

**Candidate calls to review all laws issued in last 10 years**



**Weiner rocks race for US president with sexting scandal**



**EU, Canada sign long-delayed trade deal after Belgian drama**



**All-Kuwaiti podium finish for female skeet shooters in UAE**



## POLICE FIND LARGE CACHE OF WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES

IS-LINKED SUSPECT ARRESTED IN RAID ON ANDALUS HOUSE



Min 17°  
Max 35°  
High Tide 12:50  
Low Tide 06:38 & 18:33

150 FILLS  
NO: 17036  
40 PAGES

### SAUDIS FOIL PLOT TO BOMB WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

TWO CELLS BUSTED

**RİYADH:** Saudi authorities said yesterday they had foiled a plot to bomb a football stadium during a World Cup qualifying match and dismantled two "terrorist" cells linked to the Islamic State group. The interior ministry said in a statement that four suspects from each cell had been arrested. One of the cells had planned to park a bomb-laden vehicle outside Al-Jawhara stadium in the Red Sea city of Jeddah during an Oct 11 World Cup 2018 qualifying football match between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the ministry said. Its members were two Pakistanis, a Syrian, and a Sudanese, the ministry said, without providing further details of the plot or arrests.

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KUWAIT: A large cache of weapons and explosives are seen after a raid on an Andalus house yesterday.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Security forces raided a house in Andalus yesterday, where a citizen was arrested with a large cache of weapons, grenades and explosives. The man, suspected to be affiliated with the so-called Islamic State group, was identified by his initials N. H. He works for the army's explosives department at the ministry of defense.

The weapons and explosives were stashed in hard-to-find concrete recesses in the house. Police also found bomb-making guides, directions to prepare car bombs, highly-inflammable chemicals, gas cylinders and a satellite phone, along with images of executions carried out by the terrorist group.

Case papers indicate that investigations by weapons detectives confirmed that the suspect was storing weapons in the house. The place was then raided, which resembled an "explosives and weapons factory", according to security sources. Further investigations are in progress.



**ALEPPO:** A rebel fighter from the Jaish al-Fatah (or Army of Conquest) brigade fires mortar shells towards western government-controlled districts yesterday from the southwestern frontline neighborhood of Dahiyet al-Assad. — AFP

### ALEPPO FIGHTING SPREADING AMID CLAIMS OF GAS ATTACK

**ALEPPO:** Syria's regime and rebels were locked in fierce fighting yesterday on Aleppo's western edges, where 41 civilians have been killed in an opposition offensive to break a devastating government siege. Rebels have unleashed car bombs and salvos of rockets and shells to break through government lines and reach the 250,000 people living in the city's east. Syrian state media yesterday accused them of firing shells containing toxic gas into government-controlled districts. Rebels denied that, and said government forces had fired poison gas on another frontline. State news agency SANA reported that 35 people were suffering from shortness of

breath, numbness, and muscle spasms after "toxic gases" hit the frontline district of Dahiyet al-Assad and regime-held Hamdaniyeh. The head of Aleppo University Hospital, Ibrahim Hadid, told state television that "36 people, including civilians and combatants, were wounded after inhaling toxic chlorine gas released by terrorists". The rebels said the army had shelled rebel-held Rashideen district with chlorine and shared videos purportedly showing victims with respiratory problems.

Syria's second city, Aleppo has been ravaged by some of the heaviest fighting of the country's five-year war which has killed

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## TRAFFIC POLICE REMOVE LICENSE PLATES OF CARS BLOCKING TRAFFIC

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The traffic department said article 42 of the traffic law went into effect yesterday, which allows the Traffic Department's director general to suspend driving licenses or car titles and confiscate license plates of violating cars for a maximum of four months. The department said this move aims to stop obstruction of traffic flows by vehicles. The law also warns a car cannot be driven

without license plates.

Accordingly, traffic patrols have already started citing violating vehicles. The department said license plates of 197 vehicles were removed for obstructing traffic. It said a campaign carried out yesterday morning resulted in confiscating 50 plates in Hawally governorate, 38 plates in Capital governorate, 40 plates in Farwaniya governorate, 20 plates in Jahra governorate, 20 plates in Ahmadi governorate and 29 plates in Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate.



KUWAIT: A traffic policeman removes the license plate of a violating car yesterday. — Mol

### POPULAR MOVEMENT SLAMS GOVERNMENT

TV CHANNEL PROSECUTED

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Campaigning for the Nov 26 snap elections kicked off with calls from almost all quarters for Kuwaiti voters to elect a strong National Assembly to stop the slide in the country's political arena, but the hardline opposition group Popular Action Movement (PAM) said the new Assembly will not be able to change anything.

In a hard-hitting statement, PAM, whose secretary general and former MP Musallam Al-Barrak is behind bars, said Kuwait is passing through "the worst era of its history" as corruption and bribery have destroyed state institutions, public funds remain unprotected, the constitution is breached and laws are being used to punish the government's political opponents.

The statement said public freedoms have been "confiscated" with security authorities targeting the opposition, including former lawmakers, political activists and youth. PAM said the government has become very violent in using oppression, curtailing freedoms, sending opponents to jail and even revoking their citizenships and deporting them.

The movement strongly criticized the dissolved pro-government Assembly, saying it passed legislations to curtail public freedoms like the cybercrimes law, electronic publication law, the political exclusion law, the DNA testing law and others.

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## POLLS NARROW AMID CLINTON EMAIL FALLOUT

**MIAMI:** Polls showed the US election tightening yesterday as Hillary Clinton campaigned in the crucial state of Florida, grappling with the fallout from the FBI director disclosing more of her emails were under review. With the US elections now just nine days away, an ABC News/Washington Post poll put the former secretary of state just one point ahead of her bombastic Republican challenger, Donald Trump, at 46-45 percent of likely voters in a four-way race.

In Florida, which is a must-win if Trump is to have any hope of victory, the tycoon overcame a one-point deficit to lead, according to a New York Times Upshot/Siena College Research Institute poll. The poll gave Trump 46 percent of likely voters compared to Clinton's 42 percent, with former governor Gary Johnson dropping to four percent and Green Party candidate Jill Stein on two percent.

While the 69-year-old former first lady looking to make history as America's first female commander-in-chief is still overwhelmingly expected to win the November 8 ballot, Trump was quick to crow yesterday. "We are now leading in

many polls, and many of these were taken before the criminal investigation announcement on Friday - great in states!" the 70-year-old real estate tycoon tweeted to his followers.

Clinton was in Florida a second day yesterday after addressing thousands of supporters at a Jennifer Lopez concert in Miami and calling the FBI director's move "deeply troubling" on Saturday. FBI boss James Comey wrote to lawmakers on Friday, announcing that his agents are reviewing a newly discovered trove of emails, resurrecting an issue that the Clinton campaign thought was behind it.

"It was long on innuendo, short on facts, so we're calling on Mr Comey to come forward and explain what's at issue here," Clinton's campaign chairman John Podesta told CNN yesterday, referring to Comey's announcement. "It's unprecedented and it is deeply troubling because voters deserve to get full and complete facts," Clinton said in Florida on Saturday. "So we've called on Director Comey to explain everything right away, put it all out on the table, right?" she declared, to rapturous cheers.

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WILTON MANORS, Florida: Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton speaks during a campaign event at The Manor Complex yesterday. — AFP



**SHARJAH:** A strange fruit covered by writing found by Sharjah police is seen on Saturday. — AP

### UAE POLICE FIND FRUIT WITH WRITING, NAILS

**DUBAI:** Police in one of the sheikhdoms of the United Arab Emirates said they found and determined a strange fruit covered in writing and nails was not dangerous. Police in Sharjah, a conservative emirate neighboring Dubai, posted a picture and video of the fruit found Saturday on a beach there. The yellow melon bore Arabic writing and appeared to have a cartoon picture of a person on it, with nails hammered into neat rows on the figure.

Police say they spoke with officials at the emirate's Islamic Affairs Department and determined it not to be a threat. While more relaxed on social issues than its Arab neighbors, items associated with black magic and witchcraft are illegal in the United Arab Emirates. — AP



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with visiting Bahraini Minister of Energy Sheikh Mohammad bin Khalifa bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

## AMIR TO PATRONIZE, ATTEND OPENING OF CULTURAL CENTER

### AMIR MEETS BAHRAINI ENERGY MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will patronize and attend the opening of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad cultural center at 10:30 am today. In other news, His Highness the Amir received yesterday at Bayan Palace the visiting Bahraini Minister of Energy Sheikh Mohammad bin Khalifa bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa along with the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh. The visiting minister later met with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His

Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak met yesterday with head of the protocol of His Highness the Premier's Diwan, Sheikh Etimad Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the team tasked with reviewing the State Audit Bureau (SAB) remarks for the fiscal year 2015-2016. His Highness the Premier hailed the efforts made by all sectors to produce the report which contained no remarks. His Highness also recognized the SAB's role as an active regulator that offers advice and remarks to different governmental entities to reach better results. —KUNA

## ZAIN DONATES KD 30,000 FOR CHILDREN EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

### IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KUWAIT RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the donation of KD 30,000 for a campaign that supports the education of underprivileged children in Kuwait as part of its ongoing humanitarian strategic partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society Dr Hilal Al-Sayer welcomed the visit of Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan at KRCS headquarters in Shuwaikh during the donation ceremony, where Zain was honored as a "Humanitarian Strategic Partner".

Zain's donation came as part of its extended partnership with KRCS, which aims at enriching Zain's contributions in various humanitarian and charitable efforts and initiatives by providing support and relief to those in need with the collaboration of various organizations.

#### Sustainable organization

During the donation ceremony, Eaman Roudhan commented: "Our strategic partnership with Kuwait Red Crescent Society is a reflection of Zain's core belief in our vision into being a more sustainable organization that supports humanitarian and charitable efforts".

Roudhan added: "at Zain, we strongly believe that our social responsibility is an integral part of our work, and since education builds nations, we are pleased to support KRCS's initiative to give all children in Kuwait an equal opportunity for quality education. We believe in sharing the responsibility of supporting the community hand in hand with the public sector".

Roudhan continued: "we are proud of our long line of efforts and contributions to humanitarian causes, through which we aspire to highlight the important role of the private sector in social development by collaborating with public entities as well as non-profit organizations".

Meanwhile, Sayer commented by saying: "for over 50 years, KRCS worked hard to be a source of giving and relief to all those who need it. Since the era of its founders, the society has been committed to launching projects and initiatives that help others".

Sayer added: "there is no doubt that the success of our projects needs continuous support to further achieve our ultimate goals of reaching out to those in need. Since the beginning of the year, we launched the education campaign to support underprivileged children in Kuwait, and up until now we received 13,000 registered files and already helped 2000 students. KRCS urges the good people of Kuwait to support this campaign and help pay tuition fees for other children in need, since most of them are staying at home because they are unable to pay school tuition fees".

#### Equal opportunities

KRCS's educational support campaign aims to provide equal opportunities to educate children of low-income families who are unable to pay school tuition fees. Zain also recently launched awareness messages through SMS and social media to raise awareness about this campaign and inform the public of the available official donation channels.

KRCS launched a number of donation campaigns in Kuwait to



**KUWAIT:** KRCS Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer (right) presents a memento to Zain Kuwait's CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan.

support underprivileged families, children, people in need of healthcare, and others by providing expensive medical supplies and medicine, facilitating visits to hospitals, bearing the costs of school tuition fees, as well as securing essential food supplies.

KRCS also launched a range of initiatives and charity donation campaigns that aim at helping people in need outside of Kuwait by providing food and medical supplies to the most affected cases of violence in Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, as well as Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. Additionally, the society's supports covers areas in Africa including Somalia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Djibouti and other east African countries with the aim of providing access to water, food, security and healthcare.

#### Smart screens

Zain also partnered with KRCS and the Avenues to launch a charity initiative that supported disadvantaged children through the use of smart screens. The campaign aimed at encouraging mall visitors to donate a small amount of money to support disadvantaged children who are in need of immediate help because of war or natural disasters. Several digital smart screens were placed throughout the Avenues mall and used a creative solution to attract and encourage mall visitors to donate.

It is worth mentioning that Zain has previously been awarded with the Gold Award for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility from the Arab Organization for Social Responsibility. The company spares no efforts in maintaining its social commitments and human spirit through multiple initiatives like supporting humanitarian aid campaigns during the past turmoil period, in which the company offered free calls and SMS services to Palestine for a whole week, in addition to providing the opportunity for its customers to donate by sending a free text message that is donated to humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. In addition, the company donated an amount of half a million US Dollars that was earmarked for food and medical supplies for the needy.

## KUWAIT, BAHRAIN INK DEAL TO BUILD JOINT AROMATICS FACTORY

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) inked a deal yesterday with Bahrain's National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA) to build a joint aromatics factory in the Kingdom with an annual production capacity of 1,44 tons.

The deal was made during a meeting held earlier between visiting Bahraini Oil Minister Sheikh Mohamed bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa and Kuwaiti Acting Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh, said Mohammad Al-Farhoud, IPC's Chief Executive Officer and Board member of Directors.

The agreement, which is based on the two countries' partnership, includes secondary products, Al-Farhoud noted,

adding that details regarding that matter are to be discussed between the two sides later. It is the second partnership in petrochemicals between Kuwait and Bahrain following a previous successful one with Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (BSC), in which the Kuwaiti company owns around 33.3 percent, he noted. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Ambassador of Austria to Kuwait Sigurd Pacher hosted a reception recently at his residence on the occasion of his country's national day. Higher officials, diplomats and media persons attended the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



**KUWAIT:** Ambassador of Indonesia to Kuwait Tatang Budie Wama Razak hosted a reception recently at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel in commemoration of the 71st Anniversary of Independence. Senior officials, diplomats and media persons attended the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



**KUWAIT:** Information and Youth Affairs Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah speaks during the awarding ceremony.



Information and Youth Affairs Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah honors Youth Initiative Award winners.



**Madhi Al-Khamees, Secretary General of the Arab Media Forum.** —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Information and Youth Affairs Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah tours an exhibition held as part of the event.

## INFO MINISTER HONORS YOUTH INITIATIVE AWARD WINNERS SHEIKH SALMAN CREDITS YOUTH FOR IMPROVING KUWAIT'S RANKING

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The awarding ceremony of the Youth Initiative Award organized by the Arab Media Forum was held on Saturday to recognize volunteer and humanitarian efforts by youth in the Arab region. More than 640 projects from the Arab world were judged by a special panel that included a number of leaders in philanthropy in the region.

Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and State Minister for

Youth Affairs, said Kuwait supports the youth's voluntary and humanitarian work. "The Ministry of Youth cares for this sector, and this was the reason behind hosting this event. Kuwait is the center of humanitarian work and always serves various humanitarian and voluntary activities," he noted during the ceremony.

"Recently, Kuwait ranked in a good position in the Youth Development Index of the Commonwealth League and Report, released by the Commonwealth Secretariat. Kuwait improved from the 110th position up to 56 out

of 183 participating countries in this index in just three years. This is a great achievement due to the youth," added Sheikh Salman.

Out of 640 young volunteering teams from Arab countries that registered for this initiative, 125 qualified for participation, while 11 winners were awarded, two from Kuwait. The winning team was from Bahrain, Kuwait ranked second and Egypt third, with eight other winners from various countries.

The main idea of this initiative is to support youth and encourage them. "We are proud

that these young people took two hours daily from their time to spend it in voluntary works rather than doing other things. I'm glad that we attracted this number of young people to participate with us, and I hope that next year it will be even bigger," stressed Madhi Al-Khamees, Secretary General of the Arab Media Forum.

The award ceremony included an exhibition showcasing the efforts and achievements of more than 40 local and regional youth initiatives, in addition to discussions and presen-

tations by founders of humanitarian and volunteer initiatives from around the region.

Later, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud awarded the winners, in addition to awarding some other personalities and organizations that are active in humanitarian work including late Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sumeit, Sheikha Amthar Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Najeeb Al-Zamel, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (all from Kuwait), Food Bank of Egypt, Qatar Voluntary Center, Emirates Foundation for Youth Development and others.



**KUWAIT:** Information and Youth Affairs Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Ooredoo Kuwait COO and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani sign the agreement. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

## OOREDOO SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH YOUTH MINISTRY AIMING TO SUPPORT YOUTH INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo, the fastest network in Kuwait in 2016, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs yesterday. The memorandum aims at enhancing cooperation between the two entities to support youth-related projects. The signing ceremony was held at the premises of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, and was

attended by the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, and Deputy Minister of State for Youth Affairs Shaikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, and Ooredoo Kuwait Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani.

Commenting on this event, CEO

and General Manager Al Thani said: "This memorandum of understanding reiterates our position at Ooredoo Kuwait as supporters of youth, and reflects our belief in the government's strategy in supporting youth. This also further translates the directions of His Highness the Amir, where he stressed on several occasions on the importance of investing in youth."

He added: "Our strategy in Ooredoo is based on the values of caring, connecting and challenging. Stemming from these values is our CSR strategy, which includes year-round sponsorships and activities that support youth in different sectors."

Meanwhile, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said: "We are very keen to further cooperate with Ooredoo Kuwait, and we welcome all private sector entities who are ready to support us and cooperate with us. This is a good indication, and we look forward for a fruitful cooperation."

Ooredoo has won an award by the Ministry of Youth for State Affairs last year for being the only supporter in the private sector for volunteer programs, after the launch of its youth volunteer program. Ooredoo has also sponsored the Youth Initiatives Award, in cooperation with the Arab Media Forum last week.



### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO HSBC CUSTOMERS IN KUWAIT

We are pleased to inform you that effective 1st November 2016, our Head Office in Kuwait will be relocating to the 37th Floor, Al Hamra Tower, Abdulaziz Al Sager St, Sharq Area.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with you at our new location.

For more information,

Please visit: [www.business.hsbc.com.kw](http://www.business.hsbc.com.kw)



# NEW INVESTMENT HOUSING UNITS TO BE BUILT ON SAWABER LAND

## UNIONIST CHARGED WITH FORGERY

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** According to a study on Al-Sawaber Complex, a high-quality investment residential project would be built there as part of Kuwait City's 2030 urban plan, a Kuwait Municipality official said yesterday. He added that according to the project's plan, the complex will be entirely torn down and rebuilt to include the new investment housing units, retail sale outlets on the ground floor and facilities for residents, in addition to growing a central park surrounded by the housing units, deputy director for organization affairs Mohammed Al-Zobee said.

The government had completed the evacuation of the landmark compound earlier this year based on a cabinet decree. Built in 1981, Al-Sawaber Complex represents a distinct architectural, economic and cultural period in Kuwaiti history. One of the first high density complexes in the country, it is located on approximately 245,000 square meters of prime real estate property in the heart of Kuwait's financial district. The complex includes 33 buildings and more than 520 residential apartments.

### Building collapse

The Kuwait Engineers Society concluded a report on investigating the reasons behind the collapse of a multi-floor parking lot's ceiling at the basic education college in summer. According to the report, the concrete pillars' crowns were broken, the steel used was rusty due to a water leak and the place lacked any security cameras. The investigating committee



**KUWAIT:** The Sawaber Complex (right) in downtown Kuwait City. —Photo by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

tee added it could not examine any concrete specimens because none were provided. The report also suggested that the use of heavy-duty machinery and excavators to remove debris was too heavy on the ceiling designed to bear a maximum weight of 2,500 kg, while the excavator was over 15 tons in weight.

### Forgery

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry referred the head of its employ-

ees' syndicate Ajmi Al-Mutalqam to the public prosecution over charges of forging official documents about the expenses of the minister's office. The ministry explained that Mutalqam put extra zeroes in front of the figure of KD 70 spent by the office administration to make it KD 70,000 and posted the fake document on social media networks with the comment: "The minister's breakfast costs public funds KD 70 daily, with a total of KD 70,000 spent."

### Permits renewal

The Public Authority for Manpower has started renewing work permits and clearance certificates at citizen service centers in Sharq, Jaber Al-Ali, Jahra, Sulaibikhat, Government Mall in the Liberation Tower, Al-Qasr and Jleeb. In another concern, Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih ordered reshuffling her assistant undersecretaries and some senior officials.



**KUWAIT:** A meeting was held at the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's headquarters between the fire department and ministry of health in the presence of Acting Director General for the Prevention Sector Brig Khalid Abdullah Fahd and Assistant Undersecretary for Engineering and Projects Affairs Najji Fahd Al-Saqer.

## 'FORGED CHEQUES' GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Criminal detectives arrested members of an international network that forged cheques that were difficult to discover. Investigations revealed that the gang made deals with expats to write the cheques in their names. They then collected the money from the bank and received a 10 percent commission, then sent the rest of the money to the original beneficiary in an Arab country. Two citizens and a Saudi were arrested and charged with forging bank transactions. The Saudi confessed to forging 20 cheques issued to Kuwait International Bank against the account of an educational establishment at an estimated total of KD 200,000 with the help of a person in an Arab country. Meanwhile, a Jordanian was arrested on forgery charges after forging four cheques to a Kuwaiti bank against the account of a Kuwaiti establishment of a value of KD 40,000.

### Winter uniform

The Ministry of Interior's relations and security information department said all uniformed police personnel will wear (black) winter uniforms from Tuesday, Nov 1, 2016.

### Food inspection

Kuwait Municipality statistics revealed the food and markets supervisory department in Hawally branch inspected 600 stores and issued 102 citations during Sept 2016. The department inspected 240 shops and issued 26 citations, while 12 stores were cautioned about health conditions and three stores were closed. Eight samples were sent to health ministry laboratories. Meanwhile, the department said 22,748 animals were slaughtered at various abattoirs - 21,569 for companies and 1,326 for individuals, while 147 slaughtered animals were destroyed because they were unfit for human consumption.

## CHAIRMAN DENIES MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DISSOLUTION RUMORS

### COURT COMPENSATES OIL WORKER KD 37,000

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Municipal Council Chairman Muhalhel Al-Khaled strongly denied reports about dissolving the municipal council because five of its members are running in the upcoming parliamentary elections. He stressed that as long as there is a quorum, the council will convene and complete its tenure. Khaled also explained that if the members win parliamentary seats, new ones would be elected to replace them if the remaining period of the council's tenure is over six months. In other news, Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Director Abdul Mohsen

Abalkhail said 450 licenses have so far been issued for spring camps through the municipality's website.

### Work injury

The Ahmadi labor court ordered compensating a former oil sector employee working for a private company KD 37,000 including his indemnity and annual leave allowances. In other news, the court of appeal heard a state security case filed against a number of citizens over charges of circulating Musallam Al-Barrak's speech that got him jailed, said informed sources, noting that the case was adjourned to pass a verdict on Nov 14.

### Arab Investment Court

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Justice Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah will open the Arab Investment Court's general assembly meeting due to be held at 10:00 am tomorrow. The meeting, organized by the justice ministry, will be held at Radisson Blu Hotel. Informed sources said that a seminar would be held on the meeting's sidelines under the title of 'The Arab Investment Court and its Role in Developing Investments'. Speakers will include judiciary members from Kuwait, Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt and Oman.



**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Housing Welfare's Director Bader General Bader Al-Wugayan (left) signs the agreement. — KUNA

## PAHW SIGNS DEAL TO BUILD 640 APARTMENTS IN JABER AL-AHMAD

**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced yesterday that it has signed a deal with a local firm to build some 640 apartments in Jaber Al-Ahmad city, part of broad infrastructure work in the new residential area.

The deal, with an expected timeframe of 900 days, consists of work to erect apartments stretching on 1000 square meters, PAHW's Director General Bader Al-

Wugayan said, adding that one apartment contains five floors. Other apartments, with a space of 385 square meters, will feature the most cutting-edge design and decor, catering to the needs of the average Kuwaiti family, he noted. Elaborating on the deal, the PAHW Director General added that it also includes work to build three mosques, a fire station, a police station, fitness center and other services. — KUNA

Legalese

## INJURIES

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

**H**ow much do you think your body is worth? It might be very hard to answer this question, because what could be more expensive and more important to you than your health? I would think that our bodies are priceless, but not by law. Kuwaiti law has put a price on our body parts - for instance, each arm and foot is worth KD 5,000.

Although it may sound absurd, the reason why legislations put prices on our body parts is because when people are physically hurt, they can ask to be compensated by court accordingly. This makes it easier for the courts to bring about justice and calculate how much the compensation should be.

Today, I have looked into different issues that my current clients have dealt with that involved physical injuries. But before I go on to answer the questions and explain to you our rights when it comes to injuries, I want you to know not everything needs to be taken to court. A lot of things can be settled amicably outside of court. I think you should still use a lawyer to negotiate for you, but if your lawyer is great, they will know that they don't always have to take matters to court.

I personally got involved in a car accident a few days ago, and although I was injured and I know my rights, I decided not to take the matter to court. We settled things amicably and in very simple terms. I hope we can all learn to be compassionate towards each other and learn how to figure things out.

### Compensation

**Question:** I was driving to my granddad's house when I got hit from behind by another car. This accident caused me to break my arm. Can I get compensated for it?

**Fajer:** I will assume that there was no criminal intent and that it was just a regular accident, which let's be honest, happens very often in Kuwait. Then yes, you could go to court and get compensation, but how much is your body worth? According to a decree, here are a few body parts and their worth (this is regardless of the cause of the injury - the amounts below are what body parts are worth for unintentional injuries).

1. Scar - KD 500
2. Hand - KD 5,000
3. Leg - KD 5,000
4. Spinal cord - KD 10,000
5. Loss of thumb - KD 1,500
6. Ear or eye - KD 5,000

### Work injury

**Question:** I work for an oil company as an engineer and as I was out in the oilfields, I slipped on the stairs and fell on the floor, hurting my right shoulder. I was wearing all my safety gear, but I don't know why I slipped as it happened very quickly. I was wondering if I can file a lawsuit and get compensated because of the accident. Some of my colleagues are saying no, I can't get compensated because it wasn't my employer's fault and others are saying no as well, because as employees of the oil industry, we are being paid high salaries that should compensate us for putting ourselves in danger every day. Is this true?

**Fajer:** Yes, you are entitled to compensation for your work injury. In fact, not only are you compensated, but your employer should pay for your healthcare, and continue paying you your full salary for the first six months while you get treatment. If you require more time off from work, then your employer will continue paying you half your salary until you are better and get back to work. This is in accordance to Kuwait labor law.

Unfortunately in Kuwait, there are a large number of employers who do not take care for their employees and do not provide them with safe working environments, causing a lot of workers to suffer and get injured. Please be careful and ask your employers to follow safety requirements.

There is a lot more that I would like to share with you about work-related injuries, so I will focus on this topic next week too. Please email me if you have any concerns. Although I really do think all humans are priceless, I hope you understand how much you are worth by law and what your rights are.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajertlawyer.com.

# HEALTH MINISTRY READY FOR ELECTIONS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Health Ministry announced yesterday the formation of temporary medical teams for the upcoming parliamentary elections slated for November 26th. Ministry's Undersecretary Dr Khaled Al-Sahlawi said in a statement that the ministry would also allocate 61 mobile clinics distributed across the various polling centers.

He added that all teams would carry out the implementation of the work plan including the preventive and medical aspects, in addition to the facilitation of 25 ambulance cars for the various polling centers, five for each constituency.

Sahlawi pointed out that some 344 emer-

gency medical staffers and 144 male and female nurses would be stationed at all polling centers. He said that the mission of the preventive team is to supervise food catering companies offering food and drinks to the polling centers, in addition to other administrative teams. He concluded by saying that all ministry's facilities would be harnessed for the service of the electoral process.

### Election programs

Meanwhile, the Information Ministry announced yesterday its readiness to receive requests of male and female candidates for the parliamentary elections of November 26

who wish to broadcast their election programs on Kuwait radio and television as well as on other social media outlets of the ministry during the period from October 30 until November 11.

The ministry said in a press statement that the candidates will be given an equal period of time free of charge, where they can present their views and opinions they want to deliver to their voters. It indicated that this initiative stems from its belief in the vital role of the media in showing the true picture of Kuwaiti democracy and to spread awareness.

The ministry confirmed its commitment to voters' awareness, including their rights and

duties by creating direct contact with citizens, calling on all candidates to invest this democratic event in the origination of the national spirit and highlighting the bright democratic image of Kuwait.

The ministry called on candidates who wish to broadcast their election programs to contact the following numbers: (22425257) or at fax number (22457036) during official working hours or via the following e-mail address: (malomah2016@gmail.com). It also called on the candidates to provide their official candidacy papers.

A total of 454 candidates, including 15 women so far officially registered for the

2016 parliamentary election. According to the Ministry of Interior, candidates who wish to withdraw from the race can submit a request to the Elections' Affairs Department up until seven days before elections day, or November 19. As per Law 20/2012, the first 10 candidates with most votes will win a seat in parliament in each constituency. The electorate can only vote for one candidate per the constituency they're registered in. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has dissolved the parliament on October 16, citing various challenges and regional critical conditions. — KUNA

# CANDIDATE DEMANDS REVIEWING ALL LAWS ISSUED IN LAST 10 YEARS

HASHIM CONFIDENT YOUNG KUWAITIS CAN 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Parliamentary candidate Salah Al-Hashim has declared he has two main goals for contesting the upcoming National Assembly elections - to promote and apply the rights that are included in the Kuwaiti constitution, and safeguard public funds and increase them. Hashim, a lawyer, is running from the second constituency.

With his legal background, he has already prepared various legislations. "We should be monitoring the spending of public funds by the government. The present waste of funds is a result of the absence of control of the parliament. If I win, I will suggest banning spending any amount without the approval of the parliament," Hashim told Kuwait Times.

#### Legislative proposals

"I will demand forming a temporary committee at the parliament to review all laws that were issued during the past 10 years and see if they conform to the constitution, especially these related to freedoms," he said. "I will also submit a proposal that all legislations should be subjected to the courts. This includes the Kuwaiti citizenship law, which shouldn't be separate from the judiciary. Also, administrative deportations should be reviewed by the courts, and the same thing applies to places of worship," he said.

"The legislative power should be supervising these issues, as the three powers should be separated. There should be no excuses such as 'state sovereignty' on these issues. According to article 50 of the constitution, the three powers should be separate but cooperative," stressed Hashim.

#### Art revival

Hashim wants to bring back the arts, including theatre, music and sports. "We are missing these activities due to the social circumstances. The government was very weak and acquiesced to various pressures and distanced arts from our life. I call for returning drama, singing and sports competitions at schools. I also demand paying attention to historical monuments - for instance, Kuwait Museum hasn't been refurbished since 1990. I want to strengthen the cultural role of Kuwait. I want to return Kuwait to be the cultural oasis it was in the 1960s and 1970s," he explained.

**- I call for returning drama, singing and sports competitions at schools**

**- Administrative deportation is illegal  
This issue should be reviewed by the court**

tolerant in the past. This is not fair, and they should have a special place to practice this tradition," Hashim said.

#### Opposition

Hashim believes the opposition should be back in the new parliament. "We tried the parliament without the opposition and it was worse than before. Their absence was worse than their partici-



KUWAIT: Second constituency candidate Salah Al-Hashim talks to Kuwait Times. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

"According to article 14 of the constitution, the government should protect arts and music, which is not being applied. Also, article 17 of the constitution says public funds should be protected," Hashim pointed out.

#### Expats

"Administrative deportation is illegal. This issue should be reviewed by the court. The expats came to Kuwait to work and help us build it, so we should respect them and not discriminate against them. The court should decide whether or not an expat should be deported, after he gets a chance to defend himself, the same way it's done all over the world," asserted Hashim.

#### Religious freedom

"Expats should feel free to practice their religion. At least, followers of Abrahamic faiths (Muslims, Christians and Jews) shouldn't be banned from establishing their worship places. Other religions can practice their rituals in their homes. Freedom of religion was enshrined in article 35 of the constitution for everybody living in this country," he said.

#### Cremation

"Some non-Muslim expats want to cremate their dead according to their traditions, but they are not allowed to do so, as cremation services are not available here. This option was available in the past, but was later stopped. The country was more

patation. The past parliament had bad performance. I think the turnover may be around 50 percent, as there are various parties paying to retain the previous members in the parliament," he charged.

#### Conclusion

"I'm optimistic that young Kuwaitis between 21 and 30 years old, who make up more than 70 percent of the population, will make a difference. Also, I believe in the strength of women voters who make up around 64 percent of the populace. I trust these two categories. I call upon women not to allow men to exploit their votes for candidates that don't work for their rights or benefit. I advise all Kuwaitis to vote and not boycott the elections," concluded Hashim.

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القباس

Al-Qabas

# 'BAQER TAX'

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

The National Assembly passed a law 10 years ago called the "zakat tax" or "Baqer law", through which the state imposed a 1 percent levy to be paid by shareholding companies from their net profits. The law allowed companies to direct what it paid or part of it to a public service or society through the finance ministry as mentioned in article 14 of the executive rules of the law, which include the services of security, justice and defense. It is not known what was the secret behind placing these three areas in particular within "services" and allow companies to direct what they paid to them, as this is the duty of the state.

Several parties opposed the law at the time, and then it was not implemented correctly, while its issuance created a political, legal and doctrinal argument. Criticism continued even after it was passed.

As enough time had passed since the implementation of the law, it is time to review and amend it so it goes along with reality, considering the defects in its implementation. As this will take time, due to all the legislative ruckus we are going through, it is necessary to concentrate on how the areas mentioned in the zakat law benefited from the share deducted from companies' profits, so that it becomes more effective in developing civil society fields such as science, culture, art, theater, healthcare and so on.

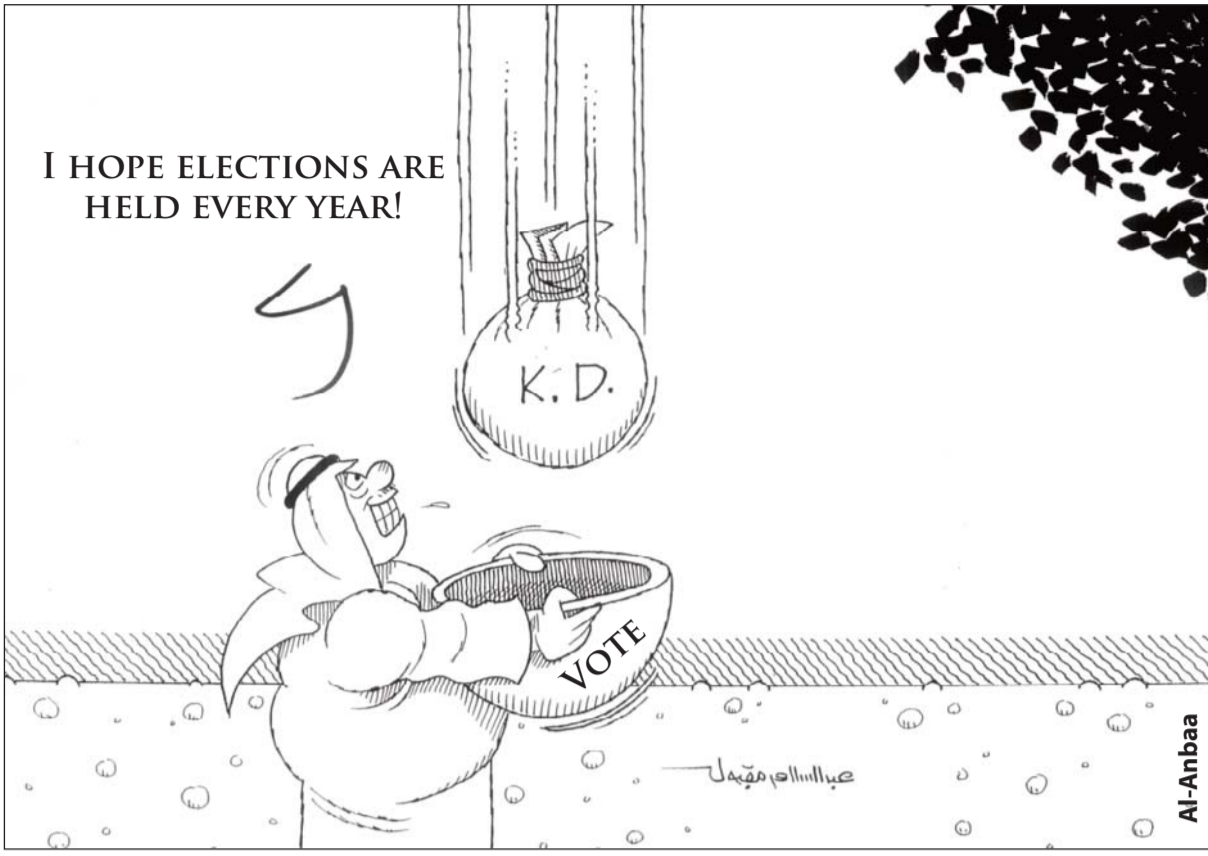
Although the law allows a taxpaying company to direct what it pays to be spent on what the company finds suitable according to the law, the finance ministry did not announce anything about the areas that benefited from the tax paid by the companies despite the many years that have elapsed since the implementation of the law, and it is not known what was the fate of this money.

In order to have an ideal benefit from the law and implement its text, it is necessary to activate the right of those paying the tax to direct their donations to social charities that serve the civil society correctly, and consider what is paid to them as tax exempt, as the case is in all other countries. The same rule should apply to contributions to the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences.

According to my knowledge, some taxpaying entities and charities that deserve to be part of the zakat tax wrote to the finance ministry in this regard. The question is what was done about the request to pay the entire share or part of it to a charity or others, but they did not receive a reply. So some of them are preparing to file lawsuits against the finance ministry to force it to implement articles of the zakat law more accurately and humanly.

Many charities and social projects such as Bayt Abdullah, Sultan Educational Society, LOYAC, Ruqaya Al-Qatami and other nonprofit organizations that bring about major social returns and strengthen the social responsibility principles deserve part of the zakat money that is lost at the finance ministry and nothing is known about it. This is apart from the monies of the third, fifth and other zakat funds that can be directed to such charity establishments.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



News

in brief

## MAIDS COMPANY ANNOUNCED NOV

**KUWAIT:** The domestic helpers' recruitment company is expected to be announced officially during the first week of November after the government put the final touches on the project. The shareholding company will be established through the Kuwait Investment Authority, Kuwait Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies and other firms according to the law passed in parliament earlier this year. The company is set to become the primary option for domestic workers' recruitment, offering considerably reduced recruitment fees and other facilities. — Al-Anbaa

### Allowance canceled

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Petroleum Corporation plans to cancel special transportation allowances paid to Kuwait Gulf Oil Company employees working at the Khafji joint project. The Ministry of Oil pays between KD 2.5 million and KD 3 million annually in monthly transportation allowances that vary between KD 150 and KD 450 depending on the worker's social status. The nearly 800 employees will be transferred temporarily to other companies in the oil sector until operation is resumed at the Khafji project, sources said. — Al-Anbaa

### Remarriage

**KUWAIT:** Twenty percent of the total number of women who got married this year were previously divorced, according to official biannual statistics pertaining with marriage and divorce. Meanwhile, the statistics indicate that 34 percent married women have university degrees compared to 32 percent with high school certificates, while 36 percent are aged between 20 and 25 years whereas 24 percent are aged between 25 and 30. — Al-Qabas

### Activities 'filtered'

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is currently 'filtering' commercial activities certified in Kuwait according to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, in order to prevent practicing activities that go against the Kuwaiti society's customs and traditions, such as alcohol sale for example. — Al-Rai

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

## AL-RIQQA BATTLE

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

**A**li bin Ashwan attacked the outlying areas of Kuwait with an army of 500 soldiers and they looted camels and sheep belonging to some Rasheedii and Azmi tribesmen and others. A battle took place between the raiders on one hand and the livestock owners and shepherds on the other.

News about the battle reached the general commander of defense and security forces, the late Sheikh Ali Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, who deployed some soldiers and even recruited some drivers along with their vehicles, and thus vehicles were used for the first time in Kuwaiti warfare. The convoy was led by Sheikh Ali Al-Khalifa and included sheikhs Abdullah Al-Jaber, Abdullah Al-Ahmed and Sabah Al-Nasser, who on arriving at Riqqa, found the battle had ended.

However, Sheikh Ali Al-Salem insisted on chasing the invaders and they managed to triumph in the beginning, but later, the vehicles' wheels got stuck in the desert sand and they ran out of petrol and ammunition. Thus, the invaders re-attacked and defeated them on Jan 28, 1928.

Kuwaiti martyrs in that battle included Sheikh Ali Al-Salem, Marzouq Al-Meteb, Mutlaq Al-Masoud, Nasser Al-Masoud, Mohammed bin Rasheed, Saad Al-Ajmi, Reja Al-Enezi, Hamad Al-Tahous, Saleh Al-Areedh, Mubarak Al-Hajraf, Mohammed bin Raeyya and an Iraqi driver known as Naseef. The wounded included Sheikh Ali Al-Khalifa, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber, Abdullah bin Saif and Mohammed bin Debbas.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

## MAN ROBBED OF KD 6,000

**KUWAIT:** A robbery took place in the scrap area in Nayaem, when several persons stopped an expatriate claiming to be detectives and robbed KD 6,000 from him, before escaping. Another Indian mechanic fell victim to a person who claimed to be a detective, who beat him and stole KD 300 from him in front of his Jahra house. The Indian told police that while on his way home, a person beat him before robbing his money and escaping.

### Embezzlement

The manager of a cosmetics company was arrested by police after she was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to two years in jail. A security source said a patrol asked the woman to stop and checked her ID. She was found wanted over a KD 30,000 theft from her company. She was sent to concerned authorities.

### Bootlegger caught

An Indian man was arrested for using snacks as a cover to sell liquor with the help of a compatriot. Police received information from residents in Jahra about a woman who sold snacks under unsanitary conditions. Police found the woman and searched her bag. They found Indian snacks wrapped in paper, and at the bottom there were four bottles of locally-brewed liquor. The woman was also in violation of residency law. She said another person made agreements with persons he knew and asked her to deliver the liquor and bring the money. She was sent to concerned authorities. — Al-Rai



**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsored a trip carried out by Loyac recently to Jordan. More than 15 high school and university students participated in a three-day camp held in the Jordanian desert during the trip.



# VIVA CEO RECOGNIZES AMBASSADOR DUWAISSAN

**LONDON:** Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, CEO of VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, recognized the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait in UK and Dean of Diplomatic Corps Khaled Al-Duwaisan during the 52nd annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) - United Kingdom and Ireland branch that took place at the Westminster Park Plaza Hotel London (UK), from 28 until 30 October 2016.

Badran presented a trophy to Ambassador Duwaisan in recognition of his giving and his significant role in serving Kuwait. In addition, he presented a trophy to Derrar Murad, NUKS's President. Event included an economic, entrepreneurial, poetry, motivational, stand-up comedy, and a variety of other segments, and first of its kind social media interactive segment and various entertainment options.

The National Union of Kuwaiti Students is considered to be the lone representative for the Kuwaiti students studying in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, as it is well known to be the oldest branch of the Union, established in London 1950. The students union aims to serve its members by demanding of protecting their rights, ensuring the successful encouragement of students in getting their scientific procurement.

VIVA is keen to continue its ongoing socially responsible role in the community in education, health, sport, environment and entrepreneurship, by spreading the spirit of goodness amongst Kuwaiti society. We believe at VIVA in taking a holistic approach to our CSR activities, one that engages our employees, and creates goodwill in our communities with a focus on helping to grow and develop the State of Kuwait.



## BUSY ACTIVITIES ON WIF 2016'S AGENDA

**KUWAIT:** The supreme organizing committee of the World Informatics Forum (WIF) 2016 yesterday announced the forum's activities list. The forum will be held next month under auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and would cover various scientific and practical lines related to the digital age and creative technologies.



Dr Hussein Ameen

In this regard, head of the organizing committee Dr Hussein Yosri Ameen stressed that the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award Foundation is keen on making the forum an annual event anticipated by people interested in the fields. He added that a group of experts and specialists took part in setting the activities' program due to be held on November 21 - 23, 2016 under the title of 'Digital Shifting to Knowledge Economy'.

Further, Ameen explained that the activities would include an 'Ideas Market' exhibition, displaying future technologies, applications and digital creations of public and private establishments on both Arab and international levels, including researchers from the Arab world and from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Meanwhile, Ameen said that several workshops would be held during the forum at Arraya Ballroom in Courtyard Marriott Hotel, tackling subjects that include smart cities, the latest in the world of robots, using iClouds, creativity in using financial technologies, the best practices of developing mobile phone applications, 3D printers and their uses, comparison between actual and virtual reality techniques in addition to the latest on automation techniques.

The WIF organizing committee is headed by Dr Hussein Yosri Ameen; a journalism and media professor at AUC. It also includes Gulf Oil Company's chief IT and networks engineer, Ahmed Abdullah Safar, Advanced Technology Group's CEO engineer Jassem Al-Mutawa, head of the business, research and technology unit at GOC engineer Alya's Al-Enezi and Sara Al-Doussary; a data analyst at Kuwait National Petroleum Company.



**KUWAIT:** A man prepares for fishing at the beach in Kuwait City. — KUNA



**McMullin: Political nobody turned anti-Trump symbol**

CHINA GUARDING SHOAL, BUT FILIPINOS RETURN



**KIRKUK:** Children play in the Yahyawa camp for internally displaced Turkmen on the outskirts of Kirkuk yesterday. Over 600 families from Tel Afar, a town west of Mosul, have been living in the camp for two years and are hoping for their city to be liberated from Islamic State militants so they can return to their homes. — AP

# IRAQ MILITIAMEN GAINING GROUND

## SECOND DAY OF OPERATIONS TO CUT SUPPLY LINES

**QAYYARAH:** Iraqi paramilitary forces said they had captured several villages southwest of Mosul from the Islamic State group yesterday, the second day of an operation to cut the jihadists' supply lines. Tens of thousands of Iraqi troops and Kurdish peshmerga fighters have been advancing on Mosul from the north, east and south after the launch on October 17 of a vast offensive to retake IS's last stronghold in the country. After standing largely on the sidelines in the first days of the assault, forces from the Hashed Al-Shaabi-a paramilitary umbrella organization dominated by Iran-backed Shiite militias-began a push on Saturday towards the west of Mosul.

The ultimate aim is the recapture of Tal Afar, a town west of the city, and the severing of jihadist supply lines between Mosul and Syria. In a series of statements yesterday, the Hashed's media office announced it had retaken at least four villages southwest of Mosul. Al-Imraini, one of the recaptured villages, is 45 kilometers from Tal Afar, according to the media office.

The drive toward Tal Afar could bring the fighting perilously close to the ancient city of Hatra, a UNESCO world heritage site, and the ruins of Nimrud-two archeological sites that have previously been vandalized by IS. The involvement of Shiite militias in the Mosul operation has been a source of contention, though the Hashed's top commanders insist they do not plan to enter the largely Sunni city.

**Concerns over militias**

Iraqi Kurds and Sunni Arab politicians have opposed their involvement, as has Turkey which has a military presence east of Mosul despite repeated demands by Baghdad for the forces to be withdrawn. Relations between the Hashed and the US-led coalition fighting IS are also tense, but the paramilitaries enjoy widespread support among members of Iraq's Shiite majority.

The Hashed has been a key force in Iraq's campaign to retake areas seized by IS in mid-2014, when the jihadists took control of large parts of Syria and Iraq and declared a cross-border "caliphate". But the paramilitaries have been repeatedly accused of human rights violations during the course of the war against IS, including summary killings, kidnappings and destruction of property.

Tal Afar was a Shiite-majority town of mostly ethnic Turkmen before the Sunni extremists of IS overran it in 2014, and its recapture is a main goal of Shiite militia forces. Yesterday's fighting came a day after Iraq announced the recapture of Al-Shura, an area south of Mosul with a long history as a militant bastion that has been the target of fighting for more than a week. Iraq's Joint Operations Command announced "the complete liberation of Al-Shura," saying that security forces advancing from four different sides had linked up in the area, which is north of Qayyarah base, the main hub for the southern front.

**Over 17,600 displaced**

The US-led coalition-which has been assisting federal forces and Kurdish peshmerga with air strikes, training

and advisers for two years-said Friday that Iraqi forces were observing a pause in the two-week-old offensive. In Bartalla, a Christian town just east of Mosul, army and counter-terrorism forces were consolidating their positions, unloading cases of weapons from trucks and organizing their ammunition stocks. More than 17,600 people have fled their homes toward government-held areas since the Mosul operation began, the International

Organization for Migration said yesterday.

Numbers are expected to soar as Iraqi forces close in on the city, which is home to more than a million people. The UN says there have been credible reports of IS carrying out mass executions in the city and seizing tens of thousands of people for use as human shields. IS's "depraved, cowardly strategy is to attempt to use the presence of civilians to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from

military operations", UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in a statement.

