

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

Fears shroud French election after Champs Elysees attack



Ahmadinejad barred as Iran Guardians pick the candidates



Real Madrid and Atletico renew their hostilities





## **KUWAIT MOST PROMINENT OPPOSITION FIGURE FRED** AL-BARRAK JAILED FOR INSULTING AMIR IN PUBLIC





KUWAIT: Supporters of Kuwaiti opposition leader Mussallam Al-Barrak (center) celebrate his release from jail yesterday in Kuwait City, after serving two years in prison for insulting HH the Amir. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 4)

**KUWAIT:** Prominent Kuwaiti opposition leader Mussallam Al-Barrak was released from prison yesterday after serving a twoyear sentence for insulting HH the Amir in public. Barrak, 61, walked free from Kuwait's central prison to a frenzied reception by relatives and supporters who broke through tight security fences and surrounded his vehicle. The former lawmaker, who served six consecutive terms from 1999 to 2012, openly critiqued the government upon his release.

"One day I said and I repeat: History will jail those who sent me to jail," Barrak, still dressed in a beige prison uniform, shouted to the cheering crowd. Hundreds of family members and supporters braved scorching heat and dusty winds and waited over three hours for Barrak's release outside the central jail, 25 kilometers (16 miles) southwest of Kuwait City. The jubilant crowd sang and chanted slogans praising Barrak, hailing him as "the conscience of the people". Barrak gave a brief speech before a long motorcade drove him to his residence, where more supporters were waiting. In February 2015, Barrak was sentenced to two years in

In February 2015, Barrak was sentenced to two years in prison for comments he had made at a 2012 public rally which undermined the status of HH Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Barrak had been protesting changes to Kuwait's electoral law which he argued would allow authorities to manipulate election results. He has denied that his speech amounted to undermining the ruler of Kuwait. He is the most senior, and the most popular opposition leader to be jailed in an unprecedented government crackdown on dissent in Kuwait.

Dozens of opposition activists in Kuwait are either in jail or are facing trial for insulting HH the Amir, including via social media. Barrak's release comes months after a majority of his partners in the opposition alliance ended a four-year boycott of general elections. The alliance won about half of the 50 parliamentary seats in snap polls in November. The oil-rich state of Kuwait is widely viewed as a pioneer in operating a parliamentary system among the Gulf monarchies. The OPEC member state sits on about seven percent of global crude reserves and pumps around 2.8 million barrels of oil per day. — AFP

## 26 HOSTAGES, INCLUDING QATARI ROYALS RELEASED

**DOHA:** 26 hostages, including Qatar ruling family members, were freed yesterday after being held for 16 months by unidentified gunmen in Iraq, Qatar-based satellite channel Al Jazeera reported. Al Jazeera said the men were freed and handed over to Iraq's interior ministry but gave no further details on the release of the hostages, who were seized in December 2015 while on a hunting trip near the border with Saudi Arabia. An Iraqi security official said Iraq was verifying the identity of the men and would hand them over to Qatar's ambassador to Baghdad.

About 100 armed men seized the group of Qatari hunters, which included royal family members and also other nationals, from a desert camp for falcon hunters in southern Iraq. A Qatari royal and a Pakistani man were later freed. The release of the remaining hostages comes days after a deal was announced in Syria for the evacuation of Syrian civilians and fighters from four besieged towns, which British newspaper the Guardian reported Qatar had helped mediate in exchange for the freeing of the hunters.

The abduction ignited months of negotiations between Iran, Qatar and the Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah, according to an Arab diplomat in Doha. Discussions about the Syria evacuations involving Iranian officials and Syrian rebel group Ahrar Al-Sham were held in Qatar when Iran's foreign minister visited on March 8, according to the diplomat. Those discussions tied the deal to the freeing of the Qatari hostages, he said.

Qatari officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment. No one has claimed responsibility for the abduction of the hunters, who were seized in a largely desolate expanse of territory dominated by militias who work closely with the neighboring Shiite power Iran and have accused Doha of meddling in Iraq's affairs. There is hostility in Iraq, especially in the Shiite-majority south, towards Qatar's stance on the Syrian civil war and perceptions that it is complicit in the rise of Islamist militants.

Qatar, which is a member of the US-led coalition fighting militants in Iraq and Syria, denies supporting extremist groups. The Gulf Arab state had called on Iraq to take the lead in freeing the hostages since Baghdad had granted them permits to hunt there. Iraq's Interior Ministry said the hunters had failed to heed government instructions to stay within secured areas of the desert. Hunters from rich Gulf states often make trips to Iraq's desert in the winter months to buy falcons and hunt the Houbara bustard, a rare bird whose meat is prized by Arab sheikhs. — Reuters

## Kuwait 📥 Times 🍜





KUWAIT WOOS CHINESE COMPANIES

KUWAIT: Kuwait has urged Chinese companies and conglomerates to partake in the national development schemes. Samih Johhar Hayat, Kuwait Ambassador to China made the call during the Asia Pacific Business Summit, held in the city of Guangzhou, particularly addressing companies specialized in construction and infrastructures. Kuwait is seeking to diversify investments, thus "we need help of economically advanced states for technology, expertise and training," Ambassador Hayat said, cited by a statement issued by the Kuwaiti embassy in China.

He indicated at the approach to expand foreign investments in Kuwait; technically through coordination with Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director-General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA). Ambassador Al-Hayat has revealed that he is currently coordinating with Chinese Authorities to organize an official visit to the nation by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and the Acting Minister of State for Youth Khaled Nasser Al-Roudhan.

The visit, aimed at discussing strategic investment cooperation, is tentatively set in first week of next month. "The approach toward China, the country's first commercial partner, is strategically important for us," he said. Kuwait established diplomatic ties with China in 1971, becoming the first Arab Gulf state to take such a step. Moreover, it supported, in words and action, China's initiative to revive the "silk road" in 2013. It inked an accord in this respect with Beijing at the time.

The Gulf country will partake in the "silk road summit" due in Beijing on May 14-15. Ambassador Hayat indicated that he is acting diligently, in light of guidelines from the higher Kuwaiti authorities, to regulate the distinctive Kuwaiti-Chinese relationship at various levels. The ambassador, who called for hiking commercial exchanges, had held a series of meetings with local officials



Kuwait Ambassador to China Samih Jawhar Hayat poses for a group photo with other officials during the Asia Pacific Business Summit in Guangzhou, China. — KUNA

in Guangzhou, with attendance of the State of Kuwait General Consul in the city, Malek Al-Wazzan. These discussions dealt with enhancing cooperation at various levels. Hayat is the sole diplomatic envoy who has been invited to partake and address the five-day Asia Pacific summit. — KUNA

## 'TASTE OF KUWAIT' PART OF BID FOR UN NON-PERMANENT SEAT

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait Mission to the UN hosted in the heart of Manhattan an event aiming to promote the country's culture and heritage. The "Taste of Kuwait" event, that took place at the Permanent Mission of Kuwait, welcomed top diplomats and election officers representing countries from all over the globe experiencing food and ambiance. The halls of the Kuwait Mission were decorated to give a closer vibe of the Middle Eastern country with the tent from the past and the food booths each displaying a certain dish savory and sweet.

The invitees saw a short film that showcases how Kuwait is becoming a Food Capital, and heard a brief speech delivered by Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi about the country, its history and brief comparison of the before and after oil living. In his speech, Ambassador Al-Otaibi highlighted the outcome of a number of elements that influenced the culture, primarily the geographic location of Kuwait, the climate and the surrounding environment, as well as the culture of its inhabitants.

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Al-Otaibi said the event that took place comes as part of a series of events they have organized within their Security Council campaign for a nonpermanent seat for the period 2018-19. "Throughout these events, we aim to promote the culture and heritage of the State of Kuwait, as well as the customs and traditions of its people," he added. Kuwait has been campaigning for some time now, promising in many occasions to continue the country's support to the UN so it can play an active role in helping many countries overcome crises and provide decent live for their people. UN Security Council elections will be held on June 2, 2017.

#### **Palestinian issue**

Meanwhile, Kuwait has called on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to assume its responsibility and take required steps to resume the Middle East peace process. In his keynote speech during the Security Council's meeting late on Thursday on the Middle East situation, Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said the Palestinian issue has been yet unsolved - several resolutions were taken in this regard.

He noted that such resolutions did not come into effect due to Israel's intransigence as it rejected, frankly and flagrantly, the implementation of resolutions of international legitimacy. Despite this, the international community is "regrettably" unable to press Israel to implement such resolutions, he noted. Ambassador Al-Otaibi said that illegal practices committed by Israel on the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, are relentlessly ongoing and aggravated the sufferings of the Palestinian people who have been reeling under difficult social and economic circumstances in the Gaza Strip, which has been under the attacks of Israeli forces, he said.



Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi delivers his speech. — KUNA

Such practices violate severely human rights, and international and human law, he pointed out. "Sought after peace should be based on international legitimacy resolutions, the Road Map and the Arab Peace Initiative, resulting in granting the Palestinian people all its political rights, including the

establishment of its own independent state with East Jerusalem as capital," Al-Otaibi said. He also reiterated Kuwait's support to outcomes of the Paris Peace Conference of January 15, 2017, which reaffirmed the two-state solution as the only way for a permanent peace in the Middle East. — Agencies

## SHEIKHA HESSA PROMOTES WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

**TUNIS:** Kuwait is ahead of other nations at the level of women economic empowerment, says Chairwoman of the Council of Arab Businesswomen Sheikha Hessa Al-Sabah. The Gulf State has sought to strengthen the female citizens in the economic field through financial support to enterprises of direct impact on this segment of the society, said Sheikha Hessa, in a statement to Kuwait News Agency and Kuwait Television.

Sheikha Hessa was speaking on sidelines of the first Arab economic conference themed "traditional industries, authenticity, modernity and renewal." The eminent female personality called for supporting creative Arab women at the economic, political and social levels. However, she noted that financial resources are required to attain such objective.

She indicated that Kuwaiti financial and charitable aid to Arab countries and communities have indirectly helped the Arab women, particularly at the economic level. The Council of Arab Businesswomen is aiding the Arab women in various sectors, particularly in the agricultural field which has proven as the most productive sphere and the best in terms of sufficient infrastructures. She called for establishing "women economic coalitions" to boost development in the Arab world. —KUNA

## Kuwait 📥 Times 🍜



## **EMBASSY WARNS KUWAITIS IN FRANCE** Amir sends a cable of condolence

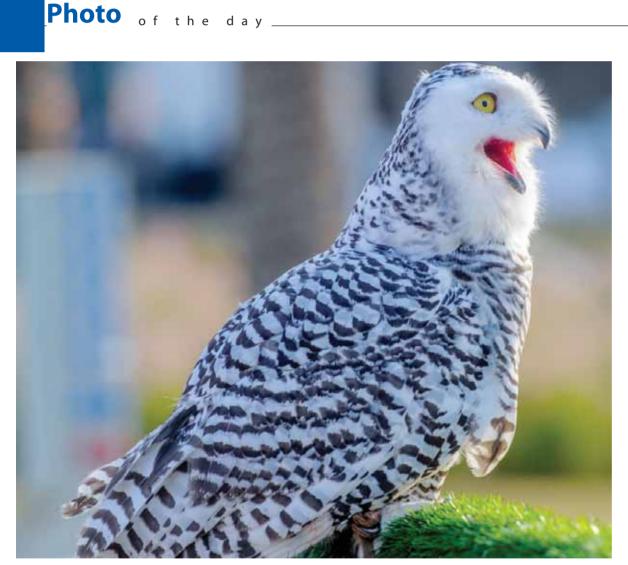
**PARIS:** The Kuwait Embassy in France has appealed to all nationals to be vigilant and careful after the shooting incident that occurred in the French capital Thursday night. The embassy advised the nationals in Paris to abide by instructions of the French authorities, and stay inside their houses, according to an embassy's statement received by KUNA late Thursday. The statement said that the embassy is in constant contact with the French authorities to follow up the developments of the incident, which killed a policeman and wounded another one.

The embassy urged citizens to call, in case of emergency, at the following number: 0033670673834. The shooting,

in which the assailant was also killed, took place on the Champs-Elysees shopping boulevard just days ahead of France's presidential election. France is witnessing a state of heightened security measures just days before the presidential election due on Sunday. The country faced a series of terrorist attacks in the last two years.

#### Cable of condolence

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to French President Francois Hollande following that the shooting attack on the Champs Elysees. In his message, His Highness the Amir strongly condemned the terrorist attack that claimed the life of a policeman and injured two others. He reaffirmed Kuwait's denunciation of such a heinous act of terrorism that has nothing to do with the noble values of Islam and other faiths. He also expressed condolences for, and sympathy with, the leader, government and people of France as well as the family of the victim, and wished those injured quick recovery. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to President Hollande. — Agencies



KUWAIT: Photo shows a white-feathered owl most commonly known as the 'snowy owl'. The snowy owl (Bubo scandiacus) is a large, white owl of the typical owl family. Snowy owls are native to Arctic regions in North America and Eurasia. Males are almost all white, while females have more flecks of black plumage. Juvenile snowy owls have black feathers until they turn white. The snowy owl is a ground nester that predominantly hunts rodents. — KUNA

#### CITIZENSHIP PETITIONS TO BE RECEIVED TILL APRIL 25

**KUWAIT:** The commission of withdrawn nationalities receives applications for examining requests to restore the Kuwaiti citizenship until April 25th. This was announced by the committee secretary, Dr. Nayef Al-Ajmi, in a statement to KUNA. Tuesday (April 25th) is the last day for accepting applications on citizenship restoration, he said. The commission, since its formation, has been holding an open-ended session. It has examined a number of cases involving the citizenship withdrawal or loss.

It will submit a report in this regard to the relevant

authority for taking the proper decisions regarding these petitions. "The right to file an application is guaranteed for every-one regardless of the date of the withdrawal or loss," he said, explaining further that this is applicable to anyone who has been stripped of the citizenship before or after the liberation. This has been previously affirmed by the chairman of the commission, the advisor at the Amiri Diwan Ali Al-Rashed, according to guidelines of the National Assembly Speaker and His Highness the Premier. — KUNA

### News

in hrief

#### Kuwait to inks accord

ABU DHABI: The visiting Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Essam Al-Mazouq said Kuwait would sign an agreement in May for establishing an aromatics complex in Bahrain. "We have other projects in the near future aimed at diversifying economic resources, instead of depending on the crude oil," he said mentioning the partnership contract with Oman to launch Al-Dogom refinery. The other Kuwaiti projects will be launched in India, Canada and the United States of America, he said, affirming the approach to diversifying the oil products, noting that the petrochemical industries have turned into "a major objective for all GCC states." Recent drastic decline of the oil prices did not prompt the State of Kuwait to alter its strategies for the coming five years, he said alluding to the ventures in the energy sector, spending of which is in the range of \$120 billion. Thirty percent of the strategic (energy) scheme has been accomplished," he said, adding that the rest would be realized in the coming three years.

#### **Petroleum Media Forum**

**ABU DHABI:** Kuwaiti official said yesterday that the Third GCC Petroleum Media Forum was a valuable opportunity to boost cooperation. The forum represented an important venue to exchange experiences and strengthen relations among various GCC oil and media senior officials, the Acting Media Oil Supervisor at the Oil Ministry Sheikha Tamadhur Khaled Ahmad Al-Sabah said in a statement to KUNA. Tamadhur added that the forum was packed with various workshops that highlighted various topics on oil in the region and the world. The forum that concluded last night also displayed GCC oil media strategy to increase and versify GCC economy, Sheikha Tamadhur noted. In recent days, Kuwaiti Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Isam Al-Marzouq said the forum would have positive impacts on the energy sector in the region.

#### Books to the disabled

**RABAT:** The Islamic Educational. Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) has called on Muslim countries to make books available to people with special needs. The call, launched by the ISESCO ahead of the World Book Day, mainly aims at enabling people with special needs to enjoy reading in a society where equality, openness and public participation are ensured. Regrettably, a lot of people, mainly those with special needs, cannot get access to books and new technology, the organization said in a message addressed to the Muslim world. Among millions of books printed around the world, there are only a few publications for blinded people, hitting just 10 percent, it lamented, adding that this figures falls to merely 1 percent in developing countries. Meanwhile, the organization emphasized that it is imperative to protect books and manuscripts in conflict-hit regions World Book Day, which falls on April 23, is a celebration. It's a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading.

#### **PPP projects in UK**

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects between the public and the private sector yesterday reviewed the advantages of executing such ventures in Kuwait. The Authority added in a statement that it offered the review of these projects during a major economic conference held in London in cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat and the British Department for International Trade. The presentation was offered by head of the project-launch department at the authority Eng. Lulua Yasin Saif who also offered a detailed account of Law 116/2014 on public-private partnership (PPP) and the changes introduced to until it was issued by an Amiri Decree in July 2014. Reviewing the PPP projects that are being carried out, she also stressed the significant role of the authority in promoting partnership for supporting the infrastructure and development in Kuwait. The authority was established in 2014 as part of the government's strategy for encouraging the PPP, and boosting the role of the private sector in developing the infrastructure.

## Kuwait 🗻 Times 🍜

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017



KUWAIT: Supporters of Kuwaiti opposition leader Mussallam Al-Barrak celebrate his release from jail yesterday in Kuwait City, after serving two years in prison for insulting the Amir. Hundreds of supporters welcomed Musallam Al-Barrak, 61, outside of Kuwait's Central Prison, with a procession of cars following him to his house, after his release Friday afternoon. Speaking to The Associated Press, Barrak's lawyer Thamer Al-Jadaei said his release was being celebrated because many admire his courage to speak out against what they see as corruption and stagnation.

#### — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

### **REMITTANCES FROM GCC TAKES A DIRECT HIT; DOWN 6.4 PERCENT**

**WASHINGTON:** As GCC countries cut back on spending, remittances to South Asia have taken a direct hit and fallen by 6.4 percent in 2016, the World Bank revealed yesterday in its Migration and Development Brief. Low oil prices and weak economic growth in the Gulf and in Russia are taking a toll on remittance flows to South Asia and Central Asia, while weak growth in Europe has reduced flows to North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, the institution said during its annual Spring Meetings in Washington.

The GCC's fiscal tightening resulted in \$110 billion worth of remittances to South

Asia, but that is expected to grow by two percent to \$112 billion this year - an increase the World Bank described as "muted". The economic slowdown in the GCC countries also affected remittances to the Middle East and North Africa, which saw an estimated decline of 4.4 percent to \$49 billion in 2016, the World Bank said. The decline for the region was driven by Egypt the region's largest remittance recipient.

Remittances to the region are expected to expand by 6.1 percent to \$52 billion this year, the brief showed. Globally, remittances to developing countries fell for a second consecutive year in 2016 - a trend not seen in three decades, the brief noted. Officially, recorded remittances to developing countries amounted to some \$429 billion - a decline of 2.4 percent from 2015, it said.

This year, global remittance flows are expected to increase by an estimated 3.3 percent to \$444 billion, the World Bank estimated. The institution somewhat discouraged the taxation of outward remittances by high-income countries because they are "difficult to administer and likely to drive the flows underground," the brief said. On average around the world, the cost of sending \$200 remained set at 7.45 percent in the first quarter of 2017, but it is still much higher than the set target of 3 percent, the brief noted.

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The highest cost region to send money to is still Sub-Saharan Africa, with an average cost of 9.8 percent. "A major barrier to reducing remittance costs is de-risking by international banks, when they close the bank accounts of money transfer operators, in order to cope with the high regulatory burden aimed at reducing money laundering and financial crime," the World Bank said. "This has posed a major challenge to the provision and cost of remittance services to certain regions."— KUNA

## Kuwait 🗠 Times 🍜

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

### Crime

## CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Report

**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya detectives are currently in search of an unidentified person who is accused of damaging a vehicle. Security sources said that a Kuwaiti woman claimed the man - who dressed like a cleaner was caught on security camera in Andalus while smashing her vehicle. The lady added that the suspect always hang around her house - pretending to be removing the garbage. She alleged that her ex-husband might have hired the suspect. A case was filed and investigations are ongoing.

#### Drug suspect nabbed

A citizen was recently arrested for drug related crimes. Packets of ICE were found in his possession. Security sources said a police patrol had stopped the suspect, who seemed already high, and on searching the vehicle, detectives found the drugs.

#### Man dropped dead

A citizen, with a criminal record recently dropped dead after damaging some vehicles and assaulting a police officer in Waha, Jahra, security sources said. Case papers report that policemen were dispatched to stop someone who was hysterically smashing vehicles. The man also assaulted a police officer before he finally made a very loud scream and then collapsed.

#### 'Spitting' at police

A traffic policeman recently filed a complaint accusing a citizen of 'spitting' at him and driving away after he was told to pull over for a traffic violation. The policeman added that the suspect was summoned to the station where he was told to remove his belongings from the vehicle for inspection, which angered him. On his part, the citizens also brought medical reports indicating injuries he allegedly sustained when the policeman assaulted him. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress. —Al-Rai/Al-Anbaa

## WOMEN ARRESTED FOR SHOPLIFTING

#### **By Hanan Al-Saadoun**

**KUWAIT:** Hawalli detectives recently arrested a 26-year-old female citizen and a Canadian woman of Arab origin for shoplifting from a prestigious garment store. Security sources said that one of the suspects usually distracts the sales ladies while the other used a device they had bought from an Asian country to deactivate the alarm device fixed on each of the items. Detectives had received various reports about robberies in a famous Salmiya mall, which prompted an investigation. The suspects confessed they only steal clothes.

#### **Dormitory fire**

Firemen were dispatched to put out a fire at the Public Warehouses Company laborers' dormitory where flames had completely destroyed one of the rooms. The entire building was evacuated but there were no casualties.

#### Staff honored

Mol's Investigations Directorate recently held a special ceremony to honor staff members with outstanding performance. The ceremony was attended by Major General Fahad Al-Doussari and the training center manager Montaha Al-Hajri.





## EQUATE SUPPORTS AUM CAREER FAIR

**KUWAIT:** EQUATE Petrochemical Company, a global producer of petrochemicals, extended its support to the American University of the Middle East (AUM) 2017 Career Fair. EQUATE's participation included a booth where the company's employees interacted with students by sharing with them future career opportunities and offered them advice on professional development. Additionally, EQUATE's staff highlighted the key attributes and achievements of the company's human capital who embody "Partners in Success."

Commenting on the company's support for the fair, EQUATE's Human Resources Leader Mohammad Al-Sharhan said: "We are always focused on engaging with youth in Kuwait and empowering them to become future leaders. EQUATE wishes to attract students from different majors, especially engineering and business administration. Participating at career fairs in such prominent universities, such as AUM, is in line with our efforts to attract and nurture competent talents in Kuwait."

Al-Sharhan added: "In alignment with the nation's vision to increase the presence of Kuwaitis in the private sector, EQUATE's Kuwaitization exceeds 50% of the total workforce. In parallel, we pride ourselves in the diversity of the workforce which groups over 20 nationalities as we believe that diversity is one of the keys behind the company's' success. EQUATE has cultivated an environment of knowledge and excellence as it employs top class professionals and invests in training through specialized programs as we are certain that the human capital is the main element for innovation, sustainability, and overall success at any organization.

As one of the most significant initiatives organized by AUM, the career fair is held annually to provide students with opportunities to connect with businesses from different sectors. It opens doors to students and offers them insights on Kuwait's business community, enabling them a smooth transition into their careers after graduation. The EQUATE Group is a global producer of petrochemicals that creates a better world. The Group combines EQUATE Petrochemical Company (EQUATE), its subsidiaries and The Kuwait Olefins Company (TKOC).

The EQUATE Group is the world's second largest producer of Ethylene Glycol (EG) with industrial complexes in Kuwait, North America and Europe that produce Ethylene, EG, Polyethylene (PE) and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET). The products are marketed throughout Asia, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. As a leading global enterprise, the EQUATE Group strongly pursues sustainability principles and the best practices wherever it operates through partnerships with various stakeholders including employees and customers, as well as societies as a whole in fields that include human development, environment, education, health and public awareness.

The EQUATE Group's shareholders include Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), Boubyan Petrochemical Company (BPC) and Qurain Petrochemical Industries Company (QPIC). The Group provides reliable services and solutions that enable global customers and stakeholders to grow and attain the success they seek by being "Partners in Success."





## Kuwait - Times 55.



## ABK CARDHOLDERS EXCLUSIVE OFFER AT THE MAIDAN CLINIC

**KUWAIT:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is presenting its ABK cardholders with an exclusive offer from Maidan Clinic, as part of its ABK Advantage discount



program. The offer is valid for all ABK Cardholders and will run until December, 2017. ABK Cardholders making use of this offer can avail a free consultation for themselves and for their immediate family members, as well as a 15% discount on all dental services, including cosmetic dentistry, fillings, dental implants, orthodontics, dental hygiene such as scaling & bleaching and gum depigmentation. In order to benefit from this offer, ABK Cardholders are required to make payments using their ABK cards. ABK continuously seeks partnerships that offer value added services to its customers, and will continue to enrich the overall banking experience with the Bank.



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## KFH TAKES PART IN Job Fair at AUM

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the American University of the Middle East (AUM) Job Fair as part of the bank's keenness to support the efforts of qualifying national cadres while offering them suitable job opportunities. KFH's booth was heavily visited by university students who wanted to explore their potential in joining KFH and the banking sector in general. A Human Resources team was accessible at KFH's booth at the job fair in order to answer job seekers' queries and educate them on KFH's sectors and departments and its nature of work.

KFH is a pioneer in attracting Kuwaiti manpower where it managed to create high caliber Kuwaiti bankers and investors. KFH allows Kuwaitis to hold senior positions and gain experience in various sectors, such as the banking, commercial, real estate, financing, and IT sectors. KFH's participation confirms the priority bank puts on enhancing its role, in collaboration with the concerned authorities, to reinforce efforts toward providing job opportunities for Kuwaitis, qualifying them, and honing their skills in accordance with international standards. It is worth noting that KFH Golden Sponsor for AUM job fair for the 3rd consecutive year. KFH participates annually in over 4 job fairs.







KUWAIT: The National Guards recently concluded the fifth annual 'Development & Loyalty to Benevolent Kuwait' initiative training courses for Kuwaiti youth. In this regard, operations commander Brigadier Bader Abdullah Hamad said that the initiative was initially inspired by HH the Amir's vision- placing youth at top priority in any development process.

## CBK MAINTENANCE

**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced yesterday that it will conduct the usual maintenance to update its data base today. Some of the services might be temporarily suspended. Therefore, CBK apol-

ogizes for any inconveniences this might cause. Clients and customers can use the customer service number 1888225, whatsapp on line number 50888225 or through CBKís accounts on various social media networks.





PARIS: French municipal policemen observe a minute of silence yesterday in the courtyard of the town hall in Bordeaux, southwestern France, to pay tribute to the police officer who was shot dead by an attacker on the Champs-Elysees the day before in Paris. —AFP

## FEARS ENGULF FRENCH ELECTION AFTER POLICEMAN SHOT IN PARIS

**PARIS:** The killing of a policeman on Paris's Champs Elysees claimed by the Islamic State group rocked France's presidential race yesterday with just two days to go before one of the closest races in recent memory. Bloodshed had long been feared ahead of Sunday's first round of voting after a string of jihadist atrocities since 2015, and shooting on the world-renowned boulevard forced security to the top of the agenda in the campaign.

Three of the four frontrunners-far-right leader Marine Le Pen, centrist Emmanuel Macron and conservative Francois Fillon-called off campaign events planned for yesterday in the wake of the attack. Le Pen, widely seen as taking the hardest line on security, called for France to "immediately" take back control of its own borders from the European Union and deport all foreigners on a terror watchlist. "This war against us is ceaseless and merciless," she said in a sternly worded address, blasting the "monstrous totalitarian ideology" behind Thursday night's attack by a 39-year-old Frenchman known for his links to jihadists.

Macron, a 39-year-old moderate whom other candidates have portrayed as too inexperienced to protect France against the terror threat, warned against any attempts to use the attack for political gain. "I think we must one and all have a spirit of responsibility at this extreme time and not give in to panic and not allow it to be exploited, which some might try to do," he told French radio.

#### Islamic State claim

The gunman opened fire with an automatic weapon on a police van at around 9.00 pm (1900 GMT) on Thursday, sending

tourists and visitors running for their lives. After killing the officer and injuring two of his colleagues just a few hundred meters from the Arc de Triomphe, the gunman was shot dead in return fire while trying to flee on foot. A statement by IS's propaganda agency Amaq said the attacker was one of its "fighters", identifying him as "Abu Yussef the Belgian".

But French authorities said the perpetrator was a 39-yearold Frenchman living in the Paris suburbs, whose name they did not release. The IS claim raised initial concerns that a possible second attacker could be on the loose. Yesterday, French authorities said a suspect sought by Belgium police, who was suspected of having planned to travel to France on Thursday, had handed himself in at a police station in the Belgian city of Antwerp. French interior ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet said it was "too early to say" if the man was linked to Thursday night's shooting.

During a search of his home, Belgian police found weapons, balaclavas and a train ticket for France leaving Thursday morning. The killer identified by French authorities was known to anti-terror police, sources said. He had been arrested in February on suspicion of plotting to kill police officers but released because of lack of evidence. He had been convicted in 2005 of three counts of attempted murder, with two of these against police officers, sources said. Three people from his entourage were being questioned by police.

#### Priorities could change

The impact on the election is unclear. Until now, surveys showed voters more concerned about unemployment and the economy than terrorism or security, though analysts warned this could change in the event of violence. Two radicalized men were arrested in the southern city of Marseille on Tuesday and authorities believe they had been trying to launch an "imminent" attack on the campaign.

Macron and Le Pen had long led the presidential campaign but it has tightened in recent weeks and polls indicate that any two of the four frontrunners, including hard-left contender Jean-Luc Melenchon, could reach the second round on May 7.

Thursday's deadly attack, the first in France since a priest was killed last July, comes after a series of attacks in Europe in the last month, targeting a Stockholm department store, the British parliament in London and the underground train system in Saint Petersburg. As the first details of the attack filtered through, US President Donald Trump said that "it looks like another terrorist attack. What can you say? It just never ends".

#### High-profile target

Shop owners and restaurant managers on the bustling Champs Elysees, in the heart of Paris, described the chaotic scenes that followed the attack. "We had to hide our customers in the basement," Choukri Chouanine, manager of a restaurant near the site of the shooting, said, saying there was "lots of gunfire." A foreign tourist was slightly wounded during the shooting. France has been under a state of emergency for nearly a year and a half, with more than 230 people killed in jihadist attacks since the start of 2015. The offices of Charlie Hebdo magazine were hit in January 2015, IS gunmen and suicide bombers killed 130 people at sites around Paris in November that year, and a Tunisian man rammed a truck through crowds in Nice in July 2016, killing 86 people. —AFP SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

### SAUDI ARABIA TO AWARD LICENSES TO 15 US COMPANIES IN MAY

**WASHINGTON:** Saudi Arabia plans next month to award licenses to at least 15 US companies to operate in the kingdom, two Saudi officials said on Thursday, with one saying they would go to technology and pharmaceutical firms among others. Dow Chemical Co last June said it had become the first foreign company to receive a trading license from Saudi Arabia as the kingdom seeks to diversify its economy and reduce its dependence on oil exports amid a slump in global oil prices.

A year ago the world's top oil exporter announced a package of economic and social policies known as Vision 2030 to try to dramatically increase non-oil revenue. A plunge in oil prices since mid-2014 has intensified the need for the plan, which relies on an expanding private sector, selling shares in the Saudi state-owned oil company and cutting government subsidies.

"Next month we will ... give 15 licenses to American companies," a Saudi official told reporters on condition of anonymity, later saying "at least 15" would be awarded and that they would go to technology, pharmaceutical and other sectors. "Most of them are outside the oil and gas field," a second Saudi official told reporters, also on condition of anonymity.

The officials said none of the licenses would go to firms affiliated with US President Donald Trump

or his family. The first official said all major stock exchanges, including those in Tokyo, London and Shanghai, were vying to make the case for Saudi Aramco to list with them in the oil company's planned initial public offering next year.

China is creating a consortium, including stateowned oil giants and banks and its sovereign wealth fund, that will act as a cornerstone investor in the initial public offering, people with knowledge of the discussions said. The planned Chinese investment makes it more likely that Saudi Aramco would seek a listing in Asia, with Hong Kong currently the front-runner among bourses in the region, the same people said. —Reuters



ALEPPO: Syrian civilians and loyalist fighters, evacuated from the two besieged government-held towns of Fuaa and Kafraya, arrive at a makeshift shelter in Jibrin on the eastern outskirts of Aleppo. — AFP

## SYRIA EVACUEES ON MOVE AGAIN AFTER 48-HOUR DELAY EVACUATION DEALS: BEST WAY TO END SYRIA'S WAR

**RASHIDIN, Syria:** Hundreds of frightened Syrian evacuees were on the move again yesterday after being blocked for 48 hours at a transit point where a bomber killed dozens of their fellow townspeople. Ten of the 45 buses carrying civilians and loyalist fighters from the besieged government-held towns of Fuaa and Kafraya left the marshalling area in rebel-held Rashidin, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Dozens of armed rebels were guarding the buses at Rashidin for fear of another attack. All of the 11 buses evacuating civilians and fighters from Zabadani and two other rebelheld areas around Damascus were also on the move, according to the Observatory, a Britain-based monitoring group. The buses from Fuaa and Kafraya entered second city Aleppo, under full government control since December, Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

The buses from Zabadani and surrounding areas headed for rebel-held Idlib province in the northwest. A total of 3,000 evacuees left their homes in Fuaa and Kafraya at dawn on Wednesday as part of a deal under which residents and fighters are also being evacuated from the rebel-held areas surrounded by government forces.

