

## Amir congratulates citizens, residents on Eid Al-Adha

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday congratulated citizens and residents on the advent of Eid Al-Adha, expressing best wishes, health and prosperity to all. A statement by the Amiri Diwan noted that HH the Amir extended his sentiments to the Arab and Islamic worlds wishing security and stability, and asked Allah Almighty to protect Kuwait and its people. — KUNA

## N Netanyahu faces backlash over 'ethnic cleansing' remark

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## Nigeria's economic woes hit Eid ram sales

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## First blood to Guardiola as Man City win derby

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# US, RUSSIA SEAL SYRIA TRUCE, WILL CARRY OUT JOINT STRIKES

## DEAL RAISES REBEL DOUBTS AS FIGHTING RAGES



Min 30°  
Max 43°  
High Tide 05:10 & 20:20  
Low Tide 13:10

## MOI WARNS FALSE, MALICIOUS REPORTS AFFECT OPERATIONS

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry pays due attention to reports received by its various bodies and departments for the ultimate goal of fulfilling their mission, namely guaranteeing state security and people's safety. The ministry receives an average of 850 reports daily, among them many false and malicious ones that mar the ministry's noble message. Many reports come from teenagers and children who do it for fun. Yet, the ministry takes all reports seriously and they are fully investigated. Strict legal measures are taken against those behind false reports, who are charged with disturbing public security and the authorities.

In the meantime, the ministry has repeatedly called for abiding by the law and refraining from any such act that could disturb the society. The Ministry of Interior's Undersecretary Lt Gen Sulaiman Al-Fahd stressed that they take all reports seriously for maintaining public security, according to the ministry's security media department. Any tipoff that might imply even the least threat to the state is a priority of the supreme leadership of the

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ALEPPO: Syrian men remove a victim from the rubble of a building following an air strike on the rebel-held Bustan al-Qasr neighborhood of this northern city yesterday. — AFP

AMMAN/GENEVA: The United States and Russia reached a breakthrough deal early yesterday to try to restore peace in Syria, but air strikes hours later added to rebels' doubts that any ceasefire could hold. The agreement, by the powers that back opposing sides in the five-year-old war, promises a nationwide truce from sundown tomorrow - the first day of Eid al-Adha, improved access for humanitarian aid and joint military targeting of hardline groups.

But hours later, jets bombed a marketplace in rebel-held Idlib in northwestern Syria, killing at least 25 people and wounding dozens, according to locals and rescue workers who said they believed the planes to be Russian. Idlib province has endured escalating strikes by Russian jets in recent months, according to international aid workers and residents, destroying scores of hospitals, bakeries and other infrastructure across rebel-held territory.

Aleppo was also hit from the air and fighting continued on the ground. The army attacked rebel-held areas, both sides said, pushing to maximize gains before the ceasefire deadline. Ten people were killed by barrel bombs dropped by army helicopters on the besieged rebel-held east of the city, and jets, either Syrian or Russian, bombed rebel-held towns in the northern countryside along important insurgent supply routes, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Insurgents said they were planning a counter-offensive.

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# HAJJ NEARS CLIMAX FOR PILGRIMS

## TOP SAUDI CLERIC TO SKIP ANNUAL SERMON

## YOUNG PILGRIMS TRANSFORM HAJJ

MAKKAH: The hajj is no longer an old person's ritual as a new generation of youthful Muslim pilgrims has transformed both the annual rites and Makkah itself. "The younger you are, the easier it is," says Saniah, a British pilgrim who, at 25, was on her second trip to Islam's holiest site in Saudi Arabia. "Twelve years ago my family and I came for umrah," the lesser pilgrimage which can be performed throughout the year, she says, elegantly veiled in green and black.

This year, Saniah returned for the hajj because it is a religious obligation and "a radical change of life," said the Briton, preferring not to give her last name. Saniah is among roughly 1.5 million people from across the world attending the hajj which formally began yesterday. The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, which capable Muslims must perform at least once, marking the spiritual peak of their lives.

A can of soft drink in one hand and a cone of French fries in the other, Saniah eats with her husband at one of the many modern commercial centers dotted around the Grand Mosque in Makkah after performing Friday prayers. "In early generations young people waited to be old before doing the pilgrimage," Saniah says. "But the new generations, we're more aware of our religious obligations." Smiling, she adds that the long hajj marches and prayers under a burning sun "are easier to bear when you're young".

Omar Saghi, author of "Paris-Makkah, Sociology of the Pilgrimage," says the hajj is no longer "the mystical horizon of an entire life but a rational event" which has become almost routine.

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MOUNT ARAFAT, Saudi Arabia: Close to 1.5 million Muslims from around the world converged on a rocky hill known as Mount Arafat yesterday night to prepare for the climax of the annual hajj pilgrimage. The pilgrims will mark today with day-long prayers and recitals of the Holy Quran at the spot in western Saudi Arabia where Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave his last hajj sermon. The numbers are down because of the absence of 64,000 Iranians over tensions between their nation and the kingdom.

After preliminary rituals this week in Makkah at the Grand Mosque, the pilgrims in Saudi Arabia moved east yesterday to the tent city of Mina and then several kilometers further to Mount Arafat. They are following in the footsteps of the Prophet (PBUH) who performed the same rituals about 1,400 years ago. "It's marvelous. I'm here closer to God. It's an indescribable feeling," said an Egyptian pilgrim who gave her name only as Louza, 45.

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Pilgrims walk towards Mount Arafat yesterday to prepare for the climax of the annual hajj pilgrimage, near the Saudi holy city of Makkah. — AFP



MONTEVIDEO: Syrian native Abu Wa'el Dhiab, a former Guantanamo detainee, rests in bed as he speaks to his family via a laptop in his apartment on Friday. — AP

## HUNGER-STRIKING EX-GITMO INMATE'S HEALTH WORSENS

MONTEVIDEO: The health of a former Guantanamo detainee who resettled in Uruguay is deteriorating as he continues a hunger strike to demand he be allowed to leave the South American nation, activists and officials said Friday. Syrian native Abu Wa'el Dhiab, who was taken in by Uruguay in 2014 along with five other former Guantanamo prisoners, lay on a bed in his small apartment as he used a laptop to speak softly in Arabic with his wife, Yusra Dhiab, who is in Ankara, Turkey.

"My health situation is dire and ... if I die it will be the responsibility of the United States and Uruguay," Dhiab said in a message that was read afterward outside the apartment by human rights activist Andres Conteris. He

added that his daughter is set to be married in a week and blamed the United States for the fact that he will not be there.

Christian Mirza, Dhiab's government liaison, characterized his health as "delicate" and said he could be hospitalized in the coming hours. A doctor visited Dhiab on Friday but did not comment on his situation. Uruguay's government said this week that it was searching for another country to take Dhiab. He has threatened to die on his hunger strike unless he is allowed to reunite with his family abroad.

"I have two options: to reunite with my family in a place we choose, or die here in Uruguay," he said in the message read by Conteris. — AP



NEW YORK: Police pause during a procession in Lower Manhattan on Friday to mark the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and the police officers who were killed during and after the event. — AFP

# OBAMA URGES UNITY ON 9/11 'VERSARY

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama yesterday urged Americans to remain united in the face of terrorist attacks, in a barely-veiled jab at Republican White House nominee Donald Trump 15 years after 9/11. "In the face of terrorism, how we respond matters," Obama said in his weekly radio and online address, delivered on the eve of the 15th anniversary of the Sept 11 terror attacks in the United States. "We cannot give in to those who would divide us. We cannot react in ways that erode the fabric of our society," he added.

"Because it's our diversity, our welcoming of all talent, our treating of everybody fairly - no matter their race, gender, ethnicity, or faith - that's part of what makes our country great. It's what makes us resilient," Obama said. "And if we stay true to those values, we'll uphold the legacy of those

we've lost, and keep our nation strong and free."

On several occasions Obama has denounced Trump's bombastic rhetoric towards Muslims. Following the December shooting rampage in San Bernardino, California for example, Trump called for a temporary ban on the entry to the United States of all Muslims. Obama was speaking two months before the presidential election in which real estate magnate Trump will face Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The Al-Qaeda hijackings of Sept 11, 2001 - the first foreign attack on the US mainland in nearly two centuries - ruptured a sense of safety and plunged the West into wars still being fought today. More than 2,750 people were killed when two passenger jets destroyed the Twin Towers, the symbol of New York's financial wealth and confidence. Another jet

slammed into the Pentagon, and a fourth jet crashed in a field in Pennsylvania after those on board tried to overpower the hijackers.

Evoking "one of the darkest (days) in our nation's history," Obama noted that much had changed over the past 15 years since the attacks. "We delivered justice to (Al-Qaeda leader) Osama bin Laden. We've strengthened our homeland security. We've prevented attacks. We've saved lives," Obama said. But at the same time, he said, referring to attacks in Boston, San Bernardino, and Orlando, Florida, "the terrorist threat has evolved". "So in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and beyond, we'll stay relentless against terrorists like Al-Qaeda and (the Islamic State group) ISIL. "We will destroy them. And we'll keep doing everything in our power to protect our homeland," Obama said. — AFP

# KUWAIT APPEALS TO UN CHIEF TO EXERT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait urgently appealed to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to use his good offices to press Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately release the three Palestinian administrative detainees.

In a letter sent on Friday to the UN Chief, the Permanent Representative to Kuwait Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi, the Chair of the OIC group, drew urgent attention to the plight of Palestinian political prisoners and administrative detainees in Israeli jails and detention centers, particularly the critical situation of three hunger striking prisoners protesting their detention without trial or charge.

The three detainees are the two brothers, Muhammad Balboul, a 25-year-old dentist, and Mahmoud Balboul, a 22-year-old first lieutenant, and Malik Al-Qadi, a 20-year-old student at the Journalism School of Al-Quds University.

These three young Palestinian men have been on continuous hunger strike for two months in protest of their unjust administrative detention and serious abuses by the Israeli occupying force. "As they undertake this form of peaceful, non-violent protest, their lives are at imminent risk due to deteriorating health conditions and ongoing abuse by the occupying Power," said Otaibi.

## Physical abuse

In the letter, the OIC highlighted that Mahmoud has been subjected to physical abuse by Israeli prison guards during his hunger strike and has been transferred to medical center following decline of his health, as he is currently being held in an intensive care unit. His brother, Muhammad has lost his sight due to his prolonged

must be underscored that administrative detention as practiced by Israel, the occupying Power, is illegal and constitutes the gravest form of arbitrary detention. "Over 700 Palestinian prisoners, including minors, are currently being held by Israel under administrative detention," the letter added.

Further, the letter noted that, in concluding observations in a 2016

trative detention are afforded all basic legal safeguards."

## Urgent intervention

Due to the persistence of the critical situation, Otaibi called for an urgent attention and intervention of the international community. "Further harm, or possible death of any of the hunger striking detainees, would have serious ramifications on the already-fragile and tense situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem," he added.

The OIC called urged the international community to act to ensure a complete and definitive end of such a practice and to all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, noting that this can only be done by holding Israel accountable for its violations. "Israel must be obliged to comply in this regard with its obligations under international, including humanitarian and human rights law," the letter added.

The Chair of the OIC group urged for "serious efforts" to be undertaken in order for Israel to compel to act forthwith to cease its arrest and detention of Palestinian civilians, which is happening on a daily basis, and to release the Palestinian prisoners and detainees as an integral part of securing the freedom of the Palestinian people and enabling the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination. —KUNA



**Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi**

hunger strike. Similarly, Malik Al-Qadi, who has been on hunger strike since mid-July, 2016, has been beaten by prison guards and has been transferred to an intensive care unit following deterioration of his health.

In this regard, the OIC said it

periodic report on implementation of the Convention against Torture, the Committee against Torture called on Israel to "urgently take the measures necessary to end the practice of administrative detention and ensure that all persons who are currently held in adminis-



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Kuwait's Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets Brazil's Sports Minister Leonardo Picciani. —KUNA



**Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Sheikhha Sheikhha Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah present a souvenir to Brazil's Sports Minister Leonardo Picciani.**

## KUWAIT, BRAZIL DISCUSS BOOSTING SPORTS COOPERATION

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Kuwait's Minister of Information and Minister of state for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Brazil's Sports Minister Leonardo Picciani discussed, on Friday, means of boosting bilateral ties, especially those related to sports.

The meeting gave a special focus on a joint sports treaty that was signed by the two countries back in 2010 during a visit made by the then Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Sheikh Salman expressed hope to activate this treaty, which has been in effect since 2011. Picciani, meanwhile,

expressed similar views of enhancing joint cooperation in the realm of sports.

During the meeting, the Kuwaiti Minister seized the opportunity to relay the greeting of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to appointing Michel Temer as the new President of Brazil. Sheikh Salman, and his accompanying delegation, is in Brazil to attend the Rio Paralympic Games 2016. The Rio 2016 Paralympic Games is being held from 7-18 September 7-18. Around 4,350 athletes from more than 160 countries is competing in 528 medal events in 22 different sports. —KUNA



**IRBIL:** These pictures show Kuwait Red Crescent Society workers during a recent humanitarian mission in Iraq. —KUNA

# KUWAIT CONTINUES TO BE A PIONEER IN HUMANITARIAN FIELD: AMBASSADOR



**NEW YORK:** Kuwait's representative to the UN affirmed that the State of Kuwait has continued to be a pioneer in the humanitarian field, and has become one of the strongest supporters of United Nations' humanitarian relief aid efforts in the region and the world.

Commemorating the second anniversary of UN recognizing the humanitarian leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi said that Kuwait has continued to show its humanitarian leadership by hosting pledging conferences as well as providing many humanitarian assistance in alleviation of the suffering of many countries and people in need.

On September 9th, 2014, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon convened a ceremony at the United Nations headquarters to honor His Highness the Amir with a certificate of appreciation to recognize the humanitarian leadership of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait.

Since 2014, Otaibi said Kuwait has continued to show its humanitarian leadership, and has done

so by hosting another Syrian pledging conference in 2015 and co-chairing the "Supporting Syria and the Region" conference held in London in early 2016. "In total, Kuwait has provided humanitarian assistance amounting to \$1.6 billion to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people," he confirmed.

As Kuwait continued to be a pioneer in the humanitarian field, Al-Otaibi noted that his country has become one of the strongest supporters of United Nations humanitarian relief aid efforts in the region and the world. "Various reports have shown that the State of Kuwait is the most generous humanitarian aid donor in terms of gross national income in the world continues over the past several years," he added.

Kuwait, in continuing its humanitarian leadership in the region, has plans to host international conferences on the suffering of Palestinian children and education in Somalia, two critical humanitarian crises.

Further, Otaibi stressed that Kuwait will continue to be a partner in humanity, and a strong supporter of the work of the United Nations and its agencies in the field of humanitarian and development assistance. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** CEO-KFH Group Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh honors Fehaid Al-Deihani and Abdullah Al-Rashidi.



**CEO-KFH Group Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh honors Fehaid Al-Deihani.**

## KFH HONORS OLYMPIC MEDALISTS WITH GOLD

**KUWAIT:** CEO-KFH Group Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh stressed the importance of sport and its positive impact on the economy. He applauded the significant role of the Kuwaiti champions in raising the name of Kuwait at the international forums and global events.

The statement came during the honoring ceremony at KFH Headquarters wherein CEO honored the Olympic Medalists Fehaid Al-Deihani and Abdullah Al-Rashidi with 2 kg Gold and 1 kg Gold respectively in recognition of their achievement in the Rio 2016 Olympics.

Nahedh added that KFH is keen on recognizing the national talents, expressing the bank's pride in the achievement of the two champions that has come in critical cir-

cumstances of the Kuwaiti sport. He said that KFH has been always committed to its society as it attaches great interest in highlighting the achievements of national talent and sponsoring their participations, which contributes in further motivating them, yet comprises an impetus for winning more trophies while achieving outstanding global titles that raise the Kuwaiti flag high in regional and international competitions.

Meanwhile, Deihani and Rashidi praised KFH for this nice gesture that reflects the bank's endeavors to award the distinguished in the society, while assures its prestigious status as a global leading Islamic financial institution. Also, they called on further support to the shooting sport.



Local spotlight

SACRIFICE AND KIDS



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Sacrifice is one of the rituals of Islam. It is the slaughtering of cattle, namely camels, cows and sheep. It starts from the first day of Eid Al-Adha. Regardless of minor differences between the Sunni and Shiite doctrines on this subject, it is widely practiced and approved during the hajj period.

This act has certain conditions, such as sacrificial animals are required to be free of defects. Some are related to how the slaughtering should be performed. But, the process is not the aim of this article today, but the impact of this act on children. While we are living in a world that is already filled with human blood and not cattle blood, this topic is sensitive and important.

Here is why: It is hard for some Muslim parents to make a decision whether to permit their kids to watch the slaughter live or on TV. Some people slaughter animals in the house in front of everyone including their kids, who become exposed to the blood splattered everywhere.

Despite the sensitivity of the subject, I had to say something about it, as there are three categories of Muslims on this matter: People who sacrifice away from their houses or through a charity committee. The second are those who are keen to slaughter the animals themselves at home in front of their kids. The last group of people is those who do not care for this ritual at all and thus their kids don't see it. As for the kids, there are two types: Some who see blood with no reaction at all, and others who find blood reprehensible and are shocked.

I'd interested in these differences, because each of these categories produce different reactions from children. Some may say: I participated in the slaughter process when I was young and I am fine. But, another would say: I've not tasted meat for many years due to witnessing a sacrifice and blood when I was little.

I remember when I was a child, I never enjoyed the scene. I used to run away and hide until the process was over, and my parents, may their souls rest in peace, never forced me to witness the act. It was scary and I although I have never seen an animal being slaughtered, I ended up as a vegetarian. I don't eat meat.

I know that the ultimate goal of the child's participation in a sacrifice is to teach him about a ritual of Islam, but we must determine what is the right age for kids to witness it. Some recent studies suggest the age of 12 and older, the maturity of the child and his understanding of the process. This is key, but some families don't take age into consideration or possible impact on the child.

Are we obliged to make our children witness the sacrifice? The answer came from Dr Amal Al-Arfag, a professor at a faculty of arts in Saudi Arabia. "There is no explicit ban or religious recommendation for children to witness the slaughter, as Islam cares about children and their sensitive psychological state."

MAN SHOT IN HIS DIWANIYA

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A citizen was accidentally shot in his left shoulder at his diwaniya in Qussour, said security sources, noting that the shooter is the man's friend. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Multiple arrests

A 23-year-old citizen wanted for a four-year prison sentence over drug-related charges, was arrested in Ahmadi. Meanwhile, a 41-year-old Filipina wanted for a KD 2,700 financial claim was arrested in Ahmadi and referred to relevant authorities. Separately, a 47-year-old Syrian wanted over a KD 4,170 financial claim was also arrested in Ahmadi and referred to relevant authorities. In other cases, Farwaniya detectives arrested a 47-year-old citizen wanted for a KD 30,450 financial claim. They also arrested another 55-year-old citizen wanted for a KD 44,096 financial claim. Detectives also arrested a 35-year-old Indian wanted for a KD 2,488 financial claim. In addition, Farwaniya detectives arrested two non-Kuwaitis with imported alcoholic substances they intended to sell.



Blood left on the scene.



KUWAIT: A bullet's mark seen on the wall at the diwaniya where the shooting happened.

MPS PUSH GOVT TO SUSPEND GASOLINE PRICES' INCREASE

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Mohammed Al-Hadiya stressed that the government is acting against all odds and that the parliament would not do the same in terms of overburdening citizens with decisions such as increasing petrol prices. "The government must yield to public demands expressed by lawmakers and undo this hasty decision," he underlined, expressing his support to hold an urgent session to have the government suspend the new prices and mandate the finance ministry return to the old prices. "The conclusion of this government's tenure depends on how it handles public demands," he stressed, adding that the government has also overburdened citizens with its decision to stop sending citizens for treatment abroad.

Meanwhile, MP Jamal Al-Omar criticized the government over leaked reports about its intention to increase the prices of goods and services. He also warned the government against not attending the urgent session due to be held on Sept 22. In the meantime, MP Saleh Ashour expressed his support to holding an urgent session to discuss petrol prices and urged the government to attend it in order to hear a message from the Kuwaiti people.

Electoral interests

Well-informed sources said that His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak asked Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs



MP Mohammed Al-Hadiya



MP Jamal Al-Omar



MP Saleh Ashour

Yaqoub Al-Sane to prepare a full report in response to accusations made by MP Abdullah Maayouf concerning allegations that he has been utilizing his position for electoral interests in the form of appointing his relatives and acquaintances in both ministries. The sources added that Sane's responses would be reviewed by the Civil Services Commission to make sure those appointments were legal, and this would block any calls to question Sane or file a no-confidence motion against him, especially since the government senses that MPs are planning to accelerate criticisms to settle old scores and for electoral interests. Sane denies all accusations and argues that all the appointments he made had been approved by the CSC.

**Health insurance**  
Well-informed ministerial sources said KD 35 million has been allocated in the 2016-2017 budget to cover health insurance fees for all Kuwaiti students studying abroad regardless whether they are on scholarship or studying at their own expense. The sources added that the health ministry officially asked the Cabinet for the sum and that the request was approved by the finance ministry.

**Treatment abroad**  
Acting speaker Mubarak Al-Khraiinej stressed the importance of treatment abroad for cases that need specialized medical care. He also stressed that the decision recently made by Health Minister Dr Ali Al-

Obaidi does not apply to patients currently receiving medical treatment abroad or those whose requests have already been approved. Khraiinej also asked for a wide scale investigation in the recent incidents at Kuwait's medical office in Germany. In other news, the Ministry of Health's director of the healthcare central department Dr Rehab Al-Wetayyan said 42 clinics would be open during the Eid holiday in all areas and that 23 of them will operate 24/7.

**Hospital fire**  
A fire broke out yesterday in a yard near Adan Hospital that had been under renovation, said security sources, noting that the fire was limited to 5x8 sq m area and was easily controlled without any casualties.



KUWAIT: Sheep are being unloaded at a livestock market in Kuwait, in this recent photo. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

MUNICIPALITY PREPARES SUFFICIENT SLAUGHTERHOUSES FOR EID HOLIDAY

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: In preparation for Eid Al-Adha and in response to Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi's instructions, all Kuwait Municipality branches are on full alert. In this regard, Ahmadi municipality manager Fahd Al-Shetaili said two temporary slaughterhouses have been set up in Jaber Al-Ali and Ali Sabah Al-Salem to serve citizens and reduce pressure on the main slaughterhouse in Daher that is ready to receive over 5,000 sacrificial animals, while the temporary ones will receive 1,000.

The cleaning department manager at Ahmadi municipality Faihan Al-Mutairi said special freshwater tankers will provide water to wash and clean abattoirs and that special sewerage suction tankers will be provided to clean slaughterhouse waste.

Daher slaughterhouse manager Shehab Ahmed Abdul Ghani said butchers were increased to 12 and porters were increased to 15, in addition to four supervisors and five trucks to remove solid waste. He added that Mol has been also contacted to provide traffic policemen to organize traffic in and out of the slaughterhouse if needed.

Meanwhile, the head of Ahmadi municipality emergency team Meshaal Abalsafi said that escorted with a police force, his team held an inspection tour that resulted in filing 11 citations in Fahaheel and destroying some inedible meat. Farwaniya municipality manager Mohammed Sarkhouh said various coops in the governorates have contributed by building five temporary slaughterhouses to support the main one during Eid.

Farwaniya municipality's acting cleaning manager Saud Al-Harbi said five compressors, three water tankers, three sewerage suction tankers, a truck, a bulldozer and two garbage containers and 15 cleaners have been provided to each of the slaughterhouses.

Jahra municipality manager Mohammed Al-Arabi said that the main Jahra slaughterhouse will be staffed with 120 butchers. Had added that the numbers of inspectors and vets would also be doubled during Eid. Arabi also said that Jahra municipality launched a special cleaning campaign at the beginning of September that included inspection tours, cleaning streets and replacing 140 old garbage containers. "Inspection teams also removed 45 abandoned vehicles from Jahra industrial area and 10 from Amghara," he added.

KUWAIT DIVE TEAM REMOVES WRECK FROM SHAMLAN HARBOR

KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team of the Environmental Voluntary Foundation succeeded yesterday in removing three tons of sunken boats, fishing nets and wastes from Shamlan harbor. The team was able to lift the sunken boats by using lifting belts and crane from the Kuwait Municipality as well as water suction pumps in order to remove them without damage, the team's leader Waleed Al-Fadhel said. These wrecks and waste from boats and fishing vessels affect the fish stocks in Kuwait and harm the marine environment, he added. Fadhel called on boat owners and fishermen to preserve the environment of the area, noting the ongoing efforts of Kuwait Municipality, Fishermen Union, Kuwait's Port Authority, Coastguard, EQUATE Petrochemical Company and volunteer divers. —KUNA



RESTAURANT FINED FOR ADDING EXTRA CHARGES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Ministry of Commerce and Industry's emergency team in Siddeeq fined a fast food restaurant in Shuhada for adding extra charges to a bill. In a related development, the ministry announced that its emergency teams have filed 13 citations against fast food restaurants for violating delivery fees. The ministry had announced intensifying inspections against 'unjustified' price increases following gasoline prices' hike on September 1.

Safe celebration

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) warned all citizens and expats against accidents and incidents that may happen during the Eid Al-Adha holidays, such as children's exposure to fireworks or using lifts alone. KFSD Director Col Khalil Al-Amir said fires can result from using charcoal for incense and placing the burning charcoal later near flammable materials such as fabrics or furniture. "It is advisable to get rid of the charcoal in a sink," he highlighted, adding that cooking gas must be turned off after use and periodically checked to make sure there are no leaks.

In Brief

SOLID WASTE PROJECT

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) has received proposals from prequalified companies for Kabd Municipal Solid Waste Project. All proposals from prequalified companies for Kabd Municipal Solid Waste (Kabd MSW) were received from three consortia: (1) Constructions Industrielles de La Mediterranee (CNIM), Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC), Al Mulla Group; (2) EVN Umwelt holding und Betriebs GmbH, International Financial Advisors (IFA), KCC Engineering Contracting Co (KCCEC), Steinmuller Babcock Environment GmbH (SBE); (3) Suez Environment SAS, Itochu Corporation, Kharafi National KSC. — KUNA



UNLICENSED BUTCHERS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality's Mubarak Al-Kabeer branch announced finishing its preparations for Eid Al-Adha, Branch Director Samia Al-Enezi said, noting that municipality teams finished cleaning streets and the yards of 52 mosques. Enezi also noted that the teams removed 386 ads, confiscated 50 kilograms of inedible food items, and filed 36 citations. She also advised consumers to avoid dealing with unlicensed butchers who advertise their services through ads placed near various streets.



Kuwait Municipality

SYRIAN SITUATION

**CAIRO:** Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit discussed with the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura the latest development on the Syrian front which concerns the Russian-US deal to reinstate the Cessation of Hostilities in Syria. During a phone call with the UN envoy, Abul-Gheit welcomed this deal and hoped that violence would stop and humanitarian aid would be allowed to enter the Syrian territories. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** Traditional-style water containers made from clay, which help keep the liquid inside them cool during the hot days of summer. A common item found in vintage Kuwaiti homes. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

NO INSPECTORS TO REVIEW FARSI PUBLICATIONS: OFFICIAL ONLY BOOKS PREVIOUSLY CLEARED ALLOWED THIS YEAR

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** A retired official at the private education department of the Ministry of Education has said that both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Information will be facing problems due to a shortage of inspectors reviewing Farsi publications, after the Ministry of Information terminated the lone inspector working there.

"We don't have professional and authorized censors for reviewing Iranian publications in Kuwait, and this is a problem. This inspector was reviewing publications for the Iranian school. In the past, the Ministry of Information was in charge of reviewing the books of the Iranian school, but recently a new regulation was issued to shift this duty to the Ministry of Education," he told Kuwait Times on the condition of anonymity.

The official explained the method of checking foreign books of non-Arabic language schools. "A committee at the ministry reviews all foreign books used in schools, including textbooks and library books. The members review the books and discuss their notes during the meeting of the committee," he noted.

Some books are withdrawn completely and banned, while others are corrected. "We follow certain criteria to what's acceptable and what doesn't suit our communi-

ty. We may remove some pages that contain immoral pictures, pictures of the companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), pictures of crosses or Jesus (PBUH), and sentences or words such as pork or alcohol, that are replaced. Some small pictures or parts of pictures are blurred with a marker. Books that include political or religious issues that are against our society are banned and added to the blacklist of books," he pointed out.

According to him, there are no Farsi inspectors at the ministry presently. "The inspector who left was specialized in Farsi and was in charge of the books participating in the book fair as well. He was the only one in the ministry, and till today no one has been appointed to replace him. So, for this coming academic year, only the books that were already reviewed in the past will be allowed, according to the 'master' copy we have previously reviewed. No new books can enter the school," he stated.

Inspectors of the Ministry of Education regularly check the books in schools. "If the inspectors find violating books, the committee that approved these books will be investigated and penalized. The audiovisual learning materials of the schools are also reviewed. But in general, the schools are always cooperative," he concluded.



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## GREEN PALESTINE



By Labeed Abdal

**F**unded by a US project, the Palestinian Authority recently opened its first 'Green School' in the city of Tobas in West Bank under the name Oqaba High School for Girls. It is the first green Palestinian school built according to the Palestinian green building guidelines. This is very heartening what is taking place in a spot that for over half a century has been referred to by world media as one of conflict between Palestinians and Israelis for various reasons.

Executed by the Global Communities Foundation (GCF), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has invested \$1.3 million in a governance and infrastructure program that is expected to provide improved and safe educational environments for 130 students as well as raise public awareness about green structures and environment-friendly practices. This project will surely give those girls more hope for the future, peace, the ability to create future communities capable of self-governance and creating and developing friendships and partnerships instead of repeated killings of innocent people, destroying homes and the cancer-like spread of settlements.

*This project will surely give those girls more hope for the future*

The new school includes eight classrooms, a library, a computer lab and a science lab, in addition to environment-friendly elements that have been integrated in building and operating the school, such as water refining systems, solar panels that provide renewable energy, and the water recycling systems, which serve all parties and the world community that agreed at the UN General Assembly to resolve the problem and achieve peace by neighborliness.

The fact that the Palestinian Authority adopts an environmentally healthy culture and boosts public awareness on the importance of green buildings and environment-friendly practices surely highlights that peace is the only best option for future generations.

Through USAID and by donating over \$4.9 billion since 1994, the US is the biggest donor to Palestinians, providing funds for programs and projects that support democracy, improve health and educational services, provide humanitarian aid, develop the private sector and develop infrastructure and water resources, which is an effective role followed in other countries like Iraq, Afghanistan and even Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion.

kuwait digest

## VISA TRADERS



By Abdullah Bowair

**D**espite being fully involved and busy writing some books including my most recent one about the speeches of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, what I have been hearing recently made me write the following few lines.

I wonder where or how to start to reflect on the current situation in our beloved country. As citizens, we are currently living as strangers in our own country and we have said this many times. However, thanks to visa traders who only care about making more money with Kuwait at the bottom of their list of concerns, situations are getting worse. We all know that strangers must behave, which is fully applied in all countries except here in Kuwait, and the stories we occasionally hear prove this.

*We all know that strangers must behave, which is fully applied in all countries except here in Kuwait, and the stories we occasionally hear prove this.*

An expat impersonates as a police officer and shows off on Whatsapp. In another incident, an Asian turns into a street fighter and assaults an official and one of the guards assigned to him by the Ministry of Interior. A third sells military insignia and uniforms. Others get caught trying to smuggle huge amounts of hashish into our country. According to a doctor I know, very dangerous chemical drugs are being currently used by youth, making them unable to control their actions or reactions. An Asian also specialized in abortion, and all of a sudden, turned into a gynecologist.

Most areas are overcrowded with expats and it is hard for citizens to enter some of them. Our country is overpopulated with over millions of people, vehicles, trucks, bikes and thousands of pedestrians. Many people got angry when the Ministry of Health imposed a KD 50 annual health insurance fee on expats. I myself have seen plastic bags filled with medicines expat sell afterwards, though they only pay KD 1 on visiting a clinic and KD 2 in hospitals.

## KUWAIT INCREASES HEALTH CONTROL ON ALL PORTS: MOH

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Health (MoH) announced yesterday that it will increase epidemiological surveillance of all Kuwaiti border ports after Hajj season is over. MoH Undersecretary Khaled Al-Sahlawi said in a press release, that the ministry has provided all of the border ports with all needed equipment to conduct all tests to detect any viruses and infections causing diseases.

Moreover, Sahlawi said that the ministry has started the third phase of a campaign to generate awareness amongst pilgrims at Kuwait International Airport, after the departure of the last contingent of pilgrims.

