

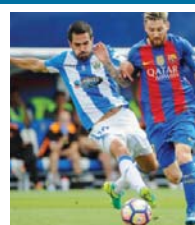
Voice of Kuwait highlights unconstitutional legislations



Protesters rally across Germany against mega trade deals



Messi double leads five-star Barcelona past Leganes



Man City pull clear, Slimani lifts Leicester



150 FILS  
NO: 16994  
40 PAGES

# DOZENS DEAD IN US-LED STRIKE ON SYRIAN ARMY

IS ADVANCES • US FORCES DEPLOY TO SYRIA TO BACK TURKEY



Min 25°  
Max 45°  
High Tide  
06:20 & 21:31  
Low Tide  
00:44 & 14:40



## BID TO SMUGGLE DRUGS BY DRONE AT CENTRAL JAIL

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A first lieutenant at the Central Jail reported hearing a strange sound over a prison hall, and on checking, saw a remotely controlled drone with a large package tied to it. The officer grabbed the string and brought down the drone, and on opening the package, found three plastic bags of a white powder suspected to be drugs. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

DAMASCUS: US-led coalition aircraft hit a Syrian army position in the country's east yesterday, an armed forces statement said, while a monitor group reported dozens of soldiers dead. "Warplanes from the American coalition hit one of the Syrian army's positions... near the Deir Ezzor airport," the statement carried by state media said. It said the raid was carried out at 5:00 pm local time (1400 GMT) and led to an unspecified number of "casualties".

Regime ally Russia said 62 Syrian soldiers were killed and at least 100 more wounded in strikes by "warplanes from the international anti-jihadist coalition". The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said at least 80 soldiers were killed in the raids on Jabal Therdeh, southwest of the Deir Ezzor airport, updating an earlier toll of 30 killed. Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said he could not specify who carried out the strikes.

Syria's army has been fighting off a fierce offensive by the Islamic State group on the Deir Ezzor military airport since last year. "This is a dangerous and bold attack against the Syrian state and army, and clear evidence that the United States and its allies support the terrorist group Daesh," the statement said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. It said the raids had allowed IS to advance on Syrian troops in the area.

The Russian military said two F-16 and

two A-10 jets flew into Syrian airspace from neighboring Iraq to carry out the strikes. "Straight after the coalition's strikes, IS militants launched an offensive," said the statement, adding that "fierce fighting against the terrorists" ensued nearby. "If these strikes were due to an error in the target coordinates, that would be a direct consequence of the US' refusal to coordinate with Russia its fight against the terrorist groups in Syria," it said.

The IS-linked Amaq news agency said late yesterday IS jihadists were able to "seize full control of Jabal Therdeh, which overlooks the Deir Ezzor airport". A Syrian military source also told AFP that US-led coalition strikes hit an army position in Jabal Therdeh. Under a fragile truce deal negotiated by the United States and Russia, fighting in Syria is to halt on all fronts across the country except those held by IS. The US-led coalition has been carrying out raids against IS for two years in both Syria and Iraq.

Meanwhile, dozens of US Special Operations commandos have been deployed to northern Syria to help Turkey and "vetted" Syrian rebels fight IS, the Pentagon confirmed Friday. But as footage emerged of the rebels hurling insults and threats at the American special operators, US officials were forced to play down reports that the troops did not receive a warm welcome to the frontline.

Continued on Page 13



NEW YORK: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets at his residence in the US on Friday National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. — KUNA



DUBAI: Customers gather at an Apple store during the launch of the new iPhones yesterday at the Mall of the Emirates. — AFP

## IPHONE 7 LAUNCH GENERATES CROWDS, QUEUES WORLDWIDE

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple's global iPhone launch Friday was marked by excitement and frustration as fans queued to find scarce models of the coveted smartphone. Scenes in Apple stores around the world on Friday were reminiscent of days before online ordering became a norm and people camped out for days to be first to get hands on the California company's iPhone 7 and 7 Plus. Enthusiasm was peppered with disappointment due to shortages of the large-screen iPhone 7 Plus and a jet-black iPhone 7, but it was unclear if the shortages were the result of strong demand or limited supply.

"These initial sales will be governed by supply, not demand," Apple said in a released statement which noted that the company would not provide launch weekend sales figures. Investors evidently weren't certain of what to make of the launch as well, with Apple shares down about a half-percent to \$114.92 at the close of trading on the Nasdaq exchange.

Continued on Page 13

## TRUMP: DISARM CLINTON BODYGUARDS 'LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO HER'

### PULITZER-WINNING US PLAYWRIGHT ALBEE DIES AT 88

NEW YORK: Pulitzer-winning US playwright Edward Albee, author of such masterpieces as "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" died Friday at age 88, his personal assistant said in a statement. Albee died at his home in Montauk, New York after a short illness, according to his longtime personal assistant Jakob Holder. Considered one of the most important American playwrights of his time, Albee wrote a variety of intense, controversial plays diving into anxieties, disillusionments and death.

He burst onto the theater scene with "The Zoo Story" (1958) at age 30. The two-character drama, portraying disaffection and class struggle, premiered in Berlin the following year and then moved to off-Broadway in 1960. "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" debuted two years later on Broadway. The shocking trash-talking, boozy depiction of a tortured academic couple, George and Martha, was eventually a hit.

It was later made into a 1966 black-comedy movie directed by Mike Nichols and starring Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, who won an Oscar as best actress.

Continued on Page 13



Edward Albee

MIAMI: Donald Trump on Friday called for disarming the bodyguards who protect his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, and mused about the consequences of such a move by saying "Let's see what happens to her". The Republican presidential nominee was speaking at a rally in Miami, where he contrasted his supporters, who he said back police and want crime reduced, to Clinton, who he derided as someone who "lives behind walls and raises money from hedge funds."

"I think that her bodyguards should

drop all weapons. They should disarm. I think they should disarm immediately, what do you think, yes?," he said. "Take their guns away, she doesn't want guns. Take them, let's see what happens to her. Take their guns away, okay. It will be very dangerous." Both candidates have been protected by the Secret Service for months, but Trump's latest take on Clinton's security detail brought swift denunciations, particularly from Clinton allies.

Continued on Page 13



MIAMI: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the James L Knight Center on Friday. — AP



DOUMA, Syria: Syrian children play on swings made from the remnants of exploded rockets in this rebel-held town on the eastern edges of the capital Damascus on Sept 14, 2016, on the third day of Eid Al-Adha. — AFP

## SYRIAN KIDS PLAY WITH 'ROCKET' SWINGS

DOUMA, Syria: Syrian children love playgrounds like kids all over the world but in rebel-held towns near Damascus swing sets are made of spent rockets and jungle gyms are tucked underground. Eastern Ghouta, a besieged opposition stronghold east of Damascus, has been battered by regime air strikes and shelling since Syria's conflict erupted more than five years ago. Since then, children have grown accustomed to warnings not to play outside - but the grown-ups are finding creative ways to make sure kids can still have fun.

In Douma, Eastern Ghouta's largest town, children sprint towards red-and-black swings made of rockets which government MiG fighters jets once rained on their hometown. The sets were made by Abu Ali Al-Bitar, a 40-year-old house painter who collected dozens of rocket debris, welded them into swings and then gave them a fresh coat of paint. "At first, my neighbors thought I was crazy. They didn't realize I was going to make children's toys out of this," he tells AFP while sitting next to one of his creations. "It was a huge surprise for everyone

when I came outside my shop one day carrying a swing."

Fellow townspeople urged him to build more sets, and farmers brought him rocket and shell debris that had crashed on their lands on the outskirts of Douma. "This is how we made the impossible, possible - that something used to kill can be turned into a toy that makes children happy," said Abu Ali. A dozen children clamber onto swing sets nearby, taking advantage of clear skies after a fragile truce brought a lull in air strikes and shelling on the town.

Ten-year-old Hanin - who lost her right hand in a rocket attack on a local market - giggles as she swoops through the air in one of the swings. And Ghadir, nine, says he's grateful to Abu Ali for making new toys for Douma's children. "Bashar Al-Assad sent rockets to kill us but Uncle Abu Ali didn't want us to be sad, so he turned them into toys to make us happy," Ghadir says.

More than 300,000 people have been killed in Syria's war, which has ravaged the country's education system. The United Nations estimates

that at least 2.1 million Syrian children and teenagers do not have access to education. In Arbin, another rebel town in Eastern Ghouta, kids ran down concrete steps into a dimly-lit, rocky tunnel that lead to their unconventional playground. It is a vibrant and safe area, with its own merry-go-round, a mini ferris wheel that almost grazes the ceiling and booming music.

Hassan, who works with a local civil society group, says volunteers rent these underground playgrounds to keep the children entertained, including during last week's feast of Eid Al-Adha. "We decided to rent out spaces underground, in basements. They have playgrounds, rec rooms, and even a theatre," he tells AFP. "We planned a lot of activities for the kids and gave out gifts to make them as happy as possible during Eid." Children pull themselves up on a net of ropes and zip down brightly-colored slides, while mothers wave from a mezzanine overlooking the cheerful scene. "We had a party in the basement so that no one has to be afraid of being in the street," 10-year-old Yumna says timidly. "Here, the world is safe." — AFP



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah departs for New York. — KUNA

## PM DEPARTS FOR NEW YORK

**KUWAIT:** Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation left here yesterday heading to New York City to head the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the 71st session of the UN General Assembly.

His Highness was seen off by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, a number of Sheikhs, Governors and senior military, police, and National Guard commanders as well as senior officials in the State and the Diwan of His Highness the Prime Minister. — KUNA

## MINISTER FOR CABINET AFFAIRS REPRESENTS THE AMIR AT NAM

**WASHINGTON:** Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah participated in the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Venezuela representing His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Embassy of the State of Kuwait to Venezuela said in a statement that the ministerial meeting was held on Thursday under the slogan "United On The Path Of Peace." The minister arrived in the Island of Margarita on Wednesday and was received by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Venezuela Nasser Al-Enezi, members of the embassy and Director of the presidential protocol. — KUNA



**VENEZUELA:** Kuwait's State Minister for Cabinet Affairs represents His Highness the Amir at NAM summit. — KUNA



## OXFORD UNIVERSITY HONORS KUWAITI POET

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to Kuwaiti famed poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain for having a position of "Laudian Professor of Arabic" named after him by the University of Oxford. Their Highnesses the Deputy the Amir and the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent cables of similar sentiments.

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday that the University of Oxford paid a tribute to Kuwaiti culture through its honoring of famed poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain. In a statement, Sheikh Salman, who is also Chairman of the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), said that the honor conferred upon Al-Babtain is a testament to his unbridled devotion to spreading the cultural and historical significance of the Arabic language.

Speaking on the cultural scene in Kuwait, Sheikh Salman noted the incessant support given by the country's leadership, as he underscored the plethora of accomplishments that Al-Babtain had amassed in the realm of Arabic literature. Moreover, he pointed to a cultural institute christened after Al-Babtain as a bastion of culture and literature, adding that the honor bestowed upon Al-Babtain proves that Kuwait deserves to be the capital of Islamic culture for the year 2016. He also urged Kuwait's youth to follow in Al-Babtain's footsteps stating that Kuwait remains a country with a vibrant culture and a rich history.

## KUWAIT'S PARTICIPATION IN 71ST GA MEET IS EXTOLLED

**NEW YORK:** A senior Kuwaiti diplomat has asserted the importance of the participation of the State of Kuwait in the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly amidst the formidable challenges facing the world.

The Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi said in a statement to KUNA that Kuwait would participate in the 71st session of the General Assembly with a high-level delegation. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah would head Kuwait's delegation to the Presidents Summit. The summit is called by US President Barack Obama with a number of heads of state to discuss the refugee issue on September 20 at the United Nations headquarters.

He added that His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will head the Kuwaiti delegation taking part in the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly and deliver Kuwait's speech on September 21. His Highness the Premier will also attend a reception held by the Kuwaiti Embassy for heads of state of government.

Al-Otaibi said that First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will chair the annual ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to be held on

Thursday, September 22 on the sidelines of the General Assembly and attend the joint meeting of the Arab-African Committee.

He added that Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled will also co-chair a meeting of donor countries to support the situation in Syria, as well as several bilateral meetings with his counterparts to exchange views on common issues, especially developments in regional and international arenas. He also noted that these meetings will include the signing of several agreements to strengthen the bonds of bilateral relations with a number of countries. The Kuwaiti ambassador pointed out that Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled will take part in several regional and international meetings notably the annual coordination meetings of the Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with their counterparts in the United States, Britain and Russia, in addition to the Arab foreign ministers' meeting.

He said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled will also deliver Kuwait's speeches in the ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab-African meeting, as well as a speech at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the issue of refugees and migrants. The speech is to be held tomorrow. Meanwhile, this is the first time that the General Assembly calls for a meeting at the level of Heads of State and Governments on the large move-



**Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi.** — KUNA

ments of refugees and migrants, which is a historic opportunity to reach an improved international response to the global crisis.



**KUWAIT:** NBK recently paid a special visit to NBK Kids Hospital at Al-Sabah medical Zone to share the Eid celebrations with hospitalized children and give them special Eid presents. In this regard, NBK's PR officer, Jawan Al-Abdul Jaleel said that employees from various NBK departments took part in the visit especially since the hospital, opened 14 years ago, was one of the bank's best embodiments of the communal services it provides.

In my view

## YEMEN, ALWAYS HAPPY



By Labeed Abdal

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**T**he Yemeni government delegation's departure after signing a project proposed by the UN as part of the peace talks held in Kuwait, while the Houthi group's and the General People's Congress' delegations' refusal to sign it is but a sign of the constant changes and disagreement between rivals, while the death toll rises in only one country.

The Yemeni government stressed however that leaving Kuwait does not mean withdrawing from the peace talks and said that both sides agreed to resume such talks. At the same time, the UN envoy stressed that intensive meetings would be held soon with the opposition and members of the international community concerned with the situations in Yemen to prepare for the coming steps, which is very urgent to gather all rivals at one negotiation table. Kuwait has historically been a pioneer in this regard. It has never spared any effort to reach peaceful solutions to stop bloodshed in a brotherly Arab country that had been referred to as Arabia Felix or 'Happy Yemen'.

Local demonstrations like those in Sanaa and other cities remind us of the millions of Egyptians, when the people made history and emphasized that Egypt was a land of multiple faiths and ethnicities that had always been known for clemency and tolerance towards others.

This is not much different from the situations in Syria and Iraq, where many foreign parties are interfering and 'paid terrorism' has succeeded in achieving some of its goals. The people's role, liberty and democratic choices must be highlighted by all parties and sides, especially since the amount of devastation and destruction on the ground requires long decades and several generations to undo and reconstruct both countries.

What matters here is that all Yemeni sides are committed and that serious steps had been made forward to make the UN, Kuwait's and other countries' efforts succeed with the ultimate goal of bring Yemenis closer together and achieve the UN's most supreme goal of protecting international peace and security.

HEALTH MINISTRY TO INTRODUCE SIX NEW WORLD-CLASS NAVAL BOATS



Dr Jamal Al-Harbi

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Ministry of Health announced yesterday it has initiated talks with Canada to manufacture and supply six world-class naval boats that is to be added to the existing marine ambulance fleet. Assistant Undersecretary for Medical Support Services in the ministry Dr Jamal Al-Harbi told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the manufacturing of the boats would not take more than a year

and a half.

Al-Harbi added that the ministry is keen to transform its plans into a working reality in accordance with its developmental strategy. He pointed to the attention and care given by the Board of Undersecretaries to support and promote the modernization and development of the maritime fleet of ambulances and to provide manpower in accordance with the plan.

He explained that the plan to strengthen and develop the fleet is divided into two phases; the first deals with training 60 paramedics and medical technicians on maritime rescue cooperation, while the second phase will be devoted to manufacturing and supplying marine boats according to specific sizes of no less than 15 meters to accommodate cases of intensive care. — KUNA



KUWAITI GLOBETROTTERS SET EXAMPLE: AMB AL-BADER

**KUWAIT:** Three Kuwaiti travelers on an odyssey in Australia epitomize ambition and creativity and have set an example for youth, Kuwait's Ambassador to the world's sixth largest country said yesterday. In a phone call to KUNA, Ambassador Najeeb Al-Bader named the travelers as

Hussein Ashkanani, Ali Al-Bermi and Mohamad Al-Sultan.

Moreover, Al-Bader noted that such trips are crucial to familiarize oneself with foreign cultures and traditions, adding that the travelers have shown an eagerness to learn and develop new skills. Furthermore, one of the globetrot-

ters, Al-Bermi, said that the journey is a message of hope and peace from Kuwait to the rest of the world. The trip to Australia, the trio's fourth trek, is the latest in a global journey that had also taken them to Africa in 2011 and South America in 2012. — KUNA



WAREHOUSE FIRE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL: KFSD

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Firefighters were able to bring under control a fire that broke in a lumber warehouse in Sulaibiya area, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said yesterday. Squads from different fire departments were dispatched to the scene and

were able to bring the fire under control before it spread out to reach nearby warehouses, containing commodities worth millions, KFSD said in a press release. Ambulances were also there to treat some firefighters who suffered from heat exhaustion. An investigation was opened into the cause of the blaze.



CBK, FARWANIYA GOVERNORATE CELEBRATE EID

**KUWAIT:** As part of their communal activities, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait and Farwaniya governorate recently organized special activities to celebrate Eid Al-Adha including joint visits attended by governor, Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud to hospitals, clinics,

policemen and firemen. Both Al-Humoud and CBK's assistant manager for PR and publicity, Amani Al-Wara' stressed that the idea was jointly arranged to please hospitalized patients and employees on duty during the Eid Al-Adha holidays.

Local spotlight

DNA TEST FOR ALL



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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**T**he DNA law is raising considerable controversy in the Kuwaiti society these days, because some fear the consequences of the actual implementation of this law. Some stand in the middle between supporters and opponents of this law for various reasons, such as legal and social. Others are worried about personal freedoms and forcing innocent people to undergo genetic tests by the force of law that punishes noncompliance with imprisonment and fines. It's not an easy matter. Kuwait will be the first Arab and Gulf state to make DNA tests compulsory on everyone. What is the purpose of this comprehensive test?

Before the implementation of this law and the preparations by the Interior Ministry, a legal objection was submitted against the law. Lawyer Adel Abdulhadi believes the law violates the constitution and violates the privacy of individuals and citizens. The Washington Post labeled the DNA law as "a major attack on genetic privacy" that seriously jeopardizes the international reputation of Kuwait.

The DNA test is acceptable in cases of suspected crimes and is required for accuracy. But, this law is raising a debate on how it will actually be enforced, and whether it will force all people who live in Kuwait to undergo the tests in order to create a new database. The Ministry of Interior has issued several statements confirming that this law has specific conditions and it will be for the safety and security of the people and the country. Electronic passports of citizens will be associated with a DNA test gradually for the creation of a database to assist in the verification of the Kuwaiti nationality rule.

Director of the Human Rights Association in Kuwait, lawyer Mohammed Hamidi, rejects the DNA law, stressing that it is a violation of international law and privacy. He notes that the law, approved by parliament earlier, forces all citizens and residents to undergo DNA tests, and the law imposes imprisonment and fines for those who violate it.

Those who reject this law see Kuwait as the only state that imposes DNA tests on everyone, away from international conventions, particularly European and US courts that rejected its universal application on the basis of respect for individual liberty, and human rights organizations that reject encroachment on the freedom of individuals as well as possible exploitation that can occur.

So implementing the law is not easy at all, in addition to the international predicted reactions against Kuwait by diplomats and visitors. But I support the application of this test to solve mysterious crimes, particularly related to terrorism or murder, especially in cases of decomposed bodies to learn more about the deceased, for the detection of lineage in family disputes in court or for verifying genealogy to obtain Kuwaiti nationality. The implementation of this law will not be an easy process and it may take longer than expected and by categories.

OVER 8,000 ILLEGALS ADJUST THEIR STATUS

**KUWAIT:** Since 2011 until end of August 2016, some 8,004 illegal residents have adjusted their status in Kuwait, said the Central Agency for Illegal Residents Affairs yesterday. Head of the status adjustment department of the apparatus Colonel Mohammad Al-Wohaib told KUNA that 5,578 illegal residents have adjusted their status and reverted back to their Saudi nationality, 895 to the Iraqi and 810 to the Syrian. He added that a further 85 residents reverted back to their Iranian nationality, 49 to the Jordanian and 596 to other nationalities.



Colonel Mohammad Al-Wohaib

He called on illegal residents, who are yet to adjust their status in the country, to visit the headquarters of the central apparatus to do what is necessary to maintain order and stability. Al-Wohaib affirmed that those complying with the law will be given residency visas which could be renewed every five years in addition to healthcare, education and ration cards. He also claimed that other privileges such as priority in employment after Kuwaiti nationals and facilitating procedures for obtaining driving licenses will also apply upon adjustment of their status, said the official. — KUNA

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT CITY: A Penumbral lunar eclipse appears behind a mosque in Kuwait City on September 16, 2016. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

News

in brief

### HAJ MISSION SUCCESSFUL

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Head of Kuwait's hajj mission Khulaif Al-Othainah thanked all ministries and state bodies represented in the mission, such as awqaf, health, interior and information ministries, KFSD, PAYS, KRCS and Kuwait's consulate in Jeddah for their efforts during this year's hajj.

**Sugar sales**

Commenting on a video circulating over social media networks showing sugar distributed by the company to citizens clumping, Kuwait Supply Company explained that the white lumps seen in the video were finely grounded sugar that crystallized under humidity. The company explained that it imports sugar from Germany, where the best quality is produced.

**Ceremony honors doctors**

A ceremony was held to honor 34 doctors including a Kuwaiti for passing the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) test on treating pain and conducting minor surgeries by ultrasound. Dr Abdul Mohsen Abdul Redha Al-Sahhaf said that he was honored at the ceremony for holding a specialization from the US in this field of medicine.

**African fraud**

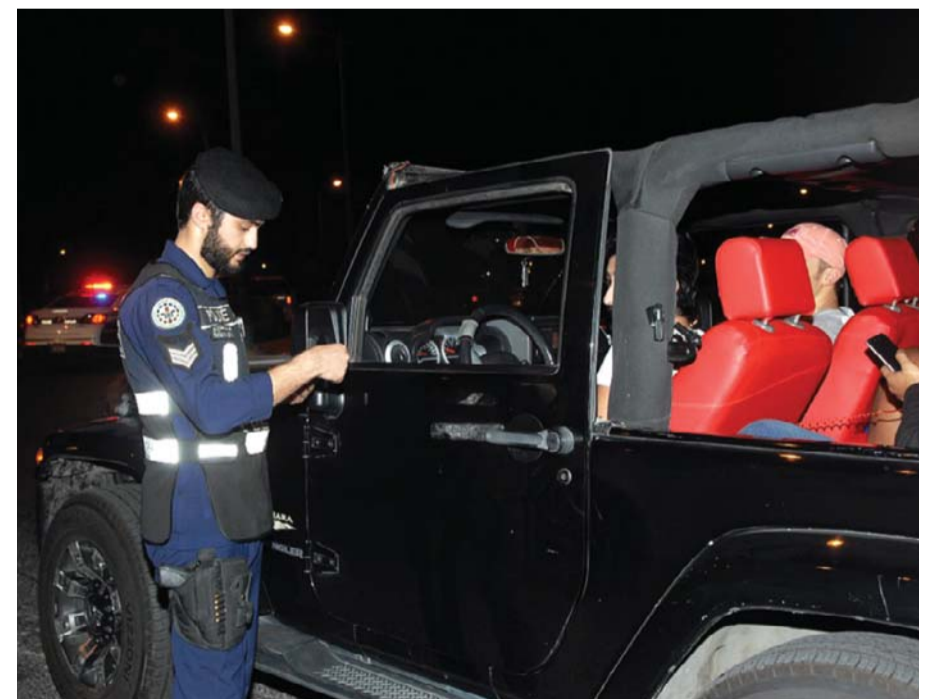
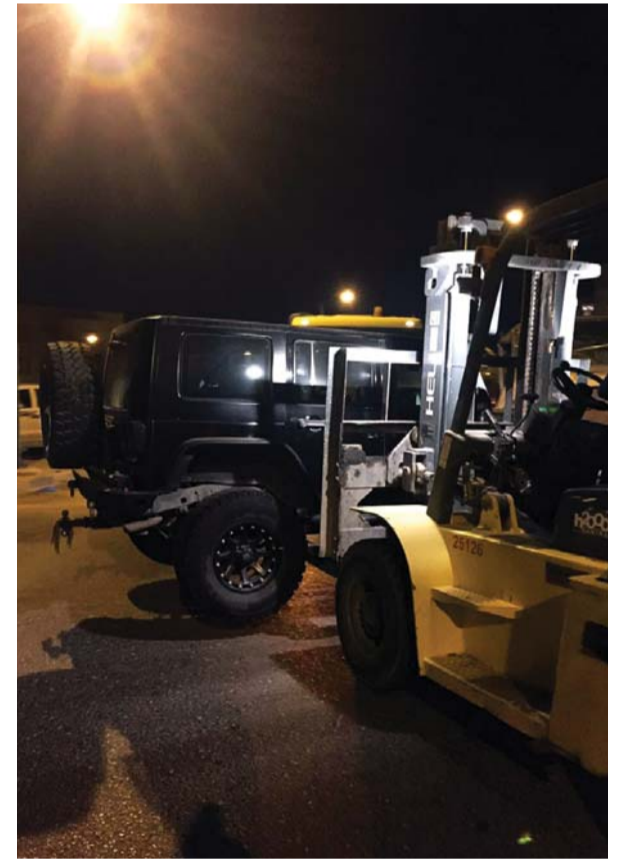
Two Nigerians were arrested for fraud, said security sources, noting that the suspects used to call potential victims at random by special mobile numbers claiming to have stained dollars they are willing to sell at cheaper than usual rates, in addition to a special substance to remove the stains. The sources added that as soon as they collected the Kuwaiti dinars from the victims, they used to speed off and transfer the money abroad.

# MOI OFFICERS CONDUCT RAID IN KHAIRAN

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Escorted by agents from the traffic department, patrols, criminal investigations and the Municipality, Ahmadi security launched a wide-scale inspection campaign in Khairan, where all exits were closed and checkpoints

were set up in pursuit of law violators and reckless drivers. The campaign resulted in arresting five people wanted for various reasons, including an absconder to be deported, a number of peddlers, three boats were impounded, a stolen vehicle was located and 380 traffic tickets were issued.



# THE VOICE OF KUWAIT

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

There is a frequent question about the philosophy of law - does the law regulate societies, or when societies organize, they formulate laws to protect their regimes? This question is similar to a large extent to what comes first - the chicken or the egg. The world agrees that laws, whether they are constitutional, judicial, customized or divine, are set to demarcate the pillars of societies to accomplish justice and equality among its members.

In 1962, the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah issued constitutional laws to bear on civil rights and the new democratic system of the Kuwaiti society, but legislative laws are sometimes in contradiction with the objectives of the constitution. Here comes the role of civil society to help clarify these circumstances and help the legislator to correct them, as the Sout Al-Kuwait group does.

In 2008, a volunteer political activist group of Kuwaitis calling themselves Sout Al-Kuwait (Voice of Kuwait) took upon themselves a complicated mission to defend constitutional gains and to put out research studies in the service of parliament members to facilitate their duties. In addition, they set up a parliament watch website - [www.raqib50.com](http://www.raqib50.com) - to monitor and appraise the performance of MPs in the National Assembly, document the speed of work completion of committees, and their commitment to attend hearings and votes.

"Despite dissatisfaction over some of the legislations of the current National Assembly, we must not deny the most important one - an amendment setting the powers of the constitutional court. Before that, the public had no access to the court in case of direct prejudice from an unconstitutional law," Abdullah Al-Khonaini, a member of Sout Al-Kuwait, told Kuwait Times.

"The law and the appeals process did not exceed two years. Therefore, Kuwaitis need to be more daring and aware in this area. From our side, we initiated school visits, workshops, exhibitions and seminars directed to all ages. We also designed a mobile virtual journey through the political history of Kuwait. The app will enable visitors to discover that however badly they think about the present, Kuwait has experienced worst. Our legislations are a consequence of a dynamic interaction of the society and the government within existing local and regional statuses. Kuwait underwent a period of an unconstitutional parliamentary dissolution, prior and subsequent control and witnessed the closure of newspapers," Khonaini explained.

The first project carried out by Sout Al-Kuwait was a booklet highlighting unconstitutional suspicions in eight laws in collaboration with a group of specialists. "However, we are not entitled to request an appeal simply because we hold evidence to prove the illegitimacy of a law that violates constitutional articles. Only direct victims can resort to sue," said Khonaini. This booklet and other documents are available to all via [soutalkuwait.com](http://soutalkuwait.com).

## INFO MINISTER CONGRATULATES KUWAITI CHESS PLAYER

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah congratulated Kuwaiti Chess player, Amnah Al-Awadi, for obtaining the title of a "Woman Candidate Master" during the 42nd World Chess Olympiad that drew to a close Tuesday night in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud told KUNA yesterday, that he also extended his greetings to Kuwait Mind Sports Association and its members for this great accomplishment which was the result of true dedication to the game. He emphasized the importance of supporting sports in all venues.

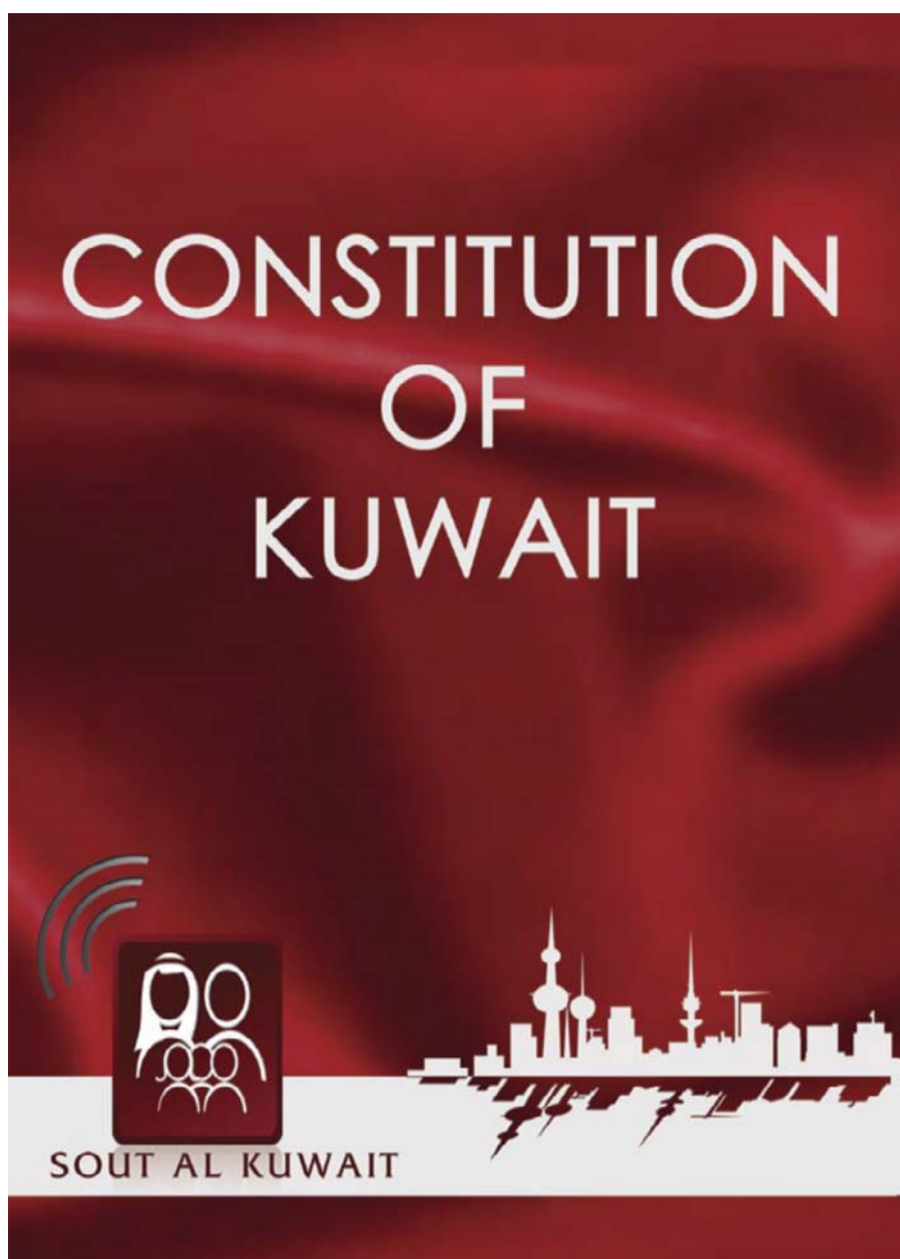
On Friday, Kuwait Mind Sports Association Chairman of the Board of Directors Hassan Ramadan told KUNA that this title was the first international title given to a female Kuwaiti in the game of Chess. "It is a great accomplishment and an indicator to a high level of professionalism in this game," Ramadan pointed out.

The Chess Olympiad in Azerbaijan was organized by the Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE); it took place from September 1 to 14. The World Chess Federation, FIDE (Federation Internationale des Echecs), awards several performance-based titles to chess players, up to and including the highly prized Grandmaster title. Woman Candidate Master (WCM), achieved at Elo rating of 2000, is the lowest-ranking title awarded by FIDE. — KUNA

## KUWAIT COASTLINE RICH WITH WETLANDS: KEPS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's coastal line is rich with wetlands; however, urban encroachment might be of a challenge to keep those bogs intact, Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) said yesterday. KEPS Secretary General Jenan Bahzad said in a press statement that these bogs can be found around Jahra Reserve and Sulaibi\khat Bay (southwest and southern inlets, respectively, to the west of Kuwait City).

She explained that wetlands are land areas that are saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally. They have a distinctive ecosystem characterized by low levels of oxygen and sulfur odors. She pointed out that they provide proper environment for hosting small vegetation of aquatic plants, molluscs and crustacean while the bogs play a major role in bird migration for they provide food sources and resting spots during their travels. Nonetheless, Bahzad warned that urban development and the increase of building projects and residential areas near the coastline would be detrimental to the survival of these bogs and their bio-system as a whole. — KUNA



From 1981 until 2007, the legislature imposed eight laws that have suspicions of being unconstitutional - the nationality law, the election law, personal status law, regulation of higher education, establishment of private universities, working in the private sector, the press and publication law and imitating the opposite gender. To demonstrate, as stated in the Sout Al-Kuwait booklet, the press and publication law of 2005 is in conflict with articles 29, 30, 35, 36 and 37 of the constitution. "The situation worsened after adding social media to it. This is

different from the cybercrime law and the e-media law," added Khonaini. Similarly, in 2006, there was a tendency to abolish jail sentences for those expressing opinions and confine it only to those insulting God and the Amir. "Strangely, the cybercrime law brought the jail sentence back, as if we are regressing," he said. Another case of violation of the terms of some constitutional articles is the inequality between women and men in the personal status, election, housing and employment in private sector laws. In fact, many laws contain clear

violations of the constitution, which equates between the genders in rights and duties.

"Legal awareness is not enough, and in spite of the law to secure the right of appeal for all affected citizens, not everyone is financially able to claim their rights. Claiming usurped rights requires great courage and effort," Khonaini stated. This is what a group of college students did when they challenged the law segregating classrooms after their graduation was delayed due to a lack of open sections due to gender separation. "Although some tried to politicize the matter and questioned the morality of these students, the decision on the unconstitutionality of the act was made. The students won the lawsuit," Khonaini said. "The defaulter fund act was also amended by the constitutional court after it declared that the phrase "committee decisions are not subject to appeal" was invalid, and the last resort is the judiciary."

The new domestic labor law, the animal welfare law and some other approved legislations, regardless of their content, are a signal of a positive development on the local scene, but keeping up with the entry of these laws into effect and control is the responsibility of the civil society. The community must stand up to this level of cooperation and build an interactive relationship with the government and legislative institutions to elevate the country.



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Crime

Report

MOTHER KILLER CASE GETS FURTHER DETAILS

**KUWAIT:** Following up the case of the Lebanese who beat her mother to death in Kaifan, security sources said that an Indian car washer and the coroner's report proved that the suspect assaulted her mother at 7 pm and waited for three hours before she reported the matter to the police. The sources added that on taking the suspect to the crime scene, the car washer blamed her for waiting for three hours before reporting the incident. He explained that she called him at 7 pm telling him that her mother was sick and needed to go to the hospital, but he could not help her and asked her to call an ambulance. Confronted by this, the suspect confirmed the testimony.

Eid emergencies

The medical emergencies department reported that it dealt with 1,515 cases during the Eid Al-Adha holiday, of which 1,166 were taken to nearby hospitals and clinics, 29 were medivacked and 349 were treated onsite. The department added that the cases involved injuries resulting from traffic accidents, fights and minor burns.

Strange bruises

A Syrian filed a report at Salmiya police station reporting finding strange bruises on the right side of his dead 51-year-old brother's body at Mubarak Hospital. However, hospital reports indicated that the man arrived already dead with the bruises. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Couple caught boozing

A Kuwaiti 'couple' was arrested in Hawally with two bottles of whiskey and 40 illicit pills, said security sources. Case papers indicate that after drinking and dancing at an apartment in the area, the couple left to resume dancing and drinking while driving. Noticing the vehicle being driven in an unsteady course, a police patrol stopped it and found the couple highly intoxicated. On searching the vehicle, detectives found the alcohol and drugs.

Dude, where's my car

A shocked citizen reported that on leaving Mubarak Al-Kabeer co-op, he found a vehicle on top of his own, although he had parked in a shaded spot. A woman driving the other car said she had parked on the opposite side and instead of reversing out of the parking space, she accelerated and clambered on the other car.

Robber busted

A citizen wanted for robbery was arrested in Abu Halifa, said security sources, noting that a police patrol suspected the man driving around over and over, and on stopping him, he seemed nervous. On checking on him, detectives found the man was wanted.

Bat fight

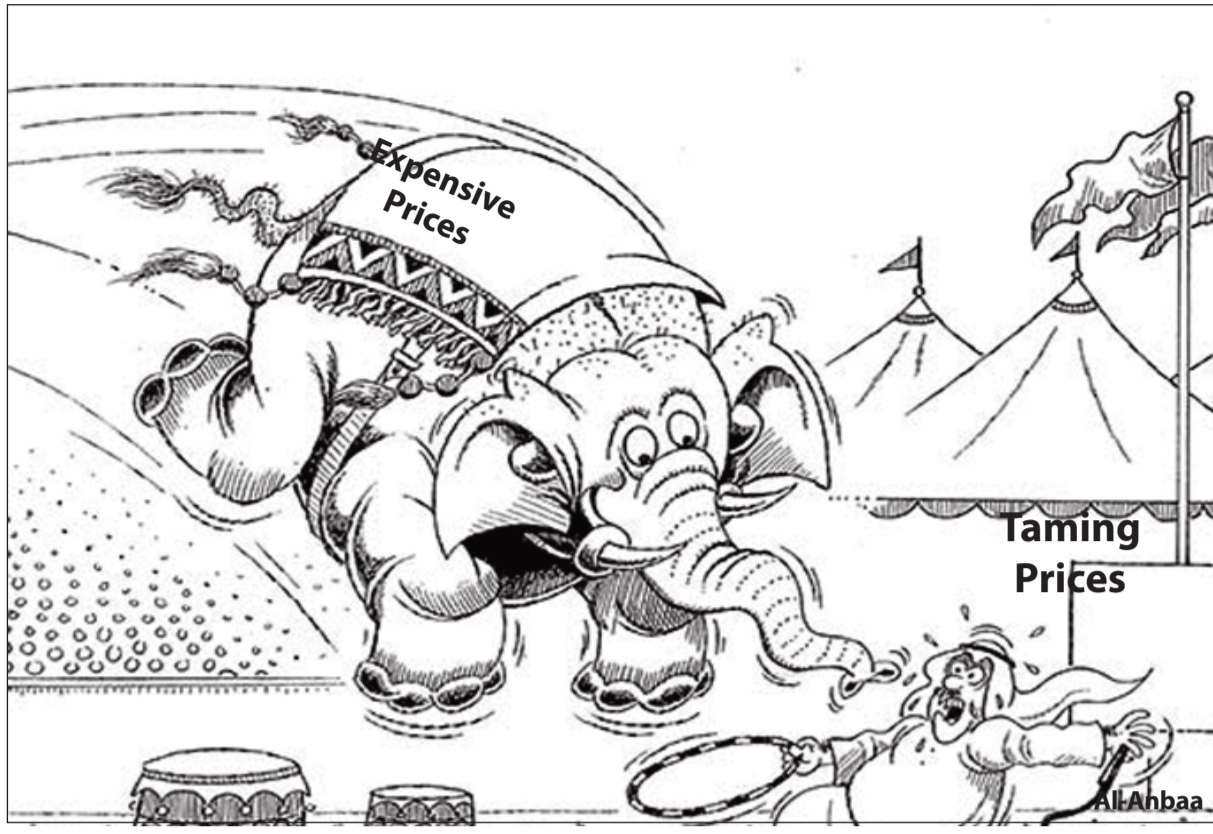
Three citizens were arrested in Jahra where they were fighting using bats, said security sources, noting that policemen were immediately dispatched to the scene to control them before they were arrested and referred to relevant authorities.

Nugra diamond heist

A citizen reported that after returning to his apartment in Nugra from a family visit, he found that the door had been broken and jewelry worth KD 8,000 was stolen. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Wrong cool-aid

An Asian housemaid was rushed to Jahra Hospital for treatment after she drank cleaning liquid in an attempt to take her life, said security sources. Case papers indicate that the sponsor's wife found the maid unconscious and immediately made her husband drive her to the hospital, where she underwent a gastric lavage procedure. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress to find out the maid's motive. - Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



KFH ENHANCES ANTI-SKIMMING TECHNOLOGY ON ATMS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) enhanced anti-skimming technology on its ATMs within the framework of the bank's keenness and efforts to protect customers from fraudulent transactions, which comes as part of the bank's ongoing endeavors to employ the latest banking technology that contributes in offering the best banking solutions and excellent customer service.

KFH took many procedures to combat and prevent fraud, most prominently it converted all KFH cards to latest chip technology which is difficult to breach. The bank has a world class real time fraud management system that limits fraud activities and 24/7 monitoring. Also, KFH has SMS messages and push notification service going to customers for all international and local transactions instantly to alert them about their card usage.

Moreover, KFH created awareness in social media informing customers not to disclose any personal information, this is an ongoing awareness to KFH customers. KFH concentrates on customer satisfaction as its number one focus. The bank always finds a way to minimize the risk as much as possible without effecting genuine customer usages and avoid inconvenience to customers. KFH continuously enhances its systems and infrastructure to ensure rendering highest level of customer service as per international standards of quality, accuracy and convenience.



RECORD NUMBER OF KUWAITI TRAVELERS TO ENTER US

**KUWAIT:** The Embassy of the United States in Kuwait is pleased to announce that more Kuwaitis have visited America in 2016 so far than any other year on record. In 2016, Kuwaiti travelers have entered the United States over 75,000 times as of September 1, including over 14,000 students attending academic programs. These record numbers are part of a trend reaching back over a decade, which saw an increase in Kuwaiti travelers of more than 500% from 2005 to 2016. These trends demonstrate that more than ever, the United States welcomes visitors from

Kuwait. Travel for business, tourism, medical treatment, and education is an important tie that binds our two countries in an exceptionally close relationship.

The Embassy is aware of reports of Kuwaiti citizens being denied entry into the United States this year. While US authorities make every effort to avoid this situation, an extremely small number of Kuwaiti visitors are not allowed to enter the country for a variety of reasons. This year, less than one in every 1,000 Kuwaiti travelers was denied entry. Those denied entry occasionally include Kuwaiti students

attempting to return to their university or college, while no longer a student in good standing at that school.

Loss of student status can lead to revocation of a US visa. To determine whether their student status remains valid, returning students should contact their designated school official. That official can confirm their status in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). As has always been the case, visitors to the United States are responsible for what they carry with them, so travelers should make sure that their belongings

conform to US regulations.

It is worth noting that a visa does not guarantee entry into the United States. The decision on whether an individual is allowed to enter the United States is made at the port of entry by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP). For more information about the entry process, visit the CBP website: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors>. Those who are denied entry to the United States may apply for a new visa at their convenience. Information on applying for a visa at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait can be found at <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/kw/>.

Al-Anbaa

WHAT'S YOUR MOTHER'S NAME?

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

**H**ow can women win their full rights in societies that still see shame to mention one's mother's name in public or before others? In such male-oriented societies, most men consider mothers' names as taboos and lifetime secrets that would ruin their lives if known.

I recently watched Kuwaiti, Saudi, Algerian and Egyptian TV programs and found that most of those taking part refuse revealing their mothers' names in public and insist that declaring those names were mistakes, or rather sins, that should not be committed. The majority of the participants avoided responding to the question: What is your mother's name? Is this how far manly Arab societies consider mothers' names as taboos? If this is how we see one's mother's name, then what about how we view women in general?!

Yes, indeed. Women recently won political rights in Kuwait and can now vote and run for elections. But such pride is still incomplete because they still have not won their social rights according to such concepts. Therefore, they have not actually won the justice they have been seeking in male-controlled societies where men would not dare mention their mothers', wives' or sisters' names in public. So, unless this changes, all the rights women already won will remain incomplete. Even political rights will democratically remain nominal.

One of the reasons of such views is how some religious radicals view women - as inferior to men. This does not only apply to Arab societies, but is also found in some advanced Western nations, where any scientific achievement made by women is seen as an exception, while those achieved by men are normal and beyond discussion.

I once recall a discussion with a senior official about granting citizenship to children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis. "Why should we? They should hold their fathers' citizenships," he argued, and when I told him that other Arab and Western countries do this with the children of their female citizens married to foreigners, he said: "She who chose to marry a foreigner should bear the consequences."

"Then why do we allow male Kuwaitis married to non-Kuwaiti women to grant citizenship to their children and wives," I asked. "Well, after all, women remain women and not men!" he answered, and when I reminded him that the constitution does not segregate citizens according to gender, he grinned and accused me of "only complicating the discussion"! — Translated by Kuwait Times

NOTORIOUS MULTI BEAUTY SALON BURGLAR ARRESTED

**KUWAIT:** MOI's relations and security media department yesterday announced arresting a 37 year old Syrian for robbing around 62 beauty salons in various areas around Kuwait. In a statement circulated to local press Thursday, the department explained that after receiving various reports about beauty salon burglaries, especially those located in higher floors, detectives closely watched buildings including salons.

The burglar then headed to a first floor salon in Sabah Al-Salem where he was arrested red-handed while attempting to break into the place. Detectives added that the suspect wore gloves to conceal his fingerprints and had his face covered with a scarf and held a waste bag including the tools he used. Detectives also said that the man was a professional robber and that he had a criminal record back in Syria. Moreover, the department said that on checking out on the suspect's legal status, his residency visa had been expired since 2013 and was wanted for various crimes.



**KUWAIT:** Within the bank's communal services, a group from the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK)'s employees recently visited the Center 21 for the disabled and the workshop of the products made by people with special needs to celebrate Eid with the patients living there.



**FARC opens what Colombia hopes is last wartime meet**

**DUTERTE SAYS MILITANTS 'HUNGRY' FOR CALIPHATE**



Syrian girls pose for a photograph as they stand on a street in the Kurdish-majority northeastern city of Qamishli on Friday. (Inset) Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to journalists at an airport in Bishkek yesterday. — AFP

**RUSSIA, REBELS CAST DOUBT OVER SYRIA TRUCE**  
**AIR STRIKES IN IDLIB, AND NEAR HOMS AND HAMA**

**BEIRUT/MOSCOW:** Russia and Syrian rebels cast doubt over the prospects for an increasingly shaky five-day-old ceasefire yesterday, with Moscow saying the situation was worsening and a senior insurgent warning that the truce "will not hold out". The ceasefire is the result of an agreement between Russia, which backs Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad with air power, and the United States, which supports some rebel groups. It has reduced the fighting since coming into effect on Monday.

However, some violence has persisted across Syria, and promised aid deliveries to besieged areas remain blocked, with both sides accusing the other of bad faith. Russia's Defense Ministry said conditions in Syria were deteriorating, adding that it believed the ceasefire had been breached 199 times by rebels and saying the United States would be responsible if it were to collapse.

Earlier yesterday, Russian President Vladimir Putin cast doubt over Washington's commitment to the deal, but also said he believed that securing a ceasefire was a common goal for the two countries, which both agreed to extend it on Friday. Insurgents say they only reluctantly accepted the initial deal, which they believe is skewed against them, because it could relieve the dire humanitarian situation in besieged areas they control, and blamed Russia for undermining the truce.

"The truce, as we have warned, and we told the (US) State Department - will not hold out," the rebel official said, pointing to the continued presence of a UN aid convoy at the Turkish border awaiting permission to travel to Aleppo. "It is not possible for the party (Russia) that wages war against a people to strive to achieve a truce, as it is also not possible for it to be a sponsor of this agreement while it bombs night and day, while on the other side, the other party - America - has the role of spectator," he said.

Moscow has itself accused rebels of breaking the truce and said Washington needs to do more to make them abide by its terms, including separating from the jihadist Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, which only broke formal allegiance to Al-Qaeda in July. The five-year-old civil war has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced half the country's population, drawing in global and regional powers, causing an international refugee crisis and inspiring jihadist attacks around the world.

**Overnight Shelling**

Both sides have accused the other of being responsible for aid deliveries being stuck far from Aleppo, where army and rebel forces were sup-

posed to pull back from the Castello Road which leads into besieged, insurgent-held eastern districts. Russia on Friday said the Syrian army had initially withdrawn but returned to its positions after being fired on by rebels, who in turn say they saw no sign of government forces ever leaving their positions.

