

Abbas pins hopes on Palestinian teachers headed to Kuwait



Egypt train crash toll hits 41 as drivers questioned



Qatar crisis redraws red lines and frays Gulf ties



Vokes at double as Burnley catch Chelsea cold



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## MOI CAPTURES 12 'ABDALY CELL' FUGITIVES, 2 OTHERS AT LARGE

AMIR THANKS INTERIOR MINISTRY FOR NABBINING CONVICTS



Min 30°  
Max 48°  
High Tide 03:46 & 16:05  
Low Tide 10:12 & 22:33

### MUCH-LOVED KUWAITI ACTOR ABDULREDHA DIES

AMIR DEEPLY DISTRESSED

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti actor, playwright and comedian Abdulhussein Abdulredha has died at the age of 78 after a career spanning decades that made him a household name across the Gulf. State



Abdulhussein Abdulredha

news agency KUNA said Abdulredha, who had heart surgery in 2015, died of natural causes on Friday in London where he had been in an intensive care unit for two days.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed deep distress and grief at demise of Abdulredha. Kuwait has lost a great iconic personality in the field of theatrical art and a pioneer and celebrity in the Kuwaiti, Arab and Gulf theaters, the Amir stated on the somber occasion.

He recalled the artistic message of the stalwart artist and his dramatic and creative contributions over 40 years, namely dramatic and comedic works that will continue to be applauded and admired and would remain a school for those who would follow his steps with regards to his loyalty to the homeland and interaction with its causes. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad expressed admiration for Abdulredha's great role in promoting and developing Kuwaiti drama. He prayed for the deceased's soul and expressed solace for his bereaved family and fans. (See Page 5)



KUWAIT: The 12 Kuwaiti convicts of the 'Abdaly cell' who were arrested. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti authorities yesterday arrested 12 convicted members of the so-called "Abdaly terrorist cell" with ties to Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah after a weeks-long manhunt. The interior ministry said the 12 had been captured in different areas across Kuwait. They had been on the run since their sentencing last month, while two other convicted Kuwaitis remained at large.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable yesterday to Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, heaping praise on security forces for their diligence that led to the arrest of the 12 convicts who were on the run. In his cable, the Amir said that he was confident that authorities' unwavering fortitude and steadfast efforts would

bring the convicts who remain at large to justice. He also thanked citizens for their cooperation with security forces and wished the country continued security and prosperity. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Continued on Page 11

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# FELONIES HAVE DROPPED NOTABLY

## PUBLIC PROSECUTION RECEIVES A TOTAL OF 16,287 CASES

Number of perpetrators according to nationality عدد مرتكبيها حسب الجنسية														نوع الجريمة Type of case
الإجمالي Total	مجهول Non identified	جنسية أخرى Other foreign nationality	جنسية أجنبية أخرى Other alien nationality	جنسية عربية أخرى Other arab nationality	إيراني Iranian	هندي Indian	باكستاني Pakistani	سعودي Saudi	لبناني Lebanese	مصري Egyptian	سوري Syrian	أردني وفلسطيني Jordanian and Palestinian	مقيمون بغير قانونية Illegally residents	
1098	46	10	214	22	83	198	38	35	7	77	418	201	48	301
1											1			فشل تجاري Commercial fraud
237	18	10	8	4	5	12	9	2	4	9	15	10	5	120
5		1	1									2		الاتجار في الأغذية الفاسدة Trafficking in rotten foods
4						2					2			مخالفة قانون الجمارك Violation of custom law
98	2		20	1	1	15	3	4		2	29	5	8	المس في المعاملات التجارية Commerical transactions fraud
9			1	1							2			مخالفة تحديد الأسعار Violation of limitation price
2062	66	31	244	27	90	227	80	41	11	88	467	224	61	435
														مخالفة قانون الملكية الفكرية Violation of intellectual property law
													5	أخرى Other
														الإجمالي Total

**KUWAIT:** Annual statistics issued by the Justice Ministry in 2016 show the public prosecution received a total of 16,287 cases, varying between felonies, commercial misdemeanors, juvenile crimes, media crimes, cheque fraud, drugs and misuse of information technology. The publication by the statistics and research department at the Justice Ministry has the most accurate and important data as well as statistical indicators of the judiciary's

achievements. "This publication is considered one of the most important achievements the statistics and research department is keen to issue every year. It contains comprehensive data that cover various activities of the court sectors, public prosecution and supporting departments compared with the five previous years and prediction for the next five years," Director of the department Haifa

Number of perpetrators according to nationality عدد مرتكبيها حسب الجنسية														نوع الجريمة Type of case
الإجمالي Total	مجهول Non identified	جنسية أخرى Other foreign nationality	جنسية أجنبية أخرى Other alien nationality	جنسية عربية أخرى Other arab nationality	إيراني Iranian	هندي Indian	باكستاني Pakistani	سعودي Saudi	لبناني Lebanese	مصري Egyptian	سوري Syrian	أردني وفلسطيني Jordanian and Palestinian	مقيمون بغير قانونية Illegally residents	
1416	105	17	73	15	7	86	19	177	48	3	130	59	15	662
442	44		19	1	3	8	12	30	16	4	30	11	5	250
2362	1213	18	56	16	13	49	23	201	94	3	95	103	16	462
1013	496	18	9	12	3	19	12	26	19	7	51	29	17	295
496	33	8	43	10	4	28	6	29	16	7	74	36	8	200
2409	72	40	214	37	27	133	22	283	125	6	250	51	39	1190
1844	151	19	97	39	20	72	14	106	76	5	136	93	13	1003
10902	2114	117	511	130	77	395	100	852	394	35	706	382	119	4071
														القضايا الواقعة على النفس Physical body cases
														القضايا الخطف والقتل والجرح Kidnapping, arresting and detention cases
														القضايا الواقعة على المال Vandalism cases
														قضايا الشيكات Cheques cases
														القضايا الواقعة على العرض والسمعة Defamation and reputation cases
														قضايا المخدرات Drugs cases
														قضايا أخرى Other cases
														الإجمالي Total

Al-Shimmari said. "The department wants the largest possible group of researchers to benefit from the accurate information and data in this book," she added. Statistics show 15,241 cases were processed, distributed between 9,266 cases sent to the comprehensive court and 5,975 cases shelved, while 209 cases are still in courts. Felonies made up the largest share of cases with 6,507 cases received by the public prosecution, followed

by 2,865 cybercrime cases. The least number of cases were journalism misdemeanors (251 cases) and finally audiovisual crimes (27 cases). Despite the rise in felonies, stats show that the number of these cases received in 2016 dropped notably compared to previous years by 11.99 percent, as the number of felonies reached 6,507, with 7,389 cases in 2015 and 8,792 in 2014. — Al-Rai



# AL-MUHALLAB BOOM, A MANIFESTATION OF KUWAITI STRENGTH AGAINST IRAQ INVADERS

**KUWAIT:** Though the original Al-Muhallab boom was built in 1937, the wooden vessel evokes a different kind of sentiment amongst Kuwaitis who knew that the boat represents the strength of the country's people against the Iraqi aggressors. During the invasion in 1990, Iraqi troops burned down the original Muhallab boom; however, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah ordered the re-building of the ship in the mid-1990s as an act of defiance against those trying to erase Kuwait's history and heritage. — KUNA

## Crime Report

### DAUGHTER BEATS MOM

**KUWAIT:** An elderly Kuwaiti woman accused her daughter of beating her. The mother, who refused to submit a medical report, said she had a dispute with her daughter because of her relationship with an ill-mannered man. The girl's aunt said the beating took place when the girl was told she couldn't marry that man, then she left the house.

**Kuwaiti arrested**  
A citizen was taken to Adailiya police station after police noticed him harassing a girl in a co-op parking lot. The citizen refused to hand police his IDs, and was forced in the patrol car. The woman refused to go to the police station.

**Doctor accused of 'touching'**  
A Lebanese woman complained against a Jordanian doctor for 'touching' her body in a way that had nothing to do with treatment while he was explaining how he will handle her case. She said her friend was with her and witnessed everything. The doctor denied the woman's claims.

**KD 500 stolen**  
Hawally detectives are investigating an Egyptian's claims that an unidentified person stole KD 500 from his bank account although his ATM card was with him. The Egyptian told Jabriya police that someone stole the money through an ATM machine although the ATM card was with him and he did not give his PIN to anyone.

**Dead body found**  
The body of an Asian woman was recovered by the coroner after it was found hanging from a tree in a Farwaniya park. Police received a call from an Egyptian and went to the scene, but did not find any ID on her.

**Police hunt for missing girl**  
Jahra detectives are looking for a girl - a student at a foreign university - following a complaint by her father. The girl is psychologically ill and is being treated at the psychiatric hospital. He said the girl left home a week ago and did not return. When asked why he waited all this time to inform police, he said his daughter used to stay with her friends for a day or two and then return.

## KUWAITI SHOOTERS WIN GOLD IN ASIAN TOURNEY

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Skeet shooting team bagged a gold medal yesterday in the seventh Asian Shotgun Championship held in Kazakhstan. The triumvirate of Abdullah Al-Tarki, Mansour Al-Tarki and Abdulaziz Al-Saad powered their way to victory, while the Kazakh and Indian teams trailed in second and third place, respectively, Abaid Al-Osaimi, the secretary of the Kuwaiti shooting club said. He went on to dedicate the monumental victory to the Kuwaiti leadership and people. Some 350 competitors representing 29 nations are vying for glory in the Kazakh-hosted tournament — KUNA

## SAUDI MAINTAINS BAN ON LIQUEFIED GAS DURING HAJJ

**JEDDAH:** The Saudi Ministry of Interior said yesterday that the ban on the use of liquefied gas for cooking at holy sites during this year's Hajj season, remained intact. Saudi Interior Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud vowed that relevant punitive measures would apply to anyone found breaking the decided ban, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. Defending the decision, Director General of Civil Defense Gen Suleiman bin Abdullah Al-Amr said that the ban on liquefied gas for cooking would remain in effect due to potential dangers to pilgrims at holy sites. Civil defense teams in Makkah are carrying out daily searches at pilgrimage camps in order to make sure that no gas cylinders are used there, Al-Amr added. The year-long ban has greatly helped in the prevention of fire risks at Hajj camps and holy sites, he pointed out. — KUNA



# Kuwait Times

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Photo

of the day



A mural of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is displayed at Al-Hamra Tower in Kuwait City on Thursday. The mural is a gift from the Qatari people in recognition of the Amir's efforts to mediate a resolution to the GCC crisis. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

News

In brief

EPA seeks hedge against oil spill

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA) said yesterday it was taking all appropriate measures in order to protect water outlets from an oil spill near Kuwait's southern Ras Al-Zour area. The EPA said in a press release that while it sought to determine the source of the oil spill, it was taking all necessary moves to safeguard the area of water outlets by using rubber bumpers. It added that it was working with the oil sector, mainly the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), to find the source of the oil spill and even determine its exact size.

Amir sends cable of condolences to UAE

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to the President of the UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, expressing sorrow over the death of four Emirati servicemen in Yemen. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables. The UAE armed forces said that four Emirati soldiers, part of the Saudi led-coalition forces fighting for legitimacy in Yemen, were killed while on duty, official media reported. While attempting to make an emergency landing in Shabwa governorate, southern Yemen, due to a malfunction, the soldiers' helicopter crashed to the ground leading to their demise, UAE's General Command of the Armed Forces said in a statement, according to Emirati News Agency (WAM).

Bosnia authorities find missing Kuwaiti citizen

**SARAJEVO:** Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities have informed the Kuwaiti Embassy that they located a missing Kuwaiti female citizen, who is in good condition, Ambassador Nasser Al-Mutairi said yesterday. The concerned authorities are conducting required investigations, and will hand over the citizen to the embassy, following the end of investigations, he said in a statement. The ambassador also praised the cooperation of Bosnian authorities on the matter right from the start. The citizen reportedly went missing during a visit to the Balkan country.

KUWAIT SIGNS \$500,000 DEAL FOR YEMEN WATER PROJECT 'KUWAIT BY YOUR SIDE' CAMPAIGN

**RIYADH:** The "Kuwait by Your Side" campaign has signed a \$500,000 agreement to carry out the first phase of a project for the treatment of a water supply system in the southern Yemeni governorate of Shabwah. The project focuses on Al-Shubaika water supply plant which provides water and sanitation to the governorate's centre and surrounding areas, read a statement by the Kuwait-Yemeni relief organization, which is funding the deal. Its first phase will aim to treat four water wells at the plant within a two-week deadline, added the Kuwaiti state-funded relief body which includes several associations aiming to deliver aid to the Yemeni people.

Meanwhile, Yemeni officials at the governorate extolled Kuwait's firm stance in support of Yemen amid various circumstances and periods, according to the statement. For his part, the Governor of Shabwah expressed his gratitude for Kuwait's continued support across different fields, mainly in development and relief. This reflects the depth of relations and cooperation between the two countries and their peoples, said the official.

Meanwhile, representative of the Kuwaiti-Yemeni relief organization Tareq Raji Lakman said the project's second phase aims to install equipment and operate water pumping units. As a whole, the Kuwaiti-funded campaign is pursuing urgent relief work in Yemen across the sectors of food, water, education and healthcare.

Mosque rehabilitation

In another development, Kuwait has donated one million dollars for the Tunisian Ministry of Religious Affairs to rehabilitate and renovate the historical El-Zaytuna Mosque in Tunis. Kuwait Ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Thafiri handed a check of the donation to Tunisian Minister of Religious Affairs Ahmad Azoum during their meeting on Thursday where they discussed cooperation in religious affairs. The Tunisian minister welcomed the contribution as a landmark event in history of the exemplary relations between the two countries, Ambassador Al-Thafiri said following the meeting.

The donation signals Kuwait's keenness on conserving the Islamic heritage in



TUNIS: Kuwait Ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Thafiri holds talks with Tunisian Minister of Religious Affairs Ahmad Azoum. — KUNA

Tunisia, he quoted the minister as saying. Azoum noted that he plans to invite the Kuwaiti Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri to visit Tunisia to review the implementation of the bilateral agreement on religious cooperation

signed in 2010. El-Zaytuna is the oldest mosque in the capital city of Tunis; it covers an area of 5,000 sq. meters and has nine entrances and 160 authentic columns brought from the ruins of the old city of Carthage. — Agencies



RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas poses for a group photo with a group of teachers who are on their way to Kuwait.

ABBAS PINS HOPES ON PALESTINIAN TEACHERS

**RAMALLAH:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rallied behind a group of teachers who are on their way to Kuwait, a nation that had heavily depended on Palestinian educators years ago. "Kuwait fondly recollects Palestinian contributions to pedagogy and the passion with which Palestinian instructors have imparted their knowledge to the people of Kuwait," Abbas told the contingent of teachers yesterday. He noted that the success of the educators will "open the door for the triumphant return of Palestinian instructors to the Gulf region." "We trust you to carry on the legacy of the Palestinian teacher," Abbas said. After a long hiatus that kept them away from the country, Kuwait has hired some 180 Palestinian teachers to join its academic workforce. —KUNA



'MUBARATUNA' PROJECT - A GOVT, PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION

**KUWAIT:** The "Mubaratuna" (our match) football project had become the flagship project displaying the Kuwaiti government and private sector's willingness to collaborate for the wellbeing and the benefit of the youth. With around 111 football pitches located in several

governorates, it is suffice to say that the Mubaratuna project, which offers reasonably priced booking fees, is providing topnotch services to football lovers in Kuwait.

Speaking to KUNA about Mubaratuna, Abdullah Al-Adwani, head of the project, said

that Mubaratuna began in 2014 with around 36 pitches available. Since the initiating of the project, thousands of people have used the facilities funded by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, and the Kuwait Union for Cooperative

Societies, indicated Al-Adwani.

The chief purpose of the project is to encourage the youth and society to seek self-betterment and healthy life styles, said the official who indicated that booking a pitch was done online. On the merits of Mubaratuna

project, football enthusiast Nawaf Al-Enizi, 30, said that in the past, fees were so high that it was difficult to pay KD 30 and above to book a pitch. Now it only costs around KD 2 to play football at one of Mubaratuna's fields, which is amazing, said Al-Enizi. — KUNA



# BYE BYE FROM LONDON

## ABDULHUSSEIN ABDULREDHA TAKES HIS FINAL BOW

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaitis of all walks of life, demographics and affiliations took the passing away of iconic comedic actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha with a heavy heart, as local and Arab outlets, in addition to social media platforms announced the sad news about the renowned 'Abu Adnan'. "Get off my back, I'm in London to have fun, to change scenery and enjoy myself. I'm not in London to be hospitalized," was a line 'Abu Adnan' said in the 1981 play "Bye Bye London." He was announced dead at the age of 78 in one of London's hospitals last night.

Born on July 15, 1939 in Dirwazat Abdulrazzaq, Sharq, Kuwait, Abdulredha ranked the seventh among 14 siblings. He did not start his career as an actor, but first worked in the Department of Printing of the Ministry of Guidance and Information. He then traveled on a scholarship to Egypt in 1956 to learn printmaking, and in 1961 he traveled on a mission to Germany to complete his studies in printmaking arts.

A son of a 'Nokhetha' or sea captain, Abdulredha's talent of performing to crowds and ability to make people laugh started with him as a young boy, entertaining his mother with his siblings while his father was away for months a year. This raw talent then was nurtured, developed and put on the right track after Abdulredha returned from Germany and started working with Egyptian director Zaki Tulaimat, before a young Abdulredha began to carve his own way to become one of Kuwait's and the Arabian Gulf's art pillars.

With dozens of plays, TV and radio series that spanned from the early 1960s all the way to the early years of this Millennium, Abdulredha had long established himself as among the few Gulf actors to sear their names in the Arabic artistic memory. His side-splitting slapstick comedy in the 1960s (eg Hawer Zaver, Al-Malgouf), dapper and dashing performances during the 1970s (eg Bani Samit, Thahiyat Beit Al-Ezz), and mature and well-rounded productions in the 1980s (eg Fursan Al-Manakh, Bye Bye Arab), continued until the end of his career, and eventually his life. Abdulredha kept on going, unstoppable, even bullets could not steer him off.

He was the target of an assassination attempt



due to his role portraying the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in the 1991 play (Seif Al-Arab). Arguably, one of the best whoever mastered the role, Abdulredha refused to cancel, or

even delay the show for that night even though he was fired at while on the way to the theater. Frequently referred to as Kuwait's forth Tower, Abdulredha was in many ways, and seen by

many of his fans of different generations, as the personification of the Kuwaiti man, whether it was for his political humor, social rants, or even own speech and appearance. — KUNA



## NCCAL: ABDULHUSSEIN'S LOSS LEFT GREAT GAP IN ARTISTIC MOVEMENT

**KUWAIT:** The passing away of actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha is a great loss to the artistic and theatrical movement in Kuwait, the Gulf and Arab region, National Council of Culture Arts and Literature (NCCAL) General Secretariat said in a statement yesterday. The deceased was a remarkable model example as a committed and respected actor who dedicated his life for serving the national issues of his country and people, despite his long journey in struggling with his illness throughout various stages of his life.

He greatly contributed to developing the artistic movement in Kuwait and the Gulf region along with many companions in the domain, it added. He was known for his comedy works, presented various types of arts, namely acting, singing, playwriting, artistic production in theatre, TV and radio.

That made him worth of the title "the iconic figure of Kuwait and Gulf arts", it said. Abdulredha contributed to establishing many theatrical groups since the early beginning of the artistic movement in Kuwait back in 1960s of the last century-like the national theater and the Arab theatre. He also founded "Funoon" TV channel, it added. The works of the deceased offers a comprehensive reflection of the social life in Kuwait with all of its economic and political details, the statement said.

He shed light with distinguished artistic smartness on important events in the history of Kuwait, and conveyed the feelings of the Kuwaiti people with extreme transparency, it said. Out of NCCAL's great recognition to the late actor, it named Al-Salmiya Theatre after his name before he passed away, and honored him in the



opening ceremony of "Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016" celebration, it said. NCCAL expressed its deepest sorrow for losing one of the most remarkable pillars of Kuwait artistic movement, offering its condolences to the family of the deceased and the Kuwaiti and Arab artists. — KUNA



## PALESTINIAN LEADER ABBAS SENDS A CABLE CONDOLENCE

**KUWAIT:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has sent a cable condolence to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the demise of actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha. He said "we were touched by the news of the demise of seasoned actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha after a life of service towards his people and country. We join you and the people of Kuwait as we mourn his death and pray to Allah to bestow His mercy on him".



35 CHILDREN DIE IN NORTH INDIAN HOSPITAL IN 3 DAYS



Death toll rises amid Kenya's rioting over disputed vote



In this image provided by the US Air Force, a US Air Force B-1B Lancer assigned to the 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, sits on the runway at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam. — AP

# TRUMP SAYS US IS ‘LOCKED AND LOADED’

## XI: AVOID WORDS THAT WOULD EXACERBATE THE TENSION

**SEOUL:** Chinese President Xi Jinping made a plea for cool-headedness over escalating tensions between the US and North Korea in a phone conversation with US President Donald Trump yesterday, urging both sides to avoid words or actions that could worsen the situation. The call came after Trump unleashed a slew of fresh threats against North Korea on Friday, declaring the US military “locked and loaded” and warning North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that he “will regret it fast” if he takes any action against US territories or allies.

Trump has pushed China to pressure North Korea to halt a nuclear weapons program that is nearing the capability of targeting the United States. China is the North's biggest economic partner and source of aid, but says it alone can't compel Pyongyang to end its nuclear and missile programs. The White House said in a statement that Trump and Xi “agreed North Korea must stop its provocative and escalatory behavior.” It also said that the two “reiterated their mutual commitment to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

**Maintain restraint**  
State-run China Central Television quoted Xi as telling

Trump the “relevant parties must maintain restraint and avoid words and deeds that would exacerbate the tension on the Korean Peninsula.” But restraint was not the word of the day on Friday as Trump sent out a cascade of unscripted statements, including what appeared to be another red line - the mere utterance of threats - that would trigger a US attack against North Korea and “big, big trouble” for Kim.

North Korea’s Minju Joson newspaper, meanwhile, lashed back at the US in an editorial yesterday. “The powerful revolutionary Paektusan army of the DPRK, capable of fighting any war the US wants, is now on the standby to launch fire into its mainland, waiting for an order of final attack,” it said. DPRK stands for North Korea’s official name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The tough talk capped a week in which long-standing tensions between the countries risked abruptly boiling over.

New United Nations sanctions condemning the North’s rapidly developing nuclear program drew fresh ire and threats from Pyongyang. Trump, responding to a report that US intelligence indicates Pyongyang can now put a nuclear warhead on its long-range missiles, vowed to rain down “fire and fury” if challenged.

The North then came out with a threat to lob four inter-

mediate-range “Hwasong-12” missiles near Guam, a tiny US territory some 3,200 kilometers from Pyongyang. At the epicenter of the rhetoric, Trump’s New Jersey golf course, the president seemed to put Kim on notice, saying, “If he utters one threat in the form of an overt threat - which by the way he has been uttering for years and his family has been uttering for years - or he does anything with respect to Guam or anyplace else that’s an American territory or an American ally, he will truly regret it and he will regret it fast.”

**‘You know the answer’**

Asked if the US was going to war, he said cryptically, “I think you know the answer to that.” But Trump’s comments did not appear to be backed by significant military mobilization on either side of the Pacific, and an important, quiet diplomatic channel remained open. As a precaution, Japan deployed missile defense batteries under the path a North Korean missile might take.

Life on the streets of the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, also remained calm. There have been no air raid drills or cars in camouflage netting as has been the case during previous crises. State-run media ensures that

the population gets the North Korean side of the story, but doesn’t convey any sense of international concern about the situation.

US officials say they will be going ahead with long-scheduled military exercises with South Korea. Pyongyang says it will be ready to send its missile launch plan to Kim for approval just before or as the drills begin. Called Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, the exercises are expected to run Aug 21-31 and involve tens of thousands of American and South Korean troops on the ground and in the sea and air. North Korea claims the exercises are a rehearsal for war, but Washington and Seoul say they are necessary to deter North Korean aggression.

Trump began his Friday barrage with an especially fiery tweet: “Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely. Hopefully Kim Jong Un will find another path!” He later retweeted a posting from US Pacific Command that showed B-1B Lancer bomber planes on Guam that “stand ready to fulfill USFK’s #FightTonight mission if called upon to do so.” “Fight tonight” has long been the motto of US forces in South Korea to show they’re always ready for combat on the Korean Peninsula. — AP

## ANCIENT SITES BECAME REFUGEE CAMPS AS MASSES FLED PARTITION

**NEW DELHI:** The Partition of India sparked one of the greatest mass migrations in modern history, with millions seeking sanctuary from the violence inside ancient tombs and forts — transforming them into sprawling refugee camps. More than 15 million people were displaced following India’s independence from Britain in 1947, with Muslims embarking for the newly formed Pakistan as Hindus and Sikhs moved in the opposite direction.

At least a million died along the journey, the rest pouring into fetid camps erected in cities already pushed to the brink by violence, looting and food shortages. In New Delhi, where law and order had almost completely broken down, tens of thousands of Muslims sheltered behind the 16th-century walls of Humayan’s Tomb waiting for safe passage to Pakistan.

Tents were erected in the fine gardens surrounding the spectacular mausoleum — the inspiration for the Taj Mahal — and spilled over to encircle the smaller tombs dotting the Mughal-era complex. As space became scarce whole families huddled together with their life’s possessions on the exposed upper levels of the grand courtyard of the enormous domed monument itself.

The regal fountains at Humayan’s Tomb “became so fouled with human dirt that they had to be filled in with sand”, wrote historian Yasmin Khan in her book ‘The Great Partition’. The influx continued unabated until refugees made up almost one-third

of the population of Delhi. Those arriving by foot, train and tonga — horse-drawn carts — slept in marketplaces, under lean-tos or searched for space in vast tent cities that sprung over all over the capital.

**All walks of life**

One of the largest was at the ancient fort of Purana Qila where refugees from all walks of life camped “with their camels and tongas and ponies, battered old taxis and luxury limousines”, wrote eyewitness Richard Symonds as quoted in Khan’s book. “The Delhi forts are landmarks for the Partition,” said Guneeta Singh Balla, founder and executive director of the 1947 Partition Archive. “The images of the refugee camps there are still very dramatic.”

In parts of Punjab, the desert region split between India and Pakistan, rationing was reduced to a single chapatti a day as food shortages bit and begging and starvation were widespread. Amritsar — less than 30 kilometres from the new border — endured horrific rioting, with areas like Katra Jaimal Singh and Chowk Bijli Wala all but destroyed amid looting and arson. Sikhs fleeing persecution sought refuge at Khalsa College, a prestigious and picturesque Victorian-era university built in the late 19th-century, that staged as a relief camp. A new museum in Amritsar is helping record and digitise Partition history. But in Delhi there is no memorial at the landmarks that housed countless refugees to mark this dark chapter in their centuries-old existence. — AFP

## EGYPT TRAIN CRASH TOLL HITS 41 AS DRIVERS QUESTIONED

**ALEXANDRIA:** The death toll from Egypt’s latest train disaster rose to 41 yesterday as two drivers were questioned and cranes worked to clear the stricken railway line between Cairo and the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. The drivers of the two trains that collided on Friday have been held for questioning and four railway officials suspended pending the results of a probe into its causes, Transportation Minister Hisham Arafat told an Egyptian broadcaster.

Under floodlights, rescue teams had combed wrecked carriages all night for casualties. Transport ministry officials, quoted on state television, have said the crash in farmland on the outskirts of Alexandria was probably caused by a malfunction in one train that brought it to a halt. The other train then crashed into it. Arafat had told reporters at the scene of the accident that it was not yet clear why the train had stopped, but suggested old traffic signals were to blame.

“We have a big problem we had already announced, which is old traffic signals. We are completely overhauling them. This section here is being developed,” he said. An injured passenger who was on the stationary train said its departure had been delayed and that it kept stopping en route. “It stopped every now and then between stations or before stations for five minutes, I don’t know why,” the man told Dream television station from his hospital bed. “Everyone was scattered (by the collision), bodies were flung around,” he said.

The toll from Friday’s accident when the two trains collided near Alexandria rose to 41 dead, the health ministry said yesterday. The accident also wounded 132 people,

with 79 being discharged after treatment while 53 remained in hospital yesterday, Health Minister Ahmed Emad el-Din Rady said. A stream of ambulances had ferried the injured, stretched out on the ground in a field alongside the railway tracks, to Alexandria hospitals.

Workers used cranes to lift four knotted sheet-metal carriages blocking the normally busy Cairo-Alexandria line. One train had been heading to Alexandria from Cairo and the other from Port Said, east along the coast. President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has sent his condolences to the victims’ families and ordered a probe to “hold accountable” those responsible for the disaster.

**Chronic transport problems**

It was the deadliest train accident in the North African country since a train ploughed into a bus carrying schoolchildren in November 2012, killing 47 people. That accident jolted the government which ordered an investigation and sacked the transport minister and the head of the railway authority. The accident was blamed on a train signal operator who fell asleep on the job.

The probe, however, did not prevent further accidents. Just months later, a train carrying military conscripts derailed, killing 17 people. Around a year later, a collision between a train and a bus killed 27 people south of the capital. They had been returning from a wedding when the train ploughed into their bus and a truck at a railway crossing. Egyptians have long complained that the government has failed to deal with chronic transport problems, with roads as poorly maintained as railway lines. — AFP



## WHITE HELMETS MEDICS KILLED IN SYRIA'S IDLIB

**BEIRUT:** Gunmen early yesterday stormed an office of a Syrian paramedic group that is active in opposition-controlled areas, killing seven of its members and stealing two vehicles and other equipment in a northwestern region, the group and opposition activists said, while a suicide attack south of the country killed at least 23 rebels.

The Syrian Civil Defense group, more popularly known as the White Helmets, said in a statement that the attack happened in the early hours in the town of Sarmin. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the rare attack but it came amid tension in the area. Sarmin is in Idlib province, which witnessed clashes recently between Al-Qaeda-linked fighters and members of the ultra-conservative Ahrar Al-Sham group that ended with Al-Qaeda fighters capturing much of the region.

The Al-Qaeda-linked Hay'at Tahrir al Sham - Arabic for Levant Liberation Committee, and also known as HTS - said over the past weeks that its members have discovered sleeper cells of the Islamic State group who were planning an attack. Al-Qaida's affiliate, which used by to be known as the Nusra Front, has fought deadly battles with IS over the past years. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the seven were killed after being shot in the head, adding that the killings were discovered when volunteers from the White Helmets arrived to start a shift and found the bodies of their colleagues.

### Sleeper cells

"Until now it is mostly likely a crime. It might also be an attack aimed to harm the image of the Nusra Front and to show that Idlib is not safe," said Rami Abdurrahman who heads the Observatory. An opposition activist based in Idlib who has been providing The Associated Press with information about the province for years said the attackers used pistols equipped with silencers, adding that people living nearby did not notice anything unusual.

The activist, who asked that his name not be used for fear of reprisals, said IS sleeper cells have been discovered in Sarmin. He added that most likely members of IS carried out the attack to show that Idlib is not safe. The activist said the HTS-linked Judicial Committee is investigating the case. Sarmin used to be a stronghold of the Jund al-Aqsa extremist group that clashed with Al-Qaeda last year before many of its members were allowed to head to areas controlled by IS, whom they are fighting now.

The Syrian first-responders have been known to risk their lives to save people from the civil war, now in its sixth year. The White Helmets group was widely considered likely to win last year's Nobel Peace Prize. Elsewhere in Syria, a suicide attacker blew himself inside a training camp for the Army of Islam rebel group in the southern town of Naseeb, near the border with Jordan, killing more than 20 fighters. — AP



**IDLIB:** Members of the Syrian civil defense volunteers, also known as the White Helmets, bury their fellow comrades during a funeral in Sarmin, a jihadist-held town nine kilometers east of Syria's northwestern city of Idlib. — AFP



**SANAA:** Yemeni medics work at a blood transfusion centre. — AFP

## YEMEN'S BLOOD BANK FACES NEARING THREAT OF CLOSURE 'OUR MEDICAL SUPPLIES HAVE NEARLY RUN OUT'

**DUBAI:** Yemen's blood bank has sent out an urgent appeal to anyone who will listen, as war and a blockade on the capital may force the centre to close within a week. "We appeal to all humanitarian organizations in the international community and all financial donors to support the centre, as our medical supplies have nearly run out," said Adnan Al-Hakimi, director of the National Blood Transfusion and Research Center in Sanaa.

"We will only be able to work for one more week, and after that if the humanitarian organizations don't mobilize to support the national centre, it will shut down." The blood bank says it treats some 3,000 Yemenis a month who suffer from cancer, kidney failure and thalassaemia, an inherited blood disorder which causes severe anaemia. But a trifecta of war, disease and famine has left the bank struggling to keep up with spiraling demand, with basic supplies all but impossible to secure in a country locked in by port and airport blockades. "We've been impacted by the overall situation in Yemen, including the economic collapse," Hakimi said.

Less than half of Yemen's hospitals are still up and running two years into a war between Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels, who control Sanaa,

and a government allied with a Sunni Arab military coalition led by Saudi Arabia. The country's main international airport in Sanaa is also blockaded, with access limited to a select few UN aid flights by the Saudi-led coalition, which controls the airspace. The war has destroyed much of Yemen's infrastructure and pushed the country — long the Arab world's poorest state — to the brink of official famine. More than 8,300 people have died in the conflict, with another 47,700 injured and millions displaced, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). A cholera outbreak has also claimed the lives of some 2,000 Yemenis in less than four months.

### 'Switch support to other priorities'

Amina Ali, whose young son has a condition that requires blood transfusions, makes the trip to the centre regularly for blood and platelets. Now, she says, she fears those trips are numbered. "I order blood and platelets for my son every 10 days from the centre," she told AFP. "What if it shuts down? Many children will get worse, including my son."

Hakimi said the international medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) had been providing supplies to the bank since 2015 but "surpris-

ingly suddenly stopped" in June. In a statement emailed to AFP, MSF confirmed it has been supporting the blood bank for two years and only handed over the activity to the UN's WHO in June 2017.

"As health needs have been increasing in Yemen, MSF chose to switch its support to other health priorities," the group said. "The last donation MSF gave to the blood bank was in June 2017. That donation was to support the running of its activities for 2 months, giving the time for WHO to start its support."

Like MSF, the United Nations has warned it has been forced to divert resources from one community to aid another — most recently, from food programs to handle the escalating cholera outbreak. The United Nations has said that less than half of the \$2.1 billion pledged this year to Yemen by the international community has been disbursed. But despite the dwindling hope, Yemenis refuse to give up on others in need. "I am here to donate blood as an act of charity and for my country," said Abdullah Farei, one of a handful of citizens who turned up at the centre to donate blood. "We ask God that the citizens respond to the call of the blood bank and donate blood and money." — AFP

## PALESTINIAN WOMAN STABS ISRAELI IN JERUSALEM: POLICE

**JERUSALEM:** A Palestinian woman stabbed and wounded an Israeli man near an east Jerusalem flashpoint yesterday, before she was arrested, police said. They said in an English-language statement that the incident occurred next to the Old City's Damascus Gate, site of repeated past attacks. It said that a "female Arab terrorist" stabbed the man, injuring him lightly.

The woman, a Jerusalem resident aged about 30, was arrested at the scene, police added. The Old City is located in east Jerusalem, which was occupied by Israel in 1967 and later annexed in a move never recognized by the international community. The July 14 killing there of two policemen by three Arab Israeli gunmen led to spiraling unrest after Israel responded by installing metal detectors at the entrance

to the Al-Aqsa mosque complex, used as a staging point for the attack.

For nearly two weeks, worshippers refused to submit to the checks and staged mass prayers in surrounding streets. Ensuing protests left six Palestinians dead. The crisis abated when Israel removed the detectors but tension remains high. A wave of unrest that broke out in October 2015 has killed 293 Palestinians or Arab Israelis, 47 Israelis, two Americans, two Jordanians, an Eritrean, a Sudanese and a Briton, according to an AFP toll. Israeli authorities say most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramping attacks. Others were shot dead during protests or clashes, while some were killed in Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip. — AFP

## US URGES IRAQ KURDISH LEADER TO POSTPONE INDEPENDENCE VOTE

**BAGHDAD:** Washington has urged Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani to postpone an independence referendum scheduled for next month but he requested something in return, his office said yesterday. The timing of the September 25 vote has drawn criticism from both the Baghdad and Western governments, coming as the campaign against the Islamic State jihadist group in Iraq if still unfinished.

In a telephone call on Friday, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Washington "would want for the referendum to be postponed and that the issues between the Kurdistan region and the federal government in Baghdad should be addressed through dialogue", Barzani's office said in an English-language statement. The Kurdish leader responded that were it to be put off, "the people of the Kurdistan region would expect guarantees and alternatives for their future".

Some Iraqi Kurdish officials have openly acknowledged that calling the referendum was intended as a bargaining counter in negotiations with Baghdad on other issues. The Kurdish regional government's representative in Iran, Nazem Dabbagh, said last month that the Kurds wanted Baghdad to meet their longstanding demand for plebiscites on incorporating other historically Kurdish-majority areas in their autonomous region.

He said they also wanted Baghdad to ratify laws on oil revenues and funding for the Kurdish security forces, known as the peshmerga, who have played a crucial role in the fight against IS. The referendum would in any case be non-binding and is strongly opposed by neighbours Iran and Turkey, which have sizeable Kurdish



**ARBIL:** Iraq's Kurdistan region's president Massud Barzani looks on during a meeting with Muslim and Christian clerics of the Kurdistan region. — AFP

minorities of their own and whose acquiescence is seen as key to achieving a viable separation. — AFP



**SUBANG:** US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, left, is greeted by Malaysian air force officials as he arrives at a military base. — AP

## TILLERSON: CUBA DIPLOMATS SUFFERED 'HEALTH ATTACKS'

**HAVANA:** Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Friday that US diplomats in Havana had been the victims of "health attacks" that left them with hearing loss — the most definitive US statement yet on a series of mysterious incidents that have puzzled longtime observers of US-Cuban relations. His comments came two days after the State Department issued a vaguely worded statement saying there had been "incidents which have caused a variety of physical symptoms." US officials later revealed that American diplomats had suffered unexplained losses of hearing, and on Thursday Canada's government said at least one Canadian diplomat in Cuba also had been treated for hearing loss.

"We hold the Cuban authorities responsible for finding out who is carrying out these health attacks on not just our diplomats but, as you've seen now, there are other cases with other diplomats involved," Tillerson said in Bedminster, New Jersey, where President Donald Trump and members of his administration spoke to reporters. In the fall of 2016, a series of US diplomats began suffering unexplained losses of hearing, according to officials with knowledge of the case. Some of the diplomats' symptoms were so severe that they were forced to cancel their tours early and return to the United States, the officials said.

The officials told The Associated Press that the hearing loss appeared to have been caused by the deliberate use of some sort of sonic device operating outside the range of audible sound. Former diplomats and students of US-Cuba relations said they found it inexplicable that Cuba would have tried to harm US and Canadian diplomats, particularly in the fall of 2016 as President Barack Obama was ending a second term marked partly by the reopening of diplomatic relations with the island.

### Policy of normalization

US officials familiar with the incidents said they began to be reported last October, when most domestic and foreign observers expected Hillary Clinton to win the presidency and continue Obama's policy of normalization with Cuba. Attacking Canadian diplomats would be an inexplicable assault on one of Cuba's most important trading partners and the largest source of tourists to the island. "There'd be no logic to the Cubans trying to deliberately harm US or Canadian diplomats," said William LeoGrande, an American University expert on Cuban foreign policy. "It'd really be unprecedented."

The Cuban government said in a lengthy statement Wednesday that "Cuba has never permitted,

nor will permit, that Cuban territory be used for any action against accredited diplomatic officials or their families, with no exception."

Former US and Canadian diplomats said they had been targets of low-level harassment and intimidation by Cuban agents in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, incidents that included attacks on diplomats' pets and intimidating maneuvers like tailgating and flashing bright lights into diplomats' cars as they drove with their families late at night.

"There were things like turning your electricity, turning off your water, entering your home, leaving little reminders that they were there. Things would be out of place," said John Caulfield, the head of the US Interests Section in Cuba from 2011 to 2014.

In addition to harassment, Caulfield said US diplomats in Cuba are under 24-hour surveillance during their assignments. "Nobody does anything in Cuba without them knowing," Caulfield said. A US official said some American diplomats in Cuba had come home to find that someone had used their toilet and not flushed it, in what was interpreted as a deliberate attempt to disgust and unnerv. The official served at the then-interests section in Cuba in the 2000s and agreed to speak only on condition of anonymity due to the possibility of a return to Havana. — AP



## KANSAS TO AIR-CONDITION PRISON AS HEAT BECOMES NEW CONCERN

**TOPEKA:** Kansas corrections officials expect the next prison built by the state to be fully air-conditioned, including the cells for inmates, viewing it both as a way to lessen problems with inmates and to combat high employee turnover.

Some lawmakers who don't want to coddle criminals see a need to make corrections officers less miserable in the summer heat. When Corrections Secretary Joe Norwood matter-of-factly told a legislative committee earlier this month that plans for a new prison included it, its members let the statement pass without comment, though questions may come later.

The state's plans to fully air-condition the new prison planned for Lansing in the Kansas City area also come as a federal judge is forcing Texas to move hundreds of inmates who are sensitive to the heat to cooler areas. The American Civil Liberties Union has prevailed in lawsuits on prisoners' behalf in Arizona, Mississippi and Wisconsin since 2004.

