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## OBAMA WARNS 'DEMOCRACY ITSELF' AT STAKE IN ELECTION

TRUMP DENIES SEX ASSAULT 'LIES', FACES FIRST LADY REBUKE



150 Files



Min 20°  
Max 37°



US President Barack Obama arrives to speak at a Hillary for America campaign event in Cleveland yesterday. (Inset) Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to a crowd at the US Bank Arena in Cincinnati on Thursday.— AFP

## 15 MILITANTS, 12 SOLDIERS KILLED IN SINAI IS ATTACK

**ISMAILIA, Egypt:** Militants killed 12 members of Egypt's military in North Sinai province and wounded six more in an attack on a checkpoint yesterday, the military said, adding that it killed 15 militants in return. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the incident, which took place 40 km from the town of Bir al-Abd, making it the first major attack in the central Sinai area, which had so far escaped the militants' campaign.

It was carried out using assault rifles and some heavier weapons, medical and security sources said. The wounded were taken to hospital in Al-Arish. "An armed group of terrorist elements attacked a security checkpoint in North Sinai this morning using four-wheel drives and were immediately engaged. Our forces killed 15 terrorists," the mili-

tary said in a statement. "The clashes led to the martyrdom of 12 and injury of six armed forces heroes." Islamic State said it killed more than 20 soldiers and that it suffered no casualties. It said its members looted weapons and ammunition from the checkpoint.

President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi said in a brief statement later yesterday that the latest attack would only strengthen Egypt's resolve to continue the "battle for building and survival". The attack was the latest in what appears to be a surge in the number of operations launched by the militants as well as a wave of IS kidnappings and subsequent killings of Sinai's local residents suspected of collaborating with security forces battling the militants.

Egypt has battled militants in Sinai

for years, but the insurgency in the rugged and thinly populated peninsula gained pace in mid-2013. The militant group staging the insurgency pledged allegiance to Islamic State in 2014 and adopted the name Sinai Province. It is blamed for the killing of hundreds of soldiers and policemen, and has started to target Western targets within Egypt. However, there has been a dramatic fall in recent months in the number of attacks on mainland Egypt that have been claimed by the IS. A previously unheard of group, "Hasam", or "Decisiveness", seems to have taken the lead in those attacks. It claimed responsibility for the attempted assassination in recent weeks in Cairo of a top prosecutor and a former mufti, or chief theologian. — Agencies

**CLEVELAND/WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump savaged the US media for reporting "outright lies" that he groped and forcibly kissed women, as US President Barack Obama warned yesterday that American "democracy itself" is on the ballot and First Lady Michelle Obama blasted the Republican nominee in a powerful tirade.

Just 26 days before the American electorate chooses a successor to her husband on Nov 8, a visibly angry first lady delivered a fiery takedown of the real estate mogul and his "disgraceful" behavior. "Now is the time for all of us to stand up and say, enough is enough," Mrs Obama told a rally for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire. "This has got to stop right now."

Her husband turned up the heat later yesterday, jetting to the key swing state of Ohio to lash Republicans tight to their sinking ship. The New York mogul came from a "swamp of crazy" that Republicans had cultivated over decades, Obama told the state where Trump has long held a lead but where a poll on Thursday edged Clinton ahead.

Obama warned that American "democracy itself" is on the ballot. He trashed Trump as a dictator-in-the-making, but also voiced concerns about how Trump's legion of supporters might react to a possible election defeat. "Civility is on the ballot," Obama told a group of largely young voters in the swing state. "Tolerance is on the ballot," he continued. "Courtesy is on the ballot. Honesty is on the ballot. Equality is on the ballot. Kindness is on the ballot. All the progress we made in the last eight years is on the ballot," he said. "Democracy itself is on the ballot right now."

With an eye on winning back control of Congress, Obama also used the rally in Cleveland to lash Republicans tight to their sinking White House nominee. Clinton is now the favorite to win the presidency, but the balance of the Senate and the House of Representatives is much less clear. "A lot of Republican elected officials have just stood by," Obama said. "They've allowed a lot of crazy talk to just be pumped out again and again."

But the 70-year-old Trump was defiant, castigating his accusers as "horrible liars" and accusing Clinton of conspiring in a coordinated media attempt to sabotage his campaign. At least six women have accused Trump of making unwanted physical advances in accounts reported by The New York Times, NBC, People Magazine and others, most of them after Trump asserted in Sunday's debate with Clinton that he had never sexually assaulted a woman.

With his campaign in free-fall and sliding in the polls, Trump pounded the battleground states of Florida and Ohio. "These vicious claims about me of inappropriate conduct with women are totally and absolutely false," Trump told a rally in West Palm Beach. "The attacks are orchestrated by the Clintons and their media allies." Trump said his lawyers were preparing a lawsuit against The New York Times - which published the accounts of two women who accused him of groping and kissing them - unless the paper retracts the article.

The Times refused to back down. "We published newsworthy information about a subject of deep public concern," the paper's assistant general counsel David McCraw wrote in a letter to Trump's lawyers. The women's accusations surfaced after a video emerged of Trump boasting in 2005 of groping women with impunity because he was famous, sending the White House race into unprecedented levels of vulgarity. — AFP

# GCC, TURKEY URGE IRAN TO STOP MEDDLING IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS 'JASTA RUNS CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW'

**RIYADH:** Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations and Turkey called on Iran Thursday not to interfere in their internal affairs and to respect national sovereignty, in line with United Nations (UN) charters. The remarks were included in a joint statement issued at the fifth GCC/Turkish high-level strategic dialogue, with participation of Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Moreover, the statement urged Iran to find peaceful solutions to its dispute with the UAE over three islands occupied by Tehran and claimed by the UAE. It also called on Iran to adhere to the nuclear agreement reached with the p5+1 group of nations (US, Britain, France, China, Russia plus Germany). On the Middle East region, particularly, the Gulf, the statement noted

their unwavering stance against extremism, and terrorism, voicing commitment to fight extremist thoughts adopted by terror groups distorting Islam. The ministers condemned the suicide and terrorist attacks that hit Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kuwait and Bahrain, and other places.

They reaffirmed commitment to fight the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq by all means, within the framework of the US-led international coalition, supporting all relevant efforts. The meeting condemned the attacks by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) against Turkey, saying Ankara had the right to defend itself against it.

The GCC and the Turkish ministers stressed the necessity of intensifying coordination and cooperation, both bilateral and international, to counter the challenges

cause, urging faster steps for an international peace conference for the Middle East.

In the meantime, the ministers called for an overall, just and lasting settlement in Cyprus by the end of the year through the ongoing UN negotiations. They also urged an end to the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, in line with calls by the UN Secretary General and the relevant resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

On Libya, the GCC-Turkey dialogue welcomed the outcome of the ministerial meeting held on the North African country in New York in September, which reiterated support to the Libyan consensus government, as the only legitimate one. The two sides agreed to hold the coming session of the strategic dialogue in 2017.

### Boosting cooperation

Meanwhile, the GCC and Turkey have reiterated strong bilateral ties, and desire to promote cooperation through the High Level Strategic Dialogue founded in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in September 2008.

The meeting reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East, and the regional and international issues of common concern. In a communique, the GCC and Turkey stressed importance of achieving people's legitimate expectations, stability, prosperity and improving the standard of living.

The ministers voiced relief over the 5th session, and the calm and meaningful dialogue seeking to achieve progress in joint priorities. They agreed to extend the bilateral current joint action plan to end by 2018, promoting it to cope with developments of strategic dialogue.

The session tasked the joint task teams to proceed with meetings for further cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, food security, culture, health, education, intensifying efforts for implementing the joint action plan.

According to the final statement, the two sides agreed to hold the third meeting of the joint trade and investment task team in 2017, reaffirming intention to remove barriers to trade and investment as soon as possible.

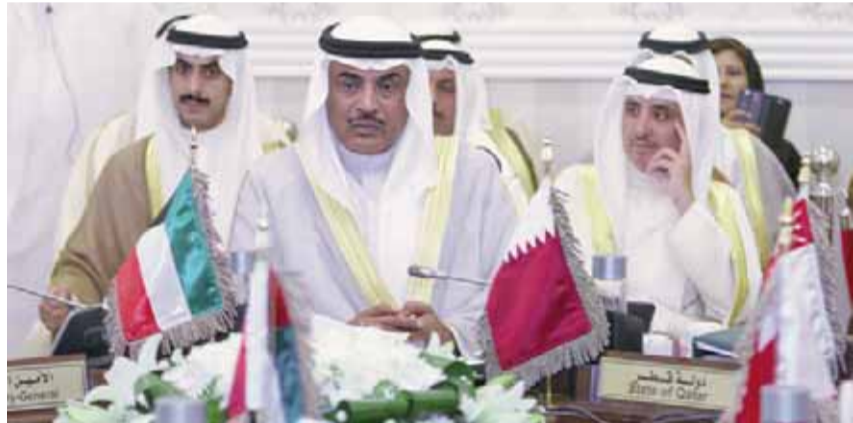
The ministers welcomed the 2nd GCC-Turkey Business and Investment Forum slated for November 21 in Bahrain. They congratulated Saudi Arabia for the success of this Hajj (Pilgrimage) season, highly appreciating the Kingdom's efforts in that respect.

### Failed coup

Meanwhile, the GCC reiterated solidarity with Turkey after the failed coup attempt in the country in July. They voiced support to Ankara's measures against the Fethullah Gulen movement, accused of the coup.

In the meantime, the GCC and the Turkish ministers condemned the recent attack on the UAE Navy vessel HSV-2 Swift off the Yemeni coast, though it was delivering humanitarian aid and evacuating wounded Yemenis for treatment in the UAE.

It is a 'terrorist attack' likely to undermine the regional and international efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Yemenis. By the same token, the ministers expressed worry over the abduction of Qatari citizens in southern Iraq in December. —KUNA



**RIYADH:** First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah attends the session.



**RIYADH:** Turkish and Gulf Cooperation Council officials, including Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (left), attend the session. —KUNA

that it is imperative for the region to be void of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear ones.

### JASTA rejected

The GCC and Turkey meanwhile voiced rejection of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) recently passed by the US Congress. The session said that JASTA runs contrary of principles of the international law, especially the fundamental one of "equal sovereignty."

In a communique, the session that brought together foreign ministers from the two sides, and the Turkish minister of economy, urged review of the Act for its negative impact on inter-country relations, including the US itself.

Meanwhile, the two sides reiterated

facing the region, and to defeat terrorism, in order to enhance security and stability in the region.

### Palestine

On Palestine, the GCC-Turkey dialogue pointed to the necessity of concluding and agreement for comprehensive, everlasting and just peace in the region that could lead to ending the Israeli occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian state, based on resolutions of the international legitimacy and the Arab Initiative of 2002. They said that the Israeli settlements built on occupied Arab territories are 'illegitimate.'

In addition, the ministers expressed support to the French Initiative and similar international efforts to settle the Palestinian

# AMIR OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO THAILAND



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

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolence to Thailand's Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn on the passing away of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Their Highnesses the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent cables of similar sentiments. Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable of condolences to Thailand National Legislative Assembly President Pornpech Wichittholchai on the passing away of Thailand's King. —KUNA

# ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF HEADS TO US TO ATTEND ANTI-IS CONFERENCE



**Mohammad Khaled Al-Khedr**

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khedr flew yesterday to the US so as to attend a conference on "combating the so-called Islamic State" to be held on October 14-18. Khedr and his accompanying delegation were seen off at the airport by Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Abdullah Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah. —KUNA



**MANAMA:** Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah attends a reception hosted by the Turkish embassy onboard of TCG Buyukada of the Turkish Navy. —KUNA

# GCC COUNTRIES MESSENGERS OF PEACE: KUWAITI ENVOY

**MANAMA:** Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah described the GCC countries as messengers of peace for their efforts to ensure stability in the region. Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah made this remark to the press yesterday while attending a reception hosted by the Turkish embassy onboard of TCG Buyukada of the Turkish Navy. It is essential for the GCC countries and its allies, especially Turkey which established itself as a major player in the region, to collaborate to ensure security, he said. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Youssef Al-Ali and Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of KDIPA attend the event. —KUNA

## 23% OF WOMEN IN KUWAIT DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER

**KUWAIT:** Early detection of breast cancer could help limit the number of deaths claimed by this lethal disease, a health official said on Thursday, adding that around 23 percent of women in Kuwait suffer from the ailment.

Breast cancer is amongst the world's most pervasive diseases, Deputy Director General of Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC) Dr Khulood Al-Ali said on the sidelines of a ceremony marking 'World Cancer Day,' which falls on October of each year. Moreover, she noted that with the help of mammography, early detection of breast cancer is possible. On the spread of breast cancer in Kuwait, Ali said that in 2013, every 57 out of a 100 women were diagnosed with the disease, at an average age of 54. She also noted that 12 percent of these cases were women aged below 40 while the number of deaths were every eight out of a 100 cases. She also spoke of Kuwait's commitment to fight breast cancer as the country has initiated a number of programs designed to detect early signs of breast cancer in hopes of maximizing recovery. The health official noted that breast cancer recovery has about an 80 percent success rate. For the sixth consecutive year, KCCC organized a ceremony that underscored the importance of healthy lifestyle habits to ward off the disease. —KUNA



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Abdulhaffar Al-Awadi

## FINANCE MINISTER TO TAKE PART IN 36TH GITEX TO PROMOTE GOVT SYSTEM

**KUWAIT:** The Finance Ministry is taking part in the 36th GITEX Technology Week in Dubai, October 16-20, seeking a new vision for promoting the government working system, a senior official said yesterday. The ministry's Assistant Undersecretary of General Accounting Affairs Abdulhaffar Al-Awadi made the statement in a press release, announcing the ministry's participation in the key technological event.

During the 36th GITEX, ministry officials will come together with a host of leading technology companies, already engaged in the ministry's projects, he said. In addition, the ministry will offer some of its latest technological applications, such as that of electronic signature and state's general financial system, together with the smart devices and tablets for the services offered to the public. —KUNA

# GE OPENS KUWAIT TECHNOLOGY CENTER

DRIVING LOCALIZED RESEARCH, TRAINING, ENGINEERING SUPPORT

**KUWAIT:** General Electric (GE); the American multinational conglomerate corporation, announced opening a technology center to drive localized research, training, engineering support in the power sector in Kuwait. Three core components serving the Middle East and Africa: A training center to offer hands-on training; tooling center to offer repair and maintenance services, and engineering center for cutting-edge research and development including Hot and Harsh technology, said a statement by the Company headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts.

"Center to drive localized innovation and R and D focused on GE's digital industrial solutions as part of MoU signed with Kuwait University, said the statement, adding that the center will support more than 900 trainees each year, including students and technical professionals underlining company's long-term commitment to Kuwait and the country's development vision.

GE marked a new milestone in its operational presence in Kuwait with the opening of the GE Kuwait Technology Center (GEKTC), a flagship facility that will foster localized research, provide hands-on training and build an innovation ecosystem specifically for the power sector, it noted.

Approved by the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) for a Foreign Investment License last year, the

6,000 sq meter GEKTC, based at Agility in Sulaibiya, is the first facility of its kind outside of the United States by GE, underlining the company's long-term commitment to Kuwait, its people and the wider region. A quantum leap, said Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Youssef Al-Ali, describing the opening of the office, and goes in line with the state's 2035 vision.

Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of KDIPA, said: "The Kuwait GE Technology Center is a strong investment by one of the world's leading companies highlighting the strong competitiveness of the Kuwaiti economy. Apart from serving as a key pillar in supporting the country's energy sector, the Center is also placing emphasis on localized innovation and Kuwaiti talent development. This complements the goals of KDIPA in promoting inward investments to ensure transfer of technology and with a strong focus on talent and skill development of Kuwaitis, as well as meeting the country's national vision and development priorities."

Since the early 1970s, GE has been a strong partner to Kuwait's public and private sectors, supporting the country's infrastructure needs across the aviation, power, water, oil and gas industries. With more than 200 employees based in country. —KUNA

## OOREDOO KUWAIT PARTICIPATES IN HUMANITARIAN CONNECTIVITY CHARTER ORGANIZED IN AMMAN BY THE GSMA LAST WEEK

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network for 2016, participated in the Humanity Connectivity Charter organized by the GSMA in Amman, Jordan last week. The industry-wide initiative is geared at demonstrating the commitment of the mobile industry to supporting customers and responders before and during humanitarian emergencies. Through the Charter, mobile network operators (MNOs) will commit to a common set of principles and work towards the adoption of initiatives focused on humanitarian connectivity. The aim of this initiative is to create a more coordinated and predictable response to disasters. Ooredoo Kuwait has won nationwide recognition in recent years for adopting a policy that reflects the Ooredoo Group values of caring, connecting and challenging, where it won an award in 2015 by the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs for being the only private sector company supporting volunteerism in Kuwait.

Ooredoo Kuwait was represented by the CSR and Sponsorship manager Sarah Al-Qabandi, who discussed the achievements of Ooredoo Kuwait and its experience in working with non-profit private and govern-



ment entities. Qabandi showcased the different projects Ooredoo committed itself to, in terms of empowering women, youth and entrepreneurs.

Ooredoo launched its volunteer program in 2015, giving volunteers the opportunity to receive extensive training in all fields related to volunteer work, in association with Spread the Passion non-government organization. Earlier this year, Ooredoo distributed more than 17,000 iftar meals during the Holy Month of Ramadan through a distribution center outside its head office and in its iftar



Sarah Al-Qabandi

tent. The tent was fully operated by the volunteers. In addition to the iftar distribution drive, Ooredoo is conducting several charitable events, such as visits to nursing homes, orphanages and patients at different hospitals across Kuwait.

Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: The Red Palace, which was built in 1896 and witnessed the 'Battle of Jahra' in 1920. — KUNA

# MAN ARRESTED FOR RUNNING FAKE OFFICES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti man was arrested yesterday for issuing commercial licenses and collecting rents illegally. Investigations which led to the suspect's arrest came after Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, the Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Passports Affairs, received information about a person who issued multiple commercial licenses on the same address, and ran them without practicing work. He authorized Brigadier Saud Al-Khedr, Director of the General Department of Residency Affairs Investigations, to investigate the issue, and the suspect was summoned and confronted with evidence, the ministry's Relations and Security Media Department said. The

man pleaded guilty during questioning, and was sent to the proper authorities to face charges.

**Smuggling foiled**

Customs officials at Kuwait International Airport arrested an Asian man with possession of nearly 3,000 drug pills he tried to smuggle into Kuwait. The suspect was referred to concerned authorities for further action.

**Illegal billboards**

Kuwait Municipality conducted an inspection campaign in Hawally, which resulted in removing 33 unlicensed billboards and issuing 12 citations on related violations.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality inspectors are seen during a crackdown on illegal billboards, carried out recently in Hawally.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) recently concluded a training program titled 'Collecting and Analyzing Data Related to Fire Incident,' which was held recently in cooperation with the Interior Ministry's Criminal Evidence General Department. Major General Khaled Al-Terkait, KFSD's Human Resources Development Director, and Brigadier Hamad Al-Enezi, Assistant Director at the Interior Ministry's Criminal Evidence General Department attended the closing ceremony. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun



A view of the audience.



Hungarian Ambassador to Kuwait Mihaly Bayer

## HUNGARIAN MUSICAL CONCERT HELD AT DAR AL-ATHAR AL-ISLAMIYYAH

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** As part of the cultural season of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah, a Hungarian musical concert titled 'Hungarian Romance - Music of Franz Liszt' was held on Wednesday at the Yarmouk Cultural Center in cooperation with the Hungarian Embassy in Kuwait. Three young musicians performed at this concert - Marcell Szabo, Sara Deak and Barnabas Baranyai - using various musical instruments including the piano, cello and violin.

Hungarian Ambassador to Kuwait Mihaly Bayer said the main reason for holding such events is to present Hungarian music to the Kuwaiti audience. "The embassy has held similar concerts for the past three years, so people become familiar with our culture. The program of this concert is great and the music romantic," he told the Kuwait Times.

Such events strengthen the bilateral cultural relationship between Kuwait and Hungary.

"Also, when these musicians return to Hungary, they will tell the people there about their good experience and about the success of the concert. This concert was special as it was presented by young musicians, and they did very well," added Bayer.

According to him, cultural exchange between the two countries is stronger presently. "In the past, cultural exchange was less than now, as now there are more events taking place here. The Hungarian government is strongly encouraging cultural activities, and the Music Academy in Budapest is very popular and is graduating famous artists," he pointed out.

More cultural events will be held in Kuwait in the future. "At the end of this month (October 30), a Hungarian movie titled: 'Children of Glory' will be screened here at 7:00 pm. It's about two friends, a girl and boy, and how the revolution affected their life and relationship. I hope that people will come and enjoy watching it," concluded Bayer.



**KUWAIT:** Young musicians perform during a Hungarian musical concert held at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah on Wednesday. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



**ROME:** Italian President Sergio Mattarella attends NATO's NDC 65th anniversary of the establishment of the NATO Defense College (NDC). —KUNA



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Military Attache Captain Dr Bashar Abdulredha attend the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the NATO Defense College (NDC).

## KUWAIT PARTICIPATES IN NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY

**ROME:** NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg led the North Atlantic Council and the NATO Military Committee in celebrating the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the NATO Defense College (NDC) on Thursday. The commemorative ceremony in Rome was attend-

ed by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Military Attache Captain Dr Bashar Abdulredha, as well as representatives of the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative.

Ambassador Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled, in a state-

ment on the occasion, appreciated "fruitful cooperation" between the NDC and the State of Kuwait, which was manifested through the participation of Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, chief of national security apparatus, as one of the key speakers in dis-

playing Kuwait's strategy on regional security. Meanwhile, Secretary General Stoltenberg highlighted the NDC's role as a leading center for forward-looking education. The event was also attended by Italian President Sergio Mattarella. —KUNA



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# International

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016

**Rescuers exhausted as  
air raids batter Aleppo**

8

**Accidental shootings kill  
a US child every other day**

12

**India wants to contain  
tensions with Pakistan**

14



**BANGKOK:** A van carries the body of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej to his palace yesterday. — AFP

## GRIEVING THAILAND SALUTES LATE KING

### CROWN PRINCE MAHA DELAYS ASSUMPTION TO THRONE

**BANGKOK:** Massive crowds of weeping Thais and saluting soldiers lined the streets yesterday as late King Bhumibol Adulyadej was borne through Bangkok, a day after his death left an apprehensive country facing an uncertain future. Bhumibol, the world's longest-reigning monarch, passed away at 88 on Thursday after years of ill health, ending seven decades as a stabilizing figure in a nation of deep political divisions. The phenomenal reverence towards him in Thailand was on clear display as mourners sat for hours in Bangkok's urban heat awaiting the passage of his motorcade, in scenes reminiscent of religious devotees.

Pensive-looking men and women dressed in black were jammed cheek by jowl along roadsides in the capital on the short route from the hospital where Bhumibol died to his royal palace. Some fainted and were carried away on stretchers, while others shouted "King of the people!" as the convoy of several vans bearing his body and the royal family slowly wheeled through hushed streets. The king ruled 70 years and was the only monarch

most Thais knew. "We no longer have him," wept Phongsri Chompoonuch, 77, as she clutched the late monarch's portrait. "I don't know whether I can accept that. I fear, because I don't know what will come next."

#### Mourning Begins

At the palace, the crown prince was to preside over the bathing of the king's body, a traditional Buddhist funeral rite and the start of official mourning that will include at least 100 days of chanting by monks and months more of palace rituals. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, 64, is the king's named successor but has made a surprise request to delay formally assuming the throne, according to Thailand's junta leader, who appealed for citizens to "not cause chaos".

Late yesterday, a senior junta official confirmed that under Thailand's constitution Prem Tinsulanonda, the head of Bhumibol's Privy Council, will act as regent until Vajiralongkorn officially takes the throne. "It's temporary to solve the immediate problem as the throne is vacant," deputy prime minister

Wissanu Krea-ngam told reporters. Prem is a retired general, a former prime minister and a staunch Bhumibol ally who remains sprightly and highly influential even at the age of 96.

Bhumibol was seen as a pillar of stability during his politically turbulent reign, and uncertainty for the future rests largely on doubts over whether his son can exert the same calming moral authority. The crown prince spends much of his time overseas and does not command the reverence at home that his father did. There was no indication of a threat to the crown prince's eventual succession, however, and analysts said the pause could merely be out of respect for the deeply revered king. Strict lese majeste laws muffle detailed discussion of the sensitive succession issue.

#### 'Element of Ambiguity'

"We maybe shouldn't read too much into (the delay)," said David Streckfuss, an expert on the Thai monarchy. "But we have already departed from what should have been a normal succession process. An element of ambi-

guity has been injected into the situation." The current junta overthrew the democratically elected government of Yingluck Shinawatra in 2014, saying it wanted to end a decade of political strife. Yingluck's brother, exiled tycoon Thaksin Shinawatra, had previously been ousted in a 2006 coup. Since then, tensions have simmered between his throngs of supporters and a competing faction seen as aligned to the crown and military.

Some analysts believe the 2014 takeover was prompted in part by concerns over an unstable succession in which Thaksin's faction could seek to exert influence. Bhumibol's reign saw decades of rapid economic development but also frequent military coups that set back democracy. Although the king approved most of the army's many successful coups, he also sometimes intervened to quell political violence, and his loss worries many Thais. "Now I am afraid of what may happen, about the administration of the country, the type of regime in the long term," said Arnon Sangwiman, a 54-year-old electricity company employee. — AFP

## SAVING THE HEARTS OF SYRIAN REFUGEE BABIES

**SIDON, Lebanon:** Nine-month-old Amena al-Helou's skin sizzles as the surgeon cauterizes an incision in her chest, beginning a heart operation at a south Lebanon hospital to save the Syrian refugee's life. She is just one of dozens of refugees treated each year by Lebanon's leading paediatric heart surgeon Issam al-Rassi, who each week sets aside a day to operate on Syrian and Palestinian refugees. But for all his efforts, including on occasion waiving his fee, Rassi's work runs up against the reality that many refugees simply cannot afford the life-saving treatment Amena is receiving.

"I have lost babies while the father was looking for help for money," he says in his office at the Hammoud hospital in Sidon. "I have a baby who should have been operated on at six months being operated on at nine months because the father needed three months to get the money." So, despite being born without a right ventricle, Amena is in some ways lucky, because her parents have been able to scrape together loans to pay for her treatment. She is barely visible as Rassi, 50, and his team per-

form the procedure, her tiny figure dwarfed by the operating table and cloaked in green sheets. The skin on her torso is painted brown with antiseptic and wrinkles like old leather as it is pulled apart to reveal her rib cage, which Rassi snips open. He works to reroute the blood flow from Amena's head directly to her lungs, ensuring it is oxygenated despite the missing ventricle. The room is quiet except for the occasional request for a tool and the beeping of a machine monitoring Amena's vital signs. As he completes the procedure, Rassi observes her blood oxygen saturation rate rise to 98 per cent. "It's working," he says.

### 'Huge Sums'

Outside the operating room, Amena's parents Khalil and Amira Al-Helou are waiting anxiously to hear the fate of the youngest of their six children. They have been refugees in Lebanon since they fled their home in war-torn Syria's northeast in 2013, with 39-year-old Khalil relying on seasonal farm work to scrape together money for food. Hammoud hospital offers discounts to



**SIDON, Lebanon:** Paediatric heart surgeon Issam Al-Rassi holds hand with nine-month-old Syrian refugee Amena Al-Helou prior to operating on her heart at the Hammoud Universal Hospital in this southern Lebanese city on Sept 22, 2016. — AFP

refugees, and the UN covered 75 per cent of her operation - but the remainder was still nearly \$2,000, far beyond the Helous' means. "I gathered the money from different people, my brother, my cousin, other relatives,"

Khalil said. "What's hard is not now, but paying it all back later. I don't know how we'll do it." Khalil said he approached several charities in Lebanon for help but was told they "don't help Syrians". — AFP

## RESCUERS EXHAUSTED AS AIR RAIDS BATTER ALEPPO

### ASSAD TO USE VICTORY IN CITY AS 'SPRINGBOARD'

**ALEPPO:** Overwhelmed rescue workers combed rubble for victims of intense air strikes on Syria's battleground city Aleppo yesterday, ahead of fresh diplomatic efforts to end the country's intractable conflict. The United States and Russia, which support opposite sides in the five-year war, will meet in Switzerland today to try to resurrect the peace process. Moscow has faced swelling international criticism over its backing for President Bashar Al-Assad's onslaught in divided Aleppo, including Western accusations of possible war crimes. Violence has continued unabated in the northern city, once Syria's commercial hub but now ravaged by Russian and regime air strikes in support of a major government offensive against rebels. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based monitor, said Russian and Syrian warplanes pounded opposition-controlled eastern districts again on Friday, though it did not have any immediate information on casualties.

The intensified bombardment has put a severe strain on rescue workers and medical staff in east Aleppo, home to an estimated 250,000 residents under siege. "This recent escalation has been huge and we've had a lot of work," said Ibrahim Abu Al-Leith, a spokesman for the White Helmets rescue force in Aleppo. "The civil defence team hasn't slept in four days because of the bombardment on the eastern neighborhoods. Even our machines are exhausted," he told AFP. He said rescuers were still working to dislodge people from under the rubble in the Tariq al-Bab eastern district.

### Bleeding to Death

AFP's correspondent in east Aleppo



**ALEPPO:** Syrian Hadi Mustafa Habboush, 9, brother of 13-year-old Jameel who was also rescued a day earlier from under the rubble of a building following Russian air strikes, looks on as he lies on a hospital bed in the rebel-held northern embattled Syrian city on Thursday. — AFP

said some people had been stuck under the rubble for at least two days as strained White Helmets teams scrambled between neighborhoods. Rescue workers have been afraid to work at night, fearing that the large floodlights would attract warplanes circling overhead. Some people trapped under collapsed buildings bled to death after White Helmets teams were unable to reach them in time.

Since the collapse last month of a truce brokered by Washington and Moscow, Aleppo has been engulfed by some of the worst violence of the conflict. More than 370 people, including nearly 70 children, have been killed in regime and Russian bombardment of east Aleppo since the regime's assault

began on Sept 22, the Observatory said. Dozens of civilians, including children, have also died in rebel bombardment of regime-controlled western districts, according to the monitor, which compiles its information from sources on the ground.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov are expected to hold fresh talks to try to revive the ceasefire deal in Lausanne today. UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura will attend, along with the chief diplomats from Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar - all backers of Syrian opposition forces. Then in London on Sunday, Kerry will likely meet up with his counterparts from Britain, France and Germany. — AFP

## ISRAEL SUSPENDS COOPERATION WITH UNESCO AFTER VOTE

**JERUSALEM:** Israel suspended cooperation with UNESCO yesterday after the UN cultural organization adopted two resolutions on the occupied Palestinian territories including annexed east Jerusalem ahead of a final vote next week. In a letter sent to UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova, Education Minister Naftali Bennett accused the body of ignoring "thousands of years of Jewish ties to Jerusalem" and aiding "Islamist terror". "I have notified the Israel National Commission for UNESCO to suspend all professional activities with the international organization," he said.

Bokova distanced herself from the resolutions in a statement, saying "nowhere more than in Jerusalem do Jewish, Christian and Muslim heritage and traditions share space". The resolutions adopted at committee stage on Thursday refer to "Occupied Palestine" and the need to "safeguard the Palestinian cultural heritage and the distinctive character of east Jerusalem." They refer to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in east Jerusalem's Old City - Islam's third holiest site - without any reference to the site also being revered by Jews as the Temple Mount.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu complained that saying "Israel has no connection to the Temple Mount and Western Wall is like saying China has no connection to the Great Wall of China or Egypt has no connection to the pyramids". Bokova did not specifically mention the resolutions in her statement but did refer to the Temple Mount. "The heritage of Jerusalem is indivisible, and each of its communities has a right to the explicit recognition of their history and relationship with the city," she said. "To deny, conceal or erase any of the Jewish, Christian or Muslim traditions undermines the integrity of the site, and runs counter to the reasons that justified its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list."

Participants said the two resolutions, which were put forward by Arab countries including Egypt, Lebanon and Algeria, were adopted by 24 votes to six with 26 abstentions and two absentees. They are to be put to the UNESCO Executive Board on Tuesday but in general it votes in line with the decisions taken by committees. Washington has expressed its strong opposition. "We are deeply concerned about these kinds of recurring politicized resolutions that do nothing to advance constructive results on the ground and we don't believe they should be adopted," said State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner. — AFP



## PENTAGON PREPARES FOR NEW STRIKES IN YEMEN

**WASHINGTON:** The Pentagon was preparing for possible new strikes in Yemen on Thursday after US missiles hit Houthi rebel targets, but officials stressed America wants to avoid getting embroiled in yet another war. The US Navy earlier launched five Tomahawk cruise missiles at three mobile radar sites in Houthi-controlled territory on Yemen's Red Sea coast, after the Iran-backed rebels blasted rockets at the USS Mason destroyer twice in four days. The military insists these moves are taken out of self-defense.