"There is no change," said Zakariya Malahifi, an official for a rebel group in Aleppo yesterday, asked whether there had been any move by the army to withdraw from positions along the road. Syria's government said it was doing all that was necessary for the arrival of aid to those in need in all parts of the country, particularly to eastern Aleppo. Two convoys of aid for Aleppo have been waiting at the Turkish border for days. The UN has said both sides in the war are to blame for the delay of aid to Aleppo, where neither has yet withdrawn from the Castello Road into the city.

But senior UN officials have accused the government of not providing letters to allow convoys to reach besieged areas in Syria. The government said the road was being fired on by rebels, which they deny, so it could not give convoys a guarantee of safety. Warplanes strafed or bombed rebel-held areas in the northwestern province of Idlib, as well as positions north of the city of Homs and east of the city of Hama overnight, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The Britain-based war monitoring group also reported clashes between the army and rebels or shelling overnight in the capital's Eastern Ghouta suburbs, in Ramousah south of Aleppo and in the southern province of Deraa.

**Islamic State**

Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army rebels are pushing south in northern Syria from the towns of al-Rai and Azaz towards the Islamic State-held town of al-Bab, supported by tanks and jets, security sources said, clashing with the jihadist group. Vehicles were mobilized in northern Syria across from the Turkish village of Arapakesmez from the early hours of the morning and Turkish artillery deployed at the border have fired at Islamic State targets.

CNN Turk footage showed white smoke rising from across the border in Syria as Turkish howitzers fired west of Al-Rai, where the Syrian Observatory said Free Syrian Army rebel groups gained control of two villages. If the ceasefire deal is successful, Moscow and Washington will start to share targeting information on militant groups, including Islamic State, they have said. — Reuters

**SPOTLIGHT ON SYRIA AS LEADERS GATHER AT UN**

**UNITED NATIONS:** The spotlight will be on Syria when world leaders gather at the United Nations next week as the United States and Russia try to shore up a fragile truce deal and President Barack Obama pushes for a boost in global refugee aid. Some 135 heads of state and government and dozens of ministers will attend the 71st General Assembly, the last for both Obama and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who will step down at the end of 2016 after a decade in the job.

"While many conflicts are causing enormous pain, none is causing so much death, destruction and widespread instability as the worsening war in Syria," Ban told reporters on Wednesday. "Major countries with influence have a duty to use their influence and seize this latest opportunity to pursue a political solution."

Members of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), which includes Russia and the United States, are likely to meet on the sidelines at the United Nations on Tuesday, diplomats said, while the UN Security Council is due to hold a high-level meeting on Syria on Wednesday. Russia had wanted the council to endorse its Syria truce deal with the United States during the meeting, but on Friday said a resolution was unlikely because Washington did not want to share the documents detail-

ing the agreement with the 15-member body.

White House Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said on Friday he anticipated many of the US discussions at the United Nations "will focus on the situation in Syria, the response to North Korea's latest nuclear test, our shared efforts to combat (Islamic State) with many UN member states." Nearly 5 million Syrians have fled the country, and some 6.5 million have been internally displaced during the more than five-year conflict, contributing to the record 65.3 million people who were uprooted worldwide last year.

Before the world leaders begin their traditional speeches on Tuesday, the 193-member General Assembly will meet on Monday to adopt a political declaration on migrants and refugees. It is not legal binding, does not include a call for Ban for 10 percent of refugees to be resettled annually and has been dismissed by human rights groups as insufficient. The next day, Obama will host a summit that aims to boost humanitarian funds by a third and double the number of refugees being resettled annually. Countries are allowed to participate only if they are making pledges. — Reuters

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## SUNNISM RIVEN ANEW BY ANCIENT DISPUTE

**CAIRO:** An old rift at the heart of Sunni Islam that once saw clerics brawl outside a mosque in medieval Baghdad has emerged again, only this time they are fighting it out on social media. Clerics from around the world met in August in Grozny to define Sunnism and oppose extremism at a conference hosted by Chechnya's eccentric strongman Ramzan Kadyrov. The gathering excluded the Salafis, the official school of thought in Saudi Arabia, and was dominated by the Ashaaris - the main school of Sunni theologians elsewhere in the Middle East.

The clerics provoked outrage in Saudi Arabia when they issued a concluding statement defining Sunni theology as Ashaari and Maturidi - a similar school of thought - while not mentioning the Salafis. The attendance of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, the prestigious center of Islamic learning in Egypt currently being renovated with Saudi funds, only fuelled the row.

"When you hold a conference to discuss who are Sunnis, how do you intentionally ignore a cornerstone of Sunnism, the Salafi and Saudi scholars?" said Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. It prompted a sarcastic outburst from prominent Saudi cleric Aed

Al-Qarni on Twitter. "Oh wonder. The country of the two Holy Sanctuaries (in Makkah and Madinah), to which Gabriel descended to the Prophet and his companions, is not Sunni according to the Chechnya conference!" he wrote.

The dispute dates back to the early Muslim centuries between supporters of Ashaarism and Hanbalism - the school of jurisprudence that gave rise to modern day Salafism. In 11th Century Baghdad, the Hanbalis and Ashaaris clashed outside a mosque, throwing stones at each other. A passerby was killed. When the vizier, the Caliph's first minister, summoned them to a reconciliation meeting, the chief of the Hanbali faction cut it short. "These people say I'm an infidel. And we say those who don't share our belief are infidels," he said, according to a history of Hanbalis by medieval scholar Ibn Rajab.

### 'Political Issue'

While the argument is ancient, "in the last decade, this is the most prominent example of the most pre-eminent Sunni religious office, Al-Azhar, declaring what Sunnism is theologically," said H A Hellyer, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, refer-

ring to the Grand Imam. Salafis - also identified as Ahl al-Hadith - subscribe to a literal interpretation of Quranic verses and prophetic sayings that describe God as having a hand or a foot. Ashaaris tend to interpret them metaphorically. The Salafis accuse the Ashaaris of denying God's attributes and the Ashaaris in turn accuse the Salafis of likening God to his creation by insisting he has a hand.

The statement did mention Hanbalis, but merely as a school of Islamic law rather than the theology that has historically been associated with it. As the controversy grew, Kuwaiti Salafi preacher Naif Al-Ajami uploaded a video on YouTube denouncing the conference. "The people who most deserve the title of Sunni are the Ahl Al-Hadith, known today as the Salafis," he said. Another prominent Saudi cleric, Salman Al-Oudah, took to Snapchat to criticize the conference.

After the backlash, the conference statement was amended to include mention of "Ahl al-Hadith" as Sunnis. Habib Ali Jifri, a popular Yemeni cleric who helped organize the conference, denied that it meant to exclude Salafis. "When the conference organisers saw the lies that it excluded Ahl al-Hadith from being Sunnis, it included them along

with the Ashaaris and Maturidis," he told AFP in an email. But debate over the conference also assumed a political tone. "It's a political issue: it's a political conference to marginalize Islamist forces," Khashoggi told AFP. The choice of venue exacerbated the controversy, said Hellyer. Kadyrov is often criticized for human rights abuses. He is also viewed as a proxy of Russia, which is propping Syrian leader Bashar Al-Assad's regime against Saudi-backed rebels. "The conference's conclusions were essentially theological - however the location of the conference resulted in political reactions, owing to Kadyrov's political alignments," Hellyer told AFP.

Both Salafi and Ashaari scholars may support their rulers, or oppose them. But in the Middle East, the preeminent Ashaari and Maturidi clerics of the past century have been seen as close to their governments. Salafis - such as Saudi Arabia's clergy - can also be supportive of governments, but jihadists such as those of Al-Qaeda share their theology. Jifri said he had no qualms about Kadyrov's sponsorship of the conference. "Chechnya and Caucasus republics have been through a tragedy, partly caused by the takfiri extremists who kill people in the name of Sunnis," he added. —AFP

## HATRED DROVE GUNMAN TO SHOOT PHILADELPHIA POLICE

### OHIO YOUTH'S BB GUN 'ALMOST IDENTICAL' TO REAL WEAPON

**PHILADELPHIA/COLUMBUS:** A "rambling" note expressing hatred for police was found after a man opened fire on a Philadelphia police officer then went on a shooting spree, injuring a second officer, killing a woman and wounding three other people before he was shot and killed by police in an alley, authorities said yesterday. Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross said police found what he called a "rambling" note at the scene of the Friday overnight rampage that police believe was written by the gunman and that expressed hatred toward law enforcement and named a probation officer.

Ross said police believe only the one gunman was involved in the violent events, which he described as "completely bizarre". The wild chase and shootout through the streets of Philadelphia began about 11:20 pm Friday when Sgt Sylvia Young was ambushed while sitting in her patrol car; she was shot a number of times in the arm and protective vest, Ross said. The gunman fled then shot into a nearby bar, hitting a security guard in the leg; he grabbed a woman and used her as a shield before shooting her in the leg, Ross said. Moments later, as police gave chase, the suspect shot into a car, killing a woman and critically wounding a man.

Ross said two police officers and University of

Pennsylvania police officer Ed Miller chased the man into an alley, where he was shot and killed. Miller was wounded. Both Miller and Young, a 19-year police veteran, were in stable condition yesterday at Penn Presbyterian Hospital. Young was struck up to eight times. Bullets hit her protective vest and her left arm. Aside from the officers, the identities of the suspect and others shot in the spree were not immediately released.

Mayor Jim Kenney praised officers and pleaded with them to follow Young's example and wear their protective vests. "Thank you for what you do for us every day, and please, please, please, every shift, please wear your vest," he said. "They will save your life, as we saw tonight."

Separately, the mayor of Columbus, Ohio, said on Friday that the air pistol brandished at police by a black, 13-year-old boy as he was shot dead by a white officer this week was nearly indistinguishable from weapons carried by members of the city's police force. Mayor Andrew Ginther appeared with Police Chief Kim Jacobs for a tense community meeting of more than 200 people, most of them African-American, who were invited to ask questions of city officials at the church gathering for just over an hour. But Ginther and Jacobs, who are both white, along with the city's public safety director,

Ned Pettus, who is black, had few new details to offer about circumstances leading to the fatal shooting on Wednesday of Tyre King. The officials appealed for patience on the part of the public while investigations of the incident continue. "Everyone here is emotional. We're all hurting," Pastor Jason Ridley of the Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church, who hosted the gathering, said of the crowd's mood, which grew angry as officials concluded the session after about 30 questions, leaving many others wanting to speak. "So we don't get a voice?" one woman shouted, drawing applause and jeers before she was removed by security officers.

According to a police account of the shooting, officer Bryan Mason, a nine-year veteran of the force, shot King multiple times after the youth drew what appeared to be a handgun from his waistband during an encounter with police in an alley. It was later determined to be an air pistol that fires BBs - small, metal, ball-bearing-like pellets, not bullets. But according to Ginther, the BB gun looks "almost identical" to the 9-millimeter Glock semi-automatic handguns carried by Columbus police officers.

The mayor said police in the Ohio state capital, who have no video footage of the fatal shooting, are expected to begin equipping their officers with body cameras early next year, a step other big-city departments have implemented to provide "additional oversight and accountability". Police who confronted the boy were responding to reports of an armed robbery by a man who told officers that a group of males had demanded money and threatened him with a gun. King was one of three young suspects police had sought to apprehend, according to authorities.

King's family members have said in a statement released by their lawyers that the version of events related by Mason, a nine-year veteran of the police who has been placed on leave, conflicted with accounts of witnesses. King's death comes nearly two years after the fatal shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was black, by a white Cleveland police officer responding to reports of a suspect with a gun in a city park. An investigation revealed Rice had a replica gun that shoots plastic pellets.

Rice's death became a rallying point for the Black Lives Matter movement and was one of a number of deaths that led to nationwide demonstrations against the use of excessive force against minorities, especially young black men, by police. Columbus has remained calm since King's death. Family and friends held a prayer vigil on Thursday near where the boy was shot. — Agencies



**COLUMBUS, Ohio:** Members of Tyre King's family console each other during a vigil for 13-year-old Tyre King on Thursday. King was shot and killed by Columbus police Wednesday evening. — AP

## ISRAELIS KILL ANOTHER PALESTINIAN

**HEBRON:** Palestinian stabbed an Israeli soldier yesterday in the flashpoint West Bank city of Hebron before being shot dead, the army said, in the fourth such attack in under 24 hours. A military statement said the attacker drew a knife during a routine security check in Hebron's Tel Rumeida neighborhood, wounding the soldier. "In response to the immediate threat, forces at the scene shot the assailant, resulting in his death," the statement said.

The Palestinian health ministry named the man killed as Hatem Al-Shaloudi, 25. He was a resident of Tel Rumeida, as was 16-year-old Mohammed Rajabi, who was shot dead during an attack on Friday. Rajabi was one of three alleged assailants killed while carrying out attacks on Israelis, two in and around occupied Hebron and one in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem. Another man was killed on Thursday, also in Hebron, after allegedly trying to evade arrest by the Israeli military.

One of Friday's dead, 28-year-old Saeed Amro, was a Jordanian national visiting Jerusalem, and Amman yesterday denounced his killing as a "barbaric act" by Israel. "Amro was part of a group of tourists who had entered the Palestinian territories on Thursday to visit Jerusalem," foreign ministry spokeswoman Sabah Refai said in Amman. Many Palestinians hold Jordanian passports, and Israeli police said on Friday they were checking if Amro also had Palestinian papers. But a Jordanian official source told AFP that he was not Palestinian.

Senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi condemned Israel's actions. "Israel is flagrantly engaging a systematic and willful policy of summary executions against the Palestinian people; such provocative acts are in direct violation of international law and conventions," she wrote in a statement yesterday. "We call on the

international community to engage rapidly and effectively and to hold Israel accountable with punitive measures before it is too late."

### Persistent Tensions

An Israeli military spokeswoman told AFP that the latest attack was "another expression of the incitement (against Israel) on the Palestinian street and on social networks". Since October, 227 Palestinians, 34 Israelis, two Americans, one Jordanian, one Eritrean and a Sudanese have been killed in ongoing violence, according to an AFP count. Israeli forces say most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks. Others were shot dead during protests and clashes. Israel has occupied the West Bank since capturing it in the 1967 Six-

Day War. In the Gaza Strip on Friday, a Palestinian medical official said Israeli troops at the border fence east of Gaza City shot and slightly wounded three Palestinian youths. An army spokeswoman said they had been rioting. The uptick in violence was a reminder of persistent tensions alarming the international community and came as UN chief Ban Ki-moon warned the two-state solution was "further than ever" from becoming reality. Previously there had not been an attack in three weeks. International powers have criticized Israel's continued settlement expansion in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, with more than 500,000 Israelis now living in outposts that the international community considers illegal, as well as incitement to violence by Palestinian leaders. — AFP



**HEBRON:** Israeli security forces gather at the scene of a stabbing attack in this flashpoint West Bank city yesterday. — AFP



**MONTEVIDEO:** Human rights activists light candles outside the Foreign Ministry on Friday in support of 45-year-old Jihad Diyab, a former Guantanamo inmate from Syria who was resettled in Uruguay and is holding a hunger strike to press his demand to be reunited with his family in Turkey. — AFP

## EX-GITMO INMATE FREE TO CONTINUE HUNGER STRIKE

**MONTEVIDEO:** A former Guantanamo inmate whose health is failing is free to continue his long hunger strike, ruled a Uruguayan judge Friday. Jihad Diyab, a 45-year-old Syrian released from Guantanamo in 2014 and resettled in Uruguay, launched a hunger strike more than three weeks ago, demanding to be transferred to an Arab country and reunited with his family. He went into a coma Wednesday, then regained consciousness a day later and promptly pulled out his IV tube, his doctor said. Shortly after, he fainted and three state medical examiners were dispatched to assess his health.

They then submitted to a judge a report saying there was not an imminent risk to Diyab's life. The judge shelved the case and Diyab will not be hospitalized. Diyab is a veteran hunger striker, having staged prolonged hunger strikes during his 12 years at Guantanamo to protest his detention. He made international headlines when he launched an ultimately unsuccessful court case in the United States in an attempt to stop prison officials from force-feeding him.

He began his latest hunger strike in a

Venezuelan prison, where he was detained after leaving Uruguay undetected and showing up at the Uruguayan consulate in Caracas, demanding to be taken to his family in Turkey. Venezuela deported him back to Uruguay. The Uruguayan government, which says it is trying to fulfill Diyab's demands, has managed to "open some doors" in its search for another country to take him in, according to the government official in charge of his case, Christian Mirza, who refused to go into detail.

He said Diyab, who has been hospitalized twice in a week but is now recovering at his residence, was lucid. "I was with him and he was perfectly conscious and lucid. He had no difficulty exchanging information," he said. Diyab was one of six former Guantanamo inmates resettled in Uruguay as refugees in 2014, part of a deal with the United States aimed at helping close the controversial prison set up in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. Accused of terrorist links, the men - four Syrians, a Palestinian and a Tunisian - were never charged or tried. They had been cleared for release but could not be sent to their home countries because of unrest there. — AFP

## EGYPT FREEZES ASSETS OF RIGHTS DEFENDERS, NGOS

**CAIRO:** An Egyptian court froze assets of five prominent human rights defenders and three non-governmental organizations yesterday, provoking fears of an intensified crackdown on civil society. They had been under renewed investigation for allegedly receiving foreign funds in a case that stretches back to 2011 and had caused a diplomatic crisis between Washington and Cairo. Rights groups quickly denounced the decision, with Amnesty International calling it "a shameless ploy to silence human rights activism".

The rights activists are Hossam Bahgat, who founded the leading Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights NGO, Gamal Eid, Bahey el-Din Hassan, Mostafa Al-Hassan and Abdel Hafez Al-Tayel. The NGOs are Bahey el-Din Hassan's Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Mostafa Al-Hassan's Hisham Mubarak Law Centre and the Egyptian Centre for the Right to Education.

The court's decision is a "reprehensible blow to Egypt's human rights movement", the London-based Amnesty said in a statement. "These individuals may subsequently face prosecution and prison terms of up to life, equivalent to 25 years in Egypt."

New York-based Human Rights Watch also criticized the decision. "Egyptian authorities are single-mindedly pushing for the elimination of the country's most prominent independent human rights defenders," it quoted its Middle East director Sarah Leah Whitson as saying in a statement.

In 2011, Egypt provoked international condemnation when it raided Egyptian and Western NGOs in Cairo on suspicion of illegal financing, including the US National Democratic Institute and the

International Republican Institute. Police also sought to arrest NGO staff members at the time, forcing 13 foreigners including six Americans to take refuge at the US embassy in Cairo until the Egyptian authorities relented and allowed them to leave Egypt.

Yesterday's decision came ahead of a visit by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, a former army chief whose government is accused by rights groups of violations, to New York for United Nations General Assembly on Sept 20.

The initial probe into foreign funding had been launched amid a crackdown against civil society groups following the 18-day uprising that ousted president Hosni Mubarak in early 2011 and left the military in charge.

Officials and security services aired suspicions that the civil society groups were plotting against the country, at a time of heightened suspicion in Egypt against Western countries.

Forty-three Egyptian and foreign NGO staff were subsequently placed on trial and handed jail terms up to five years in 2013 for working illegally. Most of the foreigners were tried in absentia. A month later, the military led by Sisi overthrew the unpopular Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, unleashing a crackdown on the Islamist opposition as well as rights activists.

Successive governments since 2011 have said that financing for civil society groups should be streamlined and more transparent, but have been accused of trying to control civil society funding. Some rights NGOs have complained that they work in a legal grey zone, sometimes not receiving the relevant permits to operate which may lead to their closure at the authorities' whim. — AFP



## FARC VICTIMS' KIDS SAY 'YES' TO PEACE

**BOGOTA:** Sebastian Echeverry was four years old when the FARC rebels kidnapped his father in western Colombia. Five years later, they killed him. Today, the 19-year-old student says he has forgiven the people who took his dad. And, together with other children of victims, he is campaigning to vote "yes" in a referendum on a peace deal that would end more than half a century of conflict with the Marxist guerrillas.

Echeverry's father was a lawmaker in the Cauca Valley, on Colombia's Pacific coast. After the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) abducted him in 2002, Echeverry spent five anguishing years hoping he would return home safely. "I had a very different kind of childhood. It was strange. I don't remember many colors, games or friends," said Echeverry. "What I remember are never-ending protest marches. I remember people recording my words saying things to my dad, because that's how we communicated with each other, with messages to prove we were still alive."

Then one day came the news: His father had been killed along with 10 other lawmakers from the region. Echeverry used to vow he would get revenge. But over the years, he says, he has learned to turn his pain to forgiveness. Now he is calling on Colombians to vote in favor of peace in an Oct 2 referendum that will decide the fate of the accord reached after nearly four years of negotiations between the government and the FARC. "My 'yes' vote is basically because I discovered that when you forgive you stop looking toward the past. You turn the page. You realize that you're a better person and you're capable of building something," he told AFP. The FARC themselves recently described the killing of the 11 lawmakers in 2007 as "shameful" and "absurd".

### 'No More Victims'

Sebastian and other relatives of FARC victims took part this week in the launch of "Yes, of course," a campaign in support of the peace deal, which aims to end a war that has claimed more than 260,000 lives and left 45,000 people missing. Waving white flags stamped with the word "Yes," many spoke of forgiveness. Harry Gonzalez, whose father was killed by the FARC in 1996, acknowledged that is not always easy. "Forgiveness is something very personal and intimate for each victim. That's why we have to find other motivations," said Gonzalez, who today co-chairs the peace committee in the lower house of Congress. "In my case, I found a great motivation, which is trying to make sure there are no more victims of the conflict in Colombia."

Gonzalez, 38, is the son of Jesus Angel Gonzalez, who was governor of Cauca department. The FARC assassinated him during a campaign against Liberal party politicians across the region in the 1990s. Eduardo Bejarano, 44, also lost his father to the conflict. The leftist academic was shot in the head in 1999. Ironically, he had been a peace adviser to former president Cesar Gaviria (1990-1994). The FARC have been accused of the crime, but it has never officially been solved. Bejarano, like Echeverry and Gonzalez, is today campaigning for "Yes, of course," for complex reasons. "Forgiveness isn't something you do for the FARC. I don't practice forgiveness so they can be guilt-free. I forgive because I need to, for my spiritual growth," he said. "The time will come when the FARC will tell the country the truth about a lot of deaths." The peace accord would create special courts to judge crimes committed during the conflict and order reparations to victims. Those who confess their crimes will receive lighter sentences. —AFP



LLANOS DEL YARI, Colombia: Members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) secretariat attend the opening ceremony of the Sept 17-23 10th National Guerrilla Conference yesterday. — AFP

# FARC OPENS WHAT COLOMBIA HOPES IS LAST WARTIME MEET

## GROUP WILL FIGHT ON AS POLITICAL PARTY

**YARI PLAINS, Colombia:** Colombia's Marxist FARC rebels will continue their fight for social justice under a peace deal with the government, its top commander said yesterday at the opening of the group's final congress as an armed group. Representatives from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) are expected to ratify the recently agreed accord at its tenth congress this week, the first ever open to the media.

Standing before hundreds of fighters in southern Colombia, rebel commander Rodrigo Londono, who uses the nom de guerre Timochenko, said the FARC wants to spread its message as an unarmed political party and transform the Andean nation after five decades of war. "Our greatest aspiration is to reach many more with our message until the torrent for transformation is overwhelming," Timochenko told a crowd of fighters gathered on the rural Yari Plains, about five hours from the nearest town.

"In this war, there are neither victors nor vanquished," he said, wearing a T-shirt bearing the image of FARC founder Manuel Marulanda. "The greatest satisfaction will always be to have won peace." The congress, which in the past was secret and used to decide battle strategy, may offer insight into the FARC's political agenda. The schedule for the event mirrors the peace talks agenda, including land reform and environmental issues.

After almost four years of talks, the FARC and government last month reached a final peace accord that will

signed by Timochenko and President Juan Manuel Santos on Sept 26. Colombians will have the last word during a plebiscite on Oct 2. "We're going to vote for peace," said Jhon Guerrero, a 24-year-old delegate from a rebel unit in Choco, along the Pacific coast.

"What's been agreed in the deal is a solution to Colombia's problems." "We are all ready to contribute," he said, as he stood unarmed but in full uniform among other fighters. While the FARC may find an electoral foothold among poverty-stricken farmers and committed leftists, many Colombians are wary ex-fighters will join crime gangs or smaller rebel group the National Liberation Army. Santos, who has staked his legacy on peace, has launched a campaign to convince Colombians to back the accords but he faces fierce opposition from powerful sectors of the country who believe the only solution is to finish the FARC militarily. Many are angered that the FARC leadership will not serve jail time, and are worried they will seek to convert the traditionally conservative nation with its Marxist ideals.

### Conference

The week-long conference marks the first time they will discuss peace instead of war during such an event. If all goes according to the FARC leadership's plan, it will end with the group's relaunch as a political party. The FARC, which today has an estimated 7,500 fighters, concluded the peace deal with the government on Aug 24,

followed by a bilateral ceasefire. The Colombian conflict, which has drawn in other leftist guerrillas, rightwing paramilitaries and criminal gangs, has killed more than 260,000 people, left 45,000 missing and forced nearly seven million to flee their homes.

The 297-page document comprises six separate deals: Justice and reparations for victims of the conflict; land reform; the FARC's relaunch as a political party; disarmament; fighting the drug trafficking that has fueled the fighting; and implementation and monitoring of the accord. Jimenez flew in for the conference this week from Cuba, where the peace talks were held.

Arriving at the conference site in the vast Yari plains, several hours from the town of San Vicente del Caguan, he underscored the event's importance. "Everything we are now doing will help us achieve our goals," he said, stepping off a helicopter provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross, according to the guerrilla media outlet Noticias Nueva Colombia. Some 200 FARC delegates, including 29 members of the general staff and delegates elected by the rank and file, will vote on the peace deal. The conference is set to mark another first: FARC leaders will be meeting not in secret, but with the authorities' full support in the presence of around 900 people, including 50 guests and some 350 journalists from around the world. The conference is set to take place in a brick building the guerrillas hastily constructed amid tall grass. — Agencies

## VENEZUELA NAM SUMMIT DRAWS FEW LEADERS IN BLOW TO MADURO

**MARGARITA ISLAND, Venezuela:** Only a handful of leaders have traveled to a meeting of a large Cold War-era bloc in Venezuela this week, in an embarrassment for the crisis-hit socialist government. Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro has touted the 17th meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement as one that would "be remembered for centuries," as the unpopular leftist seeks to bolster his international legitimacy.

Yet turnout has paled compared to past meetings, including the previous summit in Iran in 2012, attended by some 35 heads of state. The half-century old movement formed by nations wanting to avoid aligning with the United States or Soviet Union has dwindled in relevance over the years. But it appears that heads of states' attendance at the summit in recession-stricken Venezuela is particularly low, perhaps even in single figures, although the government did not respond to a request for a list of attendees.

Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, Iran's Hassan Rouhani and Palestine's Mahmoud Abbas, as well as regional allies from Cuba, Ecuador and Bolivia are among the few heads of states who have landed on the Caribbean island. Venezuela's opposition, vying to remove Maduro in a recall referendum, has jumped on low attendance as a sign of his isolation. "Millions of dollars of Venezuelans' money spent

for the government's ego," said opposition leader Henrique Capriles. "Many of the countries didn't come to the show!"

In one glaring absence, co-founder and key member India did not send Prime Minister Narendra Modi, only the second time the country's head of state has missed a summit since its 1961 founding. Venezuela is undergoing a major economic crisis that has sparked worsening food shortages and triple-digit inflation. Margarita was once known as the 'Pearl of the Caribbean,' a tourist hub that drew visitors from around the world, but hotel occupancy is under half what it was last year and some islanders recently humiliated Maduro by chasing him in a poor neighborhood, banging pots and pans.

The delegates who did come complained privately of a lack of organization, delays and shabby hotels, despite Venezuela's efforts to make Margarita shine by repainting roads, stocking supermarket shelves and boosting security on the crime-ridden island. Venezuela was to take over the group's presidency yesterday, with Maduro due to speak before formal adoption of the summit's final document. A draft seen by Reuters showed it would express solidarity with Maduro. "In the face of these critics who say Venezuela is isolated, has no cachet, well, here are international leaders," said Venezuela's Foreign

Minister Delcy Rodriguez.

### Crude Cut

Venezuela, an OPEC member and home to the world's largest proven oil reserves, will notably be seeking backing for its campaign to slash abundant global crude production in a bid to raise prices. "We hope to reach important agreements with other countries that we want to have a fair price for our hydrocarbons," said Venezuelan Oil Minister Eulogio del Pino on the eve of the summit. "We don't want prices to be in the hands of speculators, as has been happening for the past two years."

The oil crunch has triggered an economic crisis in Venezuela, causing food shortages, outbreaks of looting and riots. The crisis is the biggest threat yet to Maduro and the socialist "revolution" launched in 1999 by his late predecessor, Hugo Chavez. Del Pino highlighted the fact that representative countries in the Middle East and Latin America would attend.

Founded in 1961 to represent countries resentful of being squeezed in the power-struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union, the Non-Aligned Movement has struggled in recent years to remain relevant in a post-Cold War world. Venezuela's crisis has left it increasingly isolated, including in its own region. On Wednesday onetime allies Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay announced they had stripped Venezuela of the rotating presidency of Mercosur, a South American regional trade bloc. A furious Venezuela said it refused to recognize the decision.

Venezuela's former largesse with its oil wealth once ensured it staunch loyalty from regional countries that benefited. But as crude prices have plunged since mid-2014, Venezuela's economy has tanked, and its international influence along with it. Embattled and unpopular at home, Maduro has nowhere near the international clout once enjoyed by Chavez.

The opposition is pressuring for a referendum on removing him from power by the end of the year. Polls indicate Maduro would lose by a hefty margin. But his opponents say electoral authorities are dragging their feet to protect him.

They held fresh protests Friday after the authorities delayed announcing the timeline for the next step in the process for a second time. — Agencies



PORLAMAR, Venezuela: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (right) shakes hands with Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas during a meeting in the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement summit on Friday. — AFP

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## MERKEL DROPS 'WE CAN DO IT' RALLYING CRY ON MIGRANTS

**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday she will no longer use "we can do it" as her rallying cry to welcome and integrate migrants in the belief it has become a mere slogan. Merkel first used the much-repeated phrase at the end of August last year to lay out her welcoming stance on migrants, after saying Germany could cope with an influx of around one million refugees, many fleeing the war in Syria. But as the worst migrant crisis in Europe since World War II has continued Merkel has come under pressure and her approval ratings have plunged.

Last week she called on her ruling coalition to resist pressure to change its refugee policy after a stinging defeat in the northeastern state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania to the upstart anti-migrant AfD in regional elections. But in an interview published Saturday with the *Wirtschaftswoche* financial weekly Merkel said her "we can do it" exhortation no longer resonated.

"I sometimes think this phrase was a little overstated, that too much store was set by it-to the extent that I'd prefer not to repeat it," Merkel said, explaining she had sought to come up with a "motivating" formula. But over time, "it's become a simple slogan, an almost meaningless formula," she added.

"Some feel provoked (by the expression), which of course was not the idea," she said. It was meant to show that Germany had the strength of purpose to cope with migrant integration.

Merkel said she was well aware that "we Germans together have much to carry on our shoulders", but should not seek to highlight them using glib expressions such as an "overly repeated" phrase. She has regularly urged politicians not to deploy a populist approach but retain a sense of moderation in a bid to retain political support.

With the rise of the AfD, Merkel has described the far-right party as offering "no solutions to problems

and is built mainly around protest, often with hate". But her welcoming stance on migrants has caused tension in her coalition notably with Bavarian sister party the Christian Social Union. The AfD is hoping to garner around a 15 percent share of votes in today's Berlin regional elections and again issue a stark challenge to Merkel's Christian Democrats just as it did two weeks ago in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

Merkel, despite having dominated European politics for more than a decade, will in the coming months have to decide if she is to stand for a fourth term as chancellor in general elections due in autumn of next year.

### Car set ablaze

Unidentified attackers set fire to the car of Frauke Petry, the leader of Germany's anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, police said yesterday. "We are currently assuming it was arson," a

police spokeswoman in the eastern city of Leipzig said, adding that investigators were still collecting evidence at the scene. The attack happened late on Friday and there has been no claim of responsibility so far, the police spokeswoman added.

Petry wrote on Twitter: "An arson attack was committed on my car yesterday. Is this what we have come to..." Last year unknown attackers set fire to the car of AfD deputy leader Beatrix von Storch in Berlin. The right-wing AfD has gained support as voters become uneasy with Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door policy towards refugees. Around one million migrants arrived in Germany last year, many fleeing conflicts in the Middle East. The AfD won a shock 20.8 percent in an election in the eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern two weeks ago, knocking Merkel's conservatives into third place. Merkel's party looks set to suffer a second electoral blow on Sunday in a Berlin city election. — Agencies



**BRATISLAVA:** French President Francois Hollande (left) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel deliver a joint statement after the European Union Summit of 27 Heads of State or Government in Bratislava, Slovakia on Friday. — AFP

## FALSE ALARM LEADS TO MAJOR POLICE OPERATION IN PARIS

### LE PEN SAYS SHE IS 'CANDIDATE OF THE PEOPLE'

**PARIS:** Parts of central Paris were cordoned off yesterday after a false alarm triggered a major security operation, French police said. French government security alert app - SAIP - warned citizens that a police operation was under way in Saint-Leu church in the busy shopping district of Chatelet and advised people to stay away. Interior minister, Bernard Cazeneuve, issued a statement confirming the false alarm and said that "the circumstances around the intervention" had yet to be determined.

More than one hundred police officers, including elite units, carried out the operation and the area was reopened to traffic after it became evident that there was no danger, a Reuters witness said.

Security forces had responded to a call that claimed hostages had been taken in Saint-Leu church, interior ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet told BFM TV. "As the operation took place, the church's priest came out as well as a number of people and the BRI (emergency intervention and search service) made sure there was nobody, that there was no assailant," he said. France is on high alert for security threats after a series of attacks by Islamist militants that have killed more than 230 people since January 2015.

### Election race

Far-right National Front party leader Marine

Le Pen yesterday said she was eager for France's presidential election campaign to start, portraying herself as the "candidate of the people" and mocking her opponents' primaries as cockfights. Opinion polls consistently show the anti-immigration

anti-EU Le Pen making it to the second round of the 2017 election. Her ratings have been boosted by worries over Europe's refugee crisis and concerns over Islamist attacks. But the same polls also show Le Pen losing the second-round runoff to be held in early May-prompting her to make further efforts to polish her image and that of her camp, including with a campaign poster sporting the slogan "France Brought to Peace", and not bearing the party's name or logo.

"I'm very relaxed, impatient to start this presidential campaign," Le Pen told reporters. "I am eager for the match to start, to debate issues that are essential to the survival of our country as it is now."

She was speaking at her party's annual rally, this year in the Mediterranean town of Frejus, where the mayor, David Rachline, is a rising party star and Le Pen's campaign manager. Le Pen, who was alone amid France's major party leaders to back Britain's exit from the European Union and is also alone in supporting US Republican candidate Donald Trump, hopes to benefit from rising anti-establishment sentiment

amid voters on both sides of the Atlantic.

"I am, and will be, in this presidential election the candidate of the people, who have been forgotten, scorned, over the 20 past years," she said at the start of the rally in the southern France town of Frejus. Le Pen mocked the bitterly fought primaries of France's conservatives and centre-right, which will pit ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy against former Prime Minister Alain Juppe and other candidates in November, and that of the Left, scheduled for January. She said they were battles of egos and cockfights.

Rachline and her niece Marion Marechal-Le Pen both told Reuters that the party's campaign would only fully start once those two primaries are over. "As long as we don't know who our opponents are, it is very complicated to launch a campaign," Marechal-Le Pen said, while insisting the National Front, or FN, believed it could win the presidential election, despite the opinion polls.

"I don't say it will be easy," she said. "But a lot of the pieces of the puzzles are falling into place."

She said pointed to security concerns among voters after various deadly attacks in France, and at Britain's Brexit vote. Rachline said Le Pen would focus on asking voters "whether France must or no regain its independence" and "whether it will, or not, let radical Islam grow." — Reuters

## 20,000 REFUGEE SUPPORTERS MARCH THROUGH LONDON

**LONDON:** Around 20,000 pro-refugee demonstrators took to the streets on London yesterday, according to police, to call on Prime Minister Theresa May to do

more to tackle the migrant crisis.

Protesters marched down the affluent Park Lane and the central thoroughfare Piccadilly carrying an

array of colourful placards and shouting slogans including "say it loud, say it clear: refugees are welcome here!" At one point, a group at the front of the protest performed a song and dance routine to Carly Rae Jepsen's "I Really Like You", cheered on by fellow protesters.

Some carried signs reading "no-one is illegal", "stop the drowning", while others chanted "refugees - let them stay...Let's deport Theresa May!"

"I've come here today because my kids go to sleep in a safe house every night with full stomachs and I think every child should have that," mother-of-two Claire-Marie Goggin, 47, told AFP. Volunteer worker Felicity Rose, 33, said the message was "to look after our brothers and sisters from round the world and let them come and to stop penalising them because of where they come from and the colour of their skin." The event was organised by Solidarity with Refugees, and was supported by groups including Amnesty International, Oxfam, Medecins Sans Frontieres, the Refugee Council and Stop the War Coalition.

It comes ahead of tomorrow's UN Summit for refugees and migrants in New York, to be hosted by US President Barack Obama and attended by prime minister May. Britain's then prime minister David Cameron announced last year the country would accept up to 20,000 refugees from Syria over the next five years. — AFP



**LONDON:** Demonstrators listen to speeches after taking part in a march calling for the British parliament to welcome refugees in the UK in central London yesterday. — AFP

## CENTRAL EUROPE MAY VETO BREXIT DEAL IF IT LIMITS RIGHTS TO WORK IN UK

**BRATISLAVA:** Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia are ready to veto any Brexit deal that would limit their citizens' rights to work in Britain, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said yesterday.

EU leaders met in Slovakia's capital Bratislava on Friday at their first summit for decades without Britain after a shock British vote in June to leave the bloc, a subject which Fico said had only been touched on at the meeting. They are still trying to find common ground on the best way to cope with a higher number of migrants and how to shake off the lingering effects of years of economic crisis.

Fico said in an interview the EU had also shifted from a debate over mandatory quotas to a new principle of "flexible solidarity" over the migrant crisis.

The Visegrad group (V4) of Central European countries have together opposed EU efforts to introduce mandatory quotas for migrants and now, Fico said, also have a common interest in protecting citizens' rights to work in Britain. "V4 countries will be uncompromising. Unless we feel a guarantee that these people (living and working in Britain) are equal, we will veto any agreement between the EU and Britain," he said. "I think Britain knows this is an issue for us where there's no room for compromise."

EU officials on Friday also underlined that there could be no granting Britain access to the EU's single market unless

London accepts the freedom of movement of workers that lies at the heart of European Union accords. Fico reiterated that he was opposed to any "cherry-picking" in negotiations, saying EU freedoms must remain.

Britain has said it would not initiate the formal proceedings this year but it could do so next year, starting a two-

year countdown to its exit.

The Brexit vote has triggered what European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has described as an "existential crisis" for the EU and Friday's informal meeting of the bloc's 27 members was meant to display unity but instead showed divisions remain over migrant policy.

The EU's eastern members have been at odds with older members, mainly Germany, over taking in a share of more than one million migrants who last year fled war and poverty in Middle Eastern and African countries to come to Europe. On Friday, Hungary criticised Germany for refusing to agree to a ceiling on the number of migrants entering Europe, saying it would continue to draw masses to Europe.

Fico said he wanted more steps on migration issues in the bloc's new road map but that he was happy that border security was getting more attention and that a debate began on "flexible solidarity" allowing countries to offer what they can to tackle the migrant crisis.

"I could have banged on the table yesterday ... but that would get us nowhere. What the EU is about today, is lets talk about things that unite us. There is no time for things that divide us," he said. Slovakia has been one of the harshest critics of quotas and has sued the bloc over a plan agreed last year to redistribute migrants, but was outvoted. Hungary has also taken legal action.

Fico said V4 would keep putting forward its common positions, which he said were sometimes more pragmatic given its history of transformation after the collapse of the Soviet bloc.

"But the V4 would never go against the EU. We will have our original positions, but we will not push it at the price of damaging the EU," Fico said. — Reuters



**ABUJA:** Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari salutes his supporters during his inauguration in Abuja, Nigeria. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has apologized for plagiarizing President Barack Obama's 2008 victory speech and says he will punish those responsible. — AP

## NIGERIA'S PRESIDENT APOLOGIZES FOR PLAGIARIZING OBAMA SPEECH

**LAGOS:** Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari apologized yesterday for plagiarizing President Barack Obama's 2008 victory speech and said he will punish those responsible.

The announcement came as Obama is set to meet Buhari, the leader of Africa's largest economy and most populous country, next week in New York. Adeola Akinremi in her Friday column for *ThisDay* newspaper denounced "the moral problem of plagiarism on a day Mr President launched a campaign to demand honesty and integrity."

Several lines were almost identical to Obama's in a speech Buhari made Sept. 8 launching his campaign "Change Begins With Me." The campaign promotes a new way of thinking to rid Nigeria of widespread corruption. Buhari said, "We must resist the temptation to fall back on the same partisanship, pettiness and immaturity that have poisoned our country for so long. Let us summon a new spirit of

responsibility, spirit of service, of patriotism and sacrifice. Let us all resolve to pitch in and work hard and look after, not only ourselves, but one another."

Obama said, "So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism; of service and responsibility where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves, but each other. ... Let us resist the temptation to fall back on the same partisanship and pettiness and immaturity that has poisoned our politics for so long."

Obama will meet with Buhari on Tuesday during the UN General Assembly session, the White House said Friday. They are expected to discuss US support for security and economic changes in Nigeria and efforts to curb the Boko Haram Islamic uprising.

Obama also plans to promote US-Africa trade on Wednesday, attending a summit with some 200 US and African CEOs and African heads of state. — AP

## PAKISTAN COURT ORDERS CONFISCATION OF MUSHARRAF'S PROPERTY

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani court trying former military ruler Pervez Musharraf over a deadly raid on Islamabad's radical Red Mosque passed an order yesterday confiscating his property, a lawyer said.

Former president Musharraf, who left Pakistan for Dubai in March for what was described as urgent medical treatment, is facing a string of court cases connected to his 1999 to 2008 rule.

Lower court judge Pervaiz Qadir Memon passed the order yesterday in a case over the death of radical cleric Abdul Rashid Ghazi, one of more than 100 people killed when Pakistani troops stormed the Red Mosque in 2007. "The court... today passed an order that his property be confiscated," a lawyer for the Red Mosque, Tariq Asad, said.

"Our next move will be to put pressure on the interior ministry to bring Musharraf back home so he can face all cases against him," he added. A special court in July which is trying Musharraf for treason,

issued a similar order in July but little has resulted from that verdict.

"Today's court order will help mount pressure on the government," to take action, Asad said.

Musharraf ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup in 1999. He resigned in 2008 to avoid possible impeachment and went into exile overseas. He returned in 2013 in an attempt to contest elections but was barred from taking part in the polls and from leaving the country while facing a barrage of legal cases.

The travel ban was lifted in March. In January this year Musharraf was acquitted over the 2006 killing of a Baloch rebel leader, Nawab Akbar Bugti. But four cases against him remain—one accusing him of treason for imposing emergency rule, as well as those alleging the unlawful dismissal of judges, the assassination of opposition leader Bhutto and the deadly raid on the Red Mosque. — AFP



JHELUM: Pakistani police officers escort, father Muhammad Shahid (fourth from right), and ex-husband Muhammad Shakeel, (second from right), of slain British-Pakistani woman Samia Shahid to present them in a court in Jhelum, in eastern Pakistan, yesterday. — AP

## PAKISTAN COURT ADJOURNS CASE OF BRITISH WOMAN'S MURDER

### DEATH TOLL IN SUICIDE BOMBING RISES TO 30

JHELUM, Pakistan: A Pakistani court yesterday adjourned the case of a British-Pakistani woman's murder until Sept. 23 to give police more time to finalize charges against her father and ex-husband, who are accused of slaying her in the name of honor, police and lawyers said.

Police brought both men before the court in Jhelum as they covered their faces. They avoided most questions from journalists. However, when pressed, the woman's father, Mohammad Shahid, told reporters that the accusations are "all lies." "The police arrested me, police charged me, you go to police station and check my report, check my statement," Shahid said.

The death of 28-year-old Samia Shahid has shocked the nation as the latest alleged case of so-called "honor killings" in Pakistan. The Bradford native's death while visiting Pakistan in July was originally declared to be from natural causes.

But Shahid's second husband, Mukhtar Kazim, publicly accused her family of killing her. The case was reopened and a police probe quickly concluded that Shahid's death was a "premeditated, cold-blooded murder," according to a police statement. Police allege that Mohammed Shahid stood guard while his daughter's ex-husband, Mohammed Shakeel,

raped her. The men then both strangled her, according to police.

Defense lawyer Mohammed Arif dismissed the police allegations as a baseless, saying his clients have been wrongly accused. He said he will appeal another court's recent rejection of bail for Mohammed Shahid. Samia Shahid married her first husband in February 2012 but stayed only briefly in Pakistan before returning to England where she obtained a divorce two years later. She later married Kazim and moved with him to Dubai.

Najful Hussain Shah, the lawyer for Kazim, told reporters that he will seek the death penalty. He said Shahid's mother and sister tricked her into visiting Pakistan in July by saying her father was gravely ill and that the women fled to Britain after her murder. He said the Pakistani government is trying to bring them back for questioning.

#### Death toll jumps

Meanwhile, the death toll from a Taliban suicide bomb attack on a mosque in northwest tribal Pakistan rose to 30 yesterday, officials said. The Friday attack targeted a mosque in the Mohmand tribal district bordering Afghanistan where the army has been fighting

against Taliban militants. "Two more injured people died of their wounds early today raising the death toll to 30," deputy chief of the Mohmand tribal district administration Naveed Akbar told AFP.

The bomber came in as Friday prayers were in progress and blew himself up in the main hall. A curfew has been imposed in the area since the bombing. Taliban faction Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was carried out to avenge the deaths of 13 of its members and arrests of others by a local vigilante force in 2009.

Since 2007 the government has encouraged vigilante forces comprising tribesmen-locally known as peace committees—to defend their villages against the Taliban. Pakistan's deadliest ever attack occurred in Peshawar in December 2014, when Taliban militants stormed a school killing more than 150 people, mostly children.

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. Last year, the country recorded its lowest number of killings since 2007, when the Pakistani Taliban was formed. — Agencies



Pakistani mourners gather for the funeral prayers of victims of a suicide bombing in Bajaur Agency near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border yesterday a day after suicide bombing at a mosque in the Mohmand tribal district. — AFP



THRISSUR: Indian artists paint performers with body-paint depicting tigers as they prepare to take part in the 'Pulikali', or Tiger Dance, in Thrissur yesterday. The folk-art event is held every year in the town during the 'Onam' festival. — AFP

## INDIA NAVAL CHIEF BLAMES FRANCE FOR SUB DATA LEAK

NEW DELHI: A massive leak of secret technical data on Scorpene-class submarines did not originate in India but in France, Delhi's naval chief said yesterday, pointing to initial probe findings. Some 22,400 pages of classified documents detailing the combat capabilities of the subs made by

French defence contractor DCNS for the Indian navy were leaked to an Australian newspaper last month. DCNS has implied that the leak may have come from India but the initial findings of a high-level probe set up by Delhi indicate otherwise. The "preliminary probe in the case has found

that the leak did not take place in India but at DCNS office in France," India's naval chief Sunil Lanba said yesterday, according to the Press Trust of India. "In France, DCNS and the French government have launched an inquiry. Based on this inquiry, we will see what needs to be done," he added. The leaked documents included thousands of pages on the submarine sensors and thousands more on its communication and navigation systems as well as nearly 500 pages on the torpedo launch system alone.

The Australian newspaper said in its earlier report that the sensitive data was thought to have been removed from France in 2011 by a former French naval officer who at the time was a subcontractor for DCNS. It said the data was believed to have passed through firms in Southeast Asia before eventually being mailed to a company in Australia. Variants of the submarine are used by Malaysia and Chile, with Brazil due to deploy the vessels from 2018. Australia has also tapped DCNS, inking a deal in April worth Aus\$50 billion (\$38 billion, 34 billion euros) for the design and construction of its next generation of submarines. — AFP



MUMBAI: India's Scorpene Class Submarine 'Kalivari' takes part in its maiden sea trials off the coast of Mumbai. A massive leak of secret technical data on Scorpene-class submarines did not originate in India but in France, Delhi's naval chief said yesterday pointing to initial probe findings. — AFP

## HCA NHS Ventures

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The Young Person's Unit at Harley Street at UCH is the only private teenage cancer unit in Europe, treating any form of cancer in 13-19 year olds and further establishes the relationship with UCLH. The 6 bedded Unit treats all kinds of cancers and provides high quality care. All rooms are private and en-suite with views across central London. There are facilities in each room for a parent or guardian to stay with patients throughout their treatment and international entertainment packages, including internet access to keep in touch with friends and family abroad. Patients also have access to educational facilities and an entertainment lounge. 5\* catering is provided with specially adapted menus to suit international patient requirements.

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Harley Street at Queen's is a joint partnership with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust, based at Queen's Hospital Romford, offering advanced cancer, neurosurgical and general surgery treatment. It is the only centre of its kind in Essex and includes a dedicated High Dependency Unit, Chemotherapy Day Care Unit and advanced radiotherapy through a dedicated linear accelerator including

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## CHINA PUNISHES LOCAL OFFICIALS AFTER GRISLY VILLAGE KILLINGS

**BEIJING:** China has punished six local officials for failing to take care of a family whose grisly murder-suicide case prompted heated national discussion about the plight of the poor. The government of Gansu province in northwestern China said late Friday that three officials face possible dismissal and three others have been reprimanded over the case of Yang Gailan, a 28-year-old villager who axed her four young children to death and killed herself because she couldn't feed them. Yang's husband killed himself a week later.

