



**S Korean speaker  
visits Jaber  
Bridge work site**



**Trump, Xi meet  
again in shadow  
of missile strikes**



**Olympic champ  
Sumgong fails  
drug test**



150 FiIs

## RUSSIA 'FURIOUS' AS US FIRES MISSILES ON SYRIA

KUWAIT, GCC STATES SUPPORT US STRIKE



Min 20°  
Max 32°



In this image released by the US Navy, the guided-missile destroyer USS Porter conducts strike operations while in the Mediterranean Sea yesterday. — AFP

**PALM BEACH, Fla./MOSCOW/BEIRUT:** The United States fired cruise missiles yesterday at a Syrian airbase from which President Donald Trump said a deadly chemical weapons attack had been launched, the first direct US assault on the government of Bashar Al-Assad in six years of civil war.

In the biggest foreign policy decision of his presidency so far, Trump ordered the step his predecessor Barack Obama never took: Directly targeting the Syrian military for its suspected role in a poison gas attack that killed at least 70 people.

That catapulted Washington into confrontation with Russia, which has military advisers on the ground aiding its ally, President Assad. The Kremlin denounced the strikes as illegal.

Meanwhile, Kuwait, along with GCC member states Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain as well as Qatar, expressed support for the pre-dawn US missile strike on a Syrian military air base, said to be the launching site for Tuesday's chemical attack in northern Syria where scores of people perished. An official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said: "The State of Kuwait, while affirming its emphatic rejection and robust condemnation of using various weapons of mass destruction including chemical arms, expresses its support for the military operations carried out by the United States of America targeting bases from where the chemical attack on the innocent in Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib, was launched claiming hundreds of victims and injuries particularly among women and children."

He affirmed all Syrian parties must be coerced to respond to international efforts for reaching the aspired political solution for restoring security and stability to Syria and halt spilling blood of the brotherly Syrian people.

Other GCC states, namely Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE took an identical stance. An official source at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the Kingdom's strong support for the military operations carried out against military targets in Syria.

The US cruise missile strikes on a Syrian air base were one step away from clashing with the Russian military, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev charged yesterday, underscoring the risks in US President Donald Trump's first major foray into the Syrian civil war.

Medvedev, on social media, said the strikes were illegal and had been "one step away from military clashes with Russia." Trump has frequently called for improved relations with Russia which were strained under Obama, but the US president said action had to be taken against Assad.

US allies around the world expressed support yesterday for Washington's missile strikes on Syria, calling them a proportionate response to Syria's suspected use of chemical weapons. The strikes were denounced as illegal by Syria itself and its allies Russia and Iran. But a wide range of US allies from Asia, Europe and the Middle East expressed support, if sometimes cautiously, in similar terms.

"Years of previous attempts at changing Assad's behavior have all failed and failed very dramatically," Trump said as he announced the attack from his Florida resort, Mar-a-Lago, where he was meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"Even beautiful babies were cruelly murdered in this very barbaric attack," he said of Tuesday's chemical weapons strike, which Western countries blame on Assad's forces. "No child of God should ever suffer such horror."

The swift action is likely to be interpreted as a signal to Russia, as well as to countries such as North Korea, China and Iran where Trump has faced foreign policy tests early in his presidency, that he is willing to use force. — Agencies

## TRUCK SLAMS INTO CROWD IN SWEDEN; MANY KILLED

**STOCKHOLM:** A truck slammed into a crowd of people outside a busy department store in central Stockholm yesterday, causing "deaths" in what the prime minister described as a "terror attack."

"There are deaths, and many injured," Nina Odermalm Schei, a spokeswoman for Swedish intelligence agency Sapo, told AFP, without giving a precise figure. "Sweden has been attacked. Everything points to a terror attack," said Prime Minister Stefan Lofven. Pictures showed a large blue truck with a mangled undercarriage smashed into the Ahlens department store.

A spokeswoman for transport company Spendrups told AFP that the truck "had been stolen during a delivery to a restaurant." Witnesses described scenes of terror and panic.

One witness identified only as Dimitris told the Aftonbladet daily that the truck came "out of nowhere." "I couldn't see if anyone was driving but it was out of control. I saw at least two people get run down. I ran as fast as I could away from there," he said.

Another shopper, 66-year-old Leander Nordling, was at Ahlens when he suddenly heard a loud bang. "It sounded like a bomb exploding and smoke starting pouring in through the main entrance," he told daily Aftonbladet. He and fellow shoppers took refuge in a supply closet inside the depart-



**STOCKHOLM:** Emergency services work at the scene where a truck crashed into the Ahlens department store at Drottninggatan in central Stockholm yesterday. — AFP

ment store. "After that the building was evacuated ... There were a lot of guards who took care of us outside and they urged us to leave the scene immediately," Nordling said.

The incident occurred just before 1300 GMT at the corner of the store and Drottninggatan, the city's biggest pedestrian street, above ground from Stockholm's central subway station. Thick smoke was rising from the scene, while video images showed an area blocked off by police and crowds gathering around the police cordon. Police vans circulating in the city using loud-

speakers urged people to go straight home and avoid large crowds. The centre of the usually buzzing city was in lockdown, with the central train station evacuated and other shops quickly emptied of shoppers.

The Stockholm metro was completely shut down, with the attack taking place at the city's T-Centralen station, through which all the city's lines pass. Helicopters could be heard hovering in the sky over central Stockholm, and a large number of police cars and ambulances were dispatched to the scene, witnesses said. — AFP





### CBK SPONSORS CAPITAL GOVERNORATE CEREMONY

**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently sponsored a ceremony held at the capital governorate to support educational programs initiated by various NGOs. The ceremony was held to mark the conclusion of the Girl Scouts programs of the capital governorate educational area.

Speaking on the occasion, CBK's Deputy Director for PR and Publicity, Amani Al-Wera said that CBK has sponsored the program to emphasize its keenness in supporting students and their various educational programs.

### AL-SAAD CHARITY SEEKS TO BUILD TIES WITH UNSECO

**KUWAIT:** Al-Saad Charity for Knowledge and Scientific Research (SCKSR) recently held a meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Supreme Planning and Development Council and Kuwait UNESCO to discuss boosting cooperation and partnership. In this regard, SCKSR's chairperson, Sheikha Fadiya Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah said that the Charity was a private entity and it has a complementary role to play in society by supporting various organizations responsible for supporting the concept of education and sustainable development. This has been done through enhancing local partnerships and seeking to make international collaborations with well-experienced institutions with the aim of developing local staffs' potential and skills.



**Sheikha Fadiya Saad Al-Abdullah**

On her part, Kuwait UNESCO coordinator, Maali Dashti said that educational programs are designed to achieve sustainable development through the involvement of Kuwaiti schools which will have to undergo a scheduled process to select candidates for inclusion in the program.

On her part, EPA coordinator, Ebtisam Al-Obaid praised the crucial role being played by SCKSR and added that EPA's readiness to cooperate in bolstering Kuwait's position among other GCC states.

### KUWAIT KEEN ON SPREADING ARAB CULTURE WORLDWIDE

**IRBIL:** Kuwait is keen on reinforcing Arab culture regionally and spreading it worldwide, said a Kuwaiti official on the sideline of an event in Irbil, Iraq. Speaking to KUNA on the sideline of the second Irbil international book fair, Assistant Undersecretary at Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letter (NCCAL) Mohammad Al-Asousi said that his country was keen to see Arabic language books being exchanged at global book fairs and cultural events, saying that the council's participation was in line with this very policy.

The NCCAL provides various publications and encyclopedias which will hopefully add to the Arab cultural experience, said the official.

Al-Asousi stressed that it was important to encourage youth in the region to show interest in exploring both Arab and global cultures to build a better future for the world. The Irbil international book fair, which began on April fifth, saw the participation of 310 publishers from 18 countries including Kuwait. Some 70,000 titles and books are up for grabs during the event. —KUNA

## JAZEERA AIRWAYS SPONSORING RUNKUWAIT MOTIVATIONAL RACE

LONG-AWAITED RUN TO START TODAY, END ON APRIL 13

**KUWAIT:** Jazeera Airways, the first private airline in Kuwait and the Middle East, is proud to announce its title sponsorship of the first-of-its-kind RunKuwait 230-kilometer run, from the northern to the southern borders of the country. The long-awaited run, which will commence on 8 April 2017 and end on 13 April 2017, sets the benchmark for all runners to aspire to as it will demonstrate hard work, strength and perseverance to outrun one's limitations.

Jazeera Airways, together with RunKuwait, encourages people from Kuwait's diverse communities to take more than just a step towards engaging in active sports and adapting a rewarding lifestyle.

Only six out of the original 120 applicants that braved the professional vigorous trainings held in preparation for this lengthy race, had successfully pushed through. The 6-day program will start at the northern borders of Kuwait, where the 40-km run is scheduled to start. Day 2 will take place at road Shaikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (80) to where participants will head out for their 40 kilometers toward south, and Day 3 will be a 30-kilometer run from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation at Shuwaikh Beach to Juimerah Hotel at Messila allowing members of the public to join in for a 10-km support run from Kuwait Towers to Marina Mall while enjoying the welcoming sights. Moving forward, Day 4 will consist of an 93-kilometer run starting from Juimerah Hotel at Messila to next to Khiran resorts at Khiran area, followed by Day 5 which will be a continuation to the 93 kilometer day, given the fact that the distance will be difficult to finish in one day, and the rest of the day is dedicated as a rest day for the triumphant runners to revitalize and regain their last stretch of energy for the final day which will be a 27-kilometer run from Khiran Resorts heading to the southern borders of Kuwait, the finish line. "Sponsoring the RunKuwait 230-kilometer race is an obvious choice for us at Jazeera Airways as we aim at empowering young athletes and encourage the public to benefit from such significant avenues to stay healthier with lasting positive results. This run and its participants reflect the characteristics of our brand's DNA as achieving a tough goal with steadfastness, passion for hard work and focus have led the company to its glory today," said Dr Mohamed Barakat, VP Marketing and Product at Jazeera Airways. "As we witness the rise of a growing runners' community, we especially congratulate all of the participants that endured the physically and mentally challenging qualification rounds and served as an inspiration to all of us. It truly is an honor to sponsor this remarkable platform that recognizes individuals whose indisputable self-determination and perseverance overrides their comfort zones," added Dr Barakat.

Jazeera Airways urges everyone to participate in the support run with the race's lead runners on April 10th to demonstrate their commitment to a better way of life. Interested support runners from Kuwait Towers to Marina Mall can sign up at [www.Runkuwait.com](http://www.Runkuwait.com).

Jazeera Airways will continue to sponsor more activities that fall in line with the airline's corporate social responsibility to support the nation's aspiring youth.



**KUWAIT:** Dr Mohamed Barakat, VP Marketing and Product at Jazeera Airways, signs the sponsorship agreement of 'Run Kuwait' with Yousef Al-Qanai, Founder of Forward Sports Events.



### KUWAIT PAYS ATTENTION TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

**CAIRO:** Director General of Kuwait's Public Authority for Youth (PAY) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said yesterday Kuwait pays much attention to young people who are supposed to be effectively involved in societal development. Al-Mutairi made the statement on the sidelines of preparatory meetings held ahead of the 40th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports.

Kuwait boasts a pioneering youth experience thanks to the support and sponsorship of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the

Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister, he said.

This experience has helped Kuwait to make a drastic improvement on the evidence-based Commonwealth's Global Youth Development Index (YDI), jumping to the 56th spot in 2016 from the 110th in the previous report issued in 2013, Al-Mutairi pointed out. Thus, Kuwait will gain so much for Arab young people during its celebrations marking "Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth 2017", which are due in Kuwait in mid-March, he added. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** The visiting South Korean National Assembly Speaker Chung Sye-kyun and his accompanying delegation examine the project site of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad bridge, executed by a South Korean company. — KUNA

## S KOREAN SPEAKER VISITS JABER BRIDGE SITE

**KUWAIT:** The visiting South Korean National Assembly Speaker Chung Sye-kyun and his accompanying delegation examined yesterday the project site of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad bridge, executed by a South Korean company. The information office of the National Assembly said in a statement that

the South Korean delegation was briefed about ongoing works at the venture site by the supervising engineer, May Al-Mese'd. State of Kuwait's Ambassador to South Korea Badr Al-Awadhi, who was also present during the visit to the project site, affirmed in a statement that cooperation between

the two countries covers various economic and commercial spheres. The planned 37-km-long bridge project is one of the mega ventures envisaged in the state development scheme.

It links up Kuwait City with Al-Sabbiyah Al-Jedidah. The project, which stretches

over seawaters in Kuwait Bay, aims to shorten distance for motorists between the capital and Al-Sabbiyah. The South Korean speaker and the accompanying lawmakers arrived in the country two days in response to an invitation by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim.—KUNA

### DUO ARRESTED FOR INSTALLING CAMERAS INSIDE GIRL'S HOUSE

**KUWAIT:** A citizen and his brother were recently arrested in Jahra for illegally installing seven surveillance cameras inside a girl's house, blackmailing and threatening to kill her unless she married him, said security sources. The man had repeatedly proposed to the girl related to him but was rejected by her. He thought of sneaking into her house and installing seven surveillance cameras including one in her bathroom. He had then connected the cameras to his mobile phone and kept on telling her about the details he had access prompting the family to search the house and remove the cameras. The father reported the matter to the police. Angered by being exposed, the suspect barged into her house and put a knife on her neck threatening to kill her unless she married him. However, he was scared away by her screams. He was finally arrested along with his brother who helped him install the cameras.

#### Life sentence

The court of appeal recently issued a first instance verdict sentencing a citizen to a lifetime for killing his own friend in a Salmiya apartment.

#### Tomboy arrested

A tomboy was recently arrested for dressing up in male attire and insulting a police officer when he stopped her and asked for her friend's ID, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol stopped a vehicle with a young couple in it and on checking up the ID of the young 'man', policemen found out that it was only a girl dressed up like a man who also got angry when the police asked for the other girl's ID. A case was filed.

#### Nine expats deported

Nine expats were recently deported for various reasons including illegal and expired residencies and begging. One was arrested while urinating in a basin used by a citizen's chicken for drinking.

#### Jeweler arrested

An Arab jeweler was recently arrested for allegedly trying to molest a female citizen. A female citizen in her forties accused an Arab jeweler him of sexual harassment and touching her hand while trying a bracelet on at his shop in Mubarakiya, said security sources. The woman immediately slapped the salesman before filing a report against him despite his argument that she misunderstood him and that he had no bad intentions.—Al-Rai/Al-Anbaa

## KUWAIT, CHINA SEEK CLOSER ECONOMIC, TRADE RELATIONS

### KUWAIT TO OPEN TWO OFFICES IN BEIJING

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti-Chinese joint economic, technical and trade committee agreed yesterday to promote bilateral relations, mainly in economic and trade domains. The agreement capped two days of meetings of the joint committee held in Beijing, which focused on ways of consolidating bilateral cooperation in vital areas, Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Samih Johar Hayat said in a release, a copy of which was sent to KUNA.

During its 5th session, the committee reviewed Kuwaiti-Sino cooperation in the fields of economy, finance, trade, investment, development, planning, oil, gas, energy and public works, he said.

The meetings were held in a friendly atmosphere that reflected mutual friendship and close cooperation and high ambitions for a further promotion and development of bilateral ties, he added. Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance Khalifa Hamada and the Chinese vice-minister of commerce co-chaired the committee meetings. Hamada addressed the session by voicing much satisfaction with the current level of Kuwaiti-Sino cooperative relations even though the last joint session was held 15 years ago.

The continuation of bilateral cooperation came through the signing of several economic, trade and investment agreements and Kuwait's opening of two investment and oil offices in Beijing, he said. He pointed to mutual visits between both countries' senior officials, the last of which was paid by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to China in 2014. During the meetings, both sides agreed to consolidate economic and financial cooperation in order to ensure the implementation of

already signed cooperative agreements, and to provide a congenial atmosphere for launching joint ventures. They also underlined the significance of encouraging and spurring mutual visits by both countries' trade delegations with a view to promoting each other's available investment openings, and stimulating participation in international exhibitions and conferences. The Chinese side expressed much appreciation to the

Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) for its great help in the implementation of the Chinese's development projects. They even voiced mutual willingness to promote and open up broader vistas of bilateral strategic cooperation in the field of oil, gas and energy. In 2015, China's total exports to Kuwait amounted to \$5 billion, while its imports from this oil-rich Gulf country hit \$807 million.—KUNA

### MUNICIPALITY SQUAD HOLDS FIELD INSPECTION

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality PR department said that the Capital Municipality had recently conducted a field inspection campaign to examine the machinery used upon contract number N13/2010/2011.

The department added that the aim of the inspection was to raise the level of cleanliness in the capital governorate areas. It also urged the public to report any complaints to hotline number 1844448 around the clock.







**MANILA:** In this April 6, 2017 photo, a suspected member of the Islamic State group, Rahaf Zina Dhafiri is escorted by security officers at the National Bureau of Investigation in Manila. — AP

## US, KUWAIT HELP CAPTURE 2 WITH IS TIES IN PHILIPPINES

**MANILA:** US and Kuwaiti security officials helped Philippine authorities identify and arrest a Middle Eastern couple with suspected links to the Islamic State group who may have been planning bomb attacks, Filipino officials said yesterday.

Philippine army intelligence agents, along with police and immigration authorities, arrested Hussein Aldhafiri and Rahaf Zina Dhafiri late last month in an upscale commercial district in Taguig city in metropolitan Manila. Their arrests were not announced until late Thursday, when the handcuffed suspects were presented to reporters but not allowed to speak.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the arrests were kept private to allow Philippine authorities to identify the pair's local contacts and avoid the risk of their capture prompting possible accomplices to advance any planned attack. He said information provided by the US and

Kuwait made the arrests possible. "I believe since nothing happened, we were able to nip whatever terrorist intention they have in the bud," Aguirre said at a news conference in Manila.

Aldhafiri, a 40-year-old Kuwaiti, allegedly was an Islamic State group bomb maker who was helping plot attacks in Kuwait and possibly in the Philippines, Aguirre and other officials said, citing information provided by Kuwait. As he was led away at Thursday's announcement, Aldhafiri said he needed a lawyer.

Aldhafiri, who last entered the Philippines in January, first traveled to the country last year as a tourist and later got a work visa. Officials said the Kuwaiti government plans to cancel his passport to allow the Philippines to deport him. They said he would most likely face terrorism charges in his country.

Dhafiri, a 27-year-old Syrian, was reportedly the widow of a top Islamic

State group commander in Syria and later became Aldhafiri's partner. After her arrest, she told authorities that she was pregnant and she was sent to a hospital. She will likely be deported to Qatar, where she last came from before flying to Manila, Philippine Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said.

Earlier this year, the couple traveled to southern Davao city, President Rodrigo Duterte's hometown, and the central city of Cebu, staying for a few days in each city, Morente said.

Aguirre said the two have had no known contact with Filipino Muslim militants. A number of radical Islamic armed groups in the country's south, including some commanders of the brutal Abu Sayyaf group, has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in recent years in a bid to secure funds and training and project an image of strength and relevance amid years of battle setbacks, the military says. —AP

## WARBA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF SALARY CAMPAIGN DRAWS

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, Kuwait's best investment bank and corporate consultancy firm, organized its quarterly draw for the salary campaign, which was during a ceremony held at its newest branch in Shuhada - South Surra. Representatives from the bank's executive management, and a large number of customers attended the draw that took place under supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Several raffle draws took place during the ceremony, including the quarterly draw for the Salary Campaign in which the prize was the "Dream Trip" allowing the winner to choose their destination among the Maldives, South Africa, New York, and London.

The event also included the Al-Sunbula Account monthly draw with prizes up to KD 20,000. On the other hand, guests attending the event were awarded with another draw to win a trip to the Spanish League's Clasicos match between Real Madrid and Barcelona.

Warba Bank's Salary and Al-Sunbula accounts provide many facilities and valuable rewards that have made them very popular among customers. By the beginning of 2017, Warba bank established many improvements on the two accounts, which were met positively by the customers. These improvements included increasing the number of winners for the Al-Sunbula Account draw to 12, and raising the total monthly awards' value to KD 20,000 (every client receives a chance to enter the draw for every KD 10 deposited in the account). Al-Sunbula Account is the best choice for customers looking to save money, while at the same time, make financial returns on their savings.

As for improvements to the Salary account which Warba Bank launched with the slogan 'your hopes made a reality by Warba Bank,' the bank now provides current and new customers the opportunity to take part in the quarterly draw on the dream trip. Meanwhile, new customers can freely choose the prizes most suitable for them, which include cash prizes and bank products.

Since establishment, Warba Bank has been keen on designing unique and innovative banking solutions that distinguish our clients and elevate the Islamic banking sector. It has launched several Islamic banking products of international standards at the beginning of 2017, which are added to the group of quality solutions that the bank offers exclusively to its customers.

The winner of the 'dream trip' award (salary campaign) is Fahad Mohammad Al-Mutairi. As for the Al-Sunbula Account draw, the winners are: Mashael Falah Al-Mutairi and Dahham Kareem Al-Fadhli (KD 5,000), Saud Lafi Al-Shemmri, Ali Ahmad Abu Dames, Kameelah Dhari Al-Jashaami, Muyassar Hashem Al-Masri, Aiman Abdulrahman Al-Ammar, Reem Mohammad Al-Shemmeri, Khalid Ali Al-Ajmi, Ayshah Falah Al-Azmi, Abdullah Fayez Al-Najjareen, and Salem Rashed Marzouq (KD 1,000). Meanwhile, the 'Pay & Win' campaign winners are: Abdurrahman Hayan Al-Azmi, Abdulwahab Nasser Al-Najdi, Majid Mutlaq Al-Azmi, Mohammad Msaed Al-Dhameer, and Hassan Salem Al-Tarfi. In the meantime, Laila Ahmad Darweesh won the trip to attend the Clasicos match.



## 'KUWAIT IS BY YOUR SIDE' CAMPAIGN CONTINUES



"Kuwait is by your side" campaign launches third phase in Mosul. — KUNA

**BAGHDAD:** 'Kuwait is by your side' campaign has launched the third phase of humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mosul, north of Iraq. The Kuwaiti Society for Relief (KSR) is funding the campaign. The Iraqi Unified Medical Association for Relief and Development said that the new aid includes the distribution of 20,759 food baskets to IDPs in some camps in Mosul. Speaking to KUNA on Thursday, head of the association Ahmad Meshref said the aid was delivered under the supervision of Iraqi bodies and the Kuwait Embassy.

He extolled the big support by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who was named by the UN as a "Humanitarian Leader" for such efforts, the State of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people. Kuwait provided previously food aid to needy people and the displaced, contributed to building carnival schools and carried out programs to empower widows and orphans displaced in the city, Meshref noted. — KUNA



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March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Till April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

# Shoot & Win KUWAIT SCENERY & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



## Rules & Conditions

### First prize

- Canon Camera EOS 5D MARK II BODY + free Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait by Jazeera Airways\*.

### Second prize

- Canon Camera EOS 80D +18-55MM IS STM + free Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait by Jazeera Airways\*.

### Third prize

- Canon Camera EOS 750D 18-135 IS STM + free Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait by Jazeera Airways\*.

### Fourth prize

- EOS 750D 18-55 IS STM +Free Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait by Jazeera Airways\*.

### Fifth prize

- EOS 750D 18-55 IS STM +Free Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait by Jazeera Airways\*.

### Sixth prize

- Canon Camera Dsc Ixus 310 HS + Free Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai- Kuwait by Jazeera Airways\*.

### Seventh prize

- Canon Camera PSD 30 BLUE + free Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai- Kuwait by Jazeera Airways\*.

### Eighth prize

- Canon Camera PSD 30 BLUE + Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai- Kuwait by Jazeera Airways\*.

### Ninth prize

- Canon Camera IXUS 180 BLACK + free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai- Kuwait by Jazeera Airways\*.

### Tenth prize

- Canon Camera IXUS 180 BLACK 2085 + free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai- Kuwait by Jazeera Airways\*.

The photo contest begins on March 12, 2017 and ends on April 20, 2017.

To ensure eligibility for the contest, please submit files in high resolution:

• **Photographic Camera:** Please submit original files (entries should include metadata if possible) in jpg format on CD or flash memory with hard copy on photo paper (size 300 x 400 millimeters or 11.81 x 15.75 inches)

• **Mobile phone or tablet Camera:** Please submit original files in jpg format on CD or flash memory with hard copy on photo paper (A4 size – 210 x 297 millimeters or 8.27 x 11.69 inches).

• **All photographs** should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appears. 'High Dynamic Range' images are acceptable. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization (removal of dust, cropping, reasonable adjustments to exposure, color, contrast, etc.) will be disqualified.

**Caption information should include:**

• Location - Detailed caption of subject matter

If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary permissions from the individuals depicted, and must be able to provide copies of these to Kuwait Times upon request.

• **Kuwait Times & Jazeera Airways** has all rights to use the photograph in internal and external communications materials including but not limited to websites and web publications, fact sheets, fundraising publications, advertising, multimedia, presentation and membership services, annual reports and Kuwait Times' magazines, or by other individuals and organizations for Kuwait Times' use in news stories, newsletters, reports, displays, web pages, videos, membership premiums and the like.

• Winners will be chosen by a panel of independent judges.

• Original coupon should be stuck on the back of each photo with complete information of the participant.

Shoot & Win KUWAIT SCENERY & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



### Participation Form

If you are interested in participating fill in the form and send it to Kuwait Times.

- Name: .....
- Tel: ..... • Civil ID: .....
- e.mail: .....
- DSLR Camera  • Mobile phone or tablet camera
- Caption information: .....



\* For all Jazeera Airways tickets terms and conditions are applied



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The Middle East's Largest Students' Art Competition

# KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN STUDENTS ART COMPETITION

March 19<sup>th</sup> Till April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## HELLO ARTISTS...

Welcome to the Student's Art Competition. I hope you are ready to paint a beautiful painting and win wonderful prizes. The theme for your painting must be related to planting and greening, basically anything pertaining to our environment. We are looking for a great painting. So, please pick up your color pencils, paint brushes, crayons or whatever you prefer and start drawing and painting.

*Good luck to you, our young artists.*

- Competition is open to ages from (6 - 8) (9 - 11) (12 - 14) (15 - 17) and Special needs.
- The competition is open for all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
- **The competition will start on March 19th and will continue till April 20th 2017.**
- 10 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools participating in

- the competition will receive an appreciation plaque.
- Any school or individual interested to participate in this competition is welcome to visit the office of Kuwait Times and collect the drawing sheets.
- Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge.
- Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwait Times will be allowed.
- You can use any kind of color pencils, paint brushes or crayons.

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**Kuwait Times Participation Form**

If you are interested to participate fill the form and send it to Kuwait Times.

From:  March 19<sup>th</sup> Till April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

We would like to confirm our participation in the above mentioned activity with the total number of participating student's so the corresponding number of drawing sheets can be delivered to our school.

School: .....

Tel: ..... Fax: .....

Address: .....

Total number of interested students are  
 6 - 8 years  9 - 11 years  12 - 14 years  15 - 17 years  Special need

Name: ..... Signature: .....

For more information contact Kuwait Times Tel: 24835616/7 Fax 24835620/1 or send an email to: ads@kuwaittimes.net



# International

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017

**Pride and pain as Mosul doctors treat their own**

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**South Africans protest against Zuma**

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**One dead as Venezuela police, protesters clash**

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FLORIDA: US First Lady Melania Trump, right, and President Donald Trump, 2nd right, pose with Chinese President Xi Jinping, 2nd left, and his wife Peng Liyuan, left, upon their arrival to the Mar-a-Lago estate in West Palm Beach, Florida.—AFP

## TRUMP, XI MEET AGAIN - IN SHADOW OF MISSILE STRIKES ON SYRIA

**PALM BEACH:** North Korea's nuclear ambitions and the US-China trade imbalance as well as other points of tension between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are being overshadowed by the US missile strikes on Syria. Nonetheless, the two leaders are meeting for a second day at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate as planned yesterday.

Their first-night summit dinner wrapped up shortly before the US announced the missile barrage on an air base in Syria in retaliation against Syrian President Bashar Assad for a chemical weapons attack against civilians caught up in his country's long civil war. Before Thursday's night's dinner with their wives, Trump said he and Xi already had a long

discussion and had "developed a friendship," and then joked, "I have gotten nothing, absolutely nothing."

Xi apparently got something out of dinner, though. Chinese state media reported late Thursday that Trump has accepted Xi's invitation to visit China this year. The official Xinhua News Agency reported that Trump will travel to China at an "early date" in 2017, but gave no details. The White House downplayed expectations for a breakthrough on issues like trade and tariffs, insisting that the 24-hour summit is mostly an introductory meeting for the two leaders. Within Trump's administration, divisions remain over how to approach China.

### Beijing: Tremendous problem

Still, North Korea was a top priority for Trump in the meetings with Xi. The American president told reporters traveling with him to Florida that he thinks China will "want to be stepping up" in trying to deter North Korea's nuclear ambitions. While Trump would not say what he wants China to do specifically, he suggested there was a link between "terrible" trade agreements the US has made with China and Pyongyang's provocations. He said the two issues "really do mix."

Trump has said the US will act alone if China doesn't exert more pressure on North Korea. The missile strikes on Syria bring more weight to that statement. Both as a candidate and president, Trump has

taken an aggressive posture toward China, labeling Beijing a "tremendous problem" and arguing that lopsided trade deals with China shortchange American businesses and workers. Last week, the president predicted in a tweet that his meeting with Xi would be "very difficult."

He also last week signed a pair of executive orders focused on reducing the US trade deficit, an apparent shot at China, which accounted for the vast bulk - \$347 billion - of last year's \$502 billion trade deficit. For his part, Xi was expected to seek assurances that Trump will not interfere in the territorial dispute over the South China Sea or question the "One China" policy by reaching out to Taiwan's leader again, as Trump did during the transition.—AP



## GAMBIA'S OPPOSITION UDP WINS ABSOLUTE MAJORITY FROM JAMMEH

**BANJUL, Gambia:** The Gambia's longtime opposition won an absolute majority in parliamentary elections, easily defeating the party of ousted leader Yahya Jammeh, results announced Friday showed. Official results announced by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) showed the United Democratic Party (UDP) won 31 of the 53 available elected seats in the country's National Assembly. "(I) hereby declare the final results as follows: UDP won 31 seats; APRC (Jammeh's party) won five seats," IEC chairman Aliou Momar Njie declared at the commission headquarters.

Five more seats are appointed by the president to give a total 58 seats in the chamber, giving the UDP a two-seat majority. Turnout was low at 42 percent, Njie said, saying more civic education was needed to persuade people to come out and vote in legislative polls. The UDP was one of seven parties who united to propel President Adama Barrow to power in December last year, but that coalition broke apart for the legislative election.

The party has long considered itself a government-in-waiting, and Barrow was UDP treasurer until resigning to become the flag bearer candidate for the coalition. Their victory is likely to make it easier for Barrow to get a raft of promised reforms passed, with UDP leader Ousainou Darboe a personal friend and longtime ally of the president. Lamin Dibba, a senior UDP official, said the vote put the party in a strong position to make major changes in The Gambia. "It's increased our confidence and I think in the near future it will be very easy for us to form a government," he told AFP by phone.

Our first priority will be to look at the constitution, he said. "We will also ensure that the national assembly will give the nation the power to operate rather than the president," referring to Jammeh's frequent use of executive orders to push through laws. Jammeh's Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC) meanwhile suffered a stunning reversal, going from 48 seats to just five overnight—a result that revealed the deep anger felt by former supporters and critics alike at the actions of the regime.

An expected surge for the Gambia Democratic Congress (GDC), an upstart party which did not join the coalition, failed to materialize, with the youth-led movement gaining just five seats. Smaller parties who joined the coalition took 11 more seats, and one independent candidate took a seat. The Gambia's National Assembly was long decided for acting as a rubberstamp for Jammeh's decisions, but hopes are high for a revitalized chamber.—AFP



**GAMBIA:** The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) Chairperson Aliou Momar Njie announces the elections results at his office in Banjul yesterday.—AFP



**CAIRO:** Syrian Mohamed Amin, 43, who fled his country with his family due to the war, measures a baking-oven at a make-shift bakery set up on the balcony of his apartment in the Egyptian capital Cairo.—AFP

## SYRIAN REFUGEES SETTLE IN EGYPT, GIVE UP ON WEST

**CAIRO:** After fleeing to Egypt from the war devastating their country, more Syrians are abandoning migration to the West fearing racism and culture shock, and instead are settling in Cairo. Mohamed Amin, 43, had considered Egypt a gateway to Europe when he arrived five years ago. He has since changed his mind, put off by accounts from fellow refugees who made it to the Netherlands and Canada.

"There is racism, and Western culture is very different from our Muslim and Arab culture even if the quality of life is better," said the father of four who owned two bakeries in the Syrian town of Muadamiyat al-Sham. He is now trying to supplement his income with a bakery he set up on his apartment balcony. Ayman, who requested his full name not be used, said he was shaken by a January shooting in a Canadian mosque that killed six worshippers. "When I heard about the (Quebec City) attack, I felt unsafe and worried. At least here I can go to the mosque safely."

### Illusions

The two men are among the 120,000 Syrians in Egypt registered as refugees with the United Nations. The Egyptian government estimates there are altogether half a million Syrians in the country. Going back to Syria at the present is also not an option. The conflict has killed more than 320,000 people, uprooted more than half the population and forced over five million to flee abroad since it erupted six years ago, and it shows no sign of abating.

Amin says he will not leave Egypt "except to Syria when things settle down". "I don't feel like a refugee in Egypt. The language, norms and traditions are the same," he said. His mother-in-law, Umm Haitham, agrees. "I feel like I'm living in my country. Since the start I was for staying in Egypt." Mohamed Fawaz, 44, said he "held a temporary job waiting for the day the (UN refugee agency) informs me of the travel deci-

sion". But those who made the move "warned me of the illusions around travelling to Europe", he said.

Fewer Syrians also have been trying to migrate illegally to Europe in dangerous Mediterranean voyages that have claimed thousands of lives. "Fewer Syrians are leaving now. Syrians represented one percent of those arrested attempting illegal migration in 2015, which is a sharp drop compared with 2013 and 2014," said Tarik Argaz, a spokesman for the UN refugee agency UNHRC.

The lower numbers are due to "good treatment by the Egyptian government and (the Syrians') acclimatization as well as problems in Europe towards refugees", he said. That does not mean Syrians do not face hardship in Egypt. Thousands had arrived in Egypt under the Islamist president Mohamed Morsi

who ruled between 2012 and 2013. After his ouster, police cracked down on Syrians who were seen as supportive of the Islamist leader.

### Why leave?

But an Egyptian official who requested anonymity said: "In any case, Egypt will not tell them (Syrians) to leave, no matter how long they stay." The official said the government is now allowing family reunification requests after years of rejecting them for security reasons. Lawyer Youssef al-Mataani says the number of Syrians approaching him to assist with resettlement documents has dropped. "I used to receive about 10 Syrian families each week to help accelerate resettlement legal procedures. The number declined in the last few months and has reached zero at the moment," he said.—AFP

## UN IMAGES: 18,000 DESTROYED STRUCTURES IN SOUTH SUDAN REGION

**NAIROBI:** United Nations satellite images obtained by The Associated Press show at least 18,000 structures have been destroyed in the Yei area of South Sudan. It is one of the most significant caches of evidence of widespread destruction in the country's civil war. The Yei region has become an epicenter of fighting between government and rebels after a peace deal collapsed in July. The UN has highlighted the area for its risk of genocide, and an AP reporter late last year during a visit to Yei saw charred bodies with their arms bound.

