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SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017

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## BARZANI HAILS KUWAITIS' UNITY DURING INVASION

KUWAIT PLAYS INTEGRAL ROLE WITHIN REGION, WORLD: ZEBARI



Min 28°  
Max 46°  
High Tide 07:44 & 22:10  
Low Tide 01:35 & 03:50

### S&P MAINTAINS KUWAIT RATING, OUTLOOK STABLE

KUWAIT: S&P Global has maintained Kuwait's credit rating at AA with a stable outlook. On its website late Friday, the rating agency said the stable outlook reflected its expectation that Kuwait's public and external balance sheets will remain strong over the forecast horizon, backed by a significant stock of financial assets. Its report said that Kuwait's internal and external financial positions are expected to have a strong future economic outlook backed by huge financial assets.

The sharp fall in oil prices since 2014 has caused a significant deterioration in Kuwait's income levels - as measured by GDP per capita - as well as in its fiscal and external metrics, as has happened with other large oil exporters. However, the creation of large fiscal and external assets via the transfer of past oil windfalls has afforded Kuwaiti policymakers the space to counter slowing growth by increased spending, particularly on infrastructure projects.

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IRBIL: A Kuwaiti delegation of journalists and media figures meets President of the Iraqi Kurdistan region Masoud Barzani. — KUNA

IRBIL: The Kuwaiti people set a remarkable example of national unity during the 1990 invasion, said President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region Masoud Barzani. His statement came while receiving a delegation of Kuwaiti journalists and media figures, where he extolled strong ties between the autonomous region and Kuwait, underlining that Kuwaiti humanitarian aid to the region has highly contributed in alleviating suffering of the displaced, as well as lessening the burden off local authorities.

On the referendum slated for next September, Barzani played down fears suggesting that the move will be received as a "great danger" threatening the region, recapitulating at the same time that the current situation would do so. Neighboring countries should not fear the referendum, as Iraq's Kurdistan - throughout the last 26 years - proved to be a factor of stability in the region, and it will continue to be so, which would boost economic and political ties even further, he noted. Both Iran and Turkey oppose holding the referendum slated for Sept 25 to determine the region's independence from Iraq.

Yet, according to Barzani, the United States did not oppose the move, but has shown some reservation, saying it was "not the right time" to hold it. He broke down the history between the people of Kurdistan and successive Iraqi governments into two major phases - from 1920 to 2003 and from 2003 (the ousting of Saddam Hussein) until now.

Continued on Page 2

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**IRBIL:** The Kuwaiti delegation of journalists and media figures meets with President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region Masoud Barzani.



The Kuwaiti delegation of journalists and media figures meets with former Foreign Minister of Iraq Hoshiyar Zebari.



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan meets President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region Masoud Barzani (left) and former Foreign Minister of Iraq Hoshiyar Zebari (right).



Kuwaiti General Consul to the Kurdistan Region Omar Al-Kanderi hands President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region Masoud Barzani a copy of a film documenting Kuwait's relief aid efforts in the region.



President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region Masoud Barzani meets with Deputy Director General for Editorial Affairs and Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait News Agency Saad Al-Ali.

## BARZANI HAILS KUWAITIS' UNITY DURING INVASION

Continued from Page 1

The people of Kurdistan were never seen as partners, for the simple fact that it refuses to be a follower, or excluded for that matter, Barzani noted. This is why we need to be good neighbors in order to prevent bigger problems to arise, he said. On the current security situation in recently-liberated Mosul, Kurdistan's largest city, Barzani said if it was not for the Peshmerga (Kurdistan's military), the legacy of the so-called Islamic State (IS) would have never been destroyed. On July 10, Iraq announced the liberation of Mosul from the grip of IS.

**Strong presence**  
On the account of its strong presence within the political and humanitarian spheres, Kuwait is playing an integral role within the regional and international domains, said former Foreign Minister of Iraq Hoshiyar Zebari on Friday. Speaking to the delegation of Kuwaiti journalists and media personnel, Zebari lauded the strong ties linking Kuwait and Iraq, affirming that Kuwaiti humanitarian contributions, especially in the Kurdistan region, were strongly admired and respected.

Zebari said that his meeting with the Kuwaiti delegation focused on the political situation in Iraq, in addition to

recent developments in the region. Zebari took the chance to laud the relations between Kuwait and Iraq's Kurdistan, saying that the two sides were eager to boost relations in the future. The former Iraqi foreign minister lauded HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts to resolve regional disputes, especially the current one pitting several GCC countries plus Egypt against Qatar. HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah is respected by several Arab and world countries, and his role in trying to end the conflict is well appreciated, said Zebari.

Meanwhile, Zebari touched on the planned referendum by the Kurdistan region on Sept 25, which will ask people

whether they would rather separate from Iraq or stay within a federal Iraqi system. The official affirmed that the Kurdistan region would carry on with its planned referendum despite the objection of several countries including the US, Iran, Turkey, and others. The procedure will not affect efforts to battle IS, he stressed.

The Kuwaiti media delegation consists of several senior journalists and chief editors, including Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan and KUNA's Deputy Director General for Editorial Affairs and Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali. The delegation began its visit to Irbil on Aug 3. —KUNA

## WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF KUWAITI RELIEF EFFORTS

**KUWAIT:** Living up to its status as a humanitarian center, Kuwait continued its relief action and campaigns to all those in need in the Middle East region and beyond throughout the just-ended week. On Sunday, Kuwaiti Embassy in Tanzania celebrated the installation of six new water wells in two villages in Tanzania; this takes the total number of Kuwait-funded wells in the African country to 35. The wells are part of the 'water well for each school' initiative launched by Kuwait Embassy in Tanzania and funded by a number of Kuwaiti bodies and charities. Ambassador to Tanzania Jassem Al-Najem stressed Kuwait's keenness on providing life-saving assistance, education, healthcare, clean water to all countries in need. Najem praised Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS)'s humanitarian actions and continued cooperation with the embassy in Tanzania, which resulted in inaugurating 16 wells in a number of schools in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in collaboration with other Kuwaiti humanitarian bodies.

On Sunday as well, a Kuwaiti charity kicked off a humanitarian initiative to support development in Jerusalem's sacrosanct Al-Aqsa mosque. Chairman of Kuwait's International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Dr Abdullah Al-Matouq hailed the endeavor as an effort to protect holy Islamic sites and to tackle unemployment through providing jobs. He revealed that the campaign was comprised of projects that run the gamut from educational and food aid to infrastructure and healthcare development, saying Kuwait "deplores Israel's wanton attacks on our Palestinian brothers."

Matouq, who is also the UN's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs and advisor to Kuwait's Amiri Diwan, lamented the fact that around 82 percent of Palestinians in Jerusalem live below the poverty line. He stressed that coming to the aid of the Palestinian people was both a humanitarian and religious obligation.

### Jerusalem

On Monday, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) offered food parcels to Jerusalemites stationed at the gates of the city since the beginning of Al-Aqsa crisis, KRCS Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas said. Barjas added that KRCS has been of great support to the Palestinian people in various humanitarian relief aspects. The meals and cold drinks were offered to the Palestinians stationed at Al-Aqsa Mosque gates on a daily basis, as the meals reached 5,000. Kuwait has offered such aid to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people after Israel's installment of electronic doors on Al-Aqsa Holy Mosque and the series of restrictions on worshippers, she said. On Wednesday, Kuwait has delivered medical equipment worth \$145,000

to a cardiac center in the eastern African nation of Tanzania. Tanzania's Minister of Health and Community Development Ummu Mwalim received the medical supplies that will be used to equip an operating room in a cardiac center, read a statement Kuwait's embassy in Tanzania. The medical aid would help prop up the impoverished nation's ailing healthcare sector, where one out every 100 children is affected by a heart disorder, Kuwait's Ambassador to Tanzania Jassem Al-Najem revealed. Addressing a ceremony where the supplies were delivered, Mwalim thanked Kuwait for the aid, saying that the new equipment would ultimately help save more lives.

### Syrian refugees

On Thursday, some 28 trainees have successfully completed the first "psychological counseling" program organized by the "Tarahom" (compassion) of Kuwait's International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) aiming to help the Syrian refugees in Jordan. The graduation ceremony was held in Amman, attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to the Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij, head of Tarahom Nasser Al-Bassam, the general supervisor of the IICO office in the Kingdom Khalil Hamad and representatives from the Jordanian Islamic Charity Center Society.

The huge effects of the conflict in Syria have prompted the training program to prepare specialists in relief and psychological treatment of the Syrian refugees, envoy Hamad told KUNA on the sidelines of the event. Since the eruption of the Syrian crisis, the Kuwaiti official and popular agencies have been providing due financial and spiritual aid to the Syrian refugees, in line with the noble directives of the Kuwaiti higher leadership to pay utmost attention to the issue, he added. Tarahom's adoption of the program has been motivated by a desire to share the "Syrian brothers" their plight, and offering them psychological assistance, Bassam said. The psychological counseling training program is among the team's major projects in Jordan, he noted.

Meanwhile, head of the psychological support and the general supervisor of the programs Dr Othman Al-Asfour, said that during the five-month training covered how to handle psychological crises. There are many Syrian refugees who are suffering psychological setbacks due to the war at home and the ensued sever impacts on them, Asfour said. Board Chairman of the Jordanian Islamic Charity Center Society Dr Jameel Al-Duissat, lauded Kuwait's "fruitful" cooperation for providing the spiritual support to the Syrian refugees through dispatching psychology specialists and academics to the Kingdom. —KUNA

## NOUFEXPO ORGANIZES 1ST CONSULTING SERVICES FOR GOVERNMENTAL PROJECTS FORUM (ENCON1) 'THE 2035 PLAN WILL HELP KUWAIT BECOME AN ADVANCED COUNTRY'

**KUWAIT:** Engineer Bader Al-Salman - President of the Federation of Kuwaiti Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses welcomed the convening of the first Consulting Services for Governmental Projects Forum under the motto of 'Towards Professional and Transparent Consulting Services.'

Salman said in a press release yesterday that he is delighted with the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, of the event that will be organized by NoufEXPO at Al-Baraka Ballroom of Crowne Plaza hotel from 17 to 19 September 2017. He was also delighted to announce that 'ENCON1' will be inaugurated by Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs.

### Development plan

Salman said that ENCON1 will discuss Kuwait's development plan of 2035 and how consulting services can be leveraged to form the strong base upon which the projects of the plan can be, professionally, executed throughout all phases. He added, "The patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister and the inauguration of Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdulla represent a much welcomed and needed support that will help us boost our efficiency, productivity, and governance frameworks while executing projects. This will, definitely, improve the level of professionalism and transparency that the Federation of Kuwaiti Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses strives to achieve."

Salman added, "Consulting services represent the corner stone for all projects regardless of their classification or size. These services are the first building block upon which all other phases are built. More professional and more transparent consulting services help us execute projects successfully according to their specifications, within allocated budgets, and within assigned timeframes. ENCON1's motto of "Towards Professional and Transparent Consulting Services" confirms that these values should govern projects' life cycle throughout in order to achieve the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah A-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to brand Kuwait a global financial and trade center."

### Course of action

Commenting on ENCON1 proceedings, "Kuwait's 2035 Plan is the course of action



His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah



Hind Subaih Barrak Al-Subaih

needed to secure Kuwait's progress and prosperity. The Central Agency for Public Tenders will make sure that all the Plan's projects are executed with the highest standards of professionalism and transparency. It is, no doubt, a critical responsibility the Agency carries out led by Abdullah Saud Al-Abdulrazzak, the Chairman of the Board, and Haya Al-Wadaani, the Secretary General. The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development will detail Kuwait's 2035 plan and the many investment opportunities it will make available for years. The Supreme Council has been working hard to deliver this magnificent plan supported by Hind Subaih Barrak Al-Subaih, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs, and Khaled Mahdi, the Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the supreme Council for Planning and Development."

He added, "ENCON1's objectives and topics responds to the guarantees and assurances that local and foreign investors seek, especially the members of Kuwaiti Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses with their diverse specialties spanning consulting services, project management, and economic and financial services. The private sector is invited to lead Kuwait's economic development by encouraging competitiveness and improving efficiency benefiting from a genuine governmental support. All this should be accomplished while preserving Kuwait's social values, achieving human resources development and balanced growth; developing mandatory fit infrastructure, and setting necessary legislations and regulations. ENCON1 will have its impact on improving professional qualifications, enforcing transparency values, and exhibiting best techni-

cal practices to lead Kuwait's development plans in this highly competitive, globally open, and digitally driven market."

### Event's program

Salman outlined ENCON1's program. He said that the event will feature panel discussions with participation of leaderships from the Central Agency for Public Tenders, the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, audit organizations such as State Audit Bureau and the Department of Legal Advice and Legislation, and the United Nations Development Program. Improving and shortening the documentary and business cycle will be among the hot topics. Technical sessions will be delivered by specialized companies presenting their views on design, supervision, and project management practices of both engineering and administrative aspects of projects. Finally, ENCON1 will feature informative workshops that will discuss the documentary cycle of projects and variation orders of consulting contracts.

In conclusion, Salman extended his invitation to engineering offices and consulting firms, as well as forms specialized in administrative, economic, or financial services to participate effectively at this first round of ENCON1. He also invited consultants, engineering information systems analysts, project management specialists, and audit and governance specialists to benefit from this important event. He emphasized the excellent business development and networking opportunity that ENCON1's accompanying exhibition will provide to sponsoring companies where they will be able to showcase their specialized services and technologies. Salman invited all interested sponsors, organizations, and individuals to contact the organizing company, NoufEXPO on their phone number +965 22469921. They can also send their inquiries to info@noufexpo.com.kw, or visit ENCON1 website at www.noufexpo.com.kw/encon1. The Federation of Kuwaiti Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses may be also contacted on +965 22420482 or website www.oiaec.com.

Local spotlight

HEALTHCARE IN KUWAIT



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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For several years, expats in Kuwait have been paying about KD 50 to health insurance companies for every year of their residencies. However, expatriates cannot renew their residencies unless they pay the health insurance fees, so they wonder where all this money goes and what do they get in return? They also pay for healthcare services at hospitals, which raises a big question among expatriates about the benefit of paying in advance.

Now the health ministry decided to increase health service fees for expatriates from October 1, especially with the near-completion of the health insurance hospital project, which will launch in 2018. The annual health guarantee paid by the expatriates will remain unchanged until 2020. Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi approved the implementation of new fees from October, but the ministry did not add new charges for health insurance for expatriates, which is between KD 30 and KD 50. The new list will include some exemptions.

Health insurance centers and hospitals are expected to serve more than 1.8 million expatriates working in the private sector, which will reduce the pressure on the facilities of the ministry and contribute to improving the level of medical services. The problem here is not with the desire of the health ministry to cooperate with health insurance companies or others, but with those who are under fixed salaries and families who are affected even without any change in the old fees, aside from the high cost of living and school fees.

Such regulations will only lead to some families quitting Kuwait, leaving the fathers behind alone. The presence of families in the country stimulates the local economy, because it leads the expatriate to spend his salary in the country. He will now have to spend more to provide health services for his wife and children but with no change to his salary. It would have been better to find out the opinion of expats from various categories before issuing decisions that make them feel confused and worried. Expatriates are forced to pay extra fees for x-rays, surgery and medicine, so what is the use of insurance which they paid for?

There are fundamental differences in the issue of health insurance for expatriates - for example, those who receive a salary of more than KD 3,000 are not the same as those who receive KD 200 per month. The former will not be harmed if he pays any increase in health insurance, but the latter will surely be affected badly.

In 2015, a proposal was made by a committee of the Supreme Planning Council, which I think could work out if the Ministry of Health (MoH) had a strategy similar to the rest of the GCC on the medical treatment of expats. The proposal suggested canceling health insurance for expatriates and treating them in private hospitals through insurance companies. This system is highly effective in the UAE.

But the main obstacle in Kuwait was that there are no private hospitals that are able to accommodate the large number of expats in Kuwait - around 2.7 million. So, they adopted the solution of segregating clinics and distributing patients in the morning and evening periods.

The problem in the health sector is that even the idea of completing a hospital takes many years, followed by the issues of medical equipment and employment. Therefore, talk about any development and modification should not be based on who pays the fees and who does not. Quantitative and qualitative studies should be applied before issuing any new law or regulation.

EXPATS REACT TO NEW HEALTH FEES

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The recent decision by the Health Ministry approving an increase in fees for healthcare services in the public sector for foreign residents and visitors was shocking news for many expats, who already face difficult living conditions in the country.

Murad, 55, cautioned against the effects of this decision. "This will have a negative impact on the country, as families will leave Kuwait for their home countries and only bachelors will remain here. The demography of the country will be similar to what it was in the 1960s or early 1990s," he told Kuwait Times. "My salary hasn't increased, while prices are rising. Prices of commodities, rent and also fuel went up last year, and recently of electricity as well. Now they want to increase healthcare fees in the public sector, which is really ridiculous," he fumed.

Mazen is also against such an

increase, but admits he has no control over it. "Since we pay medical insurance, why should we pay additional fees for healthcare services? We are used to facing tough situations, oppression and dealing with difficulties, as we have lost our home country," he noted.

Hani suggested changing the health insurance system. "Since new fees will come into effect, the annual health insurance of KD 50 should be optional instead of obligatory. Everybody should be free to choose either the old fees and paying the obligatory insurance, or the new higher fees and not paying any annual insurance. This is more acceptable," he stated.

The new fees are OK for Abdullahif, but with conditions. "If it's a must for the health ministry to increase the fees for medical services, so be it, provided that these services are improved and are of the best quality that can be presented. And hopefully,

squandering of funds will be eliminated in all departments of the ministry," he said.

Huda said although this decision is unpleasant for her, it may bring some benefits. "When the fees will increase, many people who were going to the hospital for very minor ailments will stop doing so, so the waiting time will be shorter," she said.

Manal believes this decision is in favor of the private sector. "I don't think these new fees are fair, as they are similar to fees in private clinics. People go to public hospitals as they don't have money and can't afford it, so this decision is oppressive. This decision is not against expats to force them to leave, but to encourage people to go to private hospitals. I won't be affected by this decision as I have insurance from my company. But it will affect my mother, who already has to wait in the queue for five hours, and she will even have to pay more," she rued.

INVESTMENT AUTHORITY SELLS ITS AREVA STAKE

KUWAIT: The Public Investment Authority (PIA) has sold its share, 4.8 percent, in the French energy company Areva to the French Government at a value of euro 83 million (\$97.7 million), the PIA said in a statement yesterday. Despite losses in the PIA investments in Areva, the authority has succeeded in posting KD 45.2 billion (approx. \$149 billion) worth of net profits for the period from 2010-2011 to 2016-2017, during which it invested in the French company. This asserted PIA's keenness on diversifying investments to make profits without being affected by losses in a single investment.

The PIA attributed its losses in Avera, specialized in nuclear power and renewable energy, to repercussions of the 2011 tsunami that hit Japan, namely the catastrophic destruction of the Fukushima nuclear reactor.

The authority started investing in Avera on December 28, 2010, purchasing 4.8 percent stake of the company's euro 600 million (\$706.5 million) capital. But after deterioration of investments in the nuclear energy due to disasters, the authority sought to withdraw from the company since 2014. The PIA reached a deal with the French Government to sell its stake, the statement said, noting that it could not do so through the bourse because trading on Areva stocks was quite limited. —KUNA

REPORTS ABOUT STORMING MOSQUE IN SHARQ ARE GROUNDLESS: INTERIOR MINISTRY MEASURES TO ARREST FUGITIVES COVER THE WHOLE COUNTRY

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior has dismissed as "totally untrue" reports circulated on social media about a special forces' raid on a mosque in Sharq district of Kuwait City and the detention of one person. Neither the mosque was stormed, nor a person was detained, the ministry's Public Relations and Security Media Department stressed in a press statement Friday. It clarified that a security team had visited the mosque after coordination with the official in charge there to examine precautionary measures applied to guarantee the safety of worshippers.

Both the precautionary measures and security visits are part of a plan to maintain the security of all state facilities and worshiping places across the country, it added. The statement said that the ministry's Undersecretary Gen Mahmoud Al-Dosari had paid similar regular inspection visits to similar places. The ministry urged people to give no heed to these fabricated news and rumors which are meant to stir up a disturbance. It added that the ministry is ready to respond to any queries over the matter in a transparent manner.

Security measures

The Interior Ministry had announced on Thursday that pre-emptive security measures, including deployment of police patrols and several checkpoints, have been taken to bring to justice fugitives and criminals who are wanted for justice in relations to criminal, civilian, etc cases.

In a press statement, the ministry said the adopted security measures cover the state's six governorates and do not focus on a certain area. It added that the ministry would forge ahead with shouldering its

responsibilities and carrying out its duties in accordance to a comprehensive security plan to which all the ministry departments are contributing.

The ministry urged citizenry and residents to cooperate with security people and carry with their IDs and personal documents. It stressed that the measures aim to maintain the country's security and people's safety. It called on all people to refrain from circulating inaccurate information, adding that it is ready to respond to any query. —KUNA



OVER 175 KG OF DRUGS SEIZED IN THREE MONTHS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Major General Khalid Al-Dayeen warned against the dangers of drugs as it threatens the country's safety, social stability and the youth. He said that officers from the Drugs Control General Department, a subdivision of the Criminal Security Department, were able during the second quarter of this year (April, May and June) to confiscate 9.16 kg of shabu (methamphetamine), 3.13 kg of heroin, 148 kg of hashish, seven kg of marijuana, seven kg of chemical (synthetic marijuana with added chemicals), one kg of opium, 177,000 psycho-active tablets in addition to 5,500 imported liquor bottles.

Restaurant fire

Fire broke out in a Fahaheel restaurant after a gas cylinder exploded, injuring three people. Firemen from Fahaheel fire station responded and put

out the fire. The three injured people were treated on site.

Municipality crackdowns

Farwaniya Municipality carried out inspection campaigns on Khaitan and Farwaiya restaurants. The crackdowns resulted in issuing 13 citations for violations varying between dealing with material that have no nutritional value lists printed on them, dealing with foodstuff that is unfit for human consumption and failure to comply with general hygiene regulations. Meanwhile, Hawally Municipality said its inspectors destroyed five tons and 425 kg of food unfit for human consumption during their inspection on a coop society's warehouse. In the meantime, Farwaniya Municipality's general cleanliness and road occupancy department carried out a field campaign on random markets in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. The campaign resulted in removing 266 cubic meters of various items and issuing four citations for roaming vendors.



Kuwait Times

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**KUWAIT:** Minister of Commerce and Industry, Acting Minister of Youth Affairs Khalid Al-Roudhan awards the winning team at the conclusion of the second annual Women's Football Tournament organized by the Public Authority for Sports last June. (Right) A local team poses with their silver medals after finishing second in a local basketball tournament. — KUNA

# KUWAIT'S WOMEN SPORTS: CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENTS



**Members of the Kuwait women's football team practice at the Jaber Stadium.**

**KUWAIT:** Women sports in Kuwait had seen developments on different levels, as some women were able to represent their country in various international tournaments. Despite these developments, this section of sports needs more attention and support from the government, allowing women to officially engage in sports events rather than rely on their personal efforts.

As part of the government's efforts to boost women sports, Kuwait launched the GCC Ladies Olympics in 2008 at Al-Qadsiya Club. The tournament involved table tennis, basketball, shooting, taekwondo and athletics back then, while the types of participating games reached 12 by now.

### Obstacles

Chairperson of Kuwait Women Sport Federation and head of the GCC Women Sport Committee Sheikha Naima Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah noted yesterday that women sport was launched in the 1970s by Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who promoted the idea by

forming ladies' basketball and volleyball teams. The lack of women sports clubs in the country, where Al-Fatat Women Sports Club was the only place available for girls back then, played a role in preventing the expansion of women sports, Sheikha Naima, also

head of the West Asia Football Federation's (WAFF) Women's Committee said. She added that the society's negative views on women sports also took part in the slow development of women sports. Speaking of upcoming tournaments, the chairperson said Kuwait is set to

hold the GCC women sports tournament for the second time in April 2019. Kuwait will also organize a local sports league for girls' teams from Al-Fatat Women Sports Club, Al-Oyoun Club and Salwa Club. Meanwhile, she noted that the Kuwaiti team would take part in the

fourth Arab Women Sports Tournament set for February 2018 in Sharjah.

### On all levels

Chairperson of Al-Fatat Women Sports Club Sheikha Fariha Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said the club is working on developing the athletes' personalities and skills on all levels, to enable them to participate in regional and international events. Meanwhile, chairperson of the women's sports committee and member of the board of Kuwait Olympic Committee Fatima Hayat noted that the committee has set a thorough plan to boost women sports in the country.

The plan includes developing all sections of this field in cooperation with the Public Authority for Sports and forming a national football team to take part in the 2024 World Cup qualifying rounds. Moreover, it will involve launching a campaign to bring awareness towards the importance of women sports and exert efforts to change society's negative ideas on the matter, she added. — KUNA



**A member of Kuwait's national handball team shoots the ball during a match against the United Arab Emirates.**



**Female athletes participate in a practice session.**



**Kuwait's women football team participate in a training session.**



**Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi meets with the executive leadership of Georgetown University Hospital.**



## KUWAIT'S HEALTH MINISTER VISITS GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

### DR HARBI MEETS KUWAITI PATIENTS

**WASHINGTON:** Kuwait's Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi visited Friday Georgetown University Hospital during which he met with the executive leadership of the hospital and met with Kuwaiti patients undergoing treatment there.

During his visit, Dr Al-Harbi was given a presentation of the different services the hospital offers in its different departments and discussed means to further enhance the cooperation and future collaboration. A reception was also held at the hospital in honor of Dr Harbi, during which he followed up on the treatment progress of Kuwaiti patients and listened to a detailed explanation of their treatment and recovery plans.

Dr Harbi stressed the importance of his visit to Georgetown University Hospital, saying he got a "very positive feedback from our patients here, where they are very happy not only from the treatment they are receiving but also the

psychological treatment especially cancer patients with a tumor who need psychological support." He added "we also discussed (with the hospital's executive leadership) the exchange of expertise," for Kuwaiti doctors to come here and also for doctors from this hospital to visit Kuwait, as well as nurses "which is of great importance to enhance and improve the quality in this regard especially in the intensive care units." Other issues discussed included "ways to improve hospitals management, research and the Electronic Medical Record (EMR)," he noted.

Minister Harbi shed light on the mega hospitals that will inaugurate in Kuwait in the near future which are Jaber Hospital and Al-Jahraa Hospital, saying "we invited a team from the Georgetown University Hospital to visit Kuwait and visit these hospitals," and that this reflects "the very good cooperation between the Kuwait Healthy Ministry and the Hospital."



For his part, President of Georgetown University Hospital Michael Sachtleben said "we are so honored to have the Minister here today." He added "we are very proud of the care that we provide here and so thankful to the Minister and the Kuwaiti people for entrusting us with the care of their patients from the youngest to the oldest."

"Today was a wonderful opportunity for us to say thank you for that opportunity," he remarked. He affirmed "we value our relationship with Kuwait and we look forward to exploring other opportunities and areas where we can continue to move forward in our journey to provide safe, high quality care in partnership with the Kuwaiti people." The Kuwaiti Health Minister was accompanied during his visit to the Hospital by his accompanying delegation, the Head of the Kuwait Health Office in Washington DC Dr Ali El-Enizi and Health Attache Dr Khaled Abdulghani. — KUNA



**WASHINGTON:** Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi meets with some Kuwaiti patients undergoing treatment at Georgetown University Hospital. — KUNA

In Brief

ENVOY ATTENDS IRANIAN PRESIDENT'S INAUGURATION

TEHRAN: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Advisor at Amiri Diwan Yousef Hamad Al-Ibrahim attended a ceremony yesterday in Tehran, Iran, where President Hassan Rouhani took the oath of office for his second term of presidency. — KUNA



NAVY DRILLS PLANNED

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Naval Force is set to carry out live ammunition exercises today and tomorrow, from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm, the Defense Ministry said on Friday. The shooting range will be 16.5 nautical miles east of Ras Al-Jula'ia to Qaruh Island, and six nautical miles east of Ras Azzour to Umm Al-Maradem island, the ministry added a statement. The ministry urges sea-goers to steer clear of the area during the period of the drills just for their own safety. — KUNA



OIL PRICE DOWN

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil barrel dropped 38 cents reaching \$48.77 per barrel on Friday, compared to \$49.15 pb on Thursday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. Meanwhile, prices rose in the international markets yesterday, affected by positive US reports on the rise of demand for energy. West Texas crude went up 43 cents reaching \$49.46 pb, while Brent crude future contracts rose 39 cents to reach \$52.40 pb. — KUNA



Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: Heads of freshly caught hamour (grouper) fish displayed at the main fish market in Sharq yesterday. People buy the fish heads to be used in making traditional stew dishes. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KIB HOSTS KUWAIT CENTRAL BLOOD BANK'S MOBILE UNIT

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently organized its annual blood donation campaign for its staff, hosting the Kuwait Central Blood Bank's mobile unit for a one-day blood drive at its head office. The initiative came as part of the bank's ongoing humanitarian efforts to promote general well-being across society, as it continues to encourage its employees to take an active role in giving back to their community whilst also promoting a health-conscious culture internally.

The blood donation campaign has become an annual tradition and a landmark component of KIB's social responsibility program, reflecting the bank's continuous commitment towards its local community.

Within this context, KIB has always sought to play an active role on the national landscape, not only as a financial institution, but as a socially-conscious corporate citizen as well.

"At KIB, we strongly believe in coming together to help people in need across the local community. We hope that by encouraging our employees to donate blood, we can also inspire others to contribute to this

cause that can truly make a difference," commented Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB.

"By cooperating with the Central Blood Bank, we managed to provide donations that will go towards filling gaps in the supply of certain blood types, which in turn can help save the lives of many in need.

With this campaign, we also sought to provide our employees with an opportunity to donate blood, given its many health benefits."

Najia pointed out that the one-day event managed to attract an impressive turnout of volunteers from amongst KIB staff, lauding their efforts and their strong commitment to the bank's social responsibility program and playing an active role in their community.

It serves to note that KIB is always keen on organizing a myriad of community-based social and humanitarian initiatives, under the umbrella of the bank's all-encompassing social responsibility strategy, as well as its belief in its humanitarian responsibility to serve all segments of the community.

NEW INSURANCE FEES TO BE WITHIN CITIZENS' BUDGET

LAWMAKER WANTS SOCIETIES' LICENSES REVOKED

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The legal committee formed to restudy the new insurance law completed the final draft of the proposed law, and it is expected the National Assembly will approve it before the end of the year. The new law will be the launchpad for regulating Kuwait's insurance market 55 years after the current law was issued in 1961. The new law keeps fees and commissions within the citizen's budget, while presenting new quality services that take into account variables in the market. Government statistics show there are 11 conventional insurance companies and 14 takaful companies, besides 10 foreign and Arab companies and one re-insurance firm. There are 94 brokering companies, and 64 branches.

Resignations

Educational statistics show the number of employees who resigned from the education ministry or were sent to retirement during the past seven years reached 14,915 persons from all education areas. The stats show that 53 percent of those who resigned during this period include 7,824 teachers and administrators, and 47 percent are non-Kuwaitis (7,091).

Social reform

MP Safaa Al-Hashim said revoking the license of the Social Reform Society and the Cultural Society is a national demand. She said on her Twitter account: "All our troubles came through these societies!" She said that as long as these societies mix religion with politics, "we will not be safe". MP Jamaan Al-Harbash slammed the incitement against the Social Reform Society and Cultural Society.

Entertainment City

Touristic Enterprises Company CEO

Abdelwahab Al-Marzouq sent a letter to Kuwait Municipality with regards to developing and expanding the new Entertainment City project. Marzouq detailed the budget of licensing and construction areas of all elements of the project along with the technical and financial study.

The works will be in three stages; Dec 2021: Receiving the main Entertainment City complex along with a 3-star hotel; Dec 2022: Receiving the water games park along with 4- and 5-star hotel; and in 2023, a 5-star hotel, in addition to the marine works.

Gas stations

Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq said Kuwait National Petroleum Company is working hard to have gas stations all over the country to present their services to all motorists, adding that 12 locations were allocated lately in Jahra and Farwaniya governorates.

JUSTICE MINISTER PROVIDES DIGITAL SERVICE IN ALL AREAS

KUWAIT: Information about legal cases will be available via special electronic devices, to be set up in all Kuwaiti districts soon, the Minister of Justice said.

A single apparatus is already operating on testing basis at the documentation department (block 15) at the ministries' complex in Al-Assima (the capital), said Dr Faleh Al-Azb, also Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, in a statement yesterday.

The self-service information terminals' project, currently under execution, aims to enable citizens and expatriates have easy



Dr Faleh Al-Azb

access to information about legal cases, arrest warrants and travel ban orders. Minister Azb indicated that the new service would be part of a package of digital projects and services to be launched in the near future.

The terminals, to be established at all the ministry's buildings, will provide information about libel cases, he said indicating that the next phases of the

project would feature services for lawyers and companies, possibility to pay fines and fees with maximum security. — KUNA

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, a global producer of petrochemicals, announced its partnership with Omniya in an aim to protect the environment and reduce waste by promoting the recycling of plastic water bottles in Kuwait.

EQUATE's Senior Executive of Corporate Communications and Government Affairs Dr Abeer Sulaiman Al-Omar: "Sustainability, which includes the environment, is a core element at EQUATE, and we always seek opportunities that would support our efforts. Along those lines, we have developed EQUATE's Sustainability Strategy, to be fulfilled by 2025, which is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Kuwait National Development Plan 2035. Our partnerships with different stakeholders are key elements to achieve this strategy to ensure overall sustainability in Kuwait and with global reach." In parallel, the General Manager of Omniya's PET1 Recycling Factory, Farah Shabaan, said: "On behalf of Omniya we would like to thank EQUATE for their trust and support in this project."

Dr Abeer Al-Omar



positive impact on the environment. This partnership encourages utilizing the complete lifecycle of plastics, such as bottles, which would reduce waste and support different business sectors."

This joint initiative commenced in the beginning of 2017 by placing PET recycling containers at EQUATE's headquarters and industrial com-

plex to encourage all employees to participate in the recycling efforts. Additionally, EQUATE sponsored the purchase of a truck to pick-up recycled material throughout Kuwait, as well as 10 recycling bottle booths that are currently distributed across the country to encourage the public to recycle plastic bottles.

KUWAITIS ACCOUNT FOR 2 PERCENT OF ISTANBUL VISITORS IN 2017: REPORTS

ANKARA: Kuwaitis made up two percent of total visitors to Turkey's cosmopolitan city of Istanbul in the first half of this year, according to official statistics. Around 4.38 million foreign tourists visited Istanbul in the first half of 2017, a one percent decline from a year earlier, while the number of Arab visitors had risen by 22 percent as compared to

last year, reports showed. Meanwhile, German holidaymakers top the list of visitors to Istanbul with 9.2 percent, followed by Iranians with 7.7 percent and Russians, who make up 4.6 percent. Istanbul has lost around 26 percent of tourists over the past year, the sharpest decline in the number of visitors since the year 2000. — KUNA



'Lucifer' heat wave keeps parts of EU in red alert

CHINA UPS THE ANTE IN STANDOFF WITH INDIA

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ISLAMABAD: This photograph taken on July 19, 2017, a Pakistani visitor takes a photograph in front of historical pictures of Hindu and Muslim leaders seeking independence from British rule at the Pakistan Monument Museum. — AFP

**PARTITION KEY BATTLEGROUND IN TEXTBOOK WARS**

INDIAN AND PAKISTANI SCHOOLS UNABLE TO CONFRONT BITTER LEGACY OF SPLIT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani high school student Noman Afzal knows "traitorous" Hindus are to blame for the bloodshed that erupted when British India split into two nations 70 years ago. His history textbook tells him so. Students across the border in India are taught a starkly different version of events, the result of a decades-long effort by the nuclear-armed rivals to shape and control history to their own nationalistic narrative.

The official unwillingness to confront the bitter legacy of Partition and the skewed portrayals being peddled in classrooms from New Delhi to Karachi is hindering any hope of reconciliation between the arch-rivals, experts say. August marks 70 years since the subcontinent was divided into two independent states-Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan — and millions were uprooted in one of the largest mass migrations in history.

An untold number of people—some estimates say up to two million—died in the savage violence that followed, as Hindus and Muslims fleeing for their new homelands

turned on one another, raping and butchering in genocidal retribution. The carnage sowed the seeds for the acrimony that prevails today between India and Pakistan, and generations later this defining moment in the subcontinent's history is still polarized by nationalism and rancor.

In a government-approved grade five history textbook used in schools in Pakistan's Baluchistan province, Hindus are described as "thugs" who "massacred Muslims, confiscated their property, and forced them to leave India." "They looked down upon us, that is why we created Pakistan," said 17-year-old Afzal from Pakistan's Punjab province, reeling off a stock answer from his history textbook.

On the other side of the border, Mumbai schoolboy Triaksh Mitra learned how Mahatma Gandhi fought for a unified India free from British subjugation while the Muslim League—the political party led by Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah—sided with the colonial rulers to carve out their own nation.

"But what they hadn't really told us was

the Muslim side of it," the 15-year-old said of his Partition studies.