The jihadists are "effectively using tens of thousands of women, men and children as human shields," he said. The UN cited reports indicating IS has forcibly taken civilians into Mosul, killing those who resist or who were previously members of Iraqi security forces. It said more than 250 people were executed in just two days earlier this week. — AFP

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## PAKISTAN TO FREE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 'AFGHAN GIRL'

**ISLAMABAD:** An Afghan woman immortalized on a National Geographic magazine cover is to be freed on bail days after being arrested in Pakistan for fraud, a government minister said yesterday. The haunting image of Sharbat Gula, taken in a Pakistan refugee camp by photographer Steve McCurry in the 1980s, became the most famous cover image in the magazine's history. Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested Gula on Wednesday for living in the country on fraudulent identity papers following a two-year investigation on her and her husband, who has absconded.

"I think I will have to review this case because she is a woman and we should see it from a humanitarian angle," Pakistan Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan told a press conference yesterday. "But if we withdraw charges against her, deport her or give her a temporary visa to leave Pakistan, then we will have to take back cases against the officials who issued her fake ID card, they are real culprits and I do not want to let them off the hook in any manner," he said. "As a first step the FIA should arrange her bail as soon as possible so that she should get out of jail," Khan added.

Investigators, who have uncovered thousands of fraud cases over the last decade, launched a probe into her application shortly after she procured the identity card. Officials say she applied for a Pakistani identity card in Peshawar in April 2014, using the name Sharbat Bibi. The photo attached to her application featured the same piercing green eyes seen in McCurry's famous image, only older.

Officials say the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) has so far re-verified 91 million ID cards and detected 60,675 fraudulent cards. Her

arrest highlights the desperate measures many Afghans are willing to take to avoid returning to their war-torn homeland as Pakistan cracks down on undocumented foreigners.

Pakistan has for decades provided safe haven for millions of Afghans who fled their country after the Soviet invasion of 1979. The country hosts 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees, according to UNHCR, making it the third-largest refugee hosting nation in the world. The agency also estimates a further one million unregistered refugees are in the country. — AFP



Sharbat Gula



**ISTANBUL:** Supporters of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democracy Party (HDP) flash victory signs during a demonstration on October 30, 2016 in Istanbul, following the arrests of the two co-mayors in Diyarbakir. The two co-mayors of Diyarbakir, the biggest Kurdish-majority city in south-east Turkey, were arrested as part of a "terrorism" probe. — AFP

## TURKEY SACKS 10,000 CIVIL SERVANTS, SHUTS MEDIA

OPPOSITION LAWMAKERS DESCRIBE CRACKDOWN AS 'COUP'

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey said it had dismissed a further 10,000 civil servants and closed 15 more media outlets over suspected links with terrorist organizations and US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, blamed by Ankara for orchestrating a failed coup in July. More than 100,000 people had already been sacked or suspended and 37,000 arrested since the failed coup, in an unprecedented crackdown the government says is necessary to root out all supporters of Gulen from the state apparatus.

Thousands more academics, teachers, health workers, prison guards and forensics experts were among the latest to be removed from their posts through two new executive decrees published on the Official Gazette late on Saturday. Opposition parties described the move as a coup in itself. The continued crackdown has also raised concerns over the functioning of state. "What the government and Erdogan are doing right now is a direct coup against the rule of law and democracy," Sezgin Tanrikulu, an MP from the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), said in a Periscope broadcast posted on Twitter.

The decrees have ordered the closure of 15 more newspapers, wires and magazines, which report from the largely Kurdish southeast, bringing the total number of media organisations closed since the emergency rule in July to nearly 160. In another move set to anger President Tayyip Erdogan's opponents, the ability of universities to elect their own rectors was also abolished. Erdogan will from now on directly appoint the rectors from the candidates nominated by the High Educational Board (YOK).

### Rights groups worried

The extent of the crackdown has worried rights groups and many of Turkey's Western allies, who fear Erdogan is using the emergency rule to eradicate dissent. The government says the actions are justified following the coup attempt on July 15, when more than 240 people died. Lale Karibiyyik, another CHP lawmaker, said the move was a clear misuse of the emergency rule decrees and described it as a coup d'etat on the high education system. Pro-Kurdish opposition said the decrees were used as tools to establish a 'one-man regime'.

The government extended the state of emergency imposed after the coup attempt for three months until mid-January. Erdogan said the authorities needed more time to wipe out the threat posed by Gulen's network as well as Kurdish militants who have waged a 32-year insurgency. Ankara wants the United States to detain and extradite Gulen so that he can be prosecuted in Turkey on a charge that he masterminded the attempt to overthrow the government. Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999, denies any involvement.

Speaking to reporters at a reception marking the Republic Day on Saturday, Erdogan said the nation wanted the reinstatement of the death penalty, a debate which has emerged following the coup attempt, and added that delaying it would not be right. "I believe this issue will come to the parliament," he said, and repeated that he would approve it, a move that would sink Turkey's hopes of European Union membership. Erdogan shrugged off such concerns, saying that much of the world had capital punishment. — Reuters

## PAKISTANI POLICE AND OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS CLASH IN ISLAMABAD

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistani riot police yesterday used tear gas and batons to fight stone throwing supporters of cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, seizing weapons and detaining hundreds of people when they attempted to reach Islamabad for an anti-government rally scheduled next week.

The clashes have been taking place intermittently since Friday, when the government imposed a ban on all rallies and protests in the capital. They erupted again yesterday near Khan's suburban home and at several places on the outskirts of the capital. Khan has vowed to lock down Islamabad on Nov. 2 to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

"The message we're getting is that they're going to block Islamabad," Pakistan's Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan told a news conference. He alleged the opposition party had plans to storm into Pakistan's secretariat, the main government office. He said the government will not let anyone disrupt life in the capital. "This is my responsibility that

schools remain open and people go to their offices," he said.

Imran Khan in 2014 held a months-long sit-in protest outside Pakistan's parliament in Islamabad to force Sharif to quit, alleging that the premier had rigged the 2013 elections. The former cricket star suspended his party's protests

after a Taliban attack in December that year in Peshawar killed 150 people, mostly school children. Khan said yesterday that he didn't have any violent plans, but the capital will lock down itself when tens of thousands of people march in the streets.

Yesterday, police blocked nearly



**ISLAMABAD:** Politician Imran Khan, center, is surrounded by his supporters as he speaks to journalists outside his residence. — AP

1,500 of Khan's armed supporters from entering the capital, the interior minister said. Nearly 100 of them were arrested, he said. He said the police seized seven Kalashnikov rifles, one tear gas gun and seven bullet proof vests, including one driven by one of Khan's ministers from the north-western province where his party rules.

The government has also used shipping containers to block the main highway connecting the province with the capital to stop the opposition party workers from reaching Islamabad. Sharif has been under pressure from opposition parties for months after several of his family members were named as holders of offshore bank accounts in leaked financial documents from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca. Sharif, serving his third term as prime minister, has refused to quit but says he'll face an investigation. Pakistan's Supreme Court has reportedly settled on a panel of judges who will hear the case on Nov 1, a day before the protest. — AP

## NEW ITALY QUAKE SOWS TERROR, FLATTENS BASILICA

**NORCIA, Italy:** Italy's most powerful earthquake in 36 years struck the country's mountainous center yesterday, panicking shell-shocked residents for the third time in two months and flattening a world famous 600-year-old basilica. Remarkably, there were no reports of anyone dying as a result of the 6.6 magnitude quake, the head of the national civil protection agency said in an update on the impact. "As far as people are concerned, the situation is positive but many buildings are in a critical state in historic centers and there are problems with electricity and water supplies," Fabrizio Curcio told reporters.

The quake struck at 7:40 am (0640 GMT) near the small mountain town of Norcia, unleashing a shock felt in the capital Rome and even in Venice, 300 km away. It was Italy's biggest quake since a 6.9-magnitude one struck the south of the country in 1980, leaving 3,000 people dead. "We are going through a really tough period," Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said, reiterating a government pledge to rebuild every damaged house and ensure that dozens of remote communities do not become ghost towns. "We must not allow the profound pain, fatigue and stress that we have now to turn into resignation."

### 'Like a Bomb Went Off'

The most important architectural casualty was Norcia's 14th-century Basilica of Saint Benedict. Built on the reputed birthplace of the Catholic saint, it had survived dozens of quakes over the centuries - but it had been left brittle by other recent shocks to the point that yesterday's brought its wall crashing down. The church is looked after by an international community of Benedictine monks based in two local monasteries which attract some 50,000 pilgrims every year. "It was like a bomb went off," said the town's deputy mayor, Pierluigi Altavilla. "We are starting to despair. There are too many quakes now, we can't bear it anymore." Lucia Rafael, one of several nuns forced to flee their convent in the town, told AFP the prolonged shaking had "felt like the apocalypse." She added: "We don't

want to leave, we want to stay and help others with our prayers, even if it means staying in a tent." Giuseppe Pezzanesi, mayor of Tolentino in the neighbouring Marche region, said the small town had "suffered our blackest day yet." "Let's hope that is an end to it, the people are on their knees psychologically."

### 'Everything Collapsed'

The quake's epicentre was located at a very shallow depth of one kilometre, six kilometres north of Norcia, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS), which measured the magnitude at 6.6. Italy's institute of geology and vulcanology (IGNV) measured the quake at 6.5 and said it had been preceded by a 6.1 magnitude shock an hour earlier. It came four days after quakes of 5.5 and 6.1 magnitude hit the same area and nine weeks after nearly 300 people died in an August 24 disaster in the tourist town of Amatrice at the peak of the holiday season.

The 13th-century civic tower in Amatrice, which was damaged but left standing by the August quake, also collapsed yesterday. As with Wednesday's tremors, the impact was mitigated by the fact that any buildings deemed vulnerable to seismic activity had been evacuated. The quake was powerful enough to set off car alarms in Rome, 120 km from the epicentre. Part of the capital's underground rail network and a road flyover were temporarily closed to allow structural safety checks to be carried out. Much of Italy's land mass and some of its surrounding waters are prone to seismic activity with the highest risk concentrated along its mountainous central spine. Italy straddles the Eurasian and African tectonic plates, making it vulnerable to seismic activity when they move. In addition to the Amatrice disaster in August, just over 300 people perished when a quake struck near the city of L'Aquila in 2009. In 1980, tremors near Naples left 3,000 dead and an estimated 95,000 died in the 1908 Messina disaster, when a quake in the waters between mainland Italy and Sicily sent massive waves crashing into both coasts. — AFP



**NORCIA, Italy:** Picture shows damage near the center of this town following a 6.6 magnitude earthquake yesterday. — AFP

## ISRAEL WASN'T READY FOR 2014 GAZA WAR: OFFICIAL

**TEL AVIV:** Israel should have better prepared for Hamas's use of tunnels in the 2014 Gaza war, a senior army official said yesterday, ahead of the release of a key report on the conflict. Speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, the official said Israel's military has sought to learn lessons from the 2014 war, including by better preparing troops to deal with tunnel warfare.

The official's comments come ahead of a report by Israel's state comptroller on the conflict expected to be released before the end of the year. A draft of the report reportedly found that "the security establishment did not have a comprehensive plan for dealing with Hamas's offensive tunnels." The army has conducted its own internal review of the conflict, which also found that the military was unprepared for the tunnel threat.

The official, who has read the internal review of some 182 pages completed several months ago, said: "I think that we could come to this war... better than we came to it." "I think the (military) did not do a good enough job to close a gap between the problem and the solution," he said. Special engineering units have since been bolstered, the official said. Efforts have also been made to increase collaboration between units.

Israel is also reportedly building an underground wall around Gaza to block

tunnels. "We tried to learn and to teach ourselves what we need to do," the official said. During the war, Israel's military found 32 tunnels, including 14 that extended from the Gaza Strip into Israel, according to a UN inquiry into the conflict. Militants in Gaza, run by Islamist movement Hamas, used the tunnels during combat, including to carry out cross-border attacks.

The new threat of attack tunnels led to deep concern in Israeli communities bordering Gaza. But despite criticism over Israel's handling of the tunnel threat, the Gaza Strip suffered an overwhelmingly higher number of victims and amount of damage in the 2014 war. The 50-day conflict killed 2,251 Palestinians and left 100,000 homeless. On the Israeli side, 73 people were killed, most of them soldiers.

The UN report said both Israel and Palestinian militants may have committed war crimes, decrying "unprecedented" devastation and human suffering. The upcoming Israeli comptroller's report on the conflict may pressure Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has faced criticism from political opponents over the tunnels. Netanyahu has reportedly asked the comptroller for another hearing to defend his government's handling of the issue by explaining that the cabinet had repeatedly discussed it in-depth. — AFP



## HILARY CLINTON'S INNER CIRCLE: ALLIES, AIDES AND TRANSITIONS

**WASHINGTON:** After more than three decades at the heart of US public life, White House frontrunner Hillary Clinton has acquired an impressive list of political friends and enemies. But she also has a famously tight-knit inner circle of veteran allies and aides who will stick with her to the bitter end of the long presidential campaign and maybe even to the Oval Office itself.

### The faithful

**Huma Abedin:** The 40-year-old vice chair of the Clinton campaign has been by her side since 1996, when she joined the then-first lady's staff as a White House intern. A true confidante, she is seen as almost a second daughter and was deputy chief of staff at the State Department under Clinton between 2009 and 2013. **Cheryl Mills:** a lawyer by profession, 51-year-old Mills has been fighting in the legal and political trenches alongside Clinton since she was deputy White House counsel in President Bill Clinton's scandal-prone era. She too transitioned to the State Department and remains close to Clinton. **John Podesta:** Campaign chairman Podesta, 67, was Bill Clinton's chief of staff and a senior advisor to President Barack Obama before signing on as Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman. His private email account was hacked but the messages published by WikiLeaks seem only to have confirmed his reputation as a consummate political operator.

**Neera Tanden:** The Center for American Progress think tank serves as a policy shop and waiting room for Democratic administrations, so its 46-year-old head Tanden is well-placed for her role headhunting talent for Clinton's future White House as part of her official transition team.

### The new guard

**Jack Sullivan:** When Clinton's official email from her time as secretary of state was released following a freedom of information request, 39-year-old Sullivan's

name was at the heart of all the major internal debates. He took part in a secret diplomatic back channel to Iran while still working for Vice President Joe Biden. He's now Clinton's foreign policy brain and a hot tip to become her National Security Adviser.

**Robby Mook:** At 36, Mook is young to be Clinton's campaign manager, but he was even younger when he led her primary campaign in three states in 2008. That run ended in defeat, but Mook's mastery of management and the political machine has seen him move into a key behind-the-scenes role. **Jennifer Palmieri:** While she is another veteran of Clinton's husband's White House, 49-year-old Palmieri's career really began to take off under President Barack Obama, whom she served as director of communications until last year, when she stepped down to help in the race to succeed him. **Brian Fallon:** Clinton's young spokesman has already worked in the same role for leading Democrats Senator Chuck Schumer and former attorney general Eric Holder.

### The transition team

A "transition team" smooths the handover between an outgoing administration and the new one, hiring and vetting new senior staff outside the White House while shadowing the lame duck president's team in their final weeks. Some transition officials will find themselves in the new White House, others will return to their own careers or retirement once the newly elected chief executive is installed. **Ken Salazar:** Clinton's transition team chairman Salazar, 61, is a veteran of the halls of power: a former senator and interior secretary under Obama. Salazar has four co-chairs, former national security adviser Tom Donilon-tipped by some for a top role in the new administration-and former Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm. Tanden is on the team, as is Clinton's 2008 campaign manager Maggie Williams. — AFP

## SERBIA'S PM SHRUGS OFF WEAPONS FIND, SAYS 'NOBODY TOUCHED ME'

**BELGRADE:** Serbia's Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said yesterday he did not believe he had been subject to an assassination attempt, seeking to calm tensions after the discovery of a cache of heavy weapons on a route regularly taken by his motorcade. The weapons, which included a rocket launcher, hand grenades and rifle ammunition, were found in bushes in the neighbourhood of Jajinci, near a crossroads where Vucic's motorcade normally slows on his frequent visits to his parents' home.

"Someone could have simply dumped weapons there by chance," he told reporters at a press briefing held to discuss a visit by an

International Monetary Fund mission. "This was not an assassination attempt," he said. "Nobody touched me." Vucic said a tipoff led to the discovery of the weapons and that he was immediately taken to an undisclosed safe place. No arrests have been made in connection with the find.

He appeared to have no extra security at yesterday's news conference, which had been scheduled long in advance and was held in the usual central government building. Nevertheless, police were out in greater force than normal in Belgrade, patrolling in streets around government buildings. — Reuters

# MCMULLIN: POLITICAL NOBODY TURNED ANTI-TRUMP SYMBOL

## SUPPORT FOR THIRD-PARTY CANDIDATE WOULD BOOST CLINTON

**SALT LAKE CITY:** Former CIA agent Evan McMullin has quickly evolved from a political unknown to a legitimate threat to become the first independent candidate in nearly half a century to win electoral votes in a presidential election. The presidency itself is out of his reach because McMullin is only on the ballot in 11 states. But he could poach enough conservative votes in Utah to squeeze past Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton and become the first non-GOP candidate to win the mostly-Mormon state since 1964. That would be a particular blow to Trump. McMullin, 40 and a Mormon, has been embraced by many Republican-leaning voters who are steeped in Utah's culture of courtesy and fed up with Trump's crudeness and antics.

### So who is this guy?

McMullin recounts his life story at his rallies in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and other Western states. In a school gymnasium in a Salt Lake City suburb, he told people he's a "simple person nobody knew of" who had a paltry 131 Twitter followers when he started his campaign. He now has 84,000-plus. Born in Provo, the heartland of Mormon country, McMullin spent his childhood in a rural area of Washington outside Seattle. He did a two-year Mormon mission in Brazil, then returned to Utah to earn a degree in international law and diplomacy at the Mormon church-owned Brigham Young University.

He spent 11 years in the CIA doing counterterrorism work before leaving the agency to get a master's in business administration from the Wharton School of Business and have a brief stint in investment banking. He became a national security adviser for the US House Foreign Affairs Committee. He was chief policy director for US House Republicans when he watched with amazement as Trump won the GOP nomination and no other conservative jumped in the race. By late summer, McMullin decided to try to give conservative voters an alternative to Trump and Clinton. Despite knowing he would endure ridicule and questions about his motives, McMullin went for it.

He criticizes the GOP establishment for not standing up to Trump early on and often takes indirect jabs at the candidate. "A real conservative, when they see somebody else being attacked for their religion or because of their race, a real conservative will stand up and protect other people," McMullin said recently. Trump's running mate, Mike Pence, tells people in Utah there are only two candidates on the ballot with "any chance" of being president.

That argument - that a vote for McMullin will help Clinton win - is heard often from those supporting Trump. US Rep. Chris Stewart of Utah, who called Trump "our Mussolini" and denounced Trump's vulgar comments about women, said last week he'll vote for the GOP

nominee because supporting a third-party candidate would boost Clinton.

### #Evan Help Us

McMullin counters that a vote for him would not only help him win Utah, but it also would kick-start a compassionate conservative movement, open to all races and religions, around the country. "No matter what happens on Nov 8, if we can send a strong message from Utah and

scientist, said McMullin has seized the opportunity created by the unpopularity of Trump and Clinton by convincing some voters that he's a better option than Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson, whose policies don't quite jibe with Utah's socially conservative culture. McMullin's choice of a woman as his running mate, Republican strategist Mindy Finn, is just one part of his campaign that has endeared him to Utah voters, especially young Mormons, Cann said.



**DRAPER, Utah:** In this Oct 21, 2016 file photo, Independent presidential candidate Evan McMullin speaks during a rally. — AP

the broader Mountain West, it will change the discussion in Washington and across this country," he said.

Cecil and Tiffany Sullivan, teachers from a Salt Lake City suburb of Murray, have become avid McMullin supporters, attending rallies with their infant son with their sign, "#Evan Help Us." "We were kind of despairing about what we were going to do with our vote and then Evan came in," said Tiffany Sullivan. Added Cecil Sullivan: "We like his policies better than anybody else; that he's for foreign trade, for ethnic diversity." Damon Cann, a Utah State University political

"People tend to have a higher level of social trust for people who are in the same group," Cann said. Mormons "find Evan McMullin to be trustworthy on the account he shares their religious identification." Matthew Burbank, an associate professor of political science at the University of Utah, said McMullin's strategy to stake out general, conservative ideas, without a detail, seems to be working for him. "He's primarily a symbolic conservative," Burbank said. "As long as he holds that position, some Utah voters will look at that and say, 'I'd rather vote for him.'" — AP

# TRUMP'S INNER CIRCLE: BIG FAMILY, BUT FEW FRIENDS

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump is notoriously a one-man show. Asked in March who he consults with on foreign policy, he answered: "myself." While Democratic White House hopeful Hillary Clinton is often depicted as the formidable center point of an influential universe, Trump is a lone, hot-burning star. But the Republican is not completely on his own in the Trump solar system. By his side is a core collection of family and confidants-an inner circle as influential as their number is small. Here are the main figures who advise Trump:

### Trump's wife and children

**Melania.** Donald Jr. Ivanka. Eric. They are the closest in Trump's orbit, and hold tremendous sway. Wife Melania Trump, 46, is a former model and jewelry designer born in Slovenia. She has stood by her man during several campaign crises, including offering a stirring defense of Trump after he was heard on a newly released 2005 video making lewd remarks about women.

**Donald Trump Jr., 38,** is the candidate's eldest child, and serves as executive vice president of the Trump Organization. He recently made waves when he told Fox News that running for president is a "step down" for his billionaire father. He was also criticized for appearing on a radio show connected to a known white supremacist. Daughter Ivanka, 34, and son Eric, 32, are also executive VPs in their father's firm. Ivanka helped craft Trump's child care and maternity leave proposals, and wowed supporters with a prime-time speech at the Republican National Convention.

### Stephen Bannon

As chief executive officer of the Trump campaign, Bannon largely operates in the background, but wields immense power. He took a leave of absence from his position as chief executive of Breitbart Media, home to the

provocative Breitbart News, when he was brought on board in August to revive Trump's flagging campaign. The conservative website has become a gathering place for the "alt-right" movement of anti-immigrant white nationalists and other anti-establishment renegades who have embraced Trump. Bannon is their drum major. He is relatively new to right-wing politics, compared with Trump's long-time friend and advisor Roger Stone, but his influence as head of Breitbart News was swiftly felt. Last year, Bloomberg labeled Bannon, 62, "the most dangerous political operative in America."

### Kellyanne Conway

Conway is Trump's campaign manager, the first woman to run a major Republican presidential effort. She is a veteran GOP pollster who founded The Polling Company, Inc and is known as an expert on focus groups. The 49-year-old first

supported Senator Ted Cruz in the primaries, but Trump hired her in August along with Bannon. She is often seen on US media the morning after major Trump events including debates, seeking to steady the roiling waters around the candidate's campaign ship. When Trump makes a dubious assertion-such as warning he might not accept the election results if he loses-Conway reels him back in.

### Rudy Giuliani

The outspoken former mayor of New York has known Trump for decades, and is often by the candidate's side at major rallies, serving as one of his top advisors. Giuliani, 72, has been seen shifting to the right over the past year, offering dramatic statements in support of Trump and painting his rival Clinton as a criminal. "When I see her, I see her in an orange jumpsuit," Giuliani told a Philadelphia radio station,

referring to Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state. Amid revelations that Trump paid no federal income tax after his company declared a major loss, Giuliani called him a "genius" for doing so.

### Chris Christie

The tough-talking Republican New Jersey governor ran for president this year, and was a harsh Trump critic during the primaries. But the two made peace, and Christie, 54, now heads Trump's presidential transition team. He helped popularize the chant of "Lock her up!" during his fiery anti-Clinton speech at the Republican convention. But earlier this month Christie said Trump's remarks condoning sexual assault on the 2005 video were "completely indefensible," although he did not rescind his endorsement. — AFP

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VIVA

## TIRED OF WAITING IN GREECE, SYRIANS BID TO RETURN HOME

**DIDYMOTEICHO:** "I want to go back to Syria. There is war in my country, but we've been living for seven months in Greece like prisoners." Adan, from Aleppo, has abandoned his dream of building a new life in Europe, like thousands of other Syrians trapped in Greece. He's just arrived at the station in Didymoteicho, a village near the Greece-Turkey border, with his wife, three children and five other relatives, and is preparing to go through a police checkpoint before trying to get into Turkey, the start of a long journey home.

"We've been on the streets for months, with nowhere to live. When we arrived in Greece we went to the Idomeni camp where we stayed for three months," hoping to cross the Greece-Macedonia border to head for Germany, says Adan. He describes their miserable time in the makeshift camp where over 10,000 migrants were thrown together in wretched conditions, before the Greek government eventually decided to dismantle it in May and transfer them to nearby reception centres.

Adan and his family then tried their luck in Thessaloniki, the nearest major Greece city to Idomeni, before returning to Athens. "We realized that we are

trapped by the closure of the borders and finally we've decided to go home, he says. More than 60,000 refugees are currently trapped in Greece, in particular after the March 18 EU-Turkey accord aimed at sending migrants arriving from Turkey systematically back there.

Refugees and migrants find themselves with no way ahead, their hopes to travel onward to a European country proving to be virtually impossible. Programs for relocating or reuniting families, the only legal way of moving to live and work in Europe, have proved slow and complicated due to the reluctance of many countries who don't want to take in any more refugees. The EU committed itself in September 2015 to relocate 66,400 refugees from Greece over two years. So far only 4,926 have left in 13 months. A last hope for migrants is to apply for asylum in Greece-but that is also a lengthy procedure, and daunting in a country still mired in crisis, with the highest unemployment rate in the eurozone.

### Crossing the river

Adan shows the Didymoteicho police his identity papers handed out by authorities when they first registered on

the Aegean island of Lesbos, the main entry point to Greece for migrants from the Turkish coast.

"With their documents they can travel freely within the country. But we know they came here to find people smugglers who will help them cross the Evros river on the border at night, to get into Turkey," one border guard told AFP, requesting anonymity. "This kind of case happens every day... it's crazy: these are miserable people, they've already paid to come illegally to Greece, and here they have to pay again to return home," he said. "The people smugglers are the only ones who profit."

The river level on the Greece-Turkey border is currently quite low. "Some people use boats but at some points you can cross by foot," says Chrysovalantis Gialamas, border guard chief for the Evros region. Dozens of refugees arrive every day at the Didymoteicho station in recent weeks. Some even have German refugee papers, and so appear to be returning from Germany, disappointed that they have not integrated there.

"We can't really verify if they are genuine or fake," said one officer, cautiously. But apart from those who want to leave Greece, the flow of migrants in the



**DIDYMOTEICHO:** Adan's family members from the Syrian city of Aleppo cross the railway as they arrives at the train station of Didymoteicho some 400 km North-East from Thessaloniki, near the Greek-Turkish border. — AFP

opposite direction-from Turkey into Greece-has also increased in recent months, and police have been forced to bolster the land border between the two countries. Since July, 70 people smugglers and over 1,000 migrants have been arrested, police say. On Thursday an

alleged Greek people smuggler was arrested near Thessaloniki transporting 40 Syrians including 15 children in a truck. They had paid 1,500 euros each to get to the Greek city, where they hoped to find a way to travel onward to northern Europe, according to police. — AFP



**REYKJAVIK:** Politician and co founder of Iceland's Pirate Party Birgitta Jonsdottir (C), Asta Gudrun Helgadóttir (2nd,L) and fellow activists react as the election results are announced at their election gathering. — AFP

## ICELAND SET FOR COALITION HAGGLING AFTER CLOSE VOTE

PRIME MINISTER ACCEPTS RESULTS, SET TO RESIGN

**REYKJAVIK:** Iceland was headed for tense talks over its next government after an alliance led by the anti-establishment Pirate Party gained ground against the ruling centre-right in a vote triggered by the Panama Papers scandal. Final figures from Saturday's snap election pointed to a deadlocked outcome, opening the way for tough horse-trading over the next government in the North Atlantic island nation.

Prime Minister Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson told the national broadcaster RUV he would resign yesterday. Negotiations on forming a government are to be led by Finance Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, whose conservative Independence Party won most seats. According to final results issued yesterday, the governing coalition-the Independence Party, allied with Johannsson's centrist Progressive Party-gained 29 seats in the 63-member parliament.

The Pirates and its three centre-left allies won 27 seats, reaping gains from popular anger with establishment parties but falling short of a majority in the legislature, the Althingi. The Pirates and the Left-Green Movement each picked up 10 seats, the Social Democrats three, and the centrist Bright Future Movement won four.

### Kingmaker party

The centrist Regeneration Party, which won seven seats, now finds itself able to determine

the fate of coalition talks. But negotiations between Regeneration and Benediktsson's Independence Party could be tough. The parties fell out over holding a referendum on resuming the nation's EU membership talks, stalled by the incumbent conservative government.

"We have not been negative towards other parties or how governments should be formed," the leader of the Regeneration Party, Benedikt Johannsson told AFP. But, he predicted, his party could be "very demanding in the bargaining process" with the Independence Party. The election was triggered after the Panama Papers revealed that 600 Icelanders including cabinet ministers, bankers and business leaders had holdings stashed away in offshore accounts. The scandal claimed the scalp of Johannsson's predecessor, Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, mired in allegations about family holdings stashed in tax havens. The episode revived public anger first stirred by the 2008 financial crisis, which wrecked Iceland's banking industry and plunged the country into recession, prompting it to seek a humiliating bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

### 'Like Robin Hood'

The Pirates Party laid down a five-point program that includes constitutional change to make leaders more accountable, free health

care, greater protection of natural resources and the closure of tax loopholes for large corporations. The leaders of the party, set up just four years ago by anarchists, activists and hackers, said they were pleased with its advances, even if an absolute majority failed to emerge.

"We are very satisfied," said cofounder Birgitta Jonsdottir, an activist, poet and WikiLeaks supporter. "We are a platform for young people, for progressive people who shape and reshape our society... like Robin Hood because Robin Hood was a pirate, we want to take the power from the powerful to give it to the people," Jonsdottir told AFP, referring to the English outlaw of legend.

Greter Eytorsson, professor of political science at the University of Akureyri, said the Pirates did not gain a majority because not enough young people went to the polling stations despite a near 80 percent overall turnout. "What was suspected happened. The young voters did not show up," he told AFP. "That was most likely the biggest reason for their loss... compared with the polls. But let's not forget that they are a much bigger party now." Iceland, a volcanic island with a population of 332,000, has returned to prosperity since its 2008 financial meltdown. Gross domestic product growth is expected to be above four percent this year thanks to tourism revenues and a recovering financial system. — AFP

## GEORGIA RULING PARTY SET TO WIN IN PARLIAMENTARY POLLS

**TBILISI:** Georgia voted in the second round of contested parliamentary polls yesterday, with the ruling Georgian Dream poised for a landslide victory after opposition parties alleged fraud in the first round. The elections see the Georgian Dream, led from behind the scenes by billionaire ex-Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, grappling with the United National Movement (UNM), founded by exiled former president Mikheil Saakashvili.

Yesterday's vote will decide-on a first-past-the-post basis-the fate of a third of parliamentary mandates in the 150-seat legislature. Georgian Dream is expected to win in the majority of single-mandate constituencies and secure over 113 seats in the parliament-the number that would allow the party to form a new cabinet and pass constitutional amendments. Turnout was 19.3 percent at 0800 GMT, four hours after polls opened, the Central Election Commission said. In the polls' first round held on October 8, Georgian Dream won with 48.68 percent of the vote in a proportional ballot, while Georgia's main opposition force, UNM, came second with 27.11 percent of the vote. For the first time in Georgia's post-Soviet history, the first round also saw a small anti-Western party, the Alliance of Patriots, clearing the five-percent threshold needed to enter parliament.

### Electoral violations

Georgia's Western allies are watching closely to see if the strategic nation-praised as a rare example of democracy in the former Soviet region-can cement gains after its first transfer of power at the ballot box four

years ago. Almost all opposition parties cried foul, accusing the government of massive vote rigging during the first round-a claim flatly rejected by the authorities.

Western monitors said that the October 8 vote was competitive, though they noted isolated instances of violations and procedural problems. Voting, which will end at 1600 GMT, is being monitored by international observers from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Parliament, and NATO.

Politics is still dominated by Saakashvili and Ivanishvili even though neither holds an official position. Tensions rose ahead of the vote in the ex-Soviet republic-which fought a brief war with Russia in 2008 and seeks EU and NATO membership-after violent incidents targeting candidates. On October 5, a UNM lawmaker's car exploded in central Tbilisi, injuring four passers-by and urging the party to accuse the authorities of "creating a climate of hatred in which opposition politicians are being attacked".

A few days earlier two men were injured when unknown assailants fired shots during a campaign rally held by an independent candidate in the central city of Gori. The poisonous atmosphere around the polarized vote follows years of what the opposition sees as political witch-hunts and retribution against Saakashvili and his team. Saakashvili, a charismatic reformer who took over in the Rose Revolution of 2003, was forced out of the country after prosecutors issued an arrest warrant for abuse of power and now works as a regional governor in pro-Western Ukraine. — AFP

## GERMANY PROBE IF FATAL STABBING WAS IS-RELATED

**BERLIN:** Germany's federal prosecutor is checking whether he should take over the investigation into a fatal stabbing in Hamburg earlier this month, his office said yesterday. A spokesman for the prosecutor's office told the German news agency dpa that the prosecutor is looking into the case following a statement by the IS-run Amaq news agency on Saturday saying "a soldier of the Islamic State" stabbed two people in Hamburg on Oct. 16.

"We are aware of the statement and have to check the content thoroughly in regard to its reliability," said the spokesman who was speaking on condition of anonymity in line with department policy. Two teenagers, a 16-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl, were sitting on the waterside of a Hamburg lake that day, when a man approached them from behind, stabbed the boy several times with a knife and then pushed the girl into the water. The attacker fled afterward. The boy was taken to a hospital where he subsequently died. The girl who was pushed into the water wasn't injured, but was taken to a hospital for psychiatric treatment after the attack.

### Dimensions of the case

Different from the IS claim, only one person was stabbed. Hamburg police are still looking for the attacker, whom they have described as a male from 25 to 30 years old. In the last two weeks a homicide division had investigated the murder, but they had

not taken terrorism into consideration. The attack at Aussenalster lake, which is a popular leisure time destination, had shocked the citizens of Hamburg for its cold-bloodedness. The spot where the attack took place has been decorated by friends of the teenage couple with flowers, red memorial candles and balloons.

In its statement, the Amaq news agency said, "the attack was carried out in response to target citizens of the coalition countries that fight the IS." It did not identify or give a name for an attacker. Hamburg police spokesman Timo Zill said it was too early to speculate about the possible attacker and his motive, but added that the city's security officials were to meet to discuss the possible new dimension of the case. In July, two attacks carried out in Germany by asylum seekers were claimed by IS. Five people were wounded in an rampage on a train near Wuerzburg and 15 in a bombing outside a bar in Ansbach. Both of the attackers were killed. Earlier this month, a 16-year-old German-Moroccan girl went on trial for allegedly stabbing and wounding a police officer in Hannover at the behest of the Islamic State group. A Syrian migrant who was suspected of planning to carry out a bomb attack killed himself in prison two days after being arrested this month in Leipzig. Germany's top security officials have long warned that the country is in the crosshairs of terror attacks by Muslim extremists. — AP



**HAMBURG:** A banner reading 'Our beloved friend, we think of you, miss you. Your friends with parents, candles and flowers are placed.' — AP

## MOLDOVA VOTES IN SHOWDOWN BETWEEN RUSSIA, EU SUPPORT

**CHISINAU:** Ex-Soviet Moldova went to the polls yesterday in its first popular presidential election since the 1990s, seen as a tug-of-war between supporters of closer relations with Russia and those seeking EU integration. The crisis-hit country of 3.5 million wedged between Ukraine and Romania is the poorest in Europe and has struggled with a string of high-profile corruption scandals which are overshadowing the vote.

Presidential candidates are presenting diametrically opposed visions for the country's future: calling for deeper ties and boosting trade with Moscow, or committing to the path toward Europe. Voters are leaning in opposite directions as well. "We can't be without Russia, that's our export market" that could provide cheap gas, said Igor Lopukhov, 66, a Russian-speaking pensioner who voted for Socialist Party candidate Igor Dodon, a leader in opinion polls who has vowed to

restore cooperation Moscow. Dodon's main rival in the polls is former education minister and proponent of EU integration Maya Sandu, who is supported by younger Western-leaning Moldovans. "We have to build Europe at home," said lon Lupusor, a 27-year-old who had studied in Europe before going back to his home country. "If we don't vote, pensioners will decide the country's development, and they vote for going 'Back to USSR,'" he said.

### Widespread poverty

Forty-one percent of the population live on less than \$5 (4.6 euros) a day while the monthly average salary is \$240, according to World Bank figures. Many Moldovans make ends meet only through remittances sent by relatives working abroad, which make up nearly a quarter of gross domestic product (GDP). "My daughter sends me money (for food) from Italy," said 70-year-old Zinovia Ilnel, who also voted for

Dodon. "She's never coming home."

Moldova last elected a president by popular vote in 1996, after which members of parliament chose the head of state due to a constitutional amendment from 2000. A constitutional court decision earlier this year re-established the popular vote. The central election commission in Moldova said voting was monitored by over 3,200 Moldovan observers and 562 more from abroad. Some 950,000 voters cast their ballots by 2:00 pm (1200 GMT), the commission said, or 35 percent of the total.

Moldova has been rocked by protests and political turmoil since the mysterious disappearance of \$1 billion from three banks last year, which undermined people's support for the ruling pro-Western coalition. A total of nine candidates remain on the ballot after ruling party candidate Marian Lupu withdrew from the race endorsing Sandu on Wednesday. The main showdown between her and Dodon, who wants to throw out Chisinau's

2014 EU Association Agreement and join the Moscow-led Eurasian Economic Union, could lead to a runoff election. Pre-vote opinion polls indicated around 40 percent supported Dodon, and up to 25 percent supported Sandu. "I am sure Moldova will turn a page in its history today," Dodon said as he cast his ballot yesterday.

### 'Corruption, poverty, theft'

Despite the geopolitical divisions, Sandu, who launched a new party this year called Action and Solidarity, tried to focus her campaign on fighting corruption. "We should not be afraid, we must prove to the thieves and corrupt (officials) that there are more of us," she said yesterday. "Together we must bring order to Moldova." EU officials have admitted that Europe has lost much of its appeal in the scandal-weary ex-Soviet republic as no successful reforms have been seen through, while east-west rhetoric is often used to gloss over deeper issues. — AFP

## PAKISTAN TO PROBE EX-MINISTER FOR ARMY MALIGNING NEWS LEAK

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan will investigate a former information minister over a leaked news report which sparked a rift between the government and the powerful army, it was announced yesterday. The report said civilian officials had warned the military to stop supporting jihadist fighters abroad. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday sacked Information Minister Pervez Rasheed over the issue.

"It will be a full-fledged (investigation) committee as it is a huge task that intelligence agencies alone cannot do," Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan told a press conference. "Tomorrow names

for the committee will be decided in a meeting with the Prime Minister and this task will be completed as soon as possible." The leak was false news which "has compromised our national narrative (against terrorism)", Khan said. "The military wants, and also the government and the entire nation want, to expose the people behind this news, military particularly because they have been put in the dock wrongly."

Khan said Rasheed was removed because he failed to stop a reporter from Dawn newspaper from going ahead with the story when the reporter

came to seek his comments before publication. The article in the English-language daily sparked an uproar. The journalist who wrote it was briefly hit with a travel ban. Pakistan has for years been accused of cracking down on only those Islamist groups which have turned their guns inward towards the state, while harbouring those who fight abroad.

Reporting critical of the military is considered a major red flag, with journalists at times being detained, beaten up or even killed. The minister's sacking comes at a sensitive time for the govern-

ment, as it faces street protests by the opposition over the Sharif's family's offshore bank accounts which were revealed in the Panama Papers leak. The military has used the pretext of civil unrest to overthrow elected governments three times in the country's history. Analysts have warned that Sharif may need to strike a deal with the army to ensure his survival. Analysts said the military may also try to instal its preferred candidate to succeed powerful army chief Raheel Sharif, whose term expires at the end of November, as part of any deal. — AFP

## SCUFFLES AS I COAST VOTES ON DIVISIVE CONSTITUTION

**ABIDJAN:** Ivorians were voting yesterday to determine the fate of constitutional changes the president says will help end years of unrest, with scuffles erupting at several polling stations. The package put to the country's 6.3 million voters has alarmed the opposition, which is boycotting the polls, and left much of the electorate confused, analysts say. Commentators say turnout for the referendum is the main question, as there seems to be little doubt the changes will be approved.

President Alassane Ouattara's revised constitution would create the post of a vice president, and set up a senate, a third of whom would be nominated by the head of state. It would also suppress a contested clause on national identity—the so-called "Ivorian-ness" clause which took effect in 2000 and stipulates that both parents of a presidential candidate must be born on Ivorian soil and not have sought nationality in another country.

The issue of identity has contributed to years of unrest in the West African country, which suffered a coup in 1999, a civil war in 2002 that split the country between its north and south and a bloody post-election crisis in 2010.

The electoral crisis led to months of post-poll bloodshed with then-president Laurent Gbagbo refusing to step down. Some 3,000 people died and Gbagbo is now on trial in The Hague for crimes against humanity.

### 'Ivorian-ness' issue

Shortly after the polls opened at 0800 GMT, trouble broke out in the economic capital Abidjan and elsewhere, with groups of youths storming several voting stations and damaging equipment, Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko said. But overall, he said, the referendum was "going well". Casting his ballot yesterday at an Abidjan school, Ouattara appeared confident. "It is essential for our nation's

future to turn the page on the crisis created by the constitution of the year 2000," he said.

Ouattara hails from central Ivory Coast but his father was born in neighboring Burkina Faso and the issue of "Ivorian-ness" raised a hurdle in his bid for the presidency. The proposed new constitution, which parliament has overwhelmingly approved, would see the creation of the post of vice president, who would appear on the ballot with presidential candidates. The government claims the idea is to ensure continuity if the head of state dies or is incapacitated. Critics have speculated that Ouattara is trying to line up a successor for when his term ends in 2020. The opposition sees the change as a "monarchist tactic".

Ouattara "is treating Ivory Coast as if it were his personal property," said Pascal Affi Nguessan, head of the Ivorian Popular Front, the opposition party founded by Gbagbo. "What he is offering is less than a constitution. It is a will and testament designed to distribute his country to his successors so it stays in the family."

### 'Little engagement'

Some voters welcomed the chance to have their voices heard. "I am voting for the sake of my children," 61-year-old TV repairs man Soro Seydou told AFP in the nation's second city Bouake. Others, however, vowed to stay away. "What we care about is the high cost of living, and escaping poverty. The constitution won't change anything. I won't go to vote," said Bamory Kone, a mechanic in a working class district of Abidjan. "There is little engagement," said researcher Meite Mamoudou who, like many observers, expects that many simply wouldn't bother to vote. US-based Human Rights Watch has warned that despite the campaigning, many Ivorians are still none the wiser about what they are voting for. — AFP



**BANGUI:** This file photo taken on January 2, 2016 shows United Nations peacekeepers patrolling outside a vote-counting centre for the presidential and parliamentary elections. — AFP

## CENTRAL AFRICAN MILITIAS GATHER AS FRENCH TROOPS SET TO LEAVE

OPERATION FAILED TO DISARM MILITIAS TERRORIZING POPULATION

**BANGUI:** French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian heads to the Central African Republic yesterday to formally end Operation Sangaris, begun three years ago to halt mass killings there but which failed to disarm militias terrorizing the population. The formal end to the French mission comes as a fresh wave of bloodshed shook the troubled nation, spearheaded by rival Muslim and Christian militia groups.

"France is not giving up on Central Africa," Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said on Thursday, highlighting the presence of more than 10,000 UN peacekeepers from the MINUSCA mission. But many Central Africans are worried about the departure of the French troops, who were urgently deployed following a wave of bloodshed in December 2013.

"Armed groups are getting ready. And I'm afraid they will start an all-out offensive when the French have left," a senior political figure told AFP, requesting anonymity due to the sensitivity of the subject. "The militias fear the French troops but not the UN force." In recent weeks, people have been living in fear as armed groups have resumed their acts of violence in the interior of the country, leaving dozens dead. On Thursday and Friday alone, at least 25 people were killed, among them six members of the security forces following clashes in the central town of Bambari and the surrounding area, MINUSCA said.

### Mass killings

Armed groups have flourished over the years

given the weakness of the state. Among the main culprits are factions from the mostly-Muslim former Seleka rebel force, and the Christian anti-Balaka militias. But there are also vigilante groups made up of nomadic Fulani herders, who are predominantly Muslim as well as others which specialize in highway robbery.

One of the world's poorest countries, the Central African Republic has scarcely emerged from the chaos of civil war which erupted in 2013 following the overthrow of then president Francois Bozize, a Christian, by Muslim rebels from the Seleka coalition who installed their own leader. Christians who comprise about 80 percent of the population then organized vigilante units—dubbed "anti-Balaka" in reference to the machetes used by the rebels—which then began to target Muslims, plunging the country into a crisis.

According to Human Rights Watch, the Seleka and anti-Balaka groups committed widespread abuses against civilians, including killings, sexual violence, and destruction of private, public and religious properties, causing mass displacement. French troops backed by a UN mandate arrived in December 2013. A month later, the Seleka president was forced to step down following massive international pressure over his failure to end the violence.

### 'A success'

Despite this explosive cocktail, France, the former colonial power, decided earlier this year to end its mission in the country with Le Drian

telling parliament earlier this month that the operation had been "a success". "We stopped the mass killings... allowed a process of inter-communal reconciliation, the reconstitution of the state, a presidential election, and legislative elections," he said during a debate.

"Even if stability has not been entirely restored, it is important now... that this role be handed over to the Central African forces and the UN mission." Around 350 French troops, equipped with observation drones, will remain present, around 100 of whom will be deployed with the UN, the French government says.

### Allegations of child rape

The French operation has not been entirely smooth, with its troops coming under intense pressure since July 2014 over allegations of child rape. Despite the troubling claims, fears of a return to violence have triggered concern among Central African civilians over the imminent pullout. "I think there is a sense of unfinished business which risks plunging the country back into a much worse situation," said a teacher called Edgar Ngbaba. "I don't believe in this withdrawal at all," said Marie Ndoanam, a trader.

And the worry of Bangui residents is only fuelled by news filtering through from the interior of the country. According to several Central African sources contacted by AFP, several hundreds of heavily-armed Seleka gunmen from rival factions have begun gathering in Batangafoa, some 350 kilometers north of Bangui. — AFP



**ABIDJAN:** Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara, left, and his wife, Dominique Ouattara, after they cast their ballots, during the Ivory Cost referendum. — AP

## TROOPS KILL BOMBER OUTSIDE CAMP OF REFUGEES FROM BOKO HARAM

**MAIDUGURI:** Troops shot and killed a man with explosives boldly showing strapped to his torso yesterday, as he tried to enter a refugee camp in northeastern Maiduguri city where another suicide bomber killed five people a day earlier. The yesterday morning bombing is the fifth explosion in three weeks in Maiduguri, the birthplace of the Boko Haram Islamic extremist group blamed for the bombings. Maiduguri is also the headquarters of the military campaign to halt the insurgency.

The recent bombings have created a new wave of fear at Bakassi camp, which houses more than 16,000 people terrorized by Boko Haram into fleeing their homes. "Why are they not ready for us to enjoy peace?" asked resident Usman Adu. Another, Abubakar Gajibo, said he saw the bomber "clearly displaying the strapped explosives on his body."

Residents alerted soldiers who tried to persuade the man to surrender. But when he started running toward the camp gate, they shot him. One explosive blew up immediately and a second was safely detonated, Gajibo said. The military said there was no blast and soldiers had to detonate the explosives.

On Saturday, a female suicide bomber blew herself up at the camp entrance, killing five men and injuring 11 women. A second blast 30 minutes later came from a tricycle taxi driven by a

suicide bomber carrying two passengers. A bomb blast on Oct 12 killed eight refugees in a taxi-van just outside Maiduguri.

In February, two female suicide bombers walked into a crowd of refugees at Dikwa camp, 80 kilometers northeast of Maiduguri, killing 58

people and injuring many more. Boko Haram has stepped up attacks after a months-long lull caused by a leadership struggle. Nigeria's home-grown insurgency has killed more than 20,000 people and forced some 2.6 million people from their homes. — AP



**MAIDUGURI:** People clear debris after an explosion. — AP

## COLOMBIA'S SANTOS HOPES FOR NEW FARC DEAL BY CHRISTMAS

**LONDON:** Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said in an interview yesterday that he hoped to secure a new deal with FARC rebels by Christmas, warning that any further delay could make the peace process "explode". The government signed a historic agreement last month with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Colombia's biggest rebel group, but in a shock move, voters rejected the deal in a referendum on October 2.

"All the negotiators and I have met almost every organization and we are now digesting more than 500 proposals and talking with the FARC-to have a new agreement, agreed and approved, by Christmas. That is my goal," Santos told Britain's Observer newspaper. "This uncertainty is very risky, because anything could happen that could really make the process explode. So I am working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with my team to get another agreement," he added.