The UN satellite images show how population centers like Yei, Morobo and Bazi have been mostly devastated. In parts of Kaya and Morobo towns, nearly every building is in ruins. The images do not show who is

responsible for the destruction, but monitors of South Sudan's peace deal said last week that in most instances in Yei, "buildings were deliberately set on fire by government forces." A spokesman for President Salva Kiir, Ateny Wek Ateny, called the satellite images "exceedingly rubbish."

"Where are the people? That means that 18,000 families are dead or are displaced," Ateny said. Government officials have blamed rebels and wildfires for the destruction in Yei, the peace deal monitors said, adding that investigators found that unlikely. Satellite imagery is increasingly being relied on by investigators to document destruction during South Sudan's three-year civil war, which has killed tens of thousands and sent more than 1.7 million people fleeing the country.—AP



## HEALING THE DARK PAST IN ETA-HIT RENTERIA

**RENERIA, Spain:** Since ETA declared a ceasefire in 2011, Renteria has slowly been recovering from decades of upheaval marked by violent protests, murders and torture brought about by the conflict waged by the Basque separatist group. For some in this former industrial town in northern Spain, that involves walking the streets without a bodyguard, others are savoring living without fear, while still more say they enjoy the sight of tourists in their once-restive home.

And while news that ETA may finally fully lay down its weapons on Saturday is welcome, many are looking beyond with a pressing question—how do you heal the wounds of a town once torn by strife and hate? “This city has known tumultuous periods,” acknowledges Julen Mendoza, mayor of the 40,000-strong town. Renteria was the scene of more than 20 ETA killings, ranging from taxi drivers to policemen and town councilors, according to a report by regional rights group Argituz.

The report also details the seven murders and other torture cases inflicted by “parapolice” groups, such as the so-called GAL death squads established illegally in the 1980s by officials of Spain’s then Socialist government to counter ETA. Interspersed throughout were fierce, sometimes violently repressed protests all of which bred resentment in a town, whose fervent nationalism and sense of Basque identity appears only to be matched by its deep suspicion of the central government.

### Too many funerals

“I was six-months pregnant with my daughter, and a policeman hit me in the gut, I had to go to hospital,” remembers Lourdes Irizar Rezola, a 59-year-old cleaner, pointing to a corner in the town centre where the incident happened over 30 years ago. Staunchly pro-independence, she was attending protests for the rights of people from the nationalist left who had been jailed.

And while acknowledging the violence wrought by ETA in its four-decades campaign of bombings and shootings for an independent Basque homeland that left 829 people dead, her most vivid memory is of police violence which, she says, marked protests. A couple of streets away, Miguel Buen sits in an office above the bar at the headquarters of his Socialist party, in power when he became mayor of Renteria in 1987, a post he held for 18 years.

His story is one marked by threats by ETA, whose bloody battle put it on a collision course with the central government, be it Socialist or conservative. “I’ve sadly had to attend too many funerals of colleagues and friends, and others I didn’t know, of councilors from the (conservative) Popular Party, businessmen, people who were merely passing by,” he says. The headquarters where Buen now sits were attacked 28 times during the period of upheaval—with the occasional Molotov cocktail thrown in.

The ground floor used to have automatic fire extinguishers and bars on the windows and door—all of which have now been removed. Things have changed for Buen too, who at 69 is now retired. “For five years now I have been walking through the streets of my town, of any town in Euskadi (Basque Country) without bodyguards,” he says. “People don’t harass me, many people who wouldn’t greet me before now greet me.”—AFP



**RENERIA:** A woman walks past a graffiti reading in Basque “We want them in our neighborhood”, referring to Basque prisoners, in the Spanish northern village of Renteria, Spain.—AFP



**MOSUL:** Civilians who were injured during the ongoing conflict between government forces and Islamic State (IS) group jihadists in Mosul are treated by medics at a trauma field hospital.—AFP

## PRIDE AND PAIN AS MOSUL DOCTORS TREAT THEIR OWN

### CHILDREN REMAIN PARALYZED WITHOUT AMPUTATIONS

**ATHBAH, Iraq:** Every time a patient is stretchered into the Athbah field hospital south of Mosul, doctor Sultan prays it isn’t his sister or brother. Most of the medical staff is from the war-torn Iraqi city and each one of the victims they treat could be a relative or a neighbor. “It’s very painful for us... Many people, many children, need amputations or will remain paralyzed,” he says from the small field hospital set up in Athbah, just a few miles south of Mosul.

Sultan, who chose not to divulge his full name, fled Mosul when the Islamic State still controlled the city, which they made the de facto Iraqi capital of their now crumbling “caliphate”. But his siblings are trapped inside, in neighborhoods of Mosul’s west bank still held by the jihadists despite almost six months of fighting by the security forces to retake the city. “I have no news,” he said. “Daesh (IS) uses civilians as human shields and many buildings have been leveled by air strikes. They might be lying under the rubble and I don’t know about it.” For now, the 43-year-old is treating a man in his forties with facial injuries. “He’s stable,” he says, after feeling the pulse in the patient’s bloodied wrist. In the same room, Faruq Abdulkader is treating a teenager who is writhing in pain but was relatively lucky: “The

bullet went straight through the arm without touching the bone,” the doctor said, relieved.

These doctors used to work in Mosul but fled the tyrannical rule of the jihadists. Now that regular forces are wresting back Iraq’s second city street by street, they are back to help. The Athbah field hospital opened on March 24 with support from the World Health Organization and the Iraqi health authorities.

### Our neighbors

Abdulkader said most of the injuries they treated were caused by explosions but the hardest thing was often to witness the suffering of their own neighbors. “Some of them are our neighbors, coming from the same area where I was living in Mosul, and I’m so sad for them,” he said. The fighting to retake what is now the last major IS stronghold in Iraq is taking its toll on civilians.

According to the UN, at least 307 of them were killed between February 17 and March 22, a period which only covers the first weeks of the offensive on west Mosul but not the entire operation that started in mid-October last year. The 29-year-old Abdulkader says he feels lucky to be in a position to support the humanitarian effort because two of his fellow doctors

were killed “one by the jihadists and the other in an air strike.”

A patient is rushed in to the trauma unit, the third in half an hour. His face is entirely covered in bandages, bones visible all over his body. The Mosul battle has lasted nearly six months and supplies have dwindled sharply as Iraqi forces secured the city’s east bank and sealed their siege on the jihadists’ last redoubts on the west side. Basic goods have been unavailable for months and the little food that is left is either too expensive or hoarded by the jihadists.

“Nearly all our patients suffer from malnutrition,” says Taryn Anderson, head nurse at the Athbah clinic. “We can’t call it a famine but it’s very alarming, especially for the children.” After examining the very weak patient who was just wheeled in, the doctors decide against a transfusion—the precious blood they do have will be saved for other patients with a real chance of survival.

Ali Saad Abdulkhaled, a 26-year-old nurse who used to treat people in his home in east Mosul during the fighting there, said the number of wounded civilians was increasing sharply. “The west side is more densely populated, it’s the Old City,” he said. “The number of victims is huge. They are our neighbors, our families.”—AFP



## ROMANIAN INJURED IN UK PARLIAMENT TERROR ATTACK DIES

**LONDON:** A Romanian woman who fell into the River Thames during last month's terror attack outside the British parliament has died in hospital, police said yesterday, bringing the toll to five. Andreea Cristea, 31, was visiting London with her partner Andrei Burnaz, who intended to propose to her later that day, according to Romanian ambassador Dan Mihalache. She was knocked from Westminster Bridge as the attacker ploughed through pedestrians on March 22.

Life support for Cristea was withdrawn on Thursday, the police said. "There are no words to even begin to describe the crushing pain and emptiness that is left in our hearts," her family and partner said in a statement. Khalid Masood, a 52-year-old convert to Islam known to the security services, drove at high speed into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge before launching a frenzied knife attack on a policeman guarding the parliament building.

The rampage killed Leslie Rhodes, 75, a retired window cleaner; Aysha Frade, 44, a school administrator; Kurt Cochran, 54, an American tourist, and now Cristea. Masood fatally stabbed 48-year-old policeman Keith Palmer outside the House of Commons before being shot dead himself by an armed officer in the forecourt.

### Brutally ripped away

"Our beloved and irreplaceable Andreea-wonderful daughter, sister, partner, dedicated friend and the most unique and life-loving person you can imagine-was cruelly and brutally ripped away from our lives in the most heartless and spiritless way," Cristea's family and partner said. "She will always be remembered as our shining ray of light that will forever keep on shining in our hearts."

"Andreea is now unfortunately not able to have

part of the money that was raised for her recovery, so we would like to donate it to charity. She would not have it any other way." London Mayor Sadiq Khan said he was deeply saddened by Cristea's death. "Londoners hold her and her loved ones in our thoughts," he said. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, England's highest cleric, tweeted: "Let us pray hope and comfort for her family".

### Partner's rose tribute

Footage of the attack, in which around 50 people were injured, showed Masood's hire car speeding into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge and Cristea falling into the river below. Witnesses reported seeing a body lying face-down in the Thames in the wake of the assault. After being taken from the water and rushed to hospital for treatment, Cristea underwent surgery for a blood clot on the brain. —AFP



**PRETORIA:** Demonstrators protest against South African President Jacob Zuma outside the union building in Pretoria, South Africa, yesterday. — AP

## SOUTH AFRICANS PROTEST AGAINST ZUMA; VIOLENCE HITS JOHANNESBURG

### POLICE FIRE RUBBER BULLETS, TEAR GAS AT ANC SUPPORTERS

**JOHANNESBURG:** Violence broke out in Johannesburg as more than 30,000 people marched in South African cities to protest against President Jacob Zuma yesterday, demanding he quit after a cabinet reshuffle triggered the latest crisis of his presidency. Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at some African National Congress protesters in Johannesburg, injuring a man and a woman, a Reuters witness said. Police were trying to prevent the ANC supporters from breaching a cordon separating them from backers of the opposition Democratic Alliance party.

The DA, which had called for the marches, held a rally of more than 10,000 people a few streets away that was calm. Zuma's sacking of Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan in the reshuffle last Thursday has outraged allies and opponents alike, undermined his authority and caused rifts in the ruling African National Congress (ANC), which has governed South Africa since the end of white-minority rule in 1994. Rating

agency S&P Global Ratings cited Gordhan's dismissal as one reason for its downgrade of South Africa to "junk" in an unscheduled review on Monday.

Syriana Maesela, 65, a retiree, was on her way by train to Pretoria to join the march, carrying a South African flag. "I am marching to get the ANC to take us seriously and respect our wishes by letting the president go," she said. "We are unhappy about his leadership because he does not seem to care about the people. The irony is I did the same thing in 1976 when I was a student. I also marched then," she said, referring to protests against the apartheid regime.

The incessant blare of "vuvuzela" trumpets stirred the 5,000-strong crowds. Hundreds of motorbikes, many waving South Africa's flag, roared past the crowd, who cheered them on. Motorists and passengers pumped their fists in the air. Zuma has welcomed one of the marches, by the civil society group Save South Africa (SaveSA) that was planned for out-

side the Union Buildings, the site of Zuma's offices in the capital, Pretoria, saying it was the group's legal right to do so.

SaveSA is made up of civil society groups, business leaders and prominent individuals. Zuma, 74, has faced protests in the past. The ANC on Wednesday rejected calls for Zuma to quit, and analysts doubted marches would shake the president. The ANC said its members in parliament would vote to defeat a motion of no confidence against Zuma on April 18, a key rallying call for the marchers yesterday.

And Zuma supporters also gathered. About 300 camouflage-clad veterans of the ANC's now-disbanded Umkhonto we Sizwe (MKMVA) military wing ringed the party's Luthuli House building in downtown Johannesburg, mounting mock parades and singing in support of the president. Some clad in the yellow, green and gold colors of the ANC also danced, waving placards emblazoned with the words: "I'm prepared to die for my ANC" and "Hands off our President". —Reuters

## KOSOVO BOWS TO US, NATO PUTS OFF PLAN TO CREATE ARMY

**PRISTINA:** Kosovo President Hashim Thaci bowed to pressure from traditional allies the United States and NATO yesterday by putting off plans to establish an army strongly opposed by the country's minority Serbs. Nearly two decades after the Kosovo war, relations between Serbia and the ethnic Albanian-majority government in Kosovo remain strained. Serbia continues to regard Kosovo, which declared independence in 2008, as a renegade province.

Thaci last month found a way to bypass Serb opposition in parliament to constitutional amendments required for an army by drafting changes to an existing law on the Kosovo Security Forces that would allow the KSF to acquire heavy weapons. This would effectively turn it into a military force. But Washington and NATO, which has kept forces in Kosovo since intervening in 1999 to stop Serbia's killings of ethnic Albanian civilians in a counter-insurgency campaign, voiced concern that the move could unravel Kosovo's fragile peace.

The Pristina government ordered the creation of a national army in 2014 but minority Serb deputies said they would block the required constitutional amendments. Yesterday, Thaci - a former Kosovo guerrilla commander - sent a letter to parliament asking it not to vote on his amendments so as to allow Western diplomats more time to convince Serbs to approve the amendments.

"The representatives of the Serb community should not think for any single second that Kosovo will not create its armed forces," Thaci told a conference in the capital Pristina attended by the US ambassador and other West European envoys. The KSF is currently a lightly armed, 2,500-member force trained by NATO and tasked with crisis response, civil protection and disposal of ordnance from the 1999 conflict. —Reuters

## BOKO HARAM KILLS NIGERIAN TROOPS AFTER RAID ON FARMERS

**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria:** Boko Haram jihadists have killed four soldiers in an ambush in northeast Nigeria, where they torched an army base a day after killing seven civilians, a soldier and witnesses said. "Our men came under attack near Gubdori village yesterday," the soldier said, asking not to be named. "We lost four men in the ambush. Five were injured and four are still missing." The Islamists opened fire on an army convoy heading to the small town of Gulumba in Borno state, he added.

Military reinforcements came from the town and the attackers "were forced to withdraw after suffering heavy casualties". The assailants came from the Boko Haram faction headed by Abu Musab Al-Barnawi, son of the sect's founder Mohammed Yusuf, the soldier added, in an account confirmed by two vigilantes. Barnawi was appointed last year by the Islamic State group to replace veteran Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau. Jihadists also attacked the military base in Wajirko village, 150 kilometers from Maiduguri, capital of Borno state, forcing the soldiers to flee. "The gunmen arrived in pickups and engaged soldiers in the base just outside the village in a heavy shootout," Wajirko resident Bukar Maduye said. —AFP



## INDIA INKS WEAPONS DEAL WORTH \$2 BN WITH ISRAEL

**NEW DELHI:** India will buy nearly \$2 billion worth of weapons technology from Israel in what's being described as the "largest defense contract" ever signed by the military exporting giant. The deal will see state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries provide India with an advanced defense system of medium-range surface-to-air missiles, launchers and communications technology, the company said in a statement Thursday.

The "mega" missile agreement is "considered to be the largest defense contract in Israel's defense industries' history", the company said. The Israeli firm will also supply a naval defense system including long-range surface-to-air missiles for India's first aircraft carrier, which is still under construction. Comment was not immediately available from India's defense ministry. Israel Aerospace Industries said some components will be assembled in India, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push to reduce reliance on costly imports.

Modi's government has raised the limit on foreign investment in the defense sector and encouraged tie-ups between foreign and local companies under a 'Make in India' campaign. India—the world's largest defense importer—has been investing tens of billions in updating its Soviet-era military hardware to counter long-standing tensions with regional rivals China and Pakistan. India has signed several big-ticket defense deals since Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party stormed to power in 2014.

Israel is a top weapons exporter, with sales last year surging to \$6.5 billion. India is a top market for its arms, as New Delhi has turned increasingly away from traditional ally Russia for its military hardware. Last year India signed a contract to buy 36 Rafale twin-engine fighter jets from France for 7.9 billion euros (\$8.8 billion) after major delays and obstacles over the cost and assembly of the planes in India.—AFP

## INDIA'S RESCUED BONDED LABORERS REBUILD LIVES IN DREAM HOMES

**CHENNAI, India:** Born into debt bondage, S Appu spent 25 years confined to a rice mill in south India, watching his father repay a debt, and then working tirelessly to pay it off himself. When he was freed from the mill in Guduvanchery in Tamil Nadu state in 2015, he did not have a place to call home. "Home had always been the rice mill," Appu, 27, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "I even married there, all the while unaware that there was a world outside that space."

But today Appu lives in his own house, designed and built by students of Chennai's Madras Christian College as part of a project funded by charities and the government to help rescued bonded laborers get back on their feet. Before moving into a one-room brick house in December, Appu was living in a makeshift shelter on a piece of land given to him and eight other families rescued from the same mill by the Tamil Nadu government.

"We found them living in temporary shelters during the 2015 floods that swept the region," said Jesserson Joel, a 22-year-old student, who helped to build Appu's new home. "They were practically living in the open, unprotected and exposed. They needed shelter." India banned bonded labor in 1976, but it remains widespread, with millions like Appu from the marginalized Dalit and tribal communities working in fields, brick kilns, rice mills, brothels or as domestic workers to pay off debts.

Last year, the government announced plans to rescue more than 18 million bonded laborers by 2030, and increase compensation for rescued workers by fivefold as part of efforts to tackle modern slavery. But without homes, land and jobs, it is easy for rescued workers to slip back into debt bondage, campaigners say. "The compensation amount is given, but for all other welfare schemes, including housing and land, they have to fill in forms and follow procedures," said Sam Jebadurai from the charity International Justice Mission, which works to rescue bonded laborers and help them rebuild their lives. "These take time and many don't follow through."

### Living in tents

When he was asked where he would want to live as a free man by officials that had helped to rescue him, Appu recalls shrugging his shoulders and muttering that "it didn't matter". "Actually, I didn't even know the name of the village my parents came from," he said, sitting on the steps of his new home, watching his daughter smother her face with powder. "And besides, no one had ever asked me what I wanted." —Reuters



**YANGON:** Myo Yan Naung Thein, center, a researcher for Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling party, talks to the media after a hearing at court in Yangon yesterday.—AFP

## MYANMAR GOVT STAFF SENTENCED TO JAIL FOR CRITICIZING ARMY

### ARMY CHIEF BLAMED FOR DEADLY RAIDS

**YANGON:** An official working for Aung San Suu Kyi's government was sentenced to six months in jail by a Yangon court yesterday for criticizing Myanmar's army chief in a Facebook post. It is the latest verdict to highlight lingering limits on free speech in the young democracy, where the military remains a powerful player despite the end of junta rule. Myo Yan Naung Thein, a researcher for Suu Kyi's ruling party, was arrested in October for urging the head of the army to resign over deadly raids on police posts in the north of Rakhine State.

The attacks, by a militant group claiming to represent Myanmar's stateless Rohingya Muslims, sparked an army crackdown so brutal UN investigators believe it may amount to crimes against humanity. In a Facebook post just days after the October raids, Myo Yan Naung Thein said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was "shameless" for allowing the raids to happen and called for his resignation. The 43-year-old appeared calm as he heard the verdict read out in Yangon's Kamayut township court yesterday, flanked by military officers.

But he struck a defiant note as he left the court, criticizing the army's continued grip on power even after Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) won the first free elections in half a century in 2015. Under a junta-era constitution the military still controls a quarter of parliament seats and the ministries of home affairs, defense and borders. "It's obvious that we have two groups ruling Myanmar, not only our (elected) government," he told journalists. Myo Yan Naung Thein has been held in jail since his arrest and will be able to walk free in

a few weeks because of time served.

Prosecutions under a controversial online defamation law have soared since the NLD took power in March 2016, targeting both those who have criticized the army and the new civilian administration. The law was originally passed by the previous military-backed government as part of a raft of measures designed to attract foreign investment in Myanmar's telecoms sector. But activists say it is increasingly being used to stifle free speech and criticism of the government, dashing hopes the NLD would usher in a new era of openness

after half a century of repressive military rule. At least 46 cases have been brought over the past year, compared to just seven between when the legislation was passed in 2013 to when the NLD took power. They include cases against two officials from one of the country's biggest media groups, a man who called the president 'crazy' on Facebook and another who wrote curses about the army on his car. Last month a mother launched proceedings against her own son for writing insulting comments about her relationships on Facebook.—AFP

## SIX DEAD, TWO MISSING AS FLOODS HIT KASHMIR

**SRINAGAR:** Six people were killed and two were reported missing in India's northern region of Kashmir yesterday, after heavy rain and snowfall swept the region, setting off avalanches and turning mountain rivers into raging torrents. Helicopters were deployed to rescue people cut off by flash floods that revived memories of 2014, when the Jhelum River flowing through the region's main city, Srinagar, burst its banks, swamping homes and killing 200 people.

Snowfalls triggered multiple avalanches, defense spokesman Rajesh Kalia said. "A post in Batalik sector was buried," he added. "Two out of five soldiers have been rescued. A rescue operation for three soldiers

was in progress and three bodies have been recovered." In the Poonch region, an Indian Air Force helicopter was guided by a soldier holding a flare towards a group of villagers stranded on the far bank of a river. They climbed a rope ladder into the craft, which then flew them to safety.

Rajiv Pandey, senior superintendent of police in Poonch, said 17 people were evacuated from the area. In Srinagar, the summer capital of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, some low-lying districts along the Jhelum were swamped but residents said the river was starting to recede. "We are relieved as the water level is receding and the rains are reducing," said one resident. "We are praying that rain should stop."—Reuters



## TERROR LINK AS PAKISTANI KILLED IN HORRIFIC AUSTRALIA ATTACK

**SYDNEY:** A Pakistani petrol station attendant was stabbed to death during an "absolutely horrific" crime spree in Australia, authorities said, fearing yesterday that the attack was terror-linked. The 29-year-old man was found with multiple stab wounds late Thursday after allegedly being attacked by two teenage boys. Police believe the pair, aged 15 and 16, went on a rampage, allegedly stabbing another man in the stomach, hitting a third with a tire iron and a fourth with a beer bottle.

Sydney's Daily Telegraph reported that "IS" appeared to be scrawled in blood on a window at the petrol station, referring to the Islamic State group. Authorities did not confirm the gruesome details but Deputy Commissioner Catherine Burn said "there was physical evidence at the scene which does go to our view that this might be an act of terrorism". "We don't know the motivation. We don't know what might have led to this. All we know again is that there are very, very serious crimes," she told reporters at a press conference in Sydney.

The boys were arrested early yesterday after being chased by New South Wales state police into the Australian Capital Territory. The Sydney Morning Herald said one of the teenager's mothers thought her son had been radicalized in recent weeks. Burn added that both were known to police for other offences, but not terrorism. The 16-year-old was being investigated for terror links, she said. Local police commander Superintendent Rod Smith described the incident as "absolutely horrific" and said "it doesn't get more serious than this".

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull called it "shocking" and reiterated concerns about the radicalization of youths. Counter-terrorism police have made a series of arrests since late 2014 across Australia and say they have prevented 11 terror attacks on home soil in the past two years. But several attacks have taken place, including the murder of a Sydney police employee in 2015 by a 15-year-old boy, who was then killed in an exchange of gunfire with officers.

The young age and radicalization of many of those detained has been a growing concern for authorities. Last year parliament passed new legislation to lower from 16 to 14 the age at which individuals can be subject to a control order, which aims to prevent a terror attack by limiting a person's movements, communication and activity.—AFP



**SYDNEY:** New South Wales Police Deputy Commissioner, Catherine Burn speaks about a Pakistani petrol station attendant who was stabbed to death during a crime spree in Australia at a media conference in Sydney yesterday.—AFP



**THAILAND:** Thai Navy rangers survey the scene where a high voltage tower was blown up on a rural road in Bachoc district in Thailand's restive southern province of Narathiwat yesterday.—AFP

# WAVE OF VIOLENCE ROCKS THAI SOUTH

### BOMBS, ARSON ATTACKS CAUSE WIDESPREAD BLACKOUTS

**BANGKOK:** Nearly two dozen bomb and arson attacks erupted across Thailand's insurgency-torn south shortly after midnight, the army said yesterday, causing widespread blackouts but no casualties in the Muslim-majority region. The violence, which saw more than 50 electricity poles toppled by explosives and tires set alight, struck only hours after Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn signed a new military-backed charter into law.

"There are 23 simultaneous incidents in three southern provinces and four districts of Songkhla," said Colonel Pramote Prom-in, an army spokesman for the south. The border provinces have sizzled with violence for over a decade as ethnic Malay rebels battle Thai troops for more autonomy from the Buddhist-majority state. The fighting has claimed

more than 6,800 lives—mostly civilians—since 2004. The region was one of few areas to reject the ruling junta's constitution in a referendum that saw the document approved last year.

The new charter curbs the power of elected lawmakers and will bolster the army's role in government even after the junta steps down following elections expected in late 2018. However Don Pathan, a Thai analyst based in the far south, said yesterday's wave of attacks did not appear to be linked to the charter's signing. The violence was most likely revenge for the killing of two suspected rebels by security forces last month, he told AFP.

"There has been a small spike of violence since then. My gut feeling is that last night was a retaliation for that alleged extrajudicial killing," said

Pathan. The southern region has been hit with a string of suspected rebel assaults since that fatal shooting on March 29, including one that saw around 30 militants open fire on a police checkpoint in Yala province, injuring 12 officers. The junta, which seized power in 2014, has held several rounds of negotiations with a group that claims to represent the insurgents.

But the talks have failed to make headway and many doubt the rebel negotiators have clout over fighters on the ground. Speaking to reporters yesterday, defense minister Prawit Wongsuwan blamed the previous night's unrest on a "new generation" of fighters, without elaborating. The shadowy insurgent movement rarely claims attacks and is believed to have several factions.—AFP

## PHILIPPINE MILITARY TO UPGRADE ISLAND FACILITIES, NOT LAUNCH LAND GRAB

**MANILA:** The Philippines' military said yesterday that it plans to upgrade and improve facilities on islands it already occupies in the disputed South China Sea, not embark on a new land grab. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Thursday that he had ordered the armed forces to "occupy all" remote reefs claimed by Manila. Rival claimant Beijing responded yesterday with a pledge to "firmly safeguard its territorial sovereignty, its maritime rights and interests" in the South China Sea, which is rich in resources and hosts vital shipping lanes.

The firebrand Filipino leader said he want-

ed "nine or 10" islands occupied and fortified, but did not make clear whether he was referring to the nine islands already held by the army, or to some of the 40-odd other Spratly features also claimed by Manila. Duterte's announcement had appeared to be a sharp departure from his previously cordial overtures to Beijing and non-confrontational approach. But military officials yesterday said they did not think order required the army to occupy new outcrops.

"The context with which we take the order is to improve on our already occupied islands, islets and features," military

spokesman Colonel Edgard Arevalo said. The defense department said the plan was to add military barracks, water desalination systems, power generators, light houses, and shelters for fishermen to the features that the Philippines currently occupy. "The president recently announced plans to improve, and implement the Pag-asa development plan which includes nine areas," Duterte spokesman Ernesto Abella said, referring Pag-asa municipality, the Philippines' political subdivision for the Spratly islands that it claims.

"This is part of his mandate to serve the

best interests of the nation," he added. All other major outcrops inside the section of the Spratlys claimed by Manila are already occupied by troops from other claimant countries, Filipino maritime law expert Jay Batongbacal said yesterday. Only a few "reefs and shoals" do not currently have soldiers on them, he said, adding that the Philippine government would likely back away from Duterte's explosive original proposal.

China claims most of the sea and in recent years has been building up disputed reefs into artificial islands that can house military facilities, further raising tensions.—AFP



# OBAMA'S RED LINE ALREADY CROSSED IN SYRIA

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump's decision to strike the Syrian regime in retaliation for a chemical attack comes four years after his predecessor Barack Obama faced a similar challenge from Damascus and chose to back down. There was no doubt among the international community on August 21, 2013: Obama's "red line" had just been crossed in Syria with a chemical

weapons attack outside Damascus that was almost certainly the work of Bashar al-Assad's regime. Two years earlier, Obama had vowed that the use of such weapons would "change my calculus" to justify military intervention in Syria. Britain and France agreed, embracing the president's rhetoric. So when the massacre took place in Ghouta, an eastern suburb of the Syrian capi-

tal where US intelligence said some 1,400 were killed by a sarin gas attack, all eyes turned toward Washington. Two days later, Obama said he was ready to strike.

But to surprise in the United States and around the world, he said he would put any decision over military action in Syria to a vote in Congress, essentially ruling out any immediate

attack. Then his ally British Prime Minister David Cameron—who had also submitted a decision over military action to his country's lawmakers-backed out after parliament voted against taking part. In the end, Obama's White House would never directly intervene militarily against the Assad regime, anxious to maintain the region's crumbling geopolitical and military balance. —AFP









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## UN CHIEF CALLS SECURITY SITUATION IN MALI ALARMING

**UNITED NATIONS:** The UN peacekeeping chief called the security situation in Mali "alarming" on Thursday, warning that extremist groups operating under the al-Qaida banner are carrying out more sophisticated attacks and Islamic State militants are slowly making inroads. Jean-Pierre Lacroix told the Security Council that "this convergence of threats is particularly alarming" because the government presence is often weak or non-existent.

He said the situation is exacerbated by groups defying state authority in the center of the country that are killing individuals and closing certain schools, and by criminal networks that are operating very actively in the region. Islamic extremists linked to al-Qaida took over northern Mali in 2012, exploiting a power vacuum after mutinous soldiers

overthrew the president. French-backed forces pushed the extremists from strongholds in 2013, but attacks have continued and progressed south.

Lacroix was critical of the slow progress in implementing a peace deal reached in June 2015 between Mali's government, Tuareg separatists and armed groups in the north. Despite advances on some fronts, he said that with elections looming in 2018 "we cannot ignore the major delays sustained and the fragility of the gains that have been made."

Lacroix said criteria for integrating former combatants haven't been determined, eight sites for the cantonment of weapons remain empty, and there is no clarity about government institutions which is "leading to splintering on the security and political fronts." The

United Nations sent a peacekeeping force to Mali in 2013 to help stabilize the country and it has become the most dangerous and deadly of its 16 far-flung missions with at least 114 members killed since it began operations. Lacroix welcomed the decision by five countries in the Sahel including Mali to set up a regional force. He said the UN peacekeeping mission - which has more than 12,000 troops and police and over 1,300 civilian staffers, with a current budget of \$933 million - will step up support to Malian forces and help the government implement defense and security reforms.

Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop told the council the government's accomplishments "are still fragile" and the country faces many challenges including mobilizing resources

to implement the peace agreement and restore authority throughout the country. Mali also needs funds to provide "the peace dividend" to people affected by the crisis in the country, he said. US Ambassador Nikki Haley urged the government to do more to implement the peace agreement and immediately focus on extending the authority of the state.

She said the Security Council must also do more to address the shortfalls in the peacekeeping mission. "In far too many parts of Mali, there isn't a peace for the blue helmets to keep," Haley said, and "the mission's equipment is simply not up to standard." Haley said in the coming months the US will be reviewing MINUSMA's mandate to help the mission "play a more effective role."—AP

## ONE DEAD AS VENEZUELA POLICE, PROTESTERS CLASH

### DISSIDENTS CALL SHOOTING A SIGN OF VIOLENT OPPRESSION

**CARACAS:** Violence erupted for a third straight day at protests against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, leaving one demonstrator dead amid escalating tension over moves to keep the leftist leader in power. Police said a 19-year old youth died after being shot in the chest during a demonstration in the capital. The teen, Jairo Ortizo, died from a gunshot wound when National Guard troops tried to disperse crowds of protesters who had blocked a road on the outskirts of Caracas, authorities said.

Outraged dissidents called the shooting, which occurred at the end of day-long demonstrations in Caracas, yet another sign of the violent oppression they are subjected to under the Maduro regime. In addition to the slain youth, dozens of people were injured Thursday, including at least 19 who required medical attention, mostly for breathing problems after inhaling tear gas. AFP reporters also witnessed a National Guard soldier lying unconscious after having been struck by a large rock.

Maduro, who issued a televised appeal for order, said 30 people had been detained by late Thursday and that more arrests were possible. "We are looking for all of them—we've identified them all," he said of opposition activists who had scattered after skirmishing with police. "One by one, they are going to fall and face justice," Maduro declared on state television.

#### No more dictatorship!

Earlier Thursday, protesters chanting "No more dictatorship!" hurled stones at National Guard riot police who blocked them from marching on central Caracas. The police responded with tear gas and water cannons, prompting chaos on the eight-lane highway where some 10,000 protesters had tried to break through security barricades. Scores of protesters were also hurt at violent protests on Tuesday and Wednesday, with the opposition vowing to return to the streets Saturday as a political crisis in the

volatile oil-exporting country is raising concerns about democracy and stability.

Street protests are among the few options left for the center-right opposition to pressure Maduro, whom they blame for the country's descent into economic calamity. Negotiations have failed and he has resisted international pressure, while retaining backing from the military and control over most state institutions. The opposition is accusing pro-Maduro Supreme Court judges of attempting an internal "coup d'etat" for attempting to take over the opposition-majority legislature's powers last week. The socialist president's supporters held counter-demonstrations on Thursday, condemning Maduro's opponents as "imperialists" plotting with the United States to oust him.

#### Tired of dictatorship

Last week, the Supreme Court issued rulings transferring the National Assembly's legislative powers to itself and revoking lawmakers' immunity from prosecution. The court later reversed the rulings after an international outcry,

but kept in place other measures limiting the assembly's powers. Opposition lawmakers launched an effort to impeach the judges on Wednesday.

But that would require a green light from the attorney general, prosecutor general and comptroller, all Maduro allies. They refused Thursday to give the go-ahead though the attorney general had sharply criticized the Supreme Court rulings, in a rare display of dissent in Maduro's camp. On the streets, protesters said they want to get rid of Maduro. "We're tired of this dictatorship," said Yoleidy Rodriguez, a 22-year-old university student. "We're not afraid."

A group of protesters eventually managed to march up to the metal police barricade, their hands in the air, and spray paint "Freedom" on it in blue letters. An opposition politician, Roberto Enriquez, meanwhile fled to the Chilean ambassador's residence in Caracas, alleging political persecution. Chile vowed to protect Enriquez, the head of the Christian social democratic party, whom Maduro's allies accused of plotting a coup. —AFP



**CARACAS:** Venezuelan opposition activists clash with the police during a protest against the government of President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas.—AFP



**FLORIDA:** Secretary of State Rex Tillerson speaks during a news conference at the Palm Beach International Airport in West Palm Beach, Florida.—AP

## TILLERSON VISITING MOSCOW AS US, RUSSIA FACE FRESH TENSIONS

**WASHINGTON:** A proxy battle with Russia in Syria and multiple Russia-related investigations in the US will follow Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to Moscow next week on a trip designed to test the Trump administration's hopes for closer ties to the former Cold War foe. Tillerson will make the first visit to Russia by a Trump administration official just days after the US launched cruise missiles against an air base in Syria, where Russia's military is on the ground propping up its ally, President Bashar Assad.