In Kansas, the union representing corrections officers considers the lack of air conditioning in parts of the state's maximum-security prison in El Dorado, east of Wichita, a contributing factor to

inmate unrest there that included three reported disturbances in May and June. Corrections officials said air conditioning is becoming more necessary because of inmates' medical needs. "This is not an issue of comfort or luxury," said David Fathi, director of the ACLU's National Prison Project. "You should no more build a prison without climate control than you should a prison without fire escapes."

In St Louis, the city paid \$75,000 in late July to bring in temporary air conditioners to its medium-security jail when temperatures topped 100 degrees (38 Celsius) and prompted protests outside the jail. Triple-digit temperatures are not unusual for the height of summer in Kansas, and the average monthly temperature approaches 80 (27 Celsius) at the end of May and stays there or higher through September.

The Kansas Department of Corrections plans to build a replacement prison in Lansing, where its oldest and largest lockup has buildings that date to the 1860s and no air conditioning. The department hopes to have a final construction contract in November for what could be a three-year, \$155 million project. The department has a 33 percent annu-

al turnover rate among corrections officers because of low pay, which starts at \$13.95 an hour. The rate at Lansing is 37 percent and at El Dorado, 46 percent.

**Topic met with push-back**

Norwood told the legislative committee that in the summer, without air conditioning, Lansing becomes "extremely uncomfortable" for staff. He said with the new prison's air conditioning, "the working conditions and living conditions will be much better." Not all legislators are on board. State Rep JR Claeys, a Salina Republican and chairman of a House budget subcommittee on public safety, said he doesn't remember being told of the plan for full air conditioning and would have objected on behalf of taxpayers who can't afford it or other comforts.

"That would have been a topic that would have met with some push-back," he said. Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairwoman Carolyn McGinn, a Sedgwick Republican, said she understands cooling prisons to make staff safer and more comfortable and inmates less prone to unrest. But she added that for inmates, "It doesn't have to be on 70. It can be on 85." Court rulings in other states

have mandated action when heat indexes get above 80 degrees (27 Celsius). Kansas corrections officials seek to keep temperatures in air-conditioned areas for inmates at 78 (26 Celsius). Roughly 70 percent of Kansas inmates in state prisons are in buildings without air conditioning, including in Lansing and at the state's second-oldest prison in Hutchinson. Five of the eight prisons are at least partially air-conditioned, including much of the one in El Dorado.

Corrections Department spokeswoman Cheryl Cadue said one concern is that many inmates "are taking heat-sensitive psychiatric medication." Robert Choromanski, executive director of the Kansas Organization of State Employees, said the new prison should come with air conditioning because, "This is the 21st century." Census figures show that in 2016, 94 percent of all new single-family homes in the Midwest were built with air conditioning, compared with 40 percent in 1976. He said that if legislators are inclined to see hot cell houses as part of the punishment for criminals, "Guess who else you're punishing? It's our correctional officers." — AP

## DEATH TOLL RISES AMID KENYA'S RIOTING OVER DISPUTED VOTE

## 9-YEAR-OLD GIRL KILLED BY STRAY BULLET

**NAIROBI:** Kenya's post-election violence worsened yesterday as police used tear gas on a convoy of opposition officials in the capital and a mortuary official said nine bodies with gunshot wounds were brought to a Nairobi morgue from a slum that's an opposition stronghold.

As rioting continued the day after President Uhuru Kenyatta won a second term in a vote the opposition claims had been rigged, an anguished father said his 9-year-old daughter was killed by a stray bullet while playing with friends. Kenyan police shot and killed two people during riots by opposition supporters on the outskirts of Kisumu, a city where opposition leader Raila Odinga has strong support, according to Leonard Katana, a regional police commander. Another five people were injured by gunfire in Kisumu, Katana said.

The government should stop "the random killing of our people," Odings's brother Oburu Odinga said. The government accused "criminals" of taking advantage of the tense election period to loot and destroy property.

In Nairobi slums loyal to Odinga, police

opened fire to disperse protesters who blocked roads and set up burning barricades. Associated Press photographers saw police charging demonstrators and firing live rounds and tear gas in the Mathare area.

Wycliff Mokaya told The Associated Press his 9-year-old daughter was killed by a stray bullet while on their third-floor balcony in Mathare. "I was watching her play with her friends when she suddenly fell down," Mokaya said. "She was my only hope." A mortuary official said nine bodies with gunshot wounds were brought to the Nairobi morgue from Mathare. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

Protesters, some with rocks or sticks, ran for cover as they came under fire in another Nairobi slum, Kibera. One person was shot and killed in Kibera overnight, said Sam Ochieng, a former chairman for Odinga's party there. An Associated Press photographer said police used tear gas on a large convoy of vehicles carrying opposition officials that tried to enter Kibera. Police also fired guns into the air.

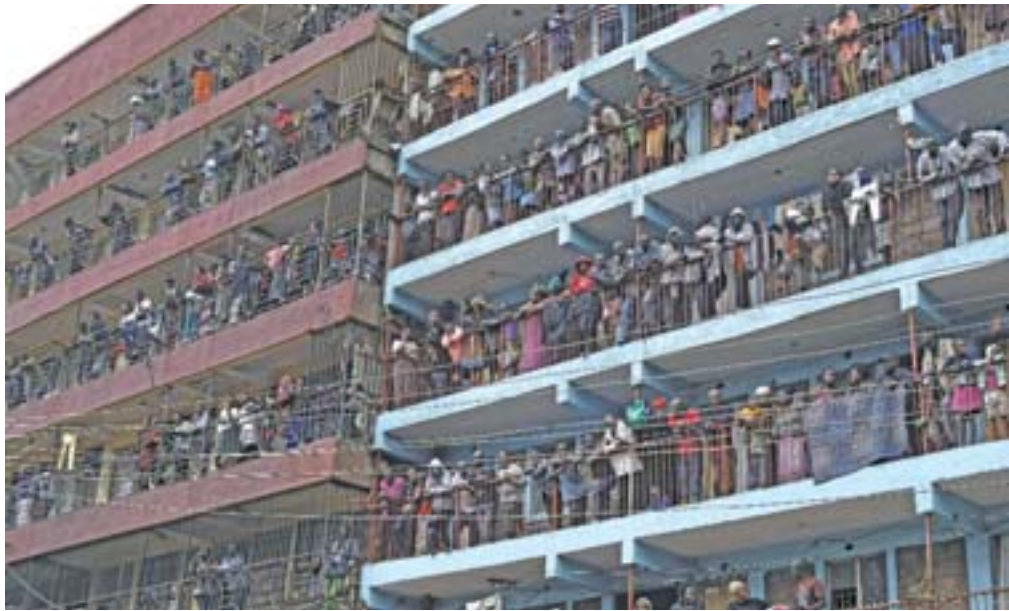
**'Hand of friendship'**

Most of the country of 45 million people remained calm the day after the election commission announced that Kenyatta, whose father was Kenya's first president after independence from British colonial rule, had won a second, five-year term. In a victory speech, Kenyatta said he was extending a "hand of friendship" to the opposition, which alleged that the election commission's database had been hacked and results were manipulated against Odinga.

Kenyatta won with a decisive 54 percent of the vote to nearly 45 percent for Odinga, but the bitter dispute over the integrity of the election process tempered what many Kenyans had hoped would be a celebration of democracy in a regional power known for its economic promise and long-term stability. The unrest also exposed divisions in a society where poverty and corruption at top levels of government have angered large numbers of Kenyans, including those who have been protesting in the slums and see Odinga as a voice for their grievances.

Adding to the rift is ethnic loyalty. Kenyatta is widely seen as the representative of the Kikuyu people, the country's largest ethnic group, while Odinga is associated with the Luo group, which has never produced a head of state. But reconciliation efforts, the introduction of a progressive constitution in 2010 and an intense security operation during the recent election period have helped to ward off the kind of ethnic violence after the 2007 election in which more than 1,000 people were killed. Odinga ran unsuccessfully in that election; he also lost the 2013 vote to Kenyatta and took allegations of vote-tampering to Kenya's highest court, which rejected his case.

Recalling its failed legal challenge in 2013, the opposition has said it will not go to court again. Its top leaders have, so far, refrained from publicly calling for mass protests. Catholic leaders on Saturday appealed for calm and asked security forces to exercise caution during protests. "No life should be lost because of an election," said John Oballa Owaa, vice chairman of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops. In separate statements, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International also called on police to exercise restraint. —AP



**NAIROBI:** Residents look out from their balconies during clashes between police and protesters in the Mathare area of Nairobi. —AFP

## MERKEL EMPHASIZES PROSPERITY, SECURITY AT HER CAMPAIGN RALLY

**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel opened the final phase of her election campaign yesterday with a focus on her record, emphasizing the economic growth and prosperity achieved during her dozen years at the helm as she seeks a fourth term. Merkel told a rally organized by her Christian Democratic Union party in the western city of Dortmund that unemployment has dropped to a post-reunification low since she first was elected chancellor in 2005.

She told the crowd she hoped to achieve full employment - a rate below 3 percent - by 2025. The rate hit as high as 12.6 percent in early 2005 and was most recently at 5.6 percent in July. "Those are really excellent figures," Merkel said, going on to note that government and industry must not be complacent because technology is changing the way the economy functions. "On one hand, Germany stacks up well, but on the other hand we live in a time of change, a time of uncertainty," she said.

Singling out the damage done to the "Made in Germany" label with Volkswagen's diesel cheating scandal, Merkel said honesty in business was a prerequisite going forward. "The way things were swept under the rug or where loopholes in emissions tests were massively exploited to the point they were unrecognizable, that destroys trust," she told the crowd. In addition to Volkswagen, Germany is home to Mercedes, BMW and other top brands.

Merkel emphasized the need for the auto industry to develop cleaner technologies, but also sought to allay widespread fears that older diesel cars could be banned from the streets. A "transition phase" would be better than a ban, she said. The government could help provide the infrastructure to support vehicles run by alternative power sources, but innovation was up to the automakers, she said. "The question of whether the German automobile industry has recognized these signs of the times will decide their future, and with it hundreds of thousands of jobs," she said.

Merkel, however, rejected outright an idea floated by her main challenger, Social Democrat Martin Schulz, who suggested in



**DORTMUND:** German Chancellor and top candidate of the Christian Democratic Union, CDU, for the upcoming general election Angela Merkel delivers a speech during the start of her election campaign. — AP

an interview Friday that there should be a Europe-wide quota instituted for electric cars. Merkel said such a quota could harm the development of other alternative technologies and she didn't think the idea "has been thought through."

**The migrant issue**

A defining moment of Merkel's tenure as chancellor was the decision in 2015 to open Germany's doors to 890,000 migrants seeking asylum and economic opportunities. She pledged Friday not to avoid immigration as a topic on the campaign trail, but did not mention the controversial issue in her Dortmund speech.

Merkel's conservative bloc currently enjoys a lead of more than 15 percent over its main competition, the Social Democrats, leading up to the Sept. 24 election. Most polls put support for Merkel's bloc at about 40 percent compared to about 23 percent for the SPD.

The two parties currently govern together in a so-called "grand coalition." The SPD's slumping popularity figures and recent gains by Merkel's bloc, which also includes the Bavaria-only Christian Social Union, have led many to speculate that she might be able to form a new coalition with the pro-business Free Democrats or another smaller party. — AP

## PUBLISHER OF ALASKA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER SUED FOR \$1.4M

**ANCHORAGE:** The publisher of Alaska's largest newspaper is being sued over nearly \$1.4 million in unpaid rent and other fees on the paper's former headquarters, which still houses the printing press. The civil lawsuit filed Friday in Anchorage by Alaska cable company GCI is the latest legal battle for Alaska Dispatch News publisher Alice Rogoff, wife of billionaire financier David Rubenstein. Rogoff backed a news website to compete with the Anchorage Daily News before buying the newspaper for \$34 million in 2014. She renamed the print publication the Alaska Dispatch News.

GCI purchased the newspaper's former building around the same time, and the newspaper offices moved to another Anchorage location. Rogoff didn't immediately respond to requests for comment on the lawsuit, which also names Alaska Dispatch News LLC and AK Publishing LLC. But KTUU reported that Rogoff issued a written statement Friday afternoon, saying GCI's legal action is "extremely unfortunate" and events leading to that point have been "extremely complex." Rogoff said there was never any bad faith on the part of the newspaper, adding that the goal has always been to keep the newspaper alive and "robust for the sake of our readers and the community."

"Our goal remains unchanged and we are in active discussions toward that end," Rogoff said. "Until the discussions are concluded, we are unable to provide any details. Please know that business disputes arise from many causes and are never one-sided." GCI seeks more than \$1 million in damages and eviction of the printing equipment. The company says in its 14-page lawsuit that the original agreement called for the defendants to vacate the warehouse nearly two years ago. But it worked with the newspaper by renegotiating leases and accepting advertising credits in some cases. That agreement called for a holdover rent equal to 250 percent of the base rent.

The lawsuit says defendants breached their contract with GCI in several ways, including failure to make payments as required since mid-December, citing cash flow problems, as well as failing to vacate GCI's warehouse premises. GCI spokeswoman Heather Handyside said the company had no choice but to seek legal action after efforts to be supportive and patient in finding a resolution. "This is just a reflection of our feeling that we have exhausted all of our options," she said. "We don't believe we really have any other options left than to ask the court to help us pursue this." Rogoff is facing other legal battles. — AP



**CORSICA:** A fire fighter Canadair drops water on a hill above Sisco, on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica yesterday after a night of forest fires. —AFP

## HUGE WILDFIRES RAGE IN PORTUGAL AND CORSICA

**PIETRACORBARA, France:** Scorching temperatures and high winds were culminating in huge wildfires in Portugal and on the French island of Corsica yesterday, with hundreds of holidaymakers forced to flee and further blazes predicted. Almost 1,000 people had to leave Corsica during the night, with 2,000 hectares of scrubland destroyed, though no human casualties were reported. Dry conditions have fuelled fires in recent weeks.

A man suspected of starting five fires in Bastia, a town with a population of 40,000 in the island's northeast, was arrested late Friday, an official said. At Cap Corse, the most northerly point where the fire had spread overnight into Friday, the situation has been stabilized but the blaze remains rampant in the Sisco commune. "It's hell," Christian Burchi, a 50-year-old Sisco resident said late Friday. "We tried to extinguish the flames with two buckets of water and a ridiculous hose. Everywhere is burning."

In Portugal forest fires continued to rage as high temperatures and swirling winds posed difficulties for firefighters across the country with further blazes predicted. Two of the worst fires were near the towns of Abrantes and Alvaizere, where the fire-fighting effort involved 800 personnel, four water-bombing planes, two helicopters and around 250 vehicles.

Some 1,800 firefighters were trying to douse around 10 fires across the country,

authorities said. Civil protection agency spokeswoman Patricia Gaspar said a record 220 fires had started on Friday alone. "Despite the relentless fires, the situation is now more stable," said Gaspar in Lisbon. Emergency workers had nearly gained control of wildfires across Portugal's drought-hit central region on Thursday, but stronger winds fanned flames in several areas.

In the village of Bracal, flames were being blown towards houses as residents grabbed what they could to aid firefighters, an AFP journalist said. Some residents voiced anger at authorities after a season of repeated wildfires which have stretched resources. "Firefighters can't perform miracles, they are exhausted," said Lucia Ricardo, who lives in Bracal, close to Abrantes.

Six villages had been evacuated around Abrantes on Thursday as fire-dousing planes flew sorties over the flames. Another blaze near Grandola, in the southern Setubal district, needed 200 firefighters to bring it under control after burning through around 3,000 hectares of forest. The fires come after more than 60 people were killed in June, and more than 200 injured, in a giant blaze at Pedrogao Grande in central Portugal that raged for five days. After an uncommonly dry winter and spring, almost 79 percent of the Portuguese mainland was enduring extreme or severe drought at the end of July, according to the national weather office. —AFP

## VP PENCE CALLS PRESIDENT A 'CHAMPION' OF INNER CITIES

**INDIANAPOLIS:** Vice President Mike Pence on Friday called Donald Trump a "great champion" of America's inner cities. Pence made the remarks during a speech before an anti-violence group in his home state of Indiana. The Republican former Indiana governor heaped praise on the faith-based group, called the Ten Point Coalition, which local authorities credit for helping to reduce homicides in several neighborhoods, even though the overall murder rate is up.

Trump "and I talked about it this morning," Pence said. "All of you who feel called to confront the challenge of urban youth violence - you have an ally, an advocate and a champion in President Donald Trump." But considering Trump was swept into office following a campaign that trafficked in racial and anti-immigrant themes, not everyone is convinced. A group of about 30 protesters, including some sporting Black Lives Matter shirts, protested outside the fundraising event at a downtown hotel.

Joe Slash, the former head of the Indianapolis Urban League, told The Indianapolis Star that "a lot of people in the black community don't have fond feelings for Mike Pence and there's been a negative

reaction about their bringing him here for a fundraiser." Slash said the Ten Point Coalition "should have consulted people before they made that decision" though he credited the group with reaching out across the aisle.

The coalition, led by several African-American ministers, is known for its campaigns to stem violence in crime-plagued city neighborhoods. It uses community members, in some cases reformed gang members, to de-escalate neighborhood tension. Pence said the group "literally everyday works miracles in the evening hours of the streets of Indianapolis" and he said their model should be exported to other cities.

The speech was not Pence's only stop in Indianapolis. He also attended a Statehouse ceremony where his official state portrait was unveiled, which the vice president said left him "deeply humbled." Pence's portrait shows the one-term Republican seated on top of his desk, with an open Bible and a family picture to his right. A stack of law books is to his left, with Indiana and US flags in the background. Pence is also wearing a blue and gold tie - designed by wife Karen Pence - that is based on the state's logo. —AP



# 25 DEAD IN NEPAL LANDSLIDES, FLOODS

**KATHMANDU:** Floods and landslides caused by torrential monsoon rains have killed at least 25 people in the last two days across Nepal, officials said yesterday. Heavy rains have hit more than a dozen districts in the country's far eastern region as well as some areas in the west since Friday morning, the home ministry said.

Flooding has occurred across the densely populated lowlands that border India, while some remote districts in the hilly areas of the Far East have been hit by landslides triggered by the

monsoon rains. "We are still collecting the details of the loss. According to the preliminary reports to the ministry over 25 people are feared dead," Home Ministry spokesman Deepak Kafle told AFP. The Prime Minister's office issued a statement putting the death toll at more than two dozen since Friday.

Thirteen people died in eastern districts and at least four others are missing, the head of the region's police Ramesh Bhattarai said. Telephone and electricity lines have also been affected by the heavy downpour making it difficult to

confirm the full extent of the damage in remote areas, the police chief added. Roads across the southern plains have been blocked by the rains and three highway bridges collapsed in western Banke district, Home Minister Janardan Sharma said at a press conference.

Images on social media showed the runway at Biratnagar airport in eastern Morang district submerged in a meter of water with an empty plane stranded on the tarmac. Chief of Morang district police Arun BC said that airport had been shut due to the flooding. The most

recent deaths bring the total death toll from this year's monsoon to over 90, according to government figures. Nearly 100 people died last year in Nepal during the rainy season, which typically begins in late June and lasts until the end of August.

Last weekend in the central lowlands, four girls from the same family drowned when they fell into a flooded roadside ditch. Another girl died and one was injured when they fell in open drains that had been submerged by monsoon flooding in the Kathmandu Valley last

month. Footage shot by a bystander shows one of the girls tentatively navigating a flooded road, before suddenly disappearing into the brown muddy water. A few seconds later she appears out of another drain about 10 meters away. The video went viral on social media in Nepal, sparking outrage over the condition of the roads in the capital. Nepal's weather department issued an alert yesterday warning that heavy rains were expected to continue for another day, and advised districts to close schools and residents to stay indoors. —AFP



**UTTAR PRADESH:** In this Friday, Aug 11, 2017 photo, a man holds the lifeless body of his child outside Baba Raghav Das Medical College Hospital in Gorakhpur, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. —AP

## 35 CHILDREN DIE IN NORTH INDIAN HOSPITAL IN 3 DAYS

**LUCKNOW:** Parents of at least 35 children who have died in a state-run hospital in northern India over the past three days have alleged that the fatalities were due to the lack of a sufficient oxygen supply in the children's ward. District Magistrate Rajiv Rautela said yesterday that the deaths of the children being treated for different ailments at the Baba Raghav Das Medical College Hospital in Gorakhpur city in Uttar Pradesh state were due to natural causes. He denied that an insufficient oxygen supply led to their deaths.

Parents said that the oxygen supply to the ward ran out Thursday night and that patients' families were given self-inflating bags to help the children breathe. "That's the time when the death of the children peaked," said Mritunjaya Singh, whose 7-month-old son was admitted to the hospital and was not among the dead.

The Uttar Pradesh government has ordered an investigation. Prashant Trivedi, the state's top health official, acknowledged that there was a problem in the pipeline supplying oxygen. "But the situation was managed through oxygen cylinders," Trivedi said. "The hospital administration has enough supply of cylinders in its stock. So the report about death of children because of oxygen issue is false."

The parents said the company that supplies oxygen to the hospital had earlier threatened to stop the distribution of oxygen unless the government paid its long-overdue bills. Rautela said that the hospital owed 6.8 million rupees (\$106,000) to the company, but added that it had adequate numbers of oxygen cylinders.

Parmatma Gautam, whose 1-month-old nephew, Roshan, died when the oxygen supply stopped, said the hospital authorities and the district administration were trying to cover up their failure to pay the bills on time.

"We saw our baby struggling to breathe and we couldn't do anything," Gautam said as tears flowed down his weather-beaten cheek.

The family had rushed the newborn to the hospital from neighboring Siddharthnagar district on Aug. 9 because he had a high fever. "We are now going back with his body," Gautam sobbed. The federal health ministry sent a team of specialists to the hospital Saturday to verify what caused the deaths at the facility, which provides health care to a vast swath of Uttar Pradesh and neighboring Bihar state.

### BJP Party blamed

Meanwhile, opposition leaders took to social media to blame Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, which rules the state, for its neglect and indifference to people's health. Opposition Congress Party Vice President Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "Deeply pained. My thoughts are with the families of the victims. BJP govt is responsible & should punish the negligent who caused this tragedy."

Some of the children had been treated for encephalitis, a disease that preys on the young and malnourished and is rampant in the state during the monsoon season, which runs from June till September. The hospital, which has become a major center for children with encephalitis, has treated nearly 370 cases in the last two months. Of these, 129 children died, said Satish Chandra, a hospital spokesman.

Health activists said successive governments had ignored the threat posed by encephalitis as it was a disease that affected poor, malnourished children. "Encephalitis has a mortality rate as high as 30 percent. The government needs to tackle it with a rigorous campaign," said R.N. Singh, a medical doctor who has been leading the fight against the disease in Gorakhpur district. "Commonly, this disease affects the voiceless poor, so it has not got the attention it warrants," Singh said. Gorakhpur is located 300 kilometers southeast of the state capital, Lucknow. —AP

## HK BROADCASTER REPLACES BBC WITH CHINESE RADIO

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong's official radio station said it will replace its 24-hour BBC broadcast with Chinese state-run programming in a move critics yesterday said was a step towards "mainlandisation". The city's Radio Television Hong Kong has been broadcasting the BBC World Service live since 1978 but will replace it starting September 4 with the China National Radio Hong Kong Edition (CNR). Some see the move as signs that the city is further aligning itself with China.

"This is absolutely one step forward towards mainlandisation in Hong Kong," pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo told AFP, adding that Chinese authorities may feel that city residents were not patriotic enough. "They should all be reigned in and taught to feel Chinese," Mo said of the motive behind the move, which comes at a time when many feel Beijing is squeezing the semi-autonomous city's freedoms.

Residents also took to social media to decry the move, with Yu Yeuk-mui saying on Facebook: "One more bad news! Hong Kong is burning already". Frustrations over the city's political and social developments have led to the emergence of a new independence movement calling for Hong Kong to break from the mainland.

The unveiling of a controversial rail link to the mainland last month which would

see a portion of the city come under Chinese law has been the focus of the most recent backlash, with critics saying the city's cherished freedoms are being eroded. RTHK's head of corporate communications Amen Ng said the CNR Hong Kong edition is "tailor-made for Hong Kong people". "It will encourage the cultural exchange between mainland China and Hong Kong," Ng said.

Bank teller Alex Yan agreed, saying the benefits of the broadcast outweighed the disadvantages as the new CNR programming would offer residents an insight into the lives of their northern neighbors. "It can help them better understand the things happening in China," Yan, 21, said. The CNR broadcast will include programming in news, arts and culture, and lifestyle mostly in Mandarin, with some programs in Cantonese. The official language in Hong Kong is Cantonese, while Mandarin is the main language over the border.

RTHK said it will still be broadcasting the BBC World Service, which residents use as an English-learning tool, but it will switch to another channel for eight hours from 11pm onwards on a daily basis. Hong Kong was handed back to China by colonial ruler Britain in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula designed to protect its freedoms and way of life. —AFP

# RAISING THE STAKES: WHY N KOREA IS TALKING UP GUAM

## SO ARE WE ALL HEADED TOWARD WAR?

**SEOUL:** North Korea's announcement that it is finalizing a plan to launch four ballistic missiles over Japan toward the island of Guam has touched off a series of fiery threats from President Donald Trump and upped tensions between Pyongyang and Washington to a whole new level. So are we all headed toward war?

If past precedent is any guide, the answer is no. Though it has been mostly lost as the current round of tough talk keeps escalating, North Korea just a few months ago conducted a similar rehearsal strike on a US military base in Japan. And that missile test led to nary a tweet from Trump. For sure, if Pyongyang were to go through with its planned launch of missiles toward Guam, it would be an extremely provocative move. But it is also one that the US military has been watching develop for years, with fairly well-defined steps that have led to an ever more complicated and potentially dangerous situation - but not the outbreak of a nuclear war. A look at what Pyongyang is up to, and how we got here:

### Setting the stage

In March, at around the time of the biggest annual maneuvers between the US and South Korea, the North fired four extended-range Scud missiles into waters off the Japanese coast in what was intended to be a mock attack on Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni. Iwakuni is one of the main US bases in Japan and was the staging point for F-35 stealth fighters believed to be training for precision strikes on North Korea against Kim Jong Un and his top lieutenants.

The March missile launch was not as bold as the plan for Guam - the North didn't tell the world beforehand and deliberately sent the missiles much farther north than the base itself, an easy tweak. But the move sent a strong message that such an attack would be possible. The public response from Trump then was muted. Nearly two weeks after the launch, he tweeted, without mentioning the missile test: "North Korea is behaving very badly. They have been 'playing' the United States for years. China has done little to help!" Pyongyang, possibly emboldened by that and its two successful intercontinental ballistic missile tests in July, appears to be hoping to send an even stronger message for

Trump to back off with its Guam plan, or maybe consider direct talks rather than military action.

### Giving notice

The biggest departure from North Korea's established pattern this time around was its decision to announce the details of the Guam plan. Despite some frightened misinterpretations otherwise, it is not threatening to actually attack Guam. But if it does launch Hwasong-12 missiles to within 30-40 kilometers of the US territory's

political buffer against pressure from Washington and its allies.

Beijing, which is concerned about the implications for its own security that a nuclear North Korea poses, is almost certainly letting Pyongyang know of its concerns. Pointing to US threats on Guam serves to rebut Chinese complaints, at least a bit. But it could also use another familiar rationale. North Korea sees annual US-South Korea military exercises as a prelude for an invasion. The next big ones are set to start, on schedule, on

tive to Pyongyang because they represent a serious threat that North Korea's air defenses can't confidently protect against. Trump played that up on Friday by retweeting a US Pacific Command tweet saying the bombers on Guam are ready to fulfill their "Fight Tonight" mission if called upon.

But there is also a lot of history here. The US devastated most of North Korea's cities and infrastructure with a massive bombing campaign during the 1950-53 Korean War. Joshua Pollack, a senior research associate at



**HAGATNA, Guam:** Watch Room staff monitors the news and updates and coordinate with agencies on local in an event of emergency yesterday as Guam Homeland Security opens its 24-hour Watch Room operation in response to the threats from North Korea. —AP

shores, its stated goal, it would by any measure be an exceptionally provocative move.

That helps explain why it would decide to give prior notice. To keep the situation from getting too much out of control, it needed to explain itself on the record to defuse complaints from China and make sure Washington knew it wasn't the opening volley of a Korean War 2.0. The concern over China's reaction is important. China is the North's key trading partner and, although neither trusts the other very much, its biggest

Aug 21. North Korean state media reports suggest Kim Jong Un could potentially sign off on the plan at about that same time.

### Pulling the trigger?

Pyongyang has explicitly and repeatedly stated its anger over US B-1B bombers based in Guam conducting flyovers of the Korean Peninsula. It could use the next one to justify sending its missiles toward Guam as something of a counter-display.

The B-1B bomber flights, though largely symbolic, are especially sensi-

the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, in California, noted the link but cautioned that the North might want to conduct the launch with or without a B-1B flight to justify it.

"If we do stop flying bombers at them for a while, they can declare victory and go home, and then decide whether to do it at some later date in response to whatever," he said. "Whether they feel genuinely annoyed and threatened or simply see this as a way to justify more missile tests to the Chinese is a fair question." —AP

# CAMBODIAN LEADER: BORDER CRISIS WITH LAOS AVERTED

**PHNOM PENH:** Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who threatened Friday to use force over a border crisis with neighboring Laos, announced yesterday that the situation had been peacefully resolved after he made a lightning trip for face-to-face talks with his Laotian counterpart.

Hun Sen, an enthusiastic user of social media, announced on his Facebook page that he had successfully negotiated with Laotian Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith to have a small contingent of Laotian troops withdrawn from disputed frontier territory, with Cambodia also to remove its soldiers. His Facebook page showed

video of the two leaders at a news conference.

Hun Sen flew to the Laotian capital, Vientiane, on Saturday morning, a trip announced just the day before, when he had set an Aug. 17 deadline for Laotian troops to withdraw or be confronted by Cambodia's military. News media close to Hun Sen's government had shown troops in the Phnom Penh area mobilizing Friday night.

### Border crises

Cambodia and Laos have generally warm relations as both had fraternal communist governments after 1975. Hun Sen said Friday that the



**PHNOM PENH:** Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, second from right, walks as he arrives from a trip to Laos at the airport. —AP

problem began in April when about 30 Laotian soldiers entered a no-man's-land on the border to stop Cambodian military engineers from building a road on what Cambodia maintains is its territory in Stung Treng province.

Hun Sen's critics have accused him of using past border crises with Thailand to boost his popularity. Cambodia's last major border disputes were with Thailand from 2008 to 2011, and were widely seen as benefiting Hun Sen politically, as he was able to portray himself as a nationalist protector of the country's territory. His party won a strong victory in the 2008 general election, but lost seats in 2013 and is expected to face a strong challenge next year. The state news agency of Laos, KPL, reported Thongloun's remarks on the agreement by both sides to withdraw military forces from the disputed area between the Laotian province of Attapeu and Cambodia's Stung Treng.

"Today, we had frank talks in a friendly manner and in order to restrain the situation in that area from being intensified and consequently developing into military confrontations, I and Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen have agreed that the Lao side will withdraw the remaining military troops that have been left there since Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen ordered the stoppage of building an access road in that area," the Laotian prime minister was quoted as saying.

He said he had ordered his country's soldiers to withdraw no later than Sunday morning, and that Hun Sen was likewise ordering his troops to stand down. Thongloun said at their joint news conference that the two sides agreed that their foreign ministries and border committees would continue talks on demarcating the border where markers have not yet been installed. —AP



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## Focus

HEZB STEERS LEBANON  
CLOSER TO SYRIA, STRAINS  
EFFORTS TO STAY NEUTRAL

**H**ezbollah and its allies are pressing the Lebanese state to normalize relations with President Bashar Al-Assad's government in Syria, testing Lebanon's policy of "dissociation" from the Syrian conflict and igniting a political row. Calls for closer ties with the Syrian government, including on refugee returns and military operations on the Lebanon-Syria border, come as Assad regains control of more territory from insurgents and seeks to recover his international standing.

The Lebanese policy of "dissociation", agreed in 2012, has aimed to keep the deeply divided state out of regional conflicts such as Syria even as Iran-backed Hezbollah became heavily involved there, sending fighters to help Assad, who is also allied to Iran. The policy has helped rival groups to coexist in governments bringing together Hezbollah, classified as a terrorist group by the United States, with politicians allied to Iran's foe Saudi Arabia, underpinning a degree of political entente amid the regional turmoil.

While Lebanon never severed diplomatic or trade ties with Syria, the government has avoided dealing with the Syrian government in an official capacity and the collapse of the policy would be a boost to a political boost to Assad. It would also underline Iran's ascendancy in Lebanon, where the role of Saudi Arabia has diminished in recent years when it has focused on confronting Tehran in the Gulf instead.

Assad's powerful Lebanese Shiite allies want the government to cooperate with Syria on issues such as the fight against jihadists at their shared border and securing the return of the 1.5 million Syrians currently taking refuge in Lebanon. "Everybody recognises (the dissociation policy) as a farce to some extent, but at least it contained the conflict and prevented Lebanon from being dragged even further into what is going on in Syria," said Maha Yahya, director of the Carnegie Middle East Centre in Beirut. "(A normalization of relations) would be viewed as a victory, if using sectarian terms, of Shiites versus the Sunnis and will just inflame tensions even more."

## Road to Damascus

Lebanon's relationship with Syria has for decades set rival Lebanese against each other. Syria dominated its smaller neighbour from the end of its 1975-90 civil war until 2005. A row erupted this week because of plans by government ministers from Hezbollah and the Shiite Amal party to visit Damascus next week. Although the government has refused to sanction the visit as official business - citing the dissociation policy - Industry Minister Hussein Hajj Hassan, a Hezbollah member, has insisted they will be in Damascus as government representatives.

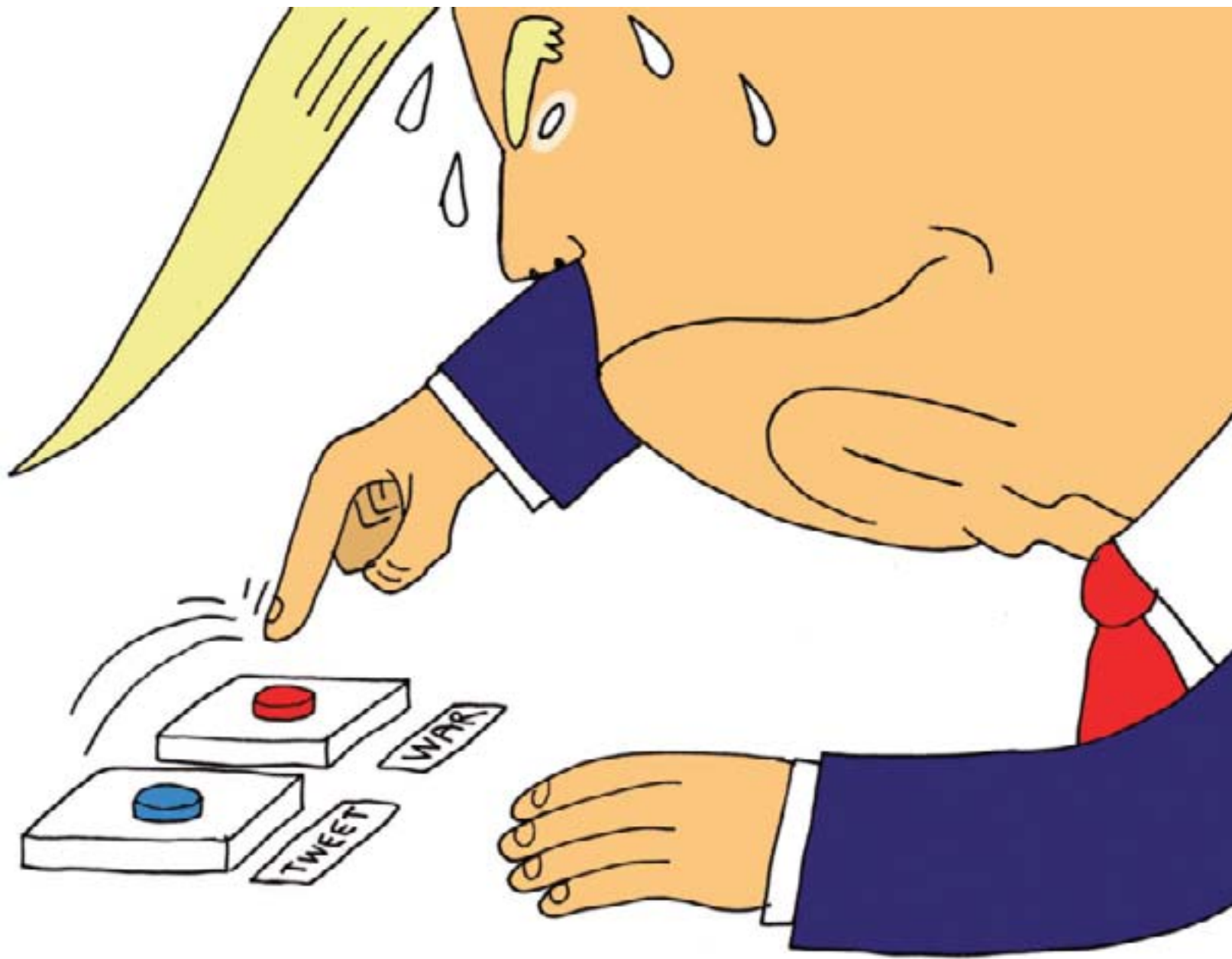
"We will meet Syrian ministers in our ministerial capacity, we will hold talks over some economic issues in our ministerial capacity, and we will return in our ministerial capacity to follow up on these matters," Hassan told Al-Manar TV. Samir Geagea, a leading Lebanese Christian politician and longstanding opponent of Hezbollah and Syrian influence in Lebanon, has said the visit to Syria will "shake Lebanon's political stability and put Lebanon in the Iranian camp".

A senior Lebanese official allied to Damascus described the row as "part of the political struggle in the region". The influence of Iran's allies in Lebanon was shown last year by the selection of a longtime ally of Hezbollah, Christian politician Michel Aoun, as head of state in a political deal that also installed Saudi-allied Sunni Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri.

## Syrian Returns

Hezbollah has recently stepped up calls for the Lebanese government to engage directly with Damascus over the return of Syrian refugees, who now account for one in four of the people in Lebanon and are overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim. The issue is of enormous political sensitivity in Lebanon, although all politicians agree they must return to Syria due to strains on Lebanon's resources and risks to its sectarian balance.

Hariri has said Lebanon will only coordinate refugee returns with the United Nations, which says there can be no forced return of people who fled the conflict, many of whom fear returning to a Syria governed by Assad. But one branch of the Lebanese state, the powerful internal security agency General Security, recently held talks with the Syrian authorities to secure the return of several thousand Syrians into Syria following a military campaign by Hezbollah in the northeast border region. General Security says the refugee returns have been voluntary. The United Nations has had no role in the talks. An expected Lebanese army assault on Islamic State militants at the border with Syria has been another focal point for the debate over cooperation with Damascus. The army, a recipient of U.S. aid, has said it will lead the battle alone in Lebanese territory, and does not need to coordinate with other parties. —Reuters



## TRUMP THROWS HIS OWN STRATEGY A CURVE

**J**ust when US President Donald Trump's strategy for North Korea was finally starting to show dividends, he threw it a curve. At long last, his administration seemed to be speaking with one voice on a key national security issue, a surprisingly elusive task in Trump's first six months. But he upended all that with a threat to slam the North with "fire and fury like the world has never seen" if it provoked America again.

By inflaming the situation, Trump also may have undermined the only serious prospect for resolving the North Korea crisis: Successful cooperation with China. Trump's strategy has relied on a delicate diplomatic two-step: Increasing pressure on China in hopes that, in turn, China will use its influence to get North Korea to abandon its nuclear aspirations. Trump had been deeply frustrated by China's recalcitrance, but there were signs it was finally coming around, including its vote in favor of the toughest UN sanctions in a generation - possibly ever.

On its face, Trump's move seemed to fit a pattern in which he becomes his own biggest obstacle to achieving his objectives. Sometimes he exposes divisions within his administration that others can then exploit. Other times, Trump stakes out positions so unpopular that needed partners can't afford to work with him. In other cases, he's played directly into his critics' worst suspicions about him.

That tendency has been on display repeatedly, including in his firing of the former FBI director who had been investigating his campaign's possible Russia collusion, his "Muslim ban" comments that sank his travel ban in court, and siding with Saudi Arabia over Qatar in the Persian Gulf crisis just as his administration was trying to mediate. With North Korea, it was the budding prospect for the cooperation he'd been seeking from Beijing that was jeopardized by his latest unforeseen move.

In recent months, Trump had been so frustrated by Beijing's reluctance to help that he let it be known he was considering new, punitive trade actions. The Treasury Department had even prepared unprecedented "secondary sanctions" targeting Chinese companies and banks that deal with North Korea. But Trump agreed to hold off after China, with its UN Security Council vote, signaled it was finally moving in the direction Trump wanted, US officials said.

So when Trump seemed late Tuesday to lower himself to Kim Jong Un's level, aggressively threatening the North with physical force, it wasn't just Washington that was taken aback. "For the leader of the most powerful country in the world to be talking about the ability to annihilate another country with a power never seen before not only gets a reaction from Pyongyang, but from Beijing, and Europe," said Jeffrey Bader, formerly President Barack Obama's top Asia hand who now runs the Brookings Institution's China program. "That is not helpful to our interests."

