



**Abolish 153 unveils survey on violence against women**



**Work starts at KIPCO's mixed-use real estate project**



**Kuwaiti singer Hassan releases his first single**



**Marlins pitcher Fernandez dies in boating accident**



## OPPOSITION ACTIVIST DETAINED OVER TWEETS INSULTING AMIR

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### CITIZEN SHOTS 2 EXPATS WITH HUNTING RIFLE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Police arrested a man who said he accidentally shot a Syrian and Egyptian near stores selling hunting rifles in Salmiya yesterday. The Kuwait News Agency, which carried the Interior Ministry's statement on the incident, reported the Egyptian man is in critical condition and that the Syrian man has been injured in his leg, though no further details were given about his condition.

The shooter, a 45-year-old Kuwaiti, told police he did not know the rifle, which belonged to a friend, was loaded. The Interior Ministry said it is investigating the shooting. Hunting is popular among some Kuwaitis between the months of October and April.



Police are seen near a victim of the shooting.



KUWAIT: Vehicles are stuck in traffic on gridlocked Mughira bin Shu'ba Street in Salmiya during the morning rush hour, as the new academic year began in earnest yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

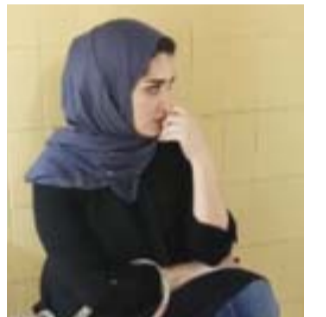
By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The public prosecution yesterday ordered opposition activist Sara Al-Derees detained until today pending further interrogations over allegations that she wrote comments on Twitter deemed offensive to HH the Amir. Derees gave herself up yesterday and was questioned by the public prosecutor over the offensive tweets. The prosecutor will decide whether to keep her in detention or release her on bail pending trial if the prosecutor decides to press charges.

Meanwhile, National Assembly experts are reviewing a motion filed by 35 MPs to convene an emergency parliamentary session to debate the hike in petrol prices by the government, acting speaker Abdullah Al-Tameemi said. "The experts are assessing whether the motion is in line with the constitution, and so far they have not sent their opinion to see if we can go ahead and hold the session," Tameemi said.

He said that 35 lawmakers have signed the motion, but three of them only used their stamps without signing, which is against the constitution. Nevertheless, the required number of MPs to hold the session is 32 and the number is available, he said. To hold the session, HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince will issue a decree calling for the session to be held, Tameemi said. HH the Amir is currently on a foreign tour.

Tameemi said the government has the right to object to the emergency session if it does not meet the constitutional requirements. A large number of MPs have strongly lashed out at the government's decision to raise petrol prices and demanded that the government scrap the decision or compensate Kuwaiti citizens. Emergency sessions are held when the Assembly is on long vacation and must debate a certain issue.



Sara Al-Derees

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FUHEIS, Jordan: Demonstrators shout slogans during a demonstration in this town northwest of the capital Amman yesterday, denouncing the killing of prominent Jordanian writer Nahed Hattar (portrait). — AFP

### JORDANIAN WRITER GUNNED DOWN OUTSIDE COURTHOUSE

AMMAN: A prominent Jordanian writer was shot dead yesterday on the steps of a court where he was facing charges for sharing an anti-Islam cartoon on Facebook. Nahed Hattar was struck by three bullets before the alleged assassin was arrested at the scene of the shooting in Amman's central Abdali district, said the official Petra news agency. The

assailant - bearded and dressed in a grey dishdasha worn by conservative Muslim men - shot Hattar, a 56-year-old Christian, as he made his way up the steps outside the court, a security source told AFP. Hit in the head, he was pronounced dead on arriving at hospital, the source said.

Continued on Page 13

### DIVIDED OPEC HEADS TO KEY TALKS

PARIS: Cartels only work when their members stick together - but precious little unity is likely to be on show among OPEC producers at a key meeting in Algiers on Wednesday. Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries seem doomed to disagree on whether to freeze production to reverse a collapse in oil prices. At most, say analysts, the group will agree on the need to stabilize the market after two years of surpluses that have sloshed around global markets, depressing prices.

Early flutters of optimism that the informal gathering could hammer out a deal to actually drain the surplus have yielded to skepticism. A previous bid to freeze output,

led by OPEC linchpin Saudi Arabia, fell apart in Doha in April when Iran refused to play ball, arguing it needed to bring its production back up to pre-Western sanctions levels. "An agreement on a production freeze accepted by everyone would be a surprise," said Didier Houssin, head of research group IFFPEN. "Analysts expect more a comment that's a bit calming on the need to continue to follow the market... and to stabilize production. Without binding measures, without specific quotas."

Prices have plunged from peaks of more than \$100 a barrel in mid-2014 to near 13-year lows below \$30 in January. They rose this month when non-OPEC Russia pledged

with Saudi Arabia to work on addressing the supply glut, but the governments provided scant detail on their plans. The OPEC talks will take place on the sidelines of a three-day International Energy Forum gathering - in which Russia will participate - from today.

So far the two major producers have not taken any action to reduce the oversupply, which has resulted from a boom in US fracking and from OPEC's nearly two-year-old strategy to throw open the spigots to defend market share. OPEC chief Mohammed Barkindo, of Nigeria, has himself dampened expectations, describing the meeting as consultative.

Continued on Page 13

### OMAN AIR DISABLES MISNAMED 'PERSIAN' GULF INFLIGHT MAPS

MUSCAT: Oman Air has switched off an inflight map system that labeled the waterway between the Arabian Peninsula and Iran, the subject of a bitter naming dispute, as the "Persian Gulf". The decision followed a storm of criticism on social media after a passenger posted a video showing the map in Arabic referring to the Persian, rather than Arabian Gulf. "Our crew have been notified to disable the disturbing maps," the sultanate's national carrier said in a statement on Twitter.

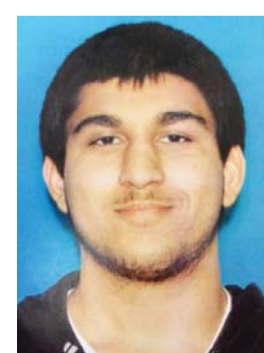
Two Boeing Dreamliners hired from Kenya Airways used a different map system to its own, it said, adding that it had asked Panasonic, which runs the system, to change the maps "without delay". One Twitter user called the map "a resounding scandal", while another said Oman had "said goodbye to Arabism". "Given that you are an Omani airline and an Arab one, I wish you would take immediate measures to correct the label of the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Gulf which is proven in our history," tweeted Hamad Midfa.

Foreign language descriptions can offend either party if they use one name or the other, or sometimes if they avoid an adjective altogether. The United Nations and international maps generally refer to the body of water between the Arabian Peninsula and Iran as the "Persian Gulf", the term used by ancient Greek geographer Ptolemy. Arab states, particularly the Gulf states, call it the "Arabian Gulf".

Continued on Page 13

### US POLICE ARREST MAN WHO KILLED 5 AT MALL

LOS ANGELES: Authorities on Saturday arrested a Turkish-born man suspected of shooting five people dead, including a teenaged cancer survivor, at a shopping mall in the US state of Washington. State Patrol spokesman Sergeant Mark Francis named the suspect as Arcan Cetin, a 20-year-old resident of the nearby town of Oak Harbor, saying he was arrested about 24 hours after the killings. There were no other suspects.



Arcan Cetin

Police had initially described the suspect as a Hispanic man in his late teens or early 20s. A Facebook page that appeared to belong to Cetin said he was born in Adana, Turkey, went to Oak Harbor High School and had worked at a grocery store on the town's Whidbey Island. In February, he posted a link to a "Call of Duty" first-person shooter videogame practice session, in an eerie foreshadowing of real world violence he was to perpetrate. YouTube users posted lewd comments on that page and Cetin's Twitter page Saturday in response to the mall shooting.

The gunman opened fire with a rifle in the makeup section of a Macy's department store late Friday, killing four women and a man, according to police. The FBI office in Seattle said it had no evidence the shooting

was terror-related. The shooter later left the store on foot, triggering an intense manhunt. A weapon was recovered at Cascade Mall in Burlington, a town of about 8,000 people some 110 km north of Seattle.

"I don't know what his motivation was to do this," Chris Cammock, police chief in the larger nearby town of Mount Vernon, told a news conference. "But I certainly plan to find out through the investigation, to the best of our ability."

The youngest victim was named as Sarai Lara, 16, who survived cancer as a young girl. Relatives named another victim as 52-year-old Shayla Martin, who worked as a Macy's makeup artist. "We're really having a tough time right now," her sister Karen Van Horn told The Seattle Times.

It was the latest chapter in America's epidemic of gun violence. Burlington Mayor Steve Sexton's voice trembled as he noted that the randomness of gun violence in America - which causes an estimated 30,000 deaths a year - had hit his small town. "This was a senseless act, the world knocking on our doorstep. It came to our little community," Sexton said. The shooting came amid fierce debate in America over gun control laws. It is a hot issue on the campaign trail ahead of the Nov 8 presidential election. — AFP



KUWAIT: A general view taken from Kuwait City's KIPCO Tower yesterday shows the Arraya Tower (left), Kuwait's business trade center (right) and the Al-Tijaria Tower (top right). — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives (clockwise from left) Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh, Acting National Assembly Speaker Faisal Al-Shaya and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. —KUNA photos



## KUWAIT KEEN TO SOLVE REGIONAL ISSUES SAYS FOREIGN MINISTER

**NEW YORK:** The State of Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah affirmed Kuwait's active international involvement aimed at solving regional and global conflicts, especially those which have political and security ramifications on Gulf States' stability.

Kuwait, through its participation in international conferences, is exerting its efforts to seek solutions to regional and international issues, especially regional conflicts which have impact on security of the Gulf countries. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, in a statement to KUNA and Kuwait TV late Saturday, said the delegation of Kuwait to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) 71st session had active contributions, foremost by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who participated in the leaders' summit on refugees on September 20.

He said His Highness the Amir reiterated Kuwait's continued support to global humanitarian efforts with the ultimate objective of alleviating suffering of people from conflicts around the world. "The speech of His Highness the Amir reaffirms the role of Kuwait to help refugees and shows how important it is for the international community to exert efforts to end these conflicts permanently," said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

HH the Amir also highlighted Kuwait's financial contributions to the refugees and internally displaced people in different parts of the conflict, including Syria. HH the Amir also met with US Secretary of State John Kerry and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said the representative of HH the Amir, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, underlined Kuwait's unshaken cooperation with the UN. The latest being the approval of the sustainable development goals and the Paris climate change agreement.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, and the latter commended Kuwait's leading role at regional and international levels. Ban said this role has helped millions of people suffering from conflicts or disasters globally. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said he chaired a coordination meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), where ministers discussed terrorism, the Palestinian cause, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. He also co-chaired the Arab-African partnership coordination committee meeting to prepare for the 4th Arab-African summit, due in Equatorial Guinea next November.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said he held 33 bilateral meetings with officials from UN member countries to discuss a host of issues listed on the agenda of the UNGA. He also highlighted the ministerial meetings between the GCC on one side, and the US, Britain, France and Russia on the other. "These countries, through their Security Council memberships, have a role to solve issues of concern to the Arab region like Yemen, Syria, Libya, Iraq and terrorism," said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. —KUNA

## DEPUTY AMIR RECEIVES SENIOR OFFICIALS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. HH the Deputy Amir also received Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh, Acting National Assembly Speaker Faisal Al-Shaya and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. —KUNA



Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa during a visit to schools on the start of the new academic year. —KUNA photos



## KUWAIT EDUCATES STUDENTS TO EMBRACE MODERATE THOUGHTS

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs coordinated to promote intellectual moderation and peace advocacy among students in the country, affirmed the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa.

"The two departments will work together to sway thinking against terrorist thoughts by urging students to accept others of different communities as well as accepting the other's opinion," said the minister in statement after his visit to schools that began their new academic year yesterday. He praised the Ministry's efforts for making this academic year better than those of the past while expressing his satisfaction in particular for the inclusion of the French language in curriculum of grade seven. Minister Al-Essa also urged teachers to set a good example for their students. —KUNA



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The Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan Zubayullo Zubaydov hosted the reception on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Independence Day at Sheraton Hotel. Higher officials, diplomats and media persons attended the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



—Photos by Joseph Shagra



# CONSTRUCTION INNOVATION IN SPOTLIGHT AS 'BIG 5 KUWAIT 2016 EXPO' OPENS

**KUWAIT:** The largest construction event in Kuwait was inaugurated yesterday at the International Fair Ground in Misref. Farwaniya Governor, Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah, inaugurated the fourth edition of The Big 5 Kuwait at the Kuwait International Fair Ground. The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place at 10:30 am, marking the official opening of Kuwait's largest construction event. Over 100 companies are showcasing thousands of innovative products for the construction sector at the Kuwait International Fair, from Sep 25 to 27, 2016. According to organizer dmg events, Middle East, Asia & Africa, the fourth edition of The Big 5 Kuwait are hosting exhibitors from 16 countries, including Hyundai, Sabic, Acico Industries, Pedax, Oscam, Al Arabiya Electrical and Instant Access.

## 'Construction solutions'

This year, the largest construction event in the country will be the stage of several new product launches. AR Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Co, authorized general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, announced it will present the new Medium Duty Truck 'Accelo 915C' to the local market for the first time during the show. 'Accelo will be the new shining

star in the medium duty segment of Kuwait" Ralph Geyer, General Manager of AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co, said.

"At The Big 5 Kuwait 2016 we will display our wide range of construction solutions for the Kuwait market, including Concrete mixers & Steel tipplers installed on Mercedes-Benz Actros trucks. We will also introduce the latest Mercedes-Benz Actros Truck featuring Mercedes PowerShift(r) technology, the number one choice in demanding operating conditions, which helps reducing fuel consumption and emissions", Mr. Geyer added.

Kharafi National KSC, a leading infrastructure project developer in water, wastewater treatment and reclamation, district cooling, solid waste management and enhanced oil recovery, will be also exhibiting again at The Big 5 Kuwait 2016. The company, which is a major contractor and facilities management service provider to the petroleum, chemicals, power, water and commercial sectors, announced that it will showcase Instant Access' products and services, while promoting partner brands endorsed at last year's event.

Beyond returning exhibitors, The Big 5 Kuwait 2016 hosts numerous new ones as well. From Austria, Getzner Werkstoffe GmbH will

introduce to the Kuwait market GSS, a new steel spring solution, and Isotop, spring isolators for vibration isolation. Getzner specializes in vibration isolation in the rail, construction and industry sectors. "We have been producing materials for the insulation and isolation of vibrations and structure-borne noise since 1969. Derived from our own in-house research, the high-tech materials Sylomer(r) and Sylodyr(r) are used in the railway superstructure, for the resilient bedding of buildings and machinery, and also as structural components", Getzner's representative, Amr Alhaj, explained. "This is the first year for us to participate at The Big 5 Kuwait and we look forward to distributing our products in the railway, construction and industry applications in Kuwait".

Also for the first time at The Big 5 Kuwait 2016, ICE - the Italian Trade Agency, will support Italian companies showcasing their products at Italy's institutional stand. These include FIP Industriale, a world leader in the manufacturing of structural devices for roadways, tunnels, bridges, petroleum platforms, civil buildings and skyscrapers, and Tecno Impianti, operating in the sector of metal wires drawing machines. According to Dr. Giuseppe Lamacchia, Director of the Trade Promotion

Section of the Italian Embassy in Kuwait, "Given Italy's proximity to Kuwait and our prominent expertise in this field, the infrastructure sector is one of the most promising areas of cooperation between us".

## Going green

Visitors to The Big 5 Kuwait 2016 will be able to discover the latest and most innovative sustainable and green products too. Among many others, Spanish exhibitor Graphenstone will present its wide range of paints, coatings, mortars, adhesives, and insulating materials made with organic products and graphene technology. "Graphene provides our paints and coatings with flexibility, strength and homogeneity, beyond adding other extraordinary properties like electrical and thermal conductivity or corrosion protection", Mosab Al Shikh Othman, Graphenstone representative said. "Compared to common coatings, our formulas allow savings in material consumption while achieving higher values of hardness, compressive and tensile strength, and elasticity".

In addition, Event Director, Ashley Roberts, announced that this year The Big 5 Kuwait 2016 will expand its educational offer. "Beyond

meeting key manufacturers from around the world, participants will be able to attend for free over 20 CPD certified workshops addressing the industry's current challenges and sharing best practices. Delivered by industry specialists, these workshops will enable attendees to develop both their skills and careers, getting valuable insights from industry leaders while growing their professional network".

Moreover, "For the first time, The Big 5 Kuwait 2016 will dedicate a whole day to sustainability in construction, a theme which is increasingly important today in Kuwait", Mr Roberts added. Sustainable urban development and green building practices will take center stage in all workshops on the last day of the show, September 27.

The Big 5 Kuwait 2016 is an unmissable platform for architects, engineers, contractors and developers in the region. The show will focus on the specific needs of the local construction industry, leveraging on organizer dmg events' network of more than 300,000 suppliers and buyers of construction products from around the globe. The event will run from 11:00 to 21:00, from September 25 to 27, 2016 at the Kuwait International Fair; entrance is free. To find out more, visit [www.big5kuwait.com](http://www.big5kuwait.com)

## Legalese

### RENT ISSUES

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders recently called for the European Union to be united and work together to deal with the influx of refugees and urged them to put agreements signed earlier to deal with the crisis into practice. This call was made after EU member states' attitudes varied according to their financial statuses, security situations and other reasons. Koenders also called for continuing monitoring the measures taken over the past few months to assess how successful they were in terms of the agreement made on reducing the number of refugees while taking public opinion and possible reactions into full consideration.

There was also considerable focus on hotspots in Italy and Greece and calls to fully support the governments in both countries to put those measures into practice. He also urged Turkey to move forward with needed procedures to keep refugees within the region as agreed with the EU, which is serious and logical enough to stop the influx of refugees, while at the same time, securing them away from being killed or drowning while attempting to flee.

Securing EU borders firmly is a basic thing in the course of defending the freedom to travel without passports amongst the Schengen area states while maintaining the inter-European concept after those recent influxes, which called for amending many security policies. Several EU members seek to prepare a practical and legal base for imposing temporary border restrictions which are seen as necessary.

However, the Schengen border law authorizes any EU member to impose such temporary restrictions for a maximum of six months at a time and this will not include accelerating asylum seekers' problems.

The incidents in Cologne in Germany might have instigated many decisions that were full of contradictions and pointing fingers towards a few refugees who have been indicted of committing sexual abuse during the New Year's Eve celebrations. Well, we believe that those few refugees were desperate ones fleeing their home countries in fear and horror of a terrifying war. Other opinions against opening up for more refugees severely criticized it and used the call to justify strikes and incidents and make them more like those in Norway where protestors demonstrated against parties calling to be more lenient with refugees.



### ELECTRONIC LIBRARIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

**RAMALLAH:** A delegation from the Kuwaiti society for aiding students and Abdulbaqi Nouri charity inaugurated four electronic libraries at Palestinian universities in the West Bank and a renovation of a school for girls in Hebron yesterday. Talal Abdulkarim, the society's chairman, told KUNA that the school was reopened after renovation, in coordination with the Al-Zaytoonah Youth Society, at expense of Nouri charity. A new hall has been built and named "Kuwait wing for knowledge and technology".

Kuwait electronic library was launched at the universities in Jerusalem, Abu Dais, Hebron and Khaddori in Tulkarm. They were equipped with state-of-art computers and networks. The e-library includes contents of 120,000 books and 4,400 scientific references. The Kuwaiti society established 34 of such libraries in Arab countries, but the lion's share was for the Palestinians; 11 at universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Kuwaiti delegation included Mahmoud Al-Nouri, the renowned businessman Adnan Al-Bahar and Abdulrahman Jamal Al-Nouri. The society has granted teaching scholarships to the Palestinians since 2012. —KUNA

### KUWAIT DIVE TEAM REMOVES CONCRETE BLOCKS OFF AL-SHAAB



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Dive Team (KDT), affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF), has removed three tons of concrete blocks off the Al-Shaab shore clearing the way for boats' cruising in the territorial waters. The in-charge of the KDT operations Walid Al-Fadhel said that the concrete blocks were drifted from a location adjacent to the rain water sewer on the shore due to wind and water currents and strong wind prompting the team to lift and remove them. The removal efforts were in cooperation with Touristic Enterprises Company and a number of volunteers.

He stressed this activity came within the team's ongoing cleanup in Kuwait Bay from harmful waste to the wildlife and sea-goers. He explained that his team also has recently succeeded in lifting fishing nets stuck in the rocks of Umm Al-Gaz Island situated in front of Souq Sharq and North West of Kuwait Towers as well as other nets from the middle of Niqat Al-Shamlan, located near the fish Market in the capital's shore line. The diving team also managed to retrieve a 14-long boat that capsized near Shuwaikh coast. —KUNA

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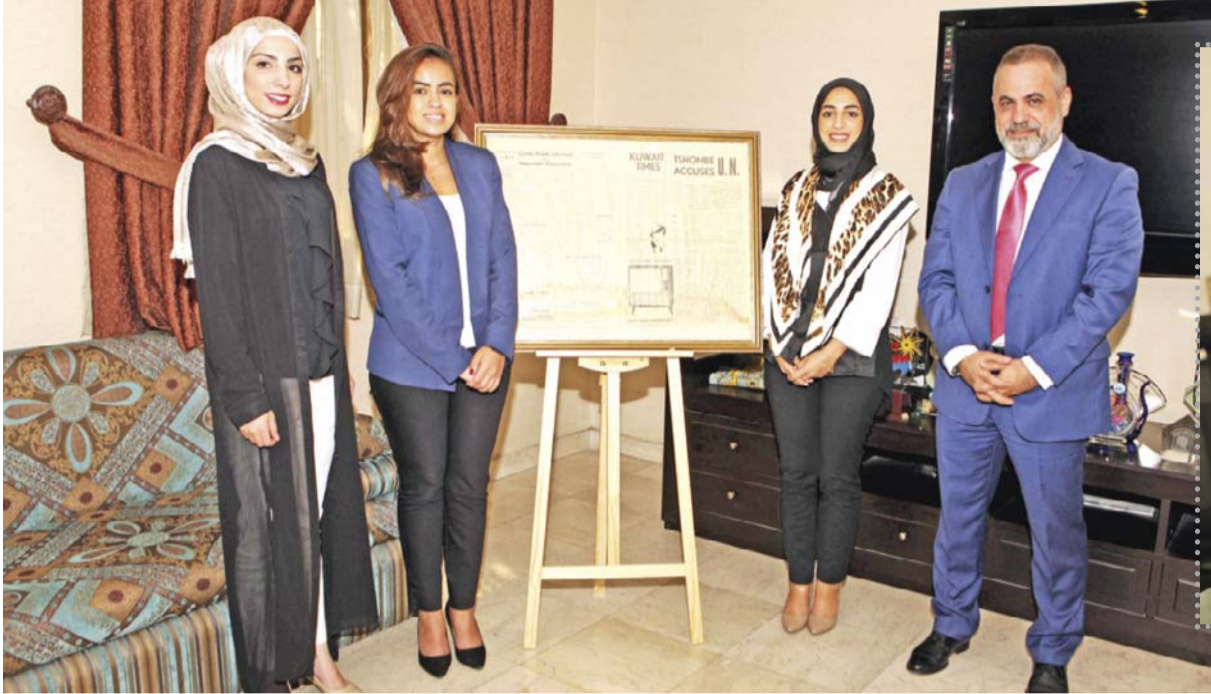
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# Kuwait Times

## 55th Anniversary Celebrations



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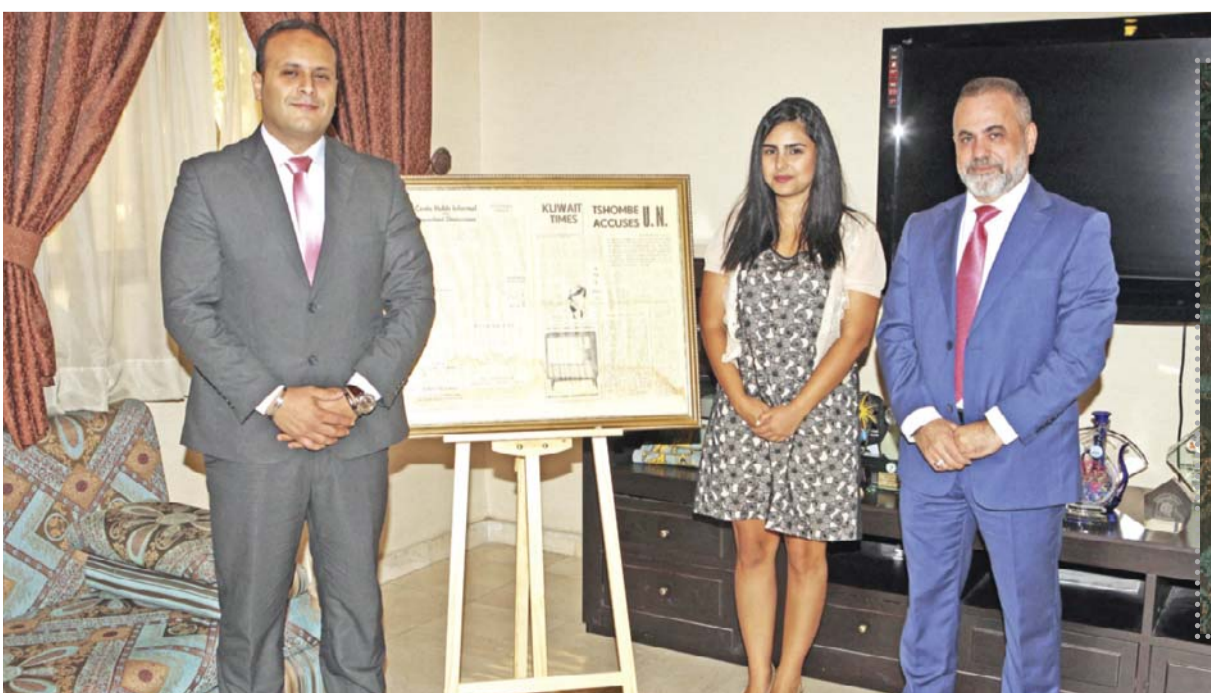
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Sent from Ministry of Information



# ABOLISH 153 ANNOUNCES FINDINGS OF SURVEY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

**KUWAIT:** The Abolish 153 campaign held a press conference at the Kuwait Society for Human Rights on Saturday to announce the findings of a national survey to gauge public opinion on violence against women. The survey was conducted by Dr Justin Gengler, Program Director of the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University, and Abolish 153 member Dr Alanoud Al-Sharekh. Other Abolish 153 members including Sheikhha Lulu Al-Sabah, Sundus Hamza, Sheikhha Al-Nafisi and Amira Behbehani were among the

speakers who answered queries. The survey was conducted on more than 1,000 people representing a wide spectrum of the Kuwaiti society.

At the start of the conference, Sharekh reported that according to a medical study in 2012, domestic violence cases received at Kuwait hospitals made up between 54 to 79 percent of all emergency cases. "In 2013, Abdul Aziz Al-Mishari, the mayor of Yarmouk, observed that statistics issued by the ministry of education included approximately 30,000 cases of violence in Kuwaiti schools. Ten thousand of these cases were observed in the elementary sections," said Sharekh. In addition, a brief report issued

by the ministry of state for youth affairs in 2014 shows that the violence among Kuwaiti youth is on an alarming rise. "These statistics show that the family is a principal cause," added Dr Sharekh.

Abolish 153 seeks to scrap article 153 of the Kuwaiti penal code which stipulates that a man who is surprised to find his mother, wife, sister or daughter in the act of adultery and kills them is punished by either a KD 14 fine or no more than three years in prison. Dr Gengler mentioned that the research focuses on the existence of the law, the extent of its acceptance and rejection, plus the general view about violence against women and

honor killings. It is the first of its kind in Kuwait and the Gulf states. The survey's results indicate that most Kuwaitis are not aware of the existence of this legal text, and according to the survey, a majority is in opposition to this article.

Members of the board of directors and the Director of the Kuwait Society for Human Rights Mohammed Al-Humaidi spoke about a lack of shelters for battered women in Kuwait. "There are people that will judge a woman as notorious if she resorts to these shelters, no matter the reasons or motivations. The social stigma on these women must change. However, increasing awareness of

the role of shelters in Kuwait needs to start by correcting society's perception of them. Article 153 can be exploited by men, and has to be abolished by the National Assembly or challenged in the constitutional court. According to Article 7 of the constitution of Kuwait, people are equal in rights and duties. Justice is guaranteed, so why don't women have the same rights?" he asked.

In conclusion, it is worth mentioning that earlier this year, a query was submitted by MP Salah Ashour, the head of women and family committee at the Assembly, to the minister of justice on the constitutionality of Article 153.

## Photo

of the day



A general view taken from Kuwait City's Kipco Tower yesterday, shows the Sawaber Complex and Kuwait City skyline. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



## BURGAN BANK HOLDS LUNCH IN HONOR OF TURKISH DEVELOPMENT MINISTER



**KUWAIT:** On the occasion of the Turkish Development Minister Lutfi Elvan's visit to Kuwait, Burgan Bank hosted the Minister and his accompanying delegation, along with the Ambassador of Turkey to the State of Kuwait, HE Murat Tamer to a special lunch to welcome them and honor them for their presence. At the forefront of receiving the delegation was Mr Majed Essa Al-Ajeel - Chairman of Burgan Bank Group and a number of senior leaders of Burgan Bank Group in Kuwait and the management of Burgan Bank Turkey. Attendees also included top businessmen from Kuwait.

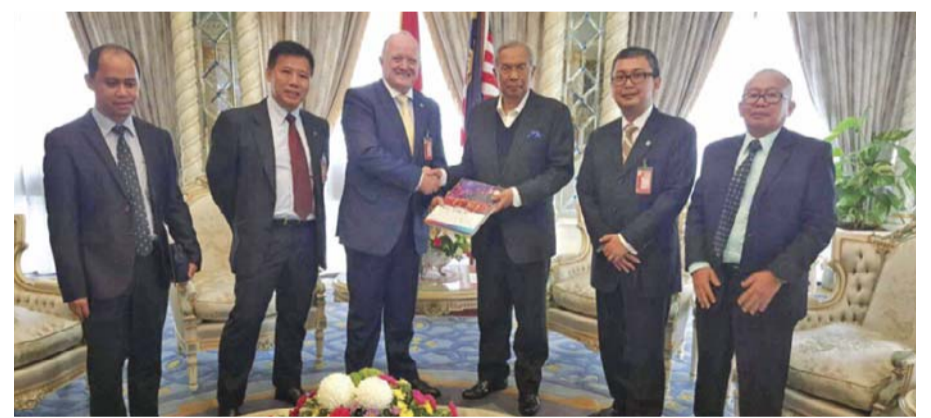
Commenting on this occasion, Mr Majid Al-Ajeel said: "Turkey's economic and banking sector continues to demonstrate a positive performance after it dis-

played its impressive adaptation throughout the period of the global financial crisis, providing opportunities for steady long-term growth in its economy. The Turkish economy is considered from the strongest sixteen in the world, and the robust Turkish attendance at the G20 summit plays a major role in this. Turkey's large and growing young population is also an added value along with its strategic location between Europe and the Middle East."

Al Ajeel added: "The positive indicators in the performance of Burgan Bank Group as a whole continues to move in the right direction to ensure the solidity in its diverse strategy across all our regional operations, especially in Turkey, for Burgan Bank Turkey's performance is excellent, and through God's grace,

has been achieving all the goals that have been set and announced since the acquisition in December 2012. The results of the bank have been converted to profitability and are now in the continued growth phase. Burgan Bank Turkey is considered an important banking platform in the Turkish market through 51 branches and with complete readiness to serve the Turkish domestic market and our customers interested in being present and investing in the Turkish market." In conclusion, Al-Ajeel noted that it is important to benefit and take advantage of the opportunities offered to foreign investors by the Turkish government since the Turkish government embarked on several incentive steps for attracting foreign investors to the Turkish market.

## KFH STRENGTHENS MALAYSIA OPERATIONS, HALAL INDUSTRY



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House -Malaysia (KFH-Malaysia) is taking steps towards expanding its operations in Sarawak on top of the two existing branches at present - in Satok (Kuching) and Tanjung Manis, the only banking facility available in Tanjung Manis halal hub.

Its Chief Executive Officer David Power reinstated KFH's commitment to grow and expand after paying a courtesy call on Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Satem at his office in Wisma Bapa Malaysia yesterday. He added that there were 15 branches throughout Malaysia since its establishment in 2006, two of them in Sarawak. He noted they were evaluating the performance of the two existing branches first and consider to set up another branch. "What is certain is that the Satok branch is performing at a satisfactory level. There are no plans at the moment to set up additional branches in the state but to

focus on the development of its Tanjung Manis branch to support the state government in developing the halal hub."

On the courtesy call, Power said it was meant to convey to the chief minister KFH's commitment in supporting the halal industry here by providing financial facilities and have more business engagement with Sarawakians, particularly local industry players in Tanjung Manis. KFH Malaysia is looking forward to stronger business ties in the state in the long term to provide Islamic financial services and products to the people of Sarawak. The bank's Chief Operating Officer, David Wee Kim Peng, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Nor Azzam Abdul Jalil and its Satok Branch Manager Taib Kipli were also present at the courtesy call. The Chief Minister also received a courtesy call from Hiroko Matsuo the Japan Consular Officer for Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan.

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In my view

## GERMAN AND EUROPEAN SECURITY



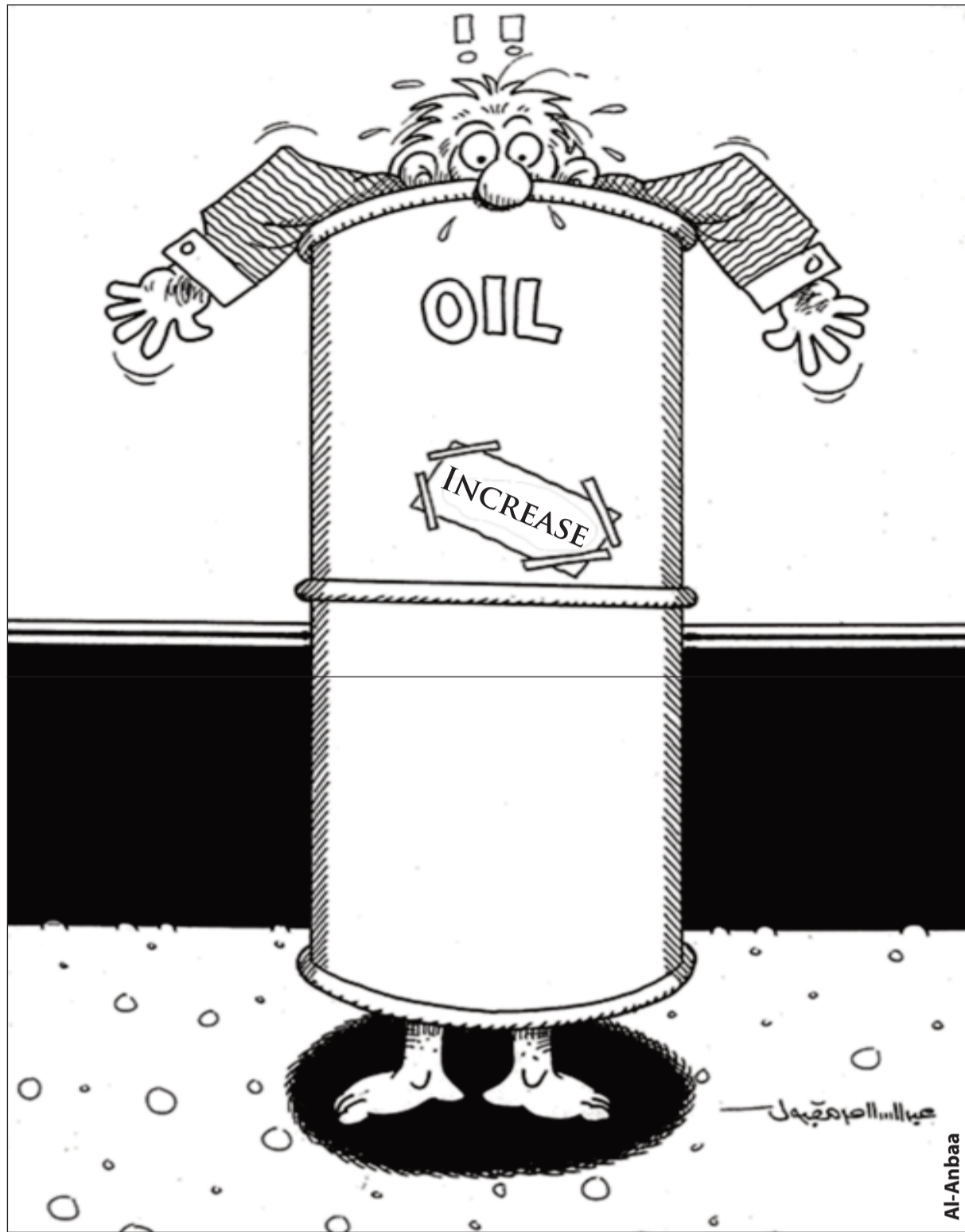
By Labeed Abdal

local@kuwaittimes.net

As a result of terrorist attacks in Europe, the German interior minister proposed a broad range of measures to bolster security and combat terrorism. Many of the measures, which include closer monitoring of refugees and enhanced surveillance, seem likely to win legislative approval. The proposals announced by the interior minister call for hiring more federal police officers; making it a crime to express sympathy for terrorism; greater sharing of intelligence data across Europe; closer monitoring of the "dark Web", the part of the Internet that is invisible to ordinary users; stripping dual citizens of their German citizenship if they fight for extremist groups; and making it easier to deport foreigners deemed to be dangerous. Such measures are the simplest any country should take to combat one of the plagues of the modern age.

The minister also stressed that more security in Europe would mean more security in Germany itself, and thus called for joint efforts throughout Europe to restrict the movement of terrorists through more cooperation amongst European security agencies. The minister also called more social care for refugees in Germany and highlighted the need to empower them to report in their own language any changes or tendencies towards extremism they might notice in their roommates or relatives, especially since many of them have already committed some disgraceful acts.

Such measures have become an international fear and it is important to have regional cooperation to fight terrorism that widely prevailed after 9/11. In fact, sabotage or assaults against facilities or public figures had always been described as violations of states' domestic or foreign security. What makes acts of terror complex is the fact that some use them to express mixed and confused goals. Modern challenges, in view of technological advances, call for more up-to-date methods in fighting terrorism.



Al-Anbaa

Al-Anbaa

## BILAL BETWEEN AZAN AND WAR

By Salah Al-Sayer

A friend who is a critic and follower of Islamic history and who knows how interested I am in movies, eagerly asked me if I had watched the animated movie 'Bilal', which tells the story of the Prophet's (PBUH) companion Bilal ibn Rabah. My friend's eager inquiry gave me the impression that he wished to listen to good feedback about the movie. Although he is a good Muslim too with a heart full of faith and hope of finding a better self-image, especially at this time when Islam is associated with terrorism.

I told my friend that the film was to be shown the following day, and so I went to the theater with hope to find a good catch. I also invited a Hindu friend and we watched the movie together. The film - the first full-length 3D Arabic animation movie - was great. It was really a good movie, highlighting the wonderful value of liberty manifested through the story of Bilal's liberation from slavery, but unfortunately, the movie failed to portray a good image of Islam.

According to my Hindu friend, the movie is voiced over by non-Arab actors in English and targets non-Muslim audiences, and therefore it was not appropriate to link Islam to battles and wars, because this would emphasize IS' stereotype image of Islam in the eyes of others. The movie includes the longest battle ever shown in the history of animated movies, which runs onscreen for 11 minutes of the total movie's period of 110 minutes. How did this slip from the minds of the Arab producers, who undoubtedly had good and noble intentions?!

I am concerned here with the Arab mentality that failed to separate war from Islam, though the Prophet's (PBUH) raids ended before he passed away, while Islam lasted, thanks to Allah, in the hearts of Muslims. This trend of linking Islam to battles and wars is shown in all Arab movies about Islam, whose history is full of endless stories about freedom, dignity, mercy and equality, that are enough to form a running river from which they can get movie stories. So, Bilal ibn Rabah's life could have been shown without pushing war into such a good movie

—Translated by Kuwait Times



## TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT TO DEAL WITH JAMS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: With the beginning of the new school year, Deputy PM and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled yesterday visited the traffic department to

check on the traffic flow and the plan to deal with any jams. Sheikh Mohammed urged traffic police to use bikes and foot patrols for easier access to accident locations. He also noted that he will review traffic police reports daily.



KUWAIT: MOI Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd yesterday received the ministry's team that recently took part in the Special Forces' martial arts championship. He congratulated the winners for their sincere efforts and wished them more good luck.

## KUWAIT BUSINESS CENTER TO ISSUE LICENSES IN 4 DAYS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The ministry of commerce and industry announced that the trial of the new one-window transaction Kuwait Business Center (KBC) project concluded in Ishbiliya and that it will be officially launched today. The ministry explained that the new service center gathers several government bodies and the ministry of commerce and industry in one place to make it easier for the public to avoid bureaucracy, red tape and delays. "The new service will reduce the time needed to issue a license from 45 days to only four," the ministry statement explained.

### AOU welcomes 8,000 students

Marking the beginning of the new academic year, the Arab Open University (AOU) yesterday received around 8,000 students at its three faculties - English Literature, Business Administration and Computer & IT Technology. AOU Kuwait branch director Prof Nayef Ebjad Al-Mutairi congratulated students and teaching staff on the new year.

### Schools prepared

Director of Al-Rabya intermediate school for girls Nadiya Al-Khalifa said that her school is fully prepared for the new school year and that teachers have been divided into special teams to receive the girls on the first day.

### GCC health ministers' council

MoH Undersecretary Dr Khaled Al-Sahlawi and assistant undersecretary for legal affairs Dr Mahmoud Al-Abdul Hadi took part in the 80th meeting of the GCC health ministers' council in Riyadh. Speaking to reporters, Sahlawi said that the meeting included many topics on its agenda such as unified GCC purchase contracts, a study on purchasing medical equipment, chronic and infectious diseases and geriatric diseases. Sahlawi added that a GCC meeting would be held in Kuwait in October to discuss fighting infectious and geriatric diseases.

## Crime

Report

### Brewer arrested

KUWAIT: A Sri Lankan was arrested for brewing alcohol at his apartment in Salmiya, said security sources. The sources explained that a fire broke out in the place in the suspect's absence. Firemen who responded discovered the alcohol and placed the apartment under close surveillance, until the suspect showed up to check the damage.

### 210 liquor bottles

An Asian computer engineer was arrested in Jleeb with 210 bottles of homebrewed liquor ready for sale.

### Forgers caught

A citizen and a Sri Lankan wanted for 10-year prison sentences for forgery were arrested in Sharq, said security sources.

### High thief

An Asian was arrested in Khaitan for burglary, said security sources, noting that the thief was under the influence of drugs and had heroin in his vehicle.

### Housemaid gang

An Ethiopian gang comprising of two men and 11 women was arrested for harboring absconding housemaids and helping them to work for people other than their sponsors.

### Petrol cybercrime

Cybercrime detectives identified the publisher of an ad offering a police patrol car for sale for only KD 1,000, said security sources, noting that the suspect will be interrogated.

### Viber beware

Cybercrime police strongly warned smartphone users against unidentified callers using Viber and WhatsApp, noting that some of these callers are hackers, who through these calls, get access to the images and videos stored on mobile phones and use them to blackmail people after editing them.

### Daycare complaint

A GCC national filed a complaint against a daycare center, accusing the staff of being negligent after his 10-month-old daughter sustained first-degree burns to her right arm.

### Vehicle stolen

An Arab expat filed a complaint at Salmiya police station accusing her husband of stealing her vehicle and vanishing. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

## PAHW SIGNS CONSULTING CONTRACT

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) yesterday signed a consulting service contract with a world specialized company over five investment opportunities in Sabah Al-Ahmad City and Jaber Al-Ahmad City. The contract is part of the PAHW's blueprint purposed to improve the real estate product by means of investing unused lands, the PAHW said in a press statement. The plan aims at boosting partnership between both public and private sectors and upgrading the operating performance through a strategic drive meant to support the national economy, it added. The world company will look into investment openings financially, technically and legally, and put relevant financial structures. — KUNA



KUWAIT: As part of a national project to protect the marine environment, coastguard forces took part in a cleanup operation on Kubbar Island.



As Clinton focuses on debate, Trump says he'd champion women

LEADER OF NIGERIA'S BOKO HARAM SAYS HE IS ALIVE IN VIDEO



CHARLOTTE: Protesters lock arms outside the Charlotte Police Department after ignoring the curfew yesterday. — AFP

CHARLOTTE POLICE RELEASE VIDEO OF FATAL SHOOTING

WASHINGTON: Charlotte authorities have released footage of the deadly police shooting of a black man, but the images were inconclusive on the question of whether he was carrying a gun and peaceful protests soon resumed in the restive southern city.

Protesters marched through downtown Charlotte to police headquarters late Saturday, carrying signs that said "BlackLives Matter" and "Hands Up. They Still Shoot," television news reports said. The shooting death Tuesday of Keith Lamont Scott, the latest in a string of police-involved killings of black men that have fueled outrage across America, ignited sometimes violent protests that left one man dead.

The body and dashboard camera videos, released Saturday, appear to show Scott exiting and backing away from a white sport utility vehicle with his hands by his sides. Police can be heard yelling "Drop the gun!" though Scott was not acting in an aggressive manner and cannot be seen pointing anything at the officers. Police then fire four rounds at him.

After he falls to the ground, Scott can be heard moaning weakly as officers handcuff him. But the videos do not show the entire incident and still leave questions unanswered. No gun can be seen on Scott in the video, in line with what his family has said. "There is no definitive evidence in this video as to whether or not there is an object in his hand and if there is, what that object is," said Scott family lawyer Justin Bamberg.

But police said for the first time that they had recovered a loaded gun bearing Scott's DNA, and that he was wearing an ankle holster. They released photographs of those items and a marijuana cigarette.

They also revealed that the confrontation was triggered after officers who were preparing to serve a warrant on another person noticed Scott was rolling a marijuana cigarette in his vehicle outside his apartment complex and saw him "hold a gun up," according to a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department statement.

Scott had exited his SUV "with the gun" and "backed

away from the vehicle while continuing to ignore officers' repeated loud verbal commands to drop the gun," police said. The officer who shot Scott, Brentley Vinson, is black. "Officer Vinson perceived Mr Scott's actions and movements as an imminent physical threat to himself and the other officers," the statement added.

Police Chief Kerr Putney said the weapon and the marijuana would make Scott a safety issue. "I stand behind the truth," Putney told reporters. "They can interpret anything they want based on one piece of evidence. I can tell you I suspect they will, based on the video footage. But what I say is you have to put all pieces together." In explaining why he was releasing the footage after initially refusing to do so, Putney said people "want to see the facts, objective facts. And that's what we're presenting."

**'Transparency and accountability'**

Putney, explaining the videos were made public after it was deemed that doing so would not hamper the investigation, also vowed to release DNA evidence.

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory, who declared a state of emergency in the city after the violent protests, and Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts both supported the police chief's move. "I want the citizens of Charlotte to view the video to see the incident for themselves. Transparency and accountability are critical in this process," Roberts said.

Scott's family has previously released two minutes of smartphone footage filmed by his wife, which does not show the shooting itself and does not conclusively answer the question of whether he was armed. "Our goal has from the beginning been to get the absolute unfiltered truth, and the only way to get that is for the police to release the videos that were released today.

Unfortunately, we are left with far more questions than we have answers," said Ray Dotch, the brother of Scott's wife. "We should not have to humanize him for him to be treated fairly. He was an American citizen who deserved better. That is our position. And it should be yours." — AFP

EGYPT MIGRANT SHIPWRECK DEATH TOLL RISES TO 168

CAIRO: Egyptian rescue workers have recovered 168 bodies from a migrant shipwreck off Egypt's Mediterranean coast, the health ministry said yesterday. Survivors have said up to 450 migrants were on board the overcrowded fishing vessel headed to Italy from Egypt when it keeled over Wednesday off the port city of Rosetta.

Egypt's military has said it rescued 163 survivors and that recovery attempts were continuing. The International Organization for Migration said most of those rescued were Egyptians but they also included Sudanese, Eritreans, a Syrian and an Ethiopian.

The tragedy sparked an emergency cabinet meeting and also topped the agenda of talks between President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Egypt's security chiefs on Saturday. Prime Minister Sherif Ismail ordered height-

ened patrols of harbours used by migrant boats and of the northern coastline.

A new bill being submitted to parliament would include "deterrent penalties" against people smugglers. Egyptian authorities have so far in 2016 foiled 110 attempts to smuggle migrants to Europe, Interior Minister Magdy Abdel Ghaffar told the cabinet.