Until Thursday, the US had avoided striking Assad's forces, largely out of concern about being pulled into a military conflict with Russia. Tillerson, speaking just after the strikes were announced, said Russia had "failed in its responsibility" to deliver on a 2013 deal it helped broker to destroy Syria's chemical weapons arsenal. "So either Russia has been complicit, or Russia has been simply incompetent on its ability to deliver," Tillerson said.

Growing disagreements about Syria are just the latest obstacle to any plans President Donald Trump had to closer align the US and Russia on the world stage. Trump and his associates are embroiled in mushrooming investigations into potential collusion between his presidential campaign and Russian President Vladimir Putin's government, accused by America's spy agencies of interfering in the election to help elect Trump.

Despite Trump's much-hyped campaign talk about a Russia reset, there's no appetite for that from either political party in the US. Skepticism about Russia's intentions was only compounded by its defense of Assad after a deadly chemical attack that the US says was no doubt carried out by Assad's forces. Even minor concessions to Russia would trigger immediate accusations from Trump's opponents that the president - who has praised Putin generously and repeatedly - is beholden to Putin, a former KGB agent.

Add to that Trump's anger at Russia for violating a nuclear arms treaty and continued global outrage over Putin's actions in Ukraine, and it's difficult to see realistic chances for near-term rapprochement. —AP



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# BUSINESS

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Greece agrees on a fresh set of reforms

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US adds just 98,000 jobs

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BEIJING: A vendor prepares fresh fish for a customer at a market in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

## CHINA FX RESERVES STAY ABOVE \$3 TRILLION

### CAPITAL CONTROLS SEEN TRIMMING OUTFLOWS

**BEIJING:** China's foreign exchange reserves stayed above \$3 trillion in March, during which a pause in the dollar's rally aided Beijing's efforts to contain capital outflows. Reserves rose \$3.96 billion during March - less than the \$5 billion predicted in a Reuters poll - to total \$3.009 trillion, compared with \$3.005 trillion at the end of February. In January, reserves slipped below \$3 trillion for the first time in nearly six years, but in February they moved back above that line with their first rise in eight months.

The March increase marks the first time reserves had increased two consecutive months since April 2016. Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said the way reserves were broadly stable in March "suggests that the recent easing of capital outflows has allowed the People's Bank of China to step back from FX intervention." "The obvious follow-up question is whether this halt to official intervention is a temporary phenom-

non or a more permanent shift," he wrote in a note. "Our hunch is that it will be temporary," asserting that the key factor in curtailing outflows was the pause in dollar appreciation rather than tighter capital controls."

#### Leaders talk in Florida

China's foreign-exchange regulator, in a statement on its website yesterday, said pressure on capital outflows eased somewhat in the first quarter. Forex reserves are expected to further stabilize, the regulator said, adding that the monthly change in reserves' total is also stabilizing. The March reserves data came out as Chinese President Xi Jinping is meeting with US President Donald Trump in Florida, and one week before a US Treasury's currency report - which could label trading partners as currency manipulators - is due. Xi urged cooperation with the United States on trade and investment. China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), the regulator, said

last week that pressure from capital outflows eased somewhat in 2016 and there will be greater flexibility in the yuan's exchange rate in 2017. The regulator also said that authorities will take measures to attract capital inflows this year.

#### Tighter flow scrutiny

In February, China's central bank sold the smallest amount of foreign exchange in nine months, supporting the government's assertions that capital outflows were easing amid tighter scrutiny of cross-border flows. China has tightened rules on moving capital outside the country in recent months as it seeks to support the yuan currency and stem a slide in reserves. It burned through nearly \$320 billion of reserves last year but the yuan still fell about 6.5 percent against the dollar, its biggest annual drop since 1994.

In recent weeks, the yuan has been steady against the dollar. However, the meeting

between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to have an impact on yuan's value in the medium term. Gold reserves value fell to \$73.74 billion at the end of March, from \$74.376 billion at end-February, data published on the People's Bank of China website also showed.

Recent remarks by senior government officials seem to indicate that China is not firm in keeping its reserves above the \$3 trillion mark, but prefers a gradual drop. China does not have a "bottom line" for either the yuan exchange rate against the dollar or foreign exchange reserves, a senior PBOC official told Reuters in March. Trump had said during the US election campaign that he would declare China a currency manipulator on his first day in office. But now foreign exchange policy experts say that the Trump administration looks unlikely to formally declare China a currency manipulator shortly after the US leader meets Xi. — Reuters



# RUSSIA ASSETS LEAD SELL OFF

## EMERGING MARKET STOCKS HIT 3-WEEK LOWS

**LONDON:** Russian assets led emerging stocks and currencies lower yesterday as a US missile strike in Syria spooked investors wary about risks of a clash with Russia, while emerging equities fell to three-week lows but still look to end the week in the black. MSCI's benchmark emerging equities index was down 0.2 percent, mirroring a broad sell-off in riskier assets after the United States fired 59 cruise missiles at a Syrian air base from which it said a deadly chemical weapons attack was carried out earlier this week.

Russia said the missile strike broke international law and had seriously damaged US-Russian relations. The rouble was down around one percent against the dollar and Russian dollar-denominated stocks fell 2.4

percent. The currency was also undermined by comments from the Russian economy minister suggesting the rouble could weaken in coming months.

"The current price action makes sense," said ING chief EMEA FX and rates strategist Petr Krpata. "The geopolitics in the region is not positive for the currency so what we see is a knee-jerk reaction. But unless these things are followed up and there is a further escalation, they do not usually last."

The average yield spread of Russian sovereign bonds over US Treasuries on the JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified widened out by 7 basis points (bps) to 167 bps. Russian 10-year bond yields also rose 10 basis points to 7.95 percent, bouncing off

three-year lows. Russian five-year credit default swaps also rose 5 bps from Thursday's close to 167 bps. Other emerging assets to feel the heat included the Turkish lira, which weakened 0.3 percent, and Turkish stocks, which fell 0.2 percent. Turkey lent its support to the US missile strike.

South African assets also remained under pressure following a ratings downgrade to junk amidst ongoing political turmoil. Thousands were expected to protest against President Jacob Zuma in major South African cities yesterday demanding that he resign. Zuma's sacking of respected finance minister Pravin Gordhan outraged allies and opponents alike. Stocks fell 0.8 percent and the rand was set to end the week down 2.3 per-

cent, although it steadied yesterday. Moody's has pushed back a ratings review that was expected to happen later.

Investors were also wary ahead of US non-farm payrolls data due later today, as a strong number could bolster expectations of as many as three more Fed rate hikes this year. "We are not far from two hikes, but we need to get some really good data or some big moves from Trump on tax cuts for example for the market to start pricing in more Fed hikes again," said Krpata. China's yuan was a touch weaker against the dollar as U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping began their summit, at which trade and security issues are likely to feature heavily. — Reuters

# US ADDS JUST 98,000 JOBS

## UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS TO A LOW 4.5%

**WASHINGTON:** US employers added just 98,000 jobs last month, the fewest in a year, though the unemployment rate fell to a nearly 10-year low of 4.5 percent. The rate fell because nearly a half-million more Americans reported finding jobs, the Labor Department said yesterday. Economists had expected a falloff in hiring in March after job gains in January and February had averaged a robust 218,000. Still, the drop was worse than expected. In its report yesterday, the government also revised down the job growth for January and February by a combined 38,000.

The sizable gains in those months had been fueled partly by strong hiring in construction, which occurred because of unseasonably warm winter weather. In March, construction companies added just 6,000 jobs, the fewest in seven months. Retailers, suffering from the shift to online shopping, slashed 30,000 jobs. Education and health care services added the fewest jobs for that category in 15 months. In the past three months, employers have added an average of 178,000 jobs, roughly the same as last year's pace.

"Job growth this year is running close to last year's pace and is running well ahead of what is needed to keep up with labor force growth," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services. The report showed that large numbers of teenagers, women and Latinos found jobs last month. The unemployment rate for teens dropped to 13.7 percent from 15 percent. The number of part-time workers who would prefer full-time jobs declined. As a result, an alternative gauge of unemployment, which includes those part-timers as well as people who have given up their job hunts, dropped to 8.9 percent. That is the lowest such rate in over nine years.

The economy appears to have slowed in the first three months of the year, though most economists expect a rebound in the current April-June quarter. Consumer and business sentiment has soared since the November presidential election, but the increased opti-



**NEW YORK:** Bonobos manager Stephen Lusardi arranges clothing at the brand's Guideshop, in New York's Financial District. The US government issues the March jobs report yesterday. — AP

mism hasn't yet accelerated growth. Consumers actually slowed their spending in January and February, when adjusted for inflation. Any such pullback tends to exert a drag because consumers account for about 70 percent of the economy.

Businesses have been ordering more high-cost manufactured good since fall, a reflection of stepped-up investment. But those orders slipped in February and remain below levels of a year ago. Still, some areas of the economy are humming: Developers are building more homes, with construction starts up 7.5 percent in January and February compared with a year earlier. And home sales reached their highest level in a decade in January before slipping a bit

in February. What's more, for the first time in years, overseas growth stands to boost the US economy.

Germany's factories enjoyed a surge in orders in February. The rest of Europe, as well as Japan, is reporting faster growth, and China is stabilizing after fears about its outside debts roiled markets last year. Many economists expect hiring to fall back eventually to last year's pace or even lower as the unemployment rate declines and companies struggle to fill jobs. Yet hiring could remain strong if more Americans come off the sidelines and start looking for work again. The proportion of Americans who are either working or looking for work remains far below pre-recession levels. — AP

## GREECE AGREES ON REFORMS TO BREAK BAILOUT IMPASSE

**VALLETTA:** Greece agreed on a fresh set of reforms with its euro-zone creditors yesterday with hopes that Athens could unlock bailout cash in time to avert a debt default just months away. Euro-zone finance ministers meeting in the Maltese capital of Valletta said Athens agreed in principle to the new reforms and technical teams would visit Greece as soon as possible to seal the deal. "The big blocks have now been sorted out and now we just have the final stretch," Eurogroup head Jeroen Dijsselbloem said after the talks. Heavily-indebted Athens and the EU and IMF which handle the bailout have been deadlocked over reforms for months amid disagreements on debt relief and budget targets.

The deal is needed in order to stop the country from defaulting on its creditors as early as July, when Athens owes about seven billion euros (\$7.4 billion) in debt repayments. Dijsselbloem said the Greek government was now prepared to reduce pensions in 2019 and lower tax breaks in 2020 in return for a bailout payment despite widespread public opposition. Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said the commitments would pass through parliament as soon as possible, though the gamble depends on his Syriza party's razor-thin majority.

### 'Before summer'

Tsakalotos said his euro-zone counterparts had also accepted that Greece boost social spending if budget targets were met and that debt relief would also come back to the table. "We will be ready for all the pieces of the puzzle to fit in for the discussion on debt," said Tsakalotos, for whom debt relief is a key demand. "I think we will have (a solution) well before summer," he added. The euro-zone is under big pressure to end the feud in order to avert inflicting damage to a stalling Greek recovery. Despite projections for growth, the Greek economy actually stalled in 2016 and recent data shows that after some stabilization, it has begun to falter again amid uncertainty triggered by the row.

"Greece needs this; we must end the uncertainties that are scaring investors," EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said. The sketch of a deal was a victory of sorts for Dijsselbloem who visited Brussels and Berlin ahead of Friday's talks in hopes of finding a compromise. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras had until now refused to accept any commitments beyond the term of its current bailout that is due to end in 2018, arguing that his government would not have the votes in parliament. The impasse has held up the latest installment of Greece's 86-billion-euro (\$92-billion) bailout, agreed in 2015 with the 19 countries that use the single currency.

Without a deal in Malta, Tsipras said he would ask for a euro-zone leaders summit later this month, and made his case in a phone call to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Europe's most powerful leader. — AFP



## GERMAN PRODUCTION, TRADE SURPLUS GROW

**BERLIN:** Germany saw a surprise boost in industrial production and a widening of its trade surplus in February amid rising tensions with the Trump White House over its export strength. Europe's largest economy reported a leap in production of 2.2 percent from the previous month, according to the price, seasonal- and calendar-adjusted figures from federal statistics authority, Destatis. Analysts polled by financial services firm Factset expected a rise of only 0.3 percent.

Meanwhile, the trade surplus in February reached 21 billion euros (\$22 billion), Destatis said, citing preliminary data adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects. Exports increased 0.8 percent over January's figure to 104.9 billion euros, while imports fell 1.6 percent to hit 83.8 billion. In January, Germany had exported 18.5 billion euros more than it imported. Carsten Brzeski, chief economist at ING bank, called the increase in industrial production "whopping", thanks to a surge in construction.

"German industry finally returns as a growth engine. No, it's not a spelling mistake," he said. "Today's data suggest that industrial production could finally return as a growth engine for the German economy." However, he said the latest data would "do little to undermine the permanent international criticism of Germany's trade surplus". "The Brexit negotiations and a possible further weakening of the pound sterling, protectionist measures from the Trump administration and negative growth surprises from China pose a clear risk to the German economy," he added.

US President Donald Trump has vowed to root out "unfair" trade practices around the world and target countries that contribute to America's substantial trade deficit such as Germany. However, the US trade deficit with Germany fell to the lowest level in more than four years in February at \$3.9 billion, the Commerce Department reported this week. Germany's panel of economic experts last month rejected criticism that the country was running an overly high trade surplus, but said Berlin could reduce the gap by attracting more investors. — AFP



**ROTTERDAM:** A view of the exterior of the Unilever building at the Weena in Rotterdam. Unilever is stopping the production of margarine, brands such as Becel, Blue Band, Bona and Zeeuws Meisje and its margarine division is being put up for sale after a takeover bid from US rival Kraft Heinz. — AFP

## BRITISH INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT SHRINKS

**LONDON:** Britain's industrial output fell by more than anticipated in February in a sign that the economic resilience seen after the Brexit referendum could be starting to crumble, official data showed yesterday. Industrial output contracted by 0.7 percent in February, after already shrinking by 0.3 percent the previous month, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) calculated.

Analysts had been penciling in a more modest decline of 0.2 percent for February. The statisticians said that output in the energy sector contracted the most, as relatively warm temperatures in February led to "a decrease in domestic energy demand and, subsequently, gas and electricity production." But declines were seen across all sectors, with the manufacturing output dipping by 0.1 percent month-on-month. Analysts described the data as disappointing. The numbers "fuel suspicion that GDP (gross domestic product) growth (has) slowed markedly, largely due to consumers becoming more cautious," said IHS Markit economist, Howard Archer. — AFP



**LONDON:** The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, arrives for a speech at a news agency in London's financial district Canary Wharf yesterday. — AP

## BOE'S CARNEY CALLS FOR UK-EU BANK RULES PACT AFTER BREXIT

BREXIT TALKS WILL BE 'LITMUS TEST' FOR GLOBAL RULES

**LONDON:** Bank of England Governor Mark Carney called yesterday for Britain and the European Union to reach a sweeping deal to recognize each others' bank rules after Brexit or risk a potentially damaging hit to financial services across Europe. Carney said in a speech at Thomson Reuters' London office that banks had to be ready for a "hard" Brexit and he set a July 14 deadline for cross-border finance firms operating in Britain to tell the BoE how they would cope with an abrupt EU exit.

He also said he would push to ensure some clearing of euro-denominated transactions remains in London after Brexit. Banks, including many from the United States and other countries around the world, use London as their base for operating across the European Union, making the British capital the biggest financial centre in the region by far.

Britain's financial sector accounts for almost a quarter of all EU financial services income and 40 percent of EU financial services exports, according to the BoE. But the EU financial services "passports", which enable firms to operate throughout Europe from a single office in London, are set to be lost once the UK pulls out of the bloc's single market in two years' time, and it remains far from clear what kind of deal will replace it. Banks were making contingency plans, at some financial cost, but should not rush to leave London, Carney said.

He also said it would be hard for other EU countries to match the scale of the financial services industry in Britain "in terms of investment and supervisory capacity, market infrastructure, the expertise that is resident here... That's very difficult to replicate." Prime Minister Theresa May mentioned the

importance of reaching a trade deal with the EU that includes financial services as a "crucial sector" when she triggered the two-year process of Britain's exit from the EU last week. However, many bankers have said they are not convinced the government will prioritize their industry, with May making controls on immigration a top aim. Carney said he expected financial services to be part of a "bigger deal" on trade between the UK and EU.

"How Brexit negotiations conclude will be a litmus test for responsible financial globalization," Carney said. "The EU and UK are therefore ideally positioned to create an effective system of deference to each other's comparable regulatory outcomes, supported by commitments to common minimum standards and open supervisory cooperation," he said. But major global trade deals to date have largely excluded financial services due to their complexity. Against a backdrop of global concern that US President Donald Trump may undo some of the reforms implemented since the financial crisis, Carney said the global financial system was at a "fork in the road".

Governments had to choose between maintaining high standards of regulation and respecting each others' rules, or looking inward with big costs to global trade, he said. Trump said that internationally-inspired banking rules are holding back US lending, and has ordered a review of regulation, raising concerns that the global approach to financial regulation will splinter. Carney said the United States under Trump seemed focused on rules unique to the country, rather than a radical overhaul which would have global implications. "I'd be very wary of inter-

preting anything that the US administration does as a rollback of regulation, of a turning inwards, of a fragmentation," Carney said.

### Challenging ambition

Recognition of financial rules between Britain and the EU has not been tried before on the scale envisaged by Carney, which could make negotiations tricky and protracted. The EU may also be reluctant to forgo the jurisdiction of the bloc's top court in policing rule breaches. The system could be bolstered by third-party peer reviews and a new independent dispute resolution mechanism, Carney said — adding that this could be a template for the wider world. Banks are concerned that Britain and the EU will not reach a deal in time for Brexit which is due in two years' time, and are preparing to move staff from London, and Germany and France are trying to lure jobs to their financial capitals. HSBC, UBS and Morgan Stanley have decided to move about 1,000 staff each from London in the next two years, sources familiar with their plans have told Reuters.

Goldman Sachs said last month it would begin moving hundreds of people as part of its contingency plans. Carney said the BoE needed to be prepared for a worst-case Brexit outcome, and alongside his speech, the BoE's top banking regulator, Sam Woods, sent a letter to financial firms with cross-border activities ordering them to set out Brexit plans. European banks which operated in London on the basis of passporting should be prepared to set up separately capitalized subsidiaries in Britain and submit to direct BoE regulation if Britain and the EU could not reach a deal, Woods said. — Reuters



# OIL PRICES NEAR ONE-MONTH HIGHS

## STOCKS OFF LOWS, OIL RALLIES AFTER US MISSILE STRIKE ON SYRIA

**LONDON:** Oil prices held near one-month highs yesterday after the United States attacked a Syrian air base but stocks and the dollar recovered early falls when a US official played down the risks of an escalation. The US dollar recouped all of its losses against a basket of major currencies and was last trading little changed. S&P 500 futures were flat. European stocks fell 0.2 percent weighed down by weakness in mining stocks as investors locked in some profits following the sector's stellar run this year. The United States fired dozens of cruise missiles at a Syrian air base from which it said a chemical weapons attack was launched this week, an escalation of the US military role in Syria that swiftly drew sharp criticism from Russia.

A US defense official told Reuters the missile strike was a "one-off", helping to calm market nerves. "The US missile strike on a Syrian air base overnight caused a knee-jerk shift into safe havens, although the impact was moderate as it is being interpreted as a one-off proportionate response," said Ian Williams, a strategist at Peel Hunt in London. Oil prices hovered near one-month highs though prices pared some gains as there seemed no immedi-



**KUALA LUMPUR:** A Malaysian woman (center) is reflected in a mirror as dealers wait for customers at a flea-market in an alley in downtown Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

ate threat to supplies. Brent crude futures which surged more than 2 percent after the US attack were last up 1.5 percent at \$55.72 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were up 1.6 percent.

The strength in crude oil lifted shares on major oil and gas producers in European with BP, Royal Dutch Shell and Total all up about 0.5 percent. Focus was also shifting to US payrolls later in the day for further cues on the strength of the economy. Job growth likely slowed in March after unseasonably mild weather boosted hiring over the prior two months. Non-farm payrolls probably increased by 180,000 jobs last month, according to a Reuters survey of economists. Elsewhere, euro zone finance ministers are due to meet with a discussion on Greece's progress in implementing reforms needed to unlock aid as part of the agenda. While risky-assets were off their lows on the day, demand for safe-haven assets such as gold remained intact. Investors had already been on edge with talks poised to begin between Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping over flashpoints such as North Korea and China's huge trade surplus with the United States. — Reuters

## JAPAN URGED TO PUSH BACK ON ANY US ATTACK ON YEN POLICY

**TOKYO:** Japan should push back against any US suggestion that it is suppressing the yen's value for trade advantage, an adviser to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, in a bid to preempt criticism of Japan's currency policy. Koichi Hamada, Cabinet adviser and emeritus professor of economics at Yale University, told Reuters in an interview that Tokyo should stress that Japan has a different currency policy from China.

With President Donald Trump criticizing the trade policies of Japan, China and other major economies, Tokyo fears that trade friction could return for the first time in years, harming Japan's interests and its deep relations with Washington. A senior US official told Reuters that the administration is shifting its attention from countries that "manipulate" their currencies to currencies that are "misaligned," even if the imbalance is unintentional.

"What Japan should argue is that Japan and China have totally different stances towards currency manipulation," Hamada said on Thursday. "Japan has not intervened in the currency market under Abenomics, and Japan's monetary policy is targeted strictly at domestic economic targets." Tokyo has not entered the market to sell yen for dollars since November 2011. However, the weak yen has been one of the most prominent outcomes of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" stimulus policies, helping to boost exporters' profits and lift Japanese stocks sharply higher.

Inflation, however, is still anaemic and is well behind the Bank of Japan's 2 percent target. "The current level of yen is not extremely strong against the dollar for Japanese businesses. The BOJ does not need to ease further," Hamada said. The dollar was trading around 110.50 yen when Hamada spoke. It stood around 110.60 yen in volatile market on Friday in Asia after news of US missile strikes on Syria. Since Trump's election victory in November, the dollar has rallied to hit above 118.60 yen on expectations he will deliver stimulus-enhancing policies, but has since

retreated as the new US administration faced early hurdles in Congress.

Hamada said sensitive trade issues such as exchange rates, cars and agriculture, will likely come up in high-level bilateral economic talks set to start this month. But he portrayed this as a way for the two governments to seek mutually beneficial agreements after the failure of an Asia-Pacific trade deal. "It is natural to talk about these issues in the dialogue to seek criteria for win-win situations for both countries bilaterally," after Trump pulled America out of an ambitious Pacific trade agreement, he said.

### Bank of Japan

Hamada echoed BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda who recently said the central bank won't raise its long-term bond yield targets simply because overseas long-interest rates rise. He said that a central bank should manage monetary policy solely to influence its domestic economy. "The BOJ does not need to raise its 10-year Japanese Government Bond yield target just because yields in the US increase," he said. "But if the BOJ keeps the long-term bond yield low regardless of the high US yield, then it will naturally accelerate the yen's falls, and cause mild inflationary pressure in Japan." The BOJ pledges to keep the 10-year JGB yield around zero percent but analysts predict the BOJ's next move would be to start scaling back its ultra-easy policy and they expect the central bank will raise the yield target.

"If the Japanese economy gets over-stimulated, the BOJ will have to raise its 10-year JGB yield target to calm down the economy," Hamada said. He also reiterated the BOJ does not have to stick to its 2 percent inflation target in an environment where the job market is tight and the economy is on a recovery trend. "Ultimately, as long as employment is full and production is in favorable condition, the price inflation is hardly any longer the fundamental target. The price target is, in my opinion, a merely secondary target." — Reuters

## TRIAL OF SAMSUNG HEIR FOCUSES ON FATHER-TO-SON SUCCESSION

**SEOUL:** The scion of South Korea's Samsung business empire, Lee Jae-yong, appeared in court yesterday to face trial for bribery and other charges. Lee sat quietly and did not speak as South Korean prosecutors presented a slew of evidence they said showed why and how the 48-year-old used 43 billion won (\$38 million) in corporate funds to bribe the country's impeached president, Park Geun-hye, and a close confidante of hers, mainly in exchange for supporting a smooth leadership transition at Samsung.

The prosecutors focused on Lee's alleged motivation for seeking government help with a father-to-son leadership transition in the country's largest business group. Samsung has denied any wrongdoing and Lee, who was arrested in February, has pleaded not guilty. Lee assumed de facto leadership of the conglomerate after his father Lee Kun-hee, who is Samsung Electronics' chairman, fell sick in May 2014.

Stakes in the trial are high for both sides, since it involves the princeling of South Korea's richest family. Prosecutors blamed close ties between the government and big business for the scandal that toppled Park and has implicated dozens of other people at a number of chaebol, or big business conglomerates. Such relations may have aided South Korea's rapid economic ascent but now are a source of growing public discontent and a key target of contenders in a May 9 snap presidential election.

For Samsung, a conviction could hurt Lee's stature as future leader of the company founded by his grandfather. The prosecutors said their evidence includes 39 handwritten notebooks where a former economic adviser of the impeached South Korean president scribbled down her orders. They argued that the huge sum of corporate money was used for Lee's personal benefit - to secure a business merger and lobby regulators to help strengthen his control over Samsung. Lee is "the biggest beneficiary

who reaped enormous profits," said special prosecutor Yang Jae-sik, according to a media pool report. Yang denied Lee's argument that Samsung was coerced into giving Park and Choi money, saying the victims of the dealings were national pension fund holders, affiliates of Samsung and its shareholders, who suffered losses due to a merger allegedly engineered for Lee's sake.

Lee faces five charges that could entail at least five years in prison if he is found guilty. A ruling is expected by late May. One of his lawyers, Song Woo-chul, presented about 70 slides in a presentation, contending the prosecutors' argument was unreal and "full of contradictions." Song said Samsung was unaware of Park's friend, Choi Soon-sil, until after the scandal over their relationship and allegations of influence-peddling surfaced late last year. Samsung did not need Park's help with the 2015 merger, which was aimed at helping Samsung's future growth, not aiding the leadership succession, Song contended.

"Prosecutors argue that Lee Jae-yong needed to take excessive measures for the leadership succession due to the sudden illness of Chairman Lee Kun-hee. But there was no such need," Song said. Even as the Samsung de facto leader and four other executives face corruption charges, the latest earnings preview showed the company's business is thriving. Samsung Electronics, the world's largest maker of smartphones and display panels, said yesterday is expecting its best quarterly profit in more than three years thanks to the booming memory chip business.

The company's stock is trading near historic highs, despite Lee's troubles and the scrapping last year of its flagship Galaxy Note 7 smartphone due to fire-prone batteries. Samsung's January-March operating income rose 48 percent to 9.9 trillion won (\$8.8 billion), from 6.7 trillion won a year earlier. — AP



## INDIA'S RESCUED BONDED LABORERS REBUILD LIVES IN 'DREAM HOMES'

**CHENNAI:** Born into debt bondage, S. Appu spent 25 years confined to a rice mill in south India, watching his father repay a debt, and then working tirelessly to pay it off himself. When he was freed from the mill in Guduvanchery in Tamil Nadu state in 2015, he did not have a place to call home. "Home had always been the rice mill," Appu, 27, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "I even married there, all the while unaware that there was a world outside that space."

But today Appu lives in his own house, designed and built by students of Chennai's Madras Christian College as part of a project funded by charities and the government to help rescued bonded laborers get back on their feet. Before moving into a one-room brick house in December, Appu was living in a makeshift shelter on a piece of land given to him and eight other families rescued from the same mill by the Tamil Nadu government.

"We found them living in temporary shelters during the 2015 floods that swept the region," said Jesserson Joel, a 22-year-old student, who helped to build Appu's new home. "They were practically living in the open, unprotected and exposed. They needed shelter." India banned bonded labor in 1976, but it remains widespread, with millions like Appu from the marginalized Dalit and tribal communities working in fields, brick kilns, rice mills, brothels or as domestic workers to pay off debts.

Last year, the government announced plans to rescue more than 18 million bonded laborers by 2030, and increase compensation for rescued workers by fivefold as part of efforts to tackle modern slavery. But without homes, land and jobs, it is easy for rescued workers to slip back into debt bondage, campaigners say. "The compensation amount is given, but for all other welfare schemes, including housing and land, they have to fill in forms and follow procedures," said Sam Jebadurai from the charity International Justice Mission, which works to rescue bonded laborers and help them rebuild their lives. "These take time and many don't follow through."

### Living in tents

When he was asked where he would want to live as a free man by officials that had helped to rescue him, Appu recalls shrugging his shoulders and muttering that "it didn't matter". "Actually, I didn't even know the name of the village my parents came from," he said, sitting on the steps of his new home, watching his daughter smother her face with powder.

"And besides, no one had ever asked me what I wanted." Appu ended up living with other rescued laborers on the edge of a village in Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram district in tents provided by a non-governmental organization. "These generational bonded laborers, all from the Irula tribes, had practically been forgotten," said Prince Solomon, assistant professor and field coordinator for the college project. "One of my students waded through a lake to reach them." Shocked by their plight, the students quizzed the families about their needs and began mapping out a project to build them permanent homes.

### 'Dream home'

By mid-2016, the foundations of the first set of homes had been laid. Each family promised to work with the students to develop their homes, replacing plastic and asbestos sheets with concrete pillars and roof. Appu said with its garden, enclosed bathroom and a tiled roof, his house was a dream home. The homes which were designed to be held up by stilts, sit three feet (0.9 metres) above ground to limit the damage done by future flooding. Another key feature are proper toilets to replace the open-air bathing areas used by women - known as "four sticks and a sari" because they are formed by planting sticks in the ground around which women wrap their saris for privacy while bathing.

"A woman told me that she finally felt safe," Joel said. "(Before) they used the forest as a toilet, always wary of snakes and never venturing out after sunset." The pace of construction has depended on the flow of funds. The students are waiting for another injection of cash to complete house number 12, the last home at the end of the street. "It's good to have a proper roof over our heads," a group of women told the students. — Reuters



**ZAGREB:** The logo of the Balkans' main food producer and retailer Agrokor is displayed on the facade of the headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia. — AFP

## BALKAN RETAIL GIANT IN CRISIS

### TENS OF THOUSANDS FEAR FOR JOBS

**ZAGREB:** From cashiers and farmers to drivers and travel agents, tens of thousands of people are fearful for their jobs linked to the Balkans' biggest food producer and retailer, as it struggles with crushing debt. The financial woes of Croatian group Agrokor have dominated headlines in recent weeks after global agencies began slashing its credit rating. That has rattled Agrokor's 60,000 employees in the region, two-thirds of whom are in Croatia making it the country's largest employer. Agrokor's debts were estimated in September at six billion euros (\$6.3 billion) - an alarming sum for a company whose revenue of 6.7 billion euros accounts for 15 percent of Croatia's gross domestic product (GDP).

The group's leading business is the supermarket chain Konzum, but it has acquired a wide range of companies including in agriculture, food production, tourism and distribution. Also anxiously watching developments are Agrokor's small suppliers, who after months of waiting for payments now wonder if they will be paid at all-and to whom they will sell in the future. "It is hard to continue production without money, but it is also difficult to enter a new market," said Zvonimir Belic, a leading regional tomato producer who currently sells around a third of his goods to Agrokor.

"It's not only about saving Agrokor, but about saving Croatian firms. We are running out of time... Decisions need to be taken," Belic said. The impact goes beyond the Balkan country of 4.2 million people. Agrokor has businesses in neighboring Bosnia, Serbia and Slovenia, while its network of suppliers means tens of thousands more are affected in a region where unemployment runs high. "I am afraid that Agrokor will be a very difficult issue in Serbia too," Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said this week in Bosnia, where he discussed the



**ZAGREB:** Cars are parked in front of a building of Konzum - a leading retail chain in Croatia, and part of Agrokor in Zagreb, Croatia. Agrokor faced with crushing debt, reached a deal with creditors to help stabilize the troubled company. — AFP

crisis with his Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenkovic.

### Too big to fail?

Analysts say Agrokor, whose main creditors are Russian state-owned banks Sberbank and VTB, accumulated debt through aggressive expansion and expensive borrowing-a snowball that eventually turned into an avalanche. In January, Agrokor withdrew from a loan deal with international creditors, triggering a surge in its bond yields. Some companies within the group had their accounts frozen due to unpaid state taxes and obligations towards suppliers. "Financing was short-term, under unfavorable conditions... while expansion was too fast on very fragile financing sources," economic analyst Luka Brkic said. Owned by Croatian businessman Ivica Todoric, Agrokor is almost as impor-

tant as tourism to Croatia, which emerged from a six-year recession in 2015 and is one of the European Union's poorest-performing economies. "A collapse of Agrokor would lead Croatia into recession, push it back into 2008," warned Vladimir Nisevic, editor-in-chief of the Poslovnidnevnik business newspaper.

Croatia's Chamber of Agriculture has urged the government to make suppliers' payments a priority issue, warning of the threat of farm closures and a "further exodus from rural areas". Faced with a company that may be too big to fail, Croatia's parliament on Thursday adopted an emergency law aimed at saving troubled giant firms like Agrokor and shielding the country's economy through a restructuring process. Opposition lawmakers argued however that the law would not protect employees and small suppliers but rather management. — AFP





CALIFORNIA: Construction cranes are seen on two buildings that are under in San Francisco, California. —AFP

# DOWNTOWN LA GETS A FACELIFT

## FROM SHABBY TO CHIC

**LOS ANGELES:** Once a bleak neighborhood of deserted streets and half-empty office buildings, downtown Los Angeles is experiencing a stunning revival as restaurants, businesses and new residents pour into the city. From luxury lofts and hotels to trendy bars and cutting-edge art galleries, the area is getting a new lease on life and casting a shadow over posh Beverly Hills and Hollywood, which have traditionally drawn visitors to the sprawling city.

Dilapidated office buildings that sat empty for decades are now buzzing with activity while beautiful Art Deco structures and theatres are being refurbished to their historic splendor. "When I was growing up, the downtown area was pretty much a ghost town, really derelict and a place you would always drive past," said Brigham Yen, 35, a realtor who has chronicled the area's revitalization on his Downtown LA Rising blog.

"But over the last 10 years and especially since 2013, there has been a shift and the story here is we are creating a city—a city within a city. "We are doing this block by block and downtown Los Angeles is becoming a destination." Carol Schatz, the longtime head of the Central City Association and a Los Angeles native, said the defining date for the start of the city's renaissance was 1999, when local officials adopted an ordinance that made it easier for developers to convert historic buildings downtown into housing.

### The stars aligned

Financial investors initially shied away from the area, and the 2008 economic crisis didn't help. But in recent years the stars seem to have finally aligned in favor of the city's rebirth. Construction cranes that crowd the downtown skyline

attest to the revival, as do the tall buildings that are gradually replacing parking lots that once dotted the area. "At the time we started this effort, the second largest city in America had about 18,000 people living downtown," Schatz said. "Fast forward and we now have about 69,000 people living there." She said since 2000, investors have poured \$30 billion dollars into the downtown area. She believes the money will continue to flow as the city buries its gritty past.

