up small portions of treats and serve them on a tray alongside a healthier "open quantity" option. For instance, I may place a large bowl of clementines or lowfat Greek yogurt on the table next to a plate of homemade banana bread cut into small squares. Diluting the baked goodie with a protein or fiber-filled option is a low-stress way to make dessert healthier for the whole family.

Third tip: invest in a confectioners' sugar duster and fill it up with organic powdered sugar. Even a tiny dusting of pow-

dered sugar fools our palates into thinking something is sweeter than it is, simply because it's visible. I can sprinkle a bran muffin with the lightest coating of powdered sugar and my kids think they've scored a cupcake.

Finally, a tip just for the adults: Drink espresso with a chunk of dark chocolate or a small finger of homemade cake (like this week's Early Grey lemon teacakes) for dunking - the deep roasted flavor of espresso coupled with just a little sweet makes a surprisingly satisfying, and sophisticated, dessert.

#### Ingredients:

Start to finish: 40 minutes

Servings: 14

1/4 cup coconut oil, soft, but not melted (pop in freezer for a few minutes if needed)

1 tablespoon Earl Grey tea leaves, pounded to a coarse powder (use a small plastic bag and mallet or heavy spoon)

1 tablespoon lemon zest

1/4 cup light agave syrup (or 1/3 cup sugar)

2 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

3 tablespoons lemon juice

1 cup all-purpose flour

3/4 teaspoon baking powder

1/4 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon salt

Confectioners' sugar for decoration, optional

#### Preparations

Preheat the oven to 325 F. Line bottom of an 8-inch square baking pan with parchment paper and spray with nonstick spray.

In a medium bowl, whip coconut oil, Early Grey leaves, lemon zest and agave syrup using a hand mixer until well-blended and light. Add the eggs one at a time and mix well with mixer in between. Add the vanilla and lemon juice and mix well.

In a small bowl, sift the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Then pour in half the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients and mix very briefly. Add the second half of the flour and mix just until blended. Do not overmix.

Scrape the batter into the prepared pan and bake until cake springs back after pressing lightly with your finger, about 25-30 minutes. Let the cake cool for 10 minutes in the pan, and then remove to let cool completely on a rack.

Cut into 14 fingers and sprinkle with confectioners' sugar (optional) and serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 96 calories; 40 calories from fat; 5 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 31 mg cholesterol; 103 mg sodium; 12 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 2 g protein. — AP



# HOW A PATIENT'S 'CRAZY' REQUEST FOR A NEW WOMB MADE HISTORY

## CANCER LEADS TO MIRACLE

**STOCKHOLM:** When the young Australian cervical cancer patient learned she had to lose her womb in order to survive, she proposed something audacious to the doctor who was treating her: She asked if she could have a womb transplant, so she could one day carry her own baby.

This was nearly two decades ago, when the Swedish doctor Mats Brannstrom was training to be a physician abroad. "I thought she was a bit crazy," Brannstrom said. But Brannstrom didn't dismiss her idea. Instead, after he returned to Sweden he began a series of painstaking research projects to learn

in China, Britain, France, the Czech Republic and elsewhere.

The first of Brannstrom's patients' babies was born in 2014 and the fifth arrived in January; another is due in early 2017. Brannstrom is working with doctors at Harvard Medical School and the Mayo Clinic to help women beyond Sweden get access to the procedure. Doctors at Baylor University in Texas, including two former members of Brannstrom's team, announced this week they performed four womb transplants. One was successful, but not yet ready to attempt a pregnancy.

And scientists, many of whom were

were even feasible, Brannstrom first asked Rana Akouri, then one of his doctoral students, to start experimenting in rodents in 1999. He picked Akouri because of her delicate surgical skills - a mouse uterus is only less than an inch long (about 2 centimeters). The surgery was so complex Akouri needed four custom-made tools to perform the microscopic operations.

After nearly two years, Akouri noticed one day that the belly of one of her mice a slight bulge. Too impatient to wait, she performed a cesarean section that evening - and found two tiny babies inside.

"I called Mats at 10pm and told him, 'one of our mice is pregnant!'" she said. That night, Brannstrom said, was the first time he thought that a womb transplant in humans might actually be possible. "If it hadn't worked in mice, we would have quit," he said.

Over the next decade, Brannstrom and his team performed hundreds of uterus transplants in rats, sheep, pigs and monkeys. Because Sweden forbids experiments in non-human primates, Brannstrom and 10 other doctors and nurses flew to Kenya nearly 20 times to perfect things like their surgical technique and the use of immune-suppressing drugs in baboons.

Brannstrom described the less-than-ideal conditions in Nairobi - no regular showers and power failures during surgery - as "team-building" experiences. Wooden carvings of African birds picked up during those trips now adorn several shelves at Brannstrom's fertility clinic in Stockholm.

In 2012, it was time to try the surgery in humans. He obtained ethical permission to perform womb transplants in nine Swedish women. He then held an information session one evening in the southern city of Gothenburg, where the operations were to take place. "We were quite frank in telling them, 'This is not an infertility treatment, you're participating in a scientific trial,'" he said. "We're going into the unknown."

both doubtful and critical before, now believe Brannstrom's work could help them extend the use of organs for those who need transplants and learn how embryos implant in the uterus after conception, a poorly understood but critical stage in pregnancy.

### Experiments on rodents

To figure out if womb transplants



**BERGSHAMRA, SWEDEN:** In this photo taken Tuesday, Sept 20, 2016, Albin's mother Emelie Eriksson, left, poses for a photo with her son and her mother Marie, right, outside her home. —AP

whether it might be possible to transplant a womb, despite criticism that the unheard of procedure was dangerous, medically unnecessary, and impossible.

Brannstrom went on to become the first doctor to deliver babies - five so far - from women with donated wombs. No other doctor in the world has succeeded, despite attempts in the US, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, and ongoing efforts

## STUDY: GOOD HEART ATTACK CARE COULD ADD A YEAR TO YOUR LIFE

**CALIFORNIA:** Going to the right hospital for heart attack care could add a year to your life, a new study suggests. Using Medicare records, researchers found that roughly 17 years after a heart attack, average life expectancy was 9 to 14 months longer for patients who had been treated at hospitals that do best on widely used quality measures than for those treated at low-rated ones.

"Where you go really does matter," not just for surviving the heart attack but also long-term, said Dr. Emily Bucholz, a study leader and researcher at Boston Children's Hospital. A year of life from high-quality care is a big deal; consider that some cancer drugs won approval for adding a few months or weeks. But if you're having possible heart attack symptoms, don't delay getting help because you're worried about which hospital to go to, said another study leader, Yale cardiologist Dr. Harlan Krumholz. "Just call 911. Too many people wait at home too long," and any delay means more risk of permanent heart damage, he said.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health. Results were published Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine. —AP



**SANTA CLARITA:** This Friday, Sept 30, 2011 file photo shows an emergency room entrance at a hospital. —AP



**Haverford, Pennsylvania:** In this Oct 4, 2016, photo, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, center, accompanied by her daughter Chelsea Clinton, right, and actress Elizabeth Banks, speaks at a town hall at the Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center. —AP

## ADVICE FOR PARENTS ON BODY IMAGE AMID INSULTS

**WASHINGTON:** Even if your daughters don't pay much attention to politics, they'd be hard-pressed to have missed Donald Trump's attack of a former Miss Universe's weight or comments about a 400-pound hacker. It resonated with a 15-year-old who said this week the words damage girls' body image and asked Hillary Clinton how to help. And it resonates with adolescent and mental health experts who say it's time to make clear to kids that they're more than their looks - even if a presidential candidate can get away with publicly degrading comments. Girls are particularly at risk for having a distorted body image that can lead to eating disorders, regardless of their weight. "For them to have that be reinforced by a presidential candidate, it really sets us back generations," said Dr. Jane Swedler, chief of adolescent medicine at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, New York.

"We can't tell the kids just to turn him off, because that's not the answer," added mental health expert Linda Lucker Leibowitz of the University of Pennsylvania. A long-time school counselor, she is now associate director of school and mental health counseling at Penn's Graduate School of Education - and says parents, teachers and counselors alike need to talk with children of all ages about this kind of weight bullying.

### Words matter

Trump's words are what experts call body shaming. The latest back-and-forth began in the presidential debate, when Clinton criticized Trump for calling a then-Miss Universe "Miss Piggy" two decades earlier. He didn't deny that, and the next morning compounded the insult by saying on TV that the beauty queen had gained weight and "it was a real problem." Monday, during a town hall meeting with Clinton, 15-year-old Brennan Leach said body image was a major issue for girls her age, adding, "I see with my own eyes the damage Donald Trump does when he talks about women and how they look." Clinton praised the teen for asking how to help and said, "We need to laugh at it. We need to refute it. We need to ignore it. And we need to stand up to it." Leibowitz said kids mimic what they hear from a celebrity like Trump.

### It's not just trump

Society bombards girls and women with an unrealistic idea of beauty - just think of all the magazine covers with skinny yet buxom models in a nation of widening waistlines. Even little girls need to be told that "most of these pictures are not real. They're airbrushed, they're Photoshopped," Swedler said.

Parents sometimes unconsciously reinforce the message, she said, if they focus on pounds and dieting rather than on teaching children to eat nutritiously and exercise to be healthy - not to be skinny. Good body image is important for health. Just last month, the American Academy of Pediatrics released new guidelines addressing how to prevent both obesity and eating disorders. Childhood and teen obesity is a serious problem, associated with depression and poor self-esteem as well as later-in-life disease. Eating disorders, while not nearly as common, also are a serious problem - and most teens who develop one didn't start out obese. — AP



**ARLES, FRANCE:** In this Feb 12, 1997 file photo shows Thomas, 5, looks at Jeanne Calment after he brought her flowers at her retirement home.—AP

**HOW LONG CAN PEOPLE LIVE? NEW STUDY SUGGESTS THERE'S A LIMIT**

**LOS ANGELES:** Just how long can people live? New research suggests there may be a limit to our life span - one that's hard to extend without some sort of breakthrough that fixes all age-related problems. The record for the world's oldest person is 122 years and the odds of shattering that record are slim, according to an analysis published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

"It seems extremely difficult if not impossible to break through that ceiling due to the complexity of the aging process," one of the researchers, Jan Vijg, a geneticist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, said in an email. Life expectancies in many countries have risen dramatically because of improvements in medical care and sanitation in the last century. The maximum age of death has also increased, leading some to believe that there's no boundary to how long people can live.