Even before his threat, US officials had been concerned

that China would only halfheartedly enforce the sanctions. So Trump's administration put Beijing on notice it would be closely monitoring its compliance. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was in Asia pressing other North Korean neighbors to be strict, too. He also offered Pyongyang a way out: Halt missile tests, and eventually, the U.S. would return to negotiations.

But in the wake of Trump's threat, it's far from clear that China - the North's economic lifeline - will feel compelled to punish Pyongyang economically, a step that China ultimately feels is against its interests. The sanctions aim to cut off one-third of the North exports, starving it of cash for its nuclear and ballistic weapons programs. China may see Trump's apocalyptic missive as evidence he isn't truly interested in the kind of diplomatic solution that would preserve Beijing's No. 1 interest: Stability in its neighborhood. Without Beijing's cooperation, the sanctions would have

negligible effect.

So what drove Trump to upset the balance on North Korea so dramatically? And why now? One possible trigger was a news report about a new US military assessment claiming the North had mastered the ability to fit a nuclear warhead atop one of its long-range missiles - a key step toward being able to strike the US. Another may have been Pyongyang's threat of "thousand-fold" revenge for the new UN sanctions.

Trump's threat blindsided Tillerson while he was in Asia, according to officials familiar with the timeline. And while his alliterative "fire and fury" admonition seemed premeditated, Trump aides insisted that while they'd discussed with the president what tone he'd strike if asked about North Korea, they didn't know exactly how he'd phrase it. The aides weren't authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. — AP

TRUMP MEETS CRISIS  
WITH BLUSTER, RISK

**A**nuclear showdown. The world's most unpredictable foe. A world on edge. What will the new president do? Be Trump. Faced with perhaps his gravest international crisis yet, President Donald Trump this week responded precisely as his some of supporters hoped and his critics long feared. The mix of plain-spoken bluster, spontaneity and norm-breaking risk that defined his political rise defined his approach to a round of fresh threats from nuclear North Korea. When Pyongyang punched, Trump counterpunched harder - much as he did on a debate stage flanked by political opponents.

But this was not a Florida debate stage or a low-stakes celebrity Twitter war of the sort Trump perfected before entering politics. It was a standoff over North Korea's rapidly developing nuclear program, complete with trading threats of war and the safety of millions in the balance. Over the course of the week, Trump unleashed provocative rhetoric and dismissed the careful or precise diplomatic language favored by his predecessors.

"They should be very nervous," Trump said of North Korea. "Because things will happen to them like they never thought possible, OK? Still, Trump's strategy was familiar. He tweeted regularly. He took it personally. He spoke off the cuff. He talked - a lot - holding a two-day blitz of press conferences, each yielding moments that immediately sparked chatter, confusion, criticism and attention.

On Friday, after striking a slightly toned-down message to North Korea, Trump offered that he would consider military action in Venezuela, where the president has consolidated power and sparked widespread international condemnation. In the course of a 12-minute exchange with journalists, the remark raised the prospect of the use of military force against two countries in two different hemispheres.

Trump's pugnacious public talk is matched by his private conversations with aides and allies. Trump has told associates that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has disrespected him and the United States and that he believes the rogue nation will only respond to toughness and the threat of force, according to two people who, like others interviewed, requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private conversations.

Some aides were surprised when Trump declared Tuesday, soon after word spread that North Korea had made a nuclear breakthrough, that the isolated nation would face "fire and fury" if the threat continued. The president had not used those words in a conference call with advisers beforehand when discussing the matter. He also told aides, including new chief of staff John Kelly, that he had no intention of softening his tone, according to two White House officials, who also demanded anonymity to discuss the conversations. — AP

## ANY NEW WAR COULD ESCALATE TO CATASTROPHE

**A**ny new military conflict with North Korea would likely escalate quickly to the use of nuclear weapons, bringing catastrophic casualties not seen since World War Two and an untold economic impact worldwide, former US defense officials and experts say. While the United States has maintained an uneasy calm with North Korea for more than six decades and spikes in tensions are not new, recent supercharged rhetoric between the unpredictable US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have heightened the risk of miscalculation that could make that nightmare a reality, they say.

On Thursday, North Korea upped the ante by saying it would complete plans by mid-August to fire four intermediate-range missiles over Japan to land near the US Pacific island territory of Guam, after Trump said that any threats by Pyongyang would be "met with fire and fury like the world has never seen." The exchange followed a United Nations resolution tightening sanctions on North Korea after it tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads to the United States. Trump said on Thursday his fire and fury comment was not tough enough.

Despite the war of words, for now the US military says there has been no change in its readiness posture in South Korea or elsewhere in Asia. Analysts say they have seen no evidence of any increased alert in North Korea. But they warned the bluster could raise the risk of miscalculation that could result in conflict far beyond the scale of the 1950-53 Korean War, which claimed the lives of more than 50,000 Americans and millions of Koreans and ended in an armed truce, not a peace treaty.

"The major thing people are talking about is miscalculation - we could easily stumble into something with the rhetoric being so heated," said Philip Yun, a Korea expert who was an Asia adviser under former President Bill Clinton. Yun, now executive director of the Ploughshares Fund, an anti-proliferation initiative, said the risks were exacerbated by the "credibility problem" Trump has acquired due to his frequent off-the-cuff remarks that often appear to go counter to the more measured remarks of his officials.

"In nuclear deterrence, credibility is everything and there's a situation that if no-one takes you seriously, you have to do something to make sure you are taken seriously, and that's where the miscalculation can happen," Yun said. With hundreds of thousands of troops and huge arsenals arrayed on both sides of a tense demilitarized zone, the Korean peninsula has long been a tinder box. North Korea's acquisition of nuclear weapons and its hell-for-leather development of an array of missiles to deliver them, have raised the stakes further.

## Catastrophic Casualties

Even a conventional clash could cause catastrophic casualties, given the thousands of North Korean artillery pieces ranged along the border, at least 1,000 of which are capable of reaching the densely populated South Korean capital Seoul and its metropolitan area, home to some 25 million people. "It would be very difficult to eliminate that threat before the artillery fire could create a lot of damage on the southern side," David Shear, who served as the senior US defense official for east Asia under former president Barack Obama, told Reuters. "I take projections of casual-

ties of thousands to tens of thousands quite seriously and that's just in South Korea - it's possible North Korea could attack Japan as well."

The real danger of any preemptive US strikes against North Korea's weapons sites would be that Pyongyang, whose conventional forces are considered no match for those of the United States and its allies, might resort to using its chemical and biological weapons and ultimately its nuclear arsenal. Then there is the potential for casualties running into the millions. "If they did launch they could potentially wipe out cities in South Korea and Japan, and in the longer term maybe reach the U.S. West Coast and even further inland," said Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Program at the Federation of American Scientists.

Even if everything went right for the Pentagon, a US strike campaign against North Korea would take up to a week to be effective, said Kristensen. A former US military officer who served multiple tours in South Korea and Japan said that to succeed completely, it would take at least a month, given how well protected and dispersed North Korean targets were. "And it would provoke a massive North Korean reaction, even when they spotted preparation for such a strike, or the instant one began."

Yun said the catastrophe would not just be human. "If we had a war, think about what it means. You are talking South Korea, the 11th largest economy in the world, Japan, the third largest economy, and you are talking about ground troops on the Korean peninsula. "Donald Trump's agenda would be consumed by this. Nothing else would get done. It's against his interest and it's not really an option." — Reuters

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DOHA: Members of the Qatari security forces, known in Arabic as "Lekhwiya", dive in a swimming pool at Qatar University on Aug 10, 2017 to sign their names by a painting of Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani titled in Arabic "Glorious Tamim", originally drawn by artist Ahmed bin Majed Al-Maadheed that spread across the Gulf country, as an expression of support for the monarch. — AFP

# QATAR CRISIS REDRAWNS RED LINES AND FRAYS AGE-OLD GULF TIES

**DUBAI:** It's early morning at a fishing port in Dubai. A group of mostly retired fishermen are playing cards, eating dates and drinking coffee at the port's majlis, a traditional meeting space. Here, the Emirati fishermen say they aren't too worried about the political fallout with Qatar that's gripped the region since early June, when Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with the small Gulf state, accusing it of supporting extremists. "When it comes to politics, it's not our business," Thani Obeid said. "If everyone walks around saying their opinion there will be chaos."

Obeid, 65, and Salem Jomaa, 70, say they have faith in the "wisdom" of the region's rulers because "we are one family". "The Gulf is one home. From Saudi Arabia to Ras Al-Khaimah (in the UAE) to Oman. We are all brothers, cousins, friends," Jomaa said. "We are all Muslims." Centuries-old ties that bind families to tribes and tribes to ruling sheikhs underpin the Arabian Peninsula, but that kinship is now under strain.

The crisis has also upended some red lines, making what was once illegal now legal, and vice-versa. Chief among them was an understanding - enshrined in tradition and government enforced - that criticism of another Gulf country or its esteemed ruler could lead to automatic imprisonment and hefty fines. After the row erupted June 5, those rules changed. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain warned instead that anyone who sympathizes with Qatar or criticizes the measures taken against it would be imprisoned and fined.

Qatari citizens were also expelled from the three countries after years of visa-free travel throughout the Gulf. Transport links with Qatar were cut and Saudi Arabia sealed shut Qatar's only land border, impacting food imports. Saudi and Emirati officials insist the measures are not aimed at Qatari citizens, but at the government. That distinction has meant little to Qataris who say the blockade on their country and the assault on their leadership is like an attack on the whole society.

"If they talk about our emir, it's like they are talking about us. The siege and blockade and making it illegal

to sympathize with Qatar, this is against us," Ahmed Al-Khayli, a 36-year-old Qatari said. Speaking by phone from Qatar, Khayli said he believes the relationship between Qataris and others in the Gulf has become "more sensitive". Many Qataris - who number around 270,000 citizens - believe their small, energy-rich country is standing up for itself, refusing to surrender its sovereignty. Patriotic fervor has swept through the country. Towering images of its 37-year-old ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, are plastered on cars, billboards and storefronts across the capital.

In Qatar and the UAE, where foreigners far outnumber locals, many talk with sincere admiration for their rulers. It's a relationship that harkens to a time when tribal elders were responsible for the security of their communities, which relied on pearl diving and fishing for survival. Then, as now, tribes in the Arabian Peninsula intermarried. The expulsion of Qataris separated mixed-nationality families, parents from their children and husbands from their wives. After public outcry, the three Gulf countries said exceptions would be made for immediate family members, though rights groups say students and families are still being affected.

## Relationships

Hamad Al-Kulaib, a 38-year-old Kuwaiti businessman, said the crisis "feels like a battle of the egos" between high-ranking officials. Kuwait, which has remained neutral, is trying to mediate the crisis. "The tension between Qatar and the Saudi-led bloc is certainly putting all our social relationships in danger," he said. Though there have been fallout in the past between Gulf states, this is the most severe crisis in decades.

Saudi and Emirati media have unleashed a barrage of critical reports about Qatar, accusing it of sedition, lying, sponsoring terrorism and trying to destabilize the region. Qatar's support of opposition Islamist groups and its ties with Iran has unnerved its neighbors. Qatar says accusations it backs extremist groups are politically motivated and denies it has ever sponsored terrorism.

Meanwhile, Qatari-affiliated press upped their critical coverage of Saudi Arabia since the row erupted. Qatar and the UAE have also traded accusations of hacking. In the years before the crisis, state-linked news channels and papers did not criticize a fellow Gulf nation's ruler or policies. Officially, at least, Qatar has kept a modicum of decorum in place. The emir congratulated the Saudi king and his son, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, when he was elevated to crown prince in late June. The emir also sent a cable of condolences to King Salman on the death of his elder brother.

Those acts sparked a hashtag on Twitter in support of Qatar, and another hashtag said Saudis still welcome ties with Qatari citizens. Twitter is also where people have rallied behind their governments. Emirati social

media star Taim Al-Falasi hit back at accusations that citizens in the UAE were being paid to support the moves against Qatar. In a fiercely-worded post, she asked Qataris how they could continue to support their emir after all the allegations made against Qatar.

At the majlis in Dubai's harbor, the fishermen shake their heads when the mention of Twitter comes up. They disapprove of the fierce words being traded online. "If you add fuel to a fire, the fire will grow," Obeid said. In Kuwait, 27-year-old Barrak Al-Dakhail says the crisis has polarized opinions there and made relationships among people in the Gulf "awkward". "If the situation continues to escalate, it might create a bigger wedge between the people ... and that's certainly something we don't want," he said. — AP

## MOI CAPTURES 12 'ABDALY CELL' FUGITIVES...

Continued from Page 1

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem also lauded the interior ministry. Ghanem, in remarks published by the parliament's Al-Dostour news network, said the ministry personnel, led by Sheikh Khaled, proved that they deserved HH the Amir's support. He also indicated at MPs' support and confidence in the ministry's personnel, hoping other convicts as well as fugitives in public funds and state security cases would be apprehended. The parliament will continue to support national and sincere efforts exerted by the security apparatuses, he added.

The cassation court in June overturned an acquittal by an appeals court and convicted 21 men of forming a terrorist cell with ties to Iran and Hezbollah. The cell had planned to launch attacks across the state, according to the court verdict. Kuwait has protested to Lebanon over the alleged training of the Abdaly cell by Hezbollah, which has ministers in the Beirut government. Last month, authorities expelled 15 Iranian diplomats and shut down the military, cultural and trade missions of

the Iranian embassy over Tehran's backing of the terrorist cell. Iran said the allegation is baseless.

"The interior ministry announces that security services have arrested in different areas 12 people sentenced in the so-called Abdaly cell," a statement from the interior ministry and carried by the state news agency KUNA said. Authorities are still searching for two others convicted in the same case and still on the run, the statement added.

The ministry named the arrested convicts - all Kuwaitis - as follows: Mohammad Jaafar Abbas Haji (sentenced to 10 years in jail); Mohammad Hassan Abduljalil Al-Husseini (10 years); Mahdi Mohammad Sayed Ali Al-Mousawi (10 years); Jafaar Haidar Hassan Jamal (10 years); Youssef Hasan Shaaban Ghadhanfari (10 years); Hussein Juma Mohammad Al-Bathar (10 years); Hassan Ahmad Abdullah Al-Attar (10 years); Abbas Issa Abdullah Al-Moussawi (10 years); Issa Jaber Abdullah Baqer (10 years); Basil Hussein Ali Al-Dashti (sentenced to five years in jail); Hassan Ali Hassan Jamal (5 years); and Ali Abdulkarim Ismael Abdulrahim (5 years). — Agencies

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## KEVIN DURANT APOLOGIZES FOR INDIA COMMENTS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Basketball star Kevin Durant has issued an apology for calling India “20 years behind” and several other comments about the Asian country. The Golden State Warriors forward tweeted on Friday that he’s “sorry that my comments about India were taken out of context.”



Durant said he plans to return to India to run more basketball camps and meant no disrespect. Durant traveled to India recently and spoke about the trip in an interview with The Athletic website published this week.

In the interview, Durant marveled at the “cows in the street, monkeys running around everywhere, hundreds of people on the side of the road” and visible poverty. “It’s a country that’s 20 years behind in terms of knowledge and experience,” he said, adding that his visit to the Taj Mahal was eye-opening and not what he’d imagined.—AP

## EZEKIEL ELLIOTT SUSPENDED 6 GAMES IN DOMESTIC CASE

**DALLAS :** The NFL suspended star Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott for six games Friday, concluding after a year-long investigation that the league’s leading rusher injured his former girlfriend in three separate incidents last summer.

According to the letter Elliott received informing him of the suspension, the NFL believed he used “physical force” three times in a span of five days in a Columbus, Ohio, apartment last July resulting in injuries to Tiffany Thompson’s face, neck, shoulders, arms, hands, wrists, hips and knees. She was his girlfriend at the time.

Prosecutors in Columbus decided nearly a year ago not to pursue the case in the city where Elliott starred for Ohio State. In announcing the suspension under the NFL’s personal conduct policy, the league said its investigation was based on photographs, text messages and other electronic evidence. Commissioner Roger Goodell made his decision based on the findings and in consultation with four advisers, including Hall of Fame player Ken Houston.

Elliott’s ban means the Cowboys will have four players suspended when last year’s NFC East champions start the season in a month - with the possibility of losing two more.

The 22-year-old Elliott has three days to appeal the ruling, which his legal team said he would do while blasting the decision. “The NFL’s findings are replete with factual inaccuracies and erroneous conclusions and it ‘cherry picks’ so-called evidence to support its conclusion while ignoring other critical evidence,” attorneys Frank Salzano and Scott Rosenblum said in a joint statement. “During the upcoming weeks and through the appeal, a slew of additional credible and controverting evidence will come to light.”

If Goodell’s ruling stands, Elliott will go on the suspended list the first week of the regular season and be eligible to return to the active roster Oct. 23. His first possible game would be Week 8 at Washington.

### NEEDS COUNSELING

The ruling requires Elliott to get an evaluation to determine whether he needs counseling or treatment, and to show proof that he is following up on any recommendations. NFL special counsel for conduct Todd Jones wrote in the letter to Elliott that advisers “were of the view that there is substantial and persuasive evidence supporting a finding that (Elliott) engaged in physical violence against Ms Thompson on multiple occasions during the week of July 16, 2016.” Last September, the office of Columbus City Attorney Richard Pfeiffer cited conflicting and inconsistent information in the evidence in deciding against criminal charges. Pfeiffer’s office declined comment Friday.

Peter Harvey, one of the advisers to Goodell, said the NFL had access to forensic electronic evidence that prosecutors didn’t have. Harvey said an example was proof that photographs were taken by Thompson the same day she alleged that she was injured by Elliott.

Harvey also said some of the explanations offered by Elliott’s representatives, including that Thompson was injured in a fight with a woman or by falling down stairs, weren’t supported by evidence. “It is also important to note that, while there may be conflicting testimonial evi-

dence regarding the nature and substance of conversations, there is no dispute that you and Ms. Thompson were together in the same location on the dates identified, and no evidence to suggest that anyone else could have caused these injuries,” the letter said.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has maintained he hadn’t seen anything to indicate Elliott was guilty of domestic violence and he didn’t think his star back would be suspended. Jones made the comments several times, including during festivities last weekend when he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The ruling potentially could put Goodell and Jones, a strong supporter of the commissioner, at odds the same way Goodell clashed with New England owner Robert Kraft over last year’s four-game suspension for quarterback Tom Brady over the “Deflategate” controversy.

The NFL revised its personal conduct policy in 2014 following sharp criticism of a case involving former Baltimore running back Ray Rice. The policy gave Goodell authority to suspend players for at least six games in domestic cases, with or without a conviction.

### OFF-FIELD ISSUES

Elliott has had a string of off-field issues in the year since the Cowboys made him the fourth overall pick in the 2016 draft. He was seen in a legal marijuana shop during the preseason in Seattle last year and was also involved in a bar fight in Dallas a week before training camp this year. The NFL’s letter to Elliott cited the Ohio case as well as an incident this past spring when Elliott was caught on video pulling down a woman’s shirt while watching a St. Patrick’s Day parade in Dallas.

While the league said the St. Patrick’s Day incident wasn’t part of the decision on discipline, it reflected poorly on Elliott. “You should understand, however, that your behavior during this event was inappropriate and disturbing, and reflected a lack of respect for women,” Todd Jones wrote. “When viewed together with the July incidents, it suggests a pattern of poor judgment and behavior for which effective intervention is necessary for your personal and professional welfare.”

An All-Pro as a rookie, Elliott finished with 1,631 yards rushing in helping the Cowboys to the best record in the NFC at 13-3 before a divisional playoff loss to Green Bay. He set rookie franchise records for yards, rushing touchdowns (15) and total touchdowns (16).

The NFL’s letter tried to offer Elliott some encouragement. “While this is a serious matter, it by no means suggests a belief that you cannot have a long and productive career in the NFL,” the letter said. “Our goal is for you to have as successful a career as possible.”

Three Dallas defensive ends will start the seasons with suspensions. Randy Gregory will miss at least the entire regular season for multiple violations of the NFL’s substance-abuse policy. David Irving is out four games (performance-enhancing drugs) and Damontre Moore will sit two games (substance abuse).

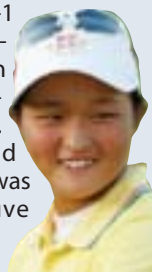
Two more defensive players could face suspensions. Linebacker Damien Wilson faces aggravated assault charges in the Dallas suburb of Frisco over a dispute involving a parking space, and cornerback Nolan Carroll was arrested on a drunken-driving charge in Dallas. —AP

## ST LOUIS CARDINALS ASK FOR HELP IN FINDING RALLY CAT

**ST LOUIS:** The St. Louis Cardinals are looking for their rally cat. The feisty feline became an internet sensation Wednesday night, sprinting onto the field at Busch Stadium with the bases loaded for the Cardinals with two outs in the sixth inning. The cat emerged from near the visitors’ dugout on the third-base side and raced into the outfield, the fur on its tail standing on end. Royals center fielder Lorenzo Cain stood, smiling, with a hand on his hip as the cat sprinted past him. Kansas City was leading 5-4 at the time and play was delayed for a couple minutes while the grounds crew collected the cat. On the first pitch after play resumed, Yadier Molina hit a grand slam off Peter Moylan to give the Cardinals an 8-5 lead. The cat was instantly dubbed #RallyCat on Twitter, and St. Louis went on to win - its fifth victory in a row. The Cardinals said Thursday that a fan grabbed the cat after its grounds crew employee put the animal down to receive treatment for scratches and bites.—AP

## WU WINS 30-HOLE MATCH, REACHES US AMATEUR SEMIS

**CHULA VISTA:** Chia Yen Wu advanced to the semifinals of the US Women’s Amateur after rolling in a par putt on the 12th playoff hole to win the longest 18-hole match in USGA history on Friday night. The 13-year-old Wu made the putt after Lauren Stephenson’s putt lipped out. It was their fourth time playing the 407-yard 18th hole at the San Diego Country Club. Wu’s 69-foot birdie putt on the 26th hole highlighted the match. She will face Texas senior Sophia Schubert, a 3-and-1 winner over Mexico’s Isabella Fierro. Two of the top five players in the women’s world amateur rankings will square off in the other semifinal as No. 3 Albane Valenzuela and fifth-ranked Lilia Kha-Tu Vu each won their matches 4 and 3. UCLA’s Vu had pars on 13 of 15 holes to beat 14-year-old Lucy Li. The match between Valenzuela and Robynn Ree was all square through eight holes but Valenzuela made five straight pars for a 2-up lead and birdied No. 14. — AP



**KANSAS CITY:** San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Tevin Jones (6) catches a 2-point conversion against Kansas City Chiefs defensive back J.R. Nelson (30) during the second half of an NFL preseason football game in Kansas City, Mo., Friday. —AP

### NFL

# SMITH, MAHOMES SOLID BEFORE 49ERS RALLY PAST CHIEFS, 27-17

**KANSAS CITY:** Alex Smith led the Chiefs to a quick touchdown and first-round pick Patrick Mahomes II had an impressive debut, before the San Francisco backups led the 49ers to a 27 -17 victory over Kansas City in their preseason opener Friday night.

Smith hit speedster Tyreek Hill for a 32-yard gain on the first play of the game, and Spencer Ware capped a 75-yard march with a short TD run to give the Chiefs a 7-0 lead.

It was the only series for Smith, who finished 4 of 6 for 48 yards.

Mahomes checked in for the first time late in the second quarter, drawing perhaps the biggest roar of the night. The 10th overall draft pick had a long completion wiped out by a penalty on his first play, but later capitalized on a blocked punt with a short touchdown throw to fellow rookie Marcus Kemp.

Mahomes was 7 of 9 for 49 yards as he duels with Tyler Bray for the No. 2 job. San Francisco rookie C.J. Beathard hit Kendrick Bourne for a 46-yard TD pass in the fourth quarter, then found him for a tying two-point conversion. The Chiefs promptly fumbled the ball back and Beathard added a short TD pass to Tyler McCloskey with 10:41 left to give the 49ers the lead for good.

Beathard, a third-round pick, outplayed both quarterbacks ahead of him on the depth chart. Brian Hoyer did little to make new 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan feel good about giving the long-time NFL journeyman the starting job at the onset of training camp. He was 1 of 4 for three yards in two offensive series, going three-and-out on both of them.

Barkley was first off the bench and led San Francisco to a pair of field goals, playing roughly two quarters. He was 10 of 17 for 168 yards without any major mistakes.

Bray was first off the bench for Kansas City. He had an 83-yard TD pass to Chris Conley wiped out by offensive pass interference, then had an errant throw picked off. The fifth-year quarterback, who has yet to appear in a regular-season game, finished 5 of 8 for 63 yards.

### HYDE’S BACKUP

Running back Carlos Hyde carried twice for San Francisco before giving way to Matt Breida and Joe Williams, a pair of rookies competing for the No. 2 job. Williams appeared to do more with fewer chances, showing impressive burst in the open field.

### FICKEN DOES KICKIN

Sam Ficken handled kicking duties for Kansas City while Cairo Santos deals with a groin injury. The former Penn State star hit a 45-yard field goal in the third quarter.

**AILING CHIEFS:** All-Pro S Eric Berry did not suit up after missing several practices with a heel injury. He was joined on the sideline by DE Chris Jones, LB Tamba Hali and NT Bennie Logan, all of whom are dealing with knee injuries. TE Travis Kelce also was out with swelling in his knee. Chiefs coach Andy Reid has been optimistic that

all of them will be ready for the regular season.

### SUFFERING NINERS

The 49ers were without a pair of starters in

the secondary with FS Jimmie Ward (hamstring) on the PUP list and CB Dontae Johnson sidelined with a concussion. DT DeForest Buckner left after the first series with an ankle injury.— AP

## BILLS TRADE WATKINS TO RAMS, GET MATTHEWS FROM EAGLES

**ORCHARD PARK:** The Buffalo Bills’ offseason overhaul isn’t over yet now that receiver Sammy Watkins and cornerback Ronald Darby became the latest players to be sent packing. The Bills dealt both starters in separate blockbuster trades on Friday in an effort to reshape the roster under new coach Sean McDermott.

Watkins was traded to the Los Angeles Rams, while Darby was sent to the Philadelphia Eagles. Buffalo addressed both positions by acquiring receiver Jordan Matthews from Philadelphia and cornerback E.J. Gaines from the Rams. The Bills also continued looking to the future by further stockpiling 2018 draft selections. They acquired a second-round pick from L.A. and a third-rounder from the Eagles, while also sending a sixth-round pick to the Rams. Buffalo now has two picks in each of the first three rounds next year after acquiring the Kansas City Chiefs first-round selection in April.

The additional picks provide Bills general manager Brandon Beane assets in a draft that looks as if it will have several top-end quarterback prospects. Bills starter Tyrod Taylor’s future is uncertain beyond this season. McDermott acknowledged his most difficult challenge was not merely breaking the news of Watkins’ departure to Taylor.

“I’ll take it a step further: How do you sell it to the entire team?” McDermott said, before outlining his message. “You put one step in front of the other and we move on,” he said. “I asked them to continue to trust me and our decisions in terms of what we’re doing.” Just don’t call it a rebuilding plan, Beane said.

“This is not a throw-in-the-towel thing at all,” Beane said. “If we were throwing in the towel, I wouldn’t be trying to get that starting receiver back.” The deals, however, involve more changes to a team with just 28 players who opened training camp on Buffalo’s roster a year ago. The Bills also have just 14 players whom they’ve drafted, not including this year’s six-player class.

### DECLINED

The trades caught Bills players by surprise a day after a 17-10 preseason-opening loss to Minnesota. “It’s tough to lose a guy like Sammy,” Taylor said. “We have to put a positive lining. It’s a win now league. And as a

team, we have to refocus, do whatever it takes to win games.” Watkins’ future in Buffalo was already in question after the Bills declined to pick up his fifth-year contract option in May. Matthews is also entering the final season of his contract. When healthy, Watkins showed glimpses of being a dynamic threat since Buffalo gave up a 2015 first-round pick to trade up five spots and select him fourth overall in 2014. He has 153 catches for 2,459 yards and 17 touchdowns in three seasons, but topped 1,000 yards just once, in 2015.

Watkins has been hampered by an assortment of injuries and limited to playing just eight games last season after having surgery for a broken left foot. He required a second operation in January after aggravating the injury last season.

He joins a revamped group of receivers on a Rams offense that has ranked last in the NFL in each of the past two seasons. Buffalo is also retooling its receiver position, with the trade coming four days after signing veteran free agent Anquan Boldin.

Matthews was Philadelphia’s most productive receiver, averaging 75 catches, 891 receiving yards and six touchdowns in his first three seasons. But the Eagles signed free-agent receivers Alshon Jeffery and Torrey Smith and drafted Mack Hollins and Shelton Gibson. The key for Philadelphia was adding a starting-caliber cornerback in Darby to a defense that plays in the pass-happy NFC East.

“It’s a corner-deficient league. It’s hard to find those guys,” Eagles executive vice president of football operations Howie Roseman said. “And teams that have them aren’t really ready to move them.” Darby started 29 games since the Bills selected him in the second round of the 2015 draft. Gaines was a valuable defensive back in the Rams’ rotation. He won a starting job in 2015, but then got hurt before the season started. He became expendable after the Rams acquired Kayvon Webster this offseason, who is pegged to start opposite Trumaine Johnson.

McDermott is aware how the trades have the potential of setting back Buffalo’s preparedness at a time the franchise is in the midst of a 17-year playoff drought - the longest active streak in North America’s four major professional sports.—AP



Ezekiel Elliott





LOS ANGELES: San Diego Padres’ Hunter Renfroe, right, reaches for the base after being tagged out by Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Austin Barnes while trying to score on a single by Cory Spangenberg during the third inning of a baseball game, Friday. — AP

BASEBALL

# HICKS HITS LATE 2-RUN HOMER TO LIFT YANKEES

**NEW YORK:** Aaron Hicks awoke a dormant offense with a two-run homer that sparked a five-run eighth inning, then threw out a runner at third in the ninth inning to help Aroldis Chapman escape, and the New York Yankees rallied past the Red Sox 5-4 Friday night to stop Boston’s winning streak at eight. The Yankees trailed 3-0 going into the eighth, but came back to close within 3 1/2 games of the Red Sox. Chapman walked the bases loaded with no outs in the ninth. Andrew Benintendi hit a sacrifice fly that Hicks caught in front of the left-field warning track, and the one-hop throw to third base cut down Eduardo Nunez trying to advance from second. Mitch Moreland fled out to end it, giving Chapman his 15th save in 18 chances. Adam Warren (3-2) allowed one hit in 2 1/3 scoreless innings. Addison Reed (0-1) got the loss.

MARLINS 6, ROCKIES 3

Giancarlo Stanton hit his major league-leading 40th home run as Miami beat Colorado. Derek Dietrich blooped a tiebreaking single in a three-run eighth inning. Stanton hit his seventh homer in eight games. He neared the franchise record of 42 home runs set by Gary Sheffield in 1996. Nolan Arenado became the first player in the majors with 100 RBIs, hitting his 26th homer for the Rockies. Junichi Tazawa (2-2) tossed a scoreless eighth and Brad Ziegler pitched the ninth to record his third save in six chances. Jake McGee (0-2) took the loss.

INDIANS 5, RAYS 0

Carlos Carrasco took another no-hit try into the late innings at Tropicana Field, losing his bid on a two-out single in the seventh by Logan Morrison but leading Cleveland over Tampa Bay. In July 2015, Carrasco came within one strike of a no-hitter at Tampa Bay before Joey Butler lined a two-out single in the ninth over leaping second baseman Jason Kipnis. No Cleveland pitcher has thrown a no-hitter since Len Barker tossed a perfect game in 1981. Carrasco (11-5) won for the first time in six starts since the All-Star break. He gave up two hits, struck out 10 and walked two in eight innings. Edwin Encarnacion hit his 23rd home run, connecting off Jake Faria (5-3). The Rays were shut out for the fourth time in seven games.

RANGERS 6, ASTROS 4

Cole Hamels pitched seven scoreless innings, Elvis Andrus scored each time after his three hits and Texas handed Houston its fourth straight loss. The Astros have lost 10 of 13, but still have a six-game lead over Boston for the American League’s top mark. Hamels (7-1) limited the Astros to three singles only six days

after the lefty’s complete game against Minnesota. Alex Claudio got Altuve, who leads the majors in hitting, to look at strike three with runners on first and second for the final out. The Rangers went ahead to stay with four runs in the third off Charlie Morton (9-5).

CARDINALS 8, BRAVES 5

Paul DeJong hit two doubles and drove in three runs as surging St. Louis won its season-high seventh straight game. Atlanta has lost four in a row. Adam Wainwright (12-5) went five innings. The Cardinals turned double plays in each of the first three innings. Matt Bowman got his second save. Mike Foltynewicz (10-7) tied a season high with four walks in 2 2/3 innings.

TWINS 9, TIGERS 4

Max Kepler and Eddie Rosario homered and drove in three runs each as Minnesota extended its winning streak to six. Twins center fielder Byron Buxton drew applause from the crowd at Comerica Park after a spectacular catch of Miguel Cabrera’s 410-foot line drive. Buxton, running with his back to the plate on a ball measured at 109 mph off the bat, adjusted his route and made a diving catch on the warning track. Mikie Mahtook homered for Detroit, which has lost six of seven. Ryan Pressly (2-2) won in relief. Anibal Sanchez (3-3) allowed five runs in six innings.

WHITE SOX 6, ROYALS 3

Tim Anderson hit a two-run homer to cap a four-run, seventh-inning rally. Reynaldo Lopez pitched six strong innings in his White Sox debut and Chicago won its fourth straight. Mike Moustakas hit two home runs to give him 34 this year, but Kansas City lost its fifth in a row. Aaron Bummer (1-2) pitched a scoreless seventh and eighth to earn his first major league win. Tyler Clippard got two outs for his third save. Danny Duffy (7-8) allowed five runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings.

PIRATES 4, BLUE JAYS 2

Pittsburgh star outfielder Andrew McCutchen limped off because of a sore left knee one batter after hitting an RBI double during the Pirates’ seventh win in nine games. Tests performed at the stadium showed no damage, and McCutchen said his knee was feeling better following the game. Jameson Taillon (7-5) pitched six innings to snap a three-start winless streak. Felipe Rivero finished for his 12th save in 13 chances. Marcus Stroman (10-6) allowed four runs, none earned, and four hits in eight innings.

METS 7, PHILLIES 6

Amed Rosario’s first career homer broke a

tie leading off the ninth inning, Yoenis Cespedes and Michael Conforto also went deep and New York beat Philadelphia. After Cesar Hernandez hit a tying, solo homer in the eighth off Jerry Blevins, Rosario connected off Phillies closer Hector Neris (4-5) to cap a three-hit night. The rookie shortstop entered the game batting .161 (5 for 31). Hansel Robles (7-3) got the final two outs in the eighth and AJ Ramos finished for his 22nd save in 24 chances. Nick Pivetta (4-8) allowed six runs - five earned - and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings.

REDS 11, BREWERS 10

Zack Cozart and Eugenio Suarez each had three hits and two RBIs, and Cincinnati built an early lead and held on to send Milwaukee to its sixth loss in a row. The Reds led 10-2 through four innings. Jonathan Villar made it 11-10 with a home run off Reds closer Raisel Iglesias with one out in the ninth. Eric Thames followed with a single, but Iglesias retired Ryan Braun and Travis Shaw for his 20th save. Homer Bailey (4-6) bounced back from allowing 10 runs over 3 1/3 innings against St. Louis to hold the Brewers to two runs despite five walks in five innings. Jimmy Nelson (9-6) allowed a career-high nine earned runs on 11 hits over just 3 2/3 innings.

PADRES 4, DODGERS 3

Jose Pirela hit a tiebreaking home run leading off the eighth inning, Manuel Margot added two solo homers and San Diego beat Los Angeles. Cody Bellinger had three hits and two RBIs for the Dodgers, who lost for only the fifth time in 31 games. Jose Torres (6-3), called up Friday for the fifth time this season, went 1 2/3 innings to earn the win. Brad Hand threw the last 1 1/3 innings for his ninth save. Los Angeles reliever Ross Stripling (1-4) gave up Margot’s second home run to tie the game in the seventh and then Pirela’s drive in the next inning.

CUBS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 3

John Lackey won his fifth straight start and Chicago opened a weekend series in the desert with a victory over Arizona. Kyle Schwarber and Alex Avila hit consecutive home runs off Taijuan Walker (6-6) to start the sixth inning after David Peralta’s two-run shot had cut the Cubs’ lead to 3-2 in the fifth. Paul Goldschmidt’s solo homer with one out in the sixth ended Lackey’s night. Lackey (10-9) allowed three runs on four hits in 5 1/3 innings, struck out seven and walked three, throwing just 85 pitches. He has won five in a row for the third time in his career but first since June 6-29, 2008. Walker went five innings plus two batters, giving up five runs, four earned, to fall to 0-3 in his last eight starts.

ANGELS 6, MARINERS 5

Mike Trout scored from second base on Jean Segura’s error in the top of the ninth inning, and Los Angeles rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Seattle. For the second straight night, Trout was the source of some ninth-inning misery for the Mariners. He had a three-run double in Thursday’s series opener to give the Angels a 6-3 victory. A day later, Trout walked with one out, taking a close 3-2 pitch from James Pazos (3-4). Albert Pujols followed with a single and C.J. Cron chopped a hard grounder that Segura couldn’t handle that bounced far enough into left field for Trout to score the go-ahead run. Seattle held a 5-1 lead going into the seventh inning thanks to home runs from Nelson Cruz and Mike Zunino, but the Angels scored four times in the seventh to pull even.

ATHLETICS 5, ORIOLES 4

Jed Lowrie had two hits, including an RBI double in a decisive bottom of the eighth inning, as Oakland defeated Baltimore. The A’s trailed 4-3 when Lowrie doubled in Matt Joyce

with the tying run off Brad Brach (3-3). Chad Pinder’s sacrifice fly two batters later drove in the go-ahead run as Marcus Semien beat a strong throw from Joey Rickard in right. The A’s snapped a three-game skid while the

Orioles lost for the third time in four games. Matt Olson hit his fifth home run for the A’s off Orioles starter Ubaldo Jimenez, a two-run shot in the bottom of the fourth inning that cleared the 400-foot sign in center field. — AP

TENNIS

## WOZNIACKI OUSTS TOP-SEED PLISKOVA

**TORONTO:** Caroline Wozniacki made some changes this week to try to change her fortune in a city that has not been kind on the tennis front. Personal driver? Not needed this time around. Same hotel as before? Switch that booking. Wozniacki is not only winning in Toronto for the first time in her career, she’s doing it against the world’s best.

The 27-year-old from Denmark outlasted top-ranked Karolina Pliskova 7-5, 6-7 (3), 6-4 in a rain-delayed quarterfinal on Friday at the Rogers Cup. The match ended just over five hours after the players took to the court in the early afternoon for the pregame warmup. The start was delayed for more than two hours and three more weather interruptions followed in the first set alone.

Actual on-court match time was 2 hours, 56 minutes, but it felt much longer. “I just kept fighting and just kept doing my thing,” Wozniacki said. In the deciding set, Wozniacki broke at love to pull even at 4-4. She then held serve and followed with another break to lock up a spot in the final four.

Next up will be a Saturday showdown with American Sloane Stephens, who topped Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 1-6, 7-5 before the rain returned in the evening. Two other quarterfinals were postponed until Saturday. Fifth-seeded Elina Svitolina of Ukraine will take on fourth-seeded Spaniard Garbine Muguruza, while defending champ and second seed Simona Halep of Romania is to play Caroline Garcia of France.

Pliskova, a 6-foot-1 25-year-old from the Czech Republic, was playing her first tournament as the world No. 1. “She just put everything back,” Pliskova said. “Even my serves, even some of the groundstrokes. So it was tough for me to close it and I think it’s tough to play someone like (that).”

Wozniacki had lost her opening matches in all four previous appearances on the WTA Tour’s Toronto stop. Montreal hosts the women’s Rogers Cup in alternate years and she has fared much better there, winning in 2010 and reaching the semifinals in 2012.



TORONTO: Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, hits a forehand to Karolina Pliskova, of the Czech Republic, during a Rogers Cup quarterfinal tennis match in Toronto. — AP

### MLB Results/Standings

Oakland 5, Baltimore 4; Chicago Cubs 8, Arizona 3; St. Louis 8, Atlanta 5; Cincinnati 11, Milwaukee 10; Chicago White Sox 6, Kansas City 3; Texas 6, Houston 4; Cleveland 5, Tampa Bay 0; Miami 6, Colorado 3; Minnesota 9, Detroit 4; Pittsburgh 4, Toronto 2; NY Yankees 5, Boston 4; NY Mets 7, Philadelphia 6.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Boston	65	50	.565	-	Washington	68	45	.602	-
NY Yankees	61	53	.535	3.5	Miami	54	60	.474	14.5
Tampa Bay	59	58	.504	7	NY Mets	52	61	.460	16
Baltimore	57	59	.491	8.5	Atlanta	51	62	.451	17
Toronto	54	61	.470	11	Philadelphia	42	71	.372	26
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	61	52	.540	-	Chicago Cubs	60	54	.526	-
Minnesota	58	56	.509	3.5	St. Louis	60	56	.517	1
Kansas City	57	58	.496	5	Milwaukee	59	59	.500	3
Detroit	52	63	.452	10	Pittsburgh	58	58	.500	3
Chicago White Sox	45	68	.398	16	Cincinnati	49	67	.422	12
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	71	44	.617	-	LA Dodgers	81	34	.704	-
Seattle	59	58	.504	13	Colorado	65	50	.565	16
LA Angels	59	58	.504	13	Arizona	64	51	.557	17
Texas	55	59	.482	15.5	San Diego	51	64	.443	30
Oakland	51	65	.440	20.5	San Francisco	46	70	.397	35.5



## STRICKER HAS 8TH STRAIGHT YEAR WITHOUT MISSING CUT IN MAJOR

**CHARLOTTE:** Steve Stricker had to clean out his locker and head home early after missing the cut in the PGA Championship at Hazeltine. That was in 2009. And it was on his mind Friday at Quail Hollow when he was outside the cut line and running out of holes. "It was on my mind today to play this weekend," he said. "I wanted to be around this weekend."