The case drew intense attention in the national press and on social media after details emerged

about the family's dire circumstances. The family - including four children below 7 years old - barely managed to survive on subsistence farming for years and fell into extreme hardship after their rural community voted to cancel their low-income welfare payments, according to local reports.

No criminal proceedings will be filed against the punished officials, according to the Gansu government statement. Local government had pledged to severely punish officials if an investigation into the case uncovered any wrongdoing. Despite the grisly nature of the case and widespread criticism of the local government, China's central authorities have

allowed the public to discuss - with a relative degree of freedom by Chinese standards - whether poverty relief has been carried out adequately. State media outlets, including the Communist Party flagship newspaper People's Daily, have also covered Yang's case closely.

The case comes at a time when Chinese President Xi Jinping has made rural poverty relief a signature domestic policy issue and is frequently shown on state television touring rural areas to stress correct implementation of his new programs. He faces a massive task, with an estimated 200 million people still living in poverty. In a column on the web portal

Sina.com, writer Jun Hongqiao questioned whether local county officials had been carrying out poverty relief measures evenly and appropriately or simply hyping their progress in the media. "If the entire village's roads have been widened, farmers' houses have been fixed beautifully, the tap water's running clear, then why was Yang Gailan still living in dilapidated, dangerous conditions?" Jun wrote. By yesterday, however, authorities had begun to clamp down on social media discussion. Searches for Yang's name on the microblogging network Weibo showed a message saying that relevant posts had been removed according to government regulations. — AP



**MANILA:** Jesus Dureza (left), representative of the Philippine government, and Luis Jalandoni, representative of the communist movement National Democratic Front of the Philippines (right) shake hands as Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende (center) applauds after the signing of a joint declaration in which both parties undertake unilateral ceasefires without time constraints. — AP file photo

## ABU SAYYAF EXTREMISTS FREE NORWEGIAN HOSTAGE

SEKKINGSTAD TO MEET DUTERTE TODAY

**MANILA:** Abu Sayyaf extremists yesterday freed a Norwegian man kidnapped a year ago in the southern Philippines along with two Canadians who were later beheaded and a Filipino woman who has been released by the ransom-seeking militants, officials said.

Kjartan Sekkingstad was freed in Patikul town in Sulu province and was eventually secured by rebels from the larger Moro National Liberation Front, which has signed a peace deal with the government and helped negotiate his release, officials said.

Sekkingstad, held in jungle captivity since being kidnapped last September, was to stay overnight at the house of Moro National Liberation Front chairman Nur Misuari in Sulu and then meet with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte today, said Jesus Dureza, who advises Duterte on peace talks with insurgent groups. Dureza said that when he spoke on the phone with Sekkingstad, the Norwegian expressed his gratitude to Duterte.

A plan to fly Sekkingstad out of Sulu, a jungle-clad Muslim region about 950 kilometers (590 miles) south of Manila, was canceled Saturday because of bad weather, Dureza said.

It was not immediately clear whether Sekkingstad had been ransomed off. Duterte suggested in a news conference last month that 50 million pesos (\$1 million) had been paid to the militants, but that they continued to hold on to him. The military said yesterday that relentless assaults forced the extremists to release the hostage. "Under the intense pressure of focused military operations, the terrorist kidnap-for-ransom Abu Sayyaf group was constrained to release Sekkingstad as holding him under custody slows



**MANILA:** Moro National Liberation Front chairman Nur Misuari gestures during a press conference in suburban Taguig, south of Manila. Abu Sayyaf extremists yesterday freed a Norwegian man kidnapped a year ago in the southern Philippines. — AP

down their continues movement," military spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said. Military chief Gen. Ricardo Visaya warned the militants to release their other captives, including a Dutch birdwatcher and Indonesian and Malaysian tug-boat crewmen, "or suffer annihilation."

### Massive search

Sekkingstad was kidnapped Sept. 21, 2015, with Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall

and Hall's Filipino girlfriend, Marites Flor, from a marina on southern Samal Island, sparking a massive land and sea search by Philippine forces.

The Abu Sayyaf demanded a huge ransom for the release of the foreigners and released videos in which they threatened the captives in a lush jungle clearing where they displayed Islamic State group-style black flags. Ridsdel was beheaded in April and Hall was decapitated in June after ransom deadlines lapsed. When Flor was freed in June, she recounted in horror how the militants rejoiced while watching the beheadings.

"It's so painful because I saw them moments before they got beheaded," Flor told reporters in June in southern Davao city, where she was flown to meet then President-elect Duterte.

"They were watching it and they were happy," she said of the militants, adding that she did not witness the killings. Government forces launched a major offensive against the militants after the beheadings of the Canadians sparked condemnations from then-Philippine President Benigno Aquino III and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who called on other nations not to pay ransoms if their citizens are abducted to discourage the brutal militants from carrying out more kidnappings.

The Abu Sayyaf has been blacklisted as a terrorist organization by the U.S. and the Philippines for deadly bombings, kidnappings and beheadings. Without any known foreign funding, the extremists have relied on ransom kidnappings, extortion and other acts of banditry, and some commanders have pledged loyalty to the Islamic State group partly in the hope of obtaining funds. — AP

## DEATH TOLL RISES TO 15 AFTER TYPHOON LASHES CHINA, TAIWAN

**BEIJING:** A powerful typhoon has caused at least 15 deaths in China and Taiwan just days before a second storm is expected to batter the region. Chinese authorities say 13 people have died in the eastern provinces of Fujian and Zhejiang since Typhoon Meranti made landfall early Thursday, with another 14 people still missing. Taiwanese officials have reported two dead. A second typhoon, Malakas, is expected to hit Taiwan on Saturday before moving on to China.

Meranti this week lashed a vast swath of China's seaboard, including Shanghai, with heavy rain and winds of up to 280 kilometers per hour (175 miles per hour).

The typhoon made landfall in China's southeastern Fujian province, where media reports showed power lines toppled and streets submerged in water. Repair workers were working as of late Friday to restore electricity to millions of residents in the Fujian provincial capital of Xiamen, according to state media.

Meanwhile, officials in the Taiwanese capital Taipei have closed offices and schools yesterday in anticipation of rough weather from Malakas. The second storm, although less powerful than Meranti, is still expected to lash Taiwan's capital with gusts of up to 191 kilometers per hour (118 miles per hour) before veering north. — AP



**TAIPEI:** Fishing boats are moored inside a harbour in Suao, Yilan county yesterday as typhoon Malakas approaches eastern Taiwan. Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau issued a land alert for Typhoon Malakas, with the second typhoon to affect Taiwan this week expected to bring strong winds to eastern and northern parts of the island. — AFP

## DUTERTE SAYS MILITANTS 'HUNGRY' FOR CALIPHATE

**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday Abu Sayyaf Islamic militants were hungry to establish a caliphate, as he toughens his stance on the kidnap-for-ransom group accused of a deadly bombing in his home city this month. The fiery leader, who has threatened to eat the militants alive in a blood-thirsty vow of revenge for the attack in Davao that killed 15 people, said the group was no longer just after money from criminal activities.

Several units of the Abu Sayyaf in the strife-torn southern Philippines have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group but analysts have said they are more interested in funding than ideology.

"They are hungry for a fight to establish a caliphate in Southeast Asia. Caliphate is a kingdom for the Muslims," Duterte said in a speech to soldiers. "The problem is that they do not talk on the basis of what school you can give them," he said referring to previous local services the militants have asked for. "It's either the caliphate or nothing." The Abu Sayyaf is a radical offshoot of a Muslim separatist insurgency in the south of the mainly Catholic Philippines that has claimed more than 120,000 lives since the 1970s.

The Philippine defence department

has said there were no formal links between the group and the Islamic State which holds vast swathes of Iraq and Syria. "They are ISIS inspired and not actually ISIS supported. They are just ISIS wannabes," defense department spokesman Arsenio Andolong told AFP, using another name for the Islamic State.

Duterte, who has restarted peace talks with the country's two major Muslim rebel groups since taking office on June 30, initially pleaded for peace with Abu Sayyaf but has since hardened his position and branded them as terrorists. Last month, he launched an offensive against the militants, ordering the military to "destroy" them.

He sent thousands of troops to Abu Sayyaf strongholds in the southern islands of Jolo and Basilan in an assault that had killed 15 soldiers and 32 militants according to the military. The Abu Sayyaf is blamed for the nation's worst terror attacks and has beheaded foreigners, including two Canadians in April and June after ransom deadlines lapsed.

The militants have also conducted high seas kidnappings in waters bordering the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, prompting the three nations to launch joint patrols. — AFP



**JAKARTA:** Children play on a small cart in a slum area of Jakarta, Indonesia. — AP

## URINE TROUBLE: JAPAN TRAIN DRIVER PEEES ON TRACK

**TOKYO:** Japanese train operator JR East has apologized after a driver urinated over the railway track while on duty because he did not want to delay services by using the toilet, media reported yesterday.

The driver, in his 50s, felt the urge to go on Monday as his train stopped at Sakura station in Chiba, southeast of Tokyo, public broadcaster NHK and the Asahi Shimbun said. He then opened the cabin door away from the platform and urinated over the rails before departure as he did not want to cause a delay by going to the restroom, Asahi said.

The company, which received a report of the case from an eyewitness, instructed

him to go to the restroom if necessary, NHK said without clarifying if he would be punished. "We deeply apologise for giving distrust and uneasiness to our customers," the company said, according to NHK. "Taking this case sincerely, we will provide thorough instruction and never repeat similar incidents."

The case comes after a bullet train driver came under fire earlier this month as an online photo emerged of him operating it with his feet up. Central Japan Railway said the 29-year-old acknowledged that he operated the high speed train in that position for 10 seconds and the company vowed a "strict response". — AFP



**HONG KONG:** Protesters hold a banner during a candlelight vigil outside the Chinese central government's liaison office in Hong Kong yesterday. — AP

## IPHONE 7 LAUNCH GENERATES CROWDS, QUEUES...

Continued from Page 1

BTIG research said in a note to investors that, despite a lack of lines, analysts there expected iPhone sales in the final quarter of this year to grow 3.6 percent to 77.5 million.

At the Apple Store in the Georgetown district of the US capital Washington, dozens of consumers were still waiting in line hours after the store opening to get the new handsets. "I tried to order it online, but I would have had to wait five to six weeks, so standing in queue was the only option," said Naval Chopra, who was visiting from India at the time of the launch and joined the waiting group at 5:30 am for an iPhone 7. "If you're an Apple fan, there is something special about getting the new phone on the launch day."

Washington resident Isaac Combs said he had been hoping to get the large-screen iPhone 7 Plus but learned on arrival they were sold out. Still, he opted for the iPhone 7, despite the smaller display. The iPhone, Combs said, "is an essential part of life, it's something I use every day." Apple sold out of the larger models quickly and had limited availability of the iPhone 7, with the new jet-black color especially scarce.

The devices chart a new path for the tech giant by eliminating headphone jacks, a move seen as setting a trend for a wireless future. Apple is seeking to regain momentum and set new trends for the industry, but it remains to be seen if it can generate the same enthusiasm that surrounded previous versions of the iPhone. While the company has touted total iPhone sales of one billion, the number sold in the quarter ending June 25 fell 15 percent from a year earlier, highlighting concerns over

growth for the key profit driver.

Growth has become challenging with many mobile phone markets saturated and Chinese firms including Huawei increasingly popular. Apple also faces stiff competition from traditional rival Samsung, although the South Korean giant is currently on the back foot after being forced into a massive recall because of exploding batteries of its flagship Galaxy Note 7.

Analyst Michael Walkley at Canaccord Genuity said his brokerage group's surveys suggest the new handsets will boost Apple's fortunes. "With the iPhone 7 off to a strong start, we anticipate improving replacement sales versus the 6S and a return to iPhone unit growth," he said in a research note.

Analysts were divided over the cause of the shortages, with some saying the handset was more popular than expected, while others suggested the tech titan may be deliberately limiting supply or could be experiencing supply problems. "Apple clearly controls supply tightly," said Matthew Kanterman, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. "They're possibly keeping supply artificially low, or at least lower than demand, so as to avoid having the oversupply of previous years."

As Asia woke up, consumers in Sydney who had camped out in the rain were among the first in the world to get their hands on the new phones - though others were left bitterly disappointed. Bishop Behman, 17, had been sitting outside the Apple store since Wednesday morning but said he and others in the queue found out on Thursday that some models were already sold out. "I really wouldn't have lined up if I had known that," he told AFP. "For them to have not allocated some stock is ridiculous." — AFP

## PULITZER-WINNING US PLAYWRIGHT...

Continued from Page 1

Albee won a string of awards for "Virginia Woolf," including a Tony for best play in 1963. The Pulitzer Prize committee recommended it for best play that year, but the Pulitzer board rejected the recommendation. Throughout an up-and-down commercial career over several decades, Albee won three Pulitzer Prizes for best drama.

The first, in 1967, was for "A Delicate Balance." That was made into a 1973 film starring Katharine Hepburn and Paul Scofield. He also garnered Pulitzers for "Seascape" in 1975, followed by "Three Tall Women" in 1994. In 2005 he was awarded the special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Born Edward Harvey on March 12, 1928, in what some say was Virginia and others the US capital Washington, Albee was given up for adoption shortly afterward. His adoptive parents, Reed and Francis Albee, were wealthy from businesses in vaudeville and motion pictures and changed his name to Edward Franklin Albee III, according to the Edward Albee Society. Albee had a troubled relationship with his parents and was expelled from several private preparatory schools, and also was expelled from Trinity College in Connecticut.

He moved to New York's Greenwich Village in the

1950s, finding a more sympathetic environment in the avant-garde scene, where he wrote "The Zoo Story" that marked his breakthrough in theater. Albee bought a big, white barn - "The Barn" - in Montauk on Long Island and launched the Edward F Albee Foundation in 1967 to serve as a residence-retreat for writers and visual artists. He was the recipient of a number of awards, including the National Medal of the Arts and the Kennedy Center Honors in 1966.

"Albee's plays, with their intensity, their grappling with modern themes, and their experiments in form, startled critics and audiences alike while changing the landscape of American drama," The John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts says in its biography of the playwright. "He was unanimously hailed as the successor to Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, and Eugene O'Neill." In 2005 Albee was awarded a Tony Lifetime Achievement Award.

The statement confirming Albee's death included the following note, which the playwright wrote several years ago before undergoing extensive surgery, intending it to be issued when he died: "To all of you who have made my being alive so wonderful, so exciting and so full, my thanks and all my love." Actress Mia Farrow was one of the first on Twitter to pay tribute to the legendary playwright. "Edward Albee was one of the great playwrights of our time. RIP Mr Albee," Farrow tweeted. — AFP

## DOZENS DEAD IN US-LED STRIKE ON SYRIAN ARMY

Continued from Page 1

Last month, Ankara launched an offensive into northern Syria dubbed "Euphrates Shield", ostensibly designed to cut a major IS group supply line but also to counter the advance of US-backed a Kurdish militia. US forces are working alongside the Syrian Kurds of the YPG in the fight against the Islamic State, but Turkey regards the group as terrorists and allies of the PKK separatist group fighting within its own borders.

In Syria, Turkey prefers to work with Arab and Turkmen fighters such as those of the Free Syrian Army (FSA), which is opposed to Syrian leader Bashar Al-Assad's regime but has also clashed with the Kurds in the past. Pentagon spokesman Jeff Davis told reporters that US commandos, at Turkey's request, had joined the Turkish military and "vetted Syrian opposition forces" fighting the Islamic State group near Jarabulus and Al Rai.

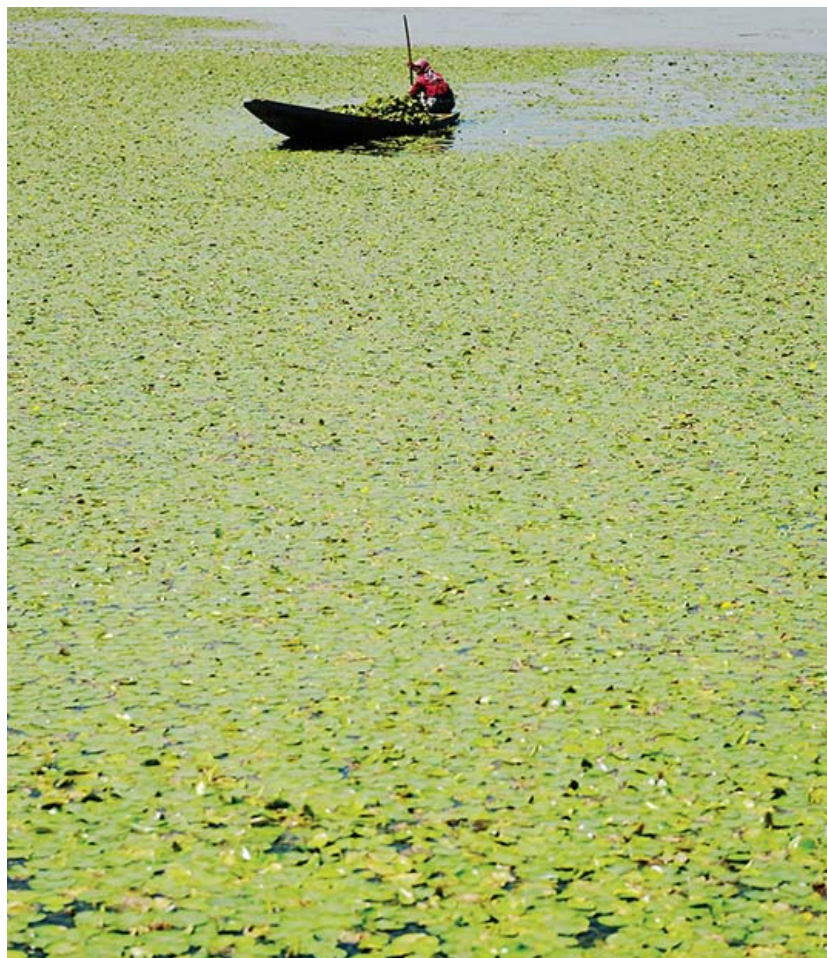
But footage widely shared online by Syrian groups and experts appears to show US commandos in Al Rai insulted by FSA fighters, who call them "pigs" and "infidels" in Arabic, demanding they leave Syria. A US defense official admitted there had been a "misunderstanding," but insisted the troops were still deployed and that the matter had been cleared up. "There's been no violence, no one is hurt and we are still there," the official said. "I have no report of a hostile or violent action." The special forces contingent includes several

dozen troops, he added.

America's top general, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford, met with his Turkish counterpart General Hulusi Akar on the sidelines of a NATO chiefs of staff meeting in Croatia on Friday to discuss the anti-IS group fight. His assistant, Captain Gregory Hicks, said the generals met "to advance discussions on the way forward in the fight against ISIL, and recommitment to the close military-to-military and strategic relationship the US has with Turkey."

Meanwhile, in another incident underlining the four-way tensions between Kurds, Turks, Americans and Syrian Arabs on the battlefield, Kurdish YPG fighters again flew US flags near Syria's border with Turkey. An AFP photographer saw the stars and stripes flying over a YPG base in Tal Abyad. The use of US flags is seen as a provocation by some in Turkey and the Pentagon repeated its request for them to be taken down. "We would call on our partner forces not to fly the American flag on their own," Cook said. "I would imagine that that would be communicated if indeed that's taken place in this instance."

There was some good news for the coalition, however. Cook said that senior Islamic State propagandist Wa'il Adil Hasan Salman Al-Fayad, known as "Dr Wa'il", was killed in a precision strike on Sept 7 near Raqqa, the Syrian city that is the group's de facto capital. — Agencies



A Kashmiri woman collects lotus roots to be used as animal feed on Dal Lake in Srinagar yesterday. — AFP

## TRUMP: DISARM CLINTON BODYGUARDS

Continued from Page 1

"Tonight, Donald Trump once again alluded to violence against Hillary Clinton," said Elizabeth Shappell, spokeswoman for Correct The Record, a pro-Clinton media watchdog group. "This is a truly deplorable comment that betrays our nation's most fundamental democratic values," Shappell said in a statement. Stuart Stevens, a Washington-based political consultant who worked on Republican Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign, tweeted: "The Secret Service should investigate this threat"

Trump made a similar comment about Clinton and her armed protection in May while accepting the endorsement of the National Rifle Association, when he said Clinton would end the US Constitution's Second Amendment, which guarantees the right to bear arms. "Let's see how they feel walking around without their guns or their bodyguards," he told the gun lobby group, speaking about Clinton and her Secret Service detail.

Trump was criticized by opponents last month when he suggested that gun rights activists could act to stop Clinton from nominating liberal US Supreme Court justices, a comment some interpreted as encouraging a political assassination. "If she gets to pick her judges, nothing you can do folks," Trump told a rally in North Carolina on Aug 9. "Although the Second Amendment people, maybe there is, I don't know," he continued. Trump, who has the endorsement of the National Rifle Association, eventually took to Twitter to say the Secret Service had not contacted him about the remarks.

Clinton has called for tighter access to guns, including universal background checks, but has never said she planned to get rid of the Second Amendment. Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said Friday's remarks fall into a pattern of Trump inciting people to violence. "Whether this is done to provoke protesters at a rally or

casually or even as a joke, it is an unacceptable quality in anyone seeking the job of Commander in Chief," Mook said in a statement.

The comments Friday in Miami came hours after Trump finally reversed his long-held position that President Barack Obama was not born in the United States. Appearing in Washington, he said Obama was born in the United States but then incorrectly suggested that the Clinton campaign had started the conspiracy theory. Trump ignored questions from reporters about his switch and has yet to explain why he abandoned the "birther" stance that fueled his political fame and was viewed by critics as an attempt to delegitimize the nation's first African-American president.

While campaigning in South Florida, which has a large Cuban-American population, Trump also said that if he's elected president, he will reverse Obama's efforts to normalize relations with Cuba - unless the country abides by certain "demands." Among those, he said, would be religious and political freedom for the Cuban people and the freeing of all political prisoners. Trump says he'll "stand with the Cuban people in their fight against communist oppression." The comment marks yet another reversal for the GOP candidate, who previously said he supported the idea of normalized relations, but wished the US had negotiated a better deal.

Trump also said the US has a broader obligation to stand with oppressed people - a comment that seems at odds with his "America first" mantra. "The next president of the United States must stand in solidarity with all people oppressed in our hemisphere, and we will stand with oppressed people, and there are many," he said. He added that the people of Venezuela "are yearning to be free, they are yearning for help. The system is bad. But the people are great." Trump has often cited the country as a model of a failed state, warning that if Clinton is elected, she'll turn the US into Venezuela. — Agencies

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## Washington Watch

## STYMIED (AND APPALLED)

By Dr James J Zogby

I am stymied. I've been writing this column each and every week for almost 24 years now. Since it appears in papers across the Arab World, I've attempted to explain American politics and policy to Arab readers. Most weeks, the columns practically write themselves. This week is different with the news dominated by events that almost defy explanation. In the first place, there's Donald Trump leading or tied in a number of national polls. Added to this, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation allowing the families of 9/11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia for damages. The icing on the cake is the agreement reached between the Obama Administration and Israel guaranteeing Israel \$38 billion in military assistance program over the next 10 years.

Individually, these stories are confounding, collectively they are appalling. After Hillary Clinton fainted while leaving a 9/11 memorial event, it was revealed that she had been diagnosed with pneumonia a few days earlier and would, therefore, stay off the campaign trail for a few days until she regained her strength. Because Clinton hadn't made public her illness, until after the fainting spell, the press pounced on her denouncing penchant for privacy, secrecy, and whatever. Now that charge has some merit and is reflected in polling which shows that Clinton is not seen as honest and trustworthy by a majority of American voters. This trust issue continues to plague Clinton and is, to some degree, responsible for her declining poll numbers.

While that may be understandable, what is impossible to comprehend is how Trump becomes the beneficiary of her slide. The Republican nominee is, by far, the most dishonest, least transparent candidate to ever run for president. The health records he has revealed are a joke. He continues to withhold his tax returns. His business dealings are, at best, shady. And we now know that his much touted "charitable giving" is a scam - since many of the donations he claimed to have made were more often than not contributions that others funneled through him.

Given Trump's record of dishonesty, his appeals to bigotry, the contradictory nature of the positions he has taken on critical issues, and his lack of experience in governance, how can one reasonably explain the fact that none of this seems to matter to the 42 or so percent of the electorate who say they would choose him as president over a person, who for all her flaws is without a doubt the most qualified candidate in the field.

## Anti-Arab Sentiment

I have written extensively about "Trumpism" and the anger, fear, and deep trauma of the group of voters who propelled Trump onto the national stage. But I assumed that the majority of the American electorate would ultimately reject him. I can still hope (and work) that they will. That this race is tied is both confusing and worrisome. I shouldn't have been stunned when Congress passed the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA). But I was. Congress frequently considers bills that are baseless, outrageous, and/or just plain dangerous. Because these efforts are often motivated by crass politics, they usually die as saner minds prevail.

In proposing this bill, Congress was preying on the deep residual pain resulting from the terrorist attacks of Sept 11, 2001. The legislation is premised on the notion that there was direct Arab governmental role in the attacks, despite the findings of the 9/11 Commission to the contrary. In fact, it is only because of the persistence of deep anti-Arab sentiment that some Members of Congress continued to advance the bill. By passing it and sending it to the president they are putting at risk US relations with important Arab allies and they are opening the door for other countries to pass similar legislation that could hold the US or Israel (with US support) accountable for their actions in the Middle East. While Congress often sees Arabs as soft targets that can be attacked with impunity, this legislation is clearly a step too far. Just as I assumed, that it would not pass, I am assuming that the Obama Administration will veto it and that this veto will not be overridden by Congress. Given the unpredictable climate, I am no longer sure of anything.

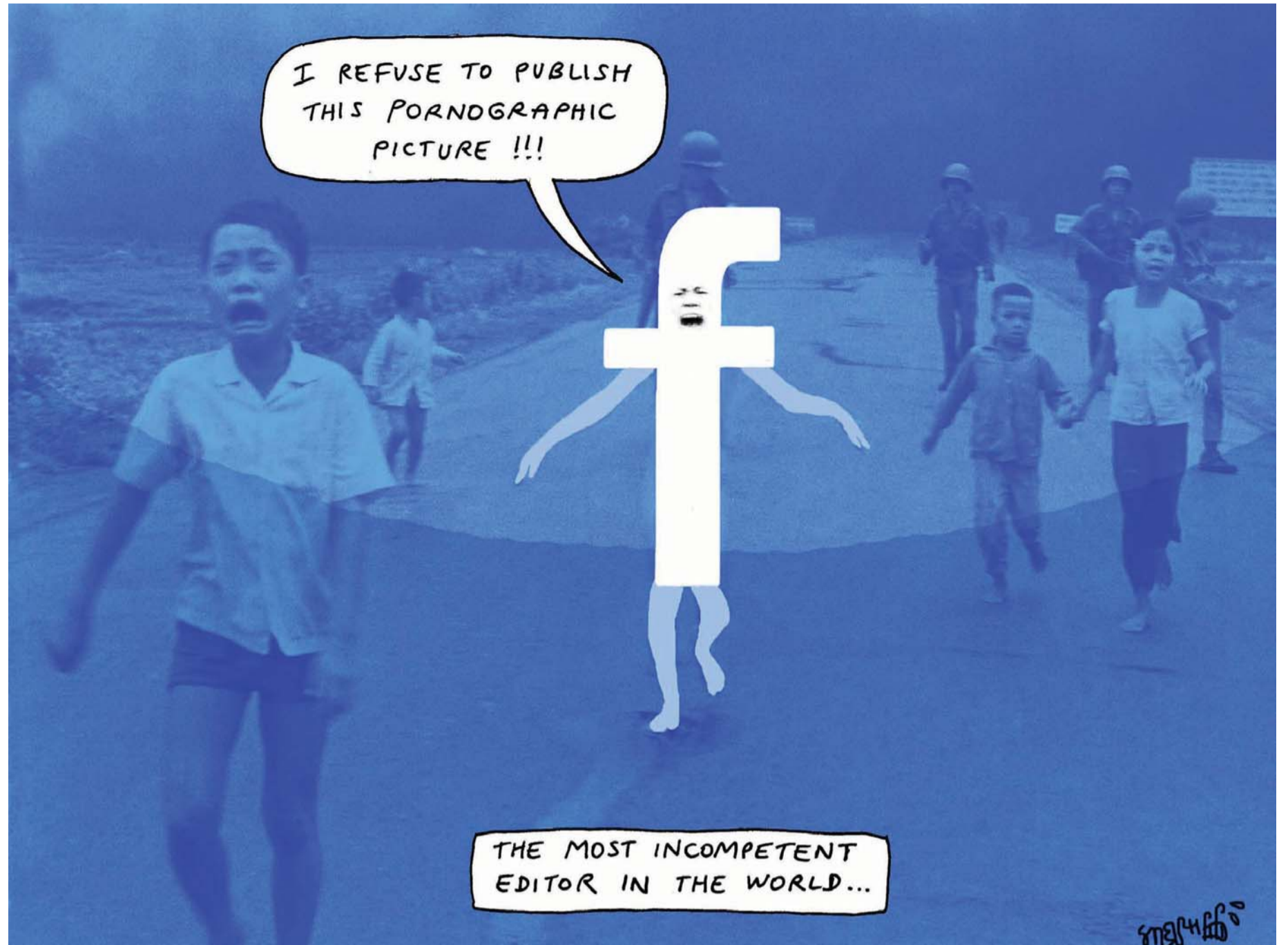
## Disaster

The icing on the cake was the conclusion of a monumental disaster of an agreement - the 10 year, commitment to a \$38 billion military assistance package for Israel. Even though I understand politics - who has clout and who does not - this aid package is inexcusable and even dangerous. It rewards Netanyahu's efforts to sabotage the President's Iran deal and his blocking of any movement toward Israeli-Palestinian peace. And it takes away any leverage the US may have had to restrain Israel's unconscionable behavior in the occupied territories. One would have thought that this President, after more than seven years of dealing with Netanyahu, has learned that by rewarding bad behavior he only enables it - allowing the Israeli leader to act with impunity.

If this were not troubling enough, the Administration's lame statement, accompanying the announcement of the deal, still advocating for two-states (which Netanyahu's policies have now buried) and decrying continued settlement expansion (which Israel routinely ignores), was embarrassing. And what I found deeply troubling was the statement that this massive demonstration of "unprecedented support for Israel's security" was being touted as part of this White House's proud legacy - a far cry, indeed, from the Middle East goals they had established seven years ago.

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

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## POLLING PLACES BECOME BATTLEGROUND IN US

By John Whitesides

Louis Brooks, 87, has walked to cast a vote at his neighborhood polling place in Georgia's predominantly black Lincoln Park neighborhood for five decades. But not this year. Brooks says he will not vote in the presidential election for the first time he can remember after local officials moved the polling station more than 3 km away as part of a plan to cut the number of voting sites in Upson County. "I can't get there. I can't drive, and it's too far to walk," said Brooks, a black retired mill worker and long-time Democratic Party supporter. He said he does not know how to vote by mail and doesn't know anyone who can give him a ride. A Reuters survey found local governments in nearly a dozen, mostly Republican-dominated counties in Georgia have adopted plans to reduce the number of voting stations, citing cost savings and efficiency.

In seven of those counties, African-Americans, who traditionally back Democrats, comprised at least a quarter of the population, and in several counties the changes will disproportionately affect black voters. At least three other counties in Georgia dropped consolidation plans under public pressure. While polling place cutbacks are on the rise across the country, including in some Democratic-run areas, the South's history of racial discrimination has made the region a focus of concern for voting rights advocates.

Activists see the voting place reductions as another front in the fight over Republican-sponsored statewide voting laws such as stricter ID requirements that disproportionately affect minority and poorer voters who tend to vote for the Democratic Party. Several of these have recently been struck down by courts that ruled they were designed to hinder minority voting. "There is a history in those states of using different strategies to cut voting in minority communities," said Leah Aden, senior counsel at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense and Education Fund.

"Hogwash," said Robert Haney, chairman of the Upson County Board of Elections, denying that race was a factor in his board's decision. "Nobody is trying to keep anybody from voting," said Haney, adding that officials would send a ballot to the home of anyone who needed it. He said the cut in polling sites from nine to four was designed to increase efficiency by closing low-turnout sites, saving about \$20,000.

The Nov 8 election will be the first presidential contest since the Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that Georgia and all or parts of 14 other states with a history of racial discrimination no longer need federal approval for election law changes like polling place consolidations. Since the court ruling, the Reuters survey found, more than two dozen local governments in eight of those states have implemented new cuts in polling places. Two thirds of those were met with public opposition. Four of the states - Arizona, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina - could be election battlegrounds in the fight for the White House and control of the US Senate.

## 'Impact can be Disastrous'

"This is part of the story of voting in the South," said Willie Williams, a black small business owner from Daphne, Alabama, where polling stations were cut to two from five during last month's municipal elections over the objections of black voters. Williams, who still keeps his father's receipt for his poll tax - the tax some blacks in the South had to pay to qualify to vote before civil rights laws in the 1960s eliminated it - says the reduction was "just another tool in the tool kit for shaving off minority votes."

Daphne city officials denied any racial motivation, saying the changes were meant to improve safety and create better access and parking for voters. Still, Isela Gutierrez, a research director at the liberal group Democracy North Carolina, says the effects of such cutbacks can be wide ranging. "The elections boards aren't lying when they say some of these locations have low turnout and it makes better administrative sense to close them - but the impact can be disastrous."

Numerous academic studies have found people are less likely to vote the farther they must travel and the longer they must wait in line, which becomes more likely with fewer voting sites. "Some of these changes individually may affect only a small number of voters, but in the aggregate across the country it will be a very large number of voters," said Danielle Lang, voting rights counsel at the Campaign Legal Center, a Washington-based voting rights and campaign finance group. The issue gained prominence in a March primary in Arizona's Maricopa County, where more than 30 percent of residents are Hispanic. A decision to slash polling places left voters in lines for up to five hours. Republican county officials said they misjudged turnout.

## Consolidations

Georgia has been an epicenter for efforts to reduce polling places since the Supreme Court decision. And in that state, which has not backed a Democrat in a presidential election since 1992, polls show Republican Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton in a close battle for the presidency that could be decided by turnout of minority voters. "If you want to restrict voter turnout in minority and disadvantaged communities, a good way is to move a polling place somewhere they can't get to," said Stacey Abrams, Democratic leader in the Georgia state legislature. Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation, said race was being unfairly inserted into the debate on polling place changes. "It's election officials making adjustments based on the changing ways people are voting," he said. A Reuters analysis, using voter registration lists for 2012 and 2016, found at least two Georgia counties where the changes disproportionately affect blacks.

A consolidation plan in Macon-Bibb County closed six polling places in black-majority neighborhoods, and only two in white majority areas. McDuffie County's decision to eliminate three polling places means two-thirds of the county's black voters, and one-third of its white voters, will now vote in one location. Other changes have had little impact on minority voters. In Georgia's Lumpkin County, for example, where blacks are just 2 percent of the population, officials consolidated seven polling locations into one to make the county compliant with federal disability laws.

Voting rights groups in several states have tried to form patchwork networks to track the changes, which are not well publicized, and then fight back where necessary with threats of lawsuits, petition drives or complaints to federal officials. In Upson County, Haney said, the elections board dropped a proposal to close a polling site in heavily black Salem, a sparsely populated rural area, after residents pointed out the hardship of traveling an extra 16 km or more. But the Lincoln Park site, which had just 230 voters cast a ballot in person on Election Day 2012, was more easily combined with a polling place in the center of the nearby town of Thomaston, he said. Kay King, the only African-American member of the elections board in Upson County and the only one to vote against the voting site closures, said she knew it meant some Lincoln Park residents would not be able to vote. "They walk to the store, they walk to church - when you don't have transportation to get to something like this, it makes you not want to do it, you just throw your hands up," she said. —Reuters

## GEORGE WASHINGTON'S FAMILY TREE IS BIRACIAL

By Matthew Barakat

George Washington's adopted son was a bit of a ne'er-do-well by most accounts, including those of Washington himself, who wrote about his frustrations with the boy they called "Wash". "From his infancy, I have discovered an almost unconquerable disposition to indolence in everything that did not tend to his amusements," the founding father wrote. At the time, George Washington Parke Custis was 16 and attending Princeton, one of several schools he bounced in and out of. Before long, he was back home at Mount Vernon, where he would be accused of fathering children with slaves.

Two centuries later, the National Park Service and the nonprofit that runs Washington's Mount Vernon estate are concluding that the rumors were true: In separate exhibits, they show that the first family's family tree has been biracial from its earliest branches. "There is no more pushing this history to the side," said Matthew Penrod, a National Park Service ranger and programs manager at Arlington House, where the lives of the Washingtons, their slaves and Confederate Gen Robert E Lee all converged.

President George Washington had no direct descendants, and his wife Martha Custis was a widow when they married, but he adopted Martha's grandchildren - "Wash" and his sister "Nellie" - and raised them on his Mount Vernon estate. Parke Custis married Mary Fitzhugh in 1804, and they had one daughter who survived into adulthood, Mary Anna Randolph Custis. In 1831, she married her third cousin - Lee, who then served as a US Army lieutenant. Outside the marriage, Parke Custis likely fathered children with two of his stepfather's slaves: Arianna Carter, and Caroline Branham, according to the exhibits at Arlington House and Mount Vernon. The first official acknowledgment came in June when the Park Service re-enacted the 1821 wed-

ding of Maria Carter to Charles Syphax at Arlington House, the hilltop mansion overlooking the capital that Custis built (and Lee later managed) as a shrine to his adoptive stepfather. A new family tree, unveiled at the re-enactment, lists the bride's parents as Parke Custis and Arianna Carter. "We fully recognize that the first family of this country was much more than what it appeared on the surface," Penrod said at the ceremony.

## Slave History

The privately run Mount Vernon estate explores this slave history in "Lives Bound Together," an exhibition opening this year that acknowledges that Parke Custis also likely fathered a girl named Lucy with slave Caroline Branham. Tour guides were hardly this frank when Penrod started at Arlington House 26 years ago. Staffers were told to describe slave dwellings as "servants' quarters," and "the focus was on Lee, to honor him and show him in

the most positive light," Penrod said. He said no new, definitive evidence has surfaced to prove Parke Custis fathered girls with slaves; rather, the recognition reflects a growing sense that African-American history cannot be disregarded and that Arlington House represents more than Lee's legacy, he said. Scientific proof would require matching the DNA of Carter and Branham descendants to the progeny of his daughter and the Confederate general, because the Parke Custis line runs exclusively through the offspring of his daughter and Robert E Lee.

Stephen Hammond of Reston, a Syphax descendant, has researched his family tree extensively. He said the Park Service's recognition of the Custis' paternity is gratifying. "It's become a passion of mine, figuring out where we fit in American history," Hammond said. Hammond said he and his cousins have yet to approach the Lee descendants to gauge their interest in genetic tests, and it's not

clear how they feel about the official recognition - several didn't respond to AP requests for comment. Some family records are kept at Robert E Lee's birthplace, Stratford Hall, but research director Judy Hynson said she knows of none that acknowledge Parke Custis fathered slaves. "That's not something you would write down in your family Bible," Hynson said. The circumstantial evidence includes the Carter-Syphax wedding in Arlington House - an unusual honor for slaves - and the fact that Parke Custis not only freed Maria Syphax and her sons before the Civil War, but set aside 17 acres on the estate for her.

## Shared Bloodlines

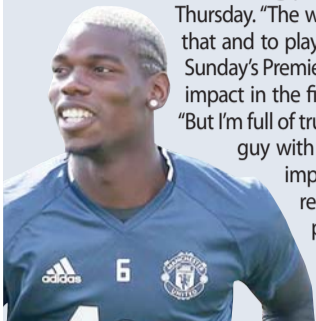
Indeed, after Mount Vernon was seized by Union forces, an act of Congress ensured that land was returned to Maria Syphax's family. New York Sen Ira Harris said then that Washington's adopted son had a special interest in her - "something perhaps akin to a paternal instinct". Oral histories also argue for shared bloodlines. Maria Carter's descendants know, for example, that her name was pronounced "Ma-REE-eh," not "Ma-REE-uh," said Donna Kunkel of Los Angeles, who portrayed her ancestor at the re-enactment. "As a kid I would always tell people I was related to George Washington, but no one would believe me," she said. Branham descendants include ZSun-nee Miller-Matema of Hagerstown, Maryland, who said "my aunt told me that if the truth of our family was known, it would topple the first families of Virginia". She said she discovered her truth by happenstance in the 1990s, when she spotted a portrait with a family resemblance while researching at the Alexandria Black History Museum for a stage production. A museum staffer soon sat her down with records. Eventually, she traced her ancestry to Caroline Branham, who appears in documents written in the first president's own hand. "I just couldn't believe it," she said. "Gen Washington was taking notes on my Caroline?" —AP



ZSun-nee Miller-Matema poses for a portrait at Mount Vernon, the plantation home of former President George Washington, in Alexandria, Virginia on July 18, 2016. —AP

## MATTER OF TIME BEFORE POGBA SHOWS HIS QUALITY: MOURINHO

**LONDON:** Jose Mourinho has offered another vote of confidence in Paul Pogba, adamant that Manchester United's misfiring summer signing should not be judged on his world-record transfer fee. United's manager says it is just a matter of time before the French midfielder demonstrates his natural quality at Old Trafford following an underwhelming spell since his landmark 89 million pounds (\$115.71 million) move from Juventus in August. Pogba started well with a dynamic display in United's 2-0 Premier League home win over Southampton last month, prompting Mourinho to say "I couldn't be happier with him" after the game. Yet the 23-year-old, who helped France to the Euro 2016 final in July, was anonymous in United's defeat by Manchester City last week and gave another underwhelming performance in the 1-0 loss at Feyenoord in the Europa League on Thursday. "The world-record player is always a question, but I want Paul to forget that and to play his football," Mourinho said before taking United to Watford for Sunday's Premier League match. "Having had) no pre-season, he had a very good impact in the first game and it's normal that, after that, he has a little decrease. "But I'm full of trust in him because I know the player he is; I know he's a very good guy with a lot of ambition, so the form will come naturally. As the team improves, form improves." Mourinho also believes the world transfer record tag is misleading. "You make a relation between what you pay and the club revenue, and realise that other clubs paying 20, 30, 40 (million pounds) is a much bigger thing than what Man United did," Mourinho told reporters. —Reuters



## LIZARD ADDS TO FORMULA ONE'S TRACK MENAGERIE

**SINGAPORE:** Formula One acquired an exotic addition to its list of wildlife hazards yesterday after a large monitor lizard wandered onto the Singapore Grand Prix circuit during final practice. "There's a giant lizard on the track," exclaimed Red Bull driver Max Verstappen. "You came face to face with Godzilla," the 18-year-old's engineer told him over the pit-to-car radio after the startled Dutchman alerted the team to the reptile's presence. The incident triggered a Twitter flurry and plenty of amusement. "New friend in FP3," commented McLaren driver Fernando Alonso on Instagram to accompany a picture of the animal on the asphalt. Drivers are used to groundhogs and foxes making track incursions at Canada's Gilles Villeneuve circuit in Montreal while stray dogs proved a danger when the sport raced at India's Buddh circuit near New Delhi. Deer have appeared on track in Austria in the past, snakes in Malaysia and a cat ran out in front of cars in Azerbaijan's debut race this year in Baku. There have also been a number of human incursions, including one at last year's Singapore race when a lone intruder ambled across the floodlit track midway through the race and then strolled by the metal fences as cars came past. —Reuters

## HERTHA EYE PERFECT RECORD AT SCHALKE

**BERLIN:** High-flying Hertha Berlin aim to maintain their 100 percent record with three wins from three Bundesliga matches when they host under-pressure Schalke 04 today. Defending champions Bayern Munich and Hertha were the only teams to win both of their opening two games in Germany's top flight while Schalke arrive at Berlin's Olympic Stadium having lost both of theirs. "We're in a good mood and Schalke are under pressure. We will see from the first minute how that will effect the game," said Hertha's coach Pal Dardai. "We'll put Schalke under pressure. Act rather than react - that's the plan." Hertha beat newly-promoted Freiburg 2-1 at home, then won 2-0 at Ingolstadt to take a maximum six points from their two games. Schalke, under new coach Markus Weinzierl, lost their season's opener 1-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt then leaked late goals in a 2-0 defeat to Bayern after putting in a battling display. Schalke produced an impressive performance in holding Bayern until Robert Lewandowski broke the deadlock in the 81st-minute. The Royal Blues' 1-0 victory at French side Nice on Thursday in their opening Europa League group stage match hints that their fortunes are on the rise. "We're flying to Berlin with a win under our belt which is valuable for self-confidence," said sports director Christian Heidel. Schalke will have Dutch striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar back from the concussion he suffered against Bayern. —AFP



## ROSBERG FLIES, HAMILTON SKIDS

**SINGAPORE:** Nico Rosberg led the way in an eventful final practice session yesterday for the Singapore Grand Prix as Lewis Hamilton again struggled and a giant monitor lizard startled Max Verstappen.

Rosberg's quickest lap of 1 minute 44.352 seconds will give Mercedes hope that they have exorcised the demons of a year ago when they could only qualify fifth and sixth fastest.

But they did not have it all their own way as teammate Hamilton's woes continued for the second day running and Red Bull and Ferrari closed in.

Red Bull's Verstappen was second fastest, just 0.059 sec behind Rosberg, having regained his composure after a large reptile ran across the track in front of him. "There's a giant lizard on the track!" shouted Verstappen over team radio as a monitor lizard in excess of a metre long meandered across the Marina Bay street circuit.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen was third, half a second adrift of Rosberg, with Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo only a 10th of a second behind the Finnish driver, despite being baulked by a back marker on his fastest run.

Last year's winner, Sebastian Vettel, was unhappy with his Ferrari's set-up, at one point telling his team he could not control the rear of the car and felt "like a passenger" as he slumped to fifth place, three-quarters of a second off Rosberg's pace.

Meanwhile Hamilton, who leads Rosberg by just two points in the world championship standings, twice locked up his ultrasoft tyres in clouds of smoke at turn seven and skidded down the escape road.

Hamilton's best time came on the slower supersoft tyres, but was only good enough for eighth place, 1.454 sec slower than Rosberg and trailing behind the Force India of Nico Hulkenberg and the Toro Rosso of Daniil Kvyat.

It means Hamilton, who had a hydraulic problem which curtailed his Friday running, has yet to complete a flying lap on the quickest ultrasoft tyres before the crucial qualifying session later. Six of the eight Singapore Grands Prix since the race's inception have been won by the man on pole position.

It promises to be a three-team fight between Mercedes, Red Bull and Ferrari for grid honours so important when the tight characteristics of the city centre circuit make overtaking notoriously difficult.

But Red Bull team principal Christian Horner played down his team's chances of taking pole position on a track which suits their car's high mechanical grip.

"I doubt it," he told the BBC. "Lewis locked his front and flat-spotted so we didn't see his true pace and Rosberg looks like he has 0.1-0.2secs in there but we will see what happens." —AFP



PERTH: Players clash during the Rugby Championship match between Australia and Argentina in Perth yesterday. —AFP

## AUSTRALIA BEAT ARGENTINA TO SEAL TITLE FOR ALL BLACKS

**PERTH:** Australia beat Argentina 36-20 in the Rugby Championship yesterday in a bruising encounter which ensured the All Blacks wrapped up the title with two games to spare. A stunning opening salvo with three tries in the first 12 minutes set the hosts on their way and Will Genia grabbed two tries as the Wallabies won their second game in a row.

It gave New Zealand their fourth southern hemisphere title in five years after the world champions routed South Africa 41-13 earlier yesterday for their fourth straight bonus-point win.

Before the Wallabies' 23-17 win over South Africa last week, they had been beaten in six successive Tests and coach Michael Cheika was facing increasing pressure. The Pumas were expected to prove a tough opponent, having shown good early form against New Zealand before fading to be beaten 57-22 in their last outing.

However, the Wallabies scored their first try after just 43 seconds after playmaker Bernard Foley broke through the Argentine defence right from the kick-off. Michael Hooper fed Samu Kerevi, who was brought down near the try line but was able to get up and drive over to open the scoring.

Dane Haylett-Petty, who plays for Perth's Western Force, then received a superb Quade Cooper pass in the eighth minute and he charged to the line for the Wallabies' second try.

### GENIA BRILLIANCE

A piece of individual brilliance by scrum-half Genia then added Australia's third try in the 12th minute against a shell-shocked Argentina.

Genia crunched Nicolas Sanchez in a tackle and the ball spilled free, allowing the Australian, who had kept the feet while his opponent went to ground, to kick it forward.

He then collected the ball on the bounce and dived over to further extend the home side's lead, which became 21-0 when Foley notched his third conversion from as many attempts.

Two penalties to Sanchez kept the Pumas in the contest, although they trailed 21-6 at the break.

However, Australia had lost key flanker David Pocock to what appeared to be an arm injury late in the half.

The Pumas started the second half well and were rewarded with a try in the 44th minute, when Joaquin Tuculet made a break which ended with Santiago Cordero crossing.

The Sanchez conversion made it 21-13 and gave the visitors renewed hope, although veteran Juan Leguizamon was forced from the field after appearing to be knocked out in a tackle by Kerevi during the try-scoring play.

Pumas captain Agustin Creevy then limped off moments later, and was soon followed to the sidelines by Wallabies skipper Stephen Moore as the cost of a hard-hitting contest started to count.

The match was evenly poised, but in the 52nd minute Wallabies substitute Sean McMahon made a charging run, fending off several opponents and leading to Genia's second try and a 26-13 lead.

