

**Kuwait's drive towards fuel subsidy rationalization**



**Jordan votes in election tipped to see Islamist return**



**GoPro hopes to propel profits with Karma drone**



**Guardiola seeks Toure apology; Rooney at risk as Man United toil**



## EMERGENCY PARLIAMENT SESSION ON PETROL PRICE HIKE 'ABORTED'

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### SAUDIA PILOT TRIGGERS FALSE HIJACK ALARM

**MANILA:** A pilot of a Saudi Arabian Airlines flight accidentally pressed a hijack alarm and triggered a major security response at Manila airport yesterday, authorities said. Police isolated and surrounded the Saudia flight after it landed yesterday afternoon just after one of its pilots issued a distress signal indicating a hijack was underway, the Philippine aviation authority said in a statement. Hundreds of passengers aboard the Boeing 777 flight from the Red Sea city of Jeddah were forced to remain on the plane for more than two hours, but were allowed to disembark about 5:00 pm (0900 GMT) after it was confirmed there was no threat.

Soon after the distress signal was activated, authorities at Manila control tower obtained a verbal confirmation from the pilot that he had triggered it although he did not say why at the time, Manila airport aviation security chief Mao Aplasca told reporters. "It was only after the plane was parked for some time that he said it was a false alarm," Aplasca added. In Saudi Arabia, an airline spokesman also told AFP there was no security threat. "False alarm for hijack for Flight 872," the spokesman said.

The Philippines' aviation authority said in a statement the distress signal pressed by the pilot alerted authorities "that a hijacking incident is on progress on board". "Immediately the flight was given priority landing by airport authorities... and was directed to park on the remote bay and isolated for security procedures," the statement said. "Apparently the pilot committed an error activating the 7500 squawking signal," the statement said, referring to the hijack alarm.

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**MANILA:** Passengers of the Saudi Arabian Airlines plane Flight SV872 from Jeddah disembark at the international airport in Pasay yesterday. (Inset) One of the pilots disembarks with security. — AP

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi said yesterday that the government has succeeded in "aborting" an emergency session of the National Assembly that was due to discuss the hike in petrol prices. The lawmaker said only 29 MPs signed the motion for the emergency session, just four members short of the required number to force the convening of the session.

The Assembly is currently on summer recess and cannot hold sessions unless an absolute majority of its members sign a petition and the government agrees to attend the meeting. Qudhaibi charged that since he and other MPs started collecting signatures for the session, the government tried to evade because it knew that lawmakers would have debated all issues related to the main subject. He alleged that the government preferred to accept the grilling of the finance minister over the emergency session because it is aware that during the grilling, only one MP will speak, while at the emergency session, all MPs would have covered a variety of issues.

Qudhaibi said during the session, MPs would have asked all the ministers to explain the achievements they made in diversifying the sources of income in the country. The lawmaker said that MPs would have also debated the grave violations committed by illegally sending a large number of patients for overseas treatment for political purposes.

Qudhaibi said MPs would have also held the justice minister to account for failing to issue the bylaws of the Anti-Corruption Authority seven months after publishing the law, although it clearly states that they must be issued two months after the publication.



Yaqoub Al-Sanea

Continued on Page 13

### OBAMA SLAMS STRONGMEN IN LAST UN ADDRESS

#### ANGELINA JOLIE FILES FOR DIVORCE FROM BRAD PITT

**LOS ANGELES:** Angelina Jolie has filed for divorce from Brad Pitt and is seeking custody of their six children, spelling the end for "Brangelina", one of Hollywood's highest-profile celebrity couples. The 41-year-old Jolie filed legal documents on Monday citing irreconcilable differences with Pitt, 52, and listing their date of separation as Sept 15, according to entertainment news websites TMZ and People. "This decision was made for the health of the family," Jolie's attorney Robert Offer said in a statement circulated to US media. "She will not be commenting at this time, and asks that the

family be given their privacy during this difficult time."

Two of the world's biggest stars, Pitt and Jolie formed a Hollywood power couple second to none, so famous they were known simply by their combined first names. The A-listers wed in France in August two years ago, but have been a couple since 2004 and have six children together, three of whom are adopted. Jolie is seeking physical custody of the children, with visiting rights for Pitt, according to TMZ, which said she was not seeking spousal support.

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**LOS ANGELES:** In this June 5, 2007 file photo, Brad Pitt, a cast member in the film "Ocean's Thirteen", arrives with Angelina Jolie at the premiere of the film at Grauman's Chinese Theatre. — AP



**NEW YORK:** US President Barack Obama addresses the United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters yesterday. — AFP

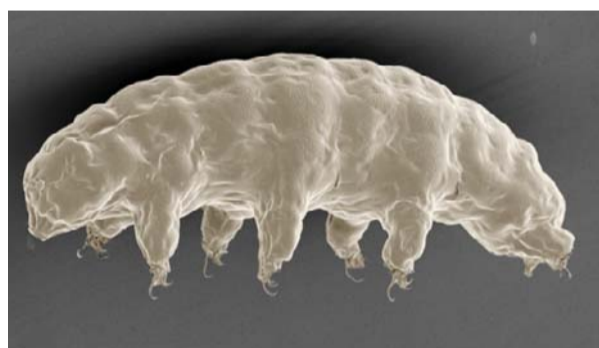
**UNITED NATIONS:** Barack Obama used his farewell UN address yesterday to castigate strongmen and populists, taking aim at Russia's Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump's rise at home. Obama told the UN General Assembly that democracy was a better path toward prosperity than the "crude populism" that is mushrooming in the United States and around the world. "Some argue the future favors the strong man," Obama said, in remarks sure to echo on the 2016 US campaign trail. "I believe this thinking is wrong. History shows that strong men are then left with two paths: Permanent crackdown, which sparks strife at home, or scapegoating enemies abroad, which can lead to war."

Obama's comments come amid a scorched-earth campaign to succeed him, which has seen a wave of popular

support for Republican Party nominee Trump, who holds far-right stances on immigration and national security. "Our country has been weak. We're letting people in by the thousands and tens of thousands," the businessman said Monday, attacking Obama. Obama challenged that thinking in his address at the UN, saying: "We have to open our hearts and do more to help refugees who are desperate for a home. We have to imagine what it would be like for our family, for our children if the unspeakable happened to us."

Obama admitted, however, that a "course correction" was needed to smooth the serrated edges of globalization and neutralize "alternative visions" promoted by populists and zealots.

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This handout picture shows a scanning electron microscope image of the hydrated tardigrade, *Ramazzottius varieornatus*. — AFP

#### PROTEIN SHIELDING DNA FROM X-RAYS

**PARIS:** A protein unique to a minuscule creature called a water bear, reputedly the most indestructible animal on Earth, protects human DNA from X-ray damage, stunned researchers reported yesterday. Human cells cultivated with the newly-discovered protein, dubbed "Dsup" for "damage suppressor", experienced half as much decay as normal cells when blasted with radiation. "We were really surprised," said lead author Takuma Hashimoto, a biologist at the University of Tokyo who designed the experiments. "It is striking that a single gene is enough to improve the radiation tolerance of human cultured cells," he told AFP, referring to the tardigrade-derived protein.

Tardigrades, as the water bears are more prosaically known, have long fascinated scientists with their veritable superpowers of survival. Barely the size of a grain of sand, they look as if they escaped from a Star Trek sequel. Seemingly eyeless, they have bodies resembling hazmat suits, eight puffy legs with bear-like claws, and a vacuum-cleaner nozzle of a snout. Most eat moss and lichen. Some feed on other water bears. Remarkably, these primitive water-dwellers can withstand

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### News

in brief

#### Emirati seeks sex change

**ABU DHABI:** An Emirati woman has sought leave to have a sex change operation in what would be a first for the United Arab Emirates, newspapers reported yesterday. The application to the court in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi comes after a change in the law took effect earlier this month legalizing gender reassignment surgery. Lawyer Ali Al-Mansouri told Gulf News the 29-year-old woman always felt strongly that she was not the gender she physically appeared to be. He said his client's feeling that her body does not reflect her true gender caused her severe distress, anxiety and depression. "She has been undergoing physical and psychological care since 2012 and a medical commission had recommended that she undergo a sex-change surgery."

#### Qatar workers unpaid

**DOHA:** As many as 400 migrant staff working for an electrical company in Qatar have gone unpaid for up to four months, a leading figure in the Indian community said yesterday. The workers are set to meet the Indian ambassador in Doha within the next two weeks to discuss their plight, Arvin Patil of the Indian Community Benevolent Forum charity told AFP. The staff are thought to be employed by an Abu Dhabi-based firm. "Around 300 to 400 people have not been paid," said Patil, adding people from other migrant groups based in the emirate had also not been paid by the firm.

#### Gulf budget deficit peaks

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Arab oil exporters are expected to see their budget deficits peak this year owing to the plunge in energy revenues, a report said yesterday. The combined deficit of the six GCC states is forecast to hit \$153 billion in 2016, up from \$119 billion last year, Kuwait's investment firm KAMCO Research said. Saudi Arabia is expected to account for 55 percent, or more than \$84 billion, of the shortfall. The GCC deficit will start easing from next year but the six nations are forecast to post an average annual shortfall of \$100 billion until 2021. GCC total revenues dropped from a peak of \$735 billion in 2013 to just \$443 billion in 2015, the lowest in five years, KAMCO said. They are forecast to slide further to \$365 billion this year.

#### 8 hurt in Saudi oil fire

**RIYADH:** Eight workers at the Saudi Arabian state oil company Saudi Aramco were injured in an oil terminal fire yesterday, the company said. There was no impact on operations at the Gulf coast Ras Tanura facility, Saudi Aramco said in a statement. Emergency services "successfully responded to a minor fire" at about 9:00 am (0600 GMT) and the blaze has been fully contained, it said. "Workers in the facility have been evacuated." The injured employees received medical treatment, and the cause of the fire is being investigated, Saudi Aramco said.

In our View

PETTY CORRUPTION IN KUWAIT ON THE RISE

Kuwait has faced a growing number of incidents of corruption in recent years. Most troubling about this trend is that the corruption has reached into the very smallest aspects of daily life, so that bribes and fraud are becoming almost common place at nearly every level. Two troubling issues that have come to our attention lately include a shady rental practice now flourishing in Kuwait and the robbing of expats by low level government officials.

In our first instance, it seems that some landlords (or their managers) are engaging in fraud when it comes to rental contracts. Any tenant that disputes a rental increase can file a case in the rental court. But what's happening now is perhaps a way to skirt the law. Some apartment managers are refusing to accept the rent or issue rental receipts until the tenant signs a contract for an amount far above the agreed upon rent. The way the scam works is this. Say a tenant and landlord agree to a rent of KD 250 for a two bedroom apartment. But when the contract is drawn up, the rental amount stated is KD 400. The tenant balks. But then the landlord or apartment manager explains that he will still accept the agreed upon KD 250 but give the tenant a receipt for KD 400.

Now some tenants will agree because they have few options or don't understand the law. But if they do agree, and accept a contract with a wrong amount, and receipts with a wrong amount, they will have no recourse when and if anytime in the future (before the legal five year period is up) the landlord demands the higher rent stated in the contract. Even if the landlord or haris never asks for the higher rent during the five years, the tenant is still involved in a fraud. It has been suggested that some landlords and apartment managers try to use the higher rental contracts/receipts to take bank loans.

In the second instance, the Kuwait Times newspaper has received more than a few troubling reports of police officers, government officials and even some embassies taking cash from expats on the pretext of paying fines or other business. As in the Letter to the Editor we publish today, the situation is troubling because it represents a culture of petty corruption without consequences that a growing segment of society are involved in.

These may seem like small, unimportant instances - especially when the country faces so many more pressing challenges. But petty corruption can have serious impacts on a nation's future and economic development. It can undermine a government's ability to execute public services, discourage foreign investment by tarnishing a country's reputation and harm chances for economic growth and diversification.

In 2016, corruption in Kuwait worsened significantly according to Transparency International. In its annual Corruption Perceptions Index published yesterday, the global corruption watchdog, ranked Kuwait 55 out of 167 countries, dropping it six places from last year's spot at 49. Oddly enough, petty corruption is mostly common in poor, impoverished countries and it's a telling sign of the problems facing Kuwait that such petty corruption is now happening here.

KUWAIT CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait celebrates the International Day of Peace today, under the theme "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace." Kuwait has exerted huge efforts to achieve international peace and provide humanitarian aid for those in need, mainly after His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah became the leader of Kuwait in 2006. The UN's General Assembly has celebrated the peace day for the first time in 1982, declaring September 21st as a date of ceasing fire and stopping violence.

Since becoming a UN member in 1963, Kuwait has been supporting the organization's peace efforts around the world and play a vital role in resolving dispute between Arab countries. Kuwait hosted many summits and conferences aiming to end conflicts in the Arab World, mainly that between Egypt and Yemen during the Nasserism era. It also resolved the dispute between South and North Yemen on joint borders in 1972, which ended in the signing of a peace agreement after a visit of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-

Ahmad, who was then the Foreign Minister of Kuwait.

Moreover, the country played an effective role in ending disputes between Jordan and Palestine in 1970, while also being a mediator in resolving issues between other Arab states by the end of the 60s. Another prominent achievement is His Highness' efforts when he headed talks that led to the signing of the Taif Agreement, bringing an end to the civil war in Lebanon in 1989. In the same context, Kuwait also hosted the UN-sponsored Yemeni peace talks last April to end the conflict in the country and achieve peace and security.

Meanwhile, the country is well known for its humanitarian work around the world, as it has provided several loans to Arab, African and Asian states even during the Iraqi Invasion in 1990. As part of its efforts to aid those in need, Kuwait announced establishing the Goodwill Fund with a \$100 million to face the world food crisis, during the first Arab Economic Summit it hosted in 2009. The country also hosted three donors conferences to improve humanitarian conditions in Syria, the

first was in 2013 where Kuwait pledged \$300 millions for Syrians and collected \$4.4 billions as international donations.

Kuwait also pledged \$500 million during the second conference in 2014, collecting \$2.4 million from international donations and finally pledging another \$500 million in the third event held in 2015, and collecting \$3.8 billion from participating countries. In recognition of Kuwait's efforts, the UN granted His Highness the Amir the "Humanitarian Leader" title and Kuwait a "Humanitarian Center" in 2014. Despite being a developing country, Kuwait is continuously providing loans and aid for other developing and less developed countries to support development projects. The rate of developmental aid granted by Kuwait exceeded 1.3 percent of the total GDP, which is above the international percentage agreed upon for aid.

According to a report released by a British organization for international development initiatives in 2014, Kuwait came in first place among Gulf states in providing humanitarian aid, and it was in the 14th place among the 20

most providing countries in the world, as the country's aid reached \$327 million. Kuwait depends on four main bodies in delivering humanitarian aid, including the Ministry of Finance, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and Zakat House. KFAED has provided about KD 2.4 billion of loans between 1990 to 2014 for countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The fund's aid and grants reached nearly KD 74 million in the same time period.

In the same context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a report that Kuwait's Ministry of Finance has provided about KD three billion for Arab countries between 1990 and 2014. It also gave about KD 6.7 billion for non-Arab countries. Speaking to KUNA yesterday, KRCS' Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi said the society provided aid to over 67 countries since it was established in 1966. The aid included building schools, hospitals, reconstructing damaged houses and sending food and medicines. — KUNA

SHEIKH SABAH AL-KHALED ATTENDS SUMMIT ON PALESTINE ECONOMY

AMIR RENEWS KUWAIT'S COMMITMENT TO NAM PRINCIPLES

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait's First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Monday participated in a meeting of the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLIC) on Palestine economy (AHLIC), held under the presidency of Norway. The AHLIC aims at coordinating international assistance offered by donor countries to the Palestinian people. Participants in the meeting discussed economic and development challenges facing the Palestinian people, and reaffirmed the importance of providing all types of assistance for them. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah and Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi.

In another development, Kuwait has reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that was founded more than half a century ago amid exceptional conditions. His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said. The organization emerged at a time of polarization that marked the cold war era, he said in a speech delivered on his behalf by Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah at the 17th NAM Summit.

The summit was held at the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, under the slogan of "United on the Path for Peace" with representa-



**Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah seen at the 17th NAM Summit. — KUNA**

tives of more 160 countries taking part. His Highness the Amir said NAM asserted itself as an effective and influential grouping representing the developing world on the basis of shared interests and solidarity regardless of the geographical, ideological or ethnic boundaries. The Organization was able to reflect its noble principles and values on the ground at historic events and critical junctures, thus proving its ability to achieve cooperation among its mem-

ber states and impact the new world order, he affirmed, noting that the NAM members account for nearly 55 percent of the total population of the world.

The tremendous challenges facing the world today, including the natural and man-made disasters, armed conflicts and human rights violations, require doubled efforts to restore peace and achieve sustainable development. Kuwait believes strongly in joint action to realize the 17


goals set forth the UN Sustainable Development Summit in the post-2015 development agenda on September 25-27, 2015, New York, His Highness the Amir went on.

He added that Kuwait's approach to development is comprehensive and covers the economic, social and environmental dimensions on the regional and international scales. Kuwait spares no effort in helping the developing countries through the development aid, offered by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), that accounted for 1.4 percent of the country's growth domestic product, he said, noting that this percentage is two times more than the internationally-agreed level.


His Highness the Amir cited as example the assistance offered by Kuwait to conflict-hit countries in the Arab world, notably sisterly Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria more than five years ago, Kuwait has hosted three international humanitarian pledging conferences for the country and contributed \$1.7 billion out of the total aid pledges that amounted to seven billion dollars, he added.

His Highness the Amir thanked Venezuelan government and people for hosting the summit and voiced hope that the NAM will be able to make more achievements and meet the aspirations of the its member countries for peace, stability and prosperity. — Agencies



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MOCK EVACUATION DRILL



**KUWAIT:** In collaboration with the Civil Defense and KFSD, the Health Ministry's Medical Emergencies Department yesterday took part in a mock evacuation drill at Movenpick Hotel in Bidaa.

**Inspection campaign**

A major security inspection campaign in various governorates resulted in arresting a fake Asian doctor conducting abortions. Over the past three years, he offered his services for KD 20 to Asian women and KD 150 to Arab women. The campaign also resulted in arresting a number of wanted and illegal residents.

**Drone near prison**

Criminal investigators recently arrested two suspects - a citizen and a bedoon over the small wireless drone which was loaded with drugs and seized near Kuwait Central prison. Both suspect confessed to their crimes.

**Drug suspect nabbed**

An Arab expat was arrested on arrival at the Kuwait

Airport. 12000 illicit pills were found in his possession.

**New 'Family House'**

Mof's Undersecretary Lt General Suleiman Al-Fahad yesterday inaugurated the new 'Family House' service at Kuwait Central prison where inmates would be allowed to spend some time with their families. Al-Fahad said that the project was an embodiment of Kuwait's policies, as a center of humanity as it promotes and respect international human rights agreements. He added that the project would provide chance for inmates to keep socializing with families and kids.

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# KUWAITI GROUP KEH TAKES 23% STAKE IN WH IRELAND

KEH, BRITISH FIRM SEAL \$11.03 MILLION DEAL

**LONDON:** Kuwaiti European Holding Group (KEH) said yesterday that it had spent 8.45 million pounds (\$11.03 million) to buy a 23.1 percent stake in British financial services firm WH Ireland Group Plc, to help serve financial services clients across the Middle East and Britain. KEH, an investment company focused on property, health and leisure businesses, said WH Ireland's business model and strategy was "highly complementary" to that of KEH's financial services businesses - Armila Capital and Al-Fouz Investment Company. "This partnership will allow the

companies to provide cross-market corporate and capital markets advisory and capital raising services to their respective clients," KEH said in a statement.

As part of the deal, KEH Chief Executive Humphrey Percy will become a representative on WH Ireland's board, the Gulf company said. "An important component of KEH's strategy is to build out a financial services division that can develop a true bridge between investors in Kuwait and elsewhere in the Middle East, and financial markets in Europe, particularly in London," Percy said.

WH Ireland, which offers private wealth management, wealth planning and corporate broking services, said it would work with KEH Group to accelerate its growth opportunities. "KEH Group has an exciting plan for growth within its existing financial services companies in the Gulf states and the UK," WH Ireland Chief Executive Richard Killingbeck said. WH Ireland expects to be able to help support this growth, Killingbeck said. WH Ireland's regulatory filing did not disclose from whom KEH bought the stake. The news follows a Sky News report on

Saturday that KEH Group was close to announcing a deal to buy a stake in WH Ireland, and may also consider acquiring the London-listed company entirely.

WH Ireland held 2.7 billion pounds (\$3.52 billion) in assets under management as of May 31. The British stockbroker would not be the first to attract investment from the Middle East. The biggest shareholder in WH Ireland's rival Panmure Gordon & Co is Qatari investment bank QInvest, with a 43.43 percent stake, according to Thomson Reuters data. — Reuters

Letter to the Editor

**Sir,**  
I would like to bring to your kind attention the following dismal incident. I am an Indian national, living in Kuwait since 1998, with a valid work permit and a residency under Article 18. I reside in a studio apartment in Maidan Hawally with my wife and daughter, both of whom have valid dependent visas under Article 22.

On Thursday, Sept 15, 2016 at around 10:30 am, I was leaving for work in my vehicle. I had just finished changing the engine oil of my vehicle at the neighborhood garage and was still in the inner street when a policeman stopped me, asking for my driving license and registration. Upon producing of the required documents, he told me that I was not wearing a seatbelt and that he would issue a ticket for a traffic violation.

Despite my protests that I had just moved the vehicle from the garage and not even touched the main road, he insisted on the payment of the spot fine. Since I was not carrying any cash on my person, I requested to pay the fine at the traffic department, but he was adamant that I should pay the fine on the spot and made me return to my apartment to bring cash.

Upon payment of KD 10 in cash, he started leaving without issuing any receipt. When I insisted on a receipt for KD 10, he threatened me, saying that he would impound my vehicle. He pocketed the amount and left without issuing any receipt. He was not even wearing his badge.

I request you to kindly visualize a situation where this police officer harasses and fleeces several gullible victims a day and pockets all cash collections. What a terrible damage to the image of the country and the reputation of its police force!

I request the authorities to identify this police officer and initiate appropriate disciplinary action against him.

— A reader

# MEW SEALS CABLE DEAL

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmed Al-Jassar yesterday signed a contract to supply and install 132 kilovolt land cables insulated with XLPE at a total cost of KD 13,623,000. The MEW committee entrusted with developing the uses of renewable energy yesterday held its fifth meeting at the Ministry's headquarters to discuss and document uses of renewable energy in Kuwait, as instructed by HH the Amir to provide at least 15 percent of the total power production through renewable energy resources. The meeting was headed by Jassar. The meeting included a presentation by the head of the technical committee Dr Salah Al-Mudhieh that reviewed 54 projects around Kuwait using renewable energy.

**Islamic State case**

After releasing his mother and placing her on travel ban lists at an earlier hearing, the Criminal Court yesterday rejected a request to release citizen Abu Torab, accused of joining IS in Syria. The court also adjourned hearing the case till Oct 18 pending summoning a witness.

**Cooking gas cylinders**

In view of the growing demand for cooking gas cylinders and the danger posed by truckloads of these cylinders on various roads, KFSD urged owners of cooking gas cylinder transport companies and trucks and various co-ops to check with its prevention sector departments in various areas by Dec 1, 2016 on the new conditions for obtaining a KFSD license for their trucks. All violating trucks after this date would face legal measures, warned KFSD's prevention sector manager Brig Khaled Abdullah.

**Spring camping season**

Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfuohi strongly denied shortening the spring camping season and stressed that it would continue for five months - starting from the beginning of November and ending on March 31 as usual. Notably, EPA had demanded reducing the season to three months starting from Dec 1 and ending on March 1 in order to protect the ecological balance of Kuwaiti deserts.

**The new curricula**

MoE's Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Fatima Al-Kandari said in collaboration with the World Bank, the Ministry's Educational Research and Curriculum sector trained all grade one teachers on the new curricula, adding that 12,000 more teachers would get the similar training on grade two and six curricula.

**100 Quran centers**

Awqaf Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Quran Affairs Waleed Al-Ammar announced the beginning of registration for the first semester at all 100 Quran centers around Kuwait. He added that registration, that began on Sept 18, would be on according to each center's capacity and that studies would start on Sept 25.

Undersecretary of the ministry of awqaf and Islamic affairs Fareed Emadi stressed that this year' hajj season was very successful and that Saudi Arabia, that has historically been able to serve pilgrims, proved its capabilities to the entire world through the world's largest congregation.

A fight took place yesterday at the courts complex between the two sides of a murder case currently being heard in court, said security sources.

Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ali Al-Omair stressed that the relation between executives and legislators has always been strong.

Speaking on receiving visitors congratulating him on Eid and his return from a medical treatment trip, Ali explained that the constitution does not allow having a government with elected ministers and stressed that calls to dismiss current ministers who are MPs - like himself - would mean appointing others. "The whole thing is up to HH the Amir," he stressed.

The CTC has approved a request by MPW to announce the final assessment of the offer made by Feraih Abdul Rahman Al-Feraih's consultancy office to study, design and supervise the execution of constructing the voluntary work center building in the Capital governorate, announcing that the offer assessment result was 67.9 percent.

Mol extended the deadline to apply for a tender to hire

1,000 patrol and military vehicles for various ministry sectors until Oct 9, 2016. CTC also announced that the information ministry offered two special tenders for bidding to provide backup Internet services for the ministry's data systems and e-services.

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## Special Report

## News

in brief

# KUWAIT'S DRIVE TOWARD FUEL SUBSIDY RATIONALIZATION

## COST-SAVING MEASURE - PART OF A LARGER ECONOMIC STRATEGY

**KUWAIT:** The government's recent decision to make cuts to Kuwait's petrol subsidy system is expected to boost state coffers amid lower global oil prices, despite some push-back from organized labor. In June, Adnan Abdulsamad, head of the National Assembly's budget committee, announced plans to reduce allocations for petrol subsidies to KD 238 million (\$790 million) in FY 2016/17, significantly lower than the estimated KD 4 billion (\$13.3 billion) previously spent annually. The cost-saving measure is part of a larger economic strategy aimed at reforming the public sector and increasing private sector participation in economic development.

### Subsidy removals save money

Following an earlier move to remove subsidies on diesel and kerosene, launched last year, the new system will be carried out in stages. In August, authorities announced petrol prices would increase significantly beginning in September, with price hikes ranging from 40 percent to more than 80 percent depending on the grade. The price of low-octane petrol rose by 41 percent to .85 fils (\$0.28) per liter, high-grade petrol by 61 percent to 105 fils (\$0.35) per liter and low-emission ultra petrol by 83 percent to 165 fils (\$0.55) per liter. Public transport and taxi fares were also raised to reflect the higher petrol cost, though they remain the lowest in the GCC, according to statements from the Ministry of Interior.

### From theory to practice

This marks the first time in nearly two decades that the state has increased petrol prices, making Kuwait the last GCC country to do so following the mid-2014 oil price crash, which saw Brent crude fall from more than \$115 per barrel to less than \$30 this January. Prices have since recovered somewhat, to around \$48 as of early September. Energy subsidies have long been a significant



**KUWAIT:** A motorist buys fuel at a gas station. Kuwait government's recent decision to make cuts to Kuwait's petrol subsidy system is expected to boost state coffers amid low global oil prices, despite some push-back from organized labor.

expense for the state, equivalent to between 1.3 percent and 5.7 percent of Kuwait's GDP per year, according to World Bank estimates, which take into account environmental, health and other externalities.

### International response

A firm decision to increase prices sends a strong signal that the government is intent on implementing a series of sweeping economic reforms, as highlighted by the six-

point economic strategy unveiled by Anas Khalid Al Saleh, deputy prime minister, minister of finance and acting minister of oil, in February. The plan emphasizes financial reforms, increasing private sector participation in economic development, as well as changes to the labor market and public sector. These reforms are also seen as critical for sustainable long-term growth, particularly given the record KD8.7 billion (\$29 billion) deficit forecast for FY 2016/17. A host of inter-

national stakeholders, including the World Bank, have praised the government's decision.

"Energy subsidy reforms provide a significant opportunity to... reform the energy sector and remove the inefficiencies along the value chain," the bank said in a statement days after the price hikes were announced. "The current environment of low oil prices presents an opportunity to reform energy subsidies with minimal impact on consumers, while generating fiscal savings at a time when fiscal pressures are increasing." The World Bank added that it expects subsidy reforms to encourage the development of labor-intensive industries, another top priority in the country's drive to foster non-energy growth.

### Potential roadblocks

Government plans could prove problematic, however, as a result of pushback from labor unions, which are much more robust and politically active than elsewhere in the GCC. Indeed, on August 10, the central council of the Labor Union of Kuwait announced a rejection of the petrol subsidy removal. This is not the first time the state has attempted to cancel or reduce its subsidies. Other recent efforts - including a fuel price hike announced in January of last year - have met with resistance in parliament and were delayed as result.

Additionally, earlier planned reforms to the salary and bonus schemes of energy workers triggered a three-day strike in April, during which time oil output fell from 3m to roughly 1.1m barrels per day. Although the World Bank notes that per liter petrol prices in Kuwait will still be roughly half of those paid in Europe - and indeed the lowest in the GCC - the government will likely continue to face some resistance in rolling back popular subsidies.

*This Kuwait economic update was produced by Oxford Business Group.*

### Kuwait's new Consul

**JEDDAH:** Kuwait's newly appointed Consul General in Jeddah Wael Yusuf Al-Enezi has delivered his credentials to Saudi officials. This took place during his meeting with the Saudi Foreign Ministry's office chief in Jeddah, Ambassador Mohammad Al-Tayeb yesterday. Al-Enezi said that he is willing to enhance bilateral relations, and to further promote cooperation for the common interest of both nations and their people in all fields.



**Chairwoman of Kuwait Girl Guides Association (KGGA) Hind Al-Houli participates in the 21st World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Arab Regional Conference. — KUNA**

### Arab Scouts Conference

**DOHA:** Chairwoman of Kuwait Girl Guides Association (KGGA) Hind Al-Houli stressed yesterday the importance of unifying visions to improve the Arab Girl Guides movement. Al-Houli made her remarks on the sidelines of her participation in the 21st World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Arab Regional Conference. She added that the main vision of the Scouts associations is to empower girls' capabilities to their societies and the world. The conference which aims at improving the Arab Girl Guides movement will discuss the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts movement growth strategies and the achievement of the Arab Region of Girl Guides objectives.



**Chairman of FANA and Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah.**

### FANA to employ tech

**TUNIS:** Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) called on employing technology to enhance the performance of Arab News agencies amidst a fierce surge of digital media. Chairman of FANA and Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah said yesterday, at the conclusion of FANA's two-day meeting that the key to carrying on and providing quality of service is to enhance the performance of Arab media to enable them to deliver biased and transparent news to the public. "As Chairman of FANA, I can say that Arab news agencies are striving to build relations of professionalism based on delivering news subjectively with other news outlets," he said, adding that having this level of expertise ensures that Arab agencies perform in line with its founding regulations. He added that despite the widely spread of social networks and digital contents yet traditional news agencies are still needed for their accurate and subjective deliverance of content. He also stressed that Arab media outlets play a vital role in promoting healthy image of Arab culture that has been tarnished lately.

### 6th edition of green schools

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) launched yesterday the sixth edition of the green schools program for the new school year 2016-2017, in public and private schools. The sixth edition will witness many applications of the program as well as a new environmental protection measure that will educate the students about the program during the new school year 2016-2017, KEPS' Secretary General Jenan Behzad said. The students will be trained to take on the role of spreading the new program and any important information at the familial and societal spheres, Bahzah added. The program will be in cooperation with different educational and scientific intuitions aiming at making radical changes in the environmental behavior in the society.

### PAS hails Ashkanani

**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Sports (PAS) yesterday hailed the accomplishment achieved by the Kuwaiti bodybuilder Ahmed Ashkanani in the Mr Olympia bodybuilding championship for professional class that was held recently in Las Vegas, USA. The Authority said in a press statement that Ashkanani clinched a silver medal in the 212 lbs category accomplishing a historic achievement for the sport of bodybuilding in Kuwait. For his part, acting Director General of the Authority Dr Hamoud Fulaiteh expressed satisfaction at Ashkanani's achievement which affirmed that Kuwait has many talents, and that the Authority is keen to support various collective and individual sports and provide all the capabilities for the Kuwaiti champions.

## Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** Photo shows solar panels lining the walking track in the Kuwait neighborhood of Khaldiya. Solar panels to generate electricity have been installed in several areas around Kuwait in recent months in a bid to reduce reliance of fossil fuels and improve Kuwait's energy profile. — Photo by Yasser Al Zayyat

## ADDRESS 'CAUSES OF CONFLICTS', KUWAIT URGES WORLD LEADERS

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait has called for addressing causes of regional conflicts in order to tackle the rising number of refugees and immigrants - highlighting its huge financial aid to those in need worldwide. "We emphasize the need to act urgently to address the causes of those conflicts (in the

region), and work towards reaching political solutions to stop the bloodshed, compel the parties to those conflicts, (and) to shoulder their responsibilities to protect civilians," First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said.

### Movements of Refugees

He was addressing a high-level summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. He said the parties of all conflicts should allow access of humanitarian aid to those who deserve it, respect UN Charter, international humanitarian law, human rights law, and international refugee law. "We also need to activate the international mechanisms to criminalize all internationally banned acts, and insist that impunity cannot be an option in armed conflicts," he asserted. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said the proliferation of conflicts and civil wars in Middle East have political, economic, social, development and humanitarian consequences.

This, he added, "must drive us to foster our joint action to address the extraordinary conditions being endured by the people in the region, especially in Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Somalia." Kuwait, said the senior official, has been providing humanitarian assistance to all countries in need, exceeding two billion dollars over the past five years, or 2.1 percent of GDP. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said today's summit was being held in "exceptional" circumstances due to the growing number of humanitarian crises caused by armed conflicts or natural disasters, forcing over 65 million people to be either refugees or internally displaced, in addition to 224 million migrants registered in 2015.

He urged the UN to create innovative mechanisms and creative ideas with objective of dealing with crises whose numbers

have multiplied significantly during the past 10 years, and were claiming lives of civilians, women, children and the elderly. He urged the international community to work on protecting those peoples from the danger of drifting towards the vicious circle of violence and terrorism.

### Xenophobia, fanaticism

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said the international community must also combat so-called "xenophobia," fanaticism and violence against refugees and migrants in order to fulfill their aspirations and hopes to live in peace and security, as well as enabling them to live a free and dignified life. He also called for solving the plight of Palestinian refugees who were suffering from the oppressive injustice for almost seven decades. "We affirm their (Palestinian) right of return, and call for a just solution for their plight," in line with UN General Assembly resolution 194 and the Arab Peace Initiative, he said, calling for continued support for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled noted that the adoption of the political declaration of this summit represented an "important step on the path of our collective humanitarian action." Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was accompanied to the summit by Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah and UN Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi. — KUNA

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Crime

Report

POLICEMAN INSULTED

**KUWAIT:** A traffic policeman filed a complaint against a female citizen accusing her of insulting a public servant on duty. He said she insulted him when he ticketed her. Also, a drunken citizen was arrested for violating traffic rules and insulting and assaulting policemen when they gave him a ticket.

Fraud charges

A Pakistani filed a complaint against three compatriots, accusing them of fraud. The man said that the suspects took KD 7,000 from him, claiming to use it to import car engines. In another development, six Kuwaitis were separately arrested at various checkpoints and found wanted for financial claims of a total value of KD 250,000.

Homebrewed liquor

Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives raided the residence of two Asians, where they found 189 homebrewed liquor bottles they had prepared for sale. Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti was arrested in Jahra for drinking and driving dangerously.

Indian stabbed

An Indian was stabbed and injured while resisting an armed robber in Khaitan.

'Expensive joke'

A criminal investigation agent was arrested for calling a colleague and inviting him to join IS, claiming that an IS attack was imminent. The agent claimed he was joking.

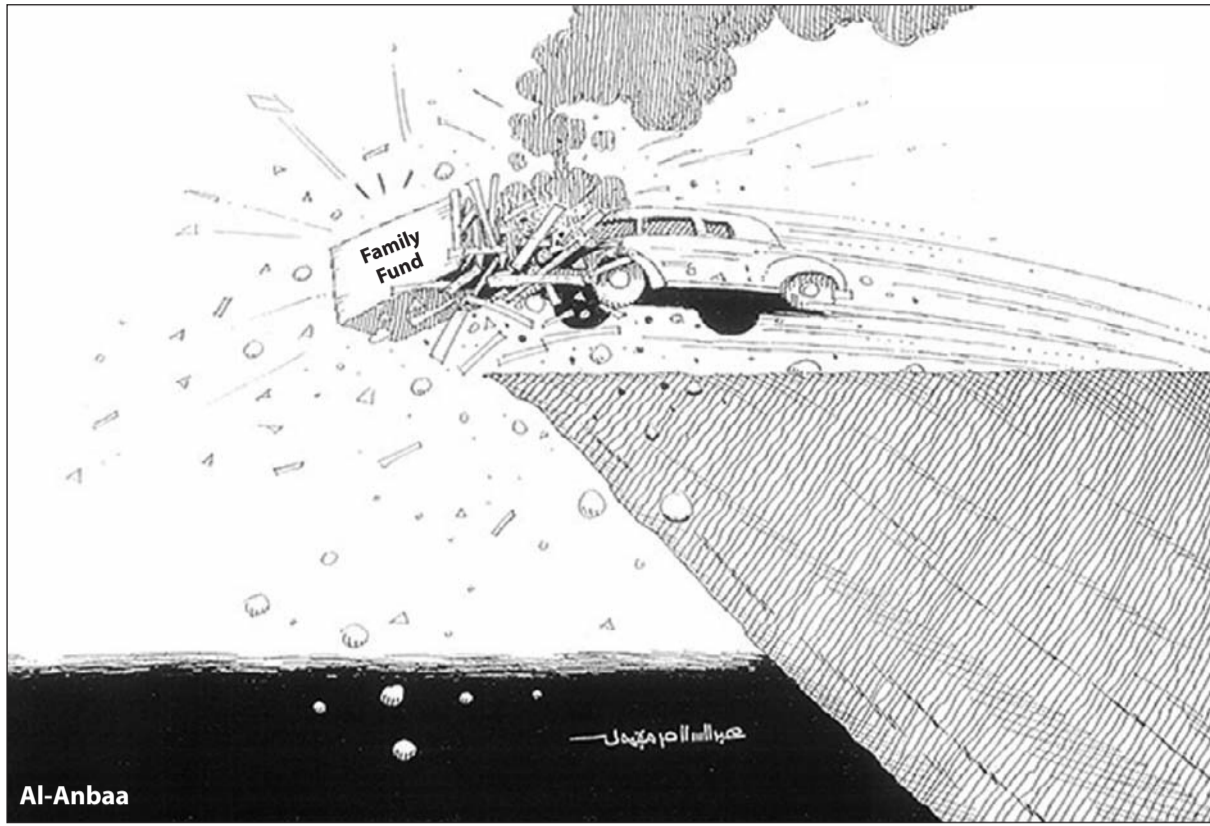
Brothel in Jleeb

Two Asians (a man and woman) were arrested in Jleeb for running a brothel and selling illicit drugs to their clients.

Weapon found

Weapon detectives found a gun and a magazine dumped in the southern chalets' area.

—Al-Rai/Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa

Al-Anbaa

KD 400M FOR ADEL IMAM'S HAIRSTYLE!

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

I failed to find an Arabic definition of the way a bald man lets his hair grow long on one side to cover his baldness. Veteran Egyptian comedian Adel Imam is probably one of the most famous actors with such a hairstyle. However, I found an English word for this hairstyle - 'comb over'. There is no record of when it originated, but it used to be historically worn by famous men like Swedish King Carl IV and the star of 1966 World Cup, Sir Bobby Charlton. This hairstyle is known as 'barcode' in Japan.

Asking many barbers about the history of this hairstyle, including people who have a career of over 30 years in the business, they failed to name it or recall its history. However, they all agreed that it helps hide baldness but does not solve the problem, because baldness continues to exist. The hairstyle is just a means to conceal it.

Well, our politicians have been generally using such solutions to tackle various problems. They hide them instead of resolving them, while both the government and the parliament try to find quick and impulsive solutions to hide problems. For instance, we were told that petrol price increase would save the state budget KD 400 million annually and that it is part of the government's reform plan to solve the problem of the budget deficit by reducing subsidies. Well, this is tinkering that only covers the baldness and does not treat it.

Instead of diversifying sources of income, encouraging the private sector and encouraging citizens to join it, the government opted to 'robbing' citizens. You have taken KD 400 million from citizens' pockets and we do not mind it, because the sum will go to the state treasury. But what have you done about diversifying sources of income and transforming Kuwait into an international financial hub? Nothing. What have you done to turn Kuwait into an attractive place for foreign capital and investors? Absolutely nothing, and thus the problem remains unresolved.

Theories are no longer useful and talking about diversifying sources of income is now outdated. We need special, real legislations to help shift the country from a state of economic recession to better, higher levels. The government needs to pass laws to do this instead of those of oppression and favors.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

THE DEVILS

Al-Anbaa

By Saad Al-Motesh

The accursed Satan disguised himself and played the first trick on mankind. He has never been seen as he actually looks. No human being has ever seen the image Almighty Allah created him with. All we know is that he was, is and will always be an enemy of all the descendants of Adam (PBUH), that he was created from fire and that he runs like blood in our veins. He and his tribes can see us while we cannot. We even stone it during hajj following the footsteps of Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH), who never described the image he saw.

When Satan came up with the sneaky idea of killing Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on the eve of the hejira, he fooled Quraysh infidels and showed up disguised as an old man from Najd, because he

knew that if he had appeared in his true image, they would have known it was Satan and many of them would have embraced Islam immediately.

So, because of such skills and Satan's ability to disguise and impersonate in many forms, we have to watch out for those speaking in the name of Islam. This warning also includes those who keep talking about patriotism as if they are our saviors who would never accept any opinions other than theirs. There are many of them among us and the first lesson we learned from our great-great grandfather Prophet Adam (PBUH) is to beware of some advisors because some of their advice might bring about devastation the way Satan did with him and had him expelled from paradise!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

*So, because of such skills and Satan's ability to disguise and impersonate in many forms, we have to watch out for those speaking in the name of Islam.*

UNIVERSITY MANAGER LAUDS KFH INTEREST IN EDUCATION

KFH PARTICIPATES IN NEW SCHOLASTIC YEAR CELEBRATIONS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has participated in the new scholastic year festivals organized by Kuwait University and the commencement of the New Year in the history of education in Kuwait. This participation comes as an appreciation from KFH of the significance of education for society and the economic development activity in general as well as the role of Kuwait University.

KFH public relations team represented KFH in the ceremony which was attended by a large number of university officials and professors headed by Dr Professor Hussein Al-

Ansari and General Secretary Dr Professor Mohammed Al-Fares in addition to faculty deans, heads and officers. Latest updates on the educational process were viewed including all preparations made to make the New Year a success. It was reiterated that all means and tools must be provided to achieve the highest level of academic education and assist both students and professors to achieve their ambitions and distinctions in education.

University Manager Dr Hussein Al-Ansari has praised KFH role in sponsoring and supporting students and their projects. KFH is also appreciated for its great interest in the educational process which is considered as a highly significant pillar in the society development in general. The educational process is also considered as one of the main elements a strong economy while coping with the latest developments worldwide. He reiterated that KFH presence in such ceremonies and its practices in this field are considered as a model for all private sector entities to show more interest in education centers and spread knowledge.



KFH PR team poses for a group photo with University officials.



**KUWAIT:** The Ambassador of the Slovak Republic Pavol Svetik hosted a reception on the occasion of Slovak's National Day at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Top officials, diplomats and media representatives attended the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



**Indian, Pakistani troops exchange fire in Kashmir**

**8 NEW ARRESTS IN FRANCE TRUCK ATTACK THAT KILLED 86 IN NICE**



**NEW YORK: Mayor Bill de Blasio, left, and New York Police Department Commissioner James O'Neill, center, arrive for a news conference to announce the arrest of bombing suspect Ahmad Kahn Rahami, right, shown on a display, Monday Sept. 19, 2016, at police headquarters. —AP**

**RAHAMI 'FRIENDLY,' BUT CHANGED AFTER AFGHAN VISIT**  
 SUSPECT WAS GENEROUS WITH FREE FOOD



**HAVANA: In this picture hand-out by Estudios Revolucion, the Iranian President Hasan Rohani (L) is received by former Cuban President Fidel Castro (R) in his house of Havana, on September 19, 2016. —AFP**

**IRAN'S PRESIDENT IN CUBA, MEETS CASTROS**

**HAVANA:** Iranian President Hassan Rouhani arrived in Cuba Monday where he met with his counterpart, Raul Castro, and the Cuban president's older brother and predecessor, Fidel Castro. Rouhani had said ahead of the one-day visit that he wanted to stop in Cuba, a "friendly and revolutionary country," on his way to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The visit follows one in August by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who said Iran sees this as "a very opportune moment" to reinforce its ties with the communist island. Officials are due to sign a series of deals, expected to include

one on energy. Cuba is keen for oil as its key supplier, Venezuela, has dramatically cut its once generous discount sales amid an economic crisis.

United mainly by their shared history of enmity with the United States, Iran and Cuba often back each other in the international arena. Tehran has vocally condemned the US embargo on Cuba, and Havana has supported Iran's right to a civilian nuclear program.

The Castro regime's resentment over the more than five-decade embargo, which remains in place, is still strong despite the renewal of diplomatic ties with Washington last year. —AFP

**NEW YORK:** To neighbors and customers of his family's storefront chicken takeout, Ahmad Khan Rahami was a friendly, quiet presence behind the counter who liked talking about cars and was generous with free food.

So when the 28-year-old Afghan immigrant was apprehended Monday as the lead person of interest in bombings in New York and New Jersey, those who knew him expressed shock, questioning whether his turn to religiosity in recent years might have hinted at views otherwise kept hidden.

Rahami's father and brothers had long nursed tensions with neighbors and officials in Elizabeth, New Jersey, over the restaurant's late hours, a conflict the family claimed in a lawsuit was the result of discrimination against them as Muslims. But Ahmad Rahami's demeanor - increasingly devout but more likely to talk about worldly pursuits than his faith - never hinted at anything but goodwill, customers said. "He'd always talk about his cars. He loved his Civics, he loved going fast," said Ryan McCann, a frequent customer at First American Fried Chicken, the restaurant that Rahami's father, Mohammed Rahami, has run since 2002. "He was so friendly he'd give us free chicken here and there, just because we shopped there so much."

**'Clear as day'**

Ahmad Rahami, a naturalized US citizen, was taken into custody after a shootout with police in Linden, a nearby town. A law enforcement official says fingerprints and surveillance video helped investigators identify him as the man suspected of setting off bombs in the New York area over the weekend. The official says he's seen in surveillance footage "clear as day" at the scene of the Saturday night bombing in Manhattan.

The official says investigators recovered his fingerprints from the scene. Rahami wasn't on any terror or no-fly watch lists, a law enforcement official said, but he'd been interviewed by officials for immigration purposes. Another law enforcement official says investigators pulled over a car carrying three men and two women "associated" with Rahami when it appeared headed toward an airport Sunday.

The officials spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the case. As FBI agents removed bags of evidence from the restaurant Monday, officials and residents

recalled Rahami and his family, who shared an apartment over the business.

