

**Kuwait eager to cultivate love of reading in students**



**How Spain became world leader in organ transplants**



**US filmmaker learns why she endured airport stops for years**



**Harden powers Rockets past Westbrook's Thunder**



## COURT SETS MAY 8 FOR EXPAT DRIVING BAN CASE HEARING

ACTING SPEAKER URGES RESTRAINT OVER GRILLINGS



Min 21°  
Max 28°  
High Tide 04:59 & 15:18  
Low Tide 09:53 & 22:52



150 FILS  
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40 PAGES

conspiracy theories

### MASTER THEIR LANGUAGE



By Badrya Darwish

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I read a column by Dr Suad Al-Sabah in Al-Rai yesterday about a topic that has been on my mind for many years. Guys, it's about the decline of our beautiful Arabic language. Thanks to Dr Suad for her effort in raising this serious issue, especially how it's being taught to children. As a language, it should be taught when you are young - anything you learn when you are very young will stay in your memory. Children are like sponges - they absorb everything, and especially languages, 100 times better than when they are older.

I still remember poetry that I was taught in school at the age of six or seven. If you give me two lines of a poem today to memorize, I think it will take me one week. With regards to Arabic, I want to also add another aspect that needs discussing - that as adults, we are ignoring our language. I have noticed that in many societies, English is prevailing. Even when we are walking or talking as a family or with friends, we are not using Arabic - even our slang is mostly English.

The problem is that many of us started to consider speaking English as a mark of status. Wow. Cool. I hear young Arab mothers at the co-op or at the airport or shops talking to their children in English. They seem to be more focused on demonstrating to everyone that they know English and that their kids know English, rather than really communicating with their children. Sometimes, I even laugh as some of them make mistakes while speaking, but insist to keep speaking in English.

I'm not against any language and I love languages, actually. I'm writing in English because this is an English-language paper and there is no harm in this. All our kids should know English and other languages of the world. But first let's master our own language and this is what my generation was forced to do. Master Arabic before learning a second language.

I understand that the whole world has become a village, and thanks to globalization, our interaction with the rest of the world is mainly in English. So that maybe is one of the reasons why many people want their children to learn English. Also, the social system in Kuwait means that children are often exposed to domestic help from Asian countries and often end up communicating in English. Despite all these snags, we should try our best and concentrate more on learning Arabic and force our children to master their native tongue as early as possible.



ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan greets supporters during his visit to the Eyup Sultan Mosque yesterday, a day after his victory in a national referendum to change the constitution. — AFP

## ERDOGAN SLAMS CRITICISM OF TURKISH REFERENDUM

AMIR CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday angrily rejected criticism by international monitors of a referendum granting him extra powers that was disputed by the opposition and exposed bitter divisions in the country. The referendum was seen as crucial not just for shaping Turkey's political system but also the future strategic direction of a nation that has been a NATO member since 1952 and a European Union hopeful for half a century.

Returning in triumph to his presidential palace in Ankara, Erdogan addressed thousands of supporters

gathered outside, telling monitors who criticized the poll: "Know your place." Showing no sign of pulling his punches, Erdogan said Turkey could hold further referendums on its EU bid and re-introducing the death penalty.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to Erdogan, expressing his best wishes for Turkey after the success of the constitutional referendum, hoping as well for more developmental progress and prosperity for the country.

Continued on Page 13

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The administrative court yesterday set May 8 to start hearing a case demanding a total ban on expatriates driving until the government has resolved the traffic problem on the country's roads. The case was filed by lawyer Mohammad Al-Ansari on behalf of the traffic problem, who charged that the government has failed to resolve traffic congestions on roads and asked the court to intervene to help solve the problem.

The lawyer demanded a total suspension of all driving licenses held by expatriates and also to stop giving new licenses to foreigners until a solution is found to the traffic problems. The lawyer and his clients are demanding to keep all expatriate drivers off the road to allow easy access to Kuwaiti motorists to go to work and return.

There have been calls by some Kuwaiti lawmakers to this effect. MP Safaa Al-Hashem, the sole female MP, has called for suspending licenses for expatriates for one year until a solution is found to the traffic problem. The calls have been described as racist by the independent Kuwait Society for Human Rights and a number of MPs. The court is not expected to accept the lawsuit, and if it does so, it will be challenged at the appeals and supreme courts to become final.

Meanwhile, acting speaker Essa Al-Kandari yesterday called for restraint in using grillings and urged MPs to resort to lesser constitutional tools in questioning ministers. He said that resorting to the grilling tool all the time is likely to weaken this important constitutional tool, and at the same time, fail to resolve problems facing citizens and could lead to straining relations between the Assembly and the government.

Kandari said citizens are fed up from the continued escalation of tensions between the executive and legislature authorities, adding that the constitution has made cooperation the basis of relations between the two bodies ahead of confrontations. Kandari's call comes a day after two opposition lawmakers filed a motion to grill the prime minister, the second grilling in the past few days.

Continued on Page 13

## LAYOFFS, 'DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION' AT THE NATIONAL

DUBAI: A state-backed newspaper in the United Arab Emirates that was bought by an Emirati who oversees the English football club Manchester City is undergoing layoffs, those with knowledge of the firings said yesterday. They told AP that staffers at The National were informed Sunday they had been let go. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions. It wasn't clear how wide the layoffs were or what specific plans The National's new owner had for the daily newspaper. Repeated calls to the newspaper rang unanswered yesterday.

The layoffs come after months of turmoil at The National, which was founded in 2008 and staffed with top writers and editors from Western newspapers. Its owner, the state-backed firm Abu Dhabi Media, hoped

it would become the Mideast's standard for independent, hard-nosed newspapering. But while the paper broke local stories on skyscraper fire safety and other issues, it largely stayed away from controversial topics in a country with strict laws governing speech.

International Media Investments, a subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Media Investment Corp owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al-Nahyan of Manchester City, bought The National in November from Abu Dhabi Media. Sheikh Mansour's media firm has a joint venture with Britain-based Sky to run the Arab satellite news channel Sky News Arabia. In a statement, International Media Investments said: "The National is putting together its team, made of existing and new talent," and will

undergo "a digital transformation while retaining its print product". It answered no questions from the AP about the layoffs.

Although the newspaper sale has yet to finalize, staffers had to reapply for jobs at the paper. Sources close to the process said the post of chief editor could go to Mina Al-Oraibi, the former assistant editor of Saudi newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat. All this comes as low global oil prices have pinched the economy of the United Arab Emirates, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula. Sheikh Mansour is a member of the ruling family of Abu Dhabi, the UAE's oil-rich capital. He also serves as a deputy prime minister and minister of presidential affairs. — Agencies



RAMALLAH: Protesters wave flags bearing a portrait of prominent jailed Palestinian Marwan Barghouti during a rally in this West Bank city to show their support to Palestinians detained in Israeli jails after hundreds of them launched a hunger strike yesterday. — AFP

## PALESTINIANS IN ISRAELI JAILS ON HUNGER STRIKE

RAMALLAH: Hundreds of Palestinians in Israeli jails launched a hunger strike yesterday following a call from leader and prominent prisoner Marwan Barghouti, a movement that could mark a serious challenge to Israeli authorities if sustained.

The hunger strike was called in connection with Palestinian Prisoners Day, observed annually, but also ahead of commemorations this summer marking 50 years since the 1967 Six-Day War and the start of

Israel's occupation. Israel Prisons Service spokesman Assaf Librati said that hunger strikers would be disciplined and later added that Barghouti had been transferred from Hadarim prison to Jalami prison, near Haifa, 48 km to the north. Qaddura Fares, head of the Palestinian Prisoners' Club which tracks the well-being of Palestinians in Israeli jails, said Barghouti had been

Continued on Page 13

## SAUDI SEEKS 10% RENEWABLE ENERGY IN 6 YEARS: MINISTER

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia wants 10 percent of its electricity to come from renewable sources within several years as part of a transformation in its power sector, the energy minister said yesterday. Khaled Al-Falih said his country, the world's biggest oil exporter, will also sell renewable energy and its technology abroad. At a forum seeking investment in the sector, he announced "30 projects to be implemented" in order to reach a goal of about 10 gigawatts of renewable energy production early next decade.

Virtually all of the kingdom's domestic power currently comes from crude, refined oil or natural gas. But as part of an economic reform plan to wean the kingdom off oil, the government has embarked on what Falih called an "ambitious" renewables program featuring solar and wind power. He has said the projects could cost between \$30 billion and \$50 billion. "The percentage of renewable energy by 2023 will represent 10 percent of the total electricity of the kingdom," he said at the start of the Saudi Arabia Renewable Energy Investment Forum.

"We are seeking for the kingdom, in the medium term, to become a nation that develops, manufactures and exports the advanced technologies of renewable energy production," he said. "This is really transformational," he said, suggesting that the changes coming to

the kingdom's energy sector will be as significant as the discovery of oil in the 1930s. "You're really talking about a significant socio-economic transition that's going to take place" over the next decade or two.

Falih said the energy sector is being completely restructured to include an autonomous board of regulators, and with privatized generation capacity. He formally opened bids on the first 300-megawatt solar plant under the renewables plan. The government has shortlisted 51 firms, most of them from abroad, for bidding on that plant and a 400-megawatt wind farm.

Another wind project will be launched in the fourth quarter of this year, followed by more solar projects, he told hundreds of delegates. Government estimates say Saudi peak energy demand is expected to exceed 120 gigawatts by 2032. Falih told the forum that nuclear power will also be part of the kingdom's energy mix. But details are still being worked out, he told AFP on the sidelines of the two-day

meeting. "We haven't designed the program yet. We are working on various options, looking at regulations, establishing the regulatory framework first and making sure we have all the steps before we announce the capacities and the locations," he said. "But it will be coming in due course." — AFP



Khaled Al-Falih





**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Saudi Arabia Advisor at the Royal Court Dr Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri and Imam of the Grand Mosque in Madinah Salah bin Mohammed Al-Budair.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Imam of Al-Masjid Al-Nabawi in Medina Dr Salah bin Mohammed Al-Budair.

## AMIR RECEIVES SAUDI ROYAL COURT ADVISOR, MADINAH IMAM



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Advisor at the Saudi Royal Court Dr Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri.

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Saudi Arabia Advisor at the Royal Court Dr Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri and Imam of the Grand Mosque in Madinah Salah bin Mohammed Al-Budair. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri. The Saudi officials later met with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Hamad Al-Sabah as well.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince met with Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudan. His Highness the Crown Prince then received Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Service Affairs Yasser Abul, as well as Minister of Electricity and Water and Minister of Oil Essam Al-Marzouq. His Highness the Crown Prince also met with Director-General of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Sabah. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Saudi Arabia Advisor at the Royal Court Dr Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri and Imam of the Grand Mosque in Madinah Salah bin Mohammed Al-Budair. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



**WASHINGTON:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem arrives in Washington yesterday. — KUNA

## SPEAKER IN WASHINGTON FOR GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

**WASHINGTON:** Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem arrived in Washington yesterday, leading a delegation to take part in the Global Parliamentary Conference, organized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), April 17-18.

Upon arrival, Ghanem was received by Kuwaiti Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and embassy officials and diplomats. The top Kuwaiti parliamentarian will deliver a speech at the conference, and will also meet with President of the WB Group Jim Yong Kim, the IMF Deputy Managing

Director Tao Zhang and several international economic and financial experts on the sidelines of the event.

The Global Parliamentary Conference is the Parliamentary Network's flagship event, co-organized by the Parliamentary Network on the WB and IMF. The event brings together some 200 parliamentarians from the WB and the IMF member countries, partner parliamentary organizations, in addition to officials from the two leading financial institutions. Participants will have the occasion to hear about the most recent work of these organizations and discuss pressing issues in international development. — KUNA

## ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES AWARDED GOLD APPROVED EMPLOYER STATUS

ONLY COMMERCIAL COMPANY TO EARN THIS RECOGNITION IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region was recently awarded Gold Approved Employer status by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), which is the global professional accounting body offering various levels of professional qualifications. This recognition is awarded to companies that exhibit the policies and best practices related to the support, exposure, and advancement opportunities to its ACCA trainees and members.

Earning the Gold Approved Employer status recognizes Alghanim Industries' high standards of staff training and development. It is a formal acknowledgment that the company is committed to providing learning and development opportunities to its Accounting employees.

In his comment, Chief Human Resources Officer at Alghanim Industries, George Lambros said: "It is a testament to the level of professionalism and a source of pride for Alghanim Industries to have the global professional accounting body, ACCA, recognize and appreciate what we do in terms of advancing the careers of our employees in the Finance and Accounting fields."

Lambros also reemphasized Alghanim Industries commitment towards talent saying: "We are committed to developing our employees' capabilities within the different businesses and functions of the company, and we deeply believe that our employees are our core asset."

Corporate Controller at Alghanim Industries, Henning Schlutt, commented on the value of this recognition on the Finance and Accounting



**KUWAIT:** Malek Sarriddine from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants presents the award to Henning Schlutt, Corporate Controller at Alghanim Industries.

employees saying: "ACCA provides a great learning platform for ambitious people in Finance, and I am convinced that our offering will benefit all of our Finance and Accounting teams."

Alghanim Industries has a proven track record of supporting the training of its talents in the

fields of finance and accounting, and helping them to earn their own certifications. Earning the recognition by ACCA further cements the company's position as an "Employer of Choice" for candidates interested in jobs within the fields of Finance, regardless of their level.

## GCC-IRAN DIALOGUE ONGOING: BAHRAINI FM

**KUWAIT:** Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled Bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa said dialogue between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Iran was ongoing. Bahrain highly appreciates endeavors of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in leading the dialogue with Iran on behalf of the GCC. Sheikh Khaled told reporters in Kuwait on Sunday. He hoped Iran would positively react with these endeavors. Sheikh Khaled said he would submit a report over the dialogue to the upcoming GCC Consultative Summit.

Kuwaiti First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah submitted a letter from His Highness

the Amir to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani late last January over dialogue between the GCC and Tehran based on mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs.

Sheikh Khaled, meanwhile, said the 9th meeting of the Joint Kuwaiti-Bahraini Committee approved cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding. The two sides signed three MoUs on legislative coordination and cooperation in electricity and central and popular markets. They also inked three executive programs for cooperation in education, culture, arts and preservation of the environment. — KUNA

## ABDULLAH AL-MUBARAK REGISTERED AS KUWAIT'S NINTH HEALTHY CITY

**KUWAIT:** Abdullah Al-Mubarak neighborhood has been registered as a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Healthy City Network, the second in Al-Farwaniya Governorate and the ninth in Kuwait. Head of the Healthy Cities Office at the Ministry of Health Dr Amal Al-Yahya made the announcement on the sidelines of the signing ceremony of the registration agreement.

The network is a world initiative launched by the WHO and was adopted by Kuwait as a project of sustainable development, Yahya said, noting that they are hard at work seeking to develop all Kuwaiti areas into healthy cities in line with the world's criteria.

These criteria are environmental, health, educational, economic and social ones, in

addition to the preparedness for emergencies and the provision of resources and cadres as well as promoting voluntary work, she noted. Meanwhile, the national coordinator for the Healthy Cities Network initiative at the ministry, Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti, said there is a strong desire in all Kuwaiti areas to fulfill the requirements to join the initiative.

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah emphasized the 'limitless' support by the Governorate to the efforts to include more Kuwaiti areas in the healthy network.

Sheikh Faisal added that it is a source of pride that Abdullah Al-Mubarak neighborhood was registered in the WHO Regional Healthy City Network. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz Ibrahim Al-Fayez. — KUNA

## DEFENSE MINISTER MEETS SAUDI AMBASSADOR

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz Ibrahim Al-Fayez. During the meeting, they discussed several issues of mutual concern, in addition to the ongoing bilateral cooperation, mainly in the military aspect and ways to enhance it, the Defense Ministry's Moral and Guidance Public Relation said in a statement.

The meeting was attended by Kuwait's Chief of General Staff of the Army Lieutenant General

Mohammed Al-Khader and the Saudi Military Attache in Kuwait. Meanwhile, Kuwait's Interior Ministry Undersecretary Major General Mahmoud Al-Dosari headed yesterday to Saudi Arabia to participate in GCC undersecretaries preparatory meetings. The ministry's media office said in statement that such meetings would be ahead of the 18th meetings for GCC interior ministers, which will be hosted in Riyadh. Upon his departure Dosari was seen off by senior Interior ministry officials.

In the meantime, Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign

Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah left for Russia to attend the fourth round of political talks between Kuwait and Russia due in Moscow. Jarallah's visit comes at the invitation of the Russian President's Special Envoy for the Middle East and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov. The Kuwaiti delegation included Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA



## LG Champions Inverter Technology for Gulf Homes with Latest DUAL Inverter Air Conditioning Solutions

The latest LG air conditioner, DUAL Inverter, works even up to 65°C, offers 60 percent faster cooling, optimal energy efficiency and cleaner air

The Gulf witnesses an upsurge in the demand for air conditioners during the summer season as the temperatures shoot up to as high as 50° Celsius or sometimes even more. On account of this extreme climatic conditions, air conditioners have always been a necessity in the region and industry reports confirm a robust residential air conditioning market in the coming years.

Inverter technology is the latest innovation in conditioning, known for its low energy consumption, saving the consumer money and more importantly, reducing environmental impact. This innovative technology can reduce energy consumption significantly compared with non-inverter models. This is because inverter unit controls cooling and heating intelligently, adjusting to the ambient temperature of a room, and reducing power usage while maintaining strong performance levels. For example, while regular air conditioners can only turn on and off, LG Inverter Technology can control rotation frequency to produce cooling more efficiently. The energy saving efficiency has been certified by TÜV.

LG Electronics (LG), has launched across Kuwait its latest state-of-the-art, family-friendly residential LG DUAL Inverter air conditioning (AC) solutions, equipped with LG's pioneering technological innovation known as 'inverter technology'. Now LG introduces the next generation of air conditioning solutions that ensures optimal cooling performance, energy efficiency, cleaner air and durability unlike any other.

The LG DUAL Inverter air conditioner generates faster, more powerful cooling than competing solutions. It is able to reach the set temperature 60 percent faster, quickly providing the optimal home temperature for users. Not only does the Tropical Inverter Compressor boast higher fan speeds to enable faster cooling, its bigger fan and wider outlet also help project streams of cool air with more force over greater distances.

"LG always presents solutions with innovative technology at the core, technology that is carefully crafted and developed for what matters most - the family. As we launch LG's latest air conditioning solutions with our innovative inverter technology in the Kuwait today, we are proud that our solutions bring the best of LG to families across the country. And with the support of our valued partners, we can continue to ensure families benefit from durable air conditioners that also cool faster, better, and afford the home the cleanest air possible and most efficient solution available," said Mr. Yong Geun Choi, President of LG Electronics Gulf.

In a bid to introduce its most family friendly air solutions, LG showcased its DUAL Inverter air conditioner that works even up to 65°C, thanks to its Dual Inverter Compressor of which LG offers a 10-year warranty so users can enjoy the benefits of the LG DUAL Inverter air conditioner for longer periods of time.

Additionally, LG DUAL Inverter air conditioner maximizes cooling performance, providing 60 percent faster cooling and 20 percent more cooling. A leader in energy efficiency, the LG DUAL Inverter air conditioner saves energy up to 65 percent as compared with conventional air conditioners. Another key feature the LG DUAL Inverter air conditioner is that it offers a 'Smart Diagnosis', which allows users to remotely and conveniently check setup, installation, troubleshooting, and other information directly from a smartphone via a SIMs module.

Also, LG DUAL Inverter air conditioner includes LG's exclusive Gold Fin™ coating, which forms a protective shield on the surface of the heat exchanger, making the surface more resistant to corrosion while improving the overall durability of the heat exchanger. Other key features include: Comfort Sleep, Comfort Air, Dual Protection Filter, Quiet Cooling, Auto Cleaning, and Smart Display, whereby users can check the status of the air conditioner more easily.

LG DUAL Inverter air conditioner is now available at all leading retail showrooms and leading hypermarkets across the Kuwait.

# LG DUAL Inverter

Cools even at 65°C  
with 10 Year Compressor Warranty



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A picture showing a bee and chrysanthemums taken from a garden in Kuwait.— KUNA photo

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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## MINISTER SAYS EAGER TO CULTIVATE LOVE OF READING IN STUDENTS

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Abdulatif Al-Fares yesterday stressed keenness on cultivating the love of reading in students. Addressing the concluding ceremony of the Arab Reading Challenge (ARC) 2016-2017 held at the theater of the Kuwait National Library, the minister added that the competition helps instill the eagerness to read in students.

Such events contribute to the building and refining of a student's character for achieving the aspired goals, in the Arab World and in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in particular, Fares told the ceremony. He expressed pleasure for honoring the 10 top students of the competition in Kuwait, hoping this will motivate others to read. During the ceremony, the minister honored Taima Abdullah Al-Omari, the Kuwait ARC champion who is in the 11th grade at Al-Ratqa High School, and Dr Mubarak Raja Al-Otaibi, the winner of the distinguished supervisor award for the state.

The minister also honored all ten student finalists, Ayram Ahmed Al-Otaibi (5th grade at Al-Sabika School), Rahma Mohammed Ahmed (8th grade at Um Saad School), Asma Amer Al-Shammari (12th grade at Fatima bint Atba School), Asma Ibrahim (8th grade at Um Saad



Ministry of Education's Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development Faisal Al-Maqseed.



Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Abdulatif Al-Fares

School), Nour Imad Hassan (7th grade at Ekhlas School), Bashid Falah Al-Mutairi (12th grade at Fatima bint Atba School), Rania Sabri Shaaban (12th grade at Hawa bint Yazid School), Yasmine Awad Al-Fikr (11th grade at Nuria Sabeeh School), and Sultan Majid Al-Tooq (12th grade at Jassem Al-Kharafi School).

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education's Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and head of the team in charge of the project in Kuwait Faisal Al-Maqseed, said

that in its second year, the competition has come to be a landmark part of school activities.

This year, 371 schools took part in the competition, 160 more than last year. Up to 60,000 students competed, a rise of 40 percent compared to the last competition. The Arab Reading Challenge project was launched by UAE's Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum to encourage reading among students in the Arab world.



Students are honored during the ceremony.



Students perform during the concluding ceremony of the Arab Reading Challenge 2016-2017.



KUWAIT: Students perform during the concluding ceremony of the Arab Reading Challenge 2016-2017. — KUNA photos



## ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITY HOLDS SEMINAR

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Public Anti-Corruption Authority organized a seminar at its headquarters in Shamiya Sunday evening to discuss Kuwait's position in the international scene and the application of anti-corruption legislations.



**KUWAIT:** Abdulrahman Al-Namash, head of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority speaks during the seminar. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

"Despite the difficulties faced by the authority and the difficulties encountered in the reconstruction and the development of the new law, we have undertaken to carry out its technical duties related to receiving and processing financial disclosure data and receiving reports and complaints relat-

ing to corruption," explained Abdulrahman Al-Namash, head of the authority.

The anti-corruption body is tasked with investigating incidents of corruption, wasting of public funds and other forms of fiscal malfeasance in the public sector. The authority, created by Law No. 2/2016 is authorized to investigate financial and asset disclosures and help improve transparency in Kuwait's economy.

The authority has already referred several government officials to the public prosecution for a variety of alleged offenses including failure to disclose income and assets as well and questions over contracts and tenders. Acting Secretary General Dr Mohammed Abdul Rahman Bouzaber said that the authority will adopt the recommendations of the symposium and its sponsorship, pointing out that it does not face any obstacles at the technical level at the present time.

Bouzaber added that the authority received 4,081 financial approvals so far, for about 50 percent of the total number of subjects under the authority of about 8,000. He pointed out that the authority received 36 corruption reports to be considered. He added that whistle blowers providing real evidence and documents would be taken seriously and the information kept confidential.

The seminar was held under the patronage of Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of the Amiri Diwan, who also attended the seminar along with several lawmakers, members of the Kuwait Transparency Society and the Society for the Protection of Public Money.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's weekly regular session yesterday. — KUNA

## CABINET MULLS SETTING UP SHAREHOLDING COMPANY TO RUN JABER AL-AHMAD HOSPITAL

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet discussed a recommendation made by Kuwait Investment Authority to establish a closed shareholding company to run Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, provided that it would be turned into a public joint company in the future through a public auction. During its weekly meeting yesterday, the Cabinet also asked the Ministry of Health to consider suggestions and recommendations made by the human and social development committee of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development to improve health services in the country.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet has entrusted the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) with creating a national committee for research, scientific, technology and innovation. KISR will do the fresh mission with all relevant regulatory and legal aspects, in collaboration with other concerned state agencies, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a press statement following the meeting that took place at Bayan Palace. KISR will have to send a report to the Cabinet in this regard within a month's time, added Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who doubles as Acting Minister of Information.

Furthermore, the Cabinet tasked the Ministry of Public Works to take required measures to speed up the implementation of beach development projects in the context of a relevant tourism development drive.

At the onset of the meeting, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who chaired the meeting,

briefed the ministers on the outcomes of the recent visit by Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir to Kuwait. First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah then elaborated on the outcomes of his participation in the 9th session of the joint Kuwaiti-Bahraini committee held in Kuwait on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Cabinet voiced vehement

regret at the recent bombing targeting a bus that carried evacuees traveling from the Syrian towns of Al-Foua'a and Kefraya to government-controlled areas. The bus blast left scores of people dead or wounded. The ministers offered sincere condolences to the families of the victims of this 'heinous terrorist act,' and wished the swift recovery of those wounded in the blast. — KUNA



**Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of the Amiri Diwan (left) attends the seminar.**

## NO VISA FOR KUWAITIS TO VISIT RUSSIAN FAR EAST

**GORKI:** Kuwait is one of 18 countries whose citizens can now visit the Russian Far East without visas, the Russian media reported yesterday. "I have recently approved the list of countries, whose nationals can take advantage of the preferential regime," Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said yesterday. "Businessmen and tourists will not need to undergo the traditional procedure of Russian visas receipt. It will be enough for foreigners to enter their data on a special website in the Internet."

"We are proactively forming the modern infrastructure and creating special regimes in the Far East; the law on visits to the Vladivostok free port was approved in March," Medvedev said. Cancellation of visa procedures for tourists and businessmen "will promote growth of investment

and tourist attractiveness of the Far East," the prime minister said. The region will earn more money from tourist traffic growth, he added.

Eighteen countries from various regions selected by the reciprocity principle were included into the list, Medvedev said. "This is not because these states are situated at a closer or longer distance - we are appropriately introducing bilateral agreements on visa-free travel for those ready to use such an approach for us," he added. According to the official site of the Russian Cabinet, the list of 18 countries comprises - in addition to Kuwait - Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei, India, Iran, Qatar, China, North Korea, Morocco, Mexico, UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Tunisia, Turkey and Japan. — Russian News Agency

## MEETING TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY TO MERGE PREMIER'S GRILLING MOTIONS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** There are attempts to gather MPs who filed two separate grilling motions against His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for a meeting to discuss the possibility of merging both motions in a bid to 'unify efforts' in that regard. The meeting would bring together 26 lawmakers who comprise the opposition in the National Assembly, according to parliamentary sources.

The lawmakers believe the merging process will be easy because the grilling motion filed by MPs Mohammad Al-Mutair, Waleed Al-Tabtabaie and Marzouq Al-Khalifa includes five key factors, while the second one filed by MPs Riyadh Al-Adasani and Shuaib Al-Mowaziri includes only one factor concerning the government's performance, which is similar to the fourth factor in the first motion. "Therefore, the second motion can be included as part of the first," the sources stressed.

The meeting would also discuss determining which three of the five MPs will discuss those factors during the debate, the sources said, pointing out that those who called for the meeting believe that Mutair and Mowaziri will likely withdraw while Marzouq Al-Khalifa insists on filing the grilling motion. The reason for that is because Khalifa feels he needs to make a 'strong showing' that helps him in upcoming elections in anticipation of a Constitutional Court ruling on May 3 that could result in a parliament dissolution, the sources speculated. MPs who filed the interpellations reportedly seek to file a no-cooperation motion against the premier, and there is growing doubts within the 26 opposition lawmakers regarding whether they could secure ten signatures necessary to file said motion after the grilling's debate. "They believe therefore that merging the two motions will ensure having at least ten MPs sign the no-cooperation motion, thus achieving more political success for those who filed the grilling," the sources added.

### Off course

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) believes that

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a parliamentary committee investigating citizenship forgeries would not come up with any results because previous experiences proved that most committees had usually 'deviated off course.'

In a statement released to the press yesterday, NDA also urged anybody had solid documented proof and evidence of any forgery cases to report to the public prosecution so that those involved could be held legally accountable by court, be them senior officials or beneficiaries themselves.

### Road projects

The Ministry of Public Works' (MPW) planning committee discussed the methodology to be used in qualifying companies for new tenders yet to be offered for bidding, said informed sources.

The sources also expected MPW to withdraw two road projects from a company because it failed to execute according to schedule. "The company is trying hard to avoid the withdrawal by accelerating its work pace," stressed the sources, noting that a special committee will be formed, in case of withdrawal, to run an inventory of the completed work so far and offer new tenders through the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) to complete the remaining works.

## TRIO ARRESTED FOR TRADING IN BANNED SEXUAL ENHANCERS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Residency detectives managed to arrest a gang including three expats for trading with banned sexual enhancers. Case papers indicate that detectives were tipped off about an Arab man selling the enhancers in Sabah Al-Salem. He was later on arrested with possession of some of the merchandise he sold, the Interior Ministry's relations and security media department said in a statement. The suspect led detectives to his source; another expat, who was arrested in Farwaniya with possession of another quantity. The second suspect also led detectives to his supplier; a third expat living in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh who was also arrested with possession of a large quantity and admitted of distributing the merchandise through various distributors in several areas. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

### Sorcery

An Asian man was arrested for sorcery, said security sources, noting that several reports were made about the suspect's activities. Some of the complainants told police that their maids were seeking the suspect's help to 'bewitch' their sponsors and have them increase their salaries, stop punishing them for mistakes and make them loved by all family members. The source added that the suspect's house was placed under close surveillance before it was raided, and he was arrested red-handed while serving an undercover agent.

### Crackdown

Mubarakiya and the Seafont food control inspectors carried out several inspection campaigns on restaurants and stores in Qibla, Mubarakiya, Sharq and Benaad Al-Gar. The crackdowns resulted in confiscating and destroying 283 kilograms of fish and filing 14 citations.

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TRUTH BETWEEN AL-NISIF AND AL-ROUMI

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

If someone wishes to know the truth about what happened and what is happening at Kuwait Airways, he will have to meet two particular people; former chairpersons Sami Al-Nisif and Rasha Al-Roumi. By talking to them, one will even know what will happen to Kuwait's only and first national carrier and the problems it has been suffering from.

Roumi and Nisif are the only ones capable of telling the truth about what this corporation, which is logically, constitutionally and legally owned by all Kuwaitis as part of public funds in which they indirectly own shares, has been suffering from.

Kuwait Airways is owned by all citizens and anything affecting it will theoretically affect them all. What happened and is happening to it is considered a clear violation of citizens' rights, as they own part of its shares.

This corporation, a pioneer in the region, should be supported by all citizens being its indirect co-owners, and the government must deal with it with utmost caution.

The government should also consult with the people, its associates in public funds, through their representatives in the parliament who are supposed to be defending the corporation and protecting it from any sort of danger or competition. This protection is stipulated in law and the constitution, and lawmakers must work on protecting and developing the carrier.

Moreover, if any lawmaker has a problem understanding what Kuwait Airways is suffering from, he will then have to contact Nisif and Roumi to know the whole truth; which will only take a simple ten-minute phone call.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



PARENTS OF PRO-DAESH YOUTH CONTACT AWQAF FOR HELP

**KUWAIT:** Parents of several Kuwaiti youth have informed the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs about their concerns that their children are sympathetic to Daesh (the Islamic State) and could be recruited. Reports in the Arabic press noted that the youth include both male and females and that the Awqaf ministry is dealing with this information in secret in order to protect the youth and their families. Citizens who have demonstrated sympathy with terrorist organizations via social media may be considered high risks and appropriate efforts are being made to rehabilitate their point of view. —Al-Qabas

istry is dealing with this information in secret in order to protect the youth and their families. Citizens who have demonstrated sympathy with terrorist organizations via social media may be considered high risks and appropriate efforts are being made to rehabilitate their point of view. —Al-Qabas

القاسم Al-Qabas

KUWAIT'S CORRUPTION PROTECTION AUTHORITY!

By Waleed Al-Ghanem

**K**uwait's rank on the corruption perceptions index for 2016 according to Transparency International dropped by 20 positions, as Kuwait ranks 75th in 2016 compared to 55th in 2015. Such dangerous information goes by unnoticed, since it seems that there is no value for any indicator in Kuwait except for the oil price indicator.

The 75th place is considered a new record for the government in this field, as Kuwait never reached such a low rank on the corruption perceptions index since 2003. If our government continues working with the same bad system and failed method, then Kuwait will soon find itself competing with other underdeveloped countries in Asia and Africa for last place.

It is natural for the government to get this rank, and everybody in Kuwait feels that they are surrounded with corruption wherever they go, whether in state departments or projects. Last year was haunted by the 2013 parliament, which we have miraculously escaped from. That parliament contributed to the absence of true national achievements, then certain influential people took control by marginalizing State Audit Bureau reports and crippling the work of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority.

Did the government have a discussion over this low rank and find out the reasons behind it? Was a report about this 'great achievement' presented to the Cabinet? Did the National Assembly hold a special session to discuss this situation that harmed Kuwait's reputation around the world? The answer will be 'no' of course, because this is not the true interest of state officials as long as their posts are protected and their interests are unaffected, except for a few.

Are we to remind you that Kuwait's rank at the end of 2016 dropped in more than eight categories? They are best countries in business practices, international competition report, ease of business activities, prosperity indicator, best and worst destinations around the world for expats, health and education indicators, press freedom and international peace index.

The country is filled with countless government agencies and new authorities. Conferences are held every week, trips made around the world, television interviews are taking place, ideologists and their supporters are speaking all day long in the media and on social networks, the government meets every week and the parliament holds meetings regularly. In the end, this is the rank that we receive from an international organization. Do you also agree with me that the only successful authority in Kuwait is the 'Corruption Protection Authority'?

— Translated by Kuwait Times

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SIX MEASURES TO HELP ADDRESS DEMOGRAPHIC IMBALANCE

**KUWAIT:** A supreme government committee entrusted with studying Kuwait's demographic imbalance is about to put six new measures in practice in a bid to resolve the problem. According to correspondences issued from the office of Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, the measures include reducing the number of domestic helpers' visas that a citizens is entitled to issue by 40 or 50 percent, reducing the number of laborers that security companies contracted with the government are allowed to hire by 25 percent while making up for the reduction by relying more on modern technology, and limiting the stay of expat laborers working in some professions in Kuwait, likely to a maximum of 10 or 20 years after which a worker would be mandated to leave the country for good. The measures also include reducing the number of visas issued per person in a single year, working on passing a new legislation to increase the residency violation fees by 100 percent, and passing a legislation to penalize any person found guilty of helping or encouraging absconders. These measures are still under studying and there is currently no date for when - or if - they would be enforced. — Al-Qabas

ing more on modern technology, and limiting the stay of expat laborers working in some professions in Kuwait, likely to a maximum of 10 or 20 years after which a worker would be mandated to leave the country for good. The measures also include reducing the number of visas issued per person in a single year, working on passing a new legislation to increase the residency violation fees by 100 percent, and passing a legislation to penalize any person found guilty of helping or encouraging absconders. These measures are still under studying and there is currently no date for when - or if - they would be enforced. — Al-Qabas



**KUWAIT:** Officials attend a press conference to announce the 14th edition of the Arab Media Forum.

ZAIN DIAMOND SPONSOR OF THE 14TH ARAB MEDIA FORUM

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its Diamond sponsorship of the 14th edition of the Arab Media Forum under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The event takes place during 23-24 April.

Zain has been the strategic partner of the Arab Media Forum during the past six consecutive years, as the company is keen on enriching media involvement, being a leading private sector company in the country. Zain believes in the strong impact media has on individuals and communities, and it strives to reach out to all of the different segments of the society through this very vital tool.

The Arab Media Forum has proven itself to be one of the region's most prominent events that attend to Arab media. Since 2003, the event brought together many ministers, editors-in-chief of local and regional newspapers, media executives, journalists, academics, authors, actors, businessmen, and social figures from all around the Arab world.

The 14th edition of the forum will witness a number of seminars, workshops, and discussion panels related to media, featuring many of the event's most prominent attendees. The forum will also feature

a special exhibition dedicated to media and technology communications, which is expected to witness the attendance of nearly 1,000 distinguished media personalities from Arab and foreign media institutions that were specially invited to this event.

Zain will also participate in the forum through its dedicated booth, where the company will welcome visitors to discuss the various ways in which different communications mediums can enhance the development of current media tools in the Arab region. The company will also highlight the big role social media plays nowadays in communities all around the world.

Zain's strategic partnership of this forum highlights its social commitment, as the company believes in the importance of the role press and media plays in the development of communities. Zain will continue supporting this very important sector which carries significant and informative messaging to the public at large and the communications world as a whole.

The Arab Media Forum was founded in Kuwait in 2003 with the aim of developing Arab media. The forum holds a number of events and activities throughout the Arab world, and features the participation of Information Ministers, media personalities, public and private media bodies, and more.



**KUWAIT:** Several female police officers participated in a workshop organized by Eithar Voluntary Group. The workshop dealt with domestic violence.

Crime Report

KIDNAPPING INVESTIGATED

**KUWAIT:** Interior Ministry authorities are investigating a kidnapping and beating in which four people were involved. A citizen who works at the interior ministry went to Al-Waha police station with a medical report, alleging that his son, who is a student, had been kidnapped while waiting in front of his uncle's house. An Indian man who works as a driver for the neighbors pulled the boy into his sponsor's house, where the sponsor's brother, his son and nephew beat him causing the injuries mentioned in the medical report.

Probe into missing children

Authorities searched for two children who disappeared mysteriously, then later found them in a relative's diwaneya as they were playing video games and fell asleep there. The children's family had posted their pictures on social media when they discovered that they were missing.

Liquor traders arrested

Farwaniya detectives arrested three Bangladeshis with 190 homebrewed liquor bottles who were selling them to bachelors. A source said information had it that three Bangladeshis are active in distributing liquor so they were placed under surveillance then caught in the act. They were sent to concerned authorities.



No weapons charge

A corporal was spared a charge of possessing an AK-47, but was charged with assaulting an officer from the weapons detectives department who searched his house. Officers raided the corporal's house after a tip off that he owned an automatic rifle. Officers did not find any weapons, but the corporal assaulted one of the officers verbally and physically. Meanwhile, two citizens were arrested for being drunk and insulting a police officer. The two women were stopped by a patrol officer while they were driving out of a party where they reportedly had been drinking. They both verbally insulted the police officer in Hawally when he pulled them over and asked for their IDs, so he placed them under arrest.

Expat arrested over queue jumping

An American expat was detained at Salwa police station for beating a citizen at a supermarket over priority in a line. Shoppers called police who came over and found an injured citizen; who was sent to Mubarak Hospital while the American was detained.

Thief sought

Criminal detectives are looking for a person who committed at least 12 thefts, and they are examining tapes from surveillance cameras attached outside one of the houses he robbed. Detectives received several complaints about an unknown person climbing over houses' fences in Mishref. One of the homeowners gave police a video clip allegedly showing the suspect while entering a house.

— Translated from the Arabic press





**Violence spikes in Kashmir as videos inflame tensions**

**US ACCUSED OF USING AFGHANISTAN AS WEAPONS TESTING GROUND**



**PAJU:** US Vice President Mike Pence (center) arrives at Camp Bonifas outside of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), near the border village of Panmunjom, in Paju, South Korea yesterday. — AP

**‘ERA OF STRATEGIC PATIENCE IS OVER,’ N KOREA WARNED**  
**US VICE PRESIDENT VISITS HIGHLY FORTIFIED DMZ**

**SEOUL:** US Vice President Mike Pence put North Korea on notice yesterday neither the United States nor South Korea would tolerate further missile and nuclear tests, with US attacks in Syria and Afghanistan showing its resolve. Pence and South Korean acting president Hwang Kyo-ahn, speaking a day after a failed missile test by the North and two days after a huge display of missiles in Pyongyang, also said they would strengthen anti-North Korea defenses by moving ahead with the early deployment of the THAAD missile defense system.

Pence is on the first stop of a four-nation Asia tour intended to show America's allies, and remind its adversaries, that the administration of President Donald Trump was not turning its back on the increasingly volatile region. In a joint appearance, Pence said North Korea should mind the actions and intent of the president. "Just in the past two weeks, the world witnessed the strength and resolve of our new president in actions taken in Syria and Afghanistan. North Korea would do well not to test his resolve or the strength of the armed forces of the United States in this region."

The US Navy this month struck a Syrian airfield with 59 Tomahawk missiles. On Thursday,

the US military said it had dropped "the mother of all bombs," the largest non-nuclear device it has ever unleashed in combat, on a network of caves and tunnels used by Islamic State in eastern Afghanistan. On a visit to the border between North and South Korea earlier in the day, Pence reiterated that the US "era of strategic patience" with Pyongyang was over. Pence, whose father served in the 1950-53 Korean War, said the United States would stand by its "iron-clad alliance" with South Korea and was seeking peace through strength.

"All options are on the table to achieve the objectives and ensure the stability of the people of this country," he told reporters as tinny propaganda music floated across from the North Korean side of the so-called demilitarized zone (DMZ). "There was a period of strategic patience but the era of strategic patience is over." The United States, its allies and China are working together on a range of responses to North Korea's latest failed ballistic missile test, Trump's national security adviser said on Sunday, citing what he called an international consensus to act. But Pence and Hwang said they were troubled by retaliatory moves by China against the deployment of in

South Korea of a US anti-missile system known as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD). "The United States is troubled by China's economic retaliation against South Korea for taking appropriate steps to defend itself," Pence said. South Korea, which accuses China or discriminating against some South Korean companies working in China, and the United States say the sole purpose of THAAD is to guard against North Korean missiles. China says its powerful radar can penetrate its territory and undermine its security. Trump's national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, indicated on Sunday that Trump was not considering military action against North Korea for now, even as a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier strike group was heading for the region.

"It's time for us to undertake all actions we can, short of a military option, to try to resolve this peacefully," he said on ABC's "This Week" program. "We are working together with our allies and partners and with the Chinese leadership to develop a range of options. The Trump administration is focusing its strategy on tougher economic sanctions, possibly including an oil embargo, a global ban on its airline, intercepting cargo ships and punishing

Chinese banks doing business with Pyongyang, Reuters reported last week, citing US officials. While Trump has employed tough rhetoric in response to North Korea's recent missile tests, the president's options appear limited in dealing with a challenge that has vexed his Oval Office predecessors. Most options fall into four categories: economic sanctions, covert action, diplomatic negotiations and military force. Pence landed in South Korea hours after the North's failed missile launch. His visit came a day after North Korea held a military parade in its capital, Pyongyang, marking the 105th anniversary of the birth of founding father Kim Il Sung. What appeared to be new long-range ballistic missiles were on display in the parade.

**'See what happens'**

Tensions have risen as Trump takes a hard rhetorical line with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who has rebuffed admonitions from China and proceeded with nuclear and missile programs seen by Washington as a direct threat. Trump acknowledged on Sunday that the softer line he had taken on China's management of its currency was linked to its help

on North Korea. Pence said Trump was hopeful China "will take actions needed to bring about change in policy" in North Korea. "But as the president has made very clear, either China will deal with this problem or the United States and our allies will," he said.

China has spoken out against the North's weapons tests and has supported UN sanctions. It has repeatedly called for talks while appearing increasingly frustrated with the North. China banned imports of North Korean coal on Feb. 26, cutting off its most important export. China's customs department issued an order on April 7 telling traders to return North Korean coal cargoes, trading sources said.

Pyongyang has conducted several missile and nuclear tests in defiance of UN sanctions, and regularly threatens to destroy South Korea and the United States. North and South Korea are technically still at war because their 1950-1953 conflict ended in a truce, not a treaty. The North has said it has developed and would launch a missile that can strike the US mainland, but officials and experts believe it is some time away from mastering the necessary technology, including miniaturizing a nuclear warhead. — Reuters

**IRAQ'S FORCES FIGHT DOOR-TO-DOOR AS BATTLES ENTERS SEVENTH MONTH**

**MOSUL:** Iraqi forces gained fresh ground in door-to-door fighting in the Old City of Mosul, a military spokesman said yesterday, as the US-backed offensive to capture Islamic State's de facto capital in Iraq entered its seventh month. A Reuters correspondent saw thick smoke billowing over the Old City, near the Grand Al-Nuri Mosque, from where Islamic State leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi declared a "caliphate" spanning parts of Iraq and Syria.

Heavy exchanges of gunfire and mortar rounds could be heard from the neighborhoods facing the old city across the Tigris river that bisects Mosul into a western and eastern sides. The war between Islamic State militants and Iraqi forces is taking a heavy toll on several hundred thousand civilians trapped inside the city, with severely malnourished babies reaching hospitals in government-held areas. Iraqi Federal Police forces "are engaged in difficult, house-to-house clashes with Daesh fighters inside the Old City", a media officer from these units said. Drones are extensively being used to locate and direct air strikes on the militants who are dug in the middle of civilians, he said.

Troops have had the famous centuries-old Al-Nuri Mosque leaning minaret in their sights since last month, as capturing it would mark a symbolic victory over the insurgents. A police

spokesman said the troops were closing in on the mosque without indicating the remaining distance. Their progress has been slow as about 400,000 civilians, or a quarter of Mosul's pre-war population, are trapped in neighborhoods still under control of the militants. More

300,000 have fled fighting since the offensive operation started on Oct 17, with strong air and ground support from a US-led coalition. Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq, was captured by the ultra-hardline Sunni Muslim fighters in mid 2014. Government forces,

including army, police and elite counter terrorism units have taken back most of it, including the half that lies east of the Tigris river. The militants are now surrounded in the northwestern quarter including the historic Old City, using booby traps, sniper and mortar fire against the assailants. Police on Sunday reported a toxic gas attack on its troops that caused no deaths. It also said the militants were increasingly using suicide motorbikes attacks. The narrow alleyways restricts the use of suicide cars by the militants and tanks, armored personnel carriers and Humvees by the government forces.

The United Nations said last month that 12 people, including women and children, had been treated for possible exposure to chemical weapons agents in Mosul. But Iraq's UN ambassador, Mohamed Ali Alhakim, said days later there was no evidence for that. The fighting has killed several thousands among civilians and fighters on both sides, according to aid organizations. Residents who have managed to escape from the Old City have said there is almost nothing to eat but flour mixed with water and boiled wheat grain. What little food remains is too expensive for most residents to afford, or kept for Islamic State members and their supporters. — Reuters



**MOSUL:** Smoke billows from Mosul's Old City yesterday, during an offensive by Iraqi security forces to recapture the city from Islamic State (IS) group fighters. — AFP

**KILLER POSTS GRUESOME MURDER ON FACEBOOK**

**OHIO:** Cleveland police urged a suspect who they said posted video of himself on Facebook killing an elderly man on Sunday to turn himself in to authorities. Officials in the Ohio city said they were looking for Steve Stephens in connection with the one confirmed killing but had found no evidence to support what police said was a claim he made in the video of having killed more than a dozen other people. "Everybody is out there looking for Steve," Calvin Williams, the Cleveland police chief, told a news conference, where he joined Mayor Frank Jackson in asking Stephens to turn himself in. They said Stephens might be driving a white or cream-colored Ford Fusion, and that he was armed and dangerous.

"We want this to end with as much peace as we can bring to this right now," Williams said, adding police knew of no other victims. Late Sunday night Cleveland police issued an aggravated murder warrant for Stephens, and warned that he could have crossed state lines into Pennsylvania, New York, Indiana or Michigan. Police said Stephens used Facebook to post video of him killing the man, who police identified as 74-year-old Robert Godwin Sr. Stephens is not believed to have known Godwin, police said. The world's largest online social network, used by more than 1.2 billion people every day, condemned the accused killer's action. "This is a horrific crime and we do not allow this kind of content on Facebook," said a spokesperson for the company. "We work hard to keep a safe environment on Facebook, and are in touch with law enforcement in emergencies when there are direct threats to physical safety." It is not the first time a serious crime has been posted on Facebook. — Reuters



# FOR EVACUEES, BUS BOMBING A TRAGIC END TO TRAGIC DEAL

## OVER 120 SYRIANS KILLED IN BUS BOMBING DURING SWAP

**BEIRUT:** Mothers Noha, a Shiite, and Samira, a Sunni, were besieged for nearly two years on each side of Syria's civil war. At the weekend they finally escaped the suffocating blockades under an evacuation agreement - but their ordeal was not over. As they waited at two transit points miles apart outside Aleppo, a bomb attack hit Noha's bus convoy, killing more than 120 people including dozens of children. After ambulances rushed off the

45, asking not to be identified by her last name. Noha left Al-Foua, one of two Shiite villages besieged by Syrian insurgents in Idlib province with her two youngest children and 5,000 other people under a deal between the Syrian government and armed opposition.

In exchange, 2,000 Sunni residents and rebel fighters from the government-besieged town of Madaya near Damascus - Samira's hometown - were given safe

Syria's main urban centers in the west of the country, and engenders demographic change because most of the opposition, and Syria's population, are Sunni. But backed militarily by Russia and Shiite regional allies, Assad, a member of Syria's Alawite minority, has negotiated the deals from a position of strength. "There was little choice. We had to leave, we were scared," said Samira, 55, who was traveling with her five adult sons. She had

said. Samira has not heard from her own husband for nearly four years after he was arrested by Syrian authorities.

### Nowhere to live

With nothing left and no place to stay in Idlib other than camps, Samira said she would try to migrate, joining the 5 million Syrian refugees who have left since the war broke out in 2011. More than 6 million are internally displaced. "I don't want to be in Idlib, we know no one there. Also you don't know when or where the jets might bomb," she said, referring to the heavy bombardment by Russian and Syrian warplanes of rebel-held areas in Idlib - including a recent alleged poison gas attack. "The plan is to try to get to Turkey, to leave Syria for good." Noha was also heading into the unknown. "I don't know where we'll live, whether they (authorities) have anything set up. At the very least, we just want to be safe. The children jump at night from the sound of rockets. We just want security, wherever they take us," she said.

Her adult son and daughter had stayed in Al-Foua but were hoping to leave in the next stage of the evacuation deal. Noha's husband had been killed, but she did not say how. Both women said they would never have left their hometowns but for the strangling sieges, which caused severe food and medicine shortages, and the gradual change of control in each area. Government forces moved into Madaya on Friday. Rebels are also due to leave nearby Zabadani as part of the deal. In Al-Foua and Kefraya, hundreds of pro-government fighters were evacuated, and the agreement will pave the way for insurgents to take over.

Russia, Iran and Lebanese Hezbollah have helped Assad gain the upper hand against rebels in the west of the country in the last 18 months and he now controls all of Syria's most populous cities there, although insurgents have made gains in some areas. But with the war that has killed hundreds of thousands far from over, those displaced in swap deals see return a long way off. "People have built their houses and worked their whole lives setting themselves up, and now they've left, with nothing, zero," Noha said. —Reuters



**ALEPPO:** This frame grab from video shows rebel gunmen at the site of a blast that damaged several buses and vans at the Rashideen area, a rebel-controlled district outside Aleppo city, Syria. —AP

wounded, new buses arrived and the two convoys eventually reached their destinations - one in government territory and the other in rebel territory.