In the 64th minute, the home team again stretched their lead when Cooper again produced a deft pass to send Hooper through a gap and he scored under the posts to make it 33-13.

Foley crossed again for the home side in the 67th minute, but the try was disallowed due to contact off the ball by Cooper on Sanchez, for which the fly-half was sin-binned.

Facundo Isa added a late try for the Pumas but there was never much hope of the Pumas registering their first win in Australia since 1983. —AFP



SINGAPORE: Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg, centre, of Germany talks with teammate Lewis Hamilton right, after taking pole during the qualifying session for the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix on the Marina Bay City Circuit Singapore, yesterday. Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo of Australia was second. —AP

## NUMBER 11 STRIKES A CORD WITH BOTH YI AND YAO

**LOS ANGELES:** Yi Jianlian may not like being compared to Yao Ming but he isn't shy about wearing his number 11 jersey this season with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Speaking during the Lakers' practice on Friday in suburban El Segundo, the 28-year-old forward-center said the two agreed that Yi would wear Yao's former number with his new NBA team.

"Yao asked me. We talked about it," said Yi.

Hall-of-Famer Yao wore number 11 during his eight seasons with the Houston Rockets, averaging 19.0 points and 9.2 rebounds. Yi was once dubbed "the next Yao Ming" but says he is a different player with his own unique skill set.

"To me it is different. Yao is Yao. The biggest player in China," Yi told a packed scrum of English- and Chinese-language reporters on the practice court. "I learned a lot from him. I talk to him a lot. We have a different mindset about basketball."

The struggling Lakers signed Yi, of He Shan, Guangdong, to a one-year deal last month at \$1.14 million that could be worth up to \$8 million with incentives and bonuses.

The 6-foot-11 (2.11m) Yi is back in the NBA after a four-year hiatus. The native Cantonese-speaking Yi played in

China with the Guangdong Southern Tigers from 2012-2016 and was the cornerstone for the Chinese national team at last month's Rio Olympics.

Yi says his stellar performance in his fourth trip to the Olympics likely boosted his worth for the Lakers.

"I had success for sure in the Olympics," said Yi, who averaged 20.4 points and 6.6 rebounds while shooting 46 percent from three-point range. "Team China was a young team. For myself, I just tried to play hard and try to get a win." Yao and Yi know each other well both on and off the court. They were Olympic teammates and squared off against each other in Yao's final NBA game on November 10, 2010 between the Rockets and the Wizards in Washington.

### NEVER LOST HOPE

Yi said Friday he never lost hope he would one day return to the NBA. "I always expected it. I was always getting ready. I kept my confidence," Yi said.

"I am excited, for sure. I have been out for four years. To come back and play for the Lakers is very exciting.

"Especially to play for this city and to play for this team. It is known all over the world."

Yi was the sixth overall pick in the 2007 NBA Draft, a class that included

first overall pick Greg Oden plus Kevin Durant, Al Horford and Joakim Noah. But Yi never really lived up to his potential in his five NBA seasons, averaging only 7.9 points and 4.9 rebounds with the Milwaukee Bucks, New Jersey Nets, Washington Wizards and Dallas Mavericks. Yi says basketball in China is getting better each year as an increasing number of imports are joining their elite league and more Chinese players are traveling overseas.

"The league is getting better. A lot of NBA players go there now and play.

It is not easy to play there. You can ask the players," he said. Yi said he doesn't expect to have a problem adjusting to the faster speed and pace of the NBA game.

"I feel pressure but I feel very excited for that. I played a lot of games in China, in Asia, and in the Olympics so that's a lot of experience. "For me, this is a good opportunity."

The Lakers finished a franchise-worst 17-65 last year in Kobe Bryant's farewell season.

Yi thinks he can add some size to the roster and help with the Lakers' three-point shooting. "In the summer time, I talked to coach Luke (Walton). I told him I think I can fit into their system. I think I can really play over here." —AFP



EL SEGUNDO: Chinese basketball player Yi Jianlian meets the press during an introduction as a member of the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers at a workout in El Segundo, California on Friday. —AFP

## AUSTRALIAN ROWER BRENNAN 'BEYOND DISAPPOINTED' BY WADA DATA HACK

**SYDNEY:** Australian Olympic champion rower Kim Brennan has spoken of her deep disappointment that her integrity as a clean athlete has been called into question over a shot of adrenaline administered in a medical emergency. Brennan, who won gold in the single skulls at the Rio Olympics, was one of 11 athletes whose medical data was leaked on Friday by a Russian hacking group, which is known as APT28 and Fancy Bear by US cyber-security researchers. The documents leaked included details of a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) granted to Brennan after she was administered

adrenalin in a hospital emergency room following a severe allergic reaction in January 2014, Rowing Australia said in a statement.

The TUE authorises her to carry an EpiPen, the lifesaving allergy treatment. Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that the leaked records "raised a lot of questions" with healthy athletes seemingly taking banned substances.

"To call into question the use of a substance administered by a doctor in a hospital emergency department to combat a severe allergic reaction is beyond disappointing," Brennan said. "This administra-

tion of adrenaline was in no way performance enhancing. I was seriously ill following this hospitalisation and I am upset I have to justify in the public domain my personal medical records."

The documents, which were held by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), were the third tranche of records to be leaked by the hackers this week.

The other Australian rower whose records were leaked on Friday, Rio silver medalist Alexander "Sasha" Belonogoff, also carries an EpiPen because of a food allergy, Rowing Australia said.

The governing body joined the

Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) in condemning the "malicious attacks by Fancy Bears and their blatant disregard for athlete privacy and well-being". "We at Rowing Australia back the two rowers named as absolutely clean and having abided by ASADA's rules," said Rowing Australia medical officer Professor Peter Fricker. "A TUE is granted for therapeutic purposes only and not for performance enhancement."

WADA considers the attacks are being carried out as retaliation for the agency's investigations that exposed state-sponsored doping in Russia and led to almost

the entire track and field team being banned from last month's Olympics. Russia was also banned from sending a team to the Paralympics. WADA has said it believes the hackers gained access to its anti-doping administration and management system (ADAMS) via an IOC-created account for the Rio Games. "I followed all WADA procedures in ensuring I received the appropriate permissions for this treatment and strongly believe in doping free sport," Brennan added.

"The highly concerning issue here is the leak of personal medical information." —Reuters

# RAMIREZ HOMERS AGAIN AS RED SOX BEAT YANKEES 7-4

**BOSTON:** Hanley Ramirez homered for the second straight game and David Ortiz had a pair of hits on Friday night to send the AL East-leading Boston Red Sox to a 7-4 victory over the New York Yankees. The Red Sox maintained a two-game lead over Baltimore. The Yankees, who on Thursday night were one out from climbing within three games of the division lead, fell six games back and lost ground in the AL wild-card race. Clay Buchholz (7-10) allowed two runs in six innings. Ramirez homered for the ninth time in 16 games, including a three-run shot to cap a five-run ninth in Boston's 7-5 victory Thursday. Luis Cessa (4-2) gave up three runs in five innings. In his second game since signing with the Yankees, Billy Butler hit a two-run homer in the ninth to make it 7-4, but Craig Kimbrel got two outs for his 26th save.

### ORIOLES 5, RAYS 4

J.J. Hardy and Michael Bourn came through with RBIs in the eighth inning as Baltimore rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Tampa Bay. The final out came when Mike Mahtook was thrown out at the plate trying to score from first base on a single into the left-field corner by Alexi Ramirez. Pedro Alvarez and Chris Davis homered for the Orioles, who remained two games behind first-place Boston in the AL East. Baltimore also moved one-half game ahead of Toronto for the first AL wild card, with the Blue Jays playing later Friday night. Baltimore closed to 4-3 before completing the comeback in the eighth against wild reliever Brad Boxberger (4-2). Two walks and a hit batter loaded the bases for Hardy, who tied it with an infield single. Bourn followed with a fly ball to left field. Brad Brach (9-3) worked the eighth and Zach Britton got three outs for his 44th save. Evan Longoria hit his career-high 34th homer for the last-place Rays.

### JAYS 5, ANGELS 0

Troy Tulowitzki hit a two-run homer and R.A. Dickey pitched scoreless ball into the sixth inning as the Toronto Blue Jays stayed atop the AL wild-card race with a victory over the freefalling Los Angeles Angels. Edwin Encarnacion added a late two-run homer for the Blue Jays (81-66), who stayed even

with Baltimore for the league's two wild-card playoff spots. Both teams trail Boston by two games for the AL East lead with 15 to play. Toronto has lost seven of 11 overall, but took the first two games of a weekend series with the Angels, who have lost five straight and nine of 10. Dickey (10-14) bolstered his case to keep a rotation spot by limiting the Angels to seven hits and striking out five.

### INDIANS 11, TIGERS 4

Mike Napoli drove in four runs and Cleveland stretched its lead over Detroit in the AL Central to seven games by beating the second-place Tigers. Napoli hit a gift two-run double in the first inning off rookie Michael Fulmer (10-7) and added a towering two-run homer in the fifth that bounced out of Progressive Field as the Indians lowered the magic number for clinching their first division title since 2007 to nine. Corey Kluber (17-9) worked seven innings, keeping the top of Detroit's lineup in check and setting the tone for the Indians' biggest series this season. The right-hander is 8-1 in 12 starts since the All-Star break and remains the one pitcher in the rotation Cleveland can count on. Carlos Santana added two RBIs for the Indians, now 12-1 against the Tigers.

### METS 3, TWINS 0

Bartolo Colon limited the Twins to three singles in seven innings while Jose Reyes and Asdrubal Cabrera hit consecutive home runs off rookie Jose Berrios in the third as New York beat Minnesota in the opener of the Mets' final homestand this season. Matched against a pitcher nearly half his age, the 43-year-old Colon (14-7) won for the fourth time in five decisions. Jeury Familia completed the three-hitter for his 49th save in 53 chances. New York began the night with a one-game lead over St. Louis for the second NL wild card, one game behind San Francisco. The 22-year-old Berrios (2-7) allowed two runs in four innings and has given up 12 homers in 48 2/3 innings. He dropped to 0-6 in seven starts since beating Cleveland on Aug. 1 in his return from the minors. He also singled in his first professional plate appearance. Brian Dozier extended his hitting streak to 20 games for the Twins.

### GIANTS 8, CARDINALS 2

All that talk about Buster Posey's second-half power drought was answered with one mighty swing in a September game that mattered - a two-run homer that helped the San Francisco Giants beat the St. Louis Cardinals in this matchup of playoff contenders. Posey drove in four runs and the Giants stayed four games back of the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers, who won at Arizona. San Francisco maintained its one-game lead over the New York Mets for the league's top wild card, moving three games up on the Cardinals in the wild-card standings. Left-hander Matt Moore (4-4) allowed two runs over five innings, struck out four and walked three while facing the Cardinals for the first time in his career. He won for the fourth time over five starts in his ninth outing since joining San Francisco in a trade with Tampa Bay.

### CUBS 5, BREWERS 4, 10 INNINGS

Miguel Montero homered in the 10th inning and Chicago celebrated its NL Central title with a dramatic victory over Milwaukee. The Cubs became the first major league team to clinch its division when St. Louis lost at San Francisco late Thursday night. A day later, they put together quite a party. Chicago (94-53) pushed across two runs in the ninth and Montero connected for a leadoff drive in the 10th against Blaine Boyer (2-4). The Cubs poured out of the dugout to mob Montero at home plate, then pulled on postseason hats and shirts as the crowd of 40,823 cheered wildly. Chris Coghlan had three hits for the Cubs, including



**DENVER:** Nick Hundley #4 and Daniel Descalso #3 of the Colorado Rockies celebrate after Descalso hit a walk-off RBI single in the ninth inning of a game against the San Diego Padres at Coors Field on Friday in Denver, Colorado. —AFP

an RBI single during the ninth-inning rally. Albert Almora Jr. hit a two-run homer, and Aroldis Chapman (4-1) struck out the side in the 10th for his first win with the Cubs. Ryan Braun, Orlando Arcia and Scooter Gennett homered for Milwaukee. Cubs left fielder Jorge Soler left with tightness on his right side. Brewers center fielder Keon Broxton slammed into the outfield wall while tracking a long drive and broke his right wrist.

### NATIONALS 7, BRAVES 2

Trea Turner homered, had four hits and scored four runs while Max Scherzer won his fifth straight decision to help Washington beat Atlanta. Daniel Murphy and Anthony Rendon each added two RBIs. The Nationals, seeking their third NL East title in five years, have won 13 of 17. Their magic number to clinch the division is six with 15 games remaining. Scherzer (17-7) gave up seven hits, two runs, two walks and struck out eight in seven innings. The Washington ace is 12-3 with a 2.10 ERA in his last 20 starts. John Gant (1-4) allowed six hits, five runs and three walks in 1 2/3 innings. Appearing in his 16th game with seven starts, Gant had his ERA rise 84 points to 5.24.

### DODGERS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Kenta Maeda limited the Arizona Diamondbacks to a run on three hits over five innings as the Los Angeles Dodgers held on for this win. Maeda (15-9) struck out six and had seven wins in his last 10 starts. He outdueled former Dodger Zack Greinke, who allowed only one earned run. Greinke (12-7) gave up three runs on four hits, struck out four and walked four. The Dodgers' lead in the NL West remained four games over second-place San Francisco. The Los Angeles bullpen held the Diamondbacks to three hits over four innings, with six relievers combining for six strikeouts. Closer Kenley Jansen gave up Chris Owings' triple and a long sacrifice fly by Paul Goldschmidt in the bottom of the ninth, but got Jake Lamb to ground out into the defensive shift to end the game for his 45th save.

### RANGERS 7, ATHLETICS 6

Jonathan Lucroy hit a two-run single with two outs in the ninth inning as Texas moved closer to clinching the AL West. Lucroy hit a ground ball inside third base to drive in pinch-runners Delino DeShields and Joey Gallo, who had stolen second base when Rougned Odor struck out. Carlos Beltran's one-out double began the winning rally. Ryan Madson (5-6) had his seventh blown save in 37 chances. Sam Dyson (2-2), the Rangers' fourth pitcher, got the win.

### WHITE SOX 7, ROYALS 4

Chris Sale pitched his American League-leading sixth complete-game to pick up his 16th win and Carlos Sanchez hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning as Chicago beat Kansas City. Sanchez had struck out in his first three at-bats before hitting a pitch from Kelvin Herrera out to right with J.D. Shuck and Avisail Garcia aboard. It was Sanchez's first home run since last Sept. 21 at Detroit. Todd Frazier doubled with one out and scored on Alex Avila's single for the first run of the inning. Sale (16-8), 1-6 in his previous 11 starts, limited the Royals to four runs, three earned, while striking out 10 and walking

one. Herrera (2-5) blew his third save in 14 chances as Kansas City lost its fifth straight.

### PHILLIES 4, MARLINS 3, 13 INNINGS

Pinch-hitter Jimmy Paredes singled home the winning run with one out in the 13th inning to lift Philadelphia over Miami. Ryan Howard hit his 22nd homer to spark a three-run rally for the Phillies in the sixth. Derek Dietrich tied it for the Marlins with his first career pinch-hit homer in the eighth, connecting off Edubray Ramos. Frank Herrmann (1-2) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. A.J. Ramos (1-3) took the loss.

### PIRATES 9, REDS 7, 10 INNINGS

Jordy Mercer had an RBI single with the bases loaded in the 10th inning and David Freese added a two-run single as Pittsburgh overcame some shaky defense to preserve its chances in the NL wild-card race. The Pirates loaded the bases against Tony Cingrani (2-5) with a walk and two infield hits before Mercer snapped a 6-6 tie with a single to left. Freese singled to center two batters later. Gregory Polanco and Jung Ho Kang homered to help the Pirates to their third win in four games after a four-game losing streak. Pittsburgh remained 5 1/2 games behind the New York Mets for the NL's second wild card. Antonio Bastardo (3-0) pitched a perfect ninth and Tony Watson allowed Steve Selsky's first career home run before logging his 13th save.

### ROCKIES 8, PADRES 7

Pinch-hitter Daniel Descalso lined a game-winning single off the center-field wall in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift the Colorado Rockies past San Diego on Friday night. DJ LeMahieu had three hits to raise his batting average to .349. He is tied with Washington's Daniel Murphy for the lead in the NL batting race. The Rockies trailed 7-5 entering the ninth against closer Brandon Maurer (0-5) after hail and rain in the top of the inning forced a 38-minute delay. LeMahieu started the comeback with a one-out double and Carlos Gonzalez singled him home one out later. Pinch-hitter David Dahl and Nick Hundley each singled to left to tie it.

### ASTROS 6, MARINERS 0

Collin McHugh allowed just two hits in seven stellar innings and Evan Gattis and Marwin Gonzalez both hit solo home runs as the Houston Astros ended the Mariners' eight-game win streak. McHugh was outstanding in baffling the surging Mariners all night, not allowing a base runner until Nori Aoki's leadoff single in the fourth inning. Seattle's only other hit off McHugh was Kyle Seager's single with two outs in the seventh. McHugh (11-10) improved to 9-3 in his career against Seattle and 4-0 this season while allowing just three runs in 25 innings. Meanwhile, Seattle starter Felix Hernandez (11-6) stumbled in his biggest start of the season. With the Mariners back in the AL wild-card race, Hernandez failed to get through five innings, giving up five earned runs and eight hits. —AP

## MLB results/standings

Chicago Cubs 5, Milwaukee 4 (10 innings); Philadelphia 4, Miami 3 (13 Innings); Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 4; Cleveland 11, Detroit 4; NY Mets 3, Minnesota 0; Boston 7, NY Yankees 4; Pittsburgh 9, Cincinnati 7 (10 innings); Washington 7, Atlanta 2; Texas 7, Oakland 6; Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 4; Colorado 8, San Diego 7; LA Dodgers 3, Arizona 2; Toronto 5, LA Angels 0; Houston 6, Seattle 0; San Francisco 8, St. Louis 2.

American League				National League				
Eastern Division				Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB				
Boston	83	64	.565	-	Washington	88	59	.599
Baltimore	81	66	.551	2	NY Mets	78	69	.531
Toronto	81	66	.551	2	Miami	73	74	.497
NY Yankees	77	70	.524	6	Philadelphia	66	82	.446
Tampa Bay	63	84	.429	20	Atlanta	56	91	.381
					Central Division			
					Chicago Cubs	94	53	.639
					St. Louis	76	71	.517
					Pittsburgh	72	74	.493
					Milwaukee	66	82	.446
					Cincinnati	62	84	.425
					Western Division			
					LA Dodgers	83	64	.565
					San Francisco	79	68	.537
					Colorado	70	77	.476
					Arizona	62	85	.422
					San Diego	62	85	.422



## PARALYMPIANS, POOR RIO KIDS TEACH EACH OTHER ABOUT OVERCOMING LIMITS

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** French Paralympians got a taste of Rio's tough realities in a visit to a favela Friday but the impoverished children greeting the disabled athletes got an eye opener of their own. Foreign celebrities and sports stars often follow a well-beaten track from Rio's glamorous tourist-friendly districts to make brief morale-boosting visits in the poor, sometimes deeply violent favela communities. But the trip by a dozen French judokas and other Paralympians to Rocinha, the biggest favela of all, had a difference. Rather than just coming to witness the locals' difficulties, these visitors brought their own stories of overcoming terrible odds.

After leaving the bubble of the athlete's village in the posh Barra district, meeting about 30 young judo students in rough-edged Rocinha was a distinct reality check for the French.

"We are very lucky to be with them. Not all the children here have what they deserve: access to schooling, health, a roof over their heads. It's extremely important that we give them a little moment of happiness," said Sandrine Martinet, who won gold in the under 52kg category and has had poor sight since birth.

She and other French athletes were welcomed to the Instituto Reacao NGO by its founder, 2004 Olympic bronze medalist Flavio Canto. "It's a great day because the champions are here," announced Canto, whose institute promotes access to sport and education for Rio's poor and has trained top judokas, including gold medalist at the Olympics this August, Rafaela Silva. For about an hour, judokas, athletics team members and swimmers took part in the training, talked with the children

and gave demonstrations. Each had a separate story of being blind or deaf or partly paralyzed or amputated. They wanted to show that sport "doesn't have limits," Martinet said.

### MUTUAL ADMIRATION

If the visitors were impressed by the obstacles Rocinha's young face in their attempt to build lives, the admiration was mutual. Young judokas had their eyes blindfolded so that they could experience judo without being able to see. "I did it and it was really, really difficult," said 15-year-old Julia.

"They are incredible to be able to do judo without seeing," she said. Renan, 11, was ecstatic after having been able to compete against Frenchman Cyril Jonard, who is deaf and has impaired vision. "They don't have our advantages," Renan said, "but I

don't feel sorry for them because they made us feel proud and they win even with handicaps." It was a view mirrored by the French Paralympians when they looked at the young, hopeful residents of the favela.

Martinet praised the blindfolded children for "going at it full tilt" and said she was touched how afterward "they came for a hug." "This favela is very big, very crowded and all these children don't have the same things as us in France. We need to show them that world of sport is interested in them," said Paralympic swimmer Elodie Lorandi, who won bronze for France in the 100m and 400m freestyle, and has a paralyzed leg.

Then she said: "We should do this more often in France because it's important to explain early to children what being handicapped means." — AFP

## PODIUMS OF THE DAY

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Rio de Janeiro 2016 Summer Paralympics podiums of the day on Friday:

### ARCHERY

#### Individual Recurve/Compound - W1

Gold: John Walker (GBR)  
Silver: David Drahoninsky (CZE)  
Bronze: Peter Kinik (SVK)

#### Individual Compound - Open

Gold: Jiamin Zhou (CHN)  
Silver: Yueshan Lin (CHN)  
Bronze: Mi Soon Kim (KOR)

### ATHLETICS

#### 400m - T36

Gold: Paul Blake (GBR)  
Silver: Roman Pavlyk (UKR)  
Bronze: William Stedman (NZL)

#### Shot Put - F40

Gold: Garrah Tnaiash (IRQ)  
Silver: Zhenyu Chen (CHN)  
Bronze: Smaali Bouaabid (TUN)

#### 400m - T37

Gold: Charl Du Toit (RSA)  
Silver: Omar Monterola (VEN)  
Bronze: Sofiane Hamdi (ALG)

#### 1500m - T45/46

Gold: Samir Nouioua (ALG)  
Silver: David Emong (UGA)  
Bronze: Michael Roeger (AUS)

#### Club Throw - F51

Gold: Zeljko Dimitrijevic (SRB)  
Silver: Milos Mitic (SRB)  
Bronze: Marian Kureja (SVK)

#### Discus - F43/44

Gold: David Blair (USA)  
Silver: Akeem Stewart (TRI)  
Bronze: Dan Greaves (GBR)

#### Hauteur - T45/46/57

Gold: Roderick Townsend-Roberts (USA)  
Silver: Hongjie Chen (CHN)  
Bronze: Aaron Chatman (AUS)

#### Shot Put - F36

Gold: Sebastian Dietz (GER)  
Silver: Mykola Dibrova (UKR)  
Bronze: Cuiqing Li (CHN)

#### Shot Put - F54/55

Gold: Ruzhdi Ruzhdi (BUL)  
Silver: Hamed Amiri (IRI)  
Bronze: Lech Stoltman (POL)

#### 400m - T11

Gold: Cuiqing Liu (CHN)  
Silver: Sol Rojas (VEN)  
Bronze: Terezinha Guilhermina (BRA)

#### 1500m - T20

Gold: Barbara Niewiedzial (POL)  
Silver: Ilona Biacs (HUN)  
Bronze: Liudmyla Danylina (UKR)

#### 800 m - T33/34

Gold: Hannah Cockroft (GBR)  
Silver: Alexa Halko (USA)  
Bronze: Kare Adenegan (GBR)

#### Long Jump - T11

Gold: Silvania Costa De Oliveira (BRA)  
Silver: Fatimata Brigitte Diasso (CIV)  
Bronze: Lorena Salvatini Spoladore (BRA)

#### Shot Put - F33

Gold: Asmahan Boudjadar (ALG)  
Silver: Sara Hamdi Masoud (QAT)  
Bronze: Sara Alsenani (UAE)

#### 200 m - T45/46/47

Gold: Deja Young (USA)  
Silver: Alicja Fiodorow (POL)  
Bronze: Lu Li (CHN)

### BOCCIA

#### Mixed Individual - BC1

Gold: David Smith (GBR)  
Silver: Daniel Perez (NED)  
Bronze: Won Jeong Yoo (KOR)

#### Mixed Individual - BC2

Gold: Watcharaphon Vongsa (THA)  
Silver: Worawut Saengampa (THA)  
Bronze: Zhiqiang Yan (CHN)

#### Mixed Individual - BC3

Gold: Ho Won Jeong (KOR)  
Silver: Grigorios Polychronidis (GRE)  
Bronze: Jose Carlos Macedo (POR)

#### Mixed Individual - BC4

Gold: Yuk Wing Leung (HKG)  
Silver: Samuel Andrejckic (SVK)  
Bronze: Pornchok Larpyen (THA)

### CYCLING - ROAD

#### Mixed H 5 Team Relay

Gold: Italy (Vittorio Podesta, Luca Mazzone, Alessandro Zanardi)  
Silver: United States (William Lachenauer, William Groulx, Oscar Sanchez)  
Bronze: Belgium (Jean-Francois Deberg, Christophe Hindricq, Jonas Van De Steene)

#### Individual C 1-2-3 Road Race

Gold: Steffen Warias (GER)  
Silver: Kris Bosmans (BEL)  
Bronze: Fabio Anobile (ITA)

#### T 1-2 Road Race

Gold: Hans-Peter Durst (GER)  
Silver: David Stone (GBR)  
Bronze: Nestor Ayala Ayala (COL)

#### Individual C 1-2-3 Road Race

Gold: Jamie Whitmore (USA)  
Silver: Sini Zeng (CHN)  
Bronze: Denise Schindler (GER)

#### T 1-2 Road Race

Gold: Carol Cooke (AUS)  
Silver: Jill Walsh (USA)  
Bronze: Jana Majunke (GER)

### EQUESTRIAN

#### Individual Freestyle Test - Grade Ia

Gold: Sophie Christiansen (GBR)  
Silver: Anne Dunham (GBR)  
Bronze: Sergio Froes Ribeiro De Oliva (BRA)

#### Individual Freestyle Test - Grade Ib

Gold: Lee Pearson (GBR)  
Silver: Pepo Puch (AUT)  
Bronze: Stinna Kastrup (DEN)

#### Individual Freestyle Test - Grade II

Gold: Natasha Baker (GBR)  
Silver: Rixt Van Der Horst (NED)  
Bronze: Steffen Zeibig (GER)

#### Individual Freestyle Test - Grade III

Gold: Sanne Voets (NED)  
Silver: Ann Cathrin Lubbe (NOR)  
Bronze: Louise Etnzer Jakobsson (SWE)

#### Individual Freestyle Test - Grade IV

Gold: Michele George (BEL)  
Silver: Sophie Wells (GBR)  
Bronze: Frank Hosmar (NED)



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Tatyana McFadden, center, holds a flag as she won her third gold medal of the games, Chelsea McClammer, left, won the silver and Amanda McGrooy won the bronze at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AP

## TOP US WHEELCHAIR RACER COULD GO HOME WITH 5 GOLDS

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Tatyana McFadden came into the Rio Paralympics with a chance to win seven gold medals, from the 100 meters to the marathon, an unprecedented feat for a wheelchair racer.

Depending on how she does this weekend, she'll go back to the United States with anywhere between four and six medals, at least three of them gold. A disappointment? Nope. Not for an athlete who is probably America's best-known Paralympian.

"The 100 meters is one of the toughest races, especially being a marathoner," McFadden said after she closed hard but failed to catch China's Liu Wenjun on Sept. 9. "The 100 is really, really hard, so I was really proud with a silver."

The other tough moment came Thursday, when McFadden's 4 X 400-meter relay team lost to China and then got disqualified for a lane violation. The highlights came in between, as McFadden staged her own mini-gold rush.

McFadden nabbed her first gold of the games in the 400 meters last Sunday, over a second ahead of the silver medalist, her teammate Cheri Madsen. From there, she continued her dominance with her teammates in the 1500 and 5000, with the United States sweeping the podium in both events.

As part of an international sporting festival that is among the world's biggest, yet gets little attention in the United States, McFadden has become an established name. With sponsorships

from BMW USA, BP, Coca-Cola and Nike, McFadden is embracing her role.

"I'm so thankful and so grateful for every opportunity that comes my way," she said. "I work so hard at it and it's an honor. I love everything about this sport."

Her teammates don't begrudge her the attention. "Tatyana's been awesome, she goes above and beyond to get interviews and to get newspapers and news stations to cover our races," said Chelsea McClammer, McFadden's training partner, who was part of the US podium sweeps in the 1500 and 5000 meters. Up next is the 800 later.

### REFRESHING

The marathon, one of the Paralympics' final events, is where McFadden has been most successful in her career. Since coming in ninth place in the event in the 2012 Paralympics, she has completed the marathon grand slam, winning Boston, London, Chicago and New York all in the same calendar year.

She was the first person - able-bodied or otherwise - to do so. And she went on to do it three years in a row.

Deborah McFadden has seen her daughter's prominence grow immensely since London. After growing up in a generation where people with disabilities were almost hidden, Deborah finds it refreshing.

"Things are changing, but we haven't had a

hero or an icon like you have your baseball or football icons," Deborah said. "I think she's changing perceptions not just in the games but in the world. She shows that it doesn't matter what you have or don't have, it's a matter of what you do with your body. She represents that."

Born with spina bifida, McFadden is paralyzed from the waist down and spent the first six years of her life in a Russian orphanage.

She wasn't expected to live long, but that all changed when she was adopted by Deborah, who brought her back to the United States and raised her with her longtime partner, Bridget O'Shaughnessey, in Maryland.

On Thursday, McFadden was awarded the Whang Youn Dai Achievement Award, given to the male and female athletes who best exemplify the spirit of the Paralympic Games and the Paralympic values.

McFadden doesn't shy away from documenting her life on social media, from her family, to her training. And with the Paralympics coming to a close on Sunday, shortly after the marathon medal ceremony, she is hopeful that the momentum created by the games will continue.

"I love telling my story and putting it on social media and having people just go 'wow,'" McFadden said. "And having coverage on TV is huge for us back in the States, so I think having it grow that way in popularity is huge for us and it's a plus. Hopefully it'll just keep growing, growing, growing." — AP

## PARALYMPICS MEDALS TABLE

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Paralympics medals following Friday's events:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	94	74	49	217
Great Britain	58	33	35	126
Ukraine	38	33	35	106
United States	36	39	29	104
Australia	17	26	25	68
Germany	15	21	13	49
Netherlands	13	18	24	55
Brazil	12	25	23	60
Italy	9	13	12	34
New Zealand	9	5	5	19
Nigeria	8	2	2	12
Poland	7	16	11	34
Canada	7	9	8	24
Spain	7	8	7	22
Iran	7	8	6	21
Uzbekistan	7	6	17	30
Belarus	7	0	2	9
South Korea	6	9	15	30
Tunisia	6	6	6	18
Thailand	6	5	6	17
France	6	4	14	24
South Africa	6	4	4	14
Greece	5	4	4	13
Slovakia	5	3	3	11
Algeria	4	5	7	16
Belgium	4	3	2	9
Ireland	4	3	2	9
Mexico	4	1	8	13
Cuba	4	1	6	11
Egypt	3	5	3	11
Norway	3	2	3	8
Turkey	3	1	5	9
Serbia	3	1	4	8
Kenya	3	0	2	5
Malaysia	3	0	1	4
Colombia	2	4	8	14
United Arab Emirates	2	3	1	6
Iraq	2	3	0	5
Hong Kong	2	2	2	6
Croatia	2	2	1	5
Morocco	2	2	1	5
India	2	1	1	4
Lithuania	2	1	0	3
Latvia	2	0	1	3
Singapore	2	0	1	3
Hungary	1	8	9	18
Azerbaijan	1	6	2	9
Sweden	1	4	5	10
Austria	1	4	2	7
Czech Republic	1	2	3	6
Denmark	1	2	3	6
Namibia	1	2	1	4
Switzerland	1	2	1	4
Argentina	1	1	2	4
Vietnam	1	1	2	4
Kazakhstan	1	1	0	2
Slovenia	1	1	0	2
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	0	2
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1
Georgia	1	0	0	1
Kuwait	1	0	0	1
Japan	0	8	11	19
Venezuela	0	3	3	6
Jordan	0	2	1	3
Qatar	0	2	0	2



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** In this photo released by the IOC, Samir Nouioua of Algeria celebrates after winning the gold medal in the Men's 1500m - T46 final during the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday. — AP

## BALE, RONALDO MISS ESPANYOL TRIP AS REAL TARGET RECORD

**BARCELONA:** Real Madrid will be without talisman Cristiano Ronaldo and record signing Gareth Bale for their trip to Espanyol today, where they aim to equal Barcelona's record of 16 consecutive La Liga wins. Ronaldo scored the equaliser in Real's thrilling late turnaround to beat Sporting Lisbon 2-1 on Wednesday but has been ruled out with the flu, while Bale is still carrying a hip injury he sustained against Sporting.

"Cristiano will not travel with us, he has a sore

throat and we're not going to risk him," Zidane told a news conference on Saturday ahead of the trip to Barcelona to face Espanyol. "We have games every three days and we can't take risks with such an important player. Bale received a strong knock to the hip on Wednesday and he's not going to travel either." "This is a group, we have important players so when a player has something wrong it's better for someone else to come in and do well, we always have to think about the team."

Real equalled a club record of 15 consecutive wins set in 1960/61 last week against Osasuna and victory today will see coach Zinedine Zidane match the 16 straight wins set by Pep Guardiola's Barcelona in the 2010-11 season. Real have won their last three league visits to Espanyol, Ronaldo scoring five goals in a 6-0 rout last season. Zidane said Ronaldo's absence would see out of favour Colombian international James Rodriguez return to the side, and he backed Karim Benzema after a dis-

appointing return to action from the Frenchman against Sporting following a hip injury. "I've said two or three times that James is training very well and he's going to play, he's important for the team and I think he's really motivated," Zidane said. "He wants to play like everyone else and he's going to contribute a lot."

"Benzema is fine," added the coach. "The other day was his first start for a while and we'll see what happens tomorrow." — Reuters



**LEGANES:** Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (C) vies with Leganes' midfielder Unai Lopez during the Spanish league football match CD Leganes CF vs FC Barcelona at the Butarque municipal stadium in Leganes yesterday. — AFP

## BARCA WIN EASILY AT LEGANES, ATLETICO THRASH SPORTING

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona's attacking trio of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar were all on target as the champions roared back into life in La Liga with a dominant 5-1 victory at promoted Leganes yesterday.

Atletico Madrid strikers Antoine Griezmann, Fernando Torres and Kevin Gameiro also all scored in a 5-0 thrashing of Sporting Gijon to warm up for next Wednesday's visit to the Nou Camp.

Messi sidefooted in a simple cross from Suarez to strike the opening goal for Barca after 15 minutes and returned the favour for the Uruguayan to nudge in the second in the 31st.

Neymar stretched Barca's lead to three goals on the stroke of half-time, tapping in another lay off from Suarez, before Messi got his second from the penalty spot 10 minutes into the second half.

Rafinha rounded off the most comfortable of Barca victories with a curled finish in the 64th, although Gabriel Appelt salvaged a goal for the Madrid minnows in the 80th with a free-kick whipped into the top corner.

Barcelona, beaten 2-1 by newcomers Alaves last weekend in their first loss at the Nou Camp since April 17, now have nine points from their first four La Liga games.

They join Real, who can go clear again when they play at Espanyol on Sunday, at the league's summit, while Atletico are one point behind.

### TACTICS

"This is an important victory against a team that we knew would cause us problems in bringing the ball out. We exploited the space well and we were very active from the start," said Luis Enrique.

After squad rotations backfired against Alaves, Luis Enrique picked a similar team to the one that battered Celtic 7-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday in Barca's biggest ever win in European soccer's top competition.

Barca played with a back three when in possession, switching to a 4-4-2 shape without the ball.

"Our tactics brought risks but we deployed

them well and I'm proud of the players for that," added Luis Enrique. "With a three man defence they could press us very high, but we're Barca and we assume these risks."

Atletico kickstarted their league campaign last week with a 4-0 win at Celta Vigo and raced out of the traps against Sporting, Gameiro feeding Griezmann to tap in the opener in the second minute before curling in another in the fifth.

Griezmann then cut inside to lash in the third goal in the 31st before being replaced by Torres, and the homegrown Atletico hero further delighted the Vicente Calderon by rounding off the victory with two late strikes, including an injury time penalty.

"We knew we were doing the right things to score goals," Torres told BeIN Sports after a rewarding afternoon for Atletico's strikeforce.

"It's good that all the forwards contributed with the goals and that I could do that from the bench. It's never a good time to visit Barcelona but now we can go there feeling confident." — Reuters

## CAVANI HITS 4 GOALS AS PSG THRASHES CAEN 6-0

**PARIS:** Edinson Cavani shrugged off his Champions League woes to score four goals in the first half as Paris Saint-Germain romped to a one-sided 6-0 win at Caen in Ligue 1 on Friday. The Uruguayan, charged with filling Zlatan Ibrahimovic's sizeable boots this season, was criticised for missing several gilt-edged chances in PSG's 1-1 draw with Arsenal on Tuesday, despite scoring the opener against the Premier League club inside 42 seconds.

But he hit back by scoring four times in the space of 35 first-half minutes at the Stade Michel-d'Ornano as PSG claimed their most convincing win so far under new coach Unai Emery.

Lucas Moura and Jean-Kevin Augustin added further goals after the break as PSG ended a run of three games without a win in all competitions and went top of the table on goal difference from Monaco and Nice ahead of the rest of the weekend's games.

"We have confidence in Edinson. When he has five chances and only scores one, like on Tuesday, I tell him to be calm," said Emery. "For me, the most important thing is that he creates chances. On Tuesday they didn't go in, today they did, but he played the same game." With this game coming just 72 hours after Paris faced Arsenal in their Champions League opener, Emery opted to leave Thiago Silva and Marco Verratti on the bench at kick-off.

Thomas Meunier replaced Serge Aurier at right-back but Alphonse Areola kept his place in goal at the expense of Kevin Trapp while Hatem Ben Arfa was again left out of

the visitors' squad in Normandy.

Damien Da Silva headed narrowly wide for Caen before PSG opened the scoring in the 12th minute, Cavani turning the ball in at the back post after Lucas had dummied a low Maxwell cross from the left.

The champions then won a penalty midway through the first half when Lucas was brought down in the box by Syam Ben Youssef and Cavani stepped up to beat Remy Vercoutre from 12 yards.

### BIGGEST VICTORY

Vercoutre saved from a powerful Lucas strike but Cavani got in front of Ben Youssef to convert another low Maxwell cross and complete his hat-trick-his third in Ligue 1 — on 38 minutes.

His and PSG's fourth came in stoppage time at the end of the first period as he once again applied a first-time finish after being set up by Meunier. That was Cavani's eighth goal for club and country this season but it was also his last act of the evening, a slight thigh strain meaning he was replaced by Jese Rodriguez for the second half.

Augustin, another substitute, set up Lucas to smash in the fifth goal and then found the target himself with 12 minutes remaining as Paris recorded their biggest victory since beating the same opponents by the same score in April. Monaco, fresh from winning at Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League on Wednesday, can reclaim top spot when they host Rennes. Nice visit Montpellier on Sunday before Marseille host Lyon in the game of the weekend. — AFP



**CAEN:** Paris Saint-Germain's Uruguayan forward Edinson Cavani celebrates after scoring a goal during the French L1 football match between Caen (SMC) and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), on Friday, at the Michel d'Ornano stadium in Caen, northwestern France. — AFP

## CARLOS BACCA WINS 'BATTLE OF COLOMBIANS' AS MILAN SINK SAMP

**MILAN:** AC Milan striker Carlos Bacca came off the bench to win the 'Battle of the Colombians' with a late strike in a 1-0 win at Sampdoria on Friday.

Bacca started on the bench amid reports of a midweek spat with Rossoneri coach Vincenzo Montella. But amid the ever-present danger of a Sampdoria goal from friend and compatriot Luis Muriel, Montella introduced the Colombian on the hour and Bacca didn't disappoint.

Samp striker Muriel was a threat throughout the first half and emulated his Colombian compatriot by almost breaking the deadlock with a second-half strike that hit the woodwork.

But five minutes from the end Bacca produced some great skills to flick the ball past Emiliano Viviano in the Samp goal after collecting Suso's perfectly-weighted pass following a Milan Skriniar error.

Sampdoria, though, had reason to feel aggrieved after dominating the first half. Milan 'keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma ran frantically across his goal to produce a fine, one-handed flying save from Lucas Torreira's goal-bound drive after just 11 minutes.

In Bacca's absence, Gianluca Lapadula was given a rare start but after being sent through by Davide Calabria's smart chip, he fired over on the half-volley.

But Muriel was soon into his stride. He deftly skipped past three Milan players on his way to firing his follow-up over Donnarumma's crossbar. Some nice link-up play with Karol

Linetty then set up Edgar Barreto for a drive that a diving Donnarumma palmed out for a corner.

The match was scoreless, but Milan were left with a worrying statistic for the first time since October 2015 they had failed to produce a shot on target during the first half in successive league games.

Milan's woes initially continued after the restart, until Bacca came to the rescue. Midfielder Giacomo Bonaventura was cautioned three minutes in for a late challenge on Torreira. Montella replaced midfielder Jose Sosa with Manuel Locatelli just before the hour and two minutes later the visitors hit the target for the first time, although Viviano had no trouble with Suso's long-range effort.

Minutes after Bacca's arrival he glanced a header well wide of the target. But the Colombian was unlucky to be denied a spectacular opener when he turned on M'Baye Niang's pass amid a crowded area to force a great parry from Viviano that the 'keeper pushed onto the far post.

At the other end Donnarumma somehow pushed Muriel's superbly-hit low strike off the base of the post. Muriel finally beat the towering 'keeper but he had handled on his way to goal and was cautioned for his efforts.

When Skriniar gave possession away deep in Samp territory, Suso pounced. The Spaniard waited and found Bacca with a superb pass that the Colombian took with the outside of his boot, before flicking it past the onrushing Viviano and into the far corner of the net. — AFP

## BAYERN MUNICH TOILS TO WIN, DORTMUND FLYING IN BUNDESLIGA

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich conceded for the first time and labored to maintain its winning start to the Bundesliga while Borussia Dortmund underlined its title credentials with another rout yesterday.

Rafinha sealed Bayern's 3-1 home win over Ingolstadt after the visitors missed a host of chances to equalize, while Dortmund thrashed Darmstadt 6-0 to follow Wednesday's 6-0 win over Legia Warsaw in the Champions League.

Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti was forced to rotate in Munich with David Alaba, Philipp Lahm, Thomas Mueller and Mats Hummels all out.

Dario Lezcano stunned the home fans by scoring in the eighth minute. It was the first goal Bayern had conceded in six games across all competitions. Mathew Leckie raced down the left and crossed for Lezcano to shoot past the despairing Manuel Neuer into the top right corner.

Lezcano went close again minutes later before Robert Lewandowski equalized with a brilliant chip from a closing angle over Ingolstadt 'keeper Orjan Nyland. But Bayern seemed to be lacking its usual intensity and sharpness, and Leckie fired over and then forced Neuer into action again before the break.

Xabi Alonso put Bayern ahead early in the second half with a hammer-strike inside the left post from outside the penalty area after Franck Ribery laid the ball back. Ribery also set up Lewandowski's opener.

Neuer pulled off a good save to deny Leckie before Ingolstadt substitute Lukas Hinterseer fired wide with only the 'keeper to beat, and Thiago Alcantara was fortunate not to be penalized for bringing down Ingolstadt's Pascal Gross in the penalty area.

Rafinha settled the home side's nerves in the 84th, again set up by Ribery. It was the defender's first goal since April 2013.

"Sometimes we need to suffer," Ancelotti said.

### BORUSSIA DORTMUND 6, DARMSTADT 0

Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel managed the side's second consecutive 6-0 win with Mario Gotze, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, and Marc Bartra on the bench.

Dortmund led only 1-0 at the break despite dominating.

Then Adrian Ramos doubled the lead, and Christian Pulisic swept the ball home for his first Bundesliga goal of the season, a day before he turns 18. Dortmund's task was made easier when Peter Niemeyer was sent off in the 57th for a second yellow card after a bad challenge on Adrian Ramos.

Gonzalo Castro scored his second with his heel, Sebastian Rode made it 5-0 with his, and Emre Mor earned his first Bundesliga goal with two minutes remaining.

"We controlled the game in every respect and gave our fans a great afternoon," Tuchel said.

### EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2, BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1

Leverkusen slumped to its second defeat from

three games after Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez struck a penalty against the post with two minutes remaining.

Eintracht Frankfurt captain Alexander Meier scored early in the second half, and Chicharito equalized on the hour-mark to ensure Leverkusen scored for the 15th consecutive Bundesliga game, a league record.

However, Marco Fabian claimed what proved to be the winner for Frankfurt in the 79th, and Leverkusen rued the cost of Chicharito's late penalty miss.

Elsewhere, promoted Leipzig impressed with four goals in the second half to defeat Hamburger SV 4-0 away, and Hoffenheim held visiting Wolfsburg to a scoreless draw. Borussia Muenchengladbach was hosting Werder Bremen in the late game. — AP



**MUNICH:** Ingolstadt's Congolese midfielder Marcel Tisserand and Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match of Bayern Munich vs FC Ingolstadt in Munich, southern Germany, yesterday. — AFP

# KLOPP SHIES AWAY FROM LIVERPOOL TITLE TALK

**LONDON:** Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp refused to countenance the suggestion his side might be Premier League title contenders following their impressive 2-1 victory at Chelsea.

Dejan Lovren's close-range volley and Jordan Henderson's sublime 25-yard curler earned Liverpool victory at Stamford Bridge on Friday, with Diego Costa replying for the home side.

Liverpool have also beaten Arsenal and defending champions Leicester City this season, but Klopp was no more willing to discuss their title chances than he had been after their 3-1 win here last October.

"I'm really not interested," he told a reporter in the Stamford Bridge press conference room when asked about Liverpool's title prospects.

"Someone asked me that when we won 3-1 last season against Chelsea. My answer was: 'Are you

crazy?' I remember it. 'I learnt a little bit about the English (media). We have 10 points. That's fantastic. I'm really happy after these difficult fixtures.

"We know we can play good football, we're convinced about our quality. We just have to do it every week, or every three days."

The only blot on Liverpool's league record so far was their surprise 2-0 defeat at promoted Burnley, which was followed by a 1-1 draw at Tottenham Hotspur.

Liverpool's performance on Friday was notable for its intensity, with midfielders Sadio Mane, Adam Lallana, Georginio Wijnaldum and Henderson helping to prevent Chelsea gaining a foothold in the game.

Klopp was dismissive when it was put to him that his players might struggle to sustain such a rhythm

and said their dominance of possession in the first half had actually helped them save energy.

"I've managed for 16 years and I get asked that all the time," said the German, whose side visit second-tier Derby County in the League Cup on Tuesday.

"It's not about intensity. It's about finding a solution for the opponent. In the first half it was not that intense. 'We had the ball, so it's about movement, playing football simply. We can come through the lines by running. 'The most intense football is if you make a mistake and have to run in the wrong direction, as we did for their goal. We have to improve, but we don't run like crazy all the time.'

### 'FEEL THE DANGER'

Chelsea manager Antonio Conte handed a second debut to Brazilian centre-back David Luiz, who

returned to the club on transfer deadline day after two seasons at Paris Saint-Germain.

It was Conte's first defeat as Chelsea manager and the first time he had seen one of his teams beaten at home in a league game since Juventus lost 2-1 to Sampdoria in January 2013.

The former Italy manager said both of Liverpool's goals had been the result of defensive inattention from his players. Philippe Coutinho was allowed to take a short free-kick before crossing for Lovren to put Liverpool in front in the 17th minute, while Henderson's goal stemmed from a throw-in.

Chelsea slumped to a disappointing 10th-place finish last season and Conte warned his players they risk meeting a similar fate this term if they do not sharpen up. "I don't want to repeat a bad season like last year," he said. — AFP

# SLIMANI SLOTS IN AS LEICESTER DOWN BURNLEY

 Leicester City	3
 Burnley	0

**LEICESTER:** Record signing Islam Slimani enjoyed a dream Premier League debut for Leicester City as the champions defeated Burnley 3-0 at the King Power Stadium yesterday. The 28 million pounds (\$36.4 million, 32.6 million euros) signing from Sporting Lisbon scored headers either side of half-time before Ben Mee's own goal completed a comprehensive win.

It set the seal on a fine week for Claudio Ranieri's Leicester after they won by the same scoreline on their Champions League debut at Belgian side Club Brugge on Wednesday.

Algeria international Slimani began the process of repaying his transfer fee with two examples of the kind of goal with which he made his name in Portugal.

There was an early chance for him to impress when he picked up possession on the edge of the area with a chance to test Tom Heaton in the Burnley goal. But he chose to feed Marc Albrighton to his left and the winger's weak shot was straight at Heaton.

Burnley soon found their feet with some dangerous play down the left, George Boyd delivering an inviting cross to the back post from the left. Close-season signing Ron-Robert Zieler started in goal for Leicester after Kasper Schmeichel was diagnosed with concussion. The home side were generally on top in the early stages and they could have opened the scoring when Christian Fuchs delivered a teasing cross from the left onto the head of Jamie Vardy.

The striker sent a glancing header just wide of Heaton's goal. After a cagey spell in which both teams struggled for cohesion, Riyadh Mahrez almost gave Leicester a styl-

ish lead.

England's reigning Player of the Year raced from halfway and rode two strong challenges from Burnley defenders before advancing into the penalty area and hitting a low shot that Heaton saved with his legs.