**History kept hidden**

The chapters on Gandhi are a striking example of the gap between how Partition is portrayed on either side of the border. In Pakistan, his contribution to the struggle for independence is hardly mentioned, whereas in India he is hailed as an "one-man army". History teacher Aashish Dhakaan who works in a high school in India's Gujarat state, acknowledged that the creation of the Muslim League was popularly upheld as "self reliance and liberty" in Pakistan, and the folly of "gullible Muslims" in India.

"In our history we won the war, and in their history textbooks, they won the war," said Dhakaan. While the government-sanctioned curriculums on both sides of the border appear largely ossified to their version of history, one Pakistan-based group has been using games and popular culture to challenge students to think critically about their past. Qasim Aslam's "History Project" runs sessions

in schools in India and Pakistan, inviting students to compare how Partition accounts are presented in the two countries' textbooks.

"By the time they are 20, it is solidified and stays with them all their lives," Aslam said of the one-sided history lessons proffered in schools. Mumbai-based student Mitra attended one of these sessions in April. "It helped me to take a different viewpoint into account and to form a more balanced notion," Mitra said. "If I know only one part, then it's not the complete truth." Islamabad-based Pakistan studies professor Tariq Rehman said that correcting bias in the official syllabi "would take a change in foreign policy" between the two countries.

**Small signs of progress**

"Authorities (in Pakistan) don't seem to be interested in making changes and question the antagonism against India," he added. But there are small signs of progress. The latest revision of the state history textbook in India includes graphic first-hand accounts of atrocities committed by Hindus, and asks students if the violence could be considered a holocaust.

A book of testimonies titled "The Other Side of Silence" by Indian writer and Partition historian Urvashi Butalia is now also part of the high school syllabus in India. Butalia said she is pleased that more people are trying to understand Partition beyond a nationalistic prism. "It would have been impossible 20 years ago," she said. But outside the classroom, Butalia says there is little appetite for confronting hard truths about the past.

The author discovered a series of police reports of rapes and murders from 1947 that had been kept hidden because authorities feared "opening up a can of worms" if the horrifying accounts went public. She also points to Humayan's Tomb and Purana Qila—two ancient monuments in New Delhi—where thousands of Partition refugees sought sanctuary as the capital descended into chaos, noting there is no plaque at either site to remind the public of this troubled legacy. "I do not say that silence is broken," she added. "We could learn so much, basically learn never to repeat that history, but we don't memorialize it in any way," she warned. — AFP

**ROUHANI STARTS NEW TERM FACING REFORM CRITICISM**

TEHRAN: Moderate cleric Hassan Rouhani was to be inaugurated for a second term as Iranian president in front of foreign guests yesterday, but already faces criticism for reportedly bowing to conservatives in forming a new government. Among the guests were EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, who has vowed to continue building ties with Iran despite mounting pressure from the United States to keep the Islamic republic isolated.

Meeting with Mogherini before the ceremony in parliament, Rouhani called for greater efforts to uphold the 2015 nuclear deal struck by Tehran and world powers in the face of new US sanctions passed last week. "Repeated breaches of commitments by the US administration... can be destructive," he said, quoted by the official IRNA news agency. "All sides have a heavy responsibility to safeguard this agreement which was achieved by a lot of effort."

Some of Iran's older friends, including Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, also arrived for the ceremony, which came two days

after Rouhani was officially sworn in by the country's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The emir of Qatar, which has fallen out with its Gulf allies in part over ties to Iran, was notably absent despite attending Rouhani's last inauguration in 2013. But among Iranians, the real attention was on who would be named to Rouhani's new cabinet.

**Absence of women**

He has already been barraged with criticism over indications that women would again be entirely absent and that his reformist allies would barely be represented. His last government had three women among a large cohort of vice-presidents, but they lacked ministerial roles that would require approval by parliament. "It was the reformists that allowed him to win the elections in 2013 and 2017... he must listen to those who supported him," Rassoul Montajabnia, of the reformist National Confidence party, told the Arman newspaper.

Rouhani won a convincing victory over

hardline cleric Ebrahim Raisi in the May presidential election, vowing to continue rebuilding ties with the West and easing social restrictions at home. That helped win over the reformists—whose candidates dropped out of the last two elections to ensure his victory. "Rouhani created a lot of expectation and now there is a sense that he is retreating from his promises," said Ali Shakourirad, head of the reformist People's Unity Party. The absence of women was down to pressure from religious conservatives behind the scenes, Shakourirad said. "Rouhani didn't want to make his task any more complicated than it already is," he told AFP. The final line-up is due to be announced in coming days, and must then be approved by parliament.

**Backroom bargaining**

Despite the furor, the reshuffle is not expected to touch big names such as Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Oil Minister Bijan Namadar Zanganeh. "The main



TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, right, meets with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Masum, left, at his office. — AP

ministers are very likely to stay in place," said Henry Smith, Iran analyst with consultancy Control Risks. "Rouhani will have a fairly smooth time getting parliament to approve his appointees. He's been doing back and forth

consultations with the necessary power centers—the parliament speaker, supreme leader, the Revolutionary Guards—and I don't think you'll see a significant change in economic or indeed social policy," he added. — AFP

## UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, OXFORD EMPLOYEE ARRESTED IN MURDER

**CHICAGO:** A Northwestern University professor and a University of Oxford employee wanted in the brutal stabbing death of a Chicago man surrendered peacefully in California and will be returned to Chicago for interrogation, federal and local authorities said. Wyndham Latham, 42, gave himself up late Friday at the Oakland federal building and Andrew Warren, 56, surrendered at about the same time to the San Francisco Police Department, according to Michael McCloud, fugitive taskforce commander with the US Marshals Service.

McCloud said the surrender of the two suspects was "negotiated," although he declined to say how that happened. "We were not in contact with them directly," during the negotiations, he

said. Latham, an associate microbiology professor at Northwestern, was booked into the Alameda County jail. Warren, a Somerville College resident at Oxford University in England, was taken to the San Francisco County Jail. They will appear separately in court before being extradited to Illinois. It was not immediately clear when that would happen.

### 'Biggest mistake of my life'

A manhunt had been underway since shortly after the body of 26-year-old Trenton James Cornell-Duranleau was found riddled with stab wounds on July 27 in Latham's Chicago apartment. "Both individuals will be held accountable for their actions and we hope today's arrest brings some comfort for the victim's fam-

ily," a Chicago police statement said. Police said Latham had sent a video to friends and relatives apologizing for his involvement in the crime, which he called the "biggest mistake of my life." The video raised concern among investigators that Latham might kill himself.

"We are also thankful both men are safely in custody and this did not end in further tragedy," the police statement said. Warren arrived in the United States three days before Cornell-Duranleau's death and was seen in surveillance video leaving the building with Latham the day of the stabbing. McCloud said the US Marshals Service learned on Wednesday that the two men might be in the San Francisco Bay area. At around noon on Friday, he said they received further

information that the two were still in the area. The suspects both surrendered at about 7:30 p.m. local time, he said.

Police said Latham had a personal relationship with Cornell-Duranleau, who moved to Chicago from the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area after receiving his cosmetology license. They are not sure how Cornell-Duranleau or Latham knew Warren, or if Warren knew them before he arrived in the United States.

In a bizarre twist, police said that on the day of the slaying, but before the body had been discovered, Latham and Warren drove about 80 miles northwest to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where one of them made a \$1,000 cash donation to the public library there in Cornell-Duranleau's name. Lake Geneva police

said the man making the donation did not give his name. "I've never seen where suspects in a homicide would make a donation in the victim's name," said Lake Geneva police Lt Edward Gritzner.

On the night of the slaying, police said the front desk of the high-rise building where Latham lived in Chicago's trendy River North neighborhood received an anonymous call from a person who said that a crime had been committed in Latham's 10th floor apartment. When police opened the door they found Cornell-Duranleau's body. He had been stabbed several times in an attack so brutal that police said the knife broke. Police also said that by the time they found the body on the night of July 27, Cornell-Duranleau had been dead for 12-15 hours. —AP



**WASHINGTON:** In this Jan 28, 2017 file photo, US President Donald Trump speaks on the phone with Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Turnbull in the Oval Office of the White House. —AP

## TRUMP BEGINS 17-DAY VACATION AS WASHINGTON TROUBLES BREW

**BEDMINSTER:** Donald Trump, who once asked "what's the point" of vacations and often admonished his presidential predecessor for taking them while in office, embarked Friday on a 17-day holiday to one of his golf resorts. Arriving in Bedminster, New Jersey for an extended break, the president left behind a capital grappling with a Russia scandal and buffeted by extraordinary leaks from government officials.

He has also failed to seize any major legislative victories in his first seven months in office, and is at odds with several Republican lawmakers on multiple fronts. The White House said Trump's Bedminster stay would be a "working vacation," and cited scheduled upgrades of the West Wing's creaky heating and cooling system during the steamy Washington summer as a reason why Trump was leaving town. "The President will continue to work over the next two weeks," said White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters.

A president taking time off from a hectic schedule is nothing new. But Trump's down time is in the spotlight largely because of his relentless criticism of Barack Obama's breaks from the White House. He ripped into Obama in 2011 for playing golf and then heading to a 10-day vacation in Martha's Vineyard. "Nice work ethic," Trump tweeted at the time. "Pres. Obama is about

to embark on a 17 day vacation in his 'native' Hawaii, putting Secret Service away from families on Christmas. Aloha!" Trump posted two years later. Not only did Trump attack Obama, he routinely told supporters he would eschew time off if he were elected because he would be swamped with work. "I would not be a president who took vacations," he said in 2015. "I would not be a president that takes time off."

In late 2012 he tweeted his own apparent aversion to vacations: "What's the point? If you're not enjoying your work, you're in the wrong job." Despite his comments, Trump has taken considerably more time off than Obama in their respective first seven months in office. According to a Washington Post tally, by the end of August Trump will have spent all or part of 53 days at leisure during his presidency, compared with 15 days for Obama through August 2009.

Much of Trump's time off took place at properties bearing his name. At the height of negotiations over health care reform, Trump chided lawmakers by saying he could not imagine "that Congress would dare to leave Washington" without sending a new health care bill to his desk. Trump ultimately failed to successfully broker a deal, the Republican health care reforms collapsed, and Congress shuttered Thursday for its month-long summer recess. —AFP

## SESSIONS VOWS CRACKDOWN ON CLASSIFIED INFORMATION LEAKS

THE NUMBER OF CRIMINAL LEAK PROBES HAS TRIPLED

**WASHINGTON:** Attorney General Jeff Sessions pledged on Friday to rein in government leaks that he said undermine American security, taking an aggressive public stand after being called weak on the matter by President Donald Trump. The nation's top law enforcement official cited no current investigations in which disclosures of information had jeopardized the country, but said the number of criminal leak probes had more than tripled in the early months of the Trump administration. Justice Department officials also said they were reviewing guidelines put in place to make it difficult for the government to subpoena journalists about their sources, and would not rule out the possibility that a reporter could be prosecuted.

"No one is entitled to surreptitiously fight to advance their battles in the media by revealing sensitive government information," Sessions said in an announcement that followed a series of news reports this year on the Trump campaign and White House that have relied on classified information. "No government can be effective when its leaders cannot discuss sensitive matters in confidence or talk freely in confidence with foreign leaders." Media advocacy organizations condemned the announcement, with Bruce Brown, the executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, saying the decision to review existing guidelines was "deeply troubling."

### Lie detector tests

Meanwhile, a White House adviser raised the possibility of lie detector tests for the small number of people in the West Wing and elsewhere with access to transcripts of Trump's phone calls. The Washington Post on Thursday published transcripts of his conversations with the leaders of Mexico and Australia. Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway told "Fox & Friends" that "it's easier to figure out who's leaking than the leakers may realize." And might lie detectors be used? She said: "Well, they may, they may not."

Trump's outbursts against media organizations he derides as "fake news" have led to predictions that his administration will more aggressively try to root out leakers, and the timing of the Justice Department's announcement - one week after the president complained on Twitter that Sessions had been weak on "intel leakers" - raised questions about whether the attorney general's action was aimed at quelling the anger of the man who appointed him. Sessions said in his remarks that his department has more than



**SAN SALVADOR:** In this July 28, 2017 file photo, Attorney General Jeff Sessions speaks. —AP

triple the number of active leaks investigations compared with the number pending when President Barack Obama left office, and the number of referrals to the Justice Department for potential investigation of unauthorized disclosures had "exploded." The Justice Department under Sessions is prosecuting a contractor in Georgia accused of leaking a classified government report to a media organization.

### 'Culture of leaks'

"This nation must end this culture of leaks. We will investigate and seek to bring criminals to justice. We will not allow rogue anonymous sources with security clearances to sell out our country," Sessions said in his remarks. Media organizations also had an often-tense relationship with the Obama administration, whose Justice Department brought more leaks cases than during all previous administrations combined and was criticized for maneuvers seen as needlessly aggressive and intrusive.

That included a secret subpoena of phone records of Associated Press reporters and editors following a 2012 story about a foiled bomb plot, and the labeling of a Fox News journalist as a "co-conspirator" after a report on North Korea. The Justice Department also abandoned a yearslong

effort to force a New York Times journalist to reveal his source in the trial of a former CIA officer who was later found guilty of disclosing classified information.

Following consultation with media lawyers, the Justice Department in 2015 revised its guidelines for leak investigations to require additional levels of approval before a reporter could be subpoenaed, including from the attorney general. But Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said Friday that they were reviewing how the department conducts leak investigations and whether current regulations impose too many hurdles on their work. Rosenstein declined to comment when asked whether the department would rule out prosecuting journalists.

Rosenstein said the department expected to consult with media representatives about possible changes to the regulations, though any efforts to undo protections for journalists or to make it easier to target sources will encounter deep opposition from news organizations. "The current guidelines reflect a great deal of good-faith discussion between the news media and a wide range of interests from within the Department of Justice, including career prosecutors and key non-political personnel," said Brown, of the press freedom group. — AP

## CONGRESS: THERE'S A LOAD OF WORK AWAITING IN AUTUMN

**WASHINGTON:** Congress will have to prove its mettle this fall. It has no choice. Republicans have little to show for their first seven months of controlling the White House and Capitol Hill. The Senate sent Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, and Congress passed bills bolstering veterans' health programs and financing the Food and Drug Administration. It approved another sanctioning Russia for its 2016 election meddling, which President Donald Trump resentfully signed knowing Congress would lopsidedly override a veto. Lawmakers returning from recess after Labor Day will confront a pile of bills they must approve. They'll also face another stack of work they've promised to tackle and that GOP voters elected them to achieve.

### Republicans are in charge

No matter how true that statement might be, they still have to prove they can deliver their promised agenda or accomplish the basics of governing. Congressional leaders recognize this risks blowback in next year's midterm elections. House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told a displeased voter in Mukwonago, Wisconsin, last week, "We've got to get it done." September will give Republicans a chance to complete their responsibilities with minimal fuss. If they deliver a tax cut, GOP thinking goes, much will be forgiven.

### Money

Two must-do items will dominate Congress' September agenda: increasing the government's debt limit to prevent a jarring federal default and passing a temporary spending bill to avert a government shutdown. Many Republicans can't bring themselves to back a debt limit boost. But they run the government, and it's their responsibility to deliver those votes. Democratic support will be required, and some hope they'll win concessions in exchange. A stopgap measure will be needed because the 12 annual spending bills are behind schedule. There's no agreement on their overall price tag, which will be in the \$1 trillion-plus range. One wild card is whether Trump will press to fund the US-Mexico border wall he's pledged. That could spark a nasty confrontation with Democrats.

### Taxes

The White House and Republicans promise to



**WASHINGTON:** Ronnie Pfeiffer, a plumber with the Architect of the Capitol, spreads chlorine pellets in the reflecting pool in Lower Senate Park on Capitol Hill to deter algae growth following recent heavy rains. — AP

revamp the loophole-choked tax code and lower rates for corporations and individuals. Along with repealing and replacing President Barack Obama's health care law, this is holy grail for the GOP. But core principles remain unresolved, including whether the effort would further bloat the budget deficit. Crucial details must be settled, among them how far to lower rates and which tax credits and deductions would be erased. The last time those problems were reconciled and the tax code broadly reshaped was 1986.

### Health care

The GOP's signature disaster so far this year was the Senate's July rejection of attempts by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to eradicate Obama's health care law. Republican divisions proved fatal, and they're split over what comes next. Trump has goaded McConnell to keep trying. Senate leaders have shown little enthusiasm for charging back up that hill without the votes to pass something. "We've pivoted to tax reform and I think we've got to stay on

that," Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said in a brief interview Friday.

Health committee Chairman Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., says he'll work with the panel's top Democrat, Patty Murray of Washington state, to continue billions in payments to insurers for reducing out-of-pocket costs for low- and middle-income customers. In exchange, Alexander wants to relax coverage requirements that protect consumers under Obama's law. It's unclear the parties can reach compromise.

### Defense

The Senate aims to approve the annual defense policy bill in September. That's when Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., expects to return to Washington after starting brain cancer treatment. He and McConnell wanted to pass the bill last month, but Sen Rand Paul, R-Ky, thwarted that plan. Paul wants votes on amendments on indefinite detention and war authorization. — AP

## TASK FORCE ON MARIJUANA LAW OFFERS LITTLE ON NEW POLICIES

**WASHINGTON:** The betting was that law-and-order Attorney General Jeff Sessions would come out against the legalized marijuana industry with guns blazing. But the task force Sessions assembled to find the best legal strategy is giving him no ammunition, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety, a group of prosecutors and federal law enforcement officials, has come up with no new policy recommendations to advance the attorney general's aggressively anti-marijuana views. The group's report largely reiterates the current Justice Department policy on marijuana. It encourages officials to keep studying whether to change or rescind the Obama administration's more hands-off approach to enforcement - a stance that has allowed the nation's experiment with legal pot to flourish. The report was not slated to be released publicly, but portions were obtained by the AP.

Sessions, who has assailed marijuana as comparable to heroin and blamed it for spikes in violence, has been promising to reconsider existing pot policy since he took office six months ago. His statements have sparked both support and worry across the political spectrum as a growing number of states have worked to legalize the drug.

Threats of a federal crackdown have united liberals, who object to the human costs of a war on pot, and some conservatives, who see it as a states' rights issue. Some advocates and members of Congress had feared the task force's recommendations would give Sessions the green light to begin dismantling what has become a sophisticated, multimillion-dollar pot industry that helps fund schools, educational programs and law enforcement. But the tepid nature of the recommendations signals just how difficult it would be to change course on pot.

### Tougher approach

Some in law enforcement support a tougher approach, but a bipartisan

group of senators in March urged Sessions to uphold existing marijuana policy. Others in Congress are seeking ways to protect and promote pot businesses. The vague recommendations may be intentional, reflecting an understanding that shutting down the entire industry is neither palatable nor possible, said John Hudak, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who studies marijuana law and was interviewed by members of the task force.

"If they come out with a more progressive, liberal policy, the attorney general is just going to reject it. They need to convince the attorney general that the recommendations are the best they can do without embarrassing the entire department by implementing a policy that fails," he said.

The task force suggestions are not final, and Sessions is in no way bound by them. The government still has plenty of ways it can punish weed-tolerant states, including raiding pot businesses and suing states where the drug is legal, a rare but quick path to compliance. The only one who could override a drastic move by Sessions is President Donald Trump, whose personal views on marijuana remain mostly unknown. The Justice Department declined to comment.

Rather than urging federal agents to shut down dispensaries and make mass arrests, the task force puts forth a more familiar approach. Its report says officials should continue to oppose rules that block the Justice Department from interfering with medical marijuana programs in states where it is allowed. Sessions wrote to members of Congress in May asking them - unsuccessfully so far - to undo those protections. The Obama administration also unsuccessfully opposed those rules.

The report suggests teaming the Justice Department with Treasury officials to offer guidance to financial institutions, telling them to implement robust anti-money laundering programs and report suspicious transactions involving businesses in states where pot is legal. — AP

## MAURITANIA VOTES ON CONSTITUTION CHANGES AFTER ANXIOUS CAMPAIGN

**NOUAKCHOTT:** Mauritians began voting yesterday on several contentious changes to their constitution sought by President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz but opposed by a wide swathe of opposition lawmakers and civil society groups. Aziz is pushing to abolish the country's Senate and several other state bodies and to make a small alteration to the national flag, measures that have galvanized a boycott movement hoping to sap the vote's credibility by forcing a low turnout.

Polling stations opened at 7:00 am (0700 GMT) and were due to close at 7:00 pm (1900 GMT) in the conservative west African nation, where violent clashes have broken out after the authorities banned several rallies planned by opponents of the changes. The president is

due to vote between 8:00 am and 9:00 am, but few others were visible casting their ballots in several Nouakchott polling stations visited by an AFP journalist at opening.

While Aziz, his supporters and several opposition parties are seeking a "Yes" vote, one moderate opposition party is seeking a "No", while the remaining parties have joined civil society groups to call for a total boycott for amendments they consider unconstitutional. Jemil Ould Mansour, head of the Islamic Tewassoul party spearheading the movement against the vote, said the country's leaders had fixed "the electoral roll and voting materials to prepare fraud on a massive scale," and warned of violence.

"Those in power are pushing people

to violence by not allowing any kind of protest not in line with their own views," Mansour told reporters on Friday. The boycott movement draws broad political support from figures as diverse as religious conservatives and anti-slavery activists. They have held several protests attracting thousands of supporters, but have also been prevented from demonstrating by the security forces, who on Thursday shut down several planned rallies close to the capital with tear gas and baton rounds.

The UN Human Rights Office said Thursday that "protest leaders were reportedly beaten up and a number of them were arrested" during campaign rallies in the last few weeks, urging the government "take all necessary measures to ensure free, transparent and

credible elections". Around 1.4 million Mauritians are eligible to vote, and results are expected early next week.

### Aziz vs Senate

The proposal to modify the constitution, in force since 1991, was approved by lawmakers in the lower house but rejected by 33 out of 56 senators in March, leading Aziz to call the referendum to push through the changes. The most contentious measure remains the abolition of the Senate and its replacement with elected regional councils, and Senators have held a sit-in this week and demanded apologies from Aziz for accusing them of corruption.

Unrepentant, Aziz said at a final rally on Thursday the Senate "costs a lot, has no use and does nothing", and vowed to

launch legal action against several senators. The opposition also fears that despite Aziz's claims to the contrary he is laying the groundwork for a third term in power, as his own prime minister said back in July he supported the idea. The president came to power by coup in 2008 and was elected in 2009 and again in 2014 for a second five-year term.

There will be two ballot boxes yesterday, one for the institutional changes and the other for an alteration to the national flag. The current green flag with yellow Islamic crescent and star would be altered to honor those who fought for freedom from colonial master France by a red band at the top and bottom, representing blood spilt for their nation, if the measure is passed. Mauritania won independence in 1960. — AFP

## TROOPS STORM RIO DE JANEIRO SLUMS TO CATCH GANG LEADERS

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Thousands of Brazilian army troops raided Rio de Janeiro slums in a pre-dawn crackdown on crime gangs Saturday, leaving parts of the city looking like a war zone on the first anniversary of the opening of the Olympic Games. Five favelas were targeted by police and 3,600 of the approximately 8,500 troops recently deployed to Rio in a swoop starting at 4:00 am (0700 GMT), the Rio state security service said in a statement.

Their main goal was to stop gangs behind a surge in brazen robberies of commercial trucks, with arrest warrants issued for 40 people. However, the unusually aggressive operation also follows wider concerns that nearly bankrupt post-Olympic Rio is spinning out of control.

Dozens of soldiers in camouflage set up a checkpoint at Lins favela, one of the many little-regulated, and often gang-plagued communities of working class Brazilians that rise up on the city's forest-clad hills. The troops stood with fingers on the triggers of assault rifles and an armored personnel carrier and two jeeps blocked the road.

Everyone exiting the favela was subjected to an identity check and search. One man was questioned at length about a scar on his stomach and another man's bag was searched only to find he was carrying a large Bible. Favela residents said they had woken to shooting when the troops moved in and that the operation made them feel no safer.

### 'Strategic'

"There's an atmosphere of tension and fear," said Vanuza Barroso da Silva, 23, who was going to her job at a supermarket. "People can hardly get to work." "They treat us as if we're trash," her father Roberto, 46,

said angrily of the security forces. Officials said the other favelas targeted were Camarista Meier, Morros de Sao Joao and Engenho Novo in the north and Covanca in the west.

"The armed forces are responsible for the perimeters in some of these regions and based at strategic points," the state security service said. "Some roads are blocked and the airspace is restricted to civilian flights over the sectors where the armed forces are operating." Rio's airports, however, were not affected.

The big crackdown on Rio's heavily armed criminal gangs came exactly a year after President Michel Temer opened the Olympics in a ceremony at the Maracana football stadium, which is close to Lins favela. Rio was the first South American city to host the Games and although the event passed off smoothly, a mixture of corruption scandals, near collapse in the budget and crime has combined into a serious hangover for what should be one of Brazil's richest regions.

The crackdown follows the Brazilian government's deployment last month of thousands of federal troops and police reinforcements to the city. In the first half of this year Rio tallied 3,457 homicides, the highest level of violence since 2009 and 15 percent more than during the same period in 2016. People are killed daily in shootouts between rival gangs competing for control of the favelas or from police action. The shootings, involving high-powered rifles, also lead to numerous deaths and injuries from stray bullets. Since the beginning of the year 93 police officers have also been killed in Rio state. The state recorded some 10,000 cases of cargo theft last year, primarily on access roads to the city of 6.5 million resident, causing heavy financial losses. —AFP

## CONFLICT TRIGGERS CONCERN POLAND MAY LEAVE EU NEXT

**WARSAW:** Since British voters endorsed leaving the European Union, politicians and pundits have ruminated on which of the bloc's remaining 27 nations could be next. "Grexit" and "Frexit," for Greece and France, were two subjects of speculation. Now, months of open conflict between Poland's conservative nationalist government and the rest of the EU has some Poles wondering if their leaders are putting the country on a path that could take it out of the union. "There is a question mark over Poland's European future today," European Council President Donald Tusk, a former Polish prime minister who is a critic of the ruling Law and Justice party, said Thursday.

The EU is widely popular in Poland, so the idea of the country abandoning the bloc strikes many people here as far-fetched. Several surveys have shown public support for the EU standing at over 70 percent, approval stemming from the economic boom and freedom of travel that came with membership in 2004. But members of the opposition in Poland increasingly are voicing fears that the conflicts between Warsaw and Brussels could eventually lead to a parting of ways.

They point to the defiant stance Law and Justice and its leader, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, adopted when the EU raised concerns about changes to Poland's justice system and the extensive logging the government has ordered in a primeval forest that has been classified as a UNESCO world heritage site. Government spokesman Rafal Bochenek insisted that Polish leaders intend to keep Poland in the bloc. "Poland is a member of EU and is going to be a

leading partner to other member states within the structure," Bochenek told The Associated Press on Friday. "We have got many ambitious projects and challenges to realize in the EU. We will cooperate with our European partners."

### Bureaucracy and infringements

Law and Justice has never publicly advocated leaving the bloc, but criticizes what it views as unnecessary EU bureaucracy and infringements on the authority of member countries to make their own decisions. In that vein, Poland's government aggressively pushed through legislation to put the court system under the ruling party's control. The EU's executive arm has said the moves violate democratic norms by reducing judicial independence.

With Warsaw refusing to give in to the bloc's calls for it to respect the separation of powers, the European Commission is threatening steps that could lead to Poland losing its EU voting rights. The government also has continued logging in the Bialowieza Forest even though the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg ordered it last week to stop felling trees immediately. If it continues, Poland could be hit with massive fines.

Katarzyna Lubnauer, a lawmaker with the opposition Modern party, said recently that because Poles are such "Euro-enthusiasts," nobody in the ruling Law and Justice party would admit that leaving the bloc is their aim. "But when we look at what is happening now, we have a deep sense that this departure is taking place," Lubnauer said. "But it will happen in stages." —AP



**ROME:** A man lays on a bench in the shadow under trees in front the "Altare della Patria" (the Unknown Soldier monument), in central Rome, yesterday, as temperatures reached more than 40 degrees Celsius. —AFP

## 'LUCIFER' HEAT WAVE KEEPS PARTS OF EU IN RED ALERT

### A TASTE OF WORSE TO FOLLOW IN COMING DECADES

**ROME:** Swaths of southern Europe sweltered Saturday in a heatwave that has claimed several lives, cost billions in crop damage and is, scientists warned, a foretaste of worse to follow in coming decades. At least five deaths in Italy and Romania have been attributed to the extreme conditions since the heatwave set in around the start of August.

Unusually high, sometimes unprecedented temperatures are being recorded across an area spanning much of the Iberian peninsula (Spain and Portugal), southern France, Italy, the Balkans and Hungary. Thermometer mercury has regularly risen above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) across the affected areas, exacerbating the impact of an extended drought and the lingering impact of a July heatwave which sparked wildfires that claimed 60 lives in Portugal.

Hospital admissions have spiked 15-20 percent in Italy, where at least three people have died. Italians longing for the beach have dubbed the hot spell "Lucifero", or Lucifer, after the biblical archangel said to have been condemned forever to the flames of hell. The latest victim was a woman whose car was swept away overnight by an avalanche of water and mud as humid conditions near the Alpine ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo broke into torrential rain. That tragedy follows the deaths on Thursday of two pensioners, a 79-year-old woman and an 82-year-old man, who were caught up in wildfires in, respectively, the central region of Abruzzo and near Matera in the south of the country.

### Fountain splashing

In Romania, two deaths were linked to the weather, including a farmworker who collapsed after working in fields in the heat at Mogosesti in the northeast of the country. In Italy, humidity and other factors are making it feel much hotter with the so-called "perceived" temperature in Campania, the region around Naples, estimated at a broiling 55 Celsius (131 Fahrenheit) on Friday.

Hospital admissions are running 15-20 percent above seasonal norms and food producers are forecast to suffer billions of euros in losses as a result of reduced crop yields. Italian wine and olive production is tipped to fall 15 and 30 percent respectively this year. In Rome, tourists have been risking recently-introduced fines for splashing in the Eternal City's fountains to cool off. But there has yet to be any sign of visitors to southern Europe's summer hotspots being deterred by the rising trend in temperatures.

Tourists were queuing once more Saturday outside Florence's Uffizi museum, which was forced to close Friday after its air conditioning broke down because of a lack of water from the dried up River Arno. Health authorities in France have warned citizens to be particularly aware of the risks faced by the sick and the elderly. The country is still haunted by memories of a 2003 heatwave which resulted in an estimated 15,000 avoidable deaths among pensioners, some of whom had been left on their own by holiday-making relatives.

### 150,000 weather deaths?

Scientists meanwhile warned that deaths due to extreme weather in Europe could increase fifty-fold from an estimated 3,000 per year recently to 152,000 by the end of this century - if global warming is not reined in. Southern Europe will suffer most and heatwaves would account for 99 percent of the deaths, according to research con-

ducted for the European Commission and published in The Lancet Planetary Health.

The conclusions were questioned by Korean peers of the researchers who suggested humans would become less vulnerable to extreme weather with experience of it. Meteo France forecaster Frederic Nathan said he was sure recent heatwaves reflected global warming. "We have always had them but their length and intensity has

notched up since the 1950s and 60s and they are increasingly coming earlier or later. "If you look at records for France, the vast majority of new records being set are for high temperatures. Record cold is becoming increasingly rare." Scientist warned last week that large parts of South Asia, home to a fifth of the world's population, could become unbearably hot by the end of this century. —AFP

## RWANDANS CELEBRATE KAGAME'S RECORD 98% ELECTION LANDSLIDE

**KIGALI:** Rwandans yesterday celebrated the third term victory of President Paul Kagame who pledged to continue transforming the nation after winning re-election with a record 98 percent of the vote. There had been little doubt that the 59-year-old would return to the helm of the east African nation which he has ruled with an iron fist since the end of the 1994 genocide. "I am very pleased. I had hoped for this victory," said Yvette Uwizeza, a 36-year-old computer scientist. "The continuity is reassuring," she said, crediting Kagame with developing the country and creating "a better life for Rwandans."

Interim results published by the electoral commission yesterday gave Kagame an unprecedented victory, outstripping the 95 percent he took in 2003 and 93 percent in 2010. Yesterday's tally matched the proportion of people who supported a constitutional amendment two years ago permitting Kagame to run for a third, fourth and fifth term potentially seeing him rule until 2034.

"I honored your request, and this (election) confirms that Rwandans made a choice based on the future they want," Kagame told thousands of supporters at his ruling party's headquarters in Kigali in the early hours of the morning. "We are going to continue with the work we started by advocating for a better Rwanda."

Of the results so far announced, Kagame had 98.66 percent while his two little-known rivals barely made a dent. Frank Habineza of the Democratic Green Party-the only permitted critical opposition party-won just 0.45 percent of votes, beaten into third place by the little-known independent candidate Philippe Mpayimana with

0.72. "I accept the result and congratulate the RPF and Paul Kagame," Mpayimana told AFP. "I am not going to stop here. I urge all citizens to join so we can become stronger for the next election."

### Visionary or despot?

Rwandans celebrated Kagame's win in muted fashion, with no spontaneous large gatherings in the disciplined nation. Inside a gymnasium in the capital music and dancers entertained hundreds of party loyalists who celebrated into the morning. "We are celebrating the presidential election," said one young man as he danced. "We are celebrating Paul Kagame!" another yelled out next to him.

Kagame has been the de facto leader of Rwanda since, as a 36-year-old, his rebel army routed extremist Hutu forces who slaughtered an estimated 800,000 people-mainly minority Tutsis-and seized Kigali in 1994. He was first appointed president by lawmakers in 2000. The lanky former guerrilla fighter is one of Africa's most divisive leaders, with some hailing him as a visionary while critics see a despot aiming to become one of the continent's presidents-for-life.

Kagame is credited with a remarkable turnaround in the shattered nation, which boasts annual economic growth of about seven percent, is safe, clean and does not tolerate corruption. Rwanda also has the highest number of female lawmakers in the world. However rights groups accuse Kagame of ruling through fear, relying on systematic repression of the opposition, free speech and the media. Kagame's critics have ended up jailed, forced into exile or assassinated. Few Rwandans would dare to openly speak against him. — AFP



**KIGALI:** Traditional Intore dancers perform at the Amahoro Sport complex. —AFP



**WARSAW:** In this photo taken Aug 3, 2017, Polish women show their support for the European Union during a street protest. —AP



## CLASHES AFTER THREE REBELS KILLED BY POLICE IN KASHMIR

**SRINAGAR:** Thousands of protesters clashed with government forces in Indian-administered Kashmir yesterday after three local rebels were killed in a firefight with troops, police said, with tensions already high following the death of a popular militant commander this week. Soldiers and police special counterinsurgency forces surrounded a neighborhood in Sopore town, 45 kilometers northwest of the main city of Srinagar, after "specific information"

that militants were hiding in a house there, triggering a firefight.

"During the encounter three militants of LeT (Lashkar-e-Taiba) were eliminated," a police statement said, adding that three automatic assault rifles were recovered from the site of the clash. As news of the deaths spread, clashes between local residents and government forces broke out in many areas. Three protesters were injured in the northern Bandipore area,

home to one of the slain militants, when soldiers fired bullets as hundreds of angry local residents came out on the streets to pelt their convoy with stones, a police officer said speaking on condition of anonymity.

In southern Kashmir valley thousands of protesters clashed with government forces who fired bullets in the air and used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse a crowd, which was chanting: "We want freedom".

Yesterday's clash comes a day after a local armed militant and a civilian were killed by soldiers during a shootout in Bijbehara area in the south of the restive territory where such clashes have become frequent since the start of the year.

Tensions have spiked across the Indian-controlled territory since government forces killed a popular militant commander of LeT group, Abu Dujana, in a fierce gunbattle Tuesday. Kashmir

has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947, but both claim the territory in full. Rebel groups, including LeT, have fought for decades 500,000 Indian soldiers deployed in the territory, demanding independence or a merger of the former Himalayan kingdom with Pakistan. Tens of thousands, mostly civilians have died in the fighting since the start of a counterinsurgency military campaign in 1989. —AFP

## CHINA UPS THE ANTE IN STANDOFF WITH INDIA

**BEIJING:** China has stepped up its rhetoric in an increasingly tense border row with India, hinting at the possibility of military action in a propaganda push that analysts are calling "genuinely troubling." For more than a month, Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a standoff on a remote but strategically important Himalayan plateau near where Tibet, India and Bhutan meet.

On Thursday, Chinese defense ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang warned that Beijing had shown restraint but had a "bottom line." "No country should underestimate the Chinese forces... resolve and willpower to defend national sovereignty," he said in a post on the ministry website. It is a line that has been echoed almost word for word this week by the foreign ministry, the official Xinhua news agency, the ruling Communist Party mouthpiece the People's Daily, the official military news website of the Chinese armed forces, and other outlets.

On Wednesday, the foreign ministry released a 15-page document of "facts" about the border dispute, which included a map of alleged intrusions and photographs of what it stated were Indian troops and military vehicles on China's side of the frontier. Calling for the "immediate and unconditional" withdrawal of Indian troops, it warned Beijing would "take all necessary measures" to safeguard its interests. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Thursday that India was building roads, hoarding supplies and deploying a large number of troops in the area. "This is by no means for peace," Geng said.

