

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017

THULQADA 23, 1438 AH

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**Cabinet hails security crackdown on 'Abdaly cell'**

**Ronaldo banned for 5 games after pushing ref**


150 FILS

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## TWO KUWAITIS AMONG 18 KILLED IN BURKINA ATTACK

### GUNMEN TARGET TURKISH RESTAURANT IN OUAGADOUGOU



Min 31°

Max 48°

High Tide

04:22 &amp; 17:16

Low Tide

11:08 &amp; 23:20

### AMIR RECEIVES CROWN PRINCE



**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the Amiri airport terminal yesterday after Sheikh Nawaf underwent successful medical checkups in the US. — KUNA

**OUAGADOUGOU:** At least 18 people including two Kuwaiti clerics were gunned down in a Turkish restaurant in Burkina Faso, officials said yesterday, the latest West African attack to target a spot popular with expats. Kuwaiti media reports named the two Kuwaiti clerics as Sheikh Waleed Al-Ali and Sheikh Fahd Al-Husseini. There has been no claim of responsibility for Sunday night's attack at the Aziz Istanbul restaurant, which was often packed with foreign nationals.

Foreign Minister Alpha Barry told AFP that the "terrorist" attack in the capital Ouagadougou killed seven locals and at least eight foreigners including one Frenchman; one Canadian woman; male victims from Senegal, Niger, Lebanon and Turkey; and two Kuwaiti men. Three victims remain unidentified, he said. Separately, Canada's Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said two Canadians were among the victims. Turkey confirmed that one of its citizens was among the dead, while Paris prosecutors said at least one French national died.

Earlier in Ouagadougou, Communications Minister Remis Dandjinou said about ten people had been injured, while security forces had killed two assailants in a counter-assault that went on until morning. It was not clear how many gunmen were involved in the attack. The security operation "has ended" but searches are continuing in buildings in the surrounding neighborhood, Dandjinou told reporters. He had said earlier that "some people were held" by the assailants and that "some were released", but gave no further details.

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**OUAGADOUGOU:** People evacuate from the area of a restaurant yesterday following a deadly attack by gunmen, resulting in 18 deaths. — AFP

**SPILL CONTAINED, POWER, WATER OUTPUT NORMAL**

PAGE 3

**YEMENI EXECUTED FOR RAPING, KILLING CHILD**

PAGE 11

## UAE SEEKS BETTER TIES WITH SADR

### SAUDI ARABIA, IRAQ TO LAUNCH JOINT TRADE COUNCIL

**BAGHDAD:** The United Arab Emirates signaled its desire to strengthen ties with Iraq during weekend talks with influential Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr as part of efforts by Sunni nations of the Middle East to halt Iran's growing regional influence. Sadr met Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahayan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Commander of the UAE Armed Forces on Sunday in Abu Dhabi, according to a senior aide of the cleric.

Sadr also discussed ways of improving understanding between the Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam, at a meeting yesterday with a prominent Sunni cleric in Abu Dhabi. The UAE is among Sunni nations which feel threatened by Iran's increased power in the region, often projected through allied Shiite groups in Iraq

and Lebanon. "Experience has taught us to always call for what brings Arabs and Muslims together, and to reject the advocates of division," the Abu Dhabi crown prince told Sadr, according to report on the Emirati state-run news agency WAM.

"The two sides emphasized the importance to act in true Islamic spirit and reject violence and extremist thought," Sadr's office in Baghdad said in a statement on his website yesterday, reporting on his meeting with Emirati cleric Ahmed Al-Kubaisi. Closer ties with Sadr, who commands a large following among the urban poor of Baghdad and southern Iraq, would help Sunni states loosen Tehran's grip over Iraq's Shiite community and contain its influence.

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**ABU DHABI:** Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahayan (right), Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, meets Iraqi Shiite leader Moqtada Al-Sadr. — AFP

## MEDIA SPOTLIGHT TURNS TO NURSE RECRUITMENT SCAM

By Sajeev K Peter

**KUWAIT:** The media spotlight in Kuwait has once again turned to the issue of recruitment of nurses from India after media reports suggested the alleged complicity of some Kuwaiti officials in the multi-million dinar money-laundering scandal. Meanwhile, some MPs have raised the issue in parliament, quoting press reports pointing out the gravity of the matter.

According to the media reports, MPs stated that they would raise the issue in the upcoming session of the parliament and demand an investigation into the whole issue to find out if any Kuwaiti officials are involved in the scandal or had colluded with the Indian racketeer Uthup Varghese.

Varghese, the main accused in the nursing recruitment scam and the owner of Al-Zarafa Travel and Manpower Consultants, was arrested by the Indian Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in March this year in Kochi on arrival from Dubai. As per

the case, Uthup swindled job aspirants of around KD 14.12 million (3 billion rupees) by taking exorbitant service charges.

While the norms mandate a service charge of KD 95 (Rs 19,500) for getting recruited to hospitals in Kuwait, Al-Zarafa charged nearly KD 9,000 to KD 10,000 (Rs 2 million) from each candidate. The CBI said Uthup amassed wealth running into millions of rupees and had attempted to influence others accused in the case.

It may be recalled that the India government had banned recruitment of nurses through private agencies in order to prevent high-level corruption and malpractices on April 30, 2015. The government also put nurses on the Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) category, placing their recruitment under a mandatory eMigrate system. It also appointed six agencies - NORKA Roots, ODEPEC, OMCL, UPFCL, TOMCOM and OMCA - to carry out recruitment of nurses to overseas countries.

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**FREETOWN:** Bystanders look on as floodwaters rage past a damaged building yesterday, after landslides struck the Sierra Leonean capital. — AFP

## FLOODS KILL 312 IN SIERRA LEONE, 175 IN SOUTH ASIA

**FREETOWN/JANAKPUR, Nepal:** At least 312 people were killed and more than 2,000 left homeless yesterday when heavy flooding hit Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown, leaving morgues overflowing and residents desperately searching for loved ones. An AFP journalist at the scene saw bodies being carried away and houses submerged in two areas of the city, where roads turned into churning

rivers of mud and corpses were washed up on the streets.

Red Cross spokesman Patrick Massaquoi told AFP the death toll was 312 but could rise further as his team continued to survey disaster areas in Freetown and tally the number of dead. Mohamed Sinnah, a morgue technician at Freetown's Connaught Hospital, said

Continued on Page 11

## TRUMP DENOUNCES NEO-NAZIS, KKK

### MERCK CEO RESIGNS FROM PRESIDENT'S PANEL

### LOS ANGELES TESTS COOLING PAVEMENT PAINT TO BEAT HEAT

**LOS ANGELES:** Can a splash of gray pavement paint help combat global warming? In Los Angeles, where summer temperatures regularly surpass 38 degrees Celsius, workers are coating streets in special gray treatments in a bid to do just that. The City of Angels, home to four million people, is the first major city in California to test the treatment on a public road, after initial trials on parking lots, according to Greg Spotts, assistant director of the city's Bureau of Street Services. "We're hoping to inspire other cities to experiment with different ways to reduce the heat island effect," he said.

During a demonstration of the technique, Jeff Luzar - sales director at GuardTop, which markets the product - showed how applying the paint could drop street temperatures by about 11 degrees Celsius after just one coat. Los Angeles is the first city in California to test the treatment on a public road, after initial trials on parking lots, according to Greg Spotts, assistant director of the city's Bureau of Street Services. "We're hoping to inspire other cities to experiment with different ways to reduce the heat island effect," he said.

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**CHARLOTTESVILLE/WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump denounced neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan as criminals and thugs yesterday, bowing to mounting political pressure after initially saying many sides were to blame for a white-nationalist rally turned deadly in Virginia. Trump had been assailed by Republicans and Democrats alike for failing to respond more forcefully to Saturday's violence in Charlottesville, in which a woman was killed when a man crashed his car into a group of counter-protesters.

Critics said the president had waited too long to address the bloodshed, and slammed him for initially saying that "many sides" were involved, rather than explicitly condemning white supremacists widely seen as sparking the melee. "Racism is evil and those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including the KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists and other hate groups that are repugnant to everything we hold dear as Americans," Trump said in a statement to reporters at the White House.

Trump said America showed its true character in such times, responding to hate with love and to division with unity. "We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred,



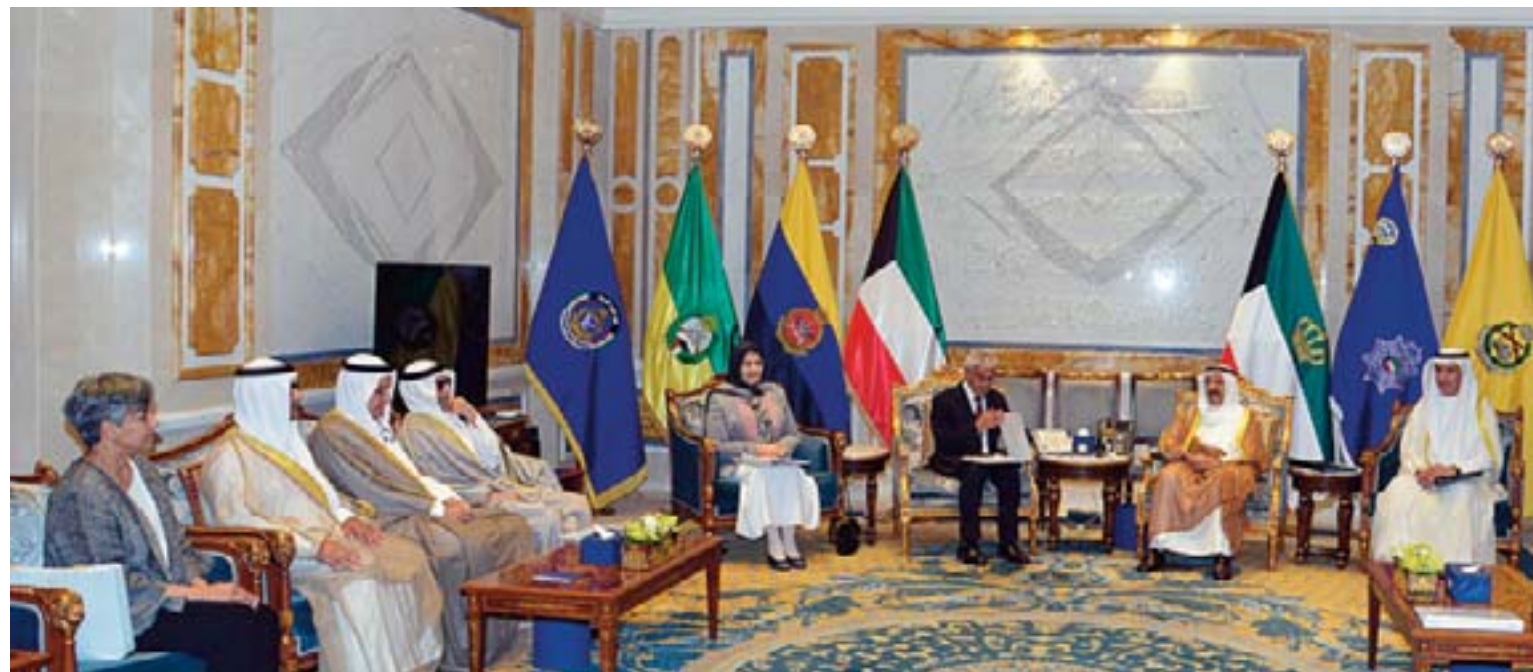
**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump speaks about the deadly white nationalist rally in Charlottesville in the Diplomatic Room of the White House yesterday. — AP

bigotry and violence," he said. "It has no place in America ... No matter the color of our skin, we all live under the same laws. We all salute the same great flag. And we are all made by the same almighty God."

A 20-year-old man said to have harbored Nazi sympathies as a teenager was facing charges he plowed his car into protesters opposing the white nationalists, killing Heather Heyer and injuring 19 people. The accused, James Alex Fields, was denied bail at an initial court hearing yesterday.

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## AMIR PRESIDES KFAS MEETING

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday chaired a meeting of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS). His Highness also received KFAS Director General Dr Adnan Shihab Eldin and Chairman of Kuwait Scientific Center Sami Fahad Alrshaid at Bayan Palace. During the meeting, they presented to His Highness the Amir the center's newly appointed Director General Eng Rana Abdullah Al-Nibari. —KUNA

## REGISTRATION FOR CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA NOW OPEN

**DUBAI:** Kuwaiti businessmen based in Dubai are calling on all those interested in participating in the forthcoming season of Dubai's "Global Village" to sign up for the lavish gala now. Speaking to the press, Saad Al-Rubaian, the head of the Kuwaiti business council, said that a workshop scheduled for August 19 would provide all the information needed on how to join the festivities. He described the event as the "biggest cultural and touristic spectacle in the Middle East." The Kuwaiti businessman said that Kuwait's booth at the event will offer visitors an unforgettable experience through giving them a taste of Kuwaiti culture. Al-Rubaian revealed that Kuwait's pavilion stretches on 3,065 square meters with 53 stores selling special memorabilia and that registration is now open on [www.kuwaitbc.ae](http://www.kuwaitbc.ae). Touted as the biggest seasonal shopping and cultural event in the region, Dubai's "Global Village" attracts more than 5.6 million spectators from 95 nations.

### ASBU announces posthumous recognition for Abdulredha

**KUWAIT:** Late legendary Kuwaiti actor Abdulhussain Abdulredha will be awarded a posthumous recognition by Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU). In a press statement, ASBU Chief Mohammad Al-Awwash said yesterday that Abdulredha greatly contributed to the artistic movement in Kuwait and the Gulf region. Al-Awwash said the award would be presented during the Arab Radio and TV Festival in Tunis next April, adding that the festival will be attended by more than 600 media figures from all over the Arab world. In a letter sent to Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Al-Awwash conveyed condolences of the ASBU over the demise of the of iconic comedic



Abdulhussain Abdulredha

actor. Abdulredha died last Friday in London at the age of 78 after a 56-year career, contributing to over 30 TV series, 33 plays, several operettas and songs. His acting career is often lauded as the cornerstone of Gulf comedy and the epicenter behind the Golden age of Kuwaiti theatre in the 1970s and 1980s.

### Sudan's parliament seeks cooperation with Kuwait

**KHARTOUM:** Sudanese Parliament is looking forward to strengthening relations with Kuwait National Assembly, President of the Sudanese National Council Ibrahim Ahmad Omar said yesterday. Omar will sign a memorandum with the Kuwait Parliament to support cooperation between the two legislative bodies during his visit, Council spokesman Abdulmajid Haroun said. The Sudanese top lawmaker is scheduled to visit Kuwait today in response to an invitation by his Kuwaiti counterpart Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.

### Morocco researcher documents contributions of Kuwait's poets

**FES:** Moroccan poet Fatima Bohraka yesterday underlined the distinguished role of Kuwait's poets in enriching the literary movement in the Arab world. In remarks to KUNA during the signing event of her book titled "The Great Encyclopedia of Arab Poets", with the attendance of number of Arab poets and intellectuals, she listed 55 Kuwaiti poets in her encyclopedia out of 2,000, which reflected their pioneer role in the region. There is a remarkable number of female Kuwaiti poets also mentioned, including Sheikha Dr Suad Al-Sabah, Bohraka said. On Dr Suad, Bohraka said that she was the first female poet in the Arab world to issue a 'Diwan' - a book including a collection of poems - in 1961 and the second in the Gulf region after Saudi poet Princess Sultana Al-Sidairi in 1956. Bohraka praised the role of Sheikha Dr Suad Al-Sabah poems in spreading love and peace. The Moroccan poet spent nine years in preparing for the encyclopedia, being a bibliographic project celebrating Arab poets in the last half a century.

## CABINET APPLAUDS SECURITY CRACKDOWN ON TERROR CELL

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday appreciated and commended the sincere efforts of security personnel, and their ability to arrest the members of Al-Abdali terror cell. Vowing to bring the cell's convicted members to justice, the Cabinet assured security forces would be constantly vigilant in order to safeguard national security, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a statement following the Cabinet's routine weekly meeting. Kuwaiti security forces had arrested 13 fugitives involved in Al-Abdali terror cell.

The Cabinet wished the country everlasting security and stability under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, said Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who doubles as Acting Minister of Information. Concerning recent oil spots in the country's southern coasts, the Cabinet highly extolled the efforts and measures of the ministries of oil, and electricity and water and Environment Public Authority in controlling consequent oil pollution and securing vital facilities.

Also, the Cabinet approved a draft decree on the new makeup of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD), including His Highness the Prime Minister as Chairman and Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as Deputy Chairman, along with 15 members. At the onset of the meeting, the Cabinet voiced happiness at the recent successful med-



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah presides over the cabinet weekly meeting yesterday. —KUNA photos

ical tests and home-return of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, wishing him everlasting wellbeing and good health.

The ministers then listened to a briefing by His Highness the Prime Minister on the outcomes of the recent visit by Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri to Kuwait, as well as his talks with Kuwaiti officials on bilateral relations, Arab and regional issues and efforts to promote regional and world security and stability.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah apprised the ministers of the outcomes of the recent visits paid by him and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to GCC member countries and Egypt to deliver letters from His Highness



the Amir to the leaders of these countries, as part of efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis. Furthermore, the cabinet mourned, with much sadness and desolation, the death of Kuwaiti iconic actor Abdulhusein Abdulredha, appreciating his great and distinct art contributions.

On the other hand, the Cabinet expressed sorrow at the recent crash of a UAE helicopter in

Yemen, which claimed the lives of four soldiers. It also offered condolences to the Egyptian government and people over the train tragedy in Alexandria, wishing a swift recovery of the injured. Finally, the ministers condemned a vehicle run over accident in Paris earlier on Wednesday as a terrorist act, reiterating Kuwait's rejection of all forms and manifestations of terrorism. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Flamingo birds gather at a beach in the Free Trade Zone area in Kuwait during the spring season. —KUNA





## WORKERS LOSING JOBS AS BUSINESSES COLLAPSE

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Not only smaller businesses, but also some well-known stores are shutting down, leaving their customers very disappointed, especially if they were used to shopping from these stores for years. The first disappearance of shops that were in the market for many years started months after the financial crisis in 2008. Some stores resisted, but only for a few more years. This was first seen at the Avenues Mall due to the extremely high rents, where many stores shut down.

The closures are particularly related to the fashion business, after stores of small companies closed at The Avenues a few months back. Also, over five stores of one company shut down. This company dealt with various luxury brands, and finally kept only two stores at The Avenues. It recently closed its store at Arraya Mall and its huge outlet in Salmiya. It still runs

three stores in Salhiya Complex, a few stores in Thuraya and two at Gate Mall.

Many employees lost their jobs due to this crisis, and customers are very disappointed over not being able to shop in their favorite stores. They fear that the rest of the stores of this company will shut down too. Not only local stores, but international brands are also vanishing. After 2009, many global brands stopped manufacturing on a large scale, and limited their production to small collections that are only available online.

Online shopping and social media play a great role in competing with small businesses. Many people who are not obsessed with shopping and are not big fans of going to the market and the malls find it much easier to shop online, which from their point of view, saves time, effort, fuel, etc. On some sites, they can find almost everything they need cheaper than in the stores. Also, competition by businesses

using social media and providing delivery hit the business of many shops. Vendors running home businesses through Instagram and other apps do not have to pay expensive monthly rentals and salaries, so they have a chance to offer better prices.

The most recent shops that closed were at Muneera Complex in Salmiya, which houses mostly cosmetics shops. Marcel, a saleslady at one of the last two fashion stores there, said that she expects the store where she works to shut down soon, as sales are weak, especially after three other fashion and accessories stores closed a few weeks back. "This complex turned into a place with cosmetic shops, while in the beginning it was a mall with mostly fashion stores and only one shop for cosmetics. Our sales are bad, and I think that the owner sells goods online. The complex even increased the rent although we have very poor sales," she told Kuwait Times.

## WORKERS, EMERGENCY TEAMS BATTLE OIL SPILL

**KUWAIT:** Workers at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, in collaboration with oil companies, have controlled all oil spots surrounding the southern and northern Al-Zour power plants, an official at the ministry said yesterday. Haitham Al-Ali, the Ministry's chief power engineer made the statement to reporters on the sidelines of an event held by the ministry on a campaign of blood donation by workers of Al-Shuaiba power plant.

Production over the last two days was reduced for the safety of workers at the plants and equipment, he said. Asked about average production of the southern and northern

Shuaiba plants, he said production is ranging between 13-14 megawatts during summer, making up 15 percent of output of the country's plants.

Meanwhile, oil sector's spokesman Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said yesterday that emergency teams have removed most oil spill spots and encircled all coastal zones after securing vital facilities of Al-Zour zone and its surrounding areas. The coastal zones have been encircled and coasts were cleaned after making sure that there were no effects of any other oil spots in the sea, he added in a news statement. He extolled

cooperation of citizens and residents who stayed away from the prohibited areas for their safety.

Asked about the source of oil spots, he said some samples were taken and sent to laboratories to be analyzed in order to uncover reasons in this matter. The teams have continued to exert their efforts, in collaboration with Ministry of Electricity and Water, to follow up and contain the remaining oil spots in the southern area. This is in line with plans and results of evaluation prepared by emergency teams and the relevant international agencies. —Agencies



Blood donation drive by workers of Al-Shuaiba power plant.

### KUWAIT FAIR

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait International Fair Executive Director Basimah Al-Duhaim asked local companies to participate in one of the most important international Islamic and commercial events that will be held from Feb 6-10, 2018 - the Kuwait Second Commercial International Fair. The fair will host member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation under the sponsorship of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

#### Death of fish

Public Works Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa said predicting reasons for the death of fish is very difficult under the adverse environment circumstances and the continuation of pumping sewage water in Kuwait Bay, which will cause many red tide incidents and death of fish at an abnormal rate.

#### Dental center

Assistant undersecretary for dental sector Dr Yousuf Al-Duwairi said the new specialized dental center near Farwaniya hospital will be opened very soon. This he said will be one of the largest centers in the country and will provide quality services. The building costs around KD 15.7 million. The center is within the comprehensive expansion of the new Farwaniya hospital and will increase the hospital's capacity, enhance services and reduce waiting rates.

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**A Wonderful World**



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Photo captures a partial lunar eclipse as seen in Kuwait on August 7th which lasted for almost two hours. A lunar eclipse occurs when the moon passes directly behind the Earth into its umbra (shadow). This can occur only when the sun, Earth and moon are aligned exactly, or very closely so, with the Earth in the middle.— KUNA

# ENVOY URGES PAKISTANIS TO STAND UNITED, WORK HARD

PAKISTANIS IN KUWAIT MARK 70TH INDEPENDENCE DAY • AMIR CONGRATULATES PAKISTAN

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Pakistanis in Kuwait marked their country's 70th Independence Day yesterday. The ceremony was held at the embassy premises in Jabriya and was attended by community leaders and invited guests. Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Ghulam Dastgir told Kuwait Times that Pakistani people in Kuwait are well-placed in various sectors and are contributing tremendously to the welfare of this country.

"Pakistanis in Kuwait are well-placed in almost all sectors including in medical fields, as engineers, teachers, accountants and in construction businesses. I urge everyone to stand united, work hard and do their best in whichever field they are into. I am happy that Kuwait appreciates and recognizes all our hard work and contributions for the develop-

ment of this country. We love this country as our second home. We should abide and respect their laws," he noted.

According to the envoy, visa restric-



tions for Pakistani workers are still in place at the request of the Kuwaiti government for security reasons, although

Pakistani family visas have been eased since a long time. The ambassador also lauded mutual relations with Kuwait and its people. With regards to visas for Kuwaiti businessmen and tourists visiting Pakistan, he said: "If Kuwaitis want to visit Pakistan, they'll be given a visa within two working days."

With regards to trade balance between the two countries, Dastgir admitted that Pakistani exports totalled around \$180 million to Kuwait against \$1 billion from Kuwait to Pakistan. "We are importing most of our fuel from Kuwait and we hope to improve exports to Kuwait," Dastgir added. "Let us renew our pledge today that we will dedicate our energies to serving Pakistan and lead it to a high level of development and prosperity as envisioned by our forefathers."

He lauded his country's continuing

improvements with regards to peace and stability of the country in line with the government's vision of a peaceful neighborhood. He also cited Pakistan's continuing economic growth, as Pakistan leads the way to socioeconomic development through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. At the ceremony, the ambassador also read out messages of his country's president and prime minister.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain, congratulating him on his country's independence day. 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.



KUWAIT: Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Ghulam Dastgir hoists Pakistan flag at their embassy premises in Jabriya yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat





Crime

Report

OFFICER'S CARS SET ABLAZE

**KUWAIT:** Jahra detectives are investigating the case of two cars owned by a police officer that were torched. The officer said that on Saturday morning, one of his cars was torched, then on Thursday, a pick-up truck was set ablaze. It was discovered that flammable material was used in both cases. Farwaniya firemen dealt with a cooking gas leak and explosion in a house in Rehab. A sidewall collapsed and the kitchen's contents were scattered.

Forging signature

A citizen who has a power of attorney from his elderly father, accused a Bangladeshi called Rafiq of taking his father's ID, signing on his behalf and transferring his residency to a female citizen in Ahmadi. Investigations are underway to find out the employee who enabled Rafiq to transfer his residency while the sponsor was not available.

4 arrested for fighting

Four expats were detained at Farwaniya police station after being involved in a fight inside a vegetable shop as they bargained over prices. Police went to the store and arrested them. One of them was sent to hospital for treatment of wounds he received, as blades were used during the fight.

Beating and raping

A citizen who works for the Health Ministry lodged a complaint at Saad Al-Abdullah police station against her ex-husband for beating and raping her. The woman refused to be examined by doctors, but the prosecutor went ahead and filed charges.

Driver, tailor robbed

An Indian driver in his 30s said he was robbed by a person who demanded to see his ID, then stole KD 290 from his wallet before escaping. The victim said the suspect's civil ID fell from him and he attached it with his complaint. In another development, a Pakistani tailor in his 70s said he was beaten by an unidentified person on the pedestrian bridge near Qasr, who threatened him with a knife and stole KD 210 from him.

Three sheep stolen

A citizen told Ahmadi police that three sacrificial sheep were stolen from his farm. He said he bought the sheep and was keeping them for Eid Al-Adha, but the farm guard told him the sheep were missing. The citizen did not accuse anyone of the theft.



Al-Anbaa

القلم

Al-Qabas

A GREAT LOSS

By Amin Maarafi

The country was stunned by the news of the departure of one of its faithful children, the giant of Kuwait, Gulf and Arab art - Abdulhussein Abduredha - following an illness in London. The news of his death came with lightning speed due to the gravity of the tragedy that hit the people of this good country on that sad Saturday, and a gloomy atmosphere filled the country's surroundings. The departed was one of the pillars of art and a giant who contributed to the service of his society with his noble art. He touched on current

events and predicted what may happen in the future through much of his work with his colleagues.

He was a unique actor in his field, an inventor and effective maker in the art movement in the country. He loved art and had a prestigious art journey, and held the banner of Kuwaiti art high in the sky. He left a rich legacy for Kuwait through documenting events in his plays and series, besides leaving good memories in the minds of those who knew him personally through the lovely spirit that he inherited from his parents and brothers.

القلم

Al-Qabas

'AL-MAHAYET'

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

Some people may think this is a slang word with no origin in the Arabic language, and others may think it is an old word that was used generations ago, until it was included in Arabic language dictionaries. But we find out that the word "Mahayeta" is a 100 percent Arabic word that has meaning and significance. If we look at the Al-Maani Al-Jame dictionary, we find that "Mahayeta" is a noun that means the sound of a person in boredom. Al-Waseet dictionary says it means rhetoric and noise, so if we combine all the meanings in the dictionaries, we will find that "Al-Mahayet" is just noise and chaos.

We are living in the presence of many "Mahayets" in our society. Yes, our society now has many characters that make noise and ruckus 24 hours a day. We find some people make noise to be in the media and in search of fame. In other words, we find a person spreading a rumor, or creating a lie, then spreads it to prove his presence on social media for the sake of media noise that may lead to social or political disorder. Sometimes it may lead to a breach of security, and so they may cause destruction of the society because of their ruckus and lies.

That was one of the "Mahayeta" examples, though they are many and varied, and anyone who wants to search and write on it, it is possible for him to carry out studies and refer to encyclopedias about these psychic personalities that offer nothing other than lies. So it is strange to see the "Mahayet" speak in the names of persons he did not see, nor sat with them, but the Mahayet tells stories and lies about them to make those around him feel that he is closely connected to those personalities. May Allah protect us from such types of Mahayets.

"Mahayeta" may be a noun and a verb in the Arabic language, but it is actually a sickness that hit our society. "Mahayets" in the past were known by name, but today there are many in our societies. The majority has true and real news, and many have the right opinion, and many are those who know "this person" and are close to "that". Many know political, social, economic and international secrets, and the result is that we live in a society whose majority is sick with "Mahayeta", and the result is that we live in ruckus and chaos. Final Word: Rare are those who do not trade in the most critical secrets of their friends when they fail in finding a topic to speak about. - Friedrich Nietzsche.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



CBK ORGANIZES CULTURAL EVENT

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait recently organized a cultural event in cooperation with 'That Al-Salasel.' The event which was held at the Avenues Mall was exclusively for 'My first Account' customers (from the age of 5 to 14 years). The program lasted two weeks and recorded a large number of children who enjoyed the

cultural activities thus boosting the principle of reading and promoting culture exchanges. The event is in line with CBK's policy that cares about children. "Hisaby Al-Awal" is designed for children up to 14 years old, and is the ideal means for parents who wish to secure a better future for their children.

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX DROPS BY 7.5 PERCENT

**KUWAIT:** Producer Price Index (PPI) dropped by 7.55 percent for the second quarter of 2017 reaching 69.8 points, compared with 75.5 points for the same period last year, said Kuwait's Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) yesterday. The index of extractive industries group decreased by 8.27 percent due to a drop in oil extraction index by 8.29, the bureau added in its periodical statistics.

The index of transformative industries group went down by 7.07 percent due to a decrease by 10.63 percent in prices of oil refining group, it noted. The bureau pointed to direct impacts of oil extraction and refining groups on extractive and transformative industries groups. Comparison between the producer price index between

the second quarter of 2017 and the same period of 2016 showed a rise of 12.04 percent as extractive industry jumped by 15.54 percent due to high prices of oil extraction group by 15.36 percent, it noted.

The transformative industries group went up by 8.85 percent owing to a rise by 13.98 percent in oil refining prices, it made clear. Producer Price Index plummeted by 4.33 percent in last June compared to June of 2016 as the extractive industries group fell by 6.54 percent.

The index of transformative industries group dropped as prices of oil refining group decreased by 3.14 percent, while prices of water and electricity group remained unchanged in the same period, the bureau said. — KUNA

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Pakistan marks 70 years of independence

FRENCH ‘FALLING OUT OF LOVE’ WITH MACRON AFTER 100 DAYS



PESHAWAR: In this Tuesday, Aug 8, 2017 photo, people from Pakistan Sikh community visit their temple. — AP photos

SIKHS SEARCH FOR HOME 70 YEARS AFTER PARTITION

A DWINDLING MINORITY, PAKISTAN’S SIKHS FEEL LESS AT HOME THAN EVER BEFORE

**PESHAWAR:** Radesh Singh's grandfather was just 11 years old when he left his village in India's Punjab province to move to Peshawar, in the far northwest of the country on the border with Afghanistan. The year was 1901: The British ruled the Indian subcontinent, Pakistan wasn't even a glimmer in the eye of its founder, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, and Peshawar held the promise of work and adventure.

Singh's grandfather would never return to his village, not even in 1947, when the Indian subcontinent was divided into majority Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan, generating one of the largest migrations in modern history and unleashing a brutality that left few untouched as mobs of Hindus and Muslims turned on each other.

Singh's family is neither Hindu nor Muslim but Sikh, a religious minority in both countries. In the 70 years since Partition they have waged a secessionist uprising in India demanding outright independence for India's Punjab state where they dominate. They have felt increasingly less at home on either side of the border, but particularly so in recent years in overwhelming Muslim Pakistan as they too have become victims of local Taleban violence.

Singh said poverty kept his grandfather in Peshawar, located at the foot of the famed Khyber Pass and dominated by fiercely inde-

pendent ethnic Pashtun tribesmen. "It's not easy to start over at zero when you have very little," he said. The hostility in the immediate aftermath of 1947 was brief in the northwest, said Singh. It was followed by decades of peace. The decision to stay in the new country now called Pakistan seemed like a good choice at the time. The Sikhs had lived peacefully for centuries alongside their Pashtun Muslim countrymen.

**Glorious history**

After all, said Singh, Sikhs had a glorious history in the northwest. For a time in the 18th century they oversaw a dynasty. Their capital was Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore. It was a Sikh ruler, Ranjit Singh, who rebuilt Peshawar's infamous Bala Hisar Fort, an imposing walled fortress that some historians say is as old as the city itself, which traces its origins back more than 2,000 years.

Today Sikhs are among Pakistan's smallest minorities. They are easily identifiable because of their tightly wound and often colorful turbans, and because they share the surname Singh. The CIA Factbook estimates that 3.6 percent of Pakistan's 180 million people are non-Muslims, including Sikhs, Christians and Hindus. Until 1984, Singh said, Pakistan's

Hindus and Sikhs lived as one in northwest Pakistan. Their children married, they even worshipped together. But then India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards.

"They (Hindus) cut all relations with us. They said Pakistani Sikhs are like all Sikhs everywhere. No difference. They said, 'From now on, we will be separate from you,'" Singh recalled. Today Sikhs are battling with the Pakistan government for ownership of dozens of Sikh temples that they call gurdwaras; while it is slow going they have managed to reclaim some of the buildings. Many were abandoned in 1947 and taken over by Muslims who arrived from India. The Pakistan government, which took over the buildings after 1947, allowed the squatters to remain.

In a congested neighborhood in Peshawar's old city, Singh stepped through large steel gates that opened on to a sweeping courtyard. It no longer resembled a house of worship, but Singh said it was once a vibrant gurdwara attended by hundreds of Sikhs. Now two families call it home. Two clotheslines crowded with clothes drying in the blistering midday sun stretched from one end of the courtyard to the other. A child's plastic toy sat idle nearby. Elsewhere in Peshawar, an armed guard, his

rifle slung loosely by his side, stood guard at the city's largest Sikh temple, an ornate marble building that dates back 250 years. Inside a half dozen Sikh men sat on plastic chairs. It is a short, bureaucratic-looking man, a Muslim, who has the final say about who enters the gurdwara. He works for the government body that oversees properties vacated by people who fled to India in 1947. After phone calls made, names recorded, passports handed over and more phone calls made, the doors to the gurdwara were opened, revealing a cavernous carpeted room and ornate pillars decorated with hundreds of tiny mirrors. In a small room at the far end of the upper story, two students read the Guru Granth Sahib, Sikhism's holy book.

**'Fear in our hearts'**

Singh, who heads a council representing the Sikhs in Pakistan, said that since his homeland began to turn toward radical Islam, particularly in the Pashtun heartland, young Sikhs have been looking to leave. "They want to go to another country, not to India or Pakistan," he said, but every country eyes them with suspicion. Even Indians, he said, see his Pakistani passport and question his intentions, suggesting he wants to agitate for Sikh secessionism,

the battle that resulted in Indira Gandhi's death and a dream still held by many Sikhs on both sides of the border.

For Singh, Pakistan's slide into intolerance began in the late 1970s with the former Soviet Union's invasion of neighboring Afghanistan. Pakistan's military dictator Zia-ul Haq set the country on the course of Islamic radicalization as jihad became a rallying cry to defeat the communists in Afghanistan, he said.

Extremism worsened after the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan by a U.S.-led coalition, he said. The tribal regions were gradually overtaken by Taliban and in 2013 several Sikhs were killed, their limbs severed. The brutality of the killings and the threats sent thousands fleeing Pakistan, said Singh. He said today Pakistan's intolerant use blasphemy - a crime that carries an automatic death penalty - as a weapon against minorities and fellow Muslims alike.

"That is why we have a fear in our hearts, that this law can be used against us," he said. The mere accusation of blasphemy can incite mobs to violence. "In the last nearly 40 years we have been facing the boom, boom (mimicking the sound of explosions) in every city of Pakistan," said Singh. "In a long time we have not heard any sweet sounds in our Peshawar, but still we love our city." — AP



PESHAWAR: Pakistani Sikh Radesh Singh, center, shows a house occupied by Muslim families, used to be a Sikh temple.



PESHAWAR: Radesh Singh, left, talks at a temple in Peshawar, Pakistan. Singh's said that his grandfather was just 11 years old when he left his "simple village" in India's Punjab province to move to Peshawar.



PESHAWAR: Pakistani Sikh girl Harmeed Koul reads the Sikh's Guru Granth Sahib holy book at a temple.



# YEMEN CHOLERA CASES SOAR PAST HALF-MILLION: WHO

**GENEVA:** Cholera is believed to have affected more than 500,000 people and killed nearly 2,000 since late April, the World Health Organization said yesterday. A full 503,484 suspected cases and 1,975 deaths are attributable to the outbreak that erupted less than four months ago in the war-ravaged country, a WHO overview showed. More than a quarter of the deaths and over 41 percent of all suspected cases are chil-

dren, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

WHO said the speed at which the deadly waterborne disease was spreading had slowed significantly since early July, but warned that it was still affecting an estimated 5,000 people each day. The collapse of Yemen's infrastructure after more than two years of war between the Saudi-backed government and Shiite rebels who control the capital Sanaa has

allowed the country's cholera epidemic to swell to the largest in the world.

WHO warned that the disease had spread rapidly due to deteriorating hygiene and sanitation conditions, with millions of people cut off from clean water across the country. "Yemen's health workers are operating in impossible conditions," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement. "Thousands of people are sick,

but there are not enough hospitals, not enough medicines, not enough clean water," he said, also lamenting that many of the doctors and nurses needed to rein in the outbreak had not been paid for nearly a year. "They must be paid their wages so that they can continue to save lives," he said.

WHO said that it and its partners were "working around the clock" to support the national efforts to halt the outbreak, adding

that more than 99 percent of people who contract cholera in Yemen can survive if they can access health services. More than 15 million people in the country have no access to basic healthcare. Tedros called on all sides in Yemen's conflict, which has killed more than 8,300 people since March 2015, to urgently seek a political solution. "The people of Yemen cannot bear it much longer - they need peace to rebuild their lives and their country," he said. — AFP



**GORAKHPUR, India:** An Indian woman looks after her child at the encephalitis ward of the Baba Raghav Das Hospital in this city in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh yesterday. — AFP

## INDIA RESTORES HOSPITAL OXYGEN AS ANGER MOUNTS

**GORAKHPUR, India:** Indian health authorities yesterday delivered oxygen to a public hospital where 63 people have died of encephalitis in recent days, nearly half of them children, as it ran out of medical supplies because of unpaid bills, triggering public outrage. The deaths of the children have again exposed India's underfunded and poorly managed public healthcare despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's vows to revamp the system.

Hundreds of people die each year in India of encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease common during the monsoon season, and no medical official directly linked the recent deaths to a lack of oxygen. But complaints that the hospital in the eastern city of Gorakhpur did not have enough supplies has stoked anger against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party which governs Uttar Pradesh state.

"We now have adequate supplies of oxygen cylinders, there was a shortage last week... but I am not in a position to say whether they were the cause behind the deaths," R K Sahai, a senior medical officer in the hospital, said. Television images of parents emerging from the hospital carrying the bodies of infants and alleging they died because there they didn't get oxygen have led to a firestorm of criticism of chief minister Yogi Adityanath, a saffron-robed Hindu hardliner who took office earlier this year.

Bipin Singh said his six-year-old daughter died on Thursday because of lack of oxygen and he had seen six other children die for the same reason. "My daughter and other children were unable to breathe. We kept

telling the nurses that they should call the doctors. The doctors said they have ordered for oxygen cylinders but we never saw them being used."

Bahadur Nishad, who lost a four-year-old son suffering from encephalitis, said he was ready to pay for the oxygen cylinders himself. "They told me there was a shortage of cylinders," he said and turned his wrath on chief minister Yogi Adityanath whose electoral constituency is Gorakhpur. Other parents spoke of desperately trying to arrange basic materials such as cotton gauze, glucose injections and blood supplies as their children struggled for life in the wards.

Patients continued to stream into the hospital over the weekend. Some 450 patients suffering from encephalitis were admitted on Saturday alone, of whom 200 were children under 12, hospital records showed. Many were being treated on the floor and near toilets due to the shortage of beds. Government expenditure on public health is about one percent of GDP, among the world's lowest. In recent years, Modi's government has increased health spending and vowed to make healthcare more affordable.

The Uttar Pradesh government fired the head of the hospital as well as the doctor who headed the paediatrics department to head off criticism from the opposition. But Rajeev Misra, the sacked chief of the hospital, told reporters he had repeatedly written to the state administration to release funds to pay suppliers. Sahai, the medical officer at the hospital, said authorities were investigating the reasons for the shortage of oxygen cylinders. — Reuters

## LONE MIGRANT RESCUE SHIP KEEPS UP PATROLS OFF LIBYA

**UNDISCLOSED LOCATION:** On board the Aquarius, one of the last NGO ships still operating off the coast of Libya, rescuers are worried they are not seeing any more boatloads of migrants at sea. Libya's navy last week ordered foreign vessels to stay out of a coastal "search and rescue zone" for migrants headed for Europe, a measure aimed at nongovernmental organizations it accuses of facilitating traffickers in illegal migration. One by one the NGOs halted operations, except the Aquarius. The 68-metre orange boat, formerly used by the German coastguard, sailed alone off the Libyan coast on Sunday.

"For the moment, we are continuing our patrol operation in international waters," said Nicola Stall, search and rescue coordinator for the Aquarius, which is operated by SOS Mediterranee and Doctors Without Borders (MSF). And so the Aquarius team of rescuers keeps up its two-hour rotation, day and night, to watch for migrants floating on overcrowded and unseaworthy boats. MSF workers meanwhile check their stocks of medications, while other volunteers give the bridge a fresh coat of paint.