### DEFOUR GOES CLOSE

With half-time approaching, both teams had glorious chances to open the scoring.

The first fell to Burnley as Boyd's cross was headed back to the edge of the six-yard box by Scott Arfield, but Steven Defour headed straight at Zieler. Then, at the other end, Fuchs's superb cross found the head of Mahrez, who failed to find the required deftness with his touch and sent his effort wide of the near post.

There was a further chance for Slimani after a neat lay-off by Vardy, but his attempt lacked power and Heaton made an easy save. Moments later, he just failed to make contact with an Albrighton cross. But Slimani finally took his chance in first-half stoppage-time as he rose purposefully to outjump Burnley's defenders and power home a header from a Fuchs free-kick.

Just three minutes into the second period the striker added to his and the Foxes' joy with a second headed goal of the afternoon. A right-wing cross by Mahrez clipped the feet of both defender Mee and Vardy before sitting up invitingly for Slimani to nod home. Slimani was hoping for a hat-trick opportunity when Vardy delivered a cross from the left, but the ball flew over the Algerian's head. Heaton then saw a Mahrez effort from 20 yards dip just over his crossbar before turning a powerful drive by Fuchs around the post. But the third Leicester goal arrived with 12 minutes to go when Mahrez produced more trickery and crossed towards Vardy, only for Mee to divert the ball into his own net.

There was still time for Zieler to mark his first Premier League start with a fine save to keep out a deflected free-kick from Johann Berg Gudmundsson. — AFP



**KINGSTON UPON HULL:** Arsenal's Spanish midfielder Santi Cazorla (L) has a shot on goal during the English Premier League football match between Hull City and Arsenal at the KCOM Stadium in Kingston upon Hull, north east England yesterday. — AFP

# SANCHEZ INSPIRES ARSENAL ROUT OF 10-MAN HULL CITY

 Hull City	1
 Arsenal	4

**KINGSTON UPON HULL:** Alexis Sanchez scored twice as Arsenal secured three consecutive Premier League wins for the first time in nine months with a 4-1 victory at Hull City yesterday.

Sanchez could even afford to miss a first-half penalty at the KCom Stadium where Hull were reduced to 10 men as the Gunners continued their recovery following a slow start to the season which saw them take only a point from their first two games.

Sanchez now has six goals in five appearances against the Tigers, whose fine early season form has deserted them, not helped by the club's on-going take-over talks and continued uncertainty over the future of caretaker manager Mike Phelan, who is yet to accept an offer to take the role full-time.

Arsenal's problems from the penalty spot continued as Sanchez missed the second of the four they've been awarded this season after Hull defender Jake Livermore was ordered off shortly before half-time for handball.

Theo Walcott's deftly chipped finish 10 minutes into the second half as the forward sprinted onto a perfectly weighted backheel from Alex Iwobi

ensured there was to be no stirring comeback from the hosts.

To their credit, Hull made light of their numerical disadvantage and pulled a goal back when Robert Snodgrass converted a penalty after Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech had been penalised for bringing down Dieumerci Mbokani.

Sanchez made sure of the points four minutes later, powering home his side's third after Walcott took the Chile forward's pass in his stride, only to see his shot blocked by Eldin Jakupovic, the rebound falling invitingly for Arsenal's outstanding performer.

Granit Xhaka, a second-half substitute, provided Wenger with a reminder of his talents with a stoppage-time fourth, the summer arrival from Borussia Monchengladbach finding the top corner in impressive style from 30 yards after accepting a pass from Mohamed Elneny.

### DOMINANCE

Arsenal should have had more than a 17th minute strike by Sanchez to show for their first-half dominance. Jakupovic managed only to apply a weak parry to a driven cross from Walcott into the path of Iwobi, whose shot from 12 yards found the net via a minimal though significant touch from Sanchez, who was lurking six yards out.

Sanchez had already fired over from close range from Walcott's inviting cut-back, and Jakupovic produced a stunning save low to his right to block Hector Bellerin's powerfully struck shot, with Mesut Ozil blazing the rebound over.

The fortunes of Jakupovic continued on an

upward curve after Livermore's straight red card for blocking a goal-bound Francis Coquelin shot five minutes before the break.

With regular penalty-taker Santi Cazorla—who has scored his last seven from the spot-looking on, Sanchez saw his effort saved by Jakupovic low to his right. Hull, who became the first club since Aston Villa eight years ago to name an unchanged line-up in their first five Premier League games, rarely looked likely to end their 101-year wait for a home victory against the Londoners.

They created only one moment of danger in the first-half, Snodgrass shooting tamely at the recalled Cech from 15 yards at the culmination of a neat four-man move. Walcott's first goal since the opening weekend defeat by Liverpool ensured Sanchez wasn't left to ponder on his penalty miss for too long.

And although Abel Hernandez sent an acrobatic kick against the bar, Hull posed only a sporadic threat until the late penalty from Snodgrass as the visitors made it 26 consecutive games without defeat against newly promoted teams. — AFP



**LEICESTER:** Leicester City's Algerian striker Islam Slimani (2R) jumps to head the ball to score during the English Premier League football match between Leicester City and Burnley at King Power Stadium in Leicester, central England yesterday. — AFP

# ALBION DOWN HAMMERS TO MARK CHINESE TAKEOVER

 West Bromwich	4
 West Ham	2

**WEST BROMWICH:** West Bromwich Albion welcomed their new Chinese owners and eased the pressure on boss Tony Pulis with a 4-2 win against struggling West Ham yesterday.

Yunyi Guokai Sports Development Limited, led by Chinese entrepreneur Guochuan Lai, completed their protracted takeover of the Premier League club on Thursday and their reign got off to a memorable start. Nacer Chadli's early penalty opening the scoring at the Hawthorns before goals from Salomon Rondon and James McClean put Albion in complete control before half-time. Chadli added his second after the interval and although Michail Antonio and Manuel Lanzini reduced the deficit for West Ham it was too late to save the visitors from a fourth defeat in five league games. Albion's first win since the opening day of the season was well timed for Pulis, who recently put his job at risk by publicly criticising the club's transfer policy. Without a home win since March, Albion needed a fast start and they got it in the eighth thanks to a helping hand from West

Ham defender Arthur Masuaku. Baffled by some incisive play from Albion winger Matt Phillips, Masuaku conceded a free-kick with a handball, then doubled down on his blunder by needlessly handling again to concede a penalty when Phillips took the set-piece. Belgian winger Chadli stroked home the spot-kick for his first goal since his transfer deadline day move from Tottenham.

West Ham blew a two-goal lead in last weekend's 4-2 home defeat against Watford and Slaven Bilic's team still looked scarred by that meltdown as they shot themselves in the foot time and again. Antonio wasted a good chance to equalise when he shot straight at Albion goalkeeper Ben Foster.

Pulis' side took advantage of West Ham's mistake-filled display to increase their lead in the 37th minute, making it the first time they had scored more than once in a league game since March.

Chadli was allowed to pick out Rondon under little pressure and the Venezuelan forward drove a clinical strike past Adrian for his second goal of the season.

With West Ham's defence creaking under even the slightest pressure, it was no surprise when McClean poked in Albion's third goal from a Chadli shot in the 44th minute.

Chadli piled on the misery for West Ham in the 56th minute when he tapped in from Rondon's pass after the Venezuelan sprinted the length of the pitch. Antonio has tormented opposing defences with his aerial ability this season and he headed his fifth

goal in four matches in the 61st minute. When Lanzini converted a penalty after Dimitri Payet was fouled by Brendan

Galloway five minutes later, West Ham began to dream of a remarkable fightback but their revival eventually ran out of steam. — AFP



**WEST BROMWICH:** West Bromwich Albion's Craig Dawson, centre, has a shot stopped by West Ham United goalkeeper Adrian, during the English Premier League soccer match between West Bromwich Albion and West Ham, at The Hawthorns, in West Bromwich, England, yesterday. — AP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
<b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>	
Watford v Manchester United	14:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Crystal Palace v Stoke City	16:15
BeIN SPORTS	
Southampton v Swansea City	16:15
BeIN SPORTS	
Tottenham v Sunderland	18:30
BeIN SPORTS	
<b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>	
Osasuna v Celta de Vigo	13:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Athletic de Bilbao v Valencia	17:15
BeIN SPORTS	
Villarreal v Real Sociedad	19:30
BeIN SPORTS	
Espanyol v Real Madrid	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	
<b>ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE</b>	
Udinese v Chievo Verona	13:30
BeIN SPORTS	
Cagliari Calcio v Atalanta	16:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Crotone v Citta di Palermo	16:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Sassuolo Calcio v Genoa	16:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Torino FC v Empoli	16:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Internazionale v Juventus	19:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Fiorentina v AS Roma	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	
<b>GERMAN BUNDESLIGA</b>	
Augsburg v FSV Mainz 05	16:30
BeIN SPORTS	
Hertha Berlin v Schalke 04	18:30
BeIN SPORTS	
<b>FRENCH LEAGUE</b>	
Montpellier v OGC Nice	16:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Saint Etienne v Bastia	18:00
BeIN SPORTS	
de Marseille v Lyonnais	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	

# Sports

Australia beat Argentina to seal title for All Blacks

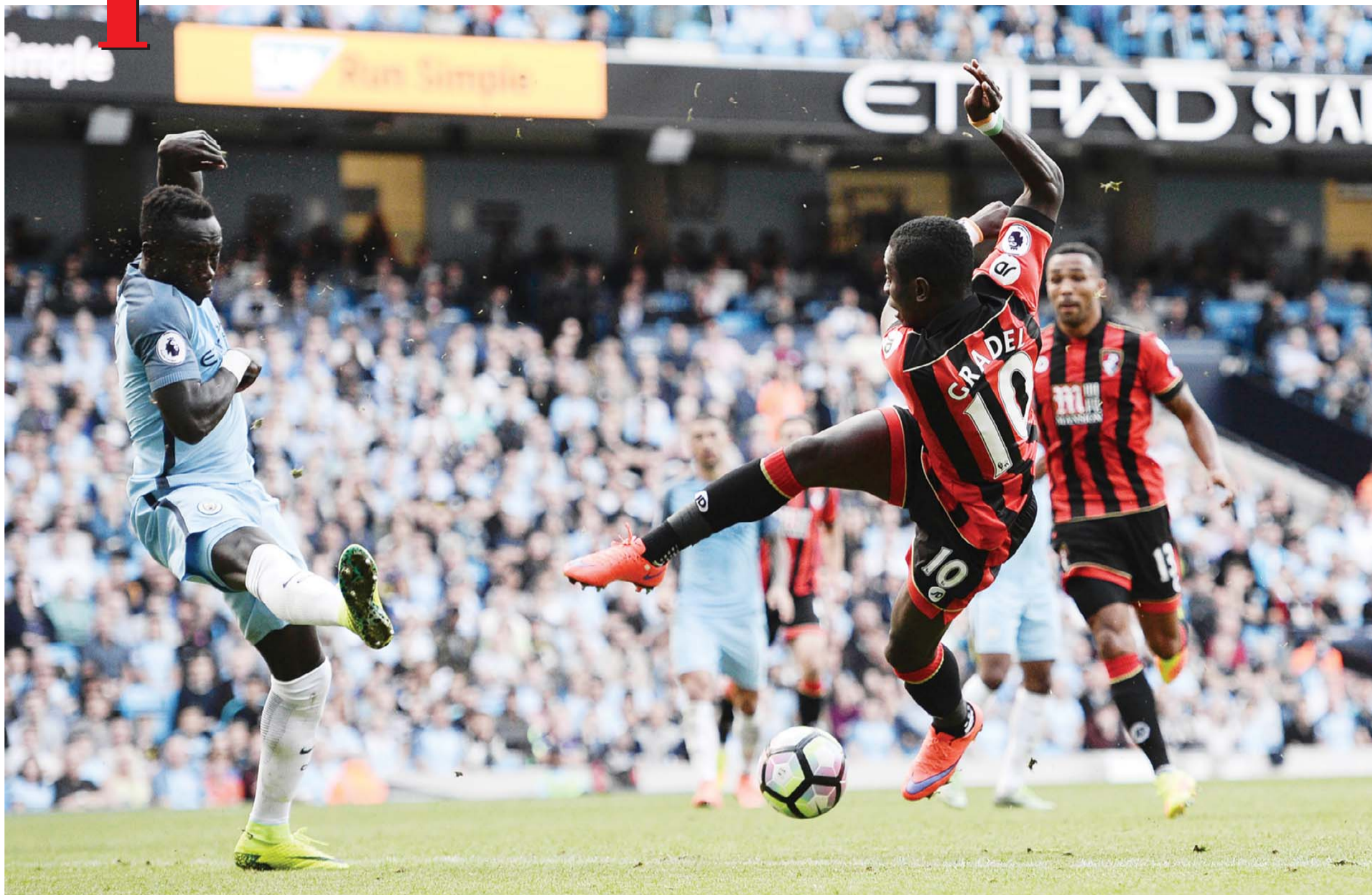


Top US wheelchair racer could go home with 5 golds



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

SLIMANI SLOTS IN AS LEICESTER DOWN BURNLEY Page 19



MANCHESTER: Bournemouth's Ivorian midfielder Max Gradel (R) has a shot that misses during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Bournemouth at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

## PEP AND MAN CITY SET CLUB RECORD

 Manchester City 4

 Bournemouth 0

MANCHESTER: Manchester City continued their perfect start under Pep Guardiola as a ruthless 4-0 victory over Bournemouth gave them an eighth successive win and a piece of club history.

Their latest success, secured by goals from Kevin de Bruyne, Kelechi Iheanacho, Raheem Sterling and Ilkay Gundogan, ensured a best ever start to a season for City, eclipsing the seven straight wins they enjoyed to kick off the 1897/1898 campaign.

Guardiola also became only the second manager to start his career in the Premier League with five successive wins, the other three in the record run coming in

the Champions League. Carlo Ancelotti previously did it twice with Chelsea, with the six successive league victories the Italian oversaw at the start of the 2009/10 laying the foundation for winning the title. It's still early days to predict a repeat for City under Guardiola, but the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich coach couldn't have made a better start to his time at the Etihad Stadium and his team certainly has the look of potential champions. Set against that, City also won their first five league games last season before fading badly to finish fourth under Manuel Pellegrini.

But under Guardiola, this City team looks an entirely different proposition even accounting for the fact that much of the personnel that started against Bournemouth were the same as last season.

Gundogan, making his full debut, and Manuel Nolito—who was sent off late on—were the only two new outfield players to start, as fellow summer signings Leroy Sane and John Stones both began on the bench. Vincent Kompany was also named among the substi-

tutes for the first time this season following his return from injury, but even without their club captain, or the injured David Silva and suspended Sergio Aguero, City were able to win as they pleased.

Bournemouth had conceded nine goals in two defeats to City last season and they must have feared the worst when they went behind after 15 minutes through De Bruyne's second goal of the season.

### SUPERB SECOND GOAL

England international Jack Wilshere, starting only his second Premier League game in over 12 months after joining Bournemouth on loan from Arsenal, gave the ball away and then fouled Gundogan in trying to retrieve possession.

Given a shooting opportunity from 25 yards, De Bruyne placed his free-kick low under the defensive wall and beyond an unsuspected Artur Boruc into the bottom corner. And nine minutes later the game was as good as over as City doubled their advantage with a superb sec-

ond goal on the break. Defending a free-kick one moment, passes from Iheanacho, Nolito, De Bruyne and Sterling exposed Bournemouth's over-stretched defence and left Iheanacho to tap in his third goal of the campaign. City were a joy to watch—except for Bournemouth, whose only threats came when the pace of Joshua King exposed Nicolas Otamendi and substitute Callum Wilson hit the bar late on—and three minutes after the break it was 3-0 as Iheanacho returned the favour for Sterling to finish from close range.

City's passing and movement was too much for the visitors to contain and it became 4-0 after 66 minutes following another flowing move as the outstanding De Bruyne this time played in Gundogan to coolly slot home his first goal in English football.

The only blot on City's afternoon saw Nolito sent off for pushing his head into the face of Adam Smith, which will mean a three-match ban for the Spain international. Were City to win those three games it would equal the best winning run in the club's history. — AFP

## MURRAYS KEEP BRITAIN AFLOAT IN DAVIS CUP SEMI-FINAL

GLASGOW: Andy and Jamie Murray kept Great Britain's hopes of retaining their Davis Cup title alive as they defeated Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro and Leonardo Mayer in four sets in the doubles rubber of their semi-final yesterday.

Leading 2-0 from Friday's singles, Argentina captain Daniel Orsanic selected Del Potro alongside Mayer instead of his usual partner Federico Delbonis as they looked to wrap up victory early. However, the tactic backfired as world number two Andy and his older brother Jamie secured a thrilling 6-1, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory in just under three hours on the hard court of the Emirates Arena in Glasgow. "Yesterday was a very tough day. To come out and get the win with Jamie today was great," three-time Grand Slam winner Andy said.

"He played unbelievably well throughout the whole match. We are 2-1 down and it is a tough position to be in, but it is a better position that we were in at the beginning of the day and I still believe we can come back." Argentina are looking to reach their fourth final in 10 years but will have to wait until Sunday's reverse singles rubbers to try and claim the point they need for a place in the

final against either Croatia or France. Kyle Edmund looks likely to face Del Potro in the decisive rubber as Great Britain attempt to defend the competition they won in Ghent last year, with Andy Murray favourite to defeat Guido Pella in the first reverse singles today.

"We played a great match but we had to as those guys are playing really well too," said Jamie Murray. "I think we should be proud of the way we played and competed from start to finish. We're back in the tie and gives us some momentum back in the tie going into tomorrow's matches."

With his side losing both of Friday's singles, it was no surprise to see British captain Leon Smith pick Andy alongside Jamie instead of Dan Evans as he opted for the pairing who secured victory in last year's final against Belgium. However, after his five-hour and seven-minute epic win against Murray on Friday, the expectation was that Del Potro, still working his way back into the game following wrist surgery, would take the day off ahead of Sunday's reverse singles.

The gamble to pick the 27-year-old didn't look like paying off with the Argentine pairing initially looking like strangers on the court. "I felt tired but that is normal. I think for

the team it was the best option to play the doubles," Del Potro said.

"I think we did really well. We had some chances but we couldn't win." It was Jamie, who claimed Grand Slam glory in both the Australian and US Open doubles finals this year, and younger sibling Andy, showing no signs of fatigue, that looked more comfortable in the doubles environment as they helped the Brits race into a five-game lead without reply in the first set before claiming it 6-1 in just 26 minutes.

Their good work seemed to come undone in the second game of the following set as Argentina immediately broke to take a 4-1 lead before serving out to take the set 6-3.

The third set went with serve until the seventh game when Argentina moved in front with a break as Andy struggled with his first serve. Argentina's joy was short-lived, however, as Britain broke back immediately as they won three games in a row with a clever return down the line from Jamie sealing the set.

There was nothing to separate the sides in the fourth set which went with serve until the tenth game where, in a repeat of the third, the Murrays broke at the crucial moment to claim victory. — AFP



LIVERPOOL: Middlesbrough's Spanish goalkeeper Victor Valdes (L) and Everton's Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku try to reach for the ball from an inswinging cross by Everton's French-born Congolese midfielder Yannick Bolasie during the English Premier League football match yesterday. — AFP

## BARRY SCORES AS EVERTON BEAT BORO

 Everton 3

 Middlesbrough 1

LIVERPOOL: Gareth Barry scored on his 600th Premier League appearance as Everton fought back yesterday to beat Middlesbrough 3-1 and return to second in the Premier League, two points adrift of Manchester City. The hosts trailed after keeper Maarten Stekelenburg parried the

ball into his own goal under a heavy challenge from Alvaro Negredo in the 21st minute but were level three minutes later when Barry marked his milestone with a goal. Seamus Coleman gave Everton the lead three minutes before halftime when he danced past two Middlesbrough defenders and passed the ball into the net and just before the break Romelu Lukaku converted a Yannick Bolasie cross.

The victory moved manager Ronald Koeman's side on to 13 points and gave the Dutchman the best five-game start to a Premier League season by any Everton manager. — Reuters



## PALESTINIAN ECONOMY FACING FISCAL, PENSIONS CRISIS: WB



VIENNA: Demonstrators pull a Trojan horse as they protest against the massive transatlantic trade deals CETA and TTIP yesterday in Vienna. — AFP

## HUGE RALLY ACROSS GERMANY AGAINST MEGA TRADE DEAL

### NEW BLOW TO DISPUTED TRANSATLANTIC ACCORD

**BERLIN:** More than 160,000 demonstrators thronged seven major cities across Germany yesterday in protest over a massive transatlantic trade deal, dealing a new blow to the disputed accord. In Berlin, as in Munich, there was a sea of flags as people flocked to join the rallies despite the rain, carrying placards and banners representing dozens of anti-globalisation groups, NGOs, political parties and unions, AFP correspondents said.

"People are not letting their mood be ruined" by the weather, a spokeswoman for the organisers, Kathrin Ottovay, told AFP. Roland Suess from anti-globalisation group Attac had earlier told AFP they expected 250,000 people to turn out in seven major German cities including some 70,000 in Berlin.

Some organizers put the national turnout as high as 320,000 while police put the figure at between 163,000 and 188,000. Participants waved banners demanding "democracy instead of TTIP" and "share, don't divide." The

European Union and the United States began negotiating the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in 2013, aiming to create the world's biggest free trade market of 850 million consumers.

But the talks have become bogged down amid widespread in Europe that the deal would undercut the 28-nation bloc's standards in key areas such as health and welfare. A new round of talks is due in October with US President Barack Obama hoping a deal can be concluded before he leaves office in January.

A smaller version of TTIP is also in the works with Canada, and that deal, called CETA, is due to be signed in October. Exporters are in favor of the deal as it promises lower tariffs, less red tape and a wider base of consumers for their goods.

But in Europe, consumers fear it would ride roughshod over the EU's labour market and environmental standards, and would bring about more outsourcing which would lead to

job losses. There are also concerns over plans for a special court to hear cases by companies against governments over breaches of regulatory issues, which opponents see as giving firms a veto over public policy.

**'A threat to millions'**

"CETA and TTIP threaten environmental and consumer protection for millions of people in Europe and North America," said Jennifer Morgan, executive director Greenpeace International. Not only the people, but European governments too are torn over the planned deals. The French government has put up strident opposition, with Prime Minister Manuel Valls demanding an end to the talks while the leader of Europe's biggest economy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, voiced her backing for a deal.

In a recent interview, Merkel noted the high unemployment rate in several EU countries, and said: "we should do everything we

can to create jobs-the free trade agreements are part of that."

But even within her right-left "grand coalition", there is dissent. Vice-Chancellor and Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel last month declared that talks on TTIP have "de facto failed".

He had also insisted that "Europeans must not give in to (the Americans') demands". EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom told yesterday's Bild daily she was aghast at the "misunderstandings, urban myths and outright lies in the debate" on the merits or otherwise of the treaty.

**'Danger to democracy'**

Suspicion is running high in Germany over the accords. "In Europe, they need to put people first ... that's why we must stop TTIP," said Berlin rally coordinator Axel Kaiser, representing a group of small- and medium-sized firms opposed to the deal. A recent Ipsos survey

found some 28 percent of respondents doubted if free trade could really bring benefits. More than half (52 percent) say it would lead to weaker standards and spawn increasingly inferior products.

Peter Gauweiler, who left the CDU and resigned as an MP in protest over Merkel's stance in the euro crisis, went as far as to call the proposed treaties "a danger for democracy". Writing in the Sueddeutsche Zeitung, he denounced the proposed special court as a "form of secular sharia of capitalist managers". But conservative daily Die Welt was more positive.

"Before money can be distributed (to the population), it must first come in," wrote its columnist Daniel Eckert. "A further lowering of tariff barriers, the dismantling of bureaucracy and international standardisation are rather cost-effective methods to create greater wealth that future generations can benefit from," he argued. — AFP

## TURKMENISTAN OPENS \$2BN BIRD-SHAPED INT'L AIRPORT

**ASHGABAT:** Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov yesterday hailed his country's "solid transit potential" as he unveiled an international airport worth over \$2 billion in the capital Ashgabat. Berdimukhamedov said the new airport's two passenger terminals would have the capacity to serve 17 million passengers a year while the freight terminal could handle 200,000 tons of freight annually.

The five-floor airport is built in the shape of a giant bird-echoing the logo of the Central Asian state carrier Turkmenistan airlines-by Turkish construction company Polimeks who won a \$2 billion contract in 2013.

A source at the carrier told AFP on condition of anonymity that the new

airport cost \$2.35 billion by the time it was completed. Turkmenistan welcomed 105,000 tourists in 2015 according to the state tourism committee, but makes efforts to boost the sector despite a restrictive visa regime.

"With an advantageous geographical position at the crossroads of regional and international communications routes, our country has a solid transit potential we aspire to realise to the maximum," said Berdimukhamedov, 59, at the airport opening.

Turkmenistan has fallen on difficult economic times after the collapse in global prices for hydrocarbons, which make up nearly all the country's exports. Despite Berdimukhamedov officially encouraging belt-tightening,

the country has continued to spend heavily on infrastructure ahead of the 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games it will host in Ashgabat.

The existing airport near the capital mainly caters to the state carrier and a short list of foreign airlines from Belarus, China, Russia and Turkey. The country on Wednesday passed constitutional changes that will effectively allow Berdimukhamedov to rule for life, in the tradition of other strongmen in the ex-Soviet region. Ashgabat, a white marble-clad city of one million people hosts golden statues of both Berdimukhamedov and erratic late predecessor Saparmurat Niyazov, whose own effigy rotated with the movements of the sun. — AFP



ASHGABAT: People stand in front of a building of a new five-floor international airport in Ashgabat yesterday. — AFP

## LIVELY DEBATE AND 'HAWKISH HOLD' SEEN FROM US FED

### GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

**BRUSSELS:** The Federal Reserve is set for a lively debate in the coming week and could give a clear signal of an interest rate rise to come even if it follows market expectations for a pause this month. Both the European Central Bank and Britain's Bank of England kept monetary policy unchanged this month, although both with a bias towards further easing action later in the year.

The Fed is expected to follow suit, but with a bias in the opposite direction. Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank president Dennis Lockhart, viewed as a centrist voice at the Fed, said in the past week that current economic conditions warranted serious debate. "If 1.6 percent inflation and 4.9 percent unemployment were all you knew about the economy, would you consider a policy setting one tick above the zero lower bound still appropriate?" he said, referring to the core PCE price index, the Fed's preferred inflation measure.

"I think circumstances call for a lively discussion next week," he continued. Economists polled by Reuters are increasingly expecting an interest rate increase this year, but only in December.

The Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee, which last raised borrowing costs in December 2015

to end seven years of near-zero rates, meets on Sept. 20-21, with a news conference by chair Janet Yellen due on the Wednesday.

**DOVISH HIKE VS HAWKISH HOLD**

Several Fed officials have said strong payrolls numbers - averaging well over 200,000 in the last three months - are cause for action as early as September. However, data in recent weeks have shown signs of weakness, including the ISM surveys showing a decline in new orders and production in U.S. factories in August and service sector activity at a six and a half year low.

The past week's data included retail sales falling by more than expected last month and producer prices, a sign of future inflation, unchanged. "The general tone of activity data over the last two weeks is not really enough to swing the doubters into rate hike territory," said James Knightley, senior economist at ING. "If activity is not strong and inflation is non-existent then it seems just a little bit tricky to justify higher rates."

Fed Governor Lael Brainard also hardened the view that the Fed will leave rates unchanged by saying that the central bank should avoid removing support too quickly.

Brainard said that she wanted to see a stronger trend in US consumer spending and evidence of rising inflation before the Fed raises rates, and that the United States still looked vulnerable to economic weakness abroad.

Harm Bandholz, chief US economist at UniCredit, said he expected a rate rise soon - but not in the coming week. "I also think there will be a bit of a compromise, meaning no action but a clear hint... that there will be one hike later this year," he said.

He believes that hint could come in the statement, chair Janet Yellen's comments or in the "dots", indicating FOMC members' view on the key fed funds rate - likely, he said, to show a big majority seeing one hike by the end of 2016.

BNP Paribas, by contrast, says the market has given greater weight to dovish comments because they were more recent and presumes data must be "impeccable" for the Fed to move. It believes a "dovish hike" is more likely than a "hawkish hold". The former might involve an indication of no further increases this year. A pause, with an upgraded view of the economy, could put the Fed in an awkward position in December if not all data is strong, it suggested. — Reuters

# TOP 3 WAYS TO RE-ENERGIZE YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

No matter what type of industry they work in, admins will always be those who make sure everything runs smoothly, striving 24/7 to impact personal development and the company's ultimate productivity. They send out countless emails per week, know the corporate agenda from A to Z, and are always there to solve clients' problems and hear their complaints.

Here are some tips from experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 job site, to help you show your appreciation for admins invaluable work and recognize their role as the backbone of the organization.

### 1. Have them participate in meetings

Admins earn their own spot in the office and it's very uncommon to see them somewhere else. Still, even though they're not included in meetings and conferences, they know what's happening around them at all times.

But why exactly are they not taking part in meetings as other employees do? What if you let your administrative assistants attend official gatherings

and brainstorming sessions, and not just have them take notes and monitor the time? This would be an easy way to have another perspective, as the admins knowledge and expertise will cast a new light on the issue to discuss or the decision to make. By bringing together your admins with the other employees you're giving everyone a better understanding of how the company operates and collaboratively achieves its goals. Most importantly, you're nurturing a sense of ownership and trust, as you're demonstrating how much the opinion of your admins means to you and to the rest of the team. In fact, the Bayt.com 'Meetings in the MENA Workplace' poll, September 2014, shows that 72 percent of MENA professionals say that meetings are always helpful and an effective use of people's time.

### 2. Invest in their job role

It's often easy to dismiss the elephant in the

room and overlook its role as merely a support function. On the contrary, admins are capable individuals with a high-level of education and a strong mindset. You already know how important their role is and how they can bring growth to the company. So all you have to do is give value to their work, invest in them, and provide them the opportunity to excel at their career. After all, if you invest in your admin staff, you're basically investing in your company.

Encourage them to attend professional conferences, offer development opportunities and workshops in soft/hard skills and support their continuous learning. This will help them acquire new skills, tools, and the much-needed self-confidence. Being recognized for their crucial role and potential, admin will also learn how to deal with criticism and find a new boost to lead the workplace as much as they can. Bayt.com pro-

vides an array of online courses and tests that can help your employees learn new skills or hone old ones.

### 3. Involve them in your social media marketing plan

Incorporating your employees' social media enthusiasm into the company's marketing strategy is a good step to share corporate culture and values. Your admin staff should also get engaged in the exciting process. In this manner, they can stay in the loop with regard to all company-related news, events, and developments.

Also, with the large scale migration to the Gulf countries of the last decades, many administrative professionals are likely to be from a different background. Whether your company is based in Dubai, Riyadh or Doha, inviting your admin workers to play a role in your social media plan is another way to make them feel like part of the business family while offering their invaluable regarding social media and networking.

# PALESTINIAN ECONOMY FACING FISCAL, PENSIONS CRISIS: WB

## FOREIGN SUPPORT FALLING QUICKER, WIDENING FINANCING GAP

**JERUSALEM:** Foreign support to the Palestinian Authority has fallen by nearly 50 percent in the past three years, leaving the budget under severe strain and the pensions system close to collapse, the World Bank said. While the Palestinian Authority, overseen by President Mahmoud Abbas, has done well to reduce the deficit over the past decade, cutting it by 15 percentage points to 10 percent of GDP, external financial support has fallen even faster. In 2013, foreign donors-mainly the European Union and the United States-provided direct budget assistance worth nearly \$1.3 billion. This year, that figure is expected to be less than \$700 million, leaving a large financing gap. "The

Palestinian economic outlook is worrying with serious consequences on income, opportunity and well-being," said Marina Wes, World Bank country director for the West Bank and Gaza.

"Not only will it affect the Palestinian Authority's capacity to deliver services to its citizens, it may also lead to wider economic problems and instability."

Overall, the Palestinian economy is expected to grow at around 3.5 percent in the coming years. But the outlook is starkly different between the West Bank, where the Palestinian Authority is based, and Gaza, the blockaded coastal strip that has been run by the Islamist group Hamas since 2007.

Unemployment in Gaza stands at 42 percent and the territory is struggling to rebuild after a month-long war with Israel in 2014. Many international aid pledges have not been met. By contrast, West Bank unemployment stands at 18 percent and the Palestinian Authority is doing a better job of managing spending and generating extra revenue from fees and taxes.

Yet the critical problem remains the financing gap. The Palestinian Authority is close to the borrowing limit from domestic banks set by the central bank and may have to resort to running into arrears with the pension fund and private suppliers to fill the gap, the World Bank said. "The stock of arrears to the pension system is estimat-

ed at \$1.6 billion-and it threatens the viability of the overall pension system," it said in its latest monitoring report.

"Arrears to the private sector currently stand at \$590 million, which heavily weighs on the private sector's ability to operate normally and is damaging for the economy," The World Bank said the only way to avoid wider economic problems for the 4.8 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza was for foreign donors to reverse the fall in support. It also called on the Israeli government, which collects many taxes and fees on the Palestinians' behalf, to explore ways of reducing the fiscal loss and reverting more of the revenue to the Palestinian Authority. —Reuters

## GREECE ADOPTING NEW CREDIT MEASURES FOR EU, IMF: FM

**ATHENS:** Cash-strapped Greece will adopt before month's end a new package of measures designed to mollify EU and IMF creditors, Athens' finance ministry said Friday. The ministry said a government bill to be drawn up next week would identify 15 reforms including better transparency for electronic transactions as well as new means of restructuring company debt.

Greece's creditors this week resumed an audit of the country's finances after Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said an EU-IMF rift was delaying progress on attempts to unlock 2.8 billion euros (\$3 billion) of bailout loans pending since June. Tsipras has made debt solution a top priority and Friday saw a first round of discussions with the European Union and International Monetary Fund on how to do so. Last Sunday, he complained that disagreement over Greek fiscal targets was holding up progress. The EU's Economic Affairs commissioner Pierre Moscovici says Greece must deliver on 15 reforms, with only two achieved so far. The Washington-based IMF, a key player in Greece's three bailouts, says it will refuse to contribute to the latest one until it sees a concrete plan from the Europeans to substantially cut the country's massive debt burden. IMF and EU creditors disagree on how much Athens can improve its stressed finances through ongoing reforms. The Greek finance ministry said an evaluation of proposed further reforms would be discussed next month at a meeting of EU finance ministers. Greek Economy Minister Georges Stathakis said Thursday that "the climate is positive" and added outstanding "technicalities" would be soon overcome, including on the thorny issue of who heads up a new Greek privatization fund. A French finance ministry source indicated last week that Jacques Le Pape, formerly deputy director of cabinet for IMF director Christine Lagarde when she was French finance minister, could take on the task. — AFP

## S&P RAISES CYPRUS RATING ON STRONGER ECONOMIC GROWTH

**NICOSIA:** Global ratings agency Standard and Poor's raised its rating for Cyprus by a notch to BB from BB-, citing stronger than expected growth and declining government debt. The agency forecast Cyprus's economy to expand by 2.7 percent in 2016, beating a March prediction as the eastern Mediterranean island emerges from a deep financial crisis.

The agency said Cyprus had benefited from "resilient business services, tourism, gradually reviving private consumption, and construction." "We expect the Cypriot economy will continue to grow at about 2.5 percent in real terms in 2017-2019," it said. Cyprus suffered a deep three-year recession after a credit crunch that brought the country close to bankruptcy in 2013. The government imposed harsh austerity measures in exchange for a European Union and International Monetary Fund bailout. In return for 10 billion euros (\$13 billion at the time), Cyprus agreed in March 2013 to wind down its second-largest bank, Laiki.

It also imposed losses on depositors in its undercapitalized top lender, Bank of Cyprus. S&P said on Friday the restructuring of the island's financial services was moving ahead, but the sector was not expected to contribute to economic growth for several years. It added that reunification of the island, divided since a Turkish invasion of the north in 1974, could yield long-term economic benefits. In March this year, the euro group of finance ministers praised Nicosia for its successful exit from the bailout program. S&P said it expected government debt to gradually decline in the coming years. —AFP

# ZIMBABWE TO PRINT SUBSTITUTE US DOLLARS AS CASH RUNS OUT

**HARARE:** Zimbabwe said it will introduce next month "bond notes" equivalent to the US dollar, sparking fears of a return to the hyperinflation that wrecked the economy several years ago. The southern African nation, led by authoritarian President Robert Mugabe, adopted the US dollar and South African rand in 2009 after inflation-which peaked at 500 billion percent-rendered the local dollar worthless. But Zimbabwe has run out of US dollar notes in recent months, and hopes to ease the cash crunch by printing its own "bond notes", starting with small denominations of \$2 and \$5. The plan immediately attracted criticism, with analysts saying the token currency would not hold its US dollar value and would be seen as a new version of the valueless local dollar. A wave of protests has shaken Mugabe's regime this year, with "No to bond notes" among the regular slogans expressing grievances against the government amid a worsening economic crisis.

"The bond notes will start to circulate by the end of October and will be at par with the US dollar," Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor John Mangudya said in Harare. "We anticipate by the end of the year \$75 million will be in the market." The cash shortage has forced the government led by Mugabe's ZANU-PF party to delay paying salaries each month to civil servants and the military. With the government again printing its own money, many Zimbabweans fear a repeat of the excessive printing that led to hyperinflation.

### 'No trust'

"It will immediately destroy trust. The trust is not there and the value of the bond note will not be sustained," Harare-based economic analyst John Robertson told AFP. "There is no money because there is no new investment. There is no investment because there is no trust-and you can't fix that by printing more notes."

Zimbabwe once removed 12 zeros from its battered currency at the height of hyperinflation in 2009 when the largest note was the \$100 trillion denomination. Mangudya denied the new bond notes would be rejected by many Zimbabweans. "It is critical to emphasize that the



**HARARE:** People line up outside Barclays Bank to withdraw cash as liquidity crisis hit Zimbabwe.

introduction of bond notes does not mark the return of the Zimbabwe dollar through the back door," he said.

The new notes will be printed in Germany and backed by a \$200-million support facility provided by Afreximbank (Africa Export-Import Bank), the government has said. Further anti-Mugabe protests were planned for yesterday, despite a police ban on rallies in Harare. Mugabe, now aged 92 and in power for 36 years, has often used brutal force to silence his opponents, and he recently warned the protesters they were "playing a dangerous game."

The veteran president, who looks frail but still gives long speeches in public, has vowed to stand for re-election in 2018, while his wife Grace, 51, is seen as one of his possible successors. "It is clear Mugabe's capacities have diminished

significantly, his ability to hold things together is doubtful," Piers Pigou, of the International Crisis Group, told a briefing in Johannesburg this week. "I don't think (Mugabe) has faced this kind of pressure before. The state of the party has never been so fractured and the state of the economy-some are arguing that it is worse now than it was at the height of hyperinflation." Unemployment is about 90 percent in Zimbabwe, which owes lenders including the IMF, World Bank and Africa Development Bank about \$9 billion. Last week, the government revealed that nearly 97 percent of its revenue goes to paying public workers' salaries. It also announced and then reversed a plan to cut 25,000 government jobs. Bond coins valued in US cents were introduced in Zimbabwe in 2014 to provide small change. — AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.967
Indian Rupees	4.525
Pakistani Rupees	2.895
Srilankan Rupees	2.087
Nepali Rupees	2.833
Singapore Dollar	223.490
Hongkong Dollar	38.992
Bangladesh Taka	3.857
Philippine Peso	6.355
Thai Baht	8.724

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.710
Qatari Riyal	83.139
UAE Dirham	786.123
Bahraini Dinar	803.770
UAE Dirham	82.403

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.550
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.452
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.215
Tunisian Dinar	138.250
Jordanian Dinar	427.080
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.017
Syrian Lira	2.0157
Morocco Dirham	31.842

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.500
Euro	343.040
Sterling Pound	403.080
Canadian dollar	231.620
Turkish Lira	102.840

Swiss Franc	314.450
Australian Dollar	230.350
US Dollar Buying	301.300

#### GOLD

20 Gram	264.070
10 Gram	135.070
5 Gram	68.380

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

#### Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	302.900
Canadian Dollr	233.320
Sterling Pound	403.380
Euro	338.920
Swiss Frank	298.130
Bahrain Dinar	800.735
UAE Dirhams	82.700
Qatari Riyals	83.910
Saudi Riyals	81.495
Jordanian Dinar	426.815
Egyptian Pound	34.013
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084
Indian Rupees	4.548
Pakistani Rupees	2.902
Bangladesh Taka	3.854
Philippines Peso	6.495
Cyprus pound	159.645
Japanese Yen	3.915
Syrian Pound	2.405
Nepalese Rupees	3.825
Malaysian Ringgit	74.815
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.695
Thai Bhat	9.720
Turkish Lira	102.840

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

#### CURRENCY BUY SELL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.388457	0.398457
Czech Korune	0.004595	0.016595
Danish Krone	0.041658	0.046656
Euro	0.032758	0.037958
Norwegian Krone	0.032268	0.037468
Romanian Leu	0.083931	0.083931
Slovakia	0.009027	0.019027
Swedish Krona	0.031648	0.036648
Swiss Franc	0.303010	0.3140410
Turkish Lira	0.097676	0.107976
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.219247	0.231247
New Zealand Dollar	0.214539	0.224039
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.224231	0.233231
Georgina Lari	0.136781	0.136781
US Dollars	0.298750	0.303450
US Dollars Mint	0.299250	0.303450
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003292	0.003876
Chinese Yuan	0.043868	0.047368
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036975	0.039725
Indian Rupee	0.004308	0.004697
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025

Japanese Yen	0.002890	0.003070
Kenyan Shilling	0.003115	0.003115
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070056	0.076056
Nepalese Rupee	0.002810	0.002980
Pakistan Rupee	0.002716	0.003006
Philippine Peso	0.006311	0.006611
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.217104	0.227104
South African Rand	0.015444	0.023944
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001658	0.002238
Taiwan	0.009569	0.009749
Thai Baht	0.008377	0.008927

<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796746	0.805246
Egyptian Pound	0.024068	0.029186
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000183	0.000243
Jordanian Dinar	0.422995	0.431995
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019805	0.043805
Nigerian Naira	0.001249	0.001884
Omani Riyal	0.780203	0.785883
Qatar Riyal	0.082374	0.083824
Saudi Riyal	0.079673	0.080973
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.134240	0.142240
Turkish Lira	0.097676	0.107976
UAE Dirhams	0.081030	0.082730
Yemeni Riyal	0.001369	0.001449

# MEASURING OCCUPY WALL ST'S IMPACT, 5 YEARS LATER

**NEW YORK:** For a time, Occupy Wall Street was everywhere, with its grass-roots encampments - first in New York City, then globally - and the refrain, "We are the 99 percent!"

And then it was gone. Its most famous camp in lower Manhattan was cleared out in an overnight police raid two months after it started, and other Occupy locations fizzled soon thereafter.

But five years later, demonstrators plan to gather once again in New York City's Zuccotti Park on Saturday to commemorate the movement and what they say has been a lasting impact.

They take some of the credit for introducing income inequality into the broader political discourse, for inspiring the fight for a \$15 minimum wage and, most recently, for creating a receptive audience for the Democratic presidential campaign of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. And some political observers even draw a line between the movement and the rise of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, who tapped into the vein of suspicion against the power of elites - the 1 percent - that Occupy made ubiquitous.

"We had sort of a deep-down effect on activists all around the world," said Kalle Lasn of the Vancouver, British Columbia-based "Adbusters" magazine, among those who put out the call for a protest of Wall Street to take place on Sept. 17, 2011. "We politicized a whole generation of young people who didn't quite know what to do with their activism and their feelings of anger."

While critics of Occupy took issue with it at the time for its lack of specific demands, a clear organiza-

tional structure or strategies for next steps, it has come to resonate politically, said Heather Gautney, a sociology professor at Fordham University.

She pointed to Sanders' campaign, saying Occupy's injection of income inequality into the discourse paved the way for the Vermont senator's calls to get money out of politics, rein in Wall Street banks and provide free public college education.

Nicholas Kiersey, a political science professor at Ohio University, said Trump's political presence is part of Occupy's impact, as well. "If Bernie Sanders represented a left-wing popular suspicion that had felt all of a sudden very legitimate in expressing its grievances, Trump, I think, represents the mirror of that from the right," he said. "They both, in a sense, have ridden the momentum of popular dissatisfaction."

## Social movements

Other social movements have followed Occupy, such as the Fight for \$15, a minimum-wage campaign that started with fast-food workers in New York City in 2012 and has spread, with victories in states including New York and California. The environmental movement was also inspired by the idea that a small handful of elites were using their power to accumulate wealth at the expense of the many, said Guido Girgenti, an organizer with the group 350.org.

Occupy, Girgenti said, helped jumpstart "a new kind of climate movement" that questions the power of the fossil fuel industry.

"How do we overcome that power, how do we take back our government so we can actually have solutions that work for the people, that work for the



**NEW YORK:** Michael Dunkley (left), Premier of Bermuda, joins with Everard Barclay Simmons, Jr., Chairman of Bank of NT Butterfield & Son to watch Michael Collins (right), the CEO of the Bermuda bank, ring the bell as the stock lists during its IPO, on Friday. — AP

planet?" Girgenti said.

Occupy supporter Lasn remains convinced of the movement's importance. "I see Occupy Wall Street as being another one of those great historical moments,

when something surprising happened and a whole generation got politicized," he said. "After a generation gets politicized, then who knows what the hell they're going to do after that?" — AP



**SHERWOOD:** A woman pays for merchandise at a Kohl's department store in Sherwood, Arkansas. US household wealth rose at a solid pace in the April-June quarter of 2016, pushed by healthy gains in home values and stock portfolios, according to information released on Friday. — AP

## AMERICANS TAKE ON MORE MORTGAGE DEBT AS HOUSING RECOVERS

**WASHINGTON:** More Americans are buying houses and taking on mortgage debt at a time when higher home prices are also boosting their ownership stakes. The trends, revealed in a Federal Reserve report Friday, reflect the healing of the US housing market nearly a decade after the real estate bubble burst.

The Fed's quarterly report on household wealth showed that Americans' net worth climbed 1.2 percent during the April-June quarter, to \$89.1 trillion. Stock and mutual fund portfolios increased 2.3 percent to \$21.2 trillion. Housing wealth rose 1.9 percent to \$25.6 trillion. The value of checking and savings accounts, as well as pension entitlements, also climbed.

Household wealth, or net worth, reflects the value of homes, stocks and other assets minus mortgages, credit card debt and other borrowing. The Fed's figures aren't adjusted for population growth or inflation. Mortgage debt rose 2.5 percent in the second quarter at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, the biggest quarterly gain in more than eight years. The increase appeared to reflect rising home sales, which reached a nine-year high in June before slipping the following month. Higher sales mean that more people are taking on mortgages.

But it also reflects a return to a normal housing market. More purchases are being made by actual homeowners and fewer by investors, who frequently pay with cash. All-

cash sales fell to their lowest level in nearly seven years in July.

Still, the increase in mortgage debt remains tame by historical standards. Mortgage debt jumped at double-digit rates in 2004 and 2005, toward the end of last decade's housing bubble. Americans were cashing out the equity in their homes while refinancing their mortgages and using the proceeds to support greater spending.

Home prices began to rebound in 2012, which has increased housing wealth. Ownership equity now equals 57.1 percent of the value of Americans' homes, the highest level since 2006. That figure had plunged as low as 36 percent during the Great Recession, which officially began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009.

The overall increase in household wealth documented by the Fed's report has likely been a boost to confidence. When Americans feel wealthier, they are likely to spend more, thereby providing a lift to the economy. Still, most wealth in the US is highly concentrated, and so the gains benefit a relatively narrow portion of the population. Roughly 10 percent of Americans own 80 percent of stocks.

Housing wealth is more widely spread but has narrowed recently. During the second quarter, the US homeownership rate matched its lowest level in 51 years - 62.9 percent, a half-point lower than a year earlier. — AP

## RISING RENTS, HEALTHCARE COSTS BOOST US CONSUMER PRICES

### TREASURY PRICES PARE GAINS AS INFLATION STABILIZES

**WASHINGTON:** US consumer prices increased more than expected in August as rising rents and healthcare costs offset a drop in gasoline prices, pointing to a steady build-up of inflation that could allow the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates this year. The Labor Department said late on Friday its Consumer Price Index rose 0.2 percent last month after being unchanged in July. In the 12 months through August, the CPI increased 1.1 percent after advancing 0.8 percent in July.

The so-called core CPI, which strips out food and energy costs, rose 0.3 percent last month, the biggest increase since February, after gaining 0.1 percent in July. Economists had forecast the CPI nudging up 0.1 percent last month and the core CPI gaining 0.2 percent. The core CPI increased 2.3 percent in the 12 months through August after rising 2.2 percent in the year through July.

US Treasury prices pared gains and US stock futures extended losses after the data. The dol-

lar was stronger against a basket of currencies. Last month's uptick in inflation is likely to be welcomed by Fed officials when they meet next Tuesday and Wednesday to deliberate on monetary policy.

But against the backdrop of a raft of disappointing economic reports for August, including weak retail sales and industrial production, as well as a slowdown in job growth, the US central bank is expected to leave interest rates unchanged. The Fed has a 2 percent inflation target and tracks an inflation measure which has been stuck at 1.6 percent since March. Fed Governor Lael Brainard said on Monday she wanted to see stronger consumer spending data and signs of rising inflation before hiking rates.

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. Financial markets have virtually

priced out a rate increase next week and many economists expect the Fed to raise borrowing costs in December.

In August, gasoline prices fell 0.9 percent after sliding 4.7 percent in July. Food prices were unchanged, with the cost of food consumed at home declining for a fourth straight month. Within the core CPI basket, housing and medical costs continued their upward march. Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence rose 0.3 percent in August. It has risen by the same margin every month since April.