### 'Genuinely troubling'

Mistrust between the giant neighbors goes back centuries and the pair fought a border war in 1962 in India's border state of Arunachal Pradesh. The recent escalation of China's rhetoric was "genuinely trou-

bling," Rory Medcalf, head of Australian National University's National Security College, told AFP. "It suggests that diplomatic conversations, including among high-level national security advisers, are failing to find a face-saving way for the two powers to withdraw their forces," he said.

The plateau is strategically significant as it gives China access to the so-called "chicken neck"—a thin strip of land connecting India's northeastern states with the rest of the country. Despite the heated war of words, other analysts played down the possibility of an armed clash. "The point of these statements isn't that war is imminent; rather, they're an attempt to figure out how to not go to war without losing face," Shen Dingli, vice dean of Fudan University's Institute of International Studies, told AFP.

"Neither side wants to go to war, but China and India are acting like two unhappy little children." China has rolled out a massive new global infrastructure program known as the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, which it presents as a peaceful development policy to connect Chinese companies to new markets around the world. Critics see it as a geopolitical powerplay.

President Xi Jinping is set to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a summit of BRICS nations in the Chinese city of Xiamen in early September and has said he hopes for greater cooperation within the bloc. But he is also gearing up for a key party congress later this year, at which he is expected to further consolidate his grip on power-making him unwilling to appear weak by backing down in the current dispute, said politics professor Yvonne Chiu, who researches China's military at Hong Kong University. Chiu said China was testing "how much they can get away with, in a region that is unlikely to draw the involvement of other major powers such as the US." —AFP



**MANILA:** (From left to right) Malaysia's Foreign Minister Anifah Aman, Myanmar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Thailand's Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai, Vietnam's Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh, Philippines' Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Brunei's Foreign Minister Lim Jock Seng, Cambodia's Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Laos' Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith and ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh join hands for a family photo during the opening ceremony of the 50th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF) meeting. —AFP

## TENSIONS AT SECURITY FORUM

### VIETNAM MAKES BOLD PLAY AGAINST CHINA

**MANILA:** Vietnam urged other Southeast Asian nations to take a stronger stand against Chinese expansionism in the South China Sea, as a tense regional security forum began yesterday with North Korea also under fire over its nuclear program. Ahead of the launch of the annual gathering of foreign ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Vietnam made a bold play against China with a raft of suggested changes to a planned joint communique.

It set the stage for what was expected to be a fiery few days of diplomacy in the Philippine capital, with the top diplomats from China, the United States, Russia and North Korea set to join their ASEAN and other Asia-Pacific counterparts for security talks from today. The meetings will take place as the United Nations Security Council votes this weekend on a US-drafted resolution to toughen sanctions against North Korea to punish the isolated regime for its missile and nuclear tests.

The United States said it would also seek to build united pressure on the North at the Manila event-

known as the ASEAN Regional Forum-and Philippine Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said Pyongyang would receive a strong message. But on the South China Sea dispute-one of Asia's other top powder keg issues-there was far less consensus with Vietnam resisting efforts by the Philippines to placate Beijing, diplomats told AFP.

Vietnam on Friday night sought to insert tough language against China in an ASEAN statement that was scheduled to be released after the Southeast Asian ministers wrapped up their own talks yesterday. According to a copy of a draft obtained by AFP, Vietnam lobbied for ASEAN to express serious concern over "construction" in the sea, in reference to China's explosion of artificial island building in the disputed waters in recent years. Vietnam also wanted ASEAN to insist in the statement that a planned code of conduct for the sea with China be "legally binding", which Beijing opposes.

### Tense talks

The lobbying occurred when the ASEAN foreign ministers held

unscheduled and informal talks late on Friday night. "The discussions were really hard. Vietnam is on its own to have stronger language on the South China Sea. Cambodia and Philippines are not keen to reflect that," one diplomat involved in the talks told AFP. China claims nearly all of the strategically vital sea, including waters approaching the coasts of Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

China has in recent years expanded its presence in the sea by building the artificial islands, which are capable of holding military bases. Alongside Vietnam, the Philippines used to be the most vocal critic of Beijing's expansionism. But under President Rodrigo Duterte, Manila has sought to downplay the dispute with China in return for billions of dollars in Chinese investments and aid.

China has in recent years also successfully lobbied other ASEAN nations, particularly Cambodia and Laos, to support its diplomatic maneuvering in the dispute. At the ASEAN opening ceremony on Saturday morning, Cayetano confirmed there had been strong

debates on Friday. "You have to excuse my voice as my colleagues, we kept each other up until almost midnight last night. In the true ASEAN way we were able to passionately argue our national interest," Cayetano said.

Various diplomats said that Vietnam was likely to lose its battle to insert the strong language against China, with the Philippines as host of the talks wielding greater influence. ASEAN is set to this weekend endorse a framework for a code of conduct with China, which is meant to pave the way for more concrete action. But security analysts point out that the framework comes 15 years after negotiations on the issue first began, and China has used that time to cement its claims with the artificial islands.

Another pressing issue in Manila will be the growing terrorism threat in the region. The event is taking place as Philippine security forces battle Islamic State-aligned gunmen who have since May been occupying parts of Marawi, the nation's main Muslim city about 800 kilometers to the south of Manila. —AFP



**This file photo taken on July 10, 2008 shows a Chinese soldier (L) gesturing next to an Indian soldier at the Nathu La border crossing between India and China in India's northeastern Sikkim state. —AFP**

## PROTESTS AFTER MOB ATTACKS INDIA OPPN LEADER GANDHI

**AHMEDABAD:** India's main opposition Congress Party staged angry nationwide protests yesterday, blaming supporters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for pelting stones at the car of its leader Rahul Gandhi. Congress workers shouted slogans outside the headquarters of Modi's ruling right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in New Delhi and held street protests in other states.

Gandhi was travelling to a flood-hit area in western Gujarat state Friday when a mob carrying black flags pelted stones at his convoy. Although Gandhi was unhurt in the attack, the windows of his car were smashed, television channels showed. "BJP workers threw stones at me, it hit my PSO (personal security officer). It is their style of politics, what can I say," said Gandhi, the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty that ruled India for decades through the Congress party.

Gandhi, 47, has been seeking to revive

the party's fortunes after BJP ousted it from power in 2014 general elections. Gujarat, Modi's home state, goes to the polls in December with the BJP seeking to retain power. "Windowpanes of Cong VP's car broken in an organised attack by goons, security staff injured. BJP must know truth can't be silenced," tweeted Randeep Surjewala, a Congress spokesman.

The Congress also lodged a police complaint of "murderous assault" against four BJP workers. Police have detained one man and are investigating the incident, the Press Trust of India reported. Gandhi said he was undeterred by the attack. "Narendra Modi ji, slogans, black flags and stones will not deter us... We will put in all our might into the service of people," he tweeted Friday. Gandhi later met flood victims in Banaskantha district of Gujarat where severe monsoon flooding has killed more than 200 people so far. —AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Activists and supporters of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) stand on police barricades while shouting slogans against Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi outside the headquarters of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). —AFP

## NEPALESE COUPLE REGISTERS 1ST TRANSGENDER MARRIAGE

**KATHMANDU:** A Nepali transgender woman and a man registered their marriage, a first in the country, the couple said yesterday, despite an absence of laws legalizing same-sex or transgender unions. Monika Shahi Nath, 40, who legally identifies as a third gender, married Ramesh Nath Yogi, 22, in May and was able to register it in their home district Dadeldhura in western Nepal last month.

"I have successfully registered my marriage with my husband," Nath said at a press conference, where she showed her marriage certificate. "This is also my attempt to awaken our government to make legal changes. Others like me should also have the right to marry the person they love," she told AFP. Nepal's law is silent on same-sex or transgender marriages despite a 2015 expert committee recommendation to legalize same-sex marriages following a Supreme Court order to enshrine the rights of sexual minorities.

Pinky Gurung, president of the Blue Diamond Society which works on behalf of sexual minorities in Nepal, said that the wedding was an achievement for their movement. "This is a beginning. But we need to see the government take action to legalise marriages for our community and enact the necessary laws," said Gurung. However, a lack of legal clarity on the issue could jeopardise the marriage.

"Validity of the same-sex or third-sex marriage can be questioned even after marriage registration if it is against the existing laws,"



**KATHMANDU:** Nepali transgender woman Monika Shahi Nath (L) and her husband Ramesh Nath (R) pose for pictures with their marriage certificate after announcing the registration of their marriage at a press conference. —AFP

said Deepak Kafle, Home Ministry spokesman. Legal experts said that the couple could also face allegations of polygamy which is illegal in Nepal-as Yogi has an existing wife, and two children, prior to this marriage. Nepal already

has some of the most progressive policies on homosexuality in South Asia. In 2013 Nepal introduced citizenships with a third gender option and began issuing passports reflecting the same in 2015. —AFP

**Kuwait Times**  
 THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
 ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher  
**YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**

Editor-in-Chief  
**ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN**

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
 ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
 FAX : 24835620/1  
 CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
 ACCOUNTS : 24835619  
 COMMERCIAL : 24835618

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Washington Watch

IMMIGRANT STORY AT HEART OF AMERICA

By Dr James J Zogby

Immigration is a personal matter for me, as it is for many Americans. Unless you are a Native American descendant of the indigenous peoples who were displaced by the settlers who first came to this country, or an African American descendant of those who were brought here in bondage as slaves, we are all immigrants and the descendants of immigrants. Because of the central role immigration has played in shaping the American experience, many families are defined by why and how their ancestors came and started their lives in this New World, the hardships they endured, and the successes they realized. We tell their stories to one another and to our children because they remind us who we are.

I had the privilege of working with Vice President Al Gore, when he appointed me, in 1993, to serve co-chair a project he was launching to support Israeli-Palestinian peace. On my way over to the White House to meet with him for the first time, I could not help but be moved as I thought of the sweep of history that had brought me to this point. And so, as we sat in his West Wing office and he asked me to tell him a bit about myself, I responded: "My father came from a one room, mud floor, stone house in the hills of Lebanon. He entered America illegally and became a citizen only 50 years ago. Today, his son is sitting with the Vice President of the United States. It might be a bit abbreviated, sir, but that's my story."

My dad and his four brothers, two sisters, and mother, like millions of others in the pre- and post-World War I period, came to America to escape economic hardship and political strife and to find opportunity and freedom. The life they left had been difficult. The life they found here also had its share of problems. Like so many other Syrian-Lebanese, they were peddlers - and were reviled for it. Called "parasites" and "Syrian trash", they suffered harsh discrimination. Efforts were made to have them excluded. For the flimsiest of reasons many were rejected upon entry or sent back. My mother's father arrived at Ellis Island with his brother. My maternal grandfather was admitted, his brother was not. My grandfather was told that the reason for his brother's exclusion was glaucoma. They never saw each other again, although my grandfather did learn that his brother ultimately settled in Brazil. I grew up wondering about my cousins, who and where they were.

My father was the last of his family to arrive. By the time he was ready to make the voyage, visas had been suspended for Syrians. The only way he was able to join his family was to enter the US illegally. He later benefited from amnesty and became naturalized in 1942. On both my mother's and father's sides, despite the hardships they experienced, the bet they had placed on risking everything to come to this country paid off. They built businesses, started families, bought homes, educated their children and watched them prosper.

American story

I tell my American story knowing that it is the story that can be told by millions of others. I also know this: when I get into a taxi and meet the immigrant driver from Nigeria, or go to restaurant and am waited on by a recent immigrant from Tunisia, or try to speak (with the few words of Spanish I know) to the Salvadorean woman who comes to clean our office, or park my car and pay the fee to recently arrived Ethiopian attendant, or think of the Bosnian refugee family that bought and refurbished my family's old home in Upstate New York - I know that less than a generation from now, their children will be able to tell the same story about the heroic sacrifices their parents made to give them the chance to prosper in freedom in America.

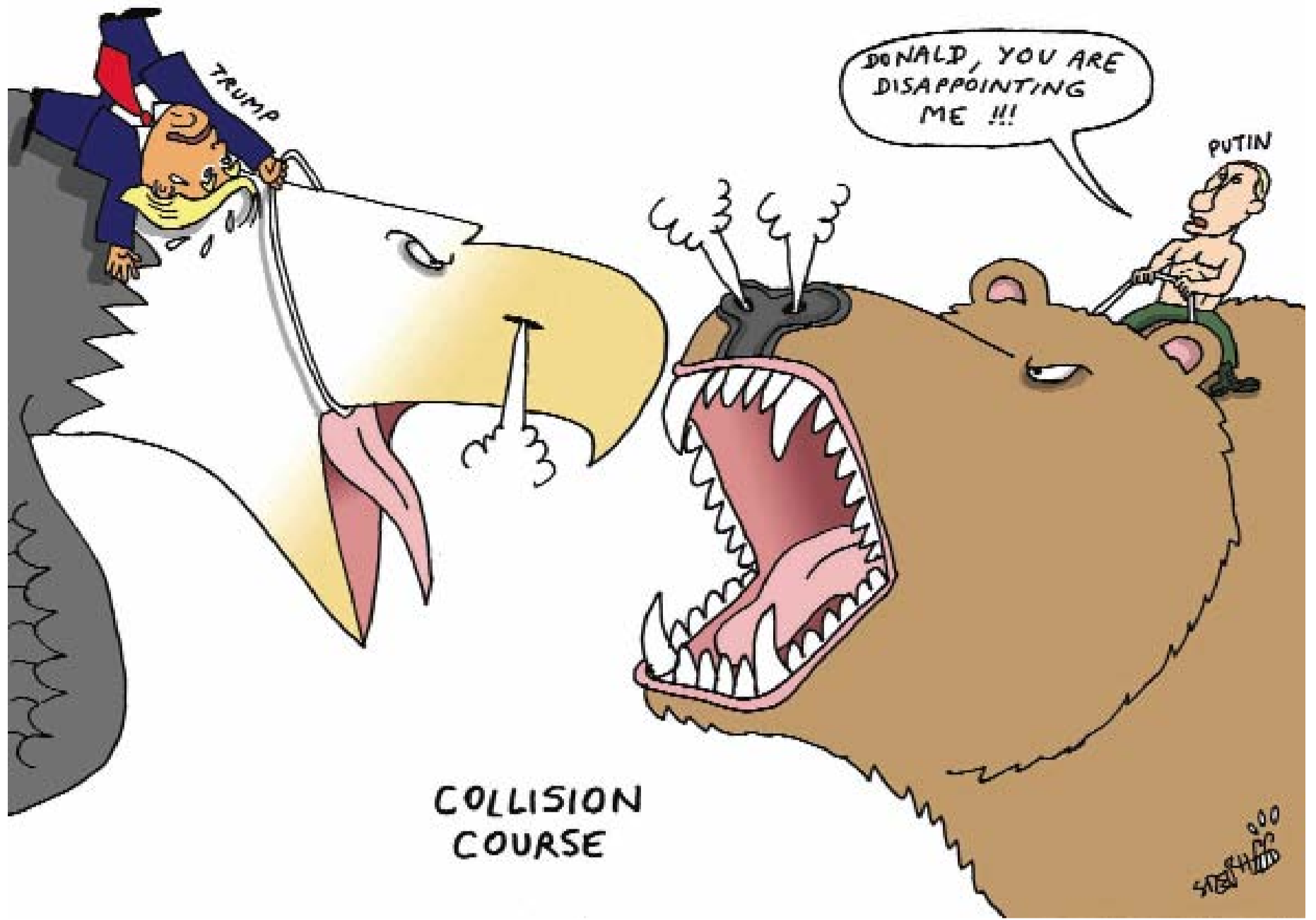
This is who we are. It is the collective story of our past and it is the story that still defines who we and want to be in the future. We came from many shores, often escaping strife and hardship, all seeking the opportunity to prosper in freedom. For all of us, immigrants and the descendants of immigrants, the words inscribed on the "Lady in the Harbor" define our sense of what America means:

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me.  
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

No other words better describe the promise that America had held and still holds out to the world. And so when President Donald Trump unveiled a new immigration bill this week, that would cut in half the number of refugees as well as the overall number of immigrants to be allowed in, and the lottery system that provided visas for individuals from countries that have been historically under-represented, and favor visa applicants with special skills who speak English, I was shaken to my core.

**NOTE:** Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

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LEGALLY INNOCENT PRISONERS DYING IN CANADA

Nearly 270 people have died in Canadian provincial jails over the past five years. Two-thirds of them were legally innocent. The high number of deaths among prisoners awaiting trial, compiled by Reuters from data provided by provincial governments, is the result of some of the world's toughest bail practices that have led to overcrowding in jails, according to lawyers, prison officers and prisoner rights advocates.

While the growing population of prisoners awaiting trial has been well documented, the disproportionate death toll in provincial jails has not. Provincial governments declined to identify the dead, citing privacy concerns. Interviews, inquest documents and news reports, however, show the deceased prisoners awaiting trial ranged from young parents who had breached bail conditions to people with chronic mental illness jailed for uttering threats; from accused murderers to addicts jailed for theft or drug-related charges.

Reuters examined deaths in provincial jails from Jan 2012 through July 2017 for seven of 10 Canadian provinces. Of the remaining three, one had no deaths and the other two did not provide data broken down by custodial status. The review found that 174 people died in provincial jails while awaiting trial, compared to 80 who died while serving sentences. These figures are high even when one takes into account the disproportionate number of pre-trial detainees in jails: People awaiting trial comprised 56 percent of all inmates in these provinces over that time period, but 65 percent of the dead.

"Canadians are dying in prisons here in Canada on a regular basis and it gets very little attention," said lawyer Kevin Egan, who represents several inmates suing Ontario's provincial government over conditions in their jails. All the provinces Reuters spoke with said inmate and officer safety are their top priority and that they take all in-custody deaths seriously.

The office of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's justice minister declined to comment, noting that the jails were the responsibility of the provincial governments. Prisoners awaiting trial accounted for 59 percent of the total number of inmates in provincial jails in 2015, up from 27 percent in 1995, according to Statistics Canada. By comparison, people who have not been convicted make up about 20 percent of inmates in state and local institutions in the United States, according to the U.S. advocacy group, the Prison Policy Initiative.

'We're Not Just Covering Our Butts'

High-profile crimes committed by people on bail and politicians' "tough-on-crime" rhetoric have created a risk-averse climate among prosecutors, said Simon Fraser University criminologist Nicole Myers. But the president of

the Canadian Association of Crown Counsel, which represents prosecutors, disputes that. "We're not just covering our butts when we're considering bail," Rick Woodburn said. "Each time a Crown attorney releases somebody, it's on them. It's on them when (the accused goes) back out and they commit another crime. It's the No. 1 thing that weighs on a Crown attorney's mind," he said.

The governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia told Reuters they were reviewing their penal systems in an effort to reduce the number of people locked up while awaiting trial. Several said they were also trying to improve jail procedures to ensure better care of prisoners. Manitoba, which launched a review after a spate of deaths at a pre-trial detention center last year, is the only province investigating deaths among prisoners awaiting trial.

In neighboring Saskatchewan, each in-custody death is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, Justice Ministry spokesman Noel Busse wrote in an email. "At this time, the Ministry has not done an in-depth analysis of why there are more deaths in remand custody than there are in sentenced custody," he said. Seventy-five percent of deaths in custody in Saskatchewan over the past five years have involved prisoners awaiting trial, the Reuters review shows.

'He Was at Risk'

When Adam Reed, 30, arrived at Ontario's North Bay jail in Nov 2012, charged with assault and violating his bail conditions, the intake officer noted that Reed said he had recently attempted suicide, an inquest into Reed's death later heard. A nurse evaluated Reed and did not deem him a suicide risk, according to inquest documents. She told the inquest she had not received the intake officer's notes. Only hours after being arrested, Reed was found hanging from his cell door.

Reed, who was an alcoholic, had said if he ever went back to jail he would take his life, his godmother Suzanne Lajambe told Reuters. "So we were aware he was at risk. You always believe that when they suffer from addiction they're better off and safer in custody than on their own. We believed that. Until that happened."

In response to the inquest, the jail implemented a new suicide screening procedure, a spokesman for Ontario Corrections Minister Marie-France Lalonde said. Almost as many people died in Ontario jails in the first half of this year (13) as died in all of last year (14), provincial data shows. All but two were prisoners awaiting trial. Ontario Attorney-General Yasir Naqvi told Reuters he wanted to end the "churn" of people cycling in and out of the penal system. "People, especially those who are low-risk and vulnerable, can be released under supervision as opposed to being remanded," he said.

Causes of Death

Reuters traced the causes of death for 148 of the 174 cases through inquests, government data interviews and news reports. Of those:

- 50 were suicides
- 34 were by natural causes, which includes illnesses and health conditions
- Nine were drug- or alcohol-related
- Four were homicides
- Four were accidental
- One followed an altercation with prison officers
- 46 were designated "undetermined" by provincial governments, which means an investigation is ongoing or an inquest is pending

Several factors have created the conditions for the high body count, lawyers, former inmates and former corrections officers say. Newly arrived prisoners who are awaiting trial are more likely to have high amounts of drugs or alcohol in their systems and so are more at risk of overdosing or suffering potentially life-threatening withdrawal symptoms. Three former inmates told Reuters they have had prescription medication confiscated or have failed to get medical attention as they shuttle to and from court.

People with a history of self-harm may not be watched closely because their suicide risk is not communicated to jail staff who are already over-stretched in crowded facilities, lawyers and former corrections officers told Reuters. Suspects picked up on minor charges are also sometimes housed alongside those with a history of violence.

Canada's provincial jails often have little to no classification based on a person's criminal history, risk level or medical needs, said Howard Sapers, Canada's former federal prisons watchdog who is now advising Ontario on its planned reform. As a result, he said, otherwise manageable risks like illness or vulnerability to victimization can become fatal. Erez Raz, a union official and former correctional officer in Alberta, said overcrowding and the "revolving door" of pre-trial detainees made it difficult for correctional officers to keep people safe and created a pressure cooker situation for inmates.

Elizabeth Cromwell alleges that strained environment contributed to her son's death. Cromwell is suing the Nova Scotia government after her 23-year-old son died of a methadone overdose three years ago while awaiting trial for breaching court conditions on past drug charges. It isn't clear how he obtained the methadone, but Cromwell alleges in her lawsuit that the jail where her son died was "overcrowded, understaffed and unsafe."

The provincial government has denied the allegation, saying the jail "met the standard of care and did not expose Clayton Cromwell to any unusual or actionable risks or dangers." — Reuters

TRUMP TURNS TO RUSSIA PROBE TO POKE CRITICS

US President Donald Trump is trying to turn the Russia investigation into a rallying cry. Far from avoiding talk of the accelerating probe into his campaign's ties to Moscow, Trump is instead using it to stoke the outrage of his most loyal supporters. The probe, he argues, is an outgrowth of the bias and resentment media elites and Democrats hold against his white, working-class base. The investigation is a nefarious attempt to undo the results of the election and seize power from the voters who have been marginalized, he says.

"They can't beat us at the voting booths so they are trying to cheat you out of the future and the future that you want," Trump said in a defiant tone during a Thursday night rally in Huntington, West Virginia. "They are trying to cheat you out of the leadership you want with a fake story that is demeaning to all of us and most importantly, demeaning to our country and demeaning to our Constitution."

The message falls in line with Trump's longstanding appeal to the voters he has called the "forgotten men and women of our country" who lack a voice in government. Trump casts himself as the voice of the aggrieved who understands their troubles. But this heavy reliance on his loyal base, which comprise far short of an electoral majority, carries risks. Long-term, it's



economic fortunes before the 2020 election, especially in states key to Trump's victory like Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, could make it harder for Trump to hold onto his base. In some respects, Trump is taking a page from his favorite scapegoats: Bill and Hillary Clinton. During the late 1990s, Bill Clinton assailed House Republicans and independent counsel Ken Starr as fierce partisans for pushing investigations into his affair with a White House intern and his role in an Arkansas land deal. Hillary Clinton famously called it a "vast right-wing conspiracy".

Two decades later, when Republicans pursued a lengthy investigation into her handling of the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, she said it was a partisan attempt to hurt her 2016 campaign. This time, Trump has taken the partisan argument to a new degree, parlaying it with his longstanding indictment of the Washington "swamp" of insiders whom he says hurt many Americans. "He's not just doing the partisan playbook, but he's making it about the system in some ways going after him and going after what the voters wanted," said presidential historian Julian Zelizer, a professor at Princeton University. Zelizer said the reliance on base politics carries risks for Trump, who has already sustained cracks in his support, embodied by strained relations with Republican leadership. Arizona Republican Sen Jeff Flake's book criticizing Trump's leadership, and three GOP senators' unwillingness to go along on repealing "Obamacare". "That could be a dangerous path. Just the base can't protect him," Zelizer said. Most Americans don't seem to share Trump's views on the investigation. Nearly 60 percent of Americans say they don't think Trump is taking the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election seriously enough and roughly the same percentage think he's tried to derail the probe, according to a Quinnipiac poll published this week. Still, before a raucous crowd in West Virginia, the president called the Russia story "a total fabrication" and an excuse promulgated by Democrats for their 2016 defeat. — AP

## S&P MAINTAINS KUWAIT RATING, OUTLOOK.

Continued from Page 1

As a result, the economy has remained relatively resilient and job losses, particularly in the public sector, have been minimal. "We estimate that real GDP grew by three percent in 2016 supported by public investment growth. Over 2017-2020, we expect the economy to grow at a similar pace on average supported by public spending on infrastructure projects," it noted.

The first public-private partnership (PPP) projects have been completed since the PPP law came into force in 2015. Over the next few years, other projects in power, infrastructure, and housing, currently in various stages of implementation, are likely to be completed. This will help maintain economic growth, offsetting the effects of low oil prices.

"We also expect a boost to growth as increased capacity from investments in gathering centers and upgrades to existing oil fields gradually come on stream, over the forecast horizon. We expect Kuwait will remain compliant with its commitment to OPEC to cut production to 2.7 million barrels per day (bpd) until the end of 2017. From then on, we anticipate that Kuwaiti oil output will rise to over three million bpd in 2020. Production could increase further if an ongoing dispute in the shared neutral zone with Saudi Arabia is fully resolved."

The agency added that geopolitical tensions persist, with the IS militant group in Iraq and Syria, as well as the ongoing war in Yemen, posing a threat to the wider region and Kuwait. In Kuwait's case, it explained, the central government deficit informs the central government's financing requirement while the overall general government balance includes all levels of government, including flows related to the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

The central government fiscal deficit is likely to close faster if some of the measures the government is

currently considering, such as the introduction of a flat corporate tax and a value-added tax, are implemented. However, we do not anticipate that these are likely to come into force before 2019 at the earliest. The Kuwaiti government, via the KIA, has accumulated substantial assets through savings from oil and gas production over the years. The size of assets managed by the KIA is available only as a range of unofficial estimates of up to 5x of 2017 GDP. Weak oil prices prompted Kuwait's first current account deficit of 4.5 percent of GDP in 2016 compared to a surplus of 3.5 percent in 2015 and an average surplus of nearly 40 percent over 2010-2014. The deficit was financed by the liquidation of assets held abroad.

"We project that the current account will return to a surplus in 2019 in line with our assumptions on oil prices and production. Until then we anticipate deficits will be financed by a mix of external borrowing - primarily via sovereign debt issuance - and the liquidation of external assets.

"Even then we estimate that Kuwait's net external asset position will remain very strong at 7.5x current account receipts (CARs) in 2017. Moreover, we project that gross external financing needs will remain relatively low, averaging about 100 percent of CARs plus usable reserves over the next four years." On its external accounts, Kuwait's metrics are very strong, and stronger than those of almost all peers, including in the GCC, the report said. Kuwait's exchange rate is pegged to an undisclosed basket of currencies; this basket is dominated by the US Dollar, the currency in which the majority of Kuwaiti exports are priced and transacted.

"We view Kuwait's financial system as stable; its banks are reasonably well capitalized, with ample liquidity as per Basel III standards, and operate in a reasonably strong regulatory environment. Our Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment for Kuwait is '4', on a scale of '1' (strongest) to '10' (weakest)." — KUNA



DUBAI: Fire is seen at the 1,105-foot tall Torch tower skyscraper on Friday. — AFP

## BLAZE SWEEPS THROUGH DUBAI SKYSCRAPER FOR SECOND TIME

DUBAI: Police in Dubai reopened the streets around one of the world's tallest residential skyscrapers after firefighters put out a blaze that erupted early Friday in the high-rise, forcing residents to evacuate in the middle of the night and sending chunks of debris plummeting below. No major injuries had been reported in the tower, located in an upscale waterfront district heavily populated by expatriates from around the world. A few people were treated for smoke inhalation, according to Dubai's Gulf News website.

Several residents said the fire broke out just after 1 am at the 87-storey Torch Tower - a more than 335-m residential building in Dubai's Marina district. The tower has 676 apartments - 38 of which were burnt and destroyed by the fire, according to the official Dubai media office. Sixty-four floors of the facade of the building were also burnt, they said. The same building had also caught fire just two-and-a-half years earlier.

The cause of the fire on was not immediately known but in the past, such infernos in Dubai have been linked to highly flammable building cladding - as was the devastating June tower fire in London that killed at least 80 people. "You never think it's going to happen to you," said Alireza Aletomeh, a resident of the tower. "I had cash in there, furniture, paintings... Many things that are very valuable to me."

Aletomeh, a sales manager, said he moved to the Torch Tower just three months ago, snagging an apartment on the 54th floor of the luxury tower. He said he was coming home after midnight when building security guards told him to remain in the street because a fire had erupted. He said his roommate grabbed their passports and that it took him more than two hours to come down the stairway because of the rush of people trying to get out at the same time. At least one woman passed out in the stairway, Aletomeh said.

Nearly the entire length of the building on one side became engulfed in flames at one point during the blaze as residents looked on from below, many in tears. The firefighters battled the blaze for more than two hours. Officials say 84 floors of the building are residential and three are for services. Dubai's Civil Defense announced at about 3:30 a.m. that firefighters had brought the blaze under control and said cooling operations were underway. Authorities shared video of the building from the outside later on Friday, showing the entire length of the tower charred on one side.

By midday Friday, a few police cars could be seen in the area, but the main streets around it were open to traffic and had been wiped clean of debris, some of which had fallen on cars parked below. The skyscraper, however, remained closed to residents. Officials said they were providing shelter at three nearby hotels for residents. By nightfall, residents still had not been told when they would be allowed

to return to check on their apartments.

The Torch Tower previously caught fire in Feb 2015; there were also no casualties reported in that blaze. In both incidents, fire alarms alerted residents and building staff knocked on doors to ensure evacuation. Kingfield Owner Association Management Services, which manages the tower, did not provide any details about the cause of the blaze in a brief response to questions. "The safety of all residents and staff is of the utmost importance, and our efforts are currently focused on arranging the necessary emergency accommodation for residents," spokeswoman Anel-Carline Beukes said without elaborating.

### No sprinklers

The tower was built by developer Select Group and opened in 2011. Select did not respond to requests for comment. Aletomeh, who is now staying with friends, said towers like the Torch should have sprinklers. He wondered why Civil Defense crews did not deploy helicopters to try and extinguish the fire quicker. "Putting out the fire was the most important thing, which took them so long," he said.

Simon Bach, a New Zealander who lives in a high-rise across the street, told AP he saw a few policemen as well as Emiratis in traditional white robes helping people get out. About 10 to 12 fire trucks arrived quickly on the scene, he said. He said just as the firefighters had seemed to bring the blaze under control, falling debris ignited a part of the building further down. "It seemed really out of control," he said. "People were streaming out of the car parks of the building."

Several skyscrapers in the United Arab Emirates have caught fire in recent years, including a towering inferno that engulfed a 63-story luxury hotel in Dubai on New Year's Eve in 2016. In that blaze, as in others in Dubai in recent years, residents escaped without major injury. And on Thursday evening, in the neighboring emirate of Sharjah, an under-construction tower caught fire that raged for several hours as local media and nearby residents posted dramatic images of the blaze.

Earlier this year, Dubai passed new fire safety rules requiring buildings with quick-burning side paneling to replace it with more fire-resistant siding. Authorities have previously acknowledged that at least 30,000 buildings across the UAE have cladding or paneling that safety experts have said accelerates the rapid spread of fires. While the new regulations are now in place for construction in Dubai and other cities, it's unclear how authorities will force owners to replace flammable siding with better material. The tragic June inferno in London prompted Britain to order more thorough testing on the cladding systems of its towers. — AP



A runner makes her way on the Tsanfleuron Glacier during the last kilometres of the Glacier 3000 run and marathon above Les Diablerets yesterday. A total of 1,200 runners took part in the 26-km run or in the marathon distance. The 42-km mountain run, organized for the first time, is being called the hardest in Switzerland for 2017, with an altitude gain of 2,757 m starting from the center of Gstaad — AFP



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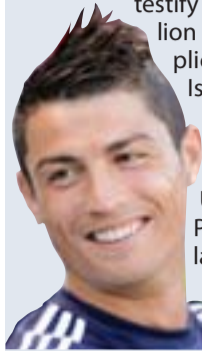
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### RONALDO 'WANTS ENGLAND RETURN'

**MADRID:** Cristiano Ronaldo told a Spanish court he "would like to return to England" due to his tax troubles in Spain, Spanish radio station Cadena Ser reported yesterday. The Real Madrid star was called to testify in court on Monday over accusations he evaded 14.7 million euros (\$17.3 million) in tax on his image rights via a complicated web of shell companies based in the British Virgin Islands and Ireland. However, Ronaldo has insisted he did not create a "special structure" to manage his image rights when he moved to Real in 2009 but simply maintained the one set up in 2004 while he was at Manchester United. That structure had been recommended to the Portuguese captain by United via their specialist sports lawyer Chris Farnell. "Chris told me it was what all the footballers did and I didn't want to be an exception," Ronaldo added in court.—AFP



### OLYMPIC TRIATHLON CHAMP BROWNLEE HAS HIP SURGERY

**LONDON:** Olympic triathlon champion Alistair Brownlee confirmed yesterday he will be sidelined for the rest of the year after hip surgery. Brownlee, who has moved up from triathlon to tackle the Ironman 70.3 series this year, had been left with no choice but to have the procedure after battling with the injury for several years. Posting on Instagram alongside a picture of himself in the Yorkshire Dales, Brownlee said: "After years of struggling with a chronic hip problem, I go under the knife. It has been a tough decision but suffering from an acute flare I am left with little option. Unfortunately it will take me away from competing for the rest of the year but I hope it will enable me to continue doing what I love for many years to come. In the meantime I'll get to enjoy a bit of Yorkshire relaxation which is a rare treat." Brownlee returned to triathlon in June to win the World Series event in Leeds and had earned a place at the Ironman 70.3 World Championship after winning on his debut in Utah in May.—AFP

### THIAM ON TOP IN HEPTATHLON

**LONDON:** Olympic champion Nafi Thiam soared into the lead of the heptathlon at the IAAF World Championships in London yesterday. The Belgian university student cleared 1.95m in the high jump to end the morning's session on 2,215 points, eight ahead of Cuban Yorgelis Rodriguez, who improved her high jump best by 8cm as she matched Thiam. Dutchwoman Nadine Visser topped times for the opening 100m hurdles, Thiam chipping in with the 11th fastest time. Britain's Katarina Johnson-Thompson was sixth in the hurdles, but flopped badly in the high jump, managing a best of only 1.80m, far off her personal best of 1.98m. The heptathletes round off later with the shot put and 200m, before tackling the long jump, javelin and 800m today.—AFP



GOLF

## WALKER TAKE TWO-SHOT LEAD, SPIETH, MCILROY IN HUNT

**LOS ANGELES:** Jimmy Walker, gearing up for his PGA Championship title defense, fired a five-under par 65 on Friday to take a two-shot lead at the halfway stage of the World Golf Championships Bridgestone in Akron, Ohio.

Walker shook off lengthy weather delays as thunderstorms disrupted action at Firestone Country Club. He carded six birdies with just one bogey en route to a 36-hole total of seven-under 133.

Walker edged ahead of overnight leader Thomas Pieters of Belgium when he rolled in an eight footer for birdie at the 15th. Pieters then fell further back with a bogey at the par-three 15th, where he was unable to get up and down from a bunker.

He had two birdies and two bogeys in an even par 70 for 135. "I played decent," Pieters said. "I hit plenty of greens—I think a bit less than yesterday. The driver was still a little bit off. Ball striking's been good, same today. Missed a couple short ones on 17 and 18, but rolling the putter nicely, so looking forward to this weekend." It was a further stroke back to Rory McIlroy, Zach Johnson and Hideki Matsuyama on 136.

McIlroy, playing his first tournament since sacking longtime caddie J.P. Fitzgerald as he tries to turn around a so-far disappointing season, chipped in for birdie at the 16th en route to a one-under 69 while Japan's Matsuyama and America's Johnson both shot 67.

"Once we got back out there after the delay, I think everybody felt a little flat," McIlroy said of playing after the afternoon

delay of more than three hours.

"I didn't help myself by missing a few chances as soon as we came back out. Luckily I found one birdie coming in." Australian Jason Day turned in a four-under 66 to join a group of six players on 137 that also included British Open champion Jordan Spieth, who signed for a 70.

Day had charged up the leaderboard with four birdies in his first five holes and five birdies on the front nine.

But he appeared to tweak his troublesome back, and had two bogeys and a birdie coming in.

#### MARATHON DAY

Organizers had moved up tee times in a bid to beat the weather and Walker, who was diagnosed with debilitating Lyme Disease in April, admitted the day "did feel like a marathon."