As they wait, they are concerned about the calm sea and the favorable winds of the past few days. Despite such weather conditions, they haven't seen a migrant boat for a week now. "It's very hard to know what is going on in Libya," says Marcella Kraay, the MSF chief on board. Even during the bad weather in winter, they have never gone more than three weeks without rescuing hundreds of migrants. "What we're seeing at sea is that it seems fewer small boats are leaving Libya, and those that do leave are intercepted by the Libyan coastguards," she says, adding that they were trying to get Libya to clarify the zone that foreign ships are barred from. The Aquarius may be joined by vessels from the Spanish charity Proactiva Open Arms, which was expected to resume operations on Monday.

### Warning shots

Last week Libyan coastguards frightened off most NGO rescue ships when they

fired shots in the air opposite one vessel, warning that they would target it directly the next time. The Aquarius has an emergency plan so everyone on board can lock themselves in should the ship be boarded. There are about a dozen people from the two NGOs, from several European countries as well as the United States and Australia.

Sailors volunteer their time to SOS Mediterranee while the MSF team includes doctors as well as logistical and technical people, veterans of humanitarian crises such as the Ebola epidemic and the Iraqi battle at Mosul. The ship's captain hails from Belarus and the roughly 10 crew members are mostly Slavs, hired with the boat but having chosen to take part in this rescue mission, which has been going on since last year.

At night the Aquarius keeps about 30 miles from the Libyan coast, mainly to avoid fishermen's nets. During the day it moves closer so the coastline is visible, but stays about 24 miles away unless the Italian coastguard calls on them to help with rescues nearer shore. Six years since a revolution that toppled longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi, Libya has become a key departure point for migrants risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean to Europe.

### 'Grave concern'

Italy, which has borne the brunt of the migrant influx from north Africa, has welcomed Libya's decision to bar NGO ships and invest more in its coastguard. The number of migrants reaching Italy is down compared with last year. So far in August authorities say there have been 1,700 arrivals, far from the 21,300 recorded for the entire month in 2016. But for humanitarian groups, what happens to migrants returned to or kept in camps in Libya is even more worrying. "Fewer ships in the area will mean more people will drown at sea. And those taken back by the Libyan coastguards will be kept in captivity, and again exposed to violence, abuse, maltreatment, extortion," says MSF's Kraay. "This is really a grave concern." —AFP

# A THIRD OF SYRIAN REFUGEE KIDS NOT IN SCHOOL, DESPITE PLEDGES

## SYRIA AID PLAGUED BY PERSISTENT FUNDING SHORTFALLS

**MANSHIYEH, Jordan:** Since his family fled civil war in Syria five years ago, 15-year-old Ali Al-Sbehi hasn't set foot in a school. Instead, he has put in 12-hour shifts in a supermarket, a fast food stand and now a coffee shop, enduring abuse from employers, back-breaking work and low pay because he is the sole breadwinner for his family of eight. "I have no future," said the lanky teen with narrow shoulders, offering a sober assessment of his prospects.

Ali is among more than half a million Syrian refugee children of school age - or one-third of the total - who are not in school or informal education in overburdened regional host countries Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq. They should all have been enrolled by now under a pledge made 18 months ago by donor countries and international organizations at a Syria aid conference in London.

### Millions of dollars

At the time, donors promised hundreds of millions of dollars to meet the education target, as part of a shift from emergency aid to longer-term development to cope with the fallout from Syria's civil war, now in its seventh year. However, Syria aid has been plagued by persistent funding shortfalls, as donors face competing global crises.

A UN-led \$8 billion aid appeal for 2017 - \$3.4 billion for Syria and \$4.6 billion for the host countries - was only 25 percent funded by July, according to UN figures. "If we were fully funded ... more children would be back in school," said Juliette Touma, regional spokeswoman for UNICEF, the UN child welfare agency.

Money could alleviate both the direct and indirect causes of children not getting an education. Deepening poverty among refugees drives more boys into menial work and more girls into early marriage. Local schools are overcrowded. Parents often lack money for transportation to and from school, or fear for their children's safety. Progress has been made and many of the donors have stepped up, Touma said. The out-of-school rate in regional host countries dropped from 45 percent to 34 percent between December 2015 and December 2016.

Britain's Department for International Development, when asked about donors missing the target set in London, pointed to the improvement, saying that "for the first time since the start of the crisis there are more children in school than not in school." It added that "the scale of the challenge remains huge." In Jordan, about 126,000 of 212,000 Syrian refugee children are enrolled in school, with the government supporting the campaign by doubling the



**ZAATARI:** In this Monday, Aug. 6, 2017 photo, a girl walks to school in the Zaatari Refugee Camp for Syrian refugees. — AP

number of schools with two shifts to 200 in the fall of 2016. Another 46,000 children participate in informal education. This includes new catch-up programs at 60 centers where children who missed more than three years of school can make up for lost time. In the past, such children would not have been able to return to school.

### Entry point

Summer school offers an entry point for those who registered late. "In Syria, there was war, and planes," said 11-year-old Mohammed Faisal, a first grader in summer school. "But I like being here. They take us out on breaks, they feed us yummy food, and the teachers treat us with kindness." This leaves about 40,000 Syrian refugee children in Jordan who can't or won't return to school, as well as thousands more at risk of dropping out.

Robert Jenkins, the head of UNICEF in Jordan, said his \$96 million education budget for 2017 is only half funded, and that this jeopardizes programs meant to encourage children to stay in school or re-enroll. Currently, about 52,000 children get cash grants of 20 dinars (\$28) a month to help with school transportation and other costs related to education, or to enable boys to quit their jobs. Jenkins said he had hoped to double the number of participants this year, but instead might have to phase out the program for lack of money. Jenkins said anecdotal evidence suggests child labor among Syrian refugees is on the rise, but that no statistics are available. "We

need to work on both supporting the families and supporting the school system together for this to be successful," he said. He said refugee parents face tough choices. "If you ask your typical Syrian refugee family, at the top of the list remains (the wish for) continuing education" of their children, he said.

When Ali Sbehi was 10, his family tried unsuccessfully to register him for school in Jordan. He was told at the time he would need to repeat third grade because his parents lacked documents showing he had already completed it in Syria. He refused to do so. Since then, he has forgotten most of what he learned in Syria. His father, who had worked in construction, became bedridden with back problems three years ago.

Ali is now responsible for supporting the family. "I cannot let my family starve to death," he said. "I am obliged to work, to take responsibility. I have to handle it so I can bring in money." During his last job, at a coffee shop, Ali used to wake up at 2 p.m. every day to go to work and return home around dawn. He would sweep floors and serve customers water pipes, with a maximum of five dinars (\$7) in his pocket at the end of the shift. His employer often withheld some of that money, and still owes him 63 dinars (\$100), Ali said. Ali's mother, 40-year-old Khalida, is worried about him. "I am scared when he's walking back home somebody will hit him or say something to him. I am afraid for him, a lot," she said. "Sometimes I just call him and tell him to hell with work, just come home." — AP



**BEIRUT:** Lebanese army soldiers take pictures near military vehicles that were unloaded from a ship at Beirut's port. — AP

# SYRIAN REBELS HEAD HOME AS US GIVES LEBANON COMBAT VEHICLES

**BEIRUT:** Hundreds of Syrian rebels and civilians started leaving the Lebanon-Syria border area yesterday after a deal was reached for their departure following days of delay, the media arm of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said. In Beirut, meanwhile, the United States handed over to the Lebanese army eight Bradley Fighting Vehicles, part of a total of 32 that will be delivered over the coming months in US support for the Lebanese military.

At the border, buses carrying members of the Levant People's Brigades rebel group started moving from the badlands of the Lebanese border town of Aarsal in the direction of the Syrian village of Fleeta. More than 3,000 people were expected to leave by the end of the day. The evacuation comes nearly two weeks after more

than 7,000 Syrians, many of them al-Qaida-linked fighters and their families, left Aarsal, following an offensive by Hezbollah.

The Levant People's Brigades whose members did not take part in last month's battles will be heading to the Syrian government-held town of Ruhaiba, about 50 kilometers northeast of the Syrian capital, Damascus, where they will return to normal life following an amnesty by the state, according to Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV. The only insurgents remaining on Lebanon's side of the border now are members of the Islamic State group - hundreds of IS fighters control a stretch of land that is almost equally split between Lebanon and Syria.

The Lebanese army has been preparing an attack on IS-held areas for weeks there, sending

in reinforcements and pounding the area with artillery shells and rockets. The Syrian army and Hezbollah are also preparing for a simultaneous attack on IS on the Syrian side of the border. At the Bradley handover ceremony at Beirut's port, US Ambassador Elizabeth Richard said the vehicles represent an investment of over \$100 million that will "provide the Lebanese Armed Forces with new capabilities to protect Lebanon, to protect its borders and to fight terrorists." The US has supplied the Lebanese military with Cessna aircraft that discharge Hellfire missiles, helicopters, anti-tank missiles, artillery and radars, as well as training. The American Embassy says the US has provided Lebanon with over \$1.4 billion in security assistance since 2005. — PA



## FOILED IS-LED SUICIDE BOMB ATTACKS IN MOSCOW: POLICE

**MOSCOW:** Russia's FSB security service said yesterday that it had captured a gang planning major attacks on Moscow transport networks and shopping centers, directed by members of the Islamic State jihadist group from Syria. Security officers detained members of the group outside Moscow as they plotted "a series of terrorist attacks in crowded public places including on public transport and in major shopping centers in Moscow using suicide bombers and powerful explosive devices," the FSB said.

It said it had determined that the attacks were being organized by IS warlords and emissaries who are in Syria, which it identified as TM Nazarov and AM Shirindzhonov. Media outlets in Tajikistan reported this month that a man named Todzhiddin Nazarov, also known as Abu Osama Noraka, had appeared in IS video statements from Syria posted on pro-jihadist sites. The FSB said officers raided a bomb-making laboratory outside Moscow and captured the group's coordinator, an IS emissary in Russia, as well as an explosives expert and two

potential suicide bombers, it said. It said that four people were captured, three from Central Asian states and one a Russian citizen. Russia's Rossiya 24 state television showed FSB footage of the raid on a house in which plainclothes officers are seen pinning two young men wearing black rucksacks to the floor and handcuffing them. It also showed what it said was equipment used to mix chemicals. Russia regularly announces that it has foiled major terrorist attacks, and recently has emphasized the threat from former Soviet countries in Central Asia, where large numbers of the Muslim-majority populations have gone to fight alongside IS. The FSB said in July that it had detained seven nationals from Central Asia who were "preparing terrorist attacks" in Saint Petersburg, where 15 were killed in a metro bombing in April.

### Turkey officer killed by IS suspect

Elsewhere, Istanbul's police chief yesterday hailed as a hero a 24-year-old officer stabbed to death by a suspected member of the Islamic State (IS) group,

who had been arrested for allegedly planning a suicide attack. Sinan Acar was attacked with a knife by the suspect, who has not been named, after the man was brought by car for questioning to the headquarters of Istanbul police late Sunday.

Acar later died of his wounds while the suspected IS member was shot dead on the spot by other police officers. Speaking at a funeral ceremony for the slain officer, police chief Mustafa Caliskan said Acar and his colleagues had prevented a potentially significant attack by arresting the suspect. "The man arrested was someone who was the subject of an international search," said Caliskan. "We think that a very serious attack was prevented."

"It must be known that in this country people like Sinan will live on," he said at the ceremony also attended by Istanbul governor Vasip Sahin. It was not immediately clear how the suspect managed to keep a knife while being taken into custody. At the funeral, Acar's mother, overcome by emotion, was supported by a female police officer, an AFP corre-

spondent said. He will later be buried in his native Bursa region.

Turkey was hit in 2016 by a succession of attacks that left hundreds dead in the bloodiest year of terror strikes in its history. The attacks were blamed on IS jihadists as well as the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) who have battled the Turkish state in an insurgency lasting more than three decades. Last month anti-terror officers in Istanbul detained dozens of alleged IS members, several of whom were said to be preparing a "sensational attack" in Turkey, police said.

An attack by a jihadist gunman on an elite nightclub in Istanbul just 75 minutes into New Year's Day in 2017 left 39 people dead, mainly foreigners. There has since been a lull in similar attacks, but tensions and high security remain in big cities. Turkey was in the last years criticised by NATO allies for not doing more against the rise of IS but recent months have seen near daily raids on the group's cells inside the country. — AFP

## FRENCH 'FALLING OUT OF LOVE' WITH MACRON AFTER 100 DAYS

NO PRESIDENT HAS SEEN SUCH A STEEP DROP IN POPULARITY

**PARIS:** Emmanuel Macron, the 39-year-old former investment banker who was catapulted to the French presidency in May, faces widespread disillusionment as he prepares to mark his first 100 days in office. The man shown walking on water on the cover of The Economist magazine after his startling rise has seen his approval ratings nosedive, with only 36 percent of respondents giving him the thumbs up in one recent poll. The French are "falling out of love" with

political cost of his decisions," leading pollster Jerome Fourquet told AFP. Proposed defense cuts — part of a plan to trim 4.5 billion euros (\$5.3 billion) to bring France's budget deficit within EU limits — led to a public row last month with the head of the French armed forces, General Pierre de Villiers.

### 'Honeymoon is over'

Macron rebuked him for questioning the wis-

dom of cuts at a time the army was in action in the Middle East and west Africa as well as at home. De Villiers resigned a few days later. "The honeymoon is over between Emmanuel Macron and the French," wrote editorialist Laurent Bodin in the wake of the spat. The stars aligned for Macron to sweep to power on a promise of change less than a year after he quit the deeply unpopular Socialist government of Francois Hollande, dogged by a sluggish economy and stubborn unemployment.

On the right, a fake jobs scandal torpedoed the presidential hopes of early conservative front-runner Francois Fillon, leaving the centrist Macron to square off against far-right leader

Marine Le Pen. His victory over the populist Le Pen was deceptive, as it came with a record low turnout and followed a first round in which only one in four voters picked Macron. In June, Macron's Republic on the Move party and its centrist ally MoDem won a comfortable majority in parliament — but after garnering less than half the vote, also on a historically low turnout.

### Holding his own

Macron has fared better on the diplomacy front, proving himself a match for US President Donald Trump in the handshake department and holding his own with Russia's Vladimir Putin. And amid anguish over Brexit, Macron's committed pro-EU stance has roused hopes of a revival of the Franco-German axis that forged European integration and created the world's biggest trade bloc.

Macron has fulfilled a key campaign promise, winning passage of legislation to clean up politics following a series of scandals, and tough new anti-terror measures are in the pipeline. But prominent right-wing politician Eric Woerth scoffed that "nothing difficult has been done yet". Government spokesman Christophe Castaner has sought to deflect criticism of his boss ahead of Tuesday, which will mark 100 days since the election.

The president has "laid the foundation of a deep transformation of our country," Castaner said in a Facebook post on Sunday. The young president will come back from summer holidays to face protests against his labor reforms, with unions calling for strikes and marches while the radical left France Unbowed party plans a "people's rally". Parliament this month adopted a bill allowing the government to fast-track changes to the labor code to give employers more power to negotiate directly with their employees.

One bright spot for Macron is the overwhelming popularity enjoyed by his wife Brigitte, who has taken to her role with aplomb, shrugging off chatter about the 25-year age gap with her husband. Always poised and smiling, often sporting above-the-knee Louis Vuitton dresses, the svelte blonde who was once Macron's drama coach will "play a very active role alongside her husband, who will benefit from her incredible popularity," wrote the Paris daily Le Parisien.

Women have been lining up outside stores of Swedish clothing giant H&M in the French capital to buy T-shirts emblazoned with her name, it reported. — AFP



This file photo taken on May 19, 2017 shows French President Emmanuel Macron (C) and Defence minister Sylvie Goulard (2-L) visiting the troops of France's Barkhane counter-terrorism operation in Africa's Sahel region. — AFP

Macron, the right-leaning daily Le Figaro headlined Sunday.

No French president has seen such a steep drop in popularity so early in his rule since Jacques Chirac in 1995. Macron, who shot to power on May 7 promising to overcome France's entrenched right-left divide, has since come under fire for his labor reform program, budget and public spending cuts as well as a plan to create an official First Lady position for his 64-year-old wife Brigitte.

France's youngest ever president is especially out of favor with civil servants after vowing to put a brake on their salary increases. Macron "must come down to earth and assume the

dom of cuts at a time the army was in action in the Middle East and west Africa as well as at home. De Villiers resigned a few days later. "The honeymoon is over between Emmanuel Macron and the French," wrote editorialist Laurent Bodin in the wake of the spat. The stars aligned for Macron to sweep to power on a promise of change less than a year after he quit the deeply unpopular Socialist government of Francois Hollande, dogged by a sluggish economy and stubborn unemployment.

On the right, a fake jobs scandal torpedoed the presidential hopes of early conservative front-runner Francois Fillon, leaving the centrist Macron to square off against far-right leader

## PENCE THREADS NEEDLE ON VENEZUELA

**CARTAGENA:** Vice President Mike Pence is demonstrating the delicate balancing act that has thus far defined his term, walking a line during a trip to Latin America between the region's opposition to possible US military intervention in Venezuela, and President Donald Trump's surprising refusal to rule out that option.

Speaking during a joint news conference with Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos shortly after his arrival Sunday, Pence also declined to rule out possible military action against Venezuelan President Nicol's Maduro, whose efforts to consolidate power in the country have drawn alarm. Still, Pence stressed the US would much prefer what he called a "peaceable" solution to the growing political and humanitarian crisis. "President Trump is a leader who says what he means and means what he says," Pence said. "But the president sent me here to continue to marshal the unprecedented support of countries across Latin America to achieve by peaceable means the restoration of democracy in Venezuela, and we believe it is achievable by those means."

### Venezuela crisis

Trump's startling comments Friday sparked backlash across the region, including from Venezuela's chief opposition coalition and the Colombian government. Standing at Pence's side in Cartagena after the two met, Santos said he had repeatedly told Pence in no uncertain terms that the US must not even consider military action in response to Venezuela's crisis.

The two countries are important allies, Santos said. "But since friends have to tell each other the truth, I have told Vice President Pence that the possibility of a military intervention shouldn't even be considered, neither in Colombia nor in Latin America," Santos said through a translator. "America is a continent of peace. It is the land of peace. Let us preserve it as such."

Analysts said Trump's comments played into Maduro's hands by awakening dark memories of US intervention in the region and making it harder for other Latin American countries to join the anti-Maduro coalition. "The phantom of military interventions in Latin America disappeared a long time ago, and we don't want it to return," Santos said. Pence emphasized the US will work

together with many nations in Venezuela's "neighborhood" to pressure Maduro so that democracy can be restored. "We simply will not accept the emergence of a dictatorship in our hemisphere," he said, continuing the tough talk that has been Trump's approach to Maduro. "The United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles," he said.

Pence also addressed the deadly violence that broke out Saturday during a march by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, using words the president would not. "We have no tolerance for hate and violence, white supremacists or neo-Nazis or the KKK," Pence said. "These dangerous fringe groups have no place in American public life and in the American debate, and we condemn them in the strongest possible terms."

Trump has been criticized by both Democrats and Republicans for not singling out those groups directly in a lengthy Saturday statement and instead blaming "many sides" for the violence. Pence also addressed a spike in coca production in Colombia, saying the worsening crisis

required "swift action to protect the people of both our countries." A July report from the United Nations showed that coca production in Colombia had reached levels not seen in two decades, complicating Colombia's efforts to make its vast, lawless countryside more secure.

### Anti-narcotics policies

Venezuelan Vice President Tareck El Aissami lashed out at Pence, rejecting what he called "interventionist" comments intended to hide the failure of US anti-narcotics policies in Colombia. He dismissed Pence's meeting with Santos as "an encounter between the world's largest producer of drugs and the nation with the most consumers."

El Aissami was sanctioned by the Trump administration in February for allegedly running a drug trafficking network of corrupt officials in Venezuela. Pence and his wife, Karen, arrived Sunday in Colombia for a six-day, four-country trip through the region. Pence has other stops scheduled in Argentina, Chile and Panama, giving speeches and meeting with leaders. — AP



SAN ANTONIO DEL TACHIRA: In this July 17, 2016 file photo, a woman carrying a bundle on her head waits in line to cross the border into Colombia through the Simon Bolivar International Bridge. — AP



A firefighter controls a wild fire approaching the village of Pucarica, near Abrantes, central Portugal. — AP

## SUPERHEROES: PORTUGAL'S FIREFIGHTERS WORK FOR FREE

**LISBON:** Almost all of the 2,000 Portuguese firefighters at a weeklong wildfire that killed 64 people this summer had something in common apart from the acute danger they faced: they were doing it for no pay and with equipment bought with public donations. More than 90 percent of Portugal's around 30,000 firefighters are volunteers. From lawyers to construction workers, they take time off work to risk their lives. What's more, the volunteer fire departments where they work rely on donations and income from working at private events to pay for their equipment.

When they are deployed to a wildfire outside their area of residence during the summer fire season, the government pays these intrepid men and women 1.87 euros (\$2) an hour. And the volunteer firefighters usually hand over that meager stipend to their financially stretched fire departments. Hugo Simoes, a 33-year-old Lisbon bombeiro (firefighter) who was deployed in June to the country's deadliest wildfire on record, says a sense of duty and brotherhood drives the volunteers. "We do it out of community spirit," he says.

Volunteers are not uncommon in fire brigades in Europe and further afield - more than 97 percent of German firefighters are volunteers; in the US that figure is around 70 percent. But in Portugal these unfunded services are the front line in emergencies, providing the backbone of the Civil Protection Agency's resources. There are just seven professional fire departments in the country. Simoes works for Portugal's oldest fire department, the Bombeiros Voluntarios de Lisboa, created in 1868 by royal decree. For him, the volunteer spirit shown by generations of firefighters is unremarkable. It's a cultural tradition.

### Massive blaze

"Here in Portugal it's been like this for a long time," he shrugs. "We like what we do. On hot days when we could go to the beach, we come here to the fire department instead, to help out." Simoes now-days works full-time as an administrative clerk at the fire department, earning around 600 euros a month. When the alarms rang in June to go and help at a massive blaze in woodland around Pedrogao Grande, about 150 kilometers

north of Lisbon, Simoes set off with four vehicles and their crews. "Some walked out of work and risked being marked as absent," Simoes says. Across the country, other volunteer firefighters did the same. Scorching weather, as well as strong winds and woodland that was bone dry after months with little rain, fueled the Pedrogao Grande blaze, just as it has other forest fires this summer. The fire spread so quickly that 47 people died on a road as they fled the advancing flames in their cars. "The stress, the adrenaline, the heat - they demand a huge effort," Simoes said. "At times it can get a bit hairy, but our training kicks in."

Similar scenes play out each summer in Portugal: giant flames dwarf the firefighters, huge clouds of smoke stretch to the horizon, locals help out with buckets and garden hoses and swat at the flames with broken-off tree branches. Wildfires race through eucalyptus and pine forests that are uncleared and tightly packed. This year has been particularly bad, due to a severe drought gripping 80 percent of the country. Wildfires in Portugal accounted for more than one-third of the burnt forest in the entire 28-nation European Union up to Aug 5.

Last week, Simoes and his team were dispatched to a major forest fire in Abrantes, not far from Pedrogao Grande. Firefighters brought the blaze under control within 48 hours. The volunteer firefighters are commonly depicted as heroes in Portugal. A recent fund-raising campaign described them as "heroes without capes." Calls for food and water to help the firefighters inevitably bring a nationwide deluge of donations.

About 80 people are on call at the Bombeiros Voluntarios de Lisboa. They receive more than 300 hours of training, which is also done outside their day job. Simoes says the department has always had enough staff, though it is stretched in emergencies. It scrapes by financially. Fire suits cost almost 2,000 euros each. The recent purchase of 100 new helmets cost 28,000 euros. Portugal's volunteer fire departments often use vehicles bought second-hand. In Lisbon, that includes a fire truck purchased in Luxembourg. A new one costs more than 250,000 euros - way beyond their budget. Their dream, they confide, is to own a big American fire truck. — AP

## INDIA TO DEPORT ROHINGYA DESPITE UN REGISTRATION

**NEW DELHI:** All of an estimated 40,000 Rohingya Muslims living in India are illegal immigrants, even those registered with the UN refugee agency, and the government aims to deport them, a senior government official told Reuters. Junior interior minister Kiren Rijiju told parliament last week the central government had directed state authorities to identify and deport illegal immigrants including Rohingya, who face persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has issued identity cards to about 16,500 Rohingya in India that it says help them "prevent harassment, arbitrary arrests, detention and deportation". But Rijiju, a high-profile minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government, said in an interview on the weekend that the UNHCR registration was irrelevant. "They are doing it, we can't stop them from registering. But we are not signatory to the accord on refugees," he said. "As far as we are concerned they are all illegal immigrants. They have no basis to live here. Anybody who is illegal

migrant will be deported."

The UNHCR's India office said yesterday the principle of non-refoulement - or not sending back refugees to a place where they face danger - was considered part of customary international law and binding on all states whether they have signed the Refugee Convention or not. The office said it had not received any official word about a plan to deport Rohingya refugees, and had not got any reports deportations were taking place.

The treatment of the roughly one million Rohingya in Myanmar has emerged as its most contentious human rights issue as it makes a transition from decades of harsh military rule. The Rohingya are denied citizenship in Myanmar and classified as illegal immigrants, despite claiming roots there that go back centuries, with communities marginalized and occasionally subjected to communal violence.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled from Myanmar, with many taking refuge in Bangladesh, and some then crossing a porous border into Hindu-majority India. — Reuters



# WILL N KOREA’S KIM PULL THE TRIGGER?

**SEOUL:** Tensions between the United States and North Korea tend to flare suddenly and fade almost as quickly - but the latest escalation won't likely go away quite so easily. Events closer to home, including deadly violence at a white nationalist rally in Virginia, could demand more of President Donald Trump's attention in the days ahead and cut into the volume and frequency of his fiery North Korea rhetoric. But North Korea has yet to back away from its biggest threat: a plan to lob missiles toward U.S. military bases on the island of Guam that Pyongyang says should be ready for leader Kim Jong Un to review anytime now. Will it all stop there?

Or, despite the extremely high risks, will Kim really give the go order? And,

regardless of what Kim does or doesn't do, will the tough-talking Trump feel compelled to take matters into his own hands? Unpredictable as the situation is, some potential flashpoints to watch for:

**Bomber flights**

This could be the biggest trigger. North Korea says it was compelled to put the Guam plan together because it feels threatened by a squadron of B-1B bombers on the island that the US has increasingly sent to fly in Korean airspace in symbolic shows of force during times of particular tension. But that may be only a pretense.

North Korea is certainly sensitive to the bombers, which could cause a lot of dev-

astation if a war did start. But it also might just want an excuse to fully test the capabilities of its new Hwasong-12 intermediate-range missiles. Either way, it's a cagey tactic: If Trump orders the B-1Bs to stay on the ground, Pyongyang can claim victory. If he orders them to fly, North Korea has its excuse to launch. If, of course, that's what it really wants to do - Pyongyang wisely left itself a lot of wiggle room and hasn't committed itself one way or the other.

**Liberation day**

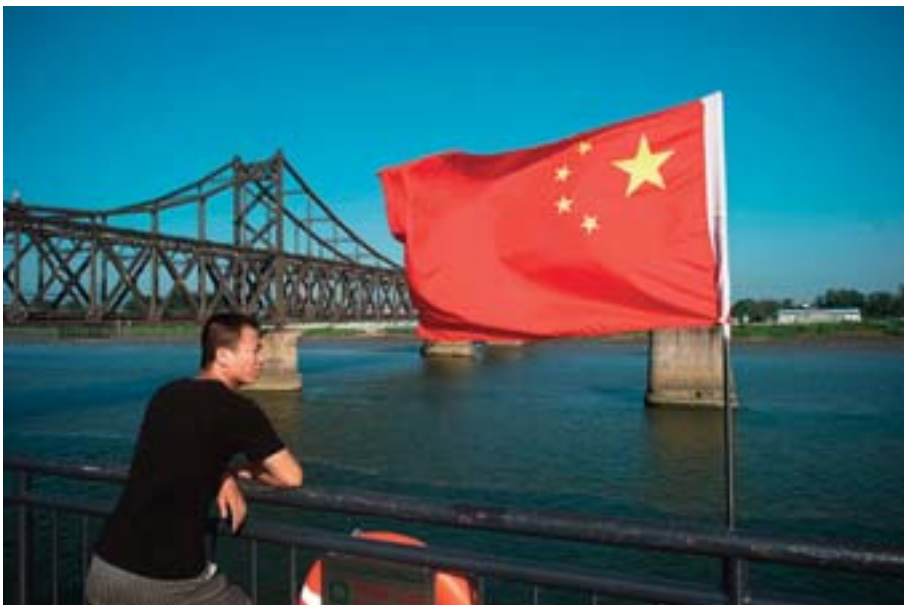
Aug 15 is the anniversary of the end of World War II in 1945 and the Korean Peninsula's liberation from Japanese colonial rule. Pyongyang likes to use big anniversaries to make high-profile state-

ments with military activity or political provocations. It launched its first intercontinental ballistic missile, for example, on July 4 - Independence Day in the United States.

This week's World War II anniversary isn't linked so closely to veneration of North Korea's ruling Kim family, the primary days for demonstrating national power. But it's a national holiday just the same and could be an opportune moment for the North to make some kind of a move. So far, however, there haven't been any telltale signs of anything brewing in Pyongyang. The day could just be marked with small celebrations and the distribution of free treats - or maybe more rhetoric about the Guam missile plan.

**War games**

This is another likely trigger, if Pyongyang is going to actually do anything. Tens of thousands of US and South Korean troops are expected to kick off the annual Ulchi-Freedom Guardian military exercises on Aug. 21. North Korea sees these exercises and larger ones held every spring as a rehearsal for invasion. Getting Washington to halt them has long been one of Pyongyang's key demands, and it regularly stirs the pot around the time they're held. North Korea carried out its biggest nuclear test just after last year's UFG drills ended and fired four Scud ER missiles into waters off Japan to coincide with the spring exercises this past March. This year's UFG exercises are expected to last around 10 days. —AP



**DAN DONG:** This file picture taken on July 6, 2017 shows a tourist looking out from the Broken Bridge next to the Friendship bridge (L) on the Yalu River connecting the North Korean town of Sinuiju and the Chinese border city. —AFP

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

**BEIJING:** A look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves:

### Taiwan reports more Chinese military flights

Taiwan says it has tracked more Chinese military aircraft flying apparent training missions to the south and east of the island. The defense ministry said a pair of Chinese Y-8 surveillance aircraft flew through the Bashi Strait between Taiwan and the Philippines then out into the Pacific in a northeasterly direction on Sunday. It said the pair were joined at one point by two Chinese Su-30 fighter jets as they flew through the Miyako Strait north of the island.

That marked the third time this month that Chinese military planes were seen in the vicinity of Taiwanese air space, according to the official Central News Agency. Previous flights on Aug 5 and Aug 8 included Y-8s and other aircraft. China claims Taiwan as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary, and the two share an overlapping claim to most of the South China Sea. However, Taiwan occupies just the largely uncontested Pratas islands and just one island in the hotly disputed Spratly chain, unlike Beijing, which has aggressively pursued its claims, including building seven man-made islands atop coral reefs and adding airstrips and other infrastructure of military usefulness.

China has also taken a tougher stance toward Taiwan since last year's election of independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen, who has refused to endorse Beijing's contention that Taiwan is part of the Chinese nation. The tougher stance has so far been limited largely to diplomatic and economic measures, although Chinese commentators frequently speculate on the potential need for military steps to bring additional pressure on Tsai.

Taiwan's defense ministry said the Chinese planes remained outside the island's air defense identification zone, and said the citizens had nothing to worry about. Taiwan has as recently as last month scrambled fighters to respond to the presence of China's planes but the ministry gave no indication it did so this time.

### Chinese reclamation work continuing

A leading US think tank released a new report documenting what it said was continuing reclamation work on Chinese-controlled islands in the area, despite a recent claim by China's foreign minister that such work stopped two years ago.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Aug. 7 that China had "stopped or already completed land reclamation" on its holdings in the South China Sea two years ago. China has built seven new islands in the Spratly chain by piling sand and cement atop coral reefs. However, the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies said China was continuing to

reclaim land in the Paracel Islands north of the Spratlys.

Wang's claim "is false" and China's reclamation work "did not end in mid-2015 with the completion of its artificial islands in the Spratlys," said the report. The Paracels play "a key role in China's goal of establishing surveillance and power projection capabilities throughout the South China Sea," the report said. "To this end, Beijing has undertaken substantial upgrades of its military infrastructure in the Paracels." China occupies 20 outposts in the chain and improvements include the addition of harbors, helipads, an airstrip, hangars and a surface-to-air missile battery, the report said.

### China expresses dissatisfaction with US

China expressed its "strong dissatisfaction" with the US over the Navy's latest freedom of navigation operation in which a warship sailed past one of China's man-made islands. In a statement late Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang called the US Navy's action a "provocation" that "severely undermines China's sovereignty and security, and severely endangers the safety of frontline personnel of both sides."

China routinely protests such operations, which President Donald Trump's administration has continued partly to reassure allies locked in territorial disputes with Beijing. The US move will "compel China to take measures to further raise its capacity to defend national territory," Geng said, adding that the Chinese navy "identified the U.S. warship, warned and expelled it." A US Navy official told The Associated Press that the destroyer USS John S. McCain sailed past Mischief Reef on Thursday but gave no details.

### Tillerson visits Malaysia

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited Thailand and Malaysia last week, in an effort to shore up relations with two of America's Southeast Asian allies and urge them to maintain pressure on North Korea. Malaysia exercises claims in the South China Sea, while Thailand lies outside the dispute. Both have been cultivating closer ties to key trading partner Beijing, raising consternation in Washington, which had angered the country's rulers by raising concerns over human rights, attacks on political rivals and corruption.

Tillerson flew to Bangkok from the Philippines, where he had met with his counterparts from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations at an annual regional gathering that focused heavily on North Korea's push to advance its nuclear weapons and missile programs. Deputy Prime Minister Zahid Hamidi said in a statement they held talks Wednesday, centered on security issues including terrorism and human trafficking as well as bilateral and international issues. Tillerson had met Prime Minister Najib Razak after arriving late Tuesday from Bangkok. During a visit by Najib to Beijing last year, China and Malaysia said their navies will cooperate more in the South China Sea. —AP

## PAKISTAN MARKS 70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE WITH AIR SHOW

### MILITARY’S TOP BRASS VOWED TO WIPE OUT TERRORISTS

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan yesterday celebrated 70 years of independence from British India with a patriotic display including a giant flag and a show of airpower, as the military's top brass vowed to wipe out terrorists days after a deadly blast. Celebrations began at the stroke of midnight with firework shows in major cities.

At the highly symbolic Wagah eastern border crossing with India, army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa raised a massive national flag on a 400 foot (122-metre) pole as crowds chanted patriotic slogans. Following the chest-thumping performance Bajwa said the country was making progress and promised to "go after each and every terrorist in Pakistan". "We have made a few mistakes in the past, but we are on the road to development under the guidance of our constitution," he added.

A powerful bomb targeted a military vehicle in the restive capital of Balochistan province late Saturday, killing 14 people including several troops. The military later said the blast, claimed by the Islamic State group, was intended to mar Independence Day celebrations. Pakistan also faces fresh political turmoil after the Supreme Court last month sacked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif following an investigation into corruption allegations against his family. In Islamabad his newly-elected successor Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, along with top generals and foreign dignitaries, presided over a 31-gun salute and flag-raising ceremony to mark the holiday.

"The independence that we got 70 years ago was the fruit of the exemplary struggle of our ancestors," said Abbasi in an address to the nation. "Thousands

of Muslims have made sacrifices for our future and the future of our children." Further south in Karachi the day began with a changing of the guard at the mausoleum of the country's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah, where politicians and military commanders laid floral wreaths.

through the eastern city's streets on motorbikes waving flags and screaming "Long live Pakistan!" Up north in the Swat valley near the restive border with Afghanistan celebrations were more subdued, with events at schools cancelled due to "prevailing law and order" issues. In nearby Peshawar, the cap-

ent states — Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan. Millions were uprooted in one of the largest mass migrations in history, with experts estimating at least one million died in the communal violence unleashed by partition. The carnage sowed the seeds of the acrimony that led to



**ISLAMABAD:** An aerobatic team performs during celebrations to mark the country's Independence Day. —AFP

### 'Long live Pakistan'

The skies above the capital were later streaked with multi-colored smoke as the air force hosted Pakistan's largest air show to date. Fighter jets criss-crossed over the leafy capital in aerobatic maneuvers as thousands packed shoulder-to-shoulder applauded from a park below. Planes from close allies Saudi Arabia and Turkey also took part. In Lahore students cruised

ital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Christians held special services at a church and freed doves to mark the holiday.

"Four years back my father and brother died in this church in a suicide attack, but I am still here praying for my beloved country," schoolteacher Neelam Anwar told AFP. In August 1947 the British Raj was dismantled with the subcontinent divided into two independ-

three wars, and generations later this defining moment in the subcontinent's history is still polarized by nationalism and rancor. The countries still wrangle over a large part of their shared border, especially in disputed Kashmir. They even recognize their independence from British rule on separate days, with Pakistan claiming August 14th and India celebrating the following day. —AFP

## TENSIONS NOT KEEPING TOURISTS FROM GUAM

**HAGATNA:** Tourists haven't been deterred from visiting the tropical island of Guam even though the US territory has been the target of threats from North Korea during a week of angry words exchanged by Pyongyang and Washington. Chiho Tsuchiya of Japan heard the news, but she decided to come anyway with her husband and two children. "I feel Japan and Korea also can get danger from North Korea, so staying home is the same," said the 40-year-old.

Won Hyung-jin, an official from Modetour, a large South Korean travel agency, said several customers called with concerns, but they weren't worried enough to pay cancellation fees for their trips. "It seems North Korea racks up tension once or twice every year, and travelers have become insensitive about it," Won said. His company has sent about 5,000 travelers to Guam a month this year, mostly on package tours.

The US territory has a population of 160,000, but it attracted 1.5 million visitors last year. One third of Guam's jobs are in the tourism industry. Guam is a key outpost for the US military, which uses it as a base for bombers and submarines. The island's sandy beaches and aquamarine waters make it a popular getaway for travelers from Japan and South Korea. Guam is only about three hours by plane from major cities in both countries.

### Low-cost airlines

The number of South Korean travelers in particular has been growing lately because five low-cost airlines started flying to Guam from South Korea, said Antonio Muna, the vice president of Guam Visitors Bureau. This helped boost arrival figures to a 20-year-high in July, Muna said. The threats came in a week in which longstanding 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. President Donald Trump responded by vowing to rain down "fire and fury" if challenged. The North then threatened to lob missiles near Guam.

Kenji Kikuchi, 39, arrived from Japan last week and planned to leave Tuesday as scheduled. He was aware of the threat from reading the local newspaper and was a little worried. But he said North Korea's missiles would fall in the water not on Guam. His 8-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter weren't concerned. "They talk about it, but they don't care about it. So they like the sea and the pool," he said.

The Guam Visitors Bureau has heard reports of cancellations, but Muna said it doesn't yet have any concrete figures on how many took place. Officials are still expecting a strong August, Muna said. "Japan and Korea make over 90 percent of our arrivals. And they're much closer to North Korea than Guam is," Muna said. The agency has been relaying assurances from the governor and defense officials that Guam is protected and safe, he said. Trump told Guam's Republican governor the global attention would send more tourists to the island.

"You're going to go up like tenfold with the expenditure of no money," he told Gov. Eddie Calvo in a telephone conversation Calvo posted Sunday on Facebook. Trump said he'd been watching scenes of Guam on the news, and "it just looks like a beautiful place." Calvo replied: "It's paradise." "We've got 95 percent occupancy and after all this stuff calms down, we're going to have 110 percent occupancy," Calvo said. —AP



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## Focus

## 70 YRS OF PAIN ON INDIA-PAK BORDER

From barbed grins in a carefully synchronized daily flag ceremony to murderous exchanges across barbed wire in Kashmir, the India-Pakistan border is a 70-year-old scar that will not heal. Thousands cheered at the Wagah border crossing this week as the two countries celebrate the anniversaries of their independence, when British India was carved into two nations.

The upheaval that followed left at least one million dead in a brutal migration that took millions of Muslims to Pakistan and millions of Hindus to India. But all these years after the trauma of Partition, they have not agreed a border, nor their history - Pakistan marks independence on August 14 each year, India one day later. And the killing goes on.

Wagah, near Amritsar, is the only functioning border post between the rivals. The flag ceremony there draws crowds of up to 20,000 each day. There is wild applause as pumped-up troops, their eyes bulging, perform a stamping march toward the border gates at sundown. The flags are lowered, a soldier from each side shakes hands with a forced smile and the gates close.

Fists occasionally fly between Indian and Pakistani soldiers during the ceremony, but there is worse along the border. Kashmir, divided between the rivals and claimed by both, is on a permanent conflict alert with near daily clashes and shelling across the Line of Control (LoC), the official name of the disputed frontier. A woman relative of 28-year-old Muhammad Haseeb was killed as she worked in a field in the Nakyal sector on the Pakistani side just days before the partition anniversary. "We don't know when we will become the victim of a bullet," he said.

Tens of thousands, mainly civilians, have died in Muslim-majority Indian Kashmir in the past 30 years. India says about 40 militants have been killed this year trying to sneak across the border. Nine Indian soldiers have been killed on the LoC. Prospects for improvement look slim.