Flee Jones, 27, who said he'd known Rahami since they were teenagers, told reporters he'd noticed a change in Rahami's personality after a trip to Afghanistan in 2014. When Rahami returned, he "got more religious" and dressed differently than before, Jones said. "He was more quiet and more mature," Jones said. "I said, 'Oh, where have you been?' And he said, 'Oh, vacation.' But I knew he went to Afghanistan because his little brother said it."

A photo of Rahami, published in the Edison High School yearbook when he graduated in 2007, shows him with a carefully groomed goatee, wearing a crimson vest and tie. Rahami went on to attend Middlesex County College from 2010 to 2012, majoring in criminal justice, but didn't graduate.

Andre Almeida, a customer at the restaurant for the past eight years, said he noticed when Rahami stopped wearing Western clothes after returning from Afghanistan and started wearing "a little more ethnic clothing."

**Previous charges**

Rahami was accused of stabbing a relative in 2014, but a grand jury declined to proceed with criminal charges, court records show. He also was accused of violating a domestic-violence restraining order in 2012.

A Democratic New Jersey congressman, Albio Sires, said Rahami contacted his office from Pakistan in 2014 seeking help because his wife had an expired Pakistani passport.

Sires said his office wrote a letter to the US embassy in Pakistan to check on the status of the case and the woman eventually received a visa. He said he didn't know if she ever came to the country, and the FBI didn't answer when asked on Monday. Neighbors had complained to Elizabeth officials that the Rahamis' restaurant was a late-night nuisance, Democratic Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage said.

Rahami's father and two brothers sued the city in 2011 after Elizabeth police said the restaurant stayed open past 10 p.m. in violation of a local ordinance. The Rahamis charged in the lawsuit they were targeted by police because they're Muslims.

The harassment, the lawsuit alleged, was based largely on the complaints to officials by one neighbor who regularly walked into the

restaurant to tell them that "Muslims don't belong here" and "Muslims are trouble."

Adjudication of the lawsuit was put on hold in 2011 when the elder Rahami traveled to Pakistan and was unable to return to the US in time, court filings show. The lawsuit was terminated in 2012 after one of the brothers, Mohammed K. Rahami, pleaded guilty to blocking police from enforcing restrictions on the restaurant. But neighbors aware of tensions over the restaurant said Ahmad Rahami was easy to get along with, if somewhat reserved. "He was just very quiet," said Jorge Vasquez, who owns a business a block over and frequently visited the restaurant.

As police searched for Ahmad Rahami on Monday, the owner of a bar in Linden found a man sleeping in his hallway. The man was initially presumed to be a vagrant, but police officers who responded quickly realized it was Rahami, Democratic Linden Mayor Derek Armstead said. Armstead said the man pulled out a handgun and fired at the officers, hitting one in a bulletproof vest. He said the man then began firing as he ran down the street and police shot him in the leg.

Rahami was charged with attempted murder of a law enforcement officer, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, prosecutors said. Bail was set at \$5.2 million. —AP

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## PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA'S MACRI TO KEEP VOW ON SYRIAN REFUGEES

**BUENOS AIRES:** Having escaped the civil war in her homeland to find refuge in Argentina, Nairouz Baloul hopes the South American nation will now welcome many more Syrians like her to begin a new life. President Mauricio Macri has said he wants to allow more than 3,000 Syrian refugees into Argentina. But the plan has stalled, and organizations and members of Argentina's Syrian community are pressuring the administration to keep its promise. If he has the key to unlock this, I think he shouldn't hesitate to open the door to other human beings, Baloul, 29, an English teacher who escaped what she calls a living nightmare in Syria.

One of her brothers was killed by a bomb in Damascus in 2014. She prefers not to speak about it but since she arrived in Buenos Aires last month with another brother, she has become hopeful that the rest of their family will be able to join them in Argentina. It feels safe now, but I'm not totally happy because I want others to be safe as well, Baloul said. Foreign Minister Susana Malcorra said Monday that the government is fully committed to bringing in 3,000 Syrians, but she warned that a timeline has not been set. It will not happen from one day to the next, she said. But we have a commitment because Argentina is a country of immigrants, of refugees, and it's unlikely that any of us doesn't have a grandfather, a great-grandfather who hasn't escaped a war, a famine. We believe this is the time to set an example, Malcorra said.

**No explanation for the delay**  
Officials have not explained the reasons for the



**BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA:** A woman watches a video of an explosion as she stands inside a mock-up Syrian home, set up by Amnesty International inside a subway station on Monday, Sept. 19, 2016. —AP

delay, although Argentina's economy is in recession and Macri has faced unrest for cutting government spending. While the government decides how to

implement the plan, dozens of Argentine families have already volunteered to welcome Syrians into their homes. Among them is Mariano Winograd, a fruit and vegetable wholesaler who received a young newlywed couple from Syria to his home earlier this year. It just wants to give back what was given to my family, Winograd said. The son of Jewish immigrants who came to Argentina to escape World War II.

Winograd, the head of a local group known as Humanitarian Refugee, works closely with an Argentine priest based in Aleppo, Syria, who helps families desperate to escape one of that country's fiercest battlegrounds. Amnesty International on Monday urged Argentina to implement a comprehensive plan for bringing in Syrian refugees.

The human rights group displayed a replica of a Syrian home that has been erected in a busy subway station in the Argentine capital. Images of relentless bombings were projected on screens on its windows in an effort to call attention to the more than 4 million Syrians who have sought refuge abroad since civil war erupted in 2011. It thinks the Argentine state has the good intention to help in this humanitarian crisis, but it is limited (by resources).

But for us, the economic excuse is not valid, said Leah Tandeter, head of international justice for Amnesty International's local branch. Macri and other world leaders in New York for the UN General Assembly meeting on Monday discussed the situation of the world's 65.3 million displaced people. The talks were held as the first summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. —AP

## US CLINGS TO HOPE OF TRUCE AS SYRIA SINKS INTO CHAOS

### CEASEFIRE IN QUESTION

**NEW YORK:** As Syria plunged back into bloodshed and the UN suspended humanitarian aid convoys yesterday, world powers struggled to convince themselves that a ceasefire can be salvaged.

US Secretary of State John Kerry insisted that US-Russian attempts to broker a truce in the civil war are "not dead" and promised international talks will resume this week. President Barack Obama backed his top diplomat, saying a short time later that there was "no ultimate military victory to be won" and calling on nations to pursue the "hard work" of diplomacy. But Kerry's terse declaration, after a brief meeting in New York of the International Syria Support Group, could not conceal a pessimistic mood among his fellow foreign ministers.

Kerry arrived for the ISSG meeting with his Russian opposite number and constant sparring partner Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, co-chair of the 23-nation group. Relations between the nominal partners were already at a low ebb after a mistaken US-led coalition air strike on Saturday killed dozens of Syrian soldiers.

envoy Staffan de Mistura a chance to insist that the process has not collapsed. The talks lasted less than an hour and participants said the mood was tense but serious. Kerry's spokesman John Kirby said the ministers "agreed that, despite continued violence, there was still an imperative to pursue a nationwide cessation of hostilities based on the arrangement reached last week in Geneva between the United States and Russia. "Quite frankly, the Kerry-Lavrov process is the only show in town and we've got to get that show back on the road," Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said.

His French counterpart Jean-Marc Ayrault warned that trust was breaking down in the US-Russian partnership and said other countries should help push the process forward. "It was a fairly dramatic meeting, the mood was gloomy. Is there hope? I can't answer that yet, but we should do everything we can," he told reporters. "The US-Russian negotiation has reached its limit. There's a lot left unsaid. The Russians and the Americans can't do it alone."

Officials said participants had agreed to

#### 'Savage attack'

US officials have demanded that Russia take responsibility for what they said was an air strike on a UN aid convoy near the northern city of Aleppo by either Russian or allied Syrian warplanes. The Russian defense ministry has denied any role in the attack, attempting to point the figure at rebels against Bashar al-Assad's Syrian regime. A short distance across Manhattan at the UN meeting, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon denounced the "sickening, savage and apparently deliberate attack" that left around 20 dead.

And Germany's Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier confirmed that it had poisoned the mood at the ISSG, where delegates were "heavy with indignation." "All were clearly aware of the fact that we find ourselves once more at a threshold for Syria," he said. "There's only one viable path for Syria and that is to always make a new effort to reduce violence. In order to achieve this, also the regional powers have to do more."

#### Fighting rages

Meanwhile, air raids and shelling continued on frontlines around Syria, where more than 300,000 have died since Assad began efforts to suppress a popular revolt.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 27 barrel bombs crude explosives packed with scraps of metal were dropped on Aleppo on yesterday. Monday's strike on the aid convoy provoked outrage from UN officials, with aid chief Stephen O'Brien warning that if deliberate, "it would amount to a war crime."

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said Monday night's raid destroyed at least 18 of 31 vehicles and a Red Crescent warehouse. "Much of the aid was destroyed," the IFRC said, stressing that "the attack deprives thousands of civilians of much-needed food and medical assistance." Omar Barakat, who headed the local Red Crescent branch, was wounded in the strike and later died, IFRC spokesman Benoit Carpentier told reporters in Geneva. The strike came just hours after the Syrian army announced the end of the truce Monday, accusing rebels of failing to "commit to a single element" of the US-Russia deal.

#### 'Barrel bombs'

Aleppo residents spent the night huddled in their apartments sharing news via text messages and heard loud intermittent booms early yesterday. The ceasefire was already under strain after a US-led coalition strike on Saturday hit a Syrian army post near the eastern city of Deir Ezzor.

Washington says coalition forces were targeting the jihadist Islamic State group, which is not party to the ceasefire and hit the soldiers, by mistake. —AFP



**ALEPPO:** Aid is seen strewn across the floor in the town of Orum al-Kubra on September 20, 2016. —AFP

Then, on Monday, the negotiations appeared doomed after the Syrian army declared an end to the US-Russian brokered ceasefire and a UN aid convoy was hit in an air strike. But Kerry nevertheless took the opportunity of the ISSG members being gathered in New York for the United Nations General Assembly to convene crisis talks. The mood was grim and the brief meeting inconclusive, but it allowed Kerry and UN peace

reconvene—probably on Friday but analysts warned that more failures would not come without political costs. Without a ceasefire, attempts to deliver aid to starving civilians or to broker a political dialogue will fail. "A failed ceasefire means that the other two prongs of the approach are doomed," Emile Hokayem from the International Institute for Strategic Studies told AFP.



**AMMAN:** A Jordanian man votes in elections yesterday. —AP

## JORDANIANS ELECT NEW PARLIAMENT

**AMMAN:** Jordanians voted yesterday for a new parliament under revised rules that officials say are meant to strengthen political parties but are seen by some as a small step, at most, toward democratic reform.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the kingdom's most organized opposition group, competed for the first time since 2007, but was not expected to win enough seats to challenge control of parliament by establishment candidates, including tribal representatives.

The vote comes at a time of regional turmoil, including domestic and external security threats to pro-Western Jordan by Islamic State extremists who control large areas in neighboring Syria and Iraq. In holding regular elections, Jordan seeks to strengthen its image as an island of stability in the region.

However, parliament is weak, with most powers remaining in the hands of King Abdullah II. Polls have indicated widespread voter apathy, predicting more than half of potential voters won't cast a ballot, despite the participation of the Brotherhood. Polls had been scheduled to close at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT), but voting was extended by an hour in 15 of 23 districts, including the cities of Amman, Irbid and Zarqa. Further extensions were possible, said Independent Election Commission spokesman Jihad Momani, citing a late voter surge. In principle, more than 4.1 million Jordanians older than 17 were eligible to vote, but those presently abroad - about 1 million according to Momani - cannot cast ballots. By 7 p.m., 1.42 million Jordanians had voted.

#### Voter increase by half since 2013

The potential voter pool was half that size in 2013, when voters had to pre-register and turnout reached 56 percent. Voter Nour al-Ghwairi, 44, said she hoped the new parliament would tackle Jordan's economic difficulties, such as rising joblessness, particularly among the young. "The country suffers from unemployment and other problems," she said after voting in the Jabal Hussein neighborhood of the capital, Amman. Elsewhere in central Amman, 71-year-old Othman Abu Felah said he didn't

bother voting because "it doesn't help anything." Katrina Sammour, a political researcher, said she would cast a blank ballot in protest because she believes parliament is weak and no party or list addresses her concerns.

Prime Minister Hani al-Mulki, appointed in May after the king dissolved the outgoing parliament, said that Jordan is proud to hold elections in a stable atmosphere. "We resort to ballot boxes and to the electoral process to select the path for the future, and we don't resort to anything else," he said, apparently referring to escalating conflicts in the region. Tuesday's election is being held under new rules that replace the "one man, one vote" system. The old method, in place since 1993, had discouraged the formation of political parties.

Critics said the latest electoral reforms have fallen short and are unlikely to lead to meaningful change. They said they expect the new parliament to be similar to the outgoing one - largely made up of individuals with competing, narrow interests.

#### New rules

Under new voting rules, voters chose candidates from lists in 23 electoral districts. In all, 1,252 candidates ran on 226 lists. Only six percent of the lists are affiliated with a specific political party, 11 percent have some party representatives, 39 percent are independent and 43 percent are based on tribal affiliations, according to the International Republican Institute, a U.S.-based non-partisan group that seeks to promote democracy. "While there might be some consolidation compared to previous parliaments, you are still going to see a parliament of individuals," said Ramsey Day, the IRI's Jordan director. He said this is "some-what inconsistent" with what has been cited as the ultimate goal of democratic reforms, a government formed by parliament. "While this (election) might take a step forward toward that, it's quite a small step," he said. Anja Wehler-Schoeck, Jordan director of Germany's Friedrich Ebert Foundation, said that "we are still very far from" a robust parliamentary democracy. —AP

## TRUMP, CLINTON COMPETE TO MEET TOP LEADERS IN NEW YORK

**NEW YORK:** Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton met Egypt's president in New York on Monday as the two US presidential candidates tried to bolster their diplomatic credentials at the United Nations.

Democratic standard-bearer Clinton said last week that she would meet Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, along with leaders from Japan and Ukraine on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. She spent more than an hour locked in private discussions with the Egyptian leader, with aides later saying they had discussed issues ranging from counter-terrorism to human rights. Trump's meeting with Sisi—the first time the Republican presidential candidate has met a leader from the Muslim world—appeared to be a response to his opponent's program. The former reality TV star, who has previously called for a ban on Muslims entering the United States, spoke with Sisi at New York's La Guardia airport, after flying in from Florida.

Trump told Sisi—who has been much-criticized by rights groups for his intolerance of dissent—that "under a Trump administration, the United States of America will be a loyal friend, not simply an ally, that Egypt can count on." Trump has called for "extreme vetting" of refugees entering the United States along with a ban on people from "terrorist nations." But he also told Sisi about "his high regard for peace-loving Muslims," according to a statement released by his campaign. In an interview with Fox television earlier on Monday, Trump alluded to the impending visit, saying that meetings with other foreign leaders were also on his agenda. —AFP



**NEW YORK:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump (L) looks on as Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi speaks during a meeting at the Plaza Hotel on September 19, 2016. —AP

## 2 MISSING CALIFORNIA TODDLERS FOUND DEAD IN NEIGHBOR'S POOL

**FRESNO:** Two toddlers drowned in their next-door neighbor's swimming pool after apparently wandering out of their home Monday. No foul play was suspected, police said. The 2-year-old girl and 3-year-old boy were being watched by their great-grandmother when they left the house sometime Monday morning. Family members searched for the children for an hour before calling police, Fresno Police Lt. Joe Gomez said. The children were last seen in a room with access to a garage that had its door open. Investigators believe the toddlers left their home through the garage and walked to the neighbor's house.

They entered the neighbor's yard through an open gate and climbed or squeezed through a 4-foot high wrought

iron fence surrounding the pool, Gomez said. "There were some boxes next to the fence they could have used to climb over it," he said. "It appears to be an extremely unfortunate tragic accident."

Their next-door neighbor, Elizabeth Valle, found the kids in her pool after a police officer asked her for permission to search her backyard. Valle told the Fresno Bee that she screamed and jumped into the pool, as did one of the officers. The boy was floating in the water, and the girl was found at the bottom. Officers and paramedics tried to revive the children, Valle said. They were pronounced dead at a hospital. Valle told the newspaper she found the same children unattended in her backyard about six months ago and walked them home. —AP



# A TRUMPIAN APPROACH TO FUNDRAISING

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump is underwriting his presidential bid by selling the Donald Trump lifestyle - and campaign finance records show it is working. For the low price of \$25, you can snag a Trump Gold Card emblazoned with your name or join a campaign "Board of Directors" that comes with a personalized certificate. For \$30, there's Trump's signature hats - billed as "the most popular product in America." Supporters can elevate themselves to "big league" by ponying up \$184 for a signed, "now out of print" copy of Trump's book, "The Art of the Deal."

There's a catch to some of these merchandizing claims. There is no evidence the board of directors exists. "The Art of the Deal" is still in print, available for \$9.34 in paperback. And the new campaign edition of the book is signed by an autopen, not Trump, as noted in the solicitation's fine print.

Regardless, the appeals have paid off. Trump's campaign says it has 2.1 million donors despite having just begun fundraising in earnest three months ago.

Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, who has been amassing a donor rolodex for decades, has 2.3 million contributors, her campaign says. People giving \$200 or less make up about half of his campaign funds, according to federal fundraising reports through July. For Clinton, those small gifts account for about 19 percent.

"His brand appeals to quite a number of people," said John Thompson, digital fundraising director for Ted Cruz's Republican presidential campaign. "It's smart for him to use it for fundraising. The celebrity factor builds a natural donor community on its own, without him having to do too much."

### Natural fit for Trump

Hyperbolic campaign marketing is a natural fit for Trump, who has puffed up the value of what he sold throughout his business career. At times, Trump has sold golf memberships or Trump University seminars at a "discount" from an imaginary, inflated price; and he has declared condo projects close to selling out when

in reality they were struggling. "You want to say it in the most positive way possible," Trump once told attorneys who asked him whether he had ever lied about his properties to sell them. "I'm no different from a politician running for office." Perhaps it is no surprise, then, that his campaign has adopted that same approach, outpacing Clinton on campaign merchandise while running a brisk retail operation that helps him raise the money for, among other things, crucial get-out-the-vote efforts and advertising to spread his message. Trump's appeals for smaller contributions are reminiscent of Bernie Sanders, whose signature line in the Democratic primary this year was that his campaign was paid for by \$27 donations. Sanders' digital fundraiser, Michael Whitney, questioned whether Trump's small donor haul would continue since it does not appear the campaign has done much to get email addresses that could be turned into fresh batches of new potential donors. "This feels more like a battering ram than a well-thought-out digital program," Whitney said.

### Gold cards

One of Trump's most frequent fundraising offers has been a "gold card" that identifies the holder as an Executive Member for a "one-time induction fee." "In the past, I have asked supporters for a one-time induction fee of \$100. But because of your outstanding generosity to date, I am only asking you to make a \$35 contribution," the email asks.

The Associated Press found no evidence of an online solicitation in which the card was sold for the undiscounted price of \$100.

The gold card offer is reminiscent of a Trump Visa card that became available in 2004. In a press release for it, Trump pitched it as "the best deal" and warned declining it "could get you fired."

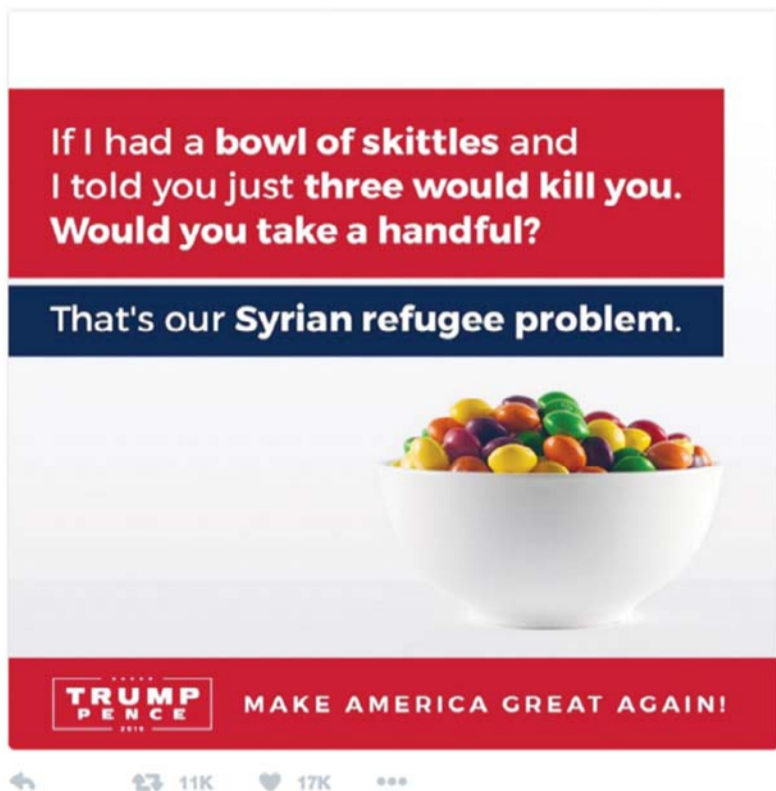
Trump also seeks to make would-be donors feel like part of the campaign. Several emails have sought "campaign advice," asked for help with debate preparation and even offered people the chance to join a campaign "board of directors." There's no evidence such a board exists, and the campaign did not

respond to questions about it. But the gold card and executive board membership gimmicks are getting results, said Tom Sather, senior director of research at the email data solutions firm Return Path. The firm measures emails much the way Nielsen measures television viewership, by extrapolating from a large panel of study participants.

Emails from the Trump campaign and Trump joint committees with the Republican Party have an average open rate of 11 percent, Sather said. The 10 gold card-related emails had a far higher open rate of 18 percent, and executive board emails had an open rate of 19 percent, he said.

"These kinds of offers intrigue people and make them feel exclusive and special," he said. Ever the marketer, Trump has also dominated the campaign swag front. In April, May and June, Trump spent about \$3 million on merchandise that's then sold to donors, an AP review of campaign finance reports found. Clinton's operation spent about \$2 million in the same time period. —AP

**Donald Trump Jr.** @DonaldJTrumpJr · 14h  
This image says it all. Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first. #trump2016



# CLINTON SAYS TRUMP GIVES 'AID, COMFORT' TO ISIS RECRUITERS

## WHO IS MORE QUALIFIED TO COMBAT TERRORISM?

**ESTERO, FLORIDA:** Hillary Clinton is accusing Donald Trump of giving "aid and comfort" to Islamic terrorists, declaring his anti-Muslim rhetoric helps the Islamic State group and other militants recruit new fighters. Trump is insisting the US should "use whatever lawful methods are available" to get information from the Afghan immigrant arrested in this weekend's bombings. As Trump supporters at a packed rally in Florida shouted "Hang him!" the Republican presidential candidate mocked the fact that Ahmad Khan Rahami, a 28-year-old US citizen originally from Afghanistan, would receive quality medical care and legal representation. "We must deliver a just and very harsh punishment to these people," he said. "These are enemies, these are combatants and we have to be tough, we have to be strong."

Both candidates moved swiftly to capitalize on investigations into a weekend of violent attacks -



**WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK:** Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks with members of the media at Westchester County Airport on Monday, Sept. 19, 2016. —AP

bombings in New York and New Jersey and stabbings at a Minnesota mall - casting themselves as most qualified to combat terrorism at home and abroad. Clinton touted her national security credentials at a hastily arranged news conference outside her campaign plane, accusing Trump of using the incidents to make "some kind of demagogic point."

her team see her experience and what they say is her steady judgment as key selling points for her candidacy. On the campaign trail, she frequently invokes her role in the 2011 raid that killed Osama bin Laden, describing to voters the tense atmosphere in the White House alongside President Barack Obama at that moment.

But while much of the foreign policy establishment has rallied around Clinton, Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric, promises to close US borders and vows to aggressively profile potential terrorists have fueled his presidential bid.

On Monday, he called for tougher policing, including profiling foreigners who look like they could have connections to terrorism or certain Middle Eastern nations. "This isn't just a matter of terrorism, this is also really a question of quality of life," he said. "We want to make sure we're only admitting people into our country who love our country." — AP

# DONALD TRUMP JR. LIKENS SYRIAN REFUGEES TO POISONED SKITTLES

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump Jr. has posted a message on Twitter likening Syrian refugees to a bowl of poisoned Skittles. Seeking to promote his father's presidential campaign, the younger Trump posted a tweet featuring a bowl of the candy Skittles with a warning. "If I had a bowl of skittles and I told you just three would kill you, would you take a handful?" said the tweet on the verified @DonaldJTrumpJr handle. "That's our Syrian refugee problem," said the post, which caused a stir and negative tweets on the internet into Tuesday. Trump Jr.'s tweet said, "This image says it all. Let's end the politically correct agenda that doesn't put America first." His father has advocated sharply restraining immigration and has accused opponent Hillary Clinton of advocating acceptance of tens of thousands of refugees.

Skittles parent company, Wrigley Americas, distanced itself from the tweet with a terse response opposing Trump Jr.'s premise. "Skittles are candy. Refugees are people. We don't feel it's an appropriate analogy," Vice President

of Corporate Affairs Denise Young said in the statement. "We will respectfully refrain from further commentary as anything we say could be misinterpreted as marketing." Trump Jr.'s tweet repeats an analogy that has been on the internet for years, using M&Ms and other foods, and targeting a variety of groups. When former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee was running for the Republican presidential nomination last year, he used peanuts to warn about the risk of admitting refugees. In a Nov. 17 interview on MSNBC, he asked, if there was a five-pound bag of peanuts and "there were about 10 peanuts that were deadly poisonous, would you feed them to your kids? The answer is no."

### Generating some controversy lately

Trump Jr. has been generating some controversy lately. Last week, he made what some took as a Holocaust-themed joke in an interview with a Philadelphia radio station, referring to "warming up the gas chamber." He has denied he was alluding to the

Holocaust. He also told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that it would be unwise for his father to release his tax returns because it would "distract" from his father's "main message." His father has repeatedly said the reason he has not released his returns is because they are being audited by the Internal Revenue Service.

Trump Jr.'s tweet came as world leaders meeting at the United Nations on Monday approved a declaration aimed at providing a more coordinated and humane response to the global refugee crisis, among which Syrians are a major grouping.

During the campaign Trump has repeatedly called for a moratorium on accepting Syrian refugees. This is part of a more wide-ranging policy on immigrants that has ranged from an outright ban on foreign Muslim immigrants entering the United States "until we know what the hell is going on" to "extreme" vetting and an ideological test for would-be immigrants from countries and regions plagued by extremism. — AFP

# FLORIDA AG DEFENDS DECISION TO TAKE MONEY FROM TRUMP

**TALLAHASSEE:** Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi yesterday defended her decision three years ago to solicit \$25,000 from Donald Trump at the same time questions were arising about Trump University.

The Republican and former prosecutor said she had no regrets about asking Trump for money and no regrets about keeping the donation even after New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman had filed a lawsuit against Trump University. "If I had returned it, you would have reported 'Bondi accepted a bribe, got caught and returned it,'" Bondi said. "That's how the reporting goes. And so, no, there was nothing improper about it. So there was no reason to return it."

The 2013 check to a committee supporting Bondi's re-election campaign from the Donald J. Trump Foundation violated a federal prohibition against charities giving money to political groups. The issue flared back to life amid media coverage of Trump's presidential campaign and the recent news that his foundation paid a \$2,500 fine to the IRS over the donation. Democrats in Washington and Florida have been demanding investigations into how Bondi's office handled questions about Trump University and the Trump Institute, companies that offered get-rich-quick real-estate seminars.

Yesterday marked the first time that Bondi - who endorsed Trump for president shortly before the Florida primary in March - answered in detail questions about her handling of the donation. Though both Trump University and the Florida-based Trump Institute had stopped offering classes by the time she took office in 2011, her office had received more than 20 complaints from upset former students who claimed they were scammed.

Trump has said in the past that he expected and received favors from politicians to whom he has given money. The Associated Press reported in June that Bondi personally asked Trump for help for her 2014 re-election. She said Tuesday that she turned to Trump because he was on a list of "friends and family" she sought money from when she first ramped up fundraising efforts. Bondi set up her accounts in early August 2013. Trump signed a check on Sept. 9 and it was received by Bondi's political committee on Sept. 17. But by that time, emails show, top officials in her office - including her chief of staff - were being asked by reporters in Florida about Schneiderman's lawsuit.

Bondi's office said at the time that it was "reviewing" the lawsuit, but it never took any other action. Bondi said her office receives tens of thousands of complaints each year. "There was never an investigation into Donald Trump by this office," Bondi said. She added that "we raise millions of dollars, that's only 25,000 in the whole scheme of a campaign." Bondi said that she was unaware that her office had been asked about the New York lawsuit until a Florida columnist highlighted the case and the donation from Trump in October 2013.

She said she tried to return the \$25,000 check to Trump this year when she found out that the money came from his foundation and not from his personal funds. But the Trump Foundation returned the money and told Bondi's accountant that Trump himself had reimbursed the money.

Even after questions were raised about the propriety of her taking money from Trump, she still welcomed the billionaire businessman's support. Trump hosted a March 2014 fundraiser for Bondi on the lawn of his palatial Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida. — AP

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## BERLIN POLITICIAN, YOUNGER MAN FOUND DEAD IN APARTMENT



BERLIN: In this Sept. 19, 2016 photo coroner's workers carry a corpse to transportation from the residence of Pirate politician Gerwald Claus-Brunner. —AP

BERLIN: A well-known member of Berlin's Pirate Party was found dead in his apartment after apparently taking his own life, along with the body of another man whom police said yesterday was killed by blunt force trauma.

Berlin police said a "farewell letter" led them to the apartment in Berlin's southwestern Steglitz neighborhood on Monday afternoon, when they found the two bodies. Autopsies performed yesterday suggest the apartment's 44-year-old tenant killed himself while the signs of blunt force trauma to the upper body the second man exhibited indicate he was slain a few days before, police said.

The victim was a "younger man, whose identity has not yet been fully confirmed," police said, adding that their homicide unit was investigating. Police did not release names, but the Pirate Party, founded a decade

ago with a focus on internet freedom, identified the 44-year-old as Gerwald Claus-Brunner, a party member who served in the Berlin state parliament.

The party said the popular politician, known for wearing a trademark bandanna and overalls, had been suffering from an "incurable illness." It said nothing about the second person. The bodies were found the day after the Pirate Party took only 1.7 percent of the votes in Berlin's state election and was voted out of parliament.

Claus-Brunner likely died before the election, however, Berlin's B.Z. newspaper said, citing law enforcement sources. Germany's Bild newspaper, also citing law enforcement sources, said the victim was approximately 29-years-old and might have been killed in another location and moved to the apartment. —AP

## 8 NEW ARRESTS IN FRANCE TRUCK ATTACK THAT KILLED 86 IN NICE

LINKED TO THE ATTACKER

PARIS: French authorities have made eight new arrests in connection with the Bastille Day truck attack in Nice that left 86 people dead, the Paris prosecutor's office said yesterday.

The office said the suspects detained Monday were French and

Tunisian and had links to the attacker, Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, who plowed a 19-ton truck down Nice's Promenade des Anglais and into a crowd assembled for a July 14 fireworks display. All eight were arrested in the Alpes-Maritimes

region in the southeastern corner of France that includes Nice.

At least five people already face preliminary terrorism charges in the attack, and are accused of helping Bouhlel obtain a pistol and providing other support. It wasn't immediately

clear what the men arrested this week are suspected of.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the July 14 attack. French authorities say Bouhlel, a Tunisian with French residency, was inspired by the extremist group's propaganda, but they say no evidence has been found that IS orchestrated the attack.

France remains under a state of emergency after the Nice killings and IS attacks on Paris last year. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said yesterday that the threat to France is higher than ever. He said about 300 people have been arrested in investigations into extremist networks so far this year, according to his office.

Also yesterday, authorities detained two boys, 14 and 17, in an investigation into a hoax hostage alert at a Paris church, the prosecutor's office said. The false alarm Saturday prompted a big police deployment and activation of an app-based terrorism alert system. A 16-year-old detained Monday remains in custody.

The government is seeking financial compensation from the perpetrators for wasting security services' time and money, and scaring the public unnecessarily. Obs magazine reported it was a case of "swatting," where hoaxers make anonymous threats to trigger a response from police and SWAT teams. —AP



NICE: In this July 15, 2016 file photo, forensic officers stand near a truck with its windshield riddled with bullets that plowed through a crowd of revelers who'd gathered to watch the fireworks. —AP

## FRANCE WANTS INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST CONFERENCE THIS YEAR

UNITED NATIONS: France said Monday it wants to organize an international conference before the end of the year to present Israelis and Palestinians with a package of incentives if they reach a peace agreement.

Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said at a briefing on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting that "this week must be a moment of political mobilization that we can reach that goal."

Ayrault's push for an international conference in France follows an announcement by Russia's Foreign Ministry on Sept. 8 that Israeli and Palestinian leaders have agreed "in principle" to meet in Moscow for talks. But the wide gaps between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas raise doubts about the prospect for any meeting - and if there is one whether they would make any progress.

Abbas demands that Israel halt all settle-

ment construction in east Jerusalem and the West Bank, and release about two dozen Palestinian prisoners before any meeting. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejects the preconditions.

Ayrault said several countries, including Egypt, Russia and the United States, are trying to restart talks between Israel and the Palestinians. He said he told them that "all efforts are in fact complementary of the French initiative."

A statement from Secretary of State John Kerry's office said Kerry met Abbas in New York to discuss "our shared goal of a two state solution." It said Kerry voiced "concern over trends on the ground, including the recent surge in violence and settlement activity."

France hosted an international meeting in Paris in June attended by more than two dozen Western and Arab countries to try to come up with a new strategy for Mideast

peace and revive Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, which have been all but dead for over two years. The Israeli and Palestinian leaders were not invited. The participants welcomed the "prospect" of a conference with both parties later this year.

Ayrault hosted a closed meeting Monday for officials from the countries that attended the June conference. Russia has clamored unsuccessfully for years to host a meeting of the two leaders but Russia's Foreign Ministry gave no date or agenda for the future get-together.

The United States has maintained a stranglehold over all Mideast peace processes since the Oslo Accords in the 1990s.

For years, the US was seen by Israelis and Palestinians as the indispensable mediator and only power that could guarantee a two-state solution. But the Obama administration doesn't appear to enjoy that recognition any longer. —AP



SZCZECIN, POLAND: In this photo taken Sept. 13, 2016 at the National Museum's laboratory shows the content of a Nazi-era time capsule. —AP

## NAZI-ERA COINS, PHOTOS, HITLER'S BOOK FOUND IN POLAND

WARSAW: Nazi-era newspapers, coins, documents and copies of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" have been found in a "time capsule" that was buried in 1934 in the foundations of a Nazi training center, a Polish town official said yesterday.

Explorers in Zlocieniec, in northwestern Poland, dug for the copper cylinder at the remains of the former Ordensburg center's foundations after learning it could hold a documentary movie showing celebrations of the town's 600 years, in 1933. At the time, the city was in Germany and was called Falkenburg.

Sebastian Kuropatnicki, spokesman for Zlocieniec authorities, said yesterday they were curious to see the movie and the town of the time. When

the container was opened Sept. 13, it held no film but did have the center's 1934 founding act on parchment, a letter from a local banker indicating the location for the center, as well as coins, photos and two copies of Hitler's book.

Kuropatnicki told The Associated Press that although the items document a "time of evil," they have value for the town's historians. Authorities are planning to organize a small museum using the items, but with a critical commentary on the Nazi ideology that led to World War II and the death of tens of millions of people.

Poland lost some 6 million citizens in the war, half of them Jews. After the war, borders were redrawn and Falkenburg became Zlocieniec. —AP

## SPANISH MUSLIM STUDENT WINS FIGHT TO STUDY WITH VEIL

MADRID: A Spanish Muslim student whose ban from a training institute for wearing the headscarf caused controversy said yesterday she had finally been allowed to study with the hijab after regional authorities weighed in.

While the issue has been a subject of debate in Spain, there is currently no law banning any kind of veil in public places-not even the face-covering burka or niqab like in neighboring France.

The exclusion of Takwa Rejeb from class generated unease in a country where Muslims represent around four percent of the 46.5-million-strong population. "I am more than happy because the only thing I wanted was to exercise my right to study," said Rejeb, 23, born in the eastern city of Valencia from Tunisian parents. "I am not a circus freak, I'm a person like any other, a student," she told AFP.

The anti-discrimination SOS Racisme association brought Rejeb's case to light after she was refused access to lessons at the Benlliure pro-

fessional training institute in Valencia on September 8.

According to lawyer Francisco Solans, the association's regional president, the institute had asked her to apply internal rules that ban any student from coming in "with their head covered", be it a cap, hat or headscarf.

Management at the institute refused to comment yesterday. Faced with the controversy sparked by her case, the regional government of Valencia forced the institute to allow Rejeb in.

In a statement, it said education authorities had "guaranteed the right to education of students and she will be able to go to all lessons with the hijab." Solans told AFP it was a "victory for the recognition of constitutional freedoms and rights-freedom of expression, freedom of religion as long as public order is respected, the right to education and to equality."

He said there had also been similar cases elsewhere "that were resolved through mediation." —AFP

## GERMANY CHARGES MAN WITH SPYING FOR INDIAN INTELLIGENCE

BERLIN: German authorities say they are charging a 58-year-old German citizen with espionage for allegedly passing confidential information to an Indian intelligence agency.

Federal prosecutors say the man, identified only by the initials T.S.P. in line with German privacy laws, worked at a local government office dealing with

immigrants in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Prosecutors said in a statement Tuesday that the man used his access to government files to obtain and transmit information about "extremist Sikhs" and Indian opposition figures in Germany to the unidentified Indian agency. The man has been detained since his arrest on Feb. 17. —AP

## POPE MEETS REFUGEES, RELIGIOUS LEADERS AT ASSISI PEACE DAY

ASSISI, ITALY: War refugees and leaders and representatives of several religions, including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and others, joined Pope Francis yesterday in a day of prayer for peace in Assisi, the hometown of St. Francis, who preached tolerance and gentleness.

After chatting and shaking hands with dozens of participants, Francis sat down to dine with them in the Franciscan convent. The guests included 12 refugees who fled war and conflicts in Nigeria, Eritrea, Mali and Syria, which was represented by three Christians who fled the besieged city of Aleppo.

Francis took his papal name from the peace-loving saint who was born in the Umbrian hill town, where Franciscans from the religious order founded by the medieval saint care for the basilica and its renowned artworks.

St. John Paul II established the inter-religious prayer gathering in Assisi in 1986. This year, Christians were invited to pray in the Basilica

of St. Francis, while those from other religions will pray in the town that for centuries has drawn admirers of the saint who abandoned family wealth for an austere existence of preaching tolerance.

The closing event gathers all participants in Assisi's main square for speeches by the pope, Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I, a representative each from Islam, Judaism and Buddhism, and remarks from a victim of war. Then time was allotted for a moment of silence for victims of war.

Francis has urged people worldwide to find time to pray on yesterday whenever then can. From the start of his papacy in 2013, Francis has decried war and conflicts which he says are tantamount to a "Third World War in segments."

He has also pressed for countries and individuals to welcome refugees. As an example, he flew Syrian civil war refugees back to Rome with him after his visit to the Greek island of Lesbos, where thousands of those fleeing fighting and

poverty had set foot in Europe after risky journeys in smugglers' boats.

Among those dining with Francis in Assisi was a 23-year-old

man from Mali, who survived a voyage on a fishing boat from Libya, where human smugglers are based, to Sicily. —AP



ASSISI, ITALY: Pope Francis salutes Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni as he arrives to the Holy Convent yesterday. —AP

## FIVE WAYS INDIA COULD RESPOND TO PAKISTAN OVER KASHMIR RAID

**NEW DELHI:** India's Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi is under pressure to act against Pakistan after Sunday's attack on an army base in divided Kashmir killed 18 soldiers. The army blamed the raid-the worst on troops for over a decade in the region-on Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad. But experts say assuaging public anger should not come at the cost of a dangerous military escalation with a nuclear-armed neighbor. Here are five possible responses:

### Air strikes and covert ops

Politicians, army veterans and others have called for a muscular response, including air strikes on training camps on the Pakistan side of the de facto border that divides Kashmir between the two countries. But analysts say India lacks the military capabilities to take on its neighbor, has not carried out such strikes before and runs the risk of triggering a full-scale war. "India knows it can't sustain a 15-day war against Pakistan and Pakistan knows it can't

sustain a similar war against India," Ajai Sahni, executive director of the Institute of Conflict Management, told AFP. Some say India could carry out covert operations across the border, known as the Line of Control, to attack guerrilla training camps. "India has special forces deployed in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir... India should and definitely will use them this time," said Ajit Dubey, a defense correspondent at The Week magazine.

### Increase border security

As India mulls its options, Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire on Tuesday across their heavily militarized border. The two sides regularly fire across the border, breaching a ceasefire agreed in 2003. There have been calls for India to boost border troop numbers, who could shell Pakistan positions with heavy mortar fire and target their artillery. This runs the risk of retaliation and further weakens the ceasefire. "This ceasefire is going to be a victim, even if for a short period, it will be violated

very frequently in coming days," Dubey said.

### Diplomatic isolation

For decades India has tried to persuade the US and other allies to isolate Pakistan as a "terrorist state" until it cracks down on militancy on its soil, but without much success. Modi at a recent G20 summit described Pakistan as the "one single nation" responsible for spreading "agents of terror" in South Asia. Commentators say the latest attack gives him a fresh chance to try to make Pakistan an outcast. India's foreign minister is said to be preparing evidence of Pakistan's complicity in the latest attack to present at the UN General Assembly. "There will be an attempt to isolate Pakistan in the international community and now it has become a bit easier for India to do so," Dubey said. Local media suggested India could also take steps to recall its high commissioner (ambassador) to Pakistan.

### Balochistan card

India has long tacitly supported the people of

Pakistan's resource-rich Balochistan province, hit by a separatist insurgency and sectarian violence. But in a highly unusual move, Modi publicly referred to Balochistan's struggles and expressed support for its people in his August Independence Day speech.

Experts say now is the best time for Modi to ramp up pressure on Pakistan over Balochistan's freedom struggle. "We're going to see the intensity go up in a big way," Dubey said, a day after an exiled Balochistan activist expressed a desire to seek asylum in India.

### Economic sanctions

Experts say India can lobby to have economic sanctions imposed on Pakistan, similar to the ones the US enforced on Iran. But the impact would be minimal unless India convinced numerous countries to follow suit, since its own trade with Pakistan is minimal. "India alone imposing economic sanctions will hardly make any difference," the New Indian Express said. —AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Italian ambassador to India Lorenzo Angeloni, right, walks out of the Supreme Court. —AP

## INDIA COURT ASKS GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND TO ITALIAN MARINE'S PLEA

**NEW DELHI:** India's top court has directed the government to respond to an Italian marine's plea to continue to stay in Italy during arbitration over the 2012 fatal shootings of two Indian fishermen in which he and a fellow marine are implicated.

The government's legal representative told the court yesterday that it had no objection to Massimiliano Latorre's request to remain in Italy pending the decision of

the arbitration court in The Hague, Netherlands. The Supreme Court said the government must file its response by Sept. 28. Latorre has been in Italy since 2014 for medical treatment after suffering a stroke in India. India has accused Latorre and Salvatore Gironi of killing the two fishermen in Indian waters while they were assigned to anti-piracy duties aboard an Italian commercial ship. —AP

# INDIAN, PAKISTANI TROOPS EXCHANGE FIRE IN KASHMIR

FIRST SINCE SUNDAY'S ATTACK

**SRINAGAR:** Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire across their disputed border in Kashmir yesterday, two days after a deadly raid on an army base that New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

Eighteen soldiers died in Sunday's attack, which was the worst of its kind to hit the divided Himalayan region in more than a decade and has increased hostility between the nuclear-armed neighbors. Indian army spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia said there had been a "ceasefire violation" near Uri, where Sunday's attack took place, but gave no details.

Uri is near the Line of Control (LoC) which divides the disputed territory. "Small-arms exchange of fire is on in the area," a senior police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity. Separately, Kalia said troops in the same area had blocked an attempt by suspected militants to cross the LoC into Indian-administered Kashmir. "A group of 10-12 terrorists attempted to infiltrate the Uri sector. They were intercepted and the infiltration bid was foiled," he told AFP.

The Press Trust of India news agency said 10 suspected militants had been killed in the incident but this could not immediately be confirmed. India regularly accuses its arch-rival of arming and sending rebels across the heavily militarized border that divides Kashmir between the two countries, to launch attacks on its forces.

Occasional violations of a 2003 ceasefire between the nuclear-armed rivals are not uncommon. The last was reported on



**KASHMIR:** Indian school children perform a Hindu ritual as they pay tribute to Indian soldiers killed in the Sunday attack on the Indian army base. —AP

September 6 this year and caused no casualties. Tuesday's exchange was the first since Sunday's attack, which the Indian army has blamed on Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad. The same group was implicated in an audacious assault on an Indian air force base in Pathankot in the northern state of Punjab in January. It left seven soldiers dead and dashed hopes of a revival of peace talks, which have

been on ice ever since. The death toll from Sunday's attack in which gunmen hurling grenades stormed a base was particularly high at 18, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to punish those responsible. Modi promised during his election campaign to take a hard line over Kashmir and has faced calls from army veterans-and even some in his own party-for military action against Pakistan. —AFP

## TWO KILLED IN CLASHES OVER EVICTIONS NEAR WILDLIFE PARK IN EASTERN INDIA

**MUMBAI:** Two people were killed and about 20 injured in the eastern Indian state of Assam, when protesters clashed with police over evictions of encroachers around a wildlife park.

About 300 families in the buffer zone of Kaziranga National Park were asked to leave their homes after the state high court ordered evictions to help prevent poaching of the one-horned rhinoceros.

Police said they fired in the air and burst teargas shells on Monday when they were pelted with stones by protesters. "We have been residing in this area for decades, and all of a sudden the government told us to vacate," said Rafiq Ali, a community leader in

Banderdubi village, one of the three villages that was ordered to be cleared. "The security forces fired at us," he said.

Scarcity of land has brought the competing needs of wildlife and humans into conflict across India, where land is increasingly sought for development and industrial projects.

The 430 sq km (166 sq mile) Kaziranga park is home to the world's largest concentration of the one-horned rhinoceros. Security personnel used excavators and elephants to mow down settlers' mud huts about 200 km (125 miles) from Guwahati city, activists said.

The villagers said they had not been offered adequate compensation by the

state for relocating. "The government has promised to provide financial compensation within 30 to 40 days of vacating the area," said Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. "The violent resistance from the encroachers was unwarranted," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Activists and opposition parties said the state should have paid the settlers compensation first.

"The government should have first provided compensation before asking them to leave," Tarun Gogoi, former Assam chief minister and leader of the opposition Congress party, said. "This is nothing but a gross rights violation," he said. —Reuters



**KATHMANDU, NEPAL:** Nepalese bomb squad members inspect a pressure cooker bomb before they detonated it at a school. —AP

## SMALL BOMBS GO OFF OUTSIDE 2 NEPAL SCHOOLS; NO INJURIES

**KATHMANDU:** Small bombs exploded outside two schools in Nepal's capital yesterday morning, but no injuries and only minor damage were reported, officials said. Unexploded bombs were found at five other schools in the city.

The explosions took place outside the gates of two schools for students from grades 1 to 10, said police official Bikram Singh Thapa. The unexploded devices found in front of five other

schools in Kathmandu were either detonated or removed.