The UN refugee agency expects 2016 to be the deadliest year on record for Mediterranean crossings by migrants. More than 4,600 non-Egyptians, many of them Sudanese and Ethiopians, have been arrested this year trying to depart from Egypt's northern coast, the UNHCR said Friday.

More than 10,000 people have died attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Europe since 2014, according to the United Nations. — AFP

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## IN BATTLE FOR IRAQ'S MOSUL, MANY FORCES WITH MANY MOTIVES

**BAGHDAD:** An unlikely array of forces is converging on the city of Mosul, lining up for a battle on the historic plains of northern Iraq that is likely to be decisive in the war against the Islamic State group.

The tacit alliance - Iraqi troops alongside Shiite militiamen, Kurdish fighters, Sunni Arab tribesmen and U.S. special forces - underscores the importance of this battle. Retaking Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, would effectively break the back of the militant group, ending their self-declared "caliphate," at least in Iraq.

But victory doesn't mean an end to the conflict. In a post-Islamic State Iraq, the enmities and rivalries among the players in the anti-IS coalition could easily erupt. The battle, expected near the end of the year, threatens to be long and grueling. If IS fighters dig in against an assault, they have hundreds of thousands of residents in the city as potential human shields. And as residents flee, they fuel the humanitarian crisis in Iraq's Kurdish region around Mosul, where camps are already overcrowded with more than 1.6 million people displaced over the past two years. Humanitarian groups are rushing to prepare for potentially 1 million more who could be displaced by a Mosul assault.

### Prize captured

The biggest prize captured by the militants after they overran much of northern, western and central Iraq in the summer of 2014, Mosul has been vital for the Islamic State group. The reserves in its banks provided a massive cash boost to the group, and the city's infrastructure and resources helped IS as it set up its caliphate across Iraq and Syria. Mosul was the location chosen by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-

Baghdadi to make his first public appearance after declaring the caliphate, a triumphant sermon delivered at a historic mosque in the old city. For the past two years, much of the leadership seems to have operated from Mosul.

If Mosul is retaken, it would be a nearly complete reversal of the jihadists' 2014 sweep. The group would be left with only a few pockets of territory in Iraq. IS fighters have already responded to battlefield losses by reverting to guerrilla-style tactics or retreating into neighboring Syria to defend the group's territory there, which is also rapidly eroding.

For weeks, the disparate forces have clawed back territory in Nineveh province, where Mosul is located, seizing villages and key supply lines. Still, the Iraqi military's closest position is some 30 miles south of Mosul and there remain dozens of militant-held villages with civilian populations that the troops must take before reaching the city's outskirts. Kurdish forces are closer, some within 10 miles of the city to the north and east.

US-led coalition forces have sped up training for Iraqi troops and Kurdish fighters, condensing courses that once took more than two months into just four weeks. In July, the Pentagon announced that 560 more US troops would deploy to Iraq to transform Qayara air base, south of Mosul, into a staging hub for the final assault.

Still, Iraq's military is thousands of soldiers short of the estimated 30,000 troops needed to launch the assault, and the existing forces are stretched thin trying to hold other recaptured territory, particularly in western Anbar province. Iraq's "biggest challenge is generating the forces required to get to



**HAJJ ALI, IRAQ:** In this Aug. 9, 2016 photo, Sheikh Nazhan Sakhar, the leader of a Sunni tribal armed group, stands with his three-year-old son on the debris of his home.—AP

Mosul," said Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, the head of U.S. ground forces in Iraq. "If you want to pull someone out of Anbar to go to Mosul, you've got to put somebody else there."

Iraq's military fell apart when it fled Mosul in the face of the IS blitz two years ago, with a third of its troops melting away. In the ensuing months, it was revealed that tens of thousands of troops on the rolls did not exist: They were only names whose pay was pocketed by commanders. Since then, the military has been slowly rebuilding, while other armed forces such as Shiite militias and Iraq's Kurdish forces have steadily grown in strength.

### Rivalries within alliance

The rivalries within the alliance are already starting to show and are likely

to come to a head once IS falls.

The Kurds, who seized large swaths of territory during the fight against the militants, want to keep it. Iranian-backed Shiite militias demand recognition for the political and military strength they have garnered during the war. The Sunni minority is deeply worried about Shiite domination and discrimination, and those fears are likely only to grow as the community tries to recover from Islamic State rule and return to their homes.

The Shiite-led government in Baghdad will have to balance among these factions.

The most immediate question will be whether Shiite militias and Kurdish forces will join the assault into mainly Sunni Arab Mosul. It's a sensitive issue. Shiite militias have been accused of

abuses against Sunnis in other areas they have retaken from the Islamic State group. If Kurds capture parts of the city, it gives them a strong card in future negotiations over the territory they hold. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has said all forces will participate in the Mosul operation, a nod to Kurdish and Shiite militia demands.

But at a news conference last week, he also said Iraqi military decisions must respect the delicate ethnic balance in Nineveh province, where most of the population is Sunni Arab, with pockets of Kurds, Shiites, Christians, Yazidis and other minority groups.

When asked what role Shiite militias would have in Mosul, al-Abadi was circumspect. "I don't want Daesh to make use of sectarian conflicts," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Sunnis make up the vast majority of the 3.3 million Iraqis displaced by the conflict. The treatment of civilians in Mosul will likely be seen as a test of the government's commitment to lasting political reconciliation. The marginalization of Sunnis and increasingly sectarian politics under al-Abadi's predecessor, Nouri al-Maliki, fueled the rise of the Islamic State group in Iraq to begin with.

For al-Abadi, retaking Mosul is a key political prize. In office just over two years, he has faced increasing anti-government sentiment fueled by IS attacks in and around the capital and the failure to fight corruption or bring reconciliation. Al-Abadi said he believes Iraq is more unified today than when he took office, but difficulties still remain and "new challenges" are likely to erupt after Mosul is liberated. "Some people tell me we should delay the liberation of Mosul because of these challenges," he said. "I say: No."—AP

## FRESH STRIKES POUND ALEPPO AHEAD OF UN SYRIA TALKS

'IT TORE HIM APART... IT WAS AN AWFUL SCENE'

**ALEPPO:** Syrian and Russian warplanes again pounded rebel-held east Aleppo yesterday ahead of a UN Security Council meeting to discuss the worst surge in violence to hit the devastated city in years.

Residents and a monitor reported heavy air raids overnight and early Sunday on the besieged east of the city, which Syria's army has pledged to retake. The UN Security Council was due to meet later in an emergency session to discuss the escalating violence, which UN chief Ban Ki-moon described as "chilling".

Washington and its European allies said before the meeting that the burden was on Moscow—a key ally of President Bashar al-Assad's regime—to save a truce that fell apart in the past week. At least 115 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in Syrian and Russian bombardment of eastern Aleppo since the army on Thursday announced an operation to take it, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The monitor said at least 19 children were among those killed in the assault, which included missile strikes, barrel bomb attacks and artillery fire. Residents said cluster bombs rained down on Saturday night on eastern parts of the city, where an estimated 250,000 people

are living under a government siege. "All night long they were dropping cluster bombs. I couldn't sleep until four in the morning," said 62-year-old Ahmed Hajar, who was out looking for bread in Al-Kalaseh neighborhood. "Today the streets of my neighborhood are full of unexploded cluster bombs. One person was killed when he disturbed one and it exploded," he added.

"It tore him apart... it was an awful scene."

### 'We're civilians here'

In the nearby neighborhood of Bab al-Nayrab, 30-year-old Imad Habush was baking bread in a small wood-burning oven outside his house. "None of the bakeries are open anymore because of the bombing and the shortages of fuel and flour, so people have started making their own bread," he said.

"I don't know why the regime is bombing us in this barbaric way. We're civilians here, we're not carrying weapons, and we're besieged, we have no way to escape." Air strikes were continuing on the eastern neighborhoods on Sunday, the Observatory said, with at least 14 civilians, including two children, killed since dawn.

Once Syria's economic powerhouse, Aleppo

has been ravaged by war and roughly divided since mid-2012 between government control in the west and rebel control in the east. The eastern portion of the city has been under near-continuous siege since mid-July, prompting food and fuel shortages.

A truce deal hammered out by Russia and the United States this month was meant to see aid trucked into the east of the city. But the ceasefire fell apart before any assistance was brought in, and the army and its Russian ally have since pounded the eastern neighbourhoods with a force that residents say is virtually unprecedented.

More than 300,000 people have been killed and over half the country displaced since the war began in March 2011 with anti-government protests. Successive attempts to reach a political solution have failed, and the latest bid by Moscow and Washington has virtually collapsed, despite ongoing talks to save it.

### 'Chilling escalation'

Ban said Saturday he was "appalled by the chilling military escalation" in Aleppo, and Britain, France and the United States requested an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council. The meeting was scheduled for 1500 GMT, but it was unclear what results it could produce, with Moscow and Washington trading accusations over who is to blame for the ceasefire's failure. The United States and its European allies said Saturday it was up to Moscow to save the truce. "The burden is on Russia to prove it is willing and able to take extraordinary steps to salvage diplomatic efforts," read a joint statement from Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the United States and European Union. "Patience with Russia's continued inability or unwillingness to adhere to its commitments is not unlimited," the statement added.

But Russia has blamed Washington for the ceasefire's failure, saying it did not uphold its commitment to ensure moderate rebels distanced themselves from jihadist groups like former Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front.

Syria's foreign minister meanwhile said Saturday that his government was confident of "victory" with support from "true friends" including Russia, Iran, and Lebanon's Shiite militant group Hezbollah. "Our belief in victory is even greater now that the Syrian Arab army is making great strides in its war against terrorism," Walid Muallem told the UN General Assembly. But on the ground, the army was pushed back from the strategic Handarat camp north of Aleppo city that they captured on Saturday, the Observatory said.—AFP



**In this Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 file photo, heavy machinery works on a massive underground barrier on the Israeli side of the border with Gaza. —AP**

## ISRAELI OFFICIAL: GAZA UNDERGROUND WALL TO BE DONE IN MONTHS

**BEERSHEBA, ISRAEL:** A senior Israeli military official yesterday said a massive underground barrier being built along the Gaza border to defend against Hamas tunnels should be finished in a matter of months, dealing what he said would be a serious blow to the Islamic militant group.

The Southern Command official said the structure was at the forefront of a new effort meant to rob Hamas of one of its most potent weapons. During a 2014 war, Hamas militants on several occasions made their way into Israel through a tunnel network, though they did not manage to reach civilian areas. Israel destroyed 32 tunnels during that conflict, and since then has made neutralizing the tunnel threat a top priority.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity under military briefing guidelines, said Hamas is now trying to restore its military capabilities, with its primary focus on building a subterranean warren of tunnels to hide from Israeli strikes and sneak into Israel to carry out attacks in a future round of fighting.

In recent weeks, Israel is believed to have begun work on a 60-kilometer (40 mile) underground barrier expected to stretch dozens of meters (yards) deep. Work crews have been spotted digging trenches and installing infrastructure in the ground.

### Heavy machinery

In a briefing with reporters yesterday, the Israeli official showed video footage of heavy machinery raking the sandy border area, a series of holes drilled deep into the ground, a stretch of land the army has

flooded, and some controlled explosions. The army also showed photos of simulated tunnels where soldiers train for subterranean combat.

He declined to discuss specific features of the barrier being built, calling it a key strategic project. But he said the new wall will defend Israel's border with Gaza both above and below the ground. The army's goal, he said, is to turn the underground battlefield into a "death trap" for Hamas. "It will take time to build it. It's a big project. But it is a main goal," he said.

Since the war, Israel has announced the discovery of several more tunnels. Israel has already surrounded Gaza with a sophisticated above-ground fence fortified with sensors, cameras, barbed wire and watch towers.

Hamas, an Islamic militant group sworn to Israel's destruction, seized power of Gaza in 2007. Since then, the sides have fought three wars. During the 2014 fighting, the group fired several thousand rockets and missiles into Israel. More than 2,200 Palestinians, over half of them civilians, were killed in the fighting, along with 73 people on the Israeli side.

The official said Hamas has been steadily rebuilding its capabilities since the fighting, though Israeli officials do not believe the group is looking for another round of hostilities for the time being.

Mushir al-Masri, a Hamas official in Gaza, said the Israeli efforts would fail. "They must realize that they will not enjoy security as long as the Palestinian people don't enjoy it," he said. "The language of threats no longer terrifies our people."—AP



**ALEPPO:** In this photo provided by the Syrian Civil Defense group known as the White Helmets, shows heavily damaged buildings after airstrikes hit Syria, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016.—AP

## EGYPT MOVES TO TIGHTEN BORDERS AFTER MIGRANT SHIP TRAGEDY

**CAIRO:** Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi ordered the tightening of border security after more than 160 mainly Egyptian migrants died when their Europe-bound boat sank in the Mediterranean, a tragedy that highlighted the extent of Egypt's economic woes.

Presidential spokesman Alaa Youssef, in a statement issued late Saturday, said el-Sissi had also ordered during a meeting with top aides that those behind the tragedy be brought to justice.

Authorities last week arrested four members of the doomed boat's crew and said they had issued arrest warrants for five more people. However, there have been no known arrests of members of the organized crime rings behind the human trafficking rife on Egypt's Mediterranean coast.

El-Sissi has also urged parliament and the government to work together to issue legislation combating illegal migration. He also directed his aides to accelerate a government program offering assistance to small businesses and young entrepreneurs in areas where illegal migra-

tion is rampant. The boat sank Wednesday off the Egyptian coastal town of Rosetta. At least 162 bodies were later recovered and another 160 migrants rescued.

The EU border agency, Frontex, recently said more than 12,000 migrants arrived in Italy from Egypt between January and September this year, compared to 7,000 in the same period last year.

Many of the Egyptians who were on board the boat were unescorted minors or single men in their early 20s. The fact that they were willing to risk their lives to reach Europe has brought into focus Egypt's harsh economic realities, with many of the country's 91 million people struggling to cope with double digit unemployment and rising inflation among a host of economic woes. Many of the survivors said they were leaving to find jobs and better lives in Europe. The tragedy led to criticism of the government, both for failing to disrupt the country's thriving human trafficking rings and for initially remaining silent as the scope of the tragedy slowly emerged.—AP

## EU URGES FOR CESSATION OF FIGHTING IN ALEPPO

**BRUSSELS:** The European Union has called on all countries with influence on the Syrian regime, as well as those with contacts among the armed opposition, to apply the maximum pressure to cease the attacks in Aleppo, Syria's northern city.

"The situation in Aleppo has seen a dramatic and rapid deterioration over the past 48 hours, despite continuing efforts of the international community to re-establish the previous cessation of hostilities," noted EU High Representative Federica Mogherini and the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Christos Stylianides in a

joint statement. "The human suffering being caused is an affront to the whole world. It risks to take us ever further from a negotiated settlement of the conflict, which remains the only way of bringing it to an end," they said.

They EU called for unhindered and continuous humanitarian access to those in need, and resume political negotiations under the auspices of the UN in Geneva as swiftly as possible.

The EU will review the additional actions it can take to bring all parties to the negotiating table, added the statement.—KUNA



## TED CRUZ CALLS HIS DECISION TO BACK TRUMP 'AGONIZING'

**AUSTIN:** Ted Cruz appears uncomfortable defending the man he says he'll vote for in November, Donald Trump. Addressing a policy forum organized by The Texas Tribune, the Texas senator said Saturday it was "agonizing" making the decision to back Trump, whom he once called a "pathological liar" and "serial philanderer." He denied he caved in to pressure from top Republicans nationally and in his home state, saying he would have faced an outcry no matter what.

"Any path we took, if I supported Donald, if I didn't support Donald, the criticism was going to be there," Cruz told a packed auditorium.

Cruz offered little defense of Trump's past comments on Muslim-Americans. He also said his two young daughters, while campaigning with him in the primaries, had felt the sting of Trump's comments about women. Asked whether he thought Russian President Vladimir Putin was a better leader than President Barack Obama, as Trump suggested, Cruz said, "I have no intention of defending everything Donald Trump says or does."

Cruz rocked the Republican National Convention in Cleveland by avoiding an endorsement of the nominee and instead urging delegates to "vote your conscience." He held out for several months afterward, even as some polls suggested his popularity was slipping nationally and in Texas,

where he could face a Republican primary challenge for re-election to the Senate in 2018. Trump angered Cruz in the primaries by insulting his wife and suggesting, without evidence, that his Cuban-born father could have been linked to the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Cruz said Saturday that he spoke with Trump a day earlier, after announcing that he will vote for the nominee, and Trump "was very gracious" but didn't apologize for what he said about his family.

Cruz said a key reason for changing his mind was Trump's naming of a top Cruz ally, Utah Sen. Mike Lee, in his updated list of potential Supreme Court picks. Asked if he doubts Trump will keep his word about that or other promises, Cruz responded: "I don't think it is productive for me to criticize the Republican nominee today."

Cruz aides say the senator felt boxed in by his past position on Trump because he had urged voters not to stay home in November but also didn't think any third-party candidates were viable. And he didn't want to be seen by conservatives as aiding Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Asked Saturday, "What happened to 'vote your conscience?'" Cruz responded: "It's a good question and it's still what I would urge everyone to do." But he added that he is now backing Trump because, "By any measure, Hillary Clinton is manifestly unfit to be president."—AP



**ROANOKE, VIRGINIA:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump waves to the crowd during a rally on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016. —AP

## AS CLINTON FOCUSES ON DEBATE, TRUMP SAYS HE'D CHAMPION WOMEN

### TAUNTING INFIDELITIES

**ROANOKE, VIRGINIA:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is arguing that he'll do more to help women from the White House than Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. At the same time, he's taunting her over the infidelities of her husband.

As Trump campaigned in the battleground state of Virginia, Clinton stayed close to home in New York while preparing for Monday night's opening debate. She was spotted at a Westchester hotel near her home in Chappaqua, but her campaign would not comment on whether she was holding practice sessions at the hotel.

Clinton and Trump were expected to meet separately on Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has sought to project neutrality in this year's election. There were perceptions that he favored Mitt Romney over President Barack Obama in 2012.

Trump told supporters at a rally Saturday in Roanoke, Virginia, that Clinton has not delivered for women and children. "My opponent likes to say that for decades she's been fighting for women, that she's been fighting for children. Why, then, are 70 million American women and children living in poverty or on the brink of poverty in our country?" Trump asked. "For years

she's been doing this and she's done nothing."

#### Threats

The appeal came hours after Trump threatened on Twitter to invite a woman who'd had an affair with Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, to sit in the first row at their first debate. The Clinton campaign had invited Mark Cuban, a fellow billionaire and Trump rival, to the event. "If dopey Mark Cuban of failed Benefactor fame wants to sit in the front row, perhaps I will put Gennifer Flowers right alongside of him!" Trump said.

Trump's campaign officials did not respond to requests for comment on Saturday, and it remained unclear whether Flowers would actually attend. Earlier Saturday, one of Clinton's supporters, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, accused Trump and his fellow Republicans of "making hate OK." She told Clinton campaign volunteers in Nashua, New Hampshire, that she never predicted a major presidential candidate would base a campaign on scapegoating Mexicans, women and Muslims.

Warren was particularly critical of Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who denounced Trump in the primary campaign but announced Friday that he strong-

ly opposed Clinton and would vote for his former rival. "Is that really what your word is worth, Ted Cruz?" she asked. In Texas, Cruz described as "agonizing" his decision to announce that

he would vote for Trump but denied that he had given in to pressure to support his rival for the Republican nomination. His announcement Friday, from which the word "endorsement" was conspicuously absent, drew criticism because of his longstanding antipathy for the man he had called a "pathological liar."

"Any path we took, if I supported Donald, if I didn't support Donald, the criticism was going to be there," Cruz told a packed Austin auditorium during a policy forum organized by The Texas Tribune. He had refused to endorse Trump at the Republican National Convention and instead urged Republicans to vote according to their conscience.

Trump's running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, assured home-schooling advocates in North Carolina that Trump would be their champion if elected. Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, Clinton's running mate, praised American Indian culture and highlighted his efforts to win federal recognition of the state's tribes while visiting the Chickahominy Indian Tribe Fall Festival near his home in Richmond.—AP



**TYLER, TEXAS:** Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, center, talks with Cathie Adams, past president of Texas Eagle Forum, at the annual Grassroots America We The People Champions of Freedom award dinner Friday, Sept. 23, 2016.—AP

## NY SENATOR: WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS MUST INCLUDE PHOTOS

**NEW YORK:** As police and federal agents hunted for the man suspected of setting off bombs in New York and New Jersey, millions of people received an alert on their cellphones asking for help finding the bombing suspect. But a phrase in the short message, "See media for pic," has put a spotlight on the limitations of the nation's emergency alert system.

The alerts, including the one sent last Monday about bombing suspect Ahmad Khan Rahami, are sent to cellphones to alert people in a geographic area of imminent threats to safety. They are currently limited to only 90 characters and cannot transmit multimedia files, like photos or video.

Sen. Charles Schumer argues the Wireless Emergency System is using outdated infrastructure and is in desperate need of an upgrade. The New York Democrat, who said the recent alert lacked critical details, wants the Federal Communications Commission to revamp the system with the capability of including photos and video.

"When it comes to a terrorist or other very dangerous criminal on the run, a picture not only is worth a thousand words, it could save a thousand lives if the right person sees it," Schumer said. "We can't afford to have an emergency wire-

less response system that is stuck in the 90's."

The FCC already is considering a rule that would expand the length of messages to 360 characters and allow phone numbers and web links to be included in some messages. The commission's chairman, Tom Wheeler, said earlier this month that the new rule "would enable the public to receive additional, vital information in wireless alerts." FCC spokeswoman Shannon Gilson told The Associated Press that Wheeler has asked his fellow commissioners to vote on updates to the agency's wireless alerting rules. A vote is scheduled for Sept. 29.

#### Network congestion

Robert Morse, assistant general counsel at Verizon, wrote to the FCC in April that the company supports making the alert messages longer, but warned that including links could cause network congestion and said multimedia messaging for emergency alerts "is not feasible at this time." AT&T said it, too, had concerns that embedding links could cause congestion, but said it was amenable to a time-limited trial.

Since the Wireless Emergency Alert system was rolled out in 2012, it has been used to send more than 21,000 messages nationwide, mainly to warn people about dangerous

weather conditions or missing children, federal officials said. The system has been used several times in New York City, but last week's alert was the first time the city used the system for a wanted-person message, officials said.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the alerts have proven to be a valuable tool. Rahami, the 28-year-old bombing suspect, who is facing both federal and state charges, was arrested hours after the alert was sent following a shootout with police in Linden, New Jersey.

The message, however, drew criticism from some who feared racial targeting because the alert included only the name and age of the suspect, not a photo. De Blasio, a Democrat, defended the message, but said he would like future alerts to contain photographs.

"We want to improve the technology and get the sign-offs we need from the federal level to be able to get this technology improved and get out images in real time," de Blasio said Friday during his WNYC. "I think we can improve upon it. But I really find that the worst of Monday morning quarterbacking is for people to critique an approach that actually helped catch a terrorist."—AP

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## NO PLANS TO INVITE EX-LOVER OF BILL CLINTON TO DEBATE: TRUMP

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump has hinted he might invite a former lover of Bill Clinton to the first presidential debate, but his campaign said yesterday it has no such plans. Rather, Trump's tweet to that effect was meant to show the Trump campaign has ways to "get inside the head of Hillary Clinton," Kellyanne Conway, Trump's campaign manager, said on CNN. "We've not invited her formally and don't expect her to be there as a guest of the Trump campaign," Conway said of the ex-lover, former model Gennifer Flowers.

The Clinton campaign ridiculed Trump's mention of Flowers as frivolous. "If this is what Donald Trump wants this debate to be about, that's up to him," Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said on ABC. "He is a reality TV star. He's very experienced at providing television entertainment. The presidency's not about entertainment," Mook said, referring to the show Trump once starred in, "The Apprentice."

Clinton has admitted having an affair with Flowers in the 1970s while serving as governor of Arkansas. Clinton also had an affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky in a scandal that led to his impeachment in 1998.

Trump has criticized Hillary Clinton for not leaving her husband because of his marital indiscretions.

Trump's mention of Flowers came in a tweet Saturday night after Mark Cuban, a billionaire investor who is a vocal Trump critic and Clinton supporter, agreed to sit at the front of the audience for the televised debate Monday night in New York. It is expected to shatter audience records with up to 90 million Americans watching.

"If dopey Mark Cuban of failed Benefactor fame wants to sit in the front row, perhaps I will put Gennifer Flowers right alongside of him!" tweeted Trump, himself a billionaire real estate investor.

Further complicating matters, a Twitter account linked to Flowers's official website said she would attend the showdown and suggested she backed Trump. Conway said Sunday that Trump's tweet mentioning Flowers was meant as a warning to the Clinton campaign. "Trump was putting them on notice we can certainly invite guests that may get into the head of Hillary Clinton," she said, adding that Trump has no plans to bring up Bill Clinton's infidelity at the debate.—AFP



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande, center, shakes hands with members of veterans associations during a ceremony in which he acknowledged the state's responsibility in abandoning Algerians who fought alongside French colonial forces in Algeria's war for independence yesterday. —AP

## HOLLANDE HONORS ALGERIANS WHO FOUGHT FOR FRENCH COLONIZERS THEN MASSACRED AS TRAITORS

PARIS: French President Francois Hollande has acknowledged the state's culpability in abandoning Algerians who fought alongside French colonial forces in Algeria's war for independence - and were then massacred as traitors after the French retreat in 1962.

Tens of thousands of the fighters, known as harkis, were killed after the French withdrawal, and those made it to France were placed in camps. Their descendants have long sought official recognition that the harkis were unjustly treated.

Speaking yesterday in the Invalides monument that houses Napoleon's tomb, Hollande said, "I recognize the responsibility of French

governments in abandoning the harkis, the massacres of those remaining in Algeria and the inhuman conditions for those transferred to France." "France betrayed its promise, turned its back on families," he said, making the first official recognition of the state's role in abandoning the harkis.

The harki contingent included some 200,000 forces who had fought against fellow Algerians in a war seen as one of the darkest chapters in France's modern history.

Only in 1999, under then-President Jacques Chirac, did France officially admit that the eight-year combat that ended 132 years of French rule in Algeria was a war. The true number

of Algerians who died in the war and its aftermath is unknown, as many were never identified. The wounds of the country's colonial past remain deep on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea.

In 2002, Chirac inaugurated a memorial near the Eiffel Tower to those who died fighting on the side of France, including harkis. Chirac also began what is now an annual ceremony for the harkis every September.

Other prominent politicians at Sunday's ceremony included Hollande's potential rivals for next year's election, conservative former President Nicolas Sarkozy and far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen. —AP

## BORIS JOHNSON REFUSES TO REPEAT CLAIM ON BREXIT TIMING

LONDON: Britain should not let its EU exit talks "drag on", Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said yesterday, though he refused to repeat his previous claim the government would trigger the formal leaving process in early 2017.

Johnson said Thursday that Britain would invoke Article 50, the official procedure for quitting the European Union, within months of the new year. But he was not subsequently backed up by Prime Minister Theresa May's Downing Street office, which repeated her position that the provision would not be triggered this year.

Johnson, who spearheaded the campaign to leave the EU in Britain's June referendum, said on Sunday Britain should exit before the next European Parliament elections in May 2019. "People will be wondering whether we want to be sending a fresh batch of UK Euro MPs to that institution which, after all, we are going to be leaving. So let's get on with it," he told BBC television.

### Pressed

He was pressed three times about the timing but declined to repeat his previous assertion. "Obviously we are not going to do it (trigger Article 50) before Christmas and I think we've got to do a lot of work to

get our ducks in order and that is going on. "But then after that, as the prime minister has rightly said, this process probably shouldn't drag on."

Part of the negotiations will involve Britain's level of access to the European single market and whether it imposes controls on immigration from EU countries. Johnson also called for greater investment in youth skills and training.

"For 25 years UK business and industry have been mainlining immigration like a kind of drug," he said.

Meanwhile former prime minister David Cameron's communications chief said Johnson could not make his mind up whether to back Brexit or not in the June 23 referendum, sending Cameron conflicting texts in quick succession.

"I am struck by two things: Boris is genuinely in turmoil, flip-flopping within a matter of hours; and his cavalier approach," Craig Oliver said in his memoirs, serialised in The Mail on Sunday newspaper.

After plumping for the Leave campaign, Johnson told Cameron he expected to be on the losing side as Brexit would be "crushed". Cameron "says Boris is really a 'confused Inner', and their previous conversations confirmed that view to him," Oliver wrote. —AFP



MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS: United Kingdom Foreign Minister Boris Johnson (L) listens to US Secretary of State John Kerry (not pictured) during a ministerial meeting at Tufts University in Medford on September 24, 2016. —AFP



UNDISCLOSED LOCATION: This screen grab image taken yesterday from a video released on YouTube by Islamist group Boko Haram shows Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau making a statement. —AFP

## LEADER OF NIGERIA'S BOKO HARAM SAYS HE IS ALIVE IN VIDEO

BAUCHI: The leader of Nigerian Islamist militant group Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, appeared in a video posted on social media yesterday in which he rejected statements by the country's military that he had been seriously wounded.

Last month Nigeria's air force said it had killed senior members of the group which has killed around 15,000 people and displaced more than two million in a seven-year insurgency aimed at creating a state adhering to strict Islamic laws. It said Shekau had been wounded.

"You broadcast the news and published it in your media outlets that you injured me and killed me and here I am," said a man purporting to be Shekau in a video addressed to "tyrants of Nigeria in particular and the west of Africa in general". "I will

not get killed until my time comes," he added, in the 40-minute video posted on YouTube delivered in Arabic and Hausa which is spoken widely in northern Nigeria.

The military has reported Shekau's death in the past, only to have a man claiming to be him appear later, apparently unharmed, making video statements.

Last month's announcement by the air force came days after Islamic State, to whom Boko Haram pledged allegiance last year, announced the appointment of a new leader of the West African group in an apparent rejection of Shekau.

That appointment was later dismissed in a 10-minute audio clip on social media by a man purporting to be Shekau, exposing divisions within the jihadist group. —Reuters

## EP PRESIDENT EXPECTS COMPLICATED BREXIT TALKS

LONDON: President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz said Friday that once Brexit negotiations begin between the European Union and the UK, the EP will be a responsible and active partner.

"The greatest challenges would be trade and the issue of preserving the freedom of movement of goods, people, services and capital," Schulz told reporters following his meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May.

The planned talks will be undoubtedly complicated and could take more than two

years, he said. He said that he discussed with Prime Minister May the challenges of EU-UK negotiations and why the EP believes article 50 should be triggered as soon as possible.

In addition to May, Schulz also met London Mayor Sadiq Khan on Thursday and Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, this morning.

He concluded his two-day visit to London with a lecture at the European Institute of the London School of Economics this afternoon. —KUNA

## TWO TEENAGE GIRLS HELD IN FRANCE OVER 'TERROR PLOT'

PARIS: Two teenage girls from the French city of Nice are being held on suspicion of planning an attack directed by a notorious Syria-based French jihadist, a source close to the investigation said yesterday.

The suspects, aged 17 and 19, live in the same area of Nice as Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, the radicalised Tunisian man who drove the truck that killed 86 people in the city on July 14.

Searches failed to find any weapons at their homes. The teenagers have told investigators they had been in contact with Rachid Kassim, a French jihadist based in the areas of Syria and Iraq held by the Islamic State group.

"They admitted they had been planning a violent attack under the influence of Rachid Kassim before abandoning their plans," a source in the investigation said.

The 17-year-old, who was not on the intelligence services' radar before, has admitted "hating soldiers", the source said. She was charged on September with associating with terror suspects.

The 19-year-old is known to investigators, having been in contact with another French citizen who recruits IS

fighters, Omar Diaby. At the age of 17 she had planned to travel to Syria. Kassim is emerging as a major concern for French anti-terror investigators after he was found to be in contact on messaging app Telegram with numerous people who have either carried out attacks in France or been arrested on suspicion of planning terror strikes.

He has appeared in several Telegram videos made in Syria and Iraq urging attacks in France. Kassim is believed to have inspired an attack this year in which a senior French policeman and his partner were knifed to death and another in which an elderly priest's throat was cut.

Investigators believe he also directed three women suspected of seeking to blow up a car packed with gas cylinders near Notre Dame cathedral in central Paris this month.

More than 200 people have been killed in attacks in France since 2015, including 130 who died in November's Islamic State attacks in Paris. Prime Minister Manuel Valls has warned the threat of a new atrocity remains at a "maximum" level. —AFP

## CLINTON, TRUMP TO MEET SEPARATELY WITH ISRAEL PM NETANYAHU

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK: Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are meeting separately with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday in sessions that could set the tone for relations between the allied countries during the next presidential administration.

Trump met Sunday with Netanyahu at Trump Tower, where he lives. Clinton also was expected to meet with the prime minister in New York on the eve of the first debate between the candidates. The Israeli leader has sought to project neutrality this time after perceptions arose that he favored Mitt Romney over President Barack Obama in 2012.

The one-on-one discussions will follow what was likely Netanyahu's final meeting with Obama last week, capping what has been a sometimes rocky relationship between the leaders of the two allies.

The Obama administration has opposed Israel's push to expand settlements in the West Bank while Netanyahu has been a leading critic of the US nuclear agreement with Iran. More recently, Netanyahu has urged Obama to avoid pushing for a Palestinian state in his final months in office.

Clinton has supported a negotiated two-state solution in the region, vowed to enforce the Iran nuclear agreement and help defend Israel's security. The former secretary of state suggested in an interview with Israel's Channel 2 earlier this month that the Islamic State group was "rooting for Donald Trump's victory" and he had helped strengthen the hands of extremists by his provocative statements about Muslims.

Trump has been a fierce critic of the Iran nuclear agreement and promised during a speech to AIPAC earlier this year that he would deepen ties between the two countries if he was elected president, adding the days of "treating Israel like a second-class citizen will end on day one." But he also raised eyebrows when he questioned Israel's commitment to a peace deal last year and said he didn't want to show any bias in favor of one side or the other.

The meetings will also come after the US recently completed a 10-year, \$38 billion military aid package for Israel. Clinton said in a statement that it would help "solidify and chart a course for the US-Israeli defense relationship in the 21st century as we face a range of common challenges." —AP

## BRITAIN, FRANCE, US SEEK URGENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SYRIA

UNITED NATIONS: Britain, France and the United States have requested an urgent UN Security Council meeting on the escalating campaign in Syria's second city of Aleppo, diplomats said Saturday.

The meeting was likely to be held at 10 am (1400 GMT) yesterday, the diplomats said. Intense air strikes toppled buildings and killed at least 45 civilians in Aleppo on Saturday, two days after the Syrian army announced an offensive to retake the rebel-held east of the city.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon earlier said he was appalled by the "chilling" upsurge in fighting in Aleppo and warned that the use of advanced weaponry in the

battleground city could amount to war crimes. Ban cited reports of air strikes involving the use of incendiary weapons, bunker buster bombs and other powerful munitions in the offensive launched by the Syrian army two days ago to recapture the city.

He warned that "the apparent systematic use of these types of indiscriminate weapons in densely populated areas may amount to war crimes," a statement from his spokesman said.

A weeklong ceasefire agreed between the United States and Russia ended on Monday and efforts to revive the truce failed. —AFP



LONDON: In this July 17, 2013 file photo, Then British Home Secretary Theresa May, left, and British Prime Minister David Cameron leave 10 Downing Street. —AP

## UK LEADER MAY ACCUSED OF DUPLICITY IN RUN-UP TO BREXIT VOTE

LONDON: A former senior British government official says Prime Minister Theresa May undermined her predecessor, David Cameron, in the run-up to Britain's June 23 referendum to leave the European Union.

The accusation is levied in yesterday's published serialization of a book by Cameron's communications director, Craig Oliver. Oliver writes that Cameron was driven to the edge of exasperation while seeking support from May for voters to keep Britain inside the EU.

May, home secretary in Cameron's government, was officially committed to retaining EU membership but maintained a low profile during the campaign. In his book, "Unleashing Demons: The Inside Story of Brexit," Oliver says Cameron repeatedly pressed May to take a prominent role in pro-EU campaigning but she adopted a "submarine strategy of disappearing from view." May declined to respond. —AP

## JOURNALIST'S EXILE SHOWS CONCERN OVER NEPAL'S PRESS FREEDOM

**KATHMANDU, NEPAL:** A prominent local journalist who helped organize a gathering in Nepal of investigative reporters from throughout Asia was notably absent from the event, exiled to avoid possible arrest.

Journalist and publisher Kunda Dixit, who founded the Nepal Center for Investigative Journalism, is under investigation by the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority. Global Investigative Journalism Network executive director David Kaplan, who worked with Dixit for more than a year to bring more than 350 journalists from 50 countries to Nepal this weekend, said Dixit is being targeted for prosecution and detention by Nepali officials, underscoring broader concerns about press freedom.

"He fled Nepal just weeks before this conference because of a witch hunt in which he's scared of being detained and imprisoned if he comes back

here," said Kaplan. "Kunda is one of our best and we are here because of him. We are all going to continue fighting for what Kunda believes in."

### Abuse of Authority

Nepal's home ministry spokesman Yadav Koirala said Dixit's issues are not related to the overall government and only concern the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority.

The commission's official Ganesh Raj Karki said his agency has no warrant or case against Dixit because he is not a public figure and thus cannot be charged. However, Dixit and his brother, also a publisher, are being investigated for the amount of property they have in their names.

Dixit said he's waiting for courts to grant him protection against unfair prosecution by the commission. Some local journalists and editors say Dixit's situation highlights growing government

pressure on journalists to avoid publishing anything that could cast authorities in a poor light, even if they're true and fairly reported. At least one news magazine is being forced to close, and a radio station was demolished last week after authorities said its building encroached on forest lands.

US Ambassador Alaina B. Teplitz told journalists that free press is an issue the State Department is closely watching in this impoverished Himalayan nation fraught with political instability. The ninth government in 10 years took power last month, and a constitution adopted last year both espouses a right to free expression and has clauses that seem potentially restrictive of the press.

"I don't think Nepal can have a healthy democracy at the end of the day if it doesn't have a healthy media and citizens aren't free to express themselves, as you say, without fear of dire consequences," said Teplitz, who would not speak specifi-

cally about Dixit's situation. When pressed, she said having a free and open press is a high value to the U.S., which is at least officially espoused in Nepal.

"There are elements out there in a very politicized society with a lot of politicized institutions that are not as in love with that concept as we are," she said.

As for Dixit, he was sad to miss the conference where journalists shared tips, story ideas and research methods. He was supposed to introduce Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe editor Walter Robinson, featured in the Academy Award-winning film "Spotlight." Instead he sent a video from his unnamed location, drawing huge cheers.

"Our officials have refined their methods. They don't do anything as crude as jailing journalists anymore. Censorship today is achieved by behind-the-scenes threats which can be even more insidious and sinister," he told The Associated Press.—AP

## SPAIN'S BASQUES, GALICIANS VOTE IN KEY REGIONAL POLLS

**SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN:** Spain's Basque country and Galicia went to the polls yesterday in regional elections that may help unblock the long-lasting national political paralysis.

The country is stuck in limbo, run by a government without full powers following two inconclusive elections which the conservative Popular Party (PP) won without an absolute majority, and which have seen parties unable to reach any coalition deal. As such, mainstream parties are watching the regional elections closely to see if they lose ground to upstarts or nationalist groupings, and none more so than the Socialist party (PSOE), which polls said would fare badly.

A poor showing following bad results in December's general election and again in a June repeat vote may prompt the party's dissenting "barons", or regional presidents, to push party leader Pedro Sanchez out. "If we don't have a good score, they will use that to try to overthrow Pedro Sanchez," a source close to the Socialist leader, who wished to remain anonymous, told AFP.

Sanchez is unpopular among many "barons" who think the party should help put an end to Spain's nine-month deadlock by admitting defeat, allowing a right-wing coalition government led by acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy to come to power. Sanchez, however, refuses to do so.

The PSOE voted against a Rajoy-led government in a parliamentary vote of confidence earlier this month, and is attempting to negotiate a left-wing coalition alternative with arch-rival Podemos, the far-left anti-austerity party. But a weak result could

put an end to this, either forcing Sanchez out or pressuring him into allowing the right-wing coalition government through by abstaining in another vote of confidence. Polls ahead of Saturday's vote indicated that in the northwestern region of Galicia, the Socialists would lose their second place to the En Marea coalition that includes Podemos, while the ruling PP is expected to win again. In the northern Basque Country, the PSOE was forecast to lose ground to Podemos and possibly score its worst ever result in the lush green region on the Atlantic coast.

### 'Domino effect'

Barcelona-based daily newspaper El Periodico said in an editorial that the polls would "have a domino effect on Spanish politics" and put an end "to the endless game of chess that the major Spanish parties are playing". Polling stations opened at 9:00 am (0700 GMT), and many voters expressed frustration at the inability of politicians to form a national government.

"We are making fools of ourselves," said Mercedes Solana, 61, a public servant, as she cast her ballot in the fashionable Basque Atlantic resort of San Sebastian.

"No one reaches an agreement, everyone looks after themselves, they don't talk."

Elections in the Basque country have an added significance as residents seek to turn the page on past violence by ETA separatists. The last regional elections in 2012 came just a year after the armed group declared a permanent ceasefire following four decades of shootings and bombings. — AFP



MERIGNAC, GIRONDE, FRANCE: This file photo taken on March 4, 2015 shows a French-made Dassault Rafale jet fighter at an assembly hangar.—AFP

## FRENCH FIGHTER JET DEAL: AN INDIAN SAGA

### BIGGEST WEAPONS IMPORTER

**NEW DELHI:** The less-than-supersonic sale of French Rafale fighter jets to India has highlighted the obstacles facing foreign arms firms seeking to do business with the world's biggest weapons importer.

India has signed a series of key defense deals under Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of a \$100 billion upgrade of its Soviet-era military hardware, making it an attractive proposition for arms exporters. But a series of corruption scandals have made India a challenging environment, with huge delays and a tough negotiation process.

After nearly a decade of discussions and setbacks India signed a deal Friday to acquire 36 Rafale fighter jets for 7.9 billion euros (\$8.8 billion) as it seeks to bolster its military against an increasingly assertive China.

Defense experts say the aircraft, manufactured by France's Dassault, will provide a much needed boost to India's air force. But the final windfall was much less than had been hoped for by the French. "The Indians always conduct very tough negotiations. They are known for it," said Isabelle Saint-Mezard, a specialist in South Asian strategic issues at the University of Paris. "They have all the major weapons suppliers knocking at their door, so they are well positioned to do so." Eric Trappier, CEO of Dassault Aviation, has gained experience of India's bargaining tactics in recent years. "India is a school of patience," he said. The country ranks 130 out of 189 on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index—the worst of all G20 countries—and regulations vary

capriciously across its 29 states, where even the same law can be interpreted in bafflingly different ways.

### Fear of corruption

Allegations of corruption have plagued Indian defense deals as far back as 1987, when then-prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's government collapsed over charges of kickbacks paid to Indian officials by the Swedish group Bofors to clinch a \$1.3-billion artillery deal.

Fears of further corruption meant that "the modernization of the armed forces stalled," said Gulshan Luthra of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses in New Delhi.

To erect safeguards against graft India ramped up its army of bureaucrats dealing with weapons sales, with contracts becoming trapped in a paper maze. The smallest comment on an arms deal required from a government department can delay a case for several months. "In recent years, the authorities have tried to clamp down on graft. As a result, officials in charge of issuing contracts fear exposing themselves to suspicion of corruption and are reluctant to engage," said St. Mezard.

For a contract to succeed, "it usually takes strong political will at the highest level of the state," she added. But all these precautions do not prevent old demons resurfacing.

In 2013 the government scrapped a \$748 million contract with AgustaWestland helicopters following allegations it was won through kickbacks.

### Technology transfer

Deals are also complicated because India is determined to achieve its goal of being less dependent on foreign trade for its military equipment. Its tenders are accompanied by significant technology transfer requests.

For example, one mooted deal was to have seen Dassault assemble 108 out of 126 fighter jets on Indian soil. But the French refused to assume responsibility for all the planes that were to be built in India.

"The Indians insist on such deals, but without always having the means or the expertise to carry them out. As a result, suppliers are reluctant to embark on this sort of agreement," said St. Mezard. Faced with an urgent need to modernize its military, Modi's government finally opted for the direct sale of 36 ready-to-fly Rafale jets, which will be manufactured in France. But Dassault will be contractually bound to reinvest nearly half of the value of the deal in India, an obligation known as the offset clause. "The offset rules are very complicated and opaque," said Rahul Bedi, a Jane's Defence Weekly analyst. "We are talking high-tech and the Indian industry does not have the sophistication to absorb such offsets." India has signed several big-ticket deals since Hindu nationalist Modi took power in 2014. The increasing assertiveness of its giant neighbour China as well as its simmering rivalry with Pakistan have increased its need to upgrade its military. That signals many potential contracts for foreign arms suppliers despite the obstacles. —AFP



VIGO, GALICIA, SPAIN: Ruling Popular Party (PP) candidate for the Galician regional election, Alberto Nunez Feijoo casts his ballot at a polling station yesterday.—AFP

## FEWER ATTACKS HITTING KABUL, PENTAGON SAYS

**WASHINGTON:** Citing "successful" counterterrorism operations by the US military, the Pentagon said Friday that attacks in the Afghan capital Kabul have decreased from 23 "high profile attacks" last year to 16 this year. "A lot of this has been possible because of the decisions that President (Barack) Obama's made in support of our campaign," Commander of US Forces in Afghanistan Gen. John Nicholson Jr. told reporters.

"The decision to maintain our troop levels at 8,400 enables us to continue to conduct advising to the corps level, and in the case of special forces and other units, even below the corps level going into next year," he added. Nicholson also pointed to the airstrike that killed Taliban leader Mullah Mansour in Pakistan in May, which had a "disruptive effect on the Taliban," as well as the newly-granted authority to use drones and other "US combat enablers" to provide support to the Afghan military. "The confi-

dence of the Afghan people, the confidence of their security forces within the government and I think also the effect on the enemy has been important for these decisions by the Administration and the consequent effect of these decisions on the battlefield," he said. Afghans in the military or police, however, died in large numbers last year with some 900 casualties reported by the Pentagon. "We believe that with improvements in leadership and a system like supply systems and so forth and through a reduction of dependency on check points, that this will reduce the potential for casualties," Nicholson said.

"This is where many of the casualties have been suffered in small, you know, 30 to 50 man checkpoints. They get overrun by a larger enemy force. So we're working with our Afghan partners on that on how to adjust their tactics and their systems to lower their casualty. So that's extremely important," he added. —KUNA



KOLKATA: Indian students hold posters and placards as they prepare to take part in a walk alongside Roman Catholic nuns from the Missionaries of Charity to commemorate the life of Saint Teresa of Kolkata.—AFP

## UK SOAP SACKS PAKISTAN-BORN ACTOR FOR OFFENSIVE INDIA TWEETS

**LONDON:** A Pakistan-born actor has been sacked from Britain's most popular television soap after posting what broadcaster ITV called yesterday "entirely unacceptable, racially offensive" comments about Indians on social media.

Marc Anwar, 45, joined "Coronation Street", the world's longest-running TV soap opera, in 2014 as a member of the show's first Muslim family. The Sunday Mirror newspaper published screenshots of the messages posted on his personal Twitter account.

The posts hit out at India over the Kashmir dispute and suggested Pakistani actors should refuse to work in the country. "Indians killing our Kashmir brothers and sisters," he wrote.

He called Indians "b\*\*\*\*\*ds" and used other insulting terms. An ITV spokeswoman said: "We are deeply shocked by the entirely unacceptable, racially offensive comments made on Twitter by Marc

Anwar. "We have talked to Marc and, as a consequence of his comments, he will not be returning to 'Coronation Street' with immediate effect."

His character, love cheat gym boss Sharif Nazir, will still appear in scenes that have already been filmed for upcoming episodes. The actor has appeared in Hollywood films including "Captain Phillips" and "51st State".

Famed for its cobbled streets and wistful big-band theme tune, "Coronation Street", which began in 1960, became the longest-running soap opera in the world in 2010. Set in a fictional suburb of Manchester in northwest England, it remains one of Britain's most-watched programs with around eight million viewers.

It has also been syndicated in dozens of countries around the world. Guest stars have included Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne. —AFP

## CLASHES KILL 22 POLICEMEN, WOUNDS 11 OTHERS IN AFGHANISTAN

**ISLAMABAD:** At least 22 policemen were killed and around 11 others received injuries during a firefight with Taliban rebels in the capital of Afghanistan's central Uruzgan province, said officials on Friday.

Provincial governors spokesman, Dost Mohammad Nayab told media that the three-hour-long gun battle erupted after militants stormed security checkpoints in the Charamgar area of Tirinkot city.