Since the referendum, Santos has held marathon talks with political figures including former president Alvaro Uribe—who led opposition to the agreement — as well as religious leaders and

victims of the armed conflict. Santos, who won the Nobel peace prize this year for his efforts, said he was happy to meet Uribe "any time" but said "he has been stalling, not allowing the teams to get into real negotiations". "I am ready, I am eager, because I know that if we sit down we can agree on many of the things that concern him," the president said.

Uribe had criticised the deal for granting "total impunity" for rebel crimes. Santos said: "Some of the proposals are viable and we think the FARC should accept them, but others are simply not viable." "For example the ones that say there is no armed conflict in Colombia, and that there is no war in Colombia and that there are no victims in Colombia and therefore the transitional justice cannot apply."

The interview comes ahead of a state visit by Santos to Britain on Tuesday, the first ever by a Colombian president, where he will meet with Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Theresa May.

On Thursday, he will travel to Belfast to meet key figures in Northern Ireland's peace process, the Foreign Office said. — AFP

## CHINA TO 'DIVIDE AND RULE' TAIWAN BY BEFRIENDING PRO-BEIJING TOWNS

**TAIPEI:** China is embarking on a divide-and-rule campaign on self-ruled Taiwan, offering to boost tourism to pro-Beijing towns and counties while giving the new pro-independence government the cold shoulder, government officials and politicians say. Whether Beijing's promises materialize remains to be seen, but the political rift is pressing Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) to come up with measures of its own to counter an alarming decline in mainland tourists.

Eight Taiwanese local government officials, mainly representing counties controlled by the China-friendly opposition Nationalist Party, were promised greater tourism and agricultural ties when they met China's top Taiwan poli-

cymaker in Beijing last month. And this week, Communist Party Chief and Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to meet Nationalist Party chairwoman Hung Hsiu-chu when she visits Beijing during an annual party-to-party gathering about economic and cultural ties. In contrast, Beijing has withheld official communication with the government of DPP leader and President Tsai Ing-wen, until it agrees to recognize the "one-China" policy. "The Chinese government has put political conditions relevant to Taiwan surrendering our sovereignty and our right to determine our own future on the outflow of tourists to Taiwan and that's what makes this a very politically complicated issue," said Hsiao Bi-khim, a DPP lawmaker for Hualien, on

Taiwan's east coast. Hsiao and the Hualien county chief, an ex-Nationalist who went to Beijing last month, do not see eye to eye on tourism development. "We have to condemn this divide-and-conquer strategy and also individual politicians who seek to play into the Chinese divide-and-conquer strategy," Hsiao said.

### Only one China

China says Taiwan is part of one China, ruled by Beijing. It regards the island as a renegade province, to be united by force if necessary, and ties have become strained since Tsai took office in May. The previous Nationalist administration agreed to recognize the "1992 consensus", which states that there is

only one China, with each side having its own interpretation of what that means.

The eight officials who went to Beijing came home to a storm of criticism for being lackeys to Beijing's one-China policy. One of them, Liu Tseng-ying, chief of Matsu, a group of small islets off China's Fujian province but held by Taiwan, told Chinese officials that he wanted more Chinese to visit Taiwan's smallest county. "I said I hoped Chinese tourists can increase to 40 percent of the total," Liu told Reuters.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office head Zhang Zhijun agreed to expand trade and travel specifically between China's Fujian province and Matsu and Kinmen. Both Taiwan-controlled islands lie closer to China than Taiwan. Group tourists

from mainland China, which Beijing can effectively control via state-run Chinese travel agencies, fell 71 percent year-on-year from October 1-18, Taiwan data showed, coinciding with China's National Day holiday, a Golden Week for travel for Chinese.

The sector was also hit by a bus fire in Taiwan in July that killed 24 mainland tourists. The driver, among the victims, had poured petrol inside the bus and locked its emergency exits before setting it alight, prosecutors said. The severity of the decline in tourism led to a major protest in September and prompted the government to pledge T\$30 billion in loans to the industry and work on attracting tourists from other Asian countries. —Reuters



**SEOUL:** Lawyer Lee Kyung-Jae speaks after meeting with Choi Soon-Sil, a close personal friend of South Korean President Park Geun-Hye, at the lobby of his office. — AFP

## S KOREA'S 'FEMALE RASPUTIN' RETURNS TO TACKLE SCANDAL

'ERUPTION OF SPECULATION THAT GOES BEYOND FANTASY'

**SEOUL:** The woman at the heart of a lurid political scandal engulfing South Korean President Park Geun-Hye returned to the country yesterday to face accusations of influence-peddling and meddling in state affairs. With just over a year left to run, Park's presidency has unraveled over shocking revelations that she discussed and sought advice on government policy from Choi Soon-Sil, a close personal friend with no official position and no security clearance. Choi, who has been holed up in Germany since early September flew into Seoul yesterday morning on a flight from London, her lawyer Lee Kyung-Jae told reporters.

"Choi told me she will cooperate with the investigation and expressed her deep apology to the people for letting them down and causing them frustration," Lee said. As well as a public uproar over her relationship with, and apparent control over Park, she faces charges of using her links with the president to strong-arm major companies like Samsung into donating large sums to two non-profit foundations she set up. Choi has spoken with prosecutors to schedule her questioning, Lee said.

The past week has seen a daily diet of increasingly sensational media reports regarding Choi, the 60-year-old daughter of a shadowy religious leader and one-time Park mentor. Invoking a lurid back-story of religious cults, shamanist rituals and corruption, the reports have portrayed Choi as a Rasputin-like figure whose influence extended to vetting presidential speeches and advising on key appointments and policy issues.

### 'Beyond fantasy'

"As her attorney, I think the case must be thoroughly investigated and the truth be told to prevent any further eruption of speculation that goes beyond fantasy," Lee said. The South Korean leader yesterday carried out a partial reshuffle of her key aides after ordering her secretariat to hand in their resignations earlier this week. Park accepted the resignations submitted by her Chief of Staff and four senior presidential secretaries, presidential spokesperson Jung Youn-Kuk said in a statement.

A public apology from Park, in which she acknowledged seeking limited advice from Choi,

has done nothing to assuage public outrage over the president's behaviour or halt a plunge in her approval ratings to record lows. More than 10,000 people took to the streets of Seoul on Saturday evening, calling on Park to resign and for Choi to be prosecuted. There were similar protests elsewhere, including the country's second largest city, Busan.

Analysts say the scandal could paralyze Park's administration, underling her lame-duck status ahead of presidential elections in December next year. Choi is the daughter of the late Choi Tae-Min, who married six times, had multiple pseudonyms and set up his own religious group known as the Church of Eternal Life. Choi Tae-Min befriended a traumatized Park after the 1974 assassination of her mother, who he said had appeared to him in a dream, asking him to help her daughter.

He became a long-time mentor to Park, who subsequently formed a close bond with Choi Soon-Sil that endured after Choi Tae-Min's death in 1994. Choi Soon-Sil's ex-husband served as a top aide to Park until her presidential election victory in 2012. — AFP

## PHILIPPINES: CHINA GUARDING SHOAL, BUT FILIPINOS RETURN

**MANILA:** Philippine aerial surveillance showed Chinese coast guard ships were still guarding a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, but they did not harass and stop Filipinos from fishing there for the first time in years, the Philippine defense secretary said yesterday. The fishermen's return to Scarborough Shoal, which China effectively seized in 2012, was "a most welcome development" because it brings back their key source of livelihood, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

China granted access to the tiny, uninhabited shoal 123 nautical miles from the northern Philippines after Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte met with President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders this month. After his China trip, Duterte announced without elaborating that Filipinos may be able to return to the shoal soon. A Philippine navy plane spotted at least four Chinese coast guard ships around the shoal during a surveillance flight on Saturday, Lorenzana said, adding that an earlier report by the Philippine coast guard that the Chinese had left the area was incorrect.

"Flybys of our planes reported Chinese coast guard ships are still there, but our fishermen were fishing unmolested," Lorenzana told The Associated Press, adding that the government would try to carry out surveillance flights regularly in the area. It's unclear how long China would keep the shoal open to Filipinos or if there were any conditions attached.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr said, "There are no written agreements or rules, but Filipino fishermen who went there lately attest that they were not driven away nor were accosted." There have also been fewer Chinese ships sighted in the area since more than a week ago or around the time Duterte made his visit to China, Esperon said. Duterte made clear that the dispute over the shoal was far from over. He said he insisted in his talks with Chinese leaders that the shoal belonged to the Philippines, but that the Chinese also

asserted their claim of ownership.

### Water cannons

Since 2012, Chinese coast guard ships had driven Filipino fishermen away from the area, sometimes with the use of water cannons. Farther south in the Spratly Islands, China went on to construct seven islands in recent years despite protests from other claimants and the US, which insists on freedom of navigation in what it considers international waters. The new development brought joy to the first Filipinos who ventured back to Scarborough in flotillas of small fishing boats.

"We're happy that we were able to sail back there," said Gil Bauya, who returned Saturday with a huge catch of red snapper and other fish to Cato village in the northwestern province of Pangasinan. "They just let us fish," Bauya said, referring to three Chinese coast guard ships fishermen saw at the shoal from a distance. "We were waiting what they would do, but they didn't do anything like deploying small rubber boats to chase us like they used to do."

After three days of fishing just outside Scarborough's lagoon, where the fish are bigger, Bauya said they ran out of ice to preserve their catch and had to sail back home for the All Saints' Day holiday. Amid the festive air in Cato, where villagers helped them unload their bumper catch, Bauya said he and his crewmen plan to travel back to Scarborough this week. Deputy US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters in Beijing on Saturday that China's withdrawal from Scarborough Shoal would be welcomed by Washington.

He said it would be consistent with an international arbitration ruling in July that invalidated Beijing's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea. The July 12 ruling said both Filipinos and Chinese can fish at the shoal, but China ignored it and continued to block and chase away Filipino fishermen until a few days ago. — AP



**In this Sept 23, 2015, file photo, Chinese Coast Guard members approach Filipino fishermen as they confront each other off Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, also called the West Philippine Sea. — AP**

## BANGLADESH TELECOMS IN \$500 MILLION TAX SCANDAL

**DHAKA:** By government accounts, four foreign-backed cellphone operators owe \$500 million to Bangladesh in unpaid taxes. By the companies' accounts, the figure is closer to \$50 million - if it isn't zero. As the legal row drags into its fourth year without resolution, telecommunications analysts warn it is putting pressure on the industry that is Bangladesh's single largest source of revenue, providing \$1.43 billion in tax revenues in 2015.

Government regulators say the companies broke the law by selling old SIM cards without properly notifying regulators, and then failed to pay taxes on those sales from July 2009 and December 2011. They also allege the companies concealed customer information to obscure the issue, according to government legal documents on the case. The four companies - Norwegian Telenor's subsidiary Grameen Phone; Egypt's Orascom Telecom's Banglalink; Robi, the Malaysian-Japanese joint venture Robi Axiata Ltd.; and India's Bharti Airtel's subsidiary Airtel - have rejected the government's demands, taking the claim to the tax appellate tribunal.

Both the government and its tax authority refused comment while the case is still under court review. Industry experts say the standoff may alienate companies and spook investors in this country of 160 million people. British-based Vodafone is facing a similar case in India, where authorities want \$2.5 billion in back taxes from an asset purchase done before Indian legislation in 2012 made such deals subject to

taxation. Most of the 128 million mobile-phone subscribers in Bangladesh are customers of one of the four private companies involved in the tax dispute. "The government must think of the issue from the point of view that this is the largest foreign investment sector in the country," said T.I.M. Nurul Kabir, who heads the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh lobbying consortium. "The industry is suffering for this dispute." Telecoms companies and their investors are growing more cautious about

building a rural cellphone network, said Abu Saeed Khan, a Bangladeshi telecommunication expert who works as a senior policy fellow of the Colombo-based LIRNEasia think tank. "Business confidence is feeling the pinch," he said. Khan said Asian regulators don't understand how to effectively tax telecoms companies, and end up going back for more later. In Bangladesh, "the dispute involves some grey areas from the regulators' side ... and operators used these grey areas for their own benefit."

### Foreign-backed subsidiaries

The case erupted in 2012, when the government handed the four foreign-backed subsidiaries the bill for back taxes totaling about \$500 million combined. The taxes come from VAT charges of 100 Bangladeshi taka, or about \$1.28, that customers pay when buying either an old or a new SIM card, though selling old cards technically became legal only in May 2015 when the telecom regulator issued guidelines for such sales.

The government says the telecoms providers neglected to pay VAT taxes on old SIMS cards they sold long before such sales were illegal. The companies do not deny selling old SIMS, but say the practice was not illegal. They also contend the total amount due from any tax anomalies would not exceed 10 percent of the government's claim.

The \$50 million court deposit required to take the case to the tax appellate court tied up company financing and was "a big burden for us," said Taimur Rahman, chief corporate and regulatory affairs officer of Banglalink, which claims a 25 percent market share and posted \$158 million in revenues in the second-quarter of this year. The case has dragged on, stuck in Bangladesh's painfully slow judicial system. In 2012, the tax court forwarded the issue to the revenue department for negotiation and settlement. For a year, nothing happened. Regulators are expected to float an auction for the 4G spectrum by the end of this year. — AP



**DHAKA:** In this Wednesday, Oct 26, 2016 photo, a Bangladeshi recharges his mobile phone balance at a roadside Airtel center. — AP

## AFGHAN ARMY DEATH RATE RISES IN 2016: WATCHDOG

**WASHINGTON:** The death rate among Afghan security forces is surging far above last year's levels, a US government watchdog said yesterday, and slow of social gains in the war-torn nation is also eroding. Afghan forces are nearing the end of their second year providing security across their war-torn country, after NATO moved into an advisory and training role and the toll on the local forces has been devastating.

2015 was a terrible year, with an estimated 5,000 killed and another 15,000 wounded, primarily by the Taliban. But the death toll this year is already much worse: From January 1 through August 19, a total of 5,523 Afghan service members were killed, according to a quarterly report from the office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR). An additional 9,665 members were wounded during the same period, the report found.

Violence from the Taliban and other insurgent groups typically spikes over the summer during the "fighting season." But increasingly, militants continue launching attacks throughout the year, meaning the death rate will likely rise further still. "The most immediate challenge to the US reconstruction effort, and to the viability of the Afghan nation state, remains the armed insurgency pursued by the Taliban and other factions," the inspector general, John Sopko, said in the report. US Army General John Nicholson, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan, warned a week ago that basic leadership failures in many Afghan police and military units were helping drive casualty rates higher. Still, SIGAR found, morale within the ranks appears good, with three-quarters of recruits saying they have received good care and 90 percent satisfied with their pay. — AFP



'Lost Soldiers', an installation by artist Mark Humphrey, is seen in Canary Wharf in London yesterday. — AP

## POLLS NARROW AMID CLINTON EMAIL FALLOUT

Continued from Page 1

Leading Democratic senators have also written to Comey and his boss, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, urging them to make clear by tonight whether the new emails are pertinent to the investigation into Clinton's handling of classified material that the FBI closed in July. But the Trump campaign - itself reeling from scandal over alleged sexual misconduct accusations against the tycoon from at least 12 women - has been eager to exploit the FBI's decision. "You see the polls closing in states around the country," his running mate Mike Pence told NBC's "Meet the Press" yesterday.

"The American people are focusing on the big issues in this country. Frankly, I think they have come to the conclusion that Hillary Clinton is a risky choice to be the next president of the United States."

Campaign manager Kellyanne Conway lashed out at Clinton, assailing her for going after Comey. "She just has to call her friend and confidante, Huma Abedin and say tell us what's in the emails, tell us what's on the devices that you shared with your pedophile husband," she told Fox News. "I think it's a terrible strategy but it's very much the strategy of Hillary Clinton throughout

her career which is to shoot the messenger, attack the person who's calling into question your fitness for office."

According to the New York Times, the probe was renewed after agents seized a laptop used by Clinton's close aide Abedin, and her now estranged husband, Anthony Weiner. Weiner, a disgraced former congressman who resigned in 2011 after sending explicit online messages, is under investigation over allegations he sent sexual overtures to a 15-year-old girl. "This is the biggest political scandal since Watergate, and it's everybody's deepest hope that justice at last will be beautifully delivered," Trump told a rally in Arizona on Saturday.

Clinton's campaign has been overshadowed from the start by allegations she put US secrets at risk by using a private server based in her home for all email correspondence as secretary of state. In reality, it seems unlikely that much progress will be made in the investigation before polling day and few observers expect Clinton to face criminal charges. Media reports citing FBI insiders suggest agents do not yet know whether the latest batch contains any new emails or classified information. — AFP

## SAUDIS FOIL PLOT TO BOMB WORLD CUP..

Continued from Page 1

The other group had been plotting attacks against security forces and its members had received orders from an IS leader in Syria, the ministry said. Its alleged members were based in Shaqra, northwest of Riyadh, and are all Saudis, the ministry statement said, adding that the suspects had all confessed. Six other Saudis were detained and were being questioned over alleged links to the cell, it said. Since late 2014, IS has claimed a series of bombings and shootings against Shiites in the kingdom, as well against security forces.

In another statement, the interior ministry published a list of nine suspects - eight Saudis and a Bahraini, wanted for their alleged involvement in "terrorist" acts in the eastern provinces of Qatif and

Dammam, home to most of the kingdom's Shiite minority population. The suspects were allegedly involved in attacks against civilians and members of the security forces, the statement said. It urged the suspects to surrender and offered financial rewards for those who could provide information leading to their arrests. Eastern areas have seen repeated security incidents since 2011, when a wave of protests began demanding reform.

IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi has called for attacks against Saudi Arabia, which belongs to the US-led coalition bombing the jihadists in Syria and Iraq. In July authorities arrested 19 people, including 12 Pakistanis, in connection with three suicide bombings on July 4 including one near the Prophet's (PBUH) Mosque in Madinah in which four people died. — AFP

## POPULAR MOVEMENT SLAMS GOVERNMENT

Continued from Page 1

It charged that the government made an "alliance with some corrupt merchants ... and wanted to make the pockets of the people as the source of alternative incomes through the so-called economic reforms charter".

PAM said there are no indications of any improvement in the political life with the government's continued total domination. It also reiterated its boycott of the forthcoming election to confirm its rejection of the single-vote system, but did not oppose other opposition groups and individuals who decided to end their boycott and take part in the election.

About 30 members of the opposition filed their nomination papers to take part in the polls, ending a four-year boycott after the government unilaterally amended the voting system in 2012. Former Islamist opposition MP Hamad Al-Matar, contesting from the second constituency, said the country now needs a strong Assembly that can restore balance to the political system in Kuwait. "This cannot be achieved unless voters elect the best and most capable representatives to practice their legislative and monitoring roles and defend the gains attained by the Kuwaiti people," he said.

He said that the people should not be made to shoulder the burden of the mistakes of the governments which failed to manage the economy and diversify sources of income. Matar, a member of the Islamic Constitutional Movement, said the people have a golden opportunity to rebuild the legislature on strong foundations by electing strong and dedicated lawmakers. He said the next Assembly represents a "key juncture in the history of Kuwait amid a deterioration in the economy, services and democracy".

Member of the dissolved house Abdullah Al-Turajji said voters should realize the security threats surrounding the country by electing lawmakers capable of tackling such threats. He said he will continue what he had started in the previous Assembly by following up eco-

nomics issues, safeguarding public funds and confronting forces of corruption.

Former justice minister Yacoub Al-Sane, running in the third district, called on Kuwaiti voters to take into account the requirements of the current period and give priority to national interests. Veteran former liberal MP Abdullah Al-Nibari said he believes that the next Assembly will not be much different from the dissolved one because a large number of its members will be reelected. Nibari's liberal Kuwait Democratic Forum has decided not to take part in the election.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information referred a private satellite channel to the general prosecution yesterday for breaching the law pertinent to announcement of results of consultative elections in a constituency. The ministry in July began implementing law no. 8/2016 on regulating electronic media, which was approved and published in the state's official gazette in February. The new law regulates all Web-based publications including electronic news services, bulletins, websites of newspapers and televisions, etc. Under the legislation, all these services must obtain a license from the government before they can operate.

The first article of the electronic media law tackles activities that includes publishing or broadcasting items and electronic content that is produced, developed, upgraded, dealt with, broadcast, published or reached through the Internet or any other communications network. The electronic media is considered one of the components of the information system in the country, and the freedom of its use is guaranteed for all according to the rules of this law, and there is no prior censorship on the content circulated via electronic sites and facilities.

A list of licensed websites and electronic media facilities is published on the ministry's website, providing details of the licenses, the responsible managers, employees and purpose of the website. The executive regulations of this law, which entered into force on July 24, controls polls carried out by licensed websites and electronic media facilities.

## ALEPPO FIGHTING SPREADING AMID CLAIMS...

Continued from Page 1

more than 300,000 people. Intense fighting yesterday rocked western districts, battered by hundreds of rebel rockets and artillery fire, according to Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Two days of heavy rebel bombardment have killed 41 civilians, including 16 children, and wounded 250, according to the Britain-based Observatory. In a new toll yesterday, it said fighting had also killed 55 regime and allied fighters, as well as 64 Syrian rebels.

The civilian toll was slammed by UN peace envoy to Syria Staffan de Mistura, whose office said he was "appalled and shocked by the high number of rockets" fired by rebels. "Those who argue that this is meant to relieve the siege of eastern Aleppo should be reminded that nothing justifies the use of disproportionate and indiscriminate weapons, including heavy ones, on civilian areas and it could amount to war crimes," his office said in a statement. Fighting lasted all night and into yesterday, with air strikes and artillery fire along the western battlefronts heard even in the eastern districts, an AFP correspondent there said.

Plumes of smoke could be seen rising from the city. About 1,500 rebels have massed on a 15-km front along the western edges of Aleppo since Friday, scoring quick gains in the Dahiyet al-Assad district but struggling to push east since then. "The advance will be from Dahiyet al-Assad towards Hamdaniyeh," said Yasser Al-Youssef of the Nouraddin Al-Zinki rebel faction. Hamdaniyeh is a regime-held district directly adjacent to opposition-controlled eastern neighborhoods.

An AFP correspondent saw about a dozen civilians, including women and children, fleeing Dahiyet al-Assad yesterday. They brought belongings stuffed into plastic bags, hoisting them on top of their heads or dragging them along the dusty road.

A pro-regime military source told AFP that the rebel assault was "massive and coordinated" but insisted it was unable to break into any neighborhoods beyond Dahiyet al-Assad. "They're using Grad missiles and car bombs and are supported by foreign fighters in their ranks," he said. Those engaged in the assault include Aleppo rebels and reinforcements from Idlib province to the west, among them the jihadist Fateh Al-Sham Front, which changed its name from Al-Nusra Front after breaking ties with Al-Qaeda.

Aleppo's frontline runs through the heart of the city, dividing rebels in the east from government forces in the west. Much of the once-bustling economic hub has been reduced to rubble by artillery and air bombardment, including barrel bombs - crude unguided explosive devices that also kill indiscriminately. In late September, government troops launched an assault to recapture all of the eastern rebel-controlled territory, backed by air strikes from Russia, which began an air war in 2015 to support President Bashar Al-Assad's forces.

That onslaught spurred massive international criticism of both Moscow and Damascus. Last week, Russia implemented a three-day "humanitarian pause" intended to allow civilians and surrendering rebels to leave Aleppo's east, but few did so. Moscow says it will continue a halt on its air strikes over Aleppo, in place since Oct 18. — Agencies

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Focus

**WEINER ROCKS RACE FOR PRESIDENT WITH SEXTING SCANDAL**

Once a hard-charging young congressman, Anthony Weiner lost his career and his marriage to a habit of trading sexually explicit messages that he couldn't shake - a lurid tale of personal self-destruction that's suddenly found its way into the race for president. Weiner is separated from Huma Abedin, the vice chairwoman of Hillary Clinton's campaign and one of the Democratic nominee's closest aides. It's the federal investigation into his sexting habits that is the "unrelated case" that led the FBI to a new batch of emails, which agency director James Comey told Congress on Friday may be "pertinent to our investigation" into Clinton's use of a private email server as secretary of state.

And that has once again cast a spotlight on Weiner, onetime rising Democratic Party star whose very name has become a punchline. Weiner was forced to resign his seat in Congress in 2011, after accidentally posting a picture of himself in his underwear - a private message intended for a woman who was not his wife - to his Twitter account. Abedin stood by him, and he had the audacity to ask for the voters' forgiveness and run for mayor two years later. He spent time atop the polls, until fresh evidence emerged that he hadn't given up his sexting habit and destroyed his campaign.

When Weiner was caught again sending racy messages last summer, Abedin left him. Federal investigators started a probe in September into whether he had sexted with a 15-year-old girl. "I am filled with regret and heartbroken for those I have hurt," Weiner said after he and Abedin separated, lamenting what he called his "terrible judgment". The former congressman did not respond to repeated requests for comment Saturday, as the impact of his sexting extended far beyond his household.

Clinton, who has referred to Abedin as a "second daughter", lashed out Saturday at the FBI's handling of a new email review that arrived as unexpectedly as did the revelation that Weiner was involved. The development led to a chorus of Democratic leaders decrying the bureau's actions, which came with a little less than two weeks remaining before Election Day. Clinton called it "unprecedented" and "deeply troubling", and her campaign chairman, John Podesta, said there was "no indication this is even about Hillary".

The brash, liberal, ambitious and media-savvy Weiner spent seven terms in the House, building a profile as "a Democrat who fights" - an amateur hockey player always ready for a face-off with Republicans. Some critics saw him as heavy on self-promotion and light on legislative accomplishments. But liberal supporters cheered his willingness to confront the GOP on such issues as public radio funding, Planned Parenthood, health benefits for 9/11 first responders and President Barack Obama's healthcare plan.

Wise-cracking and scrappy, Weiner once suggested C-SPAN viewers start a drinking game in which they'd down a shot for every Republican misstatement during a debate on the healthcare plan - "please assign a designated driver", he quipped. As Twitter became popular, he proved a natural at delivering provocations, 140 characters at a time. And then it proved to be his undoing.

'Pervert'

In May 2011, a photo of a man's bulging underpants appeared on Weiner's Twitter account. By then married and expecting a baby with Abedin, Weiner initially claimed his Twitter account had been hacked. But after more racy messages and photos emerged, Weiner acknowledged engaging in "inappropriate" exchanges with several women. He said he was getting treatment and resigned at a chaotic news conference, compete with hecklers shouting such comments as, "Bye-bye, pervert!"

Weiner, however, wasn't out of the public eye for long. In 2013, he belatedly jumped into the race for mayor of the nation's biggest city, a prize he'd eyed since a strong primary run in 2005. "I think that it's up to New Yorkers to decide whether I get a second chance or not, and I hope the answer's yes," he told AP. While some voters were aghast, Weiner topped polls of the primary field for several weeks until a woman went public with smutty messages and photos she said the candidate had sent to her, using the alias "Carlos Danger".

He acknowledged he'd found new sexting partners after his resignation from Congress, saying he'd since stopped. But his mayoral bid disintegrated into angry exchanges with voters and ended with a middle-finger farewell to reporters after he lost the Democratic primary. Still, Weiner didn't entirely leave the public stage. Over time, he reemerged as an incisive political observer on a local cable news station, in one of the city's tabloids and on Twitter, until his reputation unraveled still further earlier this year. — AP

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**FIRST 100 DAYS OF A CLINTON WHITE HOUSE**

On Jan 20, 2017, Barack Obama's successor will take the oath of office on the Capitol steps in Washington for a four-year term. As always, the first 100 days for any American president are paramount. Democrat Hillary Clinton has released a detailed policy platform, but a successful start for an eventual Clinton administration depends on a number of variables - notably who is in control of Congress.

"We'll begin to get to work right away and reach out to everybody that we can possibly touch to start talking about what we can do together," Clinton said on Oct 22, recalling her efforts to work with Republicans as a first lady and senator. "And I think there's a big agenda where we can find common ground."

**Economy and Immigration**

Clinton has pledged to put forth two bills in her first 100 days in office: One on immigration reform and the other a major infrastructure investment plan. These two major legislative initiatives should dominate the start of the 69-year-old's mandate. In the past, they have been issues that have earned bipartisan support. "A potential Clinton administration will see immigration as a very, very high priority in 2017," Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, told AFP.

To fulfill her campaign pledge to offer a pathway to "full and equal citizenship" to millions of immigrants without legal residency, Clinton will need to make compromises with Congress - and thus with Republicans. Republicans are likely to maintain control of at least the House of Representatives and possibly the Senate as well. The Senate adopted immigration reform legislation in 2013, but it died in the House, due to pressure from the Republican Party's ultraconservative wing.

Current House Speaker Paul Ryan is open to some kind of immigration reform, but one that unfolds in stages: First, a toughening of border controls, followed by an overhaul of the legal immigration system and, eventually, some form of a way forward for undocumented migrants. "It's going to be difficult for Republicans to do nothing and continue to be obstructive," said Carmel Martin, executive vice president for policy at the Center for American Progress, a think tank that is close to Clinton.



lose the presidency."

Another major decision awaits the next president: The eventual nomination of a Supreme Court justice to replace the late Antonin Scalia, a stalwart conservative. Obama nominated Merrick Garland, but his candidacy has stalled in the Senate amid partisan stonewalling. If the Democrats win a majority in the chamber, that could change quickly.

**What to do about Syria and Putin**

Foreign policy headaches will pile up on the desk of Obama's successor, but none are as big as the crisis in war-ravaged Syria. Clinton should quickly set up her national security team, and is likely to pull at least some of her picks from the ranks of Team Obama. Some posts, like secretary of state and Pentagon chief, require Senate approval. A review of American policy in Syria is "inevitable," according to Jeffrey Rathke, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Rathke, an expert on Europe, also said it would be "necessary" to review US policy towards the Old Continent, and towards Russia, in order to reinforce US ties with both the European Union and NATO. "It's important for the new administration to take a leadership role in ensuring that not only do we support a country that's under pressure from Russia, but to be sure that we are prepared to react if there are further attempts by Russia to intimidate or coerce European countries," Rathke told AFP.

A European ambassador in Washington said it would be vital for the next president to organize a US-EU summit as quickly as possible. A NATO summit is set to take place in Brussels next year, but a specific date is not set. A Group of Seven summit is on the cards for May 2017 in Italy, as well as a G20 summit in July in Germany. The next US leader also may want to consider attending the annual Munich Security Conference in February, less than a month after taking office. As for a first presidential trip abroad, Clinton's entourage declined comment to AFP as to whether she would respect the tradition followed by the last five presidents, who headed first to either Canada or Mexico, America's neighbors. — AFP

**FIRST 100 DAYS OF A TRUMP WHITE HOUSE**

Donald Trump believes he will score a "tremendous" victory on Nov 8. If he does, the Republican presidential candidate has indicated he will bring vast change in America during his first 100 days in office. At a recent campaign rally in North Carolina, he promised "a very busy first day," adding: "The change will begin from my first day in office."

The 70-year-old Manhattan real estate mogul, who insists the country suffers from a "rigged" political system, has pledged to "make America great again" with two key ideas: jumpstarting the economy and bolstering national security. He is certainly not without ideas. Trump offered a list of them on Oct 22 in his own "Gettysburg address" at the same place where Abraham Lincoln tried to unite a divided nation during the Civil War in 1863.

From the first day, Trump has pledged in his "revolutionary Contract with the American Voter" to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He plans to lift restrictions on producing fossil fuels, relaunch the Keystone XL oil pipeline project put on hold by President Barack Obama, and cancel billions of dollars in payments to UN climate change programs.

**'Once in a Lifetime' Change**

The billionaire will work to "begin removing the more than two million criminal illegal immigrants from the country and cancel visas to foreign countries that won't take them back." He would "suspend immigration from terror-prone regions where vetting cannot safely occur" and carry out "extreme vetting" of those seeking to enter the country. "Our campaign represents the kind of change that only arrives once in a lifetime," he said.

Trump has also vowed to "drain the swamp" of what he sees as systemic corruption in Washington - impose term limits on members of Congress, freeze federal hiring and ban lawmakers and White House staff from becoming lobbyists for five years. He also has promised to "cancel every unconstitutional executive action" undertaken by Obama. Despite his tense ties with the Republican Party, which for now controls both houses of Congress, Trump says he will work with lawmakers to introduce and pass legislation that would see at least 25 million jobs created in a decade.

That would come about thanks to tax cuts for middle class workers and businesses, and a simplification of the tax code, he says. Trump says his plan would spur four percent annual growth for the US economy, the world's largest.

**Build the Wall**

Trump intends to make good on his signature campaign pledge to build a wall along the US border with Mexico, and impose a minimum federal prison sentence of two years on any deported illegal migrant who attempted to return. And he plans to work quickly for the repeal of Obama's signature healthcare reform, known informally as Obamacare. The Republican hopes to spark \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment over the next 10 years via public-private partnerships and private sources, spurred on by tax breaks.

His "Gettysburg address" largely stopped at the US border. He did not offer much in the way of detail on what the foreign policy of a Trump administration would look like in the first 100 days. How does he plan to pay for his initiatives? How much could he really accomplish? Many experts are

doubtful he can deliver on his promises, especially as his promises have morphed over time. Trump did not address his past pledges to deport all 11 million undocumented migrants and end the Syrian refugee program in his policy speech. But he has promised to sue the dozen or so women who have accused him of unwanted sexual advances after Nov 8, calling them all "liars". — AFP



## CHAMPION OGIER HANDS VOLKSWAGEN WIN IN WALES

**DEESIDE:** Already crowned drivers world champion, Sebastien Ogier delivered the constructors title to Volkswagen by winning the Rally of Britain yesterday. The Frenchman emerged from an epic struggle through the Welsh forest dirt tracks with Estonia's Ford racer Otto Tanak holding a razor's edge margin of just ten seconds. "I was watching my back the whole rally," said Ogier afterwards. "He (Tanak) flew the whole weekend. Didn't make a mistake. I had to be perfect to win this," said Ogier, who clinched his fifth win of the season to claim a fourth straight constructors title for his German employers, having won a fourth straight world title himself two weeks ago in Catalonia. "What I did here I did for Volkswagen, without them I wouldn't have won all this," the 32-year-old said. Belgian Thierry Neuville of Hyundai was third, cementing his runners up spot in the season standings. — AFP



## REDS ON THE PROWL IN JAPAN TITLE RACE

**TOKYO:** Former Asian champions Urawa Reds will be the team to beat as the Japanese championship race goes down to the wire, the club's president insisted yesterday. Japan's best-supported side clinched the J-League second-stage title with a 1-0 victory at Jubilo Iwata on Saturday to close in on a second domestic championship and a spot at the FIFA Club World Cup in December. President Keizo Fuchita told local media a relaxed atmosphere in the squad would give them the edge in the title run-in. "In the past perhaps we wouldn't have been quite this laid-back," he told Japan's Nikkan Sports daily. "But with this natural calmness about the players, I'm sure we will go on to be champions." Yuki Muto headed the winner for Urawa after 72 minutes to give the visitors a sixth successive win and the Reds can finish with a record 76 points for the year if they beat Yokohama F.Marinos on Thursday. Their closest rivals Kawasaki Frontale won 1-0 at Kashima Antlers, meanwhile, giving them 72 points for both stages before their final game at home to Gamba Osaka. — AFP

## STOKES FINED FOR MISCONDUCT

**DHAKA:** England allrounder Ben Stokes has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for breaching the ICC Code of Conduct during the second test against Bangladesh yesterday. Stokes was found to have violated Article 2.1.1 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game". In addition to the sanction imposed for his breach of the article, one demerit point has been added to Stokes' disciplinary record. The incident happened during the morning session's play on Sunday when Stokes ignored the on-field umpires' repeated requests and instructions to stop by continuing to verbally engage with Bangladesh batsman Sabbir Rahman. The on-field umpires had also advised England captain Alastair Cook of Stokes' actions, but the player didn't comply with the instructions. Stokes admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Ranjan Madugalle of the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees making a formal hearing unnecessary. — AP



# MICROSOFT AND TOYOTA JOIN FORCES IN FIA WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

## EXPANDING PARTNERSHIP IN 'EVER-BETTER CARS'

**KUWAIT:** Toyota recently announced that it has reached an agreement with Microsoft to collaborate in the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) series. As part of the agreement, Microsoft will serve as a 'technology partner' for the TOYOTA GAZOO Racing WRC rally team.

Motorsports offer an important way to convey the excitement of driving, and are at the heart of Toyota's efforts to foster a greater following of car fans and enthusiasts. Conducting these activities under the umbrella of TOYOTA GAZOO Racing allows Toyota to develop its people and improve its products, thereby contributing to the creation of 'ever-better cars'. Under the leadership of Team Principal Tommi Mokin, Toyota is developing a rally vehicle scheduled to begin competing in 2017.

Using Microsoft technology, Toyota wants to maximize its competitiveness in WRC, whilst

ensuring that learnings from the race course can be used to achieve the company's vision of designing and manufacturing 'ever-better cars'.

### Microsoft will support TOYOTA GAZOO Racing in three key areas:

- \* Development of a data analysis platform to gather, visualize and analyse various data related to driving which will be utilized in race activities.

- \* Creation of a team information-sharing system to allow team members to collaborate and share various materials such as images and videos efficiently and effectively using a cloud service.

- \* Enhancement of communication with fans through providing services utilizing the cloud and using Microsoft's display devices to provide them with a front-row motorsports experience.

The announcement builds on the existing partnership between Toyota and Microsoft. Most recently, the two companies collaborated on the establishment of Toyota Connected, a new user experience and product-development company aimed at expanding, collecting and analyzing large amounts of vehicle data to help further improve quality, safety and the driving and ownership experience for Toyota customers. Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "Toyota has a long-term commitment to motor racing and we are constantly seeking new ways to make motorsport more exciting and build a larger following of car fans and enthusiasts. The partnership with Microsoft will allow Toyota to more deeply exploit the possibilities of information technology to advance our vision of building and promoting 'ever-better cars'. We are thankful to

our customers for their unwavering support, which motivates us to constantly experiment and push the boundaries of excellence."

Toyota understands the important role that information technology must play in order to further accelerate the development of the automotive industry. Gathering valuable data will help lay the foundation for the future of sustainable mobility. This, in turn, will help create a society in which everyone can live at ease, safely and freely. Another important contributor to a safer automotive future is the Toyota Research Institute1 (TRI), which is focused on artificial intelligence for automobiles, robotics and scientific discovery. TRI is bringing to life Toyota's vision of autonomous driving, which follows a double approach. The first type of application is 'Chauffeur Mode', where the car is fully autonomous. It has the potential to offer mobility to those who would not otherwise have it, such as older people

and those with special needs. In order to accomplish this safely, it is estimated that some 14.2 billion kilometers 2 of testing, including simulation, are required. Microsoft is an important partner in the test-mile accumulation, since a lot of the work can be done through multi-agent simulation.

The second application of autonomous driving that Toyota is pursuing is the 'Guardian Mode' or high-level driver assist. This technology is a further evolution of current safety mechanisms such as Toyota Safety Sense, and is designed to support the driver as necessary, even taking over the car in certain circumstances. The knowledge that they have this safety net will enable customers to enjoy their drive to the fullest. The Toyota Research Institute, Toyota Connected and Microsoft are united in their efforts to use cutting-edge technology to establish safer, cleaner and more convenient mobility.



**CHICAGO:** Luke Romano, TJ Perenara, Israel Dagg and Julian Savea of the New Zealand All Blacks pose with some Chicago Bulls cheerleaders as they watch the Chicago Bulls play the Indiana Pacers at the United Centre on Sunday in Chicago, Illinois. The All Blacks will play Ireland at Soldier Field next weekend. —AFP

# DOVIZIOSO PULLS AWAY FROM ROSSI FOR MALAYSIA WIN

**SEPANG:** Andrea Dovizioso won his first MotoGP race in seven years yesterday, pulling away from legend Valentino Rossi late in the Malaysia Grand Prix to take the checkered flag for Ducati.

Starting from pole position, the Italian fell back early as he and a number of riders struggled on the rain-soaked Sepang International Circuit. But Dovizioso steadily reeled in his compatriot Rossi, taking the lead back with six laps to go and quickly opening up a gap as Rossi was slowed by tyre issues. Dovizioso, 30, finished 3.115secs ahead of Rossi for his maiden win of the season and first since 2009.

Rossi, however, clinched second place in the 2016 world championship over his Yamaha teammate and rival Jorge Lorenzo of Spain. Lorenzo, who will switch to Ducati next year, finished third on Sunday. Honda's Marc Marquez had already wrapped up the world championship two weeks earlier in Japan.

Dovizioso called yesterday's win the biggest of his career. "It's really nice to come to this moment. In these conditions I struggled a lot in the race and had some problems, but I really wanted it," he said.

### CRASH COURSE

The race began after a short delay because of a tropical downpour dousing the track.

Riders this week complained that the track, newly re-paved this year, was draining unevenly after rain, creating alternating wet and dry patches. Much of the race was a gripping duel between Rossi and Dovizioso's Ducati teammate Andrea Iannone, who was returning to the track for the first time since suffering a vertebrae fracture in a crash in early September.

The lead repeatedly changed hands between Rossi and Iannone over the first 10 laps as they aggressively dived under each other with inches to spare on Sepang's tight curves.

But Iannone cracked, crashing out with seven laps left. One of three riders to crash, Iannone was uninjured but did not return.

Dovizioso pounced, overtaking Rossi and quickly stretching a sizable lead as Rossi slowed when the tyres his team chose began to prove unsuitable on the increasingly dry track.

"I was optimistic for the victory," said Rossi, 37, nine-time world champion.



**SEPANG:** Ducati Team's Italian rider Andrea Dovizioso (L) celebrates on the podium after winning the 2016 Malaysian MotoGP at the Sepang International circuit yesterday. —AFP

"But with less water I started to suffer very much with the tyres, especially the front."

With one eye on second place in the world championship, Rossi said he didn't want to crash out and "throw away 20 points." "It's a shame because we would have liked to win but its good to get second place in the championship."

"When you have a chance to close these things, you have to try." Rossi has had great success at Sepang in the past but has not won on the track since 2010, which also was the last year he won the world title. Besides Iannone, British rider Cal Crutchlow crashed, as did Marquez.

Marquez got back on the track and finished 11th. Marquez slid off the track the previous weekend in Australia when he was in control of the race, which Crutchlow eventually won.

The crash-happy tone on the slick track was set earlier in the day during the Moto3 category, a veritable demolition derby marked a series of collisions and wipe-outs. France's Johann Zarco won in Moto2 to become the first man to repeat since the championship was introduced in 2010.

He became the first French rider to win more than one championship in Grand Prix Racing, according to MotoGP. — AFP

## CASTRES EDGE BORDEAUX IN FRENCH TOP 14 THRILLER

**PARIS:** Castres held on to beat Bordeaux-Begles 33-27 in a six-try thriller in the French Top 14 yesterday. But Bordeaux left without even a losing bonus point-awarded when teams lose by five points or less- after former France fly-half Lionel Beauxis missed with a last minute penalty attempt.

The visitors had been on the rampage leading up to that attempt with New Zealander centre Jayden Spence missing out on a try when he spilled Beauxis's up-and-under in the Castres end zone.

It was a nerve-wracking end to what was a great advert for French rugby, particularly the first half.

In a thrilling start to the match, Castres fly-half Benjamin Urdapilleta kicked two penalties before the hosts were awarded a penalty try on 11 minutes after a deliberate knock-on from Fiji wing Metuisela Talebula prevented a certain try. Despite Talebula also coping a yellow card, Bordeaux struck back on 15 minutes when scrum-half Baptiste Serin sold a dummy to lumbering prop Daniel Kotze before scampering over.

Yet on 20 minutes Castres put together a fluid move that ended with Samoan wing David Smith passing inside for centre

Thomas Combezou to score. Urdapilleta and Ireland fly-half Ian Madigan exchanged penalties before Bordeaux closed out the half with a try from full-back Jean-Marcellin Buttin down the right following quick hands in the backs. Madigan's conversion left Castres leading 23-17 at the end of an exhilarating first half.

The second half didn't live up to the first until replacement Castres scrum-half Antoine Dupont scored a carbon copy of Serin's earlier try, sending no less than Talebula the wrong way with an outrageous dummy. Bordeaux wouldn't lie down, though, and Spence finished off another blistering attack to dot down in the corner. He almost scored a try that would have given Beauxis the chance to kick a match-winning conversion but ultimately Bordeaux were left empty-handed. On Saturday, Three-time European champions Toulon gave new coach Mike Ford a winning Top 14 start with a commanding 42-12 victory over struggling Grenoble. Toulon ran in six tries for the winning bonus point with Mathieu Bastareaud, Mamuka Gorgodze, Jocelino Suta and Axel Muller all crossing. —AFP

## MCILROY SKIPS TURKISH OPEN AMID SECURITY FEARS

**SHANGHAI:** World number three Rory McIlroy has made a late decision to skip this week's Turkish Airlines Open over security fears.

The four-time major winner confirmed his pullout yesterday from the first of the tour's "Final Three" series of big money playoff events after finishing fourth in the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai on Sunday behind winner Hideki Matsuyama.

Asked by AFP if a rocket attack two weeks ago in the region which hosts the event had been behind his withdrawal,

McIlroy said: "I think it's obvious. I gave it a lot of thought, basically all week.

"It was sort of a weight on my mind and I felt like I slept a lot better last night knowing that I'd made a decision." The player's management had informed the European Tour on Saturday night that McIlroy would not travel to the Regnum Carya Golf and Spa Resort, Antalya, for the \$7 million tournament which starts Thursday. It is the second blow to the tournament. Tiger Woods was originally on the entry list but withdrew earlier this month after electing to delay his come-

back from injury until December.

Up to three rockets fired by unknown assailants on October 15 in the Antalya region hit a roadside fishmonger, causing no casualties, reports said.

Although the attacks took place some 90 kilometres (56 miles) from the tournament venue, they prompted officials to seek security reassurances.

McIlroy's withdrawal leaves Masters champion Danny Willett, who slumped to 75th place in Shanghai, as the top-ranked player on the Turkey entry list.

Willett will be looking to regain

ground after his poor showing in the WGC event dropped him out of the top spot in the "Race to Dubai" European order of merit standings for the first time since winning the US Masters in April.

British Open champion and Olympic silver medallist Henrik Stenson now leads the Race to Dubai after finishing tied second in Shanghai.

McIlroy remains third but now has only one event remaining, the season-ending Dubai World Tour Championship in three weeks time.

Willett will play all three Final Series

events in Turkey, South Africa and Dubai. Stenson will play the two after Turkey.

That means even a win for McIlroy in Dubai may not be enough to retain his European Tour crown for the third consecutive year and fourth time in five years. "I guess it's out of my hands. That's the thing," said McIlroy Sunday. "If I have somewhat of a chance going into Dubai, that's great. Those boys can battle it out.

"I think over the course of the season, they have had big wins and played well. They are two major champions, so I'm OK with that." —AFP

## MATSUYAMA CRUISES TO MAIDEN WGC-HSBC TITLE IN SHANGHAI

**SHANGHAI:** Japan's Hideki Matsuyama has set his sights on winning his first major after cruising to his maiden World Golf Championship title with a dominant seven-shot victory at the \$9.5 million WGC-HSBC Champions yesterday. Matsuyama, who won the Japan Open earlier this month, began the day with a three-shot cushion and carded a six-under-par 66 in the final round to finish on 23-under for the tournament. "Winning today, I feel has got me closer to being able to compete a lot better in the major tournaments," said the 24-year-old, the first Asian to win an individual WGC title. "My next goal is to win a major and I'm going to do all that I can to prepare well for that."

British Open champion Henrik Stenson hit a final round 65 to share second place with American Daniel Berger (69), good enough to take the Swede past U.S. Masters champion Danny Willett at the top of the European Tour's Race to Dubai standings. World number three Rory McIlroy remains third in the standings behind Willett after shooting a final round 66 to finish in a share of fourth with American Bill Haas (69) on 15-under.

Matsuyama chalked up in his second error-free round of the tournament on Sunday, starting the day with a birdie before picking up shots on the fifth and seventh holes. He made three birdies in a row on the back nine, getting the first of them with a 30-foot putt on the 13th, and managed to avoid a bogey on the signature par-five final hole despite landing in the water.

The youngest player to win the HSBC

Champions, which is co-sanctioned by all the major tours, Matsuyama is also the first Japanese to win a European Tour event since Isao Aoki in 1983.

Stenson also turned in a flawless round, picking up seven birdies, including one with a clutch putt from the fringe at the last, as he tied for the day's low score with Britain's Matthew Fitzpatrick.

"It was a sweet putt to make on the last. I probably felt like I was playing better on the front nine yesterday than what I did today, but today I kept it going all the way to the end," Stenson said.