Police arrested two people suspected of being behind the blasts, Thapa said. Police found pamphlets near the blast sites and attached to the unexploded devices from a little-known group demanding free education for all Nepalese children.

Thapa said that no injuries were reported, and that the explosions caused minor damage to the

schools' gates. Security and police surveillance were stepped up around schools in Kathmandu. School officials were to meet later yesterday with government education officials to discuss the attacks.

While education is mostly free in Nepal's public schools, the teachers are poorly paid and the infrastructure is substandard, leading most children in the cities to attend private schools. —AP

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## US, CHINA TO STEP UP COOPERATION ON N KOREA

**NEW YORK:** US President Barack Obama and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang agreed on Monday to step up cooperation in the United Nations Security Council and in law-enforcement channels after North Korea's fifth nuclear test, the White House said. China and the United States are also targeting the finances of Liaoning Hongxiang Industrial, a Chinese conglomerate headed by a Communist Party cadre, that the Obama administration thinks has a role in assisting North Korea's nuclear program, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday.

UN diplomats say the two countries have started discussions on a possible UN sanctions resolution in response to the nuclear test earlier this month, but Beijing has not said directly whether it will support tougher steps against North Korea.

Obama met Li on the sidelines of the annual United Nations General Assembly session in New York. "Both leaders condemned North Korea's September 9 nuclear test and resolved to strengthen coordination in achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, including by invigorating cooperation in the United Nations Security Council and in law enforcement channels on North Korea," a White House statement said.

China is isolated North Korea's most important diplomatic backer and its biggest trading partner. It

has been angered by Pyongyang's repeated nuclear and missile tests and signed on to increasingly tough UN sanctions, but it has said it believes such steps are not the ultimate answer and called for a return to talks with North Korea.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Japanese counterpart last week China opposes "unhelpful" unilateral sanctions on North Korea but will work within the United Nations to formulate a response. Washington has pressed Beijing to do more to rein in North Korea. The United States has said it is willing to negotiate with the North if the country commits to get rid of its nuclear weapons, which Pyongyang has refused to do.

### Hongxiang probe

The US Department of Justice (DoJ) is preparing as early as this week to announce legal action against Chinese firms suspected of providing financial assistance to Pyongyang, the Journal reported, citing officials familiar with the matter.

It said DoJ prosecutors visited Beijing twice last month to make their Chinese counterparts aware of alleged criminal activities being committed by Liaoning Hongxiang Industrial. A social media post last week for the police in Liaoning, the northeastern border province of China, said they were invest-

igating the firm's alleged long-term involvement in "serious economic crimes" and that relevant suspects were cooperating. A report by Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul and C4ADS in Washington says it identified more than \$500 million in trade from January 2011 to September 2015 between the North and the Liaoning Hongxiang Group, which states on its website that it trades heavily with the North.

The figure includes more than \$360 million in imports from North Korea by one group company, Dandong Hongxiang Industrial Development Co., an industrial machinery and equipment wholesaler. "While no judgment is being made on the final use of these funds, trade at this volume is of particular note. By one estimate, this amount would have been almost enough to both fund North Korea's uranium enrichment facilities, and to design, make and test its nuclear weapons," the report said.

Certain assets related to the company, its founder and top executive Ma Xiaohong, and some of her relatives and associates, have been frozen by Chinese authorities in recent weeks, according to government and corporate filings cited by the Journal. The Asan report said its trading of goods that could qualify as potential military and nuclear dual-use products under US export restrictions

were of particular concern. The products have possible use in a nuclear program, particularly the uranium enrichment program. The companies identified have had dealings with sanctioned North Korean entities, the report said. Chang Yong-seok, senior researcher at the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies, Seoul National University, said this case was symbolic and could have real practical impact. "This was the US taking China into consideration and working with China. More such cases may follow if the US or South Korea have firm evidence ... Chinese companies that have capacity for producing or securing goods for North Korea may be worried now," he said. Representatives of the US Department of Justice, Chinese Government and Hongxiang Industrial were unavailable for comment. The Liaoning Hongxiang Group is also heavily involved in North Korea-related shipping, with Ma and other people associated with the group owning and operating a combined fleet of 10 ships that regularly sail between the North and China. Ma, who served on Liaoning's People's Congress before resigning at the weekend, is described by Chinese media as the most successful businessperson in Dandong involved in cross-border trade with North Korea. Government records say Ma's investment in Hongxiang was frozen on Sept. 2. —Reuters

## NORTH KOREA'S KIM GUIDES NEW ROCKET ENGINE TEST, CALLS FOR SATELLITE LAUNCH TEST SEEN AS RESULT OF COOPERATION WITH IRAN

**SEOUL:** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a ground test of a new rocket engine to launch satellites, the North's state media reported yesterday, the latest in a rapid succession of missile-related tests this year by the isolated state. Kim asked scientists and engineers to make "preparations for launching the satellite as soon as possible on the basis of the successful test," the official KCNA news agency said, indicating the North may soon launch another long-range rocket.

The test was conducted amid global condemnation of the North's fifth nuclear test earlier this month and a call by the United States, Japan and South Korea this week for greater pressure on Pyongyang over its disregard for United Nations resolutions banning missile and nuclear programs. North Korea has been testing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles at an unprecedented rate this year under Kim's direction, including the launch of a satellite in February that was widely seen as a test of long-range ballistic missile technology.

The North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper carried photographs of Kim on a podium overlooking the vertical test stand that housed a rocket engine which blasted a column of flame. A spokesman for South Korea's military, Jeon Hanyu, said it was likely to have been a test for a new engine that can be used for a long-range missile. A satellite image dated Sept. 17 provided to Reuters by 38 North, a Washington-based website devoted to analysis of North Korea, showed preparations for an engine test, including a heavy crane over the vertical engine test stand and a shelter that would house the rocket engine. "This test is another important development pointing to the first launch of a bigger, better space vehicle to place satellites in higher orbits, which could happen in the not too distant future," said Joel Wit, founder of the 38 North website.

### Mastering a new ability

North Korea claimed after its nuclear test this month that it had mastered the ability to mount a warhead on a ballistic missile, a worrying prospect for neighbors South Korea and Japan. Developing an effective intercontinental ballistic

missile (ICBM) would put the continental United States in range of the North's nuclear weapons.

Joshua Pollack, editor of the US-based Nonproliferation Review, said North Korean media's description of a rocket engine with 80 tons of thrust would make it "a very powerful

Council has explicit stipulations. So we hope all parties can honor the relevant UN resolutions," Lu said. China is North Korea's main ally but has supported UN sanctions against its nuclear and missile programs. North Korea earlier this month fired three missiles that flew about 1,000 km



**SEOUL:** People watch a TV news program showing an image, published in North Korea's Rodong Sinmun newspaper, of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the country's Sohae Space Center, at Seoul Railway Station yesterday. —AP

rocket, well beyond anything the North Koreans have shown the world before."

The test, Pollack said, may be the result of cooperation with Iran. The US Treasury said in a January announcement of sanctions on people involved in Iran's missile programme that Iranian technicians had in recent years "traveled to North Korea to work on an 80-ton rocket booster being developed by the North Korean government." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang was asked at a regular briefing yesterday whether China considered the test part of a peaceful space programme or a violation of sanctions. "Regarding North Korea's ballistic missile launch activities, at present the Security

(600 miles) each and in August tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) that international experts said showed considerable progress.

It also launched an intermediate-range missile in June that experts said marked a technological advance for the isolated state after several test failures. "Kim Jong Un ... visited the Sohae Space Center to guide the ground jet test of a new type high-power engine of a carrier rocket for the geo-stationary satellite," KCNA said on Tuesday. The Sohae centre is the North's newly upgraded rocket station where the February satellite launch and other rocket tests have been conducted. —Reuters



**HARARE:** Zimbabwean actors are seen during a comedy scene from a show called State of The Nation on Sept. 15 2016. — AP

## IN ZIMBABWE, COMEDY THRIVES AS COUNTRY SLOWLY FALLS APART

**HARARE, Zimbabwe:** Zimbabwe's economy is falling apart, and police are cracking down on growing anti-government protests. But the country's comedy scene is booming. No subject seems taboo.

Even 92-year-old President Robert Mugabe, widely accused of muzzling free speech, is a target. Insulting the president can bring a one-year jail term in this southern African country. Nonetheless, the comedians carry on, becoming bolder as fears of speaking out begin to erode.

In one skit at a show on Thursday called "State of the Nation," an actor playing the first lady, 51-year-old Grace Mugabe, lays her stake to the presidency on hearing the news of the "death" of her husband, the world's oldest head of state. "I deserve it. Were any of you cleaning his nappy and wiping the spit off his chin?" she says. She also talks up her own chances of winning elections. "We have always won, even when I was pushing the old man in a wheelbarrow," she says, a reference to the real first lady's comment at a political rally last year: "I will push President Mugabe in the wheelbarrow to bring him to work." Near the end, a fake Mugabe emerges, struggling to walk while scoffing at rumors of his demise. Some in the audience laugh. Others gasp. The real president has joked at the persistent rumors, telling reporters earlier this month: "It is true that I was dead. And I resurrected. As I always do." The comedy show played to a packed audience in the capital, Harare. "State of the Nation" will be a twice-monthly show streaming live on internet, said organizer Davis Guzha, director of Rooftop Promotions. "Comedy allows us to laugh but also to think about our problems at the same time," said Sam Monro, or Comrade

Fatso, a stand-up comedian who runs Zambesi News, a satirical social media show on current affairs. In everyday life, the state of this once-prosperous country's economy and politics is hardly a laughing matter. Government has failed to pay its close to 300,000 workers, including the military, on time since June. Industries are closing down, worsening unemployment where more than two-thirds of the population of 13 million survive on informal work, according to the African Development Bank. People line up for hours at banks to access their money as currency woes deepen.

The speculation over the health of Mugabe, this country's only leader since independence from white minority rule in 1980, has only heightened the uncertainty.

Near daily anti-government protests are often met with brute force by police. Some from Zimbabwe have vowed to protest this week outside the United Nations as Mugabe addresses an annual gathering of world leaders. Yet amid their troubles, Zimbabweans are still laughing at life and at themselves. While comedy shows attract an upper-class crowd, ordinary people flood social media with jokes, images and video selfies poking fun at the growing problems. "It has allowed Zimbabweans to deal with a lot of taboo issues," Comrade Fatso told The Associated Press at his offices at Moto Republic, a structure of former shipping containers that houses dozens of artists. But the politically charged material comes with risk. A local actor, Silvanos Mudzvova, was arrested in April for trying to stage a play scripted on Mugabe's statement that at least \$15 billion had been looted from a diamond-rich region by joint-venture companies mining there. — AP

## CHINA PROBES FIRM SUSPECTED OF AIDING N KOREA NUKE PROJECT

**BEIJING:** A Chinese company under investigation by local police may have aided North Korea's nuclear programs, think tanks in South Korea and the US have said, just days after Pyongyang conducted its fifth nuclear test.

Dandong Hongxiang Industrial Development Co. Ltd. logged more than \$530 million in two-way trade with North Korea between 2011 and 2015, the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul and C4ADS in Washington said in a report released Monday.

Information in online advertisements and databases show that the company sold pure aluminum ingots, aluminum oxide and other products that could qualify as potential military and nuclear dual use products under US export restrictions, it said.

The company, which is based on the North Korean border in Liaoning province's Dandong city, exported around \$171 million worth of goods to the North between 2011 and 2015, the report said, adding its imports from the country totaled more than \$360 million during the same period. "While no judgment is being made on the final use of these funds, trade at this volume is of particular note," it said.

"By one estimate, this amount would have been almost enough to both fund North Korea's uranium enrichment facilities and to design, make, and test its nuclear weapons," it said. Also notable was the company's partnership with the

Korea National Insurance Corporation, a government entity that has been described by the European Commission as generating resources that could "contribute to the DPRK's nuclear-related, ballistic missile-related or other weapons of mass destruction-related programs".

Liaoning's public security department said in a statement last week that they have placed Dandong Hongxiang and its bosses under investigation for "serious economic crimes involved in trade activities". The company did not respond to phone calls from AFP seeking comment. Asked about the investigation during a regular press briefing, China's foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said that "relevant departments in China are handling and investigating this case", but would not confirm whether there was a connection to Pyongyang's nuclear program. China is North Korea's key diplomatic protector and provider of trade and aid. But Beijing has been increasingly frustrated by Pyongyang's defiance of international sanctions to press ahead with its nuclear tests. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and US President Barack Obama at a Monday meeting in New York condemned the North's September 9 nuclear test and vowed to "strengthen coordination in achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula", including in law enforcement channels on Pyongyang, the White House said in a statement. —AFP



**PHNOM PENH:** This photo taken on August 18, 2016 shows Chinese suspects entering the municipal court.—AFP

## CHINESE MEN JAILED IN CAMBODIA FOR 55 KILOGRAMS DRUG HAUL

**PHNOM PENH:** A Cambodian court sentenced two Chinese nationals and a local man to life in prison yesterday for trafficking 55 kilograms (121 pounds) of methamphetamine and heroin, one of the country's biggest drug seizures.

The two Chinese men—Ly Yong, 43, and Deng Yuan Ping, 53 — were arrested in June last year alongside a Cambodian couple after a police raid uncovered the drugs worth an estimated \$3 million. The heroin and meth were smuggled from the Golden Triangle—the region along the borders of Myanmar, Thailand and Laos which remains a major global drug production hub.

They were destined for the market both in Cambodia and abroad, police said. Judge Pech Vicheathor at Phnom Penh Municipal Court found the two Chinese and the local man

guilty both of producing and trafficking drugs. The trio were also fined a total of 180 million riel (\$45,000). The Cambodian man's girlfriend was also jailed for five years and fined six million riel (\$1,500) for her involvement.

Another Cambodian man, who remains at large, was sentenced to life imprisonment in his absence. Cambodia has become a popular smuggling route for narcotics, particularly methamphetamine and heroin, since neighboring Thailand toughened its stance on illegal drugs in the early 2000s. Cambodia has intensified its war on drugs in recent years and there have been hundreds of arrests, some involving senior officials. Last year police uncovered nearly 1.5 tons of marijuana worth more than \$7 million packed into coffee bags. —AFP

## CHINA SAYS FIRST SUSPECT BACK FROM FRANCE UNDER EXTRADITION PACT

**BEIJING:** China said yesterday it had secured the return of a corruption suspect from France, the first such case since the two countries signed an extradition treaty that took effect in 2015.

Chen Wenhua, wanted for economic crimes by the public security bureau in the eastern province of Zhejiang, was returned last week thanks to assistance from France and the Chinese embassy in Paris, foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular briefing. "It's a major breakthrough in this area and is another successful example of repatriating criminals from European countries, after Italy and Spain," he said. "In the future we will intensify our efforts, improve our legal system, and improve this Skynet so that it can reach to every corner of the world," he added. "Operation Skynet" is a multi-agency effort to bring back corruption suspects from abroad.

Chen fled to France in March 2013 after being accused of embezzling more than 20 million yuan (\$3 million) in public funds between 2009 and 2012, the official Xinhua news agency said, citing Zhejiang police.

In 2014 Chinese police approved his arrest and Interpol issued a red notice for him, it added, saying that French police apprehended him last year.

Since becoming party chief in 2012, President Xi Jinping has carried out a much-publicized anti-corruption drive. Its highest-profile victim was the once-hugely powerful security chief Zhou Yongkang, who was sentenced to life in prison. Critics say the campaign may be partially politically motivated and used as a tool in internal faction-fighting.

Operation Skynet expanded the campaign to corruption suspects overseas, where Chinese police say they have found 409 fugitives, according to Xinhua.

The attempt to track overseas fugitives has had a mixed reaction from foreign governments. Media reports say Chinese agents have raised hackles by unilaterally pursuing suspects abroad.—AFP



People onboard fishing boats head out to sea in order to catch crabs, in Xianrendao in China's northeastern Liaoning province on Monday. — AFP

## PROTEIN SHIELDING DNA FROM X-RAYS

Continued from Page 1

environments more extreme than anything found in Nature. That includes being plunged into scalding liquids or frozen at temperatures just shy of absolute zero. In an earlier experiment, water bears were given a 26-hour bath in -253 degree Celsius (-423 degree Fahrenheit) liquid nitrogen. The deepest chill ever recorded on Earth was a relatively balmy -89.2 C in Antarctica. All it took was a few drops of water for the critters to spring back to life.

And it gets better. Some tardigrade species - there are about 1,000 in all - can handle crushing pressure at least six times greater than found at the 11-km deep Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean. Even the ravages of outer space don't seem to faze them. In 2007, thousands of water bears, attached to a satellite, were exposed directly to potentially deadly space radiation in vacuum conditions and then brought back to Earth. Not only did many survive, some females later laid eggs which yielded healthy offspring.

To survive extreme conditions, water bears can also slip into a state of suspended animation in which they lose almost all the liquid in their tiny bodies, and metabolism slows to 10,000 times below the normal rate. Scientists still do not know how they do all this. Most research has concluded that water bears have a heightened capacity to repair damaged DNA, especially

as they emerge from a state of extreme desiccation, which can last for decades.

However, in their experiments with human cells, Hashimoto and colleagues found the tardigrade's Dsup protein could also "work as a kind of physical shield to protect DNA" - especially from X-ray harm. The findings were published in the scientific journal Nature Communications. The results may resolve a controversy that erupted after another team of researchers published the first complete genome of a tardigrade - from the species Ramazzottius hysibius - last December in the US Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences.

That study had found that nearly a fifth of the species' DNA had been obtained from other plants and animals, a new record in the animal kingdom for so-called horizontal gene transfer between species. This, they hypothesized, accounted for the remarkable resistance of water bears. Almost immediately, other scientists speculated that the high percentage of foreign DNA found was more likely the result of sample contamination.

Hashimoto's results suggest the critics were right. His team sequenced the genome of a different species, R. varioranatus - thought to be the hardiest of all tardigrades - with a precision 100 times greater, and found that foreign genes accounted for only 1.2 percent. "This suggests that horizontal gene transfer is not a major cause of tolerability," said Hashimoto. — AFP

## OBAMA SLAMS STRONGMEN IN LAST UN...

Continued from Page 1

He had a more direct message for his Russian counterpart, accusing Putin - who has invaded Ukraine and deployed forces to Syria - of trying using the military to gain global clout. "In a world that left the age of empire behind, we see Russia attempting to recover lost glory through force," Obama said.

Even as a Syrian ceasefire brokered by Washington and Moscow lay in tatters, Obama insisted diplomacy - not force - is the only way to end the brutal five-year conflict. "There's no ultimate military victory to be won, we're going to have to pursue the hard work of the diplomacy that aims to stop the violence and deliver aid to those in need," Obama said. On Monday the Syrian military declared the ceasefire over and 18 UN aid trucks were destroyed as they tried to bring relief to war-ravaged citizens near Aleppo. Syria and Russia denied striking the convoy, with Moscow suggesting it may have caught fire.

The Syria crisis, perhaps more than any other, threatens to sully Obama's eight-year effort to improve America's standing in the world. Obama arrived at the White House in 2009 to find America's reputation tattered by the war in Iraq and George W Bush's disdain for

global forums. Obama has been more cautious - critics would say timid - with using US power, refusing to intervene to topple Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime. Before the UN, Obama restated the case for multilateralism and an America that knows the limits of its own power. "I've noticed as president times when both America's adversaries and some of our allies believe all problems were either caused by Washington or could be solved by Washington. Perhaps too many in Washington believe that as well," he said to laughs from delegates.

Standing before the 193-member UN body, Obama sought in broad strokes to lay out a blueprint for addressing other unresolved conflicts. He called for the world to impose "consequences" on North Korea for its latest nuclear test and, in less direct terms, for China to abide by a recent UN tribunal ruling against its territorial designs in the South China Sea. A day before meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he drew a parallel between the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the need to respect racial minorities in the US "Surely, Israelis and Palestinians will be better off if Palestinians reject incitement and recognize the legitimacy of Israel, but Israel recognizes that it cannot permanently occupy and settle Palestinian land," Obama said. — Agencies

## SAUDIA PILOT TRIGGERS FALSE HIJACK ALARM

Continued from Page 1

It said an investigation would still be needed to confirm why the distress signal was pressed. "Appropriate penalties and sanctions will be imposed on the erring pilot if the result is indeed a human error," it said. There were 410 passengers on board plus four pilots and 17 crew members, airport general manager Ed Monreal told reporters. Many of them were returning from the annual hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

One of the passengers, Aida Majud, said they were not told why they were being kept on the plane. "When we saw the armed men we thought, what's the

problem? We wanted to know what was happening," Majud told ABS-CBN television network. But she said the atmosphere was calm, with some speculating President Rodrigo Duterte had come to the airport to welcome the pilgrims home and that the armed men surrounding the plane were his security personnel.

Majud said passengers had to undergo body checks after getting off the plane to ensure no one was carrying weapons. Airport officials said there were no major disruptions to traffic, with planes continuing to land and take off, because the Saudia aircraft had been kept at an isolated area. The carrier is known as Saudia. — AFP

## EMERGENCY PARLIAMENT SESSION ON PETROL...

Continued from Page 1

He insisted that there can be no serious economic reforms without fighting corruption, which is "rife like cancer". The Assembly opens its next term in mid-October.

Meanwhile, MP Faisal Al-Kandari, who said he will file to grill the finance minister in the first session of the next term, reiterated yesterday that he will carry out his threat. The lawmaker said that he had signed the motion to hold the emergency session, but since the motion did not get the required support, he will go ahead with his grilling. He said that he and other MPs will not accept any government decision harmful to citizens, adding that the government is required to withdraw its decision hiking petrol prices, which harms citizens. Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh on Monday welcomed the grilling saying it will give him an opportunity to explain the measures that have been adopted by the government to reform the economy.

Also, Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sanea dismissed reports suggesting that he had informed Acting Premier and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah about his intention to resign. "These reports are totally baseless and divorced from reality," the minister said in a press statement yesterday, attacking local media for fabri-

ating news reports in violation of professional and ethical rules. He urged the media to uphold credibility and ethics and get information only from his office or the Cabinet. Sane appreciated the support of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Separately, the criminal court yesterday sentenced Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Sabah to three years in jail for insulting HH the Amir and others members of the ruling family. Sheikh Abdullah, the grandson of the Amir's half-brother Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, was also ordered to pay compensation of KD 5,000 over defamation charges against State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. The suspect was charged of posting video messages on Snapchat criticizing HH the Amir, the government and other personalities. The ruling can still be challenged at the appeals and supreme courts.

This is not Sheikh Abdullah's first run-in with the authorities. In 2012, he was questioned for posting comments on Twitter deemed sympathetic to the opposition and critical of HH the Amir. In June last year, he was detained for 10 days pending interrogation for criticizing the Amir. The following month, a court acquitted him in a similar case.

## ANGELINA JOLIE FILES FOR DIVORCE FROM BRAD...

Continued from Page 1

TMZ, citing unnamed sources, reported Jolie was upset by Pitt's parenting methods.

"I am very saddened by this but what matters most now is the well-being of our kids," Pitt said in a statement to People magazine. "I kindly ask the press to give them the space they deserve during this challenging time." Media commentators reacted to the news with surprise and sadness. "Today shall go down as the day love died," fashion magazine Vogue said in an online report on the couple's split.

The couple was last seen together in public in mid-July, just ahead of their second wedding anniversary. Pitt came into the public eye 25 years ago with a much-talked-about shirtless debut as eye-candy in the hit movie "Thelma and Louise" - and went on to become a household name in Hollywood. A three-time Oscar nominee for his acting, Pitt took home a golden statuette for best picture in 2014 as a producer of "12 Years A Slave". He has built a resume of varied film roles, starring alongside some of the industry's other mega-watt stars: with Tom Cruise in "Interview with a Vampire," Anthony Hopkins in "Legends of the Fall" and George Clooney in "Ocean's Eleven."

Jolie catapulted to stardom with her role in 1999's "Girl, Interrupted", taking home an Academy Award for best supporting actress for her fierce portrayal of a rebellious woman in a mental institution. She has since played everything from a fairy tale villain ("Maleficent") to a sexy video game heroine ("Lara Croft: Tomb Raider") to the widow of assassinated American journalist Daniel Pearl ("A Mighty Heart").

The red carpet darling is now better known for her humanitarian work than for her tabloid-ready actions, having served for several years as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. More recently, she has been a vocal advocate for victims of sexual violence in war zones, co-hosting a global summit on conflict rape in 2014 in London. One of the world's most visible symbols in the battle against cancer, she underwent a double mastectomy and removal of her ovaries and fallopian tubes to prevent an aggressive form of the disease

that killed her mother, grandmother and aunt.

Jolie had been married twice before, to actors Jonny Lee Miller and Billy Bob Thornton. News of her third divorce spread quickly on social media, with #brangelina the top trending hashtag on Twitter. More than 20 posts mentioning the hashtag appeared on Twitter every second, according to social media analytics firm Zoomph. Many users posted memes featuring former "Friends" star Jennifer Aniston - Pitt's previous wife - including one of her on the phone saying: "And that, my friend, is what they call closure."

Pitt, born to a middle-class family in Oklahoma, studied journalism and advertising before heading West to Hollywood where he supported himself at first with part-time jobs, including as a chauffeur, removal man and even dressing up in a chicken suit to advertise a fast-food chain. But from 1987 the work started to trickle in, with bit parts in the television series "Dallas" and "21 Jump Street" and a few low-budget movies. His position as a Hollywood golden boy was assured by his 2000 marriage to Aniston, which made them one of the hottest couples in the world.

Pitt and Jolie fell in love four years later on the set of action film "Mr & Mrs Smith," although they didn't get engaged until 2012. In May 2006 Jolie gave birth to their first child, a girl named Shiloh. "Because of the film, we ended up being brought together to do all these crazy things, and I think we found this strange friendship and partnership that kind of just suddenly happened," Jolie Pitt told Vogue in 2006. Their joint fortune is estimated at over \$300 million, and they are among the highest paid stars in Hollywood.

Jolie, the daughter of Oscar winner Jon Voight, made her directorial debut in 2011 with "In the Land of Blood and Honey," an unflinching drama about rape as a weapon in wartime Bosnia. Her fourth feature behind the camera, historical thriller "First They Killed My Father," is being released on Netflix later in the year. Jolie has been estranged from Voight, who left the family before she turned 1, but he told "Inside Edition" he was concerned about the divorce filing. "It's very sad," he said. "Something very serious must have happened for Angelina to make a decision like this." — Agencies

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## Issues

MERKEL 'MEA  
CULPA' HINTS AT  
FOURTH TERM

By Madeline Chambers and Paul Carrel

Angela Merkel's shock admission that she wishes she could turn back the clock on her migrant policy is a clear attempt to mend fences with her allies in Bavaria and a strong hint she will seek to run for a fourth term as German chancellor. Not everyone in the conservative Bavarian CSU was convinced her uncharacteristically contrite remarks on Monday, however, and Merkel's own views on political longevity could play into her decision on whether to stand again.

Merkel's conservative CDU suffered its second electoral rout in as many weeks in Berlin on Sunday as voters rejected her open-door migrant policy just a year before a federal election. Striking a confessional tone that reached out to Catholics in her own party and in the CSU's southeastern heartland, a front line of the migrant crisis, Merkel took her share of the blame and said she would if she could "turn back time by many many years" to prepare Germany for the influx.

Looking more vulnerable than ever before in her 11 years in office, Merkel chose her words carefully as she sought to appease her CSU allies, who have repeatedly voiced anger at her decision to let in a million migrants last year. The CSU accounts for roughly 20 percent of the conservative bloc of votes in the federal parliament and she needs its support to stand again for the chancellorship. Reading a script, she distanced herself from her "we will manage it" mantra on integrating refugees which has been widely criticised by political foes in the CSU as well as the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD), which is winning votes.

But, crucially, she offered no policy concessions, which means that this may not go far enough for the CSU to endorse her in the next few months. "She is weaseling without revoking," said Josef Joffe, publisher-editor of Germany weekly Die Zeit, adding the underlying message was 'I was not wrong. I only failed to get the message across.'

## Time to Go?

Inscrutable Merkel smiled and declined to comment when asked if she would run in 2017, saying only she was still motivated. Spiegel Online and top-selling daily Bild clearly interpreted her remarks as a signal that she would stand again. "There can be no doubt over whether she will run again," Bild wrote in an editorial, reflecting a widely held view in Berlin that there is no obvious successor.

However, there was some dissent within German media. The Berlin correspondent of Deutschlandfunk radio said he would not be surprised if she smoothed things over with the CSU in the next couple of months only to announce at the CDU's conference in December that she will not run again. Merkel, 62, who grew up in Communist East Germany, is well aware that leaving politics at the right time is one of the most difficult decisions a leader has to make. "I would like some day to find the right time to leave politics. That is much harder than I had previously imagined it to be. But I don't want to be a half dead wreck when I leave politics," she was quoted as saying in 1998.

Merkel was herself ruthless towards her mentor, former Chancellor Helmut Kohl, saying in the midst of a party funding scandal in 1999 that it was time to move on without him. "Of course she will run again. It would be irresponsible for her to throw in the towel now," one senior German official said. "She will do it again... I would bet money on this."

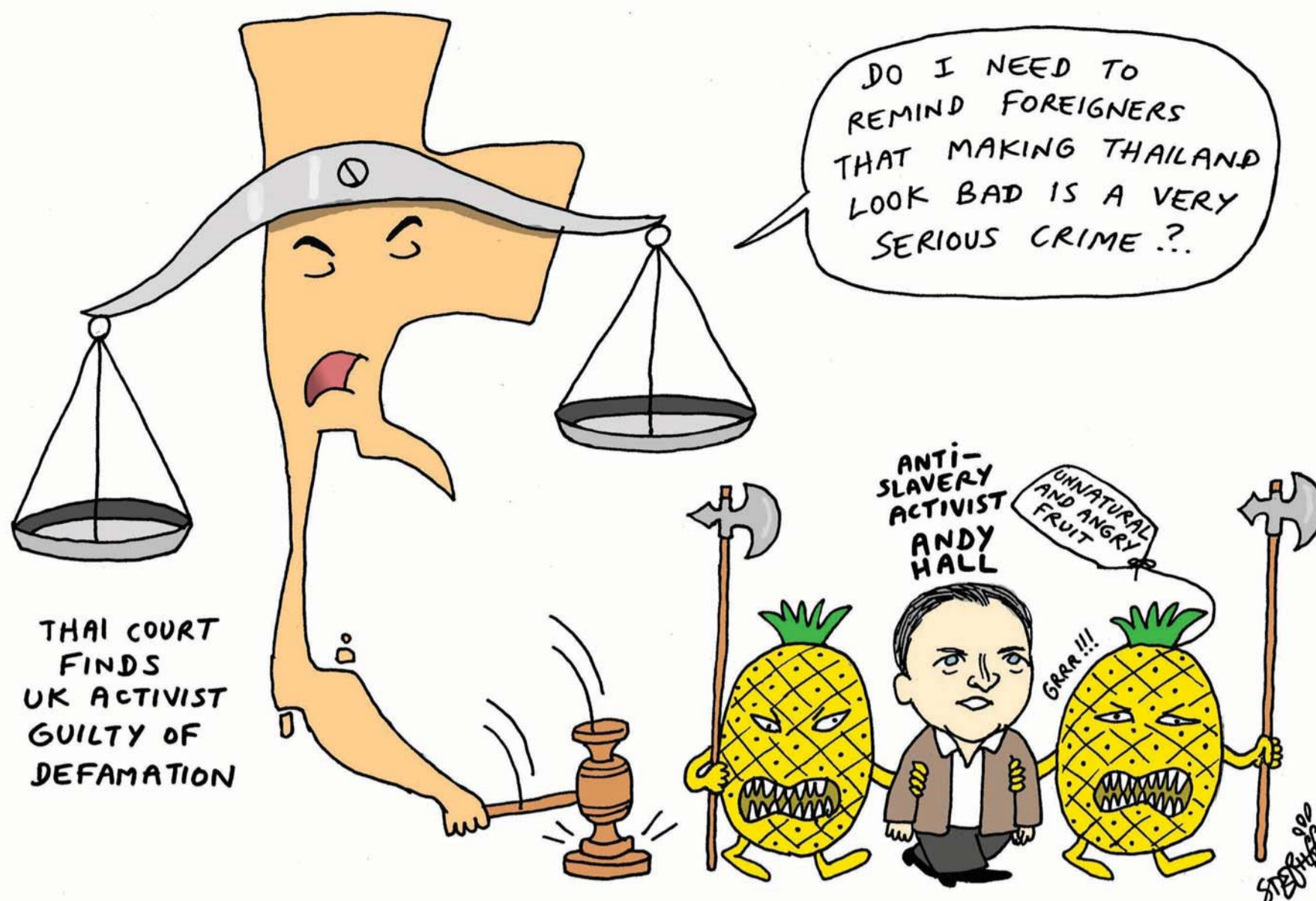
However, even the fact that there is speculation about her future highlights how things have changed. Until only a few weeks ago, the question was not even raised. "Instability is bad and all investors love Merkel, but one is reminded of when (former British Prime Minister Margaret) Thatcher became very beloved by foreigners and foreign investors and started losing lustre back home," said Sassan Ghahramani, CEO of US-based SGH Macro Advisors which advises hedge funds.

## Eyes on Bavaria

Much depends on whether Merkel's contrition will win over her critics in the CSU, focused more squarely on their party's performance on its Bavarian home turf than on national politics. Senior CSU lawmaker Stephan Mayer told broadcaster NDR that Merkel's comments were a "very important and welcome signal" showing she had understood popular concerns, adding the two parties were on the path of reconciliation.

But CSU boss Horst Seehofer was lukewarm, saying voters did not want backward-looking apologies, but actions. The influx of migrants has already slowed from the million who entered Germany last year and is estimated to be nearer 300,000 this year. Even last December, Merkel acknowledged her critics' fears and said the flow of refugees must ease. That has been achieved, partly because other countries have closed the Balkan route for migrants. Merkel argues other measures, including an EU-deal with Turkey, have also helped. —Reuters

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## PAPERLESS VOTING MACHINES WIDESPREAD IN US

By Andy Sullivan

One in four registered voters in the United States live in areas that will use electronic voting machines that do not produce a paper backup in the November presidential election despite concerns that they are vulnerable to tampering and malfunctions, according to a Reuters analysis. The lack of a paper trail makes it impossible to independently verify that the aging touch-screen systems are accurate, security experts say, in a year when suspected Russian hackers have penetrated political groups and state voting systems and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has said the election may be "rigged."

Election officials insist the machines are reliable, but security experts say they are riddled with bugs and security holes that can result in votes being recorded incorrectly. A Reuters analysis of data from the US Census Bureau, the Election Assistance Commission and the Verified Voting Foundation watchdog group found that 44 million registered voters, accounting for 25 percent of the total, live in jurisdictions that rely on paperless systems, including millions in contested states such as Georgia, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The picture has improved gradually since the 2008 presidential election, when 31 percent of US voters lived in areas that used paperless touch-screen systems. In 2012, 27 percent lived in jurisdictions that used paperless systems. "Clearly we still have a long way to go to ensure that all Americans have access to a form of voting technology they can trust," said Alex Halderman, a University of Michigan computer-science professor who has helped to uncover security flaws on touch-screen systems.

Most of these machines are nearing the end of their expected life span, making them more vulnerable to problems. And Congress has not authorized money for upgrades since 2002, just after the disputed 2000 presidential recount battle in Florida highlighted flaws in aging punch-card and lever-voting systems. In some

states, a divide has emerged between poorer areas that continue to use paperless touch-screen systems and wealthier areas that have bought new optical scan systems that process paper ballots, which many experts say are a better way to ensure accurate elections.

In Virginia, for example, counties that still use touch-screen systems have a poverty rate of 23 percent, while those that have switched to optical-scan systems have an average poverty rate of 11 percent. "I would have liked to have had the new machines, but the county says we don't have the money," said Patsy Burchett, the top election official in rural Lee County, which has been hit hard by the decline of the coal and tobacco industries and is the poorest county in the state. "These machines are on their last legs," she said.

## Questionable Results

US election officials have known about the shortcomings of touch-screen systems since shortly after they were widely adopted in the early 2000s, when researchers showed that vote results could be manipulated with tools as simple as a magnet and a Palm Pilot-style handheld device. The systems have produced questionable results in some elections. In Florida, more than 18,000 iVotronic machines did not record a vote in a 2006 congressional race in which the margin of victory was less than 400 votes. In Fairfax County, Virginia, electronic machines subtracted one vote for every hundred cast for one candidate in a 2003 school-board race. More than 4,400 electronic ballots in Carteret County, North Carolina, were lost and never recovered in the 2004 presidential election.

Since 2008, states such as Maryland have traded in their touch-screen machines for optical-scan systems. Others like California and Ohio have added printers to their touch-screen machines which produce a backup paper trail, while Washington and Colorado moved to mail-in ballots. Absentee balloting is also cutting into the use of paperless systems. In 2012, for example, roughly 1 in 10 voters who lived in areas that used

paperless systems cast absentee ballots.

Election officials say the touch-screen machines that remain in use are more secure now than they were a decade ago whether they are fitted with printers or not, thanks to extensive testing and better poll-worker training. They say that a hacking incident is unlikely because the machines are not connected to the Internet.

"Voters should have confidence in whatever systems are being used in their jurisdiction because election officials have taken the necessary steps to secure these systems and ensure the integrity of the process," said Matthew Masterson, a commissioner with the US Election Assistance Commission. Although there has so far been no confirmed major incident of US voting machines being hacked, security experts say that those aiming to manipulate votes could spread a virus through memory cards, with no Internet connection needed. The best way to stop that is to switch to paper-based systems, they say.

With 55 percent of all US registered voters living in areas that use systems that are no longer in production, according to the Reuters analysis, election officials must rely on a dwindling supply of spare parts. Virginia Beach, Virginia, for example, pulled 32 of its 820 Accuvote TSX touch-screen machines in a 2014 election after residents complained that the machines were registering votes for candidates they didn't support. The city has since purchased a new optical-scan system.

Lacking fresh federal funds, some states have opted to upgrade on their own. Louisiana aims to switch to an iPad-based system by 2019, while Los Angeles and Austin, Texas, are designing systems from scratch. Others see no reason to switch. In Georgia, Secretary of State Brian Kemp said he hasn't asked the state legislature for money to replace its fleet of paperless AccuVote TS touch-screen machines. "It's working just fine and all these so-called experts that are making these accusations about our system haven't seen it," he said. —Reuters

## QUESTIONING STEREOTYPES ABOUT NORTH KOREA

By Eric Talmadge

North Korea is an economic basket case that incomprehensibly pours resources into nuclear weapons and cares only about enriching a tiny circle of elites when it can't even feed its own people. It's an "impossible state," as one former US diplomat put it, bound to collapse under the weight of its own failed policies, if just given a push. Common sense, right? We've all heard those descriptions thrown around in the media, from the White House, from the UN Security Council. But with North Korea facing yet more sanctions and punitive measures over its latest nuclear test, now might be a good time to re-examine those assumptions.

They aren't as solid as they might seem.

## Kim Jong Un is Crazy, Erratic, Incompetent

Ridicule is a comforting way of letting off steam. But regardless of how morally reprehensible, criminal or even evil we may perceive an adversary to be, underestimation is dangerous. There is little evidence Kim is crazy, erratic or incompetent. He assumed power after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, with very little preparation and probably while still in his late 20s. Yet there are no clear indications he - or a circle of power-holding cadres acting in his name - is not solidly in power.

In a totalitarian dictatorship, balancing rival interest groups and keeping popular unrest at bay in itself is no small feat. It is to be expected that Kim would face potential challenges, but he appears to

be navigating the balance of power quite deftly - and ruthlessly, if necessary. The biggest known challenge to his power came early, and he dealt with it by executing his powerful uncle and former mentor, and purging his followers. That, apparently, was that. Policy wise, Kim's regime has been consistent. His stated goals have been to develop the country's nuclear weapons arsenal while improving its standard of living.

## Going Nuclear is Irrational

In terms of lost trade opportunities, sanctions and diplomatic isolation, North Korea's pursuit of a viable nuclear arsenal is a costly endeavor. It also uses resources that could be put toward badly needed infrastructure improvements. The military calculus is different, however. North Korea is surrounded by nuclear powers. Two of them - Russia and China - are, to some degree, friendly. But the trump card is held by the US, and by extension Japan and South Korea, which are under the US nuclear umbrella. Washington can bomb North Korea into oblivion at will - as it nearly did with conventional weapons during the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea has long been able to keep South Korea at bay with its considerable artillery power near the Demilitarized Zone. But hitting the US mainland has always been out of its reach. A viable nuclear deterrent, as North Korea calls it, would change that. Going to the table as a nuclear power would radically boost the North's bargaining position should serious talks ever resume. This may seem like paranoia to some. The US has no intention of invading North

Korea, and has said so for decades.

But every year, US troops team up with South Korean counterparts to conduct war games that, while always termed defensive in nature, have recently begun including training for precision strikes, or more colorfully, "decapitation" strikes on Kim Jong Un, along with scenarios for invading or destroying the capital. To North Korea, that is a very real threat. Threats, real or perceived, are also useful political tools. Few things rally a nation behind its leaders better than the fear of an attack - especially if the threat happens to be coming from the world's strongest military.

## North Korea's Economy is a Basket Case

It faces severe international sanctions, is extremely wary of even the most basic forms of market capitalism and has a financial system that is, at best, skeletal. Still, North Korea's economy is growing, and has been for years. Economists, while working with admittedly flawed and incomplete data, largely agree things appear to have been getting marginally better. They estimate annual GNP growth at 1 to 3 percent. Sanctions have certainly hurt. But they have not been crippling.

Despite region-wide concern over a nuclear North Korea, trade with Russia and China continues and is unlikely to end, considering the reservations both Beijing and Moscow harbor toward tooing any policy line that they feel is dictated by Washington. North Korea remains among the world's least developed economies. Stunting due to malnutrition, abject poverty and the lack of economic options surely persist. But no more so

than in many other poor nations.

The UN's World Food Program, which has an office in Pyongyang and conducts regular assessments, says North Korea's food situation is precarious. Most North Koreans can't count on a balanced, nutritious diet. But are North Koreans starving en masse? Are they on the WFP's list of nations most suffering from food emergencies? No.

## Its Regime Can't Survive

Repressive, totalitarian dictatorships do have a tendency to implode. When they do, it's usually a violent, bloody mess. And from the outside, it can seem to happen with amazing suddenness. That scenario could play out in North Korea. But it has defied the odds for nearly 70 years, under three different Kims. It survived the Korea War - which, thanks to massive Chinese help, ended in what is essentially a stalemate. It survived the fall of the Soviet Union and its Communist allies, major benefactors for decades.

Barring invasion, internal revolt or popular uprising, the biggest threat the regime faces could be a growing domestic consumer economy that arose as a coping mechanism during the famine years that followed the Soviet collapse and the capitalism-friendly transformation of China's economy. When North Korea stopped being able to provide necessities its people had come to rely on, they learned to fend for themselves. That helped North Korea weather the crisis, but also created a cash-based, entrepreneurial economy that continues to grow - and not necessarily in a way the regime can control. But, then again, maybe it can. —AP

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## TYSON GAY IN THE FIELD FOR USA BOBSLED PUSH CHAMPIONSHIPS

**CALGARY:** Olympic sprinter Tyson Gay is entered in this week's USA Bobsled National Push Championships, making him the latest track star to give sledding a try.

The push championships start today in Calgary, Alberta and are the first step toward a potential spot on this season's national team.

Gay has competed in each of the last three Summer Olympics. He was part of a team that won a silver medal in the 4x100-meter relay at the London Games in 2012,

though that medal was ultimately stripped after Gay tested positive for steroids at the US championships in 2013 and served a one-year suspension. He also had all results annulled going back to July 15, 2012, a period that included that year's Olympic competition.

One of the runners who lost his London silver medal because of Gay's positive test was Ryan Bailey, another bobsled rookie who is scheduled to compete in the push championships.

"I'm still not over it," Bailey said last month, referring to having his medal taken away. And now they could be teammates once again. Bailey has impressed coaches so far, especially after winning the preliminary push championships on dry land in Lake Placid, New York last month. This competition takes place on ice and Gay has been practicing sled-pushing for only a few days, according to USA Bobsled and Skeleton.

But Gay's speed figures to give him a

chance to make a huge splash. His all-time best in the 100 meters is 9.69 seconds, a time bettered only by three-time reigning Olympic 100m champion and world-record-holder Usain Bolt of Jamaica.

Gay follows a long line of speedsters who will try to push a sled, a list that includes Lauryn Williams - a medalist in both the summer and winter games - as well as longtime US hurdles star Lolo Jones, Rio Games double gold medalist Tianna Bartoletta and former men's competitors

Edwin Moses, Willie Davenport and Renaldo Nehemiah.

Jones, a 2014 Sochi Olympian, will be in the women's push competition, as will 2014 Olympic bronze medalist Aja Evans. In all, 56 competitors are entered in the championships, which start with solo events today and combination events Friday and Saturday. Drivers will analyze results before selecting their team for national team trials, which begin in Lake Placid next month. — AP



**TORONTO:** Johnny Gaudreau #13 of Team North America tries to get a shot past Sergei Bobrovsky #72 of Team Russia in the third period during the World Cup of Hockey at the Air Canada Center on Monday in Toronto, Canada. Team Russia won the game 4-3. — AFP

## EUROPE DOWN CZECHS IN WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY

**TORONTO:** Leon Draisaitl scored in overtime as Europe upset the Czech Republic 3-2 at the World Cup of Hockey on Monday to leave the United States facing a must-win battle with Canada to stay in the competition.

Edmonton's German star Draisaitl scored on a breakaway after 2min 6sec of overtime at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto to maintain Europe's 100 percent record with two wins out of two in Group A. The result leaves the United States side-beaten 3-0 by Europe on Saturday-clinging onto their place in the competition. A defeat to Canada on Tuesday would see them eliminated. Europe coach Ralph Krueger-the Canadian-born former Germany international who is now the chairman of English Premier League soccer side Southampton-said his team had always been confident of progressing in the tournament despite being rank outsiders with Las Vegas bookmakers. "Coming in here at 33-1 longshot, the Las Vegas bookies, it's a lot of fun," Krueger said.

"(The guys) always believed we'd have a shot at being where we are today. Probably nobody outside of our room did. But I'm just

so proud of the way the players have come together in this short period of time, how they're representing their countries on their arms and as a group how we've come together. "There's just complete buy-in on this group-I've never experienced anything quite like this as a coach in 25 years of head coaching. We're tight, and we're not done."

### OVERPOWER

Europe dominated the Czechs from the outset and led twice before Draisaitl's late winner. The Europeans took a 2-1 lead in the third period after Czech goalie Petr Mrazek fumbled a shot from Mats Zuccarello, the Norwegian winger who plays for the New York Rangers. Until then, Detroit Red Wings goalie Mrazek had frustrated Europe with a superb display of defiance, saving 33 shots before Zuccarello's long-range effort crept in.

The Czechs, however, came back to level on a power play later when Martin Hanzal swept home a rebound after a point shot from Vladimir Sobotka. The late flurry of goals came after a cagey opening which finally saw



**TORONTO:** Team Czech Republic goaltender Petr Mrazek stops Team Europe's Anze Kopitar on a second period penalty shot during World Cup of Hockey action in Toronto on Monday. — AP

Europe take control in the second period, peppering Mrazek's goal with 21 shots.