In the hours leading up to Saturday's attacks, the two women spoke to Reuters about what they had left behind, their families being split up, and the likelihood they would never return home. Reuters was not allowed back past security to try to find Noha after the blast, and lost contact with Samira after speaking to her earlier on another evacuee's phone. "We've lost everything. We hope to go back one day, but I don't expect we will," said Noha,

passage out, and bussed to Idlib province, a rebel stronghold, via Aleppo. Thousands of Syrians have been evacuated from besieged areas in recent months under deals between President Bashar Al-Assad's government and rebels fighting for six years to unseat him. The deals have mostly affected Sunni Muslims living in rebel-held areas surrounded by government forces and their allies. Damascus calls them reconciliation deals and says it allows services to be restored in the wrecked towns.

Rebels say it amounts to forced displacement of Assad's opponents from

feared her sons would be arrested or forced to join the Syrian military and fight once troops and officials of the Damascus government moved into the town.

Like Noha, Samira was relieved to have escaped a crushing siege which had caused widespread hunger - and in the case of Madaya, starvation - but had left everything behind, including family. "We owned three houses, farmland and three shops in Madaya town. Now, we don't have a single Syrian pound," she said. Her daughter, pregnant with a third child, had stayed in Madaya because her husband had vowed to "live and die" there, she

## EUROPE REACTS OVER TURKEY REFERENDUM

**PARIS:** The EU and Germany have urged Turkish leaders to heal bitter internal divisions after a contested referendum on handing the president greater powers. The vote has major implications for the long-standing EU bid of Turkey, also a key NATO member. Here are some of the main reactions:

### European Union

"In view of the close referendum result and the far-reaching implications of the constitutional amendments, we... call on the Turkish authorities to seek the broadest possible national consensus in their implementation," said a statement issued by European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker, EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini and EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn.

### Germany

"The (German) government expects that the Turkish government will now seek respectful dialogue with all political and social forces in the country, after this tough election campaign," said Chancellor Angela Merkel in a joint statement with Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel.

### Council of Europe

Thorbjorn Jagland, secretary general of

Europe's top rights watchdog, said Turkish leaders "should consider the next steps carefully ... in view of the close result." It is of the utmost importance, said Jagland, "to secure the independence of the judiciary in line with the principle of rule of law enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights." Turkey is a full member of the Council of Europe, which "stands ready to support the country in this process," Jagland added.

### Austria

According to Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, the referendum "shows how divided the country is." He added that "collaboration with the EU will be even more complex."

### Denmark

"Strange to see democracy restrict democracy. The majority has the right to decide, but I'm quite concerned about (the) new Turkish constitution," Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said on Twitter.

### NATO

A NATO official said that the constitutional referendum in alliance member Turkey "is a matter for the Turkish people". —AFP



**MOCHA, Yemen:** Yemeni fighters loyal to the Saudi-backed Yemeni president pose for a picture raising their machine guns, on the road leading to Khaled Ibn Al-Walid base. The Khaled Ibn Al-Walid camp, one of the biggest in Yemen, sits on a key road linking Mokha to the Houthi-controlled port city of Hodeida and third city Taez, which is under rebel siege. —AFP

## WARTIME CRISIS THREATENS EDUCATION OF YEMENI KIDS

**DUBAI:** Two years of war may deprive a generation of Yemeni children of an education, the UN warned this month, putting them at greater risk of being married off or recruited as child soldiers for a conflict which has killed at least 10,000 people. Months of unpaid salaries have affected over three-quarters of the impoverished country's teachers, meaning up to 4.5 million children may not finish the school year, UNICEF Representative in Yemen Mertixell Relano told a press conference in the capital Sanaa.

"At the moment we have more than 166,000 teachers in the country that have not received a salary since October last year. This is more or less 73 percent of the total number of teachers in the country," Relano said. "Those children that are not in school, they are at risk of being recruited (for military service), or the

girls might be at risk of being married earlier," she added. The crisis largely began last year when the internationally-recognized government shifted Yemen's central bank out of Sanaa, which is controlled by the armed Houthi movement with which it is at war.

The government says the Houthis looted the bank and that it is trying to make all payments despite what it calls Houthi obstruction of the transfers - charges the group denies. Seven months of salaries remain in arrears, public sector employees in Houthi-controlled northern lands say, making travel to work and paying for basic necessities more difficult. "Money is the backbone of life," lamented Hoda Al Khouliani, a teacher at a children's school in Sanaa. Without it, I don't think anyone can live and there will be suffering. We're almost begging." —Reuters



**ISTANBUL:** People walk along the main market in Istanbul yesterday. Turkey's main opposition party urged the country's electoral board yesterday to cancel the results of a landmark referendum that granted sweeping new powers to the nation's president, citing what it called substantial voting irregularities. —AP

## UNITED AIRLINES REMOVES A COUPLE AMID OUTRAGE

**NEW YORK:** An engaged couple were removed from a United Airlines flight to Costa Rica, as the airline remained under scrutiny following outrage caused by a video last week of a passenger being forcibly removed from a flight. According to the couple, who said they were en route to get married, a federal marshal had escorted them from the plane before take-off from Houston, Texas, but United denied this on Sunday, saying in a statement that neither a marshal nor other authorities were involved.

The couple "repeatedly attempted to sit in upgraded

seating which they did not purchase and they would not follow crew instructions to return to their assigned seats," United said in a statement, adding "They were asked to leave the plane by our staff and complied." The statement from a United spokeswoman said the airline offered the couple a discounted hotel rate for the night, and rebooked them on a Sunday morning flight. But Michael Hohl and his fiancée, Amber Maxwell, told KHOU they tried to pay for upgraded seating and were denied, after finding another passenger sleeping across their seats when they were the last to board.

After moving within the economy cabin a few rows up, flight crew denied their request to pay a supplement for the seats, which United sells as "economy plus," and told them to move back to their original seats, Hohl said. "We thought not a big deal, it's not like we are trying to jump up into a first-class seat," Hohl told KHOU. "We were simply in an economy row a few rows above our economy seat." The airline suffered a public relations disaster after a video emerged a week ago showing security officers dragging a bloodied passenger off an overbooked United Express flight in Chicago. —Reuters

## News

in brief

### Suspected acid attack in a London nightclub

**LONDON:** Twelve people were injured when a corrosive substance was sprayed inside a packed London nightclub, police and fire services said, amid a sharp rise in acid attacks in Britain's capital. Two of the victims, both men in their twenties, are in a "serious but stable condition" and 10 others suffered "minor injuries," police said in a statement. A London Fire Brigade spokesman said an "unknown corrosive substance" was thrown in Mangle, a club in east London, in the early hours of Monday. It was identified as "an acidic substance" from testing, he said, adding that there were around 600 people in the club at the time. Police said the incident was not believed to be terrorism or gang related but the result of a dispute between two groups of people in the club. They said the fight led to "a noxious substance being sprayed by a male suspect directly at Victims 1 and 2" - the two men with the more serious injuries. "Other people inside the venue suffered the effects of the substance," the statement said, adding that no arrests have been made and appealing for witnesses.

### Tibetan monk sets himself on fire in western China

**BEIJING:** A Tibetan Buddhist monk set himself on fire in western China in an apparent protest against Beijing's rule, a monitoring group and a US government-backed radio station said. The monk set himself ablaze in a public square on Saturday morning in Kardze, also known as Ganzi, in western Sichuan province, according to Radio Free Asia and Free Tibet, an advocacy group based in Britain. The unidentified monk was taken away after the fire was extinguished by security forces, reports said. It was unclear if he survived. A man who answered the phone at the local police station yesterday said he was unaware of the case and "not clear" about the situation. The government for Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, which includes the town of Kardze, referred questions to police. A YouTube video purported to be of the incident showed two men spraying fire extinguishers on what appeared to be a body at the edge of a busy street as a crowd gathered.



**COLOMBO:** Sri Lankan families carry the coffins of victims who died following the collapse of a garbage dump in Colombo yesterday. —AFP

### 400 evacuated after a deadly dump collapse

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka has moved over 400 families to temporary shelters after tons of rotting garbage collapsed onto a slum, killing at least 28 people. Some 145 homes were destroyed when the 300-foot rubbish mountain came crashing down on Friday afternoon at Kolonnawa on the northeastern edge of Colombo. Police say many more buildings were damaged and could collapse at any time. Hundreds of soldiers have kept up the search for survivors amid reports that seven people from four families were still missing after the disaster, which followed heavy rain the previous day and a fire hours earlier. It came as the country celebrated the traditional new year and followed a warning to parliament that the 23 million tons of rotting garbage posed a serious health hazard. "We are keeping up the search but we are not very hopeful of finding anyone alive in these conditions," military spokesman Roshan Seneviratne said yesterday. The discovery of a man's body and a dismembered limb during the search Monday had pushed the death toll to 28, Seneviratne added.

### Mexico asks Guatemala to extradite former governor

**GUATEMALA CITY:** Mexico has asked Guatemala to extradite a fugitive former governor suspected of embezzling hundreds of millions of dollars, officials said yesterday. Javier Duarte, of Veracruz state, was arrested around 8:00 pm at a luxury hotel in the tourist resort town of Panajachel on Saturday, Guatemalan police said. Mexico filed its extradition request later that night. "Now there is a 60-day period in which bilateral extradition issues are looked at. Then the judge will determine if the necessary conditions are met and that he should be extradited," Mexico's top prosecutor Omar Garcia said at a briefing at Mexico's embassy in Guatemala City. Duarte had been staying at the four-star hotel for at least two days, where he paid with cash, used a false name and was accompanied by his wife, deputy director of Guatemala's police Stu Velasco told Milenio television.

### Kyrgyzstan jails opposition members over alleged plot

**BISHKEK:** Three members of Kyrgyzstan's opposition were jailed for between 12 and 20 years yesterday over an alleged coup plot captured on a disputed audio recording aired on the internet. The sentences are likely to add to fears of a crackdown ahead of November elections, following anti-government protests. A Bishkek court jailed activist Ernest Karybekov for 20 years, and former MP Kubanychbek Kadyrov and ex-regional governor Bektur Asanov for 12 years each for their roles in the purported plot. A fourth defendant, ex-foreign minister Dastan Sarygulov, was given a suspended four-year sentence at the closed-doors hearing. The four men were arrested last year shortly after the recording appeared to show Asanov and Kadyrov plotting to seize power in the fragile republic of six million. The opposition figures claimed the recording was heavily edited.

### Villagers seize dozens of Vietnam policemen

**HANOI:** Villagers in Vietnam's capital yesterday were holding more than 30 people, most of them policemen, over a land dispute in a rare defiance of the communist government. The standoff began over the weekend in My Duc, a district of Hanoi, when police clashed with villagers who allege their land was illegally seized for sale by a military-run telecommunications firm. Some villagers were arrested. Social activist La Viet Dung said yesterday that villagers were still holding more than 30 people, including over 20 Hanoi riot police, as well as local policemen and officials. He said authorities asked the villagers to release them but they refused to do so. The Online newspaper Vnexpress quoted a villager identified only as Loan as saying, "The policemen have been given sufficient food and drinks by us and are being treated politely."



## ABSENCE, FITNESS, ATMOSPHERE - NEW WAYS TO TRACK SCHOOLS

**WASHINGTON:** How often do students miss school? Are they ready for college? Are they physically fit? Is their school a welcoming place? States are beginning to outline new ways to evaluate their schools, rather than relying just on traditional measures such as test scores. The plans are required under a new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act, which takes effect in the coming school year. Under the new law, states are focusing more on academic growth, meaning not just whether students have achieved a certain academic level in reading and math, but whether they have improved over time.

Mike Petrilli, president of the Thomas B Fordham Institute, said that's a big change from the No Child Left Behind Act, the previous version of the education law. "Schools and educators should feel good about that; that will be a fairer way to measure school quality," he said. But while most experts praised the flexibility and innovation offered by the new law, some think that in the absence of federal guidelines some states may overlook groups of students who need additional support, such as minorities, students with disabilities and English-language learners.

The Republican-controlled Congress moved swift-

ly this year to rescind key federal accountability guidelines passed by the Obama administration to help states implement the new law. So far, nine states and the District of Columbia have submitted their accountability plans to the Education Department for review, and seven states are completing their blueprints.

### Flexibility in education

The remaining states will submit their plans in September. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos will decide whether to accept or reject them. She has said her goal is state and local flexibility in education and indicated that she might use the process to advance school choice. When evaluating school quality, states are experimenting with new indicators. Almost all of the first-round states have adopted chronic absenteeism, or how many students miss more than 10 percent of the school year, as a key metric. Connecticut and Delaware, among others, also will be tracking college readiness, or whether high school students are taking advanced classes and how successful they are on college admission tests like the SAT.

Tennessee wants to give every public school in the

state a grade from A to F, which state Education Commissioner Candice McQueen says would give parents better information about schools. The grade will take into account such things as how well English language learners are doing and whether disabled students are being served. The schools will also be graded on chronic absenteeism rates, and if students are ready for college or the military and whether traditionally underserved students are performing well. Graduation rates also will count. Nevada outlined a system that focuses on student growth measures, including test scores, English language proficiency, and graduation rates. Massachusetts will be paying attention to academic results in ninth grade.

In New Mexico, the state will begin tracking the need for additional tutoring in college and linking those back to high schools where the students studied. The state also will look at how students do in science in ranking schools. Some states are getting creative. Vermont and Connecticut want to make physical fitness another sign of school quality, while Connecticut also believes access to arts education should be another measure. Illinois wants to conduct "climate surveys" asking whether children feel they

are in a safe and welcoming environment. "There is a lot more than just tests that matter for student success," said Natasha Ushomirsky with the Education Trust. "Tests are important and looking at progress is important, but states are getting a better picture of how schools are serving students." Another common thread that has emerged from the first round: States are doing a better job of involving parents, teachers and community activists in the process. "They've been very proactive to engage anybody who has an interest in the plans," said Kirsten Carr with the Council of Chief State School Officers.

But Marc Magee, CEO of 50Can, an education nonprofit, expressed concern that "if everybody doesn't hold up their end of the bargain, we could go back to that era where certain populations of students become invisible inside schools even if they are struggling mightily and not getting the opportunity that they deserve." And Lindsey Tepe, senior education policy analyst at New America, said there is so much variation in how states want to evaluate their schools that national comparisons could be difficult. "Without the guidance, there isn't really a recipe to follow," said Tepe. — AP

## ARKANSAS EXECUTION DRUGS

**LITTLE ROCK:** A federal judge has granted stays to eight Arkansas inmates who were scheduled to be executed before the end of the month, when the state's supply of an execution drug expires. In her order Saturday, which the state promptly appealed, US District Judge Kristine Baker said the inmates have the right to challenge the state's method of execution in an attempt to show it "creates a demonstrated risk of severe pain" and that she thinks they have a significant chance to succeed.

Arkansas, which hasn't put anyone to death since 2005 due to legal challenges and difficulty getting execution drugs, plans to use three drugs to kill the inmates, including two that are typically used in surgery and one that benefits cardiac patients. The manufacturers of the three drugs object to their use in executions. Here is a look at the drugs:

### Midazolam

Midazolam is the key drug in the procedure and one that Arkansas hasn't yet used in an execution. It would be the first of the three drugs administered and would be used to sedate the inmate. Because the state's supply reaches its expiration date April 30, Arkansas scheduled eight executions before then. At normal adult doses of around 4 mg, midazolam can slow or stop breathing to the point that medical literature advises doctors to monitor patients closely. With a 500 mg dose listed in the state's execution protocol, Arkansas expects that the inmates will not be aware they are dying. In federal court testimony over the past week, doctors differed on whether midazolam is an appropriate execution drug, though the US Supreme Court has ruled that it is. In her ruling, Baker said that, regardless of the difference, Arkansas' execution protocol doesn't outline what would happen if the inmate were to remain conscious even if given a double dose. She also said the protocol doesn't lay out what executioners intend to do to ensure that the inmates are unconscious. In typical medical settings, midazolam relaxes people and produces amnesia.

The second drug, vecuronium bromide, is a muscle relaxant, but not in the typical sense. Rather than being prescribed for

tightness or muscle pain, vecuronium is used to prevent muscles from moving so they don't interfere with surgeons. After receiving the drug, patients must be on a ventilator or they will suffocate because their diaphragm cannot move. One doctor testified that being given vecuronium bromide without sedation and ventilation would be equivalent to being held underwater. The typical dose is up to .1 mg/kg intravenously, or 8.5 mg for the typical inmate set to die this month.

Under Arkansas' protocol, executioners would administer 100 mg, or more than 11 times the typical dose, five minutes after the midazolam is administered and once the inmate is unconscious. Medical supply company McKesson says Arkansas obtained its vecuronium bromide under false pretenses and that the state will not return it, even though the company has refunded Arkansas' money. A state judge Friday directed Arkansas to not use its current supply of vecuronium bromide pending a hearing Tuesday on whether it was obtained properly, though McKesson said Saturday that, with Baker's stays, it no longer needs the hearing.

### Potassium chloride

Potassium is essential for maintaining a proper heart rhythm, and levels that are too high or too low can cause heart trouble. Medical experts who testified before Baker said that the final drug, potassium chloride, causes considerable pain when injected and is typically diluted when given to patients. A typical dose is 20 milliequivalents delivered over several hours. Arkansas plans to use 240 mEq immediately after the inmate is injected with vecuronium bromide. The director of the Arkansas Department of Correction, Wendy Kelley, testified this week that Arkansas was not charged for its current supply of potassium chloride. She said the supplier wished to remain anonymous and did not want to generate a bill of sale to decrease the risk of being identified. According to Baker's order, Kelley said Arkansas did not obtain its execution drugs directly from any manufacturer, though she wouldn't say who provided the drugs, citing a state law that allows her department to keep most execution information secret. — AP



**COLUMBIA:** Photo shows the empty playground at Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbia, Mo. Justice Neil Gorsuch's first week hearing Supreme Court arguments features a case that's giving school choice advocates hope for an easier use of public money for private, religious schools in dozens of states. The long-delayed argument, deals with whether Missouri should pay for a soft surface at the church playground. — AP

## WILL FREE COLLEGE OFFER CATCH FIRE? - NY DETAILS RAISE DOUBTS

### FIRST-IN-THE-NATION FREE TUITION PROGRAM

**ALBANY:** Will New York's first-in-the-nation free tuition program for middle-class college students spread to other states? That's the hope of proponents such as Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton, who made debt-free college a key talking point in their Democratic presidential campaigns. And that's the prediction of its main champion, Democratic New York Gov Andrew Cuomo, who called the plan a "model for the nation."

But even as higher education experts applaud the concept of free tuition, they question finer points of New York's plan and whether it's a model that should be replicated elsewhere. New York's plan would cover in-state public college tuition for full-time students whose families earn \$125,000 or less, a benefit that could extend to 32,000 students a year. Some experts are concerned the plan would actually do little to help the neediest students, whose tuition is already covered by other aid. They also question the plan not addressing other college costs beyond tuition.

And there has already been much debate about a restriction - added late in the negotiations - that recipients live and work in the state for the number of years they receive the benefit. If students move out of state, the money would be converted into a loan that must be repaid. "Students are not going to plan for future debt because they're going to think they don't have any," said Sara Goldrick-Rab, a Temple University expert on college affordability issues. "And then they'll get a job in another state and they're going to get smacked in the face literally by the state of New York for the bill."

### Student debt problem

Goldrick-Rab said the restriction betrays stu-

dents by changing the narrative from broad free college tuition to a workforce development initiative. State University of New York Chancellor Nancy Zimpher says the controversy may be overblown, noting that about 85 percent of graduates from the state university system stay in New York after graduation anyway. "It's kind of tamps down the drama," she said. Even Sanders, who has long advocated addressing the nation's \$1.3 trillion student debt problem, acknowledged there are some aspects of New York's plan he disagrees with.

But he gave Cuomo and New York lawmakers credit for being first to tackle it. "They have paved the way for other states to go forward, for the federal government to go forward to make public colleges and universities tuition free," the Vermont senator said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I see that as a tremendous achievement, and we look forward to other states following New York." Barmak Nassirian, director of federal relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, agreed New York's program is a strong political move but questioned an execution that "borders on gimmicky."

He was particularly critical of New York's "last-dollar" tuition-only setup, which would keep costs relatively low - an estimated \$163 million a year - by paying the tuition only after awards from state and federal sources are applied.

Students from families making \$50,000 or less wouldn't benefit because their tuition is already covered by other programs. "Unfortunately, the neediest are left with nothing but a feel-good message," Nassirian said. SUNY's Zimpher responded that the state's program extends possibilities to kids on the "edge" of other financial

assistance programs who might have never thought college was possible.

### New York program

Other experts have noted that the New York program covers only tuition, with no additional money for other college fees such as room and board and books, which can be substantial. Over the course of four years at a State University of New York college, tuition would make up only about \$26,000 of the total \$83,000 tab. Despite such uncertainties, Nassirian also gave credit to Cuomo, who has been mentioned as a possible 2020 presidential candidate, for giving the concept of free college new life. "The pressure now builds," he said, "for others in deep blue states to do something." The closest currently is Rhode Island, where Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo is pushing to make two years of public college free for residents, regardless of income. Tennessee and Oregon already offer free in-state tuition at community colleges.

Students at the University of Albany, part of the state university system, say that while grateful for New York's plan, they are wary of its details. "I hope it works," said Nicole Pitt, a 21-year-old biology major. "But there's going to be a lot of fine print, something hidden that's going to come back and bite the person in the butt later." Cumorah Reed, a 19-year-old English major who also works at a pharmacy to pay for college, said her mother "lost her mind" with excitement when the proposal passed, only to learn the scholarship would only cover about a third of Reed's annual costs. "There's still \$12,000 for room and board. It's double the tuition," she said. "So that's ... fun." — AP



**ARKANSAS:** Protesters gather outside the state Capitol building in Little Rock, Ark to voice their opposition to Arkansas' seven upcoming executions. — AP

## EVEN IN HOMETOWN, CONSTITUENTS RIP INTO US REPUBLICAN LAWMAKER

**HOOD RIVER:** In the auditorium of his old middle school just blocks from where he still lives, the congressman who is a lead author of the stalled House Republican health care bill was treated like the villain in a class play. It didn't matter that Rep Greg Walden was on a first-name basis with many of the roughly 800 attendees. Or that Democrats like Gov Kate Brown call him congenial and bright. Or that Walden was just re-elected to a 10th House term with 72 percent of the vote in a safely Republican eastern Oregon district. Or that he is chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Walden, 60, encountered the same angry buzz saw at town meetings last week that has greeted his Republican colleagues at similar sessions and prompted others to not even bother holding them.

President Donald Trump and his party's policies on health care, immigration, the environment, the arts and Syria have whipped up Democratic voters and liberal organizers while dividing Republicans as well, and they're letting GOP lawmakers know it. "Connie, I tried to answer you," Walden, standing alone on stage in a blue

blazer and plaid shirt, pleaded to Connie Burton over resounding boos.

Her children played with Walden's when they were little, but the 63-year-old Burton was now demanding that the lawmaker oppose Trump's voiding of rules blocking harmful emissions.

"Yes or no," the audience yelled when Walden answered indirectly. Chosen to ask a question, one man in the balcony said, "You seem a like a pro-war politician. Have you encouraged your son to join the Marines?" A woman said, "We are absolutely disgusted that you led a committee to take away" peoples' health care, before loud cheers drowned her out. "I care about health care. I know you don't think that," an exasperated Walden said at one point.

Walden's reception was far friendlier in more GOP-leaning Prineville, set among grazing land over 100 miles to the south. There were far fewer interruptions, though from the bleachers of the Crook County High School gym, 72-year-old Republican Steve Johnson yelled that Walden should "quit dancing around down there" and produce results in Congress. — AP

**LITTLE ROCK:** Lawyers for the state of Arkansas faced fights on multiple legal fronts yesterday to begin a series of double executions before a key sedative used in lethal injections expires at the end of the month. Bruce Earl Ward and Don William Davis Jr had been scheduled to die yesterday night, the first of four double executions set by Gov Asa Hutchinson for an 11-day period. A federal judge issued stays for each of the inmates Saturday and a state court judge on Friday blocked prison officials from using a paralyzing drug until he could determine whether Arkansas obtained it properly.

Arkansas appealed in those cases and also hoped to dissolve a separate stay for Ward that had been issued by the Arkansas Supreme Court. In a victory for the state Sunday, a federal judge in western Arkansas denied a stay request by Davis. Even with the stays in place and questions remaining before a number of courts, executions are still possible. The US Supreme Court could be asked to tackle a number of questions before the end of the day and, depending on those answers, Ward could walk to the death chamber at Varner for a 7 pm execution.

"Immediate reversal is warranted," Arkansas' solicitor general, Lee Rudofsky, wrote Saturday to the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals in St Louis. "(D)elaying Appellees' executions by even a few days - until Arkansas' supply of midazolam expires - will make it impossible for Arkansas to carry out Appellees' just and lawful sentences." At a federal court hearing last week, prison officials testified

that they have no new source for the sedative, which is intended to mask the effects of drugs that will shut down the inmates' lungs and hearts.

The inmates say midazolam is unsuitable as an execution drug, saying it is not a painkiller and could subject them to a cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the US Constitution. If they aren't knocked out sufficiently, they would be able

to feel the pain of their lungs and hearts stopping, they say. In state court on Friday, Pulaski County Circuit Judge Wendell Griffen blocked the state from using its supply of vecuronium bromide after a distributor complained prison officials used false pretenses to obtain it. The drug prevents the diaphragm from moving, essentially suffocating the prisoners. — AP



**ARKANSAS:** Former Arkansas death row inmate Damien Echols (center, back to camera) speaks at rally opposing the state's upcoming executions, on the front steps of Arkansas' Capitol. — AP



## FRONTRUNNERS LE PEN, MACRON HOLD RIVAL PARIS RALLIES

**PARIS:** The two frontrunners in the French presidential election, far-right leader Marine Le Pen and centrist Emmanuel Macron, were staging rival rallies in Paris yesterday, seeking to stay ahead of a fast-chasing pack just days before the vote. After weeks of twists and turns, the unpredictable race has narrowed dramatically, with surveys suggesting four candidates are in contention to win one of the top two spots in the April 23 vote and progress to the run-off election a fortnight later.

Scandal-hit conservative Francois Fillon and radical leftist Jean-Luc Melenchon are steaming up behind the two frontrunners, and with around one in three of the French electorate still undecided, candidates are scrapping for every vote. Le Pen and Macron, who have both scored as high as 25 percent in voter surveys, stood at 22 percent in the latest IPSOS poll, while Melenchon has surged to 20 percent and Fillon stands at 19.

**EU 'protected us'**

Melenchon's late surge-and the possibility he could square off against Le Pen in the May 7 decider has sparked alarm over the future of the EU, as both candi-



**PARIS:** French anti-riot officers stand next to a placard of far-right National Front leader and presidential candidate Marine Le Pen during a protest march from suburban Aubervilliers to Paris. — AP

dates advocate withdrawing from the bloc for different reasons. Outgoing President Francois Hollande weighed in on Saturday, saying Europe has "protected us against war" in the decades since World War II. "Let us preserve it instead of scapegoating it," he said at a World War I

centenary event in northern France.

Macron plans his biggest rally yet at the Bercy sports and concert hall, a venue with a capacity of 20,000. The location near the economy ministry serves as a reminder that the relatively inexperienced Macron held the key economy portfolio

for two years under his mentor Hollande. The 39-year-old former Rothschild banker quit the Socialist government last year to form his "En Marche" ("On the Move") party and launch his bid for power as a candidate "neither of the left nor of the right".

En Marche says it has planned "1,000 events a day" including 163 public rallies until the official end of campaigning at midnight on Friday. An aide to Macron said he would use yesterday's event to hit back at Le Pen's accusation he is soft on Islamists. "With Mr Macron, it would be Islamism on the move," Le Pen, 48, said on Saturday in response to revelations that one of Macron's top campaigners had criticized the Charlie Hebdo satirical weekly for publishing cartoons of the prophet Mohammed (PBUH). Le Pen's own rally will be at the 6,000-capacity Zenith concert hall in northeast Paris, with activists saying they plan protests outside the venue. A protest is also expected in the southern port of Marseille on Wednesday where Le Pen plans another large rally.

**Canal cruise**

Melenchon, 65, plans a quirky event that will see him board a barge in a northeast suburb of the French capital

and float down a canal, making five stops along the way to meet and greet supporters. The voyage lasting more than five hours will end up at the Francois Mitterrand Library, a nod to the Socialist leader of the 1980s and early 1990s whom Melenchon references frequently in his stump speech as an icon of the left. The founder of "La France Insoumise" ("Unbowed France") plans another form of multiple appearances on Tuesday, where he will hold a rally in central Dijon while his hologram will speak for him in six other cities.

For his part Fillon, dogged by a fake jobs scandal that has seen him charged with abuse of public funds, is vowing to pull off a victory that will "surprise the microcosm" arrayed against him. He believes a small coterie of detractors mounted a campaign to smear him with the revelations that he put his wife Penelope on the public payroll with jobs that earned her hundreds of thousands of euros (dollars). Fillon, who led the race for weeks before the scandal broke in late January, spent Easter weekend wooing the Catholic and conservative vote. Conspicuous by his absence at the height of the scandal, the 63-year-old former prime minister has revived up his campaign appearances in the past week. — AFP

## SAVING LIVES, 1 DAY AT A TIME, ON DEADLY MEDITERRANEAN

'KIDNAPPERS OFTEN HANG THEIR VICTIMS'

**AT SEA:** As usual, it started with a call on a satellite phone from Italian rescue officials in Rome. They were relaying a distress call they'd received from a migrant smuggling ship adrift somewhere off the coast of Libya. On board the Golfo Azurro, Guillermo Canardo was taking notes. "Two boats," he said. "One hundred people in each one." He paused, then asked the question that needed to be asked: "Are they (the migrants) still moving?" A fishing trawler-turned-exploration yacht-turned-rescue ship, the 30-year-old Golfo Azurro is now operated by Proactiva Open Arms, a Spanish nonprofit dedicated to rescuing migrants before they are consumed by the unforgiving Mediterranean Sea.

and loaded sacks of lifejackets onto two orange rubber rescue boats. Fernando Garfella, skipper of the lead rescue boat, confirmed the coordinates and sped toward the target. After 15 minutes, a dot appeared on the horizon. Most migrants on the Mediterranean are now trying to reach Italy. Those numbers have dramatically increased since the European Union and Turkey signed an agreement last year that allowed Greece to send new asylum-seekers back to Turkey. In exchange, the EU agreed to speed up visas for Turkish citizens and donate 6 billion euros (\$6.4 billion) to help support the hundreds of thousands of refugees living on Turkish soil. Last weekend alone, Italian authorities over-

able boat in English to remain calm if they wanted to avoid a tragedy. Boats have capsized previously - leading to dozens of drownings - when desperate migrants jumped into the water trying to be rescued first.

**The 'vultures'**

The rubber boat had left Libya thirteen hours earlier, traveling overnight and drifting since its small engine broke down. It was truly a makeshift craft - a rubber floater glued to a wooden base and held together by screws as large as a hand. There was no food or drinkable water left, and nowhere near enough fuel to reach Italian soil. The migrants were told that Europe was only five hours north of Libya. In fact, the closest point is Lampedusa, a tiny Italian island 160 nautical miles away, a boat journey that takes more than 32 hours in calm waters.

This group was lucky enough to reach an offshore oil well platform, guided by its burning flame, and rescue workers linked up with them near it. Once everyone had been transferred to the Golfo Azurro, a rescuer destroyed one of the smuggling boats' engines - the other was broken hours ago. That ensures that no "vultures" - the nickname for the local fishermen who scavenge the engines of smugglers' boats - can sell them back again to more traffickers. The rescuers' anger toward the smugglers is palpable, coming out in unprintable torrents.

Hours pass by, more migrants are rescued at sea. Eventually 230 are on board, coming from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Niger, Mali, Eritrea, Guinea and Sudan, among other countries. The boat now heads to Trapani, Sicily. It has to slow down, since it's Thursday afternoon and passengers can't be taken off until Saturday morning. If the boat gets into port too early, the rescuers fear the migrants will jump into the water and try to swim to Italy. Each rescue brings another story, often full of heartbreak but with a common theme - a dream for a better life, an escape from fear or hunger.

**The ordeal**

Yakubu Yahya, a 17-year-old from Niger, went to Libya searching for his missing parents and was kidnapped in the Libyan city of Sabha while crossing the Saharan Desert. His kidnappers demanded \$2,000 - an unimaginable figure to him - and he was beaten almost constantly until he managed to escape. Eventually, he found enough work in Libya to scrape together \$400 - enough to pay a smuggler to get him to the coast and then get onto the smuggler's boat. Nuy Hassan, 16, left Eritrea when he was six and spent a decade traveling through Ethiopia, Sudan and the Sahara Desert. — AP



**AVDIIVKA:** Rescue workers give food to local residents in the Ukrainian town of Avdiivka. — AFP

## REPAIRMEN RISK LIVES TO BRING LIGHT ON UKRAINIAN FRONTLINE

**AVDIIVKA:** Oleksandr and Ruslan drove their dusty grey minibus across a field pock-marked with shell craters, venturing into the no-man's land of Ukraine's volatile frontline. Part of a team from a local factory, they can often be found risking life and limb in the east Ukraine conflict zone to repair damage to power lines that regularly plunges their hometown Avdiivka into darkness. "When I see the flash of shelling in the direction of Avdiivka, I begin to count off the seconds before an outage," 45-year-old Ruslan Kolesov, the transport director at the town's coking coal plant said. "I can determine where the shell fell with an accuracy of 200 meters only by the length of time and the noise."

The government-held town of Avdiivka and the factory where Kolesov works regularly get caught up in shelling between Ukrainian forces and the Russian-backed rebels on the other side. Four power lines, vital for both operations at the factory and lighting the town, run across the frontline from thermal power plants located in rebel-held territory. That means that cables often get cut by the fighting and the repairmen have to toil up. "The plant is the heart of the city. It provides light and heating to all residents of Avdiivka. If they interrupt the supply of electricity to the plant then the entire city is without light," Kolesov explained.

**'Green corridor'**

Before the search team can even reach the power lines, Kolesov and his colleagues have to go through the fraught process of getting the agreement of both Ukraine's

military and the rebels to hold fire. "We start only when both sides give us a 'green corridor'. But even if both sides promise it, it does not mean that we will not come under fire," he said. In 2015 members of the team were detained as saboteurs at one of the insurgent's checkpoints before being blindfolded and taken for questioning after their phones were seized. The men were eventually released after a few tense hours when militants learned who they were. The team was recently given kevlar helmets and body armour by the Ukrainian army but they are often reluctant to wear the gear-prefering their old white plastic helmets and overalls for fear of appearing like combatants. "When we wear khaki-colored bulletproof vests, it's hard to explain that we are not saboteurs," said 37-year-old driver Oleksandr Korovan.

**Drawing lots**

Some of the team insisted they are now injured to the danger as Ukraine's low-level war wears on towards a third year, having cost some 10,000 lives already. But Korovan and another driver still draw lots to decide who will take the wheel for each risky mission. "One counts only on intuition in our work," Korovan, a father of two children, said. "Every time it is scary." The men do not get any extra money for the risks they run but insist they have no plans to quit their jobs all the same. "Our city and our factory are like a big anthill," said the other driver Sergey. "They are trying to destroy our anthill with shellings, but we, like ants, fix it all together, bring back the light, and it lives again." — AFP



**Photo shows an empty rubber boat after migrants were rescued by members of Proactiva Open Arms NGO, in the Mediterranean sea. — AP**

**The Libyan route**

It works the SAR zone - the search-and-rescue zone - which starts 12 nautical miles from the Libyan coast and goes 12 miles deeper into the sea's unpredictable waters. This is the last, deadliest section of the migrant highway known as "the Libyan route" that slices across the African continent. According to UNHCR, an average of 14 people died in the Mediterranean every day in 2016, the highest number ever recorded. Canardo, the head of rescue operations on the Golfo Azurro, spoke that April day to Italy's Maritime Rescue Coordination Center, which passed along the troubled vessels' coordinates.

Half a dozen rescuers quickly put on wetsuits

saw the rescues of more than 6,000 migrants at sea on Friday and Saturday, and hundreds more on Sunday - including at least eight bodies. With the Greek smuggling route largely closed off, the path of least resistance has drifted to Libya - a sprawling, lawless country with a huge coast and competing rebel and government factions. Migrants have flooded into Libya from across Africa, producing a bonanza for smugglers.

The first call for help often comes on a satellite telephone directly from a smuggling boat. On that April day, rescuers found two jam-packed boats with 152 people - 66 in a rubber boat, 86 in a wooden boat - 56 nautical miles from the Libyan coast. Fede Gomez, an Argentinean rescuer, told those on the inflat-

## US 'IS USING AFGHANISTAN AS A WEAPON TESTING GROUND'

AFGHAN EX-PRESIDENT: MASSIVE US BOMB AN 'ATROCITY'

**KABUL:** Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai said yesterday that the US is using Afghanistan as a weapons testing ground, calling the recent use of the largest-ever non-nuclear bomb "an immense atrocity against the Afghan people." Last week, US forces dropped the GBU-43 Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) bomb in eastern Nangarhar province, reportedly killing 95 militants. Karzai, in an interview with The Associated Press, objected to the decision, saying that his country "was used very disrespectfully by the US to test its weapons of mass destruction."

The office of President Ashraf Ghani said following the bomb's usage that there was "close coordination" between the US military and the Afghan government over the operation, and they were careful to prevent any civilian casualties. But Karzai harshly criticized the Afghan government for allowing the use of the bomb. "How could a government of a country allow the use of a weapon of mass destruction on its own territory? Whatever the reason, whatever the cause, how could they allow that? It just unimaginable," he said.

The strike was carried out Thursday morning against an Islamic State group tunnel complex, carved into a mountain in Nangarhar province, that Afghan forces had tried to assault repeatedly in recent weeks, according to Afghan officials.



**KABUL:** Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in Kabul, Afghanistan yesterday. — AP

US and Afghan forces have been battling the Taliban for more than 15 years. But the US military unveiled the largest conventional bomb in its arsenal against the Islamic State group, which has a far smaller but growing presence in Afghanistan. US President Donald Trump has publicly vowed to aggressively confront IS.

Trump called the operation a "very, very successful mission" but Karzai had harsh words for the new US leader. "My message to President Trump today is that he has committed an immense atrocity against the Afghan people, against fellow human beings," he said. "If the

American government sees us as human beings, then they have committed a crime against fellow human beings, but if they treat us as less than human beings, well, of course they can do whatever they want." The US estimates 600-800 IS fighters are in Afghanistan, mostly in Nangarhar. American forces have also concentrated on fighting them while also supporting local Afghan forces against the Taliban.

**Taliban kills 'adulterers'**

In another development, an Afghan official says that Taliban militants have stoned a man and a woman accused of adultery to death. Salim Sallhe, spokesman for the governor of Logar province, said the incident happened on Sunday in a remote area of the Mohammad Agha district where the government does not hold authority. Sallhe says a preliminary police investigation says the stoning did not take place in public. Elsewhere in northern Sari Pul province, officials say Taliban militants killed three women and a young boy who were accused of spying. Zabiullah Amani, the spokesman for the provincial governor, said the victims were accused of providing the government with information from inside Taliban-held territory. Taliban Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid had no comment on the two reports. — Agencies

## SOUTH KOREA EX-PRESIDENT PARK INDICTED FOR BRIBERY

**SEOUL:** Ousted South Korean President Park Geun-Hye was yesterday charged with bribery involving millions of dollars over the massive corruption and influence-peddling scandal that brought her down. Park, whose impeachment was confirmed by Seoul's top court last month, is at the centre of a sprawling graft investigation, which has also implicated top businessmen and brought millions of people onto the streets.

The former leader, already detained at a centre near Seoul, also faces charges of abusing her powers and leaking state secrets, Seoul prosecutors probing the scandal said in a statement. "We have formally charged Park... with multiple offences including abuse of power, coercion, bribery and leaking state secrets," they said after wrapping up the months-long investigation. Park is accused of colluding with her confidante at the heart of the scandal, Choi Soon-sil, who is already on trial for coercing local conglomerates into donating a total of 77.4 billion won (\$68 million) to two non-profit foundations.

Choi allegedly used some of the donations for personal gain. Park is also accused of offering policy favours to top businessmen who enriched Choi, including Samsung heir Lee Jae-Yong who was arrested earlier and is also on trial for bribery. Prosecutors yesterday also charged Shin Dong-Bin, the chairman of

the retail giant Lotte Group, with bribing Choi and Park. Shin allegedly offered seven billion won (\$6.15 million) to a sports foundation linked with Choi in exchange for a policy favor from Park over Lotte's duty-free business.

Park, 65-year-old daughter of the late former dictator Park Chung-Hee, spent nearly two decades living in Seoul's sprawling presidential palace, before the allegations of corruption engulfed her presidency late last year. The scandal sent her once-bulletproof approval ratings to record lows with millions taking to the streets for months calling for her ouster, though she also had a loyal following from groups of mainly older rival protesters. Her father is widely revered by aged, conservative South Koreans who benefited from the rapid economic growth under his iron-fisted rule from 1961 to 1979.

Parliament impeached Park last December and she lost her executive privilege-including protection from criminal indictment-last month when the Constitutional Court confirmed her impeachment, sending her into detention. The scandal also shed light on her questionable, decades-long ties to Choi and Choi's father, a shady religious figure who wielded huge influence on Park from the 1970s until his death in 1994. — AFP



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## REMOVAL OF THAI REVOLUTION PLAQUE RAISES DEMOCRACY CONCERNS

**BANGKOK:** Opponents of Thailand's military government expressed fears for the future of democracy yesterday after the mysterious removal of a plaque marking a

1932 revolution that ended absolute monarchy. No group has claimed responsibility, but the disappearance of the hub-cap-sized brass symbol has stirred anger

in Thailand, where elections are promised but power is firmly in the hands of the ruling generals and King Maha Vajiralongkorn. The junta said it had no idea who had removed the plaque, which had been embedded in concrete at a square in Bangkok's leafy historic quarter. It is close to parliament, to a royal throne hall and to an army barracks. The area is also surveyed by several police posts.

The plaque went missing on Friday, police said, and was replaced by one celebrating the monarchy. "Why should we take responsibility? If that is the case should we take responsibility for everything that disappears in this country?" Veerachon Sukhonthapatipark, a deputy government spokesman, told Reuters. Police said they were investigating. The removal of the plaque comes nearly three years after the army overthrew an elected government in the name of ending violent political turmoil it blamed on civilian politicians in the Southeast Asian country.

Although the junta has promised elections - now expected by the end of next year - critics say a new constitution is designed to ensure the military's influence over civilian politics for years to come. "The plaque was a symbol of equality in Thailand," Thanawut Wichaidit, spokesman for the opposition United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship group said. "Past governments never thought about taking the plaque out but

this government, with its extraordinary powers that are above the law, has allowed this to happen which begs the question of when and whether Thailand will truly return to democracy."

### Petition

A Change.org petition demanding an investigation into the missing plaque had attracted more than 2,400 signatures. The plaque marked a spot where a crucial stage in the events of 1932 unfolded. The coup was staged by Western-influenced young civilian bureaucrats and army officers to end absolute monarchy and establish a parliamentary system. Over subsequent decades, the army gained a central role and Thailand has experienced a repeated cycle of elections, coups and protests. The new constitution is the 20th since then.

Though a constitutional monarchy, the Thai crown is a powerful political force and late King Bhumibol Adulyadej sometimes intervened during times of crisis. His son, King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who ascended the throne last year, has shown himself increasingly assertive - requesting changes to the new constitution that underlined his powers before signing it into law this month. Rights groups say freedom of expression has sunk to new lows under royalist Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. Several government critics have been jailed

under strict laws against insulting the monarchy that carry a sentence of up to 15 years for each offence.

At least 74 people have been charged with lese majeste crimes since the military took power in 2014 according to iLaw, a Bangkok-based legal monitoring group. Half of them have been jailed. For more than a decade, Thailand has seen colour-coded protests - mostly by conservative, royalist "yellow shirts" and their opponents, the red-shirted supporters of new populist political forces. They see attempts by the military-led establishment to exert control over politics as a threat to Thailand's democracy, that can trace its roots back to 1932.

Not everyone was unhappy with the removal of the plaque. "It was a reminder for Thailand to follow Western democracy... which might not be suited to Thailand anyway," Nathadej Meksawat, a retired Thai army officer and political observer, wrote on his Facebook page. For Sunai Phasuk, Thailand researcher for US-based group Human Rights Watch, the removal of the plaque and the start of a fourth year under military rule marked a bleak chapter. "The reaction to the disappearance of the plaque is very telling of the challenges and the tension between supporters of a return to pre-1932 Thailand and, on the other hand people who strive for democracy," said Sunai. —Reuters



**BANGKOK:** People eat noodles at a street food shop during their lunch on Thonglor road in Bangkok. —AP

## POLICE THWART PLAN BY HARDLINE MUSLIMS TO GUARD POLL STATIONS

### VOTE FOR JAKARTA GOVERNOR STOKES RELIGIOUS TENSIONS

**JAKARTA:** Indonesian police yesterday blocked plans by hardline Islamist groups to guard polling booths during today's vote for Jakarta governor, citing the potential for clashes in an election that has stoked religious tensions. A coalition of hardline Islamic groups said late last week it would deploy at least 100 monitors at each polling station

voting day, police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar said.

"We are increasing our presence at polling stations as well, so please trust that the state apparatus will remain neutral and safeguard the election," he added. Surveys have shown the race tightening to a statistical dead heat, with incumbent Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama,

people makes it one of the world's biggest mega-cities.

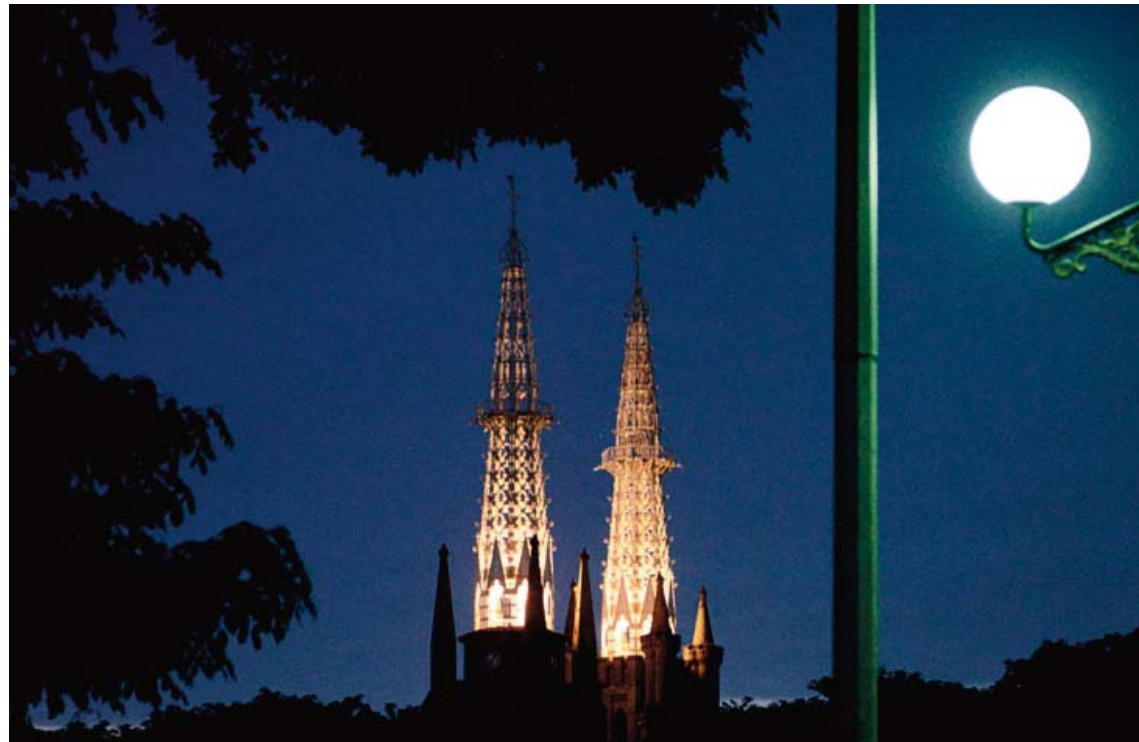
### Blasphemy charge

Purnama is standing trial on blasphemy charges stemming from the divisive campaign that also featured mass rallies led by Islamist hardliners and alleged plots to overthrow President Joko Widodo,

sands of protesters onto the streets in several mass demonstrations before Purnama was put on trial for blasphemy. He faces up to four years in prison and possible disqualification if he does win the election. Prosecutors are expected to recommend a sentence at a hearing the day after the election. A verdict is due next month. The vast majority of Indonesian Muslims practice a moderate form of Islam and religious freedom and diversity is enshrined in the state ideology. But hardline Islamist groups, most of which favour Islamic sharia law, have established a stronger foothold in recent years.

Purnama, Jakarta's first ethnic Chinese and Christian leader, took over the Jakarta governorship from Widodo after he became president in the 2014 general election. His rival, Baswedan, has appeared publicly - twice - with the leadership of one of the main organizers of the anti-Purnama protests, the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI). "We believe that because Jakarta and Indonesia is majority-Muslim, it should be led by a Muslim," said Novel Bamukmin, head of the Jakarta chapter of the FPI. "While our ultimate call is for full sharia, our hope is that the winner will at least introduce policies that are aligned with Islam."

Baswedan's running mate, Sandiaga Uno, denies the pair intends to implement sharia law in Jakarta and said their appearances at the FPI rallies were "a way to start a dialogue". But they do encourage a more conservative culture for the city with religious entertainment venues that are "sharia-compliant" and which "shy away from alcohol", Uno said. "That would be the type of policy that I want to attract investors to put money into, to create tourist destinations for sharia-compliant or religious-related tourism," he said. —Reuters



**JAKARTA:** Photo shows the St Mary of the Assumption Cathedral lighting up in Jakarta during the Christian festival of Easter. The Cathedral is also the seat of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Jakarta. —AFP

in the Indonesian capital city of 10 million people. "Any mobilization of masses that is aimed at physical or psychological intimidation, especially at polling stations, is prohibited," the city police said in a joint statement with the elections commission. Around 66,000 police and military personnel will be deployed on

an ethnic Chinese Christian, closing in on rival Anies Baswedan, a former education minister. Jakarta has towering influence on national politics as both the capital and financial centre, contributing nearly 15 percent of Indonesia's gross domestic product. The greater Jakarta population of around 25 million

who is popularly known as Jokowi. The charges stem from an edited video circulated last September suggesting Purnama had mocked a verse in the Koran used by his opponents to argue that Muslims should not vote for a person holding different religious beliefs.

It brought hundreds of thou-



**KASHMIR:** An Indian policeman throws stones on Kashmiri students as they clash in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir yesterday. —AP

## VIOLENCE SPIKES IN KASHMIR AS VIDEOS INFLAME TENSION

### VIDEO OF MAN TIED TO ARMY JEEP GOES VIRAL

**SRINAGAR:** Militants have stepped up attacks in contested Indian-ruled Kashmir, including raids on the homes of police officers, amid a spike in violence after the army allegedly tied a man to the front of a jeep as a human shield. Police have filed a case against an army unit after soldiers in the Himalayan region were accused of seizing a 24-year old shawl weaver on April 9, before strapping him to the front of their vehicle and parading him through villages.

A video of the episode widely circulated on social media exemplifies for many viewers the human rights abuses allegedly committed by Indian security forces battling to contain a separatist insurgency now in its 28th year. Army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Rajesh Kalia said the video's authenticity was being ascertained, adding, "Action will be taken against those found guilty of misconduct."

Police fired tear gas yesterday to scatter students in the region's main city of Srinagar, the latest outbreak of protests since demonstrations last week after a botched by-election in which at least eight people were killed. Some colleges were forced to close. Over the weekend two more videos circulated on social media showing workers of the ruling political party in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir renouncing mainstream politics, one of them beside a man wielding a gun. Another video, allegedly showing the killing of a 17-year old by paramilitary officers during the April 9 by-election, has also stirred anger. Reuters could not confirm the veracity of the videos.