He followed with two 3-woods that led to easy birdies, and Stricker shot a 1-under 70 that will allow him to make the cut. That means the 50-year-old Stricker has now gone eight consecutive years without missing a cut in the majors.

His 3-wood off the 14th tee reached the green about 18 feet away. He missed the eagle putt. On the par-5 15th hole, Stricker drilled a 3-wood up the hill and onto the green about 20 feet away. He missed that eagle putt, too. Stricker had another birdie with a 7-iron into the par-3 17th, and then dropped a shot on the 18th from the bunker. He hasn't played every major in

every year since that missed cut at Hazeltine. Stricker went a couple of years skipping the British Open because he was trying to reduce his schedule and that's generally the week of his wedding anniversary.

At age 50, and Presidents Cup captain of the US team, he's getting busy again. His wife, Nicki, is caddyding for him at Quail Hollow. Both daughters have been traveling with him this summer, and Stricker used the British Open for a father-daughter trip with Bobbi Maria, who starts her sophomore year at Wisconsin in a few weeks.

"I'm enjoying it," he said. "Nicki and the kids have been out with me practically every week, especially this summer and even some during school. We took our youngest out of school, home schooled her on the road when we were out. So I've played a lot more."

Tiger Woods went nine straight years making the cut - 38 straight majors dating to the 1996 Masters - though he played all four of them each year (and

won 10 of them before missing his first cut). Stricker was quite satisfied making his 26th cut in a row.

### FOX TROT

Ryan Fox caught Quail Hollow before the rain on Friday and he turned in a 66 to go from a short week at his first PGA Championship to 1-under 141 going into the weekend at Quail Hollow.

"Pretty bloody happy, to be honest," the 30-year-old Kiwi said. Fox hit only three fairways in the opening round and shot 75. He hit 10 fairways on Friday, and that was all the difference. It looks as though it could have been lower if he had made a few more birdie chances from the 10-foot range, and a 5-foot eagle putt he missed on No. 7. But he wasn't about to be greedy.

"Every hole around here, you're just happy to take a par, and some of those short putts, you're almost not trying to make," he said. "They are so quick. You can knock it 4 or 5 feet by and three-putt really quickly."

### CHARLOTTE CONNECTION

Kevin Kisner was born in Aiken, South Carolina, and now lives off the 17th fairway at Palmetto Golf Club. But he has reason to feel like a hometown favorite at Quail Hollow. His parents grew up in Charlotte, so this was almost a second home when Kisner was growing up.

"I've spent every Thanksgiving and Christmas in Charlotte from childhood to marriage," he said. "Been here a ton. Got a lot of ties to Quail Hollow - brother-in-law's father is a founding member here. We've spent a lot of time in Charlotte. My 93-year-old grandmother still lives here by herself."

The decision to live in Aiken was easy. "When I was playing the mini-tours and I was broke, that's the only place I could afford to buy a house and I went back there," he said. "I just love it. I have a core group of friends that we hang out with that don't pester me about golf and we hang out and have a couple beers on the back porch. That's what I love about it."

The closing stretch at Quail Hollow

punished D.A. Points on Friday. He was 5 under par, at the time just one shot off the lead, when he came to the 16th hole. Two holes and two double bogeys later, Points tumbled down the leaderboard.

On the 16th, he drove into the left rough and played out to far to the right, leaving him a bad angle. He hit wedge to 25 feet, but rolled the downhill putt about 6 feet by and missed that one coming back.

And then he headed to the par-3 17th, which played only 177 yards because of the front pin tucked over the bunker. "I was in between clubs," Points said. "I'm trying to chip a 7-iron and stopped on it and pulled it and it went in the water."

Even so, he's trying to remind himself this has been a good year. Points won the Puerto Rico Open to get a two-year exemption, and he has done well enough the rest of the season to make it back to the PGA Championship for the first time since 2013 at Oak Hill. — AP

## SPIETH: 'NOTHING TO LOSE' GOING FORWARD AT PGA

**CHARLOTTE:** Jordan Spieth all but conceded that his pursuit of the career Grand Slam will have to wait until next year. So he's approaching the final two rounds of the PGA Championship like he has nothing to lose.

Spieth shot a 2 over 73 on Friday to move to 3 over for the tournament but slipped 11 strokes behind the co-leaders when the second round was suspended due to darkness with some two dozen players still on the course. "I kind of accept the fact that I'm essentially out of this tournament, pending some form of crazy stuff the next couple of days," Spieth said. "But I'm sure going to give it a try."

Closer to the projected cut line of 5 over than to co-leaders Kevin Kisner and Hideki Matsuyama, Spieth joked that it would take a round of "probably 54" to get back in it before adding that he just wants to score "as low as I can go."

Three weeks after a late surge helped him win the British Open and claim the third leg of the career Grand Slam, the 24-year-old was trying to become the youngest player to have won all four major championships. After ending the first round five strokes off the lead, Spieth acknowledged he needed to close the gap during Round 2 to give himself a chance.

Instead, it more than doubled. A day after Spieth didn't make a putt longer than 5 feet on the new greens at Quail Hollow, he made only two from 10 feet or longer - a 10-footer for par on No. 7, and a 12-footer on the 12th for his only birdie of the round.

"Things were in just such tough locations that it was hard to get the ball to feed to the hole," Spieth said. "So it's a tough track where they're putting these flagsticks. It makes it tough to score. ... Just really did-

n't get many looks today, so with one birdie, it's going to be hard to post a solid round."

With the tricky greens softer and slower after a 1-hour, 45-minute rain delay, Spieth missed birdie putts of between 10 and 40 feet on three consecutive holes, Nos. 15-17. That came after he ran into trouble on the 10th. His drive on the par-5 10th sliced so far right that he had to drop in a patch of pine straw to take relief from a cart path. His shot from that position went straight across the fairway and into more pine straw on the left side. His next shot ricocheted off a tree and found yet more pine straw.

Then came an approach that hit the edge of the green but rolled back, a chip that he left short and finally an 8-foot putt for his second bogey of the round. He also bogeyed the par-4 18th after he sent his tee shot into a fairway bunker, then clipped the lip of the trap when he tried to escape and sent that shot left of the green and left his chip short, prompting him to take an extra swing of his wedge in frustration. He missed a 10-foot par putt and tapped in for bogey.

"It was definitely a lot more gettable after the rain delay than before, no doubt about it," Spieth said. "I played even par (actually 1 over) after the delay, and that's not very good in my opinion." One of the main subplots this week at Quail Hollow is Spieth's chase to become the sixth player with a career Grand Slam.

Unless he comes up with a colossal rally, Tiger Woods will remain the youngest player to complete the career Grand Slam. When Spieth tees it up next year at Bellerive, he will be about six months older than Woods was when he polished off his slam at the 2000 British Open.

"On to the weekend, to try to fire at stuff," Spieth said. "Nothing to lose." — AP

## PGA CHAMPIONSHIP TURNS INTO A TRACK MEET BEFORE DARK

**CHARLOTTE:** Jason Day remembers hustling to finish rounds of golf in the dark as a kid. He just never thought he would be doing it on the 18th hole of a major championship.

But the second round of the rain-delayed PGA Championship turned into a track meet as daylight turned to dusk with Day and playing partners Dustin Johnson and Henrik Stenson racing to their balls and playing "ready golf" so they could complete their round - and sleep in.

They managed to do it, even though they could barely see anything as they were coming up the 18th fairway. "Obviously to be able to finish and not have to wake up at 5:30 in the morning (to finish the round) is big," Day said.

Day has Johnson to thank for that - and he did just that with a big hug on the 18th fairway. With the sun setting fast, the three-some knew they had to get someone to tee off on No. 18 before the horn sounded. As long as one player tees off before the horn, the rest of the players in that group are allowed to finish by rule.

Johnson told the group, "I'll do it." He made his par putt on the 17th hole and then sprinted to the 18th tee and promptly knocked his tee shot down the middle. They could legally finish the round which was held up for 1 hour, 43 minutes by rain. Then it became a battle against darkness.

The group, which played so slow all day

and had been as much as a hole behind everyone else, hustled up the fairway and knocked their balls onto the green. While TV broadcaster Jim Nance commented that he was unable to see their white golf balls from his seat high above the green, the threesome was able to finish with the help of a giant illuminated scoreboard to the right of the 18th green.

"It was like playing under the lights which was kind of nice," Day said. "I looked at it on the screen and it was like we were playing in daylight. It was really odd." Somehow, all three players made par on the 18th, one of the most difficult closing holes in all of golf. "We all wanted to finish," Johnson said. "Walking on No. 17 we knew we were getting really close. I told them I will go putt and tee off and we will finish from there. None of us wanted to wake up at 5 and get ready and play one hole and then sit around and wait to tee off again. If you can get done it is definitely worth it to do it."

Johnson admitted it wasn't easy gathering himself after running to his ball. "I had to catch my breath for a second a few times," he said. Day said looking back he's glad they made the call to complete the round, but admitted, "thinking about it, if I went bogey, bogey I would be very devastated right now."

A similar scenario was taking place on the ninth hole with a group that included tournament contender Louis Oosthuizen. — AP



**CHARLOTTE:** Jason Day of Australia, warms up on the 11th hole during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club Friday, in Charlotte. —



Hideki Matsuyama

### GOLF

## KISNER, MATSUYAMA SHARE LEAD AT PGA AS WEEKEND STORMS LOOM

**CHARLOTTE:** Hideki Matsuyama and Kevin Kisner faced the toughest Quail Hollow had to offer and share the lead in the PGA Championship going into the weekend of the year's final major.

Odds are Quail Hollow won't be the same test the rest of the way. Clouds quickly gathered Saturday morning about the time some two dozen players were finishing the rain-delayed second round. Chris Stroud picked up a birdie on the par-5 seventh and completed another 3-under 68 to inch closer to the lead. He was two shots behind, along with Jason Day.

Scattered storms were expected the rest of the weekend. The change in the course was immediate after heavy rain halted play for nearly two hours Friday. Players were able to aim at flags, knowing the putting surfaces were soft enough that the ball wouldn't roll too far. Day spoke about being able to smash driver off the tee because it was less likely for the ball to bounce through the fairways and into the rough.

Now, it's a sprint to the finish. Kisner and Matsuyama, both leading a major for the first time, were at 8-under 134. Day and Stroud were two shots behind while Louis Oosthuizen and Francesco Molinari of Italy were three back.

Sixteen players remained under par. Jordan Spieth figured he was too far back to chase the final leg of the career Grand Slam this year. He didn't take advantage of the softened conditions and shot 73 to go into the weekend 11 shots behind.

Kisner had the hardest end of the draw, when the greens Thursday afternoon were as fast they have been all year and close to the same Friday morning. And while Matsuyama was in the better side of the draw, he did most of his damage before the storms arrived. The 25-year-old Japanese star already was 5 under for his round in tough conditions, and he added two birdies after the rain. He is simply playing some of his best golf. The cut was at 5-over 147 when the second round ended, and there was some drama. Bernd Wiesberger returned to complete three holes. He was at 5 over, right on the cut line, but facing the two easiest holes on the front nine of Quail Hollow. If he had finished his round at 4 over - that would have required one birdie and two pars - the cut would have gone to 4 over and eliminated Adam Scott, Charles Howell III and Kevin Chappell.

Wiesberger missed birdie chances, and then three-putted for bogey on the ninth hole from 50 feet. So not only did the Austrian fail to move the cut line, he wound up missing the cut with that bogey on his last hole.

It was his first missed cut around the world dating to last year's PGA Championship. And it gave new life to Scott, who will miss the next three weeks to be with his expectant wife. Scott is at No. 61 in the FedEx Cup on the PGA Tour. By the time he returns, he will have been eliminated from the playoffs and his season would be over. So the weekend at Quail Hollow at least gave him a chance to improve his standing. — AFP

### BOXING

## MCGREGOR HOLDS STRONG ON PREDICTION OF A KNOCKOUT

**LAS VEGAS:** Conor McGregor is convinced he will beat Floyd Mayweather on Aug 26, inside of four rounds. And if the Nevada Athletic Commission approves the fighters' request to use eight-ounce gloves, he said he will beat Mayweather in the first six minutes of the fight. "He'll be unconscious inside two rounds, really one round, only for the 10-second count I will give him maybe surviving into the second," said McGregor, who enters the boxing world with a 21-3 MMA record. "But if it's 10-ounce gloves, maybe four rounds. But under four rounds he'll be unconscious."

But if McGregor plans to fight the same way he worked out for the media on Friday at UFC's exquisite headquarters in southwest Las Vegas, Mayweather shouldn't have any problem improving to 50-0. The 29-year-old Irishman simulated a 12-round boxing match by dancing around punching bags for roughly 47 minutes, at times looking like an out-of-sync boxer with wide swings that left his guard down, awkward combinations and unnecessary shuffling. Other times he looked like an MMA fighter eager to charge his opponent, something he obviously can't do in a boxing match.

But with as much hype and promotion being thrown into the ring with both fighters, McGregor left plenty of intrigue and insists he didn't show half the boxing skills he honed has a youth in Ireland, simply teasing anyone in attendance and everyone else who may have tuned into any livestreaming on social media.

### HARD-WORKING FIGHTER

"I don't know how many times I've shocked the world, and I'm going to shock it once again," McGregor said. "It's not going to end well for Floyd."



**LAS VEGAS:** Conor McGregor has his hands wrapped before a media workout Friday, in Las Vegas. McGregor is scheduled to fight Floyd Mayweather Jr. in a boxing match Aug 26 in Las Vegas. — AP

It's not going to end well for all the people doubting me."

The 29-year-old Irishman insists nothing has changed in his training, other than the fact he can't use his legs or take his opponent to the ground, and he's the same hard-working fighter that won two Ultimate Fighting Championship titles. "I show up to the gym, I work hard, and through my hard work I gain my confidence - that's been the same since day one," said McGregor, the reigning UFC Lightweight Champion and former UFC Featherweight Champion. "The fundamentals are still there, I show up, I work hard."

While speculation is McGregor will be the aggressor early on, his gameplan and strategy remain a mystery since this will be his first professional boxing match. What hasn't been a mystery is the air of confidence he displays, combined with a clear disdain for his opponent that has him assured he will hand Mayweather his first professional loss.

"You can't prepare for me, you can't prepare for me, you can't prepare for the movement, you can't prepare for any of it," McGregor said. "He can sit here and watch this (workout), and I'm sure he has been watching that. Let him watch, let him try and study, but you cannot prepare for this. There is nobody in the game that moves like me, that strikes like me and that has the confidence like me."

"This is a fight that has been in my crosshairs since Floyd's been opening his mouth, simple as that. I see a beaten man in his eyes, in his body language, in everything he does. I'm going to knock him out bad, he's too small. I know he's fast, I know he's got good reflexes, I know he's experienced. I don't care. I hit you, you fall, and that's it. He will be unconscious." — AP



# PHILIPPE COUTINHO GOING NOWHERE: LIVERPOOL

**LONDON:** Liverpool insisted on Friday that Philippe Coutinho would not be sold at any price amid reports the Brazil star has submitted a transfer request in a bid to force a move to Barcelona.

Coutinho is Barcelona's top target to replace Neymar following the striker's world record move to Paris Saint-Germain. After having two previous offers rejected, the Spanish club are believed to have increased their bid for the Liverpool forward to £90 million (\$117 million, 99 million euros).

Liverpool are determined to hang onto Coutinho no matter what offer Barca make, but the 25-year-old is keen to move to the Camp Nou and reports on Friday claimed he tried to push his club into letting him leave by sending an email containing the official transfer request. Coutinho's demand is believed

to have been rejected by Liverpool, who only hours earlier had gone public with their intent to keep the playmaker at all costs. A statement issued by Fenway Sports Group, Liverpool's US-based owners, said: "We wish to offer clarity as regards our position on a possible transfer of Philippe Coutinho."

"The club's definitive stance is that no offers for Philippe will be considered and he will remain a member of Liverpool Football Club when the summer (transfer) window closes," FSG's statement was an endorsement of Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp's previous comments that Coutinho was not going anywhere. And the German boss, speaking at his pre-match press conference ahead of Liverpool's 2017/18 Premier League season opener away to Watford on Saturday, said: "I think if

somebody, in this case FSG, is saying something like this it is the statement."

"I think I have said it already a few times, but maybe that's not 100 percent clear," Liverpool launched their PR offensive at the same time as Sky Sports News reported a member of Coutinho's family had released a statement stating the player's case. "Philippe has tried very hard to find an amicable solution to this situation but to no avail," the statement read. "He has tremendous love for the club and its fans but, like Steven Gerrard and Luis Suarez have pointed out in the past, Liverpool does not let its players leave on amicable terms."

Coutinho, who joined Liverpool from Inter Milan for £8.5 million in 2013, signed a new five-year contract with the northwest side in January that did not include a buy-out clause.

Barcelona want Coutinho to replace Neymar following his compatriot's 222 million-euro transfer to PSG last week.

They had two previous bids rejected by the Premier League side but could yet come back with an offer in excess of £100 million. Barca believe Coutinho can step in for Neymar alongside Lionel Messi and former Liverpool favourite Luis Suarez in a star-studded front three, and could also provide cover for 33-year-old Andres Iniesta in midfield.

**Coutinho out of Watford opener**

Although five-time European champions, most recently in 2005, the last of Liverpool's 18 English league titles came in 1990 — before the start of the Premier League era.

Klopp, however, is determined to show he is serious about bringing back

the glory days to Anfield by retaining Coutinho, Liverpool's top scorer with 14 goals in all competitions last season when the Merseysiders finished fourth.

But Coutinho will be missing from the Watford match with a back problem that could also rule him out of the first leg of the Champions League play-off away to German club Hoffenheim on Tuesday. Asked if Coutinho would play at Vicarage Road on Saturday, Klopp replied: "No, he has back problems. He was not in training since last Friday. No he is not available, he is also a doubt for Tuesday, unfortunately."

Questioned on whether his job now was to keep Coutinho happy, Klopp added: "I can't keep players happy. That's how life is. It's not about this, Phil is not available for us, that's the biggest issue that he's not available to play." —AFP

## CRICKET

### LANKA SPINNERS PUT INDIA ON BACKFOOT AFTER DHAWAN TON

**PALLEKELE:** Shikhar Dhawan smashed a scintillating century for India, but Sri Lanka's spinners struck five times to leave the tourists on edge after the first day of the third Test yesterday. Malinda Pushpakumara took three wickets and Lakshan Sandakan two, leaving India on 329-6 at the close, with Wriddhiman Saha on 13 and Hardik Pandya on one.

Pushpakumara rattled the Indian top-order with his left-arm spin after a 188-run opening stand between Dhawan, who hit 119 in 123 balls, and Lokesh Rahul. Left-arm wrist spinner Sandakan's wickets included the prized scalp of Indian skipper Virat Kohli for 42.

"The Sri Lankan bowlers bowled well and pulled the match a little bit on their side," Dhawan, who celebrated his sixth Test century, told reporters. "We got a good start and still feel at the end of the day, 329 is a good score. Those (who) are batting now are capable of scoring big runs," said Dhawan, adding India are looking to get 400 and more.

The left-right opening batting team of Dhawan and Rahul, who made 85, took India through the first session against a hapless Sri Lankan bowling attack. Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal then rotated his spinners in the second session and India lost three top batsmen in just 11 overs. The 30-year-old Pushpakumara, who made his Test debut in the second Test in Colombo, removed the openers to bring the hosts back into the contest.

**RAHUL IN ELITE COMPANY**

Rahul, who scored his seventh consecutive Test fifty, mistimed a drive to mid-on and Dhawan soon followed his partner to the pavilion. Rahul joined Everton Weekes, Andy Flower, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Kumar Sangakkara and Chris Rogers on the list of batsmen who have made seven consecutive 50-plus scores in Tests.

Kohli tried to stem the rot during a 84-ball innings, ended when he edged a Sandakan delivery to slip. Kohli and India toiled in the last session. The innings run-rate plummeted from around five in the morning session to 2.76 after tea. "It's not easy to score runs out there and even outfield is not that quick. When Sri Lanka come out to bat, we are going to make sure that we squeeze them hard," said Dhawan.

Pace spearhead Vishwa Fernando chipped in with the wicket of Ravichandran Ashwin, who was caught behind after a hard-working 31.

"The bowlers came and bowled pretty well. Especially the spinners. We let them to 320 (329) for the first day. I'm really, really happy with the spinners," Sri Lanka's fast bowling consultant Chaminda Vaas said. "At the end, the way Vishwa bowled in the last two spells was also good. I think the way he's going he has a future and potential," added the former paceman.

India elected to bat first as they eye a series sweep after taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in Colombo. — AFP



**LONDON:** Teams make a baton handover during a heat of the Women's 4x400m relay during the World Athletics Championships in London yesterday. —AP

## ATHLETICS

### BOLT GETS JAMAICA INTO RELAY FINAL FOR GRAND FAREWELL

**LONDON:** Usain Bolt set the stage for his grand farewell, powering down the finishing straight yesterday to qualify Jamaica for the 4x100-meter relay final at the world championships. Fittingly, he will face Justin Gatlin and the United States in the final chapter of his unparalleled career.

Both nations won their heats early Saturday, though the US relay squad got the baton around with more aplomb than Jamaica, which had to rely on Bolt to clinch victory. And Bolt relished the adulation at the 60,000-capacity Olympic Stadium. "They've been outstanding so far, and continue to surprise me and give me energy," Bolt said.

For the best part of the past decade, though, Bolt has been 100 percent reliable in getting relay gold for the island nation. The last time Jamaica lost a world championship final was in Bolt's rookie year in 2007, when he ran the second leg and only took silver behind the Americans.

Ever since, Bolt has flaunted his power at the end of every major championship, getting the third gold medal for himself and sometimes another world record for Jamaica. This year, however, he only got bronze in the 100 behind Gatlin. And the result in the relay is no longer a foregone conclusion. The United States, with Gatlin running the second leg, won the first heat in a world leading time of 37.70 seconds. The Americans beat Britain and Japan, both of which also qualified.

"My team did a great job," said Gatlin, the oldest of the squad at 35. "They're thinking and acting like veterans and I'm proud of them." Christian Coleman took silver in the 100 ahead of Bolt and it gave the U.S. team an added boost.

"Having the gold and silver medal on the same relay team, which hasn't been done in a long time, it gives us kind of a confidence booster that the speed can get around the track," Gatlin said. Bolt stepped out on the track for the second heat, and the Jamaicans needed him. Trailing when he got the baton on the anchor leg, Bolt powered away, quickly swept past his rivals and had time to look to his right before crossing in 37.95 seconds.

Still, Bolt was supportive of his young teammates. "They came out here and did the job we wanted them to do, and that's to get us to the finals. They executed and ran well for a young team," Bolt said. "Over the years, this will be the team bringing in the goods."

In the women's heats, both nations are also through. Allyson Felix stayed in line to become the athlete with the most medals in world championships history when she helped the American relay team qualify. Running the second leg, Felix and her teammates crossed first in a season's leading time of 41.84 seconds, beating Britain and Switzerland. They also advanced to the final.

In the second heat, Germany beat two-time defending champion Jamaica to qualify along with Brazil. The Netherlands, with 200-meter champion Dafne Schippers running the second leg, qualified on time. Felix has won 14 medals at the world championships and can move up to 16 if she runs the 4x400 relay and the United States wins medals in both events.

In the decathlon, two-time world champion Trey Hardee of the United States hit the third hurdle and clattered into the next one during the 110-meter hurdles to end his medal chances. In the first of five events on the final day of the two-day competition, Kevin Mayer of France set a third personal record to easily stay atop the standings with 5,485 points. Rico Freimuth of Germany was in second place with 5,377 points, while Damian Warner of Canada had the fastest time in the hurdles of 13.63 seconds to move into third. —AP



**LONDON:** Jamaica's Usain Bolt anchors the Men's 4x100m relay team to win a heat during the World Athletics Championships in London yesterday. —AP

### ROMELU LUKAKU SIZES UP FAVOURED PREY WEST HAM

**LONDON:** Romelu Lukaku's remarkable scoring record against West Ham United means he will expect to hit the ground running when he makes his Premier League debut for Manchester United today.

The Belgium international, 24, scored nine goals in his first nine appearances against West Ham for former team Everton before the east London club finally kept him at bay in a 0-0 draw last April. Lukaku scored a consolation goal as United lost 2-1 to Real Madrid in the UEFA Super Cup in the Macedonian capital Skopje on Tuesday and his team-mates have been impressed by what they have seen in pre-season.

"Lukaku has done a great job with the clubs that he has been at," said United right-back Antonio Valencia. "I am a kid next to Romelu. He truly is strong. I have seen him work on the field and in the gym."

"It's truly incredible to see his strength, power and the intelligence he possesses. We hope it is a good year for him and the team." Lukaku, a £75 million (\$97.3 million, 82.4 million euros) capture from Everton, could be one of three players making league debuts for United today along with Victor Lindelof and Nemanja Matic.

United manager Jose Mourinho used a conservative 5-3-1-1 system against Real Madrid, but is likely to be bolder against West Ham, who have not won at Old Trafford in 10 years. Mourinho has no new injury concerns, with Marcos Rojo, Luke Shaw and Ashley Young his only long-term absentees. Defenders Eric Bailly and Phil Jones return to contention after sitting out the Super Cup through suspension.

Having led United to League Cup and Europa League glory last season, Mourinho's challenge for the new campaign is to turn them into title contenders.

#### 'CHICHARITO' RETURN

"The Premier League is what you all know," Mourinho said on Friday. "I'd say seven teams to fight for the title and 20 teams to fight for the victory every weekend, every match."

"The club are also what you know. We are involved in four competitions and step by step, match after match, we are going to fight." United trailed home in sixth place last season, 24 points below champions Chelsea, and have finished in the top four just once since Alex Ferguson retired as manager in 2013.

Javier Hernandez was there as the rot set in under David Moyes and he will make his Old Trafford return on Sunday after joining West Ham from Bayer Leverkusen in a £16 million deal. The 29-year-old Mexican, known as 'Chicharito' (Little Pea), was a crowd favourite during his five years at United, scoring 59 goals for the club and playing a part in two league title successes.

He admits it will be a strange experience to line up at his old stomping ground in the colours of a different team, but says he will not allow sentiment to cloud his focus. "It's my old club with my old fans and my old stadium, so probably I cannot celebrate," he said.

"But as well it would be my first goal with my comeback with a club that has a lot of confidence in me." West Ham manager Slaven Bilic has reshaped his squad extensively since last season's 11th-place finish.

Former Manchester City pair Joe Hart and Pablo Zabaleta and star signing Marko Arnautovic, a £20 million recruit from Stoke City, could all make their competitive debuts on Sunday. Left-back Aaron Cresswell and captain Mark Noble are expected to shake off injuries, but Cheikhou Kouyate, Manuel Lanzini, Michail Antonio, Andy Carroll and Diafra Sakho are all sidelined. —AFP

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day in the third and final Test between Sri Lanka and India yesterday in Pallekele, Sri Lanka.			
<b>India 1st innings</b>		Total (for 6 wickets, 90 overs)	329
S. Dhawan c Chandimal b Pushpakumara	119	Fall of wickets: 1-188 L. Rahul, 2-219 S. Dhawan, 3-229 C. Pujara, 4-264 A. Rahane, 5-296 V. Kohli, 6-322 R. Ashwin	
L. Rahul c Karunaratne b Pushpakumara	85	To bat: K. Yadav, M. Shami, U. Yadav	
C. Pujara c Mathews b Sandakan	8	Bowling: Vishwa Fernando 19-2-68-1 (nb-1), Lahiru Kumara 15-1-67-0, Dimuth Karunaratne 5-0-23-0, Dilruwan Perera 8-1-36-0 (nb-1), Lakshan Sandakan 25-2-84-2, Malinda Pushpakumara 18-2-40-3.	
V. Kohli c Karunaratne b Sandakan	42		
A. Rahane b Pushpakumara	17		
R. Ashwin c Dickwell b V. Fernando	31		
W. Saha not out	13		
H. Pandya not out	1		
Extras (b-6 lb-5 nb-2)	13		



**PALLEKELE:** India's Shikhar Dhawan, left, plays a shot during the first day's play of their third cricket Test match against Sri Lanka in Pallekele, Sri Lanka, yesterday. — AP

### NTCHAM OFF THE MARK AS CELTIC DOWN PARTICK

**GLASGOW:** Olivier Ntcham's first goal for Celtic was enough to give the Scottish champions a 1-0 win over Partick Thistle at Firhill on Friday. French midfielder Ntcham, signed from Manchester City in the summer, grabbed the only goal of the match in the 26th minute as Brendan Rodgers' side made it two wins out of two in the Scottish Premiership.

It was the perfect preparation for Celtic, who are now unbeaten in 51 games domestically, ahead of their Champions League play-off first leg against Kazakhstan side Astana at Parkhead next Wednesday.

"We had a lot of control of the ball and created chances but didn't really have a finishing touch tonight," Rodgers said. "We'll play better, but hopefully tonight's a game we'll look back on towards the end of the season and see it as an important three points."

Thistle, who were controversially denied a late penalty claim, slip to the bottom of the

table on goal difference. Partick manager Alan Archibald had no doubts his side should have had a spot-kick. "It is a foul anywhere else on the pitch. It's a big call in the last minute of a game against Celtic and you don't tend to get them," Archibald said.

"I was disappointed to lose a goal from a set play but credit to the guys as they hung in there." As expected, Celtic made wholesale changes from the inexperienced side that thrashed Kilmarnock in the League Cup, with only Craig Gordon, Kieran Tierney and Jonny Hayes retaining their places. The changes didn't seem to disrupt the Glasgow club, who dominated from the start and missed a couple of early chances. Despite deputising in the centre of defence because of injuries, Israeli international Nir Bitton wasn't slow in getting forward and the midfielder forced Tomas Cerny to push his curling free-kick round the post after he lifted it over the wall. —AFP



# Sports

McGregor holds strong on prediction of a knockout



Bolt gets Jamaica into relay final for grand farewell



SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

## HICKS HITS LATE 2-RUN HOMER TO LIFT YANKEES

Page 13



LONDON: Burnley's Stephen Ward (left) celebrates scoring a goal during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Burnley at Stamford Bridge stadium yesterday. — AP

# BURNLEY STUN NINE-MAN CHELSEA

	Chelsea	2
	Burnley	3

LONDON: Champions Chelsea had Gary Cahill and Cesc Fabregas sent off as the defence of their Premier League title began with a stunning 3-2 home defeat by Burnley on Saturday. Disjointed and embarrassed in the first half, Chelsea threatened to mount the most unlikely of comebacks in a stirring second-half display, but just failed to overcome their numerical disadvantage.

Sam Vokes was Burnley's match-winner with a

brace and Alvaro Morata's lively Chelsea debut - a goal and an assist for David Luiz - came in vain. Chelsea manager Antonio Conte's bleak afternoon began in the 14th minute when new club captain Cahill was shown his first red card in five seasons. Attempting to dribble forward, Cahill saw the ball run away from him and tried to block Steven Defour's clearance. Instead, his studs caught the Belgium midfielder on the shin and while it was accidental, it was also reckless and referee Craig Pawson immediately brandished the red card. The composure of the Chelsea players disappeared for the remainder of a half that will not be quickly forgotten. Fabregas was booked for sarcastically applauding Pawson's decision to give a free-kick against him and much worse was to follow.

That was due in part to the belief that Burnley now possess, having retained their Premier League

status last season. The visitors were also assisted by disarray in the Chelsea defence in spite of the introduction of Andreas Christensen to replace unfortunate debutant Jeremie Boga. Without Cahill to guide him through his defensive duties, Luiz lapsed into carelessness.

### ECHOES OF MOURINHO

He ought to have been closer to Burnley striker Vokes when Matthew Lowton curled in a 24th minute cross, but the Welshman was given space to clip a volley off Luiz's heels and past Thibaut Courtois. Six minutes before half-time, left-back Stephen Ward made it 2-0 in stunning fashion. Ignoring the obvious opportunity to launch a cross into the Chelsea area, the visitors played a free-kick short. After a one-two with the excellent Jack Cork, Ward strode onto the return pass and let fly with a

rasping left-foot shot that flew into the top-right corner. It took 40 minutes before Luiz launched Chelsea's first shot in anger high over the bar. While that was speculative, Burnley were being clinical. They chose to play another free-kick short in the 43rd minute. This time it was Defour who curled the ball into the area. Vokes drifted away from the static Luiz and powered home a header that gave Courtois no chance.

Stamford Bridge was stunned. The Chelsea supporters vented their anger towards referee Pawson, while the delirious Burnley fans sang: "We are top of the league!" It is only one game, yet the parallels with Chelsea's last defence of a Premier League title two seasons ago under Jose Mourinho were uncanny. Not least because Willian stood up as the only player with any heart for the first hour.

After N'Golo Kante had seen a shot deflected

onto the roof of the net in first-half stoppage time and Marcos Alonso had been denied by Tom Heaton, Willian began to haul Chelsea back into the contest. The Brazilian curled an exquisite 69th-minute cross into space behind the Burnley defence and substitute Morata stooped to guide a diving header past Heaton, just nine minutes after coming on. Had Morata not touched a goal-bound Christensen shot over the line five minutes later, it would have been 3-2 sooner. But the offside flag was raised. All seemed lost when Fabregas earned a second yellow card for lunging in on Cork nine minutes from time. That was until Luiz sprinted onto Morata's pass and volleyed in to bring the nine men to within a goal of Burnley. A frantic finish saw Burnley's Robbie Brady strike the post with a free-kick, while Chelsea's pressure just failed to bring an equalizer. — AP

## BRITOS LATE SHOW DENIES LIVERPOOL WINNING START

	Watford	3
	Liverpool	3

WATFORD: Miguel Britos added to Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp's frustrations with an added-time equaliser that ensured Watford salvaged a point following a 3-3 draw at Vicarage Road yesterday.

Klopp had spent the previous 24 hours handling the fall-out from Philippe Coutinho's transfer request after the club rejected Barcelona's £90 million (\$117.1 million, 99 million euros) bid for the Brazil playmaker.

Liverpool remain adamant Coutinho will not leave and it looked like Klopp might find relief from the saga when debutant Mohamed Salah gave the visitors the lead after they had twice come from behind. Sadio Mane's 29th-minute effort had cancelled out Stefano Okaka's eighth-minute header, only for Abdoulaye Doucoure to immediately restore the home side's lead.

Liverpool, who were without Coutinho, were back level in the 55th minute through Roberto Firmino's penalty. But with Salah's 57th-minute goal looking as though it would be decisive, Britos bundled the ball home deep in stoppage time after Simon Mignolet had pushed Richarlison's shot against the bar.

For all the close-season transfer dealings, both starting line-ups carried a familiar look, with Nathaniel Chalobah the home side's only new face and Salah the lone Liverpool debutant.

For Klopp's side, it appeared to be a case of same old faces, same old problems, as they allowed Watford to twice take the initiative during the first half on the back of defensive errors.

The opening goal was certainly one to frustrate Klopp as Okaka took full advantage of Liverpool's lack of organisation as they failed to defend Jose Holebas's corner. Roberto Pereyra had broken threateningly after being sent clear by Okaka and was unfortunate to see his shot deflected wide off Dejan Lovren following a twisting run that had opened up

the visitors' defence.

Holebas swung in the resulting corner towards the near post, where it was headed home by Okaka, who had been allowed to advance unchecked, with Roberto Firmino in particular guilty of failing to react.

It was the perfect start for Watford manager Marco Silva, but for Klopp it was an early reminder of the problems that need to be eradicated if Liverpool are to prove genuine title contenders. The other side of Liverpool was demonstrated 21 minutes later when Mane levelled in spectacular fashion.

### FIRMINO FLICK

The Senegalese forward, who started the game on the left, picked up the ball on the right and worked his way across the pitch before exchanging passes with Alberto Moreno.

Moreno played the ball in to Emre Can, whose flick set up Mane for a precise finish.

It was an incisive breakthrough, but the good work was almost immediately undone when Watford made their way too easily down the right-hand flank in the build-up to Doucoure's goal.

Doucoure was at the heart of the move, releasing Tom Cleverley, whose low cross was met with an attempted clearance by Trent Alexander-Arnold.

But the ball ricocheted off team-mate Joel Matip's back, allowing Doucoure to add the home side's second. Once again Liverpool had been responsible for their own plight, although Watford's positive approach was unsettling Klopp's side.

The visitors' response in the second half confirmed the attacking strengths of this Liverpool side.

Within 10 minutes of the restart, the Reds were back level after a superb flick by Firmino sent Salah clear. The winger was brought down by Heurelho Gomes as he attempted to round the goalkeeper and Firmino finished from the penalty spot.

Three minutes later, Firmino again produced a moment of exceptional skill as he made up for his error on the opening goal.

The striker brought down Moreno's floated pass before lifting the ball over the advancing Gomes and Salah ensured the chance was not wasted by bundling home from close range.

Liverpool's victory looked assured, only for Britos to reward Watford's persistence at the death. — AFP

## THRILLING EPL START AS ARSENAL EDGES LEICESTER

	Arsenal	4
	Leicester	3

LONDON: The Premier League made a thrilling return, and Arsenal finally had something to celebrate on the opening weekend. It took the arrival of Aaron Ramsey and Olivier Giroud from the bench in the second half to turn it around against Leicester and give Arsenal only its second opening-day victory in eight seasons.

In the league's first Friday night start, Arsene Wenger's side was trailing 3-2 with seven minutes remaining but Ramsey grabbed the equalizer and Giroud headed in an 85th-minute winner. "We kept going and the spirit of the team was absolutely out-

standing," Wenger said. "If you look at that from a neutral point, for a first game it was a top quality game."

"You want the Premier League to be the best league in the world and I think it has to produce these kind of games to produce interest and quality." Even if the thrilling attacks were aided by such fragile defending.

Arsenal record-signing Alexandre Lacazette launched his English league career in style by heading in the opener after 94 seconds. A predictable Arsenal implosion followed, with Shinji Okazaki and Jamie Vardy putting Leicester in front. Even after Danny Welbeck leveled on the stroke of halftime, Vardy restored Leicester's lead after the break. Leicester was heading for something it didn't even achieve in its astonishing 2015-16 title-winning campaign: a win at Arsenal.

"We saw it though for 83 minutes," Leicester manager Craig Shakespeare said, "and to concede two late set-plays in the manner we did is obviously hard to take." Instead,



LONDON: Arsenal's Olivier Giroud controls the ball during their English Premier League match between Arsenal and Leicester City at the Emirates stadium on Friday. — AP

Wenger avoided a third consecutive season-opening loss at the start of his new two year contract. The Frenchman will be hoping it's a sign of changing fortunes after a season when he reached his nadir. Although Arsenal signed off in May by lifting the FA Cup, a fifth-place finish ensured the north London club failed to qualify for the Champions League for the first time in two decades.

This was the perfect lift-off for Arsenal, particularly for Lacazette. The first touch from the 60 million euros (\$68 million) signing was at kickoff. His second was to meet Mohamed Elneny's cross with a powerful header past goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel. Lacazette, recruited from Lyon, savored the moment, opening his arms out wide to take in the acclamation of his new home. Arsenal's defense, though, was still on its summer break. Just 160 seconds after Lacazette scored, Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech was picking the ball out of his net. Harry Maguire nodded Marc Albrighton's cross back into the path of Okazaki who headed Leicester level.

Before completing a half-hour of the season, Arsenal was trailing. Again, Albrighton was the architect, afforded far too much space to rampage down the left flank before crossing low for Vardy to turn the ball into the net.

How quickly optimism faded as Arsenal's enduring defensive flaws were exposed so soon. There was a lifeline for Wenger before halftime when Welbeck met Sead Kolasinac's cross to tap in an equalizer.

Leicester, however, was back in front 11 minutes into the second half. Cech initially tipped over Riyad Mahrez's shot but the latter turned provider from the resulting corner. The defense failed to check Vardy ghosting into the penalty area and the striker was unmarked as he nodded in the corner.

"We're top of the league," Leicester fans chanted for the first time since May 2016 when their club was in possession of a Premier League trophy that Arsenal has not lifted since 2004. — AP







# JOB APPLICATIONS: HOW MANY IS TOO MANY?

## Bayt.com weekly report

It not news that the job market is quite competitive. Competition always exists. Perhaps it varies by region or industry, but there are often hundreds of candidates competing for one position at a time. At Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site, we recommend job seekers to be as active as possible when it comes to their CVs, profiles, and all other elements that contribute to a successful job application. Job seekers also need to pay attention to the relevance of their CV to every job they apply for. They need to make sure they are actually qualified in order to catch the employer's attention.