Though the United States is providing logistical support to a Saudi-led coalition battling the rebels, Thursday's bombing marked the first time Washington has taken direct action against the Houthis. Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook said this was not a prelude to a new campaign in the region, where America is to varying degrees waging wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria. "We don't seek a

wider role in the conflict," Cook said. "This is about protecting our people, period." The White House also stressed the United States was not stepping up its military role. "This is not any engagement in the sectarian situation on the ground in Yemen," White House spokesman Eric Schultz said. The Houthi missiles were believed to have been a type of C-802 anti-ship weapon with "explosively formed penetrator warheads," a senior defense official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Houthis have denied conducting the attacks.

Republican Senator John McCain said the missiles "likely" came from the Iranian regime. "Thanks to the successful strikes carried out in response by the USS Nitze," which launched the cruise missiles, "the United States Navy has delivered a strong message," he said in a statement. But the US strikes did not take out Houthi missiles and, though the radar destruction makes it harder to aim the weapons, the official



**SANAA:** Fire and smoke rise after an airstrike hit a site believed to be one of the largest weapons depots on the outskirts of the Yemeni capital yesterday. — AP

warned rebels could still use spotter boats or online ship-tracking websites to find new targets. "They do need to knock it off. We will not hesitate" to launch new retaliatory attacks, the official

said. Cook said the United States was "prepared to respond further". "But we believe we've taken action that will reduce their ability to carry out these kinds of attacks," he added. — AFP

## CHIBOK GIRLS SWAPPED FOR DETAINEES, RANSOM OR BOTH?

### HANDSOME RANSOM' PAID BY SWISS

**JOHANNESBURG:** Conflicting reports emerged yesterday about whether the first negotiated release of some Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram in Nigeria in 2014 involved a ransom payment, a prisoner swap for Islamic extremist commanders, or both. A Nigerian hostage negotiator who was not involved in Thursday's release told AP a "handsome ransom" in the millions of dollars was paid by Switzerland's government on behalf of Nigerian authorities. He said the Swiss would recoup the money from some \$321 million it had said it would repatriate to Nigeria this year from frozen funds looted under former military dictator Sani Abacha.

Swiss officials confirmed Thursday that they had played a neutral, humanitarian role in the operation. And the International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed that it had received 21 Chibok girls from Boko Haram and handed them over to Nigerian authorities. But Swiss officials said no ransom had been paid. "Switzerland never pays ransoms in cases of hostage-takings," Jean-Marc Crevoisier, a spokesman for the Swiss Foreign Ministry, said in an e-mail.

"The restitution of the Abacha funds (\$321 million) has no connection to the liberation of the young girls," Crevoisier said. The restitution of those funds is still being worked out and will be carried out through a program monitored by the World Bank, he said. Nigerian authorities have said negotiations continue for the release of the remaining 197 missing girls, though at least half a dozen are reported to have died of illnesses.

#### Swap

Two military officers told the AP the 21 girls were swapped for four detained



**ABUJA:** A newspaper vendor sells newspapers reporting on the release of some of the Chibok schoolgirls yesterday. — AP

Boko Haram leaders. The hostage negotiator and officers spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. Nigerian officials deny any swap. Vice President Yemi Osinbajo said "there was no exchange of any kind ... No such thing took place." He did not mention a ransom. Some parents of the freed girls yesterday were making their way to Abuja, the capital, where the girls were flown Thursday, to be reunited with their daughters. At least 23 parents of the kidnapped girls have died since their abduction, some from stress-related illnesses and others in Boko Haram attacks.

More than 20,000 people have died and 2.6 million have been driven from their homes in Boko Haram's seven-year insurgency aimed at creating an Islamic state across the West African oil producer, whose 170 million people are divided almost equally between Muslims in the north and Christians in the south.

The first negotiated release of

Chibok schoolgirls comes after three failed attempts over several months broke down as extremist leader Abubakar Shekau kept changing his demands, according to Information Minister Lai Mohammed. Negotiations last year failed when Boko Haram demanded a ransom of \$5.2 billion, according to a recently published authorized biography of Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari by American historian John Paden.

Daily Trust, the most widely read newspaper in northern Nigeria, has reported a ransom was paid for the 21 Chibok girls because none of the detained Boko Haram commanders wanted to be released, fearing for their lives amid a leadership struggle in the extremist group. The girls are from a Christian enclave in the predominantly Muslim northeast. Many of their parents are involved in translating the Bible into local languages and belong to the Nigerian branch of the Elgin, Illinois-based Church of the Brethren. — AP

## RAISING TENSIONS, TURKEY PREPARES FOR POST-IS MOSUL

**ISTANBUL:** Raising tensions with Iraq ahead of the planned US-backed operation by Iraqi troops to retake Mosul from Islamic State (IS) militants, Turkey is seeking to have its say over who controls and lives in the city once the extremists are ousted. Ruled for nearly half a millennium by the Ottoman Empire, Mosul is considered by mainly Sunni Muslim Turkey to be part of its natural sphere of influence in the Middle East.

Ankara is watching uneasily the potential involvement of Shiite and Kurdish militia in the offensive, insisting that Mosul must keep its Sunni Arab Muslim majority as before IS took over the city from woefully unprepared Iraqi troops in 2014. Iraq's Shiite-dominated government has in turn reacted angrily to the presence of hundreds of Turkish troops on its territory, ostensibly with the aim of training Iraqi troops to retake the city.

The tensions prompted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to launch an attack on Iraqi Premier Haider Al-Abadi that was venomous even by his sharp standards, telling the Iraqi leader to "know your place" and even saying "you are not at my level". Not to be outdone, Abadi hit back by mocking Erdogan's appearance on FaceTime to rouse supporters on the night of the failed July 15 coup.

#### 'Say in the Future'

Erdogan "is concerned about the future ethnic and sectarian composition of Mosul and its environs, and wants to make sure Kurds and Shiites don't get an upper hand," said Aykan Erdemir of the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies. Turkey has appeared hugely sensitive to any notion it has been left out of the decision-making process ahead of what is likely to be the biggest battle yet in the fight against IS.

According to the United Nations, the city still has a population of one million. Aid groups have warned hundreds of thousands could flee at the start of the operation. Erdogan said yesterday that Turkey wanted to take part in the operation but would engage a "plan B or plan C" if it was turned down. He did not expand on the nature of the plans.

"Ankara does not want to be left out of the equation in Iraq. Erdogan is trying to make sure that he has a say in the future of the affairs in Mosul as well as Iraq," said Erdemir. Erdemir said that after training Sunni militia to prepare for the liberation of Mosul, Ankara feared Baghdad would back Shiite militia as a key element in the planned offensive. — AFP

## MERKEL TURNS TO AFRICA TO CURB MIGRANT FLOW

**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday wrapped up a week of Africa diplomacy aimed at slowing the flow of migrants to Europe from a continent battered by conflict and poverty. She will host Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, having also met Chad's head of state Idriss Deby two days earlier following a three-day whirlwind tour of Mali, Niger and Ethiopia, the seat of the African Union. As Germany, Europe's top destination for people fleeing war and misery, looks to chair the G20 next year, it has pledged to step up efforts to help Africa and fight the causes of the mass migration.

"I think we will need to take a vastly greater interest in the destiny of Africa," Merkel said at the start of her first major Africa trip in five years. "The well-being of Africa is in Germany's interest." Data backs up that notion - while most asylum-seekers in Germany so far this year came from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, Germany has also taken in over 13,000 Eritreans and thousands from other

African countries. More than 10,000 came from Nigeria, the oil-rich economic giant now grappling with a plunge in crude prices and the Boko Haram jihadist insurgency that has claimed over 20,000 lives and spilled into Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

### 'Life-Threatening Journeys'

Merkel on her three-nation trip repeatedly warned Africans against crossing dangerous deserts and seas for an uncertain future in Europe. "Often it's the young people who head for Europe with completely wrong ideas," she said in Addis Ababa. "They risk a life-threatening journey without knowing what's waiting for them or even whether they'll be able to stay." The best way to stop the mass flight would be to encourage greater stability in their countries of origin, Merkel said, picking up on the theme of an EU-African Summit held in Malta last year.

The list of goals is ambitious - promoting democracy, fighting terrorism



**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the President of Nigeria Muhammadu Buhari shake hands after talks at the chancellery. — AP

and fostering prosperity through investment. In Mali, Merkel said it was crucial that "African countries don't lose their brightest minds" needed to develop their own countries. Merkel

said that as chair of the Group of 20, Berlin would next year host a conference on investment in Africa, especially in the transport and energy sectors. — AFP

## SARKOZY ON DEFENSIVE IN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

### EX-PREZ VOWS TO JAIL ISLAMISTS, BAN BURKINI

**PARIS:** Nicolas Sarkozy was forced onto the defensive Thursday over his legal woes in the first debate of rightwing rivals for the French presidency, including the man tipped to lead the country, Alain Juppe. Former president Sarkozy is trailing ex-prime minister Juppe, 71, in the race for the rightwing nomination, to be decided in a highly anticipated November primary that is expected to produce the next president of France. With the jihadist threat uppermost in voters' minds following a series of deadly attacks, the primary campaign has tipped over into populism, with Sarkozy particularly accused of chasing after far-right National Front (FN) voters.

But compared with the vitriolic exchanges between US presidential rivals Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump the tone of the first televised debate among the seven rightwing candidates was respectful. Sarkozy, 61, nonetheless found himself on the defensive over the various investigations in which he has been entangled since losing his 2012 re-election bid. "After 37 years in politics my criminal record is clean," he insisted, visibly exasperated.

"Do you think I would take part in this campaign if I had anything on my conscience?" he added, claiming he had been hounded by investigators and subjected to "slander" during probes for influence-peddling and suspected illegal funding of his failed 2012 re-election campaign, among others. Thursday's debate was the first of three among the candidates for the Nov 20-27 primary, the winner of which is expected to go head-to-head with FN leader Marine Le Pen in the second round of the election in May.

The former leader of Sarkozy's Republicans party, Jean-Francois Cope,



**LA PLAINE-SAINT-DENIS, France :** French lawmaker and candidate for the rightwing Les Republicains (LR) party primaries Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet looks at former French president and candidate during the first televised debate between the seven candidates at the studios of French private television channel TF1 on Thursday. — AFP

said he had hoped Sarkozy would be a reformer when he came to power in 2007 on a promise to shake up the established order. "Ten years ago, I and millions of French people hoped for the change that Nicolas Sarkozy offered for our country. That change unfortunately never took place," he said, accusing Sarkozy of ducking the hard choices.

Sarkozy argued his hand had been constrained by "the worst (economic) crisis the world had experienced since 1929" and vowed "strong, energetic" leadership if he returned to power after five years of Socialist rule. Sarkozy has campaigned on a populist platform of protecting French national identity, curbing immigration and giv-

ing the "silent majority" more of a say in politics by holding referendums on divisive issues.

On Thursday he reiterated his pledge to jailing hundreds of suspected Islamist radicals, without prior authorization from a judge and ban the Islamic burkini swimsuit. Juppe, who has accused him of "giving the FN a leg up", has taken a more moderate, inclusive line. "I want to lead you along a path of hope," the long-time Bordeaux mayor said. Polls show Juppe leading Sarkozy by between eight and 14 percentage points, with the five other candidates, including Cope and Sarkozy's former prime minister Francois Fillon trailing behind. — AFP

## VETERAN PREMIER LEADER PUSHING MONTENEGRO WEST

**PODGORICA, Montenegro:**

Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic, the mastermind of his country's independence, is the only Balkan leader to have held on to power since the collapse of Yugoslavia began 25 years ago. Seen as a dynamic reformist by some and an authoritarian leader by others, Djukanovic has six times been elected prime minister and once served as president. In 2006 he led Montenegro to independence from Serbia - its often-troubled partner for around 90 years - and has since won praise for guiding the small state to NATO membership and the doorstep of the European Union.

But the PM has also found himself at the center of corruption allegations, and was named as a suspect in an Italian cigarette trafficking enquiry. He has repeatedly denied the allegations and an Italian court eventually dropped the case against him in 2009 because he enjoyed diplomatic immunity.

### PM at 29

Born in the central town of Niksic in 1962, Djukanovic is an economist by training and began his political career in the 1980s while Montenegro was part of communist Yugoslavia. He rose rapidly through the communist party ranks, becoming a youth leader and winning over old-time party members. As the region teetered on the brink of war in Feb 1991, Djukanovic became Montenegro's prime minister at the tender age of 29. When Yugoslavia disintegrated into bloody conflict as other republics declared their independence, Djukanovic backed Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

But in 1996 he took the decisive step to break ranks with hardliners in the rump Yugoslav federation - made up of just Serbia and Montenegro - becoming one of the fiercest critics of the Milosevic regime and an advocate of independence. Elected president in 1998, Djukanovic shed his old communist-era ideology and opened Montenegro to the outside world. — AFP



**Milo Djukanovic**

## CLINTON CAN'T RECALL DETAILS ABOUT SERVER

**WASHINGTON:** Hillary Clinton said under oath in a court filing Thursday that she can't recall key details about her use of a private email server or she refused to answer questions about it posed by a conservative legal group. Clinton lawyer David Kendall provided the Democratic presidential nominee's sworn responses to 25 written questions submitted by Judicial Watch. The group has filed multiple lawsuits seeking copies of government documents from Clinton's tenure as secretary of state.

Clinton's answers provided no new information beyond what she told FBI agents during the recently closed investigation into whether she and her staff mis-handled classified information. In her responses, Clinton used some variation of "does not recall" at least 21 times. For example, Clinton was asked when she decided to use her private email account to conduct government business and whom she consulted in making that decision.

Clinton said she recalled making the decision in early 2009, but she "does not recall any specific consultations regarding the decision". Asked whether she was warned that using a private email account conflicted with federal record-keeping rules, Clinton responded that "she does not recall being advised, cautioned, or warned, she does not recall that it was ever suggested to her, and she does not recall participating in any communication, conversation, or meeting in which it was discussed."

Judicial Watch had sought to depose Clinton in person about the creation of the private server located in the basement of her New York home. In August US District Court Judge Emmet G Sullivan instead ordered the Democratic presidential nominee to respond to the group's questions in writing. In addition to her inability to recall the requested information, Clinton entered various legal objections to the formation or wording of 18 of the 25 questions. She also filed eight separate general objections to the process under which the questions were being asked.

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said the group's lawyers will closely review Clinton's responses. "Mrs Clinton's refusal to answer many of the questions in a clear and straightforward manner further reflects disdain for the rule of law," Fitton said. Judicial Watch founder Larry Klayman protested the process in a statement Thursday night. He said Sullivan's denial of Freedom Watch's requests for an oral deposition "cleverly allowed Hillary Clinton ... to stonewall giving responsive and meaningful answers." Klayman continued, "Now, even if motions to compel complete and responsive answers are filed, they will not be decided for some time, and Judge Sullivan will have run out the clock - paving the way for Hillary Clinton ... to easily win the presidency." Campaign spokesman Brian Fallon said Clinton has answered these same questions in multiple settings for over a year, and her answers Thursday "are entirely consistent with what she has said many times before." — AP



**BURBANK, California:** Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton (left) and TV host Ellen DeGeneres talk during a commercial break of the taping of the Ellen Show on Thursday. — AP



**CLEVELAND:** Supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton file into Burke Lakefront Airport yesterday for a campaign appearance by President Barack Obama in support of Clinton. — AP

# CLINTON PLOTS A 'DO NO HARM' CAMPAIGN

## TRUMP ON WHIRLWIND US TOUR

**SAN FRANCISCO:** How do you run for president during a political cyclone with no precedents and no predictable path? Hillary Clinton has her answer: Slow and steady. As Donald Trump jags across the country, battling an onslaught of sexual misconduct allegations, his party's opposition and the media, Clinton has stepped cautiously on the campaign trail.

She rarely makes news or veers from her script. She keeps a plodding schedule of modest-size events. She relies heavily on her cast of loyal - and arguably more effective - surrogates. And she doesn't overdo it: With just less than a month left to campaign, Clinton was fundraising in California on Thursday and expected to spend most of the weekend out of the public eye. "Make no errors, do no harm," said Republican strategist Rick Tyler, who worked for Trump's primary rival Sen Ted Cruz. "(Trump) has no ability to make good news about himself. Like none. So why not just let him go?"

The news about Trump has overshadowed potentially damaging reports about Clinton based on thousands of hacked emails that apparently came from the email account of her campaign chairman, John Podesta. The campaign has not confirmed the authenticity of the emails.

Clinton aides said the former secretary of state has been balancing a full schedule - she attended rallies in Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Colorado and Nevada this week - with preparations for the final debate, scheduled for Wednesday, as well as fundraising for an ambitious get-out-the-vote program and advertising in battleground states. She was also off the trail for several days in September after a bout of pneumonia forced an awkward exit from a 9/11 memorial event. Spokesman Brian Fallon said that Clinton "continues to take

time to raise resources to execute our strategy and prepare for the debates," and said the campaign was "confident we're not leaving any voters untouched in critical states."

### Low-Key

There's little sign that the relatively low-key strategy is hurting Clinton, who has seized a comfortable lead in several national polls. Early voting shows positive signs for her in two states that could help her lock up the presidency, North Carolina and Florida, according to preliminary data compiled by AP. Still, the approach strikes a sharp contrast to her predecessor on the Democratic ticket.

Never a natural on the stump, Clinton has had few of the massive rallies that defined President Barack

Obama's two campaigns. Her largest event to date, an evening rally on the campus at Ohio State University, drew some 18,500 people on Tuesday. But events a quarter of that size are more common. Around this time eight years ago, Obama drew 100,000 people to a rally in Missouri.

Clinton isn't aiming for that kind of spotlight. Her campaign notes she's focused on policy speeches and voter registration events. She's also looked for ways to talk to her voters without riling those she will never win over. She consistently talks to local press as she travels around the country and has worked through niche media, granting an interview to a student journalist for Elle Magazine and speaking with Mary J. Blige for her new show. — AP

## BABY DIES WHEN STROLLER PLUNGES DOWN NYC SHAFT

**NEW YORK:** A 6-week-old baby died Thursday when her stroller accidentally plunged down an empty elevator shaft in a Brooklyn building. The infant's mother was waiting with the stroller on the 23rd floor of an apartment building in Coney Island around 11:40 am, officials said. When the doors opened, the woman stepped forward and both she and the stroller fell down the shaft and landed on the elevator car, which was out of service eight stories below, police said.

A mechanic who had been working on the elevator heard the mother's screams and helped pull her to safety, police said. The circumstances of exactly where the elevator was when the woman and stroller landed on it were unclear. The baby girl, identified

as Areej Ali, of Brooklyn, was pronounced dead at Coney Island Hospital. The mother was hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries, police said.

Inspectors with the city's Department of Buildings were at the scene investigating. "We will be testing all of the elevators in the building to ensure they are operating safely," DOB spokesman Andrew Rudansky said. The elevator involved in the incident passed a thorough, "once-every-5-years inspection" in January, 2016, according to the buildings department. In August, the elevator received a violation because its phone wasn't working, but building department inspectors determined it could safely remain in operation, the DOB said. — AP

## POWERFUL HURRICANE WREAKS HAVOC ON BERMUDA

**HAMILTON, Bermuda:** Hurricane Nicole plowed directly into Bermuda on Thursday, causing widespread damage and knocking out power to most homes and businesses while apparently sparing the tiny Atlantic island chain any severe injuries or fatalities, government officials said. Nicole, the strongest hurricane to sweep the subtropical British territory in more than a decade, made landfall before noon, packing sustained winds of up to 195 kph and ranking as a fierce Category 3 storm on the five-level Saffir-Simpson scale, according to the US National Hurricane Center in Miami.

By then the low-lying archipelago, occupying just 54 sq km and home to more than 65,000 people, had been lashed for hours with torrential rain, hurricane-force winds and pounding surf. In the village of Flatts, just outside Bermuda's capital city of Hamilton, towering palm trees were bent over virtually at 90-degree angles in the howling winds, and boats moored at a nearby inlet rocked in the heavy waves. "For a storm this size, I'd say we're blessed," Bermuda Premier Michael Dunkley told

Reuters by telephone. "I don't think any part of the island was spared the wrath of Nicole. But ... it could have been much worse."

The storm, with an eye about 48 km across, weakened after moving back into the open sea and was downgraded to a Category 2 hurricane, its maximum sustained winds diminished to 175 kph. The Royal Gazette newspaper said the storm sheared rooftops from buildings, uprooted trees, flooded homes and downed power lines as it slammed into Bermuda, a major tourist destination and affluent insurance industry hub about 1,030 km off the coast of North Carolina.

Passage of the hurricane's eye provided a lull for about an hour, during which the skies cleared, the rain and winds ceased and some islanders emerged from boarded-up homes to stroll outside briefly. One person was even seen riding a bicycle through the streets, strewn with debris and vegetation. "At this point, there is no indication of any loss of life or serious injuries," Dunkley said. He said property damage



**ST GEORGES, Bermuda:** A sailboat lays damaged on the shore of Ferry Reach after breaking free from its mooring after the passing of Hurricane Nicole on Thursday. — AP

was widespread, "but it's not significant where it's going to take weeks and months" to recover.

The Bermuda Electric Light Company (BELCO) said that nearly 26,000 customers were without power, roughly 85 percent of its customers, and that many power lines and utility poles had been

knocked down. By early evening, winds had diminished to below tropical storm-strength and repair crews were able to venture safely into the streets to begin assessing damage as the storm moved farther from shore, Dunkley said. The international airport there was expected to reopen on Friday, he said. — Reuters

## SANTOS EXTENDS CEASEFIRE WITH FARC TO DEC 31

**BOGOTA:** Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said Thursday a ceasefire with the country's FARC guerrillas has been extended until December 31 but that he hopes to have "a new agreement" for peace before that date. "I have made the decision to extend the bilateral ceasefire until December 31. Let this be clear: This is not an ultimatum nor a deadline, but I hope that the entire process of obtaining a new agreement will be complete well before then," the president said in a televised address.

The announcement came as Santos held fresh meetings with the opposition and members of the public, seeking a solution to the political fallout caused by voters who rejected the peace accord negotiated between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the government. Santos - who has staked his legacy on making peace - had previously said that the army would halt its ceasefire at the end of this month if no solution to the impasse was found by then.

The FARC, which had criticized Santos' deadline, has also confirmed its willingness to continue negotiations and maintain a bilateral ceasefire. Santos said he made the decision to extend the ceasefire after a student at one of the meetings told him that "in the army and among the guerrillas there are young people who are aware of what is happening, who hope not to have to return to shooting." In his address Santos urged Colombians to "achieve forever an end to the violence, the return of the displaced to their homes". "We can't lose this opportunity."

The Colombian leader won the Nobel Peace Prize just a few days after voters shot down the historic accord in a referendum that would have ended more than 52 years of conflict. The prize appeared to encourage the peacemakers. Since the accord's rejection, Santos has held marathon talks with political figures including the country's former president Alvaro Uribe - who led opposition to the agreement - as well as religious leaders and victims of the armed conflict.

The government on Thursday also welcomed the leader of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, who urged Colombian leaders to commit to reaching a "prompt and urgent solution" to swiftly implement a peace agreement with the FARC. — AFP

## ACCIDENTAL SHOOTINGS KILL A US CHILD EVERY OTHER DAY ADVOCATES DEMAND STRICTER LAWS

**HOUSTON:** Hours earlier, he was a happy 4-year-old who loved Ironman and the Hulk and all the Avengers. Now, as Bryson Mees-Hernandez approached death in a Houston hospital room, his brain swelling through the bullet hole in his face, his mother assured the boy it was OK to die. "When you are on the other side," his mother, Crystal Mees, recalls telling him, "you are going to see Mommy cry a lot. It's not because she's mad. It's because she misses you." And this: "It's not your fault." But whose fault was it? Bryson shot himself last January with a .22-caliber Derringer his grandmother kept under the bed. It was an accident, but one that could be blamed on many factors, from his grandmother's negligence to the failure of government and industry to find ways to prevent his death and so many others. The AP and the USA TODAY Network set out to determine just how many others there have been.

The findings: During the first six months of this year, minors died from accidental shootings - at their own hands, or at the hands of other children or adults - at a pace of one every other day, far more than limited federal statistics indicate. Tragedies like the death of Bryson Mees-Hernandez play out repeatedly across the country. Curious toddlers find unsecured, loaded handguns in their homes and vehicles, and fatally shoot themselves and others. Teenagers, often showing off guns to their friends and siblings, end up shooting them instead. Using information collected by the Gun Violence Archive, a nonpartisan research group, news reports and public sources, the media outlets spent six months analyzing the circumstances of every death and injury from accidental shootings involving children ages 17 and younger from Jan 1, 2014, to June 30 of this year - more than 1,000 incidents in all.

### Among the findings:

- Deaths and injuries spike for children under 5, with 3-year-olds the most common shooters and victims among young children.
- Accidental shootings spike again for ages 15-17, when victims are most often fatally shot by other children but typically survive self-inflicted gunshots.
- States in the South are among those with the highest per capita rates of accidental shootings involving minors.

Another finding: The vast majority of shooters and victims are boys. A shooting last year in Shreveport, Louisiana, is a case in point. Cameron Price, 4, and his 6-year-old brother, Ka'Darius, were riding their bikes outside the Levingston Motel, where their



**HOUSTON:** Crystal Mees poses for a portrait holding a large photo of her son, Bryson, 4, at her home on Aug 13, 2016. —AP

family had taken a \$30-a-night room. They decided to go inside, into a room where several adult acquaintances of their parents had been smoking marijuana. A gun was sitting out, and Ka'Darius thought the chrome and black .40-caliber pistol was a toy. Then a single shot rang out, and the bullet fatally struck the younger boy. Ka'Darius later told police he "pushed the bad button" and he understood his brother "had a hole in his head," was going to the hospital and not coming home. — AP

## REPRIEVE FOR AUSSIE SUB-ANTARCTIC STATION

**SYDNEY:** Australia's permanent sub-Antarctic research base at World Heritage-listed Macquarie Island has won a reprieve from closure and will instead get a multi-million dollar revamp, the government said Friday, in a boost for science. The Australian Antarctic Division announced in September the station on the island - which lies in the Southern Ocean between Australia and Antarctica - would shut after almost seven decades due to environmental contamination concerns and ageing infrastructure.

But after pressure from scientists and politicians, Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg said it will now get a new state-of-the-art facility with the government announcing a Aus\$50 million (US\$37.8 million) funding boost. "The new station will be the most advanced of its type in the Southern Ocean, capable of supporting the full range of priority activities we have conducted in the past and to ensure a permanent and recurring year round presence," he said. "The new modern station will be significantly more efficient than the existing station and be designed to have minimal environmental impact, lower operating and maintenance costs."

Due to its position as the only base between Australia and Antarctica, Macquarie Island is an important global monitoring location for scientific research, including tracking southern hemisphere weather and gathering climatic data. Around 15 researchers man the base year-round, rising to 30 in the summer. Named after an early governor of New South Wales state, Lachlan Macquarie, a scientific presence dates back to Douglas Mawson's base there during the 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic expedition. Home to millions of penguins and up to 80,000 seals, it was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1933 with the permanent base set up 15 years later. Since then research on the island has contributed to global understanding in many fields including climate change, marine biology, atmosphere physics, geoscience and meteorology.

### Wildlife Bastion

The AAD admitted in announcing the facility's closure that science would be impacted, but argued that the cost of refurbishment could not be justified and there would still be ship visits for researchers in summer. But the decision sparked a public campaign backed by the Tasmanian-based Bob Brown Foundation to save the base. "Macquarie Island is one of the world's great wildlife bastions with its countless thousands of penguins, seals and albatross, it is under pressure from tourism and illegal fish poachers as well as climate change," Brown, a former leader of the Greens Party, said yesterday. "The minister has made the right decision." — AFP

# TERRIFIED RESIDENTS FLEE RAKHINE AMID CRACKDOWN

**MAUNGDAW, Myanmar:** Towns and villages across northern Rakhine state were deserted yesterday, as terrified residents fled a deadly military crackdown on foot and by air, fearing Myanmar's restive western state could once again be ripped apart by violence. Local officials believe hundreds of people from the area, home to many from the persecuted Muslim Rohingya minority, spent months planning attacks on police posts along the Bangladesh border that sparked the crisis this week.

Twenty-six civilians have died in the ensuing military lockdown, state media reported - rights groups say the army is gunning down unarmed Muslims on the streets but the army say troops are defending themselves against attack. Law enforcement said 50 "violent attackers" tried several times to overrun a security office on Thursday but were repelled by police and soldiers. Families have been streaming out of Maungdaw on foot, their worldly possessions stuffed into carrier bags and plastic buckets or strapped to the front of bicycle rickshaws.

Around 180 teachers, workers and residents were also airlifted out of the region at the epicentre of the crisis, while hundreds of government staff have poured into the state capital Sittwe. AFP journalists said Maungdaw town and nearby villages were like ghost towns, with shops shuttered and armed police on patrol. Many of those fleeing are local Buddhists, who make up the majority of the country but account for less than 10 percent of the population in northern Rakhine, where most people are Muslim Rohingya.

Long-simmering animosity between the two groups erupted into communal violence in 2012 that ripped the impov-



**MAUNGDAW, Myanmar:** Myanmar Air Force personnel evacuate civil servants with a military helicopter from in Rakhine State on Thursday. — AFP

erished state apart, leaving more than 100 dead and driving tens of thousands of Rohingya into squalid displacement camps. "Many Rakhines are going back to Sittwe," said a resident of Buthidaung, a town close to Maungdaw, too scared to give his name. "We are also afraid here because the attackers ran away with guns."

An AFP journalist reported seeing clouds of smoke billowing from a village Thursday near charred remains of two dozen bamboo houses that the military said had been torched by "terrorists". The Organization of Islamic Cooperation issued a statement calling for calm, after receiving "disturbing reports of extra-judicial killings of Rohingya Muslims, burning of houses,

and arbitrary arrests by security forces".

### Jihadist Videos

Rakhine state government spokesman Min Aung said a group of 200-300 border-post assailants had spent months plotting the raids, which were originally intended to hit as many as seven targets. It is not clear who carried out Sunday's border-post assaults, though local officials have publically pointed the finger at Rohingya insurgents and others have privately blamed Bangladeshi groups across the border. The military said late Thursday troops had captured a fifth suspect, along with a gun, ammunition and flags featuring the logo of the RSO, a Rohingya militant group long considered defunct. — AFP

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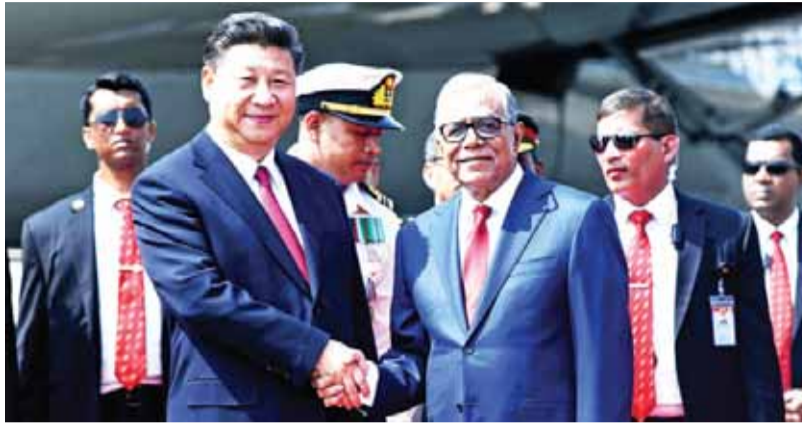
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## CHINA WOOS BANGLADESH WITH INVESTMENT

**DHAKA:** Chinese President Xi Jinping signed loans and investment deals with Bangladesh worth about \$20 billion yesterday, seeking to increase Beijing's influence in a country closely allied to rival regional power India. Xi hailed what he called a "historical turning point" in relations with the impoverished South Asian nation after talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. A senior minister who attended the closed-door talks said the loan agreements from Beijing, which will fund key infrastructure projects such as roads and railways as well as a new industrial park, totalled around \$20 billion.

"Bangladesh and China have also identified other projects, whose total loans and investment will surpass \$50 billion," he told AFP on condition of anonymity. Xi said both sides had agreed to look into a free-trade agreement and expressed hopes the visit would "chart the course for the future growth of China-Bangladesh relations". It is the first visit in more than three decades by a Chinese president to Bangladesh, which lies firmly within New Delhi's sphere of influence.

Impoverished Bangladesh needs tens of billions of dollars of investment in its trans-



**DHAKA:** Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) is greeted by Bangladesh's President Abdul Hamid after arriving yesterday. — AFP

port infrastructure and energy production to boost its flagging economic fortunes and create jobs for its 160 million people. But analysts said Hasina would have to maintain a careful balancing act between cultivating economic ties with China, already the country's largest trading partner, and maintaining good relations with India. New Delhi has long backed Hasina

and held off from criticizing her re-election in Jan 2014 in a contest that was boycotted by the opposition and dismissed as "not credible" by Western nations.

"Bangladesh is in India's sphere of influence," said Ali Riaz, political science professor at Illinois State University in the United States. "Understandably, India is watching Bangladesh's growing ties with

Beijing. But Bangladesh is improving ties with China carefully so that it does not jeopardize its relations with India," he told AFP.