He confirmed that a number of security personnel and attackers had suffered casualties. A public representative, Provincial Council Chairman Abdul Karim Khadimzai confirmed that at least 22 policemen including an Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander were killed and 11 others wounded in the attack by Taliban. Nine police officials have been missing in the wake of the fierce clash, he added.

The attack came a day after at least three Afghan border policemen were killed and nine others wounded in a clash with Taliban rebels in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province bordering Pakistan. Taliban rebels have paced up their attacks across Afghanistan rejecting the peace dialogue offer by Afghan government.—KUNA

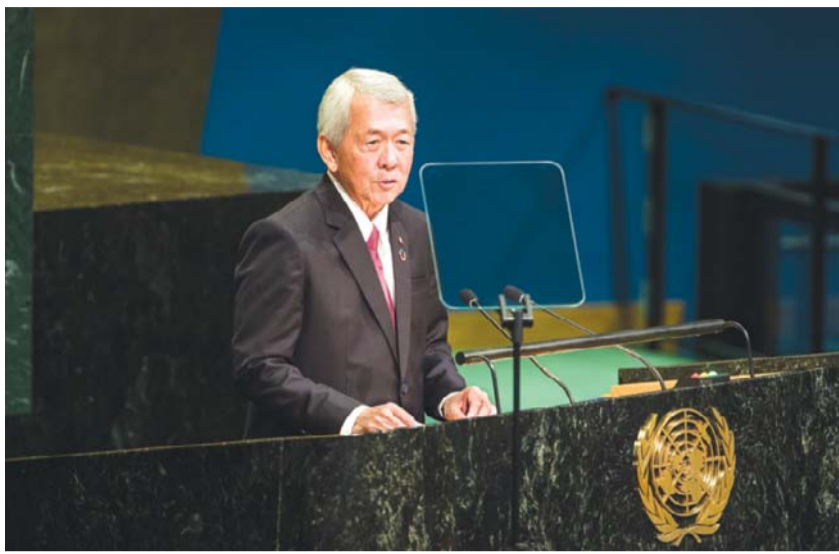
## PHILIPPINE FM SAYS RIGHTS RESPECTED AMID CRACKDOWN

**UNITED NATIONS:** Despite growing international criticism of his government's bloody crackdown on illegal drugs, the Philippines top diplomat told world leaders Saturday that the rule of law governs the campaign to eradicate the illicit substances, which he said have stunted the country's development.

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Perfecto Yasay said President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown is guided by a respect for human rights and the legal system, even though thousands of drug dealers and users have been killed in recent months.

"The rule of law and strict adherence to due process fully governs our campaign against corruption and criminality, including the fight against illegal drugs," he said.

More than 3,000 suspected drug dealers and users have been killed since July and more than 600,000 others have surrendered out of fear of being killed. Despite growing alarm and interna-



**UN HEADQUARTERS:** Philippines' Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay addresses the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday. —AP

national criticism, including from President Barack Obama and human rights watchdogs, the controversial Duterte has said he won't stop the campaign. He has said that killing drug suspects is lawful if police act in self-defense and urged citizens with guns to shoot and kill drug dealers who resist arrest. Witnesses have accused some police of gunning down people suspected of being involved in illegal drugs.

Yasay, who was addressing the UN General Assembly during its annual ministerial meeting Saturday, said the government is determined to eradicate the distribution, sale and use of illegal drugs because they threaten the country's peace and order "which, in turn, impedes our sustainable development goals." Duterte, 71, overwhelmingly won election in May on the ambitious promise of eradicating corruption and crime, particularly illegal drugs, in six months. He recently said he underestimated the

magnitude of the drug problem and will extend the crackdown by another half year.

Duterte said this week he will invite the U.N. chief and European Union officials to investigate his anti-drug effort, but only if he can question them in public afterward to prove their human rights concerns are baseless. He disclosed the offer in a speech Thursday in the Philippines in which he again lashed out at critics of his crackdown, including Obama. He accused them of hypocrisy for raising concerns about his anti-crime fight while launching military strikes that have killed innocent people in the Middle East.

Yasay acknowledged the scrutiny that the drugs crackdown has evoked from the international community. "We urge everyone to allow us to deal with our domestic challenges in order to achieve our national goals, without undue interference," he said. —AP

## NORTH KOREAN DEFECTORS SOLD AS BRIDES IN CHINA WANT KIDS BACK

### NOWHERE TO GO

**SEOUL:** After fleeing North Korea to avoid extreme poverty and oppression, the young woman allowed a stranger to arrange a marriage for her with a rural Chinese farmer because she had nowhere to go. An even more painful decision came later.

She said severe abuse by her husband, including once being tied to a post, and the constant fear police would send her back to the North to face torture and prison convinced her that she needed to flee to South Korea. She decided she had to make the risky journey alone, leaving behind the young daughter she had with her Chinese husband.

"My heart has been torn apart," the 35-year-old said of the daughter she left in the north-eastern Chinese town of Longjing nearly 10 years ago, when the girl was 4. "I heard from my Chinese husband that my daughter cried herself to sleep and searched for me until she turned 8."

She asked to be identified only by her surname, Kim, out of fear that publicity about her past would destroy her life in the South, where she has remarried and has two other children.

#### Lost touch

Kim has lost touch with her daughter and is afraid to return to China, but neither she nor other defectors in similar situations have given up. Deep shame and guilt about not seeing their children and worry about social stigma in the South kept them silent for years, but some have begun pushing publicly for international help to get back their children. Four defectors plan to travel to the United States next month to seek help from US and United Nations officials.

It will not be easy. Experts say Chinese authorities aren't likely to accept the appeals because the women were illegal residents and their relationships were not legally recognized marriages. Their efforts to reunite with their children could be viewed as individual family problems, rather than human-rights issues requiring international intervention.

"Is there any female defector who had regis-

tered their marital status in China?" said Yoon Yeo Sang, a co-founder of the Seoul-based non-profit Database Center for North Korean Human Rights. "For China, they were the ones who were supposed to be repatriated, and I wonder if China would accept their common-law marital status and take necessary legal steps."

China's foreign ministry did not reply to questions about whether it would help the women. The defectors say they deserve international attention because their plight was primarily caused by the North's abysmal rights conditions and by China's policy of repatriating North Korean defectors who are caught hiding in the country. "There are South Korean laws, Chinese laws and North Korean laws, but none of them can help us," said Kim Jungah, 40, a North Korean defector living in the South who was separated from her child in China. Now an activist, she will lead three other women on a trip to Washington and New York from Oct. 8-18.

The 35-year-old Kim from Longjing had initially planned to go to the United States as well but said she cancelled due to worries about the publicity. The market for selling North Korean women into marriage in China heated up after the North suffered a devastating famine in the mid-1990s that's thought to have killed hundreds of thousands. China has significantly fewer women than men, and the imbalance is particularly acute in rural farming areas because young women often migrate to big cities seeking better economic opportunities.

Bride trafficking of North Korean women may have eased in recent years, but thousands of North Korean women sold to Chinese men are believed to still live in China, most illegally, according to activists specializing in North Korea affairs. In the early years of bride trafficking, most North Korean women were lured by brokers who promised food and jobs in China; some were abducted. But later on, many have volunteered to be sold as brides because they lacked money to sneak across the border and believed living with Chinese men would decrease the

danger of arrest and repatriation, according to Ahn Kyung-soo, a Seoul-based activist who has interviewed many defectors.

#### Slipped into China

Kim - the woman who agreed to be identified only by surname - said she slipped into China on her own and managed to stay at an orchard for a few days in 2002. The orchard's owner proposed that she marry one of his Chinese friends, 14 years her senior. Kim accepted because she had nowhere else to go. She later found that the orchard owner had essentially sold her to his friend as a way to clear a 6,000 yuan (\$900) debt.

After arriving in China, many women are beaten or sexually abused before being sold to husbands. Park Kyung-hwa, who escaped from her traffickers in 2000, said she saw brokers grope other trafficked women many times. She said brokers kicked and beat her with wooden clubs for about 20 minutes when her first attempt to escape failed.

"The brokers didn't see (North Korean women) as human beings, but as products to sell," said Park, 44. Young women are sometimes sent to karaoke bars or brothels, or forced to work on adult video chat sites, according to defectors and activists.

Park said brokers tried to sell her twice to bars, although she asked to be sold as a bride. One bar owner in Shenyang examined her and two other North Korean women for 10 minutes before deciding not to buy anyone.

"If I was taller and a little prettier, I think I would have been sold," said Park, who now works for a Seoul-based shortwave radio station targeting North Koreans. She said she came to South Korea in 2002. Chinese looking for North Korean brides are often old and less well-off; some are disabled bachelors or widowers who work as farmers or manual laborers in rural villages. Some treat the women well, and even end up moving with their wives to South Korea. The four women traveling to the US next month include one whose husband allowed her and their child to come to South Korea and sent them money.

#### Other men, however, inflict horrible abuse.

When Kim once returned days after running away, she said, her husband tied her to a wooden post for several hours in the middle of the night. She said she was forced to urinate while standing. Days before she gave birth to their daughter, she said her husband beat her with a broom until she bled from her nose because she fought with his mother.

Many of the women flee their husbands in secret. Some tell them they are going to the South only to make money and will come back. Yet many are terrified of actually returning, out of fear they could be repatriated or even captured by North Korean secret agents.

Kim said she regularly sent money, clothes and other gifts to her husband in China, but he broke off contact several years ago after determining she would never return. In her last phone conversation with her daughter, the child complained about being abandoned. Kim said life with her two South Korean children has helped her begin to understand the pain her daughter in China must have suffered. — AP



**GUNPO, SOUTH KOREA:** In this Sept. 4, 2016 photo, North Korean defector Kim Jungah, right, speaks during an interview with her husband Kim JongPhil at their house. —AP

## PROBE YOUR OWN BROTHER, OUSTED THAI PM TELLS JUNTA CHIEF

**BANGKOK:** Thailand's first female prime minister yesterday told the man who ousted her government two years ago to investigate his own brother over corruption allegations, in an unusually strong broadside against the junta.

Yingluck Shinawatra was booted from office shortly before army chief Prayut Chan-O-Cha seized power in May 2014, the military's second coup in less than a decade and their twelfth successful power grab since 1932. Since then she has been hit with a series of junta-led prosecutions including a retroactive impeachment, an ongoing criminal negligence trial that could see her jailed for up to a decade and a separate move to seize more than \$1 billion in civil damages.

The last two legal cases stem from a popular but financially costly rice subsidy scheme that Yingluck's government pushed. "The Prime Minister (Prayut) says that all the legal actions against me are based on the law and are not bullying," Yingluck wrote on her Facebook account yesterday. "I would like the Prime Minister to apply the same logic and justice given to me like he gives justice and

protection to his brother and other people who are on his side. Because the laws should be enforced for everyone, not just used only against my side."

Yingluck's comments were a direct reference to new corruption allegations that have surfaced this month against Prime Minister Prayut's brother Preecha Chan-O-Cha, who is also a senior army general. Local media said one of Preecha's sons had won a series of lucrative construction contracts from Thailand's Third Army, which Preecha used to command.

Preecha insisted his son won the contracts in a fair tender process and denied any wrongdoing. But it is not the first time the junta chief's brother has had to deny negative headlines. Earlier this year he admitted helping another son land a well-paid officer's job in the military. And when the junta ordered senior officials to reveal their wealth-part of a post-coup attempt at transparency-Preecha had \$1.2 million in his bank account-money he said was military assets he was looking after and not his own personal wealth.

Such headlines have stung Prayut, who has defended his coup as necessary to root out political corruption and end years of instability between competing factions. However critics say his regime has been selective in graft prosecutions, with the main aim being to rid the country of the Shinawatra political clan.

Yingluck's billionaire brother Thaksin was ousted as prime minister in a 2006 coup.

The Shinawatras have won all general elections since 2001 by promising greater wealth and opportunity to the nation's poor, especially in the long-neglected north and northeast.

But their parties were loathed by a Bangkok elite and by southern voters-backed by the military establishment-who accused them of corruption and nepotism.

Prime Minister Prayut appeared to distance himself from his brother in comments on Sunday after returning from New York, the first time he has addressed the issue in detail. "A brother is a brother, it's not the same as me," he said. "He is not stupid. But I do not make a guarantee for him because it is his responsibility." —AFP



**JAPAN:** This photo taken on September 14, 2016 shows employees of the Ozawa Shuzo brewery packing bottles of sake in boxes. —AFP

## JAPAN SAKE POURS OVERSEAS AS LOCAL MARKET DRIES UP

**OME, JAPAN:** Ozawa Shuzo brewery hums with activity as boxed bottles of sake are loaded onto trucks. But with the domestic market shrinking, more and more of it is bound for burgeoning overseas markets where the centuries old drink is all the rage.

The small establishment has recently drawn interest from potential new customers in Thailand, Vietnam and South Korea, on top of a coterie of existing ones in the United States, France and Singapore. Sake, a fermented drink made of rice, has hit hard times in its homeland amid changing tastes, but manufacturers are welcoming growing popularity overseas.

A steady flow of tourists visiting Ozawa Shuzo could be a sign of things to come. "We cannot easily go abroad to explain what sake is all about, so by doing this (tours) at our brewery I hope visitors will get a better understanding of its value," Junichiro Ozawa, president of the 300-year-old Ozawa Shuzo, told AFP at his brewery on Tokyo's mountainous western fringe.

Underlining sake's increasing global renown, the influential guide Robert Parker's Wine Advocate this month issued ratings for the beverage.

Sake exports have doubled in the past decade to some 18,180 kilolitres, according to Japanese government figures, with the United States the largest single foreign market, accounting for about one-quarter of the total. Impressive growth, but that is just three percent of total shipments, suggesting plenty of room for further expansion abroad.

#### Promoter-in-chief

Major export destinations are the US, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China and South Korea, according to the agriculture ministry, making up 70 percent of the total.

Shipments to fastest-growing market China shot up more than three-fold between 2008 and last year, while they more than doubled to South Korea during that time. In Hong Kong, where Japanese food and culture are popular, sake has been appearing on more and more restaurant menus in recent years. "Compared to when I first started out in the business, people have increasingly become more interested in appreciating and learning more about sake," said Stephen Tse, who manages a Japanese restaurant in Tai Hang, an upscale neighbourhood in the southern Chinese

city. Authorities have actively pushed sake overseas, part of a "Cool Japan" strategy aimed at highlighting the country's soft power, along with manga comic books and Japanese food. "Exports are increasing thanks largely to the soaring popularity of Japanese cuisine overseas," said an official familiar with the sake industry at the National Tax Agency.

Government data show some 89,000 Japanese restaurants existed outside Japan as of July 2015, up sharply from 55,000 just two years before. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who recently dressed as Nintendo game character Super Mario at the Rio Olympics, is more than happy to serve as promoter-in-chief for Japanese sake.

In 2014, he presented bottles of the brew from his home region to US President Barack Obama and in 2013 to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Historical references to sake date to the eighth century and the drink has played an important role in seasonal festivals. Drinking it was believed to drive away impurities and evil spirits, according to an industry association. But despite its long pedigree and status as national alcohol, it's popularity has been waning as consumer tastes increasingly turn to western beverages including whisky and wine.

#### Sake sommelier

Domestically, sake consumption dropped to about 557,000 kilolitres in 2014, compared with 746,000 kilolitres a decade earlier, the government said.

Younger people see the drink as decidedly uncool. "We have this image that sake is a drink for older men," said Shinobu Yashiro, who was accompanying her mother on a visit to Ozawa Shuzo.

Rapidly ageing Japan has no shortage of old men. But many have cut back on imbibing for health reasons while companies trim the entertainment budgets that once financed all-night drinking sessions. Sake sommeliers will be key to boosting sales overseas, said Haruyuki Hioki, president of the Sake Service Institute International. The group has certified about 1,000 international sommeliers. "Training people who can explain sake is key," Hioki said. "Wine consumption is growing so much in Japan thanks to sommeliers and lots of media coverage. But many people overseas still don't know much about sake." —AFP

## CHINA'S LI SEEKS NEW TACK IN TIES WITH CUBA

**HAVANA:** Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Saturday said it was time for a new direction in relations with Cuba, during a landmark visit to the Americas' lone communist-ruled state. During the first visit by a Chinese premier since the two countries established diplomatic relations 56 years ago Li pledged to "inject a new dynamic in (bilateral) relations," Cuban state media reported. Li met with President Raul Castro at the Palace of the Revolution, with the two communist countries signing about 30 cooperation agreements in a wide range of areas, including a protocol canceling Cuban debts and four loan deals for projects on the island, according to local television. Though the Cold War ended years ago, Cuba remains isolated after having lost the Soviet Union, and

then Venezuela, as its key political and economic allies.

Cuba has restored full diplomatic relations with its longtime nemesis, the United States. Havana is cash-strapped and does not have access to commercial credit. China is Cuba's top creditor-and its number two trade partner after Venezuela. Their total bilateral trade was worth \$1.6 billion in 2015, Chinese sources said. Li called for deepening cooperation on biotechnology, renewable energy, computers, home appliances and farm machinery, as well as in culture, education and tourism. Li arrived from Canada, after announcing with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau an agreement to begin talks aimed at reaching a free-trade agreement. —AFP



Indian students of Swaminarayan Gurukul in traditional attire practice Garba, a traditional dance of Gujarat state, ahead of the Hindu festival Navratri in Ahmadabad yesterday.— AP

## JORDANIAN WRITER GUNNED DOWN OUTSIDE...

Continued from Page 1

The gunman, a 49-year-old resident of the capital, gave himself up to police at the court, the source added. Jordanian media, citing anonymous officials, identified the shooter as Riad Abdullah from northern Hashmi, a poor neighborhood in Amman. The reports said Abdullah had recently returned from a trip abroad, but gave no further details. The Khabiri news site said Abdullah had confessed to police that he was upset over the cartoon. An AFP journalist saw blood on the steps of the building where police had cordoned off the area of the shooting.

A judicial source later said the assailant was remanded for 15 days and charged with premeditated murder, meaning he could face the death penalty if convicted. The suspect, an education ministry employee, had acted alone and was not linked to any "terrorist" group, a source close to his interrogation said, asking not to be named.

Mohammad Al-Jaghbir, Hattar's friend, told AFP he had witnessed the killing. "We were climbing the steps when a bearded man... got a pistol out of a bag he was carrying and fired at Nahed Hattar," he said. Hattar's family said the writer had no protection despite having asked for it after receiving death threats on Facebook and by phone. Hattar was a political commentator known for his antipathy towards Islamists including Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood and also his support for Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad.

The cartoon Hattar posted on his Facebook page featured an illustration of God under the title "God of Daesh", using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. Hattar removed the cartoon after it triggered outrage on social media. At the time, he explained on Facebook that the cartoon made fun of "terrorists and how they imagine God and heaven, and does not insult God in any way".

He was arrested on Aug 13 and charged with inciting sectarian strife and insulting Islam, before being

released on bail in early September.

The attorney general had imposed a blackout on media coverage of the case against Hattar, who was also known as a leftist. Prime Minister Hani Al-Malki had ordered Interior Minister Salam Hammad to summon the writer and to initiate legal proceedings against him.

Yesterday, Hattar's brother Majed, who accompanied him to his trial, blamed the government for his death. "We hold the prime minister, the minister of the interior and the security services responsible for Nahed's killing," Majed said. "Nahed Hattar was killed in cold blood in front of the highest institution of justice in Jordan." The government denounced the killing as "heinous" and said the law would be "firmly applied to the person who committed the crime".

The opposition Muslim Brotherhood and Dar al-Iftaa, the highest religious authority, also condemned the attack. Jordan is a leading member of the US-led coalition fighting IS in neighboring Iraq and Syria, and was targeted in a June 21 suicide bombing that killed seven border guards. The kingdom has carried out air strikes targeting IS militants and also hosts coalition troops on its territory.

Hundreds of Jordanians have been sentenced to prison, are awaiting trial or are being held for questioning about links to IS. Under toughened anti-terror laws, even liking or sharing the group's propaganda on social media can land someone a prison sentence. But yesterday, social media accounts of prominent Islamists in Jordan and elsewhere were celebrating Hattar's death, saying he deserved it for blasphemy.

Anja Wehler-Schoek, resident director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Jordan, said she found the social media posts "shocking". The German foundation promotes democracy and political education in the region. "This is clearly a very dark day for Jordan, which has long been celebrated as a model of peaceful coexistence," she said. "I am very worried we are seeing the end of an era here and more and more problems to come in the future." — Agencies

## OMAN AIR DISABLES MISNAMED 'PERSIAN'...

Continued from Page 1

In 2010, Tehran said it would not grant air access to planes using the term "Arabian Gulf" on their flight maps. Oman is the only state in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to have friendly relations with Iran.

Other monarchies in the bloc, particularly Saudi Arabia, accuse Iran of meddling in Arab affairs, especially in Syria and Yemen. The Gulf is home to the Bahrain-based US Fifth Fleet, and Iran and the United Arab Emirates are embroiled in a territorial dispute over the sovereignty of three islands in the waterway. — Agencies

## OPPOSITION ACTIVIST DETAINED OVER TWEETS...

Continued from Page 1

In a related development, MP Abdullah Maayouf yesterday asked the government to clarify the position over reports claiming that Egyptian fruit and vegetable exports could be contaminated with serious diseases like hepatitis.

The lawmaker called on the health ministry and Municipality to explain the issue to consumers amid alleged reports from the United States claiming contamination and official Egyptian denials. Authorities have said that Egyptian products will be tested before they are allowed to enter Kuwait.

## DIVIDED OPEC HEADS TO KEY TALKS

Continued from Page 1

On the other hand, mutual desperation could favour a consensus, given the toll that low prices have inflicted on OPEC economies.

Algerian Energy Minister Nouredine Boutarfa has notably said OPEC could call a special decision-making meeting in Algiers. Bloomberg has reported Saudi Arabia is willing to cut production provided Iran freezes its output at current levels. Tehran lifted production to 3.6 million barrels per day last month, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), approaching its pre-sanction 4.0 mb/d levels. Even so, the Saudi concession could founder on old rivalries. "OPEC, in the current context, no longer exists, because the political divergences are such that the secretary general finds it difficult to control anything at all," said Olivier Appert, head of the French Council of Energy.

Like Iran, Libya and Nigeria are reluctant to limit production after conflicts that have weakened their

economies and left pumping below capacity. Last week, an oil tanker left the key Libyan port of Ras Lanuf with the first crude shipment from the terminal since fighting halted exports in 2014. Russia meanwhile judges a possible five-percent reduction of its production to be realistic. But Pierre Terzian, who runs the newsletter Petrostrategies, said Russia has never reduced or frozen its production. "They say it, but will they do it?"

For Saudi, a too-sharp upturn in prices could also backfire as it would drive production in the US, which has now adapted to recent low pricing thanks to technological innovation. The temptation then is to await a rebalancing of the market, Appert said. Prices have strengthened since lows at the start of the year and currently stand at around \$45 a barrel, within striking distance of the \$50 to \$60 range desired by some OPEC members. But the glut is such that it looks set to last at least six months longer than previously thought, the IEA said this month, causing prices to fall back. — AFP

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## Issues

TIMBUKTU READY TO  
FORGIVE AS MILITANT  
FACES JUSTICE AT ICC

By Sebastien Rieussec

Timbuktu's residents still recall with horror the sight of militants waging a campaign of destruction against the fabled Malian city. But now some say they are ready to forgive an extremist whose trial in The Hague they see as a rare moment of justice. Tomorrow, Ahmad Al-Faqi Al-Mahdi will be sentenced on war crimes charges for his role in the destruction of nine of Timbuktu's holy shrines as well as the door of a revered mosque in 2012. "The pardon that he's asked for, for every Muslim it is right to accept it, regardless of the bad things he has done," said youth leader Salah Maiga. "We are ready to accept his apology and to forgive him."

Mahdi, himself from the Timbuktu area, has pleaded guilty to the charge of cultural destruction constituting a war crime by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and has begged for the community's forgiveness. His lawyer said he "lost his way" as head of Al-Qaeda-linked group Ansar Dine's "Hisbah" brigade, which enforced the group's strict interpretation of Islamic behaviour. "We were there with these barbarians, these lawless people without religion, who claim to speak in the name of Islam," Maiga said, recalling the day when Ansar Dine descended on the UNESCO world heritage site.

Speaking at the unveiling of the restored door of the Sidi Yahia mosque that was damaged by Mahdi's men, Maiga added that he was hoping for a "fair trial for someone who destroyed something that belonged to the whole of humanity".

## City of Saints

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 "city of 333 saints" for the number of sages buried there. For several months now, inhabitants have once again begun openly appealing to saints buried in tombs for help, believing they are capable of divine intervention. Mahdi was well known for his belief in a strict interpretation of Islamic sharia law that was not widely supported in the community but which Ansar Dine sought to impose when they took over the city.



Ahmad Al-Mahdi

Mahdi and his men considered the worship of saints un-Islamic. "I know exactly who he is," said jeweller Youba Maiga, who also witnessed the destruction at Sidi Yahia and remembered the curly-haired jihadist on patrol with his band of morality police. "We even spoke once: they said they were just coming for sharia, so that sharia could be applied. I said 'Before you do that, you have to check with everyone'," he added.

Muslims in Mali are better known for practicing a Sufi version of Islam, which is more pluralistic and incorporates some elements of mysticism. The jeweller said his own Islamic beliefs meant he had "no problem" forgiving Mahdi. "We just want peace here and we want justice to be done," he added. Ansar Dine was allied with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and a third local group until it was ousted in a French-led intervention in January 2013.

Large swathes of the country remain lawless and for some Malians Mahdi's case is a rare example of justice being carried out. "We think that you have to make an example of someone, even if that person represents a single, weak link in the whole chain of predators and criminals," writer and activist Ismaila Samba Traore told AFP in the Malian capital, Bamako. "There are criminals who are still out there, people with hands covered in blood," he said. "There has been so much violence during this crisis that a huge number of victims are awaiting a result that will deliver justice."

## Small Fish

El-Boukhari ben Essayouti, who oversaw the reconstruction of Timbuktu's damaged sites with UNESCO assistance, said that Mahdi's trial itself was a "teachable moment" and more important than the prison sentence of up to 11 years that he could face tomorrow. "The process has to be useful for something, showing to everyone that in the same way that we cannot kill another person with impunity, we cannot just destroy a world heritage site with impunity either," he said.

But others fear the trial has netted a small fish while the real perpetrators remain at large. "It's good that justice will be done. But it shouldn't be the case that this creates injustices: we catch the weakest and let the strongest go," said a Timbuktu resident who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals. "The ones really responsible are still out there." —AFP

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## US AIR FORCE SET TO REPLACE NUKE ARSENAL

By Thomas Watkins

Hidden underground in steel-and-concrete silos across rural America, more than 400 intercontinental ballistic missiles point to the skies, poised for launch - and ready to obliterate cities across the world. First designed in the 1960s at the height of the Cold War, the Minuteman nuclear weapons are starting to show their age, and replacement parts are difficult to find for the weapons designed in an analog age. Also ageing are their silos, many built in the 1950s and now rusting as water seeps through the decaying concrete.

Over the next 20 years, the US Air Force will switch out the entirety of its Minuteman III fleet with an as-yet-unnamed new missile known only as the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD). The Air Force estimates the cost of the GBSD, to be introduced late in the 2020s and phased in over the following decade, will be around \$86 billion over the missiles' life cycle of about 50 years. Critics point to the Defense Department's long history of projects going way over budget and say the cost of replacing the nukes and maintaining their launch facilities is not warranted, given the tactical threats the United States currently faces.

The Air Force "doesn't know how we are going to afford this," said Laicie Heeley, a nuclear expert at the Stimson Center, a nonpartisan anti-nuclear proliferation think tank in Washington. "Nuclear is crowding out more conventional systems that are (better suited to) the threats of today."

## America's Nuclear Triad

The Air Force issued requests for proposals in July for vendors to replace the Minuteman, named after colonial militiamen who eventually fought against the British in America's Revolutionary War. The prize will likely go to one of the three US defense giants: Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing, and the new missile will be equipped with state-of-the-art electronics while being protected from any cyber threats. America's intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) are just one leg of its "triad" - a three-pronged nuclear attack force also comprising submarines and bombers.



This Oct 27, 2010 US Air Force handout image shows an air force technician inspecting an LGM-30G Minuteman III missile inside a silo about 96 km from Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota —AFP

The Pentagon wants to replace or modernize all three legs of the triad, at a cost experts estimate will hit \$1 trillion over the next 30 years. "We flat can't afford it. And from a priorities standpoint, it's the wrong priority in the world that we face," Democratic Congressman Adam Smith told a Washington forum last week, noting that the ICBM force is the part of the triad best suited for reduction. The lawmaker said countries like China are able to boast a "spectacular deterrent" with far fewer nuclear weapons. "What they have is enough to say 'Don't screw with us, or we will obliterate you,'" he said, adding that even if the United States were to enter a major nuclear fight, "we're pretty much all toast anyways".

The Pentagon insists it is imperative to push ahead with a complete overhaul of America's nuclear force. While the United States and Russia signed a treaty in 2010 to reduce the numbers of nuclear launchers, Moscow is modernizing its own triad. "The Russians, the Chinese, the North Koreans are upgrading all of their systems," an Air Force official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the nuclear program. "They are upgrading all of their legs of the triad - in that environment, I am not sure it makes sense" to do nothing.

Another Air Force official said many of the vendors who first built or equipped the missile silos have long gone out of business, making it an arduous task to find replacement parts. He said he'd heard anecdotes of colleagues scouring Ebay or other sites looking for antique components. The Minuteman fleet is currently dotted across locations in North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter will today visit Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, where control centers for that state's nukes are located.

The Air Force has in recent years battled flagging morale among its "missileers" - airmen in charge of the land-based missile force. A series of embarrassing revelations in 2014 described the state of the nuclear force, with dozens of airmen disciplined cheating on a test. Other investigations have probed drug use. The trouble began after the demise of the Soviet Union, as the mission gradually received a lower priority and offered a less-promising career path. —AFP

## CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' FOR CHINESE INVESTORS

By Jocelyne Zablitz

From real estate, to high-tech firms to entertainment giants, Chinese investments in the United States, notably California, are moving at a dizzying pace and are on course to smash records again this year. Chinese companies shelled out a record \$15 billion last year in the US and that figure could more than double in 2016, according to research firm Rhodium Group and the National Committee on US-China Relations.

California, especially the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles, has been at the forefront of China's appetite to invest overseas, with billions of dollars going into the technology, renewable energy and entertainment sectors, and increasingly into real estate. China has pumped \$8 billion into California businesses since 2000, more than in any other state, a recent Rhodium Group study said. It added that there were 452 Chinese-owned businesses that employed more than 9,500 people in the Golden State as of the end of last year, among them the online commerce giant Alibaba Group and the Internet company Tencent Holdings Ltd.

## Buying Spree

Cash is also flowing into Hollywood, with the Beijing-based Wanda Group paying \$3.5 billion earlier this year to acquire the film studio Legendary Pictures, the largest-ever cultural takeover by China. The buying spree is showing no signs of abating for the foreseeable future, experts say, despite tumult in China's economy and mounting rhetoric during the US presidential campaign. "Chinese investment in the US - and California in particular - will almost certainly multiply in the coming years," said Matt Sheehan, who consults and writes about Chinese investment in the Golden State and whose forthcoming book is entitled "Chinaformia".

While the political climate isn't helping, cities across America are welcoming Chinese investments with open arms, drowning out the campaign rhetoric and anti-China sentiment in Congress. "If the domestic Chinese economy con-

tinues to boom, firms will have the loose cash to make strategic investments and vanity purchases abroad," said Sheehan. "If the Chinese economy and RMB currency go into a nosedive, you'll likely see a large capital flight disguised as overseas investment."

One sector increasingly on the Chinese shopping list in the US is real estate, with buyers snapping up expensive homes and high-end commercial properties at a record pace. Chinese investors pumped nearly \$11 billion into US real estate in the first five months of 2016, outpacing last year's total of \$4.37 billion, according to a report by real estate firm Cushman & Wakefield.

## Changing Skyline

The West Coast has proven a major draw with Chinese investments literally changing the skylines of downtown Los Angeles and San Francisco. Of the four mega development projects currently underway in Los Angeles, three are by Chinese firms, including a \$1 billion condominium and hotel development by Beijing-based Oceanwide Holdings and a similar project - Metropolis - by Shanghai-based Greenland Holding Group.

Once completed in 2018, Metropolis will be the largest mixed-use complex on the West Coast. In San Francisco, Oceanwide has acquired land that will house the city's second-tallest tower and several other Chinese-backed developments are on the books. Residential property is also part of the real estate buying frenzy, with sales more than doubling in the last three years. "In 2016, we had \$27.3 billion in volume of sales to Chinese buyers compared to \$7 to \$13 billion up until 2013," said Danielle Hale, an analyst with the National Association of Realtors.

She said roughly one third of those buyers found their way to California, more than to any other US state. Increasingly, however, buyers are no longer purchasing homes purely as investments but rather as primary residences. "We have seen a shift from people buying vacation or investment type property to people buying more primary residence type properties," Hale said. —AFP

AFTER MURKY GAS DEAL,  
UKRAINE BOWS TO WEST

By Dmitry Zaks

The scandal was complex but its outcome potentially simple - Ukraine tried to fiddle with its murky gas sector and to upset its EU partners enough to freeze huge sums of financial help. The fight for control over a profitable company that transports Russia's blue fuel to Europe also exposes the clan warfare and backstabbing that surrounds Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and hampers Kiev's bid to anchor its ties to the West. Ukrtransgaz is the money-making branch of the former Soviet republic's chronically struggling state oil and natural gas company.

It moves about half the gas purchased by Europe from Russia - or nearly one-tenth of the EU states' needs - and charges Moscow fees that added up to nearly a billion dollars last year. There seemed to be few troubles on its horizon until Ukraine's economy ministry unilaterally decided on September 7 to place the cash cow under its control.

The order sparked an immediate EU outcry because it put both Ukrtransgaz and its parent company in the same ministry's hands. This violated the European Union's "unbundling" rules that are designed to create competition and split up countries' pipeline networks from their production units. The timing was especially puzzling because it came just a week before the International Monetary Fund completed a months-long review and granted Ukraine a \$1-billion loan that had been held up for a year over corruption concerns.

The switch also threatened Poroshenko's bid to apply for EU membership by 2020 and get a \$300-million payment from the

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for future gas purchases. The economy ministry explained that it was putting the two companies under its ownership to avoid a developing conflict between their managers - and not to skim off Ukrtransgaz's profits to help fill its own expense accounts. But the EU's Secretariat of the Energy Community warned that Kiev's decision "may force enforcement action... and endanger the role of Ukraine as a transit country."

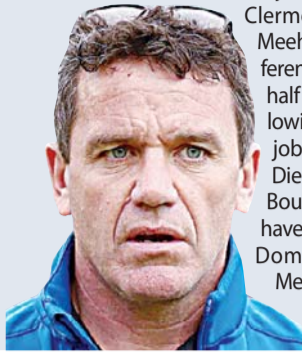
## West Steps In

The mounting pressure forced Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman to convene a meeting today with the principal players as well as the US ambassador and representatives from the EBRD and the World Bank to assure "all participants about his commitment to energy sector reforms". "Consequently, an agreement was reached to revoke the (economy ministry's) order," the government said in a statement. The World Bank's regional director Satu Kahkonen said he "welcomed" the prime minister's decision to cancel the abrupt ownership change of one of Ukraine's best sources of income.

Groysman also vowed Thursday to "speed up the process" of splitting Ukrtransgaz away from its parent under his government's guidance - something the economy ministry seemed unwilling to do. A senior EBRD adviser for eastern Europe also hailed the "quick and civilised resolution of these difficult events". "The Ukrainians understood the situation," the EBRD's Anton Usov told AFP. "There was a clear understanding of what needed to be done." —AFP

## TOULON CONFIRM SIGNING OF FORD

**PARIS:** Toulon's outspoken president Mourad Boudjellal confirmed yesterday that former Bath coach Mike Ford is the French Top 14 club's new backs coach. "For the last two years, I've enjoyed watching Bath play, a rugby I love, with the backs," enthused Boudjellal to Canal+ ahead of his team's Top 14 clash with Clermont. "I think he's the right person to replace Steve Meehan, who on Monday asked for a break, to take a different role within the club." Ford, the father of England fly-half George Ford, left Bath at the end of last season following a disappointing campaign. He will begin his new job today. The 50-year-old will work with Toulon coach Diego Dominguez who remains "the boss" according to Boudjellal. Rumours have been rife all season as Toulon have struggled-losing three of their first five matches-that Dominguez is on the brink of being fired. Australian Meehan coached Bath from 2006 to 2011, with Ford taking over the head coach role in 2013. —AFP



## COACH BASSEDAS QUILTS AFTER FAN VIOLENCE

**BUENOS AIRES:** Velez Sarsfield coach Christian Bessedas has handed in his resignation after a 3-0 home defeat by Racing Club on Saturday that sparked a violent reaction by hardcore fans. Club president Raul Gamez confirmed that former Velez, Newcastle United and Argentina midfielder Bessedas had resigned but told reporters he hoped to persuade the 43-year-old to change his mind. Velez, 10 times Argentine league champions, have lost three of their opening four matches this season. "Bessedas is hurting, of course, and he told me he's not carrying on," Gamez was quoted as saying on the club's website (www.velezsarsfield.com.ar). "He has a lot of love for Velez... and today he heard some things you can't hear for anyone with such feeling for the club," said Gamez, referring to fans' chants against the team. Violent "barrabrava" hooligans tried to break into the team's changing rooms after the match and had to be dispersed by riot police using tear gas, La Nacion newspaper reported. —Reuters

## MIAMI MARLINS PITCHER DIES IN BOAT CRASH

**FLORIDA:** Miami Marlins pitcher Jose Fernandez was killed in a boat crash early yesterday in Florida, according to a statement by the team and local media reports. He was 24 years old. "The Miami Marlins organization is devastated by the loss of Jose Fernandez," the Major League Baseball team said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this very difficult time." Fernandez was one of three people killed in the boating incident off Miami Beach, the Miami Herald reported. Emergency crews responded to reports of an overturned 30-foot-boat early yesterday near the Government Cut shipping channel and South Pointe Park, where they found two bodies in the water and one body on top of the boat, WSVN News reported. The Marlins canceled its game against the Atlanta Braves yesterday due to the death of Fernandez, who was the National League rookie of the year in 2013. —Reuters



## TASK FORCE REVAMPS US RYDER TEAM AFTER 2014 FLOP

**CHASKA:** A US Ryder Cup task force formed only days after a humbling 2014 defeat at Gleneagles has revamped the Americans' mindset and attitude entering this year's showdown against Europe. And part of how they did it is by stealing some tricks from their trans-Atlantic rivals.

Echoes of Phil Mickelson's 2014 post-Cup comments detailing a lack of player input on captain Tom Watson's team and how that differed from a 2008 US home triumph will be felt at the 41st biennial golf matches September 30-October 2 at Hazletine.

"Definitely a fresh, positive attitude from the start of 2015 building for the future," 2016 US captain Davis Love said. "We're going to learn from our mistakes in the past and build on it."

Love, who also guided the 2012 US squad that fell victim to the greatest last-day comeback in Cup history, was named to an 11-person US Ryder Cup task force barely two weeks after the third US loss in a row and eighth in the past 10 Ryder Cups.

Love and fellow captains Tom Lehman and Ray Floyd were joined by three PGA of America officials and players Mickelson, Jim Furyk, Rickie Fowler, Steve Stricker and Tiger Woods.

"Players hadn't had any involvement or input into the process and that has changed," Mickelson said. "Davis has been the leader of that change. "There's a lot more input from players and assistant captains and building a platform for years to come. We'll try to keep some continuity from year to year, something we really haven't had in the 20 years I've played." Love was named captain. Woods, Furyk and Stricker are assistants. Fowler and Mickelson are playing. The qualifying formula was tweaked and the timing of captain's picks was changed.

### PLAN AHEAD, EASE PRESSURE

More than that, planning and strategy will decide every detail well in advance for foursomes and four-ball pairings to ease worry and better prepare. "The whole goal is to give the players an opportunity to succeed as opposed to giving them challenges to overcome," Mickelson said. "The

way you do that is eliminate the variables, the obstacles that cause pressure—who are you going to play with, what matches are you going to play, what holes do you tee off on, what ball are you going to play.

"You cannot decide that 30 minutes before tee time. You've got to decide that 30 days before the tee time so that you know how to prepare properly heading in. You can prepare with your partner, be ready and eliminate a lot of the uncertainty which ultimately causes pressure." Stealing a page from Europe, the idea is to keep the program going from Cup to Cup and build teamwork.

"When you look at the European team, many of them play the best golf of their entire career the weeks of the Ryder Cup," Mickelson said. "There's a lot to be said for having a camaraderie and support system, working together, having a game plan, building each other up, pulling each other from lows and helping each other reach new highs. "That's not a fluke. When you have a real team, a partnership, you lift each other up to new highs and we haven't had that type of continuity, support system, game plan, structure, from year to year. "So what we'll ultimately look at is: 'Are we playing our best golf the week of the Ryder Cup?' That's what we have to do to be successful, to win."

### 'STILL HAVE TO PLAY GREAT'

Mickelson warns that all the planning means nothing if US players don't execute. "We still have to play great golf to win," he said. "The difference is we're being put in a position to succeed."

Continuity is key, Love said. "We have a plan that's going to put us in the best position to win Ryder cups, not only this year, but beyond," Love said. "We need to not be trying a new system every year."

Fowler, 27, is winless in eight Cup matches but more excited about this year's event than any before.

"Being a part of that task force and being with the guys in meetings and getting to see the excitement level and how much the Ryder Cup means to players like Tiger and Phil and Davis, it was special," Fowler said. "This is a team we want to be a part of, having Davis lead us." —AFP



**BERLIN:** (From L) Kenya's Wilson Kipsang (2nd placed), Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele (winner) and Kenya's Evans Chebet (third placed) pose on the podium with their medals and trophies after the 43rd Berlin Marathon in Berlin yesterday. —AFP

## BEKELE WINS BERLIN MARATHON

**BERLIN:** Kenenisa Bekele admitted he was disappointed to have missed the world record by six seconds yesterday as the Ethiopian won the Berlin marathon ahead of former winner Wilson Kipsang.

The ex-Olympic 5,000m and 10,000m champion crossed the finish line in an official time of two hours 03min 03sec just short of Dennis Kimetto's world record of 2:02:57 set here in 2014.

Bekele's time was an Ethiopian national record and he took two minutes off his personal best.

"It went according to plan," said Bekele, who finished third at this year's London marathon. "I wanted to beat my personal best. I ran a fantastic time, but I'm just a little disappointed to miss the world record by a few seconds."

Bekele pocketed 70,000 euros (\$78,585) for winning the race, but those six seconds

cost him the 50,000 bonus he would have landed had the world record fallen. Kipsang, who won the 2013 Berlin Marathon in a then-world record time, finished ten seconds back in 2:03:13 and fellow Kenyan Evans Chebet took third in 2:05:31.

"I am happy to have run a personal best and he (Bekele) ran a fantastic race," said Kipsang, who ran ten seconds faster than the 2:03:23 then-world record he ran here three years ago.

"I am also a bit disappointed to have missed the world record, but I have to congratulate him."

"We will have to come back and try again for the world record next year," Bekele ran the second fastest time ever, just six seconds away from Kimetto's record, and Kipsang's time was the fourth fastest.

The men's world record has fallen seven times in Berlin, six times since 2003.

This was another fast race over 42km, the relatively flat course lacking the cobblestones of London and the bridges of the New York courses.

Bekele and Kipsang led an elite group of seven runners, which was ahead of the world record pace at the halfway stage and Kipsang made his move at the 30km stage.

He reached the 35km mark in 1:41:56 - exactly on the world record pace - with Bekele trailing just behind him, but the Ethiopian caught the Kenyan with three kilometres to go.

Bekele pulled clear of Kipsang as the pair headed towards the finish just past Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate. In the women's race, Aberu Kebede, claimed her third Berlin win, in 2:20:45 ahead of Birhane Dibaba, who finished 3:13 minutes back, and Ruti Aga at 3:57 in an Ethiopian sweep. —AFP



IOC president Thomas Bach

## IOC BOSS WANTS GREATER CLARITY ON DOPING ROLES

**DANANG:** International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach said yesterday he wants governments to do more to combat drugs in sport following the Russian doping scandal that rocked the buildup to the Rio Olympics.

Reinforcing his belief that the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) should be completely overhauled, Bach said it was time that governments played a more active role to help create a better and more transparent system of tackling cheats.

"This has had to happen together with WADA because WADA, in the fight against doping, is the platform," Bach told the Olympic Council of Asia General Assembly.

"We (also) need the commitment of government. Together with governments, we want to make WADA more efficient."

The IOC and WADA have been at odds over their roles in dealing with anti-doping cases after WADA led calls for Russia to be banned from Rio following allegations of state-backed doping.

The IOC opted not to ban Russia, instead leaving the decision to individual sports. But it believes a clearer system should be established, taking the key decisions away from sports and national federations.

"We think the whole anti-doping system should be independent from sports organisations with regard to testing and sanctioning," Bach said.

"The system has to be more transparent... we have to be very clear who is responsible for what: testing, compliance, sanctioning."

"We owe this to the athletes so they know what is happening, and we owe it to the public to be fully transparent."

While the IOC and WADA have been at loggerheads over the handling of Russia's eligibility to compete in Rio, the IOC has convened a summit in Switzerland next month to look at the issue before a global doping conference in 2017.

"You're all aware of the challenges we had with regard to the protection of clean athletes before the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro," Bach said.

"The IOC, on very short notice, had to take some preliminary decisions and actions in order to protect clean athletes. In these discussions, it has become more obvious that we have to look at the WADA system."

"We decided that the IOC will ask for a full review of the WADA anti-doping system in order to make it more robust, more efficient, more transparent and more harmonious." —AFP

## LEE BAGS SIXTH JAPAN OPEN TITLE

**TOKYO:** Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei yesterday won his sixth Yonex Open Japan title, defeating third seed Jan O Jorgensen of Denmark.

Lee, a silver medalist in the last three Olympics, triumphed 21-18, 15-21, 21-16 against the Dane. The 33-year-old world number one had sailed through the men's singles at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium without losing a single game.

But he had more of a contest in the final, with Jorgensen taking the second game. Lee also won the Japan Open in 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010 and 2007. He has recently hinted at extending his career to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics for another shot at an elusive badminton gold, despite earlier indicating the Rio games would be his last.

In women's doubles, Danish pair Christinna Pedersen and Kamilla Rytter Juhl silver medalists in Rio had their revenge on Rio gold-winning Japanese rivals Misaki Matsumoto and Ayaka Takahashi 19-21, 21-18, 21-12.

In women's singles, He Bingjiao of China won the title after defeating compatriot Sun Yu 21-14, 7-21, 21-18.

Sun had silenced Japanese fans in the semi-finals after crushing the 12th ranked Akane Yamaguchi.

In men's doubles, Chinese pair Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen overwhelmed Koreans Kim Gi Jung and Ko Sung Hyun 21-12, 21-12. —AFP



**TOKYO:** Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia (R) and runner-up Jan O Jorgensen of Denmark pose during the awards ceremony after the men's singles final at the Japan Open badminton tournament in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

# NATIONALS BEAT PIRATES TO NAIL DOWN DIVISION TITLE

**PITTSBURGH:** The Washington Nationals clinched their third National League East title in five years, beating the Pittsburgh Pirates 6-1 Saturday night behind 5 1/3 scoreless innings from rookie reliever Reynaldo Lopez.

Stephen Drew's two-run single capped a three-run first inning for the Nationals, who return to the postseason after a one-year absence. Their win ensured a playoff berth, and they won the division about 20 minutes later when the second-place New York Mets lost to Philadelphia. Lopez (4-3) came on to start the bottom of the fourth inning with a 6-1 lead and allowed three hits while striking out five and walking one. Ivan Nova (12-8) lost his second straight outing after a 5-0 start with Pittsburgh, giving up six runs - three earned - and eight hits in four innings.

**RED SOX 6, RAYS 4**

Dustin Pedroia hit his fourth career grand slam to help Rick Porcello get his major league-leading 22nd win, and Boston clinched a playoff berth by extending its winning streak to 10 - the team's longest in September since 1949. Boston maintained a 5 1/2-game lead over Toronto for the division title and ensured no worse than the AL's second wild card.

Pedroia stopped an 0-for-17 skid with a single in the sixth and gave Boston a 6-3 lead with a seventh-inning drive off Danny Farquhar.

Porcello (22-4) gave up three runs, eight hits and struck out nine over 6 1/3 innings, and Craig Kimbrel reached 30 saves for the sixth straight season. Ryan Garton (1-2) was the loser.

**BLUE JAYS 3, YANKEES 0**

Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer off Tyler Clippard (3-5) in the eighth inning, reaching 30 homers for the seventh straight season.