The opener came from Slovakian defenseman Zdeno Chara, the Boston Bruins players catching out Mrazek as the Czech goalie scrambled to recover his stick. It was a rare blemish by Mrazek, who also saved a penalty shot by Europe center Anze Kopitar during the second period onslaught. Jakub Voracek scored the Czechs opening goal, beating Jaroslav Halak with a snap shot from the right.

In Monday's other game, Russia were given a fright by a youthful North America before running out 4-2 winner in Group B. The North American team, made up of players who are 23 and under from the United States and Canada, took a 1-0 lead in the first period thanks to a Auston Matthews strike.

But Russia took control in the second period, scoring four goals through Vladislav Namestnikov, Nikita Kucherov, Evgeny Kuznetsov and Vladimir Tarasenko to power into a 4-1 lead. Morgan Rielly pulled a goal back for North America, but it was too little too late. — AFP

## UNDERFIRE KENYAN OLYMPIC BOARD WARNS OF STALEMATE

**NAIROBI:** The underfire Kenyan National Olympic Committee (NOCK) yesterday warned it faced imminent suspension from the IOC if the government failed to honour an agreement to reinstate it into office. The International Olympic Committee helped to broker a truce between the two parties in Lausanne last week, three weeks after Kenyan sports minister Hassan Wario announced he was disbanding the NOCK over their poor handling of the Olympic team in Rio de Janeiro.

The IOC ordered that NOCK, led by two-time Olympic gold medalist Kipchoge Keino, be allowed to continue in office to spearhead reforms and hold fresh elections before the end of the year.

But Keino has accused Wario of reneging on his pledge to re-open the NOCK offices, which were closed down by police to allow for investigations after four top officials were arrested for abuse of office and alleged theft of team uniforms.

"We have been trying to get in touch with the minister for the last two days but he does not want to talk to us. "Right now we cannot get access to even pay our debtors since the treasurer, Fridah Shiroya is still in court. We urgently require to pay for the workers to continue with our new office block, which is currently under construction," Keino told AFP.

"Unless this impasse is resolved immediately it might result in Kenya being banned for four years, and this will greatly have a negative impact on the youth of this country."

Four top NOCK officials including Shiroya and secretary general Francis Kinyili Paul are currently in court charged with the shambolic preparation and mismanagement of the team in Rio.

Despite turmoil at official level, the country's athletes clocked up their best Olympics yet with 13 medals (including six golds) putting them in 15th place overall, the best in Africa by far. — AFP

## ZENT CERUMO LEXUS RC F WINS FIRST PLACE IN AUTOBACS SUPER GT SERIES



**TOKYO:** The No 38 ZENT CERUMO Lexus RC F driven by Yuji Tachikawa and Hiroaki Ishiura emerged as victors in an out-standing race in the GT 500 class after starting from eighth position on the grid in Round 6 of the 2016 AUTOBACS SUPER GT series, which took place recently at the Suzuka Circuit in Japan. The race also saw the No. 36 au TOM'S Lexus RC F driven by Daisuke Ito and Nick Cassidy competing till the very end to finish a creditable second making it two podium finishes for Lexus.

When the race finally started, the No. 38 ZENT CERUMO Lexus RC F driven by Yuji Tachikawa, pulled off an amazing dash from eighth position on the grid to move into third position. Keeping this momentum, Tachikawa gradually closed the gap on the race leader and finally moved into the lead on lap 22. At the end of the 115th lap, the No. 38 ZENT CERUMO Lexus RC F briefly relinquished the lead to the No.

36 au TOM'S Lexus RC F due to its scheduled pit stop.

The rain fell particularly hard on the west end of the circuit and by the 129th lap, the No. 38 ZENT CERUMO Lexus RC F overtook Nick Cassidy in the No. 36 au TOM'S Lexus RC F. With the track conditions changing minute-by-minute, the two Lexus RC F cars continued their battle for the lead. However, the winner of this dual would be the No. 38 ZENT CERUMO Lexus RC F, as it gradually pulled away with an increasing lead over the No. 36 au TOM'S Lexus RC F even through its final routine stop at the end of the 142nd lap and went on to take the checkered flag. Round 7 of the 2016 championship now takes place in Thailand on October 8th and 9th, 2016.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, "It was an excellent result for Lexus and a

superb performance by the teams driving the Lexus RC F cars in such challenging conditions. Motorsports has played a major role in Lexus since the very beginning, giving us significant insights into our cars and their performance in extreme conditions on the race track. This in turn has helped us build ever better cars to exceed the expectations of our customers. We also appreciate the support of our fans and their constant encouragement for our racing initiatives."

### Race Notes:

- No. 38 ZENT CERUMO Lexus RC F (Yuji Tachikawa and Hiroaki Ishiura)
- Race: 1st, 173 laps, Best Lap : 1'51.014.
- No. 36 au TOM'S Lexus RC F (Daisuke Ito and Nick Cassidy)
- Race: 2nd, 173 laps, Best Lap : 1'51.352.





## INDIA'S SHARMA OUT OF FIRST KIWI TEST WITH CHIKUNGUNYA

**KANPUR:** Indian pace bowler Ishant Sharma was yesterday ruled out of the first Test against New Zealand after contracting the mosquito-borne disease chikungunya.

"Ishant Sharma is recovering from chikungunya and will not be available for the first Test match," coach Anil Kumble told reporters in Kanpur, where the opening Test starts tomorrow.

Kumble said a replacement has not been sought for Sharma in the 15-member squad that includes three other fast bowlers-Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav.

Twenty-eight-year old Sharma has taken 209 wickets from 72 Tests, with seven five-wicket hauls. Some 14,600 cases of the illness that causes high fever and joint pain have been recorded across the coun-

try so far this year. The numbers are not higher than in previous years but hospitals in New Delhi have been struggling to cope, sparking a political row over who is to blame for failing to properly prepare for the outbreak. The Aedes aegypti mosquito, which can carry the Zika, dengue and chikungunya viruses, is prevalent in India, and is most active during the monsoon season from June to September.

Meanwhile, New Zealand allrounder Jimmy Neesham will miss the first Test against India with a rib injury, coach Mike Hesson said yesterday.

Hesson said Neesham suffered a blow during training last week which limited his involvement in the drawn tour game against Mumbai in New Delhi.

"Jimmy was struck in the nets and has been in discomfort the last few days," he

said. "It will take a few days for the bruising to go away, but it's very much a short-term injury." While Neesham is sidelined for the first Test beginning tomorrow in Kanpur, Hesson was confident he would return for the rest of the three-Test series.

The Blacks Caps have already lost strike bowler Tim Southee for the series with an injured ankle, calling in Matt Henry as a replacement. — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** This file photo taken on September 18, 2016 shows Mumbai's wicketkeeper Sufiyan Shaikh (C) watching as New Zealand's Luke Ronchi plays a shot during a practice cricket match at the Ferozshah Kotla ground in New Delhi. Sachin Tendulkar and Kapil Dev will be among the icons celebrating India's 500th Test in Kanpur this week as Virat Kohli's team begin their quest to regain the top spot in the world rankings against a dangerous New Zealand side. — AFP

## KOHLI'S INDIA EYE NZ SCALP IN 500TH TEST

**KANPUR:** Sachin Tendulkar and Kapil Dev will be among the icons celebrating India's 500th Test in Kanpur this week as Virat Kohli's team begin their quest to regain the top spot in the world rankings against a dangerous New Zealand.

The match marks both the start of a three-Test series against the Black Caps and a packed programme of international cricket for India, who will also host England, Bangladesh and Australia later this season.

India are strong favourites after their recent 2-0 victory over the West Indies in a four-match away series, which saw Kohli lead from the front by scoring his first Test double century in Antigua.

But their success was tinged with disappointment as they managed to topple Australia at the top of the rankings, only to be leapfrogged by their arch-rivals Pakistan when rain wrecked their hopes of a clean sweep in

the Caribbean. India start the series just one point behind Pakistan, and they will be hopeful of returning to number one before Pakistan play three Tests against the West Indies in October and November.

Inspired by Kohli, India's top order has been in fine form of late-with the newcomer Lokesh Rahul scoring three centuries in the last eight Tests. But they can't afford to be complacent after their stunning defeat by New Zealand at the start of the World Twenty20 in March.

Their last Test series with New Zealand ended in a 1-0 away defeat in 2014, a contest which saw the then Black Caps' skipper Brendon McCullum score a triple century.

Although McCullum has since retired, his successor Kane Williamson is now established as one of the game's finest batsmen and he has already found form in India, hitting a beligerent half-century in a warm-up last week. Other former captains such as Sunil

Gavaskar and Mohammad Azharuddin are expected to join Tendulkar and Dev at Kanpur's Green Park as part of the festivities organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Dev, who skippered India to victory in the 1983 World Cup, warned that a New Zealand side packed with veterans of the Indian Premier League (IPL) T20 tournament should not be underestimated. "India will have the home advantage but times have changed, teams and players are no longer alien to foreign conditions," he told the NDTV network.

### 'DIFFERENT MINDSET'

The legendary all-rounder, still the only player to have scored 4,000 runs and taken 400 wickets, said Test cricket had changed radically in the two decades since he retired, praising Kohli for his attacking batsmanship.

"The mindset of the young cricketer is dif-

ferent," said Dev. "Aggression wasn't part of Indian team in the 80s, but today I think, God these boys have changed."

The series also marks Anil Kumble's first home assignment as coach and he is expected to pack the Indian bowling line-up with three spinners, including Ravichandran Ashwin who took 17 wickets in the Caribbean.

The hosts will also be bolstered by the return on home soil of medium-pacer Mohammed Shami, who took 11 wickets in the West Indies after a long lay-off.

Williamson, who has so far skippered New Zealand in just four Tests, said he was excited by taking on such a tough assignment in the early days of his captaincy.

"We have a great bunch of guys and we are enjoying our cricket. We have to keep improving and that's my focus as a captain," he said.

On the bowling front, all eyes will be on Indian-born New Zealand leg-spinner Ish

Sodhi. Fast bowler Trent Boult can expect a heavy workload after the visitors lost Tim Southee to an ankle injury just before the start of the series. New Zealand, who have never won a series in India, were whitewashed by the hosts in the two-match Test series in 2012.

### Squads

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Murali Vijay, Lokesh Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Wriddhiman Saha (wicketkeeper), Ravichandran Ashwin, Amit Mishra, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (captain), Trent Boult, Doug Bracewell, Mark Craig, Martin Gupitll, Tom Latham, BJ Watling (wicketkeeper), Henry Nicholls, Luke Ronchi, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Matt Henry, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner. — AFP

## PETRA KVITOVA MAKES WINNING START IN TOKYO



**TOKYO:** Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic hits a return against Madison Brengle of the US during their women's singles first round match at the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

**TOKYO:** Former champion Petra Kvitova stormed through her opening match at the Pan Pacific Open yesterday, beating American Madison Brengle 6-3, 6-3 in a flurry of swash-buckling winners.

The 26-year-old Czech, twice a Wimbledon winner, had too much firepower for Brengle in a match played under a closed roof due to typhoon rains in Tokyo. Seventh seed Kvitova will next play Rio Olympic gold medalist Monica Puig of Puerto Rico. Meanwhile, sixth seed Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia overcame another Czech, Lucie Safarova, 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 to set up a second-round match with fast-rising Japanese teenager Naomi Osaka.

"I've seen her play a few times," Cibulkova said of Osaka. "She has a powerful serve and it's always tough playing against these young players-they are fearless and have nothing to lose." In other matches, Denmark's former world number one Caroline Wozniacki battled

to a 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 victory over Switzerland's Belinda Bencic. Elsewhere on a day badly affected by the weather, Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova beat Ukrainian Kateryna Bondarenko 7-6, 6-3 while Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus overcame Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

In Beijing, defending champion Jelena Jankovic of Serbia sailed through her opening match at the WTA Guangzhou Open yesterday, joining German Sabine Lisicki in the second round. The 31-year-old former world number one eased past China's You Xiaodi 6-2, 6-1, while 2013 Wimbledon finalist Lisicki beat Kwan Yau Ng of Hong Kong 6-2, 6-0.

China's Peng Shuai beat compatriot and eighth seed Zheng Saisai 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 and is scheduled to face Lisicki in the next round. Jankovic will be confronting 21-year-old Swede Rebecca Peterson, listed as 124th in the WTA rankings. — AFP



Hasawi with the sponsors.



Panel speakers.

## AL-KUWAIT, AL-QADISIYA TO CLASH IN CUP FINAL

By Mesh'al al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Member of KFA's temporary management committee, Salah Al-Hasawi announced a raffle draw on two vehicles and five flight tickets would be held before the Cup final match due to be held next Friday between Al-Kuwait and Al-Qadisiya clubs.

Another would hold on one vehicle and five flight tickets during the break between the two halves and a third one would be held on two vehicles and five flight tickets after concluding the match.

Speaking at a press conference held yesterday at the Crowne Plaza, Al-Hasawi added that entry to the stadium would be free of charge, that fans would be given free color-coded tickets with each color indicating their entry gate and that seats would not be divided between both teams' fans.



New Super Cup. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## EAGLES PLAYERS LATEST TO JOIN ANTHEM PROTEST

**CHICAGO:** Philadelphia Eagles defensive players Malcolm Jenkins, Ron Brooks and Steven Means stood together with raised fists during the US national anthem before their game against the Chicago Bears on Monday. The trio joined the movement of athletes who are using the anthem as an attempt to draw attention to racial inequality. Jenkins said last week he planned to join

the protests, sparked by San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick during the NFL's pre-season.

"Last week, we talked about doing some stuff, but we wanted to make sure that we didn't do anything to take away from the families that suffered from 9/11," Jenkins said in a radio interview on Friday, referring to games that coincided with the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. "We didn't want to mess with that day, so we left last week alone. But moving forward, I'm sure there will be guys that will probably join in."

Kaepernick started the protest when he chose to stay seated, and then later opted to kneel, for the anthem. He said it was a gesture against injustice and police brutality. Several players from the Los Angeles

Rams, Miami Dolphins and Tennessee Titans protested during the anthem on Sunday, while Megan Rapinoe has also knelt during the anthem at the U.S. women's soccer team games. Other NFL players have chosen to raise fists, recalling a similar demonstration by athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos during their medal ceremony at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City.

The protesting players have been seen as allies of the Black Lives Matter movement, which grew in response to a string of high-profile police killings of unarmed African-Americans across the country. About two-thirds of NFL players are black.

Other athletes and fans have spoken out against the protests, viewing them as disrespectful. — Reuters

## AUSTRALIA CALL UP YOUNG GUNS FOR SAUDI, JAPAN W CUP GAMES

**SYDNEY:** Austrian-based midfielder James Jeggo could earn his first cap for the Socceroos after being named yesterday in Australia's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Saudi Arabia and Japan next month.

Coach Ange Postecoglou has made three changes to the squad, calling up the uncapped Jeggo and Netherlands-based Craig Goodwin, while defender Bailey Wright returns after missing the first two qualifiers through injury.

Jeggo, 24, moved to SK Sturm Graz this year after stints with Melbourne Victory and Adelaide United in Australia's A-League. "We've made a couple of slight tweaks to the squad in line with our mantra of selecting players who are in form and fitness and we'd like to have a good look at Craig Goodwin and James Jeggo, who have started their seasons well in Europe," Postecoglou said.

"Bailey Wright also comes back in after he missed the first two matches through injury and we go to Saudi Arabia and then back to Melbourne with a squad we are comfortable can continue the good start we achieved."

Asian champions Australia defeated Iraq 2-0 in Perth and the United Arab Emirates 1-0 in Abu Dhabi earlier this month to kick off their final round qualifying campaign for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

They face Saudi Arabia, who beat Thailand and Iraq in their first two matches, in Jeddah on October 6 before returning to Melbourne on October 11 to play Japan.

"These two games come pretty quickly after the two matches we played against Iraq and the UAE and we face similar challenges against tough opposition, but we are confident in our processes and planning," Postecoglou said.

Australia - Tim Cahill (Melbourne City/AUS), Milos Dezenek (1860 Munchen/GER), Adam Federici (Bournemouth/ENG), Alex Gersbach (Rosenborg/NOR), Craig Goodwin (Sparta Rotterdam/NED), Chris Ikonmidis (Aarhus Gymnastikforening/DEN), Jackson Irvine (Burton Albion/ENG), Mile Jedinak (Aston Villa/ENG), James Jeggo (SK Sturm Graz/AUT), Tomi Juric (FC Luzern/SUI), Robbie Kruse (Bayer Leverkusen/GER), Mitchell Langerak (Vfb Stuttgart/GER), Mathew Leckie (FC Ingolstadt/GER), Massimo Luongo (Queens Park Rangers/ENG), Ryan McGowan (Henan Jianye/CHN), Mark Milligan (Baniyas/UAE), Aaron Mooy (Huddersfield Town/ENG), Tommy Rogic (Celtic/SCO), Mathew Ryan (Valencia/ESP), Trent Sainsbury (Jiangsu Suning/CHN), Brad Smith (Bournemouth/ENG), Matthew Spiranovic (Hangzhou Greentown/CHN), Bailey Wright (Preston North End/ENG). — AP



**CHICAGO:** Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler (6) fumbles as he is tackled by Philadelphia Eagles defensive tackle Destiny Vaeao (97) during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, in Chicago. — AP

## TOUGHER TESTS TO COME FOR WENTZ, HIGH-FLYING EAGLES

**CHICAGO:** Carson Wentz took some hard hits, showed poise in the pocket and led the Philadelphia Eagles to another victory. They're about to find out how they stack up against a play-off contender. But they're doing just fine so far.

Wentz followed up an impressive NFL debut with another solid performance, throwing for 190 yards and a touchdown, and the Eagles beat the Chicago Bears 29-14 on Monday night. "It was a cool stage, Monday Night Football," Wentz said. "Everything's sweet. But again, it was a football game and we came out with a win."

The No. 2 overall pick, Wentz is delivering as advertised so far for the Eagles (2-0). He followed up a strong performance against Cleveland by completing 21 of 34 passes and playing turnover-free ball for the second straight game.

But it's one thing to do it against the rebuilding Browns and Bears. The schedule gets a little tougher next week when the Eagles host the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Bears, meanwhile, are in danger of seeing their season slip away. Not only did they follow up a season-opening loss at Houston with a dismal performance, they lost quarterback Jay Cutler to a right thumb injury. With that in mind, here are some takeaways from the game.

### HELPING WENTZ

The Eagles aren't getting much from their run game, but their defense sure is chipping in. After holding Cleveland to 10 points, that group gave up only one of Chicago's two touchdowns. "They're playing well together as a team," coach Doug Pederson said. "The communication is great. The defensive line is rolling off the ball, getting pressure, making the (opposing) quarterback move off one spot, having to relocate his feet, putting the quarterback in different throwing positions." Then the back end is doing a really nice job in coverage. They're just playing together as a unit.

### AT QUARTERBACK

The Bears lost the game and they lost their quarterback. If Cutler is not available, Brian Hoyer figures to start at Dallas next week. Cutler was seen having his right hand examined on the sideline early in the third following a strip-sack by Destiny Vaeao, though he said it happened sometime earlier in the game. That play just aggravated it.

As if the injury wasn't enough, he also got an earful from injured linebacker Pernell McPhee after an interception late in the third quarter. The two had words after a pass got picked off by Philadelphia's Nigel Bradham. Cutler walked to the locker room and did not return.

### NO GROUND GAINS

The Bears are being hurt offensively by the lack of a running game, whether it's because of poor blocking with a line that has just come together or a lack of execution. Their running backs had just 55 yards on 17 carries after going for 61 on 18 attempts in a season-opening loss at Houston. "I mean, nothing has gotten going like we planned to," Cutler said. "That falls on me. That falls on the rest of the offense. So we've got to take a look at it and whatever is bothering us on offense we've got to get it fixed."

### NFL result/standings

Philadelphia 29, Chicago 14.

#### American Football Conference

Team	AFC East				
	W	L	T	OTL	PCT
New England	2	0	0	0	1.000
NY Jets	1	1	0	0	.500
Miami	0	2	0	0	.000
Buffalo	0	2	0	0	.000

Team	AFC North				
	W	L	T	OTL	PCT
Baltimore	2	0	0	0	1.000
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	0	1.000
Cincinnati	1	1	0	0	.500
Cleveland	0	2	0	0	.000

Team	AFC South				
	W	L	T	OTL	PCT
Houston	2	0	0	0	1.000
Tennessee	1	1	0	0	.500
Indianapolis	0	2	0	0	.000
Jacksonville	0	2	0	0	.000

Team	AFC West				
	W	L	T	OTL	PCT
Denver	2	0	0	0	1.000
Kansas City	1	1	0	0	.500
Oakland	1	1	0	0	.500
San Diego	1	1	0	1	.500

#### National Football Conference

Team	NFC East				
	W	L	T	OTL	PCT
NY Giants	2	0	0	0	1.000
Philadelphia	2	0	0	0	1.000
Dallas	1	1	0	0	.500
Washington	0	2	0	0	.000

Team	NFC North				
	W	L	T	OTL	PCT
Minnesota	2	0	0	0	1.000
Detroit	1	1	0	0	.500
Green Bay	1	1	0	0	.500
Chicago	0	2	0	0	.000

Team	NFC South				
	W	L	T	OTL	PCT
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	0	.500
Carolina	1	1	0	0	.500
Atlanta	1	1	0	0	.500
New Orleans	0	2	0	0	.000

Team	NFC West				
	W	L	T	OTL	PCT
San Francisco	1	1	0	0	.500
Los Angeles	1	1	0	0	.500
Arizona	1	1	0	0	.500
Seattle	1	1	0	0	.500

### TAKE IT AWAY

The Eagles won the turnover battle 3-0, including two fumble recoveries. Bradham helped seal the win with his interception and return to the Chicago 2 right after Philadelphia scored. But another big one came on the strip-sack by undrafted free agent Destiny Vaeao that teammate Connor Barwin said "turned the game." The takeaway came with the Bears on the Philadelphia 43.

### ON THE BRIGHT SIDE?

As bad as the Bears have looked so far, things could be worse. Just ask Fox. "Well, not as tough as last year because we were 0-3," he said. The Bears dropped home games to Green Bay and Arizona and got shut out at Seattle before beating Oakland at home. That was their lone victory at Soldier Field last season. — AP



**SANT JOAN DESPI:** FC Barcelona's coach Luis Enrique, left, Gerard Pique, center, and Neymar attend a training session at the Sports Center FC Barcelona Joan Gamper in Sant Joan Despi, Spain, yesterday. — AP

## LUIS ENRIQUE, SIMEONE UNITE TO DEFEND 'SPECTACULAR' NEYMAR

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona coach Luis Enrique and Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone have launched impassioned defenses of Neymar after the Brazilian's showboating again came under the spotlight.

Former Barcelona great Michael Laudrup lambasted the Brazil international for "provoking" the opposition in Saturday's 5-1 win at Leganes and Neymar's flamboyant style will be scrutinized again on Wednesday when Barcelona host Atletico.

Commentating on Saturday's game at Leganes for BeIN sports, Laudrup said he understood why Lluís Sastre kicked out at Neymar during the game.

"Why are you taking the ball across your own half? You're provoking the opposition. When it's 4-0 you can't be showboating and provoking your opponents," Laudrup said.

Neymar's penchant for trying to embarrass opponents with flicks and tricks has prompted criticism in Spain before, with Luis Enrique once declaring he sympathised with Athletic Bilbao players for fouling Neymar in the 2015 King's Cup final.

The coach, however, took his player's side when questioned about Laudrup's com-

ments. "He has his own style and I think it's spectacular for football. We enjoy his play a lot at Barca," Luis Enrique told a news conference yesterday. "We know what world we live in and what people focus on, but I like his concept of football, and no-one in La Liga can be surprised by it now."

"Perhaps it's better to criticise things that are against the rules, as there is nothing saying you cannot do spectacular tricks," Atletico coach Simeone also defended Neymar when asked if he would be bothered if Neymar attempted similar tricks against his side today. "He has a particular style of play, like everyone else, but I love it," Simeone said yesterday. "He has been criticised and they have exposed his private life. He has fun, he sings he dances and he destroys opponents. They can keep criticising him. He needs to respond on the pitch."

Simeone added: "He's extraordinary. He went to the Olympics and won gold, he has found his place at Barcelona to showcase his talent, he has just come back from holidays and he's still playing just as well. "He has a personality that allows him to do all that, and I love watching him." — Reuters



**MOSCOW:** Russian coach Irina Gromova speaks to the media in Moscow, Russia, yesterday. Gromova says the samples in question dated from the period around the Sochi Paralympics and were considered by WADA investigator Richard McLaren to show scratches and a 'hole' in the bottle which indicated possible tampering. — AP



**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi Paralympians Ahmed Naas (2-L), Garrah Tnaiash (3-R) and Kovan Abdullaheem (R) pose for a picture at Baghdad's International Airport yesterday upon their return from Brazil where they took part in the Rio 2016 Paralympic games. — AFP

## PLATINI COULD RECEIVE UEFA COMPENSATION: REPORT

**BERLIN:** Ex-UEFA president Michel Platini could receive a cash compensation from European football's governing body, even though he is serving a four-year suspension for corruption.

German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung yesterday claims Platini could yet receive a pay-out as

part of a severance and retirement package. UEFA confirmed to AFP that Platini no longer receives a salary, but the matter of any remuneration will be discussed.

"The overall matter of his remuneration since his suspension will be addressed by the UEFA Executive Committee in due course following

advice and proposals from the newly formed UEFA Compensation Committee and Legal experts," UEFA said in a statement. Platini was originally suspended last December by FIFA's ethics committee from any football-related activity, which was reduced to six years on appeal, then to four years by the Court

of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Platini and former FIFA leader Sepp Blatter are both under criminal investigation by Swiss prosecutors over a \$2 million payment that Blatter authorised in 2011 for work carried out a decade earlier without a contract. Platini was elected to a third five-year-term in March 2015,

but was suspended last October over the payment and never returned to his office. He officially resigned in May.

Last week, the 62-year-old French football legend said his 'conscience is clear' with regard to any wrong doing and has said he will continue the fight to clear his name. — AFP

## FALLEN CHELSEA HERO DIXON AIMS TO REBUILD HIS LIFE

**LONDON:** Four months in jail, 10 years of drug abuse, two bankruptcies and hundreds of thousands of pounds blown on gambling are not the figures Kerry Dixon wants to be remembered for but the former Chelsea and England striker is determined to rebuild his life and reputation.

Dixon notched four goals in his eight England appearances and as Chelsea's third-highest scorer with 193 he is still worshipped by fans who have a deep fondness for those who loyally served in the years before Roman Abramovich's takeover.

However, the striker's life spiralled out of control after retirement from the game and hit rock bottom when he was involved in a fight with a man in a pub that led to him being found guilty of actual bodily harm in June 2015 and sentenced to nine months in prison.

Dixon was released after four months and, having lost the hospitality and media jobs he had at his beloved Chelsea, is trying to rebuild his life by working as a labourer.

"I'm going to be remorseful for the rest of my days," Dixon told Reuters in an interview. "I'm sorry it happened but I'm drawing a line underneath it and trying to move forward."

"I've done my time for the crime I committed. I was never sent off in my career and I was booked only five times in 17 years so violence is not my thing."

"The judge saw it as a vicious assault and I've got to live with that," said Dixon. "But I don't believe you should be provoked by people in public that you don't know. If you've got nothing nice to say to someone then don't say anything at all."

The time he spent in prison certainly provided a salutary lesson for Dixon. "I was in my cell for 16 hours a day and the boredom, the inactivity, the loss of privileges, the whole package, made me realise I've got more to offer life than this," said the 55-year-old. "I'm not going to say I'm a totally changed person. I still have a drink and I still meet people but I won't put myself in a position where I see rowdiness and sense things may kick off. "I was quite comfortable in those situations before. Now I tend to say to whoever I'm with, 'Come on, let's go somewhere else'."

One of the most harrowing experiences Dixon endured came within minutes of his sentencing.

### SWEAT BOX

"I was put in a prison van and the worst part of the journey was the sweat box I had to squeeze into," he said. "Those vans contain a number of small compartments."

"My shoulders and knees touched the sides and I found it extremely oppressive, made worse by the heat. I started to have a panic attack...I felt like I was in a coffin."

"A dish of water was passed under the door and I gulped it down," said Dixon who has written a hard-hitting autobiography about his roller-coaster life entitled 'Up Front', by John Blake Publishing.

"As a means of transporting prisoners it was horrendous and in my opinion it should be changed, it is inhumane."

Dixon, a member of England's squad at the 1986 Mexico World Cup, received no special privileges in jail and discovered that boredom was the worst thing about his incarceration.

He had eight different cell mates and said the highlight of each day was the half-hour when the inmates were allowed to get some fresh air in the exercise yard.

"There was a suicide," Dixon added. "Someone hanged himself in his cell, went into a coma and could not be revived. I never knew the guy."

### DEPTHS OF DEPRESSION

"When you are inside you appreciate the depths of depression that take hold. It's easy to slip into feelings of being unwanted and unloved, coupled with loneliness."

There have been several other moments in Dixon's life where he may have felt similar emotions. After his career with Chelsea, Southampton, Watford, Reading, Luton Town, Millwall and Doncaster Rovers ended, Dixon developed a drug habit that lasted for around a decade. "If I stayed up late drinking socially on a night out... I would take cocaine as part of the ritual," he said.

"Fortunately I have found the urge has died down in recent years. As I no longer have too many late nights, the need for cocaine hardly exists and I've managed to shake the habit off."

Dixon also has a string of failed business ventures behind him. He was made bankrupt twice and has lost three homes as a result of the chronic gambling addiction that first took hold when he was a teenager. At one point during his halcyon spell at Chelsea between 1983-92, his annual salary was 130,000 pounds (\$169,429) but he lost 135,000 pounds through gambling in the same year. "I don't have a proper home now, I've got nothing left," said Dixon who has three children by his former wife Michele and now lives with his partner Kim.

One thing he will never lose is the adoration of the Chelsea supporters. For most people the matchday walk from Fulham Broadway underground station to Stamford Bridge takes no more than five minutes, for Dixon it takes three times as long. Every couple of steps he is greeted by a fan who wants to hug him, shake his hand or simply tell him, "You'll always be a legend here". Dixon's ultimate aim is to re-establish himself with the hierarchy at Chelsea.

"Almost the first thing I did when I came out of prison was to make arrangements to see chairman Bruce Buck," he said. "I will always naturally gravitate toward Stamford Bridge. "I loved my job in the hospitality lounges, on Chelsea TV and as a pundit. Were I to be given a second chance back at the Bridge I would be sure not to let them down." — Reuters



**MALABO:** This file photo taken on January 24, 2015 shows Ivory Coast's midfielder Yaya Toure (C) vies with Mali's midfielder Seydou Keita (R) during the 2015 African Cup of Nations group D football match between Ivory Coast and Mali in Malabo on January 24, 2015. Four-time African footballer of the year Yaya Toure of the Ivory Coast announced his retirement from international football yesterday. — AFP

## TOURE WON'T PLAY UNTIL HE SAYS SORRY: GUARDIOLA

**MANCHESTER:** Yaya Toure will not play again for Manchester City until the player's camp apologises for comments made by his agent, manager Pep Guardiola vowed yesterday.

Dimitri Seluk accused the City manager of "humiliating" Toure, 33, by leaving him out of the club's Champions League squad at the start of this month.

The Ivorian midfielder, who announced his retirement from international duty yesterday, has not figured in a single City match-day squad since then. "The day after that, his agent spoke and in that moment, Yaya is out," Guardiola told a press conference. "Unless Mr Dimitri Seluk comes back to the press or to his friends in the media because he hasn't the courage to call me, he goes to the media and apologises to Manchester City first of all, then his team-mates and afterwards the trainer..."

"When that happens, Yaya will be part of the group and he will have the chance to play."

While Guardiola said that Seluk should say sorry for his comments, the club later indicated the manager wanted an apology from Toure.

Toure has recovered from a migraine that

made him unavailable for Saturday's 4-0 Premier League win over Bournemouth, but he will not be considered for today's League Cup tie at Swansea City.

Seluk had said: "If he (Guardiola) wins the Champions League for City this season, then I will travel to England and I will say on television that Pep Guardiola is the best manager in the world. "But if City don't win the Champions League, then I hope that Pep has got the balls to say that he was wrong to humiliate a great player like Yaya." Toure, who is in the final year of his contract at the Etihad Stadium, has featured just once for City since Guardiola's arrival.

### Cruyff respect

He played the full 90 minutes of their Champions League play-off second-leg victory over Steaua Bucharest in August.

Guardiola added: "I cannot accept as a coach that every agent, when his player doesn't play, goes to the media and speaks. "I know how much Dimitri Seluk loves Yaya Toure. If he loves him, show me by apologising to Manchester City for what he said in the papers." Guardiola said

that, as a player at Barcelona in the early 1990s, he would never have dared to allow his agent to speak out against Dutch legend Johan Cruyff, then the club's manager. "I cannot imagine in my day when a player's agent would go to the media and speak against Johan Cruyff," he said.

"Maybe it's the new era, but I'm from the old generation, and an old-generation agent has to make his players his job and the coach his job."

"Today agents believe they are more than they are. If you have a problem, we can talk. Until he speaks, Yaya isn't going to play." Guardiola said the decision to omit Toure from his Champions League squad had not been an easy one. "It was so difficult for me to leave him out of the Champions League squad. So difficult," he said. "I know him and I know he's a good guy. It was difficult as well for Alex Garcia. Toure has been at City since 2010 and has won two Premier League titles, two League Cups and one FA Cup during that time."

While he will play no part at Swansea, captain Vincent Kompany could return, having not played since April after undergoing groin and thigh surgery. — AFP

## ROONEY AT RISK AS JOSE'S MANCHESTER UNITED TOIL

**LONDON:** Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho is under pressure to drop Wayne Rooney, with the captain's clanking performances emblematic of the team's struggles. United have lost their last three matches and there is clamour among supporters and journalists for Rooney to be removed from the starting XI. In an online poll by the United fanzine Red Issue, over 99 percent of respondents called for him to be axed.

"Where do you want Wayne Rooney to play? Or should he be playing at all?" former England captain Alan Shearer wrote in The Sun after United's 3-1 defeat at Watford on Saturday.

"Not on yesterday's performance, it is fair to say." Despite United winning their first three league games, Rooney's lacklustre displays meant his place was already under scrutiny. With United having since lost to Manchester City, Feyenoord, in the Europa League, and Watford, the calls for him to be dropped are getting louder. Rooney, 30, was rested for last Thursday's trip to Feyenoord, but he has started all of United's other games under Mourinho. It was a similar story during Louis van Gaal's two-year tenure as manager. The Dutchman sidelined Rooney only once, for a 2-0 defeat at Stoke City on Boxing Day last year.

David Moyes, Van Gaal's predecessor, was similarly faithful to the United number 10, whose career he launched at Everton. But Alex Ferguson lost patience with the England captain towards the end of his storied tenure. Ferguson claimed Rooney had asked to leave the club for a second time in 2013 and he disappeared from view in the dying days of the Scot's 26-year reign. Mourinho, whose side host Leicester City on Saturday, has said he would have no qualms about dropping Rooney.

"I can take him out. No problem for me to take him out," Mourinho said following United's last-gasp 1-0 win at Hull City last month.

### POGBA STIFLED

As has been the case for much of his career, debate continues to rage about Rooney's best



**Wayne Rooney**

position. Never quite a true number nine, but not a classic number 10 either, Rooney was deployed in central midfield by Roy Hodgson during England's calamitous Euro 2016 campaign. Rooney has said he is open to the idea of moving into midfield as his career progresses. Mourinho appeared to nix that ambition, in the short term at least, prior to the season.

"For me, Wayne will be a number nine or a number 10 or a number nine-and-a-half," Mourinho said. "But with me he will never be a number six, not even a number eight."

Yet in the loss at Watford, Rooney started the game in a midfield three alongside Marouane Fellaini and record signing Paul Pogba. Once again he looked off the pace, even after moving into a number 10 role behind Zlatan Ibrahimovic in the second half. A 'highlights' video flagging up his sloppy touches and wayward passing circulated widely on social media.

"I think playing him as a number 10 is holding back United," former Arsenal defender Martin

Keown said in the Daily Mail. A knock-on effect of Mourinho's deployment of Rooney as a number 10 is that several of his team-mates have been prevented from playing in their preferred positions. Teenage striker Marcus Rashford, last season's breakthrough star, started on the left wing against Watford. Juan Mata and close-season signing Henrikh Mkhitaryan, both more conventional number 10s, have had to content themselves with wide roles or places on the bench.

Perhaps most worryingly, in using a 4-2-3-1 system to accommodate Rooney at number 10 Mourinho has been fielding Pogba as a holding midfielder, denying him the freedom to attack that he thrived upon at Juventus. "Until they find the right balance, you won't see the best of Pogba," said Liverpool midfielder turned BBC pundit Danny Murphy.

Rooney needs only four goals to surpass Bobby Charlton's United scoring record of 249 goals, but his first-team status is more fragile than ever. — AFP

### Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP	
Swansea City v Manchester City	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	
Fulham FC v Bristol City	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	
West Ham United v Accrington	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	
Southampton FC v Crystal Palace	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	
Queens Park Rangers v Sunderland	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	
Northampton v Manchester United	21:45
BeIN SPORTS	
Tottenham Hotspur v Gillingham	22:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Stoke City v Hull City	22:00
BeIN SPORTS	



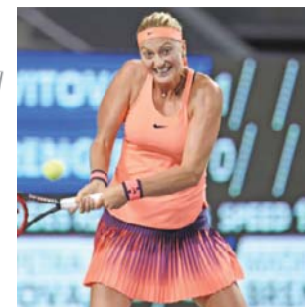
**MADRID:** Real Madrid's Gareth Bale, left, jumps to head the ball in front of James Rodriguez, right, during a training session in Madrid, Spain, yesterday. — AP

# Sports

Europe down  
Czechs in World  
Cup of Hockey



Petra Kvitova  
makes winning  
start in Tokyo



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TOUGHER TESTS TO COME FOR WENTZ, HIGH-FLYING EAGLES Page 18



BALTIMORE: David Ortiz #34 of the Boston Red Sox looks on after flying out in the first inning against the Baltimore Orioles at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on Monday in Baltimore, Maryland. — AFP

## RED SOX USE TWO HRs TO BEAT ORIOLES

**BALTIMORE:** Rick Porcello pitched a four-hitter for his major league-high 21st victory while David Ortiz and Mookie Betts hit two-run homers as the Boston Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 5-2 on Monday night to extend their lead in the American League East. Coming off a four-game sweep of the Yankees, Boston sustained its late-season surge in the opener of an important four-game series for both clubs. The Red Sox stand atop the division by a season-high four games. Adam Jones homered and Mark Trumbo picked up his 102nd RBI, but the Orioles dropped into a tie with Toronto for the first AL wild card. Porcello (21-4) struck out seven and walked none in his third complete game of the year. Five days earlier against Baltimore, the right-hander gave up one run in eight innings but took the loss. Playing his final regular season series in Baltimore, the 40-year-old Ortiz connected against rookie Dylan Bundy (9-6) with a man on in the fifth for a 5-1 lead.

### DODGERS 2, GIANTS 1

Adrian Gonzalez hit a game-ending double in the ninth inning as Los Angeles rallied for a testy 2-1 victory over San Francisco that increased its NL West lead to six games. Two innings after a shoving match broke out when tempers again flared between Madison Bumgarner and Yasiel Puig, the Dodgers' comeback in the ninth began with pinch-hitter Andrew Toles' leadoff single. Corey Seager singled past diving second baseman Joe Panik on a two-strike pitch from Javier Lopez (1-3), allowing the speedy Toles to reach third. Justin Turner's single tied the game, and Gonzalez followed with a drive to deep right field that eluded Hunter Pence. Joe Blanton (6-2) got the win in relief.

### RANGERS 3, ANGELS 2

Ian Desmond had an RBI single with no outs in the ninth inning as Texas moved closer to the AL West title. Elvis Andrus led off the ninth with a sharp single to left off Jose Alvarez (1-3) before Carlos Gomez turned an attempted sacrifice into a bunt single. Desmond, an All-Star center fielder, followed with his hit to right that scored Andrus. Andrus also homered for the Rangers, who cut their magic number to three in pursuit of their second consecutive division title. Alvarez, the sixth Angels pitcher, had got out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth following a 38-minute rain delay. Closer Sam Dyson (3-2) worked a scoreless ninth for the victory.

### BLUE JAYS 3, MARINERS 2

Marco Estrada took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and Edwin Encarnacion hit his 41st home run too lift Toronto over Seattle in the opener of a critical three-game series. Estrada (9-9) had allowed only two walks before Robinson Cano led off the seventh with a line drive up the middle on a 2-1 pitch. Cano and Nelson Cruz walked in the fourth inning, but Estrada otherwise kept the Mariners off the bases. The Blue Jays pulled even with Baltimore for the first AL wild-card spot. Both teams are 2 1/2 games clear of Detroit and three ahead of Seattle and Houston. Taijuan Walker (6-11) allowed three runs in 5 1/3 innings. Roberto Osuna got his 34th save.

### CUBS 5, REDS 2

Dexter Fowler hit a tiebreaking single with two outs in the seventh inning as Chicago beat Cincinnati. Fowler's line drive into center field capped a three-run rally for the Cubs after they were shut down by Tim Lincecum most of the night. It also made a winner of Jason Hammel (15-9), who pitched seven solid innings. Jason Heyward added a two-run homer in the eighth as the Cubs moved seven games ahead of Washington for the best record in the National League, lowering their magic number for clinching home-field advantage throughout the NL playoffs to five. That's the only major goal still out there during the regular season for major league-leading Chicago after it secured the NL Central title last week. Blake Wood (6-4) allowed three runs in 1 2/3 innings.

### BRVES 7, METS 3

Aaron Blair won for the first time in 13 major league starts, Freddie Freeman drove in three runs off a misfiring Noah Syndergaard and Atlanta slowed New York's wild-card chase. Freeman had four hits for the Braves, who have the worst record in the National League, and rookie Dansby Swanson had three hits and three RBIs. New York had won 11 of its previous 14 games. The Mets have a one-game lead over San Francisco and St. Louis for the first NL wild card. Pitching on five days' rest rather than four, Syndergaard (13-9) allowed five runs, eight hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings. Blair (1-6) gave up six hits in six innings and lowered his ERA to 7.71.

### CARDINALS 5, ROCKIES 3

Carlos Martinez threw five effective innings and added a two-run double, helping St. Louis gain ground in the NL playoff race. The Cardinals moved into a tie for the second wild card with the Giants. Martinez, who turns 25 on Wednesday, gave himself an early birthday present by holding Colorado to two runs while striking out six. The right-hander is 9-1 on the road this season. Martinez (15-8) helped his own cause with a two-out double as part of a three-run fourth. He also was hit just below the left leg by a fastball from Tyler Anderson (5-6) in the third - two pitches after Randal Grichuk lined a two-run homer.

### ASTROS 4, ATHLETICS 2

Marwin Gonzalez hit a tiebreaking, two-run single off Ryan Madson in the ninth inning as Houston came from behind to beat Oakland. The Astros trailed 2-1 going into the eighth but tied it on pinch-hitter Tyler White's RBI double, then scored twice in the ninth to bolster their slim playoff hopes. Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa opened the inning with singles. After Evan Gattis was intentionally walked, Gonzalez lined the first pitch from Madson (5-7) into center field to drive in Altuve and Correa. Former Oakland reliever Luke Gregerson (4-1) retired three batters for the win. Ken Giles pitched the ninth for his 12th save.

### MARLINS 4, NATIONALS 3

Giancarlo Stanton homered and Miami beat Washington. Christian Yelich, Ichiro Suzuki and Derek Dietrich also drove in a run for the Marlins and A.J. Ramos pitched the ninth for his 38th save in 41 chances. Brian Ellington (3-2) picked up the win with an inning of relief while Mat Latos (7-3) took the loss.

### ROYALS 8, WHITE SOX 3

Yordano Ventura picked up his first complete-game victory, Kendrys Morales hit a three-run homer and Kansas City defeated Chicago. The Royals have won three straight, keeping their faint playoff hopes flickering with 12 games remaining. The Royals went 14-5 against the White Sox this year.

Ventura (11-11) gave up nine hits, struck out five and walked one. His only other complete game in the majors was a July 28 loss at Texas. Morales homered off Carlos Rodon (7-10) in a four-run fifth. Morales homered in back-to-back games, bringing his total to 29. The last Royal to hit 30 home runs in a season was Jermaine Dye, with 33 in 2000.

### PADRES 3, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Clayton Richard was sharp for six-plus innings and Wil Myers homered as San Diego defeated Arizona. Richard (3-3) won his third straight decision, charged with two runs and six hits. He struck out two and walked two. Brandon Maurer pitched the ninth for his 11th save in 13 chances. Braden Shipley (4-4) was gone after four innings. — AP

## FIVE CUBAN VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS JAILED FOR GANG RAPE IN FINLAND

**HELSINKI:** A Finnish court yesterday jailed five members of Cuba's national volleyball team for gang raping a woman during a Volleyball World League championship in July and filming the attack.

According to the charge sheet, four of the players subjected the woman, whose identity was not revealed, to an hour-and-a-half ordeal which they filmed and photographed. These four, team captain Rolando Cepeda Abreu (27), Abraham Alfonso Gavilan (21), Ricardo Calvo Manzano (19) and Osmany Uriarte Mestre (21) received five-year prison sentences for aggravated rape.

A fifth player, Luis Sosa Sierra (21), received a shorter sentence of three years and six months, while the court acquitted a sixth teammate, Dariel Albo Miranda (24).

The Pirkanmaa district court in southern Finland ruled the woman had met some of the players at a basement nightclub in the hotel where the Cuban team was staying during the tournament in Tampere on the night of July 2.

She later agreed to go upstairs to Uriarte Mestre's room and the two had sex, at first with her consent. But Uriarte Mestre then invited Calvo Manzano followed by his other teammates to the room without her consent, the court found.

According to the prosecutor, Uriarte Mestre, Calvo Manzano, Cepeda Abreu and Alfonso Gavilan "had together and in mutual understanding forced (the victim) to several acts of sexual intercourse by means of violence and by taking advantage of (her) fear and state of helplessness."

The charge sheet said the men pulled her by her hair and held her by her neck, among other things, to stop her from leaving the room, while she screamed for them to stop.

The prosecutor said the victim's ordeal lasted two and a half hours, but the court found the hotel's video monitoring system showed the events took place within an hour and a half.

The players had denied the charges,

saying the sex had been consensual. The court handed Sosa Sierra a shorter sentence than the others because he raped her in another hotel room, without the others present.

### MISSED RIO OLYMPICS

The court said meanwhile it had acquitted Dariel Albo Miranda as "significant doubt" persisted over his role in the events.

The court found no grounds to keep Albo Miranda in custody after the trial and he was released at the beginning of September.

"He immediately left the country to return to Cuba... I've understood he is with his family now," Lappalainen told AFP.

He said Albo Miranda was considering the possibility of seeking damages from the Finnish state for the two-month deprivation of liberty.

The trial was held behind closed doors in Tampere to protect the victim. The court said its decision was based both on the victim's account and on evidence such as text messages the players had sent each other after the incident.

All of the players pleaded not guilty and claimed the victim was willing to have sex with them, but the court said their accounts of the events were partly contradictory and changed several times during the investigation.

In addition to the prison sentences, the court ordered the five players to pay the victim a total of 24,000 euros (\$26,800) in damages.

Alfonso Gavilan's lawyer told AFP his client would appeal the verdict, but it was not immediately known whether the four others would appeal.