### Jockeying for Influence

Xi will travel on to the western Indian state of Goa today for a summit of BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - and a one-on-one meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. China and India, the world's two most populous nations, are jockeying for regional influence in Asia. Their relationship is colored by a brief but bloody 1962 border war over the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, parts of which Beijing claims as South Tibet.

China has committed to a major program of infrastructure building stretching from its immediate neighborhood to Europe through its flagship "One Belt, One Road" policy which seeks to revive the ancient Silk Road trade route. Asked whether that investment could jeopardize her country's ties with India, Hasina said Bangladesh would maintain "good relations with everyone". —AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Indian police officers detain an exiled Tibetan youth activist holding a Tibetan flag during a protest outside the Chinese Embassy yesterday. The protest was held against the Chinese government's plan to demolish part of a revered Buddhist monastery in Larung Gar and against the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to attend the 8th BRICS Summit in Indian state of Goa today. — AP

## INDIA WANTS TO CONTAIN TENSIONS WITH PAKISTAN

### NEW DELHI WANTS TO FOCUS ON ECONOMY

**NEW DELHI:** India wants to limit tensions with Pakistan after what it said was a successful cross-border strike on militants sheltered there, according to two top officials, who sought to allay fears of a broader conflict between the nuclear-armed nations. One of the officials, who are both part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government shaping a new, more robust strategy towards Pakistan, said India remained focused on rapid economic growth, and any conflict would deflect it from that path. "War is not in India's interest at this point," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because relations with Pakistan remained tense after India announced the Sept 29 strike inside the part of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan. "We want to build comprehensive national power - economic, military and diplomatic. We need time, but if we stay on this path, the power differential with Pakistan will become so high by 2025 that you don't have to fight a war," the official said.

Modi's government, breaking with a traditional policy of military restraint, said last month it sent special forces across the militarized frontier in Kashmir to kill an unspecified number of militants in retaliation for an attack on an Indian army base. Pakistan said it had nothing to do with the attack on the base and has denied any Indian strike took place across the Line of Control, the de facto border in Kashmir. It said it would repel any aggressive action from India.

Yesterday, Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Nafees Zakaria

said New Delhi was trying to divert attention from a crackdown on violent protests this summer against Indian rule in its part of Muslim-majority Kashmir. "Pakistan has already rejected the baseless claims of surgical strikes. As we emphasized earlier, India is desperate to divert attention of the international community from grave human rights violations," Zakaria told a news briefing.

More than 80 civilians have been killed and thousands wounded in the worst unrest in the disputed Himalayan region for six years. At least two police officers have died and more than 5,000 security force members have been wounded. India has not offered any evidence for the cross-border raid in Kashmir, although military officials have said there is footage from helmet-mounted cameras on the raiding party as well as from drones. US diplomats and an intelligence official in New Delhi and Washington have confirmed there was an Indian action across the Line of Control dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan, but details were not available. Pakistan's military declined to comment for this article. Soon after the army base attack which killed 19 Indian soldiers, some officials in New Delhi said the government would act with restraint towards Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir. The subsequent announcement of a cross-border strike reignited fears of an escalation in tensions between the countries, but the second Indian official said they were overblown. —Reuters

## DUTERTE SAYS KILL THREAT 'PERFECT'

**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday defended his threat to kill criminals as "perfect" and vowed no let-up in his war on crime, as the death toll surged past 3,700. International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said Thursday she was "deeply concerned" about the violence, and signalled Duterte could face prosecution by her body for his incitements to kill. But Duterte launched a typically defiant counter-attack yesterday, defending his rhetoric and the crime war that is seeing more than 1,000 people killed every month.

"There is nothing wrong in threatening criminals to death. By that statement alone: 'You criminals, I will kill you. Do not fool around.' It is a perfect statement," Duterte said. Describing his critics as "fools", Duterte reiterated his position he was not breaking any domestic laws by threatening to kill criminals and pledged the crime war would continue until there were no more illegal drugs in society. "I will not stop. Be sure of it, you can cast it in whatever stone. I will not stop until the last pusher, until the last drug lord is taken away."

Duterte, 71, won May elections in a landslide on a pledge to eradicate drugs. Last month Duterte said he would be "happy to slaughter" three million drug addicts, and likened his campaign to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's efforts to exterminate Jews in Europe. He later apologized for his Hitler reference, but said he was "emphatic" about wanting to kill all drug addicts. Since Duterte took office, police have killed 1,578 people and 2,151 have died in unexplained circumstances, according to official figures released yesterday. The total of 3,729 is 368 more than the previous police update released last week.

The United States, the European Union and the United Nations have condemned alleged extrajudicial killings and warned of a breakdown in the rule of law. Bensouda indicated Thursday that Duterte was at risk of joining the likes of late Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi and Sudan's President Omar Al-Bashir, in being indicted by the International Criminal Court.

"Let me be clear: Any person in the Philippines who incites or engages in acts of mass violence including by ordering, requesting, encouraging or contributing... to the commission of crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC is potentially liable for prosecution before the Court," she said in a statement. The Philippine government this week invited UN Special Rapporteur Agnes Callamard to investigate the killings. But Duterte vowed on Thursday to "humiliate" her and any other critics if they dared to come to the Philippines and investigate. Polls show Filipinos overwhelmingly support Duterte's war on crime. — AFP

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Thai markets rally;  
uncertainty reigns

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Samsung sees further  
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CAIRO: Photo shows a man carrying bread bicycles past the stock market in downtown Cairo. — AP

## CONFLICTING DATA BLURS ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

**BEIJING:** A mixed bag of Chinese economic data this week has unnerved global markets and clouded the outlook for China's economic growth, days before the release of the country's quarterly gross domestic product figures. Global markets rose yesterday after official data showed China's factory output prices grew in September for the first time in almost five years, but a day earlier, stocks in Europe and on Wall Street were hammered by an unexpectedly poor Chinese trade report for the same month.

Exports for September slumped 10 percent from a year earlier, despite the yuan's depreciation in the past year. Imports unexpectedly fell, after ticking higher in August, raising questions over the resilience of domestic demand. Though China's economy recorded its slowest growth in 25 years in 2015, it has shown signs of stabilizing in recent months, sustained by billions of dollars of government infrastructure projects and a spreading credit-

fuelled housing boom. China is targeting gross domestic product growth of 6.5 to 7 percent this year, after 6.9 percent last year.

"The government has been able to stabilize the economy this year with quite a lot of stimulus, but it hasn't actually been as effective as a lot of people had expected," said Julian Evans-Pritchard, a Singapore-based China Economist at Capital Economics. The booming property market is showing tentative signs of cooling after some local governments rolled out restrictions on home purchases to temper a months-long buying frenzy.

Chinese companies are still sitting on \$18 trillion in debt, equivalent to about 169 percent of GDP, according to the most recent figures from the Bank for International Settlements. Fixed asset investment is hovering near 17-year lows, while private investment is still languishing at record lows. In a Reuters poll, 58 economists estimated that third-quarter GDP, due on Oct 19, expanded

6.7 percent, as it did in the first and second quarters. Despite fresh signs of softer economic conditions, most economists think Beijing will meet its official GDP target without much difficulty.

The producer price index (PPI) rose 0.1 percent in September from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics said yesterday, the first expansion on an annual basis since January 2012. But for a more realistic gauge of China's economy, economists tend to look at variables beyond official numbers. "We tend to focus on less high-profile, volume-based indicators, which don't have to be deflated with price indices, such as freight volume, passenger traffic, floors under construction, among other measures," Evans-Pritchard said.

He said the official GDP hasn't been a reliable indicator of what's happening on the ground since 2012, the first year China's GDP target came under threat. "What's really interesting about those data is that they used to

move very closely with GDP, and from around 2012 onwards most of our indicators continued to slow, but the official GDP (figures) were just kindly moving within a tiny range." Evans-Pritchard's official 2016 official GDP estimate remains at 6.8 percent. But based on other variables, he said he believed growth was likely to be 5 percent.

Data for September's bank loans is due over the next few days. Bank lending more than doubled in August from the previous month, fuelled by strong mortgage demand. Zhou Hao, senior economist at Commerzbank in Singapore, said to gauge real growth in China is "a complicated story", but he tends to look at the debt data that comes out of China for clues. China unveiled guidelines this week to cut rising levels of corporate debt that some analysts fear could destabilize the world's second-largest economy. The government aims to stabilize and reduce corporate debt levels in the near- and medium-term. — Reuters

## SHOW ME THE MONEY: THAI MEGA-RICH MONARCHY

**BANGKOK:** Late Thai king Bhumibol Adulyadej has left behind one of the world's richest monarchies, with a multi-billion-dollar empire spanning property, construction and banks. Analysts say the vast royal reserves have allowed the crown to build a deep network among the Thai elite, helping insulate the king from the political pressures felt by monarchs who rely chiefly on state funding. But as with all issues linked to the Thai monarchy, the crown's financial dealings are shielded from criticism by one of the world's harshest lese majeste laws. Even the king's semi-official biography admits that the Crown Property Bureau (CPB), the banner under which the assets are held, is a "unique" and "rather mysterious institution". Here is what we know about the

opaque but powerful palace purse.

### How rich is it?

The CPB is not obliged to release any details of its accounts or activities, so its precise assets are unknown. But 2014 estimates by Porphant Ouyyanont, a Thai academic who has done landmark research on the CPB, put its portfolio at up to \$59.4 billion—nearly four times richer than the British crown. The CPB has invested in dozens of companies over the years, but the bulk of its returns come from land, banking and cement.

Company accounts show it holds a 23.69 percent stake in Siam Commercial Bank, the kingdom's oldest bank, and a 31.6 percent stake in Siam Cement Company, a sprawling conglomerate that has paved Thailand's urban expan-

sion and branched out across the region's growing economies. The CPB is also one of the kingdom's largest landlords with 40,000 rental contracts, half of which are in prime areas of Bangkok, according to the 2011 biography of Bhumibol published on the CPB website. The book put the bureau's returns-tax-exempt by law—at around \$300 million annually.

### Who holds the keys?

The CPB was initially placed under state control when it was formed in 1936, just a few years after absolute monarchy was abolished in Thailand. But a decade later the keys were handed back to the king, giving him final say over any asset sales and power to appoint six out of seven board mem-

bers. The 1948 legislation also made clear revenue "may be disbursed only by the king".

This reclamation of royal control came just after Bhumibol ascended to the throne, marking the start of a long, highly successful effort to revitalize the monarchy's prestige and power. By the time Thailand's post-World War II economic boom was underway, the stability that came with palace backing made the CPB the most attractive partner for foreign firms flocking to the kingdom, embedding its control over the economy. "In the 60s we were almost the only institution foreign investors spoke to," the CPB's director-general Chirayu Isarangkun, who declined to comment for this article, said in a rare 2012 interview published on the bureau's website. — AFP

## BRITISH BANKS KEEP CYBER ATTACKS UNDER WRAPS TO PROTECT IMAGE

### FEAR OF BAD PUBLICITY, FINES HAMPERING REPORTING

**LONDON:** Britain's banks are not reporting the full extent of cyber attacks to regulators for fear of punishment or bad publicity, bank executives and providers of security systems say. Reported attacks on financial institutions in Britain have risen from just 5 in 2014 to 75 so far this year, data from Britain's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) show.

However, bankers and experts in cyber-security say many more attacks are taking place. In fact, banks are under almost constant attack, Shlomo Touboul, Chief Executive of Israeli-based cyber security firm Illusive Networks said. Touboul cites the example of one large global financial institution he works with which experiences more than two billion such "events" a month, ranging from an employee receiving a malicious email to user or system-generated alerts of attacks or glitches.

Machine defenses filter those down to 200,000, before a human team cuts that to 200 "real" events a month, he added. Banks are not obliged to reveal every such instance as cyber attacks fall under the FCA's provision for companies to report any event that could have a material impact, unlike in the US where forced disclosure makes reporting more consistent. "There is a grey area...Banks are in general fulfilling their legal obligations but there is also a moral requirement to warn customers of potential losses and to share information with the industry," Ryan Rubin, UK Managing Director, Security & Privacy at consultant Protiviti, said.

### Swift action

Banks are not alone in their reluctance to disclose every cyber attack. Of the five million fraud and 2.5 million cyber-related crimes occurring annually in the UK, only 250,000 are being reported, government data show. But while saving them from bad publicity or worried customers, failure to report more serious incidents, even when they are unsuccessful, deprives regulators of information that could help prevent further attacks, the sources said. A report published in May by Marsh and industry lobby group TheCityUK concluded that

Britain's financial sector should create a cyber forum comprising bank board members and risk officers to promote better information sharing.

Security experts said that while reporting all low level attacks such as email "phishing" attempts would overload authorities with unnecessary information, some banks are not sharing data on more harmful intrusions because of concerns about regulatory action or damage to their brand. The most serious recent known attack was on the global SWIFT messaging network in February, but staff from five firms that provide cyber security products and advice to banks in Britain told Reuters they have seen first-hand examples of banks choosing not to report breaches, despite the FCA making public pleas for them to do so, the most recent in September.

"When I moved from law enforcement to banking and saw what banks knew, the amount of information at their disposal, I thought 'wow', I never had that before," Troels Oerting, Group Chief Information Security Officer at Barclays and former head of Europol's Cyber Crime Unit, said. Oerting, who joined Barclays in February last year, said since then banks' sharing of information with authorities has improved dramatically and Barclays shares all its relevant information on attacks with regulators.

Staff from five firms that provide cyber security products and advice to banks in Britain told Reuters they have seen first-hand examples of banks choosing not to report breaches. "Banks are dramatically under-reporting attacks, they do what's legally required but out of embarrassment or fear of punishment they aren't giving the whole picture," one of the sources, who declined to be named because he did not want to be identified criticizing his firm's customers, said. Apart from Barclays, the other major British banks all declined to comment on their disclosures. The Bank of England declined to comment and the FCA did not respond to requests for comment.

### Keeping secrets

Companies that use external security systems also do not always inform them of attacks, the sources said. "Our customers sometimes detect attacks but don't tell us," Touboul, whose firm helps protect banks' SWIFT payment networks by luring attackers to decoy systems, said. Hackers used the bank messaging system that helps transmit billions of dollars around the world every day to steal \$81 million in one of the largest reported cyber-heists. Targeted attacks, in which organized criminals penetrate bank systems and then lurk for months to identify and profile key executives and accounts, are becoming more common, David Ferbrache, technical director Cybersecurity at KPMG and former head of cyber and space at the UK Ministry of Defense, said.

"The lesson of the SWIFT attack is that the global banking system is heavily interconnected and dependent on the trust and security of component members, so more diligence in controls and more information sharing is vital," Ferbrache said. "Big banks are spending enormous amounts of money, \$400-500 million a year, but there are still vulnerabilities in their supply chains and in executives' home networks, and organized crime groups are shifting their focus accordingly," Yuri Frayman, CEO of Los Angeles-based cyber security provider Zenedge, said.

### Brand damage

Banks are increasingly sensitive to the brand damage caused by IT failings, perceiving customers to care just as deeply about security and stable service as loan or deposit rates. Former RBS Chief Executive Stephen Hester waived his bonus in 2012 over a failed software update which caused chaos for thousands of bank customers. And HSBC issued multiple apologies to customers after its UK personal banking websites were shuttered by a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack, following earlier unrelated IT glitches. "People don't care about a 0.1 percent interest rate change but 'will this bank do the utmost to keep my money and information safe?'" Oerting said. — Reuters



**BANGKOK:** Thai people wanting to get a glimpse of the funeral caravan carrying Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej, wear black clothes as they approach the vicinity of the Royal Palace in Bangkok yesterday. — AFP

## THAI MARKETS RALLY; UNCERTAINTY REIGNS

**BANGKOK:** The Thai King's death saw a recovery in stocks yesterday that buckled during his final days, but analysts warned uncertainty over the nation's future without its uniting figure posed fresh risks for an economy already battered by a decade of political turmoil. King Bhumibol Adulyadej died at the age of 88 on Thursday, ending a seven-decade reign credited with bringing a measure of stability that allowed Thailand to go from agricultural backwater to one of the region's most industrialized economies.

But a "lost decade" of political turbulence, including mass street protests punctuated by two military coups, turned a Southeast Asian star economy into one of its slowest-growing. The military government that seized power in 2014 has reined in the damaging political turbulence but struggled to revive the lacklustre economy, with tourism a lone bright spot.

There is a risk that the king's death could see "political tensions flare up, triggering a slowdown in economic growth," warned Capital Economics. Market stability will be tied to a smooth royal succession, it said. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, however, was expected to be immediately named king, but he made a surprise request to delay the process, according to military junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha. "All eyes now will turn to the succession process," the researchers added. The palace's announcement that the king was gravely ill over the past week sent shudders through the stock market and pushed the baht to a two-month low.

### Long-term fears

But the main share index rose more than four percent yesterday, with analysts saying it had been oversold amid anxiety over the king's health, while the baht also staged a rebound against the dollar. "The uncertainties and political risks have been more or less priced in," Margaret Yang, an analyst at CMC Markets in Singapore, told Bloomberg News. "We may still see some panic selling but I don't expect this to last for very long. — AFP



## INFOSYS SLASHES FORECAST OVER 'UNCERTAIN' FUTURE

**BANGALORE:** Indian software giant Infosys cut its annual earnings outlook for the second time in just three months yesterday, sending shares down almost three percent, as cautious clients rein in spending. The Bangalore-based IT services exporter reported a 6.1 percent rise in quarterly net profits year-on-year but revised down its sales forecast for the financial year, citing an "uncertain" future. Infosys shares slumped 2.57 percent on the Bombay Stock Exchange in morning trade as a sluggish global economy hits India's outsourcing industry hard with companies inclined to think twice before rushing to sign contracts.

"Considering our performance in the first half of the year and the near-term uncertain business outlook, we are revising our revenue guidance," CEO Vishal Sikka said in a statement. In July, Infosys reduced its growth projection in US dollar terms for the fiscal year 2016-17 from between 11.8 percent and 13.8 percent to between 10.8 and 12.3 percent. Yesterday that was revised down again to between 8.2 and 9.2 percent. Infosys and rival Tata Consultancy Services benefited as India became a back office to the world with companies taking advantage of the country's skilled English-speaking workforce by subcontracting work.

The companies are seen as the bellwether of India's flagship outsourcing industry but a recent tightening of the purse strings has put pressure on profits with contracts being postponed and in some cases cancelled. Infosys said consolidated net profit for the three months to September 30 was 36.06 billion rupees (\$542 million) compared with 33.98 billion rupees for the same period last year. Revenues were 173.10 billion rupees, slightly above a prediction of 171.8 billion rupees by a survey of analysts done by Bloomberg News. — AFP



**BANGALORE:** CEO of Infosys Technologies, Vishal Sikka (right) and company COO, Pravin Rao attend the press conference held to announce the IT company's Q2 results in Bangalore yesterday. — AFP

## DIGITAL REGULATION HAS US TRUCK INDUSTRY SCRAMBLING

**GREEN BAY:** A new regulation that will force US trucking companies to electronically log employee hours is designed to limit accidents by keeping tired drivers off the road. It may also drive smaller trucking firms out of business. A trucking industry survey earlier this year of mostly small operators found that 84 percent lacked electronic logs, according to load-matching firm truckstop.com.

Paper logs allow transport companies already facing razor thin margins to fudge the books, boosting their hours on the road to help the bottom line. But a mandated switch to a digital system by late December 2017, regulators say, will boost safety by preventing exhausted truckers from driving. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) forecasts the regulation would save 26 lives per year and prevent 562 injuries.

An FMCSA cost-benefit analysis found the new rule would cost truck firms \$1.8 billion across the sector to implement, but fewer crashes and less paperwork would save \$3 billion. Industry experts argue that whatever those savings, the smaller firms and independent owner operators that are the backbone of a highly fragmented market will take a productivity hit, making it difficult to pay off their trucks that have doubled in price since 2000. As a result, small to mid-size trucking outfits will need to find more drivers to haul the same amount of freight and seek other ways to cut costs in order to make it. — Reuters



**GOA:** Indian commuters wait at a bus decorated with BRICS welcome banners and photos of their leaders in Goa, India yesterday. — AP

# SOUTH ASIAN TENSIONS SEEN DOMINATING BRICS SUMMIT

## INDIA HOSTS SUMMIT OF EMERGING MARKET POWERS

**NEW DELHI:** India will take its drive to isolate Pakistan and rally the international community against cross-border militancy to a summit of emerging market powers this weekend, when it hosts BRICS nations in the western state of Goa. For Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the gathering of leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa offers an opportunity to highlight the threat he sees to Indian security from recent frontier clashes with Pakistan. But across the summit table at a resort hotel, Chinese President Xi Jinping is unlikely to have much interest in casting Beijing's alliance with Pakistan into doubt.

The final summit declaration is expected to repeat earlier condemnations of "terrorism in all its forms", say diplomats and analysts, but avoid leveling blame over tensions between the nuclear-armed South Asian rivals. Such discussions will make security a dominant issue at the eighth annual summit of the group, even as leaders also address core themes such as the global economy, financial cooperation and mutual trade. "We will be looking at the global economic and political situation, and obviously terrorism is a very important part of that," Amar Sinha, the Indian foreign ministry official responsible for the BRICS file, told a pre-summit briefing.

### Not just a 'jolly partner'

Where Modi and Xi may see eye to eye, at least privately, is in a shared desire for Islamabad to restrain Islamist militants who, in Beijing's view, pose a threat to China's plans to build a \$46 billion trade corridor that runs through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea. "Contrary to the public messaging in Islamabad, China is not the perpetual jolly partner when it comes to its relations with

Pakistan," said Michael Kugelman, a senior program associate at the Wilson Center in Washington who focuses on South Asia.

"With China's investments and economic assets growing in Pakistan, it's only natural that it would worry. All militants, whether 'good' or 'bad' as characterized by Pakistan, threaten stability and by extension China's economic interests." In addition to launching what it described as cross-border "surgical strikes" against suspected militants in Pakistan, in response to a Sept. 18 attack on an army base that killed 19 Indian soldiers, New Delhi has mounted a diplomatic offensive to isolate Islamabad. Pakistan has denied any part in the attack on the Uri army base, near the de facto border that runs through the disputed territory of Kashmir. It also denies any "surgical strikes" took place, saying there was only border firing that is relatively common along the frontier. Islamabad says India has exploited the incident to divert attention from its own security crackdown on protests sparked by the killing of a popular separatist militant leader. More than 80 civilians have been killed and thousands wounded in India's part of Kashmir, and a wide-spread curfew has been imposed.

### Expressions of support

After the Uri attack, India quickly won expressions of support from the West and from Russia, whose President Vladimir Putin will also hold a bilateral summit with Modi in Goa. China, for its part, has shown public restraint. Zhao Gancheng, director of South Asia studies at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, said that China and Pakistan were paying close attention to security threats to the trade corridor. "If Pakistan's security situation does

not improve, it will obstruct some of these projects - especially infrastructure ones," said Zhao. "In this sense, cooperation on counter-terrorism is very close." India has already engineered the collapse of a South Asian regional summit to have been hosted by Pakistan, and the Goa gathering will also feature an outreach session to countries from the Bay of Bengal region that could emerge as an alternative focus of regional cooperation.

### Working groups

BRICS leaders will support plans agreed by their national security advisers to create three working groups to cooperate on cyber security, counter-terrorism and energy security, said Sinha, the Indian foreign ministry official. But diplomats and analysts say that India's long-held ambition of joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group, a club of nuclear-trading nations, is unlikely to progress at Goa with China yet to soften its blocking stance. And, despite concerns about militancy within Pakistan, China has rebuffed India's calls for the United Nations to designate Maulana Masood Azhar, leader of the Jaish-e-Mohammed group that India blames for recent cross-border attacks, as a terrorist. China recently extended a so-called "hold" on the designation by a further three months. That reflects an evolving rivalry between the world's two most populous nations in which, under Modi, India is seeking to close huge economic and military gaps and is shifting away from traditional non-alignment and seeking a closer partnership with the United States. At the same time, China is expanding its economic and strategic reach into the Indian Ocean region, with Xi visiting Bangladesh yesterday en route to Goa where he is expected to sign loans worth \$24 billion. — Reuters

## EUROPEAN CAR SALES HIT RECORD

**MILAN:** Europe's car industry continued to rebound from its longest-ever slump, posting 7 percent growth in September to reach the highest level on record for the month, according to new figures released yesterday. Italy and Spain significantly outpaced the market, contributing double-digit growth as sales in the European Union reached a September record of 1.45 million units, the European manufacturers' body, ACEA, said.

Still, the three-year growth streak still has not returned the overall market to pre-crisis levels, which peaked at nearly 16 million units in 2007 before dropping

by a quarter over six years. New car registrations over the first nine months of the year rose 8 percent to 11.2 million units with growth in the big five markets of Italy, Spain, Germany, France and Britain. ACEA has forecast sales to reach around 14 million this year. Mass market carmakers Fiat Chrysler and Renault posted steep double-digit gains, along with premium brands Daimler and BMW. Volkswagen, still under fire from an emissions scandal, grew by a mere 5 percent, and PSA Peugeot slid by 5.2 percent.

The 17 percent surge in Italian sales was supported by leasing and fleet sales, which the government

has favored in a recent budget law giving tax breaks on big-ticket items to companies and small businesses. As a result, leasing rose by 26 percent and fleet sales by nearly half, according to Italy's car association. Fiat Chrysler sales outpaced even the bull market at 21 percent, led by premium brand Alfa Romeo and Jeep.

In Spain, a strong summer tourist season buoyed sales to rental car companies by 60 percent, even if in absolute terms private buyers sustained the market, growing by 9 percent to more than 46,500 units, followed by company car sales of 28,387. — AP

## CARMAKERS FORCED BACK TO BIGGER ENGINES IN THE NEW EMISSIONS ERA

### BOTH DIESEL AND GASOLINE FACE EMISSIONS PROBLEMS

**PARIS:** Tougher European car emissions tests being introduced in the wake of the Volkswagen scandal are about to bring surprising consequences: Bigger engines. Carmakers that have spent a decade shrinking engine capacities to meet emissions goals are now being forced into a costly U-turn, industry sources said, as more realistic on-the-road testing exposes deep flaws in their smallest motors.

Renault, General Motors and VW are preparing to enlarge or scrap some of their best-selling small car engines over the next three years, the people said. Other manufacturers are expected to follow, with both diesels and gasolines affected. The reversal makes it even harder to meet carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) targets and will challenge development budgets already stretched by a rush into electric cars and hybrids.

"The techniques we've used to reduce engine capacities will no longer allow us to meet emissions standards," said Alain Raposo, head of powertrain at the Renault-Nissan alliance. "We're reaching the limits of downsizing," he said at the Paris auto show, which ends on Saturday. Renault, VW and GM's Opel all declined to comment on specific engine plans. For years, carmakers kept pace with European Union CO<sub>2</sub> goals by shrinking engine capacities, while adding turbochargers to make up lost power. Three-cylinder motors below one litre have become common in cars up to VW Golf-sized compacts; some Fiat models run on twin-cylinders.

These mini-motors sailed through official lab tests conducted - until now - on rollers at unrealistically moderate temperatures and speeds. Carmakers, regulators and green groups knew that real-world CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions were much higher, but the discrepancy remained unresolved. All that is

about to change. Starting next year, new models will be subjected to realistic on-the-road testing for NO<sub>x</sub>, with all cars required to comply by 2019. Fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> will follow two years later under a new global test standard.

Independent testing in the wake of VW's exposure last year as a US diesel emissions cheat has shed more light on the scale of the problem facing automakers. Carmakers' smallest European engines, when driven at higher loads than current tests allow, far exceed legal emissions levels. Heat from the souped-up turbos generates diesel NO<sub>x</sub> up to 15 times over the limit; gasoline equivalents lose fuel-efficiency and spew fine particles and carbon monoxide.

"They might be doing OK in the current European test cycle, but in the real world they are not performing," said Pavan Potluri, an analyst with influential forecaster IHS Automotive. "So there's actually a bit of 'upsizing' going on, particularly in diesel."

#### In retreat

Carmakers have kept understandably quiet about the scale of the problem or how they plan to address it. But industry sources shared details of a retreat already underway. GM will not replace its current 1.2-litre diesel when the engines are updated on a new architecture arriving in 2019, people with knowledge of the matter said. The smallest engine in the range will be 25-30 percent bigger. VW is replacing its 1.4 litre three-cylinder diesel with a four-cylinder 1.6 for cars like the Polo, they said, while Renault is planning a near-10 percent enlargement to its 1.6 litre R9M diesel, which had replaced a 1.9-litre model in 2011.

In real-driving conditions, the French carmaker's 0.9-litre gasoline H4Bt injects excess fuel to prevent overheating, resulting in high emissions of unburned

hydrocarbons, fine particles and carbon monoxide. Cleaning that up with exhaust technology would be too expensive, sources say, so the three-cylinder will be dropped for a larger successor developing more torque at lower regimes to stay cool. The turnaround on size is a European phenomenon, coinciding with diesel's sharp decline in smaller cars. Larger engines prevalent in North America, China and emerging markets still have room to improve real emissions by shrinking.

#### Inevitable reckoning

Fiat, Renault and Opel have the worst real NO<sub>x</sub> emissions among the newest "Euro 6" diesels, according to test data from several countries. They now "face the biggest burden" of compliance costs, brokerage Evercore ISI warned last month. Such reckonings are the inevitable result of on-the-road testing, said Thomas Weber, head of research and development at Mercedes, which has nothing below four cylinders. "It becomes apparent that a small engine is not an advantage," Weber told Reuters. "That's why we didn't jump on the three-cylinder engine trend."

The tougher tests may kill diesel engines smaller than 1.5 liters and gasolines below about 1.2, analysts predict. That in turn increases the challenge of meeting CO<sub>2</sub> goals, adding urgency to the scramble for electric cars and hybrids. VW has been far more vocal about ambitious plans announced in June to sell 2-3 million electric cars annually by 2025 - about a quarter of its current vehicle production. "You can't downsize beyond a certain point, so the focus is shifting to a combination of solutions," said Sudeep Kaippalli, a Frost & Sullivan analyst who predicts a hybrids surge.

In future, he said, "downsizing will mean you take a smaller engine and add an electric motor to it". — Reuters



**SINGAPORE:** People walk along the Marina Bay next to the financial business district office buildings in Singapore yesterday. Singapore's export-driven economy shrank in the third quarter from the previous three months, the government said yesterday, as global trade remained subdued and lower energy prices hurt the oil and gas services sector. — AFP

## SINGAPORE ECONOMY SHRINKS 4.1 PERCENT IN THIRD QUARTER

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore's export-driven economy shrank the most in four years in the third quarter, officials said yesterday, as manufacturing sharply contracted on weaker global demand. The city-state, which is regarded as a bellwether for Asia's other trade-reliant economies, has been hit hard by the slump in crude prices and sluggish world growth, which have hurt its key oil and gas services sector. Its central bank, which uses the exchange rate rather than interest rates to keep prices stable, yesterday maintained its monetary policy of zero-percent appreciation in the exchange rate for the local currency. The economy contracted 4.1 percent in the September quarter from the previous three months, according to preliminary data released by the trade ministry.

That compares to analyst expectations for flat growth and comes after a 0.2 percent increase in the previous three months. On an annual basis, growth came in at an anaemic 0.6 percent, the slowest pace since 2009. Analysts pointed to a 17.4 percent quarter-on-quarter slump in manufacturing, which makes up about a fifth of the economy, for the disappointing data. Demand for Singapore's exports, which include oil drilling rigs, pharmaceuticals and semiconductors, has been weakening as the global outlook deteriorates.

"The marine and offshore engineering sector is the weakest cluster of Singapore's manufacturing sector," Rajiv Biswas, chief Asia Pacific economist at IHS Global Insight said. "Oil and gas companies have sharply reduced expenditure on oil rigs and offshore support vessels." This month debt-laden Swiber Holdings, a Singapore-listed company that provides construction services for international oil and gas projects, was placed under judicial management as it implements a rescue plan. Singapore accounts for 70 percent of the global market for jack-up rigs and is a major player in offshore support vessels for the oil and gas industry.

The recent upswing in crude prices to around \$50 a barrel - after toying with 13-year lows below \$30 in February - is not enough to "trigger any significant upturn in exploration and development expenditure by the upstream oil and gas industry," Biswas said. Singapore's services industry contracted 0.1 percent year-on-year and were down 1.9 percent from the previous quarter. Construction remained a bright spot in the economy, growing 2.5 percent year-on-year and 0.5 percent from the previous quarter as the government ramped up spending. Singapore in August narrowed its full-year economic growth forecast to 1.0-2.0 percent from 1.0-3.0 percent as projected previously. It grew 2.0 percent in 2015. — AFP

## JPMORGAN EARNINGS FALL 8%, STILL BEAT ESTIMATES

**NEW YORK:** JPMorgan Chase's third-quarter profits fell 8 percent from a year earlier, the bank said yesterday, as higher revenue in retail and investment banking was offset as the bank had to put aside more money to cover loans that might go bad. The results still beat Wall Street's expectations, however, and JPMorgan Chase's stock rose in early pre-market trading.