## Entente needed

Cricket is the national game for both countries, but they have not played a five-day Test match against each other in either country since 2007. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to Pakistan in 2015. But ties are in deep freeze again since Pakistan detained and sentenced to death Kulbushan Jadhav, a former Indian naval officer it accuses of espionage. For most politicians, observers and activists, India and Pakistan just cannot get over its split.

Pakistan has been in new political chaos with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ousted over corruption allegations. But some on both sides blame Modi's hardline stance. "So long as there is a Hindu India that acts like a mirror to a Muslim Pakistan I don't see any chance of a reconciliation," said Mani Shankar Aiyar, an outspoken former Indian minister who as a diplomat was his country's first consul general in the Pakistani city of Lahore. Aiyar says that India and Pakistan need an Anglo-French style "Entente Cordiale" and then to get down to serious talks. Prominent Pakistani political analyst Hasan Askari said both countries have grievances and that relations can barely get any worse. "The present tension between India and Pakistan is unnatural. Therefore I don't expect this to stay as it is for all the time to come," he told AFP. "As no dialogue is taking place, this relationship is really bad," he added. "India has truly reduced this relationship to a single issue - terrorism - whereas the Pakistani argument is that we can talk about all contentious issues. They can be put on the table and discussed."

Askari said there could be no talks while India obsesses about militant activity. "This means there's hardly any possibility of a dialogue in the near future because the government of Pakistan can't even commit to its own people that there'll be no terrorist activity, not to speak of any commitment to India."

Away from the politics and military posturing, Guneeta Singh Ballah, founder of the 1947 Partition Archive that has interviewed thousands of survivors of the partition, sees hope in the new generation on either side of the frontier. "The generation who did not go through the death and destruction had more hatred for the other side than their parents," she said. "I think that the new generation is more engaged in wanting to get over the past," she said. If millions of expatriate Pakistanis and Indians can get along in the United States, Australia, Britain and the Middle East "why can't they make it work at home?" she asked. —AFP

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## WHY WON'T TRUMP CONDEMN WHITE NATIONALISM?

Why doesn't US President Donald Trump just unequivocally condemn white supremacists? It's a jarring question to ask about an American president. But it's also one made unavoidable by Trump's delayed, blame-both-sides response to the violence that erupted Saturday when neo-Nazis, skinheads and members of the Ku Klux Klan protested in Charlottesville, Virginia. Trump has faced such a moment before - one that would have certainly drawn swift, almost predictable condemnations from his recent predecessors, regardless of party. As a candidate and now as president, when racial tensions flared or fringe groups rallied around his message, Trump has shown uncharacteristic caution and a reluctance to distance himself from the hate.

At times, his approach has seemingly inflamed racial tensions in a deeply divided country while emboldening groups long in the shadows. On Saturday, as Trump read slowly through a statement about the clashes that left dozens injured and one woman dead, he condemned hatred, bigotry and violence "on many sides." The president was silent when journalists asked whether he rejected the support of nationalist groups. That silence was cheered by the white supremacist website Daily Stormer: "When asked to condemn, he just walked out of the room. Really, really good. God bless him."

Trump denies that he's racist or sympathetic to such groups. Son-in-law Jared Kushner, the grandson of Holocaust survivors, and daughter Ivanka, who converted to Judaism, are among those who have defended the president against those charges. Still, he has a history of engaging in high-profile, racially fraught battles. Early in his career as a developer, Trump fought charges of bias against blacks seeking to rent at his family-owned apartment complexes. He long promoted the lie that the nation's first black president, Barack Obama, was not born in the United States. As a candidate, he proposed temporarily banning Muslims from the United States. He retweeted a post from accounts that appeared to have ties to white nationalist groups. And he was slow to reject the endorsement of former KKK leader David Duke.

Some of the president's friends and advisers have argued that Trump is simply refusing to bend to liberals' desire for political correctness. A boastful, proudly disruptive politician, Trump often has been rewarded for saying impolite and impolitic things. Some supporters cheered him for being someone who said what they could not. Democrats frequently assert that Trump sees a political advantage in courting the support of the far right. Indeed, he has benefited politically from the backing of media outlets such as Breitbart or InfoWars. They have consistently promoted Trump and torn down his opponents, sometimes with biased or inaccurate reports.

Charlottesville's mayor, Democrat Mike Signer, said Sunday that Trump made a choice during his campaign to "go right to the gutter, to play on our worst prejudices." "I think you are seeing a direct line from what happened here this weekend to those choices," Signer said on CBS' "Face the Nation". White House senior adviser Steve Bannon ran Breitbart before joining Trump's campaign, and several of the president's other aides believe Bannon continues to have influence over the website. In "Devil's Bargain," a new book about his role in the Trump campaign, Bannon is quoted as saying that attempts by Democratic presidential nominee

Hillary Clinton to tie Trump to the alt-right and nationalists did not move voters. "We polled the race stuff and it doesn't matter," Bannon said, according to the book. But there is no reliable public polling on the scope of Trump's support among those with white nationalist leanings or the percentage of the electorate they comprise. The reaction from Republicans following Trump's statement Saturday suggests there may be greater political risks for the president in aligning himself with bigoted groups.

"The president needs to step up today and say what it is," said Sen Cory Gardner, who was one of several GOP lawmakers urging Trump to be more strident in calling out the nationalists and neo-Nazis that gathered in Charlottesville. Gardner said plainly: "It's

evil. It's white nationalism." By Sunday, the White House was scrambling to try to clean up the president's statement. The White House issued a statement saying the president does condemn "white supremacists, KKK, neo-Nazi and all extremist groups".

The spokeswoman who issued the statement refused to be named. And the president himself remained silent. That left Vice President Mike Pence, traveling in South America, to offer the kind of comment Trump's critics sought from the White House: "We have no tolerance for hate and violence, white supremacists or neo-Nazis or the KKK," he said. "These dangerous fringe groups have no place in American public life and in the American debate, and we condemn them in the strongest possible terms." —AP

## KIM AND TRUMP: A TALE OF 2 LEADERS

## Family values

In many ways the two leaders on either side of North Korea-United States missile stand-off could not be more different. In others they are startlingly similar. North Korea's Kim Jong-Un has just overseen his second test of an intercontinental ballistic missile, bringing much of the US mainland within reach and presenting US President Donald Trump with a crisis. But while Pyongyang has long issued bellicose threats of nuclear war, this time it is the leader of the United States of America who is declaring that his weapons are "locked and loaded" and promising "fire and fury like the world has never seen".

"Donald Trump is probably the unlikely president of the United States you could possibly imagine, whereas Kim Jong-Un was the chosen heir," says John Delury, an associate professor at Yonsei University in Seoul. Kim's father and predecessor Kim Jong-Il had groomed his son to take his place at the top of Pyongyang's political pyramid for years before his death in 2011.

For his part Trump reached the White House via a career in property development and reality television, followed by an unprecedentedly populist election campaign that upended the US political establishment. While Kim was a youthful ingenue when he came to power - and remains among the world's youngest leaders - he has now held office for several years, while Trump, a grandfather in his 70s, is in his first political post. "It's a weird situation where he is much more experienced than Donald Trump, who is twice as old as him," says Delury.

Kim "probably thinks he's going to be around after Trump is gone", he points out. "Because he's the heir of what appears to be a pretty stable, dynastic state means he has a longer time horizon than most people." And with a universally loyal media in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the North is officially known, and no social media, Kim has no need to concern himself about tomorrow's headlines - or respond to them on Twitter.

Both men "prize loyalty," says Delury, and are willing to employ "a high level of flux in personnel to ensure that it's their people who are running the system. That's a commonality between Kim and Trump." They also both deploy relatives in government. Dynastic descent from the North's founder Kim Il-Sung is the basis of Kim's personal legitimacy - Pyongyang's propaganda promotes the similarities between them in looks, mannerisms and even handwriting - and several members of the Kim family hold influential positions.

In Washington, Trump's daughter Ivanka is an assistant to the president, her husband Jared Kushner is a close advisor, and Trump's son Donald Jr has been embroiled in the investigation into alleged Russian influence in last year's election. Family politics are "formalized in the North Korean system but it's been introduced through the Trump family in a way that's unnerving to some Americans," says Delury. "There's another analogy there."

Now the two sides are locked in a cycle of threat and counter-threat, with Pyongyang revealing a plan to send a salvo of missiles towards the US Pacific territory of Guam. North Korea has been issuing hyperbolic threats for decades, such as turning Seoul into a "sea of fire" - one recent academic analysis of its language was titled "Turning it up to Eleven".

Pyongyang sees itself as defiantly facing down the menace from Washington, and anything fitting into that narrative bolsters the regime's claim to legitimacy. At the same time Trump has theatrical instincts. "This is the WWF part of Trump, reality TV, where each day is like a mini-show, and you need a foil, you need an enemy, you need a sense of drama and a good guy and bad guy, all these classic elements of popular entertainment," says Delury.

"While North Korea is a horrifically stupid choice as a place to fight a real war, it's a great place to fight a fake war. They will do this for four years, happily, keeping it at rhetorical Defcon 10. "It looks to me like they both really want this," he added. "I think they are thriving on it." —AFP

## TRUMP 'MILITARY' TALK UNNERVES LATAM

US President Donald Trump's talk of a "military option" in Venezuela risks alienating Latin American nations that overcame their reluctance to work with the Republican leader and had adopted a common, confrontational approach aimed at isolating President Nicolas Maduro's embattled government. Well before Maduro himself responded, governments in Latin America with a long memory of US interventions were quick to express alarm over what sounded to them like saber-rattling. Even Colombia - Washington's staunchest ally in the region - condemned any "military measures and the use of force" that encroach on Venezuela's sovereignty.

Maduro has long accused Washington of having military designs on Venezuela and specifically its vast oil reserves, the world's largest. But those claims were dismissed by many as an attempt to distract from his government's failures to curb problems such as widespread shortages, spiraling inflation and one of the world's worst homicide rates. "For years he's been saying the US is preparing an invasion, and everyone laughed. But now the claim has been validated," said Mark Feierstein, who served as President Barack Obama's top national security adviser on Latin America. "It's hard to imagine a more damaging thing for Trump to say."

The timing of Trump's remarks could not

be worse, coming on the eve of a four-nation Latin America trip by Vice President Mike Pence intended to showcase how Washington and regional partners can work together to promote democracy in the hemisphere. This week in Peru, foreign ministers from 12 Western Hemisphere nations condemned the breakdown of democracy in Venezuela and refused to recognize a new, pro-government assembly created by Maduro that is charged with rewriting the constitution but is seen by many as an illegitimate power grab.

The United States did not take part in the meeting, a show of deference to countries historically mistrustful of heavy-handed policies out of Washington. Suspicion and resentment linger in many corners of the region, a reflection of years past when US troops did in fact invade parts of Latin America to oust leftist leaders or collect unpaid debts. Yet a number of leaders, amid prodding from the Trump administration, have lately been overcoming their reluctance to intervene in a neighbor's internal political affairs after looking the other ways for years on Venezuela.

## Dictatorship

For the first time, leaders have started using the D-word - dictatorship - to describe Venezuela's government and have recalled their ambassadors from Caracas in protest.

Peru on Friday went so far as to expel Venezuela's ambassador, and last week the South American trade bloc Mercosur suspended Venezuela for violating the group's democratic norms. Even more surprising, with the exception of close ideological allies such as Cuba and Bolivia, no country spoke out against Trump's decision to slap sanctions on more than 30 Venezuelan officials, including Maduro himself, despite past criticism of similar unilateral actions.

Not even the frustration over Trump's decision to partially roll back Obama's opening to Cuba - a diplomatic thaw that was applauded across the region's political spectrum - or his constant talk of building a border wall to keep out immigrants got in the way of presenting a united front toward Maduro. But the swift reaction to Trump's "military" remarks shows there is no appetite in the region for US troops to get involved.

On Saturday the nations of Mercosur, which includes Brazil and Argentina, issued a statement saying "the only acceptable means of promoting democracy are dialogue and diplomacy" and repudiating "violence and any option that implies the use of force". US engagement with other countries has not been constant and may have benefited more from the deteriorating situation in Venezuela than any concerted diplomatic outreach. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson skipped a key

meeting of the Organization of American States in June, depriving some Caribbean countries that depend on Venezuelan oil shipments of the political cover they were looking for to abandon their support for Maduro.

Under the advice of Pence and Florida Republican Sen Marco Rubio, Trump appears to have taken a personal interest in Venezuela and even met at the White House with the wife of a prominent jailed opposition leader. That in turn has emboldened Maduro opponents who have been protesting for four months demanding he give up power. Their efforts could be undermined if Maduro expands his crackdown on dissent, arguing as he has in the past that their tactics are a prelude to a US-backed coup. Only this time he can point to Trump's words as evidence.

Pence arrives in Colombia on Sunday to begin his Latin America tour, during which discussions on how to deal with Venezuela were expected to feature prominently. Instead he may now be forced to do damage control, said Christopher Sabatini, executive director of Global Americans, a website focused on US policy in the region. "He's about to get an earful," Sabatini said. "The eagerness of Trump and some people around him to mouth off without any idea of context is really damaging not only to US policy but also regional stability." —AP





**SANAA: A police officer executes Hussein Al-Saket, 22, who was convicted of raping and murdering a four-year-old girl Safaa Al-Matari, in Tahrir Square yesterday. — AFP**

## YEMENI MAN EXECUTED FOR RAPE, MURDER OF 4-YR-OLD

**SANAA:** Yemenis gathered yesterday in the rebel-held capital to witness the putting to death of a man convicted of raping and killing a child, in the second such public execution in weeks.

Hussein Al-Saket, 22, was found guilty of abducting, raping and murdering a four-year-old girl, who he later buried, said Rajeh Ezzedine, a judge who attended the execution. Ali Ayedh, the victim's uncle, said Saket "took part in the search for the girl before being unmasked" during the police investigation. He said his public execution would act

as a "deterrent for criminals". Saket was placed face down on Tahrir square in Sanaa, which the Shiite Houthis rebels have controlled since 2014. A policeman shot him dead through the back with five bullets aiming for the heart, before his body was strung up on the end of a crane.

On July 31, another man was executed in the same square after being convicted of raping and murdering a three-year-old girl. Both executions have been framed as an example of the rebels' efforts to combat crime in their areas. — AFP

## UAE SEEKS BETTER TIES WITH SADR

**Continued from Page 1**

Sadr is one of few Iraqi Shiite leaders to keep some distance from Iran. In April, he became the first Iraqi Shiite leader to call on Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad to step down, marking his difference with Iran and Iranian-backed Iraqi militias backing the Syrian government. Earlier this month, Sadr called on the Baghdad government to dismantle the Hashed Al-Shaabi paramilitary group, which is dominated by Iran-backed Shiite militias. He has also called on the authorities to "seize the arsenal of all armed groups".

The Iraqi cleric's trip to Abu Dhabi comes two weeks after a visit to Saudi Arabia, where he met crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. Sadr's office said his meeting with

Mohammed bin Salman at the end of July resulted in an agreement to study possible investments in Shiite regions of southern Iraq. The Saudis will consider the possibility of opening a consulate in Iraq's holy Shiite city of Najaf, it said. Sadr also announced a Saudi decision to donate \$10 million to help Iraqis displaced by the war on Islamic State in Iraq, to be paid to the Iraqi government.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and Iraq are to launch a joint trade commission, the Saudi cabinet announced yesterday, in a sign of a thaw in ties between the two neighbors. "The cabinet has decided to approve the establishment of the Saudi-Iraqi Coordinating Commission and to delegate the Saudi minister of trade and investments to sign on behalf of the kingdom," read a statement carried by state-run SPA news agency.— Agencies

## FLOODS KILL 312 IN SIERRA LEONE...

**Continued from Page 1**

180 bodies had been received so far at his facility alone, many of them children, leaving no space to lay what he described as the "overwhelming number of dead". Many more bodies were taken to private morgues, Sinnah said.

Images obtained by AFP showed a ferocious churning of dark orange mud coursing down a steep street in the capital, while videos posted by local residents showed people waist and chest deep in water trying to traverse the road. Fatmata Sesay, who lives on the hilltop area of Juba, said she, her three children and husband were awoken at 4:30 am by rain beating down on the mud house they occupy, which was by then submerged by water. She managed to escape by climbing onto the roof. "We have lost everything and we do not have a place to sleep," she told AFP.

Local media reports said a section of a hill in the Regent area of the city had partially collapsed, exacerbating the disaster. Other images showed battered corpses piled on top of each other, as residents struggled to cope with the destruction. Meanwhile disaster management official Candy Rogers said that "over 2,000 people are homeless," hinting at the huge humanitarian effort that will be required to deal with the fallout of the flooding in one of Africa's poorest nations.

Separately, at least 175 people have died and thousands have fled their homes as monsoon floods swept across Nepal, India and Bangladesh, officials said yesterday, warning the toll could rise as the extent of the damage becomes clear. Three days of relentless downpours sparked flash floods and

landslides that have killed at least 80 people in Nepal, 73 across northern and eastern India and 22 in Bangladesh.

Around 200,000 people are living in emergency camps in Assam in northeast India, which suffers frequent flooding during the annual monsoon rains. Another 15,000 have had to leave their homes in the eastern state of Bihar, which borders Nepal and where one official said seven rivers were at danger levels. Large parts of the state were submerged in 2008 when a river burst its banks across the border in Nepal, with the two countries trading blame for the disaster.

All trains to the northeast have been suspended until tomorrow, with sections of the track completely submerged in water, Indian railway spokesman Anil Saxena told AFP. In Nepal, ariel photos taken by an AFP photographer showed huge swathes of land in the southeast still underwater yesterday afternoon.

Police said over 48,000 homes have been totally submerged by the floods across Nepal's southern planes. As emergency workers struggled to reach far-flung areas, the country's home ministry said another 36 people were missing, presumed dead, revising down an earlier count after more bodies were found.

The Nepal Red Cross warned that shortages of safe drinking water and food could create a humanitarian crisis in the impoverished Himalayan country. "In many parts of the country there is a scarcity of safe drinking water creating a high risk of health hazards," spokesman Dibya Raj Poudel told AFP. "Several villages and settlements are unreachable. Telecommunications, mobile phones are still not working so it is difficult to give a full assessment." — AFP

## TRUMP DENOUNCES NEO-NAZIS, KKK

**Continued from Page 1**

Trump said anyone who engaged in criminal behavior over the weekend in Virginia will be held accountable. "Justice will be delivered," the president said in his address.

"I wish that he would have said those same words on Saturday," responded Democratic Senator Mark Warner of Virginia on MSNBC. "I'm disappointed it took him a couple of days." Activist Al Sharpton echoed that. "It took 48 hours ... It was clearly a statement based on the pressure that he had been given over the weekend," he said on MSNBC.

Earlier yesterday, in a strong rebuke to Trump, the chief executive of one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, Merck & Co Inc, resigned from a business panel led by the president, citing a need for leadership countering bigotry. CEO Kenneth Frazier, who is black, did not name Trump in his statement, but the rebuke was implicit. "America's leaders must honor our fundamental values by

clearly rejecting expressions of hatred, bigotry and group supremacy," said Frazier.

Trump lashed out almost immediately following the resignation, saying on Twitter now that "Ken Frazier of Merck Pharma has resigned from President's Manufacturing Council, he will have more time to LOWER RIPOFF DRUG PRICES!" The son of a janitor, Frazier joined Merck as general counsel of one of the drugmaker's subsidiaries in 1992, working his way up to CEO of the company in 2011.

Authorities said Heyer, 32, was killed when Fields' car slammed into a crowd of anti-racism activists, capping a day of bloody street brawls between the two sides. Fields appeared yesterday in Charlottesville General District Court by video link from Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail, where it was being held on a second-degree murder charge, three counts of malicious wounding and a single count of leaving the scene of a fatal accident. His next court date was set for Aug 25. — Agencies

## MEDIA SPOTLIGHT TURNS TO NURSE...

**Continued from Page 1**

Unfortunately, even two years after the announcement of the new system, not even a single nurse has been recruited to Kuwait through the eMigrate system," an Indian Embassy official told Kuwait Times yesterday. Although the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Indian Embassy in Kuwait reached an initial agreement on the proposal in 2015, MoH has shown reluctance to pursue the new system as it believes the system lacks the necessary transparency. A top MoH delegation led by Dr Jamal Harbi, currently the health minister, visited India last year to follow up the matter.

However, certain alleged reports of violations such as parallel recruitments by government agencies themselves have created a major stumbling block to the initiative. At the same time, recruitments to Kuwait are still going on reportedly via Dubai, circumventing the eMigrate system and thwarting all official efforts to put an end to illegal recruitments.

The Indian embassy official informed that the Joint Working Group (JWG) of Kuwait and India has been scheduled to meet from Sept 18-20 and will discuss the matter. The Indian delegation headed by Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar will arrive in Kuwait to attend the JWG meeting, he added.

## LOS ANGELES TESTS COOLING PAVEMENT...

**Continued from Page 1**

"And we're hoping to get manufacturers to come up with some new products. Potentially there could be a huge market for cool pavement products, and in fact, it's part of a much larger economic trend where solutions for climate change could be the next great investments for the future," Spotts added. The city will also monitor how Angelenos react to the newfangled asphalt - and how quickly the notoriously thick LA traffic dirties the gray coating.

George Ban-Weiss, an assistant professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Southern California, said cool pavements show promise in reducing heat, but "may have some environmental penalties". "Recent and current research is working out whether the environmental benefits of cool pavements outweigh those penalties," Ban-Weiss told AFP. Still, "the city of Los Angeles

is taking the right approach and installing and assessing several cool pavement test sections before committing to widespread adoption," he said.

Ban-Weiss noted that heat mitigation strategies like planting trees along streets and using cool roofing materials were more "no-brainer" remedies. Alan Barreca, an environmental science professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, said the pavement cooling technology could be more equitable than current methods like air conditioning. "Not everyone has the resources to use air conditioning, so there's concern that some low-income families will suffer," he said. "That bothers me on a moral dimension. The pavement would provide benefits to everyone. It can protect people who have to be outdoors," he said. Plus, he added, "lower temperatures - due to the pavement - mean less reliance on air conditioning. So, that means less greenhouse gases." — AFP

## TWO KUWAITIS AMONG 18 KILLED IN BURKINA...

**Continued from Page 1**

"They started shooting on the terrace. We climbed up the stairs and lay on the ground. The attackers came and pointed their guns at us," said one survivor, interviewed in hospital on national television. "I didn't understand their language, it might have been Arabic." A surgeon said the local hospital was "overwhelmed".

The restaurant is just 200 m from a hotel and cafe targeted in an assault in January 2016 that left 30 people dead and 71 wounded, many of them foreigners. That attack was claimed by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). A government statement described the latest deadly shooting as a "terrorist attack", while President Roch Marc Christian Kabore condemned it as "a despicable attack that has Ouagadougou in mourning". "The fight against terrorism is a long-term struggle," he said on Twitter.

A police officer who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity cited witnesses as saying at least two assailants arrived on a motorcycle around 9:00 pm (2100 GMT) armed with Kalashnikovs, and opened fire. A waiter also said he saw "three men arrive on a 4X4 vehicle around 9:30 pm, get off the vehicle and open fire on customers seated on the terrace".

The shooting is the latest in the region targeting spots popular with foreigners and locals alike. Last year's attack on the Splendid hotel and Cappuccino restaurant, down the road from the Aziz Istanbul, came weeks after jihadists claimed an assault on a hotel in the capital of neighboring Mali that killed 20 people. And in March last year 14 civilians and two special forces sol-

diers were killed when gunmen stormed the Ivory Coast beach resort of Grand-Bassam, an attack also claimed by AQIM. In Burkina Faso, a dozen soldiers were killed in December in an assault on their northern base, and in October there was an attack that killed four troops and two civilians. An Australian and a Romanian, abducted in Burkina Faso in 2015, are still being held hostage by Qaeda-affiliated Islamists.

Sean Smith, senior Africa analyst at risk consultancy Verisk Maplecroft, said the restaurant attack "illustrates that the threat of terrorism now looms over most of the Sahel region". "While most attacks in Burkina Faso remain confined to the remote northern regions that border Mali, this incident reiterates that Islamists also have the ability to strike at will in the capital."

French President Emmanuel Macron spoke with Kabore, his office said, condemning the "terrorist attack" in the former French colony and stressing the "urgent need" to speed up the launch of a five-country anti-jihadist force in the Sahel. France has its own Barkhane anti-jihadist operation in the region and has been pushing efforts to set up the 5,000-member force, manned by Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Mauritania, by October.

African Union chief Alpha Conde said the attack "shows the importance of bringing the force into operation" and called on the European Union to find the estimated 400 million euros (\$471 million) of extra funding needed. "We must accelerate the G5 launch so that Africans are on the frontline in defending the security of their citizens and that of expatriates," he told France 24 television. — AFP



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## FROOME SPEARHEADS SKY'S ASSAULT ON VUELTA

**LONDON:** Four-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome said he had "unfinished business" with the Vuelta a Espana after Team Sky unveiled their line-up for this year's race yesterday. Froome, 32, hopes to emulate Jacques Anquetil (1963) and Bernard Hinault (1978) by becoming only the third rider to win the Tour and the Vuelta in the same year. A three-time Vuelta runner-up, Froome will be boosted by the presence of key climber Wout Poels, who returns after missing the Tour due to a knee injury. "It certainly feels as if I've got unfinished business with this race," Froome said in a Sky press release. "I've finished second three times now, but I've got a good feeling about this year's Vuelta. "It feels like we're on much more of a mission this year and aiming for the Tour/Vuelta double this season has been a huge motivation. "I don't think we've been to the Vuelta a Espana with a team as strong as we've got this year." —AFP



## WESTERN FORCE OPEN LEGAL FIGHT AGAINST SUPER AXE

**SYDNEY:** Western Force opened their legal fight to remain a Super Rugby team yesterday as they requested an appeal against the decision to axe them and won an injunction against the Australian Rugby Union. The Perth club's parent body, Rugby WA, lodged the appeal request with the New South Wales Supreme Court, after the ARU announced their removal from the southern hemisphere competition last week. Western Force have fallen victim to Australia's decision to cut one of its five Super Rugby teams as the unwieldy, globe-trotting competition slims down from 18 sides to 15 next year. They expect to find out by August 21 if they are able to appeal. The injunction, granted yesterday, means the ARU cannot sack or relocate any of Force's players until the issue is resolved. Rugby WA enjoys the heavyweight backing of billionaire mining magnate Andrew Forrest, who has called for a complete overhaul of the ARU board. —AFP

## BARCELONA BEGIN SPENDING SPREE WITH PAULINHO

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona made Brazilian international midfielder Paulinho their first signing since banking a world record fee for Neymar yesterday after agreeing a 40 million euro (\$47 million) fee with Chinese club Guangzhou Evergrande. "Barcelona and Guangzhou Evergrande have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player Paulinho Bezerra for 40 million euros," Barca said in a statement. The 29-year-old has signed a four-year deal with a 120 million euro buyout clause and will be formally presented on Thursday. The announcement of Barca's third signing of the summer transfer window after Gerard Deulofeu and Nelson Semedo came just hours after the Catalans suffered a 3-1 home defeat to Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup first leg on Sunday. After the game, midfielder Sergio Busquets put pressure on the Barca board by claiming Barca had to strengthen their squad before the transfer window closes on August 31. — AFP



## SEAHAWKS' BENNETT PLANS TO CONTINUE ANTHEM PROTEST

**CARSON:** Seattle Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett said Sunday he will sit during the national anthem this season to protest social injustice and segregation. Bennett sat on the visiting bench during "The Star-Spangled Banner" before the Seahawks' preseason opener against the Los Angeles Rams, a decision he made prior to protests by white supremacists at the University of Virginia over the weekend. But what happened in Charlottesville, Virginia, including the death of a young woman when she was struck by a car deliberately driven into a group of counter-protesters on Saturday, solidified Bennett's decision.

"With everything that's been going on the last couple of months and especially after the last couple of days, seeing everything in Virginia, seeing what's going on out there earlier today in Seattle, I just wanted to be able to use my platform to be able to continue to speak over injustice," Bennett said.

"First of all, I want people to understand I love the military. My father was in the military. I love hot dogs like any other American. I love football like any other American, but I don't love segregation. I don't love riots. I don't love oppression. I don't love gender slander. I just want to see people have the equality that they deserve, and I want to be able to use this platform to continuously push the message of that, you know, and keep journeying out and keep finding out how unselfish can we be as a society."

Bennett was at least the third prominent NFL player to protest during the anthem in the first full week of preseason games. Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch, a former teammate of Bennett's in Seattle, also sat during the anthem. Los Angeles Rams defensive end Robert Quinn raised his right fist, continuing his approach from last season following then-San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's decision to kneel during the anthem. Kaepernick is a free agent, and the controversy over his decision to protest the anthem and the form he used has not quelled, even as he remains unsigned. Bennett said he is willing to deal with similar fallout.

"Of course I'm going to face backlash," Bennett said. "This is bigger than me. This is bigger than football. This is bigger than anything that we have. This is about people. This is about bringing opportunities to people, giving people equality. This is bigger than a sport."

Bennett said he had spoken to several other NFL players about possible protests, but had not talked with Lynch yet. While he acknowledged the possibility of more widespread and formally organized protests happening later, Bennett wanted to express himself.

"I think everybody has a time where they feel like they need to be who they are and stand up for what they believe in," Bennett said.—AP



**INDIANAPOLIS:** Detroit Lions defensive back D.J. Hayden (31) breaks up a pass intended for Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Chester Rogers during the first half of an NFL preseason football game Sunday, in Indianapolis. — AP

## INFINITI AMERICAS GIVES ENGINEER LIFE-CHANGING CAREER OPPORTUNITY

**KUWAIT:** An engineering student from Uxbridge, Mass., has been awarded the career opportunity of a lifetime in Automotive and Formula One, as INFINITI announces Evan Sloan as the American winner of the INFINITI Engineering Academy 2017.

Having been selected from thousands of entries and beating nine other finalists from around the country in an action-packed event at Microsoft Headquarters today, the 21-year-old Sloan will move to the UK in October. Besides travel and accommodations, Sloan will be provided with a salary, access to an INFINITI compa-

ny car and, most important, the possibility to work alongside world-leading engineers at the cutting edge of the automotive and motorsport industries.

Sloan, a mechanical engineering student at the California Institute of Technology, will spend six months working at Renault Formula One Team's Technical Center in the UK (Enstone) and six months working at INFINITI's European Technical Center (Cranfield). He will play a key role in the ongoing transfer of technical knowledge and expertise between Renault Sport Formula One Team and INFINITI.

"With every edition of the Academy, we are more and more impressed by the amount of interest received from students all over the world and the incredible level of the talent attracted. Students have seen the accomplishments of our former Academy graduates, who have forged successful careers in both automotive and motorsport and, as a result, more students than ever before want to participate to get this once-in-a-lifetime engineering experience to launch their careers," said Tommaso Volpe, Global Director, INFINITI Motorsport.

"With Formula One becoming more relevant to the automotive industry and with an increased focus of the placements this year being on-the-road car development, we are training a new generation of engineers who will play a key role in the crossover between the two industries," added Volpe.—AP



## RUDOCK HELPS LIONS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LUCKLESS COLTS

**INDIANAPOLIS:** Jake Rudock showed the Detroit Lions he could fill in for Matthew Stafford - if needed. The Indianapolis Colts, meanwhile, are still looking for an answer behind Andrew Luck. Rudock took advantage of the injury-depleted Colts by throwing two touchdown passes to Kenny Golladay, driving the Lions to a short field goal and leading them to a 24-10 victory in the preseason opener on Sunday.

"You can see the difference between last year and this year at this time," Lions coach Jim Caldwell said. "He has a better grasp of things around him. He's in command." The second-year quarterback played most of the first 21/2 quarters and wound up 13 of 21 for 142 yards. Stafford played one series, going 2 of 3 for 36 yards and left after throwing an interception.

All the Lions needed against the injury-depleted Colts was Rudock's 23-yard TD strike to Golladay in the first quarter. But Rudock also threw a 15-yarder to Golladay in the second and set up Matt Prater for a 28-yard field goal to make it 17-3 at the half. Detroit closed out its scoring with a 15-yard TD pass from Brad Kaaya to Dontez Ford.

With Luck still on the physically unable to perform list following offseason surgery on a partially torn labrum in his throwing shoulder,

the Colts sputtered.

Indy finished with 230 total yards - 90 on its final drive - and 14 first downs. Their only points came from Adam Vinatieri's 42-yard field goal in the first half and a 1-yard TD plunge from Troymaine Pope as time ran out.

### DEJA VU

For the second consecutive year, the Colts arrived for their preseason opener with a stadium in need of a little touch-up paint. But instead of having to cancel the game, like last year's Hall of Fame game, the field crew cordoned off two areas with the words "NFL Play Football" and fixed them. Team officials said the paint was too thick. A little less than two hours later, the kickoff was right on time.

### SITTING OUT

In addition to Luck missing the game, Indy also played without center Ryan Kelly (foot), left guard Joe Haeg and running back Frank Gore. Among the Lions sitting out were left tackle Taylor Decker and defensive end Ezekiel Ansah, who are on PUP, and right guard T.J. Lang.

### ROOKIE WATCH

**Lions:** Golladay, a third-round draft pick,

made a good first impression with three catches for 53 yards, including two nifty scores. Teez Tabor wasn't bad, finishing with three tackles.

The knock on first-round draft pick Malik Hooker was that he missed too many tackles in college. Not Sunday. Hooker finished with four tackles in limited work and made a touchdown-saving shoestring tackle in the second quarter.

### QB COMPARISON

**Lions:** Stafford was solid in his brief appearance, and Rudock impressed. Kaaya played well, too, going 8 of 11 with 71 yards with the TD. Colts: Scott Tolzien was 2 of 5 for 24 yards and picked up only one first down in three series. Walker, an undrafted rookie from Temple, showed flashes while finishing 9 of 20 for 86 yards. Stephen Morris, who spent most of the past two years on Indy's practice squad, didn't enter until the fourth quarter and was 13 of 20 with 94 yards.

"It makes you sick to your stomach when you see a guy like that go down," Golladay said when asked about Hyder. "I hope the kid's all right." Colts: "There are a lot of things to clean up," Colts coach Chuck Pagano said. "We're going to grind it. We've got to make corrections." —AP

## TOYOTA FINISHES THIRD IN ROUND FOUR OF SUPER GT300 AT SUGO

**SUGO:** Toyota clinched yet another podium finish in the GT300 class as the No. 25 VivaC 86 MC driven by Takamitsu Matsui and Kenta Yamashita secured the third position in Round 4 of the 2017 AUTOBACS SUPER GT series. Held at the Sportsland Sugo circuit in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, the race took place in difficult, damp conditions with rain falling intermittently, but that did not stop the No. 25 VivaC 86 MC from powering its way onto the podium and holding firmly onto its lead in the

Drivers' ranking. "I congratulate the team on their podium finish in the GT300 class. Performing at this level, especially under challenging weather conditions, is a great achievement," said Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation.

"The experience gained from our participation in motorsport events such as SUPER GT will greatly enrich Toyota's future vehicle devel-

opment as we continue our pursuit of creating 'ever-better' cars. The fans were incredible, as always, and we look forward to their continued support as we head into the second stretch of the season," Yoshitsugu added.

At the start, the pole-sitting No. 25 VivaC 86 MC with Yamashita at the wheel got away cleanly to lead the pack, followed by the other top-qualifying cars- No. 18 UPGARAGE BANDO 86 and No. 60 SYNTIUM LMcora RC F GT3. The race, however, soon came to a tem-

porary halt as an incident on the fourth lap involving a car competing in the GT500 class meant that the safety car had to be brought out until lap 10.

Soon after the race re-started, a pair of competitor cars made a strong charge to the front, eventually forcing the No. 25 VivaC 86 MC to cede its lead. More incidents followed, bringing the safety car out a second and then a third time, and as the race entered the final stages, the No. 25 VivaC 86 MC, now in fourth,

found itself locked in a close battle for the third place.

On the first turn of lap 64, the No. 25 VivaC 86 MC, with Matsui behind the wheel, finally managed to pass the car in front to move into third place and, although the battle between the two cars remained tight until the very end, Matsui held on to secure yet another podium finish for Toyota. With the result, the No. 25 VivaC 86 MC maintains its lead in the Drivers' ranking.





## LARSON SNATCHES ANOTHER WIN AT MICHIGAN ON FINAL RESTART

**BROOKLYN:** Kyle Larson's ambitious weekend ended in triumph. Larson slipped between cars on an overtime restart and won Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race at Michigan International Speedway. The victory capped a busy stretch for Larson after team owner Chip Ganassi allowed him to go to Iowa to compete in the Knoxville Nationals on Saturday.

He finished second at that sprint car event before returning to Michigan and earning his fourth career Cup victory. "This win feels amazing to steal one in a way," Larson said. "My other three wins I felt like we had the first- or second-best car, but today at times I didn't think we were a top-10 car. But to get the win that way is awesome."

Martin Truex Jr. was in the lead, about a second ahead of teammate Erik Jones,

before a late caution came out because of a spin by Michael McDowell. That forced overtime. A red flag for oil on the track only added to the drama, and when the race restarted for the final time, Larson - who hadn't led at all to that point - drove to the right of Jones and passed to the inside of Truex.

"We got beat fair and square," said Truex, the series points leader. "The double-file restarts are tricky, and sometimes you do them right, sometimes you screw them up, and unfortunately I screwed the one up that mattered the most today."

Larson has won the last three Cup races at MIS, the first driver to do that since Bill Elliott, who won four straight from 1985-86. This was Larson's third win of the season and ended a mini-slump in which he had finished out of the top 20 in three straight races.

Truex and Jones finished second and third for Furniture Row Racing. Larson won by 0.31 seconds in his No. 42 Chevrolet. Brad Keselowski and Truex won the first two stages. There was a lot of hoopla Friday when Ganassi announced he was letting Larson go to Iowa. Both driver and owner were going to be in the spotlight no matter what happened in Sunday's race.

"When you're in my position of this past week's activities with all the talk about Knoxville and going to Knoxville last night and not getting back here until two in the morning, I'm out on the end of the diving board there a lot of times," Ganassi said. "So I appreciate when Kyle steps up and does what he did today. It makes it all worthwhile, obviously."

Keselowski, the pole winner, led for 105 laps, but finished 17th. He is now win-

less in 17 Cup races at his home state's track. Dale Earnhardt Jr., who has two wins at Michigan, finished 14th in his final race at MIS before he retires at the end of this season. The race was originally scheduled for 200 laps and 400 miles. It ended up being 202 laps. Keselowski led almost the entire way through the 60-lap first stage, only giving up the top spot briefly during a pit cycle. Keselowski was second to Truex in the second stage.

Aside from the end of the first two stages, there were no yellow flags until lap 140, after Kasey Kahne slid in front of Daniel Suarez and slammed into the wall, taking them both out.

### TOYOTA'S DAY

Keselowski ended Toyota's streak of five straight poles and offered a theory as to why after qualifying Friday. "About this time

every year NASCAR takes all the cars to kind of check to make sure that the competitive balance is where they want it to be," Keselowski said then. "We had a strong suspicion that those guys would kind of tune it down this weekend, so not to post a pretty big number in inspection that maybe balanced back out the competition."

On race day, Truex and Jones finished second and third in their Toyotas, but the win went to a Chevy. Keselowski drives a Ford. "I think that for Brad and those guys that think that maybe we're sandbagging, I think it's a glimpse of, if they get their stuff right, maybe they can beat us," Truex said. "It's not all just that we have better race cars. ... I feel good about our race cars and what we've been doing all year. We brought some new stuff here this weekend to try to get better, and that's what we'll continue to do."—AFP

## RUNNER-UPS MOLINARI, REED MAKE MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS

**CHARLOTTE:** Italy's Francesco Molinari and American Patrick Reed achieved their best major finishes Sunday by sharing second place at the PGA Championship, although it was bittersweet not bringing home the title. Reed and Molinari each fired four-under par 67s in the final round at Quail Hollow to join South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open champion, in second on six-under 278, two strokes behind US winner Justin Thomas.

Molinari, 34, and Reed, 27, were both five strokes off the pace after 54 holes but battled from behind before late birdies blunted their charge.

"Just one of those where I got myself too far behind and just couldn't claw back enough," Reed said. "I could claw back to get a finish but not where I wanted to be."

World number 21 Molinari's best prior showing in 33 major starts was a share of ninth at the 2013 British Open. But to be in a five-way share of the lead with three holes to play after following a second-round 64 with a 74 was a career highlight.

"It was great," Molinari said. "Yesterday I had a really bad start and it was pretty hard to recover from that. So that adds to the satisfaction after today."

"It would have been nice to start the day maybe a couple of shots closer to the leaders, but it was great getting to the last three holes tied for the lead. It's what you practice for and what you train for. Hopefully I'll get more soon."

Reed, ranked 28th, managed his first major top-10 showing and said he was shocked that contending in a major felt no different than a regular event.

"It felt good getting myself in position. I was surprised that it didn't feel any different than a normal tournament," Reed said. "I was just out there trying to make as many birdies as possible. I felt like I went out there, I made enough birdies, but I had

too many bogeys." Reed followed bogeys at the second and fifth holes with back-to-back birdies each time, then made three birdies in six holes through the par-5 15th to move one off the lead.

"My speed was great today. Felt like I was reading putts really well. Just the ball was millimeters off," Reed said. "To be as far back as I was coming in, you have to make every one of them. Unfortunately I wasn't able to do that and that's why I'm disappointed rather than sitting here and really having a chance to win."

### 'I GAVE IT MY BEST'

Molinari is a four-time European Tour winner but hasn't taken a title outside his homeland since the 2012 Spanish Open, although he was runner-up at this year's BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth, two strokes behind winner Alex Noren.

In this near miss, Molinari sandwiched four birdies in five holes between bogeys at 10 and 16 that proved his undoing.

"I gave it my best and I'm very happy with what I did," Molinari said. "Just had it rolling pretty much all day. It was a shame to bogey the 10th after a good tee shot, but the reaction after that was very good, birdieing four of the next five holes."