In the new study, researchers analyzed mortality data from a global database. They found that while there have been strides in reducing deaths among certain groups - children, women during childbirth and the elderly - the rate of improvement was slower for the very old, those over 100 years old. Next they examined how old centenarians were when they died. The record holder is Jeanne Calment, of France, who lived until 122 years old. Since her death in 1997, no one has broken her record. —AP

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: MYLAN HAS BEEN OVERCHARGING FOR EPIPENS**

**POSSIBLE STEEP PENALTIES**

**TRENTON, NEW JERSEY:** Even the federal government is apparently paying too much for EpiPens, along with angry patients and insurers. The skyrocketing price of the life-saving allergy shot, which has triggered a storm of criticism, is only part of the problem. Now the federal government, responding to Congressional inquiries, says Medicaid for years has been paying too much for EpiPens because the emergency shot is classified incorrectly as a generic medicine. The federal government says EpiPen is a branded drug, which means the drug's maker, Mylan, should have been paying the government a far higher rebate under the government's complex pricing rules. Mylan, which has been blasted for hiking the price of a pair of EpiPens to \$608 from \$94 since 2007, denies wrongdoing. It says that EpiPen meets Medicaid's definition of a generic product and that it was classified that way when Mylan acquired rights to the product in 2007.

**The company could face steep penalties, though.**

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid, manufacturers that pay insufficient rebates may be fined by the Department of Health and Human Services for violating the rebate rules, sued for overcharging the government or hit with other penalties.

CMS spokesman Aaron Albright would not comment Thursday on whether the agency would try to correct the misclassification of EpiPen, recoup money, or seek penalties from Mylan.



**WASHINGTON:** In this Wednesday, Sept 21, 2016, file photo, Mylan CEO Heather Bresch holds up EpiPens while testifying on Capitol Hill, before the House Oversight Committee hearing on EpiPen price increases. —AP

But in a letter sent late Wednesday to senators and congressmen probing EpiPen's exorbitant price hikes, Andy Slavitt, acting director of CMS, wrote that EpiPen doesn't meet the definition of a generic drug because it was approved as a brand-name drug and is protected by a patent. Slavitt wrote that CMS "has expressly told Mylan that the product is incorrectly classified."

Albright couldn't immediately say when Mylan was told that, but said the pharmaceutical industry was given guidelines explaining the classifications in 2010. For nine years, the government says, Mylan has been paying rebates of 13 percent, as required for generic prod-

ucts when it should have been paying the 23.1 percent rebate required for brand-name drugs.

In addition, CMS said Mylan hasn't been paying Medicaid a second rebate that is required whenever the price of a brand-name drug price rises more than inflation. The price of an EpiPen pack rose 23 percent a year on average between 2007 and 2016. Inflation has averaged less than 2 percent a year over the same period. The prior maker of EpiPen apparently also was underpaying. CMS records indicate the product's status was changed from brand-name to generic in the fourth quarter of 1997, according to Slavitt's letter. — AP

**CLINIC PAGE**

Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

**Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem** فهد علي المخيزيم  
Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FFAFP. PEM

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



**KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/10/2016 TO 12/10/2016)**

<b>SHARQIA-1</b> DEEPWATER HORIZON DEEPWATER HORIZON LAF WA DAWARAN MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN DEEPWATER HORIZON DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM	DEEPWATER HORIZON LAF WA DAWARAN STORKS STORKS DEEPWATER HORIZON DEEPWATER HORIZON DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b> LAF WA DAWARAN STORKS LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM	<b>AVENUES-1</b> THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN SULLY OPPAM - Malayalam ASHAN KHARGEN THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:30 PM 4:15 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b> USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE STORKS USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:30 AM 2:15 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:45 PM 12:30 AM	<b>AVENUES-2</b> MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN DEEPWATER HORIZON-2D-4DX MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 DEEPWATER HORIZON-2D-4DX	12:00 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b> LAF WA DAWARAN USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE STORKS USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 9:00 PM 11:45 PM	<b>AVENUES-3</b> LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b> DEEPWATER HORIZON DEEPWATER HORIZON MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN PREMAM - Telugu MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN NO FRI+MON PREMAM - Telugu DEEPWATER HORIZON PREMAM - Telugu DEEPWATER HORIZON MUHALAB-3 LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:45 PM 9:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:15 AM 12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	<b>AVENUES-4</b> LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 6:45 PM 9:00 PM 11:15 PM
<b>FANAR-1</b> LAF WA DAWARAN THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN STORKS STORKS LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN	12:15 PM 2:30 PM 5:15 PM 7:15 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM	<b>360°-1</b> MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN -3D MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN -3D	12:30 PM 3:15 PM 6:00 PM 8:45 PM 11:30 PM
<b>FANAR-2</b> DEEPWATER HORIZON DEEPWATER HORIZON MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN -3D MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN DEEPWATER HORIZON DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 7:00 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM	<b>360°-2</b> THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM SULLY SULLY THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM
<b>FANAR-3</b> TANK 432 TANK 432 MIRZYA - HINDI PREMAM - Telugu MIRZYA - HINDI PREMAM - Telugu	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM	<b>360°-3</b> THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN NO FRI+SAT OPPAM - Malayalam FRI+SAT OPPAM - Malayalam THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:00 PM 3:45 PM 3:45 PM 6:45 PM 9:45 PM 12:30 AM
<b>TANK 432</b> PREMAM - Telugu TANK 432	9:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:15 AM	<b>AL-KOUT.1</b> LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM
<b>MARINA-1</b> USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	1:15 PM 1:30 PM 4:00 PM 6:45 PM 9:30 PM 12:15 AM	<b>AL-KOUT.2</b> DEEPWATER HORIZON DEEPWATER HORIZON STORKS LAF WA DAWARAN DEEPWATER HORIZON DEEPWATER HORIZON DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM
<b>MARINA-2</b> LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN LAF WA DAWARAN	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM	<b>AL-KOUT.3</b> USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:15 AM
<b>MARINA-3</b>		<b>AL-KOUT.4</b> THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN TANK 432 FRI TANK 432 TANK 432 TANK 432	1:15 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM

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<b>Maternity Hospital</b>	<b>24843100</b>
<b>Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital</b>	<b>25312700</b>
<b>Chest Hospital</b>	<b>24849400</b>
<b>Farwaniya Hospital</b>	<b>24892010</b>
<b>Adan Hospital</b>	<b>23940620</b>
<b>Ibn Sina Hospital</b>	<b>24840300</b>
<b>Al-Razi Hospital</b>	<b>24846000</b>
<b>Physiotherapy Hospital</b>	<b>24874330/9</b>

**Clinics**

<b>Kaizen center</b>	<b>25716707</b>
<b>Rawda</b>	<b>22517733</b>
<b>Adaliya</b>	<b>22517144</b>
<b>Khaldiya</b>	<b>24848075</b>
<b>Kaifan</b>	<b>24849807</b>
<b>Shamiya</b>	<b>24848913</b>
<b>Shuwaikh</b>	<b>24814507</b>
<b>Abdullah Salem</b>	<b>22549134</b>
<b>Nuzha</b>	<b>22526804</b>
<b>Industrial Shuwaikh</b>	<b>24814764</b>
<b>Qadsiya</b>	<b>22515088</b>
<b>Dasmah</b>	<b>22532265</b>
<b>Bneid Al-Gar</b>	<b>22531908</b>
<b>Shaab</b>	<b>22518752</b>
<b>Qibla</b>	<b>22459381</b>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016



**DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

**Arrival Flights on Saturday 8/10/2016**

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
CLX	852	Luxembourg	00:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
SYR	341	Damascus	06:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	563	Sohag	06:55
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
RJA	648	Amman	09:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
IRC	6511	ABD	11:40
FDK	801	Damascus	11:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55
AVV	651	Sohag	12:05
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
JZR	241	Amman	12:30
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
RJD	132	Abu Dhabi	13:05
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
IRC	526	Mashhad	13:35
TBM	6313	Mashhad	13:45
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
KAC	118	New York	17:00
SAW	705	Damascus	17:05
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35

KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	104	London	19:00
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
JAV	621	Amman	19:25
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
KNE	381	Taif	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
KAC	174	Munich	20:55
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
FDB	8053	Dubai	21:40
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
KAC	564	Amman	22:05
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
NIA	151	Cairo	22:10
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
JAD	301	Amman	23:45

**Departure Flights on Saturday 8/10/2016**

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:10
JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
JZR	562	Sohag	00:30
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
KLM	413	Amsterdam	01:05
MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
CLX	758	Hong Kong	01:25
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
CLX	852	Sharjah	02:05
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:40
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
OMA	644	Muscat	03:50
RJA	645	Amman	03:55
MSC	502	Alexandria	04:00
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
AVV	654	Sohag	05:30
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FEG	934	Sohag	06:00
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZ	R240	Amman	06:55
SYR	342	Damascus	07:00
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	173	Munich	08:35
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
RJA	649	Amman	10:15

QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SAW	704	Damascus	10:45
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20
IRC	6512	ABD	12:40
FDK	802	Damascus	12:45
IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
AVV	652	Alexandria	13:05
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
RJD	133	Abu Dhabi	13:50
FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
IRC	527	Mashhad	14:35
TBM	6314	Mashhad	14:40
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
KNE	382	Taif	14:55
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:30
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	238	Amman	19:15
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
JAV	622	Amman	20:25
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
THY	1413	TXZ	22:25
KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
FDB	8054	Dubai	23:15
KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25

WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

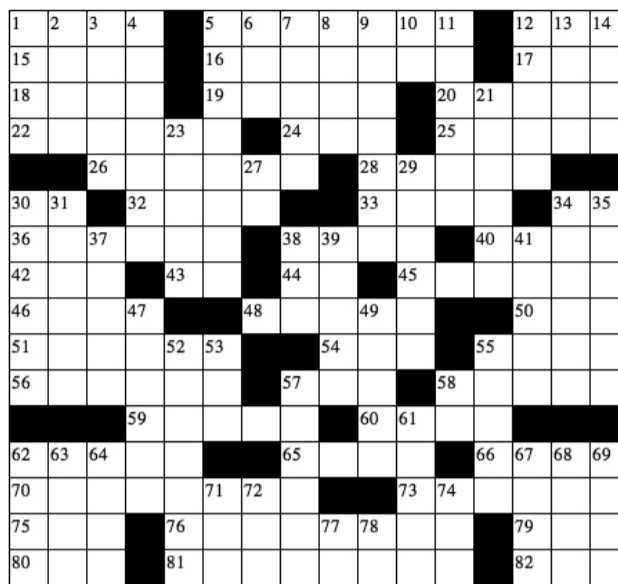
Songs From the Year 2000

Find and circle all of the songs from the year 2000 that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 29 letters spell an additional song title from 2000.