The largest US bank by assets and revenue said it earned \$6.29 billion in the quarter, or \$1.58 per share, down from a profit of \$6.80 billion, or \$1.68 per share, in the same period a year earlier. The results beat the \$1.39 per share analysts were looking for, according to FactSet. "We delivered strong results this quarter with each of our businesses performing well," JPMorgan's CEO Jamie Dimon said in prepared remarks.

As it has been for several quarters now, JPMorgan remained under pressure from the Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates at near record low levels. Banks are directly impacted by low interest rates because it inhibits their ability to charge more in interest when their customers borrow. In JPMorgan's consumer bank, its largest division by revenue, reported a 16 percent decline in net income from a year ago to \$2.20 billion. JPMorgan was able to increase deposits sharply in the quarter and also originated more mortgages, but it had to set aside more money to cover potentially bad loans in its credit card and auto divisions.

The bank also said it had increased promotional and new credit card account costs in the quarter, likely tied to the interest in the bank's Chase Sapphire Reserve card which debuted in the quarter to unexpectedly strong demand. JPMorgan's investment bank had a particularly strong quarter, with pre-tax profit of \$2.91 billion, double its earnings from a year earlier. A large driver of the gain was the bank's bond trading desks, where revenue rose 48 percent from a year earlier, compared to the 1 percent rise in revenue in stock trading.

Investment banking advisory fees, which are earned when JPMorgan's bankers help companies issue debt, merge, acquire or issue stock, was up 14 percent from a year ago. Revenue rose to \$24.67 billion, compared with \$22.78 billion in the same period a year earlier. — AP



JIANGXI: Chinese customers select vegetables at a supermarket in Jiujiang, east China's Jiangxi province yesterday. — AFP

## CHINA'S PRODUCER PRICES RISE FOR 1ST TIME IN NEARLY 5 YEARS

### CONSUMER PRICES ALSO PICK UP MORE THAN EXPECTED

**BEIJING:** China's producer prices unexpectedly rose in September for the first time in nearly five years thanks to higher commodity prices, welcome news for the government as it struggles to whittle down a growing mountain of corporate debt. Official inflation data yesterday also showed a pickup in consumer prices, helping to ease investors' concerns about the health of the world's second-largest economy after disappointing trade numbers on Thursday rattled global markets.

Corporate China sits on \$18 trillion in debt, equivalent to about 169 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), according to the most recent figures from the Bank for International Settlements. Most of it is held by state-owned companies. "An uptick in inflation, if sustained, would be good news for China's ability to service its overhang of corporate debt," Bill Adams, senior international economist at PNC Financial Service Group, said in a note. "With low interest rates keeping debt service costs in check and producer prices rising, the outlook for Chinese industrial profits is improving." The producer price index (PPI) rose 0.1 percent in September from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics said.

While the gain was slight, it was the first time producer prices have expanded on an annual basis since January 2012, and came a bit earlier than the year-end timeframe that some analysts

had expected. Producer prices had edged up on month-on-month basis over the summer. Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted a decline of just 0.3 percent on-year, after a drop of 0.8 percent in August. China's factory prices have been falling since March 2012, and more than four years of producer price deflation have squeezed industrial companies' cash flow.

Profits at roughly a quarter of Chinese companies were too low in the first half of this year to cover their debt servicing obligations, as earnings languish and loan burdens increase, according to a recent Reuters analysis. However, a construction boom, fueled by a government infrastructure spending spree and a housing rally, have helped boost prices for building materials from steel to copper in recent months, while coal prices have jumped as the government tries to shut excess mining capacity.

Prices of ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals and coal mining together rose 4.1 percent on-year, a key factor in the PPI turning positive, the statistics bureau said. The number of industries registering price increases also rose to 25, eight more than the previous month, indicating that a recovery in Chinese companies' pricing power was becoming more broad-based. "Debt pressure will certainly be reduced," said Zhou Hao, analyst at Commerzbank AG in Singapore. But he cautioned that

China's mounting debt is also a structural problem, and that higher prices for commodities such as coal and steel may be "speculative" in nature.

Consumer prices also pick up. Consumer price inflation also quickened more than expected to 1.9 percent in September year-on-year, mainly due to higher food prices. Food prices were up 3.2 percent in September on-year, compared with 1.3 percent in August. Analysts had expected the consumer price index (CPI) to rise 1.6 percent from 1.3 percent in August, a 10-month low. "A rebound in CPI growth is largely due to seasonal factors, and the overall growth trend is quite stable. It also dismissed previous concerns of deflation risks," said Zhang Yongjun, analyst at the China International Centre For Economic & Technical Exchanges.

The end of deflation is likely to dash any lingering expectations of further cuts in Chinese interest rates or banks' reserve ratios, economists at ANZ said. The odds of such moves by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) had already been seen as rapidly receding due to growing concerns in the government about rapidly rising debt levels and potential asset bubbles.

"However, we do not expect the PBOC to tighten liquidity soon either," ANZ said in a note. "The PBOC should be balancing the yuan exchange rate, deleveraging, and the concerns around a slowing economy." — Reuters

## GOLD DOWN; DOLLAR GAINS

**LONDON:** Gold fell yesterday as the dollar rose and investors focused on US retail sales data and comments from Federal Reserve officials that could put the central bank on track to raise interest rates by year-end. Spot gold was down 0.3 percent at \$1,253.61 an ounce by 1154 GMT. US gold futures fell 0.2 percent at \$1,254.70 an ounce.

"We are in the midst of one of those large Fed-related moves we saw an almost \$100 upswing in June and July and we are now seeing a \$100 decline in September and October as markets see a Fed rate hike coming in," ING Bank senior strategist Hamza Khan said. The dollar gained 0.4 percent against a basket of six major currencies. Yesterday's US retail sales data at 1230 GMT will be followed by remarks by Fed Chair Janet Yellen, who will address a Boston Fed economics conference at which Boston Fed governor Eric Rosengren will also speak.

The Fed's minutes of its last rate-setting meeting, released on Wednesday, showed several policymakers felt a rate hike was warranted "relatively soon" if the US economy continued to strengthen, and prompted investors to raise their bets of an increase at its December policy meeting. Markets are now pricing in around a 70 percent chance that the Fed will move. Gold is highly sensitive to increases in US interest rates, which can lift the opportunity cost of holding non-interest-bearing gold. "The dollar will likely push higher going into year-end, offering gold its most formidable headwind and even countering the impact of weaker equities," INTEL FCStone said in a note.

Spot gold may consolidate further in a narrow range of \$1,250-\$1,266 per ounce for one day before falling to the Oct. 7 low of \$1,241.20, according to Reuters technical analyst Wang Tao. Holdings of the SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, rose 0.28 percent to 961.57 tons on Thursday. Among other precious metals, silver inched up 0.1 percent at \$17.46 an ounce. Platinum fell 0.5 percent to \$932.25 an ounce, after touching its lowest since March in the previous session. It was down 3.5 percent for the week. Palladium was unchanged at \$638.10 after touching a new three-month low of \$633.22 an ounce. — Reuters



**OHIO:** Megan Johnson counts money from a sale at Chagrin Hardware in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Yesterday, the Commerce Department released US retail sales data for September. — AP

# US RETAIL SALES REBOUNDS

STRONG AUTO PURCHASES BUOY RETAIL SALES; INFLATION STIRRING

**WASHINGTON:** US retail sales rebounded in September amid a surge in motor vehicle purchases and a rise in discretionary spending, pointing to sustained domestic demand that reinforces expectations of an interest rate increase from the Federal Reserve in December. Other data yesterday suggested a pickup in inflation, with producer prices rising broadly last month to record their biggest year-on-year increase since December 2014. The reports were the latest indication that the economy regained momentum in the third quarter after a lackluster first-half performance.

The Commerce Department said retail sales increased 0.6 percent after declining 0.2 percent in August. Sales were up 2.7 percent from a year ago. Excluding automobiles, gasoline, building materials and food services, retail sales edged up 0.1 percent last month,

reversing August's 0.1 percent drop. These so-called core retail sales correspond most closely with the consumer spending component of gross domestic product.

"We see nothing in the broader picture to raise any concerns about the health of consumption in the period ahead, as we continue to see tightening labor markets and an uptrend in wage gains as supporting such spending," said Anthony Karydakos, chief economic strategist at Miller Tabak in New York. Economists had forecast overall retail sales increasing 0.6 percent and core sales advancing 0.4 percent last month. Minutes of the Fed's Sept. 20-21 policy meeting published on Wednesday showed several officials believed it would be appropriate to increase interest rates "relatively soon" if the economy continued to gain strength.

The US central bank raised its bench-

mark overnight interest rate last December and has held it steady since, largely because of concerns over low inflation. But inflation appears to be rising steadily. In a separate report, the Labor Department said its producer price index for final demand increased 0.3 percent last month after being unchanged in August. In the 12 months through September, the PPI jumped 0.7 percent, the biggest increase since December 2014. The PPI was flat in the 12 months through August. A 0.7 percent increase in the cost of goods, including energy, accounted for more than three quarters of the rise in final demand prices.

Producer prices are rising as some of the drag from the dollar's past surge starts to ease. The dollar rally appears to have peaked early this year and oil prices having pushed off multi-decade lows, which economists expect could allow inflation to gradually rise toward the Fed's 2 percent target. US stock futures pared gains slightly after the data. The dollar held gains, while US Treasuries trimmed losses. The Atlanta Fed is currently forecasting the economy growing at a 2.1 percent annualized rate in the third quarter after a 1.4 percent expansion pace in the second quarter.

Auto sales rose 1.1 percent last month after slipping 0.3 percent in August. Retail sales were also boosted by receipts at service stations, which jumped 2.4 percent as gasoline prices increased. Sales at online retailers rose 0.3 percent. Despite core retail sales rising modestly last month, households are boosting discretionary spending. Sales at restaurants and bars advanced 0.8 percent, the largest gain since February, and receipts at sporting goods and hobby stores surged 1.4 percent. There were also strong increases in sales at furniture and building material stores. But sales at electronics and appliance outlets fell 0.9 percent and receipts at clothing stores were flat. — Reuters

## 'LOVE IT!' AUSSIE VEGEMITE FANS HAIL MARMITE MESS

**SYDNEY:** Australians have dipped into Britain's woes about its famous Marmite spread with relish, reigniting the long-brewing rivalry with Down Under's iconic Vegemite. The battle of the yeast extracts escalated this week when Marmite was yanked from supermarket shelves in Britain over a price dispute as the pound plunged. "Don't panic about the @marmite shortage @GREATBritain! Your Australian cousins shall send supplies of our superior @Vegemite# Marmitegate," tweeted Sydneysider @dominicpatters. "Come on people. Just accept that #vegemite is far superior to #marmite," chimed fellow Australian resident @cairnsrachel.

Britain's biggest retailer Tesco halt-

ed sales of Marmite, the yeast extract which is mostly eaten on toast and is known for the "love it or hate it" slogan, and other top Unilever brands on Wednesday over a price dispute. While Unilever later said the supply issue with Tesco had been resolved, the humor was lingering on social media. "All these people saying Vegemite is a replacement for #Marmite are indulging the very worst toast-truth politics," tweeted one wit. In New Zealand the British crisis revived memories of the country's own "Marmageddon", which began in March 2012 after the Christchurch factory manufacturing the salty spread had to close due to earthquake damage. — AFP

## SAMSUNG SEES FURTHER \$3BN PROFIT HIT FROM NOTE 7 CRISIS

**SEOUL:** Samsung yesterday said the crisis over its exploding Note 7 smartphones would cost another \$3 billion-plus in lost profit over the next two quarters, but hoped expanded sales of its other flagship handset would help cushion the impact. The profit warning came two days after the South Korean electronics giant slashed its operating profit for the third quarter by \$2.3 billion. After a recall problem with the large-sized Galaxy Note 7 turned into a full-blown crisis, Samsung announced earlier this week that it was scrapping the model entirely—a devastating move for a company that prides itself on the quality production of cutting-edge technology.

On top of the third-quarter loss, Samsung said the drop in sales arising from the decision to discontinue the Note 7 would continue to impact profit margins in October-March—including the crucial holiday buying season. It estimated an operating profit loss in the fourth quarter at around the "mid-2 trillion (\$2.2 billion) won range" and 1.0 trillion won for the first quarter of 2017. "Moving forward, Samsung Electronics plans to normalize its mobile business by expanding sales of flagship models such as the Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge," the company said in a statement.

Samsung announced a recall of 2.5 million units of the oversized Galaxy Note 7 smartphone in early September after several devices exploded or caught fire. When replacement phones also started to combust, the company eventually decided to kill off the Note 7 for good. The company blamed faulty batteries made by an unnamed supplier—widely believed to be its sister company Samsung SDI.

### Brand costs

But numerous experts and analysts said the problem may have been with the handset's underlying technology, and Samsung's decision to rush the launch of the smartphone ahead of the latest iPhone from arch-rival Apple. In its statement, Samsung vowed to "focus on enhancing product safety for consumers by making significant changes in its quality assurance processes". Industry analysts have suggested the Note 7 fiasco could end up costing Samsung a great deal more, with major losses tied to the harder-to-calculate damage done to brand reputation.

"And this figure doesn't take into account the huge marketing costs for Samsung to win back customer loyalty and to regain the trust of mobile carriers," said Greg Roh, an analyst at HMC Investment Securities. "It will have to spend a lot of money to recover and much work has to be done." The stock market, which has largely factored in the inevitable hit Samsung will be forced to take, reacted calmly to yesterday's announcement. Samsung's share price was up 1.3 percent by the close of trading after opening in negative territory, down 0.4 percent. SR Kwon, an analyst at Dongbu Securities, said Samsung's loss forecast was largely aimed at muting speculation about just how bad the profit downturn was likely to be.

Various analysts have estimated a financial cost to Samsung of anywhere between \$10 billion and \$20 billion. "Samsung want to get the discussion over with. It's like they are telling the market: 'Stop speculating about something you don't know,'" Kwon said, adding that the final fourth-quarter earnings would be critical for assessing the real damage done by the crisis. "Then we'll know whether it was able to cover the loss with its other models," he said. — AFP



**SEOUL:** A woman walks by an advertisement of the Samsung Electronics Galaxy S7 Edge and S7 smartphone in Seoul yesterday. — AP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016

# Kuwait Times Weekender

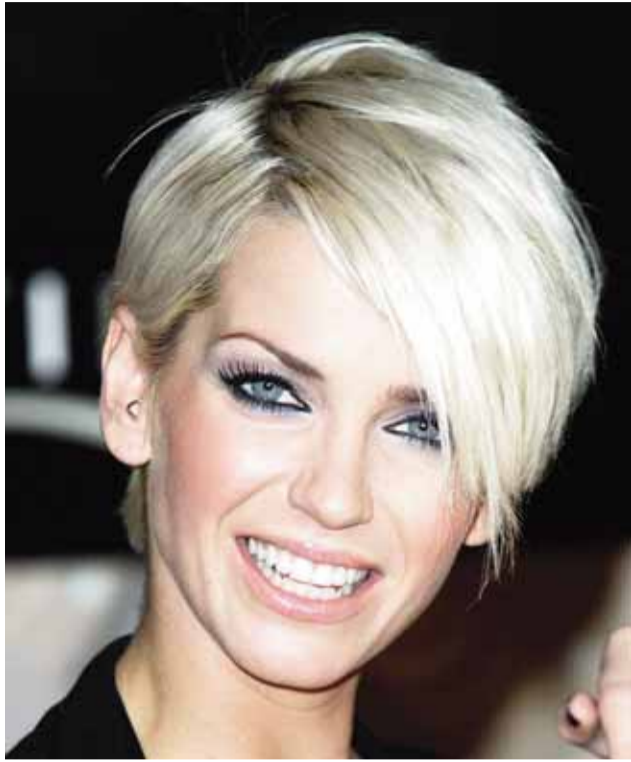
ANNIVERSARY  
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Kuwait Times

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

WINDSOR: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, views a painting of herself by British artist Henry Ward, at Windsor Castle yesterday.— AFP

## Tribute concert held for Prince

SEE PAGE 24



## Sarah Harding is fully 'committed' to performing in 'Ghost the Musical'

The former Girls Aloud star was forced to withdraw from her lead role as Molly halfway through the show at Blackpool's Winter Gardens on Monday night (10.10.16) but was able to return to the stage on Tuesday evening (11.10.16) to resume duties. Sarah has now revealed she is living with "chronic pain" from rupturing a ligament in her knee in February while competing on the dangerous winter sports show but despite her injury she has no intention of quitting 'Ghost' - which is her first theatre role. In a statement issued by Sarah, 34, to BANG Showbiz, she said: "I would like to go on the record and say since appearing in 'The Jump', I have been in constant pain with my knee injury, and as anyone in chronic pain will be able to tell you, it can take a massive toll on your mental as well as physical wellbeing. There is of course a pressure I feel to perform daily and I try to give the role of Molly in 'Ghost The Musical' my all. However, I have to say the relentless scrutiny, the trolling and the sensationalised and often

fabricated stories do not make this any easier. "This opportunity felt like a dream come true and despite it now feeling like there is a personal agenda to make me quit, I'm committed to the production, cast, crew and amazing audiences round the UK who have been nothing but kind and supportive. I have the joy of working with some incredibly talented individuals, and I still highly recommend people come and see the show to judge for themselves." Sarah stars opposite former 'Hollyoaks' actor Andy Moss - who plays Molly's late lover Sam - in 'Ghost The Musical' which is based on the popular 1990 movie which featured Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore in the lead roles. The show moves on next to the Palace Theatre Manchester where it will run from Tuesday October 25 to Saturday October 29.



## Kevin Hart doesn't believe in fame

The 'Central Intelligence' star says the public unfairly "build" celebrities up only to "beat them down" again, like he says they did with Britney Spears when she went through a breakdown in 2007. Speaking at the Sirius XM Town Hall in New York City to promote his new film 'Kevin Hart: What Now?', he said: "This s\*\*t ain't real. It can be snatched from you. Look at how many stars they build up to beat down. "Look at Britney Spears when she was the hottest thing ever. Then Britney went through a meltdown and everybody is like 'Well we don't know about this f\*\*\*ing chick here.' Then she got back again and everybody was like, 'We love you Britney!' It was like 'What?! You're f\*\*\*ing all over the place, people.'" And the 37-year-old actor and comedian insists he will always put his children - Hendrix, eight, and Heaven, 11 - first when they're out and about but will be

polite about declining pictures or autographs during those times. He added: "It's not like your life changes because of the level of success that you have. At the end of the day people are people. "If you come up to take a picture of me and I'm with my kids, I'm gonna politely tell you, 'Hey man, I appreciate your support, but I'm on daddy time right now.' As a person you should understand that." Meanwhile, Kevin has his own fair share of fans who go to extreme lengths to prove their devotion to him, with one tattooing his back with a picture of the actor's face. He said: "A guy got a tattoo of my face on his lower back. That was weird. I was like, 'I don't know what you did that for, sir. I don't know why it's there. I don't really know what I'm supposed to do after seeing that. I guess thank you.'"

## Melanie Chisolm hates the name Mel C

The 42-year-old pop star has never liked the moniker which she has been known as since her time in the Spice Girls, in which she was also known as Sporty Spice. Melanie dislikes the title because she associates it with negativity. She said: "The Mel C thing has always really bugged me. Because in my brain it links to negative headlines. I don't know why, it just irks me. It's not my name." As well as wanting to distance herself from the Mel C name, the 'Anymore' singer has also distanced herself from the Spice Girls refusing to reunite with Geri Horner, Emma Bunton and Mel B for new music and a concert to celebrate their 20th anniversary. Melanie admits she does feel "guilty" about spurning the reunion but she just wants to focus on her solo career and the release of her latest album 'Version of Me'. In an interview with The I newspaper, she said: "I feel bad and I feel guilty. There's a lot of negativity that surrounds it and there shouldn't be really. I'm not turning my back on the Spice Girls - I'm very proud of them..." The 'I Turn to You' hitmaker made her decision to not reunite with the Spice Girls after learning that former member Victoria Beckham would not be returning to the group. She said: "It was just irking me that going back as a four-piece didn't quite cut it. With people out of the mix, whoever it is, the dynamic changes."





## Justin Bieber dined on salmon and mash in a pub on Thursday evening

The 'Company' hitmaker shocked staff at the Kings Oak Hotel in Essex when he waltzed in for dinner after a walk in nearby Epping Forest. Taking to their official Facebook account, they wrote: "So no Biggie... Justin Bieber just had dinner in the Kings Oak... !!!!! ...stroll in the lovely forest... extremely kind to our KO staff... Hugs and all ... If it's good enough for Bieber... #justinBieber #AMAZING #comeagainsoon!!! (sic)" He washed down his home-cooked dinner of fish and potatoes with a glass of milk. Paula Silkman, events manager at the hotel, told the Daily Mirror: "He ordered the salmon and mash with a glass of milk. He wasn't drinking alcohol. We've kept the glass. I think

one of the girls took it home. It hasn't been washed! "We respected his wishes and didn't take any selfies while he was here. He was very lovely and spoke to some of the young girls who work here, just chit-chatting, before giving everyone hugs when he left." Justin Bieber is currently in the midst of his residency at the O2 Arena in London for his 'Purpose' world tour and was recently seen playing football with a group of kids at a school in north London. Sharing a picture on Twitter, one excitedly wrote: "I'm screaming JUSTIN BIEBER just turned up + played football with all my mates. Why is he here and why did he want to play with us. (sic)"



## Emma Stone feels 'lucky' to be paid the same as her male counterparts

The 'Birdman' star doesn't think it is fair that women and men should get paid different amounts but says she is one of the fortunate few who hasn't been subjected to that pay gap recently. She said: "We should all be treated fairly and paid fairly. I've been lucky enough to have equal pay to my male costars. Not 'lucky.' I've had pay equal to my male costars in the past few films. But our industry ebbs and flows in a way that's like, 'How much are you bringing into the box office?' 'How much are you the draw or is the other person the draw?' "I felt uncomfortable talking to my agent or lawyer about it because I was like, 'Do people want to see me as much as they want to see Steve Carell?' It's a weird conversation to have because it's trying to see oneself from the outside. What are we at [nationally]? Seventy-nine cents to the dollar? It's insane. There's no excuse for it anymore." And the 27-year-old actress admits she worries about people not wanting to ever hire her again. She added: "You always feel a little bit like that. That you could again be an outsider, that something could make people never want to hire you again." Emma is currently single following her split from Andrew Garfield and she admits the last year has been "interesting". She told the November issue of Vogue magazine: "[He's] someone I still love very much ... It's been interesting. It's been a good year. And sad. Pros and cons."

## Madonna has been named Billboard's 2016 Woman of the Year

The 'Living for Love' hitmaker will be handed the honour for her inspirational career and influence which reaches far beyond music. Janice Min, president and chief creative officer of The Hollywood Reporter-Billboard Media Group, said: "Madonna is one of a miniscule number of super-artists whose influence and career transcend music. With her creative vision, relentless innovation, and dedication to philanthropic causes, she is an inspiration to hundreds of millions of people around the world, all while shattering every career record out there. "She is an important feminist on top of that, a one-of-a-kind artist who's used her influence to change the conversation around women, sexuality and equal rights." Whilst Liz Gateley, EVP and Head of Programming for Lifetime, added: "Madonna is an extraordinary artist, emblematic of the strength, courage and resilience that Lifetime celebrates, and we are thrilled to offer our platform to recognize her in every way she deserves. We're delighted to continue our partnership with Billboard and bring this powerful event directly to our viewers." The 58-year-old singer - who has Lourdes, 20, Rocco, 16, David, 11, and Mercy, 10 - has had an amazing year so far, wowing crowds across the world with her Rebel Heart Tour. Madonna is also known for her charity work and her organisation Raising Malawi is currently busy building The Mercy James Institute of Pediatric Surgery and Intensive Care facility in Malawi, which will be opened in 2017. Madonna will be handed her award at the 11th annual Women in Music event on December 9 in New York City. The ceremony will be broadcasted three days later, on December 12, and will go hand in hand with the release of Billboard's Women in Music list, which features the 50 most powerful female executives in the music industry.



## Aled Jones took to the skies to perform a rendition of 'Walking In The Air' on Thursday

The 45-year-old singer wowed crowds on board the FLY-BE Flight BE1324 from London City to Cardiff Airport with their very own early Christmas concert as he performed a version of his hit track in celebration of his new album. He said: "I have extremely fond memories of recording and performing 'Walking in the Air', and now Christmas wouldn't be the same without it! "To sing it whilst looking out at the clouds and huge expanse of sky was a very special moment indeed. All we needed was the Snowman!" The album, titled 'One Voice at Christmas', includes a number of popular festive songs including 'O Holy Night', 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' and 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'. 'Walking in the Air' leads the album with a special version rearranged by Howard Blake, where Aled duets with his younger self. He added: "This year has been a great one for me. The reaction to One Voice earlier this year was really humbling so to do it again for Christmas - well, Christmas has come early for me. "I've performed in some pretty special places around the world, but never 18,000ft up in a plane! I'm sure my 12-year-old self would think that's very cool. Thankfully we had a pretty smooth flight to Cardiff, so hopefully hit all the right notes!" 'One Voice at Christmas' will be released on Friday November 25 on the Classic



Nicole Scherzinger performs during a tribute concert honoring the late musician Prince at Xcel Arena, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016.



Ana Moura performs during a tribute concert honoring the late musician Prince at Xcel Arena, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016.

# Official tribute concert held for Prince

6 months later, fans still mourn



Ana Moura performs during a tribute concert honoring the late musician Prince at Xcel Arena, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016.

**H**ave you ever missed someone so much that even the thought of them made you burst into tears? Now imagine that feeling drenched in purple rain. Nearly six months after the shocking death of Prince, some superfans are still grieving hard, creating tearful memes, snapping up "I Still Miss Prince" T-shirts featuring a despondent Charlie Brown, sharing photos and seeking solace in an explosion of fresh concert videos and unreleased music on YouTube.

They see no end in sight to their sadness, especially with regular Prince developments in the news - details on the death investigation, his house being turned into a museum and Thursday's official tribute concert in his hometown of Minneapolis among them.

#### Still in shock

Maria Newport still cries regularly over the loss. She broke up with her boyfriend soon after Prince was found dead April 21. When she heard about it, "I just started wailing. Like, fetal position, in my bed." As for the boyfriend, she said he didn't get it, in the raw moment or in the weeks that followed. "He could not understand. He couldn't understand the pain," Newport said of the guy she had been seeing for about a year and thought she would marry. "He would say, 'This is the dumbest thing ever. Like, you've never met this man.'" Ron Worthy, who lives in Brooklyn, runs a music-focused website, Soulhead.com, and recalls his first encounter with Prince's music, listening to the naughty "Soft and Wet" on the radio when he was a tender 7 years old. He knew it was about stuff grown folks do, but that and Prince's numerous other sex songs "basically gave you instructions

on some level on how to be vulnerable with women, how to be a competent and giving and unselfish lover."

He said of the death, "I just walked around in a daze for weeks. I still cry when I hear certain songs like 'Breakdown' and 'Adore.'"

Jazz buff Cheryl Emerson, at 66, doesn't fit the traditional Prince demographic but she, too, is still profoundly saddened by the loss. She wouldn't let her Prince fan of a daughter, Rana Emerson, see the Oscar-winning "Purple Rain" at age 13 in San Antonio, Texas, shipping her off with her little brother to their grandparents' house so she and her husband could go alone opening weekend.

Emerson redeemed herself years later, when Rana - now 45 - was in her 20s. The two went to see Prince together twice, and Rana three more times on her own. "My heart's still broken," the elder Emerson said. "Why? Why wasn't there someone there to prevent it, to help him, to see what he was doing, to give him advice?"

She was referring to Prince's accidental painkiller overdose at 57 after decades of residual pain from epic live performances that had him madly jumping off pianos, doing multiple splits and - to these fans - giving them everything he had.

Daughter Rana, who works as a higher education administrator in New York, is also still deeply affected by Prince's death but takes a little comfort in so many details that have surfaced about the enormity of his philanthropy.

"What I'm feeling, I know it's not going to pass anytime soon," she said. While Prince's brilliance as a musician is what many fans may miss most, for his devoted followers, his loss means something more. Cheryl Emerson appreciated



what he meant for black people, his trailblazing ways, and in particular, his battles for artists' rights.

"We were proud that he was fighting the system when he was writing slave on his face and changed his name to the symbol and all of that," she explained. "He was doing these things for other people who would come along later. Not just himself."

**Androgynous Prince**

Brooks Brown, a 44-year-old lesbian living in Albany, New York, recalls being drawn to the androgynous Prince when she was growing up in Alabama, appreciating him as someone to identify with. "He was so gender fluid and kind of race fluid, too. I was like 11 and 12 and I felt that way a lot and felt that in him. He was so confident," said Brown, who is a web administrator for an education nonprofit.

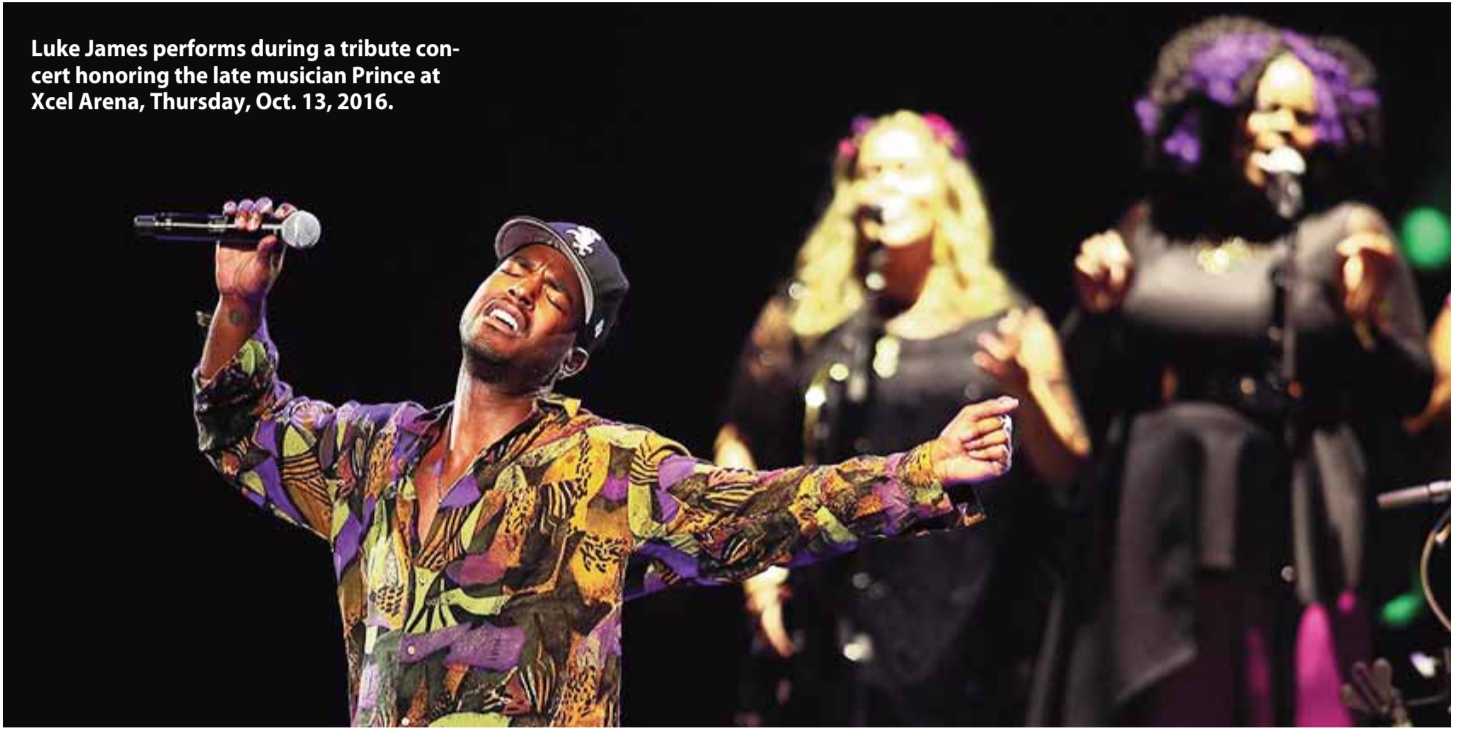
"It's still coming in waves," Brown said of her sadness. "It just knocked the wind right out of me when he died." She first saw Prince live in 2004. Worthy saw him several times. Newport had seen him just the one time, at his final show in Atlanta, but her friend, Margo Davis, a 40-year-old human resources manager, can barely count the number of Prince shows she enjoyed, including some of his famous after-parties and concerts all over the United States, in London and at Prince's Paisley Park just outside of Minneapolis.

Off the top of her head, she estimated more than 20. She has saved her ticket stubs. Every last one, including the one to Prince's last, intimate piano show in Atlanta with Newport, just a week before he died. "It's a spiritual connection for me," Davis said. "I had to leave work when he passed. I still have days, like, it can't be real. It's still so hard. I couldn't listen to his music, I didn't turn on the TV or pay attention to any of the tributes. I'm finally able to listen, but in a very limited way."