And Molinari had never seen a major course so difficult. "When you play a course this tough, margins are tight," Molinari said. "This is probably one of the toughest courses I've seen. The greens were extremely fast. The rough is really thick. There's water in play. It's long. I mean, there's nothing really easy about it."

And like the Italian, Reed sees only good things coming from the inspiring finish at Quail Hollow. "What I loved to see was when I got in contention, when I went on that run to get myself actually in the golf tournament, I didn't feel any different," Reed said. "I didn't feel any pressure." — AFP



**CHARLOTTE:** Justin Thomas poses with the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club Sunday, in Charlotte. — AP

### GOLF

## THOMAS PICKS RIGHT MAJOR AT THE RIGHT TIME TO WIN

**CHARLOTTE:** The son and grandson of golf professionals, Justin Thomas couldn't think of a better major to win than the PGA Championship. And at age 24, he couldn't think of a better time. Youth is taking over the highest level of golf, and there were times Thomas felt left behind.

Rory McIlroy already had four majors when he was 25. Closer to home was Jordan Spieth, a close friend since they were 14. Spieth won his third major at the British Open last month to give him three legs of the career Grand Slam.

"Frustration probably isn't the right word," Thomas said. "Jealously definitely is. I wanted to be doing that, and I wasn't." Sunday at Quail Hollow was his moment. Starting the final round two shots out of the lead, Thomas closed with a 3-under 68 for a two-shot victory to capture the final major of the year. It required a little bit of good fortune, like when his tee shot bounced out of a tree and into the fairway on the par-5 10th hole, which ended with his 8-foot putt teetering on the edge of the cup for 12 seconds before gravity finally took over and the ball dropped for birdie.

"I didn't even see it go in," said Thomas, who had his back turned to the cup as he was asking caddy Jimmy Johnson how it didn't go in. Players are allowed reasonable time to get to the ball, and then they get 10 seconds before they hit the next shot, so he was well within the limit.

He seized control on the back nine with a chip-in for birdie from 40 feet on the par-3 13th hole. Above all, it required plenty of grit, and Thomas showed plenty of that. The key moment in his victory came along the infamous "Green Mile" at Quail Hollow, a brutal stretch of holes where players are trying to hang on with pars. Thomas had a one-shot lead over Hideki Matsuyama when he drove into the rough, and his approach tumbled into a bunker. He did well to get that out to 6 feet.

Matsuyama was spared by the thick rough behind the green that kept his ball from going into the water, and he had a good lie that allowed him to chip to 5 feet. Thomas wasted no time over the putt and drilled into the center of the cup. Matsuyama missed and fell two shots behind.

And then Thomas effectively ended it with a 7-iron so pure that he let the club swirl through his hand as the ball soared over the water, onto the green and rolled out to 15 feet on the 221-yard shot to a peninsula green. His birdie putt swirled into the cup, and the rest was easy.

He finished with a bogey - his first since the third hole - when it no longer mattered. Thomas finished at 8-under 276. He won by two shots over Francesco Molinari (67), Patrick Reed (67) and Louis Oosthuizen (70), none of whom were a serious threat as they played the 18th.

His real challenge was Matsuyama playing next to him, and Kevin Kisner, the 54-hole leader in the group behind him. Kisner ran off two important birdies on the 14th and 15th holes to get within one shot, but the final stretch is no place to make up more ground. He three-putted from 100 feet on the 16th hole to fall two back, couldn't convert from long range on the 17th and hit into the water because of mud on his ball on the 18th.

Among those waiting for Thomas alongside the 18th green were his father and Spieth. Mike Thomas, the longtime pro at Harmony Landing outside Louisville, Kentucky, spread his arms wide as he approached his only son and wrapped them

around him. He also made sure to collect an important part of history.

Ever since his son was in elementary school, he has been collecting golf balls from his victory. The total is now 131. Asked if he made sure to get the ball Thomas used to tap in the final putt, Mike Thomas reached into his pocket, smiled and said, "You mean this one?" The PGA Championship was

important to Thomas to take his place among the young elite in the game, and it was important to his family. His grandfather, Paul Thomas, also was a club pro and has been a PGA of America member for 60 years. He was the first person Thomas called.

"As a kid growing up, you want to win all the majors. You want to win any major," Thomas said after his two-shot victory. — AP

### RUGBY

## BARRETT WARNS WALLABIES OVER RUSHING TACTICS

**SYDNEY:** Beauden Barrett warned the Wallabies yesterday that the All Blacks are ready to counter any plans of rush defence in this week's Rugby Championship opener in Sydney.

The All Blacks fly-half ace said the world champions have worked on countering the defensive tactic after encountering problems with the British and Irish Lions in their drawn series in New Zealand last month.

Wallabies' coach Michael Cheika says he intends to follow the Lions' lead and put the All Blacks under pressure to conjure a huge upset in Saturday's Bledisloe Cup Test.

But Barrett warned that rush defence comes with a risk and the Wallabies could leave gaps to be exploited if not consistently accurate, allowing their bid to lift the Bledisloe Cup for the first time since 2002 to unravel at the first hurdle.

"We do understand (rush defence) puts the person with the ball under a bit more pressure but there are opportunities elsewhere," Barrett told reporters. "More teams are starting to bring that line speed. If the Wallabies do bring that on Saturday, we've learned ways to deal with that."

The 2016 World Player of the Year admitted that the All Blacks found "a lot to work on" in their review of the intense Lions series, when

uncharacteristic errors cost them.

"We were perhaps tested in areas where we haven't been before, so that's exactly what we wanted," he said. "We ask those hard questions of ourselves and of our team-mates, and it gets the best out of the team. It is just what we needed."

New Zealand will be boosted by the return of vice-captain Ben Smith, who missed the second and third Tests against the Lions because of a form of vertigo. Sonny Bill Williams, who was sent off in the second Lions Test, will be back to reinforce the All Blacks in Sydney.

Williams received a four-week ban after being sent off for a dangerous charge into the head of British and Irish Lions wing Anthony Watson in Wellington last month.

An independent appeal panel ruled that New Zealand's game against Counties Manukau and Taranaki on August 11, when they will play 40 minutes against each team, constitutes an official match and counts towards his ban. World Rugby expressed disappointment with the appeals panel's decision and said there was need for greater clarity over the definition of a match. "He's as positive as ever," Barrett said of Williams. "Even throughout the Lions series we saw that of Sonny, he got over it pretty quickly." — AFP



**TBILISI:** This file photo taken on February 16, 2011 shows Chess grandmaster, former World Chess Champion and one of the leaders of Russian political opposition Garry Kasparov playing simultaneous chess games in Tbilisi, during his visit to Georgia. — AFP



**DUBLIN:** Wales' Dyddgu Hywel tackles Canada's Kelly Russell, right, during the 2017 Women's Rugby World Cup, Pool A match at UCD Billings Park, Dublin, Ireland, Sunday. — AP



ATHLETICS

‘SUPERHUMAN’ WANTED — BOLT EXIT LEAVES VACUUM TO FILL

**BOLT:** Usain Bolt’s retirement leaves a huge vacuum to fill but athletics is moving in the right direction in rebranding itself after scandals that seriously damaged its image, according to sports marketing experts.

At one point, following serious allegations about former athletics boss Lamine Diack as well as the Russian doping scandal, the sport resembled the Jamaican superstar in his last appearance in a championship final, Saturday’s 4x100 metres relay, lying prone down and out on the track.

However, under the leadership of Diack’s successor Sebastian Coe, president of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), the governing body say it is beginning to take the right steps in restoring its image.

“The authorities are making it more accessible and improving its presentation and taking it into an urban environment with street races,” Jon Tibbs, chairman of leading sport public relations firm Jon Tibbs Associates (JTA), told AFP.

“It is becoming more accessible and more cool but then it has to take into account that it is competing with sports such as parkour.”

Michael Payne, who as director of marketing at the International Olympic

Committee (IOC) is widely credited with transforming both its brand and finances through sponsorship, told AFP that Coe has taken measures which has seen the sport “turn a corner” but from a “very low base”. “There is an awful lot to do post the Diack era,” said Payne speaking by phone from Switzerland.

“The issues facing athletics go far beyond losing a superstar of Bolt’s stature. With no disrespect intended, superstars come and they go.”

Payne, who after leaving the IOC in 2004 performed a similar role with Formula One, said Coe had brought much needed dynamism on the back of his leading the winning bid for the 2012 Olympics and then staying on to deliver a successful London Games.

“They (the sport) have to ensure they are in robust health and clearly they were allowed to drift significantly off track,” said Payne.

“Coe has been instigating a drastic restructuring at grassroots level but you also need great events and London (the world championships) seen from afar has been a huge success. So they are still capable of delivering a great championships. “Bolt has shown he is willing to act as an ambassador and he can play an important role in bringing the sport

back to a pre-eminent position.”

Tibbs, who has been honoured by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to international trade and sports, says the sport does need to find a “superhuman” replacement. He equates the loss of Bolt to how golf has suffered since Tiger Woods went into meltdown.

“Golf has declined in many markets since Woods was in his pomp, although it is not in terminal decline. “Jordan Spieth is a great player but not a lot of people would be racing to jump out of bed and say I want to be the next Jordan Spieth. “Woods and Bolt had exactly the same unbeatable aura, broke records and had a maverick edge to them. They were true rock stars.

“Rory McIlroy has the maverick edge but is simply not winning enough to warrant being in the same camp.”

Payne, who says the awarding of medals several years after the event is not good for the “image of the sport” as it undermines spectators’ confidence that what they are watching in London is fair competition, believes one area the sport should address is modernising the way it presents itself.

“One of the challenges the sport is facing in 2017 is athletics shown on television isn’t as conducive to what it was



LONDON: Jamaica’s Usain Bolt limps on the track after pulling up injured in the final of the men’s 4x100m relay athletics event at the 2017 IAAF World Championships at the London Stadium in London.— AFP

30 years ago. “I am not sure athletics has moved with the times to a new media environment.”

Tibbs, whose company played a leading role in Sochi winning the 2014 Winter Olympics amongst other successes, says the sport is moving forwards after some very rough times.

“I would give them, for the moment, the benefit of the doubt that things are moving in the right direction.

“However, it is up to Coe, WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency), athletes entourages and event organisers to get together and enforce change. “That is the challenge facing Coe.” —AFP



NEW YORK: Boston Red Sox’s Brock Holt (12) steals second base as New York Yankees second baseman Ronald Torreyes, left, attempts to tag him out during the fifth inning of a baseball game Sunday, in New York. — AP

BASEBALL

RED SOX ROOKIES DEVERS, BENINTENDI LEAD WIN

**NEW YORK:** Rafael Devers hit a stunning homer off Aroldis Chapman to tie the game in the ninth inning, and fellow Red Sox rookie Andrew Benintendi singled home the go-ahead run in the 10th as Boston beat the New York Yankees 3-2 on Sunday night. Chris Sale struck out 12 in his latest dominant performance, but Boston trailed 2-1 before the 20-year-old Devers connected on a 103 mph fastball and became the second left-handed hitter to homer off Chapman (4-2) in his eight-year career. By winning a battle of hard-throwing bullpens, the Red Sox upped their AL East lead to a season-high 5 1/2 games over rival New York. Boston (67-50) took two of three in the series and is a season-best 17 games over .500 after winning 10 of its past 11. Boston closer Craig Kimbrel (4-0) struck out Brett Gardner with a runner on third to end the ninth and then tossed a perfect 10th.

MARLINS 5, ROCKIES 3

Giancarlo Stanton homered for the fourth straight game, hitting his 42nd of the year to tie the Marlins’ season record, and Miami completed its first series sweep of Colorado since 2006. Stanton homered leading off the third inning to match Gary Sheffield’s team record set in 1996. It

was the 250th homer of Stanton’s career. Rockies All-Star third baseman Nolan Arenado, the major league RBI leader, left in the fifth inning after being hit on the left hand by an 88 mph fastball thrown by Vance Worley. German Marquez (9-5) lost for the first time in seven starts, allowing five runs in 4 1/3 innings. Javy Guerra (1-0) earned his first victory since 2014 with two scoreless innings, and Odrisamer Despaigne pitched a perfect ninth for his first big league save.

DODGERS 6, PADRES 4

Justin Turner hit two home runs, Yasmani Grandal also went deep and Los Angeles won for the 28th time in 33 games, improving the best record in the majors to 83-34. The Dodgers are 16-0-3 in their last 19 series, and haven’t lost one since June 5-7 to Washington. Cory Spangenberg hit two home runs for the Padres. Kenta Maeda (11-4) went 5 1/3 innings, giving up three earned runs and four hits and striking out eight. Kenley Jansen retired the Padres in order in the ninth for his 32nd save. Luis Perdomo (6-7) was the loser.

GIANTS 4, NATIONALS 2, FIRST GAME

NATIONALS 6, GIANTS 2, SECOND GAME  
Howie Kendrick hit a game-ending grand

slam in the 11th inning, and the Nationals salvaged the finale of a day-night doubleheader. Daniel Murphy and Ryan Zimmerman also homered for Washington in the makeup of Friday night’s rainout. Max Scherzer struck out 10 in seven innings and Matt Albers (6-2) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. It was Washington’s first day since slugger Bryce Harper got hurt Saturday when he slipped on first base. The All-Star has a significant bone bruise in his left knee but no ligament damage, general manager Mike Rizzo said. The Nationals hope he can return this season. Chris Stratton (1-2) led San Francisco to the win in the opener, striking out a career-high 10 in 6 2/3 shutout innings. Joe Panik had three hits and two RBIs, and Sam Dyson got three outs for his ninth save. San Francisco’s A.J. Cole (1-3) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings. In the nightcap, Murphy singled off Albert Suarez (0-2) leading off the 11th and raced to third on Zimmerman’s bloop hit. After Suarez intentionally walked Anthony Rendon, Kendrick homered to left.

CUBS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Jake Arrieta (12-8) won consecutive starts for the first time since early April. Javier Baez and Ian Happ hit consecutive home runs in the eighth inning and Chicago reopened a one-game lead over St. Louis in the NL Central. Kris Bryant put the Cubs ahead when he scored from second on a wild pitch from Zack Godley (5-5) in the first inning on strike three to Victor Caratini. The reigning NL MVP added his 21st home run of the season in the ninth inning, reaching base for the 13th time in 15 plate appearances during the three-game series. Arrieta allowed one run and three hits in six innings. Godley had three wild pitches and four walks in 5 2/3 innings, allowing two runs and four hits.

ASTROS 2, RANGERS 1

Dallas Keuchel (10-2) struck out seven in 6 2/3 innings for his first win since June 2 against the Rangers, just before his nearly two-month stint on the disabled list. AL-leading Houston stopped its longest losing streak this season at five games. Jose Altuve’s 17th home run came in the fourth off Andrew Cashner (7-9). Adrian Beltre’s 12th homer pulled the Rangers even in the sixth, and Carlos Beltran had a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh. Joey Gallo lined into an inning-ending double play with runners at second and third in the eighth against Ken Giles, who struck out

two in the ninth for his 23rd save.

BLUE JAYS 7, PIRATES 1

J.A. Happ (6-8) allowed one run and four hits in six innings to win his third straight start, Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer and Justin Smoak and Darwin Barney added solo homers. Toronto scored five runs off Chad Kuhl (5-8) while batting around in the first inning and taking a 5-1 lead. Pittsburgh managed just one hit after the first, and none in the final five innings.

INDIANS 4, RAYS 3

Austin Jackson hit a tiebreaking home run off Tommy Hunter (2-3) leading off the eighth inning. Corey Kluber (11-3) struck out nine in seven innings for the AL Central leaders, his 14th straight start of fanning eight or more. He gave up four hits, including a two-run homer to Steve Souza Jr. in the sixth that made it 3-all. Cody Allen pitched the ninth for his 21st save. Tampa Bay went 2-7 on a nine-game homestand in which the Rays were shut out five times and scored 11 runs.

TWINS 6, TIGERS 4

Brian Dozier and Miguel Sano homered but Minnesota. The Twins blew an early 4-0 lead but Byron Buxton hit a tiebreaking single off Warwick Saupold after Bruce Rondon (1-3) walked the first two batters in the eighth. A day earlier, the Twins trailed 5-0, rallied for an 11-6 lead, then lost to the Tigers 12-11 on Justin Upton’s two-run homer in the ninth. Detroit has lost seven of nine. Minnesota’s Chris Gimenez had three passed balls in the fifth and Ervin Santana threw a toss through his legs for a wild pitch. Tyler Duffey (2-3) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings. Trevor Hildenberger struck out Upton with a runner on first to end the eighth, then pitched the ninth for his first big league save.

METS 6, PHILLIES 2

Michael Conforto and Curtis Granderson hit two-run homers and the Phillies ran themselves into trouble after Chris Flexen (2-1) loaded the bases in the fifth inning with no outs. Nick Williams hit a shallow fly to center, and Conforto’s throw home scooted away from Travis d’Arnaud. Odubel Herrera put his head down and sprinted for third, unaware Freddy Galvis hadn’t moved off the base. D’Arnaud hustled to third to complete a short toss and an 8-2-5 double play. Zach Eflin (1-4) allowed Conforto’s 26th homer

and Granderson’s 17th.

ROYALS 14, WHITE SOX 6

Whit Merrifield hit a three-run homer and drove in a career-high five runs. Drew Butera had four of Kansas City’s 16 hits as the Royals climb back over .500 at 59-58. Jason Vargas (14-6) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings, matching his career high for wins set in 2012 with Seattle. Derek Holland (6-12) lasted just two-plus innings in his shortest start of the year. He was charged with seven runs and seven hits.

BREWERS 7, REDS 4

Neil Walker had two hits in his Milwaukee debut, and Domingo Santana hit a three-run homer in the fifth off Sal Romano (2-5), who gave up seven runs, six of them earned, in five innings. Acquired from the New York Mets on Saturday, Walker started at third base in place of the banged-up Travis Shaw and went 2 for 4 with a run scored. Matt Garza (6-6) allowed four runs - three earned - and five hits in 5 1/3 innings, and Corey Knebel worked the ninth for his 22nd save.

BRAVES 6, CARDINALS 3

R.A. Dickey (8-7) allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings. Brandon Phillips hit a two-run homer and Atlanta stopped the Cardinals’ season-high, eight-game winning streak and the Braves’ five-game losing streak. Aroldys Vizcaino pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save. Michael Wacha (9-5) gave up four runs and five hits in eight innings.

ATHLETICS 9, ORIOLES 3

Matt Chapman hit a tiebreaking three-run homer off Jeremy Hellickson (1-2) in a five-run fourth as Oakland overcame a 2-0 deficit. Manny Machado hit his 22nd homer and scored twice for Baltimore. Kendall Graveman (3-3) matched his career high of eight strikeouts, allowing two runs and eight hits in seven innings.

ANGELS 4, MARINERS 2

Parker Bridwell (7-1) yielded one run and four hits in six innings, winning his fifth straight decision and extended Los Angeles’ winning streak to six as the Angels moved into the second spot in the AL wild-card race. C.J. Cron homered and Martin Maldonado had a two-run single for the Angels. Ariel Miranda (7-6) walked a career-high six and allowed four runs and four hits in 4 2/3 innings.— AP

MLB Results/Standings

Washington 6, San Francisco (11 innings); Chicago Cubs 7, Arizona 2; LA Angels 4, Seattle 2; LA Dodgers 6, San Diego 4; Oakland 9, Baltimore 3; Houston 2, Texas 1; Atlanta 6, St. Louis 3; Milwaukee 7, Cincinnati 4; Kansas City 14, Chicago White Sox 6; NY Mets 6, Philadelphia 2; Cleveland 4, Tampa Bay 3; Miami 5, Colorado 3; Minnesota 6, Detroit 4; Toronto 7, Pittsburgh 1; San Francisco 4, Washington 2.

American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Boston	67	50	.573	-	Washington	70	46	.603	-
NY Yankees	61	55	.526	5.5	Miami	56	60	.483	14
Tampa Bay	59	60	.496	9	NY Mets	53	62	.461	16.5
Baltimore	58	60	.492	9.5	Atlanta	52	63	.452	17.5
Toronto	56	61	.479	11	Philadelphia	43	72	.374	26.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	63	52	.548	-	Chicago Cubs	61	55	.526	-
Minnesota	59	57	.509	4.5	St. Louis	61	57	.517	1
Kansas City	59	58	.504	5	Milwaukee	61	59	.508	2
Detroit	53	64	.453	11	Pittsburgh	58	60	.492	4
Chicago White Sox	45	70	.391	18	Cincinnati	49	69	.415	13
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	72	45	.615	-	LA Dodgers	83	34	.709	-
LA Angels	61	58	.513	12	Colorado	65	52	.556	18
Seattle	59	60	.496	14	Arizona	65	52	.556	18
Texas	56	60	.483	15.5	San Diego	51	66	.436	32
Oakland	52	66	.441	20.5	San Francisco	47	72	.395	37



## KLOPP, LIVERPOOL BACK IN GERMANY IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS

**PARIS:** Jurgen Klopp takes his Liverpool side to his native Germany this week to face Hoffenheim as they target a return to the group stage of the Champions League. It is three years since the Anfield outfit, five times European champions, last graced the group stage of the continent's elite club competition.

A fourth-place finish in the Premier League last season exposed them to a complicated draw in the play-offs and a pairing with the Bundesliga outfit means a trip to the Rhein Neckar Arena in the first leg on Tuesday. Klopp has been to his home country with Liverpool before,

overseeing victories against Augsburg and old club Borussia Dortmund en route to the Europa League final two seasons ago.

They were also in Germany during pre-season, beating both Hertha Berlin and Bayern Munich. The Reds, who began their Premier League campaign with a 3-3 draw at Watford on Saturday, are without Adam Lallana and Nathaniel Clyne at the moment but Roberto Firmino is fit. The Brazilian is set to face the club for whom he starred for four years before being sold to Liverpool in 2015. Hoffenheim, from a village of just over 3,000 souls in south-

western Germany, finished fourth in the Bundesliga last season to qualify for Europe for the first time. The match against Liverpool comes four days before they face Werder Bremen in the first match of their 10th Bundesliga campaign.

"We'll do everything in our power to get through. Liverpool are a phenomenal side, but I already have an idea how we can snatch a result," their coach Julian Nagelsmann, just 30, said after the draw.

Hoffenheim have been weakened since last season, losing German international duo Sebastian Rudy and Niklas Suele to Bayern Munich.

## STRIKER WOES FOR CELTIC

Brendan Rodgers was the last manager to lead Liverpool into the Champions League. The Northern Irishman is currently hoping to take Scottish champions Celtic into the group stage for the second season running.

The Glasgow giants have beaten Linfield and Rosenborg to make it to a play-off against Astana of Kazakhstan, who visit Celtic Park for the first leg tomorrow. Celtic beat Astana 3-2 on aggregate in the third qualifying round last season with Leigh Griffiths scoring

twice in the tie and Moussa Dembele's late penalty in the second leg taking them through.

But Dembele misses this tie with a knee injury and Griffiths has been struggling too, giving Rodgers a headache with Celtic needing a good result before the near 4,000-mile trip to Kazakhstan for the return.

"It's going to be a tough game for us," Rodgers told The Scotsman. "The first game is important. At home, the atmosphere has been absolutely incredible in the Champions League games in particular so we'll need that tomorrow night." —AFP

## LAZIO BEAT JUVENTUS 3-2 TO WIN SUPER CUP AFTER WILD FINALE

**ROME:** Alessandro Murgia scored a last-gasp winner as Lazio beat Juventus 3-2 Sunday to win the Italian Super Cup after a wild end to the match. Two goals from Ciro Immobile, including an opening penalty, had seemingly set Lazio on the way to a comfortable win. But Paulo Dybala netted a stunning free kick in the 85th minute and converted a penalty in the first minute of stoppage time.

The match appeared to be heading for extra time before youth academy graduate Murgia, who had come on as an 80th-minute substitute, scored the winner. "I'm happy, and very emotional," said Murgia, who turned 21 on Wednesday. "It was hard because they levelled at the end, but we never give up. We believed right until the end and we are really happy.

"We are a united squad, we are a group, and that's how you get victories." The result goes some way to avenging Lazio's defeat to Juventus in the Italian Cup final in May.

"Credit to the lads for what they did and deserved," Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi said. "We wanted revenge after the Italian Cup defeat and we had a perfect game ... everyone gave everything."

Juventus starts its search for a seventh straight Serie A title at home to Cagliari on Saturday, the day before Lazio hosts newly promoted Spal. "Lazio deserved the win, because they played better, they fought much more," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "Apart from the final 30 minutes, we practically didn't play and that should make us think, that should bring us back to earth.

"There are no excuses, I hate losing and especially losing like this ... It was really an ugly performance and we lost the first objective of the season. The league starts on Saturday and we need to start winning." The Italian Super Cup normally pits the league champion against the cup winner, but Juventus had again won the double

last season - for the third successive year.

Shortly after that success, Juventus lost a second Champions League final in three seasons, while reports of infighting and the departure of key defender Leonardo Bonucci to Serie A rival AC Milan has made it a difficult offseason for the Italian champion. Juventus was looking to get back on track in Rome, and started strongly in the traditional curtain-raiser. Lazio goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha pulled off a great save to keep out Juan Cuadrado's effort from close range and denied Gonzalo Higuain moments later in a frantic opening five minutes.

Lazio withstood the pressure and slowly took control of the match before going in front shortly after the half-hour mark. Immobile was brought down by Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and he dusted himself down to fire the resulting penalty into the bottom right corner.

Lazio almost doubled its lead minutes later but Buffon pulled off a double save to deny first Dusan Basta and then Lucas Leiva. Lazio did extend its advantage nine minutes into the second half when Marco Parolo whipped in a cross and Immobile sent a looping header into the far corner.

Allegri immediately reacted, bringing on new signings Douglas Costa and Mattia De Sciglio and he later also introduced Federico Bernardeschi.

That had an effect and Dybala got Juventus back into the match when he curled a free kick into the left side of the goal. Juventus was then given the chance to level when it was awarded a penalty after Adam Marusic tripped Alex Sandro.

Dybala had missed the decisive penalty in the shootout in last year's Super Cup defeat to Milan but he stepped up and converted. Another twist was still to come. Three minutes later, Jordan Lukaku went on a winding run before pulling back from the byline for Murgia to smash in the winner. —AP



**GUINGAMP:** Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar (L) vies with Guingamp's French midfielder Lucas Deaux during the French L1 football match Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) vs En Avant Guingamp (EAG) at the Roudourou stadium in Guingamp on Sunday. — AFP

## SOCCER

## NEYMAR SHINES ON DEBUT, SAYS HE'S 'MORE ALIVE THAN EVER'

**GUINGAMP:** Declaring he was "more alive than ever," Neymar did not disappoint on his debut for Paris Saint-Germain. The world's most expensive player provided a pulsating evening's entertainment at the Stade du Roudourou on Sunday, with one goal and an assist, as PSG overcame strong resistance from Guingamp to win 3-0 in the French league.

Neymar was named man of the match, and it was deserved. "I'm very happy with the trophy, but the most important (thing) was to win," Neymar said through a translator. "I knew it would be difficult to leave Barca, but I'm very happy to be here. People believe that leaving Barca is like to die. But I'm more alive than ever. I'm very happy, and the football is the same."

Neymar, who signed from Barcelona last week, missed the start of the season at the Parc des Princes against Amiens due to paperwork problems. Hired for a world-record 222 million euros (\$262 million), he started on the left wing of PSG's attack in the small Brittany town.

Neymar looked intensely focused from the start, easily switching from one wing to the other, and often taking a playmaker role. Pre-match festivities in the small Brittany town included some fireworks, but Neymar was jeered by a handful of fans as he came on the pitch to warm up with his teammates, pointing a finger toward the sky. By the end, many local fans gave him a standing ovation.

Neymar's first touch in the French league was a long ball for Angel Di Maria that landed on the edge of the box, but the Argentine player could not latch onto it. Neymar's vision, acceleration and through balls in a weaker league than Spain's unsettled Guingamp's back four, and his trademark dribbles were also on display at the Roudourou. Midfielder Lucas Deaux will be remembered as the first French league player to be nutmegged by the former Barcelona star.

Encouragingly for PSG, Neymar has already gelled with Cavani, with both players finding each other instinctively despite the lack of space in the Guingamp box. The big question that immediately emerged when Neymar signed with PSG was how he could fit into coach Unai Emery's system. Neymar proved he can play well with the Uruguayan forward, especially if Emery continues to use Cavani in a central position.

"I knew he was a top player," Neymar said about Cavani. "Now I'm playing with him. He is a great player, and when you have such great players in a team, it's easy." Neymar completed 103 passes, one of which set up Cavani in the 62nd minute, as his teammate scored his 90th goal in 135 topflight matches. Cavani then turned provider to set up Neymar with a cut-back pass that the Brazil captain converted from close range with a poke in the 82nd minute.

"I was more impressed by Cavani, who scored again," said Guingamp veteran striker Jimmy Briand. "Neymar, there is no need to introduce him anymore. We knew he was going to be a big threat."

On a sleepy summer Sunday, the atmosphere slowly built in the small town of Guingamp, though most of the streets were still empty mid-afternoon. Fans later gathered for pre-match drinks at a downtown bar, "Le panier a salade (The salad shaker)," where walls are adorned with autographed jerseys from Guingamp players. Some PSG fans mingled with home supporters in a friendly atmosphere. "It's magic to see Neymar at the Roudourou stadium," said Florian Nicolas, a 30-year-old PSG fan who settled in Brittany five years ago. "This match will be

watched worldwide."

A town of 7,000 inhabitants known for its local galette-Saucisse treat - a sausage rolled in a crepe - Guingamp is also football-crazy and has

witnessed the emergence of world-class players including the likes of Didier Drogba and Florent Malouda in the early 2000s. A club-record 18,378 fans watched Sunday's game. — AP

## SPECTRE OF 2015 LOOMS AFTER CHELSEA FALSE START

**LONDON:** For Chelsea's supporters, Saturday's calamitous 3-2 loss at home to Burnley will have immediately rekindled uncomfortable memories of their last Premier League title defence. In 2015, Chelsea lost nine of their opening 16 games, costing manager Jose Mourinho his job, and eventually drifted to a 10th-place finish.

The new campaign is only one game old, but the dismal nature of their defeat, in which Gary Cahill and Cesc Fabregas were sent off, allied to the club's transfer struggles mean alarm bells are already ringing.

"There's a lot of negativity about the club because of the lack of signings that they've been able to bring in," said Alan Shearer, the former England striker turned BBC pundit. "And it was a real concern, what happened in the first half.

"Whether you agree with the sending off (of Cahill) or not, they behaved like the Chelsea of two years ago under Mourinho and basically threw in the towel." Cahill and Fabregas will both miss Sunday's away game against new Wembley tenants Tottenham Hotspur, who finished second to Chelsea last season and will be out to avenge their 4-2 FA Cup semi-final defeat a few months ago.

Chelsea manager Antonio Conte will also be without Eden Hazard and new signing Tiemoue Bakayoko due to injury and those are just the start of his problems. Having made only four new signings and allowed a host of players to leave either on loan or on permanent deals, Chelsea's squad already looks desperately thin.

Conte gave 20-year-old academy graduate Jeremie Boga a debut against Burnley and had four untested youngsters-Charly Musonda, Andreas Christensen, Fikayo Tomori and Kyle Scott-on the bench.

Star signing Alvaro Morata came off the bench to score and set up a goal for David Luiz, but the man he was bought to replace, Diego Costa, continues to provide distracting background noise.

Exiled in his native Brazil after being told by Conte he has no place at Chelsea, Costa hit out at the club in a Daily Mail interview published on Monday, accusing them of treating him like a "criminal".

The turbulence seems to be having an effect on Conte, who has appeared short-tempered in some of his early-season dealings with the media.

## 'MOURINHO SEASON'

He also sharply criticised his players after the game against Burnley, saying they had lost their heads over Cahill's 14th-minute dismissal for a foul on Steven Defour. "I think it's affecting Conte, the way he's behaving, the way he's responding and reacting," said former Chelsea goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer.

"Particularly look after this game where he's saying that the players lost the plot. "Normally a manager who has the full support of his team, or feels he has the full support of his team, wouldn't come out (to criticise them) and he'd defend his players.

"In this instance, he hasn't, so it just seems that there's a very unhappy camp at the moment." Conte spent the close season issuing warnings about the dangers of Chelsea suffering a repeat of their 2015-16 campaign, which he refers to as the "Mourinho season". Since 2006, only two title-winning managers-Manchester United's Alex Ferguson and Manchester City's Manuel Pellegrini-have still been in their jobs by the end of the following campaign.

Chelsea's false start saw the odds of Conte leaving his post before the end of the season shortened to 13/8 by British bookmakers. But amid reports that Chelsea are looking to bring in four new players before the transfer window closes on August 31, Conte says the only solution to their predicament is hard work. "I am not worried," he said.

"It's important for me that we don't close our eyes, but focus on our mistakes, work and improve. "We have to give all of ourselves, to try to put in 120 percent, every single person. I must be the first, then the staff and then the players." — AFP



**LONDON:** Chelsea's manager Antonio Conte, left, watches the match during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Burnley at Stamford Bridge stadium in London. — AP



**ROME:** Lazio's captain Senad Lulic, center, raises the trophy at the end of the Italian Super Cup final match between Lazio and Juventus at Rome's Olympic stadium, Sunday. Lazio won 3-2. — AP

## POCHETTINO EYES END TO TRANSFER DROUGHT

**NEWCASTLE:** Mauricio Pochettino insists Tottenham Hotspur's 2-0 victory at Newcastle United in their Premier League opener has not altered his desire to finally strengthen his squad before the transfer deadline. Pochettino remains aware Tottenham lack the depth and quality to compete in four competitions this season after failing to make a single close-season signing while their rivals all spent big money on new recruits.

The Spurs boss was encouraged that they started the season by winning a game that was finely balanced until Newcastle's Jonjo Shelvey was sent off early in the second half on Sunday. Newly-promoted Newcastle had coped comfortably with the Tottenham attack, but Shelvey's foolish stamp on Dele Alli was the turning point.

Goals from Alli and Ben Davies punished Shelvey's rush of blood, but Pochettino still wants to bring in new players before the transfer window shuts at the end of August as he aims to emulate last season's title challenge. "It was important to start with three points, but it wasn't a great game and wasn't our best performance. The most important thing for me was starting the season in the right way," he said.

"The balance of the team is the main thing and we need some new players to bring some new energy. It is important to challenge your best players and refresh the squad. "We are calm enough to compete in the same way as we competed last season, but we need to sign some players before the end of the transfer window. "We have 10 months to go and we are involved in four competitions, so we need more competition, more quality and more

people who can help keep the level we want to show in every game."

Pochettino insisted that Tottenham would have triumphed even if Shelvey had stayed on the pitch, although there was little evidence to support that claim. "Of course we would have won. But it was difficult to play because the pitch was so dry and Newcastle played deep," he said.

"It was difficult to find space to create chances. In the second half we played against 10 men and that always helps and made it more comfortable for us."

## MATURITY

Pochettino singled out the contributions of Alli and Christian Eriksen, but 20-year-old right-back Kyle Walker-Peters was named man of the match after replacing near namesake Kyle Walker following his move to Manchester City.

"He was so calm," said the Tottenham manager. "To play as he played showed real maturity and was really happy. He even gave a speech after the game with his man-of-the-match trophy.

"He was so proud and it was a fantastic moment he will always remember." Shelvey, who now faces a three-match suspension and a club fine, apologised to manager Rafael Benitez and his team-mates in the dressing room after the game.

"The rules are the rules and he made a mistake," said Benitez. But Benitez also claimed that a tackle from Tottenham's Harry Kane that ended Florian Lejeune's involvement in the game was a worse challenge, although it only merited a yellow card from the referee Andre Marriner.—AFP



# Sports

Justin Thomas picks right major at the right time to win



Neymar shines on debut, says he's 'more alive than ever'



TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017

‘SUPERHUMAN’ WANTED — BOLT EXIT LEAVES VACUUM TO FILL

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BARCELONA: In this photo taken on Sunday, referee Ricardo de Burgos, right, shows a red card to Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo during the Spanish Supercup, first leg, soccer match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (Left) Ronaldo takes off his jersey to celebrate his goal. — AP

## RONALDO BANNED FOR 5 GAMES

**BARCELONA:** Cristiano Ronaldo lost his cool, and now Real Madrid has lost its main man for five matches at the start of the Spanish season. Ronaldo was banned for five games yesterday after shoving a referee who sent him off for diving in Madrid's 3-1 win over Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup.

Ronaldo was suspended for one game for the red card in Sunday's Super Cup first leg at Barcelona, and four games for pushing referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea in the back, the Spanish football federation said. Ronaldo will miss tomorrow's return leg of the Super Cup in Madrid plus the first four matches of Real Madrid's league title defense. Zinedine Zidane's Madrid opens the league on Sunday at Deportivo La Coruna. Its next three matches after that are against Valencia, promoted Levante, and at Real Sociedad. Ronaldo and Madrid have 10 days to appeal the federation's ruling. Still regaining peak fitness after an extended summer vacation, Ronaldo began the Super Cup match on the bench, and

came on in the 58th minute. He scored with a long-range strike to put Madrid 2-1 up in the 80th minute, moments after Lionel Messi had equalized for Barcelona from the penalty spot. But Ronaldo's goal celebration - when he took his shirt off and flexed his muscles - earned him a yellow card. Two minutes later, he charged into the area and collided with Barcelona defender Samuel Umtiti. Ronaldo went down hoping for a penalty. Instead, referee De Burgos showed him a second yellow for diving and sent him off. Ronaldo raised his arms in disbelief, then stepped up to De Burgos and shoved him in the back with his right hand. The federation ruling said that Ronaldo's shove violated article 96 of its disciplinary code, which states that "light aggressions" defined as "pulling, pushing and shaking" of a referee are punished by suspensions of

between 4-12 matches.

### RONALDO FINED

The federation also fined Ronaldo 3,005 euros (\$3,500) and Madrid 1,400 euros (\$1,650) for the shove, and another 600 euros (\$705) for the player and 350 euros (\$412) for the club for simulating a foul. Last season, Las Palmas forward Marko Livaja was given an additional four-match suspension for pushing a referee after he was shown a red card. In the 2014 Spanish Super Cup, Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone was handed an eight match suspension after he tapped the back of a linesman's head. Simeone was suspended for four games for the tapping, two games for protesting, one game for ironically applauding the referee, and one game for remaining in the

stands instead of leaving the stadium after his sending-off. Simeone served four matches of his league suspension and the other four are pending Atletico's future Spanish Super Cup matches. After guiding Madrid to the Champions League and Spanish league titles last season, the suspension comes during a difficult summer for Ronaldo. In June, a state prosecutor accused Ronaldo of defrauding Spain's tax office of 14.7 million euros (\$16.5 million). The 32-year-old star had to deny the accusations in person to an investigative judge last month. Now he must trust his teammates to make a good start to Madrid's defense without him. Given Marco Asensio's great goal from distance to cap Sunday's win over Barcelona, the 21-year-old forward could take Ronaldo's place in the starting lineup. — AP

## VIRAT KOHLI HAILS ‘SPECIAL’ PANDYA AFTER SERIES SWEEP

**PALLEKELE:** India's captain Virat Kohli heaped praise on Hardik Pandya for his maiden century in the third Test after the visitors inflicted a crushing series defeat on Sri Lanka yesterday. Pandya's 96-ball 108 paved the way for victory by an innings and 171 runs inside three days, India's first clean sweep of an overseas three-Test series. Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and paceman Mohammed Shami shared seven wickets as the hosts were bowled out for 181 in their follow-on in Pallekele yesterday. But it was 23-year-old Pandya, batting in just his third Test after debuting in Galle, who stole the show with the century that had lifted India to an unassailable 487. Sri Lanka offered just 135 in reply in their first innings against the world's top Test side. "You know, a guy who can get a fifty and a hundred in his first three games batting at number eight has to have something special in him," Kohli told reporters after the match. "He brings in great balance to the team, he's a gun

fielder and gives you those crucial breakthroughs... we absolutely have 120 per cent faith in him." Rookie spinner Kuldeep Yadav also made his mark with four wickets in Sri Lanka's first innings as the islanders conceded a 352-run first innings lead. Playing in just his second Test, the 22-year-old bamboozled the hosts with his left-arm wrist spin, returning overall match figures of 5-96. Ashwin kept up the pressure on the beleaguered hosts with four wickets on the third day, including top-scorer Niroshan Dickwella for 41. "We are a young side. We look forward to playing Test cricket with the same kind of excitement. That's the only way you can be ruthless... we like to be proactive rather than reactive," said Kohli. "We have age on our side. We have an opportunity to play together for five-six years with this whole bunch and this really excites us."