The maximum jail sentence for aggravated rape in Finland is 10 years. The players have been held in custody in Finland since early July. As a result, they missed the Olympic Games in Rio.

The remainder of the Cuban national team finished last in their group in Rio, with five straight defeats. — AFP

# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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Alabama gov praises pipeline company's response to leak

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## DOLLAR SUBDUED AS FED, BOJ MEET BEGINS

Page 24



DUBAI: Visitors look at electric cars on the first day of the "Inter Solar Connecting Solar Business" exhibition, the annual Intersolar Middle East forum for professionals in the solar power industry. —AFP

## UAE SOLAR PROJECT ATTRACTS COST-EFFECTIVE BID

### BIDS EQUATE TO LOWEST EVER COST FOR SOLAR POWER GENERATOR

**ABU DHABI:** Abu Dhabi has received six bids to build a 350 megawatt solar plant in the emirate, one of which was cited by the Abu Dhabi Water & Electricity Authority (ADWEA) as equating to the lowest cost for solar power generation by a commercial project. The proposed Sweihan plant east of Abu Dhabi is part of efforts by the oil-rich capital of the United Arab Emirates to diversify its energy

base into renewable as it seeks to generate 7 percent of its power from green methods by 2020.

Of the six Sweihan bids, the lowest equated to 2.42 US cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), state-owned ADWEA said in a statement carried by official news agency WAM. "It represents one of the most competitive prices seen to date in the global solar photovoltaic indus-

try," the statement said. The bidding companies were not named.

#### Falling cost, improving technology

The cost of generating solar power has been falling as the cost of the technology improves, while Middle Eastern nations have sought to drive down the price they pay for solar projects to take advantage of the

region's year-round sunshine. Neighboring emirate Dubai said in May that the third phase of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's (DEWA) Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Solar Park had attracted a lowest bid of 2.99 cents/kWh.

The Sweihan plant would be ADWEA's first foray into renewable energy, though green energy company Masdar has launched some

renewables projects in the emirate. ADWEA currently has 11 gas-fired independent water and power projects. Commercial operations at the Sweihan plant are expected to begin in the first quarter of 2019, ADWEA's statement said. A source told Reuters last December that the chosen developer would own 40 percent of the project, with 60 percent held by ADWEA. —Reuters

## QATAR GAINS AFTER FTSE INCLUSION, SAUDI NEAR TECH SUPPORT LEVEL

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Qatar's equity index climbed yesterday as passive funds flowed into shares now included in FTSE's secondary emerging market index while other Gulf markets sagged. Doha's index rose 1.0 percent, recouping some of the percent losses from the previous session. Passive funds will flow into 22 shares from Tuesday, and the stocks will continue to be bid up for several days to come as managers meet their fund mandates.

Islamic lender Masraf Al Rayan, which slumped 5.1 percent on Monday, added 1.9 percent and telecommunication provider Ooredoo, which also dropped 5.1 percent the previous session, climbed 0.4 percent. Elsewhere, Saudi Arabia's index slipped 0.2 percent to 5,925 points but closed 56 points above its intra-day low. The index remains close to technical support established by the August low of 5,911 points.

Banking shares were hit hardest, with Samba Financial Group dropping 2.8 percent. Some petrochemical shares underperformed as Brent futures fell below \$46 a barrel; large-cap producer Saudi Kayan Petrochemical slipped 1.6 percent. But Saudi Telecom Co (STC) rose 1.8 percent to 56.00 riyals (\$14.93) after Bloomberg reported on Monday that the company was exploring options for its \$1.8 billion indirect stake in

Maxis, the second-largest Malaysian wireless carrier. A Malaysian pension fund or large investors are among the potential buyers, the report said.

#### Positive notes

Riyadh-based NCB Capital said in a note that STC's losses from international operations stood at 250 million riyals (\$66.65 million) in first half of 2016 which reflects the company's long-term issue with its international investments. "On a positive note, Maxis is currently trading at a forward price to earnings higher than the global median. Therefore, we believe the current valuation is attractive for STC."

Analysts at NCB rate the stock "buy" with a price target of 68.9 riyals. Almarai rose 1.8 percent after the largest dairy producer in the Gulf said the partial commercial operations of its new bakery facility in the northern city Hail has started. The facility has four production lines with a total investment of 856 million riyals.

Dubai's index pulled back 0.9 percent, hit by profit taking in line with subdued global markets. GFH Financial Group lost 2.0 percent and Dubai Investments dropped 1.4 percent. In Abu Dhabi, the share index dropped 0.4 percent to an 11-week low closing level, with a little under half of the traded shares declining. Abu Dhabi National Energy retreated 3.9 per-

cent and the largest listed real estate developer Aldar Properties lost 1.5 percent.

#### Cairo outperforms

Investors turned slightly more positive towards Egyptian shares, with Cairo's main index adding 0.9 percent. The government will start talks with China over a \$2 billion loan next week and plans to issue international bonds in October or November, the Deputy Finance Minister for Treasury said on Monday. This comes after an IMF official said last week that the Fund had held "very productive discussions" with authorities in China and Saudi Arabia about their contributing to that bilateral financing.

Some of the shares favored by foreign funds outperformed with Global Telecom Holding adding 2.4 percent and Commercial International Bank rising 1.2 percent. Over the last several months the government has been proactive about jolting the economy back to stronger growth and replenishing the dried up hard currency stock. Case in point, the Trade and Industry Minister Tarek Kabil said on Tuesday that exports would rise by 10 percent if and when authorities devalue the pound. In March the central bank devalued the currency, but its positive effects were short lived as capital inflow remained subpar. —Reuters

## PEOPLE WASTE MONEY ON PREMIUM GASOLINE

**DETROIT:** There is no sense paying a premium for premium gasoline if your car is designed to run on regular, according to research by the automobile club AAA. Some drivers occasionally like to treat their cars to higher-octane fuel in the belief it boosts performance. But premium blends can cost around 50 cents a gallon more than regular.

AAA says it's just money out the tailpipe - lots of it. In a national survey on gasoline use, AAA said 16.5 million US drivers spent \$2.1 billion they didn't need to in the past year on premium gasoline. Many think premium means quality. But AAA researchers found that while it has more octane, it didn't increase horsepower or fuel economy, decrease emissions or clean engines any better than regular gas in cars that are designed by the manufacturer to run on 87-octane regular.

"Drivers see the 'premium' name at the pump and may assume the fuel is better for their vehicle," said John Nielsen, AAA's managing director of automotive engineering. However, if your owner's manual specifically says to run your car on 93 octane premium or 89 octane mid-grade gas, you should do it to make it perform optimally, according to the researchers. More luxury and performance brands are using turbocharging or supercharging to get better performance out of smaller engines, and those may require premium gas, Nielsen said.

AAA researchers joined with the Automobile Club of Southern California to test V8, V6 and four-cylinder engines, coming up with the same results each time, Nielsen said.



ATLANTA: Gas prices are displayed on a sign at a fuel station. —AP

Seventy percent of U.S. drivers own vehicles that require regular gas, while 16 percent are required to use premium fuel. The rest, about 14 percent, must use at least mid-grade gas or have an alternative fuel such as electricity, AAA says.

People also waste money on gasoline in another key way, according to AAA. Earlier this year the association studied fuel quality at a number of gas stations to see if some were better than others. Researchers found that brands that meet the industry's "Top Tier" standards had better addi-

tives that prevented ash deposits on valves and cleaned engines better than non-Top Tier brands. And the Top Tier gasoline usually costs about the same as other brands, the association said.

Researchers found that ash deposits could cause cars to hesitate, run rough and make the engines run less efficiently, Nielsen said. Generally the major brands meet the Top Tier standards, including BP, Exxon, Mobil, Amoco and Shell. But lesser-known brands also are in there, such as Holiday, Costco and Kwik Star. —AP

# FEDS PREVIEW RULES OF THE ROAD FOR SELF-DRIVING CARS

## BRINGING SELF-DRIVING CARS TO THE HIGHWAY SAFELY

WASHINGTON: Obama administration officials are previewing long-awaited guidance that attempts to bring self-driving cars to the nation's roadways safely - without creating so many roadblocks that the technology can't make it to market quickly. Traditional automakers and tech companies have been testing self-driving prototypes on public roads for several years, with a human in the driver's seat just in case. The results suggest that what once seemed like a technology perpetually over the horizon appears to be fast approaching, especially with car companies announcing a string of investments and acquisitions in recent months.

Federal officials have been struggling with how to capitalize on the technology's promised safety benefits - the cars can react faster than people, but don't drink or get distracted - while making sure they are ready for widespread use. The new guidance represents their current thinking, which they hope will bring some order to what has been a chaotic rollout so far. Self-driving cars have the potential to save thousands of lives lost on the nation's roads each year and to change the lives of the elderly and the disabled, President Barack Obama said in an op-ed published Monday by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "Safer, more accessible driving. Less congested, less polluted roads. That's what

harnessing technology for good can look like," Obama wrote. But he added: "We have to get it right. Americans deserve to know they'll be safe today even as we develop and deploy the technologies of tomorrow." One self-driving technology expert said the overall tenor of the guidance signaled that the federal government truly has embraced autonomous driving. "In terms of just attitude, this is huge," said Bryant Walker Smith, a law professor at the University of South Carolina who closely tracks the technology. He also cautioned that many details remain unclear.

### Transportation regulators

Under the proposal, the federal transportation regulators, rather than states, should be in charge of regulating self-driving cars since the vehicles are essentially controlled by software, not people, administration officials said. States have historically set the rules for licensing drivers, but when the driver becomes a computer "we intend to occupy the field here," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said. States, he said, should stick to registering the cars and dealing with questions of liability when they crash.

Automakers should also be allowed to self-certify the safety of autonomous vehicles by following a 15-point checklist for safe design,

development, testing and deployment, said officials who briefed reporters. Though companies are not required to follow the guidance - it is voluntary and does not carry the force of formal regulation - Foxx said he expects compliance. "It's in their vested interest to go through the rigors that we're laying out here" to gain the confidence of both regulators and the public, Foxx said.

In somewhat contradictory fashion, officials also said the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is examining whether it should have "pre-market approval" authority, in which the government inspects and approves new technologies like autonomous vehicles. That would be a departure from the agency's historic self-certification system and might require action from Congress. Officials spoke to reporters ahead of a news conference scheduled for Tuesday at which they plan to provide greater detail of their guidance to automakers and states, as well as new powers and resources that the NHTSA may require.

NHTSA has been striving to make the guidelines a concise framework, rather than a lengthy set of detailed standards and regulations. The agency's administrator, Mark Rosekind, has said he wants the guidelines to be flexible to keep pace with industry innovation. — AP



WASHINGTON DC: In this July 15, 2016, photo, a double-decker tour bus drives by an Audi self driving vehicle parked on Pennsylvania Avenue. — AP



NEW YORK: A Wall Street street sign is framed by an American flag hanging on the facade of the New York Stock Exchange. — AP

# WHY IT MATTERS: WALL STREET REGULATION

WASHINGTON: The financial crisis that struck in 2008 touched off the worst recession since the 1930s Great Depression, wiping out \$11 trillion in U.S. household wealth and leaving about 8 million Americans jobless. More than 5 million families lost their homes to foreclosure. Reckless trading and aggressive practices on Wall Street in the prior boom years were pinned with much of the blame.

In the aftermath, Congress enacted an overhaul of financial rules aimed at preventing another meltdown and multibillion-dollar taxpayer bailout of banks. The 2010 Dodd-Frank law gave regulators new oversight powers and tools to shut banks without resorting to bailouts. Risky lending was restricted and a new federal agency was charged with protecting consumers from deceptive marketing of financial products. Republicans and many in the business community complain that the restrictions have raised costs for banks, especially smaller ones, and other businesses, stifling economic growth. They want the overhaul law repealed.

### Where they stand

Hillary Clinton says the Dodd-Frank law should be strengthened. She'd slap a new "risk fee" on the biggest banks and financial institutions, and give regulators more power to force high-risk banks to shrink or break apart. That doesn't go as far as Bernie Sanders' "Break them up" mantra during his Democratic primary campaign against her.

Donald Trump wants the financial overhaul law to be repealed, or at least mostly dismantled. He embraces the view held by Republicans and business interests that the regulations have increased costs and smothered growth. He calls the law a "disaster" and a "disgrace."

### Why it matters

Eight years on, the economy's recovery from the havoc brought by the financial crisis has been halting and slow. And popular resentment still smolders over the multibillion-dollar bailout by US taxpayers of Wall Street mega-banks and financial firms in the crisis. It gave a big lift to Sanders' upstart campaign. It also created some

heartburn for Clinton because of her financial connections. She and husband Bill have collected tens of millions of dollars in speaking fees from Wall Street banks, insurance companies and other financial firms. Over her 15-year political career, she's received tens of millions in campaign donations from people in the finance, insurance and real estate industries.

Beyond their stake as taxpayers, American consumers have an interest in the financial regulations that came in after the meltdown. The Dodd-Frank law set up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which expanded regulators' oversight of mortgage firms, credit card issuers, payday lenders, student loan providers and others.

Debate rages over whether Wall Street banks still are "too big to fail" - with government bailouts inevitable. Critics of Wall Street say bigger banks can mean reduced competition and higher fees for consumers. Several of the banks did get bigger as they absorbed failing institutions during the crisis. On the other side, defenders say big banks such as Citigroup, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs are getting smaller and simpler on their own, mainly by selling off big-chunk assets and businesses. Generally, though, the shrinking that's occurred isn't enough to overcome the bulking-up during the crisis. Reaching further for a solution, liberal Democratic critics of Wall Street like Sanders and Sen Elizabeth Warren have pushed for Congress to restore the Depression-era firewall between the more staid commercial side of banking and its risk-taking investment side. Clinton has not. Bringing back the so-called Glass-Steagall law probably would lead to the breakup of major banks. In a surprise, the Republican Party advocated reviving that law in its platform. For a party that traditionally favors deregulation and hands-off governance, folding the provision into a sharply conservative platform brought double-takes among the political crowd. The move may have been designed to appeal to Sanders supporters who don't want to vote for Clinton. At any rate, party platforms carry only symbolic weight; they're not binding on their party's elected officials. — AP

# FED UNLIKELY TO LIFT RATES

WASHINGTON: The Federal Reserve opens its sixth monetary policy meeting this year yesterday again facing the quandary that the US economy is not clearly ready for an interest rate hike. While some economists say the Fed, long anxious to pull away from its crisis-era ultralow rate policy, could surprise with an increase in the federal funds rate on Wednesday, most say it will stand pat.

With that benchmark, crucial to borrowing and deposit rates around the world, stuck at 0.25-0.50 percent, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which sets monetary policy, has repeatedly signaled intentions to increase it this year. But some weak economic data in recent weeks raises a question mark over the strength of the US economy. And persistent weakness in other major economies also continues to challenge the rationale for a rate increase.

Jim O'Sullivan, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics, said he thinks December is the month for an increase. "We expect Fed officials to couple an on-hold announcement this week with more pronounced 'tightening is imminent' guidance," he said in a client note. Just three weeks ago, comments made at the Fed's

annual central banking symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, signaled that the FOMC could finally pull the rate trigger at the end of its September 20-21 meeting. Most notably, Fed Chair and FOMC head Janet Yellen said clearly that she thought the time had come. "In light of the continued solid performance of the labor market and our outlook for economic activity and inflation, I believe the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has strengthened in recent months," she said.

### 'Like waiting for Godot'

Others, including Fed Deputy Chair Stanley Fischer, reinforced that impression. But the data since then has not supported them. Job creation has been relatively good, and the housing market solid. But, extending the second-quarter's slump, industrial output and consumer spending have stayed weak. In addition, inflation—which the Fed has sought with its hefty stimulus policy to increase—remains feeble, not appearing to react to a world awash in easy money.

The last FOMC official to speak ahead of the meeting, Fed Governor Lael Brainard, held firm with her view that the global economy matters

to the Fed, and that it need not rush into a rate hike. "To the extent that the effect on inflation of further gradual tightening in labor market conditions is likely to be moderate and gradual, the case to tighten policy preemptively is less compelling," she said on September 12.

An increase could happen Wednesday, but it would shock markets. Based on CME fed fund futures trading, the markets give a rate increase Wednesday a 12 percent chance. "Waiting for the Fed to hike rates is like waiting for Godot," said Steven Ricchiuto of Mizuho Securities. "No matter how often the makers of domestic monetary policy signal that they are primed to hike rates, the data fails to give them the opportunity, and the September FOMC meeting is likely to be the next in a long string of false positives."

While the US is much stronger than the other major economies, the Fed is caught in a similar quandary to the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan. The economic data is neither strong enough nor consistent enough to tighten the current policy. Last week the ECB held rates steady as it seeks proof that its massive stimulus program, with negative interest rates, is working. — AFP

# LUFTHANSA SIGNS A JOINT VENTURE WITH AIR CHINA

FRANKFURT: German airline Lufthansa and Air China said yesterday they had signed a deal to jointly operate all the groups' connections between Europe and China. "The Chinese aviation market is one of the most important growth markets worldwide. We want to profit from this growth together," Lufthansa chief executive Carsten Spohr said in a statement.

The Chinese flag carrier and Lufthansa, Europe's largest airline, have had a joint venture in their sights since signing a memorandum of understanding in 2014. The move is "another major step of Air China's globalization strategy," chairman Cai Jianjiang said. Added to Lufthansa's other co-operations, including with Japan's ANA and Singapore Airlines in

Asia, and United Airlines and Air Canada in north America, the joint venture means around half of the German giant's long-haul flights are now covered by such agreements. The two groups plan to coordinate their schedules, offer common fares and improve their offers to corporate clients and frequent flyers under the arrangement. As well as Lufthansa itself, the deal covers subsidiaries Austrian Airlines and Swiss International Airlines. Passengers travelling into Europe from China will be able to connect through the Lufthansa group's hubs in Frankfurt, Zurich and Vienna, while the two firms promised "additional routes in China" with Air China and via code-sharing for those travelling in the other direction. — AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.960
Indian Rupees	4.528
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Srilankan Rupees	2.088
Nepali Rupees	2.830
Singapore Dollar	222.540
Hongkong Dollar	39.011
Bangladesh Taka	3.858
Philippine Peso	6.358
Thai Baht	8.728

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.750
Qatari Riyal	83.180
ani Riyal	786.512
Bahraini Dinar	804.170
UAE Dirham	82.443

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.550
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.469
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	137.880
Jordanian Dinar	427.290
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.0158
Morocco Dirham	31.691

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.650
Euro	340.480
Sterling Pound	397.980
Canadian dollar	231.740
Turkish lira	102.420

Swiss Franc	312.010
Australian Dollar	229.110
US Dollar Buying	301.450

#### GOLD

20 Gram	264.290
10 Gram	135.070
5 Gram	68.380

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

#### Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.750
Canadian Dollr	229.425
Sterling Pound	395.485
Euro	339.210
Swiss Frank	297.690
Bahrain Dinar	800.340
UAE Dirhams	82.655
Qatari Riyals	83.870
Saudi Riyals	81.455
Jordanian Dinar	426.600
Egyptian Pound	33.996
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.078
Indian Rupees	4.513
Pakistani Rupees	2.892
Bangladesh Taka	3.852
Philippines Pessa	6.318
Cyprus pound	159.565
Japanese Yen	3.965
Syrian Pound	2.405
Nepalese Rupees	3.840
Malaysian Ringgit	75.510
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.740
Thai Bhat	9.705
Turkish Lira	103.490

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

#### CURRENCY

#### BUY SELL

#### Europe

British Pound	0.387638	0.397638
Czech Korune	0.004507	0.016507
Danish Krone	0.041296	0.046296
Euro	0.0332231	0.0341231
Norwegian Krone	0.032479	0.037679
Romanian Leu	0.083833	0.083833
Slovakia	0.009011	0.019011
Swedish Krona	0.031294	0.036294
Swiss Franc	0.301677	0.312677
Turkish Lira	0.097558	0.107858

#### Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.219618	0.231618
New Zealand Dollar	0.215069	0.224569

#### America

Canadian Dollar	0.223567	0.232567
Georgina Lari	0.136623	0.136623
US Dollars	0.298400	0.303100
US Dollars Mint	0.298900	0.303100

#### Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003288	0.003872
Chinese Yuan	0.043815	0.047315
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036929	0.039679
Indian Rupee	0.004272	0.004661
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025

Japanese Yen	0.002887	0.003067
Kenyan Shilling	0.003111	0.003111
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069880	0.075880
Nepalese Rupee	0.002807	0.002977
Pakistan Rupee	0.002743	0.003033
Philippine Peso	0.006274	0.006574
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.216814	0.226814
South African Rand	0.015609	0.024109
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001656	0.002236
Taiwan	0.009558	0.009738
Thai Baht	0.008352	0.008902

Bahraini Dinar	0.795818	0.804318
Egyptian Pound	0.024036	0.029154
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000182	0.000242
Jordanian Dinar	0.422500	0.431500
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019768	0.043768
Nigerian Naira	0.001247	0.001882
Omani Riyal	0.779294	0.784974
Qatar Riyal	0.082278	0.083728
Saudi Riyal	0.079580	0.080880
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.133759	0.141759
Turkish Lira	0.097556	0.107856
UAE Dirhams	0.080934	0.082634
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

Arab		
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Bahraini Dinar	0.795818	0.804318
Egyptian Pound	0.024036	0.029154
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000182	0.000242
Jordanian Dinar	0.422500	0.431500
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019768	0.043768
Nigerian Naira	0.001247	0.001882
Omani Riyal	0.779294	0.784974
Qatar Riyal	0.082278	0.083728
Saudi Riyal	0.079580	0.080880
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.133759	0.141759
Turkish Lira	0.097556	0.107856
UAE Dirhams	0.080934	0.082634
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

## WAL-MART COMPLETES \$3BN PLUS PURCHASE OF JET.COM

**NEW YORK:** Wal-Mart said Monday it has completed its deal to buy fast-growing Jet.com for \$3 billion in cash plus \$300 million in stock, an acquisition aimed at helping the world's largest retailer attract younger and more affluent customers to drive online sales.

The hefty price tag shows how heavily Wal-Mart is willing to invest as it tries to boost online sales that totaled \$13.7 billion last year - still just a fraction of the company's annual revenue. While Wal-Mart and Jet.com will operate as separate

brands, Wal-Mart has said it will incorporate some of Jet.com's "smart technology" that lowers prices in real time by looking for ways to cut costs.

As part of the deal, which was announced in early August, Jet.com co-founder and CEO Marc Lore will oversee both that site and Walmart.com, and will report to Wal-Mart CEO Doug McMillon. Lore will serve as executive vice president at Wal-Mart and president and CEO of Wal-Mart's e-commerce business in the US.

Lore brings to the role a rich e-

commerce resume as founder of Quidsi, the parent Diapers.com, which was bought by Amazon for \$500 million in 2010. As part of the stock portion of the deal, Lore received 3.55 million shares of restricted Wal-Mart common stock to be paid over five years. The exact value depends on Wal-Mart's share price. But based on Monday's closing price of \$72.09, the shares would have a current worth of nearly \$256 million.

Jet's pricing technology is built on an algorithm that determines which sellers are the most efficient in value

and shipping and adjusts prices based on what items are in the checkout cart as well as how far the desired products are from the shoppers' home. So shoppers are encouraged to add more to build a more efficient cart and buy items labeled "smart cart" for more savings.

Analysts say that the deal still won't enable Wal-Mart to catch up to online leader Amazon.com in sales, but will help narrow the gap and should widen the distance between Wal-Mart and other online rivals. For Jet.com, which had been pouring

money into splashy TV ads and other marketing, being owned by Wal-Mart should accelerate its path to profitability.

In a Wal-Mart blog post on Monday, McMillon wrote, "Wal-Mart and Jet.com obsess about saving customers time and money. By joining forces, we'll be better at doing both, creating seamless shopping from app to site to store." On McMillon's Instagram account was an image of Jet's purple T-shirt with a note saying, "I've been waiting a month to put on this shirt." —AP



**NEW YORK:** In this May 6, 2012, file photo, a Wells Fargo sign is displayed at a branch. —AP

## WELLS FARGO CEO SORRY FOR BETRAYING CUSTOMER TRUST

**WASHINGTON:** The CEO of Wells Fargo apologized before harshly critical senators yesterday for betraying customers' trust in a scandal over allegations that employees opened millions of unauthorized accounts and moved money into them. Chief Executive John Stumpf showed contrition in testimony to the Senate Banking Committee, saying he is "deeply sorry" that the bank failed to meet its responsibility to customers and didn't act sooner to stem what he called "this unacceptable activity." He promised that the bank will contact every affected customer.

Sen Richard Shelby, R-Ala, the panel's chairman, said Wells Fargo had a corporate culture "that drove company 'team members' to fraudulently open millions of accounts using their customers' funds and personal information without their permission." "If there were ever a textbook case where consumers needed protecting, this was it," Shelby said. As part of the sharp questioning, Stumpf was pressed on whether Wells Fargo employees committed fraud, and Sen Bob Corker of Tennessee said it would be "malpractice" if the bank doesn't institute compensation clawbacks.

The bank has in place executive compensation clawback provisions that the board could implement. Stumpf said during the hearing that the company's board "has the tools to hold senior leadership accountable," including himself and Carrie Tolsted, the former head of the retail banking business. Tolsted announced in July her retirement from the bank this year. Tolsted is expected to leave with as much as \$125 million in salary, stock options and other compensation.

### Aggressive sale goals

Wells Fargo has long been known for its aggressive sales goals, but the details and the \$185 million fine that regulators imposed last week have singled the consumer banking giant's reputation as a well-run, tightly managed company removed from the reckless conduct on Wall Street that stoked the financial crisis. In announcing the fine, regulators said Wells Fargo sales employees opened more than 2 million bank and credit card accounts that may not have been authorized by customers. Money in customers' accounts was said to have been moved to these new accounts without their permission. Debit cards were issued and activated, as well as PINs created, without telling customers. In some cases, bank employees even created fake email addresses to sign up customers for online banking services, the regulators said.

The bank sales staff had a goal of getting each customer to have eight different accounts with the bank - up from the prevailing average of six. Under the settlement, Wells Fargo neither admitted nor denied the allegations. It later said it plans to eliminate the sales targets by Jan 1. Some 5,300 Wells Fargo employees have been fired. Stumpf offered some detail at the hearing about who was fired, saying "bankers, bank managers, managers of managers, and even an area president." They ranged in pay from about \$35,000 to \$65,000.

The panel also plans to question regulators from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Treasury Department's Office of the Controller of the Currency and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. Senators are examining their role in the debacle and why the sales practices went on for years before the regulators cracked down. —AP

## US JUDGE CLAIMS BITCOIN IS MONEY

**NEW YORK:** Bitcoin qualifies as money, a federal judge ruled on Monday, in a decision linked to a criminal case over hacking attacks against JPMorgan Chase & Co and other companies. US District Judge Alison Nathan in Manhattan rejected a bid by Anthony Murgio to dismiss two charges related to his alleged operation of Coin.mx, which prosecutors have called an unlicensed bitcoin exchange.

Murgio had argued that bitcoin did not qualify as "funds" under the federal law prohibiting the operation of unlicensed money transmitting businesses. But the judge, like her colleague Jed Rakoff in an unrelated 2014 case, said the virtual currency met that definition. "Bitcoins are funds within the plain meaning of that term," Nathan wrote. "Bitcoins can be accepted as a payment for goods and services or bought directly from an exchange with a bank account. They therefore function as pecuniary resources and are used as a medium of exchange and a means of payment."

The decision did not address six other criminal counts that Murgio faces, Nathan

wrote. Brian Klein, a lawyer for Murgio, said he disagreed with the decision. "Anthony Murgio maintains his innocence and looks forward to clearing his name at his upcoming trial," he added. Prosecutors last year charged Murgio over the operation of Coin.mx, and in April charged his father Michael with participating in bribery aimed at supporting it.

Authorities have said Coin.mx was owned by Gery Shalon, an Israeli man who, along with two others, was charged with running a sprawling computer hacking and fraud scheme targeting a dozen companies, including JPMorgan, and exposing personal data of more than 100 million people. That alleged scheme generated hundreds of millions of dollars of profit through pumping up stock prices, online casinos, money laundering and other illegal activity, prosecutors have said. Shalon has pleaded not guilty, and is being held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan. He hired new lawyers last month and is seeking permission to replace lawyers who joined the case in June, a Monday court filing showed. —Reuters

## SPAIN'S BANCO POPULAR PLANS TO AXE 3K JOBS

**MADRID:** Spain's struggling Banco Popular said yesterday it plans to axe up to 3,000 jobs, about a fifth of its workforce, in the latest round of cost cutting by a Spanish lender. The bank plans to close around 300 of its 2,000 branches in Spain as part of a restructuring, it said in a statement. "This restructuring process will affect between 2,900 and 3,000 people," the statement said.

The bank said it would negotiate the job cuts with unions. Banco Popular, Spain's seventh largest bank by market capitalization, announced a cost-cutting plan in July, a month after raising 2.5 billion

euros (\$2.8 billion) in a share issue to clean up its balance sheet. Like other Spanish lenders, it is making a major push to sell off real estate assets, including repossessed homes, which are clogging up its balance sheet and eating into earnings.

Banco Popular in July reported a second quarter net profit of just 122,000 euros and announced provisions on bad loans of 4.7 billion euros. Spanish banks, which slimmed down after a decade-long property boom went bust in 2008, are once again closing branches and slashing jobs as their profitability is hit by stiff competition. —AFP

## ALABAMA GOV PRAISES PIPELINE COMPANY'S RESPONSE TO LEAK

### GAS PRICES RISE DRAMATICALLY IN SEVERAL STATES

**ATLANTA:** Alabama Gov Robert Bentley said gas prices in parts of the state rose 20 cents over the weekend after a pipeline leak, but he didn't consider that price gouging. "It changes overnight sometimes that much," he said. Bentley toured Colonial Pipeline's emergency response center, in a luxury resort hotel about 12 miles from the pipeline breach, and spent much of a news conference Monday praising the company's response.

A disaster drill was held coincidentally last year near the scene of the spill, he said, and that helped the company plan and execute a response that included about 700 people so far. Colonial said it was working "around the clock" to repair the break and supplies have been delivered or are on their way to locations in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Colonial said Monday evening in a statement that it expects the temporary pipeline to be running by the end of the week but gave no specific day.

In Georgia, AAA reported that the price of regular gas jumped more than 5 cents from Sunday's average of \$2.26 to just more than \$2.31. The average price a week ago was about \$2.10. "Oh, yeah, I've noticed that the prices have just gone up - I mean, through the roof!" Tom Wargo said at a gas station northeast of Atlanta. Wargo runs a nonprofit organization that supplies pet food to people in need and spends much of his time on the road. He just returned from a road trip to Louisiana, where he helped people after the floods there, he said. "I tried getting gas yesterday and a lot of the stations had no gas at all, except diesel," Wargo said Monday.

### Prices increase expected

AAA Carolinas said the average price for a gallon in North Carolina

was \$2.16 - up from \$2.05 last week. In South Carolina, a gallon was selling for an average of \$2.04. That's an increase of 13 cents from last week. In the Chattanooga, Tennessee, area, the price of regular gas jumped 6 cents in one day, AAA reported. "We certainly expect the gas prices to increase, certainly while this line is under repair and not at full capacity," AAA spokesman Garrett Townsend said Monday.

Georgia Gov Nathan Deal issued an executive order Monday aimed at preventing price gouging. "There have been recent reports that wholesale and retail gas prices have substantially increased in some markets," he said. The shortage is blamed on a pipeline rupture and leak of at least 252,000 gallons (954,000 liters) of gas in Alabama. The pipeline company has two main lines and said Monday that it

is shipping "significant volumes" on the second of the two lines to limit the effect of the interruption on the other line. Still, some motorists discovered bone-dry pumps.

Lindsey Paluka, 28, stopped at a Shell gas station in the East Atlanta neighborhood only to find a gas pump handle covered by a black garbage bag. "I'm definitely on empty, so I'm going to have to figure something out," she said. Alpharetta, Georgia-based Colonial has acknowledged that between 252,000 gallons (954,000 liters) and 336,000 gallons (1,272,000 liters) of gasoline leaked from a pipeline near Helena, Alabama, since the spill was first detected Sept. 9. It's unclear when the spill actually began.

According to a preliminary report, it wasn't possible to immediately pinpoint the leak, partly

because highly flammable benzene and gasoline vapors hung in the air and prevented firefighters, company officials and anyone else from being near the site for more than three days. State workers discovered the leak when they noticed a strong gasoline odor and sheen on a man-made retention pond, along with dead vegetation nearby, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said in the report.

The report does not identify the cause of the leak. The agency, part of the US Department of Transportation, is investigating the leak in a section of the pipeline constructed in 1963, it said. Governors across the South issued executive orders last week to suspend limitations on trucking hours, allowing drivers to stay on the road longer to bring fuel to gas stations. —AP



**SMYRNA, Georgia:** A sign informs customers of a gas outage at a station. —AP

## LAST-MINUTE GM DEAL AVERTS STRIKE: CANADA LABOR UNION

**DETROIT:** General Motors reached a tentative agreement with negotiators representing Canadian auto workers late Monday, narrowly averting a midnight strike deadline. The settlement followed a lengthy bargaining session in which several issues were finally resolved, said Jerry Dias, the president of Unifor, the union representing more than 3,900 GM workers in Ontario. GM has promised new investment at the company's assembly plant in Oshawa and at an engine and transmission plant in St Catherine-both facilities in Ontario-as part of the deal.

Unifor is Canada's largest private sector union, representing more than 310,000 workers, including 23,050 at the Detroit Three. It was formed

three years ago by a merger of the Canadian Auto Workers and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers union. Dias said the union's negotiators succeeded in meeting their top objective of pushing GM into making new investment in Canada. "It provides job security for members who haven't had job security in more than 10 years," he said.

The new investment promised by GM in the provisional agreement also reverses the flow of automotive investments across North America, which have gone to Mexico over the past decade. In fact, as part of the agreement, GM will actually shift engine production from Mexico to the plant in the city of St Catherine, Dias said. Dias said the key to the settlement was the com-

mitment by GM to bring a new product into the Oshawa assembly plant outside Toronto.

### 'Member ratification'

"Oshawa will get a new platform that will be able to be used for a truck or a car," said Dias, who said he would provide more details when he presented the complete contract to Unifor members later in the week. "GM has agreed to hundreds of millions of dollars in Oshawa," Dias said. The tentative contract also includes a pay increase and signing bonus, Dias said. The agreement will enable significant new investment in products and technology at GM's Oshawa, St Catharines and Woodstock facilities, the labor leader said.

"The agreement is subject to member ratification. We will be working with (the) government on potential support, and will provide further details on the investment at the appropriate time, while respecting Unifor's ratification process." The union did make one major concession. Going forward, new employees will be eligible for a defined contribution-style pension plan rather than a more lucrative defined-benefit-style pension plan that union members with seniority are now eligible. Capping pension costs was one of GM's major objectives.

In return, GM agreed to make 700 temporary workers full-time employees, which Dias described as a major win for the union because it will bolster the union's organizing efforts at the assembly plants that Honda and Toyota now operate in Ontario. "Those temporary employees at Honda and Toyota now know the way to get full-time employment is through collective bargaining," Dias said. The fallout from a strike in Canada would have spread quickly to GM assembly plant in the US and Mexico, Unifor, said as the deadline approached. Dias has said the negotiations with General Motors, Ford Motor Co. and Fiat Chrysler Automobile are critical to the future of the auto industry in Canada, where production has steadily declined over the past 10 years new investment has shifted to Mexico where labor costs are cheaper. Dias said GM acknowledged the value of its Canadian operations, which have developed a reputation for building high quality products. —AFP



**DETROIT:** This file photo taken on January 11, 2005 shows the corporate logo for General Motors Corporation during the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Hall. —AFP

DOLLAR SUBDUED AS FED, BOJ MEET BEGINS

LONDON: Shares hit pause and the dollar lost ground against the yen yesterday, as investors awaited the outcomes of Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan meetings that will both conclude tomorrow.

said oil markets were effectively 10 percent oversupplied. The yen was creeping higher in the currency markets, meanwhile amid speculation the Bank of Japan may do little more than tinker with its stimulus programme and that the Federal Reserve was likely to stay guarded about its rate hike plans.

anything today?" she said. "Everyone has already positioned for these events and there is no new information that could give them a reason to reposition." The yen was changing hands at 101.645 yen. It has risen almost 20 percent over the past 12 months despite the BOJ's best efforts to weaken it.

investors away from its longer-maturity bonds. The yield on 30-year German Bunds fell 5 basis points to 0.60 percent, and there were similar moves on Dutch, Finnish, French and Spanish 30-year government bonds.

Other euro zone bond yields also fell, if not quite so sharply. Germany's 10-year Bund, the region's benchmark bond, dropped 1.8 bps, turning back into negative territory while Portugal saw a second day of outperformance. European tension over the UK's vote to leave the EU and a flood of immigration has also continued to simmer.

interest rates later in the year. Its finance minister, though, made a strident call for a cut yesterday. In Asia overnight, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan slipped 0.1 percent.

Australian shares finished slightly higher. The Australian Securities Exchange opened without incident on Tuesday after technical faults caused extensive disruptions yesterday. Japan's Nikkei erased its early gains to end 0.2 percent lower as trading resumed after a public holiday yesterday.

Gold though added 0.2 percent to \$1,315.90 an ounce, on expectations that the Fed will stand pat on rates when it ends its two-day meeting tomorrow. Emini futures for the S&P 500 also edged up 0.2 percent, after major US indexes ended yesterday's choppy session nearly flat.

Emerging drama

Despite the holding pattern in major markets, plenty of action loomed in emerging markets. Hungary's central bank was expected to stick to its unconventional easing policy following a surprise S&P upgrade to investment grade on Friday that has bolstered its high flying stock and bond markets and the forint.

Nigeria, which in contrast was downgraded on Friday, also has a central bank meeting. A Reuters poll shows it is expected to stay on hold before hiking

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Tuesday 20 September 2016

Table with 6 columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low. Rows include Price index, Weighted Index, and KXS 15.

Table with 2 columns: Volume, Value (KWD), Number of Trades. Values: 59,348,648; 4,366,530; 1,755.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include MARIN, IKARUS, IPG, NAFESCO, ENERGYH, GPI, ABAR, Oil & Gas.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include SOKOUK, KRF, URC, NRE, SRE, TAM, AREEC, MASSALEH, ARBREC, ERESKO, MABANEE, INJAZZAT, INVESTORS, IRC, ALTIJARIA, SANAM, AAYANRE, AQAR, ALAQARIA, MAZAYA, ADNC, THEMAR, TIJARA, TAAMEER, ARKAN, ARGAN, ABYANAR, MUNSHAAT, FIRSDUBAI, KBT, REAM, MENA, ALMUDON, MARAKEZ, REMAL, AWJ, Real Estate.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include KFOUC, BPCC, ALKOUT, ALQURAIN, Basic Materials.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include KCEM, REFR, CABLE, SHIP, PCEM, PAPER, MRC, ACICO, GGMC, HCC, KBMM, NICBM, EQUIPMENT, NCCI, GYPSUM, SALBOOKH, AGLTY, EDU, CLEANING, KGL, KCPC, HUMANSOFT, NAFAS, SAFWAN, GFC, MAYADEEN, CGC, MTCC, UPAC, ALAFCO, MUBARRAD, LOGISTICS, SCEM, GCEM, QIC, FCEM, RKWC, SPEC, Industrials.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include KSH, NSH, PAFCO, CATT, DANAH, POULT, FOOD, Consumer Goods.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include MHC, ATC, YIACO, Health Care.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include KGIN, KHOT, SULTAN, CABLETV, EYAS, IFAHR, OULAFUEL, MUNTAAZHAT, JAZEERA, SOOR, FUTUREKID, ALRAI, ZIMAH, UFIG, Mezzan, Consumer Services.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include ZAIN, OOREDOO, HITSTELEC, VIVA, Telecommunications.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include NBK, GBK, CBK, ABK, ALMUTAHED, KIB, BURG, KFIN, BOBYAN, AUB, ITIHAMBANK, WARBABANK, Banks.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include KINS, GINS, AINS, WINS, KUWAITRE, FTI, WETHAQ, BKIKWT, Insurance.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

Global Stock Indices table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Rows include Dow Jones, NASDAQ, S&P 500, etc.

MENA Stock Indices table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Rows include Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, etc.

Global Currencies Exchange Rate table with 9 columns: Currency, Kuwaiti Dinar, Saudi Riyal, US Dollar, Euro, Sterling Pound, Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen, Australian Dollar. Rows include Kuwait Dinar, Saudi Riyal, US Dollar, etc.

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate table with 8 columns: Currency, US Dollar, Kuwaiti Dollar, Saudi Riyal, Bahraini Dinar, Qatari Riyal, Omani Riyal, Emirates Dirham, Egyptian Pound. Rows include US Dollar, Kuwaiti Dinar, Saudi Riyal, etc.

Global Interest Rates table with 6 columns: Currency, 1-Week, 1-Month, 3-Month, 6-Month, 1-Year. Rows include Kuwaiti Dinar, US Dollar, Euro, etc.

Global Bond Yields table with 5 columns: Country, 2-Year, 5-Year, 10-Year, 30-Year. Rows include United States, Europe, United Kingdom.

Commodities table with 6 columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, Yearly Performance. Rows include Kuwait Oil, Brent, West Texas, Gold, Silver.

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net



## BRITISH DRUGS COMPANY GLAXO APPOINTS CEO

**LONDON:** GlaxoSmithKline yesterday appointed Emma Walmsley, its head of consumer healthcare, to lead the British drugs giant and develop new treatments in a fast-consolidating sector. Walmsley, 47, succeeds outgoing chief executive Andrew Witty, who is retiring early next year after almost a decade at the helm. Walmsley, who joined GSK from French cosmetics giant L'Oréal six years ago and has a background in marketing, will take up her new post at the end of March.

She will join six other women who currently head one of the 100 companies listed on London's benchmark FTSE index but will oversee the largest of the seven, which include EasyJet, led by Carolyn McCall. The global pharmaceutical sector has undergone major consolidation in recent years

as companies battle competition for generic versions of their drugs.

In the past month, US giant Pfizer announced a deal to purchase biotech firm Medivation, which specialises in cancer treatments, for \$14 billion (12.5 billion euros). Google and French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi have meanwhile agreed a joint venture focused on diabetes care. For its part, GSK agreed in 2014 to sell its oncology business to Novartis for \$16 billion, while buying the Swiss group's vaccines division in return. The pair also formed a joint venture for consumer health products, headed by Walmsley. "Emma is an outstanding leader with highly valuable experience of building and running major global businesses and a strong track record of delivering growth and driv-

ing performance in healthcare," GSK chairman Philip Hampton said in a statement. "Under Andrew's leadership, GSK has successfully developed into a company with market-leading positions in pharmaceuticals, vaccines and consumer healthcare. These provide excellent platforms for sustainable, long-term growth," he added. Alongside the Novartis deal, the latter part of Witty's tenure was clouded by Chinese authorities fining GSK the equivalent of almost half a billion dollars in 2014 over alleged bribery. The firm's former head of China operations, Mark Reilly, and four other ex-officials were handed suspended prison sentences over the incident.

'R&D the beating heart'  
Looking ahead, Walmsley said in the

statement that GSK has "the potential to create meaningful benefits for patients, consumers and our shareholders" thanks to a rise in "medical innovation and trusted healthcare products". In an interview posted on the firm's website, the married, mother-of-four added that research and development of new products would remain GSK's priority under her stewardship.

"R&D is absolutely the beating heart of our company and our success is and will continue to be defined most fundamentally by the strength of our pipeline," she said.

The Oxford University graduate pointed also to challenges that lay ahead for her company and the sector as a whole. "Pricing is a key area of focus, government and household budgets are under

pressure, the regulatory environment is extremely tough and unpredictable and of course society wants big business and big pharma to continue to close the trust deficit that has been widening," she said.

GSK's shares were down 0.6 percent at £16.36 in late morning deals following the announcement, underperforming the wider FTSE 100, which gained half a percent. "The GSK business, including pharma, is in stronger shape than the market realizes and this 'don't upset the apple cart' appointment is consistent with this view," brokers Liberum said in a note to clients. GSK said details of Walmsley's salary would be disclosed next year. The company employs around 100,000 people worldwide, of which one-tenth work in R&D. — AFP



**TOKYO:** A man stands near an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm. — AP

## GO PRO HOPING TO INCREASE PROFITS WITH KARMA DRONE

### COMPANY BATTERED BY COMPETITION FROM ALL SIDES

**SQUAW VALLEY:** GoPro took to the sky yesterday with a much-awaited drone called Karma in the hope of lifting profits which have been battered by competition from all sides. The launch of the Karma drone, tailored for its first-person-action mini-cameras, and of improved Hero5 cameras comes on the cusp of the important year-end holiday shopping season which last year was a huge disappointment.

In the fourth quarter of 2015, GoPro lost about \$34.5 million, as revenue sank some 31 percent from the same period in 2014, to \$436.6 million. The earnings report fell well short of financial analysts' expectations, sparked a series of downgrades and sent GoPro's shares plunging as competition from smartphone makers turned out to be more threatening than forecast. This means the Karma launch, which comes alongside new Hero5 cameras and a cloud-based service for storing, editing and sharing video, is instrumental for a revival of the company's fortunes, analysts said.

"GoPro's Karma has potential to gain decent traction," Colin Snow, founder of Skylogix Research, told Bloomberg News, "if it's priced under \$1,000 and has all the capabilities of existing drones in that price category." Karma drones will be priced at \$799 when they become available starting on October 23. The drones boast simple joystick and touch-screen controls, and fold easily into a padded backpack that is provided. An image-stabilizing grip in the drone is designed to hold Hero cameras, which are not included in the backpack.

"We transformed GoPro into an end-to-end storytelling solution," company chief Nick Woodman said after making a rock-star entrance at a media event in a tent at the Squaw Valley ski area where the 1960 Winter Olympic Games were held.

#### 'Host of problems'

GoPro's much anticipated entry into the drone market comes as the California-based company strives to distinguish itself in an increasingly competitive market for mini-cameras that can be used to capture adventures or sports from personal perspectives. Chinese manufacturer SZ DJI Technology has been dominating the drone market, where many smaller companies producing cheaper drones are also pushing for market share. Skylogix's Snow said given hiccups previously seen in the drone market, GoPro's Karma may experience teething issues. "Almost no drone we've ever seen comes out without a host of problems," he said. The new Hero5 Black and Hero5 Session cameras, which boast features such as multi-language voice control and ultra-high-definition image quality, will be available on October 2 with pricing of \$399



**OLYMPIC VALLEY:** GoPro CEO Nick Woodman introduces the new foldable Karma drone during a press event. — AFP

and \$299, respectively. Karma drones bundled with Hero5 cameras will be priced at \$1,099 or \$999, depending on whether a Black or Session model is selected.

#### Action in the cloud

The company is setting out to build its adventure-oriented community, and create a steady revenue stream, with a GoPro Plus subscription service that uploads imagery to the internet cloud and provides simple tools for editing and sharing from smartphones or desktop computers. GoPro Plus will cost \$4.99 per month after it becomes available to the public on October 2.

Smartphone applications were crafted to let people edit or even remotely control cameras from Apple or Android powered handsets. Woodman said GoPro was packing more into its cameras, and making it easy for users to quickly compose story vignettes to share, whether doing adventure sports or enjoying beautiful moments. People at the gathering took to the mountain at Squaw Valley to try flying Karma drones and put new GoPro Hero cameras through paces zip-lining, trampoline bouncing, horseback riding, rock climbing and more.