"There was not a bogey on the scorecard. So nice way to finish with a bogey-free 65." McIlroy, who also picked up seven birdies, was unfortunate not to tie with Stenson and Fitzpatrick on 65 for the day after seeing his birdie attempt on the 18th lip out. "I think Hideki has played much superior golf than the rest of the field this week. You know, he's going to be a deserved champion, that's for sure," said McIlroy. "It's been a decent week. Obviously there's a couple good scores in there mixed in with a couple of ones that I would like to take back. But you know, overall, the week's been pretty good."

Willett finished a disappointing week at the Sheshan International Golf Club with a 75 to end the tournament on 14-over.

Italy's former champion Francesco Molinari (70) shared sixth on 14-under with Ross Fisher (68) and American Rickie Fowler (68). Spaniard Sergio Garcia, who won at Sheshan in 2008, and last year's winner Russell Knox tied for ninth two shots further back. — Reuters



**CHICAGO:** Cleveland Indians' Jason Kipnis hits a three-run home run during the seventh inning of Game 4 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the Chicago Cubs Saturday, in Chicago. — AP

## INDIANS RIP CUBS TO REACH BRINK OF WORLD SERIES TITLE

**CHICAGO:** Moving within one victory of their first World Series title since 1948, the Cleveland Indians have long-suffering Chicago Cubs supporters on the verge of more misery and another heart-breaking failure.

Cleveland's Corey Kluber pitched superbly over six innings on short rest while Jason Kipnis and Carlos Santana smashed home runs Saturday as the Indians routed the Cubs 7-2 to seize a 3-1 lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final.

The Indians can end their epic title drought and extend the Cubs' epic 107-year futility streak by winning game five at Wrigley Field.

"We have to take tomorrow with the same approach we've taken every game to this point," Kluber said. "If we relax or take our foot off the gas pedal, that's just inviting them to get momentum and come back into the Series."

The Cubs, in their first World Series since 1945, are trying to end the longest title drought in American sports history, and the only one in baseball longer than that of the Indians, by capturing their first World Series since 1908.

"We're chasing it. We're still in there," Cubs outfielder Dexter Fowler said. "This team is keeping its head up." No Cleveland sports team had won a title in 52 years until the Cavaliers took the NBA crown in June. Now the city is on the brink of two championships in four months.

"We have a ways to go. We're not done. We still have work to do," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "Nothing needs to change. They don't need a talking to. They're doing just fine. If they don't understand by now, they're probably not going to."

Teams with a 3-1 Series edge have won the crown 40 of 46 times, including 10 in a row, last failing in 1985 when Kansas City won the final three games to defeat St. Louis.

"It has been done before. It can happen. So there's no reason to stop now the things that we've been doing," Kipnis said. "The best thing to do is kind of put them away before they can (seize momentum)."

### CHICAGO NATIVE SMASHES CUBS

Kipnis, a Chicago native who grew up cheering on the Cubs, blasted a three-run homer in the seventh inning that quieted fans at 102-year-old Wrigley Field, where the Cubs are 2-12 in Series games and haven't won a Fall Classic contest in 71 years.

"Probably can't say the words that were going into my mind. Kids are watching this," Kipnis said of his blast. "But it's just excitement. To be put into a situation like this and actually have something happen like that is, for lack of a better term, a dream come true."

Indians starting pitcher Kluber allowed only

one run on five hits over six innings with six strikeouts. The 30-year-old right-hander became the first pitcher since Cincinnati's Jose Rijo in 1990 to win games one and four of the World Series. "Kluber was tremendous," Francona said. "He had to work early. He didn't have his best breaking ball. But I think he's proving over and over just how good he is."

Kluber struck out nine and scattered four hits over six scoreless innings in Tuesday's opener as Cleveland blanked the Cubs 6-0. He's now 5-1 in the playoffs with a 0.89 earned-run average.

"He works so hard to be good," Francona said. "It's nice to see him be rewarded for it."

Chicago's 38-year-old right-handed pitcher John Lackey, a two-time World Series champion, surrendered three runs on four hits over five innings in his 23rd career playoff start, the most of any active pitcher.

### LINDOR HITS BIG FOR HIS AGE

Kipnis doubled to the rightfield wall and Francisco Lindor singled to score him for a 3-1 Cleveland lead in the third inning. It was Lindor's sixth hit of the Series, making him, at 22, the youngest player since 1997 with so many.

Lindor scored on a sixth-inning sacrifice fly by Lonnie Chisenhall and Kipnis smashed his homer in the seventh off Cubs reliever Travis Wood to all-but seal Chicago's fate. —AFP



**SHANGHAI:** Japan's Hideki Matsuyama poses for a selfie with the spectator ushers after winning the 2016 WGC-HSBC Champions golf tournament at the Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China, yesterday. — AP

## FENG WINS IN MALAYSIA

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Shanshan Feng won the Sime Darby LPGA Malaysia yesterday to cap a string of high finishes that started with an Olympic bronze medal. The 27-year-old Chinese star beat Suzann Pettersen by three strokes at TPC Kuala Lumpur for her second victory in the event.

"Every time I come back here, it makes me feel like I'm at home," Feng said. "I'm really relaxed and I love everything, love the food, love the people."

She shot a 4-under 67 after finishing off a third-round 64 in the morning. "Normally, I'm a pretty good ball-striker," Feng said. "They have some very tough greens here that we have to be more accurate, and I think that's good for me. And also, somehow, I always read the greens here very well. So this week, I made a lot of putts."

Feng has finished no worse than a tie for fourth in her last six events. After Rio, she tied for fourth at Evian in France, then opened the Asia Swing in China with a fourth-place tie at Reignwood, was second

in Taiwan and tied for third in South Korea.

"I started to actually get my confidence back," said Feng, China's only major golf champion. Feng has an even better run going at TPC Kuala Lumpur. She was second in 2013, won in 2014 and tied for second last year. She won for the fifth time on the LPGA Tour, ending a drought that dated to her 2014 victory.

"Can I actually join the membership here?" Feng said during the trophy ceremony. "I really love this golf course. Can we have like 10 LPGA events here on this course?" Tied with Anna Nordqvist after the Swede's tap-in birdie on the par-4 13th, Feng regained the lead with a sweeping 18-foot birdie putt on the par-4 14th. She added a downhill 15-footer on the par-3 15th, and had a three-stroke lead moments later when Nordqvist three-putted the 14th. On Thursday, Feng made doubles bogeys on 14 and 15 in an opening 66. She birdied both holes in the third round. "It actually evened out," Feng said.

She finished at 17-under 267 and earned \$270,000 - more than enough for victory celebration she's planning before tournament next week in Japan. "I love Japanese food," Feng said. "I think I'm going to go for maybe - like normally I go to the second-most expensive meat - I'll go for the meat. What I'm going to do is I'm going to go for the most expensive meat next week." Pettersen shot her second straight 66. The Norwegian with 15 tour victories bogeyed the 16th and birdied the last two. On Saturday, she had a double bogey on 15. "I've had some stupid mistakes, probably like everyone else and giving away a lot of shots," Pettersen said. "Felt like yesterday I gave away a great chance of winning this."

Nordqvist had a 70, hitting into the water on the par-4 18th for a double bogey that dropped her into a tie for third with Amy Yang (69) at 12 under. "Played so well this week," Nordqvist said. "Finishing with double was obviously not what I planned. I was in-between clubs on the last hole and it was kind of gusting out and we were going back and forth. Pretty poor decision there." —AP



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Shanshan Feng of China holds her trophy up during a victory lap after winning the LPGA golf tournament at Tournament Players Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday. — AP

## KUWAIT FEMALE SHOOTERS WIN THREE MEDALS IN UAE

**ABU DHABI:** Kuwait's female shooters won three medals yesterday in the skeet competitions for single shooters as part of the Grand Prize championship for clay targets, currently held in the Emirati capital. Shooter Eman Al-Shamma won the gold medal and first place, while her teammate Afrah Mohammad earned a silver and second place, and Sheikha Al-Rashidi clinched a bronze and third place.

The Kuwaiti shooters, in separate statements to KUNA, dedicated their achievements to their country's leadership, government, people, as well as all shooting activists in Kuwait, including administrators, practitioners, and trainers.

Commenting on the win, Saad Al-Sowait, the Kuwaiti team's administrator, commended the female shooters' strong will and determination to attain medals in this journey, pointing out their dedicated commitment and hard efforts during trainings for the championship. —KUNA



**ABU DHABI:** Shooter Eman Al-Shamma (centre) won the gold medal, while her teammate Afrah (left) Mohammad earned a silver and Sheikha Al-Rashidi clinched bronze. — KUNA





KUWAIT TIMES NBA POWER RANKINGS

**KUWAIT:** The 2016-17 NBA season started last Tuesday following a long offseason during which the top teams retooled their rosters in a bid to win the ultimate prize or, in Cleveland's case, retain the title. This year, Kuwait Times will publish a weekly Power Ranking every Monday, listing each team based on its performance in each week (the number in brackets next to each team refers to its current record in the overall standings).

- 1- Cleveland Cavaliers (3 - 0)**  
The champions picked up from where they left off and sent a message to the rest of the league that they are more focused this year than they ever were.
- 2- San Antonio Spurs (3 - 0)**  
Amid the hype surrounding the champs and the reinforced runner-ups, the Spurs do what they do best: fly under the radar and have a perfect start for the season.
- 3- Golden State Warriors (1 - 1)**  
Whether it was because of chemistry issues or whatever reason, the Warriors' season-opening loss against the Spurs served as an early reminder that no 'Super Team' can claim an easy way for a title.
- 4- Los Angeles Clippers (1 - 0)**  
One game is not enough to assess a team's performance, but a Blake Griffin with long range is a scary weapon - provided that he stays healthy.
- 5- Atlanta Hawks (2 - 0)**  
Though the season is still in its infancy, the Hawks currently lead the league in point differential with +23.5. That, plus a rejuvenated Dwight Howard make last season's woes seem like a distant memory for Hawks' fans.
- 6- Toronto Raptors (1 - 1)**  
DeMar DeRozan and Jonas Valanciunas became the first duo in NBA history to combine for 72 points on opening night. Two nights later, Canada's team nearly dealt the Cavs their first loss before Irving's heroics saved the day for the defending champs.
- 7- Chicago Bulls (2 - 0)**  
What cohesion issues? Spacing problems? D-Wade can shoot 3 pointers now, McDermott is still hot from downtown, and the Bulls are suddenly a team to watch out for in the East.
- 8- Portland Trail Blazers (2 - 1)**  
Damian Lillard continued his MVP-caliber performance by willing his team to victory with a floater in the closing moments in overtime against the Nuggets on Saturday. But will that be enough as the long season progresses?
- 9- Oklahoma City Thunder (2 - 0)**  
As expected, Russell Westbrook is playing with extra motivation and is carrying his team to victory along the way - at least for the time being.
- 10- Boston Celtics (2 - 1)**  
The Celtics will have a chance to avenge their early season loss to Chicago last Friday when they face off against the Bulls next Thursday in what promises to be an early Eastern Conference showdown.
- 11- Charlotte Hornets (2 - 1)**  
Roy Hibbert seems to have finally found his defensive mojo back just in time when the Hornets needed a proven shot blocker to anchor their defense.
- 12- Sacramento Kings (2 - 1)**  
DeMarcus Cousins continues to ignore trade rumors and put on dominant performances, which helped the Kings trump the Timberwolves yesterday.
- 13- Detroit Pistons (1 - 1)**  
The Pistons played solid defense in their first two games of the season, but ranked 21st in offensive ratings as of yesterday. Yet there is still room to improve, especially if Drummond continues to dominate like he did on Friday.
- 14- Indiana Pacers (1 - 2)**  
Inconsistency was the main feature associated with the Pacers in recent years, and this year seems no different. After opening the season with a win vs the Mavs, they lost to the Nets and Bulls the following two games.
- 15- Houston Rockets (1 - 1)**  
The James-Harden-at-point-guard experiment seems to be working so far, although it wasn't enough to prevent a season-opening loss against a (very) young Lakers team.
- 16- Denver Nuggets (1 - 1)**  
Denver continues to drift away from 'small-ball' and invest in its two-big lineup centered on Jusuf Nurkic and Nikola Jokic.
- 17- Miami Heat (1 - 1)**  
Hassan Whiteside seemed to become the undisputed franchise player after Wade's departure and Bosh's semi-retirement, until Justise Winslow entered the equation with his strong start of the season.
- 18- Utah Jazz (1 - 1)**  
Losing Gordon Hayward to injury definitely hurts, but with Derrick Favors back in the mix, the Jazz look to rebound from their season-opening loss.
- 19- Brooklyn Nets (1 - 2)**  
The Nets have found a way to win behind mostly the play of Lin, Bogdanovic and Kilpatrick. Time will tell whether their surprising solid start of the season is legit or not, however.
- 20- Los Angeles Lakers (1 - 1)**  
After Luke Walton got his first win as a head coach in the Lakers' season opener, he wasn't happy with officiating in his team's loss to the Jazz on Saturday. Good news is that rookie Brandon Ingram's injury suffered during that game wasn't serious.
- 21- Memphis Grizzlies (1 - 1)**  
39-year-old Vince Carter shutting down Andrew Wiggins, 21, in the fourth quarter Thursday became one of the hottest stories in the early NBA season.
- 22- Minnesota Timberwolves (0 - 2)**  
The development of rookie point guard Kris Dunn and the impending departure of Ricky Rubio remains the biggest story in Timberwolves land despite Karl-Anthony Towns' hot start of the season.
- 23- Milwaukee Bucks (1 - 1)**  
Jason Kidd hopes that making the 'Greek Freak' his primary ball handler pays off as he realizes that this season could be his last chance to make something work in Milwaukee.
- 24- Dallas Mavericks (0 - 2)**  
As the Mavs continue to seek their first win of the season, the consolation comes in the form of Harrison Barnes' solid play: he is averaging 25 points on 56.8 percent shooting in the first two games of his Dallas tenure.
- 25- New York Knicks (1 - 1)**  
Though far from the 'elite' status that Derrick Rose promised in the off-season, the Knicks showed some positive flashes in their win over the Grizzlies yesterday.
- 26- Washington Wizards (0 - 1)**  
More matches like Friday's in which John Wall had a rough night against the Hawks means that it's very likely the Wizards misses the playoffs for the second straight season this year.
- 27- Phoenix Suns (0 - 2)**  
The Suns, hoping to rebound from a disappointing season opener loss to the Kings, couldn't contain Russell Westbrook's 51-13-10 explosion two nights later.
- 28- Orlando Magic (0 - 3)**  
Although their 3 losses came against potential playoff contenders, their 14.7 point differential indicates that a lot of work needs to be done if the Magic hopes to keep playing come mid-April.
- 29- Philadelphia 76ers (0 - 2)**  
'The Process' still needs more time to come to fruition, but seeing a driven Joel Embiid make his long-awaited debut was a nice scene.
- 30- New Orleans Pelicans (0 - 3)**  
Soon enough the Pelicans will have to realize that even a Hall of Fame performance from Anthony Davis is not enough to compete in this league on a nightly basis.

By Ahmad Jabr

BRADLEY HITS EIGHT 3-POINTERS, CELTICS BEAT HORNETS 104-98

**CHARLOTTE:** Avery Bradley hit eight 3-pointers, and Boston defeated Charlotte 104-98 on Saturday night. Bradley was 8 of 11 from beyond the arc and had 11 rebounds as the Celtics shot 75 percent from the field in the fourth quarter. Isaiah Thomas had 24 points and seven assists and Al Horford added 14 points for the Celtics, who trailed by one entering the fourth quarter. Boston finished 15 of 31 from 3-point range, while the Hornets were just 9 of 32. Kemba Walker led the Hornets in their home opener with 29 points, while Frank Kaminsky had 11 points and four rebounds in his first regular season action.

KNICKS 111, GRIZZLIES 104

Kristaps Porzingis scored 21 points, Carmelo Anthony had 20 and New York used a fast start and strong finish to beat Memphis in its home opener. Derrick Rose, Joakim Noah and Courtney Lee all had impressive moments in their first home games at Madison Square Garden, and Anthony converted the three-point play that sparked the decisive spurt. Rose had a couple of crossovers and quick bursts into the lane that showed his legs looked healthy and scored 13 points. Noah finished with six points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Lee scored 16 points as the Knicks got their first win under coach Jeff Hornacek after falling apart in the second half and getting routed 117-88 by Cleveland in the NBA season opener. Marc Gasol scored 20 points for the Grizzlies.

CAVALIERS 105, MAGIC 99

LeBron James scored 23 points, Kyrie Irving added 20 and Cleveland beat Orlando for the 15th straight time. Kevin Love scored 19 points to help the NBA champion Cavaliers improve to 3-0. They haven't lost to the Magic since Nov. 23, 2012, in Orlando. Evan Fournier scored 22 points for Orlando. The Magic cut a 22-point deficit to 88-85 with 4 minutes to play, but J.R. Smith hit three 3-pointers and scored 11 in the fourth quarter. Smith made 3-pointers on consecutive possessions and Cleveland forced a shot-clock violation. James followed with two baskets, including a left-handed finish at the rim. Serge Ibaka converted a three-point play and hit a free throw, cutting the lead to 98-95 with 45 seconds left, but Smith's 3-pointer from the corner pushed the lead to six.

BUCKS 110, NETS 108

John Henson's tip-in at the buzzer gave Milwaukee its first victory of the season. Rashad Vaughn scored a career-high 22 points, including six 3-pointers, for Milwaukee. Giannis Antetokounmpo added 21 points and 11 rebounds. He scored all of his points in the paint, including seven dunks. Vaughn, who surpassed his previous career high of 12 points, hit consecutive 3-pointers that gave Milwaukee a seven-point lead late in the fourth quarter. But after Matthew Dellavedova missed a driving layup, Bojan Bogdanovic nailed a 3-pointer to tie the score with 11.6 seconds remaining, setting up Henson's heroics. Bogdanovic's 26 points led the Nets, who made just 11 of 35 3-point attempts.

BULLS 118, PACERS 101

Doug McDermott had 23 points, Jimmy Butler added 16 on 6-of-9 shooting and Rajon Rondo had 13 assists to lead the Bulls to their second straight victory to open the season. McDermott scored 11 points in the fourth quarter as coach Fred Hoiberg gave his veteran starters - Butler, Rondo and Dwyane Wade, who had 14 points - the rest of the night off after the third quarter. Taj Gibson had 12 points and eight rebounds, and Robin Lopez added 12 points for the Bulls. Paul George and Myles Turner had 20 points apiece to lead the Pacers (1-2). The Bulls had a 24-20 lead at the end of the first quarter before breaking things open with a dominant second. They scored 38 points on 14-for-18 (77.8 percent) shooting in the quarter to race out to a 62-41 halftime lead.

SPURS 98, PELICANS 79

Kawhi Leonard had 20 points and San Antonio won in its home opener. The Spurs won their first season opener in 20 years without Tim Duncan, who retired in the offseason. San Antonio played without any of its Big Three as Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili both sat out to rest in the first night of back-to-back games. San Antonio didn't appear to miss them, as 11 play-



**CHARLOTTE:** Charlotte Hornets' Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, center, chases a loose ball with Boston Celtics' Jae Crowder, left, and Al Horford, right, in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday. — AP

ers scored to help the team remain unbeaten after three games. Patty Mills scored 18 points starting in place of Parker, and LaMarcus Aldridge had 12 points. Pelicans forward Anthony Davis was held to 18 points after scoring 50 and 45 points in the first two games. Aldridge picked up three fouls in the first half as Davis' primary defender, but still managed to hold the 6-foot-10 forward to 6-for-15 shooting in the game. E'Twaun Moore also had 18 points for New Orleans (0-3).

HAWKS 104, 76ERS 72

Paul Millsap scored 17 points to lead five Hawks in double figures. Kyle Korver chipped in 15 points and Mike Muscala added 14 for Atlanta. The Hawks barely needed top offseason acquisition Dwight Howard. The big man had just two points and seven rebounds in his second game for his hometown team after signing a three-year, \$70 million free-agent contract this summer. The 31-year-old center had 19 rebounds and 11 points in Atlanta's season-opening 114-99 win over Washington on Thursday. Dennis Schroder had 11 points and 11 assists for Atlanta. Joel Embiid and Sergio Rodriguez had 14 points apiece for the 76ers.

TRAIL BLAZERS 115, NUGGETS 113, OT

Damian Lillard scored 37 points, including the go-ahead floater with less than a second remaining in overtime, and Portland won in a

game that featured a 28-minute delay in the fourth quarter due to a power surge. Lillard blew past big man Kenneth Faried in the lane and floated in a shot with 0.3 seconds left. Lillard had tied the game on a runner in regulation with 2.1 seconds remaining. Denver led 90-85 early in the fourth quarter when a bank of lights went out near the ceiling at the Pepsi Center. The teams shot jumpers until the game was restarted. Portland shot lights out in its return to the court - the Nuggets not as much, especially down the stretch when they squandered a nine-point lead. CJ McCollum had seven of his 23 points in overtime to provide a spark for Portland. Nikola Jokic led six Denver players in double figures with 23 points and he had a career-high 17 rebounds in the home opener for Denver.

KINGS 106, TIMBERWOLVES 103

DeMarcus Cousins had 29 points and Rudy Gay added 28 for Sacramento. Ben McLemore had 13 points for the Kings, who won for the first time at new Golden 1. Matt Barnes had 12 points and nine assists. Cousins picked up two fouls in the game's final minute and fouled out. Andrew Wiggins scored 29 points for the Timberwolves, who are off to an 0-2 start under new coach Tom Thibodeau. Zach Levine had three 3-pointers and 21 points while Karl Anthony-Towns had 15 points and Gorgui Dieng had 14 points and 13 rebounds. — AP

NBA Results/Standings

Atlanta 104, Philadelphia 72; Boston 104, Charlotte 98; NY Knicks 111, Memphis 104; Cleveland 105, Orlando 99; Chicago 118, Indiana 101; Milwaukee 110, Brooklyn 108; San Antonio 98, New Orleans 79; Portland 115, Denver 113 (OT).

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
W	L	PCT	GB						
Boston	2	1	.667	-	Oklahoma City	2	0	1.000	-
Toronto	1	1	.500	0.5	Portland	2	1	.667	0.5
NY Knicks	1	1	.500	0.5	Utah	1	1	.500	1
Brooklyn	1	2	.333	1	Denver	1	1	.500	1
Philadelphia	0	2	0	1.5	Minnesota	0	2	0	2
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	3	0	1.000	-	LA Clippers	1	0	1.000	-
Chicago	2	0	1.000	0.5	Sacramento	2	1	.667	-
Detroit	1	1	.500	1.5	LA Lakers	1	1	.500	0.5
Milwaukee	1	1	.500	1.5	Golden State	1	1	.500	0.5
Indiana	1	2	.333	2	Phoenix	0	2	0	1.5
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Atlanta	2	0	1.000	-	San Antonio	3	0	1.000	-
Charlotte	2	1	.667	0.5	Memphis	1	1	.500	1.5
Miami	1	1	.500	1	Houston	1	1	.500	1.5
Washington	0	1	0	1.5	Dallas	0	2	0	2.5
Orlando	0	3	0	2.5	New Orleans	0	3	0	3

MEDVEDEVA, CHAN TAKE TOP SPOTS AT SKATE CANADA

**TORONTO:** Three-time world champion Patrick Chan held off another late charge by Yuzuru Hanyu and reigning world champ Evgenia Medvedeva lifted the women's title Saturday at the Skate Canada Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old Canadian Chan claimed his second straight Skate Canada men's title over Olympic champion Hanyu. The Canadian, debuting a new free program that included three planned quadruple jumps, landed one, fell on the second and turned the third into a triple.

Runner-up Hanyu had to rally from a disappointing short program for the second year in a row. He placed fourth on Friday-not as bad as in 2015 when he finished seventh in the short but leapfrogged over five skaters to claim the silver behind Chan. Chan finished with a total of 266.95 points, while Hanyu won the free skate completing two of four quadruple jump attempts-en route to a total of 263.06. "The whole week was a fight," Chan told Canada's TSN network. "I had a bit of a lower back issue even before the short program. I didn't let that distract me, just committed to the plan with the quads."

"I'm looking forward to the next competition," Canada's Kevin Reynolds was third with 245.06 points at the Hershey Centre Arena in Mississauga, Ontario, 28 kilometers (17 miles) southwest of Toronto.

World and European champion Medvedeva continued her streak of winning performances by earning the women's title. After a personal-best short program score, the 16-year-old Russian finished first in the free skate for a total score of 220.65 to easily beat Canadian runner-

up Kaetlyn Osmond. Skating to the soundtrack from Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close in the free skate, Medvedeva labored through some of her jumps but stuck to her game plan to earn a score of 144.41 points.

"So happy that I'm first today. Thank you so much," she said. Two-time Canadian champion Osmond finished more than 14 points back with 206.45 points while Japan's Satoko Miyahara was third in 192.08. Russia's Medvedeva became the youngest world champion since Tara Lipinski in 1997 with her triumph in Boston in April. Since winning the junior world title in 2015 she has been all but unstoppable, with victories in the Grand Prix Final, the European championships and Worlds. The 20-year-old Osmond is still working her way back from a double leg fracture suffered in 2014. "Definitely compared to last year, I'm beyond excited to be where I am now," Osmond said. "Even more, I'm excited by the fact that I did make personal best scores this week."

"And there's still a lot of room for improvement in my programs. So I'm super-happy that I was able to compete at this level this early in the season."

CANADIAN DUOS TRIUMPH

Two-time world champions Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford of Canada once again dominated the pairs division by earning 218.30 overall points to beat out second-placed Yu Xiaoyu and Zhang Hao of China.

Canada's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, returning to Grand Prix competition for the first time since winning silver at the Sochi Winter Olympics two years ago, won the ice dance

crown. The Canadian duo led after the short dance and despite finishing second in the free dance won the title with a total of 189.06 points. Americans Madison Chock and Evan Bates topped the free dance but settled for silver on 188.24 points ahead of third-placed Canadians Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier on 182.57 points. — AFP



**ONTARIO:** Canada's Patrick Chan waves from the podium after he won the Skate Canada figure skating event in Mississauga, Ontario, on Saturday. — AP

## MURRAY BEATS TSONGA FOR 3RD STRAIGHT ATP TITLE

**VIENNA:** Andy Murray closed in on the No. 1 ranking by winning his third straight ATP title at the Erste Bank Open yesterday.

The Scot can overtake Novak Djokovic atop the ATP rankings next week if he wins the Paris Masters and the Serb doesn't reach the final. "I get a step closer with every win but it's still a long way from here," Murray said.

Murray defeated Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-4, 7-6 (6) for his personal-best seventh title of the season, and 42nd overall. Djokovic has also won seven events this year. Murray extended his unbeaten streak to 14 matches after also winning in Beijing and Shanghai. The 15-ranked Tsonga, who was the 2011 champion, appeared in his first final of the season, which has been marred

by adductor and left knee injuries. Murray advanced to the final after defending champion David Ferrer pulled out with a left leg injury, while Tsonga saved a match point in his 2 1/2-hour semifinal against Ivo Karlovic on Saturday.

Murray, who also won in Vienna on his only previous visit in 2014, dominated yesterday's final from the start. He raced into a

3-0 lead by taking 14 of the first 19 points of the match.

He avoided break points in his games, and missed a set point on the Frenchman's serve at 5-2 but clinched the opening set the next game with his second ace.

Murray conceded just two points on his way to a 2-0 lead in the second set but started to struggle with his first serve as

his percentage dropped to 18 halfway through the second set.

He hit a forehand long on the only break point for Tsonga to help the Frenchman level at 4-4. Murray missed his first match point in the tiebreaker as he netted a forehand return, but closed out the win on his second chance with an ace. —AP

## SKORUPSKI HEROICS SEES ROMA LOSE GROUND ON JUVE

**MILAN:** Roma was thwarted time and time again by Empoli goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski, who is on loan from the capital club, as it was held 0-0 yesterday and failed to keep pace with Serie A leader Juventus.

Skorupski flew to fingertip an Edin Dzeko header out from under the crossbar in the opening minutes and pulled off another spectacular save moments later to keep out Mohamed Salah's strike.

The Poland international's heroics continued throughout the match and when he was finally beaten, late on, Manuel Pasqual was on hand to clear Dzeko's header off the line. Skorupski also fingertipped a Stephan El Shaarawy volley over the crossbar in stoppage time.

If Empoli manages to escape relegation it will owe a great deal to Skorupski and his defense, as Giovanni Martusciello's side has scored just two goals in 11 matches this season - the fewest in Europe's top five leagues.

Roma is four points behind Juventus, which beat Napoli 2-1 on Saturday. Empoli moved level with 17th-placed Pescara, four points behind Sampdoria which hosts Inter Milan later.

### AC MILAN 1, PESCARA 0

AC Milan is emerging as a serious challenger for the title and a fourth successive home win saw it leapfrog Napoli into third place, five points behind Juventus.

And it again had teenage goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to thank.

While fellow youngster Manuel Locatelli stole the headlines in last weekend's win over Juventus, Donnarumma pulled off several stunning saves to protect his side's lead. The 17-year-old kept Ledian Memushaj's strike from going into the top corner shortly after the hour with a flying one-handed save and was again at full stretch to deny Gianluca Caprari late on. Giacomo Bonaventura scored the only goal of the match, four minutes into the second half, placing a cheeky free kick under the wall as it jumped and into the bottom left corner. Milan also hit the woodwork in each half, through a M'Baye Niang header and a Carlos Bacca close-range strike.

### CROTONE 2, CHIEVO VERONA 0

Bottom club Crotone recorded its first

ever Serie A victory although there was an unseemly spat over who was to take the penalty that led to the first goal.

Lucas Castro brought down Djamel Mesbah on the stroke of halftime and Marcello Trotta converted, after arguing with Diego Falcinelli over who was to take the spot kick and shoving each other. Falcinelli got on the scoresheet in stoppage time with a powerful strike to seal the result and spark rapturous celebrations in the stadium. Crotone moved onto five points, two from safety.

### OTHER MATCHES

Lazio is just a point behind Milan after a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Sassuolo. The capital side broke the deadlock in controversial circumstances five minutes into the second half. Sassuolo goalkeeper Andrea Consigli palmed away Keita Balde Diao's cross but it ricocheted into the back of the net off Senad Lulic, who was in an offside position. Lazio doubled its lead four minutes later when Stefan Radu flicked on a corner for Ciro Immobile to volley in at the back post. Gregoire Defrel got Sassuolo back in the match two minutes later but it couldn't find the equalizer. Earlier, Atalanta comfortably beat Genoa 3-0 with a first-half double from Jasmin Kurtic and a late goal from Papu Gomez. — AP



Matches on TV  
(Local Timings)

### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Stoke City v Swansea City 23:00  
beIN SPORTS 2 HD

### SPANISH LEAGUE

Deportivo v Valencia 22:45  
beIN SPORTS 3 HD

### ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Udinese Calcio v Torino 21:00  
beIN SPORTS 4 HD

Cagliari v Citta di Palermo 23:00  
beIN SPORTS 4 HD



**PHILADELPHIA:** Sidney Crosby #87 of the Pittsburgh Penguins skates past Mark Streit #32 of the Philadelphia Flyers during the third period at Wells Fargo Center on Saturday in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. —AFP

## MALKIN, CROSBY SCORE TWICE TO LIFT PENGUINS PAST FLYERS

**PHILADELPHIA:** Evgeni Malkin scored twice, including the tiebreaker in the third period, and Sidney Crosby also had two goals to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 5-4 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday night. Matt Cullen also scored for the Penguins, who scored three times in a 55-second span in the first period while opening a four-game trip with their fourth win in the last five. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 38 shots while making his ninth straight start (6-2-1). Malkin's game-winner was his 300th career goal. Jakub Voracek scored twice for the Flyers, and Claude Giroux and Wayne Simmonds each had one for Philadelphia. Steve Mason started and gave up three goals on 13 shots in the first period. Michal Neuvirth replaced him to start the second and finished with 12 saves on 14 shots.

### CANADIENS 2, MAPLE LEAFS 1

Shea Weber scored a power-play goal in the third period, lifting Montreal to its seventh straight victory. Alex Galchenyuk also scored for Montreal, which is 8-0-1 and the only NHL club without a regulation loss this season. Nazem Kadri scored for the Leafs, who were coming off a 3-2 win Thursday over Florida. Toronto outshot Montreal 37-31, but Carey Price made 37 saves for the Canadiens. Frederik Andersen had 29 stops for the Leafs.

### WILD 4, STARS 0

Devan Dubnyk stopped 29 shots for his third straight shutout and 22nd of his career to lift Minnesota. Mikael Granlund, Nino Niederreiter, Eric Staal and Tyler Graovac scored for Minnesota, which improved to 6-2-1. Kari Lehtonen made 11 saves for Dallas, which has just four goals in its last four games. Dubnyk didn't have to make any spectacular saves in establishing a new personal best scoreless stretch of 180 minutes. The last goal he allowed was in overtime last Saturday.

### SHARKS 4, PREDATORS 1

Joe Pavelski and Tommy Wingels scored 17 seconds apart and San Jose went on to beat Nashville in a rematch of last season's seven-game, second-round playoff series won by the Sharks. Joonas Donskoi also scored and Joe Thornton added an empty-netter as the Sharks picked up where they left off last spring from that all-home team series against the Predators. Martin Jones made 27 saves to help San Jose finish off a 3-0 homestand. James Neal scored the lone goal for the struggling Predators. Nashville has lost six of its last seven games and is winless in five road contests this season. Pekka Rinne made 23 saves.

### BRUINS 1, RED WINGS 0

Tuukka Rask made 23 saves for his 31st career shutout with Boston. Tim Schaller scored for the Bruins, who snapped a three-game losing streak and ended Detroit's six-game winning streak. It was Rask's first game back after missing the previous three with a lower-body injury. Jimmy Howard stopped 35 shots for the Red Wings, who lost at home for the first time.

### BLUES 1, KINGS 0

Jake Allen stopped 27 shots and Jaden Schwartz scored early in the third period, leading St. Louis over Los Angeles. It was the first shutout for Allen this season and the 12th in his career. Schwartz got the first goal by a Blues forward in 169 minutes, 22 seconds. He scored 3:43 into the third off a pass from Jori Lehtera, swiping the puck from in front past goalie Peter Budaj. Vladimir Tarasenko also assisted on Schwartz's first goal of the season. Los Angeles challenged the play for offside, but the goal was upheld. Budaj had 24 saves. He had won five straight dating to last season.

### CAPITALS 5, CANUCKS 2

Marcus Johansson scored twice and Washington beat Vancouver. T.J. Oshie, Tom

Wilson and Karl Alzner also scored for the Capitals, who avoided losing three straight for the first time since February 2015. Philip Grubauer made 23 saves for Washington in his second start this year. Alex Ovechkin ended a four-game goal streak. Bo Horvat and Jannik Hansen scored for the Canucks. Vancouver has lost five straight, including two consecutive shutouts before Saturday's loss. Jacob Markstrom was impressive in his fifth start this season despite the loss, making 30 saves.

### DEVILS 3, LIGHTNING 1

Adam Henrique and Damon Severson set each other up for first-period goals and New Jersey ended a five-game losing streak against Tampa Bay. Cory Schneider had 32 saves following a rare night off and Devante Smith-Pelly got his first goal of the season, helping New Jersey rebound from an overtime loss to Chicago on Friday. Henrique scored his 100th career goal. Tyler Johnson scored in the third period for Tampa Bay, which has lost two straight. Andrei Vasilevskiy had 20 saves and lost for the first time in three starts this year.

### SABRES 3, PANTHERS 0

Anders Nilsson made 33 saves in his second NHL shutout and Buffalo beat Florida. Sam Reinhart had a goal and an assist for Buffalo. Johan Larsson and Kyle Okposo also scored. The Sabres snapped a four-game winless streak and earned their first home victory of the season. Roberto Luongo stopped 22 shots for Florida. The Panthers have lost five of six and are winless in the first three of a four-game trip. Nilsson, starting his third straight game in place of Robin Lehner, made 13 saves in the third period. Florida's Vincent Trocheck shot wide on a penalty shot with 57 seconds left in the third period.

### AVALANCHE 3, COYOTES 2

Matt Duchene scored twice and Colorado held on to beat road-weary Arizona. Rene Bourque also scored for the Avalanche, who got 23 saves from backup goalie Calvin Pickard. The Coyotes, just back from a 1-5 road trip, took the lead on Radim Vrbata's goal barely five minutes into the first period but the Avalanche scored the next three before Tobias Rieder made it a one-goal game with 4:04 to play. Louis Domingue had 31 saves for the Coyotes. —AP

## BALOTELLI SHINES AS NICE STRETCH LEAD

**PARIS:** Mario Balotelli starred once again as clinical Nice opened up a six-point gap at the top of Ligue 1 with a 4-1 thrashing of Nantes yesterday.

The maverick forward, back in form after a nightmare spell at Liverpool, scored one and was involved in two other goals as Nice took their unbeaten run since the start of the season to 11 matches.

Wylan Cyprien scored a brace and Alassane Plea also netted while Emiliano Sala replied for the out-gunned visitors at the Allianz Riviera, as Nice played with panache and incisiveness.

The league leaders were quickly in control of proceedings and Balotelli was at the heart of it as they opened the scoring. The Italy star ran onto Younes Belhanda's chip over the top and although he was stopped in his tracks by desperate last-gasp defending, the ball broke to Cyprien to slot into the empty net.

Nice were piling on the pressure and the Nantes backline cracked again as Balotelli ran onto a long ball from Jean Seri and calmly took a touch before placing the ball past Remy Riou and into the bottom corner. Nantes weren't completely out of contention and Yacine Bammou should have done better than fire over from Lucas

Lima's cross 10 minutes before half-time. Nice kept coming, though, and Ricardo Pereira's goal-bound shot was blocked by Diego Carlos.

But the hosts shot themselves in the foot at the start of the second period as Mathieu Bodmer tried to dribble the ball out of defence on the edge of his box.

He was robbed by Sala, who stroked a sumptuous shot into the top corner on 47 minutes. Suddenly Nice were reeling and struggling to hold on against a rejuvenated Nantes, with Sala and Mariusz Stepinski spurning good chances. But the tide turned again on the hour mark as Plea rose ahead to head home Seri's corner.

Minutes later a sublime flick from Balotelli sent Pereira scampering towards goal and he pulled the ball back for Cyprien to drill home. Second-placed Monaco lost ground in the title-race with a 1-1 draw at Saint-Etienne on Saturday.

Kamil Glik put Monaco ahead after five minutes but the hosts pulled level just 13 minutes later through Loic Perrin.

Champions Paris Saint-Germain are behind Monaco only on goal difference after winning 1-0 at Lille on Friday night thanks to a goal from Uruguay forward Edinson Cavani. —AFP



**NICE:** Nice's Italian forward Mario Balotelli (C) vies with Nantes' French midfielder Adrien Thomasson (L) during the French L1 football match Nice (OGCN) vs Nantes (FCN) yesterday at the "Allianz Riviera" stadium in Nice, southeastern France. — AFP

## CIBULKOVA BEATS KERBER TO WIN WTA FINALS

**SINGAPORE:** Dominika Cibulkova pulled off a stunning upset over Angelique Kerber to win the WTA Finals yesterday, beating the newly crowned world number one in a dramatic 6-3, 6-4 final in Singapore.

Runner-up at the 2014 Australian Open, Slovakia's Cibulkova turned the tables on Germany's Kerber a week after losing to her in the round-robin stage to capture the biggest title of her career, sealing it with a fortuitous net cord after nervously blowing her first three match points. "This is a big moment for me. It's the biggest moment in my career," Cibulkova said at the presentation.

"It's hard to describe in words (how I feel). I have to congratulate Angelique Kerber, you are an inspiration for me to play hard this year. With hard work, everything is possible."

Kerber went into the final as the overwhelming favourite to win after taking this year's Australian Open and US Open titles but the 28-year-old was powerless to stop her diminutive opponent, whose shock win capped an inspired return to the game's elite that saw her named as this season's WTA Comeback Player of the Year.

Ranked as low as 66th in the world in February after struggling with injuries in 2015, Cibulkova only just snuck into the WTA Finals, restricted to the world's top eight players, when she won this month's Linz Open in Austria. She was facing an early exit when she lost her first two round-robin matches in Singapore but suddenly turned things around, and won her last one.

She only qualified for the semi-finals on a countback when Kerber did her a huge favour by beating Madison Keys in straight sets and fought back from a set down and a service break in the decider to win a nailbiting semi against Svetlana Kuznetsova. For her win over Kerber, Cibulkova was presented with the Billie Jean King trophy and a cheque for \$2.05 million, the biggest payday of her life, while the German was left wondering what went wrong. "I've had an amazing year. I gave everything on court today," Kerber said.

"We've had an amazing year. For me it's an honour to play on the biggest stage in front of you all, the whole world." Oozing with self-belief after making the quantum leap from another promising player to the woman who dislodged Serena Williams at the top of the world rankings, Kerber had done everything right this week, giving up just set one in the

four matches she played en route to the final.

The left-hander had won each of her last five matches with Cibulkova, but did not bank on her playing the match of her life, hitting winners from every part of the court, eliciting huge roars and gasps from the crowd.

There were some anxious moments at the end for Cibulkova. She squandered three golden opportunities as her nerves started to fray, but regained her composure and was rewarded for her aggressive approach with a slice of luck, hitting a ferocious forehand that clipped the tape and landed on the other side of the net just as she fell to the court in disbelief at her achievement. "I'm here for the first time, winning the biggest title of my life," Cibulkova said. "I was mentally really strong. I knew I played well in the first two matches, just really unlucky. In this match, you see, I was lucky." Russia's Olympic gold medalists Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina won the doubles final, beating US Open winners Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Lucie Safarova 7-5 (7-5) 6-3. —AFP

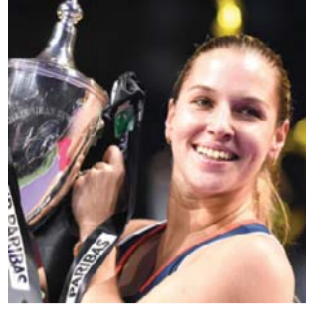


**SINGAPORE:** Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia hugs her trophy as she poses for photographers after beating Angelique Kerber of Germany in their women's singles final match at the WTA tennis tournament in Singapore, yesterday. — AP

Kuwait female shooters win three medals in UAE



Cibulkova beats Kerber to win WTA Finals



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SOUTHAMPTON: Chelsea's Serbian midfielder Nemanja Matic (2nd L) wins a header during the English Premier League football match between Southampton and Chelsea at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton, southern England yesterday. Chelsea won the game 2-0. — AFP

## COSTA SPARKLES AS CHELSEA DOWN SAINTS



SOUTHAMPTON: Diego Costa's sublime strike sealed Chelsea's 2-0 success against Southampton on Sunday as the Blues chalked up a fourth successive Premier League victory. Costa doubled Chelsea's lead with a fine finish from 25 yards after Eden Hazard had put Antonio Conte's side ahead early in the first half at St Mary's. Inflicting Southampton's first home league defeat since February gave Chelsea four league wins in a row for the first time since April

2015, when they were on the verge of lifting the title under Jose Mourinho. While it is too early to predict another Chelsea charge to the title, the Blues have hit a promising vein of form since Conte switched to his preferred system with a three-man defence.

Their win on the south-coast lifted them above Tottenham into fourth place in the table and within one point of leaders Manchester City. Southampton remain in mid-table after a first defeat in six league games stalled their recent fine run.

After making a host of changes for the midweek League Cup defeat at West Ham, Conte returned to the line-up that thrashed Manchester United last weekend, which meant captain John Terry was back on the bench. For the all focus on Terry's omission, it was the presence of Hazard, who didn't start

against the Hammers, that proved the most significant team change. Just seconds after kick-off, the Belgium midfielder underlined his threat with a clever run and cut back on the right side of the penalty area that ended with Costa unable to prod past Saints goalkeeper Fraser Forster. Southampton boss Claude Puel should have been well aware of the need to stifle Hazard after working with the Chelsea star when he was a teenager at French club Lille.

### MENACE

But if Puel had warned his players, they clearly failed to take note because Hazard was barely opposed as he put Chelsea ahead in the sixth minute. Allowed to advance unchecked onto a Victor Moses pass, Hazard glided into the same area of

the penalty box he had threatened from before, and this time he tricked Steven Davis with an astute cutback before drilling a low shot past Forster.

It was the first time Hazard had scored in three consecutive league games for Chelsea, but Southampton recovered their composure and almost grabbed an equaliser when Dusan Tadic's low free-kick was turned away by Thibaut Courtois. Hazard remained a menace and brought Forster into action with a low shot from the edge of the area.

That was the signal for Chelsea to turn up the heat and Costa should have scored just before half-time when he fired straight at Forster from Nemanja Matic's pass. A sweeping Chelsea move early in the featured eye-catching passes from N'Golo Kante and Marcos Alonso and almost brought an own

goal from Saints captain Jose Fonte as he stretched to clear from Costa. Costa wasn't to be denied however and the Spain forward doubled Chelsea's lead in the 55th minute.

Taking a short pass from Hazard 25 yards from goal, Costa set his sights and unleashed a majestic shot that curled past Forster into the far corner for his eighth Chelsea goal this season. Conte's team were in complete control now and Costa nearly made it three when he volleyed narrowly wide at the near post before Hazard's drive drew a smart stop from Forster.

Charlie Austin thought he'd given Southampton a late lifeline when he rifled the ball under Courtois, but his effort was ruled out for offside as Chelsea's revamped rearguard secured a fourth successive league clean-sheet. — AFP

## BARKLEY STRIKES TO ANSWER CRITICS



LIVERPOOL: Ross Barkley's excellent goal sealed an impressive 2-0 win for Everton over West Ham in their Premier League clash yesterday ending a four match winless run in the league. For Barkley—who had been dropped both from the England squad and the Everton starting line-up this season as his form dipped—it was his first goal since the opening day of the season against Spurs. Belgian international Romelu Lukaku—who set up 22-year-old Barkley for his goal—had opened the scoring for the hosts with his 50th for the club. It also maintained his extraordinary record against the Hammers as it was his ninth goal in as many Premier League matches against them since he moved to Everton.

Everton stay sixth, just five points off the top trio of Manchester City, Arsenal and Liverpool-West Ham stay firmly in the bottom half of the table three points above the relegation places. Everton manager Ronald Koeman said he was pleased with Barkley's performance but added he needed to be more aware on the pitch of what was required of him. "It was a total team performance today," the Dutchman told Sky Sports. "Ross Barkley had more impact in the last part of our attacking, not only in scoring but he was dangerous throughout."

"That's what the team needs. He can be very good, but it is all about knowing what you need to do. Sometimes I have to shout too much, he needs to run more."

West Ham should have gone one-up in the 12th minute as a deft pass by Dimitri Payet slipped Pedro Obiang free in the box but he completely miscued his shot as it ballooned over the bar.

The hosts produced some sparkling attacking football after the early West Ham forays into their own half none more so than when Costa Rican Bryan Oviedo nipped in to win a ball that the West Ham defence should have dealt with. He looked up and found Barkley free in the box but his goalbound effort was brilliantly turned away by goalkeeper Adrian.

Gueye, though, showed less alertness in defence as he had to resort to tugging at Obiang's shirt bringing him to the ground and earning himself a booking which rules him out of next weekend's clash with Chelsea. The hosts took the lead five minutes into the second-half as Winston Reid's poor clearance was played back into the Hammers box. Yet again the extra hunger of the Everton players played a decisive role as Yannick Bolasie charged into the area and got to the ball ahead of Reid after Adrian had saved Seamus Coleman's shot—his perfectly delivered cross was headed into the empty net by Lukaku.

Robles then produced a spectacular diving save to deny Mark Noble as West Ham turned on the pressure searching for the equaliser. That was as good as it got for West Ham as Barkley's magic produced the decisive second goal 15 minutes from time. The England international gained possession looked up and saw Lukaku breaking free down the right and found him with a perfect long pass.

The Belgian dallied long enough for Barkley to make up the ground and then produced the perfect cross for the midfielder to beat Adrian with a half volley, celebrating by beating his chest and tugging at his shirt in answer to his critics. — AFP



LIVERPOOL: Everton's Ross Barkley scores his side's second goal, during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and West Ham United, at Goodison Park, in Liverpool, England, yesterday. — AP

# Kuwait Times <sup>55th Anniversary</sup> Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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Consumer credit drives growth in Kuwait banking sector

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SADDEK EL KABER GETS ARAB BANKERS ASSOCIATION'S AWARD



BRUSSELS: Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (second left) stands with members of the Canadian and EU delegations after signing the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) during an EU-Canada summit at the European Council building in Brussels yesterday. —AP

## EU, CANADA INK LONG-DELAYED TRADE PACT

### TARIFF REMOVAL COULD START FROM EARLY 2017

BRUSSELS: The European Union and Canada signed yesterday a landmark trade pact, ending days of drama after a small Belgian region refused to endorse the agreement and deeply embarrassed the EU.

The long-delayed Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement was bedeviled by yet another hold up overnight when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's plane had to return to Ottawa because of mechanical issues. "What patience," exclaimed European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker as he embraced the arriving Trudeau at EU headquarters in Brussels.