New York has been shut out in three straight games for the first time July 27-28, 1975. The Yankees have lost 10 of 13 following a seven-game winning streak and likely will miss the playoffs for the third time in four years. Jason Grilli (7-5) struck out Billy Butler in the eighth to strand a runner at third, and Roberto Osuna completed a three-hitter for his 35th save.

**PHILLIES 10, METS 8**

The Mets fell behind 10-0 by the fourth inning, then fell short of what would have been the largest comeback victory in team history. New York dropped into a tie with San Francisco for the two NL wild cards. St. Louis trails by a half-game. Philadelphia's Maikel Franco and Darin Ruf each hit long a home run for the second consecutive night as Philadelphia built its lead. Sean Gilmartin (0-1) fell behind 3-0 after 12 pitches and left having allowed five runs in two-thirds of an inning. Jay Bruce hit his first career pinch-hit home run with one out in the ninth. The Mets put two on before Michael Mariot got his second save by retiring Lucas Duda on a popup and Travis d'Arnaud on a comebacker. Alec Asher (2-0) allowed four unearned runs over five innings.

**DODGERS 14, ROCKIES 1**

Clayton Kershaw scattered three hits over seven scoreless innings, Josh Reddick slugged a grand slam in the seventh and Los Angeles moved within a game of clinching its fourth consecutive NL West title. The Dodgers can wrap up the title Sunday in Hall of Fame broadcaster Vin Scully's final home game before he retires next weekend. Kershaw (12-3) struck out six and walked none to improve to 8-1 at home. Chad Bettis (13-8) gave up seven runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings, struck out three and walked four.

**GIANTS 9, PADRES 6, 10 INNINGS**

San Francisco blew a six-run lead before scoring three times in the 10th inning, including a two-run home run by Denard Span, to beat San Diego and pull even with the New York Mets atop the NL wild-card standings.

Angel Pagan scored the go-ahead run on a fielding error by rookie right fielder Hunter



**PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania:** Danny Espinosa No 8 of the Washington Nationals scores past Francisco Cervelli No 29 of the Pittsburgh Pirates in the fourth inning on a fielder's choice during the game at PNC Park on September 24, 2016 in Pittsburgh, —AFP

Renfroe with one out in the 10th, followed by Span's 11th homer, off Kevin Quackenbush (7-7). Will Smith (2-4) pitched one-third of an inning for the win. Sergio Romo got his third save.

**ROYALS 7, TIGERS 4**

Paulo Orlando hit a tying, two-run double and Eric Hosmer followed with a three-run homer against Francisco Rodriguez (3-4), capping a comeback from a 4-2 deficit in the ninth. Wade Davis (2-1) pitched a one-hit eighth and Kelvin Herrera, Kansas City's seventh pitcher, got three straight outs for his 12th save. Detroit's five-game winning streak was stopped and the World Series champion Royals ended a four-game skid.

**CARDINALS 10, CUBS 4**

Yadier Molina drove in four runs and Stephen Piscotty homered to help St.

Louis in its wild-card chase. Randal Grichuk added three RBIs and Jhonny Peralta had three hits. Jason Hammel (15-10) allowed six runs and six hits while getting just seven outs, hurting his bid for a postseason rotation spot. Alex Reyes (4-1) needed 115 pitches to get through five innings but settled down after a tough start to allow three runs and six hits.

**RANGERS 5, ATHLETICS 0**

The lone veteran in the lineup a day after Texas won another AL West title, Elvis Andrus hit a pair of two-run homers. Yu Darvish (6-5) had all the run support he needed on a couple of big swings from Andrus, who had his first career multi-homer game. Robinson Chirinos added an RBI double in the ninth for Texas (92-63), which moved 29 games above .500 for the first time since exactly four years

ago on Sept. 24, 2012. A's rookie Raul Alcantara (1-2) struck out six with one walk over six innings. He allowed four runs on seven hits.

**ORIOLES 6, DIAMONDBACKS 1**

Mark Trumbo connected for his league-leading 45th homer and Trey Mancini hit his third homer in nine major league at-bats, Baltimore pulled a half-game ahead of the Tigers for the AL's second wild card and trail the Toronto Blue Jays by 1 1/2 games for the top spot. Wade Miley (9-13) allowed one run and seven hits and tied a career high with 11 strikeouts over 8 2/3 innings to beat Robbie Ray (8-14).

**WHITE SOX 8, INDIANS 1**

Melky Cabrera and Jose Abreu hit RBI singles in the first off Cody Anderson (2-5), and Todd Frazier connected for his 39th homer in the sixth as Chicago stopped a six-game losing streak. Joel Quintana (13-11) gave up one run in six innings and beat Cleveland for the

second time in 11 days. The Indians' magic number is two for clinching the AL Central.

**MARLINS 6, BRAVES 4**

Derek Dietrich hit a two-run homer, helping stop Atlanta's season-high seven-game winning streak. Atlanta's Freddie Freeman extended his hitting streak to 28 games in the first inning and has reached base in 44 straight. He also hit a solo home run in the sixth, his 32nd. Brian Ellington (4-2) earned the win in relief and A.J. Ramos got his 39th save. Five days after getting his first big league win, Aaron Blair (1-7) allowed five runs in 3 1/3 innings.

**ANGELS 10, ASTROS 4**

Kole Calhoun had three hits and two RBIs, and Los Angeles scored nine runs in the final two innings. Houston fell to three games behind Baltimore for the second AL wild card. Albert Pujols, Mike Trout and C.J. Cron each added two RBIs for the Angels. Jose Valdez (2-3) allowed two runs in the seventh for the win, and Luke Gregerson (4-2) took the loss.

**TWINS 3, MARINERS 2**

Miguel Sano hit a tiebreaking homer in the fourth inning off Ariel Miranda (5-2) and Tyler Duffey (9-11) gave up four runs and four hits in seven innings. Seattle is 2 1/2 games back for the second AL wild card.

Sano's 24th homer followed Nelson Cruz's tying two-run shot for Seattle in the top of the fourth. Cruz's homer reached the third deck in left field for what was estimated by MLB's Statcast as 493 feet, the second-longest home run in the majors this season behind a 504-foot strike by Miami's Giancarlo Stanton in Colorado's Coors Field. Jorge Polanco had a solo home run for Minnesota, which snapped a seven-game losing streak.

**REDS 6, BREWERS 1**

Dan Straily (14-8) allowed one run and five hits in 6 2/3 innings, and Joey Votto hit a two-run homer in the first off Taylor Jungmann (0-5). Straily is 3-0 with a 1.67 ERA in four starts against Milwaukee this year. —AP



**Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout celebrates scoring a run on C.J. Cron's single during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016, in Houston. —AP**

**MLB results/standings**

Kansas City 7, Detroit 4; St. Louis 10, Chicago Cubs 4; Texas 5, Oakland 0; Toronto 3, NY Yankees 0; Boston 6, Tampa Bay 4; Baltimore 6, Arizona 1; Washington 6, Pittsburgh 1; Miami 6, Atlanta 4; Chicago White Sox 8, Cleveland 1; Cincinnati 6, Milwaukee 1; LA Angels 10, Houston 4; Philadelphia 10, NY Mets 8; Minnesota 3, Seattle 2; San Francisco 9, San Diego 6 (10 innings); LA Dodgers 14, Colorado 1.

**American League**

Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	91	64	.587 -
Toronto	85	69	.552 5.5
Baltimore	84	71	.542 7
NY Yankees	79	75	.513 11.5
Tampa Bay	65	89	.422 25.5

**Central Division**

Cleveland	90	64	.584 -
Detroit	83	71	.539 7
Kansas City	78	77	.503 12.5
Chicago White Sox	73	81	.474 17
Minnesota	56	99	.361 34.5

**Western Division**

Texas	92	63	.594 -
Seattle	81	73	.526 10.5
Houston	81	74	.523 11
LA Angels	69	86	.445 23
Oakland	66	88	.429 25.5

**National League**

Eastern Division			
Washington	90	64	.584 -
NY Mets	82	73	.529 8.5
Miami	77	78	.497 13.5
Philadelphia	70	85	.452 20.5
Atlanta	63	92	.406 27.5

**Central Division**

Chicago Cubs	98	56	.636 -
St. Louis	81	73	.526 17
Pittsburgh	77	77	.500 21
Milwaukee	70	85	.452 28.5
Cincinnati	64	90	.416 34

**Western Division**

LA Dodgers	89	66	.574 -
San Francisco	82	73	.529 7
Colorado	73	82	.471 16
San Diego	65	90	.419 24
Arizona	64	90	.416 24.5



## UMAR AKMAL RETURNS TO PAKISTAN ONE-DAY SQUAD

**KARACHI:** Pakistan yesterday recalled dashing batsman Umar Akmal to their one-day squad for the upcoming series against West Indies after he was sidelined for 18 months over disciplinary problems. The 26-year-old played the last of his 111 one-day internationals in March during the 2015 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. Negative comments about Akmal's behaviour by former head coach Waqar Younis and ex-manager Intikhab Alam almost derailed his career. He was recalled to the Twenty20 squad earlier this month after being passed over for five months.

Pakistan lead the current three-match Twenty20 series against the West Indies 2-0, with the final game on Tuesday. The first one-day interna-

tional is in Sharjah on Friday, followed by another at the same venue on October 2 and one in Abu Dhabi on October 5. They will also play three Tests after the limited-over series. There were also ODI recalls for batsman Asad Shafiq and pacemen Sohail Khan and Rahat Ali. Shafiq and Khan have not played since last year while Rahat was part of the team on the New Zealand tour in January. Pakistan lost their last one-day series in England 4-1 and are currently ninth in the one-day rankings.

Squad: Azhar Ali (captain), Sharjeel Khan, Babar Azam, Asad Shafiq, Shoaib Malik, Sarfraz Ahmed, Umar Akmal, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Nawaz, Imad Wasim, Yasir Shah, Rahat Ali, Mohammad Amir, Wahab Riaz, Hasan Ali, Sohail Khan.— AFP

## BAVUMA STARS ON DEBUT AS SOUTH AFRICA ROUT IRELAND

**BENONI:** Temba Bavuma made a century on his one-day international debut to set up a comfortable 206-run win for South Africa in a one-off one-day international against Ireland at Willowmoore Park yesterday.

Bavuma hit 113 in a total of 354 for five after South Africa were sent in to bat. Ireland were bowled out for 148 in reply.

Ireland captain Will Porterfield's gamble did not pay off as Bavuma and Quinton de Kock (82) punished the Irish bowling in an opening partnership of 159.

Porterfield described his team's performance as "disappointing" and bemoaned early chances which went astray.

JP Duminy and Farhaan Behardien both hit rapid half-centuries to take South Africa to a total that always looked likely to be well beyond Ireland's reach.

Porterfield was out to Kagiso Rabada without scoring to the second ball of the Ireland innings and the visitors crumbled despite good innings of 40 by Paul Stirling and 41 by Kevin O'Brien.

Off-spinner Duminy completed a good all-round day by taking a career-best four for 16. Ireland were without experienced batsman Niall O'Brien, who slipped in his hotel bathroom yesterday morning and

suffered a head injury.

They will play Australia at the same venue on Tuesday before South Africa meet Australia in five one-day internationals, starting at Centurion on Friday.

The South African team included three new caps. Bavuma, established as a middle order batsman in the Test side, was given his chance as an opener in the absence of Hashim Amla.

All-rounders Andile Phehlukwayo and Dwaine Pretorius were newcomers to international cricket.

"It was a good outing," said South African captain Faf du Plessis, "and all three debutants got into the game."

Bavuma, who was dropped on one when he edged Peter Chase to Kevin O'Brien at second slip, took advantage of the let-off with a composed innings, reaching his fifty off 54 balls and his century off 110 deliveries. He was out 13 balls later after hitting 13 fours and a six.

On a slow pitch, South Africa struggled to increase their scoring rate in the middle overs but Duminy (52 not out) and Behardien (50) gave the innings impetus with a fifth wicket stand of 87 off 40 balls before Behardien was caught on the boundary off the last ball of the innings.— AFP



**KANPUR:** India's Cheteshwar Pujara, centre, shouts as Virat Kohli, right, fields on the fourth day of their first cricket test match against New Zealand at Green Park Stadium in Kanpur, India, yesterday.— AP

## NEW ZEALAND ON THE ROPES, INDIA CLOSE IN ON BIG WIN

**KANPUR:** India set New Zealand an improbable 434-run victory target and then blew away the visitors' top order in yesterday's final session to close in on a resounding win in the first test.

Resuming day four on 159 for one, India's positive batting over two sessions yielded 218 runs before home captain Virat Kohli declared on 377 for five at Kanpur's Green Park Stadium.

Needing to pull off the biggest successful chase in the history of test cricket for an unlikely win, New Zealand wobbled early and were reeling at 93 for four at stumps, still trailing the massive target by 341.

Luke Ronchi (38) and Mitchell Santner (eight) will return on Monday hoping to resist or at least delay India's victory march in the first match of the three-test series.

Ravichandran Ashwin (3-68), who dismissed four frontline Kiwi batsmen in the first innings, proved once again why he is considered India's premier spinner.

The off-spinner had Martin Guptill caught at silly point for a duck with the first ball of his second over and trapped Tom Latham (two) leg before with the fifth. Ashwin claimed his 200th test wicket when he dismissed New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson (25) leg before.

Ross Taylor (17) then ran himself out to compound the tourists' misery. "The game's not over yet," Ashwin told reporters after becoming the second fastest bowler to take 200 wickets, achieving the feat in his 37th test.

Former Australia spinner Clarrie Grimmett took one test fewer to reach the mark. "We should have got them five or six down today itself. I'm bit disappointed," Ashwin added. Earlier in the morning, Williamson attacked with spin from both ends and his slow bowlers did not let him down.

### SODHI DELIVERY

Left-arm spinner Santner trapped Murali Vijay lbw for 76, ending the right-hander's second century-plus stand of the match with Cheteshwar Pujara (78). Kohli fell to off-spinner Mark Craig and Ish Sodhi struck the next blow with a beauty of a delivery that spun from outside leg, took the outside edge of Pujara's bat and nestled into Taylor's waiting hands at slip.

Ajinkya Rahane (40) missed his fifty but Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja smashed unbeaten half-centuries and featured in an unbroken century stand to virtually bat New Zealand out of

the contest. Sharma, who made 35 in the first innings, remained unbeaten on 68. Jadeja, who scored 42 not out in the first innings and claimed five wickets with his left-arm spin, continued to have a good match.

The left-hander clobbered three sixes en route to his second test fifty before breaking into a bat-twirling celebration. "Still six wickets to go," New Zealand bowling coach Shane Jurgensen said. "If you get a partnership you can score at a decent rate. More importantly, you can bat for time. That's our goal, to fight for as long as we can."— Reuters

### SCOREBOARD

**BENONI, South Africa:** Scores in a one-off, one-day international between South Africa and Ireland at Willowmoore Park yesterday.

South Africa		Ireland	
Q. de Kock b O'Brien	82	W. Porterfield lbw b Rabada	0
T. Bavuma c Poynter b Young	113	P. Stirling lbw b Phangiso	40
F. du Plessis c Porterfield b Young	21		
J. Duminy not out	52		
D. Miller c Wilson b O'Brien	14		
F. Behardien c Porterfield b Young	50		
Extras (lb9, nb1, w12)	22		
Total (5 wkts, 50 overs)	354		
Fall of wickets: 1-159 (De Kock), 2-221 (Du Plessis), 3-227 (Bavuma), 4-267 (Miller), 5-354 (Behardien)			
Bowling: Young 10-0-81-3 (3w), Chase 10-0-86-0 (1nb, 4w), Murtagh 10-0-56-0, Dockrell 10-0-55-0 (1w), O'Brien 10-0-66-2 (3w)			
Did not bat: D. Pretorius, W. Parnell, A. Phehlukwayo, K. Rabada, A. Phangiso.			

### SCOREBOARD

**KANPUR, India:** Scoreboard yesterday at stumps of first test between India and New Zealand at Green Park Stadium:

India 1st Innings: 318		New Zealand 1st Innings: 262	
<b>India 2nd Innings</b>			
<b>Overnight 159-1</b>			
Lokesh Rahul c Taylor b Sodhi	38	32.2-11-79-2, Mark Craig 23-3-80-1, Neil Wagner 16-5-52-0, Ish Sodhi 20-2-99-0, Martin Guptill 4-0-17-0, Kane Williamson 3-0-7-0.	
Murali Vijay lbw b Santner	76	<b>New Zealand 2nd Innings</b>	
Cheteshwar Pujara c Taylor b Sodhi	78	Tom Latham lbw b Ashwin	2
Virat Kohli c Sodhi b Craig	18	Martin Guptill c Vijay b Ashwin	0
Ajinkya Rahane c Taylor b Santner	40	Kane Williamson lbw b Ashwin	25
Rohit Sharma not out	68	Ross Taylor run out Yadav	17
Ravindra Jadeja not out	50	Luke Ronchi not out	38
Extras: (1b, 8lb)	9	Mitchell Santner not out	8
<b>Total: (for five wickets declared) 377</b>		Extras: (2lb, 1nb)	3
Overs: 107.2. Batting time: 449 minutes.		TOTAL: (for four wickets)	93
Did not bat: Ravichandran Ashwin, Wriddhiman Saha, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav.		Overs: 37. Batting time: 146 minutes.	
Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-185, 3-214, 4-228, 5-277.		Still to bat: BJ Watling, Mark Craig, Neil Wagner, Trent Boult, Ish Sodhi.	
Bowling: Trent Boult 9-0-34-0, Mitchell Santner		Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-3, 3-43, 4-56.	

## BANGLADESH WIN THRILLER AGAINST AFGHANISTAN



**DHAKA:** Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan, on ground, dives to stop the ball during the first one-day international cricket match against Afghanistan in Dhaka, Bangladesh, yesterday.— AP

**DHAKA:** Paceman Taskin Ahmed made a brilliant comeback to international cricket as he claimed four wickets to steer Bangladesh to pull off a thrilling seven-run win in the first one-day international against Afghanistan in Dhaka yesterday.

Replying to Bangladesh's 265 runs, Afghanistan looked to be well in control when Hashmatullah (72) and Rahmat Shah (71) put on a solid 144 runs for the third wicket partnership.

Shakib Al Hasan (2-26) broke the stand before the hosts clawed their way back to dismiss Afghanistan for 258 runs in the last ball of the final over. Bangladesh now lead the three-match series 1-0 lead.

Taskin, who was cleared to bowl in international cricket just two days ago, held his nerve in the final over, when Afghanistan needed 13 runs, but the visitors, who lost their last six wickets for 28 runs, could manage just five. Shakib's exploit enabled him overtake Abdur Razzak as Bangladesh's leading wicket taker in one-day internationals (ODIs) with 208 scalps.

"We knew this game was going to be tricky," said Shakib, who won the man-of-the-match award for his all-round performance. "We are playing ODIs after almost a year. We were careful and short by 20 runs," he said.

Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad earlier struck half-centuries to guide Bangladesh to a respectable total after skipper Mortaza won the toss and elected to bat first.

The home side, playing their first ODI in 11 months, suffered a blow in the first over when Dawlat Zadran dismissed Soumya Sarkar for a duck, but the top order soon regained the ini-

tative. Tamim struck nine fours in his 80 off 98 balls and in the process became the first Bangladeshi cricketer to score 9,000 runs in international cricket.

He put on 83 with Imrul Kayes (37) for the second wicket and then another 79 with Mahmudullah for the third wicket before being removed by Mirwais Ashraf.

Mahmudullah smashed 62 off 74 balls and looked poised for a big innings after reaching his half-century with a boundary off Dawlat.

Off-spinner Mohammad Nabi removed Mahmudullah, who also struck five fours in his innings, in his next over when Ashraf took a fine catch diving forward at backward square leg.

Afghanistan made something of a comeback when Mushfiqur Rahim (six) and Sabbir Rahim (two) fell cheaply. But Shakib ensured Bangladesh did not lose their way with 48 off 40 balls.

"Last three months we were working hard, but the way we played we were not up to the mark. We could have scored 280-plus, but the set batsmen got out," said Bangladesh skipper Mortaza.

Dawlat claimed four wickets for 73 while Nabi and spinner Rashid Khan grabbed two wickets each for Afghanistan.

Afghanistan skipper Stanikzai hailed the performance of Bangladeshi bowlers. "Congratulations Bangladesh. Their bowlers bowled very well, that's why they won the match," Stanikzai said.

The second and third match will be held at the same venue on September 28 and October 1.— AFP

## ZAIN SPONSORS KUWAIT'S NATIONAL JET SKI TEAM FOR SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the Kuwait National Jet Ski team for the sixth consecutive year. The company's sponsorship will extend during the team's participation in the upcoming World Jet Ski Championship 2016 that will be held early October in the United States.

Zain's sponsorship falls under its solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the youth and sports sectors as well as supporting Kuwaiti athletes. The company further expressed its keenness on encouraging Kuwaiti athletes to represent Kuwait in the various internationally renowned championships.

Zain expressed its utmost confidence in the talents of the Kuwaiti youth. The company's officials were present with the team in Kuwait International Airport before their departure to the United States, where they expressed Zain's wishes of the best of luck to the team on their upcoming participation in the World Jet Ski Championship.

The National Jet Ski team is authorized by the Kuwait Sea Sport Club to officially represent Kuwait in regional and international Jet Ski championships. The team champions won a number of prominent titles during past participations, most notably many first place titles of last year's World Jet Ski Championship, held in the United States.

The company expressed its pride in all National teams that raise the Kuwaiti flag high by achieving top international titles, and it further confirms its commitment towards Kuwaiti champions, which resembles the company's endless confidence of the competencies of these young athletes and their capabilities in excelling in different fields.

As a leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, Zain is constantly looking to identify and support excellence across the sports sector. The company will continue to put Kuwaiti National teams and individual athletes at the forefront of its priorities and pledges to continue motivating them to achieve all the recognition they deserve.



Zain Jetski Team 2016



**TORONTO:** Sergei Bobrovsky #72 of Team Russia reacts as Team Canada celebrates a third period goal by John Tavares #20 at the semifinal game during the World Cup of Hockey tournament at Air Canada Centre on Saturday in Toronto, Canada. Team Canada defeated Team Russia 5-3. — AFP

## CANADA ROLLS OVER RUSSIA TO REACH WORLD CUP FINAL

**TORONTO:** Sidney Crosby was at his best on one of hockey's biggest stages. Again. Crosby scored once and assisted on both of Brad Marchand's goals, including the winner early in the third period, to help Canada beat Russia 5-3 on Saturday night in the World Cup of Hockey semifinals.

"He always comes up big in the big games," Marchand said. The Canadians will face the winner of Sweden -Team Europe game in the best-of-three finals that will start tomorrow night.

"We're going to be measured on what happens next," said coach Mike Babcock, who has helped Canada win gold at the last two Winter Olympics.

Crosby opened the scoring at 7:40 into the game on a spectacular sequence, showing he has plenty of energy despite having a brief summer between winning the Stanley Cup and competing in the World Cup.

"It was short, but exciting, knowing we were coming here," he said. Crosby skated hard into a corner, forcing Alexey Marchenko to give up the puck earlier than he wanted. Dmitry Kulikov ended up with the puck in the left circle, but didn't have it long because Crosby snatched it away.

Crosby made the puck dance on both sides of his stick as he skated across the front of the crease and as soon as Sergei Bobrovsky went down on his left hip, he backhanded the puck into the net without a Russian player near him.

"I had a little bit more time than you typically get," Crosby said. Bobrovsky made 16 of his 42 saves in the first period, keeping the Russians in

it. "That's why he's one of the best goalies in the world," teammate Alex Ovechkin said. "He played unbelievable. When they score, it's not his mistake. He gave us a chance."

Nikita Kucherov made it 1-1 all midway through the first and Evgeny Kuznetsov put Russia ahead 2-1 with 3:36 left in the second.

Crosby, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and two-time Stanley Cup champion, made a cross-crease pass to set up Marchand for his tying goal just 1:12 after Russia went ahead.

In the dressing room after two periods, Babcock delivered a brief message. "There's no chance they can keep up if we keep doing what we're doing," Babcock recalled telling his team.

### GAME'S BIGGEST STARS

The Russians, and perhaps any other team, may not have much of an opportunity to win against a Crosby-led team with some of the game's biggest stars.

With a chance to take a pivotal lead in the third, Crosby chose to give up the puck, not shoot it. He deftly dropped a pass to Marchand atop the left circle to assist on the game-winning goal 1:16 into the third.

Corey Perry gave Canada a two-goal cushion at 5:48 of the third and John Tavares made it 4-2 midway through the period.

Carey Price made 31 saves for the Canadians. He made some momentum-stunting saves early in the first, but backchecking forwards and poke-checking defensemen made his job relatively easy for much of the night.

Russia was not in a position to come back in

a game in which it gave up more than twice as many shots as it put on the Price-protected net until pulling their goalie late to add an extra skater in a nothing-to-lose attempt to get back in the game. Artemi Panarin scored with 9 seconds left, making the score look slightly more respectable.

The Russians were without one of their top players, Pavel Datsyuk, because of a lower-body injury.

As usual in a matchup of NHL superstars, Crosby came out on top against Ovechkin. It looked as if it might end up that way even before the puck dropped. Both captains were called the center ice for a goodwill gesture, pairing them up with young boys on skates holding flags that represented each country.

While Crosby put his arm around the youngster next to him, a stone-faced Ovechkin stood with his gloves at his side.

Crosby helped the host Canadians crush the Ovechkin-led Russians 7-3 in the quarterfinals of the 2010 Vancouver Games. Four years later, with a chance at redemption at the Winter Olympics in Russia, Ovechkin couldn't do enough to help his team get past the quarterfinals while Crosby and the Canadians earned gold again. Ovechkin is also left waiting and wondering if he'll ever hoist the Stanley Cup.

Given a chance to help his team and country get a desperately wanted win, Ovechkin didn't have a shot through two periods and finished with just two shots. "Maybe he doesn't have enough of luck," Russian coach Oleg Znarok said through an interpreter. — AP

## SERENA WILL COME BACK STRONG, WARNS NEW NUMBER ONE KERBER

**WUHAN:** Newly minted world number one Angelique Kerber warned yesterday that Serena Williams will come back strong after the German stripped her of her long-held position atop the rankings. "I am sure that she (Williams) will (be) coming back strong," Kerber told AFP in Wuhan, China.

Williams was gunning for her 23rd Grand Slam title at the US Open—that would have taken her past the record she shares with Steffi Graf—when she was cut down by 11th-ranked Karolina Pliskova in the semis. The Czech's victory ensured that Kerber, who had been snapping at Williams' heels for weeks, would rise to number one.

The German then went on to beat Pliskova in the final to claim her second Grand Slam title of the year. Williams' slip from the number one spot in September also denied her a second record: the American veteran had topped the rankings for 186 weeks—a run Graf also matched. And that double slight is sure to motivate Williams' to come back strong, said Kerber.

"She will try to win some more Grand Slams and write history for sure," she said.

Williams pulled out of the Wuhan Open and next week's China Open in Beijing on Friday, almost guaranteeing that Kerber will end the year as world number one.

But the 28-year-old—the oldest ever women's player to debut at the top of the rankings—isn't letting the pressure of her new position get to her. "The ranking... it's just a number," she said.

"I was always telling myself if that day will come... then that would happen, but (I was) not putting too much pressure on myself." That was also a tip she was given by mentor Graf, who Kerber met for a few days in Las Vegas, where the tennis idol lives with her husband Andre Agassi, after her Australian Open triumph.

"Actually she was just telling me to enjoy everything, to work hard and believe in yourself. So actually nothing new but it's of course a little bit different to hear it from her," said Kerber. For now, for the left-hander, the plan is more of the same.

"This is my game... this is also what brings me (to) where I am right now. I will not change it." — AFP

## ZVEREV WINS ST PETERSBURG OPEN

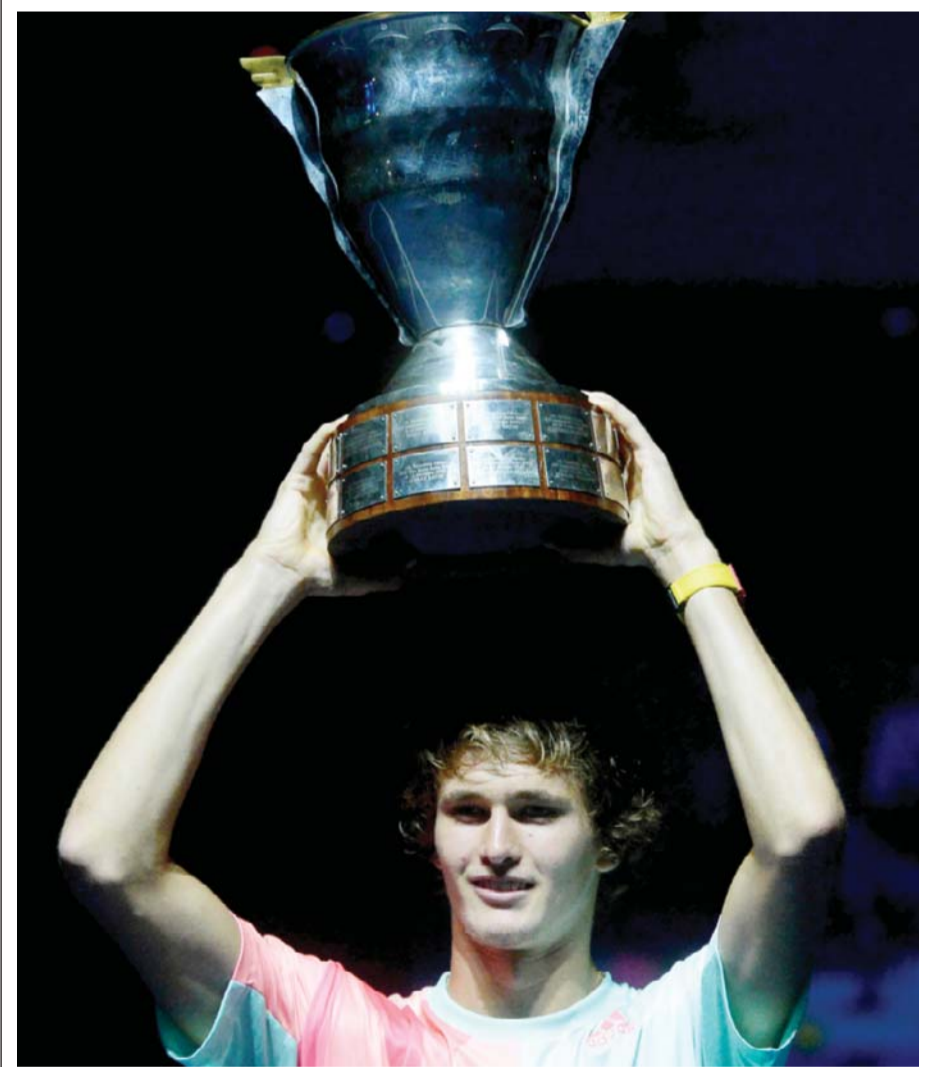
**MOSCOW:** German teenager Alexander Zverev won his first ATP Tour singles title with a 6-2 3-6 7-5 upset win over Switzerland's world number three Stan Wawrinka at the St Petersburg Open yesterday. Top seed Wawrinka, playing in his first tournament since winning the US Open, was shocked by the fifth-seeded 19-year-old who quickly took the opening set.

The Swiss, who was looking for his fifth title in what has been an excellent season,

levelled the match by taking the second against the world number 27.

Things looked to be going Wawrinka's way when he led with a break in the third but Zverev, who had lost his previous two ATP finals, was not going to let history repeat itself a third time.

The big right hander produced some excellent tennis to storm back and claim victory in just under two hours and 30 minutes. — Reuters



**Germany's Alexander Zverev celebrates with his trophy after winning the St Petersburg ATP Open final tennis match against Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka in Saint Petersburg, yesterday. — AFP**

## WOZNIACKI ENDS TITLE WAIT WITH TOKYO WIN



**TOKYO:** Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark holds the winner's plate during the awards ceremony after defeating Naomi Osaka of Japan in the women's singles final at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

**TOKYO:** Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki overpowered Japan's Naomi Osaka 7-5, 6-3 to capture the Pan Pacific Open yesterday, her first tournament victory since February 2015.

The Dane, who has battled back from a wretched run of injuries this year, weathered an early storm from her teenage opponent before running out a comfortable winner, claiming a second Tokyo title and the 24th of her career.

"I'm very proud to win the tournament," Wozniacki told reporters. "Somebody just told me I've won a tournament every year since 2008. That's a nice little streak and hopefully I can keep it going and keep moving forward." Wozniacki, the Pan Pacific champion six years ago, survived a health scare after dropping serve to go down 4-3 in the first set.

After feeling a twinge in her left thigh, she left the court for treatment and returned with her leg heavily bandaged.

But it appeared to have little adverse effect

as Wozniacki took complete control, ripping a fierce backhand down the line to take the set.

Wozniacki, who reached the US Open semifinals earlier this month to signal her return to form, roared into a 5-0 lead in the second set as Osaka's game unravelled in the Tokyo sunshine.

Playing with the roof open after a week of typhoon rains, Osaka paid for her youthful exuberance, her strategy of attempting to hit the fur off the ball on every shot backfiring badly against a vastly more experienced opponent.

The 18-year-old, who called a medical timeout of her own for a sore right shoulder after losing the first set, produced some spirited resistance to avoid the dreaded 'bagel', but it was too little too late.

Wozniacki completed victory with a crisp backhand which forced Osaka into yet another wild shot, giving the 26-year-old her first title since Kuala Lumpur last year.

"I hurt my groin a little bit in the first set,

but I tried to stay aggressive and stay calm," said Wozniacki, who had seen her world ranking plunge to 74th after suffering wrist and ankle injuries.

"To be honest I was just trying to fight for every point. It was tough at the end but I was just happy to close it out."

The Dane is set to climb to 22 or 23 in the new rankings when they are released today. Osaka, born of a Japanese mother and Haitian father, will break into the top 50 after her fairytale run but confessed her inexperience had cost her.

"Everything is a bit new to me," she said. "I was thinking too much about the whole situation. When she took a medical break I should've been more focused on my game."

"I'm sort of taking everything as it comes," added Osaka, who had lost all her previous five finals on the WTA satellite circuit.

"I will try to fix things I did wrong today but honestly I'm happy how I've played this year." — AFP

## RONALDO HAS TO LIVE WITH BEING SUBBED: ZIDANE

**MADRID:** Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane insisted Cristiano Ronaldo has to learn to live with being substituted after sulking off the field visibly frustrated in the European champions' 2-2 draw at Las Palmas.

Zidane replaced the three-time World Player of the Year with Madrid leading 2-1 18 minutes from time, but an unhappy Ronaldo watched from the bench as Sergio Araujo equalised to ensure Real dropped points for the second time in four days.

"I have to take him off sometimes and tonight we did it," said Zidane. "That isn't going to change what we are going to do continue to do." At the forefront of Zidane's mind was Real's huge Champions League clash away to Borussia Dortmund tomorrow.

However, Ronaldo endured a poor night in front

of goal as he fluffed a great chance from Alvaro Morata's cut-back before half-time and fired straight at Javi Varas in the build-up to Madrid's second goal. "We have a game on tomorrow and I thought it was the time to take him off, 20 minutes from the end, thinking about tomorrow," added Zidane. "I know he always wants to play and always wants to stay on the field, but I also have to think about the players and for me it was best to rest and think about Tuesday."

Ronaldo has completed 90 minutes just twice this season, though, as he was also replaced early on his return from a knee ligament injury against Osasuna earlier this month and missed last week-end's win at Espanyol due to illness. Real's lead over Barcelona at the top of the table now stands at a solitary point having failed to bounce back from a

1-1 draw with Villarreal on Wednesday that snapped a 16-game winning streak in La Liga. Of most concern for Madrid is their leaky defence as they have now kept just one clean sheet in their last six games.

"Sometimes there are games like this where you have the chances to win and you don't take them," continued Zidane.

"I think there is a lack of concentration in the second goal. I have to analyse it, but I am not going to complain. Playing like this for 90 minutes we will be at the top of the league I have no doubt." Gareth Bale had been the star member of Madrid's front line most often sacrificed by Zidane in recent weeks as the Welshman was replaced in each of his last three outings.

However, Bale looked back close to the form

which saw him shine towards the end of last season and at Euro 2016 and believes Ronaldo will also need time to get back to 100 percent fitness following his two-month injury layoff after the Euros.

"He's been working hard on his injuries since he came back," said Bale. "He hasn't had a pre-season like me and it takes a little bit of time." Bale is yet to score since the opening day of the La Liga season, but insists the goals will arrive if Real continue to create the number of chances they did in the Canary Islands.

"We're not happy to lose four points, but if you look at the league overall we are in a good position," he added. "You have to look at the positives. Of course we are disappointed, but we are still unbeaten. We are still creating chances and if we keep doing that we'll score plenty of goals." — AFP



**COLOGNE:** Cologne's French striker Anthony Modeste (C), Leipzig's defender Marvin Compper (L) and Leipzig's defender Benno Schmitz vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between 1 FC Cologne and RB Leipzig in Cologne, western Germany, yesterday. — AFP

## RECORD-SIGNING OLIVER BURKE NETS FOR UNBEATEN LEIPZIG

**BERLIN:** Scottish teenager Oliver Burke scored his first Bundesliga goal yesterday as new-boys RB Leipzig drew 1-1 at Cologne to remain unbeaten in Germany's top flight.

Leipzig are backed by Austrian energy drinks giants Red Bull and are unpopular with fans of Germany's traditional clubs due to the commercialism they represent.

For example, the match kicked off 15 minutes late after Cologne fans blocked the Leipzig team bus en route to the stadium.

Banners around the Cologne stadium typically read "Money kills" and "Piss Off, RB".

But Leipzig, who won four promotions in seven seasons since being founded in 2009, earned the away draw to stop host Cologne going second. Burke, 19, netted on his first start for Leipzig when the winger drilled home Marcel Sabitzer's pass with five minutes gone.

Japan striker Yuya Osako levelled on 25 minutes while Cologne's French striker Anthony Modeste had a second-half goal ruled out for offside. The result leaves Cologne third and Leipzig seventh. Both sides are unbeaten in their first five games.

Burke, who has been compared to Wales' star Gareth Bale, cost Leipzig 15 million euros (\$16.8m) from Nottingham Forest, to become the most expensive Scottish transfer of all time.

He says he does not understand the resentment from German fans towards his new club since arriving in Leipzig in August.

"I read on the internet that the club polarises in Germany," he told Germany daily Bild, in an interview before kick-off, having made his debut in RB's shock 1-0 win over Borussia Dortmund.

"Personally, I do not understand it.

"In England, it's quite normal that money is invested in football in order to create something new. Our fans and the atmosphere at the home games are fantastic, that's the end what counts. This is simply an outstanding club."

Earlier, Schalke 04's worst start to a Bundesliga season in the club's history was confirmed with a 2-1 loss at Hoffenheim.

It was their fifth straight league defeat and piles the pressure on new coach Markus Weinzierl. They are the only club to still have no points in Germany's top flight.

Having been recruited from Augsburg while sports director Christian Heidel was poached from Mainz, Weinzierl has endured a disastrous start. "It's not down to him and I very much hope that all the people involved here support him," said Schalke's captain, Germany defender Benedikt Hoewedes.

"We need to stand together, as men, and

improve." Werder Bremen's dramatic 2-1 win over Wolfsburg on Saturday had seen Schalke take Bremen's place at the bottom of the table.

With Germany coach Joachim Loew watching, Schalke were on course for their first league points of the season after taking a fourth minute lead at Hoffenheim's Rhein Neckar Arena. Swiss striker Brel Embolo-who cost Schalke 22 million euros (\$24.5m) from Basel-fired in a cross which Cameroon striker Eric Choupo-Moting headed home.

But Hoffenheim drew level when Croatia striker Andrej Kramaric, signed from Leicester City, headed them level on 17 minutes.

And midfielder Lukas Rupp slotted home what proved to be the winning goal when his shot beat Schalke goalkeeper Ralf Faehermann on 41 minutes.

Hamburg sacked coach Bruno Labbadia on Sunday after their 1-0 defeat to leaders Bayern Munich, their fourth-straight loss which left them 16th. Weinzierl is now the next boss sweating about his future with Schalke two places below in rock bottom.

They play their next Europa League group stage match at home to RB Salzburg on Thursday, then face Champions League side Borussia Muenchengladbach next Sunday at home in the Bundesliga. — AFP

## HART ON HAND TO SPOIL TOTTI CELEBRATIONS

**MILAN:** England goalkeeper Joe Hart answered his critics with a standout performance as Torino dampened Francesco Totti's upcoming birthday celebrations with a 3-1 win over Roma yesterday.

Roma travelled to Turin looking to close a five-point gap to leaders Juventus after the champions scraped a 1-0 win at Palermo on Saturday.

But Andrea Belotti's eighth-minute opener, the striker's header beating Wojciech Szczesny at his near post, had Luciano Spalletti's men under pressure from the off.

The Giallorossi heads dropped further when Iago Falque beat the Polish international from the spot on 53 minutes after a foul on Belotti by former Torino defender Bruno Peres.

Roma were given brief hope of a fightback when Totti, who will celebrate his 40th birthday on Tuesday, came off the bench to beat Hart from the penalty spot two minutes later.

But any hopes of a late fightback were quashed when Falque capitalised on a defensive blunder to fire a deflected shot over Szczesny halfway through the second period.

Two years ago Totti, three days after his 38th birthday, became the oldest player to score in the Champions League when he beat Hart to net a 23rd minute leveller in a

1-1 draw at Manchester City.

It was the Roma icon's 300th career goal and his first on English soil.

But the plaudits this time went to England keeper Hart, who was forced out at City by new manager Pep Guardiola amid claims his game was not up to par for the unforgiving Premier League.

Hart had also come under scrutiny in midweek when he flapped at an innocuous cross during a scoreless draw away to Pescara.

But yesterday the 29-year-old was in superb form as Torino claimed only their second win of the season.

Hart was forced out early to steal the ball in midair from Edin Dzeko as the Bosnian ran down on goal, and then got down low to save with one hand from the striker's snap shot from close range.

Dzeko should have done better with Mohamed Salah's delivery near the end of the opening half but Hart tipped the striker's header over with one hand.

Torino took a decisive step towards the win when Falque stepped up to beat Szczesny in the Roma net on 53 minutes.

Two minutes later, Totti sent Hart the wrong way when he fired home from the spot but it proved a false dawn as Torino ended a three-game winless streak to move up to provisional eighth at seven points off the lead. — AFP



**TURIN:** Torino's Italian midfielder Marco Benassi (front) challenges AS Roma's Dutch midfielder Kevin Strootman during the Italian Serie A football match between Torino and AS Roma at the "Grande Torino" Stadium in Turin yesterday. — AFP

## SISSOKO INJURY FEAR FOR SPURS AHEAD OF MOSCOW TRIP

**MIDDLESBROUGH:** Moussa Sissoko has added to the injury worries facing Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino ahead of tomorrow's Champions League tie at CSKA Moscow.

Sissoko suffered concussion during Tottenham's 2-1 success at Middlesbrough in the Premier League on Saturday and appears unlikely to make the trip to Russia. A win in Moscow is vital for Tottenham after their defeat by Monaco in the opening round of fixtures.

Pochettino is already without striker Harry Kane and there are major doubts over Mousa Dembele, Eric Dier and Danny Rose, who were missing at the Riverside as Tottenham maintained their unbeaten run and moved into second place in the Premier League.

While Kane's absence is the biggest blow to Spurs, Son Heung-Min showed at Middlesbrough that they can turn to him for goals. He claimed both their goals and has now scored four times in his last three games.

Son started only 13 games under Pochettino last season and was unsettled during the close-season, but is now a vital part of the team.

"It's difficult for all players who come from outside England because the Premier League is the toughest in the world," Pochettino said.

"He's a different person today-he's more mature and knows the league now. He's a nice guy that likes to work hard and, in football, you get paid back if you

work hard." Harry Kane is a very important player for us, but always we talk about the team and we have a strong squad. "Harry has an injury, he is important, but so are all 25 players in the squad. We are not happy that Harry is out, but that is football.

"I was very pleased with the first half, but I was a little bit disappointed as we created a lot of chances and we weren't clinical enough in front of goal. That is something we need to work on in the future. "In the second half, we had a few more chances, but we could not be too open or naive, because the game is not done at 2-0.

"When it was 2-1, we suffered a little bit, but we deserved the victory."

### FRUSTRATING

Son's goals came inside the opening 23 minutes as he made Middlesbrough pay for their defensive shortcomings in front of an uncertain goalkeeper in Victor Valdes.

With Calum Chambers surprisingly called up in place of Daniel Ayala, Middlesbrough's back four allowed Son to glide away from two challenges in the seventh minute and steered in a left-foot shot that Valdes should have stopped.

Antonio Barragan and Cristhian Stuani were the Middlesbrough players at fault 16 minutes later when Son again located space inside the area and used his right foot on this occasion to place his shot inside Valdes's far post. — AFP

## NO BALOTELLI, BUT NICE WIN AGAIN

**PARIS:** With striker Mario Balotelli rested, his replacement Alassane Plea scored the winner as Nice beat struggling Nancy 1-0 to stay top of the French league.

With Thursday's Europa League match at Russian side Krasnodar in mind, Nice coach

Lucien Favre left out Balotelli and put other regulars on the bench.

Balotelli has made a strong start to his career in France, scoring four goals in two league games - two on his debut against Marseille and two well-taken goals in a 4-0 midweek win



**TOMBLAINE:** Nancy's Spanish-Uruguayan defender Erick Cabaco (R) vies with Nice's Moroccan midfielder Younes Belhanda during the French L1 football match between Nancy (ASNL) and Nice (OGCN) yesterday at Marcel Picot stadium in Tomblaine, eastern France. — AFP

against Monaco. Favre has spoken of how the Italian forward, who is reviving his career in France after a failed stint in England with Liverpool and a dismal loan spell at AC Milan, still needs to regain full fitness. This time, Balotelli was not needed as Plea - who scored when replacing Balotelli against Monaco on Wednesday night - poked the ball in after midfielder Valentin Eysseric had clipped a pass over the defense. Nancy rallied late on but home fans were again left feeling disappointed after a fourth defeat in seven matches, with the promoted club in 19th place.

Nice is one point clear of French Riviera rival Monaco after seven games, three clear of Toulouse and four ahead of defending champion Paris Saint-Germain.

PSG lost 2-0 at Toulouse on Friday - a second defeat of the season for new coach Unai Emery.

### SAINT-ETIENNE 3, LILLE 1

Things were going reasonably well for struggling Lille until defender Franck Beria stuck his hand up in the air and wafted it to block a pass over midfield. It was careless and costly, earning him a second yellow card. After his sending off in the 43rd minute, 10-man Lille capitulated in the second half.

No wonder under-pressure coach Frederic Antonetti shook his head in annoyance as Beria - a veteran playing in his 10th season for Lille - walked off the pitch.

Lille is in last place, while Saint-Etienne is up to seventh. Slovenia striker Robert Beric scored his third goal in four games, 18-year-old midfielder Arnaud Nordin got his first career goal and forward Nolan Roux added the third for Saint-Etienne. Veteran defender Renato Civelli got Lille's goal. — AP

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LONDON: West Ham's Simone Zaza, left, competes for the ball with Southampton's Jose Fonte during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham and Southampton at The London Stadium in London, yesterday. — AP

## WEST HAM SUFFER DEFEAT AS SAINTS STROLL



LONDON: Southampton condemned West Ham to another miserable experience at their new London Stadium as Charlie Austin and Dusan Tadic inspired the visitors' 3-0 victory yesterday.

West Ham's move from Upton Park to the former Olympic Stadium just across east London was supposed to herald the start of a successful new era. But instead they have been beset by problems on and off the pitch and a fourth successive Premier League loss left Slaven Bilic's side languishing in the relegation zone.

The series of ugly brawls that broke out during a recent defeat by Watford raised fears about fan safety in the arena and, although there was no repeat of the

crowd problems against Southampton, the lackluster efforts of Bilic's players ensured the supporters would continue to feel uncomfortable in their new surroundings. Austin put Southampton ahead before Tadic and James Ward-Prowse wrapped up Southampton's fourth successive win in all competitions.

West Ham were left to count the cost of a third defeat in six matches in their new abode and, with the worst defensive record in the league, they look destined for a season of struggle.

"We deserved to be defeated. It's hard to change it. The team is down," Bilic said. "We have good weeks of training but when the game comes it's simply not good enough. "We have to work hard but it's not happening." After conceding 11 goals in their last three league games, West Ham were in dire need of a vibrant performance, but it was Southampton who seized the initiative and they threatened when Ryan Bertrand picked out Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg on the edge of the penalty area.

Hojbjerg had time and space to pick his spot, but Angelo Ogbonna made up the ground with impressive

speed and stuck out a leg to block the strike.