Sahlawi added that phase three deals with promoting health awareness through various social media networks, adding that the MoH media office will send more than two million

short messages during this phase, along with health brochures and booklets. Furthermore, the health precautions are overseen by the Ministry of Awqaf, in conjunction with all Hajj campaigns. — KUNA



MoH Undersecretary Khaled Al-Sahlawi

## SECURITY, TRAFFIC PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE OVER EID HOLIDAY

**KUWAIT:** Security and traffic precautions are set in place to receive a week-long holiday of Eid Al-Adha, Ministry of Interior announced yesterday. The Ministry's Director General of Public Relations Brigadier General Adel Al-Hashash said in a press statement these precautionary measures will be enforced on public places such as: commercial buildings and malls and recreational parks to secure safety for the public and an easy flow of traffic over the holiday. He pointed out that during the performance of Eid Prayer, Security personnel will be dispatched to protect mosques; and mosque-goers will be searched

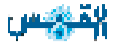


Brigadier General Adel Al-Hashash before entering the facilities. Hashash called on the public to cooperate with security men to provide safe holiday for all. — KUNA

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Al-Qabas

## MY FRIEND'S CONVINCING ARGUMENT

By Qais Al-Usta

The continuation of the current National Assembly was the subject I discussed with Abu-alez, who is a dear friend with whom I used to spend hours and days in Kuwait and abroad. Abu-alez asked me about the Assembly's reaction to the gasoline price hike. And does the Assembly know that the rise in fuel prices will be followed by a rise in the prices of all products available in the country? The price of delivering the product has gone up. Abu-alez also asked about the reaction of the Assembly to the Olympic scandal, although some Assembly members are part of the dispute that resulted in the problems which led to the suspension.

He also asked about the reaction of the Assembly about a high ranking officer who described MPs as "mandoubs", and claimed Kuwaitis are looking for food "free of charge", and why the interior minister did not take any disciplinary action towards this officer, and why the Assembly in turn did not grill the interior minister for not taking the necessary action towards this officer?

*These questions are not presented by Abu-alez alone, but thousands of citizens are wondering about the same topics*

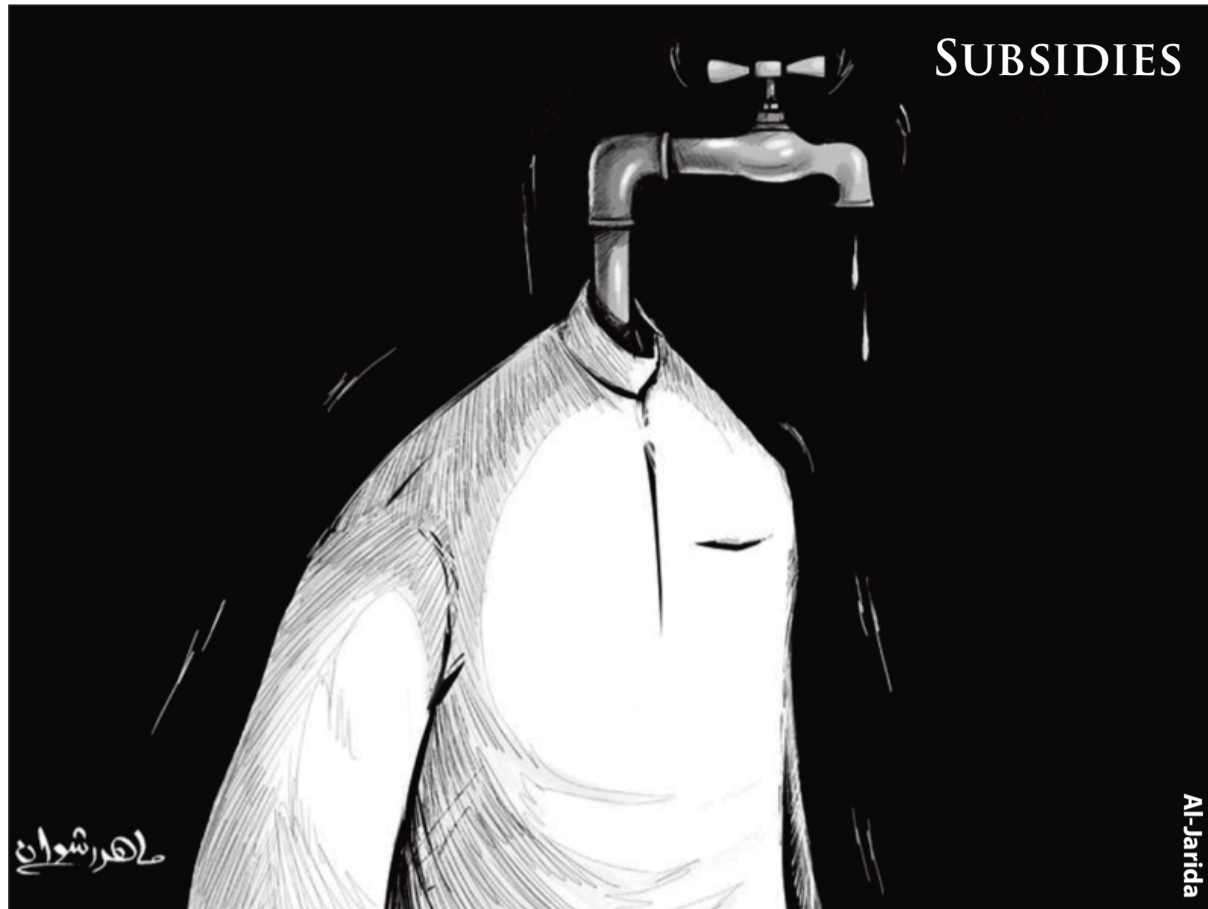
Abu-alez continued his questions about deals and planes, and what about the Assembly's role in them, and continued asking about the Assembly's stand towards preserving the country's lands, especially that some of it is distributed left and right and mostly without any rules and control, other than appeasing this and that, and why it did not issue rules for the distribution of the state lands? These questions are not presented by Abu-alez alone, but thousands of citizens are wondering about the same topics, and despite this the Assembly is continuing its summer break, although rules allow the Assembly to hold a session at the request of 33 MPs.

So, do members of our esteemed Assembly see all what is mentioned, and most of them took place in the current period. Do they not deserve a special session to discuss repercussions of these decisions, or that Nice, Cannes and Salzburg are more important? All these matters are unprecedented, and make us wonder about the role of the Assembly, especially in political life.

The most notable question: Will any MP be courageous to ask us to vote for him during next year's election? Just a question!

Was the message delivered? I hope so.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



## SUBSIDIES

## Crime

Report

### Child rapist arrested

**KUWAIT:** An Asian man reported that on returning home in Farwaniya, he saw his five-year-old daughter leaving his Asian neighbor's room. He added that the girl told him the neighbor lured her into the room where he undressed and raped her. After arresting the suspect and confronting him with the girl's testimony, and on seeing his hands' marks on her body, the suspect confessed.

### Home robbery

A citizen reported that an unidentified robber stole KD 4,000 in cash from his house, said security sources. The citizen, who had been preparing to spend the Eid vacation abroad with his wife, went shopping before the trip and on returning home, found that the money was missing. Rumaithiya police examined the house and further investigations are in progress.

### Smuggling foiled

A citizen was arrested at Kuwait International Airport on returning from Amsterdam with a packet of hashish joints, said security sources. Case papers indicate that customs officers suspected the citizen while he was waiting for his luggage, and on asking him where he was coming from, the man appeared nervous. He was thus subjected to a thorough search and the drugs were found. The man said that he brought them for his own use. A case was filed and the suspect was referred to relevant authorities.

### Threats

A female citizen reported receiving threats on her mobile phone, said security sources. The woman accused her ex-husband's family, who are currently abroad on vacation, noting that the messages were sent through international numbers. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

### Suicide claims

An Asian man was rushed to Adan Hospital in critical condition, said security sources, noting that those who brought him claimed that the man tried to commit suicide by drinking bleach. The sources added that detectives are waiting for forensic reports to determine the substance used and find whether the man willingly drank it to commit suicide or was forced to do so.

### Man mugged

A Bangladeshi man reported that two unidentified people assaulted and robbed him in Taima in Jahra, said security sources. The man added that the suspects stole his mobile phone and KD 1,500 he had with him.

### Beggar caught

A Syrian woman was arrested while begging, said security sources, noting that the woman was immediately referred for deportation. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

## EXPATS LEAVING AIRPORT MUST PAY FEES: JEERAN

**KUWAIT:** MP Abdurrahman Al-Jeeran called for collecting fees from expatriates leaving through Kuwait International Airport. He also demanded establishing balance between the number of the different expatriate populations in Kuwait, as well as between their numbers and the requirements of Kuwait's development plans "and their role in vital projects." On that regard, he also suggested reducing the number of communities "especially those with high crime and law-breaking rates."

Furthermore, Jeeran argued that the government has the right to inspect expats' bank accounts and examine incomes and account movements "if that serves the state's highest interests." He said that this can be possible through the 'free access law' which he says allows the government to check bank accounts even if the Central Bank of Kuwait's law protects accounts' confidentiality. He claimed that this practice is being followed in the Eurozone countries.

Moreover, Jeeran stressed that fees on services should be taken from all expats without discrimination "that can leave a negative political effect on Kuwait." On that regard, he suggested increasing fees collected for issuing or renewing visas, health insurance, and driver's licenses, as well as public hospital and clinics' fees, saying that the fact that Kuwait's expatriate population has exceeded three million people should be taken into consideration.

Jeeran had last week proposed a 'roadmap' to help address Kuwait's demographic imbalance problem by 'sorting' the expatriate population based on expats' financial and legal positions. According to the proposal, expats' bank accounts should be examined to identify their income levels, and expats should undergo training courses in their field of specialty. "Whoever passes stays and is required to pay fees, and whoever fails for two times is deported," he said. The same lawmaker was quoted



MP Abdurrahman Al-Jeeran

earlier last week suggesting that Kuwait's demographic imbalance should be discussed as a priority when the National Assembly resumes sessions late October. — Al-Rai

## ZAIN SUPPORTS THE OPERATION OF SMART BRACELETS FOR HAJJ PILGRIMS



**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its collaboration with the Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs to support the operation of Smart Bracelets to pilgrims traveling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj. This step comes to strengthen Zain's strategic partnership with the country's various governmental entities, as well as support the ministry's leadership in adopting innovative solutions to serve pilgrims.

As part of this initiative, Zain supports the Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs by supplying SIM cards and integration services at no charge to be used along with smart bracelets for 8000 pilgrims traveling from Kuwait to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during Hajj season. The smart bracelets aim at enabling the Kuwaiti Hajj Missions to track and locate every single pilgrim to assure their safety in case of any emergencies.

Zain will always be keen on utilizing innovative technological solutions to shoulder initiatives that work towards enhancing people's lives. The company continues to find ways to serve the community as to foster a

better world and be a productive member within the societies in which it operates. In collaboration with Zain KSA, the company will also offer pilgrims coming from Kuwait with voice and data lines at competitive prices through a dedicated booth that will be available at the Kuwaiti Hajj Mission's center in Saudi Arabia.

Zain also recently launched its special promotion for postpaid customers traveling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, which enables them to enjoy their existing local postpaid plan's Internet cap in the Kingdom without any additional charges over Zain KSA's network. The offer came as part of the company's keenness to keep its customers connected to each other and to their loved ones during Hajj season and without any additional charges from their part. Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategies primarily focus on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people's everyday circumstances.

## GULF BANK'S RED CUSTOMERS ENJOY LATEST MOVIES DURING EID AL ADHA

**KUWAIT:** As part of the Eid Al Adha celebrations, Gulf Bank has announced an exclusive offer for its red customers to watch the latest films at Kuwait National Cinema Company (KNCC) cinemas between 12-16 September 2016. New red customers, who open an account at The Avenues Mall, will receive a free ticket to watch the latest movies.

During the period of the promotion, Gulf Bank will have a red booth present at the KNCC cinema in The

Avenues Mall to showcase its products and services to potential and existing customers. Gulf Bank continuously looks for new and interesting initiatives to reward its loyal customer base over the year. Gulf Bank is committed to providing its red customers with the right promotions that are tailored to meet their specific needs and to better enjoy their holidays. Gulf Bank is pleased to celebrate this occasion with the people of Kuwait.

Gulf Bank's red program is for high school, college and university students aged 15 to 25 years old. There is no minimum deposit required to open the account or minimum balance charge. There is no minimum deposit required to open the account or minimum balance charge. To join Gulf Bank's red program or to find out more of its benefits, visit one of the Bank's 56 branches, contact the Customer Contact Centre on 1805805 for assistance and guidance or log on to [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com), Gulf Bank's website.



## AHLI UNITED BANK SUPPORTS KUWAIT NATIONAL PARALYMPIC TEAM IN BRAZIL

**KUWAIT:** As part of its social responsibility program that aims at supporting all members of society, Ahli United Bank announced recently that it is backing the Kuwait National Paralympic team, which will participate in the forthcoming 2016 Paralympic Games taking place in Brazil between 7-19 September.

The Kuwaiti team includes 3 players participating in the athletics games category which comprises of wheelchair racing, 2 players participating in the Javelin Throw competition, and 1 player participating in the shooting games.

Ahli United Bank continues its commitment Moataz El-Rafie, Ahli United Bank's Senior Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Banking Group said, "to participate in a wide range of initiatives that aim at

supporting the people of Kuwait, especially those with special needs. We already consider these Paralympic athletes as heroes and champions. The team's participation in any local or international sporting event is a major source of pride and their commitment to strive for greater achievement and success is to be applauded.

Rafie added: "Ahli United Bank continues to support citizens with special needs and wishes to help integrate them more in society whilst encouraging them to unleash their potential to have more active roles in their communities. Ahli United Bank's support reflects the Bank's vision and approach to social sustainability. The Bank provides dedicated services to facilitate special needs banking requirements in specific branches across Kuwait."

## KFH LAUNCHES HAJJ AWARENESS PROGRAM ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched comprehensive Hajj awareness program on its accounts on social media. The program encompassed several videos, tips and messages of the do's and don'ts related to Hajj season; its rituals and duties.

Participated in the program was a number of well-versed people, among of whom is Dr Sayyed Mohammad Al-Sayyed Abdul Razzaq Al-Tabtaba'e and Fahad AlMosa from Sharia Supervisory at KFH, in addition to Meshari Albaghli, Talal Fakher, Fahad Beshara and Anas Shehab.

The program included several subjects on Hajj, verses from The Holy Quran, rules of Hajj etc. these topics were posted on KFH accounts on social media in efforts to benefit the pilgrims and help them perform Hajj perfectly. Moreover, the program reassures KFH's



ongoing commitment towards assuming the social responsibility while participating in all religious and national activities and events.



## CBK TO SERVE CLIENTS DURING EID HOLIDAYS

**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said it will continue serving its customers during the Eid Al-Adh holidays at Kuwait International Airport's two branches. The two branches will be working 24/7. CBK also noted that the main center, Eastern Ahmadi, Sabbah Al-Salem, Beirut Street and Jahra branches would resume work on Thursday, September 15 immediately after

the Eid holidays - in addition to the services provided by the bank's call center on 1-888225. Clients can also do various transactions (deposit and withdrawal) through ATMs located throughout Kuwait in addition to using online transaction at [www.cbk-online.com](http://www.cbk-online.com) and CBK Mobile application. The bank will officially resume work at all branches on Sunday, September 18.

# Kuwait Times International

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**Iranians flock to Iraq's Karbala for holy plan B**

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## N KOREA SAYS NUKES ARE DEFENSE AGAINST 'BLACKMAIL'



ROSEMEAD, California: In this Friday, Aug 26, 2016 photo, pedestrians walk by artist Heath Satow's sculpture "Reflect," made with a damaged, rusted I-beam from the collapsed World Trade Center buildings.—AP

# LAST ARTIFACTS OF 9/11 GIVEN AWAY

## PLEDGE TO MOVE BEYOND TRAGEDY WITHOUT LOSING SIGHT OF IT

**NEW YORK:** Behind the barbed wire, the white minivan's busted windows and crumpled roof hint at its story. But forklifted to this windblown spot on the John F. Kennedy International Airport tarmac, between a decommissioned 727 and an aircraft hangar, it's doubtful passing drivers notice it at all. In the long struggle with the searing memories of 9/11, though, the van's solitary presence here marks a small but significant transition point.

Tons of wreckage - twisted steel beams weighing up to 40,000 pounds, chunks of concrete smelling of smoke, a crushed fire engine, a dust-covered airline slipper - were salvaged from the World Trade Center site for preservation in the weeks after the 2001 terrorist attacks. Now, 15 years later, this van, part of a government agency motor pool likely sheltered from the impact in the parking garage beneath the complex, is the very last artifact without a resting place.

When the van is claimed, as soon as a few weeks from now, it will fulfill a pledge that, to move beyond 9/11 without losing sight of it, New York would share relics of that terror, along with the tales of sacrifice and fear that come with them. The decision by officials to give away pieces of Trade Center wreckage has been praised and criticized over the years. But its impact is undeniable.

### Honoring those killed

More than 2,600 artifacts have gone to 1,585 fire and police departments, schools and museums, and other nonprofit organizations in every state and at least eight other countries. Each recipient has pledged to use them in memorials or exhibits honoring those killed on 9/11. While some have not followed through, the many that have mean it is now possible to touch a piece of September 11 during a Roman Catholic Mass in Port St. Lucie, Florida, while standing in the shadows of Colorado's San Juan mountains, or in a park honoring animals in Meaford, Ontario.

"They are the relics of the destruction and they have the same power in the same way as medieval relics that have the power of the saints," said Harriet Senie, a professor of art history at the City University of New York and author of "Memorials to Shattered Myths: Vietnam to 9/11." "History is a vague concept, but if you have this tangible object that was a part of this historical event, it makes it very difficult to deny and it also makes it possible to experience it in a very visceral way."

In the days immediately after the attacks, it wasn't at all clear what would happen to the wreckage of the Trade Center. It's not as if anyone had confronted questions of that scale before. There was no

certainty about exactly which artifacts, if any, should be saved. The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, which owned the Trade Center, dispatched an architect to comb through the site and cull pieces that seemed distinctive. Investigators carted away others. Most of the wreckage from the site was scrapped or recycled. But the agency saved about half of 1 percent of the total.

It all had to go somewhere. That ended up being JFK's Hangar 17, an 80,000-square-foot cavern of sheet metal left empty when tenant Tower Air went out of business in 2000. Officials were uncertain what to do with so much material, given the emotions intertwined with it. A judge determined the artifacts were not evidentiary or personal, and approved donations to those who promised to care for them. But where to begin?

### Still unprepared

"It was piles and piles, probably my height or higher, of steel beams," says Amy Passiak, the archivist hired to catalog the artifacts and manage their distribution, recalling the first time she walked into the hangar in 2010. Passiak, a high school senior in Michigan at the time of the attacks, had been working as an intern at New York's 9/11 museum, but says she was still unprepared for the scene. "I remember going home that day and just being exhausted, just from being there a few hours, just being emotionally exhausted and not being able to comprehend the amount of work that was going to go into the process. It was like, maybe a year, maybe two years. And here I am, six years later."

Passiak built a database of every item, cataloging its size and approximate weight, with descriptive notes. As word spread that the Port Authority was giving the material away, requests poured in. Through August, the Port Authority had distributed 2,629 artifacts. Many went to fire departments, local governments and organizations in the New York area with direct ties to the first responders and workers who perished when the towers fell.

"When those buildings came down, everybody and everything in its path was either pulverized or vaporized off the face of the earth," said John Hodge of the Stephen Siller Tunnels to Towers Foundation, named for his cousin, a New York firefighter killed on 9/11. In late July, the foundation marked the looming closure of Hangar 17 with a ceremony outside before hauling away an elevator motor from the Trade Center, a piece of the parking structure, and a portion of a broadcast antenna that crowned the complex. "That's where the DNA is. Neither my cousin or anybody else from Squad 1 was ever found, but it's in that steel," had Hodge said. But for

many of the people and groups that adopted artifacts from the Trade Center, the loss was more abstract. At least it started off that way.

Heath Satow, a sculptor in southern California hired to design a 9/11 memorial for the plaza fronting Rosemead's city offices, recalls awkwardly scanning a digital catalog showing beams available from the Trade Center. But hundreds of hours creating the memorial - a 10-foot beam cradled by hands of chrome, the palms and fingers formed from 2,976 interlocking birds representing individual victims - left a deep impression.

"Every individual was attended to," said Satow, his voice breaking five years later, as he described making the sculpture. "I just was totally unprepared for it. But when you spend all that time seeing it as individuals it will just wreck you." Satow said he purposely positioned the beam at about eye level, so people could see, touch and feel it. Others who adopted Trade Center artifacts used them to similar effect. Firefighters in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, created a memorial in front of their station around a small piece of donated I-beam. Many people in the town, surrounded by the San Juan mountains and the Southern Ute Reservation, will never get to New York or Washington DC, said David Hartman, who worked to obtain the artifact. But September 11 was his generation's Pearl Harbor, and being able to see and touch the wreckage enables residents to reflect on its lessons, he said.

At Flour Bluff Junior High School in Corpus Christi, Texas, a piece of Trade Center steel - one of three received by the school district - is housed in a case near the entrance to the cafeteria. In September, it is taken out and students from the school's officer training program stand guard. Bruce Chaney, the naval science instructor who applied for the artifacts, brings another, smaller piece to his classes. The artifact is "twisted and somewhat burned. It's not pretty. I'm hoping it will make them think as they're growing up, that they have to pay attention to their past," Chaney said.

Most Flour Bluff students hadn't yet been born in 2001, so the relics are the closest most will ever get to experiencing that day. But the desire to touch and own history, however distant, has been around since long before this generation, said Erika Doss, a professor of American studies at the University of Notre Dame and author of "Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America." She notes that after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, millions of Americans gathered alongside the tracks as a train carrying his body made its way to Illinois. People wore mourning bands on their arms. They hung Lincoln's portrait in their homes. They flocked to

see death masks cast from his face. They wanted to see and touch Lincoln.

### Pained memories

Artifacts let people grapple with pained memories. But 15 years after September 11, the dispersal of artifacts from the Trade Center has not resolved the public's conflicted feelings about those events, now set against continued fears of terrorism. "We just don't know where the events of 9/11 have led us," said Rick Sluder, fire chief in Wauseon, Ohio, which obtained a Trade Center beam and, together with neighboring departments built a memorial at the nearby Fulton County Fairgrounds.

"A lot of people are looking at this as, is this the point of downfall or the point at which we rose above the rest, the point of resiliency?" Sluder said. "I don't think that's been determined yet." There's little questioning, though, the emotions people invest in the artifacts. During the six years Passiak spent archiving the relics, the people seeking them would often tell her stories of the losses in their own

communities - of firefighters, or soldiers or others - that connected them, however tangentially, to 9/11.

In the first years, there were so many artifacts that she could easily match them with requesters. So when a girl at Cracker Trail Elementary School in Sebring, Florida, wrote that she wanted to help her fellow students learn about 9/11, Passiak set aside a children's alarm clock recovered from a store in the Trade Center's concourse, a burned notebook, and small piece of steel, 6 inches square. "I felt like that allowed a full story to be told," she said. As the piles of material winnowed, though, it became more difficult. Most of the groups seeking artifacts wanted pieces they could build a narrative around. The biggest artifacts were unwieldy. By early this year, there was little left except rails from the commuter train line that ran under the complex. Items like police cruisers, whose purpose that day were clear, found takers. But unmarked vehicles, anonymous but for their place in the wreckage, were initially passed over. — AP

## PAKISTAN DENIES BAIL IN UK WOMAN'S 'HONOR KILLING'

**ISLAMABAD:** A Pakistani court yesterday denied bail to the father of a British woman believed to have been the victim of an "honor killing," Samia Shahid, a dual national, was murdered in July during a visit to her family village in Punjab province. "There was a hearing into the bail application by Samia Shahid's father, but the court rejected it," defense lawyer Mian Arif told AFP.

Arif said that the next hearing would take place next week in the city of Jhelum, while the accused would file another bail petition to the Punjab's high court. The victims' second husband, Mukhtar Kazam, claims she was murdered for bringing "dishonor" to her family. Kazam has said his wife had angered her parents by converting to Shia Islam, his sect, before their wedding. Police have accused her ex-husband Muhammad Shakeel and father Muhammad Shahid of being involved in her killing.

Shahid's ex-husband has also been charged with raping her. Police have also accused Samia's mother and sister of abetting the crime; however, the two have fled to the UK, according to police. The chief of the local police station was later arrested for helping them escape. Kazam and Shahid, both dual British-Pakistani citizens, had been married for two years and were living in Dubai.

At a news conference in August, Kazam presented a copy of the post-mortem report into his wife's death that said the 28-year-old had marks on her neck, suggesting she had been strangled. Shahid's father has denied the charges, claiming his daughter died of natural causes. Hundreds of women are murdered by relatives in the conservative Muslim nation each year on the pretext of defending what is seen as family honor. Rights groups and politicians have for years called for tougher laws to tackle perpetrators of violence against women in Pakistan. — AFP

## SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS CHANGING WOMEN'S ROLES

**LONDON:** The Syrian refugee crisis is changing women's traditional roles with increasing numbers becoming heads of households and the main breadwinners, an international aid agency said yesterday ahead of a global refugee summit. Most women view the changes negatively with many feeling far more vulnerable to violence, abuse and harassment, CARE said in a report as it called for world leaders to put women refugees at the heart of the Sept. 19 and 20 talks in New York.

Some 4.8 million Syrians have fled to surrounding countries during five years of war. Others have risked their lives to reach Europe. The number of female-headed

Syrian households in Jordan has risen to nearly 40 percent from a quarter a couple of years ago, CARE said. With men struggling to find work or absent, more women are taking up jobs or even setting up small businesses. "We are seeing something very similar to what happened during World War One and Two across Europe whereby women are forced to take on new roles - and there are both positive and negative aspects to this," CARE policy adviser Howard Mollett told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. In Greece, Syrian refugees estimate half of refugee households to be female-headed. Some have lost male family members in the war, while others are trying

to join husbands already living in Europe.

Batoul, a Syrian mother who rarely left her home before the war broke out, told CARE how she had spent months travelling thousands of kilometers alone with her baby to try to join her husband in Germany. The first thing she wants to do on reaching Germany is learn the language and look for a job. "My husband is traditional but he will support this. Women are strong and we have a new role to play," she told CARE at a camp in Serbia.

### Exploited workers

Aid workers say women refugees arriving in the Balkans are highly vulnerable,

generally having less money and fewer resources than men. CARE said some mothers travelling on their own formed sexual relationships in the hope the man would protect them and their children while they were on the road. Women have also described being forced to have sex to secure services and travel documents.

Mollett said some of the camps in Europe were shocking and lacked lighting, locks on showers and toilets and separate sleeping sections to keep women and children safe. "While I was in Greece over the past month, multiple stories emerged of human traffickers and other predatory individuals preying on women and chil-

dren in the official camps as well as those living homeless in the street," he added. The report, entitled *On Her Own*, also highlights increasing poverty among refugees with four fifths in Jordan now living below the poverty line. Mollett said rates of child marriage among refugees had almost doubled since the start of the war partly because of increasing destitution. The UN refugee summit aims to forge a more humane international response to refugee and migrant crises. It will be followed by a summit of world leaders hosted by US President Barack Obama aimed at generating new funding and boosting refugee resettlement. — Reuters

## TURKEY GRANTS LOCKED UP PKK LEADER FAMILY VISIT

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey has granted permission to the family of jailed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan to visit him for the first time in two years, state media reported yesterday. His family will be allowed to see Ocalan at his high security jail on the prison island of Imrali off Istanbul over the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha beginning next week, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

Turkish media reports said this will be the first family visit Ocalan has been allowed since October 6, 2014. Anadolu said Ocalan would meet with his brother Mehmet. The permission comes as a group of 50 Kurdish activists, including MPs, are on the sixth day of a hunger strike to protest the lack of news about Ocalan's welfare. Ocalan founded the armed movement to fight for greater rights for Turkey's Kurds in the 1970s and led a bloody insurrection against the Turkish state that formally began in 1984.

He was captured in 1999 by Turkey's

secret service in Kenya, put on trial and sentenced to death. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in 2002 when Turkey abolished the death penalty. Ocalan held secret talks with top officials that resulted in the PKK declaring a ceasefire in 2013. But this collapsed in 2015 and conflict is again raging in Turkey's Kurdish-dominated southeast. Ocalan had until then met regularly with a delegation from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). But these trips halted with the renewed violence and the last such visit dates back to April 2015.

The last official visit to Ocalan was by a delegation of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in April 2016. It said there were just four prisoners held on Imrali, in the Sea of Marmara. The hunger strikers in the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir had said they would continue their strike until Ocalan's family or lawyers were allowed to visit the prisoner. — AFP



**KARBALA:** Iranian Shiite Muslim worshippers visit the shrine of Imam Abbas ahead of the start of the Eid Al-Adha in the holy city of Karbala some 120 kms south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad. — AFP

## IRANIANS FLOCK TO IRAQ'S KARBALA FOR HOLY PLAN B

THOUSANDS DIVERTED TO THE SHRINE OF IMAM HUSSEIN

**KARBALA:** Barred from Makkah amid an escalating spat between Tehran and Saudi Arabia, masses of Iranian Shiite faithful have converged on the holy Iraqi city of Karbala for an alternative pilgrimage. The row that has prevented Iranians taking part in this year's hajj pilgrimage is diverting hundreds of thousands to the shrine of Imam Hussein, one of the holiest sites in Shiite Islam. "I expect the number of pilgrims to reach a million, about 75 percent of them Iranians," Adel Al-Mussawi, a shrine official, told AFP.

Not all of those had planned to travel to Makkah but many of the 64,000 Iranians who were allocated places for this year's hajj ended up in the holy Iraqi city this weekend. Visiting the Imam Hussein shrine does not have the same religious significance as the hajj, which is a pillar of Islam and therefore an obligation for Muslims who are able at least once in their lifetime. But followers of the Shiite sect of Islam feel more at home in Karbala than in Makkah, where around 2,300 people died in a stampede last year, according to an AFP tally, including 464 Iranians.

### 'It is our duty'

"Karbala is normal for us. We always come here. This year they have blocked the path (to

Makkah) and no one can go," said Shukrullah, a white-haired Iranian pilgrim sitting on a rug near one of the gates to the mausoleum. "It's our duty to come here. This is an Islamic country. It's good," he said. Iran has accused Riyadh of incompetence and of failing to investigate the 2015 disaster or take satisfactory precautions for this year's pilgrimage.

Talks broke down between the two regional powerhouses and Iranians were denied entry. A war of words has since escalated, with both countries' top clerics exchanging sharp words-Iran's Ali Khamenei calling Saudi monarchs a "cursed, evil family" and Saudi's Abdulaziz al-Sheikh saying Iranians were not real Muslims. "The Saudi-Iranian conflict has forced Iranians to come to Karbala to visit the shrine of Imam Hussein," Mussawi said, adding: "For the Shiites, this is worth 70 hajj." For the city, which lies about 80 kilometers southwest of Baghdad, the extra influx of pilgrims is nothing out of the ordinary.

### 10-year wait

"We have prepared transport, accommodation and security. We are used to handling bigger occasions such as Arbaeen so we can handle this," Karbala Governor Aqeel Al-Turaihi told

AFP. In the Friday sermon read by his representative Abdul Mahdi Al-Karbala, Iraq's top Shiite cleric Ali Al-Sistani appealed for respect and tolerance among all Muslims. Yet resentment ran deep in the ranks of the Iranian faithful who were barred from Makkah, where the hajj got under way on Saturday.

"Last year, how many people were killed from all over the world? They (Saudi Arabia) killed all of them, but no one did anything to them," said Shukrullah, sheltering from the midday sun with his family near lockers where the faithful leave their shoes before entering the mausoleum. Unlike Shukrullah, Nasirah, a woman from the Iranian city of Ahvaz, has not yet performed the hajj and predicted that the substitution trip to Karbala could become a habit.

"In Iran, the pilgrims... pay to get a visa and go to hajj. We in Iran wait a long time to get a chance to go. It can take 10 or 15 years," she said. "So I said let's go for Arafah day in Karbala," Nasirah said, referring to a prayer performed by Shiites in Saudi Arabia's Arafat plain on the second day of hajj. "If we are in Karbala, it's the house of God, it can be considered hajj for us. So for the next few years, we will be coming to Karbala-what can we do?" — AFP

## NETANYAHU CRITICIZED OVER 'ETHNIC CLEANSING' REMARK

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced growing criticism yesterday after he called the Palestinian refusal to let Jews live in their future state "ethnic cleansing". In a video released Friday, Netanyahu rejected the notion that West Bank settlements were "an obstacle to peace", drawing a rebuke from Washington. Netanyahu noted "Israel's diversity" which manifests in "the nearly two million Arabs living" in the Jewish state and reflects its "openness and readiness for peace".

"Yet the Palestinian leadership actually demands a Palestinian state with one pre-condition: No Jews," he said. "There's a phrase for that: It's called ethnic cleansing." The US State Department called the video "unhelpful" and "inappropriate". "We obviously strongly disagree with the characterization that those who oppose settlement activity or view it as an obstacle to peace are somehow calling for ethnic cleansing of Jews from the West Bank," spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said Friday.

"We believe that using that type of terminology is inappropriate and unhelpful," she said. "Settlements are a final status issue that must be resolved in negotiations between the parties." Israeli opposition member Tzipi Livni of the Zionist Union party accused Netanyahu of "trying to make political gains while creating diplomatic damage". She said the video had caused the US position to change from accepting settlement blocs to rejecting the entire West Bank enterprise.

"After Netanyahu's video, the US is saying that all the settlements, including the blocs, are an obstacle, whereas in the past they were recognized," she said in remarks relayed by a spokesman. Ayman Odeh, who heads the Joint

List that groups the main Arab parties in parliament, accused Netanyahu of creating "an imaginary reality" and rejected the comparison between Israeli Arabs and Jewish West Bank settlers, who he said implement a policy of "ethnic cleansing".