#### Outside developers

GoPro early this year launched a program to collaborate with outside developers to make it easy to use the company's mini cameras with apps or synch them with other devices.

The company also hired away an Apple veteran to become vice president of the GoPro design team.

GoPro became an early hit with extreme sports enthusiasts who used the mini-cameras to film their exploits, and went on to win over teens and young adults interested in sharing videos on YouTube and social networks.

Woodman said yesterday that more than 20 million GoPro cameras have "captured the incredible." The company went public in June 2014 with shares initially priced at \$24 that soared in subsequent months, more than tripling in value at one point.

But the stock price slid last year as investors worried about the company's growth prospects and the possible saturation of an increasingly competitive market. GoPro shares were up about 2.3 percent to \$15.31 at the close of trading on the Nasdaq exchange yesterday. — AFP

## ASIAN TRADERS TREAD LIGHTLY AHEAD OF C BANK DECISIONS

**HONG KONG:** Asian stocks markets drifted yesterday and the dollar was virtually unmoved with investors biding their time as crucial central bank gatherings in the United States and Japan kick off. The Fed heads into one of its most keenly awaited policy meetings after weeks of speculation that has fanned volatility across global trading floors, with investors split on whether it will lift interest rates.

At the same time opinion is divided on what the Bank of Japan's intentions are, with expectations for fresh stimulus tempered by a lack of concrete promises from Tokyo, despite weak growth and almost non-existent inflation. The uncertainty leading up to the meeting is keeping traders at bay, Chris Weston, chief market analyst in Melbourne at IG Ltd, said. "No one is prepared to take on too much risk ahead of the Bank of Japan and the Fed Open Market Committee meetings," he told Bloomberg News.

Tokyo's Nikkei index swung to and fro through the day before ending 0.2 percent lower. Hong Kong shed 0.1 percent by the close and Shanghai lost 0.1 percent following healthy gains Monday. Sydney added 0.2 percent and Seoul was 0.5 percent higher, while Singapore shed 0.2 percent. In early European trade London fell 0.2 percent, Frankfurt was flat and Paris fell 0.3 percent. Currency markets were also subdued ahead of the bank announcements, which are due Wednesday. The dollar edged down to 101.70 yen from 101.88 yen in New York while the euro was at \$1.1185 from \$1.1175. Sterling bought

\$1.3055 compared with \$1.3028.

"It's not unusual for traders to adopt a more cautious approach ahead of these events, particularly when we have two on the same day, both of which have the potential to create huge amounts of volatility in the markets," said OANDA senior market analyst Craig Erlam in a note.

Oil prices turned lower again, digging into Monday's gains as investors grow tetchy about the likelihood of a deal next week between OPEC and Russia aimed at addressing a global supply glut and overproduction. West Texas Intermediate eased 19 cents to \$43.11 and Brent dipped 16 cents to \$45.79.

"A big part of the rally was the hope that a deal could be getting closer with agreement at the Algiers meeting potentially leading to another meeting," said Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at CFD and FX provider AxiTrader. "But without any solid progress or agreement from all the oil producing countries, volatility and uncertain outlook continues."

In company news, Japanese airbag supplier Takata tumbled 11.6 percent after a report said some potential buyers were considering bankruptcy proceedings if they are successful in its purchase. The firm has been hit by the global auto industry's biggest-ever safety recall over its exploding bags.

Bloomberg News said private equity firms and auto parts makers were preparing offers for the company, and some were considering the drastic bankruptcy action to mitigate the liabilities. — AFP

## RIDE-HAILING STARTUP 'GRAB' RAISES \$750M INVESTMENTS

**SINGAPORE:** Ride-hailing startup Grab said yesterday it has raised \$750 million from investors to expand in burgeoning Southeast Asian markets including Indonesia, as it aims to build its lead over US-based rival Uber in the region. The new investments led by Japan's SoftBank Group raised the Singapore-based firm's total capital to more than \$1.0 billion, it said in a statement.

Competition between Uber and local startups has grown fierce in Southeast Asia, home to more than 600 million people and a rising middle class. Grab is considered the leading ride-hailing platform in the region, operating in nearly twice as many cities as Uber, with the startup claiming up to 1.5 million bookings a day. Singapore state investment agency Temasek Holdings was an early investor in the firm.

Grab said participants in the recent round of fundraising included both new and existing investors which it did not name, but reports last month said China's

Didi Chuxing was among those planning to back the firm. The two companies are already partners in an alliance that also includes India's Ola and US-based Lyft Inc, allowing users to book rides while travelling to a country covered by any of the four apps.

Grab chief executive and co-founder Anthony Tan said the latest investment was "the largest in the history of Southeast Asia consumer technology". "We are particularly excited about the growth opportunity in Indonesia, where we see an almost US\$15 billion market for ride-hailing services alone," he said. The move follows Uber's decision to sell its business in China to Didi Chuxing last month, ending a ferocious battle for market share that cost both firms billions. Grab operates in Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. Its core product platform includes private cars, motorbikes and taxi-hailing services which are rapidly gaining popularity in the region. — AFP

## EU TAX ON APPLE IS NOT ANTI-US BIAS: VESTAGER

**WASHINGTON:** Europe's powerful Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said Monday that the EU order for Apple to pay \$15 billion in taxes did not represent any bias against US companies. Speaking hours after the European Union launched an in-depth probe into alleged sweetheart tax deals between French gas group Engie and Luxembourg, Vestager said the new case was evidence that the EU was going after all tax evaders. "If you look at our practice, then you cannot find a US bias. You cannot find the statistics to back up any kind of bias," she said in Washington.

The European Commission, the EU executive arm, last month ordered Apple to reimburse a record 13 billion euros (\$15 billion) in unpaid taxes in Ireland. That came after US companies, including Starbucks, Amazon and Google parent Alphabet, have come under probes over the low profits tax they pay in Europe due to alleged sweetheart tax deals with certain governments. When the Apple ruling was announced late last month, US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew criti-



**WASHINGTON:** European Commissioner for Competition Margrethe Vestager takes pictures of journalists using her iPhone before a news conference at the EU Delegation. — AFP

cized it as unfairly targeting US companies. Vestager, speaking at a news conference ahead of a meeting with Lew, said that of some

150 such tax rulings made by the European Commission since 2000, only two percent involved US companies. She also said the tax hit on Apple was not a reprisal against US regulators' imposition of multibillion-dollar fines on European banks for violating US sanctions on other countries and for their involvement in the massive US subprime mortgage bond crisis.

Last week the US Justice Department proposed a record \$14 billion fine against Deutsche Bank for its selling of high-risk mortgage bonds before the 2008 financial crisis. "I am absolutely certain that the decision on Deutsche Bank is built on facts of the case and American legislation," Vestager said. Lew's office, in a statement late Monday after his meeting with Vestager, said that during their talks he "reiterated his concerns that the European Commission is retroactively applying a sweeping new Sstate aid theory that is contrary to well-established legal principles, calls into question the tax rules of individual countries and threatens to undermine the overall business climate in Europe." — AFP

## NEW GOOGLE SMARTPHONE EXPECTED AT OCT 4 EVENT

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Google late Monday sent out invitations to an October 4 event, hinting that the Internet titan will show off a new smartphone powered by its Android mobile software. Emailed invitations revealed only the time and place for the gathering in San Francisco, the message topped by blue, red, yellow, and green dots of color.

Google fired off a Twitter message with hashtag #madebygoogle and a video of what appeared to be a long rectangular search term box morphing into a silhouette of a

smartphone. Industry trackers have been expecting Google in October to show off its own smartphone, showcasing the prowess of its new Nougat version of Android software.

Google may stamp its latest smartphones with a "Pixel" brand instead of the "Nexus" name it has used in the past for Android smartphones it has made in collaborations with partners. A Google smartphone would be fielded as a standard to which other making Android devices should aspire, and would come just weeks after Apple's began selling

new iPhone 7 models.

An enticing Google smartphone could also prove a contender for the attention of buyers during the prime year-end holiday shopping season. 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. 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. The iPhones also boast Apple's freshly-released iOS 10 mobile operating system.

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, with Apple rivals producing a wide variety of devices powered by Android software that Google makes available for free.

Apple 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. — AFP

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## ZAIN LAUNCHES NEW POSTPAID PLANS

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, launched all new postpaid plans as part of its latest promotional campaign "Refresh Your World", where the company offers five new unique packages to suit customers' personal and professional needs on its most advanced network. Zain's new postpaid plans were designed to offer customers a variety of benefits with great flexibility to suit their unique needs. Customers can choose between five different plans, as well as select the commitment option of their choice or choose not to commit at all.

The new postpaid plans start from the KD 5 plan, which includes 100 local minutes and 10 GBs of Internet. The KD 15 plan includes 500 local minutes and 50 GBs of Internet. The

KD 25 plan includes 2500 local minutes and 100 GBs of Internet. Additionally, customers who subscribe to the KD 35 plan will enjoy 5000 local minutes, 500 GBs of local Internet, 500 MBs of Internet roaming, as well as one data sharing SIM card. Furthermore, telecommunications enthusiasts can subscribe to the highest plan of KD 40, where they can enjoy unlimited local minutes, 1 TB of local Internet, 1 GB of Internet roaming, as well as one data sharing SIM card. Noting that all five plans above include unlimited local SMS as well.

In efforts to offer great flexibility with the new plans, customers subscribing to any of the new postpaid packages can choose the commitment option that best suits their needs. The options include no commitment

(SIM card only), 12-month commitment (with discount of two months), or 24-month commitment (with a device/devices of the customer's choice).

The new plans were specifically designed to complement the needs and aspirations of the largest family of subscribers in Kuwait. By launching the new postpaid plans, Zain aims at creating a new concept for the services it offers, as well as offering convenience with flexible and convenient plans that meet the different personal and professional needs of customers. Through this launch, Zain continues to reinforce its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best services and offers to meet customers' practical and personal telecommunications needs.

## RENAULT-NISSAN ACQUIRES FRENCH SOFTWARE-DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

**DUBAI:** The Renault-Nissan Alliance is acquiring the French software-development company Sylpheo to accelerate the expansion of its connected vehicle and mobility services programs. The acquisition was announced today by OgiRedzic, Alliance Senior Vice President of Connected Vehicles and Mobility Services.

"The Sylpheo team of software developers and cloud engineers join-

ing the Alliance will have a unique opportunity to work on our next generation of connected cars and other advanced technologies," Redzic said. "They will be playing a critical role in this new era of tremendous change for the global auto industry." The Alliance will launch more than 10 vehicles with autonomous drive technology by 2020. Widespread connected car technology will improve the ownership experience,

enable the Alliance to offer innovative new services to customers, and drive increased business efficiency.

This acquisition is the Alliance's latest step toward accelerating that development. Following Redzic's appointment in January to lead the mobility and connectivity services team, the world's fourth largest car group launched a recruitment campaign to hire 300 technology experts. "Sylpheo's team of 40 engineers

and consultants will bring software development and cloud engineering expertise to the organization. The technology they will help develop will mean better products and services for our customers and efficiency for our business. The acquisition of Sylpheo is just one of many steps Renault-Nissan Alliance is taking to ensure its continued innovation leadership in the automotive industry," Redzic added.

The acquisition reflects Renault-Nissan's ongoing commitment toward creating an automotive future with zero emissions and zero fatalities. Whether it is electric vehicles, autonomous drive or connectivity services, the Alliance strategy is to incorporate advanced technology on mass market vehicles at affordable prices. Terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.



## CRAFTSMANSHIP AND INNOVATION LIES AT THE HEART OF A POWERFUL LUXURY BRAND ETHOS

**DUBAI:** Since their very inception, luxury brands around the world have been guided by specific design philosophies - an elevated signature aesthetic that carries a strong sense of elegance and exclusivity. At the root of every luxury brand's visual identity lies an unquestionable mark of prestige, a refined stylistic code that inspires aspiration for both the tangible product itself and the intangible emotions attached to it.

In fact, even in the pre-purchase phase, successful high-end brands that exude sophistication have the power to invite consumers into their world with the promise of immersing them in a premium, exquisitely-curated lifestyle catered to the most discerning clientele. Such intrinsic values are what define luxury brands and set them starkly apart from the rest. And they are what make the luxury industry as a whole unlike any other.

Today, the most established names punctuating the luxury sector continue to be recognized by their distinctive design heritage - they have managed to not only consistently influence trends but also transcend time and boundaries by cultivating an enduring leg-

cy of superior artistry, one that taps into consumers' innate quest for individuality, exclusivity and, above all, immaculate, quality craftsmanship.

Over the past decade, however, with the advent of new, cutting-edge technologies, luxury brands - spanning various categories - have begun to rely on groundbreaking innovations and the art of science to advance their design thinking, all the while strictly adhering to their timeless design principles. From a luxury brand perspective, the core challenge of this technology-driven creative approach entails striking that harmonious balance between tradition and modernity, refinement and functionality, and innovation and the human touch.

Interestingly, one particular industry within the luxury segment has managed to effectively navigate that fine line - and perfect this strategic and creative formula: luxury automobiles. In recent years, we have witnessed the industry's key players - and biggest names - adopt a design direction predicated on modern craftsmanship and the artistic integration of technology, in equal measure.

Take Cadillac, for example. The auto brand has evolved and stretched its legendary design language by infusing the most advanced and precise automotive technologies into its dynamic artistic expression, while simultaneously maintaining its signature levels of boldness and sophistication. The interior designs of new Cadillac vehicle models serve as a testament to that vision.

Today, Cadillac's faithfulness to its Cut-and-Sew philosophy makes it one of the few luxury auto brands that persists with hand-finished interiors. Cut-and-Sew fuses pioneering technology with the human touch, creating a cabin replete with authentic materials that capture individual character. Proportion, craftsmanship and connectivity define the harmoniously-crafted and refined cabins of Cadillac vehicles - and help deliver a bold, sophisticated, yet uncluttered space.

The brand's promise of optimism comes through the curated environments that embrace minimalist sculpted surfaces. This approach permeates with the seamlessly integrated state-of-the-art technology, bringing the best of both worlds to an astute, uncompromising clientele.

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## 8 DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE TRIO QUARTERLY DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank has announced that its Trio Quarterly draw is scheduled to take place 8 days from today at 1pm, 29 September 2016, on Marina FM's Diwaniya Show. 3 Draws will take place at the same time and location. The Al Danah draw will be for cash prize of KD 500,000. While the Salary & Red Account draws include a brand new Cadillac CTS and cash prizes up to KD 1,000. The draw event will be held in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

To participate in the Al Danah draws, customers must have an Al Danah account containing at least KD 200. Customers can open a new Al Danah account at any one of the 56 Gulf Bank branches in Kuwait. Those who already have an account can increase their chances of winning by increasing their deposits. This will also

increase their chances of winning one of the two KD 1,000 prizes, which are drawn each working day.

Furthermore, new Red Account or Salary Account customers who open an account and transfer their student allowance or salary will also be eligible to enter the monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,000. In addition, the quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Cadillac CTS.

For further information about the Al Danah, Salary and Red accounts and prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, or call Gulf Bank's Customer Contact Center on 1805805. General information about Gulf Bank's products and services, can also be found at the Bank's website at www.e-gulfbank.com

## GULF BANK LEAD SPONSOR OF THE EUROMONEY KUWAIT CONFERENCE

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank announces that it will be the lead sponsor of the upcoming 8th Euromoney Kuwait Conference. The Conference will be held on 27 September 2016 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Kuwait City. Under the theme of "Meeting the Challenge of Financial Innovation and Reform", this year's conference will address challenges and opportunities facing the Kuwaiti economy in an era of global uncertainties. The conference will open with keynote addresses from the Minister of Finance - HE Anas Al-Saleh; Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait - HE Dr Mohammed Al-Hashel; Chairman of the Capital Markets Authority, HE Dr Nayaf Al Hajraf; and Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority - HE Sheikh Meshaal Jaber Al Sabah.

In the first session Mr Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Chairman Gulf Bank and CEO of Alghanim Industries, will be interviewed about challenges and opportunities in the Middle East banking sector and the future of both consumer and corporate banking.

Gulf Bank will also be participating in the "Innovation, Digitalization, and the Future of Kuwaiti Business, Finance, and Governance. The Bank will be represented by Assistant General Manager for Investments, Mr Tareq Al-Saleh.

The annual Euromoney conference provides Gulf Bank an unparalleled platform to discuss Kuwait's fiscal, monetary and economic diversification strategy. The participation of Kuwait's leading financial professionals, along with the participation of regional and global experts, will provide in-depth insights into digitalization, innovation and the future of Kuwaiti business, finance and governance. There is also a strong underlying theme in the program which aims to explore the role of Kuwait in the international financial system. The Euromoney Conference is the world's leading organizer of conferences for cross-border investment and capital markets for portfolio and direct investors, financial intermediaries, corporations, governments, banks and financial institutions.



## ETIHAD AIRWAYS NAMED 'AIRLINE OF THE YEAR'

**DUBAI:** Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has been awarded the 'Airline of the Year' award for the third consecutive year by UK magazine, Travel Trade Gazette (TTG). The awards were announced last night at a prestigious ceremony at the Lyceum Theatre in London's West End.

The airline was nominated in two categories - 'Airline of the Year' - and in a special category for 'Travel Company of the Year', where Etihad Airways was the only airline mentioned. The entry mechanism for the award was redesigned for 2016 as only the agents' best-rated supplier in each of the 15 categories was shortlisted.

James Harrison, General Manager for Etihad Airways in the UK, said: "I am delighted that we have won this prestigious award for the third time as it recognizes the airline's world-class product and service, as well as our strong commercial relationships with the trade." Additionally, the award recognizes the hard work that's been put in, not just over the last 12 months, but over a prolonged period. Alongside the introduction of Edinburgh and the expansion of our A380's into London, it has helped to increase our brand awareness with the trade and our guests."

Etihad Airways has a long and established history of operating from the UK, having first launched services

from London to Abu Dhabi in 2004. The London Heathrow services are now fully served by A380s and are home to 'The Residence' - the industry's only three room suite in the sky - and the airline's award winning First Class product. Etihad's economy product has also been enhanced with café services, superior inflight entertainment and nannies to assist young families, while the economy smart seat has been specially designed to ensure optimum comfort.

As well as the London services, the airline runs double-daily services from Manchester Airport to Abu Dhabi and beyond, while the Edinburgh service has just celebrated a successful first anniversary. The company operates dedicated Premium Lounges at the airports of London Heathrow and Manchester. Etihad Airways also has a strong presence in UK sport through its sponsorship of Manchester City Football Club and the England Cricket Team. While 2016 has seen the airline further grow its presence through support for London Fashion Week and the Taste of London Festival. TTG was established as Travel Trade Gazette in 1953 as the world's first weekly travel trade newspaper. The TTG Travel Awards are regarded as being the toughest in the business to win, while the awards ceremony is renowned for breaking the mould.

## TAREK SULTAN NAMED INDUSTRY CEO OF THE YEAR

**DUBAI:** Agility chief executive Tarek Sultan was named Industry CEO of the Year at the CEO Middle East awards, an annual ceremony held in recognition of the region's most successful and innovative corporate leaders. Since Sultan joined Agility in 1997, it has grown from a small Kuwaiti warehousing company to the largest logistics provider in the Middle East and one of the world's top 10 providers of integrated logistics. The company now has \$4.3 billion in annual revenue, 22,000 employees and offices in more than 100 countries.

"I am honored to be recognized by CEO Middle East as Industry CEO of the year," Sultan said. "This award recognizes the importance of innovation, and responding to the market and customers' needs, while also adding tangible value to shareholders and employees." "Agility is still growing its global presence," Sultan said. "As we evolve as a company, our social commitments will keep expanding in parallel with our operations, particularly in emerging markets."

The CEO Middle East awards recognizes business leaders in 14 categories based on their performance over the past year, focusing on outstanding financial results and contributions to the regional business climate. The judging panel consists of the editorial teams from CEO Middle East and Arabian Business, as well as directors of ITP Executive Publishing. The gala, which marked the 10th year of the awards, took place Sept 19 at the Dana Ballroom at the Four Seasons Resort at Jumeirah Beach in Dubai.

## BAYER UPS FORECASTS AFTER MONSANTO TAKEOVER DEAL

**FRANKFURT:** German chemicals giant Bayer said yesterday it had increased its earnings and profits forecasts after signing a deal to take over US seeds and pesticides maker Monsanto. "We are optimistic for the medium-term development of Bayer and have set ourselves correspondingly ambitious targets," chief executive Werner Baumann said in a statement.

In the crop science division that will integrate Monsanto, Bayer said it would grow sales faster than the market and increase its profit margin to "more than 30 percent" after 2020, three years after the merger is slated to be finalized. Between them, Monsanto and Bayer's crops division brought in 23.1 billion euros (\$25.8 billion) in sales in 2015.

Bayer justified the predictions with a "broad product palette and research and development pipeline" for the two companies, adding that the merged firms would bring new products to market faster. The 58.8-billion-euro deal is the largest takeover in history for a German firm and would create a giant in the agribusiness sector. But the tie-up still has to be voted through by Monsanto shareholders and pass regulators' scrutiny in both Europe and the US.

Environmental groups on both sides of the Atlantic have promised fierce opposition to the deal. Baumann said the pharmaceuticals division, one of two other major business areas, looked forward to "particularly high growth in sales and margins". The prescription medicines unit would target annual sales growth of 6.0 percent on average until the end of 2018, the firm said, and boost margins to "between 32 and 34 percent" compared with 2015's 30 percent.

Bayer pointed to a stable of five new medications-now forecast to bring in 10 billion euros in annual sales, up from 7.5 billion-and a "highly promising" pipeline in the division to explain its optimism. "By the end of 2023 we are planning to launch at least 20 new products in pharmaceuticals," Baumann said. Meanwhile, the consumer health unit aims to increase sales and margins by focusing on its globally-recognized brands, such as aspirin, and key markets, including the US, Russia, China and Brazil. Bayer added that the group would "exhaust the potential for licensing previously prescription-only medications for self-medication" as well as developing new digital health offerings. —AFP

## CISCO TO SPONSOR E-CRIME CONGRESS IN ABU DHABI

**DUBAI:** Cisco announced its participation in the 8th e-Crime Congress Abu Dhabi 2016 which will highlight latest trends, techniques and regulations in electronic data protection, cyber security, fraud and privacy. To be held today the event will also address another critical shortcoming in the war against cybercrime - the lack of skilled security professionals. As Strategic Sponsor of the event, and partnering with Emircom, one of the UAE's leading systems integrators, Cisco will use this platform to share insights from Cisco's 2016 Midyear Cybersecurity Report (MCR 2016) and help Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) evaluate the cyber-security solutions available to them and to assess the overall security of their digital businesses.

The Cisco 2016 Annual Security Report revealed that only 45 percent of organizations worldwide are confident in their security posture as today's attackers launch more sophisticated, bold and resilient campaigns. According to Cisco's MCR 2016, so far in 2016, ransomware has become the most profitable malware type in history with experts seeing this trend continuing with even more destructive ransomware that can spread by itself and hold entire networks, and therefore companies, hostage. Hackers increasingly tap into legitimate resources to launch effective campaigns for profit-gain.

Additionally, direct attacks by cybercriminals, leveraging ransomware alone, put \$34 million a year per campaign into their hands.

"Cloud, mobility, Internet of Things (IoT) and social media technologies, combined with digital business practices, have helped countless organizations transform how they operate but they have also increased the attack surface. Old methods of cybersecurity that focus on perimeter defense are no longer enough to keep an organization safe. Attackers are going undetected and expanding their time to operate.

To close the attackers' windows of opportunity, organizations will require more visibility into their networks and must improve activities, such as patching and retiring ageing infrastructure lacking in advanced security capabilities," said Scott Manson, Cyber Security Leader for Middle East and Turkey, Cisco.

### Primary challenges

Visibility across the network and endpoints remains a primary challenge. On average, organizations take up to 200 days to identify new threats. Cisco's median time to detection (TTD) continues to outpace the industry, hitting a new low of approximately 13 hours to detect previously unknown



Scott Manson

compromises. Faster time to detection of threats is critical to constrain attackers' operational space and minimize damage from intrusions.

Security is rapidly becoming an integral part of any sort of deployment, and this awareness is coming in earlier in the process, though often, not early enough. In order to enable organizations to tackle security challenges, they are facing a fundamental problem - the skills gap. According to Cisco 2016 Annual Security Report 2016, there is currently a

deficit of 1 million security practitioners, increasing to 1.5 million by 2019. Globally, 26% of organizations are facing staffing shortages, and 35% are facing expertise shortages with security jobs growing at 12 times the rate of the overall job market, and 3 times the rate of general IT.

"Today, more than ever before, increased collaboration, communication and coordination - both within organizations and across the security industry - are required to effectively combat the cyber threats. Across the board, organizations in the UAE will need to invest in the people, processes and technologies that will enable themselves to become more resilient in the face of new attacks and compete in the new digital age," concluded Scott.

Sameer Shah, Consultant, Emircom on behalf of Cisco will participate in the Executive Panel Discussion on Managing information security and technology risk in a global workplace. Cisco security specialists will be available at the event to share demos at their stand, strategic, operational, and tactical knowledge with those attending. Cisco also hopes to use this platform to deliver critical and unique insights that will help CISOs direct their business, technology and cybersecurity strategy.

## TWITTER PARTNERS WITH HUAWEI FOR THE LAUNCH OF HONOR 8

**DUBAI:** The new flagship honor 8 has been pre-programmed to open Twitter which comes as a preloaded app; in a fraction of a second via its custom smart key - a function exclusive to the Middle East. Users can access the social media app by double clicking the smart key, which has been incorporated into its 3D fingerprint sensor for slick functionality. It has a 0.4 second unlock capability, auto learning skill set and can be customized with up to three easy access options. The fingerprint sensor also offers NFC tag read and writer, P2P transfer and SIM / HCE-based mobile payment, providing a greater accessibility to mobile internet. Benjamin Ampen, Head of Revenue for MENA at Twitter said, "The collaboration between Huawei honor and Twitter's team on the ground has created a user experience that will reach an unprecedented level of accessibility. We're proud that Twitter is the logical choice for the custom smart key that will serve GCC smartphone users who access our platform for timely, live updates and now straight through their fingerprints." Chris Sun Baigong, Vice President Huawei honor Middle East CBG commented, "honor believes in the power of partnerships and is proud to be working with Twitter to offer a first of its kind user experience. With

our new flagship smartphone, the honor 8, we are pushing boundaries by spearheading the development of innovative solutions for smartphone users: honor strategically balances innovative features and high-performance, with a fresh design and an attractive price point. The honor 8 embodies this approach with its cutting edge, smart technology, as well as phenomenal aesthetic appeal, boasting a stunning glass exterior.

The 3D grate design has been created with a resilient two-sided 2.5D, 15 layer glass body, which reflects light producing an aurora effect with intricate patterns, meaning no two phones appear the same. The world-class camera features and intuitive software - a 12 MP dual camera with RGB and monochrome sensors, as well as its 8MP wide-angle front-facing camera - offers seriously impressive functionality.

Its 3,000 mAh battery with Smart Power 4.0 maximizes stand-by time allowing the honor 8 to keep going for up to 1.22 days of heavy usage. Just ten minutes of charging will allow two hours call time, and 30 minutes will re-charge the device to 47%. The honor 8 also boasts 8-core CPU up to 2.3 GHz, 4GB RAM, Kirin 950, i5 CO processor and Rapid-Smart file processing system.



## CAPTURE LIFE'S BRILLIANCE FROM EVERY ANGLE WITH THE NEW HTC DESIRE 10

### THE BEST DESIRE PHONES YET

**DUBAI:** HTC Corporation, a leading innovator in mobile and virtual reality technology, yesterday unveiled the HTC Desire (tm) 10 pro and the HTC Desire 10 lifestyle. Both smartphones bring stunning design and flagship-level features to HTC's widely praised Desire family of smartphones. The Desire 10 pro delivers amazing high-resolution cameras on both front and back, including a brand new Selfie Panorama mode that captures extreme wide-angle pictures, and top-of-the-line features such as an ultra-fast fingerprint sensor. The HTC Desire 10 lifestyle brings the legendary HTC BoomSound (tm) Hi-Fi Edition, made popular on the flagship HTC 10, plus 24-bit Hi-Res audio that delivers powerful, crystal-clear audio performance on both the external speakers and headphones.

Inspired by the Art Deco movement in art and design, the HTC Desire 10 captures the spirit of luxury and modernism: bold, precise, geometric metallic lines - influenced by the same contours as the world-renowned HTC 10 - framed by elegant colors and sophisticated materials in a smartphone that inspires with alluring looks on the outside and powerful technology on the inside. Just as Art Deco evolved the art world's expectations of elegance and sophistication, the HTC Desire 10 evolves what you can expect from an HTC Desire. "HTC's Desire line has always stood for fresh, youthful and fashionable designs that are focused on delivering a great experience," said Chialin Chang, president of the Smartphone and Connected Devices Business at HTC. "Today, our Desire line is about to make its biggest leap since the original Desire. Inspired by many of the same innovations that have made the flagship HTC 10 so popular, we're bringing these innovations to the Desire 10, making it the most brilliant Desire ever. With a brand new, modern luxurious design inspired by the HTC 10 and pro-like cameras, and including features that outshine even some of the top flagship phones in the industry, the HTC Desire 10 will have you rethinking what to expect from an HTC Desire."

### Bold, iconic new metallic contours

Both the HTC Desire 10 pro and HTC Desire 10 lifestyle share the same stunning look, made to shine with a high-contrast metallic gold contour design that elegantly outlines and defines the smartphone's soft warm matte finish. This bold, polished outline distinctively wraps the edges of the device, encasing the HTC Desire 10 pro's 5.5" Full HD (1080p) display or the HTC Desire 10 lifestyle's 5.5" HD (720p) screen, and contrasting with the eye-catching body in one of four distinct color themes for both models: Stone Black, Polar White, Royal Blue and Valentine Lux1. Sitting on the back of the Desire 10 pro is an ultra-fast fingerprint sensor that brings convenience to your fingertips: the fingerprint sensor helps secure your device, but quickly unlocks at just the touch of your finger. The sensor recognizes your fingerprint from almost every angle and position, and even lets you take selfies with it - simply put your finger

on the fingerprint sensor to quickly capture a selfie or start recording a selfie video.

### Amazing imaging experience

The HTC Desire 10 pro promises one of the best camera experiences around by delivering features normally reserved for flagship phones. Starting with a 20MP main camera, the Desire 10 pro provides extraordinary detail in every shot. Pro-like features are included, with DSLR-like control over your photos and handy preset options such as sport mode and night mode that let you quickly re-adjust the camera settings on the go. Advanced functions such as intelligent Electronic Image Stabilization provide smooth videos even with shaky hands, and Auto HDR on both the front and rear camera combines multiple images into a single, clear photo that looks amazing even when taken in low light or shadows. And finally to keep with life's quickest moments, the laser autofocus makes taking clear, focused pictures a breeze and you never miss your shot.

### See your selfies in new ways

Desire 10 pro has been designed to give you the best possible selfie experience. Snap your best selfies with the 13MP selfie camera, and if you need to capture even more in one single view, Desire 10 pro features a brand new Selfie Panorama mode. With Selfie Panorama, you'll capture more scenery and more friends and family in single big, beautiful, printable photo. HTC Desire 10 pro's super-wide, 150° Selfie Panorama mode is enough to fit a whole football team with room to spare. A built-in screen flash is also available, which can automatically help you take brighter selfies in challenging light conditions day or night, indoors or outside.



### Awesome, flagship-level sound

Fans of the world-famous HTC BoomSound Hi-Fi Edition in HTC 10 will love the HTC Desire 10 lifestyle. Featuring High-Res audio support, the HTC Desire 10 lifestyle plays your favorite music, movies, and games with awesome, crystal-clear, high-resolution sound quality through stereo external speakers or to your headphones with a powerful, built-in amplifier that has to be heard to be believed. There is simply no better sounding smartphone in the world.

The HTC Desire 10 pro also includes the HTC BoomSound audio profile, giving you the intense HTC BoomSound listening experience every time you put on your headphones. With thundering bass and thrilling treble, both the HTC Desire 10 pro and HTC Desire 10 lifestyle will keep your sound rocking with incredible intensity throughout the day.

### As unique as you

The HTC Desire 10 pro and Desire 10 lifestyle share the same unparalleled personalization as HTC 10. Built upon the latest version of HTC Sense, both HTC Desire 10 models are fully customizable to your unique personality. HTC Freestyle Layout frees you from an onscreen grid and lets you get creative. Drag icons, stickers and widgets anywhere. Layer them, overlap them, group them and more. You can even link stickers to apps, and get rid of onscreen icons entirely. The home screen is yours - use it your way. Express yourself further with HTC Themes, giving you access to thousands of professional looking themes, each with its own icons, background, sounds and more. From pets, wildlife and architecture to sports, travel, and so much more, HTC Themes lets your HTC Desire 10 pro represent your personality and interests so it's truly one-of-a-kind - just like you.

### Performance matters

The HTC Desire 10 pro gives you more space for the things that are important with up to a massive 4GB of RAM and 64GB storage space2. The HTC Desire 10 lifestyle offers up to 3GB of RAM and 32GB storage space, so no matter which model you choose, you can load up on photos, videos, movies, games and more. And if that's still not enough, both models offer SD card support for up to 2TB of expandable memory. Powering all these photos, games, and more is a blazing octa-core processor in HTC Desire 10 pro and a quad-core processor in Desire 10 lifestyle, keeping everything running smoothly. Even at these speeds, battery is never an issue, either, with a 3,000mAh battery in Desire 10 pro and 2,700mAh battery in Desire 10 lifestyle to keep you snapping photos, surfing the web, and having many hours of fun between charges. The HTC Desire 10 lifestyle will begin capturing your life's brilliance beginning the end of September in Middle East and Africa, and the HTC Desire 10 pro will be available beginning in November. For more information, please see htc.com



## FTTH MENA COUNCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE FIBER TO HOME ADOPTION

**KUWAIT:** The Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Council MENA is pleased to announce the launch of the 8th Edition of FTTH Council MENA Conference taking place from 7th to 9th November at The Regency hotel, Kuwait, under the patronage of HE Salim Al-Ozainah, Chairman and CEO of Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) of Kuwait. Prysmian Group, CommScope, Detecon and Oman Fiber Optic (OFO) are Gold Sponsors at the event which will be held under the theme "FTTH, The Evolution to the Digital Society" and will witness the presence of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the ICT industry.

As identified in the FTTH Council MENA market study for 2015, FTTH connections are increasing rapidly in the MENA region thanks to broadband networks initiatives, housing programs and mobile backhaul. In 2015, subscribers in the MENA region have reached 2.1 million, an increase of 20% from the previous year, while the number of homes passed by FTTH/B was more than 5 Million, an increase of 28% from the previous year. The country with the highest penetration rate in the region is the UAE, at 75%, followed by Qatar with 72%, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"Developing better communication networks is fundamental in supporting smart city services as well as those in e-health, e-government and e-education. Fiber to the Home (FTTH) technology provides high speed internet services when supported by well-designed infrastructures and appropriate national broadband

strategies. The growth in FTTH/B coverage and take up rate is led by the dynamism of the GCC countries, and notably UAE and KSA markets" says Dr Safa Nassareldin, Chairman of FTTH Council MENA.

This event will be the 8th edition of the FTTH Council MENA Conference and Exhibition, and a worthy successor of the previous editions held since 2009 in Amman, Beirut, Sharm-El-Sheikh, Doha, Marrakech, Dubai and Muscat. These previous events have received the patronage of the respective Ministers and authorities from the Telecommunication sector and attracted almost 300 delegates annually from 30 countries around the world with typically more than 15 exhibitors from the FTTH industry. Pre-Conference Workshops held on 7th November 2016 will be presented by reputed speakers from the field who will touch upon FTTH business & smart solutions through live interactive sessions, including a Mini-MBA in Fiber-to-the Home and Next Generation Access. The FTTH Conference taking place from 8-9th November 2016 will open the floor for discussions regarding the region's latest broadband projects and explore benefits, challenges and efficient strategies to deploy ultra-fast broadband to homes and business within the region. The FTTH Exhibition held alongside the Conference will also give attendees an adequate networking platform to touch base with companies showcasing the latest technologies. FTTH Council MENA is also organizing the Kuwait Roadshow to explore the fiber infrastructure of Kuwait on 9th November 2016 at 2pm at the venue after the conference.

## QUALITYNET: FIRST TELECOM COMPANY IN KUWAIT TO ACHIEVE ISO RE-CERTIFICATION

**KUWAIT CITY:** Qualitynet, Kuwait's #1 Internet, Data Communication & ICT services provider is proud to announce that it has been successfully audited and awarded the latest ISO 9001:2015 certification. This marks a milestone of being the First Telecommunication Company in Kuwait to successfully complete a certification audit to the updated ISO 9001:2015 standard by URS - UK (United Register of system).

Ashraf Moosa, Internal Auditor - Qualitynet stated that this certification adds to our continuous efforts to maintain quality throughout everything we do at Qualitynet. "This new standard focuses largely on Risk Management & Customer Mindset. The ISO 9001 was originally written with the customer in mind, and that

remains the priority for ISO 9001:2015. It is in line with the strategy adopted in Qualitynet, which addresses each layer in the organization towards Superior Customer Centricity".

The Lead Auditor stated that ISO 9001:2015 is the auditable new international standard which defines the requirements for Quality Management System. The Auditor also added that ISO Standard of 9001:2015 related aspects of Qualitynet have been independently verified and confirmed by the Audit team, and that the organization will be audited at regular intervals by Internal & External audit teams to check for the effectiveness of their quality systems and company's overall risk management practices.

Ashraf attributed this achievement as a

recognition and reward to each and every staff member of Qualitynet, as a result of their dedication and professionalism.

"All staff and management have sincerely contributed in achieving and maintaining such high levels of Total Quality Management with continual improvement", he added. "Doing business with Qualitynet, an ISO certified and registered organization, ensures that the end process will conform to the strict International Quality Standards set forth by the ISO, and confirm the stability and strong establishment of the organization", said Ashraf. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to Mrs Kiran Faisal, Manager Operations - URS, the management and all staff members of Qualitynet.

## INDONESIA REJECTS US RESEARCH ESTIMATE OF 100,000 'HAZE' DEATHS

**JAKARTA:** Harvard and Columbia university research showing smoke from land fires in Southeast Asia led to more than 100,000 premature deaths last year "makes no sense at all," an official at Indonesia's Health Ministry said yesterday. Indonesian government records show only 24 deaths related to forest fires in 2015, but the disaster was estimated to

have left more than half a million Indonesians suffering from respiratory ailments.

Indonesia is under global pressure to put an end to slash-and-burn land clearances for palm and pulp plantations which send clouds of toxic smoke over the region each year. The university research estimates pollution exposure

from last year's fires killed 91,600 people in Indonesia, 6,500 in Malaysia and 2,200 in Singapore in 2015 and 2016, significantly higher than government records. "Given the severe haze in Equatorial Asia in 2015, the 100,000 premature deaths in that region are not so surprising," said Loretta Mickley, a senior researcher at Harvard focusing on atmospheric pollu-

tion, who contributed to the research.

Health Ministry director general of disease prevention and control Mohamad Subuh told Reuters the research data was wrong. "Data on deaths is clear. We have surveillance," Subuh said, adding that the assumptions of mortality based on mathematical calculations were "irresponsible". Every year, Indonesia faces criticism

from its neighbors Singapore and Malaysia over the smog, euphemistically known as "haze," and its failure to stop the fires from being lit. Last year's fires were among the worst in the region's history, with billions of dollars worth of environmental damage, weeks of flight and school disruptions and thousands suffering from respiratory disease. —Reuters

# UN SETS ITS SIGHTS ON SUPERBUGS

### 'WE ARE LOSING OUR ABILITY TO TREAT INFECTIONS'

**NEW YORK:** World leaders today will for the first time tackle the growing scourge of superbacteria, which are resistant to antibiotics and are making illnesses from tuberculosis to sexually transmitted diseases increasingly difficult to treat. The meeting will bring together heads of government and senior health officials on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly—a forum for global crises where such health issues rarely figure on the agenda. Under a draft document, the governments will look to commit themselves to bolster controls over antibiotics, to step up awareness over the problem and to encourage research in alternative treatments.

The World Health Organization hopes that the meeting will attract and public money globally to curb the increasingly serious issue. "We are losing our ability to treat infections," Keiji Fukuda, a senior World Health Organization official in charge of anti-microbial resistance, told AFP. "Not only does it threaten to increase deaths but our whole ability to handle patients is threatened. It also threatens our ability to grow enough food," he said, pointing to super-bacteria's effects on crops and livestock.

A recent British study found that the development of super-resistant bacteria could contribute to the deaths of 10 million people per

year worldwide by 2050 — about the same number who die from different forms of cancer. Currently some 700,000 deaths a year around the world are attributed to anti-microbial resistance, including 23,000 in the United States. Fukuda said that future death forecasts are just estimates, with reliable data not available in many countries. But experts hope the grim figures will help draw public attention to the seriousness of the problem.

#### Worries for research

The dangers originate with the overuse or misuse of antimicrobials—chief among them antibiotics—around the world. The risks come not only with animals but with livestock, where antibiotics are used on a massive scale not only to treat animals but to pump up their size. The super-resistant bacteria can come into humans through water contamination or animal waste, or through meat. Resistance to bacteria was discovered as early as the 1950s by Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin. But the problem has only reached worrying proportions in recent years, aggravated by the absence of new antibiotics, Fukuda said.

These days a growing number of people find their bodies resistant to drugs to treat not just obscure diseases, but commonplace ones like

skin and blood ailments, or urinary tract infection. Among the most difficult infections to treat are tuberculosis, with the United Nations saying that some 480,000 people each year develop a form of the illness resistant to antibiotics. Also increasingly difficult to treat are hospital-acquired illnesses and sexually transmitted diseases such as gonorrhea. "We have not come up with any new class of antibiotics in at least two decades. There is a dry pipeline," Fukuda said. For pharmaceutical companies, research has not appeared profitable with uncertain prospects for profit.

#### Gradual recognition of seriousness

But Fukuda said there has been a growing recognition of the problem in recent years, including in emerging economies such as Thailand. Several countries, mostly in Scandinavia, have sought to curtail the use of antibiotics, with Norway eradicating their use in captive fish farms. Leaders of the World Bank and the Group of 20 major economies have recently voiced concern about the effect of rising super-bacteria in global growth and

the fight against poverty. For Fukuda, super-bacteria have finally become a "big societal threat." "Just like we saw with climate change or HIV. That is the transition we are seeing right now," he said. —AFP



**HONOLULU, Hawaii:** In this file photo, Stacy Lenze, a community health outreach worker, holds a vial of naloxone and syringes in Honolulu, Hawaii, that is being distributed in Hawaii to combat drug overdoses. —AP

## PRO-PAINKILLER ECHO CHAMBER SHAPED POLICY AMID DRUG EPIDEMIC

**Honolulu, Hawaii:** For more than a decade, members of a little-known group called the Pain Care Forum have blanketed Washington with messages about prescription painkillers' vital role in the lives of millions of Americans, creating an echo chamber that has quietly derailed efforts to curb US consumption of drugs like OxyContin, Vicodin and Percocet.

In 2012, drugmakers and their affiliates in the forum sent a letter to US senators promoting a recent report on a "crisis of epidemic proportions": pain in America. Few knew the report stemmed from legislation drafted and pushed by forum members and that their experts had helped author it. The report estimated more than 100 million Americans — roughly 40 percent of adults — suffered from chronic pain, an eye-popping statistic that some researchers call deeply problematic. The letter made no reference, however, to another health issue that had been declared an epidemic by federal authorities: drug overdoses tied to prescription painkillers. Deaths linked to addictive opioid drugs had increased more than fourfold since 1999, accounting for more deaths in 2012 than heroin and cocaine combined.

#### Prescribed medications

An investigation by The Associated Press and the Center for Public Integrity reveals that similar feedback loops of information and influence play out regularly in the nation's capital, fueled by money and talking points from the Pain Care Forum, a loose coalition of drugmakers, trade groups and dozens of nonprofits supported by industry funding that has flown under the radar until now. Hundreds of internal documents shed new light on how drugmakers and their allies shaped the national response to the ongoing wave of prescription opioid abuse, which has claimed the lives of 165,000 Americans since 2000, according to federal figures.

Painkillers are among the most widely prescribed medications in the US, but pharmaceutical companies and allied groups have a multitude of legislative interests beyond those drugs. From 2006 through 2015, participants in the Pain Care Forum spent over \$740 million lobbying in the nation's capital and in all 50 statehouses on an array of issues, including keeping opioids accessible, according to an analysis of lobbying filings.

The same organizations reinforced their influence with more than \$140 million doled out to political campaigns, including more than \$75 million alone to federal candidates, political action committees and parties. "You can go a long, long way in getting what you want when you have a lot of money," said Professor Keith Humphreys of Stanford University, a former adviser on drug policy under President Barack Obama. "And it's only when things get so disastrous that finally there's enough popular will aroused to push back."

Opioids were long reserved for severe pain due to surgery, injury or terminal diseases like cancer. That changed in the 1990s, with a surge in prescribing for more common ailments like back pain and arthritis. Marketing for new long-acting painkillers like OxyContin helped fuel the trend, along with other factors. OxyContin-maker Purdue Pharma pleaded guilty and agreed to pay more than \$600 million in fines in 2007 for misleading the public about the risks of its drug. But the painkiller continued to rack up blockbuster sales, generating more than \$22 billion over the last decade.

Purdue's Washington lobbyist, Burt Rosen, co-founded the Pain Care Forum more than a decade ago and coordinates the group's monthly meetings in Washington. Purdue declined to make Rosen available for interviews and did not answer questions about its specific lobbying activities.

The company said it supports a range of advocacy groups, including some with differing views on opioids. "In practice and governance, the Pain Care Forum is like any of the hundreds of policy coalitions in Washington and throughout the nation," the company said in a statement, adding:

"Purdue complies with all applicable lobbying disclosure laws and requirements."

#### Internal memo

By spring 2014, even the head of the Food and Drug Administration was citing the statistic that 100 million Americans suffered from chronic pain. Then-commissioner Margaret Hamburg used the figure to illustrate the importance of keeping painkillers accessible — despite the escalating toll of opioid addiction and abuse. Yet a researcher whose work contributed to the number said it was being misquoted, since most people included in the figure had common pain ailments and managed them without opioids.

Hamburg said in an emailed response that the report was "another piece of scientific literature that helped inform the broader field," and that her agency had no role in writing it. When the FDA began developing plans to reduce misuse of long-acting opioids, the Pain Care Forum intervened with a "strategy to inform the process," according to an internal memo from the American Pain Foundation, a now-defunct forum member. The FDA's initial proposals included requiring doctors to undergo certification training to prescribe opioids and tracking opioid prescriptions via databases. But when the FDA sought public comment on how to proceed, the forum helped generate more than 2,000 comments against new barriers to opioids and a 4,000-signature petition opposing electronic registries, according to another pain foundation memo.

Ultimately, the agency announced far milder steps than its initial ideas: Drugmakers would fund optional classes for doctors and supply brochures to patients about opioid risks. FDA leaders said they decided requiring certification for prescribers would have been overly burdensome, disrupting care for patients and doctors. But experts said regulators had missed a pivotal chance to curb deadly misuse and abuse with the drugs. "The FDA failed to make a decision that could have averted many of the thousands of deaths we're seeing per year," said Dr Nathaniel Katz, a former FDA adviser who urged the agency to make training mandatory for prescribers. Today, the FDA is taking another look at requiring training for opioid prescribers, following a recommendation by a panel of expert advisers in May.