The clashes in Kashmir, a region divided between India and Pakistan but claimed in

full by both, come ahead of the hot summer months, when protests surge. India accuses Pakistan of backing separatist fighters - a charge Islamabad denies. Kashmir witnessed deadly protests after a well-known separatist militant was killed last year. Violence has declined since the early 2000s, when thousands died each year, but disillusionment and anger against Indian rule is widespread, and the separatist revolt is now largely homegrown.

### Human shield

Soldiers picked up the shawl weaver, Farooq Ahmad Dar, near the home of a relative after he voted, he told media. "Look at the fate of the stone-pelter," a soldier is heard saying over a loudspeaker in the video while Dar is tied to the vehicle. "This is a phenomenon that has been going on for the last 27 years," Khurram Parvez, a leading Kashmiri human rights activist jailed last year said. "This is not the first human shield case. What is different now is that this case has been documented, thanks to social media."

Dar's treatment was "unlawful and unacceptable" rights group Amnesty International said in a statement. Police have registered a case against the local army unit, state chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said, urging security forces to exercise restraint. The state's police chief on Sunday told officers to avoid visiting their own homes in South Kashmir, after militants stormed the houses of at least four officers. Militants also shot dead a lawyer affiliated with an opposition party and a former counter-insurgency commander, police said. A worker of the ruling party was killed late on Saturday. —Reuters

## US COULD TAKE 'TOUGHER' STANCE AGAINST PAKISTAN

**ISLAMABAD:** US National Security Advisor Lieutenant General HR McMaster arrived in Islamabad yesterday on an unannounced visit, a day after he hinted the US could take a tougher stance on Pakistan. It was the first visit by a top member of President Donald Trump's administration to the militancy-hit South Asian country, and came after a stop in neighboring Afghanistan where he suggested Washington may take a stronger line on Islamabad, for years seen as an unreliable US ally.

A statement issued by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's office said McMaster had "assured the Prime Minister that the new administration was committed to strengthening bilateral relations and working with Pakistan, to achieve peace and stability in Afghanistan and in the wider South Asian region." McMaster's visits are being closely watched for clues as to the Trump administration's future course of action in the region.

US-led NATO troops have been at war in Afghanistan since 2001, after the ousting of the Taliban regime for refusing to hand over Osama bin Laden following the 9/11 attacks in the United States. The US has around 8,400 troops in the country with about another 5,000 from NATO allies, as efforts to negotiate a lasting peace settlement between Kabul and the Taliban have repeatedly fallen through.

Afghanistan routinely accuses Pakistan of providing safe haven to the Afghan Taliban. "As all of us have hoped for many many years, we have hoped that Pakistani leaders will understand that it is in their interest to go after these groups less selectively than they have in the past and the best way to pursue their interest in Afghanistan and elsewhere is through diplomacy not through the use of proxies that engage in violence," McMaster said in an interview with Afghanistan's Tolo News Sunday. The Pakistani statement added that McMaster's delegation included Lisa

Curtis, who US media have previously reported as his pick as senior director for South and Central Asia.

Curtis, a well known conservative expert, recently co-authored a paper calling on the US to stop treating Pakistan as an ally and instead "focus on diplomatically isolating" it if it continues to support groups that have links to international terrorism. On Thursday the US military in Afghanistan dropped its GBU-43/B Massive

Ordnance Air Blast, dubbed the "Mother of All Bombs" in combat for the first time on Islamic State group hideouts, killing up to 95 militants. The attack triggered global shock waves, with some condemning the use of Afghanistan as what they called a testing ground for the weapon, and against a militant group that is not considered as big a threat as the resurgent Taliban. —AFP



**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's National Security Advisor Sartaj Aziz (right) shakes hands with US National Security Advisor Lieutenant-General HR McMaster at the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad. —AFP

## NEPAL CONVICTS 3 SOLDIERS OF KILLING GIRL DURING CIVIL WAR

**KATHMANDU:** Three former Nepalese soldiers have each been sentenced in absentia to 20 years in jail for killing a teenage girl, only the second conviction for crimes committed during a decade-long civil war which ended in 2006. Fifteen-year-old Maina Sunuwar was tortured and killed after she was detained by the army in 2004 for alleged links to Maoist rebels. But a military tribunal the following year ruled that her death was accidental and charged the three soldiers involved in the case with only minor offences.

Maina's mother brought a case in a civilian court which delivered its verdict on Sunday, a court official told AFP. But none of the three convicted are currently in custody, and rights groups have raised concerns they may never serve their sentences. A fourth soldier, the most senior of all those accused, was acquitted. "We have fought for justice for so many years, I'm glad the court has understood our plight," Sunuwar's mother Devi said.

"But our fight is not over. I'm worried the

decision might be limited to paper. The state must implement the court's decision." Devi campaigned for years for justice for her daughter, who was arrested when soldiers came to their home looking for her mother. Devi had days earlier publicly accused government forces of raping and murdering her niece. "We believed that Maina had been taken, and perhaps killed, only to punish her mother," said Advocacy Forum Nepal, a legal rights group, in a report about the long-running case.

A military tribunal in 2005 found that Sunuwar had been repeatedly held under water and given electric shocks to her feet and wrists during interrogation. But it ruled that her death was accidental and the three soldiers named in the case were only charged with minor offences, including using improper interrogation techniques and failing to follow procedure. They were sentenced to six months in detention but released immediately because the tribunal ruled they had already served their time while confined to barracks. —AFP



## COURT SETS MAY 8 FOR EXPAT DRIVING BAN CASE...

Continued from Page 1

The first grilling was filed last week by three opposition lawmakers. The two motions will be discussed on April 25 and a date for their debate is expected to be set. The two grillings accuse the prime minister of failing to check rampant corruption and for reducing public subsidies and raising prices of public services and

commodities in order to finance the budget deficit resulting from low oil income. Opposition MPs have also threatened to file other motions to grill several ministers amid a looming political crisis in the country less than six months from the snap polls in which the opposition won half of the 50 seats.

In a related development, MP Saleh Ashour said that the prime minister must face the two grillings in public and rejected any attempts to delay them.

## ERDOGAN SLAMS CRITICISM OF TURKISH...

Continued from Page 1

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

The 'Yes' camp won 51.41 percent in Sunday's referendum, according to complete results released by election authorities. But the opposition immediately cried foul, claiming a clean vote would have made a difference of several percentage points and handed them victory. The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) and the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) said they would challenge the results from most ballot boxes due to alleged violations. "There is only one decision to ease the situation in the context of the law - the Supreme Election Board (YSK) should annul the vote," the Dogan news agency quoted CHP deputy leader Bulent Tezcan as saying.

The referendum has no "democratic legitimacy", HDP spokesman and lawmaker Osman Baydemir told reporters in Ankara. There were sporadic protests in Istanbul with hundreds of people crowding the anti-Erdogan Besiktas district, blowing whistles and chanting "we are against fascism", an AFP correspondent said.

The opposition had already complained of an unfair campaign that saw the 'Yes' backers swamp the airwaves and use billboards across the country in a saturation advertising campaign. International observers agreed the campaign was conducted on an "uneven playing field" and that the vote count itself was marred by late procedural changes that removed key safeguards. "The legal framework... remained inadequate for the holding of a genuinely democratic referendum," the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) monitors said in a joint statement.

The Turkish opposition was particularly incensed by a decision by the YSK to allow voting papers without official stamps to be counted, which they said opened the way for fraud. "Late changes in counting procedures removed an important safeguard," said Cezar Florin Preda, the head of the PACE delegation. But

Erdogan told the mission to "know your place", saying Turkey had no intention of paying any attention to the report. He added: "This country held the most democratic polls that have never been seen in any other country in the West."

Erdogan earlier congratulated cheering supporters at Ankara's airport for "standing tall" in the face of the "crusader mentality" of the West. Turkey's Western allies have shown little enthusiasm for congratulating Erdogan and the president has given ominous signs of a looming crisis with the EU. Erdogan reaffirmed he would now hold talks on reinstating capital punishment, a move that would automatically end Turkey's EU bid, and would hold a referendum if it did not get enough votes in parliament to become law.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said that if Ankara were to bring back the death penalty, the move would be "synonymous with the end of the European dream" and mark the end of decades of talks to enter the EU. In an interview in the Bild newspaper to be published today, he warned Turkey that "joining would not work right now". But Erdogan said Turkey could hold a referendum on the membership bid. "What George, Hans or Helga say does not interest us," he said, using typical European names.

Turkey's new political system is due to come into effect after elections in Nov 2019, although Erdogan is expected to rapidly rejoin the ruling Justice Development Party (AKP) he founded but had to leave when he became president. It would dispense with the prime minister's post and centralize the entire executive bureaucracy under the president, giving Erdogan the direct power to appoint ministers.

In a bid to get back to business, Erdogan was yesterday to chair a cabinet and security meeting at his presidential palace that could extend the nine-month state of emergency brought in after last July's failed coup. Erdogan's victory was far tighter than expected, emerging only after several nail-biting hours late Sunday which saw the 'No' result dramatically catch up. Turkey's three largest cities - Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir - all voted 'No' although 'Yes' prevailed in Erdogan's Anatolian heartland. — Agencies



A person walks past footprints on the sand during a sunny day at Laredo beach, northern Spain, yesterday. — AP

## PALESTINIANS IN ISRAELI JAILS ON HUNGER...

Continued from Page 1

placed in solitary confinement, but Librati did not confirm that. Hunger strikes by Palestinian prisoners occur regularly, but rarely on such a large scale. Protests were also held in Palestinian cities in connection with Prisoners Day, including one in Bethlehem that led to clashes with Israeli forces. Barghouti's call for the strike has given it added credibility, with the 57-year-old serving five life sentences over his role in the violent second Palestinian intifada. He is popular among Palestinians, with polls suggesting he could win the Palestinian presidency.

Graffiti showing the iconic image of his cuffed hands raised above his head flashing a peace sign while being led away by Israeli authorities can be seen in the West Bank. "Decades of experience have proved that Israel's inhumane system of colonial and military occupation aims to break the spirit of prisoners and the nation to which they belong, by inflicting suffering on their bodies, separating them from their families and communities, using humiliating measures to compel subjugation," Barghouti wrote in a New York Times op-ed. "In spite of such treatment, we will not surrender to it."

Issa Qaraq, head of prisoner affairs for the Palestinian Authority, said that "around 1,300 Palestinian prisoners" were on hunger strike and the number could rise. The Palestinian Prisoners' Club NGO put the number at 1,500. Librati said that some 1,100 detainees in several prisons had announced their intention to go on hunger strike. "The prisons service has started taking disciplinary measures against the strikers and in addition a number of prisoners have been transferred to separate wings," he said. "It is to be emphasized that the (prison service) does not negotiate with prisoners."

Some 6,500 Palestinians are currently detained by Israel for a range of offences and alleged crimes. Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, in a statement carried by official news agency Wafa, "called on the international community to save the life of the

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails". Barghouti's wife Fadwa told AFP at a demonstration in Ramallah that prisoners' demands were in line with "international law and recognized as part of human rights". The last large-scale hunger strike was in February 2013, when 3,000 Palestinians refused to eat for one day in protest at the death of a fellow detainee.

Israel says it must be vigilant to prevent fresh violence, particularly following a wave of knife, gun and car-ramming attacks that erupted in Oct 2015. Such incidents have greatly subsided in recent months. While many Palestinians view Barghouti as a hero, Israelis point to the bloody suicide attacks of the second intifada and his role in the uprising.

For Palestinians, the prisons have become a stark symbol of Israel's occupation. Those on hunger strike have issued a list of demands, including access to phones, extended visiting rights and better medical care. Israeli public radio reported that Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan has ordered intervention units to be put on standby and a field hospital to be set up outside one prison to avoid having to take sick prisoners to civilian hospitals. It quoted Erdan as saying that the demands regarding prisoners' conditions were unreasonable.

Some Israeli analysts have sought to highlight the rivalry between Barghouti and Abbas within their Fatah party, suggesting his call for a hunger strike was also related to internal politics. Abbas made no mention of Barghouti in his statement on Wafa. Talk of who will succeed Abbas has intensified, but the 82-year-old has shown no sign of stepping down and a recent Fatah congress saw him shore up his support base and sideline rivals. He has not publicly designated a successor.

Of the 6,500 Palestinian detainees, 62 are women and 300 are minors. Some 500 are held under administrative detention, which allows for imprisonment without charges or trial. Thirteen Palestinian lawmakers are also among the detainees. Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts have been at a standstill since a US-led initiative collapsed three years ago. — AFP

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## Focus

## ZIMBABWE GOLD RUSH FEVER LEAVES TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION

Thousands of unemployed Zimbabweans have turned to illegal gold panning in a bid to survive the country's deteriorating economy, leaving a trail of destruction that has alarmed farmers, timber plantation owners and the country's environmental authorities. Peasant miners have set up makeshift mines on farmland and timber plantations in the country's eastern provinces, which border Mozambique where gold fetches a higher price. Deep tunnels have been dug beneath roads, railways and buildings in the Kwekwe area of the Midlands province. In some parts of Manicaland province, waterways have been diverted and roads destroyed. With more illegal miners likely to exploit the area as the economy continues to slump, and the state placing responsibility to act on landowners, farmers are fearful of irreversible damage to their land, and the risk of losing their livelihoods.

"Kwekwe is under siege from illegal miners and some of these miners are very violent. We don't know what to do," resident Jonas Dube told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Simon Simango, an illegal gold miner in Chimanimani, Manicaland province, acknowledged that the excavations were having a negative impact on the environment. But many workers had run out of options, he said. "This (illegal mining) is our only source of livelihood. Look, there are no jobs in the country," Simango told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We sell most of our gold to illegal buyers from Mozambique who are offering us very good prices."

Miners report that buyers in Zimbabwe paid around \$30 per gram of gold while buyers in Mozambique were paying, double at around \$60 per gram. Zimbabwe has never fully recovered from an economic slump that began in 2000 with the violent seizure of thousands of white-owned farms. Unemployment runs at 80 percent, and even those with jobs face unpaid wages and an acute shortage of cash.

There is no official data on the number of illegal miners in Zimbabwe. However, a report by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization estimated that between 2007 and 2012, some 500,000 illegal, artisanal gold miners were operating in the country. Experts believe these numbers could grow as the economy continues to falter.

### 'Shocking'

In Tarka Forest, a timber estate owned by Allied Timbers in Chimanimani district, more than 600 hectares of prime timber have been damaged to make way for the illegal digs, according to company executives. Manicaland's minister of provincial affairs, Mandi Chimene, said in February that illegal gold mining in Tarka Forest had reached "alarming levels", and resulted in the pollution of streams and rivers, and destruction of standing timber. "What is happening in Tarka (Forest) is shocking," Chimene said. "We wonder who is benefiting from the illegal gold because as a country, we are not. Such gold is not going to the legal market."

The government says it is the responsibility of landowners or affected businesses to evict the illegal miners. "If it's a forest plantation, it is the responsibility of the timber companies to remove the illegal miners," Minister for Mines and Mining Development Walter Chidhakwa told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "If an area belongs to the timber plantations, the government cannot legalize gold mining in the area. The companies must put measures in to stop illegal mining in their plantations." The same rule applies to illegal miners on privately-owned farmland, he said.

Darlington Duwa, CEO of the Timber Producers Federation, warned of lasting damage as a result of the disappearing forests and water pollution caused by illegal mining. "It (illegal mining) reduces the timber resource, thus affecting direct and indirect employment, economic development, foreign currency earnings and leads to environmental degradation and reduced resilience to climate change effects," Duwa told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "In some areas illegal miners (settlers) uproot young trees that have been planted," Duwa said. "At this rate, the industry is bound to suffer irreversible damage." — Reuters

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## WHERE ALL THESE CRACKHEADS ARE COMING FROM ?



## ERDOGAN MUST HEAL DIVIDED TURKEY

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan must heal a divided country after narrowly winning a contested referendum, but it is unclear whether he is interested in forging the compromises needed for reconciliation, analysts say. After months of campaigning, with the 'Yes' side dominating the airwaves and posters on the streets, 51.41 percent of the electorate voted for an executive presidency, expanding Erdogan's powers. But some 48.59 percent on Sunday voted against, according to nearly-complete results from election authorities. The 'No' was in front in 33 of Turkey's 81 provinces, notably in major cities.

The campaign polarized the country. Erdogan railed against enemies abroad and traitors at home with his usual combative style, even accusing European countries of "Nazi practices" last month during the crisis in relations with the European Union. Videos shared online by pro-government journalists and social media users made comparisons between Kurdish separatists and former far-right nationalist party members voting for 'No', suggesting "terrorists" were against constitutional changes.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said at the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) headquarters on Sunday night said "no one's heart should be broken" after the 'Yes' won. "There are no losers in this referendum, the winner is Turkey, the winner is the dear people," Yildirim told supporters. But Erdogan ignored warnings from the EU over bringing back the death penalty and repeated he would approve any bill for its return and even could hold a referendum on the issue if necessary. He urged "other countries and institutions to show respect to the decision of the nation", and did not show a softening in his rhetoric against the West. Meanwhile, two main opposition parties, the Republican People's Party (CHP) and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) said they would challenge the result, alleging major violations.

'Continue robust approach' Analysts agreed even with such a "razor-thin" mandate and opposition challenges, Erdogan would defiantly continue his style of politics. "I don't think Erdogan will change the robust and muscular approach to politics that he has adopted so far," said Fadi Hakura of the British thinktank Chatham House. "If anything, I suspect he will double down on his very hardline and tough and uncompromising style of politics."

Aykan Erdemir, a former Turkish main opposition party lawmaker, said Erdogan would probably conclude that he should "entrench" and "strengthen his one-man rule machine". But Erdemir, a senior fellow at Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies, noted that Erdogan was still unable to muster more than 51 percent of the vote, despite the advantages of the 'Yes' campaign plus the imprisonment of high-profile 'No' cam-

pagners. "He has to find new mechanisms" to consolidate his rule, Erdemir added. There will now also be intense attention over whether Erdogan moves to resume the peace process with Kurdish militants or works to try to simply destroy the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

### Lost political base

Pro-government Hurriyet daily columnist Abdulkadir Selvi wrote yesterday Turkish leaders were trying to "defuse the tensions" with their messages. In the most significant blow to his authority of the referendum, Erdogan lost the support of the country's biggest cities: Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. While the Aegean city of Izmir has often opted for the CHP, Erdogan has always seen Istanbul as his territory after serving as mayor in the mid-1990s.

"I would classify this as at best a Pyrrhic victory for him," Hakura told AFP, adding Erdogan

"lost the base of his support". "Beyond the political polarization, what we are seeing is an economic polarization," Erdemir agreed. "The AKP has been associated with economic dynamism, strong export growth. But now, all of those actors that are key to Turkey's economic performance are sceptical about a centralized presidential system."

The tight result is likely to raise questions for investors, whom the government has previously said were awaiting the result before putting funds back into Turkey. "The referendum result raises at least as many questions for investors as it provides answers," Neil Shearing, chief emerging markets economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients. He said questions remained for investors over Erdogan's behavior and whether the result pushes Erdogan towards more conciliatory policy positions, or whether it "accelerates the slide towards autocracy". — AFP



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan pose for photos with cheering supporters in the background after unofficial referendum results were announced in Istanbul late Sunday. — AP

## FINANCIERS POUR BILLIONS INTO US SHALE

Investors who took a hit last year when dozens of US shale producers filed for bankruptcy are already making big new bets on the industry's resurgence. In the first quarter, private equity funds raised \$19.8 billion for energy ventures - nearly three times the total in the same period last year, according to financial data provider Preqin. The quickening pace of investments from private equity, along with hedge funds and investment banks, comes even as the recovery in oil prices from an 8-year low has stalled at just over \$50 per barrel amid a stubborn global supply glut.

The shale sector has become increasingly attractive to investors not because of rising oil prices, but rather because producers have achieved startling cost reductions - slashing up to half the cost of pumping a barrel in the past two years. Investors also believe the glut will dissipate as demand for oil steadily rises. That gives financiers confidence that they can squeeze increasing returns from shale fields - without price gains - as technology continues to cut costs. So they are backing shale-oil veterans and assembling companies that can quickly start pumping.

"Shale funders look at the economics today and see a lot of projects that work in the \$40 to \$55 range" per barrel of oil, said Howard Newman, head of private equity fund Pine Brook Road Partners, which last month committed to invest \$300 million in startup Admiral Permian Resources LLC to drill in West Texas. Data on investments by hedge funds and other nonpublic investment firms is scant, but the rush of new private equity money indicates broader enthusiasm in shale plays. "Demand for oil has been more robust than anyone imagined three years ago," said Mark Papa, chief executive of Centennial Resource Development Inc.

Papa referred to the beginning of an international oil price crash in 2014, which took many firms in the shale sector to the brink of bankruptcy. Centennial is a Permian oil producer backed by private equity fund Riverstone. Papa, a well-known shale industry entrepreneur, built EOG

Resources Inc into one of the most profitable US shale producers before he retired in 2013. The chance to further develop the Permian, he said, was enough for him to come out of retirement to deliver one of its bigger recent successes. The value of Riverstone's original \$500 million investment has grown nearly four times since Centennial's initial public offering last fall.

### 'A Ton of Private Capital'

Riverstone this year copied the Centennial model, putting experienced managers atop a startup charged with acquiring operations or assets. The equity fund hired Jim Hackett - the former head of shale producer Anadarko Petroleum Corp - to run the newly created Silver Run Acquisition Corp II. Hedge funds Highfields Capital Management LP and Adage Capital Management have taken stakes in the new company, which has a valuation of about \$1 billion after going public last month.

Private equity fund NGP Natural Resources XI LP invested \$524 million last fall in Luxe Energy LLC, a shale producer formed in 2015 by former Statoil executives. NGP's investment was effectively a bet that Luxe could repeat its success of early 2016. Then, NGP contributed about \$250 million to Luxe, which used the money to acquire land in the Permian - and sold it seven months later for a double-digit profit.

This year's drilling rush could be tested if global supplies grow too fast or if demand cools. The US drilling rig count is rising at its fastest pace in six years and US crude stockpile are close to 533 million barrels - near an all-time high and enough to supply the United States for 25 days. But some investors say even a decline of \$10 in the oil price would not dissuade them. "There is a ton of private capital to invest in the US oil industry," said Gerrit Nicholas, co-founder of private equity fund Orion Energy Partners.

Nicholas said he is comfortable lending even if oil prices fall to \$40 per barrel. Orion this month helped finance the

expansion of a Florida oil-storage terminal, a move predicated in part on growth in US oil exports. Since the US lifted its oil export ban last year, crude exports have climbed to about 746,000 barrels per day, according to US Energy Information Administration data.

### Betting on OPEC's Self-Interest

The oil industry has seen boom-and-bust cycles since the first well was drilled about 160 years ago, and industry and government have sought to tame the volatility for just as long. Texas regulators set output quotas from the 1920s through the 1970s, a practice that served as a model for the creation of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The US boom has caused concern among OPEC member nations ahead of its meeting next month in Vienna, where they will consider extending oil production cuts that first took effect in January. Investors believe the cartel's members will extend the cuts because it is in OPEC's financial interest to prevent a steep drop in oil prices.

That likely will keep money flowing to nimble US oil producers and the companies that provide them with services and equipment. Investors see the United States as the new swing producer, having the ability to quickly increase supply in response to any sudden increase in demand. "The US, with its substantial inventory capacity and swing oil producer status, should see strong onshore activity for the next few years," said Charlie Leykum, founder of private equity fund CSL Capital Management LLC, in an interview.

CSL has invested in several oilfield service business in the past year. It partnered with Goldman Sachs and Baker Hughes Inc, for instance, to create a shale services company. Centennial's Papa expects the flood of fresh capital to push US production up 23 percent to 11.3 million barrels a day (bpd) by 2020, based on strong demand for oil. "We're still in a hydrocarbon-based economy," said Papa. — Reuters



**VETERAN SCARPONI TAKES SHOCK ALPS STAGE WIN**

**ROME:** Italian veteran Michele Scarponi took his first victory in four years as he claimed victory yesterday's opening stage of the Tour of the Alps. The 37-year-old outprinted Briton Geraint Thomas and Thibaut Pinot of France to claim the early lead of the race following a 142km stage from Kufstein to Innsbruck in Austria. The race is one of the key warm-up events ahead of next month's Giro d'Italia, the first of the year's Grand Tours. Scarponi won the Alps Tour in 2011, the same year he took Giro honours. He will be the leader of the Kazakh team Astana at the Giro this year following an injury to compatriot Fabio Aru. Thomas and Pinot are expected to challenge for overall Giro victory alongside Vuelta a Espana champion Nairo Quintana and Italian Vincenzo Nibali a winner of all three Grand Tours.—AFP



**MIGNOLET URGES LIVERPOOL TO IMPROVE ON THEIR GAME**

**WEST BROMWICH:** Simon Mignolet has called upon Liverpool to improve their play in the final few games of the season as the Merseysiders bid to secure a Champions League place. The 29-year-old goalkeeper made a key second-half save from West Bromwich Albion's Matt Phillips as Liverpool won 1-0 at The Hawthorns on Sunday thanks to a goal from Roberto Firmino. Mignolet's first clean sheet in nearly two months helped Liverpool leapfrog Manchester City into third place in the Premier League table. "The last few performances against these teams like Burnley, Stoke and West Brom, we need to learn from that," Mignolet told Liverpool's website. "We can only get better for it but I think we proved what we can do away from home again." The Belgian added: "To be resilient, and to grind a result out, that's what we did, and I think everybody is pleased with that. "Not only the three points but a clean sheet also, we're very pleased with that. We know it's a difficult place to go to, West Brom, especially the last 10 minutes, but we dealt well with it and I think we deserved the three points. Now we have to keep going.—AFP

**SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP STRUGGLERS DUNDEE SACK MANAGER HARTLEY**

**GLASGOW:** Scottish Premiership strugglers Dundee have sacked manager Paul Hartley, the club announced yesterday. Dundee have lost their last seven matches and are second-bottom of Scotland's top flight, five points above basement club Inverness Caledonian Thistle with five games of the season remaining. The bottom club at the end of the season will be relegated, with the second-bottom side entering a relegation play-off. "I want to thank Paul for his time with the club," said managing director John Nelms in a statement on Dundee's website. "Unfortunately, the business we are in, sometimes change is necessary to achieve the goals we have set. "I think somebody in the near future is going to get a good hard working manager." Dundee have won just eight of 33 league games so far this season.—AFP



**BOSTON:** Boston Red Sox's Dustin Pedroia, right, scores as Tampa Bay Rays' Derek Norris gets the throw on a single by Mookie Betts during the second inning of a baseball game yesterday, in Boston.—AP

**BASEBALL**

**BIRD BREAKS OUT, YANKS SWEEP CARDS 9-3**

**NEW YORK:** Greg Bird emphatically ended an 0-for-20 skid with a long home run off Adam Wainwright and New York ran its winning streak to seven games with a victory over St. Louis. Bird began the night hitting .038 but when New York's latest win concluded, the first baseman held a .138 average. Besides hitting a 429-foot home run, Bird also doubled off Wainwright and hooked a breaking ball foul over the right field wall in the sixth before drawing a walk against Matt Bowman. Aaron Judge added an RBI triple and Aaron Hicks contributed a solo home run and sacrifice fly as the Yankees improved to 6-0 at home for the first time since winning their first seven home games of the 114-win 1998 season.

**DIAMONDBACKS 3, DODGERS 1**  
Taijuan Walker pitched one-run ball over five innings as Arizona defeated Los Angeles. Walker (2-1) gave up four hits. The right-hander walked one and struck out seven in beating the Dodgers for the first time in his second career start against Los Angeles. Fernando Rodney handled the ninth for his fourth save.

**NATIONALS 6, PHILLIES 4**  
Bryce Harper hit a three-run homer with two outs in the last of the ninth off Joaquin Benoit as the Washington Nationals beat the Philadelphia Phillies 6-4 on Sunday, taking two of three games in the series. The blast capped a big day in which Harper went 3-for-5 with two homers and five RBIs.

**ROYALS 1, ANGELS 0**  
Alcides Escobar's ninth-inning single scored pinch runner Raul Mondesi as Kansas City blanked Los Angeles to complete a sweep of the three-game series. Mondesi was running for Salvador Perez, who led off the inning with a single. Mondesi swiped second and moved to third on a Blake Parker wild pitch.

**ORIOLES 11, BLUE JAYS 4**  
Trey Mancini hit two home runs, Craig Gentry and Manny Machado added one homer each, Dylan Bundy pitched six scoreless innings and Baltimore defeated Toronto. Bundy (2-1) allowed five hits and one walk while striking out six as the Orioles (8-3) took three of four from the Blue Jays (2-10).

**TIGERS 4, INDIANS 1**  
Alex Avila hit a two-run home run and Matthew Boyd pitched six strong innings as Detroit beat Cleveland. The Tigers won two of three games from the slumping Indians, who went 2-4 on their season-opening homestand. Cleveland has lost seven of its last nine games.

**BRAVES 9, PADRES 2**  
Bartolo Colon was masterful for seven innings, with the only hit the 43-year-old gave up a homer, and Atlanta improved to 3-0 at SunTrust Park with a victory over San Diego. Ryan Schimpf's homer in the third inning was the only misstep by Colon, who walked one and struck out six while pitching in the 44th

ballpark of his 20-year major league career.

**Marlins 4, Mets 2**  
Pinch hitter J.T. Riddle hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth to lead Miami over New York. It was Riddle's first career home run, and it came off reliever Addison Reed (0-1).

**BREWERS 4, REDS 2**  
Ryan Braun hit a two-run home run, and Travis Shaw and Eric Thames added solo shots, lifting Milwaukee past Cincinnati in the finale of a four-game series. Thames is the first visiting player to hit five home runs in a four-game series at Great American Ball Park.

**PIRATES 6, CUBS 1**  
Adam Frazier went 3-for-4, including a three-run homer in the ninth inning, to lead Pittsburgh to a victory over Chicago. Andrew McCutchen snapped a 1-1 tie with an eighth-inning RBI on a fielder's choice before Frazier's bomb an inning later sealed it.

**RED SOX 7, RAYS 5**  
Mitch Moreland's two-run single in the seventh inning gave Boston the lead for good in its win over Tampa Bay Rays at Fenway Park. The newly signed first baseman is batting .356 (16-for-45) with an major league-leading nine doubles, one homer and five RBIs through 12 games after going 2-for-3 with three RBIs. Moreland stepped to the plate with the bases loaded in the seventh and drove an 0-1 cutter for an opposite-field single to left, plating two.

**MARINERS 8, RANGERS 7**  
For the third time this season, Texas left-hander Cole Hamels exited a start with a lead. And for the third time this season, the Rangers' bullpen could not hold on to the advantage. The culprits this time were Tony Barnette and Sam Dyson, as Seattle erased a five-run deficit, with Nelson Cruz knocking in the winning run in the ninth for the victory and a sweep of the three-game series.

**WHITE SOX 3, TWINS 1**  
Avisail Garcia's 10th-inning, two-run homer lifted Chicago over Minnesota as the White Sox took two of three games in the weekend series at Target Field. Minnesota reliever Ryan Pressly (0-2) took the loss while Chicago's Nate Jones (1-0) came out of the bullpen to pick up the win. David Robertson pitched one inning for his third save of the season in three chances.

**ROCKIES 4, GIANTS 3**  
Antonio Senzatela settled down after a shaky first inning, and DJ LeMahieu's run-scoring

single in the second inning provided the winning margin as Colorado beat San Francisco at AT&T Park. Senzatela (2-0) allowed three runs on seven hits in seven innings, but he held San Francisco batters to just four hits after the first inning.

**ASTROS-A'S, POSTPONED**  
Sunday's game between the Houston Astros and Oakland Athletics was postponed due to rain, marking Oakland's first home rainout in three years. The contest was postponed approximately two hours before the scheduled start. It wasn't immediately rescheduled.—Reuters

**Baseball results/standings**

NY Yankees 9, St. Louis 3; Arizona 3, LA Dodgers 1; Chicago White Sox 3, 1 (10 innings); Seattle 8, Texas 7; Colorado 4, San Francisco 3; Pittsburgh 6, Chicago Cubs 1; Kansas City 1, LA Angels 0; Washington 6, Philadelphia 4; Atlanta 9, San Diego 2; Boston 7, Tampa Bay 5; Detroit 4, Cleveland 1; Milwaukee 4, Cincinnati 2; Miami 4, NY Mets 2; Baltimore 11, Toronto 4.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB	
Baltimore	8	3	.727	-	Miami	7	5	.583
NY Yankees	8	4	.667	0.5	Washington	7	5	.583
Boston	7	5	.583	1.5	NY Mets	7	6	.538
Tampa Bay	6	7	.462	3	Atlanta	5	6	.455
Toronto	2	10	.167	6.5	Philadelphia	4	8	.333
Central Division				Central Division				
Detroit	8	4	.667	-	Cincinnati	8	5	.615
Minnesota	7	5	.583	1	Milwaukee	7	6	.538
Chicago White Sox	6	5	.545	1.5	Chicago Cubs	6	6	.500
Kansas City	6	6	.500	2	Pittsburgh	6	6	.500
Cleveland	5	7	.417	3	St. Louis	3	9	.250
Western Division				Western Division				
Houston	8	4	.667	-	Colorado	9	5	.643
LA Angels	6	7	.462	2.5	Arizona	8	5	.615
Oakland	5	7	.417	3	LA Dodgers	7	6	.538
Seattle	5	8	.385	3.5	San Diego	5	8	.385
Texas	4	8	.333	4	San Francisco	5	9	.357

**GILBERT TO MISS LIEGE**

**VALKENBURG:** Philippe Gilbert will miss the rest of the Ardennes classics season, including Sunday's prestigious Liege-Bastogne-Liege race, due to a kidney problem, his Quick Step team revealed yesterday. Just 24 hours after continuing his fine start to the season by winning the Amstel Gold Race—one of the three major Ardennes classics—Gilbert, 33, said he was in pain and would need some time off.

"When I fell (at Amstel), I felt the pain again but once back on the bike, the pain disappeared again," said the Belgian, who is being kept overnight in hospital. "Unfortunately, after the finish I felt once again pain in the base of my back and, alongside the doctor, I went to hospital for a check-up. "Fortunately there's nothing serious and everything's fine—I'll recommence training in a week." As well as missing Liege,

which he won in 2011, Gilbert will also skip Wednesday's La Fleche Wallonne, another race he claimed six years ago when he did the Ardennes treble.

This season he has already won one of cycling's 'Monument' races—the Tour of Flanders two weeks ago—as well as Three Days of De Panne. Alongside compatriot Greg Van Avermaet and Poland's Michal Kwiatkowski, whom he beat in a sprint finish on Sunday for his fourth Amstel success, he has been one of the stand-out performers during the first few months of the season. "It's been one of my best years and, when I look at my results, I'm delighted," added the Quick Step rider, who was world champion in 2012. "Being competitive at the same time on the cobbled and Ardennes classics, helping the team to be the best in the world, gives me a lot of satisfaction."—AFP



**NEW YORK:** St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright (50) delivers a pitch against the New York Yankees during the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday at Yankee Stadium in New York.—AP





BAHRAIN: Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany steers his car behind the safety car during the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix, at the Formula One Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain, Sunday. — AP

## MOTOR RACING

## MERCEDES MULL TEAM ORDERS TO FOIL FERRARI

**MANAMA:** Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff says he is considering introducing team orders in a bid to halt Ferrari's momentum in this year's world championship. In the wake of Sebastian Vettel's second win of the season in Bahrain on Sunday Wolff admitted that it may be difficult for Mercedes to continue to allow their drivers total freedom - and may ask new boy Valtteri Bottas to take the role of a 'number two' driver.

The Finn was asked to allow three-time champion Lewis Hamilton to pass him in Manama as he laboured in pursuit of Vettel in a scenario that may be repeated regularly, if reluctantly. "We don't like it at all," said Wolff, mindful of the team's tradition for open terms

of engagement that allowed intense competition between Hamilton and retired 2016 world champion Nico Rosberg in the last three years. "It's not what we have done in the last couple of years, but the situation is different now... So, it needs a proper analysis of what it means and where we are..." "We'd like to give equal opportunity at the start of the race. I think we owe it to them."

"Then you see what we did in the this race - we made the call, we made the call twice, because we felt it was the only possibility of winning the race..." For the first time in four years, Mercedes have lost their supreme dominance and face a serious battle to hang on to their drivers' and constructors' titles as a

revived Ferrari have gained the initiative. In Bahrain, Ferrari's aggressive strategy and tactics made the champions look rattled and ponderous as Vettel followed up his win in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix to take a clear lead in the championship. By seeking not to give either driver any advantage over the other, Mercedes were unable to respond immediately and delayed their decision-making after Ferrari's early move to make an 'under-cut' pit stop.

Wolff said he did not favour abandoning the team policy of giving the drivers' equality and rejected the idea of backing the driver who took pole position, or was most advanced on the grid. "That would be too

harsh," he said. "It would be the opposite of what we have done through the years. It's important, as we start the race, to give them equal opportunity. "We would probably have taken a different decision if Valtteri had run at the front, with the problem on the tyres, and Lewis would have been second, but with Vettel, between them, there was nothing we could have done."

"That's why it was the perfect storm..." "It is our mind-set and our racing philosophy, until now, that we have given them both equal opportunity. Like here, if you have two cars starting on the front row - if they run second and first, you just have to let them race. "When you have a problem on the car,

as we had (with Bottas' rear tyres), then it is a situation to consider-to swap them - but with a Ferrari in between, we couldn't. Three races into the season, you don't want to go there yet."

Bottas' problems with his rear tyres were caused by a generator failure on the grid that meant the team could not bleed the air pressures for the race. Vettel's win lifted him top of the drivers' championship with 68 points ahead of Hamilton on 61 and Bottas on 38. It triggered celebrations in Italy where confidence in Ferrari has soared, but has left Mercedes with a problem to solve just three races into the 2017 season. Sochi stages the Russian Grand Prix on Sunday.— AFP

## HEARN REJECTS O'SULLIVAN'S 'BULLYING' CHARGE

**SHEFFIELD:** World Snooker chairman Barry Hearn denied claims of "bullying" and "intimidation" from Ronnie O'Sullivan, saying the five-times world champion had made "unfounded" and "inaccurate" allegations. O'Sullivan slammed Hearn and snooker's hierarchy shortly after beating Gary Wilson 10-7 in the first round of this year's World Championship at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre in northern England on Sunday.

The 41-year-old felt he had been harshly treated in receiving a letter from disciplinary chiefs after he criticized referee Terry Camilleri and swore at a press photographer during January's Masters-a tournament he won. O'Sullivan insisted he was done with being "bullied" and "intimidated" by officials. However, Hearn responded by issuing a statement yesterday saying: "I personally take any accusation of 'bullying and intimidation' by me or World Snooker very seriously. "Unfounded accusations such as these are damaging to World Snooker's global reputation, as well as my own, and we will take whatever action is required to protect this reputation from such inaccurate comments."

"I hope all parties can move on from this position and concentrate on the brilliant entertainment provided by players at the Betfred World Championship." One of the most talented cuemen the game has known, O'Sullivan is now snooker's biggest drawcard while Hearn, who made his name in sports promotion as the manager of six-times world champion Steve Davis, has been credited with lifting the game out of the doldrums since taking charge of World Snooker. But the two Englishmen's relationship took a turn for the worse when Hearn said last week that some of O'Sullivan's recent behavior had been

"embarrassing".

Post-match interviews have seen O'Sullivan deliberately and repeatedly respond with one-word answers, while he gave an interview to British television channel ITV at the World Grand Prix in February using a 'robotic' voice Following the Wilson match, O'Sullivan yet again raised the possibility of his retirement as he criticised Hearn and snooker's authorities. "I phoned Barry up four weeks ago and I said, 'Barry, I'm done with all you and your board of people,' O'Sullivan said. "And I've got a very good friend of mind who said, 'Just let my lawyers deal with it'. I won't get involved with it because I'm not being bullied, I'm not having people doing that to me ever again. "I like Barry, but I'm not being intimidated or bullied any more." "Don't need you, don't need me" -He added: "I've given 25 years of service to this game and I think I've given enough. Drop me out, I don't need you, you probably don't need me." "I've had it for five, six, seven years, and I'm just done with it. "It's not that important. I could go and do Big Brother, I could go and do I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here," O'Sullivan said in a reference to two British television 'reality' shows. "I could have a great life doing other stuff."

"This is something I do for love, but I'm not going to do it and have people trying to intimidate me and bully me." Nevertheless, O'Sullivan-who has failed to win back-to-back matches at the five previous events he has competed in since lifting the Masters trophy at London's Alexandra Palace in January-insisted he would focus on the task at hand as he went in search of a sixth world title. "It's important that I keep focused, keep professional, keep myself out of trouble and just try to come and do a job," he said.— AFP

## VETTEL VICTORIES COULD FORCE A MERCEDES RETHINK

**MANAMA:** Formula One world champions Mercedes have indicated they may increasingly have to favour Lewis Hamilton over new team mate Valtteri Bottas to counter the threat posed by Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel. In practice, that is likely to mean the reluctant imposition of more of the so-called 'team orders' used in Sunday's Bahrain Grand Prix. "We don't like that, at all," team boss Toto Wolff told reporters after Bottas twice obeyed radio instructions to let the faster Hamilton through to chase eventual winner and championship leader Vettel. "It's not what we have done in the last couple of years but the situation is different now so it needs a proper analysis of what it means and where we are."

Mercedes have never had a designated number one driver, and Wolff said the desire was to give both equal opportunity at the start of the race. The team won all but two races last season but are no longer dominant in a championship that has for the past three years been an internal battle. Vettel has now won two of three races and is seven points clear of Hamilton. Finland's Kimi Raikkonen, Vettel's 2007 champion team mate who has yet to stand on the podium this season and not been on pole since 2008, slipped 34 points behind-half

as many as the German.

Bottas, who joined Mercedes in January as replacement for now-retired world champion Nico Rosberg, is 23 adrift of his team mate. Wolff said the situation at Ferrari had to be taken into consideration. "That is the interesting question that we need to analyse at the moment and I don't want to pre-empt what the consequence will be, or if there will be a consequence," he added. The disparity between the current Mercedes pairing is more marked than before, with Bottas yet to win a race and Hamilton surpassed only by Michael Schumacher in the all-time lists with 54 victories.

Bahrain was Bottas's first career pole position, whereas Hamilton has 63 and could sail past Schumacher's record of 68 later in the year. The Finn is also still settling into his new surroundings, whereas Hamilton has been there since 2013 and is the sport's biggest personality. Hamilton had been on pole for six races in a row until Bottas broke the sequence in Bahrain and Wolff said Mercedes appeared to be still slightly ahead of Ferrari on single lap pace. "In the race it's pretty evenly matched I would say. So I think that's going to be a close one for the next couple of races."—Reuters



SAKHIR: Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany, Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland and Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain, from left to right, pose after the qualifying session for the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix, at the Formula One Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain, Sunday. — AP

## FORMULA ONE: OUTBURST REVEALS MCLAREN MISERY

**MANAMA:** Fernando Alonso's outburst of frustration and Stoffel Vandoorne's mid-race tweeted photograph summed up McLaren's failures in Sunday's Bahrain Grand Prix and hinted at deeper turmoil ahead. The Spanish two-time champion said he had never raced with so little power in his life while Belgian new boy Vandoorne posted a picture of him running on a treadmill after another engine failure had prevented him starting. Both men's action underlined the problems at McLaren where a promising chassis has been unable to show its real potential because of Honda's hapless failure to deliver a reliable and competitive engine.

The team is widely expected now to intensify its efforts to find a solution with partners Honda or to seek a new temporary engine supplier. Alonso, 35, and in the third and final year of his contract with McLaren, retired his car with an engine failure after a

race spent fighting for mid-field positions. It was his third retirement in three races and may help to explain why he is so keen to take a break and miss the Monaco Grand Prix and take part in the Indianapolis 500 next month. "I have never raced with less power in my life," he said in one radio blast. When his team suggested a change of strategy, he said: "Do whatever you want, man."

Later, Alonso revealed: "The deficit in power and performance we had on the straights was amazing. Sometimes I looked in the mirrors at the beginning of the straights and saw the other cars 300, 400 metres behind..." "So, I forgot completely about that car and started changing settings on the steering wheel and doing my own things, then the next thing I see when I come on the brakes is that car alongside me. "We were running close to the points but that's not enough. We never had the pace we had

in Australia and China, and, in the end, we had a problem and we decided to retire the car. "When the red lights go off you're motivated and you start fighting, but you're so behind on the straights that there's no way you can defend your position. You fight in a fair way with everyone, but you don't enjoy the battle."

Vandoorne's social media post was accompanied by a comment in which he wrote: "Going for a run - you guys up to anything this Sunday?" McLaren's racing director Eric Boullier said: "What can I say? Fernando failed to finish and Stoffel failed to start. It was a bad day for McLaren-Honda and there is no point in pretending otherwise..." Alonso has suggested he is ready to consider offers from other teams later this year and reports in Spain have suggested he is already talking to Renault where he won his two world titles.—AFP



## JAPAN BANK ON HAGINO, IKEE FOR WORLD SWIMMING CHARGE

**TOKYO:** Olympic champion Kosuke Hagino and schoolgirl sensation Rikako Ikee will head Japan's charge at this summer's world swimming championships when both are likely to face very different types of pressure. Hagino and Ikee were named among a team of 18 athletes yesterday by the Japan Swimming Federation for the July 23-30 competition in Budapest. Hagino, who ended 20 years of American supremacy in the men's 400 metres individual medley to win Olympic gold in Rio last year, will be a marked man despite still

feeling his way back to full fitness after elbow surgery last September.

He faces a challenge from compatriot Daiya Seto, who will be looking to complete a world treble in the 400m individual medley in Hungary, having upset Hagino last week at the Japanese championships in Nagoya. Hagino beat American Chase Kalisz into second with Seto taking bronze at the Rio Olympics and also took silver in the 200m behind Michael Phelps. "I've never won a world title so I'll give everything I have," said Hagino, who hit back to beat Seto in

the 200m IM at the weekend. "Every race will be difficult but I'm going there to win them all," added the 22-year-old, who missed the 2015 competition in Kazan, Russia, after injuring his elbow in a fall from his bicycle.

Ikee, meanwhile, became the first woman to win five titles in the Japanese championships, which ended on Sunday. The 16-year-old added gold medals in the 50m freestyle and 100m butterfly to the 100-200m freestyle double and 50m fly, meeting the world championship qualifying

standard in all five events. "It hasn't sunk in yet," Ikee told local media. "I was almost in tears before the butterfly final I was so nervous. But to come through so many tough races has been a good experience." A double world junior champion, Ikee finished sixth in the 100m fly in Rio but moved up to fifth after China's Chen Xinyi subsequently failed a drugs test.

Japan's men will once again be a force in the breaststroke with 200m world record holder Ippei Watanabe and Yasuhiro Koseki, who completed a

100-200m double at the Japan nationals. Koseki's time of two minutes, 7.18 seconds would have been fast enough to win gold in Rio ahead of Kazakhstan's Dmitriy Balandin, although Japanese breaststrokers have consistently failed to deliver since Japan great Kosuke Kitajima dominated the event between 2003-08. "It shows we are in a good position looking forward to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics," said Koseki. "Hopefully we can prove our strength at the world championships." — AFP

### TENNIS

## DODIN DISHES OUT 2ND SNUB TO FRENCH FED CUP TEAM

**PARIS:** French world number 60 Oceane Dodin risks a five-year ban after refusing to play in this weekend's Fed Cup tie against Spain. The 20-year-old was called up by last year's finalists, captained by former French great Yannick Noah, to replace injured Caroline Garcia for the world group playoff in Roanne in central France. But the French Tennis Federation announced Monday that Dodin was refusing to play, leaving her facing punishment from a simple warning to a five year ban from competition. At the Australian Open in Melbourne in January, Dodin said she was not enthusiastic about playing for her country.

Dodin's snub comes after France's number two player Garcia rejected her place in the national team 24 hours after being picked, blaming sciatic nerve pain. After losing last September's final to the Czech Republic Garcia had told the federation she did not want to take part in France's 2017 campaign. She was summoned last week

to the tennis headquarters to prove her injury to a federation approved doctor. With Garcia and Dodin, missing Noah has called on world number 204 Amandine Hesse to join Alize Cornet, Kristina Mladenovic and Pauline Parmentier in Saturday and Sunday's play-off.

Dodin is coached by her father Frederic. She turned professional in 2012 and has one WTA title to her name, defeating American Lauren Davis in the final of the Quebec tournament last year. The federation revealed her decision in a Twitter post: "Oceane Dodin has refused to play, replaced by Amandine Hesse. Team in place in Roanne." France, champions in 1997 and 2003, are one of only four nations to have taken part in every Fed Cup since its inception in 1963. Spain will be without French Open champion Garbine Muguruzza who is recovering from an ankle injury. They will be led by world 59 Lara Arruabarrena. — AFP



**COLUMBUS:** Sidney Crosby #87 of the Pittsburgh Penguins reaches for the puck after being knocked down by Brandon Dubinsky #17 of the Columbus Blue Jackets during overtime in Game Three of the Eastern Conference First Round during the 2017 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs on Sunday at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. — AFP

### NHL

## PENGUINS BEAT BLUE JACKETS IN OT, CANADIENS DEFEAT RANGERS

**COLUMBUS:** Jake Guentzel scored a hat trick, including a goal at 13:10 of overtime, to lift the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 5-4 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Sunday night and give them a 3-0 lead in their first-round playoff series. Bryan Rust and Evgeni Malkin scored for Pittsburgh and Marc-Andre Fleury overcame a shaky first period to make 33 saves. Guentzel is the first Pittsburgh to rookie to get a playoff hat trick. The defending champion Penguins will go for the sweep in Columbus on Tuesday night. Cam Atkinson had two goals for Columbus, and Zach Werenski and Brandon Dubinsky also scored. Sergei Bobrovsky had 42 saves. After only scoring two goals combined in the first two games of the series, Columbus scored three goals in just over six minutes of the first period. But the Penguins regained their composure and pushed back hard during the second period to tie the score at 3-3.

### CANADIENS 3, RANGERS 1

Alexander Radulov had a goal and an assist to lead Montreal over New York, giving the

Canadiens a 2-1 lead in the first-round playoff series. Artturi Lehkonen and Shea Weber scored power-play goals for Montreal and Carey Price stopped 20 shots. Radulov, who got the overtime winner in Game 2 on Friday night after Tomas Plekanec tied it with 18 seconds left in regulation, has two goals and three assists in the past two games. Brady Skjei spoiled Price's shutout bid with 2:56 remaining for his first career playoff goal. Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, coming off a playoff career-high 54 saves in Game 2, stopped 26 shots in this one. Game 4 is today's night.

### OILERS 1, SHARKS 0

Zack Kassian scored midway through the third period and Cam Talbot made 23 saves in his second straight shutout as Edmonton beat San Jose in Game 3 of their first-round series. The Oilers bounced back from an overtime loss in their first playoff game in 11 years to post consecutive shutouts and take a 2-1 series lead over the defending Western Conference champions. Game 4 is Tuesday night in San Jose. Edmonton

weathered a spirited start by the Sharks fueled in part by the return of Joe Thornton from a knee injury, then the Oilers took control and capitalized on a costly turnover to take the lead. David Schlemko's clearing attempt was intercepted by Kassian in the slot, and Kassian beat Martin Jones with a backhand to make it 1-0 with 9:15 to play. Kassian also scored the first goal in Edmonton's 2-0 win in Game 2.