### ‘TOUGH SERIES’

Sri Lankan skipper Dinesh Chandimal, who made

36, put up some resistance during his 65-run fifth-wicket stand with Angelo Mathews. But Kuldeep took Chandimal's wicket just after lunch, with Ashwin claiming Mathews lbw for 35 not long after. Shami, who took three wickets, combined with Ashwin to mop up the tail as Sri Lanka suffered their second successive innings defeat after a drubbing in Colombo. "A tough series as a team. Credit goes to India. They have played outstandingly well in the series... losing within two and half days you cannot give any excuses," said Chandimal. "Hardik batted brilliantly when he came out to the middle. The first spell by Shami and Umesh (Yadav) was brilliant." Indian opener Shikhar Dhawan, who hit a brisk 119 in the first innings, was named man of the series for topping the run chart. The left-handed batsman accumulated 358 runs, with two centuries. The two sides now play a limited-overs series, with the first of five one-day internationals on August 20 in Dambulla. They will play a single Twenty20 match later this month. — AFP



PALLEKELE: Indian cricketers pose for photographers after victory in the third day of the third and final Test match between Sri Lanka and India at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Pallekele yesterday. — AP

### SCOREBOARD

<b>PALLEKELE, Sri Lanka:</b> Scoreboard yesterday after India beat Sri Lanka by an innings and 177 runs in the third and final test at Pallekele International Stadium:			
<b>India 1st Innings: 487</b>			
<b>Sri Lanka 1st Innings: 135</b>			
Sri Lanka 2nd Innings (Following on)			
Dimuth Karunaratne c Rahane b Ashwin	16	Lahiru Kumara b Ashwin	10
Upul Tharanga b Umesh Yadav	7	Extras: (2b, 1nb)	3
Malinda Pushpakumara c Saha b Shami	1	TOTAL: (all out)	181
Kusal Mendis lbw b Shami	12	Overs:	74.3
Dinesh Chandimal c Pujara b Kuldeep Yadav	36	Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-26, 3-34, 4-39, 5-104, 6-118, 7-138, 8-166, 9-168, 10-181.	
Angelo Mathews lbw b Ashwin	35	Bowling: Mohammed Shami 15-6-32-3, Ravichandran Ashwin 28.3-6-68-4, Umesh Yadav 13.5-21-2, Kuldeep Yadav 17.4-56-1, Hardik Pandya 1-0-2-0.	
Niroshan Dickwella c Rahane b Yadav	41		
Dilruwan Perera c Pandya b Ashwin	8		
Lakshan Sandakan c Saha b Shami	8		
Vishwa Fernando not out	4		
		<b>Toss: Won by India</b>	
		Result: India won by an innings and 171 runs.	
		Series: India won three-match series 3-0.	

## ZVEREV UPSETS FEDERER

**MONTREAL:** Alexander Zverev's hot streak is still alive. Roger Federer's win streak is over. The German beat Federer 6-3, 6-4 in the Rogers Cup final on Sunday for his 10th consecutive victory. The 20-year-old Zverev, the winner last week in Washington, D.C., matched Federer with a fifth tournament title this year. He also stopped Federer's win streak at 16. He will try to keep it going at an event in Cincinnati this week. "It's something amazing, back-to-back weeks," said Zverev, who handed Federer only his third loss of the year. "I feel great. I feel like I'm playing some of the best tennis of my life. But Cincinnati is a very tough draw. I don't know if I will be able to go far there because I am a little bit tired. But game-wise and confidence-wise, I'm super happy the way everything is standing." He avenged a loss to Federer at Halle, Germany on June 25 and evened their career

head-to-head record at two wins apiece. The fourth-seeded Zverev won \$894,585 while the second-seeded Federer got \$438,635. Zverev used some sharp groundstrokes to get the only service break he needed to win the first set. The lanky German escaped a break point at 1-0 in the second set with consecutive aces, and an off-looking Federer never challenged again. The 36-year-old Federer said he only felt "aches and pains" from playing in his first tournament of the hardcourt season, but it looked to be more than that. Zverev said he only noticed that his opponent's serve wasn't quite as hard. He broke a mistake-prone Federer for a 4-3 lead and served out the match. He will climb to seventh in world rankings with the win, his second Masters 1000 Series victory this year along with Rome, and is looking more and more like a future Grand Slam tournament winner.—AP





**NREC operating  
revenue KD9.6m  
in H1 2017**



**TOKYO: Shoppers choose clothes at a store in Tokyo's Omotesando shopping district. Japan's economy gained momentum in the April-June quarter, growing at a hearty 4.0 percent annual pace fueled by stronger consumer spending and corporate capital investment. — AP**

# JAPANESE SHOPPERS OPEN THEIR WALLETS

## SPENDING TRENDS OFFER HOPE FOR PM ABE'S REFLATION DRIVE

**TOKYO:** Japan's cautious consumers are starting to loosen up, spending more on cars and home appliances and offering hope that domestic demand - and not just exports - will be strong enough to reflate an economy that has been sluggish for many years.

The tightest labour market since the 1970s seems to be a playing a role. Temporary and part-time workers are getting paid more to help fill shifts, and that is helping lift sales.

Consumption was the main driver behind Japan's second-quarter economic growth, which expanded at an annualized 4 percent, gross domestic product data released yesterday showed, the strongest in more than two years and much higher than the growth achieved by the United States and the European Union.

"I ended a big project today, and I wanted to give a present to my girlfriend who has always been supportive, so I bought her a Tiffany necklace," said Yusuke Kawashima, a 29-year-old freelance software programmer in Tokyo.

"Quite a few of my friends have said they

either had a pay raise or received a large bonus, so I think they'll be spending as well."

Wage hikes for part-time workers in Japan have accelerated, rising to 2.3 percent year-on-year in May from 0.7 percent in August 2016. Salaries for full-time workers, though, have been little changed. Susumu Ikeda, 70, says shoppers are buying more at his musical instrument shop in Tokyo's tony Ginza shopping district, and senses the economy is taking a turn for the better.

"Some may be cynical about our growth, but compared to our worst we are getting much better," he said. Furniture maker Nitori Holdings Ltd, convenience store leader Seven & i Holdings Co and coffee shop chain Doutor Nichires Holdings all reported rising domestic sales in their recent earnings reports.

Sales of new cars accelerated in April-June from the previous quarter, and GDP data showed higher purchases of appliances, such as air conditioners. Private consumption - which accounts for almost 60 percent of GDP - rose in the second quarter at the fastest pace in more than three years, offering

the most definitive sign yet that consumers have shaken off the impact of a sales tax hike in 2014. For some, like 31-year-old Tokyo office worker Natsuki Abe, the economy just feels healthier.

"I do think the economy is doing better than it was before, but it's just a feeling," she said. "My company is doing well, and I think I do have the money to spend on things that I like and want. I mainly spend on clothes, as I want to look good."

### COMPETING FOR WORKERS

There have been previous such advances that have turned out to be temporary during Japan's many years of economic weakness since the early 1990s, with consumer spending often a culprit as it loses momentum. This time may be different, though, some economists argue. That is because the unemployment rate is now low enough - 2.8 percent - to lift wages.

Many economists say Japan reaches full employment, the lowest level of joblessness before upward wage pressures arise, when the jobless rate falls to 3 percent.

Japan's aging population, and the resulting big drop in the size of its workforce, is a major reason for this. "Wage growth will accelerate going forward, because companies have to raise wages to compete for new workers and to retain workers," said Takuji Adia, chief economist at Societe Generale. "This happens when the unemployment rate falls below 3 percent."

When Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took office in late 2012, the jobless rate was at 4.3 percent. Consumer spending boomed as a stock-market rally fuelled optimism about the new government but then lost momentum because wages were not rising that much. Some of Abe's structural reforms, such as narrowing the wage gap between contractors and full-time employees doing the same work, raising the minimum wage, and encouraging people to move to better-paying jobs, are also starting to pay off.

### DEFLATIONARY MINDSET

One major concern is that Japan's consumer spending revival has yet to translate into faster

inflation; core consumer prices rose a meager 0.4 percent in the year to June and inflation expectations remain weak.

The United States and Europe are also struggling to generate inflation despite improving growth, but Japan's case is peculiar because of the decades of deflation and stagnation following the collapse of the bubble economy in the early 1990s.

That's produced a deflationary mindset among many people that cannot easily be changed. And as the country's population shrinks and ages, saving for the future has become a top priority for many.

"My husband's parents and my parents are getting old, and their pensions will not be enough for them to sustain themselves," said Chisa Tsubuki, a 28-year-old childcare worker. "So in anticipation for the future where nursing and healthcare costs will rise for us, we need to save."

Still, the economy looks like it is at long last starting to move in the direction the Bank of Japan predicted. — Reuters

# ZAIN, OOREDOO, AND VIVA LAUNCH FIRST LOCAL VOLTE INTERCONNECTION IN MENA

## A BETTER CONNECTED KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Zain, Ooredoo, and VIVA, Kuwait's leading telecom operators, jointly announced the launch of the first local Voice Over LTE (VoLTE) interconnection in the Middle East and North Africa region. The service is now commercially available between the three operators' networks.

This collaboration will offer a seamless and direct local VoLTE-to-VoLTE HD voice experience between Zain, Ooredoo, and VIVA customers, providing a fully-operational and stable interconnect experience during phone calls on supported devices. The technical teams of Kuwait's three mobile operators showcased exceptional dedication and commitment to execute this major strategic project within the planned deadlines. All parties worked closely with the GSMA, the trade association for the mobile operator community, to help make Kuwait the first country in the MENA region to commercially launch IMS Interconnect.

Before the commercial launch, the three operators jointly conducted several successful tests of the VoLTE interconnection in partnership with Huawei, a leading global ICT solutions provider. The contribution of Huawei's highly-flexible infrastructure and long-term expertise was key to the success of the project.

Daaij Al-Oud, Acting Chief Technical Officer of Zain Kuwait, commented: "This accomplishment adds a tremendous value to our customers, where they will be able to enjoy unprecedented features on the interconnected network. Our continuous investment and dedication to develop our 4G LTE infrastructure will

allow full independence from the older 2G/3G infrastructure".

Al-Oud continued: "this achievement will further strengthen our capabilities in providing an end-to-end high quality IMS experience off of Zain's network. The next step will see trials of a similar interconnection but on an international scale, where our customers will be able to enjoy high-quality end-to-end VoLTE calls with our other partners through VoLTE roaming services".

Hendrik Vorster, CTO Ooredoo Kuwait, commented: "this initiative further enhances our Customer Experience and increased Quality-of-Service for our subscribers within Kuwait. Faster call-setup times and higher quality Voice and Video calling, with VoLTE interconnect, places Kuwait at a technology forefront and will be the springboard for further development of new IMS-based Value Added Services. Our Advanced LTE network, combined with extensive coverage on the back of recently completed network modernization, will ensure the best experience for our customers".

Eng Zarrar Khan, Chief Technology Officer at VIVA Kuwait, commented: "In 2015, VIVA has introduced the VoLTE technology on its network, making it possible for customers to receive high quality voice calls and HD video calls through the LTE network, facilitating the development of existing innovations and paving the way for the future development of many applications for both consumers and businesses". Khan added: "We believe it is vital to foster close partnership with other operators in



**KUWAIT: (Left to right) Hendrik Vorster, Zarrar Khan and Daaij Al-Oud.**

the Kuwaiti telecom market, to continue providing unique and unrivaled services and products. At VIVA, we have pledged to enrich the lives of our customers through our innovative strategy and vision not only as a technology leader, but also as a truly customer-centric company."

Alex Sinclair, Chief Technology Officer, GSMA, said: "This is a major step forward for the region and will provide mobile subscribers in Kuwait with an enhanced, high-definition voice calling experience. We congratulate Ooredoo, VIVA and

Zain for taking a leading role in the Middle East and North Africa and delivering next-generation services to their customers in Kuwait, and we encourage other operators around the world to follow their example".

Jason Jiang, Huawei Kuwait VP, commented: "the launch of VoLTE interconnect among three operators represents a significant milestone for LTE development in Kuwait. It will greatly benefit consumers with HD voice services and strengthen Kuwait's position as an LTE service leader in

the region. As a global ICT solution provider, Huawei is committed to continue its collaboration with operators in and out of Kuwait to release VoLTE international roaming services as part of 4G evolution, and will continue to contribute towards the development of new technologies and innovative services in the Kuwait market". The fruitful results of the three operators' collaboration highlights the advanced capabilities of the Kuwaiti telecommunications sector, and is considered a positive step for the Middle East and North Africa markets.

Voice over Long-Term Evolution (VoLTE) is a standard for high-speed wireless communication for mobile phones and data terminals. Voice calls over LTE are recognized as the industry-agreed progression of voice services across mobile networks, deploying LTE radio access technology as it provides a more efficient use of spectrum than traditional voice and meets the rising demand for richer, more reliable and clear voice services.

VoLTE brings users a number of significant improvements. The service enhances the overall user experience without interrupting their LTE Internet experience. Connection times will be significantly shorter, which will come to complement and improve customers' experience. Additionally, customers making connections on the LTE network while on a phone call will be able to do so in a smooth manner without any time lag on the existing phone call. The VoLTE advancement technology offers users the chance to perform a clear phone call while surfing the internet in full speed capacity.



OIL BULLS RETURN, US PRODUCTION, STOCKS DRIVE MARKET

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Oil prices made a strong comeback in July, reversing the bear trend of the last couple of months and returning to the symbolic \$50 per barrel mark. Markets witnessed a reversal in sentiment in July, sparked by several factors including: OPEC banding together to recommit to production cuts; US inventories declining rapidly; and signs of slowing US production. Crude oil benchmark prices reached their 2-month peak at the end of July, rising to \$52.65 per barrel (bbl) for Brent and \$50.17/bbl for West Texas Intermediate (WTI). By July's close, Brent and WTI had increased by 9.9 percent and 9.0 percent month-on-month (m/m), respectively, and by 24.0 percent and 20.6 percent year-on-year (y/y), respectively.

US crude oil production has been on the rise since the second half of 2016, threatening the coordinated supply cut efforts of OPEC/non-OPEC. The 4-week moving average of US crude oil production grew 10.9 percent y/y in the week ending 28 July, with production at 9.4 mb/d.

But the outlook for US production has shifted slightly to a more conservative one in recent weeks as the pace of growth in rig counts started to moderate. The total US oil rig count increased by just 2 in the week ending 28 July—well below the 3-month moving average of 5—to bring the total count to 766. But what really sparked the rally in the oil market was the drawdown in US crude stocks. US crude stocks fell dramatically in July by a cumulative weekly total of 24.2 million barrels; crude inventories are now back to January 2016 levels.

Output cut pledges

Meeting on the 7-8 August, OPEC and non-OPEC members have reaffirmed their commitments to the

Highlights

● Oil prices rallied in July back over the \$50/bbl symbolic level, paring back losses from the past two months.

● In July, Brent and WTI rose 9.9% m/m and 9.0% m/m to \$52.7/bbl and \$50.2/bbl, respectively.

● Sentiment improved on heavy drawdowns in US crude stocks and pledges by OPEC/non-OPEC members to reduce production.

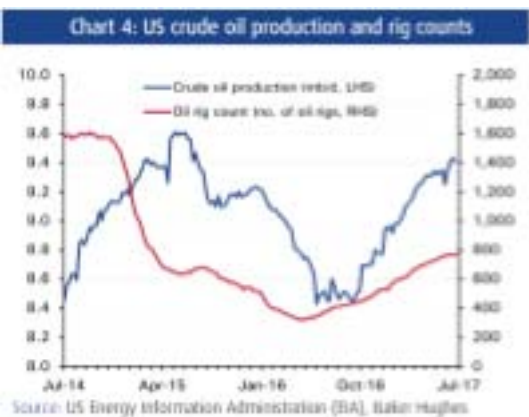
● US crude production continues to increase, rising to a high of 9.43 mb/d in July, driven by shale production; growth in US oil rig counts slowed, however.

● OPEC output rose in June to 32.44 mb/d, thanks to a ramp-up in Libyan and Nigerian output, while overall compliance fell slightly to 94%.

● Markets swung into supply shortfall territory in 2Q17, with the gap expected to widen in 2H17; stock drawdowns should accelerate.

1.8 mb/d production cut deal from January 2017 and its recent extension to March 2018.

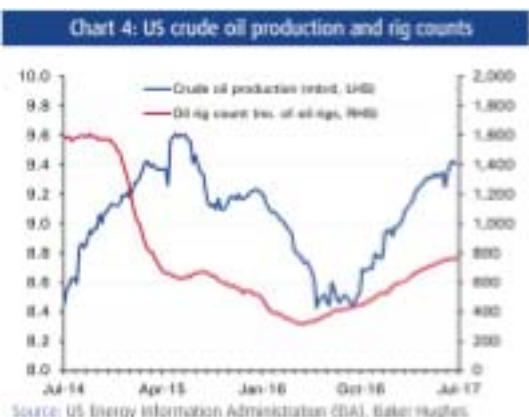
After meeting in St. Petersburg on 24 July 2017, the Joint OPEC/Non-OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) reviewed the first six months since the coordinated cuts pledge in December 2016's "Declaration". Member countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have promised to cut back crude exports. Saudi Arabia announced that it will limit exports to 6.6 mb/d for August, a million barrels lower y/y. Nigeria, which has been exempt



from the cuts, pledged to cap production at 1.8 mb/d this year.

Meanwhile, the Russian oil minister stated that Russia had reduced its output by 310,000 b/d by the end of July compared to October 2016, and that Russia was set to meet its obligation.

The latest OPEC secondary source data showed that the group's total supply increased in June to 32.44 mb/d from May's 32.05 mb/d, driven higher by output increases in Libya and Nigeria, the two non-participants in the OPEC supply cut agreement. This moves the group farther away from its target of 31.75 mb/d, with the overall compliance level dropping from 105 percent in May to 94 percent in June. The net reduction of OPEC crude production had been closer to 1.0 mb/d earlier in the year, but the increase in production reversed the rebalancing effort, bringing the net change down to approximately 0.5 mb/d.



Fundamentals

US crude stock figures, the most closely tracked indicator by the oil markets, are expected to decline further as we move into August. The International Energy Agency (IEA) expects global demand growth to continue to outpace supply growth, with the deficit supported by further drawdowns on global crude stocks in 2H17.

We think that a total draw of approximately 240 million barrels by the end of 2017 is possible. US shale producers are also facing headwinds, as the weakening of oil prices to below the \$50 bbl mark has forced them to reduce capital expenditure on drilling projects.

The second half of the year should, therefore, see some of those factors supportive of oil prices, such as stock drawdowns and tighter crude production, increasingly come into play. Markets will be keenly watching for prices to firm up.



SPECIAL RATES ON EMIRATES TICKETS FOR ABK CARDHOLDERS

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is offering all its Credit, Prepaid and Debit cardholders a discount of up to 10 percent upon booking a Business Class or Economy Class ticket online with Emirates.

In order to benefit from the offer, which applies to all destinations, except for Jeddah and Al-Madinah, customers must make their ticket bookings online through <http://emirates.com/>, and enter the promo code: KWABK17. Bookings can be made

until 10th December, 2017 for travel dates up to 31 March, 2018. ABK customers who choose to book a Business Class ticket at regular market fares are eligible for a 10 percent discount, whereas bookings made at promotional fares will be subject to a 7 percent discount. Moreover, customers booking Economy Class tickets at market fares are eligible for a 5 percent discount, whereas bookings made at promotional fares will be subject to a 3 percent discount.

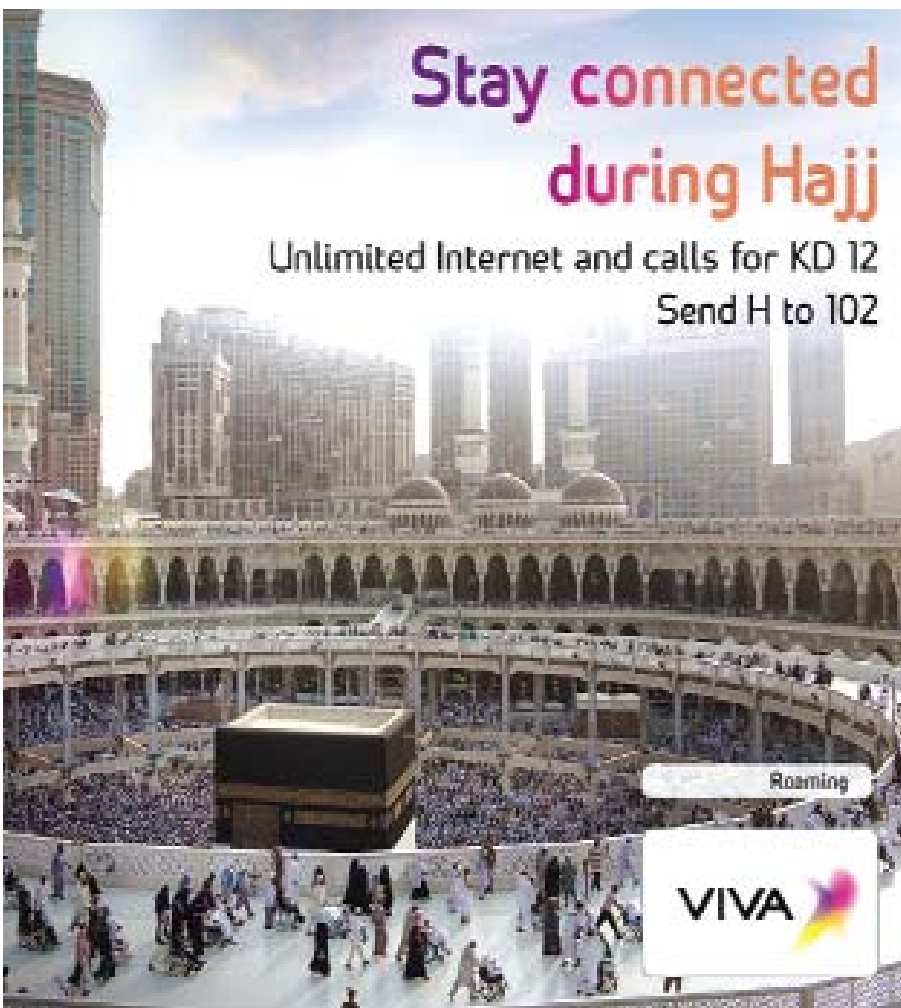
BREXIT CAMPAIGNERS LAUNCH BID TO OUST PRO-EU FINANCE MINISTER

**LONDON:** One of the most vocal pro-Brexit campaign groups launched a campaign yesterday to oust finance minister Philip Hammond from parliament, saying he is part of a plot to stop Britain leaving the European Union. Divisions over Britain's Brexit strategy have resurfaced after Prime Minister Theresa May lost her parliamentary majority in an ill-judged snap election in June, generating renewed political pressure from some quarters for a softer exit.

Hammond has led calls for a multi-year, staggered break from the EU in the name of protecting the British economy, much to the annoyance of some Brexiters who want a more decisive divorce when Britain's membership ends in March 2019.

That has put Hammond in the crosshairs of campaign group Leave.EU, whose grassroots organization helped bring about last year's referendum vote to leave the bloc. "He is part of a cabal of Westminster MPs (Members of Parliament) who believe that if they can delay exit, they can overturn the wishes of the 52 percent who despite threats from the political classes drew upon the courage of their conviction at the ballot box," said Leave.EU Chairman Arron Banks in a letter to voters in Hammond's constituency. There is no automatic means for voters to get rid of their local member of parliament outside of an election period, and Britain is not scheduled to hold another vote until 2022.

But Leave.EU called on their supporters to pressure the local Conservative Party not to select him as their candidate at the next election. The group has also targeted interior minister Amber Rudd, who only won her seat by a slim majority in June. —Reuters



VIVA ANNOUNCES SPECIAL HAJJ OFFER FOR KD 12

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the special Hajj offer for both postpaid and prepaid customers, during the pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, starting 13 August until 24 September, 2017. Hajj package aims to ease the pilgrims' journey to Makkah by helping them stay in touch with their families and loved ones as soon as they arrive. For only KD 12, all VIVA customers will be able to enjoy unlimited calls and data on the Saudi network, STC.

VIVA is a leader in the telecom arena in Kuwait, thus it is keen to provide the pilgrims peace of mind during the season of Hajj by launching this special package.

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things Possible for its

customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.

KENYA'S MARKET HITS 14-MONTH HIGH AFTER KENYATTA VICTORY

**NAIROBI:** Kenya's main stock index rose 2.51 percent on Monday to a 14-month high, building on gains last week as investors welcomed the re-election of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The NSE-20 index has risen nearly 7 percent since the election last Tuesday. Kenyatta was declared winner by a clear margin on Friday but his main challenger, Raila Odinga, has not yet conceded.

At least 24 people have been killed in pockets of protests against the outcome of the vote, mainly in two Nairobi slums. But businesses reopened yesterday, shrugging off a boycott call by Odinga.

A dispute after an election in 2007, which Odinga also lost, sparked widescale protests and violence that killed 1,200 people and hampered the economy. Aly Khan Satchu, an inde-

pendent trader and analyst in Nairobi, said the market worried that Odinga, who identifies himself as a social democrat, would have changed the economy's course.

"The markets were concerned around a leftist 'Magufuli'-like tilt which would have eroded Kenya's hard won free market credentials. So part of this rally is a relief rally," he told Reuters, referring to President John Magufuli of neighboring Tanzania. Kenyatta, the 55-year-old son of the country's founding president, engaged regularly with the business community in his first term to try to boost economic growth and job creation. His family also owns a range of businesses.

The Kenyan shilling firmed yesterday to touch an intra-day high of 103.65 per dollar, from 104 before the election, while Kenyan dol-

lar bonds have also rallied after the election.

Yesterday's gains by the blue chip index were led by electricity distributor Kenya Power, which was up 9 percent and lender KCB Group, which was up 8 percent. Ken Minjire, the head of securities at Genghis Capital, said investors had been encouraged by endorsements of the election by various foreign observer groups. The main local observer group also said the official result was in line with their tally.

"The international investors are more or less confident," he said. Kenyan shares had slightly lagged this year's gains in other African bourses like Nigeria as investors waited to see how the election would go, market participants said. "This means there is a ton of liquidity that is set to enter the market and underpin valuations," Satchu said. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.759
Indian Rupees	4.746
Pakistani Rupees	2.870
Sri Lankan 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

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr

US Dollar	302.100
Canadian Dollar	239.020
Sterling Pound	394.525
Euro	358.710
Swiss Frank	292.175
Bahrain Dinar	801.265
UAE Dirhams	82.645
Qatari Riyals	83.860
Saudi Riyals	81.455
Jordanian Dinar	426.010
Egyptian Pound	17.012
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.973
Indian Rupees	4.712
Pakistani Rupees	2.866
Bangladesh Taka	3.739
Philippines Peso	5.923
Cyprus pound	166.725
Japanese Yen	3.765
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.948
Malaysian Ringgit	71.165

Selling Rate

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.800
Thai Bhat	10.090
Turkish Lira	85.730

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY BUY SELL

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

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
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

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
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
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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

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
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



# NREC ANNOUNCES H1 2017 EARNINGS

## OPERATING REVENUE KD9.6M; NET PROFIT KD7.5M

**KUWAIT:** National Real Estate Company (NREC), a leading regional developer with \$2 billion in projects under development in the UAE, Egypt and other markets, yesterday released its financial results for the first half of 2017.



**Samuel Sidiqi**

### H1 2017 Financial Highlights (YoY)

- Operating Revenue: KD9.6 million, down 35.7%
- EBITDA: KD8.7 million, down 9.5%
- Net profit to shareholders: KD7.5 million, down 1.6%
- Earnings per share (EPS) of 7.96 fils
- Q2 2017 Financial Highlights (YoY)
- Operating Revenue: KD5.4 million, down 29.1%

- EBITDA: KD 4.2 million, down 17.2%
- Net Profit to shareholders: KD3.7 million, down 7.4%
- Earnings Per Share (EPS) of 3.92 fils

Commenting on the results and outlook, Samuel Sidiqi, CEO of NREC said: "We are pleased to report that for the first half of the year, our results have met management expectations and are in line with our business plan. Both our asset management and development businesses across the region are healthy and exhibit strong growth prospects.

"In Egypt, the economy continues to improve which has positively impacted our local operations. At Grand Heights, our 3.8 million square meter residential community, we have sold 961 residential units since inception representing a cumulative sales value of EGP3.2 billion and 146 units have been delivered as

of June 30, 2017. "Our income generating businesses in Kuwait and Jordan continue to perform well. In Kuwait, we generated revenues of KD 5.4 million in H1 2017 and have secured several key tenant renewals. Additionally in Lebanon, our revenues of KD1.6 million in H1 2017 were up sharply due to strong sales at our developments.

"In Abu Dhabi, the development of the two million square foot Reem Mall is moving ahead steadily having secured leasing agreements with top retail groups in the region such as Landmark, Dubai Holdings, Majid Al Futtaim and many others. Reem Mall will house more than 450 stores including 85 restaurants, a large hypermarket, and family entertainment zones that include the world's largest indoor snow-play park. Looking ahead, we maintain our favorable outlook across our core markets this year."

## SUDAN'S INFLATION TOPS 34% IN JULY

**KHARTOUM:** Sudan's annual inflation rate rose to 34.23 percent in July from 32.63 in June, the central statistics office said yesterday, partly reflecting the postponement of a US decision on whether to lift economic sanctions permanently. The Sudanese pound has weakened and prices have climbed since the United States said on July 11 it was deferring the sanctions decision for three months.

"The prices are increasing on a daily basis, and we can't live like this. Our income is the same ... and the government doesn't care about the people, and we don't know what will happen or what we should do to be able to live," said Rabab Ahmed, a 38-year-old day labourer.

Sudan says it has complied with all US demands for lifting sanctions over human rights and other issues, which have been in place for 20 years and have hobbled the economy. Former US President Barack Obama temporarily lifted the sanctions for six months in January, suspending a trade embargo, unfreezing assets and removing financial sanctions. But the United States said in June it was still "very concerned" about human rights. —Reuters



## PASSENGER COMFORT, BY DESIGN

Every day, thousands of passengers in the Middle East will board a flight bound for any one of the hundreds of destinations served by the region's airlines. For some, the experience will offer nothing out of the ordinary, including the tiredness and jet lag associated with long-haul travel. Others, however, will fare - and feel - better. Blake Emery, Director of Differentiation Strategy for Boeing Commercial Airplanes, looks at how innovation has shaped a better passenger experience.

What makes an airplane journey memorable? Was it the comfort of the seat, the quality of service, or the in-flight entertainment. Since the earliest days of air travel, the expectations of the flying public has largely remained unchanged: safety, cabin comfort, and in-flight service.

While flying has never been safer, and airlines in the Middle East have set a high bar for both the quality of service and the standard of their cabins, there was still a need for aircraft manufacturers to step up and further enrich the cabin experience. This wasn't about building bigger airplanes; it was about designing better ones that rely on innovation and attention to detail to truly improve the passenger journey.

Think about your most recent flight: did you feel a sense of relief after walking down the narrow confines of the jet-way and boarding the aircraft to be greeted by an open area with high ceilings? Did you then comfortably settle into your seat, taking in the roomy cabin around you, instead of crouching to slide down your row, all the while dreading the next few hours? And when you got to your destination, did you feel less tired and jet-lagged than you expected to?

If the answer to all the questions is affirmative, it was very likely that you were experiencing the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and its Boeing Sky Interior. The sense of relief you felt when stepping onboard the plane was the result of using an age-old architectural technique - compression and release - commonly employed in the construction of religious monuments and modern hotels. After queuing through the tunnel-like bridge, the aircraft's entrance is specifically designed to give passengers a psychological sense of relief and space when they board the plane.

### Wider cabin

The space and comfort you experienced are the results of a wider cabin, the largest windows currently in the sky, sculpted sidewalls for added enhancement, and spacious overhead storage bins which don't protrude inconveniently over the seats, folding instead into the ceiling and walls. Even the latches on the bins have been given careful consideration and are designed to operate whether a passenger pulls or pushes them, opening the stowage in a carefully timed manner.

The uniquely lower cabin altitude that better matches what your body is used to on the ground, and the human-centric cabin lighting which, depending on the time of the day, will emit soothing hues of the airlines' choice, helped reduce your tiredness and symptoms commonly associated with jetlag.

Although the flying public will take many of these features for granted, each element of the cabin's design - however mundane it may seem - is intended to unconsciously appeal to the passengers' psyche, improving their in-flight wellbeing. Each aspect is meticulously well-thought-out and refined, using a combination of science, passenger feedback, and practicality, with the goal of contributing to the overall customer experience.

By placing emphasis on the details that matter to the comfort and well-being of the passen-

ger, we always strive to better that journey for the people who travel on our airplanes. And when airplanes - such as the Dreamliner and the 777X - set new benchmarks for passenger comfort, they do so entirely by design.



**Blake Emery, Director of Differentiation Strategy for Boeing Commercial Airplanes**



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

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 13 August 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 6 August - 10 August 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

### The winners are:

(Sunday 6/8): Reem Bilal Fayyad Al-Helo, Fatimah Abdulreda Abdullah Ashkanani (Monday 7/8): Ali Abdullah Saad Al-Subaiti, Ammah Yousef Rajab Al-Buloushi (Tuesday 8/8): Ibrahim Ahmad Ibrahim Al-Rashed, Hayfa Sagar Ali Al-Ghanim (Wednesday 9/8): Abdulmajid Morad Haji Ashkanani, Deema Mubarrak Al-Mulim (Thursday 10/8): Saad Marzouk Ayad Al-Rashidi, Anil Kumar Valerian

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD 1,000). Al-Danah's 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

### Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the Best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash



prize of KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize according to Guinness World Records

- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD 500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD 1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires. Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days.

## 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.

### Gauges of risk

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. —Reuters

## CHINA A SWEET SPOT FOR US COMPANIES' EARNINGS IN Q2

**SHANGHAI:** Trade tensions between Washington and Beijing may be running high but Corporate America is finding China to be a reliable source of profit growth this year.

Whether they sell construction equipment, semiconductors or coffee, many major US companies have reported stronger second-quarter earnings and revenue from their Chinese operations in recent weeks. They are benefiting from a Chinese economy that is growing at almost 7 percent, several times the rate of US expansion, a Chinese housing boom, and a slide in the US dollar, which makes American exports more competitive and increases dollar earnings once they are translated from foreign currencies.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious plan to build a new Silk Road that will improve links between China and dozens of countries in Asia and Europe, and includes many billions of dollars of new roads, bridges, railways and power plants - is also helping American firms to sell heavy equipment and other products. Caterpillar Inc, a bellwether for industrial demand in China and beyond, reported its sales in Asia-Pacific rose 25 percent in the second quarter - thanks to China. Shipments of large excavators to Chinese customers more than doubled in the first half of the year.

"We now expect demand in China to remain strong through the rest of the year," Brad Halverson, Caterpillar's group president and chief financial officer, told investors. Caterpillar's Japanese rivals Komatsu and Hitachi Construction Machinery Co reported similar strength in

demand for heavy machinery. Komatsu's China sales almost doubled in the firm's April-June quarter.

"China's grown pretty well relative to the US over this period and the currency's relationship has changed in favor of the US companies," said Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist at the Leuthold Group in Minneapolis.

### Discrimination claims

Chinese companies are also benefiting from the robust domestic economy. For example, Chinese auto manufacturer Geely Automobile Holdings announcing last week that its July sales climbed 89 percent from the year-earlier-month. Geely and many other major Chinese companies report their results in the next few weeks. American companies in China have been collectively reporting better prospects even as they complain that the Chinese authorities are not allowing them enough access to parts of the Chinese market and discriminating against them as they seek to compete against Chinese rivals.

The Trump administration has been considering punitive tariffs against a range of Chinese goods but it has held off on taking action after Beijing backed tougher United Nations Security Council sanctions against North Korea earlier this month.

And despite some negatives in the Sino-US relationship, a July report by the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai showed that 82 percent of US companies in China expect revenues to increase this year, up from 76 percent a

year ago. "In general China is still a growth market for lots of US goods and services... the Chinese consumer is driving more and more the growth in China itself - that's a very positive shift in compositional growth for a lot of US companies that do provide goods and services for consumers, as opposed to building skyscrapers," said Joe Quinlan, head of thematic investing at Bank of America, US Trust.

In the chip industry, Skywork Solutions, which according to Goldman Sachs gets about 85 percent of its sales from China, reported its fiscal third-quarter revenue rose 20 percent, thanks in part to demand from Chinese phone maker Huawei. And Qualcomm, which gets around two thirds of its revenue from China, said last month that China remained a strong growth story for the company.

And many other foreign companies are also doing well. The European liquor industry is benefiting from a resurgence in Chinese consumer demand. Remy Cointreau, which battled a steep slowdown in China after Xi launched an anti-corruption drive in 2012 - hitting a lot of lavish wing and dining by businesses - said it saw a "clear improvement in consumption trends" this year.

"We see the fast-growing upper middle class driving strong consumption growth for our upmarket cognac brands," the company's Chief Financial Officer Luca Marotta said last month. Closer to home, Kweichow Moutai, the Chinese maker of the liquor baijiu and the world's largest alcohol firm by value, saw first half profits gain 27.8 percent.

Chinese stock market gains this year

have in turn helped confidence among retail investors. "I feel the wider economy is improving," said Ding Mingwei, 26, a manager at an education technology company in Shanghai. Ding, who says his own investments are up this year, now plans to spend more on hotels, dining out and funding hobbies such as playing the guitar.

For some companies, China growth helped to offset problems elsewhere. Starbucks U.S. growth cooled in the third quarter but same-store sales for the coffee chain in China surged 7 percent.

Among the Japanese companies to benefit, Sony's sales in China were up just under 50 percent in the three months to June, making it the electronic group's fastest-growing geographic segment.

### Competition intensifies

There are some sectors that are proving a tougher slog for foreign companies. Major international automakers, even those reporting increased revenues, have pointed to squeezed margins in one of the world's most competitive markets. US automaker General Motors, for example, saw a strong April-June quarter, but said it faced "pricing challenges".

And some economists warn that it is unclear how long the Chinese economy and the markets can keep their buzz. "The strong rebound is largely being driven by the property market and export growth, which both seem unsustainable," said Nomura Chief China Economist Yang Zhao in Hong Kong. He said he expects China's economic growth to cool by the fourth quarter. — Reuters

## For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea



**Duplex & Triplex Villas** 3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms + Big Salon + Separate pool All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas



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# WALL ST CLIMBS AS NORTH KOREA TENSION EASES

**NEW YORK:** Wall Street opened higher yesterday, with broad gains across sectors, as investor sentiment was lifted by easing tensions in the Korean peninsula after key US officials played down the risk of an imminent war with North Korea. All the 11 major S&P sectors were higher, with S&P financial's 1.12 percent rise leading the gainers.

Global stocks lost nearly \$1 trillion last week after President Donald Trump warned North Korea that it would face "fire and fury" if it threatened the United States, leading to a war of words between Pyongyang and Washington. However, US officials including National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster and CIA Director Mike Pompeo played down the risk on Sunday, while

South Korea's president said resolving Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions must be done peacefully. "Feels as though the North Korean tension seems to be abating a bit, with commentary coming out of China and the United States. But the situation seems to have de-escalated in the near term", said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at Wunderlich Securities.

"After the one and a half percent self-off last week, we got a bit of an investor attitude to buy the dip," Hogan said. At 9:39 am ET (1339 GMT), the Dow Jones industrial average was up 129.25 points, or 0.59 percent, at 21,987.57 and the S&P 500 was up 19.63 points, or 0.80 percent, at 2,460.95. The Nasdaq Composite was up 61.57

points, or 0.98 percent, at 6,318.12.

Oil prices fell as a slowdown in Chinese refining raised concerns about demand in the world's second-biggest consumer, while an increase in US drilling capacity could deepen a global supply glut. Among stocks, Tesla rose 2.35 percent after two brokerages raised their price targets on the stock, citing the potential success of the company's Model 3 sedan. JD.com, China's second-largest e-commerce firm, was off 4.8 percent after reporting a wider net loss due to higher marketing costs.

Alibaba was up about 0.96 percent after Dan Loeb's Third Point bought 4.5 million shares in the Chinese e-commerce giant. Netflix shares

were down 0.86 percent after Barron's reported on Saturday that the stock could drop by more than half by the end of the decade as Walt Disney plans its own streaming service and Amazon looms.

### Swiss franc falters

The Swiss franc posted its biggest daily drop against the U.S. dollar in nearly three weeks yesterday as investor concern over geopolitical risks eased and Japan posted solid economic data. "Some investors had gone very short on risk last week on the geopolitical events and there is some short covering," Neil Jones, head of FX sales at Mizuho Bank in London, said. The franc fell 0.8 percent against the U.S. dollar to 0.9694 francs, its biggest drop since July 27 according to Thomson Reuters data. It gained more than 1 percent last week on

escalating tensions between North Korea and the United States. World stocks also showed signs of relief after fears of a nuclear stand-off drove them to the biggest weekly losses of 2017 last week, while volatility ebbed.

"Despite some near-term headwinds for the euro after the recent rise, it is set to rise against the dollar because of the relatively favourable economic outlook," Rob Carnell, head of research at ING in Singapore, said.