But the evacuees were forced to spend two nights in their buses at the marshalling area after last-minute disagreement over the release of prisoners held by President Bashar al-Assad's government. It was unclear yesterday if the prisoners had been freed. The evacuations began last week but were delayed after Saturday's suicide car bombing killed 126 people, 68 of them children, at the transit point in Rashidin.

#### Attack widely condemned

Saturday's attack was one of the deadliest since the start of Syria's six-year civil war and was widely denounced for targeting civilians. "Someone pretending even to distribute aid and attracting the children produced that horrific explosion," UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura told reporters in Geneva. According to witnesses, a vehicle distributing bags of crisps to children exploded near the buses transporting the evacuees.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blast. The government blamed "terrorists"-a term it uses for all its opponents. The evacuations mark the end of the first stage of a deal brokered by regime ally Iran and Qatar, a longtime supporter of Syrian rebel groups. When the current phase of evacuations is complete, a total of 8,000 people should have left Fuaa and Kafraya in exchange for 2,500 civilians and rebels from opposition areas.

A second phase of the evacuations is to begin in June. Assad's regime has presented evacuation deals as the best way to end Syria's war, which has killed more than 320,000 people and forced more than half the population from their homes. The opposition says the evacuations amount to forced relocation after years of bombardment and siege. —AFP

#### IRAQ FORCES FREE 11-YEAR -OLD YAZIDI GIRL IN MOSUL

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi forces in Mosul have freed an 11-year-old Yazidi girl who was kidnapped and sold as a slave by the Islamic State group in 2014, the federal police said yesterday. The girl was taken by the jihadists from the village of Kosho, south of the Yazidi hub of Sinjar in northern Iraq, together with her mother and sisters. She was freed during an operation by the security forces on Thursday in the west Mosul neighborhood of Tanek, federal police chief Lieutenant General Raed Shakir Jawdat said in a statement.

The elite Counter-Terrorism Service has been operating in the area and secured more than half of the neighborhood on Thursday. "They who kidnap these children are monsters," Major General Jaafar al-Baatat, Jawdat's top aide, said in a statement which was released with a video showing the girl at a police base south of Mosul. Vian Dakhil, a prominent Yazidi lawmaker who helped bring her minority's plight to the world's attention when IS jihadists swept through the region in 2014, said the girl's release had been carefully planned.

"When Daesh (IS) took her village on August 15, 2014, she was eight years old and she was kidnapped with her mother and her sisters," she told AFP. "She was initially taken to Tal Afar and was sold on to Mosul." Yazidis are neither Arab nor Muslim and when IS swept across northern Iraq almost three years ago, it carried out massacres against the minority which the United Nations said qualified as genocide. Most of the several hundred thousand members of the minority live in northern Iraq, mainly around Sinjar, a large town which anti-IS forces have now retaken but was extensively destroyed.

#### Sisters held in Syria

IS jihadists captured Yazidi women and turned them into sex slaves to be sold and exchanged across their self-proclaimed "caliphate". Around 3,000 of them are believed to remain in captivity. On the police video, the girl stands silently, wearing a light green head scarf as officers try to reassure her. "She has two sisters who were sold and sent to Raqa," said Dakhil, referring to the Syrian city that is still controlled by IS and the other main hub of the "caliphate". "They are still there."

Dakhil explained that the girl's two other sisters and mother were bought back from IS, a method which has been used by the authorities and Yazidi organizations to free hundreds of women, and now live in Germany. The girl and her family are originally from Kosho, the same village Yazidi rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Nadia Murad is from Vian Dakhil said the girl's father had a disability. —AFP



MOSUL: An image grab taken from a video release by the Iraqi federal police shows an 11-year-old Yazidi girl who was reportedly kidnapped and sold as a slave by the Islamic State group in 2014 after she was freed by Iraqi forces. — AFP

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### LEBANON'S HEZBOLLAH: 'ISRAEL BOOSTING BORDER DEFENSES'

**NAQURA, Lebanon:** Lebanon's Hezbollah sought Thursday to show that Israel is building up defenses in anticipation of another conflict, after a string of statements from Israeli officials warning of a potential confrontation. The powerful Shiite group, which fought a devastating war with the Jewish state in 2006, brought dozens of journalists on a rare and highly-choreographed trip to the demarcation line between Lebanon and Israel.

"This tour is to show the defensive measures that the enemy is taking," said Hezbollah spokesman Mohamed Afif, on a hilltop along the so-called Blue Line. A military commander identified as Haj Ihab, dressed in digital camouflage and sunglasses, said the Israeli army was erecting earth berms up to 10 meters high, as well as reinforcing a military position near the Israeli border town of Hanita. "Because their position is directly by the border and the enemy fears that the resistance will advance on it, they have constructed a cliff and additional earth berms and put up concrete blocks," he said.

"The Israeli enemy is undertaking these fortifications and building these obstacles in fear of an advance" by Hezbollah, he said. As he spoke, an Israeli military patrol of two armored cars and a white bus wended their way along a road behind a fence, as two yellow bulldozers moved earth nearby. There has been rising speculation about the possibility of a new war between Israel and Hezbollah, a powerful Lebanese paramilitary organization, more than a decade after their last direct confrontation.

The 34-day conflict in 2006 led to the deaths of 1,200 people in Lebanon, mainly civilians, and 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers. Israel's army chief warned recently that in a "future war, there will be a clear address: the state of Lebanon and the terror groups operating in its territory

and under its authority." There have been periodic skirmishes along the UN-monitored demarcation line between Israel and Lebanon, longtime adversaries which are technically still at war with each other.

#### 'We don't fear war'

Israel withdrew its forces from southern Lebanon in 2000, after an 22-year occupation. Thursday's tour sought to paint Israel as afraid of a new conflict, while depicting Hezbollah as ready for war despite having committed thousands of its fighters to bolstering Syria's President Bashar al-Assad. Journalists were taken from the southern Lebanese town of Naqura, with Hezbollah fighters in full military regalia stationed along the route alongside the group's yellow flag-despite an official ban on any armed paramilitary presence in southern Lebanon.—AFP



JERUSALEM: Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, delivers brief remarks as he welcomes US Defense Secretary James Mattis in his office in Jerusalem. — AP

## PENTAGON CHIEF WARNS SYRIA AGAINST USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS

**JERUSALEM:** US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said in Israel yesterday that there can be "no doubt" Syria has retained some chemical weapons and warned President Bashar al-Assad's regime not to use them. Mattis made the comments during a one-day visit for talks with Israeli leaders, who strongly supported a recent US strike against a Syrian airbase in retaliation for an alleged chemical attack on a rebel-held town.

"The bottom line is there can be no doubt in the international community's mind that Syria has retained chemical weapons in violation of its agreement and its statement that it had removed them all," Mattis said during a press conference with Israeli counterpart Avigdor Lieberman. "It's a violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, and it's going to have to be taken up diplomatically, and they'd be ill-advised to try to use any again. We've made that very clear with our strike." Mattis added that Syria had "dispersed their aircraft in recent days." An Israeli military assessment has found that Assad's regime was still in possession of "a few tons" of chemical weapons, an army official confirmed. Some Israeli media reports put the number at between one and three tons. Lieberman declined to comment on the assessment at Friday's press conference in Tel Aviv.

Assad, backed by his ally Russia, has strongly denied the allegation that his forces used chemical weapons against the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhun on April 4, describing it as a "100 percent fabrication". He has said repeatedly that his forces turned over all chemical weapons stockpiles in 2013, under a deal brokered by Russia to avoid threatened US military action. The agreement was later enshrined in a UN Security Council resolution.

#### **Talks with Netanyahu**

Mattis, the first member of President Donald Trump's cabinet to visit Israel, later held talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, followed by President Reuven Rivlin. Israel and the United States have long had close strategic ties, with Washington providing Israel more than \$3 billion per year in defense aid and Trump pledging unstinting support for the country. Despite tensions over Israeli settlement building, Barack Obama's administration signed a new agreement with Israel before he left office increasing the amount to \$3.8 billion for a 10-year period beginning in 2018.

Mattis sought to hear directly from Israeli leaders on their concerns and what they expect from the Trump administration, a US defense official said. Iran's influence is at the top of the list for Israel, a worry shared by the United States. Mattis accused Iran of "destabilizing activities," including threatening Israel and other nations in the Middle East with ballistic missiles, cyber activities and proxy groups. Netanyahu welcomed Mattis's comments on Iran and Syria, calling the Trump administrations approach a "welcome change."

"We sense a great change in the direction of American policy," he said. Israel is closely watching Iran's presence in Syria, where it is backing Assad. Israeli enemy Hezbollah is also fighting with Assad in Syria. Israel fought a devastating war against the Iran-backed Lebanese Shiite movement in 2006. Israel has sought to avoid being dragged into the six-year civil war in Syria, but acknowledges carrying out air strikes there to stop what it says are deliveries of advanced weapons to Hezbollah.

#### Iran nuclear deal

Testy relations between Obama and Netanyahu reached a low point over a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, led by Washington. Obama pushed hard for the agreement, but Netanyahu fiercely opposed it, arguing it will not prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and that the lifting of sanctions would allow it to support proxy groups. Trump also harshly criticized the deal, and on Thursday said Iran was "not living up to the spirit" of the agreement, adding that the United States would set out its position on it soon. —AFP

#### Ahmadinejad barred as Iran Guardians pick vote candidates

**TEHRAN:** Former Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was barred from running in next month's election Thursday while President Hassan Rouhani was among six candidates approved by Iran's conservative-controlled Guardian Council, state media reported. The other candidates selected were hardliners Ebrahim Raisi and Mostafa Mirsalim, Tehran mayor Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, moderate Mostafa Hashemitaba and Rouhani's ally and vice-president Eshaq Jahangiri.

Former hardline president Ahmadinejad, who ruled from 2005 to 2013, was barred along with his close ally Hamid Baghaie. Ahmadinejad shocked everyone by registering as a candidate last week against the advice of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei-a move which many described as political suicide. More than 1,600 candidates registered to run in the May 19 election, but the Guardian Council only ever selects around half a dozen.

More than 130 women registered but none has ever been allowed to stand. "In Iran, it's not only an election, it's also a selection," said Clement Therme, Iran research fellow for the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

#### Campaign starts now

Although campaigning was not due to start until April 28, the Guardian Council announced that it could begin immediately. Rouhani, a politically moderate cleric, has won praise since his landslide win in 2013 for taming inflation and reaching a groundbreaking nuclear deal with world powers that ended many sanctions. But disappointment over Iran's continued economic stagnation is palpable on the streets, creating an opening for conservative opponents.

Unemployment is stuck at 12 percent, the promised billions in foreign investment have not materialized, and Rouhani has failed to release political prisoners, including reformist leaders under house arrest for their part in 2009 protests. "The problem has been the nature of Rouhani's economic agenda. His administration has a discourse of social justice but they are ultimately neoliberal, and this has provoked disappointment," said Therme. The aggressive stance of US President Donald Trump, who has slapped new sanctions on Iran and threatened to tear up the nuclear deal, has bolstered conservative claims that Rouhani's outreach to the West has been misguided. —AFP



TEHRAN: In this picture, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani smiles as he attends at the Interior Ministry to register his candidacy for the May 19 presidential elections, in Tehran, Iran. — AP

Kuwait 🗻 Times 🌆

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### EU HOPEFUL UK VOTE TO SMOOTH BREXIT PATH

**BRUSSELS:** Britain's snap election has sparked hopes in Europe that Brexit negotiations could run more smoothly with a leader who has a big mandate, analysts and diplomats say. In Brussels, the belief is that if Prime Minister Theresa May wins a large majority as expected on June 8, she will no longer have to worry so much about upsetting hardliners in her Conservative Party. That would give her space to consider options that are anathema to core Brexiteers, such as a transitional deal until 2022 in which free movement and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice could continue.

European Parliament President Antonio Tajani said as much when he visited May in London on Thursday, adding that a new government before talks start later in June is "good not only for the UK but for us." That view is widely shared. A European source close to the negotiations told AFP that a May victory would give a "a strong leader in London who could negotiate with us, with the strong support of her electorate." The current mood is more promising than when May formally triggered the two-year Brexit process last month, a step that saw both sides taking tough positions on the talks ahead.

#### Taken hostage

London and Brussels have been at odds on whether talks on the divorce arrangements, including costs, should take place at the same time as negotiations for a trade deal between post-Brexit Britain and the EU. "She would be less at risk of being taken hostage by supporters of a 'hard Brexit'... and we will see what she really wants to do," said Ignacio Molina, of the Elcano Royal Institute think tank in Madrid. He said May would have the "political capital" to take her own decisions if she increases her centre-right party's current slim majority.

The Conservatives won that in 2015 under David Cameron, who resigned after last June's shock Brexit referendum result. May is not only keen to win her own mandate but also to be less at the mercy of her party's anti-EU right-wing when it comes to parliamentary votes. "The good news, from a European point of view, is that she would be less fragile for all the concessions that she is going to have to make," another European diplomatic source said.

Since her election announcement May has adopted a new and softer mantra on a possible Brexit deal, said Giles Merritt of Friends of Europe, another think tank. Whereas earlier this year May said Britain was ready to walk away and that no deal was better than a bad deal, she is now talking in terms of the "the best deal possible." "Instead (she will) be open to the sort of arrangements with the EU that hardliners in her Conservative Party have been condemning as a 'soft Brexit'," Merritt said in a commentary.

#### Positive scenario

Simon Tilford of the Centre for European Reform predicted that, despite the divisive nature of the Brexit referendum, May would win a massive majority of 130-150 seats because of the opposition Labour party's weakness. If so the "positive scenario is that she wants that (a majority) so she's not vulnerable to attacks from the eurosceptic right," Tilford said. "She has in recent weeks sounded much more flexible about freedom of movement, much more flexible about the European Court of Justice and she now seems to understand that a transition agreement between Britain and the EU will require Britain to abide by ECJ rulings and continue freedom of movement," he said.—AFP



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May departs 10 Downing Street in London for Prime Ministerís Questions in the Houses of Parliament.—AP



BERLIN: German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere, left, briefs the media at the Interior Ministry in Berlin.—AP

## POLICE SUSPECT GREED NOT TERROR IN DORTMUND BUS BOMB ATTACK

#### SUSPECT HOPED TO PROFIT FROM TEAM'S SHARE DROP

**BERLIN:** Police commandos yesterday arrested a German-Russian suspect behind a bomb attack on Borussia Dortmund's team bus, prosecutors said, indicating the motive was financial and not terror-related. They said the man, identified only as 28-year-old Sergej W., was hoping to profit from a drop in the football team's share price as a result of last week's attack. Three explosive devices went off in a hedge alongside the team bus on April 11, minutes after it left the squad's hotel heading for a Champions League quarter-final match at home against Monaco.

The blast shattered the bus windows, and Spanish international Marc Bartra, 26, broke his wrist. A motorcycle police officer suffered inner ear damage from the blast. "The accused is suspected of having carried out the attack on the team bus," prosecutors said after the elite GSG 9 police unit arrested the suspect at dawn in Tuebingen, near the southwestern city of Stuttgart. "He is charged with attempted murder, setting off explosions and causing serious physical iniury."

The suspect was staying in the same Dortmund hotel as the team, had a view of the scene where the bombs went off and had bought so-called put options on the team's shares on the day of the incident, prosecutors said. These 15,000 options could have been sold at a predetermined price by June 17, with a sharp fall in the share price promising a high profit. "A significant drop in the price could have been expected if, as a result of the attack, players had been

seriously injured or even killed," prosecutors said.

#### Packed with metal

Sergej. W had allegedly taken out a loan of tens of thousands of euros to pay for the put options, most of which he purchased online from the IP address of the Hotel L'Arrivee, where the team was staying, prosecutors said. He had reserved the room in mid-March for the periods April 9-13 and 16-20 coinciding with the team's two scheduled matches against Monaco, though it was not yet clear at the time which one would be held in Dortmund. He hoped to earn as much as 3.9 million euros (\$4.2 million), the Bild newspaper reported.

Prosecution spokeswoman Frauke Koehler however said police financial experts were still calculating how much he could have hoped to gain. "The suspect's profit would have grown the more the share of Borussia Dortmund fell," she said. Koehler said there was "no indiction so far" of accomplices, but said investigators did not rule out that others were involved. The three explosive devices, packed with metal pieces, were hidden along a 12-metre stretch of the hedge-two at ground level, with the third placed at a height of about one meter, prosecutors said.

The devices were remotely triggered, and shrapnel was found as far as 250 meters away. Citing unnamed investigators, Bild said police believed the suspect was capable of building a remotely-triggered bomb, having won an educational award in electronics and engineering in 2005. He had drawn attention at the hotel, reported Bild-first by insisting on a window room facing the front and then, in the pandemonium after the blasts, by calmly walking to its restaurant to order a steak.

INTERNATIONAL

#### **Despicable attack**

Three purported claims of responsibility stating a radical Islamist motive were found at the scene, on paper bear ing no fingerprints, prosecutors said, adding that Islamic studies experts had voiced "considerable doubts" about their authenticity. An Iraqi man was tak-en into custody over a suspected Islamist link but was later cleared of involvement in the bus attack. Similarly, a purported claim stating a far-right motive sent to German media bore "contradictions and inconsistencies" prosecutors said, adding there was "no indication that it was sent by the perpetrator". Borussia Dortmund thanked police, who had reportedly been surveilling the suspect for days, following leads including a tipoff from a financial sector source. "We are very grateful and hope that with the suspect's arrest, the perpetrator responsible for the despicable attack against our players and staff members has been caught," the club said in a statement. The fact that, aside from Bartra, "no others were wounded or even killed, was-as we know today-solely due to huge luck", it said. Captain Marcel Schmelzer said the side hoped learning the truth about the attack would help players "come to terms with" what happened—AFP

## Kuwait 📥 Times 🍜

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### INDIAN PUBLIC HEALTH GROUP LOSES PERMIT FOR FOREIGN FUNDS

**NEW DELHI:** India's government has canceled permission for foreign funding for one of the country's main public health organizations, whose donors include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It's the latest move by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in cracking down on charities and nonprofits that receive funds from overseas and are often criticized for working against national interests.

Rajeev Chhibber, spokesman for the Public Health Foundation of India, said Friday that the organization received a letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs saying it lost its registration to get foreign money last week. Chhibber said the Gates Foundation was among the larger donors to the group, which gets about 45 percent of its funding from overseas. Other donors include the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

The ministry had specifically asked the group to explain its spending on HIV/AIDS and anti-tobacco programs. In a statement, Chhibber said all the programs run by the Public Health Foundation were in step with the Indian government's National Health Policy. The organization also provides technical assistance to the federal government and several state governments on several subjects including tobacco control and HIV/AIDS.

Chhibber said the organization had submitted all the required documents to the ministry. He said his group is seeking "an early resolution of the issue" and continuation of its registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. India began cracking down on foreignfunded charities after a government intelligence bureau report said economic growth was hurt when certain groups rallied communities against polluting industries.

Over the last two years it has accused the groups including Greenpeace, Amnesty International and Action Aid of providing reports "used to build a record against India and serve as tools for the strategic foreign policy interests of Western governments." In February the government blocked foreign funding to Compassion International, a US-based Christian charity, amid allegations that it was using its charity work as a front for religious conversions. The group shut down its program, which worked largely with poor children in India. —AP

#### PAKISTAN OPPOSITION VOWS PROTESTS TO PRESS PM TO RESIGN DURING INVESTIGATION

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistani opposition party lawmakers tore up the agenda and shouted in a parliament session yesterday as they demanded that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif step down during an investigation into his finances. Opposition leader Imran Khan said he would lead protests demanding Sharif's resignation, saying the prime minister had lost the moral authority to stay in office while being investigated.

The Supreme Court ruled on Thursday there was insufficient evidence to order Sharif's removal from office but called for further investigation into corruption allegations in connection with the so-called Panama Papers leaks. A five-member bench was split three votes to two in favor of Sharif retaining his position. Yesterday, opposition lawmakers chanted slogans demanding Sharif's resignation and tore up the assembly's agenda for the day, before the speaker suspended the session, television footage showed.

"I was the petitioner in the case, the hearing continued for four months, at least I should have been allowed to speak in the parliament," Khan, a former cricket star, later told reporters outside the assembly. The Supreme Court, in its 549-page judgment, ordered a joint investigation team be formed to look into allegations around three of Sharif's four children using offshore companies to buy properties in London.

The investigating team has two months to complete its inquiry, after which a special bench will decide what action to take, the court said. The prime minister and his children deny any wrongdoing. The joint investigation team will comprise members from six different government bodies including intelligence agencies and financial regulatory authorities. —Reuters

## WAR-TORN AFGHANISTAN SETS UP TOURISM MINISTRY

AFGHANISTAN BOASTS PRISTINE MOUNTAINS, MEDIEVAL RUINS

**KABUL:** The president of war-torn Afghanistan is creating a tourism ministry in a bid to attract visitors to the country endowed with stunning landscapes and archaeological sites, but wracked by nearly four decades of conflict. Ashraf Ghani issued a presidential decree this week ordering the ministry be established and naming Ghulam Nabi Farahi, a former parliamentary affairs minister, as the new "State Minister for Tourism Affairs."

The order, criticized by many because it had bypassed parliament, included no other details, such as the ministry's aims or budget. Afghanistan boasts pristine mountains and medieval ruins, but many are located in areas plagued by insurgency, and insecurity and kidnappings have made life difficult for tourists in the country. Last August Taliban insurgents attacked a group of American and European tourists in western Herat, a timeworn city near the Iranian border renowned for its citadel and blue-tiled mosque. The attack, which left some of the tourists wounded, brought into sharp focus global thrill-seekers who imperil their lives to vacation in war zones. Afghanistan has, however, welcomed travel to what it considers safe areas where Taliban militants-seeking to topple the government and return to power are not deemed a threat. A few such areas can be safely reached by air, such as the ancient city of Bamiyan, currently at the centre of efforts to boost tourism revenue.

Bamiyan is famous for gaping hillside niches that once sheltered giant Buddha statues that were blown up by the Taliban in 2001. The surrounding province, a landscape of russet-hued cliffs, was once a caravan stop along the fabled Silk Road and also boasts Afghanistan's first national park. The northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, famous for its blue-tiled mosque, and the spectacular Panjshir Valley, known for its snowcapped peaks and precious stones, are some other relatively peaceful areas. —AFP



COLOMBO: Japanese officials with a disaster relief team survey the site of garbage dump collapse that killed 32 people on the northeastern edge of Sri Lanka's capital Colombo. — AFP

## SRI LANKA BANS ANTI-GARBAGE PROTESTS AFTER DUMP DISASTER

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka has outlawed protests over Colombo's garbage crisis following rallies over the city's waste disposal after a landslide at a giant rubbish tip killed 32 people and destroyed 145 homes. President Maithripala Sirisena announced that anyone preventing city authorities from disposing of garbage could be prosecuted and face an indefinite period in jail, his office said yesterday.

"Any person who by word or deed causes a disruption of garbage disposal will be guilty of an offence," the presidential order stated. Armed with new powers, garbage collectors yesterday began clearing the trash that has been piling up on Colombo's streets for a week since the city's main tip-a 300foot rubbish mountain-collapsed on homes.

Authorities were forced to dispose of garbage at alternative locations but that had triggered angry protests by residents who blocked trucks from dumping rubbish. Sri Lanka has ended a grim search for survivors after the landslide, and was now clearing the site at Kolonnawa outside the capital. A team of Japanese experts who flew in this week to advise Colombo on how to deal with the aftermath were seen surveying at the site yesterday. "We hope to be able to give a report by Tuesday," said Mitsutake Numahata, a Japanese official heading the delegation, "We are looking at what to do with the dump itself and the threat to neighboring areas." Local authorities have already declared areas around the vast tip unsafe for housing.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe promised survivors that permanent housing would be provided within a couple of months, and pledged to shift the dump elsewhere. Parliament had earlier been warned that the towering mountain of trash posed a serious health hazard and that a long-term solution was needed to dispose of Colombo's waste. A night of heavy rain, followed by an outbreak of fire, destabilized the 23 millionton garbage heap at Kolonnawa, causing its collapse. —AFP

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## MH370 MOSTLY LIKELY LIES NORTH OF SEARCH ZONE

**SYDNEY:** Missing flight MH370 "most likely" lies north of a former search zone in the remote Indian Ocean, Australian authorities said yesterday, in a new report that offers hope the plane may one day be found. A vast underwater hunt for the Malaysia Airlines jet off Australia's west coast was halted in January when no trace was found of the plane, which disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing three years ago carrying 239 people.

The Australian-led undersea search-the most expensive ever of its kind operated on the assumption that MH370 went down somewhere in the southern Indian Ocean, based on satellite data. But relatives pleaded for the search to be extended following analysis by Australian and international experts released in December that concluded the aircraft was not in the search zone but may be further north.

Three fragments were also recovered from the plane outside the official search zone on western Indian Ocean shores, including a two-meter wing part known as a flaperon found on La Reunion island. The new report by Australia's national science body CSIRO supported the northern theory using data and analysis from ocean testing of an actual Boeing 777 flaperon. As part of the test, the wing part was cut down to match photographs of MH370's flaperon and then placed in waters near Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, an island state south of Australia's mainland.

"The arrival of MH370's flaperon at La Reunion in July 2015 now makes perfect sense," said CSIRO scientist David Griffin, adding that how the flaperon responded to wind, waves and ocean currents was crucial. He said testing with an actual flaperon "added an extra level of assurance" to the findings from earlier drift modeling work. —AFP



PHILIPPINES: Philippine Defense Secretray Delfin Lorenzana, center, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Eduardo Ano, second from left, and other officials take their oath of allegiance to the flag during their visit to the Philippine-claimed Thitu Island off the disputed South China Sea in western Philippines. — AP

## PHILIPPINE DEFENSE CHIEF VISITS DISPUTED SPRATLY ISLAND

DUTERTE TO IMPROVE HIS NATION'S RELATIONS WITH BEIJING

**PAG-ASA, Philippines:** Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana flew to a disputed South China Sea island yesterday, brushing off a challenge by the Chinese military while asserting Manila's territorial claim to the strategic region. "This is just a normal visit within our territory, which we believe and we know is (our) territory," the minister told reporters who accompanied him on the brief trip. China claims most of the South China Sea, including Thitu island which Lorenzana visited and the Philippines calls Pag-asa island.

In recent years Beijing has been building up disputed reefs into artificial islands, including on Subi Reef about 26 kilometers from Thitu, which can house military facilities. Lorenzana said construction would start "within the next few weeks" for a quay on Thitu where construction materials will be landed for repairs on an existing airstrip on the largest of nine Philippinegarrisoned outcrops in the Spratly archipelago. Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam also claim the Spratlys, either wholly or in part.

As the military transport plane bearing Lorenzana and local officials of Palawan island, the largest land mass close to the Spratlys, prepared to land, the minister said the pilots received a warning from Chinese forces on Subi. He said the pilots were warned the aircraft was illegally entering Chinese territory, a routine for all Philippine aircraft landing on the Thitu airstrip since China reclaimed Subi. He said his pilots disregarded the warning. "That's their protocol. That's procedural. We also reply that we are flying over Philippine territory," he said.

Lorenzana visited Thitu more than a week after President Rodrigo Duterte pulled back from an announcement to visit the island on June 12 and raise the Philippine flag there. Duterte said later he had called off the trip "because we value our friendship" with Beijing. Reversing the course set by predecessor Benigno Aquino, Duterte has sought to improve his nation's relations with Beijing by adopting a non-confrontational approach over their competing claims in the strategically vital waters believed to sit atop huge oil and gas reserves.

Lorenzana however said Duterte was not backing down from his orders for the military to reinforce its installations in the Spratlys, and has allotted 1.6 billion pesos (\$32.16 million) for these. He said both China and Vietnam have long been fortifying their own garrisons on nearby outcrops. "We all know that China is the most powerful country in our neighborhood, they are economically powerful, also militarily," Lorenzana said.

"We are trying to manage the issue and talk to them to settle this dispute in the South China Sea." As Lorenzana flew to Thitu, the Philippine coast guard announced a group of Filipino fishermen have accused China's coast guard of shooting at their vessel in another section of the Spratlys. Philippine officials said they were investigating the reported attack on the Princess Johann boat, which the crew said occurred near the Chinese side of the Union Banks atoll on March 27. There were no casualties during the incident, authorities added. "(Princess Johann) was reportedly fired upon seven times by a Chinese speedboat with seven Chinese coast guards on board," a Philippine Coast Guard statement said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters at a regular briefing that Beijing had "no information" on the matter. If confirmed, the incident would be the first hostile episode in nearly a year involving the two countries, which have seen warming relations since Duterte came to power. —AFP

#### JAPAN LAWMAKERS VISIT CONTROVERSIAL WAR SHRINE

**TOKYO:** Dozens of Japanese lawmakers, including a government minister, visited a controversial war shrine yesterday, drawing protests from China and South Korea which see it as a painful reminder of Tokyo's aggressive past. Yasukuni Shrine honors millions of mostly Japanese war dead, but is contentious for also enshrining senior World War II military and political figures convicted of war crimes by an international tribunal.

Internal Affairs Minister Sanae Takaichi and 95 other members of parliament visited the Shinto religious facility in central Tokyo to mark the start of a three-day spring festivalroughly the same as last year's figure. Lawmakers, mostly conservative, say the pilgrimages are a chance to console the spirits of the dead and pray for peace. But North and South Korea and China consider them painful reminders of Japanese colonialism and invasion during the early 20th century.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who wants Tokyo, Beijing and Seoul to cooperate in countering the growing security threat from Pyongyang, did not visit the shrine but sent an offering in the form of a sacred tree. South Korea's foreign ministry said the visits and offerings were "deeply worrying and regrettable" while China's foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said Tokyo should "face up to" its "history of aggression." Abe has avoided the shrine since going in 2013. That visit sparked fury in Beijing and Seoul and even earned a diplomatic rebuke from close ally the United States. —AFP



TOKYO: A shinto priest, right, leads Japanese lawmakers after their prayer at the altar of Yasukuni Shrine during the shrine's spring festival in Tokyo. — AFP

#### SPANIARD SENTENCED TO DEATH IN THAILAND FOR GRISLY MURDER

**BANGKOK:** A Spanish man was sentenced to death by a Thai court yesterday for the grisly murder of a fellow Spaniard whose dismembered body parts were discovered in Bangkok's main river last year. Artur Segarra, 38, was convicted of kidnapping and killing David Bernat in an effort to steal tens of millions of baht from the businessman, according to the verdict read out by a judge at the Bangkok criminal court.

"Forensic evidence such as blood stains and fingerprints on (Segarra's) electric grinder had DNA that matched the victim," the judge said, adding that CCTV footage and testimony from Segarra's maid and girlfriend also implicated him in the killing. Police believe Segarra held Bernat in his Bangkok apartment for several days and tried to extort him for money before murdering the 40year-old and dumping his chopped up body parts in the Chao Praya river. —AFP SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

## PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE TOURS RUSSIAN WARSHIP

**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte toured a visiting Russian warship yesterday for the second time in barely four months as he highlighted his growing closeness to Moscow. "The Russians are with me, I shall not be afraid," Duterte was quoted as saying during a visit to the Russian guided missile cruiser 'Varyag' which is on a port visit to Manila. Duterte toured

the ship, posing for pictures with Russian sailors and in front of the vessel's huge missile-launchers, on what was the fourth ever port call by a Russian naval ship to the Philippines.

Since taking office in June, Duterte-who describes himself as a socialist-has been distancing himself from the Philippines' traditional ally, the United States and moving closer to its rivals, China and Russia. In an indication of these closer ties, two Russian ships led by the submarine-hunter Admiral Tributs, made a "goodwill visit" to Manila in January, when Duterte also toured the Russian vessel. Duterte has said he plans to purchase military equipment from Russia rather than the United States and is due to visit in May to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin. —AFP



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## Kuwait 📥 Times 🍜

## ARKANSAS CARRIES OUT 1ST OF PLANNED EXECUTIONS

#### US SUPREME COURT REJECTS ELEVENTH-HOUR REQUESTS

**WASHINGTON:** The US state of Arkansas has carried out its first execution in more than a decade despite criticism that its plan to put to death several prisoners this month is rushed. Ledell Lee, 51, was executed Thursday after the US Supreme Court rejected eleventhhour requests to stay the move. He received a legal injection cocktail of three drugs, including one that has

tied up in the courts. Arkansas's Republican governor Asa Hutchinson has said the accelerated execution timetable is necessary as the state's stock of a controversial sedative will expire at the end of the month.

#### Drug battles

Many of the legal clashes over Arkansas's plan focus on use of the drug



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, Ledell Lee appears in Pulaski County Circuit Court for a hearing in which lawyers argued to stop his execution.—AP

sparked sharp debate. Another day of intense legal wrangling kept Lee, who was sentenced to death more than two decades ago, alive until just before his death warrant expired at midnight.

The nation's top court as well as a US circuit court issued temporary execution stays as they analyzed the case-but ultimately all were lifted. "Tonight the lawful sentence of a jury which has been upheld by the courts through decades of challenges has been carried out," Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge said in a statement released after the execution, the state's first since 2005.

Three more men are currently slated to die before the end of the month. The state originally scheduled an unprecedented eight executions between April 17 and 27, but several cases are now midazolam, a sedative meant to render a condemned person unconscious before other drugs induce death. Critics say it does not always adequately sedate prisoners, potentially causing undue suffering. Lee, who requested communion as his last meal, was administered midazolam as well as vecuronium bromide to cause paralysis and potassium chloride to stop his heart.