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

- |               |                 |                 |              |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| AMAZED        | CALIFORNICATION | INCOMPLETE      | PINCH ME     |
| AMERICAN PIE  | DESERT ROSE     | JUMPIN' JUMPIN' | SAY MY NAME  |
| BACK AT ONE   | FADED           | KRYPTONITE      | SEPARATED    |
| BACK HERE     | GIRL ON TV      | LUCKY           | SHE BANGS    |
| BAG LADY      | HIGHER          | MARIA MARIA     | SMOOTH       |
| BE WITH YOU   | HOT BOYZ        | MEET VIRGINIA   | STAN         |
| BEAUTIFUL DAY | I LIKE IT       | MINORITY        | STRONGER     |
| BENT          | I NEED YOU      | MOST GIRLS      | THERE YOU GO |
| BREATHE       | I TRY           | MUSIC           | TRY AGAIN    |
| BROADWAY      | I WANNA KNOW    | NO MORE         | WIFEY        |
| BYE BYE BYE   | I WISH          | OTHERSIDE       | WONDERFUL    |

CROSSWORD 1393



ACROSS

- The total spent for goods or services including money and time and labor.
- A starch made by leaching and drying the root of the cassava plant.
- A light touch or stroke.
- Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- Kauri pine.
- A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- A small drum with one head of soft calfskin.
- A landlocked desert republic in north-central Africa.
- (Jewish cookery) A loaf of white bread containing eggs and leavened with yeast.
- A run that is the result of the batter's performance.
- A dialect of Chinese spoken in southeastern China.
- Remove the bones from (an animal).
- Arboreal snake of central and southern Africa whose bite is often fatal.
- After noon.
- An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
- (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- An azure blue semiprecious stone.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- A soft gray ductile metallic element used in alloys.
- A grammatical category in inflected languages governing the agreement between nouns and pronouns and adjectives.
- One of a pair of planks used to make a track for rolling or sliding objects.
- An island in the West Indies.
- Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
- A soft wet area of low-lying land that sinks underfoot.
- A zodiacal constellation in northern hemisphere between Cancer and Virgo.
- A line of approach.
- Cause to be embarrassed.
- Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- (printing) A short line at the end of the main strokes of a character.
- The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
- An association of people to promote the welfare of senior citizens.
- That is caused by.
- A port on the Gulf of Oman and capital of the sultanate of Oman.
- An anticipated outcome that is intended or that guides your planned actions.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- A transuranic element that has not been found in nature.
- A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
- Moths whose larvae are cutworms.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.

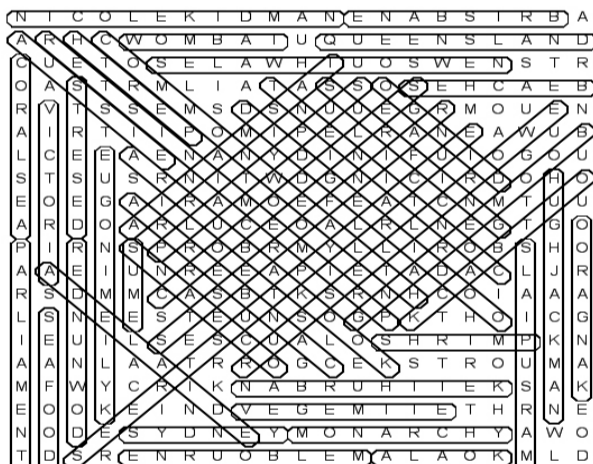
DOWN

- Money in the form of bills or coins.
- Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.

- A burn cause by hot liquid or steam.
- A group of people attractively arranged (as if in a painting).
- Of or at or pertaining to a cathode.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- A fencing sword with a v-shaped blade and a slightly curved handle.
- (dialect) A short straight stick of wood.
- The spirit of evil in Zoroastrianism.
- Denoting a quantity consisting of six items or units.
- Respiratory disorder characterized by wheezing.
- The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
- Any of various strong liquors distilled from the fermented sap of toddy palms or from fermented molasses.
- English monk and scholar (672-735).
- Someone who drives a taxi for a living.
- A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
- A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
- (of tempo) Leisurely n.
- Russian mathematician (1856-1922).
- Pay for something before receiving it.
- Indian nun and missionary (born in Albania) dedicated to helping the poor in India (1910-1997).
- The basic unit of money in Zaire.
- A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
- A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- Large tropical butterfly with degenerate forelegs and an unpleasant taste.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Texas or its residents.
- Devoid of brightness or appeal.
- Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
- A wall hanging of heavy handwoven fabric with pictorial designs.
- A member of the lowest or worker Hindu caste.
- An informal term for a father.
- Of or relating to a speaker of the Tamil language or the language itself.
- A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
- Capital and largest city of Italy.
- A shade of blue tinged with green.
- The basic unit of money in South Africa.
- An anxiety disorder associated with serious traumatic events and characterized by such symptoms as guilt about surviving or reliving the trauma in dreams or numbness and lack of involvement with reality or recurrent thoughts and images.
- An accountant certified by the state.
- Take in solid food.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution

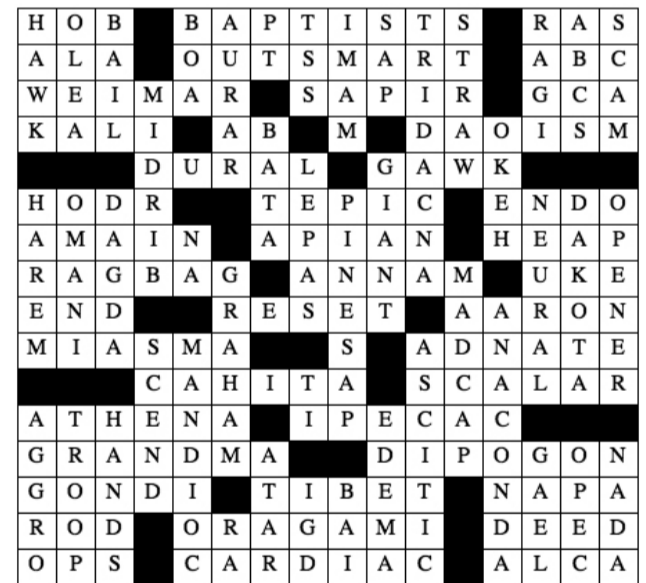
Australia



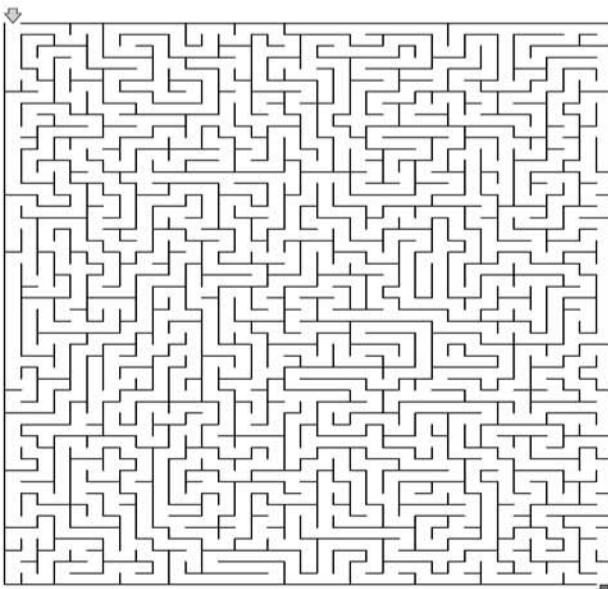
- |              |                  |                 |               |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| ADELAIDE     | DIDGERIDOO       | MARSUPIALS      | QUEENSLAND    |
| AUSSIE       | DINGO            | MELBOURNE       | RAINFORESTS   |
| BEACHES      | DOWN UNDER       | MONARCHY        | RUSSELL CROWE |
| BOOMERANG    | EMUS             | NEW SOUTH WALES | SEAFOOD       |
| BRISBANE     | EUCALYPTUS TREES | NICOLE KIDMAN   | SHRIMP        |
| CANBERRA     | HUGH JACKMAN     | OCEANS          | SURFING       |
| COMMONWEALTH | KANGAROO         | OUTBACK         | SYDNEY        |
| CONTINENT    | KEITH URBAN      | PARLIAMENT      | TASMANIA      |
| CORAL SEA    | KOALA            | PERTH           | VEGEMITE      |
| CROCODILES   | KOOKABURRA       | PLATYPUS        | VICTORIA      |
| DESERTS      | KYLIE MINOGUE    | PRIME MINISTER  | WOMBAT        |

The hidden message is:  
 AUSTRALIA'S MOUNT AUGUSTUS IS THE LARGEST ROCK IN THE WORLD

Yesterday's Solution



CHALLENGING MAZE



Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



## SAUBER TO USE 2016 FERRARI ENGINE NEXT YEAR

**SUZUKA:** Sauber will continue to use 2016-specification Ferrari engines next season after deciding to focus their resources on building a better chassis, team principal Monisha Kaltenborn said yesterday.

The struggling Swiss-based Formula One team are last in the standings and still without a point after 16 of the season's record 21 races.

Including last year's results, they have not scored for 19 races in a row. "We will be using the latest speci-

fication of the 2016 Ferrari engine in 2017," Kaltenborn told reporters at Suzuka. "We took this decision a while ago...at a time where actually the rules for next year were not 100 percent clear.

"We took a strategic decision that we want to focus the resources we have on chassis development and performance development, and in a way leave the engine side to the areas we know," she added. The decision means only Ferrari and US-owned Haas will

have the latest engines next year with Red Bull-owned Toro Rosso, who currently use 2015 specification units, switching to Renault. Kaltenborn said the team was financially stable and the 2017 car's development remained on course. Sauber, Formula One's fourth oldest team, announced in July a change of ownership with Swiss-based investment firm Longbow Finance taking over. The current drivers are Sweden's Marcus Ericsson and Brazilian Felipe Nasr. — Reuters

## FEMALE SPEEDSTERS TAKE ON AUSTRALIA'S 'GREAT RACE'

**BATHURST:** When Swiss ace Simona de Silvestro and co-driver Australian Renee Gracie competed in the Bathurst 1000 "Great Race" last year as a rare all-female duo, they were labelled "pussy wagon" by a male competitor.

But they weren't daunted. This year the pair are back at the 161-lap 1,000-kilometre (620-mile) endurance contest at Mount Panorama northwest of Sydney widely regarded as the pinnacle of Australian motorsport—in their second one-off race. The difference this time is that De Silvestro is wielding a three-year full-time contract starting next year from organisers V8 Supercars. Supercars' chief executive James Warburton said signing the "Iron Maiden", who has raced in IndyCar, Formula E and as an F1 test driver, in the male-dominated sport was no gimmick.