### BLUES 3, WILD 1

Jaden Schwartz scored the go-ahead goal in the second period and Jake Allen made 40 saves to lead St Louis over Minnesota for a 3-0 lead in the first-round playoff series. Colton Parayko also scored for the Blues and Alexander Steen added an empty-netter for St Louis, which will try to sweep the series Wednesday night in St Louis. Charlie Coyle scored for Minnesota, which got 28 saves from Devan Dubnyk. Schwartz had a power-play goal at 15:19 of the second period to put the Blues one win away from the second round. He scored with 2:27 left in the third period of Game 2 to give St. Louis the 2-1 win. — AP



**NEW YORK:** Brady Skjei #76 of the New York Rangers and Max Pacioretty #67 of the Montreal Canadiens battle during the third period in Game Three of the Eastern Conference First Round during the 2017 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at Madison Square Garden yesterday in New York City. The Canadiens defeated the Rangers 3-1. — AFP

## TOMIC SLUMP CONTINUES

**MONTE CARLO:** Bernard Tomic's slump in form continued yesterday at the Monte Carlo Open as the Australian lost a sixth straight match to exit the first major event of the clay season. Tomic, ranked 43 as his freefall continues, went down to Argentine Diego Schwartzman, who fought back from a 4-2 deficit in the second set to produce a 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) victory. The Queenslander was ousted out of the first round in just over one and a quarter hours.

Tomic won his last match at the Australian Open three months ago, reaching the third round where he lost to Brit Dan Evans. He retired in Acapulco in late February against Donal Young. Tomic struck six double-faults and was broken four times; the 41st-ranked Schwartzman lost serve once. Tomic is now falling well behind rising rival Nick Kyrgios, who is skip-

ping Monte Carlo and starting his Roland Garros run-up campaign in a fortnight at Estoril. This defeat followed his loss to Schwartzman in the second round at Istanbul last year.

### Nishikori replaces Nadal

Meanwhile, Japan's Kei Nishikori climbed two places to fifth in the latest ATP rankings released yesterday at the expense of Rafael Nadal, who slips to seventh. Britain's Andy Murray continues to lead the top 10 which is unchanged aside from Nishikori's upward move, which could have a bearing on his and Nadal's seeding for the upcoming Barcelona ATP tournament. The pair met in the final last year, with Nadal prevailing. Nishikori has opted to skip this week's Monte Carlo Masters where Nadal goes for an unprecedented 10th title. — Agencies



**MONACO:** Russia's tennis player Andrey Kuznetsov hits a return to Czech's Tomas Berdych during the Monte-Carlo ATP Masters Series tournament yesterday in Monaco. — AFP

### RUGBY

## WARATAHS TARGET KINGS

**SYDNEY:** Shoring up a leaky defense while not abandoning their attacking mindset is what the New South Wales Waratahs will endeavour to do to get their Super Rugby season back on track against the Kings on Friday, according to coach Daryl Gibson. The 2014 champions are languishing in fourth in the five-team Australian conference on eight competition points, having won just two of their seven games this season.

Their only victories have come against fellow Australian sides the Western Force and Melbourne Rebels, who are also struggling, while they conceded almost 34 points per match. "Those inconsistencies and vulnerabilities in our game is something we want to work out and learn from," Gibson said in comments published by Fairfax Media yesterday. "We need to firmly fix up our defensive qualities, which at the moment are not where they should be." That lack of defensive starch was most evident in their last game against the Wellington Hurricanes on April 7 with the 2016 champions running in five tries and establishing a 33-7 lead in the first half.

A combination of the Hurricanes temporarily losing track of what they were supposed to be doing and the Waratahs finally

switching on ensured the Sydney-based side fought back in the second half before losing 38-28. At times during that game they ran the Hurricanes off Wellington Regional Stadium. Their attacking prowess from deep was most evident with fullback Bryce Hegarty threatening every time his team were able to hold onto the ball and spread it wide. "At different periods... we've showed we can be a very good football team," Gibson said. "We're going to look to... focus on our strengths, which has been that ball-in-hand-type game and making that more consistent and more effective."

Gibson, however, said the closeness of the Australian conference meant that a victory over the Port Elizabeth-based Kings would put them back in contention for the playoffs. The ACT Brumbies, who play the Hurricanes in Napier earlier on Friday, lead the Australian conference on 17 points. Each of the four conference winners qualify for the playoffs no matter how many points they have. "The Australian conference is still very open and the focus for us is firmly on ourselves," Gibson added. "We always knew it was going to be tough. We've been shown where the level is at in terms of where we need to get to." — Reuters



## BAYERN FACE FAMILIAR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FATE

**MADRID:** Bayern Munich face a familiar problem as they travel to old European foes Real Madrid today needing to make history to keep faint hopes of Champions League glory alive. Cristiano Ronaldo's second-half double in Munich last week made him the first man to reach a century of European goals, but more importantly handed Madrid a vital 2-1 first leg lead. The 11-time European champions have never failed to progress after winning the first leg away from home in the Champions League. "It won't be easy, we're the underdogs, but we'll have a chance to win in Madrid," insisted Bayern captain Philipp Lahm after Saturday's 0-0 draw at Bayer Leverkusen.

Recent history, though, would say otherwise. Should Bayern fail to pull off a fightback, it will be the fourth successive season they have been eliminated by Spanish opposition. When Pep Guardiola was hired as Bayern boss in 2013, he was expected by the Bavarians' demanding hierarchy to build on Jupp Heynckes's treble and create a Bayern dynasty of the like that saw them win three consecutive European Cups between 1974-1976.

Heynckes's Bayern thrashed a worn down Barcelona left behind by Guardiola a year earlier 7-0 on aggregate on their way to winning the Champions League. However, the Germans have only known defeat in four visits to Spain since with-

out even scoring a goal. Guardiola was humiliated on his three returns to Spain as Bayern boss in three semi-final, first legs on the way to elimination against Real, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid. Carlo Ancelotti was named as Guardiola's replacement specifically for his European nous having won the Champions League a record three times as a coach.

Yet, the Italian hasn't been able to find a solution for Bayern's Spanish travel sickness as they also lost 1-0 to Atletico on their most recent visit back in September. Bayern's struggles tell a broader tale, though, as Spanish sides have won their last 11 European ties against German opponents in the past

three seasons. With Ancelotti's men needing to score at least twice to have any chance of progressing, it is just as well top scorer Robert Lewandowski looks set to shake off a shoulder injury to start at the Bernabeu.

The Pole, who has scored 38 goals in 40 games this season, missed the first leg and the stalemate against 10-man Leverkusen in which Bayern missed a host of chances. "The chances we missed were fatal," fumed Thomas Mueller, whilst former Bayern star Lothar Matthaus said Lewandowski is simply "irreplaceable." Lewandowski has haunted Madrid in the past, scoring four times in a famous semi-final, first leg rout for Borussia

Dortmund on their way to the Champions League final in 2013.

And if Bayern need more encouragement, Ancelotti has shown he can dramatically turn around historic streaks in the past. Before the 2013/14 season Madrid had won just once in 25 visits to Germany. However, after smashing Schalke 6-0 in Gelsenkirchen, they went on to eliminate both Dortmund and Bayern on their way to winning the competition. A similar turnaround in Bayern's fortunes would be sweet revenge for Ancelotti on his first return to the Santiago Bernabeu since being sacked by trigger happy Real president Florentino Perez in 2015.—AFP



**LEIPZIG:** Leipzig's midfielder Diego Demme (2nd from L) smiles, revealing a missing tooth, as Leipzig's head coach Ralph Hasenhuettl (R) reacts during the Bundesliga match RB Leipzig vs SC Freiburg in Leipzig on Sunday. Demme lost his tooth while scoring the fourth goal for his team, in the dying minutes of the match. Leipzig won 4 to 0, earning themselves a spot in next season's champions league.—AFP

### SOCCER

## THINGS WE LEARNED IN THE BUNDESLIGA

**BERLIN:** Borussia Dortmund's victory caps a traumatic week, Bayern Munich miss Robert Lewandowski and RB Leipzig lose a tooth on the way to Champions League qualification. Here are five things we learned from the 29th round of Bundesliga matches this weekend:

#### Sokratis' 'beautiful' goal

Borussia Dortmund ended a nightmare week for the club with a morale-boosting 3-1 win over Eintracht Frankfurt, capped by three dream goals. The club is still dazed after three bomb blasts rocked the team bus on the way to a Champions League game today, leaving the players dazed and defender Marc Bartra needing a wrist operation. Marco Reus capped his return after six weeks sidelined with the opening goal after 122 seconds with a deft backheel flick. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang sprinted 70 metres for the third on 86 minutes to claim his 26th Bundesliga goal this season. But arguably the best came from defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos, who hit the ball from 23 metres out at 108km/h into the top corner on 34 minutes to give Dortmund a 2-1 lead. "It was the most beautiful goal of my career. All in all, it was a strange feeling to play today. The things which have happened are still in our heads," said the Greece international.

#### Rock'n'roll Nagelsmann

Julian Nagelsmann, 29, is the youngest coach in the Bundesliga's history and is on the verge of steering Hoffenheim to the Champions League for the first time. Adam Szalai and Kerem Demirbay both netted twice in Saturday's 5-3 win at home to Borussia Muenchengladbach to leave Hoffenheim third with five games left. The Bundesliga's top three qualify directly for the Champions League's group stages. Hoffenheim are just one short of the club's record points tally of 55 in the 2008/09 season and this is the first time they have won all of their last six home games. "I'd rather have a game like that a thousand times more than when both teams hold back," said Nagelsmann. Germany's coach of the year for 2016. "When you go to a concert, you don't want to hear the boring music." Hoffenheim's home game against fourth-placed Dortmund in a fortnight is set to decide which club claims a direct Champions League berth or a play-off place.



**MADRID:** Bayern Munich's Spanish midfielder Xabi Alonso speaks during a press conference at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid yesterday, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League quarter-final second leg football match Real Madrid vs FC Bayern Munich.—AFP

#### BAYERN MISS LEWANDOWSKI

Misfiring leaders Bayern Munich labored to a goalless draw at Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday with top-scorer Robert Lewandowski sidelined with a bruised shoulder. He also missed Wednesday's 2-1 defeat to Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final. But the Poland hot-shot had no problems in a 45-minute training session in Munich on Saturday and Bayern is confident he will be fit for today's return leg in Madrid. "With him, I'm very confident he'll play in Madrid," said Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti. Bayern badly missed Lewandowski's finishing in Leverkusen as David Alaba, Arturo Vidal, Kingsley Coman, Thomas Mueller and Philipp Lahm all wasted clear chances. "Robert has qualities which no one else can bring," admitted Alaba.

#### Demme's missing tooth

Diego Demme took one for the team when the defensive midfielder scored second-placed RB Leipzig's final goal in the 4-0 thrashing of

Freiburg. The win means Leipzig are guaranteed a top-four place and a crack at the Champions League next season. But the victory came at a price as Demme lost a front tooth in the process of scoring the first Bundesliga goal of his career. "If he lost a tooth for every goal in his career, he'd still almost have a full set," joked coach Ralph Hasenhuettl.

#### Werder's dramatic U-turn

Werder Bremen's 2-1 comeback win over Hamburg on Sunday thanks to midfielder Florian Grill's late winner-leaves them two points from the Europa League places. Bremen are unbeaten in their last nine games and it is a dramatic turn-around under Alexander Nouri, who took charge in September when they were bottom of the table. The up-turn in fortunes has only happened in recent weeks. Bremen were 15th-and only out of the relegation places on goal difference-in mid-March, but took 13 from a possible 15 in their last five games to climb to eighth.—AFP

## NEYMAR CONFIDENT OF LEADING BARCA TO A MIRACLE COMEBACK

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona striker Neymar is confident the Catalans can launch another remarkable Champions League comeback as they look to overturn a 3-0 quarter-final deficit against Juventus tomorrow. Just as they had done in the previous round, when Barcelona overcame a 4-0 first-leg deficit to eliminate Paris St Germain, the Spanish giants will be relying on Neymar to produce another magical performance if they are to reach the semi-finals. The Brazilian scored Barcelona's fourth and fifth goals in the last 16 second leg, setting up the sixth too, as they won 6-1 to progress 6-5 on aggregate.

If Barcelona are to do the impossible in the quarter-final as well, after losing 3-0 in Turin, they will need the winger to be at his electric best. Neymar should be well rested after missing Barcelona's 3-2 win over Real Sociedad on Saturday, the first of three matches he is suspended for in La Liga, including next Sunday's Clasico. Having been sent off in the team's 2-0 defeat at Malaga and hit with a longer ban after sarcastically applauding the fourth official, he has a point to prove in the Champions League. "We have to believe we can do it," said Neymar in an interview with Brazilian television channel Esporte Interativo.

"The other day my father told me one

thing which has stayed in my head, and I think it's true. In front of us we have a different team, but Barcelona is the same. And we can do it. "We did it once and we can do it a second time. We have to give our absolute maximum. If everything goes well, there will be another comeback. "I believe in the team and in our power. Everything is lost (already), so we have nothing to lose and everything to gain." Although Neymar will return for the clash, Barcelona are likely to be without Javier Mascherano, who did not train on Monday due to a calf injury, as well as long-term absentees Aleix Vidal and Rafinha.

Juventus forward Paulo Dybala, who scored twice in the first leg, was taken off with an ankle injury as they won 2-0 at Pescara on Saturday, but is expected to be fit to play. Defender Georgio Chiellini watched Neymar and co. dismantle PSG in the previous round and is wary of the threat the Catalans pose. "We need to be compact and show no fear. (Barcelona) are like sharks who scent blood and finish you off. We've got to keep them as far away from our goal as possible," he told Sky Italia. If former Barcelona defender Dani Alves can keep his friend and compatriot Neymar at bay like he did in the first leg, Juventus should be able to book their place in the semi-finals.—Reuters

## BALE RULED OUT OF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GAME AGAINST BAYERN

**MADRID:** Real Madrid will be without Gareth Bale as they look to book their place in a record seventh straight Champions League semi-final against Bayern Munich today. Bale is sidelined by the recurrence of an ankle problem picked up in Madrid's 2-1 first-leg win last week and is also a doubt for Real's crunch La Liga clash with Barcelona on Sunday. The Welshman was sidelined for three months earlier in the season after suffering ligament damage in his right ankle. "Gareth worked very hard to get back into the team after his injury," said Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane yesterday. "When he came back he was desperate to be involved and now he has a small niggle that is preventing him from being fully fit."

"I hope it is nothing and in a few days he can be with us again. "He won't be fit for Bayern because we don't want to take any risks." Bale missed Real's 3-2 win at Sporting Gijon on Saturday and Zidane was far from confident he will be fit in time to face Barca. "I hope he will be with us, but we have to wait and see," he added. "It is a question of taking it day by day." By contrast, Bayern look set to be handed a huge injury boost as top scorer Robert Lewandowski returns after a shoulder injury. "We know how good a player Lewandowski is, he is a true number nine," added Zidane. "That is a plus for Bayern, but he is their player. "They have good players in all positions and we have to concentrate on our own game."

Lewandowski has scored 38 goals in 40 appearances this season and his presence was badly missed as Bayern not only slumped to defeat at home last Wednesday, but also drew a blank in a 0-0 draw at Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday. The Pole has also shown he is capable of the spectacular against Madrid—he scored all four of Borussia Dortmund's goals in a 4-1 semi-final, first-leg rout back in 2013. "Lewandowski is a quality player but it's not all about him," added Madrid midfielder Casemiro. "They've got a brilliant squad. We'll need to be at our best and not just focused on one man." Madrid have never failed to progress after winning the first leg away from home in the Champions League.

However, Zidane insisted the 11-time European champions were not assured of anything despite having the advantage thanks to Cristiano Ronaldo's second-half double at the Allianz Arena. "We can't think about the first leg, that has already gone," said Zidane. "We know the difficulty we face. Whether Bayern play at home or away they don't change how they play. "We still have a game to play and we need to play very, very well." Both sides have defensive concerns with Madrid definitely without centre-backs Raphael Varane and Pepe through injury. Bayern's preferred centre-back duo Jerome Boateng and Mats Hummels face a race against time to be fit, while Javi Martinez is suspended after being sent-off in the first leg.—AFP

## DATE WITH DESTINY AWAITS REANIMATED JAMIE VARDY

**LONDON:** When Jamie Vardy pictured himself making history in the Champions League, the record he set in Leicester City's loss to Atletico Madrid was probably not what he had in mind. The England striker came off during last week's quarter-final first leg at the Vicente Calderon having completed none of his two attempted passes, in what is thought to have been a Champions League first. Leicester's 1-0 defeat left Atletico in charge of the tie ahead of yesterday's return leg, but with Vardy now back among the goals, his team-mates hope more memorable milestones are ahead.

"Strikers go through it. I don't know why some people panic, because he is not going to score every game," said Leicester right-back Danny Simpson of Vardy's early-season struggles. "He is still the same player, it had just not been happening. But in training nothing changes with him, his attitude and his confidence. He still believes in himself." Having scored 24 goals last season in Leicester's 5,000-1 Premier League title win, Vardy found the net only five times in the first 22 games of the current campaign as his side slithered down the table.

But since Claudio Ranieri's dismissal as manager, he has been a man reborn, taking his tally to six goals in seven league games with a sharply taken effort in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Crystal Palace. While Vardy's goals have helped Leicester move clear of danger, the team's return to form under new manager Craig Shakespeare has not been to everyone's liking. Leicester's players have been accused of betraying the man who oversaw last season's fairytale, with Vardy cast as chief conspirator. "The story is out there, then people pick it up and jump on it and you're getting death threats about your family, kids, everything," he said recently. "I try to get on with it, but when people are trying to cut your missus up while she's driving along with the kids in the back of the car, it's not the best. It's happened plenty of times. It is terrifying."

Vardy says he now gets "abuse at every stadium," although he admits that he feeds on the notoriety. "Do I enjoy it? Yeah, it's just me," he says. "I wouldn't change it." The return of the angry Vardy has been a central component of Leicester's renaissance under Shakespeare, as witnessed in their last 16 second-leg victory over Sevilla. Vardy's aggressive pressing set the tone for Leicester's 2-0 win and he succeeded in getting Samir Nasri sent off for aiming a headbutt at him, an incident that left the Frenchman branding him a "cheat".

Vardy had sown the seeds of success in the first leg, snaffing an away goal that meant Leicester returned to England with a 2-1 deficit their performance barely merited. Ranieri was sacked the day after. It was, however, the only goal Vardy has scored in the Champions League this season. At the age of 30 and with Leicester not expected to qualify for the Champions League again in the foreseeable future, today's game may represent his last chance to leave a mark on the competition.

Unsurprisingly, he has an admirer in Atletico coach Diego Simeone. "I like him. I really rate him as a player," said the former Argentina bruiser. "As a striker he is the kind of powerful striker Atletico have had. He stretches the game and is always fighting to stop the opponent playing out from the back so he can pounce on any mistake. "Last season he was very consistent.—AFP



**CHARLEROI:** Charleroi's Dorian Dessoleil (L) vies for the ball with Gent's Stefan Mitrovic during the Jupiler Pro League football match between Sporting Charleroi and KAA Gent yesterday in Charleroi.—AFP



# CHELSEA MASTERCLASS GIVES JOSE HIS MOJO BACK

**LONDON:** As Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho sauntered down the Old Trafford touchline ostentatiously pointing at the club crest on his gilet, the message was clear: I'm still the man. Mourinho has had a challenging first season at the United helm, with nine home draws in the league summing up his difficulties, but Sunday's 2-0 win over leaders Chelsea was a tactical masterclass. In fielding an unorthodox 3-5-2 system and charging two players with man-marking jobs, Mourinho showed his famed tactical acumen has not deserted him—and blew the Premier League title race wide open.

"United produced a brilliant attacking display as well as a convincing defensive one that was tactically aware of the different threats Chelsea posed,"

said former Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Jermaine Jenas, now a BBC pundit. "Mourinho has masterminded plenty of wins in big games down the years, but he usually does it with a defensive approach and by setting up with a team that, first and foremost, is very difficult to break down. On Sunday, he flipped that model on its head. United played with two up front and with wing-backs who were high up the pitch. They were on the front foot and went at Chelsea from the start."

The belligerent Ander Herrera was the emblem of United's victory, marking Chelsea's key man Eden Hazard out of the game and claiming a goal and an assist at the other end. On the other flank, Matteo Darmian successfully stymied Pedro, leaving Chelsea striker

Diego Costa with not even scraps to feed on. Marcus Rashford, meanwhile, seized a rare chance to shine at centre-forward by netting United's seventh-minute opener and tormenting Chelsea's back three with his penetrative running. Mourinho explained how he had shut Chelsea down with relish and claimed his side would not have lost at Stamford Bridge in the FA Cup last month had Herrera's dismissal there not disrupted his plans.

**Not a template**

"I was convinced even before the cup (game) that controlling the two players that play behind Diego (Costa) and controlling the full-backs would create lots of problems and I repeat the same," Mourinho said. "They are phenomenal in

counter-attack. When they had the ball, we were compact and when they tried to play counter-attack, we were always in control of these two link positions." Rashford's display suggested he deserves to be given more chances through the centre, where United's top scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic—rested on Sunday—has started almost every game this season.

"I think (Mourinho) has learnt something," former Liverpool captain Graeme Souness said on Sky Sports. "Rashford has made it difficult for him to leave him out." As well as restricting Chelsea's lead over Tottenham to four points, United's win took them to within four points of the Champions League places with a game in hand on fourth-place Manchester City. It was only United's second win this season

over one of the other teams in the top six, following November's 1-0 success against an off-color Spurs.

But as the fruit of a carefully customized game plan designed to nullify the specific threats of a particular opponent, it did not represent a blueprint for future success. "Mourinho got his tactics spot on and enjoyed a bit of luck, but I don't see that as a template," Souness said. "Man United have to dominate the ball here. They have to be on the front foot and get everyone in the stadium on the edge of their seat, like they have done for the best part of 20 years. I don't think they could go and play like that every week against lesser teams who will sit in and not try and open up against them." For now, at least, Mourinho has got his mojo back.—AFP

**SOCCER**

# CHINA FIRM SCRAPS DEAL TO BUY SOUTHAMPTON STAKE



**BARCELONA:** This combination of file pictures created on April 16, 2017 shows Juventus' coach Massimiliano Allegri (L) gesturing during the UEFA Champions League football match Juventus vs Olympique Lyonnais on November 2, 2016 at the Juventus stadium in Turin and Barcelona's coach Luis Enrique giving instructions during the Spanish league football match FC Barcelona vs Valencia CF at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona. FC Barcelona will face Juventus during their UEFA Champions league quarter-final football match at the Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, tomorrow.—AFP

**SHANGHAI:** China stadium builder Lander Sports Development said yesterday it had scrapped plans to buy a stake in English football club Southampton, blaming unspecified "policy" changes amid a Chinese government clampdown on overseas investments. The acquisition would have made Southampton, currently ninth in the Premier League, the latest top-flight English club to gain Chinese investment.

In a statement, Lander Sports implied it was having difficulties completing necessary procedures for the investments, including a corresponding asset restructuring at Lander Sports. "Based on the principle of prudence, the company has decided to terminate this major asset restructuring in order to maintain normal development of the firm's business and safeguard the interest of all investors," said the statement.

The statement was submitted to the stock market in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, where Lander Sports is listed. Lander Sports' shares, which were suspended since October as talks with Southampton were under way, resumed trading Monday and tumbled the maximum 10 percent allowed by Chinese stock regulators. Based in eastern China's Zhejiang province, the company said it had signed an agreement in November with club owner Katharina Liebherr for a stake in St Mary's Football Group, Southampton FC's holding company. It gave no details, but talks over a reported £200 million (\$250

million) investment had been ongoing for months. Premier League Manchester City and West Bromwich Albion have received investment from China, while second-tier Aston Villa and Wolverhampton Wanderers have Chinese owners. Chinese enterprises also have taken significant stakes in clubs in Italy, Spain and elsewhere, after the government in recent years encouraged companies to make overseas investments. But it has sharply reversed course lately amid concerns over capital flight, a slumping Chinese currency, and slowing economic growth at home. The government began last year to roll out new restrictions to curb the outflow of money into "irrational" investments.

As a result, outbound investment has plunged so far this year. A \$1 billion bid by China's Wanda Group to buy the US operator of the Golden Globe awards was aborted, the US firm's parent said last year, amid reports that the Chinese investment clampdown was to blame. However, the clampdown did not prevent Serie A giants AC Milan being sold to Rossoneri Sport Investment Lux last week in a deal which saw the Chinese-led consortium take a 99.9 percent stake in the famous Italian club. Under football fan president Xi Jinping, China has ambitions of hosting the World Cup and the country's top companies and richest entrepreneurs have rushed to pick up stakes in foreign clubs and buy foreign players for huge wages.—AFP

**News** In brief



**John Terry**

**Terry to leave Chelsea**

**LONDON:** Chelsea defender John Terry will leave Stamford Bridge at the end of the season, the Premier League club said yesterday. The 36-year-old former England international played over 700 games for Chelsea and has been their most successful captain. "John has given us more than two decades of dedicated and exceptional service," Chelsea said in a statement. "In that time he has displayed the utmost pride in wearing the Chelsea shirt." Terry is Chelsea's third highest all-time appearance-maker and has captained them a record 578 times.

## EVERTON WANT TO FINISH AMONG THE EPL ELITES

**LONDON:** Everton must focus on their own performances and ignore what the clubs around them are doing as they bid to finish among the Premier League's top six, defender Ashley Williams has said. Everton, on 57 points after 33 games, currently occupy sixth spot, three points ahead of Arsenal but having played three more games than the London club. Arsenal are at Middlesbrough later on Monday. "All we can do is look after our own performances. Hopefully we are in that group of teams that are in the mix for those spots," Williams told the club's website. (www.evertonfc.com) "We have a lot of confidence and we are winning a lot of games."

In that top six is where we want to be. "But we know it is a difficult ask to push into that elite group. We are just trying to finish the season as strong as we can and as high as we can." Everton's 3-1 win over Burnley on Saturday was their eighth consecutive home league win. Ross Barkley's shot deflected off Burnley's Ben Mee for Everton's second goal and the midfielder picked up the Man of the Match award. "As players we appreciate how good he is," Williams said. "He has done really well all season and, coming into the club, I have been really impressed. His form has been brilliant." Everton travel to 13th-placed West Ham United on Saturday.—Reuters

## BRIGHTON, HOVE ALBION ON BRINK OF PROMOTION

**LONDON:** Brighton and Hove Albion moved to the brink of promotion to the Premier League as goals from Glenn Murray and Solly March secured a 2-1 win over Wigan Athletic in the Championship yesterday. Second-placed Newcastle United slumped to a 3-1 loss to Ipswich as Brighton fans, sensing a return to the top flight after a 34-year absence, invaded the pitch after the full-time whistle. The win lifted Brighton on to 92 points, seven ahead of Newcastle and 15 clear of Huddersfield Town who meet Derby County in Monday's late kickoff.

If Huddersfield fail to beat Derby, Brighton's promotion will be confirmed. Third-placed Reading kept up the pressure on Newcastle and are now six points behind them after coming from a goal down to beat bottom side Rotherham United 2-1 thanks to second-half strikes from Lewis Grabban and John Swift. Fulham defeated Aston Villa 3-1, taking advantage of Leeds United's 1-0 loss to Wolverhampton Wanderers to climb above them into sixth position and the final playoff spot. Sheffield Wednesday maintained their playoff push and are in fifth place on 75 points, two ahead of Fulham, after a 2-1 win at Queens Park Rangers.—Reuters

# AS CHELSEA WOBBLE, CAN SPURS SURGE TO PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE?

**MANCHESTER:** A four point lead with six games to go. Is the Premier League title race now back on, after so many had assumed Chelsea had the championship in the bag? The fixture list suggests that Chelsea should still be able to finish above challengers Tottenham Hotspur. But strange things can happen when the pressure reaches its greatest intensity and there was certainly something strange about Chelsea at Old Trafford on Sunday. Manager Antonio Conte certainly struck an unusual tone when addressing the media after Sunday's 2-0 loss to Manchester United, the club's second defeat in four games.

"They showed more desire, more ambition, more motivation. It is very simple but in this case the fault is of the coach. It means the coach was not able to transfer the right concentration, desire, ambition to win this game," he said. Perhaps that was a rare example of a manager taking responsibility for a loss but it could also have been a clever way of admonishing his team for their lack of desire in a game where they failed to produce a single shot on goal.

Why would his players need to be motivated by him at this crucial stage

in the season? Then there were Conte's comments about Saturday's FA Cup semi-final which pits the two London title rivals against each other. "It won't be easy because I think Tottenham now is the best team and they are in good form and they have a lot of enthusiasm. They are feeling the possibility to write the history and it is important to know this," he said.

So, according to Conte, we have a Chelsea side lacking motivation and a Tottenham team that are the best in the country and with a chance of glory. Add in Conte's reminder of how this season should be seen in the context of Chelsea's poor campaign last year and the impression is left of a manager trying to lower expectations just when they are at their highest. Certainly Chelsea don't look like ending the season in peak form and Tottenham are indeed playing some exhilarating and highly effective football. Fixtures list

But a glance at the fixtures list should ease, if not totally dispel, any nerves afflicting the Stamford Bridge faithful. Four of Chelsea's six remaining games are at home, where they have lost just two of 15 games this season. Two of those games are against rele-

gation candidates in Middlesbrough and Sunderland while the others are against beatable mid-table teams in Southampton and Watford. However, the two away games will be more testing—Everton have won eight straight games at home and are brimming with confidence. West Bromwich Albion are eighth and certainly no pushovers at the Hawthornes. Tottenham have just two home games remaining and they are against a United team that are unbeaten in 22 matches and a North London derby against Arsenal, who may be struggling but would love nothing more than to kill their rivals' title hopes.

But Tottenham have a momentum that Chelsea have lost having won their last 12 home games and their manager Mauricio Pochettino certainly isn't worrying about a lack of motivation and desire. A Spurs surge to the title certainly isn't out of the question but as United manager Jose Mourinho put it, when asked about his former club, Chelsea remain favorites. "I think they are in the position where everybody wants to be," he said. "It is better to be in Chelsea position than Tottenham position. That is for sure."—Reuters

## Moyes defends credentials

**LONDON:** Sunderland manager David Moyes defended his credentials as a Premier League match winner after he was jeered by some sections of the home crowd during Saturday's 2-2 draw with West Ham United. Rooted at the bottom of the league with just 21 points from 32 games, Sunderland picked up their first point in four games on Saturday. "It's (the booing) to be expected because me and the team are not doing well," Moyes told the British media. "I have to accept it. I just remember to myself that I think I have got the third- or fourth-best win record in the Premier League." The Scot was also booed when midfielder Wahbi Khazri, not selected in the starting lineup since October, scored in the first half. Moyes said he was willing to offer more playing time to the 26-year-old Tunisian international if he continued to deliver. "I thought he didn't keep us the ball well enough (before) but I thought he kept the ball well against West Ham, I thought he played in a disciplined fashion as well," Moyes added.

## Swansea 'can avoid drop'

**SWANSEA:** Swansea City believe they can get positive results in their five remaining matches and avoid relegation from the Premier League, midfielder Ki Sung-yueng has said. Swansea, who have conceded the most goals in the league this season, dropped into the relegation zone after a home loss to Tottenham Hotspur and are at 18th spot currently after suffering narrow losses at West Ham United and Watford. "We still believe we can win games, especially when we are playing at home," South Korean Ki told the club's website (www.swansea-city.net). "We have five games to go this season and we still believe in ourselves. The recent run has been disappointing, but now we have to try to find our confidence and try to get some good results again." Ki believes Saturday's game against Stoke City, who have just one win in their last five league games, provides a great opportunity to get a much-needed win. "If we can get a win against Stoke next weekend, the confidence will be boosted and we will have a chance in the four games after that," he said.

## Middlesbrough's survival

**LONDON:** Middlesbrough can emulate relegation-threatened teams from the past few seasons and go on a winning run in their remaining games to stay in the Premier League, interim manager Steve Agnew said. Middlesbrough are 19th in the table having failed to win a league game since mid-December and are six points adrift of safety with seven games left to play. Leicester City and Sunderland have escaped relegation with late positive runs in recent years. Leicester won seven of their last nine fixtures during the 2014-15 campaign to remain in the league and Sunderland survived last year by avoiding defeat in their last six games. "You can get improbable results and late rallies at this time of the year," Agnew told British media. "It's happened in recent seasons with both Sunderland and Leicester. They have shown that one win can literally change lots of things and it can also affect other teams around you in the table, so that's what we aim to do."



**LEICESTER:** Leicester City's English manager Craig Shakespeare (L) and Leicester City's Austrian defender Christian Fuchs (R) attend a press conference at Leicester City's training complex in Leicester, central England, on Sunday ahead of their UEFA Champions League quarter-final second leg football match against Spanish team Atletico Madrid yesterday.—AFP

**Live** Matches on TV (Local Timings)

**UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**  
 Real Madrid v Bayern Munich 21:45  
 beIN SPORTS HD 1  
 Leicester City v Atletico de Madrid 21:45  
 beIN SPORTS HD 2

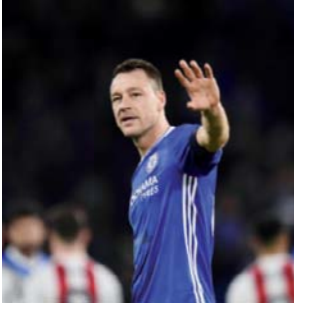


# Sports

**Penguins beat Blue Jackets in OT, Canadiens defeat Rangers**



**John Terry to leave Chelsea at the end of the season**



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VETTEL VICTORIES COULD FORCE A MERCEDES RETHINK

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BOSTON: Geoffrey Kirui, of Kenya, crosses the finish line to win the 121st Boston Marathon yesterday, in Boston. —AP

**ATHLETICS**

## KENYANS SWEEP TITLES AT BOSTON MARATHON

**BOSTON:** Geoffrey Kirui and Edna Kiplagat led a Kenyan clean sweep at the 121st Boston Marathon yesterday, both timing late bursts to perfection to claim the men's and women's races of the prestigious event.

Kirui, 24, produced a devastating sprint with four miles to go to settle an enthralling tactical battle with American rival Galen Rupp, the 2016 Olympic bronze medalist.

Kirui waved and smiled as he took the tape in a time of 2hr 9min 37sec, with Rupp finishing in second. It was a masterful performance from the young Kenyan, who made his move with a 4:52 mile at the 22-mile mark that saw him pull clear of Rupp. Rupp battled desperately to stay in touch but was unable to respond as Kirui kept the pace up to leave the Oregon-based American in second in 2:09:58. Japan's Suguru Osako was third in 2:10:28.

Kirui's time was well outside the world marathon record of 2:02:57 set by Kenya's

Dennis Kimetto in Berlin in 2014.

Kirui later revealed he had pulled clear of Rupp after deciding to "test" his own finishing power. "I saw he (Rupp) was a strong guy. Not easy," Kirui said. "So I tried to push a little bit to test myself. And I saw that he had not come with me, so I pushed a little bit more."

Kirui said he now planned to concentrate on marathon running after failing to find success in track events. "I tried many times in the track but I see my future in marathon," he said.

In the women's race, Kiplagat conjured a similarly decisive burst over the closing stages to claim the race for the first time.

The 2011 and 2013 world marathon champion took the tape in 2:21:52 after breaking away from the field with around eight miles to go.

Kiplagat, 37, was greeted by her children and family members as she crossed the line. Rose Chelimo, the Kenyan-born runner

who now represents Bahrain, was second in 2:22:51 while Jordan Hasay of the United States was third in 2:23:00. The Kenyan double came as a welcome boost for the East African superpower of long-distance running. Kenyan athletics was left reeling earlier this month after news that Kenya's 2016 Olympic women's marathon champion Jemima Sumgong had failed a drugs test.

Sumgong's drug test was another black eye for Kenyan distance running. 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.

Kenya was last year admonished by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), which accused the country of non-compliance with its anti-doping code. The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon and one of the most prestigious races over the distance on the athletics calendar. —AP



BOSTON: Edna Kiplagat, left and Geoffrey Kirui, both of Kenya, hold a trophy together after their victories in the 121st Boston Marathon yesterday, in Boston. — AP

**BASKETBALL**

## JAMES HARDEN POWERS ROCKETS

BULLS UPSET CELTICS, WARRIORS BEAT TRAIL BLAZERS



HOUSTON: Norris Cole #30 of the Oklahoma City Thunder drives past Patrick Beverley #2 of the Houston Rockets for a layup during Game One of the first round of the Western Conference 2017 NBA Playoffs at Toyota Center on Sunday in Houston, Texas. — AFP

**WASHINGTON:** James Harden scored 37 points as the Houston Rockets routed Russell Westbrook and the Oklahoma City Thunder 118-87 in the opening game of their NBA playoff series on Sunday. Harden outclassed fellow MVP candidate Westbrook also delivering nine assists and seven rebounds for the Rockets who take a 1-0 lead into game two on Wednesday. "Tonight was a good game but it is just one win," Harden said. "We have to be ready to go for Wednesday." Westbrook tallied 22 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists but he also made nine turnovers and missed 17 of 23 shot attempts.

Harden and Westbrook are considered the frontrunners in the league MVP race. But Westbrook's individual brilliance doesn't always translate into Thunder victories. The Rockets held Westbrook to just seven points in the second half as they stretched a five point halftime lead to 33 points. As good as Harden was Sunday he also got plenty of help from a strong supporting cast. Patrick Beverley scored a post-

season career high 21 points while Nene chipped in 15 points off the bench for Houston. Beverley also shut down Westbrook defensively when it mattered the most.

**BULLS 106, CELTICS 102**

Jimmy Butler scored 15 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, including five during an 8-0 run midway through the final period that put Chicago in control, and the Bulls held on to beat the Boston Celtics 106-102 on Sunday in the opener of a first-round Eastern Conference playoff series. Chicago prevailed on an emotional night in Boston, as Celtics point guard Isaiah Thomas played the day after his younger sister, Chyna, was killed in a car crash. Thomas played through tears with "RIP Lil Sis" written in tribute on his shoes. He paced Boston with 33 points. Thomas led a last-gasp effort for the Celtics, hitting a layup with 7.5 seconds left to cut Chicago's lead to 104-102, but Butler dribbled off a few seconds and sealed it with a pair of free throws with 3.3 seconds to go.

**WIZARDS 114, HAWKS 107**

John Wall had 32 points and 14 assists as Washington controlled the second half to take a 1-0 lead in the series. Bradley Beal scored 22 points and Markieff Morris had 21 points for the Wizards, and Marcin Gortat finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Dennis Schroder scored 25 points and Paul Millsap had 19 for the Hawks. Atlanta made 32 of 39 free throws, but only shot 43.6 percent from the field and committed 21 turnovers.

**WARRIORS 121, TRAIL BLAZERS 109**

Draymond Green led a defensive surge early in the fourth quarter and backup point guard Ian Clark contributed seven points to a 15-2 flurry as Golden State won Game 1 of the series.

The eighth-seeded Trail Blazers never trailed by more than eight points in the first three quarters and used a three-point play by backup Pat Connaughton in the final seconds of the third period to draw even at 88-all. — Agencies



# Kuwait Times <sup>ANNIVERSARY</sup> 55 <sup>YEARS</sup>

# BUSINESS

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Long, rough ride ahead for 'Made in America'

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Asia shares waver as US warns North Korea

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The new Audi Q2 to make its mark in Kuwait

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KUWAIT LEADS HEALTHY BOND ISSUANCE IN GCC

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FUYANG: Workers assemble trucks at a plant of JAC Motors in Fuyang in central China's Anhui province yesterday. China's economic recovery is gaining momentum, with growth ticking up to a 6.9 percent annual pace in the first three months of the year, lifted by government stimulus and a property boom. — AP

## STEEL, STIMULUS DRIVE CHINA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

ANALYSTS SEE GROWTH FADING LATER IN YEAR IF GOVT PUSHES REFORMS

**BEIJING:** China's economy grew faster than expected in the first quarter as higher government infrastructure spending and a gravity-defying property boom helped boost industrial output by the most in over two years. Growth of 6.9 percent was the fastest in six quarters, with forecast-beating March investment, retail sales and exports all suggesting the economy may carry solid momentum into spring.

But most analysts say the first quarter may be as good as it gets for China, and worry Beijing is still relying too heavily on stimulus and "old economy" growth drivers, primarily the steel industry and a property market that is overheating. "The Chinese government has a tendency to rely on infrastructure development to sustain growth in the long term," economists at ANZ said in a note. "The question is whether this investment-led model is sustainable as the authorities have trouble taming credit. We need to watch closely whether China's top leadership will send a stronger signal to tighten monetary policy shortly." Even as top officials vowed to crack down on debt risks, China's total social financing, a broad measure of credit and liquidi-

ty in the economy, reached a record 6.93 trillion yuan (\$1 trillion) in the quarter—roughly equivalent to the size of Mexico's economy. Spending by the central and local governments rose 21 percent from a year earlier. That helped goose the pace of growth in the first quarter well above the government's 2017 target of around 6.5 percent, and pipped economists' forecasts of 6.8 percent year-on-year.

Such a strong bolt from the gate could see Beijing once again meet its annual growth target, even if activity starts to fade later in the year, as many analysts widely expect.

"Main indicators were better than expected...which laid a good foundation for achieving the full-year growth goals," statistics spokesman Mao Shengyong said at a news conference.

### Same old growth drivers?

Once again, China's policymakers leaned on infrastructure and real estate investment to drive expansion. Growth in both areas has accelerated from last year and helped offset slightly weaker growth in the services sector. "Faster growth in industrial output is the primary factor in the first

quarter surprise, and due mostly to higher value-added growth related to supply-side consolidation in heavy industry," said Brian Jackson, China economist at IHS Global Insight.

Fixed asset investment rose 9.2 percent on-year, trouncing estimates, but IHS believes the growth was due entirely to faster spending in industry and construction. Real estate investment remained robust, expanding 9.1 percent, while new construction quickened despite intensifying government measures to cool soaring home prices. Most analysts agree the heated property market poses the single biggest risk to China's growth, but predict the cumulative weight of property curbs will eventually temper activity, not produce an outright crash. "Sales (growth) has started falling, which means tightening measures are starting to take effect," said Shen Jianguang, an analyst at Mizuho Securities in Hong Kong. More than two dozen cities announced property cooling measures in recent weeks, after curbs late last year appeared to have little lasting effect. The construction boom has helped fuel the best profits for China's industrial firms in years, giving them more cash flow to pay

down debt or invest in more efficient plants. Buoyed by a near 12 percent increase in housing starts, China produced a record amount of steel in March, Reuters data showed. But analysts say warning signs are flashing.

Rising inventories and recent falls in steel prices suggest output is growing faster than China's demand, raising worries of a glut later in the year, which could heighten trade tensions with the U.S. and other major trading partners. Income growth picks up. There were also positive signs on the consumer front. After slowing for five quarters, disposable income growth picked up to 7.0 percent, the fastest since late 2015.

Retail sales rebounded 10.9 percent on-year as consumers shelled out more for appliances and furniture for new homes. Auto sales also showed signs of recovering after weakening early in the year after the government reduced subsidies. Analysts are closely watching for signs that consumption is accounting for a greater share of China's economy, which would make growth more broad based but also reduce the need for more debt-fueled stimulus and reliance on "smokestack" industries.

Another bright spot was a further rebound in private investment, which had cooled in recent years, leaving the government to bear more of the burden of supporting the economy. Private investment growth accelerated to 7.7 percent.

Though policymakers have pledged repeatedly to push reforms to head off financial risks, the government is keen to keep the economy on an even keel ahead of a major leadership transition later this year. China's central bank has gingerly shifted to a tightening policy bias in recent months, and is using more targeted measures to contain risks after years of ultra-loose settings.

It has nudged up short-term interest rates several times already this year and further modest increases are expected, especially if US rates continue to rise, which could risk a resurgence in capital outflows from China. "I think China should be directing the economy to slow down its growth in the long term...but on the contrary, growth is accelerating," said Hidenobu Tokuda, senior economist at Mizuho Research Institute in Tokyo. "This is good for now but it makes it difficult to see how China's economic slowdown will land in the future. Uncertainties remain high." — Reuters

## TELECOM LOBBYING MUSCLE KILLS PRIVACY RULES IN US

**NEW YORK:** The telecom industry's lobbying muscle pushed a consumer privacy measure to a swift death in Congress. Republicans struck down Obama-era rules that would have imposed tight restrictions on what broadband companies such as Verizon, AT&T and Comcast could do with their customers' personal data. Digital-rights and consumer-advocacy groups such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation supported keeping the rules. But they were outmatched by telecom trade groups and lobbyists.

"These guys spend a fortune in DC, they're very plugged in on the Hill and this was clearly their priority," said Craig Aaron, the president of consumer-advocacy group Free Press.

Former AT&T lobbyist Steve Billet, now on the faculty at George Washington University, said the telecom industry's willingness to spend big on lobbying marks "the difference between them and the Electronic Frontier Foundation guys."

### ROLLING IN THE CASH

The overall lobbying tab for telecom services and telephone companies exceeded \$123 million in 2016, the money-influence research group Center for Responsive Politics says. That makes them among the top-spending industries in Washington. By contrast, some of the most active



**HIALEAH:** The AT&T sign at a store in Hialeah, Fla. The telecom industry's lobbying muscle pushed a consumer privacy measure to a swift death in Congress. — AP

privacy and consumer groups on the other side spent just over \$1 million, according to the non-partisan group's data.

The lobbying on both sides goes far beyond privacy. Other issues on the agenda included immigration, taxes, cable boxes and cybersecurity. But the disparity in the spending totals shows that when it comes to politics, industry can wield a lot of power with its pocketbook.

Telecom has also given more in political contributions to the House Republicans who voted to repeal the rules (about \$138,000 on average over their careers) than to the 15 Republicans who vot-

ed to keep them (\$77,000), according to the Center for Responsive Politics. In the Senate, the Republicans who voted to undo broadband privacy received more from telecom (\$369,000) than the Democrats who voted to keep the rules (\$329,000). Rep. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn, who heads the House subcommittee on communications and technology, received more than \$125,000 from telecom for the 2016 elections, while the ranking Democrat, Mike Doyle of Pennsylvania, got about \$88,000.

In the Senate, Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., chairman of a privacy and technology subcommittee, received some \$59,000, compared with nearly \$27,000 for the ranking Democrat, Al Franken of Minnesota. To be sure, money does not guarantee a favorable vote. Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the second-highest ranking Democrat in the House, received more than \$1.3 million from telecom over his career and nearly \$190,000 for the 2016 election. Yet he joined every other voting Democrat in opposing the industry's repeal efforts.

The repealed rules would have required companies to get customers' permission before offering marketers a wealth of information about them, including health and financial details, geographic location and lists of websites visited and apps used. — AP

## US HOMEBUILDER SENTIMENT SLIPS, BUT OUTLOOK POSITIVE

**NEW YORK:** US homebuilders are feeling slightly less optimistic about their sales prospects, even as their overall outlook remains favorable. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released yesterday slipped to 68 this month. That's down three points from 71 in March, when it jumped to the highest level since June 2005.

Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good rather than poor. The index has been above 60 since September. The April reading fell short of analyst predictions. They expected the index to dip to 70, according to FactSet.

Readings gauging builders' view of sales now and over the next six months also edged lower, as did a measure of traffic by prospective buyers. Despite the decline in the latest builder sentiment survey, sales of new US homes have been robust this year and are expected to continue climbing.

Low mortgage rates and a solid job market have helped drive home sales steadily higher. Sales of new US homes increased in February at the fastest pace since July, reaching a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 592,000. That sales pace was nearly 13 percent higher than in the same month last year. A pickup in mortgage rates last fall helped spur sales early this



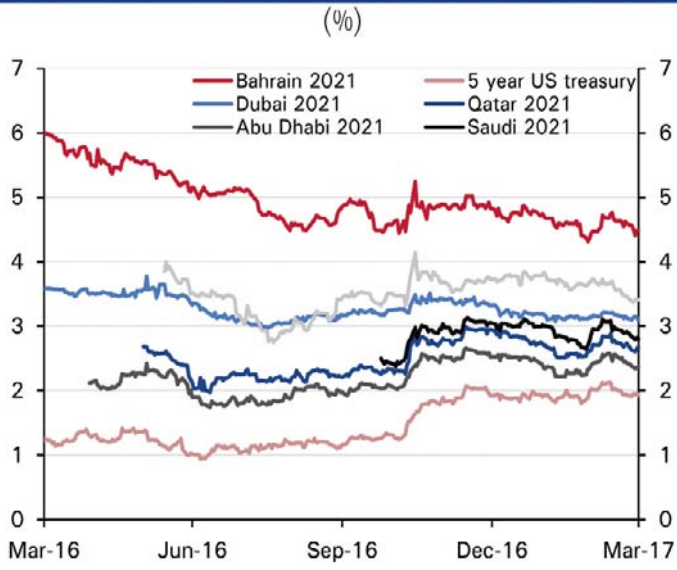
**NEW YORK:** Trader Jeffrey Vazquez, foreground, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. — AP (See Page 23)

year. In recent weeks, mortgage rates have been edging lower, making the cost of home loans less expensive. The average 30-year fixed mortgage rate has fallen the past four weeks, declining to 4.08 percent last week. That's up from an average of 3.65 percent all last year, but still low by historical standards.

This month's builder index was based on 307 respondents. A measure of current sales conditions for single-family homes fell three points to 74, while a gauge of traffic by prospective buyers declined one point to 52. Builders' view of sales over the next six months slid three points to 75. — AP

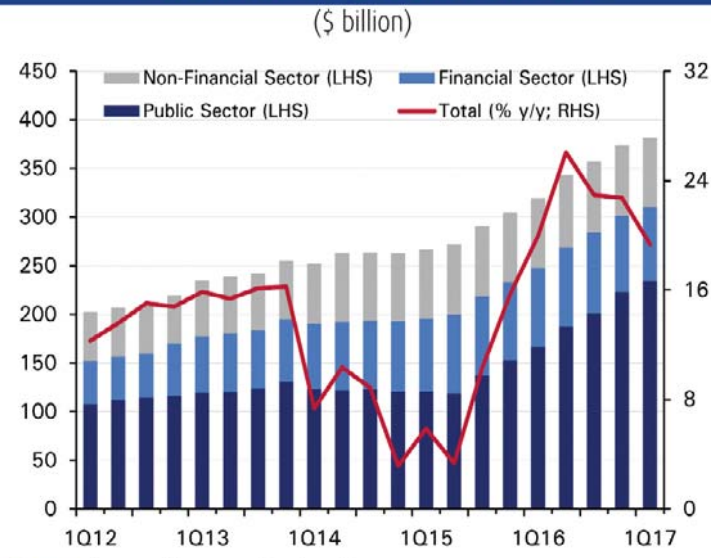


Chart 2: GCC sovereign yields (%)



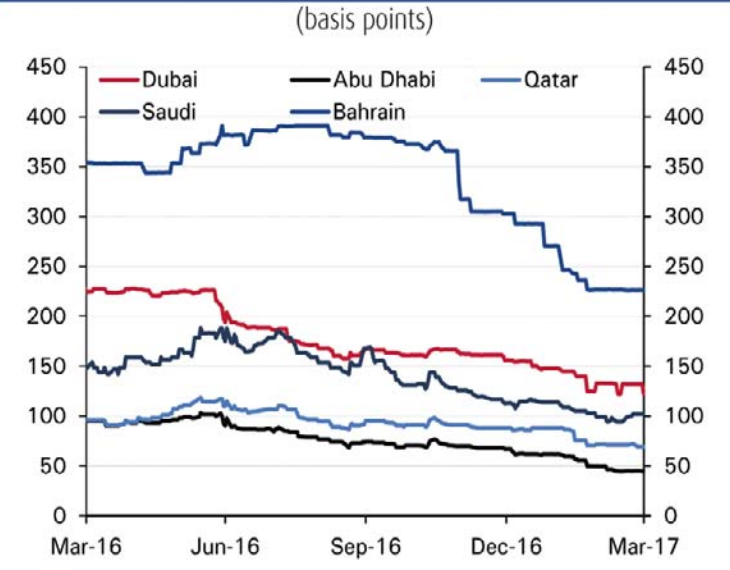
Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

Chart 4: Outstanding GCC debt securities (\$ billion)



Source: Zawya, Thomson Reuters Eikon, press

Chart 3: GCC 5-year credit default swaps (basis points)



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

# KUWAIT LEADS HEALTHY BOND ISSUANCE IN GCC

## YIELDS EDGE LOWER IN FIRST QUARTER 2017

**KUWAIT:** Global yields were range-bound in 1Q17 as markets adjusted to a more optimistic economic outlook and heightened political risk; GCC yields declined on the quarter. Issuance in the GCC was healthy and was led again by sovereigns, with the bulk coming from Kuwait. International issuance remained strong for sovereigns, which helped ease regional liquidity constraints. GCC primary debt market activity is expected to be robust in the coming quarters especially given the need to finance large budget deficits.