The use of vecuronium bromide has also faced legal pushback, with McKesson Medical-Surgical-a distributor for pharmaceutical giant Pfizer-accusing Arkansas of concealing its plans to use the drug for capital punishment. The Arkansas Supreme court ultimately allowed prison officials to administer the drug. Lee was unresponsive during consciousness checks, according to US media, and was pronounced dead at 11.56 pm, 12 minutes after receiving the lethal injection. His fate was debated by state and federal courts in the days leading up to his death, with state authorities battling his lawyers as well as those of other death-row inmates scheduled to die this month. Another Arkansas prisoner, Stacey Johnson-who had also been scheduled to die Thursday-was granted a stay by the state Supreme Court on Wednesday, a reprieve that stemmed from a bid to have an evidentiary hearing connected to his request for DNA testing.

Prior to lifting the final temporary stay that cleared the way for authorities to execute Lee, justices on the nation's highest bench had voted 5 to 4 — a majority that included its most recent addition Neil Gorsuch, a Donald Trump nominee-to deny staying the executions of all eight condemned inmates.

#### Assembly line of executions

In dissenting opinions, justices noted the risks posed by midazolam and questioned the compressed schedule's merit. "That factor, when considered as a determining factor separating those who live from those who die, is close to random," wrote Justice Stephen Breyer. One of Lee's lawyers, Nina Morrison, said the state had denied Lee-who was convicted of murdering his neighbor-from proving his innocence with DNA testing.

"While reasonable people can disagree on whether death is an appropriate form of punishment, no one should be executed when there is a possibility that person is innocent," she said in a statement. Arkansas's push to reduce the number of its death-row prisoners by 20 percent in less than two weeks has drawn sharp protests worldwide, and Lee's execution was met with swift criticism.

"Today is a shameful day for Arkansas, which is callously rushing the judicial process by treating human beings as though they have a sell-by date," said James Clark, a senior official of Amnesty International's US branch. "Arkansas is running in the opposite direction from progress. This assembly line of executions must stop."—AFP

## MARIJUANA ACTIVISTS ARRESTED AT US CAPITOL ON '4/20' DAY

**WASHINGTON:** Police arrested seven pro-marijuana activists near the US Capitol on Thursday as they handed out free joints to mark "4/20 day" and highlight their effort to legalize pot. US Capitol Police (USCP) said three adults were arrested near the Capitol and charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana, while four were charged with possession. "Under federal law, it is unlawful to possess marijuana," police communications director Eva Malecki said in a statement.

"They were taken to USCP Headquarters for processing." Among those arrested was Adam Eidinger, cofounder of activist group DCMJ aimed at cannabis law reform in the US capital Washington. Eidinger was handing out the free joints to DC residents and congressional staff to mark April 20, the day on which pro-marijuana events, known as "4/20" rallies, are held worldwide.

The code 420 is most often used in North America, attributed to a group of young pot-lovers in the 1970s who met up at 4.20 pm. Although marijuana possession is illegal according to federal law, local law in Washington as of 2015 allows possession of two ounces (56.6 grams) or less of marijuana for people 21 or older, as well as the transfer of up to one ounce.

DCMJ said they arranged the event on "non-federal land" near the corner of 1st St and Constitution Avenue NE, between the US Capitol and Senate office buildings. "This is 420 legal activity where you give away cannabis in the District of Columbia," Eidinger said, referring to Washington by its formal name. "On a DC sidewalk it's 100 percent legal," he said, arms handcuffed behind him, in a video of the arrest posted by the Washington Post.—AFP

### 'IS THIS MIAMI?' AN Iraqi family's Colombian odyssey

INTERNATIONAL

**BOGOTA:** After fleeing their home in war-torn Iraq, the Hadi family dreamed of getting a fresh start in the United States. But after being cheated by people smugglers, they found themselves someplace altogether different: Colombia. At the end of an arduous two-month journey that started in Turkey, the Hadis got off the ship that had carried them across the ocean, thinking they were in the US. Following the Iraqi smuggler they had paid \$30,000 to guide the five of them, they took a bus, spent the night in a shabby hotel-and only then realized something had gone awry.

"This is United States? This is Miami?" Malak Hadi asked at the reception desk the next morning. "She said, 'No.' She said, 'This is Colombia, this is Cali,'" the 22-year-old refugee recalled in halting English. That's when the family-Malak, her mother, father, sister and brother-discovered their guide had vanished. That was a year and a half ago.

They were stranded in Cali, a city plagued by violent crime fed by the Colombian cocaine trade, the world's largest. With no money, speaking little English and no Spanish, they were stuck sleeping on the streets alongside homeless people and addicts. Malak remembers being terrified. "In my country when you hear about Colombia is just drugs, is just mafia, is nothing else," she said.

#### One war to another

After four days in Cali, they got in touch with the Colombian immigration authorities, who arranged a translator for them. They decided to go to Medellin and then continue their journey north toward the US-like thousands of migrants who pass through Colombian on their way to seek the American dream. But by chance their father met an Arabic speaker at a bus stop along the way, who told them about an Islamic cultural center in Bogota.

They changed course, headed to the capital and were welcomed at the Ahlul Bayt Islamic Cultural House. "When we came inside the mosque, it was like a miracle for us," said Malak. She believes that turn of fortune is the only reason they aren't sleeping on the streets today, she said. Sitting on a prayer might, her green eyes wet with tears, she commented on the bitter irony of fleeing the war in Iraq, only to end up in a country torn by more than half a century of conflict between the army, leftist guerrillas, right-wing paramilitaries and drug cartels.

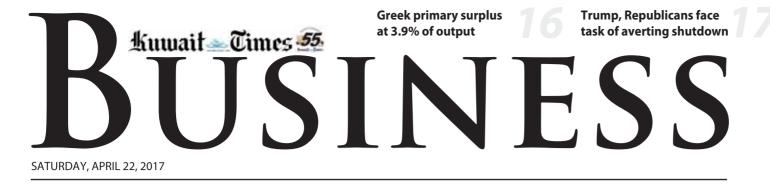
Still, she said, it would be hard to get worse than life in Iraq, where the army is battling the jihadists of the Islamic State group in a brutal war that has many civilians trapped in the middle. "Life is impossible every day in my country," she said. "They just come and kill you, take the girls, the beautiful ones, and then kill the others."

#### US 'the same'

When the Hadis first fled their home on the outskirts of Baghdad, they went to Malaysia, hoping to make it to Australia. They never managed. So they set their sights on the United States. But the smugglers they paid to guide them robbed them blind, they say. "They take the phones, they take the passports and they take the money we had... they take everything," said Malak. "Everything was so hard, but I also learn much stuff that makes me grow up." Today, the family lives in a single rented room, and keeps its few belongings in plastic bags. Colombia granted them refugee status eight months ago. But they have struggled to find work without speaking Spanish. — AFP



BOGOTA: Malak Hadi Hussein from Iraq prays at the Ahlul Bayt Islamic Cultural House in Bogota, Colombia.—AFP



Is China too tough a steel beast for Trump to tame?



China carmakers ape foreign brands



WASHINGTON: Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin arrives for a meeting with Chinese Finance Minister Xiao Jie during the G20 at the 2017 World Bank Group Spring Meetings in Washington yesterday.—AP

## ADDRESS RISING ANTI-GLOBALIZATION ANGER: IMF Ministers from 189 countries gather for fund's meeting today

**WASHINGTON:** As the global recovery gathers pace, the IMF is turning up the volume on its call for wealthy countries to address popular anger over the impact of globalization and head off the threat of protectionism. The renewed push comes as finance ministers from 189 countries gather for the fund's semiannual meeting today, in a tense atmosphere of rising anti-trade rhetoric in many advanced economies.

"This sentiment of populism in the views of many is fueled by the feeling of being excluded, or being left out," IMF managing director Christine Lagarde said Thursday night. "What better than more growth, more equitably shared, in order to respond." The fund for years has been calling for countries to drive towards what it calls more inclusive growth with programs to help those hurt by globalization and trade-but typically it has centered on developing nations.

Now the focus is on advanced economies and the message has taken on greater urgency, amid anti-internationalist sentiment evident in the election of US President Donald Trump, as well as in the bitter French election campaign and last summer's British vote to leave the European Union.

Lagarde has repeatedly stressed that giving in to protectionism will not help those on the margins and in fact will make matters worse by driving up prices and eroding global growth. But as the IMF raised its forecast for global economic growth to 3.5 percent for this year-a rare upward revision-Lagarde said it is time to address these concerns from "an economic point of view," to help spread the benefits of growth to marginalized groups while preserving international cooperation.

#### 'New thinking'

Former India central bank chief and IMF chief economist Raghuram Rajan said the legitimate concerns in advanced economies "reflects a cry of anger and for help." Governments should respond with "broadbased rehabilitation" of communities hurt by lost manufacturing-a situation nearly entirely

due to technological advances rather than trade, even though trade is blamed, he said.

"We need to think seriously about rebuilding these communities... to lift up the forgotten man," Rajan said in a lecture at the IMF entitled "Popular Insurrections," which Lagarde attended.

That echo of US President Donald Trump's campaign promises means helping the majority white male community as well as the inner cities, by bring economic activity, he said.

"Industrial countries have large areas that need development," Rajan said. But this "requires certain amount of funding, and new thinking." It also may mean returning decision making on some issues like trade and climate rules back to national governments, rather than leaving them in the hands of multilateral institutions-which have drawn the ire of many US, British and French voters.

The IMF said "hundreds of millions" of people have been lifted out of poverty through economic integration and technological progress, "helping to reduce global income inequality." The fund is calling for governments to use "well-targeted initiatives" to help workers adversely affected by free trade and other economic changes find jobs in new industries. In addition they should direct spending toward establishing social safety nets to help with the loss of income, as well as improving education and training, the fund said. But for the moment the Trump administration is focused on aggressive rhetoric, attacking individual countries that have trade surpluses with the United States, such as Germany, China and Mexico.

White House economic adviser Gary Cohn said Thursday the United States was only seeking fair treatment. "We treat our trading partners the way they treat us," said Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs banker who now chairs the new National Economic Council.

Tariffs on US exports would be met by a tariff on imports from that country, Cohn said at a forum held by the Institute of International Finance. "We treat you in reciprocal fashion. That is fair," he said. — AFP

## Kuwait 🗻 Times 🍜

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017



ATHENS: People shop at Athens main green market in city's center yesterday. Greece in 2016 registered a primary surplus of 3,9 percent of output, the statistics agency said yesterday, in a key announcement for the country's reform talks with its creditors. — AFP

## GREEK 2016 PRIMARY SURPLUS AT 3.9% OF OUTPUT: DATA

### ANNOUNCEMENT AHEAD OF REFORM TALKS

**ATHENS:** Greece in 2016 registered a primary surplus of 3.9 percent of output, the statistics agency said yesterday, in a key announcement for the country's reform talks with its creditors.

Under the bailout, Greece needed to clock a primary surplus-or budget surplus before debt repayments-of 0.5 percent of output in 2016, followed by 1.75 percent this year and 3.5 percent in 2018. However, the state statistics agency insisted that the figures, although in line with EU guidelines, were not strictly comparable as they were calculated differently.

The statistics agency did not release a bailout-related surplus figure on Friday, and the agency did not respond to calls. Government spokesman Dimitris Tzanakopoulos later said the actual bailout-appropriate figure was 4.19 percent, an increase of over eight times the target. Hours before the figures were released, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said in an article to the Wall Street Journal that the economy had once again "overperformed".

The announcement came as Greek officials aim to reach agreement on reform goals with the creditors in talks resuming next week. Also Friday, the International Monetary Fund convenes in Washington for its spring meeting where Greek officials hope to secure fresh pledges on debt relief support.

In its announcement, the Greek statistics agency said the debt stood at nearly 315 billion euros (\$338 billion) or 179 percent of output, up from 177.4 percent in 2015.

Eurozone nations including Germany want the IMF to retain a central role in supervising Greek reforms, but the global lender says it will only do so if it is satisfied that estimates of Greek recovery are not over-optimistic. The eurozone says Greece can deliver a primary surplus of 3.5 percent of GDP in 2018 but the IMF has said only 1.5 percent is feasible. In his Wall Street Journal article, leftist PM Alexis Tsipras said the EU-IMF squabble was holding back Greek recovery.

#### **Temporary factors**

"We have committed to fulfilling the obligations undertaken to our creditors despite the political cost," Tsipras said. "But the safest way to ensure this is by boosting growth and ending the punishing policies of the past," he said. In a report on Wednesday, the IMF estimated the Greek 2016 primary surplus at 3.3 percent, noting that it did not have final figures for a definitive result. IMF fiscal affairs department director Vitor Gaspar acknowledged that the figure was "significantly stronger" than the agency's prior forecast, but attributed it to "temporary factors." Critics note that the government secured the result partly by holding back over three billion euros owed to state providers. In Athens, the government noted that just a few months earlier the IMF had predicted a primary surplus of 0.1 percent for 2016. The IMF has consistently argued that Greece will need significant cuts to be able to reach a primary surplus of 3.5 percent in 2018.

The IMF sees a primary surplus of 1.5 percent as an appropriate level to be sustained over the medium to long run," Gaspar had told reporters on Wednesday. But the Greek government insisted that based on the performance of the economy, which it says the Washington-based lender has consistently failed to gauge accurately, there will be no need for additional measures in 2018. 'Targets for 2017 and 2018 will be attained," Tzanakopoulos said yesterday. "The 2016 result leaves no doubt on that." A compromise is required to sign off on a second review of the bailout program and unblock a tranche of loans Greece needs for debt repayments of seven billion euros this summer. The review is expected to resume next week. — AFP

### Pence announces \$10bn in deals on Indonesia trip

**JAKARTA:** US Vice President Mike Pence announced \$10 billion in deals between American and Indonesian companies during a visit to Jakarta yesterday, as he pushed for greater access to Southeast Asia's top economy.

Eleven deals were signed. Energy firm Exxon Mobil, General Electric, and aerospace giant Lockheed Martin were among the American companies involved in the agreements.

"These deals represent the tremendous excitement that American companies feel about opportunities in Indonesia," said Pence. Exxon Mobil will sell liquefied natural gas to Indonesian state-owned energy company Pertamina, General Electric will provide technology for Indonesian power plants, while Lockheed Martin will provide new weapons systems for F-16 fighter jets.

During the visit to Indonesia, his latest stop on an Asia tour, Pence has been pushing to help US firms who want to do business in Indonesia-one of several countries targeted by Donald Trump's administration for running a trade surplus with the US. During a meeting at a Jakarta hotel Friday where the deals were announced, Pence told business leaders that he and President Joko Widodo had "very candidly and very respectfully" discussed how to improve market access for US firms in Indonesia when they held talks.

He said earlier on the visit that Washington wanted to "break down barriers" for exporters seeking to enter the Indonesian market. Indonesia has long been targeted by foreign investors, as it has enjoyed robust growth in recent years, driven by exports of its key commodities even as many developed countries have struggled. The country of 255 million people is home to a rapidly growing middle class and an army of consumers whose spending power is increasing. But Indonesia can be a notoriously difficult place to do business due to nationalistic policies, complex bureaucracy and problems with corruption, and foreign firms have often run into trouble.

The latest example of a US company facing problems is a row between the government and mining giant Freeport-McMoRan, which runs a huge gold and copper mine in Indonesia, after authorities demanded they obtain a new license to operate. Pence departed Indonesia yesterday for the next stop on his tour, Australia. He has already visited South Korea and Japan on a trip that is aimed at smoothing some of the rougher edges of Trump's rhetoric. —AFP

#### EURO DIPS BELOW \$1.07 ON FRENCH ELECTION RUN-IN

**LONDON:** The euro fell back yesterday, trading almost a cent off this week's highs as investors prepared for the first round tomorrow of a tight French presidential election race. Traders said an upbeat flash Purchasing Managers' Index survey from France and polls showing centrist Emmanuel Macron still in pole position ahead of the vote had helped settle nerves after a dip late on Thursday. There was no obvious reaction to the shooting of a French policeman in central Paris overnight, an attack claimed by Islamic State.

But with options markets suggesting investors are extremely concerned about the chances of strong results for far-right and far-left candidates Marine Le Pen and Jean-Luc Melenchon, the euro fell 0.2 percent against the dollar in morning trade in Europe. "I think everybody is locked down," said Simon Derrick, head of the global markets research team at Bank of New York Mellon in London. "It is kind of reminiscent of the big events last year where people know that it is a binary outcome so the best approach is to remain as cautious as possible." Other major currency pairs were stuck in tight ranges, with Britain's weakest quarterly retail sales number in five years doing minimal damage to sterling after a 4-cent surge earlier this week.

The numbers provided further evidence of a weakening of the consumer demand that has propped up economic growth since the Brexit vote last June. But they come at a time when investors seem optimistic about Prime Minister Theresa May's shock decision to call an early general election for June 8. "We used to think that when the going got tough, the Brits went shopping, but this retail environment is too much for the hardy British consumer," said Jeremy Cook, an analyst with corporate and retail currencies provider World First. — Reuters

### TUNISIA TO CURB IMPORTS TO TACKLE TRADE DEFICIT

**TUNIS:** Tunisia will restrict the import of some goods to tackle its widening trade deficit and protect foreign reserves as the local dinar currency slides to historic lows against the euro and dollar, Prime Minister Youssef Chahed said yesterday. Praised for its successful democratic transition after a 2011 uprising, Tunisia has struggled to progress with tough economic reforms to reduce public spending as demanded by the IMF and its international partners.

"The fall of the dinar reflects this enormous trade deficit but there is no need to panic. We will take some decisions.. We will limit some random imports. We have a lot of unnecessary imports," he told reporters at an event in Sfax city. The dinar traded at 2.64 against the euro and 2.46 against the dollar on Friday for the first time, traders told Reuters.

Chahed said a cabinet meeting next week would decide on the details of the restrictions. Tunisia's trade deficit expanded by 57 percent to reach \$1.68 billion in the first quarter of this year because of a jump in imports. "We will reduce imports of many luxury goods," a government official told Reuters.

The local currency has continued its sharp decline since Finance Minister Lamia Zribi said last Tuesday the central bank would reduce interventions so that the value of the dinar gradually declines, though she said it would prevent a dramatic slide. The IMF agreed this week to release a delayed \$320 million tranche of Tunisia's \$2.8 billion in loans. It called for tighter monetary policy that would counteract inflationary pressures, and said "greater exchange rate flexibility would help narrow the large trade deficit".

The UTICA industry and business employers' association, one of the country's major economic lobbying groups, urged the government to tackle the dinar's drop. It warned that the sharp decline of currency will increase economic pressures and hit companies that import raw materials from abroad. — Reuters



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#### PARIS STOCK MARKET FALLS AFTER ATTACK BEFORE FRENCH ELECTIONS

**LONDON:** The Paris stock market fell yesterday after the latest violent attack in the city and as traders awaited the weekend presidential election in France. London also dropped following much weaker than expected British retail sales data, while Frankfurt gained as separate figures showed the eurozone economy grew at its fastest pace in six years in April.

Earlier, Asian markets built on Wall Street's rally as geopolitical fears gave way to fresh hopes for Donald Trump's stimulus after his top finance man said a US tax reform plan would be released "very soon". In Europe, a known terror suspect shot dead a French policeman and wounded

two others Thursday on Paris's Champs Elysees in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group days before a presidential election. Global markets have taken a hit this month owing to concerns about US-Russia relations, tensions on the Korean peninsula and the president's failure to push through a key healthcare bill. But the risk-off mood was smothered after Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin

said the tax code overhaul promised by Trump was close. The reforms, along with promises for big infrastructure spending, were a key driver of a global equity rally since the tycoon's November election win.

The news was met with relief by Wall Street, with the Nasdaq leading a surge in all three main indices Thursday and hitting a new record high. The dollar, which has struggled in recent weeks against the haven yen, also broke out of its malaise before slipping back yesterday.

Adding to the dollar bounce were comments from a top Federal Reserve official saying he expected the central bank to hike interest rates three times this year. "While we are no clearer on what this weekend's French election result will be, we at least received hints from Treasury Secretary Mnuchin," said Joshua Mahony, market analyst at IG trading group.

"The subsequent dollar and stock rally off the back of Mnuchi's comments have largely paved the way for today's trade." In Asia yesterday, Tokyo's Nikkei closed up one percent as exporters were boosted by some weakness for the yen and comments from Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda that he would maintain a loose monetary policy, despite an improvement in the economy.

On foreign exchange markets, the euro suffered a brief dive against the dollar after the Paris attack.

Attention now turns to this weekend's first-round presidential vote in France, with a four-way split leaving analysts unable to work out which two candidates are likely to win through a second phase.

While there are fears the far-right Marine Le Pen will qualify, observers believe the moderate Emmanuel Macron will beat her in next month's run-off. However, there is unease that a win for Le Pen could lead to France's exit from the European Union and possible collapse of the bloc. —AFP



JAPAN: A man looks at an electronic stock board showing Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm as woman walks by in Tokyo yesterday.—AP



MIAMI LAKES: In this July 19, 2016 file photo, people stand in line to register for a job fair, in Miami Lakes, Florida. The Labor Department reported that more people sought US unemployment benefits the week before, yet total applications remained at a historically low level that suggests workers are enjoying solid job security. —AP

## TRUMP, REPUBLICANS FACE TASK OF AVERTING SHUTDOWN Border wall and Obamacare funding tricky issues

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump obstacle would be if Trump demands some Trump prior

and his fellow Republicans who control Congress face their first major budget test next week, with the threat of a US government shutdown potentially hinging on his proposed Mexican border wall as well as Obamacare funding.

With Republicans controlling the White House and both chambers of Congress, keeping the federal government operating is a basic test of their ability to govern, but their task could become even more complicated if they insist on using the spending legislation to bring about contentious policy changes.

Not only must Republicans overcome intraparty ideological divisions that stopped major healthcare legislation last month, but they will have to win over some opposition Democrats with provisions that could be distasteful to conservatives. With the Senate reconvening on Monday and the House of Representatives on Tuesday after a twoweek recess, lawmakers will have only four days to pass a spending package to keep the government open beyond April 28, when funding expires for numerous federal programs.

"I think we want to keep the government open," Trump said on Thursday, adding he thinks Congress can pass the funding legislation and perhaps also a revamped healthcare bill. Democratic support depends on what provisions Republicans demand in the bill. Democrats have signaled they would not cooperate if it contains money for one of Trump's top priorities, a southwestern border wall intended to combat illegal immigration, or if it ends federal subsidies to help low-income people buy health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, which Republicans want to repeal

Democrats also want federal funds maintained for Planned Parenthood, which many Republicans oppose because the women's healthcare provider performs abortions. Another obstacle would be if Trump demands large defense spending increases coupled with deep cuts to domestic programs Democrats want to protect.

#### **Balancing act**

Late on Thursday, leading House Democrats were voicing skepticism a deal could be reached by the deadline. In a telephone call for House Democrats, Representative Nita Lowey, the senior Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, said: "I don't see how we can meet that deadline" and avoid having to pass a short-term extension, according to an aide on the call. The second-ranking House Democrat, Representative Steny Hoyer, told his fellow Democrats that they should only support such a short-term measure if a deal on longterm bill is reached and only finishing touches remained, the aide said.

Republican leaders face a familiar balancing act: satisfying the party's most conservative members while not alienating its moderates. Rules in the 100seat Senate mean Trump's party also would need the support of at least eight Democrats even if the Republicans remain unified, giving the opposition party leverage. House Republican leaders would need some Democratic votes if the most conservative lawmakers object to the bill, as they did to the healthcare plan championed by Speaker Paul Ryan. With congressional elections looming next year, Republicans acknowledge the stakes are high.

"Even our most recalcitrant members understand that if you shut down the government while you're running it and you control the House and the Senate, you can't blame anybody but yourself," said Representative Tom Cole, a senior House Appropriations Committee Republican.

White House budget director Mick Mulvaney said the Trump administration was willing to talk to Democrats about funding for Obamacare subsidies in exchange for their agreement to include some Trump priorities such as the wall, the defense hike and more money for immigration enforcement.

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"It is ripe for some type of negotiated agreement that gives the president some of his priorities and Democrats some of their priorities. So we think we've opened the door for that," Mulvaney said. Democrats reacted negatively. "Everything had been moving smoothly until the administration moved in with a heavy hand. Not only are Democrats opposed to the wall, there is significant Republican opposition as well," said Matt House, a spokesman for Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

#### **Furlough Lady Liberty**

The government was last forced to close in October 2013, when Republican Senator Ted Cruz and some of the most conservative House Republicans engineered a 17-day shutdown in an unsuccessful quest to kill Democratic former President Barack Obama's healthcare law.

"These kind of bills can't pass without a reasonable number of the party of the minority in the Senate, and we are optimistic we will be able to work all that out," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said at the start of the spring recess. A deal is needed because Congress was unable to approve funding for the entire 2017 fiscal year that ends in September and has relied on stop-gap spending legislation.

Congress has passed no major legislation since Trump took office in January, and he has ambitious hopes for major tax-cut legislation, infrastructure spending and other bills. With the difficulty passing a bill with so many divisive elements, lawmakers next week might need to buy time by passing a short-term bill lasting possibly one to three weeks, maintaining current spending levels. "That would be a setback: not catastrophic, but not a good thing, and a sign that you can't govern," Cole said. — Reuters

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## S KOREA TO RAISE ISSUE OF US STEEL IMPORT CURBS AT WTO

**SEOUL:** South Korea plans to raise the issue of US restrictions on steel imports at World Trade Organization committee meetings next week, its trade ministry said yesterday.

The move comes after US President Donald Trump launched a trade probe on Thursday against China and other exporters of cheap steel into the US market, raising the possibility of new tariffs.

The United States has already slapped a series of anti-dumping duties on steel imports from South Korea and other countries. The United States is the biggest market after China for South Korean steel products, and accounted for about 12 percent of the country's total exports of the metal in 2016, according to South Korea's steel association. A South Korean steel company official told Reuters that the government and South Korea's steel industry should consider all measures including filing a complaint with the WTO in response to "deepening US trade protectionism."

A senior official at South Korea's trade ministry said the government was considering its response to the US move. "We are open to all possible options including filing a complaint with WTO but nothing has been decided. We will decide after listening to opinions of the Korean steel industry," the official said. The ministry official and the company official asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter.

"The government will closely monitor related trends and will actively respond together with private companies," the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy said in the statement. It said the issue would be raised at WTO committee meetings set to be held on April 25-27 in Geneva.

Trade minister Joo Hyung-hwan will have a meeting with Korean steel companies on

April 27 to gather opinions and discuss ways to deal with the situation, the ministry said.

POSCO shares closed up 2.5 percent yesterday and Hyundai Steel ended up 1.1 percent, outperforming the wider market's 0.7 percent rise. "

Rising trade protectionism is negative to the steel industry overall, but the industry has been recovering, helping cushion the negative impact," said Will Byun, an analyst at NH Investment & Securities. POSCO said on Tuesday that its first-quarter operating profit more than doubled, beating its estimate on solid demand from China. — Reuters



KOLKATA: This file photo taken on May 14, 2012 shows Indian laborers working on machines inside a jute mill at Jagatdal some 75 kms north of Kolkata. — AFP

### US HOME SALES SHOOT UP TO 10-YEAR HIGH

**WASHINGTON:** Americans purchased homes in March at the fastest pace in over a decade, a strong start to the traditional spring buying season.

Sales of existing homes climbed 4.4 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.71 million, the National Association of Realtors said yesterday. This was the fastest sales rate since February 2007. The US housing market faces something of a split personality: A stable economy has intensified demand from would-be buyers, but the number of properties listed for sale has been steadily fading. The result of this trend is prices rising faster than incomes, homes staying on the market for fewer days and a limit on just how much home sales can grow. It's a situation that rewards would-be buyers who can act quickly and decisively.

"The pace of sales we saw in March is unsustainable," said Nela Richardson, chief economist at the brokerage Redfin. "Sales may be soaring, but inventory isn't."

The inventory shortage largely reflects the legacy of a housing bubble that began to burst a decade ago. Foreclosed properties were snapped up by investors who turned the homes into income-generating rentals, depriving the market of supply. And many owners who escaped the downturn unharmed chose to refinance their mortgages at extremely low rates, possibly making them hesitant to move to a new house that could increase their monthly costs. This mismatch between supply and demand can be seen in two simple figures tracked by the Realtors.

Sales have risen 5.9 percent over the past year, but the inventory of homes for sale has fallen 6.6 percent to 1.83 million properties. This means there are essentially more buyers chasing fewer properties. The consequences can be seen in home values and days on the market. The median sales price in March climbed 6.8 percent over the past year to \$236,400, significantly outpacing wage growth. And it took an average of 34 days to complete a sale, compared to 47 days a year ago.

In March, sales rose in the Northeast, Midwest and South but declined in the West. It's possible that more Americans are devoting their incomes to housing as retail sales have struggled in recent months, said Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. — AP

## IS CHINA TOO TOUGH A STEEL BEAST FOR TRUMP TO TAME?

#### REBATES, HUGE SURPLUS FUELLING CHINA'S STEEL EXPORTS

**MANILA/BEIJING:** US President Donald Trump's first shot across China's bow over its steel exports, escalating a yearslong brawl over trade between the world's top two economies, may not pull up Beijing. China exported 620,000 tons of steel direct to the United States last year, a fraction of the 800 million tons it produces each year, equal to about half of world output.

Repeated allegations that the world's top steelmaker is dumping excess output on world markets may hit harder closer to home - in Japan and South Korea where steel sectors have borne the brunt of China's rampant sales abroad.

Speaking in the US capitol at IMF and World Bank meetings after Trump launched a trade probe against China and other exporters of cheap steel, Japan's finance minister Taro Aso laid the blame squarely on China, saying its vast exports are hurting US, Indian and Japanese steel industries.

China's steel exports hit a record 112.4 million tons in 2015, then dropped slightly to 108.49 million tons last year, as mills have been chastened by threats of a trade dispute and better demand at home, experts said. Exports fell to a three-year low of 5.75 million tons in February, recovering slightly to 7.56 million tons in March. Still Trump's salvo will renew concerns that China may retaliate, with US farmers fearing they would be in the crosshairs of any dispute.

"Trump will do what's best for America, but China will do what's best for China," said Roberto Cola, vice president of the ASEAN Iron and Steel Council. If Trump slaps new tariffs on steel exports from China and elsewhere, that will trigger anti-dumping and countervailing measures from these countries, said Cola. "It seems we're going back to the protectionist era."

#### Scale and sophistication

Two events this week illustrated the challenge and complexity in trying to force China to curb excess steel capacity and cheap exports, an issue which also plagued Trump's predecessor for years. Customs data showed on Monday that Chinese mills in March churned out a record 72 million tons of crude steel, mainly used in construction and infrastructure. Then, underscoring the scale and sophistication of China's vast export



WASHINGTON: World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim speaks during the 2017 World Bank Group Spring Meetings in Washington on Thursday. — AP

machine, the government on Wednesday published a roadmap outlining its plan to triple its export from almost 80 industries, including steel.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said yesterday the country needed to ascertain the direction of any US investigation before it could make a judgment. Chinese steel executives repeated their mantra that overcapacity is not just China's problem and it needs global coordination to resolve it, but also said it would be tough to rein in the sector. "The Chinese government will not set export limits for the steel mills and could not keep track of every mill," said Li Xinchuang, vice chairman of the China Iron and Steel Association.

"It will not be a good thing for US steel industry and consumers if Trump decides to adopt protectionism." About a third of China's steel exports flow into ASEAN, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which last year reached 34.3 million tonnes, based on data compiled by UK-based consultancy MEPS, which has been tracking China's steel industry since the late 1990s. South Korea is the top market for Chinese exports where 12.3 million tons were shipped last year, followed by Vietnam.

#### Gaming the system

China's massive steel industry, with an army of millions and largely subsidised by the state, is unlikely to be deterred by Trump's attempt to probe into its cheap exports, as Beijing begins its global campaign to boost overall export shipments. For years, Chinese steel exporters have been gaming the nation's tax system to pump ever greater amounts of surplus steel into world markets, crafting slightly different alloys to ensure their products sidestep Beijing's cutbacks to trade subsidies.

In China, a rebate system to reward exporters selling more value-added steel has been exploited for years, allowing even shipments that contain just tiny amounts of alloy elements to be given rebates. The rebates which range between 9 and 13 percent are "in addition to subsidies for state-owned enterprises, which many of China's steel mills are," said Cola.

The rebates are helping many Chinese steel mills deeply undercut rivals overseas although some domestic producers say exports have dropped as demand at home strengthened.

Still, an early-year surge in Chinese steel prices has lifted prices of its export products and China has lost its competitiveness with rivals like India and Russia, said Kevin Bai from CRU consultancy.

"But domestic prices have since dropped quite significantly and close to cost and mills have started to carry out maintenance to try to control output and maintain prices," said Bai, adding that mills could boost exports if demand at home does not pick up.

"The government doesn't want to see higher exports, but I think that's debatable." — Reuters

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PARIS: French contract and concession catering Elior Group CEO Philippe Salle poses in front of the first Bluecars during its presentation at the Elior headquarters in La Defense district near Paris yesterday.—AFP

### BUOYANT FRENCH ECONOMY A BOON TO EUROZONE

**LONDON:** A buoyant French economy ahead of the presidential election has helped push economic growth across the 19country eurozone to a six-year high during April, a survey showed yesterday. In a further signal that the region's economy has gathered pace at the start of the second quarter, financial information company IHS Markit said its purchasing managers' index - a broad gauge of business activity - rose to 56.7 points in April from 56.4 the previous month. That's the highest level since April 2011. Anything above 50 indicates expansion, with the latest reading pointing to quarterly economic growth of 0.7 percent, which would be above the region's long-run average and at rates that would likely see further falls in the region's unemployment levels.