"Netanyahu doesn't care that it is the settlements that were established precisely in order to cruelly expel Palestinian populations from the West Bank to limited territories around the major cities," he wrote on Facebook. Peace efforts have been at a standstill since a US-led initiative collapsed in April 2014, with both Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmud

Abbas saying on Tuesday they were ready to meet to re-launch peace efforts.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has been seeking to arrange a meeting between the two in Moscow. International criticism of Israeli settlement building, including from the United States, has intensified in recent months. Netanyahu's government, considered to be the most right-wing in the country's history, has nonetheless continued with the policy. The settlements are considered illegal under international law and major obstacles to peace as they are built on land the Palestinians see as part of their future state. — AFP



**BAGHDAD:** In this Tuesday, Sept 11, 2012 file photo, members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq organization chant slogans and hold banners during a tour organized by the Iraqi government for foreign diplomats. — AP

## FINAL GROUP OF IRANIAN OPPN DISSIDENTS LEAVES IRAQ CAMP

**BAGHDAD:** A camp housing members of an Iranian opposition group in Iraq was officially closed after the last 280 residents were flown to Albania on Friday, the group said. The Mujahadeen-e-Khalq has been based in Iraq since the 1980s, when they received arms and support from Saddam Hussein during the Iran-Iraq war. US-led forces disarmed the group after the 2003 invasion and settled them at a base north of Baghdad.

Late Friday night a car bomb targeting a shopping mall in eastern Baghdad killed 11 people and wounded 28, according to police and hospital officials. Three Iraqi policemen were among the dead, the officials added. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to brief the press. The attack comes as Iraqi ground forces are moving into position around Mosul ahead of a planned operation to retake the militant-held city from the Islamic State group.

The Iranian opposition group, whose members who were flown out of Iraq Friday, was listed as a terrorist organization by the US State Department for years over its killing of Americans. The MEK was also

accused of taking part in the brutal suppression of a 1991 Shiite uprising against Saddam, allegations denied by the group. The MEK says it renounced violence in 2001. The US military in Iraq signed an agreement with the group in 2004, promising that members would be treated as "protected persons" under the Fourth Geneva Convention. The State Department removed the group from its list of terrorist organizations in 2012.

### Grateful to government

On Friday, US State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau thanked the governments of Albania and Iraq. "We are grateful to the Government of Iraq for facilitating the departure of the MEK. And we are especially appreciative of the extraordinary efforts of the Albanian Government, the Albanian Prime Minister Rama, to welcome these people who are in need of international protection," Trudeau said. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon thanked member states and international organizations for "the successful resolution of this humanitarian issue," in statement issued by his spokesman. — AP



**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrives to a weekly cabinet meeting. — AP



## PENCE RELEASES TAX RETURNS, TRUMP'S REMAIN A SECRET

**INDIANAPOLIS:** Donald Trump hasn't publicly released his tax returns. The same can no longer be said of his running mate, Mike Pence. The Republican vice presidential nominee and Indiana governor on Friday released a decade worth of returns, roughly a month after promising to do so. The campaign said Pence paid a state and federal tax rate that ranged between 10 percent and 16 percent over the past decade.

An analysis of just his federal taxes shows he paid an effective rate since 2006 that ranges between 6.4 and 12 percent, based on his family's adjusted gross income. Pence's income topped out at \$187,000 while he was still a member of Congress, but dropped to \$113,000 last year. The family has donated 10 percent of their take-home pay to charity, the campaign said, which reflects an average 7.4 percent of their adjusted gross income.

"The Pence family has been honored to serve their state and their nation for the past 16 years, while raising three great children and putting them through college," said Marc Lotter, Pence's spokesman. "These tax returns clearly show that Mike and Karen Pence have paid their taxes, supported worthy causes, and, unlike the Clintons, the Pences have not profited from their years in public service."

Thursday Pence said "for too many in Washington ... politics seems to have morphed into a rigged game of self-

enrichment and cronyism." Pence, speaking at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, later lamented that politicians can come to Washington with modest means but "emerge as millionaires" by auctioning access and profiting off policies. "Americans are fed up with Washington's self-enrichment racket," Pence added.

### Trump is the exception

Major-party presidential nominees have publicly released their taxes since 1976, but Trump is the exception. He has said he is waiting for the conclusion of an audit. Last month, Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton released her 2015 tax return, adding to the records dating to 1977 she previously made public. Her running mate, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, also released 10 years of tax returns last month.

Clinton has also raised questions about what Trump may be hiding by refusing to release his taxes and she has wondered whether Trump is worth the \$10 billion he says he is. "We're pleased to see that one member of the Trump ticket has decided to meet the long-held threshold for disclosure in a modern-day presidential campaign," said Christina Reynolds, the Clinton campaign's deputy communications director. "But it's Donald Trump - who just this week attacked America's generals and showered praise on Russia's authoritarian leader - running to be our next president." — AP

## WAS GAY CHIEF FIRED FOR POOR PERFORMANCE OR RETALIATION?

**COLUMBIA:** Two years after a small South Carolina police chief was fired because she was gay, the same chief said her hometown fired her again in retaliation for having an outside agency investigate a sexual harassment complaint. Latta Town Administrator Jarrett Taylor saved Crystal Moore's job the first time. But he said he fired her Friday not to get revenge, but because she couldn't solve growing problems with bad morale, poor decisions and administrative tasks that weren't done on time.

When Moore was first fired in 2014, Latta rallied around her, stripped power from the mayor and cheered when Taylor and other Town Council members hired her back. This time, the dispute seems destined for a courtroom, even as Moore runs for a different job - Dillon County sheriff. Moore's lawyer said the problems only started Aug 12, when a woman reported she was being sexually harassed by a male Latta employee.

Moore tried to call Taylor first as per town policy, but his voicemail was full so she decided to ask a sheriff's deputy to

come talk to the woman in part because she was related by marriage to the male employee. Moore's lawyer Malissa Burnette told The Associated Press in an email. Taylor then demanded Moore sign a statement saying the town employee meant no harm against the woman making the accusations. Moore refused because the woman told her she had reported the harassment to Taylor first and he did nothing. The town then issued four reprimands against her as retaliation, Burnette said.

### Sexual harassment claims

Latta suspended Moore for five days last month, reprimanding her for failing to inform supervisors of a sexual harassment claim as soon as it was reported; revealing an officer's salary at a public meeting; not filling out the required weekly reports on the condition of her department's vehicles; and checking another employee's disciplinary records without permission, according to the documents the town released to the AP. — AP

## IN DASH TO NOVEMBER, CAMPAIGNS PIN HOPES ON TURNOUT EFFORTS

'THESE STORIES ARE GOING TO START MAKING A DIFFERENCE'

**IOWA CITY:** Over pizza and cupcakes, Jose Nunez implored a crowd of University of Iowa students to pull out their smartphones and start sharing with online friends their personal reasons for backing Hillary Clinton for president. Early voting in Iowa begins in late September, and the digital aide for the Clinton campaign said earnestly: "These stories are going to start making a difference." It's a scene Clinton's campaign is replicating in about a dozen of the most contested states as their aggressive voter turnout effort kicks into high gear for the sprint to Election Day, Nov 8.

In Iowa alone, 25,000 volunteers are helping send real-time data on voters back to the campaign's New York City headquarters, where dozens of analysts model the electorate. The campaign says it has about a half-million volunteers in swing states, including 40,000 in North Carolina. In Florida, the largest of those pivotal states, it claims 90,000. To be sure, Clinton's debates with Republican Donald Trump or a late-in-the-campaign surprise could reshape the White House race in the final stretch. But Clinton's team believes winning the 270 electoral votes needed to secure the presidency relies on its yearlong, multimillion-dollar investment in sophisticated analytics and an army of volunteers now making contact with individual voters.

### 'Overrated'

Trump, with heavy assistance from the Republican National Committee, is trying to replicate some of those efforts, bringing new staff on and hoping they can make up for lost time. Yesterday, the RNC expected to have about 1,000 employees and 4,000 volunteers knocking on doors in Ohio, Florida, Wisconsin and elsewhere. But the billionaire businessman - who told The Associated Press earlier this year that he believes the use of data analysis in campaigning is "overrated" - is also banking on a wave of momentum to carry voters to the polls in November.

"This is an incredible movement. The world is talking about it," Trump said during one of his recent rallies, which have served as a main way of collecting information about voters. Republicans scoffed at then-Sen Barack Obama for speaking in similarly sweeping terms during his 2008 presidential campaign. But it wasn't Obama's rhetoric that propelled him to victory. It was an expensive and painstaking effort to convert the crowds he generated into a data-driven voter turnout operation run by many of the same people now working for Clinton.

RNC officials talk publicly about having made gains since Obama won re-election in 2012, and there's no doubt the party has focused more on voter targeting in recent years. But GOP officials are well aware they have something to prove, even to those within the party who privately



**MIAMI BEACH:** in this Aug 11 2016 file photo, a supporter of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump wears socks with his face on them during a speech by Trump to the National Association of Home Builders. — AP

question the strength of the turnout operation. "We know we have to be better than we have been before to win a tight election," said Rick Gorka, a communications adviser to the RNC and a former campaign aide to Mitt Romney, the 2012 nominee.

While the contest between Clinton and Trump is close, Clinton has more ways to 270 than does Trump, who almost certainly has to win Florida and Ohio to pull out a victory. Even then, Clinton could win without them. The biggest unknown is how voter turnout will be affected by the unusual combination of high interest in the election and low approval for both candidates. Do voters dismayed by their options choose to stay home on Election Day or does interest in the race push more people to vote?

Clinton aides expect turnout to exceed the 129 million total from the 2012 contest between Obama and Romney. That's due in part because turnout was suppressed in 2012 in heavily populated areas of New York and New Jersey as a result of Superstorm Sandy. While few Republicans will openly cheer for low turnout, that scenario could help Trump. Clinton has an edge over Trump with blacks, Hispanics and young people. But she needs those groups to show up in big numbers to offset Trump's strength with white, working-class voters.

### Aggressively registering residents

In Florida, for example, her team is aggres-

sively registering residents moving from Puerto Rico, who tend to vote Democratic. Republican pollster Whit Ayers said that even if the GOP turnout effort is on track, Trump has a tougher task in Florida. "Republicans say they are signing up more white voters," Ayers said. "But I'll be very surprised if they can sign up more white people than Clinton can sign up Hispanics."

In Iowa, a less diverse state, Clinton's staff has set up a text messaging competition between University of Iowa and Iowa State University this weekend to see which school can attract more new registered voters. Marlon Marshall, Clinton's director of states, said that nearly all Democratic-leaning voters in swing states have had some level of contact from the campaign by this stage in the race. "And if not, you will soon," Marshall said.

As in past elections, Democrats are urging people, particularly less reliable voters, to vote during early voting periods. RNC officials know Democrats have a better chance of banking more votes during early voting, but they too are instructing field staff to push low-propensity voters to vote before Nov. 8, to try to offset Clinton's advantage. Jeremy Bird, Obama's chief data analyst in 2012 and a Clinton consultant, said that if the campaigns are doing their jobs right, early voting data will tell the story of the election. "Sophisticated campaigns will know by mid-October how the election is likely to end up," Bird said. — AFP

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HALTS WORK ON PIPELINE PROJECT

### NEAR THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION:

The federal government stepped into the fight over the Dakota Access oil pipeline Friday, ordering work to stop on one segment of the project in North Dakota and asking the Texas-based company building it to "voluntarily pause" action on a wider span that an American Indian tribe says holds sacred artifacts. The government's order came minutes after a judge rejected a request by the Standing Rock Sioux to halt construction of the \$3.8 billion, four-state pipeline.

The tribe, whose cause has drawn thousands to join their protest, has challenged the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits for the pipeline at more than 200 water crossings. Tribal leaders allege that the project violates several federal laws and will

east and west of the lake while the government reconsiders "any of its previous decisions."

The statement also said the case "highlighted the need for a serious discussion" about nationwide reforms "with respect to considering tribes' views on these types of infrastructure projects." Vicki Granado, a spokeswoman for the company, said it had no comment. The president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council said he was disappointed with the government's decision to intervene and called it "flagrant overreach" that will result in more oil being moved by trucks and trains.

The 1,172-mile project will carry nearly a half-million barrels of crude oil daily from North Dakota's oil fields through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing

great amount of grief. My heart is hurting, but we will continue to stand, and we will look for other legal recourses."

### For the tribes

Earlier in the day, thousands of protesters, many from tribes around the country, gathered near the reservation that straddles the North and South Dakota border. "There's never been a coming together of tribes like this," according to Judith LeBlanc, a member of the Caddo Nation in Oklahoma and director of the New York-based Native Organizers Alliance. People came from as far as New York and Alaska, some bringing their families and children, and hundreds of tribal flags dotted the camp, along with American flags flown upside-down in protest.

The judge's order was announced over a loudspeaker there. John Nelson of Portland, Oregon, came to the camp to support his grandson, Archambault. The 82-year-old says he was not surprised by the ruling, "but it still hurts." State authorities announced this week that law enforcement officers from across the state were being mobilized at the protest site. They said some National Guard members will work security at traffic checkpoints and another 100 would be on standby. The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association asked the Justice Department to send monitors to the site because it said racial profiling is occurring.

Nearly 40 people have been arrested since the protest began in April, including Archambault. A week ago, protesters and construction workers were injured when, according to tribal officials, workers bulldozed sites on private land that the tribe says in court documents are "of great historic and cultural significance." Energy Transfer Partners denied the allegations. The state's Private Investigation and Security Board received complaints about the use of dogs and will look into whether the private security teams at the site are properly registered and licensed, board attorney Monte Rogneby said Friday, adding that he would not name the firms.

On Thursday, North Dakota's archaeologist said a piece of private land that was not previously surveyed by the state would be surveyed for artifacts next week. The company plans to complete the pipeline this year, and said in court papers that stopping the project would cost \$1.4 billion the first year, mostly due to lost revenue in hauling crude. A status conference in the tribe's lawsuit is scheduled for Sept 16. — AP



**NORTH DAKOTA:** Horseback riders make their way through an encampment near North Dakota's Standing Rock Sioux reservation. — AP

harm water supplies. The tribe also says ancient sites have been disturbed during construction. The tribe's chairman, Dave Archambault II, spoke at the state Capitol in front of several hundred people, some carrying signs that read "Respect Our Water" and "Water Is Sacred." He called the federal announcement "a beautiful start" and told reporters that the dispute is a long way from over.

### Pass the peace pipe

"A public policy win is a lot stronger than a judicial win," he said. "Our message is heard." A joint statement from the Army and the Departments of Justice and the Interior said construction bordering or under Lake Oahe would not go forward and asked the Texas-based pipeline builder, Energy Transfer Partners, to stop work 20 miles to the

pipeline in Patoka, Illinois. In denying the tribe's request for a temporary injunction, US District Judge James Boasberg in Washington said that the court "does not lightly countenance any depredation of lands that hold significance" to the tribe and that, given the federal government's history with the tribe, the court scrutinized the permitting process "with particular care." Nonetheless, the judge wrote, the tribe "has not demonstrated that an injunction is warranted here."

Attorney Jan Hasselman with the environmental group Earthjustice, who filed the lawsuit on the tribe's behalf, said earlier this week any such decision would be challenged. "We will have to pursue our options with an appeal and hope that construction isn't completed while that (appeal) process is going forward," he said. Tribal historian LaDonna Brave Bull Allard said Boasberg's ruling gave her "a

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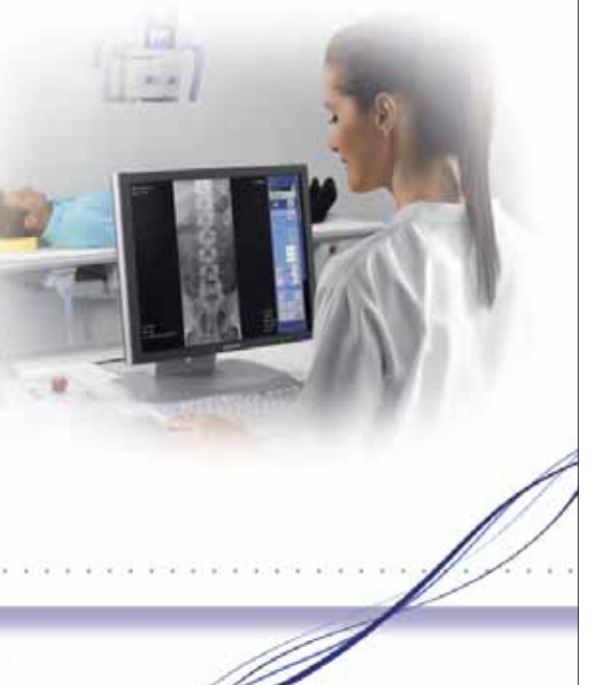
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## MYANMAR TO STRENGTHEN MILITARY TIES WITH CHINA

**BEIJING:** China's military wants to strengthen ties with neighboring Myanmar by having more exchanges and greater cooperation, a top officer told Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi during a visit to the Southeast Asian country, state media said yesterday. China has been on a diplomatic offensive ever since the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's government came to power in April, aiming to forge good ties with its resource-rich neighbor.

Last month Suu Kyi visited China,

where President Xi Jinping told her he wanted to ensure the "correct direction" of relations. Xu Qiliang, a vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, which controls the armed forces and is headed by Xi, told Suu Kyi that China "highly values the friendly cooperation between the two countries," state news agency Xinhua said.

"China firmly upholds a friendly policy towards Myanmar and supports Myanmar's national reconciliation process," Xu said during Friday's meet-

ing in Naypyitaw, the capital of Myanmar. "Xu mentioned Aung San Suu Kyi's recent trip to China, during which she reached consensus with the Chinese leadership on further enhancing the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Myanmar," it added.

China will keep playing a constructive role in pushing forward Myanmar's peace process and hopes the two countries can work together to maintain peace and stability on their bor-

der, Xu said. Suu Kyi last month launched a major push to end decades of fighting between the military and myriad rebel groups, which has at times spilled into China and seen refugees pushed across the border, to Beijing's anger.

Enhancing friendship, mutual understanding and trust is very important for both nations, Suu Kyi said, according to Xinhua, and thanked China for its role in Myanmar's peace process. China had a close relationship with Myanmar's former military-run government, and has looked on with some nervousness at its democratization process. China has been pushing Myanmar to resume work on the Chinese-invested \$3.6-billion Myitsonne dam project, 90 percent of whose power was originally planned to have gone to China. In 2011, then President Thein Sein angered China when he suspended work on the dam, at the confluence of two northern rivers in the Ayeyarwady river basin, over environmental protests. —Reuters



**PARIS:** This file photo taken on August 30, 2016 shows a worker on the construction site of a future migrant camp. —AFP

## DIVISIVE WALL AIMS TO SECURE CALAIS PORT

**LILLE:** With the fences not enough to stop them, a wall is coming up in northern France blocking access to the port of Calais for migrants trying to clandestinely cross the Channel to Britain. The initiative however has met with controversy on both shores.

### What will the wall look like?

The so-called "anti-intrusion" wall will stretch one kilometer and will be about four meters high and be an extension of high wire fences on each side of the highway leading to the port of Calais. Made of concrete panels that can be removed when no longer needed, it will be equipped with cameras and a lighting system in order to monitor any attempts to scale over it.

Construction is set to begin this month and should be completed by the end of the year as it is expected to take about 12 weeks to put up the wall and another eight weeks to install the video surveillance and lighting. Britain has agreed to pay for the construction which is estimated to cost 2.7 million euros (\$3.0 million, 2.3 million pounds).

### What is its purpose?

In Calais between 6,900 and 9,000 migrants live in the squalid camp known as the "Jungle", the biggest slum in France. Situated near the highway leading to the port, the migrants—mainly men from the Middle East and African nations such as Somalia and Sudan—try to block the lorries on their way to the Channel tunnel or ferries so they can jump on board and hide inside to get across to Britain.

"This wall is going to prevent migrants from invading the highway every night. They put tree trunks, branches, gas cylinders" in the road to stop the trucks, said Jean-Marc Puissesseau, CEO of the Calais port. "We can no longer continue to put up with these repeated assaults," he said. Regional authorities say the wall will improve security and is part of a long term strategy to discourage traffickers

from trying to smuggle people through Calais.

### Who is opposed to it?

Some elected officials, including Calais Mayor Natacha Bouchart, are sceptical. She says there is no need for a wall because the French government has promised to close down the Jungle camp as soon as possible—a move Paris says will be done in stages. Volunteers from the various charities helping the migrants in the camp of tents and makeshift shelters are mostly opposed to the project as useless and costly.

French police union Gilles Debove says while the wall may mean fewer police will need to be deployed, on the other hand the migrants will likely move to the nearby A16, another highway in the region. In the UK, which will pay the bill, the wall has numerous critics. The Greens have called it "monstrous" and a Citizens collective has said the money would be better spent to help minors stuck in Calais to be reunited with family in Britain. Richard Burnett, chief executive of Britain's Road Haulage Association, has called the scheme "poor use of taxpayers' money".

### Where are there such walls?

After the fall of the infamous Berlin Wall, there were about 16 walls blocking borders around the world. Today there are some 65 walls, built or under construction, according to researcher Elisabeth Vallet, of Quebec University. Examples can be found on all continents: there is Israel's wall in the occupied West Bank, the 4,000 kilometer-long barbed wire barrier that India built along its border with Bangladesh, and the enormous sand dike in the Sahara desert that separates Morocco from the regions held by the Polisario rebels of Western Sahara. The latest talk of border walls has come from the Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump who says if elected he will have a wall built on the 1,600 kilometer long border between the United States and Mexico. —AFP

## AT LEAST 25 DEAD IN HUGE BANGLADESH FACTORY FIRE

### MASSIVE FIRE TRIGGERED BY BOILER EXPLOSION

**DHAKA:** At least 25 people have been killed and 70 injured, many critically, in a huge fire triggered by a boiler explosion at a Bangladeshi packaging factory, officials said yesterday as firefighters struggled to contain the blaze. Around 100 people were working when flames tore through the four-storey building in the industrial town of Tongi, just north of the capital Dhaka. Parvez Mia, a doctor at the Tongi government hospital, told AFP the death toll was at 25, up from 22 previously reported, and said at least 70 people were injured. The fire started in the boiler room at the Tampaco Foils Limited factory, which supplies foreign and domestic brands.

"We still have not controlled the blaze and we fear some workers are still trapped in the factory," police inspector Aminul Islam told AFP. Mia, the doctor, said seriously injured victims had been sent to hospitals in the capital Dhaka. "Several of them are very critical," he added. Factory electrician Mohammad Rokon, 35, escaped with minor injuries.

"I was working inside the office room when I heard an explosion and felt a tremor. Then suddenly the ceiling started to fall on me," he told AFP from his hospital observation bed. "I almost became unconscious. But I forced myself to go out with the help of my mobile phone's flashlight." Machine operator Rubel Hossain was two minutes away from entering the factory when the blast occurred. "I heard a huge explosion and saw smoke and fire coming out of the factory," he said. "I am simultaneously feeling lucky and heartbroken," he said, tears streaming down his face as he helped rush the many injured to hospital, blood staining his T-shirt.

### 'Eid is ruined for our families'

The tragedy struck as families were preparing to celebrate the major Muslim festival of Eid Al-Adha. "My brother Delwar Hossain told us last night he would take us to our home district of Sherpur. Now he is going to be buried there," said

Khaleda Begum, the sister of a factory worker killed in the accident. "Eid is ruined for our family."

Chemicals may have been stored on the ground floor of the factory, helping to explain how the blaze that began at 6:00 am (0000 GMT) spread so fast, said Tahmidul Islam of Bangladesh's industrial police unit. "What we have heard is that there were chemicals stored on the ground floor. As a result, the fire took no time to spread," Islam told

fire. "They'll probe why the fire occurred and whether the factory lacked proper fire safety measures. They will also suggest how we can improve fire safety of local factories," Ahmed said.

### Fires, accidents common

Fires and other accidents are common in the factories that make up the \$27-billion garment industry in Bangladesh, the world's second-biggest apparel exporter after China.

European and US clothing brands to improve pay and conditions at the factories that supply them. Western brands subsequently improved safety standards and inspections for suppliers, dramatically reducing incidents of fire and other accidents at export-orientated factories.

Fires in garment factories have dropped from 250 in 2012 to just 30 in 2015, with no fatalities that year, according to Bangladesh fire department figures. But thousands of local



**TONGI:** Bangladeshi firefighters work to put out a fire at the site of an explosion in a factory in the key Bangladeshi garment manufacturing town. —AFP

AFP, adding scores of firefighters were still battling to bring the blaze under control.

According to the company's website, the packaging factory supplies multinational and domestic brands including British-American Tobacco Bangladesh Limited and Nestle Bangladesh Limited. The head of Bangladesh's factory inspection department said a committee had been set up to investigate the

In November 2012, at least 111 workers were killed when a devastating fire engulfed a nine-storey garment factory in the Ashulia industrial area, outside the capital Dhaka.

The accident was followed by an even bigger tragedy six months later when 1,138 people died after another clothing factory complex collapsed, trapping over 3,000 workers. The Rana Plaza tragedy triggered international outrage and put pressure on

factories supplying the domestic market have done little to address safety concerns. Workers are often crammed in elbow to elbow, while fire escape stairwells are routinely blocked or padlocked closed, ostensibly to prevent theft. Building regulations are rarely enforced and volatile chemicals are often improperly stored, while official safety inspections are few and far between. —AFP

## 2 PROTESTERS KILLED IN KASHMIR CLASHES

**SRINAGAR:** Two protesters were killed and at least 100 injured yesterday when anti-India demonstrators clashed with government forces in Indian-administered Kashmir as the region remained locked down for the 64th straight day, officials said. One young man was killed in southern Shopian district when his head was hit with a tear gas canister fired by police, a medical officer in the local hospital said.

Another protester died of pellet injuries as government forces fired pump action shotguns to break up a public rally against Indian rule attended by thousands in Botengoo village in southern Kashmir valley, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to media. The protests and clashes broke out in at least half a dozen places across the southern and central parts of the Himalayan valley. "We have reports of more than 100 injured in today's protests. Around 25 of them have bullet wounds," the police officer said.

Thousands of people in Indian Kashmir have been protesting against Indian rule almost daily since the killing of a popular rebel leader in a gun battle with soldiers on July 8, staging "freedom rallies" across large parts of the disputed territory. With yesterday's killings the death toll in the unrest, which has entered its third month, climbed to 78. The government has been coming under growing pressure over the use of pellet guns and the level of casualties in Kashmir during the anti-India protests.

The metal pellets or birdshot fired from the pump-action shotguns rarely result in deaths, but can often blind victims if the fragments hit them in the eye. Authorities lifted a curfew in most parts of the territory late last month, but schools, shops and many banks remain closed while residents struggle with a communications blackout. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the two gained independence from British rule in 1947. Both claim the territory in full. Several rebel groups have for decades fought Indian soldiers—currently numbering around 500,000—deployed in the territory, demanding independence for the region or its merger with Pakistan. Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, have died in the fighting. —AFP



**SRINAGAR:** Kashmiri protestors clash with Indian government forces during a protest against civilian killings in Kashmir's ongoing summer unrest. —AFP

## AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES PLAN PUSH TO RELIEVE BESIEGED PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

**KANDAHAR:** Afghan forces backed by air strikes are preparing a new offensive to clear Taliban militants encircling the capital of Afghanistan's province of Uruzgan, where the two sides have fought bitter clashes, officials said yesterday. Street-to-street fighting in Tarin Kot, the provincial capital, where Taliban fighters rampaged to within a few meters of the government center on Thursday, has quieted as the frontline has moved 15 to 20 km away, said Dost Mohammed Nayab, the provincial governor's spokesman.

"We have enough forces, ammunition and reinforcements at the moment," he said. "We are working on a bigger plan to eliminate the Taliban from Uruzgan. We will have a massive operation in three or four days." The Taliban attack, in one of Afghanistan's top opium-producing areas, reveals how thinly stretched Afghan security forces have become as they try to contain Islamist insurgents fighting to overthrow the Western-backed gov-

ernment in Kabul.

Since the US-led military coalition declared the end of its combat mission in 2014, the Taliban have sought to move from their strongholds in rural areas and attack major cities such as south-central Tarin Kot, as well as the capitals of the southern province of Helmand and the northern region of Kunduz. On Friday US warplanes conducted at least three air strikes in Uruzgan, alongside strikes by the Afghan air force. Taliban forces briefly seized Kunduz city a year ago and the American commander of the roughly 16,000 international troops remaining in Afghanistan has vowed to help Afghan forces hold onto the cities. In an online statement on Friday, the Taliban said clashes continued and at least one local government commander had defected, along with some of his men and weapons. The group also claimed to have hit a commando helicopter, killing or wounding all aboard. The Afghan military denied that report. —Reuters

## FOUR MILITANTS KILLED IN GUNFIGHT: PAKISTAN ARMY

**ISLAMABAD:** Troops yesterday killed at least four militants in a gunfight in central Pakistan during a search operation, the military said. The operation was part of the ongoing crackdown against militants being carried out by troops across Pakistan. "Four terrorists have been killed and a security forces member embraced martyrdom," the military said in a statement, adding that a number of militants were also detained.

The conflict zone is remote and off-limits to journalists, making it difficult to verify the army's claims, including the number and identity of those killed. The statement added

that there were still outlaws with arms and ammunition hiding out in Gayandari, an area between the border of southwestern Balochistan and central Punjab province where many militant hideouts are located.

The army launched an operation in June 2014 in a bid to wipe out militant bases in the northwestern tribal areas and so bring an end to the bloody insurgency that has cost thousands of civilian lives since 2004. Security in the country has since improved. Scattered attacks still take place, but they are fewer and of a lesser intensity than in previous years. —AFP





LAHORE: A Pakistani man leads a camel from the back of his car after buying it at a livestock market for Eid Al-Adha yesterday. — AFP

## YOUNG PILGRIMS TRANSFORM HAJJ

Continued from Page 1

Mohammed, 33, who travelled to the hajj with his wife from Paris, says a number of their friends have already performed the hajj. Their travel agency told them it is also sending many other young couples. "The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam," says Mohammed, a physical education teacher.

"It's an obligation and so, as soon as we had the means and while we're healthy, we decided to do it," he says, waiting in line at a luminous fast food counter with his wife Madiha, 28, a student of education science. "Rather than buy material things like a car, better to spend our money on something that is going to benefit us on a spiritual level," she says. Mohamed Khazma, who works on the security team at a hospital in Tripoli, Libya, is searching for a table to eat his fried chicken. At 27, he says he is delighted he was able to gather enough money to come to Makkah, because "it's an opportunity that not everybody has".

The rising number of such young people, "more educated and already used to tourism and mass consumption", has slowly helped to change the face of Makkah, the author Saghi says. "The

big (advertising) signs, the big companies, capture this new clientele that the classical market of hotels and family restaurants can't satisfy," he says. Saniah recalls that, during her first visit to Makkah 12 years ago, they ate in the street. "It's a lot better (now). We have the option of five-star service."

Khazma, however, wants nothing to do with the shopping centers, their air conditioning, restaurants and shops. "I forget all of that," says the young man with a short trimmed beard and long grey jalabiya robe. "I take my Quran, some dates and some water and I stay in the Grand Mosque from afternoon until the middle of the night," says Khazma.

Mohammed also says he is sometimes uncomfortable with all the modern conveniences which are "very far from the time of Abraham and the harshness of the desert" thousands of years ago. He says he and his wife were obliged to accept their travel agent's plan and hotel to perform the pilgrimage in the footsteps of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Abraham (PBUH) before him. "But we often wonder if all of that is in line with our spiritual quest," Mohammed says. "The shops, the luxury, the commercial centers, it clouds the spiritual aspect." — AFP

## HAJJ NEARS CLIMAX FOR PILGRIMS

Continued from Page 1

The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, which capable Muslims must perform at least once, marking the spiritual peak of their lives. "People come from every country of the world, talk every language of the world, and meet here in one place under one banner, the profession of the Muslim faith," Ashraf Zalat, 43, from Egypt, said in Makkah.

Okaz newspaper reported that, for the first time in 35 years, Grand Mufti Abdul Aziz Al-Sheikh, Saudi Arabia's top cleric, will not deliver a sermon to the Arafat crowd today. The paper cited health reasons for the absence of the grand mufti, who has waded into the Saudi-Iranian row over the hajj. Sheikh has annually addressed the faithful from the Namira mosque in Mount Arafat for the peak of hajj. He was appointed Grand Mufti in 1999 after the death of his predecessor Sheikh Abdel Aziz bin Baz.

But Okaz said Sheikh had for about two decades prior to that given the annual address to the hajj throng at the site. Okaz said the mufti spent about two months preparing for each address. The grey-bearded Sheikh is a descendant of Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Wahhab, the 18th-century preacher who co-founded the Saudi state. In previous Arafat sermons, Sheikh has attacked extremists and Yemeni rebels who Saudi Arabia accuses of receiving weapons from Iran.

After Makkah, Mina becomes the pilgrims' base, where an expanse of solidly built white fireproof tents can accommodate 2.6 million people in a valley

beneath bare mountains. Last Sept 24, Mina was the scene of the deadliest disaster in hajj history, when the stampede broke out as pilgrims made their way to the Jamarat Bridge for a stoning ritual. This year's "Stoning of the Devil" will start tomorrow. Although Riyadh stuck with a stampede death toll of 769, figures compiled from foreign officials in more than 30 countries gave a tally almost three times higher - at least 2,297.

Saudi Arabia announced an investigation but no results have ever been released, although a number of safety measures have been taken. Among the changes, government facilities have been moved out of Mina to free up space, and roads in the Jamarat area expanded, Saudi newspapers reported. Officials have also been issuing pilgrims with bracelets that digitally store their personal data. Authorities aim to give bracelets to each of the 1.3 million faithful from abroad, who are joined by more than 100,000 Muslims residing in Saudi Arabia.