But he added that for him it was "a great day". "(I) played solid, hit it well, made some putts—just solid, a solid day of golf."

Walker, who hasn't lifted a trophy since making his major breakthrough at last year's PGA Championship, hasn't contended on the big stage this year. He missed the cut at the US Open and finished tied for 54th at the British Open, and said he wasn't thinking about his title defense at Quail Hollow next week. "It's just important for me to have a good week," he said. "I haven't had too many this year, it's been kind of rough. But things have been trending, I feel like, and hopefully this is shades of things to come." —AFP



WASHINGTON: Kei Nishikori of Japan competes with Tommy Paul of USA at William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center on Friday in Washington. — AFP

TENNIS

## NISHIKORI ESCAPES UPSET BID, FACES ZVEREV IN SEMI-FINAL

**WASHINGTON:** Top-10 rivals Kei Nishikori and Alexander Zverev advanced to a semi-final showdown at the ATP and WTA Citi Open on Friday while second-ranked Simona Halep retired with heat fatigue. Ninth-ranked Nishikori, the 2015 champion on the Washington hardcourts, saved three match points in a tension-packed second set before rallying to beat 225th-ranked American 20-year-old Tommy Paul 3-6, 7-6 (10/8), 6-4 after two hours and 40 minutes.

"It was a great battle," Nishikori said. "He almost had it. Happy to win." Zverev, a 20-year-old German seeking his fourth ATP title of the year and ranked a career-high eighth, took only 57 minutes to eliminate Russia's Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 6-4. "I felt so good from the start," Zverev said. "It was a great match for me."

It's just all coming together now." It will be the first career meeting between Nishikori and Zverev. "I'm sure it's going to be a tough match," Nishikori said. He has been playing really well. "Kei has been in the top 10 for a long time now," Zverev said. "He's going to be a tough test on the hardcourts."

The other semi-final sends US eighth seed Jack Sock-a 7-5, 6-4 winner over Canadian third seed Milos Raonic-against South African 15th seed Kevin Anderson, who blasted 21 aces to

defeat 200th-ranked Indian qualifier Yuki Bhambri 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, after ousting top seed Dominic Thiem on Thursday.

"I definitely have the belief in myself that I'm able to win this tournament," Anderson said. "If I play my best tennis I have a chance to do very well." A day after complaining that severe heat left her feeling "a bit dead," French Open runner-up Halep quit her quarter-final match in even more scorching conditions, allowing Russian seventh seed Ekaterina Makarova to advance 2-6, 6-3, 1-0. "It was just the heat. I felt a little bit sick and I couldn't continue," Halep said. "I had a headache and I felt sick."

#### KEI'S EXPERIENCE PAYS OFF

Nishikori's second-set drama intensified when Paul, in only his sixth career ATP main draw, hit a cross-court winner for an 8-7 tie-breaker edge. But Paul followed with a wide forehand, a backhand beyond the baseline and a miss-hit, handing Nishikori the set after 73 grueling minutes.

"For sure he got a little bit tight," said Nishikori. "But those points I played good points. I didn't make any unforced errors. Very focused. Experience worked well for me." Nishikori, in his first event since a third-round Wimbledon exit, broke in the third game of the

final set and held serve from there to eliminate Paul, who reached his first career ATP quarter-final last week in Atlanta.

"It was a tough match but it was a lot of fun," Paul said. "It was awesome. I didn't want to leave the court when I was done." Nishikori hasn't won an ATP title in 18 months, making his 30th start this week since winning last year at Memphis, a run that includes six losses in finals.

Raonic's title drought reached 19 months and 30 events after falling to Sock. The 2014 Washington winner last lifted an ATP trophy in 2016 at Brisbane.

#### 'CRAZY HOT AND HUMID'

US eighth seed Sock won 12 of the last 14 points over Raonic in the first set and broke the Canadian in the penultimate game of the second on the way to an 85-minute victory. "I was able to scrap out some balls and stay in some points to finish it off," Sock said. "It has been crazy humid and hot."

Sock has a 2-1 career edge on Anderson, winning their most recent meeting in last year's Auckland semi-final. Top seed Halep broke Makarova three times to take the first set in 30 minutes, but the Russian battled back to win the second set and broke to open the third before Halep retired.—AFP



AKRON: Jordan Spieth acknowledges the crowd as he walks to the 18th green during the second round of the World Golf Championships - Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club South Course on Friday in Akron, Ohio. —AFP



## TOYOTA GAZOO RACING EARNS FIRST EVER PODIUM FINISH AT NURBURGRING

**TOKYO:** TOYOTA GAZOO Racing took its first-ever podium in the 6 Hours of Nurburgring in a challenging fourth round of the 2017 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC). The pole position-winning #7 TS050 Hybrid of Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi, and Jose Maria Lopez claimed the third position after leading the early stages and setting the fastest lap of the race. The #8 car of Sebastien Buemi, Anthony Davidson, and Kazuki Nakajima finished fourth in the race.

"We are delighted to have secured a podium finish at the 6 Hours of Nurburgring, and I would like to congratulate the drivers, engineers, and support staff for putting on a good race," said Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief

Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "At Toyota, we hold a shared belief that participating in racing events like the World Endurance Championship, which put our people and cars to the ultimate test, is key to developing our human resources and making 'ever-better cars'. We deeply appreciate the support we have received from our fans, and we look forward to enjoying their continued backing through the rest of the season."

On this occasion, Toshio Sato, Team President, said, "Nurburgring has again been a challenging race for us. We showed good one-lap speed, and we enjoyed the close fight with the race winner, but the car balance changed

during the race, and this means we lost some performance. Today's race was really a damage limitation exercise in terms of the World Championship. We believe we will be stronger during the rest of the season in North America and Asia, when the target will be to close the gap and fight for the World Championship."

After light rain in the morning, the fourth of nine championship rounds was held in dry conditions. The race began in the worst possible way for car #8 when a fuel pump problem prevented Sebastien taking the start normally. After a very slow formation lap, he was forced to pit to fit a new fuel pump, losing eight minutes and five laps.

While Kamui led the opening stages in the

#7 from pole position, Sebastien began the #8 car's fight back. The battle for the lead was enthralling, with Kamui keeping the two competitor cars behind during the first hour before handing over to Jose Maria at the first pit stops.

After 80 minutes of fierce racing, the #7 dropped to third place, but Jose Maria fought back and kept the pressure on. At the start of his second stint, with two hours completed, he was within two seconds of the race leader. However, as the race wore on, a change of aerodynamic performance negatively affected both cars. With little realistic prospect of a change of positions, the two TS050 hybrids focused on completing a clean race to secure the valuable World Championship points.

Kamui took the chequered flag for the #7 car in third, earning the team's fourth podium of the season, 1min 4.768secs behind the winner. Kazuki finished the race for the #8 car five laps down. That result means Toyota stays in the fight for the manufacturers' World Championship. The #8 crew lead the challenge in the drivers' standings and are now 30 points away from the leaders.

The Nurburgring race marked the end of the European leg of the WEC season, with the teams heading to North America next for races in Mexico City (September 3th) and Austin (September 16th), prior to the final three races of 2017, which will take place in Asia.



**SAN FRANCISCO:** Adam Rosales #9 of the Arizona Diamondbacks tries to steal at second base before being tagged out by Brandon Crawford #35 of the San Francisco Giants during the ninth inning at AT&T Park on Friday in San Francisco, California. The Diamondbacks defeated the Giants 2-1. Stephen. — AFP

**BASEBALL**

# DARVISH MAKES STRONG DEBUT AS DODGERS CRUSH METS

**NEW YORK:** Yu Darvish fit right in with the steamrolling Dodgers, striking out 10 over seven innings of three-hit ball during his Los Angeles debut to pitch the top team in the majors past the New York Mets 6-0 on Friday night. Chris Taylor hit a leadoff homer against Jacob deGrom, and Mets nemesis Chase Utley added a two-run shot as Los Angeles improved baseball's best record to 77-32 with its 11th victory in 12 games. Yasiel Puig also went deep for the Dodgers, who have outscored New York 42-11 in winning all five meetings this season. In his first start since being acquired from Texas for three prospects just before Monday's trade deadline, Darvish (7-9) only made the Dodgers look even better. With his confident teammates behind him, the four-time All-Star snapped a five-game losing streak and won for the first time in nine outings since June 12 at Houston. DeGrom (12-5) allowed three runs and five hits in five innings. He has dropped consecutive starts after winning eight straight.

**NATIONALS 4, CUBS 2**

Daniel Murphy homered twice and Tanner Roark pitched into the seventh inning, leading Washington to the victory. With the game-time temperature at 63, Murphy hit a two-run homer in the first and connected off Kyle Hendricks leading off the sixth for a 3-0 lead. Roark (9-7) was working on a shutout before Javier Baez chased him with a two-run homer with one out in the seventh. Hendricks (4-4) gave up three runs and five hits in seven innings. Chicago has lost three straight after winning 14 of 17 following the All-Star break. Sean Doolittle worked the ninth for his fifth save in as many chances since he was acquired from Oakland on July 16.

**INDIANS 7, YANKEES 2**

Trevor Bauer won his third straight start, and Cleveland extended New York's losing streak to four. Bauer (10-8) allowed one run in seven innings, on Todd Frazier's fifth-inning homer. Third baseman Giovanni

Urshela made an outstanding defensive play on Clint Frazier's grounder to throw out Ronald Torreyes at home plate, and Gary Sanchez stranded the bases loaded with a strikeout. Traded from Atlanta to Minnesota to New York, Jaime Garcia (1-1) became the first pitcher to make three straight appearances as a starter for three different teams since Gus Weyhing in 1895, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Garcia gave up six runs, five earned, and five hits in 4 2/3 innings.

**TWINS 8, RANGERS 4**

Bartolo Colon threw his first complete game in two years to earn his first win with Minnesota. Brian Dozier homered twice and Robbie Grossman also connected as the Twins won for just the third time in 11 games. In his fourth start for Minnesota, the 44-year-old Colon (3-9) scattered nine hits in his 37th career complete game and first since Sept. 5, 2015, with the New York Mets. Elvis Andrus had three doubles and Carlos Gomez homered for the Rangers. Martin Perez (5-10) got the loss.

**DIAMONDBACKS 2, GIANTS 1**

Paul Goldschmidt had three hits for Arizona, and rookie Anthony Banda earned his first career win. David Peralta doubled and reached twice to help the Diamondbacks (63-46) beat Madison Bumgarner and the Giants in the first matchup between the NL West rivals since early April. One day after hitting a career-high three home runs at Wrigley Field, Goldschmidt reached on an infield single in the second, tripled in the fourth to drive in A.J. Pollock and tacked on an RBI single off the wall in left in the sixth. Brandon Crawford drove in San Francisco's lone run with a bases-loaded walk in the fourth. Bumgarner (1-5) was charged with two runs in seven innings. Banda (1-1) allowed one run and three hits in six innings. Fernando Rodney retired three batters for his 25th save.

**ROCKIES 4, PHILLIES 3**

Colorado left-hander Kyle Freeland left with a strained left groin after facing three batters, and D.J. LeMahieu singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth for the Rockies. Freeland, whose 11 wins this season lead major league rookies, appeared to tweak the leg after delivering a pitch to Aaron Altherr. Manager Bud Black and team trainers came out to check Freeland and made the decision to pull him after he threw several warmup pitches. Rockies spokesman Warren Miller said there was no word on Freeland's status for his next scheduled start. Nolan Arenado hit a tying homer in the seventh, and Mike Dunn (4-1) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the victory. Greg Holland got three outs for his 34th save. The last-place Phillies have dropped four in a row. Luis Garcia (1-3) got the loss.

**RED SOX 3, WHITE SOX 2, 11 INNINGS**

Mitch Moreland homered with two outs in the 11th inning, lifting the Red Sox to their fourth consecutive victory. Moreland, a defensive replacement in the 10th, drove a pitch from Aaron Bummer (0-2) over the Green Monster for his 14th of the season. It was Boston's second game-ending homer this week. The AL East-leading Red Sox moved three games ahead of the second-place Yankees, who lost 7-2 at Cleveland. The White Sox were 1 for 10 with runners in scoring position and left 10 on base while losing their fourth in a row. Eduardo Nunez hit a tying solo homer for Boston in the sixth, and Heath Hembree (2-3) got three outs for the win.

**ASTROS 16, BLUE JAYS 7**

Alex Bregman hit a two-run homer and Marwin Gonzalez added a three-run shot as part of a nine-run fourth inning, helping Houston stop a three-game slide. Tyler White homered twice for the Astros, and Yuli Gurriel also went deep. White finished with four hits and five RBIs. Brad Peacock (10-1) got his seventh straight win despite allowing a season-high seven runs in six innings. Kendrys Morales, Russell Martin and Ryan Goins homered for Toronto. Cesar Valdez (1-1) allowed six runs in 3 1/3 innings in his second straight rough start.

**BRAVES 5, MARLINS 3**

R.A. Dickey won for the first time in seven starts, Nick Markakis hit a three-run homer and the Braves overcame Giancarlo Stanton's two home runs to beat the Marlins. Stanton hit his 34th and 35th homers, passing Yankees slugger Aaron Judge for most in the majors, to give the Marlins a 3-1 lead in the sixth. Markakis took Adam Conley (4-4) deep in the bottom half of the inning to make it 4-3. Dickey (7-7) allowed three runs in six innings. Arody Vizcaino worked the ninth for his fourth save in six chances.

**BREWERS 2, RAYS 0**

Brandon Woodruff allowed seven hits in 6 1/3 innings in his major league debut and Orlando Arcia homered and scored both runs for Milwaukee. The Brewers won for the

third time in four games and moved within a half-game of the Cubs for the top spot in the NL Central. Arcia's three hits included a triple off Jake Faria (5-2) in the third and his 10th homer of the season in the eighth. Eric Thames followed the triple with an RBI single. Woodruff (1-0) struck out six and walked two. Corey Knebel pitched the ninth for his 21st save. Logan Morrison had three of Tampa Bay's nine hits.

**MARINERS 5, ROYALS 2**

James Paxton tied a Mariners' record by winning his seventh straight start, and Seattle moved back over .500. Paxton (12-3) did not allow a hit until Mike Moustakas' single with one out in the fifth, and Brandon Moss' two-out single ended Paxton's scoreless streak at 21 innings. Paxton was charged with two runs in six innings. Edwin Diaz worked the ninth for his 22nd save in 26 chances. Kansas City's Jason Hammel (5-9) gave up three runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings.

**PIRATES 10, PADRES 6**

Gregory Polanco hit a three-run homer into the Allegheny River during Pittsburgh's six-run seventh inning. With Pittsburgh trailing 6-4 and two men on, Polanco belted a pinch-hit drive 434 feet onto the riverwalk beyond the right-field wall. Twenty-nine different players have hit 43 home runs into the river since PNC Park opened in 2001. Padres right-hander Kirby Yates (2-2) recorded just one out and was charged with six runs. A.J. Schugel (2-0) won for the first time since July 9, striking out one batter in the seventh.

**TIGERS 5, ORIOLES 2**

Justin Upton hit a grand slam in the eighth inning to back a strong pitching performance by Justin Verlander, and the surprising Tigers earned their fourth straight victory. Jim Adduci also homered for the Tigers, who have won six of seven despite unloading three stars before the non-waiver trade deadline. Detroit's four-game winning streak matches a season high. Verlander (7-7) struck out 10 and gave up two runs and six hits over seven innings. Bruce Rondon, who entered with an 11.20 ERA, worked the ninth for his first save. Tim Beckham went 4 for 4 with a home run and Manny Machado also went deep for the Orioles, who have dropped two in a row to Detroit following a five-game winning streak. Mychal Givens (7-1) got the loss.

**ANGELS 8, ATHLETICS 6**

Pinch hitter Luis Valbuena hit a two-run single in Los Angeles' four-run seventh, helping the Angels rally for their fourth straight win. The Angels won for the sixth time in eight games to get back to .500 at 55-55. They are two games back in the race for the final American League wild-card spot. Kole Calhoun, Andrelton Simmons and Ben Revere began the seventh with consecutive walks against reliever Daniel Coulombe (2-2). Valbuena tied it at six with a one-out single against Blake Treinen. Yunel Escobar and Mike Trout added run-scoring hits for the Angels. Jesse Chavez (6-10) got the win and Bud Norris pitched the ninth for his 18th save. —AP

**MLB Results/Standings**

Arizona 2, San Francisco 1; LA Angels 8, Oakland 6; Colorado 4, Philadelphia 3; Seattle 5, Kansas City 2; Minnesota 8, Texas 4; Houston 16, Toronto 7; Atlanta 5, Miami 3; Boston 3, Chicago White Sox 2 (11 innings); LA Dodgers 6, NY Mets 0; Milwaukee 2, Tampa Bay 0; Cleveland 7, NY Yankees 2; Detroit 5, Baltimore 2; Pittsburgh 10, San Diego 6; Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 2; Washington 4, Chicago Cubs 2.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB	
Boston	61	49	.555	-	Washington	64	43	.598	-
NY Yankees	57	51	.528	3	Miami	51	56	.477	13
Tampa Bay	57	54	.514	4.5	Atlanta	50	58	.463	14.5
Baltimore	53	56	.486	7.5	NY Mets	49	58	.458	15
Toronto	51	58	.468	9.5	Philadelphia	39	68	.364	25
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	59	48	.551	-	Chicago Cubs	57	51	.528	-
Kansas City	56	52	.519	3.5	Milwaukee	58	53	.523	0.5
Minnesota	52	55	.486	7	St. Louis	53	56	.486	4.5
Detroit	51	57	.472	8.5	Pittsburgh	53	56	.486	4.5
Chicago White Sox	41	66	.383	18	Cincinnati	45	64	.413	12.5
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	70	39	.642	-	LA Dodgers	77	32	.706	-
Seattle	56	55	.505	15	Arizona	63	46	.578	14
LA Angels	55	55	.500	15.5	Colorado	63	47	.573	14.5
Texas	52	57	.477	18	San Diego	48	60	.444	28.5
Oakland	48	62	.436	22.5	San Francisco	42	69	.378	36



**HOUSTON:** Norichika Aoki #23 of the Toronto Blue Jays bats in the ninth inning against the Houston Astros at Minute Maid Park on Friday in Houston, Texas. — AFP

## MOTORCYCLING

## MARQUEZ BEATS ROSSI TO CZECH MOTOGP POLE

**BRNO:** World championship leader Marc Marquez claimed his fourth pole position of the season after beating Valentino Rossi in yesterday's qualifying for the Czech MotoGP in Brno. The reigning world MotoGP champion clocked 1min 54.981sec on his Honda to finish 0.92sec ahead of Italian veteran Rossi, of Yamaha, with Spaniard Dani Pedrosa at 0.138 for Honda.

The 24-year-old Marquez's 41st pole position in MotoGP, and 69th across the three classes, gives him a fantastic chance

of extending his championship advantage. "Tomorrow we'll see what weather conditions we have, as it looks a bit unstable and not as warm," said Marquez. "It will be a long, hard race but we should be able to fight for the podium in either the dry or the wet, so we're looking forward to it and to enjoying the race."

Considering his domination of the last four seasons that have delivered three top-class titles, Marquez does not have a very good record around the Brno circuit and is without a win since

2013. But he was in fine fettle in qualifying, and his rivals will have to find some extra speed to beat him in today's race. "I'm very happy with today because I knew that making the pole would be tough, as I normally struggle at this track, but I tried for it anyway," he added.

The world champion's compatriot Maverick Vinales struggled though, and qualified down in seventh place as he looks to cut the five-point gap to Marquez at the top of the riders' standings. In the tightest title battle since the

points system was changed in 1993, the 38-year-old Rossi is still in the hunt for a tenth world title. The legendary Italian has only won once this season, but has remained consistent and is only ten points adrift of Marquez in fourth.

He produced an impressive second lap in qualifying to take second place, after going third-fastest in both the third and fourth practice sessions earlier in the day. "It's a shame for the pole, because we were close, but the second place is a very good result and front row

is a good place to start the race from tomorrow," said Rossi.

"I knew I had a good potential and on the second run I was in the right position, with clear track in front, and I rode well. I was able to push without making any mistakes." The other world title contender, Ducati's Andrea Dovizioso, showed reasonable speed yesterday and will start the race from fourth place.

Briton Cal Crutchlow and former world champion Jorge Lorenzo complete the second row. — AFP

## FARAH CAPTURES 10TH SUCCESSIVE TITLE

**LONDON:** British athletics legend Mo Farah won his 10th successive global title on Friday winning the 10,000 metres world crown at the London Stadium where he won Olympic gold in 2012. The 34-year-old, who will bid to add a third successive world double in the 5000m later in the championships, had a narrow escape from disaster on the final lap when he was clipped twice but somehow kept his balance to prevail. Ugandan youngster Joshua Cheptegei of Uganda took silver and Paul Tanui of Kenya claimed bronze with Farah having once again foiled their respective nations' tactics.

"It makes me proud to be British. It's been a long journey, it's been incredible," said Farah who was accompanied by his family on a lap of honour. "It's been hard but I'm just mentally strong I guess." He added: "It was amazing tonight, I had to get my head around it. I got a bit emotional at the start and then I just had to get in the zone. It has all been amazing."

"I knew at 12 laps to go when they went hard from there I knew it was going to be tough. It was about believing in my sprint finish and knowing that I have been in that position before. It helped a lot having that experience." The Ugandans and the Kenyans deployed their strategy of 'surging' with them alternating the lead pace so as not to allow Farah to get into a rhythm. Two-time world cross-country champion Geoffrey Kamworor took up the pace with over 21 laps to run-Farah was seventh from the back but looking comfortable.

Kamworor exchanged the lead with Cheptegei, the 20-year-old performing the same role as he had in the Olympic final in Rio. Farah moved along in around 12th as Kamworor and compatriot Tanui injected

more pace up front and the trio of Ethiopians loomed large on the scene. However, Farah decided with 14 laps remaining to show them he was unaffected by their tactics accelerating down the finishing straight to briefly head the field.

The Kenyans resumed their control up front soon afterwards and upped the pace recording a lap of 61 seconds with the Ugandans tucked in behind them and Farah 11th. However, each time they thought they had him on the ropes Farah also sped up although Kamworor deliberately slowed it down recording a lap of 67 seconds. With nine laps to go the pace setting was taken up by young Eritrean Aron Kifle but despite the constant changing of pace Farah despite being elbowed looked comfortable.

With 2000m to the tape Cheptegei led the field but was then passed by the fastest man in the world this year Ethiopian Abadi Hadis, who looked in ominously good shape. With two laps to go Farah moved up to the shoulder of Hadis, passing him down the back straight, and as the bell rang he looked up at the big screen to see how his rivals were behind him.

Despite the two clippings Farah held his nerve and was able to repel one final challenge from the relentless Cheptegei to cross the line with fireworks going off to celebrate his feat. Prior to the race Farah had come onto the track waving his arms in the air urging the spectators to up the volume.

Introduced as they lined up for the start to the crowd they responded with a deafening roar-but nothing compared to what greeted their champion as he crossed the line in glory half an hour later. — AFP



**LONDON:** Cuba's Yoandys Lescay, South Africa's Wayde Van Niekerk and France's Teddy Atine - Venel, from left, compete in a men's 400-meter heat during the World Athletics Championships in London yesterday. — AP

## ATHLETICS

## VAN NIEKERK AND THOMPSON CRUISE AHEAD OF BOLT SHOW

**LONDON:** South Africa's Wayde van Niekerk and Elaine Thompson of Jamaica two athletes who the sport's authorities hope will take up the baton after the retirement of superstar Usain Bolt coasted through their heats at the world championships yesterday. Their performances were simply the appetiser on the day when 30-year-old Bolt will run his last individual races in a major championship in the 100 metres-and the charismatic Jamaican hopes culminate in his 12th world gold medal although he may not be able to afford the terrible start he had in his heat on Friday.

400m world record holder Van Niekerk-who has trained with Bolt's group and is hoping to emulate Michael Johnson in the 1995 world championship and do the 200/400m double-was content to allow Costa Rican Nery Brenes to have his moment in the sun in his heat for 350 metres before he upped a gear to saunter across the line in front-Brenes day turned sour as he was subsequently disqualified.

Young American Fred Kerley looked very impressive in strolling to victory in his heat, the 22-year-old all but pulling up in the final 50 metres-leaving experienced campaigners such as Belgium's 2010 European champion Kevin Borlee trailing in his wake although the 29-year-old took one of the other automatic qualifying spots in third. Botswana's Africa champion Baboloki Thebe signalled he would be a live medal contender with an impressive performance in winning his heat ad make up for the 20-year-old's disappointment of injury preventing him from taking his place in the Olympic semi-finals last year.

## CONQUER THE WORLD

He was joined in the semi-finals by compatriot Isaac Makwala, who won his heat beating American veteran two-time world champion and 2008 Olympic gold medalist LaShawn Merritt. "Wayde van Niekerk is my brother. We want to conquer the world together and make the final for Africa," said 30-year-old Makwala. "He is so friendly and a lovely guy." Thompson danced through the rain to book her place in the 100 metres semi-finals whilst bitter rival Dafne Schippers of The Netherlands also looked in smart form in finishing second in her heat.

Schippers, who admits her relationship with 100m and 200m Olympic champion Thompson is 'very bad', has moved mountains to redress the gap between herself and the Jamaican including working on her start. "I've been working on my starts and that one was okay," said 25-year-old Schippers, who finished fifth in last year's 100m Olympic final and then took silver in the 200m.

"My body is feeling good at the moment and I am not tired. I am excited for the semi-finals tomorrow (Sunday). "It's a good start for now," added the 2015 200m world champion. Olympic shot put champion Ryan Crouser looks in the sort of form to add the world crown to his title haul after easing into today's final with the 24-year-old American needing only one throw of 20.90 metres to qualify for today's final.

Crouser, who wolfs down 4000 calories a day, didn't finish top of the qualifiers-those honours were taken by New Zealand's Olympic bronze medalist Tom Walsh, who registered a mark of 22.14 metres. "To get the qualifier on your first throw is exactly what you want, but to throw 22m is another thing all together," said Walsh.

"It's amazing what you can do when you just get out there and throw for throwing's sake," added the 25-year-old former builder.—AFP



**LONDON:** Jamaica's Elaine Thompson, right, wins her Women's 100m first round heat ahead of United States' Ariana Washington during the World Athletics Championships in London yesterday. — AP

## BOLT TARGETS 12TH WORLD TITLE IN LONDON 100M

**LONDON:** A 12th world title beckons for Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt when he takes to the track in London yesterday to defend his 100m crown. Bolt, 30, will bring down the curtain on his glittering career at the end of this season, leaving a gaping hole at the heart of track and field built as much around his charismatic personality as his accolades. And his trophy haul is nothing short of miraculous: 11 world and eight Olympic gold medals, 13 of which have come in individual events. Apart from a false start in the 100m at the Daegu world championships in 2011, Bolt has made the blue riband event his own since winning at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

His world-record setting victory at the Berlin champs a year later was the first of three world wins along with Moscow 2013 and Beijing 2015, peppered by Olympic golds in London 2012 and Rio 2016. "You won't be particularly surprised when I say I'm sad he's going," IAAF president Sebastian Coe said this week. "I'm an athletics fan, I take my federation hat off, the guy has been a sensation."

Bolt was made to work in Friday's first round, blaming the "worst ever" starting blocks for a botched opening half before he turned on the afterburners to settle everyone's nerves. "That was very bad," Bolt said. "I'm not fond of these blocks. I have to get this start together because

I can't keep doing this. It's shaky."

Bolt will race in the third and final semi-final, scheduled at 1819 GMT, with the final slated for 2045 GMT. The Jamaican will be up against American Christian Coleman, the world's fastest over 100m this year with 9.82sec, in his semi-final. But he avoids Coleman's veteran teammate and his arch-rival Justin Gatlin, who races in the first semi alongside Bolt's compatriot Julian Forte, the sole sprinter to dip under 10sec in qualification with a 9.99. Gatlin was afforded a rough reception on Friday, loud boos and jeering ringing around the same stadium where in 2012, his rivalry with Bolt was presented as 'good against evil', given the American's doping-tainted past. Gatlin, the last man to beat Bolt over 100m-by a hundredth of a second in Rome in 2013 — said he was focused on himself. "I'm not worried about the crowds. I just focus on my start and my race," said Gatlin, silver medalist behind Bolt at the last two world champs, having also picked up a silver and bronze at the last two Olympics to go with his 2004 gold.

In eight individual finals at the past four worlds (as well as in four 4x100m relay finals), Bolt has only suffered one that one hiccup in Daegu and it would be a brave person to bet against the Jamaican adding to his honours. Even Gatlin conceded that "Bolt looks good".—AFP



**LONDON:** Britain's Mo Farah wins the final of the men's 10,000m athletics event at the 2017 IAAF World Championships at the London Stadium in London on Friday. — AFP

## RUGBY

## CRUSADERS BEAT 14-MAN LIONS FOR EIGHTH TITLE

**JOHANNESBURG:** Canterbury Crusaders survived a rally by 14-man Golden Lions to triumph 25-17 in Johannesburg yesterday and win a record-extending eighth Super Rugby title. The match at Ellis Park stadium took a decisive turn just before half-time when Lions flanker Kwagga Smith was red-carded for tackling airborne Crusaders full-back David Havili.

An already dominant visiting team took full advantage of having an extra man as they stretched a 12-point half-time lead to 25-3 before the home side rallied with two late tries. "You were not in a realistic position to contest for the ball," South African referee Jaco Peyper told Smith before sending him off. A debatable yellow card by Peyper against 2016 Player of the Year Beauden Barrett had helped the Lions defeat another Kiwi side, Wellington Hurricanes, in the semi-finals.

Victory for a clinical, disciplined and defensively brilliant Crusaders outfit brought a first Super Rugby title since 2008. It was a second successive final loss for the Lions, who fell by 17 points to the Wellington Hurricanes in New Zealand last year. Defeat robbed Lions coach Johan Ackermann of a fairytale farewell as it was his last match in charge before taking over English Premiership club Gloucester. Crusaders broke the deadlock after eight minutes with a turnover offering winger Seta Tamanivalu a chance to dart unopposed from his half and score. Fly-half Richie Mo'unga converted and the Christchurch outfit were seven points

ahead as they sought to avoid losing a third final since their 2008 triumph.

Lions seemed rattled by the setback and fell further behind on 12 minutes when good work by centre Ryan Crotty and hooker Codie Taylor set up centre Jack Goodhue to score. Mo'unga saw his second conversion drift across the posts and wide and Havili was also off target with a long-range penalty attempt. Lions finally got points on the scoreboard after 27 minutes as leading 2017 Super Rugby scorer and fly-half Elton Jantjies slotted a penalty. The South Africans had another, easier penalty opportunity soon after, but opted to kick for touch in the hope of scoring a pushover try. But the gamble backfired thanks to a Crusaders turnover and then the match took a decisive turn in favour of the New Zealanders when Smith was red-carded. Almost immediately a seven-man Lions scrum was pushed back, penalised, and Mo'unga kicked a penalty for a 12-point half-time advantage. The last thing the depleted South Africans needed early in the second half was to concede another try, but that is what happened. Crusaders took the ball within a few metres of the tryline, then spun it along the line and No. 8 Kieran Read scored with Mo'unga converting. The fly-half then stretched the lead to 25-3 with a penalty and a rout seemed in prospect.

But the Lions rallied and hooker Malcolm Marx and replacement prop Corne Fourie barged over for tries and Jantjies converted both to give the scoreline a respectable look. — AFP

# GRIFFITHS AT THE DOUBLE AS CELTIC ROUT HEARTS

**GLASGOW:** Leigh Griffiths struck twice as Celtic made a flying start to their Scottish Premiership title defence with a 4-1 thrashing of Hearts yesterday. Griffiths opened the scoring in the 29th minute before Scott Sinclair made it 2-0 five minutes after the break at Parkhead.

The Scotland striker's diving header added to Celtic's advantage before Callum McGregor's unstoppable strike made it four in the 73rd minute. Hearts, with under-20s coach Jon Daly in interim charge following Ian Cathro's sack-

ing in midweek, grabbed a late consolation through substitute Isma Goncalves. The manner of Celtic's win sends out a warning to the rest of the league that the Hoops, who collected a treble last season as they finished the campaign unbeaten, will be hard to stop as they chase a seventh successive title. The noise before kick-off was deafening as captain Scott Brown, in his testimonial year with the Hoops, unveiled the championship flag.

However, the atmosphere soon became strangely subdued, not helped

by the notable absence of Ultras group The Green Brigade, who were serving the second of a two-game stadium ban following their display of paramilitary style banners at their Champions League qualifier against Linfield.

Nir Bitton had a chance to lift the home support early on when he got on the end of an in-swinging corner from Griffiths but the Israeli international sent his header into the side-netting. Celtic should have been in front in the 25th minute when Griffiths was sent clean through by Sinclair, but the striker

lashed his effort wide with only the 'keeper to beat.

Griffiths made amends four minutes later as he fired Celtic in front when he latched on to Bitton's fabulous long ball and slotted home at the second attempt after his first effort was stopped by Jack Hamilton.

The second half was barely five minutes old when Sinclair made it 2-0. Hearts captain Christophe Berra fluffed his attempted clearance of a Griffiths corner and the ball landed to the English winger at the far post, allowing

him to tap in from close range. Sinclair then played a part in Celtic's third goal as he slipped a pass through to McGregor whose fine cross was headed home by Griffiths from six yards out. Sinclair was the architect of Celtic's fourth goal as he raced at the retreating Hearts rearguard before picking out McGregor, who sent a fierce left-foot strike into the roof of the net.

Hearts did manage to pull one back in the 84th minute. Goncalves held off the challenge of Jozo Simunovic before firing home from a tight angle. — AFP

CRICKET

## MENDIS HITS DEFIANT TON BUT INDIA ON TOP

**COLOMBO:** India tightened its grip on the second Test against Sri Lanka despite a fighting century by Kusal Mendis during the hosts' follow-on in Colombo yesterday. Mendis put on 191 runs for the second wicket with opener Dimuth Karunaratne (92 not out) before falling to paceman Hardik Pandya for 110 just before stumps on day three.

The hosts were 209 for two at close, still trailing India by 230 runs in their second innings. Karunaratne and nightwatchman Malinda Pushpakumara on two were at the crease. "Credit to them, they batted really well. I don't think we did too much wrong," India's ace spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who took five wickets in Sri Lanka's first innings, told reporters.

"Hopefully we will try and nick them off tomorrow. I think this wicket will get slower and slower. It is not going to be easy work tomorrow for sure," said Ashwin. Earlier in the day, Sri Lanka nosedived from their overnight 50-2 to 183 all out at lunch, handing the visitors a chance to clinch the three-match series 2-0.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Niroshan Dickwella, who top-scored for the hosts with 51 in the first innings, said the team needs to back itself at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground. "We weren't good in the first session. We had plans before the second innings started," said Dickwella.

"Track is not difficult at all. We adapted brilliantly. We had a plan and we executed it well and that's the reason why we are 209 for two. "We have to back ourselves 100

percent. We might get out playing positive shots... We are international players and we need to adapt quickly," Dickwella added. The islanders were in early trouble in the second innings when paceman Umesh Yadav got opener Upul Tharanga out for two after lunch on a seemingly deteriorating pitch.

THE MARATHON STAND

The left-right batting combination of Karunaratne and Mendis then dug in their heels to thwart the Indian bowling attack, forcing skipper Virat Kohli to rotate his options. The duo handled the Indian spinners with aplomb, using their feet to good effect as they combined the right dose of caution and aggression. "They both are great players. They executed the plans and used the crease and swept well. Mendis has been a brilliant player in his small career," said Dickwella. Mendis, who hit his third Test hundred, played an attacking game as he smashed 17 boundaries before letting go of his hard work with a catch to wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha.

The Colombo-born Karunaratne remained patient during his 200-ball knock so far as he played out the remaining few overs with debutant Pushpakumara in a tense finish to the day. But it was the first session that hit the hosts hard as they lost eight of their remaining wickets and conceded a 439-run lead in response to India's formidable 622-9 declared. The Dinesh Chandimal-led Sri Lanka need at least a draw to stay alive in the series. —AFP



**DE LUTTE:** Netherlands players attend a training session on the eve of the UEFA Women's Euro 2017 football tournament final match against Denmark in De Lutte yesterday. — AFP

SOCCER

## DENMARK PLAN 'ROCKY' WIN IN WOMEN'S EURO FINAL

**ENSCHDE:** When Denmark take on hosts Netherlands in today's women's Euro final, it will be like Rocky Balboa fighting Apollo Creed for the second time, said Danish coach Nils Nielsen. Bracing for their first-ever Euro final in history, the two teams clashed in the group stage when the hosts won 1-0 owing to a 20th-minute spot kick by skipper Sherida Spitse.

"We had a very interesting first match," Nielsen said. "It's like the 'Rocky' movies. In the first fight between Rocky and Apollo Creed, Apollo Creed was a bit surprised that Rocky actually fought back and we fought back in the second half."

"It's going to be the same with the match tomorrow with Holland, it's going to be like the second match between Apollo Creed and Rocky and this time Rocky's going to win," Nielsen added.

Denmark will miss midfielder Line Jensen, out with torn knee ligaments since the quarter-finals. "Those eleven players that will come onto the pitch will be ready," said Nielsen. But they will face a mammoth task against the Dutch who have a perfect record at the tournament so far.