Global benchmark 10-year government bonds traded within a 30-40 bps range throughout 1Q17, with the exception of Japanese government bonds. This was despite a Fed move to hike its target rate by 25 bps in March, before earlier expectations. GCC central banks followed suit in support of their USD or quasi-USD pegs, though other major central banks stood pat.

US 10-year Treasuries ended the quarter little changed, only down 3.7 bps, but swung from a low of 2.3 percent on safe haven buys right before Trump's inauguration to a high of 2.6 percent when rising expectations of a March federal funds rate hike fueled a selloff. Yields on US 10-year bonds ended 1Q17 at 2.4 percent. Developments throughout the quarter were mainly driven by Trump's political agenda and his ability to deliver. Recent failures, such as the widely opposed travel ban and the failed attempt at healthcare reform, saw markets revise initially optimistic expectations.

### QE program

Meanwhile, German government bond (Bund) yields were up on the quarter as a chorus of soft and hard data pointed to a turnaround in eurozone growth, feeding expectations of a sooner rather than later taper of the ECB's QE program. The increase came despite a quarter riddled with political uncertainty that first began with the Italian banking crisis,

followed by the Greek debt review, and then focused on the outcome of key EU elections happening in the wake of a surge in anti-establishment voices. Fears of the latter abated following a pro-establishment win in Dutch elections and a lead by a pro-EU candidate in the upcoming April/May French elections. Yields on 10-year bunds ended 1Q17 up 12.3 bps, to settle at 0.33 percent.

Yields on GCC sovereign bonds declined over the quarter benefitting from relatively stable oil prices and a growing appetite for their debt. Yields on the 2021 paper of five GCC sovereign issuers were down between 15 bps and 35 bps. Kuwait's 2022 bond was down 12 bps since its issuance in mid-March.

The Federal Reserve remained the only major central bank tightening its monetary policy, as it hiked its policy rate again in 1Q17. The Fed increased its target federal funds rate by 25 bps to 0.75-1.00 percent. This was its second rate hike in 3 months and followed firmer national data that pointed to better economic conditions. The Fed's rate outlook, for now, sees only 3 hikes in 2017, although this does not take into account President Trump's potential fiscal stimulus.

The ECB, the BOE, and the BOJ withheld any policy moves awaiting further indications. Despite record setting PMI readings and healthy GDP and inflation numbers, the ECB maintained a dovish outlook, at least on record. Recent remarks by some board members, however, indicate some willingness to tighten monetary policy sooner rather than later.

The BOE, on the other hand, is maintaining a cautious footing as it watches with great scrutiny the unfolding of Brexit, while the BOJ is awaiting signals of a pick-up in its still dormant economy.

### Rate hikes

GCC central banks followed the Fed, raising their policy rates by 25 bps, with Oman being the only exception. The moves were in line with the need to support USD pegs or, in the case of Kuwait, a quasi-USD peg. As for Oman, this is the second time it passes on hiking its rate, despite its peg to the dollar. However, the Central Bank of Oman's repo rate has been rising, effectively pricing in the rate hikes.

GCC issuance was healthy in 1Q17, with sovereigns leading the way as debt financing remains high on the regional debt agenda. Total issuance amounted to \$26 billion in 1Q17, in line with 2016's quarterly average. Sovereigns led the way, with Kuwait issuing half of the \$20 billion government bonds issued. As a result, total outstanding bonds stood at \$381 billion, up 19 percent y/y.

The quarter saw strong international issuance by sovereigns, with Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain turning to foreign currency debt markets for financing. Kuwait's international issuance was the largest at \$8 billion. It was priced favorably relative to other GCC sovereigns, with the 5-year at 75 bps over equivalent US Treasuries (2.88 percent) and the 10-year at 100 bps over Treasuries (3.62 percent). The spread was below Abu Dhabi's, which until now had been considered the "gold standard" in the GCC. Meanwhile, Oman issued \$5 billion in USD bonds, while Bahrain tapped the market for \$600 million in USD bonds.

### GCC foreign debt

Investors are increasingly showing interest in the GCC's foreign debt, not to mention their growing familiarity with the region. Order books have been observed to be 3 to 4 times oversubscribed, reflecting the strong market appetite and attractiveness of regional debt.

uncertainties over US economic policy may weigh on GCC yields.

Table 1: Gross GCC Issuance by sector (USD billion)

	2Q15	3Q15	4Q15	1Q16	2Q16	3Q16	4Q16	1Q17
Public	2.5	21.2	20.8	15.8	27.0	18.5	23.5	20.0
Financial	7.3	0.6	4.3	2.1	5.6	3.3	1.4	5.1
Non-Financial	0.9	2.0	1.0	1.0	3.5	0.3	2.3	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>26.1</b>

Table 2: Gross GCC Issuance by country (USD billion)

	2Q15	3Q15	4Q15	1Q16	2Q16	3Q16	4Q16	1Q17
Bahrain	0.4	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.2	0.8	2.8	1.1
Kuwait	2.2	1.2	0.9	2.1	4.6	2.5	4.4	11.6
Oman	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.4	3.3	2.0	0.3	5.0
Qatar	0.5	2.9	3.0	1.7	12.6	4.3	1.0	5.1
KSA	2.1	17.2	18.1	12.8	6.4	11.5	17.5	0.0
UAE	4.1	0.2	1.6	2.0	8.1	1.1	1.3	3.4
<b>GCC</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>26.1</b>

Source: Zawya, Thomson Reuters Eikon, Central Bank of Kuwait, press

CDS rates are also reflecting investors' confidence in the region, with rates across all GCC sovereigns down between 11 bps (Saudi) and 75 bps (Bahrain) in 1Q17.

The continued pick-up in international issuance is helping control liquidity constraints across the GCC. Saudi Arabia saw the biggest improvement. Its 3-month interbank rate was down 30 bps in 1Q17 and 65 bps following its issuance; this is despite a 50 bps hike in its policy rate. Bahrain, the UAE, and Qatar's 3-month interbank rates were up between 15 bps and 20 bps on the quarter, well below the 50 bps hike in their policy rates.

Private sector issuance was relatively better on the quarter, with the financial sector locking in lower coupons in an environment of rising rates. The financial sector added a gross \$5.1 billion in debt in 1Q17, above its

2016 quarter average of \$3.1 billion. Meanwhile, the non-financial sector issued a total of \$1 billion in 1Q17.

GCC debt is expected to remain robust for the rest of 2017, with issuers seeking to take advantage of the still favorable global rate environment supported by improving fiscal sustainability. The GCC's financing needs remain large, estimated at \$90 billion for 2017. Saudi Arabia is looking to issue a sizeable international sukuk, while the quasi-sovereign Saudi Aramco raised \$3 billion in a recent domestic Sukuk issuance as part of large fundraising scheme. Dubai is also considering tapping international debt markets. However, global risks in the form of continued strength in the dollar and a more hawkish Fed, both driven by uncertainties over US economic policy may weigh on GCC yields.

# BERLIN STARTUP OFFERS A YEAR WITH NO MONEY WORRIES



**BERLIN:** (From L) Miko, Birgit Kaulfuss, Eike Wendland and Janne pose in their Berlin flat. 5-year-old Miko won the basic income lottery from the "Mein Grundeinkommen" (My Basic Income) initiative, leading his family to receive a monthly sum of EUR 1000 for 12 months. — AFP

**BERLIN:** Miko from Berlin may only be five, but he already has 1,000 euros (\$1,063) per month to live on—not from hard graft, but as part of an experiment into universal basic income. He is one of 85 people, including around 10 children, chosen by startup Mein Grundeinkommen (My Basic Income) to receive the payments for a year since 2014.

Founder Michael Bohmeyer has set out to prove to a skeptical public in Germany and further afield that the universal basic income (UBI) idea is workable. "Thanks to my first startup, I got a regular income, my life became more creative and healthy. So I wanted to launch a social experiment," 31-year-old Bohmeyer told AFP.

And he wasn't alone in wanting to test the idea, as some 55,000 donors have stumped up the cash for the payments in a "crowdfunding" model—with the final recipients picked out in a "wheel of fortune" event livestreamed online. Mother Birgit Kaulfuss said little Miko "can't really understand, but for the whole family it was exhilarating" when he was chosen—offering a chance to live "in a more relaxed way" and take a first-ever family holiday.

### Trying things out

"Everyone sleeps more soundly and no one becomes a layabout," Bohmeyer said of his beneficiaries. Recipients' experiences range from a welcome spell without financial worries to major turning points in their lives. "Without day-to-day pressures, you can be more creative and try things out," Valerie Rupp told public broadcaster ARD in a recent interview. She was able both to take care of her baby and start a career as a decorator—even as her husband, newly arrived from Mali, was taking German lessons. Winners have left jobs that were doing little more for them than put bread on the table to become teachers, taken time out to address chronic illness, broken alcohol addiction, taken care of loved ones, or paid for children's studies.

"It's at once a gift and a prompt" to make a change, explained Astrid Lobeyer, who used the money to give eulogies at funerals and studied the therapeutic Alexander technique, a method for relieving stress in the muscles. Bohmeyer's experiment has fascinated social media and boosted discussion about a universal income in Germany. At the same time, Finland is testing the idea with 2,000 homeless recipients and

the idea is a flagship policy for French Socialist presidential candidate Benoit Hamon.

### Reward for laziness?

In 2009, the German parliament flatly rejected a petition from some 50,000 Germans demanding a universal income. Nevertheless, some 40 percent of the public still think it's a good idea, according to a survey last June by pollsters Emnid.

Supporters have formed a campaign group called "Buendnis Grundeinkommen" (Basic income federation) with their sights on September's legislative elections, but so far no major party has taken up the cause. There are pockets of support among left-wingers, the right, Catholic organizations and even industry leaders, whose reasoning ranges from fighting poverty to simplifying bureaucracy or smoothing the transition into the digital era. Resistance to the idea is more focused, centering on how UBI would change people's relationship to work.

Right-wingers dismiss it as a "reward for laziness," while the Social Democratic Party (SPD) worried in 2006 about unemployed recipients being "labelled useless" rather than getting help to find jobs. —AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.812
Indian Rupees	4.751
Pakistani Rupees	2.915
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.008
Nepali Rupees	2.973
Singapore Dollar	220.220
Hongkong Dollar	39.309
Bangladesh Taka	3.781
Philippine Peso	6.185
Thai Baht	8.910

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.534
Qatari Riyal	83.977
Omani Riyal	794.049
Bahraini Dinar	811.880
UAE Dirham	83.245

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.500
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.845
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.227
Tunisian Dinar	133.720
Jordanian Dinar	430.900
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.037
Syrian Lira	2.179
Morocco Dirham	30.739

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	305.550
Euro	327.700
Sterling Pound	385.910
Canadian dollar	231.040
Turkish lira	83.260

Swiss Franc	307.090
Australian Dollar	234.510
US Dollar Buying	304.350

GOLD	
20 Gram	262.570
10 Gram	134.200
5 Gram	67.950

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	305.200
Canadian Dolla	229.720
Sterling Pound	383.610
Euro	325.475
Swiss Frank	308.465
Bahrain Dinar	809.490
UAE Dirhams	83.490
Qatari Riyals	84.715
Saudi Riyals	82.280
Jordanian Dinar	430.367
Egyptian Pound	17.001
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.009
Indian Rupees	4.738
Pakistani Rupees	2.910
Bangladesh Taka	3.807
Philippines Peso	6.156
Cyprus pound	168.425
Japanese Yen	3.810
Syrian Pound	2.425
Nepalese Rupees	3.960
Malaysian Ringgit	70.275

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.740
Thai Bhat	9.855
Turkish Lira	83.330

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.376892	0.386892
Czech Korune	0.004159	0.016159
Danish Krone	0.039567	0.044567
Euro	0.319513	0.328513
Norwegian Krone	0.031589	0.036789
Romanian Leu	0.084681	0.084681
Slovakia	0.009153	0.019153
Swedish Krona	0.029799	0.034799
Swiss Franc	0.297938	0.308938
Turkish Lira	0.077721	0.088021

Australasia	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.223838	0.235838
New Zealand Dollar	0.208005	0.217505

America	BUY	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.224038	0.233038
Georgina Lari	0.138004	0.138004
US Dollars	0.301450	0.305850
US Dollars Mint	0.301950	0.305850

Asia	BUY	SELL
Bangladesh Taka	0.003425	0.004009
Chinese Yuan	0.042906	0.046406
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037310	0.040060
Indian Rupee	0.004249	0.004937

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002729	0.002909
Kenyan Shilling	0.003042	0.003042
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.065600	0.071600
Nepalese Rupee	0.002958	0.003128
Pakistan Rupee	0.002727	0.003017
Philippine Peso	0.006088	0.006388
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.213390	0.223390
South African Rand	0.016767	0.025267
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001639	0.002219
Taiwan	0.009782	0.009962
Thai Baht	0.008532	0.009082

Arab	BUY	SELL
Bahraini Dinar	0.803908	0.812406
Egyptian Pound	0.014683	0.020591
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000195	0.000255
Jordanian Dinar	0.425601	0.434601
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.00257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020089	0.044089
Nigerian Naira	0.001266	0.001901
Omani Riyal	0.787215	0.792895
Qatar Riyal	0.083116	0.084566
Saudi Riyal	0.080393	0.081693
Syrian Pound	0.001296	0.001516
Tunisian Dinar	0.129147	0.137147
Turkish Lira	0.077721	0.088021
UAE Dirhams	0.081765	0.083465
Yemeni Riyal	0.000993	0.001073



## PANASONIC APPOINTS NEW MD FOR MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

**DUBAI:** Panasonic Marketing Middle East & Africa, one of the global technology leaders, has announced the appointment of its new Managing Director Hiroki (Harris) Soejima, who took charge effective April 2nd 2017.

With an association of more than 33 years with the brand, Soejima brings with him rich and varied experience having spent most of his working career outside Japan, especially Europe and Australia.

Having spent almost 8 years managing the operations at Panasonic Europe, Soejima comes with an expertise in conceptualizing and implementation of sales and marketing strategies with a customer-centric focus. Hiroki (Harris) Soejima - Managing Director, PMMAF comment-

ed, "Middle East & Africa has been the focus area of Panasonic's growth strategy. We are operating in a very competitive market that requires speed and dexterity to achieve business goals. Our plans for 2017-18 are to execute our growth plans and further strengthen presence our market share across the region."

"As the region gears up for mega events- Expo 2020 Dubai & Qatar 2022 FIFA world cup, and with Panasonic also at the cusp of a milestone- 100-year since inception; it's an exciting time to be appointed the Managing Director. I am very much looking forward to be collaborating with our customers, partners and the community at large as well as to be a part of Panasonic's growth

story in the region," he added. Soejima's credentials in leading business transformation in competitive markets, long-term association with the brand and focus on excellence are well positioned to drive Panasonic to even greater heights.

Being a strong believer of delivering brand value with a customer-centric focus, Soejima aims to solidify relationships with customers in Middle East & Africa by providing the value that truly satisfies them.

Panasonic Corporation is a worldwide leader in the development of diverse elec-



Hiroki (Harris) Soejima

tronics technologies and solutions for customers in the consumer electronics, housing, automotive, enterprise solutions and device industries. Since its founding in 1918, the company has expanded globally and now operates 474 subsidiaries and 94 associated companies worldwide, recording consolidated net sales of 7.553 trillion yen for the year ended March 31, 2016. Committed to pursuing new value through innovation across divisional lines, the company uses its technologies to create a better life and a better world for its customers.

## URC'S TOTAL OPERATING PROFIT UP BY 17% TO REACH KD 71M CO HOLDS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

**KUWAIT:** United Real Estate Company (URC), one of the leading real estate developers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), has announced the holding of its General Assembly Meeting for the fiscal year ending December 31st 2016.

Tariq Mohammed AbdulSalam, Chairman of URC, discussed highlights from the annual report for the year ended December 31, 2016, which provided an overview of the company's major achievements over the past year. The report demonstrated the company's strong financial and operational performance in 2016, despite economic and political challenges in the MENA region, where most of URC's investments are located. Despite these challenges, the company was able to maintain its strong performance, recording a significant growth in revenues. Total revenues during increased by 17 percent to KD 71 million, compared to KD 61 million last year, and net profit rose by 2 percent to KD 8.7 million, compared with KD 8.5 million in 2015.

Furthermore, the General Assembly Meeting approved the Board of Director's recommendation to distribute cash dividends of 5 fils per share to the shareholders of URC.

Tariq Mohammed AbdulSalam, Chairman of URC, said, "URC's ability to deliver consistently positive financial outcomes is a reflection of the success of our business strategy, which seeks to enhance and diversify the company's sources of income and restructuring the company's investment priorities to achieve a steady and consistent rate of return, taking into consideration various risk factors. In 2016, URC's management focused on developing its relationships with financial and investment institutions, in line with the company's expansion plans in the coming years. Additionally, the company's management evaluated various financing alternatives to mitigate risks and further expand sources of financing, as well as supporting its strategic partnerships."

In regards to URC's projects AbdulSalam added that the Company achieved several project milestones to include the opening of Abdali Mall in the Kingdom of Jordan, which is the first mall of its kind in the region and is a new standard in shopping and entertainment experiences. It is also one of the largest



Tariq Mohammed AbdulSalam



Ahmed Kasem

shopping malls in the Kingdom. Furthermore, a new project was inaugurated in New Cairo, Egypt, spanning over 108,000 square meters, and will include residential apartments and a commercial and office complex. In addition, the URC has a significant investment in the Kingdom of Morocco, Assoufid, which covers an area of more than 2 million square meters in the city of Marrakech.

The project includes a first-class golf course, a five-star hotel, and a residential component comprised of villas, high-end apartments in addition to other services and amenities. In 2016, the final master plan design was approved, as well as the signing of project management contracts and the beginning of infrastructure design works.

Furthermore, AbdulSalam mentioned that Board of Directors has taken serious and effective measures to ensure the company adheres to the highest level of corporate governance and internal control that is in line with the nature of URC's business as a leader in the real estate market. The same approach will continue throughout 2017 to achieve efficiency and accomplish the company's objectives and implementation of URC's strategic plans.

Ahmed Kasem, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of URC, said: "The strong growth in revenues and profits in 2016 and the company's portfolio of assets demonstrates the company's ability to execute and develop various projects."

Kasem added that the Board of Directors and the Executive Management are working to accelerate the growth of URC's subsidiaries, which are specialized in the field of contracting, facilities management and project management, which demonstrated an increase in revenues of that sector by 118 percent, compared to 2015."

## LONG, ROUGH RIDE AHEAD FOR 'MADE IN AMERICA'

### THE RISE AND FALL OF US MANUFACTURING SECTOR

**RUSTON, Louisiana:** Mini motorcycle and go-kart maker Monster Moto made a big bet on US manufacturing by moving assembly to this Louisiana town in 2016 from China. But it will be a long ride before it can stamp its products "Made in USA." The loss of nearly one out four US factories in the last two decades means parts for its bike frames and engines must be purchased in China, where the manufacturing supply chain moved years ago.

"There's just no way to source parts in America right now," said Monster Moto Chief Executive Alex Keechle during a tour of the company's assembly plant. "But by planting the flag here, we believe suppliers will follow." Monster Moto's experience is an example of the obstacles American companies face as they, along with President Donald Trump, try to rebuild American manufacturing. U.S. automakers and their suppliers, for example, have already invested billions in plants abroad and would face an expensive and time-consuming transition to buy thousands of American-made parts if President Trump's proposed "border tax" on imported goods were to become law.

When companies reshore assembly to US soil - in Monster Moto's case that took two years to find a location and negotiate support from local and state officials - they are betting their demand will create a local supply chain that currently does not exist.

For now, finding US-based suppliers "remains one of the top challenges across our supplier base," said Cindi Marsiglio, Wal-Mart Stores Inc's vice president for US manufacturing and sourcing. Wal-Mart partnered with Monster Moto and several other US companies in a drive to increase spending on American-made goods by \$250 billion by 2023 in response to consumer demand for American-made goods.

Their experience has shown Americans' patriotic shopping habits have limits, namely when it comes to price. Take Monster Moto's bikes, which sell for between \$249 to \$749. Keechle, the CEO, says he can't raise those prices for fear his price sensitive prospective customers will turn to less expensive rivals made in China.

"Consumers won't give you a free pass just because you put 'Made in USA' on the box," Keechle says. "You have to remain price competitive." Keeping a sharp eye on labor costs in their factory is one thing these US manufactures can control. They see replacing primarily lower-skilled workers on the assembly line with robots on American factory floors as the only way to produce here in a financially viable, cost-competitive way. It's a trend that runs against the narrative candidate Donald Trump used to win the US Presidency.

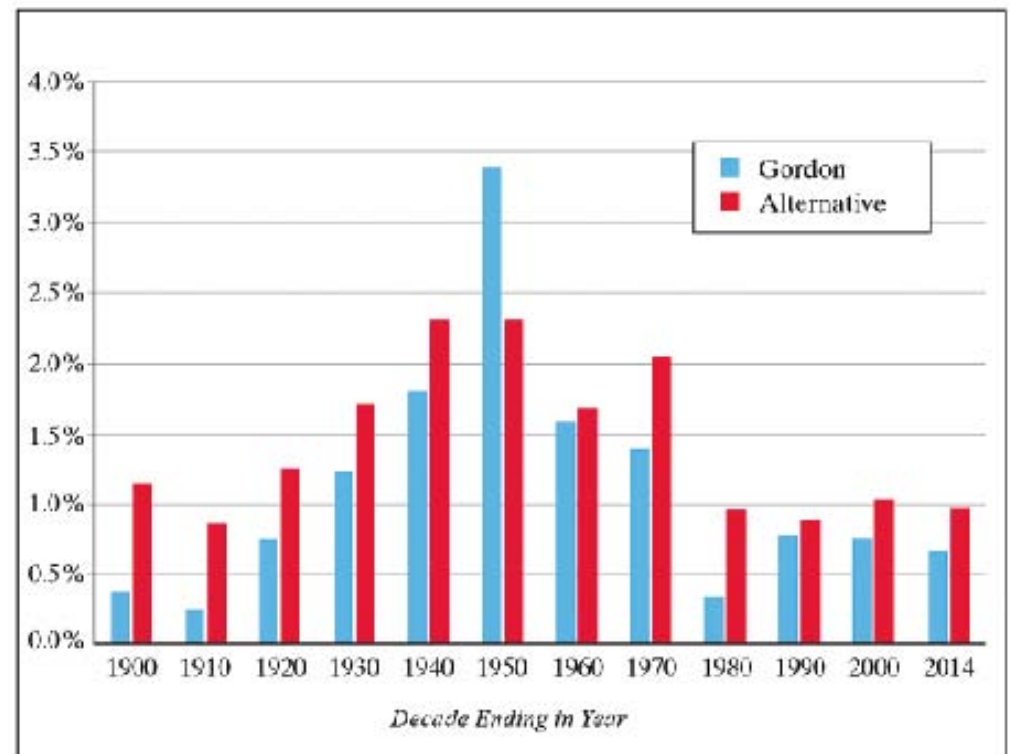
Since taking office, Trump has continued promises to resurrect US manufacturing's bygone glory days and bring back millions of jobs. On March 31, Trump directed his administration to clamp down on countries that abuse trade rules in a bid to end to the "theft of American prosperity."

But it's more complicated on the ground for companies like Monster Moto. "It's almost as if people think you can just unplug manufacturing in one part of the world and plug it in to the US and everything's going to be fine," said David Abney, Chief Executive Officer of package delivery company United Parcel Service Inc, which helped Monster Moto reconfigure its supply chain to bring its Chinese-made parts to Ruston.

"It's not something that happens overnight," he said. A White House official said that the Trump administration's efforts to encourage manufacturers to reshore production will be focused on cutting regulations and programs to provide new skills to manufacturing workers.

"We recognize that the manufacturing jobs that come back to America might not all look like the ones that left," a White House official said, "and we are taking steps to ensure that the American workforce is ready for that."

### PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH BY DECADE USING GORDON AND ALTERNATIVE SOURCES



### GROWTH IN REAL PERSONAL DISPOSABLE INCOME ON AVERAGE AND BY INCOME GROUP

Period	Average	Bottom Fifth	Middle Fifth	Top 1%
1947-1970	2.7%	3.0%	2.8%	1.4%
1970-2000	2.2%	1.4%	1.7%	4.5%
2000-2015	1.3%	0.1%	1.1%	2.3%

Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis for real disposable income; US Bureau of the Census for income by quintile; Inmanuel Saez for income share of top 1 percent. Growth rates are average annual incomes corrected for changes in the consumer price index.

#### Making robots great again

In Monster Moto's cavernous warehouse in Ruston, boxes of imported parts that are delivered at one end then become bikes on a short but industrious assembly line of a few dozen workers. A solitary, long-bearded worker by the name of Billy Mahaffey fires up the bikes to test their engine and brakes before a small group of workers puts them in boxes declaring:

#### "Assembled in the USA"

Helped by that label, Monster Moto has experienced a recent boom in demand from major customers that include Wal-Mart. The company expects to double production to 80,000 units and increase its assembly workers - who make \$13 to \$15 an hour - to 100 from around 40 in 2017. The most likely components Monster Moto could produce in America first are black, welded-metal frames for bikes and go-karts, but they would have to automate production because human welders would be too expensive. "We can't just blow up our cost structure," said Monster Moto President Rick Sukkar. "The only way to make it work in America is with robotics."

The same principle applies for much larger manufacturers, such as automotive supplier Delphi Automotive PLC's. Chief Financial Officer Joe Massaro told analysts in February that 90 percent of the company's hourly workforce is in "best-cost countries."

When asked about shifting production to the United States from Mexico, Massaro said depending on what happens to trade rules "it

would have to be much more of the sort of the automated type manufacturing operations just given - the labor differential there."

That trend is already showing up in data compiled by Economic Policy Institute, a Washington-based think-tank. According to senior economist Rob Scott, not only did America lose 85,000 factories, or 23.5 percent of the total, from 1997 to 2014, but the average number of workers in a U.S. factory declined 14 percent to 44 in 2014 from 1997.

According to Scott, much of the decline in workers was due to automation. "We're going to see more automation in this country because it makes good sense economically for every company," said Hal Sirkin, a managing director at the Boston Consulting Group. "You can spend a lot of time bemoaning it, but that's not going to change."

Manufacturers say automated production requires fewer, but more skilled workers such as robot programmers and operators. The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) estimates because of the "skills gap" there are 350,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs today in a sector that employs over 12 million people. In Ruston, Mayor Ronny Walker bet on Monster Moto by guaranteeing the company's lease because he wants to diversify the city's economy, and envisions suppliers setting up alongside Monster Moto's assembly plant.

"Could it take a long time to bring manufacturing back here? Sure," he says. "But you have to start somewhere." — Reuters



**FAIRFIELD:** In this March 5, 2009 file photo, an Hispanic man works at a dairy farm in Fairfield, Vt. US dairy farmers struggling with low milk prices worry that US President Donald Trump's 2017 talk of renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement could harm trade to Mexico, its biggest export market. — AP

## US DAIRY FARMERS WORRY ABOUT TRADE WITH MEXICO

**ST ALBANS, Vt:** US dairy farmers already struggling with low milk prices worry President Donald Trump's talk of renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement could harm trade to Mexico, its biggest export market.

About 15 percent of dairy production in the United States is exported with one-third valued at \$1.2 billion going to Mexico in the form of milk powder, cheese and whey protein, according to the National Milk Producers Federation, which says trade with Mexico is its top priority. That's nearly double the value exported to Canada, the country's second biggest export market, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

"The income of dairy farmers, whether they're in Vermont or California, depends heavily on our export to Mexico," said Jaime Castaneda, senior vice president responsible for domestic and international policy for the federation.

If just 1, 2 or 3 percent of the exports were to come back to the United States, "we would see a significant drop on overall prices," he said. Far from the US-Mexican border, trade is on the minds of dairy farmers in Vermont. "Mexico is our biggest desti-

nation for dairy and it's not only dairy," said Fairfield farmer Harold Howrigan Jr, of the US trade partnership with Mexico. "It's corn and soy also that go down there so our huge trading partner and we need that market." Howrigan is the board president of the St Albans Cooperative Creamery. He made comments after meeting with Democratic US Rep. Peter Welch last week.

US dairy trade with Mexico has jumped by 558 percent since NAFTA's implementation in 1994, according to the US Dairy Export Council. Trump last week promised "pleasant surprises" from planned negotiations of NAFTA, an agreement he's called the worst deal in US history. Trump has said NAFTA puts US workers at a disadvantage.

Anything that happens that reduces the ability to trade products to Mexico will be troubling for dairy producers in the United States, said Scott Brown, a dairy economist with the University of Missouri.

"Can we renegotiate and get a better NAFTA deal? Only time will tell. Those trade agreements traditionally have taken a lot of time and effort to get everybody on the same page and we know we've benefited tremendously on the NAFTA agreement that we have," Brown said. — AP

## WALL ST EDGES HIGHER AS TECH, FINANCIALS GAIN

**NEW YORK:** US stocks opened higher yesterday rising for the first time in four days, helped by gains in technology and financial stocks. However, the gains were kept largely in check by rising geopolitical tensions and weak US retail sales data, which was released on Friday.

President Donald Trump's national security adviser said the United States, its allies and China were working on a range of responses to North Korea's latest failed ballistic missile test. The S&P 500 technology sector's 0.44 percent gain provided the biggest boost to the broader index, followed by a 0.3 percent rise in financials. The two sectors had taken a beating last week as investors loaded up on safe-havens amid geopolitical worries. Gold prices hit five month highs on Monday, while the dollar fell to a five-month low as the safe yen rose. "The major threat hanging over the mar-

ket now is the geopolitical situation. The fact that North Korea's failed missile launch maybe a reason why we are seeing a little bit of a bounce back here," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at First Standard Financial in New York.

Trading volumes are likely to be light, with most European financial markets closed for the Easter holiday. At 9:41 am ET (1341 GMT), the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 67 points, or 0.33 percent, at 20,520.25, the S&P 500 was up 5.07 points, or 0.22 percent, at 2,334.02 and the Nasdaq Composite was up 17.33 points, or 0.3 percent, at 5,822.48.

Investors are also keeping an eye on quarterly earnings to justify pricey valuations of stocks. The first quarter is expected to be strong, with earnings of S&P 500 companies estimated to have risen 10.4 percent.

Companies set to report results on Monday include Netflix and United Continental, which became a subject of international outrage for dragging a passenger from its plane.

Nine of the 11 major S&P 500 sectors were higher. The healthcare index fell slightly, weighed down by a 10 percent fall in Incyte Corp and a 4 percent drop in Eli Lilly. The US FDA declined to approve a drug for rheumatoid arthritis made by the two companies. Alere jumped 16 percent to \$49.15 after Abbott agreed on Friday to buy the company in a deal valued at about \$5.3 billion. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners on the NYSE by 1,826 to 833. On the Nasdaq, 1,471 issues rose and 860 fell. The S&P 500 index showed four 52-week highs and no lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 13 highs and 11 lows. — Reuters



# ASIA SHARES WAVER AS US WARNS NORTH KOREA

**TOKYO:** Shares in Asia were mixed yesterday after US Vice President Mike Pence, on a visit to South Korea, warned that US patience with Pyongyang has run out. Many global markets were closed for Easter holidays.

Markets were closed in France, Germany and Britain. US shares were set to drift lower, with Dow futures slipping nearly 0.1 percent at 20,401. S&P 500 futures were also down 0.1 percent at 2,325.60. The region remains jittery over North Korea's nuclear weapons program and a failed missile launch over the weekend. During a visit to a military base near the Demilitarized Zone separating the Koreas yesterday, US Vice President Mike Pence warned that "the era of

strategic impatience is over." He said the US and its allies would deal with the situation "through peaceable means or ultimately by whatever means are necessary."

### Upbeat China

China's economy expanded at a faster-than-expected 6.9 percent in January-March, up from 6.8 percent in the previous quarter. China's economy has been gaining momentum after last year's economic growth was the slowest in nearly three decades. The upbeat data led shares in Shanghai and Shenzhen to fall in anticipation the government will be tightening credit to avoid overheating in the property market. "The

upshot is that China's economy continued to experience strong growth in the last quarter and the upbeat data for March suggests that some of this strength will likely extend into Q2," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics wrote in a commentary. "Nonetheless, with the acceleration in credit growth that helped drive the recent recovery now being reversed, we still expect the economy to begin slowing before long."

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 0.1 percent to finish at 18,355.26. Markets in Australia and Hong Kong were closed for Easter. South Korea's Kospi added 0.5 percent to 2,145.76. The Shanghai Composite index slipped 0.7 percent to 3,222.17

and markets in Southeast Asia were mostly lower. Asian markets moved cautiously even as Chinese economic growth data beat expectations, with geopolitical concerns weighing on sentiment. China's economy grew 6.9 percent in the first quarter of 2017, government data showed, marking the second quarterly improvement since the final three months of 2014. The reading was better than the median analyst expectation of 6.8 percent in an AFP poll, and up on the fourth quarter figure. But tensions on the Korean peninsula continued to affect markets yesterday as US Vice President Mike Pence warned North Korea not to test President Trump's resolve during a visit to the heavily militarized border between the two Koreas.

Relations between Pyongyang and Washington have reached new lows in recent weeks as a series of North Korean weapons tests have prompted warnings from Trump's administration. Trump last

week ordered a naval strike group led by the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier to the region, though the vessels remain a long way from the peninsula.

Shanghai fell 0.7 percent, Singapore dropped 0.8 percent while Manila and Jakarta were also down. "China's financial regulation coupled with geopolitical risks surrounding North Korea have heightened risk aversion and put pressure on stocks," Ken Chen, an analyst at KGI Securities Co in Shanghai, told Bloomberg News.

But he added that "the downside should be limited as first-quarter figures showed economic fundamentals remained sound." Yesterday's figures also showed China's industrial output growth rose to 7.6 percent year-on-year in March, beating a Bloomberg estimate of 6.3. The readings follow data showing robust foreign trade and a further expansion in factory activity driven by a pickup in production and demand last month. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report							Global						
Monday 17 April 2017													
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low		Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades				
Price Index	▼ -49.56	6,919.62	6,969.18	6,969.02	6,896.39		240,516,593	23,218,781	5,033				
Weighted Index	▼ -1.48	414.94	416.42	416.74	413.41								
KSX 15	▼ -4.20	942.08	946.28	948.79	938.59								

Trades							Trades								
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	60	60	61097	3,666	6	60	▲ 0.0	SOKOUK	53	50	12213113	629,365	208	51	▲ 0.0
IPG	430	430	2,000	860	1	430	▲ 10.0	KRE	67	65	4,489,214	296,153	38	66	▼ -1.0
NAPESCO	1,220	1,200	8,502	10,270	5	1,220	▲ 20.0	URC	102	100	25,030	2,508	4	102	▲ 0.0
ENFRGYH	53	48.0	1,367,201	68,907	98	48.0	▼ -3.0	NRE	104	100	2,956,055	290,739	49	102	▼ -2.0
GPI	48.5	47.5	3,009,110	143,887	54	48.0	▲ 0.0	SRE	375	370	70,000	26,000	5	375	▼ -5.0
ABAR	90	88	2,000	179	4	89	▼ -0.0	TAM	425	400	11,000	4,525	3	425	▲ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>4,448,910</b>	<b>227,768</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>985.97</b>	<b>▲ 3.58</b>	ARFEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	▲ 0.0
KFOUC	310	310	20,000	6,200	1	310	▲ 0.0	MASSALEH	68	59	16,353,105	999,581	327	62	▼ -2.0
BPCC	580	570	7,000	4,040	3	580	▲ 10.0	ARABREC	40.0	38.5	6,890,410	269,324	176	39.0	▼ -1.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▲ 0.0	ERESCO	46.0	45.0	1,558,560	70,987	58	46.0	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	340	340	31,677	10,770	13	340	▲ 0.0	MABANEE	820	810	411,034	337,001	15	810	▼ -20.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>58,877</b>	<b>21,010</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1324.61</b>	<b>▲ 4.79</b>	INJAZZAT	93	88	83,000	7,319	3	93	▲ 1.0
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	520	▲ 0.0	INVESTORS	28.5	28.0	3,064,955	85,828	36	28.0	▲ 0.0
CABLE	475	460	116,837	54,189	15	465	▲ 0.0	IRC	38.5	37.5	1,074,850	40,382	42	37.5	▼ -1.0
SHIP	224	218	177,024	39,113	14	220	▼ -6.0	ALTIJARIA	79	78	146,882	11,461	11	78	▼ -1.0
PCEM	990	960	4,874	4,679	2	990	▲ 0.0	SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	57	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	445	▲ 0.0	AAYANRE	88	86	199,102	17,236	16	87	▼ -1.0
MRC	78	78	20	2	1	78	▲ 0.0	AOAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▲ 0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	▲ 0.0	ALQAARIA	46.5	44.0	3,992,502	181,862	76	46.5	▲ 2.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▲ 0.0	MAZAYA	122	118	1,536,069	182,818	48	120	▲ 0.0
KBMMC	146	146	758	111	2	146	▲ 10.0	ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	▲ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	216	▲ 0.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	62	58	1,633,910	97,748	48	58	▼ -3.0	TUJARA	62	57	689,176	39,293	15	60	▲ 3.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	▲ 0.0	TAAMEER	49.0	47.5	16,628,346	801,000	320	47.5	▼ -2.5
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0	ARKAN	84	84	50,000	4,200	2	84	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	69	69	42,000	2,898	7	69	▼ -1.0	ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0
AGLTY	650	640	128,659	82,648	15	650	▲ 10.0	ABYAR	30.0	29.0	6,828,155	200,153	103	29.0	▼ -1.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	▲ 0.0	MUNSHAAT	85	83	5,323,839	339,211	90	84	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	51	49.5	404,520	20,215	18	51	▼ -1.0	FIRSTDUBAI	64	61	1,664,020	101,897	43	61	▼ -2.0
KGL	65	63	371,515	23,525	22	63	▼ -2.0	KBT	56	55	184,856	10,168	10	56	▲ 0.0
KPCP	170	168	4,500	759	2	168	▲ 0.0	REAM	375	300	9,516,510	2,854,954	14	300	▼ -50.0
HUMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	3,300	▲ 0.0	MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	▲ 0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	▲ 0.0	ALMUDON	47.5	47.0	920,250	43,254	44	47.0	▼ -0.5
GFC	62	62	220,000	13,640	6	62	▲ 0.0	MARAKEZ	56	50	2,081,059	109,220	98	53	▼ -2.0
MAYADEEN	30.5	30.0	2,007,397	60,227	37	30.0	▼ -0.5	REMAL	80	77	20,702,884	1,629,884	135	79	▲ 0.0
CGC	510	500	901,096	450,713	79	510	▲ 0.0	AWJ	90	90	145,250	13,073	7	90	▲ 0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0	<b>Real Estate</b>			<b>119,810,026</b>	<b>6,608,406</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>1031.41</b>	<b>▲ -16.22</b>
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	720	▲ 0.0	KINV	102	100	135,496	13,551	4	102	▲ 0.0
ALAFACO	250	250	50,000	12,500	2	250	▼ -5.0	FACIL	176	176	265,020	46,644	5	176	▼ -10.0
MUBARRAD	82	81	75,000	6,080	3	81	▲ 0.0	IFA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	71	69	107,765	7,539	13	70	▲ 0.0	NINV	114	110	1,331,619	147,925	32	110	▼ -2.0
SCEM	92	90	64,000	5,824	2	90	▲ 0.0	KPROJ	415	400	2,807,764	1,136,857	86	405	▼ -5.0
GCEM	88	87	248,000	21,594	8	87	▲ 0.0	COAST	51	49.5	3,677,200	183,837	57	50	▼ -1.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0	SECH	50	49.5	1,833,329	91,831	45	50	▲ 0.0
FCEM	91	90	600,000	54,103	8	90	▲ 0.0	SGC	99	95	537	51	2	99	▲ 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	97	▲ 0.0	ARZAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.5	▲ 0.0
SPEC	92	89	675,410	61,544	28	91	▲ 0.0	MARKAZ	108	102	44,770	4,567	4	108	▲ 2.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>7,833,305</b>	<b>1,019,852</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>1728.51</b>	<b>▲ -1.09</b>	KMEFIC	32.5	31.0	446,157	13,931	12	31.5	▼ -2.0
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	188	▲ 0.0	ALAMAN	52	51	160,482	8,220	8	52	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.5	▲ 0.0	ALOLA	50	49.0	760,150	37,586	24	50	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	104	104	205,440	21,366	7	104	▲ 0.0	ALMAL	22.0	20.5	6,395,757	135,957	61	21.5	▲ 1.0
CATTL	206	206	5,000	1,030	1	206	▼ -10.0	GIH	48.5	47.0	2,085,811	99,155	61	48.0	▲ 0.0
DANAH	90	90	516,000	46,440	25	90	▲ 0.0	AAYAN	52	50	22,650,022	1,143,493	204	50	▼ -1.0
FOOD	2,460	2,440	6,986	17,115	2	2,460	▲ 20.0	BAYANINV	53	51	1,152,212	50,622	32	53	▲ 1.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>733,438</b>	<b>85,951</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1126.47</b>	<b>▲ -6.42</b>	OSOLU	65	61	37,380	2,307	5	65	▲ 0.0
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0	KFIC	50	48.0	201,500	9,775	5	48.0	▼ -3.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▲ 0.0	KAMCO	96	92	664,464	62,521	51	96	▲ 3.0
YIACO	210	200	52,202	10,540	6	200	▼ -1.0	NIH	85	82	383,000	24,892	13	85	▼ -1.0
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>52,202</b>	<b>10,540</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1503.29</b>	<b>▲ -10.11</b>	UNICAP	49.0	47.5	793,348	38,051	14	49.0	▲ 0.0
KCIN	1,420	1,420	5	7	1	1,420	▼ -8.0	MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	260	▲ 0.0	ALDBERA	39.0	37.5	117,960	4,428	9	39.0	▲ 1.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲ 0.0	ALSALAM	53	51	1,570,326	80,350	42	51	▼ -1.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.5	▲ 0.0	EKTTITAB	41.0	40.0	1,497,417	60,886	51	40.5	▼ -0.5
EYAS	400	400	40,000	16,000	2	400	▲ 0.0	ALMADINA							





Tim Zimmerman, Vice President at Alghanim Auto delivering his speech at the opening ceremony.



Bilal Jabak, Regional Aftersales Manager at Ford Middle East during his presentation.



Sham Prasad, Regional Products planning Manager at Ford Middle East displaying new products.

# Alghanim Auto and Ford Middle East hold the First Motorcraft® Trade Partner Event in Kuwait

## With wholesalers of Motorcraft® genuine spare parts

**KUWAIT:** In collaboration with Ford Middle East, Alghanim Auto – the only Ford-authorized importer in Kuwait – held the first annual trade event for its Motorcraft® genuine spare parts wholesale partners in appreciation of their business and continued support. The successful night hosted over 120 attendees at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa.

Opening the night, Tim Zimmerman, Vice President – Alghanim Auto, said: “Through Motorcraft® genuine spare parts, Ford is committed to providing the best quality spare parts and lubricants to better serve the large base of Ford customers in Kuwait and ensure the durability and long-life of their vehicles. We at Alghanim Auto are also committed to ensuring all Ford owners have reliable and convenient access to Motorcraft® genuine spare parts, and this can only be achieved thanks to all of you, our trusted customers and partners here in Kuwait”.

The event entailed a product presentation by representatives from the Ford Middle East Customer Service Division, featuring the current Motorcraft® line up of products available at Alghanim Auto in Kuwait, as well as a sneak preview at the upcoming products in the pipeline. During the presentation, Bilal Jabak, Regional Aftersales Manager – Ford Middle East, spoke of the variety and high quality of Motorcraft® products, saying: “Together with Alghanim Auto, we are committed to making all Ford and Motorcraft® products and services available for customers in Kuwait.

As you all know, Motorcraft® genuine spare parts are recognized internationally for quality and reliability, enabling our partners to provide superior genuine spare parts and lubricants to their customers.

During the presentation, Alghanim Auto also introduced the latest premium oil offering from Motorcraft®, the 20W50 premium gasoline engine oil. Formulated from superior base stock and advanced to provide

excellent engine protection, the 20W50 provides a performance level of API SN and ensures exceptional engine cleanliness, engine protection under severe operating conditions, resistance to viscosity and thermal breakdown at high temperature, protection against sludge, varnish formation, starting friction, rust and corrosion. The 20W50 is suitable for naturally aspirated, turbocharged and supercharged gasoline engines.

The presentation was followed by an assisted demonstration on the Motorcraft® product stations that were set up on-site, allowing guests an opportunity to see and feel products such as lubes, chemicals, batteries, brakes, filters.

Motorcraft® originated in the USA in the 1950s as the Ford Parts Division acquired assets from the Electric Autolite Co. in 1962 before officially becoming Motorcraft® in 1972. The company has built its reputation on the three pillars of safety, durability and value. Motorcraft® offers more than 300,000 part numbers split over 24 major product categories including oils and chemicals, coolants, filters, wiper blades and batteries.

Motorcraft® parts are designed for all makes and model vehicles and manufactured to strict specifications; they undergo extensive laboratory and on-the-road testing. Designed and built to maximize the vehicle’s performance, Motorcraft® parts provide the customer with the confidence that repairs and maintenance will last a long time.

In Kuwait, genuine Motorcraft® spare parts are available for retail and wholesale customers at Alghanim Auto. The Alghanim Auto Service and Parts Center is located in Shuwaikh Industrial Area opposite from the Classical Car Museum and Sirbb Circuit. Working hours are from 7AM to 7PM from Saturday to Thursday. For more information, please visit [www.fordalghanim.com](http://www.fordalghanim.com) or check the social media @FordAlghanim.



Remarkable attendance



Honoring Alghanim Auto teamwork by Ford Middle East representatives.



Audience looking at the displayed Motorcraft products.





# THE NEW AUDI Q2 TO MAKE ITS MARK IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Whether on an off-road adventure or for everyday driving in the city - the Audi Q2 is the all-rounder. Sporting a youthful styling and packed with state-of-the-art technology, it made its public debut at the 2016 Geneva International Motor Show and is available at Audi Kuwait showroom represented by Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company.

At first glance the Q2 already shows its muscles. With broad shoulders and angular styling, it is brimming with energy and confidence. The low roofline and high window line give the sporty car a coupe-like look and a crouching stance on the road. Especially striking are the wedge-shaped headlights, the high position of the Singleframe grille and the generously sized air inlets. The rear body has a taut appearance with a long roof spoiler and a diffuser with an underbody protection look. Behind the tailgate is a large luggage compartment with lots of space for sports equipment or plenty of shopping items, a power opening and closing tailgate is available as an option. A practical feature is a through-loading facility in the rear bench seat that makes it easy to transport large items.

Form follows function - in the cockpit too. The driver's seat position is sporty, but all-round visibility is very good as is typical of an SUV. In terms of connectivity and infotainment,

the Q2 offers technologies from the full-size class. The driver can use the optional touchpad to scroll through a clearly structured menu. The speedometer and tachometer glow in the optional fully-digital Audi virtual cockpit, whose 12.3-inch screen displays highly detailed and brilliant graphics. The head-up display projects key vehicle data, including navigation instructions and driving speed, into the driver's direct visual field.

Some specifications are optionally available to offer assistance in critical situations like the standard emergency braking assistant. If a child were to suddenly run into the street, or the car ahead were to brake abruptly to a stop, the Q2 can brake automatically in such situations. On top of that - if the relevant check mark is set in the equipment list - the car can autonomously maintain a distance to the vehicle ahead, monitor the blind spot and assist in lane-keeping from a speed of 60 km/h. The 4.19 meter-long car can even steer into parallel or perpendicular parking spaces - either in a reverse or forward direction. It can also exit parking spaces. The driver only needs to set the right gear, accelerate and brake.

With short overhangs and 15 cm of ground clearance the Q2 glides up slopes effortlessly. The engine is paired with a newly developed seven-speed automatic transmission. At lightning speed, the dual-clutch transmission changes gears and offers seamless driving pleasure. Audi Kuwait has launched the Q2 with 150 horsepower TFSI engine. "The Audi Q2 was developed with a distinctively geometric form and model-specific design characteristics. The car exhibits an independent character within the Q family," Tarek Al-Shafie, General Manager of Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company said.

The compact car is available at Audi Kuwait showroom represented by Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company. Starting price for the Audi Q2 is KD 11,495.

## Young and assertive



### The Audi Q2 at a glance

#### Exterior design and body

- Compact car, 4.19 meters long, coupe-like lines, powerful and edgy look, narrow window surfaces
- Polygonal design, concave flanks and emphasized wheel arches
- Blade on the C-pillar
- Add-on parts vary according to the trim line
- Twelve paint finishes, including many expressive colors
- Optional LED headlights and LED rear lights with dynamic rear turn signals
- Body with hot-shaped steels in the passenger cell
- Cd value of just 0.30
- Low interior noise level

#### Interior and controls

- Room for five, sporty seating position for driver and front passenger
- Luggage compartment capacity of 405 liters, maximum 1,050 liters
- Taut interior design, large-area inlays with optional backlighting
- Two trim lines, vibrant colors for upholstery and inlays
- MMI monitor standard; Audi virtual cockpit and head-up display as options
- Optional MMI touch with haptic feedback, natural language operation, free-text search

#### Infotainment

- MMI navigation plus with 8.3-inch monitor
- Modular infotainment platform, second generation
- Optional Bang & Olufsen Sound System

#### Engine and drivetrain

- 1.4 TFSI: 150 hp, 250 Nm between 1,500 and 3,500 rpm
- Newly developed seven-speed S tronic standard with the top engine

#### Chassis

- Progressive steering standard, four-link rear suspension for the quattro variants
- Optional Audi drive select handling system, optional suspension with adaptive damper control
- Electronic Stabilization Control that can be deactivated in two stages with wheel-selective torque control and offroad mode
- Ground clearance 15 centimeters
- Choice of wheels ranging from 18 to 19 inches

#### Driver assistance systems

- Audi pre-sense front with pedestrian detection optional
- Optional adaptive cruise control with Stop&Go function,
- Audi side assist, Audi active lane assist, park assist and cross traffic assist, emergency assist.



## BURGAN BANK WIDENS NETWORK OF CASH DEPOSIT ATMS TO 13 BRANCHES ACROSS KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced the expansion of its Cash Deposit ATM machines network across 13 of its most accessible branches. Customers can now

deposit money around the clock at any of the following 13 Burgan Bank branches: Burgan Bank Head Office, Al-Shaheed tower, Jahra (Khaima Mall), Hawally (Tunis Street), Shuwaikh industrial Area, Audelya, Bayan, Salmiya, Marina Mall, Farwaniya, Riqqa, Ahmadi and Al-Qurain

Customer(s) can now enjoy a wide range of services using these Cash Deposit ATMs i.e. Instant cash withdrawal/deposit, account balance enquiry, mini statements, repayment of credit card dues, reloading of prepaid cards, bill payments and amount transfers facility within Burgan Bank accounts.