But in face of the tough competition and the various requirements that employers set in place, job seekers often ask: how many jobs do I need to apply for? Is two enough? Five? 10? 100?

Simply put, there is no magic number. Some job seekers apply for tens or hundreds of jobs before landing that opportunity that suits their needs. Others find their ideal position fairly quickly. It really depends on many different elements that we will discuss below.

But keep in mind that you shouldn't be thinking in terms of numbers anyway. Instead, think about progress, learning, and goal attainment. Every job

application is a learning experience. Every interview is a round of practice. Every day as a job seekers is a full time job of planning and strategizing and growing professionally. Here are some questions, however, that you should ask yourself if you are uncertain about your job search efforts.

### Are you doing enough?

Most of the time when job seekers have doubts about how many jobs they should apply for, it is because they feel that they are not putting in enough effort. If you ever feel this way, then the answer is prepare more and apply for more opportunities. Being a job seeker is not simply clicking a button. It is about researching, reading, writing, improving, networking, consulting, and trying. In order to have a successful job application, you need to put in your 100% and be certain that you did that for every single job application.

### Are you pursuing many paths?

Maybe you are a fresh graduate who is willing to explore different career paths. Or maybe you have many passions and skills that you want to put to use. Or maybe you want to compare and contrast to

make a long-term career transition. Whatever you exact reasoning is, if you have the need to explore more, then you already know that you will be applying for more career opportunities than the average Joe. But keep in mind that your CV and application must be customized and targeted for the respective industry and job role. You can't send a generic application and expect it to be successful.

### Are you stand-out applicant?

Being a stand-out job applicant depends on two things: 1) how competitive the particular industry and company is and 2) how unique and valuable your skills are. Let's say you are applying for a sales position in one of the most well-known technology companies in your country. The chances are, hundreds (or even thousands) of other candidates are also in the competition pool with you. This is when you know that you need to pursue more opportunities and be more active as a job seeker.

On the other hand, let's suppose you are a senior product manager with 10+ years of experience and is seeking to join the newly launched software development company. In this scenario, you will probably face less competition and will easily stand out due to

your extensive experience. This where you are more likely to be selective with your choices and applications. Nonetheless, you will still give each application 100% of your effort and preparation.

### Are you applying blindly?

One thing you absolutely have to pay attention to and avoid is being a "blind applicant." Remember: more is not always better. Don't be tempted to go on a spree, applying for jobs left and right with little to no attention to the specific requirements and details of each position. This is unwise and is simply a waste of your time and that of the employer.

Luckily, online job sites such as Bayt.com will notify you of jobs that you don't qualify for and will also show you your relevance score to each job you submit an application for. This way you can be more thorough and strategic with your applications.

At the end of the day, remember to be active, persistent, and well-informed. Know that it is not about the number of applications you submit, but about your effort, dedication, and progress. Giving 100 percent effort to the five applications you send is much better than 5 percent effort to 100 applications.

# NAFTA TALKS COULD MARK END OF ERA FOR MEXICAN EXPORTS

## TRUMP PUSHES TO RENEGOTIATE TRADE DEAL

**MEXICO CITY:** President Donald Trump's push to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement is putting Mexico in a tough spot, threatening the system that has helped turn the country into a top exporter through low wages, lax regulations and proximity to the United States.

With talks set to start on Aug. 16, the Trump administration is targeting the massive US trade deficit with its southern neighbor and the weakly enforced labor, environmental and manufacturing rules that for 23 years have drawn American assembly plants to Mexico and launched a flood of televisions, cars and appliances across the border.

"Mexico was resting on its merits and has been in a comfort zone, and now we have to leave it," Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo told a business group recently. "The alarm clock has rung for us to wake up." A key draw for foreign assembly plants and investment has been Mexico's low wages. While average manufacturing wages in China had risen to \$3.60 per hour by 2016, Mexico's had shrunk to \$2.10 - a level some economists say is artificially low. With many workers unable to afford the vehicles Mexico produces, the country exports about three times as many cars as are purchased domestically, most to the United States.

"It is a very serious problem," Alex Covarrubias, a labor professor at Mexico's Sonora College, said of the country's wage policy. "Almost all the (labor) contracts that are signed in Mexico are unlawful, which means that they are company contracts, which the workers aren't aware of." The Trump administration is pressing to bring labor and environmental regulations - originally contained in weakly enforced "sidebar" agreements - into the main body of NAFTA's text, and to require that Mexico's government ensures the "effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining."

### Labor laws

Tightening Mexico's labor laws and strengthening unionization could push wages up, or at least stem the flight of jobs to Mexico, experts say. Guajardo said Mexico is willing to negotiate labor and environmental issues as part of the talks to be held in Washington. "I think it would be progress, to guarantee that the benefits of the agreement are shared among all."

Guajardo appeared to be similarly flexible about making "fine adjustments" to the rules-of-origin in manufacturing, which dictate how much regional content would be required to consider a product "made in North America." Critics have accused Mexico of importing a lot of Chinese or European components, assembling them and labeling them made in North America.

But Guajardo is less convinced by what he calls the Trump administration's "extreme preoccupation" with reducing trade deficits - one of the



**HAMBURG:** In this July 7, 2017 file photo, US President Donald Trump meets with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto at the G20 Summit, in Hamburg. Trump's push to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement is putting Mexico in a tough spot, threatening the system that has helped turn the country into a top exporter through low wages, lax regulations and proximity to the United States. —AP

issues that make Mexican officials bristle. "Since NAFTA was implemented in 1994, the US bilateral goods trade balance with Mexico has gone from a \$1.3 billion surplus to a \$64 billion deficit in 2016," the US Trade Representative's Office said in unveiling its plans for renegotiating the accord. "The negotiating objectives also include adding a digital economy chapter and incorporating and strengthening labor and environment obligations that are currently in NAFTA side agreements." Mexico's CIBanco bank said in a report that most of this deficit is in the auto sector and it could be the main sticking point in the talks.

"The US demands to use the talks to improve its trade balance with NAFTA partners represent the biggest threat to reaching an accord," it said.

Mexico, in turn, wants the redone agreement to include immigration issues while changing as little as possible in trade policy. It appears to want a better guest-worker program. But US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said this was not an area "that would be involved in NAFTA negotiations."

On the whole, it appears Mexico wants to change as little as possible. Covarrubias, who studies the auto industry and attended some of the consultation sessions in Mexico on NAFTA renegotiation, said he was "very disappointed" to see that the position of Mexico's government and power groups was "we don't want to change a single comma." "They're just reacting, waiting to see what the Trump administration says, but

they don't have anything proactive, any proposal," Covarrubias said. One change sought by the U.S. is expected to be another thorny issue. NAFTA's Article 19 set up a trade-dispute resolution mechanism that allows binational panels of private experts to decide differences over tariffs.

Canada has vowed to defend the panels, and in Mexico there is pressure not to go back to national courts to resolve disputes, probably because both countries fear it would allow the U.S. to throw its greater weight around.

All of this comes under a deadline: Mexico wants the talks wrapped up before its presidential election season opens up in 2018, because the government fears any concession would become a political football for leftist front-runner Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

That's a point where Mexico is almost certain to be disappointed, said ex-US Ambassador to Mexico Antonio Garza. "I think it's certainly aspirational to talk about the end of the year, beginning of (2018), but I think it's far more realistic to be looking at the end of 2018 maybe even early 2019," Garza said. Some are more optimistic about the talks to retool NAFTA, which was signed before the latest tech boom, Mexico's opening of its oil industry and Trump's calls to build a wall between the countries. "One should never let a good crisis go to waste," said Mexico's former ambassador to the US, Arturo Sarukhan, adding the talks provide an opportunity to modernize NAFTA. — AP

# INVESTORS PONDER FURTHER SHOCKS AFTER N KOREA JOLT

**LONDON:** After this week's war of words between the United States and North Korea triggered the biggest fall in global stocks since the US presidential election, investors are wondering what other off-radar shocks may be waiting to rock world markets. Although there is little sign so far that investors are protecting themselves against a major sell-off, some say the current environment masks latent risks.

"Every day, our risk models tell us to take more risk because of falling volatility but with markets being where they are, we have to be very careful in not following them blindly," said James Kwok, head of currency management at Amundi in London. "So we try to project scenarios on what can go wrong and where are markets not looking." Such has been the extraordinary period of stability in financial markets in recent years that world stocks have hit a series of record highs while gauges of broad market volatility have plunged to record lows.

That benign investment environment has been fostered by central banks which have pumped vast sums of cash into economies since the global financial crisis that began a decade ago, lifting asset prices globally. Flows into most asset classes have already overtaken peaks reached before the financial crisis.

For example, inflows into active and passive equity funds have nearly doubled to \$10.9 trillion at the end of June 2017 from a September 2007 peak, according to Thomson Reuters Lipper data. Inflows into bonds have meanwhile increased nearly three-fold to \$4.1 trillion in that period.

Broad market gauges of risk, such as the CBOE Volatility Index, better known as the VIX, and its bond market counterpart, the Merrill Lynch Option volatility index remain pinned near record lows despite a spike this week.

But analysts say low market volatility masks the heavy weight of options written on these gauges by investment banks betting that the calm conditions will persist for a long time.

That has been accompanied by the growing popularity of inverse-volatility ETF products, which have doubled in value this year as market volatility has cratered. Morgan Stanley strategists say the volume of bets on volatility remaining low means even a small increase in price swings could force some of these leveraged bets to unwind, triggering shock waves in the financial system and sending stock markets tumbling.

Daily percentage changes are important in the volatility world because a lot of these exchange-listed products and

notes are rebalanced daily based on these changes, so that any large change would automatically trigger selling pressure elsewhere.

"This is why lower volatility creates higher risk," said Christopher Metli, a Morgan Stanley quantitative derivatives strategist in a recent note. He estimates that a 12 point rise in the VIX could send the S&P 500 index down by 3.5 percent. A move of that magnitude was last seen after Britain's shock Brexit vote in June 2016.

But a spike in volatility is not the only scenario worrying investors. Other risks markets may be ignoring include the implications of a messy British exit from the European Union and the risks that the Qatar crisis could spiral out of control in the Middle East and hit oil prices. Even the prospect of a new comer at top of the U.S. Federal Reserve when Janet Yellen steps down in 2018 could prove unnerving.

### low volatility

"Today's low volatility is the calm before the storm and doesn't reflect the real world in which companies are operating, or the major uncertainties that are developing," said Paul Hodges, chairman at International eChem, a consultancy.

Another variable is the expectation that central banks will soon start unwinding their massive post-crisis stimulus measures, with unpredictable results. One of the biggest risks seen lurking is the rise and growing influence on the world's stock markets of passive funds, which aim to track rather than beat benchmarks and charge lower fees than their more actively-managed peers.

The proportion of stocks on the main US benchmark equity index that are now owned by such passive investors has nearly doubled since the 2008 crisis to 37 percent. But redemption pressures on large passive investors could exacerbate any market selloff. Apple Inc, a stock market darling, has a fifth of its outstanding stock held by index funds with Vanguard, BlackRock and State Street making up the top three holders, according to latest Thomson Reuters data.

The head of sales of a large British-based bond fund said some of its clients are trying to put together pools of money with which to snap up beaten-down stocks if a large emerging market-focused ETF is faced with sudden redemption pressures.

"We get a lot of queries on what are some of the risks that markets may be overlooking, and that is what keeps us up at night," he said. — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.759
Indian Rupees	4.746
Pakistani Rupees	2.870
Srilankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.981
Singapore Dollar	223.020
Hongkong Dollar	38.695
Bangladesh Taka	3.737
Philippine Peso	5.988
Thai Baht	9.127

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.787
Qatari Riyal	83.207
Omani Riyal	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.482

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.200
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.972
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	127.210
Jordanian Dinar	427.490
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.159
Morocco Dirham	32.414

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	356.940
Sterling Pound	395.540
Canadian dollar	239.710
Turkish lira	85.890

Swiss Franc	316.020
Australian Dollar	240.230
US Dollar Buying	301.550

#### GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

#### Rate for Transfr

	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.400
Canadian Dollar	238.945
Sterling Pound	394.050
Euro	356.520
Swiss Frank	294.450
Bahrain Dinar	802.065
UAE Dirhams	82.725
Qatari Riyals	83.945
Saudi Riyals	81.535
Jordanian Dinar	426.430
Egyptian Pound	17.029
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.973
Indian Rupees	4.744
Pakistani Rupees	2.869
Bangladesh Taka	3.738
Philippines Peso	5.970
Cyprus pound	166.890
Japanese Yen	3.750
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.974
Malaysian Ringgit	71.400

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.645
Thai Bhat	10.080
Turkish Lira	86.055

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

#### CURRENCY

	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.386197	0.396197
Czech Korune	0.005562	0.017562
Danish Krone	0.043659	0.048659
Euro	0.349637	0.358637
Norwegian Krone	0.033856	0.039056
Romanian Leu	0.077712	0.077712
Slovakia	0.009023	0.019023
Swedish Krona	0.032899	0.037899
Swiss Franc	0.306164	0.317164

Australian Dollar	0.230046	0.242046
New Zealand Dollar	0.214874	0.224374

Canadian Dollar	0.232975	0.241975
Georgina Lari	0.125021	0.125021
US Dollars	0.298650	0.303070
US Dollars Mint	0.299150	0.303070

Bangladesh Taka	0.003321	0.003905
Chinese Yuan	0.043717	0.047217
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036652	0.039402

Indian Rupee	0.004221	0.004909
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002667	0.002847
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067407	0.073407
Nepalese Rupee	0.002991	0.003161
Pakistan Rupee	0.002624	0.002914
Philippine Peso	0.005894	0.006194
Singapore Dollar	0.216485	0.226485
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001598	0.002178
Taiwan	0.009886	0.010066
Thai Baht	0.008737	0.009287

Bahraini Dinar	0.796057	0.804557
Egyptian Pound	0.015566	0.021474
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.422401	0.431401
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020832	0.044832
Omani Riyal	0.779944	0.785624
Qatar Riyal	0.078868	0.083808
Saudi Riyal	0.079647	0.080947
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.121912	0.129912
Turkish Lira	0.080747	0.091047
UAE Dirhams	0.080958	0.082658
Yemeni Riyal	0.000984	0.001064



# VENEZUELA'S WORST ECONOMIC CRISIS: WHAT WENT WRONG?

By Wafa Sbaiti

Venezuela, the country that sits on world's largest oil reserves in the world, is going through the worst economic crisis in its history. It is on the verge of a collapse as its economy and political situation have deteriorated. Shortages of basic goods, from food to medicine all incredibly scarce all around the country as the government massively cuts imports in a bid to save money.

Hospitals are running dangerously low on medicine, the public hospitals have fallen apart causing many people including infants to die because of scarcity of basic medical care. Inflation has reached ridiculous levels, it is expected to be 1160 percent by end of 2017 and 2280 percent in 2018 if the government continues running out of money and responded simply by printing more money. Unemployment is set to surpass 25 percent and the employed people actually have just meaningless salaries due to this hyperinflation.

## How did the country get here?

How did a country with such amazing wealth and potential get this close to total disaster? To better understand what is going on in Venezuela we need to go back to 1998, upon the rise of Chavez's power. After he has been elected president he began his reforms with a new constitution, socialist policies and an extreme anti-US foreign policy. Due to increased demand from China and other emerging markets, oil prices rose again after many years, resulting in the period of higher oil revenues the history of Venezuela. With all this money suddenly in their hands, the Chavez government began to make some amazing things, such as promoting economic growth and fighting poverty

with many social programs. In 2005 Chavez signed a decree on land reform that basically eliminated all largest states to supposedly benefit the poor. In 2006 Chavez won his third presidential election which considered an overwhelming victory for him.

Between 2005 and 2008, the country's economic performance was impressive. Poverty rates were almost halved, and there were important improvements in health and education. All this made him a kind of hero in the eyes of many Venezuelans. After he felt comfortable with the power, he began his nationalization process. In January 2007 Chavez announced key energy and telecommunications companies to be nationalized. In June 2007 his administration expropriated Exxon Mobil's and ConocoPhillips oil operations in the Orinoco belt which basically meant seizing control of other assets and operations. In February 2009 a referendum was put out to vote to abolish the term limits on the presidency which would allow Chavez to run again for office once his term expired in 2012.

Chavez succeeded to style himself a champion of the poor during his 14 years in office, pouring billions of dollars of Venezuela's oil wealth into social programs. He sought to reduce inequality by lifting many Venezuelans out of poverty. After he changed the Constitution to be able to be re-elected as often as possible, he used the country's money to buy political support from the army and accepted unprecedented degrees of corruption in exchange for loyalty politics.

The situation did not last for long and by the end of 2009 Venezuela's economy started shrinking fast. At the same time tensions started rising with Colombia over allowing the US to use their military bases. Venezuela's ties with Russia were growing fast. Chavez was then forced to devalue the currency against the US dollar to boost their local economy but the move had a very negative effect on the country.

By 2012 things in Venezuela started to turn for the worse, as the government printed more money, inflation was getting out of hand and the oil prices were

at an all-time low for his presidency. In the meantime, poverty levels and social indicators stopped improving, and the economy stagnated. In fact, Venezuela's economic performance after 2008 has been the worst in Latin America. On top of that, negligence and corruption of the government allowed crime rates to skyrocket.

Chavez died of cancer in April 2013. His closest confidante and at the time Vice President Nicolas Maduro became the interim president. With the death of Chavez and fall in oil prices, the situation had only got worse. Since Nicolas Maduro, took office in 2013 crime rates continued to increase, inflation reached 180 percent, the economy fell into a recession and poverty was on the rise again. Throughout 2016 protests arose and the people started blaming Maduro for the economic crisis.

On March 2016, 29th the Supreme Court in Venezuela dissolved the Parliament. This of course did not augur well for the Venezuelan people who have gone through very tough times lately. This decision was reversed three days later but it was too late given the protests had already erupted all around the country. President Nicolas Maduro declared a state of emergency in May 2016 which despite being challenged by the opposition controlled National Assembly was backed by the Supreme Court. Venezuela is the perfect example of how even a promising, wealthy country can be a victim of a charismatic leader being seduced by power, and a corrupt government unable to learn from their mistakes.

## Where the economy is heading for?

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted that the Venezuelan economy will contract by 8 percent in 2016. While it shrank around 5.7 percent in 2015. The economic situation is bleak and analysts are predicting that it will only get bleaker. The IMF estimated that inflation could rise to as much as 720 percent in 2016 tipping Venezuela into collapse. The country is also heavily in debt with no immediate

means of paying off what it owed. According to the Telegraph, around \$116 billion is due over the next two decades, with a fifth of payments are due in the next two years.

## Depending on a single commodity

Venezuela is an example of extreme dependency on oil which accounts for a shocking 95 percent of Venezuela's export revenues. Venezuela's economy has been through some exceptionally positive spells in recent history. However as the price of oil drastically declined in the last two years the current economic crisis is distinctly caused by changing prices. According to IMF estimates, the Venezuelan state earned around \$80 billion through oil in 2013 the year Maduro took over as President. However, the projected figure for 2016 is only between \$20-25 billion. Venezuela also has a problem with violence and crimes levels and has one of the world's worst homicide rates. Therefore, analysts are worried that increasing public anger could result in bloodshed.

The government failed to use their surplus in the short run to substitute oil for a more sustainable source of revenue. Indeed, the recent oil price decline, created a major problem for the Venezuelan economy. As a major exporter of oil, its budget saw a massive deficit which naturally led to chaos.

## Reliance on imports

The heavy dependence on oil revenues means that the economy is import-driven and not self-sufficient which makes the economy is vulnerable to any shock. This indicates, once again, a lack of long-term strategic planning and myopia that left Venezuela worse off, both economically and politically.

Any oil dependent economy must shift towards something more sustainable in the long run, and developing various types of industries, to ensure that it does not rely purely on external imports in order to sustain its economy and avoid being vulnerable to any chock in oil prices.



Richard Groves and group of the Bank's management among the volunteering team.

## AUB HONORS VOLUNTEERING TEAM FOR SUCCESS OF RAMADAN SOCIAL PROGRAM

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank's (AUB) management honored the Bank's volunteering team for their efforts and outstanding performance, which led to the successful implementation of the Bank's charitable, cultural, religious and social responsibility activities during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

During a special ceremony, which was attended by the Bank's management and led by Richard Groves, AUB's Chief Executive Officer, the Bank highlighted its gratitude for the team's strong spirit, which was reflected by having a robust and successful social responsibility activity calendar during the Holy Month of Ramadan. AUB, as part of its continued commitment, developed an extensive Ramadan program that included a range of social activities. These included the distribution of thousands of Iftar and Sohoor meals in different areas across Kuwait for those who had been fasting; visiting orphanages and children at hospitals, and presenting a host of gifts and gear to them. Moreover the Bank held a religious seminar for its employees under the theme of "How do we prepare for Ramadan?", which was headed by Sheikh Dr. Khaled Al-Mathkoor - Head of Shari'ah and Fatwa Supervisory Board at AUB.

In addition, AUB launched a TV commercial to celebrate the arrival of the Holy month. The TV advertisement's message was a welcoming one to mark the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan and it achieved a very large number of viewers. Furthermore, the Bank held its Ramadan Quran Recitation competition in addition to its participation in an awareness drive to support autism patients. As part of spreading religious awareness across mainstream media, AUB, during Ramadan, sponsored Al Rai TV's 'Ahadeeth Wa Ebar' program, which is hosted by Sheikh Dr Abdulaziz Al-Qassar,

a member and reporter of the Bank's sharia and Fatwa Supervisory Board.

On this occasion, AUB pointed out that it is keen to honor its Ramadan volunteering team for their tireless efforts and commitment to serve the community. It is also an occasion to thank them and promote the spirit of giving and for them to become role models for other employees in the coming years and in different initiatives.

In short, AUB reaffirms its commitment towards supporting social responsibility activities as part of its desire to play a vital role in serving society. The Bank's strategy focuses on developing its CSR platform, especially during the Holy month of Ramadan, in an effort to guarantee and ensure the provision of the best possible activities each year and that these are in line with the values of the Holy month. Values that strengthen the Bank's social bonds with the local community.

## KUWAIT INSURANCE COMPANY RECORDS KD 6.5 MILLION NET PROFIT FOR H1 2017

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Insurance Company S.A.K. announced its financial results for the first half ending 30 June 2017. The results reported a net profit of KD 6.5 million for the first half of 2017, compared to a loss of (KD1.026 million) for the same period last year, showing an increase of 735 percent, with Earning Per Share (EPS) at 35.29 fils, compared to a loss of (5.55 fils) per share for the same period last year.

Mr. Sami Sharif, CEO of Kuwait Insurance Company said in a press release: the company continues to maintain growth in operational performance during the first half of 2017 due to the implementation of business plan, which include definite objectives to achieve precise results and outcomes in accordance to specific timelines. Shareholders' equity reached KD 67.6 million, compared to KD 56.3 million in the first half of 2016, a growth of 20 percent. This indicates company's ability to protect its assets and shareholders' interests.

Sami Sharif added that Gross Written Premium reached KD 21.6 million, which shows an increase of KD 1.1 million, i.e. 13 percent growth compared to KD 20.5 million recorded in first half in 2016. Total

Assets reached KD 164.3 million, compared to KD 145.8 million in the first half of 2016, showing an increase of KD 18.5 million i.e. 13 percent. Sami Sharif stressed that the company's Net Profit showed growth despite the increase in Net Technical Reserves to reach KD 78.1 million for the current period, compared to KD 72.6 million for the same period last year, an increase of 7.5 percent, which supports the company's ability to meet its obligations.

He stated that the company has always presented its willingness to maintain credibility and to show transparency by complying with the rules and regulations of corporate governance issued by the Capital Markets Authority, which strengthens the company's position and manage the risks, and its ability to adapt to the unstable economic environment.

Sami Sharif ended the statement by saying that during second half of 2017, Kuwait Insurance Company will introduce new and innovative insurance products, which will create new segments, grow the size of insurance market in Kuwait, and accordingly increase the company's market share.



Sami Sharif

# LEVERAGING LOANS TO CARACAS, MOSCOW SNAPS UP OIL ASSETS

## SPECIAL REPORT

**CARACAS, HOUSTON:** Venezuela's unraveling socialist government is increasingly turning to ally Russia for the cash and credit it needs to survive - and offering prized state-owned oil assets in return, sources familiar with the negotiations told Reuters.

As Caracas struggles to contain an economic meltdown and violent street protests, Moscow is using its position as Venezuela's lender of last resort to gain more control over the OPEC nation's crude reserves, the largest in the world. Venezuela's state-owned oil firm, Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), has been secretly negotiating since at least early this year with Russia's biggest state-owned oil company, Rosneft - offering ownership interests in up to nine of Venezuela's most productive petroleum projects, according to a top Venezuelan government official and two industry sources familiar with the talks. Moscow has substantial leverage in the negotiations: Cash from Russia and Rosneft has been crucial in helping the financially strapped government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro avoid a sovereign debt default or a political coup.

Rosneft delivered Venezuela's state-owned firm more than \$1 billion in April alone in exchange for a promise of oil shipments later. On at least two occasions, the Venezuelan government has used Russian cash to avoid imminent defaults on payments to bondholders, a high-level PDVSA official told Reuters. Rosneft has also positioned itself as a middleman in sales of Venezuelan oil to customers worldwide. Much of it ends up at refineries in the United States - despite US sanctions against Russia - because it is sold through intermediaries such as oil trading firms,

according to internal PDVSA trade reports seen by Reuters and a source at the firm. PDVSA and the government of Venezuela did not respond to requests for comment. The Russian government declined to comment and referred questions to the foreign ministry and the ministries of finance and defense, which did not respond to questions from Reuters. Rosneft declined to comment. Russia's growing control over Venezuelan crude gives it a stronger foothold in energy markets across the Americas. Rosneft now resells about 225,000 barrels per day (bpd) of Venezuelan oil - about 13 percent of the nation's total exports, according to the PDVSA trade reports. That's about enough to satisfy the daily demand of a country the size of Peru.

Venezuela gives Rosneft most of that oil as payment for billions of dollars in cash loans that Maduro's government has already spent. His administration needs Russia's money to finance everything from bond payments to imports of food and medicine amid severe national shortages.

Venezuela's opposition lawmakers say Russia is behaving more like a predator than an ally. "Rosneft is definitely taking advantage of the situation," said Elias Matta, vice president of the energy commission at Venezuela's elected National Assembly. "They know this is a weak government; that it's desperate for cash - and they're sharks."

Matta echoed many others in the opposition-majority congress who have blasted corporate deals they say are underpinning Maduro's efforts to establish a dictatorship. The Venezuelan government has said previously that Russia's investment in its oil industry shows confidence in PDVSA's

financial stability and the nation's business opportunities. Maduro's administration has grown increasingly dependent on Moscow in the past two years as China has curtailed credit to Venezuela because of payment delays and the corruption and crime faced by Chinese firms operating there, according to Venezuelan debt analysts and two oil industry sources.

Many multinational firms worldwide, meanwhile, have all but written off their Venezuelan operations amid the nation's tanking economy and chronic shortages of raw materials. Rosneft is making the opposite play - using Venezuela's hard times as a buying opportunity for oil assets with potentially high long-term value. "The Russians are catching Venezuela at rock bottom," said one Western diplomat who has worked on issues involving Venezuela's oil industry in recent years. As other companies shutter operations here, Rosneft has expanded to an additional floor of its office tower and added staff. The Russian firm has poached PDVSA professionals and brought in more Russian executives, two sources close to Rosneft told Reuters.

The corporate expansion provides a striking contrast to the scene on the streets below these days, in the once-thriving business district of Caracas.

As Rosneft staffers work in swanky offices alongside posters of Russian President Vladimir Putin and a bust of Hugo Chavez - the late Venezuelan leader and socialist icon - crowds of young men outside often throw rocks and Molotov cocktails in escalating protests of Chavez' successor. Rosneft currently owns substantial portions of five major Venezuelan oil projects. The additional projects PDVSA is now offering the

Russian firm include five in the Orinoco - Venezuela's largest oil producing region - along with three in Maracaibo Lake, its second-largest and oldest producing area, and a shallow-water oil project in the Paria Gulf, the two industry sources told Reuters.


In a separate proposal first reported by Reuters last month, Rosneft would swap its collateral on 49.9 percent of Citgo - the Venezuelan owned, U.S.-based refiner - for stakes in three additional PDVSA oil fields, two natural gas fields and a lucrative fuel supply contract, according to two sources with knowledge of the negotiations.

Under the proposal, Rosneft would also take increased management control over all the joint oil projects between the two firms. Rosneft secured the collateral late last year on a loan of \$1.5 billion to PDVSA.

The negotiations over a collateral swap are driven in part by a recent threat from US President Donald Trump to sanction Venezuela's oil sector as punishment for Maduro's efforts to undermine the nation's elected congress. Rosneft has already been sanctioned by the United States over Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. Such actions require US firms to end business relations with sanctioned entities. Maduro's need for Russian cash played a key role in a move by his political allies earlier this year that destabilized Venezuela's already teetering democracy, the top Venezuelan government official told Reuters. In March, the nation's Supreme Court - whose members are loyal to Maduro - took over the powers of the opposition-controlled National Assembly. A majority of elected Assembly members opposed any new oil deals with Russia and insisted on retaining power to veto them. —Reuters

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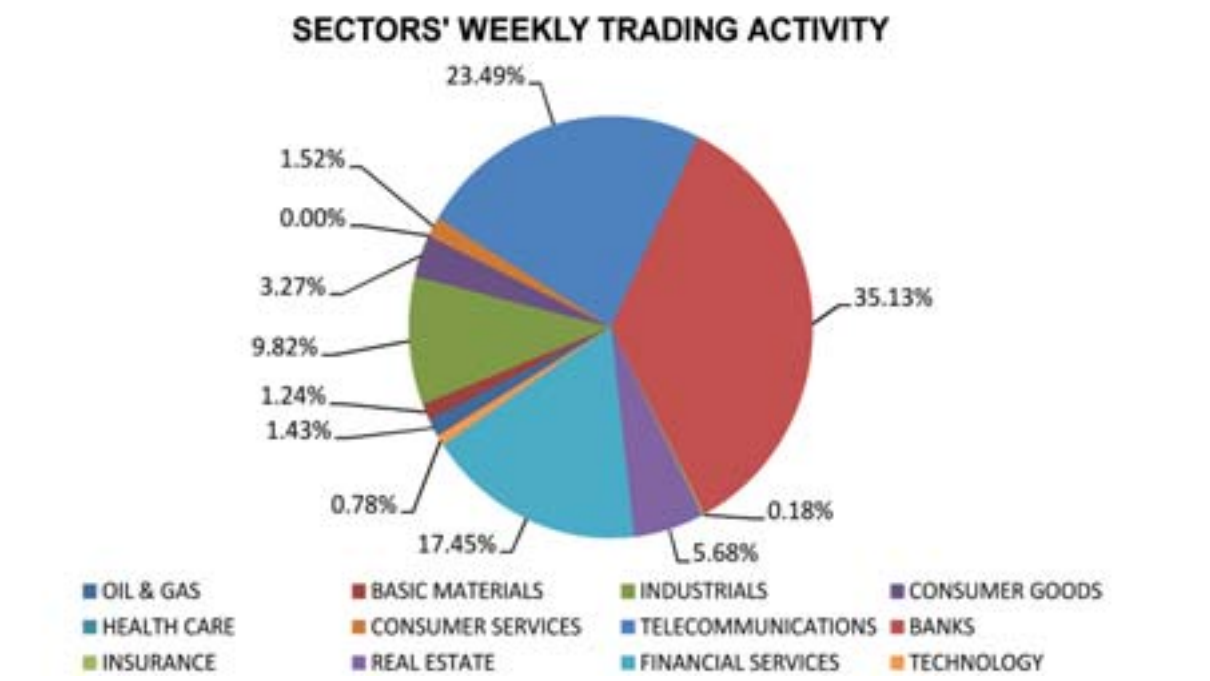
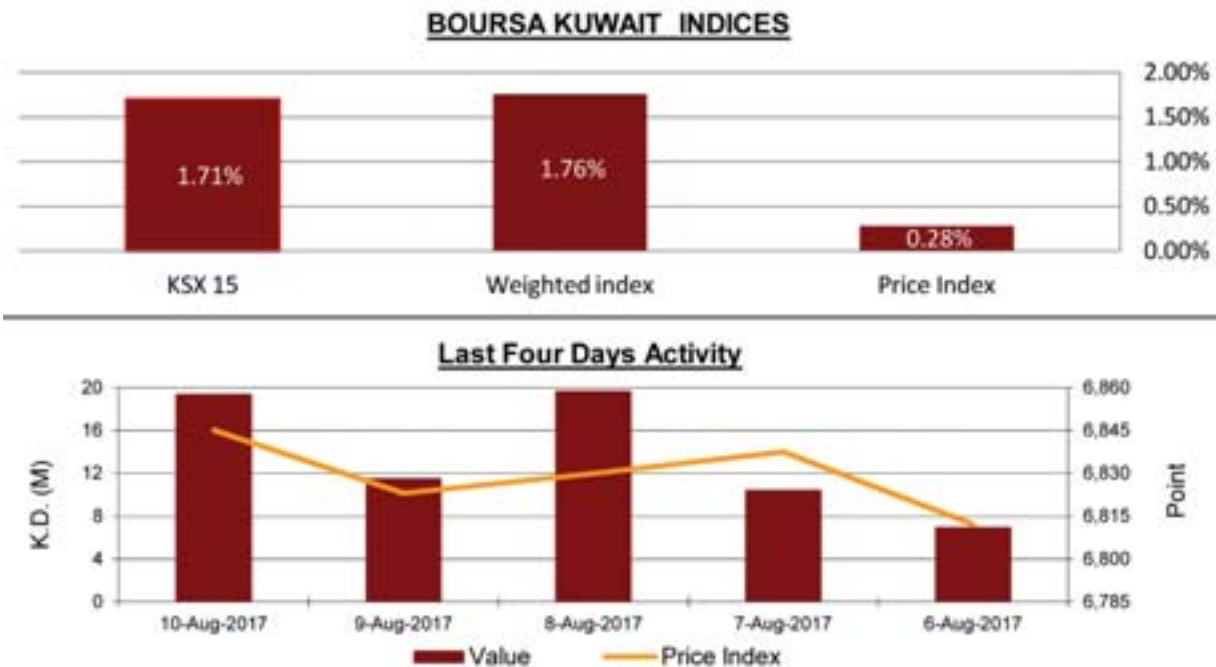
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+Big Salon + Separate pool  
All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby  
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# BOURSA KUWAIT UP ON RENEWED BUYING INTEREST

## BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 6,845.01 points, up by 0.28 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 1.76 percent after closing at 419.95 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 960.57 points up by 1.71 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 51.56 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 13.61 million, whereas trading volume average was 70.70 million shares, recording an increase of 16.36 percent.

The Boursa was able to end the last week with good gains to its three indices, supported by the active purchasing operations that included many listed stocks, especially the leading and operational ones in the Technology and Telecommunications sectors, the most increasing sectors during the last week. The market witnessed such performance in light of many traders' optimism in the listed companies' results for the first half of the current year, which caused the increase in the purchasing operations that enhanced the cash liquidity to reached around KD 70 million during all the week's sessions.

Also, the Boursa gained more than KD 400 million in the last five sessions, whereas the total value of the listed stocks (in the primary market) reached by the end of the last week KD 27.75 billion, against KD 27.28 billion at the end of the previous week, and up by 1.74 percent. On an annual level, the market capital gains reached 9.22 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 number of outstanding shares as per the latest available financial statements).

As per the daily trading activity; Sunday's session witnessed a mixed performance, where the Price Index ended the trading session in the red zone affected by the profit collection operations that targeted some small-cap stocks, especially the ones being traded less than 100 Fls, while the Weighted and KSX-

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	24,773,656	7.01%	973,904	1.43%
BASIC MATERIALS	2,170,655	0.61%	845,217	1.24%
INDUSTRIALS	19,665,192	5.56%	6,684,124	9.82%
CONSUMER GOODS	3,078,822	0.87%	2,225,077	3.27%
HEALTH CARE	0	0.00%	0	0.0000%
CONSUMER SERVICES	3,348,770	0.95%	1,035,798	1.52%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	39,446,734	11.16%	15,988,031	23.49%
BANKS	68,450,817	19.37%	23,911,862	35.13%
INSURANCE	768,448	0.22%	120,656	0.18%
REAL ESTATE	55,091,528	15.59%	3,866,161	5.68%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	132,376,912	37.45%	11,879,627	17.45%
TECHNOLOGY	4,285,076	1.21%	534,183	0.78%

15 indices were able to end the session in the green zone supported by the active purchasing operations that concentrated on some leading stocks especially in the Banks sector. On Monday's session, the three indices closed in the green zone and were able to realize different gains, supported by the active purchasing trend on the leading and heavy stocks, in addition to the quick speculation on some small-cap stocks.

On the mid-week session, the fluctuation returned to control the three indices' performance, whereas the Price Index could not hold its upward direction and closed by the end of the session in the red zone affected by the

quick profit collection operations that concentrated on the small-cap stocks, especially in the Insurance and Financial Services sectors, while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices were able to increase, supported by the continued purchasing trend on the heavy stocks, amid a noticeable growth in the trading activity, especially the value, which jumped by about 90 percent compared to the previous session.

On Wednesday's session, the fluctuation continued its control over the market indices' performance, whereas the Price and Weighted indices declined affected by the profit collection operations and included some stocks that realized increases in the previous sessions,

while the KSX-15 Index went against the current and was able to end the session in the green zone, in light of the continued concentration of the traders on the leading stocks, especially in the Technology and Banks sectors. On Thursday's session, the three market indices changed positions, as the Price and Weighted indices succeeded in returning to the green zone, however the profit collection operations executed on some leading stocks, pushed the KSX-15 Index to end the session in the losses zone.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 19.08 percent annual gain compared to its closing in

2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 10.49 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 8.54 percent growth.

**Sectors' Indices**  
Eight of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the green zone, three recorded declines, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change from the week before. Last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 4.54 percent growth rate as its index closed at 654.21 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Telecommunications sector's index closed at 605.01 points recording 1.63 percent increase. The Basic Materials sector came in third as its index achieved 1.45 percent growth, ending the week at 1,265.99 points.

On the other hand, The Oil & Gas sector headed the losers list as its index declined 2.51 percent to end the week's activity at 1,063.60 points. The Consumer Services sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 0.26 percent, closing 1,048.83 points, followed by the Consumer Goods sector, as its index closed at 1,023.47 points at a loss of 0.09 percent.

**Sectors' Activity**  
The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 132.38 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 37.45 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 19.37 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 68.45 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 23.91 million or 35.13 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Telecommunications sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 15.99 million representing 23.49 percent of the total market trading value.  
— Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES				
Weekly		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
	Last week	6,845.01	419.95	960.57
	Previous week	6,825.70	412.70	944.45
	Change (Point)	19.31	7.25	16.12
Annual				
	Last year	5,748.09	380.09	885.02
	Change (Point)	1,096.92	39.86	75.55
	Change (%)	19.08%	10.49%	8.54%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	1,063.60	1,090.94	-2.51%	36.24%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,265.99	1,247.90	1.45%	25.99%
INDUSTRIALS	1,904.72	1,894.38	0.55%	41.72%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,023.47	1,024.39	-0.09%	-9.03%
HEALTH CARE	1,683.91	1,683.91	0.00%	35.31%
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,048.83	1,051.54	-0.26%	13.44%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	605.01	595.30	1.63%	-4.90%
BANKS	950.68	943.73	0.74%	13.55%
INSURANCE	1,069.55	1,056.43	1.24%	7.57%
REAL ESTATE	951.14	949.55	0.17%	9.30%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	690.40	690.15	0.04%	15.64%
TECHNOLOGY	654.21	625.78	4.54%	7.75%

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	353,456,610	303,760,082	16.36%
Value (K.D)	68,064,639	44,910,102	51.56%
Deals	14,878	12,129	22.66%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
27,749,437,334	27,275,265,506	1.74%	9.22%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fls)	Ch. %
ARGAN	185.00	160.00	25.0	15.63%
AGHC	93.90	82.00	11.9	14.51%
CABLE	488.00	429.00	59.0	13.75%
JAZEERA	587.00	530.00	57.0	10.75%
UPAC	770.00	698.00	72.0	10.32%

# US STOCKS SNAP 3-DAY LOSING STREAK IN ROLLER COASTER WEEK

**NEW YORK:** Gains among technology companies helped snap a three-day losing streak for US stocks Friday, though the market ended with its worst weekly loss since March. The modest rebound came at the end of a turbulent week on Wall Street as escalating tensions between the US and North Korea rattled global markets.

In the first four days of the week, the Standard & Poor's 500 index swung from marking its latest record high to posting its biggest single-day drop in nearly three months. The negative headlines provided many investors with an opportunity to pocket some of their recent gains following a string of record highs fueled by strong corporate earnings.

"It's been a bit of a roller coaster this week, with all the rhetoric between the US and North Korea," said Jeff Kravetz, regional investment strategist at US Bank Wealth Management. "That did temporarily shake investors' complacency, but we think markets are ready to move high-

er in the back half of the year, and earnings and economic data are going to drive that."