In a brief exchange together in French, Trudeau said "difficult things are difficult, but we were able to succeed." He declined to speak to reporters. Trudeau and Juncker signed the pact with European Council President Donald Tusk and Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency.

#### Protests

On the other side of EU headquarters, a rowdy group of around 250 anti-CETA protesters gathered to block the front entrance as riot police watched. Red paint was smeared on the building. Some demonstrators had actually entered the foyer. Police took away 16 people, but did not break up the protest, spokeswoman Ilse Van de Keere

said. The EU needed unanimity among all its 28 members and Belgium needed the backing of all its regions to approve the pact. Trudeau had been due to sign CETA on Thursday, but was forced to cancel his flight when the country could not sign on because of opposition from the Wallonia region.

After several rounds of talks late into the night Belgium formally gave its endorsement on Saturday morning. Smaller than the US state of New Jersey, Wallonia region blocked the deal between more than 500 million EU citizens and 35 million Canadians for several weeks. Politicians there argued the deal would undermine labor, environment and consumer standards and allow multinationals to crush local companies.

The EU says CETA will remove more than 99 percent of tariffs and boost trade with Canada by 12 billion euros (\$13.2 billion) a year, creating economic growth and jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. It insists the deal will not prevent governments from moving to protect environmental and social standards if they believe action is needed, despite concerns in Wallonia and elsewhere that big companies would have free rein.

"This is an important day for the EU and Canada too, because we setting international standards which will have to be followed by others with whom we are in negotiations as far as free trade is concerned," Juncker told reporters yesterday.



BRUSSELS: Demonstrators wearing paint splattered clothes protest outside of an EU-Canada summit at the European Council building in Brussels yesterday. —AP

Work on the agreement was launched in 2009 and the text was actually finalized two years ago but sat in limbo awaiting endorsement. The delay has raised troubling questions about the EU's ability to seal big trade agreements. Work on a similar pact with the United States dubbed TTIP has barely advanced this year and little progress is likely

before a new US president takes office in January.

"There is no realism in concluding TTIP right now," EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said yesterday, noting the US election campaign. None of it bodes well for the trade talks that Britain will need to have with its 27 EU partners once it leaves the bloc.

#### Not the last act

Yesterday's signing will not be the last act. Assuming the European Parliament gives its assent, CETA could come into force partially early next year. However, full implementation, which would include a contentious investment protection system, will ensue only after clearance by more than three dozen national and regional parliaments. The Belgian experience shows this outcome is no given. The main focus of protests against CETA and TTIP remains the system to protect foreign company's investments. Critics say its provision for arbitration panels to rule on disputes with states can be abused by multinational companies to dictate public policy, such as on environmental standards.

The EU and Canada say their investment protection system guarantees the right of governments to regulate, make use of independent judges and be more transparent. The deal will eliminate tariffs on almost 99 percent of goods. The beneficiaries would include, for example, carmakers or the EU textile sector, for which Canadian duties of up to 18 percent can be imposed at present. Service companies could also benefit and EU companies would be able to tender for public contracts at Canadian provincial and municipal level, the first time Canada has offered this. Canada would be able to send larger quotas of meat, beef and wheat to the EU market, and EU dairy producers would be able to export more than double the current amount of "high quality" cheeses to Canada. —Agencies

## BANKS BOOST SAUDI FOR EIGHTH STRAIGHT DAY

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Strong banking shares boosted Saudi Arabia's stock market for an eighth straight day yesterday but the rest of the region was sluggish in response to soft oil prices and global bourses, while Qatari equities fell sharply. Saudi banks have been rallying since Riyadh's mammoth international bond sale this month partly eased worries about the government's access to finance and its ability to cope with an era of low oil prices.

The Saudi stock index climbed 0.7 percent in active trade yesterday, bringing its gains since the rally began to 9.5 percent - although it is still 10.8 percent below its July peak. The banking sector index jumped 2.1 percent as the biggest lender, National Commercial Bank, was by far the sector's top gainer, surging 7.7 percent in its heaviest trade since July 2015. Late on Thursday, the central bank announced fresh steps to ease a liquidity crunch caused by low oil prices, lower-

ing the maximum volume for its Treasury bill issues and introducing a new 90-day repurchase instrument to inject funds into the money market when needed.

Those steps in themselves look unlikely to make much difference to banks. But investors took them as a sign that authorities are determined to improve liquidity, and may therefore also disburse more stalled government payments to construction firms and other creditors of the state. That should help bank loan quality. Saudi petrochemical shares underperformed on Sunday as money flowed into banks and after Brent crude oil futures fell back 1.5 percent on Friday to below \$50 a barrel. Saudi Basic Industries dropped 0.9 percent.

Elsewhere in the Gulf, the mood was not as positive. Qatar's index dropped 2.2 percent as several heavily traded

stocks fell sharply.

Drilling rig provider Gulf International Services, which reported weak third-quarter earnings late last week, sank 8.1 percent while Qatari Investors Group plunged by its 10 percent daily limit.

Commercial Bank of Qatar fell 3.9 percent after saying it planned to convene shareholders to seek approval to increase its capital through a rights issue. It did not give details. Widam Food rose 0.5 percent, however, after reporting a 31 percent jump in third-quarter net profit.

Dubai's stock index edged up 0.1 percent as GFH Financial, the most heavily traded stock, surged 5.1 percent and builder Arabtec, the second most active, added 3.9 percent. Most stocks barely moved. Egypt's index edged up 0.2 percent with most of the 10 most heavily traded stocks barely moving, although Ezz Steel climbed 2.7 percent. —Reuters

## SAUDI CB FOREIGN ASSETS SHRINK \$7.4BN IN SEPT

DUBAI: Net foreign assets at Saudi Arabia's central bank fell by \$7.4 billion to \$546.7 billion in September from the previous month, as the government drew down reserves to cover a budget deficit caused by low oil prices, official data showed yesterday.

Assets shrank by 15.5 percent from a year earlier to their lowest level since January 2012. They reached a record high of \$737 billion in August 2014 before starting to fall. The assets are believed to be mainly denominated in US dollars, in the form of securities such as US Treasury bonds and deposits with banks abroad.

Foreign bank deposits shrank \$5.1 billion from the previous month to \$114.4 billion in September. Holdings of foreign

securities fell \$3.5 billion to \$372.7 billion. The government has also been borrowing domestically and abroad to cover part of its deficit, which totalled nearly \$100 billion last year. Earlier in October, it raised \$17.5 billion in its first international bond issue.

Total deposits at Saudi Arabian commercial banks edged up 0.2 percent from the previous month to 1.58 trillion riyals (\$422.0 billion) in September.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's capital markets regulator approved rules for exchange-listed real estate funds yesterday, as part of efforts to ramp up investment in the kingdom's housing market. The kingdom requires private money to help finance construction of around 1.5 million homes planned

over the next seven or eight years. In a bid to ease a shortage of affordable housing, the government announced proposals to build the homes in June as part of an economic reform program.

The "real estate investment traded funds", publicly offered and traded on the Saudi stock exchange, would invest in residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural real estate, periodically distributing part of their income to holders of the fund. The rules, the draft of which was published by the Capital Market Authority in August, cover the management, operation and ownership of the funds, specifying for example that they would not be allowed to invest more than 25 percent of their assets outside Saudi Arabia. —Reuters

# CONSUMER CREDIT DRIVES GROWTH IN BANKING SECTOR

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's banking sector remained stable last year despite growth easing from double-digit levels in 2013 and 2014, according to the most recent Financial Stability Report released by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in July. Although exposure to the slowing real estate industry could see the sector's non-performing loan (NPL) ratio rise from historic lows recorded last year, the sector as a whole remains stable, liquid and well capitalised, with lending continuing to rise on the back of strong consumer credit growth.

## Assets grow apace

Total industry assets rose by 2.6 percent last year, with domestic asset growth hitting 5.7 percent as a result of rising domestic credit. Domestic lending was up 8.5 percent, compared to 6.3 percent in 2014, driven by a 10.6 percent increase in household lending.

Credit growth has continued into this year, with the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) reporting that private sector credit increased by 7.7 percent y-o-y in April. Consumer credit remained a major growth driver, with instalment and consumer loans rising by KD44 million (\$145.3 million) over the month, up 11.5 percent y-o-y. In its most recent "Kuwait Economic Brief", published in September, NBK reported that credit growth remained relatively steady at 7.2

## OBG KUWAIT ECONOMIC UPDATE

percent y-o-y in May, with total credit rising by KD31m (\$102.4m) during the month. Household lending was again the largest growth driver, adding a net KD80m (\$264.2m) month-on-month for an 11.3 percent y-o-y gain, while instalment loans rose by 13.1 percent.

## NPL risk in real estate

The sector has maintained stability despite rapid lending growth, with the ratio of NPLs declining to a historic low of 2.4 percent in 2015. The sector's capital adequacy ratio, meanwhile, was a robust 17.5 percent, well above the CBK's stipulated 12.5 percent. However, the CBK notes that the bulk of household lending - 83.8 percent last year - was for instalment loans used in the repair and purchase of private homes, bringing the sector's exposure to the real estate market to almost half of its total credit portfolio.

Although the CBK characterises the risk profile of instalment loans as "markedly different" than direct lending to the real estate and construction sector, it notes that the state's real estate market slowed dramatically in both the number and sales value of deals last year, after recording positive growth for five consecutive years to 2014.

The residential, investment and commercial segments each contracted sharply, with total industry sales volumes shrinking by 28.7 percent to KD3 billion (\$9.9 billion). "[The] materialisation of an extreme tail event like a sharp correction in the real estate prices, though highly unlikely, could test the resilience of the banking sector, given banks' significant exposure to the real estate market, both in terms of loans and collaterals," the CBK report said.

Although over-exposure to the real estate sector remains a risk, Kuwait's banking sector is expected to maintain a steady growth path through to the end of the year. Expansion is being buoyed by moves to shore up reserves and improve liquidity and solvency - such as Ahli United Bank's August announcement that it would issue at \$200m sukuk (Islamic bond) - as well as major infrastructure projects and the development of new revenue streams like SME lending.

## Supporting SME lending

Despite strong growth in consumer credit, access to finance remains a challenge for many businesses. According to the World Bank's "Doing Business 2016" report, Kuwait fell one spot from the previous year to 101st out of 189 countries



and slid from 105th to 109th place in the getting credit category, behind Saudi Arabia (79th) and the UAE (97th), but ahead of Qatar (133rd) and Oman (126th), and tied with Bahrain.

Increased lending to the SME segment could help ameliorate the situation, with some players already reporting successful growth in small business lending. In August Manaf Al-Menaifi, executive manager of business banking at the Kuwait Finance House (KFH), said that the bank's SME lending portfolio had grown by 7 percent during the first

half of the year to reach KD300m (\$990.6m), with the bank targeting a 5 percent increase in SME borrowers to hit 2400 by December.

There remains significant room for growth in Kuwait's SME sector as it currently contributes just 3 percent to GDP, compared to an average of 50 percent in high-income countries, according to the World Bank. Furthermore, SMEs account for roughly 23 percent of Kuwait's workforce, roughly half of the average in high-income and emerging economies. — Oxford Business Group.

# CASH CRISIS HITS LIBYA AS CB, PM CONTINUE BICKERING

## RESIDENTS PROTEST LONG WAIT TO WITHDRAW MONEY

**TRIPOLI:** When the doors of a Tripoli bank open, hundreds of frantic customers surge forward, desperate for money they have been waiting weeks or months to withdraw. The scene, now commonplace, is a stark sign of Libya's slide towards economic collapse despite oil wealth, and a UN-backed government's lack of headway towards ending years of political turmoil and armed conflict that have splintered the country.

Over the past week, frustration has spilled over into renewed street unrest and a public spat between Prime Minister Fayez Seraj and Central Bank Governor Sadiq Al-Kabir over who is to blame for acute cash shortages. The dispute shows the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) struggling to control Libya's finances even after a recovery in oil production raised the prospect of economic pressures easing. A meeting convened by Britain and the United States in London on Monday is seen as a last-ditch effort to get Seraj and Kabir to work together and save Libya's economy from deeper failure.

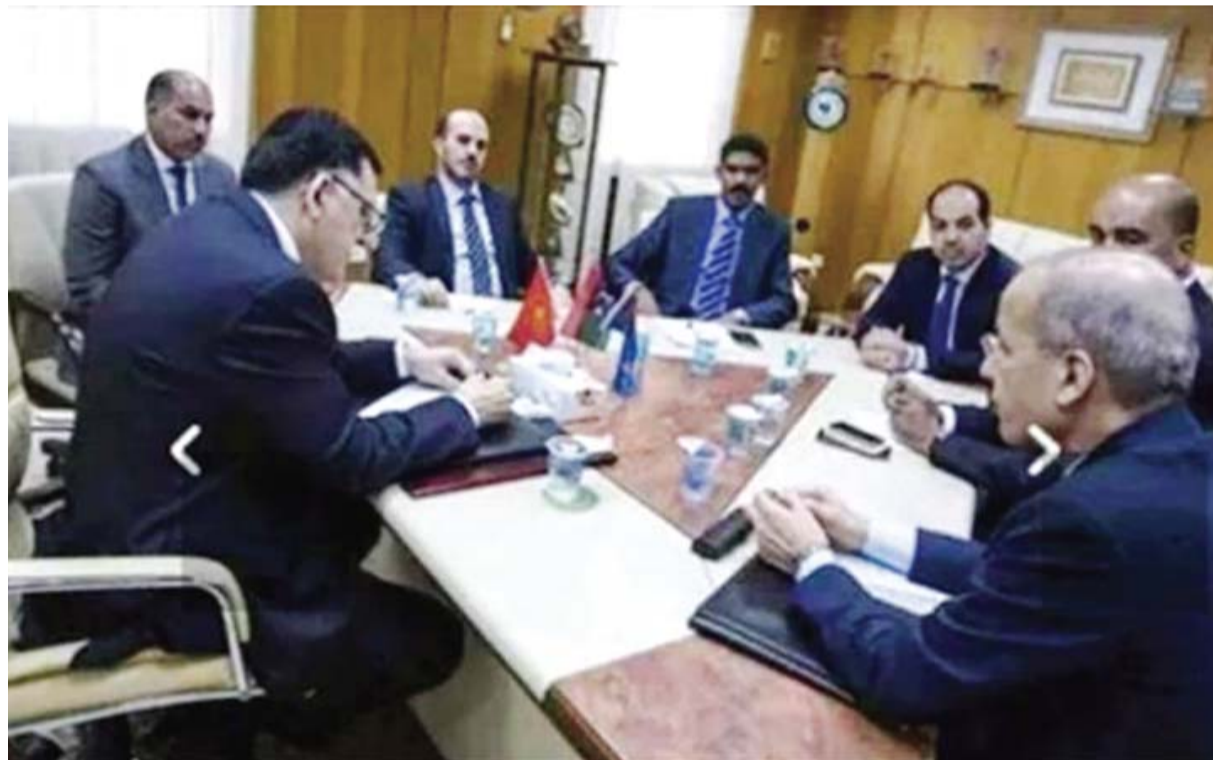
The GNA cautiously started trying to establish itself in Tripoli in March, three months after its creation under a UN-brokered power-sharing deal and five years after the uprising that ousted Muammar Gaddafi but sowed nationwide anarchy.

But the GNA has been unable to win backing from leadership rivals in the east or tame western Libya's powerful armed factions. The worsening cash crisis and spiralling inflation quickly eroded hopes that the GNA could bring stability.

Some Libyans now queue overnight to collect wages and benefits. "I have not been paid my salary for almost four months," Milad Lahmar, a physiotherapist and father of four, said outside Tripoli's Al-Tijari Al-Watani bank. "I have been waiting since dawn in front of the bank in a desperate attempt to get some cash."

Wahda Bank, one of the country's largest, said on Sunday its coffers would be empty until further notice. The Libyan economy is almost entirely dependent on oil revenues, so solid GNA relations with the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and the central bank, which processes all NOC earnings, are crucial to coherent governance and policymaking.

The NOC and the central bank both fractured when rival governments and parliaments arose in Tripoli and eastern Libya in 2014. The Tripoli branches, which have retained control over payments, pledged to work with the GNA's leadership, known as the Presidential Council. But relations between Seraj and Kabir have soured amid a political deadlock. The eastern parliament, or House of Representatives (HOR), has blocked approval of GNA cabinets, and the finance minister has never taken up his post. The mostly powerless rival government appointed by the HOR, and its central bank governor,



**TRIPOLI:** Head of the Presidential Council, Fayez Al-Serraj meets with the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Al-Saddiq Al-Kabir to discuss a solution to the acute cash crisis in the country.

have limped on in Libya's distant east.

Kabir's mandate expired in late September, but he remains in the job by default because the HOR would have to approve any replacement under the UN-brokered deal. A week ago, Seraj accused Kabir of holding up efforts to deal with Libya's liquidity crisis by repeatedly resisting calls to provide credit and release foreign currency. "We have exhausted our efforts ... with Al-Kabir," he said in a TV interview. "Once again, his response was weak and sometimes non-existent."

## HUGE DEFICITS

Kabir retorted three days later that Seraj's council had only come up with "loose proposals" including the sale of "non-existent" dollars and devaluing the Libyan dinar.

"The Presidential Council did not submit any realistic, executive programs to be carried out on the ground," he said. Libya's oil revenues fell to record lows earlier this year and the country is running huge deficits, covered by foreign reserves that will sink to \$43 billion by the end of 2016 from more than \$100 billion three years ago, the World Bank says.

Strict limits on access to foreign currency have created a flourishing informal exchange market where the dinar recently slipped to a new low of around 5.25 to the dollar.

Financial pressures have wrought shortages of subsidized food products, pushing food prices 31 percent higher in the first half of 2016, according to the World Bank. Oil production recently doubled to nearly 600,000 barrels per day after eastern military commander Khalifa Haftar seized key oil ports from a rival faction and let the NOC reopen them. But output is still well under half pre-2011 levels.

Economists say Libya's liquidity crisis will not be resolved without improved security and trust in the banking system. They say deliveries of new banknotes - sent from Britain to Tripoli and from Russia to the east - will help little. In the capital, residents said they noticed little difference as 800 million dinars were flown in over the past 10 days. They say that corruption means only the powerful have quick access to funds. "I only hear about money being printed outside Libya and brought here, but we receive nothing," said Lahmar, the physiotherapist. "There is no transparency." — Reuters

## News

in brief

### US dollar stable against KD at 0.303

**KUWAIT:** The exchange rate of the US dollar was stable against the Kuwaiti dinar at 0.303, while the euro went up to reach KD 0.332 compared to Thursday's rates, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The CBK said that the rate of the Sterling Pound went down at KD 0.396, while the Swiss Franc rose to KD 0.306. The rate of the Japanese Yen was unchanged at KD 0.002.

### Dubai Financial Market Q3 net profit drops 22%

**DUBAI:** Dubai Financial Market (DFM), the Gulf's only listed stock exchange, reported a 22 percent fall in third-quarter net profit yesterday. Net profit of 35.4 million dirhams (\$9.6 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, down from 45.4 million dirhams a year earlier, it said in a statement. During the first nine months of the year, value of trades on DFM was 91.2 billion dirhams, down 31 percent from the same period of last year. Trading commissions are the main source of income for DFM.

### Qatar's Ezdan Holding Q3 net profit flat

**DUBAI:** Qatar's Ezdan Holding reported flat third-quarter net profit on Sunday, according to Reuters calculations. Net profit of 363 million riyals (\$99.7 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, versus 364 million riyals a year earlier. Reuters calculated based on financial statements in lieu of a quarterly breakdown. Ezdan's nine-month net profit 1.29 billion riyals, up from 1.22 billion riyals a year ago, a bourse statement said.

### EFG-Hermes, HSBC consultants for Banque du Caire IPO

**CAIRO:** EFG-Hermes and HSBC have been selected as consultants for the initial public offer of state bank Banque du Caire, Egypt's Deputy Finance Minister told Reuters yesterday. "There is no date selected yet for the offering," Deputy Finance Minister for fiscal policies Ahmed Kouchouk said. Central Bank Governor Tarek Amer said in March that the government planned to offer 20 percent of Banque du Caire by increasing its capital through an initial public offering. A market official with direct knowledge of the issue said the offering will take place during the first half of 2017. Banque du Caire, established in 1952, has a capitalisation of 1.6 billion Egyptian pounds (\$180 million). The bank has around 240 branches and units around the country. Egypt is struggling to revive its economy since a popular uprising in 2011 drove away tourists and foreign investors.

### Abu Dhabi's Al-Hilal Bank appoints Craig Bell as CFO

**DUBAI:** Abu Dhabi government-owned Al Hilal Bank said yesterday it had appointed Craig Bell as chief financial officer. Bell previously worked in New Zealand, Britain, Costa Rica, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia, Al-Hilal said. According to his LinkedIn profile, his previous post was chief financial officer at Saudi British Bank.

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.907
Indian Rupees	4.552
Pakistani Rupees	2.902
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.066
Nepali Rupees	2.846
Singapore Dollar	219.060
Hongkong Dollar	39.206
Bangladesh Taka	3.876
Philippine Peso	6.282
Thai Baht	8.706

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.134
Qatari Riyal	83.565
ani Riyal	790.151
Bahraini Dinar	807.890
UAE Dirham	82.825

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	25.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.629
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	135.590
Jordanian Dinar	428.630
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.027
Syrian Lira	2.0168
Morocco Dirham	31.153

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.050
Euro	333.390
Sterling Pound	373.530
Canadian dollar	228.010
Turkish lira	99.960

Swiss Franc	307.740
Australian Dollar	233.660
US Dollar Buying	302.850

### GOLD

20 Gram	257.420
10 Gram	131.630
5 Gram	66.660

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.300
Canadian Dolla	228.025
Sterling Pound	370.815
Euro	332.295
Swiss Frank	303.795
Bahraini Dinar	804.445
UAE Dirhams	83.080
Qatari Riyals	84.295
Saudi Riyals	81.870
Jordanian Dinar	428.790
Egyptian Pound	34.171
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.064
Indian Rupees	4.549
Pakistani Rupees	2.899
Bangladesh Taka	3.871
Philippines Peso	6.287
Cyprus pound	160.383
Japanese Yen	3.910
Syrian Pound	2.425
Nepalese Rupees	3.840
Malaysian Ringgit	73.910
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.305
Thai Bhat	9.665
Turkish Lira	99.295

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.364603	0.374603
Czech Korune	0.004242	0.016242
Danish Krone	0.040467	0.045467
Euro	0.0325834	0.0334834
Norwegian Krone	0.032662	0.037862
Romanian Leu	0.073497	0.073497
Slovakia	0.009083	0.019083
Swedish Krona	0.030019	0.035019
Swiss Franc	0.299150	0.310150
Turkish Lira	0.093986	0.104286
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.223638	0.235638
New Zealand Dollar	0.211168	0.220668
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.221550	0.230550
Georgina Lari	0.137325	0.137325
US Dollars	0.299950	0.304650
US Dollars Mint	0.300450	0.304650
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003383	0.003867
Chinese Yuan	0.043441	0.046941
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037116	0.039866
Indian Rupee	0.004197	0.004586
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002824	0.003004

Kenyan Shilling	0.002992	0.002992
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069450	0.075450
Nepalese Rupee	0.002822	0.002992
Pakistan Rupee	0.002697	0.002987
Philippine Peso	0.006170	0.006470
Sierra Leone	0.000051	0.000057
Singapore Dollar	0.212877	0.222877
South African Rand	0.015777	0.024277
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001667	0.002247
Taiwan	0.009471	0.009651
Thai Baht	0.008336	0.008886
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.799929	0.808429
Egyptian Pound	0.017492	0.024745
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000187	0.000247
Jordanian Dinar	0.424695	0.433695
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019932	0.043932
Nigerian Naira	0.000395	0.001030
Omani Riyal	0.783320	0.789000
Qatar Riyal	0.082704	0.084154
Saudi Riyal	0.079993	0.081293
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.131184	0.139184
Turkish Lira	0.093986	0.104286
UAE Dirhams	0.081357	0.083057
Yemeni Riyal	0.001374	0.001454

# ELECTIONS OR NOT, FED LIKELY TO STAND PAT ON RATES

**WASHINGTON:** When the US Federal Reserve issues its next interest rate decision Wednesday, the dawn of a bitterly fought presidential election day will be only 136 hours away.

Trailing in opinion polls, Republican nominee Donald Trump has lambasted the central bank and accused it of artificially suppressing rates to help President Barack Obama—a charge Fed Chair Janet Yellen has emphatically denied. Most observers expect the Fed's Federal Open Market Committee, which sets interest rate policy, to stand pat, seeing no pressing need to act, especially right before an election.

While Fed members are divided on the dangers of inflation, the majority are expected to vote to leave rates at their historically low target range of 0.25-0.5 percent for one more month. "There would be no reason to potentially create noise around an election," said David Stockton, a former Fed research director now at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

By law, the Fed is insulated from political pressures and its budget is not set by Congress. And analysts agree there is no sign electoral politics are directly influencing the Fed's thinking.

The two-day FOMC meeting more likely will be focused on setting market and investor expectations for the final rate meeting of the year in

December, Stockton told AFP.

"The statement following this meeting will probably hint more strongly at a rate raise in December."

### Spotty picture

The FOMC divisions—which spilled out into the open over the summer, revealing a minority favoring rate hikes sooner rather than later to head off inflation—showed it has faced tough decisions. So far in 2016, they have refrained from acting in order to avoid interrupting the mild economic recovery. Job creation has been relatively strong. But wage growth has been sluggish, so the job market has not produced unequivocal signs of inflation.

At the September meeting, policymakers said the decision not to raise rates was a "close call." Three of the 10 voting members dissented and called for a rate hike. Since that meeting, US economic data has remained spotty. The economy grew a robust 2.9 percent in the third quarter, according to the initial report Friday, subject to revision. A respectable 156,000 jobs were added in September, and the unemployment rate has remained steady at around 5 percent.

But inflation, as measured by the Fed's preferred personal consumption expenditures index, slowed in the July-September period to 1.4 percent from 2.0 percent in the prior quarter, which

was the first time it had hit the Fed's target since early 2014. The Fed will have two more jobs reports—and a historic elections result to consider before the December 13-14 meeting.

Brian Jacobsen of Wells Fargo Funds agreed there is little evidence Fed decision making has been dictated by the political calendar in recent memory.

His research has found nearly a third of all rate hikes happen in election years. In 1988, the Fed met a week before election day and raised rates. Vice President George HW Bush went on to defeat Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis in a landslide.

### Nixon bullies Fed Chair Burns

"Most of the evidence suggests that every time the Fed has hiked, and even when it has eased, since 1978, it has been in response to the economic environment and not in response to the election calendar," Jacobsen told AFP. This is not to say the Fed has never been buffeted by political winds. Richard Nixon bullied Fed Chairman Arthur Burns into easing monetary policy ahead of the 1972 elections. "Just kick 'em in the rump a little," Nixon told Burns as he urged him to pressure other FOMC members to lower rates in a recorded telephone conversation.



Fed Chair Janet Yellen

George HW Bush blamed Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan for his failure to win reelection in 1992, saying rates had not come down fast enough. Sarah Binder, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said the Fed's independence is tempered by its need to avoid political storms.

"Their life is not made any easier by becoming the target of angry lawmakers," Binder told AFP. "I think in reality the Fed needs political support to make tough choices. Getting aggressively out of synch of political and public opinion, that's a tough thing to do." — AFP

## SAUDI CONSTRUCTION COSTS TUMBLING, SAYS EXECUTIVE

**DUBAI:** One of Saudi Arabia's biggest urban development projects is paying as much as 15 percent less towards construction costs as cuts in state spending reduce pressure on supplies of building materials and labor in the kingdom.

Fahd Al-Rasheed, group chief executive of Emaar the Economic City (EEC), said construction firms' pricing had become more competitive, leading to a drop in costs of 10 percent to 15 percent per square metre. "Local production levels for all building materials - as well as imports - were set for a time of boom in contracting," which has caused oversupply, Rasheed said in an interview in Dubai.

"Also, now that the number of contracts being issued by the government is much lower, contractor capacity has also improved, leading to contractors lowering their margins to compete for new work."

The government has slashed spending on its construction projects since last year as it curbs a big budget deficit caused by low oil prices. This has reduced demand for construction materials; as a result, Saudi Arabia lifted bans on exporting cement and steel earlier this year. EEC, a consortium affiliated with Dubai's Emaar Properties Group, is developing King Abdullah Economic City, a massive

business, industrial and residential zone on the Red Sea coast near Jeddah, with backing from the government.

EEC swung to a net loss of 81 million riyals (\$21.6 million) for the third quarter from a profit of 8 million riyals a year earlier. "The loss was related to a court case that was related to a real estate project we did a while ago. It's a one-time. So without it, I believe we would have been positive for the quarter," Rasheed said without elaborating.

This year, some real estate developers in Saudi Arabia have had difficulty acquiring permits to sell homes before they are built. This practice, known as off-plan sales, can make development easier by allowing companies to use the proceeds of sales to fund construction.

"This is a problem in the economy in general, because both the regulations and the owners of these regulations have changed," Rasheed said. In the past, the Ministry of Commerce and Investment issued permits, while now the Ministry of Housing does so, he noted. However, Rasheed added: "Because we are such a large developer and we have a very strong balance sheet, we have been able to work through these issues." — Reuters

# LOW-COST CARRIERS SPREADING THEIR WINGS OVER THE ATLANTIC

MAJOR AIRLINES FORCED TO SERVE NEW DESTINATIONS, CUT FARES

**NEW YORK:** Low-cost air carriers are spreading their wings across the Atlantic, much to the chagrin of the major airlines now forced to serve new destinations and cut fares. Transatlantic flights operated by Norwegian Air, Iceland's Wow air, Canada's WestJet and Morocco's Royal Air Maroc have multiplied in recent years as jet fuel has grown cheaper.

Frequently offering fares less than half that of major airlines, low-cost carriers have quickly attracted travelers. Traditional players have seen their collective market share decline, dropping from 75 percent in the summer of 2014 to 72 percent this summer, according to the air travel data company OAG.

While low-cost carriers remain small players, larger airlines "are looking over their shoulders," said George Hobbica of airfarewatchdog.com. "They could be a growing threat as they add more seats," he told AFP. "Currently, if you look at the percentage of seats they have compared to major airlines, it's very small."

### Half-price flights

Booked in advance, a round-trip flight between London and New York currently runs an average of \$398 on the low-cost carriers, according to Hobbica, compared to more than \$600 with the major airlines. WestJet even has flights linking Canada and London at \$149 (CANS199). Even with other costs added in, such charges for meals, luggage and headphones, passengers can get a good deal, according to Hobbica.

Aware of the threat, the larger companies have not wasted time, offering cheaper seats, more direct flights and new connections. British Airways recently began serving a route between London and San Jose, California. Delta Air Lines, United and American, the three largest US companies, recently said they saw a drop in transatlantic traffic due to Britain's vote to quit the eurozone, terrorist attacks in Europe and overcapacity. Revenues could fall as a result.

Transatlantic flights have long been the preserve of major airlines, protected by the Open Skies agreements between the United States and Europe.

The agreements allowed these companies to form three partnerships—SkyTeam, Atlantic and OneWorld—and charge whatever rates they wanted. The first attempts at low-cost travel in this area were failures. Laker Airways, a 1970s forerunner, lasted less than 10 years after starting flights across the Atlantic.

The game changed with the emergence of a new, more fuel-efficient generation of aircraft, such as Boeing's 787 Dreamliner and 737 MAX and Airbus's Neo and A350.

"It is not sustainable to operate a low-cost model using old aircraft," Anders Lindstrom, communications director for Norwegian Air, said by email. The company, which posted third quarter earnings of \$122 million, made its first transatlantic flight in 2013.

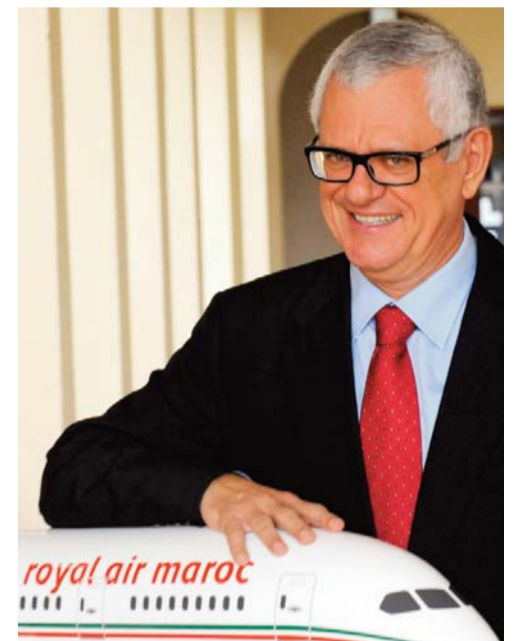
### Cheaper fuel, cheaper tickets

The collapse of oil prices two years ago persuaded other companies to get in the game given that fuel is air carriers' greatest expense. WestJet spokesman Robert Palmer said by email, "Clearly there is a strong demand for low-cost, long-haul service in this country."

Having battled for supremacy with major airlines in the United States, JetBlue and Southwest Airlines are no longer hiding their ambitions. The market for transatlantic flights suffers from the same lack of competition that transcontinental flights once did, JetBlue spokeswoman Tamara Young said. The company has purchased Airbus A321 aircraft that could link the US East Coast and Europe.

"We will consider opportunities in Europe against other opportunities we are looking at," she said. While their attractive prices have opened doors, low-cost carriers still have to establish their good names, said Hobbica of airfarewatchdog.com.

"Are they safe? Are they reliable?" he said. "All they have is low fares. They don't have a reputation." — AFP



CASABLANCA: Chief Executive Officer of Moroccan airline Royal Air Maroc Driss Benhima in his Casablanca office. Low-cost air carriers are spreading their wings across the Atlantic, much to the chagrin of the major airlines now forced to serve new destinations and cut fares. — AFP

## TIN-ROOFED SHACKS MAKE WAY FOR HIGH-RISES IN ETHIOPIA

**ADDIS ABABA:** Surrounded by the rubble of her former neighbours' homes, Getnesh Amare hangs her laundry in the shadow of the high-rise offices and hotels taking over the once insalubrious centre of Ethiopia's capital. "They have come many times to force us to move quickly. I'm not happy, but it's a must. I have to move," the mother-of-four, a housekeeper, told AFP.

The neighborhood of Kazanches, once a byword for dodgy bars and prostitution, has been singled out as the new business centre of Addis Ababa by authorities determined to rid the capital of slum-like residential areas.

On one side of the street, trendy cafes and bakeries have cropped up, while on the other, holdouts like Amare are clinging to their tin-roofed mud huts, known as "chika bet", for which they pay a monthly rent of less than a dollar. Authorities are trying to convince her to move into a three-bedroom "condominium", the Ethiopian version of social housing. However, the thought of living in one of the large housing projects mushrooming on the outskirts of Addis Ababa does not impress her.

"It is not very comfortable. The water comes twice a week and it's on the fourth floor," Amare complained. And above all, the apartment is more than an hour's commute from the centre of the city.

### 'Life-changing condos'

The condos have become a symbol of Ethiopia's development, and a way for authorities to clean up downtown Addis, create jobs and house more than three million people still living in chika bets. "I am not sure you can say this is a house,"

Haregot Alemu, general manager of the Land Development and Urban Renewal Agency, said of the chika bet.

"There is no access to toilets. There is no access to clean water. There is no access to sewage. In the condos the life of people is completely changed," he said. The Ethiopian government wants the country to be ranked "middle-income" by 2025, meaning a gross national income of more than \$1,000 per person. The condominiums are seen as a way to create a middle-class of property owners.

"The objective is also to encourage the savings habit of the citizens of Addis so they can afford to buy their house," said Alemu. In Jamo, one of these new suburban high-rise clusters, blocks of buildings have sprung up one after the other. Henok Kasahun, 27, moved here to a one-bedroom apartment, without regrets.

"The facilities are better. You have good toilets, a kitchen, and easy access to water and electricity. Before, in our previous house, we didn't have such facilities," he said. The government's goal is to build 700,000 apartments in the next five years. Demand is high and authorities have set up a lottery system for aspiring householders which 750,000 people have signed up to.

### The cost of modern living

However, modernity has a price. To acquire a condo, future owners must pay at least 10 percent of the price—between \$5,000 and \$25,000 (4,500 and 22,900 euros) depending on the size and location. In a country where the monthly salary is below \$100, repayment can quickly become unaffordable. — AFP

## BOE GOVERNOR CARNEY EYES EXIT: REPORT

**LONDON:** Media speculation mounted yesterday that the governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, is set to announce his departure amid tensions with Prime Minister Theresa May's new government. The Canadian is on a five-year contract that expires in 2018 but has an option to extend the job until 2021, a decision the central bank has said will be made public by the end of this year. Media reports suggest Carney will not take up the option to stay on, with the Sunday Times newspaper saying he was "disillusioned" with May's Conservative government.

Carney has been criticized by eurosceptic Conservatives for his warnings of the economic impact of Brexit before the June referendum vote to leave the European Union.

In her speech to her party conference earlier this month, May also appeared to criti-

cise the bank's policy, saying quantitative easing and low interest rates hurt savers. Carney told a parliamentary committee on Tuesday that any decision would be "entirely personal".

"No one should read anything into that decision in terms of government policy," he said. The job was "an absolute privilege," he said, but added: "Like everyone I have personal circumstances that I have to manage. This is a role that requires total attention, devotion, and I intend to give it for as long as I can. Those are the only factors."

A bank spokesman declined to comment on the speculation, or on reports that Carney may announce his decision as soon as Thursday. Business Secretary Greg Clark told the BBC yesterday that Carney's future at the bank was "a decision for him" but said he had done a "fantastic job". — AFP



BRUSSELS: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (left), European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (center) and European Council President Donald Tusk (right) prepare to address a media conference at the end of an EU-Canada summit at the European Council building in Brussels yesterday. — AP

GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

# WARM-UP BEGINS FOR 'GREAT US RATE HIKE OF 2016'

LONDON: Several of the world's top central banks will meet in the coming week, but only one, the US Federal Reserve, is set to start a final countdown on the second most anticipated event of the year after the Presidential Election. Fed Chair Janet Yellen and the rest of the Fed's policy-setters appear to have left themselves the December meeting to deliver a rate rise in 2016, with hardly anyone expecting a move only a week before the Nov. 8 election.

If the Fed does go ahead the following month, as most in financial markets and analysts polled by Reuters now expect, it will have been a

full year since the last increase and three short of the number of moves the Fed had anticipated back then. Apart from a surprise outcome in an election where nearly every poll puts Democratic Party candidate Hillary Clinton several percentage points ahead of Republican Donald Trump, the conditions to justify a long-awaited rate rise are lining up.

Growth bounced back to an annualized 2.9 percent in the third quarter, at the high end of expectations, driven by inventory investment and a rebound in exports. Crucially, nascent signs of inflation pressure - the missing ingredi-

ent up until now - are rattling sovereign bond markets around the globe, suggesting that few people are clinging to hope that the Fed will delay once more. The Federal Open Market Committee, which already had three members voting for a rate rise at the September meeting, is expected to make clear in its statement that it has taken note of these improvements, however subtly. "With market expectations for a December hike running higher this year compared with the same time last year, the Fed need not be as explicit in its message of intent at this meeting compared with the October statement

in 2015 ahead of lift-off," economists at Morgan Stanley said.

"Nevertheless, we expect that a simple change in the statement will send a clear message to markets that, barring any unforeseen hiccups, the Fed is a go for a December hike." Several important US data releases should support that view in the coming week, with manufacturing growth expected to hold up and already-strong expansion in the much larger non-manufacturing industries due to accelerate. The October employment report at the end of the week is also forecast to show solid if not spectacular hiring - normal this far into an economic expansion - along with wage growth around 2.5 percent, above the rate of inflation.

EXPECTED INFLATION

Across the Atlantic, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will meet to consider a different kind of inflation challenge from a very different angle. The coming surge in imported inflation as a result of the pound's collapse since Britons voted on June 23 to leave the European Union has considerably narrowed the central bank's wiggle room for another rate cut below 0.25 percent.

BoE Governor Mark Carney said on Thursday the MPC can't ignore that "fairly substantial" drop and there were limits to how willing the MPC would be to look through an inflation overshoot, now expected to be well above the 2 percent

target. "Of course, it is hard to say exactly how much of an overshoot the MPC will tolerate, but the very fact that the Governor made this statement so soon before the Inflation Report does suggest a wariness about the inflationary impact of recent sterling declines," economists at Investec said. "And, if the Governor has become sceptical about cutting Bank Rate in such conditions, he will probably build a constituency in the MPC to vote down any move to cut." The majority of economists polled by Reuters have pushed a rate cut off the table for this year, with some traders in financial markets already speculating on the next move up.

The latest British manufacturing and services business surveys are due as well, but they aren't likely to change a rate picture dominated by concerns about the pound and what kind of replacement trade agreements Britain will set up - and how soon. The Bank of Japan is due to meet early in the week, but few expect it to make any changes to policy after recently implementing an overhaul of its tools. More easing is a way off, and is more likely to be a response to an external shock. Governor Haruhiko Kuroda's tone of late suggests he has left behind his aggressive stance of the recent past, which has done next to nothing to boost inflation in Japan. The Reserve Bank of Australia is also forecast to leave rates steady on Tuesday, following cuts in May and August, according to a Reuters poll of 60 economists. — Reuters

## Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Sunday 30 October 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▼ -7.03	5,390.82	5,397.85	5,398.06	5,382.95
Weighted Index	▼ -4.10	353.76	357.86	357.86	353.49
KSX 15	▼ -14.98	826.15	841.13	841.13	825.54

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
60,967,360	9,502,670	1,929

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87
IKARUS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.5
IPG	370	370	515	191	1	370
NAFESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780
ENERGYH	44.0	39.5	17,266	705	10	39.5
GPI	38.0	37.5	1,053,189	39,626	24	38.0
ABAR	86	86	6,500	559	1	86
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>1,077,470</b>	<b>41,081</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>750.61</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
SOKOUK	31.5	29.0	581,233	179,902	96	31.5
KRE	51	50	602,000	30,200	6	51
URC	96	96	214	21	1	96
NRE	80	78	125,493	9,914	10	79
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	370
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	540
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.0
ARABREC	27.5	27.0	401,250	10,856	14	27.5
ERESCO	39.0	38.5	78,242	3,049	7	39.0
MABANEE	810	810	57,512	46,585	5	810
INJAZZAT	67	67	100,000	6,700	4	67
INVESTORS	21.0	20.5	357,350	7,472	12	21.0
IRC	26.0	26.0	10	0	1	26.0
ALTJARIJA	79	79	2,000	158	1	79

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KFOUC	166	166	183,700	30,494	10	166
BPCC	470	470	5,000	2,350	1	470
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600
ALQURAIN	202	200	17,256	3,471	5	202
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>205,956</b>	<b>36,315</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>913.93</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375
REFRI	320	320	10,049	3,216	2	320
CABLE	390	380	100,822	38,812	13	385
SHIP	158	150	14,478	2,201	4	152
PCEM	930	910	28,290	25,836	10	910
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66
ACICO	290	290	2,000	580	1	290
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190
NICBM	198	198	20,000	3,920	1	198
EQUIPMENT	45.0	43.0	567,618	24,774	36	43.5
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50
GYPSSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
SALBOOKH	57	57	2,851	163	2	57
AGLTY	480	475	107,342	51,237	8	475
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192
CLEANING	38.0	37.5	100,000	3,756	2	37.5
KGL	47.0	46.0	10,100	465	2	47.0
KPCP	168	160	4,300	688	2	168
HUMANISOFT	1,600	1,600	3,000	4,800	1	1,600
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.5
MAYADEEN	29.5	29.0	649,794	18,854	8	29.0
CGC	650	650	500	325	1	650
MTCC	54	54	100	5	1	54
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680
ALAFCO	214	214	2,500	535	1	214

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
FIRSTDUBAI	49.0	47.5	1,319,210	63,318	63	47.5
KBT	38.5	38.0	311,971	11,869	21	38.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176
MENA	18.5	18.0	33,000	609	3	18.0
ALMUDON	27.5	26.5	1,308,686	35,236	34	27.0
MARAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	34.0
REMAL	51	47.5	489,620	24,009	27	48.5
AWJ	48.0	48.0	2,800	134	1	48.0
<b>Real Estate</b>			<b>15,221,985</b>	<b>630,503</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>802.99</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90
CATTL	236	226	127	28	2	236
DANAH	87	86	517,523	44,798	24	87
POULT	178	178	41	7	1	178
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,620
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>517,691</b>	<b>44,834</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1132.30</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
KINV	84	81	165	14	4	81
FACIL	168	168	10,810	1,816	6	168
IFA	29.5	28.5	58,190	1,820	7	29.5
NINV	110	108	215,600	23,405	15	110
KPROJ	500	500	150,000	75,000	6	500
COAST	41.0	40.0	1,295,015	52,225	33	40.5
SECH	39.5	39.5	23,300	920	1	39.5
SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85
ARZAN	30.5	30.5	137,000	4,179	2	30.5
MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83
KMEFIC	23.0	21.0	108,442	2,319	38	23.0
ALAMAN	49.0	47.5	466,800	22,418	21	47.5
ALOLA	45.0	44.0	784,595	34,523	24	44.0
ALMAL	21.0	20.5	1,877,084	39,419	34	20.5
GIH	26.0	24.5	38,465	962	4	26.0
AAYAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.5
BAYANINV	31.5	30.5	14,049	429	3	31.5
OSOUL	42.0	42.0	2,500	105	2	42.0
KFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	36.5
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118
NIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54
ISKAN	46.0	43.5	2,070,834	94,416	22	46.0
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5
ALDEERA	34.5	33.5	50,200	1,702	5	33.5
ALSALAM	41.0	40.5	384,061	15,555	8	41.0
EKTTITAB	36.0	35.0	89,127	3,189	11	36.0
ALMADINA	42.5	42.0	142,451	5,983	12	42.0
NOOR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5
TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500
TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75
KSHC	29.0	29.0	100,000	2,900	3	29.0
ASIYA	31.0	31.0	51,658	1,601	7	31.0
GNAHC	32.5	31.5	207,089	6,534	10	31.5
AMWAL	20.0	19.0	299,500	5,694	16	19.5
ALMINTAZ	74	73	100,000	7,375	2	73
MANAZEL	28.0	27.5	325,000	9,060	14	28.0
NIND	114	110	961,770	108,276	27	112
BIHC	23.5	23.5	1,094,950	25,731	22	23.5
SENERGY	29.5	28.5	110,500	3,200	4	29.5
AGHC	52	50	86,000	4,308	21	52
KPPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.0
TAHSSILAT	29.0	29.0	500	15	1	29.0
JEFRANH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62
EKHOLDING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	126
GPH	99	97	1,617,739	158,104	38	99
INOVEST	60	60	100,000	6,000	1	60
<b>Financial Services</b>			<b>12,971,394</b>	<b>719,007</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>550.23</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1055.20</b>



# DOLLAR STRENGTHENS AMID QUIET TRADING

## NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Last week, the US dollar traded on a strong footing against most of its majors on the back of better US data, supporting rate hike expectations in the market. Expectations of a rate hike in December remained supported above 70 percent as the US economy continues to release positive figures across all sectors, especially manufacturing. Meanwhile, interest rate differentials continue to dictate the market as monetary policy divergence between major central banks and the Fed are expected to widen further under the current economic conditions.

The dollar Index opened the week at 98.695 and quickly jumped to a high of 99.119 amid a better than expected manufacturing PMI figure. However, the index lost that momentum as consumer confidence disappointed pushing the dollar to retreat to a low of 98.335. The currency regained its momentum and closed the week at 98.340.

The euro traded in a volatile manner last week. The currency initially dropped to a low of 1.0851 despite positive data from the bloc's major economies. The single currency reversed its losses and surged to a high of 1.0946 as manufacturing orders indicated higher price pressures, reducing the possibility of further stimulus from the ECB in their upcoming meeting. The Euro closed the week at 1.0981.

In the UK, "Brexit" worries continued to dictate the performance of the sterling last week. The pound opened at 1.2234 and dropped to a low of 1.2083 as comments from the British Chancellor indicated that the exit from the EU might be worse than previously expected. Yet, the cable was able to recoup some of its losses as comments from the BoE governor indicated that the central bank might not cut rates to curb risks of imported inflation resulting from a lower currency. The currency continued to drop despite data that showed that the growth trend in the UK is still not affected by "Brexit."

In Japan, the Japanese yen continues to lose its footing against the greenback as expectations of further efforts from the BoJ to push prices higher were fuelled by disappointing CPI figures released last week. The USD/JPY reached a 3-month high at 105.42, despite comments from BoJ's Kuroda that the bank might refrain from any additional stimulus in its next meeting. The currency closed at 104.69.