Like Davis, Newport is also still having a hard time turning on Prince's music, but why does she think his death was different? Many icons have come and gone, after all. "There was a depth of understanding that you got when listening to his music that just took you to another place," said Newport, along with other still-sad fans.

Newport and Davis check in with each other regularly on the Prince front. "She'll send me a random text and say, you know, 'Today is just a bad one.' And I'm, like, I get it," Newport said, melting into tears. "I don't know how I'll come out from under this cloud." — AP

Luke James performs during a tribute concert honoring the late musician Prince at Xcel Arena, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016.



Shelby J performs form during a tribute concert honoring the late musician Prince at Xcel Arena, Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016.



Margo Davis, left, and Derek Webster comb through Davis' collection of Prince memorabilia at her home.



Margo Davis poses for a portrait as she lays next to a collection of Prince memorabilia at her home.—AP photos



**HONG KONG:** This picture taken on August 9, 2016 shows a display of unwanted statues of deities, gathered and repaired after their owners discarded them, on a rocky slope running down to the sea.—AFP

# Unwanted deities find new home in Hong Kong

**T**ucked away on a coastal Hong Kong hillside is a different type of recycling point—here, thousands of unwanted statues of deities look out to sea, gathered and repaired after their owners discard them.

Dedicated volunteer Wong Wing-pong attends to the colorful collection of figures which are perched on a rocky slope running down to the sea in the south of the city. Twice daily he sweeps away leaves and burns incense sticks as offerings to the unwanted gods, ranging from Buddhist and Taoist to local deities and Christian icons.

A retired butcher, 85-year-old Wong has been looking after the statues for 17 years after stumbling across a small neglected collection on the outskirts on the site, near the residential district of Wah Fu, while he was out walking. Back then there were a dozen unattended statues, some broken. Now the spot has grown into a popular destination for discarded figures, and is known locally as “A sky full of gods and Buddhas”.

Wong says new statues arrive every month from a number of sources—restaurants that are undergoing renovation, private homes where they can no longer be accommodated. He spruces them up and some who have donated figures still come to worship them. “No one should demean god. If they are out here, we should treat them well,” Wong told AFP. “If they are broken, I will glue them back together...I don’t dare throw them away.”

It goes against the conscience. Residents say they are thankful to Mr Wong. One woman in her 80s, who gave her name as Ms Wan, said she still visits statues of local deities Guan Yin, goddess of mercy, and Guan Yu, inspired by a Chinese general, which she left at Wah Fu five years ago. “The place is very well kept. I am thankful to him,” said Wan, who removed the figures from her home because some of her relatives converted to Christianity and did not want them on display.

Another resident, 65-year-old retiree Tse Sum swims off the shore near the site every day and also praised Wong for his dedication. “If they are dumped they are trash,” said Tse of the

unwanted gods. “But if they are kept in order, they can be works of art.”

## ‘Give them shelter’

Religion and local customs permeate Hong Kong, where Buddhist and Taoist temples are common and incense offerings are regularly burned outside local businesses. Private homes often have a shrine to a local deity, with Christian churches and mosques also in the mix. But with space at a premium in a city where rents are sky high, informal collections of discarded gods often decorate roadsides and public spaces.

In a leafy park next to a police station in the northern district of Fanling, around 30 statues sit quietly under the branches of a banyan tree. Unlike Wah Fu, this site is not cared for daily by a guardian, but still draws visitors.

Yoyo Ng, 54, has come to leave a Guan Yin statue, one she kept for more than 30 years, saying she had to remove it from her home to make room for new tenants. “I didn’t want it to go...Hong Kong is just too small. I had no choice. I keep it in the shade so it’s not exposed to sunshine,” says Ng, who works at a rehabilitation centre for the disabled.

To Ng, leaving the statue in the park means she can continue to worship it regularly there. She said volunteers from her neighbourhood in Fanling come several times a month to clean the figures. Discarded deities have disappeared from some areas over the years—residents say they are unsure who was responsible or why they were removed.

The government says it has no specific policy of clearing them, although they may be taken away if they are blocking the footpath. Wong says he has no intention of abandoning the figures at Wah Fu. Looking after the statues has given him peace of mind. “I feel I’m more healthy now. I have good sleep,” he says. “I will come here until I can’t walk...I don’t care which religion they belong to. I will look after all of them.”—AFP

## 30 Scariest Horror Movies Streaming in Time for Halloween

**W**ith Halloween approaching, there’s never been a better time to stream some scary movies. To help plan a fiendish film festival, here are enough bewitching recommendations available on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu to provide enough creepy thrills for the whole month. To make things easier, titles are organized in three distinct categories: Date night, extreme horror, and family friendly. Choose wisely ... or suffer the consequences!

Here’s a sampling of the date night, extreme horror, and family friendly movies, respectively.

### “The New Daughter” (2009)

**Service:** Hulu

Don’t let the generic title fool you. There are some unexpected terrors waiting to be unleashed in this eerie tale of a divorced novelist (nicely played by Kevin Costner) who moves his two children to an isolated farm in rural South Carolina. Fans of Stephen King and M. Night Shyamalan will find much to enjoy here, from the ancient Indian burial mounds to the misshapen figures lurking in the shadows.

### “Southbound” (2016)

**Service:** Amazon Prime

The makers of the popular “V/H/S” found-footage series reunited for this chilling anthology film about a group of disparate travelers who face their biggest fears on a lonely stretch of blacktop. Weaving five ghoulish tales together, “Southbound” delivers shock upon shock, each one nastier than the last. The result is a near-perfect example of modern indie horror.

### “Sleepy Hollow” (1999)

**Service:** Netflix

Tim Burton’s gorgeous adaptation of Washington Irving’s 1820 short story stars Johnny Depp as Ichabod Crane, a quirky police constable investigating a series of decapitations in a tiny rural village. Marvelously designed and oozing atmosphere, “Sleepy Hollow” is a treat for the eyes, and a fine introduction to the world of gothic horror for younger viewers.—Reuters

## Disney Launches a New Class of Startups at In-House Accelerator

**T**he Walt Disney Company held a graduation ceremony for its in-house accelerator program on Thursday, giving nine companies the chance to pitch their plans to change the entertainment industry.

Now in its third year, the Disney Accelerator gives start-up companies access to Disney executives as they fine-tune their products. The companies are selected from a much larger group of applicants. Disney invests in the companies and gives them office space in Glendale for three to six months. Typically the companies emerge with a deal to serve some branch of the Disney empire. “It’s a personal relationship that really matters,” said Michael Abrams, Disney’s senior vice president for innovation. “It’s about bringing everyone together.”

Among the companies featured at Thursday’s “Demo Day” was Atom Tickets, a social ticketing app that allows friends to plan movie outings together. Michael Bakal, the company’s chairman, said the company had arranged a deal to sell Disney merchandise alongside tickets through the app. Moviegoers would get targeted ads for merchandise as they leave the theater. “We call it the virtual exit-through-the-gift-shop,” Bakal said, noting the deal will launch with the release of “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story.”

Other companies include Ader, which handles advertising and sponsorships for e-sports; Pley, a subscription toy service that uses an algorithm to select appropriate toys for children; and Hanson Robotics, which makes humanoid robots. “I’ve been pursuing the dream of humanlike robots for more than 20 years,” said David Hanson, the company’s CEO.—Reuters



US chef Aaron Silverman (R) speaks with Michelin Guides' international director Michael Ellis after being awarded two stars for his restaurant Pineapples & Pearls during the launch of the first Michelin Red Guide for Washington at the residence of the French ambassador in Washington, DC, on October 13, 2016. — AFP

## Aaron Silverman: From accounting intern to Michelin-starred US chef

**A**s a budding accounting intern at a large consulting firm, it didn't take Washington chef Aaron Silverman long to realize that the corporate life he had chosen was a recipe for boredom.

"I was miserable," he said. "I thought cooking might be fun so I gave it a shot." Silverman's leap of faith into the relentless heat of the kitchen paid off: The 34-year-old was awarded on Thursday a set of coveted Michelin stars, as part of the elite guide's first handbook on the US capital.

The owner of two lauded establishments on Washington's nascent foodie scene, Silverman earned two stars for his high-end Pineapple & Pearls and one for his debut hotspot Rose's Luxury, known for its whimsical dishes and nonchalant ambience.

"We didn't want to be the best restaurant; we didn't want to be the most popular restaurant," Silverman said. "We just wanted to be the most enjoyable one." Diners flocked to Rose's Luxury, with its industrial farmhouse ambiance, after it opened in 2013, sometimes standing in line for hours outside to sample dishes like boudin-stuffed squid, a salad of pork sausage, habaneros and lychees, or the unlikely hit of strawberry spaghetti.

Michelin judges and their discerning palates were especially taken with the restaurant's \$125 tasting menu. Concocted by sous-chef BJ Lieberman, it includes an appetizer of pickled quail eggs decorated with touches of caviar and gold leaf, a fusion of diverse culinary inspirations that earned the beloved eatery a single star.

Rose's next-door sibling restaurant Pineapple & Pearls opened in April—perhaps too recent to earn a top three-star rating. But Michelin inspectors gave the haute spot two stars for "perfectly flavored dishes reflecting a wide range of influences."

### Fit for a president

Though his spectacular rise to the top might indicate otherwise, Silverman "was not born with a whisk in his hand," he says on the Rose's Luxury website. Before his first foray into the Washington foodscape as a professional restaurateur, Silverman completed several apprenticeships in the capital city then

studied in New York under David Chang—head chef and founder of the Momofuku empire. He also ventured south to Charleston, South Carolina.

Silverman calls his food "eclectic American," citing his menu's diverse influences that include Italian, Mexican and Japanese. "We're all from everywhere else," he said. He opened Rose's Luxury with just 20 employees, a payroll that quickly jumped to 65 as the restaurant became an instant darling among DC diners—including the city's most notable hometown celebrity.

US President Barack Obama celebrated his 54th birthday last year at the small-plates restaurant with his wife Michelle—the first lady's second visit. "It was amazing," Silverman said of the commander-in-chief's birthday fete. "They were like the coolest, nicest people ever."

### 'Strong camaraderie'

Despite Pineapple & Pearl's steep \$250-dollar tasting menu, Silverman and his team worked to keep stuffiness from creeping into the sleek dining room that looks into an open kitchen. "We like things that are really fancy and elegant and luxurious but not necessarily formal, as formality kind of creates stiffness," the tattooed chef said. "Formality and uncomfortableness definitely detract from pleasure." "We tried to figure out how we could do fine dining that was fancy but fun."

Silverman said the playful-chic vibes at his restaurants extend to the Washington restaurant scene as a whole: "There is a very strong camaraderie," he said. Rose's Luxury recently gifted a lunch delivery to staff at DC's latest culinary smash Bad Saint. The cozy Filipino eatery has diners queuing Rose's Luxury-style.

"It's awesome because what's good for one of us is good for all of us," the chef said. "We don't really look at it as a kind of competition, there's plenty of diners who want great restaurants to eat at to go around." "We're just looking to help each other improve and succeed and offer something better for our staff and guests in DC as a whole." — AFP

## Michelin unveils Washington guide, no three-star eateries

**T**he Michelin Guide unveiled its first edition for the US capital Washington on Thursday, awarding coveted stars to a dozen restaurants it said were part of a hot foodie scene.

Alas, no restaurant got the full blessing of three stars, although three received two stars and nine got one. The best known of the three top-honored chefs is probably Spanish-born Jose Andres. He studied under Ferran Adria—a pioneer of innovative, so-called molecular cuisine—before settling in Washington and becoming a prominent figure in the restaurant world.

Andres has nearly a dozen establishments in Washington that blend Spanish cuisines with flavors from Latin America and Asia. The one recognized Thursday is called Mini Bar and has room for just 12 customers. The tasting menu costs \$275 a head, excluding wine, taxes and tip. "Bravo, bravo, bravo!" Adria wrote in Spanish on Twitter, congratulating the restaurant on its new status.

The other two restaurants that received two stars are called Pineapple & Pearls and The Inn at Little Washington, which is actually a 90-minute drive outside the city in rural Virginia. Aaron Silverman, the chef at Pineapple & Pearls, "has perfectly flavored dishes reflecting a wide range of influences," the Michelin statement said.

The tasting menu there costs \$250 a head. It features such treats as a yogurt-filled bonbon on a spoon above a coupe of fennel juice, green apple, celery and absinthe. Silverman's highly acclaimed first restaurant, Rose's Luxury, received one star, and emphatically posted a giant "Thank you DC!!!!!!!" on Twitter on behalf of both establishments.

The Inn at Little Washington was honored even though the guide focuses only on places in the city, with Michelin saying it was an iconic place that had trained many young chefs and most of its customers traveled there from Washington, anyway. It serves "classic and eclectic French cuisine in a stunning setting," Michelin said.

### 107 restaurants reviewed

Altogether, 107 restaurants are reviewed in the Michelin Guide for Washington, including 19 in the "Bib Gourmand" category for good

food at an affordable price. Thirty-three kinds of cuisine are represented in the book. "With its own culinary identity centered around 'Mid-Atlantic cuisine,' over the last few years the culinary scene in Washington has undergone some profound changes that have made its local cuisine among the most dynamic in the world," Michelin said in a statement.

Washington Post food critic Tom Sietsema added that "something like 90 restaurants have opened just over summer, which is kind of crazy." While welcoming Michelin's recommendations, he said he was surprised at some of the restaurants that did not make the list, such as Rasika, "the best modern Indian restaurant in the country."

Mini Bar, he furthered, deserves three stars for providing its patrons a "little magic carpet ride." "It doesn't become a restaurant, it becomes an experience," he said.

Of the 21,000 restaurants featured in Michelin guides around the world, only just over 100 have three stars, Michelin says. Until now the US cities that had Michelin Guides focusing on their food scene were New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

The Michelin staff that toured Washington's restaurants to compile the guide found cuisine styles from all over the world and local chefs who had worked elsewhere, then returned and used local ingredients to make "truly amazing food," said Michael Ellis, international director of the Michelin guides. He said Washington is distinguished by its brand of Mid-Atlantic cuisine, with blue crabs and rockfish from the Chesapeake Bay and very good local meat and produce.

And Washington-population about 650,000 — should not be discouraged by not having any restaurant with three stars for now. The guide needs a bit more time before it takes the big step of handing out that third star, Ellis said. Three two-star stars restaurants, he said, "is for a city the size of Washington quite a good show." —AFP



The first Michelin Red Guide for Washington is seen at the residence of the French ambassador during its launch in Washington, DC, on October 13, 2016. — AFP

# Dylan at 75: Not knocking on heaven's door just yet



**CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA:** This file photo taken on June 11, 2009 shows US singer Bob Dylan performing during the 37th AFI Life Achievement Award: A Tribute to Michael Douglas at Sony Pictures. — AFP

In the fifth row of a packed concert venue in Las Vegas, a plump Hispanic couple slumbers peacefully as Bob Dylan bangs out a tune from his 35th studio album. The poet laureate of rock 'n' roll has been going only for 70-odd minutes but like many Dylan fans—they're not getting any younger and it's probably past their bedtime.

Since he entered the national consciousness in the early 1960s, Dylan has been the galvanizing "voice of a generation," an authentic American voice recognized even by detractors for the beauty of his lyrics. As if proof were needed that his words vault his songwriting into the rarified heights of poetry, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature on Thursday.

Dylan is the first songwriter to win the award, sweeping aside favorites including Britain's Salman Rushdie, Syrian poet Adonis and Kenyan writer Ngugi wa Thiong'o. Marking the occasion with a sell-out gig in the glitzy Cosmopolitan hotel in Vegas, Dylan attracted more than 3,000 devotees from across the world, if not the age spectrum. There are men in ten-gallon hats, spurs and droopy Wild West moustaches, presumably celebrating Dylan's little-known Village People period.

## 'We love you, Bob!'

A wizened old rocker strolls through the bar in a bandana and motorcycle jacket, clutching what looks like a pina colada. But mostly this is the kind of crowd you would expect to see at a concert in a Vegas hotel—smartly casual in deck shoes, slingbacks and cardigans, well-heeled and well-behaved.

There are some under-40s but perhaps not enough to suggest that Dylan is going to be troubling MTV's playlist any time soon, Nobel or no Nobel. "We love you, Bob," one fan with a ZZ Top beard shouts out as Dylan sits at his piano for a lively opening rendition of the old favorite "Everybody Must Get Stoned."

"Legend!" cries another as the rocker glides into "Highway 61, Revisited" and "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue," the front rows rising to their feet, giving the gig the ambience of a One Direction show rather than a celebration of 12 bar blues. But Dylan doesn't really

go in for nostalgia, and many of the numbers he plays—from "High Water (For Charley Patton)" to the lugubrious "Soon After Midnight"—are from albums released since the turn of the century.

So eloquent on the page, Dylan is also a man of few words—no words, in fact, when the music stops—and there isn't so much as a "Hello, Las Vegas" to open proceedings. And so his fans are left to imagine what the newly crowned Nobel laureate thought of his elevation among such vaunted company as Rudyard Kipling, T.S. Eliot and Ernest Hemingway.

## 'Lyrics from the heart'

In a set heavy with blues, fans are treated to Dylan on the drums, harmonica and piano—but not guitar—during acclaimed but perhaps lesser known songs such as "Simple Twist of Fate," "Love Sick" and "Make You Feel My Love."

There is no "Mr Tambourine Man," "Like a Rolling Stone" or "Subterranean Homesick Blues" and the crowd has to wait until the encore for perhaps Dylan's most famous and poetic song of all, 1963's "Blowin' In The Wind." "I enjoyed the show. It was kind of short, but I think he's deserving of a prize" says Ray Staniewicz, a 65-year-old who snuck out before the encore.

"He's done a lot for the peace movement since the 1960s, '70s and on till today. The literature, I'm not real familiar with, to tell you the truth." Gail Wolffe, 70, who has come from Vancouver with her husband of 50 years, 74-year-old Norbert, and their Yorkshire terrier Suzy Q, had never been to a gig before.

"He liked Dylan in the 1960s," she says, referring presumably to Norbert rather than Suzy Q, who it turned out was just three. "I really liked the new songs. I was amazed because I go for the nostalgia, but what he has brought out now is really good," she adds. "He's a poet. He speaks of what's happening in the world and he always has. His lyrics are from his heart." — AFP

## Hillary Clinton Feted By Elton John, Hollywood Figures at Final L.A. Pre-Election Fundraiser

Hillary Clinton returned to Los Angeles for one last fundraising swing before the general election, at a high-dollar fundraiser where Elton John performed to an industry-centric crowd.

John opened by singing "Your Song," after being introduced by Casey and Laura Wasserman, who hosted the event at their new home along Foothill Road. Clinton gave what was described by one attendee as an "energized" and a call to get out the vote. She praised John for his philanthropy, and even quipped that she would switch roles some day (he'd do the political speech, she'd sing). There were a few digs at Donald Trump. Casey Wasserman, introducing Clinton, said he wasn't sure how she was able to get up on a debate stage and face Trump. According to an attendee, John said of Clinton, "We have to elect this humanitarian — we cannot let this barbarian in office."

Among the 135 people or so present: Barbra Streisand, Skip Paul, Berry Gordy, Ken Ziffren, Craig Jacobson and Steve Tisch. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti spoke, and other guests included Marc Nathanson, Jon Vein, Russell Goldsmith, Gloria Allred and Evelyn de Rothschild and Lynn Forester de Rothschild. Co-hosts of the event were Jeffrey and Marilyn Katzenberg, Sean and Alexandra Parker, Haim and Cheryl Saban, Chris and Crystal Sacca and Thomas and Alba Tull. Others who committed to the event: Damon Lindelof and Seth

MacFarlane. Tickets to the event started at \$33,400, and went up to \$100,000 to be listed as a co-chair. Although polls are looking much more favorable for Clinton, one attendee said that there was a note of caution. "I don't think anyone was resting on their laurels because it is such a turbulent election," the attendee said.

The event was on the same property where Casey Wasserman's grandfather, Lew, hosted political figures for decades. That included Bill Clinton, who was the headliner at a fundraiser at the home after he secured the nomination in 1992. Casey Wasserman said he hoped she would have the luck the location gave her husband. John also sang "Circle of Life" and dedicated it to Katzenberg, according to an attendee.

Across town, in Santa Monica, Vice President Joseph Biden and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi attended an event at the home of Peter and Megan Chernin to raise money for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Tickets started at \$5,000 per person, and an attendee said that the gathering drew about 40 people.

This may have been Clinton's final L.A. visit, but it isn't her campaign's last fundraiser in the region. Chelsea Clinton is scheduled to headline an event on Oct. 20 at the home of David and Andrea Nevins, with Kristen Bell as the special guest, according to an invite. — Reuters

## Leonardo DiCaprio Should Resign as UN Messenger of Peace, Charity Says

A rainforest charity has called on Leonardo DiCaprio to resign as United Nations Messenger of Peace for climate change if he fails to cut his ties with Riza Aziz and Jho Low, who are at the center of allegations about the embezzlement of Malaysian state funds.

"Leonardo DiCaprio has consistently refused to explain his close personal and financial ties with key persons of the Malaysian 1MDB scandal," Lukas Straumann, director of Switzerland-based charity Bruno Manser Fund, said. "This is unacceptable. If DiCaprio fails to distance himself from Malaysian corruption, he should resign as UN Messenger of Peace for climate change. We can't save the environment if we fail to stop corruption."

According to the charity, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation has received funds from Low and Aziz. The foundation was set up in 1998 with "the mission of protecting the world's last wild places," according to its website. Aziz also contributed financing for the production of "The Wolf of Wall Street," which was produced by DiCaprio's Appian Way Productions. Aziz is chairman and co-founder of Red Granite Pictures, which co-produced the film and Aziz is credited as a producer. These funds were allegedly embezzled from Malaysian state fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd., known as 1MDB.

The US Justice Department is investigating allegations of embezzlement at 1MDB. Both Low

and Aziz deny wrongdoing. When UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon named DiCaprio as a UN Messenger of Peace in 2014, he commented: "Mr. DiCaprio is a credible voice in the environmental movement, and has a considerable platform to amplify its message. I am pleased he has chosen to add his voice to UN efforts to raise awareness of the urgency and benefits of acting now to combat climate change." — Reuters





## 'How To Get Away With Murder': Who Is Pregnant? And Who Is Dead?

**S**poiler alert: Do not read ahead, if you have not watched Season 3, episode 4, of "How To Get Away With Murder," which aired Thursday, Oct. 13 on ABC.

Each week of "How To Get Away With Murder" this season reveals who will not be killed off in the night of the house fire-but tonight's "lucky" victim, though alive, winds up in the hospital. Last week, the flash-forward revealed that aside from the dead body under the sheet, firefighters found an additional body in Annalise's (Viola Davis) basement, but there's still a pulse.

Turns out, that person is Laurel (Karla Souza). And she's pregnant.

Tonight's flash-forward scenes, which bookend the episode, show someone being rushed from the house fire to the hospital. By episode's end, none other than Wes' girlfriend Meggy (Corbin Reid) who works in the hospital, brings in the charts of the unconscious female patient, which reveal that she is pregnant. And that's when Meggy recognizes Laurel.

Laurel's surprise pregnancy wasn't the only cliffhanger. Four weeks earlier, prior to the flash-forward, Laurel is investigating Frank's whereabouts, now that she has information on his location from her father. He's in the town of Coalport, PA, and is in disguise as a medical ward janitor named Kevin. After he schmoozes-and has sex with-a female employee who let's him in the ward, he finds his way into-gasp! — Bonnie's (Liza Weil) father's room and kills him.

Back at Annalise's house-again, weeks before the flash-forward house fire-

Bonnie learns of her father's death and tells Annalise. Laurel, who's in the house, overhears their conversation and tells Bonnie that she knows it's Frank who killed her father. Bonnie responds, "Don't tell Annalise." (Hence, the name of the episode.)

Here, Matt McGorry-whose character Asher was first chair in tonight's episode case-of-the-week-talks to Variety about Laurel's surprise pregnancy, the Keating Five's fate and more...

### His Fate

Laurel was the person revealed to be alive in tonight's episode-though that's complicated! — but back to the night of the fire, we still don't know Asher's fate. Is he going to make it out alive? I don't think it's safe to assume that anyone is going to make it out alive. If we know anything about our show and Shondaland shows, we can never really be sure what is going to happen. Honestly, who knows?

So Laurel. She's pregnant. We know that she's trying to get in touch with Frank. Is it a good theory to believe that in the four weeks, she met up with him and he's the father?

I wouldn't discount any theory. I think it could anyone. Part of what makes the writing so good and interesting is that you never really can guess what's going to happen. Me, from my personal experience as a viewer and from reading the scripts, is I never try to guess.

Laurel and Wes (Alfred Enoch) have a very unique relationship, and even his girlfriend Meggy has been irritated by how close they are. Is it possible that Laurel and Wes get together and he's the father?

Yeah, I mean anything is possible. We're still a number of episodes away and we'll find out a lot more of these details. Speaking of relationships, we didn't see a lot of Asher and Michaela (Aja Naomi King) in tonight's episode, but let's talk about them-how would you define their relationship at this point?

Asher's definition of their relationship is probably different than Michaela's. Asher believes there's a real connection there and he really believes that they're making their way to something very serious. Michaela, I believe, is resisting that with all of her will and understandably so. It's complicated. I think Michaela is really interested in a truly physical level-or at least that's what she thinks. I think Asher is trying to fight for his love and his feelings of emotion and caring towards Michaela. It remains to be seen how that will progress.

Bonnie now knows about Asher and Michaela hooking up. In tonight's episode Asher and Bonnie have to work together on the pro bono case. Are they able to be totally civil with each other now?

At this point, I'm actually pretty impressed-more with Asher because I didn't expect Bonnie to be immature about it-but I think their relationship has really evolved. We get to see the best of them in this episode, in terms of how they team up and put their feelings aside and really work on being professional on their case and being lawyers, which with their deep history is not an easy task. I think they really do that in a really effective way and it happens to be something that will bring them closer. She's there for them with the case.

Frank killed Bonnie's father. Since Frank has been missing, we don't know why he's been gone. Was killing Bonnie's father his mission? I don't know that we really know Frank's main mission. I don't think even Frank knows his main mission. He's been in a deep, dark place. I think it's hard to know. He's unpredictable in what he will or won't do at this point. — Reuters

## Melania Trump Demands Apology, Retraction Over People Writer's Claim

**A**n attorney for Melania Trump is demanding an apology and retraction from People, challenging some of the facts of a People writer's story in which she claims that Donald Trump forced himself on her during a 2005 assignment.

The story by Natasha Stoyneff was posted on Wednesday, and she contends that, while his wife was away, Donald Trump physically attacked her in a room at the Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. Stoyneff wrote that she had been sent there to do an interview with the Trumps on their first anniversary.

Charles Harder, who is representing Melania Trump, wrote in a letter to Stoyneff and People editor-in-chief Jess Cagle that several statements in the piece are "false and completely fictionalized." He cited Stoyneff's contention that after the incident happened, she ran into Melania Trump on Fifth Avenue.

According to Stoyneff, Melania Trump asked her, "Natasha, why don't we see you anymore?" She then gave her a hug. "I was quiet and smiled, telling her I missed her, and I squeezed little Barron's foot."

Harder wrote, "The true facts are there: Mrs. Trump did not encounter Ms. Stoyneff on the street, nor have any conversation with her. The two are not friends or even friendly. At the time in question, Mrs. Trump would not have even recognized Ms. Stoyneff if they had encountered one another on the street."

The letter threatens legal action if a retraction isn't issued. The letter does not cite the incident with Donald Trump, who has said Stoyneff's claim of the assault "did not happen." His campaign also called her account a "fictional story." In a speech, he said of Stoyneff, "Take a look, you take a look. Look at her, look at her words, you tell me what you think. I don't think so."

### Between Takes

In her story, Stoyneff wrote that with his wife away, "we walked into that room alone, and Trump shut the door behind us. I turned around, and within seconds he was pushing me against the wall and forcing his tongue down my throat." Harder is representing Melania Trump in separate litigation against the Daily Mail after they published a story that cited claims she had once worked as an "escort." The Daily Mail did issue a retraction.

Cagle posted a lengthy defense of Stoyneff and the story on People.com on Thursday, writing that "Ms. Stoyneff is a remarkable, ethical, honest and patriotic woman, and she has shared her story of being physically attacked by Donald Trump in 2005 because she felt it was her duty to make the public aware.

"To assign any other motive is a disgusting, pathetic attempt to victimize her again. We stand steadfastly by her, and are proud to publish her clear, credible account of what happened." — Reuters



## CISCO CALLS ON ORGANIZATIONS TO 'REIMAGINE A DIGITAL REALITY' GITEX TECHNOLOGY WEEK 2016

**DUBAI:** Cisco announced that it will invite Middle East countries, organizations and businesses to "Reimagine a Digital Reality" at GITEX Technology Week 2016, which will be held at the Dubai World Trade Centre from October 16-20, 2016. The company will use GITEX as a platform to support efforts at accelerating digital transformation and to showcase its key business architectures and solutions that enable it, including Security, Cloud, Data Center and Analytics, Mobility, Application Centric Infrastructure and Collaboration.

As part of its GITEX plans, Cisco will demonstrate its digital solutions and technology across multiple verticals including Public safety and security, aviation, education, transport, public sector, banking and finance, and oil and gas, amongst others. In addition to showcasing 'real life' Smart City scenarios, the company will highlight how implementing a digitization strategy will enable Middle East countries and organizations to reap the full benefits of the Internet of Things (IoT).



**Mike Weston - Vice President - Cisco Middle East**

"As we move into an era of complete digitization, Middle East governments and organizations are rethinking their value propositions, business models and how they approach their infrastructure to improve quality of life, citizen services and business outcomes. Most regional governments and organizations have

already begun their digital journey to create a better tomorrow for their citizens, customers and employees," said Mike Weston, Vice President, Cisco Middle East. "As the region's premier ICT exhibition, GITEX offers an ideal platform for Cisco to demonstrate how digitization has the potential to create sustainable and positive impact for every area of society. Through demos at our stand, we plan to highlight real-life, industry relevant scenarios that demonstrate how our technology solutions can help accelerate our clients' digital transformation journey, help them re-imagine their businesses and identify what's possible when technology and business strategies come together seamlessly."

Cisco will place the spotlight on its recently launched solutions such as Cisco Tetration Analytics platform, Digital Network Architecture (DNA) and Cisco Digital Ceiling Framework, in addition to its latest technologies for Data Centers, Cloud, Security, Collaboration to name a few. The

company will demonstrate how these technologies are and will play an increasingly important role in improving the quality of life, not just for upcoming generations, but for everyone today.

Leading IT solutions provider, Gulf Business Machines (GBM), is Cisco's 'exclusive channel sponsor' at GITEX. As the momentum of digitization accelerates/gathers pace across the region, Cisco and GBM will be showcasing smart technology solutions that include collaboration, security and mobility at the event. They will also demonstrate key business architectures and industry-focused use cases that are driving business outcomes in industries such as hospitality, transportation and aviation. GBM is a Cisco Gold Partner and was awarded 'Middle East Partner of the Year' at the most recent Cisco Global Partner Summit.

Senior executives from Cisco and its partners will be available at their stand number Z-B40, Zabeel Hall and stand number B1-1, Hall 1 at GITEX Technology Week 2016.

## PERISCOPE EXTENDS BEYOND PHONES AS TWITTER UPS ANTE ON VIDEO

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Twitter is taking the smartphone shackles off its live-video service Periscope in its latest attempt to broaden its audience. The Periscope Producer feature announced Thursday will let media companies and other users pipe live video feeds directly into Twitter, without using a smartphone to record the images. Since its debut early last year, Periscope had been confined to live video feeds taken on a smartphone.

During Producer's testing phase last

issue dogging Periscope since people began using the service to broadcast live video of movies and TV shows with their smartphones.

The Periscope extension ups the ante on Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey's bet that the increasing popularity of online video will help widen the messaging service's appeal. Twitter already has been streaming more news, entertainment and sports events, including the National Football League's Thursday Night games for 10 weeks during the season.

though there are no easy ways to make advertising money off of them yet. That's coming, though. Some companies are already experimenting with livestreaming for marketing purposes. Automaker General Motors, for example, launched out its electric Chevy Bolt EV using Facebook Live earlier this year. Media outlets, meanwhile, are livestreaming coverage of the presidential debates in ways not seen in any previous election.

With the latest move, Periscope joins other livestreaming services such as Twitch and YouTube that allow for broadcasts from sources beyond users' smartphones. Facebook, meanwhile, has so far stuck to a mobile-only strategy. But even with Periscope's expanded capability, Facebook has an advantage with a larger audience.

Since the end of 2014, Twitter has picked up just 15 million monthly users to expand its audience to 313 million people through June. During the same stretch, Facebook gained 319 million users to extend its reach beyond 1.7 billion people.

In an effort to distinguish Twitter from Facebook, Dorsey has been trying to position it as the "people news network" - though with little success since he replaced Dick Costolo as CEO 15 months ago.