"I think this is unstoppable," Schatz said. "We are at the beginning ... and there is a recognition among the general population that our city finally has a vibrant center." Chinese investors are involved in some of the biggest projects, including Metropolis, comprising a hotel and three residential towers that will be the largest mixed-use complex on the West Coast once it is completed in 2018. Yen said as demand for housing has increased in recent years so have prices, which have more than doubled in some areas. "A studio rental in some buildings will cost at least \$2,300 a month when in 2013 it was probably \$1,700," he said.

### Bigger businesses & developers

Nowhere is the downtown LA rejuvenation more apparent than in the Arts District, where international designers, trendy shops, art galleries and even media and tech companies are snapping up converted warehouses and industrial lots at a dizzying pace. Warner Music Group next year plans to move hundreds of employees from the Burbank suburbs to a former Ford Factory auto plant in the neighborhood. "I have been here three years and in the last 12 months I've seen a drastic change," said Victor Go, store manager

at Poketo, which sells housewares, jewelry and art products.

"More and more, we're seeing bigger businesses and developers come in." But while the district's transformation has been good for business, it has also put an end to the cheap housing and warehouse space that first attracted artists to the area, Go said. "The change is great for people with privilege ... but for those who inhabited the city it's been less so," he said. Gentrification has also put a spotlight on Skid Row, a 50-block sliver of downtown that is home to one of the largest concentrations of homeless people in America.

Yen said that while the homeless encampments are shocking and in stark contrast to the nearby recovery, the responsibility for all that misery lies squarely with local officials who for years ignored the issue. "Before people moved into downtown, no one cared about the homeless," he said. "If you didn't see them, they didn't exist." Schatz said some investors had been turned away by the infamous homeless neighborhood, but the vast majority recognized efforts being made by city officials to build affordable and temporary housing.

"I think it's extraordinarily important that we have achieved this measure of success in the second largest city in the country, that people have a newfound pride in their city," she said. Roya Moharrami, a resident of Culver City, located west of Los Angeles, said she rediscovered the downtown area in the last years and now keeps coming back for more. "I used to come downtown and there was nothing here," said the 47-year-old jewelry designer. "It's amazing how they have refurbished it. "I like the vibe. It's cool, it's artsy and young," she added. "It's becoming a city."—AFP

## US SOUTH STANDS IN WAY OF RUST BELT JOBS REVIVAL

**MOBILE:** In the years since the 2008 financial crisis, this southern US port city has attracted a new Airbus factory, seen its steel industry retool, and gained thousands of jobs building the Navy's new combat vessel. Some 300 miles north in Huntsville, new businesses sprout in farm fields drawn by readily available land, low taxes, flexible labor rules and improving infrastructure. As President Trump faces pressure to deliver on his promise to revive manufacturing in the northern "rust belt" states that put him in the White House, his biggest challenge may not be Mexico or China, but the southern US states that form the other pillar of his political base.

States like Alabama have built a presence in the global supply chain in direct competition with the country's Midwestern industrial heartland, and even if Trump coaxes jobs back to the United States they may well head south rather than north. Whether the "rust belt's" expectations are met will be central to 2018 US mid-term elections and likely frame the presidential race in 2020.

The southern states are reliably Republican, but the party's ability to repeat its success in Midwestern swing states, such as Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, may hinge on whether the Trump administration delivers on its economic promises. For a decade now, nine southern states - North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas - together have accounted for a larger share of the US economy than nine northern states that defined America as the 20th century's industrial superpower, according to a Reuters analysis of federal data.

The analysis compared gross domestic product, population and other factors among northern and Midwestern states that played a key role in Trump's victory or are typically considered part of the industrial heartland, with those in the south and along the Gulf Coast that have become an emerging destination for auto and other investment. Florida, a state whose population has boomed under an influx of retirees, many of them from the north, was excluded.

### Free land and degrees

Economists and industrial site consultants say the reasons behind the trend have moved beyond lower wages and lower levels of unionization. Per capita income in the south has now almost caught up with that in the Midwest, and its skilled workforce continues to grow as college graduates move in. "Labor? Perceived advantages. Taxes? Some of these are fairly low (tax) states. Real estate? For big projects that are going to employ three, four, five thousand people, you can find free land - zero cost land," said Darin Buelow, an industrial site specialist with Deloitte Consulting.

In the south, business executives and development officials interviewed by Reuters were less likely to call for new tariffs and trade deals than to worry about how any new regime may disrupt a system they have learned to work with. David Fernandes, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama, said that of the roughly 700,000 engines the factory made last year, half went to Mexico and Canada. The facility also makes engines for cars assembled at a Toyota plant in Georgetown, Kentucky. "Anything that hinders the opportunity to provide product to a customer is what is concerning," he said.

Plants in Kentucky and Indiana gave Toyota a US foothold in the 1980s and 1990s, but in this century the Japanese carmaker turned to Alabama, Texas and Mississippi for expansion. Located on former cotton fields, the company's Huntsville, Alabama, plant now employs more than 1,400 people and churns out about 3,000 engines a day. — Reuters



MIAMI: Job applications and information for the Gap Factory Store sit on a table during a job fair at Dolphin Mall in Miami. — AP



# Weekender

Kuwait Times

55  
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SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017

Flowers are placed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Star of Don Rickles on April 6, 2017 in Hollywood, California. — AFP

**Don Rickles, the king of Insult comedy, dies at 90**

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## Kylie Jenner set to have her own reality show

The 19-year-old television personality is known for starring in the popular E! program 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians', but the entrepreneur is rumored to have her own series titled 'Life of Kylie', according to Gossip Cop, which has the youngest of the Kardashian/Jenner brood is believed to be following in the footsteps of her older half siblings Rob Kardashian, who has his own program 'Rob & Chyna' with his on/off partner Blac Chyna, as well as Kourtney Kardashian and Kim Kardashian West who made a variety of spin off shows including 'Kourtney and Kim Take New York'. It has been reported the teen entrepreneur - who founded her own beauty empire Kylie Cosmetics last year - and her ever-growing make-up business will be the focus of the programme, as well as her relationship with on/off rapper boyfriend Tyga. However, the beauty mogul has yet to be given the go ahead by the broadcasting network E!, but she will continue to appear in the current season of the family show. Although it is rumored the brunette beauty and the 27-year-old musician have split, it is believed the pair will reunite again because they regularly take "little breaks" but rekindle their romance again. Speaking previously about their relationship, a source said: "They tend to take little breaks all the time and then get back together. It's definitely possible they'll work things out again."



## Olivia Palermo always works out in the morning

The 31-year-old fashion icon - who is known for appearing on the popular American series 'The City' alongside Whitney Port - has admitted regardless of her busy work schedule she will always wake up early enough to squeeze in a fitness session, even if she has to be out of the door by 6am. Speaking about her exercise regime, the golden-haired beauty told Net-A-Porter's The Edit magazine: "If I have to leave at 6am, I'll workout before." And the style muse has hinted her aunt encouraged her to dress well and to buy an outfit regardless of the extortionate price tag. Speaking fondly about her relative and the invaluable advice, the television personality said: "My aunt has always said, 'If it's great, it's great - and it doesn't matter how much it costs.'" Olivia - who married 39-year-old model Johannes Huebl in 2014 - believes fashion is all about "mixing and matching" and is suitable for "every woman". She explained: "It's about mixing and matching. Fashion is for every woman. You can see if she's into it: her eyes light up when she talks about it." And the American socialite loves nothing more than seeing a female dressed well when she is ambling around the streets of New York. She said: "I love seeing a woman looking amazing walking down the street in New York, when you can see her confidence. I just think: 'You go, girl!'"



## Johnson gets 'goosebumps' ahead of television appearances

The 44-year-old actor - who was also known as The Rock when he was a professional wrestler - has revealed despite boasting a successful career in front of the limelight for "a long time", he is overwhelmed with nerves before an interview or featuring on a talk. The muscular hunk - who has daughters Simone, 15, with his ex-wife Dany Garcia, and 15-month-old Jasmine with girlfriend Lauren Hashian - shared a video of him backstage of 'The Tonight Show' on his Instagram account, which captured him as he walks onto the set to be joined by the chat show host Jimmy Fallon. He captioned the upload, which was posted on his Instagram account: "I'm an OG and been in the game a long time, but I still have butterflies and goosebumps being backstage behind the curtain before I get called out to the crowd. Especially with



my boy @jimmyfallon and walking out on his iconic TONIGHT SHOW stage. It's always "more than a feeling". (sic)." However, the 'Moana' star feeds off of the "energy" of the crowd and the audience to help him overcome his anxiety. He added: "Crowds and people always give me energy.. this crowd was special. F'n WILD. No business like show business. #TonightShow #HotCrowd #RockAndFallon (sic)." Although Dwayne has moments of apprehension he thinks he has reached his peak confidence level. Speaking previously, he said: "Being comfortable in my own skin just took a lot of time. "Being comfortable with who I am was probably one of the greatest and best breakthroughs that I've ever had in my life. "The confidence and the comfort level now, it is, what we call in the industry, game over."

The pregnant 32-year-old model had a scan to reveal the gender of her baby, her first child with fiance Michael O'Neill, live on daytime TV show 'Loose Women' yesterday and she was delighted with her news and she can't wait for her three sons - Archie, six, Harry,

five, and three-year-old George, her kids with ex-husband Jamie O'Hara - to meet their little brother. 'Nurse' Nadia Sawalha was told what the sex of the baby was by the in-studio doctor and handed Danielle a blue balloon to let her know she is expecting a fourth boy, before shouting,

"it's a boy!" After getting the news, Danielle - who was also given a plate of blue cakes to celebrate - said: "I'm so happy ... I'm excited now. At least I know and I can prepare myself for another messy boy in the house!" Before having the scan, Danielle told the panellists she didn't care what the sex of her baby is as long as the tot is born healthy and happy, and she also revealed that her sons wanted to call the baby Donald Trump if it was a boy because they love the word trump as it is another word for a fart, but she has something more traditional in mind. She said: "Obviously it would be nice to have a girl, but as long as it's healthy I don't mind. This is Michael's first baby and he's the same, he just wants a healthy baby. The boys are just so excited to be having a new brother or sister. Archie is excited, he's very hands-on." Speaking about possible monikers for the tot, she added: "All my boys have quite traditional names, so I'm going to go for a traditional name. Not Donald Trump!" Danielle also hinted she might try for a fifth child with Michael to get that elusive daughter, but she is just looking forward to her mini man entering the world now.

## Danielle Lloyd is expecting a boy







**Iggy Azalea lost 15 lbs in one week**

The 26-year-old singer has revealed she dropped a large amount of weight by practicing her bottom-shaking dance moves for her routine in the accompanying music video to her new track 'Mo Bounce'. Speaking about her dramatic weight loss to New Zealand radio station Nova 96.9, the blonde-haired beauty said: "I did a lot of rehearsals actually, and man I lost 15 pounds in a week dancing to that song." However, the Australian rapper did follow a healthy eating plan ahead of her rehearsals to help her get into shape. She explained: "I went on a meal plan before the video because I knew I would have to be dancing fairly skimpily dressed." Iggy - whose full name is Amethyst Amelia Kelly - has hinted dancing doesn't

come naturally to her and she had to have some assistance to help her perfect her twerking skills. She said: "I did take classes. I do have someone who is very, very good at twerking, and she helped me. I never realized how flexible you have to be to do that stuff." Alongside additional dance classes the 'Fancy' hitmaker was also advised to attempt a yoga session in a bid to relax her muscles and make her more flexible to help her gyrate better. She added: "My teacher was like 'I really suggest you take yoga' and I didn't know you had to take yoga to be a twerker but apparently you do." Meanwhile, the artist has been credited for making "genuine" music by music director Lil Internet, who helped her with the video.

**Meghan Markle feels 'incredibly joyful right now'**

The 'Suits' actress has been dating Prince Harry for just under a year and, although she hasn't directly named him as the reason for her permanent smile, she can't imagine her life any other way at the moment because she's so content. Writing on her blog The Tig, she said: "I am feeling so incredibly joyful right now, so grateful and content that all I could wish for is more of the same. More surprises, more adventure, more opportunities to grow, more days filled with giggles and cheeky jokes, more delicious meals, and more inspiration. Always more inspiration." Although they've only been romancing a short while, the 32-year-old royal is apparently keen to settle down with Meghan and has, therefore, made plans to live with his girlfriend next door to his brother Prince William and his wife Catherine. The flame-haired hunk wants to make sure everything is perfect for when they move in so he's been regularly popping in to check on the renovation work. A source said recently: "He keeps popping round and asking when it will be ready. He seems in a real hurry to move in with Meghan." The couple have been spending a lot of time together recently but the brunette beauty is scheduled to return to



Canada for "filming commitments" over the summer. A source recently said: "They spend a lot of time watching movies at Harry's and cooking new dishes. Meg is a great cook and sends Harry out to posh food shops. She has even added a few feminine touches such as scented candles and soft furnishings."

**Sheeran thinks gingers are an 'endangered species'**

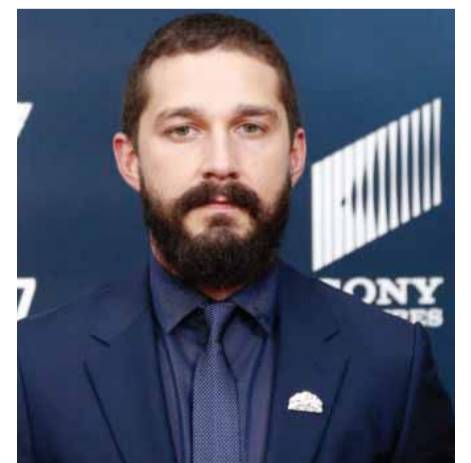
The 26-year-old flame-haired hunk quipped that the best plan to procreate redheads would be by forming one big orgy of people just with carrot-shaded hair. Asked how he would protect the ginger nation in a video interview with Dutch radio station Studio Brussel, he laughed: "Maybe we're only an endangered species because nobody will sleep with us. "We should get all the ginger people in Brussels together we should just have one big gang-bang." Meanwhile, fellow ginger Rupert Grint recently joked that the 'Galway Girl' hitmaker is his alter ego. The 'Harry Potter' actor is frequently mistaken for the chart-topping singer-songwriter and, in a spoof video, Rupert said that the pressure of moonlighting as Ed has become too much for him to handle. In the clip, Rupert prepares himself to sing when he breaks away and admits: "The truth is, Ed isn't real!" The 28-year-old actor subsequently rips open his blue plaid shirt - which has become synonymous with the real-life Ed - and reveals a Gryffindor top from the 'Harry Potter' series. The flame-haired star explains: "My name is Rupert Grint. After Potter all I wanted to do was stretch myself ... create some real magic. "So I created a character. He had the voice of an angel ... and possible wispy facial hair, a guitar, a bunch of flannel. I call him Ed. Ed Sheeran. Such a weird name, right?" Rupert's on-stage antics are met with screams of denial from the watching audience. But the actor continues: "I didn't expect everyone to think he was real. He became my best achievement and bane of my existence." Then, the show's host asks Rupert: "Was anything real? The adorable klutziness, cat photos?" And the British actor responds: "I hate cats! I can't balance it anymore. Ed is no more!"



**Shia LaBeouf was kicked out of a bowling alley**

The 30-year-old actor was reportedly thrown out of Pinz bowling alley in Studio City, California, earlier this week after he became embroiled in a heated exchange with a member of staff, during which time he accused him of being "f\*\*\*ing racist" because he wouldn't give him the greasy carbohydrate to munch on, following three hours of boozing. The altercation was captured on camera and published by TMZ but it's not yet known whether the war of words broke out over the fries or if something else pushed him. The 'American Honey' star was reportedly ushered out of the complex by security before he returned a while later after he realized he still had his bowling shoes on. He then reportedly picked up his trainers and made a run for it. The incident comes just a month after assault and harassment charges against the actor were dropped following an alleged scuffle with a man at his 'He Will Not Divide Us' livestream anti-Donald Trump protest in New York in January. It's thought the charges were dropped because there was not enough evidence to prove that a crime

occurred when Shia faced off with another protester. Police previously claimed that Shia had ripped the scarf off a 25-year-old man who interfered with the ongoing demonstration at the Museum of Moving Image, scratched his face and pushed him to the ground. — Bangshowbiz





# Legendary Don Rickles, king of insult comedy, dies at 90

## Reaction to the death of Don Rickles

### Reaction to the death of comedy legend Don Rickles:

"He was the love of my life. Don Rickles is funnier right now in death than most comics are in life."

— **Chris Rock via Twitter.**

"He was so beloved by everyone. To be insulted by him was the greatest honor. Having the privilege to know him a bit personally, I can tell you that he was the warmest, kindest man you could know, with an unflinching love for his family and close friends, especially his best friend and love of his life, Barbara. But you didn't have to know him personally to know that he was love and kindness personified. If he wasn't, none of his material would work."

— **Sarah Silverman in a statement.**

"He was called 'The Merchant of Venom,' but in truth, he was one of the kindest, caring and most sensitive human beings we have ever known. We are devastated and our world will never be the same. We were totally unprepared for this."

— **Bob and Ginnie Newhart in a statement.**

"Farewell to a comedic legend & dear friend, Don Rickles. I know you're cracking them up in the Great Beyond!"

— **Samuel L. Jackson via Instagram.**

"Don Rickles was one the absolute greats. I feel lucky for the times I was ever in his orbit, my thoughts are with his family today."

— **James Corden via Twitter.**

"Those were the days, my friend @DonRickles We thought they'd never end. We loved you so."

— **Dick Van Dyke via Twitter.**

"One of the all-time great men & comics Don Rickles passed, always a class act & funny as hell. RIP condolences to his family & to America."

— **Whoopi Goldberg via Twitter.**

"He never was Politically Correct and he never apologized for it."

— **Gilbert Gottfried via Twitter.**

"He was a brilliant improvisational comedian. And an excellent actor. And a very nice man. I'm so happy we had him this long."

— **Robert Klein by phone.**

"There were few, if any, that were quicker than Don. He didn't think of the next line he would use, he was already thinking of the line after that."

— **Rich Little in a statement.**

"I've known Don Rickles almost 65 years since we first met as teenagers. I can only imagine his first conversation with God. He might send him back. I love him and I miss him; the world is a sadder place without him."

— **Steve Lawrence in a statement.**

"Being skewered by Don Rickles was side-splitting funny. A gentle soul with rapid fire wit."

— **Barbra Streisand via Twitter.**

"Whenever I wanted to be entertained and just laugh and enjoy life, I would go to see Rickles. We knew each other very well from a long, long time ago. I loved him as an entertainer and I loved him as a person."

— **Marty Allen by phone.**

"We lost a great one. fast furious brilliant for decades the definition of genius."

— **Sandra Bernhard via Twitter.**

"God Bless Don Rickles, aka, Mr. Warmth! Proud to have been heckled by him from the stage many times!"

— **LeVar Burton via Twitter.**

"A God died today. Don Rickles, we did not want to ever lose you. Never."

— **Tom Hanks via Twitter.**

"In lieu of flowers, Don Rickles' family has requested that people drop their pants and fire a rocket."

— **Patton Oswald via Twitter.**

"You brightened our lives every time you were on screen."

— **Ruth Buzzi via Twitter.**

"Don Rickles, you kept us laughing for so many years. We will miss you dearly. Thanks for the zingers. You were one of a kind."

— **George Takei via Twitter.**

"One of the funniest people that ever lived, you dumb schmuck."

— **Billy Eichner via Twitter.**

"90 years of Don Rickles weren't enough. One of the sweetest and most lovely people I had the pleasure of knowing."

— **Jimmy Kimmel via Twitter.**

"Awwww man Rickles is dead. Rest In Peace buddy."

— **Danny DeVito via Twitter.**

"The Merchant of Venom, legendary comedian ... The sweetest guy, great hubby & dad." - Al Roker via Twitter.

"Hockey puck. We've lost Don Rickles. I love him so. Smart, funny, a pro and most important deeply and honestly kind. Kind is what matters."

— **Penn Jillette via Twitter.**

**H**e was only kidding. Really. Don Rickles loved everybody: Black or white, gay or straight, fat or thin. But don't get him started on his wife, or the time she dove into their swimming pool while wearing all her jewelry. And drowned. For more than half a century, the hollering, bald-headed "Mr. Warmth" let everyone have it. Insults rained on the meek and the mighty, from unsuspecting fans to such fellow celebrities as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Johnny Carson. And few seemed to mind. Rickles, who died Thursday at age 90, was among the most loved people in the business.

### The grandmaster of insult

He was the acknowledged grandmaster of insult comedy. Despite jokes that from other comics might have inspired boycotts, he was idolized by everyone from Joan Rivers and Louis CK to Chris Rock and Sarah Silverman. James Caan once said that Rickles helped inspire the blustering Sonny Corleone of "The Godfather." An HBO special was directed by John Landis of "Animal House" fame and included tributes from Clint Eastwood, Sidney Poitier and Robert De Niro. Carl Reiner would say he knew he had made it in Hollywood when Rickles made fun of him.

Rickles appeared everywhere from strip joints to the 1985 inaugural gala for President Ronald Reagan and remained a popular act well after his ethnic and racial humor had become outdated. In 2008, he won an Emmy for best individual performance in a variety show for the Landis film "Mr. Warmth: The Don Rickles Project." At the ceremony, he joked: "I've been in this business for 55 years and the biggest award I got was an ashtray from the Friars in New York." The Friars gave him a nice statuette in 2013 when they presented him a lifetime achievement award.

Rickles' many friends returned the wisecracks, whether labeling him as a man everyone loved to hate or, as his pal Bob Newhart once joked, a man with whom it was annoying to travel. But the topper came, from all people, radio host Casey Kasem, who dressed up as Hitler at a Martin roast in Rickles' honor and told the comedian: "You are the only man I know who has bombed more places than I have."

### Top of the mountain

Placed by Jerry Seinfeld on the "Mount Rushmore" of comedy, Rickles patented a confrontational style that stand-up performers still emulate, but one that kept him on the right side of trouble. He emerged in the late 1950s, a time when comics such as Lenny Bruce and Mort Sahl were taking greater risks, becoming more politicized and more introspective.

Rickles managed to shock his audiences without cutting social commentary or truly personal self-criticism. He operated under a code as old the Borscht Belt: Go far - ethnic jokes, sex jokes, ribbing Carson for his many marriages - but make sure everyone knows it's for fun. "I think the reason that it (his act) caught on and gave me a wonderful career is that I was never mean-spirited," he once said. "Not that you had to like it, but you had to be under a rock somewhere not to get it." In the 1960s, Rickles was welcomed for the first time to the "Tonight Show" with Carson. He sat down on the couch and muttered, "Hello, dummy." The studio audience was initially startled, but when the host began laughing uncontrollably, so did everyone else. He appeared countless more times, haranguing Carson about not being invited more often or mocking his own love life. "I love my wife, but she's ill," was a typical joke. To his great disappointment, Rickles was never able to transfer his success to a long-running weekly situation comedy.

### Failure to launch

"The Don Rickles Show" lasted just one season (1972). "C.P.O. Sharkey," in which he played an acid-tongued Navy chief petty officer, aired from 1976 to 1978. The show's most notable moment was unplanned: Carson



In this June 7, 2012 file photo, comedian Don Rickles attends the AFI Life Achievement Award Honoring Shirley MacLaine at Sony Studios in Culver City. — AP photos

barged in the middle of a live taping to complain that Rickles had broken his cigarette box when the comedian had appeared on "The Tonight Show" the night before. The tireless Rickles left behind a 10-episode TV series, "Dinner with Don," in which De Niro, Billy Crystal, Jimmy Kimmel, Amy Poehler and others joined him to eat and chat. Distribution and a release date for the AARP Studios production have yet to be announced.

Rickles had set out to be a serious actor, enrolling in New York's American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where classmates included Jason Robards. He had little luck finding acting jobs, however, and supported himself by selling used cars, life insurance and cosmetics - badly, he said. ("I couldn't sell air conditioners on a 98-degree day.") He finally decided to try comedy, appearing at small hotels in New York's Catskill mountains and in run-down nightclubs. The turning point came at a strip joint in Washington, DC.

"The customers were right on top of you, always heckling, and I gave it right back to them," he recalled in 1982. The audience laughed and wanted more. In a style sometimes compared to an earlier insult comic, Jack E. Leonard, Rickles continued to hone his act and got another big break through an unlikely facilitator, his mother. Etta Rickles had befriended Frank Sinatra's mother, Dolly, and persuaded her to encourage her son to check out Don Rickles' act. When the singer stopped by one night in 1957, comic history was made. "Hey, Frank, make yourself at home," Rickles snapped. "Hit somebody."

Instead of being angered, the volatile singer was overcome with laughter. Rickles became the unofficial court jester of Sinatra's Rat Pack, ridiculing his singing, his love life and his alleged connections to organized crime. In a famous 1966 profile of Sinatra for Esquire magazine, Gay Talese described a Rickles performance in Las Vegas attended by the singer and his entourage. "His humor is so rude, in such bad taste, that it offends no one - it is too offensive to be offensive. Spotting Eddie Fisher among the audience, Rickles proceeded to ridicule him as a lover, saying it was no wonder that he could not handle Elizabeth Taylor," Talese wrote. "Then he focused on Sinatra, not failing to mention (then-girlfriend) Mia Farrow, nor that he was wearing a toupee, nor to say that Sinatra was washed up as a singer, and when Sinatra laughed, everybody laughed." — AP



# The man was sweet, but oh that on-stage bite

**D**on Rickles kept the nice inside, his friends say. Lucky us. Offstage, the self-described “shy and frightened kid” was invariably kind and caring, fellow celebrities said after his death Thursday at age 90. So are many other worthy people. But Rickles, only Rickles, could leave that sweet man offstage and turn into a smirking, hairless attack dog who chewed out fans and famous pals alike with brutal insult after insult.



This file photo taken on September 21, 2008 shows Don Rickles holding his award backstage for outstanding individual performance in a variety or music program for ‘Mr. Warmth: The Don Rickles Project’, in the press room at the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards at the Noika Theatre in Los Angeles.

RICKLES

Everyone ate it up, because he practiced an equal-opportunity brand of humor that targeted people by race, religion, appearance and anything else he could find to mock. And because his career was born in the 1950s, when racist and sexist broadsides delivered by white male comedians were OK, and he got grandfathered in for the remainder. And because he really knew how to craft and deliver a line, including on the fly, and did it with chutzpah - Yiddish for nerve - and a leavening, even charming dash of bad-boy glee. And because candor, including his sharp-edged version, can be powerful.

#### The firecracker was lit

In one of his many “Tonight Show” appearances, Rickles teased Johnny Carson that he should retire after nearly 20 years as host. Carson replied that he liked to hang on to a job, not bounce around like Rickles. The firecracker was lit. “Look right there (the camera), and let America know you’re a millionaire and don’t need them,” Rickles shot back. Carson laughed.

Speaking at a roast, with Dean Martin seated on one side and Sammy Davis Jr on the other, Rickles told them: “You’re Catholic, I’m a Jew, and Sammy, you’re black. I’m sorry.” Davis laughed. That meant we all had license to laugh, too. When Rickles would sense backlash from the audience, though, he had a ready reply: “Don’t write letters, folks. We cover them all.”

The tributes flowed after kidney failure claimed his life Thursday, a month shy of his May 8 birthday. Billy Crystal tweeted that his death was “a giant loss.” Bob Newhart and his wife, Ginnie, said Rickles’ title was “The Merchant of Venom” but he was “one of the most sensitive human beings we have ever known.” Renee Taylor, who played Rickles’ wife in the 1993 TV sitcom “Daddy Dearest,” called him a delight to work with.

“Every day I looked forward to coming to the set and being insulted,” she said. “When Don did an impersonation of me, I felt he got me and I felt the love, too.” Samuel L Jackson posted this on Instagram: “Farewell to a comedic legend & dear friend, Don Rickles. I know you’re cracking them up in the Great Beyond!” Rickles didn’t start out wanting to master the art of insult comedy. As a self-described insecure youngster, he settled on an acting career and enrolled in New York’s American Academy of Dramatic Arts.



In this May 28, 1974 file photo, comedian Don Rickles, right, appears with his wife Barbara arrive at Pantages Theater for the Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

#### Roast after roast

When that dream faltered, he tried comedy at small hotels in New York’s Catskill mountains and in rundown nightclubs. He found his voice at a strip joint in Washington, DC. “The customers were right on top of you, always heckling, and I gave it right back to them,” he recalled in an interview. A half-century-plus career ensued, including headline gigs at casinos and nightclubs from Las Vegas to Atlantic City, New Jersey, talk-show appearances and roast after roast.

He kept his hand in acting with movies, acting opposite big names in movies like “Run Silent, Run Deep” (Clark Gable) and Martin Scorsese’s “Casino” (Robert De Niro), and a short-lived couple of TV shows, “The Don Rickles Show” in 1972 and “C.P.O. Sharkey” from 1976-78.

But did any of them top his voice performance as crabby, aggrieved Mr. Potato Head in the animated “Toy Story” movies? Nope. Or energetically dishing out zingers even in his later years? No again. Rickles, finally, seemed to accept that. “I did have somewhat of a career. I did some good movies,” he said in 2007. “On the whole, I think that (movies) and Broadway are the two things that I would have liked to have a little more of. But I’m happy with my career.” — AP



In this Nov. 10, 1977 file photo, comedian Don Rickles, left, pretends to strangle fellow comedian Red Buttons prior to an Annual Stag Roast in Los Angeles. — AP/AFP photos



This file photo taken on October 31, 2011 shows actor Don Rickles as he poses for photographers during the installation ceremony for director John Lasseter’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood.





In this Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016, file photo, model Kendall Jenner has makeup applied backstage before the Michael Kors Spring 2017 collection is modeled during Fashion Week, in New York. — AP

## Pepsi pulls widely mocked ad featuring Kendall Jenner

Pepsi on Wednesday pulled an ad after it was widely mocked and criticized for appearing to trivialize protests for social justice causes. "Pepsi was trying to project a global message of unity, peace and understanding," the company said. "Clearly we missed the mark, and we apologize." It said it was "removing the content and halting any further rollout."

The ad shows Kendall Jenner, a member of the "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" reality TV family, stepping away from a modeling shoot to join a crowd of smiling, young protesters. The protesters cheer after Jenner hands a can of Pepsi to a police officer, who takes a sip. PepsiCo Inc. had previously said the ad was created by its in-house team and that it would "be seen globally across TV and digital" platforms.

It initially described the spot as featuring "multiple lives, stories and emotional connections that show passion, joy, unbound and uninhibited moments. No matter the occasion, big or small, these are the moments that make us feel alive." That description was also derided on social media. The Purchase, New York, company had stood by the ad late Tuesday. By Wednesday, it was apologizing to Jenner for putting her "in this position."

Critics say the image of Jenner handing the officer a Pepsi evoked a photo of Black Lives Matter protester Ieshia Evans approaching an officer at a demonstration in Baton Rouge last year. Others criticized the protesters' signs for being comically innocuous, with messages like "Join the Conversation" and heart and peace signs. The website Gothamist expressed a common sentiment online in calling the ad "gloriously tone-deaf."

Among those mocking the ad was Bernice King, who tweeted a photo of her father, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., being confronted by a police officer at a protest march. "If only Daddy would have known about the power of #Pepsi," the tweet said. Larry Chiagouris, a professor of marketing at Pace University, said that the backlash was in part because Pepsi was a couple years "late to the party" with its message about unity, making its ad seem exploitive.

Still, he also noted that the fallout wouldn't necessarily be that damaging, since a lot of the negative sentiment expressed on social media is "easily washed away overnight." It isn't the first time PepsiCo has backpedaled and apologized for an ad. In 2013, it pulled a Mountain Dew ad that was criticized for portraying racial stereotypes and appearing to make light of violence toward women. It pulled that ad from online channels, and said it was never intended to run on TV. — AP

This picture taken on April 3, 2017 shows the facade of The Haus (The House), an old bank building housing an urban art project in Berlin. — AFP



## In Berlin, a street art gallery designed to be destroyed

It may seem an unlikely venue for an art gallery—an old bank building in the centre of a busy shopping district and about to be torn down. But in Berlin, arguably Europe's urban art capital, some 165 like-minded street artists have filled the five-storey space with their work. And the result is a burst of color and myriad of styles, with murals and installations covering 10,000 square meters, all on public view at no charge—but only until the demolition crew moves in.

"We're open here for two months, then everything will disappear for all eternity," said Joern Reiners of Die Dixons (The Dixons), the group behind the project called The Haus (The House). It approached property developers Pandion for temporary use of the block before it makes way for luxury condominiums, and got the keys last October. "There was so little time, we didn't have any big plans, we just got our telephones out and rang everyone we know," said Timo von Rekowski, another Dixons member. Artists from 17 countries joined the project, with Berlin-based ones making up the majority. Each was assigned a space—be it an office, the corridor, stairwell or even the toilet.

### 'Make it an experience'

The gallery that sprung up includes a room covered from floor to ceiling with personal ads usually seen pasted on Berlin lampposts or walls, another room with a huge pair of clay legs like a giant just landed through the ceiling, and a darkened room with wall murals that are only revealed with the help of a torch. Some artists may not be household names, but others are well-established in Berlin's urban art scene, like El Bocho, whose cartoon-like "Little Lucy" series and "Citizens" portraits are part of the German capital's landscape, or Emess, whose works often involve political figures.

"What we have here is the space to realise their vision... while not having to think about the business of it all like entrance fees, but really just concentrating on the art-to experiencing it and to making it an experience," said Reiners. "And that's the essence of what makes us different from other projects." If there is one regret, it is "that we will not be able to show to visitors the energy that was generated here while the house was being set up," von Rekowski said. To ensure that visitors etch the images in their heads, no photography is allowed. The group also keeps a tight leash on the images circulating of the works, with media outlets only allowed to photograph details and not wide shots.

### 'Now or never'

The transient nature of the show helped attract a crowd on its opening weekend of April 1-2, with a queue snaking down the street. One visitor, Juliana Lang, who queued for more than half an hour with her partner, said: "It was well worth it, there was more variety than I expected. And it'll all be gone soon, so it's now or never." Artist Anne Bengard, who painted a tortured-looking man with a contraption stretching over his teeth as fake banknotes spewed from his mouth, said she appreciated the photography

ban. Too many people today just view art on the internet, without really experiencing it in person, she said.

"I think it's great that this is done in this manner so everyone who wants to see it has to come personally to view it," she added. Despite the effort that went into getting her work right, Bengard is not bothered that her art will soon be reduced to rubble. "This is my first wall painting in a bank and I find it rather cool also that this first work will soon no longer exist, that no one can buy it and it's really something for this moment in time." — AFP



In this April 12, 2015 file photo, Mark Ruffalo, from left, Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth, Jeremy Renner, and Chris Evans present Robert Downey Jr. with the generation award at the MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles. — AP

## MTV awards dumps gender-specific categories

MTV has scrapped gender specific categories for its upcoming Movie & TV Awards. In place of the Best Actress and Best Actor categories, this year's awards will honor a non-gendered Best Actor in a Movie and Best Actor in a Show. The move follows the Grammy Awards' decision in 2011 to dump gender distinctions between male and female singers, collaborations and groups. MTV's May ceremony will also include a nod to social activism by renaming its Best Fight category to Best Fight the System. This the first year the MTV Movie Awards has been redubbed the Movie & TV Awards. They'll be hosted by actor and comedian Adam DeVine in Los Angeles on May 7. — AP





A picture shows furniture and tableware made from "Merdacotta" on March 28, 2017 at the Shit Museum (Museum of Poop) in the Castelbosco castle of Gragnano Trebbiense. — AFP photos



A picture shows potteries and tiles made from "Merdacotta".