"Such strong growth, if sustained, will inevitably lead to upward revisions to economists' 2017 forecasts," said Chris Williamson, the firm's chief business economist. Most forecasters have penciled in eurozone growth of between 1.5 percent to 2 percent for this year - IHS Markit's April survey, if sustained through the year, would point to something more like 3 percent. He said the "robust" growth is being seen in both manufacturing and services, with the former "clearly benefiting" from the weak euro, which has also lifted exports to sixyear highs. The rise in employment that has accompanied the economic expansion is also shoring up the recovery by encouraging consumers to spend.

On a country basis, the firm found that France, the eurozone's second-largest economy, is doing particularly well with its PMI at 57.4. France is even outperforming Germany's, the region's biggest though both economies are growing at rates not seen in six years, the firm said. "France's elections pose the highest near-term risk to the outlook, but in the lead-up to the vote the business mood has clearly been buoyant," Williamson said. On Sunday, French voters go to the polls to see who will contest the second round of the presidential election on May 7. Opinion polls show a tight race, with centrist Emmanuel Macron and far-right leader Marine Le Pen widely expected to emerge as the front two. However, Thursday's deadly shooting of a policeman in central Paris may influence voting intentions.

Even excluding heavyweights France and Germany, IHS Markit found the eurozone's pace of expansion accelerating to a near ten-year high. That broad expansion, coupled with a pick-up in inflation, has stoked expectations that the European Central Bank will soon start to consider easing up on its stimulus efforts. Still, few economists think that the ECB will announce any change at next week's policy meeting given that underlying inflation remains weak.

Ironically, the growth in the eurozone has helped cushion the British economy over the past few months, even at a time of uncertainty related to the country's exit from the European Union. However, a survey in Britain suggested that the recovery seen since last June's Brexit vote is weakening. The Office for National Statistics found that retail sales in the country fell by a whopping 1.8 percent in March, reversing the previous month's 1.7 percent rise. Retail sales, a key constituent of

British economic growth, fell by 1.4 percent during the first quarter, the first quarterly decline since 2013. Kate Davies, the agency's senior statistician said price increases appear to be behind the retail sales reverse. One major consequence of Britain's Brexit vote has been the sharp fall in the pound. Though that's helped exporters pick up business, it has pushed up inflation by raising the cost of imports such as food and energy. — AP

## EUROZONE ECONOMY SPRINTS INTO Q2 WITH BUMPER GROWTH

#### Services and factory PMIs above all poll forecasts

**LONDON:** The eurozone economy bounded into the second quarter with strong broad-based growth, according to a survey showing businesses increased activity at the fastest rate for six years as new orders stayed robust. Signs the bloc is on a sustainable growth path, along with inflationary pressures, will be welcomed by the European Central Bank, which has struggled for years to achieve either, despite ultra-loose monetary policy. Consumer confidence is also improving.

IHS Markit's Flash Composite Purchasing Managers' Index, seen as a good guide to growth, climbed to 56.7 from March's 56.4, its highest since April 2011. A reading above 50 indicates growth. That matched the most optimistic forecaster in a Reuters poll in which the median prediction was a dip to 56.3. "April's rise in the eurozone composite PMI adds to evidence that the economy is performing well," said Jennifer McKeown, chief European economist at Capital Economics.

IHS Markit said the latest PMI data, if maintained, pointed to second-quarter economic growth of 0.7 percent, well above the 0.4 percent predicted in a Reuters poll on Thursday. "There is a good outlook for the year - it looks like the upturn has legs. With numbers like these, people are going to start edging up their forecasts," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit.

Earlier data from Germany showed its private sector grew at a slower pace this month as services shifted into a lower gear but factory activity remained high, suggesting Europe's biggest economy is carrying its upswing into the second quarter. French business activity confounded expectations in April by growing at the fastest pace in nearly six years, showing no signs of cooling down just days before the most uncertain presidential election in years.

Although no major survey sees her winning, far right and anti-European Union leader Marine Le Pen is polling strongly. None of the economists polled by Reuters this week said she would be best for French economic growth. "Even though on the eve of the first round of the French elections a good portion of caution is recommendable, evidence is piling up that the euro zone economy could become the positive growth surprise of the year," said ING chief economist Carsten Brzeski.

#### High hiring

Providing further evidence the recovery will continue, a sub-index measuring new business in the euro zone only dipped to 55.8 from March's six-year high of 56.2. Firms in the bloc's dominant service industry increased activity faster this month, with its PMI rising to 56.2 from 56.0, a six-year high. That was above all forecasts in a Reuters poll, where the median predicted no change.

To meet the growing demand, and indicating confidence about the months ahead, hiring remained vigorous. The employment index held steady at 54.4, its highest since November 2007.

Factories also had a good start to the quarter - the manufacturing PMI climbed to a six-year high of 56.8 from 56.2, surpassing all estimates in a Reuters poll. An index measuring output jumped to 58.0 from 57.5, the highest since April 2011. Future output, which gauges what factories think they will produce, rose to 66.9 from 66.6. That matched the highest reading of the sub-index, started in July 2012, set in January. — Reuters



LONDON: This file photo taken on June 27, 2016 shows people walking across Oxford Circus as Union flags hang across Oxford Street in central London. —AFP

## UK RETAIL SALES SLIDE IN MARCH

**LONDON:** British retail sales slid far faster than expected in March, according to official data yesterday that point to weaker growth as the country starts to negotiate its EU exit.

Sales dropped by 1.8 percent in March from February, when they had risen by an upwardly-revised 1.7 percent, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement. Analysts' consensus forecast had been for a drop of 0.5 percent last month. "Today's retail sales figures show a decline on the month and on the three months to March," senior ONS statistician Kate Davies said in the statement.

"This is the first time we've seen a quarterly decline since 2013, and it seems to be a consequence of price increases across a whole range of sectors." Analysts said British consumers are starting to tighten their belts as weakness for the pound lifts import costs and consequently inflation. "Consumers appear to be increasingly feeling the adverse effects of sterling's fall," said economist Ruth Gregory at research group Capital Economics. "March's drop in UK retail sales suggests that the consumer spending slowdown is gathering pace and adds to other evidence indicating that the economic recovery has slowed since the end of last year," she added in a note to clients.

The pound has largely slumped since Britain voted in June for Brexit but enjoyed strong gains this week after Prime Minister Theresa May called for a snap general election. — AFP

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SHANGHAI: A Zotye SR9 car pictured during the media day of the 17th Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition in Shanghai. —AFP



SHANGHAI: A X7 car by Chinese carmaker Land Wind during the media day of the 17th Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition in Shanghai.—AFP

## CHINA CARMAKERS APE FOREIGN BRANDS

Imitation game at Shanghai auto show

**SHANGHAI:** If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then global carmakers are basking in the compliments at Shanghai's auto show, where some Chinese-made models bear striking resemblances to famous foreign brands.

The annual exhibition is the biggest automotive showcase in the planet's largest car market, but also an event that revives persistent accusations of Chinese businesses copying foreign designs.

The show opened this week with automotive media and internet wags highlighting a range of Chinese models with more than a passing likeness to their Porsche, Land Rover, Mercedes and other counterparts. Intellectual-property theft is rampant in a range of industries in China, and foreign automakers have taken legal action over the years against Chinese competitors for suspiciously similar designs.

But Mercedes' China boss Hubertus Troska laughed it off when asked by reporters about a Chinese-made car on display across from the Mercedes stand which looked just like the German manufacturer's G-Class SUV.

"We take it as a compliment," Troska quipped. Other automotive doppelgangers include one by little-known Chinese brand Zotye which sells for 100,000 yuan (\$14,500) and could be mistaken for Porsche's sporty Macan SUV, which has a sticker price of \$87,000. A Porsche spokeswoman brushed it off, stressing that foreign automakers compete for different market segments and income levels than their Chinese counterparts. "We are absolutely sure that car enthusiasts will easily be able to tell the difference between the original Porsche Macan and the copycat due to design, perfection and overall quality," said Anja Wassertheurer, Porsche's director of product and technical communications.

#### Land war

Land Rover's Range Rover Evoque SUV also is on display in Shanghai, as is a model by similarly-named Chinese carmaker Landwind that has sparked a legal battle between the two. The British manufacturer in 2014 launched a bid to void Landwind's patent on its X7 SUV, prompting a tit-for-tat move by the Chinese company in a fight that continues.

The chances of a foreign carmaker winning an auto patent case in China are "extremely low" due to the way the country's patent laws are written, said Li Yanwei, an analyst with the China Automobile Dealers Association. "A conviction can only be made when the two vehicles' design and size match exactly," he said. "Companies like Zotye only need to slightly adjust some parameters and the other brand won't be able to win." Global automakers largely have to just accept such mimicry and focus on the fact that they compete for different buyers.

Chinese carmakers involved in such disputes did not respond to AFP requests for comment. Honda filed a lawsuit in 2004 against Chinese carmaker Shuanghuan



SHANGHAI: A woman trying out a virtual wing flight experience on the Nissan stand at the Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition in Shanghai. — AFP

Automobile, accusing it of copying the exterior of the Japanese manufacturer's popular CR-V SUV, but lost the case in 2015.

Honda had to cough up 16 million yuan for legal fees and "reputation damage" inflicted on Shuanghuan, which folded last year. Industry watchers say the number of such disputes are expected to diminish as Chinese manufacturers' design capabilities grow.

"There was a time when design was not at the core of the (Chinese carmakers') concern. It was more about delivering a product. But now, original design creation in China is blossoming," said Christophe Cayrol, head of French car brand Citroen's design centre in Shanghai. — AFP



A Land Rover Range Rover Evoque car. —AFP



A Porsche Macan turbo car. —AFP



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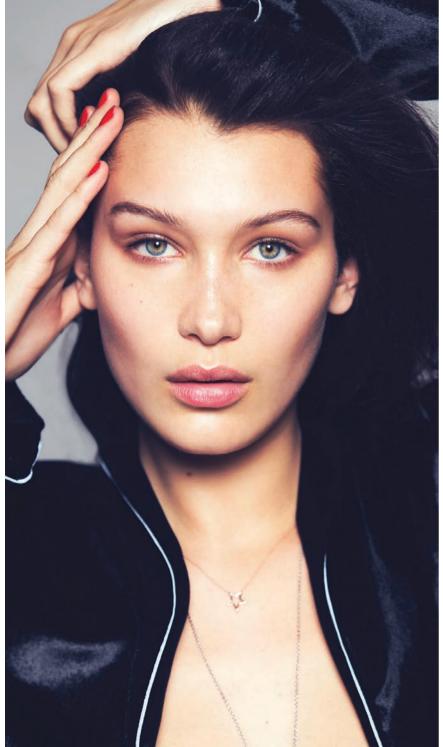
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## **Bella Hadid's** sister Gigi is her 'best friend'

he 20-year-old model has followed Gigi, 21, into the fashion industry and Bella admits to relying on her sibling for guidance with her own career. She told MailOnline: "Gigi is my best friend and I love her to death. "She's been through everything I'm going through now because she's been in the business longer. "If I'm sad I'll call her and she always makes me happy again. She's the best, I love her." The Hadid sisters have historically had markedly different tastes in fashion, but Bella has revealed they've increasing started to swap outfits in recent years. The darkhaired beauty explained: "When we were 13, she wore lots of color and was like Malibu girl. "But I always wore dark colors and leather. Both our styles are evolving more now. I go to her house now and she has all my stuff, we always end up sharing things. "We share shoes, literally

everything. I don't even remember giving it to her and she will completely deny everything until the death of her." In addition to her sister, Bella also relies on her close friends and family to ensure she doesn't get carried away by her own success. The model said she surrounds herself with honest people in order to stay grounded. Bella shared: "It's tough, but I keep the people around me I've known since I was a kid. They know who I am and tell me not to be a b\*\*\*h if I am." Bella also said meditation plays a key role in keeping herself grounded in reality. She explained: "I meditate to start the day. I have a meditation music list that helps me sleep. I like to listen to music and be around my friends. "I'm very lucky that my job lets me travel the world. I went sky-diving twice in Dubai last week, which was just incredible. Jamaica is my favorite place.

## CHRIS PRATT FINDS DOING HIS OWN STUNTS 'THERAPEUTIC'

he 'Guardians of the Galaxy' star finds a "certain Zen" to doing his own tricks in his action movies. He said: "When you do movies that are action-based, you're running and jumping, diving, rolling, getting out of the way, doing stunts, being strung up on wires - and doing all the prep that's involved in that. There's a certain Zen to it. You lose yourself, kind of quiet your mind when you do something physical. It's therapeutic. I like hard, physical work." And the 37-year-old actor would love to star in something he has penned himself and revealed he has already written a script which is "very personal about his life". He added: "I have a

script I wrote that's very personal about my life, that I've written almost more as an acting exercise than something I'd produce. But I think if I finish my career without ever having starred in something that I wrote and directed, I'll feel some regret about that." And Chris believes he has the



skill to relate to everybody. He told the May issue of Men's Fitness magazine: "I do feel like I relate to everybody - to the struggles of people both out here and where I grew up. I feel like I could have a beer or a meal with just about anyone and find something to relate to." Meanwhile, Chris previously admitted his family - his wife Anna Faris and their four-yearold son Jack - keep him ground-ed. He said: "That has been the best part of this world tour by far. It's nice to have your family with you because it brings you down to earth and when you leave your feet on the ground, you realise what it feels like to have your head in the clouds.

"You go with the flow and things come and go and you're not even there to record or observe them. So when your family bring you back down to earth you get to experience this - or at least I do - in a while different way. When they are present with me, I get to be present with me as well."

## **Caitlyn Jenner** in favor of same sex marriage



he 67-year-old retired Olympian who was formerly known as Bruce Jenner before transitioning two years ago - stirred up controversy during an appearance on 'The Ellen Degeneres Show' in 2015 when she claimed she believed marriage should be between a man and woman, but has now said she fully supports the idea of same sex couples tying the knot. Caitlyn - who has been married three times to Chrystie Jenner, Linda Thompson, and Kris Jenner said: "I am 100 percent behind gay marriage. Let's clear that up right now." The 'I Am Cait' star admitted the process had been an "evolving" one, but said she is now "all for" gay marriage. And the star also spoke about her support for US president Donald Trump, but said her backing only comes as long as he doesn't "mess with [her] community". She said: "Yes, I did vote for Trump but here's the deal breaker with the Republican party. And the deal breaker is, you mess with my community, you do the wrong thing with our community, you don't give us equality and a fair shot, I'm coming after you." Caitlyn claims Donald even invited her to play golf with him, but she says she won't be taking him up on his offer. She added: "When I was at the inauguration I did say hi at a cocktail party, and he wanted me to play golf with him. At the time I thought it was a pretty good idea but since Title IX [which relates to the rights of LGBT people when it comes to education and Federal financial assistance] it's not a good idea and so I won't be playing golf with him." Caitlyn - whose new memoir 'Secrets of My Life' is due out on April 25 - also said she's pushing for "federal guidance" within the LGBT community, as she wants to see transgender people serving in the military."



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### **Gemma Arterton** never planned to become a movie star

The 31-year-old actress received a government grant to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London in her youth, but Gemma never dreamed of being a star of the silver screen and was instead focused on making it on the stage. She said: "I never thought I'd work in film. I always thought I'd be just a jobbing actor in the theatre. "I remember in my third year at RADA, I did a budget - about the only one I've done - calculating how much it would cost to live in



London. You are told you might work once a vear. That's the life." Gemma who made her film debut in 'St Trinian's' in 2007 admits she doesn't know what she would have done if her acting career hadn't worked out. She told the Irish Times newspaper: "I'm a coaster. If it hadn't worked I'd have found something else to do. It's so precarious. Things fall apart. It's mad. It's not a job for anybody who wants to plan. Meanwhile, Gemma recently admitted she has been offered differ-

ent types of roles ever since she started to voice her dislike of big-budget Hollywood movies. She explained: "I'm approached with projects that are much more femalecentric because I've spoken out about it so much, which is a good thing. "But I don't necessarily look for these kind of feminist messages or anything like that, but it's always quite nice when there's a message in there. "The future projects I have are all kind-of about women that are great, or not great, they're idiotic, or silly, they're just about women so that's a good thing."

## Jay Z seeking new investors for his music business

The 47-year-old rap star signed a 10-year deal with Live Nation in 2008 for \$150 million, but with that agreement close to expiring, the music mogul has now started sounding out other industry figures about taking a stake in the business. Under the terms of their agreement, Jay Z and Live Nation can either sell their stake in Roc Nation to the other par-



ty or buy the company outright. Live Nation, for its part, hopes to continue its touring deal with Jay Z, but is withdrawing its backing for the recorded-music side of the business. An insider told the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column: "Jay's 360 deal with Live Nation is not being extended. Live Nation had bought into the artists' rights and recorded music, but they are not extending any of those relationships.

Live Nation is not in the business of buying recorded music any more."Roc Nation boasts a star-studded list of recording artists, including Jay, Rihanna, Meek Mill, and Shakira. But Live Nation is only keen to extend its touring agreement. Of Live Nation, a source explained: "They have a long-standing touring relationship with Jay, which is lucrative. It is believed Live Nation wants it to continue for many years." The music mogul and Desiree Perez, a top executive at Roc Nation, recently met with Sir Lucian Grainge, the chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group (UMG), prompting speculation that UMG could acquire a stake in Roc Nation.



**Celine Dion** relies on son for career advice



he 'My Heart Will Go On' hitmaker has revealed that her eldest son, Rene-Charles, serves as an adviser for her next album, frequently providing Celine with feedback on her work. She shared: "I have my 16-year-old who loves music and when I make him listen to a demo he says, 'This is a great song'. "But he says: 'If you can't sing it this way mum, you shouldn't do this, but if you can sing it this way, you should release that song." Despite his youth, Celine admitted Rene-Charles performs a crucial role in her creative process. She told The Sun newspaper: "My son is very involved in helping me discover new music." Meanwhile, Celine revealed earlier this week that she sleeps in the same bed as her twin sons to stop herself feeling "lonely". The 49-year-old star lost her husband RenÈ AngÈlil to throat cancer in January 2016 and Celine has subsequently grown closer than ever to her sixyear-old twins, Nelson and Eddy. She explained: "I organize myself to not feel lonely. So I got myself a huge, huge, huge bed and I sleep with my twins. "They are comforting me a lot. I need them. I need them close. And when it's time for them to say they want their room, their room's ready. But we watch a lot of TV together. I'm discovering Disney." She said, too, that her children have developed a "ritual" that ensures they remain in contact with Rene.

■he 29-year-old actress and Matthew are said to have ended their relationship back in March due to their busy work schedules, but Hilary and the singer have since remained on good terms, according to E! News. Hilary and Matthew, 29, made their red carpet debut as a couple at a pre-SAG Awards party earlier this year. However, the blonde beauty has remained tight-lipped about her romance with Matthew, except for one social media post about their vacation in Costa Rica in February. Alongside a holiday snap, Hilary wrote at the time: "Take me back to Costa with him." News of their split comes shortly after Hilary admitted that the last five years of her life have been "the best and the hardest". The actress, who has a five-year-old son called Luca with her ex-husband Mike Comrie, took to Instagram last month to confess that life has been a struggle since her son was born, but she believes she is "blessed" to have him. Posting a picture of her son on the site, Hilary wrote: "Hey kid.... the past 5 years have been the BEST, hardest, most blessed years of my life. I love you so much. The world is yours my love ...I hope you take it Happy Birthday Luca Cruz (sic)" Prior to that, the 'A Cinderella Story' star revealed she felt "judged" for having her first child at the age of 24. Hilary

explained: "I feel like I was judged for having a baby too soon, and getting married too soon and now, I'm pigeonholed for being a 'mom'. "Lots of women in the industry that don't have a

industry that don't have a child yet are judged. We are the most in demand and the most desirable, but the most judged and the hardest on one another. It's so much scrutiny."

### **Bella Thorne** says there are 'no rules' when it comes to dating

he 'Famous In Love' star - who has been romantically linked to Tyler Posey and Charlie Puth in the past - "can't figure" the dating world out herself. She told Entertainment Tonight: "I think there are no rules. But I literally have no idea. I can't figure it out myself." Meanwhile, the 19-year-old actress previously revealed

she would like to date a girl next. She said: "I've done other stuff with girls, but I want to actually date a girl. I can't tell if a girl is hitting on me or she just wants to be friends. And I don't want to flirt with a girl if she thinks I'm just being her friend. What if I kiss a girl and she's like, 'Oh, I'm just your friend dude, I can't believe you just crossed that boundary.' I'm confused on what they want from me. However, Bella insists she is "single" right now. She added: "I'd rather be super faithful



and give my all to one person. I don't like having my phone blown up by a bunch of different guys where I don't really know where I stand with any of them. It sucks." And Bella has dubbed dating in Hollywood as the "worst thing" ever. She explained: "Dating in Hollywood is literally the worst thing. People are really crazy on social and, unfortunately, I date people that have girls, like, in love with them. They're, like, really in love with them and they want to kill me. Literally, I was getting death threats, full-on death threats on Twitter."

## Kuwait 🗻 Times 🎰

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## 'GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY' SEQUEL GIVES NEW 'MILLION - PIECE PUZZLE'

he stars of "Guardians of the Galaxy," the Marvel movie about a rag-tag group of integalactic heroes, landed in Hollywood to debut their return in a much-anticipated sequel that sees them embark on high-stakes space adventure. In "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2," space heroes Peter Quill, Gamora, Drax, Rocket and Groot find themselves pursued by a villain and once again are given the task of saving the universe. They are joined along the way by Gamora's petulant sister Nebula, space pirate Yondu and Mantis, an empathic alien. The film is scheduled to open in theaters on May 5.

"This is a million-piece puzzle and when you sit back and see the mosaic put together you get this one incredibly even, fully executed idea," Chris Pratt, who plays Peter Quill, said at the red carpet premiere on Wednesday. "It's brilliant, great music, it's super funny, dramatic and it's got great emotion and relationships, it's stunning," he said. Sylvester Stallone, who makes an

Sylvester Stallone, who makes an appearance as Stakar Ogord leader of the space pirates known as "ravagers," said action films "are modern mythology when it's done right." "The kind of action films I've done are sort of more mano-amano ... now they've developed this Marvel universe Guardians that have a



Dave Bautista arrives at the world premiere of "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" at the Dolby Theatre on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, in Los Angeles. — AP

heart, that has a lot of emotion to it, that takes it another step further," he said, using the Spanish phrase for "hand to hand" combat that has come to be associated with any kind of competition between two people.

"It's kind of a cross between 'Rocky' (and) 'Rambo' in space," he added. The sequel follows 2014's "Guardians of the Galaxy," which smashed summer box office records and ushered in a new cadre of edgy heroes in the Marvel cinematic universe. "I made a movie about outcasts for outcasts and it's very touching for me that people all over the world, whether here or in Japan or in Russia or in England have been touched by the movie," writerdirector James Gunn said. Gunn will write and direct the third "Guardians" film, due for release in 2020. — Reuters

## Eastwood to make movie on Paris train attacker

Lint Eastwood is to direct the heroic true story of three Americans who stopped a terrorist plot on a train bound for Paris, US media said on Thursday. The as yet untitled project will be based on "The 15:17 to Paris: The True Story Of A Terrorist, A Train, And Three American Heroes" by friends Anthony Sadler, Alek Skarlatos and Spencer Stone, with journalist Jeffrey E. Stern, entertainment website Deadline Hollywood reported. In August 2015, the trio-one of whom was in the Oregon National Guard and another in the US Air Force-foiled a gunman who had boarded a train from Amsterdam to Paris with enough ammo to kill 500 people.

They charged and overpowered 25-year-old Moroccan national Ayoub El Khazzani after he came out of a toilet

armed with a Kalashnikov assault rifle, an automatic pistol and a box-cutter, shooting and seriously wounding a passenger. The three have since been hailed as heroes both in the United States and in France, where they were awarded the Legion of Honor, the country's highest decoration. El Khazzani is in custody in France, awaiting trial on various terror-related charges, including attempted murder. The movie follows a pattern in Eastwood's recent output of recounting real life stories of heroism, following "American Sniper" (2014), about Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle, and "Sully" (2016), about "Miracle on the Hudson" airline pilot Chesley Sullenberger. Industry daily Variety said Eastwood was hoping to get filming underway later this year. — AFP

# Star Wars' Hamill goes to dark side in Cannes festival comedy

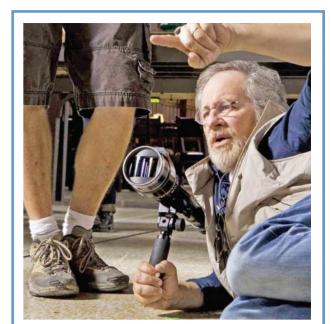
**PARIS:** Star Wars legend Mark Hamill-Luke Skywalker in the original trilogygoes over to the dark side in a new offbeat comedy to be shown at next month's Cannes film festival. "Brigsby Bear" has already been hailed by US critics at the Sundance festival as an "eccentric heartfelt" hit and will close Critics' Week in Cannes, the organisers said Friday. In the film, Hamill plays strongly against type.

He portrays a toy inventor who keeps his only child in an underground bunker and brainwashes him with endless episodes of his television show, "Brigsby Bear". Claire Danes and Greg Kinnear also star in the movie which is co-written by "Saturday Night Live" regular Kyle Mooney. Hollywood actor Josh Hartnett features alongside Japanese star Koji Yakusho of "The Eel" fame in another bittersweet comedy in the sidebar selection, "Oh Lucy!"

For the first time an animated film, Ali Soozandeh's "Tehran Taboo", has made the cut, exploring the touchy subject of sexual morality in the Iranian capital. Critics' Week director Charles Tesson said he had wanted the selection "to shine a light on the political and human realities" of the world. Of the seven films in competition, another is a documentary set in the Congo, "Makala", with three from Latin America. Cannes, the world's top film festival, runs in the southern French resort from May 17 to 28, with Critics' Week-focusing on new talent-running from May 18 to 26. — AFP



In this file photo taken on January 24, 2017 shows US actor Mark Hamill attending 'Brigsby Bear' Premiere at Eccles Center Theatre during the 2017 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, January 23, 2017. — AFP



**Steven Spielberg** 

## Spielberg waxes lyrical on the joy of movie theaters

e has ruffled feathers with his backing of home streaming as a model for watching features, but Steven Spielberg cheered traditionalists Thursday with a spirited defense of the movie theater. The iconic "Jaws" and "E.T." director, who moved to Los Angeles after graduating from high school, fondly recounted his formative years in the industry as he launched a newlyrefurbished multi-million dollar cinema at Universal Studios in southern California.

"This is an exciting place, just watching it develop into what it has become over these incredible years, this entire lot, this industry here at Universal, has made me very proud," said Spielberg, 70, at the opening of Universal Cinema, one of the world's most technologically advanced theaters. "As a filmmaker, we create movies that invite movie-goers to enter other worlds, even if it's just for a couple of hours. In the best case scenario the movie-going experience and its venue are on a par with the movie that you came to enjoy."

The sentiment will encourage purists upset by Spielberg's backing last year of Screening Room, a new athome streaming movie service proposal that set some of the industry's most influential filmmakers at loggerheads over the future of cinema. The proposed service, which has yet to sign any exhibitors or distributors, would include a \$150 set-top box that streams new movies in homes the same day they are released in theaters.

Each movie would cost \$50 and be available to watch for 48 hours with Screening Room, which counts Sean Parker-the Napster cofounder and first president of Facebook-as a major investor. While Peter Jackson, Ron Howard and JJ Abrams were in favor, those believing the proposal would hit theater revenues included filmmakers James Cameron and Christopher Nolan, as well as producer Jon Landau.

Nolan told CinemaCon, the theater-owners' annual gathering in Las Vegas, in March that showing his movies on the big screen was his focus. "The only platform I'm interested in talking about is theatrical exhibition," he said, moments after Warner Bros. worldwide marketing and distribution president Sue Kroll had argued the case for shortening the gap between theatrical releases and DVD and Blu-ray debuts. While Spielberg believes there is room for both home and theatrical movie releases, he offered a nostalgic window into his own upbringing in the cinema industry of old Hollywood.

"Universal studios has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember my life," he said. "I spent a good part of my youth on the back lot at Universal dreaming about someday maybe becoming a filmmaker. And then it happened, first in picture and eventually in motion picture." Spielberg was joined by "Get Out" director Jordan Peele for the opening of Universal's multi-million dollar renovated AMC Theatre, the first multiplex in the United States to incorporate cutting-edge Christie laser projection, Christie Vive audio sound system and Dolby ATMOS surround sound with reclining seats. — AFP







## TRIBUTES AND DISCORD ONE YEAR AFTER PRINCE DEATH

Prince's purple-clad fans were converging yesterday on Minnesota for a celebration of the pop legend one year after his sudden death, but discord over commercialization of his legacy clouded the anniversary. Prince's Paisley Park estateonce mythically hermetic but opened since his death to paid tours-was the center of festivities with plans for concerts, panel talks and a dance party to the infectious funk of the "Purple Rain" star.

George Clinton, the 75-year-old whose popularization of funk music in the 1970s helped pave the way for Prince, opened the ticketed "Celebration" at Paisley Park. Bridges, stadiums and other landmarks



#### In this Nov 22, 2015, file photo, Prince presents the award for favorite album - soul/R&B at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

in Minneapolis and adjacent St Paul were being lit up purple for two nights in tribute to Prince, who despite his international fame had happily stayed in his hometown. But Prince's commercial legacy remains mired in controversy. He died at age 57 from an accidental overdose of powerful painkillers and left no will or children, although dozens quickly came forward to claim they were heirs.

Marring the anniversary of his death, a judge ordered a temporary halt on a six-song EP of Prince entitled "Deliverance" that was due for release Friday. George Boxill, a sound engineer who worked with Prince, had arranged the release of the music recorded from 2006 to 2008 with the title track already out this week. Putting the EP on an inde-



In this Jan 22, 1985 file photo, Prince performs in concert at Riverfront Coliseum during his Purple Rain Tour in Cincinnati, Ohio. — AP photos



In this Feb 4, 2007, file photo, Prince performs during the halftime show at the Super Bowl XLI NFL football game at Dolphin Stadium in Miami.

pendent label, Boxill said he was respecting the wishes of the star who long battled the music industry and that most proceeds would go to the estate. But the estate objected, accusing Boxill of seeking to profit and saying that he did not have the right to release the music on his own.

#### Still a chart-topper

Prince's music saw a massive increase in sales after his death. Nielsen Music, the tracking service behind the benchmark Billboard chart, said Thursday that Prince sold more than any other artist in 2016 when all albums are counted. Prince sold 2.23 million albums last year in the United States, just above English balladeer Adelewhose blockbuster album "25" came out in late 2015 at 2.21 million, Nielsen Music said. Prince had sought ways to release music on his own and famously changed his name to an unpronounceable symbol and wrote "slave" on his cheek in the 1990s to protest the conditions set by label Warner. Since his death his estate, led by his siblings, has teamed up with Warner which will reissue 1984's "Purple Rain," along with an accompanying album of unreleased music for Prince's birthday in June. Prince's music also returned in February to major streaming services. Prince had only put his music out on rap mogul Jay Z's Tidal, through which he released his last two albums.

#### Sudden death

Prince-an outward model of health who did not drink, advocated a vegetarian diet and admonished band members who used drugs-had secretly battled an addiction to painkillers following a hip surgery. He had sought help from a California specialist days before his death. Court documents unsealed this week showed that investigators found bottles of pills prescribed to his friends at Paisley Park.

A tribute concert to Prince took place in October in the 20,000-seat XCel Energy Center in St. Paul with his friend Stevie Wonder and dancer ex-wife Mayte Garcia among the performers. Prince's sister Tyka Nelson and half-brother Omarr Baker later complained in court that an original administrator assigned to run the estate handled the tribute poorly and that it was meant to be a much larger affair. Prince's estate and the professional administrators say they need to monetize his legacy just to stay afloat and handle tax bills without the pop singer alive to tour and otherwise make money. Prince was one of a number of prominent musicians to die in 2016 including George Michael, Leonard Cohen and David Bowie-whose "Heroes" Prince covered in a final concert. — AFP

## Queen Elizabeth celebrates 91st birthday

The sound of a gun salute tore through central London yesterday to celebrate the 91st birthday of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, with the world's longest-reigning monarch taking a step back from royal duties to allow the younger generation to step forward. To mark the occasion the BBC opened its morning news broadcast with the national anthem, "God Save the Queen," while the country's foreign secretary Boris Johnson took to Twitter.

"Hip hip hooray for The Queen," he wrote, adding "happy birthday Ma'am!" This year's celebrations are a notably more low-key affair after a year of festivities to mark her hitting 90. A thousand beacons were lit around the country on April 21, 2016, and other events last year included street parties and a pageant at her Windsor Castle home. "I'm still alive," the Queen joked in June during a visit to Northern Ireland, one of the numerous engagements filling the royal calendar. But the ever-popular monarch has begun handing over duties to other royals, standing down as patron of 25 bodies at the end of last year, including the Wimbledon tennis championships

While her eldest child Prince Charles is heir to the throne, greater attention has fallen on his two sons William and Harry, who have taken on some of the Queen's duties. The arrival of Prince William and his wife Kate's two children-Prince George and Princess Charlotte-has cemented the country's positive view of the royal family. Prince Harry is also admired, receiving widespread acclaim this week for speaking out about seeking counseling years after his mother's death when he was a child.