For more information on any of our product(s) or services, Customer(s) are advised to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch where our bank representatives would be happy to assist you.



## GE OIL & GAS SIGNS DEAL WITH GULF PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

### AGREEMENT TO BOLSTER OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE OF GPIC PLANT

**MANAMA:** GE Oil & Gas (NYSE: GE) has signed a long-term multi-outage agreement with Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), to drive the operational excellence of GPIC's plant in Bahrain. The partnership will strengthen the competency of GPIC to supply products including ammonia and methanol that drive the growth of downstream industries and contribute to Bahrain's national economy.

As part of the agreement, GE Oil & Gas will offer the full spectrum of outage turnkey services, spare parts and repairs for the GPIC plant. It also covers the servicing of scheduled outages for a period from 2018 to 2026. The collaboration between GPIC and GE Oil & Gas will allow the technical teams to conduct all consultative checks ahead of time, ensuring that the key process equipment crucial for GPIC's production - such as syngas trains, mug trains, carbon dioxide compressors and gas turbine generators - continues to operate while unnecessary downtime is reduced significantly.

The partnership between GPIC and GE Oil & Gas will lay the foundation for future adoption of GE Predix-based solutions including Asset Performance Management (APM), a major step towards the full digitalization of the overall plant, contributing to optimal asset utilization and increased operational efficiency.

Zaher Ibrahim, CEO of GE Oil & Gas - Saudi Arabia & Bahrain, said: "The agreement with GPIC is a milestone in our long-term partnership with the organization that is owned by our major clients. As a key contributor to the national economy of Bahrain, GPIC focuses on products that have extensive application in downstream industries. The multi-outage agreement will strengthen the efficiency of the GPIC plant and contribute to higher levels of productivity and operational safety. This also further demonstrates GE Oil & Gas' full stream capabilities and the productivity gains that can be realized through such close-collaboration."

Established in 1979 as a joint venture between GCC member states for the manufacture of fertilizers and petrochemicals, GPIC is owned by NOGA Holding Bahrain, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) and Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) of Kuwait, which are leading customers of GE.

Dr Abdulrahman Jawahery, President, GPIC, added: "At GPIC, we are focused on strengthening the all-round efficiency and safety standards of the plant. Reducing unplanned downtime and increasing the operational workflow is critical to achieving our production targets. The multi-outage agreement that we signed with GE, our long-

term partner, brings the latest technology strengths to GPIC." GE Oil & Gas provides a wide selection of advanced equipment for GPIC's shareholders including pumps and Frame 5 gas turbine generators. Across the board, GE Oil & Gas prioritizes safety, quality and operational excellence with the goal of delivering higher levels of productivity and increased uptime of the assets.

GE Oil & Gas has had a strong presence in the region, including Bahrain, for more than 80 years and has continued to invest in its capabilities with local centers of excellence in Bahrain, training programs for Bahraini nationals and by driving local research in technology.

**KD 1,000,000**  
RECORD HOLDER  
The Largest Prize Linked to a Bank Account  
January 2017

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AL DANAH WEEKLY WINNERS**

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## GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 16 April 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 9 April - 13 April 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

### The winners are:

**(Sunday 9/4):** Mohammed Hani Mohammed Al-Qalaf, Khaled Abdulla Khalifa Al-Hemely  
**(Monday 10/4):** Hamad Hussein Darakh, Jassem Essa Qasem Al-Sarraf  
**(Tuesday 11/4):** Anwar Naser Al-Hamati, Hussain Jawad Jaleel Al-Kadhemi  
**(Wednesday 12/4):** Yaqoub Mahmoud Ghoulom Asiri, Manar Faisal Yousef Bomaryoum  
**(Thursday 13/4):** Doulah Naser Mohammed Al-Albaan, Mahmoud Yousef Al-Ebraheim

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw line-up includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1000). Al-Danah's 2nd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on 29 June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD1 million will be held on 11 January,

2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2017 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200.

## DOLLAR HITS 5-MONTH LOW VS YEN

**TOKYO:** The dollar dipped to a five-month low against the yen yesterday as rising tensions over North Korea kept the safe-haven Japanese currency in demand. The dollar index against a basket of major currencies was down 0.2 percent at 100.390, weighed down following the release of Friday's weak US retail sales and consumer prices data and as flight-to-safety drove US Treasury yields to five-month lows.

The US currency extended losses from the previous day and retreated to 108.135 yen, its lowest since mid-November. The yen remained broadly bid against other currencies as well. The euro and the pound slid to five-month troughs of 114.955 yen and 136.05 yen, respectively.

Increasing geopolitical risks another notch, North Korea on Sunday made what was believed to be a failed missile test launch. Regional tensions have risen over the past weeks as US President Donald Trump has taken a tough rhetorical line with Pyongyang. "It is unclear whether the situation over North Korea will escalate into military action, but uncertainty is increasing and the dollar continues to edge low-

er. The dollar also looks shaky technically, after slipping below the 200-day moving average of 108.80 yen," said Masafumi Yamamoto, chief currency strategist at Mizuho Securities in Tokyo.

Japan's proximity to the Korean Peninsula, however, means that the yen's safe-haven status could be eroded if tensions between Washington and Pyongyang escalated into open conflict. "Right now the markets are still functioning, with the reaction to the situation being weaker equities, lower Treasury yields and the yen firming against the dollar," said Koji Fukaya, president at FPG Securities in Tokyo. "But it could be an entirely different matter should an international emergency actually take place," he added, reckoning that the dollar could benefit due to its position as the world's principal reserve currency.

With the bulk of the market's focus on how the standoff between the United States and North Korea will play out, the semi-annual US Treasury currency report released late on Friday did not receive as much attention as some had initially expected. — Reuters



# CISCO CONNECT UAE 2017 TO SHED LIGHT ON HOW BUSINESSES CAN THRIVE IN THE DIGITAL ERA

**DUBAI:** Cisco announced yesterday the opening of its flagship IT and thought leadership event, Cisco Connect in the UAE, hosted by Cisco and its key strategic partners from April 17 - 18 at the Atlantis the Palm Hotel, in Dubai. Themed 'Your Time is Now', Cisco Connect UAE 2017 will address the current technology landscape as businesses transition into effective digital enterprises. The event will demonstrate multiple solutions across verticals and showcase how connected cities integrate technology to manage their assets, services, and costs.

Alongside their partners, Cisco will also demonstrate the latest innovations around how digitization is driving monumental change in technology architectures including Data Center and Cloud, Security, Enterprise Networks and Collaboration, highlighting how they are increasingly impacting the growth of Smart and Connected Communities. The event will offer an unparalleled opportunity for attendees to network, share knowledge and drive the technology agenda for the region's public and private sectors.

"It is a fact that digital transformation has emerged as the most transformative means to ignite sustainable growth and improve society. Technology now connects everything from people, processes and data to things and, consequently, we need

to rethink how to approach digitization to maximize its value in both today's and tomorrow's digital world," said Shukri Eid, Managing Director - East Region, Cisco Middle East. "We are committed to partnering with our customers and partners to support them on their journey to a digitally transformed organization that is able to adapt and thrive in an environment of near-constant change."

"The UAE is rapidly evolving as a leading global digital player, paving the way for an even more prosperous and sustainable economic future for its people. Cisco Connect UAE offers platform for industry leaders and change agents of every kind to come together to gain insights and share experiences and ideas on how to flourish in the age of digitization," added Shukri. Cisco has a distinguished line up of keynote speakers who will share insights into relevant, valid and timely topics on key technology trends, IT growth opportunities and challenges in the Middle East Region.

These include, Are you ready for a Digital World, by Guy Diedrich, Cisco's Global Innovation Officer, Network as Platform for Digital Transformation by Andre Laurent, Worldwide Director of Engineering for Enterprise Networking Sales at Cisco, Towards Becoming the

Happiest City on Earth by Younnus Al-Nasser, Assistant Director General, Smart Dubai Office and Ferhad Patel, Intel's DCG EMEA Sales Director will speak on Vortex of Change. The core event will consist of technology presentations and approximately 30 breakout sessions led by Cisco specialists who will focus on key technology areas, such as data centres, enterprise networking, security, collaboration and digital industries such as retail and digital buildings.

By 2020, 50 billion devices will be connected as a result of IoT's speed of innovation and 70% of the whole global population will be mobile. The Middle East and Africa region is predicted to see a 12-fold growth in Mobile Data Traffic; with an increase of Mobile Device and Connections from 1,330 million in 2016 to 1,814 million in 2021. This means that enterprises and industries in the Middle East will have to act with speed, accompanied by good digital strategies in order to survive. Cisco believes that several technology transitions - including the emergence of the IoT, increased mobility, cloud computing, and the growing importance of big data and analytics - are combining to enable IoT.

Cisco predicts that Dubai's public and private sectors can achieve a potential AED17.9bn (\$4.87bn) in value by 2019. At



this year's Cisco Connect UAE, Intel is partnering with Cisco as Technology Sponsor, while Emircom and Alpha Data have signed on as Diamond and Platinum sponsors, respectively. The event will also host Cisco's

'The World of Solutions', an interactive exhibition area that incorporates product and technology demonstrations, and the latest solutions from Cisco and its partners. This year's event will host 17 partner stands.



**BALTIMORE:** In this file photo, four children watch a television in Baltimore, Maryland. —AP

## KIDS PREFER TV BUT LOVE OTHER DEVICES

**NEW YORK:** Grace Ellis has never known a time when you needed a TV to watch. The North Attleboro, Massachusetts, fifth-grader watches shows like "Liv and Maddie," "Jessie" and "The Lodge" on her laptop, iPad and phone. "Sometimes I watch TV in the car," she says. "I have ballet every day, so I watch on the way." She has a TV in her bedroom that isn't hooked up to cable but is perfect for watching DVDs. And the family's flat-screen has advantages of its own. "It's much bigger," Grace explains, "and on the couch, it's comfier."

Ever since freckle-faced puppet Howdy Doody ushered in children's television nearly 70 years ago, each new generation of viewers has been treated to a growing bounty of programs on a mushrooming selection of gadgetry. But nothing compares to the current wave: "The generation coming up now is used to having everything at their fingertips," says Stacey Lynn Schulman, an analyst at the Katz Media Group. Why not? From birth, theirs has been a world of video digitally issued from every screen. And for them, any of those screens is just another screen, whether or not you call it "TV." "When they love a (show), they love it in every form and on every platform," says Nickelodeon president Cyma Zarghami. This keeps the bosses at each kid's network scrambling to make sure that wherever children turn their eyes, that

network's programming will be there. Even so, it may be surprising that children nonetheless watch most television on, well, a television. As in: old-fashioned linear, while-it's-actually-airing telecasts.

A new Nielsen study finds that in the fourth quarter of 2016, viewers aged 2-11 averaged about 17 hours of live (not time-shifted) TV each week. Granted, that's a drop of about 90 minutes weekly from the year before. But by comparison, kids in fourth quarter 2016 spent about 41 1/2 hours weekly watching video content on other devices. "Linear TV is still the lion's share of where kids' time is spent," says Jane Gould, senior vice president for consumer insights for Disney Channel. "But it's important for us to be in all the OTHER places where they are, as well."

One reason: Those other outlets can pave the way for a new program's arrival on linear TV. Gould points to "Andi Mack," an ambitious young-adult comedy-drama that debuted on Disney Channel on April 7. Weeks before it landed there, the series could be sampled on digital platforms including the Disney Channel app, Disney.com, Disney Channel YouTube, iTunes, Amazon and Google Play. Count Grace Ellis among the legions of kids whose attention was snagged by this megabuildup. When "Andi Mack" premiered, Grace was one of the 9 million TV viewers who tuned in.—AP

## HUAWEI TO HOST GLOBAL SAFE CITY SUMMIT 2017 IN DUBAI

**SHENZHEN, China:** Under the theme "Leading New ICT, The Road to Collaborative Public Safety", Huawei Global Safe City Summit 2017 will be held in Dubai, UAE from April 26-27, 2017. The event will bring together leading enterprises, industry experts, and partners from across the world to explore the trends and challenges of digital transformation within the public safety industry, as well as share innovative technology application practices.

At the summit, Huawei will also launch the world's first collaborative public safety solution. By leveraging new ICT technologies, such as cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data, mobile broadband, and Software-Defined Networking (SDN), the new solution will enable efficient collaboration between government agencies and between the police and the public to transform public safety and strengthen communities.

In the digital era, new security threats are emerging that affect the public safety industry. To address these new threats Huawei believes the industry needs to shift from constructing traditional public safety models to building collaborative public safety models. These models are designed to keep

pace with social and technological developments and establish a collaborative public safety system that protects the public through seamless interaction between authorities and citizens.

In addition, Huawei will release the first video cloud solution featuring an all-cloud architecture and matrix intelligence, as well as a crisis and disaster management solution.

During the summit Huawei, together with partners, will demonstrate its latest Safe City solutions and practices, such as video cloud, convergent eLTE broadband trunking, deep-learning smart video analysis, law enforcement Big Data, and next-generation converged command system.

Huawei Safe City solutions adhere to the principles of openness, collaboration, and mutual benefit. Huawei is committed to working closely with global leading partners in consulting and planning, system integration, and software application to build a mature Safe City ecosystem and provide one-stop Safe City solutions for customers. Currently, Huawei Safe City solutions are serving around 800 million people in more than 200 cities in over 80 countries such as Kenya, Indonesia, and China.

## CHINA CAR DILEMMA: BEIJING WANTS ELECTRIC, BUYERS WANT SUVs

### SHANGHAI AUTO SHOW TO SHOWCASE WORK ON ELECTRIC MODELS

**BEIJING:** Automakers face a dilemma in China's huge but crowded market: Regulators are pushing them to sell electric cars, but buyers want gas-guzzling SUVs. The industry is rattled by Beijing's proposal to require that electric cars make up 8 percent of every brand's production as early as next year. Consumers are steering the other way: First-quarter SUV sales soared 21 percent from a year earlier to 2.4 million, while electric vehicle purchases sank 4.4 percent to just 55,929.

"It's tough for someone with an EV to come and take away market share from SUVs," said Ben Cavender of China Market Research Group. The Shanghai auto show, which opens to the public on Friday, will showcase work on electric models meant to appeal to Chinese drivers who are wary of the unfamiliar technology's reliability and cost. The pressure for electrification in China is an added headache for automakers at a time when sales growth is slowing and competition heating up in a market they are counting on to drive global revenue.

Sales growth fell to 1.7 percent in March from last year's 15 percent. SUVs made up 40 percent of sales, while sedan purchases fell 4.9 percent. At the Shanghai show, the industry's biggest marketing event this year, almost every global and Chinese brand plans to display at least an electric concept car, if not a model ready for sale, alongside its latest SUVs and sedans. General Motors Co.'s Buick unit announced plans last month for Chinese sales of its Velite 5 gasoline-electric hybrid sedan. Buick also sells a hybrid LaCrosse in China.

#### Electric concept car

This month, Ford Motor Co. said it will sell an all-electric SUV and a plug-in hybrid Mondeo Energi sedan in China. Ford's joint venture with state-owned Changan Automobile Co. will manufacture the Mondeo. Ford said by 2025 it plans offer electric versions of 70 percent of its models sold in China. "We are prioritizing our electrification efforts on China to reflect its importance as a global electrified vehicle market," Ford CEO Mark Fields said in a statement.

NextEV, a Shanghai-based start-up, says it will display 11 vehicles in Shanghai from its all-electric NIO brand. They include the two-door EP9, a contender for the title of fastest electric car, with what the

manufacturer says is a top speed of 194 mph. Volkswagen AG plans to announce its electric vehicle plans for China and unveil an electric concept car. Honda Motor Co. will show its new NeuV, a futuristic concept car the company has suggested might get an electric drive train.

Government planners see electric vehicles as a sector where China can lead, and a Cabinet technology development plan issued in 2013 calls for two of the top global brands in 2025 to be Chinese. Hence the proposal, released in September, calling for electric or gasoline-electric hybrids to make up 8 percent of every automaker's

so far is BYD Auto Co. It sells all-electric vehicles to taxi and bus fleets in China and abroad and gasoline-electric hybrid SUVs and sedans to Chinese consumers. BYD Auto says last year's sales rose 70 percent over 2015 to 100,183 vehicles.

That would make it the biggest electric brand for a second year, with Tesla Inc. next at 76,230 vehicles sold. Other Chinese brands offer plug-in electrics but most sold only a few hundred vehicles last year. That is partly because their vehicles cost up to 350,000 yuan (\$50,000), or two to three times the price of equivalent gasoline models. Even Great Wall Motors Ltd.,

electric cars have," said Zhang Xin, an independent auto industry analyst. To ease such "range anxiety," the Cabinet has ordered the state-owned power industry to step up installation of charging stations.

Government plans call for China to have 100,000 public charging stations and 800,000 private stations by next year, up from a total of 50,000 at the start of 2016. Longer term, the government wants a network that can support 5 million vehicles by 2020. The government also is trying to nudge buyers toward electrics by exempting them from sales taxes and from license plate fees and lotteries imposed by



**ANHUI, China:** Chinese workers assemble trucks at an auto plant in Fuyang, east China's Anhui province yesterday. Global carmakers converge on China for the Shanghai auto show this week, with the industry bracing for a sharp sales slowdown and potential price war as competition stiffens in the world's biggest car market. —AFP

output next year would rise to 10 percent in 2019 and 12 percent in 2020. Manufacturers failing to meet those targets could buy credits from companies that produce more electrics, helping to subsidize development.

#### Range anxiety

People in the industry say manufacturers have warned Beijing those targets are too ambitious. News reports say regulators might have agreed to lower or delay them in an updated plan due out this year, but there has been no official confirmation. China's stand-out EV success

which became China's most profitable auto brand by making almost nothing but SUVs, has unveiled an electric compact sedan, the C30 EV, which looks almost comically small next to its hulking other vehicles. It has yet to say when sales will start.

Some brands promise a range of up to 200 kilometers (120 miles) on one charge. But industry analysts say that is too much money and too short a distance for most drivers, who have few places to recharge. "The biggest worries for people buying an electric car are lack of convenience for charging and the miserable range most elec-

Beijing, Shanghai and some other cities to curb congestion.

Aside from BYD, Chinese manufacturers are waiting to see what price regulators set for credits before deciding whether to buy them or develop their own technology. "Even by 2020, it's not going to be a profitable business," said John Zeng of LMC Automotive. "The industry has to prepare for the worst case," said Zeng. "That means who you have to have all the technology ready in case you need it, but on the other hand they don't want to commercialize it now, because it is not profitable."—AP

## COMPUTER PIONEER ROBERT W TAYLOR DIES AT 85

**WOODSIDE, California:** Robert W Taylor, who was instrumental in creating the internet and the modern personal computer, has died. He was 85. Taylor, who had Parkinson's disease, died Thursday at his home in the San Francisco Peninsula community of Woodside, his son, Kurt Taylor, told the Los Angeles Times and the New York Times.

In 1961, Taylor was a project manager for NASA when he directed funding to Douglas Engelbart at the Stanford Research Institute, who helped develop the modern computer mouse.

Taylor was working for the Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency in 1966 when he shepherded the creation of a single computer network to link ARPA-sponsored researchers at companies and institutions around the country. Taylor was frustrated that he had to use three separate terminals to com-

municate with the researchers through their computer systems. ARPANET, as it was known, evolved into the internet. As Taylor predicted, the limited communications tool morphed into a system that supplies people with fingertip access to everything from encyclopedias to investment advice.

A few years later, Taylor went on to work at the Xerox Corp.'s famous Palo Alto Research Center, or PARC, where he was oversaw a team that helped create the Alto, a pioneering personal computer. The Alto supplied each researcher with an individual workstation instead of sharing time on a room-sized mainframe. It was designed to use a graphical user interface, which enabled the user to command the device through icons, windows and menus instead of typing text commands in computer language.

The technology inspired Microsoft's Windows software and the Apple computers. Taylor's engi-

neering team also helped develop the Ethernet and a word processing program that became Microsoft Word. "Any way you look at it, from kick-starting the internet to launching the personal computer revolution, Bob Taylor was a key architect of our modern world," Leslie Berlin, a historian at the Stanford University Silicon Valley Archives project, told the New York Times.

In 1999, Taylor was awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. In 2004, he and other PARC researchers were awarded the Draper Prize from the National Academy of Engineering for development of "the first practical networked personal computers." In the 1990s, Taylor ran the Systems Research Center in Palo Alto for Digital Equipment Corporation. The lab helped create AltaVista, one of the first internet search engines. Taylor retired in 1996. In addition to Kurt, he is survived by his sons Erik and Derek and three grandchildren. —AP





**TOKYO:** This handout from Pete West at Bioquest Studios via Tara Expeditions Foundation shows a scientist trying to collect microbes from the sea beside the 120-ton French schooner Tara at anchor off Shikinejima island, 150 kilometers south of central Tokyo.—AFP

## JAPAN VOLCANIC ISLAND MAY HOLD KEY TO CORAL SURVIVAL

JAPAN'S CORALS TO BOLSTER KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MARINE LIFE

**ABOARD THE SCHOONER TARA, Japan:** The key to the survival of the world's threatened coral reefs may lie in the waters surrounding a small volcanic island off the coast of Japan, scientists say. The seabed of Shikine island is a "living laboratory" for researchers aboard the schooner Tara, a French-led scientific expedition, who are looking for clues to help protect coral from the damaging effects of climate change.

While coral reefs cover less than 0.2 percent of the ocean surface globally, they host some 30 percent of marine animal and plant species, serving as a source of food and offering protection from predators. "Losing these reefs would be horrifying," said Sylvain Agostini, an expedition coordinator and professor at Japan's University of Tsukuba. Shikine's unique conditions—created by underwater volcanoes that flood some of its coves with CO<sub>2</sub> and make it less alkaline—mimic what scientists say will be the impact of unchecked carbon emissions on the world's oceans by 2100.

The build-up of CO<sub>2</sub> due to greenhouse gas emissions or underwater volcanic activity raises the temperature and transforms the chemistry of ocean waters, in a process known as acidification. Researchers say the waters in parts of

Shikine, located 160 kilometers south of Tokyo, offer a glimpse of how marine life—including corals can fare in less alkaline water.

Japan's corals, the northernmost in the world, could offer important data to bolster knowledge about marine life, as Australia's Great Barrier Reef faces a threat to its survival.

Last week, scientists said the famous reef was at serious risk from bleaching—a process in which stressed corals expel the algae that live in their tissue and provide them with food—due to warming sea temperatures. They warned that coral bleached for two consecutive years at the World Heritage-listed site had "zero prospect" of recovery after researchers detected another round of mass bleaching after an earlier event in 2016.

### Very troubling

"I've been studying corals for 20 years and what I'm seeing is a large-scale decline," Maggy Nugues, a senior lecturer at the prestigious French research institute Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, told AFP aboard the ship, which departed France in May 2016. "There is a 50 percent to 80 percent reduction in coral cover in the Caribbean and the Pacific—this is very troubling." Half a dozen researchers on the vessel want to

see how an underwater ecosystem, including corals, plankton, seaweed and fish, fares in Shikine's seemingly inhospitable environment.

Early comparisons with another bay on Shikine that boasts vastly different conditions suggest corals do much better in more alkaline water. "We're hoping that these higher latitude zones can serve as a refuge," Agostini said. "But the question remains about the acidification of the oceans and its here, in Shikine, in these natural laboratories that we hope to find the answer," he added. Built in 1989, the 36-metre long ship has gained fame for previous scientific expeditions, including a 500-day trip in the Arctic, and in 2001 when its former owner, New Zealand skipper Peter Blake, was shot dead on board by pirates in the Amazon.

The current two-year expedition will head to Australia and New Zealand before hitting Indonesia and the Philippines. Nugues warned that the speed of climate change, fuelled by human activity, was making it tough for animals to adapt. "The planet has evolved under relatively stable conditions, letting organisms and animals adapt," she said. "But here we're speeding things up, maybe faster than nature's clock."—AFP

## HANDS OFF THE ANIMALS: TUNIS CROCODILE KILLING ZOO REOPENS

**TUNIS:** A Tunisian zoo that closed after a crocodile was stoned to death has reopened, with extra guards and new signs instructing visitors not to throw things at the animals. The Belvedere Zoo in central Tunis shut its gates in March after a public outcry over the animal's death. Images shared on social media showed the dead crocodile's head beside what appeared to be a bloodied paving slab and another large rock. The reptile's death was the latest in a string of scandals at the 50-year-old zoo, which has long been in need of renovation.

Pictures of the site filled with litter caused an outcry on social media last year. Staff have other complaints. "Some people, when they see a lion sleeping, want to throw a pebble at it to get it up. We ask them to stop," said Taoufik Yaacoubi, a guard at the zoo for 20 years. "It's not normal." Zoo visitors often left rubbish on the ground or threw it into ponds, with some hurling bottles of water into the enclosures. Director Mahmoud Latiri said that before the makeover, "people thought they were in a circus."

He echoed widespread complaints that delinquent behavior had risen in Tunisia since a revolution toppled longtime dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in 2011. "People thought everything was allowed, that was what freedom meant," Latiri said. Environment Minister Riadh Mouakher said videos from the zoo even showed children sitting on the backs of rhinoceroses. Following the crocodile's death, Mouakher decided to deploy extra guards at the zoo, which he said was "in a rather dilapidated state."

"It was more a playground than a zoo," he said. But since the zoo reopened over the weekend following an extensive makeover, he said he had seen an "improvement in behavior." The



**TUNIS:** A lion and a lioness are seen at the Belvedere Zoo, which was closed for renovation works following an attack on a crocodile a month earlier, in the capital Tunis.—AFP

authorities have cleaned pools, restored pathways, planted thousands of shrubs and flowers, and installed rubbish bins every five meters. Plastic bags, which are dangerous to animals that eat them, are now banned. New signs instruct visitors not to disturb, feed or throw things at the animals.

"We have a better zoo," Mouakher said. His ministry is hoping to spend a further \$6.5 million

(six million euros) on developing the Belvedere Park surrounding the zoo. School holidays have bumped visitor numbers up to 8,000 a day. This week, families strolled along the pathways in the sunshine. Riadh, accompanied by his wife and daughter, said he could see a definite improvement since the makeover. "Now it is cleaner. You can see that they are looking after it," he said. Now when you pay, you understand why."—AFP

## ABSENCES, FITNESS, NEW WAYS TO TRACK SCHOOLS

**WASHINGTON:** How often do students miss school? Are they ready for college? Are they physically fit? Is their school a welcoming place? States are beginning to outline new ways to evaluate their schools, rather than relying just on traditional measures such as test scores. The plans are required under a new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act, which takes effect in the coming school year. Under the new law, states are focusing more on academic growth, meaning not just whether students have achieved a certain academic level in reading and math, but whether they have improved over time.

Mike Petrilli, president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, said that's a big change from the No Child Left Behind Act, the previous version of the education law. "Schools and educators should feel good about that; that will be a fairer way to measure school quality," he said. But while most experts praised the flexibility and innovation offered by the new law, some think that in the absence of federal guidelines some states may overlook groups of students who need additional support, such as minorities, students with disabilities and English-language learners.

The Republican-controlled Congress moved swiftly this year to rescind key federal accountability guidelines passed by the Obama administration to help states implement the new law. So far, nine states and the District of Columbia have submitted their accountability plans to the Education Department for review, and seven states are completing their blueprints. The remaining states will submit their plans in September. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos will decide whether to accept or reject them.

### Climate surveys

She has said her goal is state and local flexibility in education and indicated that she might use the process to advance school choice. When evaluating school quality, states are experimenting with new indicators. Almost all of the first-round states have adopted chronic absenteeism, or how many students miss more than 10 percent of the school year, as a key metric. Connecticut and Delaware, among others, also will be tracking college readiness, or whether high school students are taking advanced classes and how successful they are on college admission tests like the SAT. Tennessee wants to

give every public school in the state a grade from A to F, which state Education Commissioner Candice McQueen says would give parents better information about schools. The grade will take into account such things as how well English language learners are doing and whether disabled students are being served. The schools will also be graded on chronic absenteeism rates, and if students are ready for college or the military and whether traditionally underserved students are performing well. Graduation rates also will count.

Nevada outlined a system that focuses on student growth measures, including test scores, English language proficiency, and graduation rates. Massachusetts will be paying attention to academic results in ninth grade. In New Mexico, the state will begin tracking the need for additional tutoring in college and linking those back to high schools where the students studied. The state also will look at how students do in science in ranking schools. Some states are getting creative. Vermont and Connecticut want to make physical fitness another sign of school quality, while Connecticut also believes access to arts education should be another measure. — AP

## OVERCOMING OPIOIDS: THE QUEST FOR LESS ADDICTIVE DRUGS

**NEW YORK:** Tummy tucks really hurt. Doctors carve from hip to hip, slicing off skin, tightening muscles, tugging at innards. Patients often need strong painkillers for days or even weeks, but Mary Hernandez went home on just over-the-counter ibuprofen. The reason may be the yellowish goo smeared on her 18-inch wound as she lay on the operating table. The Houston woman was helping test a novel medicine aimed at avoiding opioids, potent pain relievers fueling an epidemic of overuse and addiction.

Vicodin, OxyContin and similar drugs are widely used for bad backs, severe arthritis, damaged nerves and other woes. They work powerfully in brain areas that control pleasure and pain, but the body adapts to them quickly, so people need higher and higher doses to get relief. This growing dependence on opioids has mushroomed into a national health crisis, ripping apart communities and straining police and health departments. Every day, an overdose of prescription opioids or heroin kills 91 people, and legions more are brought back from the brink of death.

With some 2 million Americans hooked on these pills, evidence is growing that they're not as good a choice for treating chronic pain as once thought. Drug companies are working on alternatives, but have had little success. Twenty or so years ago, they invested heavily and "failed miserably," said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Pain is a pain to research. Some people bear more than others, and success can't be measured as objectively as it can be with medicines that shrink a tumor or clear an infection. Some new pain drugs that worked well were doomed by side effects - Vioxx, for instance, helped arthritis but hurt hearts.

Some fresh approaches are giving hope: "Bespoke" drugs, as Volkow calls them. These target specific pathways and types of pain rather than acting broadly in the brain. One is Enbrel, which treats a key feature of rheumatoid arthritis and, in the process, eases pain. Drugs to prevent the need for opioids. One that Hernandez was helping test numbs a wound for a few days and curbs inflammation.

If people don't have big pain after surgery, their nerves don't go on high alert and there's less chance of developing chronic pain that might require opioids. Funky new sources for medicines. In testing: Drugs from silk, hot chili peppers and the venom of snakes, snails and other critters. Novel uses for existing drugs. Some seizure and depression medicines, for example, can help some types of pain. The biggest need, however, is for completely new medicines that can be used by lots of people for lots of problems. These also pose the most risk - for companies and patients alike.

### One drug's bumpy road

In the early 2000s, a small biotech company had a big idea: blocking nerve growth factor, a protein made in response to pain. The company's drug, now called tanezumab (tah-NAZE-uh-mab), works on outlying nerves, helping to keep pain signals from muscles, skin and organs from reaching the spinal cord and brain - good for treating arthritis and bad backs. Pfizer Inc. bought the firm in 2006 and expanded testing. But in 2010, some people on tanezumab and similar drugs being tested by rivals needed joint replacements.

Besides dulling pain, nerve growth factor may affect joint repair and regeneration, so a possible safety issue needed full investigation in a medicine that would be the first of its type ever sold, said one independent expert, Dr. Jianguo Cheng, a Cleveland Clinic pain

specialist and science chief for the American Academy of Pain Medicine. Regulators put some of the studies on hold. Suddenly, some people who had been doing well on tanezumab lost access to it.

Phyllis Leis in Waterfall, a small town in south-central Pennsylvania, was one. "I was so angry," she said. "That was like a miracle drug. It really was. Unless you have arthritis in your knees and have trouble walking, you'll never understand how much relief and what a godsend it was." Her doctor, Alan Kivitz of Altoona Center for Clinical Research, has helped run hundreds of pain studies and consults for Pfizer and many other companies. "You rarely get people to feel that good" as many of them did on the nerve growth factor drugs, he said.

A drug with that much early promise is unusual, said Ken Verburg, who has led Pfizer's pain research for several decades. "When you do see one, you fight hard to try to bring one to the market," he said.



**PENNSYLVANIA:** Heidi Wyandt, 27, holds a handful of her medication bottles at the Altoona Center for Clinical Research in Altoona, Pennsylvania. —AFP

An independent review ultimately tied just a few serious joint problems to tanezumab and the suspension on testing was lifted in August 2012. But a new issue - nervous system effects in some animal studies - prompted a second hold later that year, and that wasn't lifted until 2015. Now Eli Lilly & Co. has joined Pfizer in testing tanezumab in late-stage studies with 7,000 patients. Results are expected late next year - about 17 years after the drug's conception.

### Avoiding pain to avoid drugs

What if a drug could keep people from needing long-term pain relief in the first place? Heron Therapeutics Inc. is testing a novel, long-acting version of two drugs - the anesthetic bupivacaine and the anti-inflammatory meloxicam - for notoriously painful operations like tummy tucks, bunion removal and hernia repair. Company studies suggest it can numb wounds for about three days and cut patients' need for opioids by 30 to 50 percent.

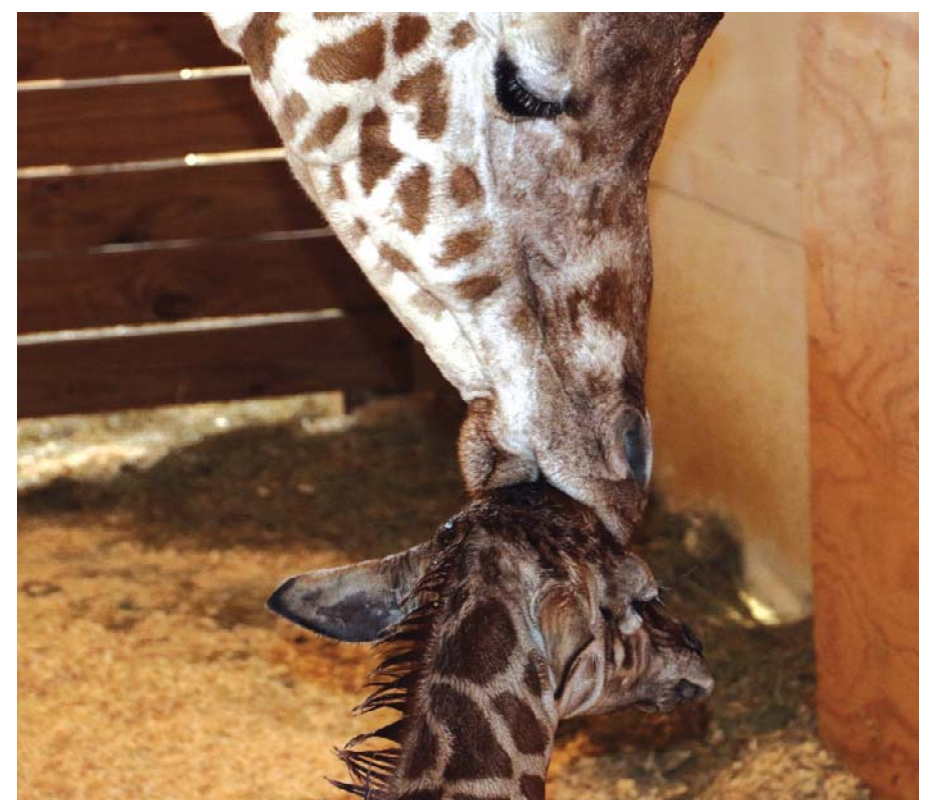
There's a good chance of preventing brain responses that lead to chronic pain if patients can get through that "initially very rough period," said Dr. Harold Minkowitz, a Houston anesthesiologist who consults for Heron and treated Hernandez in the tummy tuck study. Hernandez was part of an experiment testing the drug versus a placebo and doesn't know whether she got the drug or a dummy medicine. But she hurt less than she expected to and never filled a prescription for pain pills. "The goal would be to have half or more of patients not requiring an opiate after they go home," said Heron's chief executive, Barry Quart. "You have far fewer opiates going out into society, far fewer opiates sitting in medicine cabinets that make their way to a high school." Studies so far are mid-stage - too small to prove safety and effectiveness - but Heron plans more aimed at winning approval. Many companies have their eyes on sodium channel blockers, which affect how nerves talk to each other and thus might help various types of pain. —AP

## ZOO OWNER: APRIL THE GIRAFFE'S BABY IS VERY INDEPENDENT

**HARPURVILLE:** The long-awaited offspring of internet sensation April the Giraffe is being described as strong and "very independent." The owner of Animal Adventure Park in upstate New York says the not-yet-named baby boy was on its feet within an hour after its birth Saturday - and galloping around its mother within three hours.

Jordan Patch says he was so excited that

he was shaking when he made the calls to assemble the delivery team. More than a million online viewers watched April deliver her calf in Harpurville, a rural upstate village about 130 miles northwest of New York City. The zoo began live streaming from April's enclosure in February. Patch says April is "recovering perfectly" following the delivery.—AP



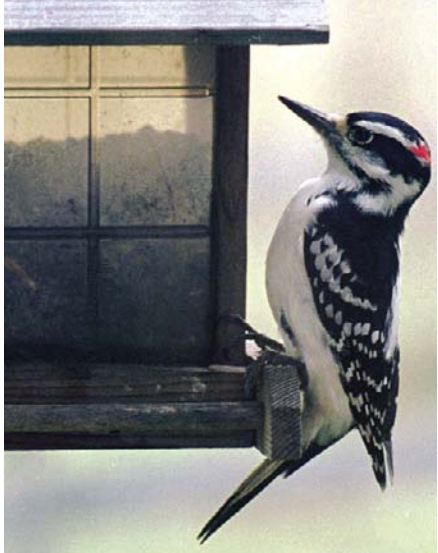
**NEW YORK:** In this photo, a giraffe named April kisses her new calf.—AP



## BIRD POPULATION IN VERMONT FORESTS DROP 14.2 PERCENT

**MONTPELIER:** The bird population in Vermont's forests has declined 14.2 percent over 25 years, largely due to several factors, including invasive species, climate change, and the natural cycle of maturing forests, scientists with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies say. The Norwich-based environmental research group says other factors for the decline include acid rain and the fragmentation of forestland caused by humans.

Some bird species that live on flying insects saw the biggest declines, including



**VERMONT:** In this file photo, a downy woodpecker sits on a bird feeder in Calais, Vermont.—AP

the chimney swift, the Eastern phoebe and the tree swallow. But even the more common blue jay saw a 25-percent decline over the survey years between 1989 and 2013. Meanwhile, eight species, including the American robin, pileated woodpecker and mourning dove, increased in population. To protect the birds, the scientists recommend a combination of land conservation and forest management practices.

"For the most part, these are pretty com-

mon and widespread species," said Steven Faccio, the lead author of the report. "We have a lot of forest habitat, but this is a really important time to get an understanding of what's going on with these birds." The study also proved what many bird experts have noticed, especially declines in species that survive by eating flying insects. "This project was started with just that goal in mind, just to track the long term population trends of birds in interior forests," Faccio said.

Allen Strong, associate dean in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont, said most information about bird populations comes from the North American Breeding Bird survey in which people collect data from roadsides. The Vermont study works in the middle of forests. "These are undistributed forests that we're monitoring here and we're looking at those changes away from roads, away from development, so it's a really different picture," said Strong, who once participated in a forest survey, but was not otherwise involved in the study.

Ken Rosenberg, a scientist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, said such long-term studies offer scientists information they would not otherwise have. He noted that some species, apart from the insect eaters, declined over the first decade or so of the study, but they have since stabilized or recovered. "When I look at their data set, I see a lot of stability," he said. The Vermont study was done by comparing results of bird surveys of 125 bird species done by volunteers every June between 1989 and 2013.

It started with 11 survey sites across the state and expanded to 31, all in unmanaged, mature forests from one end of Vermont to the other. The scientists compiling the data looked at the trend estimates for 34 abundant species. It also broke down the study by looking at different species of birds that share similar ecological traits such as foraging style and nesting location, and migration habits.—AP



**MADRID:** Surgeon Mario Alvarez Maestro (2nd left) and his staff perform a renal transplantation on patient Juan Benito Druet at La Paz hospital in Madrid.

## HOW SPAIN BECAME THE WORLD LEADER IN ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

**MADRID:** Juan Benito Druet has just learned that his life may be about to change. In the next few hours he will receive a healthy kidney thanks to a pioneering system that has made Spain the world leader in organ transplants for the past 25 years. "We don't know what will happen. But you have to take a chance," said Druet, 63, a reserved and mustachioed boilermaker, as he lies in his bed at Madrid's La Paz hospital.

Hospital staff tries to reassure him by telling him organ transplants are carried out every day in Spain. Doctors performed 4,818 transplants last year, including 2,994 kidney transplants, according to the health ministry's National Transplant Organization (ONT). That means there were 43.4 organ donors per million inhabitants last year, a world record, up from 40.2 donors in 2015.

By comparison in the United States there were just 28.2 donors per million inhabitants in 2015, 28.1 in France and 10.9 in Germany, according to the Council of Europe. "It is even better than if we had won the jackpot in the lottery," says Druet's wife Jeronima, 60, as she sits close to him along with the couple's two adult children. Now she dreams of going on a cruise with her husband, something impossible as long as he needed to be hooked to a 15-kilo (33-pound) kidney dialysis machine every night to filter his blood.

### Transplant lives

The transplant operation lasts four and half hours. Surgeons make a 15-centimetre incision in Druet's abdomen to transplant a healthy kidney extracted the night before from a woman who died. After a transplant patients "start to regain weight, their health improves. It is as if we transplant lives," the founder of the ONT, Rafael Matesanz, tells AFP.

Matesanz oversaw the implementation of a centralized and well-oiled organ donation and



Rafael Matesanz

of a heart attack or brain death. In both situations kidneys, livers, lungs, pancreas and sometimes even the heart can still work and can be transplanted.

Organ donations are quickly reported to the ONT which searches for the best match from its organ waiting list. If the patient is far away, a cooler with the organ is sent by plane inside the cockpit with the pilot. The operation is free under Spain's public health system, anonymous and available only to residents of the country to avoid organ trafficking.

### Centralization

"What makes the difference is the organization of the system. This network, this centralization, is the key," says Marie-Charlotte Bouesseau of the World Health Organization's department of ethics. Worldwide only about 10 percent of all patients who need a transplant receive a donated organ, she adds. "That means that 90 percent will die while they are on a waiting list," she explains. In Spain only four to six percent of patients died in 2016 while they were on a waiting list for a vital organ—a liver, heart or lung.

Ramon Garcia Castillo, 85, a former TV techni-

cian, spent 13 months on dialysis before he received a kidney transplant in 2010. He would previously trek to a hospital three times a week to be hooked up to a machine for three-and-a-half hours. The kidney transplant "gave me my life back," says Castillo, who now just needs to take pills to ensure his body does not reject the donated kidney.

### Empathy and respect

The other secret to the success of the Spanish system is training and communication, explains Matesanz. Since it was set up in 1989, the ONT has trained over 18,000 transplant coordinators who break the news of a person's death and then gently convince their loved ones to agree to donate their organs. Spanish law presumes consent for organs to be removed on their death unless they had previously made clear that they were against donation. But loved ones are systematically consulted.

"You have to have a lot of empathy, sensitivity, respect," says Belen Estebanez, the transplant coordinator at Madrid's La Paz hospital. The work of a transport coordinator was depicted in Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's 1999 Oscar-winning movie "All About My Mother". The director consulted with the ONT to prepare the movie.

"If they have a lot of doubts we ask them what the person was like, if they were generous...from there we get them to reflect on an organ donation," adds Damiana Gurria, another transplant coordinator.

"It comforts many families to know that the organs of their loved ones will live on inside someone else, that people will be thankful for the rest of their lives." Castillo said he drinks two litres of water each day and follows a balanced diet since he received his new kidney. "I have to take care of it, especially since it was given to me. I have to be thankful."—AFP



**WYOMING:** In this photo provided by the Yellowstone National Park Service a white wolf walks in Yellowstone National Park, in Wyoming.—AP

## RARE WHITE WOLF IN YELLOWSTONE PARK EUTHANIZED OVER INJURIES

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK:** One of only three white wolves roaming Yellowstone National Park has been put down by park staff after it was found with severe injuries. P.J. White of the National Park Service says hikers found the female wolf last Tuesday on the north side of the park. White says the wolf was in shock and dying, leading to the decision to euthanize

it and investigate what caused the injuries.

The nature of the animal's injuries could not immediately be determined. The predator was one of three known white wolves in the park. It had lived to 12 years old, twice the age of an average wolf in the park, and was one of the most recognizable and sought after to view and photograph by park visitors.—AP

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# GUST LAUNCHES THIRD ANNUAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE CONFERENCE

**G**ulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) launched the Third edition of its Annual GUST English Language and Literature (GELL) conference, which is organized by its English Department, and sponsored by GUST, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), and That Al-Salasil. Carrying the theme "Translingualism", which defines words and other aspects that are relevant in more than one language, the conference is taking place on GUST's campus. Leading the event are internationally renowned academics Professor Lawrence Venuti, Professor Stephen Kellman, Dr. Mai Al-Nakib, Joumana Haddad, Professor Roumyana Slabakova and Professor Jason Rothman, in addition to 40 other academics from Kuwait and the region.

The conference aims to promote academic exchange and circulation of research among GUST students, staff, faculty, and the general public by exploring translingualism across literature, linguistics, translation and creative writing, with special emphasis on the Arab region. GUST President, Professor Donald Bates, said, "GUST continuously hosts events that provide knowledge and skill to our staff, faculty, students, and community. It is important for an institution like ours to be up-to-date with the latest developments in order to remain current and competitive to bring about Kuwait's future generation."

The first three days of the conference will feature lectures, presentations, videos, and poetry readings focusing on four categories: Literature, Creative Writing, Language and Linguistics, and Translation. Some of the lectures and presentations include: Border Crossing in Language and Literature, by Dr. Inas Mahfouz and Dr. Kathy Nixon, of the American University of Kuwait, The Reversing Arrow of Time: Chrono-psychology of Shakespeare's Hamlet and Macbeth, by Prof. Gayane Hovhannissyan, of the Higher



**Professor Donald Bates**

College of Technology in Muscat, and Translating the Muslim Woman in a Cross-Cultural World, by Dr. Banan Daraiseh, of the Arab Open University in Kuwait.

The conference will also dedicate time for student panels on the last day to support their research. Presentations from GUST and international students will include topics such as: Transculturalism in Michael Ondaatje's Work: Anil's Ghost by GUST student Sara Chama, and Hold the Reins, by GUST student Fajer Al-Sabah. English Department Head and GELL Organizer, Dr. Cathy Daniel, said "The GELL conference creates an opportunity for regional scholars from various disciplines to gather and exchange research findings and interact with our students.

In addition, we encourage and have included student



sessions as part of this year's conference. This is the third GELL event and we hope to continue offering this collaborative platform." GELL workshops and seminars aim to contribute to the enhancement of the university's academic environment, along with the development of its faculty, staff, students, and the community as a

whole. Scholars from across the globe will be sharing their expertise in the field, and will be presenting collaborations of academics from world-wide institutions, further facilitating research into literature language. The event is free of charge for the GUST community and the general public.



## ROYAL BRITANNIA KINDERGARTEN HOSTS MAGIC CARPET TO GERMANY EVENT



**O**n Thursday, Dr Hanan Al-Mutawa founder of The Royal Britannia Kindergarten (RBK) Al-Sideeq Branch collaborated with Mrs Ulrike Bergner, wife of German ambassador hosted a Magic Carpet to Germany event. The support was tremendous and those who attended enjoyed a morning of traditional German music and drama activities such as storytelling, singing German rhymes, painting egg shells, dyeing and decorating boiled eggs, baking cookies and awaking their competitive spirits. RBK believes that it is imperative for children to be exposed to different traditions and cultures, learning to both understand and appreciate what makes us all different. The diplomat wives from Spain, Palestine and Serbia, and ladies of society enjoyed the event by participating in the various fun filled activities with the mothers and their children.







**KTV2 INTERVIEWS INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT**

Adeeb Shuhaiber conducts an Exclusive interview with HE Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Mr Sunil Jain for a new weekly program on KTV2 "Through their Eyes" starts on April 14, 2017 at 8:15 pm. Every week a new special guest will be interviewed. The weekly show is hosted by Adeeb Shuhaiber and Maha Mutawa. Many more Diplomats will be interviewed in coming weeks including His Excellency the Ambassador of the Philippines and the Ambassador of the Netherlands. Don't forget to tune in or catch us on line. KTV2 is on OSN channel 147. All KTV2 shows can be viewed on YouTube and Facebook at MOI Kuwait news.



**KUWAIT HOSTS A NEW SEASON OF RED BULL CAR PARK DRIFT**

The time has come again for the most-awaited motorsports events in the region, especially for those who are huge fans of motorsport shows and look forward to cool events as such throughout the year. The kickoff of a new season of Red Bull Car Park Drift qualifiers will happen in Kuwait early next month. The competition, which was held for the first time in Lebanon ten years ago, is designed to give amateur enthusiasts a chance to showcase their skills and represent their countries at the regional final in Qatar end of this year.

On May 4 and 5, Sirbb Circuit will host Kuwait's Red Bull Car Park Drift qualifiers, which will launch a new season of the most exciting motorsport competition. The qualifier will be held on May 4 and comprise the selection of Kuwait's elite drifters who will take part in the national final on the next day. BMRC will organize this year's Red Bull Car Park Drift event in partnership with the Public Authority for Youth and Sports, Drag 965, Go Pro, Aqua Eva and Kuwait Times. Regional sponsors include Falcon Tires, Shop & Ship, and Total.

Mesyar Abu Shaibah won the national championship of the Red Bull Car Park Drift last year and represented Kuwait at the regional finals held in Oman. He rocked a special performance at the regional final, which was hosted by a special course at Sultan Qaboos Port and witnessed the participation of drifters from Qatar, Mauritius, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, UAE, Bahrain and Saudi

Arabia, as well as Kuwait and Oman. The top three winners were Omani, and the King of Drift title was awarded to Haitham Al-Hadidi from, who is also a local Omani.

**10 years of thrill**

The first edition of the 2008 Red Bull Car Park Drift Competition was held in Lebanon at the parking lot of one of the malls. The competition was the perfect opportunity for all amateur drifters to put their skills and abilities under test, while the event highlighted the rally hero Abdo Feghali, who became a legend in this discipline, Michel Feghali was then crowned the first champion of the series at all.

The early days of drifting competitions were the result of the use of manual brakes and special skills for the drifters of the 1960s, specifically to rugged Japanese mountain roads where a group of contestants competed to break records for every distance separating two points, by crossing the limits of the possibility of tires in harsh turns.

By 1970, drifting had gained widespread popularity as an important part of the prestigious Japan Motor Show. Each drifter was superior to his predecessors, and the drifters demonstrated their tremendous talent in controlling the car more remarkably every year. Twenty years later, the sport has expanded to spread all around the world of motor sports, with countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and China.



**FLOW HOUSE LAUNCHES FIRST WATER SURFING SCHOOL IN KUWAIT**

Flow House Kuwait Company's executive manager, Hamad Al-Khenaini said that Flow House has recently launched the first water surfing school in Kuwait and the Arab world noting that the school is equipped with the latest technologies imported from various countries. Al-Khenaini added that surfers could use special surfing boards especially used for this type of water sports. He also said that the surfing school is run by Chris, a trainer from California who has won several international surfing medals and awards. Al-Khenaini added that the school gives international surfing medals and certificates with the aim of creating a new generation of Kuwaiti champions to represent Kuwait in international competitions.