# New museum reveals power of poo in Italy

It may pong, but Italy's "Shit Museum" has the whiff of success about it: Here in Castelbosco, farmers are transforming sloppy cowpats into plates you can eat off. Once upon a time there was a large farm about a hundred kilometers south of Milan. The farmer had not only hundreds of cows, but veritable mountains of excrement-stinking slops he thought he could do something with. "The idea came from the need to take advantage of animal dung in an ecological way. We managed to transform it into something useful," farmer Gianantonio Locatelli, 61, told AFP.

Over his various farms, 3,500 cattle produce 550 quintals (55 tons) of milk a day to make Grana Padano, a hard cheese comparable to Parmigiano Reggiano. They also generate 1,500 quintals of waste. Rather than wallow in it, Locatelli came up with an ingenious way to make use of the pungent matter. The excrement is collected into so-called stool digesters, immense vats where bacteria transform everything organic into methane. The methane is then burned to produce electricity, which is sold by the farm. The daily feces output produces three Megawatts an hour, enough to turn on the lights of a village of 3,000 to 4,000 inhabitants.

### 'Baked shit'

The water used to cool the engines heats to 100 degrees celsius, which is then used to warm



A picture shows cows in the farm of the Shit Museum.

the farm, stables and digesters, which must be kept at a constant 40 degrees. Part of the dung left over after the bacteria have had their fill is then used as fertilizer, with the "Merdame" brand set to hit supermarket shelves soon, says Locatelli. But the most sophisticated stool success is the line of tableware and everyday

objects created out of the left-over faeces, dubbed "merdacotta"—literally "baked shit", a play on the clay-based earthenware Terracotta.

The recipe? Pungent poo mixed with Tuscan clay and rounded off with "a little secret touch"—a formula Locatelli fiercely protects—to make bricks, hexagonal and rectangular tiles, flower-

pots, plates or jars. Coming perhaps to a dining table near you soon, the clean-lined, simple Merdacotta creations are "a revolutionary product... halfway between plastic and Terracotta", Locatelli says. The objects take pride of place in the museum, which was founded on one of the farms in 2005 and has as its logo a dung beetle, that six-legged creature that uses dung balls as both a food source and a breeding chamber.

### 'Graceful excrement'

The museum also boasts artworks, from paintings in liquid excrement, to an extract from



Gianantonio Locatelli, founder of the Shit Museum (Museum of Poop).

Luis Bunuel's film "The Phantom of Liberty". Designed with the architect Luca Cipelletti, it aims to capture the philosophy of an art-loving farmer who studied agriculture in Canada and rubbed shoulders with Andy Warhol in New York before becoming an amateur collector of conceptual works.

"Excrement is seen as something vulgar, nauseating, as the most ignoble matter," says Locatelli, who intends to "rehabilitate the word and transform opinions of it across the board". The Merdacotta collection won a prize at Milan's design fair last year, justifying his bet to "turn shit into something graceful," he says. And while the farms have been hit in recent years by a sharp drop in the price of milk, Locatelli says he can rely on his unusual sideline to keep his business buoyant. For that, "I can only thank shit," he said with a chuckle. — AFP



A picture shows cows excrements recycled by the Shit Museum (Museum of Poop) to produce methane and energy or "Merdacotta" (baked shit).





A photo taken on April 6, 2017 shows a memorial wall at the entrance to the underground museum Wellington Quarry (Carriere Wellington), part of many kilometers of tunnels dug by the British Army during WWII, in Arras. Some 24,000 soldiers of the British army emerged from these tunnels for a surprise offensive at dawn on April 9, 1917. — AFP photos



A photo taken on April 6, 2017 shows a reconstruction of a latrine in one of the tunnels of the underground museum Wellington Quarry.

# A CENTURY ON, CANADIANS DEBATE WWI BATTLE'S SIGNIFICANCE

**W**as it the birth of a nation or a national myth? The Battle of Vimy Ridge—fought in northern France a century ago and set to be commemorated on April 9—prompts heated debate about the importance of that Canadian chapter of World War I. The battle—which resulted in the retaking of a seven-kilometer (four-mile) long ridge from German forces—is considered a tipping point in the war.

“The battle of Vimy Ridge marked a turning point in the First World War and for Canada,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last month. “For the first time, four Canadian Corps divisions composed of soldiers from every region of the country (fought) together on the same battlefield.” Most Canadians see it as a galvanizing development for national consciousness. “Many historians and writers consider the Canadian victory at Vimy a defining moment for Canada, when the country emerged from under the shadow of Britain and felt capable of greatness,” says Tim Cook, a historian at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. On April 9, 1917, an Easter Monday, 100,000 Canadian soldiers were mobilized on the seven-kilometer-wide front at the foot of the ridge.



A photo taken on April 6, 2017 shows portraits on display at the entrance to the underground museum Wellington Quarry.

Thirty thousand of them, artillerymen and infantrymen, seized the position after four days of combat. Nearly 3,600 were killed and more than 7,000 injured. But some consider the official view of the battle’s significance bunk. “Pure mythology,” says historian Michael Boire of the Royal Military College in

Kingston, Ontario. The former member of the army’s Black Watch regiment says the battle must be placed in context—without minimizing its real importance. It was neither decisive for the war’s outcome “nor the most fundamental” of battles fought by Canadians during the conflict, Boire says. Canada would gain political quasi-autonomy only in 1931. “The importance given to the Battle of Vimy is a post-war mythological construction,” he says, an “invention” dating back to 1967, the year of Canada’s centennial and the battle’s 50th anniversary.

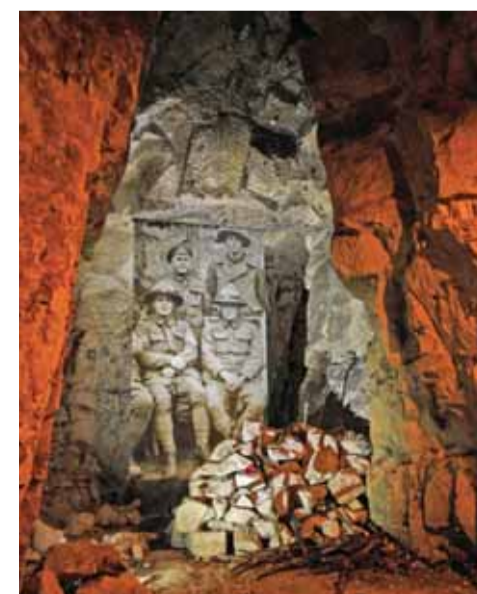
### ‘Like all others’

Vimy entered the realm of national legend in the 1980s, when a book about the battle by the author Pierre Berton sold hundreds of thousands of copies. The Canadian victory at Vimy is now considered a step toward Canada’s colonial emancipation from Britain. But Boire calls Berton’s narrative “a fabrication” not based on authentic research. The Canadians—integrated into the British Expeditionary Force—were commanded by a British officer, he says.

The national narrative also fails to mention that majority of soldiers in the battle were immigrants from the British Isles, he adds. Boire interviewed around 100 survivors of the

Vimy battle in the 1960s and 1970s. In their eyes, he says, the battle was “like all the others.” More important for those soldiers was the Battle of Saint-Julien in Belgium, where 18,000 Canadians successfully resisted the first German gas attacks in April 1915.

They also look to the Battle of Amiens on August 8, 1918, when Canadians and Australians “caused the collapse of the German army,” Boire says. “There was only one book (in Canada) written about Amiens and it was our biggest fight” of the war, he says. “Canadians do not like their history.” For most veterans, “there was no doubt in their minds” that the great Canadian memorial erected on Vimy Ridge between 1925 and 1936—dedicated to the memory of all the Canadian Expeditionary Force members who died in the war—“should have been established at Saint-Julien or at Amiens.” He puts down the decision of Vimy for the monument to a single major criterion: It had to be visible “from very far.” — AFP



A photo taken on April 6, 2017 shows a reconstruction of a latrine in one of the tunnels of the underground museum Wellington Quarry.



# WWI INNOVATIONS

## STILL WITH US A CENTURY LATER

**M**achine guns. Tanks. Chemical weapons. Warplanes. Submarines. Trench coats. Wristwatches. Thursday marked the 100th anniversary of the US entry into World War I, and some of the innovations that were developed or came into wide use during the conflict are still with us today. America entered nearly three years after the war began, joining Britain, France and Russia in the fight against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. When it ended on Nov 11, 1918, more than 4.7 million Americans served and some 115,000 died. The world's first mechanized war introduced enhanced weaponry and equipment, most of it designed to take lives but some of it aimed at saving lives. Here's a look at some of the things that were new to the doughboys that we take for granted today:

### MACHINE GUNS

Hand-cranked, high-capacity, rapid-firing firearms had been used as far back as the Civil War. But it was American inventor Hiram Maxim's 1880s design for a single-barrel, portable machine gun and other later versions that became ubiquitous on both



In this July 6, 2014 file photo, Christopher Bulko pilots a Spad VII reproduction bi-plane during an air show at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome in Rhinebeck, New York.

sides during World War I. It forced opposing forces to dig hundreds of miles of trenches, with a deadly "no man's land" in between where soldiers could get mowed down. This kind of fighting was unfamiliar to most American forces, who had been trained in the tactics of mobile warfare, always advancing. "Then it becomes, 'How do we get out of the trenches?'" said Maj. Kyle Hatzinger, a history instructor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. "The Americans by 1917 have to figure this out."

### TANKS

One way to break out of the trenches along the Western Front was to bust through with newly developed armored tracked vehicles dubbed tanks. The British introduced a large number of tanks to the battlefield for the first time in September 1916, during the battle of the Somme. Other armies soon were developing their own versions. In September 1918, a 32-year-old Army lieutenant colonel named George Patton led a U.S. tank unit into battle for the first time. A quarter century later, during World War II, he was the most famous commander of American armored units.

### CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Germany launched the first use of a chemical weapon, chlorine gas, at Ypres, Belgium, in April 1915, against French troops. By 1917 other chemicals, including mustard gas, were being used by both sides. Some estimates put the number of deaths from gas attacks at about 900,000, with another 1 million injured. Gas masks were developed. But using gas could result in friendly fire casualties when winds blew the toxic fumes back into the attackers' positions. "And if you attack you now have to go through the gas cloud you've created," Hatzinger said. "There's a lot of trial and error with the technology." Outrage over the use of chemicals weapons in WWI led to the 1925 Geneva Protocol treaty that banned the use of chemical or biological weapons in international armed conflicts.

### AIR WARFARE

A little more than a decade after the Wright Brothers flew their first airplane, WWI combatants took to the skies to spy on one



In this Sept 15, 2016 file photo, a replica World War 1 Mk IV is displayed in Trafalgar Square in London to mark the 100th anniversary of the first use of the tank in battle during the Battle of the Somme. — AP photos

another - and then to shoot each other down. Early in the war, aircraft were equipped with cameras for taking reconnaissance photographs. Pilots started arming themselves with handguns and rifles to shoot down enemy biplanes. Soon, mounted machine guns were being used in aerial combat known as dogfights, giving rise to such legendary fighter aces as Germany's Manfred von Richthofen (aka 'The Red Baron'), American Eddie Rickenbacker and Canada's Billy Bishop.

### SUBMARINES

Using submersible vessels to attack enemy ships had been tried as far back as the American Revolution. It wasn't until WWI

that submarines were used in large numbers as part of naval operations. Germany was the first nation to fully utilize submarine technology, attacking Allied shipping in the Atlantic and infamously sinking the British ocean liner RMS Lusitania off the Irish coast in May 1915, killing 1,200 people, including 128 Americans. The outcry from the U.S. over the attack prompted Germany to shift much of its submarine attacks elsewhere. But the Germans resumed submarine attacks in early 1917 and sank several U.S. vessels, one of the key reasons for America entering the war.

### TRENCH COATS AND WRISTWATCHES

They weren't fashion accessories. Trench coats replaced the earlier era's full-length, woolen great coats, which became heavy when wet. British officers serving in the trenches turned to established English clothing firms such as Burberry and Aquascutum for khaki-colored, waterproof coats with deep pockets large enough to hold maps and a belt at the waist with metal D-rings for attaching gear. Wristwatches had been around in some form for decades, mostly as jewelry worn by women, but they became standard equipment for soldiers and pilots who didn't want to be fumbling for the traditional pocket watch while launching artillery-supported ground assaults or flying combat missions.

### PATRIOTIC PROPAGANDA

American James Montgomery Flagg created the now-famous poster of a pointing Uncle Sam under the words "I Want You." Some 4 million copies of the U.S. version of the Army recruitment poster were printed in 1917-18, according to the Library of Congress website. The poster proved so popular it was re-introduced during World War II, when millions more were printed. Similarly popular was George M Cohan's jaunty wartime ditty "Over There," which proudly spread word to Europe that "the Yanks are coming."

More than 2 million copies of the song's sheet music were sold by the end of the war. — AP



In this June 18, 2013 file photo, garbed in a classically styled trench coat, actor Jamie Campbell Bower arrives at a Burberry fashion show in London.



Courtney Burns, director of the New York State Military Museum holds a German 1918 Maxim MG-08 light machine gun at the museum in Saratoga Springs, New York.



## THE HUNT FOR THE DAWN OF APTs

**DUBAI:** Kaspersky Lab and Kings College London researchers, looking for a link between a modern threat actor and the Moonlight Maze attacks that targeted the Pentagon, NASA and more in the late 1990s, have unearthed samples, logs and artefacts belonging to the ancient APT. The findings show that a backdoor used in 1998 by Moonlight Maze to tunnel information out of victim networks connects to a backdoor used by Turla in 2011 and possibly as recently as 2017.

If the link between Turla and Moonlight Maze is proven, it would place the evolved threat actor alongside the Equation Group in terms of its longevity, as some of Equation's command-and-control servers date back to 1996. Contemporary reports on Moonlight Maze show how, starting from 1996, US military and government networks, as well as universities, research institutions and even the Department of Energy began detecting breaches in their systems.

In 1998, the FBI and the Department of Defense launched a massive investigation. The story became public in 1999, but much of the evidence has remained classified, leaving the details of Moonlight Maze shrouded in myth and secrecy. Over the years, original investigators in three different countries have stated that Moonlight Maze evolved into Turla, a Russian-speaking threat actor also known as Snake, Uroburos, Venomous Bear, and Krypton. Turla is conventionally believed to have been active since 2007.

### Cupboard Samples

In 2016, while researching his book, *Rise of the Machines*, Thomas Rid of Kings College London tracked down a former system administrator whose organization's server had been hijacked as a proxy by the

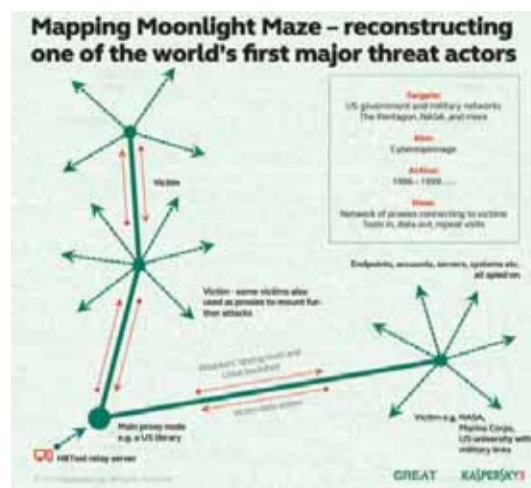
Moonlight Maze attackers. This server, 'HRTTest', had been used to launch attacks on the US. The now-retired IT professional had kept the original server and copies of everything relating to the attacks, and handed it to Kings College and Kaspersky Lab for further analysis.

Kaspersky Lab researchers, Juan Andres Guerrero-Saade and Costin Raiu, together with Thomas Rid and Danny Moore from Kings College, spent nine months undertaking a detailed technical analysis of these samples. They reconstructed the attackers' operations, tools, and techniques, and conducted a parallel investigation to see if they could prove the claimed connection with Turla.

Moonlight Maze was an open-source Unix-based attack targeting Solaris systems, and the findings show that it made use of a backdoor based on LOKI2 (a program released in 1996 that enables users to extract data via covert channels). This led the researchers to take a second look at some rare Linux samples used by Turla that Kaspersky Lab had discovered in 2014. Named PenquinTurla, these samples are also based on LOKI2. Further, the re-analysis showed that all of them use code created between 1999 and 2004.

Remarkably, this code is still being used in attacks. It was spotted in the wild in 2011 when it was found in an attack on defense contractor Ruag in Switzerland that has been attributed to Turla. Then, in March 2017, Kaspersky Lab researchers discovered a new sample of the PenquinTurla backdoor submitted from a system in Germany. It is possible that Turla uses the old code for attacks on highly secure entities that might be harder to breach using its more standard Windows toolset.

"In the late 1990s, no-one foresaw the reach and persistence of a coordinated cyberespionage cam-



paign. We need to ask ourselves why it is that attackers are still able to successfully leverage ancient code in modern attacks. The analysis of the Moonlight Maze samples is not just a fascinating archaeological study; it is also a reminder that well-resourced adversaries aren't going anywhere, it's up to us to defend systems with skills to match," said Juan Andres Guerrero-Saade, Senior Security Researcher, Global Research and Analysis Team Kaspersky Lab.

The newly unearthed Moonlight Maze files reveal many fascinating details about how the attacks were conducted using a complex network of proxies, and the high level of skills and tools used by the attackers. Kaspersky Lab products successfully detect and block malware used by MoonlightMaze and PenquinTurla.

## PAKISTAN HOTLINE OFFERS SAFE SPACE FOR WOMEN HARASSED ONLINE

### CYBER BILL ENFORCEMENT REMAINS IN QUESTION

**LAHORE:** When Pakistani social media starlet Qandeel Baloch was found strangled, a crime to which her brother proudly confessed, thousands of women posted messages denouncing her murder-only to face abuse and threats themselves. Nighat Dad, a human rights activist who founded Digital Rights Foundation, which advocates for free speech and against harassment, said her phone, began ringing off the hook with women seeking advice, fearing they could be targeted next.

She had offered counseling and legal guidance to such victims since setting up her organization in 2012. But the volume of requests shot up after Qandeel's murder last summer. In an effort to deal with this fresh wave, Dad decided to create a hotline in December that began operating from her office in Lahore and now handles up to dozens of calls a day. The result—a safe space for Pakistani women in this deeply patriarchal and religiously conservative country, where online threats sometimes translate into offline violence.

No case epitomizes this phenomenon better than that of Baloch, a polarizing figure who had gained an online following of millions for her daring selfies and provocative videos, including one attacking politicians for discouraging Valentine's day. It was too much to handle for her brother Waseem, currently on trial for her murder, who cited her "intolerable behavior" as the reason behind his crime—one of around a thousand so-called honor killings that take place in Pakistan every year.

### They kill you for everything

The risk is especially high for women from conservative backgrounds, who can at times be blackmailed for even having an account on Facebook or using their real picture. Another common problem is the issue of sexual blackmail—including when a boyfriend seeks nude or semi-nude photos from his girlfriend and later uses the material to manipulate her, threatening to release the images if she does not comply with his demands.

Eman Suleman, a 25-year-old undergraduate student at Lahore's Beacon house National University, found herself at



**LAHORE:** In this photograph, Pakistani lawyer and founder of the Digital Rights Foundation Nighat Dad speaks during an interview with AFP in Lahore. —AFP

the receiving end of a concerted hate campaign when she and her fellow students put together an exhibition featuring bloodied menstrual pads to spark a conversation about periods. Instead of the passionate debate they had hoped for, they received threats.

"These anti-secular pages started putting up pictures of us with our personal information then people started messaging us with threats like burn them," she said. "We were really disturbed because of the reaction and because of the messages we were getting and we didn't know what to do." Their parents asked them to stop going to school out of fear they could be attacked. Suleman then got in touch with activist Dad, who was able to draw on past experiences to offer a non-judgmental perspective and provide her with emotional support as she rode out the torrent of abuse. —AFP

## GOOGLE ADDS FACT CHECK TO GLOBAL SEARCH RESULTS

**WASHINGTON:** Google is adding a fact-checking tag to search results globally, its latest initiative to help curb the spread of misinformation and "fake news," the company said yesterday. The new tags, to be used in all languages for users worldwide, will use third-party fact-checkers to indicate whether news items are true, false or somewhere in-between. "For the first time, when you conduct a search on Google that returns an authoritative result containing fact checks for one or more public claims, you will see that information clearly on the search results page," Google said in a blog post.

"The snippet will display information on the claim, who made the claim, and the fact check of that particular claim." The information won't be available for every search result, and there may be conflicting conclusions in some cases, Google said in the blog post, from researcher Cong Yu and Justin Kosslyn of Google's sister company Jigsaw. "These fact checks are not Google's and are presented so people can make more informed judgments," it said.

"Even though differing conclusions may be presented, we think it's still helpful for people to understand the degree of consensus around a particular claim and have clear information on which sources agree." Google has worked with 115 fact-checking groups worldwide for the initiative, which began last year. The move came a day after Facebook added a new tool in news feeds to help users determine whether shared stories are real or bogus.

Fake news became a serious issue in last year's US election campaign, when clearly fraudulent stories circulated on social media, potentially swaying some voters. Concerns have been raised since then about hoaxes and misinformation affecting elections in Europe this year, with investigations showing how "click farms" generate revenue from online advertising using made-up news stories. The moves by both firms aim to change the way news is ranked, diminishing the importance of how often a particular story is shared or clicked on. —AFP



## TWITTER REFUSES US ORDER TO REVEAL USER BEHIND ANTI-TRUMP ACCOUNT

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Twitter Inc on Thursday filed a federal lawsuit to block an order by the US government demanding that it reveal who is behind an account opposed to President Donald Trump's tough immigration policies. Twitter cited freedom of speech as a basis for not turning over records about the account, @ALT\_uscis. The account is claimed to be the work of at least one federal immigration employee, according to the lawsuit filed in San Francisco federal court.

The acronym US CIS refers to US Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the account describes itself as "immigration resistance." Trump has vowed to build a wall along the US border with Mexico and has promised to deport millions of illegal immigrants. Following Trump's inauguration in January, anonymous Twitter feeds that borrowed the names and logos of more than a dozen US government agencies appeared to challenge the president's views on climate change and other issues. They called themselves "alt" accounts.

Twitter spokesman Nick Pacilio declined to comment on whether the government had demanded information about other accounts critical of Trump. Twitter, which counts Trump among its active users, has a record of litigating in favor of user privacy. "The rights of free speech afforded Twitter's users and Twitter itself under the First Amendment of the US Constitution include a right to disseminate such anonymous or pseudonymous political speech," Twitter said in the lawsuit. The Department of Homeland Security, which is a defendant in the lawsuit, declined to comment on pending litigation.

The Justice Department, which typically represents federal agencies in court, and the White House had no immediate comment. Senator Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, said in a statement it was a waste of resources to try to uncover an anonymous critic, and he called on the Homeland Security inspector general to investigate who directed the "witch hunt." Esha Bhandari, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing the Twitter user, said the government's request was highly unusual.

Requests for social media account information from the US government typically involve national security or criminal charges, she said. "We have seen no reason the government has given for seeking to unmask this speaker's identity," Bhandari said, adding that the right to anonymous speech against the government is "a bedrock American value" strongly protected under the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

### 'Right-wing idiots'

Shortly after the lawsuit became public, @ALT\_uscis tweeted a copy of the First Amendment and a picture of part of the lawsuit. The account's followers nearly tripled to 89,000 in the hours after the news broke. For weeks the account has posted criticism of the administration. It tweeted a parody of the game "bingo" for "right-wing idiots," said that some anti-immigration advocates must have been dropped on their head at birth, and mocked Trump for not giving more of his wealth to charities.

Twitter said it received an administrative summons last month demanding that it provide records related to the account. A copy of the summons filed with the lawsuit says the records are needed for an investigation to ensure compliance with duties, taxes and fines and other customs and immigration matters. It was not immediately clear how the anonymous account fit into those laws and regulations, and Twitter said the summons was an abuse of a law meant to be used to investigate imported merchandise.

Twitter might have a strong case that the summons was improper, said Paul Alan Levy, staff attorney at Public Citizen Litigation Group who specializes in online privacy and free speech issues. "I don't think there is any way for the government to come out of this looking good," Levy said. There is no indication that the White House was aware of the summons, which was signed by a Florida-based supervisor who works in an office that investigates employee corruption, misconduct and mismanagement. The supervisor could not be reached for comment. —Reuters

# SMART CITIES: TECHNOLOGY MEETS NEXT GEN INFRASTRUCTURE

By Dr. Raymond Khoury

**T**echnology is significantly changing the way people perceive and experience life and digitization presents a powerful opportunity to enhance how they live within cities. As a result, governments and city officials are building 'Smart Cities' by leveraging the latest technologies supported by next-generation scalable and adaptable city-wide infrastructure to better engage with their constituents or citizens. Success in Smart City development, however, demands a phased, holistic, citizen-centric approach.

By facilitating the creation of Smart Cities, which use advanced infrastructure and digital solutions to deliver services, technology can help policymakers address the economic, social, and environmental challenges of urbanization. Smart Cities make digital technology, networks, and apps a central part of operations and constituent interactions. Such advanced technology-enabled projects are moving ahead around the world. In the Netherlands, for example, data analysis is helping to predict floods, avoid water shortages, and reduce water management costs by 15 percent.

In India, real-time adaptive traffic control systems are resulting in a 12percent reduction in average traffic time. In South Korea, smart technologies are enabling waste management, remote healthcare, and interactive learning as an initial slate of services. In the UAE, the Dubai Smart City Vision aims to create a city where all its resources are optimized for maximum efficiency, and everyday services are integrated seamlessly into daily life, thus creating a more connected, sustainable life and business experience possible for all.

Dubai Plan 2021 prioritizes innovation as the key driver of the economy across all sectors. It further highlights "The Place" as one of six core themes with the aim to achieve a smart and sustainability city. Making this a reality and allowing for the full transformation to this state, however, requires advancement and realization of certain essential elements. Booz Allen Hamilton has identified these as - an engaged citizen; smart services; next generation infrastructure; and digital foundational enablers.

### An engaged citizen

Smart Cities engage citizens or residents through multiple channels: TVs, smartphones, tablets, wearable devices, and future technologies and access points yet to be imagined and developed. For these channels to be effective, people need to be aware of services and comfortable using the technology. An Engaged Citizen is necessary for "mass" usage and uptake of Smart Services and for ensuring engagement with a smart city.

### Smart services

Smart services transcend services provided by city governments to encompass services also provided by the private sector. Not all smart services, however, are created equal, and each will have different degrees of "Smartness". The lowest degree of service smartness is the "Connected Service" whereby Services are connected to the Internet and available to end-users anytime, anyplace.

Taking it up a notch, the "Integrated Service" is integrated with various systems and relayed to a centralized command and control center, enabling seamless communication and flow of information (e.g. a centralized disaster notification system that integrates emergency communications and responses across safety/security agencies).

The next degree of smartness is the "Personalized Service" which is customized and delivered to citizens, residents, or tourists based on their characteristics, historical preferences, location, consumption habits, etc. The ultimate smart service is the "Predictive Service" which is proactively delivered to citizens, residents, or tourists by forecasting their needs based on hard field intelligence (predictive analytics) allowing for preemption, preparedness and/or precaution.

### Next gen infrastructure

In order to instill a superior quality of life to a city's citizens, residents, or tourists, the city's next generation infrastructure should be based on open data and predictive data analytics. Smart analytics platforms covering big data analytics, predictive and decision analytics are critical for superior customer experience in a city.

Of critical importance as well is a smart infrastructure covering sensor and M2M networks around the city, ultra high-speed connectivity, and convergence platforms to ensure that Smart Services are seamlessly accessed and properly integrated to deliver a holistic service, irrespective of which public or private sector entity is providing the service.

### Digital foundational enablers

The foundation of a comprehensive smart city digital ecosystem hinges upon eight key enablers, covering: governance, open government and analytics, innovation and entrepreneurship, e-literacy, cyber security, policies and standards, private-public partnerships, strategic communications and usage incentive mechanisms. These enablers ensure sustainability and advancement of smart city services and offerings.

Using the above stated essential elements as a reference, it is clear that GCC countries are in the lead towards the



**Dr. Raymond Khoury, Executive Vice President, Booz Allen Hamilton, MENA**

transformation towards smart cities, especially with the UAE (Emirates of Dubai and Abu Dhabi), KSA (Riyadh) and Qatar (Doha) advancing their agendas in recent time. However, there is still one area where the MENA region is lagging behind - and this is in data science capabilities.

So far, this is still scarce and depends to a large extent on importing know-how from either Europe or the US. More is needed to nurture, groom and grow data scientists in the region. Most organizations are still unclear about the value data analytics can bring, and are reluctant to start engaging in any sort of analytics program.

To overcome this challenge, it is essential for organizations, be they in the public or private sector, to work towards developing and nurturing a truly data-driven culture. To capitalize on the power of citizen or customer analytics, organizations need to place innovation, analytics and citizen- or customer-centricity at the core of their corporate culture. A stronger and more effective digital economy will be a cornerstone of regional economic growth and development for the future.

In a region where approximately 60 per cent of the population is under the age of 25 and increasingly tech savvy, we already have an enormous number of people who have a powerful online and digital mindset. And in a region where oil-dominated economies are now actively diversifying, embracing the digital age will prove a powerful driver of growth - a driver that can only become more effective with the right regional capabilities developed, particularly in the data analytics domain.

## AMAZON PRIME PICKS OFF NFL THURSDAY NIGHT FROM TWITTER

**NEW YORK:** Amazon's new deal gives Prime Time football a whole new meaning. The e-commerce powerhouse will stream NFL Thursday Night games this season via its Amazon Prime video service, replacing Twitter. The live-streams of the games will be available to the estimated 65 million members of Amazon Prime, which costs \$99 per year and also includes other perks like free videos, books and shipping. That means that technically, the games won't be free to stream, but they will still be carried by broadcast networks CBS or NBC, as well as simultaneously on the NFL Network.