#### **Reforming the royals**

The Queen was instrumental in bringing the royals into modern times, after ascending to the throne in 1952 as Britain's empire was in sharp decline. "My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service," she said in a speech to mark her 21st birthday, years before starting her reign. One of the most testing periods for the monarch came during the 1990s. The Queen dubbed 1992 her "annus horribilis" after the marriages of three of her four children broke down and Windsor Castle was badly damaged in a fire.

Five years later she faced the wrath of the British public when Princess Diana died and the Queen chose to stay at her estate in Scotland rather than return to London. Buckingham Palace has since been careful to avoid such clashes with the Queen's subjects. She has remained quiet about political issues such as the divisive Brexit referendum and, in January,



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (L) and Britain's Prince Philip (R), Duke of Edinburgh wave to guests from their car as they attend the Patron's Lunch on the Mall, an event to mark her official 90th birthday in London on June 12, 2016. — AFP photos

Prime Minister Theresa May's controversial decision to invite US President Donald Trump for a state visit.

In modernizing her family's image and refusing to become political, the Queen has held on to the nation's affection. While generally in good health, she suffered a cold over Christmas and her recovery was watched anxiously. Despite being followed closely in her public appearances-feeding an elephant at a British zoo this month, for example-she has succeeded in keeping life behind palace doors relatively secret. While her love of horses and Corgis is well publicized, palace insiders have revealed that the Queen's private pastimes include crossword puzzles and a Dubonnet-andgin cocktail before lunch. — AFP



In this Nov 20, 1947 file photo, Britain's Princess Elizabeth leaves Westminster Abbey in London, with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, after their wedding ceremony. Britain's Queen Elizabeth celebrates her 91st birthday on Friday, April 21, 2017. — AP/AFP photos

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A variety of colored records decorate office walls at Erika Records in Buena Park, California on April 12, 2017, where vinyl has been pressed in its record manufacturing business for over 30 years. — AFP photos

## A decade into Record Store Day, a new world of vinyl

Then years ago, most vinyl records sold for a few dollars-dusty old albums with dogeared covers that had been thrown out as useless relics of an earlier age. However, faced with twin onslaughts from digital music and bigbox stores, independent record stores in the United States banded together in 2007 to create an annual day of special sales-and much to their surprise, vinyl has been king.

Metallica played the first Record Store Day at a branch of Rasputin Music in the San Francisco area. While the metal legends' presence ensured a crowd, all 10,000 vinyl reissues at the store sold out that day. "That made me realize we were onto something. We tapped into something that nobody could have imagined," Record Store Day co-founder Michael Kurtz said. Kurtz quickly expanded Record Store Day to continental Europe and Britain, where the first British edition was championed by Billy Bragg, the folk rocker known for his left-wing activism.



An employee at Erika Records works in the record pressing plant in Buena Park.



Ma Nerriza dela Cerna of Erika Records displays a full color "Beauty and the Beast" record at the company's office.

The 10th annual event takes place Saturday at thousands of stores around the world-due to the deliberately loose structure, Kurtz does not have an exact figure-with some 350 special vinvl pressings in the US market released on the day. Since the first Record Store Day, vinyl has soared to levels not seen since the 1980s. It has been a rare source of growth in the long-beleaguered music industry alongside-although at a much smaller scale than-streaming. Vinyl revenue will top \$1 billion this year while sales of CDs and digital downloads tumble, the analytical firm Deloitte estimates. In Britain, where vinyl's rebirth has been particularly pronounced, records generated more revenue than advertising-backed tiers of streaming platforms last year.

Owning a format

Vinyl enthusiasts such as Elton John, who

has done promotions for Record Store Day, insist the medium offers a superior listening experience. But there are also broader cultural forces at play. "It was a perfect storm," said Kurtz, 59, sipping coffee near his home in Harlem as he wore a T-shirt of punk icon Iggy Pop-among the musicians with special Record Store Day releases.

"For the older music fan, people in my age group, it was a romantic thing that you can go back and buy all your favorite records again and buy special versions of those albums," he said. "On the younger side of things, it enabled a whole new generation to own it.

I think it was a response to digital in a way." In a sun-kissed industrial plaza in Orange County, California, Erika Records never stopped making vinyl. But production has ramped up eight times in the past decade. The plant now produces 20,000 records a day. "The vinyl resurgence has been very good to us," project manager Ma Nerriza dela Cerna said next to the plant, where records by artists from Lady Gaga to Bob Marley are manufactured from start to finish. Part of vinyl's draw is the unique touches it provides for fans.

Erika Records, the sole US plant to make color and picture records, works with artists to create original designs-although it drew the line when one band proposed infusing its members' blood into the vinyl.

#### Will boom last?

"A lot of people say that the vinyl industry will eventually slow down," dela Cerna said. "I personally don't think that only because I feel like we're introducing vinyl to a new audience every day." Record Store Day and Erika Records both have their roots in working with independent labels, although major conglomerates have since joined the event.

Unlike some indie purists, Kurtz rejoices in major labels' participation as a signal of vinyl's success. But he also worries that the same trends that battered independent stores a decade ago are coming back, with some labels bypassing them to sell directly to consumers. Vinyl's growth has also been inconsistent.

A major format for indie and classic rock and jazz, it has had much less impact in hip-hop, where top artists often find it more lucrative to sign streaming deals.

While vinyl makes up an ever-greater part of the market, the rate of growth in the United States slowed to four percent in 2016. Kurtz isn't worried. Record store owners are enjoying themselves, he said, and the expansion was expected to plateau. "Music has always had a core 10-15 percent of the population that buys the full vision of the artist, whether it's on CD or vinyl. And right now it's pretty close to that." — AFP

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CHITUNGWIZA: In this Sunday, March 11, 2017 photo, children fight in a boxing ring. In this Sunday, March 18, 2017 photo, children follow a boxing match. — AP photos

## IN ZIMBABWE, BOYS OFFERED BOXING **INSTEAD OF DESPAIR**

Imbabwean boys as young as 10 hurry every weekend to a boxing ring whose nickname, Wafa Wafa, in the local Shona language suggests that whoever enters will be lucky to come out alive. No one has died in the ring, let alone suffered serious injury. But the exchanges can be brutal and bleeding is part of the game in this impoverished township 18 miles outside the capital, Harare. In Zimbabwe, where unemployment is rife and many youths are taking to drugs and alcohol, a former boxing champion hopes the pain in the makeshift ring will make for some gains.

"We are teaching them discipline through boxing. They are less prone to do drugs once they are committed to this regime," said Arigoma Chiponda, a former light heavyweight local champion who now runs a gym and encourages youths to take up boxing, even though the prospects of going professional are slim. The floor of the ring is muddled from recent rains, the ropes supported by unprotected metal poles. Most boys go into the ring barefoot. They wear anything from old jeans and T-shirts to shorts. One fighter goes into the ring with formal trousers, shirt and shoes, looking like he's come from a wedding.

There are two pairs of frayed gloves which the young fighters use to pummel each other. They are one-size-fits-all, so they are sometimes comically oversized for the youngest fighters. Often there are bloodied noses, and tempers flare over "unprofessional conduct" when blows go below the belt. Nearby is a shopping center teeming with beer drinkers. Other youths pass around a prescription cough syrup sold on the black market to get high. Groups of numbed youths sit like zombies there and at nearby street corners.

#### 'The ring is free for all'

"I stopped being part of that crowd when I started boxing," said Abel Chitsoka, 17, pointing at some teens his age gulping the cough syrup nearby. "The ring is free for all. It helps keep the kids focused but eventually we would want them to go professional. Unfortunately, the sport is not viable in Zimbabwe right now. There are no sponsors and it has been years since we had professional tournaments," said Gilbert Munetsi, a regular at the fight club and a former secretarygeneral of the Zimbabwe Boxing Control Body. "We are thinking of taking them to Namibia.



Organisers set up a boxing ring.



#### A young boy rests on the ropes after a boxing fight.

Kudzai Chimwaya is 10 but throws and dodges punches like a mini-professional. "I have been coming here for two years now," he said. "I want the bigger boys now." Coaches milling around won't allow it because the rule is to pair boys of the same age group to avoid serious injuries. "Our challenge has been convincing their parents that this is a safe sport," said one coach, Pamson Sankulani. "The lack of proper equipment and medical kits is something that always unnerves the parents." They don't have such issues with Omega Chimwaya, Kudzai's father. He is usually among the ringside spectators watching his son in action.

"He loves it, so I let him do it. I fear I will lose him to the drug and alcohol gang if he doesn't grow up boxing," said Chimwaya. He added that he hopes his son won't think of taking the sport too seriously as he grows up. "No way. Boxing doesn't pay in this country. He should do school and become someone in life. He has to finish his weekend school homework before he ventures out here," the father said. "Yes, it's a good place to keep the kids from the wrong influences. As a career, no." — AP



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A view of Kunta Kinteh island from off the coast.



## **Gambia's** race to save its 'Roots' on Kunta Kinteh Island

s the rebel slave who defied his captors, Kunta Kinte, immortalized in print and on screen in "Roots", put The Gambia on the map for historical tourism. But the island where he and tens of thousands of West African slaves faced the horrors of being chained, branded and separated before leaving their homeland forever, is under threat from sea erosion and neglect.

Kinte's descendants, along with heritage officials, warn that without urgent action, 550 years of history could be lost. They are pressuring the new government to preserve the country's historical memory for the next generation of Gambians and tourists. The island's namesake sprang to fame as the central character in American author Alex Haley's "Roots: The Saga of an American Family". The late Haley claimed to be a descendant of Kinte but doubts have been cast over the authenticity of this claim.

Although "Roots" has been criticized for historical inaccuracies, it indisputably heightened awareness of the horrors of the slave trade when published in 1976. The UN's cultural agency awarded the island World Heritage status as a memorial to an "important, although painful, period of human history", spanning the arrival of Portuguese traders in the mid-15th century through to its use as a holding cell for illegal slavers after Britain's abolition of the trade in 1807. The parched-looking trees and brick ruins that occupy the island once housed dozens of captured west Africans awaiting passage to the New World, but whole sections of the slaves' quarters have already been reclaimed by the river's salty waves and high winds.

#### Decades of neglect

For Hassoum Ceesay, a historian and official at The Gambia's National Centre for Arts and Culture, it is time to seize the chance to reverse what he describes as two decades of neglect under former leader Yahya Jammeh, or risk losing the island. "We are very hopeful that with this new government there will be more attention paid," he told AFP in a book-lined room at his home near the capital, Banjul, referring to President Adama Barrow, who took office in February. "There was a lot of pressure, particularly from the former president, to sort of sift the history of the island," he said. "We resisted, and that resistance made the government reduce its attention and support."

He said that Jammeh even added mandatory days in his home village, Kanilai, to a tour aimed at diaspora tourists as part of a "Roots" festival, even though it is unrelated to the site. Tourism numbers were badly hit by the protracted political crisis caused by Jammeh's refusal to quit after 22 years at the helm when he lost an election in December, another concern for heritage experts.



A photo taken on April 8, 2017 shows Mariama Fofana, believed to be an eighth-generation descendent of Kunta Kinte, sits in her home in Juffureh, a village close to the island of Kunta Kinteh.

A view of Kunta Kinteh Island, formerly known as James Island, an island in the Gambia River, 30 km from the river mouth and near Juffureh. — AFP photos



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#### Extremely vulnerable

UNESCO, which declared the island and its nearby villages a World Heritage site in 2003, describes it as "extremely vulnerable to erosion" and "needing protection". It is dispatching a team this summer to assess the site's condition. Visitors need only glance at old maps to see by how much the former fort, which passed between Portuguese, Dutch, French and British hands, has already receded-to a sixth of its original size by some estimates.

"The island was reclaimed from the river, so as time went on, with global warming, erosion became more pronounced," Ceesay said. He wants the international community to undertake a total revamp of Kunta Kinteh Island and related sites, which include a colonial warehouse and a Portuguese settlement. Ceesay hopes the island can attract funding to ensure its future and wants to see investment in tour guide training, a resource centre, more focused educational tours and the development of the River Gambia for pleasure cruises.

#### National hero

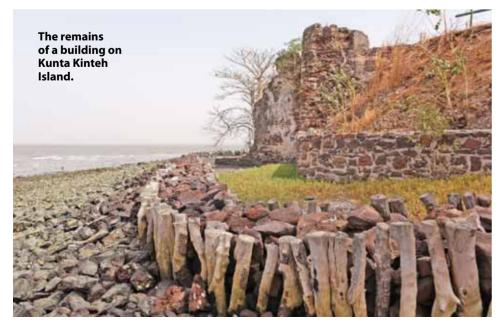
In this small, poverty-stricken and largely rural nation, national heroes such as Kinte are few and far between and citizens feel that much is at stake. Speaking at her family compound in the village of Juffureh close to the island, Mariama Fofana, believed to be an eighth-generation descendent of Kinte's, said young Gambians see him as "a role model and someone who believes in the values they stand for."

It was, she said, "a concern to everyone, (that) the island is getting eroded each and every day," urging international donors to provide funding that the cash-strapped government may not be able to afford. Everything from naval ships to beach bars are named after Kinte in The Gambia, and his story has seen a renaissance with a recent remake of the "Roots" mini-series, and a name check in US rapper Kendrick Lamar's recent single "King Kunta".

But the slave who refused to take the name given to him by his American owners, and whose foot was cut off after multiple escape attempts, according to Haley's account, still inspires pride. "We need to know about our history. That is the only way we can truly understand our potential," said Lamin Jammeh, a 17-year-old secondary school student who was waiting to visit the island for the first time. Learning about Kinte was a way to "learn and start moving forward," he added. — AFP



A canon is seen on Kunta Kinteh island.





## Kuwait 📥 Times 🌆

# TECHNOLOGY

## AXILSPOT ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF NEW IN-WALL WIRELESS ACCESS POINTS

outlet box; dual band 5ghz/2.4ghz,

Standard 802.3at poe; Band steering

**DUBAI:** AXILSPOT, a global vendor in enterprise wireless networking, announced availability of its ASW3, ASW3U and ASW120 series of Inwall wireless access points in Middle East and Africa to help businesses manage their growing workload with a secure and reliable network and Internet connectivity. This series of In-wall wireless access points has a range from 300M to 1,200M. The ASW3, ASW3U In-wall access points are single band working at 2.4 GHz with data rate up to 300Mbps.

The ASW120 In-wall access point is dual-band 802.11ac Wave 2, providing 300Mbps data rate at 2.4ghz and 867Mbps at 5ghz. ASW3 300M Multi-Service In-wall Access Point, offers multipleinterfaces to support cable access, poe output, voip, telephone and USB charge; compliant with 86mm or 75mm electrical outlet box; Standard 802.3af poe power supply; Auto RF adjustment reduces wireless interference; centralized management via Mobula Controller Platforms; and supports up to 30 concurrent users.

ASW3U 300M Multi-Service Inwall Access Point, offersmultiple interfaces to support cable access, poe output, voip, telephone and USB charge; compliant with 118mm US type electrical outlet box; standard 802.3af poe power supply; Auto RF adjustment reduces wireless interference; centralized management via Mobula Controller Platforms;and supports upto 30 concurrent users.

ASW120 1200M Multi-service Inwall Access point, offersmultiple interfaces to support cable access, poe output, voip, telephone and USB charge; compliant with 86mm, 75mm or 118mm US typeelectrical



generates purified wireless and extended load capacity; Auto RF adjustment reduces wireless interference; centralized management via Mobula Controller Platforms; and supports upto 100 concurrent users. Commenting on the availability of the products in the region, Nick Huang, Regional Sales Manager, AXILSPOT said, "The ASW3, ASW3U and ASW120 series of In-wall wireless access points are highly versatile and adaptable for businesses who want to extend the range of their networks. With the fast pace of workplace and consumer expansion, businesses often need to quickly expand the range of their wireless networks with minimum additional investment. "The ASW3, ASW3U and ASW120

"The ASW3, ASW3U and ASW120 wireless access points can fit into standard electrical outlet box creating a low profile, secure design with front port access, blending in inconspicuously with interior furniture. These In-wall wireless access points are an ideal choice providing easy wireless network setup for a variety of environments including hotels, villas, dormitories and offices," added Mr Huang.

The previous launch and availability of AXILSPOT products has been well received in the region both by business customers and channel partners according to August Chen, Director of Global Sales at AXILSPOT. "AXILSPOT continues to provide state-of-the-art innovative wireless access points for businesses to mobilize and expand



#### August Chen

their enterprise networks.

This range of In-wall wireless access points provides power over ethernet output, voip, IPTV, telephone, Internet access and USB charging. It also uses MIMO chip, Smart RF and network optimization, multi SSID and VLAN tagging, AP configuration, amongst other state of the art features. All these features are meant for regional businesses to get a high rate of return on their investments with AXILSPOT products and receive secure and reliable wireless connectivity," explained Mr Chen. Top features include:

#### Integrated chip

2\*2 MU-MIMO chip supports high data throughput and robust load capacity, providing excellent performance and stability.

#### Smart RF and network optimization

Auto channel and power adjustment as well as wireless qos supports more concurrent users, eliminates network congestion and



#### Nick Huang

latency and guarantees high bandwidth services.

#### Multiple interfaces to satisfy multiple requirements

Besides regular IP interfaces, the ASW3 also provides a 5V/1A USB port power charging for smart phones and tablets and allin-one design further reduces deployment costs.

#### Multi SSID and user grouping

VLAN and SSID tagging enable different access policies and user grouping. Portal authentication and blacklist features isolate staff network and guest networks to improve security.

#### Zero-Touch AP deployment

AP configuration, firmware upgrade, network monitoring is performed by a unified platform resulting in high network scalability. Plug-and-play improves operation efficiency and reduces maintenance costs.

### GOOGLE HOME'S ASSISTANT CAN NOW RECOGNIZE DIFFERENT VOICES

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Google's voice-activated assistant can now recognize who's talking to it on Google's Home speaker. An update released Thursday enables Home's built-in assistant to learn the different voices of up to six people, although they can't all be talking to the internet-connected speaker at the same time. Distinguishing voices will allow Home to be more personal in some of its responses, depending on who triggers the assistant with the phrase, "OK Google" or "Hey Google."

For instance, once Home is trained to recognize a user named Joe, the assistant will automatically be able to tell him what traffic is like on his commute, list events on his daily calendar or even play his favorite songs. Then another user named Jane could get similar information from Home, but customized for her. The ability to distinguish voices may help Home siphon sales from Amazon.com's Echo, a competing product that features its own voice-activated assistant, Alexa.

The Echo doesn't yet recognize different voices. Instead, it has a feature that allows Alexa to switch to a different account when told to do so. The Echo can only handle two personal accounts. Google's voice-distinction feature, however, won't prevent unautho-

rized users from activating the assistant, as long as Home's microphone is turned on. That loophole allowed Burger King to recently air a TV commercial that included the phrase "OK Google" to prompt Home's assistant to recite the ingredients of the fast-food restaurant's Whopper burger from a Wikipedia entry. Google quickly blocked Burger King's commercial from toying with the Home assistant, but the marketing stunt illustrated how the technology can be manipulated. Voicepersonalization eventually could enable Home's users to block others from accessing the device, but Google isn't ready to do that yet. "It's important to balance making sure the assistant on Google Home is still useful and able to answer a quest's or friend's question while also answering a few specific questions just for you," Google spokeswoman Kara Stockton said.

The voice-distinction feature also isn't being offered for the same digital assistant that operates on Google's Pixel phone and other smartphones running on the latest version of its Android software. Google doesn't think the technology is necessary on phones because most of those devices are passwordprotected and are usually used by just one person.—AP



SAN FRANCISCO: In this file photo, Google Home, right, sits on display near a Pixel phone following a product event, in San Francisco.—AP

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#### SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017



MONACO: The Aeromobil, a flying supercar is on display as part of the 'Top Marques' show, dedicated to exclusive luxury goods in Monaco.—AFP

### FLYING CARS TAKE OFF ON FRENCH RIVIERA

**MONACO:** Flying cars might seem like the stuff of science fiction, but two prototypes were launched Thursday on the French Riviera, at an event showcasing "supercars" in Monaco. Dutch and Slovak companies unveiled their designs as world premieres in the tiny well-heeled principality, where luxury automakers have gathered until Sunday for the Top Marques showcase event.

Bratislava-based Aeromobil, whose first prototype presented two years ago suffered an accident, is back with a "new generation" of flying vehicle named after the firm which makes it. "We are taking reservations from today for deliveries expected in 2020, after the process of (regulatory) approvals is completed," the Slovak firm's spokesman Stefan Vadocz said.

The Aeromobil vehicle, six meters long and with a fullydeployed span of nine meters, is a normal four-wheeled car which can unfold its wings to transform itself into a plane able to fly two passengers at a cruising speed of 260 km/h for up to 750 kilometers. The price? Between 1.2 and 1.5 million euros, depending on options chosen. Its Dutch rival for the futuristic vehicle type, the Pal-V Liberty, is the brainchild of Robert Dingemanse, whose company is based near Breda in the south of the Netherlands.

His crossover car-plane is more compact, at four meters long, and should be deliverable as early as next year, once official approvals are secured. He is already taking orders for a vehicle which will cost between 299,000 and 499,000 euros. The Dutch flying car is in fact a gyrocopter with three wheels and a retractable rotor.

It can carry two people at a cruising speed of 160 km/h for between 400-500 kilometers. It is "one of the safest flying machines on the planet," able to fly "whatever the weather conditions," say its designers. Users of the Aeromobil and the Pal-V Liberty will require both a driving license and a pilot's qualification.—AFP

#### APPLE TOUTS GREATER USE OF RECYCLED METAL IN GADGETS

**NEW YORK:** Apple wants to "one day" end the need to mine materials from the earth to make its gadgets, the technology giant said in its annual environmental responsibility report out Thursday. "Traditional supply chains are linear," it said. "Materials are mined, manufactured as products, and often end up in landfills after use. Then the process starts over and more materials are extracted from the earth for new products."

"We believe our goal should be a closed-loop supply chain, where products are built using only renewable resources or recycled material," it added. The company's research concluded that recycled aluminum should come from Apple products rather than recycling facilities because of the high-grade quality required. Apple has been encouraging customers to return used products for recycling and has melted down iPhone aluminum enclosures to make mini computers used in its factories. "For tin, we took a different approach," the company said. "Unlike aluminum, there is an existing market supply of recycled tin that meets our quality standards." As a result, Apple has been using recycled tin for its iPhone 6s. The ultimate aim is "to one day end our reliance on mining altogether," the company said, without specifying a date.

Apple did not disclose the amount of recycled products currently used in its products. —AFP

## MANAGEENGINE EMERGES AS CHAMPION IN INFO-TECH ITSM RESEARCH REPORT

**DUBAI:** ManageEngine, the real-time IT management company, today announced that ServiceDesk Plus, its flagship ITSM product, has been recognized as a Champion in the Info-Tech Research Group Mid-Market Service Desk Vendor Landscape report. ManageEngine's inclusion and placement in the report is a testament to its leadership status in the IT service management market and its ability to provide best-in-class ITSM solutions with enterprise-ready capabilities for midmarket companies.

"As organizations mature, they have to continuously innovate to get more business value from their IT operations and are constantly looking for tools that deliver results," said Rajesh Ganesan, director of product management at ManageEngine. "We at ManageEngine realize this need and have purpose-built ServiceDesk Plus with the optimal balance of features, customization and programmability, all without compromising ease of use. We thank Info-Tech Research Group for this recognition which we believe will help many midmarket companies make the right choice."

#### ManageEngine Scores High in Value

Vendor Landscape reports by Info-Tech Research Group recognize outstanding vendors in the technology marketplace. By assessing vendors on the strength of their offerings and their enterprise strategies, Info-Tech Research Group's Vendor Landscape reports pay tribute to the contributions of exceptional vendors in particular categories. This report evaluated 13 vendors in the service desk market.

ManageEngine came among the top three vendors ranked on the Value Index, which scores each vendor's product offering and business strength relative to its price point. In the report, ServiceDesk Plus is identified as "an onpremises/SaaS solution that offers module-based scalability with seamless integration between the various add-ons."



TECHNOLOGY

**Rajesh Ganesan** 

Sandi Conrad, senior research director at Info-Tech Research Group and the report's author, stated that "ServiceDesk Plus is perfect for organizations looking to incrementally increase maturity of IT through service desk, ITAM and other modules for IT operations and beyond."



SHANGHAI: SAIC-GM president Wang Yongping announces the global launch of the Buick Velite 5, an extended range electric hybrid, during a global launch event ahead of the Shanghai Auto 2017 show in Shanghai, China.—AP

## GM PLANS TO LAUNCH 10 ELECTRIC HYBRID CARS IN CHINA BY 2020

**SHANGHAI:** General Motors Co. plans to launch 10 electric and gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles in China by 2020, an executive said yesterday, as automakers speed up the rollout of alternative vehicles under pressure from Beijing to promote the industry. GM will start production of a pure-electric model in China within two years, Matt Tsien, president of GM China, told a news conference during the Shanghai auto show. He said GM expects annual sales of 150,000 electric and hybrid cars in China by 2020 and possibly in excess of 500,000 by 2025.

Ford Motor Co., Volkswagen AG, Nissan Motor Co. and other automakers also have announced aggressive plans to make and sell electric vehicles in China, the biggest auto market by number of units sold. On Tuesday, GM unveiled a hybrid version of the Chevrolet Volt to be manufactured in China and sold under its Buick brand. China's communist government has the world's most ambitious electric car goals, hoping both to clean up smog-choked cities and to take a lead in an emerging industry. Regulators are pressing foreign brands to help develop the industry.

Regulators jolted the industry by proposing a requirement that electrics account for at least 8 percent of each brand's production by next year, rising to 10 percent in 2019 and 12 percent in 2020. Automakers say they may be unable to meet those targets and regulators have suggested they might be reduced or postponed. Beijing also is due to enforce what auto executives say are the world's most stringent emissions standards. They say that is likely to require all manufacturers to include electrics in their lineup to meet targets for average fleet emissions. "In the next several years, out to 2020, we expect to launch at least 10 new energy vehicles into the marketplace," said Tsien, using the government's term for electric and hybrid vehicles. "We have a pipeline that is going to materialize, that's going to put us in a very good position from a fuel economy requirement perspective." All the vehicles will be manufactured in China, he said.GM, which competes with VW for the status of China's top-selling automaker, reported 2016 sales rose 7.1 percent to a record 3.9 million vehicles.

Foreign automakers had been reluctant to sell electric cars in China because regulators required them to transfer valuable intellectual property to local partners or face import duties of 25 percent even if the vehicles were produced at a Chinese factory. —AP

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00:15	Swamp Brothers	
0:45	Bondi Vet	
01:40	Wildest India	
)2:35	Tanked	
)3:25	North America	
14.15	Gator Boys	

02.35	Tankeu
03:25	North America
04:15	Gator Boys
05:02	Swamp Brothers
05:27	Swamp Brothers
05:49	Wildest India
06:36	Swamp Brothers
07:00	Swamp Brothers
07:25	Wildest India
08:15	Rugged Justice
09:10	Wild Animal Rescue
10:05	Treetop Cat Rescue
10:30	Treetop Cat Rescue
11:00	Life At Vet University
11:55	Bondi Vet
12:50	Swamp Brothers
13:15	Swamp Brothers
13:45	Swamp Brothers
14:10	Swamp Brothers
14:40	Swamp Brothers
15:05	Swamp Brothers
18:20	Rugged Justice
19:15	Wildest India
20:10	Wild Animal Rescue
21:05	Pit Bulls & Parolees
22:00	Rugged Justice
22:55	Gator Boys
23.20	Gator Boys





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14:00	Robbie Coltrane's Critical
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	I Killed My BFF
16:00	Monster In My Family
17:00	Evil Up Close
18:00	Evil Up Close

The First 48 20:00

21:00 Homicide Hunte

22:00 They Took Our Child, We Got

Her Back 23:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath

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00:30	What Could Possibly Go
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01:20	Deception With Keith Barry
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05:05	How It's Made
05:30	Dirty Jobs
06:20	Mythbusters
	My Cat From Hell
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- 22:25 Destroyed in Seconds23:15 Destroyed In Seconds23:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things

- DISCOVERY SC SCIENCE
- 00:30 How Do They Do It? 00:55 Food Factory 01:20 Mythbusters 02:10 Invisible Worlds 03:00 Prototype This 03:48 Mythbusters How Do They Do It? Food Factory Mythbusters 04:36 05:00 05:24 06:12 Invisible Worlds 07:20 How Do They Do It? 07:26 Food Factory 09:26 How Do They Do It? 11:26 Ecopolis 12:14 13:02 Ecopolis Ecopolis 13:50 Ecopolis Invisible Worlds 14:38 15:26 Mythbusters 16:14 Mythbusters 17:02 Mythbusters 17:50 Mythbusters 18:40 19:30 Mythbusters How The Universe Works 20:20 Sport Science Strip The Cosmos Home Factory Home Factory 21:10 22:00 22:25 22:50 **Mythbusters** 23:40 Prototype This



00:00Binny And The Ghost00:25Hank Zipzer00:45The Hive

A SECOND CHANCE.