**OSN MOVIES**  
**ACTION**

- 00:00 April Rain
- 02:00 7500
- 04:00 Seventh Son
- 06:00 Golden Eye
- 08:15 Echo Effect
- 10:00 Seventh Son
- 12:00 Road Wars
- 13:45 Golden Eye
- 16:00 Pompeii
- 18:00 Spooks: The Greater Good
- 19:45 Tomorrow Never Dies
- 22:00 San Andreas

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

- 00:15 Swamp Brothers
- 00:45 Bondi Vet
- 01:40 Village Vets
- 02:05 Village Vets
- 02:35 Tanked
- 03:25 North America
- 04:15 Gator Boys
- 05:02 Swamp Brothers
- 05:49 Village Vets
- 06:36 Swamp Brothers
- 07:25 Pit Bulls & Parolees
- 08:15 Village Vets
- 09:10 North America
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Pit Bulls & Parolees
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 Village Vets
- 13:15 Village Vets
- 13:45 Gator Boys
- 14:40 North America
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Swamp Brothers
- 16:55 Swamp Brothers
- 17:25 Rugged Justice
- 18:20 Pit Bulls & Parolees
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 North America
- 21:05 Rugged Justice
- 22:00 Pit Bulls & Parolees
- 22:55 Gator Boys
- 23:50 Swamp Brothers

**BBC FIRST**

- 00:35 The Collection
- 01:35 Line Of Duty
- 02:35 Silent Witness
- 03:25 Silent Witness

- 04:40 Ridiculousness
- 05:05 Disaster Date
- 05:30 Tattoo Disasters
- 05:55 Tattoo Disasters
- 06:20 Catch A Contractor
- 07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 08:05 Disaster Date
- 08:30 Disaster Date
- 08:55 Ridiculousness
- 09:20 Key And Peele
- 09:45 Disaster Date
- 10:10 Ridiculousness
- 10:35 Impractical Jokers UK
- 11:00 M.I.E. St Patrick's Day Chowdown
- 11:50 I Live With Models
- 12:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 12:40 Impractical Jokers UK
- 13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 13:55 Ridiculousness
- 14:20 Bondi Vet
- 15:10 I Live With Models
- 15:35 Disaster Date
- 16:00 Disaster Date
- 16:30 Impractical Jokers UK
- 16:55 Lip Sync Battle
- 17:25 Key And Peele
- 17:50 Life Or Debt
- 18:39 Ridiculousness
- 19:03 Disaster Date
- 19:27 Key And Peele
- 19:50 Key And Peele
- 20:13 IdiotSitter
- 20:37 Inside Amy Schumer
- 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 21:30 Workaholics
- 22:00 Another Period
- 22:25 Key And Peele
- 22:50 Tosh.0
- 23:15 Tosh.0
- 23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

**Discovery Family**

- 00:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 02:10 Pick A Puppy
- 02:35 Pick A Puppy
- 03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 03:25 Destroyed In Seconds
- 03:50 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud
- 04:40 How It's Made
- 05:05 How It's Made
- 05:30 Dirty Jobs
- 06:20 Mythbusters
- 07:00 Doki
- 07:25 Bear Grylls Survival School
- 07:50 My Cat From Hell

- 13:00 Welcome To The Ronks
- 13:15 Gravity Falls
- 13:40 Hank Zipzer
- 14:05 Star Darlings
- 14:10 Austin & Ally
- 14:35 Jessie
- 15:00 Bunk'd
- 15:25 Kirby Buckets
- 15:50 Sunny Bunnies
- 15:55 The Zhuzhus
- 16:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 16:45 Elena Of Avalor
- 17:10 Liv And Maddie
- 17:35 Descendants Wicked World
- 17:40 Girl Meets World
- 18:05 Stuck In The Middle
- 18:30 Bunk'd
- 18:55 Bizaardvark
- 19:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:25 Alex & Co.
- 19:50 Jessie
- 20:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 20:20 Backstage
- 20:45 Austin & Ally
- 21:10 The Next Step
- 21:35 Cracked
- 21:40 Disney The Lodge
- 22:05 Girl Meets World
- 22:30 That's So Raven
- 22:55 Star Darlings
- 23:00 Good Luck Charlie
- 23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

**Disney Junior**

- 00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:15 Calimero
- 00:30 Art Attack
- 00:55 Zou
- 01:05 Loopedidoo
- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:35 Calimero
- 01:50 Zou
- 02:05 Art Attack
- 02:30 The Hive
- 02:40 Loopedidoo
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:10 Art Attack
- 03:35 Loopedidoo
- 03:50 Calimero
- 04:05 Art Attack
- 04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:45 Zou
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:45 Loopedidoo
- 06:00 Zou

- 18:55 How Do They Do It?
- 20:10 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 20:30 Storage Hunters
- 20:35 Storage Hunters
- 21:00 The Wheel: Survival Games
- 21:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 22:40 American Tarzan
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud

**Disney XD**

- 06:00 Gravity Falls
- 06:25 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 06:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 07:15 Milo Murphy's Law
- 07:25 The 7D
- 07:40 Supa Strikas
- 08:05 Two More Eggs
- 08:10 K.C. Undercover
- 08:35 Counterfeit Cat
- 09:00 Lab Rats
- 09:25 Lab Rats
- 09:50 Future-Worm!
- 10:15 Two More Eggs
- 10:20 Pair Of Kings
- 10:45 Pair Of Kings
- 11:10 Danger Mouse
- 11:35 Supa Strikas
- 12:00 Supa Strikas
- 12:30 Gravity Falls
- 12:55 Annedroids
- 13:20 Atomic Puppet
- 13:45 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:15 Mighty Med
- 14:40 Disney Cookabout
- 15:05 Lab Rats
- 15:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 15:55 Right Now Kapow
- 16:25 K.C. Undercover
- 16:50 Walk The Prank
- 17:15 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
- 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:10 Gravity Falls
- 18:35 Mighty Med
- 19:00 Atomic Puppet
- 19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 19:55 K.C. Undercover
- 20:20 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 20:45 Mighty Med
- 21:10 Walk The Prank
- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:45 Marvel's Avengers Assemble
- 22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister 6
- 22:35 Boyster
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

- 09:30 Cooking For Real
- 10:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 10:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 11:00 The Kitchen
- 12:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 13:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 13:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 The Kitchen
- 17:00 Cooking For Real
- 17:30 Cooking For Real
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Chopped Junior
- 20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:00 Man Finds Food
- 21:30 Man Finds Food
- 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Guy's Grocery Games

**itv HD CHOICE**

- 00:10 The Chase
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Coronation Street
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Guess This House
- 03:25 Vera
- 05:15 Come Date With Me Australia
- 05:45 Come Date With Me Australia
- 06:10 The Chase
- 07:05 Guess This House
- 08:00 Vera
- 09:35 Gino's Italian Escape
- 10:00 Come Date With Me Australia
- 10:30 Come Date With Me Australia
- 10:55 The Chase
- 11:50 Guess This House
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street
- 13:45 Coronation Street
- 14:15 The Chase
- 15:10 Guess This House
- 16:00 The Secret Photos Of The Duke & Duchess Of Windsor
- 16:55 Brief Encounters
- 17:50 Come Date With Me Australia
- 18:20 Come Date With Me Australia
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:15 Coronation Street
- 19:45 Coronation Street
- 20:10 Guess This House
- 21:00 The Secret Photos Of The Duke & Duchess Of Windsor
- 21:55 Brief Encounters
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Coronation Street
- 23:40 Coronation Street



**AMELIA ON OSN MOVIES HD**

- 14:20 Mountain Men
- 15:10 Ice Road Truckers
- 16:00 Lost In Transmission
- 16:50 Pawn Stars
- 17:15 Pawn Stars
- 17:40 Hunting Hitler
- 18:30 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 19:20 Mountain Men
- 20:10 American Pickers
- 21:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 21:50 Fifth Gear
- 22:40 Swamp People
- 23:30 American Pickers
- 21:00 Animals Gone Wild Compilations
- 21:50 Man And The Wild
- 22:40 Africa's Deadliest
- 23:30 Sharks In The City

**OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**

- 00:15 Secretariat
- 02:15 Pooch's Heffalump Movie
- 03:30 Little Women
- 05:30 The Secret Of The Magic Gourd
- 07:30 Pooch's Heffalump Movie
- 09:00 Hercules (1997)
- 10:30 Ducktales: The Movie
- 11:45 The Secret Of The Magic Gourd
- 13:15 Hercules (1997)
- 15:00 Cars
- 17:00 The Shaggy Dog
- 19:00 Sky High
- 21:00 Marvel Super Hero Adventures: Frost Fight
- 22:15 Cars

**NAT GEO people HD**

- 00:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 00:40 The Game Chef
- 01:05 Raw Travel
- 01:30 Dog Whisperer
- 02:20 The Food Files
- 02:45 The Food Files
- 03:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 04:00 World's Best Beaches
- 04:50 Places We Go
- 05:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 05:45 Confucius Was A Foodie
- 06:40 Chasing The Sun
- 07:10 Raw Travel
- 07:35 Dog Whisperer
- 08:30 The Food Files
- 09:00 The Food Files
- 09:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 10:20 World's Best Beaches
- 11:15 Places We Go
- 11:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 12:10 Chasing The Sun
- 12:40 Raw Travel
- 13:05 Dog Whisperer
- 14:00 Living Free With Kimi Werner
- 14:55 Places We Go
- 15:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 15:50 Patisserie With Michel Roux Jr
- 16:45 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 17:40 My Restaurant In India
- 18:10 Chasing The Sun
- 18:35 Chasing The Sun
- 19:05 Places We Go
- 19:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 20:00 Patisserie With Michel Roux Jr
- 20:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 21:45 My Restaurant In India
- 22:10 Chasing The Sun
- 22:35 Chasing The Sun
- 23:00 Raw Travel
- 23:25 Dog Whisperer

**OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**

- 00:00 Bulworth
- 01:45 Spotlight
- 04:00 Tracks
- 06:00 Trash
- 08:00 Grand Central
- 10:00 50 To 1
- 12:00 Spotlight
- 14:15 Foreverland
- 16:00 Before I Disappear
- 18:00 Still Alice
- 20:00 Little Accidents
- 22:00 Closer

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

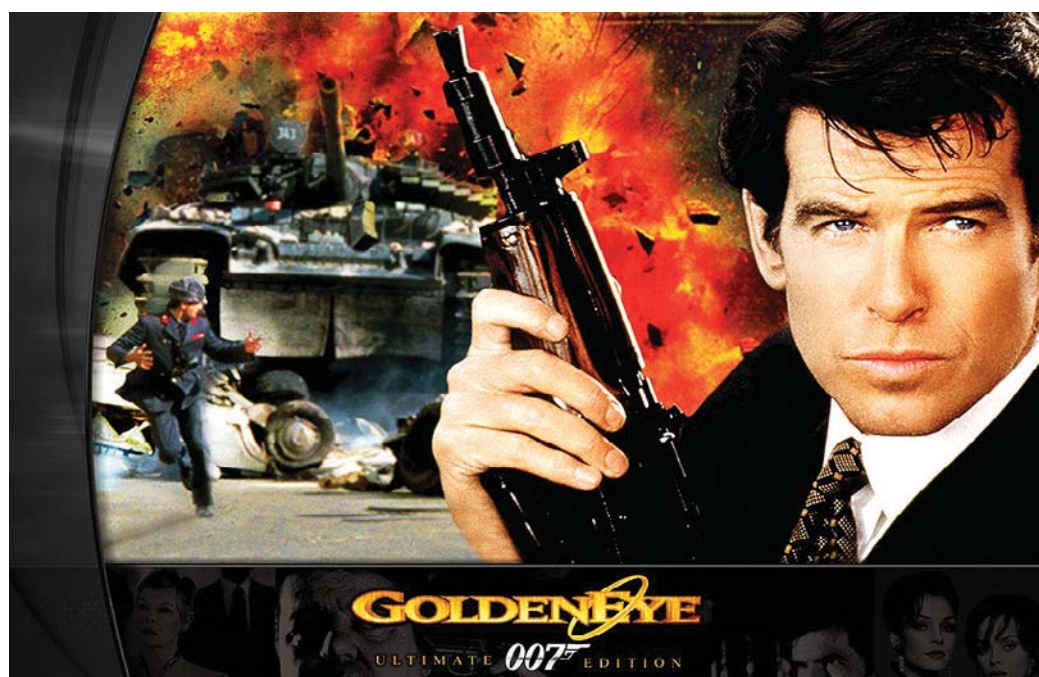
- 00:45 Harriet The Spy
- 02:30 Memory Loss
- 04:15 Cher Ami
- 06:00 Blue Elephant 2
- 07:45 Pet Pals In Windland
- 09:15 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 10:45 Harriet The Spy
- 12:30 Memory Loss
- 14:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
- 16:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 18:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 19:30 Marco Macaco
- 21:15 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
- 23:00 Pet Pals In Windland

**OSN MOVIES HD**

- 00:15 Montecarlo
- 02:15 The Bucket List
- 04:15 S.W.A.T.
- 06:15 Finding Forrester
- 09:00 Amelia
- 11:00 The Walk
- 13:15 Just Married
- 15:15 Invictus
- 17:45 X-Men: The Last Stand
- 19:45 Sherlock Holmes
- 22:00 The Badabock
- 23:45 Down And Out In Beverly Hills

**Discovery SCIENCE**

- 00:30 How Do They Do It?
- 00:55 Food Factory
- 01:20 How The Universe Works
- 02:10 Ecopolis
- 03:00 Prototype This
- 03:48 Mythbusters
- 04:36 How Do They Do It?
- 05:00 Food Factory
- 05:24 How The Universe Works
- 06:12 Ecopolis
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Prototype This
- 08:14 Mythbusters
- 09:02 Ecopolis
- 09:50 How Do They Do It?
- 10:14 Food Factory
- 10:38 How The Universe Works
- 11:26 Prototype This
- 12:14 Mythbusters
- 13:02 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Food Factory
- 13:50 Ecopolis
- 14:38 Prototype This
- 15:26 How The Universe Works
- 16:14 Mythbusters
- 17:02 Ecopolis
- 17:50 Prototype This
- 18:40 Mythbusters
- 19:30 Sport Science
- 20:20 How Do They Do It?
- 20:45 Food Factory
- 21:10 Ecopolis
- 22:00 Sport Science
- 22:50 Prototype This
- 23:40 Mythbusters
- TLCHD
- 00:20 Married By Mum And Dad
- 01:10 Return To Amish



**GOLDEN EYE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION**

- 04:15 Casualty
- 05:10 Stella
- 06:00 Casualty
- 06:55 Casualty
- 07:55 Father Brown
- 08:40 Stella
- 09:25 Death In Paradise
- 10:20 Father Brown
- 11:15 Casualty
- 12:05 Stella
- 12:50 Death In Paradise
- 13:50 Casualty
- 14:45 Father Brown
- 15:30 Stella
- 16:15 Death In Paradise
- 17:10 The Coroner
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Doctors
- 19:05 Father Brown
- 20:00 Frankie
- 21:00 Unforgotten
- 21:50 Silent Witness
- 22:45 Silent Witness
- 23:40 Doctors

- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 My Cat From Hell
- 12:00 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud
- 12:50 How It's Made
- 13:15 How It's Made
- 13:40 Dirty Jobs
- 14:30 Dirty Jobs
- 14:55 Bear Grylls Survival School
- 15:20 Mythbusters
- 16:10 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 17:00 React To That
- 17:25 React To That
- 17:50 Now That's Funny
- 18:40 Destroyed In Seconds
- 19:05 Destroyed In Seconds
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 React To That
- 21:35 React To That
- 22:00 World's Funniest Fails
- 22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:40 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud

- 06:15 Calimero
- 06:30 Loopedidoo
- 06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
- 07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 07:25 Sofia The First
- 07:50 The Lion Guard
- 08:15 PJ Masks
- 08:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 09:05 Goldie & Bear
- 09:35 The Lion Guard
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Doc McStuffins
- 10:55 Miles From Tomorrow
- 11:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 11:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 12:15 Gummi Bears
- 12:40 The Return Of Jafar
- 13:50 PJ Masks
- 14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 14:30 The Lion Guard
- 15:00 Sofia The First
- 15:30 Doc McStuffins
- 15:55 Goldie & Bear
- 16:20 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:50 PJ Masks
- 17:15 Sofia The First
- 17:40 Doc McStuffins
- 18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 19:00 Goldie & Bear
- 19:25 Goldie & Bear
- 19:50 Doc McStuffins
- 20:05 Goldie & Bear
- 20:35 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 21:00 Gummi Bears
- 21:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 22:00 PJ Masks
- 22:25 PJ Masks
- 22:55 PJ Masks
- 23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:35 The Hive
- 23:45 Loopedidoo

**EHD**

- 00:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 00:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 01:50 Botched
- 02:50 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:50 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 04:40 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 05:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 06:00 Just Jillian
- 06:55 El News
- 07:10 Just Jillian
- 08:10 El News
- 09:10 Mariah's World
- 10:05 Mariah's World
- 11:00 Mariah's World
- 12:00 El News
- 12:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
- 13:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
- 14:05 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
- 15:00 El News
- 15:15 Botched
- 16:10 Botched
- 17:05 Botched
- 18:00 Botched
- 19:00 El News
- 20:00 Mariah's World
- 21:00 Mariah's World
- 22:00 Mariah's World
- 23:00 El News
- 23:15 Botched

**H2 HD**

- 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 Bible Secrets Revealed
- 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 Bible Secrets Revealed
- 11:00 The Universe
- 12:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
- 13:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 14:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
- 15:00 Ancient Aliens
- 16:00 Bible Secrets Revealed
- 17:00 The Universe
- 18:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
- 19:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 20:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
- 21:00 Ancient Aliens
- 22:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
- 23:00 The Universe

**H HD HISTORY**

- 00:20 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 01:10 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 02:00 Hunting Hitler
- 02:50 Storage Wars
- 03:15 American Pickers
- 04:05 Pawn Stars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Mountain Men
- 06:00 Lost In Transmission
- 06:50 Ice Road Truckers
- 07:40 Counting Cars
- 08:05 Counting Cars
- 08:30 Pawn Stars
- 08:55 Pawn Stars
- 09:20 Storage Wars
- 09:45 Storage Wars
- 10:10 American Pickers
- 11:00 Time Team
- 11:50 Battle 360
- 12:40 Swamp People
- 13:30 Ax Men

**food network**

- 00:00 Restaurant: Impossible
- 01:00 Mystery Diners
- 01:30 Mystery Diners
- 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Chopped
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 06:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 07:00 The Kitchen
- 08:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:00 Cooking For Real



**TRASH ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL**

**crime & investigation network**

- 00:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
- 01:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers
- 02:00 Homicide Hunter
- 03:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 04:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
- 05:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers
- 06:00 My Crazy Ex
- 07:00 My Crazy Ex
- 08:00 Evil Up Close
- 09:00 It Takes A Killer
- 09:30 It Takes A Killer
- 10:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 11:00 The First 48
- 12:00 The First 48
- 13:00 My Crazy Ex
- 14:00 Evil Up Close
- 15:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 16:00 It Takes A Killer
- 16:30 It Takes A Killer
- 17:00 The First 48
- 18:00 The First 48
- 19:00 Evil Up Close
- 20:00 Broadmoor: A History Of The Criminally Insane
- 21:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 22:00 Crime Stories
- 23:00 Motive For Murder

**Disney Channel HD**

- 00:10 Hank Zipzer
- 00:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 01:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 01:25 Hank Zipzer
- 01:45 The Hive
- 01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:40 Hank Zipzer
- 03:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 03:30 Binny And The Ghost
- 03:55 Hank Zipzer
- 04:15 The Hive
- 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:10 Hank Zipzer
- 0



# CLASSIFIEDS



**Kuwait Times**  
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[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (13/04/2017 TO 19/04/2017)

Program	Time	Program	Time	Program	Time
<b>SHARQIA-1</b>		GOING IN STYLE	2:30 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE -3D-4DX	1:45 PM
FEIN QALBY	12:00 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	4:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX	3:45 PM
FEIN QALBY	2:15 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	6:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX	6:30 PM
RABBIT SCHOOL	4:30 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	8:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX	9:15 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	6:15 PM	GOING IN STYLE	10:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX	12:05 AM
FEIN QALBY	8:15 PM	GOING IN STYLE	12:30 AM		
GOING IN STYLE	10:30 PM				
FEIN QALBY	12:30 AM				
		<b>FANAR-3</b>		<b>AVENUES-3</b>	
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>		KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:45 AM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	11:45 AM	RABBIT SCHOOL	1:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	2:30 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	1:45 PM	RABBIT SCHOOL	3:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	5:45 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	4:30 PM	RABBIT SCHOOL	5:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:30 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	7:15 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	7:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:15 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	10:00 PM	THE BELKO EXPERIMENT	9:30 PM		
FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:45 AM	THE BELKO EXPERIMENT	11:15 PM	<b>AVENUES-4</b>	
			1:00 AM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:00 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	2:45 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	5:30 PM
				Special Show "SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE"	5:30 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:15 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:00 PM
				<b>BAIRAQ-1</b>	
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:00 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	2:45 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	5:30 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:15 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:00 PM
				<b>BAIRAQ-2</b>	
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:30 AM
				RABBIT SCHOOL	3:00 PM
				RABBIT SCHOOL	4:45 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:30 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:15 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:05 AM
				<b>BAIRAQ-3</b>	
				FEIN QALBY	11:45 AM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	2:00 PM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE - Arabic	4:00 PM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	6:00 PM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	8:00 PM
				FEIN QALBY	10:00 PM
				FEIN QALBY	12:15 AM
				<b>PLAZA</b>	
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	4:00 PM
				NO FRI+SAT+MON	
				THE GREAT FATHER- Malayalam	3:45 PM
				FRI+SAT+MON	
				THE GREAT FATHER- Malayalam	6:45 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:45 PM
				<b>LAILA</b>	
				GOING IN STYLE	3:15 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	5:15 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:00 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	10:45 PM
				<b>AJIAL1</b>	
				THE GREAT FATHER- Malayalam	3:30 PM
				THE GREAT FATHER- Malayalam	6:30 PM
				THE GREAT FATHER- Malayalam	9:30 PM
				Special Show "THE GREAT FATHER- Malayalam"	9:30 PM
				<b>AJIAL2</b>	
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	4:00 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:45 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:45 PM
				<b>MUHALAB-1</b>	
				FEIN QALBY	11:45 AM
				FEIN QALBY	2:00 PM
				RABBIT SCHOOL	2:15 PM
				RABBIT SCHOOL	4:15 PM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	6:00 PM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE - Arabic	8:00 PM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	10:00 PM
				FEIN QALBY	12:15 AM
				<b>MUHALAB-2</b>	
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:15 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	3:00 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	5:45 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:30 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:15 PM
				<b>MUHALAB-3</b>	
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:30 AM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	2:00 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	4:00 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:45 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:30 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:15 AM
				<b>FANAR-1</b>	
				FEIN QALBY	12:00 PM
				FEIN QALBY	2:30 PM
				FEIN QALBY	4:45 PM
				FEIN QALBY	7:00 PM
				FEIN QALBY	9:15 PM
				FEIN QALBY	11:30 PM
				<b>FANAR-2</b>	
				GOING IN STYLE	12:30 PM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	2:30 PM
				<b>MARINA-1</b>	
				FEIN QALBY	12:15 PM
				RABBIT SCHOOL	2:30 PM
				RABBIT SCHOOL	4:15 PM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	6:00 PM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	8:00 PM
				FEIN QALBY	10:00 PM
				FEIN QALBY	12:15 AM
				<b>MARINA-2</b>	
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	1:00 PM
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	1:45 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	3:45 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:30 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:15 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:05 AM
				<b>MARINA-3</b>	
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:00 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	2:45 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	5:30 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:15 PM
				Special Show "FAST & FURIOUS 8"	8:15 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:00 PM
				<b>AL-KOUT.1</b>	
				SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	11:30 AM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	1:30 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	4:15 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	7:00 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 AM
				<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>	
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:45 AM
				RABBIT SCHOOL	2:30 PM
				RABBIT SCHOOL	4:15 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:00 PM
				FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:45 PM

**NOTICE**  
 APRIL 16, 2017

Mr. Nasar Ebrahim Pereira son of Mr. Ebrahim S Pereira, Indian national, resident of KP VIII 192, Thazavilla Janam, Kumarapuram, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala and Ms. Florita Lopez Castro daughter of Mr. Fabian Dela Cruz Castro, Philippines national, resident of 1838-G, G.Tuazon street, Manila City, Philippines, both presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (attachecons@indembkwt.org, welfaresection@indembkwt.org) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).

Embassy of India, Kuwait.  
 Ph: 00965 - 22550171  
 00965 - 22533125  
 Fax: 00965 - 22573910  
 Email: attachecons@indembkwt.org  
 welfaresection@indembkwt.org

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Sangaraju Subramanyam s/o Subbaraju, holder of Indian Passport No. J7175997 and Civil ID No. 283010802296 has changed my name to Surapu Raju Subramanyam hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. Contact: 55276407, email: msyusuf110@yahoo.com (C 5297) 18-4-2017

**SITUATION WANTED**

Looking for job as procurement/business development/commercial executive. Experienced in industrial and construction equipment as well as electrical and hand tools. Can join immediately. Contact: 55276407, email: msyusuf110@yahoo.com (C 5296) 15-4-2017

**ACCOMMODATION**

Room available in C-A/C flat for Asian couple/ Family/Working Ladies in Khaiteen Airport Road. Just one minute to all routes bus stop. Tel: 51614467. (C 5298) 18-4-2017

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

**EMERGENCY 112**

**PRAYER TIMINGS**

**Fajr: 03:56 Asr: 15:22**  
**Shorook: 05:19 Maghrib: 18:16**  
**Duhr: 11:47 Isha: 19:37**

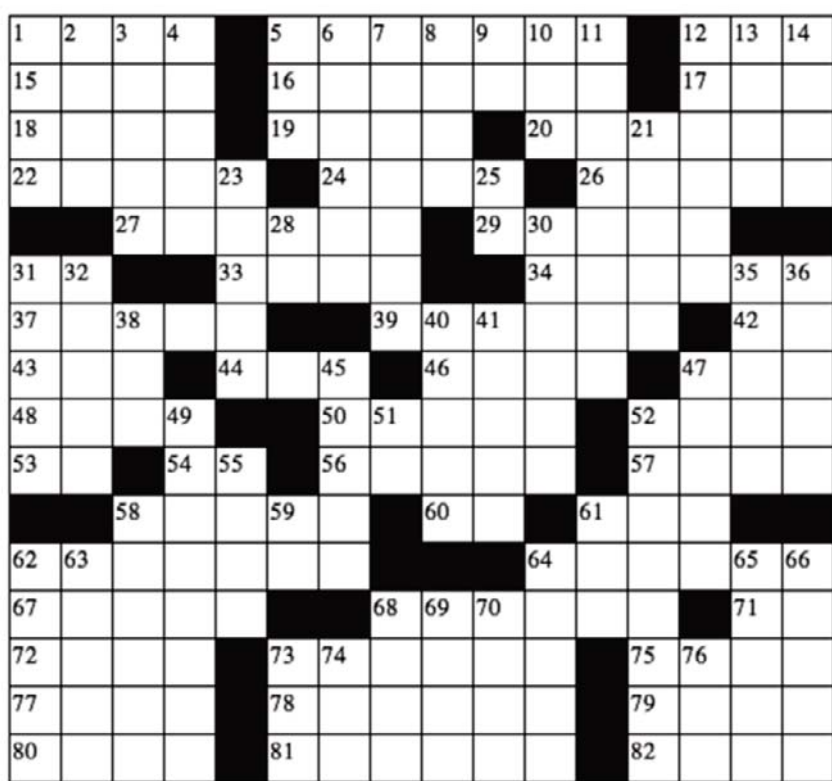
**Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)**

**DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 18/4/2017				Departure Flights on Tuesday 18/4/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	BBC	144	Dhaka	00:10
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	ETD	920	Abu Dhabi	00:10
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
RJA	642	Amman	00:45	SVA	503	Jeddah	01:20
KAC	102	London	00:55	SVA	515	Riyadh	01:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSC	412	Asyut	01:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:25	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	363	Colombo	01:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
QTR	8201	Amsterdam	02:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	04:45	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	831	Istanbul	03:10
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
FEG	935	Asyut	05:00	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	QTR	8202	Doha	04:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
KAC	414	Bangkok	05:20	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
BAW	157	London	06:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	417	Manila	04:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	FEG	938	Sohag	05:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
AAG	145	FJR	09:00	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	THY	6376	Dubai/Ataturk	06:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	KAC	167	Paris	07:15
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50



CROSSWORD 1582



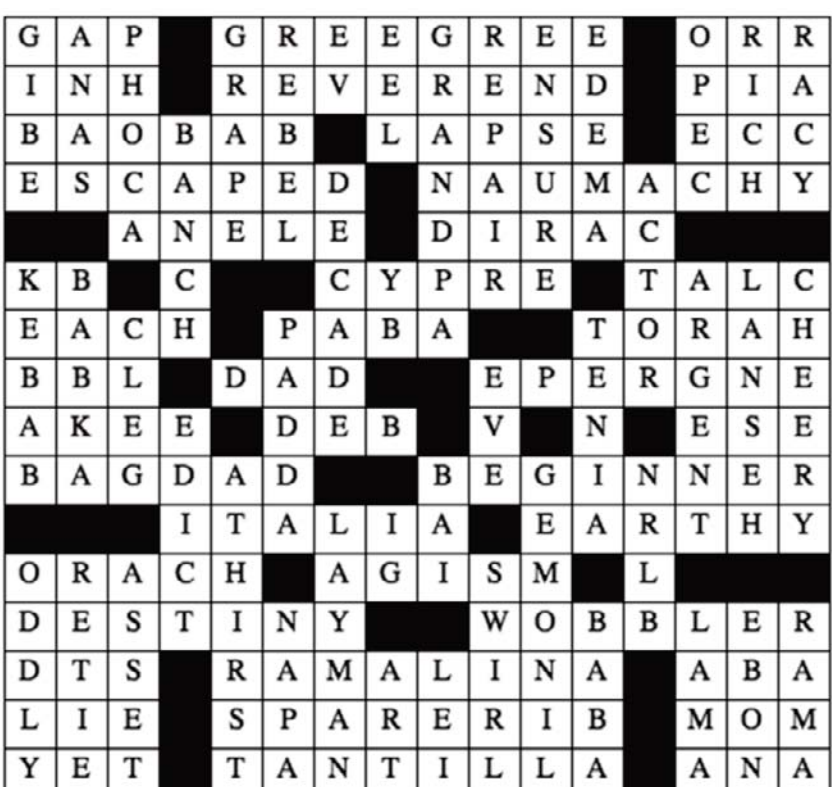
ACROSS

1. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
5. The third month of the civil year.
12. A flexible container with a single opening.
15. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
16. Shape anew or differently.
17. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
18. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
19. A port in western Israel on the Mediterranean.
20. A unit of weight used in some Spanish speaking countries.
22. Jordan's port.
24. An informal term for a father.
26. A confusion of voices and other sounds.
27. East Indian tart yellow berrylike fruit.
29. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
31. A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.
33. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
34. Any of various burrowing animals of the family Leporidae having long ears and short tails.
37. United States tennis player (born in Czechoslovakia) who won several singles championships.
39. Grandson of Amaterasu and first ruler of Japan.
42. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
43. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
44. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
46. An underground enclosure with access from the surface of the ground or from the sea v 1.
48. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
50. The capital of Cape Verde on Sao Tiago Island.
53. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
54. A class of proteins produced in lymph tissue in vertebrates and that function as antibodies in the immune response.
56. Wood of a pecan tree.
57. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
60. A doctor's degree in optometry.
62. Pertaining to or involving or having the nature of space.
67. God of justice.
71. A public promotion of some product or service.
72. A shade of blue tinged with green.
75. Not widely known.
77. Waves breaking on the shore.
78. European shad.
79. Wading birds of warm regions having long slender down-curved bills.
80. A form of energy that is transferred by a difference in temperature.
81. Wearing boots.
82. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

1. Large genus of tropical shrubs or herbs some of which yield fibers of mucilaginous substances.
2. Any of various strong liquors distilled from the fermented sap of toddy palms or from fermented molasses.
3. Obvious and dull.
4. Jordan's port.
5. A loud utterance.
6. Having a heading or course in a certain direction.
7. City in central Iran.
8. Wearing footgear.
9. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
10. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
11. Overabundance of words.
12. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
13. A French abbot.
14. The state of affairs that a plan is intended to achieve and that (when achieved) terminates behavior intended to achieve it.
21. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation.
23. Administer an oil or ointment to.
25. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
28. A state in north central United States.
30. Capital of Armenia.
32. Belonging to or befitting a supreme ruler.
35. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
36. A unit of magnetic flux density equal to one weber per square meter.
38. Tag the base runner to get him out.
40. Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
41. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
45. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
47. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
49. A vehicle that can fly.
51. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
52. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
55. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
58. Thorn apple.
59. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
61. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
63. Of textiles.
64. Mated sexually.
65. A member of an American Indian peoples of NE South America and the Lesser Antilles.
66. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
68. Herb of the Pacific islands grown throughout the tropics for its edible root and in temperate areas as an ornamental for its large glossy leaves.
69. Expel, as of gases and odors.
70. The front of the head from the forehead to the chin and ear to ear.
73. The bill in a restaurant.
74. The United Nations agency concerned with the interests of labor.
76. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are a genius at understanding others and pride yourself at finding the best help for people that want your help. Co-workers tend to come to you in search of how best to handle some difficult project. A good profession for you to consider would be as a teacher, counselor or guide. The need that arises from another country or even your own country, calls your name. You and a mate or close friend may find a group of people to back you in traveling for some missionary or volunteer project. You like to help rehabilitate those that can't help themselves. Wherever you are, photography is one of your hobbies and can be a very helpful tool. There are some very special people around you. Smile-you will have positive reactions.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are full of confidence now and prepared to put your education or experience to use. Make sure that both your expectations and abilities are realistic before diving into something you may not be able to get out of without harm or embarrassment. There is a collision of powerful energies spilling into your life in unpredictable ways. Be guided by lists, lists and more lists. The decisions and actions of this day will have long-lasting effects. You can be most persuasive with others and you seem to bounce your positive attitude back to others all day. Although some of your energy needs direction you seem confident and optimistic. Feeling good about yourself does wonder for your overall attitude toward life. Buy a butterfly house.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Feeling good about yourself does wonders for your attitude. People that have displayed little or no support for you in the past will help you now. Your support system, which is your family, home and those who give you nourishment, is becoming more secure. You encourage better support from others. Do not look for a hidden meaning in another person's compliments-the compliments are well deserved. Be courteous and helpful during the day as you may have your thoughts in so many other places that you could seem unappreciative. Healing efforts have a way of multiplying as you continue a routine. Fits of starts and stops can damage the healing progress so stay with a designated program for best results.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Many distractions today may cause any number of frustrations. Keep your sense of humor and ask the next person that interrupts your work to take a number. You may be looking for advice in many different places and find yourself confused. You have all the answers you need inside your own psyche. Enjoy some quiet time this afternoon by surrounding yourself in a quiet environment. Ask yourself the questions you have been asking others. You may be very pleased with the input you receive. Emotional security and a sense of nurturing are the issues felt instinctively now. You may find a relaxing evening at home is in order. Show your loved ones your appreciation of them in your own special way.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Obtaining and exchanging information is very important for you and you do your best to learn good problem-solving techniques. Communicating feelings becomes important. Your work mentally and physically becomes more refined emotionally. Getting your message across and learning how and when to say no successfully is an important issue for you. You know that your mind and ego are at risk if you cannot foster discrimination and clearness. Your willpower and intuition grow little by little and this is the perfect time to work on communication skills. It is important to become more involved in social activities so that you will have opportunities to continue your interaction with others and to enjoy the closeness of communication.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Before purchasing large, expensive items this day, look for ways in which you could invest. Make long-term plans to build your income and financial holdings through careful, conservative methods and research. All of this should go smoothly. Your keyword is responsibility-trustworthiness or accountability. Work is a positive and you might be able to leave the personal considerations of your own income behind you in order to concentrate on improving the work profit of the company for which you work. Your superiors are quite pleased with your results. This afternoon is for friends. You are able to find yourself in others, in relationships, rather than alone. This is also a great time just to get to know someone better.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You could be somewhat susceptible to misunderstandings at work, particularly with members of the opposite sex. If you have a natural tendency toward gullibility, you must be most observant and prudent at this time. Activities involving the arts and culture come into the workplace now and bring new opportunities for your professional advancement. Although you may be tempted to work overtime, take every opportunity to enjoy family activities. You will always want things to run smoothly, but this is a time of new discoveries into your talents, and interruptions can appear to keep you from moving forward. This is a most positive day, full of beneficial professional choices and opportunities to create a calming balance in your home surroundings.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

If you can end that negative thinking that seems to happen to all of us from time to time, you will find this a great time to interact with co-workers and clients and rise above any difficulties with much accomplished by the end of the day. Refuse to join up with the "worry monster," your job and your friend's job are secure. You may discover, however, that someone has added to the amount of work you usually do. This, however, is temporary and there will eventually be a nice balance. You will see some reward for your efforts all throughout the day. This evening you are in a great mood and can appreciate your achievements and your situation in this world. Water runoff, roof repairs, overgrown ivy comes to your attention for a to-do list in the near future.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Right now you are in charge of your life and right now is the time to work for what you want. There could be a demanding individual in your day. When you talk with this person, use your intelligence to maneuver yourself away from any difficulties. If your job identification does not call for you to respond to difficult customers, you are still flexible enough to give a little. Being on the go and keeping a finger to the winds of change make you feel in touch with the events around you. Positive communication is a mental satisfaction for you. Everything conspires to reveal you at your most elegant in a social situation. Your ambitions may outweigh family activity just now, but you will be firm in your resolve to create more family time soon; bravo.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find challenges regarding family or political matters today. Instead of just believing something, you may need to understand the underlying truth for yourself. If uncertain conversation creates stress in the workplace, you may be the one who is called on to uncover the real story. You can demonstrate a deep sensitivity to the needs of others and you are in a good position to communicate with your team or group. You may see value for an older person or someone in authority today-you sense when you can be helpful or when you can just be present. Your mind is quite clear and ideas flow easily. If needed, you can exchange a few ideas. Continue to keep the attitude of trust in others and the willingness to open up to life's experiences.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Communication with a supervisor or boss can prove beneficial and will clear the air of any misunderstandings. You may be of tremendous help to a co-worker or associate because of your compassionate nature. If you are involved in ecology and methods to preserve our planet, you may want to network with different groups. Share ideas of how to find recycling resources such as books, magazines or workshops near your neighborhood or community. Get the word out into your neighborhood as to the different ways to recycle and protect the wildlife. You enjoy being in touch with the new and the different as well as original or old ways of living. Perhaps creating a community or neighborhood newsletter would help spread information.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are extremely hardworking and ambitious on the professional level. You may tend to politely ignore co-workers now in order to meet a quota or goal that you previously had in mind. You could be most persuasive with authority figures and this is a good time to show your findings from some research you conducted. This is a significant day for you. Good news is finally reaching your ear. Communication with co-workers, friends or relatives may be on your mind this afternoon. This evening you could find yourself writing and phoning and keeping in touch with out-of-town relatives. All of this week is a good time to either take a trip or plan a trip. Vacation plans are included here, particularly if you do not have children in school-plan ahead.

WORD SEARCH

USA States

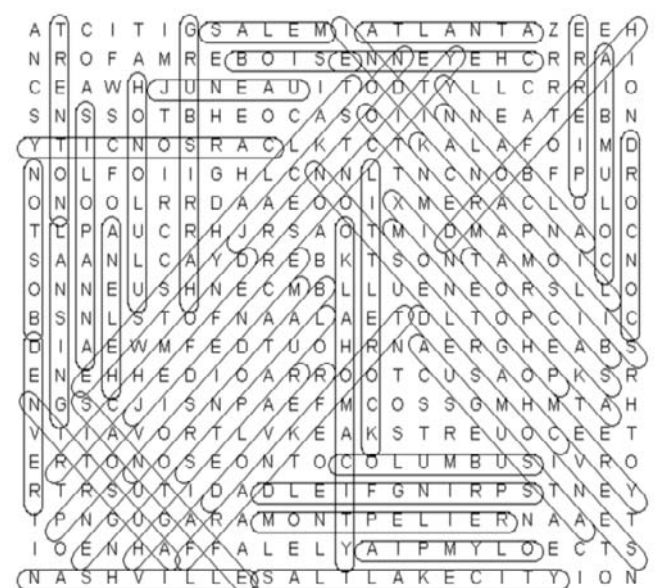
Find and circle all of the USA States that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - an Adlai Stevenson quotation. Note: VIRGINIA and WEST VIRGINIA do not overlap. The same goes for KANSAS and ARKANSAS.

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

- |             |               |                |                |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| ALABAMA     | INDIANA       | NEBRASKA       | SOUTH CAROLINA |
| ALASKA      | IOWA          | NEVADA         | SOUTH DAKOTA   |
| ARIZONA     | KANSAS        | NEW HAMPSHIRE  | TENNESSEE      |
| ARKANSAS    | KENTUCKY      | NEW JERSEY     | TEXAS          |
| CALIFORNIA  | LOUISIANA     | NEW MEXICO     | UTAH           |
| COLORADO    | MAINE         | NEW YORK       | VERMONT        |
| CONNECTICUT | MARYLAND      | NORTH CAROLINA | VIRGINIA       |
| DELAWARE    | MASSACHUSETTS | NORTH DAKOTA   | WASHINGTON     |
| FLORIDA     | MICHIGAN      | OHIO           | WEST VIRGINIA  |
| GEORGIA     | MINNESOTA     | OKLAHOMA       | WISCONSIN      |
| HAWAII      | MISSISSIPPI   | OREGON         | WYOMING        |
| IDAHO       | MISSOURI      | PENNSYLVANIA   |                |
| ILLINOIS    | MONTANA       | RHODE ISLAND   |                |

Yesterday's Solution

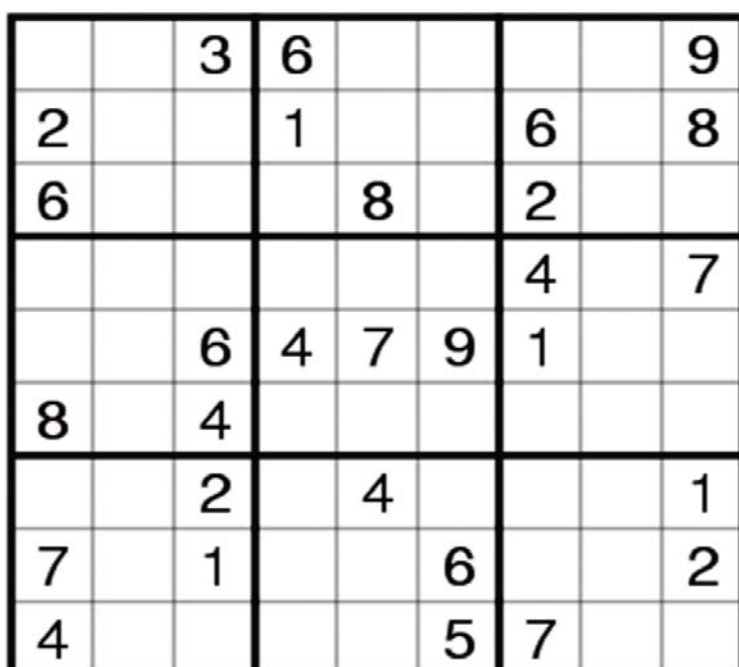
USA State Capitals



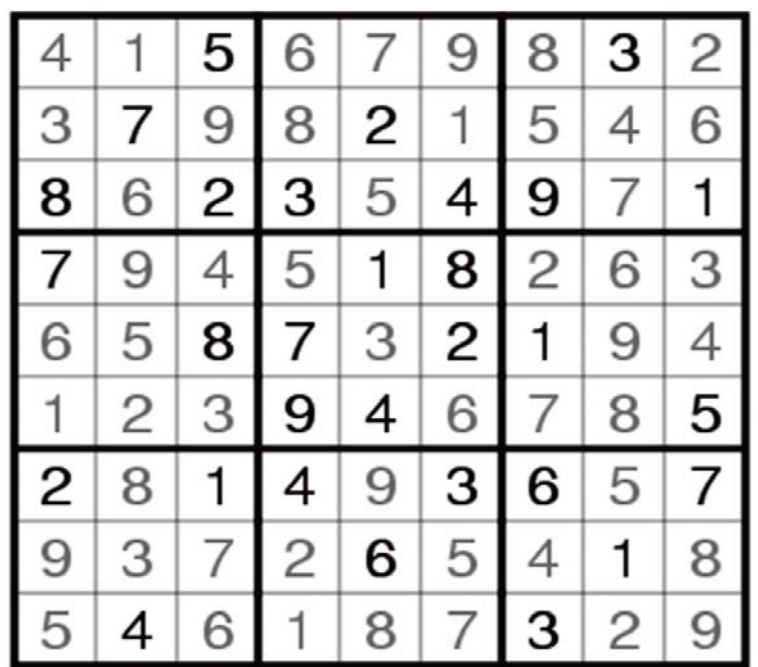
- |                            |                           |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ALBANY (New York)          | DOVER (Delaware)          | OKLAHOMA CITY (Oklahoma)  |
| ANNAPOLIS (Maryland)       | FRANKFURT (Kentucky)      | OLYMPIA (Washington)      |
| ATLANTA (Georgia)          | HARRISBURG (Pennsylvania) | PHOENIX (Arizona)         |
| AUGUSTA (Maine)            | HARTFORD (Connecticut)    | PIERRE (South Dakota)     |
| AUSTIN (Texas)             | HELENA (Montana)          | PROVIDENCE (Rhode Island) |
| BATON ROUGE (Louisiana)    | HONOLULU (Hawaii)         | RALEIGH (North Carolina)  |
| BISMARCK (North Dakota)    | INDIANAPOLIS (Indiana)    | RICHMOND (Virginia)       |
| BOISE (Idaho)              | JACKSON (Mississippi)     | SACRAMENTO (California)   |
| BOSTON (Massachusetts)     | JEFFERSON CITY (Missouri) | SALT LAKE CITY (Utah)     |
| CARSON CITY (Nevada)       | JUNEAU (Alaska)           | SANTA FE (New Mexico)     |
| CHARLESTON (West Virginia) | LANING (Michigan)         | SPRINGFIELD (Illinois)    |
| CHEMUNG (Tennessee)        | LINCOLN (Nebraska)        | ST. PAUL (Minnesota)      |
| COLUMBIA (South Carolina)  | LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas)    | TALLAHASSEE (Florida)     |
| COLUMBUS (Ohio)            | MADISON (Wisconsin)       | TORONTO (Canada)          |
| CONCORD (New Hampshire)    | MONTGOMERY (Alabama)      | TRENTON (New Jersey)      |
| DENVER (Colorado)          | MONTPELIER (Vermont)      |                           |
| DES MOINES (Iowa)          | NASHVILLE (Tennessee)     |                           |

The hidden sentence is: A CITIZEN OF AMERICA WILL CROSS THE OCEAN TO FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY, BUT WON'T CROSS THE STREET TO VOTE IN A NATIONAL ELECTION

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



## PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

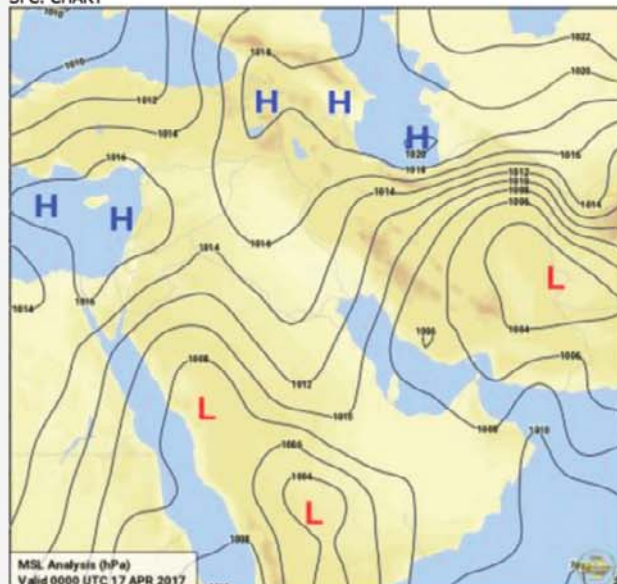
#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 17/04/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

#### Max Temperature 29 °C

**By Day** : Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h causing raising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times  
**By Night** : Partly cloudy with light to moderate northerly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain

#### SFC. CHART



#### Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy + scattered rain	clouds to decrease + raising dust	sunny + raising dust	sunny + raising dust
Min Temp °C	25	25	22	23
Max Temp °C	31	34	33	35
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	25 - 45	25 - 45	25 - 50

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

#### Weather Watches

Thunder Rain

#### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	24		29
KUWAIT AIRPORT	24		29
ABDALLY	21		28
BUBYAN	22		28
JAHRA	23		30
FAILAKA ISLAND	23		28
SALMIYAH	24		28
AHMADI	25		27
JAL ALYAH	21		27
QAROH ISLAND	23		26
UMM AL-MARADEM	23		26
NUWAISIB	24		29
WAFRA	23		29
SALMY	18		28
MUTRIBA	20		31

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	28
Min Temp (°C)	23
Max Rel Hum (%)	58
Min Rel Hum (%)	35
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	71 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:19
Sunset	18:15

#### Prayer Times

Fajr	03:56
Sunrise	05:19
Zuhr	11:48
Asr	15:22
Sunset	18:15
Isha	19:36

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



## PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123



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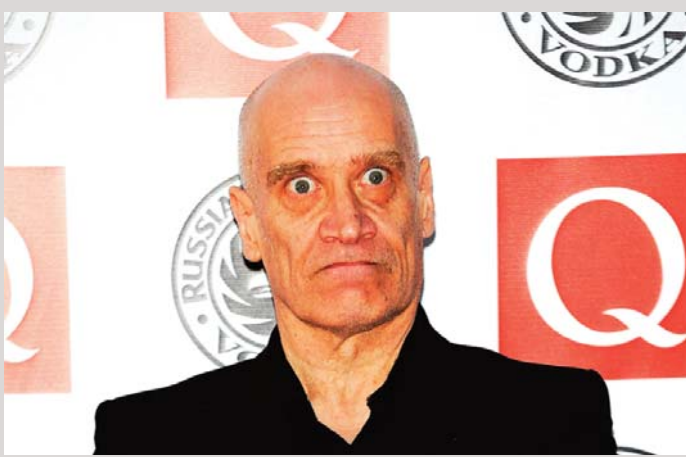
## Una Healy wants dance tracks

Una Healy is ready to become an EDM star. The former Saturdays singer's debut solo album, 'The Waiting Game' had a country and folk vibe but she is keen to try something radically different in the future. She told BANG Showbiz: "I'd love to work with someone like Sigala or Jonas Blue. I love dance music and I'll often hear a track and think I wish I could write a top line on that. And then a few weeks later it's in the charts because someone's written a top line on it... I just love writing melodies and lyrics." The 35-year-old beauty recently admitted she is keen to reunite with the Saturdays - who went on hiatus in 2014 - eventually but doesn't think it'll be in the near future. She said: "I always say when the nostalgia kicks in, that's when bands reform and I hope one day we will,

but it won't be for a few years. "I really miss the girls and their company. We're all doing our own thing, but I've got the guys in the band now. But of course I miss the girls." Despite this, Una insisted she was relishing the experience of being a solo artist, explaining it gives her the opportunity to indulge her own specific tastes in music. She added: "It's so me, totally. The whole album is about my life... now it's unleashed to the world. I feel I've done a full circle. "I was embarking on the path of a singer songwriter. Going around pubs and clubs, then I joined the Saturdays and it was a huge change for me. It's like being given a second chance to go back to the music I like."