On Friday, the S&P 500 rose 3.11 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,441.32. The index had its biggest drop since mid-May a day earlier. The Dow Jones industrials average gained 14.31 points, or 0.1 percent, to 21,858.32. The Nasdaq added 39.68 points, or 0.6 percent, to 6,256.56. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 1.69 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,374.23.

### Recovery

The recovery fit a recent pattern of investors using dips to put more money in stocks. Despite the past week's decline, the major indexes are in positive territory so far this year, led by the Nasdaq, which is up 16.2 percent. The S&P 500 is up 9 percent, while the Dow is up 10.6 percent.

"If you strip away what's going on in North Korea, and if you strip away what's going on in Washington, which are things that are tougher to predict,

## GLOBAL MARKET WEEKLY REPORT



the economy, the global recovery, earnings, it all paints a very positive picture for the rest of the year," Kravetz said. Tensions between the US and North Korea continued to simmer ear-

ly Friday. In a tweet, President Donald Trump warned of military action "should North Korea act unwisely," noting that the US is "locked and loaded." Earlier in the week, Trump

said the US would unleash "fire and fury" on North Korea if it continued to threaten the US.

North Korea had announced a detailed plan to launch a salvo of ballistic missiles toward the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, a major military hub and home to US bombers.

Still, there were fewer signs of anxiety in the markets Friday. Bond and gold prices, traditional havens for nervous investors, were little changed, and the VIX, a measure of how much volatility investors expect in stocks, fell 3.3 percent following a 44.4 percent jump the day before. It's still the highest it's been since May.

### Inflation

Investors also drew some encouragement from new government data showing US inflation at the consumer level inched higher last month. July's 0.1 percent increase in consumer prices suggests that the Federal Reserve may be less likely to raise interest rates next month. Inflation

has risen 1.7 percent over the past 12 months, suggesting that inflation pressures remain well under control. The Fed, which raised its key interest rate in March and June, has signaled it plans a third rate hike before the end of this year. But some economists say the Fed may stand pat for the rest of 2017 unless inflation accelerates in coming months.

"Today's inflation data put the Fed on pause and really diminishes the fact that there's still some noise going around with the North Korea-US situation," said Phil Blencoe, CEO of Ladenburg Thalmann Asset Management. Technology companies, which suffered the brunt of the selling a day earlier, were back in the lead Friday. Lam Research Corp. climbed \$4.82, or 3.2 percent, to \$154.26.

Seagate Technology gained 2.3 percent after investor ValueAct disclosed that it had acquired a 7.2 percent stake in the digital storage company. Seagate shares rose 74 cents to \$32.29. — AP





# CONCEPT OF ‘CO-’ INSPIRES LEXUS DESIGN AWARD 2018

## ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 8 OCTOBER 2017

Continuing its commitment to a better world through design, Lexus International yesterday announced its call for entries for the Lexus Design Award 2018. Launched in 2013, the award is an international platform to identify and recognize the next generation of global creators and designers.

Every year, thousands of young creative talents from around the world aspire to be selected for the final round. Those twelve finalists and their works will be introduced to the design community and beyond at Milan Design Week 2018; four of the finalists will be mentored by established global designers and given a production budget of JPY 3 million (equivalent to AED 98,000) to create actual prototypes.

In addition to the unique mentorship opportunity and global exposure, young designers are drawn to the Lexus Design Award by the inspiring theme that provides endless possibilities from a design perspective. This year's creative theme for the Lexus Design Award 2018 is 'CO-', a Latin prefix meaning 'with or together in harmony.' Lexus believes that great design can ensure the harmonious coexistence of nature and society. In that sense, 'CO-' is an approach that allows the brand to explore its true potential and that of the environment by creating new possibilities through collaboration, coordination, and connection. Now, young designers get their turn for 'CO-' to inspire them to conceive a better world.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, "The Lexus Design Award 2018 continues the Lexus brand's commitment to supporting the next generation of designers to build a better future for all through design. It reflects the passion for design that

drives Lexus forward as a brand while extending our values and design ethos to a wider global audience. This year's theme, 'CO-', symbolizes Lexus' belief in the power of design, and provides applicants with an inspiring topic around which to present their creative ideas that help make the world a better place. We greatly appreciate the support we have received over the years from our customers and design enthusiasts around the world for the Lexus Design Award."

The judges who assess the designs are globally recognized illustrious creators who are active in diverse design genres. Additionally, mentorship is provided by esteemed designers who share their know-how and provide hands-on support. They guide the selected candidates to express their full potential through the development of working prototypes of their innovative ideas.

The judges and mentors for the Lexus Design Award 2018 will be announced in August 2017. As in previous years, Lexus will be partnering with a select group of renowned professionals who embody design excellence at the front lines of creativity around the world and who share the brand's belief that great design can make the world a better place.

During Milan Design Week, all the finalists' works will be displayed at the Lexus experiential space. Judges will then assess the four prototypes to choose the Grand Prix winner for 2018. Previous winners have gone on to enjoy success and further develop their ideas into viable products.

Entries to the Lexus Design Award 2018 competition will be accepted from July 24 through October 8, 2017. For more information on the application process, please visit [LexusDesignAward.com](http://LexusDesignAward.com). The twelve finalists

will be announced in early 2018.

Call for Entries to the Lexus Design Award 2018 Competition:

- Title**  
Lexus Design Award 2018  
Application period  
July 24 - October 8, 2017  
Theme  
'CO-'
- Judging criteria**
  - True to the essence of 'CO-' with uniqueness in its interpretation.
  - Consistent with the Lexus Design goal of making the world a better place.
- Judges**  
To be announced in August 2017
- Mentors**  
To be announced in August 2017
- Award categories**  
Lexus Design Award 2018 - Twelve finalists
  - One Grand Prix winner (selected from the four prototype winners)
  - Four prototype winners (selected from the twelve finalists)
  - Eight panel finalists
- Prizes/benefits**
  - Twelve finalists will be invited to Milan Design Week 2018.
  - Four winners among the twelve finalists will receive up to three million yen each to cover prototype production costs. The four winners will create prototypes between January and March 2018, through sessions with their assigned mentors.
  - The four prototypes and eight panels will be exhibited at a Lexus exhibition space during Milan Design Week 2018.
  - Each of the twelve finalists will be asked to give a presentation at Milan Design Week 2018, after which a single Grand Prix winner will be named from among the four prototypes through final review by the judges.



## MODEST RISE IN US CONSUMER PRICES MAY DELAY FED HIKE

**WASHINGTON:** US consumer prices rose slightly in July as higher food costs were partly offset by falling prices for a range of other goods, suggesting benign inflation that could persuade a cautious Federal Reserve to delay raising interest rates until December.

But with the labor market near full employment and economic growth accelerating, analysts expect the US central bank will announce a plan to start unwinding its massive bond portfolio at its policy meeting next month. "We believe the Fed will focus on the balance sheet in September, foregoing another rate hike until December," said James Bohnaker, an economist at IHS Markit in Lexington, Massachusetts. "The inflation outlook will not change drastically anytime soon."

The Labor Department said on Friday its Consumer Price Index edged up 0.1 percent last month after being unchanged in June. That lifted the year-on-year increase in the CPI to 1.7 percent from 1.6 percent in June. Economists had forecast the CPI rising 0.2 percent in July and climbing 1.8 percent year-on-year. Stripping out the volatile food and energy components, consumer prices gained 0.1 percent for the fourth straight month. The so-called core CPI rose 1.7 percent in the 12 months through July and has now increased by that margin for three consecutive months.

Despite the modest gain in consumer prices, which came on the heels of a drop in producer prices in July, many economists continue to share the Fed's conviction that transitory factors were holding back inflation. Fed Chair Janet Yellen told lawmakers last month that "some special factors," including prices for mobile phone plans and prescription drugs, were partly responsible for the low inflation readings. Mobile phone prices continued to decline in July, falling 0.3 percent.

Prices of US government debt initially rose on the inflation data, but pared gains after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said there was a Russian-Chinese plan to defuse tensions between the United States and North Korea. The dollar was trading lower against a basket of currencies, while U.S. stocks rose.

### Fed's conundrum

The Fed has a 2 percent inflation target and tracks a measure that has been

stuck at 1.5 percent since May. Inflation remains tame despite a tightening labor market, a conundrum for the central bank as it contemplates tightening monetary policy further.

The Fed is expected to outline a program to start offloading its \$4.2 trillion portfolio of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities at its Sept. 19-20 policy meeting. It is expected to raise interest rates in December, though such a move would depend on future inflation data. The Fed has raised borrowing costs twice this year.

"One-time factors that have slowed inflation will gradually dissipate," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services in Pittsburgh. "Stronger wage growth as businesses compete for scarce workers will also contribute to higher inflation in the second half of this year and in 2018."

Food prices rose 0.2 percent last month, driven by a surge in the cost of meat, fish, eggs, fruits and vegetables. Food prices were unchanged in June. The cost of food consumed at home increased 0.2 percent. Consumers also paid more for prescription drugs, whose prices jumped 1.3 percent after increasing 1.0 percent in June. Prices for apparel rose 0.3 percent after four straight monthly declines. While gasoline prices were unchanged after tumbling 2.8 percent in June, electricity prices rose 0.4 percent. Rental costs maintained their upward trend last month. Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence rose 0.3 percent after advancing by the same margin in June.

The cost of new motor vehicles fell 0.5 percent, the biggest drop since August 2009 and the sixth consecutive monthly decline, amid slumping demand. Low inflation is a relief for many Americans who have seen their paychecks barely increase in recent years. In another report, the Labor Department said inflation-adjusted average hourly earnings increased 0.7 percent in the 12 months through July, slowing from June's 0.9 percent gain. "The Fed may want inflation to pick up, but that would not be good news to households," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pennsylvania. "The only way spending power has increased at all is that inflation has remained below the Fed's target rate." —Reuters

# JET AIRWAYS ANNOUNCES CELEBRATORY SPECIAL FARES

## ON OCCASION OF INDIA'S 70TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

**KUWAIT:** Continuing its endeavor of offering exceptional value, Jet Airways, India's leading full-service, premier international airline, announced celebratory special fares for its guests travelling on the airline's international network to India, in commemoration of India's 70th Independence Day.

The Independence Day special offer will allow guests to avail discounted fares to the tune of up to 30 percent on base fares on flights originating from Kuwait, Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam, Doha and Muscat to select destinations in India and onwards to Bangkok, Colombo, Dhaka, Hong Kong, Kathmandu and Singapore. The promotional fares will be applicable on tickets booked by August 14, 2017 and valid for travel till March 31, 2018.

This is yet another guest-delight initiative from Jet Airways, already acclaimed for delivering exceptional value to travellers, aside from its attractive promotions and innovative

product offerings. Shaker Kantawala, Vice President Gulf, Middle East & Africa, Jet Airways, said, "Jet Airways uses every opportunity to create memorable experiences for its guests and India's Independence Day is



another such occasion for us to give wings to the aspirations of the increasingly globalized Indian, helping them to explore new destinations using our attractive, limited period fares." Jet Airways is India's premier

international airline and has established itself as a preferred carrier between India and the Gulf on account of its exceptional in-flight service, flexible schedules and enhanced connectivity. The Freedom Sale will bring the

international airline which operates flights to 64 destinations, including India and overseas. Jet Airways' robust domestic India network spans the length and breadth of the country covering metro cities, state capitals and emerging destinations. Beyond India, Jet Airways operates flights to key international destinations in South East Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Europe and North America. The Jet Airways Group currently operates a fleet of 113 aircraft, comprising Boeing 777-300 ERs, Airbus A330-200/300, Next Generation Boeing 737s and ATR 72-500/600s.

Jet Airways, together with airberlin, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Alitalia, Etihad Airways, Etihad Regional operated by Darwin Airline, and NIKI, participates in Etihad Airways Partners. Etihad Airways is part of the Etihad Aviation Group, which also holds minority investments in each of these airlines.

# KFH ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF NEW CAR MODELS TO LEASING PRODUCT WITH COMPETITIVE RATES

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the launch of new car models to leasing product in collaboration with Al-Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company. The car models suit different customer tiers. Leasing product offers a wide range of cars including SUVs, luxury family cars, Pickups with a monthly payment ranging between KD139-275. The car models are Chrysler C300, Ranged, Wrangler, Cherokee Sport and Ram 1500.

With the operational leasing option from KFH, customers can drive a car without having to worry about its maintenance. Customers can choose from a wide variety of 80 car models that suit their demands and decide on the period of the lease contract. Leasing from KFH also comes with a variety of customized options that guarantee customers' peace of

mind at all times. Leasing services are offered at KFH showrooms in Shuwaikh, Rai, Dajeej, Rai (4th Ring Road) and Ahmadi in addition to the dealerships' showrooms. The advantages and benefits include full maintenance throughout the duration of lease term, Full Takaful insurance cover throughout the duration of the leasing period, a substitute car when the leased car is under maintenance or repair for more than 24 hours, 24 / 7 road-side assistance, a wide range and variety of categories and models that will surely meet the client demands, and the option to drive the leased car beyond Kuwaiti borders according to terms and conditions.

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.



## CHINA PROBES SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR 'OBSCENITY'

**BEIJING:** China has launched probes into three of its largest social networking platforms over the suspected dissemination of violence and obscenity—the latest move aimed at sanitizing the country's increasingly closed-off internet.

The world's most popular messaging service WeChat, the Twitter-like Weibo as well as the Tieba discussion forum are being investigated, according to an announcement from the Cyberspace Administration of China on Friday. Citing reports from internet users, the administration said other users on WeChat, Weibo and Tieba's platforms "have disseminated content showing violence, terrorism, fake rumors, obscene pornography and more".

Such materials "endanger national security, public security and the social order" and are illegal

under a cybersecurity law that came into force in June, the agency said.

The companies acknowledged the investigation in statements Friday, and all three apologized to their users for any "negative experiences" caused by material that "corrupted" the social networks.

"Weibo is deeply aware of its responsibilities," the site said. "The next step for us will be to upgrade our technology and artificial control measures to combat... undesirable content, continuing to enhance our ability to find and dispose of bad information, guide and encourage users to report (such content) and intensify efforts to manage it."

China's internet is already considered one of the most tightly-controlled in the world, with a censorship system known as the "Great Firewall". But

restrictive measures have multiplied in recent months, as celebrity gossip blogs and online video streaming sites alike have fallen victim to the new web regulations.

Last month, the Cyberspace Administration directed the country's biggest technology firms—including Baidu, Tencent and Sohu—to shut down accounts on their networks that publish "bad information". The content was deemed to misinterpret policy directives and distort Chinese Communist Party history. Another mandate in the new cybersecurity law requires online platforms to get a license to post news reports or commentary about the government, economy, military, foreign affairs and social issues. There has also been increasing concern among internet users that they will com-

pletely lose access to virtual private networks (VPN), software which allows people to circumvent the Great Firewall.

In January China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) announced it would be banning the use of unlicensed VPN providers. While there has been little clarity on what exactly the rule meant and how, or even if, it would be implemented, Apple said last month that it was removing VPNs from its China app store.

"The Red Guard generation is in power now," one Weibo commenter said of the latest investigation, alluding to a 1960s youth paramilitary movement that tormented and attacked people whom they perceived to be opposed to Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution. —AFP

## UBER FACES BATTLE OVER 'DESTRUCTIVE' LAWSUIT

### RIDE-SERVICES FIRM IS BESET WITH SCANDALS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Ride-services company Uber is facing a divided board of directors and angry shareholders after investor Benchmark Capital filed a lawsuit against the company's ousted chief executive, Travis Kalanick, dealing another blow to the firm as it struggles to recover from a series of scandals and hire a new leader.



On Friday morning, three Uber investors asked Benchmark to divest its shares and step down from Uber Technologies Inc's board, according to an email published by news website Axios and confirmed by Reuters. Also on Friday, members of the board of directors sent an email to Uber staff expressing dismay over the Benchmark lawsuit, according to a copy of the note obtained by Reuters.

"The Board of Directors is disappointed that a disagreement between shareholders has result-

ed in litigation," the directors wrote. "The Board has urged both parties to resolve the matter cooperatively and quickly, and the Board is taking steps to facilitate that process."

Benchmark, in its lawsuit filed on Thursday, is seeking to force Kalanick off the board, and accuses him of concealing a range of misdeeds

from the company board and divest enough of its shares so that it would no longer have the right to appoint other board seats.

"We have investors ready to acquire these shares as soon as we receive communication from Benchmark that they are willing to withdraw their lawsuit and sell a minimum of 75 percent of their holdings," the email said, according to Axios.

Reuters confirmed the email with a source close to one of the investors. The three investors and Benchmark could not be reached for comment. The division and hostility emerging among Uber investors and directors opens a new front in a highly unusual public battle for Silicon Valley. It is rare for a venture firm to sue the central figure of a valuable portfolio company, and equally unexpected for investors to make a counter-move to push out a fellow investor backing the same company.

Pishevar, Burkle and Leber—who are not members of the board of directors—said Benchmark's lawsuit harms Uber's valuation, interferes with fundraising efforts and impedes the company's search for a new CEO to replace Kalanick. Benchmark's tactics are "ethically dubious and, critically, value-destructive rather than value enhancing," the investors wrote in the email, according to Axios.

The email from the board of directors was signed by Yasir Al-Rumayyan, Ryan Graves, Arianna Huffington, Wan Ling Martello and David Trujillo. Missing were the signatures of Kalanick and Benchmark board member Matt Cohler. It assured staff that there were "several outstanding candidates" for the CEO job.

One Uber investor told Reuters that Kalanick's continued role at the company has complicated the CEO search and scared off some good candidates. — Reuters



In this photo provided by Nils Henningstad, Henningstad poses next to his Tesla Model X while charging the electric car at a public charging station on Thursday. —AP

## FOR ELECTRIC CARS TO TAKE OFF, THEY'LL NEED PLACE TO CHARGE

**DETROIT:** Around the world, support is growing for electric cars. Automakers are delivering more electric models with longer range and lower prices, such as the Chevrolet Bolt and the Tesla Model 3. China has set aggressive targets for electric vehicle sales to curb pollution; some European countries aim to be all-electric by 2040 or sooner. Those lofty ambitions face numerous challenges, including one practical consideration for consumers: If they buy electric cars, where will they charge them?

The distribution of public charging stations is wildly uneven around the globe. Places with lots of support from governments or utilities, like China, the Netherlands and California, have thousands of public charging outlets. Buyers of Tesla's luxury models have access to a company-funded Supercharger network. But in many places, public charging remains scarce. That's a problem for people who need to drive further than the 200 miles or so that most electric cars can travel. It's also a barrier for the millions of people who don't have a garage to plug in their cars overnight.

"Do we have what we need? The answer at the moment is, 'No,'" says Graham Evans, an analyst with IHS Markit. Take Norway, which has publicly funded charging and generous incentives for electric car buyers. Architect Nils Henningstad drives past 20 to 30 charging stations each day on his 22-mile (35-kilometer) commute to Oslo. He works for the city and can charge his Nissan Leaf at work; his fiancée charges her Tesla SUV at home or at one of the world's largest Tesla Supercharger stations, 20 miles away.

It's a very different landscape in New Berlin, Wisconsin, where Jeff Solie relies on the charging system he rigged up in his garage to charge two Tesla sedans and a Volt. Solie and his wife don't have chargers at their offices, and the nearest Tesla Superchargers are 45 miles (72 kilometers) away.

"If I can't charge at home, there's no way for me to have electric cars as my primary source of transportation," says Solie, who works for the media company EW Scripps. The uneven distribution of chargers worries many potential electric vehicle owners. It's one reason electric vehicles make up less than 1 percent of cars on the road. "Humans worst-case their purchases of automobiles. You have to prove to the consumer that they can drive across the country, even though they probably won't," says Pasquale Romano, the CEO of ChargePoint, one of the largest charging station providers in North America and Europe.

### Gaps to be filled

Romano says there's no exact ratio of the number of chargers needed per car. But

he says workplaces should have one charger for every 2.5 electric cars and retail stores need one for every 20 electric cars. Highways need one every 50 to 75 miles, he says. That suggests a lot of gaps still need to be filled.

Automakers and governments are pushing to fill them. The number of publicly available, global charging spots grew 72 percent to more than 322,000 last year, the International Energy Agency said. Navigant Research expects that to grow to more than 2.2 million by 2026; more than one-third of those will be in China.

Tesla Inc. - which figured out years ago that people wouldn't buy its cars without roadside charging - is doubling its global network of Supercharger stations to 10,000 this year. BMW, Daimler, Volkswagen and Ford are building 400 fast-charging stations in Europe. Volkswagen is building hundreds of stations across the US as part of its settlement for selling polluting diesel engines. Even oil-rich Dubai, which just got its first Tesla showroom, has more than 50 locations to charge electric cars.

But there are pitfalls. There are different types of charging stations, and no one knows the exact mix drivers will eventually need. A grocery store might spend \$5,000 for an AC charge point, which provides a car with 5 to 15 miles of range in 30 minutes. But once most cars get 200 or 300 miles per charge, slow chargers are less necessary. Electric cars with longer range need fast-charging DC chargers along highways, but DC chargers cost \$35,000 or more.

That uncertainty makes it difficult to make money setting up chargers, says Lisa Jerram, an associate director with Navigant Research. For at least the next three to five years, she says, deep-pocketed automakers, governments and utilities will be primarily responsible for building charging infrastructure.

There's also the question of who will meet the needs of apartment dwellers. San Francisco, Shanghai and Vancouver, Canada, are now requiring new homes and apartment buildings to be wired for EV charging. But without government support, plans for charging stations can falter. In Michigan, a utility's \$15 million plan to install 800 public charging stations was scrapped in April after state officials and ChargePoint objected.

Solie, the electric car owner in Wisconsin, likes Europe's approach: Governments should set bold targets for electric car sales and let the private sector meet the need. "If the US were to send up a flare that policy was going to change... investments would become very attractive," he says. —AP



## CONSUMER REPORTS PULLS MICROSOFT LAPTOP RECOMMENDATION

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Consumer Reports is pulling its recommendation of four Microsoft laptops after one of its surveys found that users were complaining about problems with the devices.

The consumer advocacy group said Thursday that it can no longer recommend Microsoft laptops or tablets because of poor reliability compared to other brands. Microsoft said the findings don't accurately reflect Surface owners' "true experiences."

The consumer group says Microsoft machines have performed well in laboratory testing. But a subscriber survey found start-up and freezing problems. The devices losing their "recommended" status are the Surface Laptop (128GB and 256GB versions) and Surface Book (128GB and 512GB versions). Consumer Reports last pulled laptop recommendations in 2015, when ratings were removed for two Hewlett-Packard laptops and one made by Lenovo. —AP

## CYBERATTACK LEAVES MILLIONS WITHOUT MOBILE PHONE SERVICE IN VENEZUELA

**CARACAS:** A massive cyberattack that took down government websites in Venezuela earlier this week also has left seven million mobile phone users without service, the government said Thursday.

A group that calls itself The Binary Guardians claimed responsibility for attacks that targeted the websites of the government, the supreme court and the National Assembly. "These terrorist actions which affected the Movilnet's GSM platform on Wednesday left without communication seven of the state operator's 13 million users," Science and Technology Minister Hugbel Roa said.

Venezuela has two other private mobile phone operators: Spanish-owned Movistar and Digitel.

Roa said the outage was part of a wave of attacks that began Monday when dozens of government and private company websites were hacked. Roa said there also have been nine cuts in the country's fiber optic network, which has cut off already precarious internet service to seven states. "The attacks were carried out with the help of foreign agents, trying once again to disrupt our country's connectivity," Roa said, adding that an investigation was underway. —AFP

## AMAZON LOOKS TO NEW FOOD TECHNOLOGY FOR HOME DELIVERY

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Amazon.com Inc is exploring a technology first developed for the US military to produce tasty prepared meals that do not need refrigeration, as it looks for new ways to muscle into the \$700 billion US grocery business.

The world's biggest online retailer has discussed selling ready-to-eat dishes such as beef stew and a vegetable frittata as soon as next year, officials at the start-up firm marketing the technology told Reuters. The dishes would be easy to stockpile and ship because they do not require refrigeration and could be offered quite cheaply compared with take-out from a restaurant.

If the cutting-edge food technology comes to fruition, and Amazon implements it on a large scale, it would be a major step forward for the company as it looks to grab hold of more grocery customers shifting toward quick and easy meal options at home.

Delivering meals would build on the company's AmazonFresh service, which has been delivering groceries to customers' homes for a decade. It could also complement Amazon's planned \$13.7 billion purchase of Whole Foods Market Inc and Amazon's checkout-free convenience store, which is in the test stage. The pioneering food-prep tech, known as microwave assisted thermal sterilization, or MATS, was developed by researchers at Washington State University, and is being brought to market by a venture-backed startup called 915 Labs, based in Denver.

The method involves placing sealed packages of food in pressurized water and heating them with microwaves for several minutes, according to 915 Labs.

Unlike traditional processing methods, where packages are in pressure cookers for up to an hour until both bacteria and nutrients are largely gone, the dishes retain their natural flavor and texture, the company said. They also can sit on a shelf for a year, which would make them suitable for Amazon's storage and delivery business model. "They obviously see that this is a potential disruptor and an ability to get to a private brand uniqueness that they're looking for," said Greg Spragg, a former Wal-Mart Stores Inc executive and now head of a startup working with MATS technology. "They will test these products with their consumers, and get a sense of where they would go."

Amazon declined to comment. Spragg's company, Solve for Food, plans to acquire a MATS machine from 915 Labs that can make 1,800 packages an hour. The company aims to use the machine at a new food innovation center in northwest Arkansas, near the headquarters of Wal-Mart. 915 Labs also has an Arkansas connection: it is designing the beef stew and other dishes with a chef at the Bentonville-based Brightwater Center for the Study of Food. Wal-Mart did not comment on whether it is looking into the technology.

MATS technology grew out of efforts by the US Army's Natick laboratories more than a decade ago to improve food quality for soldiers in combat. Washington State University, a five-hour drive from Amazon's Seattle headquarters, received US funding and became the research hub for MATS. —Reuters

## HBO OFFERED 'BOUNTY' TO HACKERS: REPORT

**H**BO offered a reward of \$250,000 in response to a data breach at the television group that produces "Game of Thrones," according to a report from a leaked memo. The report by Variety on Thursday said HBO offered the payment as a "bug bounty," which is offered by companies to discover vulnerabilities in their computer networks.

The offer apparently failed to satisfy the attackers who have demanded a ransom of millions of dollars and are threatening to release more files from what is claimed to be a massive data breach.

HBO, a unit of the media group Time

Warner, did not respond to a query about the Variety report. Earlier this week, a video circulating online authored by someone identified only as "Mr. Smith" said the hackers had videos, scripts, personnel files and other sensitive data from the breach. The hackers demanded "six month salary," which, according to the video, would be more than \$6 million.

Last week the hacker group leaked one script of "Games of Thrones" and content from other HBO productions. HBO has said it was working with forensic experts and law enforcement in response to the attack. — AFP





**NAMUR:** A picture taken in a the poultry farm in Hesbaye region near Namur shows eggs being packed. —AFP

## EXPERTS POINT FINGER AT DUTCH OVERSIGHT AGENCY IN EGG SCANDAL

**THE HAGUE:** Years of cuts at the Dutch food watchdog agency and a tendency among politicians to put economics ahead of public safety may be to blame for the EU's tainted-egg scandal that has spread as far as Hong Kong. Millions of eggs have been pulled from supermarket shelves across Europe and dozens of poultry farms have closed since it emerged on August 1 that eggs contaminated with fipronil, which can harm human health, were being exported and sold.

Fipronil is widely used to rid household pets such as dogs and cats of fleas, but is banned by the European Union from treating animals destined for human consumption, including chickens. The World Health Organization says fipronil is "moderately hazardous" in large quantities, with potential danger to people's kidneys, liver and thyroid glands.

Food safety authorities in The Netherlands—where farmers are at the epicenter of the row—this week admitted they received an anonymous tip-off last November about the use of fipronil in chicken pens but refuted allegations of negligence. "It's mind-blowing that there was no connection made then, between the tip-off and the fact that fipronil may have contaminated both the chickens and the eggs," Dutch investigative journalist and food writer Marcel van Silfhout said.

Had the NVWA, the Dutch food and goods watchdog, acted at that point, the latest trouble to hit the export-dependent Dutch food industry could have largely been avoided, said Van Silfhout, who penned a critical book about food safety and the NVWA in 2014. Martin van den Berg, a professor and senior toxicologist at Utrecht University's Institute of Risk Assessment Sciences, added: "If there were investigators who were experts in this area and understood the impact of fipronil, maybe there would have been a different reaction."

But after consultations following the tip-off, the NVWA decided "there was no reason to think that fipronil would enter either eggs or chickens," two Dutch ministers said in a letter to parliament on Thursday. Said van Silfhout: "I can't understand why the alarm bells didn't go off when a poisonous substance has been found in a chicken pen."

### Problem started with cutbacks

Much of the current problem can be traced back to a growing loss of expertise; the NVWA and its predecessors have faced a series of cutbacks and trims since 2003, experts say. The heavily-burdened agency—which deals with food security but also general safety of goods—saw its permanent staff shrink from 3,700 full-time jobs in 2003 to 2,200 over the next decade, according to the Dutch Christian-based daily Trouw.

Though the number is now back up slightly to about 2,600, many employees are not experts in their fields, according to Van Silfhout. "There is no doubt that the problem started with the cutbacks since 2003," he said. Since then, a series of food scandals to hit The Netherlands, including the outbreak of Q fever in 2007 which killed dozens of people, firmly laid the blame on the NVWA.

Although a 2013 scandal over horse meat—when it was discovered that a Dutch company was passing off horse meat as beef to be used in burgers and other meat products across Europe—had no health implications, the NVWA was criticized for not being stringent enough in its oversight.

### Not a food watchdog

In 2003, the NVWA was moved from under the Dutch health ministry to agriculture which then fell under the economic affairs ministry. Over the years, the farming industry started to largely "regulate itself and agrarian motives got the priority," Van Silfhout wrote in his 2014 book "Deboned—how safe is our food still?" "A culture of soft enforcement took hold ... instead of clear independent inspections," Van Silfhout wrote.

Pieter van Vollenhoven, Princess Margriet's husband and a former Dutch Safety Board chairman, agreed. "At (farming) companies, economic considerations quickly took the lead," he told the Dutch daily Algemeen Dagblad in a recent interview. "The NVWA must stand up for public interest, for food security. Alas, the agency in reality is not a food watchdog, but an extension of economic policy," Van Vollenhoven said.

Dutch Health Minister Edith Schippers this week admitted that the government had made "errors" but denied any cover-up. "Once the crisis is behind us, we will analyze the roles of each of the players," Schippers said, "and we will draw our conclusions." —AFP

# STUDY BOOSTS HOPE OF 'LIQUID BIOPSIES' FOR CANCER SCREENING

**WASHINGTON:** Scientists have the first major evidence that blood tests called liquid biopsies hold promise for screening people for cancer. Hong Kong doctors tried it for a type of head and neck cancer, and boosted early detection and one measure of survival. The tests detect DNA that tumors shed into the blood. Some are used now to monitor cancer patients, and many companies are trying to develop versions of these for screening, as possible alternatives to mammograms, colonoscopies and other such tests.

The new study shows this approach can work, at least for this one form of cancer and in a country where it's common. "This work is very exciting on the larger scale" because it gives a blueprint for how to make tests for other tumor types such as lung or breast, said Dr. Dennis Lo of Chinese University of Hong Kong. "We are brick by brick putting that technology into place." He led the study, published Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine. Lo is best known for discovering that fetal DNA can be found in a mom's blood, which launched a new era of non-invasive testing for pregnant women.

The study involved nasopharyngeal cancer, which forms at the top of the throat behind the nose. It's a good test case for DNA screening because it's an aggressive cancer where early detection matters a lot, and screening could be tried in a population where the cancer is most common middle-aged Chinese men. Also, the Epstein-Barr virus is involved in most cases, so tests could hunt for viral DNA that tumors shed into the blood in large quantities, rather than rare bits of cancer cells themselves. About 20,000 men were screened, and viral DNA was found in 1,112, or 5.5 percent.

Of those, 309 also had the DNA on confirmatory tests a month later. After endoscope and MRI exams, 34 turned out to have cancer. More cases were found at the earliest stage - 71 percent versus only 20 percent of a comparison group of men who had been treated for nasopharyngeal cancer over the previous five



**PHILADELPHIA:** In this file photo, a patient has her blood drawn for a liquid biopsy during an appointment at a hospital in Philadelphia. —AP

years. That's important because early cases often are cured with radiation alone, but more advanced ones need chemotherapy and treatment is less successful. Screening also seemed to improve how many survived without worsening disease - 97 percent at three years versus 70 percent of the comparison group.

Only one person who tested negative on screening developed nasopharyngeal cancer within a year. The researchers estimate 593 people would need to be screened at a total cost of \$28,600 to identify one cancer case. It may be worth it in Hong Kong, but maybe not in places like the US where the disease is rare, and more people would have to be screened at a greater

cost to find each case, said Dr. Richard Ambinder of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, who wrote a commentary in the journal. Still, "this is showing that liquid biopsies have great promise," he said. "This is an advance that will indeed save lives."

The study was sponsored by an Asian foundation and the Hong Kong government. Lo and some other authors founded Cirina, a Hong Kong-based company focused on early cancer detection, and get royalties related to DNA blood tests. In May, Cirina merged with Grail Inc., a California company working on cancer screening blood tests with more than \$1 billion from drug companies and big-name investors such as Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates. —AP

## SCIENTISTS GENE-EDIT PIGLETS, BRINGING ORGAN TRANSPLANTS TO HUMANS CLOSER

**WASHINGTON:** Scientists have successfully edited the genetic code of piglets to remove dormant viral infections, a breakthrough that could eventually pave the way for animal-to-human organ transplants. Their work, documented in the US journal Science on Thursday, could save lives by reducing organ

donor waiting lists that have risen over the years, partly thanks to better road safety. There are some 117,000 people on the US transplant waiting list alone, according to official data, while 22 people die each day waiting for an organ.

Harvard University geneticists George Church and Luhan Yang,

together with a team of Danish and Chinese collaborators, placed edited embryonic cells into a chemical cocktail that encouraged growth and overcame the destructive effect inherent in the modification process. They then used a standard cloning technique to insert the edited DNA into egg cells that were placed

into a surrogate mother.

"Before our study, there was huge scientific uncertainty about whether the pig [produced after this editing] is viable," Yang said, adding the team had now produced 37 piglets free of the porcine endogenous retroviruses (PERVs). "If this is correct, it's a great achievement," said virologist Joachim Denner of the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin, an expert in the retroviruses. It is not clear whether PERVs would infect humans who receive pig organs, but lab studies have shown human cells can be infected by the viruses in a dish.

Humans can already receive pig heart valves and pancreases, but scientists have long sought to make their entire organs, which grow to around human size, available for harvest. But the goal of xenotransplantation remains some way off. Researchers still need to edit pig genes to avoid triggering a human immune system reaction and prevent toxic interactions in blood. These steps "are probably more challenging" than removing the dormant infections, said Yang. —AFP



# CLINIC PAGE



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**Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem**  
استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

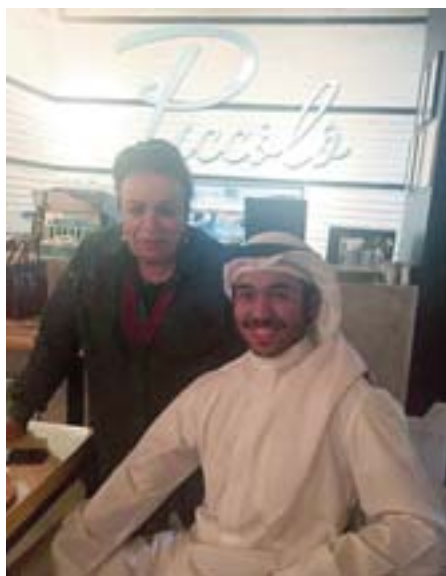
Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368





## IWC ATTENDS RESTAURANT OPENING OF SHIEKH AHMAD

Sheikh Ahmad Fawaz Al-Khalid Al-Sabah welcomed the spouses of several ambassadors along with the chairwoman of the International Women Committee Narjes Al-Shatti for a luncheon on the occasion of the opening of his restaurant in Dar Al-Awadh. The committee plans spoke about a variety of topics including the upcoming activities for the ambassador's wives.



## THIS PIZZA CAPTURES THE TASTE OF NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER

Fresh shellfish is one of the hallmarks of a good summer vacation, and it is best eaten barefoot with a sea breeze and chilled rose. But life is not always a beach and we are, regrettably, not always on vacation. Luckily, with a few staycation-ready recipes stored away, you can easily transport yourself and all of your friends to the shores of Cape Cod.

This Grilled White Pizza with Cockles, Lemon and Kale, with a rich creamy sauce reminiscent of New England clam chowder, is a refreshing change of pace from a summer full of hamburgers and grilled vegetables. Bright lemon zest pops against the season's sweetest clams, while lightly charred pizza dough offers a crunchy smokiness that no oyster cracker would dare to challenge. Culinary Institute of America chef Scott Swartz says that grilling pizza, especially this one, is great for summertime parties, because each component can be made ahead.

He suggests, "Grill one side of the pizza dough, then remove it, cooked-side up, to a lightly oiled tray. Put your toppings on the cooked side and then, just before serving, return to the grill, cover, and let the dough crisp and the toppings warm through. This way, the dough can be grilled way ahead of time and quickly finished when ready to eat." Though the flavors of this pizza are rich and bold, there's still leaves plenty of room for personalization. Add familiar chowder ingredients like bacon or sweet summer corn for an ode to the classic. Or try roasted poblanos, caramelized fennel, or spicy chorizo for something new and exciting. And if this feels a little heavy on the summer bod, you can make the sauce without the cream. Since you'll still need it to be saucy, we would add a bit more wine and a little squeeze of lemon juice. Remember, though, that the whole

thing is topped with kale, which basically makes it a salad, right?

Speaking of kale, we like it here because it's a mild green with a texture that holds up well to cooking. If it's not for you, you can use spinach (just skip the pre-cooking step), Swiss chard, or even flavorful mustard greens. This would also be equally delicious with blanched asparagus, thinly sliced broccoli, or even shaved cabbage.

Cockles are a nice choice for this pizza, since they are small and tender, but fresh and local should take precedence. Choose whatever clam variety is of the best quality

where you are, and make sure to keep them nice and cold while you prepare the other ingredients.

Most store-bought clams should be relatively clean and free of sand, but you'll want to be extra sure, since in most coastal regions, serving gritty clams is punishable by a fine of one case of cold beer. Refrigerate your clams in a bowl of salted water for at least a few hours for peace of mind. Discard any clams with broken or damaged shells, or any open clams that do not close when gently tapped.

This pizza makes enough a family dinner, with a nice summer salad on the side. The

recipe can easily be doubled or even tripled for a party, and the dough can be shaped into rectangles for easy appetizer portions, or even into small individual rounds-whatever floats your boat. It's still summer, so you can do what you want. Save the rules for September.

### GRILLED WHITE PIZZA WITH COCKLES, LEMON AND KALE

#### Ingredients

Servings: 4  
Start to finish: 1 hour  
3 cups torn kale leaves, from about 1/2 bunch  
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced  
1 shallot, minced  
1 cup heavy cream  
1 pound, 8 ounces of cockles, little necks, or other small, seasonal clam, rinsed and soaked, if needed  
2 teaspoons cornstarch, mixed with 1 tablespoon water, to make a slurry  
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
1 pound pizza dough, thawed if frozen  
1 tablespoon canola oil  
1/2 teaspoon crushed red chili flakes  
1 teaspoon lemon zest (see note)  
Lemon wedges, for serving

#### Preparation

In a large bowl, prepare an ice water bath and set aside. Bring a medium pot of water to a boil over high heat. Add the kale and cook until wilted, about 3 minutes. Use tongs or a large slotted spoon to transfer the kale to the ice water bath to cool. Drain and set aside. Heat the olive oil in a large lidded saucepan or pot over medium heat. Add the garlic and shallot and cook, stirring constant-

ly, until translucent, about 4 minutes. Add the wine, cream, and clams, and stir to coat. Cover and cook until the clamshells have opened, about 4 minutes. Remove from the heat and use a slotted spoon or tongs to transfer clams to a bowl.

Return the pan to low heat and bring the cooking liquid to a simmer. Add the cornstarch slurry, mixing constantly to incorporate. Return to a simmer and add the cheese and pepper. Simmer, stirring constantly, until the cheese has melted and the sauce has thickened, about 3 minutes. Transfer to a bowl, straining through a mesh sieve if desired, and set aside to cool.

Meanwhile, remove the clam meat from the shells and roughly chop (leave some clams in the shell for garnish, if you like). Discard shells. To make the pizza, prepare a grill for medium-heat cooking. Roll or stretch the pizza dough into a 14-inch round. Lightly brush one side with about half of the canola oil, then place oil-side down on the grill. Cook, covered, until the dough is browned and crisp on the bottom, 2 to 3 minutes.

Carefully transfer the dough, cooked-side down, onto a large baking sheet. Brush the top with the remaining canola oil, then flip. Spread the cooked side with a thin layer of cream sauce (you may not use it all), leaving a 2-inch border around the edge of the dough. Top with chopped clams, kale, and chili flakes and cook until crisp and golden brown and toppings are warmed through, 2 to 3 minutes. Sprinkle with lemon zest, then slice and serve with lemon wedges. - AP

#### Chef's Note

For a sweet and savory variation, use chopped candied lemon peel in place of fresh zest. It can be found in most specialty markets.