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Binny And The Ghost Binny And The Ghost Hank Zipzer 02:55 03:15 The Hive 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 04:10 Hank Zipzer Binny And The Ghost Hank Zipzer The Hive 04:35 05:25 05:45 05:50 The 7D 06:00 Jessie 06:25 06:50 Eco Club 06:55 Austin & Ally 07:20 Rolling With The Ronks 07:45 The Zhuzhus 08:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 08:35 Elena Of Avalor 09:00 Stuck In The Middle 09:25 Eco Club 09:30 Disney The Lodge 09:55 Bunk'd 10:20 High School Musical 3: Senior Eco Club Bunk'd Eco Club Bunk'd Eco Club Bunk'd Eco Club Bunk'd Jessie Austin & Ally 16:05 Eco Club 16:10 Elena Of Avalor Liv And Maddie Girl Meets World 17:25 The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning

00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

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Witch

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20:20	Best Friends Whenever
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07:00	My Friends Tigger & Pooh
07:25	Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
07:50	Goldie & Bear
08:15	Miles From Tomorrow

08:40 Jake And The Never Land

18:50 Welcome To The Ronks

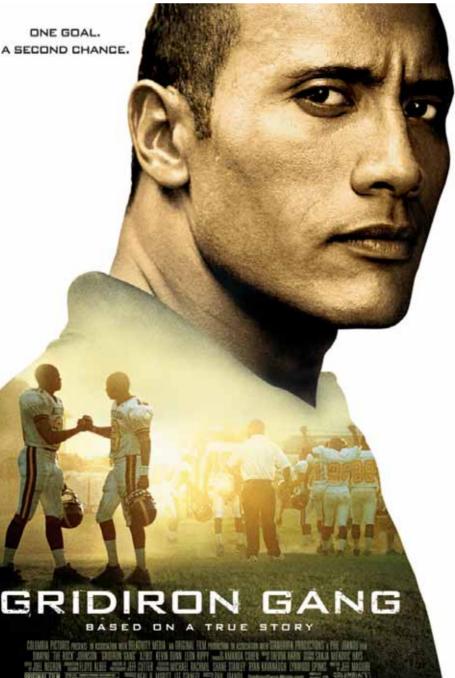
19:00 Eco Club 19:05 Stuck In The Middle

Bizaardvark

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19:30

19:55



**GRIDIRON GANG ON OSN MOVIES HD** 

# TV LISTINGS

Pirates 09:10 Doc McStuffins 09:35 Sofia The First 10.00 The Lion Guard 10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers 10:55 Sofia The First: The Floating Palace 11:50 Miles From Tomorrow 12:15 Doc McStuffins 12:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirate 12:50 The Lion Guard 13:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh 13:45 Doc McStuffins 14:10 Goldie & Bear 14:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers 15:05 PJ Masks The Lion Guard Miles From Tomorrow 15:35 16:00 16:25 Sofia The First 16:55 Goldie & Bear 17:20 Doc McStuffins 17:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 18:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 18:45 PJ Masks 19:00 Doc McStuffins 19:25 Doc McStuffins 19:50 PJ Masks 20:05 Goldie & Bear 20:35 Mickey And The Roadster **Bacers** 21:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 21:30 Miles From Tomorrow 22:00 Jake And The Never Land 06:00 Supa Strikas 06:25 Supa Strikas 06:50 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution Hevolution 07:15 Gravity Falls 07:40 Walk The Prank 08:05 Two More Eggs 08:10 K.C. Undercover 08:35 Milo Murphy's Law Supa Strikas Supa Strikas Supa Strikas 09.00 09:25 09:50 10:15 Two More Eags Supa Strikas Supa Strikas Supa Strikas 10.20 10:45 11:10 11:35 Supa Strikas 12:00 Meet The Robinsons 13:30 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much 
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 Walk The Prank
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16:25

Everything 17:40 Mighty Med

The Sinister 6 22:35 Boyster

Kardashians

18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 18:10 Star Wars Rebels 18:35 Cars 20:30 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 20:45 Mighty Med 21:10 Star Wars Rebels 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 21:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution 22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs

23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

CHD

00:05 Keeping Up With The

Kardashians 00:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 01:50 E! News 02:50 Celebrity Style Story 03:50 Botched By Nature 04:40 Botched By Nature

04:40 Botched By Nature

05:30 Celebrity Style Story 06:00 Just Jillian 06:55 E! News 07:10 Just Jillian 08:10 E! News

10:45 Revenge Body With Khloe

11:35 Revenge Body With Khloe

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Kardashian

Kardashian

16:50 K.C. Undercover 17:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much

12:25 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian 13:15 E! News 13:45 Celebrity Style Story 14:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 17:05 Rob & Chyna 19:00 E! News 20:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian 21:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian 22:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian 23:00 E! News HD 00:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents 01:00 Ancient Discoveries 02:00 Monster Quest 02:50 Ancient Aliens 03:40 Smartest Guy In The Room 04:05 Smartest Guy In The Room 04:30 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 05:20 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents 06:10 The Universe 07:00 Ancient Discoveries 08:00 Monster Quest 09:00 Ancient Aliens 10:00 Smartest Guy In The Room 10:30 Smartest Guy In The Room 11:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 12:00 Ultimate Guide To The

Presidents 13:00 Ancient Discoveries 14:00 Monster Quest 15:00 Ancient Aliens 16:00 Smartest Guy In The Room 16:30 Smartest Guy In The Room 17:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 18:00 Million Dollar Genius 22:00 Million Dollar Genius 23:00 Million Dollar Genius



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- 00:15 World's Best Beaches 01:05 Andy And Ben Eat Australia Andy And Ben Eat Australia 01:30 01:55 Confucius Was A Foodie 02:45 Chasing The Sun 03:10 Chasing The Sun 03:35 Eat Street 04:00 Eat Street 04:25 A Model Adventure 05:20 Access 360 World Heritage
- 06:15 Around The World In 80

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#### SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

<ul> <li>13:05 Andy And Ben Eat Australia</li> <li>13:35 Andy And Ben Eat Australia</li> <li>14:00 My Restaurant In India</li> <li>14:30 Chasing The Sun</li> <li>14:55 Chasing The Sun</li> <li>15:50 Eat Street</li> <li>16:20 Around The World In 80</li> <li>Dishes</li> <li>17:15 Bangkok Airport</li> <li>18:10 Food Lover's Guide To The</li> <li>Planet</li> <li>19:05 Chasing The Sun</li> <li>19:30 Eat Street</li> <li>20:00 Eat Street</li> <li>20:25 Around The World In 80</li> <li>Dishes</li> <li>21:20 Bangkok Airport</li> <li>21:20 Bangkok Airport</li> <li>22:35 Food Lover's Guide To The</li> <li>Planet</li> </ul>
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02:35 It's Always Sunny In

04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 05:30 Fresh Off The Boat

06:00 George Lopez 06:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers 07:30 Last Man Standing

The Ellen DeGeneres Show Late Night With Seth Meyers The Tonight Show Starring

George Lopez Breaking In The Ellen DeGeneres Show

George Lopez The Ellen DeGeneres Show

The Tonight Show Starring

Kevin Can Wait

Last Man Standing Fresh Off The Boat

The Mindy Project

The Mindy Project

2 Broke Girls

Life In Pieces

Modern Family Modern Family

The Mindy Project

You're The Worst

You're The Worst You're The Worst

23:35 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OM FIRST HD

Survivor: Game Changers This Is Us Good Morning America

23:15 It's Always Sunny In

StartUp

Timeless

Frequency

The Chew The View Notorious

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Timeless

This Is Us

The Blacklist

Supernatural Bates Motel

16:00 Notorious

Once Upon A Time The Chew The View

15:00 Live Good Morning America -

Once Upon A Time Grey's Anatomy The Blacklist

v Fallon

Breaking In

Philadelphia 03:00 Black-ish 03:30 Kevin Can Wait

04:00 Breaking In

08:30 Black-ish

Jimmy Fallon

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21:00

22:00 23:00

Philadelphia

00:10 01:00	The Chase Emmerdale
03:25	
05:30	
07:05	
07:05	Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
Takea	
09:20	
10:15	Broadchurch
11:10	The Secret Photos Of The
Duke 8	& Duchess Of Windsor
12:10	Come Date With Me Australia
13:10	Come Date With Me Australia
13:40	Come Date With Me Australia
14:05	Come Date With Me Australia
14:35	Come Date With Me Australia
15:00	Surprise Surprise
15:55	Vera
17:45	The Secret Photos Of The
	& Duchess Of Windsor
18:45	Gino's Italian Escape
19:00	Gino's Italian Escape
19:15	Broadchurch
20:10	Broadchurch
21:00	It's Not Rocket Science
21:55	5 Star Family Reunion
22:50	Coronation Street
23:20	Coronation Street



00:20 Game Of Lions 01:10 Animals Gone Wild Compilations 02:00 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins 02:50 Natural Born Monsters 03:45 The Desert Sea 04:40 05:35 Man And The Wild Extreme Animal Babies Monster Fish 06:30 07:25 Monster Fish 07:20 08:20 09:15 1000 Days For The Planet 1000 Days For The Planet Mission Critical 10:10 11:05 Mission Critical 12:00 Ragged Tooth 12:55 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins 13:50 Natural Born Monsters 14:45 Bite, Sting, Kill 15:40 Man And The Wild Hunter Hunted 16:35 Night Stalkers Bite, Sting, Kill When Sharks Attack Man And The Wild 17:30 18.25 19:20 20:10 21:00 Hunter Hunted 21:50 Night Stalkers 22:40 Bite, Sting, Kill 23:30 Ragged Tooth

### OM FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:30 The Mindy Project
- 01:00 The Mindy Project 01:30 Insecure
- 02:00 Insecure



#### TAKEN 3 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD 19:00 Herbie Fully Loaded

#### OM MOVIES HD ACTION

#### 01:15 Beal Steel

- 03:30 05:30 Kingsglaive: Final Fantasy XV Dracula Untold I Am Number Four 07:15 09.15 **Real Steel**
- Double Team 11:30
- 13:30 Dracula Untold
- 15:15 Blown Away
- 17:30 Fury 20:00 Constantine 22:15 Taken 3
- O/N MOVIES HD

#### COMEDY

00:00 How To Make Love Like An Englis 02:00 nman Taxi With This Ring Confessions Of A Shopaholic 04:00 06:00 08:00 10:00 Taxi With This Ring Confessions Of A Shopaholic 12:00 14.00 Ride 16:00 Forces Of Nature 18:00 Pixels Life After Beth 20.00 22:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything

#### OVA MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 01:00 Falsely Accused
- 03:00 Wildlike 05:00 The Yellow Handkerchief 07:00 Matters Of The Heart
- 09:00 No God No Master
- Wildlike The Yellow Handkerchief 11:00
- 13:00 Don't Wake Mommy 15:00
- 17.00
- No God No Master The Disappearance Of Eleanor 19:00 Riaby: Her
- The Zero Theorem 21.00
- 23:00 Madame Bovary

#### OM MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 00:30 The Muppets
- 02:30 Hotel For Dogs 04:15 The Lizzie McGuire Movie

17:00 Max

- 04:13 06:00 07:15 Lilo & Stitch 2 The Muppets
- Open Season: Scared Silly 09:00
- 11.00
- The Lizzie McGuire Movie The Incredibles 13:00 15:00
  - Frozen

### 21:00 Nancy Drew 23:00 Frozen O/N MOVIES HD Jessabelle 01:45 Pitch Perfect 2 Gridiron Gang Coraline 07:45 Big 09:30 The Horse Whisperer Pitch Perfect 2 Goosebumps

Con Air
Unstoppable
Steve Jobs
High Fidelity

00:00

03:45 06:00

12:30 14:30

16

#### ON MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:00 The Boxcar Children 02:30 Thumbelina 04:15 Bee Movie 06:00 The Wild Thornberrys Movie
- 00:00 07:45 09:15
- Miffy The Movie Pirates Who Don't Do Anything The Boxcar Children 11:00
- 12:30 Thumbelina
- Robosapien: Rebooted Pirates Who Don't Do Anything 14:00
- 16:00 18:00 Gladiators Of Rome
- 20:00 Oops Noah Is Gone 21:45 Robosapien: Rebooted 23:30 Miffy The Movie

#### O/ MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 00:15 Gainsbourg: A Heroic Life 02:15 Frankie And Johnny
- 02:15 04:15 06:15 The Wave The Girl
- 08:00 Of Mice And Men
- 10:00 I'll Follow You Down 12:00 The Wave
- 14:00 Mood Indigo
- 16:15 Days Of He aven
- The Man Who Wasn't There Nightcrawler Whiplash 18.00 22:00



- 00:20 The Day I Almost Died
- 01:10 The Undateables 02:00 Married By Mum And Dad
- 02:50 Monsters Inside Me



- 14:37 14:42 14:48 19:21 20:07 20:53 21:15 21:22 21.45 21:57 22:20 15:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 16:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 16:25 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 22:52 Team Umizoomi 23:15 Team Umizoomi
- 04:28 Dora And Friends 05:15 Blaze And The Monster Machines 06:00 Rusty Rivets 06:13 Paw Patrol 06:37 Dora The Explorer 07:00 Zack & Quack 07:21 Dora And Friends: Into The City! 07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines 08:07 Paw Patrol 08:30 Shimmer And Shine 08:53 Dora The Explorer 09:15 The Day Henry Met 09:22 Paw Patrol 09:45 10:00 Rusty Rivets Paw Patrol Team Umizoomi 11:09 11:53 Olive The Ostrich 12:03 Max & Ruby 12:26 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom 12:47 The Day Henry Met 12:52 The Day Henry Met 12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines 13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines 13:41 Zack & Quack 14:05 Zack & Quack 14:16 Team Umizoomi Olive The Ostrich Olive The Ostrich Paw Patrol 16:10 Wanda And The Alien 16:30 Dora And Friends 17:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines 18:00 Busty Bivets 18:13 Paw Patrol 18:37 Dora The Explorer 19:00 Zack & Quack Dora And Friends 19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines Shimmer And Shine 20:30 Shimmer And Shine Dora The Explorer The Day Henry Met Paw Patrol Rusty Rivets Bubble Guppies Fresh Beat Band Of Spies 22:40 Zack & Quack
  - OSMENT ANDERSON SEWELL MO GARBER I'LL FOLLOW YOU DOWN
- I'LL FOLLOW YOU DOWN ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL HD



Machines

nick.jr

01:20 Blaze And The Monster Machines

04:09 Wanda And The Alien

## Kuwait Times 55.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017





## FAIPS ORGANIZES A TRIP TO NASA

n yet another Endeavour to expand the educational horizons of its students, FAIPS organized a trip to the Unites States of America for the students of class 9-12 from 23rd March to 3rd April 2017. 30 students along with 2 teachers traversed the exotic land of the United States of America. The 12 day trip provided a glimpse of American culture and landscape which left an indelible impression on their minds.

The students visited some of the landmark places such as Times Square, the Wall Street, The Empire State Building, the Central park and an enjoyable walk across the Brooklyn Bridge. A trip to the breath taking Niagara Falls gave them a glimpse of awesome nature. A 3 day Camp at the Kennedy Space Centre, NASA gave the students an opportunity to explore the esoteric frontiers of Space technology till then unknown to them. The students got a chance to get a hands-on feel for a rocket launch and conduct various experiments earning them accolades. A fun filled time spent at Sea world, Magic Kingdom and the famous Universal Studios at Disney World, Orlando were experiences worth cherishing. They returned with a sense of wonder and amazement with a curiosity to learn more about other cultures.





## Kuwait 📥 Times 🛛 🌆 🌆



### IBTIKAR AL-KUWAIT COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS PROJECTS

Inder the auspices of HH the Amir and with the attendance of Minster Of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs, Hind Al-Sabeeh and other GCC delegations, the Al-Saad Charity for Knowledge and Scientific Research will hold the conclusion ceremony of its Ibtikar Al-Kuwait competition for students projects held under the name of 'Sheikha Fadiya Al-Saad Al-Sabah Competition' at 7:00 pm this evening at Salwa Al-Sabah ballroom, the Marina Hotel.

The ceremony will host the announcement of the first winners in GCC intermediate and secondary schools' competitions. In this regard, Ibtikar Al-Kuwait general manager, Dr Fatima Al-Hashim said that the competition was launched in 1999 with the aim of focusing on women roles in achieving sustainable development.





Sheikha Fadia Al-Sa'ad Al-Sabah

Dr Fatimah Alhashem



## LULU HYPERMARKET LAUNCHES BEAUTIFUL BRITAIN AND GO ORGANIC

uLu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched its 'Beautiful Britain 2017' promotion and 'Go Organic with LuLu' campaign, with an inauguration ceremony held on 19 April at its Al- Qurain outlet. The 11-day festival, which will end on 29 April, is being held simultaneously at all branches of LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait. The event was inaugurated by Michael Holland, the Acting Deputy Head of Mission at the UK Embassy in Kuwait, in the presence of large gathering of shoppers and top LuLu management.

Large cutout displays of many traditional and popular monuments in UK that attract tourists, are being displayed throughout the hypermarket's branches, as part of the Beautiful Britain promotion, with special prices being offered on all UK branded products. Among the popular food and beverage brandsbeing offered at special prices during the promotion period are, Kettle Brand, Rachel's Organic, M,ller, Total, Batchelor, Starbucks, Schwartz, Jamie Oliver, Henllan Bakery, Biona, Harrogate, Churchill's, English Tea Shop and Pertwood Farm, among others

Meanwhile, the fantastic array of organic food items being presented as part of the 'Go Organic with LuLu' campaign, is bound to appeal to shoppers looking for healthy eating options. The 'Beautiful Britain 2017 promotion, and the 'Go Organic with LuLu' campaign reiterates LuLu Hypermarket's commitment to engage with their international mix of customers, by offering food products from all over the world, as well as by providing the widest choice when it comes to food options.







## Kuwait 👞 Times 🌆

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

### REINDEER AT RISK FROM ARCTIC HOT SPELL

**KAUTOKEINO, Norway:** Winter temperatures in Norway's Lapland could rise dramatically this century, with potentially devastating consequences for the region's reindeer and the indigenous Sami people who make their living herding them. A vast frozen tundra, the mountainous Finnmark plateau in Norway's far north, is experiencing a hot spell-relatively speaking-wreaking havoc on the centuries-old Sami way of life. "We already feel the effects of global warming here," says Per Gaup, a colourful reindeer herder in his 60s out on the job. "I can see that we're losing more reindeer because of climate change."

Here, the continental climate with cold and dry winters is gradually becoming more like that of coastal areas, with milder temperatures and more rain. The change affects grazing conditions for the 146,000 or so semi-domesticated reindeer in the region who feed on lichen and moss under the snow. "When there's more snow and it turns hard, the animals die because there's less to eat, especially the young ones who are at the bottom of the hierarchy," says Gaup, astride his snowmobile with an orange lasso slung across his chest.

#### 318 words for snow

One of the Sami dialects counts no fewer than 318 words to describe different types of snow. "Seanas", for example, means a kind of grainy snow ideal for reindeer, making it easy for them to dig out the lichen and moss with their hooves. But it has to be very cold to have that kind of snow. While temperatures in Kautokeino, Norway's main reindeer-herding hub, used to regularly drop to minus 40 degrees Celsius (minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit) for several weeks at a time, nowadays this happens only rarely and briefly.

And today's conditions are just a taste of what is to come. The mercury is expected to rise by seven to eight degrees Celsius in winter in Finnmark by the end of this century, according to Rasmus Benestad, a researcher at the Norwegian Meteorological Institute.

A recurring problem for the reindeer now is alternating periods of thaw and freezing, which create thick layers of ice that the starving reindeer are unable to penetrate with their hooves. When reindeer can't access the lichen and moss on their herder's grazing grounds, the flocks seek out other pastures. This can cause conflicts between herders over grazing grounds, which are not officially demarcated, and may require the herders to resort to the onerous and heavy task of putting out fodder.

The changing climate also complicates the twice-yearly transhumance, when the herders move the reindeer from their summer grazing grounds along the coast to their winter pastures in the Finnmark mountains, and vice versa. Because of longer autumns, the ice, now often thinner and unpredictable, can give way under the weight of the reindeer as they cross waterways, sometimes taking the animals, and even their herders, into the deep.

"It's getting worse and worse," says another herder, alarm in his voice. "Last year, I lost at least 12 reindeer that fell through the ice. They died. I wasn't able to get them out," he says. In November 2009, almost 300 animals from a single flock drowned in a river in neighboring Sweden.—AFP



This file photo taken on March 16, 2017 shows reindeer in Kautokeino, a town in Finnmark county, located in the northeastern part of Norway. — AFP



FLINT: Dr Michael Vincent voices his concerns on the effects lead will have on physical health for all residents over the next 30 years, while speaking at a town hall meeting related to the city's crisis with lead-tainted water, at House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church, in Flint, Michigan. — AP

## CASES OF HEPATITIS B AND C HIT 325 MILLION: WHO

#### 'GRAVE PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT THAT NEEDS URGENT RESPONSE'

**GENEVA:** An estimated 325 million people are living with hepatitis B or C and few are aware of their condition, with death tolls from the viruses rising, the UN said yesterday. The World Health Organization's latest hepatitis report identifies the condition as a grave public health threat that needs an "urgent response." Hepatitis killed 1.34 million people in 2015, a toll roughly in-line with HIV and tuberculosis.

But in contrast to HIV and TB, hepatitis deaths are increasing, WHO said, recording a 22 percent mortality rise from 2000 to 2014. Hepatitis is often symptom free, but types B and C can trigger liver cirrhosis and cancer if untreated. Lack of awareness among those infected is driving the virus's spread. For hepatitis B-which is spread through bodily fluids like blood and semen-only nine percent of those infected know their status. And for hepatitis C, primarily spread through blood, just 20 percent of those infected are aware of their condition.

Lack of access to testing and treatment leaves "millions of people at risk of a slow progression to chronic liver disease, cancer and death", WHO said in a statement. The hepatitis B problem is most acute in the WHO's Western Pacific Region, which includes China, Malaysia and southeast Asia. An estimated 115 million people in the region have the virus. Second worst is Africa, with 60 million hepatitis B cases.

An effective vaccine exists for hepatitis B.WHO's latest data shows that hepatitis C-for which there is no vaccine is most commonly spread through unsafe injections, notably among drug users. Europe and the eastern Mediterranean region are afflicted with the most hepatitis C cases at 14 million and 15 million respectively. WHO is trying to ramp up the global hepatitis response, aiming to treat some 80 percent of sufferers worldwide by 2030. Gottfried Hirnschall, director of WHO's Department of HIV and the Global Hepatitis Program, said the WHO was working with governments, drugmakers and diagnostics companies to improve access. "More countries are making hepatitis services available for people in need a diagnostic test costs less than \$1 and the cure for hepatitis C can be below \$200," he said. "But the data clearly highlight the urgency with which we must address the remaining gaps in testing and treatment." Viral hepatitis killed 1.34 million people in 2015, a toll comparable to tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. But while TB and AIDS deaths are falling, hepatitis deaths are on the rise and have increased by 22 percent since 2000, the WHO said. Around 1.75 million people were newly infected with HCV in 2015, bringing the global total to 71 million, with experts identifying unsafe healthcare procedures and injection drug use as the top causes.—Agencies

### NAKED MOLE-RATS CAN SURVIVE NEAR-SUFFOCATION, SAYS STUDY

**MIAMI:** When deprived of oxygen, naked mole-rats have a unique ability to convert sugar to energy, a skill that might one day help treat victims of heart attack and stroke, researchers said Thursday.

said Thursday. These cold-blooded mammals have long been a source of fascination for scientists because they can live 30 years, rarely get cancer and do not seem to feel most kinds of pain. Researchers reported in the journal Science that when naked mole-rats are exposed to oxygen levels low enough to kill a person in minutes, they can survive for at least five hours.

They do so by acting like plants, converting fructose to energy to keep their brain cells alive.

In the absence of oxygen, large amounts of fructose flowed into their

bloodstreams, and were carried to brain cells. "The naked mole-rat has simply rearranged some basic building blocks of metabolism to make it super-tolerant to low-oxygen conditions," said lead author Thomas Park, professor of biological sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The rodents go into a state of suspended animation, moving very little and lowering their pulse and breathing rate. They use fructose to survive until oxygen is available again.

"The naked mole-rat is the only known mammal to use suspended animation to survive oxygen deprivation," said the study. There is a reason naked mole-rats have this unusual metabolism-it could be an adaptation to living in crowded burrows where oxygen is hard to find.—AFP





### SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

### **ARGENTINA WOMAN GIVES BIRTH IN COMA, MEETS** SON MONTHS LATER

BUENOS AIRES: In late 2016, a 34-year-old policewoman in Argentina-in a coma after a car accidentgave birth. Four months later, Amelia Bannan has regained consciousness and has finally met her son.

During the first part of 2017, "she moved sometimes, made signs of waking up," said her brother Cesar. "Last Thursday, during Holy Week, we were in her room at the clinic, and we heard someone say 'Yes.' We approached her. It was a very moving moment."

On November 1, Bannan and her colleaguesincluding the father of her child, also a police officerwere in an accident in their service vehicle. Bannan was gravely injured. As she languished in a coma in a hospital in the city of Posadas, her pregnancy moved along as planned. Santino was born by cesarean section a few hours before Christmas, in perfect health. Bannan's sister Norma "took care of Santino. And every day at 6 pm, she brought the baby to Amelia," said brother Cesar.

When Bannan finally regained consciousness last week, and her sister brought Santino to her, she at first thought the baby was her nephew. Then her family explained the happy news.

Bannan began to remember what happened to her. At first speaking in a confused manner, she eventually made herself understood, her brother said.

The doctors said that Amelia has defied all scientific logic, that her case is truly a miracle," said Cesar, who is also a cop. "Amelia is young, and despite the traumatic brain injury she suffered, she is surprising us," said neurosurgeon Marcelo Ferreira, who is treating her.

"She still has a lot to give. She needs time, and everyone needs to be patient." -AFP

### **500kg Egyptian sheds half her** WEIGHT AFTER INDIA SURGERY

MUMBAI: The "world's heaviest woman" has shed half her weightaround a quarter of a ton-in the two months she's been in India for treatment, doctors said.

Egyptian national Eman Ahmed Abd El Aty weighed 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) when she arrived in Mumbai in February on a specially modified plane to undergo emergency weight-loss surgery. In videos provided this week by the Saifee Hospital, where the 37-yearold successfully had bariatric surgery last month, Abd El Aty can be seen sitting up and smiling while listening to music. "She looks a happier and slimmer version of her past self. She can finally fit into a wheelchair and sit for a longer period of time, something we never dreamt of three months back," said a statement from doctors, announcing that she had lost 250 kilos. Abd El Aty had not left her home in Egypt's Mediterranean port city of Alexandria for two decades until she arrived in India's commercial capital on February 11. She was put on a special liquid diet to get her weight down to a low enough level for doctors to perform bariatric surgery, essentially a stomach-shrinking bypass procedure carried out on those wanting to lose excessive weight.

The diet helped Abd El Aty lose around 100 kilos in a month, allowing doctors to operate on her in early March. Abd El Aty's family say that as a child she was diagnosed with elephantiasis, a condition that causes the limbs and other body parts to swell, leaving her almost immobile. The Egyptian has



HEALTH

MUMBAI: A combination of images show Eman Ahmed Abd El Aty, who weighed 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds), before and after a surgery at a hospital in Mumbai. —AFP

suffered several strokes and faced a series of other serious ailments owing to her weight including diabetes, high blood pressure, hypertension and sleep deprivation. She is unable to speak properly and is partially paralyzed.

She continues to lose weight rapidly and is awaiting the moment she can fit into a CT scan machine to know the cause of her right-sided paralysis and convulsions," doctors added in the statement published on the "Save Eman Cause" website Wednesday.

Muffazal Lakdawala, the doctor leading Abd El Aty's treatment, added in a separate post that they hoped to put her on a trial obesity drug in six months. Doctors are trying to procure it from the United States, he said. In July last year, the Guinness Book of World Records recorded American Pauline Potter as the world's heaviest woman at 293 kilos, well above Abd El Aty's current weight. — AFP



### Kuwait 🗻 Times 🌆

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017



### KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (20/04/2017 TO 26/04/2017)

INFORMATION

SHARQIA-1		COLOSSAL	12:45 AM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:45 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	10:15 PM
GHOST IN THE SHELL	1:15 PM		121107111	FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 AM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	12:30 AM
THE BOSS BABY	1:30 PM	FANAR-4					
GHOST IN THE SHELL	3:30 PM	THE BOSS BABY	11:30 AM	AVENUES-5		AL-KOUT.1	
GHOST IN THE SHELL	5:45 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	1:30 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	11:30 AM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:30 AM
UNFORGETTABLE	8:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	4:15 PM	THE BOSS BABY	1:45 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	2:15 PM
GHOST IN THE SHELL	10:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	7:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY -3D	3:45 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	5:00 PM
UNFORGETTABLE	12:30 AM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:45 PM	THE BOSS BABY	6:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	7:00 PM
		Real Madrid Vs Barcelona - Live G	ame	Special Show "THE BOSS BABY"	6:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:45 PM
SHARQIA-2		9:45 PM		GHOST IN THE SHELL	8:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 AM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 AM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	10:30 PM		
THE BOSS BABY	3:15 PM			GHOST IN THE SHELL	12:45 AM	AL-KOUT.2	
THE BOSS BABY	5:15 PM	FANAR-5				BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	1:00 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	7:15 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	11:45 AM	AVENUES-6		BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	3:15 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	10:00 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	2:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:45 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	5:30 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:45 AM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	4:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	3:30 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	7:45 PM
		BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	6:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:15 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	10:00 PM
SHARQIA-3		GHOST IN THE SHELL GHOST IN THE SHELL	8:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:00 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	12:15 AM
BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	12:15 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	10:45 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:45 PM	AL-KOUT.3	
BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	2:30 PM 5:00 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	1:00 AM	AVENUES-7		GHOST IN THE SHELL	11.45 0.04
THE BOSS BABY	7:30 PM	MARINA-1		MINE	12:30 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	11:45 AM 2:00 PM
BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	9:30 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	1:15 PM	MINE	2:45 PM	THE BOSS BABY	4:15 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:45 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	1:30 PM	MINE	5:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY	6:15 PM
FAST&FUNIOUS8	11.45 FM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	3:30 PM	MINE	7:15 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	8:15 PM
MUHALAB-1		BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	5:30 PM	MINE	9:45 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	10:30 PM
GHOST IN THE SHELL	12:45 PM	COLOSSAL	7:45 PM	BI BI (Kuwaiti Film)	9:45 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	12:45 AM
GHOST IN THE SHELL	3:00 PM	COLOSSAL	10:00 PM	MINE	12:05 AM	GHOSTIN THE SHELL	12.45 /101
GHOST IN THE SHELL	5:15 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	12:15 AM		12.05 AM	AL-KOUT.4	
GHOST IN THE SHELL	7:30 PM	Distentitione / nuble	12.137.001	AVENUES-8		COLOSSAL	12:30 PM
UNFORGETTABLE	9:45 PM	MARINA-2		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	12:30 PM	COLOSSAL	2:45 PM
GHOST IN THE SHELL	12:05 AM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	1:00 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Aral		UNFORGETTABLE	5:00 PM
		GHOST IN THE SHELL	1:30 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	4:30 PM	COLOSSAL	7:15 PM
MUHALAB-2		FAST & FURIOUS 8	3:45 PM	RAAJAKUMARA -Kannada	6:30 PM	COLOSSAL	9:30 PM
<b>BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic</b>	1:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:30 PM	UNFORGETTABLE	11:45 PM
THE BOSS BABY	1:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:15 AM		
COLOSSAL	3:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:05 AM			BAIRAQ-1	
<b>BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic</b>	5:45 PM			AVENUES-9		FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:15 PM
<b>BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic</b>	8:00 PM	MARINA-3		GHOST IN THE SHELL -3D	11:30 AM	THE BOSS BABY	3:00 PM
COLOSSAL	10:15 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	11:45 AM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	1:45 PM	THE BOSS BABY -3D	5:00 PM
COLOSSAL	12:30 AM	THE BOSS BABY	2:00 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL -3D	4:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY	7:00 PM
		THE BOSS BABY	4:00 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	6:15 PM	THE BOSS BABY	9:00 PM
MUHALAB-3		THE BOSS BABY	6:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY	8:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:00 PM
THE BOSS BABY	12:45 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	8:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY	10:45 PM		
THE BOSS BABY	2:45 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	10:15 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	1:00 AM	BAIRAQ-2	
THE BOSS BABY	4:45 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	12:30 AM			BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	11:45 AM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:45 PM			AVENUES-10		FAST & FURIOUS 8	2:00 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	9:30 PM	AVENUES-1		BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	12:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	4:45 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:15 AM	UNFORGETTABLE	12:00 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	2:30 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	7:30 PM
FANAD 4		UNFORGETTABLE	2:15 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	4:45 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	9:45 PM
FANAR-1		UNFORGETTABLE	4:30 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	7:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:05 AM
BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	12:45 PM	SAFRA 5 NJOOM	6:45 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	9:15 PM	PAIDAO 3	
MINE BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	3:00 PM 5:15 PM	UNFORGETTABLE UNFORGETTABLE	9:00 PM 11:15 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	11:30 PM	BAIRAQ-3 GHOST IN THE SHELL	11:30 AM
MINE	7:30 PM	UNFURGETTABLE	11.13 FIVI	360º- 1		THE BOSS BABY	1:45 PM
BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	10:00 PM	AVENUES-2		THE BOSS BABY	11:30 AM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arak	
BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	12:15 AM	THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX	11:45 AM	THE BOSS BABY -3D	1:45 PM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	6:00 PM
Disternitu del Tradic	12.107.001	THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX	2:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY	4:00 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	8:00 PM
FANAR-2		THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX	4:15 PM	THE BOSS BABY -3D	6:15 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	10:15 PM
THE BOSS BABY	11:30 AM	THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX	6:30 PM	THE BOSS BABY	8:30 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	12:30 AM
THE BOSS BABY	1:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX	9:15 PM	THE BOSS BABY	10:45 PM		
THE BOSS BABY	3:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX	12:05 AM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	1:00 AM	PLAZA	
THE BOSS BABY	5:30 PM					NOOR - Hindi	3:30 PM
THE BOSS BABY	7:30 PM	AVENUES-3		360°- 2		THE GREAT FATHER- Malayalam	6:30 PM
UNFORGETTABLE	9:30 PM	COLOSSAL	1:00 PM	COLOSSAL	12:15 PM	NOOR - Hindi	9:30 PM
Real Madrid Vs Barcelona - Live G	Game	COLOSSAL	3:15 PM	COLOSSAL	2:30 PM		
9:45 PM		COLOSSAL	5:30 PM	COLOSSAL	4:45 PM	LAILA	
UNFORGETTABLE	12:05 AM	COLOSSAL	7:45 PM	COLOSSAL	7:00 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	4:00 PM
		COLOSSAL	10:00 PM	COLOSSAL	9:15 PM	THE BOSS BABY	6:15 PM
FANAR-3		COLOSSAL	12:15 AM	COLOSSAL	11:30 PM	GHOST IN THE SHELL	8:15 PM
COLOSSAL	11:30 AM					FAST & FURIOUS 8	10:30 PM
SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	1:45 PM	AVENUES-4	4.00.01	360°-3	445514		
COLOSSAL	3:45 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	1:30 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	1:15 PM	AJIAL.1	
COLOSSAL	6:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	4:15 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	3:30 PM	NOOR - Hindi	3:30 PM
COLOSSAL	8:15 PM	Special Show "THE BOSS BABY"	4:45 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	5:45 PM	NOOR - Hindi NOOR - Hindi	6:45 PM
COLOSSAL	10:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	7:00 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	8:00 PM		9:45 PM

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SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