West Ham winger Michail Antonio has scored 10 headed Premier League goals in 2016 and his aerial prowess was acting as a magnet whenever his side attacked. However, seeking out the lanky Antonio with high crosses proved a dubious strategy, with Southampton's towering centre-back Virgil van Dijk winning virtually every headed duel.

West Ham's injury problems meant Bilic was forced to deploy Havard Nordtveit out of position at right-back and the Norway midfielder was exposed when Southampton illuminated a drab first half with their 40th minute opener.

Tadic slipped a perfectly-weighted pass behind the hesitant Nordtveit and Bertrand surged away down the left flank before crossing to Austin, who guided a fine first-time finish low into the far corner.

It was the Southampton striker's fifth goal in his last four appearances and vindicated Claude Puel's decision to start him instead of Shane Long.

Puel's team had a golden opportunity to double their

lead soon after half-time when Cedric Soares found the unmarked Tadic 10 yards from goal.

This time Adrian came to his side's rescue as he palmed away a Tadic strike that lacked the precision required to beat the Hammers goalkeeper.

But West Ham's creaky defence crumbled again moments later and this time Tadic didn't let them off the hook. A total lack of communication and organisation in the Hammers rearguard proved fatal in the 62nd minute when Cheikhou Kouyate lost possession in mid-field and Austin's deft pass sent Tadic clear to round Adrian and slot into the empty net.

West Ham's lone spell of pressure saw them denied a penalty when Sofiane Feghouli's shot hit Ryan Bertrand on the hand.

And it was clear the Hammers were certain to end empty-handed when Simone Zaza's shot was cleared off the line by van Dijk.

Ward-Prowse rubbed salt into West Ham's wounds as he came off the bench to drill home from close-range in stoppage-time. — AFP

## ATLETICO MADRID'S INJURIES OVERSHADOW GRIEZMANN WINNER

MADRID: Antoine Griezmann was Atletico Madrid's hero once more with the winner as last season's Champions League finalists moved third in La Liga with a 1-0 win over 10-man Deportivo la Coruna.

However, the hosts' victory was overshadowed by an anterior cruciate ligament injury suffered by midfielder Augusto Fernandez before half-time that will keep him out for much of the remainder of the season.

Jose Maria Gimenez also had to be replaced in the first half with a groin injury and is set to miss Wednesday's huge Champions League clash with Bayern Munich.

Moroccan winger Faycal Fajr undid a fine opening 45 minutes for the visitors on Sunday when he picked up two quickfire yellow cards just before the break.

Atletico passed up a host of chances in the second half, but finally made the breakthrough 20 minutes from time when Griezmann tapped home his fifth goal of the season.

Diego Simeone's men now trail leaders Real Madrid by just two points and move to within a point of Barcelona.

"It is not good news, especially Augusto's injury, but the doctors can explain it better than me," said Atletico coach Simeone.

Atletico were the only side in Champions League action this week to play on Sunday, but Simeone insisted that would be no excuse against Bayern.

"Now they need a big bowl of pasta, a good flax and to sleep well," added the Argentine. "We'll have a recovery session today and train well again tomorrow. They have to sleep very

well because they have to play on Wednesday at 2045 (1845MGT) and come what may there will be no excuses."

Griezmann had the hosts' best chance of a first half disrupted by the injuries to Fernandez and Gimenez when he slotted wide from Angel Correa's cross.

Fajr eased Atletico's route to victory when he dived in late on Nicolas Gaitan in first-half stoppage time to leave Deportivo with 10 men.

The visitors still had a great chance to take a shock lead at the start of the second period when Lucas Hernandez headed clear from under his own crossbar with Florin Andone waiting to turn the ball home.

Yannick Carrasco and Correa then saw great chances saved by German Lux, while Filipe Luis fired just wide as the chances began to flow for Atletico.

However, it took until 20 minutes from time for the goal to come as substitute Kevin Gameiro latched onto Juanfran's pass and his low cross was turned home by his French international teammate Griezmann.

Earlier, Valencia's upturn under caretaker coach Voro continued as they came from behind to beat Leganes 2-1, but were grateful once more to Brazilian goalkeeper Diego Alves's fantastic record of saving penalties.

Alexander Szymanowski headed the hosts into the lead, but Nani levelled with his first Valencia goal 10 minutes before half-time.

Nani's cross was turned home by Mario Suarez to put Valencia in front. However, Szymanowski had the chance to give Leganes a deserved share of the points when Alves depend-



MADRID: Atletico Madrid's Kevin Gameiro, top, outjumps Deportivo Coruna's Luisinho Pinto during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Atletico and Deportivo at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid, yesterday. Atletico won 1-0. — AP

ed Alberto Martin half an hour from time.

Yet Alves produced his 20th save from 43 penalties he's faced in Spanish football to ensure Valencia's second win in four days. Voro has now won eight of the 10 games he has taken charge of in four caretaker spells. — AFP

## ASIA POSTPONES NEXT ASIAN BEACH AND ASIAN YOUTH GAMES

DANANG: The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has rescheduled two of its biggest regional events and introduced limits on the number of athletes allowed to compete in the region's top multi-sports competition.

With Asia already set to stage the next three Olympics and a host of world championships over the next decade, OCA officials have decided to streamline some of their major regional events, which have grown spectacularly from humble beginnings.

The Asian Beach Games, currently taking place in Vietnam, will now be held every four years instead of every two. Founded in 2008, the next edition was supposed to take place in 2018 but has been postponed until 2020.

The 2017 Asian Youth Games, due to be held in Jakarta, will now take place in 2021. The Games, which were first held in 2009, were originally due to take place in Sri Lanka but were switched to Indonesia, mainly as a test event for the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang.

Indonesian officials told the OCA General Assembly on Sunday they would stage a smaller test event in 2017 and then the Youth Games at Surabaya four years later.

OCA president Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah also announced limits

on the number of competitors at the Asian Games. This is second only in size to the Olympics with more than 10,000 competitors and 5,000 officials from 45 countries and regions as well as 4,000 technical staff, 8,000 media and 30,000 volunteers.

Until now, countries have been allowed to enter as many athletes as they liked but the OCA said each nation would be restricted to a maximum of two competitors in each individual event.

"Otherwise we will have nine from one country and none from other countries," Sheikh Ahmad told the assembly.

"We are getting the best two from each NOC (National Olympic Committee) and we are giving a chance to other NOCs to win medals."

The Indonesian organising committee for the 2018 Asian Games said preparations were on schedule. But one of the planned sports, surfing, had been dropped because the waves were not big enough at either Jakarta or near Palembang.

Meanwhile, the general assembly agreed to set up five regional offices while it tries to resolve its long-running dispute with the government in Kuwait which houses the OCA headquarters. — AFP



**CHEVROLET ALGHANIM HOSTS THE KUWAIT CORVETTE CLUB**



**KUWAIT:** Faisal Al-Ayyar (left) and other KIPCO officials during the unveiling of the brand identity for the Hessah Al-Mubarak real estate development yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**KIPCO, PARTNERS UNVEIL HESSAH AL-MUBARAK PROJECT**

**KUWAIT'S FIRST-EVER MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT TO CREATE 'CENTER OF VIBRANT LIVING,' AL-AYYAR**

**KUWAIT:** KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company - and its partners have unveiled the brand identity for the Hessah Al-Mubarak real estate development. The project, with its unique location on the outskirts of Kuwait City and overlooking the Arabian Gulf Sea, is Kuwait's first-ever comprehensive, mixed-use development. In this urban neighborhood, people can live, work, shop and spend leisure time, creating "The Center of Vibrant Living."

In a press conference announcing details of the project, Faisal Al-Ayyar, KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive), said that the development aims to offer quality lifestyle to Kuwaitis and expatriates alike: "This project offers a new approach to upper-scale, integrated, urban, mixed-use developments in Kuwait. We have taken a holistic approach to design, creating a richness and sense of connectivity through architecture and landscaping. The owners have made a commitment to quality and we will be laying down all the infrastructure within the masterplan - including public facilities and open green



**KUWAIT:** Faisal Al-Ayyar (left) addresses the press conference.

areas - to make sure that we deliver on this promise, now and in the future."

The project development manager is Al-Mutawir Real Estate Company. The infra-

structure contract has been awarded to Ahmadiyah Contracting and Trading Company, and mobilization on site has begun. The land plot measures 227,066

sqm, of which close to 50 percent is dedicated to public services and amenities. This includes gardens, open public spaces, urban plazas, streets, multi-story public parking and utilities. Gardens and green areas across the project have been allocated 23,400 sqm.

Speaking about details of the masterplan, Tawfiq Al-Jarrah, Executive Director of the development, said: "More than 70 percent of the built up area of the development project is dedicated to residential units. These are strategically located within the masterplan to allow residents to benefit from public spaces and amenities. The masterplan also includes a business district stretching between two anchor nodes; the food and beverage cluster to the north, and the retail and community services cluster to the south."

The project's total built up area will be 381,000 sqm and includes 82 plots for residential buildings (high, medium and low-rise apartment buildings and duplexes), serviced apartments, offices, clinics, health clubs, commercial activities, retail, as well as

food and beverage.

Al-Jarrah added: "KIPCO, through its subsidiaries, will be developing 38 plots of the masterplan. The rest of the project will be developed by parties who share our vision and strive for excellence. Our first milestone will be the completion of the infrastructure, which will take 12 months. The first phase of the project, which includes properties developed by our subsidiaries, will be completed 36 months after that. As such, Hessah Al-Mubarak will be inhabited by 2020."

The KIPCO Group is one of the biggest holding companies in the Middle East and North Africa, with consolidated assets of \$33 billion as at 30 June 2016. The Group has significant ownership interests in over 60 companies operating across 24 countries. The group's main business sectors are financial services, media, real estate and manufacturing. Through its core companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, KIPCO also has interests in the education and medical sectors.



**KUWAIT:** An artist's rendering of the Hessah Al-Mubarak real estate development project.

**US-EU ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN FOR STORMY WEATHER**

**WASHINGTON:** With spats over Apple and Deutsche Bank and squabbles about Airbus and Boeing, approaching elections on both sides of the Atlantic are exacerbating strains in US-European economic relations. The recent controversy over taxing the iPhone maker surely epitomizes the situation best. European authorities' decision in late August to force the American giant Apple to pay \$14.5 billion in taxes to Ireland infuriated officials in Washington and is still ruffling feathers.

US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew has repeatedly expressed his astonishment and openly accused the Europeans of "disproportionately" focusing on US corporations. On the other hand, the US Justice Department's \$14 billion proposed settlement with Deutsche Bank over trading in mortgage-backed securities derivatives has rattled nerves in Europe, where some accuse Washington of coming down particularly hard on foreign banks.

Add to this the US victory at the World Trade Organization this week in the battle over Europe's purportedly illegal public subsidies to Airbus. The matter is not yet concluded but the United States could in theory claim billions of dollars in compensation from Europe.

And to top it off, negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which are to resume in a week in New York, are also foundering - not only because of divergent positions but also because of the calendar. The Americans still insist the agreement could be signed before the end of the year while President Barack Obama is still in office. The Europeans now say this is "not realistic."

**Friction**

There has always been friction among the two allied sides, but this time things are worsened by the uncertainty from the coming presidential elections, set for November 8 in the US and for April in France. General elections are due to be held in Germany before the end of 2017. "In normal times, both sides would easily reach a compromise on these issues but the problem is that it is coming in this incredibly uncertain environment," said Edward Alden of the Council on Foreign Relations, a New York think tank. The rise of protectionist views in the United States with the candidacy of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and in Europe, with the British vote to secede from the EU, has electrified talks and complicated reactions from current governments.

"The danger is that what should be routine disputes become harder and harder to deal with in this environment," said Alden, adding that both Europe and the United States are now "disoriented" by the rejection of trade liberalization.

Assailing trade partners then becomes tempting. And so France took the gloves off recently, decrying the purported stubbornness of the United States in trade talks. "The Americans offer nothing or crumbs... This isn't how allies should negotiate," French Foreign Trade Minister Matthias Fekl said last month. He then drove home the point, saying it would be "inconceivable" to continue talks so long as the Americans persisted in applying their laws in supposedly extraterritorial manner on European companies. —AFP

# NBK AMONG WORLD'S 50 SAFEST BANKS IN 2016

THE ONLY KUWAITI BANK ON GLOBAL FINANCE LIST

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continued to rank among The World's 50 Safest Banks list published by Global Finance topping international financial heavyweights. NBK maintained its listing in The World's 50 Safest Banks list for the 12th consecutive time. NBK is the only Kuwaiti bank to rank in Global Finance's list.

This recognition demonstrates NBK's exceptionally strong ratings, successful strategy, high standards and rigorous risk management discipline & governance. Global Finance rankings are based on collective long-term credit ratings from Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings in addition to the total assets of the 500 largest banks worldwide. Global Finance's listings have been well-recognized and trusted standards for the creditworthiness of financial institutions for more than 20 years.

NBK continues to enjoy one of the highest credit ratings



in the MENA region and internationally, with ratings of Aa3 from Moody's, A+ from Standard & Poor's and AA- from Fitch, all ratings carry a stable outlook. The Bank's ratings are supported by NBK's conservative strategy, strong capitalization & asset quality, prudent lending policies, wise risk management and a highly stable management team.

NBK enjoys the widest banking presence with an international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including London, Paris, Geneva, New York and Singapore, as well as China (Shanghai). Meanwhile, regional coverage extends to Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Turkey.

## News

in brief

### Kuwait oil price down 28 cents to \$41.02 pb

**KUWAIT:** Price of Kuwaiti crude oil went down 28 cents to \$41.02 per barrel on Friday after it was at \$41.30 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. In international markets, the oil price also went down due to indications that major exporters would not reach a consensus on setting an output ceiling during next week, in addition to reports indicating the US would record highest rise in a number of drilling rigs since collapse of the crude oil prices two years ago. Meanwhile, price of the Brent Blend moved down upon settlement by \$1.76 to \$45.89 pb. West Texas crude oil also dropped \$1.84 to \$44.48 pb.

### Qatar's Ahli Bank finalizing 3-year loan of \$180m

**DUBAI:** Qatar's Ahli Bank is completing a three-year club loan financing expected to be in the region of \$180 million, said two banking sources with direct knowledge of the situation. The loan, launched in the market at the end of August, is self-coordinated, said the sources, meaning the fundraising process is arranged by the borrower. The loan documentation is being finalized and the facility is expected to be signed in one or two weeks, noted one of the two sources. Qatar's Ahli Bank did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Qatari bank was in talks with lenders earlier this year for a \$250 million three-year loan, as reported by Reuters in May. The new facility would partly refinance a \$200 million three-year loan the lender raised in September 2014. That loan paid a margin of 120 basis points over the London interbank offered rate (Libor) and was led by bookrunners Barclays, Commerzbank, HSBC and First Gulf Bank.

### Egypt petrol subsidy bill down 29% in 2015-2016

**CAIRO:** Egypt's spending on petroleum subsidies dropped by 28.7 percent in the 2015-16 financial year to compared to one year earlier, Petroleum Minister Tarek El Molla said yesterday, a greater decline than previously announced. Egypt has been trying to wean itself off costly energy subsidies that eat up a large portion of the state budget. Tarek Al-Hadidi, head of state oil company EGPC, told Reuters in August that the subsidies had fallen by 23 percent, to 55 billion pounds (\$71.36 billion) for the 2015-16 financial year, which ended in June. Molla said on Sunday that the figure was actually 51 billion pounds. In 2014 the government cut spending on energy subsidies, causing domestic prices of natural gas, diesel and other fuels to rise by as much as 78 percent, but has delayed further cuts amid low energy prices that have kept spending down.

### Egypt's FHC seeking soyoil, sunflower oil in tender

**ABU DHABI:** Egypt's Food Industries Holding Company is seeking 15,000 tons of sunflower oil and 30,000 tons of soyoil in a tender, Cairo-based traders said yesterday. The oil is for arrival between Nov. 10-30, the traders said. The deadline for offers is Sept. 29.

# SUDAN NEEDS SWIFT REFORMS TO REVIVE ECONOMY: WB

**KHARTOUM:** Sudan must undertake swift structural reforms to revive its ailing sanctions-hit economy, including devaluing the Sudanese pound against the dollar, the World Bank said yesterday.

Rising inflation and the loss of nearly 75 percent of oil earnings following the north-south split in 2011 have led to a steady decline in Sudan's economic growth. The decline comes on top of an economy already damaged by US trade sanctions imposed since 1997, making international bank-

ing transactions cumbersome when it comes to doing business with Sudan.

"It is essential that Sudan undertakes a combination of institutional, macro-economic and sectoral reforms to reach a stable growth path," said a World Bank report on the country's economy released in Khartoum. "While the authorities have succeeded in reducing inflation and slightly recovering from the negative growth rates of 2011 and 2012, more must be done to ensure a more stable medium-term outlook," said the report's lead author, Michael Geiger. Sudan's average gross domestic product growth between 1998 to 2008 was above six percent, after which it steadily declined to around three percent in recent years.

Previous efforts at economic reform have proven controversial. An attempt in September 2013 by Sudan to cut fuel subsidies had led to bloody confrontations between anti-austerity protesters and security forces that left dozens dead in Khartoum. The World Bank report said that removing exchange restrictions to unify official and black-market rates of the Sudanese pound to the US dollar could help revive the east African country's sluggish economy. The official rate of the Sudanese pound is 6.50 to the dollar, but it trades for about 15.50 on the black market. "Given the ever-changing black market rate... gradual and ongoing devaluation" is a key to help growth, the report said.

It said a stable exchange rate will help in formulating monetary and fiscal policies that support economic stability and competitiveness. Sudan has been subject to a US trade embargo since 1997 and the conflict in its Darfur region has been given as a reason against lifting sanctions.

More than 300,000 people have died in Darfur and 2.5 million been displaced since 2003, according to UN figures. A deadly conflict erupted in 2003 in Darfur-a region the size of France when ethnic minority groups took up arms against President Omar Al-Bashir's Arab-dominated government in Khartoum, accusing it of marginalizing the

region. Geiger suggested that although decisions on whether to lift sanctions were "political and the World Bank had no role in it," the easing of these measures could certainly help Sudan's economy.

"There is an issue in access to foreign exchange... there is an issue in transferring money to different countries through the formal banking system... all this certainly plays a role" in slowing the economy, Geiger told AFP. — AFP



**KHARTOUM:** Director of the planning department of Sudan's Ministry of Finance, Macki Mohamed Ahmed, holds a press conference in the capital Khartoum yesterday. — AFP



**KHARTOUM:** World Bank senior economist Michael Geiger holds a press conference in the capital Khartoum yesterday. — AFP

## ALGERIA PLANS BANK PRIVATIZATIONS AS OIL MONEY DRIES UP

**ALGIERS:** Algeria plans to allow its dominant state banks to list on the local stock exchange to help develop its financial markets and diversify sources of funding after the oil price slide, a senior financial official said. The plan will open the door for foreign investors to acquire controlling stakes in banks, reversing a rule requiring Algerian firms to keep a majority shareholding in any partnership with foreigners, the official told Reuters.

Algeria's six government-run banks account for most of the sector's assets. French companies such as Societe Generale and BNP Paribas have the strongest presence among foreign-owned banks already working in the country. OPEC member Algeria's economy has been largely based on a state-run and centralized system since its independence from France in 1962 and it remains reliant on an energy sector that still provides 60 percent of its budget.

But the oil price drop since 2014 has put Algeria

under financial pressure, forcing the government to trim spending and search for alternative financing sources. "The era of \$100 a barrel is over. We have no choice but to change our policy," the official said, asking not to be named because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

"Reforms will move slowly, but there will be no step backwards." With more than \$130 billion in foreign exchange reserves and little foreign debt, Algeria is in better shape than other oil producers such as Venezuela. However, it has been forced to push up taxes and increase subsidized gasoline and diesel prices, scaling back a vast welfare system that has in the past helped ease social tensions.

Advocates of the 51/49 ownership rule and tight foreign exchange controls say they helps protect Algeria's strategic sectors after an experimentation with privatization in the 1990s. But critics say such curbs stifle growth and investment. — Reuters

## GULF BOURSES RETREAT AFTER CRUDE TUMBLED

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Petrochemical shares were the main drag on Saudi Arabia's equity index after oil prices fell 4 percent at the end of last week, while Qatar's main index regained some ground. Riyadh's main index fell 0.6 percent to 5,913 points in low volumes, hitting a fresh 7-month low. Bellwether petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries declined 2.4 percent.

The retail segment was also weak, with one of the largest electronics stores, Jarir Marketing, dropping 2.0 percent. Dubai's main index edged down 0.6 percent with losers outnumbering gainers 13-to-7. Amusement park builder Dubai Parks and Resorts, which is due to open its theme parks next month, lost 2.4 percent and Emaar Properties edged down 0.7 percent.

Profit-taking on last week's top performing shares weighed on Abu Dhabi's index, which slipped 0.4 percent. Abu Dhabi National Energy lost 3.7 percent. Egypt's main index edged down 0.1 percent, with a little over half of the traded shares declining. Orascom Telecom, a stock favoured by local traders, dropped 1.9 percent in active trade. But some real estate companies gained, as investors

favoured property-related companies because of their inflation-hedge appeal after the central bank unexpectedly left key interest rates unchanged at a monetary policy meeting on Thursday.

Sixth of October Development and Investment rose 2.0 percent and Talaat Mostafa Group added 0.6 percent. But Qatar's index, which was down 1.2 percent in a volatile week, added 0.2 percent.

Some stocks, which are now members of the FTSE secondary emerging market index, climbed, with Ezzan Holding Group adding 1.1 percent.

### MOBILE OPERATORS

Egypt said it will consider auctioning its fourth-generation (4G) licences on the international market after all three of the country's existing mobile phone operators turned down an offer to acquire them on Thursday. Telecom Egypt, which had jumped 2.2 percent on Thursday because it was the only operator which had acquired the licence last month, retreated 1.4 percent on Sunday. — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.993
Indian Rupees	4.542
Pakistani Rupees	2.885
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.072
Nepali Rupees	2.839
Singapore Dollar	224.200
Hongkong Dollar	38.971
Bangladesh Taka	3.853
Philippine Peso	6.310
Thai Baht	8.742

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.643
Qatari Riyal	83.070
ani Riyal	785.473
Bahraini Dinar	803.110
UAE Dirham	82.335

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.050
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.423
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214
Tunisian Dinar	137.760
Jordanian Dinar	426.640
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.015
Syrian Lira	2.0155
Morocco Dirham	31.484

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.250
Euro	341.090
Sterling Pound	395.340

Canadian dollar	231.430
Turkish lira	103.160
Swiss Franc	314.840
Australian Dollar	233.640
US Dollar Buying	301.050

#### GOLD

20 Gram	268.710
10 Gram	137.270
5 Gram	69.480

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.950
Canadian Dollr	229.665
Sterling Pound	393.480
Euro	338.070
Swiss Frank	298.030
Bahrain Dinar	800.870
UAE Dirhams	82.710
Qatari Riyals	83.925
Saudi Riyals	81.510
Jordanian Dinar	426.885
Egyptian Pound	34.019
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.079
Indian Rupees	4.512
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Bangladesh Taka	3.854
Philippines Pessio	6.328
Cyprus pound	159.675
Japanese Yen	3.970
Syrian Pound	2.405

Nepalese Rupees	3.840
Malaysian Ringgit	75.560
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.770
Thai Bhat	9.710
Turkish Lira	103.555

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.385950	0.395950
Czech Korune	0.004555	0.016555
Danish Krone	0.041469	0.046469
Euro	0.0333735	0.0342735
Norwegian Krone	0.033267	0.038467
Romanian Leu	0.083750	0.083750
Slovakia	0.008997	0.018997
Swedish Krona	0.031355	0.036355
Swiss Franc	0.305467	0.316467
Turkish Lira	0.097808	0.108108
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.222798	0.234798
New Zealand Dollar	0.213191	0.222691
<b>America</b>		
Canadaian Dollar	0.224365	0.233365
Georgina Lari	0.136487	0.136487
US Dollars	0.298100	0.302800
US Dollars Mint	0.298600	0.302800
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003299	0.003883
Chinese Yuan	0.043770	0.047270

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036891	0.039641
Indian Rupee	0.004253	0.004642
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002916	0.003096
Kenyan Shilling	0.003108	0.003108
Korean Won	0.000264	0.000279
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070079	0.076079
Nepalese Rupee	0.002804	0.002974
Pakistan Rupee	0.002740	0.003030
Philippine Peso	0.006237	0.006537
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.217526	0.227526
South African Rand	0.016285	0.024785
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001654	0.002234
Taiwan	0.009493	0.009673
Thai Baht	0.008374	0.008921

#### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.795023	0.803523
Egyptian Pound	0.024009	0.029127
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000182	0.000242
Jordanian Dinar	0.422075	0.431075
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019737	0.043737
Nigerian Naira	0.001245	0.001880
Omani Riyal	0.778515	0.784195
Qatar Riyal	0.082196	0.083645
Saudi Riyal	0.079500	0.080800
Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500
Tunisian Dinar	0.133780	0.141780
Turkish Lira	0.097808	0.108108
UAE Dirhams	0.080853	0.082553
Yemeni Riyal	0.001366	0.001446

# AL-MAL INVESTMENT LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE PRODUCT TAKHAROJ

## PRODUCT TO HELP MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS OPTIMIZE VALUE

**KUWAIT:** Takharoj is an innovative product launched by Al-Mal Investment Company (K.P.S.C.) to optimize minority shareholders' value. Speaking on this occasion in an interview, Abdul Wahab Al-Mutawa, the company's Board Member and Chief Executive Officer, discussed the genesis of the product and its benefits and features that make it revolutionary in the Kuwaiti market. Excerpts:

**Kuwait Times:** Our preliminary research about Takharoj revealed that it is targeting minority shareholders in Unlisted Securities. Can you talk more about this and what makes Takharoj unique from other products currently being offered in the market?

**Al-Mutawa:** Absolutely! You see Takharoj is very different than any other product in the market today in a sense that is primarily designed to deal with any form of investment that is tied to Unlisted Securities, allowing you to become part of a sizable shareholding block with the power to negotiate optimal outcomes. Then, through understanding of the shareholders' objectives, Al-Mal Investment Company (K.P.S.C.), the company that owns Takharoj, will consult the advice of experts who will propose ideal solutions for minority shareholders.

**KT:** What is Al-Mal's objective to creating this unique product Takharoj?

**Al-Mutawa:** Well, Al-Mal's objective is to create a unique product to group like-minded minority shareholders and aid them in becoming part of a sizeable shareholding block to negotiate optimal outcomes. Introducing



Abdul Wahab Al-Mutawa, Al-Mal Investment Company's Board Member and Chief Executive Officer.

Takharoj highlights our ongoing commitment to deliver products that not only are innovative but also cater to the market's needs.

It is noteworthy to mention that, Al-Mal Investment Company (K.P.S.C.) employs a team of high caliber financial experts dedicated to analyzing the shares of minority investors and proposing ideal short-term and long-term solutions to maximize the value of the shareholding block.

**KT:** Can you elaborate on Takharoj's strategy to maximize the value of minority shareholders?

**Al-Mutawa:** Well gladly, the way Takharoj works is that after a large number of shares from the same unlisted company have been registered in our data base a sizeable block is created. In that case, the shareholding block that we will be representing will become much stronger once grouped together, thus

offering them an optimal value in return. This also includes giving them a voting right on business decision and board members nomination. In any case the shareholding block collectively decides they may want to sell off their shares, we will be negotiating the optimal value for their shares.

**KT:** What types of investments are we talking about here—stocks, bonds, assets, options, ownership shares?

**Al-Mutawa:** Takharoj is primarily designed to deal with any form of investment. However, at this stage, Takharoj will only deal with Unlisted Securities.

On the other hand, Al-Mal Investment Company (K.P.S.C.) does provide investment advice related to publicly listed companies through its other services.

**KT:** Is Takharoj buying shares from shareholders, or acting as an intermediary?

**Al-Mutawa:** That's a good question. You see, buying shares from minority shareholders is not Takharoj's main objective; however, after thorough assessment of the company and business potential, Al-Mal Investment Company (K.P.S.C.) might suggest purchasing shares from some of the shareholders if they don't want to join the block in the suggested strategy, or if they prefer to sell despite our recommendation. This being said, this scenario is applicable only if the block has a great value and fits Al-Mal Investment Company (K.P.S.C.) overall strategy.

And yes, you could say that Takharoj is acting as an intermediary consultant,

thanks to our experts who will propose short-term and long-term solutions based on thorough analysis in order to maximize the value of the shareholding block. Al-Mal Investment Company (K.P.S.C.) cannot act without the explicit permission of the actual shareholders.

**KT:** Do customers need to pay a fee by just uploading my information on the website?

**Al-Mutawa:** No, the registration process is free. In fact, there are no commissions to be paid until a final success is in place.

**KT:** This brings me to this question: but how does Takharoj make money out of this?

**Al-Mutawa:** At Al-Mal we believe in a performance-based fee structure. That means that, where applicable, we will only take a percentage fee of the final transaction value once the solution is implemented. This protects our clients from paying monthly retainer fees in the interim as certain strategies may take 6 months or more to develop and come to fruition.

**KT:** What is Al-Mal's strategy to ensure its success in the market?

**Al-Mutawa:** To ensure the success of Takharoj in the market, we are starting phase one, which is educating and informing people of this unique platform, encouraging them to register their investment information on www.takharoj.com. All they have to do is to create an account, after which they'll be asked to provide us with the following information: basic personal information, investment

## FEDERAL RESERVE'S CONCERN IS ELECTION NOT THE ECONOMY

By Hayder Tawfik

It looks as if the Federal Reserve is more concerned about who is going to be the next president rather than what is happening to the US economy. Again, another meeting of the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee goes by with similar result. No rate rise and still waiting for further evidence of heating economy and wage pressure. It is quite clear that the members of the Federal Reserve are split in the middle. At some point in the coming months those who resisted a rate rise might regret their decision. But we can see that the hawks grow increasingly restless and their concerns will look more valid, assuming the economy gains further ground in the final months of the year.

It seems that December is the month, just after the presidential election is out of the way. By the way even if a rate rise happens in December, it will be just 0.25 percent. It would mean that another 0.25 percent a year, just like last year. Is this what everyone is been talking about, a New Normal! Back in August market participants thought they were picking up signals of an imminent rate hike. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said: "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."



### Job numbers

Although the job numbers have strengthened since May but the economic growth is still hovering around the 2 percent, which is, still a concern for some members. The weak oil and commodity prices plus a strong US\$ were supposed keep a cap on inflation, but it has risen to around the 2 percent. This in itself is not a real threat yet but some members of the Federal Reserve are concerned about inflationary pressure getting triggered by the shortage of skilled workers or full timers that started to demand higher wages.

The Federal Reserve Vice Chair Stanley Fischer followed up on Ellen's August comments, saying the economic numbers were consistent with two rates hikes this year. That put market participants on alert for September. Fischer's comments did, however, seem in line with a growing consensus among regional Federal Reserve presidents that the time for a rate hike is approaching. Some of the regional Federal Reserve presidents have been indicating and saying that even taking into account their estimates of the potential decline in the natural real interest rate, it appears that the funds rate should be significantly higher than it is now.

I believe that by now the Federal Reserve Policy has to be forward-looking. If they have a forecast and inflation moving within their targets i.e. moving up where they feel comfortable with and have unemployment below the 5, then it seems and quite natural to have a gradual increase from a very low interest rate. The Hawks members of the Federal Reserve want the Fed to take a preemptive action now rather than trying to chase it later on. I think a 0.25 increase would reassure the financial market and keeps a lid on potential inflation threat without hampering economic activities.

### Asset prices

A delay by the Federal Reserve in increasing rates will just lead to increase in asset prices that are already become bubbly. Leverage volume and activities within the financial sector has been growing steadily and lately has increased sharply. Also the

Quality of credit has been deteriorating. Moreover, above-target inflation could have a nasty impact on the wider economy. I think the only way to sustain the economic recovery is to act preemptively, because an economy running above full employment entails an eventual risk of a recession. In other words, the hawks at the Federal Reserve do not believe that monetary policy makers have the ability to gradually slow the economy at that point. Despite such arguments, the doves continue to maintain strong position. At the end of a lengthy year discussions, comments, arguments and continued warning about an increase in its Fed rates, Janet Yellen could decide by December that the election is out of the way and increase Fed rate by another 0.25 just as she did last December. I am wondering if the presidential election has something to do with delay in increasing Fed's rate or it is just a coincidence. We all know that the Federal Reserve is fully independent in its decision-making. However, having two candidates running neck and neck to become the next president is not something unusual. But I am sure the global markets are more concerned about a win for Donald Trump rather than Hillary Clinton. @Rasameel

## MARKAZ SPONSORS EUROMONEY KUWAIT CONFERENCE 2016

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" is sponsoring "The Euromoney Kuwait Conference 2016" that will be held tomorrow, September 27th at J W Marriott under the theme of "Meeting the Challenge of Financial Innovation and Reform". The conference's keynote speakers will include Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Anas Al-Saleh; Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Mohammed Al-Hashel; Chairman and Managing Director of Capital Markets Authority, Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf and Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), Sheikh Dr. Mashaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

Alrazi Y Albudaiwi, Vice President - Media and Communications at Markaz stated: "Our participation in the Euromoney Kuwait Conference reflects our commitment towards the sustainable development of the financial sector in the state of Kuwait and our keenness to

exchanging knowledge with financial experts locally, regionally and internationally."

Albudaiwi noted that Manaf A Alhajari, Chief Executive Officer at Markaz, will participate with a one-to-one interview where he will discuss the latest updates in the financial and investment sector in Kuwait and the region, Kuwait's position compared to the same time last year and the greatest challenges facing Kuwait's economy, his outlook for growth in 2016-2017, his views on the reforms to the capital market in Kuwait, the most attractive sectors and investment opportunities locally and internationally and his outlook to reinvigorate the economy.

Ali H Khalil, Chief Operating Officer at Markaz, will also participate in the conference through a discussion panel addressing Kuwait's Macro-Economic outlook with the participation of other expert panelists in which they will discuss some of the recent issues in the market such as: energy

prices, a widening deficit and the need for reform, monetary and economic diversification policies, re-defining Kuwait's public sector and other opportunities for reform, the role of the public sector in the financial system, strategy and reform in the banking sector and encouraging the private sector.

It is worth mentioning that many government institutions and financial companies from the private sector will participate in the conference through interviews and interactive panels. The conference topics include:

- Kuwait's macro-economic outlook
- Lower for longer: energy prices, a widening deficit and the need for reform
- Fiscal, monetary and economic diversification policies
- Kuwait's public sector and opportunities for reform
- Innovation, Digitalization and the Future of Kuwaiti Business
- Kuwait's existing digital ecosystem
- The role of SMEs in localized innovation



Alrazi Albudaiwi, VP - Media & Communications, Markaz

## CRACKS SHOWING IN GERMANY'S FRAGILE TRUCE WITH THE ECB

**BERLIN:** Michael Stuebgen, a conservative member of the German parliament, was speaking with the head of a local savings bank recently about the European Central Bank's quantitative easing (QE) program. "He told me the bond market was being emptied out," Stuebgen recalled. "He likened it to going into a supermarket where everything has been bought up. You might find a shrivelled old carrot or potato. Pretty soon you're starving."

Stuebgen, a spokesman on European affairs for Chancellor Angela Merkel's party in the Bundestag, credits the ECB and its President Mario Draghi with saving the euro zone from collapse four years ago. But conversations like the one with the banker have convinced him that its policies, in particular the massive bond-buying program known as QE, have gone too far. He is not alone.

Stuebgen and his colleagues plan to send Draghi a message when he makes a rare appearance in the Bundestag on Wednesday to explain his policies and answer questions from lawmakers.

"It is time for the ECB to change course," Stuebgen said. Last spring German criticism of the ECB reached new heights (some would say lows) when Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaueble blamed Draghi's policies for fuelling the rise of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), which was founded in 2013 in opposition to euro zone bailouts and has since morphed into an anti-immigration party. Schaueble's attack was unusual for two reasons. First, it was coming from Germany, where central bank independence has long been sacrosanct. Second, it was personal. Schaueble was not only expressing concerns about ECB policies, which he had done off and on for years, but he was singling out Draghi.

A storm ensued, eventually forcing the two men to sit down over lunch in Washington in late April and agree a fragile truce. It has held for five months, but there are signs it could be on the verge of collapse.

### TOXIC POLITICS

Instead of changing course, as Stuebgen and his colleagues want, the ECB is widely expected to announce an extension of its QE program by the end of the year. The program is due to expire in March. As early as next month, it could also announce steps to broaden the scope of what it can buy in response to a dwindling pool of available assets. The most controversial change would be abandoning the so-called "capital



European Central Bank President Mario Draghi

key", which limits the proportion of government bonds the ECB can buy from any given member state, based on its size and economic weight. "The big challenge for Mario Draghi will be to prepare the Bundestag and German public for a further easing of monetary policy," said Marcel Fratzscher, head of the DIW economic institute and a former senior official at the ECB.

That message is unlikely to go down well in Berlin. In addition to concerns about the distorting effects of QE on financial markets and the impact of low interest rates on German savers and insurers, the political landscape in Germany has become decidedly more toxic for the ECB over the past months.

With one year to go until the next federal election, the AfD has risen to a record high of 16 percent in national polls. On the defensive, Merkel's conservatives are desperate to shift the debate away from her increasingly unpopular stance on refugees. In this environment, the ECB could become the target of choice. "I expect the German debate over ECB policy to ratchet up again if we see an extension of the QE program or adjustments to it that broaden the scope of what the ECB can buy," said

Thorsten Frei, another lawmaker from Merkel's party, who will attend the Draghi session. "There is certainly a risk that this becomes an issue in the election campaign next year."

Juergen Stark, a former ECB board member who resigned over concerns about the direction of policy at the height of the euro zone crisis in 2011, said he expects a more intense debate in the coming months. "The longer the ECB stays on its current course, the fiercer the public reaction in Germany will be," he told Reuters.

### ON THE OFFENSIVE

The latest Eurobarometer survey, which measures public opinion in the European Union, shows that only 30 percent of Germans say they trust the ECB, below the EU average of 34 percent. "Many perceive the rescue measures to lack democratic legitimacy," a report published this month by the Delors Institute and Bertelsmann Foundation said. "Even a central bank that is independent of direct political influence relies on trust and public support to be credible and effective in the long run." — Reuters

# EU COURT VERDICT FANS CALLS FOR SPANISH JOBS OVERHAUL

MADRID: An EU court ruling defending the right of temporary workers in Spain to receive severance pay is fuelling calls from Spanish unions and politicians for one of Europe's most uneven labor markets to be fixed. Spain has the European Union's second-highest unemployment rate after Greece and its labor market is more reliant on temporary contracts than any other in the bloc bar Poland.

The high jobless rate — 20 percent of the workforce at the last count and affecting close to half of young people—has been a blot on what has otherwise been a

three-year economic recovery, nine months of which has been without a full-functioning government.

Short-term workers are cheaper to fire than permanent ones and have borne the brunt of job losses in bad times, but previous Spanish reforms have struggled to eradicate the two-tier labor system. The European Court of Justice blew open the issue after it argued in a Sept 14 ruling that a Spanish woman who was employed as a temporary substitute for a civil servant over seven years was entitled to the same severance pay as a permanent employee when

she was let go.

Worker unions have welcomed the ruling, demanding measures to give all temporary workers equal severance rights and encouraging them to seek compensation through the courts until a reform is put forward. "This could really blow up, you could see an avalanche of law suits," said Fabian Valero, a labor lawyer at Galicia-based firm Zeres.

Valero most recently defended nine hospital workers who successfully argued they were fraudulently hired as temporary staff on contracts that were rolled over for sev-

eral years, when they should have been treated as permanent staff — another common gripe which politicians have vowed to deal with. Legally, temporary workers have to be considered permanent after a period of two years in Spain and should only be hired for short-term projects or seasonal jobs.

But loopholes in Spain's complex labor framework, which comprises dozens of different contract types, mean many people are employed on short-term contracts when they shouldn't be, while substitute workers are governed by different rules. Under Spanish law, temporary workers get 12 days pay for every year worked when they are laid off, versus the 20 days for permanent employees and nothing for those on temporary substitute contracts.

## GAMECHANGER?

Acting Economy Minister Luis de Guindos holding the fort in the absence of a formal government said last week that the labor market could be improved, though possibly by making the hiring of permanent staff more attractive. "In Spain the number of temporary jobs ... is excessive and that

somehow needs to be corrected," de Guindos told local radio. Spain's labor ministry was studying the implications of the EU ruling, he added.

It is unclear how far-reaching the fallout will be, though the ruling cannot be appealed. Temporary workers make up about a quarter of salaried employees in Spain, or 3.9 million people.

But any top-to-bottom labor reform likely will have to wait, as Spain has been without a new government since inconclusive elections last December and in June, Spain's People Party (PP), which has been governing in an acting capacity, said last week it would put forward a parliamentary motion to abolish temporary substitute contracts only, of which there are some 300,000.

Other political parties have called for greater changes, including liberal Ciudadanos ("Citizens"), which advocates a one-size-fits-all contract system. Hiring on temporary contracts has helped propel Spain's job market recovery, with unemployment falling from a peak of nearly 27 percent in 2013. But critics argue this leaves workers exposed to further crises and is fuelling an abundance of low-paid, low-skilled jobs. —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report					
Sunday 25 September 2016					
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 4.43	5,410.23	5,405.80	5,410.33	5,371.48
Weighted Index	▲ 1.71	352.78	351.05	352.78	349.70
KSX 15	▲ 3.88	816.26	812.38	816.26	809.01

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92	— 0.0
IKARUS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.0	— 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	345	— 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	770	— 0.0
ENERGYH	46.5	44.0	71,200	3,169	8	46.5	▲ 1.0
GPI	38.5	38.0	954,700	36,281	17	38.5	▼ -0.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	— 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,025,900	39,450	25	768.27	▼ -0.04
KFOUC	166	166	15,000	2,490	1	166	▼ -4.0
BPCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	485	— 0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	— 0.0
ALQURAIN	194	192	197,009	38,136	9	194	▲ 2.0
Basic Materials			212,009	40,626	10	910.29	▼ -0.80
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	370	— 0.0
REFRI	300	300	453	136	1	300	— 0.0
CABLE	385	375	34,640	13,185	10	385	▼ -5.0
SHIP	156	154	51,359	7,909	6	156	▼ -2.0
PCEM	960	960	43,611	41,535	10	960	— 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	— 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	— 0.0
ACICO	285	285	19,500	5,558	4	285	— 0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	325	— 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128	— 0.0
KDMMK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	— 0.0
EQUIPMENT	46.5	44.0	1,965,965	89,774	91	46.5	▲ 2.5
NOCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	— 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	61	59	7,501	443	2	61	— 0.0
AGLTY	460	470	191,856	91,046	20	475	— 0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	— 0.0
CLEANING	38.0	38.0	43,243	1,643	2	38.0	— 0.0
KGL	42.5	41.5	78,367	3,291	5	42.0	▲ 1.0
KCPC	170	170	50	0	1	170	— 0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,560	1,380	6,324	8,744	16	1,560	▲ 80.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	— 0.0
SFAWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	— 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	26.0	— 0.0
MAYADEEN	29.0	26.5	2,558,800	73,021	27	29.0	— 0.0
CGC	050	050	500	325	1	050	▲ 10.0
MTCC	55	53	148,000	7,938	16	55	— 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	690	— 0.0
ALAFCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	212	— 0.0
MUBARRAD	57	54	519,955	28,572	23	55	▼ -2.0
LOGISTICS	72	71	43,386	3,085	5	71	▼ 1.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	— 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	— 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0
FCEM	80	79	929,465	73,642	36	80	▲ 2.0
RKWC	90	90	10,000	900	1	90	— 0.0
SPCC	94	94	500	47	1	94	▼ -5.0
Industrials			6,653,475	450,802	278	1157.92	▲ 8.82
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	148	— 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0
PAPCO	99	99	2,000	277	2	99	— 0.0
CATTL	246	246	100	25	1	246	▲ 6.0
DANAH	88	86	477,268	36,951	41	88	▲ 2.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	— 0.0
FOOD	2,520	2,500	35,690	89,625	4	2,520	▲ 20.0
Consumer Goods			465,879	126,876	48	1144.60	▲ 9.27
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	218	— 0.0
Health Care			0	0	0	0.00	— 0.00
KCIN	940	940	1,900	1,786	3	940	— 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0.0
SULTAN	51	51	113,500	5,789	5	51	▼ -1
CABLETV	27.5	27.5	87	2	1	27.5	— 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	— 0.0
QULAFUEL	114	112	44,993	5,120	8	112	— 0.0
MUNTAZAHAT	78	77	23,010	1,819	7	78	▼ -1
JAZERA	830	820	20,016	16,613	2	820	▼ -10
SDOR	114	112	53,643	6,058	15	114	▲ 2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	— 0.0
ALRAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	— 0.0
7IMAH	41.0	40.0	2,347,400	95,306	73	40.5	— 0.0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	— 0.0
Mozzan	1,000	990	193,421	193,384	16	1,000	— 0.0
Consumer Services			2,798,570	325,877	130	894.68	▼ -2.98
ZAIN	340	335	2,063,655	700,401	39	340	— 0.0
OREDOO	1,240	1,180	7,486	8,983	6	1,240	▲ 40
HITSTELEG	38.0	37.0	3,739,767	140,710	39	38.0	▲ 1
VIVA	880	880	47,827	42,088	54	880	▼ -10
Telecommunications			5,858,735	892,181	138	594.53	▲ 2.71
NBK	600	590	790,200	471,048	38	600	▲ 10
GBK	232	230	291,139	67,067	15	232	▼ -2
CBK	400	390	331,355	130,681	16	395	▲ 10
ABK	315	310	12,000	3,720	3	315	— 0.0
ALMUTAHED	390	390	1,006	427	4	390	— 0.0
KIR	188	186	648,295	120,586	31	188	— 0.0
BURG	325	320	310,808	101,009	8	325	— 0.0
KFIN	465	460	1,221,197	566,826	46	465	▲ 5
BOUBAYAN	390	385	52,026	20,063	15	385	▼ -5
AUB	192	188	226,657	43,075	9	192	▲ 2
ITHMR	37.5	36.5	505,915	18,553	17	37.5	— 0.0
WARBANK	168	166	84,511	14,046	53	166	▼ -2
Banks			4,401,359	1,557,104	255	793.37	▲ 2.33
KINS	248	246	4,959	1,230	2	248	— 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	— 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	— 0.0
WINS	108	108	87	9	1	108	— 0.0
KUWAITRE	190	190	5,000	950	1	190	— 0.0
FTI	46.0	46.0	63	3	1	46.0	▼ -0.5
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	29.5	— 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
Insurance			10,109	2,192	5	986.43	▼ -0.97

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	31.5	30.5	540840	16,834	21	30.5	▼ -1.0
KRE	51	50	483,000	24,823	5	51	— 0.0
URC	96	95	106,000	10,170	3	95	▼ -3.0
NRE	77	76	40,548	3,083	5	77	▲ 1.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365	— 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	— 0.0
ARECO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146	— 0.0
MASSAI FH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.5	— 0.0
ARABREC	31.0	30.5	39,000	1,202	4	31.0	— 0.0
EREBCO	40.0	39.0	517,029	20,520	20	40.0	▲ 1.0
MABANEE	790	790	556,888	442,296	22	790	— 0.0
INJAZZAT	70	70	185,000	12,950	9	70	— 0.0
INVESTORS	21.5	21.0	404,968	9,772	13	21.0	— 0.0
IRC	26.5	26.5	20,000	530	1	26.5	— 0.0
ALTJARIA	77	76	655,047	50,039	7	77	▲ 1.0
SANAM	30.5	28.0	100,001	2,822	6	30.5	— 0.0
AAYANRE	62	62	1,076	67	2	62	— 0.0
ADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	— 0.0
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.0	— 0.0
MAZAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	— 0.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	— 0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	— 0.0
TJARA	40.0	37.5</					



# FOMC POINTS TO DECEMBER RATE HIKE

## NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

**KUWAIT:** The FOMC left interest rates unchanged at 0.50 percent this week a highly anticipated decision due to soft US data as of late. Fed Chair, Janet Yellen, pointed out that the US economy is still on the growth track, as the pace of economic activity had picked up from the modest growth seen in the first half of 2016.

She also noted that further tightening of monetary policy would be needed to keep the economy from overheating and fueling high inflation. According to the statement, the main factor that will determine a hike in December is the labor markets strength. In summary, fourteen out of seventeen Fed officials think there will be a rate hike by the end of the year, although three do not see one at all, showing that the Fed is becoming increasingly split.

The next decision is scheduled for the second of November; however, markets do not expect a rate hike during this meeting. In the contrary, odds of a rate hike remain around the 60 percent level for December meeting. Separately, in its summary of economic projections, the Fed policymakers slashed the US growth forecast to 1.8 percent for 2016, from 2.0 percent estimated earlier in June.