In the quarter-final, they impressively routed England 3-0 in front of more than 27,000 fans, while Denmark struggled to beat Euro newcomers Austria on penalties. The Twente arena in Enschede will be sold out again today when the rivals seek to become only the fourth team to lift the trophy after eight-time champions Germany, two-time winners Norway and Sweden, who won the first edition in 1984.

"Holland have a lot of pressure because of the fans at the stadium. We also have pressure because we want to win this game," said Denmark midfielder Sanne Troelsgaard.

But Dutch coach Sarina Wiegman said the home crowd was an advantage. "It gives us a lot of strength. It just stimulates us to play better and it's really good to have so many supporters at the stadium," she said. She added both teams had grown since that first encounter in the group.

"We both got stronger during the tournament," Wiegman said. "Both teams want to play a possession game and want to be dynamic in their game."

She singled out the Denmark attacking duo of Nadja Nadim and skipper Pernille Harder as a special threat. "We know they have a very strong attack, Nadim is a good player and Pernille Harder is one of the best players in the world."

Netherlands' star striker Vivianne Miedema, who has scored twice so far at the tournament, was more concerned with Denmark's defence. "They've just conceded two goals so far. It will be hard for us tomorrow," said the 21-year-old, recently signed by Arsenal from Bayern Munich.

"The Danish team is really good, they played really well against us." She also picked out Denmark's biggest success at the tournament—their surprise 2-1 quarter-final win over odds-on favourites Germany. "They made sure that Germany went home, which we really liked—but now we know it's a really strong team." —AFP

## LACAZETTE, MORATA IN UNEXPECTED SHOWDOWN

**LONDON:** Had the close season panned out as initially expected, Alexandre Lacazette and Alvaro Morata would not be lining up for Arsenal and Chelsea in today's Community Shield at Wembley. After 14 years at Lyon, Lacazette decided it was time to move on and was reported to have agreed to join up with his France team-mate Antoine Griezmann at Atletico Madrid.

However, Atletico then had a transfer ban upheld over the signing of foreign minors and with the Madrid club barred from registering new players until January 2018, Arsenal stepped in.

Arsenal's fans have been crying out for a top-rank striker ever since Robin van Persie was sold to Manchester United in 2012 and in Lacazette their wish appears to have been granted.

A dead-eyed finisher, the 26-year-old was the top-scoring Frenchman in each of the last three Ligue 1 seasons and left Lyon having scored 113 goals in his last four campaigns. He cost Arsenal an initial fee of £46.5 million (\$60.6 million, 51.6 million euros), making him both Arsenal's biggest ever signing and Lyon's biggest ever sale. Lacazette will form a potentially devastating attacking trident with Mesut Ozil and Alexis Sanchez, but manager Arsene Wenger has warned that he will need time to find his feet in north London.

"Sometimes it takes a few months, sometimes it takes very little time," Wenger said. "The only thing I must say with Lacazette is that week after week, he looks to adapt quickly. But overall I think it will take him one or two months." Morata's move to England was no surprise, but the Spain international had been earmarked for a move to Manchester United. Instead, United hijacked Chelsea's attempt to bring Romelu Lukaku back to Stamford Bridge and the champions switched their attentions to Morata. The 24-year-old cost

Chelsea £58 million and is due to take the place of Diego Costa, who-completing the love triangle-is at loggerheads with the club over his desire to return to Atletico.

Morata has scored in a Champions League final, netting for Juventus in their 2015 loss to Barcelona, but arrives after a frustrating season as a back-up player at Real Madrid. Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino has claimed Morata was deterred from joining Spurs two years ago due to his fears about the competition he would face from Harry Kane.

But despite the striker's inability to dislodge Karim Benzema from the Madrid starting XI, Chelsea manager Antonio Conte believes he can reach the very top. "He is a young player and my task is to help him improve and exploit his quality," said the Italian.

"I know he has great quality to become one of the best strikers in the world." Today's game, the traditional curtain-raiser to the English season, is a repeat of last season's FA Cup final. Having streaked to the title, Conte was seeking to emulate his compatriot Carlo Ancelotti by winning a league and FA Cup Double in his first maiden Chelsea season. But Arsenal blew Chelsea away with a sensational display, Aaron Ramsey's 79th-minute winner securing a 2-1 win that brought the beleaguered Wenger a record seventh success in the competition.

Sanchez could start on the bench for Arsenal, having only returned to training on Tuesday after being given an extended break following his exertions with Chile at the Confederations Cup in Russia. Centre-back Shkodran Mustafi, likewise, is short of fitness, after also playing at the tournament, while defender Gabriel and midfield pair Francis Coquelin and Jack Wilshere are definitely out. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka:** Scoreboard yesterday at stumps on the third day of the second cricket test between Sri Lanka and India at Sinhalese Sports Club:

<b>India, 1st Innings 622-9 dec:</b>	22-6-84-2, Umesh Yadav 5-11-12-1.
<b>Sri Lanka 1st Innings: (Overnight 50-2)</b>	
Dimuth Karunaratne c Rahane b Ashwin	25
Upul Tharanga c Rahul b Ashwin	0
Kusal Mendis c Kohli b Yadav	24
Dinesh Chandimal c Pandya b Jadeja	10
Angelo Mathews c Pujara b Ashwin	26
Niroshan Dickwella b Shami	51
Dhananjaya de Silva b Jadeja	
Dilruwan Perera b Ashwin	25
Rangana Herath b Shami	2
Malinda Pushpakumara not out	15
Nuwan Pradeep b Ashwin	0
Extras: (4b, 1lb)	5
Total: (all out)	183
Overs: 49.4.	
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-33, 3-60, 4-64, 5-117, 6-122, 7-150, 8-152, 9-171, 10-183.	
Bowling: Mohammed Shami 6-1-13-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 16.4-3-69-5, Ravindra Jadeja	
<b>Sri Lanka 2nd Innings:</b>	
Dimuth Karunaratne not out	92
Upul Tharanga b Yadav	2
Kusal Mendis c saha b Pandya	110
Malinda Pushpakumara not out	2
Extras: (1w, 2nb)	3
Total: (for 2 wickets)	209
Overs: 60.	
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-198.	
To bat: Dinesh Chandimal, Angelo Mathews, Niroshan Dickwella, Dhananajaaya de Silva, Dilruwan Perera, Rangana Herath, Nuwan Pradeep.	
Bowling: Umesh Yadav 9-2-29-1, Ravichandran Ashwin 24-6-79-0, Mohammed Shami 6-2-13-0, Ravindra Jadeja 16-2-76-0, Hardik Pandya 5-0-12-1 (1w, 2nb).	
Series: India leads three-match series 1-0.	



**COLOMBO:** Sri Lankan cricketer Kusal Mendis (L) is watched by Indian wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha (L) and Cheteshwar Pujara (C) as he plays a shot during the third day of the second Test match between Sri Lanka and India at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Ground in Colombo yesterday. — AFP

## ENGLAND BUILD ON BAIRSTOW'S DASHING 99 IN FOURTH TEST

**MANCHESTER:** Jonny Bairstow struck a dashing 99 before England's bowlers made inroads into South Africa's top order on the second day of the fourth Test at Old Trafford yesterday. At tea, South Africa were 93 for three in reply to England's first innings 362 — a deficit of 269 runs.

Temba Bavuma was 30 not out and Faf du Plessis, the South Africa captain, six not out, with the Proteas needing a win in Manchester if they were to end this four-match series all square at 2-2. But they'd so far found runs hard to come by, with their batsmen as yet unable to disrupt England's bowlers.

James Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, needed just three balls to strike from the newly-named James Anderson End at his Lancashire home ground when Dean Elgar, fresh from a gutsy second-innings hundred in South Africa's 239-run defeat in the third Test at The Oval, was lbw for a duck shortly before lunch.

Hashim Amla looked in typically stylish touch while making 30, punching Stuart Broad off the back foot for a well-struck four. But for the third time in as many innings, he fell to Toby Roland-Jones after the Middlesex paceman had twice removed him cheaply on his Test debut at The Oval.

Amla glanced Roland-Jones off his pads for four only to fall next ball when, trying to play a similar shot to a worse delivery, he was caught down the legside by wicket-keeper Bairstow to leave the Proteas struggling at 47 for two.

Once again this series, Bavuma came into bat needing to rebuild the innings. He and Kuhn went about the task steadily without ever looking like wresting back the initiative from England's attack. After several overs of determined defence, a mix-up nearly saw Bavuma run out only for bowler Moeen Ali to miss the stumps as he gathered a throw from mid-off. —AFP



**DUBLIN:** Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Roberto Firmino (C) runs through the Bilbao defence during the pre-season friendly football match between Athletic Bilbao and Liverpool at Aviva stadium in Dublin, Ireland yesterday. — AFP

# Sports

Van Niekerk and Thompson cruise ahead of Bolt show



Denmark plan 'Rocky' win in women's final



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## NEYMAR PLEDGES 'LOTS OF TROPHIES' TO PSG FANS

PARIS: Brazil superstar Neymar received a hero's welcome from the Paris Saint-Germain faithful yesterday as he vowed to win "lots of trophies" following his world record transfer. The 25-year-old was presented to fans at the club's Parc des Princes stadium ahead of their opening Ligue 1 match of the new campaign against Amiens. "Thank you! I'm very happy, I'm delighted to be here for this new challenge," said Neymar as fireworks went off around him and fans chanted his name over and again. "I want to win lots of trophies with you and I need your support to win these trophies," added the former Barcelona and Santos star. "Paris is magic!" he said in French before calling out the club's motto: "Ici, c'est Paris!" -Here, it's Paris.

Hopes the Brazil captain would make his debut for the club were dashed by red tape as his international transfer certificate wasn't lodged in time with the French league, meaning he would have to watch his new team-mates from the stands against Amiens.

But PSG had already started to recuperate part of his mammoth transfer fee on Friday when he was officially unveiled as the most expensive player in history at 222 million euros (\$264m). The club sold more than 10,000 shirts with his name and No.10 on the back on Friday, bringing in around one million euros.

They also expected to sell another 15,000 shirts yesterday while a 45,000 sell-out crowd would watch the opening game of the season. And money was the

subject of most of the questions fired at the Brazilian when he was unveiled to the media on Friday after arriving in the French capital on a private jet to sign a five-year contract with the Qatari-owned club. "I want something bigger, a greater challenge," said Neymar, who is poised to earn around 30 million euros a year. Neymar admitted that leaving Barcelona, where he formed part of a lethal attacking trio with Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, was not a decision he took lightly. "It was one of my most difficult decisions. In Barcelona I had adapted well to the city and the team. I had friends there and it has not been easy," he said. "It was a tense time, thinking about what I should do in my life. I have left behind a lot of friends, but things go very fast in football."

### 'NOT TWO NEYMARS'

Neymar will become the second highest-paid player in the world behind Carlos Tevez and his 38 million euros a year at Shanghai Shenhua but ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo's 23.6 million euros annual salary at Real Madrid. The transfer fee shattered the previous world record of 105 million euros set by Manchester United in signing France midfielder Paul Pogba last year from Juventus.

It is an eye-watering sum, but one that PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi insisted will eventually look like a bargain for the player who came third in the Ballon d'Or in 2015 behind Messi and Ronaldo. "There are not two Neymars in the world. I would love for us to meet in two years and see what his value will be compared to today. At least double," said Al-Khelaifi. "I don't think it's expensive, I'm convinced we are going to earn more money with him. It's a project of two brands: we're associating the Neymar brand and the PSG brand." There is scepticism at the role played by PSG's owners Oryx Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) at a time of political crisis for the energy-rich state which has been boycotted by its Gulf neighbours in recent months and will play host to the World Cup in 2022.

But on Saturday, Al-Khelaifi was focused more on success on the pitch as he hopes Neymar will help PSG win back the Ligue 1 crown they lost to Monaco last year, and finally land the coveted Champions League. "We have a great star, a great player here with us today," he said. "Now we're going to work hard to win lots of trophies." — AFP



"There are not two Neymars in the world. I would love for us to meet in two years and see what his value will be compared to today"

## NEYMAR DEAL MAKES FINANCIAL SENSE, SAYS PSG PRESIDENT

PARIS: Neymar's world record 222 million euro (\$264 million) transfer fee may look expensive, but it will end up earning a great deal of money for Paris Saint-Germain, club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi insisted yesterday.

Neymar, 25, is among the world's finest players and will help the ambitious Ligue 1 club gain the success it craves in Europe. But the eye-popping fee left many experts divided over whether it was good business or a risky financial gamble.

"I don't think it's expensive, I'm convinced we are going to earn more money with him. It's a project of two brands: We're associating the Neymar brand and the PSG brand," Al-Khelaifi said.

And the incredible commercial potential of the former Barcelona star was visible after his first day at the club, with a rush on PSG shops on the Champs-Elysees and Parc des Princes to purchase his coveted number 10 jersey.

The French club had already clawed back around a million euros on their world-record investment in just one day thanks to selling a staggering 10,000 shirts bearing the Brazilian's name, costing 140 euros each.

The club are also expected to sell a further 15,000 Neymar shirts on Saturday, when he was presented to the fans at the Parc des Princes ahead of their Ligue 1 opener against Amiens.

The merging of the brands appears to have commercial potential too.

PSG deputy managing director Frederic Longuepee told AFP that the club was valued at 1 billion euros and has "200 million fans around the world".

As for the Neymar brand, the player has 30 million Twitter followers, 60 million on Facebook and a whopping 78 million on Instagram—second only to Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

"With Neymar, PSG will sell a great deal of shirts and have all kinds of commercial partnerships in France and around the world, but it is difficult to measure how much," Jean-Pascal Gayant, Professor of Economics at the University of Le Mans, told AFP.

Gayant believes that while the transfer fee may look "risky", the club would swiftly renegotiate its existing commercial and sponsorship contracts to benefit from the Neymar effect.

Neymars in the world. I would love for us to meet in two years and see what his value will be compared to today. At least double," boasted Al-Khelaifi.

Pundits in England suggest part of the transfer fee gold rush is fuelled by a belief prices will indeed rise sharply, but not everyone agrees.

"Not much surprises me anymore, but 400 million (euros) would do the trick.

In sporting terms, physically he is at his peak value now, in our way of calculating a player's value. The optimum is around 26 or 27-years-old (he's 25)," said Loic Ravenel, a researcher with the Football Observatory.

"Over the next five years his value will rise but, maybe not to those summits," he told AFP of Al-Khelaifi's predictions.

And the Football Observatory estimated Neymar's value using their algorithm which they can apply to any footballer in Europe—at 210.7 million euros.

"The most added value would be with (Kylian) Mbappe, (Paul) Pogba, or (Anthony) Martial, players at 21-22 (18, 24 and 21 in fact), and who can still be resold at 26, which is the case in point with Neymar," the expert insisted.

"But maybe by then another young footballer may have come along and replaced him, maybe someone even better, attracting the media and the sponsors."

Former Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa, now with French side Lille, believes Neymar is value for money.

"If one considers what he brings or produces nothing that is invested is exaggerated. According to this logic, Neymar is not expensive," said Bielsa.

Former Barcelona vice-president Marc Ingla hailed Neymar's signing as a new dawn for the French league.

"It's exciting, it's very good news for French football," said Spaniard Ingla, now director general at Lille.

"I have great belief in Ligue 1 and its ability to produce great talents. For me, France is like the Brazil of Europe. Neymar is an accelerator of the image of Ligue 1 which he can bring to wider television audiences." On the pitch, PSG are hoping Neymar can help them win back the Ligue 1 title they lost to Monaco last season, and also finally get their hands on the Champions League trophy. — AFP

'HIS VALUE WILL DOUBLE'  
"There are not two



Brazilian soccer star Neymar walks away with the chairman of Paris Saint-Germain Nasser Al-Khelaifi, left, following a press conference in Paris Friday. — AP



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## BOURSA KUWAIT EKES OUT MARGINAL GAINS



**CARACAS:** Venezuelan Bolivarian National Guard officers stand guard outside of chief prosecutor's office in Caracas, Venezuela yesterday. Venezuela's currency, the bolivar, is sinking faster and faster under an intensifying political and economic crisis that has left citizens destitute and increasingly desperate. —AP

# VENEZUELA CURRENCY CRUMBLES AT DIZZYING SPEED

### BOLIVAR PLUNGE LEAVES CITIZENS DESTITUTE AND DESPERATE

**CARACAS:** Venezuela's money, the bolivar, is sinking faster and faster under an intensifying political and economic crisis that has left citizens destitute and increasingly desperate.

Its depreciation accelerated this week, after

a disputed vote electing an all-powerful "Constituent Assembly" filled with allies of President Nicolas Maduro, which the opposition and dozens of countries have called illegitimate. On Thursday alone, the bolivar slumped nearly

15 percent on the black market, to be worth 17,000 to one US dollar. In a year, the currency has lost 94 percent.

The decline has been dizzying-yet largely ignored by the government, which uses an official rate fixed weekly that is currently 2,870 to the dollar. Ordinary Venezuelans, however, refer only to the black market rate they have access to, which they call the "dolar negro," or "black dollar." "Every time the black dollar goes up, you're poorer," resignedly said Juan Zabala, an executive in a reinsurance business in Caracas.

#### Salaries decimated

His salary is 800,000 bolivares per month. On Thursday, that was worth \$47 at the parallel rate. A year ago, it was \$200. The inexorable dive of the money was one of the most-discussed signs of the "uncertainty" created by the appointment of the Constituent Assembly, which starts work Friday.

As a result, those Venezuelans who are able to are hoarding dollars. "People are protecting the little they have left," an economics expert, Asdrubal Oliveros of the Ecoanalitica firm, said. But Zabala—who is considered comparatively well-off—and other Venezuelans struggling with their evaporating money said they now spent all they earned on food. A kilo (two pounds) of rice, for instance, cost 17,000 bolivares.

The crisis biting into Venezuela since 2014 came from a slide in the global prices for oil exports of which account for 96 percent of its revenues. The government has sought to monopolize dollars in the country through strict currency controls that have been in place for the past 14 years. Access to them have become restricted for the private sector, with the consequence that food, medicines and basic items—all imported — have become scarce.

According to the International Monetary Fund, inflation in Venezuela is expected to soar above 700 percent this year. In June, Maduro tried to clamp down on the black market trade in dollars through auctions of greenbacks at the weekly fixed rate, known as Dicom. There is also another official rate, of 10 bolivars per dollar, reserved for food and medicine imports. "Things are going up in price faster than salaries," noted Zabala, who spends 10 percent of his income on diabetes treatment, when he can.

#### 'No limit'

Maduro has vowed that a new constitution the Constituent Assembly is tasked with writing will wean Venezuela off its oil dependency and restart industry, which is operating at only 30 percent of capacity. But the president, who links the "black dollar" with an "economic war"

allegedly waged by the opposition in collaboration with the US, has not given details on what would be implemented. On Thursday, Maduro promised "speculators" setting their prices in line with "the terrorist criminal dollar in Miami" would go to jail. For the past four months, Maduro has been the target of protests which have been forcefully confronted by security units, resulting in a toll of more than 125 deaths. The opposition says the new Constituent Assembly is an effort to create a "dictatorship" along the lines of Communist Cuba.

Against that backdrop of tensions, "there is no limit on how far the black dollar can go," according to Ecoanalitica. But a director of the firm, Henkel Garcia said he believed the current black market rate "didn't make sense" and he noted that in the past currency declines weren't linear.

Oliveros said increased printing of bolivares by the government was partly the reason for the black dollar's rise. "When you inject bolivares into the market, that means that companies, individuals go looking for dollars, which are scarce," he said, estimating that the shortfall of dollars this year was some \$11 billion. The horizon is darkened further with big debt repayments Venezuela has to make, for instance \$3.4 billion the state oil company PDVSA has to reimburse in October. That debt is denominated in dollars. —AFP



## EXPERT SEES MACROECONOMIC RISKS FOR OIL INDUSTRY

**LONDON:** The global oil industry now appears to be in the early stages of a cyclical expansion which is likely to see prices rise over the next few years, slowly at first but then accelerating later.

Deep and long cycles in oil prices have been the defining characteristic of the industry since the 1860s. The boom-bust cycle which started in late 1998, with prices briefly below \$10 per barrel, and was only briefly interrupted by the recession of 2008/09, ended in January 2016, with prices briefly below \$28.

In the 18 months since then, the industry has returned to an expansion phase, with a gradual increase in prices and drilling activity, much of it centered on the shale plays of North America. Most of the industry's cyclical indicators (production, consumption, stocks, investment, employment, prices, costs) point to a sustained upswing in activity that is likely to continue in the short and medium term.

#### Expansion phase

Forecasting future movements in oil prices will always be subject to an enormous amount of uncertainty owing to the complex and non-linear dynamics of the oil market and all its sub-systems. "We've never been any good at predict-

ing these cycles, neither when they occur nor their duration. We don't spend a lot of time even trying," Rex Tillerson observed in 2016, when he was still chief executive of Exxon.

"How the future is going to look, we take no particular view on it, other than to recognize that whatever it is today it will be different sometime in the future, and after that it will be different again."

Price predictions have proved a regular graveyard for the reputations of even the most skilled oil analysts. But with the oil industry just emerging from the deepest slump in a generation, cyclical positioning strongly suggests that prices are more likely to move higher rather than lower in the next few years.

The industry's costs, which have always been pro-cyclical, are also likely to rise as the slack carried over from the downturn is absorbed and the supply chain tightens. The main uncertainty centers on how far and how fast oil prices and the industry's costs will rise in the years ahead.

Experience suggests the expansion is often slow and faltering at first and then accelerates as inherited slack is used up, memories of the downturn fade and confidence improves.

#### Too fast, too soon

The principal risk in the short term is that prices and drilling rise too far too quickly, overwhelming growth in consumption, and sending the industry back into a slump. Something like this occurred in the first half of 2017, with private equity investors, shale producers and hedge funds all trying to anticipate a cyclical recovery and pushing drilling rates and oil prices too high.

The result has been an inevitable setback, with oil prices falling from their peak in February, rig counts apparently reaching a temporary plateau, and more cautious positioning from hedge fund managers. The long-term cyclical recovery is likely to see more of these mini-cycles, as oil prices, capital investment, hedge fund positions and drilling expand unsustainably and then fall back. The basic trajectory, however, should remain one of a long cyclical upswing over the next few years.

#### Business cycle

The principal medium-term risk comes from the global economy, with the increasing probability of a recession in the advanced economies sometime before the end of the decade. The

current economic backdrop is exceptionally favorable for the oil industry, with a sustained expansion in business activity and a gradual acceleration in trade flows in most regions of the world. But the major economies, like the oil industry, are subject to long and deep cycles in activity, which have an impact on oil demand and prices. Unlike the oil industry cycle, which is in the early stages of expansion, the macroeconomic cycle in many of the advanced economies looks increasingly mature.

The US economy has expanded for 98 months, since hitting a trough in June 2009, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research's Business Cycle Dating Committee. The cyclical business expansion is already the third longest on record and will become the longest if the economy is still expanding in July 2019, surpassing the long boom of the 1990s.

There is a lively debate among economists about whether business cycles die of natural causes (because of accumulating imbalances in investment, inventories and financial markets) or are murdered by policymakers to control inflation or as a result of policymaking errors. —Reuters

## CHINA GOVT PLANS TO CRACK DOWN ON OVERSEAS DEALS

**HONG KONG:** China plans to further tighten the screws on overseas acquisitions by Chinese companies and borrowing to fund those transactions, and has started closely scrutinizing the commercial aspects of the deals, three people familiar with the move said. The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), and the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) are now reviewing deal agreements in minute detail, said the people, who work with various regulatory bodies and Chinese companies on their acquisition plans. The two bodies are asking companies looking to buy assets overseas to justify terms, including target valuations, deal premiums and financing arrangements, they said.

This was particularly the case with companies not seen by the Chinese government as "strategic," they said. The tightened measures have been issued as informal guidance by Chinese regulators and have not been made official yet, said two of the people.

The tightening of regulatory oversight for outbound purchases comes as Beijing is cracking down on some large domestic conglomerates for their debt-fueled acquisitions abroad of assets ranging from hotels to movie studios. The regulatory measures, if in place for an extended period, could deter some companies

from making overseas acquisitions, and could also weigh on outbound deal volumes in China.

China's outbound M&A volumes nearly halved in the first six months of this year to \$64.2 billion following a crackdown on capital outflows, after Chinese companies spent a record \$221 billion on assets overseas in 2016, according to Thomson Reuters data.

On top of tightened scrutiny of deal terms, the country's foreign exchange and banking regulators are also looking to step up their monitoring of loans made by the overseas branches of Chinese banks, two of the people said. Those two regulators - the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) and the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) - also plan to make it tougher for companies to borrow overseas by pledging some assets in China, the people said.

Borrowing funds from foreign banks and overseas branches of Chinese banks by pledging real estate and other assets in the mainland with local banks has been a common practice for some companies looking to fund foreign acquisitions. But some industry officials have questioned the quality of those pledged assets, and whether the lenders would be able to raise money against those in case borrowers default on their repayment obligations. —Reuters

# NISSAN WORKERS REJECT UNION BID AT US DEEP SOUTH FACTORY

VOTE ENDS BITTER DIVIDE IN COMPANY

**CANTON, United States:** Nissan has defeated a bid by the United Auto Workers to unionize employees at a factory in the US Deep South, ending a bitter contest that critics said laid bare a racial divide in the company. Some 60 percent of the approximately 3,500 workers in the Mississippi factory rejected the union in the vote that ended Friday, according to results released by the National Labor Relations Board, with pro-union employees vowing to continue their fight.

In a statement following the tally's release the company said it believes the outcome "positions Nissan to be competitive in the future" and urged the United Auto Workers union to end its bid to organize employees. Nissan had been accused of conducting a vicious anti-union campaign at the plant where 80 percent of the blue-collar work force is African-American, and about 3,000 temporary and contract employees working at the plant were not eligible to cast a ballot.

"It ain't over yet," Michael Carter, a Nissan employee who helped lead the union drive, told a crowd of more than 100 union supporters after the votes were counted.

"We are never giving up," he added. After years of work trying to organize foreign car factories in the South, UAW president Dennis Williams called the results a setback for workers but said defeat should not be conceded. "Nissan and its anti-worker allies ran a vicious campaign

against its own workforce that was comprised of intense scare tactics, misinformation and intimidation," he said.

A complaint by the NLRB Friday accused Nissan of threatening employees with termination because of union activities, and threatening to close the plant if workers voted to unionize, charges Nissan vehemently denied. "Nissan is running one of the nastiest anti-union campaigns in the modern history of the American labor movement," Gary Casteel, secretary-treasurer of the UAW, said in a recent statement.

**Jobs for depressed region**

The factory sits in what is historically one of the poorest areas of the poorest state in the union, according to government census data. Companies often choose to locate in the US South, where wages are low, unemployment is high and the states are generally anti-union. While the pro-union forces managed to ring the plant with supporters as the voting began Thursday, workers opposed to the union had fought back on social media and local talk radio. The anti-union campaign said the UAW's presence had forced plants to close in other parts of the country and said the union used dues money to support Democratic political candidates like Hillary Clinton.

Nissan said the plant, which sits along the

freeway just north of the state capital of Jackson, employs 6,400 workers, adding a measure of prosperity to a depressed region.

Prior to the vote's conclusion factory worker WaShad Catchings, 37, said the company seems to have different standards for its plants in Mississippi. He has worked for Nissan since the plant opened in 2003 and gradually came around to supporting the UAW.

"We don't want to bankrupt the company but we want to negotiate," he said. "We want a seat at the table. Let's negotiate. That's not too much to ask." The Delta, as the region is known, is considered the birthplace of the Blues, and residents are predominantly African-Americans, the descendants of the slaves and later poor share croppers who made the region one of the most important cotton-growing regions in the country.

Machines now harvest the cotton but poverty and limited education have restricted economic opportunities. The UAW has leveraged its history of support for the Civil Rights movement to establish a foothold in the community. Prior to the vote Harley Shaiken, a labor expert at the University of California-Berkeley, said a loss would not necessarily end the drive to organize. "I know the union isn't going away," Shaiken said. "They have succeeded in building a real social movement around the plant." —AFP



**BALTIMORE:** In this Oct 24, 2016 photo, a crane hangs over a container ship at the Port of Baltimore in Baltimore. The Commerce Department reported on the US trade gap for June. —AP

## US TRADE DEFICIT NARROWED TO \$43.6BN IN JUNE

**WASHINGTON:** The US trade deficit narrowed in June as exports hit the highest level in 2 1/2 years. The Commerce Department said Friday that the trade gap slid 5.9 percent in June to \$43.6 billion.

Exports of goods and services rose 1.2 percent to \$194.4 billion, the highest amount since December 2014 on higher foreign demand for American soybeans, computer accessories and other products. Services exports reached a record \$65.4 billion. US exports may be getting a lift from a pickup in global economic growth and a drop in the value of the US dollar against other currencies. A weaker dollar makes American products a better bargain in foreign markets.

Overall imports slipped 0.2 percent to \$238 billion on a drop in demand for cell-phones and other household goods. So far this year, the trade deficit is up 10.7 percent

to \$276.6 billion. The deficit means the United States is buying more goods and services from other countries than it is selling them. A shrinking trade gap boosts US economic growth.

President Donald Trump has vowed to bring down America's trade deficits, saying they are caused by bad trade deals and abusive practices by China and other US trading partners.

The deficit in goods with China rose 3.1 percent in June to \$32.6 billion and is up 6.1 percent to \$170.7 billion so far this year. The goods deficit with Mexico slid 18.3 percent in June to \$6 billion. The Trump administration is preparing to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada. Trump has complained that NAFTA encourages US manufacturers to move to Mexico to take advantage of cheaper labor. —AP



**CANTON:** Nissan employee Betty Jones expresses her disappointment at pro-union supporters losing their bid to form a union at the Nissan vehicle assembly plant in Canton, Mississippi on Friday. —AP

## WELLS FARGO NEEDS MORE TIME TO REVIEW ALLEGATIONS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Wells Fargo & Co is expanding an internal review of its sales practices and says the move could uncover significantly more accounts opened by bank employees without customers' consent. The San Francisco bank disclosed the broadened review in a filing Friday with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Wells Fargo has been trying to repair its reputation after admitting last fall that employees under pressure to meet aggressive sales targets opened as many as 2 million accounts without getting customers' permission. The company ended up paying \$185 million to regulators and settled a class-action suit for \$142 million.

The lender is now expanding its review of customer accounts going back to 2009. Initially, it planned to review accounts going back to 2011. It also expects to complete a review of potentially unauthorized accounts identified by a consulting firm. "We expect that our review of the expand-

ed time periods, which adds over three years to the initial review period of approximately four years ... may lead to a significant increase in the identified number of potentially unauthorized accounts," the company said in the filing.

Wells Fargo projects that its review will be finished by the end of the third quarter. It doesn't expect any costs stemming from the review to have a significant impact on the company. Last month, the company disclosed that roughly 570,000 customers were signed up for and billed for car insurance that they didn't need or necessarily know about. Many couldn't afford the extra costs and fell behind in their payments. In about 20,000 cases, cars were repossessed.

The bank has agreed to pay \$80 million in refunds and account adjustments to customers, with checks starting to go out this month. Wells acknowledged that its systems signed up customers who already had insurance. —AP



**JACKSON:** A Wells Fargo bank in northeast Jackson, Mississippi. At least three lawsuits have now been filed against Wells Fargo from customers who say they were hurt by the bank's latest scandal, involving how it operated its auto lending business. —AP

## UK CAR SALES FALL FOR 4TH MONTH IN A ROW IN JULY

**LONDON:** British new car registrations fell for a fourth consecutive month in July, the longest run of declines since 2011, in the latest sign of how uncertainty about Brexit is hitting Britain's economy, a car lobby group said on Friday.

Demand fell across business, fleet and private sales with total registrations down by 9.3 percent compared with July last year, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said. In the first seven months of the year as a whole, private sales were down 5 percent, with business registrations down 0.2 percent and fleet sales up slightly at 0.1 percent, leaving total registrations down 2.2 percent.

"The fall in consumer and business confidence is having a knock-on effect on demand in the new car market and government must act quickly

to provide concrete plans regarding Brexit," said SMMT Chief Executive Mike Hawes. Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said on Thursday uncertainty around Britain's split with the European Union was weighing on the economy.

Samuel Tombs, an economist with Pantheon Macroeconomics, warned that "the downturn has further to run". The hit to consumer sentiment from June's national election - in which Prime Minister Theresa May lost her parliamentary majority - could push registrations down further as sales tend to lag six months behind consumer confidence, he said. Registrations for alternatively fuelled vehicles, however, soared 64.9 percent, the SMMT said. The government said on July 26 that sales of petrol and diesel cars would be banned from 2040. — Reuters

## NIGERIA INTERBANK LENDING RATE SOARS ON CASH SQUEEZE

**LAGOS:** Nigeria's interbank lending rate jumped to 23 percent on Friday from just five percent a week ago after the central bank tightened liquidity. The more than quadrupling of the rate came after the bank sold a total of 167.60 billion naira (\$459.56 million) in treasury bills on Friday and withdrew an undisclosed amount from lenders to maintain cash reserve ratio.

It did so to support the currency, making naira scarcer in the market and more attractive to hold. Demand also strengthens the currency, helping fight inflation.

Inflation in Nigeria is running at more than 16 percent annually while the country's economy, clobbered by the low oil price has tumbled into recession over

the past year. The naira, meanwhile, has weakened from around 200 to the U.S. dollar in mid-2016 to nearly 364 on Friday—a 45 percent decline in value.

The central bank's sales on Friday amounted to 167.16 billion naira of 356-day open market operation treasury bills at 18.55 percent, and 439.45 million naira of the 188-day paper at 17.95 percent.

The total banking credit balance opened at 75 billion naira. But outflows from the system led the market into negative territory, traders said.

"We see the cost of borrowing rising further as the market struggle with tight liquidity and banks seek to cover their positions," one trader said. —Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.746
Indian Rupees	4.718
Pakistani Rupees	2.869
Srilankan Rupees	1.967
Nepali Rupees	2.956
Singapore Dollar	224.070
Hongkong Dollar	38.732
Bangladesh Taka	3.734
Philippine Peso	6.002
Thai Baht	9.092

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.720
Qatari Riyal	83.139
Omani Riyal	786.123
Bahraini Dinar	803.770
UAE Dirham	82.414

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.500
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.828
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.215
Tunisian Dinar	126.040
Jordanian Dinar	427.140
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.017
Syrian Lira	2.157
Morocco Dirham	32.353

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.500
Euro	359.370
Sterling Pound	401.270
Canadian dollar	243.560
Turkish lira	86.430

Swiss Franc	314.780
Australian Dollar	244.870
US Dollar Buying	301.300

GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.100
Canadian Dollar	240.555
Sterling Pound	395.155
Euro	354.530
Swiss Franc	289.630
Bahrain Dinar	803.920
UAE Dirhams	82.920
Qatari Riyals	84.135
Saudi Riyals	81.720
Jordanian Dinar	427.420
Egyptian Pound	16.954
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.972
Indian Rupees	4.715
Pakistani Rupees	2.877
Bangladesh Taka	3.746
Philippines Peso	5.976
Cyprus pound	167.275
Japanese Yen	3.710
Syrian Pound	2.415
Nepalese Rupees	2.950
Malaysian Ringgit	71.725

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.280
Thai Bhat	10.050
Turkish Lira	86.255

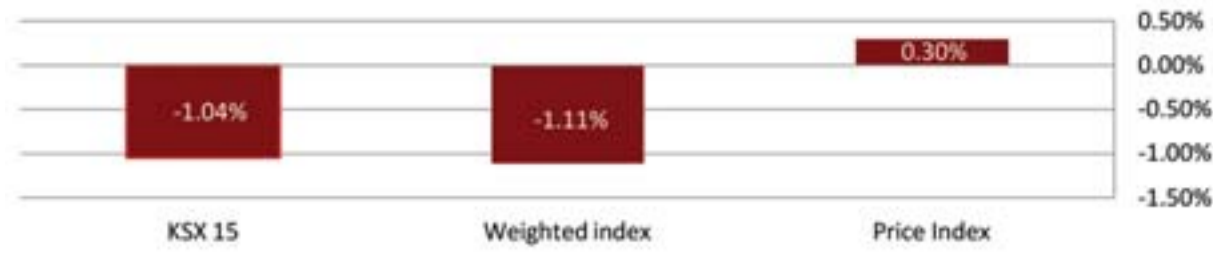
### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.398187	0.399187
Czech Korune	0.005810	0.017810
Danish Krone	0.044259	0.049259
Euro	0.351544	0.360544
Norwegian Krone	0.034317	0.039517
Romanian Leu	0.081595	0.081595
Slovakia	0.009016	0.019016
Swedish Krona	0.033088	0.038088
Swiss Franc	0.305077	0.316077
Turkish Lira	0.080704	0.091004
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.232011	0.244011
New Zealand Dollar	0.218312	0.227812
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.234129	0.243129
Georgina Lari	0.134777	0.134777
US Dollars	0.298500	0.302920
US Dollars Mint	0.299000	0.302920
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003334	0.003918
Chinese Yuan	0.043493	0.046993
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036805	0.039555

Indian Rupee	0.004234	0.004922
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002653	0.002833
Kenyan Shilling	0.002971	0.002971
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067371	0.073371
Nepalese Rupee	0.002974	0.003144
Pakistan Rupee	0.002653	0.002943
Philippine Peso	0.005913	0.006213
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.217230	0.227230
South African Rand	0.016705	0.025205
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001597	0.002177
Taiwan	0.009963	0.010143
Thai Baht	0.008755	0.009305
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795659	0.804159
Egyptian Pound	0.015556	0.021464
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000189	0.000249
Jordanian Dinar	0.422189	0.431189
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000155	0.000255
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019613	0.043613
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779554	0.785234
Qatar Riyal	0.078827	0.083767
Saudi Riyal	0.079607	0.080907
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.122384	0.130384
Turkish Lira	0.080704	0.091100
UAE Dirhams	0.080962	0.082662
Yemeni Riyal	0.000983	0.001063



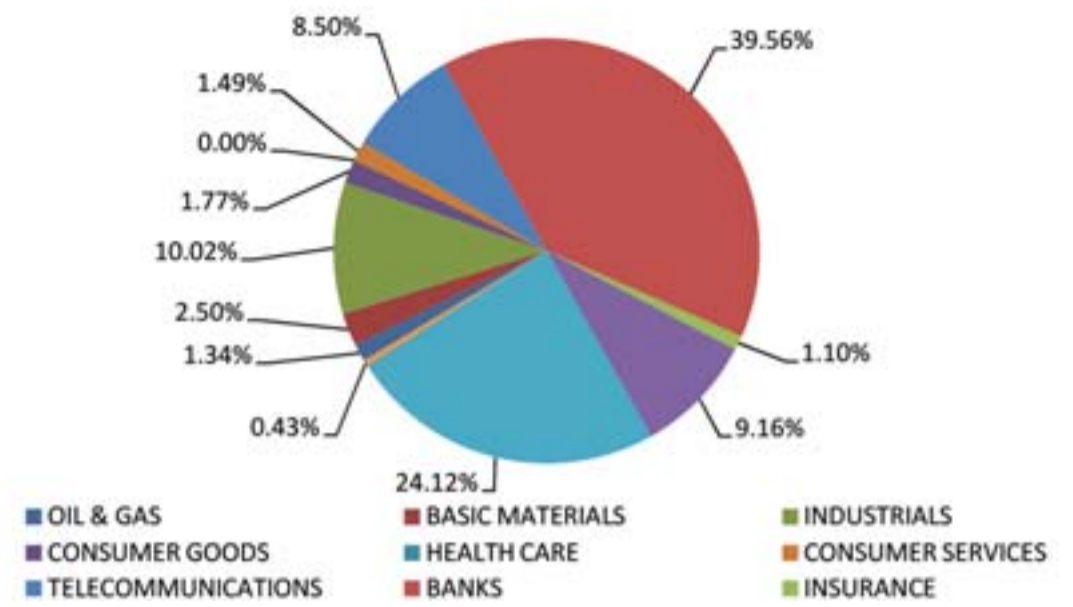
BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES



Last Four Days Activity



SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY



# BOURSA KUWAIT EKES OUT MARGINAL GAINS

## BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait ended last week with mixed zone. The Price Index closed at 6,825.70 points, up by 0.30 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 1.11 percent after closing at 412.70 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 944.45 points down by 1.04 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 37.79 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 8.98 million, whereas trading volume average was 60.75 million shares, recording a decrease of 30.18 percent.