### Flight Schedule DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Airlines	Arri Flt	val Flights on Saturday 22/4/2017	Time	CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50 19:05	ETD KAC	302	Abu Dhabi Daha	10:00
Airlines	FIC	Route	Time	UAE GFA	875 217	Dubai Bahrain	19:05	FDB	617 056	Doha Dubai	10:15 10:25
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	KAC	744	Dammam	19:05	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
SVA KAC	514 786	Riyadh Jeddah	00:25 00:30	ABY KAC	123 174	Sharjah Munich	19:20 19:25	SVA IRM	513 1189	Riyadh Mashhad	11:00 11:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:20	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
MSR	618	Alexandria	00:55	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	620	Doha	19:50	VIZ	201	Baghdad	12:00
DLH PGT	635 858	Doha Istanbul	01:00	FDB KAC	057 776	Dubai Riyadh	19:50 19:50	RBG JZR	554 786	Alexandria Riyadh	12:10 13:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:15 01:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	PAL	669	Manila	13:10
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KNE	381	Taif	20:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
ETH KKK	620 6506	Addis Ababa Istanbul	01:50 01:55	JZR QTR	189 1088	Dubai Doha	20:25 20:35	UAE IAW	872 158	Dubai Al Najaf	14:15 14:25
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	KAC	616	Bahrain	20:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC	564	Amman	21:00	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	KAC	168	Paris	21:05	GFA FDB	222 060	Bahrain Dubai	15:00 15:10
DHX JZR	170 529	Bahrain Asyut	05:10 05:35	ETD ALK	307 229	Abu Dhabi Colombo	21:10 21:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:15	IRC	527	Mashhad	15:30
BAW	157	London	06:05	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	FDB	8053	Dubai	21:25	KAC JZR	775	Riyadh	15:50
KAC KAC	284 206	Dhaka Islamabad	06:35 06:40	KAC GFA	676 219	Dubai Bahrain	21:35 21:50	KNE	188 530	Dubai Jeddah	15:50 15:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	KAC	743	Dammam	16:00
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	NIA	161	Cairo	22:10	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
KAC KAC	384 332	Delhi Trivandrum	08:00 08:05	AIC KNE	987 533	Chennai/Hyderabad Jeddah	22:25 22:45	OMA ABY	646 128	Muscat Sharjah	16:10 16:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	JZR	241	Amman	22:55	SAW	708	КАС	16:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:50
QTR FDB	1070 055	Doha Dubai	09:20 09:40	MSC FDB	405 071	Sohag Dubai	23:30 23:35	FDK SVA	802 505	Damascus Madinah	16:55 16:55
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:55	THY	764	Istanbul	23:45	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00					KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	A !!!		rture Flights on Saturday 22/4/2017	-	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:00
PAL JZR	668 325	Manila Al Najaf	11:00 11:10	<b>Airlines</b> AIC	<b>Flt</b> 976	<b>Route</b> Goa/Chennai	<b>Time</b> 00:05	FDB KAC	052 503	Dubai Beirut	17:05 17:15
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
JZR UAE	239 871	Amman Dubai	12:20 12:45	PIA MSC	240 502	Sialkot Alexandria	01:00 01:05	KAC JZR	615 240	Bahrain Amman	17:30 17:30
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	SVA	515	Riyadh	01:25	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
MSR	610 157	Cairo	13:00	THY	773 619	Istanbul	01:40	KAC NIA	357 362	Kochi Alexandria	17:40 17:50
IAW KAC	662	Al Najaf Abu Dhabi	13:25 13:35	MSR KAC	363	Alexandria Colombo	01:55 01:55	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
QTR	1078	Doha			442	Lahore	02.20	KAC.	2.42	Chammai	
KNE			14:05	SAI	442		02:30	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
GEA	231 221	Riyadh	14:10	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35	IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
GFA KAC	221	Riyadh Bahrain	14:10 14:15	PGT ETH		Istanbul Addis Ababa	02:35 02:50	IRA SVA	666 511	Esfahan Riyadh	18:10 18:15
KAC FDB	221 364 059	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20	PGT ETH THY KKK	859 621 765 6505	lstanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul	02:35 02:50 02:50 02:55	IRA SVA JZR GFA	666 511 184 216	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:20
KAC FDB KAC	221 364 059 352	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC	859 621 765 6505 351	lstanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi	02:35 02:50 02:50 02:55 03:05	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR	666 511 184 216 538	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:20 18:35
KAC FDB KAC KAC	221 364 059 352 618	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:20	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE	859 621 765 6505 351 854	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai	02:35 02:50 02:55 02:55 03:05 03:30	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC	666 511 184 216 538 785	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:20 18:35 18:45
KAC FDB KAC	221 364 059 352	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC	859 621 765 6505 351	lstanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi	02:35 02:50 02:50 02:55 03:05	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR	666 511 184 216 538	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:20 18:35
KAC FDB KAC KAC JZR KAC IRC	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Mashhad	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:20 14:25 14:25 14:25 14:30	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 03:30 03:30 04:05 04:10	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR QTR KAC	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:35 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20
KAC FDB KAC KAC JZR KAC IRC KAC	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526 540	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:20 14:25 14:25 14:30 14:35	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR ETD	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087 306	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha Abu Dhabi	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 03:30 04:05 04:10 04:10	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR QTR KAC JZR	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345 552	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad Alexandria	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:35 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20
KAC FDB KAC KAC JZR KAC IRC KAC JZR	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526 540 357	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh Mashhad	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:25 14:25 14:25 14:30 14:35 14:50	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR ETD MSR	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087 306 613	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha Abu Dhabi Cairo	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 03:30 04:05 04:10 04:10 04:15	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR QTR KAC JZR SVA	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345 552 501	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad Alexandria Jeddah	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:25 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20 19:20 19:30
KAC FDB KAC JZR KAC IRC KAC JZR KNE KNE KAC	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526 540	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh Mashhad Jeddah Muscat	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:20 14:25 14:25 14:30 14:35	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR ETD	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087 306	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha Abu Dhabi	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 03:30 04:05 04:10 04:10	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR QTR KAC JZR	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345 552	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad Alexandria	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:35 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20
KAC FDB KAC JZR KAC IRC KAC JZR KAC KAC KAC	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526 540 357 529 692 788	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh Mashhad Jeddah Muscat Jeddah	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:22 14:25 14:25 14:30 14:35 14:55 14:55 14:55	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR ETD MSR KAC PGT QTR	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087 306 613 417 861 1077	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha Abu Dhabi Cairo Manila Istanbul Doha	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 03:30 04:05 04:10 04:10 04:15 04:20 04:25 05:35	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR QTR KAC JZR SVA MSR GFA FDB	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345 552 501 621 218 064	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad Alexandria Jeddah Cairo Bahrain Dubai	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:35 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20 19:20 19:30 19:30 19:50
KAC FDB KAC JZR KAC IRC KAC JZR KAC KAC KAC KNE	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526 540 357 529 692 788 683	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh Mashhad Jeddah Muscat Jeddah Muscat	14:10 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:20 14:25 14:25 14:25 14:30 14:35 14:55 14:55 14:55 14:55 14:55	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR ETD MSR KAC PGT QTR UAE	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087 306 613 417 861 1077 874	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha Abu Dhabi Cairo Manila Istanbul Doha Dubai	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 03:30 04:05 04:10 04:10 04:10 04:15 04:20 04:25 05:35 06:15	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR KAC JZR SVA MSR GFA FDB ABY	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345 552 501 621 218 064 124	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad Alexandria Jeddah Cairo Bahrain Dubai Sharjah	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:35 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20 19:20 19:30 19:30 19:50 19:50 20:00
KAC FDB KAC JZR KAC IRC KAC JZR KNE KAC KAC KNE ETD	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526 540 357 529 692 788 683 303	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh Mashhad Jeddah Muscat Jeddah Muscat Jeddah Madinah Abu Dhabi	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:25 14:25 14:35 14:35 14:55 14:55 14:55 14:55 15:05	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR ETD MSR KAC PGT QTR UAE RJA	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087 306 613 417 861 1077 874 643	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha Abu Dhabi Cairo Manila Istanbul Doha Dubai Amman	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 03:30 04:05 04:10 04:10 04:15 04:20 04:25 05:35 06:15 06:25	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR QTR KAC JZR SVA MSR GFA ABY CLX	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345 552 501 621 218 064 124 856	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad Alexandria Jeddah Cairo Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Hong Kong	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:20 18:35 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20 19:20 19:30 19:30 19:50 19:50 20:00 20:20
KAC FDB KAC JZR KAC IRC KAC JZR KNE KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526 540 357 529 692 788 683 303 645 562	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh Mashhad Jeddah Muscat Jeddah Muscat Jeddah Muscat Abu Dhabi Muscat Amman	14:10 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:20 14:25 14:25 14:25 14:30 14:35 14:55 14:55 14:55 14:55 14:55	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR ETD MSR KAC PGT QTR UAE	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087 306 613 417 861 1077 874 643 771 212	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha Abu Dhabi Cairo Manila Istanbul Doha Dubai Amman Istanbul Bahrain	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 04:05 04:10 04:10 04:15 04:20 04:25 05:35 06:15 06:25 06:25 06:25 06:50	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR QTR KAC JZR SVA MSR GFA FDB ABY CLX FDB UAE	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345 552 501 621 218 064 124 856 058 876	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad Alexandria Jeddah Cairo Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Hong Kong Dubai Dubai	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:35 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20 19:30 19:30 19:50 19:50 19:50 20:00 20:20 20:35
KAC FDB KAC JZR KAC IRC KAC JZR KAC KAC KAC KNE ETD OMA KAC KAC KAC	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526 540 357 529 692 788 683 303 645 562 412	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh Mashhad Jeddah Muscat Jeddah Muscat Adinah Abu Dhabi Muscat Amman Bangkok	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:25 14:25 14:25 14:30 14:35 14:55 14:55 14:55 14:55 15:05 15:05 15:10 15:10 15:30	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR ETD MSR KAC QTR QTR UAE RJA THY GFA KAC	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087 306 613 417 861 1077 874 643 771 212 173	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha Abu Dhabi Cairo Manila Istanbul Doha Dubai Amman Istanbul Bahrain Munich	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 04:05 04:10 04:10 04:15 04:20 04:25 05:35 06:15 06:25 06:50 06:50	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR KAC JZR SVA MSR GFA FDB ABY CLX FDB UAE KAC	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345 552 501 621 218 064 124 856 058 876 353	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad Alexandria Jeddah Cairo Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Hong Kong Dubai Dubai Bangalore	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:20 18:35 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20 19:30 19:30 19:50 20:00 20:20 20:30 20:35 20:55
KAC FDB KAC JZR KAC IRC KAC JZR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC ABY	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526 540 357 529 692 788 683 303 645 562 412 127	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh Mashhad Jeddah Muscat Jeddah Muscat Abu Dhabi Muscat Amman Bangkok Sharjah	14:10 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:20 14:25 14:25 14:25 14:35 14:55 14:55 14:55 14:55 15:05 15:05 15:05 15:10 15:30 15:30	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR ETD MSR KAC PGT QTR UAE RJA THY GFA KAC JZR	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087 306 613 417 861 1077 874 643 771 212 173 238	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha Abu Dhabi Cairo Manila Istanbul Doha Dubai Amman Istanbul Bahrain Munich Amman	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 03:30 04:05 04:10 04:10 04:15 04:20 04:25 05:35 06:15 06:25 06:25 06:55 06:55	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR QTR KAC JZR SVA MSR GFA FDB ABY CLX FDB UAE KAC KAC	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345 552 501 621 218 064 124 856 058 876 353 1543	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad Alexandria Jeddah Cairo Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Hong Kong Dubai Dubai Bangalore Cairo	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:20 18:35 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20 19:30 19:30 19:50 20:00 20:20 20:35 20:55 21:00
KAC FDB KAC JZR KAC IRC KAC JZR KAC KAC KAC KNE ETD OMA KAC KAC KAC	221 364 059 352 618 779 512 526 540 357 529 692 788 683 303 645 562 412	Riyadh Bahrain Colombo Dubai Kochi Doha Jeddah Mashhad Sharm el-Sheikh Mashhad Jeddah Muscat Jeddah Muscat Abu Dhabi Muscat Amman Bangkok Sharjah Dubai	14:10 14:15 14:15 14:20 14:20 14:25 14:25 14:25 14:30 14:35 14:55 14:55 14:55 14:55 15:05 15:05 15:10 15:10 15:30	PGT ETH THY KKK KAC UAE KLM OMA QTR ETD MSR KAC QTR QTR UAE RJA THY GFA KAC	859 621 765 6505 351 854 446 644 1087 306 613 417 861 1077 874 643 771 212 173	Istanbul Addis Ababa Istanbul Istanbul Kochi Dubai Amsterdam Muscat Doha Abu Dhabi Cairo Manila Istanbul Doha Dubai Amman Istanbul Bahrain Munich	02:35 02:50 02:55 03:05 03:30 04:05 04:10 04:10 04:15 04:20 04:25 05:35 06:15 06:25 06:50 06:50	IRA SVA JZR GFA JZR KAC SYR KAC JZR SVA MSR GFA FDB ABY CLX FDB UAE KAC	666 511 184 216 538 785 342 1081 345 552 501 621 218 064 124 856 058 876 353	Esfahan Riyadh Dubai Bahrain Cairo Jeddah Damascus Doha Ahmedabad Alexandria Jeddah Cairo Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Hong Kong Dubai Dubai Bangalore	18:10 18:15 18:20 18:20 18:35 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:20 19:30 19:30 19:50 20:00 20:20 20:30 20:35 20:55
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### Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

### Kuwait Times 55

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

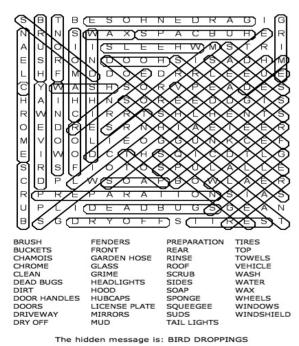
### WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

#### Weather

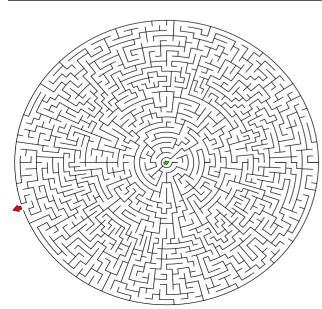
	weather														
	Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional weather word.														
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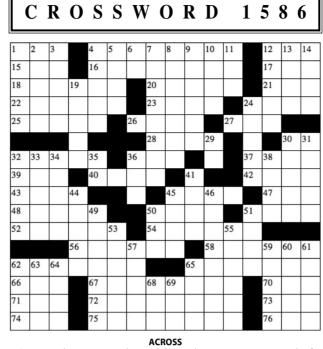
### **Yesterday's Solution**

### Washing a Car



### **CHALLENGING MAZE**





1. Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).

 An abrupt failure of function or health.
 A doctor's degree in preventive medicine.
 A zodiacal constellation in northern hemisphere between Cancer and Virgo.
 A republic in the western Balkans in south-central Europe in the eastern Adriatic coastal area.

- 17. A strong emotion.
  18. Relating to or characteristic of the Celts.
  20. A cry or shout of approval.
  21. Any of various long-tailed rodents similar to but larger than a mouse. Greek mythology Goddess of wisdom and useful arts and prudent warfare.
   A characteristic sound.
   A genus of Lamnidae.
   Superior to the average.
   Greek mythology Academic source that is compared out a non-source source and the source source out to be average.

27. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.

 An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
 A poplar that is widely cultivated in the United States. 37. Any of various strong liquors distilled from the fermented sap of toddy palms

or from fermented molasses.

- 75. Trees and shrubs having berries or drupes or capsules as fruits. 76. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

#### DOWN

1. Of or relating to alga.

#### Daily SuDoku 7 4 З 5 1 5 7 4 2 8 2 3 8 1 6 7 9 2 1 1 5 8 4 9 6 4 8 1 5 9 3 7 5 4



5. Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin

- Being five more than fifty.
   Relating to or located near the organ that produces tears.
   The capital and largest city of Greece.
   A genus of Stromateidae.

10. A brace that extends from the rear of the keel to support the rudderpost.

The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
 English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).

- 13. The fleshy part of the human body that you sit on.
- The States tennis player (born in Czechoslovakia) who won several singles

Championships.
 English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-

1349). 29. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs

that can solve problems creatively. 30. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.

31. Jordan's port. 33. Obvious and dull.

33. Obvious and duil.
34. A legally binding command or decision entered on the court record (as if issued by a court or judge).
35. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
36. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity equal to 10 decibels.
38. A Hindu prince or king in India.
41. Mentally or physically infirm with age.
44. Similar to the giraffe but smaller with much shorter neck and stripe on the long. legs. 45. Fatty pinkish flesh of small salmon caught in the Pacific and Great Lakes.

46. Bulldog ants. 49. A windstorm that lifts up clouds of dust or sand.

50. An insecticide that is also toxic to animals and humans. 51. An outlying farm building for storing grain or animal feed and housing farm

animals. 53. The process of remembering (especially the process of recovering information

by mental effort). 55. The cloak as a symbol of authority. 57. French composer noted for his experimentalism and rejection of romanticism

(1866-1925).

59. A Bantu language spoken by the Kamba people in Kenya

 60. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
 61. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
 63. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
 64. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools

65. Swift timid long-eared mammal larger than a rabbit having a divided upper lip

and long hind legs. 68. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.

69. Mythical bird of prey having enormous size and strength.

### Yesterday's Solution

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Yesterday's Solution									
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1	2	3	6	7	9	4	8	5	
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6	9	8	4	5	3	1	2	7	

- 70. A master's degree in business.
  71. A bachelor's degree in theology.
  72. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Clinoril).
  73. A decree that prohibits something.
  74. The 19th letter of the Greek alphabet.

A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
 German mystic and theosophist who founded modern theosophy.
 A communist nation that covers a vast territory in eastern Asia.

# or from fermented molasses. 39. Having undesirable or negative qualities. 40. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829). 42. Type genus of the Majidae. 43. Type genus of the family Unionidae. 47. A sharp hand gesture (resembling a blow). 48. Plaything consisting of small 6-pointed metal pieces that are used (along with a ball) to play the game of jacks. 52. Double star 15.7 light years from Earth. 54. Basic principles of the cosmos. 56. (of tompo) (vor, fet, adv. 1. 54. basic principles of the cosinos. 56. (of tempo) Very fast adv 1. 58. The basic unit of money in Finland. 62. A starch made by leaching and drying the root of the cassava plant. 66. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey). 67. Clouding of the natural lens of the eye.





### RUGBY

MOTOR RACING

### MCCALL SAYS ENGLAND AGONY WILL SPUR ON SARACENS

**DUBLIN:** Saracens boss Mark McCall believes the Grand Slam heartache several of his side suffered playing for England in Dublin will benefit the London team come today's European Champions Cup semi-final in the Irish capital.

Title-holders Saracens will be taking part in their fifth successive major European lastfour clash when they face two-time continental champions Munster.

The likes of Owen Farrell, Billy Vunipola and Maro Itoje will hope to enjoy success with Saracens at Lansdowne Road a few weeks on from being involved in England's 13-9 defeat by Ireland at the ground, a loss that denied the visitors back-to-back Grand Slams. Irish province Munster will have the bulk of the crowd behind them but McCall is confident his side can retain their composure in a quest to reach next month's Murrayfield final against the winners of Sunday's clash between Clermont and Leinster in Lyon. "We are accustomed to these occasions," said McCall. "The fact some of our English players were at the Aviva (Lansdowne Road) a few weeks ago is a good thing.

"The players won't be surprised by what is waiting, albeit it will be a very special atmosphere," the former Ireland centre added. London club Saracens, also the reigning English champions, have plenty of experience of knockout rugby and McCall said: "We've got a group who know they can rely on each other and if it's 40,000 Munster men and us, then we will back each other.

"These occasions bring out the best in the group," said the director of rugby, with

Saracens bidding for a "double double" after last season's Premiership and Champions Cup triumphs.

All six Saracens selected in the British and Irish Lions squad announced Wednesday for the tour of New Zealand-Farrell, Billy Vunipola, George Kruis, Itoje, Jamie George and Mako Vunipola-will start against Munster.

But Munster scrum-half Conor Murray remains out with the shoulder/neck problem that sidelined the Lions call-up since he was injured playing for Ireland in a Six Nations defeat by Wales on March 10.

Fellow Lions CJ Stander and Peter O'Mahony will take the field as Munster look to get to a European final for the first time since 2008. "Munster are an unbelievably well-organised side," said McCall. "They have the best defensive record in the Guinness PRO12 (Celtic League) and the Champions Cup. They are hard to break down." The past two seasons have seen Munster suffer pool stages exits, with their 2014/15 European campaign featuring a 33-10 group phase defeat by Saracens.

But this term, following the shock death of coach Anthony Foley on the eve of a pool match in Paris in October, their European fortunes have been transformed.

"We always pride ourselves on how we do in Europe and we let ourselves down over the past couple of years," said Munster captain O'Mahony. "But we have a different group now and we are a different animal. "We've learnt a lot of lessons and we now go about our business in a different way." — AFP

### THREATENED KINGS STUN Waratahs in Sydney

**SYDNEY:** South Africa's endangered Southern Kings rose above the turmoil of their very Super Rugby existence with a spirited 26-24 upset win over the New South Wales Waratahs in Sydney yesterday. The Port Elizabeth-based Kings, who are fighting to stay in next year's competition, fought back from 17-0 down to win only their fourth game in two years.

The Kings, who are consigned to the scrapheap in 2018 as part of SANZAAR's restructuring, trailed 17-7 at half-time but scored the next 19 points before the woeful Waratahs scored a last-minute converted consolation try to claim a losing bonus point. It was a sterling effort from the Kings and a performance that was hailed by their captain and fly-half Lionel Cronje.

"It has been an absolutely emotional tour for us with all the news regarding Super Rugby," Cronje said. "There has been a lot of pressure on our administrators, our families at home and you can imagine all the pressure on our players hearing all the news being away from home.

"It's amazing to be able to pull a game through like this and to get a victory against the Waratahs who have been Super Rugby champions. "It just gives so much credit to our team and the management for fighting through a good game and to come away with the win." The Kings, despite the huge off-field distractions, have been competitive on their Australian tour, losing 46-41 to Western Force and 47-34 to the Queensland Reds and this time they claimed their biggest scalp. The South African strugglers reversed a record 72-10 loss to the Waratahs in their only previous meeting in Port Elizabeth four years ago. The Waratahs looked on track for a much-needed bonus-point win after opening up a 17-0 lead with three first-half tries before the Kings hit back with tries to Justin Forwood, Masixole Banda and Michael Willemse. But the Kings clinched victory with a penalty try awarded after a succession of scrum binding errors in the final minutes. The Waratahs grabbed an after-the-siren bonus point with a consolation try to winger Taqele Naiyaravoro, who opened the scoring with the first try of the night.

Captain Michael Hooper was scathing about his team's dreadful showing before their home fans.

"It was a pretty embarrassing performance from us," he said. "There was a lot of talk, not much action. It's going to be a tough weekend." The sorry defeat leaves the Waratahs languishing eight points adrift of the Brumbies on the Australian conference standings. The Kings now return home with their next game against the Melbourne Rebels in Port Elizabeth on April 30, while the Waratahs have an Australian derby against the Queensland reds in Brisbane on April 29. — AFP

## SCEPTICAL VILLENEUVE LAUDS ALONSO'S INDY BID

**LONDON:** Jacques Villeneuve has applauded Fernando Alonso's gladiatorial spirit in chasing motorsport's 'Triple Crown' but the retired Formula One world champion and Indianapolis 500 winner said he was sceptical about the Spaniard's chances.

Alonso, who races for Honda-powered McLaren in Formula One, will be at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama, this weekend to soak up the Indy Car atmosphere before competing in the Indy 500 in May.

A win on the famed Brickyard oval would be sensational but the double world champion will still have to conquer the Le Mans 24 Hours sportscar race to match the unique Triple Crown achieved by the late Briton Graham Hill in 1972.

Villeneuve, who won Indianapolis in 1995 and the Formula One title in 1997 before finishing second with Peugeot at Le Mans in 2008, felt the likelihood of Alonso succeeding was "tiny".

"But he will go for it, and that's what's great. That's what makes it exciting," the Canadian told Reuters at the recent Bahrain Grand Prix. "It's typical gladiators and that's what built the sport, made it what it is today. So it's good that there's someone going back to its roots like this, it's amazing. "What I find disappointing is how many (F1) drivers say 'why bother, it's only an oval race...it's dangerous, why would I race there?' Well, you're a racer."

#### JIM CLARK

Indianapolis was part of the Formula One world championship from 1950 through to 1960 but the winners were all Americans unfamiliar to European audiences and did not compete in grands prix elsewhere.

In 1965 Jim Clark missed the showcase Monaco Grand Prix - as Alonso will also do this year - to race at Indy. The late Scot won, becoming the only driver to take the Formula One championship and



BRISTOL: Crew members push #31 Grainger Chevrolet, driven by Ryan Newman (not pictured), through the garage area during practice for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Food City 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway yesterday in Bristol, Tennessee. — AFP

Indianapolis in the same year. Hill, father of 1996 world champion Damon, won the Formula One crown in 1962 and 1968, the Indy 500 in 1966 and Le Mans in 1972. "If you are a pure race fan and are passionate and a racer at heart, you have to be interested in Le Mans and Indy 500 as well as F1. It's the three main things in racing," said Villeneuve.

"For drivers it was always important ... I finished second in Le Mans which is a shame, that really kills me. That hurts."

The Canadian competed in Le Mans only after retiring from Formula One, with Alonso - who will be 36 in July - likely to follow the same route.

Villeneuve said he would love another go at the French race but was not kidding himself about his chances, and suggested Alonso should not either.

"I'm waiting for the call. It won't hap-

pen. I'm 46 and you need to be 18 to race now," he said, with some exaggeration about the younger end of the spectrum given that nine times Le Mans winner Tom Kristensen of Denmark retired at 47.

McLaren won Le Mans in 1995 against faster prototypes in wet conditions but the race has been dominated for more than a decade by major manufacturers.

"There's doing Le Mans, and there's trying to win Le Mans. And there's only two or three cars that can do it and there's no way you can get in there," said Villeneuve.

"A constructor would not want a big name to win the Triple Crown because ultimately it's not their publicity, it's the driver's publicity," he added. "They want to win as a constructor. So there's that aspect also that blocks it." — Reuters

### Kuwait 🗠 Times 🍜



### BASEBALL

## BETTS HITS 3-RUN DOUBLE IN 10TH, BOSTON BEATS TORONTO

**TORONTO:** Chris Sale struck out 13 over eight shutout innings, Mookie Betts hit a three run double in the 10th and the Boston Red Sox beat the struggling Toronto Blue Jays 4-1 on Thursday. At 3-12, Toronto is off to the worst start in team history and has lost its first five series for the first time. Sandy Leon drew a one-out walk from Jason Grilli (0-2), Brock Holt singled to stop an 0-for-12 slide, Andrew Benintendi walked with two outs, and Betts pulled a 2-0 fast-ball down the left-field line. Mitch Moreland hit a two-out double in the ninth off Roberto Osuna and scored on Xander Bogaerts' single, but Kendrys Morales homered against Craig Kimbrel (1-0) leading off the bottom half.

### **ASTROS 2, ANGELS 1**

Carlos Beltran hit his first home run this season and Jake Marisnick also homered. Beltran's shot came with one out and the first inning off Matt Shoemaker (0-1), and Marisnick's second homer this season made it 2-0 in the fifth. Lance McCullers (2-0) scattered three hits and struck out eight over 6 2/3 scoreless innings as Houston won for the seventh time in eight games. Chris Devenski allowed home run to Mike Trout starting the ninth inning and back-to-back singles with one out before fanning Cameron Maybin and Danny Espinosa for his first save.

#### **RAYS 8, TIGERS 1**

Steven Souza Jr. came within a single of hitting for the cycle, and Erasmo Ramirez (2-0), Chase Whitley and Tommy Hunter combined on a five-hitter as Tampa Bay Rays completed a three-game sweep. Souza doubled in the first, hit a two-run triple in the second and added a solo homer in the eighth. In the rotation because Jake Odorizzi strained his left hamstring, Ramirez allowed one run and two hits in five innings with five strikeouts and no walks. Daniel Norris (1-1) gave up five runs and eight hits over 4 2/3 innings.

#### INDIANS 6, TWINS 2

Trevor Bauer (1-2) struck out seven in 6 1/3 innings, giving up two runs, three hits and three walks, and Carlos Santana had two doubles and two RBIs. Ervin Santana gave up one run, four hits and three walks over six innings for the Twins, who are 1-5 in a 10-game homestand. Carlos Santana delivered another RBI double in the seventh inning, and Tyler Duffey (0-1) and Taylor Rogers each walked in a run with the bases loaded.

#### PHILLIES 6, METS 4

Maikel Franco homered and doubled while breaking a career-worst 0-for 22 hitless streak, and Philadelphia capitalized on an error by untested first baseman Jay Bruce. Mets closer Jeurys Familia struck out two and walked two in a hitless ninth inning of his season debut after serving a 15game suspension for violating Major League Baseball's domestic violence policy. Philadelphia took two of three at Citi Field after losing six straight series to the Mets. New York made seven errors in the set. Aaron Nola (2-0) labored through five innings, and Hector Neris earned his first save this season. Noah Syndergaard (1-1) struck out 10 in seven innings. New York slugger Yoenis Cespedes limped off in the fifth inning with a left hamstring cramp. The Mets already were minus injured first baseman Lucas Duda, catcher Travis d'Arnaud and infielder Wilmer Flores.

### **ORIOLES 2, REDS 1**

J.J. Hardy singled home the tiebreaking run off Blake Wood (0-2) in the 10th inning, and the



TORONTO: Jose Bautista #19 of the Toronto Blue Jays reacts after being called out on strikes in the sixth inning during MLB game action as Sandy Leon #3 of the Boston Red Sox catches and home plate umpire Cory Blaser #89 rings up Bautista at Rogers Centre on Thursday in Toronto, Canada. — AFP

Orioles took two of three in the series, leaving them 8-4 in interleague play against the Reds. Three pitchers limited Cincinnati to two hits for the second night in a row. Darren O'Day (1-1) fanned two of the three batters he faced in the ninth. Brad Brach retired the side in the 10th for his second straight save, filling in while closer Zach Britton recovers from a sore forearm.

#### **NATIONALS 3, BRAVES 2**

Ryan Zimmerman hit a two-run homer in the sixth that erased a 2-1 deficit against R.A. Dickey (1-2), and Washington completed a three-game sweep. Stephen Strasburg (2-0) struck out 10 in seven innings Shawn Kelley allowed Kurt Suzuki's twoout single in the ninth and walked pinch-hitter Tyler Flowers, then retired Ender Inciarte on a game-ending flyout for his second save in three tries.

### RANGERS 1, ROYALS 0, 13 INNINGS

Delino DeShields had an RBI single with one out in the 13th inning to score Joey Gallo from second base and Texas beat Kansas City. Gallo had pulled a one-out double into the right-field corner off Travis Wood (0-1), the third Royals reliever after starter Danny Duffy went 7 1-3 innings. Gallo scored when DeShields hit a sharp single to left on the 10th pitch of the at-bat. It was only the third game in the 24 seasons of the Rangers' ballpark to go to extra innings scoreless. This was the longest of those games. Gallo's double was the first hit for the Rangers since Jonathan Lucroy's leadoff double in the fifth. It was the first hit in the game since Royals leadoff hitter Alex Gordon's one-out single in the eighth. Dario Alvarez (1-0), the seventh Texas pitcher, struck out three in two innings after walking the first batter he faced on four pitches.

#### **BREWERS 7, CARDINALS 5**

Jett Bandy, Eric Thames and Travis Shaw each hit home runs to help Milwaukee beat St. Louis. Bandy hit a two-run homer in the sixth and Thames put Milwaukee ahead with a two-run shot off Carlos Martinez (0-3) in the fifth. Shaw's threerun blast in the first made it 12 consecutive games going yard for the Brewers, who lead the majors with 32 home runs. Zach Davies (1-2) allowed four runs on eight hits in 5 1-3 innings. He walked two and struck out five, but needed Thames' NL-leading eighth home run and seventh in the past eight games for his first win in four starts. Jacob Barnes pitched the ninth for his first save of the season.

### **PADRES 4, DIAMONDBACKS 1**

Clayton Richard pitched into the seventh inning and Wil Myers and Austin Hedges homered to lead San Diego over Arizona. Richard (2-2) gave up a run and nine hits in 6 2/3 innings. The left-hander struck out a season high eight to win for the first time in his past three starts. Brandon Maurer pitched the ninth for his third save and second in consecutive nights. Myers cracked his fourth homer in the first and Hedges added his third in the seventh as the Padres won their second straight to earn a split of the four-game series. Patrick Corbin (1-3) limited the Padres to three runs or less for the fourth time at Petco Park. But it wasn't enough with Richard keeping the Diamondbacks off-balance with his sinker.

#### **ATHLETICS 9, MARINERS 6**

Cesar Valdez pitched in the major leagues for the first time in nearly seven years and the Athletics beat the Mariners. He allowed three runs and five hits in four innings, struck out four and walked two. This marked just the third start of his career at age 32 and 10th appearance in all - and he is probably headed right back to the minors soon. A right-hander from the Dominican Republic, he was called up from Triple-A Nashville to fill in for injured opening day starter Kendall Graveman. Valdez last pitched in the big leagues on June 10, 2010, with Arizona just more than a month after his previous start on May 8. Trevor Plouffe hit a three-run homer in the seventh and Ryan Dull (1-1) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings for the victory in Oakland's third straight win. Taylor Motter hit a two-run homer for Seattle in the sixth against Frankie Montas. — AP

### **Baseball results/standings**

Oakland 9, Seattle 6; San Diego 4, Arizona 1; Milwaukee 7, St. Louis 5; Texas 1, Kansas City 0 (13 innings); Washington 3, Atlanta 2; Baltimore 2, Cincinnati 1 (10 innings); Philadelphia 6, NY Mets 4; Houston 2, LA Angels 1; Cleveland 6, Minnesota 2; Tampa Bay 8, Detroit 1; Boston 4, Toronto 1 (10 innings).