Back in Europe, UK foreign minister Boris Johnson noted that he expects the Brexit process to begin in early 2017. He said "Although we are leaving the EU treaties, we do want to have the closest possible trading relationship and it's very much in their interests to achieve that".

On the currency front, the US Dollar index initial move was a spike higher in the beginning of the week. As we advanced in the week, the Dollar reversed and remained under pressure after The Fed decided to keep rates unchanged, in line with market expectations. While the Fed statement in the run-up to the meeting pointed to some division amongst the FOMC members as to the timing of the next rate move, somewhat softer data over the past few weeks solidified expectations for 'no action' in September.

The euro opened the week at 1.1160 against the US dollar and managed to reach a short lived high at 1.1257. The pair slowly weakened as speculations heightened over further stimulus measures by the ECB. The currency closed the week at 1.1225. The pound sterling opened the week at 1.2993 and reached a low of 1.2943 against USD. However, the currency had a short lived recovery after the FOMC meeting and closed the week at 1.2979.

In Asia, the Japanese Yen came under selling pressure as the currency regained some strength after the BOJ kept rates and ETF purchases unchanged at its policy review meeting. The USD/JPY pair witnessed wild swings post the BOJ policy announcement, initially plunging to 101.08 levels in a knee-jerk reaction to the BOJ's rates on-hold decision. The currency pair quickly jumped back to reach the 102.60 level after the central bank noted that it will continue to expand monetary base until the inflation exceeds 2 percent price target and stays above the last in stable manner. The pair finally dropped again after FOMC meeting and managed to close the week at 101.00. The out-performance on the Yen continues to pressure Japanese equities as it takes its toll on exports.

On the commodities side, oil prices climbed after a private data in US showed a drop in inventories, while Japan reported higher oil imports. American Petroleum Institute (API) released overnight showed a 7.5 million barrel

draw to 507.2 million barrels in US crude inventories, the third weekly inventory draw. Markets were expecting an increase of 3.4 million barrels.

Also, gold futures climbed after the Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged. The yellow metal spiked immediately following the conclusion of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting.

### FOMC statement

The FOMC decided to keep the federal funds rate at 0.5 percent. The Committee judged that the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has strengthened but decided,

as of late and seemingly little concern about potential financial stability implications related to keeping rates low for so long.

### Unemployment claims fell to 252K

In the week ending September 17, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 252,000, a decline of 8,000 from the prior week's unrevised level of 260,000. The 4-week moving average was 258,500, a decrease of 2,250 from the prior week's unrevised average of 260,750. This marks 81 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

US residential building permits declined 5.8

The reading came in below market expectations of a rate of 5.45 million in August.

### Europe & UK

The manufacturing sector PMI increased in September as businesses indicated that new orders and exports are strengthening. This comes on the back of initial weakness for eurozone industry in the third quarter. While France manufacturing stagnated, German industry saw a marked improvement with notable increases in new orders from the US and Asian markets. This shows that more stable growth in the US and Asia could support weak eurozone manufacturing production in the second half

Nevertheless, business growth slowed, according to the Bank of England's regular survey of business conditions released on the same day. Although the survey also showed that consumer spending and business sentiment rebounded slightly from the post-Brexit shock.

### UK financial policy committee

The Bank of England released its FPC statement on Thursday, and the bank's message appeared directed at the EU as much as at domestic lenders. The BoE warned that it would not relax bank capital rules in the aftermath of the Brexit vote. In a clear reference to Brexit, the statement noted that the UK "faces a challenging period of uncertainty and adjustment". This stern message is consistent with the significant monetary moves that the BoE adopted in August, when it lowered interest rates for the first time in nine years and expanded its asset-purchase program. The BoE has strongly hinted that it is leaning towards another rate cut in November, even though third quarter data has been better than expected.

### Asia

The minutes of the September Reserve Bank of Australia meeting when interest rates were held unchanged at 1.5 percent have been released. Interest rates are likely to remain on hold in the foreseeable future, with the Reserve Bank of Australia flagging that growth remains in line with expectations, and the RBA remains unworried by the housing market. "Taking into account the recent data, and having eased monetary policy at its May and August meetings, the Board judged the current stance of monetary policy was consistent with sustainable growth in the Australian economy and achieving the inflation target over time," the Board said in its minutes. On the employment front, the RBA observes "The unemployment rate had been little changed at around 5.75 percent over 2016 and employment growth had been steady at around 2 percent in year-ended terms. Strong growth in part-time employment had been apparent in most states, while full-time employment had fallen in the mining-exposed states."

### Japanese exports fell

Japanese exports dropped for an 11 straight month due to weak global demand and an appreciation of the Japanese yen. August exports fell tremendously year to year by 9.6 percent versus a forecast of -4.8 percent. Exports to China, which is Japan's largest trading partner, fell by 8.9 percent in the year to August, marking the sixth straight month of annual declines. Japan's trade balance deficit is currently at 18.7 billion yen versus a surplus forecast of 202.3 billion yen, the first trade deficit in three months.

The BoJ left the interest rate at -0.10 percent and provided a more flexible asset purchasing program by implementing a yield control curve, which is designed to keep 10 year bond yields at 0 percent. This means it can lend to the public sector at 0 cost, which will lead to a higher money supply in the market and potentially a higher inflation. The previous method of printing money at an annual pace of 80 trillion yen, was forcing the BoJ to take up bonds at an unsustainable pace even as it failed to accelerate inflation to a 2 percent target.

**Kuwait**  
Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30135. The USDKWD opened at 0.30135 yesterday morning.



for the time being, to wait for further evidence of continued progress toward its objectives. The stance of monetary policy remains accommodative, thereby supporting further improvement in labor market conditions and a return to 2 percent inflation.

During the press conference, Fed Chair Janet Yellen said that the move "does not reflect a lack of confidence in the economy." Instead, Yellen told reporters, the Fed sees "scope for some further improvement in the labor market." Among recent data disappointments, the drop in manufacturing and non-manufacturing ISM surveys in August is perhaps the most concerning, pointing to a potential slowdown in US growth momentum in the coming months. Moreover, a number of consumption related data points, including retail sales, have also been weak as of late, posing questions on the ability of consumers to continue driving growth going forward. Moreover, a decision whether to hike rates or not this year has now become a question of the Fed's credibility. Investors have been frustrated with the Fed's confusing communication

percent to a 1.14 million annualized rate, from the prior month's revised 1.21 million pace. The figures represent a pause after a spell of strong gains, and permits show that single-family home construction in the South may bounce back. A solid job market and mortgage rates near historically low levels continue to support housing, with a measure of homebuilder sentiment rising to an 11-month high. The number of privately owned new houses decreased by 5.8 percent in August and single family news houses fell by 13.1 percent their lowest level since May 2015 as bad weather disrupted building activity in the South after two strong months of gains. On the other hand, permits for single family homes surged 3.7 percent to a 737,000 units, which is the largest segment of the market. This shows that the housing economy is still solid.

US existing home sales, which are completed transactions that include single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, dropped 0.9 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.33 million in August from a downwardly revised 5.38 million in July.

of the year. With many other trading partners still surrounded by an uncertain political and economic environment, it seems unlikely that a strong revival is in the making though. The drop in the service sector PMI was mainly because of a weakening outlook, while current order books remained stable in September. European Flash Services PMI came in at 52.1 below forecasts of 52.8 in September.

Britain's public sector borrowing increased less than expected in the last quarter, official figures revealed on Wednesday. According to the UK Office for National Statistics, UK Public Sector Net Borrowing climbed to 10.05 billion pounds on a seasonally adjusted basis, following the preceding quarter's 2.43 billion pound fall, which was revised down from the originally reported drop of 1.47 billion pounds. In the meantime, market analysts expected the country's public sector borrowing to rise to 10.30 billion pounds during the reported period. In a report, the Office for National Statistics stated that there were no clear signs of any impact of the British decision to leave the European Union on the public sector finances.

## AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday.

The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

**The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:-**

Hajar Khalaf Tabtabaei — KD 7000,  
Ahmed Hamdi Ebrahim Kashef — KD 7000,  
Mahmoud Hasan Al-Baloshi — KD 7000,  
Mai Abdullah Mostafa Mohammed Al-Ghussain — KD 7000,  
Mohammed Abbas Ali Mansour — KD 7000.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever.

With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma

account.  
Daily draw to win KD 7000  
Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000  
1st quarter KD 100 000  
2nd quarter KD 150 000  
3rd quarter KD 200 000  
4th quarter KD 250 000.

With Al Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

\* Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win

\* Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.

\* Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features

\* ATM card

\* Issue a credit card against your account

\* Obtain all CBK banking services

You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

## EX-IMF BOSS RATO ON TRIAL OVER BANKERS' LUXURY SPREES

**MADRID:** Former IMF chief Rodrigo Rato stands trial today accused of overseeing a "corrupt system" that helped him and other executives misuse funds on hotels, parties and luxury shopping when he was a Spanish bank boss. Uncovered in 2013 by a journalist who saw a hacked email alluding to "black credit cards," the case threatens to land the former economy minister and onetime star of the ruling conservative Popular Party (PP) in jail and with a hefty fine.

It is also another thorn in the PP's side after repeated failed attempts to form a government following two inconclusive elections, due to a lack of support that is in large part due to corruption scandals sully the party. Rato will stand trial with 65 other former executives and board members at Caja Madrid and Bankia, whose near-collapse sparked an EU bailout of Spain's financial sector.

They are accused of having paid for personal expenses with credit cards put at their disposal by both banks, without ever justifying them or declaring them to tax authorities. Altogether, they allegedly spent 12 million euros (\$13.5 million) between 2003 and 2012 — sometimes splashing out at the height of Spain's devastating economic crisis.

According to the indictment, Rato maintained the "corrupt system" established by his predecessor Miguel Blesa when he took the reins of Caja Madrid in 2010. He replicated the system when he took charge of Bankia, a group born in 2011 out of the merger of Caja Madrid with six other savings banks.

### Wider Bankia scandal

Now 67, Rato was economy minister and deputy prime minister in the PP government of Jose Maria Aznar from 1996 to 2004, and he then went on to head up the International Monetary Fund until 2007. His subsequent career as a banker in Spain was short-lived from 2010 to 2012 — but apart from the case of the undeclared credit cards, it also led to another banking scandal considered the country's biggest ever.

Thousands of small-scale investors lost their money after they were persuaded to convert their savings to shares ahead of the flotation of



**Rodrigo Rato (centre), a former Spanish deputy prime minister and head of the IMF, is accused of overseeing a 'corrupt system'.**

Bankia in 2011, with Rato at the reins. Less than a year later, he resigned as it became known that Bankia was in dire straits. The state injected billions of euros but faced with the scale of Bankia's losses and trouble in other banks, it asked the EU for a bailout for the entire banking sector and eventually received 41 billion euros.

Rato and others were put under investigation, accused of misleading small investors in the listing of Bankia, which has since paid out 1.2 billion euros in compensation.

### 2.6-million-euro fine?

As such, the trial today is a separate, smaller part of a much wider scandal involving Bankia.

But revelations that executives like Rato were spending millions of euros of the bank's money sparked an outcry in a country plunged into crisis since 2008 and forced into drastic austerity. With his undeclared credit card, Rato is accused of having spent 99,000 euros in two years on items such as luxury bags, five-star hotels and alcohol.

Prosecutors are seeking a prison sentence of four-and-a-half years and a 2.6-million-euro fine. Rato, however, has denied any wrongdoing and said the credit cards were for discretionary spending as part of the pay deal for executives. As head of Caja Madrid, Blesa-who implemented the system-is accused of spending 436,000 euros between 2003 and 2010, including more than 100,000 euros in restaurant bills. While many PP members are involved in the case, several union officials and people from left-wing parties are also among the 64 other accused.

Rato, meanwhile, is the second former IMF chief to be dragged to court. His successor Dominique Strauss-Kahn was tried in 2015 on pimping charges in a lurid sex scandal, and was acquitted.

And Christine Lagarde, who took over from Strauss-Kahn and is the current IMF chief, will be in the dock in December over a massive state payout to French tycoon Bernard Tapie when she was finance minister. — AFP

## EUROPEAN FIRMS OFFER BRITAIN SCANT SUPPORT IN DIVORCE TALKS

**LONDON:** More than 20 European business associations and companies interviewed by Reuters say they back their governments' position that Britain's banking sector can only enjoy EU market access post-Brexit if the country still follows the bloc's rules. Britain wants a trade deal that gives London's financial district, known as the City, access to EU clients while allowing the government to restrict migration from the bloc — something at odds with the basic rules of the European Union.

Senior lawmakers in the British government have said they expect European business groups to support their position because they need access to the financial services the City provides.

But interviews with companies and trade bodies across Europe suggest the most important thing for business leaders is maintaining a single market with a single

set of rules that includes the four freedoms: free movement of workers, capital, goods and services. They are less concerned about losing access to the City of London.

Companies including Deutsche Post, Daimler and Fiat Chrysler said they did not see significant disruption if the City loses free access to the EU market. "We have taken a very clear line that the integrity of the four freedoms must be observed and that there is no cherry picking," said Markus Beyrer, Director General of BusinessEurope, the umbrella body for the biggest EU business federations.

"This is a very clear message we get from our constituency." The conflict of views gives an early indication of the difficulties facing both Britain and the European Union in the divorce negotiations to come, with both sides having little room for concessions. — Reuters

# CHEVROLET ALGHANIM HOSTS THE KUWAIT CORVETTE CLUB

MORE THAN 70 CORVETTE MODELS DISPLAYED IN RECOGNITION OF CORVETTE'S HERITAGE

**KUWAIT:** In a demonstration of its commitment to be an integral part of the Kuwaiti youth's culture and interest, Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, hosted the Kuwait Corvette Club members at the Chevrolet Service Center on Wednesday evening, September 21, 2016. It was a special event marked by smiles and friendly conversations that, in many ways, complements what has always made Chevrolet Alghanim exceptional - its dedication to build and sustain a strong, intimate relationship with its customers.

Chevrolet Alghanim management welcomed the club members by acknowledging their outstanding passion for Corvette and everything it represents to them, all while commemorating the exceptional partnership the two parties share together. Club members were awarded with trophies and certificates in appreciation for the loyalty the Kuwait Corvette Club has demonstrated over the years. Club members were also treated to a dedicated tour that introduced them to the service facilities available for all Chevrolet vehicles. In addition, they got to marvel at the impressive display of 70 Corvette models available at the service center. The 2016 Corvette Stingray powers ahead



with new design packages, connectivity and technology enhancements that offer customers more personalization choices, convenience features and, most importantly, an

unmatched combination of performance and efficiency. Power comes from the 6.2L LT1 V-8 rated at an SAE-certified 455 horsepower (339 kW) and 460 lb-ft of torque (624 Nm) - and 460



horsepower (343 kW) and 465 lb-ft (630 Nm) with the available performance exhaust system. The Stingray backs its performance capability with the greatest efficiency of any sports

car on the market with more than 450 horsepower, delivering an EPA-estimated 17 mpg city driving and 29 mpg on the highway with the seven-speed manual transmission.



## ULTIMATE ALL-TERRAIN RESCUE PICK-UP WITH PORTABLE EV BATTERY POWER

### NISSAN NAVARA ENGUARD CONCEPT

**DUBAI:** Nissan has unveiled an all-new vehicle at the 2016 Hannover Motor Show. The Nissan Navara EnGuard Concept is a durable and tough all-terrain pick-up, designed to operate as a life-saving rescue platform in some of the world's most harsh and extreme environments.

Based on a Double Cab Tekna version of the Nissan Navara - the current holder of the International Pick-up Award - the Navara EnGuard Concept features many bespoke design elements and performance upgrades. It is also packed with vital equipment suitable for emergency and disaster recovery work, including an advanced drone to provide vital intelligence about what dangers rescue crews might face.

It also marks the world debut of a prototype portable battery pack, designed and developed by Nissan. It utilizes the brand's tried and tested EV battery technology, already available on the road in the 100 per cent electric Nissan LEAF and e-NV200. With more than 250,000 Nissan EVs sold worldwide, the company is at forefront of this fast-developing sector and ideally placed to apply its expertise to explore new vehicle sectors and consumer opportunities in the future.

When docked in place the battery packs are constantly in 'charge' mode, using power generated by the vehicle's 2.3-litre 190PS twin-turbo diesel engine to ensure they're ready for emergency use when required. Each is a 2kW unit and utilizes seven Nissan EV battery modules inside a weather-proof machined aluminium housing.

#### Efficient alternative

Two input (charge) sockets and five output (discharge) sockets are integrated into each battery pack, which features recessed ends to allow it to be carried easily. In a rescue environment they could be used to operate specialist cutting or heavy-lifting equipment, and have been specifically designed to provide an efficient alternative to a petrol generator.

With zero emissions and no flammable fuel, portable battery packs can also be used in enclosed spaces such as a building or a cave.

Additional power sockets are integrated into each side of the pick-up's load bed.

As part of its Intelligent Mobility vision, Nissan is working to explore how its pioneering EV battery technology can be integrated further into society. These prototype battery packs provide a real-world example of how it could be applied to new sectors, to provide cleaner, more sustainable power solutions.

Occupying the rest of the space in the load bed are two pull-out fibreglass trays. The shallow upper tray contains lightweight items such as two-way radios, ropes and an axe. The lower tray is deeper and narrower, storing larger items such as an oxygen tank and resuscitation kit, life jackets and buoyancy aids.

Key to the car's rescue role is a drone, a DJI Phantom 4 with an operating ceiling of 6,000 metres. Weighing just 1,380 grammes, it can fly at speeds of up to 20 metres per second for close to 30 minutes and can relay images back to the concept car. These are viewed on a pop-up HD screen hidden in the load bed wall.

Compared to the standard Nissan Navara, the overall ride height of the Navara EnGuard Concept has been raised by 50mm, creating extra ground clearance and further enhancing the vehicle's 'go anywhere' attitude. The wheel arches feature bespoke overfenders, with new moulded side steps between them.

#### Redesigned roof line

The passenger compartment features a completely redesigned roof line, which is 136mm higher than on the standard Navara. It incorporates a powerful 360 degree LED lighting rig, with emergency blue strobe lights fitted to the four corners and visible from any angle. Matching strobes are integrated into the top of all four overfenders, plus in the redesigned front fog lamps and redesigned rear light clusters. Choice of colours and their location was given very careful consideration during the vehicle's development, with special focus on its role as a rescue vehicle. For example, Nissan research

revealed fluorescent green is the most visible colour in daylight, and also most easily identifiable by people affected by colour-blindness. Having it on the wheels and side steps means it's quickly spotted by the headlights of approaching vehicles.

Being based on the top-spec Tekna trim grade means the Navara EnGuard Concept comes with many standard features which would be useful in a rescue situation. These include the NissanConnect sat-nav system for finding the fastest route, plus dual-zone climate control and heated seats for occupant comfort. Most useful would be Nissan's pioneering Around View Monitor, a 360-degree camera system which displays an unobstructed bird's eye image of the vehicle and its environment on the dashboard screen. It's an ideal tool for rescue workers, allowing them to navigate difficult off-road terrain without causing delays by having to get out of the vehicle.

#### Rugged ladderframe chassis

Mechanically, the vehicle has also been enhanced. Like all Navaras, it's built around a rugged ladderframe chassis, but features a new fully adjustable performance suspension system with uprated nylon bushes to further improve off-road capability.

Philippe Guerin-Boutaud, Corporate Vice President, Light Commercial Vehicles, Nissan, commented: "The Nissan Navara is a tough and smart pick-up which our customers rely on to go anywhere and do anything in their daily lives. The Nissan Navara EnGuard Concept is an extension of that principle, showcasing how our award-winning pick-up is perfectly suited to tackle the toughest terrain and save lives." He continued: "The Navara EnGuard Concept opens a new chapter in the Nissan Intelligent Mobility vision, featuring our commitment to zero fatalities and zero emissions. Our prototype EV portable battery pack reveals how Nissan will integrate its world-renowned EV battery technology and expertise into new sectors in the future."



## KAMCO APPOINTS FERNANDEZ AS CFO

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company KSC (Public) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ruben Omar Fernandez as the Chief Financial Officer.

Fernandez has held several positions throughout his years in the investment and finance industry. He has a bachelor's degree in Economics from the Universidad de Buenos Aires and a master's degree in Finance from the Universidad del CEMA, Buenos Aires, Argentina. With over 28 years of experience, Mr. Fernandez played an active role in managing and leading treasury businesses in the Middle East, North and Latin America. In one of his previous roles as Group Chief Treasury Officer & Financial Institutions Head at Kuwait Finance House, Fernandez developed and managed Group Treasury strategies in Kuwait, Turkey, Malaysia, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Fernandez also held several positions in sound organizations such as Citi Bank.

Faisal M Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer of KAMCO, added regarding Fernandez's appointment, "We are pleased to welcome Ruben to our team. His expertise and experience in the industry will greatly assist KAMCO in our vision to become the preferred asset management and investment banking provider in the region. We are confident in his ability to become an integral part of our management team with a financial acumen that makes him highly qualified to take on the CFO role in the company."

Commenting on the appointment, Fernandez said, "I look forward to joining



one of the leading investment companies within the investment banking and asset management sectors. KAMCO holds a solid track record in investment related achievements, coupled with a wealth of accumulated experience, and supported by a specialized team of capable and knowledgeable professionals. With the collaborative efforts of the management team, I believe that we can drive sustainable financial growth, development and stability in KAMCO." Fernandez also said that the current economic situation in Kuwait and the region, as a whole, presents significant opportunities and challenges. He expressed the importance of overcoming challenges, while utilizing opportunities to achieve overall corporate and individual goals within the company.



## BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Borgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Jassem Rashim Mansour Al Abboudi
2. Ali Mohammad Taleb Znait
3. Ali Abdou Hussain
4. Heirs of Khaled Abdulaziz Suliman Al Tkheaim
5. Jawad Jameel Al Teemani

In addition to the daily draw, Borgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Borgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning. Established in 1977,

Borgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Borgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Borgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

# SAMSUNG RECALL THREATENS REPUTATION, BOTTOM LINE

## FIREFIGHTING IN A SATURATED SMARTPHONE MARKET

**SEOUL:** Exploding batteries and an embarrassing recall of a flagship gadget during a controversial, closely-watched leadership transition—it's been a bad year for Samsung, and analysts warn the trouble isn't over yet. With ever-fiercer competition in the saturated smartphone market, South Korea's biggest firm is desperate to avoid a full-blown disaster that could cost billions, hammer its reputation and taint its new leadership. Just weeks after the early roll out of the Galaxy Note 7 "phablet", the world's largest maker of smartphones was forced to recall 2.5 million units globally following complaints its battery exploded while charging.

"Samsung appears to have rushed fast to roll out the Note 7 with the iPhone 7 in mind... and it is paying a hefty price now," said Greg Roh, analyst at Seoul-based HMC Investment & Securities. With images of charred phones flooding social media, the unprecedented recall was a humiliation for a firm that prides itself as an icon of innovation and quality—and the timing of the crisis could not be worse. The Note 7 was meant to underpin growth this year as Samsung struggles to boost sales, squeezed by Apple in the high-end sector and Chinese rivals in the low-end market, as profit has stagnated.

One bright spot this year was the flagship handset Galaxy S7, which earned rave reviews and boosted operating

profit to a two-year high in the second quarter. The Note 7 was crucial to sustaining that momentum. The recall, currently underway in 10 nations, could cost the firm \$3 billion in the long run, some analysts say, while Roh warned the fall-out could significantly hurt profit for months. The crisis has also shaved \$15 billion off its market value since late August, when the firm's share price hit the highest point so far this year. While unconnected, Samsung said last week it had sold shares in four technology companies to free up money, in a move it said was "aimed at focusing on our core business".

### 'Crucial test' for new leader

Samsung and its sister firms have in recent years divested from non-core operations as the parent Samsung Group sought to streamline business amid a generational power transfer in the founding Lee family. The group wants to nurture public support ahead of the controversial, closely-watched handover amid lingering questions about the leadership credentials of the Lee family's scion and an overall lack of transparency in governance. Lee Kun-Hee, the head of Samsung Electronics as well as the parent Samsung Group, has been bedridden since suffering a heart attack in 2014 with his 48-year-old son, J Y Lee, presumed to take over.

The junior Lee, currently vice chair-



**SEOUL:** A woman walking past billboards of Samsung Galaxy Note 7 (left) and Galaxy S7 (right) at a mobile phone shop in Seoul. Exploding batteries, an embarrassing recall of a flagship gadget, a controversial, closely-watched leadership transition—it's been a bad year for Samsung, and analysts are warning it could get worse. —AFP

man of Samsung Electronics, was nominated two weeks ago as the firm's new board member, cementing his grip on power. Senior Lee is largely credited with turning the once-obscure firm into a global giant, but less is known about his son who has kept a relatively low profile while rising the ranks. "J Y Lee has a lot to prove as all eyes are on him, and the

recall crisis would be a crucial test for him," said Wi Pyoung Ryang, analyst at the Economic Research Reform Institute in Seoul.

Industry experts have criticized the Lee dynasty for controlling the vast group through a complex web of cross shareholdings, although they only directly own about five percent of total

stocks. Samsung and other family-run conglomerates, or "chaebol," have played a major role in South Korea's stellar growth for past decades. But the families have come under growing public criticism for controlling and running their businesses with minimum scrutiny by investors or regulators. "It's a tough and crucial time for Samsung, and its new leader has his work cut out," Wi said.

### Damaged goods

As the recall threatens to drag on, it is unclear how long the crisis—and the risk of more explosions—would plague the firm, said Lee Seung-Woo, analyst at IBK Investment & Securities. Since Samsung started rolling out replacements last week, half a million users in the US have exchanged handsets. About a half of 420,000 South Korean users reportedly have done so, but some are complaining of delayed delivery of new phones. While the financial hit will likely be huge, a bigger worry for the firm is the effect on the Samsung name, said Linda Sui, analyst at market research firm Strategy Analytics. "In addition to material loss by revenue and profitability, potential damage on brand image and consumer confidence is even worse and hard to fix up in the short term," she said. "The Korean giant is facing a tough time now," she said, warning of "falling fortune and tough competition" until it rolls out another flagship model next year. —AFP



**GUIZHOU:** An aerial view shows the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) in the remote Pingtang county in southwest China's Guizhou province yesterday. —AP

# WORLD'S LARGEST RADIO TELESCOPE STARTS OPERATING IN CHINA

**BEIJING:** The world's largest radio telescope began operating in southwestern China yesterday, a project Beijing says will help humanity search for alien life. The Five-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), nestled between hills in the mountainous region of Guizhou, began working around noon, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Built at a cost of 1.2 billion yuan (\$180 million), the telescope dwarfs the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico as the world's largest single-dish radio telescope, with twice the sensitivity and a reflector as large as 30 football fields, it said. FAST will use its vast dish, made up of 4,450 panels, to search for signs of intelligent life, and to observe distant pulsars—tiny, rapidly spinning neutron stars believed to be the products of supernova explosions.

China sees its ambitious military-run, multi-billion-dollar space program as symbolizing the country's progress. It plans a permanent orbiting space station by 2020 and eventually a manned mission to the moon. Chinese President Xi Jinping celebrated the launch, with reports yesterday that he had sent a congratulatory letter to the scientists and engineers who contributed to its creation.

The telescope represents a leap forward for China's astronomical capabilities and will be one of several "world-class" telescope projects launched in the next decade, said Yan Jun, head of China's National Astronomical Observation (NAO), according to Xinhua. In a test run before the launch, FAST detected electromagnetic waves emitted by a pulsar more than 1,300 light-years away, state media reported an NAO researcher as saying. Earlier Xinhua cited Wu Xiangping, director-general of the Chinese Astronomical Society, as saying that the tele-

scope's high degree of sensitivity "will help us to search for intelligent life outside of the galaxy". Experts have been hunting for alien intelligence for six decades, pointing radio telescopes at stars in the hope of discovering signals from other civilisations, but have not yet found any evidence.

### 'Wildest imagination'

Last month a "strong signal" detected by a Russian telescope searching for extraterrestrial signals stirred interest among scientists, but experts said it was far too early to make conclusions about its origin. But the new FAST telescope could "lead to discoveries beyond our wildest imagination," Douglas Vakoch, president of METI, a group seeking to send messages to space in search of alien life, told Xinhua.

Construction of FAST began in 2011, and local officials relocated nearly 10,000 people living within five kilometres (three miles) to create a quieter environment for monitoring. Cell phones in the area must be powered off to maintain radio silence.

In the past China has relocated hundreds of thousands of people to make way for large infrastructure projects such as dams and canals. The area surrounding the telescope is remote and relatively poor. State media said it was chosen because there are no major towns nearby. The villagers will be compensated with cash or housing. The budget for relocation is 1.8 billion yuan (\$270 million), it was reported, more than the cost of constructing the telescope. China has poured money into big-ticket science and technology projects as it seeks to become a high-tech leader, but despite some gains the country's scientific output still lags behind. At the beginning of this month, reports said 600 apartments had been built so far with the funds. —AFP

# US GUIDELINES ON SELF-DRIVING CARS GET GOOD RECEPTION AT G7

## GROUP TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAINTAIN SAFETY

**TOKYO:** US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said yesterday that his counterparts in the Group of Seven nations welcomed US guidelines on regulating self-driving cars and have agreed to work together on creating such standards to maintain safety.

"There was actually a very enthusiastic reception to the policy," he said. "We did a good job of inventorying what each country is doing and laying out areas that we want to explore further."

Such issues include cybersecurity, ethics and privacy, wireless spectrum questions and many other issues, he said, while noting that reaching a resolution might take years, meaning the technology would be moving faster. Foxx called the US guidelines released earlier this month the most comprehensive on autonomous vehicles, coming out ahead of the rest of the world.

Foxx and other transportation officials from the G7 met over the weekend in the Japanese resort town of Karuizawa. Speaking by telephone with The Associated Press, Foxx stressed road tests on autonomous vehicles must continue to encourage innovation.

US electric car maker Tesla's Model S that was using the semi-autonomous mode crashed in May. The driver died after crashing into a tractor-trailer. Tesla is introducing improvements to its Autopilot system to make it safer.

"One of the things I think that autonomous vehicles suffer from is that they get compared to perfection, and not to the 94 percent of car crashes that are attributable to human factors. We have to make the right comparisons," Foxx said, while declining comment on the ongoing investigation on Tesla. "These vehicles will not be absolutely perfect in terms of having no accidents, but by comparison they can be markedly better." Many automakers besides Tesla are testing or have rolled out automated vehicles, including Ford Motor Co, based in Dearborn, Michigan, and Nissan Motor Co and Toyota Motor Corp of Japan.

### Bring order

The new US guidelines are meant to bring order to the technology's development. Proponents say such technology can make cars safer because machines can react faster and

they are less prone to human error. But even experts remain cautious.

Among the recent forays into self-driving technology are the partnership between Chinese-owned Volvo Cars and the Swedish-based automotive safety group Autoliv Inc., as well as Volvo teaming up with US ride-hailing company Uber. Ford has announced a \$75 million investment in Velodyne Inc., which makes laser sensors. BMW Group, Intel Corp and Mobileye have joined together to develop and sell autonomous driving technology.

Hans Greimel, Asia Editor for Automotive News, believes the new US guidelines are an important "proactive" step in seeking powers to approve autonomous vehicles before they're brought to market, marking a departure from the past, when regulators enforce rules after the cars are already sold.

"They are a clear step toward clearing the way for the next-generation of automobiles. The technology of autonomous vehicles is mostly there. What is lacking is a clear guideline for how the technologies should be applied," said Greimel.—AP



**TOKYO:** US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx (second right) talks with Japan's Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister Keiichi Ishii (second left) during their meeting held on the sidelines of G7 Transport Ministers' meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture, north of Tokyo. —AP

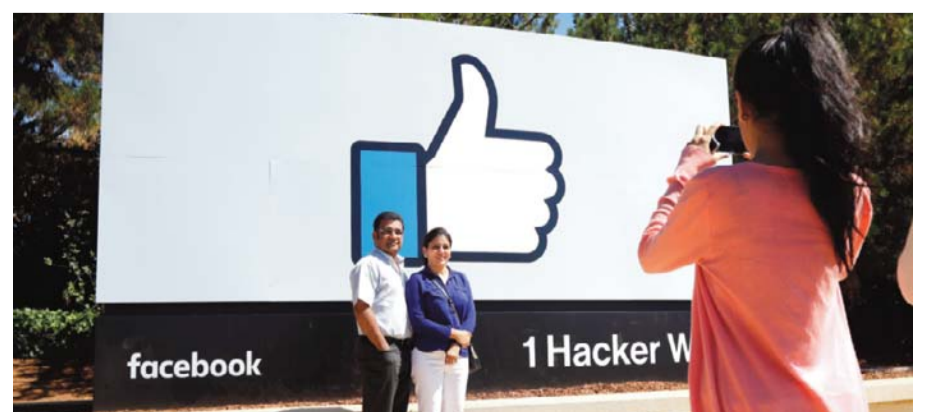
# SNAPCHAT DEBUTS RECORDING 'SPECTACLES,' CHANGES NAME

**NEW YORK:** Social media app Snapchat is introducing video-recording glasses called Spectacles and is changing its company name to incorporate the new product. The glasses can record video 10 seconds at a time by tapping a button on the device. The video is then uploaded to the popular image-messaging app via Bluetooth or Wi-Fi. The glasses are the first hardware from the Los Angeles-based company.

The glasses record so-called "circular video," meaning it plays full-screen on any device in any orientation. They will be available in the US in the fall on a limited basis and cost \$130.

In a way, the Spectacles recall Google's venture into eye-wear, Google Glass, which took photos and video. But that device also had a screen that let you surf the web as well and cost \$1,500.

Google shuttered that venture in early 2015 after it received a tepid response from users. The company says it's changing its name to Snap Inc. since it now has more than one product. The app will retain the name Snapchat. —AP



**MENLO PARK:** Visitors take photos in front of the Facebook logo outside of the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, California. There's a quirky twist in tourism emerging amid the Silicon Valley whirlwind of innovation that has tethered everyone to their smartphones. —AP



**GUIZHOU:** Guests look on during the inauguration ceremony for the Five-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) on its first day of operation in Pingtang, in southwestern China's Guizhou province yesterday. —AFP

## SHY PANGOLINS NEED WORLD SPOTLIGHT TO SURVIVE

**JOHANNESBURG:** Reclusive, gentle and quick to roll up into a ball, pangolins keep a low profile. But they are also the world's most heavily trafficked mammal, and experts at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) conference this week are ringing alarm bells over their survival. Demand for pangolin meat and body parts has fuelled a bloodbath, and driven the scale-covered, ant-eating mammal towards extinction. More than a million pangolins are believed to have been poached from the wild in the past decade. Most are used to supply demand in China and Vietnam, where they are highly regarded as a delicacy and an ingredient in traditional medicine.

At the CITES meeting in Johannesburg, conservationists will discuss moving pangolins into the highest protection category, which bans all international trade. "The pangolin today is regarded as the most heavily trafficked mammal in the world," CITES chief John Scanlon told AFP. "There has been a massive surge in the illegal take of the pangolin for its meat and for its scales." Currently CITES allows for trade in pangolins but under strict conditions.

"Existing laws are clearly failing to protect pangolins from the poachers. A complete international trade ban is needed now," said Heather Sohl, WWF-UK's wildlife advisor. There are four species of pangolin in Africa and four in Asia. Watchdogs say those in Asia are being eaten to extinction, while populations in Africa are declining fast. Research published in the early 2000s estimated populations in China to

have declined by up to 94 percent, said Dan Challender, pangolin expert at the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

### Curl into a ball

Pangolins are covered in overlapping scales, and have pink, sticky tongues almost as long as their bodies. When physically threatened, they curl into ball, making it easy for them to be picked up by hunters and put into a sack. About the size of a small dog, they are solitary, mostly nocturnal and cannot be farmed. "Pangolins are notoriously difficult to keep in captivity—they only feed on wild ants and termites, and they are extremely prone to stress and dehydration, so they die," Ray Jansen, of the African Pangolin Working Group, told AFP.

In Chinese traditional medicine, pangolin scales are ground into a powder believed to cure conditions from headaches and menstrual cramps to nose bleeding and lack of virility. The scales are sometimes even used as guitar plectrums. In traditional African culture, some people believe in keeping a scale in their pockets to ward off evil.

Zimbabweans used to present the mammals to President Robert Mugabe during his early years in office, but the practice has been discontinued. "In Shona and Zulu culture, a pangolin is regarded as the greatest gift you can bestow on a chief, statesman or an elder," said Jansen. Pangolin fat, blood and bones are also highly valued in African traditional medicine. — AFP



**HARARE, Harare Province:** Zimbabwe game reserve guide Matius Mhambe touches "Marimba", a female pangolin weighing 10kgs that has been nine years in care at Wild Is Life animal sanctuary just outside the country's capital Harare. — AFP



**WASHINGTON:** In this frame grab from video, taken September 14, 2016, Sarah Gray with her son Callum, 6, and infant daughter Jocelyn in their Washington home. — AP

## MOTHER UNCOVERS LASTING IMPACT OF BABY SON'S ORGAN DONATION

### 'INFANT EYES ARE LIKE GOLD'

**WASHINGTON:** An ultrasound showed one of Sarah Gray's unborn twins was missing part of his brain, a fatal birth defect. His brother was born healthy but Thomas lived just six days. Latching onto hope for something positive to come from heartache, Gray donated some of Thomas' tissue for scientific research - his eyes, his liver, his umbilical cord blood. Only no one could tell the Washington mother if that precious donation really made a difference. So Gray embarked on an unusual journey to find out, revealing a side of science laymen seldom glimpse. "Infant eyes are like gold," a Harvard scientist told her.

"I don't think people understand how valuable these donations are," said Gray, who hadn't either until her years-long quest brought her face-to-face with startled scientists. They had never met a relative of the donors so crucial to their work either. Families often find comfort in learning how many lives were saved if they donated a loved one's organs for transplant. But donating a body for research gets less attention - there are no headline-making "saves." Yet critical medical research in labs around the country depends on scientists' ability to work with human cells and organs, so they can study both normal development and how disease does its dirty work.

"A lot of people, if the tissue doesn't get used for transplant, they think it's kind of second-rate tissue or something. I'd like them to know that people who do research with human tissue are doing worthwhile things that are going to, hopefully, lead to cures for all kinds of diseases," said Dr James Zieske, a corneal specialist at Harvard and the Schepens Eye Research Institute, whose description of treasured infant eyes spurred Gray's hunt. Now, hoping to help other families facing decisions about donation, Gray has written a book, "A Life Everlasting, The Extraordinary Story of One Boy's Gift to Medical Science." Gray and two of the scientists she met in her quest spoke with The Associated Press about donation for research.

### Neonatal donations of any type are rare

Gray's obstetrician didn't think donation was an option for a baby with this birth defect, called anencephaly. Only when Gray persisted late in pregnancy did she learn, from the Washington area's organ procurement agency, that her baby's organs probably would be too small for transplant but that donation for research was an option. Statistics from the United Network for

Organ Sharing show that organs from a dozen newborns, those younger than a month old, were donated last year for transplant.

On the research front, Dr Arupa Ganguly of the University of Pennsylvania studies retinoblastoma, eye cancer that attacks young children. Before receiving Thomas' tissue, she had waited six years for donation of a healthy young retina to compare with diseased ones. Cells taken from younger tissue typically grow much better than an adult's, said Zieske, who could recall receiving infant corneas only two or three times in his career. Thomas' corneas were ordered to study how to repair blindness-inducing corneal damage.

### Most any tissue can be used

In recovering tissue from deceased donors, hospitals consult a national registry of researchers' current needs. On that day in 2010, Thomas died at home in his father's arms. The organ agency retrieved his body, and recovered his eyes and liver. Blood from the umbilical cords of both Thomas and his healthy identical twin Callum already had been shipped to Duke University researchers studying what causes anencephaly.

### Was the research worthwhile?

Two years later, all Gray knew was where Thomas' tissue had been shipped. So during a business trip to Boston, she called the Harvard-affiliated eye lab, identified herself as a donor mom, and asked for a tour - a first for the lab, and one that changed the scientists' perspec-

tive. "I still think more about, when we get a donated cornea, who that came from," said Zieske. Eventually Gray visited each lab that procured and handled Thomas' tissue. A North Carolina biotechnology company, Cytonet, uses liver cells in researching treatment for babies awaiting a liver transplant. Penn's Ganguly froze some retinal tissue for future work.

Callum, now 6, even started coming along. "We explained to him there are some special scientists there working on helping other people, and they're using some stuff from Thomas to help them," said his father, Ross Gray. "We always get a sample but we don't see the person behind that sample. The lab has really established a bond with that family. And I think it makes the work a lot more meaningful," Ganguly said.

### The journey isn't over

Gray changed careers to work for the non-profit American Association of Tissue Banks. That brought her to a meeting where scientists debated if it was ethical to test a new technology - gene editing - to fight inherited diseases. "If you have the skills and the knowledge to fix these diseases then freaking do it," she told the group, recounting how Thomas had suffered seizures each day of his brief life. And when Gray recently had a new baby, daughter Jocelyn, she donated the placenta for wound-healing therapy. She'd like to visit that lab, too. — AP

## MAN SPENDS 43 YEARS IN WHEELCHAIR ON WRONG DIAGNOSIS

**LISBON:** A Portuguese man spent 43 years in a wheelchair because of a mistaken medical diagnosis, finally re-learning to walk only in his fifties, a newspaper reported yesterday. When Rufino Borrego was 13, he was diagnosed by a Lisbon hospital as having incurable muscular dystrophy, the *Jornal de Noticias* reported. After that he used a wheelchair to get around for more than four decades-until a neurologist realised in 2010 that he in fact suffered from a different disease that weakens the muscles, myasthenia. The rare disease can be treated simply by taking asthma medication-and just a year

after his new diagnosis, Borrego was able to walk for the first time to his usual neighborhood cafe.

"We thought it was a miracle," Manuel Melao, owner of the cafe in Alandroal, southeast Portugal, told the newspaper. Now aged 61, Borrego is able to live a normal life, requiring only two physiotherapy sessions a year. He insists he harbors no ill-feelings against the hospital that made the original diagnosis, acknowledging that myasthenia was almost unknown in the medical profession in the 1960s. "I just want to make use of my life," he said. — AFP

## THE FLINT WATER CRISIS, A YEAR ON

**NEW YORK:** A year after the tap water in Flint was exposed as a source of dangerous levels of lead, residents of the impoverished city are still grappling with the man-made public health crisis, which has led to criminal charges and drawn attention in the presidential election. Doctors discovered high amounts of the toxin in children last September and warned against using the Flint River water. Local health officials declared an emergency and Republican Gov. Rick Snyder confirmed there were "serious issues" after state officials downplayed concerns despite other problems with the municipal water.

In addition to the criminal investigations, the crisis has sparked congressional hearings, lawsuits and scrutiny of lead testing across the country. Here's where things stand today:

### Is the water safe?

Flint, whose water source was switched in 2014 to save money while the city was under state emergency management, returned to a Detroit-area water system in October. But Flint's 99,000 residents still can't drink the water without a filter until the system has been made safe with corrosion-reducing phosphates, a critical step that was missing when Flint used the river for 18 months. The state is still distributing filters and bottled water at spots throughout Flint. The state health agency says the decision on whether to shower or bathe with city water "is an individual one."

### Is the end in sight?

The water quality has improved, yet when it will be deemed OK to drink unfiltered is unclear. Another round of testing will be completed in early October. It's also unknown when Flint will receive water from a new regional pipeline that is to draw water from Lake Huron. Lifelong resident Luke Waid said he remains so stressed about lead detected in his 3-year-old daughter, Sophia, that he had to leave his welding job at an aerospace manufacturer. "I'd get working and all I can think about is, 'Is she OK?'" he said. "It gets to be such a burden. I didn't want to leave her." Before the crisis exploded, Waid, 31, and his fiancée, Michelle Rodriguez, feared losing custody because of her lead levels, which they worry cause Sophia's symptoms such as irritability. Waid said it's hard to keep a "positive mind frame," not only for his daughter but much of anything.

### What about the pipes?

One source of the contamination was old lead pipes that leached the toxin into homes and businesses. Flint plans to replace thousands of the underground lead and galvanized steel service lines with an initial \$27 million in state funds. But progress has been slow. Just 177 of what could be at least 10,000 lines had been replaced as of Friday.

### Accountability?

The Republican governor, who apologized for his administration's failures that

created and prolonged the crisis, has seen his approval rating plummet but has rejected calls to resign. The state's former epidemiologist and Flint's suspended utilities administrator struck plea deals. Criminal cases for seven other current or former state environmental or health employees continue amid accusations of a cover-up. Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has hinted that charges against higher-ranking officials may follow. He also has sued two water engineering companies for negligence.

### Enough money?

The state has allocated \$234 million to provide water bill credits and other assistance, such as additional school nurses, healthy food to reduce lead poisoning risks and psychotherapy sessions. Much has yet to be spent. The Republican-led Congress is at odds over Democrats' calls for \$220 million to help Flint and other cities replace pipes and clean their water. The Community Foundation of Greater Flint has received more than \$12 million in private donations to respond to the crisis.

### Civil damages?

Waid and other residents have filed lawsuits seeking compensation. The cases are in the early stages. A federal judge currently is considering a request by residents, pastors and national advocacy groups to order the regular delivery of bottled water to all Flint homes unless a household opts out. The plaintiffs say lead levels haven't been minimized and response efforts by the state and city "have not alleviated the exhausting struggle many in Flint face in trying to find alternative sources of safe drinking water."

### Politics?

National attention on Flint has dissipated since Snyder and President Barack Obama issued emergency declarations in January and Democrats campaigned there and later met in the city for a March presidential primary debate. But Republican Donald Trump, who wants a good showing in the industrial Midwest, visited in mid-September amid his increased outreach to African-Americans only to be cut short after criticizing Hillary Clinton in a church. Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, visited Friday for a briefing.

### Policy reforms?

The US Environmental Protection Agency plans to release new regulations next year to strengthen its lead rules. While Michigan is spending money, it has been much slower in enacting major policy reforms. Snyder has implemented or referred many of his task force's 44 recommendations, yet no significant legislative action is expected until 2017. The governor has proposed the nation's toughest lead-testing rules and the replacement of all underground lead service pipes in Michigan, among other proposals. Democrats are pushing to repeal or amend the emergency manager law, which was blamed as a factor in the crisis. — AP



**FLINT, Michigan:** In this Aug 31, 2016 photo, crews break ground and work to remove and replace lead-tainted pipes from three homes. — AP

### GUINEA-BISSAU OPENS SLAVE MEMORIAL WITH HISTORY, TOURISTS IN MIND

**CACHEU, Guinea-Bissau:** The museum's first display spares little: A naked slave kneels with her hands tied, right shoulder freshly branded with her owner's mark by a white man with sleeves rolled to his biceps. The town of Cacheu on the coast of Guinea-Bissau was a Portuguese trading post where millions of slaves saw west Africa for the last time, bound, branded and shipped off to the Americas. A new memorial has opened to commemorate the exiled sons and daughters of this impoverished nation, not only to recall Portugal's brutal venture into Africa but also to establish itself on the historical tourism circuit.

"The idea is to show that Cacheu was the first place where Europeans practiced transatlantic slavery on an industrial scale," said Alfredo Caldeira, who heads the archives of the Mario Soares foundation named after the former Portuguese president which helped create the memorial. Among the items on display are wooden collars that slaves were bolted into two by two and a huge, rusty pot where slaves' rations were cooked. "Despite its size, it wasn't enough to feed everyone. The portions were very small and the dishes quite basic. It was all cooked quickly so they could get back to work," said tour guide Joachim Lopes. After taking in the horrors, retail therapy is at hand, with t-shirts and caps splashed with a chain logo available from the shop. "The tourist aspect is important," said Caldeira. "But the main thing is to allow these people to rediscover a collective memory and dignity."

#### Cultural potential

Cacheu is home to fewer than 10,000 people today, but was the capital of Portugal's former colony from the 16th century onwards, trading in people until the late 19th century. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to reach Africa in exploratory missions dispatched in the early 15th century. They would go on to trade, with Brazil's help, an estimated five million of the 11 million humans believed to have traversed the Atlantic, according to historians. The idea for the memorial came in November 2010 when the first "Quilombola" festival was held in Cacheu, a name that refers to communities in Brazil formed by escaped slaves.

Their descendants from Brazil and the Caribbean had made an emotional pilgrimage to the land of their ancestors after identifying their roots through their DNA. "They told us their stories. A lot of people cried that day. Some of them asked themselves if they were kin. We danced, we hugged, we shook hands," said high school teacher Augusto Joao

Correia. The Cacheu memorial's founders now hope for success akin to neighboring Senegal's celebrated Goree island, another Atlantic "point of no return" for slaves that has become a must-see for visiting heads of state and celebrities.

"Despite its contested position as a hub for the slave trade, Goree is key for tourism in Senegal, visited by several US presidents," said Djiguatte Amede Bassene of the African Research Centre for the Slave Trade (CARTE) based in Dakar.