Interior ministry spokesman General Mansour Al-Turki spoke of "great efforts being exerted by the kingdom, not only in maintaining the security and safety of the pilgrims, but in facilitating performance" of the rites in comfort. Pilgrims appeared satisfied. "Everything is well organized," Nasser Benfitha, 54, from Morocco, said in Makkah. "We feel safe," added Nigerian pilgrim Hafsa Amina, 26. Saudi Arabia has invested billions of dollars in hajj infrastructure and safety projects over the years. The hajj draws rich and poor, whose common humanity is emphasized by the white garment that each man wears. Women wear loose dresses, typically also white. — AFP

## US, RUSSIA SEAL SYRIA TRUCE, WILL CARRY OUT...

Continued from Page 1

"The fighting is flaring on all the fronts of southern Aleppo," rebel spokesman Captain Abdul Salam Abdul Razak said. Razak, of the Nour al-Din al Zinki Brigades, part of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) which is backed by the West, said they were studying the peace deal but feared it merely gave the Syrian army a chance to gather forces and pour more Iranian-backed militias into Aleppo.

President Bashar Al-Assad's government made no comment on the peace deal, but Syrian media were broadly positive. Syrian state news agency SANA reported that the "government has approved the agreement, and a cessation of hostilities will begin in Aleppo for humanitarian reasons". Citing "informed sources", it said "the entire agreement was reached with the knowledge of the Syrian government".

Syria's mainstream political opposition, the Riyadh-based High Negotiations Committee (HNC), said it had not received a copy of the deal and would only react after consulting members. A spokeswoman had earlier welcomed any deal that spared civilian lives but cast doubt on whether Moscow would be able to pressure Damascus to stop indiscriminate bombing.

US Secretary of State John Kerry called on all sides to respect the deal, which was finally reached after several failed attempts over recent weeks. "This requires halting all attacks, including aerial bombardments, and any attempts to gain additional territory

at the expense of the parties to the cessation. It requires unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to all of the besieged and hard-to-reach areas including Aleppo," he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that despite continuing mistrust, the two sides had developed five documents that would enable coordination of the fight against terrorism and a revival of Syria's failed truce. Both sides agreed not to release the documents publicly. "This all creates the necessary conditions for resumption of the political process, which has been stalling for a long time," Lavrov said.

Previous peace efforts have crumbled within weeks, with the United States accusing Assad's forces of attacking opposition groups and civilians. Kerry said the "bedrock" of the new deal was an agreement that the Syrian government would not fly combat missions in an agreed area on the pretext of hunting fighters from the Nusra Front, an Al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria which recently changed its name to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham. Under the new deal, both sides - Russian-backed government forces and rebel groups supported by the US and Gulf states, - are to halt fighting as a confidence building measure.

If the truce holds from tomorrow, Russia and the United States will begin seven days of preparatory work to set up a "joint implementation center", where they will share information to distinguish territory controlled by Nusra from that held by other rebel groups. — Agencies

## MOI WARNS FALSE, MALICIOUS REPORTS AFFECT...

Continued from Page 1

security institutions, represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and is closely followed up by the concerned bodies, Fahd noted.

He warned that the ministry will not tolerate those who might be tempted to tamper with state security or people's safety, both citizens and expats. The top security official noted that fake reports to the police impede their work and affect the speed of their response, wast-

ing their time and energy in vain. He referred to continuing coordination among the concerned sectors and bodies, seeking to put an end to this negative phenomenon that is strange to the Kuwaiti society.

Head of operations at the General Central Department for Operations at the Interior Ministry Col Ahmed Al-Azmi said that they had received 1.4 million reports in the period between Jan 1 to Aug 31, 2016. They were all taken as seriously as ever, and many of them were proven to be false and even filed by children just for fun, he noted. — KUNA

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## Washington Watch

## THAT FATEFUL DAY

By Dr James J Zogby

Sept 11, 2001 was a lovely day in Washington. I was driving to work, stopped at a red light. I looked over at the woman in the next lane because she was frantically motioning to me to roll down my window. As I did, she shouted "Did you hear? A plane flew into the World Trade Center. My father works there!" The light changed to green and we drove off. I never saw her again. But I don't think I'll ever forget the fear in her eyes, just as I will always wonder if her father was one of the thousands who perished in that horror.

I arrived at my office in time to see the second plane hit and it became clear that this was no freak accident. We had been attacked. The nightmare began. My daughter, whose office was a short distance from the Pentagon, was ordered to evacuate. She called, frightened and concerned. Before long, the police arrived at my building asking us to leave. Because we are just two blocks away from the White House, the entire area was being cordoned off. Since I was receiving calls from Arab Americans across the country seeking guidance and assistance, I asked if I could remain. They let me stay.

The next day, I arrived at my office and began to retrieve the phone messages that had been left overnight. Included among them was a chilling death threat - "Jim, all Arabs must die. I'll slit your throat and murder your children!" It was not the first threat I had received, nor was it to be the last (in fact, three individuals who threatened my life after 9/11 - including that caller - were found by the FBI, charged, prosecuted by the Department of Justice, convicted, and served jail time for their threats).

I was not alone. Arab Americans, and those who were presumed to be of Arab descent, experienced a terrifying onslaught of threats of violence and some were murdered in the backlash that followed the attacks. One month after 9/11, I was invited to testify before the US Commission on Civil Rights. My office had prepared a detailed collection of all the incidents of violence and threats that had occurred during that first horrible month. It told a frightening story of hate and the fear it had generated.

## Threats

As I look back on that period, it was not the threats, themselves, that most troubled me, it was that the threats separated us, in a profoundly disturbing way, from our suffering compatriots. Like the rest of America, we too felt the pain of the loss of so many innocent lives. I remember watching the tragic scenes on CNN of crowds of New Yorkers standing up against the cordons that separated them from Ground Zero. Many carried pictures of loved ones who had been in the towers. They read "Missing" - hoping, against hope that missing, not deceased, was the right word to use. They cried when interviewed, and we cried with them.

Like the rest of America, we hurt and we needed time to be together, to be comforted and healed. This, we were denied. The threats said "You are not part of us" and so we were wrenched away and forced, instead, to look over our shoulders and seek protection. Thankfully, protection was there, as were acts of kindness, large and small. Senators called to offer support. Organizations hosted events in solidarity. The DC police kept police cars in front of our building for weeks. And I'll never forget the sweet woman, from the office next door, who came to our door one morning with brownies she had baked for my staff, saying "I know you guys aren't supposed to leave and go out for lunch, so I hope you'll enjoy these." All of this was so appreciated. But as wondrous as these displays of kindness were, they also felt as undeserved as the threats. We had done nothing to earn the hate, and nothing to earn the love.

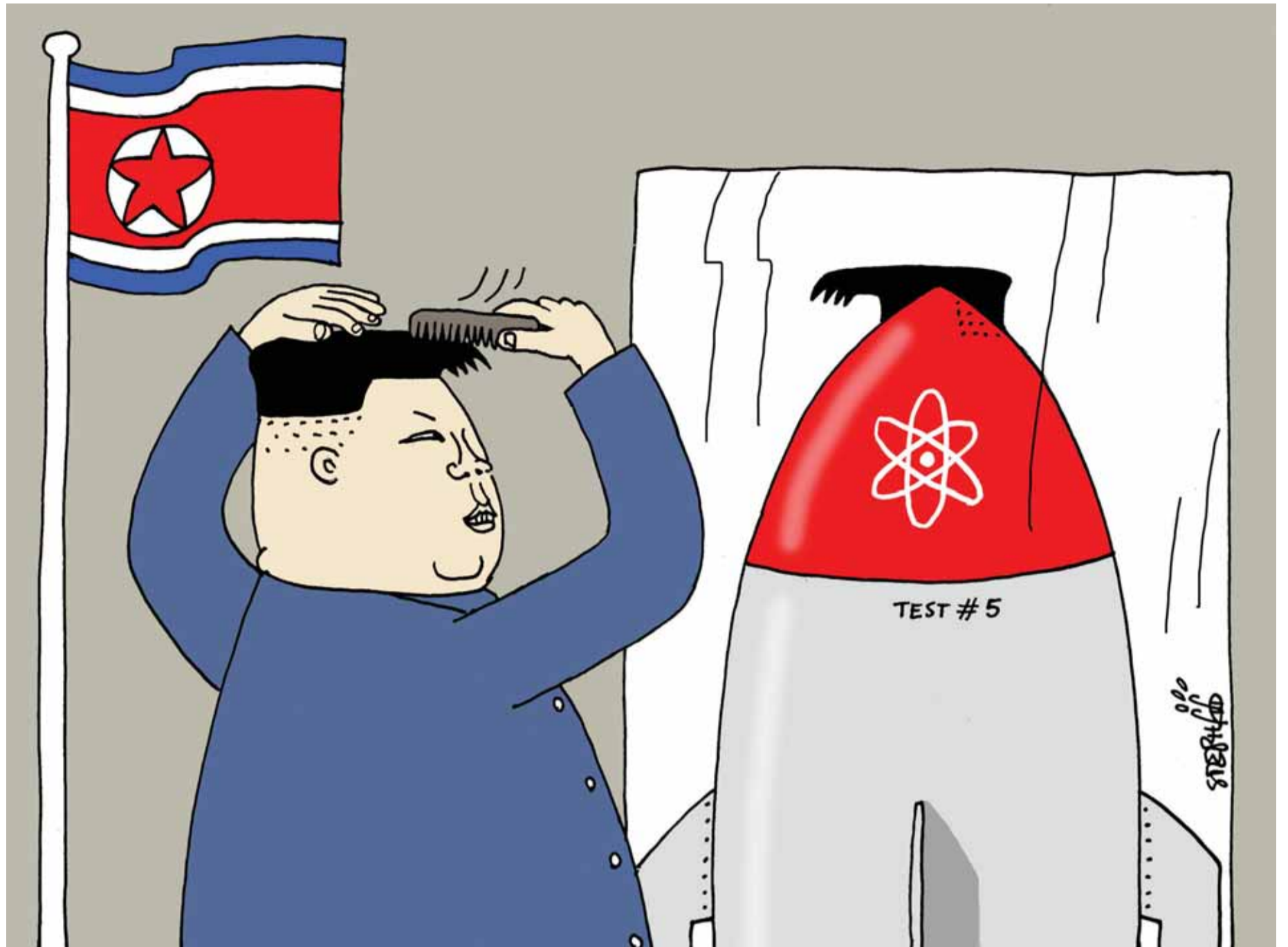
It is in this same vein, that I sometimes wonder about the nineteen attackers. I think of how they must have come here to live for a time. I imagine the landlords who gave them housing. The storeowners who sold them groceries. The ordinary folks they met on the street who exchanged greetings with them. And all the while they were plotting murder with such evil in their hearts. They had taken advantage of our openness - to kill us. Their victims had done nothing to deserve their fate - they were just ordinary people who happened to be in the wrong place, at the wrong time.

## Mistakes

While I often think about how much we lost on that day, in recent years, I have also come to reflect on how much we lost in the months and years that followed. Instead of building on the wave of international support for our country, the Bush Administration lost it all by arrogantly leading us into two disastrous wars that cost us dearly in lives and treasure, devastated Iraq and its people, weakened our military, and destroyed our standing worldwide. At the same time, they cavalierly embarked on a campaign which, in the name of security, eroded a broad range of fundamental constitutional protections.

The wounds of the wars are still with us - not least of which are the over 22 veterans who commit suicide each and every day. And the damage done to our Constitution remains and only grows more serious, given the absence of political leadership with the courage to point out that the dangerous practices put into place after 9/11 haven't made us more secure and should be scuttled.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute



## N KOREA SEEKS LEVERAGE BY PLAYING NUKE CARD

By Eric Talmadge

Mark up another first for North Korea - two nuclear tests in one year. And that's not all. With leader Kim Jong Un smiling broadly all the while, bigger and better ballistic missiles have been flying off the North's shores, and now even from under its waters, at breakneck pace. Alarming? Certainly. Surprising? Hardly. With few other options, or allies to rally behind it, this is how Pyongyang likes to play its cards in the power game that is northeast Asian politics. The question is whether it can play them well enough to get what its ruling regime really wants: international recognition, security guarantees and, at the most fundamental level, its own continued survival.

This is shaping up to be the busiest year ever for North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. It rang in 2016 with what it said was its first H-bomb test and has been shooting off various kinds of long-range missiles - including one from a submarine - more frequently than normal. It conducted its second nuclear test of the year Friday, this time to indicate it can arm those ballistic missiles it's been testing with nuclear-tipped warheads.

While most of the world has singled Pyongyang's nuclear program out as a dangerous source of instability on the peninsula, North Korea has consistently said it needs a nuclear deterrent to what it believes is a very real threat from the United States. The two countries are, after all, still technically at war. The 1950-53 Korean conflict ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Right after announcing its test, the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency once again made that argument. "The US desperate moves for unilaterally putting

sanctions and stifling the DPRK are a heinous crime against humanity aimed at subversion of the social system of a sovereign country," the report said, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "The US should never underestimate the tremendous mental power and inexhaustible might of the DPRK," it added. "The US will be made to clearly see how the DPRK rises imposingly out of chains of sanctions, blockade and pressure."

That's been Pyongyang's position for decades. And it hasn't gotten a lot of traction. Its test Friday was immediately criticized by its neighbors - including its nominal ally, China - and by Washington. Japan, which is within range of the North's missiles and hosts tens of thousands of US troops, called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

## Sanctions

The North is already under the toughest sanctions it has faced in decades because of its January nuclear test. More now are almost certain, though some experts question whether North Korea has anything significant left to apply effective sanctions to. Advocates of a tougher approach are hoping the latest test will galvanize support from China and Russia, which have not been totally on board with Washington's approach to Pyongyang.

So why does Pyongyang insist on stirring the pot? Its flurry of demonstrations of military might this year may reflect a greater sense of urgency to prove it can make good on Kim Jong Un's vow to build ever better nukes while also keeping its economy afloat despite all of the pressure, isolation and international sanctions that policy generates. There are indications it is, in reality, making

progress on both fronts. Largely thanks to continued business with China and Russia, the North's economy - though hardly robust - long ago emerged from the disastrous famine years of the 1990s and now shows signs of a growing domestic consumer market, where small-time entrepreneurialism is allowed and sometimes tacitly supported by the authorities. For sure, the repeated nuclear tests come at a high cost in lost trade and international diplomatic clout. But each improvement demonstrated to the world brings the North that much closer to becoming a de facto nuclear power. Pyongyang could conceivably use that in the future to get itself into a better negotiating position in talks with Washington. Or, at some point, Washington and its allies might give up and grudgingly accept the country into the nuclear club.

It's hard to imagine in North Korea's case, but it worked for India and Pakistan. With elections coming up in the United States, Pyongyang may see this as an opportune time to send a message. But Pyongyang also has reasons to be nervous. Over the past few years, its anxieties have been heightened by attacks on its human rights record in the United Nations and suggestions Kim should be brought before an international tribunal for crimes against humanity. Add to that reports that annual US-South Korea military exercises now include training for "decapitation strikes" on Kim and other leaders, and Washington's decision in June to list Kim himself as a sanctioned individual.

Pyongyang is also deeply concerned by an agreement between Washington and Seoul to base America's most advanced missile defense system, known by its acronym, THAAD, in the South, a move that has angered Beijing as well. —AP

## US ARMY ROOKIES LEARN TO FIRE GUNS

By Susanne M Schafer

As gun ownership drops among young Americans and the Army trains a generation more accustomed to blasting out emojis on cell-phones than taking aim at targets, drill sergeants are confronting a new challenge: More than half of raw recruits have never held, let alone fired, a weapon. Young people who form the bulk of the Army's rookie soldiers don't have nearly the exposure to guns as past generations. And the drill sergeants tasked with transforming these men and women into competent marksmen are going back into training to adjust their approach. Many are dropping the tendency to bark out orders and are adopting a more mentor-like coaching attitude.

"You don't hear any drill sergeants yelling, unless it's a huge safety issue," said Staff Sgt. Randy Fisher, one of about 600 drill sergeants working daily with recruits at South Carolina's Fort Jackson, the Army's largest basic combat training post. "We don't want the soldiers to get all freaked out."

Amid deafening blasts of semi-automatic rifle fire at one of Fort Jackson's 30 ranges, Army drill sergeants paced behind four dozen soldiers aiming M-4s at distant targets during a recent practice session. The hard-nosed, barked commands from the first days of basic training were absent. And though real bullets were being used, not one of the young recruits nor any sergeants wore heavy body armor or helmets.

And, during a lull in the shooting, drill sergeants leaned over to offer guidance in measured tones to soldiers learning to fire. A study of US gun ownership by an independent research group at the University of Chicago reports gun ownership has declined sharply in recent decades among teens and 20-somethings. This is the same demographic

group from which the Army, the largest branch of the US military, draws most of its recruits.

## Refresher Course

The group called the NORC organization said its study - or General Social Survey - found that among 18- to 25-year-olds, gun ownership fell from a 1977 peak of 45 percent to 13 percent in 2014. The Army is addressing the issue by blending decades-old fundamentals of marksmanship training for recruits with a "back-to-school" refresher course for some of its most battle-hardened drill sergeants. The drill sergeants say the new course has helped them work with the younger troops. "At this stage, we want them as relaxed as possible," said Staff Sgt Marc Dorval, 28. "When they come out here, they have a lot to learn, so we take it one step at a time."

Dorval and Fisher were among the

first of the service's 275 drill sergeants to attend an intensive weapons refresher course for drill sergeants set up at Fort Benning, Georgia. A nine-year Army veteran with deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa, Dorval said his refresher course helped him by emphasizing how drill sergeants must become coaches and mentors to teach others to shoot. "There are a lot of steps that they must accomplish, and we take them one at a time," Dorval said, noting body position, breathing, and trigger squeeze are all important to shooting accurately.

Dorval said he sympathizes with those who've never shot a gun. "When I joined at 19, I was just a city boy; I'd never fired a weapon," Dorval said. Staff Sgt Harry Lichtenberger, overseeing safety at the "live fire" range, said those new to guns often become the Army's best shooters. "We find that those who have fired weapons have quirks, bad

habits. Sometimes it's hard for those who've grown up using granddaddy's rifle to admit they've been doing it all wrong," the 35-year-old combat cavalry scout said.

Recruits are handed unloaded M-4 rifles soon after arriving at Fort Jackson. Some 45,000 soldiers undergo basic combat training here every year, more than half of the men who enter the Army and about 60 percent of its female soldiers. They spend weeks learning to safely handle, clean and disassemble weapons, toting them most everywhere they go. "We want them to think of it as their third arm," Fisher explained. After their "live fire" instruction is finished, the soldiers don full combat gear to learn to move with weapons on a battlefield.

And never fear, drill sergeants return to their tough talk, if need be. Several recruits said the training approach worked. "I was pulling on the trigger too hard," said Pvt Chance Thomas, 19 of Whitney, Texas. He'd grown up hunting small game but had to adjust to aiming the semi-automatic rifle. Pvt Lorraine Casas, 18, a first-time shooter, said it took practice aiming through the rifle scope and dealing with recoil. "I'm confident shooting. I'm good at ... steady aiming," said the Fontana, California, native.

Some drill sergeants acknowledge they struggled, too, when first learning to shoot. "I was horrible! I only made the minimum," laughed Staff Sgt Leah Roa, 38. Her own marksmanship skills increased sharply after her refresher course, she said. "I can tell the ones who don't do so well to keep practicing their fundamentals. And they can make it," she added. Lichtenberger said good marksmanship is a requirement to graduate from combat training for all soldiers, no matter if bound for a combat or support unit. "All soldiers are soldiers first. No matter what their job, they have to be able to defend themselves and their comrades," he said. —AP



In this photo taken Aug 17, 2016 US Army drill sergeants stand over recruits during a live-fire marksmanship training course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. —AP

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## S AFRICA'S APLON JOINS GRENOBLE INJURY LIST

**GRENOBLE:** Struggling Grenoble have been hit by a new wave of injuries with South African fullback Gio Aplon, the Top 14's leading scorer, ruled out of today's home tie against leaders Brive with a hamstring injury. Grenoble, sitting bottom of the French table after losing their opening three games, confirmed yesterday they have suffered three new injuries before the arrival of Brive. Aplon, 33, has scored four tries this season and his absence follows that of Australian Ben Hand (thigh), Fiji winger Sisa Waqa (hamstring), who picked up injuries in training on Friday. New Zealand's Dayna Edwards injured his calf in mountain training with a scan revealing the 31-year-old prop will be out for several weeks. In addition to the injuries sustained by 10 of their leading players including Lucas Dupont, Mahamadou Diaby and Fabien Gengenbacher, Grenoble have also been hit by the suspension of New Zealand flanker Rory Grice. — AFP



## PORTUGAL BACK CEFERIN FOR UEFA PRESIDENCY

**LISBON:** The Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) yesterday gave public backing to Slovenia's Aleksander Ceferin to become the new UEFA president. After the withdrawal of Spaniard Angel Maria Villar, Ceferin, a 48-year-old lawyer and head of the Slovenian football federation since 2011, will go up against Dutchman Michael van Praag, in the UEFA election on September 14 in Athens. Ceferin already has the support of the French Football Federation while van Praag, the 68-year-old Dutch football chief, has English and Belgian backing with each of UEFA's 55 federations having a vote. "I know Michael van Praag for quite some time and I have a lot of respect for him and his ideas but we will vote for Aleksander Ceferin," FPF president Fernando Gomes told AFP in a statement. "(Ceferin is) a dynamic person, still young but with a lot of experience on several levels," continued Gomes, adding the Slovenian was proposing to implement "a wide and ambitious programme". Gomes, a member of the UEFA executive committee, had himself been touted among the potential candidates to take over from Michel Platini as European football chief. — AFP

## LORENZO SHADES ROSSI FOR SAN MARINO POLE

**MISANO ADRIATICO:** World MotoGP champion Jorge Lorenzo will start from pole for today's San Marino Grand Prix after posting the quickest time in qualifying at the Misano circuit yesterday. The Yamaha star is joined on the front row in Sunday's race by his teammate and local hero Valentino Rossi, and Suzuki's British GP winner Maverick Vinales. Lorenzo is placed third in the riders' championship, 64 points behind Marc Marquez, who was fourth quickest in qualifying to start on the second row. The Spaniard, world champion in 2013 and 2014, has for company on the second row Italian duo Michele Pirro and Andrea Dovizioso. Lorenzo's best lap time of 1min 31.868 has given him a major chance of registering his fourth win at the circuit renamed in honour of the late Italian rider Marco Simoncelli. Lorenzo, notching up the 64th pole of his career, was victorious from 2011 to 2013 and earned a top-three spot on every occasion prior to crashing out of last year's race. — AFP



**BRISBANE:** Wallabies player Stephen Moore, left, and Springboks player Lood de Jager, center, compete for the ball during the Rugby Championship match between the Australian Wallabies and the South African Springboks at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane, yesterday. — AP

# WALLABIES BEAT SPRINGBOKS TO SNAP LOSING STREAK

**BRISBANE:** Australia edged South Africa 23-17 to snap a six-game losing streak and ease pressure on coach Michael Cheika in the Rugby Championship yesterday. After being down 14-13 at half-time, the Australians took control of the second period and they were 23-14 up within the last 20 minutes thanks to Bernard Foley's try.

The Springboks fought back to within six points, but the hosts survived to give the embattled Cheika some breathing space with their first win of the year. After losing the World Cup final to New Zealand last October, Australia has suffered three defeats to England and two

big losses to the rampant All Blacks this year. Australia had only lost seven matches in a row once before—a sequence that cost Eddie Jones his job as Wallabies coach—and they were desperate to avoid equalling the record.

But they got off to the worst possible start when the towering Eben Etzebeth made a break down the right wing in the third minute and found flanker Teboho Mochoe in support.

Wallabies scrum-half Will Genia brought Mochoe down in a try-saving tackle close to the line, but from the ensuing ruck Genia's opposite number Faf de Klerk slipped a short ball to number eight Warren Whiteley, who crashed

over. Elton Jantjies' conversion made it 7-0 after just three minutes. A Foley penalty reduced the gap to 7-3 in the 11th minute, but he undid his good work when he threw a no-look pass with the Wallabies deep in attack only for Springbok captain Adriaan Strauss to intercept.

### AGGRESSIVE PACK

Strauss unloaded to Jantjies, who drew the last Wallaby defender and kicked ahead for fullback Johan Goosen to score under the posts. The Wallabies were shellshocked at 14-3 down but they began to hold onto the ball and exert some pressure on the South

Africans. With Genia dictating play superbly behind an aggressive pack, they were back in the contest when giant lock Adam Coleman crashed over in the corner after the Australians opted for a line-out instead of a kickable penalty. Foley converted from the sideline to make it 14-10 to the Springboks, before his second penalty five minutes from half-time narrowed the gap to just one point.

The home side carried their momentum into the second half and they hit the front with a third Foley penalty two minutes after the restart, when Etzebeth was given a yellow card for slowing the ball down after a storming break from

outside centre Samu Kerevi. Kerevi then went close to a try but a brilliant tackle from Goosen saved a certain five-pointer, Kerevi's leg brushing the sideline at the same time as the ball touched the ground. Despite dominating for much of the second half, it took until the 61st minute for the Wallabies to finally crack the determined Springbok defence when Foley crossed next to the posts after 18 phases of attack on the South African line. The Springboks, who lost to Argentina in their last outing, threw everything at the Wallabies and Morné Steyn's penalty got them to within a converted try, but the Wallabies weren't to be denied. — AFP

# ALL BLACKS SURGE PAST PUMAS WITH SECOND-HALF BLITZ

**HAMILTON:** A devastating late surge broke Argentina's resistance as New Zealand powered to a 57-22 victory to keep their Rugby Championship title bid on track yesterday. The All Blacks scored eight tries to one but it was not until Ryan Crotty crossed 13 minutes into the second half that they gained command at Hamilton's Waikato Stadium.

With the score at 24-22, Crotty's try sparked a 33-point spree in the closing 27 minutes of the match. By full time the dominance was clear-cut, but after strolling to victory twice over Australia in the opening rounds of the tournament, the All Blacks this time found a more formidable opponent until the Pumas ran out of steam. Coach Steve Hansen said the All Blacks were forced to rethink their game plan at half-time.

"We went back out and were a lot more effective in our roles and executing the jobs we needed to do and that put a lot of pressure on the Argentinians," he said.

"We've got to go away and work better and prepare better. There'll be one or two guys who will have a good look at how they played and be disappointed with that." Despite the scoreline, Pumas captain Agustín Creevy sensed his side are improving. "For us it was a great advance that we could play against them for 50 minutes in a great way, but they can produce a difference in the last 20 minutes," he said.

Julian Savea, Ben Smith and Beauden Barrett scored first-half tries for the All Blacks who turned with a 24-19 advantage, while Ryan Crotty scored twice and Charlie Faumuina, Smith again and Luke Romano touched down in the second half. Argentina held the lead three times in the first spell. The game was less than three minutes old when they scored the opening try, and while they did not cross the All Blacks line again they commanded sufficient territory to land a string of penalties. It was not, however, the vaunted power



**HAMILTON:** All Blacks wing Julian Savea, left, is tripped by Argentina's Juan Martin Hernandez in the All Blacks and Argentina Rugby Championship test match at Waikato Stadium in Hamilton, New Zealand, yesterday. — AP

of the Pumas pack that did the damage, but their turnovers and smart off-loads in an expansive game that stretched the All Blacks.

### UNBEATEN RUN

They scored the first try in the second minute when a deft pass from scrum-half Martin Landajo sent Santiago Cordero away on a 25-metre run to the line. Nicolas Sanchez landed the conversion and kept the scoreboard ticking over with four penalties in the first half.

The All Blacks were keen to show they had the muscle up front and opted for scrums over close-range penalties early in the Test. It paid dividends with a try to Savea, coming into the backline from the blindside wing, after Kieran Read had plucked the ball from the back of a scrum. When the All Blacks slipped behind 13-7,

Smith brought them back into the game with his first try after a powerful run by Savea in which the big wing steamrollered his way up to the line. When a further Sanchez penalty restored Argentina's lead, the All Blacks hit back with a long-range penalty by Israel Dagg and a try to Barrett. Sanchez landed his fifth penalty early in the second half to close the gap to 24-22, but by then the Pumas were starting to tire—as the All Blacks stepped up a gear to score at better than a point a minute. With their third win out of three, the victory kept the All Blacks on track to win the southern hemisphere championship for the fourth time in five years.

They also remain unbeaten after 23 clashes with Argentina, winning 22 and drawing one, and stretched their current unbeaten run against all sides to 14. — AFP



Tillakaratne Dilshan

## DILSHAN HEADS INTO THE SUNSET CONTENT WITH ACHIEVEMENTS

**COLOMBO:** Moving up to open the innings for Sri Lanka changed his career but it was a decision he should have taken two years earlier, Tillakaratne Dilshan said after retiring from international cricket following Friday's Twenty20 loss against Australia.

Inventor of the famous "Dilscoop" ramp shot, Dilshan played the last of his 87 tests in 2013 before quitting the longer format with 5,492 runs and 39 wickets to his name.

The 39-year-old signed off from the shorter formats with over 10,000 runs and 22 centuries in 330 one-day internationals and 80 T20 matches. He is one of only six men to have scored a hundred in all three formats of the game. "I think I should have taken the decision to move up to open earlier," Dilshan said before Friday's match. "I made that decision in 2009 but I should have made that a couple of years (before) to (break) more records," he added.

"I realised that I can do more for the side as an opener. From 2009 to 2016 I scored

21 hundreds in one-dayers. That was a position I really enjoyed. "That change in position changed my career and I think I helped the side there a lot as well."

Dilshan, who made his one-day debut against Zimbabwe in 1999, was also a wily off-spinner and one of the most agile Sri Lankan fielders even at the age of 39.

He took over 100 wickets in ODIs and made life difficult with the ball for his opponents even in his last match. He gave away eight runs and claimed two wickets in two overs in his last spell in international cricket.

"I'm really happy with what I've done for 17 years for my country and my team," he said. "I didn't look to break records. A few days back, I went back and looked at what I had done for 17 years. 'I have broken a lot of records, I'm really happy. I never played for the record, I always played for the team and country,' he added. "Now is time to enjoy myself with the kids and the family, they have sacrificed a lot for the last 15-20 years." — Reuters











# Sports

Wallabies beat Springboks to snap losing streak



Ronaldo scores on return as Real equal club record



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MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Argentinian defender Nicolas Otamendi (C) attempts to shoot as Manchester United's Ivorian defender Eric Bailly (L) defends and Manchester United's Spanish goalkeeper David de Gea (R) dives during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Manchester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

## DE BRUYNE SHINES AS MAN CITY WIN DERBY

 **Man United 1**  
 **Man City 2**

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola enjoyed victory over his old nemesis Jose Mourinho as his Manchester City side won 2-1 at Manchester United in yesterday's eagerly anticipated derby at Old Trafford.

First-half goals by Kevin De Bruyne and Kelechi Iheanacho put City in control and despite new goalkeeper Claudio Bravo's gaffe allowing Zlatan Ibrahimovic to hit back for United, City held firm. It was the first encounter between Guardiola and Mourinho, former El Clasico sparring partners, since 2013 and gave the former Barcelona coach an eighth win in 17 encounters with the ex-Real Madrid manager. City's win, their 50th in competitive derby matches, saw them end

United's perfect start to the season.

It left Guardiola's side and Chelsea, who visit Swansea City on Sunday, as the only teams in the Premier League with 100 percent records. But Mourinho will have been angered by referee Mark Clattenburg's decision not to award the home side a penalty after Bravo caught Wayne Rooney with a wild challenge inside the City area.

The United manager made two surprising changes to his team, awarding Henrikh Mkhitaryan his full debut and bringing in Jesse Lingard in place of Anthony Martial and Juan Mata.

But it was a move that backfired as City immediately took a grip on the game and went ahead in the 15th minute. Aleksandar Kolarov's high ball was flicked on by Iheanacho in for the suspended Sergio Aguero and De Bruyne beat Daley Blind to the ball before clinically wrong-footing David de Gea.

United had barely had a kick and Rooney's frustration showed as he grappled with Guardiola for the ball at a throw-in before catching Fernandinho late. There

was worse to come for the United skipper as City made it 2-0, Iheanacho tapping in from six yards after De Bruyne's low curler struck the base of the left-hand post.

Mourinho wore a face of thunder on the touchline, but Bravo gifted his side a lifeline three minutes before half-time.

### BRAVO JITTERS

The Chilean allowed Rooney's deep free-kick to slip from his grasp and Ibrahimovic produced an athletic volley to spear the loose ball into the net. It was an unexpected foothold for the hosts and they finished the first half strongly.

Rooney crossed for Ibrahimovic to head at Bravo and the Swedish striker then saw an effort blocked by John Stones after the City goalkeeper failed to field a stray ball.

Mourinho repaired his error at half-time, introducing Ander Herrera and terrace darling Marcus Rashford for Mkhitaryan and Lingard. Bravo's jitteriness gave the home fans renewed belief and he was extremely fortu-

nate to avoid conceding a penalty in the 56th minute. In turning away from Ibrahimovic, he overran the ball and launched himself into a lunging challenge on Rooney. Rooney was left writhing in pain, but Clattenburg waved play on, apparently deeming Bravo to have won the ball cleanly.

Guardiola responded to Mourinho's changes by bolstering his own midfield, with Fernando and debutant Leroy Sane coming on and De Bruyne taking up a central forward role.