He has a clear goal in mind—to have at least three full-time female drivers on the grid by 2025, an exciting prospect for up-and-coming talents like Gracie. "I have no doubt Simona will be the first but she won't be the last," Gracie told AFP ahead of the race tomorrow. "I've never had advice from a female (driver) before because obviously there are none," added the 21-year-old, who usually competes in the touring car championship's second tier. "For the first time ever, I have someone to look up to... so it's great for me and I'm sure other women in motorsport will feel the same." Last year's Bathurst 1000 winner Steven Richards, co-driver to veteran Craig Lowndes, believes the 28-year-old's arrival will encourage more women to take up the sport. "Motorsport is one of the few sports where gender doesn't make any difference," Richards told AFP.

"They can look at Simona and go, 'She's at the top of her tree, there's no reason why we can't do the same', so I think it's fantastic." For life-long fan and local Sonia Boga, the signing could not come soon enough. "Go girl power... We're just as good as the males, so bring it on," she said as she lined the main street of Bathurst with thousands of fans to cheer on the drivers in a parade. Driver David Reynolds, who was hit with a Aus\$25,000 (US\$19,000) fine for his "pussy wagon" comments, this week praised the Swiss as a "well-credentialed driver" but told AFP it could take her some years to "get up to speed... because this category of racing is phenomenally very, very tough". "I think being the only woman in the field, everybody's going to look for where the girl finished," De Silvestro admitted. —AFP



**BATHURST:** A photo taken on October 5, 2016 shows Swiss driving ace Simona de Silvestro (R) and co-driver Australian Renee Gracie (L) with their race car as they prepare for the Bathurst 1000 race on the Mount Panorama circuit at Bathurst on tomorrow. When Swiss ace Simona de Silvestro and co-driver Australian Renee Gracie competed in the Bathurst 1000 "Great Race" last year as a rare all-female duo, they were labelled "pussy wagon" by a male competitor. — AFP



**SUZUKA:** Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's German driver Nico Rosberg sits in his car in the pit before the second practice session of the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka Circuit yesterday. — AFP

## FIRST BLOOD TO RAMPANT NICO ROSBERG IN JAPAN

**SUZUKA:** Nico Rosberg gave his wounded team-mate Lewis Hamilton plenty to think about by topping the timesheets in both practice sessions yesterday for this weekend's Japanese Grand Prix.

The German, who has a 23-point championship lead over Hamilton with five races left this year, pipped the triple world champion by two tenths in the morning sunshine and just 0.072sec under cloudy skies in the afternoon.

Rosberg struck an early psychological blow as he goes for his fourth win in five races, despite complaining of "monster understeer" in the early jousting between the two fierce Mercedes rivals.

Hamilton, by contrast, has had a tumultuous few days after a blown engine robbed the Briton of victory last weekend.

After controversially hinting that his Malaysia heartbreak was a result of sabotage from within the Mercedes garage, Hamilton barked over the radio that his car was "very low on power" in the morning session.

He improved after lunch but was still

unable to surpass the pace of Rosberg, who is in the form of his life. The Formula One championship leader survived a scare when he emerged from the garage with smoke pouring from his exhaust. No harm was done, however, as Rosberg set the quickest lap of 1min 32.250sec. Hamilton followed him out and was quicker in sector one but slower than his team-mate in sector two to clock 1:32.322. Kimi Raikkonen was third fastest in the second session, just three tenths off Rosberg's pace with Red Bull's Max Verstappen splitting the Ferraris in fourth, a shade quicker than Sebastian Vettel.

### ALONSO DRAMA

Force India's Sergio Perez was sixth quickest, while McLaren's Fernando Alonso clocked the eighth fastest time on engine supplier Honda's home circuit. Australian Daniel Ricciardo, who profited from Hamilton's misfortune to lead a Red Bull one-two in Malaysia, missed out on his qualifying practice after the virtual safety car was activated but went back out for a long run.

Mexican Esteban Gutierrez climbed out of his Haas after informing his pit crew simply: "Okay, something broke."

Earlier, Haas team-mate Romain Grosjean smashed his car into the crash barriers but avoided turning the air blue after recently promising to stop being "an asshole in the car".

Instead, the Frenchman stuck to the facts as he backed out of the gravel, reporting: "The brake doesn't brake."

In the afternoon, Grosjean was still minding his p's and q's, politely telling his team: "I cannot see the pitboard."

There was drama for Alonso, running Honda's latest engine at Suzuka, as the Spaniard skidded off at the devilish 'Spoon' curve and mangled his rear wing. The focus now shifts to today's qualifying as Hamilton looks to bounce back from a nightmare week and complete a hat-trick of Suzuka victories. Mercedes blamed Hamilton's third engine failure of the year on a bearing problem and the Briton is reverting to the engine he used in Singapore this weekend. Rosberg is using the same power unit he ran in Malaysia. — AFP

## FLYERS SCORE 3 IN THIRD PERIOD TO BEAT RANGERS 4-2

**NEW YORK:** Jakub Voracek scored the tiebreaking goal during Philadelphia's three-goal third period and the Flyers went on to a 4-2 exhibition victory over the New York Rangers on Thursday night. Mark Streit, Sean Couturier and Travis Konecny also scored to help the Flyers improve to a Metropolitan Division-best 4-2-1 in the preseason. Michal Neuvirth had 24 saves.

Pavel Buchnevich had a goal and an assist, and Chris Kreider also scored for the Rangers.

Henrik Lundqvist stopped 27 shots. Couturier tied it at 2, deflecting Streit's shot past Lundqvist at 2:29 of the third just as a Flyers power play was expiring. Voracek put the Flyers ahead 2:15 later. He cut to the net and took a pass from Wayne Simmonds and fired it past Lundqvist for his third of the preseason. Konecny capped the scoring with 9:07 left.

At Columbus, Ohio, Matt Beleskey and Seth Griffin scored to lead the Boston Bruins to a 2-1 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets. Anton Khudobin started and stopped all 11 shots he faced over the first 29:14. He was then replaced by Malcolm Subban, who finished with 16 saves.

Beleskey tipped a shot by Colin Miller past Sergei Bobrovsky 2:34 into the game to get the Bruins on the scoreboard first. Griffin's snap shot made it 2-0 at 3:53 of the third period. Brandon Saad spoiled the Bruins' shutout bid with a power-play goal at 6:49 of the final period. Bobrovsky finished with 20 saves.

At Montreal, Andrew Shaw scored twice and Shea Weber got a goal in his first game with Montreal in the Canadiens' 6-1 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Carey Price had 28 saves in his first game for Montreal since he suffered a season-ending injury on Nov. 25. Weber played his first game for Montreal since he was acquired from Nashville for P.K. Subban in the offseason.

Michael McCarron, Alex Galchenyuk and Artturi Lehkonen also scored for the Canadiens, who ended their preseason schedule at 4-1-2. Auston Matthews scored a power-play goal for the Leafs, who will complete their preseason with games against Detroit on Friday and Saturday.—AP

## ALL BLACKS HAVE 'CLEAR HEADS' FOR BOKS TEST, SAYS READ

**DURBAN:** New Zealand captain Kieran Read says his side go into today's final Rugby Championship clash against South Africa in Durban with "clear heads" after a tough week in which scrumhalf Aaron Smith was sent home.

Smith received a one-match suspension from New Zealand Rugby after admitting he had a liaison with a female in a disabled toilet while on team duty at Christchurch airport last month. Read avoided referring directly to the incident at his captain's news conference in Durban on Friday, but said the team were feeling no ill-effects of their hectic travel schedule and the loss of their regular number nine.

"It's nice to get to Friday and just know we have to put the finishing touches to the preparation and go into tomorrow with clear heads," Read said.

"We just need to turn up and play our brand of rugby. Right now we are in a good space." The All Blacks are chasing a 17th test win in a row, which would equal a record mark for top-tier rugby nation they have achieved twice before.

"History suggests it's pretty tough to move past this level where we are at now," Read said. "We want to go and get 17, but you can't be thinking about records once you are on the field." Read disagrees with former All Black World Cup-winning coach Graham Henry that the Boks are on a downward spiral, despite a difficult year for the side in which they have lost three times in the Rugby Championship.

"Graham Henry likes making remarks about opposition teams to be honest," Read said with a chuckle. "We truly respect them. The history of our two teams, we know how much it means to put on the Springbok jumper, which is the same as the All Black jumper for us."

The number eight said the All Blacks were expecting a fast match and are ready for a physical forward challenge.

"We have got our plan to play a really quick game and as a forward pack I think the most important thing is to be physical with the South Africans. They have a gun kicker in Morne (Steyn) who can slot them from anywhere. So if we give them opportunities we will be facing a scoreboard that is ticking over against us." — Reuters



**BRISBANE:** File photo shows Michael Hooper of the Australian Wallabies, left, tackles South African Springboks player Faf de Klerk, center bottom, during the Rugby Championship match between the Wallabies and the Springboks at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. — AP

## PUMAS, WALLABIES PLAYING MONEY MATCH AT TWICKENHAM

**LONDON:** Almost a year after playing out a tense Rugby World Cup semifinal, Argentina and Australia are back at Twickenham today in the first Rugby Championship match outside the southern hemisphere.

Both unions agreed to shift the match because they need the millions they could pocket if their teams fill 82,000-seat Twickenham, which has twice as many seats as the original venue in Mendoza.

But, unlike at the Rugby World Cup, both teams haven't done enough to make the last-round match a can't-miss affair. New Zealand won the championship with two rounds to spare, and the Pumas and Wallabies are also-rans in the bottom half of the standings.

Last weekend, the Pumas didn't come close to the All Blacks at home, while the Wallabies failed in South Africa to turn their domination into enough points. Australia coach Michael Cheika said the chance to finish second in the championship was irrelevant to the more important chance to restock the team. Queensland back-rower Leroy Houston, on loan at Bath, could become the 11th Australian to make his Wallabies debut this year if he comes off

the reserves. "It's pretty clear we're going through a generational change," Cheika said. "We understand that our challenge in Australian rugby is to build more depth. But we're not going to cry about it, talking about losing players overseas. We won't whinge about a lack of depth - we'll go out and make that depth instead."

"That said, winning matches is what it's all about. No one cares about second - I can't remember who was in the World Cup final, I only remember that New Zealand won it." The feature of his selection was dropping James Slipper, Australia's most-capped prop with 82, from the reserves and replacing him with Tom Robertson, who can prop on both sides and was much younger.