On the commodities side, oil prices edged lower on Friday and were set for the biggest weekly losses in six weeks over doubts about whether OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers will be able to agree on an output cut big enough to curb a global glut that has weighed on markets for two years. Disagreements remain over which members should be exempt from a curb to reduce output to a range of 32.5-33 million barrels per day. Brent crude futures were down 16 cents at \$50.31 a barrel. While, US West Texas Intermediate crude was down 27 cents at \$49.45 a barrel, also on track for its biggest weekly loss in six weeks.

### Manufacturing in the US

Flash manufacturing PMI October figure in the US came stronger than expected at 53.2

versus 51.6, indicating that the manufacturing sector in the US is in expansionary mode. Whereas, the 50 level separates expansion from contraction in the index. The current October figure is the highest since October 2015, fuelling further the possibility of a FED rate hike in December.

Consumer Confidence retreated after two-month gains to 98.6 indicating the perception of an expanding economy in the short-term but at a slower pace. Furthermore, consumer's evaluation of "good" business conditions decreased from 27.7 percent to 26.2 percent while those saying conditions are "bad" increased from 15.8 percent to 17.7

rates continue to support sales and prices in the sector.

Orders for US business equipment fell in September by the most in seven months, indicating corporate investment is having trouble gaining traction. Durable goods orders excluding transportation equipment, which are often volatile from month to month, climbed 0.2 percent after a 0.1 percent gain. Bookings for military capital equipment decreased 7.7 percent, and demand for non-defense durable goods rose 0.7 percent. Durable goods inventories crept up 0.1 percent for a second month, while unfilled orders for non-defense capital goods exclud-

rose to 53.5 from 52.2. Germany was the strongest performer among euro-area economies, supported by a pick-up in factory activity, while the pace of growth in France slowed, according to the report.

In a sign that inflation may be starting to stage a comeback in the region, IHS Markit said companies reported higher prices as a consequence of the need to pass on to customers rising costs from commodities and wages.

### German business confidence

Business confidence rose to the highest level in more than two years in October, the

not have to keep negative interest rates for too long. He also indicated that Europe will come out of negative interest rates when price stability is reached in a sustainable way. In detail, the ECB was aware that low interest rate and excess of liquidity could be a recipe for disaster, but saw no such risk at the moment.

The UK economy grew more than expected in the third quarter though economic activity slowed from the previous quarter. In a report, the Office for National Statistics said gross domestic product expanded by a seasonally adjusted 0.5 percent in the three months ended September 30, above forecasts for growth of 0.3 percent. Year-over-year, UK economic growth expanded 2.3 percent in the third quarter, also above the forecast for an expansion of 2.1 percent. The UK economy grew at an annualized rate of 2.1 percent in the second quarter.

The pattern of growth continues to be broadly unaffected following the EU referendum with a strong performance in the services industries offsetting falls in other industrial groups. In the third quarter, the services industries increased by 0.8 percent. In contrast, output decreased in the other 3 main industrial groups with construction decreasing by 1.4 percent, agriculture decreasing by 0.7 percent and production decreasing by 0.4 percent, within which manufacturing decreased by 1.0 percent.

### Japanese trade balance

Japan's trade balance returned to positive territory in September, as exports declined for a 12th consecutive month albeit at a much slower rate than expected. The Ministry of Finance reported a merchandise trade surplus of 498.3 billion Yen in September, following a deficit of 18.7 billion Yen in August. A median estimate of economists called for a surplus of 341.8 billion yen.

Japan's exports declined 6.9 percent in the 12 months through September, following August's 9.6 percent drop. A median estimate of economists called for a decline of 10.4 percent. On the other hand, Imports plunged at an annualized 16.3 percent and fell 17.3 percent year-over-year in August.

Japan's deflated economy saw little evidence of price growth last month after policy-maker's uprooted monetary policy after years of failed stimulus. The national consumer price index declined at an annualized 0.5 percent in September, following an identical drop the previous month, the Statistics Bureau reported Friday. Core inflation, which excludes food prices, fell 0.5 percent in the 12 months through September and Core prices fell by a similar percentage in August.

Japan has now been in deflation for seven consecutive months. As a result, the Bank of Japan has embarked on a new policy framework aimed at controlling interest rates. The new program also included adjustments to the volume of asset purchases. These efforts will help the BOJ manage the impact of negative interest, an unconventional policy tool that was announced earlier this year.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30300

The USDKWD opened at 0.30300 yesterday morning.



percent. Consumer's assessment on the labor market had the same trend, as surveyed consumers stating jobs are "plentiful" fell from 27.6 percent to 24.3 percent, while those claiming jobs are "hard to get" fell from 22.3 percent to 22.1 percent.

### Positive figures

New home sales in September continued to grow from 575K to 593K but lower than the expected 601K. The median price of new homes sold in September was \$313,500, 6.7 percent higher than in August, and 1.9 percent higher than a year ago which translated into the less-than-expected data. While, pending home sales edged up by 4 percent from -2.5 percent to 1.5 percent in September following August's notable dip and sales are at their fifth highest level over the past year. The data indicates that record low mortgage

ing aircraft rose 0.2 percent.

Durable Goods excluding transportation rose by 0.2 percent from the previously -0.2 percent in August, higher than initially expected. The data shows rising purchase orders, which might stimulate further growth in the manufacturing sector.

### Europe & UK

Euro-area economic momentum accelerated to the fastest pace this year, adding to evidence that growth is becoming more resilient. A Purchasing Managers' Index for manufacturing and services rose to 53.7 in October from 52.6 in September, IHS Markit said on Monday. This is the fastest pace since the beginning of 2016.

Manufacturing rose to 53.3 from 52.6 in September, the highest level in 2 1/2 years, IHS Markit said. Meanwhile, the services PMI

Munich-based Ifo institute said on Tuesday. This adds to signs of renewed growth momentum in Europe's largest economy, after uncertainty related to the UK's vote to leave the European Union contributed to a temporary slowdown.

In the report, the Ifo institute said its business climate index climbed to 110.5 from 109.5 in September. That's the highest level since April 2014 and compares with a median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists of 109.6. An index for economic expectations rose to 106.1 from 104.5, while the evaluation of the current situation also improved to 115 from 114.7.

### Draghi optimistic

Draghi stated that the ECB is aware of the growing costs to the financial sector of its ultra-loose monetary policy and would rather

## ZIMBABWE 'BOND NOTES' STIR HYPERINFLATION FEARS

**HARARE:** Zimbabweans know the risks of worthless money all too well after hyperinflation between 2007 and 2009 gave them the 100-trillion-dollar banknote that barely bought a loaf of bread.

Now they fear that the government is about to create another devastating crisis by printing its own "bond notes" that will officially be worth the same as the US dollar. Many Zimbabweans who lost all their savings in the hyperinflation years dread President Robert Mugabe's government issuing so-called "surrogate money", set for next month.

"My fear is that we will have a repeat of 2009," Petros Chirenje, 43, an electrician based in the capital, Harare, told AFP. "I had 17 trillion Zimbabwean dollars in my bank account and I lost everything when the government switched to foreign currency."

"I worry that the US dollars in my account will be converted to bond notes." The country has used the US dollar since 2009 after issuing so many Zimbabwe dollars that hyperinflation peaked at 500 billion percent and the national currency was abandoned.

But a shortage of US banknotes has added to Zimbabwe's accumulating economic woes. Banks are scarcely able to dispense cash, the few remaining businesses are grinding to a halt, and the government repeatedly fails to pay soldiers and civil servants on time.

### Rush for scarce US dollars

Chirenje buys imported electrical supplies because few goods are made in Zimbabwe-but bond notes are unlikely to have much value to international producers. "The government says the bond notes will be equivalent to the US dollar, but my question is 'how?'" he said.

The new notes, starting with small denominations of \$2 and \$5, were meant to be introduced this month, and are now due out in November but no confirmed date has yet been announced.

In response, Zimbabweans have been lining up outside banks to try to get hold of the few remaining US dollars. Withdrawals are sometimes limited to just \$50 per person a day. Mavis Chapo, a housewife, said she was withdrawing all her money "before it is eaten up."

"I would rather take my money out and buy things I did not plan to buy," 54-year-old Chapo said outside the Central African Building Society bank in the capital, adding she would not give

up despite waiting for five hours in the hot summer sun. "I cried when I lost all the money in my account in 2009 and was later told it was worth only US\$5. I am wiser after that experience. I don't want to cry again."

The state-run Herald newspaper said last week that "the introduction of bond notes early next month is on course, with massive educational campaigns expected to start on October 31."

Reserve Bank governor John Mangudya on Thursday sought to allay fears that authorities were using bond notes to covertly re-introduce the Zimbabwe dollar. "These are just short-term measures," he told a meeting of local business executives in Harare.

"The long-term measures are to ensure that the economy is investor-friendly."

He said bond notes would be introduced gradually, and claimed they would help boost exports and production as well as the cash crunch.

### Investors flee

Such reassurances are unlikely to persuade investors who have pulled out of Zimbabwe due to the authoritarian regime of 92-year-old Mugabe, laws forcing foreign-owned companies to sell majority stakes to locals, and endemic

ic corruption. At least 4,600 companies have closed down in the past three years, according to central bank data cited by Bloomberg News.

"The bond notes are not a solution to the liquidity crisis," Obert Gutu, spokesman for the main opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party, told AFP. "This is a dead end and the talk of bond notes is causing anxiety and panic as shown by the numbers of people going to make withdrawals."

The bond notes plan, which was announced in May, hit a further snag last week with reports that the German company that was to print the new currency had pulled out of the deal. "No one can trust the government," Tony Hawkins, professor at the University of Zimbabwe's school of economics, said.

"It seems the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing and this is not good for the economy." A wave of protests this year has shaken Mugabe's 36-year rule, with "No to bond notes" among the slogans at anti-government demonstrations that have been regularly crushed by police.

The government says the new notes will be backed by a \$200-million support facility provided by the Cairo-based Afreximbank (Africa Export-Import Bank). — AFP



**HARARE:** Zimbabweans protest the introduction of new bond notes and youth unemployment in Harare. —AFP

Amazing news from Al-Tijari...

Al-Najma account gives you the biggest daily prize in Kuwait!



## AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw on 30th October, 2016. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr. Saquer Al-Manaie.

### The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:

Ibrahim Mohammad Aba Al-Khail — KD 7000,  
Rashed Ahmad Yousef Abdulsalam — KD 7000,  
Antranik Garabet Demirdjian — KD 7000,  
Abdo Habeeb Al-Awabbah — KD 7000,  
Abas Fouad Al-Saleh — KD 7000.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

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1st quarter — KD 100,000,  
2nd quarter — KD 150,000,  
3rd quarter — KD 200,000,  
4th quarter — KD 250,000

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- ATM card
- Issue a credit card against your account
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- You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

## SERBIA GETS GREEN LIGHT FOR WAGE HIKES, PROMISES ASSET SALES

**BELGRADE:** The International Monetary Fund agreed to Serbia's plans for public-sector wage and pension increases next year, the country's prime minister said yesterday. Speaking at a briefing after an IMF delegation reviewed its 1.2 billion-euro loan to Serbia, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic also promised to do everything possible to find a buyer for a heavily indebted state copper mine. Vucic said the IMF had agreed to plans to raise wages for public-sector workers by 5 to 7 percent next year and to increase pensions. "We had long and difficult talks with IMF," he said. "They are always cautious, but I think we have

achieved great results that can make us proud." Serbia's growth and inflation figures have come in better than expected over the past year.

But the fate of Serbia's debt-ridden state enterprises remains a sticking point. The IMF insists that they be made to turn a profit or be sold or shut down - which would be a blow for thousands of employees. "We will not allow RTB Bor to collapse," Vucic said of the totemic state copper mine. "I will beg the Chinese; I am capable of kneeling before Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang for that," Vucic said after promising a solution "within six months." — Reuters

## SADDEK EL KABER GETS ARAB BANKERS ASSOCIATION'S AWARD

**KUWAIT:** The London-based Arab Bankers Association has given its annual award for 'Distinguished Service to Arab Banking' to Saddek Omar El Kaber, the Chairman of Bank ABC and the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya.

George Kanaan, Chief Executive Officer of the Arab Bankers Association, said, "We are delighted to honour Saddek El Kaber for his distinguished service to Arab Banking. We are honouring him not only for his leadership of Bank ABC, which is again taking its place as one of the Arab world's largest and most sophisticated banks, but also for his leadership of the Central Bank of Libya, a critical institution that has continued to function despite the civil strife in Libya in recent years."

The award for distinguished service was presented to Saddek El Kaber at the Arab Bankers Association's annual gala dinner, which was held in London on 27 October 2016.

Saddek El Kaber said, "I am delighted to accept this award from the Arab Bankers Association and would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the directors, management and staff of Bank ABC who have worked tirelessly over the last few years to upgrade our operations, strengthen internal controls, and roll out a new branding of the Bank. I also pay tribute to the directors and staff of the Central Bank of Libya who have shown extraordinary commitment to their country and to the Central Bank during the most difficult times."

Saddek El Kaber was appointed Chairman of Bank ABC in December 2011, having previously been deputy CEO of ABC International Bank, its London-based subsidiary. He had been appointed Governor of the Central Bank of Libya in September

2011. Before those appointments, El Kaber held various senior positions in the Bank ABC Group. From 1988 until 1998 he was Chairman and General Manager of Umma Bank in Libya.

Founded in 1980, the Arab Bankers Association is the London-based professional association for people who work in banks and related industries in the Arab world and the United Kingdom. Through its programs and events, the ABA fosters understanding between Arab and British private and public financial sectors.

Last year, the Association's award for Distinguished Service to Arab Banking was presented to Adel El-Labban, the Group Chief Executive of Ahli United Bank of Bahrain. It has previously been awarded to Raymond Audi, the Chairman of Bank Audi, to Namaan Azhari, the Chairman of Blom Bank Group, and to Michael Tomalin, the former Group Chief Executive of National Bank of Abu Dhabi.

The Association's Annual Gala Dinner was held at the Jumeirah Carlton Tower, Cadogan Place, in London's Knightsbridge on the evening of Thursday 27 October. The Annual Gala Dinner attracts more than 250 senior executives and is the premier social event for the Arab financial community in London.

Bank ABC is a leading international bank operating from presences across MENA, Europe, Asia, USA and Brazil and provides innovative wholesale financial products and services that include corporate banking, trade finance, project and structured finance, debt capital markets, syndications, treasury products and Islamic banking. It also provides retail banking services through its network of retail banks in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria.



Bank ABC Chairman Saddek Omar El Kaber (centre) with George Kanaan, CEO of the Arab Bankers Association (left) and Abdulaziz Al-Khereiji, Chairman of the association.

## ETIHAD AIRWAYS ENGINEERING RECEIVES CASA APPROVAL

### AIRLINE EXPANDING GLOBAL CUSTOMER BASE



An Etihad Airways engineer carries out a maintenance check on an aircraft

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) of Australia has granted Etihad Airways Engineering a CASR Part 145 Maintenance Organisation Approval. This recognition Etihad Airways Engineering is able to provide base maintenance services on the latest Airbus and Boeing aircraft - the Airbus A380 and the Boeing 787 - as well as on the Boeing 777 and the Airbus A330 and A320 families of aircraft.

Jeff Wilkinson, Chief Executive of Etihad Airways Engineering, said: "We have been expanding our global customer base in line with our growing capabilities, particularly on new platforms like the A380 and the Boeing 787."

"We are proud to have achieved compliance with CASA's stringent regulatory standards and look forward to bring our industry leading aircraft maintenance and engineering solutions to aircraft operators in Australia."

Etihad Airways Engineering is the largest commercial aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services provider in the Middle East and has served more than 100 airlines and aviation operators from around the world. The company was recently named MRO Service Provider of the Year - Middle East at the Aviation Business Awards 2016.

## AL MULLA EXCHANGE GIVES A BIKE EVERY WEEK EXCLUSIVELY FOR FILIPINAS

**KUWAIT:** Al Mulla Exchange, Kuwait's leading money exchange company, provides a unique opportunity for the Philippines community to win exclusive mountain bikes, starting from October 30, 2016, till January 22, 2017.

According to the promotion, customers who conduct transactions to the Philippines during the offer period, either from any of Al Mulla Exchange branches or using the company's online services, are entitled to enter an electronic draw. A total of 11 winners will get a bike every week and 1 winner will get a Voucher of KD 600 from decathlon.

Speaking to the media, Rakesh Joshi, General Manager Al Mulla Exchange said the latest promotional initiative by Al Mulla Exchange Company is part of an ongoing scheme aimed at rewarding our customers from the Philippines community. We are also running parallel promotions for the Indian and the Jordanian communities in Kuwait.

Further he noted, "We thought of giving away mountain bikes as prizes based on the adventurous mindset of the Philippines community. They are fun-loving, cheerful and physically active community, who are open to new ideas and technologies. They are innovative and adapt well to their environment, and make the best of the situation to enrich their lifestyles, so believe that this promotion will fit in well for their fitness goals."

With summer coming to an end and the climate becoming more pleasant, the Philippine community would be looking for some outdoor activities, Rakesh Joshi added, "And we think a mountain bike would be an ideal prize to win at this point in time to take advantage of the nice weather."

Al Mulla Exchange has a reputation for running exceptional promotions to not only achieve business objectives, but also as a token of gratitude to the customers. They all offer loyalty points to their customers on every transaction. "We look at our growth as the result of the trust and support that our customers have given us, and are extremely indebted to them. This is our way of sharing a part of our success and happiness with them for their lasting loyalty," Rakesh concluded.

## ANGOLAN STATE OIL COMPANY MIRRORS NATION'S TROUBLES

**LUANDA:** Angolan state-owned oil company Sonangol rode the commodities boom that drove the country's extraordinary growth after civil war ended in 2002, but today it symbolises a national economic crisis. The Luanda-based company has increasingly been in focus since Isabel dos Santos, the billionaire daughter of long-time President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, was appointed CEO in June.

She vowed to improve transparency and efficiency at the company, a secretive behemoth that has played a dominant role in many parts of Angolan life in the post-war years. Concerns over the company's health have increased in recent months, with reports claiming to shed some light on Sonangol's alleged struggles to pay its bills and stay afloat.

Maka Angola, a website close to opposition parties, said this month that US partner Chevron had issued Sonangol with an ultimatum demanding a \$300-million debt was paid immediately or it would end its long relationship with

Angola. Shortly afterwards, Sonangol issued a statement admitting that "falling oil prices" and "analysis and validation of expenses" had delayed some payments.

Without naming Chevron, it added that a \$200 million payment had been agreed in addition to a plan on paying off the outstanding sum. Chevron declined to comment to AFP.

### Boom days over

"Sonangol is in a very precarious financial situation with lower oil prices," said Benjamin Auge, Angola specialist at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI). "The company brings in almost all the state's income, but the operating costs have not fallen drastically, so there are more late payments to the multinationals."

The end of Angola's bloody 27-year civil war, combined with high global oil prices, unleashed rapid development in Angola, with the capital Luanda often compared to a new Dubai.

GDP growth peaked at over 20 percent in 2007, but the decline in oil prices, poor governance and lack of investment has seen growth collapse to less than two percent this year.

Sonangol has been hit hard by the new reality. To compensate for the reduced cash flow, the company sold off some non-oil assets and obtained \$15 billion of loans from China Development Bank (CDB) in return for increasing oil delivery to the country.

"(But) the CDB has warned Sonangol it will not provide further support, citing concerns about the lack of transparency and failure to honor loan conditions," Alex Vines, Africa director at the London-based Chatham House think-tank, told AFP. "Isabel dos Santos was recently in China trying to renegotiate terms of past loans and get better terms to assist her reform efforts and plug the liquidity gap."

Sonangol has denied all reports that international banks have refused further funding as it restructures.

### 'Terrible for all Angolans'

The company's woes reflect wider problems in Angola, where the boom years benefited only a small elite and left much of the country still stricken in poverty. Among many dire statistics, Angola has the world's second highest mortality rate for children under five years old.

Shortages of medicine are worsening in hospitals, food is also scarce for many living in Luanda's tin shacks, and inflation is running at 35 percent. In his speech at the opening of parliament this month, dos Santos acknowledged a "deteriorating economic situation due to falling oil prices", and vowed again to diversify the economy and improve transparency and efficiency.

"The Sonangol situation is very worrying," said Agostinho dos Santos, an Angolan political analyst close to the UNITA opposition. "The president must intervene otherwise the consequences will be terrible for all Angolans." Angola, which is Africa's biggest oil producer along with Nigeria, will hold elections next year.

President dos Santos, 74, is expected to stand again and retain power he has held since 1979. But his daughter Isabel, now charged with improving Sonangol's fate, is seen as increasingly moving towards political power. — AFP



LUANDA: Angolan state-owned oil company Sonangol has increasingly been in focus since Isabel dos Santos, billionaire daughter of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, was appointed CEO in June. — AFP

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## BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Yaseen Abd AlNabi Abdullah Kamal
2. Talal Mohammad Jaseem Hussain
3. Wali Abdulwahab Dolati Ghadhban
4. Yousef Soud Saad Al-Khlaifi
5. Hazaa Safar Mesfer

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning. For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service

representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years. Burgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in the MENA region.

## KT EXCLUSIVE

HOW GCC GOVERNMENTS  
CAN LEAD THE CLOUD  
COMPUTING REVOLUTION

By Charles Nahas

Regarding cloud computing, it is not a question of if. It's not even a question of when. It's a question of now. Around the world, governments are actively developing cloud computing policy frameworks to embrace this inevitable shift and encourage locally grown entrepreneurship, job growth and competitiveness. Governments are taking the lead when it comes to the use of the public cloud and innovative technologies.

History shows us that embracing world-class technology makes a huge difference for the economic prosperity and well-being of a country. With a legacy infrastructure gap, countries with



enabling government policies are set to benefit the most and will see the biggest uptake of cloud services across the world. According to BMI Research, software spending in Kuwait is forecasted to increase from KD 57.3 million in 2016 to KD 62 million in 2020. The market is small due to oil dominating Kuwait's economy but there are select opportunities in enterprise modernization initiatives. Moreover, IT services spending forecast is further estimated to increase from KD 105.7 million in 2016 to KD 123 million in 2020, at a CAGR of 3.9 percent. The cost savings and increased flexibility offered by services such as cloud computing and outsourcing will support IT services out-performance in an environment of increasing economic uncertainty.

## Infrastructure

This is the first area in expanding affordable access to Internet connectivity and cloud computing. Innovations providing last-mile connectivity should be exploited, as should competition

among local service providers. TV Whitespaces is a great example of a technology that expands wireless Internet access and cloud computing services to some of the most remote communities.

## Skills

Governments must work to create more knowledge-based economies. The pathway to new technologies requires a parallel investment in skills development - having the requisite talent to participate in an increasingly digital society and to use smart devices and online services. In schools, this requires promoting digital literacy and making sure teachers and students have access to technology and learning tools at low cost. In the workplace, this requires lifelong learning with a focus on programs and investments that promote upskilling for the cloud, a more digital-ready workforce and a smooth shift to new jobs, as we transition to knowledge-based economies.

## A balanced regulatory agenda

Regulations are essential to create a regulatory environment that promotes innovative and confident use of technology. A balance must be struck between the free flow of data and information, and privacy policies. This means more formal and written cyber-security and privacy policies should be put in place, and countries should create interoperable frameworks for the free flow of information across borders. The processes for protecting intellectual property like obtaining trademarks need to be streamlined.

Government leading by example: Government leadership is perhaps the most important step in the transition to a knowledge economy. Every government has an opportunity to lead by example in embracing technology to provide advanced services to citizens and improving productivity in the public sector. Companies can and should work in partnership with governments to take advantage of the innovative cloud and productivity business solutions. Governments in the region can digitally transform themselves to empower their employees, optimize operations, reinvent their services and eventually engage and serve the citizens on day to day basis, in a much more efficient and productive manner.

Microsoft's mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. As such, we are optimistic about the future and the role technology can play. However, computing is not the end goal. Empowering people is, and public sector support is a vital enabler for us all. - Charles Nahas is the General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait



Stephen Fernandes, EVP, TransSys Solutions receives the ICT Achievement Award.

TRANSSYS AWARDED 'SYSTEMS  
INTEGRATOR OF THE YEAR'

## ICT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2016

**DUBAI:** TransSys Solutions, a leading regional IT services and solution provider, announced that it has won the 'Systems Integrator of the year' award at the seventh annual ICT Achievement Awards 2016 held at the Conrad Hotel, Dubai. Stephen Fernandes, Executive Vice President, TransSys Solutions accepted this award on behalf of the company. TransSys was recognized for its successful deployments, innovative solutions, and excellent customer service and support.

Organized by Computer News Middle East (CNME), the region's leading IT publication, the annual ICT Achievement Awards recognized individuals and organizations in the region that have delivered ground-breaking business value through the innovative use of technologies. The winners were selected after a thorough evaluation process by an esteemed panel of independent judges, which included CIOs, academics and consultants.

Speaking on their achievement, Prabu Balasubramanian, Executive Director, TransSys Solutions said, "We are delighted to receive the

Systems Integrator of the year award at the CNME's ICT Achievement Awards 2016. This is a great achievement and a proud moment for our team.

Winning this award is a testimony of our team's dedication and hard work in delivering right solutions, customer service and support to our customers. This is our third major award for the year. We would like to thank our customers for believing in us along with the judges and editors of CPI for this recognition. This award is a testimony of our capability to deliver complex transformation solutions and services to our customers."

As a regional services and solution provider, TransSys has been helping companies across industries viz. airlines, banking, insurance, retail, real estate, semi-government and telecom sectors, transform and transition their businesses to the Cloud model. The company offers cloud solutions on SaaS, PaaS and IaaS across various functional areas viz. ERP, HCM, SCM, CX, EPM and BI. This is in addition to providing Managed Services to its customers.

TransSys also offers enterprise wide ERP mobility and HCM mobility to customers who want to provide their employees with access to their system anytime and from anywhere.

TransSys Solutions is a rapidly growing global System Integrator with primary operations in the Middle East & Africa region and Development Centers in India. The company is focused on delivering transformational value to its customers through effective delivery of enterprise solutions.

In the past 6 years, TransSys has worked with 85+ customers, including 14 of the Forbes Top 100 Arab companies, across 20+ countries, and has in the process established a leadership position delivering Oracle cloud solutions in the ECEMEA region.

As an Oracle Platinum Cloud Select partner, TransSys has successfully completed over 120 Cloud engagements. The company was awarded the Best Cloud Solution Provider in November 2015 by Reseller Middle East. This is in addition to winning over 5 awards from Oracle in the previous years.

HACKERS APPARENTLY FOOLED  
CLINTON OFFICIAL WITH BOGUS EMAIL

**WASHINGTON:** New evidence appears to show how hackers earlier this year stole more than 50,000 emails of Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, an audacious electronic attack blamed on Russia's government and one that has resulted in embarrassing political disclosures about Democrats in the final weeks before the US presidential election.

The hackers sent John Podesta an official-looking email on Saturday, March 19, that appeared to come from Google. It warned that someone in Ukraine had obtained Podesta's personal Gmail password and tried unsuccessfully to log in, and it directed him to a website where he should "change your password immediately."

Podesta's chief of staff, Sara Latham, forwarded the email to the operations help desk of Clinton's campaign, where staffer Charles Delavan in Brooklyn, New York, wrote back 25 minutes later: "This is a legitimate email. John needs to change his password immediately."

But the email was not authentic. The link to the website where Podesta was encouraged to change his Gmail password actually directed him instead to a computer in the Netherlands with a web address associated with Tokelau, a territory of New Zealand located in the South Pacific. The hackers carefully disguised the link using a service that shortens lengthy online addresses. But even for anyone checking more diligently, the address - "google.com-securitysettingpage" - was crafted to appear genuine.

In the email, the hackers even provided an internet address of the purported Ukrainian hacker that actually traced to a mobile communications provider in Ukraine. It was also notable that the hackers struck Podesta on a weekend morning, when organizations typically have fewer resources to investigate and respond to reports of such problems. Delavan, the campaign help-desk staffer, did not respond immediately to The Associated Press' questions about his actions that day.

## Investigation

It is not immediately clear how Podesta responded to the threat, but five months later hackers successfully downloaded tens of thousands of emails from Podesta's accounts that have now been posted online. The Clinton campaign declined to discuss the incident. Podesta



**WASHINGTON:** In this photo taken April 30, 2014, Amanda Renteria is interviewed in Washington. Senior staff members on Hillary Clinton's nascent campaign were conscious about diversity in the top ranks two months before the Democratic presidential candidate formally announced her bid, according to hacked emails from the personal account of a top campaign official. — AP

has previously confirmed his emails were hacked and said the FBI was investigating.

The suspicious email was among more than 1,400 messages published by WikiLeaks on Friday that had been hacked from Podesta's account. It was not known whether the hackers deliberately left behind the evidence of their attempted break-in for WikiLeaks to reveal, but the tools they were using seven months ago still indicate they were personally targeting Podesta: Late Friday, the computer in the Netherlands that had been used in the hacking attempt featured a copy of Podesta's biographical page from Wikipedia.

The US Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Homeland Security Department have formally accused Russian state-sponsored hackers for the recent string of cyberattacks intended to influence the presiden-

tial election. The help-desk staffer, Delevan, emailed to Podesta's chief of staff a separate, authentic link to reset Podesta's Gmail password and encouraged Podesta to turn on two-factor authentication. That feature protects an account by requiring a second code that is separately sent to a cell phone or alternate email address before a user can log in. "It is absolutely imperative that this is done ASAP," Delevan said.

Tod Beardsley, a security research manager at the Boston-based cybersecurity firm Rapid7, said the fact that an IT person deemed the suspicious email to be legitimate "pretty much guarantees the user who is not an IT person is going to click on it."

Other emails previously released by WikiLeaks have included messages containing the password for Podesta's iPhone and iPad accounts. — AP



**FRANKFURT:** Germany's economy ministry says it has withdrawn its approval for Chinese Grand Chip Investment's 670-million-euro purchase of Aixtron, citing security concerns. — AFP

GERMANY GETS TOUGH  
ON CHINESE TAKEOVERS

**FRANKFURT:** Alarmed by a raft of Chinese takeovers, Germany is putting the brakes on the Asian giant's shopping spree as it sends out the message that not everything is for sale-at the risk of antagonizing Beijing. The more assertive noises coming out of Berlin are likely to dominate Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel's trip to China in the coming days, putting to the test the oft-vaunted "special relationship" between the top export powers. Germans have watched with unease as Chinese enterprises have swallowed up a record number of homegrown tech companies this year, sparking fears of German knowhow and intellectual property being sold off to the highest bidder.

The wave of acquisitions has also stoked grumbles over China's easy access to the country's open markets, often through state-backed companies, while foreign investors there face tight restrictions.

"Germans seem to be growing more and more skeptical about China, and consequently more willing to pursue a tougher approach to Beijing," said analyst Hans Kundnani from the German Marshall Fund. In the clearest sign yet that Berlin could be squaring up for a battle, the German economy ministry this week said it was taking a closer look at two planned

Chinese takeovers-effectively stalling both deals. The moves have not gone unnoticed in Beijing and Gabriel will likely face some prickly questions when he leads a 60-strong business delegation on a five-day trip to China and Hong Kong from Tuesday.

## 'Paranoia'

Germany's first punch came last Monday when the ministry said it had withdrawn its approval for Grand Chip Investment's 670-million-euro (\$730-million) purchase of chip equipment maker Aixtron, citing security concerns. German daily Handelsblatt said the surprise reversal came after US intelligence services warned that Aixtron products could be used for military purposes. The deal is now back under review, a process that could last three months. Days later, the economy ministry said it was also reviewing the mooted sale of German firm Osram's general lighting unit to a Chinese buyer. So far there has been little official reaction from Beijing. But a bylined commentary carried by the official Xinhua news agency was scathing, accusing Germany of "protectionist moves" that called into question "Berlin's sincerity in securing an open and transparent investment climate." "It is time for Berlin to let go of its delusional "China threat" paranoia," it added. — AFP



Russia's Soyuz MS space capsule carrying the International Space Station (ISS) crew prepares to touch down in a remote area, about 150 km southeast of the Kazakh town of Dzhezkazgan yesterday. —AFP



The Russian Soyuz MS space capsule rests on the ground after landing as a rescue helicopter lands nearby.



NASA astronaut Kate Rubins (left), Russian cosmonaut Anatoly Ivanishin (center) of Roscosmos and astronaut Takuya Onishi of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) sit in chairs outside the Soyuz spacecraft minutes after they landed in a remote area. —AP

## US, RUSSIAN, JAPANESE ASTRONAUTS RETURN FROM ISS

**ASTANA, Kazakhstan:** Three astronauts landed safely in Kazakhstan yesterday following a 115-day mission aboard the International Space Station, including US astronaut Kate Rubins, the first person to sequence DNA in space. Russian mission control confirmed the touchdown of NASA's Rubins, Roscosmos' Anatoly Ivanishin and Takuya Onishi of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency at 0358 GMT.

The trio landed southeast of the Kazakh steppe town of Zhezkazgan in frosty conditions after a flight from the orbital lab. "Landing has taken place!" Russian mission control stated, with commentators on NASA TV noting that the Soyuz craft had landed in an upright position. Molecular biologist Rubins and Onishi were both returning from their first missions in space, while flight commander Ivanishin also

undertook a five-month mission at the ISS five years ago.

Their journey home marks the first complete mission at the orbital lab for a new generation of Soyuz spacecraft with upgraded features. The trio's arrival at the ISS was delayed by two weeks as Russian space officials carried out further software tests on the modified Soyuz MS-01 vehicle. Rookie Rubins' participa-

tion in the mission generated particular excitement after NASA announced plans for the career scientist to sequence DNA aboard the ISS in a world first.

In August Rubins successfully sequenced samples of mouse, virus and bacteria DNA using a device called MinION while Earth-based researchers simultaneously sequenced identical samples. NASA said the biomolecule sequencer

investigation could help identify potentially dangerous microbes aboard the ISS and diagnose illnesses in space. Rubins was also the first woman aboard the ISS since Italian Samantha Cristoforetti returned to Earth with the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman (199 days) in June last year. The ISS space laboratory has been orbiting Earth at about 28,000 km per hour since 1998. —AFP

## POT BALLOT DRIVES PUT MEDICAL, RECREATIONAL USERS AT ODDS

**PORTLAND, Maine:** A handful of recreational marijuana legalization drives has the medical pot industry bracing for something it never expected to deal with: Competition. Legalization is on the ballot in five states this November, and all five currently allow some form of medical marijuana already. Growers, medical professionals and users of medical marijuana say they worry that people who want medical marijuana will buy it on the open market instead of going

others in the marijuana business are very much looking forward to the possibility of legalization. And some proponents believe medical marijuana professionals just don't want to lose their monopoly.

Recreational legalization measures are also on ballots in Arizona, California, Massachusetts and Nevada. Concerns from medical marijuana professionals have also cropped up in those states, and they have echoed similar struggles in states that have already legalized

marijuana as the market expands. Tension between medical and recreational marijuana supporters, he said, has already become an issue in California. NORML is sensitive to the concerns of medical marijuana users, Armentano said, but also understands some of the consternation is about angst over free-market competition.

"There is a concern among individuals who largely have the marijuana market solely to themselves that the advent of broader legaliza-

tion could compromise or perhaps even overrun the state's medical marijuana program, which has already been slowed by regulatory delays since Massachusetts voters authorized it in 2012. Nichole Snow, executive director of the Massachusetts Patient Advocacy Alliance, said her group, which supports medical marijuana recipients, is neutral on the ballot question and uncertain of its potential impact. "I hope there is still patient focus (if) this initiative passes," Snow said.

Americans for Safe Access, an organization that advocates for legal access to medical cannabis, said recreational marijuana programs should be kept separate from medical marijuana. The group sees potential "competing interests" between the two if they are comingled, said Beth Collins, a leader of the organization. The group also sees potential harm from the possibility of corporatization of marijuana, Collins said. "On the negative side, big business may try to impose regulations to keep other players out, which could lead to fewer products," she said. "The best medical cannabis programs allow for both large and small businesses along with access via patient or caregiver cultivation."

Some ardent proponents of medical marijuana are on board with broad legalization. Carey Clark, a member of the board of directors for the American Cannabis Nurses Association, said recreational legalization will allow people who use marijuana as medicine to have easier access to it. "When it's legal we're going to see an increase in quality and a decrease in cost, and that is really good for people who need access to this medicine," Clark said. "Things will be labeled and they'll know what they're getting." —AP



**BELFAST, Maine:** In this Nov 21, 2014 file photo, medical marijuana is rolled into a joint. —AP

through the hassle of getting a doctor's recommendation. "This is being structured for big corporations to come in and in a very short period of time wipe out the caregivers," said Lori Libbey, a board director of a Maine group campaigning against legalization and a nurse who administers cannabis. "I wonder who is going to be able to provide for pediatric patients." But in Maine and the other states considering legalization,

recreational marijuana, such as Oregon and Colorado. Competition in the marijuana market has become part of the landscape in Colorado, which saw nearly \$1 billion in sales of medical and recreational marijuana last year. The state went legal in 2012.

Paul Armentano, spokesman for the leading marijuana legalization group NORML, said some medical users and advocacy groups worry about potential corporatization of

tion will introduce competition into the existing market and that competition will pose a threat to their existing business model," he said. Some advocates of medical marijuana feel state regulations are the key to making sure medical marijuana survives in the age of legal pot.

### Alarm

In Massachusetts, the language has alarmed some critics who fear



**TEHRAN:** Iran's vice-president and environment minister Massoumeh Ebtekar speaks to an AFP journalist during an interview in the capital on Friday. —AFP

## SANCTIONS THREATEN IRAN CLIMATE EFFORTS: VEEP

**TEHRAN:** Iran's vice president and environment chief, Massoumeh Ebtekar, has told AFP that the West's failure to fully implement the nuclear deal and lift sanctions are endangering her country's efforts to meet climate targets. In an exclusive interview, Ebtekar said Iran had already seen temperatures rise by 1.5 degrees over the past 20 years, and urgently needed to work with international partners. "We're facing the consequences of climate change already in Iran. It's not a matter of the future, it's a matter of today," said Ebtekar, who heads the department of environment and has won multiple global awards for her work.

"We have a severe shortage in underground water reservoirs as well as drying up of our rivers and wetlands. In part this is due to unsustainable practices we had in Iran, but it's also due to the aftermath of climate change." With Iran still largely frozen out of the global banking system because of continuing US sanctions, she said commitments for a 12 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 were at risk.

Two-thirds of the planned cuts were "conditional on a full lifting of sanctions because... it requires international collaboration - the exchange not only of experiences but also new technologies is very, very important," she said. Although most international sanctions were lifted under last year's nuclear deal, the United States maintained sanctions linked to human

rights and Iran's ballistic missile program - making global banks fear they could be fined by Washington for doing business with the Islamic republic.

### 'Reasons to be Skeptical'

The continued blockages have made renewing trade with the outside world much tougher than anticipated, and conservatives in Iran have leapt on the issue to make life difficult for moderate President Hassan Rouhani, saying his team was duped by Western negotiators. "They have reasons to be sceptical," said Ebtekar, who is one of several Iranian vice presidents. "There are many instances where (the Americans) have not been fulfilling their commitments."

Ebtekar, 55, gained international fame as spokesperson for the student hostage-takers during the 1979-80 siege of the American embassy in Tehran, but has since become a key figure in the reformist movement, pushing for more open and democratic politics and closer ties with the West. She insisted the overall outlook was positive - exports are up and the nuclear accord has shown Iran is "ready for investment, for trade, for working with the global community". She pointed to the wealth of opportunities in her own field, saying international firms were lining up to invest in solar energy, water conservation and waste management, if only full banking relations could be restored. —AFP

## HAVE A KID WITH MIGRAINES? SUGAR PILLS WORK LIKE DRUGS

**CHICAGO:** Sugar pills worked as well at preventing kids' migraines as two commonly used headache medicines, but had fewer side effects, in a study that may lead doctors to rethink how they treat a common ailment in children and teens. It's the first rigorous head-to-head test in kids of two generic prescription drugs also used for adults' migraines: Topiramate, an anti-seizure medicine, and amitriptyline, an anti-depressant. The idea was to see if either drug could reduce by half the number of days kids had migraines over a month's time. Both drugs worked that well - but so did placebo sugar pills.

The results "really challenge what is typical practice today by headache specialists," said study author Scott Powers, a psychologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital's headache center. The study was released online Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine. The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development paid for the research. "The fact that it shows that two of the most commonly used medications are no more effective than a placebo and have adverse effects makes a very clear statement," said Dr Leon Epstein, neurology chief at Ann & Robert Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

Epstein said it should lead neurologists to rely on other prevention strategies; he advises lifestyle changes including getting more sleep and reducing stress, which he said can help prevent migraines in teen patients. Up to 10 percent of US school-

aged kids have migraines; the debilitating headaches tend to persist into the teen years and adulthood. Over-the-counter anti-inflammatory medicines including ibuprofen and acetaminophen can help reduce symptoms. The only government-approved migraine medication for kids is topiramate, which is known by the brand names Topamax and Qudexy, but it is only approved for those 12 and up.

The two study drugs are inexpensive and used in children and teens in part because of benefits seen with adults, but there's no strong research showing they are effective in kids, Powers said. The study included about 300 kids aged 8 to 17, enrolled at 31 centers. They had 11 migraines on average in the month before the study began and were randomly assigned to take either of the drugs or placebo pills daily for six months. Migraine frequency in the study's last month was compared with what kids experienced before the study. At least half of kids in each group achieved the study goal, reducing migraine frequency by half.

Side effects from the drugs were common, including fatigue, dry mouth and forgetfulness. Almost one-third of kids on topiramate also had tingling sensations in their hands, arms, legs or feet. There was one suicide attempt in the topiramate group, another known side-effect of that drug. The side effects were not unexpected, but given the risks, the results suggest the drugs shouldn't be "first-line prevention treatments" for kids' migraines, Powers said. —AP



## NOVO NORDISK LAUNCHES TRESIBA, NEW GEN BASAL INSULIN IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Novo Nordisk has launched Tresiba (insulin degludec) in Kuwait. Tresiba is a once-daily basal insulin for people with diabetes that successfully achieves equivalent reductions in blood glucose levels, with a lower risk of nocturnal hypoglycaemia versus insulin glargine. Tresiba allows for flexibility in day-to-day dosing time, when needed without compromising efficacy or risk of hypoglycaemia.

One of the key challenges with insulin therapy is the risk of hypoglycaemia, when blood glucose levels fall to lower than normal levels, causing unpleasant symptoms, such as dizziness and confusion, unconsciousness and sometimes leads to death. Research shows that fears and concerns about hypoglycaemia can interfere with achieving optimal glycaemic control in people with diabetes using

insulin8. Hypoglycaemia that occurs at night is of particular concern9 for people living with diabetes, as it is unpredictable and difficult to detect.

Results from studies over a two-year period show Tresiba successfully achieves equivalent reductions in HbA<sub>1c</sub>, but with a lower risk of nocturnal hypoglycaemia compared to insulin glargine.

"Maintaining good blood glucose control with insulin treatment can be challenging for healthcare professionals and patients due to concerns over hypoglycaemia and nighttime hypoglycaemia in particular. Tresiba(r) has shown less risk of nocturnal hypoglycaemia than the most widely used basal insulin," said Akin Aksekili, General Manager Novo Nordisk Gulf. "Tresiba can be administered at any time

of the day, offering flexible dosing when needed. This flexibility could help improve the lives of patients, as poor insulin adherence contributes to poor glycaemic control," said Dr Waleed Al-Dahi - President of Kuwait Diabetes Society and Consultant Endocrinologist at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital.

Complications from diabetes caused by failing to keep optimal glycaemic control can be serious, and may include problems such as heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney disease, nerve damage and premature mortality. In Kuwait, where almost 400,000 people live with diabetes, 35.2 percent of these patients with diabetes are still undiagnosed and the percentage of diabetes-related deaths that occur in people under 60 years were 47 percent in 2015.



**YANGON:** A mosquito is seen on a man's leg yesterday. Myanmar's government said on Oct 28 that a pregnant foreign woman has been diagnosed with the country's first case of Zika, a mosquito-borne virus linked to birth defects. —AFP

## VIETNAM MICROCEPHALY CASE LINKED TO ZIKA

**HANOI:** Vietnam's health ministry yesterday reported a microcephaly case that it says is likely to be the country's first linked to the mosquito-borne Zika virus. The case, a four-month old baby whose mother was diagnosed with Zika when she was pregnant, was found in the central province of Dak Lak. "This is a microcephaly case with a high probability of being related to the Zika virus and also the first such case in Vietnam," the General Department of Preventive Medicine, a department of the nation's health ministry, said in a statement posted on its official website.

Vietnam so far has reported a total nine cases of Zika infection, with more cases expected to be confirmed in the next few days, the department's director Tran Dac Phu told Reuters yesterday. If the microcephaly case is confirmed to be

linked to Zika, Vietnam would become the second Southeast Asian country after Thailand to report such a case. Vietnam earlier this month raised the threat level for Zika and stepped up monitoring of pregnant women in the country after detecting more cases and amid growing outbreaks in the region.

Zika infections in pregnant women have been shown to cause microcephaly - a severe birth defect in which the head and brain are undersized - as well as other brain abnormalities. The connection between Zika and microcephaly first came to light in Brazil, which has confirmed more than 1,800 cases of microcephaly. In adults, Zika infections have also been linked to a rare neurological syndrome known as Guillain-Barre, as well as other neurological disorders. —Reuters



**FREIBURG, Germany:** A grasshopper seen sitting on flowers yesterday. —AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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## SMART SCHOOL VISITS KUWAIT TIMES

By Faten Omar

Students from Smart School visited the Kuwait Times newspaper in the Industrial Shuwaikh area for an educational field trip. The students were given short lectures on journalism, newspaper marketing and finance and a tour of the premises including the opportunity to see the printing press in action. The tour guide explained to students that Kuwait Times is the first English newspaper in Kuwait and that their printing press prints a number of widely distributed newspapers. They were shown how a newspaper is printed, and how newspapers provide readers with constant updates about what is going on in the country and around the globe.



## KAMCO SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the GCC region, organized a breast cancer awareness session for its employees in collaboration with "Inspire" fitness center and the Kuwait National Screening Session Program Team. The awareness campaign included a question and answer session, in addition to a fitness session hosted by Inspire. The campaign also included a sign up form for a mammogram screening conducted by the Kuwait National Screening Program Team.

KAMCO organized the event to spread awareness and support those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. KAMCO employees attended the eventful session that took place in Al Shaheed Tower. The Kuwait National Screening Session Program Team included Dr Asmaa Hussein, Dr Hanaa AlKhawari, and Mrs Mona Ashkanani who gave insightful information and answered all questions raised during the session. Vermeal, a qualified fitness trainer from Inspire, demonstrated different exercises and techniques that would lead to a healthier lifestyle if performed on a regular basis.

Ms Danah Al Jasem, Vice President and Head of the Marketing Department at KAMCO said, "We would like to recognize



the collaborative efforts put forth by both Inspire and the Kuwait National Screening Session Program Team along with KAMCO's

Marketing team in delivering yet another informative awareness session. It is critical for both women and men to detect the ear-

ly signs of breast cancer in order to prevent the disease from spreading or leading to possible fatalities. Preventative health measures and a healthy lifestyle are key practices to consider to reduce the possibility of the disease."

Ms Al Jasem added, "We will continue to utilize our resources in providing our employees with valuable information and lifestyle tips that will encourage early detection or decrease the likelihood of getting the disease. Breast cancer awareness, as well as other health awareness observations and events, fall in line with KAMCO's corporate social responsibility initiative to focus on health, education and the environment to benefit our society. We look forward to more informative and interactive events that are highly beneficial to our employees and the community."

All employees were encouraged to raise questions related to the detection, early stages and symptoms of breast cancer. Only female employees attended the fitness session held in the gym at Al Shaheed Tower. In addition to the scheduled activities, pink ribbons were displayed throughout the KAMCO offices to further commemorate those who have fought or are currently fighting the battle against breast cancer.

## HILTON KUWAIT RESORT HOSTS THIRD OPEN DAY AND RUN

For the third consecutive year, Hilton Kuwait Resort hosted a Hilton Club Member's open day and run filled with a range of fun outdoors activities. The open day was held in the hotel's beach, where various different entertainments awaited members, their families, and friends. Guests had the opportunity to try out beach yoga, Zumba, aerobics and spinning along with other exciting activities, while a magician amused the younger ones with stunts and tricks.

Members were also invited to join in the "Hilton Members Run" for a 3.5km race around the hotel between the resort's stunning gardens and beaches. To add to the fun, winners and participants of the run were rewarded with exciting prizes. In between the wide array of activities, guests were able to take a break and treat themselves with Hilton's delicious food and beverages.