A beautifully poised game swung from end to end thereafter. United had a goal disallowed when Rashford's shot clipped Ibrahimovic, who was standing in an offside position, and beat Bravo. De Gea then saved in quick succession from Fernandinho, Nicolas Otamendi and Fernando, before Sane teed up De Bruyne for a shot that hit the right-hand post and rolled across the goal.

The hosts procured one last chance, but Ibrahimovic's stoppage-time shot was deflected just wide. — AFP

## RUTHLESS REDS CRUSH SPLUTTERING LEICESTER

 **Liverpool 4**  
 **Leicester 1**

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool turned on the style to mark the opening of the new-look Anfield with an imperious 4-1 rout of Premier League champions Leicester yesterday.

Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane put Jurgen Klopp's side two goals ahead as they played at home for the first time this season and for the first time since expanding Anfield's capacity by 8,500 to 54,000.

Jamie Vardy reduced the deficit to a single goal after Lucas's mistake. But Adam Lallana's fine strike restored Liverpool's two-goal advantage and Firmino's late effort wrapped up a worrying defeat for Leicester, who have won only one of their first four matches.

The new £115 million main stand at Anfield was treated to an enthralling contest but one which Liverpool only had themselves to blame for not killing off inside the opening half hour.

After 13 minutes the hosts scored the first goal in front of their new stand, with stand-in left-back James Milner making a superb, in-field pass to Firmino.

The Liverpool forward had only to advance a few yards but did so effectively, scything between Wes Morgan and Robert Huth before drilling a low shot past the diving Kasper Schmeichel from 14 yards. On 31 minutes Liverpool doubled the advantage with the increasingly impressive Jordan Henderson carving out the goal with a defence-splitting pass that sent Daniel Sturridge sprinting away from a static back four.

The England forward then opted for a selfless and skillful back-heel that left Mane unmarked in the centre and able to score via the hand of Schmeichel.

### BLOODY NOSE

Liverpool were rampant and the home crowd almost delirious. But the joy would be short-lived as Liverpool's unfamiliar centre-half Lucas gifted them a foothold in the game.

Simon Mignolet's short pass played Lucas under pressure and, after the Brazilian-normally a deep-lying midfielder-miscontrolled the ball, he panicked and rolled it across an open goal for Vardy to convert a simple finish.

Mignolet looked particularly rattled by the experience and, a few moments later, failed to deal with a long throw-in from Luis Hernandez which allowed Huth to head against the Liverpool bar. Klopp's decision to select a back four featuring two specialist midfielder players, Lucas and Milner, had looked a gamble before kick-off and now looked like it might prove disastrous. That said, only Schmeichel had prevented Liverpool scoring another goal on 26 minutes after Mane played a brilliant one-two with Lallana and crossed to the near post, where a Sturridge shot was superbly kept out by the Leicester goalkeeper.

Liverpool's nerves were not helped early in the second half when Mignolet suffered a badly blooded nose after a collision with Huth at a corner. The home side might have lifted the growing anxiety on 56 minutes when Firmino played in Sturridge, but the striker attempted to lift the ball over the advancing Schmeichel and succeeded only in hitting the ball against the keeper.

The miss did not prove costly, however, and seconds later Lallana restored Liverpool's two-goal cushion. Nathaniel Clyne, Sturridge and Georginio Wijnaldum combined well before the Dutchman laid the ball off for Lallana to drill an unstoppable



LIVERPOOL: Leicester City's Ghanaian midfielder Daniel Amartey (L) vies with Liverpool's English midfielder Adam Lallana during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Leicester City at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

shot into the top corner. Vardy was unusually wasteful just after the hour, when played clean in on goal by Riyad Mahrez, only to be denied by the outstretched leg of Mignolet. Leicester continued to press, without the clinical touch they enjoyed in their league-winning campaign.

Huth nodded just wide, Danny Drinkwater saw a spectacular volley deflected wide and Vardy headed straight at Mignolet. Henderson wasted a perfect opportunity to put the game beyond all reasonable doubt on 78 minutes, but Firmino ensured his team-mate wouldn't rue that miss when he slotted home in the 89th minute. — AFP

## QUINTANA STAVES OFF FROOME TO SEAL VUELTA WIN

ALTO DE AITANA Colombian Nairo Quintana kept Tour de France champion Chris Froome at bay to virtually seal the Vuelta a Espana yesterday with just today's procession around the streets of Madrid to come.

Froome, aiming to become the first man in 38 years to do the Tour-Vuelta double, applauded as Quintana crossed the line on the 193.2km stage from Benidorm to Alto de Aitana two seconds ahead of him to extend his lead to 1min 23sec.

Quintana's compatriot Esteban Chaves made the most significant move on the penultimate stage by leapfrogging Alberto Contador onto the podium after an attack 50km from the finish saw him gain 1min 24sec on the three-time Vuelta champion.

Frenchman Pierre Latour won the stage from Colombia's Darwin Atapuma and Italian Fabio Felline in a time of 5hrs 19mins 41secs. Sunday's 104.8km flat stage takes the riders from Las Rozas to the outskirts of the Spanish capital into a series of laps around the city centre.

Froome cut his gap to Quintana by over two minutes by storming to a time trial win on Friday, but his bid ultimately never recovered from losing 2min 37secs when he was caught out by an early attack by Quintana on stage 15.

It is the first time in five Grand Tours that Quintana has beaten Froome when both have finished the race having finished on the podium for all of the Brit's three Tour de France wins in 2013, 2015 and 2016. "He (Froome) started to attack very early on in the descents, but I didn't have any problem in defending all the way to the final climb," Quintana told Spanish TV station Teledeporte.

Froome's early attempts to escape Quintana's attentions on the descents from four category two climbs proved fruitless.

The Sky rider then tried with a series of attacks on the final special category climb to Alto Aitana, but Quintana comfortably sat on his tail and followed all the way to the top before jumping in front just before the line.

Froome also had to settle for second in the Vuelta after losing out to Juan Jose Cobo in his breakout tour in 2012 and Contador in 2014.

"I want to congratulate him," added Quintana. "He is a great rival, yesterday he had a great time trial and he made me suffer."

Contador was the big loser on the day as he was again isolated without Saxo-Tinkoff teammates and unable to respond to Chaves's well-constructed attack to miss out on third by 13 seconds. — AFP



LAGOS: A vendor carries a ram discharged from a truck ahead of Eid-Al-Adha celebration at Kara Isheri market in Ogun State, southwest Nigeria. — AFP

## NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC WOES HIT EID RAM SALES

TRADERS AND BUYERS PRIORITIZE SPENDING AMID ECONOMIC CRISIS

**KANO, Nigeria:** With the naira currency in free fall and inflation soaring, few Nigerians can escape the country's economic troubles—and that includes Muslims preparing for Eid Al-Adha.

Livestock traders and buyers said the sale of rams for the annual festival of sacrifice have dropped sharply compared with last year, as Nigerians look to prioritise spending. "Sales have stalled," complained Ibrahim Shuaibu, a ram trader at the Haren Shanu livestock market on the outskirts of Kano, the commercial hub and biggest city in Nigeria's mainly Muslim north.

"Last year by this time I had sold more than 30 rams but I have so far sold not more than four this season," he told AFP on Friday, his face sweaty from the scorching sun as he waited for customers.

### Reduced to a trickle

Animals are slaughtered during Eid to signify followers' submission to Allah, with the meat shared among family, friends and the needy. The wealthy often buy several rams to distribute and the run-up to the festival is normally the busiest time of year for livestock traders.

"One person would come and buy 50 rams at once to distribute as gifts to people," said ram

vendor Abubakar Ibrahim, at Kano's Hotoro market. "But up till now not a single person has bought five rams at a go from this market." Last year, there were more than 500 sales but as of Friday there had only been 20, he said. Trader Sabiu Ibrahim Hotoro said buyers were coming in "trickles". Another, Mudassir Mustapha, predicted: "More than 35 percent of people may not be able to offer a ram sacrifice this year due to the recession." Nigeria officially plunged into recession last month after the second successive quarter of negative growth.

The fall in global oil prices has hit the crude-reliant economy hard for the last two years, squeezing government revenue, weakening the naira and forcing up inflation to more than 17 percent. Foreign exchange has become scarce and investment stalled. This week, the government approved a plan to seek loans from organizations such as the World Bank.

### Prices cut

A ram typically costs between 30,000 naira and 70,000 naira (\$95-\$220, 84-195 euros), depending on size. Traders have slashed prices to attract buyers but with little effect.

"Rams are relatively cheaper now but lack of



LAGOS: Ram sellers and traders of other basic food items in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital and neighboring states have complained of low patronage, a factor attributed to the economy downturn.—AFP

money is preventing people from buying," said Mustapha. For people like estate agent Babangida Magaji, the price cut has made no difference because of the overall rise in the cost of

living. "The prices of almost everything have gone up with no corresponding increase to my earnings and this gobbles up whatever I would have used to buy a ram," he said.

"I'll have to choose between buying food and essential items for my family and paying my children's school fees or buying a ram for the festival. I have to prioritise and buying a ram comes last."

### Bull sales

While ram sales have slumped this year, those for bulls are relatively healthy, as some Kano residents look to get round their financial restraints by pooling resources to buy a bigger animal. "The number of people contributing money to buy bulls to share has gone up and this is due to little cash in the hands of the people," said cattle trader Kabir Mansur Ashura.

"Our sales have gone up by 20 percent," Ashura's brother and partner, Idris, chipped in.

Abdullahi Lawan and three neighbours opted to buy a bull for the feast to save money. Lawan said he used to buy two rams for the feast. This year he would have needed about 100,000 naira (\$285) for the two rams.

But he said: "The quarter of the bull I get at 25,000 naira is more than the meat of the two rams I buy at 100,000 naira put together. I lose on the spiritual side for not killing ram for the sacrifice but I gain on the meat. I have no other choice". — AFP

## EU COUNTRIES SET SIGHT ON APPLE TAX BONANZA

**BRATISLAVA:** Budget-squeezed EU countries will ask Brussels for a share of the billions in Irish back taxes ordered from Apple, officials said yesterday, bringing further problems to the tech giant after the lacklustre launch of the iPhone 7. The European Commission, the EU's powerful competition regulator, last month ordered Apple to reimburse a record 13 billion euros (\$15 billion) in unpaid taxes in Ireland.

As part of its historic decision, which angered Washington, the Commission said other EU countries could also claim a slice of the money pot, though doubts on the legality of the claims remain. Heavily-indebted Spain, which is under threat of an EU fine for breaking spending rules, said it was urgent to know how much Apple may have denied Spanish taxpayers.

"We are making a huge effort to reduce our public deficit, it is essential that this revenue not get lost," Spanish Economy Minister Luis de Guindos said on the sidelines of two days of talks with his EU counterparts. "If it's legally accurate, you can be sure that as minister of finance I will take it," Austria's Hans Joerg

Schelling said at the meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia. "We Austrians are looking at it intensively," Schelling said, adding that other member states—including Italy—were also considering a payout demand. In its landmark decision on August 31, the Commission argued that Dublin handed Apple favourable tax terms that amounted to state aid-illegal under its rules.

EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager called Apple's operations in Ireland a "sham", designed to funnel revenue from across the globe to avoid paying tax.

"Of course we are examining it," said Germany's Wolfgang Schaueble, the EU's most powerful finance minister after two days of talks with his bloc counterparts. But Schaueble, like many ministers, said much would depend on what the EU's still-sealed decision actually contained, adding that he would ask the Commission to clarify the issue at talks next month. The European Commission said a tax deal with Ireland allowed Apple paid an effective corporate tax rate of just 0.005 per cent on its European profits in 2014 — equivalent to just 50 euros for every mil-

lion. That low rate "brought home the enormity of the problem and the enormity of the challenge that it doesn't happen again," said OECD secretary-general Angel Gurría, who has led a global campaign to reform tax laws. But Gurría, who attended the talks, said "you could not replicate this in Ireland or anywhere else because these types of constructions are no longer" after a wave of reforms championed by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Gurría said that the Commission had clearly opened the door to sharing the tax pot to all countries, including the United States.

But any big pay day is still a long way off, with both Apple and Ireland committed to appealing the decision which launches an EU court battle that could take years.

The brewing court battle comes just days after Apple's unveiling of a new iPhone failed to ignite the usual investor enthusiasm. The iPhone 7, which comes without a headphone jack, sent the company's shares falling late in the week to a still market-topping value of \$572 billion. — AFP



SAN FRANCISCO: Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide marketing, talks about the pricing on the new iPhone 7 during an event to announce new products on Sept 7, 2016. — AP



# BOE TO HOLD FIRE AFTER AUGUST'S BREXIT BAZOOKA

**LONDON:** The Bank of England holds a monetary policy meeting as more hard economic numbers trickle in following June's Brexit shock, while US data and a speech by policymaker Lael Brainard will give Fed-watchers food for thought. Data and surveys in the coming week will also give a steer on price and industry trends in the euro zone after the European Central Bank disappointed market expectations that it would announce an extension of its asset purchase program.

Speaking to lawmakers on Sept. 7, Governor Mark Carney defended the BoE's big August stimulus package but said initial damage to the economy from Britain's June 23 vote to leave the European Union looked less severe than the Bank had forecast.

While some critics of the BoE have suggested August's decision to cut interest rates to a record low 0.25 percent, restart asset purchases and ease lending by giving cheap loans to banks was too aggressive, the Bank is expected to cut rates again later this year but leave policy unchanged this month. "We see next Thursday as being too soon for further action and expect the BoE to maintain Bank Rate at 0.25 percent and the level of QE (asset purchases) at 435 billion pounds (\$578.5 billion)," Investec economists said.

## GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

"Our central case continues to be for another 15 basis point cut in Bank Rate to 0.10 percent at the November meeting." Official figures, including inflation on Tuesday, unemployment on Wednesday and retail sales on Thursday, should give a clearer picture of how companies and consumers are responding to the Brexit vote after purchasing manager surveys showed activity bouncing back last month. Economists polled by Reuters forecast consumer prices will be 0.7 percent higher in August compared with a year ago, edging up from 0.6 percent in July, which was the biggest annual rise since the end of 2014. But sterling's tumble since the Brexit vote means inflation is expected to rise strongly soon.

The unemployment rate for the three months to July is forecast to stay at 4.9 percent-an almost 11-year low- while the number of people claiming jobless benefits in August is seen rising after a surprise fall in July.

Monthly retail sales are predicted to have fallen in August after a jump in July, when consumers showed no immediate alarm at the Brexit vote. European

Union leaders will meanwhile gather on Friday- without British Prime Minister Theresa May-to discuss Brexit and other issues.

Thursday's euro zone CPI release is expected to show annual inflation was 0.2 percent in August, in line with the new 2016 forecast the ECB gave on Sept. 8.

The sharpest drop in German industrial output for nearly two years may presage a fall in the July figure for the euro zone, due on Wednesday, although recent purchasing manager surveys have pointed to continued modest growth in manufacturing in the third quarter. Eurozone trade and employment data will also be released in the coming week, as well the ZEW survey of economic sentiment in Germany, the currency bloc's economic engine. Swiss National Bank policymakers also meet on Thursday, with no change to policy expected.

**FED UP?**  
Expectations the Fed will raise interest rates again in September have cooled after job creation eased and

survey data pointed to only lackluster third quarter growth but some policymakers still favour a hike soon. Given the US central bank's insistence that its next move will be data-dependent, the coming week's inflation, industrial production and retail sales numbers could help shift the dial.

July US annual consumer price inflation was 0.8 percent, down from 1.0 percent in June and a tame reading for August, due on Friday, would encourage a deferral. August retail sales figures on Thursday could show some impact from last month's floods in Louisiana, while Friday's University of Michigan survey will also gauge sentiment among US consumers.

Markets are eyeing keenly the speech by Brainard on Monday, just before the blackout period starts for Fed officials before the Sept. 20-21 policy meeting. She is seen as one of the FOMC's more dovish members, so any hint of a more aggressive stance could see rate hike bets being put back on. "Monday may be a very important day," Morgan Stanley's head of European FX research, Hans Redeker, said on Friday. "If the Fed wants to prepare the market (for a hike) then a generally dovish member of the FOMC like Brainard making hawkish statements would be an obvious way." — Reuters

## ZIMBABWE PUBLIC WORKERS REJECT GOVT JOB CUTS PLAN

**HARARE:** Zimbabwe's main public service union on Friday rejected government plans to cut 25,000 jobs and suspend annual bonuses, saying that would hurt workers already struggling to make ends meet. The Apex Council, a grouping of all state sector unions, demanded talks with the government over the plan that Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa has said is essential to ensure the country can keep paying its staff.

"We believe these measures are ill-conceived and can only further entrench the doom and gloom that has become the lot of the average civil servant," said Cecelia Alexander, head of the Apex Council which called a two-day walkout by teachers, doctors and nurses over pay delays in July, part of the biggest strike in Zimbabwe in 10 years.

In a budget statement on Thursday, Chinamasa said state sector wages took up 97 percent of total revenues collected between January and June, a situation that could destabilise the economy.

It also meant the government risked being unable to pay salaries, Chinamasa

said, proposing the suspension of annual bonuses for state employees in 2016 and 2017 to save \$180 million annually.

Last year, Chinamasa made similar proposals but was forced to back down by President Robert Mugabe who told him to find the money elsewhere. Under Chinamasa's plan, the civil service would shed 25,000 jobs, reducing the workforce to 273,000 by the end of 2017. Salaries for ministers and senior officials would be cut by up to 20 percent and Zimbabwe would close some embassies abroad.

Unable to get funds from international lenders, Zimbabwe is in its worst financial crisis since adopting the U.S. dollar in 2009. Economic difficulties have fueled political tensions, with anti-government protests over cash shortages and unemployment.

Chinamasa is leading Zimbabwe's re-engagement with lenders including the International Monetary Fund and World Bank which are demanding cuts in the wages bill and the clearance of \$1.8 billion in debt arrears before they agree to new funding. — Reuters



**HAVANA:** A woman wearing a dress with a US flag motif walks to a concert by Silvio Rodriguez in Guanabacoa on the outskirts of Havana. President Barack Obama's easing of the US trade embargo on Cuba has had virtually no positive effect on the island's economy, Cuba's top diplomat asserted Friday. — AP

## OBAMA'S EASING OF EMBARGO DID NOT HELP ECONOMY: CUBA

### SANCTIONS COST COUNTRY \$4.6 BILLION LAST YEAR

**HAVANA:** President Barack Obama's easing of the US trade embargo on Cuba has had virtually no positive effect on the island's economy, Cuba's top diplomat asserted Friday.

Presenting Cuba's annual report ahead of a UN vote on condemning the embargo, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said the sanctions cost his country \$4.6 billion last year. The total cost of the 55-year-old embargo now stands at \$125.9 billion, he added.

The presentation of Cuba's update on the embargo is an annual ritual driving home to a mostly domestic audience Havana's message that US sanctions are to blame for most of the country's problems. The report contains a detailed accounting of both specific damage from the embargo, such as US government fines on Cuba's business partners, and scenarios in which Cuba faults the US

for the loss of hypothetical business. For example the report estimates that Cuba could sell 2.5 million cases of Havana Club rum in the United States each year and factors in that theoretical lost revenue, \$105 million, to the total damages in the report.

Rodriguez praised Obama for allowing easier US travel to Cuba, permitting commercial flights and attempting to ease financial transactions with Cuba, among other measures. However, he said, "there's been no fundamental change in the application of the blockade, and because of that, I can say, there hasn't been a greater economic impact of the executive actions until now and there won't be until we see bigger steps." Rodriguez acknowledged the problems of Cuba's centrally controlled economy, which is struggling to increase productivity in the face of an outdated and inefficient

bureaucracy and low state salaries that lead many employees to steal from their workplaces or accept small bribes in order to get by.

"No one's ignoring or aims to hide our problems, our limitations, our mistakes," he said. "But neither can we diminish the impact of the blockade." The United Nations votes next month on an annual resolution on condemning the embargo that usually passes with overwhelming support. Last year the United States considered abstaining for the first time, before voting against it.

As reporters were leaving Rodriguez's press conference at the Cuban Foreign Ministry, US Charge d'Affaires Jeffrey DeLaurentis' car was seen dropping him off. US and Cuban diplomats have begun meeting frequently on a wide array of topics since the declaration of detente on Dec 17, 2014. — AP

## NBK ATM SERVICES

**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced that it would allow other bank clients to withdraw currencies from its various ATMs, especially passengers at Kuwait International Airport and Saad Al-Abdullah airports on 24/7 basis

during the Eid Al-Adha vacation. NBK added that its clients as well as those of other banks can withdraw from its ATMs in Kuwaiti dinar, AED, the US dollar, pound sterling, the euro and Saudi Riyals.



## ABK SERVICES DURING EID

**KUWAIT:** The Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced that on the occasion of the Eid Al-Adha vacation, its branches would be closed as of Sunday, September 11 until Wednesday, September 14 and that it would resume it work on Thursday, September 15 at the

main center, Hawally, Farwaniya, Jahra, Fahaheel and Shuwaikh branches. ABK also announced that it would continue serving its clients through the customer care phone-in number 1899899 and the bank's website at www.eahli.com.



## CLAIMS FOR US JOBLESS BENEFITS SLIPPED

**WASHINGTON:** Fewer Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, another sign the US job market remains healthy despite a downshift in hiring last month.

**THE NUMBERS:** The Labor Department said Thursday that the number of applications for jobless aid slid by 4,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 259,000, lowest since mid-July. Weekly claims have come in below 300,000 for 79 straight weeks, longest streak since 1970. The less volatile four-week average slipped by 1,750 last week to 261,250.

The number of people collecting unemployment checks has fallen more than 5 percent from a year ago to 2.14 million.

**THE TAKEAWAY:** Unemployment claims are a proxy for layoffs. The low level of applications suggests that companies are hanging on to staff and that job security remains solid for most US workers.

**KEY DRIVERS:** The job market has stayed healthy even though economic growth has stalled since late last year.

The economy expanded at a lackluster annual pace of 1.1 percent from April through June after growing just 0.8 percent in the first quarter and 0.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2015. Employers added just 151,000 jobs last month, down from a monthly average of 204,000 over the past year. But unemployment remains low at 4.9 percent.

"The underlying reality appears to be a rock solid labor market, with firms having increasing difficulty filling openings," Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities, wrote in a research note. The Labor Department reported Wednesday that job openings rose 4 percent in July but hiring blipped up just 1 percent. The disconnect suggests that many employers are struggling to find qualified workers.

Despite very low layoffs, the

Federal Reserve is widely expected to keep interest rates unchanged at its upcoming Sept. 20-21 policy meeting in the wake of a slowdown in job growth last month and a contraction in manufacturing activity. Services sector activity in August was the slowest in 6-1/2 years. The US central bank raised its benchmark overnight interest rate at the end of last year for the first time in nearly a decade, but has held it steady since amid concerns over persistently low inflation.

The dollar was trading lower against a basket of currencies, while prices for US government debt fell. A Labor Department analyst said there were no special factors influencing last week's claims data. However, claims for Virginia, New Mexico, Alabama and Minnesota, as well as those for Hawaii and Puerto Rico were estimated because Monday's Labor Day holiday had caused delays in the processing of the data. The estimates are based on historical trends and normally do not deviate much from



**MIAMI:** Job applications and information for the Gap Factory Store sit on a table during a job fair at Dolphin Mall in Miami. Fewer Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week of August 2016, another sign the US job market remains healthy despite a downshift in hiring in August. — AP

the actual data, the analyst said. The four-week moving average of claims, considered a better measure of labor

market trends as it irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 1,750 to 261,250 last week. — Agencies

## TRADE MINISTER BRANDS SOME UK BUSINESSES FAT AND LAZY



**The then British Defense Minister Liam Fox speaks during joint statement with Defense Secretary Robert Gates, at the Pentagon. — AP**

**LONDON:** Britain's trade minister says UK businesses generally are too lazy to export goods around the world. In a speech to pro-free market group Conservative Way Forward, International Trade Secretary Liam Fox said some businesspeople would rather "play golf on a Friday afternoon" than fulfill their "duty" to export. Fox is in charge of forging new international economic links as Britain prepares to leave the European Union.

His comments were recorded by the Times of London, which published them yesterday. "We have become too lazy, and too fat on our successes in previous generations," Fox said. Prime Minister Theresa May's office said Fox was expressing private views. Richard Reed, co-founder of smoothie company Innocent drinks said Fox should focus on Britain's post-EU future, "rather than turning around and trash-talking the country." — AP









## ENJOY EID WITH FLYDUBAI

AIRLINE OFFERS USEFUL TRAVEL TIPS THIS EID WITH COMPLIMENTARY WIFI AND LIVE TV

**KUWAIT:** With the approaching Eid holidays, Dubai-based flydubai is sharing a list of travel tips that can help passengers enjoy their holidays and travel with ease. With an expected increase in the number of passengers travelling with flydubai, here are some tips to help get the holiday started.

### Connect and relax with your Eid gift

As an Eid gift to its passengers, flydubai is offering complimentary WiFi connectivity and Live TV from 08 to 17 September, on flights where connectivity is available. Passengers can stay connected while in the air and tune in to the latest news and sports on BBC World News, Al Jazeera or Al Arabiya, enjoy Arabic shows on MBC1 or fascinating documentaries on Discovery.

### Arrive on time

With a significant number of passengers travelling with flydubai from Terminal 2 (DXB) and Al Maktoum International (DWC), give yourself plenty of time to get to the airport.

"The Eid holidays will see both airports become extremely busy" said Alex Mackenzie, Senior Vice President Airport Services at flydubai. "We recommend getting to the airport at least four hours before your flight departs, especially if you have baggage to check-in. Please remember that check-in for any flydubai flight will close 60 minutes before departure."

Don't forget to double check which airport you are departing from before leaving home. Once inside the airport, make sure you take advantage of the wide variety of shopping and dining options available.

### Beat the queues when you check in online

You can check in online for your flydubai flight up to 90 minutes before your flight, available on all flights departing from Dubai (except Jeddah and Madinah).

If you can't check-in online, head to one of our self-service kiosks between 24 hours and one hour before departure. To start your journey, all you need is your booking reference and a machine readable passport. If you have baggage, please go to the bag drop desk with your baggage, so they can be tagged and accepted for the flight before heading to security.

### Pack smart

Make sure that you are aware of the baggage limits when you pack. Economy Class passengers can carry up to one item of hand baggage that weighs no more than 7kg on board, along with a laptop bag or handbag. Business Class passengers can carry up to two items of hand baggage on board with a combined weight of 15kg along with 40kg of checked baggage. Remember, Economy Class passengers can purchase up to 40kg of luggage prior to their trip through flydubai.com, along with extra legroom seats, a hot meal and In-Flight Entertainment, so you are well prepared before your journey begins.

Pack any liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs) in a clear re-sealable plastic bag. Remember that for safety reasons passengers are not permitted to fly with items powered by lithium batteries such as hoverboards, mini segways, balance wheels and solowheels. This applies to hand baggage and checked baggage. For more information about

restrictions on the carriage of lithium batteries and other dangerous goods, passengers are advised to read the baggage policy available on flydubai.com.

### Be entertained

Make sure that you take the chance to enjoy flydubai's award-winning interactive In-Flight Entertainment System which is available on every seat. Here you can enjoy more than 2,000 hours of entertainment in Arabic, English, Hindi and Russian.

With the variety of entertainment options available, it has never been easier to sit back, relax and enjoy your holiday.

Dubai-based flydubai strives to remove barriers to travel and enhance connectivity between different cultures across its ever-expanding network. Since launching its operations in 2009, flydubai has:

- Created a network of 90 destinations in 44 countries, with 19 new routes launched in 2015.
- Opened up 59 routes that did not previously have direct air links to Dubai or were not served by a UAE national carrier from Dubai.
- Operates a single fleet type of Next-Generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft and will take delivery of more than 100 aircraft by the end of 2023.

In addition, flydubai's agility and flexibility as a young airline has enhanced Dubai's economic development, in line with the Government of Dubai's vision, by creating trade and tourism flows in previously underserved markets.

## KFH TO SERVE CLIENTS ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH AIRPORT BRANCH DURING EID

5 BRANCHES READY TO SERVE CLIENTS ON THURSDAY

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced that it is ready to fulfill its commitments towards its clients during the Eid Al-Adha holiday. The bank will continue to offer various services for its clients in Kuwait and overseas through its website that offers over 150 services, in addition to the 24/7 airport branch and other service channels that provide clients with necessary services around the clock.

Moreover, 5 branches are ready to serve clients on Thursday September 15th. They are the Headquarters Branch, Al-Fahahel Branch, Al-Qaser Branch, Al-Farwaniya Branch, Hawally Branch and Mubarak Alkabeer Branch. They open their doors for clients from 8:30 am-3:00 pm. Also, Farwaniya showroom opens in two shifts from 9-1 and from 5-8.

Moreover, the Call Center will be ready to receive calls from clients throughout the day, and will work relentlessly to overcome any problems that might face clients in Kuwait and overseas.

In addition, KFH continues to offer its IVR service on 1803333 that is available throughout the day. Clients can call to make account transactions, ask for financial transaction, pay bills, purchase cards to recharge cell phone, and other services.

Further, clients can take advantage of KFH's ATM machines (Shamel) that are available at most of the branches in vital locations. KFH offers Mobi Baitok vehicles that serve as mobile branches that allow people to deposit and withdraw cash in addition to other usual transactions.



KFH has additional technical privileges, such as allowing clients to conduct basic banking operations through smart phones on kfonline application. KFH has recently launched a new e-service that allows KFH customer subscribed to KFH's SMS Baitok notification service to receive Push message-type notifications - in addition to the regular SMS notifications - onto their smartphones. KFH's e-Banking customers who are able to register to - and receive - the Push messages for free via the KFH Online Smartphone app, and will also be able to receive and view the

Push messages using the smartphone apps.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.



## GFH REAL ESTATE TO PRESENT GCC PROPERTIES TO INVESTORS

**MANAMA:** GFH Real Estate ("GFH RE"), yesterday announced that it will participate at this year's 15th Cityscape Global being held in Dubai between 6 to 8 September 2016 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, while showcasing a number of its new landmark GCC-based development projects.

GFH Real Estate projects to be featured at the event are the Harbour Row residential project and the adjoining Harbour North commercial and retail area in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Harbour Row will include six buildings in total comprising of 450 residential units and retail area supported by full leisure and commercial facilities being developed in the adjacent Harbour North located in prime waterfront areas of the Bahrain Financial Harbour (BFH). Moreover, GFH is going to update the market with its recent endeavors to recommence works in the flagship \$700mn project Villamar @ the Harbour.

GFH RE will also be showcasing its newly announced California Village. California Village is planned to be a vibrant new residential community with state-of-the-art facilities and a full range of services and amenities within a pedestrian oriented environment. California Village will comprise of the California Residences and Heights that include 234 villas in addition to more than 150 highly specified apartments.

Commenting, Majed Al-Khan, CEO of GFH Real Estate, said, "With the launch of GFH Real Estate, a specialist subsidiary of the Group, we continue to build our development capability and our focus on bringing to market exciting and new landmark projects like Harbour Row and Harbour North. We are delighted to be tak-

ing part in Cityscape once again and presenting our GCC based projects to visiting investors, corporates and end-users. GCC real estate markets, both in Bahrain and the UAE where our projects are based, remain buoyant and provide for strong opportunities - be it for investors or potential occupiers. We have already generated significant interest from the market in these projects and are looking forward to building further knowledge and interest and continuing to successfully progress our plans for these and additional projects both those underway and in development."

GFH RE projects will be presented at Cityscape by a delegation of its senior management team headed by the head of its newly created real estate subsidiary and investment arm, GFH Real Estate, Mr. Majed Al Khan, and executive members of the GFH real estate and placement teams who will be on hand to share opportunities with prospective investors and strategic partners. The three day forum is set to welcome some 4,000 visitors to include financial institutions, institutional investors and high-net-worth individuals active in the real estate markets of the GCC and globally.

GFH Real Estate Company (GFH RE), a subsidiary of the GFH Financial Group, is a specialist real estate developer and managing up to one billion US dollar worth of end project value in GCC. The company builds on the extensive development track record of the Group across the MENA region and global markets and is aimed at extending the Group's investment and development capabilities and geographic reach. GFH Real Estate's activities include project developments and asset management.



Majed Al-Khan, CEO of GFH Real Estate



## ENJOY SPECIAL RATES ON EMIRATES WITH GULF BANK CREDIT CARDS

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank is offering its Credit Cardholders up to 10 percent discount on Emirates Airlines flights which are booked from today until 10th December, 2016 and for trips up to 31st March, 2017.

To take advantage of this exciting new offer, customers must use their Gulf Bank credit cards when purchasing their Emirates Airline ticket to any destination through [www.emirates.com/kw](http://www.emirates.com/kw) and apply the unique promotional code "KWGBK17".

Gulf Bank is committed to providing

customers with exceptional value and exciting offers that meet their needs, in addition to presenting them with one of the widest selections of financial products and banking services currently available in Kuwait.

To find out more about Gulf Bank's promotions and offers, you can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches; contact the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or go on to the bank's bilingual website at [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com).

**SPECIAL OFFERS WITH EMIRATES AIRLINE**

Save up to 10% using your Gulf Bank Credit Card

Visit [emirates.com/kw](http://emirates.com/kw) and enter the promo code "KWGBK17"

Logos for VISA, MasterCard, and Gulf Bank are visible.

## GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 4 September 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 28 Aug - 1 Sept 2016. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

### The winners are:

(Sunday 28/8): Homod Saleh Hussain Hussain, Abdulhadi Faisal Maatouq Alotaibi (Monday 29/8): Jin Bires Teshakoo, Ghanima Mousa Ibrahim Sabti (Minor). (Tuesday 30/8): Eman Ahmed Abdulrazag Alaskar, Khaled Abdulmehsen Al Ali

(Wednesday 31/8): Yaqoob Adnan Abdul Kareem Dashti, Mashaah Saud Al Woqayan Al Ajmi

(Thursday 1/9): Jacintia Lynctc D'Souza, Intisar Hameed Saad Mohsen

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al-Danah's 2nd quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on the 30th of June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on September 29th. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Open an Al-Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the KD500,000 or mil-

lionaire draw!

**Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:**

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Win Big, Live Big, with Al-Danah 2016. Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance.

# APPLE IS SHIFTING THE FOCUS OF ITS SECRET CAR PROJECT



MUNICH: In this Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, file photo, people wait in front of an Apple store, before the worldwide launch of the iPhone 6s. — AP

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple may not become an automaker, but it still wants to develop its own self-driving technology. The iPhone-maker's automotive project, long an open secret in Silicon Valley, is shifting to focus on creating the technology for an autonomous vehicle that doesn't require a human driver. The new direction apparently doesn't foreclose the possibility that Apple might someday build its own car, but it opens the door to partnering with other car companies.

The new emphasis was confirmed Friday by a person with knowledge of the project, after the New York Times reported that Apple is "rethinking" its automotive strategy. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the project.

Apple had no official comment Friday and has consistently declined to confirm its automotive ambitions. But Elon Musk,

the chief executive of electric-car maker Tesla, has said that Apple has hired hundreds of engineers, including some from Tesla, to work on an automotive project. Local officials in the San Francisco Bay Area say Apple contacted them last year about using a former naval base that's been converted into an automotive testing ground.

More recently, the New York Times and Bloomberg News have reported that Apple's initial efforts to design its own car have suffered from management turnover and technical delays. Industry experts say building a car is an incredibly complex challenge for any company, even one with the engineering prowess of Apple. Automobile manufacture also poses more regulatory and legal issues than building an iPhone or a computer.

But the tech industry has increasingly ventured into the automotive sector,

where Apple, Google and other firms are competing to develop software that can help manage - at least - the information and entertainment systems inside today's vehicles. Google has made no secret that it's also working on self-driving technology, but says that it is more likely to partner with an established automaker.

Analysts say tech companies want to be involved in automobiles because they want people to keep using their products and services, even while driving. Meanwhile, most of the leading auto-makers have opened research labs in Silicon Valley, in part to work on the software and the physical systems - including sensors and other components - that are needed for autonomous driving.

Uber, the giant ride-sharing company, has also hired experts in robotics and has begun testing cars with self-driving capabilities. — AP

## US AGENCY: SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 7 TOO DANGEROUS TO USE

NEW YORK: The US Consumer Product Safety Commission says owners of the Galaxy Note 7 smartphones should turn them off and stop using them because of the risk that their batteries can explode.

The agency said Friday that it's working with Samsung on an official recall of the phones "as soon as possible" and that it's trying to figure out if the company's replacement Note 7s are an "acceptable remedy."

Samsung last week began a global recall for the phone, just two weeks after its launch, because of the risk of them catching fire or exploding. At the time, Samsung said it had confirmed 35 instances of the problem, out of 2.5 million phones sold. The company did not say last week whether users should stop using the phones, and said new phones would be available in about two weeks.

But in a statement Friday, Samsung Electronics America asked Note 7 owners to shut off their phones and exchange them now for another device. The company says new Note 7 phones will not be available until after the CPSC finishes its "process," but owners can exchange the Note 7s now for a different model.

US aviation safety officials also on Thursday took the unusual step of warning airline passengers not to turn on or charge the phone during flights, or put them in checked bags.

The recall comes at a crucial time for Samsung, as its rival Apple just announced its own latest versions of the iPhone. The Note series is one of Samsung's most expensive, and demand for the phone had been high. — AP

## AIR TRAVELERS ON SAMSUNG PHONE HONOR SYSTEM AFTER FIRES

If you travel with a Samsung Note 7, you're likely on the honor system when deciding whether to use or charge the device during a flight.

The Federal Aviation Administration says that because of concern about fires involving the new smartphone, it "strongly advises" airline passengers not to use or charge one or stow one in checked baggage.

It is very unusual for the FAA to warn passengers about a specific branded product.

And on Friday, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission urged owners of the phone to turn them off and leave them off. The agency said it was working with Samsung to launch an official recall as soon as possible. Samsung announced a voluntary recall of the device last week.

The three biggest US airlines - American, Delta and United - said Friday that flight attendants will remind passengers of the FAA warning, but it was unclear how they'd make sure that passengers keep the Samsung devices powered off. Jeffrey Price, who wrote a book on aviation security, said flight attendants will have to patrol the aisles for scofflaws, and they might get help from people who turn in fellow passengers. "I think they are going to have a hard time enforcing this one," he said. "Hopefully Samsung will make the appropriate fixes so their phones quit having issues sooner than later."



SEOUL: In this Friday, Sept. 2, 2016, file photo, a woman walks by an advertisement of the Samsung Electronics Galaxy Note 7 smartphone at the company's showroom. — AP



OSLO: The cover to Norway's largest circulation newspaper, Aftenposten, displayed on Friday Sept. 9, 2016. — AP

# FACEBOOK ALLOWS POSTINGS OF 'NAPALM GIRL' PHOTO AFTER DEBATE REVERSAL AFTER REVOLT

COPENHAGEN: Facebook on Friday reversed its decision to remove postings of an iconic 1972 image of a naked, screaming girl running from a napalm attack in Vietnam, after a Norwegian revolt against the tech giant.

Protests in Norway started last month after Facebook deleted the Pulitzer Prize-winning image by Associated Press photographer Nick Ut from a Norwegian author's page, saying it violated its rules on nudity.

The revolt escalated on Friday when Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg posted the image on her profile and Facebook deleted that too. The brouhaha is the latest instance in which Facebook's often opaque process for deciding what stays and what goes on its network has spurred controversy. "It's an interesting dilemma because you've got a newsworthy historical image that has been published by traditional news media that was effectively censored by a social network," said Steve Jones, University of Illinois at Chicago communications professor.

**First response**

Initially, Facebook stood by the decision, saying it was difficult to create a distinction between allowing a photograph of a nude child in one instance and not others. But late Friday it said it would allow sharing of the photo. "In this case, we recognize the history and global importance of this image in documenting a particular moment in time," Facebook said in a statement. "Because of its status as an iconic image of historical importance, the value of permitting sharing outweighs the value of protecting the community by removal, so we have decided to reinstate the image on Facebook

where we are aware it has been removed."

Politicians of all stripes, journalists and regular Norwegians had backed Solberg's decision to share the image. The prime minister told Norwegian broadcaster NRK she was pleased with Facebook's change of heart and that it shows social media users' opinions matter. "To speak up and say we want change, it matters and it works. And that makes me happy," she said.

The image shows screaming children running from a burning Vietnamese village. The little girl in the center of the frame, Kim Phuc, is naked and crying as the napalm melts away layers of her skin. "Today, pictures are such an important element in making an impression, that if you edit past events or people, you change history and you change reality," Solberg told the AP earlier Friday, adding it was the first time one of her Facebook posts was deleted.

Solberg later reposted the image with a black box covering the girl from the thighs up. She also posted other iconic photos of historic events, such as the man standing in front of a tank in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, with black boxes covering the protagonists.

Like its Scandinavian neighbors, Norway takes pride in its freedom of speech. It's also a largely secular nation with relaxed attitudes about nudity.

Several members of the Norwegian government followed Solberg's lead and posted the photo on their Facebook pages. One of them, Education Minister Torbjorn Roe Isaksen, said it was "an iconic photo, part of our history."

Many of the posts were deleted but Isaksen's was still up Friday afternoon. The photo was also

left untouched on a number of Facebook accounts, including the AP's.

**Overload difficulty**

It would be physically impossible for the company to comb through the hundreds of millions of photos posted each day, so it relies on user reports and algorithms to weed out pictures that go against its terms of service. Photos are often automatically removed if enough people report them. Facebook usually does not proactively remove photos, with some exceptions, such as child pornography. Because of this, what photos aren't always treated consistently, and sometimes Facebook reinstates reported photos after removing them.

It can also adjust its standards depending on the response. Breastfeeding and mastectomy photos used to be deleted, but after much outcry the company adjusted its policy on nude photos to allow most of such photos. In another case, a court ruled Facebook could be sued after a man's account was suspended after he posted "The Origin of the World," by Gustave Courbet, an 1866 French painting of a nude model exposing her genitalia.

The issue in Norway "points out there's very little transparency," Jones said. "We really don't know how these decisions are made so there's not a lot of accountability either necessarily." Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten published the Vietnam photo on its front page Friday and also wrote an open letter to Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg in which chief editor Espen Egil Hansen accused the social media giant of abusing its power. Hansen said he was "upset, disappointed - well, in fact even afraid - of what you are about to do to a mainstay of our democratic society." — AP

# BURRITOS IN THE SKY: CHIPOTLE TESTS DRONE DELIVERIES

NEW YORK: Flying burritos will soon be a reality over Virginia Tech. Chipotle is taking part in a test this month that will let some of the university's students and staff have their favorite tortilla-wrapped meal delivered by drone.

Virginia Tech is conducting the test with Project Wing, a unit of Google owner Alphabet Inc., which makes self-flying devices that deliver food, medicine and other goods. Chipotle's burritos will be put together at a food truck and then loaded on a drone. The flights will take place at an undisclosed site on Virginia Tech property, but not at the main campus in Blacksburg, said Mark Blanks, director of Virginia Tech's Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership. "It's real customers that are working and need lunch and want it delivered by drone," Blanks said.

Only a select group of people from Virginia Tech will be able to make orders. Hundreds of flights and burrito deliveries are expected to take place over several days, Project Wing said. It will just be burritos, though. Other menu items won't be delivered by drone, said Chris Arnold, a spokesman for Denver-based Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc.

Many companies see drones as the future of delivery. Several are currently testing them, including online seller Amazon.com Inc. The Federal Aviation Administration approved the Virginia Tech site for drone testing in 2013. Virginia Tech announced the food delivery test on its website Thursday, and Chipotle's role was first reported by Bloomberg News. — AP



BRANDON, FLORIDA: This Monday, Feb. 8, 2016, file photo shows a sign on the window at a Chipotle Mexican Grill. — AP

# YAHOO CEO COULD REAP \$44 MILLION IF SHE LEAVES AFTER SALE

SAN FRANCISCO: Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer stands to collect a \$44 million severance package if she leaves after Verizon completes its purchase of the once-mighty internet company. Mayer hasn't announced plans to leave, but industry observers say she's unlikely to stay after the \$4.8 billion sale closes early next year.

The 41-year-old executive stands to collect \$3 million in cash and almost \$41 million worth of stock options and awards under a "golden parachute" agreement described in a regulatory filing Friday. In a filing last spring, Yahoo said Mayer could walk away with \$55 million in compensation, but the estimates can vary with the value of Yahoo's stock and the date she leaves.

Mayer has been CEO for four years but failed to reverse a long-standing slide in Yahoo's advertising business. After an unsuccessful effort to spin off its investment in the Chinese internet giant Alibaba, Yahoo Inc. began entertaining offers for its core business earlier this year.

Yahoo weighed a variety of offers, according to the proxy statement filed Friday. One was a merger proposal from Yahoo Japan, a separate company that Sunnyvale, California-based Yahoo co-owns with Japanese tech giant SoftBank. Another bid came from an unnamed group that asked Yahoo co-



SAN FRANCISCO: In this Feb. 19, 2015, file photo, Yahoo President and CEO Marissa Mayer delivers the keynote address at the first-ever Yahoo Mobile Developer's Conference. — AP

founder David Filo to consider financing its bid. Filo, who sits on Yahoo's board of directors, agreed to talk with the group and recused himself from participating in further board discussions about a possible sale, according to the statement. The filing doesn't say if Filo ultimately decided to join the group. But in the end, the unnamed group submitted a \$4.35 billion bid that was lower than Verizon's. — AP

## ASIAN NATIONS PLAN FUND TO BETTER PREPARE FOR HEALTH EMERGENCIES, SAYS WHO

**NEW DELHI:** Eleven countries in South and East Asia on Friday agreed to establish an emergency fund to strengthen their health services to better respond to outbreaks of diseases, including emerging viruses such as Zika, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Friday.

Made up of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, South Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste, the South East Asia region is highly susceptible to disasters such as floods which can result in disease outbreaks.

The region is also threatened by a range of emerging diseases such as SARS, MERS CoV, pandemic influenza and Zika, say experts, adding that countries remain ill-prepared to effectively contain an outbreak should it occur.

The WHO said while nations already contributed to a fund to tackle health

emergencies such as outbreaks of cholera or diarrhea in the aftermath of disasters, it was crucial to have finance available to help countries prepare beforehand. "To date, post-disaster funding through South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund has done an excellent job of helping countries respond to health emergencies once they've occurred, as we saw most recently in Nepal and Sri Lanka," said Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO's South East Asia director.

"The new funding stream will allow countries to invest in infrastructure and human resources that will enhance preparedness," she added in a statement. In a resolution passed by the 11 countries at a WHO meeting in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo, governments also agreed to increase the number of health workers, provide them with training and bet-

ter conditions in order to retain them.

The ratio of health care providers in the region currently stands at 12.5 workers for every 10,000 people, just a quarter of the WHO recommended minimum of 44.5. Aid workers welcomed the move, citing the Ebola crisis in West Africa in 2013-15, as an example of why it was necessary to build local capacity and prevent an outbreak becoming a crisis. "To deal with an outbreak, we need to work before, during and after. A strong public health system is the best shock absorber in such settings," said Unni Krishnan, Save the Children's emergency health director in Asia and Pacific.

"This initiative should aim to prepare local medical colleges and local health systems for such scenarios - a collaborative approach between governments, UN systems and non-governmental organizations is key." — Reuters



**BEIJING:** Shadows of journalists are reflected on a wall next to WHO's logo at a news conference on March 29, 2016. — C AFP



## GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL CELEBRATES EID AL ADHA WITH CHILDREN FROM THE MIDDLE EAST



**KUWAIT:** Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH) in London celebrated Eid al Adha with staff, families and patients. "Eid al Adha was a hospital wide celebration and awareness rising exercise," explains Fatima Kassam, one of the hospital's Muslim Chaplains. "We wanted to educate those who are unfamiliar with the festival, teaching them what it means and the importance of Haj, as well as celebrating this important festival with our Muslim families and staff."

Children from around the world come to GOSH; last year children from over 80 different countries were treated at the hospital, including children from Kuwait, UAE and Saudi Arabia. GOSH places great emphasis on supporting pastoral care for all faiths and cultures so the hospital has a multi-faith Chaplaincy Team that offers spiritual, religious and pastoral care to everyone at the hospital, regardless of faith. The Chaplaincy Team includes a number of Muslim chaplains who help organise both Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha each year. "These celebrations have a central place in the Trust Spiritual Care Festival calendar," says Fatima, "Each year we lead on organising an Eid al Adha celebration and feel it is important to explore the religious importance behind the festival with educational activities."

This year the hospital celebrated Eid al Adha with an event that included educational informa-

tion as well as arts and crafts activities. The event was also attended by a henna artist and a performance was given by a Nasheed artist, whose heartfelt aim is to spread a message of peace, respect and unity through the medium of music. "We were excited to be graced once again with the presence of a Nasheed artist," Fatima says, "we also provided a number of activities for the children to enjoy that were supported by the hospital's play specialists and volunteers." The children received Eid gifts that were kindly provided by local charities and a buffet of delicious Arabic and Indian snacks and traditional sweets were on offer throughout the event.

Great Ormond Street Hospital in London is recognised as one of the few truly world-class hospitals for children. As a global leader, GOSH has top clinical and research experts working every day to find new and better ways to treat children. While breakthroughs and medical expertise are essential to the treatment of patients, GOSH also places great emphasis on the support and care provided for children by nurturing an open and supportive atmosphere, ensuring that parents and patients are well informed and closely involved in the treatment process. Children receive the highest standards of care and attention from the expert team of medical and support staff during their stay at GOSH, and are always treated with respect, trust, concern and openness.

## TEVA SAYS AIMS TO LAUNCH EPIPEN-LIKE DEVICE BY 2018 IN US

**NEW YORK:** Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd said Friday it aims to win US approval by late 2017 or early 2018 for its version of Mylan NV's EpiPen device for treating severe allergic reactions, a move that would challenge the branded product's overwhelming market dominance.

EpiPen's list price has soared from less than \$100 when Mylan acquired the product in 2007, to more than \$600 now, sparking outrage from patients, consumers and politicians. But without strong competitors, Mylan's EpiPen still holds an estimated 94 percent market share in the United States.

Teva's application for a copycat version has been in question since February, when the Food and Drug Administration flagged "major deficiencies" in the Israeli drugmaker's device. "We requested a meeting with the FDA," Sigurdur Olafsson, Teva's head of global generic medicines, said in a webcast overview of the company's generics medicines business. He said Teva did not get a response, but after "the media attention in the last two weeks, the FDA has come back to us and we will have a meeting very, very quickly."

Given the recent "political noise on EpiPen," the FDA may now be more inclined to approve Teva's generic version, Evercore ISI analyst Umer Raffat said in a webcast message to clients.

Analysts had expected Teva to alter its autoinjector's design to remedy a dosing issue cited by the FDA, but Olafsson said

the company was not planning any modifications to its device at this point.

The FDA declined to comment, citing the proprietary nature of drug application information. With the EpiPen, a dose of epinephrine is injected into the thigh to counter dangerous allergic reactions, including to peanuts and bee stings. A range of politicians, including US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, have criticized Mylan's EpiPen pricing.

Amid the growing controversy, Mylan said on Aug. 29 that within weeks it would launch its own \$300 generic version of EpiPen. Responding to a list of questions from Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, Mylan, in a seven-page letter released on Friday, repeated its assertions that EpiPen prices are justified given the company's investment in life-saving research and patient education. "I'll continue to ask questions until a fuller picture of what happened with this product's prices comes in," Grassley said in a statement. "In the meantime, I'll continue to work on my two pending bills that would help bring more generic drugs to the market to help consumers."

Wall Street analysts have predicted that Teva's product, if approved and priced cheaper than EpiPen, could eat up a significant portion of the branded product's market share. "We are working with the FDA on a path forward," Olafsson told investors on the call. — Reuters



**HENDERSONVILLE, Texas:** This Oct 10, 2013 file photo, shows an EpiPen epinephrine auto-injector, a Mylan product. — AP

## OBAMA TO MEET US CONGRESS LEADERS MONDAY ON SPENDING

**WASHINGTON:** US President Barack Obama has invited congressional leaders to the White House on Monday in an attempt to break deadlocks over government spending plans and funding the fight against the Zika virus.

Congress must pass a temporary spending bill by Sept. 30 or much of the federal government will shut down. With the deadline approaching, Obama is set to meet with House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, both Republicans. Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid and his House counterpart Nancy Pelosi will also be present, White House and congressional officials said on Friday.

Of particular urgency is a program to fight the Zika virus which is running out of money, US Center for Disease Control and Prevention Director Tom Frieden told reporters. Frieden also noted the virus, which can cause severe birth defects, would pose a threat well into 2017. "Zika is likely to become endemic in this hemisphere," he told reporters.

Congressional leaders are considering attaching as much as \$1.1 billion in Zika spending to a bill to temporarily fund the government during the 2017 fiscal year that begins on Oct. 1. Congress has yet to approve individual appropriations bills to fund the government in fiscal 2017. If no spending is approved before the end of September, much of the government would have to shut down.

House Republican leaders are considering a Senate Republican proposal to extend the current government spending levels until Dec. 9, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers, a Republican, told reporters. Rogers said he wants the package



**VIENTIANE, LAOS:** US President Barack Obama listens to a question during a news conference at the conclusion of his participation in the ASEAN Summits on September 8, 2016. — AFP

to include funding to combat Zika, but that this was being negotiated. On Thursday, Pelosi called for a temporary funding measure that would include a full year's funding to combat Zika.

In February, Obama asked Congress to approve \$1.9 billion in emergency funds to deal with Zika. Since then, both political parties have backed \$1.1 billion, but fights over side issues related to abortion have divided them.

One of the biggest controversies involves Democrats' opposition to Republican-proposed language that Democrats say would prevent Zika funds for abortion providers like Planned Parenthood, mainly in Puerto Rico. A spending bill expiring in December would provide time this autumn for lawmakers to negotiate spending levels for the rest of fiscal 2017. Some House conservatives oppose the idea, preferring to leave decisions up to the next president and a new Congress that take office in January. — Reuters

## MORE US ADULTS SMOKE POT AS FEWER PEOPLE SEE RISKS

### BIG PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER 12 YEARS

**NEW YORK:** More and more Americans are admitting they use marijuana, and a new study suggests this may be due at least in part to the growing number of people who don't think it's dangerous.

Researchers surveyed almost 600,000 US adults from 2002 to 2014 about their drug use and health. Marijuana use increased from 10.4 percent of adults to 13.3 percent during the study period, researchers report in *The Lancet Psychiatry*.

Over the same period, the proportion of adults who thought there was a great risk of harm associated with smoking pot once or twice a week declined from about 50 percent to 33 percent. "Despite scientific evidence of potential harms, adults are much less convinced about dangers associated with using marijuana," said lead study author Dr. Wilson Compton, deputy director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

"These reductions in perceived harm were strongly associated with the increases in use," Compton added by email. Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the US, according to NIDA. Short-term effects of using this drug can include mood changes, impaired body movements and difficulty with thinking, problem solving and memory. Over time, the drug can also lead to breathing challenges, increased heart rate and a range of mood disorders.

### 30 percent increase in the past twelve years

Overall, marijuana use by US adults increased more than 30 percent in the past dozen years, the study found, with 10 million more people using pot in 2014 than in 2012. Use of marijuana on a daily or near-daily basis increased even more markedly. In

2002, 3.9 million adults in the US reported using marijuana daily or nearly every day. By 2014, that number had more than doubled to 8.4 million.

"Physicians need to be aware of these changing patterns of marijuana use to guide healthcare, and additional research needs to be conducted to study the consequences - both acute and long-term - that may be associated with frequent, heavy use," Compton said.

Both the prevalence and frequency of marijuana use increased starting around 2007 and showed significantly larger spikes after 2011, the study found. During the study period, a growing number of US states adopted legislation legalizing marijuana for

medical purposes and, in some instances, for recreational use.

As of 2015, 24 states and the District of Columbia had passed medical marijuana legislation, the study authors note. Meanwhile, many countries outside the US including Canada, India, Mexico, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands have decriminalized possession of small quantities of marijuana, the authors also point out. "The message that adults are not getting is that marijuana is a drug and, like all drugs, can harm some users when it is used in certain ways," said Wayne Hall, director of the Center for Youth Substance Abuse Research at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. — Reuters



**DENVER:** A thriving marijuana plant is seen at a grow operation on Dec 31, 2013. — AFP

## CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORS LIVING LONGER, CANCER-FREE

Due to better treatments and better monitoring, childhood cancer survivors are living longer, healthier lives, according to a study in the UK.

Looking at 60 years of data on nearly 35,000 childhood cancer survivors, researchers found decreasing mortality rates overall, and fewer deaths from cancer itself or from after-effects of cancer treatment. By the time survivors are in their 60s, circulatory problems like cardiovascular disease are their biggest cause of death - just like the rest of the population.

"Survival after almost all specific types of childhood cancer has improved substantially," said lead author Miranda Fidler of the Center for Childhood Cancer Survivor Studies at the University of Birmingham.

The improvements align with new

developments such as chemotherapy, introduced around 1970, and bone marrow transplants, developed around 1990, both of which are life-saving. Fidler told Reuters Health. To investigate long-term health outcomes for childhood cancer survivors, the researchers analyzed data on 34,489 survivors of childhood cancer diagnosed between 1940 and 2006.

### Survival percentages

Using death information from national registries, the researchers determined how long patients survived and what eventually caused their death. Overall, 4,475 subjects, or 13 percent, died, representing a mortality rate more than nine times that of the general population.

Researchers calculated the proportion of excess deaths - those beyond what

would be expected in the general population - for the childhood cancer patients overall and looked at death rates and causes by age group. Overall, 66 percent of excess deaths were from a return or progression of the original cancer, 17 percent were due to a new cancer and 5.6 percent of the excess deaths were attributed to circulatory conditions such as heart disease and high blood pressure.

The number of excess deaths was much lower among those treated more recently for childhood cancer. For example, there were 70 percent fewer excess deaths among survivors treated between 1990 and 2006 than among those treated before 1970. Patients treated after 1990 also had 70 percent fewer deaths from recurrence or progression of their original cancer, according to the results in The

BMJ. The longer people lived, the less likely their deaths would be linked to their original cancer or to a new one. Among cancer survivors in their 50s, 41 percent of excess deaths were caused by new cancers and 22 percent by circulatory conditions.

After age 60, 31 percent of excess deaths were caused by new cancers compared with 37 percent caused by circulatory issues. This is the first study to observe this shift to where the greatest risks to a group of childhood cancer survivors are circulatory diseases, the study team writes.

Still, the extra circulatory deaths may be due to organ damage children suffered during radiotherapy and chemotherapy, said Mary McBride of the British Columbia Cancer Agency in

Vancouver, who was not involved in the study. "Newer and more complex treatments have led to higher likelihood of survival from cancer in children and adults, but sometimes at the cost of damaging complications," McBride said by email.

These effects can be mitigated, however, she told Reuters Health. "With appropriate follow-up care, these complications can sometimes be prevented or managed to reduce the harmful side-effects of these life-saving treatments and improve survivor quality of life."

Both doctors and patients should be aware of the risks of developing circulatory conditions later in life, and long-term follow-up programs should aim to prevent these issues through education and interventions, Fidler said. — Reuters



ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN: In this September 9, 2014 file photo, Ann Arbor police, firemen, and medical personnel respond to an overdose at the Ann Arbor District Library.— AP

## DRUG USERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The same qualities that make libraries ideal for studying and reading - unfettered public access, quiet corners and nooks, minimal interaction with other people - also make them appealing places to shoot up heroin, librarians are finding.

In Norfolk, Virginia, a 47-year-old man died after a patron found him in a library restroom. In Batesville, Indiana, and New Brunswick, New Jersey, police revived others in library restrooms using a popular overdose antidote.

The body of a homeless man who frequented the Oak Park Public Library in suburban Chicago might have been there for days, fully clothed and slumped on the toilet in a restroom on the quiet third floor, before a maintenance worker unlocked it on a Monday morning in April and discovered his inglorious demise. The empty syringe and lighter in his pockets and the cut soda can in the trash pointed to the cause, an accidental heroin overdose.

"On both a personal and a professional level, we were all very shocked and of course worried about how this could happen in our spaces," said executive director David Seleb, who fired the security company responsible for clearing the library before closing.

### Public overdoses

The country's heroin and painkiller problem has produced public overdoses in many places, including restaurants, gas stations, alleys and even hospitals, but the inherent attributes of public libraries leave them especially exposed. They're free and open for whoever walks in, and lingering is welcome, no transaction or interaction required. "People need to know that this is happening everywhere and that public libraries haven't done anything wrong to cause it to happen in public libraries," said Josie

Parker, director of the Ann Arbor District Library in Michigan.

Her library already had removed bathroom ceilings and toilet tanks where people could hide drugs and restroom entrances that could be locked - changes made over a decade ago to curb cocaine trafficking, Parker said. She raised drug-abuse concerns again in 2014 when officials were discussing a proposed park next to the library. Though unpleasant, starting a public discussion about drug and alcohol abuse observed at the library spurred a beneficial community response, Parker said.

These days, police routinely walk through the library, and social workers set up shop there, checking in with folks. All that, Parker said, strips away some anonymity. "Anonymity allows people to do things they wouldn't do otherwise in public places," she said, "and if you can take away anonymity, you can help change behavior."

In Ohio, peace officers from Toledo's library system are being trained to help the sheriff's Drug Abuse Response Team. Boston's libraries have needle drop boxes and have offered overdose prevention training for employees and residents.

At the Humboldt County Library in Eureka, California, a librarian turned life-saver when she realized a man apparently sleeping in a chair was actually unresponsive, his lips turning blue. Health officials had provided the overdose antidote naloxone - often known by the brand name Narcan - for the library, so librarian Kitty Yancheff injected it into the man's leg, then into a still-limp arm before he gurgled and fluttered his eyes. "I felt grateful that we had this Narcan on hand and that we were able to save his life, but it was kind of surreal," said Yancheff, the library's public services division manager.

## CHOLERA BLAMED ON UN PEACEKEEPERS SURGES IN HAITI AS FUNDING VANISHES

### 2010 DUMPING OF INFECTED SEWAGE TO BLAME

HAITI: UN-led foreign funding has dried up for Haiti's fight against cholera, thought to have been introduced by Nepali peacekeepers, triggering a surge of deaths this year even as the global body vowed to help overcome the epidemic. The lack of support is notable because Haiti was free of cholera until 2010, when UN peacekeepers dumped infected sewage into a river, according to investigators. Since then, more than 9,000 people have died of the disease that causes uncontrollable diarrhea and 800,000 people have fallen ill, mostly in the first two years of the outbreak.

The United Nations has not legally accepted responsibility for the outbreak. An independent panel appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a 2011 report that did not determine conclusively how the cholera was introduced to Haiti. However, a new report by the independent UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights that will be presented to the UN General Assembly later this year concluded that scientific evidence "now points overwhelmingly to the responsibility of the peacekeeping mission as the source of the outbreak."

In August, Ban said the United Nations has a "moral responsibility" to help Haiti's cholera victims and their families. The outbreak and subsequent failure by the United Nations to help Haiti stamp out the disease will be a stain on the legacy of Ban, who steps down at the end of 2016 after serving two five-year terms that have been blighted by accusations of sexual abuse and exploitation by UN peacekeepers in the Central African Republic and elsewhere.

Ban, whose successor will be elected by the General Assembly, launched a major appeal aimed at eradicating cholera in Haiti four years ago. But foreign governments largely ignored the plea and funding has almost halved to \$7.9 million in 2016 from a year ago. That has led to a reduction in prevention and treatment services, and 227 deaths in the first seven months of the year, a third more than a year earlier. "These results are due to the reduction of funding available for cholera response projects," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a curt statement last week.

Even OCHA's Central Emergency Relief Fund, which channels funds from other UN agencies to humanitarian crises, stopped funding cholera relief in Haiti this year, public documents show. Because of the funding crunch, many charity teams that do street work to trace the source of local outbreaks wound down activities from April, treatment centers have been shuttered, and those still active complain of shortages of antibiotics.

### Grimy pond

In Carrefour, a working class district in the hills above Port-au-Prince, cholera is resurfacing at an

alarming rate, aid group Solidarite International said, with 1,100 cases detected this year, and 220 of those in August alone. An open cistern of grayish water serves as a spot for bathing, washing clothes and bottling drinking water in one square near Carrefour. Known as the Boyer Source, aid workers say the surrounding streets were high risk for cholera, with 16 cases in August. "Every time it rains, this source becomes contaminated," said Wangcos Laurere, head of the cholera response program at Solidarite International, looking over the grimy pond on a sweltering day last week.

Carrefour only has one cholera treatment center, after one shut last year. Here, four patients, all children, lay on camping beds. Zamar Marie Magdalah, a nurse, said capacity had been reduced from treating 60 cases at one time in previous years to 40 in June. Now the limit is 15 patients. Those with conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes as well as cholera are turned away, because the center lacks medicines to treat them. "These are basic materials that we are supposed to have," said Magdalah.

Nearly, Clérette Morenvil, the mother of a 10-year-old girl being treated at the center, showed members of a Solidarite International rapid response team a corner store whose owner sold her water from a spigot, where customers filled bottles for 1 Haitian gourde (\$0.015) apiece. "The water comes from a well," said store owner Frantz Terin, to questions posed by the team. "We don't treat the water. We don't have the authority to do so ... we use it to wash our clothes. Me, I drink it. Everyone drinks it."

Such emergency rapid-response teams, who visit the homes of cholera victims and their neighbors and trace the source of outbreaks, were scaled back by about 40 percent in April, according to UNICEF. Monthly support for the teams was cut by up to 50 percent in the first half of 2016, a government source said.

From January to July, nearly 25,000 cholera cases were registered, a 22 percent rise over the same period last year. Obama to meet US Congress leaders Monday on spending Teva says aims to launch EpiPen-like device by 2018 in US. US Senate com-

mittee chair: Mylan's response on EpiPen price hike 'incomplete' Asian nations plan fund to better prepare for health emergencies, says WHO

### Fading appeal

The world's sympathy was with Haiti in the wake of the 2010 earthquake that killed more than 300,000 people and the response to the cholera epidemic was initially massive, helping rapidly reduce the number of deaths and infections.

But interest faded fast, with humanitarian crises such as Syria, Iraq, Yemen and South Sudan all competing for resources. Haiti's lack of stable government and multiple failed elections may also have dulled donors' funding appetite.

In 2012, Ban launched a \$2.2 billion funding drive aimed at eradicating the disease from Haiti within a decade. So far, the campaign has only raised 18 percent of the target from international donors, according to documents from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. "Despite repeated appeals, these efforts have been seriously underfunded and severe and persistent funding shortfalls remain," Ban's office said in August.