The Pumas, whose only win in the championship was at home against South Africa in late August, chose influential flyhalf Nicolas Sanchez (right ankle and knee) and winger Manuel Montero (left leg) subject to them passing fitness tests yesterday. If Sanchez, the Pumas' main kicker, can't play, then Santiago Gonzalez Iglesias would swap his No. 12 jersey for No. 10.

The Pumas lost to Australia in that World Cup semifinal 29-15, their errors

giving the Wallabies a two-try start in the first 10 minutes. The Wallabies got away again in Perth last month, going up 21-0 within 12 minutes. The lesson must eventually be learned by the Pumas.

### Lineups:

**Argentina:** Joaquin Tuculet, Matias Moroni, Matias Orlando, Santiago Gonzalez Iglesias, Manuel Montero, Nicholas Sanchez, Martin Landajo; Leonardo Senatore, Javier Ortega Desio, Pablo Matera, Matias Alemanno, Guido Petti, Ramiro Herrera, Agustin Creevy (captain), Lucas Noguera. Reserves: Julian Montoya, Santiago Garcia Botta, Enrique Pieretto, Marcos Kremer, Tomas Cubelli, Juan Manuel Leguizamon, Jeronimo de la Fuente, Ramiro Moyano.

**Australia:** Israel Folau, Dane Haylett-Petty, Samu Kerevi, Bernard Foley, Reece Hodge, Quade Cooper, Will Genia; Lopeti Timani, Michael Hooper, Dean Mumm, Adam Coleman, Rory Arnold, Sekope Kepu, Stephen Moore (captain), Scott Sio. Reserves: James Hanson, Tom Robertson, Allan Ala'alatoa, Kane Douglas, Scott Fardy, Leroy Houston, Nick Phipps, Tevita Kuridrani, Sefa Naivalu (one to be omitted). — AP

## FRASER AND RICHARDSON SHARE LEAD IN INDONESIA

**JAKARTA:** Australian golfers Marcus Fraser and Kalem Richardson shared the second clubhouse lead yesterday at the BNI Indonesian Masters which was interrupted by bad weather.

Fraser, who only scored a three-under 69 on the opening round on Thursday, finished the morning session with seven birdies against two bogeys for a five-under-par 67.

The Australian, who ranked second on the Order of Merit, said he was grateful for his solid performance on the second day of the tournament.

"My game was pretty steady. I felt

like I played pretty similar to what I did yesterday. I just had one poor drive on 17. That was a terrible golf shot and I made a bogey. Other than that it was steady all day," Fraser said.

Fraser's fellow countryman Richardson, who suffered from a knee injury earlier this year, secured a tie by finishing the round on a 68 on eight-under-par 136.

"I've been struggling a little bit with the game. It was nice to get through a couple of challenges today and stay in the moment. I've been getting carried away and that's been costing me,"

Richardson said. Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand finished two shots just before play was halted due to fading light to finish the round on a 69, trailing the leaders by one alongside fellow Thai Tirawat Kaewsiribandit, S. Chikkarangappa of India and Japan's Masahiro Kawamura.

"We rushed in the last two holes because we didn't want to come back early tomorrow. I played very well and I have no complaints with the round. At least now I know I will have some rest and have a chance at the weekend," Thongchai said. Play at the Royale

Jakarta was suspended at 5.45 pm local time due to darkness and lightning threats and will resume on Saturday morning at 6:30 am.

Scores after round two of the BNI Indonesian Masters (par 72): 136 - Kalem Richardson (AUS), Marcus Fraser (AUS) 137 - Tirawat Kaewsiribandit (THA), Masahiro Kawamura (JPN), Chikkarangappa S. (IND), Thongchai Jaidee (THA). 138 - Jeev Milkha Singh (IND), Phachara Khongwatmai (THA), Casey O'Toole (USA), Antonio Lascuna (PHI), Javi Colomo (ESP), Liu Yan-wei (CHN), Poom Saksansin (THA). — AFP

## PARK, JANG SHARE LPGA TOUR LEAD IN TAIWAN

**TAIPEI:** Hee Young Park and Ha Na Jang fought through gusty wind and early rain yesterday to share the second-round lead in the LPGA Taiwan Championship.

The South Korean players each shot their second straight 3-under 69 at Miramar. They also each had only one bogey, Jang on the par-4 15th when she got a chip only halfway to the hole and missed a 20-footer, and Park on the par-4 16th when she drove into a bunker and came up well short of the green in two.

"This week is more like just be patient is very important, because weather is so bad and the golf condition so bad, too," the 24-year-old Jang said. "That's why I'm just hitting fairway, the green. Very important this week. Yep, this weather, this score." Canada's Brooke Henderson (71) was a stroke back along with China's Shanshan Feng (69), South Korea's So Yeon Ryu (68) and South Africa's Lee-Anne Pace (70). Defending champion Lydia Ko was tied for 18th at 1 under after a 73. The top-ranked New Zealander won by nine strokes last year, and has four LPGA Tour victories this year. Park prepared for the conditions heading into the Asian Swing. "I expect a lot of rain, so I had practice," the 29-year-old Park said, "It's about just one week, but I had a lot of practice with the trajectory. Different kind of shot from the range, which is a lot of help this week also. So, that's why I hit it a lot close today even with the wind and the rain."

### Ryu also came prepared.

"I've been working on having a low ball shape" Ryu said. "I've been practicing like low ball and high ball, so I had no problem to control the low one. Luckily, all shots worked pretty well, so I didn't have any like major miss shots. ... Only one bogey with this weather is pretty positive." Park and Jang each have two LPGA Tour victories. Jang won early this season Florida and Singapore, and Park won events in 2011 and 2013. Park played the first seven holes in 4 under in the worst conditions of the round. She set up birdies with irons to 4 feet on No. 1, a foot on No. 4, and 4 feet on No. 6, ran in an 18-footer on No. 7, and saved par on No. 8 with a 20-foot putt.

"Always difficult with wind," Park said. "I have to play every single shot really careful and more think about. Makes more tired. So hard to focusing end of the hole. That's why I tried to." Jang also played well in the bad early conditions, hitting to 3 feet on the par-3 third and making another birdie on the par-5 sixth. She made an 18-footer on 10, and chipped to a foot on the par-5 12th. "Just say, 'Trust yourself. You great player. Just be patient. Middle of the green is fine. Two-putt is pretty good. Par score is pretty good,'" Jang said. The 19-year-old Henderson has two victories this year, winning the major KPMG Women's PGA in June. She plans to play all six weeks on the Asian Swing, a journey that started in China with a fourth-place tie, and will take her to South Korea, back to China, and then to Malaysia and Japan. Japan's Sakura Yokomine, the first-round leader after a 67, had a 75 to drop into a tie for 10th at 2 under. American Paula Creamer, a stroke back entering the day, also was 2 under after a 75. Home favorite Yani Tseng was tied for 65th at 8 over, following an opening 79 with a 73. She won the inaugural event in 2011 at Sunrise, and took the last of her 15 LPGA Tour titles in March 2012. — AP



**PYEONGCHANG:** Gunilla Lindberg, the head of IOC's coordination commission for the 2018 Games, speaks during a news conference in Pyeongchang, South Korea, yesterday. —AP

## PYEONGCHANG'S BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS PROMOTING THE GAMES: IOC

**PYEONGCHANG:** Pyeongchang's preparations for the 2018 Winter Olympics are on course but South Korean organizers must step up efforts to promote the games worldwide, the head of the IOC's inspection team said yesterday.

Gunilla Lindberg, head of the International Olympic Committee's coordination commission for the games, said her team was satisfied with the progress they saw in their latest three-day inspection visit. According to Pyeongchang organizers, construction is on schedule for a series of 26 test events scheduled from November to April. They said six new competition venues for the games are now 90 percent complete.

"We saw firsthand the progress of the construction projects," Lindberg said at a news conference. "There is no doubt that the venues will be ready for the upcoming test events."

"My colleagues and I leave here more confident than ever that Pyeongchang 2018 will deliver great games," she added. The first test event will be a World Cup snowboard big air competition from Nov. 23-26. Snowboard big air will make its Olympic debut at the Pyeongchang Games. A new high-speed rail line - designed to link the country's main gate-

way of Incheon airport with Pyeongchang in less than two hours - will be completed in June and start operations in January 2018. Lindberg said that the biggest challenge left for Pyeongchang is promoting the Olympics across the world. Pyeongchang, a sleepy ski resort town in South Korea's mountainous east, is a much smaller destination than Tokyo, which will host the 2020 Summer Olympics, and Beijing, which will host the 2022 Winter Games.

"The biggest challenge at the moment is ... how to promote the games over the world, because this is a small place. It's not Rio de Janeiro and it's not London," said Lindberg, who added that the upcoming test events, which will be televised internationally, will be an important opportunity to promote the games and showcase the level of preparation. Another critical issue for Pyeongchang is securing the participation of National Hockey League players. IOC negotiations with the NHL have stalled over the IOC's decision not to pay for NHL players' travel and insurance as it has in the past. NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly recently told The Associated Press he felt "negative" about the chances the league's players will

appear for a sixth straight Olympics in Pyeongchang.

Christophe Dubi, the IOC's executive director of the Olympic Games, said NHL representatives have agreed to pay an inspection visit to Pyeongchang later this month, which he described as a "very positive step."

Dubi didn't offer a firm answer on whether the IOC would consider allowing the NHL to skip the Pyeongchang Games before returning for Beijing in 2022. "We definitely always try to have the participation of the best athletes. It is reassuring that NHL is coming to Pyeongchang and especially look at the operations in Gangneung," he said.

"When it comes to the final participation ... there is a date set at Jan. 15 to find an agreement," Dubi said. "Until then it will be work between all parties involved to make sure that we get the participation of the very best, and that's for both Pyeongchang and Beijing." The ice hockey tournament during the Pyeongchang Olympics will take place at a stadium in the nearby city of Gangneung. Lee Hee-beom, head of the local organizing committee, said ticket sales will be launched in conjunction with the 1-year-to-go countdown in February. — AP

# S KOREA UPSET HOLDERS INDIA IN KABADDI WORLD CUP

**AHMEDABAD:** South Korea stunned favourites India yesterday, pulling off a thrilling 34-32 win in the opening match of the Kabaddi World Cup before shocked home fans. The Indians raced to an early lead in the combative contact sport that mixes tag and wrestling but the Koreans rallied to overpower the defending champions.

The packed stadium was stunned into

silence as the Indians failed to hold on to their narrow three-point lead in the closing minutes of the match. "Our raiders weren't at their best today. We also made some mistakes at the end and that proved crucial," a dejected Indian captain Anup Kumar said after the game.