"We are delighted to have hosted this event for the third year, as it gives us the chance to give our Hilton Club Members and their families a really fun day out at our property and reward them for their participation," said Ziad Tantawi, General Manager of Hilton Kuwait Resort. The event was sponsored by Refreshment Trading Company - Coca Cola Kuwait Habchi & Chalhoub Company and Be organic. The companies distributed valuable gifts to the winners of both the adult and children competitions and as part of the raffle draw.



## GUST LAUNCHES CENTER FOR TEACHING, LEARNING, AND RESEARCH

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) announced yesterday the launch of the Center for Teaching and Learning Research (CTRL), in collaboration with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). The launch kicked off a series of math, science and technology workshops with the Queen Rania Teacher Academy, Jordan.

The opening ceremony hosted Assistant Secretary General of Academic and Student Affairs at the Private Universities Council, Dr Nebal Boursli, Assistant Undersecretary to the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Meshal

Al Subaiee, Director of Scientific Culture Directorate at KFAS, Dr Salam Al-Ablani, Director of the National Center for Education Development, Dr Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, GUST President, Professor Donald Bates, as well as both private and public school administrators, principals and teachers, Ministry of Education supervisors, among others.

GUST President, Professor Donald Bates, said "With the launch of CTRL, we continue to grow as an academic and community leader. Collaborative efforts to give back to our community and build connections, whether

from within the country or abroad, are key to the growth and development of our programs and university, and as such, we are very proud to be working with esteemed institutions such as KFAS and QRTA."

Attendees will participate in hands-on bilingual workshops in math presented by Queen Rania Teacher Academy, under such topics as Calculus: Rate of Change & Functions by Dr Muad Al-Shiyyab, and Geometry: Platonic Solids by Kamal Lahlouh. Attendees will also have the opportunity to attend science workshops focused on problem based learning, and technology work-

shops by Dr Mohammad Yassim from GUST, and Dr Nouf Al-Wadi from Washington, DC.

Director General of KFAS, Dr Adnan Ahmad Shihab Eldin, said "The attendance of our teachers from the public and private schools of Kuwait to these events reflects a creative and dedicated community in which educators can collaborate and exchange information. The primary goal of the workshops is to help facilitate the implementation of the new math and science curricula by offering public and private school teachers high quality workshops in those areas as well as the use of technology.

As part of the CTRL, the Ustath Café will be created as an online teachers' forum funded by KFAS, to support math and science teachers across the country. The Ustath Café will be a specialized portal through which teachers and other educators can work on and share professional teaching methods and experiences. The forum is designed around the following topics: Learning Strategies, Evaluation, Curriculum, Educational Operations, Students, and Research. CTRL further cement's GUST as a leading institution for higher education in Kuwait that supports and contributes to its community.



## 88.8 FM RADIO STATION TO CREATE WAVES IN 360 MALL

360 MALL, Kuwait's iconic shopping mall, will be home to 88.8 FM, a distinctive local dialect radio station, which will broadcast from its studios at the mall's third level. The license to broadcast on 88.8 FM has been won by Blue General Trading and Contracting, starting from November 10, 2016 for a period of 5 years in

agreement with the Ministry of Information. 88.8 FM is the first private radio station in Kuwait which delivered a unique concept for radio programs, distinguishing itself from its competition very quickly. The station's fresh approach made itself welcoming to people through the use of local dialect and an empha-

sis on energetic and entertaining music. From its new location, the broadcast station will create and introduce new programs to suit its audiences, giving it a fresh lease of life. Claudia Lopusinska, Marketing Manager, 360 MALL, said: "We welcome our first broadcast tenant to the mall which adds to the rich mix of

retail offerings on hand for our valued patrons and guests. 360 MALL has always believed in differentiating itself through several new initiatives and the addition of 88.8 FM creates just that excitement, not only for our tenants but also for our visitors."

88.8 FM has several genres of shows and the way they're presented differs from the usual mainstream in radio. The station offers new topics, songs and invites media personalities to participate in its shows, utilizing the latest technology as well as all some of the most modern broadcasting equipment to produce an exciting and eclectic mix of music to listeners.



## NREC HOSTS KUWAIT CYCLING ORGANIZATION'S CYCLELEAGUE EVENT AT SOUQ SHARQ

The National Real Estate Company (NREC), one of the leading real estate companies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), hosted the Cycleleague event held by the Kuwait Cycling Organization at SouqSharq Waterfront.

Launched in 2015, the competitive activity is a race comprising four stages where each stage takes place in one of Kuwait's governorates in different months of the year. The kick-off stage was hosted at NREC's SouqSharq in October under the theme, 'Health'. The three remaining stages will be held in January, March and May, each under a different theme and governorate.

The route of the race is 5km long starting from Souq Sharq Waterfront to Kuwait Towers and back, with men contestants cycling 10 laps and women cycling 5 laps respectively. More than 140 participants from across the Gulf region took part in the race to win the title of stage one until the second stage taking place in January 2017.

NREC Group CEO, Mr Samuel Sidiqi, said: "We thank the organizer for choosing our Souq Sharq Waterfront development to kick off the race. We at NREC are advocates of promoting a healthier and more balanced lifestyle, as well as supporting local initiatives that offer valuable contributions to our community."

With a diverse offering for all tastes, Souq Sharq remains one of the most visited sites in Kuwait, and a great venue for outdoor events, all year round. Souq Sharq houses three distinguished offerings: The Shopping Center, which is home to a wide selection of retail brand names, restaurants, cafés and entertainment centers; The Fish and Vegetable Market, where the blend of old and new stands as a testament to a historical record of quality, freshness and a vibrant economy; and finally the National Yacht Club and Marina, offering a gateway for fishing vessels as well as accommodating hundreds of private yacht docks.

## TSC HOSTS IQRA'A BILINGUAL SCHOOL AT DAJEEJ WHOLESALE STORE

Dajeej recently hosted students from Iqra'a Bilingual School as part of TSC's ongoing commitment to support the community TSC Wholesale Center. Upon their visit, students were given a guided tour of the store by TSC store manager Sultan Darwesh. During the tour Darwesh explained to the students from where the products come from their country of origin, store operations and healthy snack choices.

Accompanied by their teachers and guided by Darwesh, students learned about the various departments within the store, they watched as staff stocked the shelves, built displays, cut meat and prepared bread for customers. The tour proved to be both educational and fun for the students and teachers.

Commenting on the educational initiative, Marketing manager Lisa Al-Ghareeb said, "It was a great opportunity to have the students visit the different section of the store and learn about the various products they consume and understand where products come from and how they displayed for customers to purchase". The students ended their visit and were presented with a coloring set and a TSC snack bag containing healthy snack options.

According to Darwish, "TSC is committed to supporting these educational opportunities across its countries of operation and encourage schools and students to visit the stores to learn about TSC retail operations."



## VIGOR EVENTS INTRODUCES SCIENCE OF SUSTAINABLE PEAK PERFORMANCE

On the 15th and 16th of November, an enriching 2-day workshop will be conducted by International trainer and the author of "The Success Formula" a book on leadership and "The Bee Book" a parable about change, innovation, employee engagement and leadership - Paul Rigby - in Kuwait. The workshop - which is organized by Vigor Events - focuses on the science of sustainable peak performance through enabling positive work environments demonstrating how positive enhancers lead to higher productivity, less staff turnover, more resilient cul-

tures, healthier employees and improved results. Using a story about a group of frogs who occupy 4 different ponds and change color as they find happiness and success in helping others, and through highly engaging, interactive and stimulating facilitation methods that ensure full learner engagement, delegates learn a process for developing employee engagement, productivity and motivation to get more with what they have using the 7 Principles based on the work of Shawn Achor, the author of "The Orange Frog". The workshop culminates with

the completion of an action plan to capture the delegates' learning and actions against all of the elements of the program. Such as discovery learning, activity based learning, application based, contextually relevant and research based principles. Paul has travelled to over 45 countries delivering keynote addresses and workshops to large multi-nationals, government organizations, SMEs, business schools and non-profit organizations.

This workshop is part of the Knowledge Club(tm) 2016 series which is organized by Vigor Events and

Co-Organized by ALGAS Events Company. Members of the Knowledge Club(tm) this year include Hadi Clinic as Gold Sponsor, Gulf Bank & Warba Insurance as Silver sponsors, Platinum Gym, Dar Alshifa Hospital, Warba Bank, and Bayout Investment Company as Event Sponsors, Corporate Sponsor Kuwait Oil Company, Success Partner Equate, Strategic Partner Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Executive Education Partner IE Business School and media support from the International Advertising Association Kuwait Chapter.



04:25 Deadliest Place On Earth  
05:15 Mermaids: The New Evidence  
06:02 Hunt For Hogzilla  
06:49 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger  
07:36 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
08:00 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
08:25 My Cat From Hell  
09:15 Operation Whale  
10:10 Operation Whale  
11:05 Tanked  
12:00 Rugged Justice  
12:55 Hello World!  
13:20 Hello World!  
13:50 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
14:15 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
14:45 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
15:10 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
15:40 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
16:05 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
16:35 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
17:00 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
17:30 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
17:55 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
18:25 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
18:50 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner  
19:20 Trehouse Masters  
20:15 Operation Whale  
21:10 Toucan Nation  
22:05 Trehouse Masters  
23:00 Mountain Monsters  
23:55 Mermaids: The New Evidence  
00:50 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian Tiger  
01:45 Killer Swarms  
02:40 Deadliest Place On Earth  
03:35 Rabid

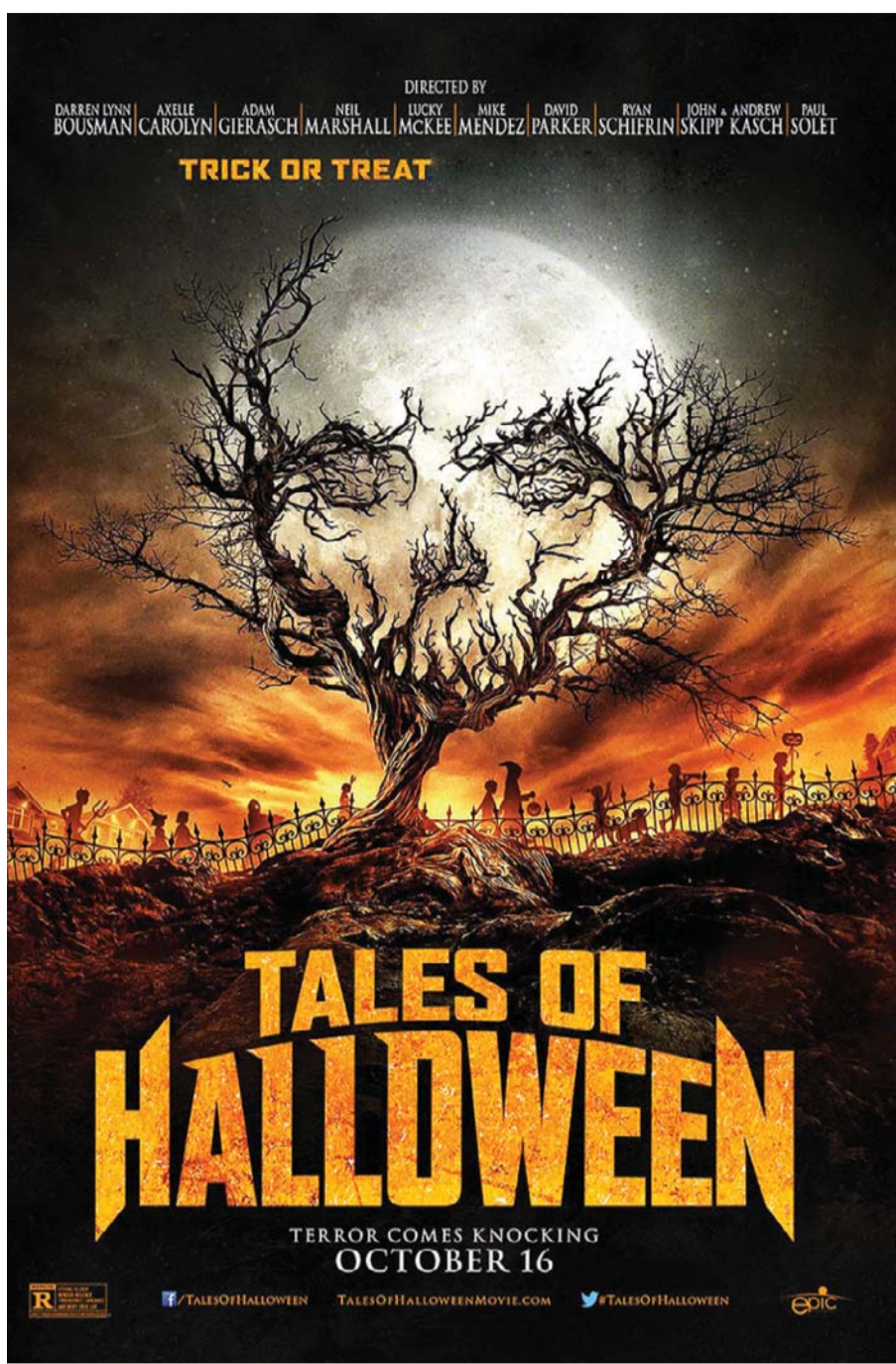
03:05 David Spade: My Fake Problems



04:15 Jungle Gold  
05:05 Jungle Gold  
06:00 Jungle Gold  
07:00 Deadliest Catch  
07:50 For The Love Of Cars  
08:40 Fast N' Loud  
09:30 Gold Divers  
10:20 Garage Gold  
10:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
11:10 How Do They Do It?  
11:35 Harley And The Davidson  
13:15 Fire In The Hole  
14:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
14:30 Storage Hunters  
14:55 Garage Gold  
15:20 Gold Divers  
16:10 Alaskan Bush People  
17:00 Deadliest Catch  
17:50 Fast N' Loud  
18:40 For The Love Of Cars  
19:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
19:55 How Do They Do It?  
20:20 Gold Divers  
21:10 Storage Hunters  
21:35 Garage Gold  
22:00 Extreme Car Hoarders  
22:50 Built To Survive  
23:40 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
00:30 Fast N' Loud  
01:20 For The Love Of Cars  
02:10 Extreme Car Hoarders  
03:00 Built To Survive  
03:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island



04:00 USA Memory Championships  
04:48 How Do They Do It?  
05:12 How Do They Do It?  
05:36 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Food Factory  
06:24 Food Factory  
06:48 Food Factory  
07:12 Food Factory  
07:36 Food Factory  
08:00 How Do They Do It?  
08:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
09:14 Redesign My Brain  
10:02 Mind Control Freaks  
10:26 Mind Control Freaks  
10:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
11:38 USA Memory Championships  
12:26 Prototype This  
13:14 Prototype This  
14:02 Prototype This  
14:50 Prototype This  
15:38 Prototype This  
16:26 Food Factory  
16:50 Food Factory  
17:14 Food Factory  
17:38 Food Factory  
18:02 Food Factory  
18:26 How Do They Do It?  
18:50 How Do They Do It?  
19:15 How Do They Do It?  
19:40 How Do They Do It?  
20:05 How Do They Do It?  
20:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
21:20 Redesign My Brain  
22:10 Mind Control Freaks  
22:35 Mind Control Freaks  
23:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
23:50 USA Memory Championships  
00:40 Food Factory  
01:05 Food Factory  
01:30 Food Factory  
01:55 Food Factory  
02:20 Food Factory  
02:45 How Do They Do It?  
03:10 How Do They Do It?  
03:35 How Do They Do It?



TALES OF HALLOWEEN ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

04:15 The Hive  
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:10 Hank Zipzer  
05:35 Binny And The Ghost  
06:00 Violetta  
06:45 The Hive  
06:50 Mouk  
07:00 Jessie  
07:25 Jessie  
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
07:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
08:20 Star Darlings  
08:25 Austin & Ally  
08:50 Disney Mickey Mouse  
08:55 Jessie  
09:20 Descendants Wicked World  
09:25 Backstage  
09:50 Star Darlings  
09:55 Alex & Co.  
10:20 Disney Mickey Mouse  
10:25 Girl Meets World  
10:50 Stuck In The Middle  
11:15 Liv And Maddie  
11:40 Chetah Girls: One World  
13:05 The 7D

05:00 Art Attack  
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:35 Calimero  
05:50 Zou  
06:00 Loopedidoo  
06:15 Art Attack  
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:50 Calimero  
07:00 Zou  
07:20 Loopedidoo  
07:35 Art Attack  
08:00 The Hive  
08:10 Zou  
08:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
08:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
09:00 Sofia The First  
09:30 Goldie & Bear  
10:00 PJ Masks  
10:30 Doc McStuffins  
11:00 Sofia The First  
11:30 Goldie & Bear  
12:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
12:30 PJ Masks

07:35 Super Matrak  
08:00 Danger Mouse  
08:25 K.C. Undercover  
08:50 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
09:15 Supa Strikas  
09:40 Kirby Buckets  
10:10 Ratalouille  
12:05 Danger Mouse  
12:20 Supa Strikas  
12:45 Supa Strikas  
13:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
13:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
14:00 Phineas & Ferb: Mission Marvel  
14:55 Gravity Falls  
15:20 Gravity Falls  
15:45 Danger Mouse  
16:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
16:15 Counterfeit Cat  
16:40 Supa Strikas  
17:05 Supa Strikas  
17:30 Supa Strikas  
17:55 Supa Strikas  
18:25 Supa Strikas  
18:50 Danger Mouse  
19:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
19:40 Counterfeit Cat  
20:05 Counterfeit Cat  
20:10 Gravity Falls  
20:35 Pickle And Peanut  
21:00 Lab Rats  
21:25 Supa Strikas  
21:55 K.C. Undercover  
22:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
22:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
23:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble  
23:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



04:05 Coronation Street  
04:30 Coronation Street  
04:55 Coronation Street  
05:15 The Chase  
06:10 The Chase  
07:05 The Jonathan Ross Show  
07:55 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans  
08:45 Grantchester  
09:40 Tonight At The London Palladium  
10:35 Murdoch Mysteries  
11:30 Murdoch Mysteries  
12:20 Murdoch Mysteries  
13:15 Catchphrase  
13:45 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans  
14:40 Victoria  
15:35 Royal Stories  
16:00 Tonight At The London Palladium  
16:55 Catchphrase  
17:30 The Jonathan Ross Show  
18:20 Grantchester  
19:10 The Chase  
20:05 Victoria  
21:00 Tonight At The London Palladium  
21:55 Catchphrase  
22:30 The Jonathan Ross Show  
23:25 Cameraman To The Queen

00:15 Royal Stories  
00:40 Coronation Street  
01:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
02:00 Emmerdale  
02:30 Emmerdale  
03:00 Coronation Street  
03:30 The Chase



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



04:45 Secret Life Of Predators  
05:40 South Africa  
06:35 Animal Fight Club  
07:30 Monster Fish  
08:25 Monster Fish  
09:20 Dangerous Encounters  
10:15 Wild Russia  
11:10 Animal Storm Squad  
12:05 Wild 24  
13:00 Bandit Patrol  
13:55 World's Creepiest Killers  
14:50 Jobs That Bite!  
15:45 Secret Life Of Predators  
16:40 South Africa  
17:35 South Africa  
18:30 The Incredible Dr. Pol  
19:25 Animal Superpowers  
20:20 Secret Life Of Predators  
21:10 South Africa  
22:00 South Africa  
22:50 The Incredible Dr. Pol  
23:40 Animal Superpowers  
00:30 Bandit Patrol  
01:20 World's Creepiest Killers  
02:10 Jobs That Bite!  
03:00 World's Deadliest Animals  
03:50 Caught In The Act



04:50 The Yard  
05:45 Monster Fish  
06:40 Cold Water Gold  
07:35 Mega Factories  
08:30 World's Most Extreme  
09:25 Nazi World War Weird  
10:20 No Man Left Behind  
11:15 Locked Up Abroad  
12:10 Airport Security: Colombia  
13:05 4 Babies A Second

14:00 Dog Whisperer  
15:00 Dog Whisperer  
16:00 Yukon Gold  
17:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South  
18:00 Facing...  
19:00 Nazi World War Weird  
20:00 Yukon Gold  
21:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South  
21:50 Facing...  
22:40 Nazi World War Weird  
23:30 Yukon Gold  
00:20 Family Guns  
01:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South  
02:00 Facing...  
03:00 Nazi World War Weird  
03:55 Yukon Gold



04:00 Grimm  
05:00 Marvel's Agent Carter  
06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend  
07:00 The Amazing Race  
08:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow  
09:00 Rosewood  
10:00 Marvel's Agent Carter  
11:00 The Amazing Race  
12:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow  
13:00 Rosewood  
14:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
15:00 Marvel's Agent Carter  
16:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend  
17:00 The Blacklist  
18:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
19:00 Rosewood  
20:00 Containment  
21:00 This Is Us  
22:00 Notorious  
23:00 How To Get Away With Murder  
00:00 Bates Motel  
01:00 Prison Break  
02:00 Notorious  
03:00 How To Get Away With Murder



05:00 Apocalypse Pompeii  
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
09:00 Batman vs. Robin  
11:00 Grosse Pointe Blank  
13:00 Deep Rising  
15:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
17:00 The Babadook  
19:00 Annabelle  
21:00 Poltergeist  
23:00 Jessabelle  
01:00 Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones  
03:00 Ouija



05:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey  
07:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic  
09:00 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star  
11:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey  
13:00 A Lot Like Love  
15:00 Sunshine On Leith  
17:00 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star  
19:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian  
21:00 The Invention Of Lying  
23:00 Tales Of Halloween  
01:00 Army Of Darkness  
03:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian



05:30 Gridiron Gang  
07:45 War Horse  
10:15 Parkland  
12:00 Short Term 12  
14:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun  
16:00 Stone Markers  
18:00 Parkland  
20:00 Decoding Annie Parker  
22:00 Calendar Girls  
00:00 Ex Machina  
02:00 Stone Markers



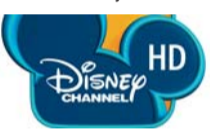
04:00 Alex Of Venice  
06:00 Pixels  
08:00 The Imitation Game  
10:00 Alex Of Venice  
12:00 Ricki And The Flash  
14:00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This  
16:00 Life Of A King  
18:00 Ant-Man  
20:00 Big Game  
22:00 Pay The Ghost  
00:00 Sisters  
02:00 The Homesman



04:15 Death In Paradise  
05:10 Doctors  
05:40 Eastenders  
06:10 The Coroner  
07:00 Doctors  
07:30 Eastenders  
08:00 Holly City  
09:00 New Tricks  
09:55 Doctor Who  
10:45 Stella  
11:35 Doctors  
12:05 Eastenders  
12:40 Death In Paradise  
13:35 Doctor Who  
14:30 Stella  
15:15 Doctors  
15:45 Eastenders  
16:20 New Tricks  
17:15 Doctor Who  
18:10 Stella  
19:00 Doctors  
19:30 Eastenders  
20:05 New Tricks  
21:00 Wallander  
22:40 Silent Witness  
23:40 Orphan Black  
00:25 Doctors  
00:55 Eastenders  
01:25 Wallander  
03:05 Silent Witness



04:00 Storm Chasers  
04:50 Ultimate Survival  
05:40 Ultimate Survival  
06:30 Ultimate Survival  
07:20 How It's Made  
07:40 How It's Made  
08:00 Kenny The Shark  
08:25 Kenny The Shark  
08:50 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild  
09:15 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild  
09:40 How It's Made  
10:05 How It's Made  
10:30 How It's Made  
10:55 How It's Made  
11:20 How It's Made  
11:45 How It's Made  
12:10 How It's Made  
12:35 How It's Made  
13:00 How It's Made  
13:25 How It's Made  
13:50 Ultimate Survival  
14:40 Ultimate Survival  
15:30 Ultimate Survival  
16:20 Ultimate Survival  
17:10 Ultimate Survival  
18:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
18:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
19:40 Bear Grylls Survival School  
20:05 Bear Grylls Survival School  
20:30 Prehistoric  
21:20 Clash Of The Dinosaurs  
22:10 Curiosity: Megastorm  
23:00 What Happened Next?  
23:25 What Happened Next?  
23:50 What Happened Next?  
00:15 What Happened Next?  
00:40 What Happened Next?  
01:05 What Happened Next?  
01:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?



04:15 The Hive  
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:10 Hank Zipzer  
05:35 Binny And The Ghost  
06:00 Violetta  
06:45 The Hive  
06:50 Mouk  
07:00 Jessie  
07:25 Jessie  
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
07:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
08:20 Star Darlings  
08:25 Austin & Ally  
08:50 Disney Mickey Mouse  
08:55 Jessie  
09:20 Descendants Wicked World  
09:25 Backstage  
09:50 Star Darlings  
09:55 Alex & Co.  
10:20 Disney Mickey Mouse  
10:25 Girl Meets World  
10:50 Stuck In The Middle  
11:15 Liv And Maddie  
11:40 Chetah Girls: One World  
13:05 The 7D



04:00 Workaholics  
04:25 Catch A Contractor  
04:50 Ridiculousness  
05:15 Key And Peele  
05:40 Ridiculousness  
06:05 Ridiculousness



BATMAN VS ROBIN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

06:30 Impractical Jokers  
06:55 Impractical Jokers  
07:20 Tosh.0  
07:50 Tosh.0  
08:15 Hungry Investors  
09:05 Ridiculousness  
09:30 Ridiculousness  
09:55 Impractical Jokers  
10:20 Impractical Jokers  
10:45 Nathan For You  
11:10 Nathan For You  
11:35 Ridiculousness  
12:00 Catch A Contractor  
12:25 Hungry Investors  
13:15 Workaholics  
13:40 Workaholics  
14:05 Impractical Jokers  
14:30 Impractical Jokers  
14:55 Ridiculousness  
15:20 Ridiculousness  
15:45 Coaching Bad  
16:35 Tosh.0  
17:00 Tosh.0  
17:30 Nathan For You  
17:55 Nathan For You  
18:25 Workaholics  
18:50 Tattoo Disasters  
19:15 Tattoo Disasters  
19:39 Ridiculousness  
20:03 Ridiculousness  
20:27 Impractical Jokers  
20:50 Impractical Jokers  
21:13 TUT  
22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
22:30 John Oliver's New York  
22:50 Stand Up Show  
23:18 Broad City  
23:42 Tosh.0  
00:05 Lip Sync Battle  
00:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
01:00 John Oliver's New York  
01:30 Stand Up Show  
01:50 South Park  
02:15 Tosh.0  
02:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Wrong?  
02:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
03:10 Storm Chasers  
04:00 Surviving Evil  
04:48 I Almost Got Away With It  
05:36 I Almost Got Away With It  
06:24 I Almost Got Away With It  
07:12 I Almost Got Away With It  
08:00 Nightmare Next Door  
08:50 Nightmare Next Door  
09:40 Nightmare Next Door  
10:30 Nightmare Next Door  
11:20 Nightmare Next Door  
12:10 Obsession: Dark Desires  
13:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
13:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
13:50 Deadly Affairs  
14:40 Deadly Affairs  
15:30 Deadly Affairs  
16:20 Deadly Affairs  
17:10 Obsession: Dark Desires  
18:00 I'd Kill For You  
18:50 I'd Kill For You  
19:40 I'd Kill For You  
20:30 I'd Kill For You  
21:20 I'd Kill For You  
22:10 Hank Zipzer  
22:35 California Investigator  
23:00 California Investigator  
23:50 The Vanishing Women  
23:50 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall  
00:40 The Coroner: I Speak For The Dead  
01:30 A Haunting  
02:20 Alaska Haunting  
03:10 The Vanishing Women

13:20 That's So Raven  
13:45 That's So Raven  
14:10 That's So Raven  
14:35 That's So Raven  
15:00 That's So Raven  
15:25 Austin & Ally  
15:50 Austin & Ally  
16:15 Disney Cookabout  
16:40 Bunk'd  
17:05 Descendants Wicked World  
17:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
18:00 Gravity Falls  
18:25 Teen Beach 2  
20:00 Star Darlings  
20:05 Austin & Ally  
20:30 Jessie  
20:55 Liv And Maddie  
21:20 Best Friends Whenever  
21:45 Good Luck Charlie  
22:10 H2O: Just Add Water  
22:35 H2O: Just Add Water  
23:00 Binny And The Ghost  
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
00:10 Hank Zipzer  
00:35 Binny And The Ghost  
01:00 Violetta  
01:45 The Hive  
01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:40 Hank Zipzer  
03:05 Binny And The Ghost  
03:30 Violetta

13:00 Goldie & Bear  
13:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
13:40 Miles From Tomorrow  
14:00 Sofia The First  
14:30 Goldie & Bear  
15:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
15:30 The Lion Guard  
16:00 PJ Masks  
16:30 Sofia The First  
17:00 Doc McStuffins  
17:30 Goldie & Bear  
18:00 PJ Masks  
18:30 The Lion Guard  
19:00 Goldie & Bear  
19:30 Goldie & Bear  
20:00 PJ Masks  
20:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
21:00 Doc McStuffins  
21:30 Sofia The First  
22:00 The Lion Guard  
22:30 The Lion Guard  
23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
00:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
00:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:20 Calimero  
00:35 Zou  
00:50 Loopedidoo  
01:05 Art Attack  
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:45 Calimero  
02:00 Zou  
02:15 Loopedidoo  
02:30 Art Attack  
03:00 Calimero  
03:15 Zou  
03:30 Loopedidoo  
03:45 Art Attack



07:00 Boyster  
07:10 Super Matrak



04:40 Christina Milian Turned Up  
05:35 Christina Milian Turned Up  
06:30 Celebrity Style Story  
07:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
07:50 El News  
08:20 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
09:10 El News  
10:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
10:55 Botched  
11:45 Botched  
12:35 Botched  
13:25 Botched  
14:20 Botched  
15:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
16:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
17:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
18:00 Rob & Chyna  
19:00 Rob & Chyna  
20:00 El News  
21:00 Rob & Chyna  
22:00 Rob & Chyna  
23:00 WAGs  
00:00 Rob & Chyna  
01:00 Rob & Chyna  
01:55 WAGs  
02:50 El News  
03:50 Botched



04:10 Counting Cars: Best Of  
04:35 Counting Cars: Best Of  
05:00 Shipping Wars  
05:30 Shipping Wars  
06:00 Time Team  
07:00 Shipping Wars  
07:25 Shipping Wars  
07:50 American Pickers  
08:40 Ax Men  
09:30 American Restoration  
09:55 Counting Cars  
10:20 Counting Cars  
10:45 Ice Road Truckers  
11:35 American Restoration  
12:25 Battle 360  
13:15 Mountain Men  
14:05 The Curse Of Oak Island  
14:55 Storage Wars: Best Of  
15:20 Storage Wars: Best Of  
15:45 Alone  
16:35 Shipping Wars  
17:00 Ax Men  
17:50 Storage Wars Miami  
18:15 Storage Wars Texas  
18:40 The Curse Of Oak Island  
19:30 Battle 360  
20:20 American Pickers  
21:10 Pawn Stars  
21:35 Pawn Stars  
22:00 Pawn Stars



BIG GAME ON OSN MOVIES HD



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



## PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

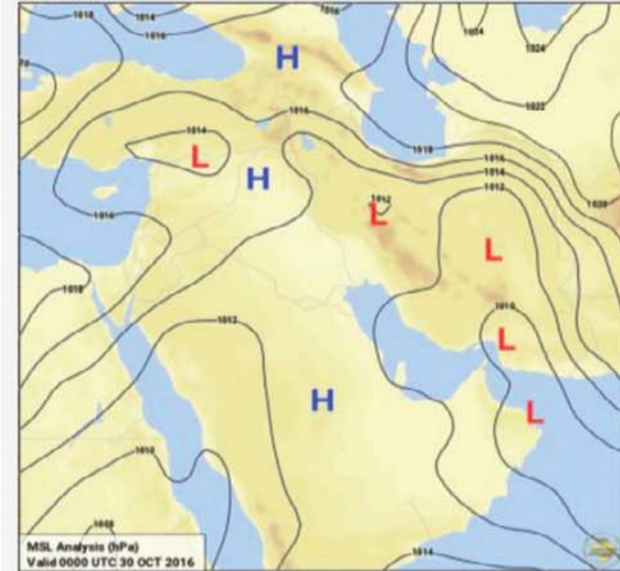
#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 30/10/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 37 °C

**By Day** : Hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h  
**By Night** : Fair with light to moderate north westerly to northerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h

SFC. CHART



#### Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	Hot + relatively humid especially over coastal areas	hot + scattered clouds	partly cloudy + raising dust over open areas	temperature will decrease + a chance dust
Min Temp °C	18	19	20	16
Max Temp °C	35	39	38	28
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	south easterly changing to south westerly	south westerly changing to north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 28	15 - 38	15 - 45	25 - 50

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

#### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

#### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	25	32
KUWAIT AIRPORT	18	37
ABDALY	20	37
BUBYAN	19	31
JAHRA	22	38
FAILAKA ISLAND	21	35
SALMIYAH	27	29
AHMADI	26	32
JAL ALIYAH	20	38
QAROH ISLAND	28	34
UMM AL-MARADEM	27	32
NUWAISIB	20	37
WAFRA	18	37
MANAGISH	20	37
SALMY	21	36
MUTRIBA	18	39

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	38
Min Temp (°C)	18
Max Rel Hum (%)	94
Min Rel Hum (%)	11
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:00
Sunset	17:04

#### Prayer Times

Fajr	04:39
Sunrise	06:00
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:40
Sunset	17:04
Isha	18:22

## INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



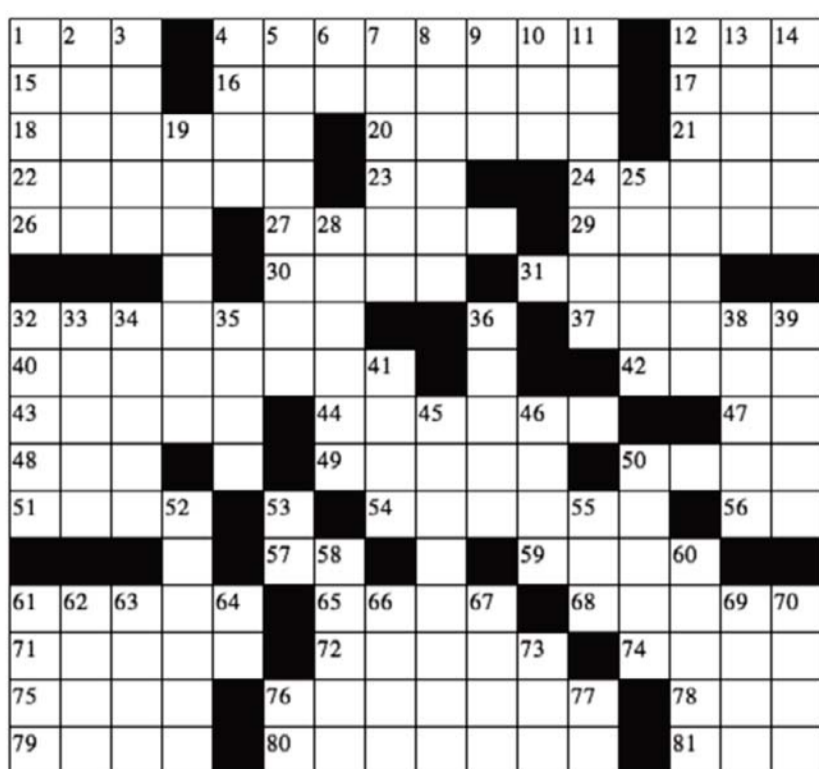
## PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	Family Doctor
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	Psychiatrists
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrah	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
DR.Mohammed Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
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Psychologists / Psychotherapists	Soor Center	Kaizen center	Noor Clinic	William Schuilenberg, RPC
info@soorcenter.com	Tel: 2290-1677	25716707	23845955	2290-1677
www.soorcenter.com	Fax: 2290 1688			Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

CROSSWORD 1416



ACROSS

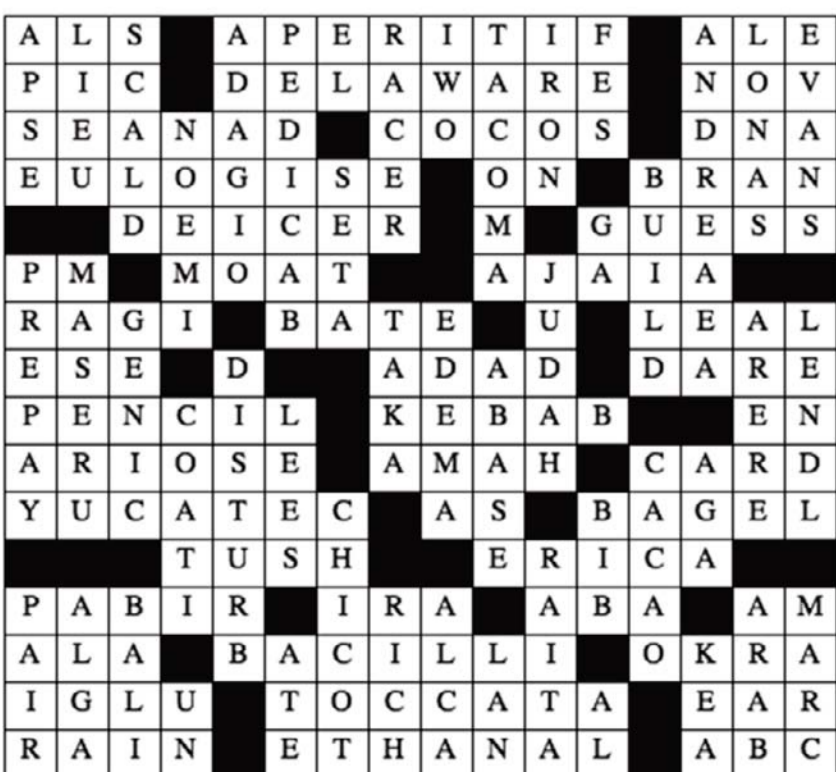
1. 10 hao equal 1 dong.
4. Someone who educates.
12. 3 to 30 gigahertz.
15. Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
16. A unit of information equal to one trillion (1,000,000,000,000) bytes.
17. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
18. Reimburse or compensate (someone), as for a loss.
20. Wood of a larch tree.
21. Being one more than six.
22. Workplace for the teaching or practice of an art.
23. A public promotion of some product or service.
24. Port city on southern Honshu on Osaka Bay.
26. A group of cattle or sheep or other domestic mammals all of the same kind that are herded by humans.
27. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
29. A member of a Turkic people of Chinese Turkestan and neighboring areas (formerly of Mongolia and eastern Turkestan).
30. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
31. A small island.
32. A city on the Loire river in north central France.
37. A republic in southeastern Europe on the southern part of the Balkan peninsula.
40. North American evergreen with small pinkish bell-shaped flowers and oblong leaves used formerly for shipplasters.
42. Make synchronous and adjust in time or manner.
43. French philosopher remembered as the founder of positivism.
44. A member of the tribe of Franks who settled in the Netherlands in the 4th century AD.
47. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
48. Black tropic American cuckoo.
49. A broken piece of a brittle artifact.
51. Remaining after all deductions.
54. Make more intense, stronger, or more marked.
56. Being one hundred more than three hundred.
57. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
59. A swift whirling motion (usually of a missile).
61. State in northeastern India.
65. A city in northern India.
68. Affect with wonder.
71. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
72. The main city of ancient Phoenicia.
74. The sixth month of the civil year.
75. A Loloish language.
78. The United Nations agency concerned with international maritime activities.
79. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
80. Someone who has hemophilia and is sub-

ject to uncontrollable bleeding.  
81. The network in the reticular formation that serves an alerting or arousal function.

DOWN

1. Unpleasantly stern.
2. A sharp narrow ridge found in rugged mountains.
3. Come to pass.
4. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles.
5. Anticonvulsant (trade name Depokene) used to prevent some kinds of seizures.
6. An ancient city of Sumer located on a former channel of the Euphrates River.
7. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
8. A port city in southwestern Iran.
9. (Norse mythology) God of war and strife and son of Odin.
10. (of securities) Not quoted on a stock exchange.
11. Put up in a new or different housing.
12. In a vicious manner.
13. An epigrammatic Japanese verse form of three short lines.
14. A male religious of an order of mendicant preachers of the gospel.
19. A piece of cloth that is left over after the rest has been used or sold.
25. United States operatic soprano (born in 1929).
28. A region of northeastern France famous for its wines.
33. A major French river.
34. The greatest possible degree of something.
35. On or toward the lee.
36. A French river.
38. Ludicrously odd.
39. A burn cause by hot liquid or steam.
41. King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).
45. A substance derived from amygdalin.
46. A system of one or more computers and associated software with common storage.
50. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
52. (Greek mythology) The Muse of comedy and pastoral poetry.
53. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
55. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
58. (botany) Especially of leaves.
60. An extreme state of adversity.
62. The act of rising upward into the air.
63. Mentally healthy.
64. Informal terms for a mother.
66. A strong wind moving 45-90 knots.
67. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
69. The battle in 202 BC in which Scipio decisively defeated Hannibal at the end of the second Punic War.
70. (Greek mythology) God of love.
73. (informal) Of the highest quality.
76. A unit of magnetic flux equal to 100,000,000 maxwells.
77. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are hitting the restart button today to align an intimate partnership with your dreams. Although a new direction is favored, it's possible to begin with a clean slate while still in a familiar relationship. Unlike the leopard that can't change its spots, you can alter your position on an important subject or emotionally transform within an existing structure. The passionate Scorpio New Moon triggers your 8th House of Deep Sharing, prompting you to seek more spiritual channels of expression in all facets of your life. Picasso wrote, "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Although you will find an overall increase in your finances this month, you may also find an increased urge to spend. Less is sometimes better. Savings and investments should take uppermost attention now. Your financial earnings could be best found in the medical or health food fields. You may be considering a bit of travel to a foreign land soon, particularly if your job concerns are in importing and exporting. You have a greater than usual interest in fads, social connections and the arts, which enables you to catch up on incoming trends. Seeing both sides of an issue and figuring out resolutions to opposing views take on importance this evening as you may want to have a family member with you on your trip. It is a wonderful time to share.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Meeting yourself in another person is a subject you may ponder this day. You may have to put a halt to gossip. Relationships-whether they are romantic, business or social-are in the arena where a drama could be played out because of gossip. Fire goes out for lack of fuel. You can use your skills and expertise to solve problems and realize successful results. Figuring things out, spotting the fly in the ointment, separating the sheep from the goats begin to take on a special appeal for you. Seeing both sides of an issue and figuring out resolutions to opposing views is important to you. Later this afternoon you will enjoy some "me" time... Perhaps with some newly purchased music, a magazine or new book.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Real estate is the topic of conversation this morning and you may work for a large real-estate company. It is time to encourage signatures and a client seems to continuously have one more question... And then another. Eventually you succeed and can breathe a sigh of relief. The price is good and the buyers are planning to meet next at the closing. Close personal ties to other people are a focal point for your feelings-marriage and other partnerships could be a key arena for this. It could be that time is getting close for a marriage or for a renewal of a marriage. This is a great time to enjoy a positive sort of project with your mate. Perhaps together you can help with the elderly in your neighborhood or a single mother, or sign up to speak at a scout meeting.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

It is your turn to take charge of a family situation today but the decision, at the last minute, goes to someone else. While all of this is very perplexing, you know that if you do not want to take commands from your senior relatives, in time... It will be your turn. A new animal or a young pet will hold everyone's attention this afternoon. If you decide to keep this animal, you must assign yourself time to train it properly. It would be best to find a professional trainer, perhaps through your veterinarian. If you are lucky enough to find a training class, be sure to sign up. This can all be a fun topic of conversation with your friends that show off their pets. You might enjoy shopping for ingredients that you could use to make pet snacks.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Travel and adventure are compelling conversation temptations as you take in a bit of coffee at the nearest bookstore this morning. Your friends may join in the conversations about exploration and adventure. Listen carefully; each person will have a favorite way to pack a backpack and tips for short or long trips. Time flows in one direction only and it is important not to get too carried away with conversations in order that the things you want to get accomplished, get completed. You may find yourself responsible for decorating a display window on your day off and you may decide to paint one wall in a cerulean blue to be a background to some new ski wear. Tonight you may decide to drive through a takeout place and relax at home with your food.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your mind is quick and sharp and your words are the only tool you will need today. You have insight into your emotions and drive and you move beyond feelings with great insight. It may take a while for some people to see the wisdom you have accumulated but you will be able to teach others through your example. Do not concern yourself so much when you are tested; there will naturally be some testing. This testing helps you and others learn problem-solving techniques. Your analytical powers are superb and you enjoy finding new avenues of inner growth. Your intuition is strong and can guide you accurately in making forecasts or decisions. You love to play a musical instrument and tonight you might gather a group to play.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a day when you may find an item you thought you had lost. You are very pleased. There is a chance to complete old projects and weed through the unessential. Opinions are important and you may be making several long-distance phone calls this afternoon in order to confer with a close friend. It would not be so unusual but it is difficult to get clear connections. This will take time. Opinions could be the keynote of this day-opinions of friends, visitors and perhaps clients. Realize that circumstances can change opinions in the wink of an eye-become patient, an open mind is important. Refinement and relationships are the keys to emotional satisfaction for you now. There is much joy in this evening's celebrations.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

An adventure is always interesting to you and after a friend brings up some new ideas you may decide some type of research is in order. There are ways to travel inexpensively within a group. You and a neighbor may combine your effort in a yard sale today, so as to help in travel expenses. Another aspect of having a garage sale is the new closet space you will now have. If this is not the effort of the day, there will be some effort in which you will work with others to gain funds. You like to do things with care and enjoy being discriminating and exact. Your critical faculties are excellent, and you can always pick out what is worth saving. The ways you stay in touch at the everyday level are being changed by technology. Discoveries are fun!



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may notice a growing self-confidence and outgoing attitude at this time. You have brought to a close a time of inward examination and learning. You have a growing sense of direction and self-worth and will find yourself reaching out to establish yourself. You may be able to help family members when they ask you for ideas that are within your realm of talent. You are graciously able to use your main source of work to give advice. They will bring you more clients when you stop to help. You may have the urge to overspend or indulge too much today. Careful-you could be guiding a young person and may want to set a thrifty example. Don't be afraid to make plans to work on your future goals. Consider some advertisement methods.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You tend to take everything with great passion. Your drive to get at the heart and truth of things is constantly invoked and serves as a common theme in your life. This could be a touch-and-go time when it comes to your emotions and the environment in which you find yourself. You may be up against it for a while, as things get tight and progress is slowed. You may find that your personal growth may depend upon how you can handle a sensitive person now. Your emotional life may seem to slow to a trickle or to be completely blocked by another. Patience-this will pass-you can only make your situation more difficult if you complain. View the day as though it belonged to someone else; new insight can be enjoyed. This evening you are able to relax.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are in a great mood of self-enjoyment at this time and this is good as the people around you are busy and involved with many things. You may deal with education, psychology, spiritual enlightenment or teaching principles and techniques. Ideas and thoughts will begin to have greater meaning. You may complete your professional work early and decide to spend time helping in another department. After work you may decide to check out the library near your home and also you can make sure your library card is updated. There are many new things to look at and take home: music, recorded books, classes, help with homework and good looking, smart people. You are at your mental best when you are communicating with others.

WORD SEARCH

Movie Actresses 2

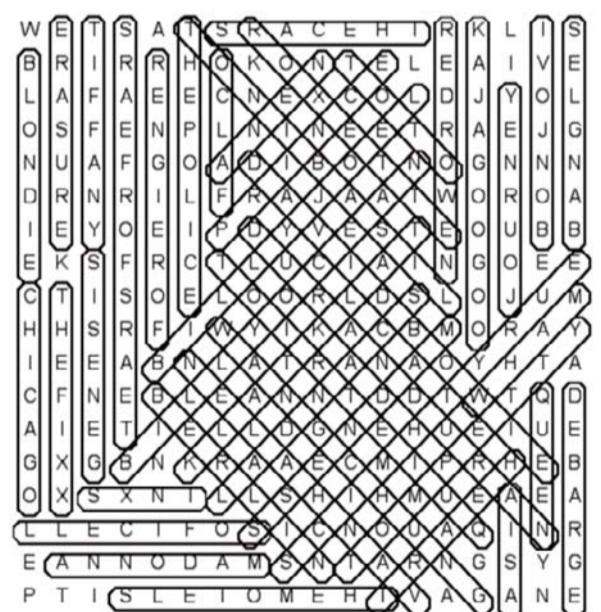
Find and circle all of the Movie Actresses that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a movie for which Louise Fletcher won an Oscar.