Medical care costs jumped 1.0 percent last month, the largest increase since February 1984, after advancing 0.5 percent in July. The cost of hospital services surged 1.7 percent, the biggest gain since October 2015. Prices for prescription medicine soared 1.3 percent.

Americans also paid more for motor vehicle insurance and apparel. Prices for tobacco also rose, but the cost of used cars and trucks fell for a sixth straight month. — Reuters



**BERLIN:** Demonstrators protest against the planned Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, TTIP, and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, CETA in Berlin, yesterday. Thousands of people are rallying in cities across Germany to protest against planned European Union trade deals with the United States and Canada. — AP

## BANK OF ENGLAND FREEZES RATE AWAITING BREXIT FALLOUT

**LONDON:** The Bank of England said it was keeping its key interest rate at a record-low 0.25 percent, with no indication that the Brexit vote outcome was hurting the economy.

The BoE said after a regular monetary policy meeting that it expected "less of a slowing in UK GDP growth in the second half of 2016" following better-than-expected economic data in the wake of Britain's vote to exit the European Union. The decision raised questions among analysts over why the BoE last month cut the rate from 0.50 percent.

Its governor Mark Carney last week defended the move, saying it was partly thanks to such action that the economy had held up after the June vote to exit the EU.

Minutes from the latest monthly meeting stressed that the central bank could still decide to cut the rate further to just above zero percent before the end of the year. "What's interesting is that despite the better-than-expected data, most... (BoE policymakers) still think they will have to cut rates again this year," said ETX Capital markets analyst Neil Wilson.

Analysts' consensus forecast is for the BoE

to cut the rate to 0.10 percent in November after Carney recently warned that Britain still risked falling into recession over Brexit, though the probability had lessened in recent weeks. The Bank of England added that it had decided at its September meeting also against increasing the amount of cash stimulus pumping around the British economy. Alongside its quarter-point rate cut in August, the BoE agreed to re-activate its quantitative easing (QE) bond-buying scheme, lifting it by £60 billion (\$79 billion, 71 billion euros) to £435 billion in the first increase since 2012. The rate cut had meanwhile been the BoE's first change to borrowing costs since early 2009, the height of the global financial crisis.

## Fed contrast

Traders worldwide are focusing on the central bank gatherings, hoping they will clear up some uncertainty about monetary policy in leading economies. "A series of contradictory statements from leading Federal Reserve officials may mean the markets are

unclear about what the US central bank will do at next week's monetary policy meeting but the Bank of England's bias toward further interest rate cuts is plain for all to see," said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

Official data Thursday showed retail sales in Britain fell 0.2 percent in August from July, with no real indication that the Brexit vote outcome was hurting spending. Analysts had expected a sharper fall of 0.7 percent month-on-month, while the release came a day after a solid unemployment reading and some better-than-forecast manufacturing figures since June.

The latest official retail sales data "provides further evidence that the UK is weathering the near term effects of the Brexit vote well," said ING bank economist James Knightley.

He added that a sharp fall in the pound triggered by the Brexit vote outcome "is likely to have boosted sales of high-end items by foreign tourists as watches and fashions become relatively cheaper for them when bought in the UK versus elsewhere". — AFP

## THINK YOU'RE SMARTER THAN YELLEN? PLAY 'CHAIR THE FED'

**WASHINGTON:** Fed up with the endless talk about interest rates and inflation? Think economic growth could be faster? Think you can do monetary policy better than Federal Reserve head Janet Yellen?

Then try "Chair the Fed," a new online game that challenges your ability to manage an economy. The game puts your hand on the interest rate lever and tests how effective you would be managing unemployment and inflation-and whether, as former Fed chair William McChesney Martin once said of the Fed's central duty as a spoiler, you are ready to remove the punch bowl just as the party gets going. The game was put online as a tool for economics and other students by the Fed's San Francisco branch.

"Our hope is that the 'Chair the Fed' game will inspire students of all ages to take an interest in monetary policy and its role in the US economy," said Jody Hoff, director of education and outreach at the San Francisco Fed. For hard-core gamers, the technology is ancient, but it gives a good idea of some of the challenges with the Fed's mission.

As the newly appointed Fed chair, the player has to figure out if the momentum in inflation at, say, 2.3 percent, requires a pre-



emptive rate increase, or how far to cut rates as joblessness edges above five percent. As a rate decision is posed each quarter, you meanwhile are buffeted by alternating comforting and unnerving headlines: "Tight job market suggests more inflation ahead," "Economy in contractionary spiral" or "Uncontrolled economic boom signals problems." The game gives you a Fed Chair's normal four-year term to keep both joblessness and inflation stable, as is the Fed's mandate. When you fail-unemployment rockets to nine percent or deflation sets in it delivers the humbling message: "Sorry. Because of disappointing economic results, you have not been reappointed." — AFP

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	24,136,503	10.06%	970,002	3.84%
BASIC MATERIALS	497,921	0.21%	125,986	0.50%
INDUSTRIALS	16,276,404	6.79%	2,573,352	10.18%
CONSUMER GOODS	9,454,455	3.94%	4,779,491	18.90%
HEALTH CARE	15,512	0.01%	2,873	0.01%
CONSUMER SERVICES	4,035,212	1.68%	418,643	1.66%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	14,134,029	5.89%	2,471,530	9.77%
BANKS	21,903,745	9.13%	6,133,235	24.25%
INSURANCE	359,487	0.15%	71,622	0.28%
REAL ESTATE	51,340,037	21.41%	2,773,270	10.97%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	97,562,455	40.68%	4,957,854	19.61%
TECHNOLOGY	112,359	0.05%	9,790	0.04%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	773.88	768.03	0.76%	-5.48%
BASIC MATERIALS	932.77	933.72	-0.10%	-5.44%
INDUSTRIALS	1,152.05	1,150.82	0.11%	10.45%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,143.53	1,153.81	-0.89%	4.44%
HEALTH CARE	1,056.41	1,063.60	-0.68%	14.16%
CONSUMER SERVICES	914.23	916.25	-0.22%	-9.36%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	585.11	581.83	0.56%	-2.26%
BANKS	792.68	781.42	1.44%	-12.61%
INSURANCE	998.18	998.24	-0.01%	-11.43%
REAL ESTATE	822.80	826.73	-0.48%	-12.54%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	569.94	557.38	2.25%	-4.27%
TECHNOLOGY	943.04	970.38	-2.82%	14.98%

# KUWAIT EQUITIES UPBEAT BEFORE EID

## BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended the first week of September in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 5,429.41 points, up by 0.37 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 1.06 percent after closing at 350.67 points, whereas the KSE-15 Index closed at 815.58 points up by 1.28 percent.

Furthermore, the week's average daily turnover decreased by 4.15 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 5.06 million, whereas trading volume average was 47.97 million shares, recording a decrease of 7.57 percent.

In light of a trading activity over controlled by variation and noticeable fluctuation, and despite

the declines recorded by the market at the beginning of the last week prior to the holiday, the three stock market indices were able to compensate its losses and could end the same week's trading in the green zone, as a result to the purchasing and collection operations executed on the leading stocks, the most traded on, and it was apparent on the performance of the Weighted and KSE-15 indices, the most increasing ones during the week compared to its opponents, the Price Index, which benefited in turn from the random purchasing and the quick speculative operations that included some small-cap listed stocks.

As per the daily trading activity, the market opened the week's trading with a drop that lasted all Sunday's session, amid a limited growth in the liquidity level, due to the selling pressures that included a wide range of stocks, especially in the Telecommunication and Consumer Goods sectors, the most losing ones by the end of the session. On Monday's session, the red colour continued to be in control amid an increased selling operations and quick speculation on most of the stocks that were traded on during the session, especially the small-cap ones.

On the mid-week session, the market was able to reverse its direction to the upward and its three indices were able to realize a grouped increase, to compensate a part of its previous losses, supported by the random purchasing operations that included many stocks of different sectors, especially in Telecommunication, the most increasing sector; the market realized such gains amid a noticeable growth to the three trading indicators, especially the value, which reached by the end of the session to KD 5.77 million, up by 71.69 percent compared to the previous session.

Also, the market continued on Wednesday's session its increase for the three indices supported by the purchasing powers that included many stocks of different sectors, especially the leading stocks that had a significant role in realizing such gains. On the end of week session, the market continued in realizing gains for the three indices, especially the Price Index that received support by the random purchasing operations and the quick speculations that concentrated on the small-cap stocks, in light of a relatively increased levels of the trading indicators.

By the end of the last operating week prior to the holiday, the market cap reached KD23.55 billion, up by 1.07 percent compared to its level in a week earlier, where it reached then KD 23.30 billion. On an annual level, the decline in the market cap for the listed companies in KSE contracted to reach 6.79 percent from its value at end of 2015, where it reached then KD 25.27 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended the first week of the current month recording 3.31 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 8.13 percent, and the KSE-15 recorded 9.42 percent loss.

### Sectors' Indices

Seven of KSE's sectors ended the last week prior to the Eid holiday in the red zone, while the other five recorded increases. The Technology sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 2.82 percent to end the week's activity at 943.04 points. The Consumer Goods sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 0.89 percent, closing at 1,143.53 points, followed by the Health Care sector, as its index closed at 1,056.41 points at a loss of 0.68 percent. The Insurance sector was the least declining as its index closed at 998.18 points with a 0.01 percent decrease.

On the other hand, the week's highest gainer was the Financial Services sector, achieving 2.25 percent growth rate as its index closed at 569.94 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Banks sector's index closed at 792.68 points recording 1.44 percent increase. Followed by Oil & Gas sector's index closed at 773.88 points recording 0.76 percent increase.

### Sectors' Activity

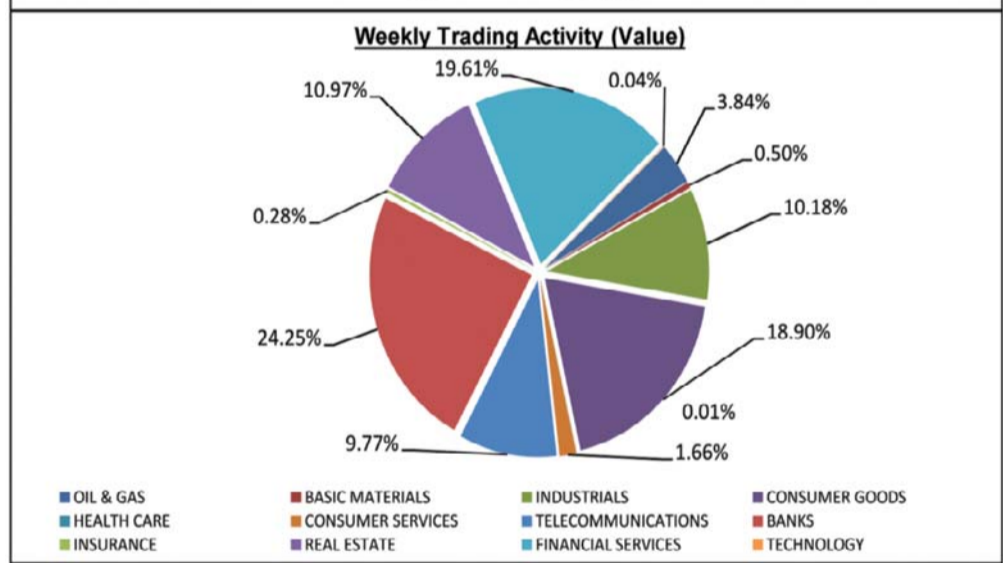
The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 97.56 million shares changing hands during the same week, representing 40.68 percent of the total market trading volume.

The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 21.41 percent of the week's total trading volume, with a total of around 51.34 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 6.13 million or 24.25 percent of the week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's turnover at end of the same week was approx. KD 4.96 million representing 19.61 percent of the total market trading value.

— Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSE 15
Weekly	Last week	5,429.41	350.67	815.58
	Previous week	5,409.21	347.00	805.30
	Change (Point)	20.20	3.67	10.28
	Change (%)	0.37%	1.06%	1.28%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-185.71	-31.03	-84.85
	Change (%)	-3.31%	-8.13%	-9.42%



MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	239,828,119	259,470,771	-7.57%
Value (K.D)	25,287,650	26,383,749	-4.15%
Deals	8,577	7,140	20.13%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %
	23,549,576,757	23,299,366,421	1.07%
			Annual Ch. %
			-6.79%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
AJWAN	42.00	29.50	12.5	42.37%
CABLETV	33.50	28.00	5.5	19.64%
REMAL	36.00	32.00	4.0	12.50%
AMWAL	21.00	19.00	2.0	10.53%
IKARUS	33.50	30.50	3.0	9.84%

TOP LOOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
DANAH	89.00	97.00	-8.0	-8.25%
URC	97.00	104.00	-7.0	-6.73%
OSOS	100.00	106.00	-6.0	-5.66%
AMAR	42.50	45.00	-2.5	-5.56%
IPG	350.00	370.00	-20.0	-5.41%



**NEW YORK:** Specialist Mark Fitzgerald (right) works at the post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange that trades Pandora. Pandora says it has revamped its \$5 a month Internet radio service giving listeners the ability to skip and replay more songs. —AP

## STOCKS DECLINE, HURT BY DECLINES IN BANKS

### WALL STREET WEEKLY ROUNDUP

**NEW YORK:** US stocks were moderately lower Friday, pushed down, in part, by the price of oil. Investors continue to remain on edge regarding the possibility of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates at its meeting next week. Banks also fell, led by a plunge in Deutsche Bank after the giant German lender said it wouldn't settle with the Department of Justice over its handling of mortgage securities in the run-up to the 2008 financial crisis.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 88.68 points, or 0.5 percent, to 18,123.80. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 8.10 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,139.16 and the Nasdaq composite fell 5.12 points, or 0.1 percent, to 5,244.57. The US-listed shares of Deutsche Bank dropped \$1.38, or 9 percent, to \$13.38 after the bank said it did not intend to pay the \$14 billion settlement that the US government asked for. Federal regulators have been looking to settle with Deutsche Bank, as it has done with the other major Wall Street firms like Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase & Co, for its role in the mortgage bubble and financial crisis.

Other European banks fell as well. Royal Bank of Scotland Group fell 30 cents, or 6 percent, to \$4.86. The news out of Deutsche Bank dragged European stocks lower, with Germany's DAX closing down 1.5 percent, France's CAC-40 index down 0.9 percent and the UK's FTSE 100 index down 0.3 percent.

Stocks have been volatile this week, with the Dow moving more than 100 points four out of five days. Most of the volatility has come as investors prepare for next week's Fed meeting. While most investors do not expect a rate increase, there is a small but noticeable likelihood there will be one.

"By the Fed's own criteria, everything is in place for them to raise rates. But still,

people don't think they are going to raise rates, so the market is in conflict," said David Kelly, chief global investment strategist at JP Morgan Asset Management.

In other company news, pharmaceutical company Novavax plunged \$7.05, or 85 percent, to \$1.29 after the company said its experimental vaccine failed in late-stage clinical testing. Novavax has no active products on the market and this drug was their furthest in development.

Intel rose \$1.11, or 3 percent, to \$37.67 after the company raised its revenue forecasts, citing stronger-than-expected demand for personal computers.

The S&P 500 is adding a new industry to its traditional groups for the first time since the dotcom era. The benchmark stock index will now have a real estate sector, which will be split off from the financial services component. The new industry component will be effective at the end of trading Friday. After the split, the S&P 500 will have 11 industry sectors. The 10 current sectors of the S&P 500 are: financial services, information technology, energy, industrials, consumer discretionary companies, materials, telecommunications, consumer staples, health care and utilities.

Benchmark US crude lost 88 cents to \$43.03 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 82 cents to \$45.77 per barrel. Heating oil fell 1 cent to \$1.41 a gallon, wholesale gasoline rose 3 cents to \$1.46 a gallon and natural gas rose 2 cents to \$2.948 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note was mostly unchanged at 1.69 percent. The euro fell to \$1.1151 from \$1.246 and the dollar rose to 102.42 yen from 102.16 yen. In metals, gold fell \$7.80 to \$1,310.20 an ounce, silver fell 18 cents to \$18.86 an ounce and copper was unchanged at \$2.16 a pound. —AP

## RUSSIA BANS IMPORTS OF EGYPTIAN FRUIT, VEGETABLES

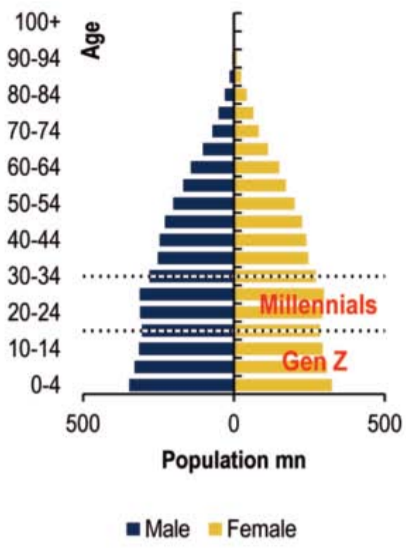
**MOSCOW:** Russia's food safety watchdog has banned fruit and vegetables imports from Egypt over sanitary concerns, following an earlier decision by Egypt that hurt Russian wheat imports, Roselkhozadzor, the state agricultural safety agency, said Friday that imports of Egyptian plant products will be banned starting next Thursday until Egypt's authorities take steps to ensure their safety.

The move comes after Egypt, the

world's largest wheat importer, changed its import regulations to ban any ergot fungus in imported wheat. It had previously accepted 0.05 percent of it in imported wheat, a level considered harmless. The new policy hurt Russia, which is one of major supplier of wheat to Egypt, and others. In the past, Russia often slapped bans on agricultural imports amid political or economic disputes with other nations, citing sanitary reasons. —AP

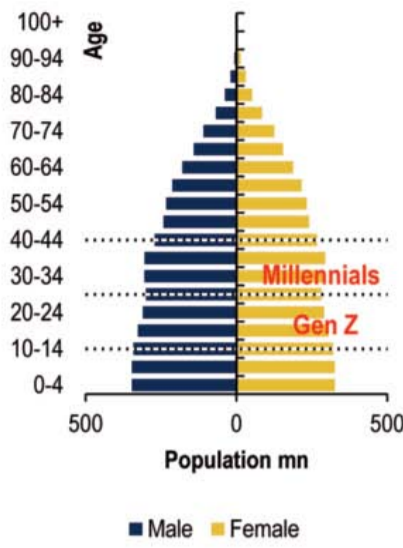


Chart 6: World population – 2015



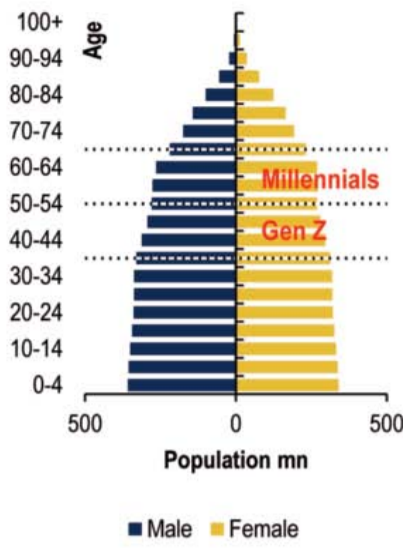
Source: UN WPP 2015

Chart 7: World population - 2025



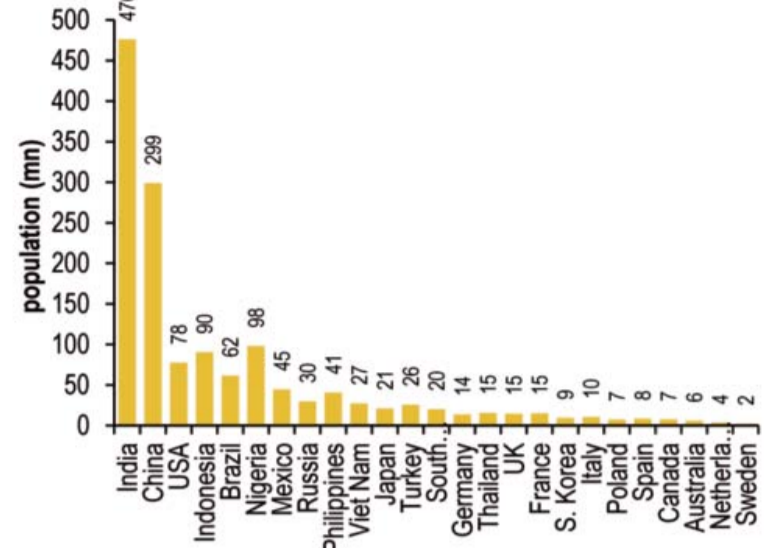
Source: UN WPP 2015

Chart 8: World population - 2050



Source: UN WPP 2015

Chart 9: Population of Gen Z in select countries in 2016 (mn)



Source: UN WPP 2015

# THEMATIC INVESTING: NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

## BANK OF AMERICA & MERRILL LYNCH REPORT

It's not just about Millennials: the rise of the Centennials Gen Y ("Millennials", 19-35Y) and Gen Z ("Centennials", 0-18Y) are the world's most important demographics, collectively accounting for 59% of the global population. There are 2bn Millennials worldwide and they have overtaken Boomers to become the largest living generation in US history. But we need to prepare for the rise of the 2.4bn Centennials - born at the turn of the century and set to live to over 100Y. They are embracing diversity, sustainability, globalisation, disruptive technology, "peak stuff", new business models, and entrepreneurialism like no generation before them - and they are economically optimistic to boot. Together Gen Y and Gen Z will account for c60 percent of the global workforce by 2020E.

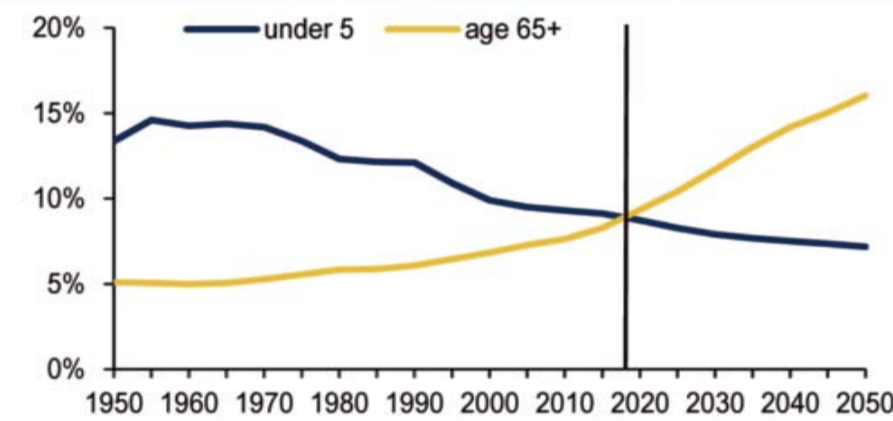
### Digital natives

Technology is the defining characteristic of Gen Y and Z's daily lives, with 90 percent smartphone and social network penetration. Young cohorts check their phones 150x per day, 50bn IMs and 6bn emojis are sent every day, and human attention spans are falling below those of goldfish. Gen Y and Z are mainstreaming disruptive technologies and both corporates and investors need to step up to the challenge, including via smartphones and apps, social media, instantaneous communication, "snackable content", omnichannel strategies, and making things shareable.

### Peak youth

For the first time in history, people aged 65Y+ will outnumber children <5Y before 2020E. Total fertility rates have dropped to near or below

Chart 2: Downside demographic risk is "peak youth" Number of 65+ will overtake those aged <5 by the end of this decade



Source: UN

Gen Z-related solutions. Our Buy-rated stocks with material exposure to the theme are detailed in an accompanying Primer Picks report, as is our full list of stocks.

For each company, we have estimated the level and materiality of companies' exposure to Millennial and Centennial-related themes and have characterised their exposure as follows:

Low - Millennial and Centennial-related products, technologies, services, and solutions are not material to global revenues and/or growth but are one factor, among others, for the business model, strategy & R&D of the company.

Medium - Millennial and Centennial-related products, technologies, services, and solutions are an important factor for the business model, strate-

200+ global stocks covered by BofAML that have exposure to Millennial and Centennial-related solutions. Our Buy-rated stocks with material exposure to the theme are detailed in that report, as is our full list of stocks.

### Millennials & Centennials 101: the kids are alright

Gen Y (Millennials) and Gen Z (Centennials) have emerged as the world's largest demographic with 4.4 billion people. Globally, there are an estimated 2 billion Millennials and 2.4 billion Centennials, or 27 percent and 32 percent of the total 7.4 billion population, respectively.

Millennials (75.4 million) overtook the Boomers in 2015 to become the largest living generation in US history - and their numbers are not projected to peak until 2036E. US Centennials (74 million) have already overtaken Gen X in terms of numbers, and will shortly overtake both Millennials and Boomers. The world's 2.4 billion Centennials - born between 1998 and 2016 and aged <1Y to 18Y live in the world's largest and most dynamic markets. In terms of the size of populations, the largest number of Gen Z-ers live in India, followed by China, Nigeria, the US, and Brazil. The largest Gen Z populations are also found in some of the most economically dynamic markets in terms of the maturity of the overall consumer market such as the US, China, Indonesia, and India (source: UN WPP, WEF).

\$21 trillion in Millennial and Gen Z income and \$10 trillion in annual Millennial consumer spending. We estimate the total income of Millennials and Gen Z at \$21 trillion in 2015 - or 35 percent of global gross income - based on Euromonitor data of average gross income. Millennials account for the bulk of this at \$18.4 trillion, with the largest markets being the US (\$3.6 trillion), China (\$2.4 trillion), India (\$0.8 trillion), Japan (\$0.7 trillion) and Germany (\$0.6 trillion). Gen Z accounts for \$2.5 trillion in global income, with the largest markets being the US (\$293 billion), China (\$250 bil-

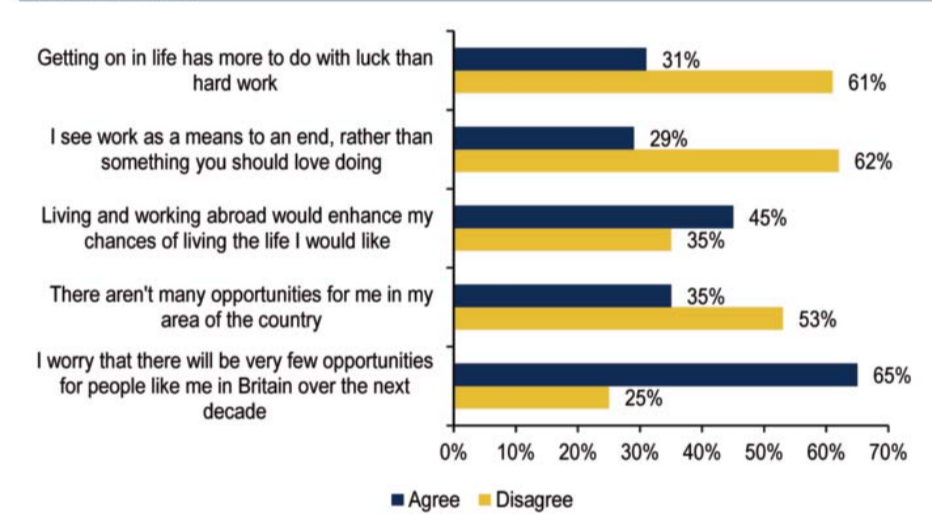
lion), and India (\$121 billion). Going forwards, we forecast that the two cohorts' income could grow to \$62 trillion by 2030E, \$32 trillion for Gen Y and \$30 trillion for Gen Z (source: Euromonitor). The estimated direct annual consumer spending of Millennials in the US alone is \$1.3 trillion (source: BCG); this extrapolates to around \$10 trillion globally and will not peak for another 5-7Y, in our view. Gen Y and Z to account for 59 percent of the global workforce by 2020E. In 2015, Millennials surpassed Gen X as the largest generation in the US workforce, and the oldest members of Gen Z will soon be entering the world of work. By 2020E, Gen Y and Z will together make up 59 percent of a global workforce that will have undergone a fundamental shift, with Boomers falling to 6 percent of the total vs. 35 percent Millennials, 35 percent Gen X, and 24 percent Gen Z (source: Manpower 2016). The rise of Gen Y and Z will be key to successfully tackling the twin challenges of the 'age wave' and technology-enabled creative disruption, in our view.

Technology is not disruptive for Gen Y and Z, it's the new normal. Technology is integral to the lives of younger generations, with almost all Millennials online in DMs, and 92 percent of US teens going online daily, sending an average of 30 texts/IMs a day (source: Pew Research Center).

tainment, hobbies, and dating. A world without boundaries and borders with "citizen of the world" defining them more than nationality, religion or ethnicity (source: WEF). Millennials and Gen Z have come of age in a world characterised by growing tolerance and see equality as nonnegotiable, in our view. Gen Z is the most racially diverse generation in US history (only 49-52 percent are non-Hispanic white), the US <5Y cohort has become "majority minority" for the first time in history, and by 2065E visible minorities will account for 54 percent of the US population (source: US Census Bureau, Pew Research Center). Gen Y, and particularly Gen Z, also have the most open and progressive views on women's and LGBTQ rights.

According to our internal Bank of America card data, the biggest gain in spending in the US between 2010 and 2015 was among the Millennials, up 23 percent. Even after controlling for the 8.5 percent increase in CPI over this period, real spending was up 14.5 percent. In contrast, there was essentially no growth in nominal spending among Boomers and Traditionalists/Silents over this period, which is not surprising given the data shows that spending peaks around age 45. The gain in spending among Millennials partly reflects the following:

Chart 13: Gen Z is a sober, more worldly generation View of UK 14-18Y olds



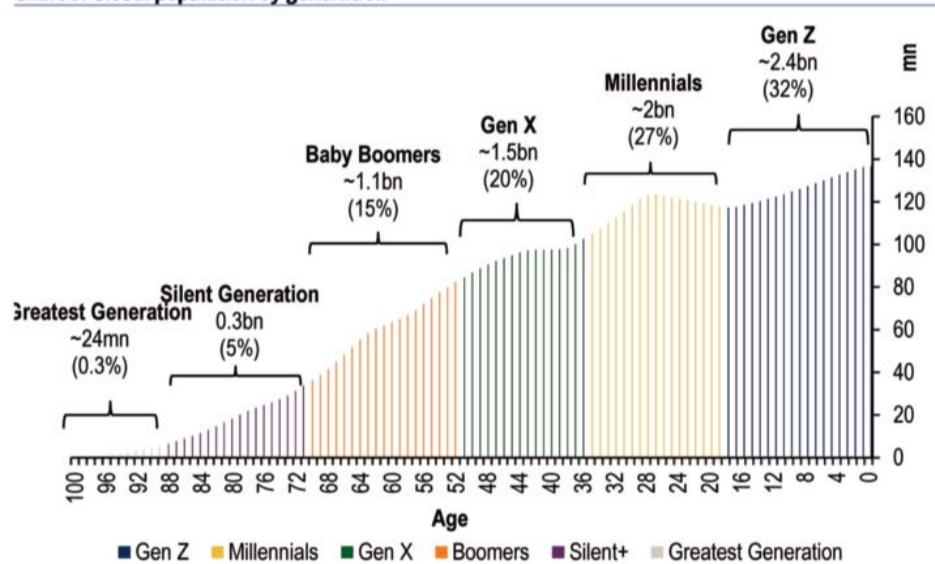
Source: Britain Thinks Survey of 679 GB 14 - 18 years olds, 2013

Millennial smartphone penetration has reached 90 percent in DMs, and the average age for a US child to get a smartphone is now 10.3Y. Social networks are an integral part of their lives with 90 percent of Millennials using 1+ and 71 percent of 13-17Y olds using 2+, WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger both hitting 1 billion users, and 50 billion IMs and 6 billion emojis being sent every day (source: Pew Research, Deloitte, Ofcom, eMarketer). Tech truly lies at the heart of Gen Y and Z's daily habits including news, media, enter-

\*The cohort is maturing into a major consumer force with a greater share employed and experiencing life events, such as marriage and childrearing.

\*As individuals age they also tend to allocate a larger share of their budget to durable goods, which includes auto parts, furniture, building materials and electronics. Millennials are therefore still spending a greater share on consumable products, but will presumably increase the share of spending on durables over the medium term.

Chart 3: Global population by generation



Source: UN

replacement rates in all regions except Africa. The downside risk is that both generations may end up poorer than their parents and grandparents, with the demographics having profound long-term effects on the viability of economic growth, housing, pensions, health and long-term care, labour markets, education and public finances.

### \$21tn income today

We estimate the total income of Millennials and Centennials at \$21 trillion in 2015 - 35 percent of global gross income. The US, China, India, Japan, and Germany are the largest markets. We forecast that this number could grow to \$62 trillion by 2030E, \$32 trillion for Millennials and \$30 trillion for Gen Z. We highlight five entry points for investors wishing to play the theme: 1) Technology, Media & Entertainment; 2) Consumer; 3) Household Formation; 4) Education; and 5) Financials.

We present a list of 200+ global stocks covered by BofAML that have exposure to Millennials and

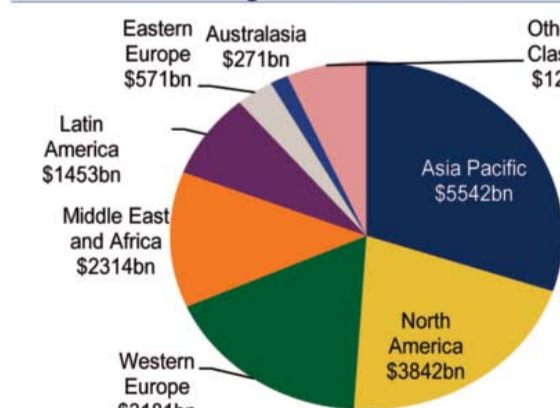
and R&D of the company; material to sales and/or growth.

High - Millennial and Centennial-related products, technologies, services, and solutions are core to the business model, strategy and R&D of the company; material sales and/or growth driver; pure play (i.e. 100 percent of sales). Although it is difficult to accurately gauge the link between such exposure and share price performance (as many factors outside the scope of this analysis are likely to play a role in short- and long-term price development), we still consider Millennials and Centennials exposure as an important and positive point to track given that it is a global "Transforming World" theme with a long lifespan.

The aim of our list of stocks that have exposure to our Global Millennials and Centennials theme and its five underlying entry points is to provide investors with information to identify company and sub-sector specific risks and opportunities that are inherent in the theme.

In our Primer Picks report, we present a list of

Chart 15: Millennials Regional Income in 2015



Source: Euromonitor

Chart 16: Gen Z Regional Income in 2015



Source: Euromonitor

# SLOVENIA FIRST COUNTRY WITH A SUSTAINABILITY RATING

**DUBAI:** In 2015, the Slovenian Tourist Board developed the Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism, a special program used to assess the sustainable operations of Slovenian destinations and operators according to international criteria. The first winner of the Slovenia Green quality label was Ljubljana, European Green Capital 2016. Up until now, 12 destinations and 10 operators have been awarded the label, and 16 destinations are in the assessment process. The gala award ceremony for new holders of the green quality label will take place on 27 September within the Global Green Destinations Day international event, when one hundred of the most sustainable destinations and operators in the world will also be revealed and Slovenia's sustainability rating will be given. Slovenia is the first country in the world to be comprehensively rated according to interna-

tional sustainability criteria. Slovenia is a country with green character. Forests cover 58.4 percent of its area, making it the third most forested country in Europe, and 36 percent of its area is within the Natura 2000 network. One fifth of its coast is protected, and it is one of the richest European countries with regard to the amount of river water per capita.

### Green strategy of Slovenian tourism

By adopting the Green Strategy of Slovenian tourism 2012-2016, Slovenia committed to the sustainable development of tourism and the respect of its green character. Therefore, the Slovenian Tourist Board developed the Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism in 2015, a special program for introducing sustainable models in tourism and raising awareness concerning careful environ-

mental management. Within the Green Scheme, it developed the Slovenia Green quality label based on the Green Destinations Standard, the global standard for assessing the sustainable operations of tourist destinations, and the ETIS indicator system.

Since 2015, 12 destinations and 10 operators have joined the Green Scheme. The first destination to be given the Slovenia Green Destination label was Ljubljana, while other holders of the quality label include Kamnik, Idrija, Rogla-Zreze, Radlje ob Dravi, Cerkno, Lasko, Zalec, Celje, Velenje, Nova Gorica, and Maribor. The holders of the Slovenia Green Accommodation label are the Thermana Park Hotel in Lasko, the Koren Camp in Kobarij, the Terme Snovik Spa, the Urška Tourist Farm, Ortenia - Apartments in Nature, the Trnulja Estate, the Park Hotel in

Ljubljana, the Celica Hostel, Pr' Gavedarjo Design Rooms, and the Jozef Hotel in Idrija. The assessment process now includes 16 destinations.

The Slovenia Green quality label is a commitment and a guarantee that the recipient will operate and improve in accordance with the sustainability principle, reducing the negative effect on the natural and social environment, and preserving and emphasizing the special features of the local environment, identity, and the natural and cultural landscape.

### The greenest operators

The new recipients of the green label will be announced at the end of September at the two-day Global Green Destination Day (GGDD) international conference in Ljubljana. This will be the highlight of the event, which will gather

renowned experts who will introduce the best practices in green and sustainable tourism. On World Tourism Day, i.e. on 27 September, the Top 100 Sustainable Destinations in the world and providers of green business solutions will be announced, and new holders of the Slovenia Green, Quality Coast, and Quality Destinations labels will also be announced. Slovenia is in strong contention for the latter, as it is the first country in Europe to be comprehensively assessed by the Green Destinations international organisation according to international sustainability criteria.

Global Green Destinations Day is organized by Green Destinations and the GoodPlace Sustainable Tourism Institute, supported by the main partner and co-organiser Ljubljana Tourism, with the Slovenian Tourist Board as the partner.



## KFH-BAHRAIN LAUNCHES UNIQUE 'WAKALA INVESTMENT ACCOUNT'

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) has launched a new unique investment product in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the 'Wakala Investment Account' that is designed according to the Islamic Sharia principle of Al-Wakala.

Client appoint the Bank to perform a transaction, without any fees for an agreed upon Anticipated Profit Rate. The Bank invests the deposits in the general portfolio.

Abdulhakeem Al-Khayyat, the Managing Director and CEO of KFH-Bahrain commented on the launch of the product, saying, "At KFH-Bahrain we are committed to providing a variety of Islamic products to suit our customer's needs and increase the choice of financial tools available to them. The client earns a contractually agreed anticipated profit with 'Wakala Investment Account' wherein from an investment transaction which the Bank conducts for the client at no charge."

Meanwhile, Khaled Rafea, the Executive Director and Head of Retail Banking Group commented, "We have worked diligently to develop and launch the 'Wakala Investment Account'. We strive to provide all our clients unique Sharia-compliant investment products." He added, "Clients now have of the opportunity to open a 'Wakala



Abdulhakeem Al-Khayyat

Investment Account' in any of our strategically located branches around the Kingdom. The investment account is available to all Bahrainis and residents of all nationalities for a minimum investment amount of BD1,000 or \$10,000 for periods from one month to a full year. The investment is transacted through the Bank's general portfolio, from which the Bank aims to achieve the anticipated profit and distribute this profit on a monthly basis."

## OOREDOO KUWAIT READY TO LAUNCH IPHONE 7 BUNDLED WITH SHAMEL POSTPAID PLANS AND THEIR EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS



**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network in 2016, announced yesterday that it will launch the iPhone 7 devices across the country with its Shamel postpaid plans. The devices will be available in all Ooredoo branches as well as its online store starting September 24.

The new iPhone 7 devices boast a number of powerful features, making this Apple's best iPhone to date. The iPhone 7 has an entirely new 12MP camera system, a brighter and colorful display, a faster processor and better battery life. The iPhone 7 devices are water and splash resistant, and come with built-in immersive stereo speakers.

The iPhone 7 comes in two varieties: iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus. They come in three capacities: 32GB, 128GB, and 256GB. The iPhone 7 devices are available in five colors: rose gold, gold, silver, black, and jet black. The new devices ship with the iOS 10, Apple's latest operating system, which introduce major performance and interface enhancements. Additionally, the update comes with powerful upgrades to your most-used features-Messages, Maps, Photos, and more.

The devices will be available with Ooredoo's postpaid Shamel plans. Shamel subscribers can enjoy a number of exclusive privileges such as freezing their contract for up to 3 months a year when they travel, without worrying about paying bills for months that they don't use. Additionally, all Shamel subscribers can enjoy unlimited calls on the Ooredoo network, in addition to other perks such as data rollover, to

ensure that they are making full use of their package. To find out more and stay up to date with Ooredoo's latest news, follow @ooredookuwait on Twitter and Instagram.

Ooredoo in Kuwait is a member of Ooredoo Group. Commercially launched in December 1999, the company provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo is guided by its vision of enriching people's lives and its belief that it can stimulate human growth by leveraging communications to help people achieve their full potential.

Ooredoo is a leading international communi-



cations company delivering mobile, fixed, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of consumers and businesses across markets in the Middle East, North Africa and South-East Asia. As a community-focused company, Ooredoo is guided by its vision of enriching people's lives and its belief that it can stimulate human growth by leveraging communications to help people achieve their full potential. Ooredoo has a presence in markets such as Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Palestine, the Maldives and Indonesia. The company was named "Best Mobile Operator of the Year" at the World Communication Awards 2013.

## NEW OFFER FOR ABK CARDHOLDERS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EMIRATES

**KUWAIT:** Building on the series of unique summer offers and promotions, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) in partnership with Emirates Airline, is offering all ABK credit, prepaid and debit cardholders a discount of up to 10 percent for online bookings made on Business or Economy class tickets.

Bookings are made through emirates.com with the use of the following promotional code KWABK17. The offer is valid for online bookings up to 10 December 2016, for travel until 31 March 2017.

ABK customers who choose to book a

Business class or Economy class ticket will be eligible for up to 10 percent discount, whereas customers who book a Business class or Economy class promotional fare are eligible for up to 5 percent discount.

ABK cardholders are also offered a free upgrade on rooms in selected hotels, namely Fairmont Dubai, Hyatt Regency Dubai Creek Heights, JW Marriott and the Sofitel Downtown. To enjoy these free upgrades customers must make their bookings via the local Emirates office.

For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



## KFH ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the ninth draw of the new banking cards campaign themed "Use KFH Cards and You May Win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz SUV's and Cash Prizes up to \$200,000" in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are: Mubarak Al-Mosharji, Nasser Aladwani, Osama Alali, Mezyad Aldaemi, Shahrazad Mohammad, AbdulAziz Albehehis and AbdulAziz Alenzi.

For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will gain a chance to enter a draw and win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz cars and a chance to win the value of their purchases up to \$2000 daily for 100 days ending October 11th 2016. It is worth noting that KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used in international purchases are eligible for the daily draw.

Moreover, clients will gain the chance to enter 2 draws to win 2 Mercedes-Benz cars. The first draw will be for the first car Mercedes Benz GLE 400. This draw will be held after 50 days of the launch for purchasing transactions conducted from day 1 to day 50, while the second draw will be for the second car Mercedes Benz GLE 450 Coupe, and will be held after 100 days of the launch for purchasing conducted from day 51 to day 100 of the campaign.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in

order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster the bank's pioneering position in the field of banking cards. KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, while benefiting clients and merchants.

This new campaign is part of KFH's efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence, especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards.

KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers. KFH occupies the leading position as the issuer of banking cards and one of leading banks at the GCC level.

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.

## PIPELINE SHUTDOWN IN ALABAMA COULD SEND GAS PRICES HIGHER

**DALLAS:** Motorists in the Southeast and East could pay more for gasoline in coming days because of the shutdown of a leaking pipeline in Alabama.

Experts say, however, that any spike in service-station prices should only be temporary. Colonial Pipeline Co. said Friday that it doesn't expect to fully reopen its primary gasoline pipeline until next week.

It is one of two major pipelines that connect more than two dozen refineries in Texas and Louisiana with cities in the East, from Atlanta to New York. The Colonial pipeline provides nearly 40 percent of the region's gasoline and usually runs at or near full capacity. Prices on futures contracts for wholesale gasoline rose about 2 percent Friday to \$1.46 a gallon after rising 5 percent on Thursday.

Colonial said that supply disruptions would be felt first in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. Tom Kloza, an energy analyst with the Oil Price Information Service, said some stations in the Southeast could run short on supply and boost their prices by 20 or 30 cents a gallon.

"The Colonial pipeline is the metaphorical aorta for the supply to the most-populated regions of the country, and you've lost 10 days of blood flow," Kloza said. The good news, he added, is that the disruption comes at a time when gasoline prices are down sharply from a couple years ago.

### Shortfall

If prices rise, the effect could be felt the hardest in Tennessee, which is supplied by a spur off the leaky pipeline. Trade groups for service stations and convenience stores in Tennessee assured consumers that the pumps won't run dry. They said fuel wholesalers were hauling gasoline in from fuel terminals and refineries that don't depend on the downed pipeline.

"Tankers are just having to drive farther to get the fuel," said Emily LeRoy, executive director of the Tennessee Fuel and Convenience Store Association.

Pump-price increases should be smaller in the Mid-Atlantic, Kloza said, because any shortfall from the shutdown of the Colonial pipeline could be made up within about 10 days by tankers arriving from Europe.

Jim Ritterbusch, who advises energy investors, said the surge in gasoline futures was exaggerated. A large surplus of gasoline in the central-Atlantic region should have cushioned the blow of the pipeline accident, he said.

By the end of September, the bulk of the price spike should be erased as higher prices attract more supply to fill the void, he wrote in a note to clients. Georgia-based Colonial Pipeline estimated that the pipeline rupture near Birmingham has spilled 252,000 to 336,000 gallons of gasoline, most of which was corralled in a retention pond. The company downplayed any threat to public safety.

It is not clear when the leak started. It was detected Sept. 9. Colonial said work crews would begin excavation work Friday and repairs would continue through the weekend. Workers might put up a temporary stretch of pipeline around the leak, the company said.

Colonial said it was making up some of the gasoline shortfall by using another pipeline that usually carries diesel and jet fuel. The company said fuel shippers were also sending tankers to supply markets along the East Coast. — AP



**BIRMINGHAM:** Drivers work their way out of Dallas during rush hour. Motorists in parts of the country could pay a little more for gasoline in coming days because of the shutdown of a leaking pipeline in Alabama. —AP

## DUTCH TO TEST VIDEO REFEREE IN CUP MATCH

**THE HAGUE:** A video referee will be used next week for the first time ever in an official competition match in a ground-breaking test by The Netherlands' top Eredivisie league, officials announced on Friday.

"It will be the first test of its kind in an official competition match," Royal Dutch Football Federation (KNVB) spokesman Hans van Kastel told AFP, ahead of the clash between mighty Amsterdam-based Ajax and league minnows

Willem II. Ajax, currently in third, will face Willem II in the southern university city of Tilburg, where the technology will go "live", the KNVB said.

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) approved video technology testing in March to be carried out over a two-year period.

Video technology had its first operational test earlier this month during France's 3-2 friendly win over Italy in Bari-hailed by FIFA president Gianni

Infantino as a "new page in history."

Infantino hopes that "video assistant referees" will be used at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. KNVB operational director Gijs de Jong said the federation has been working since 2011 "to introduce the video assistant referee in football."

The KNVB tested the system off-line during at least 24 matches last season, it said on its website.

The decision to introduce video technology follows the widespread introduction of goal-line tech-

nology, which was used by FIFA at the 2014 World Cup and by UEFA in this year's Champion's League and Europa League finals.

The assistant video referee is there to help referees during difficult decisions such as penalties, free kicks and off-side rulings.

However, the referee's decision is final and cannot be reversed by the video assistant once the whistle has blown, even if the referee has made a mistake. — AFP

## TESLA WAS WARNED ABOUT HANDS-FREE AUTOPILOT USE

**DETROIT:** The company that made the camera and computer system for Tesla Motors' semi-autonomous Autopilot says the electric car maker ignored its warnings of safety problems.

Israel-based Mobileye said Friday that last year, prior to the release of Autopilot, it warned Tesla not to allow drivers to use the system without their hands on the steering wheel. The system Tesla rolled out in the fall allows drivers to remove their hands from the wheel while the car takes control of steering and other functions.

Mobileye's statement escalates a public spat with Tesla and will almost certainly draw the interest of two federal agencies investigating the death of a driver while using Autopilot in a May crash in Florida. At issue is whether Tesla rolled out the system

before it was ready, essentially allowing it to be tested by owners. Mobileye stopped supplying components to Tesla a few weeks ago.

Mobileye, a huge player in an auto industry that is moving quickly toward autonomous cars, makes software that takes data from cameras and other sensors and decides when the car should take action such as applying the brakes. But in the Florida crash, Tesla said the cameras in the Tesla Model S failed to spot a crossing tractor-trailer due to bright sunlight.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which along with the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash that killed former Navy Seal Joshua Brown, would not comment. Tesla said that Mobileye's statements are inaccurate and stem from Tesla's plans to develop its own vision system. When Tesla refused to stop development, Mobileye stopped support on future work "and released public statements implying that this discontinuance was motivated by safety concerns," the Palo Alto, California-based Tesla said in a statement.

Mobileye previously had said its system was never designed to spot cross traffic, but it didn't know if Tesla had modified the system. The company said Friday that in May of 2015, Chairman Amnon Shashua raised concerns with Tesla CEO Elon Musk, saying that Tesla should not let drivers use Autopilot without their hands on the steering wheel. Later, in a face-to-face meeting, Musk said Autopilot would be "hands-on," Mobileye said.