A person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press on Wednesday that it's a one-year deal worth close to \$50 million. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been announced publicly. That would be about five times what Twitter paid for the right to stream the games last year. Twitter's reach last year for the 10 games was an average of about 2.7 million users. Amazon has been building out its Prime Video streaming service to compete with rival services like Netflix or Hulu, neither of which stream sports live. —AP





00:15 Swamp Brothers  
00:45 Bondi Vet  
01:40 Wildest India  
02:35 Tanked  
03:25 Pandamonium  
04:15 Gator Boys  
05:02 Swamp Brothers  
05:49 Wildest India  
06:36 Gorilla School  
07:00 Gorilla School  
07:25 Wildest India  
08:15 Rugged Justice  
09:10 Restoration Wild  
10:05 Treetop Cat Rescue  
10:30 Treetop Cat Rescue  
11:00 Life At Vet University  
11:55 Bondi Vet  
12:50 Swamp Brothers  
13:15 Vet On The Loose  
13:45 Swamp Brothers  
14:10 Vet On The Loose  
14:40 Swamp Brothers  
15:05 In Too Deep  
15:35 Swamp Brothers  
17:50 Vet On The Loose  
18:20 Rugged Justice  
19:15 Wildest India  
20:10 Restoration Wild  
21:05 Pit Bulls & Parolees  
22:00 Rugged Justice  
22:55 Gator Boys  
23:50 Gator Boys



00:30 How Do They Do It?  
00:55 Food Factory  
01:20 Mythbusters  
02:10 Eco-Tech  
03:00 Prototype This  
03:48 Mythbusters  
04:36 How Do They Do It?  
05:00 Food Factory  
05:24 Mythbusters  
06:12 Eco-Tech  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:26 Food Factory  
07:50 Food Factory  
08:14 Food Factory  
08:38 Food Factory  
09:02 Food Factory  
09:26 How Do They Do It?  
09:50 How Do They Do It?  
10:14 How Do They Do It?  
10:38 How Do They Do It?  
11:02 How Do They Do It?  
11:26 Ways To Save The Planet  
12:14 Ways To Save The Planet  
13:02 Ways To Save The Planet  
13:50 Eco-Tech  
14:38 Eco-Tech  
15:26 Mythbusters  
16:14 Mythbusters  
17:02 Mythbusters  
17:50 Mythbusters  
18:40 Mythbusters  
19:30 NASA's Unexplained Files  
20:20 Sport Science  
21:10 Strip The Cosmos  
22:00 Food Factory USA  
22:25 Food Factory USA



00:00 Binny And The Ghost  
00:25 Hank Zipzer  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Hank Zipzer  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Binny And The Ghost  
02:55 Hank Zipzer  
03:15 The Hive  
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:10 Hank Zipzer  
04:35 Binny And The Ghost  
05:00 Binny And The Ghost  
05:25 Hank Zipzer  
05:45 The Hive  
05:50 The 7D  
06:00 Jessie  
06:25 Jessie  
06:50 Eco Club  
06:55 The Zhuzhus  
07:20 Elena Of Avalor  
07:45 Bizaardvark  
08:10 Bizaardvark  
08:35 Stuck In The Middle  
09:00 Stuck In The Middle  
09:25 Disney The Lodge  
09:50 Bunk'd  
10:15 Disney Cookabout  
10:40 Radio Rebel  
12:10 Welcome To The Ronks  
12:20 Girl Meets World  
12:45 Girl Meets World  
13:10 Girl Meets World

13:35 Girl Meets World  
14:00 Girl Meets World  
14:25 Jessie  
15:15 Austin & Ally  
15:40 Austin & Ally  
16:05 Descendants Wicked World  
16:10 Elena Of Avalor  
16:35 Liv And Maddie  
17:00 Disney The Lodge  
17:25 The Incredibles  
19:25 Eco Club  
19:30 Disney Cookabout  
19:55 Bunk'd  
20:20 Best Friends Whenever  
20:45 Disney The Lodge  
21:10 Girl Meets World  
21:35 That's So Raven  
22:00 Good Luck Charlie  
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopdidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:30 The Hive  
02:40 Loopdidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopdidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:45 Zou  
05:00 Art Attack

05:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:45 Loopdidoo  
06:00 Zou  
06:15 Calimero  
06:30 Loopdidoo  
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
07:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
07:50 Goldie & Bear  
08:15 Miles From Tomorrow  
08:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
09:10 Sofia The First  
09:35 Doc McStuffins  
10:00 The Lion Guard  
10:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
10:55 Sofia The First  
11:25 Goldie & Bear  
11:50 Goldie & Bear  
12:00 A Goofy Fairy Tale  
12:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
12:55 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
13:20 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
13:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
13:50 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
17:55 Mickey's Pirate Adventure  
18:45 PJ Masks  
19:00 Doc McStuffins  
19:25 Doc McStuffins  
19:50 PJ Masks  
20:05 Goldie & Bear  
20:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
21:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
21:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates



06:00 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
06:25 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister 6  
06:50 Atomic Puppet  
07:15 Gravity Falls  
07:40 Supa Strikas  
08:05 Two More Eggs  
08:10 K.C. Undercover  
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law  
09:00 Walk The Prank  
09:25 Right Now Kapow  
09:50 Lab Rats  
10:15 Two More Eggs  
10:20 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
10:45 Mighty Med  
11:10 K.C. Undercover  
11:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island  
12:00 Tarzan  
13:30 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
14:15 Milo Murphy's Law  
14:40 K.C. Undercover  
15:05 Walk The Prank  
15:30 Atomic Puppet  
15:55 Lab Rats  
16:25 Right Now Kapow  
16:50 K.C. Undercover  
17:15 Future-Worm!  
17:40 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures  
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
18:10 Star Wars Rebels  
18:35 Tarzan  
20:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
20:20 Kickin' It  
20:45 Mighty Med  
21:10 Star Wars Rebels  
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
21:45 Marvel's Avengers Assemble  
22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister 6  
22:35 Boyster

13:45 Celebrity Style Story  
14:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
15:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
16:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
17:05 Rob & Chyna  
18:00 Rob & Chyna  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 So Cosmo  
21:00 So Cosmo  
22:00 So Cosmo  
23:00 E! News  
23:30 Celebrity Style Story



00:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.  
01:00 Ancient Discoveries  
02:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded  
02:50 Ancient Aliens  
03:40 Smartest Guy In The Room  
04:05 Smartest Guy In The Room  
04:30 The Universe  
05:20 America: The Story Of The U.S.  
06:10 The Universe  
07:00 Ancient Discoveries  
08:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded  
09:00 Ancient Aliens  
10:00 Smartest Guy In The Room  
10:30 Smartest Guy In The Room  
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14:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded  
15:00 Ancient Aliens  
16:00 Smartest Guy In The Room  
16:30 Smartest Guy In The Room  
17:00 The Universe  
18:00 The Universe  
19:00 The Universe  
20:00 The Universe  
21:00 The Universe  
22:00 The Universe  
23:00 The Universe



00:20 Leepu And Pitbull  
01:10 Ultimate Wheels  
02:00 Ice Road Truckers  
02:50 Pawn Stars  
03:15 Pawn Stars UK  
03:40 Pawn Stars UK  
04:05 Pawn Stars UK  
04:30 Pawn Stars UK  
05:00 Leepu And Pitbull  
06:00 Storage Wars Miami  
06:25 Storage Wars  
06:50 Pawn Stars Australia  
07:15 Pawn Stars Australia  
07:40 American Pickers  
08:30 Pawn Stars  
08:55 Pawn Stars  
09:20 Ultimate Wheels  
10:10 Leepu And Pitbull  
11:00 Shipping Wars  
11:25 Shipping Wars  
11:50 Ice Road Truckers  
12:40 Ax Men  
13:30 Lost Worlds  
14:20 Hunting Hitler  
15:10 The Curse Of Oak Island  
16:00 Storage Wars Miami  
16:25 Storage Wars Miami  
16:50 Counting Cars  
17:15 Car Hunters  
17:40 American Restoration  
18:30 Ice Road Truckers  
19:20 American Pickers  
20:10 Forged In Fire  
21:00 The Curse Of Oak Island  
21:50 Hunting Hitler  
22:40 Search For The Lost Giants  
23:30 American Restoration



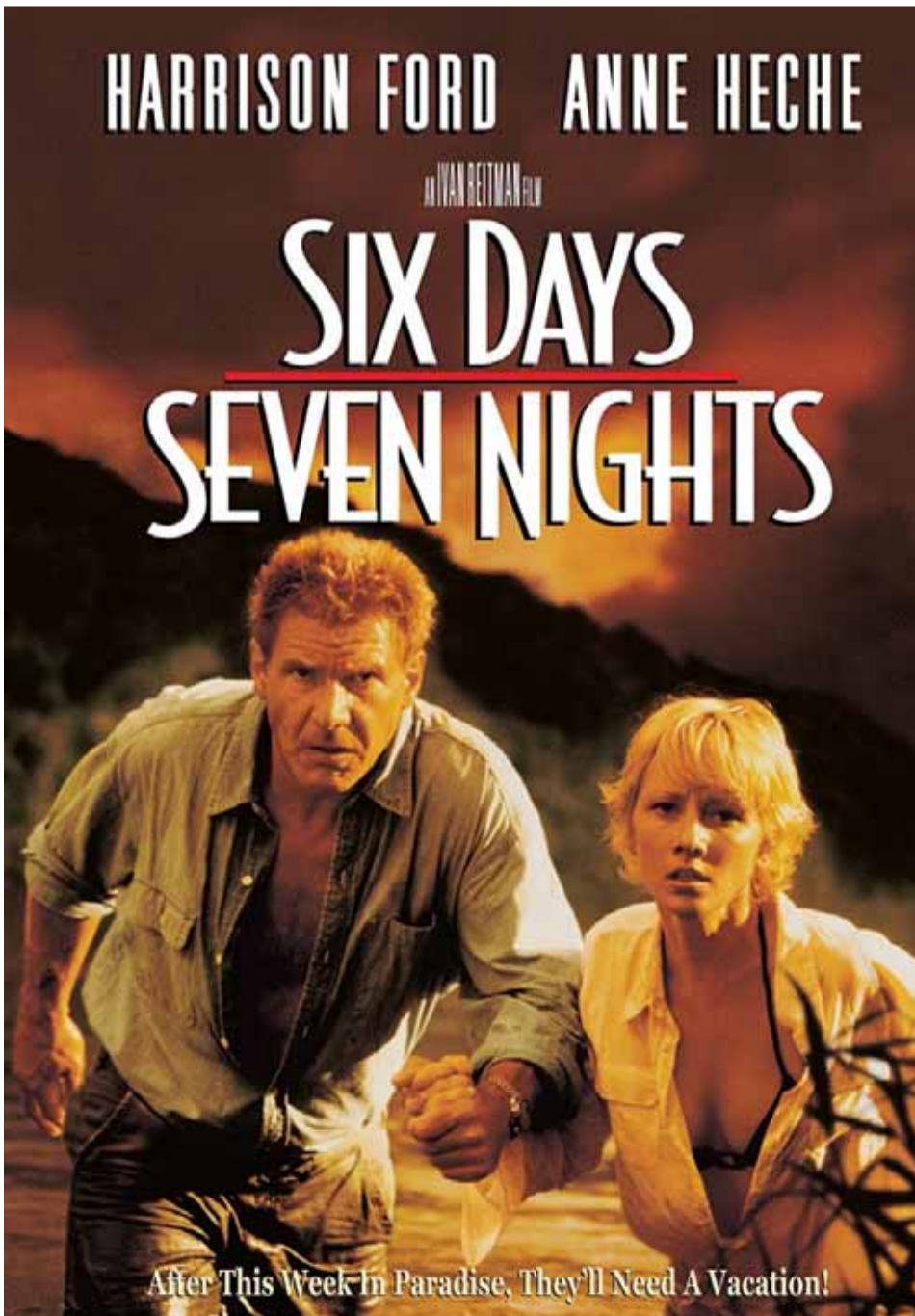
00:15 World's Best Beaches  
01:05 Bangkok Airport  
01:55 Confucius Was A Foodie  
02:45 Chasing The Sun  
03:10 Chasing The Sun  
03:35 Taste Of The Tropic: Taiwan  
04:25 The Food Files  
04:50 The Food Files  
05:20 Access 360 World Heritage  
06:15 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med



00:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover  
01:00 My Haunted House  
02:00 Crime Stories  
03:00 Monster In My Family  
04:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover  
05:00 My Haunted House  
06:00 My Crazy Ex  
07:00 The First 48  
08:00 Britain's Biggest Heists  
09:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
11:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
12:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
13:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
14:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence  
15:00 I Killed My BFF  
16:00 I Killed My BFF  
17:00 Evil Up Close  
18:00 Evil Up Close  
19:00 Evil Up Close  
20:00 The First 48  
21:00 Homicide Hunter  
22:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back



00:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
01:20 Battle Bots  
02:10 Deception With Keith Barry  
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 How It's Made  
05:05 How It's Made  
05:30 Dirty Jobs  
06:20 Mythbusters  
07:00 Doki  
07:25 Doki  
07:50 Bear Grylls Survival School  
08:15 Bear Grylls Survival School  
08:40 Must Love Cats  
09:30 Must Love Cats  
10:20 Must Love Cats  
11:10 Must Love Cats  
12:00 Must Love Cats  
12:50 Mythbusters  
13:40 Mythbusters  
14:30 Mythbusters  
15:20 Mythbusters  
16:10 Mythbusters  
17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
18:40 Battle Bots  
19:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
19:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
20:20 Now That's Funny  
21:10 Deception With Keith Barry  
22:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
22:25 Destroyed In Seconds  
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds  
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds



SIX DAYS SEVEN NIGHTS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



00:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
01:50 E! News  
02:50 Celebrity Style Story  
03:50 Botched By Nature  
04:40 Botched By Nature  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
06:55 E! News  
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
08:10 E! News  
09:05 Botched  
10:45 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
12:25 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
13:15 E! News



SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017

- 07:10 Street Food Around The World
- 07:35 Street Food Around The World
- 08:05 Restoration Man
- 09:00 The Wine Show
- 09:55 A Model Adventure
- 10:50 The Food Files
- 11:15 The Food Files
- 11:45 Dog Whisperer
- 12:40 Bangkok Airport
- 13:35 Confucius Was A Foodie
- 14:30 Chasing The Sun
- 14:55 Chasing The Sun
- 15:25 Eat Street
- 15:50 Eat Street
- 16:20 Eat Street
- 16:45 The Best Job In The World
- 17:15 Access 360 World Heritage
- 18:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 18:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 19:05 Chasing The Sun
- 19:30 Eat Street
- 20:00 Eat Street
- 20:25 Eat Street
- 20:55 The Best Job In The World
- 21:20 Access 360 World Heritage
- 22:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 22:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 23:00 Bangkok Airport
- 23:50 Confucius Was A Foodie



- 00:10 The Chase
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:25 Emmerdale
- 01:50 Emmerdale
- 03:25 Coronation Street
- 05:30 Vera
- 07:05 Murdoch Mysteries
- 08:00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 09:20 Broadchurch
- 10:15 Broadchurch
- 11:10 Come Date With Me Australia
- 12:10 Come Date With Me Australia
- 12:40 Come Date With Me Australia
- 13:10 Come Date With Me Australia
- 13:40 Come Date With Me Australia
- 14:05 5 Star Family Reunion
- 15:00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 16:15 Vera
- 17:50 Murdoch Mysteries
- 18:45 Gino's Italian Escape
- 19:00 Gino's Italian Escape
- 19:10 Guess This House
- 20:00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 21:15 It's Not Rocket Science
- 22:10 5 Star Family Reunion



- 00:20 Turf War- Lions And Hippos
- 01:10 Animals Gone Wild Compilations
- 02:00 World's Deadliest Killers
- 02:50 World's Deadliest GPU
- 03:45 Nature's Greatest Talents
- 04:40 Survive The Wild
- 05:35 Extreme Animal Babies
- 06:30 Monster Fish
- 07:25 Monster Fish
- 08:20 Unlikely Animal Friends
- 09:15 Snakes In The City
- 10:10 Amazing Animal Selfies
- 11:05 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
- 12:00 Death Of A Sea Monster
- 12:55 World's Deadliest Killers
- 13:50 Killer Dragons
- 14:45 Wild Indochina
- 15:40 Survive The Wild
- 16:35 Savage Kingdom
- 17:30 Africa's Hunters
- 18:25 Wild 24
- 19:20 Wild Indochina
- 20:10 Survive The Wild
- 21:00 Savage Kingdom
- 21:50 Africa's Hunters
- 22:40 Wild 24
- 23:30 Death Of A Sea Monster



- 00:30 New Girl
- 01:00 New Girl
- 01:30 Insecure
- 02:00 Insecure



QUANTUM OF SOLACE ON OSN MOVIES HD



- 01:45 Pompeii
- 03:45 Lucy
- 06:00 Six Days Seven Nights
- 08:00 Ladder 49
- 10:00 Pompeii
- 12:00 Batman: Bad Blood
- 14:00 Lucy
- 16:00 Last Action Hero
- 18:15 Tracers
- 20:15 Hitman: Agent 47
- 22:00 Wild Card
- 23:45 The Green Inferno



- 00:00 Unfinished Business
- 02:00 Barbershop 2: Back In Business
- 04:00 You Again
- 06:00 Ride
- 08:00 Barbershop 2: Back In Business
- 10:00 You Again
- 12:00 Ride
- 14:00 Baby Mama
- 16:00 With This Ring
- 18:00 Taxi
- 20:00 Hot Pursuit
- 22:00 Your Friends & Neighbors



- 01:00 Falsely Accused
- 03:00 Wildlife
- 05:00 The Yellow Handkerchief
- 07:00 Matters Of The Heart
- 09:00 No God No Master
- 11:00 Wildlife
- 13:00 The Yellow Handkerchief
- 15:00 Don't Wake Mommy
- 17:00 No God No Master
- 19:00 The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby: Her
- 21:00 The Zero Theorem
- 23:00 Madame Bovary



- 01:00 Eight Below
- 03:00 White Fang
- 05:00 Hannah Montana Movie
- 07:00 Up
- 09:00 The Tigger Movie

- 11:00 Hannah Montana Movie
- 13:00 Tinker Bell And The Lost Treasure
- 15:00 Alice In Wonderland
- 17:00 Wall-E
- 19:00 The Amazing Wizard Of Paws
- 21:00 White Fang 2: Myth Of The White Wolf
- 23:00 Alice In Wonderland



- 01:30 War Horse
- 04:00 A Passage To India
- 07:00 Invictus
- 09:15 The Fugitive
- 11:30 Quantum Of Solace
- 13:30 Raising Helen
- 15:30 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
- 17:45 Skyfall
- 20:15 X-Men: First Class
- 22:30 There's Something About Mary



- 00:45 Savva
- 02:30 When Mamie Was There
- 04:15 Rugrats Go Wild
- 06:00 Mune
- 07:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 09:00 Pet Pals In Windland
- 10:30 Savva
- 12:15 When Mamie Was There
- 14:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
- 16:00 Pet Pals In Windland
- 18:00 The Wild Thornberrys Movie
- 20:00 The Adventures Of Rocky And Bullwinkle
- 21:45 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
- 23:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase



- 00:00 True Confessions
- 02:00 Seabiscuit
- 04:30 We Are Many
- 06:30 Wuthering Heights
- 08:30 The Help
- 11:00 Seabiscuit
- 13:30 Searching For Bobby Fischer
- 15:30 The Sting
- 17:45 The Selfish Giant
- 19:45 Mystic River
- 22:15 Boys Don't Cry



- 00:02 Max & Ruby
- 00:25 Wanda And The Alien
- 00:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 00:46 The Day Henry Met
- 00:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 01:41 Zack & Quack
- 02:14 Team Umizoomi
- 02:36 Olive The Ostrich
- 02:46 Paw Patrol
- 04:09 Wanda And The Alien
- 04:29 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 04:53 Dora And Friends
- 05:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 06:00 Rusty Rivets
- 06:13 Paw Patrol
- 06:37 Dora The Explorer
- 07:01 Zack & Quack
- 07:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 07:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 08:06 Paw Patrol
- 08:31 Shimmer And Shine
- 08:54 Dora The Explorer
- 09:16 The Day Henry Met
- 09:22 Paw Patrol
- 09:45 Rusty Rivets
- 09:57 Bubble Guppies
- 10:21 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 10:43 Zack & Quack
- 10:55 Team Umizoomi
- 11:41 Louie
- 11:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 12:02 Max & Ruby
- 12:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 12:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 12:46 The Day Henry Met
- 12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 13:41 Zack & Quack
- 14:13 Team Umizoomi
- 14:36 Olive The Ostrich
- 14:45 Paw Patrol
- 16:07 Wanda And The Alien
- 16:28 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 16:52 Dora And Friends
- 17:15 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 18:00 Rusty Rivets
- 18:12 Paw Patrol
- 18:36 Dora The Explorer
- 19:00 Zack & Quack
- 19:20 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 20:05 Team Umizoomi
- 20:50 Dora The Explorer
- 21:13 The Day Henry Met
- 21:18 Paw Patrol
- 21:41 Rusty Rivets
- 21:54 Bubble Guppies
- 22:18 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies



- 00:10 Locked Up Abroad
- 01:00 Uncensored With Michael Ware
- 02:00 Hitler's Death Army - Das Reich
- 04:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 05:00 Air Crash Investigation
- 06:00 Megastructures
- 07:00 Mega Factories
- 08:00 Dog Whisperer
- 10:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
- 10:30 Danger Decoded
- 11:00 Science Of Stupid
- 12:00 Top 10 Biggest Beasts Ever
- 14:00 Forbidden Tomb Of Genghis Khan
- 15:00 Air Crash Investigation
- 16:00 Mega Factories
- 17:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind
- 18:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- 19:00 Air Crash Investigation
- 20:00 Mega Factories



WUTHERING HEIGHTS ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL HD



## Grilling: Chimichurri-Stuffed Flank Steak Recipe



By Joshua Bousel

I'm a believer in grilling classics since they're usually deemed "classics" for a delicious reason. Give me a perfectly grilled steak and I'm happy. Top that with some chimichurri sauce—an Argentinean mixture of parsley, garlic, onion, vinegar, and oil which adds a nice tang and freshness to beef—and I'm even happier.

That's exactly what I had in mind the other day, but some creative force pulled me out of my regular routine and made me wonder, "What if the sauce was cooked inside the steak?" So I acted on this notion and butterflied a two pound flank steak, spread chimichurri all over, then rolled and tied up the meat. Grilled to medium, the steak was succulent and the chimichurri fla-

vor held up on the grill, still delivering a fresh factor, but not revelatory in taste. If there's something to be said for this modification, it was in the presentation. Even though it was just a steak with sauce in the end, the rolled delivery induced awe from the crowd, and it definitely vanished faster than a non-rolled counterpart would have.

### Ingredients:

#### For the chimichurri sauce:

1 cup packed fresh parsley leaves  
5 medium cloves of garlic, peeled  
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
1/4 cup red wine vinegar  
2 tablespoons water  
1/4 cup red onion, finely minced  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes

### For the steak:

2 pounds flank steak  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

### Preparation:

Process parsley and garlic in a food processor until chopped fine, about 20 one-second pulses. Transfer to medium bowl and whisk in remaining sauce ingredients until thoroughly blended. Butterfly flank steak by slicing it horizontally with the grain, half of the thickness of the steak, stopping about one inch from the edge of the meat.

Open the steak and completely cover with chimichurri sauce. Roll the steak into a cylinder so the grain of the meat runs the length of the roll. Tie the steak closed tight-

ly using butchers twine, with one tie about every inch along the length of the roll. Season the outside of the steak with salt and pepper to taste.

Light one chimney full of charcoal. When all the charcoal is lit and covered with gray ash, pour out and spread coals out evenly over the charcoal grate. Grill steak to desired doneness—until an instant read thermometer reads 140°F when inserted into the middle of the roll for medium—turning four times during cooking to evenly brown the outside. Remove from grill and let rest for 10 minutes. Slice between the pieces of twine, then remove the twine from each slice, and serve.



## COOKING ON DEADLINE: Greek Salad with Flank Steak

By Katie Workman

Quite often, I think a simple Greek salad is perfect as is, no adornments needed. But you may notice that in many eateries, from diners to higher-end restaurants, you often get a choice of added protein, usually chicken, shrimp or steak. And it's true, that extra protein does make a salad feel more like a fully rounded meal.

A few slices of pink, perfectly cooked steak draped across a colorful bowl of Greek salad make a lunch or dinner that knows no season, but that feels particularly nice as the weather warms up. You can serve it up on a big platter or on individual plates. If you have any kind of left-over steak in the fridge, slice that right up; this is the perfect way to use up those few pieces that aren't quite enough for a meal on their own. And if you aren't in the mood for steak, take a cue from the restaurants and think about swapping in salmon, chicken or shrimp.

### GREEK SALAD WITH FLANK STEAK

#### Ingredients:

Serves 6

Start to finish: 30 minutes

1 pound flank steak

1/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

1/2 pound green beans, trimmed and halved

1/4 cup red wine vinegar

1/2 cup diced red onion

1 teaspoon dried oregano

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1/2 teaspoon finely minced garlic

1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes (optional)

8 cups sliced romaine lettuce hearts

1 cup halved or quartered cherry tomatoes

1/2 cup sliced pitted kalamata or other Greek olives

1/3 pound crumbled feta cheese

#### Preparation:

Position your oven rack about 6 inches away from the heat source, and preheat the broiler. Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil and spray with nonstick cooking spray, or lightly oil the foil. Brush both sides of the steak with 1 tablespoon of olive oil, and season with salt and pepper. Broil the steak for about 4 or 5 minutes, until nicely browned on top, and then turn it and broil for 4 more minutes. Remove from the oven and let the meat rest on a cutting board for 10 minutes.

While the meat is broiling, cook the green beans. Bring a small pot of salted water to a boil. Add the green beans, cook for 3 minutes, then drain and rinse under cold water to cool, and drain again. Make the dressing: In a container, combine 1/3 cup olive oil, the vinegar, onion, oregano, mustard, garlic, salt, pepper and red pepper flakes (if using). Shake well to combine. Thinly slice the steak on the diagonal across the grain. In a large mixing bowl, combine the green beans, lettuce, tomatoes, and half of the olives and feta. Shake the dressing once more to combine, and pour over about 1/4 of the dressing. Toss the salad. Transfer to a large, shallow serving bowl and lay slices of the steak across the top of the salad. Pour some more dressing over the salad, reserving some to pass on the side for those who want additional dressing. Sprinkle the rest of the olives and feta over the top.





# NEARLY HALF OF US ADULTS INFECTED WITH GENITAL HPV

US LETS 23ANDME MARKET GENETIC HEALTH RISK REPORTS

**NEW YORK:** Health officials say nearly half of US adults have caught HPV, a sexually-transmitted bug that can cause cervical cancer and genital warts. About 45 percent of Americans ages 18 to 59 had some form of genital human papillomavirus, according to a report released Thursday that's the most complete look at how common HPV is among adults.

More concerning, about 25 percent of men and 20 percent of women had certain strains that carry a higher risk of

cancer. There are more than 150 HPV viruses. In most cases, HPV goes away on its own. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said most sexually active people will get HPV.

Vaccinations against HPV first became available in 2006, aimed at protecting kids before they become sexually active.

Meanwhile, US regulators on Thursday granted Silicon Valley biotech firm 23andMe permission to become the first company to market reports

showing customers' health risks based on their genetics.

The first reports will be made available this month in the United States, indicating genetic propensities for conditions such as Parkinson's disease and late-onset Alzheimer's disease, according to the Food and Drug Administration. "Consumers can now have direct access to certain genetic risk information," said Jeffrey Shuren, director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health.

"But it is important that people understand that genetic risk is just one piece of the bigger puzzle, it does not mean they will or won't ultimately develop a disease."

23andMe extracts genetic data from saliva samples sent in by customers. The private company had been focusing on providing ancestry information after the FDA reined in efforts to offer genetics-based health information about four years ago. "I am proud to say we are the first and only company to receive FDA authorization to market genetic health risk reports without a prescription," said 23andMe co-founder and chief Anne Wojcicki, the ex-wife of Google co-founder Sergey Brin.

"It's a defining moment-giving individuals direct access to more information about how their DNA could impact their health." The FDA said it granted permission for 23andMe to market "personal genome service genetic health risk" tests for ten diseases or conditions in a first-of-its-kind service direct to consumers.

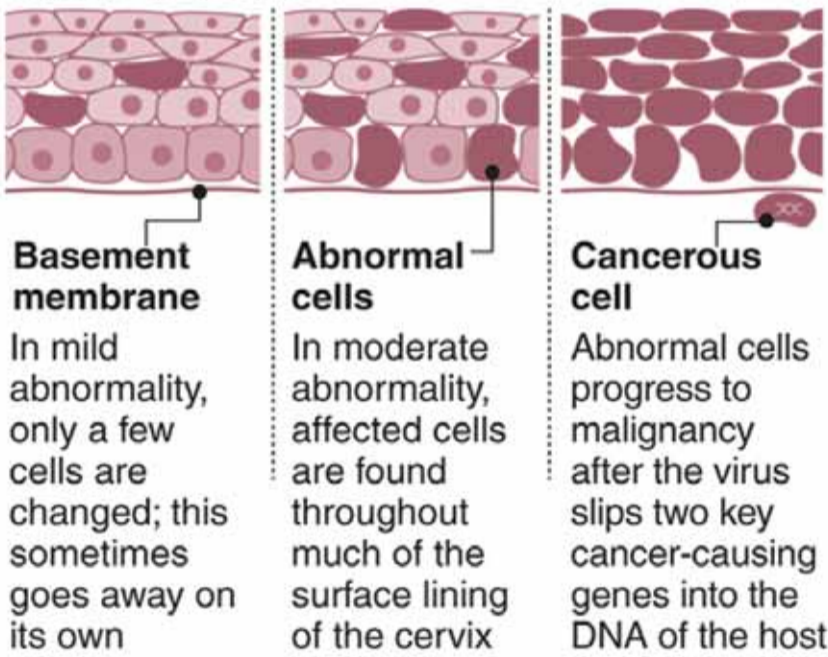
Test results could help people make more informed decisions when it comes to lifestyle or spur more insightful discussions with health care providers, according to the FDA.

The agency stressed that factors other than genetics, such as lifestyle and pollution, play roles when it comes to health. The 23andMe tests were specifically barred from serving as the sole basis for major medical treatment decisions, the FDA said. 23andMe was founded in 2006 and is based in Mountain View, California, where Google also has its headquarters. The 23andMe "Health + Ancestry" report costs \$199. A genetic test focused on ancestry alone is \$99. — Agencies

## HPV From Infection to Cancer

*"High-risk" human papillomavirus (HPV) types have the potential to lead to cancer over a decade or longer. When the virus infects cells, it gradually causes increasingly severe damage.*

### Squamous cells



MCT Source: Dr. Richard M. Haupt, Merck & Co.



**KIEV:** Acting Health Minister of Ukraine Juliana Suprun (center), along with others participates in an outdoor sport exercise to mark World Health Day in Kiev yesterday.—AP

## URUGUAY TO START SELLING MARIJUANA IN PHARMACIES

**MONTEVIDEO:** Uruguay will become the world's first country to allow recreational marijuana to be sold in pharmacies starting in July, the president's office said Thursday.

The move is the last step in implementing a revolutionary law that the South American country adopted in 2013 that fully legalized the production, sale and consumption of marijuana. The most innovative-and controversial-aspect of the law, pharmacy sales, had been on hold, with no clear timeline for when it would begin. But President Tabare Vazquez's administration put an end to the uncertainty at a news conference.

"Cannabis will be dispensed in pharmacies starting in the month of July," said presidential aide Juan Andres Roballo, the head of the National Drugs Council. "Sometime in the first two weeks of July," he added when asked by reporters. Under the law, buyers must sign up for a national registry of marijuana users to ensure they have fulfilled licensing procedures and do not exceed the monthly maximum purchase of 40 grams (1.4 ounces).

The registry-which is open only to Uruguayan citizens and permanent residents-will be up and running on May 2, Roballo said. A gram of pot will cost \$1.30, said the secretary general of the National Drugs Council, Diego Olivera.

The drug will be sold in packets of five or 10 grams, with only the smaller size available initially, he said. Part of the proceeds will fund government drug-use prevention programs.

Far from covering demand The marijuana sold in pharmacies is being grown by private companies in state-supervised fields. The country has so far stockpiled 400 kilograms (880 pounds), produced by two different firms.

"We're far from covering the real demand," said Roballo. But starting sales will enable the companies to ramp up production, he said. Under the law, users also have the option to grow their own pot at home, or join cannabis clubs that grow it in cooperatives.

Only 16 pharmacies have signed agreements with the government to supply marijuana so far. The government is hoping to reach at least 30 by the time sales begin. Uruguay, a country of 3.4 million people, has an estimated 150,000 regular marijuana users. Advocates of the law say it will funnel money away from drug traffickers, toward legal businesses and the state. Roballo said the government's marijuana would be "every bit" as potent as that sold by dealers.

"Buyers will have complete certainty about the quality of the product they are consuming, and so the risks will diminish considerably," he said. The marijuana law was passed under former president Jose Mujica (2010-2015), a colorful ex-guerrilla fighter known for living in a run-down farmhouse, driving a beat-up Volkswagen Beetle and giving most of his salary to charity.

It made an uncomfortable inheritance for his ally and successor, Vazquez-a cancer doctor who passed strict anti-smoking legislation when he served a first presidential term from 2005 to 2010.

Vazquez's government said in 2015 that it was in "no hurry" to implement the law. But it reluctantly agreed to follow through in the end. — AFP

## DOCTORS MUST CHECK WEATHER FORECASTS TO STOP EPIDEMICS

**LONDON:** Health agencies in Africa need to start consulting seasonal weather forecasts to help prepare for malaria epidemics and ensure outbreaks are spotted early and curbed before they become severe, a malaria expert said. Rising temperatures, floods and droughts can cause major epidemics in areas not usually affected by malaria, particularly as people may lack immunity to the disease and are therefore more likely to fall ill or even die, said Tarekegn Abeku, senior technical specialist at international non-profit Malaria Consortium.

Weather forecasts are vital to help health agencies know where to increase vigilance "so that if there is an outbreak you can take action immediately", he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation from his London office. Forecasters are getting better at predicting these threatening weather pat-

terns - sometimes months in advance - as they become more frequent and more severe in many countries as the climate changes. But currently most health agencies in Africa have "no organised way of looking at information related to climate change", said Abeku.

### El nino and malaria

"Most malaria epidemics follow abnormal weather conditions, often in combination with other causes, including increased resistance of the parasite to antimalarial drugs," he said. In the last 60 years in Ethiopia, for example, most outbreaks have been associated with El Nino or La Nina weather patterns, which can bring higher temperatures, more rainfall or drought, Abeku said. —Reuters



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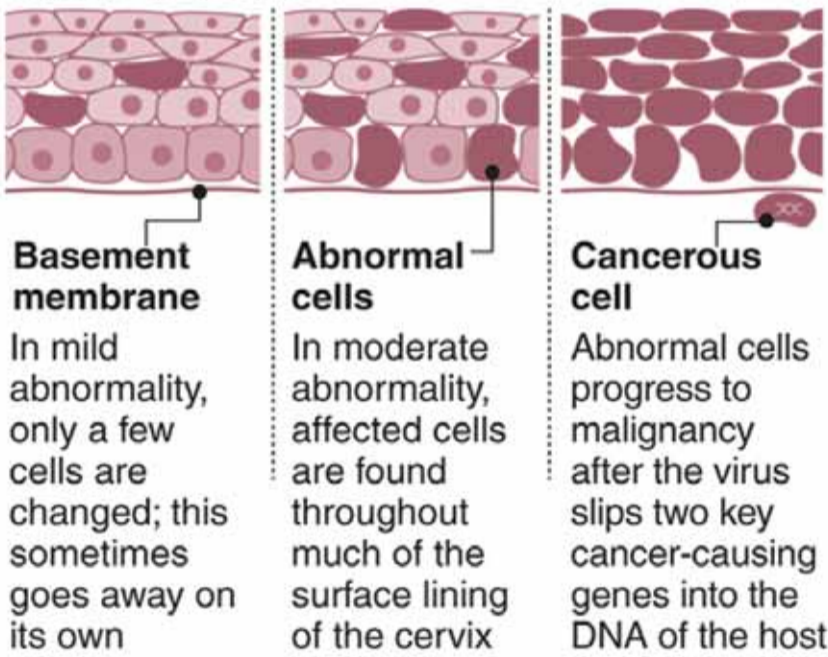
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## MAKE CLIMATE CHANGE AN ECONOMIC ISSUE: EX-MALDIVES PRESIDENT

**OXFORD, England:** Winning effective action on climate change will require treating the problem less as an environmental or human rights crisis and more as a sensible economic shift, the former Maldives president said Thursday.

"While it remains an ethical or human rights issue, it's not so easy to have it in your political manifesto," Mohamed Nasheed said, pointing to climate change's political divisiveness in the United States. But any politician, he said, can win votes by promising more jobs and a stronger economy - something eminently achievable if the world transitions to cleaner and more sustainable energy, a move that also would bring environmental and social benefits.

The world needs to package the benefits of a low-carbon transition in way "that political parties can embrace", said Nasheed, speaking at the Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship in Oxford. Some populist politicians are already persuaded on the economic benefits of stepping up climate action, said Samir Saran, vice president of the New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation, which works on policy responses to problems facing India.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for instance, aims to put in place 175 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2022 - approaching the entire electrical generating capacity of Germany today, Saran said. The aim is not primarily to fight climate change, but to develop the country - and cut poverty - in the quickest, most effective and most sustainable way, he said.

India, by developing without large amounts of fossil fuels, "will be the first country in the world to create a new model of growth that will be exportable to the whole world", Saran predicted - a point of national pride and a potential route to economic success. Nasheed, who was ousted from the Maldives presidency in a 2012 coup, said he didn't believe that the election of US President Donald Trump, whose administration is trying to reverse action on climate change and promote dirty fuels such as coal, would have any significant impact on countries like China and India as they push ahead on clean energy. —Reuters

## GIRL, 9, SUES INDIA GOVT OVER INACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

PETITION UNDERLINES GROWING CONCERN OVER POLLUTION

**MUMBAI:** A nine-year-old girl has filed a legal case against the Indian government for failing to take action on climate change, highlighting the growing concern over pollution and environmental degradation in the country. In the petition filed with the National Green Tribunal (NGT), a special court for environment-related cases, Ridhima Pandey said the government has failed to implement its environment laws.

"As a young person (Ridhima) is part of a class that amongst all Indians is most vulnerable to changes in climate, yet are not part of the decision making process," the 52-page petition said.

The petition called on the tribunal to direct the government "to take effective, science-based action to reduce and minimize the adverse impacts of climate change".

The tribunal has asked the Ministry of Environment and the Central Pollution Control Board to respond within two weeks. A spokesman from the Ministry of Environment told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that they would respond as directed by the tribunal. India is home to four of the 10 worst ranked cities in the world for air pollution. Along with China, India accounted for more than half the total number of global deaths attributable to air pollution in 2015, according to a recent study. Despite several laws to protect India's forests, clean up its rivers and improve air quality, critics are concerned that implementation is poor, and economic growth often takes precedence over the environment.

Flash floods and landslides in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, where Ridhima lives, killed hundreds of people and left tens of thousands homeless in 2013.