"But not everything is lost yet. We will get back into the competition and correct our

mistakes." The two-week event which will see 12 teams lock horns with each other is being held in India's western city of Ahmedabad. Kabaddi features two seven-member teams facing off on a tennis court-sized pitch.

A "raider" from each team has to dash into the rival half and touch players from the opposing team without being tackled before

escaping back to safety on their side of the court. The game is played in around 35 countries but India has traditionally dominated the sport, winning all seven gold medals at the Asian Games since it was introduced in 1990. Pakistan, another strong team, were barred from the ongoing competition due to a spike in tension between the nuclear-armed neighbours. —AFP

## WIGGINS UNDER PRESSURE IN DRUGS PROBE: REPORT

**LONDON:** Bradley Wiggins is facing fresh questions about his medical history after Britain's Daily Mail reported he was at the centre of an inquiry by United Kingdom Anti-Doping.

The Mail said UKAD wanted to question him and his Team Sky bosses over a medical package delivered to the British outfit ahead of the 2011 Tour de France.

A UKAD statement issued late Thursday said: "UK Anti-Doping is investigating an allegation of wrongdoing within cycling. In order to protect the integrity of the investigation, we will not comment further."

British cycling great Wiggins has been in the spotlight since leaked medical data showed the five-time Olympic champion had been granted a therapeutic use exemption (TUE) by cycling authorities for the powerful corticosteroid triamcinolone, which he was permitted to take just days before the 2012 Tour de France, which he won, as well as the 2011 Tour and the 2013 Giro d'Italia.

Wiggins said he needed the drug to help control his asthma. But Dutch rider Tom Dumoulin told Netherlands newspaper De Limburger it was "strange" Wiggins had received the injections immediately before three Grand Tours. Triamcinolone has also been used as a doping agent by riders, including notorious drugs cheat Lance Armstrong, and is believed to help athletes lose weight, combat fatigue and aid recovery.

The Mail said that while British Cycling has not identified the substance in the package, it has indicated it did not contain triamcinolone. Team Sky responded to the Mail's story by promising to investigate the claims, while insisting there was no reason to suspect foul play. "Team Sky was contacted by the Daily Mail regarding an allegation of wrongdoing," the statement read.

"We take any issues such as this very seriously and immediately conducted an internal review to establish the facts. We are confident there has been no wrongdoing. "We informed British Cycling of the allegation and asked them to contact UKAD, who we will continue to liaise with. "Team Sky is committed to clean competition. Our position on anti-doping is well known and we 100 per cent stand by that." Wiggins, 36, said last week he understood why, on the basis of the leaked data, concerns had been raised regarding his medical history.

"Without all the context of someone's history then I could see that on paper maybe, especially the way some of it has been reported," he told the Guardian, having previously given an interview to BBC television.

"It was for a very specific thing ... to treat something that was historically a problem for me and could be quite a serious problem for me." A cyber-espionage group called "Fancy Bears", which is believed to be Russian, has been leaking medical data about famous athletes after targeting records held by the World Anti-Doping Agency. Wiggins's TUEs were approved by the UCI, cycling's world governing body, and there is no suggestion either he or Team Sky, for whom he was riding at the time, have contravened anti-doping rules.

However, both Sky and Wiggins have come under scrutiny given the British team's much-trumpeted "zero tolerance" policy towards doping and the rider's criticisms of drug cheats in his autobiographies.

Wiggins's former Sky team-mate Chris Froome, a three-time Tour de France winner who finished runner-up to his fellow British rider in the 2012 edition, was criticised after it was revealed he received a TUE for a steroid to treat a chest infection prior to winning the 2014 Tour de Romandie.—AFP



**MONTREAL:** File photo of World Anti-Doping Agency President Craig Reddie as he speaks to the media following a WADA meeting in Montreal, Canada. With the Russian doping scandal still causing discord across the international sports world, Olympic leaders will meet today to consider ways of revamping a global drug-testing system battered by political disputes and a loss of public confidence. — AP

## OLYMPIC SUMMIT TO SEEK UNITY IN DRUG FIGHT

**LONDON:** With the Russian doping scandal still causing bitter discord across the international sports world, Olympic leaders meet today to consider ways of revamping a global drug-testing system battered by political disputes and a loss of public confidence.

The role of the World Anti-Doping Agency, proposals for an independent testing body and the continuing investigation into state-backed Russian doping are expected to be discussed at the "Olympic Summit" in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The finger-pointing and blame game against WADA have ramped up recently, with several IOC members publicly blasting the organization for its handling of the Russian doping crisis. "There seems to be a lot of people who refuse to accept that the base problem was institutional Russian cheating," WADA President Craig Reddie told The Associated Press. "WADA cannot and will not be held responsible for Russian cheating." The International Olympic Committee said officials will debate ideas for "a more robust, more efficient and more independent worldwide anti-doping system," including further talks on making the entire system "independent from sports organizations."

"We will make recommendations for WADA to improve in a very constructive way," IOC President Thomas Bach said. "We will ask WADA to take the organizational measures to perform these tests in a

more efficient and more robust way."

The closed-door meeting, to be held at a luxury Lausanne hotel, will be attended by about 20 officials, including IOC vice presidents, heads of major international sports federations, and presidents of the US, Russian and Chinese national Olympic committees.

It's uncertain whether the deliberations will produce concrete decisions or simply a set of broad principles ahead of an extraordinary world conference on doping next year. "We need to really properly understand who is responsible for what," IAAF President Sebastian Coe told the AP yesterday. "We need to settle on arrangements that satisfy the clean athletes. I'm not sure it's any more complicated than that." The delegate with perhaps the most at stake is Reddie, whose agency has been harshly criticized by IOC members. The fallout from WADA's recommendation to ban Russia's entire team from the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro - rejected by the IOC - continues to roil the waters and will hang over today's discussions.

A report by WADA investigator Richard McLaren detailed state-supported doping and cover-ups across dozens of winter and summer Olympic sports in Russia. It also backed allegations by Moscow's former lab director that doping samples of Russian athletes were manipulated during the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi.

The IOC turned down WADA's call to

impose an outright ban on Russia from the Rio Games. The IOC deferred to individual international sports federations, and about 270 Russian athletes wound up competing in Rio. Bach said the decision was made in the name of "justice" to prevent clean athletes from being punished for the violations of others.

The Institute of National Anti-Doping Organizations said Thursday the IOC "lost the anti-doping battle" before the Rio Games, declaring: "The IOC failed the clean athletes of the world."

McLaren is scheduled to release his final report by the end of the month, focusing on the doping manipulation in Sochi. Those findings could lead to disqualifications, stripping of medals and calls for Russia to be banned from 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang.

IOC members have accused WADA of failing to act soon enough on Russian doping and criticized the agency for releasing the McLaren report so close to the Rio Games. "We made a recommendation when we got the (McLaren) report," Reddie said in a telephone interview this week. "The IOC chose a different decision on eligibility. We've moved on. We need to move on together with calmness and cool heads." In the past few weeks, several IOC members - notably Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr., Sergei Bubka and Gerardo Werthein - have publicly castigated WADA.—AFP

## BLUE JAYS ROMP PAST RANGERS AS INDIANS EDGE RED SOX

**ARLINGTON:** Toronto's Marco Estrada held Texas scoreless into the ninth inning as the Blue Jays cruised to a 10-1 win over the Rangers on Thursday in the opening game of their American League Division Series.

It was much closer in the other ALDS opener as Cleveland closer Cody Allen struck out Boston's Dustin Pedroia with a runner on base to clinch a 5-4 victory for the Indians.

Estrada's efforts were complemented by a strong offensive performance, punctuated by Jose Bautista's three-run homer. Bautista, who infuriated Texas players with a provocative bat flip after his tiebreaking homer in the ALDS clincher last October, and who got punched in revenge the last time the Blue Jays played in Texas in May, drove in four runs. He drove in a run in Toronto's five-run third inning.

Bautista added a 425-foot blast in the ninth inning, and the Blue Jays slugger seemed to deliberately drop the bat softly near home plate.

Troy Tulowitzki hit a bases-loaded triple for the Blue Jays. Toronto has won four straight overall, including an 11-inning victory over Baltimore in the AL wild-card game.

Estrada, an All-Star this season, limited Texas to four hits but was removed after his shutout bid ended in the ninth. Bautista was booed heartily during pregame introductions and while he batted in the first inning. There also were chants of "Rougie! Rougie!" - those were for Rougned Odor, the second baseman who punched Bautista and ignited a bench-clearing brawl in their last meeting May 15. Odor was suspended seven games.

By time Bautista led off the seventh with a

walk, the ballpark was quiet with the Rangers down 7-0. Texas starter Cole Hamels threw 42 of his 82 pitches in the third. He allowed seven runs (six earned) with three walks in just 3 1/3 innings.

Cleveland took the early initiative against Boston by hitting three homers in the space of nine pitches by Rick Porcello in the third inning. Francisco Lindor, Jason Kipnis and Robert Perez went deep in the third off Porcello, a 22-game winner this season who lasted just 4-1/3 innings in his shortest outing this year.

However the Red Sox did not fold easily, and were right in the contest until the final pitch. Indians reliever Andrew Miller pitched two scoreless innings for the win. He struck out Boston slugger David Ortiz with two runners on to end the fifth and threw a season-high 40 pitches.

Boston's Brock Holt hit a leadoff homer in the eighth that made it 5-4 before Allen struck out Xander Bogaerts with the potential tying run at third to end the inning.

Boston put a runner on first with two outs in the ninth. Pedroia worked the count full but was called for a third strike on a checked swing and argued furiously with the plate umpire as the Indians and their fans celebrated victory.

"In real time, it's a borderline call," Boston manager John Farrell said. "Looking at it later, he swung."

Game 2 of both series will be on Friday, along with the opening games in the National League Division Series: San Francisco at the Chicago Cubs, and the Los Angeles Dodgers at Washington. — AP



**ARLINGTON:** Toronto Blue Jays Devon Travis, left, slides safely into second ahead of the throw to Texas Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor on a passed ball during the fourth inning of Game 1 of a baseball American League Division Series in Arlington, Texas, Thursday. — AP



**SANTA CLARA:** Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald (11) celebrates his touchdown reception with guard Earl Watford during the second half of an NFL football game against the San Francisco 49ers in Santa Clara, California on Thursday. — AP

## CARDINALS CAPITALIZE ON 49ERS MISTAKES TO WIN

**SANTA CLARA:** With Carson Palmer sidelined by a concussion, the one-win Arizona Cardinals turned to Larry Fitzgerald, David Johnson and an opportunistic defense for a much-needed victory.