Things have been looking so bleak that Twitter's board last month hired investment bankers to woo suitors that might be interested in buying the San Francisco company, according to published reports that cited unnamed people familiar with the matter. The prospective bidders included Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc., as well as Apple Inc., Salesforce.com and Walt Disney Co.

The possibility of a sale tantalized investors until other media reports made it seem unlikely that Twitter will strike a deal soon. With a sale apparently off the table, the company's stock has dropped by nearly 30 percent in the past week. The shares fell 20 cents to \$17.85 in early afternoon trading Thursday. —AP



**NEW YORK: In this Wednesday, April 24, 2013, file photo, Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey speaks at a campaign fundraiser. —AP**

week, a Florida television station showing live video on its website used the new tool to redistribute the same feeds on Twitter. To start, Producer will be limited to a small group of media companies such as Disney's ABC News and major brands such as Louis Vuitton. Others can apply for approval.

Periscope CEO Kayvon Beykour said Producer will be available to all comers soon, something that he acknowledged could lead to unauthorized redistribution of live video. Piracy has been an

Twitter hopes to build a following beyond people who rely on the service to tweet their thoughts and keep tabs on what's happening around the world. Dorsey sees Twitter evolving into the go-to place for watching live video in a digital town square where people can share their opinions with each other.

### Sramble to go live

Internet companies young (Snapchat) and old (Facebook) are scrambling to get on the live video train,

## EDUCATION PUBLISHER PEARSON BETS ON ONLINE DEGREES

**LONDON:** Natalie Hilton travels past her central London university every day, listening to lectures on the bus, studying towards a masters degree without ever setting foot on campus.

Hilton, a 24-year-old with a full-time job in advertising, is part of the first intake at King's College London to study a fully online course to enable her to work in mental health.

The scheme is produced by Pearson, the world's largest education publisher, which is looking to online higher education courses to help revive its fortunes after a downturn in its traditional textbooks and marking businesses.

If the model succeeds, with Pearson handling the marketing, recruitment and design of online courses, it could help open up higher education by providing fresh impetus to distance learning and also save money for cash-strapped universities. "The level of resource to do this in an absolutely first-rate way is probably beyond most institutions," said King's principal and president, Professor Ed Byrne, explaining the decision to work with Pearson. "We see this as bringing a King's education to a larger, wider group of students."

It could also improve Pearson's finances. The company, which sold the Financial Times newspaper and its stake in The Economist magazine last year to concentrate on education, has been hit by several profit warnings in recent years.

As the economy recovered in its biggest market, the United States, more people went into employment than education. It has also suffered from students borrowing or buying second-hand books, and a row in the United States over testing standards.

### Double-digit growth

Pearson's online program management (OPM) business made 223 million pounds (\$277 million) in revenue last year, a fraction of the 4.5 billion pounds the group made as a whole, but analysts forecast it will grow at a double-digit percentage in the next few years.

Nearly all of the division's revenue currently comes from the United States, where it is providing online courses at more than 40 universities and competes with the likes of 2U, Academic Partnerships, Bisk, and Wiley Education Solutions. Pearson believes its size gives it an edge because its OPM division can benefit from the expertise and products of its other education businesses. "Digital opens up big opportunities for Pearson to improve access and outcomes in higher education," said Pearson's global head of product Tim Bozik.

The company is also hoping to get a head start on competitors in Britain, its second-largest market, where it says the deal with King's is the first of its kind. Hilton's Masters in Psychology and Neuroscience of Mental Health is designed and taught by King's professors and tutors, through an online platform including video lectures, tutorials, and course materials, academic and personal support.

While she could finish the masters without once meeting her tutors, she has weekly video conferences with them, and a virtual message board stimulates conversation and debate with professors and other students from around the world. —Reuters

## X INFOTECH CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN EID & PAYMENTS INDUSTRY

**Riga, Latvia:** X Infotech, a global provider of software solutions for identity documents and payment smart cards, officially marks 10 years in business with an anniversary celebration at its headquarters in Riga.

X Infotech was founded in 2006 by passionate and highly skilled IT professionals - Sergey Yeliseyev, Vadim Tereshko, Alexander Popov and Maris Birgelis. The company started with the distribution of partner products, quickly gaining the reputation of a trusted market player. A few years later the company self-invested in R&D, opening the development of its proprietary software products for electronic identity documents and smart cards. Today, X Infotech has immensely broadened the reach and sharpened the vision, evolving a strong track record and serving hundreds of customers in 45+ countries - Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia.

"We grow and mature in different areas - whether turnover, increased customer satisfaction, market share or the number of the employees," said Vadim Tereshko, Co-owner and Business Development Director, Banking & Mobile at X Infotech. "After all, our success would not be possible without our team, partners and clients with whom we work together to develop software and lead the industry. On behalf of our Board of Directors I would like to express our confidence for many more years of growth and prosperity."

Within 10 years X Infotech has gathered an impressive success-stories portfolio, from social projects in Africa and payment card programs in the EMEA region to eID documents in Uruguay, as well as the European Union laissez-passer and ePassport/eID card in Ireland. Governments, financial organizations and banks choose X Infotech's comprehensive software solutions for exceptional quality and robust functionality, complemented with ultimate flexibility and guaranteed delivery.

"This is a very exciting time for me, personally. From our first day in business to today, X Infotech experienced significant growth in government eID," said Sergey Yeliseyev, Co-owner and Business Development Director, Government eID at X Infotech. "We face the ever-increasing competition in the industry, but together with our extra-dedicated team and reliable partners, we keep climbing to the top of the hill - every day higher and higher."

### What Our Partners Say

"X Infotech has done an excellent job on the international level," said Holger Reinke, Sales Director at OVD Kinegram. "We are very fortunate to be surrounded by such experienced and highly regarded professionals who provide top level expertise in software solutions for identity documents."

"X Infotech is known for its excellent reputation in the banking business and the team led by highly experienced senior management team," said Vija Freimane, Project Manager at SEB Banka Latvia. "Words can't express how grateful I am for X Infotech's high level of customer service and technical expertise in EMV solutions." —Reuters



**SEOUL:** In this Monday, Oct. 10, 2016, file photo, South Korean high school students try out Samsung Electronics Galaxy Note 7 smartphones at the company's shop. —AP

## SAMSUNG WOES SHOW HOW DEPENDENT WE'VE BECOME ON SMARTPHONES 'DEVICE OBSESSION IS DEEPENING'

**NEW YORK:** Tethered as we are to our smartphones, Samsung asking users of its fire-prone Galaxy Note 7 to "power down and stop using the device" is not just an inconvenience. It's crazy.

Smartphones have become extensions of ourselves, the last thing we look at before falling asleep and the first thing we grab in the morning. Abandoning them is all but unthinkable, even at the dinner table, even on the toilet.

Risking a battery fire might seem like a small price to pay for obsessively checking your latest Instagram "likes," catching up on email, Skyping your grandkids across the country, getting directions, confirming your travel itinerary, reading the news, searching for a dinner recipe, hailing a ride and so on. For those traveling with children, a long flight without a smartphone to serve as distraction is akin to torture.

Power down and stop using the device? You might as well go live in a cave in a distant mountain (if you can get there, since you no longer have GPS). According to the Pew Research Center, 43 percent of the world's population uses a smartphone. Rates are highest in places such as South Korea (88 percent), Australia (77 percent) and Israel (74 percent).

And use it they do. We check Facebook so often that the company no longer just

measures its users on a monthly basis. A more important number is how many people check in on a daily basis. In June, more than 1 billion people checked Facebook on a mobile device at least once a day.

### Device usage report

In a report on global mobile device usage, the consulting firm Deloitte found the obvious, namely that "device obsession is deepening" and that people are using their phones for "everything from watching TV to simply crossing the road." Some of us even use the phones while crossing the road, which is not the safest thing in the world.

A small 2015 study by Nottingham Trent University that tracked 18- to 33-year-olds found that they checked their phones an average of 85 times a day - often without realizing. Entire industries have sprung up to try to pry us away from our gadgets, such as phone-free summer camps for adults, anti-texting-and-driving apps and apps that track how much time you spend on your phone.

As such, it's not surprising that smartphone owners suddenly deprived of this extra limb are finding ways around the inconvenience. "I am currently using my tablet that has AT&T number sync. I have a Bluetooth headset connected that allows

me to make and receive calls. It also can receive texts, but it works marginal at best," said Leo Langelier III, who lives in North Berwick, Maine.

His Note 7 - the replacement model - started to emit smoke in the car while he was traveling with his family. While his family is fine, he has not been able to get a replacement and said he will be reactivating an older phone he has at home until he can get everything cleared up.

Adam Siemaszko, who returned his Note 7 to a Best Buy in Manhattan, said a co-worker was kind enough to lend him an old iPhone 5S until I can get a new one. He decided to get the new Pixel phone from Google, as he's lost his trust in Samsung. But there's a five- to six-week wait.

"Being phoneless is awful," he said. "What I don't think a lot of people think about is just how reliant we have been with the modern flagships."

Siemaszko said he got used to taking notes on the Note 7 using its special S pen and running two apps side by side at once. The iPhone 5S came out in 2013 and even the latest iPhone, the 7, lacks these options. "I feel incredibly limited on this 5S," he said. "They took my tool away, and the only way to get something else is to jump through hoops." —AP

## VERIZON SAYS YAHOO DATA BREACH HAD A 'MATERIAL' IMPACT

**NEW YORK:** Verizon's top lawyer says it now has reason to believe Yahoo's recently disclosed data breach has a "material" impact on Verizon's pending \$4.8 billion acquisition of Yahoo. That leaves open the possibility that Verizon could seek a change in the price or other terms.

A Verizon spokesman confirmed that Craig Silliman, general counsel at Verizon, made the comments to reporters during a roundtable discussion Thursday. "I think we have a reasonable basis to believe right now that the impact is

material and we're looking to Yahoo to demonstrate to us the full impact," he said.

Silliman didn't say whether Verizon will seek a price reduction, but added that Yahoo will have to convince Verizon if it doesn't believe the breach of at least 500 million users' email accounts had a significant impact on its business.

Earlier this week, Verizon CEO Lowell McAdam said his company was investigating but vowed Verizon wouldn't walk away from the deal.

Yahoo said in a statement Thursday that it is

confident of the company's value and that it is still working toward integrating with Verizon. The deal was expected to close by the end of March 2017.

The security issue could worsen Yahoo's problems: Users were already declining, and so was revenue. Verizon had wanted Yahoo's popular sites to combine with AOL's advertising technology to help it build a digital-ad company that could compete with industry behemoths Google and Facebook. Verizon bought AOL in 2015. —AP



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016

# 32 TV LISTINGS



00:15 Doctors  
00:50 The Coroner  
01:40 A Young Doctor's Notebook  
02:30 The Kettering Incident  
03:20 The Detectivists  
03:50 Hunderby  
04:15 The Coroner  
05:00 Doctors  
09:00 Eastenders  
11:00 Stella  
13:20 Casualty  
14:15 Doctors  
15:15 New Tricks  
18:00 Doctors  
18:30 Eastenders  
19:05 The Coroner  
20:00 Death In Paradise  
21:00 Death In Paradise  
21:55 Sherlock: The Abominable Bride  
23:30 The Kettering Incident

11:50 Catch A Contractor  
13:05 Workaholics  
13:55 Tosh.0  
14:20 Tosh.0  
14:45 Workaholics  
15:10 Key And Peele  
15:35 Tosh.0  
16:30 Key And Peele  
17:50 Tosh.0  
19:03 Ridiculousness  
19:50 Brotherhood  
20:13 Lip Sync Battle  
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition  
21:30 South Park  
21:54 Broad City  
22:18 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show  
23:05 Inside Amy Schumer



00:00 Cutthroat Kitchen  
01:00 BBQ Crawl  
01:30 BBQ Crawl  
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
03:30 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Chopped  
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
06:00 Man Fire Food  
06:30 Man Fire Food  
07:00 Chopped  
08:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes  
09:00 The Kitchen  
10:00 Siba's Table  
10:30 Siba's Table  
11:00 The Pioneer Woman  
11:30 The Pioneer Woman  
12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
14:00 Chopped  
15:00 Man Fire Food  
16:00 Guy's Big Bite  
17:00 Siba's Table  
17:30 Siba's Table  
18:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes  
18:30 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes



00:00 Inside Amy Schumer  
00:25 TUT  
01:15 Broad City  
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
02:05 I Live With Models  
02:30 Broad City  
03:00 Nathan For You  
03:25 Workaholics  
04:15 Key And Peele  
04:40 Ridiculousness  
05:30 MLE Chowdown: Wedges And Wings  
06:20 Key And Peele  
07:15 Ridiculousness  
08:30 Workaholics  
09:20 Tosh.0  
10:10 Catch A Contractor  
10:35 Key And Peele  
11:25 Ridiculousness

19:00 Chopped  
20:00 Halloween Wars  
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
22:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes  
23:00 Chopped



0:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
01:20 The Big Brain Theory  
02:10 Now That's Funny  
03:00 What Happened Next?  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 How It's Made  
05:05 How It's Made  
05:30 Storm Chasers  
06:20 Mythbusters  
07:00 Kenny The Shark  
07:25 Kenny The Shark  
07:50 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild  
08:40 Must Love Cats  
09:30 Too Cute! Pint-Sized  
12:50 Mythbusters  
17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
18:40 The Big Brain Theory  
19:30 Baby Animals  
20:20 Risking It All  
21:10 Dynamo: Magician Impossible  
22:00 What Happened Next?  
23:40 Baby Animals



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



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



00:00 Prison Break  
01:00 Dead Of Summer  
02:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X  
03:00 Sleepy Hollow  
04:00 Good Morning America  
06:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders  
07:00 Suits  
08:00 Rosewood  
09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
10:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders  
11:00 Suits  
12:00 Rosewood  
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
14:00 Marvel's Agent Carter  
15:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend  
16:00 Grey's Anatomy  
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
18:00 Rosewood  
19:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders  
20:00 The Blacklist  
21:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow  
22:00 Supernatural  
23:00 Grimm



00:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson  
01:10 Six Feet Under  
02:00 Game Of Thrones

03:00 Westworld  
04:00 The Knick  
05:00 Sugar  
07:00 As You Like It  
09:15 If These Walls Could Talk  
11:00 Cheaters  
12:45 All The Way  
15:00 The Late Shift  
16:45 Cheaters  
18:30 The Night Of  
20:00 Six Feet Under  
21:00 Eastbound & Down  
21:30 High Maintenance  
22:00 Quarry  
23:00 Angry Boys  
23:30 The Night Of



00:00 Girl House  
02:00 The Borderlands  
04:00 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise  
06:00 Last Knights  
08:00 Enemies Closer  
09:45 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes  
12:00 Jurassic Hunters  
14:00 Into The Storm  
16:00 Enemies Closer  
17:45 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes  
20:00 Non-Stop  
22:00 Blunt Force Trauma



02:00 Girl House  
04:00 The Borderlands  
06:00 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise  
08:00 Last Knights  
10:00 Enemies Closer  
11:45 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes  
14:00 Jurassic Hunters  
16:00 Into The Storm  
18:00 Enemies Closer  
19:45 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes  
22:00 Non-Stop



01:00 The Girl  
03:00 The Zero Theorem  
05:00 Breaking Through  
07:00 6 Ways To Sundown  
09:00 Memories  
11:00 The Girl  
13:00 Reach Me  
15:00 The Silent Mountain  
17:00 Memories  
19:00 The Selfish Giant  
21:00 Nightcrawler  
23:00 Clouds Of Sils Maria



01:15 Magic Magic  
03:00 The Girl  
05:00 The Zero Theorem  
07:00 Breaking Through  
09:00 6 Ways To Sundown  
11:00 Memories  
13:00 The Girl  
15:00 Reach Me  
17:00 The Silent Mountain  
19:00 Memories  
21:00 The Selfish Giant  
23:00 Nightcrawler



01:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian  
03:00 Honey, I Shrunk The Kids  
05:00 Wreck-It Ralph  
07:00 D2: The Mighty Ducks  
09:00 Underdog  
11:00 Despicable Me 2  
13:00 It Takes Two  
15:00 Muppets Most Wanted  
17:00 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder  
19:00 The Shaggy Dog  
21:00 Honey, I Blew Up The Kid  
23:00 Muppets Most Wanted



01:30 Spooks: The Greater Good  
03:15 The Good Dinosaur  
05:00 Tarzan

06:45 Jurassic World  
09:00 Ricki And The Flash  
10:45 The Good Dinosaur  
12:30 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials  
14:45 Strange Magic  
16:30 McFarland, USA  
18:45 Concussion  
21:00 Fathers And Daughters  
23:00 How To Make Love Like An Englishman



00:00 The Ladies Man  
02:00 Forces Of Nature  
04:00 Superfast  
06:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!  
08:00 The Proposal  
10:00 Superfast  
12:00 Forces Of Nature  
14:00 Jack  
16:00 The Proposal  
18:00 Just Married  
20:00 Awful Nice  
22:00 Talladega Nights



01:30 Testament Of Youth  
04:00 Seabiscuit  
06:30 Merchants Of Doubt  
08:30 Middle Of Nowhere  
10:15 Testament Of Youth  
12:30 War Horse  
15:00 Two Men In Town  
17:00 Middle Of Nowhere  
19:00 Inside Llewyn Davis  
21:00 Decoding Annie Parker  
23:00 Breaking And Entering



01:15 Ploddy Police Car On The Case  
02:45 True Story Of Puss'n Boots  
04:15 Blue Elephant 2  
06:00 Jetsons: The Movie  
07:45 Columbus In The Last Journey  
09:15 Harriet The Spy  
11:00 Pixies  
12:30 True Story Of Puss'n Boots  
14:15 Worms  
16:00 Hey Arnold! The Movie  
18:00 Harriet The Spy  
20:00 Space Warriors  
22:00 Worms  
23:45 Hey Arnold! The Movie



00:00 Return To Sender  
02:00 Jackie & Ryan  
04:00 Rage  
06:00 Two Wrongs  
08:00 The Last 5 Years  
10:00 One Christmas Eve  
12:00 R.I.P.D.  
14:00 The End Of The Tour  
16:00 The Last 5 Years  
18:00 The Cobbler  
20:00 I'll See You In My Dreams  
22:00 The Gambler



00:00 Father Of The Bride II  
01:45 There Will Be Blood  
04:30 Gone In Sixty Seconds  
06:30 Ironclad  
08:30 The Accidental Husband  
10:00 Hope Springs  
11:30 Resurrecting The Champ  
13:30 There Will Be Blood  
16:15 Chicago  
18:15 Father Of The Bride II  
20:00 The Gift  
22:00 The Hours



00:00 Glassland  
01:35 The Fits  
02:50 Watchtower  
04:30 Movie Talk  
05:00 A Bronx Tale  
07:00 All On The Line  
08:00 3 Backyards  
09:30 Produced By George Martin  
11:00 Jacqueline Argentine  
12:30 The Journey



BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016

14:10 3 Backyards  
15:40 Produced By George Martin  
17:10 Jacqueline Argentine  
18:40 The Journey  
20:25 Paper Covers Rock  
22:00 Krishna  
23:20 Mr. Kaplan



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



DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



00:45 9-1-1 Encounters  
01:10 9-1-1 Encounters  
01:40 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert  
02:35 Tanked  
03:25 Wildest Africa  
04:15 Gator Boys  
05:02 Mermaids: The New Evidence  
05:49 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert  
06:36 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
07:00 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
07:25 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert  
08:15 My Wild Affair: The Seal Who Came Home  
09:10 The Vet Life  
10:05 The Lion Queen  
11:00 Treehouse Masters  
11:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes  
12:50 Wildest Africa  
18:20 Gangland Killers  
19:15 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert  
20:10 The Vet Life  
21:05 Gangland Killers  
22:00 Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives  
23:50 Attack Of The Killer Dragons  
Crime & Investigation Network  
00:00 The Haunting Of...  
01:00 My Haunted House  
02:00 Monster In My Family  
03:00 I Killed My BFF  
04:00 The Haunting Of...  
05:00 My Haunted House  
06:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
07:00 The First 48  
08:00 The First 48  
09:00 Killers  
10:00 Killers: Behind The Myth  
11:00 The FBI Files  
12:00 When Life Means Life  
13:00 Private Crimes  
14:00 Frenemies  
15:00 Homicide Hunter  
16:00 It Takes A Killer  
18:00 Ms. Murder  
19:00 Monster In My Family  
20:00 Deadly Wives  
22:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
23:00 What The Killer Saw



00:20 Extreme Car Hoarders  
01:10 Wheeler Dealers  
02:00 Misfit Garage  
02:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars

03:15 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
03:40 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Storage Hunters  
08:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
10:10 Gold Divers  
11:00 Deadliest Catch  
11:50 Railroad Australia  
12:40 Fast N' Loud  
16:50 Survive That!  
17:40 The Island With Bear Grylls: USA  
18:30 Extreme Car Hoarders  
19:20 Harley And The Davidsons  
21:00 Built To Survive  
21:50 Railroad Alaska  
22:40 Jungle Gold  
23:30 Fire In The Hole



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

Australia  
19:30 Tales From The Bush Larder  
20:00 Croatia's Finest  
20:25 Croatia's Finest  
20:50 Meat v Veg  
21:15 Poh & Co  
21:40 David Rocco's Dolce India  
22:05 Tales From The Bush Larder  
22:30 Tales From The Bush Larder  
22:55 The Shelbourne  
23:20 Carnival Eats  
23:45 Carnival Eats



00:10 Locked Up Abroad  
01:00 Airport Security: Colombia  
02:00 Nazi Megastructures  
02:55 Nazi World War Weird  
03:50 Among The Great Apes  
04:45 World's Most Extreme  
05:40 9/11: The Plane That Hit The Pentagon  
06:35 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial  
07:30 Facing...  
08:25 Dog Whisperer  
09:20 Dog Whisperer  
10:15 Monster Fish  
11:10 Cold Water Gold  
12:05 Innovation Nation  
12:30 Innovation Nation  
13:00 Nazi World War Weird  
14:00 Facing...  
15:00 Fusion Forager  
16:00 World's Most Extreme  
17:00 Mega Factories  
18:00 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial  
19:00 Cold Water Gold  
20:00 World's Most Extreme  
20:50 Mega Factories  
21:40 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial  
22:30 Cold Water Gold  
23:20 World's Most Extreme



00:20 Tiger On The Run  
01:10 World's Deadliest Animals  
02:00 Wild Russia  
02:50 Ultimate Animals  
03:45 South Africa  
04:40 1000 Days For The Planet  
05:35 Hunter Hunted  
06:30 Monster Fish  
07:25 Monster Fish  
08:20 Bandit Patrol  
09:15 Baby Animals In The Wild  
10:10 World's Weirdest Animal Faces  
11:05 The Lady With 700 Cats  
12:00 Hunt For The Giant Squid  
12:55 Wild Russia  
13:50 Wild Survivor  
14:45 South Africa

15:40 1000 Days For The Planet  
16:35 Caught In The Act  
17:30 Dangerous Encounters  
18:25 Animals Gone Wild  
19:20 South Africa  
20:10 1000 Days For The Planet  
21:00 Caught In The Act  
21:50 Dangerous Encounters  
22:40 Animals Gone Wild  
23:30 Hunt For The Giant Squid



00:30 How Do They Do It?  
00:55 Food Factory  
01:20 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger  
01:45 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger  
02:10 How The Universe Works  
03:00 Superhuman Showdown  
03:48 Prototype This  
04:36 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger  
05:00 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger  
05:24 How The Universe Works  
06:12 How Do They Do It?  
06:36 Food Factory  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:26 Food Factory  
09:26 Close Encounters  
11:50 How The Universe Works  
13:26 How Do They Do It?  
15:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
16:14 Redesign My Brain  
17:02 Mind Control Freaks  
17:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
18:40 Superhuman Showdown  
19:30 Prototype This  
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman



00:00 Violetta  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Hank Zipzer  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Violetta  
03:15 The Hive  
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:10 Hank Zipzer  
04:35 Binny And The Ghost  
05:00 Violetta

05:45 The Hive  
05:50 Mouk  
06:00 Jessie  
06:25 Jessie  
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
07:20 Star Darlings  
07:25 Austin & Ally  
07:50 Disney Mickey Mouse  
07:55 Jessie  
08:20 Descendants Wicked World  
08:25 Backstage  
08:50 Star Darlings  
08:55 Alex & Co.  
09:20 Disney Mickey Mouse  
09:25 Girl Meets World  
09:50 Stuck In The Middle  
10:15 Disney Cookabout  
10:40 High School Musical  
12:15 Descendants Wicked World  
12:20 Dog With A Blog  
14:25 Austin & Ally  
14:50 Austin & Ally  
15:15 Bunk'd  
15:40 Bunk'd  
16:05 Descendants Wicked World  
16:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
17:00 Gravity Falls  
17:25 Double Teamed  
19:00 Star Darlings  
19:05 Disney Cookabout  
19:30 Jessie  
19:55 Liv And Maddie  
20:20 Best Friends Whenever  
20:45 Good Luck Charlie  
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water  
22:00 Binny And The Ghost  
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:10 Hank Zipzer  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:05 Art Attack  
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:45 Calimero  
01:00 Zou  
01:15 Loopdidoo  
01:30 Art Attack  
02:00 Calimero  
02:15 Zou  
02:30 Loopdidoo  
02:45 Art Attack  
03:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:20 Calimero  
03:35 Zou  
03:45 Loopdidoo  
04:00 Art Attack  
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:35 Calimero  
04:50 Zou

05:00 Loopdidoo  
05:15 Art Attack  
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:50 Calimero  
06:00 Zou  
06:20 Loopdidoo  
06:35 Art Attack  
07:00 The Hive  
07:10 Zou  
07:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
07:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
08:00 Sofia The First  
08:30 Goldie & Bear  
09:00 PJ Masks  
09:30 Doc McStuffins  
10:00 Sofia The First  
10:30 Goldie & Bear  
11:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
11:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
12:00 Goldie & Bear  
12:15 Sofia The First  
12:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
13:00 Sofia The First  
13:30 Doc McStuffins  
14:00 The Lion Guard  
14:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
15:00 Goldie & Bear  
15:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
16:00 The Lion Guard  
16:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
17:00 Sofia The First  
17:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
18:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
18:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
19:00 PJ Masks  
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
20:00 Doc McStuffins  
20:30 Sofia The First  
21:00 Goldie & Bear  
21:30 Goldie & Bear  
22:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
23:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
23:20 Calimero  
23:35 Zou  
23:50 Loopdidoo

Disney XD  
06:00 Booster  
06:10 Super Matrak  
06:35 Super Matrak  
07:00 Danger Mouse  
07:25 K.C. Undercover  
07:50 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
08:15 Supa Strikas  
08:40 Kirby Buckets  
09:10 Mighty Med  
09:35 Lab Rats  
10:00 Lab Rats  
10:25 K.C. Undercover  
10:50 K.C. Undercover  
11:20 Supa Strikas  
11:45 Supa Strikas  
12:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
13:00 Sword In The Stone, The

# Guinea reels over foreign boats' illegal fishing

**CONAKRY:** Idrissa Kallo's expert eyes dart across the waters off Guinea's port capital, Conakry, looking for fish that always seem fewer and far between his nets. As African governments gather for a summit in Togo aimed at cracking down on illegal fishing, Guinea's corrupt officials and lack of resources to prevent the looting of its waters exemplify the problems facing the continent's west coast.

The Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG) has estimated that over \$100 million (90 million euros) in marine products are caught illegally in Guinean waters every year, with the worst offenders being Chinese, South Korean and Spanish trawlers. "They come here during the night and fish until five or six in the morning, then leave our waters," Kallo said onboard his "pirogue", a narrow wooden fishing vessel typical to west Africa. "Sometimes the inspectors are complicit, and cut the surveillance systems," he added. "It's the ones who hand out the licences who have been to blame for years now."

A report by Britain's Overseas Development Institute (ODI) estimated in June that more than 300,000 new jobs could be created in Africa if measures such as a global tracking system for fishing vessels were instituted, legal loopholes were closed and vessels who repeatedly infringed the law put on a global blacklist. The sale of fishing rights to foreigners netted Africa \$400 million in 2014, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, but could in theory generate \$3.3 billion if the continent's own fleets caught and exported the fish.

## Connivance

Taking matters into their own hands when out on the high seas, Guinea's fishermen call their colleagues back on land if they observe suspect behavior, who in turn pass on the information to the authorities, Kallo said. "(We) proposed a system of joint surveillance," where fishermen would join inspectors on boats caught in the act. Authorities did not go for it, he said, because it risked unveiling—and thus preventing—corrupt practices. "When they (inspectors) catch a boat breaking the law, the contents belong to them. It's a business," he claimed.

Due to the poaching, local fishermen's families lose out and so do the people on land whose livelihoods depend on fish. Conakry's famous smoke houses, for example, are almost all staffed by women who can ill afford a collapse in fishing stocks. The suspicion of connivance between the authorities and illegal trawlers runs deep in Guinea, the sole country in Africa to have been slapped with a ban on imports by the European Union in 2013 for its failure to act on "illegal, unreported and unregulated" fishing.

But the ban was lifted this week after concrete steps were taken to deal with the problem—a well deserved prize, said the man in charge of securing Guinea's seas, maritime commissioner Diomande Doumbouya. A maritime operations centre monitored its waters 24 hours a day, seven days a week, he said, tracking information from GPS systems built into boats. "If a vessel is engaged in illegal activities, it is reported. We can then board (the vessel) straight away," he added.

They have had some successes: two Chinese vessels were among 14 identified as operating illegally in a joint operation mounted by The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal between August 28 and September 1. The crews face combined fines of more than three million euros (\$3.3 million), though one of the vessels escaped. Doumbouya is adamant that the problem is not one of greed, but of poor resources. "If the state were able to provide speedboats and the means to send out patrols more frequently... that would put these people off," the colonel said, adding that the trawlers simply waited for days when there were no maritime police present.

## Regional solution?

Guinea's fisheries minister Andre Louah believes the country now has the right data to inform the authorities of the problem, but admits it often lacks the means to do anything about it. "More than once, I have been informed that



**CONAKRY:** Women select and prepares fish in Conakry. The Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG) has estimated that over \$100 million (90 million euros) in marine products are caught illegally in Guinean waters every year, with the worst offenders being Chinese, South Korean and Spanish trawlers. — AFP

there have been unauthorized vessels which were probably fishing illegally in our waters," the minister said. However, the National Centre for Surveillance and Protection of Fishing (CNSP) failed to respond, Louah said, underlining a fundamental disconnect. "It's good to have information, but if we don't have the necessary means to get there and board these ships, it becomes a little difficult," he added.

The solution, he believes, is better regional co-operation, of the type that netted the Chinese ships during the sum-

mer. That EU and World Bank-backed monitoring operation was a success of the type the summit in Togo hopes to encourage. Foreign Minister Robert Dussey said ahead of the African Union maritime security summit on Friday the problem had been resolved with a joint effort. "Most African countries that have a coastline are victims of one of these problems (illegal fishing, pollution, piracy), which is why it's so important for African leaders to sit down and try to find solutions." — AFP



**Fishermen stand on a boat in Conakry. — AFP**



Moroccan horsemen perform during the 9th edition of the 'Salon du Cheval' in the port city of El Jadida. — AFP photos

# Tradition, art blend in Morocco 'tbourida' cavalry charges

The equestrian art of tbourida, inspired by the historical charges of the feared cavalymen of Morocco, fascinated Romantic painter Eugene Delacroix two centuries ago and still draws enthusiastic crowds today. At this week's "Salon du Cheval" show in El-Jadida, western Morocco, thousands have been enthralled by the spectacle of groups of riders in colorful traditional dress charging in a line and then suddenly coming to a halt with a synchronized firing of their muskets in a deafening and pungent blast of gunpowder.

The 15 finest troops of cavalymen from across the North African country competed in the first King Mohammed VI Grand Prix of tbourida, taken from the word for gunpowder in a local dialect, at the sandy exhibition grounds of the port city of El-Jadida. The event showcased "the traditional equestrian art of Morocco dating back to the 13th century", Hamid Benazzou, who heads an association on Moroccan horses said.

Mustapha Mallagui, 42, a civil servant and part-time farmer who rides with the "sorba", or troop, from Fes-Meknes in central Morocco, said "tbourida and its horses are like a work of art", as seen in many magnificent paintings by the French master Delacroix. "Historically, (Arab and Berber) tribes would celebrate victories with the tbourida to display their equestrian knowhow, their handling of guns, the beauty of their harnesses. It was a sort of military parade," Mallagui said, standing under one of the huge red-carpeted tents set up for competitors.

Today, the tribal wars are over but the rituals remain a part of traditional festivities in the countryside. Villages and towns all have their own sorba and a nationwide contest selects the best troop from each region. The colorful harnesses of the horses, the regional costumes of the riders are a sight for the eyes, with their embroidery, kaftans, pompoms, the "burnous" Arab hooded cloaks, shoulder belts and turbans. Shiny curved daggers, swords, powder horns and pearl-encrusted guns with chiselled grips add to the visual feast of handicrafts.