The devastation affected Ridhima, the daughter of an environmental activist, said Rahul Choudhary, a lawyer representing her. "For someone so young, she is very aware of the issue of climate change, and she is very concerned about how it will impact her in

future," he said. "She wanted to do something that can have a meaningful effect, and we suggested she could file a petition against the government," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Ridhima is not the first child in India to take the government to task over inaction to protect the environment. Last year, six teenagers filed a petition with the NGT over air pollution in New Delhi which has the worst air quality in the country. —Reuters



**HYDERBAD:** An India nurse checks the blood pressure of a woman at the Government Maternity Hospital in Hyderabad yesterday on World Health Day. World Health Day yesterday marks the anniversary of the World Health Organization being founded in 1948. —AFP

CLINIC  
PAGE



Kuwait Times  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال  
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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/04/2017 TO 12/04/2017)

<b>SHARQIA-1</b>		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	6:15 PM		
AFTERMATH	12:00 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	8:15 PM	<b>360°- 2</b>	
AFTERMATH	2:00 PM	AFTERMATH	10:15 PM	SALT AND FIRE	1:30 PM
EAT LOCAL	4:00 PM	AFTERMATH	12:15 AM	EAT LOCAL	3:30 PM
AFTERMATH	6:00 PM			SALT AND FIRE	5:45 PM
EAT LOCAL	8:00 PM	<b>FANAR-5</b>		EAT LOCAL	8:00 PM
AFTERMATH	10:00 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic	1:00 PM	SALT AND FIRE	10:00 PM
EAT LOCAL	12:05 AM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic	3:00 PM	EAT LOCAL	12:15 AM
		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic	5:00 PM		
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>		SAFRA 5 NJOOM	7:00 PM	<b>360°- 3</b>	
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	11:30 AM	SAFRA 5 NJOOM	9:00 PM	GET OUT	11:45 AM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	1:30 PM	SAFRA 5 NJOOM	11:00 PM	GET OUT	2:15 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	3:30 PM	EAT LOCAL	1:00 AM	GET OUT	4:30 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	5:30 PM			GET OUT	6:45 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	7:30 PM	<b>MARINA-1</b>		GET OUT	9:00 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	9:30 PM	AFTERMATH	12:00 PM	GET OUT	11:15 PM
KONG: SKULL ISLAND	11:30 PM	AFTERMATH	2:00 PM		
		AFTERMATH	4:00 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.1</b>	
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>		MAHBAS (SOLITAIRE)	6:00 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	11:30 AM
GOING IN STYLE	12:45 PM	MAHBAS (SOLITAIRE)	8:00 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	1:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	2:45 PM	AFTERMATH	10:00 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	3:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	4:45 PM	AFTERMATH	12:05 AM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	5:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	6:45 PM			SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	7:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	8:45 PM	<b>MARINA-2</b>		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	9:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	10:45 PM	GOING IN STYLE	12:15 PM	AFTERMATH	11:30 PM
AFTERMATH	12:45 AM	GOING IN STYLE	2:15 PM		
		GOING IN STYLE	4:15 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>	
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>		GOING IN STYLE	6:15 PM	GOING IN STYLE	12:00 PM
AFTERMATH	11:45 AM	GOING IN STYLE	8:15 PM	GOING IN STYLE	2:00 PM
AFTERMATH	1:45 PM	GOING IN STYLE	10:15 PM	GOING IN STYLE	4:00 PM
KONG: SKULL ISLAND	3:45 PM	GOING IN STYLE	12:15 AM	GOING IN STYLE	6:00 PM
AFTERMATH	6:30 PM			GOING IN STYLE	8:00 PM
AFTERMATH	8:30 PM	<b>MARINA-3</b>		GOING IN STYLE	10:00 PM
AFTERMATH	10:30 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	11:45 AM	GOING IN STYLE	12:05 AM
AFTERMATH	12:30 AM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	1:45 PM		
		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	3:45 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.3</b>	
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic	5:45 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	12:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	1:00 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	7:45 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	2:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	3:00 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	9:45 PM	SAFRA 5 NJOOM	4:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	5:00 PM	GET OUT	11:45 PM	SAFRA 5 NJOOM	6:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	7:00 PM			SAFRA 5 NJOOM	8:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	9:00 PM	<b>AVENUES-1</b>		SAFRA 5 NJOOM	10:30 PM
KONG: SKULL ISLAND	11:00 PM	COLLIDE	11:30 AM	SAFRA 5 NJOOM	12:30 AM
		AKHER DEEK FE MASR -Arabic	1:30 PM		
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>		COLLIDE	3:45 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.4</b>	
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	12:00 PM	AKHER DEEK FE MASR -Arabic	5:45 PM	AFTERMATH	1:00 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic	2:00 PM	AKHER DEEK FE MASR -Arabic	8:00 PM	EAT LOCAL	3:00 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	4:00 PM	AKHER DEEK FE MASR -Arabic	10:15 PM	AFTERMATH	5:00 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic	6:00 PM	AKHER DEEK FE MASR -Arabic	12:30 AM	EAT LOCAL	7:00 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	8:00 PM			AFTERMATH	9:00 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	10:00 PM	<b>AVENUES-2</b>		EAT LOCAL	11:00 PM
GOING IN STYLE	12:05 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND -3D-4DX	11:45 AM	EAT LOCAL	1:00 AM
		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE -3D-4DX	2:15 PM		
<b>FANAR-1</b>		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE -3D-4DX	4:15 PM	<b>BAIRAQ-1</b>	
KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:15 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE -3D-4DX	6:15 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	1:00 PM
AKHER DEEK FE MASR -Arabic	1:30 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE -3D-4DX	8:15 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	3:00 PM
FRI		KONG: SKULL ISLAND -3D-4DX	10:15 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	5:00 PM
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GOING IN STYLE	3:45 PM			AKHER DEEK FE MASR -Arabic	9:15 PM
GOING IN STYLE	5:45 PM	<b>AVENUES-4</b>		SAFRA 5 NJOOM	11:30 PM
GOING IN STYLE	7:45 PM	GOING IN STYLE	11:45 AM		
GOING IN STYLE	9:45 PM	GOING IN STYLE	1:45 PM	<b>BAIRAQ-3</b>	
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<b>FANAR-3</b>		GOING IN STYLE	8:30 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic	4:00 PM
AFTERMATH	12:00 PM	Special Show "SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE"		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic	6:00 PM
AFTERMATH	2:00 PM	8:30 PM		GOING IN STYLE	8:00 PM
AFTERMATH	4:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	10:45 PM	GOING IN STYLE	10:00 PM
EAT LOCAL	6:00 PM	AFTERMATH	1:15 AM	GOING IN STYLE	12:05 AM
AFTERMATH	8:00 PM				
EAT LOCAL	10:00 PM	<b>360°- 1</b>		<b>PLAZA</b>	
EAT LOCAL	12:05 AM	GOING IN STYLE	12:30 PM	TAKE OFF- Malayalam	3:45 PM
		GOING IN STYLE	2:45 PM	TAKE OFF- Malayalam	6:30 PM
<b>FANAR-4</b>		GOING IN STYLE	5:00 PM	TAKE OFF- Malayalam	9:30 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	12:15 PM	GOING IN STYLE	7:15 PM	KAATRU VELIYDAI -Tamil	9:30 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	2:15 PM	GOING IN STYLE	9:30 PM		
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	4:15 PM	GOING IN STYLE	11:45 PM		

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Sangaraju Surendra S/o Singaraju Narayana Raju, holder of Indian Passport No. Z3344254 & Civil ID No. 283060507914 has changed my name to Singaraju Surendra hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5290) 6-4-2017

**ACCOMMODATION**

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## EMERGENCY

**112**

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

**PRAYER TIMINGS**

**Fajr: 04:09**

**Shorook 05:30**

**Duhr: 11:50**

**Asr: 15:23**

**Maghrib: 18:10**

**Isha: 19:29**



SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Saturday 8/4/2017

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35
KAC	102	London	00:55
MSR	618	Alexandria	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:25
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55
KAC	786	Jeddah	02:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
KAC	418	Manila	02:50
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15
KAC	344	Ahmedabad	04:15
KAC	366	Colombo	04:20
KAC	544	Cairo	04:20
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35
BAW	157	London	06:05
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:55
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
PAL	668	Manila	11:00
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
JZR	239	Amman	12:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	13:35
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10
KAC	364	Colombo	14:15
KAC	352	Kochi	14:20
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
KAC	618	Doha	14:20
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:25
IRC	526	Mashhad	14:30
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:35
JZR	357	Mashhad	14:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
KAC	692	Muscat	14:55
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
KAC	562	Amman	15:10
KAC	412	Bangkok	15:30
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
KAC	118	New York	15:40
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
SAW	705	Damascus	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
SVA	504	Madinah	16:00
FDK	801	Damascus	16:00
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:10
FDB	051	Dubai	16:15
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
KAC	106	London	16:30
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35
NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50
KAC	542	Cairo	17:05
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10

SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
SVA	500	Jeddah	18:00
QTR	1080	Doha	18:05
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
KAC	1544	Cairo	19:05
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
KAC	174	Munich	19:25
KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30
KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
KAC	620	Doha	19:50
FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
KAC	776	Riyadh	19:50
OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
KNE	381	Taif	20:10
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
KAC	616	Bahrain	20:40
KAC	514	Tehran	20:55
KAC	564	Amman	21:00
KAC	168	Paris	21:05
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:15
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
FDB	8053	Dubai	21:25
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
NIA	161	Cairo	22:10
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
KNE	533	Jeddah	22:45
JZR	241	Amman	22:55
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00
THY	764	Istanbul	23:05
MSC	405	Sohag	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35

Departure Flights on Saturday 8/4/2017

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PIA	240	Sialkot	01:00
MSC	502	Alexandria	01:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
SVA	515	Riyadh	01:25
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
KAC	105	London	01:40
MSR	619	Alexandria	01:55
KAC	363	Colombo	01:55
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35
THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50
KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
KAC	351	Kochi	03:05
UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	417	Manila	04:20
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
QTR	1077	Doha	05:35
UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	173	Munich	06:55
JZR	238	Amman	06:55
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	167	Paris	07:15
JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:45
KAC	613	Bahrain	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:20
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	741	Dammam	08:30
KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:35
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:40
KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	09:00
KAC	117	New York	09:00
JZR	356	Mashhad	09:00
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
KAC	561	Amman	09:30
KAC	691	Muscat	09:30

ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
KAC	101	London	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
KAC	617	Doha	10:15
FDB	056	Dubai	10:25
KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
IRM	1189	Mashhad	11:10
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
VIZ	201	IQA	12:00
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
PAL	669	Manila	13:10
THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
IAW	158	Al Najaf	14:25
KNE	382	Taif	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
IRC	527	Mashhad	15:30
KAC	563	Amman	15:40
JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
KAC	619	Doha	16:00
KAC	1543	Cairo	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	513	Tehran	16:30
SAW	708	KAC	16:50
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:50
FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
SVA	505	Madinah	16:55
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:00
FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
KAC	361	Colombo	17:10
JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	615	Bahrain	17:30
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	1541	Cairo	18:00
IRA	666	fahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	545	Cairo	18:35
JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20
KAC	343	Ahmedabad	19:20
SVA	501	Jeddah	19:30
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
DLH	634	Doha	21:00
OMA	648	Seeb International, Muscat	21:05
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
JZR	124	Bahrain	21:15
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
FDB	8054	Dubai	22:25
UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
NIA	162	Cairo	23:10
KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KNE	534	Jeddah	23:35
KAC	411	Bangkok	23:35



WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

The Beach

Find and circle all of the beach words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional beach word.

T R I H S T S T O W E L B E  
 Y K S E S U A T S A G L E R  
 A S V U R I I O D D N A A O  
 S A E F N U F R B I I B C H  
 W U I S S S A R D N L Y H S  
 W N N M S O C R A G I E B A  
 G A I S B A I R N T A L A E  
 P W T F H F L O E D S L L S  
 S I R E T I K G C E D O L E  
 H U E W R C N A N E N V S A  
 S A O R L I F E G U A R D G  
 T O T E E F E R A B S N L U  
 D E S W I M M I N G P A I L  
 L L E H S A E S D U O L C L

- BARE FEET
- SAILING
- SURFBOARD
- BEACH BALL
- SAND
- SURFING
- BOAT
- SEAGULL
- SWIMMING
- CLOUDS
- SEASHELL
- SWIMSUIT
- DRIFTWOOD
- SEASHORE
- T SHIRT
- HAT
- SKY
- TOWEL
- KITE
- STARFISH
- VOLLEYBALL
- LIFEGUARD
- SUNGLASSES
- WADING
- OCEAN
- SUNSCREEN
- WATER
- PAIL
- SUNSHINE
- WAVES
- PIER

Yesterday's Solution

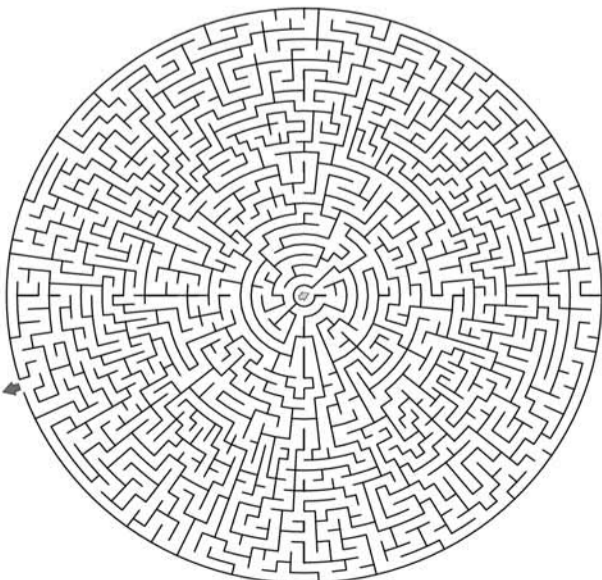
Thanksgiving (U.S.)

M A C P T L G R I M S P A R A D E  
 S M A Y S W E E T P O T A T O Y N  
 G N T R E H T A G S H T H G A O S  
 D N P L L A B T O O F F R N I C E  
 O O S U M I E R E S L V S V I U A A R D T  
 F U P I O L D V T Y T E N U N G A T  
 R I F K C N A E I R B N E N A T O  
 I E I P N D A A V A R R A E A Y T A P  
 D N P I N L D R E R A E L T P U A D E  
 S Y E K R U T R G B A T E R M M H S  
 H A R V E S T M U S H R O O M A S  
 H S A U Q S O U E H S R A N L W A M  
 R F A M I L Y L A T I L L A D P E M

- ANNUAL
- GRAVY
- RELATIVES
- AUTUMN
- HARVEST
- REUNION
- CELEBRATION
- HOLIDAY
- SQUASH
- CORN
- LONG WEEKEND
- STUFFING
- CRANBERRY
- MASHED POTATOES
- SWEET POTATO
- FAMILY
- MEAL
- THURSDAY
- FEAST
- NOVEMBER
- TRADITION
- FESTIVAL
- PARADE
- TRAVEL
- FOOD
- PILGRIMS
- TURKEY
- FOOTBALL
- PLYMOUTH
- WAMPANOAG
- FRIENDS
- PUMPKIN PIE
- YAMS
- GATHERING

The hidden message is: MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1572

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15			16								17		
18			19								20		
21			22				23			24			
25			26				27			28			
31	32	33	34			35			36	37	38	39	
40						41			42				
43					44		45		46				
47				48	49		50			51			
52			53				54	55		56			
60	61	62		63			64			65	66	67	
68			69		70	71			72				
73			74					75		76			
77			78							79			

ACROSS

1. The cry made by sheep.
4. Grant credentials to.
12. A tight-fitting headdress.
15. The month following March and preceding May.
16. Fortification consisting of a strong fence made of stakes driven into the ground.
17. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
18. Explosive consisting of a yellow crystalline compound that is a flammable toxic derivative of toluene.
19. Cosmopolitan genus of usually perennial herbs with flowers that resemble asters.
20. An accidental happening.
21. A naturally occurring weak estrogenic hormone secreted by the mammalian ovary.
23. A metric unit of volume equal to one tenth of a liter.
25. A quantity of no importance.
26. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
29. A formal expression of praise.
31. An appetizer consisting usually of a thin slice of bread or toast spread with caviar or cheese or other savory food.
36. The sensation that results when olfactory receptors in the nose are stimulated by particular chemicals in gaseous form.
40. A plumbing fixture (usually attached to the wall) used by men to urinate.
41. European strong-scented perennial herb with gray-green bitter-tasting leaves.
42. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
43. Pain resulting from rapid change in pressure.
45. A state in north central United States.
46. Of or relating to or involving an area.
47. Loud confused noise from many sources.
51. The sign language used in the United States.
52. A yearning for something or to do something.
53. A successful ending of a struggle or contest.
58. A member of the Siouan people formerly inhabiting the Black Hills of western South Dakota.
60. A small cake leavened with yeast.
64. Author of satirical attacks on medieval scholasticism (1494-1553).
68. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
72. Possessing life.
73. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
74. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
76. Chief port of Yemen.
77. The basic unit of money in Albania.
78. A state in midwestern United States.
79. English pianist (1890-1965).

DOWN

1. A thin tapered rod used by a conductor to direct an orchestra.
2. Transient cessation of respiration.
3. An honorary arts degree.
4. Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
5. Carries luggage to air travelers.
6. Fruit (especially peach) whose flesh adheres strongly to the pit.

7. The brightest star in Orion.
8. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
9. Any of a group of Indic languages spoken in Kashmir and eastern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan.
10. A material effigy that is worshipped as a god.
11. Being one more than nine.
12. United States songwriter and playwright famous for his patriotic songs (1878-1942).
13. Jordan's port.
14. Proceeding from or ordered by or subject to a pope or the papacy regarded as the successor of the Apostles.
22. Small toothless anteater with prehensile tale and four-clawed forelimbs.
24. Someone who procures customers for whores (in England they call a pimp a ponce).
27. A battle between the successors of Alexander the Great (301 BC).
28. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
30. In bed.
32. Large west African tree having large palmately lobed leaves and axillary cymose panicles of small white flowers and one-winged seeds.
33. A fine strong sheer silky fabric made of silk or rayon or nylon.
34. A native or inhabitant of Afghanistan.
35. A radioactive element of the alkali-metal group discovered as a disintegration product of actinium.
37. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
38. An edict of the Russian tsar.
39. A large gathering of people intended to arouse enthusiasm.
44. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
48. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
49. The month following July and preceding September.
50. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
54. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
55. Any of several trees of the genus Platanus having thin pale bark that scales off in small plates and lobed leaves and ball-shaped heads of fruits.
56. (India) Usually in combination.
57. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
59. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
61. A French abbot.
62. Related to or located at the back.
63. A submachine gun operated by gas pressure.
65. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
66. United States composer noted for his innovative use of polytonality (1874-1954).
67. A strong-smelling plant from whose dried leaves a number of euphoriant and hallucinogenic drugs are prepared.
69. An index of the cost of all goods and services to a typical consumer.
70. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
71. Being one more than six.
75. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Yesterday's Solution

L	O	L	O		H	A	N	D	S	E	T		C	P	I
A	S	I	O		A	R	R	A	N	G	E		A	I	D
M	I	N	S	T	R	E	L		E	N	A	B	L	E	
N	E	A	P		D	A	B		B	R	I	D	G	E	S
A	R	C	H	L	Y				N	A	I	A	D		
					E		F	A	U	N	A		A	M	E
A	P	P	R	I	S	A	L		Z		O	X	E	Y	E
K	O	R	E		C		C	H	A	D			D	E	W
A	L	I		B	A	B	A		I	A		F	I	F	E
B	A	O	B	A	B			G		C	N	I	C	U	S
A	R	R	A	S				B	A	T	E		L	I	L
					T	A	N	K	A		R		M	E	
S	H	O	A	L	Y				C	U	R	A	T	I	V
O	A	R			T	A	L	L	Y	M	A	N		N	A
D	N	A			I	L	L	I	M	A	N	I		C	I
A	D	D			C	A	M	P	A	N	I	A		A	N

Daily SuDoku

		5		2		4		
8				7				
6	4					2		
4		3	9					2
	5		2		1		8	
1					3	9		6
		6					3	9
				1				7
	3		8			1		

Yesterday's Solution

2	9	4	8	7	1	6	5	3
3	6	7	4	5	9	1	8	2
5	1	8	3	6	2	4	7	9
4	2	6	1	8	7	3	9	5
7	3	1	5	9	4	2	6	8
8	5	9	2	3	6	7	4	1
9	4	2	7	1	5	8	3	6
1	8	5	6	4	3	9	2	7
6	7	3	9	2	8	5	1	4



PREVIEW

## ROSSI REACHES 350 RACES IN BATTLE OF AGES

**BUENOS AIRES:** Valentino Rossi races in a record-setting 350th grand prix in Argentina tomorrow determined to prove that at 38 he will not be overshadowed by teammate Maverick Vinales, who blitzed the season-opener in Qatar.

Rossi, a nine-time world champion, was third in the rain and wind of the Qatari desert after starting from 10th on the grid on a weekend when Vinales, 16 years his junior, dominated on his first outing for Yamaha. "It wasn't an easy start to the championship but I was very happy to be able to get on the podium," said Rossi. "Now we go to

Argentina. This is a track that I like very much and I'm happy to go there. I hope that there are good asphalt conditions because last year it was difficult for us." Rossi came home in second place at the dusty and hot Termas de Rio Hondo circuit in Argentina last year having taken victory 12 months earlier.

But his former teammate Jorge Lorenzo, whose decision to move to Ducati opened the door for Vinales at Yamaha, believes that the flying Spaniard could end up making Rossi feel his age this season.

"It's nothing easy for Valentino to keep racing MotoGP at his age," Lorenzo told

www.motorsports.com. "The second oldest rider is maybe 32, and he's 38. I guess when you become 38 every season is tougher than the one before; that's something Rossi recognises himself. You don't see many 38-year-olds as fast as Rossi. "It's not something easy and even less when you have an outstanding and strong teammate like Maverick."

However, former Suzuki pilot Vinales, who became the second youngest rider to win in the premier class for two different manufacturers, just behind Mike Hailwood with his Qatar triumph, recognises that he is already a marked man. "We have the difficult

challenge to continue getting good results, Qatar was only the first race of 18," said the Spaniard. "I can feel the pressure a little bit because the level of my rivals is very high, but that motivates me even more to keep working hard. We have to be cautious, work step by step and race by race."

The Argentina race is also a key test for defending world champion Marc Marquez after the Spaniard managed just fourth place in Qatar on his Honda. "I must fight for the podium," said the Spaniard, a two-time winner at the race and world champion in 2013, 2014 and 2016. — AFP

## F1 CONFIRMS FINAL EDITION OF MALAYSIAN GP IN OCTOBER

**SHANGHAI:** The Malaysian Grand Prix will hold its final edition on Oct 1, bringing an end to one of the longest-running Formula One races in Asia after struggling in recent years to attract fans and local television viewers. The announcement, which was made yesterday by F1 officials at the Chinese Grand Prix and the Malaysian government, had been anticipated after the country's sports minister indicated late last year that the race's contract would not be renewed when it expires in 2018. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said yesterday the government had decided to pull out of F1 because of the high cost of staging the event and declining ticket sales and tourism figures.

"Hosting the F1 has helped promote the country as a destination for international sports and tourism. However, it's time for the government to assess the F1 race due to the changes since we first hosted the race in 1999," Najib said in a statement. Competition from other races in Asia has taken a toll on the Malaysian GP. In his statement, Najib noted that when the race was first held at Sepang International Circuit nearly two decades ago, there was only one other Asian country on the F1 calendar, Japan. Now, six Asian countries host F1 races, including nearby Singapore, which has one of the most popular races, run at night through the city streets.

"It's always sad to say goodbye to a member of the Formula One family," Sean Bratches, F1 managing director for commercial operations, said in Shanghai. "Malaysian Formula One fans have proven themselves to be some of the most passionate supporters." Malaysia's withdrawal from F1 comes at a time when the sport is making a push to increase its presence in North America. F1 returned to the United States in 2012 with a race in Austin, Texas, and Bratches said at the Australian Grand Prix last month that the US market would continue to be a focus for the sport. The French Grand Prix will also return to the F1 calendar in 2018 after a 10-year absence.

Although Malaysia will no longer host a race after this year, its state oil company, Petronas, will continue to sponsor the Mercedes team, the prime minister said in his statement. — AP



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Sepang International Circuit (SIC) Chairman Mohamed Azman Yahya (L) and CEO Razlan Razali speak to the media in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. This year's Malaysian Grand Prix is set to be the country's last, Prime Minister Najib Razak said yesterday, citing rising costs and falling ticket sales. — AFP

MOTOR RACING



**SHANGHAI:** Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton looks at his mobile phone after signing autographs for fans in pit lane during the second practice session ahead of the Formula One Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

## SHANGHAI MIST WIPES OUT FIRST DAY OF CHINA GP

**SHANGHAI:** The Shanghai weather all but wiped out the first two practice sessions for the Chinese Formula One Grand Prix yesterday with poor visibility in the city forcing the grounding of the medical support helicopter.

Drivers were only able to run for 22 of the scheduled 90 minute opening session while second practice was wiped out altogether. Visibility at the track, on the outskirts of Shanghai, was good enough for helicopters to fly, with television choppers hovering overhead throughout the day.

Foggier conditions in the city meant the medical helicopter would have been unable to land at the designated hospital, 38km from the circuit, a spokesperson from the sport's governing International Automobile Federation (FIA) said.

Track action has to be halted if the medical helicopter cannot fly or if an ambulance cannot reach the designated hospital within 20 minutes, according to FIA safety procedures. Only 14 drivers completed timed laps, with neither championship favourite Lewis

Hamilton of Mercedes nor Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, winner of last month's season-opening race in Australia, setting times. "It's not good for the fans watching on TV and even worse for all those people in the stands, who have paid money to come out here from the city or even from other countries," triple world champion Hamilton told reporters. "We need to work together with the FIA and (commercial rights holder) FOM to find a solution or an alternative plan of some kind when we have circumstances like this in the future."

Teenager Max Verstappen's opening session-topping effort of one minute, 50.491 seconds in damp and drizzly conditions remained the fastest time of the day. The Dutchman's lap was more than 15 seconds slower than retired world champion Nico Rosberg's pole position effort last year, an indication of the limited benefit of the curtailed session. Hamilton and Vettel are expected to battle for victory tomorrow but will only have a final hour-long practice session ahead of qualify-

ing on Saturday to prepare for what is predicted to be a wet race.

Hamilton, who has yet to drive on the new rain tyres introduced this year, expressed apprehension about racing in the rain, while Vettel goes into the weekend feeling more relaxed.

"Pretty comfortable for this grand prix, I hope still, despite the weather," the German said. "I think the forecast for tomorrow is quite good so we get a lot more running." With action curtailed, fans who braved the cool temperatures and inclement weather found other ways to amuse themselves. A fan dressed as the main villain from the "Star Wars" movie series was given a fair amount of television exposure, with producers even running the caption "Darth Vader, Sith Lord" to accompany the images. Hamilton crossed the track to the grandstands to wave at his cheering fans before throwing signed merchandise up to them. The Briton, the most successful driver in China with four wins, is hoping to strike back at a resurgent Ferrari tomorrow. — Reuters





**BOSTON:** Ryan Dzingel #18 of the Ottawa Senators defends Patrice Bergeron #37 of the Boston Bruins during overtime at TD Garden on April 6, 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts. The Senators defeat the Bruins 2-1. —AFP

NHL

## SENATORS CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOT WITH 2-1 WIN OVER BOSTON

**BOSTON:** Craig Anderson stopped 28 shots in regulation and overtime and three more in the shootout Thursday to help the Ottawa Senators clinch a playoff spot by beating Boston 2-1, ending the Bruins' six-game winning streak and pulling ahead of them in the Atlantic Division standings. Kyle Turris scored the only goal in the shootout. Anderson stopped Drew Stafford, who scored Boston's only regulation goal, and Ryan Spooner before straddling the goalpost to turn away David Pastrnak's attempt at the end. Tuukka Rask stopped 25 shots for Boston, which went 0-4 against Ottawa this season. The Senators had never swept the Bruins in a season series. Ottawa, which got a goal in the second from Alexandre Burrows, now has 96 points to 95 for Boston after entering the night tied. The Senators still have two games remaining - one more than the Bruins - and also have the head-to-head tiebreaker.

### PENGUINS 7, DEVILS 4

The Pittsburgh Penguins clinched home-ice advantage for their first-round playoff series against the Columbus Blue Jackets with a victory over the New Jersey Devils. The Penguins got goals from seven players, two assists from Sidney Crosby - including a spectacular no-look, backhand pass to give Conor Sheary a shot into an open net - and 34 saves from Matt Murray in picking up their 50th win of the season. The win gave Pittsburgh 111 points - the second-highest total in franchise history. Coupled with Columbus' 5-4 loss to Winnipeg, the Penguins will finish second ahead of the Blue Jackets in the Metropolitan Division, gaining home-ice for the best-of-7 first-round series.

### LIGHTNING 4, MAPLE LEAFS 1

Brayden Point scored two goals and the Tampa Bay Lightning kept their slim playoff hopes alive by beating the Toronto Maple Leafs. Nikita Kucherov and Michael Bournival also scored for the Lightning, who prevented the Maple Leafs from clinching their first postseason berth in four years. There is only one spot remaining in the Eastern Conference after Ottawa clinched a berth with a 2-1 shootout win at Boston. Toronto, which would have clinched with a win, needs two points over its final two games - against Pittsburgh and Columbus - to beat out the Lightning and New York Islanders for the last spot. Nazem Kadri scored the only goal for Toronto.

### ISLANDERS 3, HURRICANES 0

Jaroslav Halak stopped 29 shots in his second shutout of the season, and the fast-starting New York Islanders beat the Carolina Hurricanes. Brock Nelson and Scott Mayfield scored early goals 3:12 apart, and Andrew Ladd added a power-play goal to help the Islanders win their fourth straight and preserve their long-shot playoff hopes for a little while longer. Eddie Lack stopped 20 shots for the Hurricanes, who lost their fourth straight overall, a slide that coincides with their mathematical elimination from the playoff race for the eighth straight year - the longest active postseason drought in the NHL. They've also been shut out in their last two home games.

### DUCKS 4, BLACKHAWKS 0

Corey Perry scored a power-play goal, John Gibson made 37 saves in his 12th career shutout and the Anaheim Ducks

clinched home-ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs with a victory over the Chicago Blackhawks. Rickard Rakell had a goal and an assist for the Ducks, who moved to the brink of their fifth consecutive Pacific Division title in a meeting of the Western Conference's two division leaders. Chris Wagner and Ryan Kesler also scored for Anaheim, which has earned points in 13 consecutive games since March 10 (10-0-3).

### JETS 5, BLUE JACKETS 4

Jacob Trouba scored twice and Eric Comrie had 35 saves in his NHL debut as the Winnipeg Jets beat the slumping Columbus Blue Jackets. Mark Scheifele, Mathieu Perreault and Bryan Little also scored for the Jets, who held off a late Columbus rally to win their sixth straight. The Blue Jackets, who play Pittsburgh in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs next week, were again up and down in dropping their fifth straight, the longest losing streak of the season. Brandon Saad had two goals, Nick Foligno and Boone Jenner scored, and Joonas Korpisalo had 27 saves for the Blue Jackets.

### BLUES 6, PANTHERS 3

Jaden Schwartz had a goal and two assists to lead the surging St Louis Blues over the Florida Panthers. David Perron, Vladimir Tarasenko and Alex Pietrangelo each had a goal and an assist, and Patrick Berglund and Ryan Reaves also scored as the Blues improved to 13-2-2 in their last 17 games. Jake Allen had 29 saves. Vincent Trochek, Michael Matheson and Denis Malgin scored for the Panthers, who lost their sixth straight. James Reimer stopped 32 shots. —AP

## RED WINGS AND DETROIT SAY FAREWELL TO STORIED JOE LOUIS ARENA

**DETROIT:** The unmistakable whiff of a sewer line hits you near the corner of Steve Yzerman Drive and Jefferson Avenue before you set foot on the steps that climb into Joe Louis Arena, a nearly windowless, drab grey building on the banks of the Detroit River.

Despite the stench and lack of sunlight, the Motor City has enjoyed many fond memories in the home of the Detroit Red Wings, where the franchise has raised four Stanley Cup banners to rafters also crowded by tributes to some of hockey's all-time greats, like Gordie Howe and Steve Yzerman.

Red-and-white clad fans have been filling seats in the 20,058-seat arena, saying so long in the same season the Red Wings ended their playoff streak at 25. The arena is not scheduled to host another hockey game after Detroit plays Montreal tonight and New Jersey on Sunday night. The Red Wings will begin a new era with the Pistons at nearby Little Caesars Arena next season.

Detroit had one of the best runs in NHL history from the early 1990s until last season, when they tied the third-longest playoff streak in league history. Years ago, though, its hockey team was known as the "Dead Wings," and cars were given away to get fans to attend games shortly after moving from Olympia Stadium to Joe Louis Arena for the 1979-80 season.

"This team was not very good when The Joe opened," said NBC announcer Doc Emrick, a Michigan resident who was a season-ticket holder for 20-plus years.

Things sure improved, though. Here's a look back at some of the memorable moments at Joe Louis Arena.

### MR. HOCKEY'S RETURN

Howe played for the Red Wings from the 1946-47 season until retiring for the first time in 1971. He returned on Feb. 5, 1980, in his 50s as a Hartford Whaler and was welcomed back at the NHL All-Star Game with an ovation people are still talking about nearly four decades later.

"That can't be duplicated," said Al Sobotka, who has taken care of the ice for the Red Wings for decades. "It was unbelievable. The atmosphere was jumping."

### HOOPS AT THE JOE

The Pistons were pushed out of their home in the suburbs at Pontiac Silverdome due to a scheduling conflict on April 27, 1984, when they closed an opening-round series against the Bernard King-led New York Knicks. Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas scored 16 points in the final 90 seconds of regulation for the Pistons to force overtime before the Knicks went on to win the game and series.

"I will never forget the electric atmosphere of Joe Louis arena that night," Thomas wrote in a text message to The Associated Press on Thursday night. "The fans inspired me to one of my greatest performances ever and I thank them for bringing the best out of me and countless others who experienced the energy of Joe Louis Arena."

### ENDING A DROUGHT

Yzerman, simply known as The Captain by Red Wings fans, hoisted the Stanley Cup after finishing off a sweep of the Philadelphia Flyers on June 7, 1997. That ended an NHL championship drought that dated to 1955.

"That was the best," said Karen Newman, who has been signing the national anthem for the Red Wings at home games for nearly 30 years. "Grown men were crying. Confetti was falling. I still have confetti in my glass jar from that game. That's how important that moment was. It was huge."

The Red Wings repeated in 1998 and are still the last franchise to pull off the feat. They won three Stanley Cups in a six-season stretch and a fourth in an 11-season span, shortly after the salary cap stopped them from spending more than most teams in the league.

Off the ice and away from the crowds, Yzerman enjoyed getting to know some of the all-time greats that wore the winged wheel for the storied franchise. "What I have always found unique about the Red Wings is I come into this building as a kid, you walk in and one day you see Gordie Howe, you talk to Gordie Howe," Yzerman recently recalled. "The next day, you walk in and you see Ted Lindsay." —AP



BASEBALL

# CHICAGO CUBS RALLY PAST CARDINALS 6-4

**ST LOUIS:** Kyle Schwarber hit a three-run home run in the top of the seventh inning off Brett Cecil as the Chicago Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals 6-4 on Thursday. Schwarber's 404-foot shot down the right field line left Cardinals starter Lance Lynn with a no-decision after a solid outing in his first game since October 2015. Lynn, who sat out last year after undergoing Tommy John surgery in November 2015, worked 5 1/3 innings, allowing five hits and two runs. He walked one and fanned four. Chicago's John Lackey pitched six innings, yielding six hits and four runs-three earned. He issued two walks and whiffed seven.

