

The agreement was part of a \$1.9 billion settlement that allowed HSBC to avoid criminal charges after it was found to have helped move hundreds of millions of dollars in illicit drug money through the U.S. financial system.

Further comment Tuesday after the bank issued a statement late Sunday in response to the media reports.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which coordinated the release of details of leaked client data, said a list of peo-

Monday denied evading taxes by hiding money in Swiss accounts with HSBC.

The documents also listed arms dealers, people linked to former dictators and traffickers in blood diamonds, and several individuals on

lists showed HSBC's Swiss bank routinely allowed clients to withdraw "bricks" of cash, often in foreign currencies which were of little use in Switzerland.

HSBC also marketed schemes which were likely to enable wealthy

HSBC's Swiss private bank, HSBC said. HSBC said Falciani downloaded details of accounts and clients at the end of 2006 and early 2007. French authorities have obtained data on thousands of the customers and

clients that may not have been fully compliant with their applicable tax obligations." Its private bank, especially its Swiss arm, had undergone "a radical transformation" in recent years, it said in a statement. — Reuters

PRESS RELEASES

LGU event



In line with the academic activities organized by the Lebanese German University, students in the Faculty of Business and Insurance held a marketing and cultural event entitled "World Insights" last month, at its campus in Sahel Alma. The event that was organized under the supervision of Dr. Naji Steir attracted guests from all sectors. The students teamed up in 11 groups to create booths for the participating countries that displayed their traditional dishes and typical industrial products.

Boecker training workshops



Amid the raging controversy in the country regarding food safety, Boecker the leading public health provider in the region, launched a specialized innovative cooperation with the Tourism Ministry, to deliver special training sessions to the ministry's food inspectors. In this line, Boecker's experts will provide those inspectors with necessary information and coach them about the newest directions in this field, in addition to tutoring MoT specialists on the most recent practices applied in inspecting food outlets and restaurants, while filling them in about new procedures adopted in evaluating food items presented to consumers. Boecker intends to educate participants about the principles of food safety and explain the reasons of food poisoning and ways to avoid it.

CMC accredited

Clemenceau Medical Center in affiliation with Johns Hopkins International has been accredited for the third time after three years from its Joint Commission International reaccreditation in 2012. Accreditation and certification are granted to health care organizations that meet a set of standard requirements designed to improve quality of care. CMC was 99.6 percent compliant with the 285 standard requirements of the 1160 measurable elements set by JCI Reaccreditation.

Mashrou3 1 Jil 1 Jdid



Mashrou3 1 Jil 1 Jdid was launched for the fifth consecutive year with the support of multitalented Lebanese actor Georges Khabbaz. Khabbaz participated on a pro bono basis in a short promotional film to launch the project on the Internet. This innovative socioeducational project was launched by Bel group for the Near and Middle East, represented by Picon, and is sponsored by the Education and Higher Education Ministry and in cooperation with local NGO Arcenciel.

Alfa anniversary



Alfa, managed by Orascom Telecom, held its annual gala dinner at BIEL, highlighting all achievements throughout its history in an exceptional night that has marked the celebration of its 20th anniversary. This event was attended by the Telecommunications Minister Mr.

Bobros Harb and officials from the Telecommunications Ministry, in addition to Alfa CEO and Chairman Mr. Marwan Hayek, Alfa management team and the Alfa staff.

Samsung awarded

Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. announced that it has received the coveted Monochrome Printer/MFP Line of the Year Award for the second consecutive year, along with five awards for Outstanding Achievement at the 2015 Buyers Laboratory (BLI) Winter Awards.



Music Storytelling & Puppetry



The Syndicate of Nursery Owners in Lebanon organized a Seminar titled: "Music Storytelling & Puppetry; Effective Literacy Tools" end of last year in Sin al-Fil Cultural Center. This seminar was presented by Neyla Ejeh, a renown storyteller and master puppeteer with award winning and Star Academy teacher Tony Bayeh. The seminar's purpose was to allow every teacher to discover practical ideas that will engage little learners in educational, playful and meaningful ways. After the workshop, President Hana Joujou with Mrs. Carina Boustany and Ms. Hala Zakaria distributed 160 certificates to the teachers.

BLF LF Bond Fund

Since its inception in September 2012 until end of December 2014, Banque Libano-Française LF Total Return Bond Fund generated a net cumulative return of 14.2 percent. "We were able to generate an impressive net return of 5.25 percent to our investors in 2014 despite the global environment of low yields. The consistency in returns coupled with their low volatility, created an attractive investment alternative to cash, suitable for both individuals and institutions, and helped us double assets under management to \$64 million last year," said Jamil Koudim, Portfolio Manager and Head of Fixed Income Unit at BLF.

Armenian Genocide Centennial



On the occasion of the centennial commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, and under the high patronage of the President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Mgrdich Karageozian, a conference titled "Armenian Genocide Centennial: Addressing the Implications" was organized by Haigazian University and the Armenian Genocide 100th Anniversary Commemoration Lebanon Committee, from Jan. 31 to Feb. 1, 2015. The auspicious opening, which was attended by ministers, members of parliament, officials, religious leaders and academicians, featured guest speaker, prominent scholar and historian, Prof. Masoud Daher from the Lebanese University, on the topic of "The Armenian Question in the Age of Globalization: The Current Situation and its Prospects."

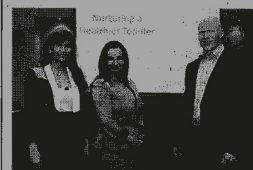
Wild Discovery, USJ initiative



Within its regional growth and development strategy, Wild Discovery, the travel agency affiliated to Johnny R. Saadé

Holdings, renews the third edition of its Sales Training Program in collaboration with the Université de Saint Joseph aiming at both developing skills of motivated fresh graduates and answering the company's needs for quality and long-term oriented recruitment. Signature of the protocol took place Monday Feb. 2, 2015 at USJ premises.

L-Protectus Probiotic



Breakthrough findings from a recently concluded study proving that one of the world's most researched probiotics known as L-Protectus (L.reuteri) helps strengthen gut defenses of one to 3-year-old children have been unveiled in the Middle East at a Nestlé roundtable discussion in Dubai, with the participation of leading local and international experts in the fields of clinical nutrition, pediatric medicine and nutrition research. "This randomized placebo-controlled study has been completed by 336 children proving that L. Protectus helps to reduce gastrointestinal infections in children when given on a daily basis," said the event's key speaker Dr. Kimmo Mäkinen, Senior Scientist and a probiotic expert at the Nestlé Research Center in Lausanne, Switzerland.

RCBC activity

President of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Mrs. Lina El Shair, invited last month Princess Hayat Arslane and Mrs.

Nadine Mousa to a panel discussion moderated by Mrs. Rana Salhab, about the importance of empowering women in Lebanon. The discussion was preceded by a dinner at Phoenixia hotel.



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