## WILKO JOHNSON'S GREAT YEAR

Wilko Johnson had one of the "greatest years" of his life when he was given 12 months to live. The 69-year-old musician was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer in 2013 and embarked on a farewell tour, and refused to give in to self-pity because he knew everyone's time draws to an end eventually. He said: "That year thinking my life was at an end was one of the greatest years of my life. "The way I handled it was at all times to understand, 'Yes, I'm gonna die' but don't sit there wishing you aren't gonna die because we're all gonna die. I never felt self-pity. I was never in tears all that time... "Looking out at thousands and thousands of people [at Fuji Rock in Japan] and they all know you're gonna die... oh man. I'm gonna die, but it's alright. What a high." The legendary guitarist - whose beloved wife Irene died of cancer in 2004 - defied the odds and overcome the disease following a risky 12-hour operation and admitted it can be "hard" to know he survived where so many others don't. He said: "It's hard to know there are people suffering from cancer who don't survive, and then me. "Why me? It's another proof there is no God, man. Because why is Irene lying in her grave and I'm sitting here talking to you? "She was a wonderful person, a real asset to the world. But that's the way it goes." And Wilko doesn't think he'll ever get over Irene's death. He said recently: "I would look up at the stars and realize that in all the gulfs and light years of the cosmos, she was nowhere to be found. "The moon looked like a cold lump of mud in the sky. "I tell you what. Last night I couldn't sleep. Not an unusual occurrence. But I was in hell. Upstairs just... I was just thinking, 'What's it all about?' Oh man. "And then of course, thinking about her. It's like a light's gone out of the world ever since then. And I've never got over it."



## Ed Sheeran's secret video smash

Ed Sheeran smashed up a car in his cousin's debut music video. The 26-year-old singer-songwriter secretly starred in the promo clip for 'Skyla Rain', the first single from Alonestar, aka Jethro Sheeran, and can be seen in a hoodie at the 3 min 49 seconds mark using what appears to be a crowbar to smash up a vehicle on set. Jethro exclusively told BANG Showbiz: "My best memories with Ed is making music when we were kids, together in the studio, having fun and doing good things. We came up with crazy ideas and I shot my first video [Skyla Rain] with him, it was really fun." And even without a big budget - as neither of them had the cash to splash on props and creative visuals at the time - the pair managed to bag themselves a gritty car compound back drop location and a motor to smash up free-of-charge, in order to create a visual spectacle for the video shot in the middle of East London. Jethro, 31, explained: "Luckily, around the corner from the studio there was a massive car pound there, it was just getting to the evening and there was a bonfire in the

middle of it so we asked if we could use the fire. "Me, Ed and the directors went in and I rapped beside the fire. The owner said, 'You can have a car if you want and smash it up'. So it's in my video and Ed's smashing it up with a hoodie on but you can't really see him. That was a fun time because we were given this car for free - we didn't have much of a budget." And fond memories like this and battle-rapping with the 'Shape of You' hitmaker are what Jethro says means more to him than any record deal. He explained: "We'd always freestyle jokes, talking about each other's looks and our families and stuff like that - battle-rapping each other - and he'd [Ed] always put on an accent so I'd have to get him back in my raps and he'd play the guitar. These are all happy, funny memories, that's what life is about and that's the good memories I have. Smoking weed and all that stuff is nothing compared to really making music - before we had plans, before we had a record label and before there was any money involved."



Ed Sheeran in Jethro's video



## Stevie Wonder urges expression through music

Stevie Wonder has urged people to "express their truth" through music. The 66-year-old music icon has spoken about the need for artists to stand up for what they believe in, and claims music is the "most integrated thing" society has so it's important to use it as a platform but to do so "with love". He said: "There's always power in the work. This isn't the first time that people have protested and marched. But I would say don't be afraid to express your truth but do it with love. So those of us who have been blessed with the gift of expression, don't be afraid to express your truth. But do it with love. When you think about it, music is probably the most integrated thing that we have. We're all influenced by each other." And the 'Isn't She Lovely' hitmaker also spoke about the key to staying committed to a career in the music

business, saying it's about "the feeling" and putting work into creating art. He added: "You have to put work into that which you love. Then you've got to listen objectively. It's fun to get to a place where you can challenge. When I was doing 'Songs in the Key of Life', I had this little transmitter that I hooked up and would listen, listen and listen. It's all about the feeling every time." The 'Superstition' singer spoke as he was being honored with ASCAP's first Key of Life Award during a keynote session at the ASCAP 'I Create Music' Expo over the weekend. ASCAP president Paul Williams said as he presented Stevie with the award: "The Key of Life award is presented to Stevie Wonder, who inspires and elevates the world through his songs, his spirit and his boundless heart."

## Bunton and Horner still plotting Spice Girls reunion

Emma Bunton says it would be a "shame" if the Spice Girls don't reunite. The 41-year-old beauty - who was known as Baby Spice in the girl group - has revealed that she and Geri Horner [Ginger Spice] are doing all they can to ensure the 'Viva Forever' hitmakers' make a comeback, but she admits it's hard to marry up their schedules. Emma - who was also joined by Mel B, Victoria Beckham and Melanie C in the 90s band - said: "We're always talking about it. I think it would be amazing, so I'm on the case and Geri's the same." On what's holding them back, she told The Sun newspaper: "It's about finding the perfect time. We want to make it right for our fans. But it would be a shame not to do something." The blonde beauty would like them to release a greatest hits record and perform again, but she says if it doesn't happen sooner rather than later, they'll be too old. She continued: "I think it would be great to bring out another album, maybe with our hits on. It would be lovely to show us performing to a whole new generation. "But we can't wait too much longer, as we're all getting on a bit!" It comes after a mini Spice Girls reunion

was staged on April 8, as Geri watched her former band mate Melanie C perform at London's O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire. Mel dedicated the Spice Girls' 1996 hit 'Say You'll Be There' to the 44-year-old beauty. Geri supporting Melanie came after she and Victoria Beckham ruled themselves out of a reunion of the 90s girl group. Mel followed in Victoria's footsteps by turning down the chance to join forces with Geri, Emma and Mel B for the 'Wannabe' hitmakers' 20th anniversary comeback, and said it was because of seven-year-old daughter Scarlet. She previously said: "I had to think about myself and the most important thing in my life, which is being a mother to my little girl. I had to be present for her. "It was a hard decision, not only letting down the girls but all the fans who want it to happen. "But we're four individuals, we've gone on to have separate lives and careers and want different things. "We always said we had to be comfortable but lots of people were getting involved and I wasn't comfortable."



## Lisa Kudrow needed 400 takes

Lisa Kudrow doesn't think she was "very good" in 'The Boss Baby'. The 53-year-old actress - who has son Julian, 18, with her husband Michel Stern - voices the mum in the new DreamWorks animated adventure but because she had to do numerous takes for all her scenes, she isn't convinced she did a particularly great job, though she had a lot of fun. She said: "I did my takes about 400 times, so that tells me I wasn't very good." But I really enjoyed it. "I thought the story was very clever and funny, yet grounded in a ridiculous reality. When a baby comes into the house, they are the boss because they can't do anything for themselves." Lisa can also currently be seen in wedding comedy 'Table 19', and she admitted the subject matter - a collection of random guests seated at a table with no connection to one another - struck a chord with her. Asked if the simple plot was what appealed to her, she said: "That and the fact I'm always at that table. I wanted to be there at my own wedding, because you're away from all the chaos. "I thought it was an honor to sit there, but this film has taught me otherwise." However, one think Lisa thinks was an "honor" was being part of such a strong comedic ensemble in the movie. She added to heat magazine: "But it was an honor to sit at that table with Anna Kendrick, June Squibb, Stephen Merchant and Craig Robinson. It was one of those really great ensemble pieces that don't come around very often."

## CHARLIE HUNNAM: 'RAPID' TURNAROUND PREVENTED ME FROM DOING PACIFIC RIM - UPRISING

Charlie Hunnam has blamed the "rapid" turnaround for 'Pacific Rim: Uprising' as the reason for his character not being in the movie. The 37-year-old actor starred as the lead character Raleigh Beckett in 'Pacific Rim', and says the reason he couldn't reprise his role in the upcoming sequel was because Legendary Entertainment - the studio that made the movie and was subsequently bought by Chinese company Wanda - wanted to make the movie "very rapidly", when the star was already committed to upcoming prison movie 'Papillon'. He said: "There was a huge scheduling conflict. I was already really, really invested in doing 'Papillon'. "What happened was Legendary was sold to Wanda, which is the big Chinese corporation, and 'Pacific Rim', although it underperformed in other territories in the world, was an enormous success in China. All of a sudden, it became their primary focus to make this and they wanted to do it very, very rapidly... I think their schedule subsequently changed, and I might have been able to do both, but at that time, they were writing the script and they needed to know, was I in or was I out?" Despite the scheduling crisis, Charlie insists there's no bad blood between himself and the team at Legendary, and has thanked them for letting him out of his contract so he could focus on 'Papillon'. He added to DenofGeek.com: "I have great relationships with everyone at Legendary, and they were incredibly generous to me and let me out of my contract. "I had to do the film whether I liked it or not. When I spoke to (former Legendary chairman) Thomas Tull, who is a dear friend of mine, I said, 'Listen, man. It's not that my heart is not in this. I'm invested in this creatively, but my heart's going to be broken because I already was going to do this other film.' "He was like, 'Dude, you were going to do that other film and that's where your heart is. I don't want you being on set if you're not going to be happy, so go do the other film,' which was ludicrously generous of him. But that's just the type of man he is."





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## Mark Hamill's Star Wars: The Force Awakens script regret

**M**ark Hamill would have liked to have seen a final scene with Luke Skywalker and Han Solo in 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens'. The 65-year-old actor - who portrays the Jedi Knight in the science-fiction franchise - only has one regret about the 2015 movie, and that is that he wishes Luke came to the rescue of Princess Leia [Carrie Fisher] by saving her life before her son, Darth Vader, killed her on-screen husband and his father, Han Solo [Harrison Ford]. Speaking to website www.fandango.com, he admitted: "When I was reading it, I thought if Leia is trying to mentally contact me and she is unsuccessful, she'll rush to his [Han's] aid and get into some dire situation, and that's when I show up. "I save her life, and then we rush to Han, and then we are in the same position that Rey and Finn and Chewie are-too late to save him, but witnesses." Meanwhile, Mark has said that his character could turn to the dark side in new movie 'The

Last Jedi'. Speaking at the Star Wars Celebration in Florida over the weekend, he teased: "It's possible, anything's possible. However, he quipped that he has "short term memory loss" and "lost credibility with the public through social media because I lie all the time". Mark also admitted that he doesn't agree with "everything" that has been decided for his character by producer Rian Johnson in the forthcoming film. He said: "I think you'll find some things that'll surprise you. "They certainly surprised me. I said to Rian, I think I fundamentally disagree with everything you've decided for me. Now having said that, I have to accept it, get my mind around it and do my best to realize your vision. Once I got into it, a lot of my fears went away."

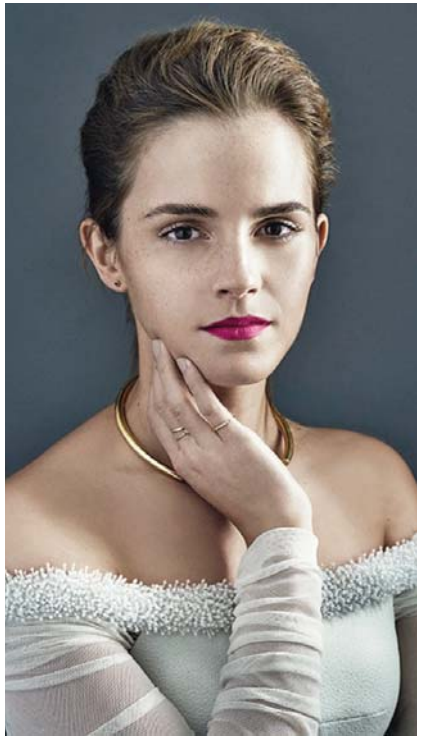
## Motherhood made Palmer selective about movie roles

**T**eresa Palmer is "more selective" with her film roles now that she's a mother. The 31-year-old actress has two sons, three-year-old Bodhi Rain and four-month-old Forest Sage with her husband Mark Webber, and has said she now finds herself turning down film roles if she doesn't believe they're worth spending time away from her family. Speaking to Australian television show 'The Project', the 'Lights Out' actress said: "I am more selective. It has to be a very special project for me to want to leave my family." Recently, Teresa revealed she enjoys the "chaos" that comes with having two young children, and says the whole experience of parenthood is "surreal". She said: "I actually like feeling frazzled with unruly hair, sleepless nights, a noisy house and bed full of kids. "The beauty in the chaos is my favorite thing and I wouldn't change the messiness of it at all. "Sometimes I look in the mirror and can't believe that I'm a mother to two boys and a stepmother to another one, it feels pretty surreal some days! "It's not stressful when I don't put stock in how things need to look or be or how it should be scheduled. I just try to be very present and just enjoy each of them and meet them where they are at." The 'Warm Bodies' actress also previously hinted that there may be more additions to her brood in the future, as both her and Mark want "a big family". She said: "I enjoy the hard days, the busy-ness of it, the 'I love you so much I fear my heart might explode' moments and yes, it's why we both want a big family as tiring as that seems seven weeks postpartum and with three boys! "I was determined to be able to be both a working mum and a stay at home mum, to somehow connect my two greatest dreams and not have to choose one but to be able to choose to do both."

## Emma Watson: I had a 'crisis of confidence' singing for Beauty and the Beast

**E**mma Watson had a "crisis of confidence" when she had to sing for 'Beauty and the Beast'. The 27-year-old actress took on the role of Belle for the recently released live-action remake of the 1991 animated Disney classic, and has said having to sing for the role was "nerve-racking", but admits that now she's done it she wants to perform in musicals "every day". She said: "I can't

even tell you how nerve-racking it was," she explained. "I had a real crisis of confidence. "It's something I've always done and loved to do. My family know I can do it and my friends know I can do it, but I thought, is my voice holding to hold up? "But I loved it. I want to do a musical every day of my life. When I hear that song Beauty and the Beast I just melt." And the brunette beauty admits she took on the role after feeling a "connection" to the character as she describes her as "fierce and smart". Speaking during an appearance on ITV's 'Lorraine' yesterday Emma said: "Cinderella wasn't right for me, it didn't feel right for me but when Beauty and the Beast came back around I was like 'I will do anything!' "She's so fierce and she's so smart, she's just the coolest. My five-year-old self when I put the dress on was like 'Oh my God.'" It's not the first time Emma has spoken about her fears over singing in the movie either, as she previously said felt a "different level of vulnerability" when she was asked to sing in the production. She said: "It was something I talked about a lot when I got cast as Hermione, that I really wanted to sing. But I had kind of put it to bed because the acting thing had gone quite well ... "Singing makes you much more vulnerable than speaking. In acting, you can hide behind a character, whereas, when you start singing, it's your own voice. For me, there's definitely a different level of vulnerability."



## Ella Purnell's young role disappointment

**E**lla Purnell is "disappointed" not to play the younger version of acclaimed actresses anymore. The 20-year-old actress previously portrayed youthful incantations of Angelina Jolie's 'Maleficent' character, Margot Robbie's alter ego in 'The Legend of Tarzan' and Keira Knightley in 'Never Let Me Go' and has learned a lot from working with the successful older women. She said: "My agents tell me I can't play the kid versions of these actors anymore, which is disappointing. "I didn't go to drama school, so I always liked saying to these incredible, successful women, 'Teach me how to be you.' " Ella took her first leading role in 'Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children' and had been a big fan of director Tim Burton for years thanks to his movie 'Edward Scissorhands'. She said: "I

love movies that are super-stylistic, and I was a creepy kid too. "A guy with blades as hands? That's much cooler than some prince." Ella began acting as a part-time hobby, landing her first role in a commercial at the age of nine, and can't believe how far she's come. She told Vanity Fair magazine: "It was like I blinked and this was my life. I'm an actress now." The young actress can next be seen starring in London play 'Natives' as a social media-obsessed young girl, known as A, who defines her life by how popular her Instagram posts are and she thinks it was an appropriate subject to tackle. She said: "We all deal with this now, so the role has been super-liberating."



## JAMES ARTHUR HASN'T READ HIS BOOK

**J**ames Arthur hasn't read his first autobiography. The 29-year-old singer recently revealed plans he is set to release a self-help inspired autobiography, but has now admitted he hasn't even read his first book, 'James Arthur, My Story: The Official X Factor Winner's Book', which was released shortly after he triumphed on the UK talent competition in 2012. When asked by The Sun newspaper about his first foray into publishing, James said: "I haven't even read that. I wouldn't want it in my Christmas stocking." The news comes after the 'Say You Won't Let Go' hitmaker revealed last month that he plans to write a tell-all autobiography that he hopes will act as a self-help book for others. He said: "I want to help people to get to know my story, and really tell them in detail what I've been through. The album says a little bit about it but it doesn't really tell the full extent. "I want it to act as a self-help book. I want to talk to people about how I felt a little bit different from a young age and felt a little bit weird and a little bit like an outcast, and the journey that I've been on to get to this place. "And what a beautiful thing it is when you don't give up and then see the fruits of that. I kind of want it to be an inspiring story for people like me that feel a bit different." Previously, James opened up about his struggle with anxiety when recording his album 'Back From The Edge', which he says left him feeling "sick". Talking about making the songs on his second album, he admitted: "The most emotional songs on the album to write were probably not the one's you expect. "There's a song on the latter part called 'If Only', that was one when I was pretty depressed. "Finally" was one I wrote and I was pretty depressed. "Even picking up a guitar would make me feel sick, trigger off all that weird anxiety. 'The Truth' was a tough one to write, and 'Trainwreck'."



## Drake slams Coachella accommodation as 'the most offensive place'

**D**rake has branded his Coachella accommodation as "the most offensive place" he has ever stayed in. The 30-year-old rapper surprised revelers at the three-day music festival in California over the weekend as he made a special appearance during Future's set on Saturday night. But although he spent the weekend enjoying the festival, he wasn't so pleased with his accommodation as he took to Instagram on yesterday to slam The Madison Club, accusing them of "racial profiling". Next to a picture of the luxury location's logo, the 'One Dance' hitmaker wrote: "The most offensive place I have ever stayed at in my life with staff who pick and choose who they are going to accommodate based on racial profiling #Coachella (sic) The Madison Club - who have yet to respond to Drake's claims - offers lots ranging from \$4 million to \$10 million, and according to the website, the "sanctuary" claims to offer "many of the

film industry's elite a secluded respite from the rigors of celebrity." At the time of writing, it is not yet known exactly why Drake was disappointed with the accommodation. It is also unknown whether Drake was staying at the accommodation alone, as it was previously reported that he struck up a relationship with 19-year-old Jorja Smith after the pair worked together on his latest project 'More Life'. A source said: "Drake has a reputation for hooking up with his female collaborators, most famously Rihanna. "So it's no surprise he's fallen for Jorja, she's absolutely gorgeous and an amazing singer. "Drake is not one for serious relationships so no one is predicting they are about to step out holding hands on a red carpet anytime soon. But it's more than just a one-off fling."-Bang Showbiz



## Frankie Bridge loves activity dates



**T**he 28-year-old singer and her husband Wayne Bridge - who have sons Parker, three, and Carter, 19 months, together - try to set aside time for one another as regularly as they can but they prefer to do things out of the ordinary rather than traditional evenings out such as a trip to the cinema. Frankie said: "We do have date nights, but I think sometimes the idea of doing it once a week can add a lot of pressure, especially when you have kids. We're lucky because we have the grandparents, who are always there to help out. "I love activities - going to the cinema doesn't take much imagination. "I remember Wayne once took me quad biking. It just gets you out of your comfort zone and even if you don't end up fancying that person you've still had a good time." And Frankie will never forget her first date with her former footballer spouse. She recalled in a recent interview: "We went for dinner and we were there until the restaurant closed, which is always a good sign." As well as not scheduling weekly dates, the Saturdays star tries not to have a fixed exercise routine as she just wants to have fun while she works out. She said: "I aim for three days a week but I try not to put too much pressure on myself. "I'm always looking for things that are fun, so I do boxing, Pilates and I've started doing weight training. "If I was just stuck at the gym every day, I know I wouldn't go."



GOSSIP



# Hill was 'super awkward' when she was younger

**T**aylor Hill was "super awkward" when she was younger. The 20-year-old supermodel was never very confident when she was at school, and if she could go back in time, she'd learn not to worry about little things and to be herself more. Asked what she'd tell her younger self, she said: "For sure, just be yourself, no matter how you feel that day, no matter how you think you look or whatever tough things you're going through. "I was super-awkward and really shy and I had glasses. Don't focus on the

little things so much - let them go." When she began her modeling career, the Victoria's Secret beauty grew more confident because she could see people liked having her walk for them. She said: "As a girl, I definitely had an awkward phase. I'm the biggest nerd in the world. "Growing up in the fashion industry where you're always around artistic people who appreciate you being there really helped boost my confidence and be OK with it." But the brunette beauty is still shocked by her modeling success and insists

her career is just an "accident". She told Look magazine: "I'm so unaware. I like to feel that I'm still who I was when I was first scouted at 14. "Nothing else really matters to me besides my family and friends and being a genuine person. "There isn't really any pressure in modeling. I'm just enjoying it and having fun. "It was an accident, me getting here. It was thrown at me and I just went with it."

## PRINCE HARRY: I SHUT DOWN MY EMOTIONS WHEN MY MOTHER DIED



**P**rince Harry "shut down all his emotions" when his mother Princess Diana died 20 years ago. The 32-year-old royal was just 12 years old when he lost his mother in 1997 after she was tragically killed in a car crash in Paris, France, at the age of 36, and has admitted he almost suffered a "complete breakdown" as he grew up determined not to think about the loss. He said: "I can safely say that losing my mum at the age of 12, and therefore shutting down all of my emotions for the last 20 years, has had a quite serious effect on not only my personal life but my work as well. "I have probably been very close to a complete breakdown on numerous occasions when all sorts of grief and sort of lies and misconceptions and everything are coming to you from every angle." And the Prince - who is the younger brother of Prince William - admits he has been in therapy "more than a couple of times" in order to help him deal with his grief, and later turned to boxing as a way to vent his frustrations. He added: "During those years I took up boxing, because everyone was saying boxing is good for you and it's a really good way of letting out aggression. And that really saved me because I was on the verge of punching someone, so being able to punch someone who had pads was certainly easier." Prince Harry claims he refused to talk about his grief at first as he knew it wouldn't bring Princess Diana back, but admits after two years of "total chaos" he started to open up and felt better for doing so. He said: "My way of dealing with it was sticking my head in the sand, refusing to ever think about my mum, because why

would that help? [I thought] it's only going to make you sad, it's not going to bring her back. "So from an emotional side, I was like 'right, don't ever let your emotions be part of anything'. So I was a typical 20, 25, 28-year-old running around going 'life is great', or 'life is fine' and that was exactly it. "And then [I] started to have a few conversations and actually all of a sudden, all of this grief that I have never processed started to come to the forefront and I was like, there is actually a lot of stuff here that I need to deal with." And Harry also credits 34-year-old William with being a "huge support". He said: "It's all about timing. And for me personally, my brother, you know, bless him, he was a huge support to me. He kept saying this is not right, this is not normal, you need to talk to [someone] about stuff, it's OK." Harry is now campaigning to end the stigma surrounding mental health through his charity Heads Together - which he spearheads alongside William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge - as he hopes to "make a difference to everybody else". Speaking to Bryony Gordon's 'Mad World' podcast for the Daily Telegraph newspaper, Prince Harry said: "Because of the process I have been through over the past two and a half years, I've now been able to take my work seriously, been able to take my private life seriously as well, and been able to put blood, sweat and tears into the things that really make a difference and things that I think will make a difference to everybody else."



## Katy Perry has launches new shoe line

**K**aty Perry has launched her new range of footwear. The 32-year-old singer joined forces with Global Brands Group Holding Limited earlier this year to work on a range of footwear, and has now launched her line by holding a celebratory brunch, according to Women's Wear Daily. Posting a picture of the 'Chained To The Rhythm' hitmaker with a giant model of one of her shoes, the publication wrote on Instagram yesterday: "Katy Perry celebrated the launch of her footwear collection with an East Day Recovery Brunch. #wweyeye (: @lexieblacklock) (sic)" Previously, Katy claimed she had been working on the fashion range for "three years". Speaking about her designs, the 'Roar' hitmaker said: "[Footwear] was a part of me that needed to be carefully created and developed, and I had to weigh a lot of my options. So for about three years, I was educating myself on the business and [thinking about] who would be a great partner." And the brunette beauty - who is known for her eccentric style - has described her capsule, which features pumps with rabbit detail on the toe, and platform shoes with a cigar heel, as "vibrant, expressive and defining". She explained: "It's vibrant, expressive and defining. "Not everybody is rich, and not everybody is excessive. And everybody has more important things to spend their money on - whether it's their children, or their family or their health. At the end of the day, your personality shouldn't be so expensive to display. "We've learned through manufacturing and science that we can make things [with] better quality that don't take so much time. Applying all of this information makes a better product faster and with more options." Michelle Williams' 2017 Oscars dress took "800 hours of labor" to create. The 36-year-old actress stunned in a Louis Vuitton number at the Oscars earlier this year, and it has now been revealed that the beautiful black and cream gown was made by "a dozen dressmakers" and took a painstaking 800 hours to piece together. An Instagram post uploaded by InStyle magazine shows the 'Manchester By The Sea' actress wearing her dress, and was captioned: "It took 800 hours of labor (by a dozen dressmakers!) to piece together Michelle Williams' @LouisVuitton 2017 Oscars dress. Of course, Vuitton Artistic Director @nicolasghesquiere and her stylist, @KateYoung, were right by her side." The dress - which included a combination of velvet and embroidered diamonds and pearls - was designed by the artistic director for Louis Vuitton Nicolas Ghesquiere, who said he was pleased with the final result as it looked "very couture". He told the publication: "We liked the combination of velvet, which I think of as a masculine fabric, mixed with the femininity of the tulle embroidered with crystals and pearls. It looks very couture, while at the same time it has a simplicity that is very Parisian." Whilst Michelle's stylist Kate Young said the decision to wear minimal jewellery - which included a bracelet and earrings - came as they felt big diamond necklaces looked "ageing". She added: "Something about those big diamond necklaces looks ageing. I like the idea of a dress looking real, like there's not some security guard waiting in the background to take it right back."

## CHYNA TOLD THE KARDASHIANS SHE WAS 'READY TO LEAVE ROB'

**B**lac Chyna told the Kardashian sisters she was "ready to leave" her former fiancé Rob Kardashian. The 28-year-old model's relationship with Rob - with whom she has five-month-old daughter Dream - has been on and off since late last year, and a new preview clip from an upcoming episode of the reality show 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' shows the beauty told his family she was thinking of calling it quits. In the preview clip for Sunday's episode, 36-year-old Kim said: "Rob and Chyna got into a big fight. We're all worried about Rob." Whilst in another scene, Khloé, 32, tells Rob: "She text all your sisters and said that she's ready to leave you." Meanwhile, Chyna previously hinted that her relationship with 29-year-old Rob might be back on as she posted a series of Snapchats together earlier this month. Chyna shared a clip of herself lip-synching 'Humble' by Kendrick Lamar, while Rob hugged her from behind, and in a second post captioned "Dreams Daddy", the 30-year-old sock designer was seen nuzzling his face into her chest. A third video saw

Chyna - who also has four-year-old son King Cairo with former partner Tyga - ask Rob to give her a kiss, prompting him to do so on her cheek. It was revealed last month the 'Rob & Chyna' stars had been living apart and suspended filming on their reality show. And Chyna later confirmed they weren't sharing a house any more, but insisted she was "in it for the long haul" with Rob and they had been having therapy to help repair their relationship. She said: "I feel like every person who's in a long-term relationship, or who is committed to their person, goes through ups and downs. "Everything isn't always going to be peaches and cream. If it is, then it's fake. I'm in it for the long haul, so I feel like my advice [for anyone in a similar situation] is therapy, know each other's family, calling each other's moms. "I feel like everything isn't going to be perfect, but I know we love each other and we're fighting for each other, and the people we surround ourselves with are rooting for us. It makes everything much easier."



## Tallia Storm admires Hadid sisters

**T**allia Storm hopes she and her sister can be a "team" like Gigi and Bella Hadid. The 18-year-old singer really admires the way the supermodel siblings help and support one another and she is very close to her own sister, Tassie. She said: "I think they're wonderful. I love them because they are a team and me and my sister are a team. I look at them and think wow, they're always supporting each other no matter what's going on, so I definitely

want to see me and my sis as that team. Me and my sister are really close - there's a year and a half between us." And when asked how she feels about young stars who move into the spotlight from their famous parents, Tallia admitted she "wouldn't knock them" but that she wasn't interested on just being famous for the sake of it. She added to BANG Showbiz: "I'm old school in that for me it's not about being a celebrity this is about sharing my music and being able to share my music with the world so at the end of the day I'm not here tonne just a celebrity like these kids are. I'm here to just share my music, I'm in no rush, it's not going to happen overnight, not for a minute do I think I'm going to be this one minute sensation, I'm going to keep building my craft and doing my time because people respect it a lot more if you've been there for a while than just coming and going so hopefully I can craft a really long career." Tallia previously dated Brooklyn Beckham - the son of David and Victoria Beckham - but they no longer have contact with one another. She admitted: "We don't speak anymore, I see him a lot but I don't speak."



## Jasmine Tookes' workout regime

**J**asmine Tookes tries to work out four to five times a week. The Victoria's Secret model stays in shape by hitting the gym with her fellow VS Angel Romee Strijd and the pair find having a pal to work out with helps to keep them motivated. Jasmine told E! News: "I try to work out like four to five times a week. And [Romee and I] actually work out together in New York." Romee added: "It makes it more fun to do it with your friends and we do a nice lunch or brunch before." However, the pair haven't cut calorific treats out of their diets completely; Jasmine loves pizza while Romee has a sweet tooth. Romee explained: "I like sweets a lot. I like chocolate, candies, ice cream, especially salted caramel ice cream." Meanwhile, Jasmine recently revealed that she is desperate to create a cosmetics collection, because she struggles to find make-up to suit her unique skin tone and is often faced with problems when she is shooting a fashion campaign as make-up artists do not have one sole product to match her complexion. Speaking about her goal for the future,

the brunette beauty said: "My goal has always been to create my own beauty line. I have such a unique skin tone - when I go on set, make-up artists have to use all different mixes of make-up to match my skin."



## Michelle Williams' Oscars dress took 800 hours to make

**M**ichelle Williams' 2017 Oscars dress took "800 hours of labor" to create. The 36-year-old actress stunned in a Louis Vuitton number at the Oscars earlier this year, and it has now been revealed that the beautiful black and cream gown was made by "a dozen dressmakers" and took a painstaking 800 hours to piece together. An Instagram post uploaded by InStyle magazine shows the 'Manchester By The Sea' actress wearing her dress, and was captioned: "It took 800 hours of labor (by a dozen dressmakers!) to piece together Michelle Williams' @LouisVuitton 2017 Oscars dress. Of course, Vuitton Artistic Director @nicolasghesquiere and her stylist, @KateYoung, were right by her side." The dress - which included a combination of velvet and embroidered diamonds and pearls - was designed by the artistic director

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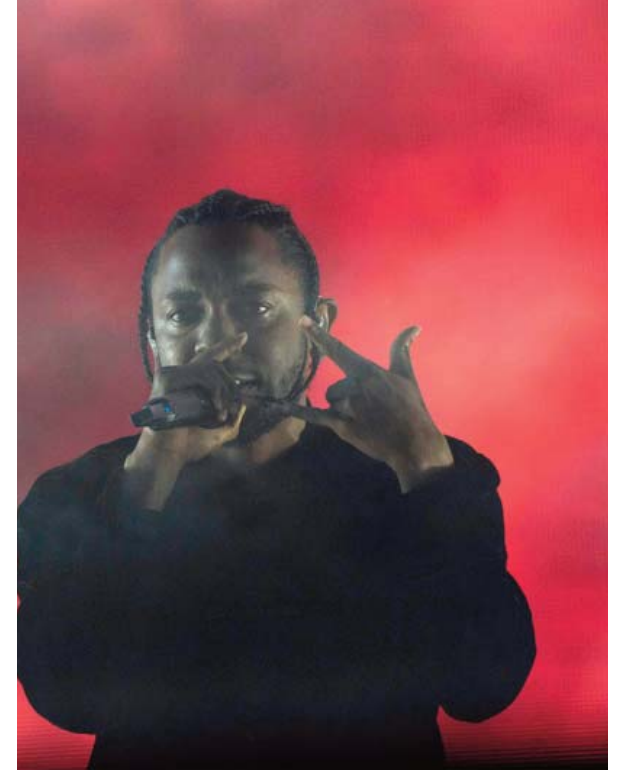
FEATURES



Singer Lorde performs at the Coachella Valley Music And Arts Festival in Indio, California. — AFP photos



Singer Lorde performs at the Coachella Valley Music And Arts Festival.



US hip hop singer Kendrick Lamar performs on stage.



Rapper 2 Chainz performs on stage.



DJ Khaled (L) and A\$AP Ferg perform on stage.

## KENDRICK LAMAR, LORDE SHOW NEW SIDES AT COACHELLA

**K**endrick Lamar introduced a kung fu alter ego and Lorde dramatized the awkwardness of dance clubs as the stars presented new music Sunday at the Coachella festival. The two artists, whose last albums each brought Grammy glory, played back-to-back sets to close the first weekend of the premier music festival in the desert of southern California. Lamar has been hailed as an artistic voice of the Black Lives Matter movement but the rapper made an unexpected pivot into the supernatural at Coachella, entering with a fireball as the audience was invited to discover "the legend of Kung Fu Kenny."

The character figures in the lyricism on Lamar's latest album, "DAMN.," which came out Friday. The Coachella crowd learned more about Kung Fu Kenny through a film interspersed in the set showing Lamar as an action hero descended from the mountains. Lamar delved further into eroticized Asian imagery at his show where he danced across a nimble, sword-wielding ninja and the Chinese characters for "the end" flashed on overhead screens. Kung Fu Kenny by the end of the film is said to be searching for a glowing elixir. A grinning Lamar emerges from between a woman's legs-as his kung fu odyssey culminated, apparently, in cunninglingus. Lamar joins a tradition of African American identification with Asian martial arts. The rapper has cited the influence of the Wu-Tang Clan and his film takes on a 1970s "blaxploitation" feel.

Whatever his kung fu aspirations, Lamar hasn't given up the political. He opened both his set and album with a snippet from conservative-leaning Fox News criticizing "Alright," his song of resilience in the face of police brutality. "XXX," a song off the new album featuring the guitar rock of U2, laments street violence that has claimed too many African American lives yet it also takes to task the political system. "America, god bless you if it's good to you / America, please take my hand,"



Future Islands performs on stage.

Lamar raps in the song, which he debuted live at Coachella. Lamar closed his set melodiously, if anti-climactically, with his new ballad "LOVE."

### Lorde shows night out

Lorde, who had not performed for more than two years other than at a small pre-Coachella show in a nearby town, returned with a captivating piece of musical theater-centered around a testing night on the town. After taking the stage to Kate Bush's "Running Up That Hill," the 20-year-old New Zealander stared stoically into space before breaking out into ecstatic dance. Lorde became a breakaway sensation as a teenager with "Royals"-which she dutifully performed-and is coming out with her second album, "Melodrama," in June.

Lorde premiered at Coachella another song off "Melodrama"- "Homemade Dynamite," a track that is bubbly but shares the minimalism of "Royals" rather than the elaborate dance production off the new album's first single, "Green Light." The album is about "all the ups and downs of being 20-something, and specifically all the ups and downs of an evening," Lorde told the crowd. She brought the storyline to life through a tableau vivant of sorts-performers inside a foggy box that hovered above the stage. At first the performers mingle amicably but the interaction soon becomes agitated. By the time Lorde enters the box, the troupe is piled up upon one another and later smashes up a room full of balloons.

### Special guest

Pulling in up to 250,000 people over back-to-back weekends with identical lineups, Coachella thrives on surprises-which appear quickly on social media and send fans scurrying across the grounds. German film composer Hans Zimmer, one of the more unlikely Coachella acts, pulled in an open-air evening crowd with a piano recital of his scores to movies such as "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Lion King." He transitioned into Pharrell Williams' hit "Freedom"-which brought the star in himself for a cameo.

Other highlights Sunday included Future Islands, the indie synthpop band whose frontman Samuel T. Herring is a frequent festival draw with his inimitable voice that reaches into a metal-like growl and back.

Spanish indie rockers Hinds enjoyed a surprisingly large crowd with dozens of fans storming the stage in joy-taking bassist Ade Martin at face value when she said that Spaniards believed in dancing at gigs.—AFP

## Filmmaker learns why she endured airport stops for years

**L**aura Poitras' travel nightmare began more than a decade ago when the award-winning filmmaker started getting detained at airports every time she tried to set foot back in the United States. She was stopped without explanation more than 50 times on foreign travel, and dozens more times on domestic trips, before the extra searches suddenly stopped in 2012. Only now is Poitras beginning to unravel the mystery, which goes back to a bloody day in Baghdad in 2004. Time after time, airport authorities searched her baggage, rummaged through her electronics and quizzed her for hours about her trips.

In Germany, she was told her name lights up "like a Christmas tree" when security officials scan flight rosters. In Austria, she was told her threat score was "400 out of 400." At John F Kennedy International Airport in New York, her laptop, video camera, footage and cell phone were taken and held for 41 days. In Newark, New Jersey, a security officer threatened to handcuff her for taking notes with a ballpoint pen that he said could be used as a weapon. "I asked for crayons because I thought that would be less threatening to him as a weapon," recounted Poitras, whose 2014 documentary film, "Citizenfour," about the National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, won an Academy Award. "He denied me any kind of writing device."



File photo shows documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras poses for a portrait in New York. — AP

Poitras, 53, knows US government officials are not exactly fans of her politically sensitive work. "Citizenfour" depicted Poitras and journalist Glenn Greenwald's rendezvous with Snowden in a Hong Kong hotel where he handed over classified material documenting NSA's widespread surveillance program. Her new film, "Risk," is about WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Still, she never knew why the security delays started in 2006. She unsuccessfully sought answers from the Homeland Security Department. She finally took the government to court, filing a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit in 2015 with help from the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a civil liberties advocacy organization.

### 'White female'

Late last year, as a result of the suit, the government released more than 1,000 pages of documents to Poitras, which she shared with The Associated Press. The documents show for the

first time that the US government investigated Poitras on suspicion she might have been involved in an ambush that led to a US soldier's death in Iraq in 2004. On Nov 20, 2004, Poitras was in Baghdad filming "My Country, My Country." The film depicts Iraqi elections from the perspective of an Iraqi doctor, who criticized the US occupation yet hoped democracy would take root in his homeland.

Members of a US Army National Guard unit from Oregon reported seeing a "white female" holding a camera on a rooftop just before they were attacked. David Roustum, 22, an Army National Guardsman from West Seneca, New York, was killed. Several troops were wounded. Some guardsmen who saw Poitras suspected she had a heads-up about the attack and didn't share that information with American forces because she wanted to film it. If true, Poitras would have broken US criminal law. Poitras called the allegation false and said she didn't film the attack. "There is no ambush footage," Poitras told the AP. "That's the narrative that they created, but it doesn't correspond with any facts."

After the attack, a lieutenant colonel, whose name was redacted from documents, reported the woman with a camera to his superiors. No action was taken. But after returning home, the lieutenant colonel was contacted by author John Bruning of Dallas, Oregon, who was interviewing guardsmen for a book about their experiences in Iraq. According to the government's documents, the author learned about the woman filming on the rooftop before the ambush.

### Abducted and executed

In an email exchange on Jan 15, 2006, Poitras confirmed to Bruning that she was filming in the area the day of the attack, but didn't think she could help the author with his research. "I was staying in the house of an Iraqi family I was following so my record of the fighting is from the perspective of the family," Poitras wrote to Bruning. "I did not venture out onto the street that day - didn't seem like it would have been a good idea. So I really don't have a document of what took place on the streets."

Bruning told the lieutenant colonel that Poitras was the woman on the rooftop. The lieutenant colonel then informed the US military that she could have been involved. In February 2006, a military police agent from Fort Lewis, Washington, interviewed the lieutenant colonel and the author. Bruning declined to speak to the AP about Poitras. But in his sworn statement to military investigators, he said he believed Poitras had prior knowledge of the attack. He said Poitras was staying in a pro-Saddam Hussein neighborhood "and she was not in fear of her life or being kidnapped at a time when Western journalists were being abducted and executed."

Nevertheless, the Army Criminal Investigation Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, wrote a two-page letter shortly after to the FBI, saying the Army lacked sufficient evidence to charge Poitras. It said: "A review by our legal staff of the information developed thus far revealed credible information does not presently exist to believe Ms Poitras committed a criminal offense; however, this could quickly change if Ms. Poitras were to be interviewed and admitted she had knowledge of the ambush and refused to notify US forces in order to further her documentary and media interest."—AP



## Splash launches Sustainable Fashion

**M**iddle East born fast fashion retailer Splash launched its Sustainable collection, making a commitment towards the planet. Forming part of the existing product portfolio of Splash, this collection for both men & women is made up of sustainable materials, reflecting the brand's promise to work in an environment friendly manner.

Building onto the ideology of Reuse-Conserve-Recycle, the brand aims to trend sustainability with its #AMSUSTAINABILITY campaign that marks the launch of the range in the business. With key pieces which include Drop shoulder Tees, Torn Denims, Mandarin Collar Shirts and Tonal Stripe Polos in colors like Cold Greys, Dry Pinks, Powder Blues and washed whites, the collection has been made with environmental friendly organic and recycled cotton, recycled polyester and Tencel - which have been dyed with environmental friendly inks.

Speaking on this next step in the business, Raza Beig, CEO Splash and ICONIC & Director, Landmark Group, said, "I am happy to see the advances in sustainable fabrics which we have used in our collection. Moving towards a more sustainable future with close to 5 million pieces to be launched each year we have committed ourselves to environmental sustainability without compromising on style, trend and design".

The collection is now available across all Splash stores in Centrepoint and at Splash -The Avenues, Phase II and at Salam Mall- Salmiya.

### Facts

- More than 600,000 eco-denims manufactured from organic cotton every season- 48% climate impact reduced with 0% chemical pesticides used & 19% less carbon emission as a result
- 15% of the total cotton we use in our garments is organic cotton
- We saved 3.3 million gallons of water equivalent to drinking water consumed by Ireland in 1 day
- We use only FSC approved paper in all our tags-200 metric ton plastic removed-equivalent weight of 100 SUV cars
- More than 500,000 garments made from Tencel- less water needed/grows easily on low grade land/grows fast
- Close to 500,000 garments made from Natural Fibre
- Significant reduction of Marine debris thereby helping the marine ecosystem
- 20,000 garments made from recycled plastic bottles- 19 pet bottles produce enough Fiber for XL t-shirt
- 70% less energy needed for manufacturing from recycled materials.

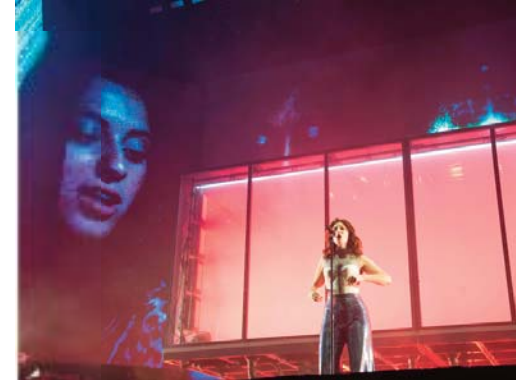


# Lifestyle

Kendrick Lamar, Lorde show new sides at Coachella

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Colored Easter eggs are ready to be used during the White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, yesterday. US President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump are set to host the official annual Easter egg roll at the White House. — AP

## Residents nervously watch Americas' oldest city gentrifying

Latin America's oldest colonial city is aiming for a rebound, pouring tens of millions of dollars into repairing streets, cleaning up trash, installing streetlights and renovating centuries-old buildings in hopes of getting more of the Dominican Republic's 5 million tourists a year to spend less time at the beach and more in the capital's long-neglected historic center. Business owners are delighted, but residents of Santo Domingo's walled city are watching nervously, fearful that they will be priced out by a surge of stylish new restaurants and boutiques.

"Bringing more tourists here can be traumatic for us," said Pedro del Castillo, the 67-year-old president of the neighborhood's residents' association. "It seems like the aim is for us, the residents, to leave." The city's most ambitious restoration project in decades is funded by a \$120 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank, most of which still must be approved by the Dominican Republic's congress. The first \$30 million in development money has gone to paint 800 homes, restore 200 colonial-era facades, replace water mains and street lighting and install new sidewalks. More private business is already moving in, with some 325 new cafes, restaurants, galleries and luxury condominiums opening in the colonial center over the past five years, according to official figures.

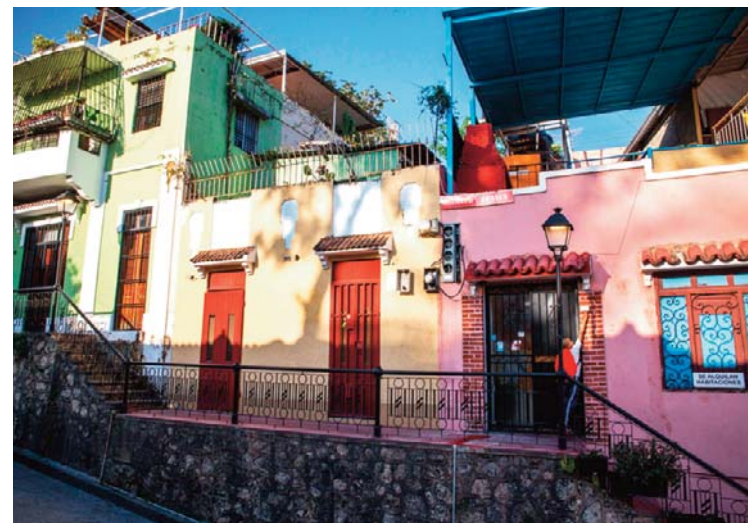
The center is "a diamond that needs polishing," said Silvanh Riedel, manager and part-owner of the Billini boutique hotel. Angelo Louis, a 19-year-old barber, rents a 90-square-foot (8.4-square-meter) space without a bathroom in centuries-old El Conde street for \$350 a month, and has to leave because the privately owned building will be restored with public money in coming months. He said he fears that the owner of the remodeled buildings will raise the rent and make it impossible for him to move back. "It's going to hit us hard," he said.

The program's advocates say such fears are misplaced, and the government is dedicated to creating not just economic development, but better lives for residents of the colonial center. "The idea is to rescue the city in a different way" than in past attempts,

said Maribel Villalona, the head of the program. The colonization of the Americas began in Santo Domingo, which was founded in 1496 by Christopher Columbus' brother Bartolome and features the continent's first cathedral, first hospital and first university. The center was abandoned by many after the country's 1965 civil war, with more prosperous residents moving to new developments on the outskirts of the capital.

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas, some of the center's limestone buildings with scenic wooden balconies were restored in 1992, but the program did little to improve the economic fortunes of the area or draw more of the Dominican Republic's tourists. According to government statistics, only 15 percent of visitors to the Dominican Republic spent time in Santo Domingo and only 3 percent slept there, drawn away by all-included packages at beach resorts and dissuaded by the lack of high-quality lodging inside Santo Domingo's walled city. Villalona said the second phase would be aimed at helping poor families in the historic center, restoring some 200 homes and providing their residents with job-training and small-business loans to help them benefit from the expected surge in tourism.

Those promises aren't soothing the anxieties of residents like Fidel Perez, a 48-year-old photographer who plans to get married in coming months and says the \$300 or \$400 he can pay for rent would only get him and his wife a single room in the old city, forcing him to look for housing far from the center for the first time in his career. He blames the rising rents on the renovation of the colonial city, and says he's pessimistic that any improvement in the area will benefit its working people. "For now," he said. "We're watching the game from the sidelines." — AP



A boy reaches out to a doorbell in the San Anton neighborhood of the Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. — AP photos



People walk on El Conde street in the Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.



Men fish at Fray Anton de Montesinos beach in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.



Kids play inside the San Francisco Ruins in the San Anton neighborhood of the Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

### Bizarre News

#### Man pretends to be printer

A man has pretended to be his neighbor's printer. The 18 year old, named as Blake Messick, decided to play a prank on his neighbor when they bought a wireless printer and set it up on an unsecured network. Taking to Twitter to share his prank with the world, Blake showed his computer screen as he sent a document to the printer without his neighbor knowing. The document read: "Hello. I am your printer. I have become self-aware. Run." He captioned the photo: "my neighbor just got an unsecured wireless printer, so I sent this to him (sic)" To Blake's delight, the prank definitely scared his unnamed neighbor, and the following day he found the printer sitting by the bins ready to be taken away. Blake then took the prank a step further, bringing the printer inside his own home and claiming it as his own. He tweeted: "And that's the story of how I got a free printer."

#### Pranksters brick over front door

A family have been left in shock after their front door was covered in bricks by pranksters. An unnamed man and his family from Offenbach, Germany were left in shock when they opened their front door one morning and were faced with layers of brick, held together with mortar, stacked across the entrance to the property. Officer Ingbert Zacharias told German news outlet hessenschau.de: "The man opened his door in the morning and stood in front of a wall. Trick or joke, we do not know. "This is a crime and not a joke." In total, the estimated damage costs were €500 (£425), as removing the wall also included removing the door frame as well as the bell. And this isn't the first time German pranksters have caused damage in this manner, as a similar practical joke in 2015 caused thousands of pounds worth of damage when the door of a train in Hamburg was bricked up.

#### Egg-cellent surprise for nursery kids

Children living in Berlin got a real-life kinder surprise. The German North Sea island of Langeoog had a flood of plastic eggs containing tiny toys that were swept ashore after a storm. The eggs, with instructions in the Cyrillic alphabet, appear to have been lost by a cargo ship that was reportedly heading for Bremerhaven, according to The Times newspaper. It is not known how the cargo lost the load but the bounty has brought Easter early to the island. Now a local nursery is tasked with helping collect the toy eggs before it endangers wildlife. According to local media, Langeoog Mayor Uwe Garrels reportedly decided to allow local kindergarten children to collect as many of the eggs - each containing little toys with Russian messages inside - as they wanted. He reportedly told local media: "The surprise eggs have found their way to freedom."

#### Travel experts inspire holidaymakers with extreme adventures list

TravelSupermarket have compiled their top 20 most extreme adventures to inspire holidaymakers for their next trip. The travel experts have moved away from the typical summer's beach holiday in a bid to tempt their customers to a different experience in 2017 which could be a possible trip of a lifetime. In the company's top two choices of fun trips, they recommended the world's fastest zip line in North Wales as their number one trip which exceeds at a speed of 100mph, soaring adrenaline junkies 498ft above Wale's Quarry. The experts also attempted their customers to visit the intense sport free falling, at 100km/h with scad diving in Soweto, South Africa, in which they put in second place. Emma Coulthurst from TravelSupermarket.com said: "Obviously, some of these adventures are not for the faint-hearted," says "But sometimes it's good to get a little bit out of your comfort zone. And one thing's for sure - you'll definitely have a holiday to remember!" More trips can be found at: TravelSupermarket.com.

— Bang Showbiz