Later in the year, Tesla deployed the system, which can maintain a set speed, keep the car within its lane and brake automatically. But Autopilot allowed drivers to take their hands off the wheel for short periods. Tesla says it tells drivers that they must continue to pay attention while Autopilot is working and be ready to retake control of the vehicle. The company also says it has never claimed or implied that Autopilot makes cars fully autonomous. — AP



**HAWTHORNE:** In this Thursday, April 30, 2015, file photo, Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla Motors Inc., unveils the company's newest products, in Hawthorne, Calif. The company that made software that controls Tesla Motors' Autopilot system says it warned the automaker not to allow drivers to take their hands off the steering wheel while using the system but was ignored. — AP



**SAN FRANCISCO:** In this Friday, Aug 1, 2014, file photo, Yelp CEO Jeremy Stoppelman poses at his company's headquarters in San Francisco. Yelp.com is warning that a California lawsuit targeting a disgruntled former client's critical posts about a law firm could lead to the removal of negative reviews and leave consumers with a skewed assessment of restaurants and other businesses. — AP

## YELP WARNS CALIFORNIA LAWSUIT COULD SCRUB CRITICAL REVIEWS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Yelp.com is warning that a California lawsuit targeting critical posts about a law firm could lead to the removal of negative reviews on the site.

The company is asking the state Supreme Court to overturn a court order requiring it to remove the posts criticizing Dawn Hassell's San Francisco law firm.

Yelp says that if the ruling is allowed to stand, it will open the door for businesses

to force the company to remove critical reviews. Hassell says the business review website is exaggerating the stakes her legal effort. She says it aims only to remove from Yelp lies by a former client that a judge determined were defamatory, not just negative. The state high court faces an Oct. 14 deadline to decide whether to hear the case or let the lower-court ruling stand. Experts expect Yelp to prevail. — AP

## TWITTER KICKS OFF US FOOTBALL GAME STREAMS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** More than two million people tuned into Twitter's first broadcast of a US football game, as the messaging platform strives to ramp up use with live video streaming of events.

Overall, Twitter's stream of The New York Jets facing The Buffalo Bills on Thursday reached 2.1 million viewers, with an average of 243,000 watching the game at any given moment, according to the US National Football League.

About 200,000 more people tuned in for a pre-game show. People watched an average of 22 minutes of game action, the NFL said. The event was the first of 10 Thursday night NFL football games set to stream for free on the San Francisco-based one-to-many messaging platform this season.

The Jets defeated the Bills by a score of 37 to 31. The alliance was also part of an NFL effort to adapt to a viewership shifting away from traditional television or cable outlets to online platforms.

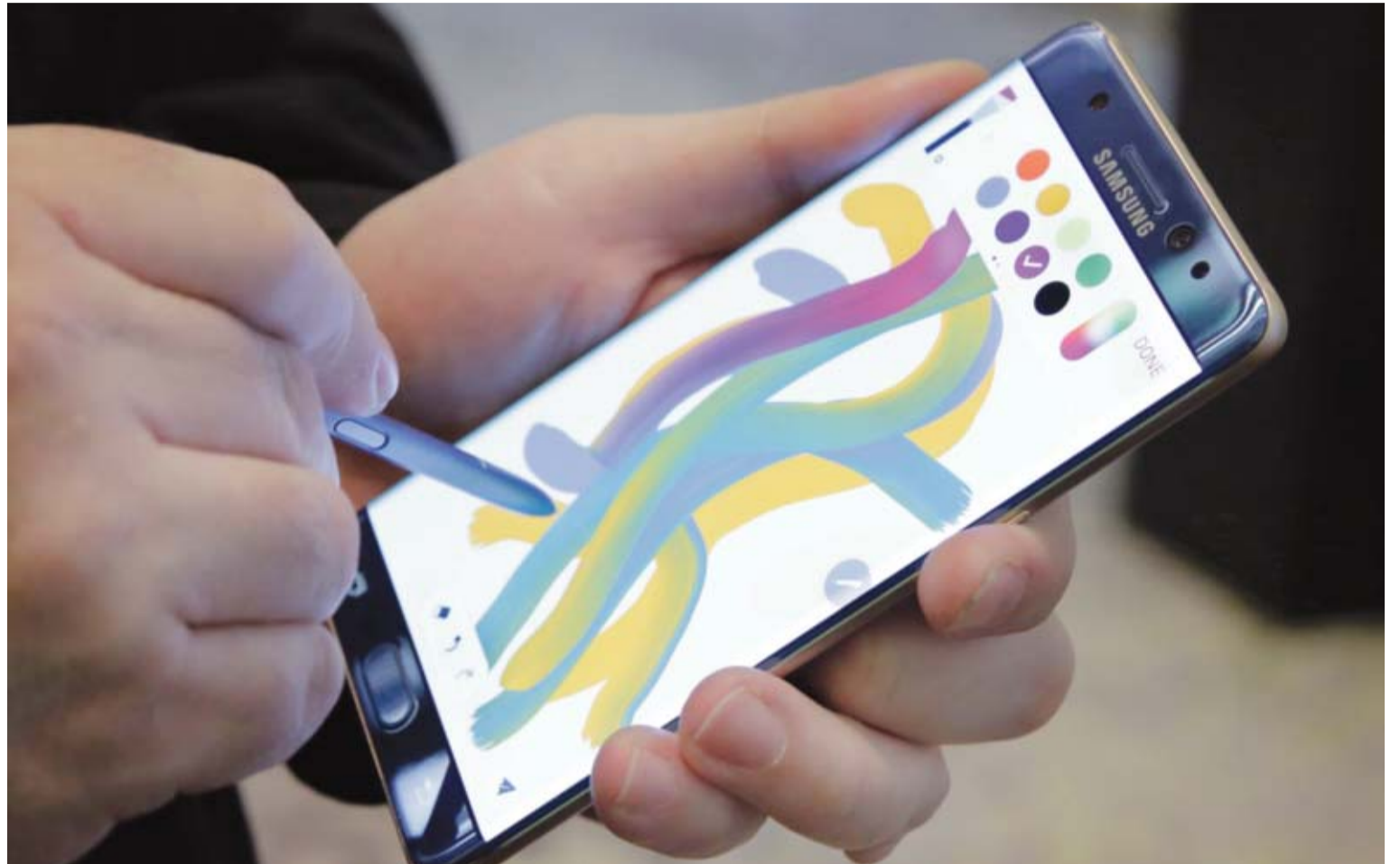
The league late last year teamed with Yahoo.com for the first global stream of an

NFL game, attracting millions of viewers during the test. Twitter accounted for the bulk of the "digital" audience for the game Thursday, according to figures released by the NFL. The game was also broadcast on CBS Television Network, with 15.7 million people watching across all platforms, according to the NFL.

Twitter reportedly paid \$10 million dollars for rights to stream Thursday night games, and stands to make money from video ads woven into broadcasts.

Twitter this week announced a new application that will offer free content on major streaming TV services.

The new app for Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Microsoft's Xbox One will allow anyone with these devices to get content from Twitter's media partners. That will include the NFL games, Bloomberg News and others. "These devices will bring Twitter's live streaming video experience to life on the TV screen," Twitter chief financial officer Anthony Noto said when the apps were introduced. — AFP



**NEW YORK:** In this July 28, 2016, file photo, a color blending feature of the Galaxy Note 7 is demonstrated in New York. Consumers who bought the Galaxy Note 7 are having a wide range of responses in dealing with Samsung's recall of the smartphone, which has been catching fire. — AP

## GALAXY NOTE 7 PHONES RECALL SHOWS CHALLENGES OF STRONGER BATTERIES

**SEOUL:** Samsung's recall of 2.5 million Galaxy Note 7 phones after several dozen caught fire and exploded may stem from a subtle manufacturing error, but it highlights the challenge electronics makers face in packing ever more battery power into ever thinner phones, while rushing for faster release dates.

Announcing the recall on Sept. 2, Samsung confirmed dozens of cases where Note 7 batteries caught fire or exploded, mostly while charging. It plans a software update that will cap battery recharging at 60 percent capacity to help minimize risks of overheating. But it is urging owners to keep the phones turned off until they can get them replaced, beginning tomorrow.

US safety regulators stepped in Thursday with an official recall, saying Samsung's voluntary efforts were inadequate. Though Samsung promised replacement devices, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission said US customers would be eligible for refunds if they choose. Replacements are expected in stores by next Wednesday. The Note 7 debuted to rave reviews in August thanks to its speed, new software features and not least - the estimated nine hours it would run between charges. But all that power comes at a price: Users began reporting the phones were catching fire or exploding, in one case incinerating the SUV it had been left in. Aviation authorities in the US, Australia and Europe have urged passengers not to use or charge Note 7s while flying and not to put them in checked baggage. On Monday, Canada issued an official recall.

Koh Dong-jin, Samsung's mobile president, said in announcing the recall on Sept. 2 that an investigation turned up a "tiny error" in the manufacturing process for the faulty batteries in the Note 7s that was very difficult to identify. The end of the pouch-shaped battery cell had some flaws that increased the chance of stress or overheating, he explained.

### MANUFACTURING ERROR

That kind of manufacturing error is unimaginable for top-notch battery makers with adequate quality controls, said Park Chul Wan, a former director of the next generation battery research center at the state-owned Korea Electronics

Technology Institute. Samsung and other experts should search for factors outside the battery cells that could have led to overheating, he said.

"If Koh's argument is right, that makes Samsung SDI a third-rate company," Park said. "But it does not appear to be a simple battery problem." Time also is a factor in marketing and making the phones. In 2015, Samsung moved up its unveiling of its new Galaxy Note model to August from September, seeking a leg up on Apple's September iPhone upgrades.

Before the issue of battery explosions emerged, supplies were not keeping pace with demand for the Note 7. Samsung has not recalled Note 7s sold in China, but the company has refused to say which of its two battery suppliers made the faulty batteries or clarify whose batteries are used in which Note 7 smartphones. The company also refused comment on South Korean media reports that it has stopped using batteries from Samsung SDI, one of its two suppliers, in the Note 7.

C.W. Chung, an analyst at Nomura Securities in Seoul, cited SDI officials in estimating that about 70 percent of the batteries for the Galaxy Note 7 smartphones came from SDI.

The other 30 percent are thought to have been supplied by Amperex Technology Ltd., a Chinese-based manufacturer that reportedly also is a main supplier of batteries for the iPhone. Problems with lithium batteries have afflicted everything from laptops to Tesla cars to Boeing's 787 jetliner, though having so many lithium-ion battery fires in a short time is unheard of, Park said. The batteries are ubiquitous in consumer electronic devices, favored by manufacturers because they are lightweight and pack much more energy into a small space than other power cells. But storing so much energy in a tiny space, with combustible components separated by ultra thin walls, makes them susceptible to overheating if exposed to high temperatures, damage or flaws in manufacturing. If the separators fail, a chemical reaction can quickly escalate out of control.

That's what happened with the Note 7, Samsung's Koh explained. "The flaw in the manufacturing process resulted in the negative elec-

trodes and the positive electrodes coming together," he told reporters in Seoul.

It is unclear how Samsung failed to discover the battery problem before launching the Note 7. It confirmed delays in shipments for extra quality tests weeks later, in late August, after photos of charred phones began popping up on social media. South Korean experts suggested Samsung may have been so ambitious with the Note 7's design that it compromised safety.

"There was no choice but to make the separator (between positive and negative anodes) thin because of the battery capacity," said Lee Sang-yeon, a professor at Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology who worked more than a decade at LG Chem, a leading lithium battery maker. Thicker separators can improve safety but will not necessarily prevent all overheating issues, he said.

### WEAK SAFETY

Doh Chil-Hoon, head of the state-run Korea Electrotechnology Research Institute's battery research division, said that based on the limited information provided by Samsung, he believes the push to increase battery power was part of the problem. "Even with a small manufacturing mistake, if there had been enough elements to ensure safety, it would not explode," Doh said. "It is a roundabout way of admitting weak safety."

The Note 7 phones have a powerful 3,500 milliampere hour battery, whereas the Galaxy S7 smartphone, which has a slightly smaller body than the Note 7, features a 3,000 mAh battery. So does the Note 5, launched in 2015.

Apple does not provide information on the iPhone's battery capacity in milliampere hours. But two research firms that specialize in analyzing tech gadgets and their components said the battery in the iPhone 6S Plus is 2,750mAh. The size of the battery in the newly released iPhone 7 is not yet known. The 3,500 mAh battery in the Samsung Note 7 is "one of the highest, if not the highest, capacity battery we've seen in a phone," said Wayne Lam, an industry analyst at IHS Markit Technology. Lam said he thinks the Note 7 battery problem resulted from weak controls in manufacturing, not a poor or unsafe design. — AP



**DUBAI:** Customers queue outside a US tech-giant Apple store during the launch of the new iPhones yesterday, at the Mall of the Emirates in Dubai. Apple's global iPhone launch was marked by excitement and frustration as fans queued to find scarce models of the coveted smartphone. — AFP

## CHEMICALS IN INDOOR DUST TIED TO ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

**NEW YORK:** Slowing the rise of antibiotic-resistant "superbugs" may take more than just curbing overuse of antibiotics or eliminating antimicrobial chemicals from household products like soap and cosmetics, a new study suggests.

It may also require taking a closer look at antimicrobial chemicals like triclosan that are found in indoor dust, said lead study author Dr. Erica Hartmann, a researcher at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. "We need to find responsible ways to use antimicrobials and antibiotics everywhere - at home, in agriculture, and in medicine - to truly tackle the problem of antibiotic resistance," Hartmann, who worked on the

study while a researcher at the University of Oregon, said by email. "In some cases, like in household soaps, that may mean not using them at all," Hartmann added.

Hartmann and colleagues analyzed dust samples from an indoor athletic and educational facility and found links between antimicrobial chemicals and antibiotic-resistance genes in microbes.

For instance, dust samples with higher amounts of triclosan also had higher levels of a gene that's been implicated in bacterial resistance to multiple drugs. While they found only very small amounts of triclosan - less than many household products contain - the connection suggests a need to investigate

how these chemicals in dust may contribute to antibiotic resistance, the researchers conclude.

### The FDA's stance on the matter

Earlier this month, the US Food and Drug Administration banned over-the-counter bar soaps and certain other consumer products that contain triclosan and other antibacterial chemicals. The ban didn't cover hand sanitizers or antibacterial products used in hospitals. The ban also doesn't apply to lots of other products that contain these chemicals, including paints, toothpaste, baby toys, bedding, and kitchen utensils, Hartmann said. "Right now, we don't know how

much of the triclosan we see in dust comes from soap versus other products (building materials, paints, plastics, etc.)," Hartmann said. "In a lot of cases, the antimicrobial chemical can just be omitted and the product is still just as effective." The current study doesn't prove antimicrobials in dust cause antibiotic resistance, the authors note in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*. In addition, the study can't tell how the potential effect of chemicals in dust would compare to the effect of other causes of antibiotic resistance, such as unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions or overuse of these treatments in livestock feed, said Tim Landers, a

researcher at the Ohio State University College of Nursing in Columbus who wasn't involved in the study.

Still, the study rightly singles out triclosan as a potential problem, Landers said by email. "It is important to note that not all antibacterial agents are equal," Landers said. Some, like alcohol-based hand rubs, destroy bacterial cell walls and we don't see resistance to these agents." "However, there is increasing evidence that triclosan resistance does emerge and makes the bacteria resistant to antibiotics in other classes," Landers added. "Triclosan has been implicated as having negative impacts on the environment as well." —Reuters



OKLAHOMA CITY: Trust Women South Wind Women's Center is pictured Friday, Sept. 16, 2016. —AP

## OKLAHOMA'S FIRST NEW ABORTION CLINIC IN 40 YEARS OPENS DOORS

**OKLAHOMA CITY:** Despite facing some of the nation's strictest anti-abortion laws, a Kansas-based foundation opened a new facility in Oklahoma City - the first new abortion provider in the state in 40 years.

The Trust Women South Wind Women's Center welcomed the first patients last week to its clinic on the city's south side. Six licensed physicians are providing services there, including abortions, OB-GYN care, family planning, adoption and emergency contraception. "If you look at this part of the country, there is a lack of access to reproductive health care, and frankly a lack of access to health care across the board," Trust Women's founder and CEO Julie Burkhart said Friday. "It's hard for women who want to give birth to find OB-GYNs to help them deliver their babies."

Trust Women says Oklahoma City was the largest metropolitan area in the US without an abortion provider, and the state's last clinic opened in 1974. The only other abortion providers in the state are in Norman and Tulsa.

Dr. Naresh Patel performed abortions for decades at his clinic in the Oklahoma City suburb of Warr Acres before he gave up his license last year as part of a plea deal to fraud charges alleging he sold abortion-inducing drugs to women who weren't actually pregnant.

Trust Women opened its first clinic in Wichita, Kansas, in 2013 following the shooting death of abortion provider Dr. George Tiller, with whom Burkhart worked for seven years. Burkhart said she expects the Oklahoma clinic will provide about 1,500 abortions in its first year, increasing to as many as 3,000 per year after a few years.

### Diheartening for opponents

The news of the clinic's opening was dis-

heartening for abortion opponents, said Lorry McGarry, a spokeswoman for the anti-abortion Holy Innocents Foundation of Oklahoma. "We are grieved to hear of the abortion industry moving into south Oklahoma City, and we will do all we can to pray for a change of heart for all involved," McGarry said. She said the group did not have any plans to protest outside the clinic.

Oklahoma's Republican-led Legislature has passed some of the most far-reaching anti-abortion bills in the country, including a measure last year that would have made it a felony punishable by up to three years in prison to perform the procedure in Oklahoma. Republican Gov. Mary Fallin vetoed the measure, saying that while she opposes abortion, the bill was vague and would not withstand a legal challenge.

At least five anti-abortion measures approved in recent years face legal challenges, including mandatory waiting periods, requiring abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital and bans on various methods of abortion. Most of the proposed new laws have been temporarily halted while the lawsuits are pending.

According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, 79,038 abortions were performed on state residents from 2002 to 2015, an average of 5,646 abortions per year. That number peaked in 2006, with 6,807 abortions reported to state health officials. The fewest number of abortions was recorded last year, with 4,330 abortions.

Overall, the rate of abortions performed in Oklahoma has dropped by 34 percent during that same time period, from 123.5 abortions per 1,000 live births in 2002 to 81.5 abortions per 1,000 live births in 2015, according to Health Department statistics. —AP

## IN ZIKA-STRICKEN MIAMI, AERIAL PESTICIDE SPRAY ADDS TO FEARS

RATHER BE BITTEN THAN BE EXPOSED TO CHEMICALS

**MIAMI BEACH:** In the only US city confirmed to have mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus, some residents say they'd rather be bitten than be exposed to droplets of chemicals sprayed from planes to kill the bugs.

No assurances from health officials would calm some 200 people packing a Miami Beach City Commission meeting Wednesday. They cursed elected officials and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for mixed messages about aerial spraying over South Beach and refusing to detail all locations where adult mosquitoes have been isolated with the virus. "At first they said they couldn't do aerial spraying, but then they said yes," said Sadie Kaplan, a fitness trainer who fled her home twice to avoid the spraying. "Pick a side. Don't flip-flop."

Some argued the mild flu-like illness that Zika causes in most people doesn't warrant aggressive pesticide use, even booing a doctor presenting evidence of Zika-related birth defects to city commissioners. "I don't want to be sprayed with pesticides for what I believe is a hoax," said Kiro Ace, a graphic designer who was shirtless but wore a gas mask as he joined protesters chanting, "If you're going to spray, we want a say!"

### The use of naled

At issue is the use of naled, an insecticide sprayed since the 1950s for mosquito control in the US. It's currently being used in Miami Beach at levels deemed safe by the CDC and the US Environmental Protection Agency. It's banned from personal use in homes, but the EPA says there's no evidence it causes cancer.

An EPA fact sheet on naled says people exposed to high concentrations can experience nausea, dizziness and confusion. At extremely high concentrations it can be fatal. Ten naled-related calls have been reported to the Florida Poison Control Information Network since Aug. 1, but there's no confirmation of any pesticide exposure or illness, Florida Department of Health spokeswoman Mara Gambineri said in an email.

EPA said a review of its records found only a "handful" of cases over the past 15 years where naled harmed people. EPA said the majority of incidents included minor burns, skin irritation or headaches with no deaths. Agency spokeswoman Nancy Grantham said the numbers are low, considering Florida sprayed about 338,000 pounds of naled on about 6 million acres in 2014. Not everyone in the community agreed that naled should be ruled out, and on Friday officials confirmed a fifth mosquito sample was found with Zika in the same area of Miami Beach. Dr. Christine Curry, a University of Miami OB-GYN who is treating Zika-infected women in the affected area, reminded the skeptical audience that there's real health risk. "There are four women I have spoken to in the last several weeks who have not left Florida and who are suspected to have gotten their infection in our community," she said to boos and jeers. "I frankly don't care which compound we decide to use or



MIAMI: This Aug. 4, 2016 photo shows a plane conducts mosquito control aerial spraying over Wynwood. —AP

not use for mosquito control. I care that we choose an option that this community agrees on." However, naled use can harm the environment. About 2 million honeybees died last month in South Carolina after some beekeepers weren't notified about aerial spraying, the South Carolina Department of Pesticide Regulation confirmed.

### Refusal to use naled

Puerto Rico's governor has refused to authorize the CDC to use naled to fight Zika there, despite widespread infections on the island, amid outrage over its potential effects on people and wildlife.

Officials did say children should stay inside during spraying. "We don't think this poses a big risk, but people need to avoid unnecessarily being exposed to it. If aerial applications are occurring ... don't let your kids out to play," said Jack Housenger, director of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. "If toys are outside, be sure to wash them off. Use common sense."

So far, no beekeepers or conservationists have complained about naled spraying over Miami's Wynwood district last month and over South Beach since last week, Miami-Dade County mosquito control spokeswoman Gayle Love said in an email.

Florida health officials say those are the only areas where mosquitoes have been actively transmitting the Zika virus. Aggressive pesticide

spraying could extend beyond the urban neighborhoods, though, if another outbreak is confirmed elsewhere.

The only beekeeper registered in Miami Beach, attorney Darius Asly, said he's still concerned about the government's handling of the fight against Zika. He wants better coordination among agencies. Still, he's prepared to lose bees to help protect people from Zika. "If I must lose my bees in order to prevent that some poor mommy should have a sick child - I'd have to be a real jerk to be opposed to that," Asly said.

City commissioners appear to be listening, even though they admit naled may be their most effective tool. Amid the shouts at Wednesday's meeting, they passed two resolutions urging county and state officials to investigate alternative mosquito-control methods.

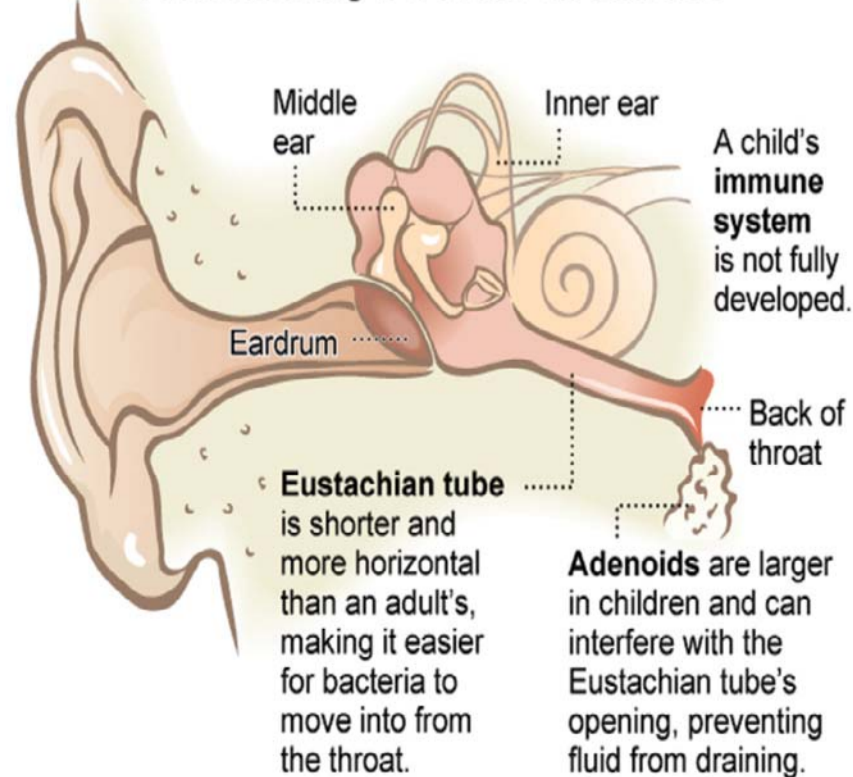
Spraying in South Beach is scheduled to continue this weekend. City officials said they didn't want it, but their hands were tied by a public health emergency declared by Gov. Rick Scott in February.

Florida health officials now have reported 650 travel-related infections, 86 infections involving pregnant women and 77 cases of Zika contracted within the state. "We're getting sprayed because the rest of the country sees this as a public health threat," Miami Beach Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez said. "We're getting sprayed whether we want to or not." —AP

## Children and ear infections

Middle ear infections are the most common reason for prescribing antibiotics to children, and account for at least 12 million doctor visits in the U.S. each year.

### Factors leading to a child's ear infection



**WASHINGTON:** Parents know the frustration of trying to get that gunky pink antibiotic into a tot screaming from an ear infection. A one-time squirt of special ear drops one day might replace that ordeal.

It's only been tried in animals so far - chinchillas, to be exact. But researchers report Wednesday that an antibiotic gel coated the animals' eardrums and slowly seeped inside to do its job for a week, clearing up an infection that usually requires a 10-day course of oral antibiotics. "It's always a full-contact martial art" to get youngsters to swallow today's liquid antibiotic several times a day, said senior researcher Dr. Daniel Kohane of Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. A pediatrician and anesthesiologist, he studies novel ways to deliver drugs - and says when he describes the experimental ear gel, "people with kids get this right away."

### The goals of the gel

Easier dosing is just one goal.

And importantly, if the approach pans out when tested in children, it also could help prevent development of antibiotic-resistant infections. Too often, parents stop treatment once their youngster starts feeling better, allowing lingering bacteria to bounce back stronger. "If we can deliver the right antibiotic directly to the middle ear using a one-time dose, it is likely that we will have more effective therapy, with fewer side effects," said Duke University pediatric infectious disease specialist Dr. Coleen Cunningham, who wasn't involved with the new research. "Further studies need to be done before we know if that is a possibility but the reported study is very encouraging."

Middle ear infections - what doctors call otitis media - prompt at least 12 million visits to the doctor each year, and they're the most common reason for prescribing antibiotics to children. Doctors have long sought a topical solution. Yet the eardrum has a tough outer

layer that keeps drugs from penetrating. Until now, antibiotic ear drops have proved useful for middle ear infections only in children who have ear tubes that can route the drug past that barrier, Kohane said. Now his team has packaged an antibiotic together with chemicals used in skin-penetrating drugs to temporarily open channels in the eardrum's outer surface so the germ-killing ingredient could get inside.

A doctor would squirt the drug deep into the ear canal, where it would harden into a gel, sort of like extra earwax, to stay in place as it slowly released the antibiotic. The experimental drug doesn't contain the antibiotic used in that common pink liquid but a newer one called ciprofloxacin.

Researchers gave the antibiotic gel to 10 chinchillas - they have a human-like ear structure and hearing range - infected with a common bacteria. All 10 animals had their ear infections cured within a week, compared to five of eight chin-

chillas given regular ciprofloxacin ear drops as a control, they reported in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Researchers couldn't detect the antibiotic in the animals' blood, suggesting it wouldn't cause typical antibiotic side effects such as diarrhea. Moreover, the gel melted away within three weeks, and the chinchillas' eardrums appeared normal afterward. Kohane hopes to begin initial human studies in about a year. Duke's Cunningham cautioned that researchers will need to study whether an antibiotic gel causes short-term hearing issues of its own. Another question is whether the gel would make a thicker human eardrum as permeable as an animal's, and if there's any resulting toxicity, added otolaryngologist Dr. Diego Preciado of Children's National Health System, where researchers are working on a different approach for topical delivery of an ear-infection drug. But "overall, incredibly promising work," Preciado concluded. —AP

## NEARLY 20,000 ZIKA CASES REPORTED IN PUERTO RICO

**SAN JUAN:** The number of Zika cases keeps climbing in the US territory of Puerto Rico. Health officials said Friday that more than 2,000 cases were reported in the past week for a total of nearly 20,000 cases. The total includes 1,706 pregnant women, a growing concern because Zika can cause severe birth defects.

Officials said 150 people have been hospitalized, including several of the 48 people diagnosed with a temporary paralysis condition linked to Zika known as Guillain-Barre. One person has died from that condition after becoming infected with Zika. In addition, two people who had Zika coupled with other medical conditions have died. —AP

## BRAIN CANCER NOW LEADING CHILDHOOD CANCER KILLER

**NEW YORK:** Brain cancer is now the deadliest childhood cancer in the US, now ahead of leukemia, a result of improved leukemia treatment and a frustrating lack of progress on brain cancer.

Government statisticians reported the change in rankings Friday, drawing from a review of 15 years of death certificates. "I think most people, when they think of childhood cancer, think of leukemia," said Sally Curtin of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "This is kind of a changing of the guard."

Cancer is the fourth leading cause of death for children overall, accounting for about 1 in 10 childhood deaths in 2014. About a quarter these cancer deaths, or 534, were due to brain cancer. There were 445 leukemia deaths.

Accidental injuries remained the leading cause of death for those under 19, followed by suicide and murder, according to the report. There are still more new cases of leukemia each year than new cases of brain cancer, but it no longer accounts for the most deaths. That's due to advances in leukemia treatment over the past few decades and because leukemia is easier than brain cancer to treat, experts said. "Some types of leukemia that a generation ago were almost universally fatal are now almost universally treatable," said Curtin, a statistician who worked on the report.

**Same level for at least 15 years**  
But the rate of death from brain cancer for children has held at about the same level for at least 15 years, according to the CDC report.

The trends are similar for adults, too, according to the American Cancer Society. Leukemia is a type of cancer that affects the blood. That makes it easier for doctors to get to it and fight it with treatments like chemotherapy.

The brain is protected by a barrier which helps keep many dangerous chemicals - including many cancer drugs - from getting to brain tissue or brain tumors. Surgery is difficult and sometimes impossible, depending on where the tumor is located in the brain. Radiation treatment can damage the development of a child's brain.

"There's survival, and then there's survival at a price," said Dr. Katherine Warren, an expert in pediatric brain tumor research at the National Cancer Institute.

Another factor is that scientists have only recently begun to understand that pediatric brain cancers may be biologically different from adult versions, and could require different approaches to treatment.

In 2014, the brain cancer death rate was about 0.7 per 100,000 children ages 1 through 19. The leukemia death rate was about 0.6. The overall pediatric cancer death rate dropped by about a fifth between 1999 and 2014, the CDC reported, helped by the reduction in leukemia deaths. —AP



**HODEIDAH, YEMEN:** In this photo taken on Friday, Sept. 9, 2016, Salem, 5, who suffers from malnutrition, lies on a bed at a hospital. —AP

## RAVAGED BY CONFLICT, YEMEN'S COAST FACES RISING MALNUTRITION

LACK OF FOOD AND RESOURCES TO BLAME

**SANAA:** Sitting by her son's hospital bed, Houdaid Masbah looks at her 5-year-old boy's skeletal body and sunken cheeks, helplessness engulfing her like a thick cloud - a desperation she shares with many other mothers in Hodeidah.

Even before the war, Hodeidah was one of the poorest cities in Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished nation. Now, the destruction of the port city's fishing boats and infrastructure by the Saudi-led coalition's airstrikes over the past 18 months of war has deprived the townspeople of their prime livelihood.

The UN estimates that about 100,000 children under the age of five in the city and the surrounding province, also called Hodeidah, are at risk of severe malnutrition. Life became harder for the people in this Red Sea city after March 2015, when the coalition of nine Arab Sunni countries began bombing Yemen's Shiite Houthi rebels to help the internationally recognized government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi return to power. The Houthis had pushed Hadi into self-imposed exile in Saudi Arabia and captured large chunks of the country, including the capital, Sanaa.

The coalition suspected the Houthis were using Hodeidah fishermen to smuggle weapons across the sea from Iran. The airstrikes destroyed most of the wooden boats along with fish storage facilities, markets, roads and bridges - leaving the fishermen jobless and fearful after seeing some of their colleagues were killed in the strikes.

### Scarce resources

As Yemen's conflict dragged on, food prices soared and gasoline ran out. At Hodeidah's central hospital, the 12-bed unit for children with severe malnutrition has been fully occupied for months. Children reduced to skin and bone cry tearlessly as their mothers watch by their bedside, unable to help.

Masbah, the mother of 5-year-old Salem Ali Salem, says her boy remembers only hunger.

"From the day I gave birth to him ... till now, we are suffering," said the mother of eight. "He got better for a short period of time and then he relapsed." Salem's father is a fisherman and the family lives in Baqea, a village nearly an hour's drive from Hodeidah. That's where Ibrahim al-Kaali, a social worker, first saw him and helped bring him to the hospital in early September.

"When I first carried him, I was afraid of crushing his bones under the weight of my hands," said al-Kaali. Salem's family is just one of about 600 impoverished and desperate families in villages along Hodeidah's western coastline, he added.

Before the war, a fisherman could support his family on about 700 rials a day (about 2 dollars), feeding them fish, bread and rice. But with no fish and no money, the villagers' meals were mostly reduced to bread and tea for breakfast and a plate of rice for lunch, said al-Kaali. "We have 20 Salems, this (situation) is prevalent all over Hodeidah," Ossan al-Abbsi, a pediatrician at the hospital, told The Associated Press, speaking over the phone like others interviewed for this story.

"There is an accelerating increase in the number of children suffering malnutrition," he said. "We used to have five cases while the rest of the beds were empty on any given day. Now, you can never find an empty bed in our unit."

Al-Abbsi says that even after the children improved enough to be discharged from hospital, their condition often deteriorated rapidly as their family struggled once more to feed them. International agencies have classified Hodeidah among nine of Yemen's 22 provinces that are a step away from famine. A UN report in June said that in Yemen, "the highest malnutrition prevalence" is in Hodeidah.

### The war's results

More than 10,000 people have been killed or wounded in Yemen's war so far, and 2.8 million have been displaced. The land-and-sea blockade imposed by the coalition and the Houthis'

ground offensives have contributed to the deteriorating situation. UN-mediated peace talks in Kuwait were suspended last month, with no signs of progress.

Over half of the country's population of 26 million is suffering from food insecurity, according to UN figures. UNICEF said that 2015 nutrition surveys in five of 10 highly affected governorates in Yemen, including Hodeidah, showed that 96,600 children under the age of five are at risk of severe acute malnutrition - compared to 23,000 before the conflict escalated in March that year.

UN figures also show fishing declined by 75 per cent in Hodeidah and the western city of Taiz as the Saudi-led coalition restricted access to the sea and bombed boats. Food prices in Yemen have soared by 60 percent, according to a June-September report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, which is being used by international organizations to measure food security.

Hodeidah used to have public markets with fresh produce and food items three times a week, while now they are only held once weekly because of fuel shortages, al-Abbsi said. At least 12 villages along Hodeidah's coastline, including the one where Salem's family is from, have never seen any type of development projects, leaving them marginalized and underdeveloped, al-Kaali said.

When the conflict erupted, they suffered the most. "Here you won't find a school, a medical center ... drinking water is from the wells. They are already deprived of everything," he said. Sheikh Dawoud Gunid, a village elder in Baqea, said high levels of illiteracy and a shortage of medical centers, coupled with high transport costs, means children often receive no medical treatment until they are severely ill.

Ali Hassan Tanmina, a fisherman and a father of eight, said the airstrikes have made him fear the sea. "We can't go to work to get food for our children," he said. "We are besieged by hunger." —AP

## NEW RULES TO HELP PUBLIC LEARN RESULTS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

**NEW YORK:** The Obama administration is publishing new rules that promise to help doctors and patients learn if clinical trials of treatments worked or not. At issue is how to help people find medical studies that may be appropriate for them - and then to make the results public so that successes can reach patients more quickly and what fails isn't duplicated.

Many clinical trials make news as they're published in scientific journals, and federal law requires reporting the results of certain studies on a government website. But too often, that reporting doesn't happen, especially the failures.

In June, Vice President Joe Biden cited concern that such secrecy was stifling cancer progress.

One analysis of 400 studies involving a variety of diseases found 30 percent hadn't disclosed results within four years of completion. "That's clearly unacceptable," said Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health.

On Friday, federal health officials released updated rules making clear exactly what kinds of studies must be listed on the website so potential participants can consider enrolling, and which ones must post the results by certain deadlines. "It does in fact have some teeth," Collins added. Researchers that don't meet the requirements for reporting results may face fines or lose taxpayer grants.

The long-awaited rules change takes effect Jan. 18. —AP

## FIRST MERCY KILLING OF MINOR IN BELGIUM

**BRUSSELS:** A terminally ill child has become the first minor to be euthanized in Belgium since age restrictions on such mercy killings in the country were lifted in 2014, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The head of the federal euthanasia commission gave no details of the minor beyond saying it was an exceptional case of a child with a terminal illness, the Het Nieuwsblad reported.

"Fortunately there are very few children who are considered (for euthanasia) but that does not mean we should refuse them the right to a dignified death," Wim Distelmans told the newspaper.

Since its euthanasia legislation was amended in 2014, Belgium has been the only country in the world that allows children of any age, as long as they are able to

make rational decisions and are in the last stages of an incurable disease, to choose to end their suffering.

The Netherlands also allows mercy killings for children, but only for those aged over 12. The Belgian amendment, which was passed after heated debate - notably over the meaning of a required "capacity of discernment" - offers the possibility of euthanasia to children "in a hopeless medical situation of constant and unbearable suffering that cannot be eased and which will cause death in the short term".

Any request for euthanasia must be made by the minor, be studied by a team of doctors and an independent psychiatrist or psychologist and have parental consent. —AP

# CLINIC PAGE



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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
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## NSH'S EID ONAM GALA REFLECTS RELIGIOUS HARMONY

Stars' special glittering, flowers' lavender and fish's joyous dance in the pond welcomed the Eid Onam Gala by NSH in Mangaf. The air was found with merriment and exhilarations. The benevolent presence of His Excellency Sunil Jain, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, distinguished guests from different walks of life, well-wishers including Ashok Kumar Sahoo from the Indian Embassy, Juan Manuel Garcia, Park, Sato and the large audience added the sparkling light in this whole day celebrations. The Vice President Sabu welcomed his Excellency Ambassador, and led to the spot with the traditional "Thalapoli" by children. The event commenced with the lighting of the "Nilavilakkau" (Holy Lamp) by the envoy.

The fulfillment of the long one year expectation of the community members and children for this auspicious fest was felt from the expressions of many. The traditional "Onasadya" served to these thousands irrespective



religion, once again proved the day as symbol of harmony. It was also heard from the participants that this function would be another milestone of the list of memorable events conducted. His Excellency Ambassador pointed out that NSH provides its members with

an environment that fosters the multi-faceted development; it stands second to none in the social responsibilities and humanitarian activities, appreciating Sabu by saying, amidst the thunderous applause, that he could feel as if celebrating the Onam in Kerala.



NSH is a valuable place aiming to cultivate the well balanced activities, shaping minds and transforming the lives by offering a wide array of programs, said Sabu. Sayato Hanada from JGC, NSH General Manager Harikumar, Corporate HR Manager Pani J Anthony

attracted the audience through their speeches. It also gave a divine note in the event as the members were decorated as pious leaders of Muslim, Hindu and Christian that revealed the strong feeling of religious harmony. The musical drops by Arun Chand and team

added more beauty. Everyone looks forward to the Onam celebrations as it reminds us of the celebrations back home. These events are also a great networking opportunity to meet fellow citizens, and are one of the important community events which unite all Indians especially the Keralites in abroad and the other communities irrespective of color and creed, said Santhosh Babu. Added joy of this year's Onam celebrations is the entertaining ice-breaking events for children, the unique opportunities to bring out the children's hidden talents and lucky draw for women, Dileep and team managed amidst the busy schedule.

Earlier, the facilities were well planned by Santhosh Babu and Manoj Kumar, and arranged by Padmakumar, KR Mohan, Shaji, Jayakumar Binu and the Camp Administrator Joby Thomas. The decorations all over the premises added much fanfare to the festivities.



## FUTURE EYE THEATRE CELEBRATES EID AND ONAM

Future Eye Theatre Kuwait, an open arena for theatre people, celebrated Eid and Onam with a variety of cultural programs at KALA auditorium in Mangaf. Well-known Indian historian and writer P Hareendranath inaugurated the celebration as the chief guest

by lighting the lamp. During the inaugural session, the historian spoke briefly about his newly-published book 'India, Irulam Velichavum' (India — Darkness and Light), pointing out certain inherent contradictions and aberrations in the history of India written by histori-

ans in colonial and post-colonial India. Taking an objective look at the Indian history from a period of Vas Co Da Gama's arrival in India in 1498 to the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948, Hareendranath chooses to portray the British conquest, their domination of India and the eventual freedom from a totally different perspective. He seeks to spotlight some of the unwritten episodes in India's march towards independence and bring to focus the struggles and sacrifices of many unsung heroes of the freedom struggle.

Hareendranath presented a copy of the book to Future Eye Theatre President Sajeev K Peter who presided over the meeting and delivered Eid and Onam messages. General Secretary Vattiyoorakavu Krishnakumar welcomed the gathering while Program Convener Jithesh Nair proposed a vote of thanks.

Future Eye Theatre Vice President Shemej Kumar K K, Chandramohan Kannur, Sajeev Koshy and Dharmaraj Madapally delivered felicitation speeches. Anitha Murali anchored the program. Cultural programs got off to a colourful start with a dance performance by Kousab and Keerthana Jithesh followed by a dazzling folkloric presentation by Sudarshan and team.

Arrival of the King Mahabali (Jithesh Nair), skit by Sajeev and Deepu, dance performances by the duo Kousab and Kuldeep and songs by Shemej, Chandramohan, Aneesh, Krishnakumar, Madhu, Gopakumar and others added to the ambiance of the celebration. Two

short films made by FET team members Deepak L B Nair and Govind Santha were screened on the occasion. A traditional onasadya was served to all under the supervision of General Convener A R Subbaraman and Joint Secretary Praveen Aduthila.



## IDUKKI ASSOCIATION KUWAIT CELEBRATES EID AND ONAM

Idukki Association celebrated Eid-Onam Fest at Jleeb Co-operative wedding hall on 12th September 2016. The President Babu Parayani presided the function while General Secretary Preeth Jose Pallickamyalil said the welcome speech. Kottayam Association President Mr. Raju Zacharia, Regional Manager from Joy Alukkas Gibson and

Malabar Gold Regional Manager Afzal Khan felicitated the function. Joseph Mookenthottam said the vote of thanks. The program started with a colourful procession including traditional 'Thalapoli', 'Chendamalam', 'Pulikali' and welcomed 'Maveli' to the stage where he inaugurated the function. After the meeting there were 'Thiruvathira'

Qawali, fusion and seasonal dances and ' Vallam kali'. Instrumental music from members and orchestra by YESBAND made the function a classic event. Mr. Benny Augustine was the program convener. A delicious 'Onasadya' served under the supervision of Vice President Bino Joseph.

### Greetings



Happy birthday to Maria Leah Ramiro Pangan, many many happy returns of the day. Best wishes from Nuenlea R Pangan, Nixon R Pangan, Novi R Pangan, Michelle Alberto, Rose, Maria, Ashlee, Hasnio, Janice, Rosee.



## OOREDOO CONCLUDES 'IFTAH YA SIMSIM' AT SKATING RINK

Ooredoo Kuwait, the fastest network in Kuwait for 2016, concluded the performances of Iftah Ya Simsim in celebration of Eid Al-Adha. The play is the Arabic version of the beloved American children's program, Sesame Street. It was staged for three consecutive days in the Ice Skating Rink Theater in Kuwait City - Soor Street. This production follows the revival of Iftah Ya Simsim, the beloved children's program which was first introduced in the 1970's by the Gulf Cooperation Council's Joint Program Production Institution. The original program featured a star-studded cast of Arab performers and actors at the time. Commenting on this sponsorship, Ooredoo Kuwait's Senior Director of Corporate Communications Mijbil Alayoub said: "We're

very happy to partner with Event Mania to introduce the beloved characters of Iftah Ya Simsim, with the values they promote, to this generation. This play delivers such valuable lessons, and is in alignment with our core values and strategy at Ooredoo Kuwait.

**Caring and connecting**  
Ooredoo organized a special performance on the first day of Eid dedicated entirely to its VIP guests. The guests included social media influencers, VIP clients, in addition to Ooredoo employees and their families. Alayoub noted: "We're always keen on sharing with our employees to show our appreciation for their efforts. They are certainly part of our success, and this stems from our deep-

rooted belief in caring and connecting."

**Sharing the joy**  
Sharing the celebratory spirit, Ooredoo visited children's wards in several hospitals accompanied by characters from the play to distribute gifts and free tickets to the play's special premiere night. The visit was conducted in cooperation with the Kuwait Association for Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH).

**Big attendance**  
More than 10 thousand visitors attended the play's nine performances which were held over the course of three consecutive days, starting from the second day of Eid.

Tickets were on sale in Ooredoo's branches in the Avenues Mall, 360 Mall, and the Gate Mall. Ooredoo customers were all eligible for a discount on all platinum and gold tickets.

The play aims to instill a number of values in kids, such as caring for the environment, recycling, conserving water and electricity, following the traffic laws, in addition to introducing them to a number of vocations and jobs. The play also teaches healthy habits, respect for parents and the elderly, and includes segments about numbers and letters and colors. The play is directed by young Saudi theater director Yasser Al-Madkhali, in cooperation with Headline Productions.







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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (15/09/2016 TO 21/09/2016)

<b>SHARQIA-1</b> BEN-HUR 11:45 AM BEN-HUR 2:00 PM BLAIR WITCH 4:15 PM BEN-HUR 6:15 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 8:30 PM BLAIR WITCH 10:45 PM BLAIR WITCH 12:45 AM	<b>FANAR-1</b> PETE'S DRAGON 12:15 PM PETE'S DRAGON 2:30 PM PETE'S DRAGON 4:45 PM SULLY 7:00 PM SULLY 9:00 PM SULLY 11:00 PM SULLY 1:00 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN 3:15 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 5:30 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 7:45 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 10:00 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 12:15 AM	SULLY 12:00 PM SULLY 2:00 PM PETE'S DRAGON 4:15 PM PETE'S DRAGON 6:30 PM SULLY 8:45 PM BLAIR WITCH 10:45 PM BLAIR WITCH 12:45 AM	<b>MARINA-3</b> SULLY 12:00 PM SULLY 2:00 PM PETE'S DRAGON 4:15 PM PETE'S DRAGON 6:30 PM SULLY 8:45 PM BLAIR WITCH 10:45 PM BLAIR WITCH 12:45 AM	<b>360°-1</b> PETE'S DRAGON -3D 1:15 PM PETE'S DRAGON 3:30 PM PETE'S DRAGON -3D 5:45 PM PETE'S DRAGON -3D 8:00 PM BEN-HUR -3D 10:15 PM BEN-HUR 12:45 AM	<b>SHARQIA-2</b> PETE'S DRAGON 12:45 PM PETE'S DRAGON -3D 3:00 PM PETE'S DRAGON 5:15 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 7:30 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 9:45 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 12:05 AM	<b>FANAR-2</b> SNOWDEN 12:00 PM KILL ZONE 2 2:30 PM SNOWDEN 5:00 PM KILL ZONE 2 7:30 PM SNOWDEN 10:00 PM SNOWDEN 12:30 AM	<b>AVENUES-1</b> BEN-HUR 11:30 AM BLOOD FATHER 2:00 PM ANTBOY 3 4:15 PM ANTBOY 3 6:15 PM BEN-HUR 8:15 PM BEN-HUR 10:45 PM BEN-HUR 1:00 AM	<b>360°-2</b> BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 12:15 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 2:30 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 4:45 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 7:00 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 9:30 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 11:45 PM	<b>SHARQIA-3</b> SNOWDEN 1:00 PM SULLY 1:30 PM SNOWDEN 3:30 PM SULLY 6:00 PM SNOWDEN 8:00 PM SULLY 10:30 PM SNOWDEN 12:30 AM	<b>FANAR-3</b> BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 1:30 PM BEN-HUR 3:45 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 6:00 PM BEN-HUR 8:15 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 10:30 PM BEN-HUR 12:45 AM	<b>AVENUES-2</b> PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX 1:00 PM PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX 3:15 PM PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX 5:30 PM BEN-HUR -3D-4DX 7:45 PM BEN-HUR -3D-4DX 10:15 PM BEN-HUR -3D-4DX 12:45 AM	<b>360°-3</b> BEN-HUR 12:30 PM BEN-HUR 3:00 PM BEN-HUR 5:30 PM BEN-HUR 8:00 PM SULLY 10:30 PM SULLY 12:45 AM	<b>MUHALAB-1</b> BEN-HUR 12:00 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 2:30 PM BEN-HUR 4:45 PM LIGHTS OUT 7:15 PM BEN-HUR 9:15 PM BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film) 11:45 PM	<b>FANAR-4</b> SULLY 1:00 PM SULLY 3:00 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 5:00 PM SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA 7:15 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 9:30 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 11:45 PM	<b>AVENUES-3</b> SNOWDEN 11:45 AM SNOWDEN 2:30 PM SNOWDEN 5:00 PM SNOWDEN 7:30 PM SNOWDEN 10:00 PM SNOWDEN 12:45 AM	<b>MUHALAB-2</b> SNOWDEN 12:30 PM SNOWDEN 3:00 PM SULLY 5:30 PM SNOWDEN 7:30 PM SULLY 10:00 PM SNOWDEN 12:05 AM	<b>FANAR-5</b> BEN-HUR 11:45 AM BEN-HUR 2:00 PM BLAIR WITCH 4:15 PM BLAIR WITCH 6:15 PM BLAIR WITCH 8:15 PM BLAIR WITCH 10:15 PM BLAIR WITCH 12:15 AM	<b>AVENUES-4</b> ASHAN KHARGEN 12:30 PM BEN-HUR 2:45 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 5:00 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 7:15 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 9:30 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 11:45 PM	<b>MUHALAB-3</b> PETE'S DRAGON 1:15 PM SULLY 1:30 PM PETE'S DRAGON -3D 3:30 PM PETE'S DRAGON 5:45 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 8:00 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 10:15 PM ASHAN KHARGEN 12:30 AM	<b>MARINA-1</b> SNOWDEN 11:45 AM SNOWDEN 2:15 PM BEN-HUR 4:45 PM SNOWDEN 7:00 PM BEN-HUR 9:30 PM SNOWDEN 12:05 AM	<b>AVENUES-5</b> PETE'S DRAGON 11:30 AM PETE'S DRAGON -3D 1:45 PM	<b>MARINA-2</b> ASHAN KHARGEN 1:00 PM
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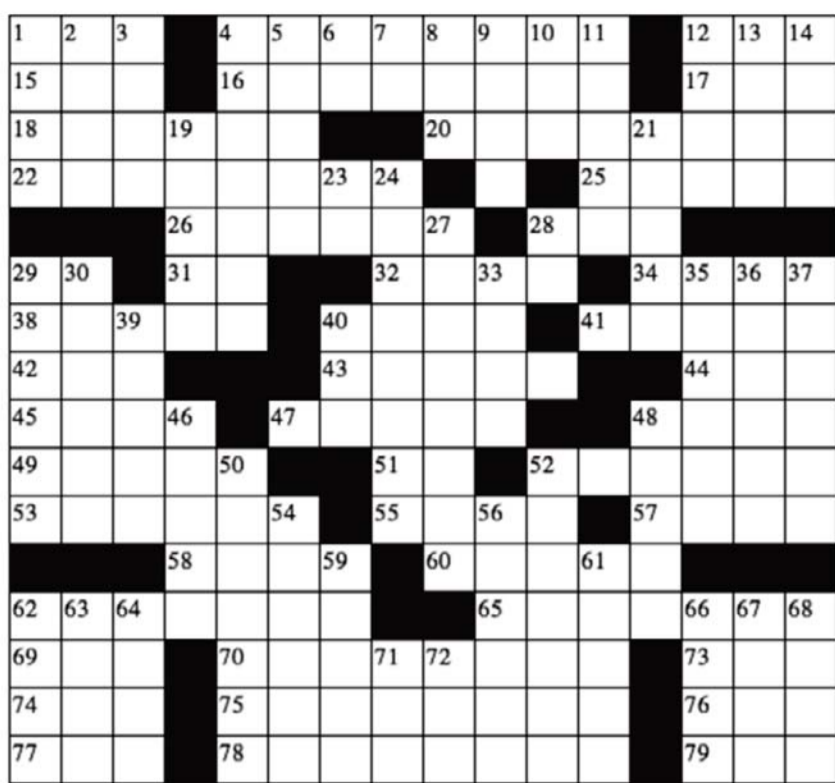
I, **Shahabuddin** holder of Indian Passport No. J4437667, Civil ID No. 270123001513, have changed my name to Shaik Navab Shahabuddin.