Amerie Easter		_		National League Eastern Division					
	W	L	РСТ	GB	Washington	10	5	.667	-
Baltimore	10	4	.714	-	Miami	8	7	.533	2
NY Yankees	10	5	.667	0.5	NY Mets	8	8	.500	2.5
Boston	10	6	.625	1	Atlanta	6	9	.400	4
Tampa Bay	9	8	.529	2.5	Philadelphia	6	9	.400	4
Toronto	3	12	.200	7.5	Cent	ral Div	/isior	ו	
Centra	al Div	/isior	1		Cincinnati	9	7	.563	-
Cleveland	8	7	.533	-	Chicago Cubs	8	7	.533	0.5
Detroit	8	7	.533	-	Milwaukee	9	8	.529	0.5
Chicago White Sox	7	7	.500	0.5	Pittsburgh	6	9	.400	2.5
Minnesota	7	8	.467	1	St. Louis	6	10	.375	3
Kansas City	7	8	.467	1		ern Di			5
Weste	rn Di	visio	n		Colorado	10	6	.625	
Houston	11	5	.688	-	Arizona	10	7	.588	- 0.5
Oakland	8	8	.500	3			8		
LA Angels	7	10	.412	4.5	LA Dodgers	8	•	.500	2
Seattle	7	10	.412	4.5	San Diego	7	10	.412	3.5
Texas	6	10	.375	5	San Francisco	6	10	.375	4

### Kuwait Times 55.







## KUWAIT CORVETTE CLUB HOLD BOOK SIGNING CEREMONY, AWARD WINNERS

### By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Corvette Club (KCC) held the conclusion event of the season 2016/2017 during a gathering held on Wednesday at the Historical, Vintage and Classic Cars Museum in Shuwaikh. This event was sponsored by Yusuf A. Alghanim and Sons. During this event the new limited edition of Chevrolet Corvette Grand Sport was

unveiled. "Only 1,000 pieces of this vehicle were manufactured, and in Kuwait there is just this one piece. It's a C7 VO6 model with VO7 package. Powered by a 460 power horse LT1 engine. It is also equipped with carbon ceramic brakes," Bader Al-Hbeil, Head of the Kuwait Corvette Club told Kuwait Times.

The event also included a book signing ceremony. "Mshari Al-Holi a member of KCC is also the author of the Corvette book that he signed during this event. His book was also sponsored by Yusuf A. Alghanim. Mshari was awarded for his great job with this book," added Al-Hbeil. Furthermore the event also included awarding the winners of the 'Most Beautiful Car' contest. "During the season we held a competition for the members of the club, for the most beautiful vehicle, and 60 vehicles out of the total 180 members participated in this contest. The contest included 12

categories including stuck and modified vehicles and 39 winners in three positions from each category were awarded," he further said.

The new season will start next October. "Due to the weather we will be gathering at the Cars Museum, and then we will be holding other outdoor activities. Besides Kuwait we will also hold activities in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia including racing and other activities," concluded Al-Hbeil.













### ATHLETICS

### FORMER ADDICT MANYONGA EYES WORLD LONG JUMP RECORD

JOHANNESBURG: Rio Olympic Games silver medalist and former drug addict Luvo Manyonga of South Africa has his sights set on smashing the 26-year-old long jump world record of American Mike Powell. A leap of 8.95 metres by Powell in Tokyo during 1991 set a benchmark no rival has surpassed.

"My dream is to become the first athlete to jump over nine metres," Manyonga told AFP as he prepared for the national athletics championships this weekend.

The self-confessed former methamphetamine user broke the South African and African records by jumping 8.62m at a regional meet in Pretoria last month. That leap was 12 centimetres longer than the previous best set by another South African, Khotso Mokoena, eight years ago in Madrid. It was also the longest jump in the world since 2009 and matched the 12th best of all time

But as Manyonga gets set for the long jump event in northwest university town Potchefstroom, he has the world mark on his mind. "The world record has been a goal of mine even before I started jumping competitively," he said.

"It has been too long since anyone came close to jumping nine metres and I am capable of leaping much further than my record in Pretoria. "I cannot say when my dream will come true but no record should last forever," he added, referring to the lengthy reign of Powell.

His coach, Neil Cornelius, was stunned by the Pretoria leap that brought Manyonga the national and African records

"I believed Luvo was going to overtake Khotso, but just by a centimetre or two. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine he would do so by 12 centimetres." A former coach of Manyonga, now deceased Mario Smith, said the athlete had "the most perfect technique I have ever seen in a long jumper". Manyonga was a 2010 world junior

champion and finished one centimetre behind American Jeff Henderson in the contest for the 2016 Rio Games long jump gold.

#### STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

But his current status as a South African sporting star is a far cry from where the 26-year-old used to be. "I was within touching distance of death," he said, recalling his addiction to methamphetamine, known as "tik" in South Africa. Life amid crime and poverty in the Western Cape township of Mbekweni was a daily struggle for survival.

Manyonga, like many other inhabitants, succumbed to drugs, seeking a release from the daily hardships. Luckily, there were people who believed in him and his sporting prowess. Men like Smith, his first coach, and South African Olympic body chief Gideon Sam, whose search for a long jump star took him to Manyonga. "I was not impressed at first as Luvo arrived more than two hours

late for a meeting," recalled the official. Sam gave the athlete a tongue lashing, and Manyonga admits it was a turning point in his battle with drugs.

"When I arise every morning I think about where I would be were it not for those who believed in me during my darkest days." Suspended in 2012 for 18 months after failing a routine test, the long jumper believes he is winning the war against drugs. Based in Pretoria, Manyonga is in an aftercare programme as part of his rehabilitation that egan before the Rio Games

"Luvo was tested immediately after his record jump in Pretoria," said his agent, Lee-Roy Newton. "He has been clean since he was in the rehabilitation programme last year." Sam lauds the role played by Newton.

"We have allowed Lee-Roy to take complete control of the future of Luvo. He is doing a great job in helping him focus on what he goes best-the long jump." — AFP

### TENNIS

### Sharapova should not get French Open wildcard. says Radwanska

WARSAW: Former world number one tennis player Maria Sharapova should not be fast-tracked into next month's French Open as she returns from a doping ban, insists Polish rival Agnieszka Radwanska.



With double French Maria Sharapova Open champion Sharapova currently unranked, all eyes will be on the French Tennis Federation (FFT) next month when it decides whether or not to hand the 30year-old a wildcard into the tournament.

A decision will be announced during "the week of May 15", the French federation, which organises the tournament, said in a statement to Reuters yesterday.

The French Open starts on May 28.

Sharapova makes her comeback to the WTA Tour after 15 months out in Stuttgart next week, after gaining a wildcard, and has also been given invites to play in Madrid and Rome.

Roland Garros organisers will be wrestling with the moral conundrum surrounding a wildcard-or free entry into the French Open-given that Sharapova is the biggest draw card in women's tennis right now, and arguably much needed given the absence of Serena Williams who earlier this week announced her pregnancy.

Regardless, Radwanska believes entry to the year's second grand slam tournament would be a step too far.

"Now in Germany, next in Spain, but so far she hasn't been invited to play at slams in Paris and London and in my opinion that's how it should remain," world number eight Radwanska told Poland's sports daily Przeglad Sportowy.

"She should win her place thanks to good results." Sharapova was originally banned for two years following a

positive test for the newly-banned drug Meldonium at the 2016 Australian Open but the sanction was reduced to 15 months by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Last week she criticised the International Tennis Federation (ITF) for not doing enough to warn her that Meldonium-a product she had used legally throughout her career to combat health issues-had been added to the World Anti-Doping Agency's list of banned substances in late 2015.

Sharapova, 30, is likely to receive a lukewarm reception in Stuttgart next week with several players, including another former world number one Caroline Wozniacki, also questioning whether she should have received a wildcard.

Men's world number one Andy Murray has also voiced his disapproval about the return of Sharapova who was caught out by the sport's anti-doping laws after failing to realise that Meldonium, previously legal, had been added to the banned list.

"I'm not hiding my views. I think the same as Andy Murray," Radwanska, who has beaten Sharapova only twice in 15 attempts, told the newspaper.

"This kind of entry into the tournament should be available only for players who were dropped in the ranking due to injury, illness or other random accident.

"Not for those suspended for doping. Maria should rebuild her career in a different way, beginning with smaller events.

"She wouldn't have a chance for (a wildcard) from my hands (if I was a tournament director)." With the main draw deadline passed Sharapova's hopes of playing in the tournament she won in 2012 and 2014 could rest with FFT president Bernard Giudicelli who last month admitted the decision was "complicated".

The absence of three-times winner Serena Williams, could be a factor as the women's game is short on big personalities. Playing through the qualifying tournament is also a possibility for Sharapova, although in order to have a high enough ranking for the May 1 deadline to enter that she would probably have to win the Stuttgart title. — Reuters



### **ASIAN ICE HOCKEY** TOURNAMENT BEGINS TODAY

### By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The Asian Ice Hockey Tournament 2017 will be launched at ice skating rink today under the patronage of Commerce and Industry Minister, Acting State Minister for Youth Affairs Khalid Al-Roudhan with four teams participating Macao, India, Oman and Kuwait. The tournament will continue until April 25, as Kuwait's National Ice Hockey team will start its competition with Macao at 8:30 pm tonight, this match will be proceeded with the opening ceremony. A match between India and Oman will take place at 4:30 pm.

Kuwait's Ice Hockey players seek a good start with the highly improved Macao team and the main competitor of our national team. Meanwhile the second match seems to be balanced though Oman may be a slight favorite.

Secretary of Kuwait Winter Games Club Bashar Al-Nassar said this tournament is different from all others because it is being held under full supervision by the International Ice Hockey Federation, and under the Kuwait flag since Kuwait sports were placed under suspension for more than a year, and this gives Kuwaiti fans to back their national team after a long absence of such events. Al-Nassar said the club, under the leadership of Fuhaid Al-Aimi completed all preparations for the tournament, including the opening ceremony to



**Bashar Al-Nassar** 

**Jassim Al-Sarraf** 

bring out the event in the best way possible especially that the club's officials have vast experience following the organization of several Asian and Gulf tournaments with success. He welcomed Kuwait's guests and wished them pleasant stay in the friendship and eace country.

Meanwhile, Al-Nassar said Kuwait's team has outstanding players with experience and youth who are able to reach the goal of winning the tournament for the second time, and asked Kuwait's fans to come in support of their team during all matches. Kuwait National Ice Hockey team goalkeeper Jassim Al-Sarraf said the team is ready for the tournament, following its participating few months ago in the Winter Asian Games in Japan and ended in sixth place. He said the team also held a training camp in Abu Dhabi, UAE during which it held several strong matches, most notably the match with a Canadian team.



SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

### AUSTRALIA GET PACE BOOST FOR ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY

**SYDNEY:** Fast bowlers Mitchell Starc and James Pattinson were Thursday named in Australia's 15-man squad for next month's ICC Champions Trophy in England and Wales.

Starc has recovered from a stress fracture in his right foot which sent him home from Australia's Test series in India last month, while Pattinson is fit again after serious shin and back injuries. Pattinson is currently playing for Nottinghamshire in English cricket after taking part in Victoria's Sheffield Shield championship victory in the recently finished domestic season.

Selectors have boosted Australia's fast-bowling stocks for the Champions

Trophy with Starc, Pattinson and John Hastings joining Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins. "Both James and John have made very good returns from injury and are bowling well for their respective teams... as well as both contributing well with the bat," chief selector Trevor Hohns said. "When you also add Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins to the fast bowling artillery it becomes a very exciting proposition for Australian cricket."

Big-hitting Queensland batsman Chris Lynn has also been named in the squad as he returns from a third shoulder injury inside two years, while playing for the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League. "Our medical staff will continue to monitor Mitchell and Chris' recovery from their respective injuries but we are hopeful they will be fit in time for the team's departure on May 18," Hohns said.

New South Wales batting allrounder Moises Henriques has also been recalled to the side having last played for the national one-day squad against Sri Lanka in August last year.

"Moises finished off the domestic season very well and has had a great start in the IPL," Hohns said.

"We believe Moises' batting has improved significantly in the past six months and he will provide us with a strong option should he be selected." But Tasmanian all-rounder James Faulkner was omitted from the side, with Hohns describing him as an "unlucky omission" after other players returned to fitness.

The selected players who are in Australia will depart for England on May 18 with the remaining players in the IPL to join as their teams finish in the tournament. Australia - Steve Smith (capt), David Warner, Pat Cummins, Aaron Finch, John Hastings, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Moises Henriques, Chris Lynn, Glenn Maxwell, James Pattinson, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, Adam Zampa.— AFP

NHL

CRICKET

### INDIA, S OPENER RAHUL SET TO MISS CHAMPIONS TROPHY

**MUMBAI:** India opener Lokesh Rahul is set to miss the Champions Trophy in June after undergoing operation on his injured shoulder earlier this month, the 25-year-old has said. Rahul hurt his left shoulder while batting during the opening test against Australia in Pune but played through pain during the four-match series, scoring six half-centuries.

The right-handed batsman is not playing the ongoing Indian Premier League Twenty20 and had a surgery in England. The Champions Trophy, to be played between the top eight ODI sides of the world, starts from June 1 in England. Defending champions India are in Group B with neighbours and arch-rivals Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka. "I will just have to wait and see but the chances are very, very slim," Rahul was quoted as saying by the Times of India newspaper.

Rahul was quoted as saying by the Times of India newspaper. "I had torn my labrum (a ring of fibrocartilage). I couldn't get into a few positions because my shoulder kept dislocating popped out and popped back in. "That's why I couldn't play a lot of shots, had to restrict myself. I played with a lot of medication and taping. Surgery was to fix it on the inside." Rahul played in all three matches for India in their last ODI series in January against England at home and has scored one hundred and one fifty in the 50-over format.

"They said it will take anywhere close to two to three months," he added. "But again, it depends, each body is different, you don't know how the body recovers.

"It is totally up to me and how I well I take care of myself in the rehab phase. For now, it is just two-three weeks of relaxing and not doing anything and after that maybe I will start physiotherapy and my rehab phase will start from there." The Bengaluru-based batsman has missed quite a few matches due to injury since his 2014 India debut in the Boxing Day test against Australia in Melbourne.

"It is frustrating for a young man who is new to international cricket - it's been two-and-a-half years now," he said. "I've already been injured twice or thrice. It makes me think about what I am doing wrong. "I can't see any reason why I keep getting injured because I am disciplined with my fitness and my diet and I look after my body. Now is the time to see what I can change in training. "To be injury-free is wishful thinking for a sportsman. To be fit and minimise injuries will be my goal once I get back." — Reuters



**Lokesh Rahul** 



NASHVILLE: Artem Anisimov #15 of the Chicago Blackhawks takes a shot on goalie Pekka Rinne #35 of the Nashville Predators during the second period in Game Four of the Western Conference First Round during the 2017 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at Bridgestone Arena on Thursday in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP

### PREDATORS BEAT BLACKHAWKS 4-1 TO COMPLETE SWEEP

**NASHVILLE:** Roman Josi scored twice, Viktor Arvidsson and Colton Sissons each added a goal and an assist, and Pekka Rinne bagged 30 saves as the Nashville Predators eliminated the Chicago Blackhawks from the Western Conference first round with a 4-1 victory at a raucous Bridgestone Arena.

### **PENGUINS 5, BLUE JACKETS 2**

Pittsburgh beat Columbus at PPG Paints Arena to win a first-round Eastern Conference playoff series, four games to one. The Penguins built a 3-0 lead through the early part of the second period on a goal by Phil Kessel and two from Bryan Rust. The Blue Jackets responded with goals from William Karlsson and Boone Jenner to pull to within 3-2 before the end of the second period. Sidney Crosby scored on a one-timer from Evgeni Malkin for a power-play goal and some breathing room at 5:31 of the third before Scott Wilson scored 51 seconds later on a backward tip to give the Penguins an insurmountable lead.

### RANGERS 3, CANADIENS 2 (OVERTIME)

Mika Zibanejad scored the winner at 14:22 of the first

overtime period to send New York over Montreal at the Bell Centre. The Rangers now lead the series 3-2 with a chance to clinch on Saturday night in New York. Artturi Lehkonen and Brendan Gallagher scored in regulation for the Canadiens. Jesper Fast and Brady Skjei replied for the Rangers.

### OILERS 4, SHARKS 3 (OT)

David Desharnais set up Oscar Klefbom's game-tying goal late in the third period, then scored the winner at 18:15 of overtime as Edmonton beat the San Jose in Game 5 of their first-round Western Conference playoff series. The Oilers lead the best-of-seven series 3-2.

Edmonton outshot San Jose 48-30, including 14-2 in overtime. Oilers goalie Cam Talbot made 27 saves for the win, while San Jose's Martin Jones topped 44 shots. With 2:46 left in the third, a blast from Klefbom caromed off the post and went in.

Patrick Maroon and Mark Letestu also scored for Edmonton, while San Jose got goals from Mikkel Boedker, Patrick Marleau and David Schlemko. — Reuters

### Kuwait - Times 55.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017



### BAYERN WANT SILVERWARE TO REMEDY MADRID HEARTACHE

**BERLIN:** Defender Mats Hummels says Bayern Munich cannot afford to dwell on their Champions League exit to Real Madrid in their quest for Bundesliga and German Cup silverware. Bayern's controversial 4-2 second-leg defeat at

Bayern's controversial 4-2 second-leg defeat at Real Madrid on Tuesday, thanks largely to Cristiano Ronaldo's hat-trick, saw Bayern crash out of the quarter-finals 6-3 on aggregate, but they are still hot favourites to seal a domestic double.

The Bavarian giants are eight points clear and three wins short of a fifth straight Bundesliga title to maintain their iron-grip on Germany's top tier.

German international Hummels says they need to get over their Champions League disappointment

before Saturday's league match home to struggling Mainz, who are desperate for points to battle relegation. On Wednesday Bayern have a crunch German Cup semi-final home to Borussia Dortmund.

Cup semi-final home to Borussia Dortmund. "We still need to get the league title under lock and key, plus we have a real cracker in the cup. That will be a highlight," said Hummels, whose side dropped two points in last weekend's goalless draw in Leverkusen.

Hummels, Robert Lewandowski and Jerome Boateng were all carrying knocks in Madrid and coach Carlo Ancelotti is expected to rotate before facing Dortmund.

Bayern are already without Germany goalkeeper

Manuel Neuer for the rest of the season with a fractured foot. Sven Ulreich will deputise, while Bayern are without Spain defender Javi Martinez, who has a leg knock. Mainz were the last Bundesliga club to beat Bayern at home when they poached a 2-1 win at the Allianz Arena in March 2016.

However, Martin Schmidt's side are 15th, only avoiding the relegation places on goal difference, although they broke a five-match losing streak with a 1-0 win home to Hertha Berlin last weekend.

Schmidt does not expect Bayern to suffer a Champions League hangover. "They have a top-class team which will challenge us. It would be fatal to hope for a tired opponent," he said. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic shoots and his shot is saved during the UEFA Europa League quarter-final second leg football match between Manchester United and Anderlecht at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on Thursday. — AFP

#### SOCCER

## MAN UTD FACE CELTA VIGO IN EUROPA SEMIS

**NYON:** Manchester United will face the Spanish side Celta Vigo in the semifinals of the Europa League over two legs and Ajax take on Lyon, after the draw yesterday. Jose Mourinho's United will be strong favourites and have the advantage of playing the second leg at Old Trafford as they attempt to lift the Europa League, knowing victory in the final would give them a place in next season's Champions League.

United will travel to Spain for the first leg on May 4 before Celta visit Manchester for the return on May 11. With United currently four points outside the Premier League top four, winning the Europa League for the first time may represent their best chance of qualifying for the Champions League.

Celta sit 10th in La Liga and progressed from the quarter-finals after following up a 3-2 home win against Genk by drawing Thursday's second leg 1-1 in Belgium.

Celta's top scorer lago Aspas had an underwhelming spell at Liverpool, while

### EUROPA LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL FIXTURES

May 11

NYON: Europa League semi-final fixtures after yesterday's draw: 1st legs May 4 At Amsterdam Ajax (NED) v Lyon (FRA)

At Vigo Celta Vigo (ESP) v Manchester United (ENG) 2nd legs At Lyon Lyon (FRA) v Ajax (NED) At Manchester

Manchester United (ENG) v Celta Vigo (ESP) Final May 24 At Stockholm. — AFP fellow forward John Guidetti came through the ranks at Manchester City. United have never faced Celta in UEFA competition and the Spanish side are through to a major European semi-final for the first time in their history. As England's final European representatives this season, United were made to sweat by Anderlecht in the quarter-final second leg on Thursday. Marcus Rashford's extra-time goal sealed a 2-1 win at Old Trafford that sent United through 3-2 on aggregate.

If United make it to the final in Stockholm's Friends Arena on May 24 it will be the club's first appearance in the decisive match of Europe's second-tier tournament.

It would also be United's first European final since they lost the 2011 Champions League decider against Barcelona at Wembley. Having already bowed out of the FA and League Cups and with their Premier League campaign reduced to battling for a top four berth, United's only hope of winning a trophy in Mourinho's debut season is the Europa League. — AFP

### JESUS RETURNS TO BOOST MAN CITY'S CUP BID

**MANCHESTER:** Pep Guardiola hopes Gabriel Jesus will play a part in Manchester City's FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal after the Brazilian recovered from a broken foot. Jesus had an immediate impact after making his City debut as a substitute against Tottenham in January, scoring three goals in four Premier League games and forcing Sergio Aguero out of the team.

But the 20-year-old broke a bone in his foot in mid-February, rehabilitating on the sidelines until this week when he returned to training with the first team squad.

Guardiola has not ruled him out of starting in Sunday's Wembley semi-final, although he is more likely to be on the bench, but the City manager still expects his new start to have an impact on the rest of the campaign. "He has made an impact. You know how difficult it is to come into the Premier League and play how we play," Guardiola told reporters on Friday. "In just 10 minutes against Tottenham he created two or three chances himself and scored (a disallowed goal). He has an impact for sure. "In any case when players are injured, I am happy they are coming back, especially for him. He decides, he has all Europe in his hands, and he decided to come here and join us. We can't forget that. "I am so happy he joined us here but then he could only play two or three weeks so that is why I am so happy.

"With Sergio and the other ones he will hopefully help us score goals until the end of the season."

England defender John Stones is out of the semi-final, although he is expected to recover from a muscular injury in time for Thursday's Manchester derby against United.

But all eyes will be on Jesus and what role he may play, with Guardiola taking a decision after the team has travelled to London.

#### SILVERWARE COLLECTION

"No," said Guardiola when asked if he had ruled Jesus out of starting. "He's really much better. Today he will take part in training with us. He's coming back with his happiness and we are so happy he's back again. "We are going to travel with all the squad to Wembley, all the group, and he will be part of that. After that, we will see. "All the squad are travelling down tomorrow and we will watch the match between Tottenham and Chelsea. After dinner I will decide the team." The FA Cup remains Guardiola's only hope of ending his first season in English football with silverware to add to his considerable collection and he admits that the club's owners may not be satisfied if he fails to win the competition.

"I think they will not be happy," Guardiola said. "The expectation of the club is as high as possible, winning titles. And we are not able. We are not happy, I can completely understand.

"And we could have done better in terms of the results and even in the way we played because we wanted to be in the race for the title and in the Champions League until the end.

"Despite the fact that I am happy with what we've done, it is still not enough.

"But they have to decide. They are my bosses. The chairman and the owner have to decide whatever they want. But you are here asking every few days asking my opinion and I am honest. "Because I'm a guy who if we don't play well I say we don't play well. "And when I said about the circumstances where we have come from in the last two seasons, the way we played we have made some good things." - AFP







### FORMER ENGLAND DEFENDER EHIOGU DIES AFTER CARDIAC ARREST

LONDON: Former England and Aston Villa defender Ugo Ehiogu has died in hospital aged 44 following a cardiac arrest, Tottenham Hotspur said yesterday.

Ehiogu, who worked as Tottenham's under-23 coach, had collapsed at the North London club's training ground on Thursday. He passed away in the early hours of Friday, the Premier League title con-tenders said in a statement.

"Words cannot express the shock and sadness that we all feel at the Club," said Tottenham's head of coaching and development John McDermott. "Ugo's immense presence will be irreplaceable."

Ehiogu, who started out as a trainee at West Bromwich Albion but spent most of his career at Aston Villa, was capped four times by England. He would doubtless have won more caps but for

injury and competition from younger defenders like Rio Ferdinand and John Terry. As well as playing more than 200 times in nine years for Villa, Londonborn Ehiogu played 126 games for Middlesbrough after becoming their then-record signing for eight million pounds (\$10.24 million) in 2000.

He won the League Cup with both Villa and Middlesbrough. Also playing for Rangers in the Scottish Premier League, Ehiogu scored a winner against Celtic in the 2007 Old Firm derby with a spectacular overhead kick that was later voted the club's goal of the season by fans.

He ended his professional career at Sheffield United in 2009 and joined Tottenham's coaching staff in 2014 after a spell with the England under-20 side.

Championship side Villa said they would be holding a minute's applause before their home derby with Birmingham City tomorrow with both sets of players wearing black armbands as a mark of respect.

Tributes poured in from across the soccer community expressing shock and sadness.

"Everyone at the FA is devastated to hear the news that Ugo Ehiogu has sadly passed away," the Football Association said in a statement.

"This is an absolute shock, to think this could happen to a man of his fitness and age. It is devastating, crazy," former Villa team mate Lee Hendrie told Sky Sports television. "He was such a character, bubbly and would help anyone. He was a great guy to have around and never had problems with anyone. He was a gentle giant." — Reuters

### LIVERPOOL NEED STRENGTH IN DEPTH TO RECREATE GLORY DAYS

LONDON: Juergen Klopp is the man to lead Liverpool but he will need to get the cheque book out to address his side's lack of depth if he is to recreate the glory days on Merseyside, former Reds midfielder Terry McDermott said.

McDermott has recently published his autobiography, "Terry Mac: Living For The Moment", which recounts his careers in playing and coaching as well as his role as a midfield fulcrum in a side that won six league titles and three European Cups during an eight-year spell at Anfield.

Speaking by phone from his home in Newcastle, where he was both a player and later assistant manager to Kevin



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Hull City v Watford	17:00
Swansea City v Stoke City	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
<b>Bournemouth v Middlesbrough</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
West Ham United v Everton	17:00
	beIN SPORTS Swansea City v Stoke City beIN SPORTS Bournemouth v Middlesbrough

beIN SPORTS

#### SPANISH LEAGUE

Malaga v Valencia	14:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Villarreal v Leganes	17:15
beIN SPORTS	
Osasuna v Sporting Gijon	19:30
beIN SPORTS	~ ~ ~ ~
Espanyol v Atletico de Madrid	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 3	

#### ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE 19:00

Attalanta V Dologna	12.00
beIN SPORTS	
Fiorentina v Inter Milano	21:45
beIN SPORTS	

GERMAN LEAGUE	
Hertha Berlin v Wolfsburg	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Eintracht Frankfurt v Augsburg	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Hamburger v Darmstadt	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Bayern Munich v Mainz	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Ingolstadt v Werder Bremen	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Monchengladbach v Dortmund	19:30
beIN SPORTS	

#### **FRENCH LEAGUE**

Paris Saint v Montpellier	18:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Lorient v Metz	21:00
beIN SPORTS HD 10	
Caen v Nantes	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Lille v Guingamp	21:00
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Girondins de Bordeaux v Bastia	21:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Dijon v Angers	21:00
beIN SPORTS	

Keegan, the 65-yearold said that Liverpool's current squad was slightly too shallow to mount a title challenge.

"We haven't got that strength in depth. We've got some great players, a fantastic manager, I think if you had the choice of any manager right now you'd go for Juergen Klopp, he's a breath of fresh air," McDermott told Reuters.

"He shows his emotions, whether it be good or bad, but he's going to be fantastic for the next four or five years."The departure of the influential Sadio Mane to the African Cup of Nations in January coincided with a slump in Liverpool's fortunes, something McDermott savs illustrated the need for a deeper squad.

"If you'd asked me in December, could Liverpool win the league, I'd have said yes," he explains. "Then we had that horrible month where we fell apart because of that strength in depth.

For McDermott, it is crucial that Liverpool address that issue in the summer, but to do so they will need to nab a spot in Europe, and preferably the Champions League, if they are to attract the best players. — Reuters

### **REAL, ATLETICO MADRID RENEW** CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HOSTILITIES

NYON: Holders Real Madrid face Atletico Madrid in the Champions League semi-finals as the rivals do battle once more and French surprise-package Monaco take on Juventus, following the draw vesterday.

SOCCER

The all-Madrid showdown is a rerun of the 2014 and 2016 finals in Europe's top club competition, with a Cristiano Ronaldo-inspired Real victorious on both occasions in cagey affairs that they failed to settle after 90 minutes each time.

Real-aiming to become the first team to retain the Champions Leaguewill host Atletico at the Santiago Bernabeu on May 2 and a free-scoring Monaco side brimming with some of Europe's hottest talent are home to Juventus on May 3, with the second legs the following week.

Real Madrid director and former striker Emilio Butragueno said: "We know each other very well, this is the fourth time we meet Atletico in the Champions League but it will not be a final this time.

"Every detail will count and we will have to be very careful, they defend very well and have high-quality players who know how to take advantage of mistakes," he told BeINSports.

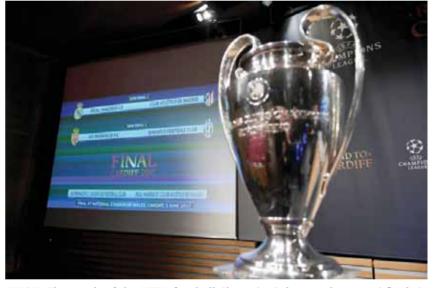
Atletico, who boast one of football's most deadly strikers in Antoine Griezmann, will move next season from the Vicente Calderon, their home for 50 years, to a new stadium. Clemente Villaverde, a former Atletico player and now a director, said the Real clash would be a fitting farewell.

"Our fans and players have experienced two final defeats and know what it means and takes to get there-a lot of work," he told UEFA.com.

"Hopefully we can give the Vicente Calderon the goodbye it deserves. Going into the draw at UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland all four teams were making the usual noises: there is nothing to choose between any of them, they said publicly.

But the 39-year-old Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon broke ranks, saying that he would prefer to avoid a wily Atletico side because they are out of the La Liga title race so can rest players for Europe.

Buffon, one of the best goalkeepers



NYON: The result of the UEFA football Champion's league draw semi-finals is displayed on a screen near the trophy, yesterday in Nyon. — AFP

of all time but who has never won the Champions League, got his wish in missing out on Diego Simeone's side, who would dearly love to get one over Real and Ronaldo this time on Europe's biggest stage.

But instead he must face teenage striking sensation Kylian Mbappe, 18. and a rejuvenated Radamel Falcao in a last-four encounter that will be an interesting contrast-Juventus with their dogged, brilliant defence and a Monaco team that loves scoring goals.

The French side-Buffon labelled them "feisty"-are full of attacking vim and have hit a staggering 141 goals in

all competitions this season. Pavel Nedved, the former midfielder who is now an ambassador for Juventus, told BeINSports of the Monaco match-up: "It's 50-50. They have very young players who are under no pressure, who can play without fear.

'That is their strength, their asset." Vadim Vasilyev, the French side's vicepresident, said they would be motivated by the memories of being turfed out of the competition by the Italians in 2015 in the quarter-finals.

"It will be a matter of revenge, clear-ly," he said. "We're better than two years ago, no doubt about it." — AFP

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL FIXTURES

NYON: Champions League semi-final fixtures after yesteerday's draw: 1st leas Mav 2 At Madrid Real Madrid (ESP) v Atletico Madrid (ESP) May 3 At Monaco Monaco (FRA) v Juventus (ITA) 2nd legs Mav 9

At Madrid Atletico Madrid (ESP) v Real Madrid (ESP) May 10 At Turin Juventus (ITA) v Monaco (FRA) Final June 3 At Cardiff Monaco (FRA)/Juventus (ITA) v Real Madrid (ESP)/Atletico Madrid (ESP). — AFP



INDIANAPOLIS: Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James goes to the basket against Indiana Pacers' Kevin Seraphin, left, during the first half in Game 3 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Thursday, in Indianapolis. — AP

BASKETBALL

## CAVS SET NBA RECORD TO BEAT PACERS

**INDIANAPOLIS:** LeBron James finished with 41 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists, and the Cleveland Cavaliers set an NBA postseason record by erasing a 25-point halftime deficit to beat the Indiana Pacers 119-114 on Thursday night and take a 3-0 lead. James passed Kobe Bryant for No. 3 on the NBA's career playoff scoring list and tied another NBA record by winning his 20th consecutive first-round game. The Cavaliers will try to sweep the series Sunday. The incredible rally ruined Paul George's big night. He had 36 points, a playoff career-high 15 rebounds and nine assists. Cleveland trailed by 26 in the first half and was still down 74-49 at halftime. The

largest halftime deficit overcome to win a playoff game had been 21 points by Baltimore against Philadelphia in 1948.

### **GRIZZLIES 105, SPURS 94**

Mike Conley scored 24 points and handed out eight assists as Memphis snapped a 10game postseason skid against San Antonio. The Grizzlies pulled within 2-1 in this firstround Western Conference series, giving firstyear coach David Fizdale his first postseason victory. This also marked the Grizzlies' first win over the Spurs in the playoffs since April 2011, when Memphis beat San Antonio in six games. Game 4 is Saturday night. Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph each scored 21 points for Memphis, which outscored San Antonio 31-17 in the third quarter and led by as much as 22 in the second half. Kawhi Leonard, who scored 32 and 37 in the first two games, was held to 18. LaMarcus Aldridge added 16, and Kyle Anderson had 15 as Spurs coach Gregg Popovich benched his starters for most of the fourth quarter.

#### BUCKS 104, RAPTORS 77

Khris Middleton scored 20 points and Milwaukee overwhelmed cold-shooting Toronto to take a 2-1 lead in their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series. Greg Monroe added 16 points and seven rebounds for the Bucks, who held DeMar DeRozan without a basket and never looked back after leading by 20 points after the first quarter. Making this blowout even more impressive was that they barely needed All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo. He finished with 19 points and eight boards. Game 4 is Saturday back at the Bradley Center. With raucous fans wearing black Bucks giveaway T-shirts to match the players' uniforms, Milwaukee put on a dominating display of basketball worthy of the team's "Fear the Deer" slogan. The Raptors looked frazzled after shooting 4 of 18 in the first quarter. Kyle Lowry had 13 points. — AP