## Fusion of man and horse

The tradition of tbourida is deeply-ingrained in central Morocco and the southern deserts, where cavalymen in their majestic blue "gandoura" tunics fire not in the air but into the

ground because, as Mallagui explained, "the enemy is hidden in the sand and not in the mountains". "Before, there were no tanks, no planes in wars... there was only the horse," he said. Tbourida was above all the fusion of man and horse, especially the Barb, an ancient North African breed famed for its hardiness and stamina.

It was introduced to Europe centuries ago and became the favored horse of royal courts and on the battlefield right up to the time of Napoleon. Each sorba is made up of between 11 and 15 riders, mounted proud and straight-backed, with a captain at the centre who loudly coordinates the movements

of his men and horses.

The troop makes a first pass, called the "hadda", at a slow gait followed by a trot, to exhibit their equipment and their mastery of beast and weapons. The "talqa", or charge, is next with a synchronized gallop that comes to a finale with simultaneous firing of the muskets at the captain's command before the horses come to a sudden standstill right in front of the jury. Errors are common, with riders falling off their horse or guns failing to fire. "To be a sorba rider, you need the discipline of a soldier," one of them said as the two-hour spectacle drew to a close.— AFP





MARATHON, Florida: In a Wednesday, Aug 24, 2016 file photo, Aedes Aegypti mosquito larvae swim in a container displayed at the Florida Mosquito Control District Office. — AP

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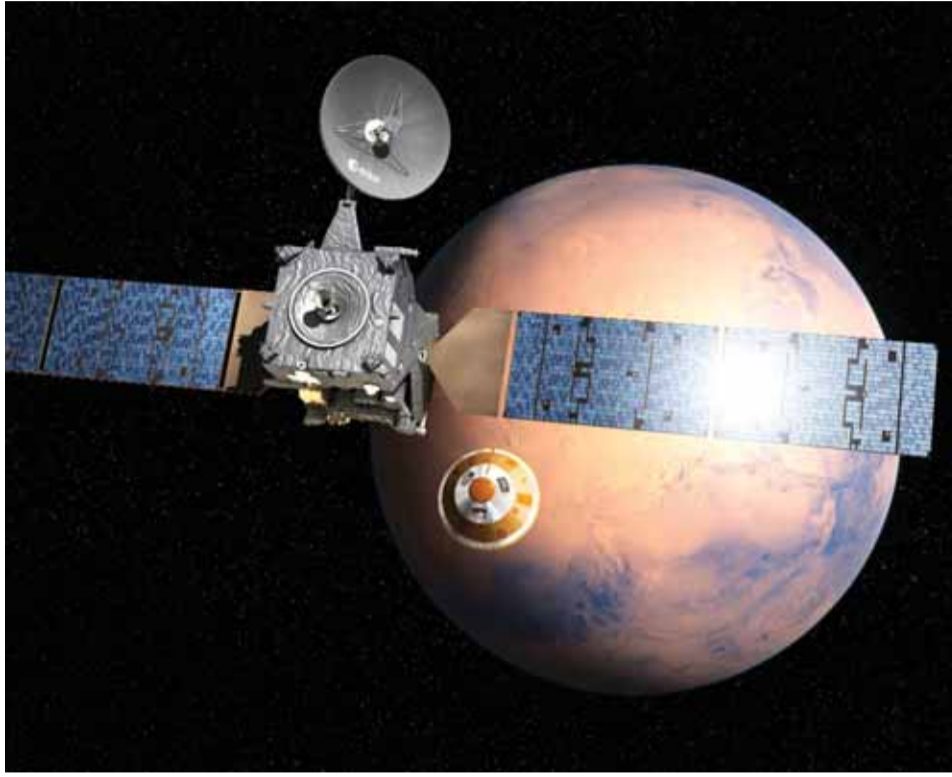
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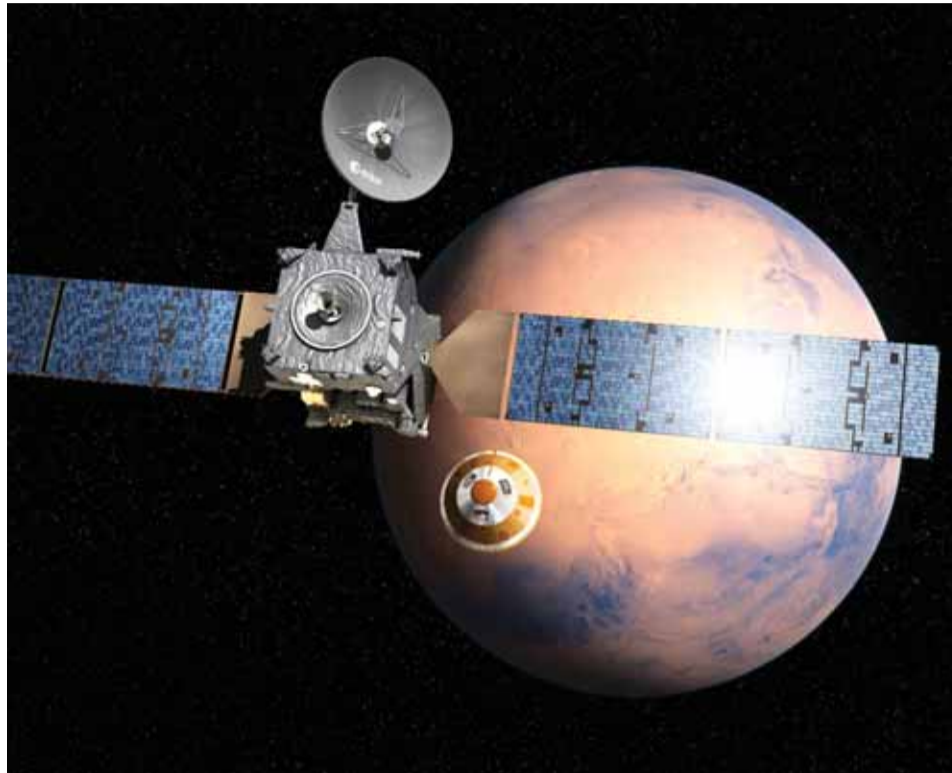
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**KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/10/2016 TO 12/10/2016)**

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

**REQUIRED مطلوب**

- A/C Technician
- Plumbing Technician
- Electric Technician
- Graduation certificate is a Must
- Transferable Residency

-فني تكييف

-فني صحي

-فني كهرباء

-يشترط وجود مؤهل دراسي

-إقامة قابلة للتحويل

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

I Zahra holding Indian Passport No. Z3218479 issued at Kuwait on 29/11/2015, would like change my name to Albertina Fernandes. (C 5219) 14-10-2016

**PRAYER TIMINGS**

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>04:30</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>05:49</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>11:34</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>14:51</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>17:18</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>18:35</b>





WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Baby Shower

Find and circle all of the Baby Shower words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 32 letters spell a secret message.

FLFYOEGSANDWICHESAV  
ERBIENRNGANSDCMDCJA  
BAIFNIOLOEEOITYS  
BAFEAGAIANCVTOISNRP  
GONHNSEWTOEHIVOUEE  
CRCNSDCRRIEPITONSM  
RSEEEGSAFRDTOLSESAI  
ENSEURTPKOIALTVEWEZ  
BOHETIAPTEOARIFBFRE  
HISYOITISABDNTBITR  
OTRNLNNNFORKSEMAGSS  
SASTEIEGNOITARBELEC  
TTRVHSMPCCKOBTSEUGP  
EIEGNIKABASNIKPANAL  
SVWHCNUFRRETABLESA  
SNOCONFETTIDSEZIRPT  
MILADEAREMACSEMEHTE  
OFFPARTYFAVORSGIFTS

- |             |              |                |                |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| ACTIVITIES  | CONFETTI     | GIFTS          | PARTY FAVORS   |
| APPETIZERS  | DECORATIONS  | GLASSES        | PLATES         |
| BABY        | EVENT        | GREETING CARDS | PRIZES         |
| BAKING      | FAMILY       | GUESTBOOK      | PUNCH          |
| BALLOONS    | FESTIVE      | GUESTS         | SANDWICHES     |
| BANNER      | FINGER FOOD  | HOSTESS        | SPOONS         |
| BIRTH       | FLOWERS      | INVITATIONS    | STREAMERS      |
| CAKE        | FORKS        | KNIVES         | TABLES         |
| CAMERA      | FRIENDS      | MOTHER         | THEME          |
| CELEBRATION | GAMES        | MUSIC          | TRADITION      |
| CHAIRS      | GIFT OPENING | NAPKINS        | WRAPPING PAPER |
| COFFEE      |              |                |                |

Yesterday's Solution

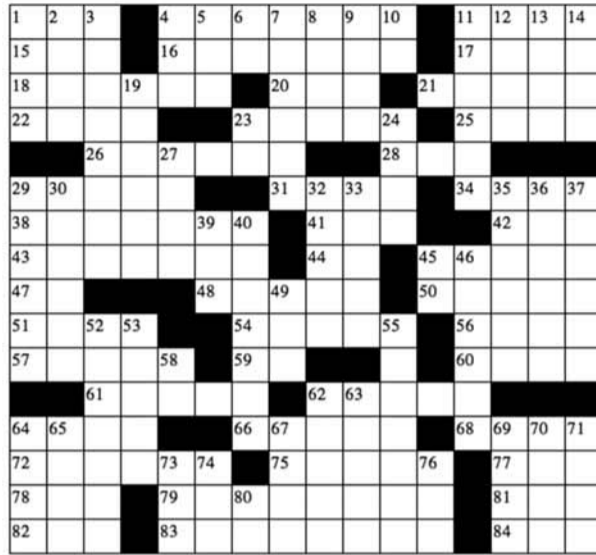
Washing a Car

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

- |              |               |             |            |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| BRUSH        | FENDERS       | PREPARATION | TIRES      |
| BUCKETS      | FRONT         | REAR        | TOP        |
| CHAMOIS      | GARDEN HOSE   | RINSE       | TOWELS     |
| CHROME       | GLASS         | ROOF        | VEHICLE    |
| CLEAN        | GRIME         | SCRUB       | WASH       |
| DEAD BUGS    | HEADLIGHTS    | SIDES       | WATER      |
| DIRT         | HOOD          | SOAP        | WAX        |
| DOOR HANDLES | HUBCAPS       | SPONGE      | WHEELS     |
| DOORS        | LICENSE PLATE | SQUEEGEE    | WINDOWS    |
| DRIVEWAY     | MIRRORS       | SUDS        | WINDSHIELD |
| DRY OFF      | MUD           | TAIL LIGHTS |            |

The hidden message is: BIRD DROPPINGS

CROSSWORD 1400



ACROSS

- A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
- Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
- Avoid and stay away from deliberately.
- A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
- A person who creates models.
- Type genus of the Ranidae.
- A city in northwestern Syria.
- A close friend who accompanies his buddies in their activities.
- The principal evil jinni in Islamic mythology.
- The basic unit of money in Ethiopia.
- A tiny or scarcely detectable amount.
- Tall East Indian cedar having spreading branches with nodding tips.
- 36th President of the United States.
- A unit of current equal to 10 amperes.
- The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
- A town and port in northwestern Israel in the eastern Mediterranean.
- Argentinian carisma.
- Having a toe or toes of a specified kind.
- An overwhelming feeling of wonder or admiration.
- A small flat triangular bone in front of the knee that protects the knee joint.
- (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
- A class of proteins produced in lymph tissue in vertebrates and that function as antibodies in the immune response.
- A clique that seeks power usually through intrigue.
- The amount of money needed to purchase something.
- A lawman concerned with narcotics violations.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
- Great brightness.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- Type genus of the Anatidae.
- A projection at the end of a piece of wood that is shaped to fit into a mortise and form a mortise joint.
- (prefix) In front of or before in space.
- Strike with disgust or revulsion.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
- Any plant of the genus Erica.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- An informal term for a father.
- A large estate in Spanish-speaking countries.
- A young woman making her debut into society.

DOWN

- Loose or flaccid body fat.
- Surrealist Spanish painter (1904-1989).
- A mining town in southern Wales.
- The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
- A toilet in England.
- A state in the Rocky Mountains.
- Move away from a place into another direction.
- (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- A shop selling delicatessen (as salads or cooked meats).
- A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- A historical region in central and northern Yugoslavia.
- An indication of radiant light drawn around the head of a saint.
- Any division of quantity accepted as a standard of measurement or exchange.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
- An infant that is born prior to 37 weeks of gestation.
- A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- A region whose eastern part is Bangladesh and western part is included in India.
- Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
- A pipe with a long flexible tube connected to a container where the smoke is cooled by passing through water.
- The basic unit of money in Zambia.
- A mythical Greek warrior who was a leader on the Trojan side of the Trojan War.
- (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
- The great hall in ancient Persian palaces.
- A physician who is not a specialist but treats all illnesses.
- A large fleet.
- Top part of an apron.
- Thrown into a state of agitated confusion.
- Someone unpleasantly strange or eccentric.
- Any of various tiny insects whose larvae are parasites on eggs and larvae of other insects.
- Half the width of an em.
- A brief indulgence of your impulses.
- A mound of stones piled up as a memorial or to mark a boundary or path.
- Kamarupan languages spoken in northeastern India and western Burma.
- A beautiful and graceful girl.
- Set down according to a plan.
- (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- The residue that remains when something is burned.
- An accountant certified by the state.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

## QUINN RETURNS WITH HIGH-FLYING FALCONS

**NEW YORK:** When Dan Quinn left the Seattle Seahawks for his opportunity to be an NFL head coach in Atlanta, he wanted to create an identity unique to the Falcons. Quinn didn't want Atlanta to be a replica of what he experienced in Seattle, even if the principles he wanted for the Falcons were similar. "Can the team be featured in the very best way of how we wanted to utilize the players? The messaging, the identity, the toughness that we wanted to play with, having that really come to life?" Quinn posed. "It took going through some tough lessons and developing some resiliency through last year with some difficult losses. ... Those were scars that were painful as hell to go through, but on the other side of it we grew tougher, we grew stronger."

Quinn's former team will get an up-close look at what he's created in Atlanta when the Seahawks host the Falcons on Sunday in a clash of teams that look to be among the top contenders in the NFC. It's an enticing matchup, featuring Atlanta's No. 1-ranked offense against Seattle's top-ranked defense that's had an extra week of rest and preparation. And it's a reunion for Quinn to see the defense he helped to create in Seattle during his two seasons as coordinator, and whether it can slow down Matt Ryan and the Falcons.

The Falcons went down this path a year ago, starting 6-1 before losing six straight games, finishing 8-8 and missing the playoffs, so there is still hesitation about the validity of Atlanta's start this season. But a win in Denver last week, followed by a win in Seattle would certainly quiet doubters. Even though Dallas has a 4-1 record, there remain enough doubters about the Cowboys that their visit to Green Bay is another prove-it game. The way Dak Prescott is throwing it (155 passes without a pick) and Ezekiel Elliott is running it (league-high 546 yards), Dallas is proving you can win behind rookies.

"There are certainly a lot of areas where we have to get better," Cowboys coach Jason Garrett says, "but we're doing a good job coming off the ball, getting into blocks and finding places for runners to run. The runners are running well." Still, the Packers hold opponents to 42.8 yards rushing per game. If the Cowboys, who have four wins in 15 games at the Packers, come close to their 155.2 yards per game on the ground, it will be impressive. And possibly decisive.

### Anthem blues

With Colin Kaepernick starting for the slumping San Francisco 49ers, he's going to attract attention in Buffalo for more than his refusal to stand during the US anthem. It took a four-game slide with Blaine Gabbert showing little at quarterback for coach Chip Kelly to make the change. Buffalo is hoping to keep streaking after going 3-0 since elevating Anthony Lynn to offensive coordinator and firing Greg Roman.

In Tom Brady's first regular-season game in Foxborough after serving his four-game "Deflategate" suspension, listen for wild cheers of support, some nasty chants about league commissioner Roger Goodell, and look for Brady to fill the air with regulation footballs. Many of those are likely to land in the hands of New England's Rob Gronkowski, Julian Edelman, Danny Amendola and a new favorite, tight end Martellus Bennett, who had three touchdown catches last week. The visiting Cincinnati Bengals were humiliated in Dallas, and they haven't won in New England in 30 years. Brady is 5-1 against them with 12 touchdowns. The action began on Thursday when San Diego held off Denver 21-13. Philip Rivers threw for 178 yards and a touchdown, passing Hall of Famer Dan Fouts to become San Diego's career passing leader. — AP



**SANTA CLARA:** San Francisco 49ers outside linebacker Eli Harold, quarterback Colin Kaepernick and safety Eric Reid kneel during the national anthem before an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys. — AP



**SAN DIEGO:** San Diego Chargers cornerback Craig Mager, center, reacts after picking up a fumble during the second half of an NFL football game as Denver Broncos quarterback Trevor Siemian back left, passes. — AP

## CHARGERS EASE SOME PAIN BY BEATING BRONCOS 21-13

**SAN DIEGO:** The San Diego Chargers eased a lot of pain with their 21-13 victory over the Denver Broncos. Philip Rivers threw for 178 yards and one touchdown, passing Hall of Famer Dan Fouts to become San Diego's career passing leader, and the Chargers held off the Broncos. The victory may have saved embattled coach Mike McCoy's job and it snapped a streak of 10 straight losses in the AFC West dating to 2014.

Most importantly, the Chargers figured out how to finish a game in which they had a late lead. "There is nothing like winning," a misty-eyed McCoy said. "Especially beating a good football team in front of our home fans. It was great." Of course, these being the Chargers (2-4), they still extended nervous time right down to the final gun. Denver's Brandon McManus kicked a 46-yard field goal with 27 seconds left, and Denver recovered the onside kick at its 46. It got to the San Diego 45 with 8 seconds to go before Trevor Siemian's desperation pass was batted down by Dexter McCoil. "You can't take winning for granted in this league," defensive end Corey Liuget said. "When I saw it said 0:00 and that guy didn't catch that ball, I was happy. I got on my knee and said, 'Thank you, Lord. It's over now.'" Here are some takeaways from the Chargers' victory against the Broncos:

### RIVERBOAT MIKE

McCoy has been under fire for his conservative approach, particularly late in games, and clock-management issues. He went for it on fourth-and-1

from the Denver 20 early in the second half, with Melvin Gordon going over the top for a 1-yard gain. Rivers misfired on two straight passes and was flushed on third down, forcing the Chargers to settle for Josh Lambo's 37-yard field goal for a 10-0 lead. McCoy improved to 25-31 overall in four seasons. The Chargers were coming off a mistake-filled loss at Oakland, and earlier in the season lost three games in which they led at the 2-minute warning. The Chargers are trying to convince voters to approve a \$1.1 billion public handout for a new downtown stadium in the form of an increase in the hotel occupancy tax.

The victory "meant a ton for Mike," Rivers said. "It wasn't talked about a lot on the team but veteran players ... I felt it. Not that I expected it if it didn't go well. I had no idea but you also you are not playing dumb. We knew we had to get this thing going in a hurry."

### FINALLY FINISHING

What changed from those brutal losses, when the Chargers blew late leads? "It was a mindset for us to go out there and finish, and everyone knew we were going to finish this game," Liuget said. They need to keep it up. Their next two games are at Atlanta and at Denver. San Diego has lost 10 of its last 11 road games.

### BRONCOS' BOSS

The defending Super Bowl champion Broncos were coached by special teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis after head coach Gary Kubiak was ordered by doctors to sit this one out because of a

migraine condition that mimics strokes. "I'm sick to my stomach because I hate to lose," DeCamillis said. "We've got a lot of grit and determination. We'll bounce back."

### ROLLING RIVERS

Rivers, in his 13th season with the Chargers and 11th as starter, has 43,094 career yards passing. Fouts threw for 43,040 yards in 15 seasons with San Diego. "This was one was definitely special," Rivers said about passing Fouts. "Making it even more special was wearing the uniforms we had. That color blue was what they wore back in that era when Dan was playing." Rivers threw a 5-yard scoring pass to rookie tight end Hunter Henry to cap the game's first possession. Rivers finished 18 of 29. Otherwise, the Chargers had to settle for Lambo's career-high four field goals of 37, 21, 31 and 32 yards, plus a safety.

### LATE-FIRING

The five-time defending AFC West champion Broncos (4-2) were mostly sluggish behind Siemian, who was back at quarterback after rookie Paxton Lynch struggled in a loss to Atlanta. They lost their second straight game and had their NFL-record 15 straight divisional road victories snapped. "We didn't make the most of our opportunities, especially early in the game, but we showed a lot of resilience at the end. It was too little, too late," said Siemian, who was 30 of 50 for 230 yards, with a 5-yard scoring pass to Bennie Fowler midway through the fourth quarter. — AP

## LEBRON SAYS UNION HELPS RETIRED PLAYERS IN TALKS

**CLEVELAND:** NBA players are pushing for more money in the next collective bargaining agreement - for the players who came before them. Cleveland Cavaliers superstar LeBron James, vice president of the NBPA's executive committee, told The Associated Press on Thursday the union has made getting aid for retired players a priority in their talks with NBA owners on a new deal.

The NBA and its players have agreed that the next CBA will include new league-funded programs to help retired players with education and medical expenses, four people with knowledge of the situation told the AP. The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because talks are ongoing. In exchange for those programs, and pending full approval from both sides, the split of basketball-related income would remain the same "50-50" deal as it is in the current agreement.

Deciding on how to divvy up the revenue pie was the biggest obstacle that led to the ugly lock-out five years ago. But with that issue essentially taken care of this time around, negotiations have gone much smoother as both sides look to reach an agreement on a new deal before the Dec 15 deadline to opt out.

### State of the Union

For James, NBPA President Chris Paul and the rest of the union, taking care of those who are no longer playing is a worthy compromise for trying to recoup any of the financial ground lost during the 2011 labor dispute. "We got a group of guys that are in there that know the negotiations, so any way to give back and try to help our former teammates and help former players and things of that nature," James said.

"Because we've all built this league together. No matter how big of a guy you were or if you were the 15th guy on the bench, we all built this league into what it is today. But it's not just my idea. I'm not taking any credit for that. But it's all part of the process." Mike Glenn, a 10-year NBA veteran and a member of the National Basketball Retired Players Association's board of directors, said the CBA has dominated conversations among retirees for more than a year.

"We're very thankful to Chris Paul, LeBron and others who have provided the leadership to include us in the negotiations, and have the foresight to see that they'll be us in a couple of years," said Glenn, currently an Atlanta Hawks analyst for Fox Sports Southeast. "There are so many guys with medical issues, who have had hip and knee replacements. With the cost of health care going up, it would be the biggest thing that's happened for retirees in 10 years."

That process will resume next week when the league and the union meet ahead of the NBA Board of Governor's meeting in New York, which begins on Oct. 20. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and union head Michele Roberts met in Spain earlier this month when the league had a preseason game there and they - along with other members of the negotiating committee - are preparing to return to the bargaining table with both sides in deal-making mode.

### Skyrocketing values

During the bitter negotiations of 2011 that resulted in the loss of 16 games for each team off of the schedule, the players ultimately accepted a decrease from 57 percent of basketball-related income to a band between 49 and 51 percent depending on a variety of economic factors for each particular season. After the league secured a new \$24 billion television contract, franchise values skyrocketed. There was talk of the players opting out of the 10-year deal and seeking givebacks from the owners. But the talks between the owners and players this time around have been much more cordial. —AP



**ATLANTA:** Atlanta Hawks forward Thabo Sefolosha (25) goes to the basket as Cleveland Cavaliers guard DeAndre Liggins (14) defends in the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game Monday, Oct 10, 2016. —AP

# SCHRODER READY TO SHINE FOR HAWKS

**ATLANTA:** Dennis Schroder was back in his native Germany this past summer, driving around with his best friend, when his cellphone began to buzz. Schroder couldn't check it out while behind the wheel. Even when he got to his mother's house, he still didn't believe what he was seeing. The Atlanta Hawks had traded their longtime point guard, Jeff Teague.

"When I heard it, I thought they were playing," Schroder said, still shaking his head. "It's a big chance for me, a big opportunity. I've got to prove myself now." While the signing of Dwight Howard generated much of the off-season buzz in Atlanta, the decision to go with Schroder could turn out to be more significant for the Hawks. Still only 23 but with three NBA seasons under his belt, Schroder has the potential to be one of the NBA's top point guards, an immensely creative player who can cause all sorts of problems with his speed and quickness. The Hawks are hoping the pairing of Howard with Schroder will lead a revamped team that reached the Eastern Conference finals two years ago, only to take a significant step backward last season.

"He's got a lot of confidence," Coach Mike Budenholzer said. "I think he understands what we're doing at a very deep level, what we expect on both ends of the court. I think he carries himself with a belief and confidence that's befitting a starter." Schroder and Howard are still getting used to each other.

During a preseason game Thursday night against Detroit, Schroder lost one defender

with a dazzling crossover, and then split two more defenders as he darted into the lane. He tossed up a lob, expecting Howard to be there, but the ball went right to the Pistons. Atlanta's new big man didn't anticipate what his point guard had in mind. Clearly, it's going to be an adjustment going from previous Atlanta center Al Horford - really, more of a power forward - to Howard, a dominating inside presence but not as well-rounded as his predecessor.

### Pressure on the rim

Schroder expects opposing teams to sag toward the basket at every opportunity, looking both to limit Howard and choke off the potential driving lanes. That's why Schroder spent much of the summer working on his jump shot. He often stays after practice to get in extra work with Atlanta's best outside shooter, Kyle Korver. "With Dwight rolling to the rim and putting a lot of pressure on the rim, we're probably going to get a lot of open shots," Schroder said. "I think the mid-range jumper is going to be open all day. I've got to shoot them."

After being drafted 17th overall in 2013, Schroder played sparingly as a rookie. But he made a big leap in Year 2, averaging 10 points and 4.1 assists on a team that set a franchise record by going 60-22. Schroder continued to play behind Teague a season ago but was often on the court in the closing minutes of big games, including the playoffs. With Teague entering the final year of his contract, the

Hawks dealt him to Indiana for a first-round pick and put their faith fully in Schroder, who averaged 11 points and 4.4 assists while Teague's production sagged.

"It changed in no time, like, everything," Schroder said. "I'm just trying to get better every day and take the next step." With increased minutes, Schroder knows he must alter his style of play. Coming off the bench, he could just go, go, go at both ends of the court. "Full court (defense) is probably not going to work for 82 games," Schroder said, breaking into a smile. "I've got to get used to playing 30 to 35 minutes a game."

He's been getting advice from teammate Kent Bazemore, who earned a similar promotion. A high-energy bench player when he first signed with the Hawks, Bazemore had to learn how to pace himself a bit when he moved into the starting lineup. "It's definitely an adjustment for him," Bazemore said. "He likes to pressure like crazy. Obviously, with him playing a lot more minutes, it's a lot harder to do that." But Bazemore and his teammates have no doubt the Hawks are in good hands with Schroder.

"He's just trying to find his role, find his niche, find out how he can be more effective at both ends of the floor," Bazemore said. "He's definitely gotten a lot better with the ball in his hands. He's starting to make the right reads, getting a lot of guys involved, getting more vocal as the point guard. He's doing all the right things." —AP

## BIN EIDAN: QATAR RALLY 2017 CANCELLATION DISAPPOINTING

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti Rally champion Salah bin Eidan expressed his pleasure for the registration of Qatar international rally 2017 to be the first opening round of Middle East championship for rallies especially after the rumor that went around the news of cancellation of Qatar international rally. In this regard, Bin Eidan said that I would like to send a message to those who wanted to cancel the rally - you are disap-

pointed - I am really so happy , this happiness can only be realized by those who know the real meaning of motor sport especially here in our region .

Bin Eidan said that Qatar was and still is one of the main supporters for motor sport. Qatar has a good historical background due to the great efforts exerted by FIM deputy president & FIA Vice President Mr Nasser Bin Khalifa Al

Attiyah when he was occupying the position of QMMF president , as he was one of the main characters that drawn the features of these successes that Qatar is enjoying now . Bin Eidan also wished to hear soon a confirmation that Kuwait international rally 2017 would be also registered as Qatar.

He added that we will not give the chance to anyone to exclude Kuwait from the agenda of this champi-

onship, as this rally is considered the only channel for motor sport in Kuwait. At the end of his statement , bin Eidan said that , I would like to say once more to Dr Mohammed Bin Sulayem that you lost all your papers when you lost the support of most of federations and clubs of the region MENA , due to the irresponsible acts and deeds of yourself in the last few months .

## CHAMPION LORENZO SETS PACE IN JAPAN

**MOTEGI:** World champion Jorge Lorenzo lapped fastest in practice on a crash-filled yesterday ahead of this weekend's Japanese MotoGP Grand Prix as Dani Pedrosa fractured his collarbone in a nasty spill. Championship leader Marc Marquez was fourth quickest for Honda but much of the focus was on Pedrosa, who decided to fly back to Spain for surgery after a heavy fall in Friday's afternoon session that broke his collarbone into four pieces.

Yamaha's Lorenzo clocked 1min 45.151sec in cool and dry conditions at Motegi, followed by Ducati's Andrea Dovizioso, who lapped 0.053sec slower with rising Suzuki star Maverick Vinales third. "The bike is working quite well and I'm in good shape, so I'm very motivated to make it a good race," Lorenzo said. Marquez suffered a minor fall in the afternoon as he tested the limit of the hard front tire at the hairpin but was still good enough for fourth, while his closest championship rival Valentino Rossi was seventh.

"We are very close," said Spain's double world champion. "At the moment Lorenzo is the fastest guy. But me, Vinales, Valentino, Dovizioso-we more or less have the same pace." The hard tyre also caused troubles for Rossi, as temperature quickly dropped in the afternoon in mountainous Motegi, sending several riders to crash. "It was a mixed day. This afternoon it was difficult practice because we tried the hard tyre," said the Italian. Along with Pedrosa, Aspar's Eugene Laverty also wiped out at turn six.

Both men managed to walk to the circuit's medical centre. Laverty decided to seek further tests at a local hospital, while Honda decided to send Pedrosa home. He will be replaced by test rider Hiroshi Aoyama, team officials said. "I was on the out-lap of my last run in (afternoon practice) when I momentarily lost the rear entering turn 11, and when the tire found grip again it launched me in the air," Pedrosa, who is set to undergo surgery in Barcelona on Saturday, said in a statement.

Marquez, meanwhile, can mathematically claim his third MotoGP title in Japan on Sunday. With four races to go, Rossi is battling to close a 52-point gap against Marquez, who has never won at the Motegi circuit but his second-place finish in 2014 secured that season's championship. Sunday's race kicks off three weekends of successive races in an Asian "triple-header", which also takes the riders to Australia and Malaysia, before the season finale in Spain after a topsy-turvy season that has yielded eight different grand prix winners so far. —AFP



**MOTEGI:** Movistar Yamaha MotoGP's Spanish rider Jorge Lorenzo drives his motorcycle during the MotoGP-class second free practice session at the Japanese Grand Prix in the Twin Ring Motegi circuit. — AFP



## DISABLED NATIONAL TEAMS RETURN FROM COMPETITIONS

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's disabled national fencing teams of the under 23 and under 17 year categories returned from Holland yesterday after participating in the world cup. Kuwait's Disabled Table Tennis team also returned from Thailand yesterday and the Thai Table Tennis open tournament.

Head of Kuwait fencing team Mansour Al-Sarheed lauded Abdallah Al-Khalidi who won the bronze medal for the junior team in the Epee event. The feat is all the more remarkable as a large number of teams participated from Europe and Asia. Al-Sarheed in a statement upon the arrival of the teams said the disabled sports club under the presidency of Shafi Al-Hajiri and the rest of the board of directors are keen on having athletes in such tournaments to develop and enhance their skills so they can become future champions and participate in other world events as well as the paralympics.

Al-Sarheed appreciated the support of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) which is under chairman Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to his club by facilitating all that is needed in its participation abroad. He called upon

other disabled youths to join the club and practice their favorite sport, besides serving their country in various arenas.

Meanwhile table tennis player Ali Al-Sane along with teammate Khalifa Al-Qasim won two bronze medals in Thailand in the doubles event. He reached the semifinals of the individ-

ual event, but withdrew because he was scheduled to face an Israeli player. Al-Sane said he along with his teammates learned a lot from participating as they met a variety of players who belonged to strong teams from Asia. He thanked the national team officials for their efforts.



## NZ'S BEASTS BACK FOR ODIS AFTER INDIA TEST MAULING

**DHARAMSALA:** New Zealand will welcome back their most successful bowler and most destructive batsman Sunday at the start of a five-match ODI series against a below-strength India after a mauling in the Tests. Tim Southee, whose 135 one-day wickets put him at the top of the chart of New Zealand's current players, missed the recent three-match Test series with an ankle injury as his team-mates were whitewashed by their hosts. But the 27-year-old's return should give the Black Caps a much-needed boost for the series opener in the Himalayan hill station of Dharamsala where the chillier conditions will be far more familiar for the tourists.

Corey Anderson, who has the highest strike of any New Zealand player in ODI history, is back from an ankle injury to bolster the batting at a ground where New Zealand enjoyed one of their most satisfying recent wins. Back in March, New Zealand beat arch rivals Australia at the picturesque Dharamsala ground by eight runs in the World Twenty20, gaining a measure of revenge for their defeat in last year's 50 over World Cup final.