The three stock indices witnessed a mixed closing affected by the different traders' preference in the market, whereas the Price Index was able to realize small weekly increase, in light of the control of the speculative operations over many small-cap listed stocks. However, the Weighted and KSX-15 indices could not record gains, affected by the decline of some leading and operational stocks, especially in the Technology & Telecommunication sectors, as it witnessed profit collection operations caused it to drop by the end of the week. Also, it was noticed during the last week the return of the purchasing operations on some investment groups in the market, where it witnessed collection operations especially after its prices reached tempting levels, which positively reflected on the Price Index in particular.

The market witnessed such performance in light of general state of watch & cautious in trading by many investors, waiting for the listed companies disclosures of its first half financial data for the current year. Moreover, the Boursa lost more than KD 300 million in the last five sessions, whereas the total value of the listed stocks in the primary market reached by the end of last week KD 27.28 billion, against KD 27.58 billion at the end of the earlier week, down by 1.09 percent. On an annual level, the market cap gains reached 7.35 percent compared to its value at end of 2016, where it reached then KD 25.41 billion. (Note: The market cap for the listed companies in the primary market is calculated based on the average outstanding shares as per the latest available financial statements)

Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	14,477,592	4.77%	601,699	1.34%
BASIC MATERIALS	2,358,192	0.78%	1,124,242	2.50%
INDUSTRIALS	21,323,187	7.02%	4,501,220	10.02%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,162,524	0.38%	793,788	1.77%
HEALTH CARE	526	0.00%	184	0.0004%
CONSUMER SERVICES	3,159,482	1.04%	668,960	1.49%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	12,257,033	4.04%	3,817,282	8.50%
BANKS	50,024,111	16.47%	17,767,963	39.56%
INSURANCE	1,657,886	0.55%	493,628	1.10%
REAL ESTATE	73,766,396	24.28%	4,113,979	9.16%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	122,073,021	40.19%	10,832,103	24.12%
TECHNOLOGY	1,500,132	0.49%	195,054	0.43%

As per the daily trading activity; Sunday session witnessed a decline of the three indices affected by the strong selling operations that many traded stocks were subject to, especially in the Banks sector, in addition to the continued profit collection operations executed on some small-cap stocks.

On Monday session, the market witnessed mixed closings of the three indices, whereas the Price Index was able to realize good gains that enabled it to compensate its previous session's loss, supported by the purchasing powers and the speculative operations that concentrated on the small-cap stocks in particular, while the profit collection operations continued its control over the trading of the leading

and operational stocks, which pushed the Weighted and KSX-15 indices to drop for the second consecutive session.

On the mid-week session, the fluctuation continued to control over the trading behavior but with changing positions, as the Price Index could not continue its upward direction and closed by the end of the session in the red zone affected by the quick profit collection operations executed on the small-cap stocks, while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices succeeded in increasing supported by the return of the purchasing operations on some heavy stocks.

On Wednesday's session, the market indices returned once again to close in the red zone,

amid a selling trend that included many stocks of different sectors, especially after the increases it witnessed in the previous sessions; such decline came despite the growth in the market trading activity compared to the previous session, whereas the value increased by around 14 percent, and the volume grew by around 15 percent. In addition, the Boursa witnessed on Thursday's session a return of its three indices to fluctuate, as the Price Index and KSX-15 Index were able to end the last session of the week in the green zone, while the Weighted Index went against the current and closed the session with some loss. Such performance came amid a decline in the trading levels compared to Wednesday's session, as the volume

decreased by about 27 percent, and the value contracted by around 25 percent.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 18.75 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 8.58 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 6.72 percent growth.

Sectors' Indices

Six of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the other six recorded decreases. Last week's highest gainer was the Health Care sector, achieving 11.48 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,683.91 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Oil & Gas sector's index closed at 1,090.94 points recording 7.75 percent increase. The Insurance sector came in third as its index achieved 3.49 percent growth, ending the week at 1,056.43 points. On the other hand, The Technology sector headed the losers list as its index declined 10.98 percent to end the week's activity at 625.78 points. The Telecommunications sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.40 percent, closing 595.30 points, followed by the Banks sector, as its index closed at 943.73 points at a loss of 1.36 percent.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated the total trade volume of around 122.07 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 40.19 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 24.28 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 73.77 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 17.77 million or 39.56 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 10.83 million representing 24.12 percent of the total market trading value.

—Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	6,825.70	412.70	944.45
	Previous week	6,805.31	417.34	954.42
	Change (Point)	20.39	-4.64	-9.97
	Change (%)	0.30%	-1.11%	-1.04%
Annual	Last year	5,748.09	380.09	885.02
	Change (Point)	1,077.61	32.61	59.43
	Change (%)	18.75%	8.58%	6.72%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	1,090.94	1,012.46	7.75%	39.75%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,247.90	1,263.25	-1.22%	24.19%
INDUSTRIALS	1,894.38	1,887.23	0.38%	40.95%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,024.39	1,023.35	0.10%	-8.95%
HEALTH CARE	1,683.91	1,510.51	11.48%	35.31%
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,051.54	1,040.94	1.02%	13.73%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	595.30	609.91	-2.40%	-6.42%
BANKS	943.73	956.70	-1.36%	12.72%
INSURANCE	1,056.43	1,020.81	3.49%	6.25%
REAL ESTATE	949.55	959.30	-1.02%	9.12%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	690.15	690.87	-0.10%	15.59%
TECHNOLOGY	625.78	702.98	-10.98%	3.07%

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	303,760,082	435,075,202	-30.18%
Value (K.D)	44,910,102	72,196,545	-37.79%
Deals	12,129	15,862	-23.53%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
27,275,265,506	27,576,604,225	-1.09%	7.35%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
FTI	59.40	47.30	12.1	25.58%
IPG	396.00	330.00	66.0	20.00%
MHC	480.00	400.00	80.0	20.00%
SANAM	43.00	36.00	7.0	19.44%
WINS	89.90	78.50	11.4	14.52%

# US PAYROLLS REPORT BOOSTS DOLLAR, STOCKS, BOND YIELDS

**NEW YORK:** The US dollar and bond yields climbed while stocks on Wall St rose modestly on Friday, following a stronger-than-expected US jobs report, which also showed a pickup in wage growth for the world's largest economy.

The US Labor Department said nonfarm payrolls rose by 209,000 jobs last month. June's employment gain was revised up to 231,000 from a previously reported 222,000. The unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent while average hourly earnings rose 0.3 percent, the largest increase in five months.

The report may pave the way for the US Federal Reserve to start shrinking its \$4.2 trillion balance sheet. US stocks retreated from early highs to keep a gauge of world stocks near the unchanged mark, although the index remained on track for its fourth straight week of

gains. The report also bolstered the dollar from 15-month lows against a basket of major currencies.

"It really reinforces a lot of the themes we've seen - which is you will continue to see solid, steady growth that is not knocking the cover off the ball, led mainly by the labor market, which is healthy, and consumption, which should continue," said Sameer Samana, global quantitative analyst at Wells Fargo Investment Institute in St. Louis.

"For financial markets, for right now, it's a good combination - good growth that is not leading to inflation." The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 66.71 points, or 0.3 percent, to 22,092.81, the S&P 500 gained 4.67 points, or 0.19 percent, to 2,476.83 and the Nasdaq Composite added 11.22 points, or 0.18 percent, to 6,351.56.

Financials, up 0.72 percent, were

## GLOBAL MARKET WEEKLY REPORT



**NEW YORK:** A Wall Street sign outside the New York Stock Exchange. US stocks rose slightly on Friday after the government reports stronger-than-expected job growth for the month of July. —AP

the best performing S&P sector, but gains on the broader S&P 500 were curbed by a decline in health-care names, and a 13.83 percent drop in Viacom.

The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index rose 0.99 percent and MSCI's gauge of stocks across the globe gained 0.04 percent. The FTSEurofirst notched its best day since July 12 while the Dow scored its ninth straight day of gains, and eighth straight closing record. The greenback was on pace for its biggest daily percentage gain since Jan 6 and its first weekly gain in four, buoyed by the jobs report and comments from National Economic Council director Gary Cohn that the U.S. administration is working on a tax plan that would bring corporate profits back to the United States.

The dollar had been weakening on political uncertainty in

Washington, including news on Thursday that a grand jury had issued subpoenas relating to an investigation of suspected Russian meddling in the 2016 US election. The dollar index rose 0.66 percent, with the euro down 0.72 percent to \$1.1782.

In bond markets, traders were betting the payrolls figures would cause the Fed to start to trim its balance sheet next month while a rate hike later this year could not be ruled out.

Benchmark 10-year US Treasury notes fell 10/32 in price to yield 2.2637 percent, from 2.228 percent late on Thursday. Oil prices rose on Friday as the jobs report bolstered hopes for rising demand but declined on the week, weighed down by strong US output and rising OPEC exports. US crude settled up 1.1 percent at \$49.58 per barrel and Brent settled up 0.8 percent at \$52.42. — Reuters

# ZAIN LAUNCHES EXCLUSIVE SUMMER OFFERS

## EXCLUSIVE OFFERS ON POSTPAID, PREPAID AND INTERNET PLANS

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of new and exclusive offers as part of its promotional campaign entitled "A Bundle of Joy This Summer" for the summer season. The new offers include free smartphone devices and double Internet capacities for both postpaid and prepaid customers on its most advanced network.

Zain's new offers, designed for both postpaid and prepaid customers, include a number of great features, including double Internet capacities for the same existing prices, as well as the latest and most advanced smartphone devices for free for the ultimate summer season and summer vacation experience.

As part of the exclusive summer offers for postpaid customers, Zain is offering an all-new plan that includes a FREE smartphone device, 10 GBs of 4G LTE Internet, and 250 local minutes for KD 10 monthly only. During the summer, the KD 40 monthly plan will now include two free smartphones, unlimited local



calls, as well as 1 TB of 4G LTE Internet. Postpaid Internet customers can also now enjoy double Internet capacities during the summer season and for the same existing prices, starting at 500 GBs (instead of 250 GBs) for KD 6 only with a commit-

ment. The new summer offers also include great features for prepaid customers, including double 4G LTE Internet capacities for the same existing prices on all eeZee plans, starting at 10 GBs (instead of 5 GBs) for KD 5 only. In addition, new eeZee customers will get

free KD 5 credit and free 5 GBs Internet when they purchase a new prepaid line.

eeZee Internet customers can now enjoy triple the Internet capacities at 60 GBs during the daytime and 60 GBs during the nighttime (instead of 20 GBs for each timing) for KD 5 monthly only without any commitments. Zain's new offers on its most popular postpaid and prepaid plans are part of the company's commitment to offer the most flexible and competitive offerings in the market, reinforcing its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best services and offers to meet customers' practical and personal telecommunications needs.

The new offers were specifically designed to complement the needs and aspirations of the largest family of subscribers in Kuwait. By launching the new summer offers, Zain aims at creating a new concept for the services it offers, as well as offering convenience with flexible and convenient plans that meet the different personal and professional needs of customers.

# KFH WINS 'BEST CONSUMER DIGITAL BANK IN THE MIDDLE EAST 2017'

## BANK BAGS AWARD FROM GLOBAL FINANCE

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) won "Best Consumer Digital Bank in the Middle East 2017" Award from Global Finance Magazine. Regional and Global winners, and Global Sub-Category winners, will be revealed on 2 November in London at Global Finance's Best Digital Bank Awards dinner.

KFH was chosen among entries evaluated by a world-class panel of judges at Infosys, a global leader in consulting, technology and outsourcing. Global Finance editors were responsible for



the final selection of winners in the first round. Global Finance selected KFH based on the following criteria: strength of strategy for attracting and servicing digital customers, success in getting clients to use digital offerings, growth of digital customers, breadth of product offerings, evidence of tangible benefits gained from digital initiatives, and web/mobile site design and functionality. Joseph D Giarraputo, publisher and editorial director of Global Finance said "Digital banking is here to stay, and this year's winners illustrate the importance of relentless innovation in products, systems and services. Corporate and retail clients expect transformative new solutions, and this year's winners consistently deliver on those expectations."

KFH offers over 180 e-services to customers. KFH has recently launched a novel approach of banking services; XTM that allows customers to conduct their transactions and perform many banking services in minutes in a very modern way using advanced tools through visual and audio communication options.

The bank launched 'Mobile Wallet Payment Service' that enables KFH customers to pay for their purchases by simply tapping their smart phones at Point of Sale (POS) terminals equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology. KFH launched Visa Checkout service, which enables quick, safe and secure online pay-

ment. The bank has launched several other innovative digital banking services.

KFH will continuously improve its services and keep abreast with latest banking technology in order to meet the aspiration of its customers while maintaining its pioneering position as a world leading Islamic financial institution.

It is worth noting that Global Finance Magazine is a monthly magazine founded in 1987. It provides a valuable source of data on 192 countries. With vast experience in international financial markets, it helps corporate leaders, bankers and investors chart the course of global business and finance.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic

banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.



## GULF BANK'S QUARTERLY SALARY ACCOUNT DRAW TOMORROW

DRAW LIVE ON 88.8FM'S 'RABAA AL-DIWANIYA' SHOW

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank has announced holding its second quarterly Salary Account Draw tomorrow, (Monday 7) live on 88.8 FM 'Rabaa Al-Diwaniya' show at 2PM, to announce the lucky winner of its KD 25,000 cash prize, in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Gulf Bank's salary account is tailored for Kuwaiti customers, and allows them to benefit from a number of unique offers by transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank.

The salary account offer gives new customers the opportunity to either receive a KD 100 cash gift upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank or an interest free loan. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and are fully eligible for

the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank. Customers can also enjoy a one year free of charge Visa or MasterCard credit card, as well as a chance to apply for loan up to KD 70,000, or a consumer loan up to KD 15,000.

Existing and new customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank are automatically enrolled in the quarterly draws and have the chance to win valuable cash prizes, including three quarterly prizes of KD 25,000, in addition to Kuwait's largest salary prize of KD 250,000 in the last draw.

The third Salary quarterly draw for the prize of 25,000 will be held on 6 November, 2017, while the final Salary's draw for the largest prize of KD 250,000, will be held on 8 February, 2018.



## KFH ANNOUNCES CARDS SUMMER CAMPAIGN 7TH DRAW WINNERS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 14 winners of the seventh draw of the new banking cards summer campaign themed "Get Back Double the Value of your Purchases". The campaign was launched in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are: Hessa Alkindari, Luluwa Alderei, Ali Alenezi, Norah Alnafsi, Elegbita Alqadiri, Ahmad Alshoayb and Yousef Alansari.

The campaign that lasts for 120 days gives KFH customers chances to enter draw to win double cashback up to KD 2000 daily. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used for domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used for international purchases are eligible for the draw. For every KD 1 spent locally earns 1 chance and every KD 1 spent internationally earn 3 chances to enter the daily draw.

This campaign is part of KFH efforts to

reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards. KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster bank's leading position in the field of banking cards.

KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, and benefitting clients and merchants. It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers.

## NO LET-UP LIKELY IN TRUMP TRADE WAR TALK

**LONDON:** Talk of trade war looks here to stay for the time being, especially as data over the coming week seems more likely than not to aggravate US President Donald Trump's gripes with China and Germany. While global trade has bubbled back into life after a lean few years, so too have fears of protectionism, leaving financial markets wary in an otherwise improving global economy.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said last month it was a cause of "great concern" that the United States could start a trade war with Europe, while tension between Washington and Beijing has escalated.

In the last week US senators from both sides of the house urged Trump to stand up to China as he prepares to launch an inquiry into its intellectual

property and trade practices in coming days. At the moment, the working assumption for most investors is that international cooperation will win the day - as the International Monetary Fund pushed for earlier this year - before a full-blown trade war starts. "Do I think that the US will be dumb enough to go ahead and put in place a series of measures which will act as an obstacle to trade with these countries? I suspect not," said Peter Dixon, global financial economist at Commerzbank in London.

The United States posted a much smaller goods trade deficit than expected for June, helped by an improvement in exports.

But this may be eclipsed by figures from China and Germany due in coming days. — Reuters



## ABK RELOCATES TO A NEW BRANCH IN SALMIYA

**KUWAIT:** Building on its strategy which focuses on offering easier, simpler and superior customer service, ABK officially opens the doors of its new branch located in the Al-Hamra Building in Salem Al-Mubarak Street in Salmiya today, replacing the previous branch in the

Al-Mulla Complex. The new branch which is larger and offers easy access is the 31st branch in Kuwait. ABK now has a total of 72 branches across the region with 31 in Kuwait, 2 in the UAE and 39 in Egypt as well as a total of 138 ATMs strategically located across Kuwait.

## DROP IN US JOBLESS RATE RAISES QUESTION

**WASHINGTON:** A drop in the unemployment rate to a 16-year low raises a tantalizing question about the job market: How much better can it get? Earlier this year, economists worried that the low unemployment rate meant businesses would struggle to find workers and that would drag down the pace of hiring. Those fears were heightened by a tiny job gain in March and modest hiring in May.

Yet Friday's jobs report suggests such concerns are premature. Employers added 209,000 jobs, after a solid gain of 231,000 in June, the Labor Department said. The unemployment rate ticked down to 4.3 percent, from 4.4 percent, matching the low reached in May. The US economy is benefiting from steady growth around the world, with Europe and Japan perking up and China's economy stabilizing. Corporate revenue and profits are growing too, and the stock market has hit record highs.

Economists were particularly encouraged by the fact that more Americans are coming off the sidelines and finding jobs. For the first few years after the recession, many of the unemployed stopped looking

for work. Some were discouraged by the lack of available jobs. Others returned to school or stayed home to take care of family. The government doesn't count those out of work as unemployed unless they are actively searching for jobs.

That trend began to reverse last year and has continued into 2017. To many economists, that means robust hiring could continue for many more months, or even years. "There's more people willing to work than the unemployment rate would have you believe," said Nick Bunker, a senior policy analyst at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, a liberal think tank.

President Donald Trump celebrated the data in a tweet shortly after the numbers were released. "Excellent Jobs Numbers," he wrote, "and I have only just begun."

Trump technically tweeted too early: His comment was posted at 8:45 am, just 15 minutes after the report was released. Federal rules specify that White House officials should wait for an hour before publicly commenting. The rule is intended to allow the data to be released without political spin. — AP

## ENTERPRISE STRATEGY GROUP REPORTS NEED FOR DIGITAL RISK MANAGEMENT



Alastair Paterson

**DUBAI:** Digital Shadows, the industry leader in digital risk management, recently unveiled a new report called: 'The Pressing Need for Digital Risk Management' from top analysts at the Enterprise Strategy Group (ESG) looking at the growing importance and rates of adoption of Digital Risk Management in business today. The report recognizes that most CEOs and corporate boards no longer shy away from cybersecurity strategy as they might have done even 5 years ago. Rather, progressive executives now realize that cyber-risk equates to busi-

ness risk and needs to be addressed as part of their overall business strategy.

Most executives no longer accept "good enough" security, and are willing to invest in best practices and leading security defenses to protect their organizations. However, many organizations continue to think of cyber-risk in terms of internal network penetration rather than as a more comprehensive strategy that includes all digital assets—websites, social networks, VIP and third-party partner exposure, etc. To address these risks, the report suggests CISOs and risk officers must

adopt a thorough digital risk management strategy that includes monitoring, filtering, prioritizing, and responding to threats across the public Internet and dark web.

Jon Oltsik, Senior Principal Analyst at ESG who wrote the report, said: "Many executives are beginning to realize they need to take a different stance on cyber security. It is no longer a case of just spending dollars on perimeter-focused cybersecurity but they need to move to a more holistic digital risk strategy designed to analyze threat intelligence, monitor deep

web activities, track the posting of sensitive data, and oversee third parties."

"We know that a strong and resilient strategic digital risk management strategy should include policies and monitoring for targeted cyber threats; infrastructure exposure, data loss; brand and VIP exposure, physical threats and third party risks to be truly effective," said Alastair Paterson, CEO and Co-Founder of Digital Shadows. "Digital Risk Management, which combines automation and human analytics, is becoming the critical component in your cyber security arsenal."

## NEXT BIG LEAP FOR APPLE? AUGMENTED REALITY

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Apple's iPhone may be ready for its next big act - as a springboard into "augmented reality," a technology that projects life-like images into real-world settings viewed through a screen. If you've heard about AR at all, it's most likely because you've encountered "Pokemon Go," in which players wander around neighborhoods trying to capture monsters only they can see on their phones. AR is also making its way into education and some industrial applications, such as product assembly and

to a killer app for AR, at least beyond the year-old (and fading) fad of "Pokemon Go." Instead, analysts argue more generally that AR creates enormous potential for new games, home-remodeling apps that let you visualize new furnishings and decor in an existing room, education, health care and more. For the moment, though, we're basically stuck with demos created by developers, including a "Star Wars"-like droid rolling past a dog that doesn't realize it's there; a digital replica of

well. Apple isn't the only company betting big on AR. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg talked up the technology at a company presentation in April, calling it a "really important technology that changes how we use our phones." Apple rivals such as Google and Microsoft are also starting to deploy AR systems.

### Waiting for apple's next big thing

Apple has been looking for something to lessen its dependence on the iPhone since the 2011 death of its co-founder CEO Steve Jobs, the driving force behind the company's innovation factory. Cook thought he had come up with a revolutionary product when Apple began selling its smartwatch in 2015, but the Apple Watch remains a niche product.

For now, the iPhone remains Apple's dominant product, accounting for 55 percent of Apple's \$45.4 billion in revenue during the three months ended in June. The total revenue represented a 7 percent increase from the same time last year. Apple earned \$8.7 billion, up 12 percent from last year. Its stock jumped nearly 6 percent in morning trading Wednesday, helping to push the Dow Jones industrial average above 22,000 for the first time.

### An AR explosion, maybe

Tim Merel, managing director of technology consulting firm Digi-Capital, believes Apple's entry into AR will catalyze the field. His firm expects AR to mushroom into an \$83 billion market by 2021, up from \$1.2 billion last year. That estimate assumes that Apple and its rivals will expand beyond AR software to high-tech glasses and other devices, such as Microsoft's HoloLens headset. For now, though, nothing appears better suited for interacting with AR than the smartphone. Google already makes AR software called Tango that debuted on one Lenovo smartphone last year and will be part of another high-end device from Asus this month.

But it will be years before Tango phones are as widely used as iPhones, or for that matter, iPads. Most of those devices are expected to become AR-ready when the free iOS 11 update hits next month. Nearly 90 percent of Apple devices powered by iOS typically install the new software version when it comes out. Assuming that pattern holds true this fall, that will bring AR to about 300 million Apple devices that are already in people's hands.

### Beyond the iPhone

If the new software wins over more AR fans as Apple hopes, analysts figure that Apple will begin building AR-specific devices, too. One obvious possibility might be some kind of AR glasses tethered to the iPhone, which would allow people to observe digital reality without having to look "through" a phone. Once technology allows, a standalone headset could render the iPhone unnecessary, at least for many applications. Such a device could ultimately supplant the iPhone, although that isn't likely to happen for five to 10 years, even by the most optimistic estimates. —AP



**CALIFORNIA:** In this file photo, a person takes a photo of an Apple logo before an announcement of new products at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in San Jose, California. —AP

warehouse inventory management.

Now Apple is hoping to transform the technology from a geeky sideshow into a mass-market phenomenon. It's embedding AR-ready technology into its iPhones later this year, potentially setting the stage for a rush of new apps that blur the line between reality and digital representation in new and imaginative ways. "This is one of those huge things that we'll look back at and marvel on the start of it," Apple CEO Tim Cook told analysts during a Tuesday conference call. Many analysts agree. "This is the most important platform that Apple has created since the app store in 2008," said Jan Dawson of Jackdaw Research.

There's just one catch: No one can yet point

Houston on a table; and a virtual tour of Vincent Van Gogh's bedroom.

### Augmenting the iPhone

At Apple, the introduction of AR gets underway in September with the release of iOS 11, the next version of the operating system that powers hundreds of millions of iPhones and iPads around the world. Tucked away in that release is an AR toolkit intended to help software developers create new AR apps. Those apps, however, won't work on just any Apple device - only the iPhone 6S and later models, including the hotly anticipated next-generation iPhone that Apple will release this fall.

The 2017 iPad and iPad Pro will run AR apps as

## ARREST SHINES LIGHT ON SHADOWY COMMUNITY OF GOOD, BAD HACKERS

**WASHINGTON:** Two months ago, Marcus Hutchins was an "accidental hero," a young computer whiz living with his parents in Britain who found the "kill switch" to the devastating WannaCry ransomware. Today, the 23-year-old is in a US federal prison, charged with creating and distributing malicious software designed to attack the banking system. His arrest this week stunned the computer security community and shines a light on the shadowy world of those who sometimes straddle the line between legal and illegal activities.

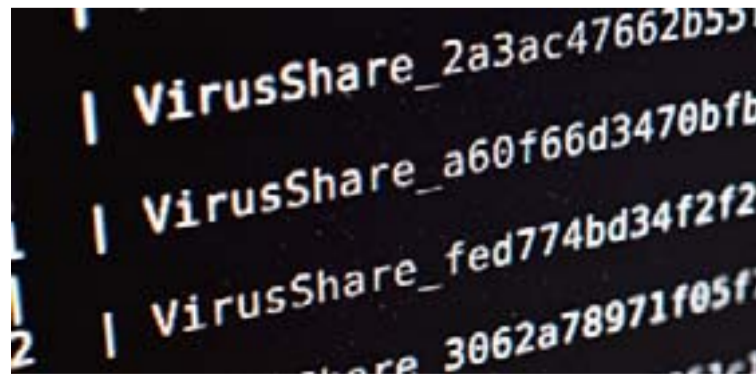
Hutchins' arrest following Def Con in Las Vegas, one of the world's largest gathering of hackers, delivered "an extreme shock," according to Gabriella Coleman, a McGill University professor who studies the hacker community. "The community at Def Con would not admire a hacker who was doing hardcore criminal activity for profit or damage—that is frowned upon," Coleman said. "But there are people who do security research... who understand that sometimes in order to improve security, you have to stick your nose in areas that may break the law. They don't want to hurt anyone but they are doing it for research."

Hackers are generally classified as "white hats" if they stay within the law and "black hats" if they cross the line. At gatherings like Def Con, "you have people who dabble on both sides of the fence," said Rick Holland, vice president at the security firm Digital Shadows. An indictment unsealed by US authorities

charges Hutchins and a second individual-whose name was redacted-of making and distributing in 2014 and 2015 the Kronos "banking Trojan," a reference to malicious software designed to steal user names and passwords used at online banking sites.

### Hacker mindset

James Scott, a senior fellow who follows cybersecurity at the Institute for Critical Infrastructure Technology, said it



is sometimes difficult to separate the white hats from the black hats. The hacker mindset includes "an insatiable need to satisfy their intellectual curiosity," Scott said. "Hackers have that thing, they can't sleep. It's persistent and it's constant and it can drive you nuts." Scott said he did not know details of the Hutchins case but that it is possible he wrote code that someone else "weaponized."

Rob Graham of Errata Security said he came to a similar conclusion, that

Hutchins "wrote some code, but everything else was done by the other guy... As a writer of code sometimes used in viruses, this worries me." Friends and collaborators of Hutchins-known by his online moniker "Malwaretech"-said they found the allegations hard to believe. "He worked with me on a project in 2014 he refused payment for," said a tweet from Jake Williams of Rendition InfoSec. "This is incongruous with a black hat writing code for mon-

### More circumspect

Regardless of the outcome of the case, some security professionals said the arrest could erode trust between the hacker community and law enforcement. Coleman said hackers and researchers already tread carefully in light of the Computer Fraud and

Abuse Act, a law that makes it illegal to access a computer system without authorization and has been roundly criticized by some security professionals. "The statute is very broad and it can be wielded as a tool against researchers," Coleman said.

She noted that many in the hacker community are still reeling over the 2013 suicide of activist Aaron Swartz, who was charged under the same law for illegally downloading academic journals.

Hutchins' arrest "might actually drive certain security researchers further underground," said John Dickson of Denim Group, a security consultancy. "I know several security researchers from Europe, whom I consider on the 'white hat' side of the house, who will no longer travel to the US to be on the safe side."

Holland of Digital Shadows added that the news "could make people more circumspect about who they may collaborate with." Scott said the arrest may be counterproductive for cybersecurity because hackers like Hutchins help expose security flaws in order to fix them. "The establishment needs hackers more than hackers need the establishment," he said. Scott added that Hutchins' obvious talents could make him an asset for national security instead of a liability. "I wouldn't be surprised if a federal agency made him an offer he can't refuse," Scott said. "A guy like that should be at Fort Meade," he added, referring to the headquarters of the National Security Agency. —AFP



## BOOST YOUR CLOUD SKILLS AT MICROSOFT CLOUD SUMMER CAMP IN MAURITIUS

**DUBAI:** Microsoft Gulf has announced the launch of its Cloud Summer Camp that will take place in Mauritius this August. The initiative is part of the Microsoft Cloud society, a unique program that gives IT Pros an opportunity to advance their technical acumen and become world-class experts in the space of cloud computing. Interested candidates can now avail the chance to win a spot in the Cloud Summer Camp and fly to Mauritius this August by registering on Microsoft Cloud Society and completing any of the available Azure Skills courses in the month of July; or alternatively by attending more than 4 Azure sessions on TeachMeNow.

Upon achievement of these courses, participants can publish a copy of completion certificate on their personal LinkedIn page with hash-tag #MSCloudSociety and share the link of this post on the Microsoft Gulf IT Pro page. Winners amongst eligible participants will be selected based on the highest number of endorsements achieved on LinkedIn in "Cloud Computing". Names of confirmed winners will be posted online on Microsoft's IT Pro Facebook page. So, whether you're new to Azure or already a cloud professional; come jump start your skills with the most up-to-date training on Microsoft Azure in a concise, intensive and real-time environment.



## WANT TO ESCAPE SAO PAULO'S TRAFFIC? TAKE A FLYING TAXI

**SAO PAULO:** While Uber has changed ground transport in many cities, Sao Paulo's infernal traffic jams have sparked a new app that opens the sky to commuters: Voom, a helicopter taxi service that charges according to distance plus landing fees. It's a godsend for those in a rush-but only if the weather permits. Gustavo Boyde, a Brazilian living in the United States who goes to Sao Paulo for business, is one of those who says the hops above the city are the only way to get around. "I've opted for helicopters," he said, pointing to the metropolis sprawling beyond the horizon as he choppered from a chic central district to the airport. Sao Paulo-South America's biggest city, home to 12 million residents within its municipal limits and millions more in satellite towns-is regularly choked by gargantuan traffic jams. There are 5.9 million vehicles, or one for every two people. At peak hour, traffic can be backed up as much as 576 kilometers.

### Not so pricey

A new venture launched in April by Europe's Airbus, Voom has taken a page out of Uber's marketing manual to put clients above it all-at a competitive price. The app asks passengers to enter their weight and that of any baggage, then immediately sends the calculated fare. Boyde's run, from the southeastern neighborhood of Itaim Bibi to the airport some 30 kilometers (20 miles) away, takes nine minutes and costs \$150.

Compare that with the market rates before Voom became available. Individual helicopter companies wanted 10 times more-and trips needed to be booked at least two days in advance. "Our goal is to make helicopter transport accessible to more people, so that the helicopter is seen as an alternative," said Voom's executive director, Uma Subramanian.

In Boyde's case, taking a helicopter through the app was a no-brainer. Using a traditional taxi on the clogged roads would have cost him \$50 and an hour and a half of frustrating stop-and-go. "I chose Voom because it fits within my travel budget, it's economical and it's practical," Boyde said. "Those are two hours I can now use for

work, which is handy given the tight schedule I have," he said. According to Subramanian, saturated roads in Latin America mean that "people lose up to 10 hours a week" stuck in traffic.

### Biggest fleet

Sao Paulo topped a list of 500 cities Voom considered for its debut, for a variety of reasons. The city, which sits in a state of the same name whose population exceeds 45 million, has the biggest fleet of helicopters in the world. ANAC, the National Association for Civil Aviation, says 700 choppers, or nearly a third of Brazil's total number, are located there, alongside 528 helipads. Brazil's deep recession also means that many in Sao Paulo's aviation sector have embraced Voom.

"In the current situation of a contracting market, the arrival of this service is a positive," said Arthur Fioratti, head of the ABRAPHE association of Brazilian helicopter pilots that covers some 2,000 professional flyers. Back during Brazil's boom time, between 2010 and 2013, the sector flourished. ABRAPHE said there were 2,000 helicopter flights a day in Sao Paulo state. Today, there are 1,300.

Voom has deals with three helicopter companies which operate five helicopters in Sao Paulo's metropolitan zone. Business travelers are the company's target clientele-an elite used to taking a lift to the top of a glass-and-steel tower to be picked up on the rooftop helipad. But it hopes to eventually broaden the appeal of flitting across the sky by bringing fares down to below what a taxi would charge.

### Eye on the weather

Currently, between six and 10 people use Voom's service daily. "When my friends saw me using a helicopter to get to the airport they asked if I'd become a millionaire. When I told them how much it cost, they were surprised," said Lucas Amadeu, the head of marketing for a technology company. "I think that once people know what it costs, the service will grow a lot," he added. But while market forces are one thing, Mother Nature is another, and the sometimes violent storms and tropical rain that lash Sao Paulo can ground Voom's fleet. —AFP



MANILA: Mothers participate in a breastfeeding event in Manila. — AFP

## 2,000 PHILIPPINE MOMS SHOW BREASTFEEDING IS BEST FOR BABIES

MANILA: Some 2,000 mothers in the Philippines breastfed their babies in public yesterday in a gathering aimed at cutting infant deaths and dispelling taboos over the practice. To the upbeat sounds of local pop songs, hundreds of mothers suckled their babies inside a cavernous Manila stadium, some of them multitasking by feeding two children at the same time. Organizers of the annual event said they aimed to encourage Filipina mothers to exclusively breastfeed their babies for the first six months to lower the country's high infant mortality rate.