**Moshes Kota S/o Chandranna**, holder of Indian Passport No. P0376514, Civil ID No. 267010141109 has changed my name from Kota Rajendra Kumar to Moshes Kota old name hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Kota Rajendr Kumar (old name Moshes Kota) (new name Kota Rajendra Kumar) (C 5211)

I, **Subash Vishnu Anddraz S/o Vishnu Murgaonkar**, holder of Indian Passport No. J 2750368 and Civil ID No. 284010806937 has changed my name to Subash Vishnu Murgaonkar hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Subash Vishnu Murgaonkar. (C 5212)  
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<b>Airlines</b>	<b>Arrival Flights on Sunday 18/9/2016</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>IRY</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>Istanbul</b>	<b>13:10</b>	<b>Airlines</b>	<b>Departure Flights on Sunday 18/9/2016</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>JZR</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>Riyadh</b>	<b>13:20</b>
MSC	415	00:10	TBM	6313	Mashhad	13:35	AIC	976	00:05	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
THY	772	00:10	BON	101	Mashhad	13:45	BBC	044	00:10	RJD	133	Abu Dhabi	13:50
JZR	239	00:20	KAC	672	Sarajevo	13:55	JAI	573	00:10	FEQ	932	Alexandria	13:55
JZR	267	00:30	QTR	1078	Dubai	14:00	JZR	1540	00:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
CLX	852	00:35	MSR	575	Doha	14:05	JZR	767	00:20	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
FEQ	951	00:35	FDB	057	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	MSR	615	00:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
FDB	069	00:55	GFA	221	Dubai	14:20	FDB	072	00:30	IRC	527	Mashhad	14:35
DLH	635	01:00	JZR	779	Bahrain	14:20	JZR	562	00:30	TBM	6314	Mashhad	14:40
QTR	1086	01:15	KAC	512	Doha	14:25	PIA	240	00:40	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
JZR	539	01:20	MSC	507	Jeddah	14:30	KLM	413	01:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
SAI	441	01:30	KAC	540	Mashhad	14:35	MSC	416	01:05	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
KAC	1802	01:30	KAC	788	HRG	14:40	JZR	502	01:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	01:40	OMA	645	Jeddah	14:45	JZR	556	01:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
ETH	620	01:45	ETD	303	Muscat	14:50	JZR	952	01:35	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
RJA	642	01:45	ABY	127	Abu Dhabi	15:00	THY	773	01:40	KAC	6179	Doha	15:15
THY	1464	01:45	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:10	DLH	635	02:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KKK	6506	01:50	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:30	CLX	852	02:05	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
MSC	501	02:00	UAE	857	Dubai	15:35	SAI	442	02:30	MSC	508	HRG	15:45
MSC	211	02:00	NIA	251	Alexandria	15:40	PGT	859	02:30	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
GFA	211	02:15	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	ETH	621	02:40	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
UAE	853	02:25	SYR	1615	Damascus	16:00	THY	765	02:45	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
OMA	643	02:35	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	KKK	6505	02:55	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ETD	305	03:05	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	UAE	854	03:45	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
RJA	644	03:10	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	OMA	644	03:50	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:20
FDB	067	03:15	JZR	257	Beirut	16:25	RJA	645	03:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	612	03:15	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45	JZR	1334	04:00	KAC	563	Amman	16:30
QTR	1076	03:25	KAC	680	Muscat	16:55	MSC	502	04:00	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
PGT	860	03:30	KAC	562	Amman	16:55	FDB	068	04:05	SYR	1616	Damascus	16:55
KAC	544	03:40	KAC	118	New York	17:00	ETD	306	04:10	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	514	03:50	SAW	705	Damascus	17:05	MSR	613	04:15	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
THY	1416	04:05	IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10	PGT	861	04:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
JZR	555	04:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	QTR	1077	04:35	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
AVV	653	04:30	JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30	AVV	654	05:30	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
FEQ	931	05:00	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	THY	1465	06:00	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
DHX	170	05:10	CCE	345	Sohag	17:35	FEQ	934	06:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
THY	3920	05:10	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	RJA	643	06:25	IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
THY	770	05:15	KAC	792	Madinah	17:45	QTR	1087	06:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
UAE	2571	05:20	SVA	590	Jeddah	17:55	THY	3921	06:30	SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
SYR	341	06:00	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	UAE	2572	06:45	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	529	06:00	KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20	THY	771	06:45	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
PAL	668	06:25	JZR	505	Luxor	18:25	GFA	212	06:50	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	412	06:30	MSR	720	Cairo	18:30	JZR	240	06:55	CCE	342	Alexandria	18:35
BAW	157	06:40	KAC	624	Riyadh	18:35	SYR	342	07:00	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
JZR	563	06:55	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	FDB	070	07:05	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	1541	07:10	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	JZR	164	07:15	JZR	238	Amman	19:15
FDB	5061	07:15	IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:45	JZR	324	07:55	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
JZR	503	07:25	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50	JZR	1140	07:55	SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
JZR	1335	07:25	CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50	FDB	5062	07:55	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	382	07:30	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	BAW	156	08:25	KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
KAC	346	07:35	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	FDB	054	08:30	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	206	07:40	KAC	104	London	19:00	KAC	173	08:35	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	204	07:40	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	KAC	511	08:40	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
SVA	512	07:50	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	539	08:50	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
FDB	053	07:50	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	JZR	778	08:50	IRM	1181	Mashhad	20:00
KAC	302	07:50	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	SVA	513	08:50	CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
KAC	344	08:15	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	JZR	256	09:05	JAV	622	Amman	20:25
KAC	332	08:15	JAV	621	Dubai	19:25	KAC	671	09:15	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	352	08:20	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	KAC	787	09:30	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	362	08:20	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	JZR	534	09:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
UAE	855	08:25	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	ABY	126	09:45	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
JZR	557	08:30	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	UAE	856	09:50	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
ETD	301	09:00	ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10	KAC	101	10:00	ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	284	09:00	KNE	231	Riyadh	20:10	ETD	302	10:05	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
ABY	125												

CROSSWORD 1374



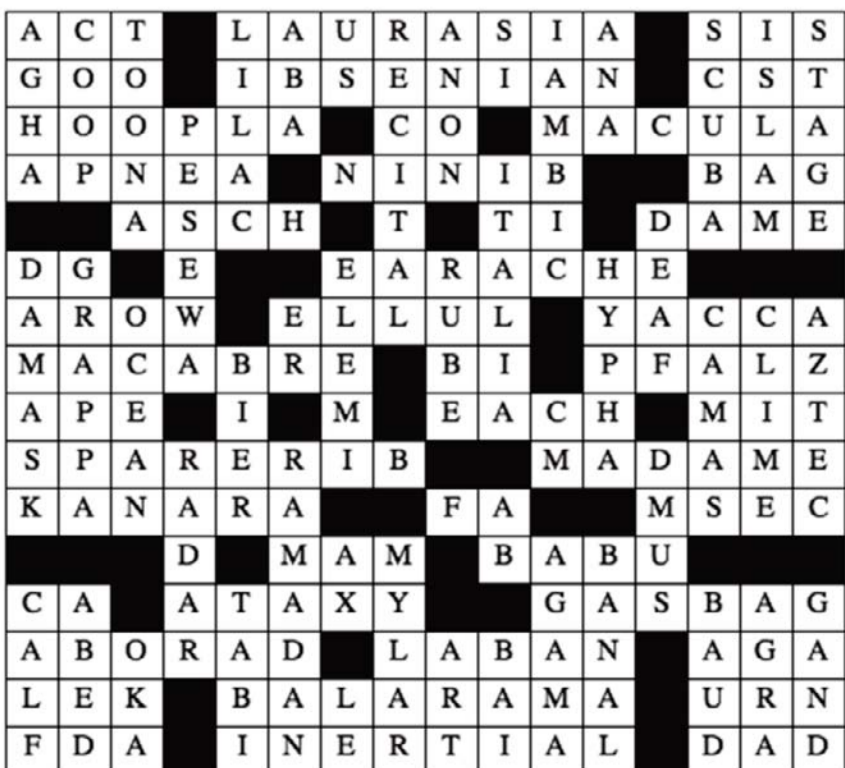
ACROSS

1. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
4. A state in south central United States.
12. A fatal disease of cattle that affects the central nervous system.
15. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall hill.
16. Any plant of the genus *Bergeria*.
17. A nucleotide derived from adenosine that occurs in muscle tissue.
18. A historical region of southwestern India on the west coast.
20. An ambitious and aspiring young person.
22. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
25. Make less active or intense.
26. Chipmunks of eastern North America.
29. An associate degree in nursing.
31. A white trivalent metallic element.
32. Avatar of Vishnu.
34. A branch of the Tai languages.
38. Elevated open grassland in southern Africa.
41. Minute aquatic herbs floating on or below the water surface of still water consisting of a leaflike frond or plant body and single root.
42. 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
43. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
44. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
45. Any competition.
47. Of or belonging to or suitable for a duke.
49. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
51. The local time at the 0 meridian passing through Greenwich, England.
53. A port city and resort in Andalusia in southern Spain on the Mediterranean.
55. A genus of Mustelidae.
57. The arch of bone beneath the eye that forms the prominence of the cheek.
58. Tasting sour like a lemon.
60. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
62. Having an elongated seating area.
65. Tranquilizer and antidepressant (trade name Trivril) sometimes used as an antiemetic for adults.
69. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
70. Relating to the blood vessels or blood.
73. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
74. 36th President of the United States.
75. Develop under favorable conditions, such as germs and bacteria.
76. Being one more than two.
77. Brief episode in which the brain gets insufficient blood supply.
78. Aged or processed.
79. A committee in the executive branch of government that advises the president on foreign and military and national security.

DOWN

1. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
2. A light springing movement upwards or forwards.
3. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
4. Discharge bad feelings or tension through verbalization, in psychoanalysis.
5. Arm again.
6. A colorless element that is one of the six inert gases.
7. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
8. Not of long duration.
9. An unforeseen obstacle.
10. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
11. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
12. A small cake leavened with yeast.
14. A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
19. An honorary arts degree.
21. Lower in esteem.
23. Being one more than one.
24. Meat that has been barbecued or grilled in a highly seasoned sauce.
27. Any of various plants of the genus *Sabbatia* having usually pink cymose flowers.
28. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
30. A state in the western United States.
33. The food served and eaten at one time.
35. A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
36. Hard white substance covering the crown of a tooth.
37. A historical region of southwestern India on the west coast.
39. Relating to or applicable to or concerned with the administration of a city or town or district rather than a larger area.
40. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
46. Related on the mother's side.
48. A genus of Lamnidae.
50. Kauri pine.
52. Provide commentary for a film, for example.
54. Requiring secret or mysterious knowledge.
56. Climbing palm of Sri Lanka and southern India remarkable for the great length of the stems which are used for Malacca canes.
59. A case or sheath especially a pollen sac or moss capsule.
61. Treated with oil.
63. A sock with a separation for the big toe.
64. A Hindu prince or king in India.
66. Characteristic of false pride.
67. Wading birds of warm regions having long slender down-curved bills.
68. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
71. Type genus of the Muridae.
72. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you do not have a steady partner, you could find the phone ringing off the wall, so to speak. You could be most influential in talking with others. You may find yourself more than a little acquisitive-your current appreciation for just about everything may lead you to overspend or indulge too much. It is good to expand your thinking-greater self-expression and heightened self-awareness. Well-educated people and travel opportunities are positive elements in your life just now. It is a marvelous time for writing, public speaking, reading or enrollment in classes. You may find yourself involved in competitive sports with friends and should enjoy the winning edge. Alert and enthusiastic, your mind also relishes a challenge this afternoon-a game!



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Go out of your way to be gentle as you communicate with others. You have much power and others respect your views. Important issues take careful thought when teaching young people. With your insights, you will find some problems of the past can be easily worked through. Do not take chances or risks just now; be satisfied with the ordinary. At heart, you have a deep sense of responsibility and this seriousness is genuine and felt by others. You seem to gravitate to those things that last and hold true. Law, religion and philosophy are subjects of the most determined kind and hold your interest. There are many conversations around these subjects now. This evening reveals a pleasant surprise. Something new and fun is about to enter your life.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may appear very relaxed today. Everything seems to be working together and you may find yourself enjoying the interaction between loved ones, young and old. Keep your attitude positive and you can create some very sensitive moments. This may be a time of sudden insight into some of the most vulnerable areas of yourself and others. There are breakthroughs regarding inner growth and transformation-stay positive. You teach positive thinking and you teach others about appreciating the simple things in life. Hard work is good but time with friends and family is what the hard work is all about. Enough of this serious stuff, tonight you are ready to talk the family into an old-fashioned miniature golf game, a roller rink event or a movie and a hot dog.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your taste in art and appreciation in general are heightened. The weekend is an enjoyable place and you enjoy spending it with friends. You may decide to take up a new art or finish an old project around the house. A trip to the gym is reasonable but you might prefer a lecture on african violets or orchids. Tending plants, boxing for exercise, building crafts and sewing are many of the activities that keep you busy, or interested. Perhaps tomorrow you will spend more of your time with friends and or family. A convention or an art show is tempting and you may even be involved in the presentation. This could all culminate in future shows and you may put a lot of meaning behind what is sold and what is not. It would be best to just enjoy the event.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may be sought after for your advice and guidance today. You are able to cut through the red tape and get at what is the truth or problem very quickly. This may mean anything from children bickering or some item broken to the understanding of how to sail a boat. Your friends know that although your outer personality may look tough and self-centered, you are more sensitive to the needs and feelings of others than you appear. You are at your mental best with sharp ideas and clear thoughts. This is an excellent time to make decisions and take care of mental work. A new hobby or completing an old project around the house may be quite satisfying this evening. You may teach a friend about a fun game that you and your family enjoy playing.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If you are looking to change jobs soon, look for a job that is challenging, but not too aggressive. Consider updating your resume and then perhaps, think about what you would like to do for a profession. You can enjoy a fun trip to a new museum this afternoon. You have a high degree of motivation when it comes to generosity. You are understanding and are easily moved by the problems of others. Psychology in all of its forms is a driving force in your life. You may find yourself in discussions surrounding some historical events in the family this afternoon. You could learn what your heritage and family background means. You will find plenty of time before your party this evening to buy a lottery ticket.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Let yourself dream today. These days do not come too often-do not ignore this opportunity to let your imagination loose. Perhaps a good book to read or a thrilling movie will take on that more-than-real dimension. Your dreams and ideals are the number-one component for action in your chart. Your imagination is crucial to your functioning. Consider the stars. This is a very lucky day for making future plans with regard to holidays or weekend trips during the beautiful fall months. You know there is always room for growth with regard to investments. Today is a great time to reflect and understand your own situation with regard to finances. It may be time to pull in a little money by renting a booth at a flea market and selling some of your nick-knacks.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

You actively support your community today and have much passion for improving your surroundings or life situations. You are very motivated to improve and help others improve. However, there could be some hard feelings from young people if you become too aggressive. Take time to become involved in some similar interests of these young people. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others. You are in a good position to communicate concerning groups. Law, politics, education, travel or religion may come into play. You find it easy to solve the problems that present themselves and others benefit from this ability of yours. Politics are a focus this evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

This is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having a good time. You appreciate your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you. This is a good time to do a bit of redecorating or landscaping. Information that you have been examining and thinking about will now begin to take shape and prove useful to you. This next period is one of action and embarking on new projects. You will feel more and more confident and outgoing with a sense of confidence that grows stronger with each passing day. You may enjoy a good movie or book or feel like escaping from day-to-day realities for a while. Tonight you enjoy catching up with your reading, perhaps about new mechanical or technical discoveries.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is an easy, calm day that should find everything running in a smooth manner. Your in-laws may voice surprising new ideas. New neighbors appear and familiar neighbors leave. You may be moved to appreciate and discover the beauty in your life and in those around you. At the same time, everything could take on added value. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much for now; you will see enticing things. Enjoy. There is the possibility of new visions or sudden insights. This is a time when others will listen and you can gain respect for your point of view. There are breakthroughs in compassion and communion. The evening may present moody, even dreamy types of energy. It is easy for you to find the motivation for your dreams.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Love and appreciation surround you. Clothing selected now will be beautiful and serviceable. Physical comfort is important and you may realize that in order to have a body that will serve you well, you must feed and nourish and exercise it. Today you might decide to talk a friend into coming with you to begin a new exercise routine. Someone may want you to sit with children or help with groups of children this afternoon. You have more than just the gift of gab as you are a great storyteller and if you run out of activities to amuse the children, just start reading to one child; the others will follow. Your imagination and sense of what connects all of life is felt in your speech and in the way you communicate. You will enjoy helping a friend this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is one of those mornings that you can begin slowly, with music perhaps. You are motivated to spread cheer and assignments. Everything points to your taking the initiative. There is aid, support and encouragement for whatever you decide to accomplish, with or without others. You will find yourself torn between an environment that is very comfortable and supportive versus a real need to grow, progress and push out on your own-you design a plan. Acceptance of those who have conflicting attitudes and priorities is a necessity. The focus may be on animals and the outdoors. There could be repairs to be made or, perhaps, new items to be bought so that animals wild or tame will be more comfortable in the changing weather.

WORD SEARCH

Pet Dog

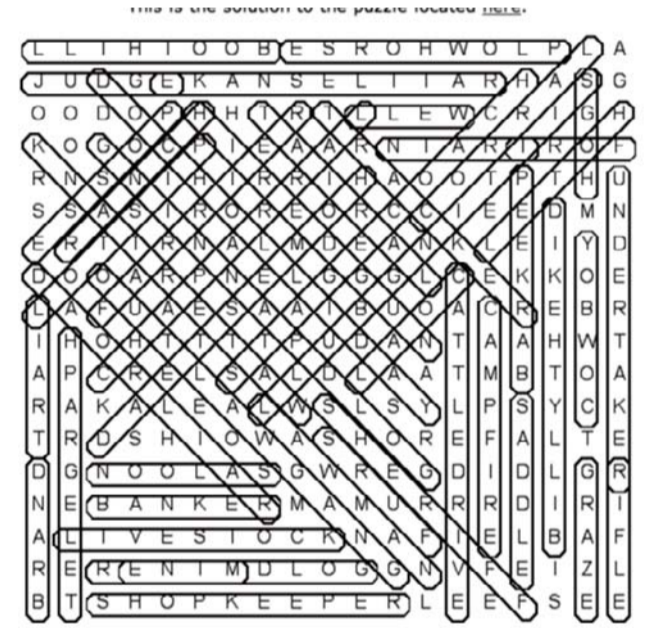
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 26 letters spell a secret message.



- |           |         |        |            |
|-----------|---------|--------|------------|
| BARK      | FEED    | ID TAG | PUPPY      |
| BATH      | FETCH   | JUMP   | ROLL OVER  |
| BONE      | FOOD    | KENNEL | SHAMPOO    |
| BOWLS     | FRIEND  | LEASH  | SLEEP      |
| CANINE    | GROOM   | LICK   | TRAIN      |
| CHASE     | GROWL   | LOYAL  | TREATS     |
| CHEW TOY  | GUARD   | OWNER  | TRIM NAILS |
| COLLAR    | HAIR    | PANT   | WAG TAIL   |
| COMPANION | HARNESS | PAWS   | WALK       |
| FAITHFUL  | HOUSE   | PLAY   | WATER      |

Yesterday Solution

Old West 1



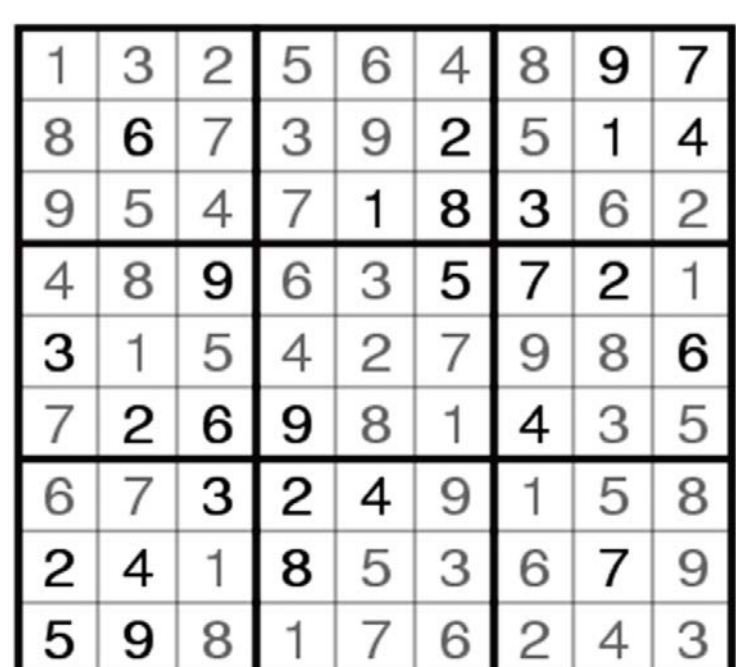
- |               |              |             |              |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| BANKER        | FARRIER      | LAWMAN      | SALOON       |
| BARKEEP       | FORT         | LIVESTOCK   | SHERIFF      |
| BILLY THE KID | FURS         | MINER       | SHOPKEEPER   |
| BOOT HILL     | GOLD MINE    | OUTLAW GANG | SITTING BULL |
| BRAND         | GOLD PANNING | PISTOL      | STAGECOACH   |
| CAMPFIRE      | GRAZE        | PLOW HORSE  | TELEGRAPH    |
| CATTLE DRIVE  | HIRED GUN    | POSSE       | TRACKER      |
| CHAPARRAL     | HOGS         | RAILROAD    | TRAIL        |
| COAL          | HOMESTEAD    | RANCH       | TRAIN        |
| CORRAL        | HOTEL        | RATTLESNAKE | UNDERTAKER   |
| COWBOY        | JUDGE        | RIFLE       | WATER TANK   |
| DOC HOLLIDAY  | LARIAT       | SADDLE      | WELL         |

The hidden message is: A GOOD HORSE MAKES SHORT MILES

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries  
and complaints:  
**Call MSAL hotline 128**

## Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9
<b>Clinics</b>	
Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



## PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahael Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahلام Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

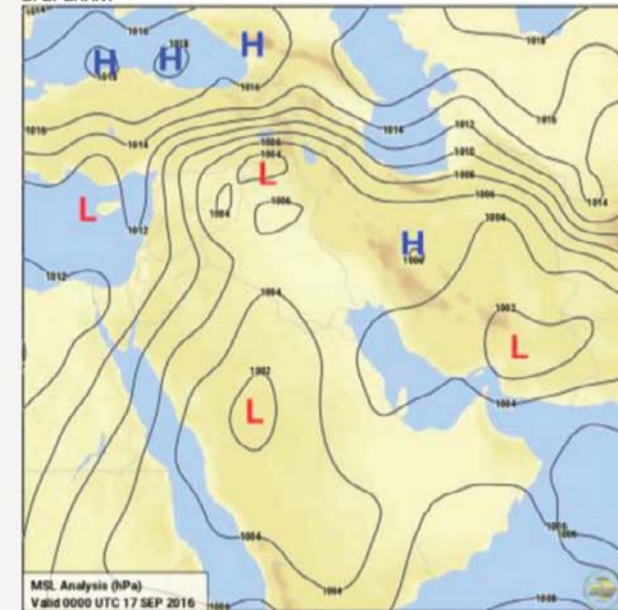
### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 17/09/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 46 °C

**By Day** : Hot with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 22 km/h  
**By Night** : Fair with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly later on wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather				
Min Temp °C	25	26	24	22
Max Temp °C	46	44	43	41
Wind Direction	north westerly to northerly	north westerly to northerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	15 - 35	15 - 38	20 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	MAX °C
KUWAIT CITY	32	46
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25	46
ABDOLY	25	46
BUBYAN	27	42
JAHRA	27	47
FAILAKA ISLAND	28	45
SALMIYAH	33	39
AHMADI	32	41
JAL ALIYAH	27	46
QAROH ISLAND	32	40
UMM AL-MARADEM	33	39
NUWAISIB	28	47
WAFRA	25	46
MANAGISH	27	45
SALMY	28	44
MUTRIBA	25	47

### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	46
Min Temp (°C)	25
Max Rel Hum (%)	53
Min Rel Hum (%)	07
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

	Sunrise	05:34
	Sunset	17:51

### Prayer Times

Fajr	04:14
Sunrise	05:34
Zuhr	11:43
Asr	15:12
Sunset	17:51
Isha	19:09

## INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



## PRIVATE CLINICS

<b>Ophthalmologists</b> Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	<b>Plastic Surgeons</b> Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60 <b>Family Doctor</b> Dr. Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581 <b>Psychiatrists</b> Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0 <b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b> Dr. Adrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s. Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787 <b>General Surgeons</b> Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148 <b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b> Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisani 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr. Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	<b>Paediatricians</b> Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarooof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gupare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282 <b>Dermatology</b> Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955 <b>Dentists</b> Dr. Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrah 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisani 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111 <b>Neurologists</b> Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875 <b>Gastrologists</b> Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135	<b>Endocrinologist</b> Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924 <b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b> Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288 <b>Rheumatologists:</b> Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290 <b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b> DR. Mohammed Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667 <b>Consultant Cardiologist</b> Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123	
<b>Psychologists /Psychotherapists</b>	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688 info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

Julien Macdonald



LONDON: Designer Julien Macdonald (C) takes to the catwalk after showing his 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show at London Fashion week yesterday. — AFP

# Rough and ready talent showcased on London fashion fringe



In an industrial space accessed through a Soho record shop, three young designers style their models in a cramped cubicle before sending them out to a cheering crowd sipping bottled beers.

Away from the polish of London Fashion Week's main schedule, up-and-coming designers star in a host of rough and ready shows—and for many, they are what the week is all about. "It's about the raw talent, and giving raw talent an opportunity to be seen," said Lee Laphorne, who picked the three designers to show as part of his On|Off initiative.

Like many off-schedule events, his show was put together on a shoestring budget with spartan sets and limited collections—but with undeniable energy, aided by the sounds of a live punk band.

On|Off has been showcasing alternative designers since 2002 and gave an early helping hand to now established British names such as Gareth Pugh, J.W. Anderson and Roksanda.

Among this season's picks is Timothy Bouyez-Forge, who showed a collection of vacuum-formed tunics and dresses sprayed with brightly colored car paint, held together with industrial straps and rivets and with motorbike parts as bags.

Laphorne believes programs such as his are vital to London's creative reputation, as a counterbalance to the big names like Burberry and Topshop on the official schedule. "What London for me is lacking at the moment is what London was known for — that edgy, almost punk-esque energy that London had, that McQueen brought, which Galliano had," he told AFP. "London has had to become a major city of fashion, and had to get more business-minded, rightly so. But I think at the same time, it's lacking that freedom of creative expression." He added: "I get the vibe from a lot of people I talk to that people are bored of fashion week. Is there anyone pushing the envelope out there?"

### 'Excited to see the new'

On|Off is one of a number of initiatives to support emerging talent, many of them helped by the British Fashion Council (BFC) — and, in the case of the Fashion East and NewGen sponsorship programs, funded by high street giant Topshop. "London Fashion Week and British fashion is known as the birthplace for emerging talent," said BFC chief executive Caroline Rush. "It's great that we have successful businesses, it's great that we have brands that are building their businesses internationally. But a lot of people of course are also excited to see the new."

### 'Shun main schedule'

A short walk from the On|Off venue, the Painting Rooms Presentations, held in a century-old gallery near Covent Garden, is in its third season. Designers include China's Xiao Li, who has made a name for herself with voluminous garments, and Canadian Steven Tai, who showed a tomboy look on models styled as gawky teenage girls.

The initiative of The Wolves PR agency shows two designers at one time, one named on the official schedule, the other not. "That helps bring an audience to people who might not get it otherwise. And vice-versa—there's a lot of people who really like to look at the off-schedule and shun the main schedule," said PR manager Stephen Lawton.

Diverting the fashion pack from an already grueling official schedule is not easy, and many "off" venues are close to the main BFC hub in Soho. Not all the designers showing off schedule will migrate to the big league but any showcase during fashion week helps. Bouyez-Forge, a boyish figure in a T-shirt and baseball cap, says he hopes his show will be successful enough to allow him to keep designing. Will he aim for on schedule? "That's decided by people much higher up, but I can definitely try!" he said. — AFP





LONDON: Models present creations by designer Julien Macdonald during 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show at London Fashion week yesterday. — AFP photos

Matty Bovan



LONDON: Designer Matty Bovan greets the crowd after the Fashion East 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show during London Fashion Week yesterday.

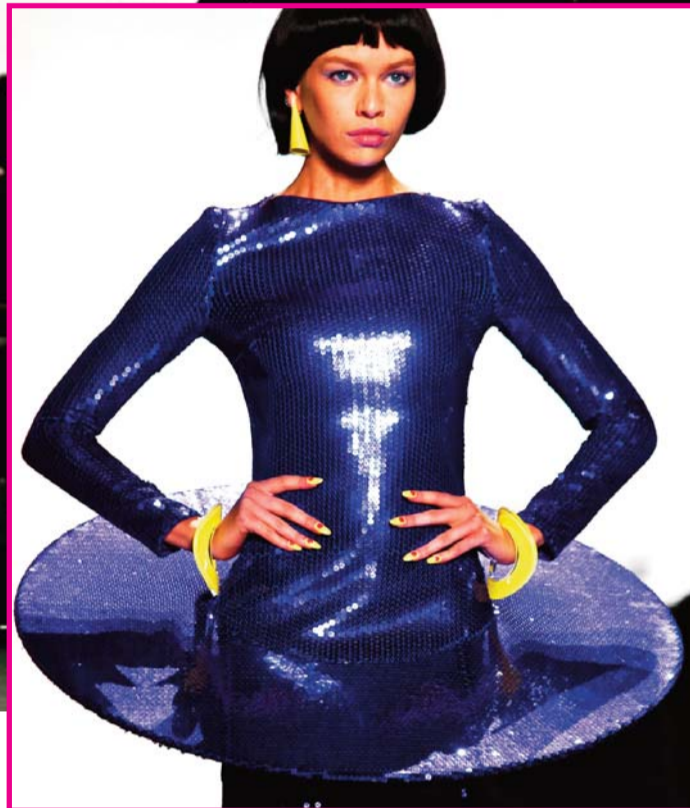


LONDON: A model presents a creation by designer Matty Bovan during the Fashion East 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show during London Fashion Week yesterday. — AFP photos

# NEW YORK FASHION WEEK



NEW YORK: Fashion from the Jeremy Scott Spring 2017 collection is modeled during Fashion Week on Monday Sept. 12, 2016. — AP photos



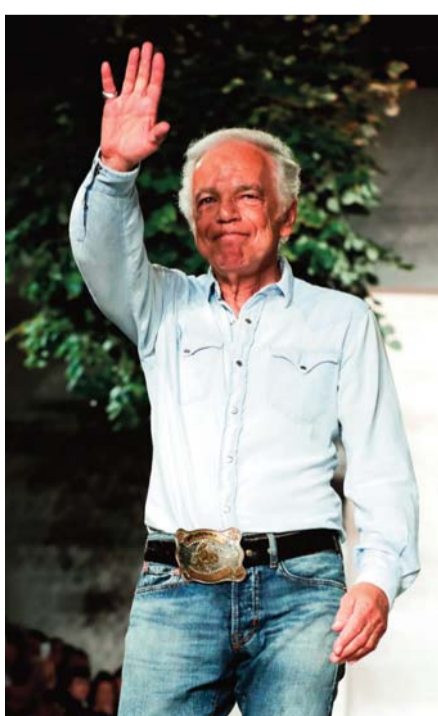
NEW YORK: The Marc Jacobs Spring 2017 collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016.



NEW YORK: The Ralph Lauren collection is modeled during Fashion Week, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016.



NEW YORK: Fashion from the Ralph Lauren collection is modeled by Kendall Jenner during Fashion Week, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016.



NEW YORK: Designer Ralph Lauren acknowledges applause after the runway show for his collection during Fashion Week, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016.

## Weird and wonderful moments of fashion week

**"**If you build it, they will come." That seemed to be one of the mantras of New York Fashion Week. Tommy Hilfiger built a carnival on a Manhattan pier, including actual rides, a Ferris Wheel, arcade games, a tattoo parlor, and cotton candy for everyone. And Ralph Lauren built a greenhouse-like glass structure on Madison Avenue, commandeering the block and stopping traffic in the most literal way.

Kanye West, meanwhile, schlepped hundreds of people out to Roosevelt Island, where it was so hot, guests - and models - wilted in the sun. And Marc Jacobs put on a typically wild and colorful show to close out the week, even stoking a bit of online controversy with his hairstyling choice.

As always, New York Fashion Week had its weird and its wonderful moments. Here's a brief selection of both:

### We hope they got a bonus

Your mom was right: Beautiful people aren't always happy. Case in point: West's Yeezy models, who had to stand for hours in searing New York sunshine and stifling humidity, clad in body-hugging garments that weren't exactly breezy. A few simply melted to the ground. It was even worse for one model who appeared to risk serious ankle injury wobbling along in thigh-high boots with malfunctioning heels. Not only that - the poor thing had to wear a hooded puffer jacket in the intense heat.

### A secret garden

Tracy Reese, on the other hand, found a breezy corner of the city for her presentation: a cemetery in the East Village. Though there were underground crypts, there were no gravestones, just a pretty, grassy spot perfect for Reese's pretty florals. Reese also staffed her runway show with more "real women" - i.e. non-professional models - than professionals. They were of all ages and shapes and walks of life - a happy nod to inclusivity in fashion. Reese also is manufacturing some of her dresses in larger sizes than before.

### Apian-inspired fashion

A painting, a piece of pottery, a book: Some designers cite very specific inspirations for their collections. At Proenza Schouler, the always-inventive Lazaro Hernandez and Jack McCollough cited Bernini sculptures and the work of contemporary New York painter John Currin, plus techniques from Paris, Bolivia and Japan. At Rodarte, sisters Laura and Kate Mulleavy cited "The Spirit of the Beehive," a 1973 film by Spanish director Victor Erice, for the various apian (pertaining to bees) influences in their dresses.

### A chic animal kingdom

Thom Browne keeps upping the ante with his delightfully nutty - and sophisticated - runway productions. He transformed a Chelsea gallery space into the shiny, tiled interior of a swimming pool, then populated it with a gaggle of models

in old-fashioned bathing robes and shower caps. Aided by male models lavishly dressed as parrots, seagulls and cats, they undressed to reveal ingenious, highly detailed "suits" that were actually one-piece dresses using a trompe l'oeil (tricking the eye) effect. Then they disrobed again to reveal matching, retro bathing suits. Presiding over it all - of course - was a goddess with a shimmering dog's head that doubled as a disco ball.

### Carnival atmosphere

Fashion Week always feels like a carnival - but this really WAS a carnival. After the runway show along the boardwalk, guests at Tommy Hilfiger's (and co-designer Gigi Hadid's) riverside extravaganza were encouraged to stay and sample the rides, get temporary tattoos or nail art, eat lobster rolls, or have some liquid refreshment. There was also clothing on sale. The next day, the whole shebang was open to the public.

### It's a kardashian world

It seemed like every sort of Kardashian-Jenner played a role in Fashion Week. Minutes after leaving their sister and brother-in-law at the Yeezy show, Kylie and Kendall Jenner arrived at their own event celebrating their fledgling fashion label, KENDALL + KYLIE. Kendall walked

on the runways for Wang, Lauren, Michael Kors and Marc Jacobs. Her mother, Kris Jenner, was a front-row fixture, too.

### Recalling slimmer times

Many designers incorporate an element of nostalgia. Jeremy Scott's nostalgia was for a slimmer, greasier, dirtier era in New York City. Scott's outfits blared: "Rated X," and "HOT HOT HOT," and "SLIME CITY." Backstage, he reminisced about a time when Times Square actually had X-rated movie theaters. He also looked to the future: Some of his party dresses were in exaggerated geometric shapes - looking "like a UFO landed on it," in Scott's words.

### A to-do over a hairdo

There was lots to catch the eye at the Marc Jacobs show, traditionally the finale of the week. But what caught more attention than all the bright colors, sparkles, lovely forest of light bulbs and ginormous platform shoes were the hairdos. The models, regardless of skin color, were all wearing rainbow-hued dreadlocks. That led to a vigorous discussion online, with some accusing the designer of cultural appropriation. Others found the whole argument silly. Jacobs responded on Instagram: "I don't see color or race - I see people."

### Fast fashion...

Quipped actress Julianne Moore: "This is the cleanest sidewalk I have ever seen in New York!" For one night, the sidewalk outside Lauren's flagship store was a runway, and the street belonged to him (to the grumblings, perhaps, of some neighbors). After the show, a luxurious take on the American West, you could walk right into his store, sip some champagne, and head to the cash register to buy whatever you wanted from the collection (if you could afford it).

### .... And fast food

Lauren wasn't the only designer dipping into "see now, buy now" fashion. At the end of Alexander Wang's high-wattage show, he revealed a new collaboration with adidas Originals on a line of unisex apparel and footwear, some of which was available to the public the next day on pop-up trucks at three locations.

Speaking of trucks, Wang hauled food trucks into his giant indoor afterparty on the Hudson, to dispense McDonald's burgers, Slurpees from 7-Eleven, and all the candy, chips and junk food you'd ever want. Maybe your mom told you this, too: Not all fashionistas count calories. — AP



NEW YORK: Models wear the Yeezy Season 4 collection by Kanye West during a fashion show, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016, at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island.—AP

FASHION



NEW YORK: The Rodarte Spring 2017 collection is modeled during Fashion Week, Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016.



NEW YORK: Fashion from the Tommy Hilfiger Fall 2016 collection and the TommyXGigi capsule being modeled during Fashion Week on Friday, Sept. 9, 2016.



NEW YORK: Gigi Hadid models the Tommy Hilfiger Fall 2016 collection and her TommyXGigi capsule during Fashion Week on Friday, Sept. 9, 2016.

# TOP 10 TRENDS ON THE NEW YORK CATWALK

**N**ew York Fashion Week wrapped up Thursday in a haze of light bulbs, creative vision and rainbow palettes from Marc Jacobs. As the fashion world's focus now shifts to Europe for shows in London, Paris and Milan, here is a round-up of the top 10 trends that New York offered this season:

**Instant gratification**

Global brands Tommy Hilfiger, Tom Ford and Ralph Lauren upended the fashion calendar, ditching the official spring/summer schedule entirely to offer shop-straight-from-the-catwalk collections.

Michael Kors, Tory Burch, and Alice & Olivia offered a select number of items for immediate sale, pairing spring essentials with cross-seasonal looks. The proof will be in the sales, and so far the big houses have been quiet, but reading the tea leaves, it seems fast fashion is probably the future.

**Flower power**

Floral prints are big: on bikinis and dresses at Michael Kors, trousers at Ralph Lauren, daisy dresses at Anna Sui or in patchwork florals at Tory Burch.

**Bras**

France may have been gripped by the burkini debate this summer, but the New York catwalk loves a good bra-and bikinis too. There were bralette straps and corset bodices at Marchesa, and dominatrix bras with zips at Jeremy Scott.

**Long sleeves**

A trend embraced by celebrity designers Kanye West and Rihanna, along with street wear label Hood By Air, the elongated sleeve has gone mainstream. Vera Wang had sleeves that trailed the hands "almost like a new kind of glove," she told AFP. Tanks were worn over long sleeves at Jeremy Scott.

**Pin stripes**

Banker chic is back-see Taoray Wang, who opens her first store outside China in Manhattan next year. Pyer Moss also mined the city look, Bibhu Mohapatra turned it into occasion wear with pink striped silk, while Anna Sui offered metallic pinstriped chiffon tops.

**Structure**

The crinoline is back-except this time without crinolines. Masterful tailoring and tricks of the trade enable dresses and skirts to stick out, without hoops and netting. Examples: Zac Posen, whose evening wear floated down the runway; princess gowns for women and children from Vicky Zhang; or flying saucer skirts at Jeremy Scott.

**Embroidery**

It's all about nude, white or black organza or tulle-at times almost transparent-overlaid with stunning embroidered flowers and jewels which almost looks like body art.

Embroideries shimmered at Marchesa, there was stretch crepe at Michael Kors; adorned suiting at Ralph Lauren, or gowns at Jenny Packham. Sequins were another favorite-best examples were a hot pink catsuit at Jeremy Scott or timeless cocktail elegance at Tom Ford.

**Pleats**

Pleats starred in a big way in the form of satin skirt panels at Bibhu Mohapatra and Taoray Wang, or pleated Grecian-style visions from Jenny Packham.

**Political fever**

The most antagonistic US presidential election in modern history is weeks away, and the catwalk was rife with politics.

Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour hosted a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton; Prabal Gurung challenged feminist Gloria Steinem; and Johny Dar showed off a "Jeans for Refugees" initiative to raise money for migrants.

Up and coming designer Kerby Jean-Raymond sent out a collection inspired by financial greed, and railed against gentrification in Harlem in his Bernie vs Bernie show-as in Sanders and Madoff.

**Slash it**

Sleeves were long and necks were high, but sexiness came from cut-outs-at the back and midriff from Ralph Lauren, or slashed high at the thigh in micro miniskirts from Marc Jacobs. — AFP



NEW YORK: A model performs during the presentation of the Tracy Reese Spring 2017 collection show at the New York Marble Cemetery during the Fashion Week on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016.



NEW YORK: The "Adidas Originals by Alexander Wang" collection is modeled during Fashion Week on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016.



NEW YORK: Designer Alexander Wang greets the audience after his Spring 2017 collection is modeled during Fashion Week on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016.



NEW YORK: The Thom Browne Spring 2017 collection is presented during Fashion Week on Monday, Sept. 12, 2016. — AP photos



MEXICO CITY: Soldiers carrying placards form a mosaic during a military parade held during the celebrations of the 216th anniversary of Mexican Independence, on September 16, 2016. — AFP

## ETHAN HAWKE ON DONALD TRUMP, DIVERSITY AND DENZEL

At Spain's San Sebastian Festival to accept a career achievement Donostia Award, its highest honor, a forward-looking, reflective and self-deprecating and gracious Ethan Hawke fielded a huge gamut of questions - example: "If your life was a graphic novel, what would the cover image be" - talking about anything from Donald Trump to death. His Donostia Award came as he presented Antoine Fuqua's "The Magnificent Seven," which world premiered at Toronto, opening the festival. Some highlights:

### 1. Donald Trump

Asked if Donald Trump would like "The Magnificent Seven," in which he stars: "I bet Donald Trump would like the film. But he doesn't know that what the film is actually about is people gathering together to defeat him."

### 2. On diversity

A Spanish femme journalist - and quite a lot of femme journalists asked question to Hawke, who doesn't seem quite done as a lady-charmer - commented that the original "The Magnificent Seven" had racist elements: Eli Wallach playing a Mexican "in brown makeup, doing a bad Mexican accent and seven white guys, for instance," as Hawke recognized. He went on: "I think one of the greatest ways to speak about diversity is to make a movie with a bunch of people from different cultures and make something beautiful. I get to work with people from lots of different cultures. We have Vincent D'Onofrio, Denzel Washington, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, a Mexican actor. It's great to have us all work together. It's great the movie doesn't talk about race but just shows it."

### 3. Denzel

"One of the wonderful things Antoine did with this film is let the film speak for itself.... If Clint Eastwood walks into a room and everyone stops it's because he is a gunslinger, if Denzel [Washington] walks into a room and everyone stops you don't know why," Hawke paid tribute to his "Magnificent Seven" co-star, also the

recipient of a Donostia Award a few years back. "It's great working with Denzel because he does this profession at a very high level. There are very few giant movie stars who are great artists. Denzel is one. He has done it even with the albatross of race being thrown at him which I'm sure gets very boring."

### 4. His life work

Unlike some big award recipients, Hawke, who had obviously prepared some big answers to potential big questions. He got them. What would he like to achieve in life? one journalist asked. Hawke had an answer: "I've tried to focus my entire life on the goal of making substantive meaningful art. It's a small goal but I do believe that in telling stories and making movies, literature, painting, graphic novels, that the arts have a collective power to be part of our consciousness. Like a person is only as good as their mental health so is a community. A community's mental health is their arts."

### 5. Hawke's fears

And what was he afraid of? "I'm afraid of dying. I don't want to do that. But he was chuffed by the way he did die on "The Magnificent Seven." "One thing I love about



working with Antoine [Fuqua]. So many directors have everything planned out but he works from his gut... I walked on that set and saw the church and said 'I wanna die up on that church' and Antoine said 'Hell, yeah! I wanted to get shot down by a Gatling gun. I thought: a character who is afraid to die dies in a grotesque way. I love that he fell into the cemetery."

### 6. And his future

Hawke mentioned he had written a graphic novel, "Indeh," about Geronimo, the great Chiricahua-Apache leader. He certainly doesn't want to give up acting. "As I get older, I am more interested in being different people, playing different roles," he said. Hw was especially grateful and gracious with a journalist who asked about his plans to direct more movies. "It's kind of you to ask that question. It's a funny thing to be here accepting an award. It's 30 years of acting for me...A lot of it has been a training ground for getting more knowledgeable and intimate with film. I would like to direct more. I would be lying if I said the next time I come to San Sebastian, I don't want it to be as a director," Hawke said. He also had one idea about a subject, if he were to make a movie: "The Cherokee, there has never been a movie from their point of view. I would love to be a background actor in a film where a Native American person starred."

### 7. And if his life were a graphic novel, the cover image?

"If my life were a graphic novel, what would the cover image be?" I don't know. I hope it would be me playing my greatest role as King Lear at 97. That's what I hope, big grey hair and covered in wrinkles. Got no," he joked. — Reuters

SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN: US actor, Ethan Hawke poses during a photo call before receiving a Donostia Award for his contribution to the cinema, yesterday. — AP



LOS ANGELES: In this May 16, 2016, file photo, Snoop Dogg arrives at the LA Premiere of "Coach Snoop" at the TCL Chinese 6 Theatres. — AP

## BET Hip-Hop Awards holds taping of show in Atlanta

Snoop Dogg hosted the BET Hip-Hop Awards for three straight years. Now, the ultra-smooth West Coast rapper will be honored with the "I Am Hip Hop" award during BET's 11th annual award show Saturday. The event will be videotaped at the Cobb Energy Performing Centre near Atlanta. The show will air on BET on Oct. 4.

DJ Khaled will host the awards with performances by T.I., Gucci Mane, Young Thug and Designer. Snoop Dogg broke through under the guidance of hitmaker Dr. Dre, releasing his 1993 debut album "Doggystyle," which featured the songs "Gin and Juice" and "What's My Name?"

For the third straight year, rapper Drake dominated the nominees with 14 nominations. There are 18 categories in total. Other nominees include Future, Jay Z, Kendrick Lamar and Dr. Dre. — AP