Drew Stanton threw two touchdown passes to Fitzgerald in the quarterback's first start in two years, Johnson ran for two scores and the Cardinals capitalized on San Francisco mistakes to beat the 49ers 33-21 on Thursday night.

"We were a hungry team, a team that knows that we dug a hole for ourselves and we had to win this game," coach Bruce Arians said. The Cardinals (2-3) got 17 points off three turnovers by the 49ers (1-4) - two interceptions by Blaine Gabbert and a fumbled kickoff return by Chris Davis - and also had one drive extended by a running-into-the-kicker penalty.

Those three scoring drives totaled just 41 yards, but proved to be enough to beat the sloppy 49ers as the Cardinals survived a week with without Palmer out with a concussion.

"I don't think anybody played well on offense. Nobody," Niners coach Chip Kelly said. "I don't think we protected well enough, I don't think we threw it well enough and we had too many drops and two interceptions."

Stanton didn't produce much, going 11 for 27 for 124 yards. But Arizona didn't turn the ball over and got 157 yards rushing from Johnson to get the win. Johnson added 28 yards receiving, and Fitzgerald caught six passes for 81 yards as that duo combined to gain 266 of the team's 288 yards from scrimmage.

The defense did the rest with the two interceptions and seven sacks. "We've been saying all week it just starts with one. Just get

one win and try to stack them," defensive lineman Calais Campbell said. "We've been a team in the past that can rip off a bunch of them. ... Now we have to figure out what we can do to keep that ball rolling."

### QUICK TURNAROUND

The game changed in a span of less than 4 minutes starting late in the second quarter. Campbell's interception of a deflected pass set up Arizona's first score on a 21-yard pass from Stanton to Fitzgerald with 1:40 left in the half. Davis' fumble of the second-half kickoff then set up Johnson's 4-yard run that put Arizona up for good.

"We got the momentum going," Stanton said. "Unfortunately, I think, it's one of those things as an offense you're waiting to make a play, and got that spark from the defense. Then to come out in the second half and get the ball right there was huge."

### WE WANT KAP

There were several thousand empty seats at the game but the fans who did show up were frustrated by what they saw. At one point in the third quarter, a chant of "We want Kap! We want Kap!" started up as fans wanted to give former starter Colin Kaepernick a shot at quarterback.

Gabbert responded by leading an 82-yard TD drive fueled in part by his 24-yard run. The chants started again after Gabbert threw his second interception.

Gabbert finished 18 for 31 for 162 yards and Kelly would not address whether it was time to make a quarterback change. "We're 1-4. We're going to look at everything," he said. "We have to make sure we're giving our team the best chance to go out and win." — AP

# MANAGING PACERS' WORKLOAD THE KEY, SAYS KOHLI

**INDORE:** India must manage the workload of their fast bowlers during their jam-packed home season, captain Virat Kohli said yesterday, after being deprived of two of his key pacemen for the third Test against New Zealand. The veteran Ishant Sharma and in-form Bhuvneshwar Kumar have both been ruled out of the final Test beginning in Indore on Saturday, undermining India's chances of a clean sweep against the Black Caps and raising fresh questions about the team's strength in depth on the pace front.

Sharma has missed the whole series after contracting the mosquito-borne disease chikungunya while Kumar was injured during the second Test in Kolkata after bagging his

second five-wicket haul in the last three matches. Kumar's replacement is Shardul Thakur, who is yet to make his international debut, and it means Mohammed Shami will shoulder a heavier burden even though he is on the comeback trail after being plagued with knee problems.

"It's very important to manage workload, especially for your fast bowlers," Kohli told reporters in Indore on the eve of the match.

"For the one-day matches, they've been given rest because it's a long Test season and we need the bowlers fresh," he said, referring to the selectors' decision to omit Sharma and Kumar from the squad for three ODIs which follow the Tests. The series against the Black

Caps marks the start of a packed programme of international cricket for India who are also due to host Test matches against England, Bangladesh and Australia later this season.

Kohli was full of praise for Shami who made his Test comeback in July against the West Indies after being sidelined for 18 months. "Shami is someone who has come back very well, he's worked very hard on his fitness as well. You can see he's able to bowl those five-six over spells now," he said.

"As captain I feel that he's a very important bowler for us in this full season and in future, as well. Looking at the near future, his fitness and rhythm is very, very important."

Shami, 26, has taken 66 wickets from 18

Tests at a strike rate of 54. New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson, who missed the second Test with a viral illness, was hopeful of making it to the playing XI Saturday and help his side avoid being whitewashed.

Williamson conceded India's fast bowlers had outperformed his pace attack, making better use of the conditions and pitch.

"In the last game the seam bowlers made a bigger impact. We did not know coming here that reverse swing would be quite effective. They exploited reverse swing better than us," the right-hander said. "In this part of the world they exploit the conditions better than anyone. We certainly hope we can turn it around in this game." —AFP

## SCOREBOARD

**DHAKA:** Scoreboard in the first one-day international between Bangladesh and England at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday:

### England

J. Roy c Sabbir b Shakib	41
J. Vince c Mortaza b Shafiu	16
B. Duckett b Shafiu	60
J. Bairstow run out	0
B. Stokes c Sabbir b Mortaza	101
J. Buttler c Mosaddek b Shakib	63
M. Ali c Tamim b Mortaza	6
C. Woakes run out	16
D. Willey not out	0
Extras (b1, lb3 w2)	6
Total (eight wickets, 49 overs)	309
Fall of wickets: 1-41 (Vince), 2-61 (Roy), 3-63 (Bairstow), 4-216 (Duckett), 5-230 (Stokes), 6-245 (Ali), 7-308 (Buttler) 8-309 (Woakes)	
Did not bat: A. Rashid, J. Ball	
Bowling: Mortaza 10-0-52-2 (1w), Shafiu 9-0-59-2, Shakib 10-0-59-2, Mosaddek 9-0-50-0, Mahmudullah 3-0-24-0, Mosharraf 3-0-23-0, Taskin 6-0-38-0 (1w)	

### Bangladesh

Tamim Iqbal c Vince b Ball	17
Imrul Kayes st Buttler b Rashid	112
Sabbir Rahman c Willey b Ball	18
Mahmudullah c Sub b Rashid	25
Mushfiqur Rahim c Sub b Rashid	12
Shakib Al Hasan c Willey b Ball	79
Mosaddek Hossain b Ball	0
Mashrafe Mortaza c Buttler b Rashid	1
Mosharraf Hossain not out	7
Shafiu Islam run out	0
Taskin Ahmed c Buttler b Ball	1
Extras (b1, lb4, w10, nb1)	16
Total (all out, 47.5 overs)	288
Fall of wickets: 1-46 (Tamim) 2-82 (Sabbir), 3-132 (Mahmudullah), 4-153 (Rahim), 5-271 (Shakib), 6-271 (Mosaddek), 7-274 (Mortaza), 8-280 (Kayes), 9-280 (Shafiu), 10-288 (Taskin)	
Bowling: Woakes 7-1-38-0 (1w), Willey 7-1-46-0 (1w), Ball 9.5-0-51-5 (4w, 1nb), Stokes 5-0-37-0 (1w), Rashid 9-0-49-4 (3w), Ali 10-0-62-0.	
Result: England won by 21 runs.	



**DHAKA:** England's captain Jos Buttler, left, breaks the wickets successfully to dismissal of Bangladesh's Imrul Kayes, right, during the first one-day international cricket match between England and Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh, yesterday. —AP

## DEBUTANT BALL, RASHID BOWL ENGLAND TO THRILLING WIN

**DHAKA:** Jake Ball made a memorable one-day debut as he combined with Adil Rashid to derail Bangladesh's chase and bowl England to a thrilling 21-run victory in the first match of the series in Mirpur yesterday. Needing 310 to win under lights, Imrul Kayes struck a blistering 112 and Shakib Al Hasan chipped in with a breezy 79 to raise Bangladesh hopes before they collapsed in dramatic style, bowled out for 288 in the 48th over. Paceman Ball finished with 5-51 to take the man of the match award while leg-spinner Rashid claimed 4-49, having also run out Shafiu Islam with a direct throw.

Earlier, Ben Stokes smashed a maiden one-day century, Ben Duckett struck a mature half-century on his 50-over debut and skipper Jos Buttler smashed

a 38-ball 63 to help England post 309 for eight after opting to bat on a humid afternoon. Bangladesh were 153 for four in the 27th over of their reply when Kayes joined up with experienced all-rounder Al Hasan to drag them back into the game with a 118-run partnership in 15.2 overs.

The home team seemed to be cruising to victory, needing 54 in the last 10 overs with six wickets in hand, when Ball picked up two wickets in two balls and Rashid provided a two-wicket burst to wreck their chances.

England did not miss regular one-day captain Eoin Morgan and opening batsman Alex Hales, who opted out of the tour over security concerns, as they posted an imposing total at the Shere Bangla National Stadium.

At 63 for three in the 13th over, they looked in a spot of bother before Duckett and Stokes shared a stand of 153 to lay the foundation for a big total.

Duckett was then bowled for 60, playing across a low full toss from Islam. Stokes dominated their partnership, clobbering four sixes and eight fours in an almost run-a-ball 101. The stage was set up perfectly for another swashbuckling knock from Buttler and he thumped four sixes and three fours as England plundered 60 off the final five overs. Bangladesh cut a sorry figure in the field, dropping Stokes twice and suffering from indecision as to who would go for a catch on two other occasions. The teams return to the same venue for the second match tomorrow. —Reuters

# ITALY SEND PELLE HOME AFTER SPAIN TANTRUM

**MILAN:** Italy forward Graziano Pelle has been kicked out of the national squad over his angry reaction to being substituted against Spain when he refused a handshake from coach Giampiero Ventura.

The Italian football federation (FIGC) said in a statement that the 31-year-old had been excluded from the squad which will travel to Skopje to face Macedonia in their Group G World Cup qualifier on Sunday.

Pelle, who has already apologised for his tantrum, was taken off on the hour after an ineffective display in the World Cup qualifier

which ended in a 1-1 draw on Thursday.

"The coach, in agreement with the FIGC, has decided to exclude Graziano Pelle... for disrespectful behaviour when he was substituted," the FIGC said.

"To be part of the national team involves the sharing of values which are worthy of the national team, starting with respect towards the staff, team mates and fans."

Ventura had initially appeared to play down the incident even before the former Southampton player, who is now based with Chinese club Shandong Luneng, had apolo-

gised. "Pelle was angry, I think this was not so much because of the substitution as the way we had played up to that point," he said after the game.