"Elsewhere in Africa, other countries are asking: 'why not us?'" Cacheu may also have in its sights a UNESCO project linking and promoting sites of historical interest and research into the slave trade, in which Goree is already involved. The European Union donated 519,000 euros (\$579,000) to the Cacheu project, 90 percent of its total cost, with the specific aim of increasing the cultural potential of such sites as a source of sustainable income for the country.

#### Rare hope

Lined with palm trees and painted a brilliant white, the three years of work by Portuguese architects have culminated in an impressive structure that stands out in a quiet, crumbling town that suffers in the rainy season. The edifice was once the headquarters of the Casa Gouveia, the name of the Portuguese colonial-era firm that traded all kinds of goods, including people. "In this building, local and European products were exchanged for men. Several of the objects testify to that," said the memorial's coordinator Cambrama Alanso Cassama.

Development of the site has not been without controversy. A four-storey salmon-pink hotel has sprung up a few hundred meters (yards) away, but developers are accused of destroying human bones buried where the foundations were laid. Other marks of the past are left to rot: the "bridge of no return" - the slaves' final boarding point - has partially collapsed and flounders among the rigging and nets of fishermen.

Regardless, the memorial is a rare spark of hope for Cacheu's residents: the World Bank describes Guinea-Bissau as one of the world's "poorest and most fragile countries". A series of coups and economic crises have also left it vulnerable to drug smugglers. And the country's slave-trade story remains largely untold. One of the last traces was a 500-peso bank note that showed slaves lining up to board two vessels on the beach. The bank note, however, dropped out of circulation when Guinea-Bissau joined the CFA-franc zone in 1997. — AFP



**CACHEU, Guinea-Bissau:** A display including a whip at the museum on transatlantic slavery in Cacheu, Guinea-Bissau supported by the Mario Soares foundation. — AFP



**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria:** Doctors and nursing staff tend to people in the waiting room of the Federal Neuro Psychiatric Hospital in Maiduguri.

## BOKO HARAM LEAVES NIGERIA A LIFETIME OF MENTAL TRAUMA

**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria:** The soldier clutched his book with both hands. He shouted his name, rank and Nigerian Army number to no-one in particular. He stood up straight and ended every reply with a bark of "sah" (sir). But his eyes were fixed to a slowly cranking ceiling fan in the hospital ward - the thousand yard stare of someone who had seen too much and didn't want to remember. The soldier said he was caught up in a Boko Haram ambush and colleagues were killed. A bullet hit him in the leg and he hadn't seen combat since.

Instead, he saw the inside of beer bottles, the smoke of cannabis joints, then the drug dependency ward of the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital in Maiduguri. Nurses said he was violent and abusive when he was admitted, but after a week he calmed down. "In times of war, when we are fighting war, it's very good for a man to be a man, to boast that he is a man, to fight the enemy," he said, trying to explain his state of mind. "But unfortunately due to the ways of the enemies that come to you or due to the ways you meet the enemy, or due to the way you kill him, (or) you deal with the command..." His voice trailed off and he apologized. "At times that's how we fell into (a) battle that we don't expect in our life..."

#### 'Drastic surge'

At least 20,000 people have been killed since the start of the insurgency in 2009 but doctors at the hospital say they've treated nearly three times as many for its psychological effects. That figure is likely to only be the tip of the iceberg: the hospital is the only psychiatric facility in northeast Nigeria - an area bigger than that of the United Kingdom. In all, 2.6 million people have fled for their lives: many have seen loved ones killed and their homes destroyed. Women and young girls have been kidnapped and raped. Children have been orphaned.

Francis Zamdai, a nurse in charge of the drug dependency ward, said addiction has affected everyone, from government officials and military officers to farmers and the unemployed. "Before the insurgency... we used to admit sometimes 20, 25 (patients). But with the eruption of the insurgency we used to have 50, 60, above that," he told AFP. Consultant psychiatrist Dr Ibrahim Adam Mshelia described the increase in mental health cases since the fighting began as a "drastic surge". "Over 58,000 patients have been seen in the hospital that are

related to the insurgency," he said.

"Common causes we see... are post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, substance abuse disorder, psychosis, anxiety disorders like phobia and panic disorder."

#### Lifetime effects

The hospital is tucked away behind high walls and iron gates in a quiet housing estate off the Baga Road, whose market has been a frequent target for Boko Haram's bombs and suicide bombers. Out-patients wait on rows of benches for consultations; nurses in starched white uniforms - the women in matching hijabs - leaf through paperwork. A special unit to treat children and teenagers has been opened, backed by the International Organization for Migration, packed with toys, board games and with cartoon characters on the walls. In-patients sleep or sit silently on their beds in the wards or play pool and table-tennis in the occupational therapy unit.

Treatment and rehabilitation for those affected, however, is likely to be needed long after they have been discharged. "Even after the end of insurgency the effect... will continue to linger. We are looking to 30 to 50 years," said Mshelia. Some 1.5 million people have sought safe haven in Maiduguri. They will eventually leave but doctors fear that those who have managed to cope so far could break down when they

return home. Meanwhile, levels of drug use are said to be rising in Borno state, exacerbated by porous borders, lack of law enforcement and a desperate, damaged population seeking to deaden pain and fear. They include use of drugs such as cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine, which were previously unheard of in the state, said Mshelia.

#### Overstretched

The scant provision for mental health services in northeast Nigeria and the scale of the insurgency has left financial and human resources stretched to the limit at the hospital. Outside, female victims of sexual and psychological violence at the hands of Boko Haram have received some counseling in the camps. But there is agreement more needs to be done for everyone. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in May 2015 called on Nigeria to "scale up the provision of medical and psychosocial support". For the soldier, a passage in his book is supposed to provide comfort and support for life's spiritual battle between good and evil, right and wrong.

"Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight," it reads. But it's a real-life battle he has struggled to cope with - and wishes had never happened at all. "I wanted to be with my family, in peace," he said. — AFP



**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria:** A patient rests on a bed in the women's substance abuse ward of the Federal Neuro Psychiatric Hospital in Maiduguri the capital of Borno State, northeastern Nigeria. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

**Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem**  
ر. فهد علي المخيزيم

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## AL SAYER EXHIBITS ENGINE ARMOUR FROM VALVOLINE MOTOR OIL

**A**l Shahnan General Trading & Contracting Co, one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies held a stand display at Avenues Mall to exhibit Valvoline Engine Armour(tm) with ThermalShield(tm) technology, a range of full synthetic and synthetic technology engine oils, specially developed for the Middle-East hot and sandy environment.

According to Krishna Kumar, General Manager Tires Oil and Paint Division "We are glad to see such level of engagement from the mall visitors at the Valvoline stand. Through this initiative we also commemorate 150 years of Valvoline across the globe in addition to reinforcing that Valvoline

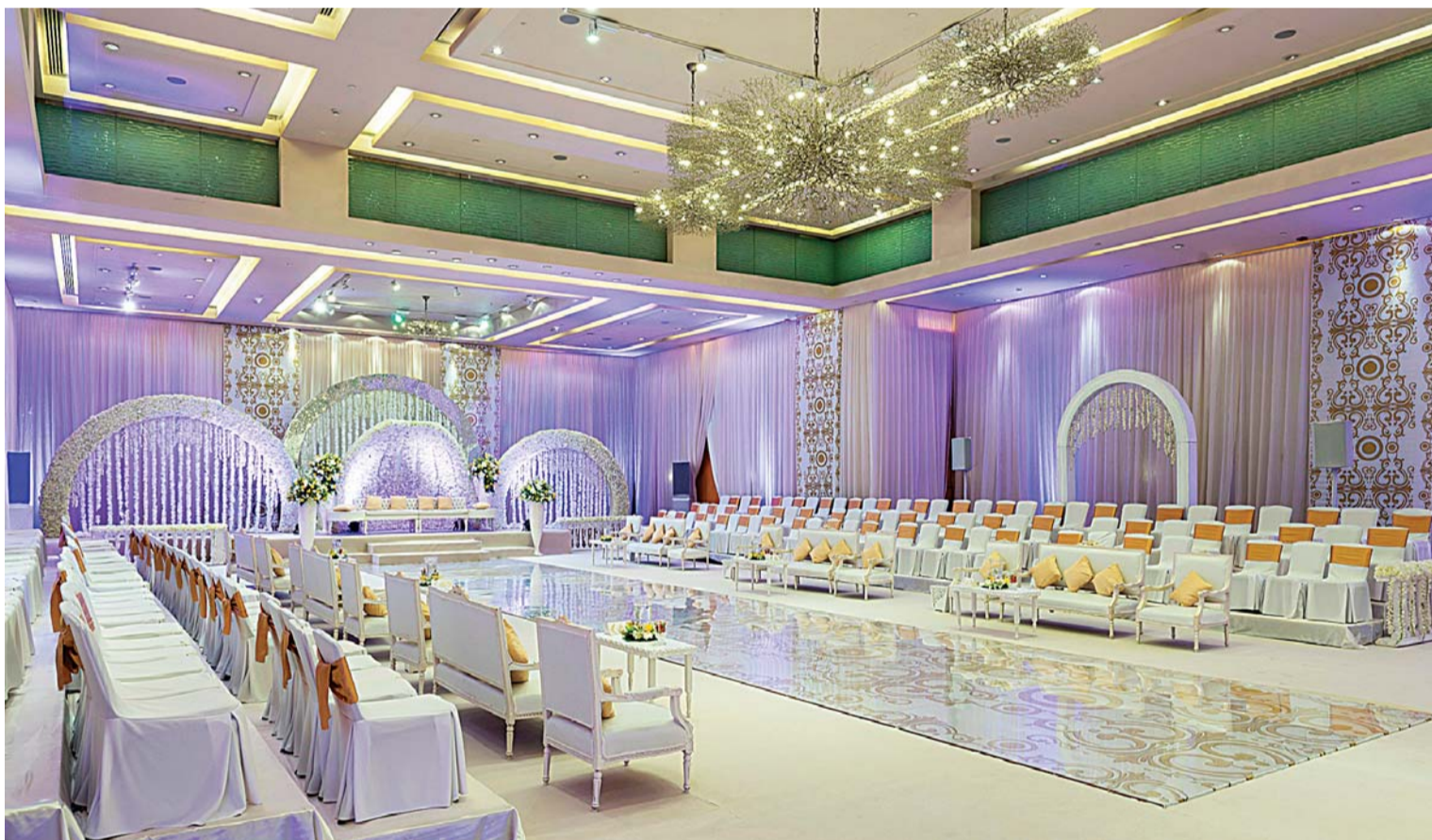
oil is your car engine's life shield for long term protection and best performance." Here's why Engine Armour is a top choice for our customers

- Fully synthetic engine oils for increased engine oil performance.
- Tested and proven to outperform most competitors in engine protection.
- Specially developed formulation with ThermalShield(tm) technology to cope with the hot and sandy environment of the Middle-East.
- A full range of value adding products and support tools to better service your customers.

During the 3 days display event, apart from generating product related inquiries, family visi-

tors grabbed the chance to receive gifts by posing for a picture with Valvoline racer suit statue and posting in social media enabling extended engagement.

Valvoline offers a full range of value added products and support tools to better serve customer's needs. The success of Valvoline is driven by the power and know-how of a worldwide lubricant specialist and their long experience in innovation, research and development makes them the lubricant experts. A culture of research and development to design future generations of lubricants offers Valvoline a strong competitive edge.



## MAKE MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT YOUR TOP DESTINATION FOR ALL WEDDINGS

**T**he magnificent Sheikh Salwa Sabah Al Ahmad Theater & Hall of Marina Hotel Kuwait, nestled in the heart of Salmiya with a spectacular seaside location, is your one-stop-destination for all weddings. No matter what size wedding you are planning, Marina Hotel offers couples a truly memorable wedding to suit any type of wedding festivity.

Having a great layout and capacity of up to 500 persons, the Sheikh Salwa Sabah Al Ahmad Theater & Hall is an ideal place for your special event. The hall unravels beauty and flexibility with its expert wedding planning team who devote their attention to every detail ensuring that your wedding will surpass all expectations. The package is further complemented with an award winning culinary team comprising of dedicated chefs who constantly explore delivering tailor made menus and bringing to the hotel's guests a wide range of exciting experiences to each event. Wedding guests can enjoy the wide variety of scrumptious delicacies from the elaborate buffet at Sheikh Salwa Sabah Al Ahmad Theater & Hall.

The memories of your wedding day will last a lifetime and Marina Hotel Kuwait will ensure that your special day is perfect. The

hotel is delighted to offer guests exclusive wedding packages across the year, which includes accommodation for one night in a beautiful superior room and a romantic candle-lit dinner and breakfast in the room for the bride and groom. For the wedding celebrations, a custom-made, three-tier wedding cake is offered.

Such a momentous occasion that unites husband and wife must be conducted in a venue that can provide only the finest setting. This includes the most delightful cuisine and a magnificently decorated ball-room. With a venue that can also bring back treasured memories of lavish wedding celebrations from previous generations, today's weddings at the Sheikh Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Theater & Hall are among the most extravagant and memorable weddings imaginable.

Combining unparalleled excellence in service and hospitality with outstanding presentation and personal service, the hotel holds a reputation as an expert in turning your wedding celebration into a truly magnificent event. If you are looking for a beautiful wedding ceremony venue, the wedding package at Marina Hotel is available all through the year.

## ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER CONDUCTS TECHNICAL MEET



## APNRT HOLDS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**A**ndhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu (APNRT) Society, a government of Andhra Pradesh initiative to unite the Telugu Diaspora worldwide holds a membership drive last Friday. The motto of this membership drive is to spread awareness about APNRT and its services to the Telugu community's largest gathering area, Malia, Kuwait. The association over time has received queries from people regarding its usage. In relation with this drive, there have been an increasing number of participants for registrations, some of which were conducted over the phone. Also, some of the queries were from blue collar employees, which needs to be presented in a simplified manner. Accordingly

handouts will be prepared so that participants can bring in their near and dear ones for future registrations.

The event coordinators are as follows: Mulakala Subbarayudu, Balaram Naidu, Venkata Siva Rao Koduri, Divakar Naidu Oleti, Venkateswarlu Yegi, Ramana Peram, Sureshbabu Malepati, Skynet Prasad, Uday Adusupalli, Babu Polarapu, Venkateswarlu Malepati, Mallikarjuna Marothu, Esdani Basha, Nagendar Babu, Sai Venkata, Sai Venkata Subba Rao Devata. Some of the well-wishers for the event are: Paleti Prasad, Ravi Mulakala, Santharam Naidu, Medamalli Srinu, Ramakrishna Katuri, Srinumachina Kishore Komi, Sankar Raju, Basha Skynet, Sudhakarkonanki.



**A**merican Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter is a premier voluntary, non-profit Health, Safety and Environmental organization, which strives to provide professional guidance, training, consultancy and resources to the industrial and social sectors in the region. As a part of continuous efforts in its professional journey, ASSE-Kuwait Chapter organized its 212th Technical Meet (2nd in the term 2016-17) on "Road Map to Global HSE Certifications Part II (CRSP, Grad-IOSH & CMIOSH) in Kohinoor Banquet hall, Fahaheel Kuwait on 24th August 2016.

The Technical Meet began with the opening remarks by Mr Sanjay Jaiswal, Chapter Secretary. Mr. CH. Rama Krishna Chary, President ASSE Kuwait Chapter in his welcome address emphasized the importance of attending such technical meets by ASSE Members. Mr Adnan Yousaf, Head of Technical events committee introduced the speakers for the day Mr.

Muhammad Alamgir & Mr Aamir Rasheed.

Mr Muhammad Alamgir is a Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP) by BCRSP Canada, Certified Safety Professional (CSP) by BCSP USA, Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner (CMIOSH) by IOSH UK and currently Vice-President of American Society of Safety Engineers Kuwait Chapter (Term 2016/17). He underlined all seven stages starting from application until Certification maintenance programs as well as shared valuable tips about the preparation of examination. Most, importantly, he encouraged KC members to invest in themselves and enhance their OHS skills in order to get good job opportunities.

Mr Aamir Rasheed is a Chartered Safety & Health Practitioner (CMIOSH) and presently Head - Professional & Career Development Committee (Term 2016/17). He shared different pathways of becoming Grad-IOSH and then further elaborated to the road map of

CMIOSH. Mr. Aamir also emphasized that Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is basic necessity to maintain such certifications and to also keep yourself updated with the modern changes in OHS.

Both speakers given extensive information on subject related certifications, advantage, mode of preparation and ways to apply for each credential. Attendees eagerly took part in the discussion, participated in Question and Answer session.

As an honor of appreciation, ASSE Kuwait Chapter Executive Committee honored both speakers for their excellent presentation with memento. Technical Meeting concluded with close out speech from Mr. Sunil Sadan and, Treasurer of ASSE Kuwait Chapter (2016/17) stating that members must utilize this opportunity and move forward to improve their professionalism and ASSE KC will always provide any kind of assistance for its members to develop themselves for serving the society and State of Kuwait.



**COMMEMORATING  
SECOND ANNIVERSARY  
OF HH THE AMIR  
BEING NAMED  
HUMANITY LEADER**

**U**nder the auspices of Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, writer Abdullah Abbas Bowair held a special reception at the Crown Plaza to commemorate the second anniversary of UN naming of HH the Amir as 'Humanity Leader' and Kuwait as 'Humanity Center'.



**PISTANG PILIPINO**

The Feast San Lorenzo Ruiz celebration, held at the Roman Catholic Church in Kuwait City was sponsored by Al Sanabel Al Thahbeyh. Distribution of Sebamed products were given to participants.



**ISK CLASS  
OF 1990  
CELEBRATES  
ONAM**

**O**n the occasion of Onam, the ISK 1990 Malayalees invited all their friends and members along with their families to join them in celebrating Onam. The chief guest was Ayesha Fahmy (our chemistry teacher) who taught us, is now teaching our children and still teaching 40 years on. The festivities began with a skit show followed by songs and dance performances and concluded with a 21-dish Onam Sadhya.



**BBC FIRST**

- 09:20 New Tricks
- 10:15 Doctors
- 10:45 Eastenders
- 11:15 Stella
- 12:30 Doctors
- 12:30 Doctors
- 13:30 Eastenders
- 13:30 Casualty
- 14:25 New Tricks
- 15:25 Doctor Who
- 16:15 Stella
- 17:00 Doctors
- 17:30 Eastenders
- 18:05 New Tricks
- 19:00 Doctor Who
- 19:50 Stella
- 20:40 Doctors
- 21:10 Eastenders
- 21:45 New Tricks
- 22:40 Doctor Who
- 23:30 Stella
- 23:30 Casualty
- 01:05 New Tricks
- 02:00 The Kettering Incident
- 03:00 Thirteen
- 03:55 Silent Witness
- 04:55 Orphan Black

**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 Tattoo Disasters
- 13:40 Tattoo Disasters
- 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 Tattoo Disasters
- 17:50 Tattoo Disasters
- 18:15 Key And Peele
- 18:40 Key And Peele
- 19:05 Impractical Jokers
- 19:30 Impractical Jokers
- 19:55 Ridiculousness
- 20:20 Ridiculousness
- 20:45 Tattoo Disasters
- 21:10 Tattoo Disasters
- 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 Tattoo Disasters
- 01:50 Lip Sync Battle
- 02:13 Catch A Contractor
- 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 03:30 Patton Oswalt: Tragedy Plus
- Comedy Equals Time

- 22:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 23:00 Backstage
- 23:25 Alex & Co.
- 23:50 Girl Meets World
- 00:15 Dog With A Blog
- 00:40 Best Friends Whenever
- 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

**Disney Junior**

- 09:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 09:35 Calimero
- 09:45 Loopdidoo
- 10:00 Art Attack
- 10:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 10:35 Calimero
- 10:50 Zou
- 11:00 Loopdidoo
- 11:15 Art Attack
- 11:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 11:50 Calimero
- 12:00 Zou
- 12:20 Loopdidoo
- 12:35 Art Attack
- 13:00 The Hive
- 13:10 Zou
- 13:25 Loopdidoo
- 13:40 Gummi Bears
- 14:05 Sofia The First
- 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 Calie'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 Neverland Pirates
- 19:45 Aladdin
- 20:15 Sheriff Calie's Wild West
- 20:45 Doc McStuffins
- 21:15 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 21:20 The Adventures Of The

**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 Misfit Garage
- 13:40 Fast N' Loud
- 14:30 Gold Divers

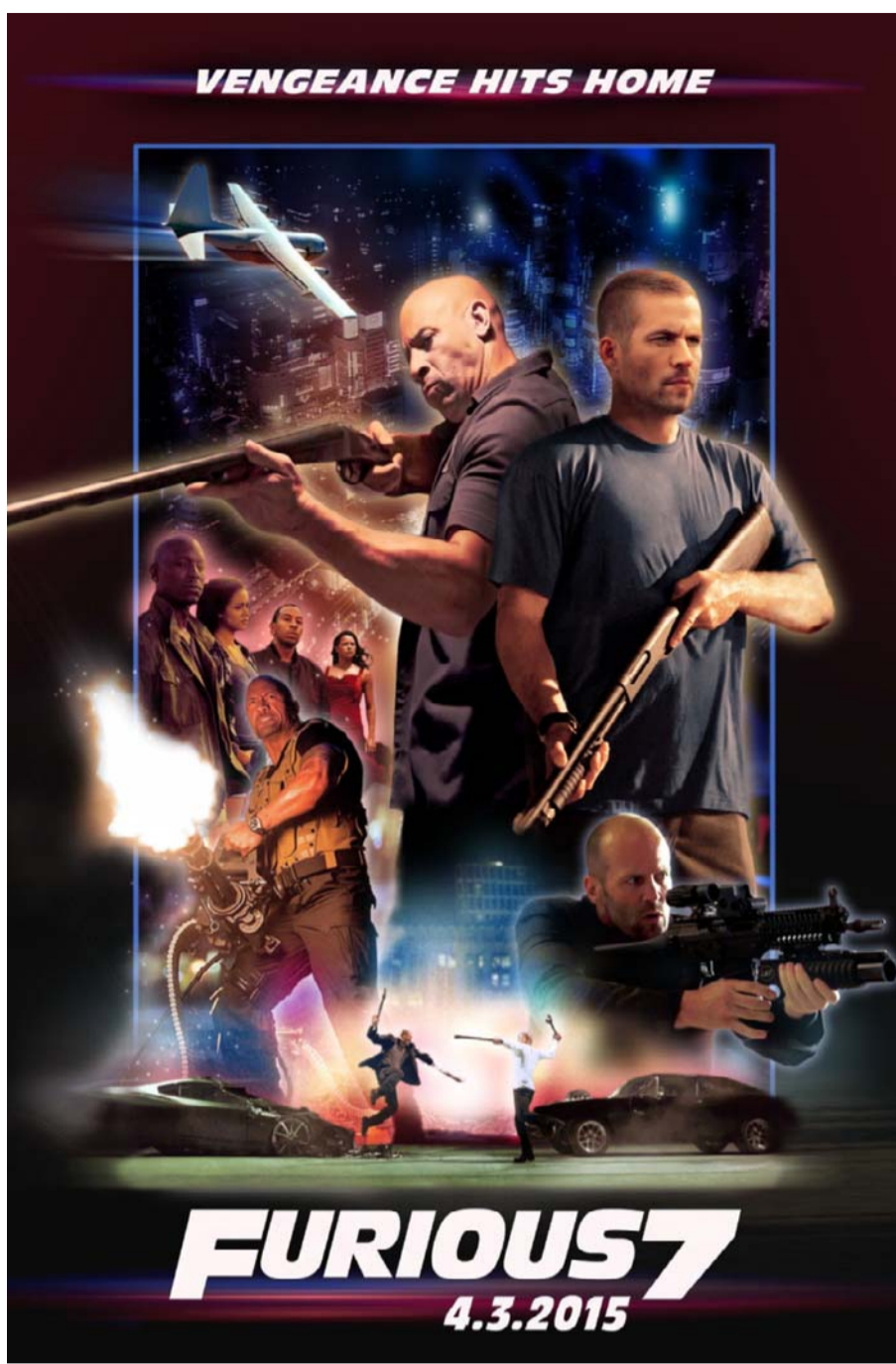
- 23:25 K.C. Undercover
- 23:50 Annedroids
- 00:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 00:40 K.C. Undercover
- 01:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 01:10 Gravity Falls
- 01:35 Counterfeit Cat
- 02:00 Lab Rats
- 02:25 Supa Strikas
- 02:55 K.C. Undercover
- 03:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 03:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 04:10 Marvel Avengers: Ultron Revolution
- 04:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 05:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

**EHD**

- 09:40 Botched
- 10:35 Botched
- 11:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 12:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 12:55 El News
- 13:25 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 14:20 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 15:15 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 16:10 El News
- 16:40 Fashion Bloggers
- 17:10 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 18:10 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 19:10 WAGs
- 20:05 WAGs
- 21:00 El News
- 21:30 Fashion Bloggers
- 22:00 WAGs
- 23:00 WAGs
- 00:00 WAGs
- 01:00 WAGs
- 02:00 WAGs
- 03:00 WAGs
- 04:00 Catching Kelce
- 04:30 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

**itv choice**

- 09:25 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
- 10:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 11:15 Murdoch Mysteries
- 12:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 13:05 The Chase
- 14:00 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
- 15:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 16:00 Murdoch Mysteries
- 16:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 17:50 The Chase
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:15 Coronation Street
- 19:45 Coronation Street
- 20:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 21:10 The Chase
- 22:00 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
- 22:55 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 23:50 Murdoch Mysteries
- 00:45 Emmerdale
- 01:15 Coronation Street
- 01:45 Coronation Street
- 02:10 The Chase
- 03:00 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans



FAST & FURIOUS 7 ON OSN MOVIES HD

- Planet
- 01:05 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 01:30 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 02:00 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 02:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 03:15 The Food Files
- 03:40 Poh & Co
- 04:05 Poh & Co
- 04:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 04:55 Glamour Puds
- 05:20 Cesar Millan: Love My Pit Bull

**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 Rabbits 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 Rabbits 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
- 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

- 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
- 23:27 Zack & Quack
- 23:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 00:00 Paw Patrol
- 00:13 Paw Patrol
- 00:36 Dora The Explorer
- 01:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 01:11 Zack & Quack
- 01:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 01:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 02:10 Paw Patrol
- 02:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 02:58 Dora The Explorer
- 03:21 Paw Patrol
- 03:45 Little Charmers
- 03:57 Bubble Guppies
- 04:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 04:40 Zack & Quack
- 04:52 Team Umizoomi
- 05:15 Louie
- 05:22 Louie
- 05:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 05:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 05:58 Olive The Ostrich

**OSN MOVIES HD**

- ACTION**
- 10:00 Hercules Reborn
  - 12:00 Robot Overlords
  - 14:00 Batman vs. Robin
  - 16:00 Into The Storm
  - 18:00 Panic Room
  - 20:00 Robot Overlords
  - 22:00 Deep Flising
  - 00:00 Automata
  - 02:00 The Taking Of Pelham 123
  - 04:00 Public Enemies

**OSN FIRST HD**

**COMEDY**

- 09:00 Dr. Ken
- 09:30 Last Man Standing
- 10:00 Living With Fran
- 10:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 11:30 George Lopez
- 12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
- 12:30 Suburgatory
- 13:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 14:00 Living With Fran
- 14:30 George Lopez
- 15:00 Dr. Ken
- 15:30 Angie Tribeca
- 16:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 16:30 Suburgatory
- 17:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 18:00 The Bernie Mac Show
- 18:30 Living With Fran
- 19:00 George Lopez
- 19:30 Suburgatory
- 20:00 Last Man Standing
- 20:30 Angie Tribeca
- 21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 21:30 The Simpsons
- 22:00 The Simpsons
- 22:30 The Simpsons
- 23:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 00:00 Dr. Ken
- 00:30 Last Man Standing
- 01:00 Wrecked
- 01:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 02:00 Difficult People
- 02:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
- 03:00 The Simpsons
- 03:30 The Simpsons
- 04:00 Baskets
- 04:30 The Big C
- 05:00 The Big C
- 05:30 Difficult People

**OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL**

- 09:00 I Will Follow You Into The Dark
- 11:00 Philomena
- 13:00 Merchants Of Doubt
- 15:00 Parkland
- 17:00 Philomena
- 18:45 Ed Wood
- 21:00 Prefontaine
- 23:00 Parkland
- 01:00 Calendar Girls
- 03:00 Blood Ties
- 05:15 Choke

**OSN MOVIES HD**

**KIDS**

- 10:30 Bolts And Blip
- 12:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
- 14:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 15:30 When Marnie Was There
- 17:15 Barnyard
- 18:45 Worms
- 20:15 Jingle All The Way 2
- 22:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 00:00 When Marnie Was There
- 02:00 Hatching
- 04:00 Jingle All The Way 2
- 05:45 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble

**DISCOVERY SCIENCE**

- 09:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 09:48 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 10:36 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 11:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 12:12 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 13:00 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Mythbusters
- 14:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 15:02 Mega Builders
- 15:50 How Do They Do It?
- 16:14 Food Factory
- 16:38 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 17:02 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 17:26 Mythbusters
- 18:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 19:02 How Do They Do It?
- 19:26 Food Factory
- 19:50 Mega Builders
- 20:38 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 21:02 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 21:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 22:14 Mythbusters
- 23:02 Mega Builders
- 23:50 Mythbusters
- 00:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 01:30 Meteorite Men
- 02:20 How Do They Do It?
- 02:45 Food Factory
- 09:15 Cake Boss
- 09:35 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 10:00 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 10:20 Little People, Big World
- 10:45 Little People, Big World
- 11:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 12:00 Bakery Boss
- 12:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 13:40 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 14:30 Little People, Big World
- 14:55 Little People, Big World
- 15:20 Kate Plus 8
- 16:10 Love, Lust Or Run
- 16:35 Cake Boss
- 17:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 17:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 17:50 Bakery Boss
- 18:40 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 19:05 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 19:30 Say Yes To The Dress
- 19:55 Say Yes To The Dress
- 20:20 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
- 21:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 22:00 Little People, Big World

**OSN MOVIES HD**

**FAMILY**

- 09:30 Three Wishes
- 11:30 Turner & Hooch
- 13:15 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame
- 15:00 Ernest Goes To Camp
- 17:00 Treasure Planet
- 19:00 Walt-E
- 21:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
- 23:00 Camp Nowhere
- 01:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
- 03:30 Three Men And A Little Lady
- 05:15 Herbie Fully Loaded

**OSN MOVIES HD**

**TLC**

- 11:00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This
- 13:00 50 To 1
- 15:00 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
- 17:00 The Love Punch
- 18:45 Minions
- 20:30 McFarland, USA
- 22:45 Fast & Furious 7
- 01:00 She's Funny That Way
- 03:00 My Stepdadughter
- 05:00 The Boy Next Door

**OSN MOVIES HD**

**COMEDY**

- 10:00 Green Card
- 12:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
- 14:00 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star
- 16:00 Green Card
- 18:00 Easy A
- 20:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
- 22:00 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star
- 00:00 Krippendorf's Tribe
- 02:00 What We Do In The



ROBOT OVERLORDS ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 04:18 Broad City
- 04:42 Tosh.0
- 05:05 Lip Sync Battle
- 05:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

- 15:20 Garage Gold
- 15:45 How Stuff Works
- 16:10 How Do They Do It?
- 16:35 Wheeler Dealers
- 17:25 Misfit Garage
- 18:15 Deals, Wheels And Steals
- 18:40 Deals, Wheels And Steals
- 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 Misfit 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 Gold Divers
- 03:50 Deadliest Catch
- 04:40 Trailblazers

- Orphans
- 03:55 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 04:50 Emmerdale
- 05:15 Coronation Street
- 05:40 Coronation Street

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD**

- 09:50 No Man Left Behind
- 10:45 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 11:40 Yukon River Run
- 12:35 Untamed Americas
- 13:30 World's Weirdest
- 14:25 Man Hunt
- 15:20 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 16:15 Migrations
- 17:10 Yukon Gold
- 18:05 The Yard
- 19:00 Man Hunt
- 20:00 World's Weirdest
- 21:00 Untamed Americas
- 22:00 Yukon Gold
- 00:00 The Yard
- 01:00 Untamed Americas
- 02:00 Migrations
- 02:50 Yukon Gold
- 03:40 The Yard
- 04:30 Untamed Americas
- 05:20 Yukon River Run

**NAT GEO people HD**

- 09:05 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 09:30 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 09:55 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 10:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 11:10 The Food Files
- 11:35 Poh & Co
- 12:00 Poh & Co
- 12:25 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 12:50 Glamour Puds
- 13:15 What's For Sale?
- 13:40 Maximum Foodie
- 14:05 Eat Street
- 14:30 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 14:55 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 15:20 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 15:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 16:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 17:00 The Food Files
- 17:25 Poh & Co
- 17:50 Poh & Co
- 18:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 18:40 Glamour Puds
- 19:05 Cesar Millan: Love My Pit Bull
- 20:00 Eat Street
- 20:30 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 20:55 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 21:25 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 21:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 22:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 23:15 The Food Files
- 23:40 Poh & Co
- 00:10 Poh & Co
- 00:35 Food Lover's Guide To The

**NAT GEO WILD HD**

- 09:45 Dangerous Encounters
- 10:40 Operation Sumatran Rhino
- 11:35 Croc Invasion
- 12:30 Caught In The Act
- 13:25 Dangerous Encounters
- 14:20 Operation Sumatran Rhino
- 15:15 Animal Fight Club
- 16:10 Bear Nomad
- 17:05 Incredible Spiders
- 18:00 Life On The Barrier Reef
- 18:55 Monster Croc Hunt
- 19:50 Caught In The Act
- 20:45 Animal Storm Squad
- 21:40 Unseen Islands
- 22:35 Animal Fight Club
- 23:30 Evolutions
- 00:25 Bug Attack
- 01:20 Animal Storm Squad
- 02:10 Unseen Islands
- 03:00 Animal Fight Club
- 03:50 Evolutions
- 04:40 Bug Attack
- 05:30 Life On The Barrier Reef

**Disney Channel 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 That's So Raven
- 15:50 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 7D
- 18:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 18:40 Hank Zipzer
- 19:05 Star Darlings
- 19:30 Austin & Ally
- 19:55 Austin & Ally
- 20:20 Liv And Maddie
- 20:45 Liv And Maddie
- 20:50 Dog With A Blog
- 21:15 Jessie
- 21:40 Bunk'd
- 22:05 Star Darlings
- 22:10 Gravity Falls

**XD**

- 12:00 Boyster
- 12:10 Super Matrak
- 12:35 Super Matrak
- 13:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 13:25 Austin & Ally
- 13:50 Supa Strikas
- 14:15 Danger Mouse
- 14:40 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 15:30 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
- 21:15 Supa Strikas
- 21:40 Supa Strikas
- 22:05 Star Darlings



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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (22/09/2016 TO 28/09/2016)

SHARQIA-1	Time	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	Time
SULLY	12:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	4:30 PM
SULLY	2:45 PM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	6:45 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	4:45 PM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	9:30 PM
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	7:00 PM	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	12:15 AM
ASHAN KHARGEN	8:45 PM		
AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	11:00 PM		
SULLY	1:00 AM		
		<b>FANAR-2</b>	
		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	11:30 AM
		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	1:30 PM
		ASHAN KHARGEN	3:15 PM
		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	5:30 PM
		ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM
		AL BAB YEFAWET AMAL	9:45 PM
		ASHAN KHARGEN	11:45 PM
		<b>FANAR-3</b>	
		HAVENHURST	12:00 PM
		HAVENHURST	1:45 PM
		HELLIONS	3:45 PM
		PETE'S DRAGON	5:45 PM
		HAVENHURST	8:00 PM
		HELLIONS	10:00 PM
		HAVENHURST	12:05 AM
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:30 PM
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	3:15 PM
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	6:00 PM
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	8:45 PM
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:30 PM
		<b>FANAR-5</b>	
		SULLY	12:45 PM
		SULLY	2:45 PM
		SULLY	4:45 PM
		PINK - Hindi	6:45 PM
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	9:45 PM
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:30 AM
		<b>MARINA-1</b>	
		SULLY	12:30 PM
		SNOWDEN	2:30 PM
		BEN-HUR	5:00 PM
		ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM
		ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM
		SULLY	12:05 AM
		<b>MARINA-2</b>	
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:45 PM
		ASHAN KHARGEN	1:30 PM
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	3:30 PM
		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	6:15 PM
		<b>FANAR-1</b>	
		SULLY	11:45 AM

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 in Abu Al-Hasaniya  
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**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Mrs Fatima Mary Lancy Fernandes daughter of Joseph Fernandes, holder of Indian Passport No: K4564810 & Civil ID No: 265011009768 has changed my name to Violet Mary D'souza hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Violet Mary D'souza. (C 5216)  
 22-9-2016

**MATRIMONIAL**

Alliance invited for a 28 year old Marthoma boy with master degree in mechatronics from University of Victoria - Canada, and currently working in Canada. Proposal invited from parents of educational girls. Email: sobinthomas0007@gmail.com (C 5215)  
 22-9-2016

**EMERGENCY 112**

**Integrated Logistics Co. KCSC**, one of the Top Mobile Crane hiring Company in the MENA region and 4th in the world wide. We provide best quality and value added services under one umbrella for all the Logistics, Heavy Lift, Engineering and Equipment requirement to the MENA Region Market. **INTEGRATED** moves towards a new chapter of progress and it will continue to undertake and accomplish projects. For our Kuwait Operations, we are open for eligible professionals. **COME & JOIN US.**

**المتكاملة integrated URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR KUWAIT**

DESIGNATION	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT	JOB REQUIREMENT
MOBILE CRANE OPERATORS	Without Kuwait Driving License is Acceptable	Experience in operating Cranes from 70T to 1000T capacity with safe operating practices.
EQUIPMENT OPERATORS	Without Kuwait Driving License is Acceptable	Experience of equipment's like Loader / Dozer / Excavator / JCB / Boom Truck / Man Lift
HEAVY VEHICLE & TRAILER DRIVERS	Without Kuwait Driving License is Acceptable	Experience of driving Heavy Vehicles / Dumper Trailer Trucks

Interested Candidates may immediately send their Resume, Copies of Passport with Visa Page (Article 18) / Izn Amal / Valid Kuwait Driving License as an attachment to [hrmgr@integrated-me.com](mailto:hrmgr@integrated-me.com) or call at 97281312 / 67077436. We will get in touch with those candidates whose resume will be shortlisted by us.  
 Our Website: [www.integrated-me.com](http://www.integrated-me.com)

**JOB VACANCY**

**Office secretary**

- Must have 3 years experience.
- Fluent in English written and spoken.
- Preparing spreadsheets, BOQ's, Microsoft excel/ word.
- Preferably of Indian nationality or Filipino.

Candidates may submit their resumes to:  
**admin@ducigroup.com**

**BASEBALL UMPIRES NEEDED**

Requirements are:

- Have Previously Umpired
- Is knowledgeable in Little League Baseball & Softball Rules
- All Umpires will Be Paid

If interested Please contact Coach Jeff at:  
**chief.umpire@q8bsc.com**

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**TIMINGS: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 4:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

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 Tel.: 22433552 / 22433501 Fax: 22407940  
 FARWANHA: Galleria Complex (Dajeh) Shop No. 2 & 15  
 Tel.: 24314839 / 24318720

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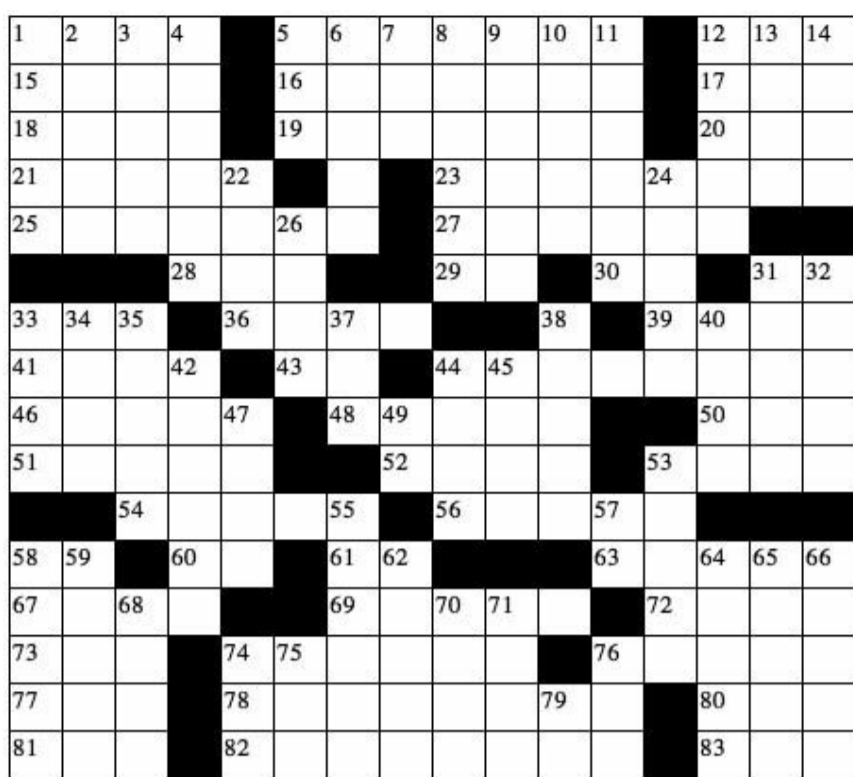
## Flight Schedule

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

### DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 26/9/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 26/9/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	FDB	051	Alexandria	15:50
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	QTR	1072	Amman	16:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JZR	535	Dubai	16:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	562	Doha	16:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	118	Cairo	16:20
FDK	803	Damascus	01:00	SAW	705	Amman	16:55
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	SVA	510	New York	17:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	GFA	215	Damascus	17:05
PGT	858	Dubai	01:40	JZR	177	Riyadh	17:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	QTR	1080	Bahrain	17:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	502	Doha	17:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	774	Beirut	18:35
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00	KAC	786	Riyadh	18:35
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	618	Jeddah	18:35
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	542	Doha	18:55
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	MSR	620	Cairo	18:55
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	104	Cairo	19:00
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	UAE	875	London	19:00
BAW	157	London	06:40	GFA	217	Dubai	19:05
JZR	563	Sohag	06:55	FDB	063	Bahrain	19:05
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	614	Dubai	19:10
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	ABY	123	Bahrain	19:10
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	674	Dubai	19:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	154	Dubai	19:45
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	059	Istanbul	19:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	DLH	634	Dubai	19:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KNE	231	Frankfurt	20:05
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	MEA	402	Riyadh	20:10
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	OMA	647	Beirut	20:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MSR	618	Muscat	20:20
FEG	937	Alexandria	08:45	QTR	1088	Alexandria	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	FDB	5053	Doha	20:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	KAC	174	Dubai	20:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	ETD	307	Munich	21:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	UAE	859	Abu Dhabi	21:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	ALK	229	Dubai	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	THY	764	Colombo	21:20
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	QTR	1082	Istanbul	21:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	219	Doha	21:55
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	ETD	309	Bahrain	22:00
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	JZR	125	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	AIC	975	Bahrain	22:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	BBC	143	Chennai/Goa	22:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	JZR	185	Dhaka	22:40
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	JAI	574	Dubai	22:55
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	RBG	555	Mumbai	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSR	614	Alexandria	23:15
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	FDB	071	Cairo	23:30
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	KLM	411	Dubai	23:35
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05			Amsterdam/Dammam	23:40
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20				
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30				
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50				
KAC	742	Dammam	14:55				
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00				
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10				
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10				
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35				
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45				

CROSSWORD 1382



ACROSS

1. A wad of something chewable as tobacco.
5. A nihilistic art movement (especially in painting) that flourished in Europe early in the 20th century.
12. Inquire about.
15. The basic unit of money on Malta.
16. A genus of Stromateidae.
17. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
18. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
19. American Revolutionary leader (born in Prussia) who trained the troops under George Washington (1730-1794).
20. A local computer network for communication between computers.
21. Type genus of the Gaviidae.
23. Quietly and steadily persevering especially in detail or exactness.
25. The father of your father or mother.
27. A vowel whose quality or length is changed to indicate linguistic distinctions (such as sing sang sung song).
28. Primitive predateous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needle-like teeth.
29. A Mid-Atlantic state.
30. Being ten more than one hundred forty.
33. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
36. (British) An open river valley (in a hilly area).
39. (usually followed by 'to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
41. A hymn of praise (especially one sung in ancient Greece to invoke or thank a deity).
43. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
46. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
48. A seat for one person, with a support for the back.
50. An associate degree in applied science.
51. An edict of the Russian tsar.
52. The capital and chief port of Qatar.
54. Show a response or a reaction to something.
56. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
58. Being nine more than ninety.
60. A bachelor's degree in religion.
61. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
63. (informal) "in the dumps".
67. A carriage consisting of two wheels and calash top.
69. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
72. A writer of poems (the term is usually reserved for writers of good poetry).
73. A boy or man.
77. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
78. A major school of Buddhism teaching social concern and universal salvation.
80. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
81. A member of a Mayan people of south-western Guatemala.
82. Youthful appearance in an old person.
83. The compass point that is midway between north and northeast.

DOWN

1. Large swift fly the female of which sucks blood of various animals.
2. Of or relating to or located near a hilum.
3. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
4. (of the moon) "after full moon comes the waning moon".
5. Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
6. An honorary arts degree.
7. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
8. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
9. Take in, also metaphorically.
10. The sensation that results when olfactory receptors in the nose are stimulated by particular chemicals in gaseous form.
11. Wildly disordered.
12. Metal or plastic sheath over the end of a shoelace or ribbon.
13. The act of scanning.
14. Influential German idealist philosopher (1724-1804).
22. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
24. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
26. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
31. Of or relating to neurogia.
32. Pepsi Cola is a trademarked cola.
34. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
35. An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
37. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
38. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
40. (informal) Exceptionally good.
42. A battle in 1645 that settled the outcome of the first English Civil War as the Parliamentarians won a major victory over the Royalists.
44. Dense growth of hairs covering the body or parts of it (as on the human head).
45. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
47. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
49. A hemoprotein composed of globin and heme that gives red blood cells their characteristic color.
53. Type genus of the Upupidae.
55. Flightless New Zealand birds similar to gallinules.
57. A public promotion of some product or service.
59. A Bantu language spoken by the Chaga people in northern Tanzania.
62. Hungarian composer of light operas (1870-1948).
64. Antipsychotic drug (trade name Mogan) used in the treatment of schizophrenia.
65. Large dark brown North American arboreal carnivorous mammal.
66. A fixed look with eyes open wide v 1.
68. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
70. Common Indian weaverbird.
71. Type genus of the Anatidae.
74. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
75. A label made of cardboard or plastic or metal.
76. The cry made by sheep.
79. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Intense focus on your career can find you mercilessly cutting back and getting down to the essentials regarding the path you are taking with your life. You will have a sense of being almost driven to pursue your course and succeed. Your work may be paying for furthering your education so you are careful to keep other expenses at a minimum. The afternoon is looking like the perfect time to grill. You and a family member may decide to put together a late afternoon meal, making it large enough to equal a missing lunch and the soon to be evening meal. Cookies and a little tea to finish the meal open up the opportunity for good conversation. Relax with your loved one this evening. Laughter is good!