Of the top six donors who have contributed to the cholera response since the outbreak in 2010, only the EU's European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and Canada have contributed significant funds this year. The United States, Sweden, the UN's CERF and OCHA's emergency fund have not.

Ban has vowed a new approach, due to be unveiled in October. Given the lack of funds available for his first plan, it is not clear how he intends to finance a package that his spokesman said "would provide material assistance and support to those Haitians most directly affected by cholera" and address issues of water, sanitation and health systems in Haiti.

In 2011, rights group the Institute for Justice and Democracy filed a class action case against the United Nations over the epidemic, demanding it install a water and sanitation system in Haiti, compensation for victims and an apology. — Reuters

## DOZENS OF BIRDS FALL FROM SKY; OFFICIALS WANT TO KNOW WHY

BOSTON: Health officials in Massachusetts are trying to figure out what caused dozens of birds to fall out of the sky onto a Boston street. City officials say 47 grackles were found Thursday in the city's Dorchester neighborhood. Some were found dead,

while others were just sick. The Animal Rescue League of Boston says it went to the neighborhood after residents reported birds falling from the sky and a sick cat. The cat was later euthanized. The birds that died will be sent to Tufts University for testing. — AP

# CLINIC PAGE



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Grey's Anatomy



Counterfeit Cat



Harley And The Davidsons



How to Get Away with Murder

## 40 NEW AND RETURNING SHOWS TO OSN THIS SEPTEMBER

OSN, the region's leading pay-TV network, presents an exclusive roster of the latest and most talked about TV shows, for the new programming season.

With over 40 exclusive new and continuing TV series on its schedules, across linear and digital platforms, September's line-up highlights OSN's continued dedication to offer customers the best in TV entertainment. There's a wide variety of top-rated, and highly anticipated shows promising more twists and turns, thrills and tears. Plus, with many of the new shows airing at the same time as the US, OSN subscribers do not have to wait for their favourite shows.

With so much to offer, on linear channels, but also on OSN Play, it's no surprise that 49 OSN shows have been nominated for awards at this year's Emmys, proving that OSN remains the destination for the best in award-winning entertainment.

OSN will broadcast The Emmy Awards live and exclusively on OSN First HD on 19 September, at 3am KSA, with the celebrity interviews and gossip on Live From The Red Carpet on E! Entertainment HD on 18 September, 1am KSA.

September heralds the 20th anniversary of animated comedy South Park, and E! News will now have a new 15-minute Arabic language segment, which is repeated four times a day. With an Arabic voiceover option, the bulletin is part of OSN's mission to deliver more flagship Arabic language content.

Switch on to OSN this September, you won't want to miss out.

September highlights  
New series on OSN in September:

Anna Olson: Bake  
5 September, 7pm KSA, Food Network HD.  
Victoria  
6 September, 9pm KSA, ITV Choice HD. Also available on OSN Play.  
Bear Grylls' Survival School  
14 September, 8.10pm KSA, Discovery Family HD.  
New Blood  
15 September - full boxset available on OSN Play for two months before it airs on BBC First HD in November.  
Rob & Chyna  
18 September, 9pm KSA, E! Entertainment HD.  
Lethal Weapon  
22 September, 9pm KSA, OSN First HD. Same time as US.

Quarry  
22 September, 9pm KSA, OSN First HD - Home of HBO. Same minute as US.

Notorious  
25 September, 9pm KSA, OSN First HD. Same time as US  
Pitch 27 September, 9pm KSA, OSN First HD. Same time as US. Also available on OSN Play and OSN On Demand.  
Harley and the Davidsons

29 September, 9pm KSA, Discovery Channel HD.  
Jenny and Reza's Fabulous Food Academy  
29 September, 11pm KSA, Food Network HD.

### Returning Series:

The Mindy Project S4  
3 September, 6pm KSA, OSN First Comedy HD. Available on OSN On Demand.  
Angie Tribeca S2  
4 September, 7pm KSA, OSN First Comedy HD. Double bill premiere. Available on OSN Play and OSN On Demand.  
The Blacklist S4- 21  
9 September, 9pm KSA, OSN First HD. Same time as US.  
South Park S20  
16 September, 10.20pm KSA, Comedy Central HD.  
House Hunters S65  
19 September, 6.25pm KSA, Fine Living.  
Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. S4  
21 September, 9pm KSA, OSN First HD. Same time as US. Available on OSN Play and OSN On Demand.  
Scream Queens S2  
21 September, 10pm KSA, OSN First HD.  
Blindspot S2  
22 September, 8pm KSA, OSN First HD. Same time as US.  
Empire S3

22 September, 10pm KSA, OSN First HD. Same time as US. Available on OSN Play and OSN On Demand.

Grey's Anatomy S13  
23 September, 8pm KSA, OSN First HD. Available on OSN Play and OSN On Demand. Same time as US.  
How to Get Away with Murder S3  
25 September, 10pm KSA, OSN First HD. Same time as US. Available on OSN Play and OSN On Demand.  
Quantico S2  
26 September, 9pm KSA, OSN First HD. Same time as US. Available on OSN On Demand.

Kids and families also enjoy a fresh slate of programming this month, with a brand new series, Disney Cookabout on the Disney Channel HD, which kicks off on 8 September, 6.40pm KSA. Also new from September is Counterfeit Cat, which starts on 26 September on Disney XD.

Starting September 17 exclusively on OSN Yahala HD, Arabic viewers will be delighted to tune into the new season of Saturday Night Live Bilarabi. This season promises an action-packed slate of prime weekend entertainment featuring an all-star cast of the region's favourite actors, musicians and comedians brought live and uninterrupted in front of a live audience, from the recently renovated 100-seater Masr Theatre in Cairo, Egypt.

For the detailed schedule, please log on to: [www.osn.com](http://www.osn.com)

## CONTINENTAL HOTELS GROUP OPENING CONTINENTAL SEA FOOD



General Manager of Kuwait Continental Hotels Group Kamal Hussein with Eng. Batel Al Rashidi are opening latest addition to the group, it's "Continental Suite sea food restaurant".

The celebrations initiated with different shows of horse & Tanoora as the attendants were happy and admire the shows. Also attendants get free coupon of free sea food meals which was so delicious. Kamal Hussein was too much happy & thanks the staff for their efforts and wishes for Continental Sea Food all succeed and expected more branches in the future.



Madame Chantal congratulating Khaled Al Huwaisel who will be joining the University of Manchester

## KNES CELEBRATES AS AND A LEVEL SUCCESSSES

Congratulations to our AS and A Level students for their outstanding achievement in external examination from the United Kingdom. 83% of our students achieved Grade A-c at Advanced Subsidiary Level. 100% of our students achieved Grade A- C at Advanced Level.  
Khaled Al Huwaisel, Abdullatef Hussain

and Urooj Mudassar and many others are going to study in the United Kingdom. Many Others are also going to study in and around the United Kingdom.

Khaled Al Huwaisel will be joining the University of Manchester. In addition, Abdullatef Hussain will be attending Leeds University.

### Embassy of India Kuwait Holiday Notice

Despite long nation-wide holidays, the Embassy will be closed on the occasion of Eid-Al-Adha only on Monday, 12 September 2016.



## MOVENPICK HOTELS & RESORTS ANNOUNCES NEW HOTEL AT STUTTGART AIRPORT

**B**uilding on the success of the Movenpick Hotel Stuttgart Airport & Messe, Swiss company Movenpick Hotels & Resorts has signed a contract for another hotel located just 150 metres from the existing building.

The new hotel will be situated right by the S-Bahn and the planned ICE airport station and tram terminal stop. "Our existing hotel opened nine years ago and overseen by Jurgen Kohler, General Manager and Director of Operations Germany, is highly regarded as an excellent hotel choice in this important economic centre", comments Ola Ivarsson, Chief Operating Officer Europe. "With this new project, we are proud to support all the stakeholders, not least Stinag, Stuttgart Invest AG and Flughafen Stuttgart GmbH, in their efforts to transform this first-class location into one of the most important hubs in Germany. The enhanced cooperation with a partner of Stinag's calibre is an important step in the development of Movenpick Hotels & Resorts in Europe.

Ulm architects Muhlich, Fink & Partner will design the exceptional 262-room on the site of a former airport administration building. Matteo Thun, the well-known South Tyrolean architect and designer responsible for the existing Movenpick Hotel Stuttgart Airport & Messe, has been entrusted with the new hotel's interior design, which will feature a green plant-filled oasis in the atrium-style lobby inviting guests to linger.

For events and conferences, the design incorporates a 740-square metre ballroom in addition to several meeting rooms. When combined with the conference space at the Movenpick Hotel Stuttgart Airport & Messe, just a short walk away, this will create the biggest meeting and event space in southern Germany, at almost 3,000 square metres.

On the culinary front, the hotel will have a 150 seat restaurant and a bar with seating for 100 guests. "The new hotel will not only increase Movenpick Hotels & Resorts' profile in Germany, but also expand our European portfolio, which represents an important part of our corporate expansion strategy", says Olivier Chavy, Movenpick Hotels & Resorts' new CEO.

There are currently eight Movenpick hotels in Germany, three in the Netherlands, one in France, four in Turkey and five in Switzerland. Another hotel will also open in a premium location in Basel city centre in 2019.



### TAKE TO THE ICE THIS EID AT THE PROMENADE

**K**uwait families are being invited to take to the ice this Eid Al Adha at The Promenade mall, as the neighborhood destination launches a special skating offering for the duration of the festive period.

Celebrating the occasion, Promenade Ice will be running a promotion on skating passes providing one complimentary pass when one of equal value is purchased. Available from Friday 9 September, parents and their children wishing to learn a fun and exciting new skill, can take advantage of the public skating session offer daily before 4pm, until Friday 16 September.

"Eid is an occasion for families to come together and celebrate. Promenade Ice has become a popular destination for all ages and we are excited to offer them this great promotion during the season of giving," Alyah Al-Jasser, Al Othman Portfolio Marketing Manager said.

Situated in the heart of Kuwait, The Promenade mall has become synonymous with family activities and entertainment. Featuring leading international retail brands, popular restaurants and attractions such as Promenade Ice, Trampo & Clip 'n Climb, as well as health and fitness facilities, there is something to keep the whole family entertained.

Parents are encouraged to make prior reservations for Promenade Ice to ensure availability by calling 22277138.



NSH Vice President Sabu and TR Site Manager Jose Luis break the ground at the construction site of NSH's Interconnecting Pipe Rack System in the KNPC - New Refinery Project at Al Zour.

## NSH HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW WORK IN AL ZOUR

**I**t was an emotional day for the infant days of NSH as ground was broken for the new work, Interconnecting Pipe Rack System (IPRS) in the KNPC - New Refinery Project at Al Zour. The Vice President Sabu, in his emotional address, became choked up expressing how proud he was due to the dedicated

employees who stand as strong as the rocks in NSH's every move. NSH has always been known for its strong team, quality and maintaining safety and thus timely completion, he added expressing his hopes and dreams for this work expected to be remembered by the future generations.

The ground breaking of this memorable work is from the Joint Venture of Technicas Reunidas, Sinopac and Hanwa. Speaking at this ceremony, the TR Site Manager Jose Luis said that this professional Spaniards team had a strong belief in NSH known for the team work, performance and a matured work culture.

Project Manager Dileep Raroth of this IPRS work welcomed the guests and the officials from TR and NSH include Juan Juan, Manuel Garcia, Hakkam Ayata, General Manager Hari Kumar, Santhosh Babu, Manoj Kumar, Maximo Perez, Pani J Anthony, Sanjeev Narayanan, Vivek Kumar, KR Mohan.

OSN MOVIES HD

- ACTION
10:00 Unstoppable
12:00 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes

BBC FIRST

- 09:25 Orphan Black
10:15 Doctors
10:45 Eastenders

crime & investigation network

- 09:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
10:00 Paranormal State
10:30 Paranormal State

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 09:00 Lip Sync Battle
09:25 Catch A Contractor
09:50 Ridiculousness

- 11:05 How It's Made
11:30 World's Toughest Jobs
12:20 Mythbusters

ID+

- 09:00 Hostage: Deadly Demands
09:48 I Almost Got Away With It

- 09:15 The Hive
09:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

Disney Channel HD

- 09:15 The Hive
09:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 09:35 Zou
09:45 Loopdidoo
10:00 Art Attack

- 17:20 Minnie's Bow-Toons
17:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

- 12:00 Boyster
12:10 Super Matrak
12:35 Super Matrak

- 09:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
10:10 Hank Zipzer
10:35 Binny And The Ghost



FOUR BROTHERS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 14:05 Ridiculousness
14:30 Ridiculousness
14:55 Tosh.0

- 15:50 That's So Raven
16:15 That's So Raven
16:40 Good Luck Charlie

- 21:15 Supa Strikas
21:40 Supa Strikas
22:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island

Discovery Family

Disney Junior



LAGGIES ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

- 20:20 Gold Divers
21:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
22:00 Deadliest Catch

- 15:45 Tales From The Bush Larder
16:10 Raw Travel
16:35 Raw Travel

- 23:24 Harvey Beaks
23:48 Breadwinners
00:12 Henry Danger

- 09:40 WAGs
10:35 WAGs
11:30 WAGs

- 09:45 Revenge Of The Lionesse
10:40 Expedition Wild
11:35 Sumatra's Last Tiger

- 09:01 Paw Patrol
09:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
09:35 Dora The Explorer

- 09:25 Grantchester
10:20 Royalty Close Up
11:15 Murdoch Mysteries

- 00:25 Vacations Gone Wild
01:20 Thunder Beasts
02:10 Expedition Wild

- 09:00 Empire
10:00 Good Morning America
12:00 The Fosters

- 09:25 What's For Sale?
09:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
09:55 Tales From The Bush Larder

- 09:45 Emmerdale
10:45 Emmerdale
11:45 Emmerdale

- 09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

- 09:05 What's For Sale?
09:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
09:55 Tales From The Bush Larder

- 09:45 Emmerdale
10:45 Emmerdale
11:45 Emmerdale

- 09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

- 19:55 Zack & Quack
20:05 Team Umizoomi
20:28 Louie

OSN MOVIES DRAMA

- 09:00 The Rover
11:00 Draft Day
13:00 Memories

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 09:00 Dr. Ken
09:30 Hot In Cleveland
10:00 Hank

OSN MOVIES PREMIERE

- 10:00 So Undercover
12:00 Betrayed
14:00 Louder Than Words

OSN FIRST HD

- 09:00 Empire
10:00 Good Morning America
12:00 The Fosters

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 09:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend?

- 15:00 Alice In Wonderland
17:00 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
19:00 Treasure Planet

OSN MOVIES HD

- 09:00 The Longest Ride
11:15 The Walk
13:15 Big Game

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 10:00 Bubble Boy
12:00 Passed Away
14:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 10:45 Go For Sisters
13:00 Listen To Me Marlon
14:45 Testament Of Youth

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 10:15 Hatching
12:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
13:45 Blackie And Kanuto

OSN MOVIES PREMIERE

- 10:00 So Undercover
12:00 Betrayed
14:00 Louder Than Words

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 09:00 Super Skyscrapers
09:48 Mythbusters
10:36 Secret Space Escapes

OSN MOVIES HD

- 09:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend?

TLC HD

- 09:15 Cake Boss
09:35 Oprah: Where Are They Now?

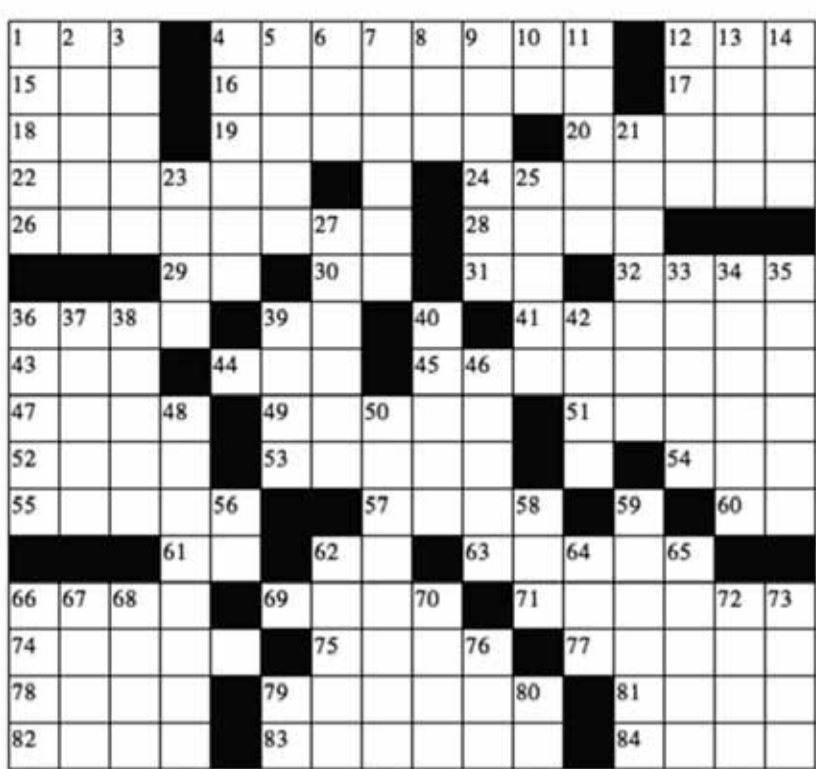


BIG GAME ON OSN MOVIES HD



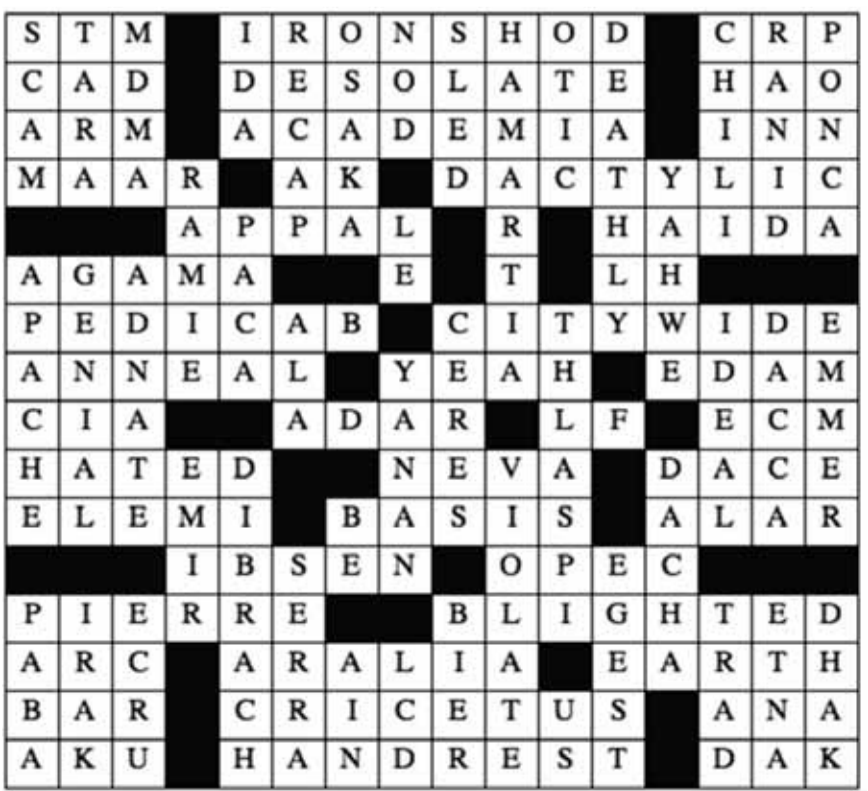


CROSSWORD 1370



- ACROSS
1. An acute inflammatory disease occurring in the intestines of premature infants.
4. Any orchid of the genus Cattleya characterized by a hood-shaped three-lobed lip enclosing the column.
12. An intricate network suggesting something that was formed by weaving or interweaving.
15. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
16. A genus of herbs of the family Cruciferae.
17. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
18. One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
19. Any skeletal muscle having two origins (but especially the muscle that flexes the forearm).
20. The posterior part of the mandible that is more or less vertical.
22. An oral cephalosporin (trade names Keflex and Keflin and Keftab) commonly prescribe for mild to moderately severe infections of the skin or ears or throat or lungs or urinary tract.
24. Pertaining to or resembling amoebae.
26. Consider as ideal.
28. The taste experience when a savoury condiment is taken into the mouth.
29. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
30. A public promotion of some product or service.
31. A bluish-white lustrous metallic element.
32. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
36. Not final or absolute.
41. Deprive of freedom.
43. A human limb.
44. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
45. Mix together different elements.
47. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
49. Norse chieftan who became the first duke of Normandy (860-931).
51. State in northeastern India.
52. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
53. A unit of elastance equal to the reciprocal of a farad.
54. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
55. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
57. A major god.
60. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
61. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
63. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
66. The sixth month of the civil year.
69. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
71. Large fish-eating Indian crocodilian with a long slender snout.
74. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
75. King of Denmark and Norway who forced Edmund II to divide England with him.
77. Goods carried by a large vehicle.
78. A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
81. Large edible mackerel of temperate United States coastal Atlantic waters.
82. Acute lung injury characterized by coughing and rales.
83. (of eggs) No longer edible.
84. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
DOWN
1. A Dravidian language spoken in south central India.
2. Having a specified kind of border or edge.
3. Soreness and warmth caused by friction.
4. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
5. (law) A defense by an accused person purporting to show that he or she could not have committed the crime in question.
6. Considerate and solicitous care.
7. Having or arranged in tiers.
8. The upper side of the thighs of a seated person.
9. Artificial and inferior.
10. A LoIolo language.
11. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
12. A hollow muscular organ in the pelvic cavity of females.
13. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles.
14. Greenish-yellow pear.
21. A group of islands off the west coast of Sicily in the Mediterranean.
23. A sock with a separation for the big toe.
25. A Dravidian language spoken in south central India.
27. A winged often one-seed indehiscent fruit as of the ash or elm or maple.
33. The sacred city of Lamaism.
34. Stout-bodied insect with large membranous wings.
35. Lacking vigor or energy.
37. Of or relating to Iraq or its people or culture.
38. Slanderous defamation.
39. King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).
40. Enthusiastic approval.
42. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
46. Viscera and trimmings of a butchered animal often considered inedible by humans.
48. A game whose object is to form words from a group of randomly chosen letters.
50. Deprived of parents by death or desertion.
56. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
58. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
59. (of tempo) Very fast and lively adv.
62. Closed with a lace.
64. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
65. Open to or abounding in fresh air.
67. Deeply loved.
68. In bed.
70. A pause during which things are calm or activities are diminished.
72. A city in northern India.
73. A textile machine for weaving yarn into a textile v. 1.
76. The starting place for each hole on a golf course.
79. Unknown god.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK

Horoscope sections for various zodiac signs:
Aries (March 21-April 19): You are at home where there is a lot of communication, investigation and exploration.
Taurus (April 20-May 20): There may be a choice about whether to work today or say no.
Gemini (May 21-June 20): In the early hours of this morning, you may find yourself being put to good use by a close friend.
Cancer (June 21-July 22): You will find this a busy but fun sort of day.
Leo (July 23-August 22): This is a great time to be with friends or relatives in an atmosphere of fun.
Virgo (August 23-September 22): There are plenty of opportunities with which to involve yourself.

Horoscope sections for various zodiac signs:
Libra (September 23-October 22): Time moves too quickly and everybody seems to have plans.
Scorpio (October 23-November 21): What seems like a struggle between two teams or two neighbors seems to end with you able to break the tie.
Sagittarius (November 22-December 19): Some time ago you made plans to be with friends or family.
Capricorn (December 22-January 19): Your many personal interests may demand that you clear away and tend to chores first-a place for everything.
Aquarius (January 20-February 18): There could be a tendency to view your accomplishments as having almost no substance.
Pisces (February 19-March 20): Others agree with your ideas and although you may be surprised that they agree, you are also quite pleased.

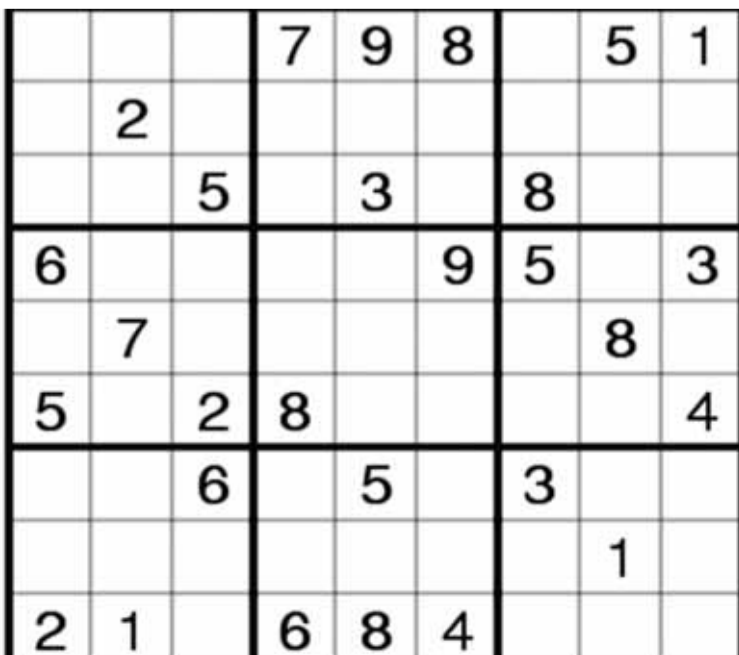
WORD SEARCH

Real Estate 1
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 22 letters spell a common Real Estate phrase.
AGENT AMORTIZATION APPRAISAL ASSESSMENT ASSET BUILDING BUNGALOW BUYING CLOSER COLLATERAL CONDEMNED CONDO CONTRACT CREDITOR DEED DEPOSIT DEPRECIATION DUPLEX EXTERIOR FLIPPING FOR SALE HOUSE INSPECTOR INSURANCE INTERIOR LAND LAWYER LENDER LIEN LOFT MARKET VALUE OFFER PAYMENT PLOT PROPERTY REALTOR SELL SKYSCRAPER SOLD SQUARE FOOTAGE TAXES TIMESHARE TOUR TRIPLEX VACANCY VALUATION ZONE

Yesterday Solution

Hanukkah
A word search grid with the solution: HANUKKAH IS A JEWISH HOLIDAY THAT LASTS EIGHT DAYS.
BIMUELOS BLESSINGS CANDLES CHANUKAH CHARITY CUSTOMS DAIRY FOODS DREIDEL EIGHT DAYS FAMILY FEAST FESTIVAL GAMES GELT GIFTS HALLEL HANEROT HALALU HEBREW HOLIDAY HOLY TEMPLE JERUSALEM KISLEV LATKE LEVIVOT LIGHTS MA'OT TZUR MACCABEES MATSIYAHU MENORAH MIRACLE OLIVE OIL POINTS/SHKES PSALMS SEVIVON SHAMASH SONGS SUFGANIYOT TALMUD TORAH TRADITION YEARLY YEHUITIT

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





GOSSIP



## KYLIE JENNER'S DISPUTE WITH FAT-FREEZING FIRM SLAMMED

The 19-year-old television personality reportedly consulted lawyers over concerns that a billboard for DoctorFatOff.com deliberately featured a model that looks like her, but the organization's legal team have hit back and sent a scathing letter to her lawyer, in which they insisted their model, Cassandra, bears no resemblance to the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star. The letter, which has been obtained by TMZ, reads: "Contrary to suggestions in the media, the companies did not seek out Cassandra [the model on the billboard] based on any similarity in appearance to Ms Jenner. [...] As you have seen from the advertising, there is no attribution nor any visuals or words that in any way tend to confuse the public or take

advantage of Ms. Jenner's fame or success." The legal team for the fat-freezing company didn't stop there, as they went on to highlight the fact many people felt the two women "do not even look alike", and claimed Cassandra's heritage means there's no way the two could even share any ancestry. They said in the letter: "A review of the comments on the TMZ article posting reveal that an overwhelming majority of the commenting public believe that Ms. Jenner and Cassandra do not even look alike. Cassandra's heritage is primarily Latina and Indian and does not even appear to share ancestry traits with Ms Jenner."



## Zendaya claimed she was refused service in a store

The 20-year-old singer-and-actress took to Snapchat on Tuesday to post a series of short videos that explained the ordeal she went through when visiting a branch of Vons - a supermarket chain in North America. In the videos, the 'Shake It Up' star said: "So we just got out of this Vons. Now I am trying to buy a lot of gift cards. There are certain limits or whatever so you can only buy so much, but the lady that was helping us ... I don't think she was a fan of our skin tone. She then threw my wallet. I can't make this up! This is what we deal with! She literally threw my wallet and she was like, 'You can't afford this.' It was \$400! Long story short, there is so much progress to be done in our world." The 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' star then corrected herself in a later video, saying that the store clerk didn't throw her wallet, but actually tossed it toward her. She said: "You know what it's all love! You know, may she go on to have a wonderful life. Yo, shout out the manager for coming and helping - I got my gift cards!"

## Justin Bieber 'so thankful' to a stranger after embarrassment

Kody Christansen stepped in to foot the bill for the 22-year-old singer in a West Hollywood branch of Subway last Thursday, because he wanted to save the 'Sorry' singer the embarrassment of having to step out in front of waiting paparazzi to get an alternative means of payment. Speaking to the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column, Kody said: "[Justin] put his card into the machine and it was declined. He said, 'I have to run out and get another card.' I decided to pay it for him to spare him the second trip out into the crush of about 20 photographers. I said, 'I got it.' And he asked if I was sure. He was so thankful." Kody - an actor who also works as a waiter in Soho - admitted that he was going to keep the encounter to himself out of "respect" for the 'Love Yourself' hitmaker, but when the news got out anyway he decided to open up. He said: "I wasn't going to tell anyone out of respect for him ... I didn't want it to get out that he had his card declined." The kind stranger also revealed that just one year previous to his encounter with the superstar, he was living on the streets in New York. He claimed that he spent time living in "four or five homeless shelters" as a result of a drug and alcohol addiction he developed whilst trying to chase his acting career.



## Michael Douglas admits he 'lacked confidence'

The 71-year-old actor took a long time to feel "a sense of security" in his work because he always worried he would be compared unfavorably to his dad Kirk Douglas, 99, and his career achievements. Speaking on 'Good Morning Britain' on Thursday, the 'Fatal Attraction' actor said: "I lacked confidence I would say. It took me a while to have a sense of security. I mean clearly when you have a father like Kirk, he was a big figure to look up to and think, 'wow how do you be the man that he is?' But I'm not complaining you know, everybody has got their strengths and weaknesses and you just try to overcome those situations and improve your lot in life." And to add to the 'Basic Instinct' star's lack of self-confidence, the actor also revealed that his father - who turns 100 in December - wasn't completely convinced by his son's acting abilities and thought he was "terrible" when he started his career. Michael recalled: "I remember the first show I did he came back and he said, 'Michael you were absolutely terrible.' And he was so relieved because he thought, 'I don't have to worry about my son becoming an actor, he was so bad.'"

## Peter Andre monitors his kids' social media

The 'Mysterious Girl' singer has taken an opposing stance to the kids' mother Katie Price, who has opened Instagram accounts for them, and when they stay with him and his new wife Emily MacDonagh they are not allowed to sign in to the photo sharing website. Peter - who has two-year-old daughter Amelia with Emily and another baby on the way - believes Junior, 11, and nine-year-old daughter Princess are too young for Instagram and keeps them offline because he believes the platform opens up "all sorts of issues". Writing in his column for New! magazine, he shared: "I have been asked how I feel about my kids

having Instagram accounts. Everyone knows I don't allow them to have phones or social media at my house. I don't like kids having them because I think it opens them up to all sorts of issues." However, Peter respects Katie's decision to allow them to use Instagram - despite users needing to be 13 to have accounts - when the kids are with her. Talking about the need for "compromise" when you co-parent, the 43-year-old TV star said: "As a parent you have to compromise with the other parent and try to work together. I can only advise and encourage them - I can't do any more than that."



## Noel Gallagher admits Robert De Niro had no idea who he was

The 49-year-old musician enjoyed a lengthy lunch with the 73-year-old actor in the South of France last month, and ended up dining with him for a whopping eight hours. Now, the former Oasis star has revealed that the Hollywood legend had no idea who he was when he was introduced to the 'Raging Bull' star. The 'Wonderwall' hitmaker said: "I sat next to him and I've got to say he didn't have a clue who I was. As he was leaving, he said, 'Write down the name of that band again that you were in.' 'We had this lunch that started at one

o'clock in the afternoon ... and he left at about eight or nine. He was there for about eight hours. If I ever have the pleasure of meeting him again, he'll just go, 'I've never met this guy.' But the lack of recognition from the 'Taxi Driver' star didn't get the rock star down as he shared his excitement on social media in the wake of their meet-up. When the pair met last month, the 49-year-old musician posted a photo of himself and De Niro on Instagram, taken by his wife Sara MacDonald.



## Jeremy Renner settles a dispute with his ex-wife

The 45-year-old actor and his former partner Sonni Pacheco have been at loggerheads since they divorced in 2015 after spending just 10 months as a married couple. In the latest dispute, Sonni claimed that the 'Avengers' actor was behind in child support payments for their three-year-old daughter Ava but he has now settled the issue by agreeing to pay \$16,000 in child support as well as \$24,000 for her lawyer and accountant. Sonni has also claimed that 'American Hustle' actor has been posting too many pictures of their daughter on social media, despite Jeremy previously stating that he doesn't show Ava's face in order to "protect" her. He said:

"I still don't expose my baby's face, just to protect her or anyone in my family [who's] a minor. I just think that's not my decision to make. You know what I mean? You don't need to be world famous just because your jackass dad is." The pair share joint custody of their daughter, with Jeremy paying \$13,000 a month in child support. The costs for the star don't stop there, as he even has to pay his ex-wife 5 per cent of his earnings if he earns more than \$2.3 million per year as part of their divorce settlement which was finalized in December 2015.