"In the Philippines we still have a very low infant breastfeeding rate," Ros Macachor, an organizer for the non-government advocacy group Breastfeeding Pinays said. Macachor said Filipina mothers typically breastfeed their newborns only for the first 24 days, then switch to commercial infant formula which is ubiquitous and heavily marketed by powerful conglomerates. A WHO study pub-

lished in 2013 found only 34 percent of Filipino infants younger than six months were exclusively breastfed, and an "alarming" 36 percent were fed infant formula.

This was due to "aggressive marketing by milk companies" to counter laws designed to encourage breastfeeding, the country report added. The UN Children's Fund said 28 out of every 1,000 Filipinos die under the age of five. While that marks a significant improvement from the 56 per 1000 deaths recorded in 1990 it remains above the country's stated goal of lowering infant mortality rates to 19 per 1,000.

Macachor said similar mass breastfeeding events would help combat stereotypes and encourage mothers to exercise their right and shrug off taboos against nursing babies in public. "They should not be intimidated by people telling them to go breastfeeding in the toilets, which is unsanitary," she added. — AFP

## FRANCE'S SURVIVING BABY PANDA IN PERFECT HEALTH

SAINT-AIGNAN-SUR-CHER, France: The first baby panda born in France is in good health and feeding from its mother, staff at Beauval Zoo said yesterday, as they came to terms with losing its twin. Zookeepers were on alert to ensure that the surviving panda cub of twins born on Friday makes it through the crucial first week of its life. "The first week is the most difficult because it is still very fragile," the zoo's chief vet Baptiste Mulot said yesterday morning. But the early signs appeared to be good.

"He is breastfeeding from his mother, we'll see if we have to supplement that with milk brought by the two Chinese carers," he added. The Chinese team, from the centre for breeding pandas in Chengdu, Sichuan province, southwest China, had already given the panda three bottle feeds, giving it somewhere between 1-1.3 milliliters of milk. Huan Huan "is a very protective mother, which is very good, but that complicates the work of the Chinese carers a bit when it comes to taking the cub away every two hours," said Mulot.

There was joy and pain Friday as the zoo's only female panda gave birth to twins, but one died soon afterwards. Huan Huan, on loan to Beauval zoo in central France from China, delivered the first cub at 10:18 pm (2018 GMT) and the second at 10:32. But soon after birth, the first, which weighed just 121 grams, began having problems breathing and died despite the best efforts of zoo staff.

### 'Too weak to survive'

"It was too weak to survive. The Chinese experts, who have experience of this, saw it straight away," zoo director Rodolphe Delord said. "Our veterinary teams did everything they could to save it, but it was too small, too weak." But he said the second twin, which weighed in at a healthier 142.4 grams, was in "perfect health". The cub stayed mainly with his mother, but whenever it was taken away from her it was immediately put in an incubator, said chief vet Mulot. That allowed the Chinese carers to weigh it and wash it and supplement the mother's feeding with milk from a bottle.

For the moment, the cub is known simply as "Mini Yuan Zi", after its father. Visitors to the zoo were delighted at the news of the birth. "I'm so happy that a baby panda was born here because later, I want to work here," said 13-year-old Marion, who made a special trip with her parents from the southern city of Avignon. Visitors will have to wait three months to see the family in their enclosure, when the baby panda will have opened its eyes and be covered in hair. In the meantime, visitors can watch a film of the pandas on giant screens.

Nine-year-old Huan Huan and her male partner Yuan Zi arrived at Beauval zoo in January 2012 on a 10-year loan from China after intense negotiations between Paris and Beijing. Breeding pandas is notoriously difficult and this is the first time a cub has been born in France. The female panda is only in heat once a year for about 48 hours. The gestation period for pandas is a mere 50 days. Huan Huan (meaning "happy") and Yuan Zi ("chubby") are the only giant pandas living in France. The pair were brought together in February, in the hope they would mate, but it didn't happen. In the end, the zoo performed an artificial insemination. If all goes well with the birth, the surviving cub will leave Beauval in the next two to three years to be returned to China. — AFP



FRANCE: A veterinarian holds the second of twin cubs born to panda Huan Huan in Saint-Aignan-sur-Cher, central France. — AFP

## DOCTOR TOLD TO STOP MARKETING THREE-PERSON BABY TECHNIQUE

NEW YORK: US regulators on Friday warned a New York fertility doctor to stop marketing an experimental procedure that uses DNA from three people - a mother, a father and an egg donor - to avoid certain genetic diseases. The doctor, John Zhang, used the technique to help a Jordanian couple have a baby boy last year. According to the Food and Drug Administration, Zhang said his companies wouldn't use the technology in the US again without permission, yet they continue to promote it.

The procedure is not approved in the US, and Congress has barred the FDA from even reviewing proposals to conduct such experiments. A receptionist at Zhang's New Hope Fertility Clinic in New York said late Friday that no one was available to comment. Zhang heads the clinic and a related company, Darwin Life Inc. New Hope's website touts having achieved the "first live birth" using this technology, along with other advanced fertility treatments it offers. The FDA's letter to Zhang cites several other marketing claims, including a reference to "the first proven treatment for certain genetic disorders."

The birth of the boy was disclosed last September. The mother carries DNA that could have given her child Leigh syndrome, a severe neurological disorder that usually kills within a few years of birth. The experimental technique involves removing some of the mother's DNA from an egg, and leaving the disease-causing DNA behind. The healthy DNA gets slipped into a donor's

egg, which is then fertilized. As a result, the baby inherits DNA from both parents and the egg donor - producing what's been called "three-parent babies" - though the DNA contribution from the egg donor is very small.

People carry DNA in two places, the nucleus of the cell and in structures called mitochondria, which lie outside the nucleus. The technique is designed to transfer only DNA of the nucleus to the donor egg. A medical journal report on the case said the procedure was done at the New York clinic and the embryo was taken to Mexico, where it was implanted. The procedure isn't illegal in Mexico. Last year, a report from a panel of US government advisers said it is ethical to begin testing this approach in pregnancy as long as the first studies follow strict safety steps.

The studies must include women at high risk of passing on a severe disease and, at first, implant only male embryos, so the alterations wouldn't pass to future generations. The FDA had requested the report, though the law against such experiments remains in force. British regulators last year approved "cautious use" of the technique, and this year issued its first license to use it. The child born last year through Zhang's clinic is not the first to inherit DNA from three people. In the 1990s, some children were born after researchers used a different technique. But federal regulators intervened, and the field's interest now has passed to the new approach. — AP

## SCIENTISTS ID TINY PREHISTORIC SEA WORM WITH 50 HEAD SPINES

WASHINGTON: Long before dinosaurs roamed the Earth, a bizarre creature with a Venus flytrap-like head swam the seas. Scientists have uncovered fossils of a tiny faceless prehistoric sea worm with 50 spines jutting out of its head. When some unsuspecting critter came too close, its jaw-like spines snapped together and dinner was served. The discovery reported in Thursday's journal Current Biology offers a glimpse into the Cambrian explosion of life on Earth about 541 million years ago.

The new creature dubbed Capinatator praetermissus is so different that scientists said the fossils represent not only a new species, but a new genus - a larger grouping of life - as well. It was only 4 inches long and its spines were about one-third of an inch long. It feasted on smaller plankton and shrimp-like creatures. It is an ancestor of a group of marine arrow worms called chaetognatha that are abundant in the world's oceans.

The prehistoric version was larger and with far more spines in its facial armory but without the specialized teeth of its descendants, said Derek Briggs of Yale



WASHINGTON: In this illustration by Marianne Collins/Royal Ontario Museum shows a Capinatator praetermissus. — AP

University who led a team that discovered the trove of fossils in two national parks in British Columbia, Canada. "The spines are like miniature hooks, although more gently curved. They were stiff rather than flexible," Briggs said in an email. "It's hard to say why there are so many spines in the fossil example - but presumably thus armed it was a successful predator."

Capinatator - whose name translates to grasping swimmer - lived 500 million years ago at a time when creatures started

getting bigger and more diverse. It's difficult to find complete fossils belonging to the chaetognatha family because they decayed easily, said Briggs. This latest find, however, was so good that even soft tissue was saved, giving scientists a good idea about what Capinatator looked like. The discovery expands scientists' knowledge of a "pretty enigmatic" group of animals from the Cambrian era, said Smithsonian paleobiologist Doug Erwin, who had no role in the research. — AP

# CLINIC

# PAGE

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## MANPOWER RESTRUCTURING PROGRAM HONORS GRADUATES OF SUMMER PROGRAM

**M**anpower restructuring program concluded its summer field training program and honored graduates of the 14th batch of its courses. There were 3059 trainees participants in the courses. Secretary General Fawzi Al-Majdaly lauded the achievements that were made through the programs project to train university and college students both government and private during summer.

Dr Fatima Al-Hashim, Director General of the Kuwait Innovation Initiative, said the training program, which was launched at IBTIKAR which belongs to Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Researches coincided with the selection of Kuwait as the Arab Youth Capital for 2017.

She pointed out that the aim of the program is to strengthen the responsibility of participation and raise the efficiency of local

cadres and meet the national needs that contribute to the deepening and development of scientific exchange in the fields of education. Al-Hashim pointed out that the Ibtikar is to train students at administrative, media and educational work, stressing that all the means of career motivation to achieve the desired goal during the next four weeks is the duration of the program.



## ACK STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR PROJECTS AT AL-YAAL MALL

**S**chool of Business students at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) gave an outstanding presentation, to Al-Yaal Mall management, presenting their strategic marketing plans for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's). The initiative is in line with the Project Based Learning program provided by ACK, which links the students with the workforce reality in a unique application of the academic concepts of strategic planning. Commenting on ACK Students' performance, Jamal Qishawi, Al-Yaal Mall Manager, said: "I am very pleased to see the diversified projects and strong strategic planning presented by ACK students especially that it is in line with the economic and social changes in the region."

Dr Sam Toglaw, Dean of School of Business at ACK, attended the presentations and extended his thanks to the mall management for offering ACK stu-

dents the opportunity to showcase their projects, which were attended and assessed by the mall marketing and operation managers.

On the other hand, Jamal Qishawi, the mall manager, stated that his management has diligently sought to be distinct in launching and diversifying the services and shops at the Al-Yaal mall and commercial tower to maintain sustenance in a competitive market.

The mall is aiming for the opening of a global standard bowling lounge, which is the largest in South Kuwait. In addition, a state of the art women sports club will be opened at the pent house of the tower featuring a unique panoramic view of the beach and Fahaheel. ACK students ended their visit with a tour within the mall to see its facilities and the 20-storey commercial tower which made the Yaal mall a distinctive landmark in Fahaheel.

# GULF BANK CONCLUDES SPONSORSHIP OF 29TH MEMORIAL JOURNEY FOR PEARL DIVING



Dr Mohammad Abdulatif Al-Fares, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education represent HH the Amir during the event.



**G**ulf Bank successfully concluded its platinum sponsorship of the 29th Memorial Journey for Pearl Diving, which ran from 27 July to 3 August 2017. The journey organized each year by the Committee of the Marine Heritage of the Kuwait Sea Sport Club, took place under the Patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The return day ceremony 'Al-Quffal' a tra-

ditional Kuwaiti term used to welcome home sailors from long voyages - was held on 3rd August. The ceremony was attended by Dr Mohammad Abdulatif Al-Fares, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education, representing HH the Amir, along with local dignitaries, ministry representatives, Gulf Bank senior management representatives and friends, families and relatives of the young sailors.

The delegation welcomed back and honored the young Kuwaiti divers and dhow captains, who were upholding Kuwaiti tradition by helping to perpetuate the memory of the long and dangerous journeys Kuwait sailors took to find pearls each year. The sound of traditional Kuwaiti tunes played by a local folkloric group enchanted the crowds as the divers showcased the pearls and shells they had collected during their trip.

The Pearl Diving Memorial Journey is one of the initiatives that Gulf bank sponsors on an annual basis, and forms a key part of its long-term commitment to preserving the heritage and continuing the traditions of Kuwait's unique past. The Journey aims to remind young Kuwaiti generations of the difficulties and challenges faced by their forefathers in earning a living, along with a message urging these

generations to uphold the traditions and values their ancestors developed during that time.

Gulf Bank continues to maintain and strengthen its position as an integral part of the Kuwaiti society. The Bank supports and emphasizes the true Kuwaiti identity and the importance of the Kuwaiti traditions and customs, through sponsoring different of social activities and events.





00:45 Life At Vet University
01:40 Life At Vet University
02:35 Life At Vet University
03:25 The Vet Life
04:15 The Vet Life
05:02 Life At Vet University
05:49 Untamed China With Nigel Marven

12:45 Dog With A Blog
13:10 Dog With A Blog
13:35 Dog With A Blog
14:00 Dog With A Blog
14:25 Jessie
14:50 Jessie
15:15 Austin & Ally
15:40 Austin & Ally



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo



00:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
01:00 I Was Possessed
02:00 Private Crimes
03:00 Escaping Polygamy
04:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera



00:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
01:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
02:10 Dirty Jobs
03:00 Dirty Jobs
03:50 Alaska Gold Diggers
04:40 Alaska Gold Diggers
05:30 Alaska Gold Diggers



00:30 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
01:20 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
02:10 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
03:00 Murder Comes To Town

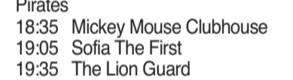


00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

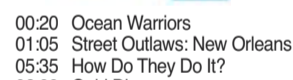
00:00 Famosly Single
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story



00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant: Impossible
02:00 Mystery Diners
03:00 Man Fire Food



00:20 Ocean Warriors
01:05 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Gold Divers



00:20 Ocean Warriors
01:05 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Gold Divers

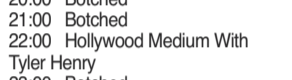


00:00 Supa Strikas
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister 6

17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Gravity Falls
18:10 Milo Murphy's Law
18:35 Disney11
19:00 Disney11
19:25 K.C. Undercover



00:00 Famosly Single
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story



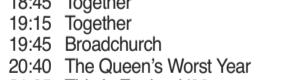
00:15 Places We Go
00:45 Sinful Sweets
01:10 Maximum Foodie
01:40 Bad Trip



00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant: Impossible
02:00 Mystery Diners
03:00 Man Fire Food



00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 Victoria
02:00 Coronation Street



00:20 New Wave Warriors
01:10 Wild Colombia
02:00 Ultimate Predators GPU
02:50 Kingdom Of The Apes: Battle Lines

20:00 Serial Killer Earth
21:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
22:00 Ancient Top 10
23:00 Cities Of The Underworld



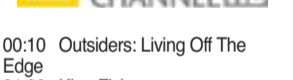
00:20 Mountain Men - Closest Calls
01:10 Mountain Men
02:00 Lost In Transmission
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 Pawn Stars



00:15 Places We Go
00:45 Sinful Sweets
01:10 Maximum Foodie
01:40 Bad Trip



00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant: Impossible
02:00 Mystery Diners
03:00 Man Fire Food



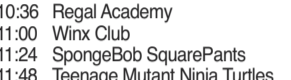
00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 Victoria
02:00 Coronation Street



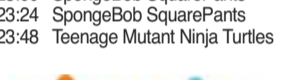
00:20 New Wave Warriors
01:10 Wild Colombia
02:00 Ultimate Predators GPU
02:50 Kingdom Of The Apes: Battle Lines



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig



00:40 Chicago Med
01:30 Stan Lee's Lucky Man
02:20 Blindspot
03:20 The Flash



00:01 Max & Ruby
00:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:34 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:45 The Day Henry Met

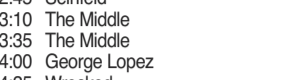


00:10 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
01:00 King Fishers
02:00 Wicked Tuna
03:00 Supercar Megabuild

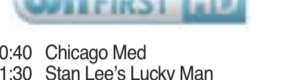


00:20 New Wave Warriors
01:10 Wild Colombia
02:00 Ultimate Predators GPU
02:50 Kingdom Of The Apes: Battle Lines

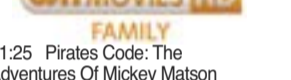
10:15 Wrecked
10:40 Mom
11:05 Breaking In
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show



00:40 Chicago Med
01:30 Stan Lee's Lucky Man
02:20 Blindspot
03:20 The Flash



00:40 Chicago Med
01:30 Stan Lee's Lucky Man
02:20 Blindspot
03:20 The Flash



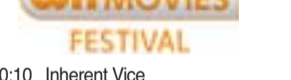
01:25 Pirates Code: The Adventures Of Mickey Matson
03:00 The Odd Life Of Timothy Green



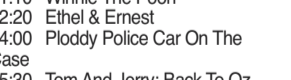
02:35 Bad Company
04:31 Hard Target 2
06:15 Age Of Ice
07:40 Life On The Line



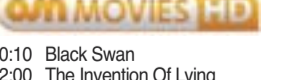
00:00 A Million Ways To Die In The West
01:55 Absolutely Anything
03:20 You Again



00:10 Inherent Vice
02:40 Spotlight
04:50 The Portrait Of A Lady



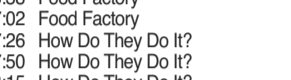
01:10 Winnie The Pooh
02:20 Ethel & Ernest
04:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case



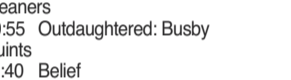
00:10 Black Swan
02:00 The Invention Of Lying
03:40 Everest



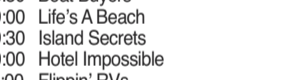
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01:20 Prototype This
02:10 Prototype This
03:00 Prototype This



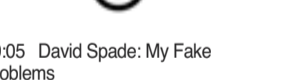
00:00 Stan Lee's Lucky Man
01:00 The Last Kingdom
01:50 Grimm



00:30 Red Bull Cliff Diving
01:30 WWE WrestleMania
02:00 WWE NXT
03:00 Night Of The Jumps



01:00 One Weekly
01:30 UFC Unleashed
02:30 UFC Weigh In



01:00 Golfing World
02:00 Live PGA Tour
05:00 PGA European Tour



01:00 World Rugby
01:30 Super Rugby
04:00 World Rugby Sport



02:00 Natwest T20 Blast Highlights
03:00 Natwest T20 Blast Highlights
04:00 Natwest T20 Blast Highlights



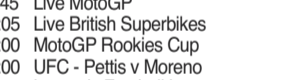
00:00 EastEnders
00:30 Cold Feet
02:10 War And Peace
02:55 EastEnders



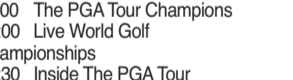
00:00 Stan Lee's Lucky Man
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05:00 PGA European Tour



01:00 World Rugby
01:30 Super Rugby
04:00 World Rugby Sport

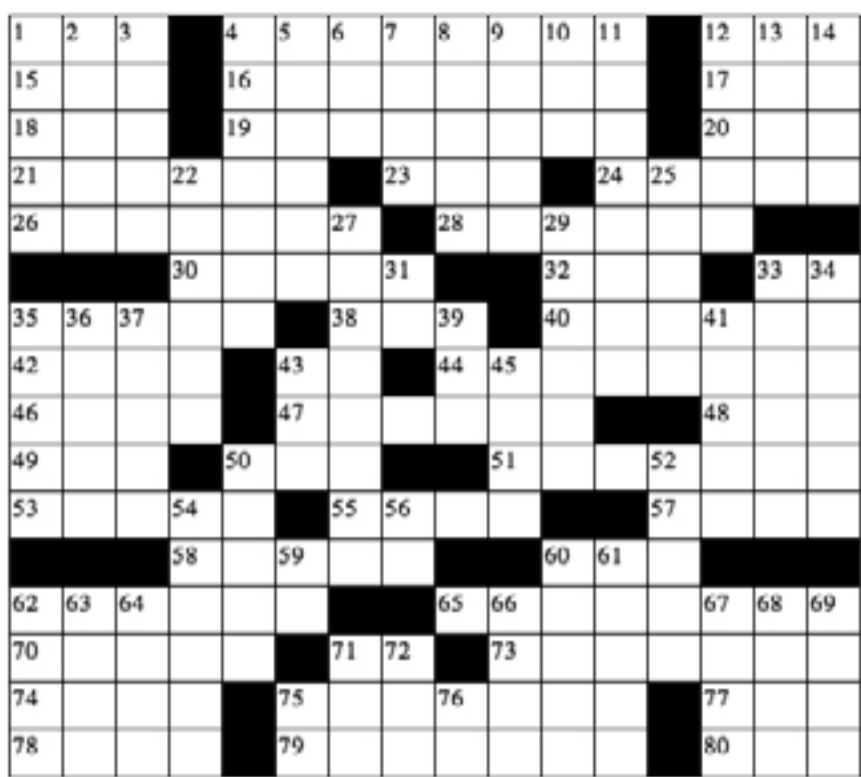


02:00 Natwest T20 Blast Highlights
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02:00 Natwest T20 Blast Highlights
03:00 Natwest T20 Blast Highlights
04:00 Natwest T20 Blast Highlights

CROSSWORD 1678



ACROSS

1. Extremely pleasing.
4. A vehicle carrying many passengers.
12. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
15. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
16. An abnormally high degree of irritability or sensitivity or excitability.
17. A boy or man.
18. A sharp hand gesture (resembling a blow).
19. A group of mostly extinct primitive bony fishes characterized by armor-like bony scales.
20. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
21. A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
23. Either extremity of something that has length.
24. A major European river carrying more traffic than any other river in the world.
26. Possible to sell.
28. A small vessel with a rim curved to fit the orbit of the eye.
30. English monk and scholar (672-735).
32. 3 to 30 gigahertz.
35. A unit of weight for precious stones = 200 mg.
38. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
40. A cephalosporin that can be given parenterally (trade name Zinacef) or orally by tablets (trade name Cefitin).
42. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
44. Reading carefully with intent to remember.
46. Type genus of the Majidae.
47. Cut or impressed into a surface.
48. Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
49. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
51. Extremely intricate.
53. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
55. Forbidden to profane use especially in South Pacific islands.
57. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
58. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
62. A Ukrainian peninsula between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.
65. A self-righteous or sanctimonious person.
70. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
73. Block passage through.
74. The basic unit of money in Iran.
77. (Irish) The sea personified.
78. South American shrub or small tree having long shining evergreen leaves and panicles of green or yellow flowers.
79. Lead someone in the wrong direction.
80. One or some or every or all without specification.

DOWN

1. A group of more than 800 islands (100 inhabited) in the southwestern Pacific.
2. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.

3. A confusion of voices and other sounds.
4. Large Old World bat of warm and tropical regions that feeds on fruit.
5. An authoritative person who divines the future.
6. Being one more than nine.
7. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
8. United States parapsychologist (1895-1980).
9. Adult female chicken.
10. The act of using.
11. Smearred with something that soils or stains.
12. A short high tone produced as a signal or warning.
13. (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess or the wife of a raja.
14. Chief port of Yemen.
22. A small tent used as a dressing room beside the sea or a swimming pool.
25. Quick to take offense.
27. Order of mammals having few or no teeth including.
29. The basic monetary unit of Portugal.
31. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
33. (mathematics) Directly proportional.
34. Any disease of the throat or fauces marked by spasmodic attacks of intense suffocative pain.
36. Jordan's port.
37. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
39. The residue that remains when something is burned.
41. Deciduous trees with smooth usually silver-gray bark of North America and Europe and Asia.
43. The seat within a bishop's diocese where his cathedral is located adv.
45. A city in southeastern South Korea.
50. The visual property of something that shines with reflected light.
52. A British doctorate.
54. Remote city of Kazakhstan that (ostensibly for security reasons) was made the capital in 1998.
56. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
59. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
60. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
61. (architecture) Forming or resembling an arch.
63. Radioactive iodine test that measures the amount of radioactive iodine taken up by the thyroid gland.
64. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
66. A whetstone made of fine gritstone.
67. Type genus of the Sulidae.
68. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
69. Suggestive of the supernatural.
71. Japanese ornamental tree with fragrant white or pink blossoms and small yellow fruits.
72. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

In the workplace today, you perform successfully, as you exhibit your ability to get past the surface of things and separate the thing that has real worth. Your presence in a group situation has a decided effect. Others may feel that nothing is a secret from you. You do not have to leave home to escape from the rat race. Family, home and security seem just about ideal to you. You may be very imaginative with your home and domestic setup. A sense of community and unity permeates your family life. Your ideal dream is a private one and heaven is as close as work and family. You are creative when it comes to partnerships or lovers; you seem to establish unusual and different relationships. You may find that a love relationship will deepen during this time.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This day is one of those amazing days when everything works together. Situations are almost tailor-made and it is easy to see which path is the one to take. Opportunities prevail and you may find yourself deciding that it is time to write a book. You certainly have enough material to write on any one of your favorite subjects. There may be some question in your mind about needing a change in your position at work. Check out the inner-office openings and you will be able to move into a place that gives you some challenges. You may decide to do some special cooking this evening, and if you have your windows open, you may find some uninvited guests are willing to taste your experimental recipe. Everybody has fun!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are always interested in being of help to others. You enjoy teaching or helping young people use their creative mind with their use of words. Your sense of humor is not missing from your communications today. There are many practical ideas available to you, especially related to your job or skills. Careful, a customer may tell you a sad story to get a special deal. You appreciate, care and are concerned but not much can fool you. This afternoon you may enjoy a community project. Perhaps you and your family will help to contribute towards the beautification of your neighborhood. If everyone participates, the value of property could increase. You are constantly on the side of humanism at every turn.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could be most persuasive with others and expressive in speech and communication. You are a natural for self-expression and others enjoy listening to your particular ideas and thoughts. The initiative is yours and you will find positive end results develop from your enthusiasm to achieve. This is a day to dare to be a little unconventional. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Your career could open up by taking the road less traveled or by daring to be more involved in the development of business: new approaches. You are inspired to motivate others with your creative and inventive ways. What-if types of questions seem to be the keys that turn you into the wizard all enjoy having on their side.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself having a difference of opinion with others today. This, however, is the only way to introduce new ways of thinking among your particular business comrades. Make it a point to remove the emotions, and if you find others getting emotional, excuse yourself from the conversation. There will be other opportunities to expand upon some new idea. Given time, your ideas will gain recognition. Real insight into your own inner workings could surface now and in a manageable form. You may be in the mood for penetrating conversation this evening. Perhaps a book or magazine on the latest electronic techniques would be mesmerizing. A friend you have not heard from in some time may give you a call. Old times are fun to review.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Throwing caution to the wind, you could ignore whatever responsibilities you have and pursue a particular objective today. You have animal-like instincts when it comes to big business and this is a good time to use those instincts. You are where the action is most intense. Your mind will get through the unimportant and straight to the bottom line. Some may even respect your tenacity and it is exciting to be near you. You may tend to take paths at right angles to your real ambitions if you let yourself become distracted. If you have a co-worker friend that will join you in a project, you can keep each other focused; talk about staying focused before you begin. This afternoon you may enjoy some creative activity with some form of art, theater, sports, etc.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may uncover. You will be feeling successful and able to cope with whatever comes across your path. Good advice from a guide may be forthcoming. You are very fortunate in being able to grow and progress throughout your life without major difficulties. You can always find the resources you require at hand plus the necessary instruction in how to use them. Your love of job and practical skills makes you a fine manager and businessperson. You bring passion to your work. Your mind is full of practical ideas, especially related to your job or skills. You are always coming up with new ideas; this is a productive day.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies-a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days. Working with groups in a spirit of cooperation is a natural. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions. There is an opportunity this evening to understand a difficult person; you listen and love.



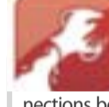
Sagittarius (November 22-December 18)

You would like to tell someone off at work today but you will benefit from just moving your thoughts to another place... Perhaps the next adventure you will take with the money you earn. You are at your most practical when it comes to working with others and your efforts today do not go unnoticed. You usually know just what to do. You may be moved to appreciate the beauty in your life and those around you. A sense of humor is one of the necessary ingredients to make a tough situation easier to handle. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much just now. You may feel like involving yourself in some sort of celebration this evening-a celebration of life. There are new insights regarding home life.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies-a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days. Working with groups in a spirit of cooperation is a natural. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions. There is an opportunity this evening to understand a difficult person; you listen and love.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is an emphasis on communication, expression of ideas and the connections between things, places and people. What goes on in your mind is the all-important motivation in your life. You tend towards mental pursuits and admire intelligence. You are very flexible and other-oriented today. Perhaps you can be all things to all people, giving them what they require. You are probably a smooth talker with a quick wit and ready tongue. You know and understand more than you let on and life changes seldom take you by surprise. You have a great deal of control over your actions. Communicating and getting your message across to others is at a high just now. You know just how to maneuver yourself into the right places; now is the time to get ahead.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Someone may criticize you today and find you somewhat preoccupied and lacking in the social graces. This is only a temporary glitch in your day. You have an innate love of the law and working things through, and you are not put off by any difficulties. On the contrary, you may look forward to hunting problems down so that you can solve them. You have the ability to work with others, particularly regarding vocation or career guidance. You can advise and guide others in all sorts of subjects, and you may find yourself doing so today. This could be a particularly lucky day. Study the options carefully before making any investment decisions. Tonight is a good night for you to take your turn at cooking.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Movies: Science Fiction 2

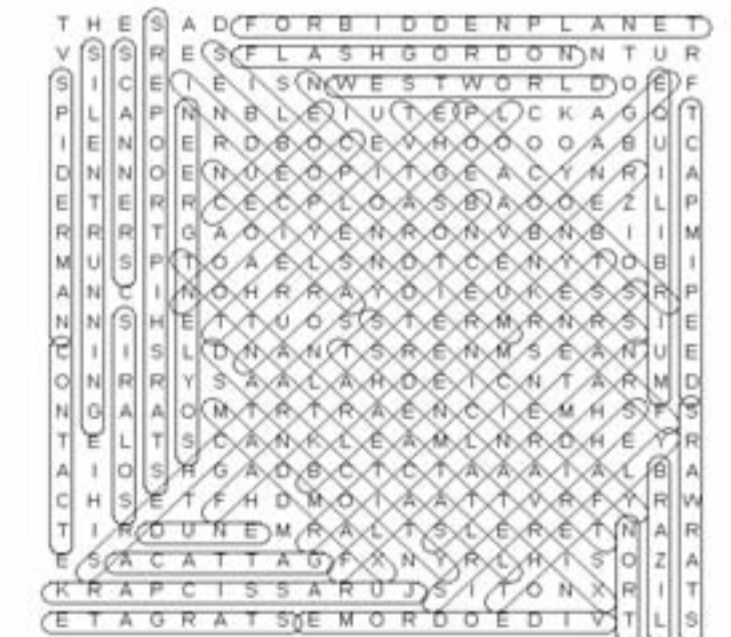
Find and circle all of the Science Fiction movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional Science Fiction movie.



- |              |                 |                  |                |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| AEON FLUX    | FREQUENCY GAMER | OUTBREAK OUTLAND | SPECIES SPHERE |
| ALIEN NATION | GODZILLA        | PANDORUM         | STAR TREK      |
| ALIENS       | HULK            | PREDATOR         | SUNSHINE       |
| ARMAGEDDON   | INCEPTION       | PUSH             | SUPERMAN       |
| AVATAR       | IRON MAN        | RED PLANET       | THE ABYSS      |
| CLOVERFIELD  | JUMPER          | ROLLERBALL       | TIMECOP        |
| DARK STAR    | KING KONG       | SCANNERS         | TIMECRIMES     |
| DEATH RACE   | KNOWING         | SERENITY         | TRANSFORMERS   |
| DEJA VU      | MEN IN BLACK    | SIGNS            | WATCHMEN       |
| DONNIE DARKO | MIMIC           | SLEEPER          | ZARDOZ         |
| FLATLINERS   | MOON            | SPLITTER         |                |
| FREEJACK     |                 |                  |                |

Yesterday's Solution

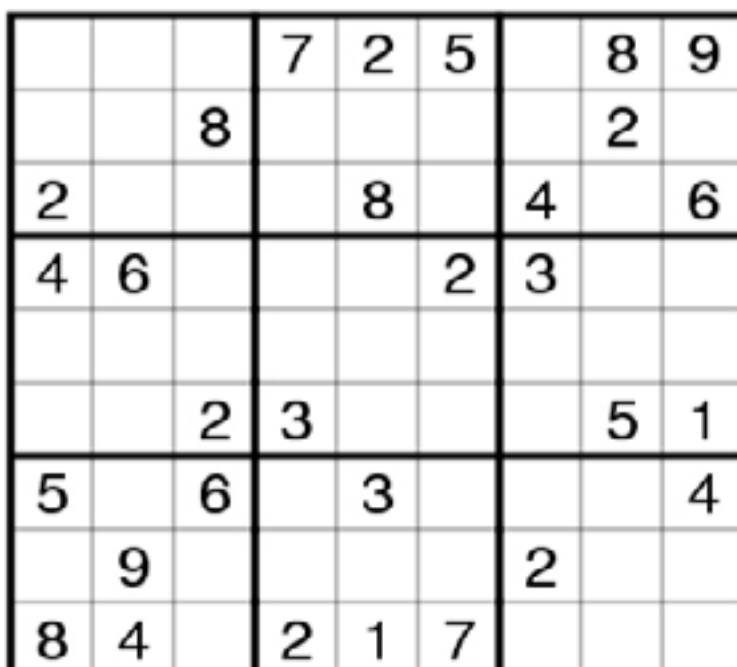
Movies: Science Fiction



- |                |                  |                |              |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| ALIEN          | FANTASTIC VOYAGE | ROBOCOP        | TERMINATOR   |
| BLADE RUNNER   | FLASH GORDON     | SCANNERS       | THE ABYSS    |
| BODY SNATCHERS | FLATLINERS       | SHIVERS        | THE FLY      |
| BRAZIL         | FORBIDDEN PLANET | SILENT RUNNING | THE MATRIX   |
| COCCON         | FRANKENSTEIN     | SOLARIS        | THEY LIVE    |
| CONTACT        | GATTACA          | SOFTEN GREEN   | TOTAL RECALL |
| CUBE           | INDEPENDENCE DAY | SPIDER-MAN     | TRANCERS     |
| DARK CITY      | JURASSIC PARK    | STAR WARS      | TRON         |
| DEEP IMPACT    | LOGAN'S RUN      | STARGATE       | VIDEOGAME    |
| DUNE           | MAD MAX          | STARSHIP       | WESTWORLD    |
| EQUILIBRIUM    | METROPOLIS       | TROOPERS       |              |

Hidden movie: THE ADVENTURES OF BUCKAROO BANZAI ACROSS THE EIGHTH DIMENSION

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





GOSSIP



## Smith names comeback record after family home

Sam Smith has named his comeback record after his family home. The 25-year-old singer - whose debut album 'In The Lonely Hour' was released in 2014 - recently unveiled a mysterious 'TPH-50HR' tattoo on his chest while filming the video for his latest single and it has been revealed as a reference to where he grew up. According to the Daily Star, it stands for The Pink House 50 Heydon Road, Sam's childhood home. A source said: "Sam has chosen the title as the ultimate tribute to his parents Fred and Kate and sisters who have always supported his dream. "They never once tried to dissuade him following his dreams, so it's a very personal record." Meanwhile, Sam recently revealed he can't stand his single, 'Money On My Mind', though he believes most of the tracks from his first LP are "classic". He said: "There's a few songs I really hate, but then the core of the album, songs like 'Stay With Me', 'I'm Not The Only One' - actually all the songs except 'Money On My Mind' - I really love and I'm really proud of the classic-ness of the way they sound, because I still listen to them now and I still love them. "There are a few moments [on the album] where I think to myself, 'I would have changed that. I would have done that differently.'" The star also admitted he had a "panic" about the musical direction he should take on his first record due to the popularity of 'Latch', a dance track by Disclosure which he featured on in 2012. He said: "As soon as 'Latch' had a lot of success in the UK, my label and me had a little bit of a panic. "We were like, 'Maybe we should be doing dance?' And that's what I can hear on [my first] album - there's two or three songs where I can hear the little wobble, but the rest of the album is what I set out to make from the beginning. "But I still love my album, but I'm loving my new one more."



## James Walsh: Liam Gallagher supports Starsailor now

James Walsh says Liam Gallagher is supportive of his band Starsailor despite feuding with Oasis in the past. In 2002, the 'Supersonic' group's guitarist Noel Gallagher called the 37-year-old frontman a c\*\*\* in an interview and NME magazine even had their own 'You C\*\*\*!' badges made and handed out at festivals that summer. However, when Walsh supported Manchester icons The Stone Roses at their concert at Dubai Media City Amphitheatre gig in February 2013, former Oasis singer Liam, 44, told Walsh he is a fan of Starsailor's song 'Fall to the Floor', which "made his life". Now, Walsh - who is gearing up to release Starsailor's new album 'All This Life' on September 2 - has paid Liam a compliment back by praising his music from his debut solo LP 'As You Were'. Asked for his honest opinion of Liam's solo material, Walsh exclu-

sively told BANG Showbiz: "I think it's brilliant. "I've never lost my love for Oasis' music. Actually, of the two brothers, Liam has been quite good to us. "I did a gig in Dubai a couple of years ago supporting The Stone Roses and he came up to me afterwards and shook my hand and said he liked 'Fall to the Floor'. "That was my life made then, you are definitely my favorite Gallagher. "He is just a great frontman and it's good to have him back." Starsailor's single 'Listen to Your Heart' is out now. Starsailor are appearing at the Hope and Glory Festival in Liverpool on August 5, headlining the Wonders of the Age stage alongside James, Public Service Broadcasting and Blackpool's Membranes.