#### Legal Foundation

It was a federal agency hundreds of miles from Washington that finally sidestepped the influence of the Pain Care Forum. Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, located in Atlanta, overcame threats of congressional investigation and legal action to publish the first federal guidelines intended to reduce opioid prescribing. Essentially, the agency said the risks of painkillers outweigh the benefits for the vast majority of patients with routine chronic pain and that doctors instead should consider alternatives like physical therapy.

When draft guidelines emerged in September, forum members said they were not based on solid evidence, and criticized the CDC for not disclosing outside experts who had advised its effort. One pharmaceutical group, the Washington Legal Foundation, said the lack of disclosure constituted a "clear violation" of federal law. A longtime Pain Care Forum participant — now known as the Academy of Integrative Pain Management — asked Congress to investigate how the CDC developed the guidelines, though investigators found no violations.

After months of scrutiny, the CDC in December released a list of its advisers. One of 17 "core experts" had served as a paid consultant to a law firm suing opioid drugmakers. The final guidelines appeared in March.

The first recommendation for US doctors was unequivocal: "Opioids are not first-line therapy" for routine chronic pain. It was a statement considered common practice by many doctors as recently as the early 1990s, a decade before the Pain Care Forum formed in Washington. —AP



**MIAMI:** Florida Gov Rick Scott, center, speaks with the news media after a news conference at Wynwood Walls in the Wynwood neighborhood of Miami. —AP photos



**MIAMI:** Tourists enter and exit Wynwood Walls yesterday, even though Florida Gov Rick Scott announced that four new cases of Zika were discovered in Miami's Wynwood arts district.

## MIAMI'S WYNWOOD CLEARED OF ZIKA; FOCUS SHIFTS TO MIAMI BEACH

**MIAMI:** With health authorities declaring a win against Zika in Miami's Wynwood arts district, their emphasis shifts to the remaining transmission zone on nearby Miami Beach, where residents have objected to the aerial pesticide spraying credited with halting infections. No new cases of Zika have been reported in Wynwood since early August, and on Monday health officials declared it to be no longer a zone of active local transmission. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lifted a warning for pregnant women to stay out of Wynwood altogether, but continued to caution them about traveling to the city and surrounding areas out of concerns for catching the virus, which can cause serious birth defects. In nearby Miami Beach, health officials have broadened their declared zone of active local transmission.

Florida Gov Rick Scott and CDC officials attributed the drop-off in infections in Wynwood to aggressive aerial spraying with naled, an insecticide that targets adult mosquitoes, and street-level spraying with another pesticide that kills mosquito larvae. Scott said residents and business owners who kept their properties clear of standing water also helped. "We're doing everything we can do to educate the public and have the same success in Miami Beach as we have in Wynwood," Scott said.

#### Insects can breed

Wynwood was the first place on the US mainland where mosquitoes began transmitting Zika. Health officials say that over the past several weeks, mosquito control workers there have seen fewer of the insects, the main culprits in spreading the virus. "The message with Wynwood is it was a huge success," said Dr Lyle Petersen of the CDC. "This outbreak would have kept going without the aerial spraying." But despite months of public outreach and aggressive mosquito control measures, including the removal of cylinder-shaped tropical plants that trap water where insects can breed, Florida health officials have continued to find Zika-carrying mosquitoes in Miami Beach.

Miami Beach's tall buildings and ocean breezes make aerial spraying of naled there more difficult than in Wynwood, Petersen said. Many residents there have objected to the aerial spraying despite assurances from health officials that they are using concentrations of the chemical that are safe for humans. The city's infection zone has expanded from just South Beach to a 4.5-square-mile (12-square kilome-

ter) area encompassing most of 7-mile-long (11-kilometer long) island, Scott's office announced late Friday.

A plane contracted by Miami-Dade County mosquito control officials sprayed naled over South Beach on Sunday. It was the city's third aerial spraying. A fourth is scheduled Saturday. Of 85 non-travel-related Zika cases in Florida residents, 31 were associated with Wynwood and 36 with Miami Beach, Florida Department of Health spokeswoman Mara Gambineri said in an email Monday. Another 10 people who aren't Florida residents also have contracted Zika in the state.

#### Reassuring residents

Zika infections are mild for most people but can cause severe brain-related birth defects, including a dangerously small head, if women are infected during pregnancy. Local officials and business leaders joined Scott at a Wynwood art gallery to try and reassure residents and tourists fearful of Zika. "It's a great day in Wynwood. Everybody, please come back,"

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez said. Zak Stern was offering free lunches for pregnant women visiting his Wynwood bakery, Zak the Baker, to celebrate the state's announcement. He couldn't estimate how much Zika had affected his business, but he questioned whether the response to the outbreak was proportionate to the risk.

"The business owners, they were trying to make it seem like it's not such a big deal. The government was trying to show that they were doing something. The press was trying to show a story. The public was stuck in the middle, misinformed and afraid," Stern said. Stern lives just north of the infection zone in Miami Beach, and his wife is due to give birth in about a month. He said the couple has tried to balance Zika with other safety recommendations for pregnant women.

"They tell you that you can't eat sushi, and they tell you that you can't eat soft cheese, and they tell you that you can't drink, right? And now they're telling you that you can't go outside," he said. "Zika or no Zika, things can happen." —AP



**MIAMI:** Tourists visit Wynwood Walls even though Florida Gov Rick Scott announced Tuesday that four new cases of Zika were discovered in Miami's Wynwood arts district.

## CHINA SHIP OWNERS PAY UP FOR AUSTRALIA REEF DISASTER

**SYDNEY:** The owners of a Chinese ship that ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef in 2010 agreed to pay Australia Aus\$39.3 million (US\$29.6 million) on Monday, in a settlement dismissed by conservationists as "woefully inadequate".

The fully-laden coal carrier Shen Neng 1 hit a shoal in April 2010, leaking tons of heavy fuel oil and threatening an ecological disaster. While a catastrophe was avoided, the huge ship gouged a three-kilometer (1.8-mile) scar in the coral and was stranded for nine days before salvage workers refloated it.

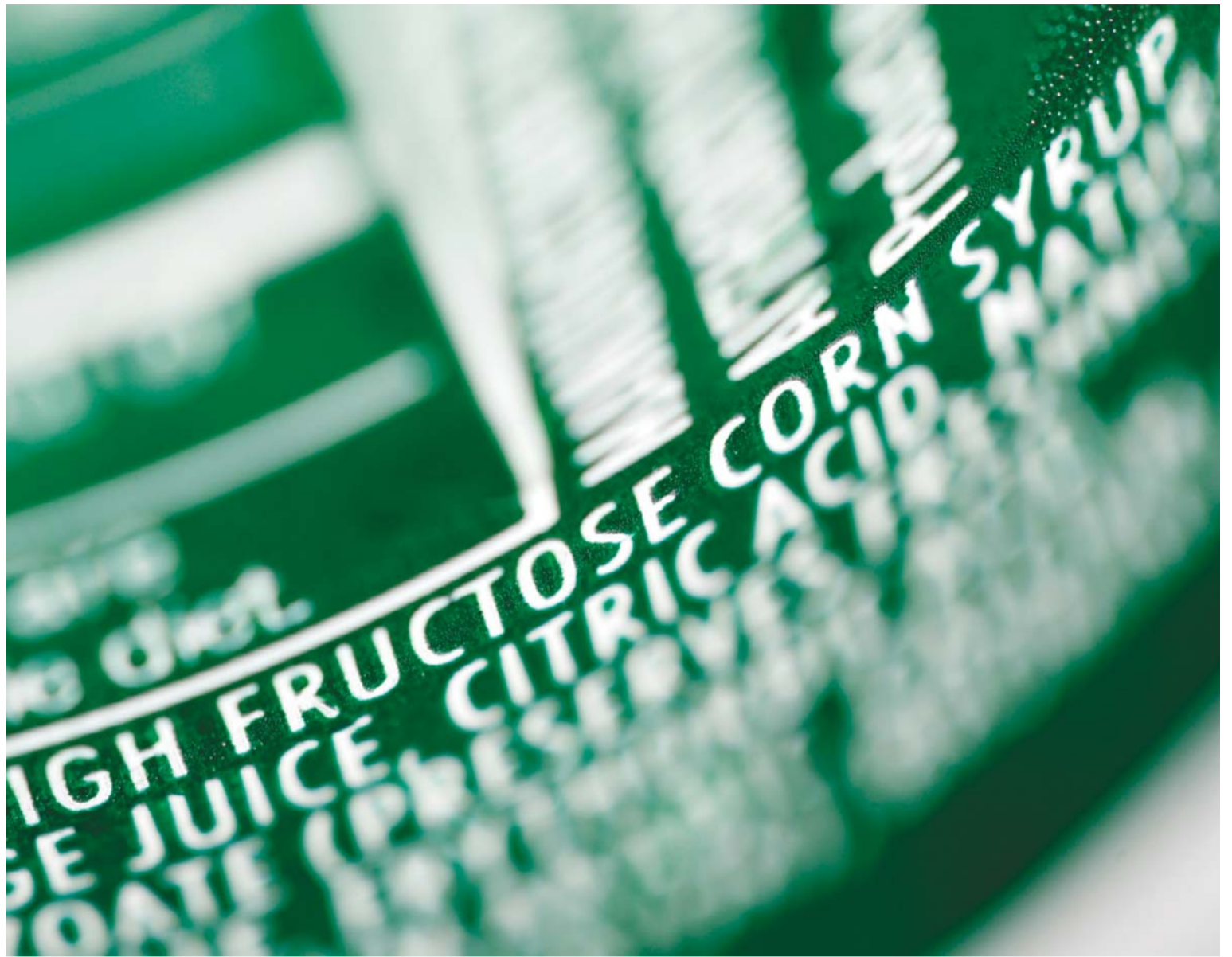
The ship's owner, Shenzhen Energy Transport Co Ltd, and its insurer refused for six years to accept responsibility to make restitution before striking Monday's out-of-court settlement. "Our ongoing actions to pursue funds to clean up the pollution sends an unambiguous signal that damage to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is unacceptable," said Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg. He added that the settlement showed Australia would "use every available means to pursue ship owners who are negligent in causing damage to the reef".

But Greenpeace Australia slammed the deal, calling it "woefully inadequate". "The government has said the full clean-up will cost more than Aus\$140m so to settle for

such a small figure is disappointing," said Greenpeace's Pacific reef campaigner Shani Tager. "While we welcome the end of this six-year saga, it has to serve as a reminder that accidents happen. It's clear that coal and the reef don't mix and the government needs to do more to protect this precious place."

The funds will allow the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to remove toxic anti-fouling paint and rubble, which will allow the reef to be restored, the government said. But it will be a long haul, with the anti-fouling paint containing a highly toxic component which is now banned from use. "Impacts to marine life on the seafloor could potentially last for many decades if the toxic anti-fouling paint remains in place," Frydenberg said. The ship's owner had argued the reef was self-healing and the company should not have to pay the bill.

An Australian investigation in 2011 blamed a tired chief mate for the accident. It also found the ship's safety management system did not contain procedures or guidance in relation to the proper use of passage plans, including electronic route plans. Conservationists said the incident highlighted the environmental risks to the Great Barrier Reef, particularly from shipping Australian exports to China. —AFP



**PHILADELPHIA:** This file photo shows the nutrition label on a can of soda with the ingredient high fructose corn syrup, in Philadelphia. —AP

## ORPHANED BABY KOALA FINDS FLUFFY TOY FRIEND

**SYDNEY:** An orphaned baby koala in Australia has found solace cuddling a fluffy toy marsupial in the absence of his mother as he recovers from the trauma of her death. Nine-month-old Shayne's mother was recently hit and killed by a car in Queensland state as he clung to her back. Rescuers found the joey had been thrown 20 meters down the road by the impact and was being chased by crows. The baby was taken to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, run by the family of "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin, where doctors said he was overcoming his terrifying ordeal with the help of a toy koala as he learns to be independent.

"Shayne has no injuries as a result of the accident, instead, he's dealing with the loss of his mum and the vital life lessons he needs to learn in order to become an independent, wild koala,"

hospital director Rosie Booth said Monday. At the hospital Shayne, his black button nose and bushy ears visible above the soft pink blanket he was swaddled in, clung onto the back of the toy koala as he might his real mother.

"It's very fortunate that we had an observant rescuer who found Shayne and brought him into us because he wouldn't have lasted even a day in the wild by himself at his young age—now he gets a second chance at life," Booth said. The much-loved koala has been under increasing threat across Australia in recent decades, particularly from habitat loss, disease, dog attacks and bushfires. The hospital treats an average of 70 to 80 koalas every month. A 2012 national count placed total Koala numbers at around 330,000, though their treetop habitat makes accurate assessment difficult. —AFP



**BEERWAH, QUEENSLAND, Australia:** This undated handout photo received from the Australia Zoo shows Shayne, a nine-month-old orphaned baby koala who has found solace cuddling a fluffy toy koala in the absence of his dead mum, as he recovers from the trauma of her death. —AFP

## JUST HOW MUCH SUGAR DO AMERICANS CONSUME? IT'S COMPLICATED

'SUGAR IS A PROBLEM, BUT SUGAR IS NOT THE ONLY PROBLEM'

**NEW YORK:** Sugar has become the nutritional villain du jour, but just how bad is our addiction? The answer is tricky. Philadelphia recently passed a tax on sugary drinks, several other places have proposed them, and the government this year recommended we limit our intake of added sugars to 10 percent of daily calories, underscoring how significant elected officials believe the problem is. But while determining exactly how much sugar we're consuming is a complicated business - government figures are estimates - the data and industry trends indicate we've actually made progress in cutting back.

On average, Americans' total consumption of caloric sweeteners like refined cane sugar and high-fructose corn syrup is down 15 percent from its peak in 1999, according to government data. That's when we consumed an average of 111 grams of sugar a day (423 calories). After plateauing in recent years, consumption was down to 94 grams a day (358 calories) last year, according to the US Department of Agriculture, which calculates the figures by estimating how much of the caloric sweeteners produced are never eaten. But that level is still higher than the 87 grams Americans consumed on average in 1970.

A major factor for the drop appears to be the decline in soda consumption, as the high-fructose corn syrup used to sweeten drinks like Sprite and Mountain Dew has been on the decline. Thomas Farley, the health commissioner in Philadelphia, said it could take many years before the positive effects from the reductions in soda consumption to turn up in health data. But he also noted that factors like the growth in snacking, the availability of food in more places, and oversized restaurant dishes can fuel obesity.

### Limit added sugar

"Sugar is a problem, but sugar is not the only problem," Farley said. And though it's lower, sweetener consumption of 94 grams a day is still the equivalent of roughly two and half cans of Coke. That far exceeds the government's recommendation to limit added sugar to around 50 grams a day (200 calories) for someone on a 2,000-calorie diet. Notably, a per capita consumption figure doesn't account for the wide disparities in intake among individuals. The way the USDA estimates sweetener consumption also means the specific figure could be higher or lower. The agency changed its methodology in 2012, which meant a sharp reduction in how much sugar it said we consume. Emails obtained by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which supports soda taxes, show that a sugar industry group wanted the change and hoped for "as low a per capita sweetener consumption estimate as possible."

There's always room for "improvement and refinement" in making food consumption estimates, said Michael McConnell, an agriculture economist who specializes in sweeteners at the USDA. But he said the change in methodology was applied retroactively, so any trend the numbers show would still be consistent. Even if the numbers are inexact, others agree the downward trajectory in sweeteners makes sense. That's because soda consumption started falling around the same time, and is down 24 percent since 1998, according to industry tracker Beverage Digest. Michael Jacobson, executive director of the CSPI, thinks it's a major factor - and perhaps the entire reason - for the drop in sweetener consumption.

### Sweet taste boosters

The American Beverage Association, the trade group for Coke and Pepsi, says soda isn't the driver of obesity rates, since those levels have climbed as soda drinking has declined. Gary Taubes, a science author, believes the influx of sweeteners and refined carbohydrates in diets has likely fueled obesity, but notes there's ambiguity in the evidence. And Cristin Kearns, a former dentist who has been uncovering documents showing the sugar industry's influence on nutrition science, noted that "manufacturers are getting crafty" about the types of sweeteners they use, such as juice concentrate, meaning they might not show up in consumption figures.

As sugar comes under fire, food companies are using sophisticated new methods to reduce sweeteners without sacrificing sweetness. Consider the use of "sweet taste boosters" that amplify smaller amounts of sweeteners. The ingredients are listed as "artificial flavors" on packages, according to Senomyx, a California company that makes them. Earlier this year, MycoTechnology began making a "bitter blocker" that reduces the need for sweeteners that mask bitterness.

The Colorado company says it is made from a mushroom extract and can be listed as a "natural flavor." Some companies have also switched back to "real sugar" to give their products a more wholesome image, even though there may be no difference in calories. While the overall decline in sweeteners reflects the drop in high-fructose corn syrup, the consumption of refined sugar has actually edged up in recent years. In that small regard, sugar is enjoying a revival. —AP

# CLINIC PAGE



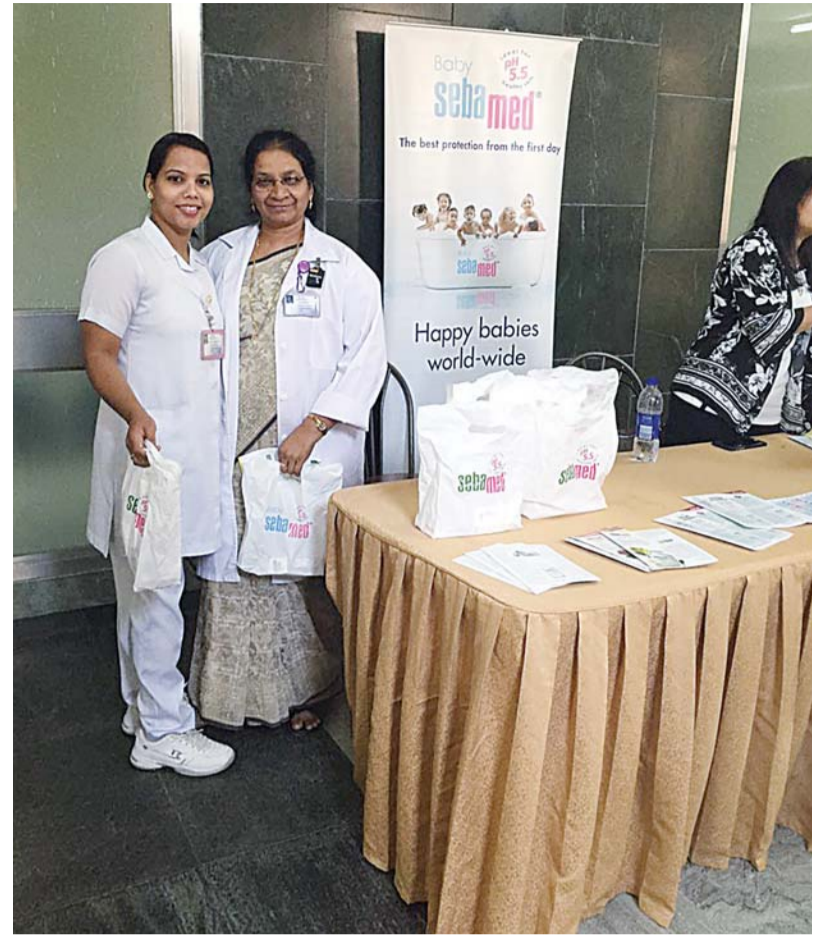
Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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Kuwait's Health Ministry maternity hospital celebrated the World Physiotherapy Day by organizing a day during which education material and medical advice was given. Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabiya was on hand with its principle Sebamed and its products that provide care for both mother and child.



## THE SULTAN CENTER PARTNERS WITH VISA FOR BACK TO SCHOOL SEASON

As part of TSC's commitment to reward customers with unparalleled campaigns, TSC in collaboration with Visa is launching an exciting and rewarding Back to School Campaign across all TSC stores from September 13th to October 13th 2016.

The partnership comes at a time when customers need to equip their children with back to school supplies ranging from backpacks and notebooks to lunch boxes and stationery supplies.

As per the full month campaign, any customer who spends KD 20 or more using their Visa card will be eligible to enter a draw to win exciting prizes and gifts ranging from Mac computers, iPads, iPhone's along with stationery sets.

"TSC is pleased to enter into a joint partnership with Visa which will be an added value for our customers during the back to school shopping season. Through this exciting promotional campaign, parents can shop

for all the needed school supplies for the new academic year plus have a chance to win valuable prizes by paying using their Visa card," stated Lisa Al Gharib - TSC Marketing Manager.

Amit Vij, Visa Country Manager for Kuwait, said: "Visa continuously looks for opportunities to work with key retail partners to deliver extra value to our cardholders. The back to school season is traditionally a busy shopping period for parents as they stock up on an array of items for their children. This season, we are delighted to join forces with Kuwait's largest independent retailer to create an exclusive promotion for Visa cardholders and make their TSC shopping experience potentially even more rewarding."

This Back to School Visa campaign is ongoing until October 13th in all of TSC branches, visit TSC today to see what we have in store, the more you shop and pay by Visa the more chances you have to win!!!!



Adel Abdullah Al Hammad - General Manager - Human Resources Group



Dr. Erin Nelson from DePaul University



Sadegh Zobeidi - Director of Professional & Continuing Education Center

## GUST'S PACE AND BOUBYAN BANK SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDE SECOND MODULE OF TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WITH DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) Professional Advancement and Continuing Education (PACE) organized the second module of a customized leadership training program for Boubyan Bank employees on its campus. The program, entitled "Emerging Leaders Program", will help strengthen leadership skills for 50 aspiring leaders within Boubyan Bank. The program will be led by Dr. Erin Nelson from DePaul University in the United States, and represents

its first venture into the Kuwaiti market. The program will touch on key Leadership essentials and will be supported by Business Driven Action Learning.

General Manager of Human Resources Group at Boubyan, Mr. Adel Hammad, said, "We are delighted that GUST was up to the challenge of finding the best possible training partner to arm our up-and-coming managers with the right skillsets to overcome the obstacles of corporate life, and be able to adapt in our ever-changing market. Boubyan

Bank is committed to the development and enhancement of our next level of leaders and look forward to his new journey with GUST as our preferred Academic Partner."

PACE's mission within GUST is to offer high-quality, continuing and professional education, lifelong learning opportunities, and innovative learning solutions to individuals and corporations in a stimulating environment. By linking two prestigious institutions together, PACE solidifies itself as a market leader in providing tailor-made training

based on market needs to help propel organizations to growth and success.

PACE Director at GUST, Mr. Sadegh Zobeidi said, "Our aim is to deliver the best leadership programs to the Kuwait market in cooperation with the best universities. In the future, we hope to conduct a similar event to the public so that more people can benefit from such a reputable and effective program."

GUST's PACE is constantly chosen amongst other entities to execute such programs due to its strong reputation locally

for providing high quality training to a number of organizations. It is also known for its role as an accredited training center for course like CFA and CMA, and is internationally recognized as a standardized testing center for exams such as IELTS.

Over the last few years, PACE's portfolio of public courses has significantly expanded to include GMAT, CMA, CPA exam preparation, Healthcare Management and Quality, and even a Private Pilot's License Program.



## MAGNOLIA BAKERY STRENGTHENS ITS COMMITMENT TO CHARITY BY REACHING OUT TO TERMINALLY ILL CHILDREN

Collaborating with Bayt Abdullah, Magnolia Bakery launched a campaign to contribute a percentage for welfare of ill children.

The Acquire Co, team. Visited the Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice on July 4th as part of its year round commitment to charity. The team handed out gifts to the children being treated there. In addition, they handed over a generous cheque to Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice, to support the ongoing work. During the visit, the team stated "We

have been highly impressed by the work undertaken by Bayt Abdullah Children Hospice and commend them on their dedication to the well being of these children. Our commitment to charity is year round, and the work undertaken by the Bayt Abdullah Children Hospice is truly remarkable. We are delighted to contribute to an organization that provides support to children who are terminally ill, by providing a warm and welcoming environment close to home."



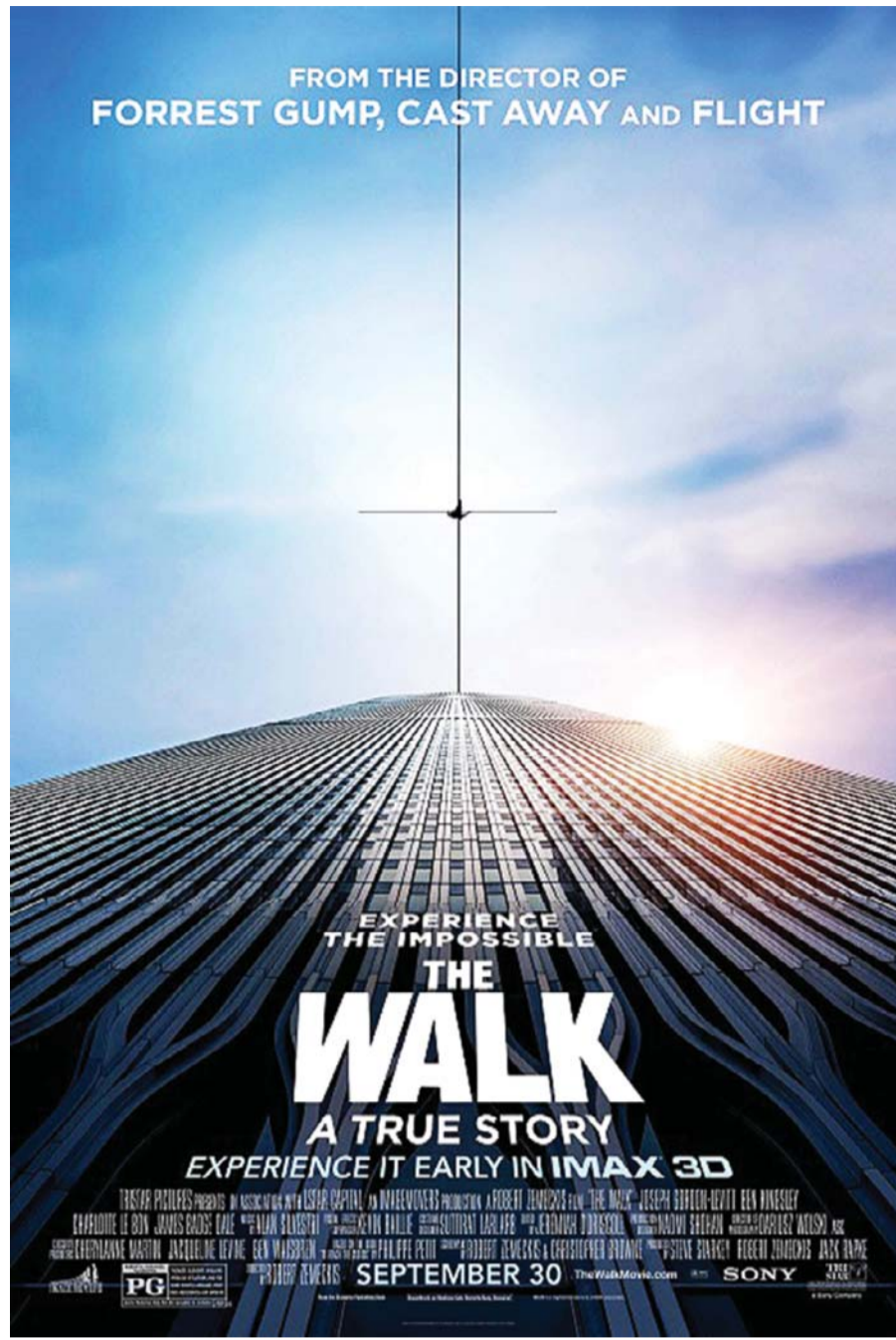
Marine environment of the scientific center concluded its activities of the annual summer camp.

OSN MOVIES HD

**ACTION**  
 10:00 The Package  
 12:00 Faster  
 14:00 Christmas Twister  
 16:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon  
 18:00 Batman Unlimited: Monster Mayhem  
 20:00 Faster  
 22:00 Unstoppable  
 00:00 Reign Of Assassins  
 02:00 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies  
 05:00 Non-Stop

18:00 My Cat From Hell  
 18:50 Ultimate Survival  
 19:40 How It's Made  
 20:05 How It's Made  
 20:30 Storm Chasers  
 21:20 Mythbusters  
 22:10 Doki  
 22:35 Adventure 8: Zoo Games  
 23:00 The Willis Family  
 23:50 Guinness World Records Smashed UK  
 00:40 Science Of The Movies  
 01:30 Mythbusters  
 02:20 How It's Made  
 02:45 How It's Made  
 03:10 The Willis Family  
 04:00 Guinness World Records Smashed UK  
 04:50 Destroyed In Seconds  
 05:15 Destroyed In Seconds  
 05:40 Ultimate Survival

14:30 Goldie & Bear  
 14:40 PJ Masks  
 14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 15:10 Doc McStuffins  
 15:20 Miles From Tomorrow  
 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 15:45 Goldie & Bear  
 16:00 Sofia The First  
 16:25 The Lion Guard  
 16:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 17:20 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
 17:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
 17:50 The Hive  
 18:00 Doc McStuffins  
 18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
 19:00 The Lion Guard  
 19:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 19:45 Aladdin  
 20:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
 20:45 Doc McStuffins  
 21:15 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
 21:20 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies  
 21:50 Miles From Tomorrow  
 22:15 Sofia The First  
 22:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 23:00 The Lion Guard  
 23:30 Goldie & Bear  
 23:55 Unbungalivable  
 00:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
 00:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
 01:00 PJ Masks  
 01:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
 02:00 Sofia The First  
 02:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 03:00 PJ Masks  
 03:25 Doc McStuffins  
 03:55 Aladdin  
 04:20 Gummi Bears  
 04:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
 04:50 Zou  
 05:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
 05:20 Calimero  
 05:35 Zou  
 05:50 Loopdidoo



THE WALK ON OSN MOVIES HD

10:35 Dash Dolls  
 11:30 Fashion Bloggers  
 12:00 WAGs  
 12:55 El News  
 13:10 WAGs  
 14:10 Live From The Red Carpet: The 2016...  
 16:10 WAGs  
 17:05 WAGs  
 18:00 El News  
 18:15 WAGs  
 19:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 20:05 Fashion Police  
 21:00 El News  
 21:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 22:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 23:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 00:05 Rob & Chyna  
 01:00 El News  
 02:00 Live From The Red Carpet: The 2016...  
 04:00 Fashion Police  
 05:00 El News  
 05:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

02:25 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
 03:15 Eat Street  
 03:40 Great Escapes  
 04:05 Carnival Eats  
 04:30 The Food Files  
 04:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 05:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 05:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina

23:00 Sanjay And Craig  
 23:24 Harvey Beaks  
 23:48 Breadwinners  
 00:12 Henry Danger  
 00:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
 01:00 100 Things To Do Before High School  
 01:24 Game Shakers  
 01:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 02:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 03:24 Breadwinners  
 03:48 Breadwinners  
 04:12 Sanjay And Craig  
 04:36 Sanjay And Craig  
 05:00 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 05:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 05:48 Henry Danger

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

09:50 Migrations  
 10:45 Caught In The Act  
 11:40 Hunter Hunted  
 12:35 The Yard  
 13:30 Live Free Or Die  
 14:25 Shark Men  
 15:20 Caught In The Act  
 16:15 Monster Fish  
 17:10 Cold Water Gold  
 18:05 Comet Of The Century  
 19:00 Shark Men  
 20:00 Yukon Gold  
 22:00 Monster Fish  
 23:00 Cold Water Gold  
 00:00 Save The Titanic With Bob Ballard  
 01:00 Breakthrough  
 01:00 Monster Fish  
 02:50 Cold Water Gold  
 03:40 Save The Titanic With Bob Ballard  
 04:30 Breakthrough  
 05:20 Hunter Hunted

NAT GEO WILD HD

09:45 Baby Animals In The Wild  
 10:40 Rescue Ink  
 11:35 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins  
 12:30 Wild 24  
 13:25 Baby Animals In The Wild  
 14:20 Rescue Ink  
 15:15 Animal ER  
 16:10 Animal Intervention  
 17:05 Cameramen Who Dare  
 18:00 Orca Killing School  
 18:55 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins  
 19:50 Wild 24  
 20:45 Baby Animals In The Wild  
 21:40 Rescue Ink  
 22:35 Animal ER  
 23:30 Animal Intervention  
 00:25 Cameramen Who Dare  
 01:20 Baby Animals In The Wild  
 02:10 Rescue Ink  
 03:00 Animal ER  
 03:50 Animal Intervention  
 04:40 Cameramen Who Dare  
 05:30 Orca Killing School

15:45 Little Charmers  
 15:57 Bubble Guppies  
 16:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies  
 16:40 Zack & Quack  
 16:52 Team Umizoomi  
 17:15 Louie  
 17:22 Louie  
 17:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies  
 17:53 Olive The Ostrich  
 17:58 Olive The Ostrich  
 18:03 Max & Ruby  
 18:26 Wanda And The Alien  
 18:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
 18:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
 19:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 19:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
 19:45 Zack & Quack  
 19:55 Zack & Quack  
 20:05 Team Umizoomi  
 20:28 Louie  
 20:35 Louie  
 20:40 Olive The Ostrich  
 20:44 Olive The Ostrich  
 20:49 Paw Patrol  
 21:01 Paw Patrol  
 21:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
 21:35 Dora The Explorer  
 21:59 Max & Ruby  
 22:07 Bubble Guppies  
 22:29 Little Charmers  
 22:41 Shimmer And Shine  
 23:05 Dora And Friends: Into The City!

03:00 2 Broke Girls  
 03:30 2 Broke Girls  
 04:30 The Big C  
 05:00 The League  
 05:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD

09:00 Better Call Saul  
 10:00 Good Morning America  
 10:00 C.S.I. Cyber  
 13:00 Stitches  
 14:00 Devious Maids  
 15:00 C.S.I. Cyber  
 18:00 Stitches  
 19:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 20:00 Live Good Morning America  
 23:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
 00:00 Stitches  
 01:00 The Voice  
 03:00 Devious Maids  
 04:00 The Americans  
 05:00 Better Call Saul

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

09:30 Big Fat Liar  
 11:15 Honey, I Shrank The Kids  
 13:15 Dinosaur  
 15:00 American Girl: Saige Paints The Sky  
 17:00 Honey, I Blew Up The Kid  
 19:00 Inspector Gadget  
 21:00 The Book Of Life  
 23:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama  
 01:00 Enchanted  
 03:00 Race To Witch Mountain  
 05:00 The Book Of Life

OSN MOVIES HD

10:45 Miss You Already  
 12:45 The Longest Ride  
 15:00 The Rewrite  
 16:45 Still Alice  
 18:30 Interstellar  
 21:30 Life Of A King  
 23:30 Pixels  
 01:30 The Walk  
 04:00 Inherent Vice

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

10:00 Father Of The Bride Part II  
 12:00 Under The Tuscan Sun  
 14:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!  
 16:00 Father Of The Bride Part II  
 18:00 Hot Pursuit  
 20:00 Bubble Boy  
 22:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!  
 00:00 Spy Hard  
 02:00 Laggies  
 04:00 Ted

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

10:00 The Education Of Little Tree  
 12:30 The Fisher King  
 15:00 Hitting The Apex  
 17:15 Second Coming  
 19:00 Foxcatcher  
 21:15 The Railway Man  
 23:15 Hitting The Apex  
 01:30 The Boy  
 03:30 Little White Lies

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

10:15 Ghatokhach - Master Of Magic  
 12:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote  
 14:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase  
 15:45 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure  
 17:15 Bolts And Blip  
 18:45 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart  
 20:30 Marco Macaco  
 22:00 Miffy The Movie  
 00:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure  
 02:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion  
 04:00 Marco Macaco  
 05:45 Miffy The Movie

BBC FIRST

09:25 Orphan Black  
 10:15 Casualty  
 11:10 Stella  
 12:00 Eastenders  
 12:40 Casualty  
 13:35 New Tricks  
 14:30 Doctor Who  
 15:50 Stella  
 16:35 Casualty  
 17:30 New Tricks  
 18:25 Doctor Who  
 19:45 Stella  
 20:30 Casualty  
 21:25 New Tricks  
 22:20 Doctor Who  
 23:10 Stella  
 00:00 Doctors  
 00:30 Doctors  
 01:05 New Tricks  
 02:05 DCI Banks  
 03:00 DCI Banks  
 03:50 Silent Witness  
 04:50 Orphan Black  
 05:35 Doctors

ID

09:00 Murder Book  
 09:48 I Almost Got Away With It  
 10:36 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
 11:24 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 11:49 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 12:12 I'd Kill For You  
 13:00 Web Of Lies  
 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
 14:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall  
 15:30 Obsession: Dark Desires  
 16:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
 17:10 The Perfect Murder  
 18:00 Web Of Lies  
 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
 19:40 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
 20:30 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 20:55 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 21:20 I'd Kill For You  
 22:10 I Almost Got Away With It  
 23:00 Web Of Lies  
 23:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
 00:40 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
 01:30 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 01:55 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 02:20 I'd Kill For You  
 03:10 Murder Comes To Town  
 04:00 Whitey Bulger: The Making Of A Monster  
 04:50 True Nightmares  
 05:40 I Almost Got Away With It

ci & investigation network

09:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
 10:00 The Jail: 60 Days In  
 11:30 Frenemies  
 12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
 13:00 Beyond Scared Straight  
 14:00 Homicide Hunter  
 15:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
 16:00 Monster In My Family  
 17:00 The First 48  
 18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
 19:00 Beyond Scared Straight  
 20:00 Homicide Hunter  
 21:00 Monster In My Family  
 22:00 The First 48  
 23:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
 00:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
 01:00 Beyond Scared Straight  
 02:00 Monster In My Family  
 03:00 Homicide Hunter  
 04:00 The Jail: 60 Days In - Season 1 Specials  
 05:00 It Takes A Killer  
 05:30 It Takes A Killer

Disney HD

09:15 The Hive  
 09:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
 09:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
 10:10 Hank Zipzer  
 10:35 Binny And The Ghost  
 11:00 Violetta  
 11:45 The Hive  
 11:50 Mouk  
 12:00 Jessie  
 12:25 Jessie  
 12:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
 13:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
 13:20 Liv And Maddie  
 13:45 Bunk'd  
 14:10 Austin & Ally  
 14:35 Shake It Up  
 15:00 A.N.T. Farm  
 15:25 A.N.T. Farm  
 15:50 That's So Raven  
 16:15 That's So Raven  
 16:40 Good Luck Charlie  
 17:05 Good Luck Charlie  
 17:30 Jessie  
 17:55 Disney Mickey Mouse  
 18:00 The TD  
 18:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
 18:40 Hank Zipzer  
 19:05 Star Darlings  
 19:10 Austin & Ally  
 19:35 Austin & Ally  
 20:00 Liv And Maddie

XD

12:00 Boyster  
 12:10 Super Matrak  
 12:35 Super Matrak  
 13:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
 13:25 K.C. Undercover  
 13:50 Supa Strikas  
 14:15 Danger Mouse  
 14:40 Phineas And Ferb  
 15:05 Counterfeit Cat  
 15:10 Gravity Falls  
 15:35 Lab Rats  
 16:00 Rocket Monkeys  
 16:25 Ultimate Spider-Man  
 16:50 Boyster  
 17:20 Boyster  
 17:45 Pair Of Kings  
 18:10 Pair Of Kings  
 18:35 Lab Rats  
 19:00 Lab Rats  
 19:30 Phineas And Ferb  
 19:55 Phineas And Ferb  
 20:20 Kickin' It  
 20:45 Kickin' It  
 21:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
 21:35 Supa Strikas  
 21:40 Supa Strikas  
 22:05 Bunk'd  
 22:30 Danger Mouse  
 22:55 Kirby Buckets  
 23:25 K.C. Undercover  
 23:50 Anneandroids  
 00:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
 00:40 K.C. Undercover  
 01:05 Counterfeit Cat  
 01:30 Gravity Falls  
 02:00 Lab Rats  
 02:25 Supa Strikas  
 02:55 K.C. Undercover  
 03:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
 03:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
 04:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble

COMEDY CENTRAL

09:00 Lip Sync Battle  
 09:25 Catch A Contractor  
 09:50 Ridiculousness  
 10:15 Ridiculousness  
 10:40 Ridiculousness  
 11:05 Ridiculousness  
 11:30 Impractical Jokers  
 11:55 Impractical Jokers  
 12:20 Tosh.0  
 12:50 Tosh.0  
 13:15 Catch A Contractor  
 14:05 Ridiculousness  
 14:30 Ridiculousness  
 14:55 Impractical Jokers  
 15:20 Impractical Jokers  
 15:45 Key And Peele  
 16:10 Key And Peele  
 16:35 Ridiculousness  
 17:00 Ridiculousness  
 17:25 Catch A Contractor  
 18:15 Key And Peele  
 18:40 Key And Peele  
 19:05 Impractical Jokers



FASTER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

19:30 Impractical Jokers  
 19:55 Ridiculousness  
 20:20 Ridiculousness  
 20:45 Catch A Contractor  
 21:35 Tosh.0  
 22:00 Tosh.0  
 22:30 Key And Peele  
 22:55 Key And Peele  
 23:25 Workaholics  
 23:50 Impractical Jokers  
 00:15 Impractical Jokers  
 00:39 Ridiculousness  
 01:03 Ridiculousness  
 01:27 Lip Sync Battle  
 01:50 Lip Sync Battle  
 02:13 Urban Tarzan  
 02:37 Urban Tarzan  
 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
 03:30 Amy Schumer: Mostly Sex Stuff  
 04:18 Underground With Dave Atell  
 04:42 Tosh.0  
 05:05 Another Period  
 05:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

20:25 Liv And Maddie  
 20:50 Dog With A Blog  
 21:15 Jessie  
 21:40 Bunk'd  
 22:05 Star Darlings  
 22:10 Gravity Falls  
 22:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
 23:00 Backstage  
 23:25 Zapped  
 01:05 Liv And Maddie  
 01:30 Jessie  
 01:55 Violetta  
 02:45 Backstage  
 03:10 H2O: Just Add Water  
 03:35 H2O: Just Add Water  
 04:00 Binny And The Ghost  
 04:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
 04:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
 05:10 Hank Zipzer  
 05:35 Binny And The Ghost

Discovery CHANNEL HD

09:40 Fast N' Loud  
 10:30 Garage Gold  
 11:00 How Stuff Works  
 11:30 How Do They Do It?  
 12:00 Deadliest Catch  
 12:50 Miffit Garage  
 13:40 Fast N' Loud  
 14:30 Gold Divers  
 15:20 Garage Gold  
 15:45 How Stuff Works  
 16:10 How Do They Do It?  
 16:35 Gold Divers  
 17:25 Deadliest Catch  
 18:15 Trailblazers  
 19:05 How Stuff Works  
 19:30 Storage Hunters  
 19:55 Garage Gold  
 20:20 Gold Divers  
 21:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
 22:00 Deadliest Catch  
 22:50 Fast N' Loud  
 23:40 Miffit Garage  
 00:30 How Stuff Works  
 00:55 How Do They Do It?  
 01:20 Gold Divers  
 02:10 Storage Hunters  
 02:35 Garage Gold  
 03:00 Boy To Man  
 03:50 The Island With Bear Grylls  
 04:40 Driving Wild  
 05:30 Fast N' Loud

Disney JUNIOR

09:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
 09:20 Calimero  
 09:35 Zou  
 09:45 Loopdidoo  
 10:00 Art Attack  
 10:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
 10:35 Calimero  
 10:50 Loopdidoo  
 11:15 Art Attack  
 11:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
 11:50 Calimero  
 12:00 Zou  
 12:10 Loopdidoo  
 12:25 Art Attack  
 12:35 The Hive  
 13:10 Zou  
 13:25 Loopdidoo  
 13:40 Gummi Bears  
 14:05 Sofia The First

NAT GEO people HD

09:05 Raw Travel  
 09:30 Raw Travel  
 09:55 Delinquent Gourmet  
 10:20 What's For Sale?  
 10:45 Taste Of The Tropic: Taiwan  
 11:35 Eat Street  
 12:00 Carnival Eats  
 12:25 The Food Files  
 12:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 13:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 13:40 Rustic Adventure Argentina  
 14:05 Eat Street  
 14:30 Andy And Ben Eat The World  
 14:55 Raw Travel  
 15:20 Raw Travel  
 15:45 Delinquent Gourmet  
 16:10 What's For Sale?  
 16:35 Taste Of The Tropic: Taiwan  
 17:25 Eat Street  
 17:50 Carnival Eats  
 18:15 The Food Files  
 18:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 19:35 Rustic Adventure Argentina  
 20:00 Eat Street  
 20:30 Andy And Ben Eat The World  
 20:55 Raw Travel  
 21:25 Raw Travel  
 21:50 Delinquent Gourmet  
 22:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
 23:15 Eat Street  
 23:40 Great Escapes  
 00:10 Carnival Eats  
 00:35 The Food Files  
 01:05 Raw Travel  
 01:30 Raw Travel  
 02:00 Delinquent Gourmet

nickelodeon HD

09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 09:48 Henry Danger  
 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways  
 11:00 Max & Shred  
 11:24 Henry Danger  
 11:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
 12:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 12:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 13:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 13:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 13:48 Winx Club  
 14:12 Harvey Beaks  
 14:36 Breadwinners  
 15:00 Get Blake  
 15:24 Rabbids Invasion  
 15:48 Henry Danger  
 16:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
 16:36 The Haunted Hathaways  
 17:00 Winx Club  
 17:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 17:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 18:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 18:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 19:00 Breadwinners  
 19:24 The Loud House  
 19:48 Harvey Beaks  
 20:12 Rabbids Invasion  
 20:36 Henry Danger  
 21:00 Game Shakers  
 21:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 21:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
 22:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
 22:36 The Loud House

Ted, 30 ans, ours en peluche. Fumeur, buveur, dragueur ...

mark wahlberg mila kunis seth macfarlane



TED ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD



# CLASSIFIEDS

## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (15/09/2016 TO 21/09/2016)