The dollar was trading at 93.30, 0.3 percent higher from Friday's session when it came under pressure after softer-than-expected US inflation data for July dampened expectations for another Federal Reserve interest rate hike this year. The euro edged 0.2 percent lower to \$1.17950 and was below a 2-1/2 year high of 1.1910 hit earlier this month. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Global

Monday 14 August 2017

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing
Price Index	▲ 13.16	6,859.27	6,846.11
Weighted Index	▲ 2.24	424.77	422.53
KSX 15	▲ 6.83	973.39	966.56

Volume	71,371,504
Value (KWD)	17,213,483
Number of Trades	3,256

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	— 0.0
NAPESCO	859	850	737	626	3	899	▼ -1.0
ENERGYH	35.5	31.0	1,671	57	6	35.5	— 0.0
GPI	37.9	37.0	1,714,913	63,732	57	37.8	▼ -0.1
ABAR	75	70	200	15	2	75	— 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,717,521	64,430	68	1054.91	▼ -4.90
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	287	— 0.0
BPCC	572	570	176,395	100,697	11	572	▲ 2.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	— 0.0
ALQURAIN	348	341	557,817	192,584	47	341	▼ -5.0
Basic Materials			734,212	293,280	58	1257.90	▼ -5.80
KCEM	425	420	102,000	43,000	5	420	▼ -5.0
CABLE	481	480	19,618	9,422	5	481	▼ -6.0
SHIP	209	206	1,070	220	2	209	▼ -2.0
PCEM	990	990	15,000	14,850	1	990	▲ 25.0
PAPER	280	280	1,014	284	1	280	— 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	— 0.0
ACICO	260	260	49,158	12,781	3	260	— 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	— 0.0
NICBM	180	180	20,000	3,600	2	180	▲ 1.0
EQUIPMENT	45.1	45.1	69,150	3,119	9	45.9	▼ -0.2
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
GYPBUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	— 0.0
AGLTY	847	845	273,496	231,499	36	847	— 0.0
EDU	360	348	501	174	2	360	▲ 1.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.5	— 0.0
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	— 0.0
KCPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	145	— 0.0
HUMANISOFT	4,300	4,300	16,210	69,703	6	4,300	— 0.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	195	— 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0
SHOOTING	27.8	27.4	112,675	3,111	8	27.8	▲ 0.4
CGC	567	550	1,101	606	2	567	▼ -1.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	— 0.0
UPAG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	770	— 0.0
ALAFCD	375	365	165,843	61,888	41	373	▼ -1.0
MUBARRAD	72	71	800,000	56,959	31	72	▼ -0.5
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	— 0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	— 0.0
GCHEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	— 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	— 0.0
FCHEM	78	76	70,000	5,334	3	76	▼ -0.8
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	— 0.0
SPEC	95	89	485,200	45,458	30	94	▲ 1.0
Industrials			2,292,036	962,068	187	1906.62	▲ 0.40
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
CATTL	240	228	22,062	5,186	6	240	▲ 2.0
DANAH	70	70	157,250	11,016	14	70	▲ 0.4
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2.035	— 0.0
Consumer Goods			179,312	16,215	20	1019.97	▲ 2.30
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	480	— 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	— 0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	175	— 0
Health Care			0	0	0	1683.91	— 0.00
KCN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,399	— 0
KHUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	— 0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	— 0
CABLETV	28.4	28.0	86,098	1,851	3	28.4	— 0
EYAS	850	850	100	85	1	850	— 0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	275	— 0
OLUAFUEL	130	121	2,212,734	278,004	120	129	▲ 8
MUNTAAZAHAT	76	67	14,000	1,015	10	76	▼ -1
JAZEERA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	580	— 0
BOOR	128	121	735,276	95,299	38	128	▲ 7
FUTUREXID	116	111	93,847	10,788	8	116	▲ 10
ALRAI	125	120	163,273	19,932	12	125	▲ 5
Jiyad	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	— 0
Meezan	882	872	128,000	112,320	7	880	▼ -5
Consumer Services			3,433,328	519,299	199	1065.58	▲ 15.30
ZAIN	482	486	4,918,655	2,405,268	358	489	▲ 3
OOREDOO	1,170	1,165	3,911	4,565	8	1,170	▲ 10
AAN	40.1	39.0	2,308,500	91,907	42	40.0	▼ 0
VIVA	804	802	28,698	23,044	43	802	▼ -7
Telecommunications			7,259,764	2,524,794	451	610.42	▼ -8.80
NBK	742	730	4,962,182	3,652,098	142	740	▲ 10
CBK	246	245	1,625,123	399,097	30	245	▼ -1
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	354	— 0
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	318	— 0
ALMUTAHED	414	410	187,724	77,344	20	413	▲ 1
KIB	246	244	725,342	177,500	27	245	▲ 1
BURG	370	365	330,478	121,705	17	370	▲ 4
KFIN	568	558	5,764,951	3,248,765	326	567	▲ 9
BOUBAYAN	425	415	2,421,284	1,019,822	118	422	▲ 6
AUB	219	217	5,758,283	1,254,484	135	219	▲ 2
ITHMR	39.9	38.8	1,200,052	46,836	59	38.8	▼ -1
WARBABANK	269	266	2,239,256	599,184	162	266	▼ -1
Banks			25,214,875	10,595,634	1,036	953.89	▲ 4.40
KINS	260	250	244,101	61,545	20	254	▼ -6
GINS	720	700	25,000	17,850	6	720	▲ 10.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	451	— 0.0
WINS	97	83	43,386	3,903	11	96	▲ 6.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	187	— 0.0
FTI	81	56	44,599	2,624	10	81	▲ 3.1
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	— 0.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
Insurance			357,886	85,923	47	1104.22	▲ 12.60

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	45.4	44.1	20,180	9,019	7	45.4	▲ 0.4
KRE	64	63	851,851	54,183	26	64	▼ -0.2
URC	86	86	8,589	580	1	86	— 0.0
NRE	123	121	190,510	23,287	12	122	▼ -1.0
SRE	360	359	29,500	10,615	4	360	— 0.0
TAM	410	390	1,487	522	4	410	▲ 10.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	153	— 0.0
MASSALEH	43.0	43.0	10,000	430	1	43.0	▼ -1.1
ARABREC	34.2	33.7	252,736	8,563	13	34.2	— 0.0
ERESCO	40.2	39.9	359,000	14,329	7	40.2	▲ 0.3
MABANEE	792	789	314,071	248,175	40	789	▼ -4.0
INUZZAT	89	81	52,504	4,253	3	89	▲ 0.9
INVESTORS	24.0	23.7	57,000	1,352	2	23.7	▼ -0.1
IRC	31.9	31.9	116,000	3,700	7	31.9	— 0.0
ALTUARIA	89	87	1,115,423	98,390	46	87	▼ -0.8
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.0	— 0.0
AAYANRE	81	79	270,632	21,759	12	81	▼ -0.6
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	— 0.0
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.7	— 0.0
MAZAYA	115	114	1,408,146	160,539	36	114	— 0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	— 0.0
TUJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54	— 0.0
TAAMEER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	36.2	— 0.0
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	— 0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	185	— 0.0
ABYAR	25.6	25.0	816,900	20,549	22	25.3	▼ -0.1
MUNSHAAT	51	51	1	0	1	51	▼ -1.9
FIRSTDUBAI	49.5	48.8	18,950	931	6	48.8	▼ -1.0
KBT	48.0	47.3	287,000	12,689	13	47.5	▼ -0.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	384	— 0.0
MENA	21.3	20.0	222,682	4,501	11	20.9	▼ -0.4
ALMUDON	38.5	36.3	101	4	2	36.3	▼ -0.7
MARAKEZ	42.5	42.5	100	4	1	42.5	— 0.0
REIMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	— 0.0
AWJ	81	81	19,079	1,540	2	81	▲ 3.7
Real Estate			6,881,542	699,993	281	948.68	▼ -2.30
KINV	106	103	365,800	38,191	55	105	— 0.0
FACIL	180	178	162,300	29,054	8	179	▼ -2.0
IFA	36.4	35.6	284,112	10,128	16	35.9	▼ -0.1
NINV	114	111	2,225,030	246,395	83	112	▲ 1.0
KPROJ	369	366	60,155	22,197	7	369	▼ -5.0
COAST	43.9	43.0	482,019	21,376	18	43.9	▲ 0.5
SECH	45.0	43.1	880,518	43,117	33	45.0	▲ 1.3
ARZAN	37.0	35.0	161,375	5,696	13	36.1	▼ -0.9
MARKAZ	98	98	10,000	980	1	98	▲ 8.0
KMEFC	30.0	29.0	100,250	2,908	3	29.0	▲ 0.1
ALAMAN	46.5	46.0	384,800	17,711	21	46.4	— 0.0
ALOLA	46.5	46.0	415,500	18,971	22	46.0	— 0.0
ALMAL	15.5	15.4	640,190	9,919	27	15.4	▼ -0.1
GH	34.6	34.0	87,600	2,991	8	34.0	▼ -0.4
AAYAN	44.5	43.7	1,416,577	62,423	62	44.0	▼ -0.4
BAYANINV	50	48.9	1,112,900	54,572	16	49.6	▲ 0.6
OSOLU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	57	— 0.0
KPIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	45.0	— 0.0
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	— 0.0
NH	66	65	1,943,100	126,311	46	65	▼ -3.9
UNICAP	0.0	0.0					





WARBA BANK ENHANCES ‘AL-SUNBULA ACCOUNT’, LAUNCHES ‘AL-SUNBULA DEPOSIT’

KUWAIT: Due to strong demand on Al-Sunbula Account of Warba Bank and the high volume of deposits, the Bank has been working on enhancing Al-Sunbula Account by increasing the total number of prizes to KD 30 thousand monthly instead of KD 20 thousand to be distributed to 13 winners as follows: A winner receives KD 10,000 two winners receive KD 5,000 and ten winners receive KD 1,000. This is one of the bank’s initiatives being a leading bank in offering competitive and sophisticated Islamic banking solutions that meet customer needs and reward them for their loyalty.

Warba Bank has introduced Al-Sunbula Deposit as one of the new developments supporting Al-Sunbula Account. This deposit is the first of its kind in Kuwait providing customers with a high profit rate distributed on monthly basis giving them the opportunity to enter the monthly draw in Al-Sunbula Account for each KD 100 deposited and win valuable prizes. Al-Sunbula Deposit is available to customers whether they have or do not have Al-Sunbula Account.

Al-Sunbula Deposit is Sharia-compliant and is based on an investment agency. The customer can invest in Al-Sunbula Deposit for the period he determines, being one, three, six, nine, eighteen, or twenty-four months, provided that the minimum amount to open the deposit is KD 5 thousand. To open Al-Sunbula Deposit, customers do not need to visit Warba Bank branches. They can do that via Warba Bank Application or the Bank’s website. Al-Sunbula Deposit can be automatically renewed at maturity. It provides the highest profit rate among the Bank’s deposits and deposits of other banks reaching up to 3 percent for two-year deposits depending on the amount to be deposited.

By launching Al-Sunbula Deposit, Warba Bank offers its customers wider options by enhancing their winning chances. Today, our customers can distribute their deposits between Al-Sunbula Accounts and Al-Sunbula Deposits so that they can get double winning chances at the monthly draw of the Al-Sunbula Account and enjoy the high monthly profits from Al-Sunbula Deposit. “Today, Warba Bank is the champion of Islamic banking industry in Kuwait. This reinforces its efforts to innovate banking and investment solutions that appeal to its customers, particularly that the Bank is firmly confident and going ahead towards further growth, expansion and development.

Moreover, Al-Sunbula Account provides valuable opportunities to customers. The customer gets one chance to win in the monthly draw for each KD 10 in the account. This means multiplying the chances of winning by increasing the amounts deposited to win the draw prize available all year round.

Based on the principle of “investment agency” applied in the saving discipline, Al-Sunbula Account is available to all Kuwaiti and expatriate customers. Salary transfer to Warba Bank is not a prerequisite. Hence, any eligible individual can open Al-Sunbula Account at one of the Bank’s branches within a few minutes, via the online banking services, or through Apple and Android devices. Furthermore, everyone can view the details of Al-Sunbula Account, account opening terms and benefits in detail by visiting the Bank’s website?: www.WarbaBank.com.

Like other accounts provided by the Bank, the Al-Sunbula Account allows customers to take advantage of all premium and innovative services provided by the Bank, including debit card and credit card services.

DUBAI: After a positive start to the year, IPO performance in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the second quarter (Q2) of 2017 witnessed a slowdown in both the number of offerings and total proceeds raised. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (“KSA”) hosted the only (three) IPOs of this quarter; they were allocated between Saudi Stock Exchange primary market (“Tadawul”) and the parallel market (“NOMU”). On the primary exchange front, the only offering in Q2 2017 was by Jadwa REIT Alharamin FUND (“the Fund”), which floated a total of 36 million shares, raising proceeds of \$96 million. The primary objective of the Fund is to provide its investors with current income by investing in income-generating real estate assets in Saudi Arabia, with a principal focus on the Holy Cities of Makkah and Medina.



Steven Drake

On the parallel market front, the first and largest offering in Q2 2017 was by Thob Al-Aseel Co (“Al Aseel”), which floated 3 million shares, raising proceeds of USD 68 million. Al Aseel is engaged in import, export, wholesale and retail in textiles and readymade garments. The second offering was by Al Kathiri Holding Co (“Al-Khathiri”), which floated 0.8 million shares, raising proceeds of USD 6.7 million. Al Khathiri manufactures and distributes construction materials through its subsidiaries.

Period to period performance

In terms of IPO performance in Q2 2017 compared to the same period in the prior year, the number of offerings has slightly increased, with three IPOs in Q2 2017 compared to two IPOs in Q2 2016; however the total proceeds raised in Q2 2017 was 38 percent lower compared to Q2 2016. Further, IPO activity in the first half of 2017 (“H1 2017”), witnessed an increase in the number of offerings (13) compared to H1 2016 (three), which was largely due to the increased activity in Q1 2017; however proceeds raised in H2 2017 were 23 percent lower as compared to H1 2016.

Steve Drake, Head of PwC’s Capital Markets and Accounting Advisory Services team in the Middle East said: “During Q2 2017, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continued to be the main driver of IPO market activity in the GCC, while the NOMU parallel market for small and medium-sized enterprises in the Kingdom remained popular among investors.”

Global IPOs

Against a backdrop of lower political uncertainty and normalizing monetary conditions, equity markets displayed an upward trend, volatility remained low and listing conditions were favorable. Political uncertainties in Europe decreased with the victory of Macron in France’s presidential election, and his party in subsequent parliamentary elections. Voting in the UK led to a hung parliament, which is likely to lead to further uncertainty surrounding the path of Brexit negotiations, which officially began on June 19th. Finally, Trump’s tax and infrastructure plans remain mired in uncertainties, as the Administration is having to deal with an investigation into links with Russia and calls for the President’s impeachment.

Initial Public Offerings



The last few days of June marked a stark reversal for global monetary policy, with Draghi and Carney delivering nearly simultaneous hawkish statements. A few days earlier, the Federal Reserve had raised rates for the second time this year, and begun discussions on unwinding its massive balance sheet. Nevertheless, inflation is not picking up, and pressures even eased as the price of oil fell to a nine-month low in June. Further global IPO activity in Q2 2017 increased by nearly 50 percent in terms of both proceeds and the number of IPOs compared to Q2 2016. Compared to Q1 2017, activity also increased in Q2 2017, though less pronouncedly. In total, 379 IPOs raised \$52.6 billion compared to \$35.2 billion via 253 IPOs in Q2 2016 and \$68 billion via 420 IPOs in Q2 2015.

Asia-Pacific was dominant in terms of the number of IPOs again, accounting for 57 percent (216) of global transactions. EMEA and the Americas accounted for 22 percent (84) and 21 percent (78), respectively. Nonetheless, in terms of proceeds, the Americas was almost on a par with Asia-Pacific. Both accounted for 36 percent of money raised in Q2 2017, yet proceeds in Asia-Pacific were slightly higher at \$19.1 billion, compared to \$18.7 billion in the Americas. Finally, EMEA accounted for 28 percent (\$14.8 billion) of proceeds. For the year as a whole, the Americas still ranks first in terms of money raised.

Bond and sukuk markets

The appetite for debt issuance in the GCC surged throughout Q2 2017. Sovereign issuance by GCC governments remained the main theme, whilst the quarter saw KSA issue its first US dollar denominated sukuk, raising proceeds of \$9 billion. The GCC main economies maintained high credit quality and investment grade status.

Bond Issuances

Corporate bond issuance remained very active across the region while sovereign bond issuance activity slowed down in Q2 2017. In the UAE, Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Limited - Dubai Branch (“ICBC”) listed three bonds on Nasdaq Dubai, amounting to \$400 million, \$300 million and EUR 500 million. In KSA, ACWA Power Management and Investments (“ACWA”), issued bonds amounting to \$814 million. In Kuwait, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) issued non-guaranteed bonds of \$750 million as part of its medium-term bonds issue program.

Sukuk Issuances

On the sovereign front, the government of KSA was the biggest contributor in the region, issuing a USD 9 billion Islamic sukuk, followed by Sultanate of Oman’s (“Oman”) \$2 billion issuance. The KSA sukuk was structured into a \$4.5 billion five-year sukuk tranche at 100 basis points over the mid-swap rate and an equal-sized 10-year tranche at a spread of 140 basis points to the benchmark. The Oman seven year sukuk was structured at 235 basis points to the benchmark.

On the corporate front, Dar Al-Arkan Sukuk Company Ltd issued a \$500 million sukuk. The issuance received significant interest from international market participants with the order book close to SAR 4 billion (\$1.05 billion), equal to two times of the amount issued. Steve Drake, Head of PwC’s Capital Markets and Accounting Advisory Services team in the Middle East region said:

“Debt issuance in the GCC countries remained popular throughout Q2 2017 as GCC governments’ sovereign issuance were oversubscribed domestically and internationally. However, consecutive interest rate hikes by US Federal Reserve may hamper GCC government debt appetite, while a hawkish policy would trigger a surge in borrowing cost across the global and regional debt market”.

Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor co. Makes SRT Performance More Affordable Than Ever Before. Great discounts on all SRT models available for limited period

FCA’s SRT® (Street and Racing Technology®) brand signifies one of the industry’s leading in-house automotive performance groups that creates bold, distinctive vehicles that deliver benchmark performance.

Now Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company - the authorised distributor of Alfa Romeo, Chrysler, Dodge, Fiat, Jeep®, Mopar® and Ram in Kuwait, makes owning an SRT more affordable than ever before, with a range of great offers on selected Chrysler 300 SRT, Dodge Charger SRT, Dodge Challenger SRT and Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT models, including the awesome 707hp Charger and Challenger SRT Hellcats.

“This is the best ever chance to own an SRT,” said Oscar Rivoli, General Manager of Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor co. “But as these offers are available for a limited period and only while stocks last, you should check out the deals available at your nearest Al Mulla & Behbehani showroom as fast as possible.” Added “We are aware of the passion of driving enthusiasts with these powerful cars, so Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor co. have given their customers the opportunity to own with large discounts”

The beating heart of any performance vehicle is its engine, and the Chrysler 300 SRT’s beats to the tune of a 6.4-litre HEMI® V8 that produces 470hp and 637Nm of torque.

The engine’s high torque output allows for blistering standing starts and straight-line power, while performance-tuned motor mounts improve idle stability and ride control at any speed. An active intake manifold and high-lift camshaft with cam phasing provides maximum low-end torque while optimising high-end power.

Proving performance doesn’t have to be costly, the 300



SRT includes an active valve exhaust system that allows for standard Fuel Saver Technology (four-cylinder mode) to engage over a wider rpm range, meaning extra urban consumption of just 8.6L/100km.

And the Chrysler 300 SRT’s TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission, provides world-class shift quality, refinement and fuel efficiency. The design of the transmission further contributes to efficiency - at 88kg, it weighs just 1.8kg more than the previous five-speed gearbox. Furthermore, the transmission features particularly close fifth- through eighth-speed gear ratios for smoother shifting, along with a lower cruising rpm in top gear for added refinement.

The iconic Challenger muscle coupe and its sedan sibling - the Charger - are both propelled by the new supercharged 6.2-litre HEMI® V8 with an output of

707hp - more than any V8 engine in FCA’s celebrated history and making them the most powerful muscle cars ever - in fact, the Charger is the world’s most powerful four-door sedan. The V8 is mated with a beefy, new TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic delivering power to the rear wheels.

The proven and powerful 6.4-litre V8 powered Jeep® Grand Cherokee SRT® combines SRT’s legendary muscular sports styling with breath-taking performance.

The Jeep brand’s best performing on-road vehicle ever features a potent 6.4-litre V8 with Fuel Saver Technology that delivers 475hp and 470 lb.-ft. of torque. Power is sent to the wheels via an electronic eight-speed automatic transmission that delivers improved fuel economy, significantly improved towing capacity plus hardware and software revisions that further heighten

Grand Cherokee SRT’s fun-to-drive factor during a daily commute or for more spirited driving on the race track.

The Grand Cherokee SRT comes with an assertive and attractive sports appearance, and features a host of desirable equipment befitting of the SRT badge. Unique exterior and interior styling cues enhance the car’s distinct, high-performance image and set it apart from other sporting SUV’s.

“Our globally renowned brands combine exceptional style with ultimate driving performance,” said Rivoli. “Equipped with the latest technology and safety features, our vehicles range from small fuel-efficient city cars to legendary muscle cars and iconic off-road vehicles, sophisticated and refined sedans to high performance cars that stir the emotions.”

Al Mulla & Behbehani co. provides its customers with the priority, transparency, accuracy and value that they expect through three purpose-built showrooms located at Al-Rai, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) and Ahmadi plus four aftersales services facilities (service, parts and body shop) located in Al-Rai, Al-Shuwakh, Sharq, and Ahmadi.

Additionally, Al Mulla & Behbehani’s after-sales and customer care brand - Mopar - provides the highest level of care for customers and their vehicles by using professional technicians who are trained to FCA’s demanding global standards and genuine performance parts and accessories.

“We invest heavily in achieving the highest levels of customer care by ensuring that the entire Al Mulla & Behbehani co. team is highly educated, skilled and trained,” added Rivoli. “This ensures that you, as a customer, have the most rewarding and enjoyable experience when dealing with each and every member of our staff.”





## RUSSIA-LINKED HACKERS TARGET HOTEL GUESTS ACROSS EUROPE

**FRANKFURT:** A cyber-spying group with suspected links to Russian military intelligence was probably behind a campaign targeting hotel guests in eight mostly European countries last month, researchers at security firm FireEye said on Friday. The espionage group, dubbed APT 28, sought to steal password credentials from Western government and business travelers using hotel Wi-Fi networks, in order then to infect their organizational networks back home, FireEye said in a report.

The wave of attacks during the first week of July targeted travelers who were staying in several hotel chains in at least seven countries in Europe and one in the Middle East, it said. These preliminary findings are the latest to allege that Russia is engaged in far-flung hacking activity aimed at governments, businesses and election campaigns, including Hillary Clinton's unsuccessful White House bid last year.

Several governments and security research firms have linked APT 28 to the GRU, Russia's military intelligence directorate. Other researchers have tracked the same pattern of attacks, but stopped short of linking APT 28 to the Russian state. Moscow vehemently denies the accusations. Benjamin Read, manager of cyber espionage analysis for US-based FireEye, said the technical exploits and remote chain of command used to mount the attacks all clearly pointed to APT 28, whose vast scope of activities his firm has detailed since 2014.

"We are moderately confident in our assessment," Read told Reuters, saying this was because the technical inquiry was still in its early days. "We just don't have the smoking gun yet." The latest attempts were identified and thwarted in the initial infiltration stage. But similar methods were used in the autumn of 2016 at hotels in Europe,

and managed to breach the computer of a US government employee, he said.

In the July attacks, FireEye found spear-phishing emails were used to trick hotel employees to download an infected hotel reservation document, which then installed GAMEFISH malware run remotely from internet sites known to be controlled by APT 28. This foothold gave the cyber spies control over guest Wi-Fi networks and could help them grab passwords of targeted victims and sniff unencrypted data being transmitted to shared network drives in the up-market, business-class hotels of major cities.

"We did not observe any guest credentials being stolen. However there were multiple hotel chains targeted and we don't know the full extent of the operation," Read said. The July attacks took advantage of a recently leaked piece of malicious software known as EternalBlue, believed to have

been stolen from the US National Security Agency, giving hackers a highly sophisticated way to move silently inside organizations' networks once they infect even a single machine.

It was also EternalBlue that fuelled the worldwide spread of WannaCry ransomware in May and the NotPetya attack against Ukraine in June, which fanned out globally to hit dozens of major firms. The 2016 hotel attacks tricked one user with a fake Adobe Flash update and were likely launched by a nearby hacker on the same guest Wi-Fi network, FireEye said. APT 28 logged into the guest's web-based Outlook email account 12 hours later, it said. The government employee returned to the United States and the infection spread to their agency when their computer was reconnected to the network, Read said. He declined to comment on how far the attack reached or whether it caused any damage.—Reuters



GAME REVIEW

## SONIC MANIA PAINTS OVER ITS PROBLEMS THAN FIXING THEM

**W**ith Sonic Mania, Sega has done the unthinkable for a corporate player in video games: They've given it to the fans. Sega has had a nightmarish time trying to rekindle the magic and majesty of its iconic mascot since the blue hedgehog's peak in the '90s. After the Genesis console faded, Sega went an entire hardware generation without a "proper" flagship Sonic release on the Saturn. With the jump to 3D in 1999's Sonic Adventure, the series retained its flash, but something was fundamentally broken in the translation. While some fans defend the Sonic oeuvre from the Dreamcast onward, the series' best days were behind it, reaching its absolute nadir with 2006's disastrous Sonic the Hedgehog.

Since then, Sega has tried to reinvent the

whether or not many assets have been pulled directly from existing Sonic games. It certainly looks like a Genesis game, or rather, a Sega CD release - animations are more detailed than I remember them being from the cartridge titles, though the color palette feels like it came directly from the Genesis.

This extends to the way Sonic Mania plays as well. Sonic has a new ability, the Drop Dash, which allows him to immediately drop out of a jump and dash upon hitting the ground, but otherwise, you could draw a direct line between Sonic the Hedgehog 3/Sonic and Knuckles and Sonic Mania. It's a side-scroller that is, ostensibly, a platformer, but it's nothing like its contemporaries. Instead, Sonic and his friends collect rings as they race through each level, looping and

and deadly obstacles from off-screen, whether actually coming from an area not shown at the time or something instantly appearing in front of Sonic. The sound of every ring you've collected exploding out of you when colliding with a hazard is a singularly enraging audio cue, and it's all the more infuriating because frequently, it just doesn't feel fair.

While these are primarily issues for Sonic moving at speed, slowing things down can occasionally pose its own frustration. Sonic has always been terrible with precise platforming. The controls and animation priority are just not up to the demands of pixel-perfect precision (and honestly, some hazards seem to hit Sonic beyond where it seems like they should be able).

For whatever reason, Sonic Mania includes these requisite precise platforming bits, and despite my own sense that they are somewhat more forgiving than in its 16-bit ancestors - maybe rings you drop stay on screen longer than they used to - they're still here, and they're still not especially fun. It's ironic that sections requiring twitch reflexes are often the worst parts of Sonic games, but here we are, 26 years later, and it's still true. Somewhat bucking Sonic tradition, the most inventive and fun parts of the game lie within its boss encounters.

### I know! I was surprised too!

Each boss requires a different strategy, which isn't unusual, but Sonic Mania really blows out its most basic gameplay structures, drawing from Sonic games outside of the traditional 2D platformers and digging deep into 16-bit canon. Some encounters aren't platformers at all, some involve battles on the move that go much further than even Sonic CD did, and all of them have enough surprises to keep them engaging. These sections were routinely the parts I most looked forward to.

Sonic Mania doesn't bat 1,000 here either, though. There are a few bosses out of the two dozen or so that fall prey to the same punishing predilection to cheap, unavoidable deaths, which exacerbates the game's frustratingly old-school retry system. Like any other platformer, Sonic Mania gives you a pool of lives when you start a game, and you gain more through collecting 100 rings or finding them scattered throughout levels. As long as you have more lives, you'll resume at the last checkpoint you dinged when you die, but if you run out, you have to restart the stage you're on from the beginning.

This is marginally better than the original game, which had no continues officially apart from cheat codes. But it still sucks. When some of the less fun, more surprise-murder boss encounters are set at the end of a pair of acts that can take five to six minutes each (or more, if you're trying to find secrets), you can lose a hell of a lot of progress for what feels like no reason at all.

This is especially annoying because Sonic Mania, unlike the 16-bit era Sonics whose pieces it's largely built upon, doesn't need to pad out its length with progress-sapping deaths and restarts; there's plenty to dig through. There were multiple acts I had to race through more than once, and somehow, I always ended up down a completely different path than I had previously. This is something 16-bit Sonic games always did, but never quite on the scale in play here. And you can play as either Sonic and Tails, Sonic alone, Tails alone, or Knuckles, each of whom is able to get to areas of the game inaccessible to the others.—www.polygon.com



series over and over, with middling success. Meanwhile, various fan projects have sought to create new "traditional" Sonic games via hacked-in additions to original game code, as well as completely, faithfully recreated versions of '90s-era Sonics. Sega initially shut the project down, but in a move that surprised many, the publisher gave one of these developers the go-ahead to finish a port of Sonic CD for consoles and mobile platforms to generally positive reception. Then Sega gave these same fan developers the keys to its mascot, a partnership between developer Christian Whitehead and studios Headcannon and PagodaWest games.

The result is Sonic Mania, a game that feels slavishly, almost fetishistically devoted to the old-school branch of Sonic gameplay and design. As a result, Sonic Mania feels like the series' Genesis-period ideas taken to logical extremes, and then some. But in its fixation on making a perfect recreation of '90s-era Sonic, some of the series' more egregious recurring problems remain present - with some modern quality-of-life elements nowhere to be found. Sonic Mania opens as Dr. Eggman once again steals a collection of powerful gems called Chaos Emeralds, and it's up to Sonic, constant companion Tails the Fox and frenemy Knuckles the Echidna to get them back and defeat Eggman until ... well, whenever Sega rolls this whole thing out again.

If you've played any of the Genesis Sonic titles, Sonic Mania is going to look and feel familiar. No, really. Sonic Mania looks achingly familiar, to the point where I'm not clear

backtracking at speeds that seem too fast for even the game's camera to keep up.

That feeling of barely controlled speed is Sonic's original schtick, and it's leveraged for everything it's worth here. Levels feel much bigger than they were in the Genesis games, with many, many more paths to barrel down, even as many enemies and bits of scenery hit your sense of nostalgia like a bucket of ice. When it's working, this speed is exhilarating, and remarkably, no other game has ever managed to capture the same lightning in a bottle that Sonic did.

Sonic Mania, more than any Sega-led project of the last 20 years, feels exactly the way I remember the original trilogy. As I made my way through the revamped, re-imagined Green Hill Zone that starts the game, it was hard not to feel a little giddy - could someone have made a Sonic that feels as good as I remembered the originals feeling? As it turns out, Sonic Mania is maybe too faithful. Sonic & co. are capable of incredible speed, it's true, but there's a sluggishness as they work their way toward it. It's not just stopping that takes a long time, which, hey, at least that makes sense. There's a windup to just about everything, from movement to jumping.

## HSBC, IBM TO DEVELOP COGNITIVE INTELLIGENCE TO DIGITIZE GLOBAL TRADE

HSBC, the world's leading trade finance bank, is working with IBM to develop a cognitive intelligence solution combining optical character recognition with advanced robotics to make global trade safer and more efficient for thousands of businesses. HSBC's Global Trade and Receivables Finance (GTRF) team facilitates over USD500 billion of documentary trade for customers every year, and in doing so must manually review and process up to 100 million pages of documents, ranging from invoices to packing lists and insurance certificates.

The new solution uses IBM's advanced analytics technology, including intelligent segmentation and text analytics, to identify, digitize and extract key data within these documents before feeding it into the bank's transaction processing systems; boosting accuracy whilst freeing up staff for more value-adding activities.

"The average trade transaction requires 65 data fields to be extracted from 15 different documents, with 40 pages to be reviewed," said Natalie Blyth, HSBC's Global Head of GTRF. "By digitizing this process we will make transactions quicker and safer for

both buyers and suppliers, leading our industry forwards, and we will reduce compliance risks through an enhanced ability to manage huge volumes of data."

"The problem is how to capture semi-structured documents with highly variant content through an analogue process, and no-one has the perfect answer," said Roger Welch, Industry (Financial) Expert and Solution Architect for IBM Analytics ECM practice. "In our experience, no trade finance solution has come as far or done as much as this new solution."

HSBC is currently using the technology to analyze English-language import and export bills in several markets in Asia, Europe, the Americas and the MENA region. The team aims to enhance the solution so it can read a wider range of documents and languages including French, Spanish and Chinese.

"We are continuously investing in technologies that will improve the way we work for the benefit of our customers and our people," said Natalie Blyth. "HSBC wants to be the leading bank for innovation, and initiatives like this one are key to achieving our goal."



Natalie Blyth

## SPACEX TO LAUNCH SUPER-COMPUTER TO SPACE

**MIAMI:** SpaceX is poised to launch an unmanned cargo ship toward the International Space Station yesterday, including a super-computer that could direct astronauts on future deep-space missions. The liftoff of the Falcon 9 rocket, carrying the Dragon cargo ship, is planned for 12:31 pm from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The weather forecast is 70 percent favorable for launch.

The mission is the 12th official trip for SpaceX, which has a \$1.6 billion contract with NASA to supply the astronauts living in orbit over 20 such back-and-forth journeys.

About 10 minutes after launch, the rocket will attempt to make a controlled landing back on solid ground at Cape Canaveral, as part of SpaceX's ongoing effort to re-use rocket components after each take-off. If Monday's launch is delayed for any reason, the next attempt would have to wait until next week, due to a spacewalk planned for Thursday by Russian cosmonauts, who will deploy a series of satellites from the orbiting outpost.

### Complicated cargo

The Dragon is packed with 6,400 pounds of supplies, including a sophisticated super-computer made by Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), called The Spaceborne Computer. The goal is to test the computer for one year to see if it can operate in the harsh conditions of space, about the same amount of time as it would take for astronauts to arrive at Mars. As astronauts travel millions of miles away,

communications will become increasingly delayed.

Messages from Mars to Earth would be delayed from between four minutes to 24 minutes one-way, depending on the distance between the planets, according to the European Space Agency. "Such a long communication lag would make any on-the-ground exploration challenging and potentially dangerous if astronauts are met with any mission critical scenarios that they're not able to solve themselves," said HPE senior vice president Alain Andreoli in a statement.

The new super-computer aims to provide "sophisticated onboard computing resources that are capable of extended periods of uptime," he added, describing the year-long effort as "the first step in that direction." Another experiment on board is designed to help scientists study Parkinson's disease in greater detail in the hopes of finding better treatments for this degenerative disease.

Un-impaired by gravity, protein crystals can grow larger in space, and scientists hope to use this environment to help them understand an important protein in Parkinson's disease, known as Leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2). Until now, this protein has been difficult to study in Earth, according to researchers at the Michael J. Fox Foundation, which developed the research project. Other experiments on board include a stem cell investigation for growing new lung tissue, and equipment for growing vegetables in space.—AFP





## NO LONGER KING OF THE JUNGLE: NEW FUND TO AID AFRICA'S LIONS

**DAKAR:** Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park is home to fewer than 50 lions after years of poaching decimated not only them but also their prey. Small patches of lion skin are sold at local fetish markets for \$10, and their bones have a thriving market in Asia. Sightings have become so rare that it once took researchers conducting a lion survey in the area two months before they spotted one of the big cats. Conservationists, however, believe the park could one day rebound.

"This landscape is still in fantastic shape," said Philipp Henschel, West and Central Africa regional director for the lion program at Panthera, a global wild cat conservation organization. "This area could potentially, if well protected, harbor between 400 and 500 lions." A \$150,000 grant from a fund launched this week by the Wildlife Conservation Network and The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation is aimed at better equipping Niokolo-Koba's park rangers for those efforts.

The Lion Recovery Fund is initially providing \$800,000 toward bolstering lions'

habitat across the continent, from Senegal in the west to Tanzania in the east as well as Zambia and Malawi in southern Africa. "Lions in Africa are facing a whole range of human threats that are increasing in scope as the human and livestock populations grow," said Peter Lindsey, conservation initiatives director for the Wildlife Conservation Network.

Many wildlife areas "are really suffering from a lack of funding and resources," he said. The situation is particularly dire in West Africa, where the lion sub-species has been classified as "critically endangered." Only about 400 lions remain there out of the total 20,000 worldwide, Henschel said. About 90 percent of those in West Africa are in a protected area that spans parts of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger. Startup support for the Lion Recovery Fund came from The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, which previously has partnered on elephant conservation issues, Lindsey said. They are pledging that 100 percent of donations to the fund will go directly toward work on the ground, without overhead costs. —AP



**NIKOLO-KOBA:** This photo taken on Sunday, April 3, 2011 and released by Panthera shows an adult male lion during a joint Panthera/DPN (Direction des Parcs Nationaux) lion survey in Niokolo-Koba National Park. —AP

## 2016 WEATHER: EXTREME AND ANYTHING BUT NORMAL

**WASHINGTON:** Last year's global weather was far more extreme or record-breaking than anything approaching normal, according to a new report. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Thursday released its annual checkup of the Earth, highlighting numerous records including hottest year, highest sea level, and lowest sea ice in the Arctic and Antarctica.

The 299-page report, written by scientists around the world and published in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, shows that 2016 was "very extreme and it is a cause for concern," said co-editor Jessica Blunden, a NOAA climate scientist. Researchers called it a clear signal of human-caused climate change. A record large El Nino, the warming of the central Pacific that changes weather worldwide, was also a big factor in last year's wild weather.

"2016 will be forever etched in my brain as the year we crossed a new threshold of climate change - one that gave us a grim glimpse into our future," said Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb, who had no role in the report. Scientists examined dozens of key climate measures and found: At any given time, nearly one-eighth of the world's land mass was in severe drought. That's far higher than normal and "one of the worst years for drought," said

report co-author Robert Dunn of the United Kingdom Met Office.

Extreme weather was everywhere. Giant downpours were up. Heat waves struck all over the globe, including a nasty one in India. Extreme weather contributed to a gigantic wildfire in Canada. Global sea level rose another quarter of an inch (3.4 millimeters) for the sixth straight year of record high sea levels.

There were 93 tropical cyclones across the globe, 13 percent more than normal. That included Hurricane Matthew that killed about 1,000 people in Haiti. The world's glaciers shrank - for the 37th year in a row - by an average of about 3 feet. Greenland's ice sheet in 2016 lost 341 billion tons of ice (310 billion metric tons). It has lost 4400 billion tons (4000 billion metric tons) of ice since 2002.

"2016 was a year in the Arctic like we've never seen before," said NOAA Arctic research chief Jeremy Mathis, who called it "a clear and more pronounced signal of warming than in any other year on record." Many of the findings have been previously released, including that 2016 was the hottest year on record for the third consecutive year. A separate study based on modeling and weather patterns shows three hot years in a row is close to impossible to be a natural coincidence. —AP



**The Finnish icebreaker MSV Nordica casts a shadow on the ice while traversing the Northwest Passage through the Victoria Strait in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago Friday, July 21, 2017. —AP**

## SCIENCE SAYS: FAST-MELTING ICE SIGN OF BAD GLOBAL WARMING

‘MELTING OF THE ARCTIC WILL COME TO HAUNT US ALL’

**WASHINGTON:** One of the coldest places on Earth is so hot it's melting. Glaciers, sea ice and a massive ice sheet in the Arctic are thawing from toasty air above and warm water below. The northern polar region is heating up twice as fast as the rest of the planet and that's setting off alarm bells. "The melting of the Arctic will come to haunt us all," said German climate scientist Stefan Rahmstorf. While global leaders set a goal of preventing 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) of man-made warming since pre-industrial times, the Arctic has already hit that dangerous mark. Last year, the Arctic Circle was about 3.6 degrees (6.5 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than normal.

### Causes of warming

Earth is getting hotter because of the buildup of heat-trapping gases spewed into the air by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, according to decades of peer-reviewed research. Scientists have long predicted the Arctic would warm first and faster than the rest of the globe. Real-time measurements are proving them right.

### Winter is coming

Winter is crucial. Three times in the past two cold seasons, air temperatures near the North Pole were near or even a shade above freezing. That's about 50 degrees warmer than it should be. From last November through February, Barrow, Alaska - the northernmost U.S. city - was 7

degrees Celsius (13 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the 20th century average, and much of the Atlantic Arctic off Norway and Greenland was as hot.

Warm winters weaken sea ice, which floats on the ocean surface. It's supposed to recover, spread more across the Arctic and get thicker in the winter so it can withstand the warmth of the summer. But a warmer winter means less protection when the heat hits. In September 2016, the time of year the spread of ice across the Arctic is at its lowest, Arctic sea ice was the second lowest day on record, about 40 percent below the lowest day measured in 1979 when satellite records started. Between those two days 37 years apart, the Arctic lost enough sea ice to cover Alaska, Texas and California combined. Then it didn't grow back that much this winter, setting record low amounts from November through March, when sea ice reaches its peak spread.

### Beyond the Arctic

Of all the global warming warning signs in the Arctic, "it is the sea ice that is

screaming the loudest," Serreze said. That's a problem because a growing body of studies connects dwindling sea ice to wild weather. The reduced winter sea ice interacts with warmer oceans to change conditions in the air that then triggers a potent noticeable shift in the jet stream, the giant atmospheric river that controls much of our weather, said Rutgers University climate scientist Jennifer Francis. This theory is still debated by scientists, but increasingly more researchers are agreeing with Francis.

It's not just sea ice on the decline. Glaciers in the Arctic are shrinking. And the massive Greenland ice sheet is slowly but steadily melting and that can add a big dose to sea level rise. Since 2002, it has lost 4,400 billion tons (4,000 billion metric tons) of ice. Then there's the Arctic carbon bomb. Carbon dioxide and methane - which traps even more heat - are stuck in the permafrost in places like Alaska and Siberia. "Roast the Arctic and you create a mess everywhere on Earth," said Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer. —AP

## REWARD OFFERED TO CATCH FISH DUMPER

**RENO, Nevada:** Nevada game wardens who spend most of their time hunting down big-game poachers are focusing on a serious threat to nature in a lake: An invasive fish species that eats all the other fish prized by anglers and then turns cannibalistic. The Nevada Department of Wildlife is offering a \$10,000 reward to help nab the culprit who apparently dumped Northern pike in Comins Lake, a popular fishing spot surrounded by mountains near Great Basin National Park.

By all accounts, Comins Lake was well on its way to recovery after the state restocked the fishery with largemouth bass, brown and rainbow trout in 2015. But the invading Northern Pike were discovered again last month by a fisherman who caught one and called state wildlife

officials. Five more have been confirmed since then.

"This malicious and illegal act seriously endangers our effort to restore this important fishery," said Jon Sjoberg, chief of fisheries for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. "The people illegally introducing pike are destroying a fishery, not creating a new one." Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed announced the reward this week. "We intend to find who did it," he said. Northern pike may not sound as scary as piranhas or the Asian swamp eel - two of the other half-dozen fish that Nevada law singles out as invasive, injurious aquatic species.