"It's part of football, it's something I've seen many times in my career. But when you wear the Italy shirt, you need to be careful."

Pelle admitted on Instagram that he had "messed things up."

"It was unacceptable behaviour, firstly against the coach and also, towards my team mates, who have always shown me to have important values in this fantastic Italy group

we belong to. "Like any great mistake, I accept the consequences. And it is only right that I take responsibility. I must ask offer my apologies from my heart to everyone."

Veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon was also prepared to forgive and forget, he said before Pelle was excluded.

"He's a great guy and in the cold light of day, I'm sure he will realise he was wrong," he said. "If he apologises for his behaviour, we will be happy to embrace him."

"It was wrong but these things happen in such tense matches." —Reuters

Live
Matches on TV  
(Local Timings)

**WORLD CUP 2018 EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS**

<b>England V Malta</b>	<b>19:00</b>
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
<b>Armenia V Romania</b>	<b>19:00</b>
Abu Dhabi SPORTS 6 HD	
<b>Azerbaijan V Norway</b>	<b>19:00</b>
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
<b>Montenegro V Kazakstan</b>	<b>19:00</b>
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
<b>Scotland C Lithuania</b>	<b>21:45</b>
Abu Dhabi SPORTS 5 HD	
<b>Slovenia V Slovakia</b>	<b>21:45</b>
Abu Dhabi SPORTS 6 HD	
<b>Poland V Denmark</b>	<b>21:45</b>
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	
<b>Germany V Czech Republic</b>	<b>21:45</b>
Abu Dhabi SPORTS 4 HD	
<b>N Ireland V San Marino</b>	<b>21:45</b>
Abu Dhabi SPORTS	

**WC2018 AFRICAN QUALIFIERS**

<b>Gabon v Morocco</b>	<b>18:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
<b>Congo v Libya</b>	<b>20:30</b>
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
<b>Ivory Coast v Mali</b>	<b>21:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
<b>Burkina Faso v S Africa</b>	<b>21:00</b>
beIN SPORTS	
<b>Senegal v Cape Verde</b>	<b>23:00</b>
beIN SPORTS	



**NATAL:** Brazil's Gabriel Jesus flies in the air as he fight for the ball during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Bolivia, in Natal, Brazil, Thursday. — AP

# BRAZIL, URUGUAY ROMP AS CHILE CRASH AGAIN

**MONTEVIDEO:** Brazil and Uruguay scored easy victories to maintain their lead at the top of South America's 2018 World Cup qualifying tournament on Thursday as Chile lost ground after crashing to defeat in Ecuador. A virtuoso performance from Barcelona superstar Neymar lay at the heart of Brazil's 5-0 mauling of Bolivia in Natal, with the striker launching the rout with his 49th international goal. Neymar set up two more as Brazil produced their most stylish performance of recent memory to rattle in further goals from Gabriel Jesus, Filipe Luis and Liverpool duo Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino. Brazil coach Tite, who has now won all three games since taking over from sacked predecessor Dunga, said he had not expected his team to win so impressively.

"I did not expect this," Tite said. "The team is working very hard for each other. We are trying to play the players in the positions that they play for their clubs. I believe that is helping."

The only sour note was a nasty looking head wound suffered by Neymar in the second half following a clash with Yasmani Duk. The collision left Neymar with blood pouring from his head, prompting his substitution on 67 minutes. The win left Brazil sitting comfortably

in second place in the 10-team round-robin tournament, one point behind leaders Uruguay, who swatted aside winless Venezuela 3-0 in Montevideo. Uruguay have 19 points from nine games, with Brazil on 18 points. Ecuador stand in third place with 16 points following their 3-0 drubbing of Copa America champions Chile in Quito.

World Cup quarter-finalists Colombia are in fourth spot, also on 16 points, after they snatched a dramatic 1-0 win over Paraguay thanks to a 90th minute strike from Edwin Cardona in Asuncion.

### ARGENTINA HELD

Argentina, held 2-2 by Venezuela in their last game in September, dropped another two points in their trip to Lima to face Peru. The Argentinians, missing injured captain Lionel Messi, looked to be heading for victory after Everton defender Ramiro Funes Mori gave the visitors a deserved lead after 15 minutes.

However Peru fought back and levelled through all-time leading goalscorer Paolo Guerrero on 58 minutes.

Juventus striker Gonzalo Higuain restored Argentina's lead with a 77th minute strike but Peru hit back once more, winning a penalty when Guerrero was bundled over in the box. Christian

Cueva stepped up to rifle home the spot-kick past Sergio Romero to give Peru a vital point with a 2-2 draw. The draw leaves Argentina in the fifth and final qualifying spot, level with both Colombia and Ecuador on 15 points. The top four finishers in the table qualify automatically for Russia 2018 while the fifth placed team enters a playoff. But the day's results left clear daylight between Chile and the qualifying positions, with the back-to-back South American champions suffering a mauling against Ecuador. Chile were torn apart as Ecuador produced a rampant display at the Estadio Olimpico Atahualpa.

Goals from Manchester United's Antonio Valencia, Ferencvaros's Cristian Ramirez and Espanyol's Felipe Caicedo secured the points for the hosts. Chile now have only 11 points from nine games and are five points adrift of the qualifying positions. Downcast Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi gave no excuses for his star-studded team's abject display.

"They were superior to us in every department," Pizzi said. "They totally overwhelmed us, and won all of the individual battles. All we can do now is be honest give self criticism and then start thinking about Peru," Pizzi added, referring to Chile's next opponents.—AFP

## GERMANY WANT POWER SHOW, CZECHS EYE 'LITTLE MIRACLE'

**BERLIN:** Germany want a show of power in today's 2018 World Cup qualifier against a Czech Republic side hoping for 'a little miracle' against the world champions. "We're playing against a team that can only be defeated in exceptional circumstances. We hope for a little miracle," Czech coach Karel Jarolim told German magazine Kicker.

Despite his flattery, the Czechs meet a German team capable of dominating opponents, yet can struggle to turn possession into pressure. Germany are currently a long way from the polished goal-machine which lifted the World Cup two years ago. Jarolim is in a rebuilding phase without the likes of veteran play-maker Tomas Rosicky, the Arsenal legend now at Sparta Prague, and Gunners' goalkeeper Petr Cech.

Both wing backs, Gebre Selassie of Werder Bremen and Pavel Kaderabek of Hoffenheim, ply their trade in Germany's top flight. Sampdoria's 20-year-old striker Patrik Schick is set to win just his second cap. The Czechs were held to a goalless draw by Northern Ireland in their opening qualifier in Prague on September 4, the same night Germany enjoyed a 3-0 win away to Norway when Thomas Mueller netted twice. Germany's aim is to stay top of Group C by beating the Czechs, then Northern Ireland next Tuesday in Hanover.—AFP

# Sports



**Debutant Ball, Rashid bowl England to thrilling win**

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**BEIJING:** Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return against Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria during the men's singles quarter-finals match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing (Inset) Johanna Konta of Britain gestures to the spectators after defeating Zhang Shuai of China. —AFP, AP

## NADAL CRASHES, MURRAY WINS IN BEIJING QUARTERS

**BEIJING:** Rafael Nadal crashed out of the China Open quarter finals to 20th-ranked Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov yesterday as Andy Murray swept into his 11th semi of the season. Despite two breaks in the first set, the fourteen-time Grand Slam champion was unable to keep his serve and Dimitrov kept the pressure on for a 6-2, 6-4 victory—his first over the Spaniard.

"Losing five serves in a row is something that you cannot (do and) win a match like this. That's it," Nadal said after the loss. Nadal, 30, is approaching the end of his second consecutive season without a Slam title since he won his first aged 19 at Roland Garros in 2005.

The loss in the Chinese capital also puts his qualification for an 11th consecutive ATP Final—which brings together the season's top eight players—in doubt.

Murray, meanwhile, beat Davis Cup teammate Kyle Edmund to keep his hopes of dethroning Novak Djokovic for year-end number one alive.

The Scot—who is coming to the end of a career best season—was forced into a tense 20-point tie break in the first set by his 21-year-old compatriot.

But Edmund was unable to hold his serve in the second and Murray denied him a spot in his first season semi-final with a 7-6 (11/9), 6-2 win. Fellow Briton Johanna Konta was also smashing dreams yesterday, as she crushed home favourite Zhang Shuai in two sets. Buoyed by the home crowd, Zhang broke the Briton twice to take the opening four games of the match.

But at 0-4 down, Konta abruptly turned the tide in her favour winning 12 consecutive games to book her semi-final place with a 6-4, 6-0 victory. "During the match I do my best to really try to impose myself on her because she definitely looks to dictate when she can. When she's able to, she's very dangerous," Konta told reporters. The fourteenth-ranked Briton is now one win away from joining the ranks of the top 10, which would make her the first British woman to join the elite group-

ing since Jo Durie in 1984.

### OLYMPIC EFFORT

Konta next faces American Madison Keys, who ended Petra Kvitova's eight-match winning streak in an epic two-tiebreak victory, 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (7/5). Keys put in an Olympic effort to exact revenge over Kvitova in what was their first meeting since the Czech denied the American a bronze medal in Rio.

A double fault by Kvitova turned the first set in Keys' favour but it was the Czech's 32 unforced errors to Keys' 25 that ultimately decided the semi-final place.

Kvitova—a two-time Wimbledon champion—has had a year of ups and downs since she split with her coach of seven years David Kotyza after the Australian Open and has failed to get past the round of 16 at any of the Grand Slams. Keys, 21, made her top 10 debut this year and the big hitter—who is often cast as a successor to 22-Grand Slam champion Serena Williams—is also chasing her first qualification for the elite WTA Finals in

Singapore. With her quarter-final win she moves into seventh in the Race to Singapore leaderboard, but Konta is hot on her heels.

On the men's side, Ferrer dispatched German youngster Alexander Zverev while Wimbledon runner up Milos Raonic saw off Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta 6-4, 6-4.

Zverev, 19, was looking to cap a breakout season with a strong Beijing run, but was unable to capitalise on his first set lead as he was overpowered by Ferrer 6-7 (4/7), 6-1, 7-5.

The German upset the Swiss world number three Stan Wawrinka to win his maiden ATP title at St. Petersburg in September, having downed number nine Tomas Berdych in the semis. In Beijing he beat 10th-ranked Austrian Dominic Thiem in the first round, making him the first teenager to defeat three top 10 players in a row since Boris Becker in 1986. Despite the loss, Zverev—who started the year ranked 83—is expected to rise to 21 when the new rankings are released Monday as he edges towards a place in the top 20 for the first time. —AFP