Channel	Time	Programme	Channel	Time	Programme
SHARQIA-1	11:45 AM	PETE'S DRAGON	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 AM	360*-1
BEN-HUR	2:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON			PETE'S DRAGON -3D
BEN-HUR	2:00 PM	SULLY			PETE'S DRAGON
BLAIR WITCH	4:15 PM	SULLY	MARINA-3	12:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D
BEN-HUR	6:15 PM	SULLY	SULLY	2:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	8:30 PM	SULLY	PETE'S DRAGON	4:15 PM	BEN-HUR -3D
BLAIR WITCH	10:45 PM	SULLY	PETE'S DRAGON	6:30 PM	BEN-HUR
BLAIR WITCH	12:45 AM		SULLY	8:45 PM	
		FANAR-2	BLAIR WITCH	10:45 PM	
SHARQIA-2		SNOWDEN	BLAIR WITCH	12:45 AM	360*-2
PETE'S DRAGON	12:45 PM	KILL ZONE 2			BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)
PETE'S DRAGON -3D	3:00 PM	SNOWDEN			BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)
PETE'S DRAGON	5:15 PM	KILL ZONE 2	AVENUES-1	11:30 AM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)
ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM	SNOWDEN	BEN-HUR	2:00 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)
ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM	SNOWDEN	BLOOD FATHER	4:15 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:05 AM		ANTBOY 3	6:15 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)
		FANAR-3	BEN-HUR	8:15 PM	
SHARQIA-3		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	BEN-HUR	10:45 PM	360*-3
SNOWDEN	1:00 PM	BEN-HUR	BEN-HUR	1:00 AM	BEN-HUR
SULLY	1:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)			BEN-HUR
SNOWDEN	3:30 PM	BEN-HUR			BEN-HUR
SULLY	6:00 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	AVENUES-2		BEN-HUR
SNOWDEN	8:00 PM	BEN-HUR	PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	1:00 PM	SULLY
SULLY	10:30 PM		PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	3:15 PM	SULLY
SNOWDEN	12:30 AM	FANAR-4	PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	5:30 PM	SULLY
		SULLY	BEN-HUR -3D-4DX	7:45 PM	
MUHALAB-1		SULLY	BEN-HUR -3D-4DX	10:15 PM	AL-KOUT.1
BEN-HUR	12:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	BEN-HUR -3D-4DX	12:45 AM	SULLY
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:30 PM	SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA			SULLY
BEN-HUR	4:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN			SULLY
LIGHTS OUT	7:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	AVENUES-3	11:45 AM	BLAIR WITCH
BEN-HUR	9:15 PM	FANAR-5	SNOWDEN	2:30 PM	SULLY
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	11:45 PM	BEN-HUR	SNOWDEN	5:00 PM	BLAIR WITCH
		BEN-HUR	SNOWDEN	7:30 PM	BLAIR WITCH
MUHALAB-2		BLAIR WITCH	SNOWDEN	10:00 PM	
SNOWDEN	12:30 PM	BLAIR WITCH	SNOWDEN	12:45 AM	AL-KOUT.2
SNOWDEN	3:00 PM	BLAIR WITCH			PETE'S DRAGON
SULLY	5:30 PM	BLAIR WITCH	AVENUES-4		PETE'S DRAGON
SNOWDEN	7:30 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN
SULLY	10:00 PM	MARINA-1	BEN-HUR	2:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON
SNOWDEN	12:05 AM	SNOWDEN	ASHAN KHARGEN	5:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN
		SNOWDEN	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN
MUHALAB-3		BEN-HUR	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN
PETE'S DRAGON	1:15 PM	SNOWDEN	BEN-HUR	11:45 PM	AL-KOUT.3
SULLY	1:30 PM	SNOWDEN			SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA
PETE'S DRAGON -3D	3:30 PM	BEN-HUR	AVENUES-5	11:30 AM	LIGHTS OUT
PETE'S DRAGON	5:45 PM	BEN-HUR	PETE'S DRAGON	1:45 PM	FRI
ASHAN KHARGEN	8:00 PM	SNOWDEN	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	4:00 PM	BEN-HUR
ASHAN KHARGEN	10:15 PM	MARINA-2	SULLY	6:00 PM	LIGHTS OUT
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	PETE'S DRAGON	8:15 PM	BEN-HUR
		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	SULLY	10:30 PM	SAWALIF TAFASH: JAZERAT AI HILAMAYA
FANAR-1		ASHAN KHARGEN	BLAIR WITCH	12:45 AM	LIGHTS OUT
PETE'S DRAGON	12:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN			

### CHANGE OF NAME

T. Marimuthu S/o K. Thiyagarajan, holder of Indian Passport No: J0364840 and Civil ID No: 277062006098, has changed my name Farhan. Hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Farhan. (C 5214) 21-9-2016

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 Rajendr 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) 18-9-2016

### SITUATION WANTED

A well-qualified (MBA, CPA), Indian Finance Professional is looking for a change in job. 12 years of experience in Investment Banking, Real Estate & FMCG in the middle level position in Kuwait. Excellent communicator and adaptable. Please call 65094498. (C 5213)

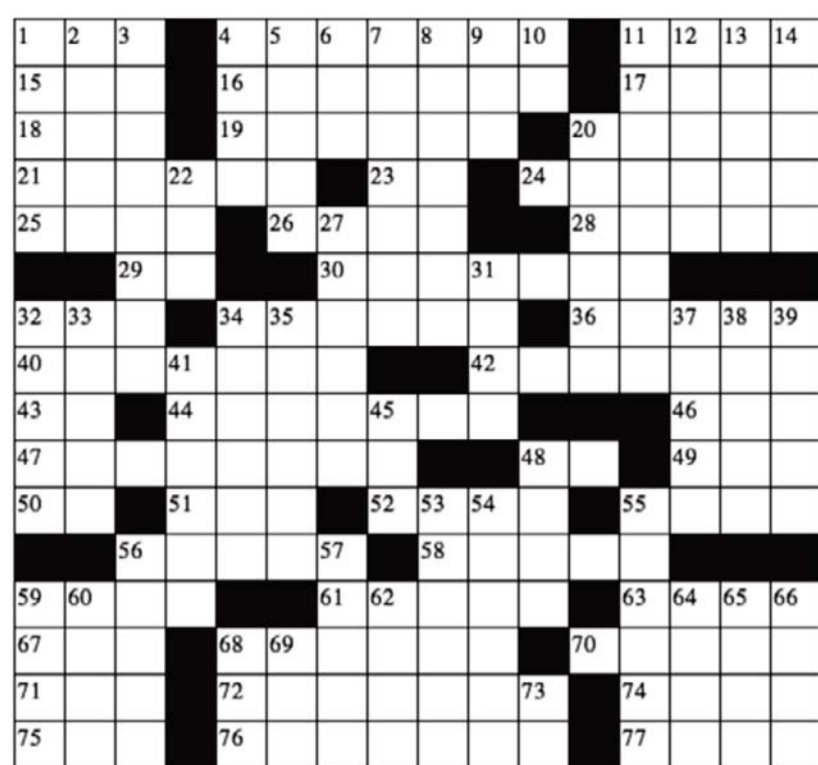
## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))



## DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 21/9/2016				Departure Flights on Wednesday 21/9/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	ETD	9819	BRU	14:10
FDK	803	Damascus	01:00	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KKK	750	TZX	01:50	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
PGT	4860	Istanbul	02:15	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	563	Amman	16:30
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	TBM	6314	Mashhad	17:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	IRC	527	Mashhad	17:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
FEG	937	Sohag	05:55	SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
MSR	2610	Cairo	06:10	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
JZR	529	Asyut	06:40	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
IRC	6511	ABD	06:50	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	SYR	342	Damascus	19:45
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	MSR	619	Alexandria	20:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:10	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50	DFH	171	Bahrain	21:50
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	JAD	300	Amman	22:00
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	THY	1413	TZX	22:25
AVV	655	Asyut	11:30	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
IRC	6521	Lamerd	11:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
IRM	1186	Tehran	11:50	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	JZR	528	Asyut	23:15
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	KAC	203	Lahore	23:40
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	23:55

CROSSWORD 1377



ACROSS

1. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
4. Before anything else.
11. Wild or seedling sweet cherry used as stock for grafting.
15. The basic unit of money in Romania.
16. A word (such as a pronoun) used to avoid repetition.
17. East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
18. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
19. Pale soft wood of a tupelo tree especially the water gum.
21. A hand tool for lifting loose material.
23. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
24. A mountain in the Andes in Argentina (22,546 feet high).
25. Ulcerated chilblain on the heel.
26. Type genus of the Apidae.
28. Mammary gland of bovinds (cows and sheep and goats).
29. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
30. A person who lacks good judgment.
32. Enlarged prostate.
36. Tall perennial herb of tropical Asia with dark green leaves.
40. A print obtained from a line drawing.
42. Clearly apparent or obvious to the mind or senses.
43. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
44. The middle of the gestation period.
46. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
47. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Clinoril).
49. Used of a single unit or thing.
50. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
51. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
52. A form of magnetic resonance imaging of the brain that registers blood flow to functioning areas of the brain.
58. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
59. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
61. Extensive landed property (especially in the country) retained by the owner for his own use.
63. A city in the Asian part of Russia.
67. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
70. Any of several short-billed Old World rails.
71. The money risked on a gamble.
72. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
74. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
75. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
76. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
77. God of love and erotic desire.

DOWN

1. Bottle that has a narrow neck.
2. A city in north-central India.
3. An expressway in a German-speaking country.
4. An event (or course of events) that will inevitably happen in the future.
5. Any plant of the genus *Inula*.
6. A reproach for some lapse or misdeed.
7. Unique or specific to a person or thing or category.
8. Herbs of temperate regions.
9. A toilet in England.
10. A period of time containing 365 (or 366) days.
11. The father of your father or mother.
12. Worn or shabby from overuse or (of pages) from having corners turned down.
13. An impure form of quartz consisting of banded chalcidony.
14. The cardinal number that is the sum of eight and one.
20. Large South American evergreen tree trifoliate leaves and drupes with nutlike seeds used as food and a source of cooking oil.
22. A doctor who practices veterinary medicine.
27. A genus of Bothidae.
31. A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
33. A unit of weight used in some parts of Asia.
34. Pertaining to one of the small sacs (as in a compound gland).
35. Founder of Buddhism.
37. Red Bordeaux wine from the Medoc district of southwestern France.
38. Complacently or inanely foolish.
39. A colorless volatile highly inflammable liquid used as an inhalation anesthetic.
41. Tropical African herbs.
45. Liquid containing proteins and electrolytes including the liquid in blood plasma and interstitial fluid.
48. Affected manners intended to impress others.
53. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
54. Desert shrub of Syria and Arabia having small white flowers.
55. A kind of heavy jacket ('windcheater' is a British term).
56. The event of dying or departure from life.
57. Any taillike structure.
60. In bed.
62. Baby bed with high sides.
64. Informal terms for a mother.
65. Used of milk and milk products from which the cream has been removed.
66. A Chadid language spoken in Chad.
68. A health resort near a spring or at the sea-side.
69. The fatty flesh of eel.
73. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

There is a natural instinct to be powerful and in control. Be careful that you do not become too pushy right now-things may not happen on your time schedule. You will find that you are valued for your feelings or your ability to act and get things done. Someone understands how you feel and is sympathetic. Your time spent toward making things work instead of worrying about past mistakes, is well spent. You keep your mind on your work and stay at the top of your field in what you do. You could teach others the methods of your work so as to create more business, whether you are in business for yourself or working for others. Concentrate on achieving a balance between work, play and interaction with family and friends and exercise.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You could be most persuasive with others and eloquent in speech and communication. If you are in the sales profession you will find a lucrative business day. This is also a great time to be with others and to work together. You have new ideas and the knowledge that goes with the ability to make your ideas known will lead to success. You may have been thinking about involving yourself in some humanitarian group, perhaps green peace. Now is a good time to pursue those avenues and exert your emotions along some humanitarian or world ecological improvement. Some of your friends may have had those same desires and in your communications today, you may gain some focus along this line. This is a good day-much can be accomplished.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of some project requiring a conservative mind. Consider passing some of your mundane chores on to others, in order to free up some time. You will help another person learn and give yourself time for some well-deserved rest. You will gain the rewards for your hard work, whether it is from some speculation or from the time you put in on some past project. You may, however, have to be assertive and claim those gains. Beating the odds through cleverness is appealing and this may lead to an interest in all kinds of financial speculation. Don't be afraid to project your ideas at every opportunity in order to make your dreams a reality. There are opportunities to be with your friends this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is not a good day to ask requests of authority figures. However, you and a partner or co-worker will be on the same wavelength and can communicate well when you search for the answers you need. Thinking in more practical terms takes on a special importance now. Taking care of life-health, work, et cetera-becomes a greater preoccupation. You are in good health and you perform at your best. Sorting things out and getting them organized to the utmost efficiency will keep you busy. Expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you. You may be motivated to express your appreciation for this good day and your satisfaction in your life and those around you. Keep within your budget; you could be tempted to purchase unneeded items.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Improved powers of concentration insure that you will get a lot accomplished, especially at work. Your intuition is strong and can guide you accurately in making forecasts or decisions. Your sensitivity makes you recoil from aggressive types. Circumstances can throw you into positions where you must use your mind and deal with communications, service or enclosed hidden interests. You may deal with education, psychology, spiritual enlightenment or teaching principles and techniques. Your dreams and ideals are the ideal components for action in your chart. This evening is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having a good time. It may be time to purchase a new pet; puppy, bird or kitten.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today, you may be asked to meet a particular time limit for your work. You excel at what you do and may not care to be so rushed. This is a temporary situation and you could comment on how you appreciate the situation being temporary. This will help to tactfully reinforce that you prefer to work within a different time schedule. In any case, you will make the right choice and say the right things. A time limit will help you to reassess and renew your choices of where you work. You enjoy the discipline and limitations can be viewed as opportunities. You put forth a lot of effort, in particular regarding your career. Leave all this work and thoughts of work, at work as you leave this afternoon. Enjoy celebrating your special day.



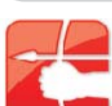
Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may be in a quandary over a co-worker's story. It would be better for you to move past the "storytelling," and tend to the business of the moment. Becoming distracted from your work may not be helpful for the future of your profession, so do not be afraid to excuse yourself and return to whatever work is your responsibility. When you exercise your common sense you lead others in matters of importance. This afternoon, you may find yourself being put to good use by your friends, or it could be that circumstances force you to reorganize and be more conservative. All of this should go rather smoothly. You radiate eagerness and knowledge and have to just accept that people like to feel your warmth. Enjoy some relaxation time this evening.



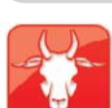
Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Budgeting, investments and all that brings profit are on your mind during this workday. You seem to shine when it comes to practical matters or those involving work. You enjoy your work and look for ways to move up the corporate ladder. Expand your thinking and show off your talents to those that can help your career move forward. If you need dental work done-now is a time to have that work done. A good friend is hard to find but you seem to magnetically attract people and they seem to enjoy staying in your life for a very long time, if not always. You are a busy person and you love catching up on the activities of your friends and this may be just what you do this evening; talk and visit with friends. A busy person is a healthy and happy person.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

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. Your fine verbal skills and a natural sense of justice make legal work a distinct possibility. Working with laws, natural or manmade, amounts to a real talent. You are able to guide superiors through some sensitive situations today. You also have a great interest in ideas, the truer the better. You may discover the feelings of another this evening. This leaves you free to move forward. This is a full day with much communication in the workplace and in the home. You enjoy working with your mind and can usually find solutions quickly. Tonight you have a fun time with family members.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a time to be patient and let someone else take the lead. You surpass all who go before you but it may be difficult to follow your lead. Help others to learn and advance as you do. You should soon be receiving the rewards of your hard efforts. Your discipline has been very strong in the past and through discipline you will be able to finish a project that you have left undone for too long. Work now to help others advance and complete unfinished business. After work today, you may decide to shop for a special item to compliment a dinner this evening. You and your loved one may be talking about taking a fun class together. Perhaps you will both learn how to cook special recipes, or learn couple's exercises. Whatever the case, you can enjoy it together!



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You set your sights high and today there are opportunities to move into directions that will help you realize your goals. New ideas and new ways to express these ideas play a major role in your day. New technology can change things forever-make sure you develop your highest potential in these areas. In-depth thinking brings you success. Your positivism lets you get right to the point and you have plenty of enthusiasm and warm up to things and people quickly. You have an inner self-confidence that burns with its own light. There is a lot of eagerness behind what you say and think. You communicate with feeling and strength. This is a good day to pace yourself in all of your activities. What fun is it to run a race and not really enjoy it as you move along?



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are ready for work and there is much to do today. There is a push to accomplish what you set out to do and to complete any job at hand. You may find it exasperating when interruptions happen. If there is a job, you can do it! You pour yourself into any task with absolute determination. Family talks are favored tonight. This is a favorable time for making domestic and financial decisions. Take care not to go overboard in spending on the home. Make sure all persons are allowed their opinions on whatever changes they want to see happen. You are quite disciplined, perhaps too sober, especially with family members. Sprinkle your conversations with your very own special sense of humor. Loved ones will respond in like form.

WORD SEARCH

St. Patrick's Day

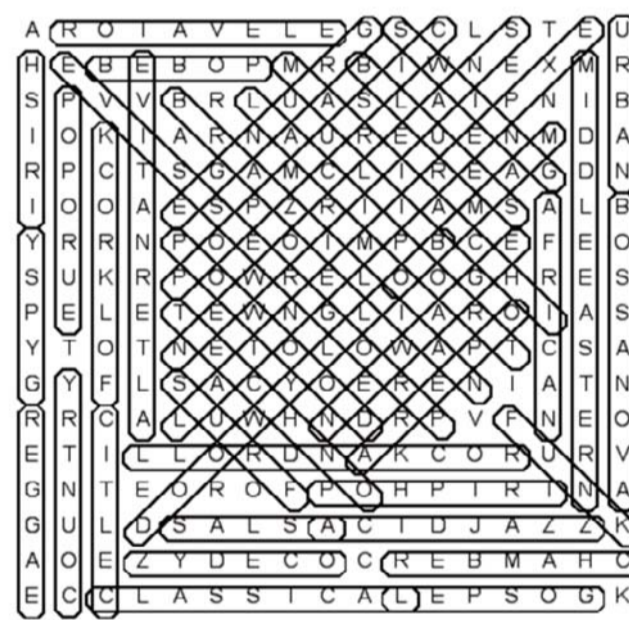
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 34 letters spell a secret message.



- |              |           |              |             |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| BEER         | DANCING   | HOLY DAY     | POTATOES    |
| BELFAST      | DUBLIN    | IRELAND      | SEVENTEENTH |
| BISHOP       | EVENTS    | IRISH        | SHAMROCK    |
| CABBAGE      | FEAST DAY | LEPRECHAUN   | SNAKES      |
| CELEBRATION  | FESTIVAL  | LIMERICK     | SODA BREAD  |
| CELTIC CROSS | GREEN     | MARCH        | TRADITION   |
| CHRISTIAN    | GUINNESS  | MISSIONARY   | YEARLY      |
| CLOVER       | HERITAGE  | MUSIC        |             |
| CORK         | HISTORY   | PARADE       |             |
| CORNED BEEF  | HOLIDAY   | PATRON SAINT |             |

Yesterday Solution

Types of Music 2



- |             |              |                |               |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| ACID JAZZ   | CLASSICAL    | GYPSY          | REGGAE        |
| AFRICAN     | COUNTRY      | IRISH          | ROCK AND ROLL |
| ALTERNATIVE | DOO WOP      | MAMBO          | SALSA         |
| BEBOP       | ELEVATOR     | MARIACHI       | SURF          |
| BLUES       | EUROPOP      | MIDDLE EASTERN | SWING         |
| BOLLYWOOD   | EXPERIMENTAL | NEW AGE        | TECHNO        |
| BOSSA NOVA  | FOLK ROCK    | NEW ORLEANS    | TRIP HOP      |
| BRAZILIAN   | FUNK         | OPERA          | TROPICAL      |
| CELTIC      | GOSPEL       | POP MUSIC      | URBAN         |
| CHAMBER     | GRUNGE       | PROGRESSIVE    | ZYDECO        |

The hidden message is: ALTERNATIVE ROCK

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlal 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

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		

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
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www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

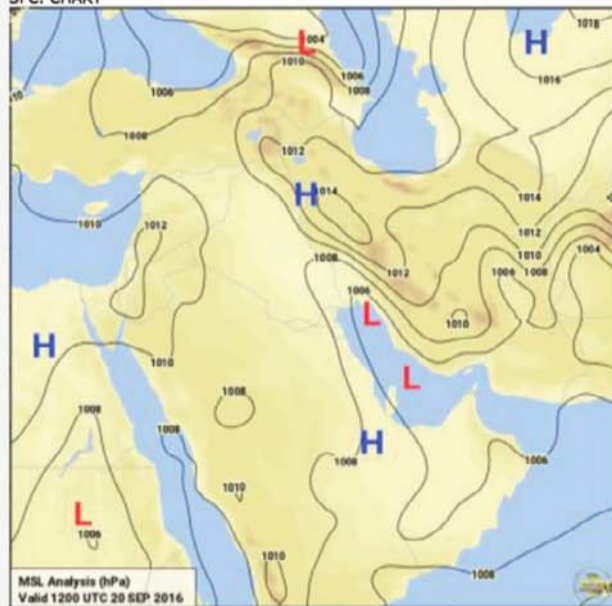
Issued 20/09/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 24 °C

By Night :Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h

By Day : Hot with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h causing raising dust over open areas

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	hot + raising dust	hot + raising dust	hot	hot
Min Temp °C	24	25	26	25
Max Temp °C	41	42	43	43
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly to northerly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	15 - 40	12 - 35	12 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	30	41
KUWAIT AIRPORT	24	41
ABDALI	22	41
BUBYAN	21	41
JAHRRA	25	41
FALAKA ISLAND	25	40
SALMIYAH	30	37
AHMADI	30	38
JAL ALIYAH	22	41
QAROH ISLAND	33	36
UMM AL-MARADEM	33	36
NUWAISIB	26	41
WAFRA	24	41
MANAGISH	24	40
SALMY	23	39
MUTRIBA	24	42

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	40
Min Temp (°C)	27
Max Rel Hum (%)	32
Min Rel Hum (%)	10
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	50 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:35
Sunset	17:47

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:16
Sunrise	05:35
Zuhr	11:41
Asr	15:09
Sunset	17:47
Isha	19:05



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
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
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad	25655528
Dr. Nabeeb Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	2611555-2622555
MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	
Assistant Professor Of Medicine	
Head, Division of Cardiology	
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

General Practitioners	Family Doctor
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad	25655528
Dr. Nabeeb Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Psychologists / Psychotherapists	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
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Tom Waits, left, and Kathleen Brennan address an audience after being presented with the PEN New England's Song Lyrics of Literary Excellence Award. — AP photos



Musician John Prine performs after being presented with the PEN New England's Song Lyrics of Literary Excellence Award.



Musicians Elvis Costello, left, and Rosanne Cash perform a song by John Prine as a tribute to the singer and songwriter during PEN New England's Song Lyrics of Literary Excellence Award ceremonies.

## Tom Waits, his wife, John Prine receive songwriting awards

Luminaries from the film, music and writing worlds honored Tom Waits and folk singer John Prine for their songwriting at the Song Lyrics of Literary Excellence Awards on Monday. Waits' wife, Kathleen Brennan, also was honored. John Mellencamp, Elvis Costello and Roseanne Cash took turns performing renditions of the artists' songs before a crowd of more than 500 people at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

Mellencamp opened the ceremony with an cappella version of Prine's 1978 song "Sabu Visits the Twin Cities Alone," which imagines the later years of an Indian child actor from the early 1940s. Mellencamp called the lyrics "sophisticated but simple." "Who writes songs like that?" he said. "Two people come to mind - God and John Prine." Irish author Colum McCann, director Jim Jarmusch, country singer Sturgill Simpson and Peter Wolf of the J. Geils Band reflected on the artists' accomplishments in remarks that ranged from personal to poetic. McCann described

Waits and Brennan as "patriots of elsewhere" who stay "close to the ground" and "hear things that no one else hears."

"They find out what others have not quite fathomed yet," he said. "They catch the ordinary so that it can be sung extraordinarily in the future." Waits and Prine each treated the crowd to a song after giving brief remarks. Prine, whose voice has become deep and raspy following a battle with cancer that required removal of part of his neck, said he was "stunned" by the honor. Waits reflected on working with Brennan, his longtime musical collaborator, who became the first woman to win the award since it was introduced in 2012. "It's not always fun writing together," Waits said in a humorous, sometimes rambling speech. "Sometimes the fur flies. It's not an easy enterprise, but it's satisfying."

Brennan, speaking briefly before her husband, said she has a "lay low" personality and isn't always accustomed to the spotlight. Waits and Prine, now in their late 60s, emerged in the

1970s and have been performing for decades. Waits gained notoriety for his blend of jazz, blues and folk music and his distinctive growl. Prine wrote many songs that have become folk and country standards. Cash, joined by Costello on acoustic guitar, performed one of those, "Hello in There," about old age and loneliness, from Prine's 1971 debut album. The Song Lyrics of Literary Excellence Award is bestowed biennially by the writers' group PEN New England. This year's honorees were chosen by a committee that included U2's Bono, Cash, Costello and Salman Rushdie. The first awards were given to Chuck Berry and Leonard Cohen in 2012. The 2014 awards went to Kris Kristofferson and Randy Newman. — AP

Musician John Mellencamp pays tribute to folk singer John Prine while addressing an audience.



## FARC guerrilla raps for peace in Colombia

John Esteban Perez was 13 when he joined the FARC rebels in Colombia. Now 26, he has spent half his life as a guerrilla. But today, instead of hiding out in the jungle with his rifle, he has fellow rebels bouncing to his rhymes as he raps for peace. "They say we're bad, we're rapists. That's all lies. We're working for peace, peace, peace in Colombia," he rapped Saturday night at the FARC's national conference, where the rebels are meeting to ratify a peace accord with the Colombian government.

The deal, concluded last month, aims to end to five decades of conflict that have killed an estimated 260,000 people and left 45,000 missing. It is a historic moment for the country and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a Marxist guerrilla army that has been fighting the government since 1964. But this being Colombia—where nothing happens without music—the conference is also a nightly dance party. One of the bands booked to perform, the Bogota reggae group Alerta Kamarada, discovered Esteban's talent while

they were doing sound checks ahead of Saturday's show, on a stage set up in the middle of a field at the heart of the rebels' traditional stronghold in southeastern Colombia.

He got up on stage, dropped some beats, and seduced them with his style-energetic, politically charged rhymes laid out over tropical rhythms. Next thing he knew, he had an invitation to guest star at their show. "We're very proud we were able to cross paths with him," said Alerta Kamarada guitarist and band leader Pablo Araoz, 36. "We fell in love with his style," he added. "We would love to keep working with him. He's a talent."

### New beginning

Wearing combat boots, camouflage fatigues and a white Alerta Kamarada T-shirt, Esteban had the dance floor throbbing Saturday night. "Esteban is a young man with a lot of talent. I thought he was excellent," said one new fan, 35-year-old Gabriel, beaming beneath a black FARC beret. If the FARC ratify the peace accord at their conference—as

they are expected to do—their leader, Timoleon "Timochenko" Jimenez, will sign it alongside President Juan Manuel Santos on September 26. Colombians will then vote on the deal in a decisive referendum on October 2. If it passes, the FARC have pledged to disarm and relaunch themselves as a political party.

Esteban—a member of the Felipe Rincon Front of the FARC's Eastern Bloc, their largest regiment—says he is looking forward to leaving behind his life at war. "I'm very happy knowing that we're going to rest after this war. We're all brothers. We shouldn't be killing each other. That's the message of my song," he said. He has another reason to look forward to peace, too, said Alerta Kamarada singer Javier Fonseca: It will mean Esteban can reunite with his mother, whom he hasn't seen in 11 years. — AFP



Jhon Esteban Perez, a member of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), performs during the 10th National Guerrilla Conference in Llanos del yari, Caqueta department, Colombia. — AFP

## 'Downton's' Smith asks Kimmel where her Emmy is

"Downton Abbey" star Dame Maggie Smith wants Emmy host Jimmy Kimmel to show her where her Emmy is. Kimmel joked during his Emmy monologue Sunday night that stars had to be present to win under what he called "the Maggie Smith rule." The British actress had been nominated nine times for Emmys and won three without ever showing up. When Smith won again on Sunday night, Kimmel took the statuette from presenter Minnie Driver and said, "We're not mailing this to her."

Maggie, if you want this, it will be in the lost and found." The 81-year-old Smith responded Monday with a message on the Masterpiece Theater Twitter account, saying "If Mr Kimmel could please direct me to the lost and found office I will be on the next flight." — AP



In this file photo, British actress Dame Maggie Smith poses in London. — AP

## Jim Carrey calls lawsuit over ex's death 'heartless'

Jim Carrey says a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the estranged husband of his ex-girlfriend is a heartless attempt to exploit him and vowed to fight the case. Mark Burton of Portland sued Carrey in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday, accusing the actor of providing the prescription drugs his wife Cathriona White used to overdose in September 2015. The wrongful death lawsuit contends Carrey improperly obtained prescriptions for Ambien and the powerful opioid oxycodone under the alias Arthur King.

The suit accuses Carrey of giving White the medications days before she was found dead in one of Carrey's homes. White and Carrey dated in 2012 and were photographed together in May 2015. "What a terrible shame," Carrey wrote in a statement. "It would be easy for me to get in a back room with this man's lawyer and make this go away, but there are some moments in life when you have to stand up and defend your honor against the evil in this world. I will not tolerate this heartless attempt to exploit me or the woman I loved," Carrey wrote. "I really hope that some day soon people will stop trying to profit from this and let her rest in peace." Carrey is known for such movies as "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "The Truman Show," and "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective."

Coroner's officials ruled the 30-year-old makeup artist's death a suicide. Burton and White married in 2013. A coroner's official told reporters that the pair were separated and planned to divorce, however Burton's attorney Michael Avenatti declined to characterize their relationship beyond saying they were legally married at the time of White's death. Carrey's attorney Marty Singer wrote in a statement that White and Burton never lived together. The lawsuit accuses Carrey of violating a section of California's Health and Safety Code against the use of aliases to obtain prescription medications.

"White's death was tragic and easily



File photo shows Jim Carrey posing for photographers for the 'Dumb and Dumber To' photo call in Paris, France. — AP

avoidable," the lawsuit states. Carrey's prescriptions were legally obtained and his doctor and insurers were aware of his alias use, Singer wrote. He said many actors use aliases for prescriptions to protect their privacy. The issue of prescriptions issued to a celebrity under aliases because an issue when Los Angeles prosecutors attempted unsuccessfully to obtain felony convictions against two of Anna Nicole Smith's doctors and her lawyer-boyfriend over prescription drugs she obtained before her accidental overdose in 2007. Defense lawyers contended the aliases were used to protect Smith's privacy, and last year a judge who dismissed the final felony counts against Smith's confidante Howard K. Stern said it was a common practice. "Everyone did it," Judge Robert J. Perry said in July 2015. "Everyone did it to protect her privacy from the prying eyes of the ever-present press representatives in Ms. Smith's life." — AP

## Lansbury revives 'Beauty and the Beast' role in NY

For one night only, Angela Lansbury served audiences a live performance as Mrs Potts. The actress revived her beloved character from the Disney animated musical "Beauty and the Beast" during a 25th anniversary screening Sunday at Lincoln Center in New York. In videos of the event posted online, Lansbury sang the musical's title track and sweetly capped off the performance with a few lines from the film: "Run along and get in the cupboard, Chip. It's time you was in bed. Night, night."

Lansbury was accompanied by "Beauty and the Beast" composer Alan Menken on the piano for the spontaneous post-screening performance. Other voice actors in attendance at the event included Paige O'Hara, Robby Benson and Richard White, who respectively played Belle, Beast and Gaston in the 1991 film. — AP



File photo shows Angela Lansbury poses for a portrait at the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP

FASHION



# London Fashion Week hits climax with Burberry, Erdem



Luxury British fashion house Burberry unveiled its highly anticipated display at London Fashion Week Monday, an opulent affair featuring frilly blouses, velvet blazers and silky pajama shirts - for both men and women. Elsewhere, Christopher Kane and Erdem were among designers showing off their newest collections to the fashion pack before they jet off to Milan. Some highlights from Day 4 of the fashion week:

**Post-gender opulence at Burberry**

Soaring live orchestral music, opera singers, an imposing new show venue complete with classical sculptures: Burberry's latest display is a very grand affair indeed. So it comes as no surprise that the clothes on show are just as opulent. Minimalism had no place here: The luxury British brand's new collection featured flamboyant military coats, frilly high collars reminiscent of portraits of Queen Elizabeth I, rich velvet and brocade, and silky pajamas layered under floral jackets - designs intended for both genders.

For the first time, the target audience isn't just female fashion fans. Monday's show marked a move by Burberry to merge its traditionally separate women's and menswear shows. Fittingly, creative director Christopher Bailey said he was inspired by Virginia Woolf's novel "Orlando," whose hero is a poet who changes gender from man to woman.

"I was looking for this idea of fluidity of gender, fluidity of travel, and I love the poetry in 'Orlando,'" Bailey told The Associated Press backstage.

The heritage brand also introduced another first: Fans can "shop the show" straightaway, both online and in-store. The move, also introduced by several other brands this season, is seen as an industry game-changer. Traditionally, fashion shows are exclusive previews intended only for industry insiders, and ordinary consumers have to wait months before the new styles are released. Not anymore. An elaborate python and ostrich leather handbag shown Monday went on sale immediately - at a formidable \$2,660 each. The new strategy may stoke more buying interest from fashionistas, but whether it brings in more profit is something that remains to be seen.

**Romantic shipwreck at Erdem**

A shipwreck has never looked so elegant or darkly romantic. Canada-born designer Erdem Moralioglu always infuses his shows with a sense of drama and haunting beauty, and this time is no different. Models wore large floppy black hats that obscured their faces, gliding on a weathered boardwalk that appeared to weave in and out of water. The dreamy clothes reflected the brooding nautical theme, crafted in washed-out shades of blue and silvery grey, and all the frocks seemed to be covered in miles of rolling ruffles, lace, frills and velvet ribbons.

As always with Erdem, the devil is in the couture-like level of detail. Little gemstones twinkle on brocade gowns, and some of the embroidery is stunning in its intricacy, especially the rich Oriental-style florals overlaid on sheer delicate fabrics. For many, Erdem's creations may be too much like costumes for a period drama. But at a time when much of fashion is so disposable, it's pleasing to see a designer insist on making every piece a work of art.

**Fashionistas take over the Tate modern for Kane**

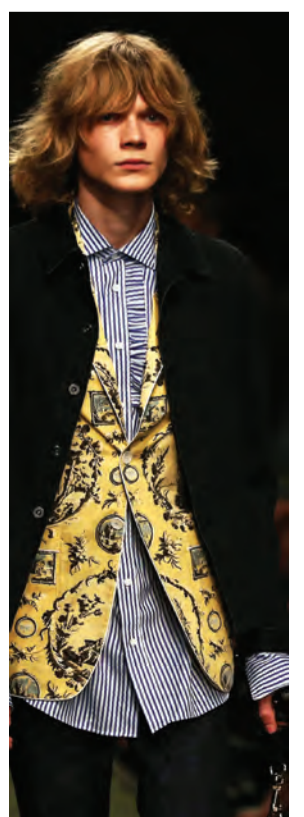
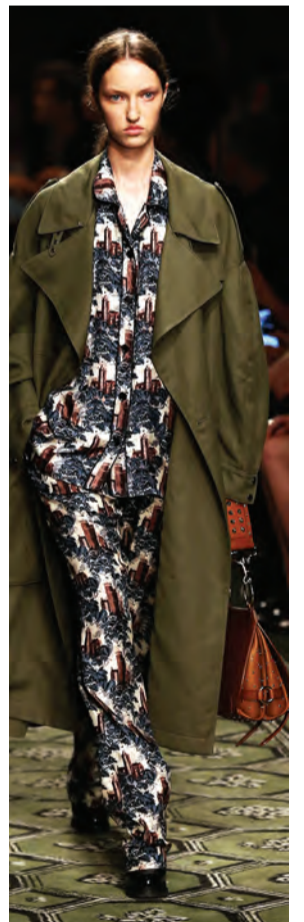
Museum-goers could be forgiven for wondering where all the odd, funny shoes came from as the fashion crowd descended like a cloud of overdressed locusts at the usual staid Tate Britain on the banks of the River Thames. With



American Vogue editor Anna Wintour presiding in the front row at the Christopher Kane show, guests arrived with an emphasis on sparkly boots and heels, with green and silver sequins predominating. There were mustard thigh-high boots, silver patent leather shoes with tassels, and pointy black-and-red suede ankle boots with heels shaped like a sailboat's winged keels.

Once the show began, the shoes were quickly overshadowed by Kane's eclectic creations. Known for his edgy designs and his references to modern art, some of the dresses took a Jackson Pollack approach to color and relied on wildly clashing patterns to carry the look. Despite the museum setting, there is nothing safe or conventional about Kane's approach. Some of the three-quarter-length coats were ripped for impact's sake, and some of the elegant dresses had cutaways and high-tech mesh panels.

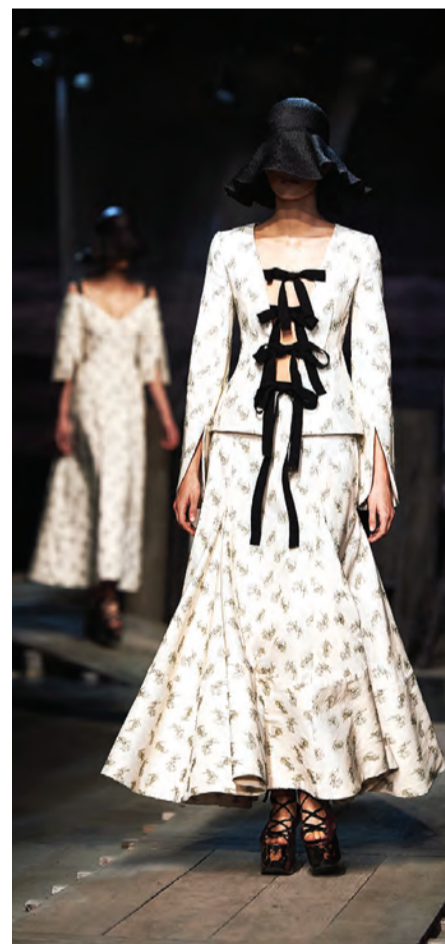
Long black gloves were meant to be iconoclastic - not a nod to ballet days - and were decorated with colors and cutouts. The former wunderkind's own label is now 10 years old, but he isn't repeating himself. Some of the multi-colored coat designs had a fresh, fevered look, covering dresses that evoked a similar mood if not similar colors or patterns. Some of the dresses sported dozens of metallic hooks, some closed to keep the ensembles together, others serving no apparent structural purpose. Many were set off by Stephen Jones' distinctive hats, often in solid colors to offset the controlled chaos of the ensembles. — AP



FASHION



Models present creations by Burberry during the 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show at London Fashion Week in London. — AP/AFP photos



Models present creations by Erdem, during the 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show during London Fashion Week.

## Supermodel Kate Moss launches own agency

**K**ate Moss is launching her own talent agency after leaving the one that recruited her aged 14 earlier this year, the Business of Fashion website reported as London Fashion Week draws to a close yesterday. "I don't really want pretty people, I want people that want to sing and dance and act. I want to create stars," the 42-year-old was quoted as saying in a rare interview after her departure from Storm Models. "I want to focus more on managing people's careers than just a modeling agency," said Moss, whose agency has a website, Twitter and Instagram presence despite her own well-known avoidance of social media. London-born Moss, the daughter of a barmaid and a travel agent, was recruited in a chance encounter at New York airport and is one of the few supermodels from the 1990s who still has a lucrative career. In the interview published on Monday, Business of Fashion said the model's eponymously named Kate Moss Agency "could transform her from supermodel to budding businesswoman".

Moss is the 12th highest-paid model globally, earning \$4.5 million (four million euros) in the year to June 2015, according to US magazine Forbes. In a sign of her longevity in the industry, Moss recently modeled for Calvin Klein—more than two decades after she was first photographed for the company. She shot to fame in the 1990s and was swiftly labelled the epitome of "heroin chic"—a fashion trend blamed for glamorizing drugs and anorexia. Despite a string of scandals—including photographs allegedly showing her taking cocaine—Moss's image has survived each episode unscathed. She is adored by fashion bible Vogue, adorning its cover dozens of times and serving as contributing editor for British Vogue in 2014. While modeling for the world's major fashion houses such as Versace and Yves Saint Laurent, Moss has also signed up with high street make-up brand Rimmel and collaborated with clothing store Topshop. — AFP



This file photo shows British model Kate Moss as she arrives for the screening of the film 'Loving' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

FASHION

# Emilia Clarke's lovely dress

Emilia Clarke chose her Emmys dress simply because "it fits and it's lovely". The 'Game of Thrones' star donned a pink, sparkly Atelier Versace evening gown for the ceremony on Sunday and found it easy to settle on the frock because everyone she showed it to approved of it. Discussing her dress, she said: "I chose it because it fits and it's lovely." She continued, "I put it on and everyone was like, 'Yeah!' So, it was like, 'OK! I'll do that one!'" Despite looking forward to celebrating 'GoT's impressive

haul of 12 Emmy Awards, Emilia had to be up early to fly to Belfast for filming on Monday.

And the 29-year-old actress - who plays Mother of Dragons Daenerys Targaryen on the fantasy drama series - admitted she wouldn't be looking anywhere near as polished on the plane as she did on the red carpet. She said: "Most of the time I do try and have like some [style]- and then you just get changed into your pyjamas on the plane, but tomorrow I don't hold much hope."

The 'Me Before You' actress also warned young fans not to think the glamorous images of celebrities are easily obtainable. She told People magazine: "Never look at pictures of famous people and think that it's how we get out of bed, because it ain't. There's a lot of blood, sweat and tears that goes into the life." — Bang showbiz



Models present creations by Ashish during the 2017 Spring / Summer catwalk show at London Fashion Week in London.

## PALVIN NAMED THE FACE OF AMAZON FASHION'S EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN

Barbara Palvin has been named as the face of Amazon Fashion's European Fall 2016 campaign. The 22-year-old model-and-actress - who has worked for Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Miu Miu and Victoria's Secret in the past - will be featured on the online retailer's print advertising and social media campaign across Europe and is "thrilled" to be associated with the brand which encourages and promotes individuality. Of the partnership, Barbara said: "I'm delighted to be working with Amazon Fashion. I think the meaning behind the campaign strapline is really important, and it's about embracing being an individual and encouraging personal expression through fashion, so I am thrilled to be part of Amazon Fashion's Autumn/Winter 16 campaign."

As a part of the campaign, the Hungarian beauty - who has recently been romantically linked to Formula One racing world champion Lewis Hamilton - took a trip to Amazon's state of the art European Fashion Photography

Studio in Shoreditch, East London, to shoot the campaign with photographer Cass Birdand and i-D magazine's Fashion Editor, Julia Sarr-Jamois. Barbara then selected her favorite pieces from the collection including a Filippa K button leather A-line skirt, Paul & Joe ruffle shirt, Gestuz knitted long sleeve dress and Champion reverse weave sweat dress. Commenting on the appointment of Barbara, the Marketing Director of Amazon Fashion Europe, Juliet Warkentin, said: "Barbara is a great advocate for our 'Don't look like me, look like you' campaign. She has lots of energy and a fresh style, that shines off the page and in our video." The items of clothing from the AW16 collection will be made available at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) from September 29. — BangShowbiz

## Victoria Beckham thinks covering up takes confidence

Victoria Beckham is confident enough to "cover up" these days. The 42-year-old fashion designer admits her wardrobe has grown more modest as she's got older because she no longer "feels the need" to flaunt her slender frame. She said: "As I've got older and gained in confidence, I don't feel the need to go out and show off how tiny my waist is, I've loosened up, I wear a lot more separates and suits - a lot more clothes! I think the older you get, the more accepting you are of yourself and your body shape. You have to be quite confident to cover up."

"But now people are more accepting of me, so I can push it, fashion-wise." And Victoria - who has children Brooklyn, 17, Romeo, 14, Cruz, 11, and Harper, five, with husband David Beckham - thinks it is much "sexier" to cover up and leave "a little bit" to the imagination. She

told Britain's Grazia magazine: "Very rarely do I go out in anything that is revealing - I used to - and that has nothing to do with the fact I'm older, it just feels more relevant."

"It feels like a newer, fresher take on what might be considered sexy. I think sexy comes from within. I think sexy is the way you conduct yourself. I think you have to feel sexy to look sexy. And feel confident to look confident - I just wish there was another word, other than sexy, to describe that confidence and empowerment you feel." — Bangshowbiz



Birds sit in their cages during a bird-singing contest in Thailand's southern province of Narathiwat yesterday. Over one thousand birds from Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore take part in the annual contest. — AFP



Workers pose in front of the doors of a revered 15th-century mosque.



Residents watch from a rooftop as the doors of a revered 15th-century mosque.



Women walk past the Sankore Madrasah in Timbuktu. — AFP photos

## Mali unveils restored mosque nearly destroyed by jihadists

The doors of a revered 15th-century mosque hacked apart by jihadists in Mali's ancient city of Timbuktu four years ago were unveiled on Monday restored to their former glory. The "secret door" of the Sidi Yahia mosque in the fabled caravan city fell victim to a spree of destruction in 2012 by Al-Qaeda-linked Ansar Dine, one of several radical Islamist groups which seized key northern cities that year. Around 100 Malian political and religious leaders, diplomats and representatives from world heritage body UNESCO gathered for a ceremony, held with a heavy security presence, an AFP journalist at the scene reported. "This is a very important day," said the mosque's imam, Alphadi Wandara. "Since (the days) of our forefathers, for centuries the door has been like that: closed."

Muslim prayers were recited for the mosque, which has been on UNESCO's list of world heritage sites since 1988. UNESCO craftsmen had spent five months restoring the doors this year. Former teacher Ahmad Al-Faqi Al-Mahdi, who took part in wrecking Timbuktu's holy shrines as well as the mosque's doors, is currently awaiting a sentence on war crimes charges in The Hague for his actions. Sidi Yahia was among several sites in Timbuktu attacked by Ansar Dine, which considered the city's mausoleums idolatrous according to their strict interpretation of Islam.

Timbuktu youth leader Salah Maiga told AFP he had witnessed the jihadists' campaign with his own eyes. "For us it is a symbol, which was destroyed in plain view," he said. "We were there with these barbarians, these lawless people without religion, who claim to speak in the name of Islam," Maiga added, saying he hoped for justice in Mahdi's case. Mahdi has admitted the charges against him and prosecutors are asking for a jail term of 11 years at his sentencing on September 27.



The site of the Cheick Sidi Attawaty Mausoleum which was destroyed by Islamists in 2012 and rebuilt in 2015, is seen in the Three Saints Cemetery in Timbuktu.

Ansar Dine picked out Mahdi to head its "Hisbah" brigade, which policed infractions of Islamist behaviour in Timbuktu. Revered as a centre of Islamic learning during its golden age in the 15th and 16th centuries, Timbuktu in northern Mali is also known as the "Pearl of the Desert". — AFP

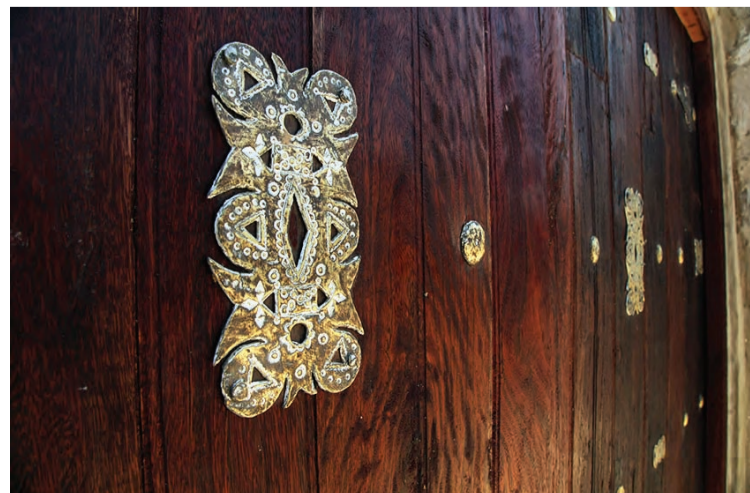


Photo shows the details of the doors of a revered 15th-century mosque.



A worker poses in front of the doors of a revered 15th-century mosque.