## Shaun Ryder affected by celebrity deaths

George Michael's death reminded Shaun Ryder how important it is to maintain a healthy lifestyle in your 50s. The Happy Mondays frontman was shocked to hear the Wham! singer had passed away on Christmas Day at the age of 53, of natural causes. The 'Careless Whisper' hitmaker had a dilated cardiomyopathy, a disease of

the heart muscle, with myocarditis, inflammation of the heart wall, and a fatty liver when he died. Shaun, 54 - who is a recovering drug addict - has had problems with thyroids and a hernia in his later life and says he had to change his rock 'n' roll lifestyle or face dropping dead. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz about the abundance of celebrity deaths over the past couple of years, including David Bowie and Prince, Shaun said: "They all affected me really. Especially George Michael. It's dangerous, once you get into your 50s you've got to keep getting MOTs. "Things keep going on me thyroids, testosterone. "You've got to keep well otherwise you'll just drop dead." The 'Step On' hitmaker admitted he has had a number of near-death experiences during his eventful life. He said previously: "When you come close to death, everything slows down. It's happened to me a few times. "Car crashes where the car has flipped around and bounced; an emergency landing in a plane crash; a few guns shoved in my eyeballs." The Black Grape singer was struck by debilitating panic attacks just two years ago, but is "glad" he didn't have them earlier in his career or he'd never have achieved all the things he did. He said: "I had my first panic attack at 52 years of age. I'm glad it came when it did. If I'd had one as a young lad I don't think I'd have been able to have a career. It's the most debilitating thing I've come across in my life."



## JP Cooper's album is not like Jonas Blue song

JP Cooper wants fans to know there is more to his music than his Jonas Blue song 'Perfect Strangers'. The 'Passport Home' hitmaker is proud of his collaboration with the producer but he has teased he has much more up his sleeve on his album 'Raised Under Grey Skies', which is released on September 22. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, he said: "At the minute, a lot of people only know me from the Jonas song. "It's very important for people to know that I am not just a dance artist. "I wouldn't want to do it too soon because I don't want to confuse people, but once the album is out and people start understanding a bit more about the roots of me, then I will be more than happy to dabble again in that kind of thing." And JP wouldn't rule out another collaboration with Jonas in the future. He said: "Jonas is a great

guy. "He is very different stylistically to anything I've done before. "I open my eyes to a whole new scene of music that I'd never really been a part of before. "I'm sure Jonas has got people lining up to work with him. But we shall see." JP has already shown off his eclectic musical ear as BANG Showbiz previously revealed how excited JP was to have landed a collaboration with grime superstar Stormzy called 'Momma's Prayers' for his album. Revealing how it came about, he said: "The funny thing is there were a few plans to collaborate on a song. And a lot of people said we've collaborated on a song but it never actually happened. "So we have written a track together and I guess people will know about it very soon and that is all I am going to say."



## Neil Young's extensive online archive

Neil Young's online music archive will feature his entire back catalogue along with "unreleased albums". The 71-year-old musician has launched the website neilyoungarchives.com, which will allow fans to access all of his music in one place. He wrote in a note on the site: "Every single, recorded track or album I have produced is represented. "View all albums currently released and see albums still unreleased and in production just by using the controls to zoom through the years. Unreleased album art is simply penciled in so you can where unreleased albums will appear on the timeline, once they are completed." And Neil revealed that the site will be constantly updated with new information. He explained: "We have attempted to highlight the cre-

ative process and the creators. A lot of people and work are behind the music we hear. "The musical information found here is a work in progress, always growing and adapting to new information as we find it. We have done our best to find all of the background pertinent to this music. "The NYA Timeline shows you when and how the music was made. Every single, recorded track or album I have produced is represented. It is always current. You can browse through the music I made between today's date and 1963, when I made my first recording in Canada and it was released as a 45 RPM single." He did not say when the archive will go live but promised it is "coming soon".



## Bjork's new record is a 'Tinder album'

Bjork says her new record is her "Tinder album". The Icelandic singer-songwriter hasn't released a record since 'Vulnicura' in 2015 - but has now given her fans an insight into what they can expect from her new album. She explained: "This is like my Tinder album. It's about that search [for utopia] - and about being in love. "Spending time with a person you enjoy on every level is obviously utopia, you know? I mean, it's real. It's when the dream becomes real." Bjork's last album detailed her break-up from artist Matthew Barney, but the 51-year-old star has claimed her new record focuses more on her dating life. She told Dazed magazine: "I set myself up with the last album being a heartbreak album, so everyone's gonna be like, 'Are you married?' with this one. But ... it's too fragile still. "I think, if I could, I'd just say

this is my dating album. Let's just leave it there." Meanwhile, Bjork previously bemoaned the lack of women writing music about serious issues. The singer said female artists face a pressure to focus their music on specific issues. Writing on Facebook in December, she said: "Women in music are allowed to be singer songwriters singing about their boyfriends. If they change the subject matter to atoms, galaxies, activism, nerdy math beat editing or anything else than being performers singing about their loved ones they get criticized: journalists feel there is just something missing ... as if our only lingo is emo ... "If we don't cut our chest open and bleed about the men and children in our lives we are cheating our audience. (sic)"



## Arcade Fire have ABBA-sounding songs stored away

Arcade Fire have written ABBA-sounding songs - but they are yet to release them. The American rockers aren't afraid to admit they are fans of the Swedish pop superstars - who won 'Eurovision' in 1974 - and have revealed they recorded some Europop disco anthems while making their 2004 LP 'Funeral'. The 'Ready to Start' group's extremely talented multi-instrumentalist, Richard Reed Parry, says he wishes he wrote ABBA's biggest hit 'Dancing Queen'. Speaking

about recording 'Funeral', Richard recalled: "The thing is, we've always tried to write songs that sound like ABBA but none ever made it out alive and onto our records. "When we were working on 'Funeral', we kicked around song ideas that sounded a lot like ABBA. "It's not like we chose a new influence. We've always loved ABBA and 'Dancing Queen' is the greatest jam of all time. We've always wanted to write a song like that." The band are also massively influenced by late music legends Davie Bowie and Prince, and wrote the track 'Electric Blue' from the latest record 'Everything Now' about their idols' deaths. 'Starman' hitmaker Bowie was also a fan of Arcade Fire and supplied backing vocals for their 2013 single 'Reflektor'. Bowie and Prince also dabbled in the disco sound and the track is reminiscent of that, though Will Butler of the group says they wouldn't have felt confident enough to perform 'Electric Blue' a decade ago. He told The Sun newspaper: "That song ['Electric Blue'] had a lot to do with David Bowie and Prince dying, looking at their legacies and the music they loved and created. The losses of both were important events in our lives. "We've always loved that music but have never been technically competent to play it. "We couldn't play a song like 'Electric Blue' 10 years ago but we've become better musicians."



GOSSIP



## Natalie Portman in talks for Bronco Belle

Natalie Portman is in talks to star in 'Bronco Belle'. The 'Jackie' actress is in early negotiations to play an aspiring bull rider in the upcoming movie, which will be directed by Anna Rose Holmer. Deadline reports, Khurram Longi has written the script about a waitress who dreams of joining the rodeo, while Andrew Lazar will produce. Meanwhile, Natalie, 35, recently claimed that women are still being objectified in movies rather than being portrayed as "complex" individuals. Portman thinks the movie business still has a long way to go in terms of the parts on offer for actresses in mainstream movies, just like many other industries still need to offer more to women. She said: "We're

having a problem with female leadership - in business, in government, in storytelling. I think it has to do with being a boss. We're still having a problem, first with women in that position, and second there are so many obstacles in their way. Referring specifically to the problems in Hollywood, she continued: "We are so often put in roles as objects of desire, with a male view, as opposed to subjects of desire with complex weaknesses, and moments of strength and focus - and you can be all of those things."

## Emily Blunt loved working on a movie with her husband

Emily Blunt had "so much fun" voicing 'Animal Crackers' with her husband. The 'Girl on the Train' actress - who has daughters Hazel, three, and Violet, 13 months, with spouse John Krasinski - admits she and the 37-year-old actor had told producers they were able to record their parts in the animated adventure together because it made things a lot easier for their family life. She said: "It was so much fun. What was also lucky was John and I got to be in the sound booth together, which is very rare. "We specifically requested that because it made it very easy for us to drive to the studio together and so there was no problem coordinating our schedules. We also got to do a lot of improvising together, which was great." And the 34-year-old star is keen to work on another film with her husband, if they can find the right project. She said: "It's sometimes hard to find a good project where you feel you would both be right for it. But we would love to do a film together one day if it's something very good." The couple believe it is vital to "support" one another's careers because it is the only way to juggle their work and raising a young family smoothly. She told OK! magazine: "We try to support each other in everything we do. It's not always easy to lead a Hollywood career when you're raising two young children, but we are very supportive of each other and have a strong bond between us."

## Naomi Watts wants comedy role



Naomi Watts wants to star in a comedy. The 'Book of Henry' actress is used to appearing in gritty dramas and tales of darkness, but she's on the lookout for a more "quirky" role where she could have a lot of fun on set. She said: "I want more laughs in my career. I've endured plenty of darkness and sadness and soul-searching. I've been lucky enough to work with the likes of David O. Russell and a movie I did with Noah Baumbach a few years ago. But I'm not the go-to when it comes to comedy. "I actually turned down a few during the beginning of my career because they didn't feel right for where I wanted to be. Maybe it's because it's a certain kind of comedy I'm after - a quirky reality, something offbeat where there's a soul underneath. I want to go on set and laugh all day." Naomi can currently be seen on the small screen in Netflix drama 'Gypsy', in which she plays boundary-crossing psychiatrist Jean, and she enjoyed getting to explore the depths of her character. She told HELLO! magazine: "Jean is very restless, very curious outside of the world she's created for herself. "She wants to break out of her inner claustrophobia and, because of the nature of her work, delves a little too deeply into the lives of her patients, and in doing that, she's delving into the darker, more chaotic parts of her that have always been there but remained dormant. "Finally, it's like she's woken up and desires that fire. It's a really human story. It's about demons and exposing vulnerabilities and unknown, maybe, forgotten strengths. "It's so completely human and I've always loved exploring humanity in characters and she is a fascinating portrayal of fantasy, being the person you want to be, you desire to be but will never actually experience. "We shy away, but she's actually living it. She's exploring this side to her which we rarely see women do. Men yes, but women, not really."



## Margot Robbie and husband co-producing new movie

Margot Robbie and her husband Tom Ackerley will produce new sci-fi thriller 'Augmented'. The 27-year-old actress' company, LuckyChap Entertainment, will co-produce the Warner Bros picture alongside Di Novi Pictures, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Mark Townend's script for 'Augmented' appeared on the 2016 Black List and was sold for a six-figure sum. No plot details have been revealed yet from the highly sought-after script. Meanwhile, last year, Margot signed a "first-look" deal with Warner Bros and one of her first projects is 'Gotham City Sirens', which she will star in and executive produce. Margot will reprise her role as sexy, psychotic supervillain Harley Quinn in the new movie, which will focus on the women from the DC comics. She is said to have fallen in love with the character after portraying her in 'Suicide Squad'. It's not known whether Quinn's dangerous lover The Joker (Jared Leto) will star in the spin-off or Batman (Ben Affleck), who is traditionally the superhero trying to stop the pair's criminal plans. But Robbie has previously admitted she would love Quinn and The Joker to reunite. She said: "I'm trying to make that happen. Not for anything specifically, but just something - there's so much more to do." In the recent comic series, which the movie will be based on, Catwoman and Poison Ivy featured alongside Harley and could appear in the upcoming film.



## Kurtzman unsure of The Dark Universe's future

Alex Kurtzman is unsure what the future is for Universal Pictures' 'The Dark Universe'. The filmmaker helmed the Tom Cruise reboot of 'The Mummy', which was set to be the star of the universe based around iconic horror characters created by the film studio, however the film received poor reviews and Kurtzman hasn't decided what to do next. Speaking to IGN, he said: "You know the truth is, I don't know. I really don't know. I haven't really decided. Is the honest answer. "I have to stay interested in it. I have to feel like my passion is there for it. I think in the case of 'Star Trek' if your passion isn't there you shouldn't be doing it." Universal made their name horror TV show 'Creature Features' in the 1950s and enlisted Kurtzman and Chris Morgan to create a series of linked films that



will bring their iconic characters back to life on the big screen. Johnny Depp was believed to be playing 'The Invisible Man' in a separate project and Angelina Jolie was wanted to direct and star in a 'Bride Of Frankenstein' film. Originally Javier Bardem - who was cast to star

as Frankenstein - was approached to star as Dr. Jekyll opposite Cruise in 'The Mummy', but passed on it and Russell Crowe was given the role. Previously, Kurtzman said he wants to get Michael Fassbender in one of the films and confirmed what movies he hopes would be included in 'The Dark Universe'. He said: "I'd love to bring Michael Fassbender in, I'd love to bring Jennifer Lawrence in, I'd love to see Charlize Theron in there, Angelina Jolie. "We know we're going to do 'Frankenstein', 'Bride of Frankenstein', 'Dracula', 'Creature from the Black Lagoon', 'Phantom of the Opera', 'Hunchback of Notre Dame' and 'Invisible Man'. There are characters within those films that can grow and expand and maybe even spin off."

## Dreyfuss angry he hasn't got Lifetime Achievement Award

Richard Dreyfuss isn't happy he hasn't been given a Lifetime Achievement Award. The 69-year-old actor doesn't mind that fellow Hollywood stars such as Al Pacino, Robert De Niro and Jack Nicholson have been handed the prestigious accolade by the American Film Institute. He moaned: "I am bothered that they've been given Lifetime Achievement Awards by the American Film Institute and I haven't." Dreyfuss won an Oscar for his performance in 'The Goodbye Girl' in 1978, but would have preferred to win the award later in his career. He told The Daily Telegraph newspaper: "If I could rewind my life now, I'd delay winning the Oscar until I was in my fifties." The 'Mr Holland's Opus' star was a prominent actor during the 70s when he starred in a number of successful movies including 'American Graffiti', 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' and the shark horror movie 'Jaws'. Dreyfuss recalls a time when he was kicked out of 20th Century Fox for shouting at the director and casting director when

he was just 16. He said: "The director and casting director showed up 45 minutes late. When I finally saw them approaching, I headed in the opposite direction to get a glass of water. "I got back and one of the guys asked why I was keeping them waiting. I blew. 'How dare you' I said. "I've been waiting for 45 minutes." The casting director told me to calm down before asking me to go through my resume with the director. "'No', I said. 'You know what I've already done! And that's when they threw me out of 20th Century Fox." Throughout his career, Dreyfuss has had many turbulent relationships with co-stars including 'Jaws' star Robert Shaw and Bill Murray who he starred with in 'What About Bob?'. Despite this, the screen star believes he is an "amiable" guy and knew he would make it in the movie business. He said: "I was rather an amiable guy. And I knew as a 100 per cent certainty that I would make it as a movie star."



## Denis Villeneuve: Blade Runner 2049 is my biggest challenge

Denis Villeneuve has admitted 'Blade Runner 2049' is the biggest "artistic challenge" of his career so far. The 49-year-old filmmaker has helmed the sequel to the movie classic 'Blade Runner' and although he always wanted to be the man to make the movie he felt a lot of pressure because he wanted to "honor" the Sir Ridley Scott original. The Harrison Ford led 1982 movie - based on Philip K. Dick's 1968 novel 'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?' - is considered to be one of the greatest sci-fi films ever made and deals with heavy-weight topics such as what it means to be alive. Speaking to Den of Geek, Villeneuve said: "I have to find a way to make that universe mine. I have to find a way to not feel like a vandal going in a church, making graffiti on the walls. It's by far the biggest artistic challenge I have ever done. To take someone else's universe and to try digest and make it my own is a strange process ... One of the things you have to do when you want to honor something is incorporate and go large. You don't want to just do the high school play. You don't want to do a remake. "When it first came out we were doing this, a lot of people just thought we were going to redo it again. That feels like it would be dishonoring something that is wonderful. It was looking for ways

to explore the world further and make it bigger." Whilst details of the plot have largely remained under wraps, it is due to take place decades after the original which is why Ford, 75, will be seen as a much older version of his police operative character, android hunter Rick Deckard. The impressive cast includes Ryan Gosling - who plays main protagonist, LAPD Officer K - Jared Leto, Lennie James, Robin Wright, Ana de Armas, Sylvia Hoeks, Carla Juri, Mackenzie Davis, Barkhad Abdi, David Dastmalchian, Hiam Abbass and Dave Bautista. 'Blade Runner 2049' will be released in October 2017. — Bang Showbiz



## Dominic Cooper has great song in Mamma Mia 2

Dominic Cooper has teased he has a very "good" song in 'Mamma Mia 2: Here We Go Again!'. The 'Preacher' star played the role of Sky in the hit 2008 movie - based on the ABBA-inspired musical of the same name - alongside Meryl Streep, 67, Amanda Seyfried, 31, Colin Firth, 56, and Pierce Brosnan, 64. Cooper had previously confirmed he will be returning for the upcoming sequel and has now spilled he'll be singing a classic ABBA track that will delight fans. Speaking on 'Good Morning Britain', he said: "I'm in, definitely. There are loads of ABBA songs left. 'Waterloo' is around, and the one I am doing is good too - I've got a good one!" Universal Studios have been working on the sequel to the original box office hit for some time, but now it looks like things are finally slotting into place as they've given it a working title and have assembled the cast. 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' scribe Ol Parker will

be penning and directing the film, while Playtone Pictures, which produced the first installment, has jumped back on board for the forthcoming film. The iconic musical focused on a bride-to-be Sophie Sheridan (Seyfried) trying to find her real father so that he can walk her down the aisle at her wedding to Sky (Cooper). But she's in for a shock when she realizes that there are three potential men that could be her biological dad. It's not yet known how bosses plan to push the story on but it's thought they may decide to follow the angle of how Sophie's mother Donna Sheridan (Streep) met the three men; Sam Carmichael (Brosnan), Harry Bright (Firth) and Bill Anderson (Stellan Skarsgard) in the years before the original story takes place. The sequel will feature more ABBA songs that weren't included in the 2008 movie alongside with "reprised favorites", according to the film's official Twitter account.



A view of the French Institute of Eastern Archaeology (IFAO) in Cairo.



French Anita Quiles, a researcher in the French Institute of Eastern Archaeology (IFAO) in Cairo, stands near local staff at a dating laboratory inside the institute.

# Egyptologists go high tech to unlock ancient mysteries

'It is important to have science in archaeology'

From the Giza pyramids to the pharaonic tombs of Luxor, Egypt's ancient monuments are holding onto mysteries which researchers now aim to unravel with cutting edge technology. For more than 200 years since Napoleon Bonaparte landed in Egypt with a retinue of scholars who laid the groundwork for modern Egyptology, experts have used science to unlock the secrets of the country's ancient treasures. In the 21st century, the scientists have been using electronic devices and chemical testing to date artefacts.

Chemical testing still requires small samples, but advanced techniques coming into use are meant to be non-invasive so as not to damage the ancient relics. ScanPyramids is among the most ambitious of the projects to demystify the Khufu Pyramid near Giza, the only surviving monument from the ancient Seven Wonders of the World. It has employed infrared thermography and muography—a technique that records images using muon particles—in its quest. The project had announced last October that the massive pyramid may contain undiscovered recesses.

"All the devices we put in place are designed to find where the cavity is located. We know there is one, but we're trying to find out where," said Mehdi Tayoubi, president of the HIP Institute heading the ScanPyramids project. The muon devices include chemical emulsion instruments from Japan's University of Nagoya, electronic sensors from the KEK Japanese Research Laboratory, and muon telescopes from the French Atomic Energy Commission. The results are then compared with infrared and 3D images.

Some archaeologists have pinned hopes on the sophisticated technology to locate the burial place of the legendary queen Nefertiti. The wife of King Akhenaten, who initiated a



Egypt's former antiquities minister Zahi Hawass gives an interview with AFP at his office in Cairo. — AFP photos

monotheistic cult in ancient Egypt, Nefertiti remains an enigma, best known for a bust depicting her that is now on exhibition in Berlin's Neues Museum. A British Egyptologist, Nicholas Reeves, believed her remains were hidden in a secret chamber in the tomb of Tutankhamun, in the southern Valley of the Kings.

In 2015, archaeologists scanned the tomb with radar hoping for clues. Both Reeves's theory and the inconclusive results have been dismissed by other Egyptologists. One of them, former antiquities minister Zahi Hawass, said that an

adept of the sun god Aton would never have been allowed to be buried in the Valley of the Kings.

## Mapping out ancient dynasties

The excitement over the possible discovery has died down since the inconclusive results, but a team from Politecnico University in Turin, Italy, intends to give it another shot. This time they will employ tomography—a method used in medical scans—and magnetometry, which measures magnetic fields. Neither the Politecnico team nor the antiquities ministry has been inclined to discuss the fresh attempt, possibly put off by the anticlimactic media frenzy over the previous bid. Elsewhere, Egyptologists are undertaking a project to nail down the chronology of Egypt's ancient dynasties more precisely.

The French Institute of Eastern Archaeology (IFAO) in Cairo has a dating laboratory that the researchers are putting to use for the project. "The chronology of ancient Egypt is not clearly defined. We use a relative chronology," said Anita Quiles, head of research at the IFAO. "We refer to reigns and dynasties but we do not know exactly the dates," she said. The investigation, which involves chemical testing, is expected to take several years.

But Egyptologists say that science cannot replace archaeologists and their work on the ground. "It is important to have science in archaeology," said Hawass. "But it is very important not to let scientists announce any details about what they found unless it has been seen by Egyptologists." — AFP

## Hit song 'Despacito' becomes most viewed video on YouTube

The music video for the No. 1 hit song "Despacito" has a new record - it's become the most popular clip on YouTube of all-time with more than three billion views. YouTube announced Friday that Luis Fonsi's ubiquitous song with Daddy Yankee has surpassed previous record holder "See You Again," the song by Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth from the "Furious 7" soundtrack.

"Despacito" became an international smash hit this year, topping the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The record-breaking video does not include the popular remix with Justin Bieber; that version has been viewed more than 464 million times. "Despacito" is on track to become the first video to reach three billion views on YouTube. The video is also the most "liked" video on YouTube. — AP



In this file photo, singers Luis Fonsi, left and Daddy Yankee perform during the Latin Billboard Awards in Coral Gables, Florida. — AP



Palestinian and Israeli Jewish girls share a meal together.



Palestinian and Israeli Jewish girls enjoy a trampoline at the 'Creativity for Peace' camp.



Palestinian and Israeli Jewish girls share activities together.



Palestinian and Israeli Jewish girls with artwork promoting peace at the 'Creativity for Peace' camp.



Palestinian and Israeli Jewish girls take a group photo together at the 'Creativity for Peace' camp which every year brings up to 20 girls, half Jewish Israelis and half Palestinians from Israel, the West Bank and Gaza to Santa Fe, New Mexico. — AFP photos

## Palestinian, Israeli girls camping for peace in US wilderness

Liza Masri had learned as a young girl during the bloodiest days of the second intifada to fear the soldiers patrolling her neighborhood in the besieged West Bank city of Nablus. But it wasn't until after the uprising that her mistrust was most shockingly vindicated as she witnessed Israeli troops shooting dead her Palestinian neighbor as he smoked a cigarette on his balcony. "It's flashbacks I can remember... the ambulance, the way they took him down the building," the 21-year-old tells AFP, "as if the intervening decade has suddenly melted away. "We weren't allowed into the streets. We were afraid they would kill us. It's something I will always remember-it's so painful."

Some years later, her neighbor's bereaved daughter introduced Masri to "Creativity for Peace," an organization in Santa Fe, New Mexico, that brings together Palestinian and Jewish Israeli girls in a bid to bridge the emotional fault lines created by 70 years of conflict. Half a world away from the corridors of the United Nations, they get together at a ranch in the timbered foothills of the southern Rocky Mountains to hear for the first time the stories of enemies they have grown up learning to hate. Since 2003 more than 200 girls of ages 15 to 17 have participated in the Creativity for Peace camp, where Masri has returned this year as a "young leader" after taking part in 2013. It was at the camp that she befriended Naama Shlomy, a Jewish Israeli who lives some 60 miles (100 kilometers) south of Nablus, on the border with Gaza.

### Trauma

Shlomy was three years old when her home town of Sderot was targeted by Hamas's Qassam artillery rockets, the first of an estimated 8-10,000 to rain down on Israel from Gaza since 2002. Fewer than 30 Israeli civilians have been killed but the psychological trauma has been profound. Almost half of Sderot middle schoolers surveyed for the Journal of Adolescent Health in 2008 showed signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, while high levels of miscarriage and depression are a fact of

daily life. "It's horrible, I can't describe it. It's a trauma that's in me. I'll need to deal with it for the rest of my life," Shlomy, 19, tells AFP at an open day as the three-week summer camp.

When Hamas launches a rocket, an alarm sounds and the people of Sderot know they have 15 seconds to get to the nearest shelter, day or night. "Each time you need to drop everything and go to the shelter. It's just so stressful to keep worrying about your family all the time, and yourself," says Shlomy. Every year up to 20 girls-half Jewish Israelis and half Palestinians from Israel, the West Bank and Gaza-are invited to New Mexico by Creativity for Peace, which is funded privately, notwithstanding a 2015 US government grant.

The girls share their experiences of the Arab-Israeli conflict as part of a total of 40 hours of dialogue founded on the notion that "an enemy is a person whose story you haven't heard." Using English as their common language, they go shopping, visit the movies, divvy up chores, share bedrooms and attend art therapy classes together. Almost all have lost family and friends to violence and most will never have spoken to members of the opposite side before.



Palestinian Lama Khaled (left) and Edén Vakni from Israel (right) spend time together at the 'Creativity for Peace' camp.

### 'Baby steps'

"We teach our young women that both sides are right and both sides are wrong. Their job is not to debate politics or go over history, but more to understand one another and find common ground," says Dottie Indyke, executive director for the last 11 years. The fact that both sides have suffered often comes as a revelation to the girls, although resentment can still run deep. Masri points to the 400,000 illegal Israeli settlers in the West Bank, and the numerous checkpoints that have choked Nablus, a thriving trading post since the days of the seventh century Umayyad Caliphate that now finds itself in penury.

"I understand that we both suffered. It didn't change my mind towards the other side. I feel them, understand their stories, but that doesn't mean I should change my perspective, that they are not doing something wrong to my country," she tells AFP. But she is persevering in the process-even turning around her initially unsupportive family-because she believes in the intrinsic value of dialogue as driver of change.

"Maybe we are not resolving the conflict but it's a long process, it's about trust," she says. "As long as we trust the other side many things will start to happen." Perhaps the toughest part comes after the camp, when the girls are asked to go back to their communities as "peacemakers" who can be an example of compassion, friendship, and courage. "Each girl can go to her family and change the way they see things, then they can change their communities," says Sana Zahalka, 17, another young leader who first came to the camp in 2015. "It's like baby steps. But they all lead to this amazing big step." — AFP



A painting depicting Thailand's Queen Sirikit adorns an elaborate fruit and vegetable decoration during a fruit and vegetable carving competition in Bangkok.



A Thai woman carves a vegetable into the form of a rose during a fruit and vegetable carving competition.



A carved watermelon is displayed during a fruit and vegetable carving competition.— AFP photos

# Fruit carving, a meticulous art in Thailand



Thai girls carve floral patterns into fruits.

It is a royal tradition that has proved bountiful through the ages and one that Thailand's fruit carvers are determined to keep alive—even as young people peel away from the unique art form. From beetroots carved into roses to fruity floats made from papayas and melons, the most important fruit carving competition in Thailand took place in Bangkok Friday.

But for competitor Piyanat Thiwato, carving is about more than just winning. "Carving can improve our mind because it requires concentration and enhances our imagination, it's a way to relax," he said. The tradition has been traced back to Thailand's royal Sukhothai dynasty, in the 14th century. "The art of food carving started hundreds years ago. Thailand is rich with arts and crafts. It's like a very beautiful treasure that we have," said Araya Arunanondchai, the event's organizer.

"In the old days, it was done in the royal palaces for the royal family," she added. Dozens of Thai artists competed in the famous fruit and vegetable carving competition, which was organized in honor of Queen Sirikit, who turns 85 on August 12. More than 20 teams carved anything from owls to elephants or intricate Thai designs onto fruits including taros, melons, and papaya. Fruit carving is still popular as an offering in temples or as a decoration for weddings. Fine arts students can still choose to learn it at university, as they would take painting lessons. But the tradition is fading away. "Not so many young people are interested in it or the ones who studied it in art schools cannot make a living out of it", Manirat Svastiwat na Ayutthaya, food carving expert said. — AFP



An elaborate display of carved fruits and vegetables is displayed during a fruit and vegetable carving competition.



A Thai man helps put together an elaborate decoration.



The carved watermelons are displayed during a fruit and vegetable carving competition.



A carved papaya is displayed.



A carved watermelon is displayed.



A carved watermelon is displayed.



A Thai boy carves floral patterns into a watermelon.



A carved watermelon is displayed.



A carved pumpkin is displayed.



Shoppers buy freshly caught shrimps yesterday at the main fish market in Kuwait City. Shrimp fishing resumed in Kuwaiti waters after a break of six and a half months in order to allow the species to reproduce in territorial waters. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Scientists crack mystery of the luckless apostles of Paris

Having lost their heads, been pulled from their plinths, smashed and even buried, things are at last looking up for some of the unluckiest statues in Christendom. For five centuries the 12 apostles looked down on the adoring hordes who marveled at the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris, arguably the greatest Gothic edifice ever built. Standing between its spectacular stained glass windows—one of the wonders of the medieval world—they could have been forgiven for feeling smug having survived the Reformation without a scratch.

But the statues were caught in the whirlwind of not just one French revolution but two, and since then history has been less than kind. Until now that is. A team of French scientists are at last revealing their original colors and forms from 1248 when they first stood guard over one of the most revered of Christian relics, the crown of thorns that Christ reputedly wore on the cross. French king Louis IX built the staggeringly beautiful private chapel to house the relics after buying them from the cash-strapped Latins who sacked Constantinople in 1204 and began stripping the Byzantine capital of its treasures.

The crusader king, who was later made a saint, also acquired parts of the True Cross and the Holy Lance for the chapel, which backed onto his royal palace. Six of the most heavily damaged of the apostle statues are now being analyzed by the French museums' restoration and research centre, known as C2RMF, at its laboratories underneath the Louvre.

### Off with their heads

Its director of sculptures Alexandra Gerard told AFP that as well taking tiny samples from "the sandwich layers" of paint to find the first coat under a microscope, experts were also trying to crack the puzzle about how the much-damaged, repaired and repainted statues were first made. Using X-rays and ultraviolet scans they have been able to cast new



Alexandre Gerard examining polychrome stone statues belonging to the Museum of Cluny, the 'apostles of the Sainte Chapelle' before their restoration in Paris.

light on statues whose nicknames are vaguely reminiscent of the Seven Dwarves, from "The Melancholic" and "The Philosopher" to the "Headless One". But the most exciting potential discovery for the Cluny Museum of the Middle Ages in Paris, where the six badly damaged apostles are held, is how different the original colors were.

"The statues in the Sainte-Chapelle now are very

highly coloured like its stained glass," said curator Damien Berne. "However, it seems that in the 13th century they had a very different chromatic range" which may have been designed so "the apostles stood out" from the windows. Although tests are still going on to confirm the findings, he said the statue known as "The Melancholic" may also not have been quite so down in the dumps as he now seems.

His head may simply not have been put back on his shoulders correctly after he was roughed up by French revolutionaries. The statues' vicissitudes began in the tumultuous decade after the fall of the Bastille in 1789.

### Torn down and buried

Torn down from their plinths they were unceremoniously cast aside; two ended up broken and buried under a pavement and the others were dispersed to various storehouses and museums. They fared even worse in the revolution of 1830, when four lost their heads to rioters. But for a pious old woman who managed to pick up and hide the heads they would have been lost forever. While restoring the chapel in 1840 the architect Felix Duban tried to put all the statues back in their place.

But the four decapitated saints and the two buried ones were judged to be beyond repair and handed on to the Cluny Museum. Yet somewhere along the line another head had gone astray. In the meantime the surviving apostles and six plaster replacements got a striking Gothic Revival paint job which endures to this day. After the tests are completed, the Cluny Museum—which houses France's main collection of medieval treasures—hopes to have the statues cleaned so that they can be installed in their own gallery in 2020. By then "maybe we will have found which apostle is the true owner of the 'charming' little foot" which languishes legless in the museum's storage, said Berne. — AFP



This file photo shows Heritage Curator of the Centre for Research and Restoration of Museums of France (C2RMF) Alexandre Gerard examining polychrome stone statues belonging to the Museum of Cluny, the 'apostles of the Sainte Chapelle' before their restoration in Paris. — AFP photos

## Bizarre News

### A man wows onlookers by dancing on the street

A man has "impressed" onlookers who caught him dancing in the street, although they initially thought he was being "violent". A mystery male was spotted prancing around the streets of London, England, on Wednesday, and his energetic performance sparked concern for passers-by who thought he was being aggressive. Speaking about the unusual moment to the Mirror Online, eye witness Anthony Morris said: "It was bizarre. I noticed him on the other side of the road doing his kicks and it really drew my attention. "I was impressed at how high he could get his legs up." At first I thought he was kicking a bus so I got a bit worried that he was being violent. "I was ready to get out of my car to make sure he was okay but I soon realized he wasn't being violent he was just enjoying himself. "I was getting worried that he might kick himself in the face or hit someone walking past but he seemed pretty harmless. "He was definitely eccentric. He reminded me of a mixture of Mick Jagger with the bizarre outfit." The man attracted even more attention when he fell to the floor, and whilst others were worried he had caused himself an injury, he seemed unfazed by the blip and simply continued dancing. Anthony explained: "I loved how when he fell he just stood up dusted himself off and carried on like it never happened."

### Thieves strip 'Space Invader' mosaics from Paris walls

Thieves pretending to be Paris city workers have in the past few days stripped the French capital's walls of pixelated works from French urban artist Invader, the city said on Friday. A spokeswoman said "more than a dozen pieces" from the artist have been torn from walls all around the city. Invader, whose real name or identity is unknown, produces pixelated works using bathroom tiles that hark back stylistically to early video games such as the 1978 "Space Invaders". Some of his "invasions" have resulted in him being questioned by police, but copies of his works have often sold for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Two years ago, his mosaic of 1970s American cartoon character Hong Kong Phooey sold at auction at Sotheby's in Hong Kong for HK\$2 million (\$256,000). The city of Paris said it "has decided to file a complaint for abuse of functions" because the two suspected thieves "were disguised as Paris city workers" in order to steal the mosaic works. Authorities were alerted to the thefts on social media, with Parisians snapping pictures of the pretend workers on Twitter and asking why the city was removing the mosaics. We "quickly realized that those were not our agents, nor our vehicles or our jackets," the city said. Invader previously addressed the issue of theft on his official website, saying

that his pieces have been "removed, damaged or destroyed by individuals who seek to resell them." But the artist added: "Given the type of tiles I use, to steal the work is impossible. These individuals by removing the mosaics destroy the piece and then have to buy ceramics to repair or recreate the work." Authorities have not said whether an investigation has been opened.

### A woman receives four-page letter from a 'disgruntled' delivery driver

A woman received a four-page letter from a delivery driver she refused to tip. A female, named Lauren Ledford, enjoyed the Italian takeaway but did not hand over any spare change to the driver to thank him for the services, much to the unnamed staff member's disappointment. She shared a photograph of the messages she received on her Facebook page, which she captioned: "PLEASE READ and BE AWARE. Yesterday, I came home to a 4 page letter left on my door from a @postmates delivery man. These are the last two pages, and the scariest. I know he is employed by this company because the only pizza delivery I've had to my home in the last 2 months is from @postmates and in the first two pages (not pictured here) the man let's me know he was at my home last week delivering pizza. I nailed down who the driver is and have reported it to the police as well as @postmates, which has not called me or addressed this at all. I am putting this out there only because I want everyone to be aware of the fact that apparently this company doesn't respect a privacy policy and employees people who are openly on drugs, returning to costumers homes a week later threatening to rob them over a \$4 tip, which I thought was included in the outrageous delivery charges that this company tacks on to orders. I am now terrified that this man could show up any day as he let me know, "who knows what a disgruntled delivery driver who can't afford to eat that day is capable of." Note: this is a photo copy of the hand written note, as the police took the original as evidence. #postmates @ Redondo Beach, California (sic)." The delivery man's handwritten notes have also been shared on the social media platform, which see him urge Lauren to tip all staff, and he continued to "jokingly" threaten her to hand over extra cash if he brings her order again or else he would "rob her". The letters read: "Please next time, tip your delivery driver. And if it turns out that delivery driver is me again, and you do not tip yet again, I'm probably going to rob you. "I'm only joking, but not really. Don't risk it though. Who knows what a disgruntled delivery driver who can't afford to eat that day is capable of. "Ok, just read my words and don't be cheap. "I'm just kind of high and so, I need your tip money to stay toasty (sic)." — Bang Showbiz