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Beginning early today-the phone rings. Your friends must have gathered and decided to call you all day long. It might be more fun just to meet and have lunch together at a fun restaurant. Philosophizing and expressing your theories are the things you and your friends love to do and everyone has an opinion. Someone may bring up a subject of interest today that you may also want to explore. You enjoy fair, just, frank and broadminded persons and long conversations with your friends, touching on a variety of subjects; there is much laughter. You dare to dream big. You are very tolerant and accepting of differences. Your sense of inner direction is good and should lead to some ideas for future monetary opportunities.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Obtaining and exchanging information takes on a great deal of emotional significance as you gather with some of your friends. You could be in a religious setting or attending a social affair. Whatever the case some of the people around you have been gone for a long time and you enjoy being updated with everyone's life happenings as much as you can. This may be a celebration of a marriage or a shower with lots of gifts. You keep good company and have lots of good friends. Working or studying this afternoon can be satisfying. You are not in a frivolous frame of mind and you help the host or hostess with whatever is needed. This afternoon a parent may want you to give a report of all the people you have visited with and the changes over the years.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

It is amazing what you have uncovered in a science experience. Perhaps these results are something that many would understand but it is always good to be cautious when testing chemicals that are new to you. This could be something as simple as organic vinegar that will kill the weeds. You have a way of tending to research that informs you and guides you so that you have the information that you need. This is where your energies are focused for now. Your mental energies, ideas, thoughts and so on may undergo some transformation or change. There is a natural sense of growth and development. At a mall this evening you may be privy to a flash mob, singing and dancing to some popular song. Life is interesting.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may appear very relaxed today. Everything seems to be working well together. You may want to express your appreciation when timing and requests are met with an agreeable response. Characterized by high energy, you can be a bit impatient-eager to move forward and to learn and grow. You seek contact, involvement and do not become bogged down with gossip or negative thinking. You will find yourself giving way to others in almost all situations. In a word, you could be most encouraging to others but you have to make a concentrated effort to do so at this time. You have an ability to supervise people and have a built-in sense of responsibility. This makes you a unique individual. There are not many people of your caliber in management.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

There is a lot of interest and passion available for you to accomplish whatever you want to achieve this day. There are fun things to do and you may grab a willing friend or relative and fill the day with fun things to do. This may be a fair or a hardware show or some kind of convention. The nice part about the day is that you don't have to work or speak or be responsible for anything but yourself. You may find some specialty items to purchase for loved ones when you celebrate the holidays. It is nice to see loved ones wear or have something they received from you. Later today a bit of decorating may be in the forecast. Shopping for the food that is needed this next week will help cut out the chores during an upcoming workweek.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will tend to find yourself responding quickly to others today. You can put your ideas into words and describe or analyze situations for yourself and others very well. Chances are you work in one of the many service occupations, taking care of and looking after people. A bout of philosophy or even a little religion could have an enormous effect on your career during this time. Lasting values or whatever you find to be true and lasting can guide you now, opening up avenues that have remained blocked. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward in all your goals. Things work for the positive today. This evening you allow others to wait on you. Have fun!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You might like to join a friend today. This friend may have recently acquired a new toy or equipment or technical advancement and it is plucking at your curiosity. With your friend's help you will learn to drive, deep-sea dive, sail, hunt or some other activity. The day is full of laughter, hunger, accomplishments, complaints and praise by the time you get home. If you wrote books, today might make for a really cool short story-maybe a scary one. Your response to what life offers you is always elevated, although perhaps not always practical. This could lead to some disappointments. Take time to review your goals and perhaps make use of some of the same methods in which you are working to reach those goals.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Today is perfect for the volunteer group to which you belong to gather and test one another on the techniques you have been learning. You could be volunteering for the city or for a hospital but whatever the case, you will be sure to serve a most useful service. As soon as you can, you plan to be busy passing on to others just how much fun this volunteer work happens to be. Your willingness to give credit to others is noticed. You may also go beyond the assigned and expected tasks asked of you. Today is a self-expression day as well as a day you listen and follow instructions. A good conversation with those you love is possible this evening. Learn to enjoy and share successes with your family. Seek advice and support from them.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You enjoy crafts and may find this the perfect day to work on your craft and accomplish much. You may enjoy woodcraft projects and you have several ideas of what your friends might like for gifts. You have crafted a wall hanging and you have made door wreaths and houses for animals. Some of your dog houses can be quite elaborate and you like to either give them away to friends or sell them at a flea market. You sign your work on the right, no matter what the item is that you complete. This is a time to enjoy and appreciate your ties to others and to seek and promote harmony in the interaction between people. Slow down and look at the beauty around you. Just checking out the backyard, you may wonder why you haven't made birdhouses.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You and a sibling may chat about which one of you is smarter. Of course this could be veiled as who took what test and what the score was. A period of great mental activity and heightened communication with others begins now. You may decide to take psychic, psychology, mathematics, history or writing tests. As it turns out you and your siblings have the talent of writing and you may compete in a short story competition. Continue to turn in your work to different sources as you will find each of you are good at writing but in different ways. The choices are many, a few of which are fiction, non-fiction, plays, short stories, novels, comic books, etc. Of course, in your case, you may do the art for a children's book.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing today, but realities demand you tend to a bit of personal business around your living area today. You may want to cook the lunches for next week's work lunch and do a bit of washing. You like to have a clean car and you may be puzzled for a short while over how long it has been since you washed your car. You are most persuasive and you will find your family or roommates cooperative as you suggest some activities for next week. You possess a powerful, persistent drive and by the afternoon, you have achieved what seemed too difficult to tackle earlier this morning. A young person could use your help later today. There is an opportunity to enjoy dinner out-of-doors this evening.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Look Up!

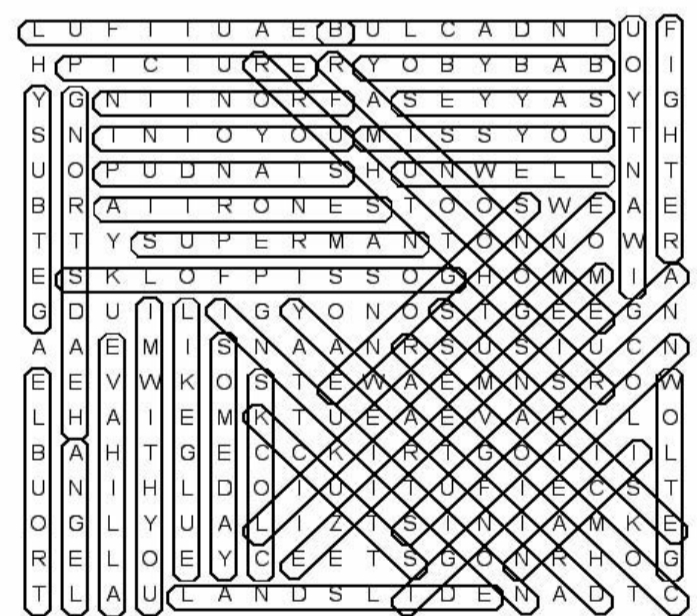
Find and circle all of the items that you might see when you look upward. The remaining 24 letters spell an additional item you might see.

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

- |               |                 |               |               |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| AIRPLANE      | GALAXY          | METEOR SHOWER | SMOG          |
| BIG DIPPER    | HAZE            | MOON          | SOLAR ECLIPSE |
| BIRDS         | HELICOPTER      | PLANETS       | STARS         |
| BLIMP         | HOT AIR BALLOON | POWER LINES   | STREET LIGHT  |
| BLUE SKY      | JET EXHAUST     | RAINBOW       | THE SUN       |
| CHIMNEY SMOKE | JUPITER         | SATELLITE     | TREETOP       |
| CLOUDS        | KITE            | SATURN        | UNIVERSE      |
| COMET         | LIGHTNING       | SKYDIVER      | VENUS         |
| DRONE         | MARS            | SKYSCRAPER    |               |
| FIREWORKS     | MERCURY         | SKYWRITING    |               |

Yesterday's Solution

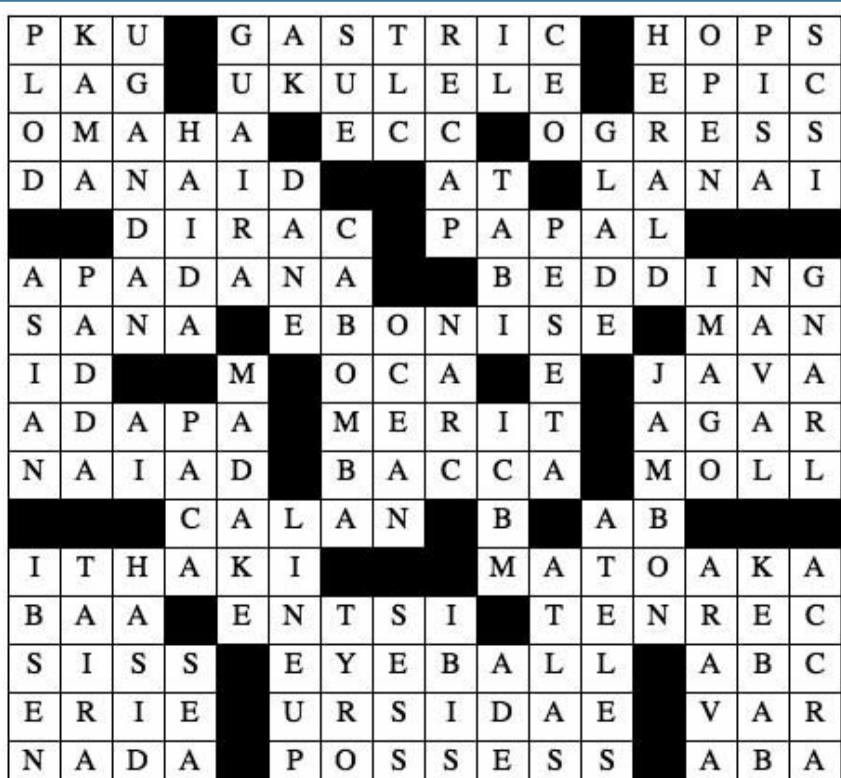
Songs From the Year 2003



- |            |              |              |           |
|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| ALL I HAVE | GET LOW      | LANDSLIDE    | SO GONE   |
| ANGEL      | GOSSIP FOLKS | LIKE A STONE | SOMEDAY   |
| BABY BOY   | HEADSTRONG   | LIKE GLUE    | STAND UP  |
| BEAUTIFUL  | I CAN        | MESMERIZE    | STUCK     |
| CLOCKS     | I WANT YOU   | MISS YOU     | SUGA SUGA |
| COME OVER  | I'M WITH YOU | PICTURE      | SUNRISE   |
| DRIFT AWAY | IGNITION     | RAIN ON ME   | SUPERMAN  |
| FIGHTER    | IN DA CLUB   | RIGHT THURR  | TROUBLE   |
| FRONTIN'   | INTO YOU     | SAY YES      | UNWELL    |
| GET BUSY   | INTUITION    | SENORITA     |           |

The hidden song title is: HOW YOU GONNA ACT LIKE THAT

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



### PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

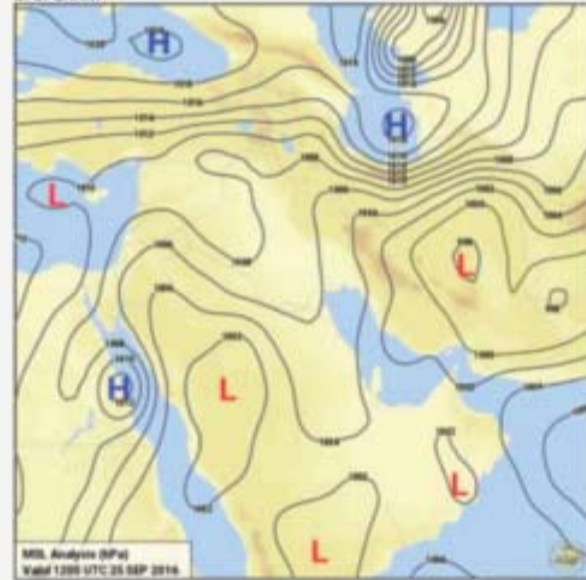
Issued 25/09/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

#### MIN Temperature 25 °C

By Night :Fair with light to moderate north westerly to northerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h

By Day : Hot with moderate becoming light gradually north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h

#### SFC. CHART



#### Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	hot	hot	hot	hot + raising dust
Min Temp °C	25	24	26	23
Max Temp °C	40	41	41	38
Wind Direction	north westerly	variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 28	06 - 22	06 - 28	15 - 40

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
KUWAIT CITY	26		38
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25		38
ABDULY	24		38
BUBYAN	25		38
JAHRA	25		39
FAJLAKA ISLAND	26		37
SALMIYAH	26		35
AHMADI	28		35
JAL ALIYAH	24		38
QARDH ISLAND	29		34
UMH AL-MARADEM	29		34
HUWASIB	26		37
WAFRA	26		38
HANAGSH	25		38
SALMY	24		36
HUTRIBA	24		39

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	41
Min Temp (°C)	28
Max Rel Hum (%)	36
Min Rel Hum (%)	11
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	50 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:38
Sunset	17:40

#### Prayer Times

Fajr	04:19
Sunrise	05:38
Zuhr	11:40
Asr	15:05
Sunset	17:40
Isha	18:57



## PRIVATE CLINICS

<b>Ophthalmologists</b> Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223 <b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b> 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 <b>General Practitioners</b> Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123 Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312 Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem 23926920 Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465 Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah 25655528 Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781 Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea 25333501 <b>Urologists</b> 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	<b>Plastic Surgeons</b> Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60 <b>Family Doctor</b> Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581 <b>Psychiatrists</b> Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0 <b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b> Dr Adrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787 <b>General Surgeons</b> Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148 <b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b> Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	<b>Paediatricians</b> Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarouf 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gupare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282 <b>Dermatology</b> Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955 <b>Dentists</b> Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111 <b>Neurologists</b> Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875 <b>Gastrologists</b> Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135	<b>Endocrinologist</b> Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924 <b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b> Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288 <b>Rheumatologists:</b> Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290 <b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b> DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667 <b>Consultant Cardiologist</b> Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123
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Psychologists /Psychotherapists

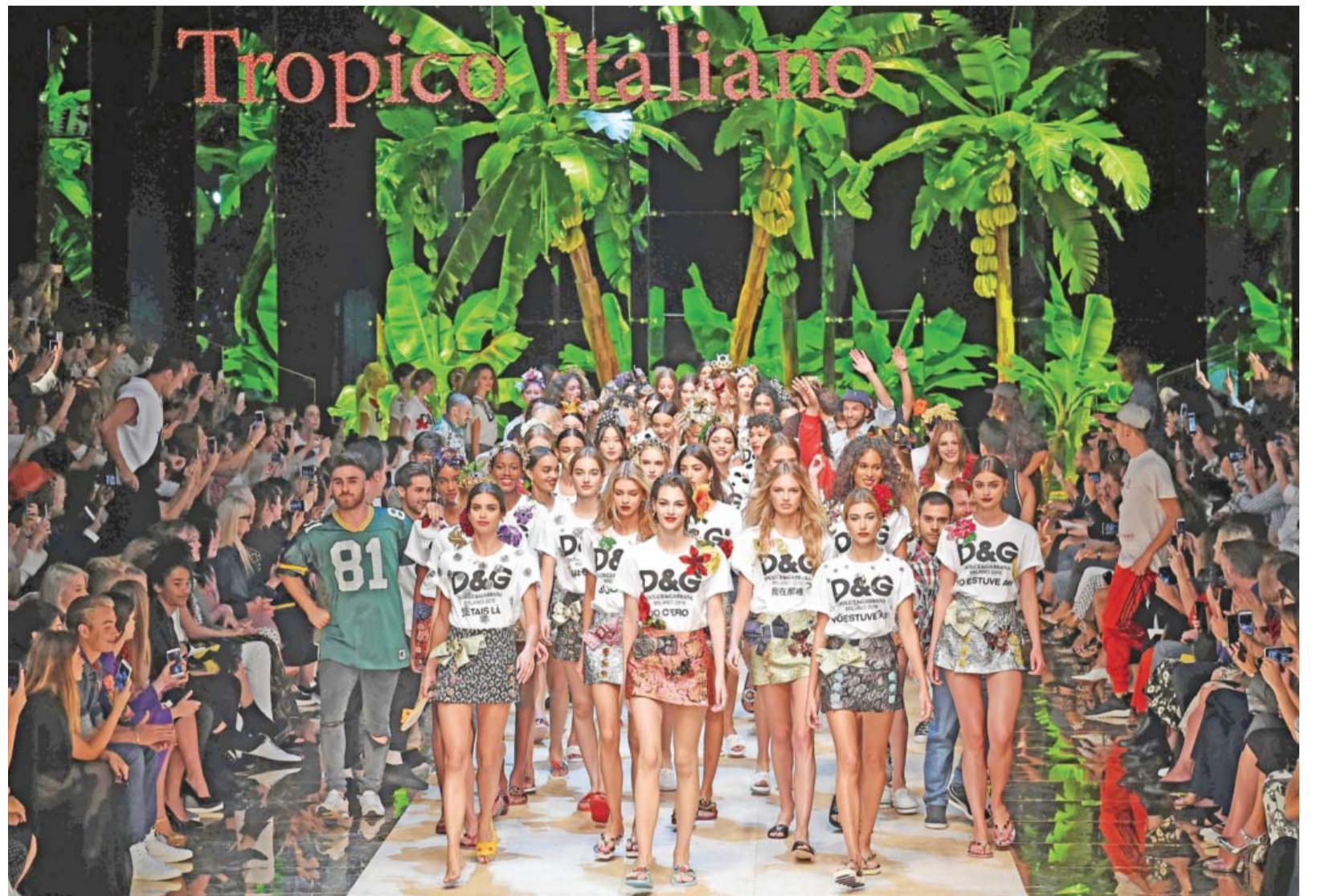
Soor Center  
Tel: 2290-1677  
Fax: 2290 1688

info@soorcenter.com  
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Kaizen center  
25716707

Noor Clinic  
23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677  
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



# MILAN

## Fashion Week



Models present creations for fashion house Dolce & Gabbana during the 2017 Women's Spring / Summer collections shows at Milan Fashion Week yesterday. — AP/AFP photos

# NBA's king of fashion Russell Westbrook talks style

When you're Russell Westbrook, the undisputed king of NBA fashion, you don't spend the offseason like a typical player. The five-time All-Star passes his time designing clothes, perched on the front row for shows during New York Fashion Week or talking style and tennis with Vogue magazine editor-in-chief Anna Wintour. "Sitting down and talking to Anna is very casual," Westbrook said. "I think it's important ... when you get an opportunity to learn something different about somebody. Like I'm sitting down talking to Anna, she loves tennis which is something I didn't know about her. And to be able to sit down and talk to her about different things - she didn't know much about me in the basketball space so she had an opportunity to be able to talk about that."

"And as for fashion, I may ask her questions and throw different things at her that she may know about the fashion space," Westbrook said. As the Oklahoma City Thunder star prepared to launch a new capsule collection called True Religion X Russell Westbrook, which will be available exclusively on the True Religion app Sunday and online and in stores on Oct 6, he took time to talk fashion with The Associated Press. The 17-piece collection is very much a reflection of his style. It features skinny jeans, T-shirts and thermals meant for layering, with the rips and distressing that he has long incorporated into his wardrobe. The collection also has several pieces that include the "Why Not?" motto that is important to him, not just in fashion, but in life.

### Fabulous outfits

"It's what I believe in and what got me to this point, including fashion and everything else, and it's a motto that I stand by," he said. Westbrook's arrival at Thunder games has been an event for years due to his parade of fabulous outfits. Many of his fashion-forward offerings have been hits, but there have certainly been a few misses. Not surprisingly,



In this file photo, Oklahoma City Thunder NBA player Russell Westbrook arrives for the presentation of Dior Homme men's Spring-Summer 2016 fashion collection in Paris, France. — AP photos



In this May 10, 2016, file photo, Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook arrives for Game 5 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in San Antonio.



In this file photo, Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook, left, arrives for Game 2 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series against the San Antonio Spurs in San Antonio.

whether the reaction to his outfits is good, bad or indifferent, it doesn't change how he feels about his gear.

And with a dizzying array of ensembles, it's impossible for him to pick a favorite. "Whatever I wear, I love it," he said. "You've got to love it when you put it on." But has there ever been a time where he looked back at an outfit, like the widely panned Slayer/striped

shirt ensemble he wore to a game in January, and thought: maybe that wasn't such a good look? "Nope," he said sternly. "Never." Westbrook doesn't care what others think about his look, and he's passed on style advice to less-fashionable NBA players who have asked for help. But he isn't exactly dishing out specific tips. "Be themselves," he said. "I think that's the most important thing about fashion is to be able to express yourself, but also be

yourself and be confident in what you're wearing." Westbrook's penchant for transforming his arena entrance into a high-fashion runway has undoubtedly upped the style game of players across the league. And it's also seeped into both the NFL and MLB, where more players than ever now dare to push the fashion envelope. Since Westbrook has dubbed himself "Fashion King" on social media, it's only fair

to ask his majesty who he'd deem the second-most fashionable man in the NBA. That title goes to a person who spent most of last season playing for the Beikong Fly Dragons of the Chinese Basketball Association.

### Tragic situation

"Dorell Wright, he's a great dresser," Westbrook said of the NBA journeyman. The 27-year-old Westbrook also shared what happens to all those pricey threads after he wears them one time. The answer is that he gives them away. But, no they aren't all sitting in a forgotten corner of some Goodwill store in Oklahoma City (although a few things might be). He does donate some select items to charity, but he mostly gifts them to friends and relatives after their debut. "My friends make sure they grab them," he said. "A lot of my friends put the bid in first while I wear it, they'll be like: 'Oh yeah I want that.'"

But this must be a tragic situation for Westbrook's unlucky buddies who don't share his 6-foot-3, 187-pound, muscle-bound frame. "It's funny," he said. "They all wear the same size as me." Because of this, the competition is fierce to see who will snag his coolest outfits. Not that asking guarantees receiving. "I know their style," he said. "I know what they like to wear. So I'll decide who gets what." And sometimes he has to be blunt and tell one of them they simply can't pull off a certain look. "I'll be like: 'No, this is not for you,'" he said. All those eye-catching outfits make his fashion budget a subject of speculation. Last year, USA Today even did a story estimating it would cost nearly \$300,000 to dress like Westbrook for an entire season. He scoffed at that outlandish number. "Never," he said. "Nowhere close. Because I don't even pay for a lot of my clothes anymore, so that's not even possible." So just how much would it set one back to dress like the "Fashion King" for an 82-game NBA season? "I don't know," he said. "I have no idea. But I don't shop all high-end. I shop at Zara. I shop everywhere. I don't binge, so it would never be that much." — AP



Models present creations for fashion house Dolce & Gabbana during the 2017 Women's Spring / Summer collections shows at Milan Fashion Week yesterday. — AP/AFP photos

## Dolce & Gabbana gets Milan dancing to tropical beat

It was coconuts all round as Dolce & Gabbana unveiled a tropically-tinted collection for next spring and summer with a typically joyful show in Milan yesterday. At a time when all the talk is of the action on the street outside becoming more important than what goes on the catwalk, the Sicilian duo took the logical step of bringing the street inside. As the assembled audience sipped from the coconuts handed out at the entrance, a troupe of boisterous youngsters invaded the stage and broke into a delirious mass boogie that mixed traditional Italian moves with breakdancing.

Of course the unchoreographed feel had been carefully choreographed - the multi-shaped band of ruffians were dance students from Naples. But the unexpected start to a show entitled "Tropico Italiano" had the desired effect. By the time they had departed and the first model emerged, everybody in the room was smiling. Well maybe not Anna Wintour, but everyone else certainly. The clothes themselves contained few surprises as the designers mined their familiar theme of southern Italian sensuality colliding head on with bling.

In one striking look, an oversized hoodie was worn on its own over sheer, knee-high stockings and under a tiara: grunge princess you could call it. This season's version of the little black dress was

worn by Hailey Baldwin, the increasingly high-profile model niece of actor Alec. A tweaked version came in the form of a bustier and pencil skirt linked by a sheer section across the midriff. Overcoats sparkled with a rainbow of metallic colors, while platform sandals and chunky high heels were fitted with flashing green, blue, red and purple lights, a kind of powered-up version of a look that remains popular with toddlers.

### Myanmar and Football

The tropical theme was most apparent in some Carmen Miranda-style headwear and there were the usual humorous nods to the designers' Sicilian heritage. Pyjamas in the style of a football strip came with Palermo printed on the back in case anyone did not recognize the pink and black colors of the team from the island's capital. A minidress that appeared to have been cut from a flour sack was emblazoned with PIZZA across the bust.

At the more discreet end of the spectrum, a plain white polo shirt was paired with a black wraparound mini that tied up asymmetrically, while a pinstripe two piece was comprised of a cropped jacket and pleated, Capri-length trousers. The dancers returned for the show's riotous finale, pulling people from the crowd to join them in get-

ting down before Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana emerged from backstage.

With today's program dominated by up-and-coming talent, they were the last big names to take a bow at this year's fashion week as a result of Giorgio Armani's decision to give up his traditional closing-day slot. Also showing yesterday was Jil Sander, where Rodolfo Pagliarone opted for a slightly more billowy version of the workwear-heavy brand's traditional silhouette. "Assertive volumes create a breath between clothing and body," his collection notes said: "A bold vision of classicism."

Stella Jean meanwhile took inspiration from both football and Myanmar for her latest collection, which blended menswear and womenswear. The Haitian-Italian designer said some of her looks had been taken from South-East Asia diplomatic receptions of the 1940s, and others inspired by the elegant style of Aung San Suu Kyi. Cultural crossovers were a theme in a nod to Jean's own mixed heritage, most notably in a sarong and chemisier combination that she described as the "perfect geek chic uniform". The football theme emerged in jerseys inlaid with captain's armbands and vintage football polo shirts that were paired with ultra-feminine skirts. — AFP



Models present creations for fashion house Rich (Richmond) during the 2017 Women's Spring / Summer collections shows at Milan Fashion Week.



Models present creations for fashion house Marni.



## How to have the perfect meeting

By Hassan Al-Mousawi

### Outline the most crucial goals of the meeting

As with all your endeavors a clear objectives list is mandatory when aiming to achieve the most favorable outcome.

When it comes to meetings, your objectives need to be based on two levels. The professional as well as the personal. We tend to forget that we deal with people, who have emotional and personality needs. Try not to take away the human experience but rather use it to enhance your relations.

### Invest in rapport

Rapport by definition is the flow of conversation back and forth between two individuals.

The first couple of minutes in any meeting should be personal. Getting the participants engaged is essential and a high determinant of how the rest of the meeting will pan out.

"People who are like each other tend to like each other". Finding common interests is a great tool. Asking about their work and their feelings towards current events.

### Establish agreeability

Before starting your meeting, establish some common grounds. Any topic or questions where all parties will agree to.

Studies have shown that when a person answers "yes" to three consecutive questions. They are likely to become 80 percent more agreeable with any subject matters that follow.

By allowing all parties to participate in the objectives of the meeting, conversation is most likely to be geared towards the highlighted goals. You will find that all points will revolve around the discussed plan bringing about a fruitful and efficient meeting. These points must be related to both parties' interests.

### Take on both roles

When raising any points, be sure to consider and argue on behalf of all parties present. Phrases such as "I am sure you agree" and "In consideration to your needs" will go a long way. Being dismissive of any parties' needs will sprout an argumentative and uncooperative approach by the parties involved.

### Recap all major points discussed

Any decisions taken during the meeting must be recapped. Verbally at first then sending a minutes of meeting with the highlighted discussed points (this may be as simple as a recap email)

This ensures that there is no conflict on all points agreed upon, while clarifying communication for the future where the meeting will be used as a reference point.

### End on a positive note

Ensure that everyone leaves happier than when they walked in. Whether due to a mutual understanding where both parties will benefit, or a promise for revision and future cooperation. It is as simple as making all parties feel heard, valued, appreciated and understood.

A social media firestorm that forced Disney to withdraw a movie costume amid accusations it represented "brown face" shows Pacific islanders will no longer accept their culture being cheapened for profit, experts say. Polynesian culture has proved popular in recent years, sparking fads for island-style tattoos, hipster "tiki" bars in the United States and numerous imitations of New Zealand's famous All Black rugby haka. The latest attempt to capitalize on the trend is Disney's animated feature "Moana", a retelling of ancient Pacific legends which is due for release later this year.

Critics have lambasted the entertainment giant over tie-in merchandising that included a Halloween costume allowing children to dress up as the demi-god Maui. The full-body, zip-up outfit featured brown skin with traditional Pacific tattoos, a grass skirt and bone necklace. A trickle of outraged tweets from Pacific activists soon turned into



This combo of two file photos shows British singer Robbie Williams (left) performing in Paris on June 22, 2003, and US boxing champion Mike Tyson (right) in Washington DC on June 7, 2005, both sporting Maori inspired tattoos.

a flood, with Disney accused of cultural appropriation and lacking respect. Global media coverage followed, with the story finding particular resonance in the United States, where the costume was likened to the "black face" make-up once worn by white performers in minstrel shows.

Within days, Disney pulled the costume from outlets worldwide, offering an apology for any offence caused. New Zealand's Maori Party, one of the costume's harshest critics, said the controversy could have been avoided if Disney had consulted properly. "They're obviously not making any approach or having any deep engagement with the people of Polynesia, to whom that intellectual property belongs," a spokeswoman told AFP. "They're not talking with the people from that culture, the guardians of that culture, so they're not getting it right." There have been similar, though less vociferous, complaints about other Pacific cultural faux pas in recent years.

Haka parodies have been used to sell everything from gingerbread men in New Zealand to soft drinks in Japan—all without permission from the war dance's traditional owners. Samoans were also unimpressed in 2013 when Nike released a pair of women's leggings mimicking the pe'a tattoo—a sacred design reserved only for men. New Zealand Maori have also objected to depictions of Polynesian deities being used to sell alcohol, a substance that has ravaged some indigenous communities.

### 'Harmless or exploitation?'

It's not the first time the Pacific islands have found themselves in the spotlight of Western popular culture. In the mid-20th Century, troops returning from WWII helped popularize the notion of the relaxed island paradise. The result was a bastardised version of Pacific culture where traditional dancers became hula girls and ancient tapa cloth designs transformed into the gaudy Hawaiian shirt, marketed as a "wearable postcard". There was also a craze for Polynesian-themed tiki bars, featuring bamboo furniture, kitsch imitations of island gods and sugary cocktails served in coconut shells.

Such tiki bars have recently experienced a revival in the United States, prompting National Public Radio to ask the question: "Harmless fun or exploitation?". Owen Thomson, the owner of Archipelago tiki bar in Washington DC, told NPR such establishments had always been "three steps removed from anything actually Polynesian". "It's



This combo of two file photos shows dancers from the Ballet Preljocaj (top) performing a haka during a performance titled 'Haka' by French choreographer Angelin Preljocaj, in Aix-en-Provence on September 26, 2007, and the New Zealand All Blacks (bottom) performing the haka before their match against Argentina in Hamilton. — AFP photos



more about re-creating a piece of Americana, of that 1950s, 1960s style," he said.

The difference between now and the 1960s is that even a relatively small ethnic group such as Pacific islanders can use social media to point out cultural offences. "Social media is holding a lot of these big companies to account, there's more eyes and ears on their product," the Maori Party said. "It's raising awareness around these issues." It also means companies riding roughshod over cultural values could now find themselves on the wrong end of a social media frenzy.

"Polynesian people from across the Pacific region voiced their views about this [Disney case] and it's their voices that are important," Christine Amunson, from New Zealand's Human Rights Commission, told AFP. "We encourage businesses to keep talking and listening to the communities whose cultures and ancestors they seek to portray." —AFP

This combo of two file photos shows employees of the French pharmaceutical group Sanofi performing a haka (top) on September 13, 2012 in Toulouse, southwestern France, during a one-day-strike; and former New Zealand All Blacks player Jonah Lomu (bottom right) and members of the Ngati Ranana London Maori Club performing a haka during a photocall in London's Covent Garden on September 16, 2015.



This image released by 20th Century Fox shows the characters Neytiri, right, and Jake in a scene from the 2009 movie "Avatar." — AP

## New exhibit invites 'Avatar' fans to visit Pandora in person

Fans of the film "Avatar" can now experience Pandora in person. The "Avatar: Discover Pandora" exhibition will open in Taiwan in December before traveling the world next year. Fox Consumer Products said the exhibit will feature flora and fauna from

the fictional planet as well as interactive experiences with its indigenous population, the Na'vi. "Avatar: Discover Pandora" will be on view in Taipei for three months. Future destinations for the exhibit have not been announced. — AP

# Rockland, Maine: Coastal scenery, the arts and good food



These photos show people walking on the Rockland Breakwater, a man-made granite jetty that stretches nearly a mile into Penobscot Bay from Rockland, Maine. — AP photos

Every town in mid-coast Maine has its unique charms and attractions. Freeport is the place for shopping at outlet stores and the legendary LL Bean. For beautiful beaches, there's Reid State Park in Georgetown or Popham Beach in Phippsburg. For a view of the water from up high, hike (or drive) up Mount Battie in Camden. A poem by Maine native Edna St Vincent Millay is engraved on a plaque at the summit. But for scenery, the arts and great food all in one spot, there's no destination in Maine quite like Rockland, located on picturesque Penobscot Bay. A day in Rockland might include a visit to the Farnsworth Art Museum, dining at one of many excellent local restaurants and a walk on the Rockland Breakwater, a man-made granite jetty that stretches nearly a mile into the sea. And in the tiny nearby town of Cushing, Maine, you can tour the Olson House, a National Historic Landmark that was depicted in Andrew Wyeth's iconic painting "Christina's World." Here are some tips for a visit to Rockland.

### Rockland breakwater

It almost feels like you're walking on water as you make your way along this unusual granite walkway leading to a lighthouse nearly a mile offshore. Completed in 1899, the breakwater took 18 years and more than 700,000 tons of granite to build. In 1902, a manned lighthouse replaced a beacon light here, and the lighthouse was automated in 1965.

The view as you walk on the Breakwater out into Penobscot Bay looks like a classic painting of the Maine coast: a band of green trees on the horizon separating the blues of water and sky; the harbor dotted with sailboats and ferries. The waterfront Samoset Resort, which offers luxury lodging and a golf course, is located on the other side of the Breakwater in neighboring Rockport.

A word of caution: The Breakwater surface is uneven with gaps between stones. Wear sturdy shoes and mind small children. Beware bad

weather: The stones are slippery when wet, and people have been struck by lightning there.

Farnsworth Art Museum and Olson House

The artist NC Wyeth spent summers with his family in Maine and the Farnsworth Art Museum owns an extensive collection of works by NC, his son Andrew and grandson Jamie. While NC was mainly known as an illustrator, the Farnsworth has just opened a show of his paintings, on view through Dec 31. Another special exhibition at the museum, opening June 18, is called "Pushing Boundaries," described by the Farnsworth as "large collaborative pieces by some of the most important names in post-WWII American art," with works by Jim Dine, Morris Graves, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg and James Rosenquist in collaboration with Donald Saff.

The Farnsworth also owns the Olson House in nearby Cushing. Andrew Wyeth used the home as a subject in some 300 works of art, including his iconic "Christina's World," which depicts a

woman crawling across a field in front of the house. The painting was inspired by Christina Olson, a disabled woman who lived in the house with her brother. The original "Christina's World" hangs in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

The Olson House has just reopened to the public after 18 months of renovations that included replacing the worn clapboard exterior. Guided tours tell the story of the house, the Olsons, their relationship with Wyeth, and why and how "Christina's World" became one of the most renowned paintings of mid-20th century America.

The Farnsworth is hosting separate "Wyeth Experience" tours offering an in-depth look at some of Andrew Wyeth's works in the museum, followed by a tour of the house, Fridays in July and August. Also on display at the Farnsworth: one of pop artist Robert Indiana's "LOVE" sculptures. Indiana owns a home across Penobscot Bay

on the island of Vinalhaven. Ferries take visitors from Rockland to Vinalhaven several times a day in summer. On Vinalhaven's Main Street, you can't miss Indiana's large Victorian home, with massive American flags painted on the exterior.

### Dining

Rockland's dining scene has some serious foodie credentials. Archer's on the Pier and the Brass Compass are owned by Lynn Archer, who went up against Bobby Flay a few years back in a lobster throwdown on the Food Network. Then there's Primo, the fancy restaurant owned by James Beard Award winner Melissa Kelly. The Home Kitchen Cafe is known for lobster tacos; In Good Company is the place for tapas, and Suzuki's gets folks driving up from Boston for sushi. In nearby Rockport, a new Mediterranean restaurant called Nina June is being opened by Sara Jenkins, known for her New York eateries Porchetta and Porsena. — AP

# A time hop through the hotbed of celebrity divorce

**D**oug and Mary. Eddie and Debbie. Alec and Kim. Brad and Angelina. Liz and, well, take your pick. As long as there's been a Hollywood, there's been scandalous Hollywood divorce. "Then and now, they're just under enormous scrutiny. And like many people, they often marry for reasons that are not solid," said Jeanine Basinger, a professor and founder of the film studies program at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. "They get caught up in their own images, in each other's images and then they get caught up in the images of themselves as a couple. Sustaining that is very difficult," she said from South Dakota, where she is on sabbatical.

In Hollywood, said *Us Weekly's* entertainment director, Ian Drew, "very few couples are Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson, staying together forever. Most couples come apart." Regardless of the said-she said nature of Hollywood bust-ups, Basinger believes the public responds in the greatest numbers when private lives clash with, or play right into, public personas. "I think to do a major story on a Hollywood split is hard because you really do need the kind of mystery, glamour and, sort of, surprise that doesn't come along



This June 4, 1957, file photo shows Eddie Fisher and his wife Debbie Reynolds attending the reception at the Prince of Wales Theater, London.

every day," said JD Heyman, *People's* deputy editor of entertainment. "You can't make anybody's divorce interesting." Let's time hop through the hotbed of celebrity divorce:

**Douglas Fairbanks Sr and Mary Pickford**  
In the 1910s and '20s, mostly in the silent screen era, he was the fearless swashbuckler with a romantic streak and she was America's sweet-

heart, the "girl with the curls." They married in March 1920, just days after her divorce from silent film actor Owen Moore was final, though she was still married when their affair began. Fairbanks, too, had been married before and by some reports it was Fairbanks who pressured Pickford to end it with Moore, risking her squeaky clean image. "Everybody overlooked the fact that they'd had to divorce other people in order to marry one another," Basinger said. "But their own divorce was a huge deal." Hollywood chroniclers of the time blamed it, in part, on issues that remain today: Endless days spent away from each other working and promoting projects, along with alleged affairs.

**Elizabeth Taylor Et Al**  
Taylor, famous in film since she was a kid, was



This March 24, 1988, file photo shows Kim Basinger giving husband Alec Baldwin an affectionate touch before photographers outside a post Academy Awards party at Morton's restaurant in West Hollywood, Calif.



In this Nov 3, 2011 file photo, US actors Johnny Depp, left, and Amber Heard arrive for the European premiere of their film, "The Rum Diary," in London.



Actress Elizabeth Taylor, is shown through the years with her six husbands. Top row, from left: Conrad Hilton Jr in 1950; actor Michael Wilding in 1951; producer Mike Todd in 1957; Bottom row, from left: singer Eddie Fisher in 1959; actor Richard Burton in 1972 and John Warner in 1976. — AP photos

married eight times, including twice to Richard Burton. "You got your options there," Basinger laughed. She divorced her first husband, Conrad "Nicky" Hilton, within six months of marrying him, amid allegations of abuse. Then, of course, there's Richard Burton. "That's the one that everybody focuses on," she said. "There was alcoholism, infidelity and probably a kind of fundamental incompatibility that broke them up."

**Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds**  
Speaking of Liz... Fisher left the girl-next-door actress Reynolds, the mother of his two young children, for Taylor in 1959. "She was the victim. That big, bad beauty, Elizabeth Taylor, was to blame," Basinger said. Reynolds herself has likened their split to the Jennifer Aniston-Angelina Jolie-Brad Pitt triangle, telling *Vanity Fair* last year: "My three husbands all left me for another woman and obviously I wasn't a very sexual lady." But Reynolds and



Taylor, who had been besties, were able to reignite their friendship years later. When Taylor died in 2011, she left Reynolds a sapphire bracelet, necklace and earrings in her will.

Fisher and Reynolds had been promoted in domestic bliss, he a good friend of producer Michael Todd, the one husband of Taylor's who died (in a plane crash). "Elizabeth Taylor was portrayed very much as a home wrecker," Basinger said. "She told Hedda Hopper, 'What do you expect me to do? Sleep alone?'"

**Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger**  
More than 13 years after their nasty split, time has healed some wounds. The two met on the set of the 1990 "The Marring Man" and married three years later. Basinger filed for divorce in 2001. The two fought over custody of their only child at the time, Ireland Baldwin. In 2007, when Ireland was 11, a bitter voicemail Alec left for her leaked online, calling her a "rude, thoughtless little pig" for not

answering his call. Alec later apologized. He told *The Guardian* in 2013 that the years of divorce litigation was so painful that he was "staring off a cliff for six years." He wrote a book about the custody battle in 2008, "A Promise to Ourselves: A Journey Through Fatherhood and Divorce."

**Johnny Depp and Amber Heard**  
He left his longtime partner, Vanessa Paradis, then took the step of marriage with Heard. Were they more odd than fairytale? Definitely. So when Heard filed for divorce earlier this year, alleging drunken rage and physical abuse, media and the public ate up the details, including Heard's display of facial bruises and a video of a raging Depp she secretly shot at home. They were married just 15 months. Their divorce played out over weeks, rather than years, because - poof - came the magic settlement, of \$7 million Heard vowed to donate to charity. — AP

## Action vowed for refugees in concert led by Metallica, Rihanna

**T**op names in music including Metallica and Rihanna joined leaders Saturday in a concert that brought promises of action to support refugees and improve sanitation in the developing world. The Global Citizen Festival, broadcast live from the vast lawn of New York's Central Park, distributes tickets to fans who commit to petitions and other actions aimed at ending extreme poverty. Interspersing performances from some of the world's most sought-after artists with rapid speeches and videos, the fifth edition of the festival put a special focus on solidarity with refugees amid the mass exodus from war-ravaged Syria.



Eddie Vedder speaks to the crowd during his performance.

Electronic duo Major Lazer kicked off the more than six-hour festival that also brought out leading pop singers Demi Lovato, Ellie Goulding and Rihanna—who noted to the crowd that she herself migrated from Barbados. Metallica played one of the band's few shows ahead of the metal icons' upcoming album, ripping through five of their most classic tunes at a decibel level rarely heard in the halls of international diplomacy. Yusuf, the folk rocker known as Cat Stevens before his conversion to Islam, appealed to the crowd to ensure that no one is "stigmatized" on account of identity.

"This globe is big enough for everybody to share," he said. Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder teamed up separately with Yusuf and with Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, with



Musicians James Hetfield, left, and Kirk Hammett of Metallica perform at the 2016 Global Citizen Festival.



Drummer Lars Ulrich of Metallica performs at the 2016 Global Citizen Festival.

whom he sang a two-guitar version of Patti Smith's "People Have the Power." Vedder, long outspoken in his left-leaning politics, made veiled criticism of US presidential contender Donald Trump, saying that election-season "bigotry" would not endure in "this modern world of communication and acceptance."

"This is one last gasp—they know that these are antiquated ideals that are going away," rapper Kendrick Lamar put on the festival's most extensive set, culminating in an energetic "Alright," his unofficial anthem of the Black Lives Matter movement.

**Humanizing refugees**  
In one of the evening's more unlikely stars, a six-year-old New York boy named Alex took the stage, waving with precocious grace. Alex recently wrote a letter to President Barack Obama asking him to bring "the boy who was picked up by the ambulance in Syria" to his home, promising to care for him. He was referring to five-year-old Omran Daqneesh, who was filmed dazed, bloodied and covered in dust after being rescued from the rubble of his family's home last month. Obama shared Alex's letter Monday at a UN summit on refugees as he appealed for more compassion for refugees amid the rise of Trump and other politicians who have advocated closing doors. Refugees from Syria and South Sudan also spoke out at the festival, as well as the widower of Jo Cox, the British lawmaker and human rights activist who was assassinated days before her country's shock vote to leave the European Union.

"In honor of my wife, I and my family will always stand with refugees," a poised Brendan Cox said. Showing a human side to refugees, the festival aired a video of Alex Assali, a Syrian who found safety in Germany and feeds homeless people as a show of gratitude.

Festival presenters repeatedly praised German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has faced a backlash for taking in more than one



Eddie Vedder, left, and Chris Martin perform at the Global Citizen Festival



Major Lazer performs at the Global Citizen Festival.

million asylum seekers last year alone. In a subtle shift in tone for the feel-good festival, speakers also offered criticism, with one video narrator pointing a finger at Switzerland for cutting its aid budget.

**Toilets for all**  
The Global Citizen Festival says that it has generated more than 7.7 million actions for its causes. While much of the effort has been about awareness, the latest festival offered several concrete promises.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel pledged two million euros (\$2.2 million) by 2019 to fight polio, which has re-emerged in Nigeria after two years. Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders said The Netherlands

would give another \$300 million to achieve goals on clean water and toilet access by 2030. Around a third of the world lacks functioning toilets, a major public health problem with wide-ranging effects.

Jeff Radebe, minister in the presidency of South Africa, told the festival that his country was committed to ending open defecation by 2030. Nigeria pledged to do so even sooner, with Environment Minister Amina Mohammed giving a target of 2025. "This will improve health, create jobs. It will ensure we have dignity for all of our citizens, especially our girls," she said. On World Toilet Day on November 19, the Global Citizen Festival will hold its first edition in India with headlines including Coldplay and Jay Z. — AP

# Lifestyle

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(From left) Manager Rabab Mouhamad Hamadi, Kuwaiti singer Hassan, Director Abdullah Al-Arrak and writer Abdullah Al-Omani are seen during the press conference at the Sheraton Hotel.



Kuwaiti singer Hassan (second left), Sheikh Duaij Al-Khalifa (third left) and Manager Rabab Mouhamad Hamadi (right) are seen cutting the cake during the press conference.

## Kuwaiti singer Hassan releases his first single 'Ba'aalak Dam'ah'



By Sahar Moussa

Kuwaiti singer Hassan has released his first single "Ba'aalak Dam'ah" (One Tear Left for You). During a press conference on Saturday at Sheraton Hotel, which was attended by the media and Sheikh Duaij Al-Khalifa, Hassan spoke in detail about his new song, the music video and his other works that are still in production.

Since he was nine, Hassan, now 18, used to sing the majestic Arabic songs of Um Kulthoom, Mohammed Abdul Wahab, Fairouz, Thekra, Warda, Mayyada Al-Hennawi, Mohammed Abdo, Abdul Kareem Abdul Qadir, Abu Bakr Salem and others. Hassan sings in many Arabic dialects and other languages too. He loves singing songs by Dalida, Nina Simone and other foreign singers,

**KT: What does singing and music mean to you?**

**Hassan:** Everything. I have been preparing to be a singer for five years now. I went to the US to study and won first place in a national competition. I was the first non-American to win this prize in years.

**KT: In how many languages do you sing?**

**Hassan:** I sing in four languages - French, English, Turkish and Arabic.

**KT: Do you prefer to sing in English or Arabic?**

**Hassan:** I actually enjoy singing in both, because every language has its own rhythm and spirit.

**KT: Other than singing, what are your hobbies?**

**Hassan:** I used to ride horses for about nine years, and love swimming and skiing too.

**KT: Who is your favorite artiste? And which artiste's path would you like to follow?**

**Hassan:** I love Majed Al-Mohandes because not only does he have an amazing voice, but also a great personality. He is very modern and very classy in his choices and everything he does.

**KT: If you can collaborate with any artiste, who will it be?**

**Hassan:** I would love to collaborate with Myriam Fares, Sherine Abdulawahab, Angham and Asala.

**KT: Tell us more about your single? What is it about?**

**Hassan:** My single is called "Ba'aalak Dam'ah", which means "One Tear Left for You". It's about a person talking to his lover and asking her to walk away because he cannot bear it anymore. The composer is Fahd Al-Nasser, and is written by Abdullah Al-Omani. The music video is directed by Abdullah Al-Arrak and produced by my father Bader Al-Attar.

**KT: Tell us more about the video.**

**Hassan:** I loved collaborating with Arrak

because he is a real artiste and extremely creative. We wanted to think outside the box and shoot the video like we were at Broadway. We had extreme makeup for the dancers and the backup actors. Arrak used high quality technology while directing the music video, portraying me in a special way based on a simple yet complex method. He was able to give the music video a dimension despite its simple idea.

**KT: Who was your designer in the video?**

**Hassan:** I had two designers - Fahd Al-Ayoubi and Nizar Romani. They were very humble and great to work with.

**KT: What are your future plans and dreams?**

**Hassan:** I hope that I can make a difference in the music industry, because as we all know, we are facing a new generation of music and everyone is starting to forget old-school songs. So, in my next project, I will try to mix both the worlds in my music, which everyone can relate to.

**KT: When can we expect to hear another song from you?**

**Hassan:** I hope in the coming months, I will record a new song with a new video.

"Ba'aalak Dam'ah" is set to broadcast on 'Qanawat' and other radio stations, including Marina FM. Hassan is scheduled to meet various composers and poets from all over the Arab world to select his next song. He has already met several writers, and will select some songs to release next year.



Kuwaiti singer Hassan (third left) poses with his family during the press conference.

and has learned their style very well.

Hassan is currently a student at the American Baccalaureate School of Kuwait, but has also studied in the US, where he has recently won an interstate school opera singing competition in which seven states took part. He returned to Kuwait with that award, and his father decided that he should go into singing fulltime. Kuwait Times spoke with Hassan in an exclusive interview to learn more about him and his work. Some excerpts:

**KT: How old were you when you started singing?**

**Hassan:** I started singing when I was nine.

**KT: Was it easy for you to get support from your family?**

**Hassan:** Absolutely. My family is my number one support system, financially and emotionally.

**KT: Who is your inspiration?**

**Hassan:** I'm inspired by a lot of people, who motivated me to do the best, but no one specific.

**KT: Do you play any musical instrument?**

**Hassan:** I don't play any, but I'm planning to take lessons to play the piano soon.



(From left) Kuwaiti singer Hassan, Sheikh Duaij Al-Khalifa and Bader Al-Attar.



Audience are seen during the press conference.