00:10 The Night Crew  
02:05 Blackhat  
04:18 The Call Up  
06:10 I Am Number Four  
08:00 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials  
10:15 Blackhat  
12:30 Mission To Mars  
14:25 I Am Number Four  
16:15 Beverly Hills Cop 3  
18:00 X-Men: First Class  
20:10 Insurgent  
22:10 Revenge Of The Green Dragons  
23:45 REC 2



00:45 Man-Eating Super Snake  
01:40 Untamed China With Nigel Marven  
02:35 Untamed & Uncut  
03:25 Untamed China With Nigel Marven  
04:15 Gator Boys  
05:02 Bad Dog  
05:49 Bad Dog  
06:36 Swamp Brothers  
07:00 Swamp Brothers  
07:25 Whale Wars  
08:15 Treehouse Masters  
09:10 Treehouse Masters  
09:05 Treehouse Masters  
11:00 Treehouse Masters  
11:55 Treehouse Masters  
12:50 Guardians Of Rescue  
13:45 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory  
14:40 The Vet Life  
15:35 Untamed China With Nigel Marven  
16:30 Gator Boys  
17:25 Man-Eating Super Snake  
18:20 Catching Monsters  
19:15 Lar Of The Killer Crocs  
20:10 Dog Rescuers  
21:05 Mutant Planet  
22:00 Mutant Planet  
22:55 Untamed & Uncut  
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:00 EastEnders  
00:30 Cold Feet  
01:20 Cold Feet  
02:10 War And Peace  
02:55 EastEnders  
03:30 The Moonstone  
04:20 Orphan Black  
05:10 Agatha Raisin  
06:00 Holly City  
06:55 EastEnders  
07:25 Death In Paradise  
08:20 Doctor Who  
09:10 Father Brown  
10:00 EastEnders  
10:30 Death In Paradise  
11:25 Doctor Who  
12:15 Father Brown  
13:05 The Coroner  
14:00 EastEnders  
14:30 Death In Paradise  
15:25 Doctor Who  
16:15 Father Brown  
17:10 The Coroner  
18:00 Rev.  
18:30 EastEnders  
19:05 Death In Paradise  
20:00 Rillington Place  
21:00 Ashes To Ashes  
21:50 The Fear  
22:45 Unforgotten  
23:35 Death In Paradise



00:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera  
01:00 Who Was I? My Past Lives  
02:00 Private Crimes  
02:30 Private Crimes  
03:00 Escaping Polygamy  
04:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera  
05:00 Who Was I? My Past Lives  
06:00 The First 48  
07:00 The First 48  
08:00 Hatton Garden Heist: One Last Job  
09:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath  
10:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath  
11:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
12:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
13:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
14:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
15:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
16:00 Homicide Hunter  
17:00 Homicide Hunter  
18:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
19:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
20:00 The First 48  
21:00 Homicide Hunter  
22:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers  
23:00 Diabolical Women



00:05 Chappelle's Show  
00:30 Lip Sync Battle  
00:55 Tosh.O  
01:20 Tosh.O  
01:45 The Alternative Comedy Experience  
02:10 Live At The Apollo  
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
04:15 Lip Sync Battle  
04:40 Ridiculousness  
05:05 Disaster Date  
05:30 Catch A Contractor  
06:20 Bondi Ink  
07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
08:05 Disaster Date  
08:30 Impractical Jokers  
08:55 Ridiculousness  
09:20 Key And Peele  
09:45 Lip Sync Battle  
10:10 Ridiculousness  
10:35 Disaster Date  
11:00 Sweet Inc.  
11:50 Disaster Date  
12:15 Catch A Contractor  
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
13:55 Urban Tarzan  
14:20 Tattoo Disasters  
14:45 Lip Sync Battle  
15:10 Lip Sync Battle  
15:35 Ridiculousness  
16:00 Impractical Jokers  
16:25 Disaster Date  
16:50 Disaster Date  
17:15 Ridiculousness  
17:40 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef  
18:10 Impractical Jokers

18:33 Key And Peele  
18:56 Lip Sync Battle  
19:19 Lip Sync Battle  
19:43 Disaster Date  
20:05 Ridiculousness Arabia  
20:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 The Half Hour  
22:00 The Half Hour  
22:25 Chappelle's Show  
22:50 Live At The Apollo  
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Guinness World Records  
Smashed UK  
01:20 Guinness World Records  
Smashed UK  
02:10 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse  
03:00 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse  
03:50 Finding Bigfoot  
04:40 Finding Bigfoot  
05:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
06:20 How It's Made  
06:40 How It's Made  
07:00 Kenny The Shark  
07:25 Adventure 8: Zoo Games  
07:50 Adventure 8: Zoo Games  
08:15 Adventure 8: Zoo Games  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:05 How It's Made  
09:30 How It's Made  
09:55 How It's Made  
10:20 How It's Made  
10:45 How It's Made  
11:10 How It's Made  
11:35 How It's Made  
12:00 How It's Made  
12:25 How It's Made  
12:50 Guinness World Records  
Smashed UK  
13:40 Guinness World Records  
Smashed UK  
14:30 Guinness World Records  
Smashed UK  
15:20 Guinness World Records  
Smashed UK  
16:10 Guinness World Records  
Smashed UK  
17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
18:40 Dynamo: Magician Impossible  
19:30 Serious Amazon  
19:55 Serious Amazon  
20:20 How The Earth Works  
21:10 Engineering Earthquakes  
22:00 Finding Bigfoot  
22:50 Finding Bigfoot  
23:40 Finding Bigfoot



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  
03:48 Beauty Queen Murders  
04:36 Beauty Queen Murders  
05:24 Beauty Queen Murders  
06:12 Beauty Queen Murders  
07:00 Evil-In-Law  
07:50 Evil-In-Law  
08:40 Evil-In-Law  
09:30 Blood Relatives  
10:20 The Locator  
10:45 The Locator  
11:10 How (Not) To Kill Your Husband  
12:00 California Investigator  
12:25 California Investigator  
12:50 California Investigator  
13:15 California Investigator  
13:40 California Investigator  
14:05 California Investigator  
14:30 California Investigator  
14:55 California Investigator  
15:20 The Locator  
15:45 The Locator  
16:10 Suspicion  
17:00 I'd Kill For You  
17:50 I'd Kill For You  
18:40 I'd Kill For You  
19:30 I'd Kill For You  
20:20 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
21:10 Blood Relatives  
22:00 Shadow Of Doubt  
22:50 The First Kill  
23:40 Your Worst Nightmare



00:00 Hank Zipzer  
00:25 Alex & Co.  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Evermore Chronicles  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Binny And The Ghost  
02:55 Hank Zipzer  
03:15 The Hive  
03:20 Hank Zipzer  
03:45 Alex & Co.  
04:10 Alex & Co.  
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:25 Binny And The Ghost  
05:45 The Hive  
05:50 The 7D  
06:00 Jessie  
06:25 Jessie  
06:50 Austin & Ally  
07:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
07:20 The Zhuzhus  
07:45 Gravity Falls  
08:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
08:35 Elena Of Avalor  
09:00 Stuck In The Middle  
09:25 Best Friends Whenever  
09:50 Bunk'd  
10:15 Bizaardvark  
10:40 Princess Protection Programme  
12:20 Bunk'd  
12:45 Bunk'd  
13:10 Bunk'd  
13:35 Bunk'd  
14:00 Bunk'd  
14:25 Jessie  
14:50 Jessie  
15:15 Austin & Ally  
15:40 Austin & Ally  
16:05 Descendants Wicked World  
16:10 Girl Meets World  
16:35 Girl Meets World  
17:00 Good Luck Charlie  
17:25 The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning  
18:45 Welcome To The Ronks  
19:00 Star Darlings  
19:05 Best Friends Whenever  
19:30 Liv And Maddie  
19:55 Elena Of Avalor  
20:20 Jessie  
20:45 Bizaardvark  
21:10 Austin & Ally  
21:35 Stuck In The Middle

22:00 Bunk'd  
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
22:50 Loloirec  
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopdidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:30 The Hive  
02:40 Loopdidoo  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopdidoo  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:45 Zou  
05:00 Art Attack  
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:45 Loopdidoo  
06:00 Zou  
06:15 Calimero  
06:30 Loopdidoo  
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
07:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
07:50 Goldie & Bear  
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
08:40 Doc McStuffins  
09:05 PJ Masks  
09:35 Sofia The First  
10:00 The Lion Guard  
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
11:00 PJ Masks  
11:25 Goldie & Bear  
11:55 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
12:25 The Lion Guard  
12:50 Sofia The First  
13:20 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
13:45 Doc McStuffins  
14:10 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
14:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
15:05 PJ Masks  
15:30 The Lion Guard  
16:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
16:25 Sofia The First  
16:50 PJ Masks  
17:05 Goldie & Bear  
17:35 Doc McStuffins  
18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
18:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
19:05 Sofia The First  
19:35 The Lion Guard  
20:05 Goldie & Bear  
20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
21:00 Doc McStuffins  
21:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
22:30 Sofia The First  
22:55 PJ Masks  
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
23:35 The Hive  
23:45 Loopdidoo



00:20 Ocean Warriors  
01:05 Deadliest Catch  
02:35 Deadliest Catch  
03:20 Deadliest Catch  
04:05 Deadliest Catch  
04:50 Deadliest Catch  
05:35 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Deadliest Catch  
07:30 Fast N' Loud  
08:15 Running Wild With Bear Grylls  
09:00 Storage Hunters  
09:25 How Do They Do It?  
09:47 How Do They Do It?  
10:10 Edge Of Alaska  
10:55 Ice Lake Rebels  
11:40 How Do They Do It?  
12:02 How Do They Do It?  
12:25 How Do They Do It?  
12:47 Storage Hunters  
13:10 Gold Rush  
13:55 Running Wild With Bear Grylls  
14:40 Deadliest Catch  
15:25 Fast N' Loud  
16:10 Wheeler Dealers  
17:00 How Do They Do It?  
17:25 How Do They Do It?  
17:50 Storage Hunters  
18:20 Storage Hunters  
18:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls  
19:40 How Do They Do It?  
20:10 How Do They Do It?  
20:35 How Do They Do It?  
21:00 Mega Trains  
21:50 Gold Rush  
22:40 Ocean Warriors  
23:30 Fast N' Loud



06:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
06:25 Supa Strikas  
06:50 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister 6  
07:15 Right Now Kapow  
07:40 Walk The Prank  
08:05 Marvel's Ant-Man  
08:10 K.C. Undercover  
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law  
09:00 Mech-X4  
09:25 Mech-X4  
09:50 Mech-X4  
10:20 Mech-X4  
10:45 Mech-X4  
11:10 Lab Rats  
11:35 Mech-X4  
12:00 Walk The Prank  
12:30 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
12:55 Kirby Buckets  
13:20 K.C. Undercover  
13:45 Kirby Buckets  
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
14:15 Milo Murphy's Law  
14:40 K.C. Undercover  
15:05 Lab Rats  
15:30 Walk The Prank  
15:55 Right Now Kapow  
16:25 K.C. Undercover  
16:50 Kirby Buckets  
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  
19:50 Marvel's Ant-Man  
19:55 Milo Murphy's Law  
20:20 Mech-X4  
20:45 Mighty Med  
21:10 Walk The Prank  
21:35 Marvel's Ant-Man  
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island  
22:10 Lab Rats: Bionic Island  
22:35 Phineas And Ferb  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:00 Famously Single  
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
01:50 E! News  
02:50 Celebrity Style Story  
03:20 Celebrity Style Story  
03:50 Rob & Chyna  
04:40 Rob & Chyna  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
07:00 E! NYC  
08:00 E! News  
08:55 Botched  
09:50 Botched  
10:45 Botched  
11:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
12:30 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
13:25 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
14:20 Botched  
15:15 Botched  
16:10 WAGs Miami  
17:05 WAGs Miami  
18:05 WAGs Miami  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 Botched  
21:00 Life Of Kylie  
21:30 Life Of Kylie  
22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
23:00 Botched



00:00 Man Fire Food  
00:30 Man Fire Food  
01:00 Restaurant: Impossible  
02:00 Mystery Diners  
02:30 Mystery Diners  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
03:30 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin  
06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin  
07:00 Chopped  
08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
09:00 The Pioneer Woman  
09:30 The Pioneer Woman  
10:00 Siba's Table  
10:30 Siba's Table  
11:00 Bake With Anna Olson  
11:30 Bake With Anna Olson  
12:00 Man Fire Food  
12:30 Man Fire Food  
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
14:00 Chopped  
15:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
15:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
16:00 The Pioneer Woman  
16:30 The Pioneer Woman  
17:00 Siba's Table  
17:30 Siba's Table  
18:00 Bake With Anna Olson  
18:30 Bake With Anna Olson  
19:00 Man Fire Food  
19:30 Man Fire Food  
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
21:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers  
21:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers  
22:00 Smollett Eats  
22:30 Smollett Eats  
23:00 Chopped



00:05 Coronation Street  
00:30 Coronation Street  
01:00 Victoria  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Coronation Street  
03:00 Coronation Street  
03:30 Coronation Street  
03:55 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
04:50 Tonight At The London Palladium  
05:50 Don't Tell The Bride  
06:50 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...  
07:45 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...  
08:40 This Is England '90  
09:30 Broadchurch  
10:25 Victoria  
11:25 Tonight At The London Palladium  
12:20 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
13:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
14:10 Doc Martin  
15:05 Don't Tell The Bride  
16:15 Catchphrase  
16:55 This Is England '90  
17:50 Tonight At The London Palladium  
18:45 Together  
19:15 Together  
19:45 Broadchurch  
20:40 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
21:35 This Is England '90  
22:30 Victoria  
23:20 Lewis



00:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
01:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
02:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
02:50 The Greeks  
03:40 Weapons At War  
04:30 America's Book Of Secrets  
05:20 America's Book Of Secrets  
06:10 America's Book Of Secrets  
07:00 Engineering Disasters  
08:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
09:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
10:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
11:00 Engineering Disasters  
12:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence  
13:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence  
14:00 Engineering Disasters  
15:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
16:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
17:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
18:00 Decoding The Past  
19:00 The Lost Evidence  
20:00 Serial Killer Earth  
21:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files  
22:00 Ancient Top 10  
23:00 Heroes Of War



00:20 Mystery Pickers  
01:10 Mountain Men  
02:00 Lost In Transmission  
02:50 Storage Wars  
03:15 Pawn Stars  
03:40 Pawn Stars Australia  
04:40 Storage Wars Texas  
04:30 Storage Wars Texas  
05:00 Grave Trade  
06:00 Lost In Transmission  
06:50 Duck Dynasty  
07:15 Duck Dynasty

07:40 Counting Cars  
08:05 Counting Cars  
08:30 Pawn Stars  
08:55 Pawn Stars  
09:20 Storage Wars Miami  
09:45 Storage Wars Miami  
10:10 American Pickers  
11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island  
11:50 Duck Dynasty  
12:15 Duck Dynasty  
12:40 Counting Cars  
13:05 Counting Cars  
13:30 Ice Road Truckers  
14:20 Mountain Men  
15:10 Lost In Transmission  
16:00 Storage Wars Miami  
16:25 Storage Wars Miami  
16:50 Pawn Stars  
17:15 Pawn Stars  
17:40 Billion Dollar Wreck  
18:30 Alone: Lost And Found  
19:20 Mountain Men  
20:10 American Pickers  
21:00 Pawn Stars  
21:25 Pawn Stars  
21:50 Mystery Pickers  
22:40 Counting Cars  
23:05 Counting Cars  
23:30 American Pickers



00:15 Places We Go  
00:45 Sinful Sweets  
01:10 Maximum Foodie  
01:40 Bad Trip  
02:35 Confucius Was A Foodie  
03:30 Living Free With Kimi Werner  
04:25 Maximum Foodie  
04:50 David Rocco's Dolce India  
05:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med  
06:15 The Food Files  
06:40 The Food Files  
07:10 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia  
07:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia  
08:05 Eat Street  
08:30 Eat Street  
09:00 Fish Of The Day  
09:25 Fish Of The Day  
09:55 Bad Trip  
11:00 Places We Go  
11:15 Places We Go  
11:45 One Man & His Campervan  
12:10 One Man & His Campervan  
12:40 Raw Travel  
13:05 Raw Travel  
13:35 Bad Trip  
14:30 Confucius Was A Foodie  
15:25 Living Free With Kimi Werner  
16:20 Lee Chan's World Food Tour  
16:45 David Rocco's Dolce India  
17:15 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med  
18:10 The Food Files  
18:35 The Food Files  
19:05 Living Free With Kimi Werner  
20:00 Lee Chan's World Food Tour  
20:30 David Rocco's Dolce India  
21:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med  
22:00 The Food Files  
22:25 The Food Files  
22:55 Bad Trip  
23:50 Confucius Was A Foodie



00:10 Big Fix Alaska  
01:00 King Fishers  
02:00 Wicked Tuna  
03:00 Highway Thru Hell  
04:00 Megastructures  
05:00 Marco Polo: The China Mystery Revealed  
05:30 Two Tales Of China  
06:00 Inside  
07:00 Inside Singapore Airlines  
08:00 Airport Security: Colombia  
09:00 Locked Up Abroad  
10:00 Nazi Megastructures  
11:00 Supercar Megabuild  
12:00 Surgery Ship  
13:00 Dog Whisperer  
14:00 Dog Whisperer  
15:00 King Fishers  
16:00 Wicked Tuna  
17:00 Continent 7: Antarctica  
18:00 Diana: In Her Own Words  
19:00 Wicked Tuna  
20:00 Wicked Tuna  
21:40 Diana: In Her Own Words  
23:40 Seconds From Disaster



00:20 Giant Panda: The Last Refuge  
01:10 Wild Colombia  
02:00 Spine Chillers: Scorpions  
02:50 Bug Attack  
03:45 Natural Born Monsters  
04:40 Jobs That Bite!  
05:35 Cougar V. Wolf  
06:30 Monster Fish  
07:25 Monster Fish  
08:20 Ultimate Predator  
09:15 Botswana  
10:10 An Elephant's World  
11:05 Dr. K's Exotic Animal 2.5  
12:00 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo  
12:55 Spine Chillers: Vampire Bats  
13:50 Squid vs. Whale  
14:45 Built For The Kill  
15:40 Badass Animals  
16:35 Unlikely Animal Friends  
17:30 Monster Fish  
18:25 Built For The Kill  
19:20 Spine Chillers: Vampire Bats  
20:10 Badass Animals  
21:00 Unlikely Animal Friends  
21:50 Monster Fish  
22:40 Built For The Kill  
23:30 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
00:36 Rabbids Invasion  
01:00 Rabbids Invasion  
01:24 Sanjay And Craig  
01:48 Sanjay And Craig  
02:12 Winx Club  
02:36 Winx Club  
03:00 Harvey Beaks  
03:24 Harvey Beaks  
03:48 The Loud House  
04:12 The Loud House  
04:36 Breadwinners  
05:00 Breadwinners  
05:24 Get Blake  
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
07:00 The Loud House  
07:24 Rabbids Invasion  
07:48 Get Blake  
08:12 Harvey Beaks  
08:36 Sanjay And Craig  
09:00 Rank The Prank  
09:24 Henry Danger  
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School  
10:12 Game Shakers  
10:36 Regal Academy  
11:00 Winx Club  
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
12:12 The Loud House  
12:36 Breadwinners  
13:00 School Of Rock  
13:24 Hunter Street  
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
14:12 Henry Danger  
14:36 The Thundermans  
15:00 100 Things To Do Before High School  
15:24 Rabbids Invasion  
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
16:36 The Loud House  
17:00 Regal Academy  
17:24 Winx Club  
17:48 Hunter Street  
18:12 Henry Danger  
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
19:00 School Of Rock  
19:24 Game Shakers  
19:48 The Thundermans  
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
21:00 The Loud House  
21:24 Sanjay And Craig  
21:48 Rabbids Invasion  
22:12 Breadwinners  
22:36 Harvey Beaks  
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

10:12 Game Shakers  
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11:00 Winx Club  
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
12:12 The Loud House  
12:36 Breadwinners  
13:00 School Of Rock  
13:24 Hunter Street  
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
14:12 Henry Danger  
14:36 The Thundermans  
15:00 100 Things To Do Before High School  
15:24 Rabbids Invasion  
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16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
16:36 The Loud House  
17:00 Regal Academy  
17:24 Winx Club  
17:48 Hunter Street  
18:12 Henry Danger  
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
19:00 School Of Rock  
19:24 Game Shakers  
19:48 The Thundermans  
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
21:00 The Loud House  
21:24 Sanjay And Craig  
21:48 Rabbids Invasion  
22:12 Breadwinners  
22:36 Harvey Beaks  
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:45 The Day Henry Met  
00:50 The Day Henry Met  
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:40 Zack & Quack  
01:51 Team Umizoomi  
02:15 Team Umizoomi  
02:38 Olive The Ostrich  
02:43 Olive The Ostrich  
02:48 Paw Patrol  
03:10 Paw Patrol  
03:33 Paw Patrol  
03:57 Shimmer And Shine  
04:19 Shimmer And Shine  
04:42 Rusty Rivets  
05:05 Rusty Rivets  
05:28 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
05:50 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
06:13 Paw Patrol  
06:37 Dora The Explorer  
07:00 Zack & Quack  
07:21 Bubble Guppies  
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
08:07 Bubble Guppies  
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight  
09:15 The Day Henry Met  
09:22 Paw Patrol  
09:45 Rusty Rivets  
09:55 Bubble Guppies  
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies  
10:40 Zack & Quack  
10:50 Team Umizoomi  
11:15 Shimmer And Shine  
11:36 Shimmer And Shine  
11:59 Max & Ruby  
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
12:45 The Day Henry Met  
12:50 The Day Henry Met  
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:40 Zack & Quack  
13:51 Team Umizoomi  
14:15 Team Umizoomi  
14:38 Olive The Ostrich  
14:43 Olive The Ostrich  
14:48 Paw Patrol  
15:10 Paw Patrol  
15:33 Paw Patrol  
15:57 Shimmer And Shine  
16:19 Shimmer And Shine  
16:42 Rusty Rivets  
17:05 Rusty Rivets  
17:28 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
17:50 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
18:13 Paw Patrol  
18:37 Dora The Explorer  
19:00 Zack & Quack  
19:21 Bubble Guppies  
19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
20:07 Paw Patrol  
20:30 Shimmer And Shine  
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight  
21:15 The Day Henry Met  
21:22 Paw Patrol  
21:45 Rusty Rivets  
21:57 Bubble Guppies  
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies  
22:40 Zack & Quack  
22:52 Team Umizoomi  
23:15 Shimmer And Shine  
23:38 Shimmer And Shine



01:05 Clocktappers  
02:50 The Lizzie McGuire Movie  
04:35 Monte Carlo  
06:30 Ice Age  
08:00 Ice Age 3: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs  
09:45 The Unbeatables  
11:30 Monte Carlo  
13:25 Snow Day  
15:00 The Unbeatables  
16:40 A Little Game  
18:20 Alice In Wonderland  
20:15 Tuck Everlasting  
21:55 The Unbeatables  
23:35 Snow Day



00:00 Ted 2  
01:55 Elizabethtown  
04:00 Baby's Day Out  
05:40 Valentine's Day  
07:45 Ride  
09:20 Baby's Day Out  
11:05 Valentine's Day  
13:10 Ride  
14:45 Turner & Hoach  
16:25 7 Chinese Brothers  
17:40 Can't Buy Me Love  
19:15 A Thousand Words  
20:50 Death At A Funeral  
22:25 Good Kids  
23:55 Bad Words



00:00 Rio, I Love You  
02:00 Rio, I Love You  
03:45 Grand Central  
05:25 Experimenter  
07:10 Foreverland  
08:50 Fort McCoy  
10:35 Grand Central  
12:15 Experimenter  
14:00 Fort McCoy  
15:45 Eyes Of An Angel  
17:25 Oleanna

19:00 Lucky Them  
20:45 Masaan  
22:20 Mambo Kings



00:40 Pooh's Heffalump Movie  
01:55 Hocus Pocus Affie Atkins  
03:10 Ghosthunters On Icy Trails  
04:50 Ratchet And Clank  
06:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves  
07:45 Ploddy Police Car On The Case  
09:05 The Happy Cricket  
10:45 Zodiac: The Race Begins  
12:20 Pooh's Heffalump Movie  
13:35 Hocus Pocus Affie Atkins  
14:50 Lego: Scooby Doo Haunted Hollywood  
16:15 The Happy Cricket  
17:55 Legend Of The Sea  
19:15 Smitty  
20:55 Lego: Scooby Doo Haunted Hollywood  
22:20 Ploddy Police Car On The Case  
23:40 Zodiac: The Race Begins



00:00 Ouija  
01:30 War Of The Worlds  
03:25 Ghostbusters II  
05:15 San Andreas  
07:10 Big  
09:00 War Of The Worlds  
10:55 The Bad News Bears  
12:50 San Andreas  
14:45 October Sky  
16:35 Raising Helen  
18:35 Unbroken  
20:55 Runner Runner  
22:50 Down And Out In Beverly Hills



00:30 Prototype This  
01:20 How We Invented The World  
02:10 How We In



CROSSWORD 1684



ACROSS

- 1. An associate degree in applied science.
- 4. A long-handled saw with a curved blade.
- 12. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
- 15. A run that is the result of the batter's performance.
- 16. Causing envy.
- 17. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
- 18. The longest diversion of geological time.
- 19. North American evergreen with small pinkish bell-shaped flowers and oblong leaves used formerly for shimplasters.
- 20. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 21. A stiff chitinous seta or bristle especially of an annelid worm.
- 23. In this sense 'Gentile' denotes a Christian as contrasted with a Jew.
- 24. A landlocked desert republic in north-central Africa.
- 26. Type genus of the Amiidae.
- 27. Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
- 30. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
- 33. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
- 36. State in northeastern India.
- 39. Interface consisting of a standard port between a computer and its peripherals that is used in some computers.
- 43. A machine or person that adds.
- 44. American dwarf fan palms.
- 45. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- 46. A recurring sleep state during which dreaming occurs.
- 47. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- 48. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
- 50. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
- 51. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
- 55. A computerized data system to provide brokers with price quotations for securities traded over the counter.
- 57. United States biochemist who discovered how genes act by regulating definite chemical events (1909-1975).
- 59. An international organization created in 1949 by the North Atlantic Treaty for purposes of collective security.
- 61. A river of southwestern Africa that rises in central Angola and flows east and then north (forming part of the border between Angola and Congo) and continuing northwest through Congo to empty into the Congo River on the border between Congo and Republic of the Congo.
- 62. A feeling of intense anger.
- 63. Hinge joint between the forearm and upper arm and the corresponding joint in the forelimb of a quadruped.
- 65. A Chadik language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 68. The boy whose upbringing was described by Jean-Jacques Rousseau.
- 70. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- 74. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 78. Psychoactive substance present in marijuana.
- 79. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- 81. A local computer network for communication between computers.
- 82. Take in solid food.
- 83. Low stingless nettle of Central and South

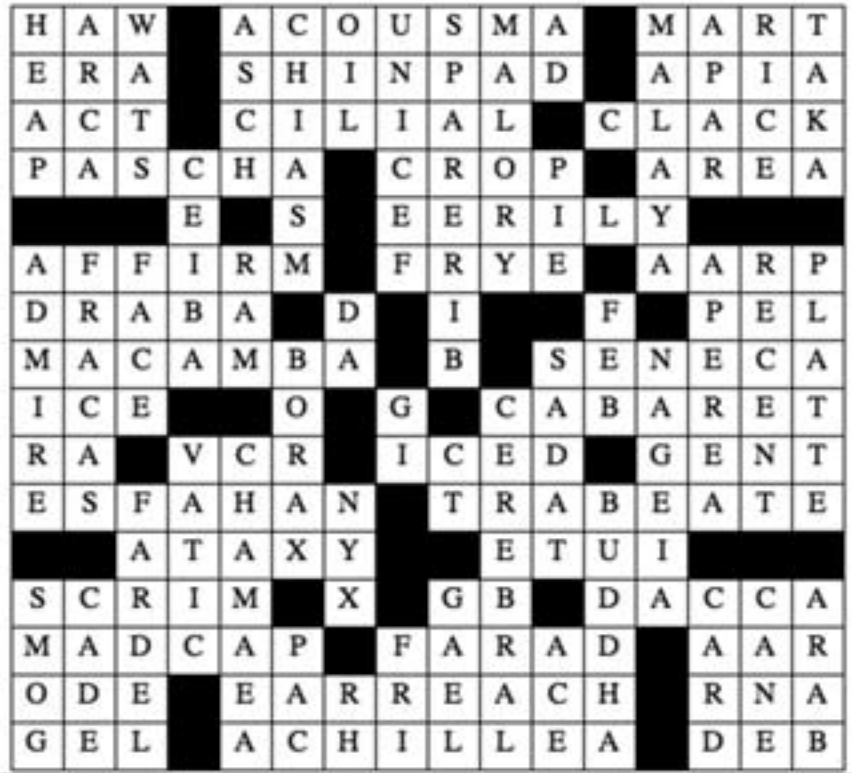
America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.

84. A doctor's degree in theology.

DOWN

- 1. Any of several tall tropical palms native to south-eastern Asia having egg-shaped nuts.
- 2. A unit of resistance equal to a billionth of an ohm.
- 3. A mountain peak in the southern Sinai Peninsula (7,500 feet high).
- 4. (superlative of 'good') Having the most positive qualities.
- 5. Draw in by breathing.
- 6. Being six more than fifty.
- 7. A characteristic language of a particular group (as among thieves).
- 8. An indication of radiant light drawn around the head of a saint.
- 9. Be obedient to.
- 10. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
- 11. An oral cephalosporin (trade names Keflex and Keflin and Kefab) commonly prescribe for mild to moderately severe infections of the skin or ears or throat or lungs or urinary tract.
- 12. Chinese fruit having a thin brittle shell enclosing a sweet jellylike pulp and a single seed.
- 13. A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.
- 14. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
- 22. Any of various large keen-sighted diurnal birds of prey noted for their broad wings and strong soaring flight.
- 25. A deep opening in the earth's surface.
- 28. By bad luck.
- 29. (Arthurian legend) The battlefield where King Arthur was mortally wounded.
- 31. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 32. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
- 34. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
- 35. Declare or acknowledge to be true.
- 37. A constitutional monarchy on the western part of the islands of Samoa in the South Pacific.
- 38. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
- 40. A game played with playing cards.
- 41. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- 42. Of or relating to Iraq or its people or culture.
- 49. Powerful mackerel shark of the Atlantic and Pacific.
- 52. A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.
- 53. A small flat triangular bone in front of the knee that protects the knee joint.
- 54. United States feminist (born in 1934).
- 56. The fifth month of the Hindu calendar.
- 58. Informal terms for a mother.
- 60. A Dravidian language spoken in south central India.
- 64. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- 66. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 67. Consideration in dealing with others and avoiding giving offence.
- 69. God of death.
- 71. The handle of a sword or dagger.
- 72. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
- 73. An unofficial association of people or groups.
- 75. Apparent power to perceive things that are not present to the senses.
- 76. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
- 77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 80. Being nine more than ninety.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have plenty of good practical job-related thoughts and ideas. You have the ability to communicate with superiors and describe what you see. You work with real imagination and understanding in areas of the mind that are most private-depth psychology. Understanding your co-workers has an advantage this week, as someone may have been relieved from certain duties and another may have moved up in status. Politics and jealousy from others may gain your sympathy. Working with others at this time has brought you to realize that your ability to focus is an important factor in your business expertise. You may be sought after as just the person for a particular project. Laughter is contagious this evening-enjoy a good laugh with friends.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may be under a lot of pressure, at least in the way you appear to others. All is not in harmony between your emotions and the way you express yourself just now. Take a step back and reassess what motivates you. You are insightful when it comes to practical matters-job, career and such. You are independent and you may have an unconventional approach to work, especially regarding how you organize or manage your work. Perhaps the only problem today is that you may have a reputation for being different. You enjoy the emotional nourishment and a sense of security from ideals, friends and social involvement. There is a need for change, a desire to break away from the outmoded patterns. Find an enjoyment for the new and unique.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You do not like making speeches, but when elected to take the place of a scheduled speaker, you can plan each word perfectly. You are able to be a very forceful speaker when needed. Today, your words just gush out and you create an emotional impact that brings new information to your listeners. You have no trouble putting your feelings into words; in fact, you may have to exercise some control over your tongue, for you are quick. You may enjoy throwing in a word here and there that is new to the audience and keeps them alert and listening. Ideas, words, books, etc., are pursued with great gusto. This is a time when support and recognition should be in the forecast from public, family and friends. Slow the tempo tonight and enjoy a quiet evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Everything points to your taking a project over. You feel that you have support from those around you and your ideas will add to the smoothness of the execution of the project. There is a surge of independence, freedom and an interest in trying new ideas. If you are in sales, or teaching, others will not be able to resist paying attention to you. You are a smooth talker with a quick wit. This is a productive time. You are not afraid to try new things. This will broaden your thinking and help you see new styles, ideas and paths to successful outcomes. A little time management may be needed for most people, but you seem to naturally pull things together. A sense of humor this evening helps you to enjoy your surroundings.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Pay attention to your timing today so that you are able to make complete sentences and complete whatever tasks are placed before you. Communication, particularly with those you feel may be a bit pushy, could prove troublesome. When using written communications, it will be good to spell-check and proofread. You will be successful in whatever method of communication you choose. Create an interest in viewing the possible outcomes of a situation, instead of the quick fix-no surprises. You encourage others through your own actions. There could be change on the home front this evening. You appreciate tradition and regularity and you may be set against anything new. Of course, one could consider a good reupholstering job on a sturdy chair.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your most essential quality has to do with the very real love and compassion you radiate. Your sense of value and sheer appreciation for life are communicated to all. You take control of a difficult situation today in some efforts to make others feel at ease. You could feel great support from those around you. You are also a born entertainer. There are special talents you are aware of and the energies today are with you in all of these areas. They are to enhance your problem-solving and strengthen your ability to help others. Perhaps you are in the medical field. You will succeed in your efforts; feel the confidence that belongs to you. Fill the air with music tonight.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You must learn to listen to some of your own more sensitive areas and feelings; they are clues into who you are and where your compassion can be found. Clear communication is ever important in order to get your information across. It is time to start thinking about opportunities that will show off your own special abilities. You may enjoy your job and be able to express your business expertise. This evening it will be time to show how well you can create what everyone wants. This may be with music, crafts or techniques, styles or expressions. You have held yourself back for too long. You cannot abolish your creativity. Consider taking some time to volunteer in some mentoring and tutoring capacity, perhaps a community awareness project.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have strong, stable emotions and tend to draw around you the perfect environment for yourself. The thing you need is always at hand. In addition, you get much support and good fortune from friends and relatives. You are sometimes pulled between a desire to progress and be all that you can be, versus a tendency to dwell in the past. Today may be full of dwelling in the past but you will eventually pay attention to the happenings around you. You can change a difficult matter in the office to an understandable occurrence. You will probably be the teacher today and you should be very pleased at the way the workday ends. Meeting with friends after work will afford you an opportunity to relax and enjoy the company of your peers.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may feel left out or passed over just now. Your own requirements may appear to limit and separate you from where the rest of the gang is headed. This is a short-term situation but needs your attention. Close relationships will take on more emotional depth, power and importance at this time. An important event is near. This is a time during which you can have the experience of taking a greater role in the creation of life itself. You become one with the creative force to a marked extent-powerfully positive thinking. This could just be the time to break the mold and try what is unconventional, but with real passion. A much more independent and adventurous you will emerge. Relax this evening, perhaps a good video movie.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You enjoy working in a group that knows how to be part of a team and work together. You are very motivated, with a strong drive and urge to do and accomplish. In your own personal workspace you have an eye toward progress and the future; you feel compelled to try for what is just out of your reach. As a born coach or teacher, you are at home in the physical-action areas of life. You are quite able to manage a very active and strong emotional life. At home this afternoon a loved one gives you reason to be critical-you are wise to hold back your comments. Find the positive possibilities in this particular person. This person may just need to talk.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your relentless pursuit of anything hidden makes you a good investigator. You are positive and energized, handling subject matters that others would never come near. You are able to size up a problem and come up with a solution. Using your mind to negotiate obstacles and handle dilemmas, you will be called upon to solve several business problems today. You could be a computer wizard or a technical adviser-whatever the case, others are glad you make yourself available. You have a natural ability to guide and lead others through the hassles of life. You could be very much in demand as a counselor-you enjoy solving problems. Be prepared-this could amount to a passion that others may not be ready to deal with-pace yourself.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your mind could be quite clear and natural. Ideas are streaming easily to you. You can talk, talk, talk. You could be on a planning committee or in advertising that calls for your kind of thinking. Your outward seriousness and non-sense approach to things are obvious to all. This deliberate sense of responsibility comes across and is central to your personality and the way you relate to other people. Everything is run through your checkpoint to see if it holds up and can pass the test. Although you are very creative, you can be a stickler with details. You may be able to enjoy and value the relationships you have with your friends and loved ones tonight. General good feeling and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time.

WORD SEARCH

Old TV Shows 1

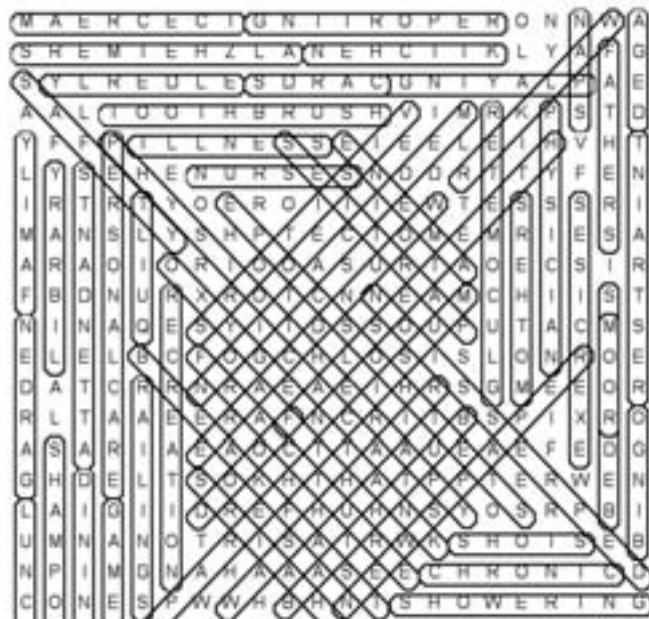
Find and circle all of the old TV shows that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional old TV show.



- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| ALICE<br>BEN CASEY<br>BEVERLY HILLBILLIES<br>CHIPS<br>CANNON<br>CAPTAIN KANGAROO<br>DORIE GILLIS<br>DONNA REED<br>DR. KILDARE<br>EMERGENCY<br>FLIPPER | FLYING NUN<br>FUGITIVE<br>GOMER PYLE<br>GOOD TIMES<br>GREEN ACRES<br>GREEN HORNET<br>HOWDY DOODY<br>1 SPY<br>IRONSIDES<br>JETSONS<br>KOJAK | L.A. LAW<br>LASSIE<br>LOVE BOAT<br>MAD ABOUT YOU<br>MAUDE<br>MEDICAL CENTER<br>MIAMI VICE<br>MOD SQUAD<br>MOONLIGHTING<br>MURPHY BROWN<br>WALTONS | ODD COUPLE<br>PEYTON PLACE<br>RAWHIDE<br>RIFLEMAN<br>RIN TIN TIN<br>SOAP<br>ST. ELSEWHERE<br>TAXI<br>THREE'S COMPANY<br>WALTONS |
|---|--|---|---|

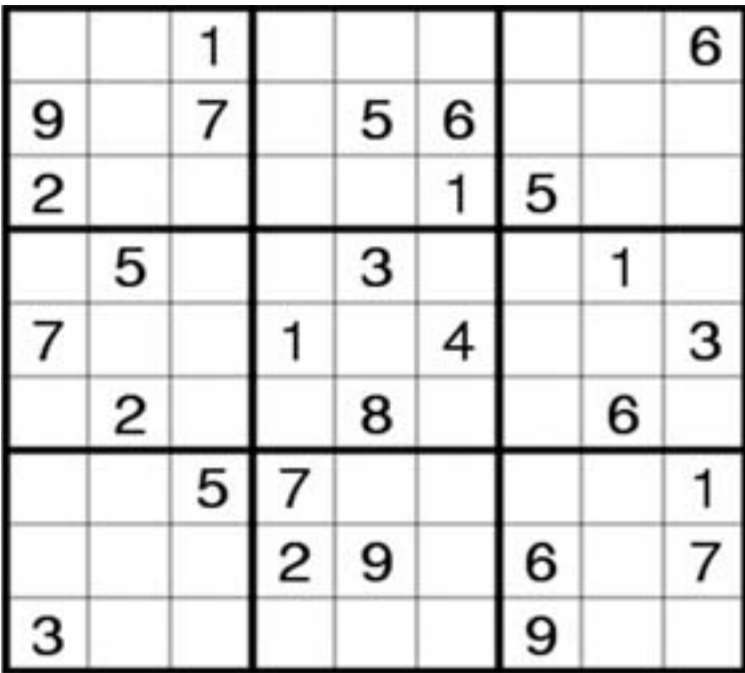
Friday's Solution

Nursing Home 3

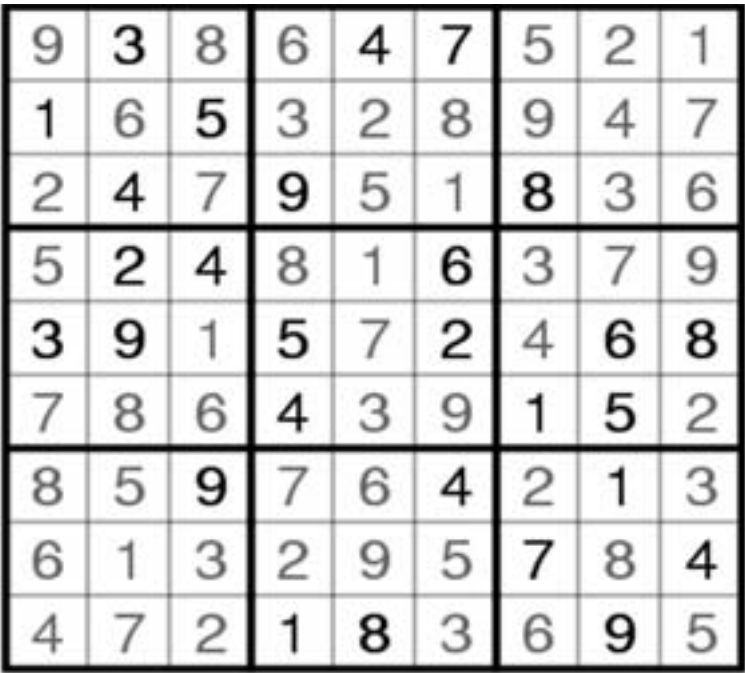


The hidden message is: ONLY A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS IS A LIFE WORTHWHILE

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution





# CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

55th Anniversary

Kuwait Times



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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (10/08/2017 TO 16/08/2017)

**SHARQIA-1**  
KIDNAP 12:15 PM  
DUNKIRK 2:15 PM  
THE DARK TOWER 4:30 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 6:30 PM  
DUNKIRK 8:30 PM  
THE DARK TOWER 10:45 PM  
KIDNAP 12:45 AM

**SHARQIA-2**  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 12:00 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 2:45 PM  
DUNKIRK 5:15 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 7:30 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 10:00 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 12:30 AM

**SHARQIA-3**  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 11:45 AM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 1:45 PM  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 3:45 PM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 6:30 PM  
KIDNAP 9:30 PM  
KIDNAP 11:30 PM

**MUHALAB-1**  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 12:30 PM  
THE DARK TOWER 1:30 PM  
FRI  
DUNKIRK 3:30 PM  
DUNKIRK 5:45 PM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 8:00 PM  
THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 10:45 PM  
THE DARK TOWER 12:45 AM

**MUHALAB-2**  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 12:00 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 2:00 PM  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 4:00 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 6:45 PM  
KIDNAP 9:00 PM  
KIDNAP 11:00 PM  
KIDNAP 1:00 AM

**MUHALAB-3**  
THE DARK TOWER 11:45 AM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 2:30 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE - Arabic 5:00 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 7:00 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 9:30 PM  
KIDNAP 12:05 AM

**FANAR-1**  
KIDNAP 12:30 PM  
THE DARK TOWER 2:45 PM  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 4:45 PM  
DUNKIRK 7:30 PM  
BABY DRIVER 9:45 PM  
THE DARK TOWER 12:05 AM

**FANAR-2**  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 12:15 PM  
KIDNAP 2:15 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 4:15 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 6:15 PM  
KIDNAP 8:15 PM  
KIDNAP 10:15 PM  
KIDNAP 12:15 AM

**FANAR-3**  
RESIDENT EVIL- VENDETTA - Arabic 11:30 AM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 1:45 PM  
TOILET - EK PREM KATHA - Hindi 4:30 PM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 7:30 PM  
RESIDENT EVIL- VENDETTA - Arabic 10:30 PM  
RESIDENT EVIL- VENDETTA - Arabic 12:45 AM

**FANAR-4**  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 12:00 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE - Arabic 2:40 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 5:00 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 7:40 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 10:00 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 12:30 AM

**FANAR-5**  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 11:45 AM  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 2:30 PM  
THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 5:15 PM  
47 METERS DOWN 7:15 PM  
THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 9:15 PM  
47 METERS DOWN 11:15 PM  
THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 1:15 AM

**MARINA-1**  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 12:30 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 3:00 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 5:30 PM  
DUNKIRK 7:30 PM  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 9:45 PM  
DUNKIRK 12:30 AM

**MARINA-2**  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 11:30 AM  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 2:00 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 4:45 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 7:05 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 9:30 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 12:05 AM

**MARINA-3**  
KIDNAP 12:45 PM  
KIDNAP 2:45 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE - Arabic 6:45 PM  
KIDNAP 8:45 PM  
THE DARK TOWER 10:45 PM  
KIDNAP 12:45 AM

**AVENUES-1**  
THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 11:50 AM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 1:45 PM  
THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 4:55 PM  
THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 7:00 PM  
THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 9:00 PM  
FIRST KILL 11:00 PM  
FIRST KILL 1:10 AM

**AVENUES-2**  
DUNKIRK - 2D-4DX 12:30 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE-3D-4DX 2:45 PM  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX PM 4:45  
THE EMOJI MOVIE-3D-4DX 7:30 PM  
DUNKIRK - 2D-4DX 9:30 PM  
THE DARK TOWER-2D-4DX 11:45 PM

**AVENUES-3**  
DUNKIRK 1:30 PM  
DUNKIRK 3:45 PM  
DUNKIRK 6:00 PM  
DUNKIRK 8:30 PM  
KIDNAP 10:45 PM  
KIDNAP 12:45 AM

**AVENUES-4**  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 11:35 AM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 1:35 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 4:35 PM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 6:35 PM  
NO SUN  
Special Show "KIDNAP" SUN 6:35 PM  
DUNKIRK 9:30 PM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 11:45 PM

**AVENUES-5**  
KIDNAP 12:45 PM  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 2:45 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 5:30 PM  
KIDNAP 7:50 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 10:05 PM  
KIDNAP 12:30 AM

**AVENUES-6**  
KIDNAP 12:00 PM  
KIDNAP 2:00 PM  
KIDNAP 4:15 PM  
KIDNAP 6:15 PM  
KIDNAP 8:30 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 10:35 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic 12:55 AM

**AVENUES-7**  
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:35 PM  
RESIDENT EVIL- VENDETTA - Arabic 3:15 PM  
47 METERS DOWN 5:20 PM  
RESIDENT EVIL- VENDETTA - Arabic 7:15 PM

47 METERS DOWN 9:15 PM  
RESIDENT EVIL- VENDETTA - Arabic 11:15 PM  
47 METERS DOWN 1:15 AM

**AVENUES-8**  
THE DARK TOWER 1:00 PM  
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 3:00 PM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 5:15 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 8:00 PM  
THE DARK TOWER 10:00 PM  
THE DARK TOWER 12:10 AM

**AVENUES-9**  
THE EMOJI MOVIE - Arabic 12:15 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE - 3D 2:30 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE - Arabic 4:30 PM  
THE EMOJI MOVIE 6:30 PM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 8:45 PM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 11:45 PM

**AVENUES-10**  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 11:30 AM  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 2:15 PM  
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES 5:00 PM  
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 7:45 PM  
BABY DRIVER 9:45 PM  
ATOMIC BLONDE 12:05 AM

**AVENUES-11**  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic-CINESCAPE 11-2D 12:45 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic-CINESCAPE 11-2D 3:10 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic-CINESCAPE 11-2D 5:35 PM  
ANTAR IBN IBN IBN SHADAD - Arabic-CINESCAPE 11-2D 8:00 PM  
THE DARK TOWER - CINESCAPE 11-2D 10:15 PM  
THE DARK TOWER - CINESCAPE 11-2D 12:35 AM

**360 -> 1**  
KIDNAP 11:40 AM  
KIDNAP 1:40 PM  
KIDNAP 3:40 PM  
KIDNAP 6:15 PM  
KIDNAP 8:30 PM  
KIDNAP 11:00 PM  
KIDNAP 1:00 AM

**360 -> 2**  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 12:15 PM  
THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 1:30 PM  
FRI  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 3:25 PM  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 6:30 PM  
VELAILLA PATTADHARI 2- Tamil 6:30 PM  
FRI+SAT+MON  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL - Hindi 9:15 PM

## FOR RENT

One floor Apt. large living + dining 1 master 3 beds full kitchen + maid room&bath  
1 full bath 1 half bath  
In Sabhan for a very tiny family  
Monthly rent 700KD / Deposit 700KD  
Elevator + A/C + Parking + No pets allowed

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## WARNING

Sakila Suppiah a Sri Lankan, Civil ID: 284112804043, has been absent from her work without permission and she is still under our sponsorship. Any person who knows anything about her should call Tel No: 99414161, and we warn anyone who harbor or deal with her will bear legal responsibility.

## FOR RENT

Flats for rent in Kheitan looks at airport road

- ◆ 3 bedrooms ◆ Saloon
- ◆ Kitchen ◆ 3 bathrooms

Free services for you and your family

Contact: 55517659 - 60414701

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vempadapu Sarada (old name) D/o Suryanarayana, holder of Indian Passport G7938292 & Civil ID No. 274031602387, do hereby inform to the public about the change of my name as Sayera Banu Syed (new name). This is for the public information and all purposes concerned. (C 5337)

I, Khadar Ali Syed, S/o Sher Ali, holder of Indian Passport No. L1635464 & Civil ID No. 277062402568, do hereby inform to the Public about the corrected my name is Khadar Ali Syed (by mistake it was noted as Syed Khada Vali). The actual name is Khadar Ali Syed. This is for the public information and all purposes concerned. (C 5338) 6-8-2017

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



Arrival Flights on Sunday 13/8/2017										Departure Flights on Sunday 13/8/2017									
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	AIC	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00			
LZB	7787	Varna	00:05	FEG	1933	Sohag	12:55	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	SYR	342	00:05	QTR	1075	Damascus	12:00			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	514	Cairo	13:00	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20	KAC	413	00:20	Bangkok	12:20			
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	AXB	393	Tehran	13:10	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	JZR	176	00:30	Dubai	13:10			
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	13:35	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30	PAL	669	00:30	Manila	13:10			
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	ICV	675	Luxembourg	13:50	MSC	412	Asyut	00:30	JZR	786	00:30	Riyadh	13:10			
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	JZR	124	00:30	Bahrain	13:30			
KAC	102	London	00:55	MSC	415	Sohag	14:00	LZB	7788	Varna	01:05	SAW	702	01:05	Damascus	13:30			
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	JZR	562	Sohag	01:30	THY	767	01:30	Istanbul	13:45			
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30	FEG	932	01:30	Alexandria	13:55			
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	MSR	611	01:40	Cairo	14:00			
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	618	Doha	14:20	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	AXB	394	02:00	Kozhikode	14:10			
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35	UAE	872	02:35	Dubai	14:15			
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	MSC	404	02:50	Asyut	15:00			
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55	GFA	222	02:55	Bahrain	15:00			
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	673	03:05	Dubai	15:00			
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	AEE	943	ATH	03:15	FDB	060	03:15	Dubai	15:05			
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	KAC	562	Amman	15:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	QTR	1079	03:30	Doha	15:15			
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30	ICV	675	03:30	Hong Kong	15:20			
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25	RJA	645	Amman	03:55	KAC	563	03:55	Amman	15:40			
AEE	942	ATH	02:25	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:30	THY	753	Istanbul	04:00	KAC	775	04:00	Riyadh	15:40			
KAC	918	Manila	02:50	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	SVA	501	04:05	Jeddah	15:45			
THY	752	Istanbul	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10	KAC	619	04:10	Doha	16:00			
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	OMA	646	04:10	Muscat	16:10			
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	FDK	801	Damascus	16:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	ABY	128	04:15	Sharjah	16:15			
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	KAC	417	Manila	04:20	ETD	304	04:20	Abu Dhabi	16:20			
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25	KAC	615	04:25	Bahrain	16:30			
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	JZR	257	Beirut	16:20	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45	FDK	802	04:45	Damascus	16:55			
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	KAC	103	London	05:00	RJA	641	05:00	Amman	16:55			
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	KAC	619	05:00	Dubai	17:00			
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	KAC	118	New York	16:25	RBG	550	Alexandria	05:00	FDB	052	05:00	Dubai	17:10			
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35	QTR	1091	Doha	05:05	JZR	266	05:05	Beirut	17:15			
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35	KAC	503	05:35	Doha	17:25			
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50	JZR	1442	05:50	Doha	17:30			
RBG	559	Alexandria	04:10	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	JZR	240	06:00	Amman	17:30			
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15	KAC	361	06:15	Colombo	17:35			
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	UAE	858	06:25	Dubai	17:40			
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25	KAC	357	06:25	Kochi	17:40			
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	NIA	362	06:50	Alexandria	17:50			
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30	QTR	8512	Doha	06:50	KAC	381	06:50	Delhi	17:50			



## FEATURES



Performers dance in the street during the Awa Odori festival in Tokushima. — AFP photos



Participants of a load team perform during the Awa Odori festival.



Performers of a folding fan team dance during the Awa Odori festival.



Performers prepare to dedicate their dance to a temple before the Awa Odori festival.

## One million dancers gather at Japan's 'Awa' festival

Over a million performers and spectators will flock to a western Japanese city this weekend for one of the country's largest dance festivals, after organizers stepped up efforts to accommodate foreign visitors. The annual "Awa Odori", which originates from a Japanese Buddhist custom of honoring the spirits of ancestors, sees the otherwise sleepy city of Tokushima turn into a stage for four days.

Groups of dancers and musicians, known as "ren", parade through the streets to the sound of traditional music instruments such as lutes, drums, flutes and bells. Sporting Japanese

kimono costumes with hair bands or straw hats, they chant in chorus and dance in synchronized choreography. The number of participants, including performers, is expected to hit the same number as last year, when 1.2 million took part in the centuries-old carnival.

"You need practice when you do other Japanese traditional performing arts, but anyone can enjoy Awa Odori... only by raising hands and taking steps to the rhythm," said 32-year-old dancer Masayuki Tatekawa. Kenji Kitamura, an organizer, added: "This is a dance festival welcoming everybody as they can watch, sing, dance."

"This year we are especially putting the emphasis on foreign visitors as the number of tourists from other countries to Japan is increasing." He added that this year there would be English signs and temporary western-style toilets. The country has launched a "Visit Japan" campaign ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the government said last month that travelers to Japan from other countries had jumped 17.4 percent to a record 13.8 million for the first half of 2017. — AFP

## Avoiding a Greek tragedy for Athens' modernist architecture

Although in the shadow of its ancient hilltop Parthenon, Athens is also home to elegant architectural gems from the 19th and 20th centuries which marked its emergence as modern Greece's capital. But their numbers are dwindling fast after Greece's long and devastating economic crisis left many with little option but to tear them down rather than pay for their restoration. "Due to the crisis, it's expensive and difficult to repair these buildings, there is no financial help from the Greek state," says Maria Daniil, an architect, who specializes in buildings of the late 19th-early 20th century.

compiled a database aimed at "raising awareness for the survival of the modern architectural heritage among authorities as well as owners." "Most of these are abandoned, ruined, demolished. More than 80 percent of such buildings no longer exist," laments Irini Gratsia, an archaeologist and co-founder of Monumenta. Many were torn down in the 1960s and 1970s, a period of chaotic expansion in the Greek capital, and replaced by concrete blocks of flats.

The new buildings, five floors high or taller, were meant to address the needs of urbanization that transformed the capital as it gradually attracted nearly half the

1875 in a western district of Athens was demolished. It was one of the last remaining buildings to have survived the capital's first urban boom, which eventually took it to half a million inhabitants during the first half of the 20th century. The next wave of architectural innovation came in the 1930s when the Bauhaus movement charmed Athenians with its more practical character.

The cube-like houses lacked neoclassical ornamentation but incorporated modern comforts sought by the emerging Greek middle class, such as central heating and lifts. One of Athens' most emblematic modern buildings, the US embassy, was likewise conceived in the 1950s by German architect Walter Gropius, one of the founders of the Bauhaus school.

### Historical layers

Athens' modernist architecture has a key role to play alongside its more famous ancient ruins, notes Gratsia. She singles out Greek architecture emulating the work of Le Corbusier, the Swiss-French pioneer of the modern movement, whose concrete-dominated style can be seen today in many public buildings such as schools. "These buildings were masterpieces of that era and those that remain should be preserved," says Gratsia.

And the city only stands to gain from their conservation, argues Monumenta. "Athens could showcase what remains of these little architectural gems and become a touristic attraction of all these different styles", it said. Maria Daniil agrees. "The conservation of old buildings makes it possible to show the historical continuity of Athens, from antiquity to today," she said.

### Daunting maintenance

But the high maintenance costs remain daunting. Dimitris Ioakim, a tenant in a 1935 Bauhaus style building for the last 40 years, complains of "heavy repair bills" and the reluctance of the owner to pay them. "Most of the owners of these houses sold them in the 1990s in order to move to the suburbs, or rented them out to migrants", he adds.

Nevertheless, the booming industry of short-term Airbnb-style rentals has more recently encouraged their sale to foreign investors, who refurbish them to attract tourists. "Airbnb is a solution but there is a need for long-term solutions, too," says Daniil. — AFP



A woman walks past an abandoned neoclassical building along Athens' main street. — AFP photos



People walk past a neoclassical building which was a former hotel in Athens' central Omonia Square.



An abandoned building stands in the premises of Athens Art School.



A man stands close to the abandoned neoclassical former Hatzikostas Orphanage.



Preserved houses are pictures by the ancient agora in Athens.

"People prefer to abandon or to demolish them," she adds. In the 1980s, Daniil had access to state funding that helped her restore her 1936 family home in Koukaki, a neighborhood in the foothills of the Acropolis. Occupying 300 square meters, it is an eclectic take on the neoclassical style with stone walls and concrete floors. Like many houses of that period, it has high ceilings, enclosed balconies and mural paintings above the stairs that dominate the entrance.

Little more than a provincial town when Greece achieved independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1830, Athens was essentially rebuilt by Bavarian planners during the rule of Otto of Wittelsbach, the country's first modern king. But just a small fraction of the buildings remain from that period when Athens was a young emerging capital with a mere 150,000 inhabitants.

### Abandoned, ruined, demolished

They number around 10,600, according to Monumenta, an association that has

country's population from rural, impoverished areas. It also helped relaunch the Greek economy that was in tatters after World War II. This urban phenomenon eradicated most of the elegant neoclassical facades that had been a feature of Athens' streets until then.

### Protection law

In 1983, authorities decided to act. A law enacted that year under the tutelage of iconic Greek actress and culture minister at the time Melina Mercouri stipulated that the owners of neoclassical buildings were obliged to take responsibility for their restoration. For a time, the new regulations managed to slow the onslaught of bulldozers. But in the wake of Greece's 2010 economic crunch-marked by state spending cuts, tax hikes and a bank loan freeze-owners have once more been forced to abandon the buildings to their fate.

Two years ago, despite the efforts of Monumenta, a neoclassical house built in



FEATURES



In this photo, Ann Brown, right, from Chuan Body + Soul at Langham Place in New York City, performs a warm oil and herbal salt exfoliation treatment, during the annual International Spa Association event in New York. — AP photos



In this photo, a muscle and joint tincture from Naturopathica in Telluride, Colo., is added to tea.

# NOT JUST FLUFF AND BUFF: SPAS EMPHASIZE WELLNESS OVER BEAUTY



In this photo, essential oil diffusers with the home decor aspect, from Airome, in Draper, Utah, are shown.



In this photo, dermalinfusion, by Envy Medical of Long Beach, Calif., an advanced skin resurfacing treatment, is demonstrated.

**W**ellness rather than beauty was the message this week at the annual International Spa Association event in New York. While there were plenty of skin products and treatments on display, the bigger trend in the spa world remains alleviating stress. "We're not just fluff and buff," said Erin Stremcha, spokeswoman for the Well & Being Spa, with locations in Las Vegas, Dallas, Arizona and Puerto Rico.

"Be healthy and have fun but also take something away that you can apply to your daily life." As part of that quest for serenity, Sundara Inn & Spa, in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, asks guests to put away electronics. "Silence is the new luxury," said Sundara spokeswoman Carla Minsky. "The idea is to unplug, disconnect." Sundara has "conversation-free areas," meditation trails and an emphasis on silent sports like hiking, kayaking, biking and, in the winter, snowshoeing. Also highly encouraged: napping in hammocks.

## Machines vs. human touch

Gadgets, chairs and beds do everything from massaging your back to generating sound waves. The ame Spa & Wellness Collective at Turnberry Isle Miami in Aventura, Florida, showed off high-end Gharieni spa wave beds with features like tables that feel like warm sand on the back and headphones supplying binaural beats, which are different tones in each ear designed to calm the mind. Also on display, the O2 chair, which applies rollers up and down your back while you inhale oxygen through a tube and listen to guided breathing instructions through headphones.

To get that bliss-spa feeling at home, a company called Airome sells aromatherapy diffusers in a variety of styles, colors and materials to match your decor - porcelain, glass, ceramic and metal, \$30-\$40, with essential oils, \$8-\$12. But there's still a place for the human touch. The Chuan Body + Soul spa at Langham Place in New York City showed off Asian-inspired foot massage. Aspira the Spa, in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, touts acupuncture for facial rejuvenation as an alternative to anti-wrinkle treatments like Botox.

## Customization

The Spa at the Peaks in Telluride, Colorado, says the region attracts visitors looking for active experiences like hiking and skiing. To cater to their needs, the spa lets guests create customized teas, choosing herbs and tinctures with ingredients such as turmeric to ease pain and inflammation. At the Well & Being Spa, guests can blend their own hand scrubs and lotions. "Everyone wants to do their own thing," said Stremcha. "This allows you to do that." Use the products at the spa or take them home.

## Farm to table

Some destination spas began growing herbs and produce a few years back. Those programs have grown. "We started doing this because we couldn't get high-quality

products for the spa, so we thought we'd just grow them," explained Lola Roeh of Aspira. "Our very first garden was only 2,000 square feet but every year we've been able to increase." The Wisconsin property now grows not just chamomile and lavender for spa treatments, but also 11,500 pounds of food a year, supplying its chefs with 20 types of heirloom tomatoes among other things.



Annmarie Ritacca, from Aspira The Spa, in Elkhart Lake, Wisc., gives an acupuncture treatment.

The Lodge at Woodloch in Hawley, Pennsylvania, has a resident "farm-acist," Derrick Braun, who teaches visitors about everything from fermented foods to recognizing mathematical sequences in nature, like the patterns found in sunflowers and pine cones. "We want to connect those dots for guests," Braun said. The Lodge also offers garden dinners where produce for each course - whether kohlrabi or cauliflower - is locally grown; mocktails like a "spa-jito" made with ingredients like organic mint and lime juice; and forest bathing, a Japanese-inspired experience in which guests are led on a walk in the woods using all their senses.

At the ame Spa & Wellness Collective, chef Matthew Kenney will lead a plant-based food and wine wellness retreat Oct. 13-15 that includes "yoga, tastings, conversation on how to prepare this type of food and the benefits of incorporating it into your life," Kenney said. What about guests who say vegan food is bland? "This food is exciting and full-flavored if prepared properly," Kenney said, "but the ingredients and techniques are entirely different from how most of us learned to cook."



The Spa Wave bed from the Ame Spa & Wellness Collective, at the Turnberry Isle Miami Resort, is experienced.



Leslie Britt, of the The Lodge at Woodloch, in Hawley, Pa., pours a Spajito.



In this photo, a booth from the Sundara Inn & Spa, in Wisconsin Dells, is shown.



# After 30 years, museum gets stolen piece by modern master

More than three decades after thieves made off with a valuable painting from the University of Arizona Museum of Art, officials say they have recovered the long sought piece from an antique dealer in New Mexico. Curators at the museum that was home to Willem de Kooning's "Woman-Ochre" spent years hoping to get it back after two people stole the painting the day after Thanksgiving in 1985. That dream finally came true when furniture and antique dealer David Van Auker called the museum from Silver City, New Mexico.

Marketing Manager Gina Compitello-Moore said Auker bought the painting at an estate sale and later began researching it when he read an article about the heist that depicted an identical looking piece. "When I got the phone call, this is literally the phone call I've been dreaming of - is somebody calling my phone and saying I think I have your stolen painting and that's what he said," museum curator Olivia Miller said.

Miller said it really stood out to her when Van Auker mentioned damaging lines across the canvas that made it look as if it had been rolled

up. Miller said a former museum curator was in utter disbelief and elated when she told her the painting was recovered. The oil painting by the Dutch-American abstract expressionist is one in an iconic series by de Kooning that explores the figure of a woman.

The piece features de Kooning's signature broad paint strokes, depicting various colors across the female body. Police have said a man and woman were the sole visitors the day the painting was stolen. They say the woman distracted a security officer by making small-talk while the man cut the painting from the large frame, leaving the edges of the canvas attached. The FBI said its agents continue to investigate the theft.

Dr. Nancy Odegaard, a conservator with the university, said she used a tool kit, magnifying glass and an ultra violet lamp to meticulously examine the painting. Odegaard looked for verifying marks of damage and repair on the piece consistent with previous conservation reports. Odegaard said she also compared the lines of cutting on the original and laid the cut portion on top. "Then we started looking at where the

edges would go," Odegaard said. "For me which was a really dramatic connection - a paint stroke that clearly went across both pieces." The conservator said the various clues showed it was a perfect match.

The museum also plans to bring in a de Kooning expert to examine the painting for further authentication. In 2015, the museum displayed the empty wooden frame that once held the painting along with sketches of the suspects to remind visitors of the heist on its 30-year anniversary. "There are numerous people on staff that have said that the vision of the career highlight was having this painting returned," Interim Director Meg Hagyard said. "And to actually be here in this moment in time for everybody is really, really emotional and exciting." — AP

In this photo provided by the University of Arizona, Dr. Nancy Odegaard, a conservator with the university, leads the authentication process for a recovered Willem de Kooning painting, in Phoenix. — AP



Jax Reilly, a black labrador, cools off in Eleanna Anagnos' 'Penumbra Oasis' at Dogumenta (I) NYC, in New York. — AP photos



Bug, a domestic short hair cat, inspects Noah Scalin's 'The Hand That Feeds.'

# Art exhibit expressly for canine critics debuts in NYC

You won't find any pictures of dogs playing poker at DoGUMENTA. A three-day art exhibition curated expressly for dogs is attracting hundreds of canines to a marina in lower Manhattan, where hounds and terriers are feasting their eyes, and in some cases their mouths, on nearly a dozen masterpieces. The idea is the brainchild of former Washington Post art critic Jessica Dawson, who says she was inspired by her rescue dog Rocky, a tiny morkie (Yorkie-Maltese mix), who regularly joins her at exhibits of the human variety.

"When Rocky accompanied me on my gallery visits I noticed that he was having a much better time than I was," explains Dawson, who moved to New York four years ago. "He was not reading the New York Times reviews, he was not reading the artists' resumes, and so I said he has something to teach me about looking, and all dogs have something to teach us about looking at contemporary art and being with it."

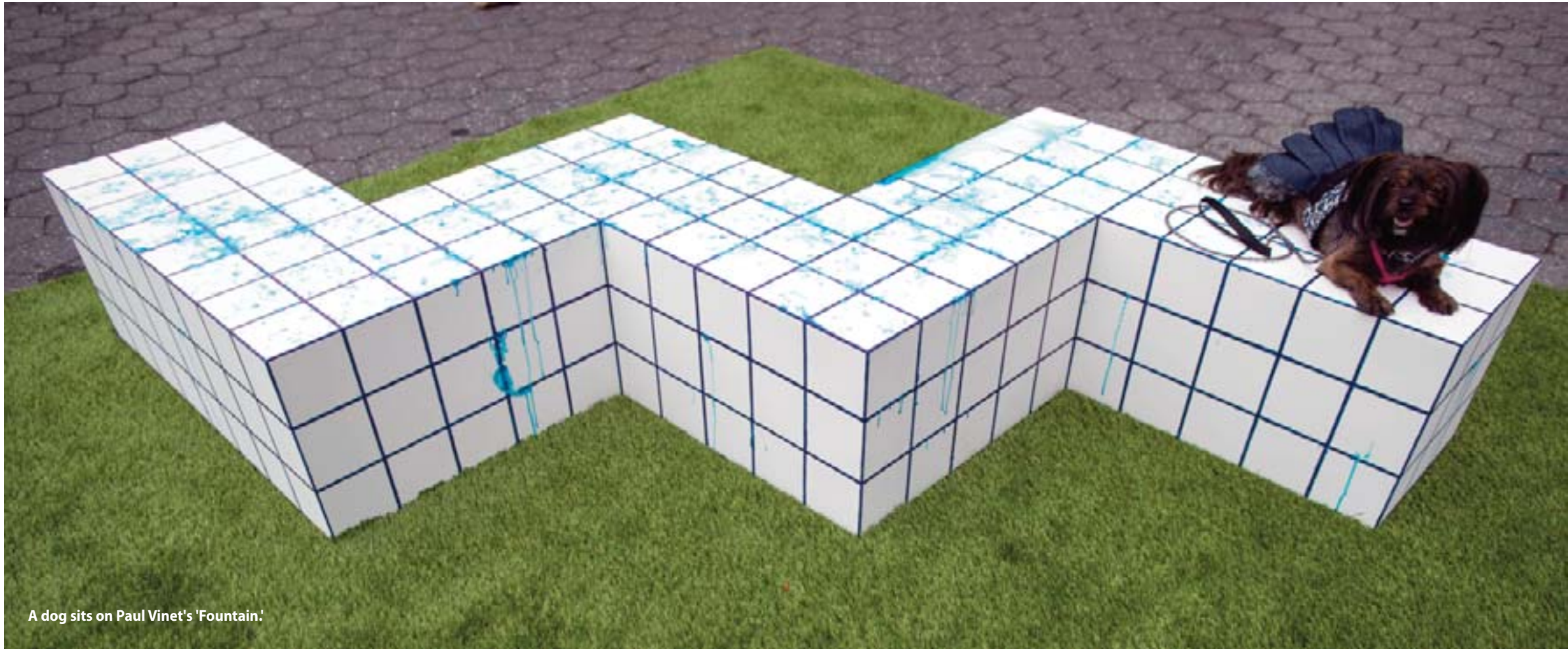
Organizers of the exhibit, which takes its name from Documenta, which takes place every five years in Kassel, Germany, and put on by Arts at Brookfield, staggered the arrival times of the dogs to keep things orderly. "I think she's enjoying it," said Lorraine Gates, who attended with her tiny Japanese chin, Maltese and Papillon mix. "I love this idea; I think it's really wonderful." The 10 works of art at the outdoor exhibit were all strategically placed at eye-level for the canines.

One featured an elaborate display of dog biscuits and other treats that attendees were invited to munch on. At another exhibit, four-legged art critics were lifting their hind legs and "expressing" themselves on a work called



"Fountain." As the dogs left their marks, scribbles of blue streaks were left behind on the white blocks. Dawson said Rocky had visited several times. Susan Godwin and her morkie, Tasha, were soaking up the art vibes. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Godwin gushed. "You can go to museums all over New York and you can never bring your dog." — AP

Dogs interact with Merav Ezer's 'The Barking Project.'



A dog sits on Paul Vinet's 'Fountain.'



April Moon, a Chihuahua, poses for a photo on Graham Caldwell's 'The Conclave.'



Hudson, a French bulldog, takes a bite off Dana Sherwood's 'Confections of Canines and Kings.'



Kathryn Cornelius, center, performs 'Sit, Stay, Heal.'



# Chelsea Manning makes waves with Vogue swimsuit spread

Transgender soldier Chelsea Manning, the former Army intelligence analyst jailed for leaking troves of classified information to WikiLeaks, has turned heads by posing in a red one-piece bathing suit for the September issue of Vogue. "Guess this is what freedom looks like," Manning said in social media posts that included a picture from the shoot with celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz, showing Manning walking on a beach, her hands in her wet hair.

"Chelsea Manning changed the course of history. Now she's focusing on herself," says the headline of the fashion magazine's long-form interview with Manning, who has become an icon for transgender activists. The photo and the article garnered major

attention on social media Friday, eliciting comments both for and against Manning, who will turn 30 in December. Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison in 2013 for leaking more than 700,000 classified documents to WikiLeaks three years earlier, when she was known as Bradley.

She served seven years, and twice tried to take her own life last year alone, before then-president Barack Obama commuted her sentence just days before he left office in January. Manning was released from Fort Leavenworth's all-male prison in May. During her incarceration, Manning battled for-and won-the right to start hormone treatment. She now has cropped blonde hair and a decidedly feminine look.

For some Americans, she is a hero who paid dearly for leaking embarrassing US diplomatic cables and classified military documents about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. For others, she is a traitor. So far, Manning's tweet with the Vogue photo has been retweeted about 3,600 times, and has raked in about 27,000 likes. — AFP

This file photo shows transgender former soldier Chelsea Manning one day after being released from a top-security US military prison. — AFP



# Copenhagen Fashion Week 2017

COPENHAGEN: Models present creations by Danish designer Ganni during the Copenhagen Fashion Week 2017, at Copenhagen, Denmark. — AFP photos







A girl gestures in front of a mural during the Faces and Laces alternative modern art festival in the Gorky Central Park of Culture and Leisure in Moscow. — AFP

## How ‘Game of Thrones’ is taking years off graying Santa Fe

Part surreal Disney, part psychedelic penny arcade, The House of Eternal Return is what Salvador Dali might have built had he been tasked with designing a television game show. It looks like an ordinary Victorian house, but delve into its dark recesses and visitors find themselves transported into a fantastical labyrinthine world that has redefined what it means to experience art. The 20,000 square foot attraction on the outskirts of Santa Fe was funded by “Game of Thrones” creator George R.R. Martin as part of a multi-million-dollar drive to revive that part of New Mexico.

“The best description we give it is it’s an immersive storytelling experience. It’s maximally interactive, immersive art,” said Vince Kadlubek, the 35-year-old co-founder and CEO of Meow Wolf, the art collective behind the project. Santa Fe, a melting pot of Hispanic and Pueblo culture celebrated as a mecca for cutting-edge artists and a one-time stop-off on the hippy trail, has been graying of late. The median age is estimated at 42.5 — almost three years higher than in 2000 and five years higher than the national average.

A 50-year-old resident tells AFP she is sick of always being the youngest in the room at parties. Community activists have identified system-

atic, prolonged neglect of pressing needs like affordable housing, non-tourism job growth, green energy and nightlife as a driver of the youth exodus. “I’ve experienced this loss of young people and with that loss there was a weakening economy,” Kadlubek, who grew up in Santa Fe, tells AFP. “The tourism market was starting to drop off as well because the new tourists—the 40-year-olds, the Gen X tourist—was not wanting to come to Santa Fe.”

### Surreal fantasia

Kadlubek says the House of Eternal Return had a “right time, right place” feel about it, with Martin increasingly involved in improving the city as HBO’s “Game of Thrones” exploded. Visitors enter what appears to be a two-story quarantined house—supposedly in Mendocino, California—but quickly become aware that all is not as it seems. The experience is anchored to a mystery concerning the Steligs, the family that lived there and disappeared following an anomaly which has unmoored the house from time and space.

Visitors are let loose to figure out what happened by uncovering clues in the family’s letters, shopping lists and journals, and by opening files on a computer in the study and reading post-it

notes in the kitchen. But open the refrigerator and suddenly you’re in a glowing corridor leading to a futuristic, intergalactic travel agency with sliding spaceship doors. Crawl through the fireplace and you enter a magical cave system, with a glowing, 12-foot mammoth skeleton that can be played like a marimba.

Dive into the tumble drier and you enter a surreal fantasia of more than 70 connected chambers containing all sorts of abstract, spooky psychedelic influenced by Japanese pop culture, the “Calvin and Hobbes” cartoons and even Walt Disney himself.

There is a huge furry creature that winks, an enchanted neon forest, robots, lasers, treehouses, a geodesic dome covered in eyeballs, a desert mobile home and a rabbit with glowing eyes. “It’s a puzzle, it’s just fun. Kids like it, adults like it. It’s a very unique experience,” Minnesota resident Gail Machov said at the attraction, summing up its universal appeal.

### To out-Disney Disney

Martin, 68, has been in love with Santa Fe since visiting as a tourist and adopting it as his home in 1979. Concerned over its increasingly aging demographic, he bought the Jean Cocteau Cinema, a 128-seat, single-screen movie house emblematic of the city’s untapped potential that had been vacant for seven years in 2013. Martin turned it into a youth hang-out, showing the latest releases but also inviting “Game of Thrones” cast members to attend star-studded season premieres with real wolves in tow.

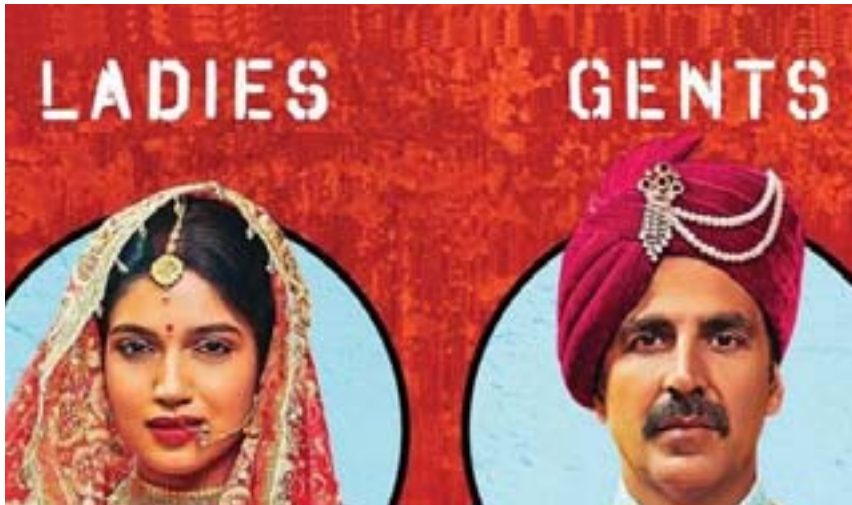
Capitalizing on the bounce his “A Song of Fire and Ice” source novels were getting from “Game of Thrones,” Martin also converted a vacant high school into artist studios. In 2014 Kadlubek emailed Martin, who had briefly been his boss at the Jean Cocteau, to pitch “an interactive, multimedia art experience” after discovering an abandoned bowling alley in the industrial end of town. Intrigued, Martin shelled out \$3 million to buy and renovate the building, working out a 10-year lease which effectively made him landlord.

Meow Wolf spent 18 months on the refit, aiming to attract 100,000 visitors in a year but achieving that in the first two months after the March 2016 opening.

“The goal for the first year was maybe 100,000 people but 400,000 came. It was just a wild success, people love it,” said John Feins, Meow Wolf’s director of marketing.

The company is now looking to replicate its success in Denver, Las Vegas, Houston and Austin. “We want to create the coolest experiences that exist in the entire world, that’s our goal. We want to out-Disney Disney, we want to out-Universal Universal,” says Kadlubek. “We want to be the most incredible experience in the world.” — AFP

## Bollywood film spotlights India’s toilet shortage



Bollywood may be famous for its blingy song and dance numbers, but a new movie released Friday deals with a distinctly less glamorous subject—India’s chronic lack of toilets. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made building more toilets a key priority in the country of 1.25 billion people, around half of whom still have to go into the fields to answer the call of nature. Campaigners estimate that nearly 200,000 infants die every year due to infections spread through open defecation, which they say also puts women at risk of sexual assault.

“Toilet: Ek Prem Katha” (“Toilet: A love story”) is inspired by the true-life tale of one man’s battle to build toilets in his village in rural India. He wanted to win back his new wife, whose refusal to live in a house without a toilet won her plaudits in India. Script writers Siddharth Singh and Garima Wahal told AFP they hoped the movie, featuring one of Bollywood’s biggest stars Akshay Kumar, would have a “tangible impact” on Indian society. “This happened in a village in Madhya Pradesh, and we thought that was a strong statement,” said Singh, referring to one of India’s most rural states.

The writers said they came across numerous stories of women being assaulted when they went into the fields late at night in the process of researching the

movie. “But defecating in the open is not only unhealthy it is also dangerous,” said Garima. “While we were doing our research we heard of three incidents of molestation. Crimes against women have increased owing to their vulnerability when they are out in the fields, alone in the dark, with their ‘pants down’ as it were.”

Garima said it was hypocritical for Indian society to insist that women cover up on the one hand, while on the other forcing them to “expose themselves owing to a lack of sanitary and bathroom facilities”. Kumar, one of the world’s highest paid actors with an income of \$31.5 million according to a Forbes ranking published last year, recently released a “Toilet Anthem” to promote the cause. “While mankind has progressed far enough to journey to Mars and scale Mount Everest, 54 percent of India defecates in the open,” says the song.

Modi has called for every household in India to have a toilet. Last year, he announced that his government had already built more than 20 million toilets since coming to power in 2014. Around two-thirds of homes in the village that the movie is based on now have toilets, according to media reports. “Our script was ready in 2014 and we felt we should get it going while it is still a hot topic. It’s especially important to get people in rural areas to watch this film,” said Garima. — AFP



Visitors enter what appears to be a two-storey quarantined house, supposedly in Mendocino, California. — AFP