But with its long, needle-sharp teeth, the voracious predator that sometimes grows longer than 4 feet (1.2 meters) can wipe out an entire fishery. "They eat all the

trout we put in there," Edwin Lyngar, spokesman for the state wildlife agency, said in an interview Friday. "Then they eat all the other fish they can find, and then they start to eat each other." The remote eastern Nevada lake near Utah border covers about two-thirds of a square mile and draws numerous anglers. "It brings tremendous economic activity to this part of the state," Lyngar said. "Years ago, people came from all over the world to fish that lake."

At its peak in 2004, the lake logged 35,000 "angler user days" and generated more than \$2 million for the local economy as the fourth-most visited fishery in the state behind Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and the Truckee River, which flows out of Lake Tahoe through downtown Reno. —AP

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## MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS RECEIVES RETAIL JEWELER AWARD

**M**alabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the BIG 5 jewelry retailers receives 'Retail Jeweler India Award' for the special contributions to the gem and jewelry industry. M P Ahammed, Chairman - Malabar Group received the prestigious Gemfield's Retail Jeweler India Award from Praveen Shanker Pandai, President - Gem and Jewelry Export Council and Gyan Shyam Dholakia, Managing Director - Harikrishna Exports Pvt Ltd in the presence of Shamlal Ahamed MP, Managing Director - International operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Asher O, Managing Director - India Operations, Malabar gold and Diamonds and Abdul Salam KP, Group Executive Director - Malabar Group at an event

held in Grand Hyatt, Mumbai recently. The panel of jury has selected from a list of over thousands of nominees from the industry for the coveted prize. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also awarded the best television campaign award for the current year. Retail Jeweler India Awards was established in 2005 by Soma Bhatta, Editor & Director, The Retail Jeweler India magazine and Samit Bhatta, Associate Publisher, The Retail Jeweler India magazine, with the mission to take the \$30 billion Retail Jewelry industry forward by creating a platform for recognizing the best work of the industry in fields of design, retail and marketing. Also, known as India's Oscars for the Retail jewelry industry and the only busi-

ness awards specifically for retail jewelers in the country of 300,000 retail jewelers. Malabar Gold & Diamonds is among the few companies which are vertically integrated comprising of bullion desk, design centers, manufacturing, distribution, retail and after sale services. This enables the retailer to offer its customers products and services that unique and offer unmatched value and quality. It caters to a global audience supported by a team consisting of 16 nationalities that are proficient in 50+ different languages. Malabar Gold & Diamonds successfully manages multiple retail formats with presence in high streets, reputed malls, department stores and travel retail.



## WATCH LIVE STREAM: AAJ KI SHAAM DESH KE NAAM

**C**elebrate the spirit of India's 70th Independence Day with a live stream of the musical show 'Aaj Ki Shaam Desh Ke Naam' on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Kuwaitindianstv/live> today from 6.30 pm

onwards from the Indian Embassy Auditorium in Kuwait. Aaj Ki Shaan Desh Ke Naam is a music presentation of patriotic and Bollywood songs by talent singers from India, Dr Mrudula Dadhe Joshi, Niles P

Nirgudkar and Rakesh Khurana. Conducted under the auspices of the Indian Embassy this is your chance to make this Indian Independence Day special by joining in the patriotic fervor.

## CHICKEN VELOUTE STEW RECIPE

**T**his "composed" stew isn't just a jumble of ingredients cooked together. Instead, each vegetable is added separately so they lightly poach in the rich, thick sauce and retain their texture.

### Ingredients

- 4 chicken wings
- 100g butter
- 4 chicken thighs
- 2 cups button mushrooms, halved
- 1 brown onion, sliced
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 1/2 litres chicken stock
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 sprigs thyme
- 1/2 small savoy cabbage, divided into two wedges
- 3 carrots, peeled and cut into thirds

- 1/2 head broccoli, separated into florets a handful of green beans, tailed
- 100ml pouring cream

### Method

1. Joint the chicken wings and put the wing tips to one side - they're not needed in this dish. Heat a little of the butter in a large, wide, heavy-lidded saucepan. Fry the chicken thighs and wings until well browned on the outside but not yet cooked through. Remove from the pan and set aside.
2. In the same pan, fry the mushrooms until well browned, remove from the pan and set aside. Then add the onion and remaining butter and cook until the onions soften. Add the flour

- and cook, stirring, for 3 minutes until a roux forms. Add chicken stock a little at a time, stirring constantly to remove any lumps from the roux until you have a thick sauce. Season to taste with salt and white pepper. Add the bay leaves, thyme, cabbage wedges and carrots, reduce the heat to a simmer, then cover and cook for 20 minutes.
3. Slice the chicken thighs and add with the wings to one section of the pot. Add the mushrooms to another section. Simmer for 5 minutes, then add the broccoli and beans in their own sections. Simmer for a further minute, then taste and adjust for seasoning again (it will likely need a little more salt). Pour the cream over the stew and serve.



**A man grimaces as 'Lettuce Ladies,' a group of PETA activists promote a vegan lifestyle in downtown Bucharest, Romania yesterday. Two PETA vegan ambassadors distributed vegan food to passersby in the Romanian capital, the latest stop in a tour including the United States, Russia and Turkey aimed at promoting a vegan lifestyle. —AP**

## PETA'S 'LETTUCE LADIES' PROMOTE VEGAN EATING

**T**he People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals group is promoting a vegan lifestyle in the Romanian capital with its ambassadors known as the "Lettuce Ladies." Two young women dressed in bikinis adorned with bright green leaves handed out vegan sandwiches in Bucharest yesterday. They carried signs in Romanian and English saying: "Start Fresh: Go Vegan." They attracted attention, though some

passers-by looked puzzled. The animal rights group is promoting vegan eating in different countries. They recent visited Moscow and Saint Petersburg in Russia and will also travel to Istanbul. They have also visited China and Cuba. Many Christian orthodox Romanians consume vegan food for religious reasons in the weeks prior to a religious festival such as Christmas or a saint's day.—AP

## PENCILS, PAPER, BACKPACKS, OH MY! STARS GO BACK TO SCHOOL

**F**resh pencils and the perfect lunchbox, new clothes and the hottest notebooks. In the wind down of summer as we head into fall, a variety of celebrities time-tripped back to childhood, sharing favorite moments preparing for the first day of school. "I went to a military school. Oddly enough, every fall when it came up, the idea of putting on the uniform and going back to school was very exciting," recalled Joe Morton of ABC's "Scandal."

For Katy Mixon, who stars in ABC's "American Housewife," it was all about the duds. "Going clothes shopping. I grew up in a family of seven - six girls and one boy. My mama used to always take us to go get those back-to-school clothes, and I loved it." Kelly McCreary of ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" was all about the paper products. "I still love a great new notebook. Super nerd," she said. Her fellow cast member, Jason Winston George, had other favorite gear. "Lunchboxes. It was all about the new lunchboxes and the backpack. Lunchbox and backpack, that was my joint," he said. Ian Ziering, who stars in Syfy's "Sharknado 5: Global Swarming," has passed down one of his parents' back-to-school traditions to his two kids.

"It's taking a picture in front of the house, in front of the front door. We do it every year with my kids with a little sign: Kindergarten, first day of kindergarten, first day of first grade. It's great. I have that from my childhood and now my kids have that," he said. "It's just a great picture to look back on."

Kaitlyn Dever, in the summer film "Detroit," said it was all about first-day fashion. "You gotta bring it first day, and my mom would always get me something so rad and so cool," she said. "I would always be coordinated with my sister, who's two years younger than me." Salma Hayek's favorite back-to-school activity growing up in Mexico was wrapping her books and adorning her homemade covers.

"They don't do it anymore," she said. "Finding the paper to wrap it and the decorations. Now it's all in the computer. Nobody wraps their books anymore. I remember how exciting it was, to do it all neatly. It was a lovely ritual." Her castmate, Samuel L. Jackson, in the film "The Hitman's Bodyguard," said he remembers hunting down the "perfect notebook that didn't fall apart after two weeks."

Co-star Ryan Reynolds had no specific back-to-school rituals

growing up, but his oldest daughter is heading to pre-school. "I'm sure I'm the one who needs help, not her," he said. "She'll be fine." Max Greenfield, who appears in the film "The Glass Castle," said backpacks stand out for him and his daughter, one of his two kids. "She had a good backpack this year. She had a Vans backpack, which was pretty cool," he said. "This year we're growing out of the Hello Kitty backpack and now you have a Vans backpack. I think later on it's going to get terrifying when she's like, I'm wearing this to school, and you're like, no you're not."

Kate Beckinsale, who's in the new film, "The Only Living Boy in New York," loved the idea of marking time as the school years passed. "You could completely reinvent yourself every year, if you wanted to, defined by your backpack and your pencil case. I still like that, the smell of sharpening pencils and all new erasers," she said. Fellow cast member Kiersey Clemons has three little sisters. "Taking them school shopping for the supplies and the backpacks and everything, that is my favorite thing," she smiled. "I love the fresh pencils and pens and binders. I love that. I love organization." —AP





00:00 REC 3 Genesis  
01:20 7500  
02:45 Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon  
04:45 The Tower  
06:50 Knight And Day  
08:50 Fantastic Four  
10:30 Compadres  
12:15 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge  
13:45 Knight And Day  
15:50 Harlock: Space Pirate  
17:45 Twister  
19:40 Star Wars: The Force Awakens  
22:00 Survivor  
23:40 Zero Tolerance



00:45 Treehouse Masters  
01:40 Bad Dog  
02:35 Gator Boys  
03:25 Catching Monsters  
04:15 Monster Island  
05:02 Mutant Planet  
05:49 Untamed & Uncut  
06:36 Swamp Brothers  
07:00 Swamp Brothers  
07:25 Gator Boys  
08:15 Treehouse Masters  
09:10 Bad Dog  
10:05 Mutant Planet  
11:00 Gator Boys  
11:55 Catching Monsters  
12:50 Monster Island  
13:45 Bad Dog  
14:40 Mutant Planet  
15:35 Untamed & Uncut  
16:30 Treehouse Masters  
17:25 Project Grizzly  
18:20 Guardians Of Rescue  
19:15 Preposterous Pets  
20:10 Gator Boys  
21:05 Project Grizzly  
22:00 Guardians Of Rescue  
22:55 Mutant Planet  
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:25 Orphan Black  
01:10 Orphan Black  
02:00 DCI Banks  
02:45 DCI Banks  
03:35 Father Brown  
04:20 The Coroner  
05:05 Death In Paradise  
06:00 Father Brown  
06:55 The Coroner  
07:45 Death In Paradise  
08:40 Doctor Who  
09:35 Father Brown  
10:25 The Coroner  
11:15 Death In Paradise  
12:05 Doctor Who  
13:00 Father Brown  
13:55 The Coroner  
14:40 Death In Paradise  
15:35 Doctor Who  
16:30 Father Brown  
17:25 The Coroner  
18:10 Holby City  
19:05 Death In Paradise  
20:00 Line Of Duty  
21:00 In The Dark  
22:00 Maigret  
23:35 Holby City



00:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
01:00 It Takes A Killer  
01:30 It Takes A Killer  
02:00 Homicide Hunter  
03:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
04:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
05:00 It Takes A Killer  
05:30 It Takes A Killer  
06:00 It Takes A Killer  
06:30 It Takes A Killer  
07:00 It Takes A Killer  
07:30 It Takes A Killer  
08:00 The First 48  
09:00 Homicide Hunter  
10:00 My Crazy Ex  
11:00 My Crazy Ex  
12:00 My Crazy Ex  
13:00 My Crazy Ex  
14:00 The First 48  
15:00 Cold Case Files  
16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
17:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
18:00 It Takes A Killer  
19:00 It Takes A Killer  
20:00 The First 48  
21:00 Homicide Hunter  
22:00 Cold Case Files  
23:00 When Life Means Life  
23:00 Evil Up Close



00:05 Live At The Apollo  
00:55 Lee Evans: Ai Big: Live At The O2  
01:45 Broad City  
02:10 Broad City  
02:35 Important Things With Demitri Martin  
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  
06:00 Sweat Inc.  
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 Framework  
11:50 Disaster Date  
12:15 Catch A Contractor  
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
13:55 Life Or Debt  
14:45 Lip Sync Battle  
15:10 Key And Peele  
15:35 Ridiculousness  
16:00 Impractical Jokers  
16:25 Disaster Date  
16:50 Disaster Date  
17:15 Ridiculousness  
17:40 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef  
18:10 Impractical Jokers  
18:33 The Jim Gaffigan Show  
18:56 Key And Peele  
19:15 Key And Peele  
19:43 Disaster Date  
20:05 I Live With Models  
20:30 Lip Sync Battle  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 Inside Amy Schumer  
22:00 Inside Amy Schumer

22:25 Broad City  
22:50 Broad City  
23:15 Idiotstiter  
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse  
01:20 Outrageous Acts Of Psych  
01:45 Outrageous Acts Of Psych  
02:10 The Carbonaro Effect  
02:35 The Carbonaro Effect  
03:00 Finding Bigfoot  
03:50 Guinness World Records  
06:20 Smashed UK  
04:40 How It's Made  
05:05 How It's Made  
05:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse  
06:20 Mythbusters  
07:00 Kenny The Shark  
07:25 Adventure 8: Zoo Games  
07:50 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:05 How It's Made  
09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
10:20 Mythbusters  
11:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101  
12:00 Finding Bigfoot  
12:50 How It's Made  
13:15 How It's Made  
13:40 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse  
14:30 Kenny The Shark  
14:55 Adventure 8: Zoo Games  
15:20 Guinness World Records  
Smashed UK  
16:10 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
17:00 Driving Me Crazy  
17:50 Now That's Funny  
18:40 Mythbusters  
19:30 How It's Made  
19:55 How It's Made  
20:20 Guinness World Records  
Smashed UK  
21:10 Driving Me Crazy  
22:00 World's Funniest  
22:50 Finding Bigfoot  
23:40 Guinness World Records  
Smashed UK



00:30 Vanity Fair Confidential  
01:20 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris  
02:10 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence  
03:00 Murder Comes To Town  
03:48 Nowhere To Hide  
04:36 Nowhere To Hide  
05:24 Nowhere To Hide  
06:12 Nowhere To Hide  
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 Blood Relatives  
12:00 Nowhere To Hide  
12:50 Nowhere To Hide  
13:40 Nowhere To Hide  
14:30 Nowhere To Hide  
15:20 The Locator  
15:45 The Locator  
16:10 Missing In Maui: A Disappeared Special  
17:00 Deadly Affairs  
17:50 Deadly Affairs  
18:40 Deadly Affairs  
19:30 Deadly Affairs  
20:20 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall  
21:10 Women In Prison  
22:00 Jonben?: An American Murder Mystery  
22:50 Your Worst Nightmare  
23:40 Evil Lives Here



00:00 Hank Zipzer  
00:25 Alex & Co.  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Evermoor 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 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
06:55 Lolo Rock  
07:20 Elena Of Avalor  
07:45 Bunk'd  
08:10 Stuck In The Middle  
08:35 Bizaardvark  
09:00 Austin & Ally  
09:25 Austin & Ally  
09:50 Good Luck Charlie  
10:15 Good Luck Charlie  
10:40 Alex & Co.  
11:05 Lolo Rock  
11:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse  
12:00 Welcome To The Ronks  
12:15 Hank Zipzer  
12:40 Dog With A Blog  
13:05 Star Darlings  
13:10 Good Luck Charlie  
13:35 Austin & Ally  
14:00 Jessie  
14:25 Lolo Rock  
14:50 The Zhuzhus  
15:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets  
15:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
15:45 Elena Of Avalor  
16:10 Liv And Maddie  
16:35 Descendants Wicked World  
16:40 Girl Meets World  
17:05 Stuck In The Middle  
17:30 Bunk'd  
17:55 Bizaardvark  
18:20 Disney Mickey Mouse  
18:25 Alex & Co.  
18:50 Best Friends Whenever  
19:15 Sunny Bunnies  
19:20 Liv And Maddie  
19:45 Mako Mermaids  
20:10 Jessie  
20:35 Cracke  
20:40 Alex & Co.  
21:05 Austin & Ally  
21:30 Stuck In The Middle  
21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
22:00 Bunk'd  
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
22:50 Lolo Rock  
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 Loopdido  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
01:50 Zou  
02:05 Art Attack  
02:30 The Hive  
02:40 Loopdido  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:10 Art Attack  
03:35 Loopdido  
03:50 Calimero  
04:05 Art Attack  
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:45 Zou  
05:00 Art Attack  
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:45 Loopdido  
06:00 Zou  
06:15 Calimero  
06:30 Loopdido  
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster  
07:00 Sofia The First  
07:25 Goldie & Bear  
07:50 The Lion Guard  
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
08:40 Winnie The Pooh: Springtime With Roo  
09:50 PJ Masks  
10:10 Little Mermaid  
10:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
11:00 PJ Masks  
11:25 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
11:50 Goldie & Bear  
12:15 Sofia The First  
12:40 Miles From Tomorrow  
13:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
13:35 PJ Masks  
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh  
14:30 The Lion Guard  
14:55 Harry And Bip  
15:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
16:00 Sofia The First  
16:25 Goldie & Bear  
16:50 Doc McStuffins  
17:15 The Lion Guard  
17:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
18:05 PJ Masks  
18:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
19:05 Sofia The First  
19:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
20:05 The Lion Guard  
20:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
21:00 Goldie & Bear  
21:25 Doc McStuffins  
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
22:00 Little Mermaid  
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
22:55 PJ Masks  
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
23:35 The Hive  
23:45 Loopdido



00:20 Wheeler Dealers  
01:05 Cooper's Treasure: The Hunt For A Secret Fortune  
01:50 Deadliest Catch  
02:35 Devil's Canyon  
03:20 Fast N' Loud  
04:05 Running Wild With Bear Grylls  
04:50 Gold Rush  
05:35 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Deadliest Catch  
06:45 Wheeler Dealers  
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 Cooper's Treasure: The Hunt For A Secret Fortune  
10:55 Deadliest Catch  
11:40 Devil's Canyon  
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  
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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 Kings Of The Wild  
21:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
22:40 Legend Of Croc Gold  
23:30 Fast N' Loud



00:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
06:25 Supa Strikas  
06:50 Mech-X4  
07:15 Right Now Kapow  
07:40 Gravity Falls  
08:05 Marvel's Ant-Man  
08:10 K.C. Undercover  
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law  
09:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
09:25 Supa Strikas  
09:50 Supa Strikas  
10:20 Kickin' It  
10:45 Kickin' It  
11:10 Mighty Med  
11:35 Mighty Med  
12:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island  
12:30 Lab Rats: Bionic Island  
12:55 K.C. Undercover  
13:20 K.C. Undercover  
13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
14:15 Future-Worm!  
14:40 Kirby Buckets  
15:05 Lab Rats  
15:30 Walk The Prank  
15:55 Right Now Kapow  
16:25 K.C. Undercover  
16:50 Kirby Buckets Warped  
17:15 Mech-X4  
17:40 Gravity Falls  
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
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 Kirby Buckets Warped  
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 Life Of Kylie  
00:30 Life Of Kylie  
01:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
01:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
02:50 Celebrity Style Story  
03:20 Celebrity Style Story  
03:50 So Cosmo  
04:40 So Cosmo  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 E! NYC  
07:00 E! NYC  
08:00 E! News: Daily Pop  
08:55 Life Of Kylie  
09:25 Life Of Kylie  
09:55 Second Wives Club  
10:50 Second Wives Club  
11:45 Celebrity Style Story  
12:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
13:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
14:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
15:50 E! News: Daily Pop  
15:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
16:45 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
17:35 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian  
18:30 Celebrity Style Story  
19:00 E! News  
20:00 Botched  
21:00 Botched  
22:00 Famously Single  
23:00 WAGs Miami  
23:55 WAGs Miami



00:00 Restaurant: Impossible  
01:00 Mystery Dinners  
01:30 Mystery Dinners  
02:00 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
02:30 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
03:30 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Chopped  
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
06:00 Barefoot Contessa  
06:30 Barefoot Contessa  
07:00 The Kitchen  
08:00 The Pioneer Woman  
08:30 The Pioneer Woman  
09:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts  
09:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts  
10:00 The Pioneer Woman  
10:30 The Pioneer Woman  
11:00 The Kitchen  
12:00 The Pioneer Woman  
12:30 The Pioneer Woman  
13:00 Siba's Table  
13:30 Siba's Table  
14:00 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
14:30 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
15:00 Chopped  
16:00 The Kitchen  
17:00 The Pioneer Woman  
17:30 The Pioneer Woman  
18:00 Chopped  
19:00 Iron Chef America  
20:00 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
20:30 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
21:00 Man Fire Food  
21:30 Man Fire Food  
22:00 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
22:30 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
23:00 Chopped



00:00 Don't Tell The Bride  
01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
03:25 Broadchurch  
04:20 Victoria  
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me  
06:05 Don't Tell The Bride  
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
08:00 Broadchurch  
09:00 Victoria  
10:00 Couples Come Dine With Me  
10:50 Don't Tell The Bride  
11:50 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
12:45 Emmerdale  
13:15 Coronation Street  
13:45 Coronation Street  
14:10 Don't Tell The Bride  
15:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
16:00 Martin Clunes & A Lion Called Mugie  
16:55 Doc Martin  
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me  
18:45 Emmerdale  
19:15 Coronation Street  
19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh  
21:00 Martin Clunes & A Lion Called Mugie  
21:55 Doc Martin  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Coronation Street  
23:35 Coronation Street



00:00 Decoding The Past  
01:00 Engineering An Empire  
02:00 Missing In Alaska  
02:50 Ancient Aliens  
03:40 Cities Of The Underworld  
04:30 Million Dollar Genius  
05:20 Decoding The Past  
06:10 The Universe  
07:00 Engineering An Empire  
08:00 Missing In Alaska  
09:00 Ancient Aliens  
10:00 Cities Of The Underworld  
11:00 The Universe  
12:00 Decoding The Past  
13:00 Engineering An Empire  
14:00 Missing In Alaska  
15:00 Ancient Aliens  
16:00 Cities Of The Underworld  
17:00 The Universe  
18:00 Decoding The Past  
19:00 Command Decisions  
19:30 Command Decisions  
20:00 Missing In Alaska  
21:00 Ancient Aliens  
22:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files  
23:00 Million Dollar Genius



00:20 Ultimate Soldier Challenge  
01:10 The Warfighters  
02:00 Officers And Gentlemen  
02:50 Storage Wars Miami  
03:15 American Pickers  
03:45 Pawn Stars  
04:30 Pawn Stars  
05:00 Mountain Men  
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 Time Team  
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 Ultimate Soldier Challenge  
18:30 Officers And Gentlemen  
19:20 Mountain Men  
20:10 American Pickers  
21:00 Mountain Men  
21:50 Alone: Lost And Found  
22:40 Swamp People  
23:30 American Pickers



00:15 Delinquent Gourmet  
00:45 Chasing The Sun  
01:10 Great Escapes  
01:40 Island Hunter  
02:35 Wineroads  
03:00 Wineroads  
03:30 Fish Of The Day  
03:55 Lee Chan's World Food Tour  
04:25 David Rocco's Dolce India  
04:50 Places We Go  
05:20 Places We Go  
05:45 Eat Street  
06:15 Eat Street  
06:40 Great Escapes  
07:10 Island Hunter  
08:05 Wineroads  
08:30 Wineroads  
09:00 Fish Of The Day  
09:25 Lee Chan's World Food Tour  
09:55 David Rocco's Dolce India  
10:20 Places We Go  
10:50 Places We Go  
11:15 Eat Street  
11:45 Eat Street  
12:10 Great Escapes  
12:40 Bad Trip  
13:35 Wineroads  
14:00 Wineroads  
14:30 Fish Of The Day  
14:55 Lee Chan's World Food Tour  
15:25 David Rocco's Dolce India  
15:50 Places We Go  
16:20 Places We Go  
16:45 Eat Street  
17:15 Eat Street  
17:40 Poh & Co.  
18:10 Andy And Ben Eat Australia  
18:35 Andy And Ben Eat Australia  
19:05 David Rocco's Dolce India  
19:30 Places We Go  
20:00 Places We Go  
20:30 Eat Street  
21:00 Eat Street  
21:30 Poh & Co.  
22:00 Andy And Ben Eat Australia  
22:25 Andy And Ben Eat Australia  
22:55 Bad Trip  
23:50 Wineroads



00:10 Airport Security: Colombia  
01:00 Highway Thru Hell  
02:00 Big Fix Alaska  
03:00 World's Deadliest Gangs  
04:00 Airport Security: Colombia  
05:00 4 Babies A Second  
06:00 Brain Games  
06:30 Brain Games  
07:00 Explorer  
08:00 Surgery Ship  
09:00 4 Babies A Second  
10:00 Continent 7: Antarctica  
11:00 Wicked Tuna  
12:00 Air Crash Investigation  
13:00 Surgery Ship  
14:00 Brain Games  
14:30 Brain Games  
15:00 Explorer  
16:00 Alaska Fish Wars  
17:00 Wicked Tuna  
18:00 Air Crash Investigation  
19:00 Explorer  
20:00 Alaska Fish Wars  
20:50 Wicked Tuna  
21:40 Air Crash Investigation  
22:30 Explorer  
23:20 Brain Games  
23:45 Brain Games



00:20 Asia's Deadliest Snakes  
01:10 Snakes In The City  
02:00 Bite, Sting, Kill  
02:50 Monster Fish  
03:45 Tiger Shark Terror  
04:40 Ultimate Animal Countdown  
05:35 Bite, Sting, Kill  
06:30 Monster Fish  
07:25 Tiger Shark Terror  
08:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown  
09:15 Squid vs. Whale  
10:10 Wild 24  
11:05 Tiger Shark Terror  
12:00 Dolphin Dynasty  
12:55 Dark Side Of Crocs  
13:50 Monster Fish  
14:45 World's Deadliest  
15:40 Ultimate Animal Countdown  
16:35 Insect Wars  
17:30 Ultimate Predator  
18:25 My Life Is A Zoo  
19:20 World's Deadliest  
20:10 Ultimate Animal Countdown  
21:00 Insect Wars  
21:50 Ultimate Predator  
22:40 My Life Is A Zoo  
23:30 Dolphin Dynasty



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



00:01 Max & Ruby  
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:47 The Day Henry Met  
00:52 The Day Henry Met  
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:41 Zack & Quack  
02:03 Team Umizoomi  
02:25 Olive The Ostrich  
02:30 Olive The Ostrich  
02:35 Paw Patrol  
02:58 Little Chamears  
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
03:22 Dora The Explorer  
03:44 Max & Ruby  
04:07 Nella The Princess Knight  
04:31 Shimmer And Shine  
04:54 Dora And Friends: Into The City!  
05:17 Zack & Quack  
05:29 The Day Henry Met  
05:34 The Day Henry Met  
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
06:00 Rusty Rivets  
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 Paw Patrol  
08:30 Shimmer And Shine  
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight  
09:15 The Day Henry Met  
09:22 Paw Patrol  
09:45 Rusty Rivets  
09:57 Bubble Guppies  
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies  
10:40 Zack & Quack  
10:52 Team Umizoomi  
11:15 Shimmer And Shine  
11:38 Shimmer And Shine  
12:01 Max & Ruby  
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
12:47 The Day Henry Met  
12:52 The Day Henry Met  
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
13:41 Zack & Quack  
14:03 Team Umizoomi  
14:25 Olive The Ostrich  
14:30 Olive The Ostrich  
14:35 Paw Patrol  
14:58 Little Chamears  
15:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
15:22 Dora The Explorer  
15:44 Max & Ruby  
16:07 Nella The Princess Knight  
16:31 Shimmer And Shine  
16:54 Dora And Friends: Into The City!  
17:17 Zack & Quack  
17:29 The Day Henry Met  
17:34 The Day Henry Met  
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
18:00 Rusty Rivets  
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



01:25 The Muppets  
03:10 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen  
04:00 Ratatouille  
04:45 The Santa Clause 3  
08:25 The Muppets  
10:10 Ice Princess  
11:00 Ratatouille  
13:45 Kim Possible: So The Drama  
15:00 Gnomeo & Juliet  
16:25 The Haunted Mansion  
17:55 The Parent Trap  
20:00 Charlotte's Web  
21:40 Gnomeo & Juliet  
23:05 Kim Possible: So The Drama



01:00 Burying The Ex  
02:35 Yoga Hosers  
04:10 Fan Girl  
05:50 Parenthood  
08:00 Yoga Hosers  
09:35 Fan Girl  
11:15 Parenthood  
13:25 Life  
15:15 Cops And Robbersons  
16:50 Home Springs  
18:25 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit  
20:15 Big Momma's House  
22:00 Safe Men  
23:30 Born Romantic



00:40 Breaking And Entering  
02:40 A Little Chaos  
04:40 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine  
06:50 The Better Angels  
08:30 Young Ones  
10:20 Pele: Birth Of A Legend  
12:10 The Better Angels  
13:50 Healing  
15:55 Young Ones  
17:45 Still Alice  
19:30 No God No Master  
21:10 The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou  
23:15 Suite Francaise



00:55 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas  
02:05 Funny Little Cars  
03:10 Bark Ranger  
04:40 The Adventures Of Don Quixote  
06:20 Lego DC: Justice League Gotham City Breakout  
07:45 Cher Ami  
09:15 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie  
10:25 Capture The Flag  
12:05 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas  
13:15 Funny Little Cars  
14:20 Egon And Donci  
15:45 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie  
16:55 Song Of The Sea  
18:35 Memory Loss  
20:00 Egon And Donci  
21:25 Cher Ami  
22:55 Capture The Flag



00:45 Forces Of Nature  
02:30 The Legend Of Zorro  
04:40 Blue Streak  
06:15 Eight Men Out  
08:15 The Legend Of Zorro  
10:25 Inception  
12:55 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!  
14:35 Last Action Hero  
16:45 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes  
18:30 Rocky III  
20:10 Spectre  
22:40 Dragonfly



00:30 How Do They Do It?  
00:55 Food Factory  
01:20 NASA's Unexplained Files  
02:10 Sci-Trek  
02:10 How We Invented The World  
03:48 Mythbusters  
04:36 How Do They Do It?  
05:00 Food Factory  
05:24 NASA's Unexplained Files  
06:12 Sci-Trek  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:26 How We Invented The World  
08:14 Mythbusters  
09:02 Sci-Trek  
09:50 How Do They Do It?  
10:14 Food Factory  
10:38 NASA's Unexplained Files  
11:26 How We Invented The World  
12:14 Mythbusters  
13:02 How Do They Do It?  
13:26 Food Factory  
13:50 Sci-Trek  
14:38 How We Invented The World  
15:26 NASA's Unexplained Files  
16:14 Mythbusters  
17:02 Sci-Trek  
17:50 Kings Of Construction  
18:40 Mythbusters



CROSSWORD 1686



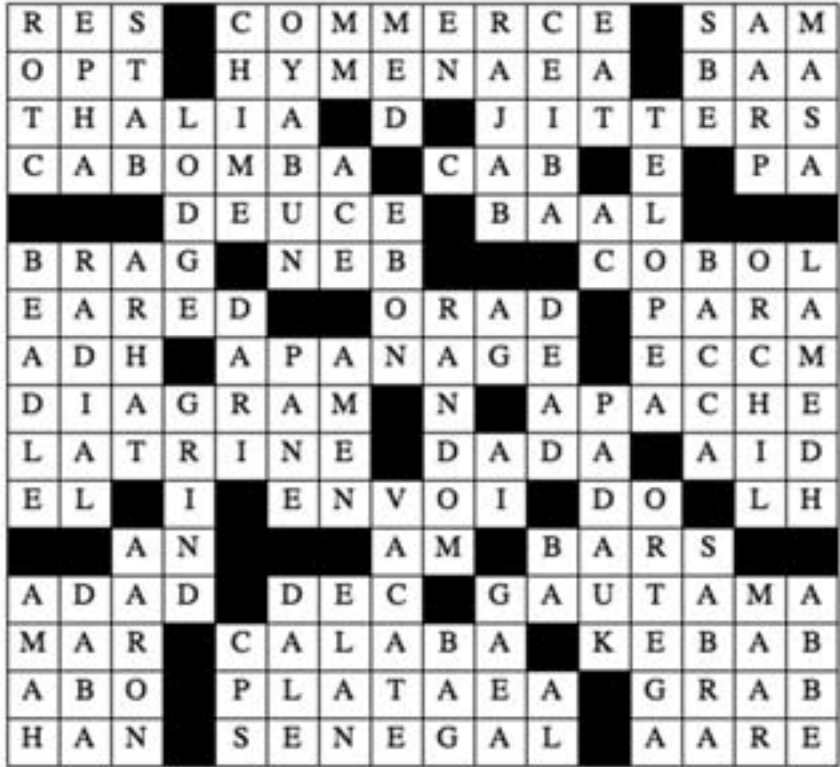
ACROSS

1. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
4. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Clinoril).
12. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
15. A member of the Siouan people living in the Yazoo river valley in Mississippi.
16. Small genus of perennial mostly Eurasian having terminal spikes of small purplish or white flowers.
17. The facility where wild animals are housed for exhibition.
18. Large Indian antelope.
20. Forced to turn and face attackers.
21. Top part of an apron.
22. Using speech rather than writing.
23. Lacking sufficient water or rainfall.
25. Cause to run off the tracks.
29. Marked by a rhythmical cadence.
33. Colony of the United Kingdom located on a limestone promontory at the southern tip of Spain.
37. Canadian hockey player (born 1948).
38. Lower in esteem.
40. Edible bulb of an onion plant.
41. Largest city in Washington.
44. Any of several cultivated sour cherry trees bearing pale red fruit with colorless juice.
46. Enclose or enfold completely with or as if with a covering.
47. A lyric poet.
48. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
49. A historical region of southwestern India on the west coast.
52. A hidden storage space (for money or provisions or weapons).
55. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
58. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
60. Young sheep.
64. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
67. A member of a monotheistic sect of Zoroastrian origin.
68. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
69. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
71. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
72. The basic unit of money in Albania.
73. The great hall in ancient Persian palaces.
74. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).

DOWN

1. French biochemist who (with Francois Jacob) explained how genes are activated and suggested the existence of messenger RNA (1910-1976).
2. Lighted up by or as by fire or flame.
3. Designating a solution containing 1 mole of solute per 1000 grams of solvent.
4. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
5. Bearded reddish sheep of southern Asia.
6. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
7. The Palestinian uprising (beginning in 1987) against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
8. A student who studies excessively.
9. A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.
10. One of the three Furies.
11. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
12. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
13. A French river.
14. Having deeply indented margins but with lobes not entirely separate from each other.
19. A tract of land with few or no trees in the middle of a wooded area.
24. A non-aromatic saturated hydrocarbon with the general formula CnH(2n+2).
26. An internal representation of the world.
27. Harmony of people's opinions or actions or characters.
28. (Greek mythology) The goddess of youth and spring.
30. A particular environment or walk of life.
31. Showing the wearing effects of overwork or care or suffering.
32. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
34. An industrial city in northern France near the Belgian border.
35. Having a pair of equal and opposite charges.
36. Of or belonging to an enemy.
39. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
42. A just detectable amount.
43. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
45. Of or relating to or involving an area.
50. A histamine blocker (trade name Pepcid) used to treat peptic ulcers and gastritis and esophageal reflux.
51. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
53. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
54. A drug (trade names Calan and Isoptin) used as an oral or parenteral calcium blocker in cases of hypertension or congestive heart failure or angina or migraine.
56. A French abbot.
57. Related to or located at the back.
59. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
61. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
62. One thousandth of a second.
63. Slanting diagonally across the grain of a fabric.
65. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
66. Liveliness and energy.
70. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find yourself having fun with some of your co-worker friends today. Interactions at a park or a friendly ball game may create just what is needed to get to know your working teammates better. A barbeque after the games may put a pleasant ending to a pleasant day. It is easy to sit and talk with a few of your co-worker friends, and everyone feels relaxed and comfortable in expressing opinions. You always come up with new ideas to organize things better, make things work; practical thoughts. You may be quite pleased at the result of the gathering. People are kind and stay away from the gossip arena. Animals are the topic of conversation in your family tonight; someone saw an animal that person had never seen before.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You could be very much in demand as a counselor this day. Solving problems in a volunteer position becomes second nature and around your home the problems could be about which plants to grow or where the patio may be located. Perhaps you are a volunteer fireman on certain weekends . . . Whatever the case, people love your company and you enjoy adding to your relationships. This is a good day to get things done. There is good eye-hand coordination and a sustained effort that will make most any task run well. You may feel like exercising or getting out and about this evening. Bicycling with young people, visiting friends or dinner out with a loved one is in order. Positive communications can be enjoyed, right up until bedtime.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You appreciate a caring attitude and this creates that service-oriented mind-set that others often enjoy from you. You just naturally look for ways to be helpful. The people that are your friends will enjoy a little time to laugh and share your time away from your work. Those that refresh others will be refreshed. This afternoon budget subjects come to the surface. If you have teenagers, this is a good time to include them in ways to make their money count. You might want to ask how they would change and improve their money habits. They may have understood budgeting better than you thought. Now however, it is time to dive deeper. Tonight your energies seem to be just right for ordering clothes over the internet-check out the new styles.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a great time to work with others in any sort of group situation. There is a chance to be chosen or to choose a team and compete with whatever project is urgent and on the agenda for today. This day should move along very well. Your intuitive side kicks in this afternoon and you find an interest in some subject that is psychological. You may find yourself, not necessarily an advisor, but a gatherer of people's experiences. You will be listening, as usual, to all sorts of information regarding relationships, progress and positive outcomes. Since you are artistic, you might consider the study of different artists. You may become interested in writing a bit of poetry and reflecting on your day as you write. Be careful of quick responses later tonight.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You feel understanding and accepting and are easily moved by the problems of others. Psychology in all of its forms is a driving force in your life. There is a goal to expand your knowledge and experiences and your focus is on your special goals. You are connected to farseeing visions, worldviews and group work of all kinds. You may tend to be a bit independent when it comes to working with standard policies. Travel may soon be called for in your workplace, and you could be one of the first representatives for your company. Your sense of discrimination when it comes to practical issues is excellent-be quick to compliment the clearheaded thinking of others. Everything takes on an added value. Do not overspend today.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Discovering what you truly believe in-fighting for it, even-is a high personal priority. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the arenas where this may take place. This is a time of testing your limits to see how far you can go. Communicating well is important to you. You make every effort to be patient and make sure you are understood. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most natural and enthusiastic. You would do well in a career in music, poetry, psychology, social work, philosophy-and other realms of the imagination. You can help or teach others by sharing your understanding. Spiritual problems and questions are easy because you always seem to understand.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Things are happening, and your career depends upon your own ambition and drive, which are strong at this time. You are able to take some time this morning for the family and then you might think of some ideas for the workplace. Your suggestions for next week could be written down and presented at an appropriate time later. You could make some monetary rewards for the company in which you work. Give this presentation some careful thought. Your own concentration with this project may appear to separate you from where the rest of the gang is headed. Science projects seem to hold your attention later and you enjoy teaching or experimenting on some projects this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your thoughts and ideas may not mesh with the plans and methods of someone you meet with this day. You have chores to run and projects ongoing-keep moving forward. Soon, you will see the energies calm and a new understanding. You have a fundamental approach to group involvement. Progressive, with insights into uniting humanity, you understand the true meaning of democracy. Things will work out in your favor if you maintain low tones for now. You are always working for the benefit of all. You are very independent when it comes to your own security and family. That could mean an unconventional-style home or furnishings, or a different approach to sentiment, nostalgia and history. You may decide to invest in an art piece today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Obtaining and exchanging information with neighbors is fun this day as you may find some common interest. Some performance skill that you are familiar with may become the biggest topic of conversation. A few of your friends may want to get together and create some fun entertainment for each other. One familiar treat would be to take turns in performing skits. Some form of competition is enjoyed and a bit of wit is part of the fun. This time every year is usually reserved for deep consideration regarding vacation time. Perhaps a stay at home time this year will afford you the opportunity to catch up on upkeep of your property or a chance to enhance your home in some way. One item of interest is in preserving rain water.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are determined to see above this day, despite rain, a mind-numbing phone call, work issues, a new family member, neighbor problems, a marriage connection or your first home. This is life and you feel invigorated and ready to take on whatever is before you. Your attitude is upbeat and positive and anyone around you will probably take on the same attitude. It seems you are scheduled for a raise or some other boost in your workplace and this has you feeling very full of self-esteem. You, however, have worked hard to get into a new place and a new status. This evening after all the celebration, you don't stop . . . You still move into the thinking of what it takes to move forward and continue to grow. You like the upward movement.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your presence and importance in any group, while perhaps not verbalized, is always acknowledged. You can cause others to act, change or react just by being in their presence-nothing need be said. Yours is the mastery of the physical and the practical. Your energies run effectively toward making yourself felt in the material, tangible outer world. You are an action person who gains the attention of others and seems to get people and things moving. The circumstances of your life suggest extroversion. You may complain of never having any privacy or time to think-your pattern seems to throw you in contact with people and the outer world. If you need to put the romance back into your marriage, now is the perfect time.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is an ease with your personal project at this time that you may have never known before. Everything is running so smoothly that you may decide to take on another project or adventure. Being a Monday, you might also want to just walk at a slow pace. The events of the morning have the makings for a bright and witty day. Your communication skills are at a high energy level. This afternoon you are very out-front and candid with family. You should be able to share your thoughts and ideas with each other and make great headway in deepening your relationships. You enjoy doing research and may involve the whole family in learning about your ancestors. You enjoy discovering your background. Your passionate approach to life is obvious to all.