- |                    |                     |                    |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| BATES, Kathy       | JOHANSSON, Scarlett | SPACEK, Sissy      |
| BINOCHÉ, Juliette  | KIDMAN, Nicole      | STEENBURGEN, Mary  |
| BRESLIN, Abigail   | KNIGHTLEY, Keira    | STEWART, Kristen   |
| BULLOCK, Sandra    | LINNEY, Laura       | STREEP, Meryl      |
| BURSTYN, Ellen     | LOHAN, Lindsay      | SWINTON, Tilda     |
| CLARKSON, Patricia | MACLAINE, Shirley   | THURMAN, Uma       |
| CRUZ, Penelope     | MCADAMS, Rachel     | TOMEI, Marisa      |
| DELPY, Julie       | MOORE, Julianne     | WALTERS, Julie     |
| DESCHANEL, Zoë     | PFEIFFER, Michelle  | WATTS, Naomi       |
| DUNST, Kirsten     | PORTMAN, Natalie    | WEAVER, Sigourney  |
| FARMIGA, Vera      | REID, Tara          | WEISZ, Rachel      |
| FLETCHER, Louise   | ROBERTS, Julia      | WINSLET, Kate      |
| HAYEK, Salmá       | RYDER, Winona       | WITHERSPOON, Reese |
| HEIGL, Katherine   | SARANDON, Susan     | ZELLWEGER, Renee   |
| HUDSON, Kate       | SMITH, Maggie       |                    |

Yesterday Solution

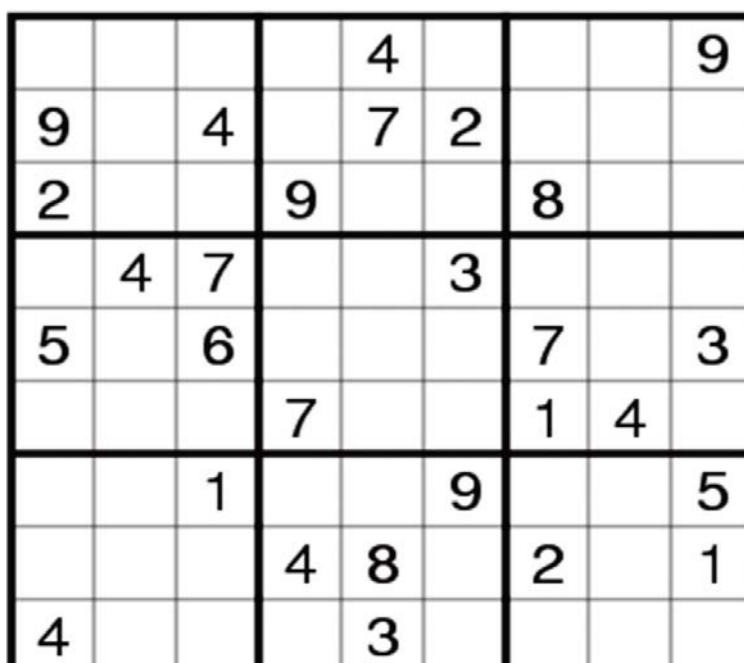
80's Radio Hitmakers



- |             |             |                 |            |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| ASIA        | ERASURE     | NENA            | THE FIXX   |
| BANGLES     | EURHYTHMICS | NEW ORDER       | THE MOTELS |
| BERLIN      | FALCO       | PRINCE          | THE POLICE |
| BILLY JOEL  | FOREIGNER   | QUEEN           | TIFFANY    |
| BILLY OCEAN | GENESIS     | QUIET RIOT      | TOM PETTY  |
| BLONDIE     | HEART       | ROXETTE         | TONI BASIL |
| BON JOVI    | INXS        | SCANDAL         | TOTO       |
| CHICAGO     | JOURNEY     | SOFT CELL       | VAN HALEN  |
| DAVID BOWIE | KAJAGOOGOO  | TALK TALK       | WANG CHUNG |
| DEBARGE     | MADNESS     | TEARS FOR FEARS | WHAM!      |
| DURAN DURAN | MADONNA     | THE CARS        |            |

The hidden song title is: WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

Daily SuDoku



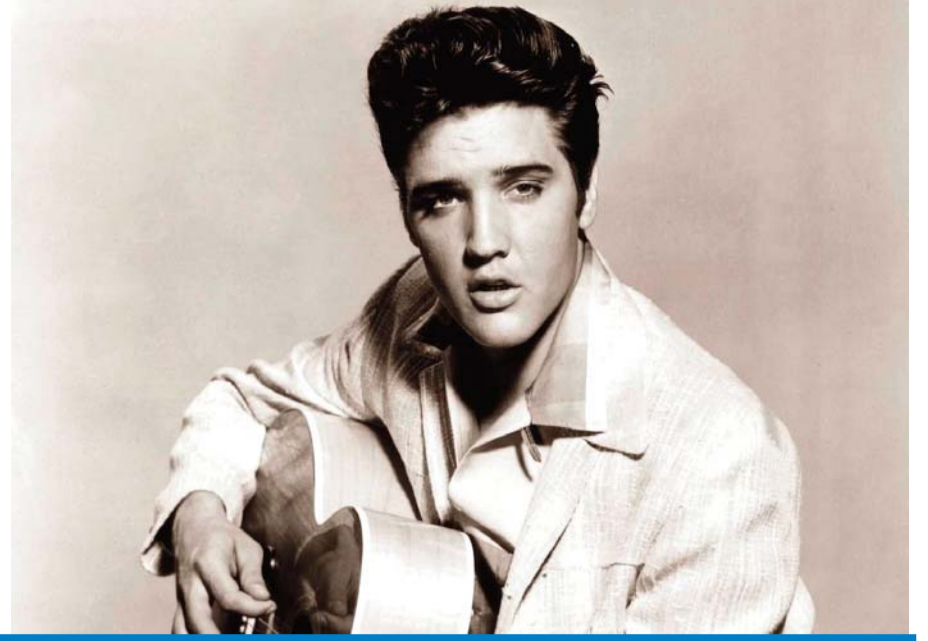
Yesterday's Solution



## Elvis Presley the most successful solo artist of all time in the UK

The late King of Rock 'n' Roll - who tragically died in 1977 - has knocked Madonna off the hot spot after his latest LP 'The Wonder Of You: Elvis Presley With The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra' flew to the top of the official Album Charts on Friday (28.10.16) - making him the only solo musician to have 13 Number One albums across England, Scotland and Wales. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, producer Nick Patrick - who worked on the reworking of Presley's hits - said: "Madonna will be weeping into her cornflakes. She will be frantically calling up her record label saying, 'Get me another album now I need to get this back.' It would be gracious [if Madonna gave him a nod on Twitter]." The Beatles are currently record holders for the band with the most Number One hit albums in the UK with 15 and, although he'd like nothing more than to smash that target too, Nick is just taking it as it comes for the time being. He added:

"One step at a time - that's a long way off." 'The Wonder Of You' is the second record to be made with the orchestra following last year's smash hit 'If I Can Dream'. Nick explained: "This one is more up - there's more up-tempo things. There is a huge wealth of material and these are definitely more overtly commercial with a lot of his biggest hits." He worked on the album with Don Reedman and Presley's ex-wife Priscilla and they all agreed to keep the original element of the late rocker's tracks. He said: "You so often hear remixes of artists from the past and they really pull apart the original and make them entirely new, we respected the spirit of the original records, making them fresh and bigger, which the orchestra does brilliantly. When Priscilla heard it, she absolutely loved it."



### Heidi Klum

having 'a lot of fun' with her boyfriend

The 43-year-old model has only been dating her toyboy lover Vita Schnabel for two years but she's teased that "a lot of things are happening" between them and their romance is perfect. Speaking to E! News, she said: "I'm having a lot of fun with him. A lot of things are happening right now. What else needs to happen? Everything is great the way things are." Despite her affection for the 30-year-old hunk, the blonde beauty is adamant she doesn't want to get married again following her failed unions with stylist Ric Pipino and singer Seal - with whom she raises children Leni, 12, Henry, 11, Johan, 10, and Lou, seven - in case it all goes wrong again. She said recently: "I love being in love, like when you have butterflies in your stomach and when you feel great. I celebrate all the romance I'm quite old-fashioned that way. I don't know, I love enjoying life and celebrating the love and being happy." Asked if that means she'll consider walking down the aisle again, she added: "I've done it twice and it didn't really work out for me, so why hurt something when it's all good the way it is." Meanwhile, Red Hot Chili Peppers rocker Anthony Keidis recently spoke of how his brief but "intense" 2002 romance with Heidi was one of the "most beautiful memories" of his life. And, although the German supermodel was taken back by the comments, she was very flattered to hear his fond recollection. She said: "Obviously, it's very nice when you still get along with your ex in a way or someone you have dated in the past. "And you know, we had a very special time together. I never really thought that anyone knew anything about that. It's funny that he brings it up after so many years."



### Kim Kardashian West

slowly getting back into 'normal life'

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star is taking a much-needed break from work after she was robbed at gunpoint in Paris earlier this month, but she's decided to start getting back out there in the spotlight over the next coming weeks. Speaking to 'Entertainment Tonight', a source said: "Kim is definitely ready to start getting back to her normal life, little by little. She's taking it day by day and isn't pushing it. "It's been almost a month since the robbery happened and the break is something that she definitely needed." The time off has given the 36-year-old beauty the chance to bond with her children North, three, and Saint, 10 months. The insider said: "She went through a traumatic experience and it definitely put a lot of things in perspective for her. "She really hasn't had a chance to spend that much quiet time with the kids [North and Saint] since each of them was born. This was the first time in years that she could just unwind and be a normal person. She is really happy she was able to do so." The reality TV star has agreed to discuss the robbery on her family's E! show next year but producers have said she'll be able to control the final edits and what makes it on air. Kim was left fearing for her life when a five-men gang broke into her room at HÔtel de Pourtalès in Paris, France, on October 3, waved a gun in her face, gagged her and tied her up in the bathroom while they raided her drawers and made off with her lavish jewelry worth an estimated \$8.5 million. Once caught, the criminals will face charges of armed robbery by an organized gang, criminal conspiracy and kidnapping, which could lead to a sentence of at least 30 years. Inmates sentenced to life in the European country are required to serve a safety period of at least 18 to 22 years before they can become eligible for early release.



### Ne-Yo's baby son discharged from hospital

The 'Miss Independent' hitmaker and his wife Crystal Smith have been beside themselves with worry after their seven-month-old child Shaffer Chimere Smith Jr. - also known as SJ - was rushed to the medical centre on Thursday (27.10.16). However, after hours of being seen by doctors, the little one is now resting up at home and the brunette beauty has taken the time to praise her beau for standing by her side through it all. Talking to her Instagram account on Friday (28.10.16), she said: "Ain't no man like the one I got! It's super important to have a strong partner by your side When life throws you into the worst situation you could ever imagine yourself in. I thank God for this man! I could never have gotten through the past 48 without you! I love you and how much you love our beautiful family. (sic)" It's not known what was wrong with little SJ but Crystal - who married Ne-Yo earlier this year - can't believe how brave he is. Alongside a photograph of the youngster looking up at his father from his hospital bed, she wrote: "You are so strong and such a fighter. Nothing is going to slow you down! "Mommy and daddy are right here baby! We aren't going to let anything happen to you!!! In this moment my son has proven to be stronger than me already. We love you so much Pooda! We Can't wait to take you home finally (sic)." The couple first met when Ne-Yo contacted Crystal about working together on a short film for his album, and although she was two hours late, it was love at first sight. As well as SJ, the 37-year-old hunk also has Madilyn, five, and four-year-old son Mason with ex-girlfriend Monyetta Shaw.



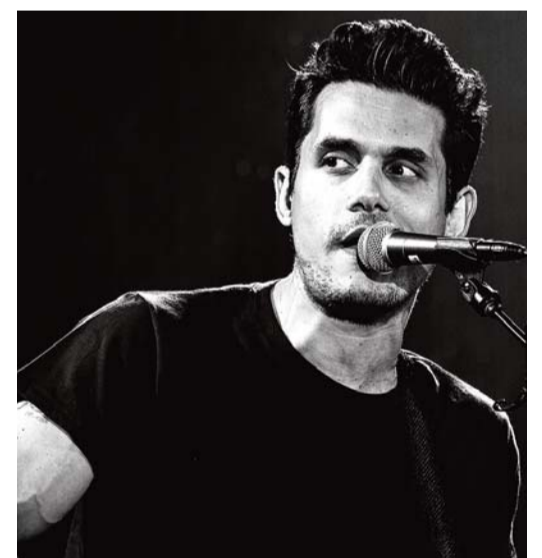
### Azealia Banks broke down in tears as she recalls alteration with Russell Crowe

The 25-year-old rapper struggled to control her waterworks during an interview with 'Access Hollywood' on Thursday (27.10.16) as she dished out what she believes happened between her and the actor in Beverly Hills two weeks ago. She said with a cracked voice: "Every time, every time something like this happens I'm always like being blamed for wanting this kind of attention." The '212' hitmaker was invited to the party by music producer RZA after they discussed "nailing down a record deal" but things took a turn for the worse when the 52-year-old star allegedly mocked one of the brunette beauty's tracks. Azealia couldn't help but hit back after the snide remarks and suggested that the producer's film career wasn't exactly glowing in golden lights right now either. However, she didn't expect Russell to react in the way he did as she claimed he choked her, picked her up, threw her out of his room and spat on her. Asked why she thinks the actor reacted the way she claimed he did, she explained: "Maybe it was the moonshine, maybe it was the rejection, maybe it's the jokes." After

the alleged incident, Azealia filed a police report but she has now decided not to take legal action against Russell because she wants to focus on her music. She said recently: "Realistically, to be honest, I really don't want to. Because I just don't want this in the media. I want my music out. I just want to f\*\*\*ing put my music out. I just want my music to shine. I don't want to be dealing with another episode, another thing, another whatever." Despite a number of sources, including producer RZA disputing Azealia's account of what happened and insisting she was at fault, the young rapper is adamant she'd still like the 'Noah' star to apologize to her for his alleged brash behavior. She explained: "[Russell] feels that he did nothing wrong, so I'm just like, OK, if you want to pay a bunch of litigators and a bunch of people to apologies to me, then I guess that's what you want to do. "You could apologize to me for free now and make this all go away."

### James Arthur defends Justin Bieber

The 'Sorry' hitmaker dropped his microphone and walked off stage during his performance on Sunday (23.10.16), as fans booed him for talking between songs and not playing his hits. Now, the 'Say You Won't Let Go' singer - who rose to fame after being crowned the winner of UK talent competition 'The X Factor' in 2012 - sympathizes with the 22-year-old, as he says the "unfathomable" level of fame can affect people. Speaking to the Daily Mirror newspaper, the 28-year-old singer said: "I think Justin Bieber is a really unique case. "I feel really sorry for him because I was 25 when I found fame and I got seriously lost from just being famous in England. He has been famous since he was a kid. That level of fame is unfathomable. "Maybe he's past the screaming girl phase and he wants people to listen to what he has to say and not just be propped up on stage to sing songs and perform like a monkey. Maybe he's just over how famous he is." The news comes after a string of controversial outbursts from the 'Love Yourself' singer, who previously told fans to stay "as quiet as possible" whilst he was singing. He said: "Try and stay as quiet as possible. You can scream as much as you want afterwards, but while I'm singing try and stay quiet." Justin also blasted fans for screaming at his shows, as he finds it "obnoxious". He was recorded telling fans: "Just try to show me you love me, in a different way. I get it. The screaming is just so obnoxious. I get it, it's been in our blood and it's been grand, you go to a concert and scream and stuff. But if we could just ... scream after the song, enjoy the songs ... the screaming is awesome, it's fine, and then we take a chill pill for a second and we just listen to me speak. Because ... I don't feel like I'm being heard sometimes and it's getting a little pressuring. So, if when I'm speaking you guys could not scream at the top of your lungs. Is that cool with you guys?"



### John Mayer wants to make music with ex-girlfriend Katy Perry

The 39-year-old guitarist dated the 'Roar' hitmaker on and off between 2012 and 2015 - during which time they recorded 'Who You Love' together - and, despite their shock split, he would be "open" to doing a song with her again in the future. Speaking to E! News, he said: "If the right song came around. I look at great musicians-you write the right song, you send it to somebody, but I don't have anything in mind at the moment." Shortly after their break up last year, the 32-year-old singer went on to date Orlando Bloom but she's made it clear to her new beau that she wants to remain close friends with John. A source said: "Katy and John remain friends and care about each other. They just want to see each other happy. They have no animosity towards each other." However, her friendship with John is not a problem for Orlando and things have reportedly got so serious between Katy and the 'Lord of the Rings' actor that he has even introduced her to his son Flynn, five, whom he has with his ex-wife Miranda Kerr. The insider explained: "Katy and Orlando are doing really well. They have been hanging out a lot over the past two months. They are a very chill pair...They both communicate great and laugh when they are around each other. "Katy has met Flynn, and they get along wonderful. She thinks he is so cute and such a well behaved kid! Katy would [also] like kids one day, and he is vocal about that."



GOSSIP

# Justin Bieber penned a heartfelt message to his fans

The 22-year-old singer took to Twitter yesterday to share a message he had written explaining his behavior after he recently walked off stage at a show in Manchester, England, when fans wouldn't let him speak between songs. Alongside a caption that read "Tonight on stage. Thank you", the 'Sorry' hitmaker posted a picture of text that read: "People tend to want to shut you down. What I mean by that is ... people try to twist things, some people don't want to listen. But I simply feel like, if I didn't use this platform to say how I truly feel, and if I didn't use this platform to be the man that I know I am, and speak from what's in my heart, then I'm doing myself injustice, and I'm not doing anybody in this audience any justice. "There's going to be times where I say the wrong thing, because I'm human. But I don't pretend to be perfect and I hope to God that, you know, I don't say the right thing all the time because if that was the case then I'd be a robot, and I'm just, I'm not a robot. There's times when I get upset ... times when I get angry, there's times when I'm going to be frustrated. But I'm always going to be myself on this stage. "When people try to twist things and say 'Justin's angry at his fans. He doesn't want his fans to scream

that's not at all what I was doing. All I was simply doing was wanting people to listen; to kind of hear me out a little bit. Certain people ... certain cities aren't going to want to hear me out, and you know, sometimes it's my job to just say 'Hey, I'm not going to try to force anything'. I just appreciate you guys tonight, listening to me and understanding, and rocking with me. You guys are truly amazing." The message comes after a series of events which also saw the 'What Do You Mean?' musician seemingly hit out at fans for "obnoxious" screaming between songs. He said on stage recently: "Just try to show me you love me, in a different way. I get it. The screaming is just so obnoxious. I get it, it's been in our blood and it's been grand, you go to a concert and scream and stuff. But if we could just ... scream after the song, enjoy the songs ... the screaming is awesome, it's fine, and then we take a chill pill for a second and we just listen to me speak. Because ... I don't feel like I'm being heard sometimes and it's getting a little pressuring. So, if when I'm speaking you guys could not scream at the top of your lungs. Is that cool with you guys?"



## Chelsea Handler grew up dreaming of hosting 'beautiful parties'



The 'Chelsea Does...' host grew up with "inadequate parents" who were always in debt and didn't want to have her adulthood spent in the same way as her New Jersey childhood. She recalled: "I grew up with my two inadequate parents constantly dodging phone calls from debt collectors. I didn't want, as an adult, to ever have my telephone shut off. I wanted the nice life. Materialistic as it may sound, I wanted a house where I could have beautiful parties and beautiful catering and cleaning ladies and a driver. And I wanted to make my mark." The outspoken star always tries to be "real" because she hates Hollywood "bulls\*\*t". She said: "I don't have any boundaries. I don't ever pretend that I'm not doing something that I'm doing. "The way people present themselves in this day and age is so false and fake and bulls\*\*t. I don't ever want to be like

that - I want to be as real as I can be." Chelsea, 41, is currently single having previously dated the likes of 50 Cent, NBC chairman Ted Harbert and hotelier Andre Balazs, and thinks that is largely because she is hard to please. She said: "I think I'm a difficult person to please. I don't think [being single] has anything to do with anybody other than me." However, the blonde comic is adamant she has no interest in having children. She told Grazia magazine: "I am never having a baby. I never wanted to have a baby and I knew that from a young age. "If someone left a baby on my doorstep, I wouldn't throw it in the garbage, but I'm not going to bring a child into this world - there are enough children in the world."

## Robbie Williams stopped eating in preparation for his album's promotional video

The 42-year-old singer released a promotional video for his new album 'Heavy Entertainment Show' in which he appeared shirtless in a boxing ring, but the star has now revealed his toned physique in the video came at a cost to his health. Speaking to The Sun newspaper, the former Take That star said: "I've got this bad back, so I haven't been able to do any training. But all it takes is not eating. Who knew? "I'm pretty muscular, naturally very muscular, so if I watch what I eat it kind of does the trick. But now I'm hungry constantly. "Hungry, confused, depressed. It's like wrestling a very angry and needy bear all the time. "In fact, so much so, I think I'm just going to work on my personality and eat what the f\*\*k I want. That's what I've learnt from the Russians. They don't give a f\*\*k-that's the spirit of partying and I tip my hat to them." The 'Let Me Entertain You' hitmaker - who was previously known for his party lifestyle - would now much rather stay at home with his wife Ayda Field and their two children, four-year-old Theodora Rose, and two-year-old Charlton Valentine. He said: "I'm still a very, very naughty boy gone good. And the naughty boy comes out to play every now and again. "In my dreams, actually, every night. Seriously! But the time spent at home has given Robbie time to worry about his music, and after his new single 'Party Like a Russian' flopped in the charts, he says that he "panics" about how his music will be received. He added: "I worry that the oxygen needed for my songs to be heard might be taken away. "My brain's resting position I think is panic and worry. It's never really happy. It's what keeps you propelling forward. You don't rest at happy."



## Adele and her partner thinking about getting engaged

The 28-year-old singer and Simon Konecki have been in a relationship for five years and share four-year-old son Angelo together, but it now seems they're finally ready to take the next step and put a ring on the 'Someone Like You' hitmaker's finger. A source told the Daily Mirror newspaper: "They've decided it's the right time to think about making that step [to getting engaged]. "They won't make a big song and dance about it, that's not the way either of them are, and you won't see Adele walking around with a huge diamond on her finger flaunting it. "But they're ready to take the next step and both very excited about the prospect. "Adele has had an amazing time on tour and is enjoying performing to fans - but she's looking forward to spending some quiet time at home with her family after 10 months on the road." The news comes just weeks after the charity boss surprised the 'Hello' singer at her concert in Nashville, Tennessee, when he wrote personalized messages on pieces of pink confetti to celebrate their fifth anniversary. Meanwhile, the 'Rolling in the Deep' musician recently revealed she would like another baby, as her womb is starting to "ache" now that Angelo is getting older. She said: "My son is about to turn four very, very soon. "I'm starting to get very emotional about it because I feel like once they turn four, they're not really your actual baby anymore. "So my womb is starting to ache a little bit. It's like, 'Baby, baby, baby. Need a baby, need a baby'. I'm not pregnant. I won't get pregnant until the end of the tour."

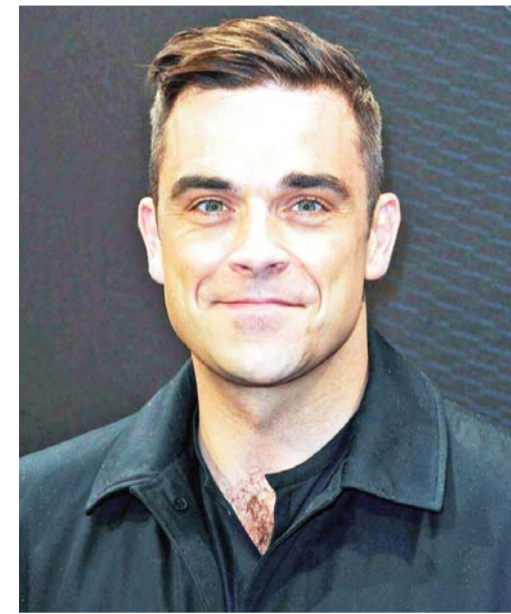
## Jesy Nelson will serve Dominos pizza at wedding

The Little Mix singer is engaged to Rixton's Jake Roche and though she insists they haven't made plans for their big day yet, she wants it to be a casual affair. She said: "I want everyone to have Domino's and eat what they want and they can wear what they want too. "I'm not going to be bridezilla. But we have no wedding plans yet. We haven't got any time and also, Jake and I feel like we have loads of things we want to do together before we start [married] life." The 'Shout Out To My Ex' singer credits Jake with helping improve her self-confidence. She said: "Jake is incredible. He's made me feel like a different person." And Jesy, 25, and her bandmates, Perrie Edwards, 23, Jade Thirlwall, also 23, and Leigh-Anne Pinnoch, 25, insist they have no plans to have children in the future. Jesy said: "We're all babies ourselves. We're selfish, way too selfish for a baby." Perrie added to HELLO! magazine: "Just think how we feel every time our alarm goes off at Sam. Like, 'Argh, no! Imagine that being a screaming child? I'm not ready for that." While Jesy and 23-year-old Jake aren't rushing to tie the knot, they have been hard at work in the studio together, collaborating on new music. She said recently: "We've been in the studio together trying to write songs, which was really exciting. We haven't written any love songs yet - we're just trying to get a hit. We work well together but we probably won't duet yet - maybe in a few years."



## John Lydon wants his ashes to be kept in a jar

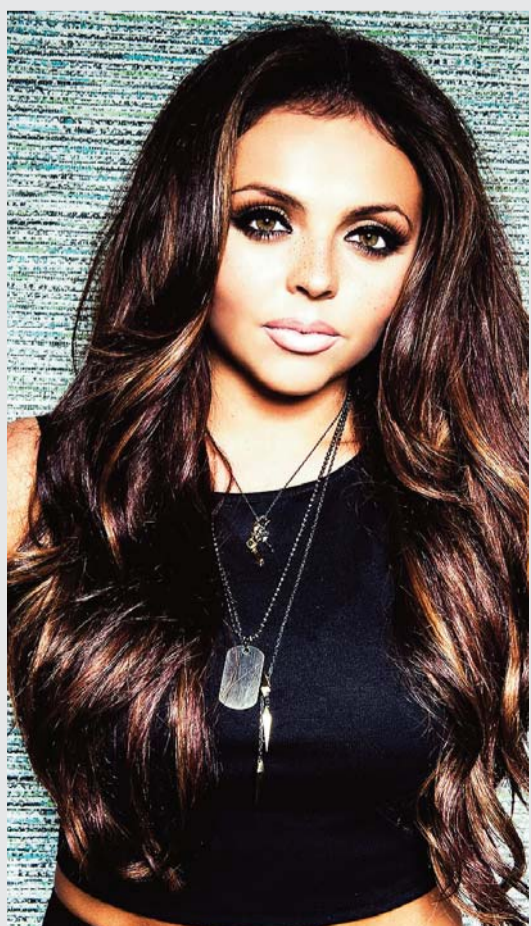
The Sex Pistols frontman finds the idea of being put in a grave "frankly horrific" because he worries his body would have a block of flats built on it one day if he was buried six foot in the ground. He said: "The idea of a grave is frankly horrific. I'd rather be a jar of ashes. How long can you keep a grave before someone builds council flats on it?" But if the star did have a gravestone, he'd want a comical message etched on it. When asked what would be written on his tombstone, he added: "Something funny. I love epitaphs that pass wit and humor on to those left living as you cease to exist. But it would probably be misunderstood." The 60-year-old singer doesn't believe God was "possible", partly because the word is "dog spelt backwards". When asked if he believes in the eternal being, he replied: "Spelt backwards is dog? It's a man-made concept, very haughty and intellectual, but the end results prove no such thing could be possible." The star insists he doesn't regret anything in his life and only looks backwards to make sure he doesn't make the same mistakes again. He added to Classic Rock magazine: "Je Ne Regrette Rien' - a song I could have written myself. There's no point looking back regretfully. Always look at what you do as you do it, and only look back in order to correct your mistakes. "You have to know when you've done wrong, and you have to be able to take criticism on the chin from your family and friends."



## MARIAH CAREY 'WANTS MILLIONS' FROM JAMES PACKER

The 'Without You' hitmaker is reportedly asking for the Australian billionaire to pay out \$500million as a settlement as she believes she had to uproot her life and move to Los Angeles for him. But a source close to the couple says the mother-of-two - who has five-year-old twins Moroccan and Monroe with her ex-husband Nick Cannon - won't be getting any money but he will let her keep her ring. A source told the New York Post's Page Six column: "Of course Mariah wants money, but she's not getting \$50 million. There's no negotiations about money because they haven't spoken since the split. "He let her keep the ring, and she isn't getting a cent more. It is ridiculous to claim that James is the reason for the cancellation of her South America tour. A few days ago she blamed it on the promoters." Meanwhile, Mariah and James are "trying" to work

things out after having a fight in Greece. Her representative said in a statement: "Mariah and James had a fight in Greece, and have not seen each other since. [The fight was not due to] any cheating allegations or excessive spending. They are trying to work it out. Right now, they're not sure if they will stay together. They are discussing it." It has been claimed that the pair split because Mariah became so obsessed with her reality television show 'Mariah's World'. A source said: "It's all over. James had huge reservations about Mariah's new reality TV show and the fact that she was willing to expose their lives to the world ... James is very generous, but Mariah takes it to the next level!"





Women harvest grapes at the Neferis vineyard in the wine-producing region of Grombalia, some 40 kilometers southeast of the capital Tunis, on September 16, 2016. — AP

# Tunisia looks to branch out into wine tourism

Although Tunisia's tourism industry seems to be going through an unending chill, Mohamed Ben Sheikh is convinced there are good days ahead thanks to the nation's vineyards. Standing on a hillside on his land, he says, "Our country is rich in local produce."

Among these assets, the ancient culture of wine-making is undergoing something of a revival in this overwhelmingly Muslim-majority country which has a reputation of being one of the most liberal in the Arab world. For decades, Tunisia has relied heavily on tourism but almost exclusively targeting beachgoers and sun worshippers. But the instability that followed its 2011 Arab Spring uprising has sparked a major crisis, forcing the north African country to rethink its strategy.

And one of the possibilities is attracting wine enthusiasts. "Wine is a premium product which relates to both land and history. It is a way of promoting Tunisia," says Ben Sheikh, president of the chamber of alcoholic drinks producers.

At the Neferis vineyard in Grombalia, perched on hills overlooking the Mediterranean some 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of Tunis, Ben Sheikh is trying to develop a wine route as an "alternative" form of tourism which he is hoping to be able to offer tour operators next year.

Besides wine-making Tunisia is home to many archaeological sites, he adds. "We should create cultural tourism."

growing industry experienced something of a revival in the 1990s.

At the time, the government promised to reclaim public land and bring in foreign investment in a step which saw the emergence of seven companies for agricultural development. Twenty years on and the bet seems to have paid off. Tunisian wine, which relies on old grape varieties such as Carignan, is branching out into newer varieties such as Chardonnay, Viognier or Verdejo. To date, it counts seven AOCs.

For that, "we need investment in new technologies, and cooling the wine at controlled temperatures during fermentation," says Rached Kobrosly, who is in charge of quality control at the

Neferis winery. Spread over 450 hectares (about 1,100 acres), Neferis produces 1.2 million bottles every year and Kobrosly says they compare among the world's best. He cites as examples Italy's typically rich red wine Amarone and classified French wines such as Saint-Emilion and Pomerol, both from the Bordeaux region.

Kobrosly says the 32 million bottles emerging from Tunisian wineries—and almost all of it consumed domestically—"has a very great chance of being exported" and sold in overseas markets.

### 'No image'

But despite the optimism the figures remain modest. Although the sector earns approximately 80 million euros (\$87 million) annually and contributes 25 million Euros to state coffers in taxes, revenues from wine exports do not exceed 10 million Euros.

This is partly due to the limited scale of vineyards—only 15,000 hectares on a national level—and a near total absence of any marketing strategy. "The problem with Tunisian wine is not one of a bad image but the fact there's no image!" says Kobrosly.

"To reinforce its tourist appeal, events have to be launched around grape harvests and wine cellars," says Tahar Ayachi, a journalist specializing in heritage and tourism. "There was a time when one celebrated harvests and where one pressed grapes in village squares," Ayachi adds.

D'Khili, who has for years headed the "Vignerons de Carthage" wine cooperative, says there is "long-term work" ahead. But with "the revolution in quality in the last 20 years, we have the tools to succeed." D'Khili, who is trying to promote Shadraba, a picturesque domaine nestled on the banks of the Medjerda river about 70 kilometers west of Tunis, says the site could become a huge tourist draw.

"We are close to Dougga, one of the most beautiful archaeological sites and we are working in tandem with some of the bed and breakfast places in the area," he says. "Viticulture is the sector of the future." — AFP



### 'Rome's wine cellar'

Tunisia is no newcomer to vineyards. It has been producing wine for at least 2,800 years, Ben Sheikh says. "Carthage was the granary of Rome but it was also its wine cellar. It had a great agronomist, Magon, who was the first to write treaties on wine-growing," he explains.

The idea is to develop a tour stretching from the capital Tunis to the nearby Cap Bon peninsula, mixing archaeology with visits to local vineyards. And it is the wine aspect which is most likely to surprise. Following a post-independence decline partly due to Europeans buying their own produce, according to industry veteran Belgacem D'Khili, Tunisia's wine-

# New Zealand economy milks clamour for Middle Earth

Peter Jackson's "Lord Of The Rings" and "Hobbit" series have proved to be as precious to New Zealand's economy as any magical ring as millions flock to the country for a glimpse of Middle Earth, making tourism the main driver of growth.

For years, coffers have been supplemented mainly by booming sales of dairy products from milk to infant formula. But the sector is now struggling as oversupply and waning demand from key market China has seen the clamour for "white gold" dry up, fuelling fears the country was too reliant on one product.

But with breathtaking shots of sweeping landscapes and majestic mountains, the multiple Oscar-winning blockbusters shone the Hollywood spotlight on the country that has seen visitor numbers swell since the first film was released in 2001.

At its peak, New Zealand's dairy industry shipped about NZ\$17 billion (\$12.1 billion) of dairy goods a year, accounting for almost a third of national exports. Yet while that declined to NZ\$12.2 billion in 2015/16, overall economic growth remains a healthy 3.6 percent, which the government says is the third best in the developed world.

And one reason for that is the slack has been taken up by the

tourist industry, which Prime Minister John Key said was now helping underpin the national economy. "Exceptional growth in the sector has generated around 6,600 new tourism jobs in the year to March 2016, and the industry now accounts for 20.7 percent of export earnings," Key said this month.

Official data shows international tourists pumped NZ\$14.5 billion into the economy last year and visitor numbers, currently 3.4 million, were set to double over the next seven years. Tourism New Zealand (TNZ) chief executive Kevin Bowler said the growth had been phenomenal, thanks largely to the way the industry had leveraged the popularity of New Zealand's film sector.

"Extremely successful Middle Earth campaigns and a deep focus on digital media helped drive significant growth in visitor numbers," he said.

### Wellywood game changer

The bulk of movie fans visiting New Zealand are attracted by Jackson's two Middle Earth trilogies "Rings" and "Hobbit", which have been described as marathon advertisements for the country's rugged charms.

A survey showed 18 percent of international tourists last year cited "The Hobbit" as the reason they considered a trip to New Zealand. Even Air New Zealand has got in on the act, employing Jackson to film a special Lord Of The Rings-themed safety video in 2012.

Almost 30 percent visited a Hobbit-related attraction during their stay, including Wellington's Weta effects workshop or touring film locations. TNZ is also using New Zealand-made films to promote tourism, with recent examples including campaigns around the children's movie "Pete's Dragon" and the upcoming science fiction feature "Ghost in the Shell".

The capital, which styles itself "Wellywood", has been among the chief beneficiaries of the film-related tourist surge kicked off by "Lord of the Rings". Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency spokesman Aaron Alexander said the city received global exposure from film premieres attended by stars of the movies and tens of thousands of enthusiastic fans.

"Middle Earth's been fantastic for New Zealand and Wellington, putting us on the map for a whole new audience in a big way," he said. City officials are so keen on film tourism that

they have committed NZ\$150 million to a movie museum and conference centre, due to open in 2019.

The museum—a joint venture involving local council, Jackson and his movie industry associates—will house the director's extensive movie memorabilia collection. "It's a dream project to take to market, it will be a world-class facility and the team at Weta have a proven track record," Alexander said.

"It's got the potential to be a game-changer in terms of triggering the decision to include Wellington on your itinerary." While exhibits at the museum will be updated to reflect new movies being made in New Zealand, Alexander said there was every chance tourists' fascination with Jackson's Middle Earth epics would endure. "After all, people are still doing 'Sound of Music' tours in Salzburg 50 years down the track," he said. — AFP



This file photo taken on August 11, 2013 shows cows standing patiently as they are milked on a dairy farm near Cambridge in New Zealand's Waikato region, known for its fertile land and dairy industry.



This file photo taken on February 25, 2015 shows New Zealand's highest mountain Mount Cook—also known by its Maori name of Aoraki—which sits in the Southern Alps on the South Island at a height of 3,724 meters (12,218 ft) and a scene reminiscent of the Lord of the Ring's trilogy. — AFP photos



In this photograph taken on September 25, 2016, Indian tourists take a 'selfie' on Calangute Beach in Goa. — AFP photos



## Goan, Goan, gone? Indian state losing laid back image

Goa has long attracted Western holidaymakers for its relaxed vibe, but rapid construction, swelling crowds and fears over safety are threatening the Indian state's global reputation as a tranquil haven.

The former Portuguese colony is transforming from a quiet paradise popular with international hippies to a heavily-developed entertainment destination for higher-income foreign and domestic visitors who want five-star luxury, tourism officials say.

"The laid back tourist might go to other destinations because Goa is changing but now there are lots of other segments coming such as MICE tourism (meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions)," Savio Messias, president of the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa, told AFP. "Goa is also getting to be a very big wedding destination and a lot of people are now coming for entertainment," he added.

Billboards advertising luxury developments dot Goa's lush landscape, with Messias saying many new hotels, including big chains, are opening up every year. Government statistics show Indian visitors soared by 34 percent to 4.7 million last year from 2014 while foreigners increased by just 5 percent as the number of charter flights plummeted.

The sluggish global economy and a slump in the value of the Russian ruble are regularly cited as factors but local businesses fear Westerners are being turned off by Goa's rapidly altering landscape. "Day by day the number of foreigners coming is getting less because they hear it is too crowded here now. They want peace and quiet. 'Over the past two to three years business has been very low,' Mohammed Sultan, a jewelry shop owner at Baga beach, told AFP.

### Sexual assaults

An imminent ban on alcohol consumption in some public areas, plans to shift the popular Sunburn music festival out of peak season and ministers' comments that beach parties are illegal and bikinis should be banned are also contributing to fears the Goan party could be over. "I think it affects Westerners' thinking. They want to be free to enjoy their holiday," said



Sultan. At nearby Anjuna beach, where British schoolgirl Scarlett Keeling died in 2008, sari-clad women who ply their wares selling trinkets to visitors worry that India's reputation as a destination that is dangerous for women is having an impact. "I think the news stories about Scarlett have made people not come. Maybe they are worried," 39-year-old Monica Tipi told AFP before eyeing a sale from an Indian couple.

The acquittal last month of two local men accused of drugging, sexually assaulting and then leaving 15-year-old Keeling to drown in shallow water was the culmination of a case that had highlighted Goa's seedier side.

Several high-profile sexual assaults against women across India, including the fatal gang-rape of a student in Delhi in 2012, has shown a global spotlight on frightening levels of violence against women in the country.

"The news stories haven't put us off. We feel safe but we

wouldn't travel on our own. We always stick together," 26-year-old Australian Chloe Cato, who's travelling round India with a friend, told AFP at Anjuna.

### Joyrides

Britain's government warns in its travel advice for India that British women have been sexually assaulted in Goa and says a number of its nationals die in the state every year due to drug or alcohol abuse.

Goa-based lawyer Vikram Varma, who acted for Keeling's mother and who also represents the Russian consulate, says police have failed to investigate the deaths of several foreigners over the last decade or so. "Crime does happen everywhere, but when the criminal justice system itself prefers to blame the victim and protect the criminals, a large number of family tourists prefer to holiday in safer environments," he told AFP.

The number of Russian tourists visiting Goa plummeted from 120,000 in 2013 to just 40,000 in 2014 but is predicted to bounce back to around 100,000 this season due to Moscow declaring Egypt and Turkey unsafe for its citizens, according to Varma. They may choose to visit the casinos that line the river running through the state capital Panaji or take a ride on a new amphibious tourist boat. Helicopter rides and trips on seaplanes are also being launched. "The kind of tourists coming to Goa has been changing... We are targeting the more high-end tourist," said Messias, adding that the state's character will evolve as a result. "Some sections of the industry are very happy about this change but some are not." — AFP



## Clinton gets Jennifer Lopez boost in Miami

Hillary Clinton took to the stage with Jennifer Lopez in Miami late Saturday when the music superstar performed a free concert in the rain to encourage early voting in the battleground state of Florida.

The 47-year-old actress, singer and dancer whose toned physique appeared to defy gravity, powered through some of her greatest hits, including "Let's Get Loud" and "On the Floor" before an exuberant crowd who cheered and danced as rain drenched the outdoor amphitheater. Clinton arrived for the last segment of the gig, after Lopez's ex-husband, Marc Anthony, had already performed. She enveloped Lopez in a bear hug, before thanking the former couple for their support.

The concert capped a day of campaigning in Florida for the Democrat nominee after

America's top cop, FBI Director James Comey renewed his probe of her emails and her lead over Donald Trump narrowed.

Clinton lashed out at her Republican rival, accusing him of stoking fear, disgracing American democracy and insulting "one group of Americans after another, 10 days before the November 8 ballot.

Trump fired up his raucous supporters on Saturday with a vow that "justice can at last be delivered" with regard to Clinton's emails despite the FBI not putting any timeline on the new inquiry. "Are we going to let Donald Trump get away with that? You're right. We're not," she said. "No matter what they throw at us, we don't back down. Not now. Not ever," the Democrat said.

"We just heard Jennifer perform Let's Get

Loud, well I say let's get loud at the voting booth," the former secretary of state said. "Don't wait another day to vote and let's get loud by knocking on doors, making calls, take out your phones," she said. "Because if we turn out, we win!" she said to more cheers.

Although the rain came down heavily, the crowd seemed pretty pumped up as Lopez closed out with "On the Floor" and ticker tape paper dropped from the sky at the Bayfront Park Amphitheater.

On Saturday, the latest poll of polls by tracker site RealClearPolitics put Clinton 3.9 percentage points ahead of Trump nationwide, down from a lead of 7.1 points just 10 days previously. — AFP



## AL NASSER

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AL NASSER has launched the 2016/2017 fall/winter collections to meet all style and fashion trends in wide groups of sport apparels and winter footwear styled for all ages. You can find it all in any of our branches all over Kuwait. Our looks are based on international designs and made specially to meet our customer's need in different styles. So everyone can enjoy the cold season. AL NASSER always includes kid's

winter essentials ranging from Rain boots to Jackets to socks, and innerwear. Besides, everything that your family needs will surely be found in our showrooms, for you to enjoy a wonderful and effortless shopping experience.

We always create and provide all family supplies and season's essentials at competitive price and best value. We continue to come up and innovate to provide you an unforgettable shopping experience.

With your trust we grow!



Jennifer Lopez performs at Get Out The Vote concert for Democratic presidential nominee, Hillary Clinton, at Bayfront Park Amphitheater in Miami, Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016.



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, right, takes the stage with performer Jennifer Lopez. — AP photos



Floats depicting "Catrinas" and other death related characters and offerings march during the first Big Parade of the City to celebrate the Day of the Dead in Mexico City on October 29, 2016. — AFP

# Life imitates cinema in Day of the Dead parade

Thousands thronged downtown Mexico City on Saturday for a "traditional" indigenous procession held for the first time this year, inspired by a hit Hollywood movie. The Paseo de Reforma, this capital city's grand boulevard, was filled with revelers—some local, some tourists—taking part in the proces-

sion inspired by the opening scene of the 2015 James Bond movie "Spectre."

In Spectre, the British agent played by Daniel Craig goes after a bad guy through a parade featuring giant skeletons floating among people dancing with their faces painted as skulls.

Saturday's parade—staged by city elders inspired by the movie—started at the Angel of Independence monument and ended at the historic Zocalo square. The procession tried to recreate the props and wardrobe from the movie, with thousands of volunteers dressed in skull and skeleton costumes, as well as traditional dress.

Musicians and dancers representing various regions across Mexico performed along the length of the procession. The Day of the Dead takes place between November 1-2 every year, when Mexicans visit cemeteries to pay respects to their late relatives, bringing them food and drinks in a centuries-old tradition mixing pre-Hispanic and Catholic beliefs.

Those taking part in Saturday's procession said they enjoyed the fete, even though if it was imported from a make-believe world of celluloid. "The truth is, it turned out to be quite nice," said Alfredo Nunez, a retiree who attended the event with his wife, adult children and a granddaughter.

Beatriz Galeana, a Spaniard who now resides in Mexico, said she had been looking forward to seeing whether the procession captured the essence of the deeply spiritual Day of the Dead holiday. "I wanted to see the artistic work relating to the Day of the Dead," which was rendered quite differently from the traditional celebration, she said.

Day of the Dead observances, Galeana noted, "have more to do with spirituality," while the "parade is mostly about capturing the aesthetic" of the celebration.

The procession is part of a series of events to run through November 2 in the capital. Authorities were hoping the parade would give a boost to local tourism, which it appears to have done. Officials said they expect to rake in \$52.1 million from the event, and that hotel occupancy was at a brisk 80 percent. — AFP





Participants dressed as clowns take part in a "Moto-Halloween party" along the streets in Cali, Valle del Cauca, Colombia on October 29, 2016. — AFP

## US CREEPY CLOWN CRAZE PUTS DAMPER ON HALLOWEEN

Maybe it's better to leave the clown costume in the closet this Halloween. Hysteria sweeping the United States after a series of "creepy clown" sightings in recent weeks has created an unwelcome scare this October 31 when Americans will celebrate all things ghoulish, sinister and fantastical. The Halloween holiday sees millions of American children don costumes and go house-to-house trick-or-treating in neighborhoods across the country. But cities and law enforcement are discouraging or even banning clown costumes this year after sightings of sinister clowns, some armed with knives.

Authorities fear the bizarre trend could provoke a nasty backlash when children turn out Monday night. The unusual sightings began in August with reports of people in South Carolina dressed as clowns trying to lure children into the woods. The appearances soon spread with more than 20 states now having reported clown incidents, and although most were pranks in bad taste or unverified threats, some arrests have been made, including for attacks.

The craze has even spread beyond the United States to

Europe, South America and Australia. The hysteria has had surprising repercussions for many, such as Armando Santana, a 22-year-old actor who performs as a scary clown in a popular Miami horror house.

He says he would no longer dream of leaving his job without ditching the costume. "It means that by the end of the night I have to wash my face. I can't drive my car with this on, just in case I get stopped," he said, emitting a classic menacing chuckle. Even a building in Miami Beach warned its residents ahead of the Halloween door-knocking: "You must be extra careful with anyone wearing clown masks." Burger chain McDonald's meanwhile has scaled back public appearances of its famous smiley-faced clown mascot Ronald McDonald, citing "the current climate around clown sightings."

And discount retail chain Target halted the sale of clown masks because of "the current environment," said spokesman Joshua Thomas.

### No laughing matter

While some observers have made light of the sightings,

police and other authorities are taking the craze seriously. "Did you know that you could be arrested for wearing a clown mask with the intent to disturb the peace?" warned the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office on Twitter this month.

The Miami police released a video that shows a boy, fleeing a shadowy clown in the dark, being run over by a car. "These pranks can have serious or even tragic ends," it concludes.

Miami police spokeswoman Yelitza Cedano Hernandez told AFP that, while it is not prohibited to dress like a clown, "if this prank leaves someone injured, the prankster is going to be arrested and the victim's family can take the person to court."

In Kemper County, Mississippi, clown gear has been expressly banned until after Halloween, and authorities will slap a \$150 fine on any violators. Meanwhile a number of US school districts—particularly in New Jersey, Connecticut and Colorado—have banned clown costumes in Halloween parades.

The same action was taken by the city of Belmont, North Carolina, for its Belmont Boo Festival last week: No adult clown costumes allowed.

### The bright side

"People dressed as horror clowns are not 'real clowns,'" said Randy Christensen, president of the World Clown Association. "They are taking something innocent and wholesome and perverting it to create fear in their audience," he said in a statement. But some benefit when there's a buzz. Staff at the Halloween Megastore in Miami said that clown masks, along with superheroes from the film "Suicide Squad" and the US presidential candidates, are hot sellers this season.

And Nelson Albareda, producer of the House of Horror Haunted Carnival in Miami, which has an entire section dedicated to sinister clowns, welcomes the phenomenon. "I've been in the Halloween industry for 16 years and a lot of people have a phobia on clowns, so this is nothing new to us," he told AFP, while walking the haunted house's dusty passageways. "Now there's a lot of hoopla about clowns, even on social media. It's actually better for us." — AFP



Armando Santana stands in the phobia section of a haunted house in Miami, Florida, on October 27, 2016. — AFP photos