Anderson and Southee's return gives a more experienced look to a tour party which coach Mike Hesson admits are "in a trough" and need "to move on pretty quickly" from their Test disappointment. Southee, who has not played an ODI for New Zealand this year, said "the guys were hurting a bit" after the Test disappointment but predicted a close ODI series which he was particularly looking forward to.

"It's never nice to be injured and having to watch so it's exciting to get back out there," he told New Zealand Cricket's website. "We can't dwell on it (the defeat in the Tests) too much, we have an important one day series ahead that everyone is looking forward to and I think (it) will be a very evenly contested one day series. "We've shown in the last week while that we're a good one day side and we're looking to always improve that record away from home as well and there's no better place to do it than in one of the harder places to tour." While the return of Southee gives New Zealand more options, their hosts will be hampered by the absence of several of their leading bowlers.

### Indian stars rested

Key spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are being rested for the first three matches as is paceman Mohammed Shami who is building up his fitness after a long lay-off. Medium pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, nursing a back strain, was also left out of the squad along with veteran Ishant Sharma who missed the whole series after contracting the mosquito-borne disease chikungunya.

Uncapped off-spinner Jayant Yadav, left-arm spinner Axar Patel and medium-pacer Jasprit Bumrah have instead been given the chance to impress after being named in the squad. And India's batting line-up has been weakened by the loss of veteran Suresh Raina with a viral infection and the opener Shikhar Dhawan, who has a broken thumb.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni will return to lead the side, meaning Test captain Virat Kohli goes back into the ranks, his confidence high after hitting a career best 211 against the Black Caps last weekend. Dhoni, whose last significant ODI innings was an unbeaten 92 against South Africa in October 2015, needs a strong showing to silence critics who say it's time for Kohli to take over in short-form cricket as well. —AFP



FRANKFURT: Afghan cricket player Hamid Wardak plays a ball during an A vs B match. —AFP

# GERMANY'S CRICKET BOOM TO HIT THE SILVER SCREEN

**BERLIN:** A boom of interest in cricket in Germany, fuelled by the influx of asylum seekers from Pakistan and Afghanistan, is a tale poised to hit the silver screen. The season has just finished, but as Brian Mantle, chief executive of the German Cricket Federation (DCB), explained, 2016 has seen clubs shoot up all over the country.

"The summer has been unbelievable, we've had success on and off the field and we've attracted sponsors," Mantle told AFP. "If you name an area of Germany, chances are there is now a cricket club there or one about to be set up. "It's been quite incredible. We could even be soon watching a feature film... about German cricket and its impact on Afghan refugees."

In 2015, Germany took in 890,000 asylum seekers, among them just over 40,000 Afghans and Pakistanis. Many of them soon asked: "Where can I play cricket?" Before refugees began arriving in large numbers last year, there were only around 1,500 active cricketers playing in 70 teams in football-mad Germany. Mantle says there are now 5,000 cricketers, playing in around 250 teams for 108 clubs-and the numbers keep growing.

### Film project

The national German team, many of whose members have roots in cricket-mad India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, has just won promotion from the International Cricket Council's European Division Two. "The goal for next year is to win promotion again in division one, which would put us in the world cricket league," said Mantle. "We wouldn't be at the elite level, but we would have arrived."

The cricket craze has generated huge publicity, both at home and abroad, and then came a phone call from a London-based film

company, Life & Soul Pictures, which is interested in bringing the story of German cricket to the cinema. The project is in its early stages, but has the working title "Rites of Passage". The script is being penned by the Berlin-based writer O'neil Sharma, who worked on Quentin Tarantino's 2009 blockbuster "Inglorious Basterds" and the 2008 Tom Cruise film "Valkyrie".

"The story caught my imagination as I am the son of immigrants-my parents came from India and I was brought up in London," Sharma told AFP. "I was sick of reading negative stories about refugees, fears of terrorism, and this is a story about how sport can bring cultures together."

### 'An honor'

Kabul-born Hamid Wardak was not even aware that cricket was played in Germany when he arrived in 2011. Now he is playing for the national team. "It means a lot, because I am getting to play cricket in a land where I never even thought that cricket existed," Wardak told AFP. "I left my country and came to Germany with the thought that I will go to Holland or England after some time and play there. "But being able to play cricket-good-quality cricket-here is wonderful. It's an honor for me to represent this land on an international level."

Wardak is an example of the integration through sport that German Chancellor Angela Merkel perhaps thought she could only dream of. The 28-year-old speaks fluent German, lives in the northern city of Bremerhaven and works for the local authority as a translator to help refugees. His passion is cricket, but he came to Germany for love, to marry an Afghan woman based here. "But the love of the game made me find cricket in

Germany," he said.

Wardak regularly makes a 140 kilometer round trip to play for his club SG Findorff, who are German champions this season, in the suburbs of Bremen. "I played my first game here in 2012 and was eventually picked for a couple of national team camps," he said. "I obviously had to wait till I got my German passport and played officially in an ICC tournament this year."

### Fears for family

The chance to play cricket in Germany is a welcome distraction for many asylum seekers who worry about an uncertain future and are eager for news of relatives still at home. Wardak is no exception. He was born in Kabul in 1988, but as the civil war flared, his parents took him and his three brothers to the Pakistani border city of Peshawar in 1991, then deeper into Pakistan in 1999.

One of his brothers was shot dead in Afghanistan and his father died of cancer, leaving only his mother and two brothers there. "I talk to my family once a week, but the situation there is very bad," he said. "I am very worried about my family, especially after the loss of my brother and father. My mum is very ill and still hasn't recovered from the death of my brother." So the chance to play his childhood sport in his adopted country is a welcome relief.

His cricket team is as multicultural as the national football squad, which is often held up as an example of integration in German society. "We have guys from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Australia," he said. "And last, not least Knoxy (Steven Knox), our coach, is from Scotland. "I lived almost all of my life as a refugee in Pakistan, but never felt as welcomed as here in Germany." —AFP

## GABBIADINI TO STEP UP FOR MILIK NAPOLI

**MILAN:** A crushing knee injury to Poland striker Arkadiusz Milik paves the way for substitute Manolo Gabbiadini to lead Napoli's Serie A title challenge, according to Italian goalkeeping legend Dino Zoff. Napoli sit second at four points behind leaders Juventus and face their first big test since Milik was sidelined for up to six months with a cruciate ligament injury, when they host Roma today. With Juve hosting struggling Udinese in Turin, Napoli can ill afford to drop points against an ambitious Roma side that sits just a point further behind.

Gabbiadini was left frustrated many times this season as he sat on the bench while Milik, a direct replacement for Juventus-bound striker Gonzalo Higuain, hit four goals in seven league games and three in just two Champions League outings. But Italy legend Zoff, the Napoli goalkeeper for five seasons before a 1972 move to Juventus, told *Corriere della Sera*: "If Gabbiadini, as I believe he can, steps in to replace Milik then Napoli can relaunch the title race. "Four points is a lot, but not much either. We'll see what happens this October, it could be decisive."

Flanked by Dries Mertens and Jose Callejon in Sarri's trademark 4-3-3, it remains to be seen how Gabbiadini fares. While Milik is notably lethal in and around the area, Gabbiadini is a far more versatile forward with a liking for cutting in from the right to shoot with his left. Yet his chance of making an immediate impact could be boosted by Roma's current bout of travel sickness. Luciano Spalletti's men have yet to win away in three attempts, their last a humbling 3-1 defeat at Torino a fortnight ago.

### 'Napoli are just as strong'

Club icon Francesco Totti was quick to wish Milik a "speedy recovery", but said: "Napoli are just as strong" without him. "I expect a very difficult game." Ancelotti, a former Roma striker before beginning a successful coaching career with some of the world's biggest clubs, indicated midweek the Giallorossi would be a match for the hosts. "Napoli are better in possession, Roma are deadly when they get it forward quickly," Ancelotti he told *Il Messaggero*.

Yet the odds are on a Napoli win and Roma slipping further off the pace of Juve, who are not expected to slip at home to a Udinese side struggling in 16th with only seven points in as many games. Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri should be able to rest Higuain ahead of next week's Champions League trip to Lyon, where a win would cement the Italians' grip on Group H.

He could also welcome midfielder Claudio Marchisio back from a six-month injury absence after he confirmed his fitness with a goal in a 2-0 friendly win over lower league side Pro Eureka Settimo in midweek. Reports said Marchisio, who ruptured his crucial anterior ligament in his left knee on April 17, will be a second-half substitute. Elsewhere, Lazio host Bologna looking to maintain a strong start that has seen Simone Inzaghi's men up to fourth, behind Roma only on goals difference.

Fellow surprise packages Chievo, also on 13 points, beat Inter Milan on the opening day of the season and are hoping to complete the Milan double when Vincenzo Montella's AC Milan visit tomorrow. Inter coach Frank De Boer, meanwhile, has left doubts hanging over embattled midfield pair Marcelo Brozovic and Geoffrey Kondogbia ahead of Cagliari's visit tomorrow. Croatia international Brozovic has been sidelined after falling foul of De Boer's strict disciplinary approach, while Kondogbia was unceremoniously hauled off after 28 minutes of a 1-1 home draw with Bologna last month for "failing to listen to instructions". "I don't know yet," was De Boer's reply when asked if either player would feature. —AFP



**HANOVER:** Germany's midfielder Thomas Mueller reacts during the WC 2018 football qualification match between Germany and Northern Ireland. —AFP

## MUELLER DISMISSES ANY TALK OF BAYERN WOBBLE

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich's Thomas Mueller says there is no need to panic as the Bundesliga leaders look to get back to winning ways when they play Eintracht Frankfurt away today. Bayern dropped their first league points of the season after being held to a 1-1 draw at home to Cologne a fortnight ago, four days after their Champions League defeat at Atletico Madrid. The Bavarian giants have 16 points a possible 18, but two games without a win equates to something of a mini-crisis for Bayern, who are three points ahead of Hertha Berlin in the table.

However, the slight dip in form is not a concern for Germany forward Mueller. "With a new coach, we won all of our first eight games, but not our last two and suddenly there's a fire under the roof again," he said. "We're still top of the table, will certainly qualify for the knock-out stages of the Champions League, so there is no need to paint everything black."

Frankfurt lost at Freiburg two weeks ago, but are unbeaten at home in their last six matches. Eintracht have failed to score in their last eight games against Bayern, dating back to 2011, and Munich have won seven of those league encounters with one goalless draw. After their

Madrid disappointment, Bayern need a convincing display ahead of next Wednesday's European clash at home to PSV Eindhoven.

The Frankfurt match is set to see Bayern's Robert Lewandowski and Eintracht's Alexander Meier go head to head. The attacking duo have dominated the league's goalscoring charts for the last three years. Germany defender Joshua Kimmich has scored five goals in his last six matches for Bayern, but Mueller is still waiting to score his first league goal of the season, despite having netted four times for his country. Thomas Tuchel's side suffered a 2-0 defeat at Bayer Leverkusen a fortnight ago.

### Injuries piling up

Borussia have welcomed back Germany winger Marco Reus from a groin injury which kept him out of Euro 2016, but he won't feature this weekend with Dortmund going through something of an injury crisis. Andre Schuerrle, Gonzalo Castro, Sven Bender and Erik Durm were previously injured. Adding to their troubles, Sokratis (groin), Raphael Guerreiro (thigh) and Lukasz Piszczek (knee) all returned from international duty with knocks as well.

Ousmane Dembele picked up an

ankle injury while playing for the French Under-21s, but Tuchel is hopeful both he and Spanish centre-back Marc Bartra will be available. Hertha are in good form and their 2-0 defeat at Bayern last month is their only loss this term while striker Vedad Ibisevic has scored five goals. Victory over Hertha would set a new club record of 25 home matches without defeat for Dortmund.

Having broken their run of five straight defeats to climb off the bottom of the table, Schalke 04 are at Augsburg today as their coach Markus Weinzierl returns to his former club. Schalke hammered Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-0 last time out with new signing Brel Embolo scoring twice to bump Schalke up to 16th. Having assumed Schalke's place at the bottom, Hamburg are at Moenchengladbach this weekend. New coach Markus Gisdol is looking for Hamburg's first win of the season in his second game in charge, while Gladbach will target a boost ahead of Wednesday's Champions League match at Celtic. Along with Bayern, Hoffenheim and RB Leipzig are the only teams in Germany's top flight that are still unbeaten. Hoffenheim host Freiburg today in the south German derby while Leipzig are at Wolfsburg tomorrow. —AFP

## JUVENTUS WARY OF UDINESE

**MILAN:** Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri says he won't be taking Serie A's other 'Bianconeri' side, Udinese, lightly today when key midfielder Claudio Marchisio could make his return for the Italian champions. Juventus host Udinese, who also play in black and white, in Turin looking to stretch their four-point lead on title rivals Napoli, who host third-placed Roma later in the day. But a year after Frenchman Cyril Thereau silenced Juventus Stadium with a 78th minute winner that secured a shock 1-0 win for the northerners, Allegri is taking nothing for granted.

Although Italy international Marchisio will be welcomed back with open arms from a six-month injury absence, Allegri

has a selection dilemma as he looks to keep key players fresh for their Champions League trip to Lyon in midweek. Spanish wing-back Dani Alves and Argentina striker Gonzalo Higuain are both set to be rested, meaning Paulo Dybala should start up front with Croatia striker Mario Mandzukic.

Allegri said Friday: "Tomorrow's game will be the first in a difficult month for us. Plus, tomorrow we need to beat Udinese if we are to capitalize on any negative result for either Napoli or Roma. "Marchisio did well in a friendly game in midweek, but we'll see if he's still a risk or not. "Ideally, we'll try to introduce him at some point in the game, but when you return from a cruciate knee ligament

injury, you have to be careful."

With Napoli four points in arrears in second place and Roma five adrift in third, Juventus have a great chance to steal a march on their title rivals. But a year after suffering a shock defeat to Udinese on the opening day of the season, Allegri remains cautious - especially as the northerners recently appointed former Juventus coach Gigi Delneri following the sacking of Beppe Iachini. "It's not easy to play against Udinese, Delneri is a great coach," he added. "But we have to win tomorrow because it would set us up well for our trip to Lyon, and I call on the fans to show up in numbers." —AFP



**LONDON:** England's captain Wayne Rooney (L) vies with Malta's midfielder Bjorn Kristensen during the World Cup 2018 football qualification match between England and Malta at Wembley Stadium. —AFP

# MOURINHO WEIGHS ROONEY RECALL FOR LIVERPOOL CLASH

**LONDON:** Jose Mourinho faces one of the biggest decisions of his Manchester United reign as he weighs up whether to recall Wayne Rooney for the Premier League clash with bitter rivals Liverpool. Rooney has endured a miserable few weeks after being dropped by United and England. The 30-year-old's troubles have led to a debate about whether he should be used in midfield instead of his long-time role as a striker, while some critics claim he is no longer worthy of his place with club or country.

After crushing Leicester in their first match without Rooney, United were less impressive in a draw against lowly Stoke and Mourinho might be tempted to bring him back at Anfield on Monday. Given Rooney's experience and track record in big games—he scored the winner at Liverpool last season—if Mourinho does leave him out for such a significant fixture it will cement the striker's diminished status in the Old Trafford pecking order.

Dwight Yorke, a Champions League and Premier League winner during his time with United, has no doubts Rooney is still a force to be reckoned with. "People in football have such bloody short memories. He just has to get his confidence back and play in the manner we're used to seeing, banging in goals. Then everyone will be singing his praises again," Yorke said.

After losing their last four league meetings with United, Liverpool have a chance to make a statement about

their title credentials. Jurgen Klopp's side have won four successive matches to climb to fourth place, but the German isn't satisfied. "Even when you are good, you need to get better because the teams around you all get better. To stay in the race, development is everything," Klopp said.

Leaders Manchester City will bid to bounce back from the first defeat of Pep Guardiola's reign when they host Everton. Guardiola was unbeaten in his first 11 matches after arriving from Bayern Munich, but the Spaniard's dream start was shattered by City's 2-0 defeat at Tottenham and Brazil midfielder Fernando admits his team must recover their momentum quickly.

"We need to learn from that defeat and return to winning ways again, so it's vital we get back to playing the way we have been," Fernando said. "We're all keen to put that game behind us because we were a long way from our best." Tottenham hold the top flight's last unbeaten record as they travel to West Bromwich Albion. Mauricio Pochettino's second-placed team are only one point behind City thanks to four consecutive victories.

### Criticism

But Tottenham's fine run could be threatened by a familiar face in Nacer Chadli, who has already scored three times since leaving White Hart Lane to join Albion. "Am I looking forward to the reunion? Not really! He is going to be a very tough opponent,"

Tottenham defender Toby Alderweireld said. Swansea, without a win since the opening day of the season, travel to Arsenal for their first match under new manager Bob Bradley.

Bradley's appointment as replacement for the sacked Francesco Guidolin drew criticism in some quarters and the former USA and Egypt coach could do without a drubbing at in-form Arsenal, who have climbed to third place after five successive wins. Arsenal's title bid was shattered by a 2-1 defeat against Swansea last season and Gunners boss Arsene Wenger wants his squad to show how much they have improved.

"We had a very negative experience with Swansea, who killed our opportunity to win the Premier League," he said. "Now we have a good opportunity to show we can deal with fixtures where we are favorites." Leicester defender Luis Hernandez says the champions are still a team to fear despite a spluttering start to their title defense. With only two wins from their seven league matches, Claudio Ranieri's side appear to be suffering a prolonged hangover from their fairytale triumph ahead of today's visit to Chelsea. But Hernandez said: "Our strength is the group but on the counter-attack, we are lethal."

"We have not started as we would have liked, but we just need two or three good results to grow in confidence." —AFP

## PIQUE EYES PRESIDENCY

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona defender Gerard Pique believes he can take the unusual route into club politics rather than management when his playing career comes to an end by becoming Barca president. The Catalan giants are run by a president voted for by the club's near 150,000 members with mandates lasting up to six years.

"I want to be president of Barca. It is the step I would like to take when I retire. I don't see myself as a coach, I don't think I would enjoy it that much," Pique told Catalan TV station TV3. "I could do very well for this club as president because it is my passion." Pique, 29, announced his decision to retire from international football after the 2018 World Cup earlier this week due to the latest in a series of attacks on his commitment to play for Spain.

During Spain's 2-0 win at Albania on Tuesday was falsely accused of cutting the colors of the Spanish flag off his long-sleeved shirt as the colors appeared only on the short-sleeved version of the shirt. Pique has also been consistently jeered by Spain fans when playing for the national team, in part due to his public barbs at Real Madrid and for his outspoken support for a referendum on Catalan independence.

"I have positioned myself on the right to decide and I continue to believe that. In a democratic country like Spain, the right (for the people) to decide is the most democratic thing there is." However, Pique has never explicitly stated he would vote for independence in the case of a referendum. "If you choose one side or the other you get scolded. There is no doubt about that. I haven't chosen and I have been scolded. Imagine if I had." —AFP



### Matches on TV (Local Timings)

#### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea v Leicester City	14:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Manchester City v Everton	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
West Bromwich Tottenham	17:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Bournemouth v Hull City	17:00
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
Stoke City v Sunderland	17:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Arsenal v Swansea City	17:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Crystal Palace v West Ham	19:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

#### SPANISH LEAGUE

CD Leganes v Sevilla FC	14:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Barcelona v Deportivo	17:15
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Atletico de Madrid v Granada	19:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Real Betis v Real Madrid CF	21:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

#### ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

SSC Napoli v AS Roma	16:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Pescara v UC Sampdoria	19:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Juventus v Udinese Calcio	21:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

#### GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Monchengladbach v Hamburger	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
FC Koln v FC Ingolstadt 04	15:30
beIN SPORTS	
FC Augsburg v Schalke 04	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
TSG Hoffenheim v Freiburg	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Eintracht v Bayern Munich	16:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Werder Bremen v Bayer 04	19:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

#### FRENCH LEAGUE

Nancy Lorraine v PSG	18:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Lorient v Nantes	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Montpellier HSC v Caen	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Bastia v Angers	21:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Guingamp v Lille OSC	21:00



## CONTE LAUGHS OFF SACK TALK

**COBHAM:** Antonio Conte insists he has no reason to fear for his future at Chelsea after bookmakers suspended betting on the Italian being sacked. Conte has only been in charge at Stamford Bridge since July, but he had to answer questions about his job security yesterday following heavy betting on his imminent dismissal 24 hours earlier.

Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich is notorious for acting quickly when he feels a manager is under-achieving and last season he sacked Jose Mourinho eight months after his team won the Premier League. But, although Chelsea have endured some difficult moments in the early stages of Conte's reign, including consecutive lackluster defeats against Liverpool and Arsenal, it would be a bizarre move to axe the Italian after only nine games.

Chelsea have made it clear they have no intention of wielding the axe and Conte was relaxed when quizzed ahead of Saturday's Premier League clash with champions Leicester. "I take this with a smile. I'm trying to find who bet the money!" Conte told reporters at Chelsea's training ground. "I have good communication and a good relationship with the club. "It's very difficult to talk about this situation. I'm focused about my work. I'm focused to improve the team."

After spending the majority of his managerial career with Italian clubs, whose owners are famous for hiring and firing with remarkable regularity, Conte isn't fazed by his first taste of England's version of the sack race. "The pressure is the same. It's normal to be under pressure, also for the players," he said. "When you are in a club you want to win and do good work. The pressure is part of our job. It's the same in other countries. "We are working very hard to change the situation of the past, the whole of the last season. "We are trying to bring something important for the present and the future."

### Big challenges

While he remains confident about his future with Chelsea, after failing his first two big tests against Liverpool and Arsenal, Conte can ill-afford to finish the next two matches without positive results. Home games against Leicester and Manchester United will provide further evidence of how far Chelsea have come under Conte, who said: "These are two big challenges. "Leicester won the title last season and are playing a good Champions League. "Then with Manchester United they are another great team, but in this moment we must think about ourselves and not the other team."

Conte's major problem so far has been a shaky defense that had leaked goals at an alarming rate. The former Juventus coach responded by switching to a formation with three central defenders and the result was a 2-0 win at Hull in their last game before the international break. Conte will stick with that formation against Leicester, but he has to decide whether to keep faith with David Luiz, Gary Cahill and Cesar Azpilicueta or recall captain John Terry after he recovered from an ankle injury "Yes, John is available, he came back for training in the middle of the week and did all the sessions," Conte said.

"It was necessary to find a solution because it is not right for a great team like Chelsea to concede so many goals in those games. "Now I have four central defenders and one must go on the bench." Conte also needs to get the best out of Eden Hazard, the mecurial Belgium midfielder who this week expressed a desire to be used by Chelsea in the number 10 role he enjoys with his country. Showing no signs of bowing to Hazard's wishes, Conte said: "Now we are finding the best solution for the players and their talent. "In the last game against Hull we played a good game. Hazard and Costa played very well and did what I want. Now we must continue this way." —AFP



**AVEIRO, Portugal :** Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo (R) vies with Andorra's midfielder Victor Rodriguez (L) during the WC 2018 football qualification match between Portugal and Andorra at the Municipal de Arouca stadium. —AFP

## RONALDO FEELING BACK TO HIS BEST

**MADRID:** Three-time World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo insists he will have a "spectacular" season despite a slow start to the campaign caused by knee ligament damage. Ronaldo was sidelined for two months by a sprained left knee ligament picked up during Portugal's Euro 2016 final triumph over France, forcing him to miss Madrid's first three games of the season. He has scored just once in four La Liga games since making his return, but netted five times in Portugal's routs over Andorra and the Faroe Islands in the past week.

"I had a serious injury, I was out for two months. Now I am back and at the start I has less confidence, but bit-by-bit I am feeling better and more confident. I feel that I am back to what I was," Ronaldo told Madrid sports daily Marca yesterday. "The season is very long and I am sure I am going to have another spectacular season."

Ronaldo is expected to sign a bumper new contract with the European champions until 2021 in the coming days and reiterated his intention to retire in the Spanish capital after becoming the club's all-time top goalscorer since joining from

Manchester United in 2009. "I didn't expect to be at Real Madrid for so long. I have already said that I want to retire here. It is the club in my heart. "It gives me the opportunity to win individual and collective trophies. What I want most of all is to renew (my contract) with Real Madrid and continue here for many years to come."

Despite bagging two Champions League titles and winning the Ballon d'Or twice during his time with Real, Ronaldo has still only won one La Liga title in seven full seasons. Zinedine Zidane's men need to get back to winning ways at Real Betis yesterday after three consecutive La Liga draws have seen them cede top spot to Atletico Madrid on goal difference. However, with still a two-point lead over champions Barcelona, Ronaldo is convinced Madrid can end a five-year wait to win La Liga. "It is the competition in which we have to be more consistent. It is an important trophy and hopefully this will be the year. "Madrid can't go so many years without winning La Liga, but we are confident and motivated that we are going to win it." —AFP

## FIFA MUTES CALL ON ISRAEL CLUBS

**ZURICH:** Palestinian hopes that FIFA would get tough on Israel were muted yesterday when world football's governing body put off a decision on Israeli clubs based in settlements in the occupied West Bank. The Palestine Football Association this week called on FIFA to either expel the six clubs in settlements, which are illegal under international law, or relocate them within Israel's recognized borders.

The issue had been on the agenda at a meeting of the powerful FIFA Council, with world football's president Gianni Infantino describing sporting tensions on the contested land as one of his "top

priorities". But FIFA's envoy to the region, South African powerbroker Tokyo Sexwale, said he was unable to deliver a final report to the council because his committee "was not able to meet".

He said the full report should be ready next month. Infantino, who took charge of FIFA in February, told reporters he would visit the region "when (his presence) would have an impact and when there has been progress". FIFA has asked both sides to attend a meeting next month, "with an open, constructive spirit to find a solution for football". "We are not a political

body and we are not trying to solve political problems," he added at the close of the two-day council meet.

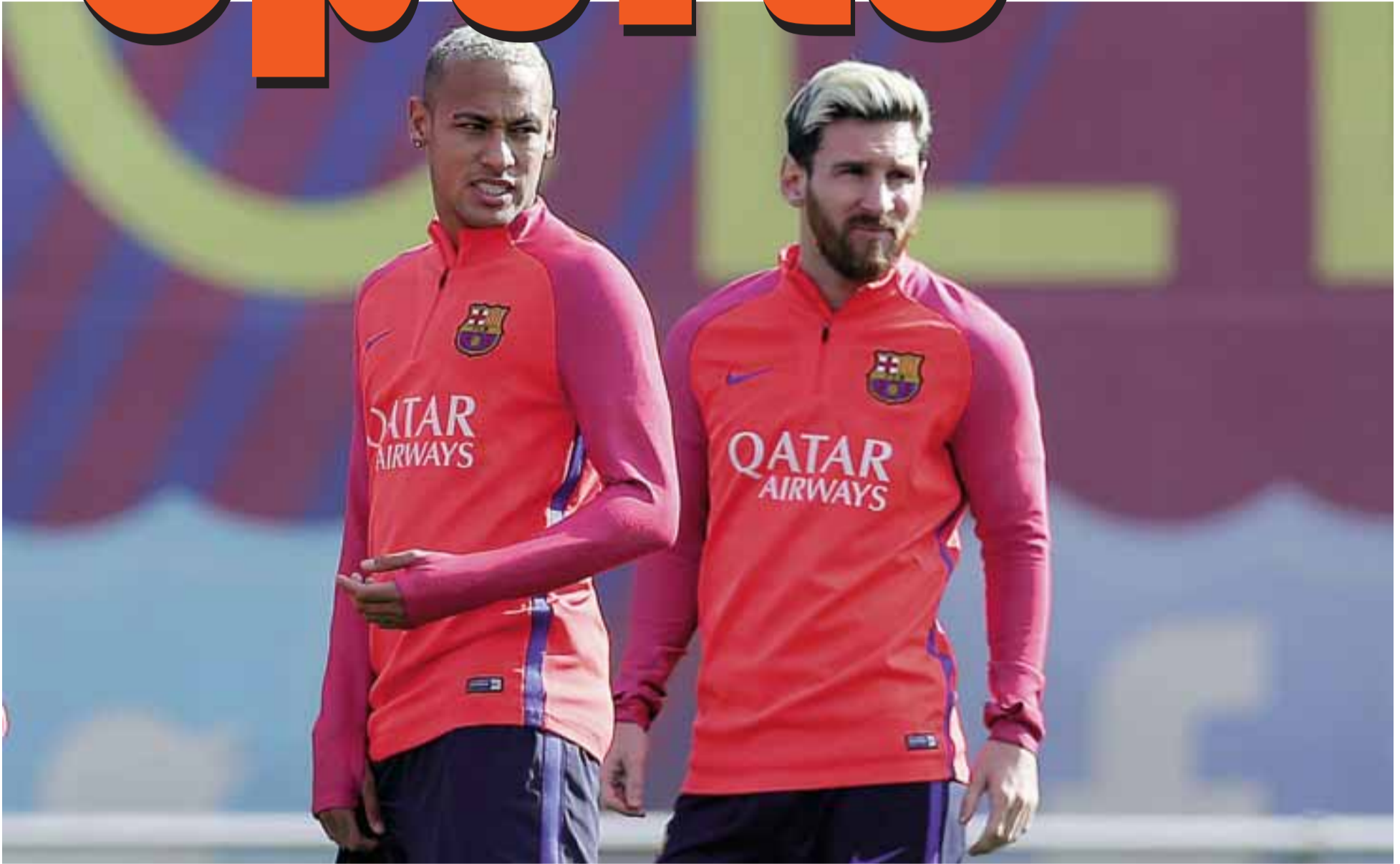
"The situation with the six clubs remains open. We'll let the commission work." Wilfried Lemke, the special advisor to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on sport and peace, wrote to FIFA last week voicing support for the Palestinian case. The Israel Football Association has accused the Palestinians of dragging sport "from the football field into a political one," saying it wants to develop the game as a "bridge connecting people and not as a wall that divides them". —AFP

# Sports



Mourinho weighs  
Rooney recall

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SANT JOAN DESPI: FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi, right, and Neymar attend a training session at the Sports Center FC Barcelona Joan Gamper. —AP

## BARCA, MADRID TO BATTLE 'FIFA VIRUS'

**MADRID:** Argentina's pain is Barcelona's gain as Lionel Messi returns for the Spanish champions when Deportivo la Coruna visit the Camp Nou today after being sidelined for three weeks with a groin injury. Messi missed Argentina's World Cup qualifiers against Peru and Paraguay as La Albiceleste's struggles without the five-time World Player of the Year continued, putting at risk their place at the 2018 World Cup.

However, international breaks have traditionally caused Barca trouble too with lethargic performances on their return to La Liga action coming to be known as the "FIFA virus." Barca boss Luis Enrique paid a heavy price for leaving Messi and Luis Suarez on the bench for a shock 2-1 home defeat to Alaves after September's international break.

"It is a different game for us having had so few days with the team together to prepare," Enrique said yesterday. "It is not an excuse because it happens to all big teams, but it is something that conditions the game and when you have had the result like the Alaves one, it means you prepare the game with even more emphasis." With a blockbuster Champions League clash against former Barca coach Pep Guardiola's Manchester City to come on Wednesday, Enrique could be tempted to roll the dice with his selection once more.

However, with Barca trailing Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid by two points at the top following a 4-3 defeat to Celta Vigo last time out, Enrique insists Deportivo have to be Barca's priority. "We want to cut the gap and the only way to do that is to win our matches," he added. "The precedent is there and the players know how difficult and special it is to only have two days to prepare for a game. To think of any other match is an error."

Messi is expected to be eased back into action as a second-half substitute. Meanwhile, Suarez could make way for Paco Alcacer having played twice for Uruguay in the past week. Neymar will definitely start as he returned to the Catalan capital early due to his suspension for Brazil's 2-0 win at Venezuela on Tuesday.

### Betis bounceback

Real face the toughest task on paper of the title contenders as they travel to Real Betis aiming to snap a streak of four consecutive draws. "I am not a magician" said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane yesterday. "Only hard work will get us out of this run because the talent is there." Zidane's men also having a mounting injury crisis to deal with as captain

Sergio Ramos is set to be sidelined for up to six weeks by a knee sprain.

Luka Modric is also out for the rest of the month due to knee surgery, whilst influential holding midfielder Casemiro is missing due to a fractured fibia. "If we draw three or four games there are things that as the coach I have to find solutions for," added Zidane. "I know the players are great professionals and we have to have a bit more concentration, more intensity, a bit more of everything." Atletico were the form team before the international break with six wins and a draw at the Camp Nou in their last seven games taking Diego Simeone's men to the top of the table on goal difference.

By contrast, Lucas Alcaraz will take charge of winless Granada for the first time in his third spell as coach after the sacking of Paco Jemez when they visit the Vicente Calderon looking to stop the on-fire Antoine Griezmann. The French international picked up September's player of the month award yesterday for his six goals in his last five La Liga games. Third-placed Sevilla have the chance to go top for at least a few hours when they visit Leganes today. To do so, though, Sevilla need to end a 22-game streak stretching back 17 months without a La Liga win away from home. —AFP