**Twins 5, Royals 3**

Jason Castro delivered an RBI double and Miguel Sano added two hits as Minnesota swept Kansas City to improve to 3-0 for the first time since 2007. Castro was 3-for-6 in the series and drove in three runs. Jorge Polanco added two hits for Minnesota, which scored 14 times after the sixth inning during the series. Mike Moustakas and Salvador Perez homered for Kansas City, which saw its pitching staff issue 23 walks in the series.

**Reds 7, Phillies 4**

Michael Lorenzen hit a tiebreaking homer as a pinch hitter, and Adam Duvall hit a two-run shot as Cincinnati beat Philadelphia. Lorenzen became the first major league pitcher since Micah Owings for the Reds in 2009 to hit a pinch-hit home run. Daniel Nava homered twice for Philadelphia.

**Rockies 2, Brewers 1**

Mark Reynolds and Nolan Arenado slugged solo home runs while Antonio Senzatela pitched five solid innings in his major league debut as Colorado edged Milwaukee. Pitching above the Double-A level for the first time in his career, Senzatela scattered two hits and walked three. Reynolds homered in the third off Milwaukee starter Chase Anderson, and Arenado hit a tiebreaking home run in the ninth off Neftali Feliz. Kirk Nieuwenhuis homered in the seventh for Milwaukee.

**White Sox 11, Tigers 2**

Geovany Soto homered twice as Chicago routed Detroit. Matt Davidson also homered and tripled for the White Sox. Right-hander James Shields allowed one run and two hits in 5 1/3 innings. Detroit's Matt Boyd was tagged for five runs and five hits in 2 1/3 innings.

**Dodgers 10, Padres 2**

Yasiel Puig crushed a pair of home runs, Brandon McCarthy

pitched six innings, and Los Angeles blew out San Diego. Puig, who was demoted to the minors last season, hit two two-run home runs and also scored three times. McCarthy allowed two runs and five hits after missing most of last season recovering from an elbow injury. Jered Weaver allowed four runs and five hits in five innings in his debut for San Diego.

**Athletics 5, Angels 1**

Ryon Healy keyed a four-run third inning with a two-run home run, and Andrew Triggs combined with three relievers on a five-hitter, leading Oakland past Los Angeles. Healy hit his third home run of the season after Marcus Semien delivered a run-scoring single aided by center fielder Mike Trout's fielding error. Triggs allowed an unearned run and four hits in 5 2/3 innings. Angels starter Tyler Skaggs allowed five earned runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings.

**Diamondbacks 9, Giants 3**

Jake Lamb hit a go-ahead home run in the sixth inning and David Peralta and Paul Goldschmidt also homered in Arizona's win over San Francisco. Lamb hit his second homer of the season, off Jeff Samardzija, to give Arizona a 5-3 lead to open the sixth. A.J. Pollock had a two-run double and Peralta doubled in a run in a three-run eighth inning. Aaron Hill homered, Buster Posey had two doubles and an RBI, and Brandon Crawford hit an RBI single for the Giants.

**Mariners 4, Astros 2**

Jarrod Dyson slapped an RBI single with one out in the ninth inning to help Seattle salvage the finale of a four-game set against Houston. Dyson drove in pinch runner Taylor Motter, and Jean Segura added a run-scoring single that scored Guillermo Heredia with two outs in the ninth. Edwin Diaz notched the save, and Dan Altavilla earned his first career victory by striking out the side in a scoreless eighth inning. George Springer and Marwin Gonzalez homered for the Astros.

**Blue Jays 5, Rays 2**

Kendrys Morales hit a grand slam to power Toronto past Tampa Bay. Jays starter Marcus Stroman struck out five while allowing one run on six hits and two walks in 6 1/3 innings. Rays starter Blake Snell held Toronto to four hits in 6 2/3 innings, but one of them was Morales' slam.

**Marlins 4, Nationals 3 (10 inning)**

Miami got two-out RBI hits in the eighth, ninth and 10th innings to come back and beat Washington in 10 innings. J.T. Realmuto (three hits) had a two-run homer in the eighth to



**ST LOUIS:** Matt Adams #32 of the St. Louis Cardinals hits a one run single against the Chicago Cubs during the first inning at Busch Stadium on Thursday 6 in St Louis, Missouri. — AFP

make it 2-2, pinch hitter Tyler Moore tied the game with an RBI single with two outs in the ninth, and Justin Bour drove in the winning run in extra innings. Ryan Zimmerman, Daniel Murphy and Jayson Werth all recorded two hits for Washington, and Gio Gonzalez pitched six scoreless innings before a rain delay denied him a chance to continue.

**Mets 6, Braves 2**

Matt Harvey tossed 6 2/3 strong innings in his first regular-season start since undergoing surgery for thoracic outlet syndrome, and New York beat Atlanta. Harvey, who made his final start last season on July 4 and went under the knife two weeks later, allowed just two runs Thursday-both on solo homers by Matt Kemp. He gave up three hits and no walks while striking out four. Travis d'Arnaud's two-run double in the fifth put the Mets ahead for good. — Reuters



SHOOTING

## KUWAIT SHOOTING SPORT CLUB INAUGURATE SABAHIYA BRANCH

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Shooting Sport Club celebrated the opening of its second branch in Sabahiya area in the presence of the president of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi, Director of Youth Centers Department at the Public Authority for Youth and its Director General Abdallah Abdalaziz Al-Barak thanked HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his unlimited support. He also thanked the Public Authority for Sports and its Director General Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for their contribution. Al-Barak praised the Public Authority for Youth and its Director General Abdelrahman Al-Mutairi for removing all the obstacles to build the hall.

He also thanked all shooters who participated in the first tournament that was held at the



Sabahiya Youth Center hall. Meanwhile, Secretary General of KSSF and ASF Obaid Al-Osaimi said the shooting range will serve shooters in Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates, and hope to attract the youth who may join the national teams. Meanwhile, results of the tournament.

**10m Air Pistol:** Jarrah Mohammad Hardan; Musab Ali Al-Kandary and Rashid Talal Rahid

**10m Air Rifle:** Waleed Khalid Al-Azmi; Faris Munahi Ali and Shamlan Saleh Al-Ali

**In the Olympic archery:** Omar Ali Al-Kandary; Hisham Ali Al-Kandary and Ahmad Tariq Al-Failakawi.





Group picture.

## ABK HOSTS EXCITING 6TH ANNUAL GOLF CHALLENGE EVENT

**KUWAIT:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced the results of its 6th Annual ABK Golf Challenge event held at the Sahara Golf Resort and Spa on 2nd April. Around 80



Nigel Doughty receiving his business class ticket to Dubai.

golfers participated on a warm, sunny day perfect for golf. During the event, participants competed in teams of four for the sought after ABK Golf Challenge trophy. The 2017 winning team, as well as the second and third placed teams were handed their trophies by Hamza Enki -General Manager, Human Resources.

Kim Ki Suk, Sunny Kim, Park Myoung Whan and Seo Hosukwon the challenge with a score of 54.56 points. In addition to the winning team prizes, some extra additional awards were given to individuals. Nigel Doughty won "Beat the Pro" and received a business class return to Dubai, handed over by Khalfan Rashid AlSalami, Commercial Support Manager-Emirates, while "Nearest-the-pin" went to Mahmood Saeed who received a KD 100 ABK Visa Emirates gold prepaid travel card. The "Straightest-Drive" was won by Ahmed Al Sarwai who also received a KD 100 ABK Visa Emirates gold prepaid travel card and finally, in good spirit, the last placed team walked away with a complimentary hour of golf lessons at the Sahara Golf Club.

During the closing ceremony ABK thanked their partners; Emirates Airline, Visa and Sahara Golf Club for their ongoing support. For more information about Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, please visit eahli.com



The winners

## MASTERS LEADER HOFFMAN TEES OFF WITH TOP RIVALS ON HIS HEELS

**AUGUSTA:** Unheralded American Charley Hoffman teed off yesterday with a three-stroke lead in the second round of the Masters while his nearest rivals were already making a morning charge.

The second round of the year's first major championship opened in cool and breezy conditions at 7,435-yard Augusta National, brisk winds likely to play havoc with top shotmakers as they did for most on day one. "I'll try to make pars but I'm looking for more out there," Hoffman said yesterday.

"This game is put yourself in position-attack when you can, but when you get out of position, be conservative."

Hoffman birdied five of the last seven holes, including four in a row starting at the par-4 14th, in windy conditions to shoot a seven-under par 65 in Thursday's opening round. That gave him a four-stroke edge on fellow American McGirt, the largest 18-hole lead at the Masters since Jack Burke's four-shot margin over Julius Boros in 1955.

McGirt, playing in his first Masters, went off in Friday's first group and was one-under

through nine holes while England's 43-year-old Lee Westwood, third after an opening 70, and Spain's Sergio Garcia, who began on 71, teed off directly after Hoffman's group.

"It's good to know I handled the conditions well yesterday," Westwood said. "It's going to be similar, just another day of grinding and patience. One-under is an excellent score."

McGirt opened Friday with a bogey but answered with birdies at the par-5 second and par-3 fourth on his way to making the turn four-under for the tournament and one-under on the round.

Hoffman, who booked his fourth Masters start by winning last year's PGA Texas Open, shared ninth at Augusta National in 2015 for his best showing in 22 major starts.

"I look forward to the challenge the next three days," Hoffman said. "The putter is going my way now and hopefully I'll keep it going." Westwood, trying to capture his first major title after 75 prior attempts, and Garcia, in his 74th major start without a triumph, hope for a breakthrough title this weekend.

### ROSE, MICKELSON START LATE

Late afternoon starters in the pack on 71 included England's Justin Rose, the reigning Olympic champion and 2013 US Open winner, and Phil Mickelson, a five-time major champion. At two months shy of his 47th birthday, the US left-hander would become the oldest winner in Masters history if he captures a fourth green jacket tomorrow.

Big names had their issues on a blustery first day at Augusta, the most stunning being top-ranked Dustin Johnson withdrawing due to a back injury suffered in a Wednesday fall down stairs in a rented home. Second-ranked Rory Mclroy, a four-time major winner seeking a Masters victory to complete a career grand slam, made bogeys on two of his first three holes on day one but birdied three of four holes starting at the par-5 13th to open on 72.

Jordan Spieth, the 2015 Masters champion and two-time Masters runner-up, soared to a 75 Thursday for his worst Augusta National round. He parred the par-3 12th, where a quadruple bogey nightmare in last year's final round doomed his title repeat

hopes, but then made quadruple bogey at the par-5 15th.

### WOEFUL START FOR WILLET

Defending champion Danny Willett of England opened Friday's round with a quadruple bogey at the par-4 first, tumbling down the leaderboard to five-over for the tournament.

Four-time major champion Ernie Els of South Africa and Rio Olympic bronze medalist Matt Kuchar of the United States made bogey-birdie starts after opening 72s to stay seven back as Hoffman's round began. World number three Jason Day of Australia, who will be the final player to take to the course Friday, opened on 74.

The cut will be made to the 60 lowest scores and ties and any player within 10 strokes of the lead after yesterday's second round. Among those in jeopardy of not reaching the weekend were Japan's

fourth-ranked Hideki Matsuyama, who opened on 76, and reigning British Open champion Henrik Stenson of Sweden, who began on 77. — AFP



## TENNIS

## AUSTRALIA LEADS US 2-0 IN DAVIS CUP QUARTERFINAL

**BRISBANE:** Nick Kyrgios finished off John Isner with his 20th ace to give Australia a 2-0 lead over the United States in their Davis Cup quarterfinal yesterday.

Kyrgios won 7-5, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5) after Jordan Thompson upset Jack Sock 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4 on a hard court at Pat Rafter Arena.

Australia can clinch the tie and advance to a semifinal in September against Italy or Belgium with a win today in doubles. Sam Groth and John Peers are scheduled to play the American pair of Sam Querrey and Steve Johnson. "Hopefully we can close it out tomorrow, it's been an unbelievable day," Kyrgios said.

"He's one of the best servers in the world, a proven player. I've been putting my head down and I returned really well." Isner said he ran into an in-form player. "I felt like I played well enough to beat anyone out there, but not Nick," Isner said. "He came up clutch."

Kyrgios came from a break down in the first set, broke Isner to love in the 11th game, and clinched the set on an ace. In the second, Isner saved two break points at 5-5 and Kyrgios won the last three points. In the third, Isner saved a match point serving at 5-6 and lost the last three points again.

The 79th-ranked Thompson won both of his singles in his Davis Cup debut against the Czech

Republic in February, but he was more impressive against No. 15 Sock, the highest-ranked player in the quarterfinal. Sock looked out of sorts at times and served two double faults to hand Thompson his first break at 5-3.

The American rallied to win the second set, then recovered from 4-1 down to level the third set before Thompson won it in a tiebreaker. Thompson clinched the match in the fourth set by breaking Sock's service twice.

"I just tried to wear him down, and I thought I was fit enough to do that," Thompson said. "I was not trying to go too big, that's not within my game." — AP

## BASKETBALL

## PAUL MILLSAP SCORES 26 TO LEAD HAWKS OVER CELTICS

**ATLANTA:** Paul Millsap scored 26 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. added 23 and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Boston Celtics 123-116 victory on Thursday. Isaiah Thomas scored 35 points, Jae Crowder had 24 and Marcus Smart 18 for the Celtics, who have dropped two games in a row after winning five of seven. Rookie Taurean Prince finished with a career-high 20 points, and Dennis Schroder added 18 for Atlanta. The Hawks had lost nine of 11. Boston fell 1 1/2 games behind Cleveland for the East lead, but is still two games ahead of third-place Toronto. Fifth-place Atlanta, which led by 20 in the third, moved one game ahead of Milwaukee. The regular season ends next week.

## BULLS 102, 76ERS 90

Jimmy Butler had 19 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists and helped give Chicago's playoff hopes a needed boost. The Bulls, Miami and Indiana entered the night with 38-40 records and in a three-way tie for seventh in the Eastern Conference playoff race. Butler had his fourth career triple-double. Rajon Rondo sat out with a sprained right wrist and Dwyane Wade missed another game with a fractured right elbow. Wade, who scrimmaged Wednesday for the first time since he was injured on March 15, could return as early as today at Brooklyn. Wade, who averaged 18.6 points in his first season with his hometown team, had been ruled out for the season. Rondo was hurt Tuesday night in a loss to New York. Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot led the 76ers with 18 points.

## WIZARDS 106, KNICKS 103

Bradley Beal scored 25 points and made the tiebreaking 3-pointer with 49 seconds left in Washington's victory over New York. John Wall added 24 points and eight assists for the Wizards, who blew a 12-point lead in the fourth quarter but recovered to improve to 48-31, tying Toronto for third place in the Eastern Conference. Washington is trying for its first 50-win season since 1978-79. Carmelo Anthony scored 23 points for the Knicks.

## PACERS 104, BUCKS 89

Paul George had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Indiana beat Milwaukee to keep its playoff hopes alive. Jeff Teague added 15 points and seven assists for the Pacers. Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 25 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

## MAGIC 115, NETS 107

Elfrid Payton had 22 points, 11 assists and five rebounds to lead Orlando. Aaron Gordon added 21 points, Jodie Meeks had 20, and Nikola Vucevic finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Jeremy Lin led Brooklyn with 32 points.

## TRAIL BLAZERS 105, TIMBERWOLVES 98

Allen Crabbe had 25 points, including a career-high eight 3-pointers, and the Portland Trail Blazers snapped a two-game losing streak. Damian Lillard added 22 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for Portland, which held onto the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference ahead of the Denver Nuggets with three games to go. Andrew Wiggins had 36 points for the Timberwolves, who have already been eliminated. — AP



**ATLANTA:** Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (4) passes as he is defended by Atlanta Hawks forward Thabo Sefolosa (25) in the first half of an NBA basketball game on Thursday, in Atlanta. — AP

## RUGBY

## NZ WIN HK SEVENS OPENER

**HONG KONG:** New Zealand overcame the disruption of losing captain Scott Curry for the entire Hong Kong Sevens to beat Wales 19-7 in their opening match yesterday.

Curry withdrew from the three-day event, the most prestigious in the sevens rugby world series, because of flu, forcing the team into a last-minute reshuffle.

Sam Dickson was promoted into the squad for the stricken Curry while DJ Forbes took over as captain, and marked his promotion by scoring one of his team's three tries in the Pool C match.

Fiji, which has beaten New Zealand in the last two Hong Kong finals, made an ominous start by thrashing Japan 36-0, spoiling a landmark day for Asian rugby after Japan's women pulled off a major upset by beating South Africa to win the women's final.

Fiji, the Olympic champion which has won a record 16 Hong Kong titles, opened the scoring after less than a minute when Jerry Tuwai scored the first of his two tries in another Pool C encounter.

England, winner of the last round of the series in Vancouver, was also impressive in crushing South Korea 52-0 in Pool A. Oliver Lindsay-Hague and Charlton Kerr bagged two tries apiece but they were outshone by Dan Norton, whose try lifted his career tally to 245, overtaking Kenya's Collins Injera as the all-time leading try-scorer in the world series.

Injera did not add to his tally of 244 as Kenya surprisingly lost to Canada in Pool B. Kenya looked to have earned a late draw when Nelson Oyoo scored under the crossbar with less than a minute to go to tie the score at 14-14, but ill-discipline let them down as Canada stole the win 17-14 with a penalty from Nathan Hirayama after the siren.

World series leader South Africa defeated France 17-10 in Pool B, Australia edged Samoa 22-19 in Pool A, Argentina beat Scotland 22-14 in Pool D, and the United States beat Russia 14-7 in Pool D with speedster Perry Baker notching his 25th try of the season. The remaining pool matches are on Saturday, with the knockout games tomorrow. — AP



PREVIEW

# SPURS ARE READY FOR TITLE FINALE SAYS VERTONGHEN

**LONDON:** Jan Vertonghen believes Tottenham have demonstrated their title credentials as they battle to overhaul Premier League leaders Chelsea.

Mauricio Pochettino's side face Watford today after staging a dramatic fightback in a 3-1 midweek win at Swansea that kept alive their hopes of overhauling Chelsea's seven point lead. Tottenham looked set for a defeat that would have killed off their hopes until they produced three goals in the final stages of the game at the Liberty Stadium.

Having fallen short in their efforts to push eventual champions Leicester all the way last season, Pochettino's men are desperate to make amends and Vertonghen insists Tottenham are now capable of sustaining a title challenge.

"We have shown in the last year or two what we are capable of. People always said Tottenham were able to beat the smaller teams but not the big ones," Vertonghen said.

"In the past couple of years, we have been doing both. Teams are now keeping us in mind when they talk about winning the league or finishing in the top four. Before, it was always 'Tottenham will finish fifth or sixth'. 'In the past two seasons, we have proved we belong where we are. We have some massive quality.

"I don't know what is necessary to win the league, maybe a bit of luck, but there is something very special about this group. 'Chelsea are looking very strong. We won't stop pushing for the title and dreaming about it, but they had a big win over Manchester City and the gap is still seven points.

"They have difficult games coming up, though, so we have to keep winning and, hopefully, they get a bit stressed."

LANGUAGE BARRIER

Son Heung-Min was on target in Tottenham's escape act in south Wales and the South Korean forward insists the team will not give up on the title race.

"We're just keeping going. We don't look at other teams, we have to look at our games and our performances," Son said. "You never know what will happen and that's why we have to fight for three points in every game."

Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris withdrew from the Swansea game because of illness but is expected to return to face Watford. Walter Mazzarri's side virtually secured their Premier League future this week with a victory over West Bromwich Albion that moved them to 10th place, nine points clear of danger. Mazzarri is keen for Watford to see out the season on a high following reports this week suggesting the future is in doubt partly because of his failure to learn English.

The Italian's plans for the trip to White Hart Lane have been hit by a fresh injury to keeper Heurelho Gomes, while defender Miguel Britos is suspended after being sent off and fellow centre-backs Sebastian Prodl and Younes Kaboul are still out.

However, Watford midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure says his team will face Spurs free from any pressure.

"The pressure is on Tottenham. Now we are mid-table we do not have a chance to be relegated while Tottenham are fighting for the title," he said.

"The pressure is on them, we have nothing to lose and have to play free like against West Brom. If we can do that you can see what we can do." —AFP



Harry Kane



**PYONGYANG:** North Korean and South Korean players jump for the ball during their AFC Women's 2018 Asian Cup Group B qualifying football match at the Kim Il-Sung stadium in Pyongyang yesterday. South Korea's flag flew and its anthem sounded in Pyongyang as its women's football team played out a 1-1 draw with their neighbours, in the first ever competitive soccer match between the two countries hosted by the North. — AFP

SOCCER

# NORTH AND S KOREA FACE OFF ON PYONGYANG FOOTBALL FIELD

**PYONGYANG:** South Korea's flag flew and its anthem was played in Pyongyang yesterday as its women's football team took on their neighbours in the first ever competitive soccer match between the two countries hosted by the North.

A packed crowd at the 40,000-plus capacity Kim Il-Sung stadium stood to hear the South Korean national song in respectful silence, before belting out the North's hymn. Every touch by the home team in attack or defence was cheered to the rafters, with supporters waving golden cardboard megaphones.

The only previous encounter in Pyongyang between footballers from the two sides was a pro-unification match between the men's teams in 1990, when both used a flag showing the whole Korean peninsula and their respective anthems were not played. The North won 2-1. Since then, games nominally hosted in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the North is officially known, have had to be played on neutral ground due to authorities' reluctance to see the South's flag fluttering in their capital. A few hours south of Pyongyang the North Korean military faces off against US-led United Nations forces across the Demilitarized Zone, considered one of the most heavily fortified locations on Earth.

The match comes as the North's nuclear ambitions top the agenda at a meeting between US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping after Pyongyang's latest missile launch this week in violation of UN resolutions and condemned by the Security Council. The two Koreas are technically at war because the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, and relations have plunged in recent months. Seoul demanded security guarantees for the players before authorities approved the trip.

The South's coach Yoon Duk-Yeo-who was on the losing side in the 1990 unification game-reportedly installed loudspeakers at a training ground to replicate the expected aural barrage. But the Group B

qualifier for the AFC Women's Asian Cup offers a rare chance for a moment of detente between the two.

'A BIT EMOTIONAL'

Sporting links "have eased anxieties during times of escalating tensions" said Michael Spavor, director of Paektu Culture Exchange, which facilitates exchanges in multiple fields with the North.

Koreans on either side of the border tend to back each other's teams when they play other countries.

Two gymnasts from the North and South posed for a selfie at the Rio Olympics last year and the image instantly went viral, symbolising hopes for closer ties. When Koreans from both sides of the divide meet, said Spavor, there is "genuine curiosity... and even a little bit of anxiety,

which creates a kind of tension".

But at sports events participants "get lost in the moment", he told AFP. "Many athletes realise afterwards how special an experience it was and they can naturally get a bit emotional."

The football match comes after the two countries' women's ice hockey teams played in Gangneung, in the South, on Thursday, with the hosts winning 3-0.

The North, who have home advantage and are ranked 10th in the world by FIFA to the South's 17th, will be favourites to win in Pyongyang. They have taken the Women's Asian Cup three times and have a head-to-head record of 14 wins, two draws and one loss. But in their opening game the Taeguk Ladies-the South's team-destroyed India 10-0, suggesting the match could be close.—AFP

# ITALIAN MUSCLE MAN COMES TO MESSI RESCUE

**MILAN:** Lionel Messi "cried tears of frustration" in his battle to beat vomiting urges and muscle problems, says the Italian doctor who claims he revamped the Barcelona striker's lifestyle to maintain his superstar status.

Doctor Giuliano Poser, a sports nutritionist who specialises in optimising muscle performance through the use of specific foods, is credited with helping Messi control violent urges to be sick before games.

And using the principles of kinesiology-muscle monitoring to access information about a person's well being-he has also helped the five-time Ballon d'Or winner shake off the niggling muscle issues that had increasingly plagued him in recent seasons.

Although the 29-year-old Argentine "struggled to adapt" at first, after regular visits to the clinic in Venice he is now reaping the benefits, says Poser.

"I think he even cried tears of frustration," Poser told Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera on Friday.

"But he's now accepted it. There is no unique formula in kinesiology, but through testing we can see how food intake affects each and every muscle in the body." Poser says he introduced major changes to Messi's diet, bringing in organic and seasonal foods. Those were just the final touches to a "completely new lifestyle", he claims.

"It's not just a case of changing diet," said Poser, who has also worked with footballers from Serie A sides Udinese and Palermo during a 30-year career.

"We live in a time in which foods contain too many contaminants and that can be seen in energy levels when measuring resistance and recovery.

"You don't become a professional player, and even less a phenomenon like Messi, just for the things you eat.—AFP



# WENGER SAYS SANCHEZ WANTS TO STAY AT ARSENAL

**LONDON:** Alexis Sanchez wants to stay at Arsenal despite speculation that he is disillusioned by the club's failure to challenge for the Premier League title, manager Arsene Wenger said yesterday.

Reports in British media say contract talks have been put on hold, but Wenger insists Sanchez, who has a year and a half left on his deal, will be at the club next season.

"Basically, he (Sanchez) wants to stay at the club and it's down to finding an agreement with his agent," Wenger told reporters yesterday. "The players first have

to see if they are happy at the club, then they have to find an agreement."

Arsenal, fifth in the Premier League, are in danger of missing out on Champions League qualification and the 28-year-old Sanchez has been linked with a number of other clubs, including Chelsea, Manchester United and Paris St Germain.

Wenger himself is out of contract at the end of the season, but once again refused to clarify his future as he focussed on Monday's away game at Crystal Palace.

The Frenchman did, however, defend midfielder Mesut Ozil- another player

whose future is the subject of uncertainty- saying Arsenal's crushing Champions League exit at the hands of Bayern Munich had hurt the player.

"(Ozil) is very ambitious. He wants to win the Champions League. We went out in such an emphatic way, it was difficult to take for everybody," Wenger said.

"He cares and people often reproach him because of his style of play, but he cares much more than people think he does."

Ozil has been criticised for a series of anonymous displays in recent months but

impressed in Wednesday's 3-0 win over West Ham United-Arsenal's second victory in seven league games.

Arsenal are four points behind fourth-placed Manchester City, having played a game less, and six points behind third-placed Liverpool who have played two games more. "We are in a position that is not comfortable. It is not where we want to be. We know what we need to do," Wenger said.

"The line of conduct is very clear. We had a hiccup in recent weeks, what is important is to move on." — Reuters

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
<b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>			
Tottenham Hotspur v Watford	14:30	beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Stoke City v Liverpool	17:00	beIN SPORTS HD 8	
Bromwich Albion v Southampton	17:00	beIN SPORTS HD 9	
West Ham United v Swansea City	17:00	beIN SPORTS HD 10	
Middlesbrough v Burnley	17:00	beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN	
Manchester City v Hull City	17:00	beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Bournemouth v Chelsea	19:30	beIN SPORTS HD 2	
<b>SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA</b>			
Espanyol v Deportivo Alaves	14:00	beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Real Madrid v Atletico de Madrid	17:15	beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Sevilla v Deportivo La Coruna	19:30	beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Malaga v Barcelona	21:45	beIN SPORTS HD 3	
<b>ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE SERIE A</b>			
Empoli v Pescara	16:00	beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Atalanta v Sassuolo Calcio	19:00	beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Juventus v Chievo Verona	21:45	beIN SPORTS HD 4	
<b>GERMAN BUNDESLIGA 1ST</b>			
Freiburg v Mainz	16:30	beIN SPORTS	
Hamburger v Hoffenheim	16:30	beIN SPORTS	
Koln v Monchengladbach	16:30	beIN SPORTS	
Schalke v Wolfsburg	16:30	beIN SPORTS	
Leipzig v Leverkusen	16:30	beIN SPORTS	
Bayern Munich v Dortmund	19:30	beIN SPORTS	
<b>FRENCH LEAGUE 1ST</b>			
Angers v Monaco	18:00	beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Lyonnais v Lorient	21:00	beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Caen v Montpellier	21:00	beIN SPORTS	
Nancy Lorraine v Stade Rennes	21:00	beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Girondins v Metz	21:00	beIN SPORTS HD 9	
Dijon v Bastia	21:00	beIN SPORTS HD 8	



**ZURICH:** This file photo taken on December 17, 2015 shows a sign of FIFA seen at the football's World governing body headquarters in Zurich. World football's governing body FIFA announced yesterday a record \$369 million loss for 2016 as it paid for the fallout from multiple scandals and bad investments. — AFP

## SOCCER

# FIFA LOSSES HIT \$369M IN 2016, \$1BN TARGET IN 2018

**ZURICH:** FIFA finances showed a loss of \$369 million last year as American and Swiss corruption investigations added legal costs to the soccer body's budget and scared off sponsors.

An even bigger loss is expected next year, FIFA said yesterday after publishing its 2016 accounts, which reflect a new way of reporting income. FIFA expects to rebound with \$1 billion in profit in the accounts for 2018, which will include income from most TV broadcast deals for the World Cup in Russia.

Still, the scandal-hit soccer body's confidence will be tested with 24 slots currently unsold in a 34-sponsor program for a World Cup that kicks off in only 14 months. "However, it goes without saying that stagnant global trade and subdued investment, combined with investigations surrounding previous FIFA officials, have put pressure on the organization's overall revenue generation," FIFA said in the 116-page financial report for 2016.

FIFA's costs in 2016 included legal

bills of more than \$50 million for the American and Swiss federal investigations of bribery and mismanagement linked to international soccer leaders. That legal bill rose from \$20.2 million in 2015. FIFA is sticking to its revenue target of \$5.56 billion - mostly from World Cup TV and sponsorship deals - for the four-year financial cycle tied to the tournament in Russia.

Using the new financial reporting standards, FIFA's reported loss of \$122 million in 2015 would have been recalibrated to a \$52 million deficit. That suggests FIFA's loss in 2016 would have easily exceeded \$200 million under the old methods of booking contracted income.

FIFA has budgeted to earn almost \$4 billion income in 2018 alone and end next year with record reserves of \$1.655 billion. However, the reserve fund is now down to \$1.048 billion and should fall to \$605 million in a year before the bounce back FIFA is relying on. Its cash reserves have been above \$1 billion since 2008. The 2016 accounts covered

the first 10 months under FIFA President Gianni Infantino since he succeeded the disgraced Sepp Blatter.

FIFA booked \$502 million in income - with zero reported from European broadcast rights deals that are now backloaded to 2018 - and had reported expenses of \$893 million.

The spending rises were in part to fulfil Infantino's campaign promises last year of increased grants to national, regional and continental soccer bodies worldwide. FIFA's 211 member federations are now entitled to \$5 million from each World Cup. The document also blamed Blatter's regime for "ill-considered" investments on a soccer museum and adjoining four-star hotel in downtown Zurich. The World Football Museum lost FIFA \$50 million in 2016, including some one-off costs, the soccer body said. FIFA also spent \$7.9 million on the February meeting in Zurich to elect Infantino, and there was a \$5.6 million increase in payments to FIFA Council members. — AP



# Sports



**FIFA losses hit \$369m in 2016, \$1bn target in 2018**

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**LONDON:** In this Sunday, April 24, 2016 file photo, Jemima Sumgong of Kenya wins the women's race in the 2016 London Marathon in London. Olympic marathon champion Jemima Sumgong tested positive for the blood booster EPO in a surprise test in Kenya, the IAAF said yesterday, another damaging blow to the credibility of the East African country's famed distance-running program. — AP

## OLYMPIC CHAMP SUMGONG FAILS DRUG TEST

**NAIROBI:** Jemima Sumgong, the first Kenyan woman to win an Olympic gold in the marathon when she triumphed in Rio last year, has failed an out-of-competition dope test, athletics officials said yesterday.

The 32-year-old, who is also the reigning London Marathon champion, tested positive for the banned blood booster EPO in a test by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) in her native Kenya.

"The IAAF can confirm that an anti-doping rule violation case concerning the athlete Jemima Jelagat Sumgong (Kenya) has commenced this week," the IAAF said. "The athlete tested positive for EPO following a no-notice test conducted by the IAAF in Kenya," the sport's ruling body added.

"This was part of an enhanced IAAF out-of-competition testing programme dedicated to elite marathon runners which is supported by the Abbott World Marathon Majors group. The IAAF will make no further statement about this case until its conclusion."

Erythropoietin (EPO) is a natural hormone that stimulates red cell production. For a runner, injecting an artificially produced version increases oxygen absorption which allows them to run

harder and faster without tiring.

Sumgong, who also tested positive for a banned substance in 2012, starred at the London Marathon last year, defying the odds to win despite suffering a bruising fall.

Steeled by her success in London, she then became the first Kenyan woman to win Olympic marathon gold, defeating Ethiopia's world champion Mare Dibaba in Rio to confirm her status as the world's top marathon runner of 2016.

Before news of her positive drugs test emerged, Sumgong had vowed to defend her London title on April 23. London Marathon organisers said they were "extremely disappointed" at Sumgong's failed test.

"She is currently suspended from competition pending the B test and the outcome of the investigation. Sumgong will therefore not run in London on 23 April to defend the title she won last year," announced the race's chief executive Nick Bitel. He said that "athletes who are banned for a doping offence are banned for life from the event." At the Rio Olympics, Sumgong defied temperatures of 28 degrees Celsius (82F) to claim an historic gold medal in a race that finished at the city's famed Sambodromo.

"I was never worried that I'd lose," said

Sumgong, who added that victory made up for a disappointing showing at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. "At the 40 kilometre mark I knew the gold was mine."

The athlete has not spoken out since the news of her failed doping test, however she posted a Bible verse on her Facebook page which said "do not be anxious about anything..."

Athletics Kenya said that if it was true that Sumgong had failed the dope test it was "extremely shocking and disappointing" to the whole nation.

In a statement the body said that it had worked "tirelessly to put in place measures to fight and eradicate the use and abuse of prohibited substances."

Earlier this year, Sumgong was one of a number of top Kenyan athletes who welcomed a new initiative to eradicate doping, which has tarnished their image, agreeing to be monitored by doctors appointed by the IAAF and Athletics Kenya. "It will be easy for us now to communicate with these doctors before we take any medicine when the need arises," said Sumgong.

The move came after an investigation by German television channel ARD and Britain's Sunday Times newspaper last July alleging that

doping was rife at the elite training centre in Iten. Kenyan athletics boss chief Jackson Tuwei has warned that any athlete who failed to comply would not be selected to represent the country in international competitions.

"Forty-nine athletes have been found to have violated the WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) code in the past five years but were cautioned according to the laws of the land and WADA code," said Tuwei.

Sumgong's former training partner, the 2014 Chicago and Boston Marathon champion Rita Jeptoo, is serving a four-year ban after also testing positive for EPO. News of Sumgong's test was welcomed by other athletes. US distance runner Emma Coburn, a bronze medallist in the 3,000m steeplechase at last year's Olympics, applauded the IAAF's out-of-competition testing. "Out of competition testing is so important!! Well done, IAAF. I hope to see more productive results from no-notice out of competition tests," Coburn tweeted.

In 2012 Sumgong tested positive for steroid Prednisolone following the Boston marathon. She only served half of a two year ban after a successful appeal blamed the failed control on treatment for a hip injury. — AFP