## Simon Cowell thinks Zayn Malik should have approached him



The former One Direction star has teamed up with 'Law & Order's' Dick Wolf and his wife Noelle Wolf on 'Boys', a scripted show about the formation of a successful boy band, and his former record label boss - who signed the group to his Syco label after they were formed, and came second, on his TV show 'The X Factor' in 2010 - believes the 'Pillowtalk' hitmaker owed it to him to offer him the rights to the project first. Simon, 56, told 'Entertainment Tonight': "Nothing surprises me anymore. I think he should have come to me with it, if I'm being honest with you. I do actually believe that when they've got these ideas, bearing in mind where we started, they should actually come to me." It might come as a surprise that Simon wanted to work on the show with Zayn - who will executive produce the NBC series - as he previously insisted he was "not interested" in anything the 23-year-old singer said. Speaking after Zayn admitted he had little contact with his former bandmates or their crew, Simon said: "I'm not interested in a single word he says, but I am interested in what he sings. I've heard [his music], it's good, he's going to do well."

## Shia LaBeouf has two Missy Elliott tattoos on his knees

The 30-year-old actor bonded with his cast mates in low budget 'American Honey' - in which he plays the leader of a gang of thieves who sell magazine subscriptions on a cross-country road trip - by getting a new inking in every place they visited, and he finished the seven-week shoot with 12 new inkings. He said: "We bonded hard. You do whatever is required for it to be true, for it to be honest. I had to run this group, sort of like a pimp. "One of the things we'd do as a group, we'd all go to the f\*\*\*ing tattoo shop." Of the Missy tattoos on his knees, he said: "I don't love

Missy Elliott like I wanna get two Missy Elliott tattoo. "But you're in a tattoo parlor, and... peer pressure." The movie has seen Shia - who has been arrested numerous times in the past and sought treatment for alcoholism - tipped for an Oscar nomination but the actor, who has never been invited into the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, insists he is "not that guy" because of his reputation.



## Rob Kardashian 'praying' for a son

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star is thrilled to be expecting a baby boy with his fiancé Blac Chyna. Speaking in a teaser for his new reality show 'Rob & Chyna', in scenes filmed before the baby's gender was revealed, Scott Disick asks him: "What do you want?" To which he replied: "A boy. You gotta carry on that name." Confessing later to the camera, he added: "I'm definitely hoping for a boy because I want to have the same relationship that I had with my father with my son. So that's what I'm praying for." Meanwhile, it was Blac's father Eric Holland who revealed the couple are having a baby boy. He said: "Rob and I have had some one-on-one time. All I can say is he's excited about the prospect of a boy. "For Angie, the most important thing is that the baby is healthy. They were really excited when it kicked for the first time. They've chosen a name but they've not told anyone what it is. They want to wait until the baby is born." And the 29-year-old television personality previously revealed he wants to be a "fun and goofy" parent like his dad Robert Kardashian was to him.



## Deryck Whibley received death threats from Lavinia's stalker

The Sum 41 frontman - who was married to the 31-year-old 'Complicated' hitmaker from 2006 to 2010 - has revealed he was subjected to serious abuse during his four-year marriage to the singer when a crazed fan from the UK threatened to kill him simply because he was married to the singer. The 36-year-old rocker said: "My ex-wife [Avril] had a lot of stalkers. And being married to her, they sort of wanted to come after me. There was this one guy from the UK who started sending death threats." The 'War' hitmaker explained that the stalker was very careful at hiding evidence and went as far as to send items with no trace of his fingerprints, however, luckily for Deryck police were able to catch him. Deryck told Vice: "He was really weird because the stuff he sent had no fingerprints on it and it was at a level that was a little bit more sophisticated. "It turned out to be way more serious and he wanted to kill me for some reason. Thankfully the FBI found him over here."

Meanwhile, the 'In Too Deep' musician recently spoke candidly of how in 2011 - a year after his divorce from Avril - he went through a really dark period with his alcohol addiction and considered ending his career in the rock band.



## Amber Heard drops defamation lawsuit against her ex-husband

The 30-year-old actress attempted to sue her former spouse's close friend Doug Stanhope three months ago after he wrote a cutting article claiming she had made up abuse allegations to get a hold on the actor in their divorce, but she's now decided to let go of the case to move on. A representative for Amber told TMZ: "Amber is moving on, getting back to work and leading a normal, happy life." The 'Rum Diary' star was forced to drop the lawsuit against Doug after she and the 'Black Mass' hunk agreed during their divorce settlement that all cases stemming from the domestic abuse allegations were scrapped. Doug decided to publish the

article on TheWrap.com in June after Amber requested a restraining order against Johnny, 53, because he had allegedly hit her and thrown at phone at her during a fierce argument in May. She claimed at the time: "During the entirety of our relationship, Johnny has been verbally and physically abusive to me. I endured excessive emotional, verbal and physical abuse from Johnny, which has included angry, hostile, humiliating and threatening assaults to me whenever I questioned his authority or disagreed with him."

## DiCaprio's 'Before The Flood' aims to make climate US election issue

Hollywood heartthrob and environmental activist Leonardo DiCaprio said he rushed to release his upcoming climate change documentary "Before the Flood" ahead of November's US presidential elections to issue a clarion call to US voters in time to influence their decisions. "We wanted this film to come out before the next election because ... the United States is the largest contributor to this issue," DiCaprio said to the audience after the film's world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on Friday.

"We cannot afford, at this critical moment in time, to have leaders in office that do not believe in the modern science of climate change," he added. The film follows the Oscar-winning DiCaprio and actor-filmmaker Fisher Stevens as they travel from Canada's oil sands to tiny Pacific islands, interviewing world leaders such as the Catholic Church's Pope Francis and US President Barack Obama, climate scientists and academics.

DiCaprio's interview subjects discuss and document the negative impacts of industrialization and increasing consumption on the health of the planet. "The fact that we are still debating any of this is just utter insanity to me," DiCaprio said. The actor, who won an Oscar this year for playing a fur trapper battling nature's elements in "The Revenant," was an executive producer on 2014 Oscar-nominated documentary "Virunga," about the threatened gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This year, he is an executive producer on Netflix documentary "The Ivory Game," about Africa's illegal ivory trade, also making its debut at the Toronto film festival. "Before the Flood" is out in New York and Los Angeles theaters on Oct 21 and airs on National Geographic Channel globally on Oct 30. The film calls out the sizable minority of Republican lawmakers who flatly deny the broad scientific evidence that human activity is causing environmental damage, and names presidential candi-

date Donald Trump and former candidates Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

It seeks to effect a balance between making clear that the earth is facing a massive danger while also offering audiences a glimmer of hope that catastrophe can be averted. The gloom came from DiCaprio and the hope from Stevens, the pair said in the question and answer session that followed the screening. The film also criticizes those who fund anti-environment groups for commercial gain. "The Koch brothers aren't denying it, they just want to make money," Stevens said, referring to Charles and David Koch who have founded and funded conservative and libertarian political organizations. — Reuters



Ewan McGregor's shoes are seen as he poses for photographs at the premier for American Pastoral at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Ontario on September 9, 2016. — AFP



Actor/producer Leonardo DiCaprio arrives at the 'Before the Flood' premiere on day 2 of the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. — AP

### Film Review

## 'THE EMPIRE OF CORPSES' (SHISHA NO TEIKOKU)

An anime feature adaptation of late sci-fi virtuoso Project Itoh's steampunk dystopian novel on computerized necromancy, "Empire of Corpses" is exquisitely drawn yet bogs down in a narrative as bloated as a drowned carcass. Following a young, androgynous Dr Watson on a globetrotting espionage mission to find Victor Frankenstein's secret formula, Itoh's richly imaginative yarn is literally and figuratively a soul-searching journey. Yet, despite sprawling, jumbled exposition, director Ryotaro Makihara's big-screen realization boasts such dazzling artwork and cinematic brio that it will live long on US distributor Funimation's streaming platform, aimed at hardcore Japanese anime geeks.

Itoh (aka Satoshi Ito) burst upon Japan's science fiction scene with "Genocide Organ" and "Harmony," but regrettably died of cancer at the age of 34. His last, unfinished novel "The Empire of Corpses" was completed by his friend and peer To Enjo. Produced by Wit Studio, which boasts the anime series "Attack on Titan" on its slate, "Empire" was the second animated feature adapted from Itoh's works. The film re-imagines the Victorian age as one feeding off two scientific breakthroughs a century ago.

Victor Frankenstein's experiment to resurrect the dead, and Charles Babbage's invention of the prototype computer. In Europe, empire-building and the industrial revolution are powered by tireless slave-labor corpses, reanimated and controlled through a hard drive, called Necroware, installed in their heads. Over the course of the film, programmed corpses take on multiple symbolic references: robot technology, the evils of colonialism (with a contempo allusion to globalization), and god-less existence.

In 1878, medical student John H. Watson (Yoshimasa Hosoya) has illicitly reanimated his deceased friend, whom he has renamed Friday (Ayumu Murase), with his own advanced Necroware, which gives a corpse the power to analyze data. What he's obsessed with finding out, however, is whether the dead body still has a soul. He's blackmailed by M (Akio Otsuka), head of British secret service, into undertaking an expedition to retrieve the lost "notes" of Frankenstein, which may have led to a new batch of corpses with enhanced functions, equipped for warfare, a condition that would tip the balance of world power.

Thus begins an expedition that takes Watson and Friday to India, Central Asia, Japan, and the U.S. Bolstered by Makihara's breakneck pacing, the macabre yet vigorous battles against armies of corpses demonstrate Wit Studio's talent for creating animated action. Yet even more satisfying are the vibrant color palettes of vastly different landscapes, from the muddy Ganges with turbanned corpses pulling barges, to dusty crags in Kabul and the snow-capped mountain curves of the Khyber Pass. Like much of Japanese fantasy manga, the story appropriates figures from Western history and fiction, nonchalantly refashioning them to far-fetched but generally interesting effect.

For travel companions, Watson has English adventurer Frederick Burnaby; Hadaly Lilith (Kana Hanazawa) from French symbolist sci-fi novel "The Future Eve"; and Nikolai Krasotkin (Daiki Yamashita) from "The Brothers Karamazov." Ulysses Grant (Koji Ishii), Thomas Edison (Koji Takeda), and Japanese general Seigo Yamazawa also lend him a hand at pivotal points.

The expedition reaches its most intriguing juncture when Watson and his gang step foot in a sequestered village, coming face-to-face with corpse engineer Alexei Karamazov's dubiously developed new breed. Karamazov (Shinichiro Miki, nothing like Dostoevsky's character) is reminiscent Col. Kurtz in "Apocalypse Now" inasmuch as he plays God in this hidden Shangri-la. In a blistering confrontation between the protagonists, the film's central conflict of morality versus science, and the implied reference to human experiments in war is grimly articulated.



The incident provides a lead for Watson that takes him and his companions to Tokyo, setting up an exuberant rendering of the early Meiji Era, with vividly illustrated scenes of a sumo wrestling match and a racy action set piece driven by zombie samurai. However, despite the sudden resurfacing of "The One" (Takayuki Sugo) - Frankenstein's prototype corpse-there's little dramatic traction. Before the conundrum of the lost "notes" and The One's role is cleared up, the protagonists leap across the continent to San Francisco, where a very cinematic shootout only adds to the narrative entropy, as the film morphs into full-blown zombie horror. By the time it reaches a protracted finale at the Tower of

London, viewers are bombarded with so many mind-boggling plot twists that it's impossible not to throw one's hands up in dismay. A pity, since the exquisitely detailed architecture and machinery featured are crowning examples of steampunk aesthetics. With a huge roster of historical and fictional characters coming and going, it's Burnaby and Krasotkin who stand out, thanks to the former's hot-blooded derring-do and the latter's unflappable cool. Watson, who betrays no clues of becoming Holmes' sidekick in a later life, is portrayed as the sensitive, self-doubting philosopher, seduced by the enigma of immortality. His friendship with Friday is recalled in flashbacks with all the homoerotic trappings of "Boys Love" (a staple genre in Japanese girls manga). — Reuters



This file photo shows a Russian Interior Ministry soldier standing guard on near the wreckage of a Polish government Tupolev Tu-154 aircraft which crashed on April 10 near Smolensk airport. A new Polish feature film about the April 2010 jet crash in Russia which killed then president Lech Kaczynski and 95 others has revived conspiracy theories about Moscow's role in the tragedy. — AFP

## Polish film on 2010 air crash points finger at Russia

A new Polish feature film about the April 2010 jet crash in Russia which killed then president Lech Kaczynski and 95 others has revived conspiracy theories about Moscow's role in the tragedy. While director Antoni Krauze insists "Smolensk" - which was released Friday - is a work of fiction, he mixes fact and fantasy to suggest that the crash was no accident. The audience at its pre-release premiere last weekend in Poland's national theatre read like a who's who of Polish politics, fueling the idea of a semi-official stamp of approval. The late president's twin brother, the powerful leader of the governing populist Law and Justice (PiS) party Jaroslaw Kaczynski and his political proteges, President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Beata Szydlo, were all on hand.

Party leader Kaczynski has long made no secret that he believes foul play caused the crash. Polish and Russian investigators have never found any evidence to support the claim. An investigation under Poland's previous liberal government concluded that pilot error, thick fog and poor air traffic control were to blame. Moscow however has not yet handed over the wreckage to Polish authorities. Most of those who died when the plane came down in Smolensk, western Russia, on April 10, 2010 were senior Polish state officials, including its military chief of staff and central banker. The president's wife also died.

**Ball of fire**  
The delegation was heading for memorial ceremonies in Russia's Katyn forest for thousands of Polish army officers killed by the Soviet secret police in 1940, a massacre the Kremlin denied until 1990. The head of the new PiS-backed investigative subcommittee, Wacław Berczyński, has reiterated his theory that the Tupolev 154 exploded mid-air, although he has offered no proof. The film takes a similar approach: the jet explodes into a ball of fire in the air before it crashes.

It also uses archive footage showing the meeting of then Polish prime minister Donald Tusk - now the EU president - and then Russian premier Vladimir Putin at the crash site shortly after the disaster, something that has long been the focus of conspiracy theorists. Other scenes show Russian air traffic controllers at the Smolensk air strip receiving a mysterious order to make Kaczynski's jet descend to 50 meters (165 feet) altitude, while it should have flown at 100 meters. The film also shows president Lech Kaczynski's 2008 visit to Tbilisi to support Georgia as it fended off attacks by Russia, suggesting his death was an act of revenge by the Kremlin. The film's release date coincides with the first report of the new PiS-convened investigative subcommittee due to issue its findings about the causes of the crash next week. — AFP

## Parker attends 'Birth of a Nation' Toronto premiere amid controversy

Video cameras were barred from the red carpet premiere of "The Birth of a Nation" at the Toronto Film Festival, where the movie's star and filmmaker Nate Parker smiled and greeted fans, despite recent headlines on his involvement in an old rape case. Dressed in a black suit, Parker hopped out of a black car on to the small red carpet outside a downtown Toronto movie theater, where about five or six photographers had queued to snap the cast.

After posing for a few minutes, a jovial Parker greeted fans gathered by the theater entrance, shaking hands and waving, before returning to the carpet for more photos and heading into the venue. Friday's premiere is Parker's first public event since it emerged last month that the accused in his 1999 rape trial and acquitted committed suicide in 2012. Parker, who did not mention the case in his red carpet appearance, is due to join the cast for interviews with journalists on Saturday, and participate in a festival news conference on Sunday.

Parker, 36, was little known before writing, directing and starring "Birth of a Nation," which wowed audiences at the Sundance Film Festival in January, and was seen as a strong 2017 Oscar contender. It tells the story of Nat Turner, who led a slave rebellion in Virginia in 1831. Movie studio Fox

Searchlight said it stands by the movie, despite speculation in Hollywood that the rape case will affect the film's marketing and jeopardize its Oscar chances. Toronto Film Festival officials increased security around the venue to counter protests, but the premiere went smoothly and no protesters were in sight.

The festival stood by "Birth of a Nation," festival director and chief executive Piers Handling told Reuters on Thursday, adding that he hoped more filmmakers of color come forward with similar stories. "It's a very, very good film and we invited the film before the personal issues came out around the director," Handling said. "We can hardly wait for audiences here in Toronto to actually see the movie (and) judge it as a film itself." The audience gave the film a standing ovation, according to Twitter posts by film journalists from the Hollywood Reporter, Variety and USA Today who attended the premiere. Parker introduced the film and participated in a moderated question-and-answer session about it, they added. — Reuters

Parker Posey attends the Rachel Comey fashion show during New York Fashion Week in New York City. — AFP



## From street to studio: Indonesia buskers dream of big time

Every day, Jakarta street musician Jamaluddin jumps on a bus and plays his guitar to earn a few coins, and hopefully one day get noticed by a recording company. "I have the desire to be a famous musician or singer, but the way to go is very hard. Just doing one recording usually is very expensive," Jamaluddin, also known as "Zedi" said after a recent bus trip. Street performers like Zedi have struggled to make a living in the Indonesian capital since so-called busking was banned in 2007. Now, they are getting help from a music production company set up by a fellow street performer. The Institut Musik Jalanan (IMJ), or Street Musicians' Institute, says it is Indonesia's first production company to offer music classes, access to a recording studio and assist aspirants to find that showcase their talents. "I want to change the negative assumptions people have about street musicians. If they are given a chance they can produce, just like professionals," said Andi Malewa, a 34-year-old

former busker who created IMJ with two friends in 2014.

The Institute helps musicians develop songwriting skills and teaches them how to perform on stage and record in a studio. It has produced songs and albums for 15 performers since 2014, and distributes their material through online platforms such as Google's YouTube, SoundCloud and Apple's iTunes. Malewa said he gives 80 percent of the profits to the artists in the hope that they will soon become independent and succeed on their own. He also arranges live performances for them at local cafes and other music venues. Nancy Felicia, manager of a Jakarta cafe that hires IMJ artists, said the acts are popular and good for her cafe business. "They get a positive response from our guests," she said. "Sometimes they sing together." — Reuters

FASHION



(From left) TV personality Yolanda Hadid, singer Taylor Swift, model Martha Hunt and Formula One racer Lewis Hamilton seen at the Tommy Hilfiger Fall 2016 collection at Fashion Week in New York. — AP photos



Paulina Vega, Miss Universe 2014, poses in front of donuts before the Tommy Hilfiger Fall 2016 runway show, featuring the TommyXGigi capsule, during Fashion Week in New York.

# TOMMY HILFIGER PUTS ON A REALLY BIG SHOW

Many designers like to add some theatrical flair to their runway shows. But taking over a whole New York City pier to stage a carnival? That's something Tommy Hilfiger would do. And he did. Designer Thakoon Panichgul returned to the fashion week schedule after some time off. Some highlights from New York Fashion Week:

A Ferris wheel, cotton candy  
It's often remarked that New York Fashion Week feels like a carnival. Hilfiger decided to take that idea to its most literal conclusion, erecting a real-life carnival on a pier at Manhattan's South Street Seaport to display his wares. On a muggy summer

hot dogs, mozzarella sticks, cotton candy.  
Oh, and there was Taylor Swift. The singer was there to cheer on her good friend Hadid, and cheer she did, also singing and bobbing to the music as models strutted, and grasping Hadid's hand as she walked down the runway at the end with Hilfiger. Also on hand: Kris Jenner, just one of many Kardashian family members taking part in this Fashion Week.

In an interview earlier in the day, Hilfiger, who's known for his lavishly staged productions every Fashion Week, explained that this one would be not only bigger, but different. "It's going to be a multimedia extravaganza, breaking all the rules

"squad" of friends, Hadid replied: "Tommy's the captain of the squad!" Replied Hilfiger, laughing: "No, I'm the godfather." The TommyXGigi garments had a heavily nautical theme, including fisherman-style sweaters, denim sailor pants and shorts, anchor motifs, and leather "nautical boots." Hadid opened the show in a sleek cotton jacket and black leather motorcycle pants, with a printed scarf around her neck - all from her collection. She closed the show in Hilfiger's cropped hoodie and basketball dress.

The event, dubbed #TOMMYNOW, did not end with the runway show. Guests were encouraged to sample the rides and continue munching and sipping. The whole party was scheduled to be open again to the public on Saturday for eight hours.

At Thakoon, see now, buy now  
With a fresh take on business and his first brick-and-mortar store, Thakoon Panichgul returned to the fashion week schedule after time off to rethink and rejuvenate. And what did he come up with? A limited supply of "see now, buy now" clothes in a fall collection that had him dump all his middlemen so he could put it on sale immediately at his Soho shop and on his website, Thakoon.com. But they'll only be available for a month or so.

When they're gone, that's it. "It's Thakoon 2.0. I didn't show last season. I took a year off. Basically I wanted to do something energetic, something fresh," Panichgul said in an interview after the outdoor show on a terrace of a huge, redone waterfront warehouse in Brooklyn. "With the new business model, I wanted something speedier, something that feels really fast paced because the world that we're living in is very fast-paced," he said, echoing the sentiments of other brands that have gone to fast fashion.

Of the clothes, he said: "I went back to this idea of looking at the classics and twisting them." One of the standouts Thursday night was a ruffle dress in marigold with a swifty, handkerchief hemline. There was a pair of wide-leg crop twill pants in a brownish stone with huge front pockets that lent just enough detail when shown with a medium-wide belt. Panichgul, whose mother taught him how to sew, had some other, wearable standouts, including a cropped trench-style, double-breasted jacket with a layered look sewn right in. It was a shape he carried into other fabrics and prints, both of which were often layered and mixed together.

A black Chantilly lace silk dress, for instance, was worn with a Merino wool sweater cape and an oversized plaid Merino wool jacket tied at the waist. A faux mink bomber jacket was shown with a gauze plaid shirtdress and a wool sweater tied the same way. Panichgul's first store opened in Manhattan in August. Last December, Vivian Chou, the daughter of Hong Kong tycoon Silas Chou, took a majority stake in the brand he launched in 2004. "It's revitalizing," he said of his new take on fashion and business. "It gave me a lot of energy." — AP



Models walk the runway during the Tommy Hilfiger fall 2016 collection presented at New York Fashion Week. — AFP

Friday night, under a gaggle of strung-up lights and against a stunning city backdrop, Hilfiger displayed designs from his Fall 2016 collection - available online the minute they hit the runway - as well as his TommyXGigi collection, designed in collaboration with supermodel Gigi Hadid.

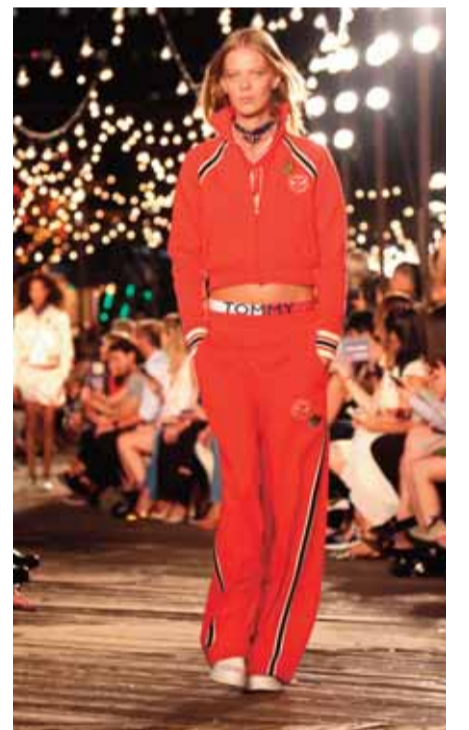
But there was a lot more than clothes to capture the attention. Just steps off the runway, one could get a temporary tattoo or some nail art. There were arcade games, a 40-foot Ferris Wheel along with other fairground rides, and food - lobster rolls,

and being disruptive in the fashion business," he said. "It's sort of a revolution in the fashion industry to create an event that is really not a traditional runway show and it is all about 'buy now, wear now,' designed by a model for a designer."

Hadid, 21, who both opened and closed the show, said she hopes to continue designing. Her experience with Hilfiger, she said, "gave me the opportunity to learn so much from them, and kind of get my feet wet and then I can go execute it myself." Asked if Hilfiger was part of her and Swift's famous



Models walk the runway during the Tommy Hilfiger fall 2016 collection. — AFP



Models walk the runway during the Tommy Hilfiger fall 2016 collection. — AFP

# Kanye West performs at NY Fashion Week party

Kanye West brought his "Saint Pablo Tour" to the small stage at a New York Fashion Week party, where he performed under smoky, dark lights, and ended his set with some outspoken words, per usual. West hit the stage Friday night at The Plaza Hotel, where the audience - a bit sweaty and cramped and made of up fashion and entertainment industry insiders - hung on to the rapper's every move as he performed new and old songs, even jumping into the audience to rap with the crowd.

West and his wife, Kim Kardashian, were being honored by Harper's Bazaars at its annual ICONS event. It was just days after West, 39, debuted the fourth season of his Yeezy collection for Adidas to mixed reviews. "At the beginning of this performance I tried my best to not try. No, I tried to listen to all the reports and shit and I tried my best to stop trying," he said at the end of the performance. "But I just couldn't do it! I couldn't stop! No matter what they write, I just couldn't stop!"

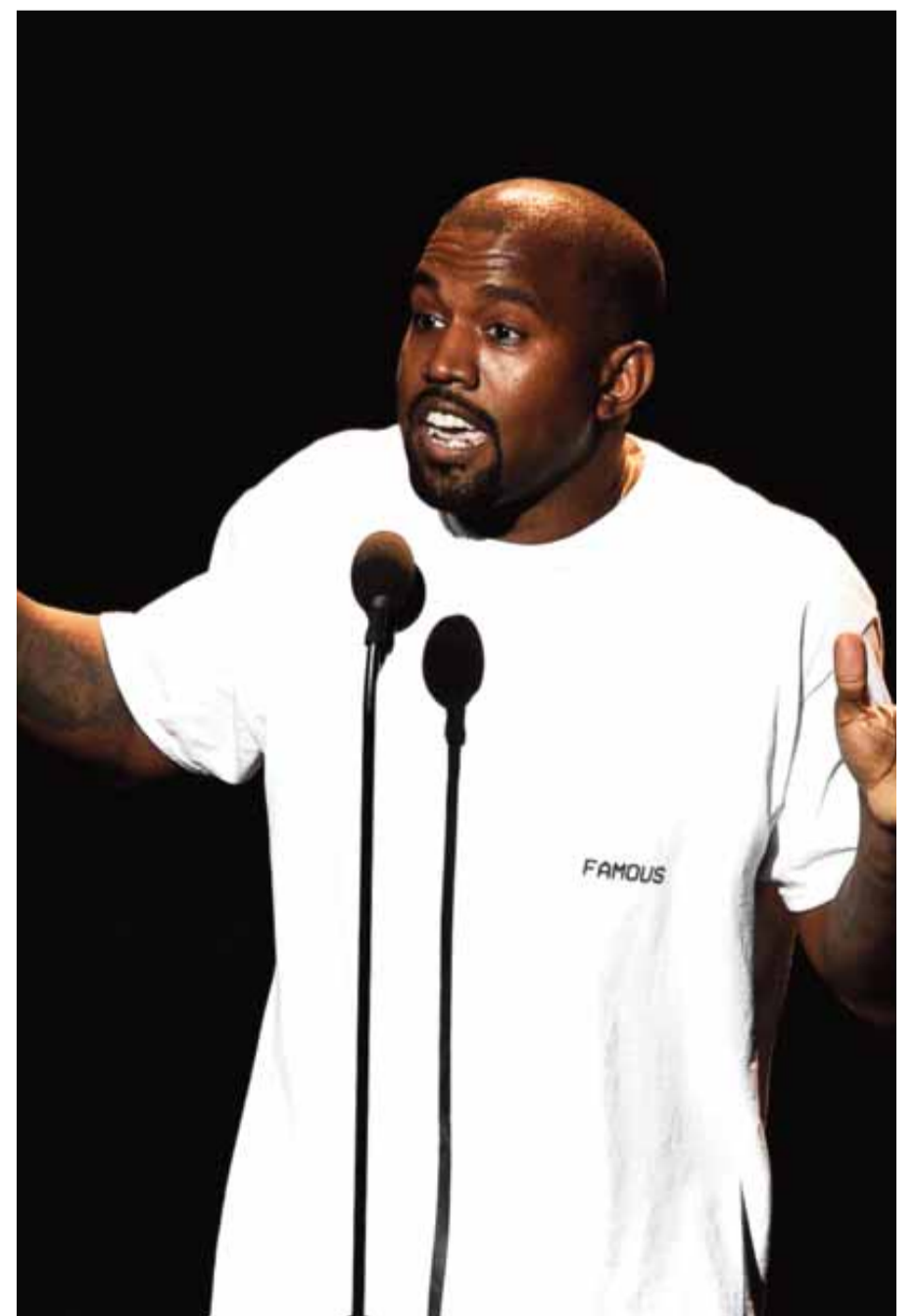
He then thanked the fashion crowd for supporting him as he transitioned from Grammy-winning rapper-producer to fashion mogul. "I appreciate y'all going on this journey for me. I appreciate all the years y'all put up with me learning in front of you and listening to the music at the same time," he said. "I appreciate the moment when Carine put her friend on the cover - no, not this moment - I'm talking about when she put Tom Ford on the cover," he continued, referring to Carine Roitfeld, the former editor of Vogue Paris and founder and editor of CR Fashion Book. "And all you mother (expletive) were like, 'Oh, Carine (is) over!' She's a mother (expletive) icon though. There's only one Carine."

Then West paused, dropped his microphone and walked offstage. The crowd of a few hundred cheered him on. He kicked off his set with "Father Stretch My Hands Pt 1," and also performed "Famous," "All of the Lights," "Black Skinhead" and "Touch the Sky." When he performed "Runaway" - which features the infamous line, "Let's have a toast for the douchebags" - he held his middle finger up throughout most of the performance. The Kardashian clan was there to support Kimye, including Kris, Kourtney, Kylie and Kendall, who was with her rapper-boyfriend Tyga.

Celebrity attendees dressed to impress included stylish singer Mary J. Blige and a dapper Nico Tortorella. Heidi Klum, Christina Hendricks, fashionable NBA player Russell Westbrook, Kate Upton, Nick Cannon, Pamela Anderson, Nina Agdal and Camila Alves also attended. The Harper's Bazaar event is in its third year and was held by Roitfeld and Karl Lagerfeld. Katy Perry was featured on last year's stage and Lady Gaga performed jazz songs at the inaugural event in 2014. West's "Saint Pablo Tour" kicked off last month and wraps Nov 1 at the Forum in Inglewood, California. — AP



The Anthony Rubio canine couture and woman's wear collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York. — AP



Kanye West



Palestinian students dressed like Muslim pilgrims participate in a school lesson about the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah, Saudi Arabia, at the main square in Gaza City. Millions of Muslims have arrived in Saudi Arabia to participate in the annual hajj pilgrimage, which started yesterday, a ritual required of all able-bodied Muslims at least once in their life. — AP



## 'Iraqi Geymer' - Reviving industry of delicious food

The delicious "Geymer" (cream) is the major component in a typical Iraqi breakfast meal, eaten with honey, tandoor bread and hot tea. Hardly can one find an Iraqi breakfast without the Geymer, which is eaten nationwide. Geymer is the skimmed solidified upper layer of the simmered and then cooled off buffalo and cow's milk. It is mostly made at home by buffalo and cow breeders. In the past, men went to care for their animals in the morning, and women carried their tempting product on wide trays, almost on daily basis, to sell it in nearby residential areas and at workers' gathering areas, at prices higher than meat and fish. In the course of time, the Qishta, as known in Egypt and the Levant, or the kaymak in Turkish, came to be sold at shops to meet the rising demand.

Today, like most handmade industries, making Geymer has come to suffer from lack of the skilled hands. This prompted a civil society organization, "Nature Iraq", to hold a training course for women to encourage them to revive the traditional industry. The course was organized in Al-Gabaish town of Dhi Qar, famous for Buffalo breeding, and plenty of milk is produced, Nature Iraq director Jassim Al-Asadi said. In the good old days, the industry was almost confined to breeders' women, and poor families. But in the course, organized for the first time in Iraq, women from different classes of the society have been learning to make it, he added.

Local women, who have long experience in the Geymer-making from the city of Ahwar, are taking care of the training. Still the old Geymer dominates the breakfast menu of most Iraqi people, even after dozens of foreign types of cream have found their way into the country, Al-Asadi stressed. One of the "Geymer women", Zeinab Shaid, told KUNA that she had mastered the industry only in two days, expressing hope more shops can be opened to sell the food that is so rich with nutritional elements.

A food expert, Mona Al-Bediri, told KUNA that Geymer is rich with calcium, potassium, sodium and phosphorus, besides vitamins A, C and E as well as folate or folic acid. However, the problem with Geymer is the high rate of fat it contains. The rate of saturated amino acids in Geymer reaches 15 percent, besides a lower percentage of monounsaturated amino acids, and unsaturated multiple amino acids, she said. This is why the elderly and people suffering high blood pressure are always advised to avoid it, just like other fatty foods, Al-Bediri noted. — KUNA



Iraqi women prepare delicious 'Geymer'. Geymer (cream) is the major component in a typical Iraqi breakfast meal, eaten with honey, tandoor bread and hot tea. — KUNA photos