WORD SEARCH

Old TV Shows 3

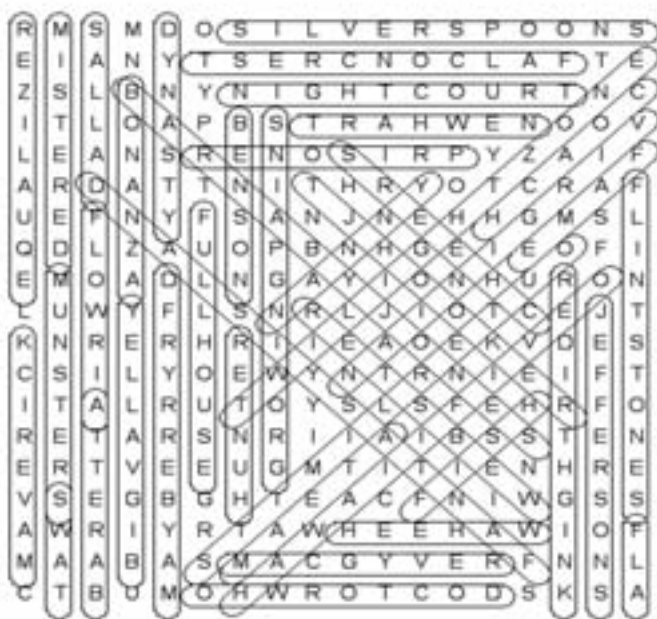
Find and circle all of the old TV shows that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional old TV show.



- ADDAMS FAMILY  
AVENGERS  
BATMAN  
BEWITCHED  
BRADY BUNCH  
CHARLIE'S ANGELS  
COACH  
COLUMBO  
COBBY SHOW  
CYBILL  
DRAGNET
- FAMILY TIES  
GET SMART  
GOLDEN GIRLS  
GUNSMOKE  
HAPPY DAYS  
HARRY O  
HIGHLANDER  
HOGAN'S HEROES  
HOTEL  
I LOVE LUCY
- KNOTS LANDING  
KUNG FU  
LONE RANGER  
MAGNUM P.I.  
MANNIX  
MASH  
MCLOUD  
MONKEES  
NIGHT GALLERY  
PRETENDER
- QUANTUM LEAP  
QUINCY  
ROCKFORD FILES  
ROSEANNE  
STAR TREK  
THE SAINT  
TWIN PEAKS  
WINGS  
WONDER YEARS  
X FILES

Yesterday's Solution

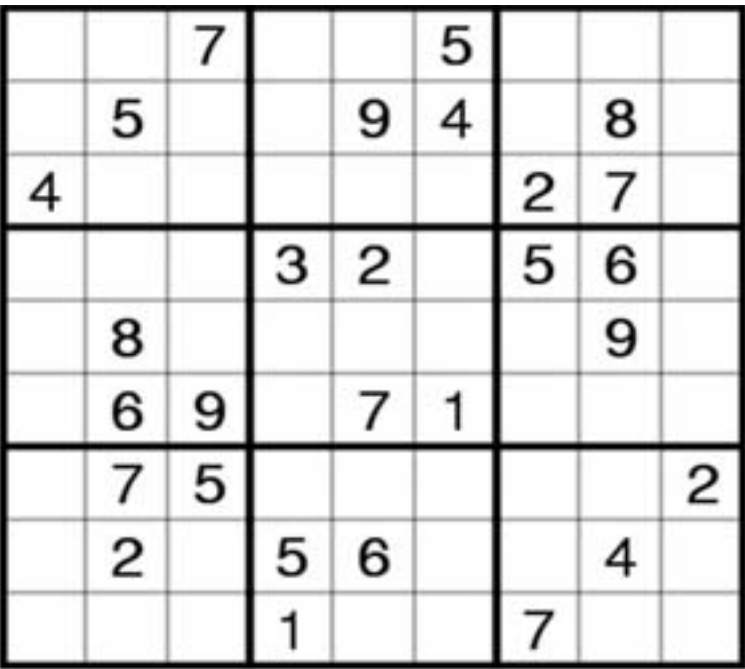
Old TV Shows 2



- A-TEAM  
ALF  
AIRWOLF  
BARETTA  
BARNABY JONES  
BENSON  
BIG VALLEY  
BONANZA  
CHEERS  
COACH  
DALLAS
- DOCTOR WHO  
DYNASTY  
EQUALIZER  
FALCON CREST  
FAME  
FANTASY ISLAND  
FISH  
FLINTSTONES  
FULL HOUSE  
GROWING PAINS  
HAWAII FIVE-O
- HEE HAW  
HUNTER  
JEFFERSONS  
KNIGHT RIDER  
MACGYVER  
MAVERICK  
MAYBERRY R.F.D.  
MISTER ED  
MUNSTERS  
NANNY
- NEWHART  
NIGHT COURT  
OUTER LIMITS  
PRISONER  
S.W.A.T.  
SILVER SPOONS  
T.J. HOOKER  
TWILIGHT ZONE  
VIRGINIAN  
WEBSTER

The hidden TV show is: MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





# CLASSIFIEDS



TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017

55



## 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-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  
THE HATTON GARDEN JOB 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 4:45 PM  
KIDNAP 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 4:45 PM  
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 DARK TOWER 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  
NO FRI+SAT+MON  
VELAILILLA PATTADHARI 2- Tamil 6:30 PM  
FRI+SAT+MON  
JAB HARRY MET SEJAL -Hindi 9:15 PM

**MACHINIST**  
Leading machine shop  
in Kuwait seeking  
**LATHE MACHINE  
OPERATOR**  
With 10 - 15 years of  
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Send your CV to:  
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**KUWAIT CITY**  
TWO BED ROOM,  
TWO BATHROOM,  
BIG SALOON  
CONTACT TEL:  
99499998

**SITUATION WANTED**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

Indian, male, MBA (finance), pursuing CFA (USA) having 12 years experience in Kuwait, presently working as finance manager, is looking for similar post for immediate placement. Please call 90073251 / 55584351. (C 5339) 14-8-2017

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.



PRAYER TIMINGS	
Fajr:	03:50
Shorook:	05:16
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:28
Maghrib:	18:29
Isha:	19:51



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 Tuesday 15/8/2017					Departure Flights on Tuesday 15/8/2017										
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	SVB	513	Riyadh	11:00
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	00:05	SAW	704	Damascus	11:45
SVB	502	Jeddah	00:20	AXB	954	GYD	13:00	BBC	144	Dhaka	00:10	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
SVB	514	Riyadh	00:25	SYR	341	Kozhikode	13:10	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	QTR	8511	Doha	13:30	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC	672	Dubai	13:45	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	692	Muscat	13:55	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15
RJA	642	Amman	00:45	KAC	792	Madinah	13:55	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	1078	Doha	14:10	SVB	503	Jeddah	01:20	PAL	669	Manila	13:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	JAI	573	Mumbai	01:25	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC	364	Colombo	14:15	SVB	515	Riyadh	01:25	FEG	938	Sohag	13:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	MSC	412	Asyut	01:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	618	Doha	14:20	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	SVB	500	Jeddah	14:45	KAC	677	Dubai	01:45	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	KAC	363	Colombo	01:55	SVR	342	Damascus	14:30
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	KAC	562	Amman	15:10	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55	QTR	8512	Doha	15:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:30	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:30
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
THY	752	Istanbul	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	RJA	645	Amman	03:55	SVB	501	Jeddah	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	THY	753	Istanbul	04:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	FDK	801	Damascus	16:00	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:10	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10	KAC	513	Tehran	16:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:50
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR	257	Beirut	16:20	KAC	417	Manila	04:20	FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	KAC	118	New York	16:25	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50	LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05	THY	3901	TZX	05:00	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
THY	3900	Istanbul	04:00	SVB	510	Riyadh	17:15	QTR	1091	Doha	05:05	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30	KAC	357	Colombo	17:35
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	FEG	934	Sohag	05:55	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
FEG	937	Sohag	05:00	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
THY	1414	TXZ	05:05	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:00
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:05	JZR	238	Amman	07:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	05:20	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	07:05	SVB	511	Riyadh	18:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	NIA	0161	Cairo	19:15	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	07:05	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
AAG	143	Sharjah	06:00	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40	KAC	167	Paris	07:15	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	WAN	983	TBS	07:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	178	Vienna	19:45	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50	JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	07:55	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	620	Doha	20:05	BAW	156	London	08:20	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	401	Beirut	20:15	KAC	177	Vienna	08:25	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15	KAC	741	Dammam	08:30	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	KAC	691	Muscat	08:30	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:15
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	ICV	675	Luxembourg	20:55	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
AZG	565	GYD	08:00	KAC	166	Rome	20:55	KAC	791	Madinah	08:35	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	514	Tehran	20:55	JZR	256	Beirut	09:00	KAC	543	Cairo	20:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	564	Amman	21:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	168	Paris	21:05	KAC	117	SNN/New York	09:15	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10	KAC	165	Rome	09:20	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	445	Amsterdam	21:15	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	KLM	229	Colombo	21:15	KAC	561	Amman	09:30	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
SVB	512	Riyadh	10:00	ALK	859	Dubai	21:15	KAC	482	Istanbul	09:40	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE	764	Istanbul	21:30	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
SAW	703	Damascus	10:45	THY	219	Bahrain	21:50	KAC	101	London	09:45	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	GFA	219	Doha	22:05	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	QTR	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
JAL	668	Manila	11:00	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	AZG	566	GYD	10:00	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
PAL	561	Sohag	11:10	PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	JZR	241	Amman	22:55	KAC	617	Doha	10:15	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	JZR	185	Dubai	23:00	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	QTR	1071	Dubai	10:35	ICV	675	Hong Kong	22:55
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	MSC	405	Sohag	23:30	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30	IRA	674	Lar	10:40	JZR	528	Asyut	23:05
JZR	239	Amman	12:25	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	AAG	144	QA	11:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10



MUSIC & MOVIES

## No 'Game of Thrones' in latest HBO hacker leak

Hackers continue to pester HBO, but didn't release any material related to the network's hit show "Game of Thrones" in their latest leak. The hackers, who broke into HBO's computer network and have been doling out stolen information for the past several weeks, released more unaired episodes, including several of the highly anticipated return of "Curb Your Enthusiasm," which debuts in October.

The latest dump includes Sunday night's episode of "Insecure," another popular show, and what appear to be episodes of other lower-profile shows, including "Ballers," the unaired shows "Barry" and "The Deuce," a comedy special and other programming. The network acknowledged the hack in late July, and the thieves have been dribbling out stolen video and documents since then while demanding a multimillion-dollar ransom.

They have leaked "Game of Thrones" scripts, sensitive internal documents like job offer letters and a month's worth of emails

from a programming executive. But the intrusion has so far fallen well short of the chaos inflicted on Sony when the studio was hacked in 2014. Still, the criminals may be holding on to more damaging data - both intellectual property, like unaired programming, and sensitive personal information of HBO employees - that they can use as leverage to try to get money from HBO, said Gartner analyst Avivah Litan.

"It's kind of like kidnap and ransom and torture," she said. "Eventually HBO may have to give in." In an emailed statement Sunday, HBO said it's "not going to participate" in what it described as attempts to generate attention by dropping "bits and pieces of stolen information." The company added that it was not in communication with the hackers. It has said previously that it doesn't believe its email system as a whole was breached. — AP



This file photo shows Melina Matsoukas, from left, Prentice Penny and Issa Rae participating in the 'Insecure' panel during the HBO Television Critics Association summer press tour in Beverly Hills, California. — AP

## Britain's Big Ben to fall silent for four years

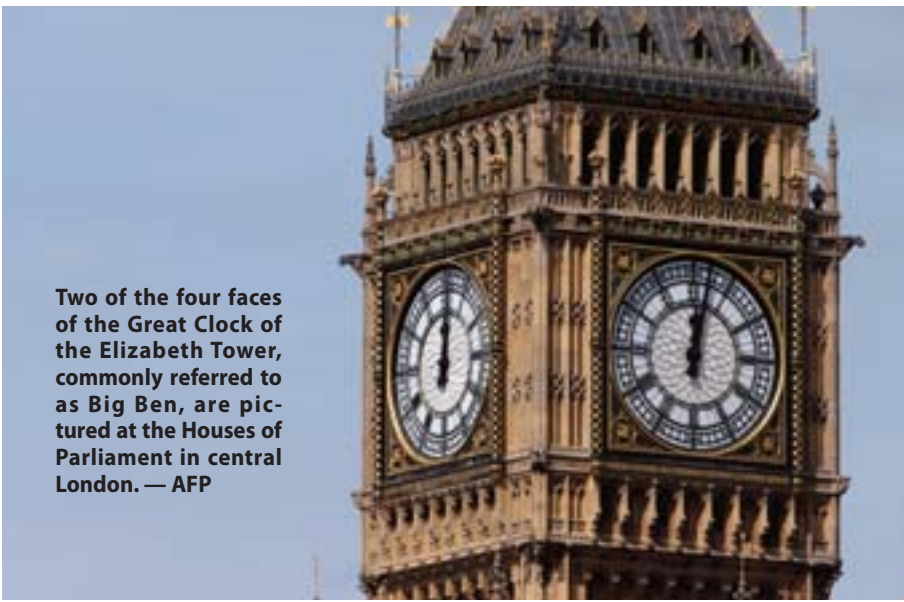
Britain's much-loved Big Ben will fall silent for four years from next week as conservation work is carried out on the famous 19th century bell in a clock tower next to the Houses of Parliament. "Big Ben falling silent is a significant milestone in this crucial conservation project," Steve Jaggs, whose official title is "Keeper of the Great Clock," said in a parliament statement yesterday. "This essential program of works will safeguard the clock on a long term basis, as well as protecting and preserving its home-the Elizabeth Tower," he said.

It will be the longest period that Big Ben, whose bongs are familiar to many people around the world because of their use in BBC radio and television broadcasts, has been silent in its 157-year history. The Great Bell, popularly called Big Ben, weighs 13.7 tons and strikes every hour to the note of E. Four smaller bells also chime every 15 minutes. The last bong before the refurbishment will be at 12 pm on August 21, the statement said. The clock will still tell the time silently until

2021 and the chimes will continue to be rung on important occasions such as New Year's Eve.

The Elizabeth Tower, which is 96 meters high, is the most photographed building in Britain. The tower itself is commonly referred to as Big Ben even though the name applies only to the bell. The clock's cogs and hands as well as the four dials will be removed, cleaned up and repaired as part of the work. The project's cost was estimated last year at £29 million (31.9 million euros, \$37.7 million). Because the clock mechanism will be temporarily out of action, a modern electric motor will drive the clock hands until the clock is reinstated.

Parliament also said that the clock's faces would have to be covered up while they are being repaired. "However, to ensure that the public are still able to set their watches by this most important of time pieces, one working clock face will remain visible at all times throughout the works," it said. — AP



Two of the four faces of the Great Clock of the Elizabeth Tower, commonly referred to as Big Ben, are pictured at the Houses of Parliament in central London. — AFP

## Video captures Tom Cruise limping after 'MI6' stunt

A video taken on the set of "Mission: Impossible 6" shows Tom Cruise limping after performing a stunt where he jumps between buildings. The video was published Sunday by TMZ. It captures a tethered Cruise leaping to a building, hitting its side and then crawling over the top and running away. After he finished the take, Cruise is seen limping, though he was able to rappel back to the building he jumped from. The extent of Cruise's injuries wasn't known. Neither Cruise's representatives nor Paramount Pictures returns messages Sunday. The 55-year-old actor is well known for performing many of his own stunts. The sixth installment in the "Mission: Impossible" franchise is currently shooting in London. It's scheduled for release in July next year. — AP



In this file photo, Tom Cruise poses during a photocall for the French premiere of 'The Mummy' in Paris, France. — AP



This image released by Neon shows Aubrey Plaza in a scene from 'Ingrid Goes West.' — AP

## 'Ingrid Goes West' looks at social media's dark side

Quick, what's more important: social media or real life? For the title character in "Ingrid Goes West," there is no question, and perhaps no distinction. Powered by Aubrey Plaza's searing performance, director and co-writer Matt Spicer's feature debut explores such a dark side of social media obsession, it's hard to consider it satire. It's a story about young women who find validation in likes and followers, who equate social media experiences with real-life ones.

Like so many millennials, Ingrid (Plaza) is an Instagram junkie. Her phone is always in hand, a portal to all that is #perfect and #blessed. Any free moment is spent scrolling through photos. The double-thumb-tap she uses to "like" images is as instinctive as blinking. But she's also obsessive and mentally unstable. She once crashed a wedding and attacked the bride after fixating on her expertly curated Instagram profile.

Flush with cash after her mother dies, Ingrid moves to Los Angeles to be near her latest social media obsession: Blonde, beautiful Taylor Sloane (Elizabeth Olsen), whose life on Instagram looks like a chic California magazine captioned with literary quotes and hashtags like #weekend-vibes. Ingrid styles her hair like Taylor's. She eats at her favorite breakfast spot. She buys the purse Taylor posted about. Then she works out a way to meet the Instagram star so they can be friends.

Olsen is pitch perfect as sunny, superficial Taylor, who says everything is "the best" and has no qualms about asking a gas station attendant to lay on the ground to snap a perfectly-framed social media pic. The screenplay by Spicer and co-writer David Branson Smith looks at how Taylor's appetite for admiration

might allow for a friend like Ingrid - her sycophantic fawning feeds right into Taylor's million-follower ego.

Plaza disappears into the unhinged Ingrid, a character exciting in her sheer unlikeability. She lies and steals to get what she wants. She exploits trust and kindness. But she brims with a deep human fear of inadequacy, one she hopes internet popularity might remedy. Plaza brings a vulnerability and desperation to Ingrid that makes her relatable. She's obsessive and unstable, but she just wants to be liked, online or anywhere.

O'Shea Jackson plays Ingrid's land-lord/neighbor/admirer Dan, this story's version of the manic pixie dream girl. Though Jackson gets to show off his sparkling smile more here than in "Straight Outta Compton," his character exists to be Ingrid's savior and moral foil. "Ingrid Goes West" has fun with some social media tropes and Southern California tendencies, but it feels less like a satire than a cautionary tale, for both the envious and the envied. It dips into rich territory by examining the covetousness social media inspires, not just for things, but for attention. Still, even someone with millions of followers can feel lonely or unseen.

Taylor and Ingrid may approach Instagram from opposite sides, but both live in a world where "likes" have tremendous value. "Ingrid Goes West," a Neon release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language throughout, drug use, some sexual content and disturbing behavior." Running time: 97 minutes. Three stars out of four. — AP



This handout photograph shows Dennis Muhammad Abdullah, right, of the Netherlands posing with his bride, Princess Tunku Tun Aminah Sultan Ibrahim, left, the only daughter of the Sultan of Johor, after their wedding at Istana Bukit Serene in Johor Bahru. — AFP

## Love is in the air on India's first LGBT radio show

Outspoken Indian gay rights activist Harish Iyer is used to fighting for equal rights but over the last month he has turned into a messenger of love. He is the host of "Gaydio", the first radio show dedicated to lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) issues in India, where homosexuality is a taboo and gay sex can be punished with up to 10 years in jail. "As an activist, it is in my DNA to stand up for a cause," Iyer, 38, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"You hear heart-warming love stories during your activism, but you are busy being the savior. But on this show, I look at the softer side." India's penal code bans "sex against the order of nature", which is widely interpreted as homosexual sex, and transgender people face widespread discrimination even though the Supreme Court has enshrined a person's right to identify as transgender.

The weekly show on commercial radio channel Ishq, which means love in Urdu, was launched in mid-July and is aired every Sunday in the cities of Mumbai, New Delhi and Kolkata. Iyer's guests on the two-hour Sunday show included a Sikh-Muslim male couple who spoke about how they met, their coming-out experience and still going strong after 12 years. In another episode, a

mother spoke with her son's ex-boyfriend and in the latest airing, a heterosexual man and his transgender wife shared their story.

Iyer, who hit headlines in 2015 when his mother posted a "groom wanted" matrimonial advertisement in a leading English-language newspaper, said people on his show have shared their stories openly. "The unique religion, caste, gender and familial bonds in these stories are part of the narrative," Iyer said. There is no official data on the LGBT population in India, but the government estimates there are 2.5 million gay people, reflecting those who have declared their sexuality to the health ministry.

Campaigners say real numbers are far higher as many individuals conceal their identity fearing discrimination in a country where most marriages still take place within the boundaries of caste and religion. Shivangini Jajoria, national operations head at Ishq, said the radio station wants to break down boundaries and feature all kind of relationships. "When the Muslim and Sikh couple shared their coming out story, it made it easier for others to come out," said Jajoria. "People are also understanding the LGBTQ community better through these stories."-Reuters

### Book Review



## 'A Stranger in the House' has strong plot

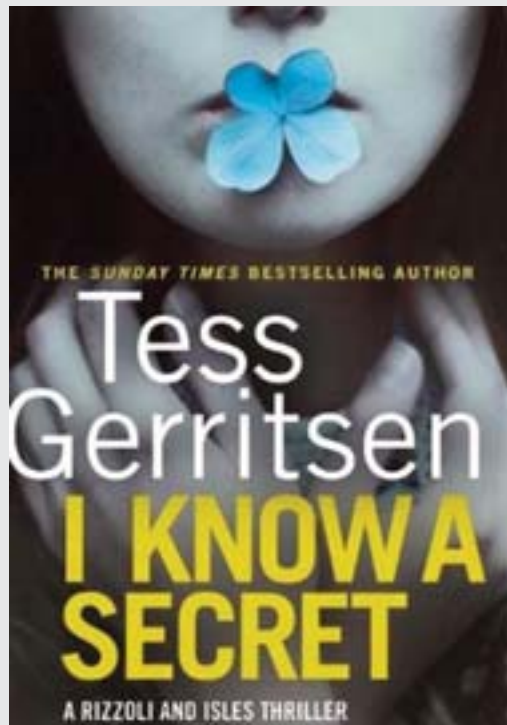
In her second thriller, Shari Lapena poses the question: How well do you know your spouse? It's not exactly a new story device, but Lapena's fresh approach makes it seem original in "A Stranger in the House." While the novel is plot-heavy, the characters are more sketches than fully fleshed-out people. No character is likable or worth rooting for, but the redemption is that Lapena makes them interesting, keeping the reader invested in what happens next.

Karen Krupp is left with a bad concussion after crashing her car into a pole while fleeing from an abandoned restaurant in a sketchy neighborhood in a town in upstate New York. She claims she has no memory of what happened, and her doctors acknowledge that this could happen, but add that she might regain her memory. Police surmise that Karen may have something to do with a man found shot to death in the empty restaurant.

Karen's husband, Tom, is at a loss at what to believe. Karen's accident, and the fact that she left that night without her purse or cellphone, are out of character for his normally calm, organized wife. Tom begins to wonder just how well he knows Karen. She never talks about her background and her family, and she appears to have only one friend, Brigid Cruikshank, who lives across the street.

But Brigid is hardly the caring friend, spending most of her day in front of her living room window watching the comings and goings of the Krupps, consumed with jealousy over their life. Lapena keeps the well-developed twists churning, with each a surprise notch in this ever-evolving plot, and she continues this skillful storytelling until the stunning twist at the end. But it's hard to connect with the cold Karen, the naive, almost vapid Tom or the creepy Brigid.

Lapena's excellent debut, "The Couple Next Door," melded plot with character for a unique look at a missing child case. In "A Stranger in the House," Lapena's characters are indeed strangers, forgettable as soon as the reader has finished. But the strong plot of "A Stranger in the House" is quite memorable. — AP



## 'I Know a Secret' unfolds in unexpected ways

Tess Gerritsen brings back Boston homicide detective Jane Rizzoli and medical examiner Maura Isles to tackle another baffling mystery in "I Know a Secret: a Rizzoli & Isles Novel," weaving a thriller that slowly unfolds in unexpected ways. Rizzoli and Isles feel like real people, and readers who are fans of either the book series or the former TV show know there's an emotional angle to the proceedings and care about everything that happens to the duo.

In "I Know a Secret," a woman in her early twenties who worked on independent and low-budget horror films is murdered in her bed. When another body shows up - a man around the same age - Isles realizes there must be a connection. The evidence suggests otherwise, but Rizzoli knows to trust Isles' instincts. They soon learn that the two victims knew each other when they were children and went to the same after-school daycare.

The three people who ran it were prosecuted and imprisoned for doing horrible things to the children in their care. Rizzoli & Isles realize that one of them has recently been released from jail. "I Know a Secret" becomes a race to protect the remaining children who testified all those years ago from suffering a similar fate. And how do the crimes tie into the gruesome death of martyred saints? Gerritsen writes effortlessly, and this is another stellar entry in the series. — AP



MUSIC & MOVIES

# Annabelle scares up \$35m, jolting sleepy box office

The "Conjuring" spinoff "Annabelle: Creation" scared up an estimated \$35 million in North American theaters over the weekend, making it easily the top film and giving the lagging August box office a shot in the arm. The opening came close to matching the film's predecessor, "Annabelle," which opened with \$37.1 million in October 2014. Warner Bros. could celebrate not only the month's biggest debut but also having the week's top two films. Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk" followed in second with \$11.4 million in its fourth weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Even amid an especially weak August, the well-reviewed horror sequel and modestly budgeted "Annabelle: Creation" found eager audiences. "That we were able to do \$35 million in what is a very sluggish marketplace was very impressive," said Jeffrey Goldstein, Warner Bros. distribution chief. "We all know that moviegoing begets moviegoing and right now it's a dip in the content overall." The film, the third to spiral out of 2013's "The Conjuring," cost only about \$15 million to make.

More sequels and spinoffs are being developed in what has become for Warner Bros. a steadily profitable horror franchise bent on old-school frights. The "Annabelle" offshoot centers on a possessed doll. Last week's top film, the poorly received Stephen King adaptation "The Dark Tower," slid dramatically. The Sony Pictures release, starring Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey, toppled nearly 60 percent on its second weekend with an estimated \$7.9 million.

The week's other new entry, the Open Road animated release "Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature," edged just above "The Dark Tower" with \$8.9 million. That was well below the 2014 debut of the original, "The Nut Job," which opened with \$19.4 million. But the solid returns for "Annabelle: Creation" did little to counter the box-office slide. The box office was down 31.6 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Suicide



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Lulu Wilson in 'Annabelle: Creation.'—AP

Squad" was No. 1 despite brutal reviews and Seth Rogen's "Sausage Party" opened.

The summer altogether is down 12.4 percent from last year, according to comScore. "This is a great weekend to be a really scary doll and Warner Bros., but for everyone else, it's just plain scary," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "It proves the horror genre is alive and well." Some of July's bright spots, however, have continued into August. The summer's top comedy, "Girls Trip," will soon sur-

pass \$100 million domestically.

The movie, starring Jada Pinkett Smith and Queen Latifah, took in \$6.5 million in its fourth week to bring its cumulative total to \$97.2 million. It may end up doubling the gross of its closest summer comedy competition: the starrier and pricier "Baywatch" (\$58.1 million in its entire run). In limited release, the A24 crime thriller "Good Time," starring Robert Pattinson, debuted with a robust \$34,000 per-screen average on four screens. That was bettered, though, by the \$47,000 screen-

average of Neon's "Ingrid Goes West," with Aubrey Plaza, on three screens. Both films expand in coming weeks.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers also are included. Final domestic figures were released yesterday.

1. "Annabelle: Creation," \$35 million (\$35 million international).
  2. "Dunkirk," \$11.4 million (\$14.5 million international).
  3. "Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature," \$8.9 million.
  4. "The Dark Tower," \$7.9 million (\$7.9 million international).
  5. "The Emoji Movie," \$6.6 million (\$14.1 million international).
  6. "Girls Trip," \$6.5 million (\$1.4 million international).
  7. "Spider-Man: Homecoming," \$6.1 million (\$12.4 million international).
  8. "Kidnap," \$5.2 million.
  9. "Glass Castle," \$4.9 million.
  10. "Atomic Blonde," \$4.6 million (\$5.2 million international).
- Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the US and Canada), according to comScore
1. "Wolf Warrior 2," \$83.6 million.
  2. "Annabelle Creation," \$35 million.
  3. "Guilty of Mind," \$23.6 million.
  4. "The Adventures," \$22.3 million.
  5. "War for the Planet of the Apes," \$17.1 million.
  6. "A Taxi Driver," \$15.3 million.
  7. "Despicable Me 3," \$15 million.
  8. "Dunkirk," \$14.5 million.
  9. "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets," \$14.4 million.
  10. "The Emoji Movie," \$14.1 million. — AP



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Chris Pine, left, and Gal Gadot in a scene from, 'Wonder Woman.' — AP photos



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Harry Styles, from left, Aneurin Barnard and Fionn Whitehead in a scene from 'Dunkirk.'

## Oscar-nominated writer Joe Bologna dies at 82

Oscar-nominated writer Joe Bologna died Sunday. He was 82. Bologna died in the Los Angeles area after a three-year battle against pancreatic cancer, his manager Matt Sherman told The Associated Press. The actor and director was married to actress Renee Taylor, who credited his doctors for prolonging his life so he could receive a lifetime achievement award at the Night of 100 Stars for the Actors' Fund of America on Feb 26. "He had a beautiful life," Taylor said in a statement.

Born Dec. 30, 1934, Bologna was a native to Brooklyn, New York. After he graduated from Brown University with a degree in art history, Bologna served in the

Marines. Bologna and Taylor married in 1965. "Joe was a loveable man, a kind soul, a good friend and always a pleasure to be with," Sherman said. Bologna was nominated for an Oscar in 1971 for best adapted screenplay for "Lovers and Other Strangers." He won an Emmy in 1973. He had a string of television appearances, but he was best known for the 1982 comedy "My Favorite Year." Bologna was a voice actor for the 2006 animated film "Ice Age: The Meltdown" and had a role in the 1999 Adam Sandler comedy "Big Daddy." — AP

## In a weak summer at the box office, bright spots abound

On their face, the numbers are grim. Movie ticket sales in North America are running roughly half a billion dollars behind last summer's box office, making this one of lowest-grossing summers in years. The 12.4 percent downturn comes at a critical juncture for Hollywood, with constantly swirling fears about the impact of streaming, television and the bazillion other entertainment options out there. AMC, the largest theater chain in the United States, saw its stock price tank recently partly because of slow sales and its forecast for "a very challenging" third quarter.

And yet much of the story at the multiplex this summer has been very positive. Few of the movies that won strong reviews and a warm reception from moviegoers didn't also perform well at the box office. With few exceptions, when the studios sup-

fickle. The stuff they liked, they really liked," said Jeffrey Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros. "The movies that were well received were rewarded with good holds." All but three of the No.1 films this summer were certified fresh on Rotten Tomatoes, including this past weekend's top film, the horror sequel "Annabelle: Creation." "The irony is, it was one of the best summers to be a moviegoer, if not a theater operator," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore.

"When I look at movies like 'Guardians 2,' 'Wonder Woman,' 'War for the Planet of the Apes,' 'Spider-Man: Homecoming,' 'The Big Sick,' 'Detroit,' 'Baby Driver,' 'Dunkirk,' 'Wind River,' I have to say it's been a great time as a moviegoer. 'This is sort of: It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,' said Dergarabedian. You could easily add to that list, too.

Hollywood system, was the kind of pricey auteur-driven overreach that today's corporate-driven studios have largely snuffed out. So what's the problem? Where's the missing \$500 million? (That's about the gap left by this summer's overall gross of \$3.4 billion.) There are two significant drains on this summer's totals. One is the lack of any late-summer blockbuster on the schedule. Before Hollywood's summer runs out on Labor Day weekend, there will be no "Suicide Squad," "Straight Outta Compton" or "Guardians of the Galaxy" (all recent August releases) to mount a comeback.

More significant are a trio of underperforming franchise entries. Paramount's fifth "Transformers" film, Disney's fifth "Pirates of the Caribbean" and Universal's latest try at "The Mummy," all underperformed. All, not coincidentally, were slammed by critics as either franchises running on fumes or, in the case of "The Mummy," a desperate attempt to create one. Each of these titles, to varying degrees, mitigated their losses with better performances overseas. Each made about 80 percent of its worldwide grosses abroad.

The "Pirates" installment, "Dead Men Tell No Tales," debuted in China and pulled in \$614 million internationally. "Transformers: The Last Knight," grossed \$228.8 million in China, the most of any American movie this summer. International box office altogether is up 3.8 percent this year, according to comScore, an increase of about \$600 million. But those movies - along with muted business for "War for the Planet of the Apes" and "Alien: Covenant" - proved that the franchise fatigue that affected last summer has had a sequel of its own in 2017.

While not quite the drumbeat of last summer when a dozen sequels failed to outshine their predecessors, moviegoers continue to sniff out the less inspired retreats of familiar brands. "There have been some big misfires and costly misfires this season," said Adrian Smith, president of domestic distribution for Sony. "The consumer wants unique, fresh and original content. They don't want tired, stale properties. I think that's just their way of speaking out." That continues to pose a potentially existential threat to modern Hollywood, which is virtually run on franchise-building and mining intellectual property assets.

But if "Spider-Man" can be rebooted every five years and still churn out \$700 million in worldwide box office, it shows that "fresh" doesn't necessarily mean "new." What may be changing, though, is the importance of the summer season altogether. Several of the year's biggest films came in its first few months, including "Beauty and the Beast," "Get Out" and "The Fate of the Furious." The year as a whole is running 4.2 percent behind last year - not as yawning as the summer deficit but still a sizable gap large enough to stoke fears for the industry.

But several almost sure-fire blockbusters await in the fall: "Thor: Ragnarok," "Justice League" and "The Last Jedi." Had just one of them preferred warmer temperatures, the summer box office might have looked quite different. — AP



This image released by Columbia Pictures shows Tom Holland in a scene from 'Spider-Man: Homecoming.'

plied the goods, audiences came in droves. The biggest smashes of the summer - "Wonder Woman," "Spider-Man: Homecoming" and "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" - all earned both praise and major business. Two of those films also righted the ship for studios struggling to match Disney's franchise power.

"Spider-Man: Homecoming" was a much-needed shot in the arm for the retooled Sony Pictures, which followed that up with Edgar Wright's music-mad original hit "Baby Driver." Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman" set things right, finally, in Warner Bros.' DC Comics series. The film, which recently surpassed \$400 million domestically, also set a record for highest grossing film directed by a woman. Warner Bros. later gave the summer an honest-to-goodness Oscar contender in July: Christopher Nolan's World War II epic "Dunkirk."

"What we all saw this summer is audiences were

Though many comedies struggled, the summer produced one breakout comedy: "Girls Trip," soon to surpass \$100 million domestically.

Two of the year's most audaciously original and buzzy titles electrified art-house audiences: "Good Time," with Robert Pattinson, and "A Ghost Story," with a sheeted Casey Affleck. On Friday, Oscar-winner Steven Soderbergh will trot out his return to movie directing, the heist film "Logan Lucky," with Channing Tatum. Though they haven't always helped the bottom line, an unusual number of filmmakers and upstart distributors have tried to shake up the summer. Even the season's most spectacular bomb - Luc Besson's \$180-million sci-fi extravaganza "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" - was a charming one.

### Importance of summer season

The film, made and financed outside the



In this October 1989 file photo, the Dalai Lama, left, talks to the comedy writing and acting team of Renee Taylor and Joe Bologna, during a backstage visit prior to the Dalai Lama's convocation on the subject of compassion at UC Irvine in Irvine, California. — AP

## 'SCANDAL' CREATOR SHONDA RHIMES MAKING NEW SHOWS FOR NETFLIX

Shonda Rhimes, the creator of popular television series such as "Scandal" and "Grey's Anatomy," has signed a deal to make new shows for Netflix. The streaming service announced late Sunday that Rhimes' Shondaland production company is moving to Netflix. Netflix wrote in a news release that Rhimes' shows "Grey's Anatomy," "Scandal" and "How to Get Away With Murder" would continue to air on

ABC. Rhimes wrote in a statement that she was grateful to the network for giving her career a start, but she was looking forward to expanding her audience and "creative identity" with Netflix.

"Starting today, we are thrilled to begin creating new Shondaland stories with Netflix," she wrote. She wrote that she and Netflix Chief Content Officer Ted Sarandos had developed a plan for the next phase of Rhimes' career. She said Netflix offered her and her team "limitless possibilities." "I've gotten the chance to know Shonda and she's a true Netflixer at heart - she loves TV and films, she cares passionately about her work, and she delivers for her audience," Sarandos wrote.

No financial terms of the deal were disclosed. The news release also didn't state how long Rhimes and her company would produce series for Netflix. Rhimes, 47, has been nominated for three Emmy Awards, all for her work on "Grey's Anatomy." The long-running series begins its 14th season next month. — AP



In this file photo, Shonda Rhimes attends the 'Scandal' 100th Episode Celebration at Fig & Olive in West Hollywood, California. — AP



A W A R D S



Chris Pratt greets the audience as he accepts the award for choice sci-fi movie actor for 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2' at the Teen Choice Awards at the Galen Center in Los Angeles. — AP/AFP photos



Lil Yachty performs at the Teen Choice Awards.



Zendaya accepts the award for choice summer movie actress for 'Spider-Man: Homecoming.'



KJ Apa and the cast of 'Riverdale' accept the award for choice drama TV show.

# Pratt drops in at TEEN CHOICE Awards but Cyrus a no-show

The Teen Choice Awards, always a bubble of teenage celebration, took time out during Sunday night's ceremony to consider the world its young audience will inherit. Hashtags, surfboards and loud shrieks dominated the Teen Choice Awards, as usual, with YouTube star Jake Paul presiding over a show designed to be tweeted, Snapchatted and put on Instagram. But with the two-hour broadcast coming a day after the violence at a rally of white nationalists in Charlottesville, Virginia, some winners pleaded for teen viewers to do better than their elders.

"With all the injustice and the hatred and everything that's happened not only in the world but in our country right now, I need for you young people, I need you guys to be educated. I need you to listen. I need you to pay attention," said "Spider-Man: Homecoming" actress Zendaya, accepting an award for best summer movie actress. "You are the future presidents, the future senators," she added, clutching the show's trademark surfboard award. "You guys are the ones who are going to make this world better."

The music performance-stuffed show, broadcast live on Fox from Los Angeles, followed a three-hour "Teen Fest" concert in downtown Los Angeles that was streamed on YouTube. Miley Cyrus, an 18-time Teen Choice award winner, was to receive the ceremony's highest honor, the Ultimate Choice Award. But she was announced as a last-minute cancellation early in the ceremony. "I know," said presenter Victoria Justice. "It's a bummer." (Cyrus apologized on Twitter saying she created "an unrealistic schedule for myself.")

Many of the other biggest names either sent video acceptances (Bruno Mars, Gal Gadot) or were merely announced as winners (Beyonce, Zac Efron, Ariana Grande). One notable exception was Chris Pratt, who dropped by to accept his two movie awards. Pratt and his wife, Anna Farris, recently announced their separation. That still left many teen idols for the crowd to cheer, including the cast of the CW drama series "Riverdale" (winner of seven awards) and the group Fifth Harmony, the winner of best music group and song.

"In light of recent events, we just wanted to say to all of the young ones at home watching, no matter who you are, where you come from or what you look like, you are beautiful and you are important," said the group's Lauren Jauregui. "So keep



spreading love and positivity." The prominent role for Paul was a big moment for him, too. In late July Paul departed the Disney Channel series "Bizaardvark" after reports that he was feuding with his West Hollywood, California, neighbors.

"The past few months have humbled me quite a bit. I had to be more mindful of my words and actions and how they impact others," said Paul while accepting his own pair of awards for best YouTuber and web star. "The next step for me is to forget all the bad press, drama, negativity." Rock band Maroon 5 was honored with the decade award. Other winners included Dwayne Johnson for "Moana," Lucy Hale for "Pretty Little Liars" and Ed Sheeran for best male song. — AP

Ally Hernandez, from left, Normani Kordei, Dinah Jane, and Lauren Jauregui of Fifth Harmony, accept the award for choice music group.



French Montana performs at the Teen Choice Awards.



Melissa Benoist, left and Grant Gustin introduce a performance at the Teen Choice Awards.



Maddie Ziegler accepts the award for choice dancer.



Rita Ora, center, performs at the Teen Choice Awards.



Adam Levine, left and James Valentine of Maroon 5, accept the decade award.



Katherine Langford speaks onstage.





# Introducing Goldea 'The Roman Night'

At midnight, the Eternal City is an enchanting sight, inspiring Bulgari to create Goldea, The Roman Night, and a fragrance for the nocturnal Roman goddess. Powerfully intense, its chypre floral musk scent is a seductive new addition to the Goldea collection. Embodying the queen of the night, Bella Hadid is chosen as the Goldea, The Roman Night muse, capturing glamour itself in her supermodel gaze.

**Once upon a roman night**  
Trapped inside an ornate room with a sleepy concert in progress, a beautiful Bulgari woman contemplates the gold magic of Rome at night: it is just outside. The Eternal City calls to her with its hypnotic majesty, and she wriggles in her seat. The concertgoers nod slowly to the cello's solo -while she finds herself looking toward the door. Abandoning her chair, she bursts into the night climbing rooftops, scaling walls. Magnetized by the golds of Rome and its hypnotic scent she teeters into her joy as she joins her friends to begin tonight's adventure, under the magic of the Roman sky.

Taking us on a cinematic journey, renowned director Glen Luchford tells the story of Goldea, The Roman Night starring top model Bella Hadid as she follows her heart into the starlit city. Rome, the birth place of humanity, has cradled millions of stories, romances, and adventures across more than two millennia; the city is an eternal source of inspiration for Bulgari and beyond. Creating a glamorous fragrance to capture the passion inherent to Rome, Bellais a Roman goddess incarnating the power and freedom of femininity, Queen of the Roman Night.

**Contemporary goddess**  
Reflecting the inimitable light of Rome, Goldea the Roman Night captures the nocturnal shine of Rome's stars and the grandeur of the Eternal City at night. The tale of the Goldea, the Roman Night goddess is a story told within the creation of its seductive, powerful fragrance. Bella Hadid contemplates the paths before her, and then dives headfirst into the night sky. Before she slips from the building like a dream, Bella applies the night elixir of Goldea, The Roman Night to join the magic of the stars.

On Bella's neck is glimpsed a flash of a Serpenti jewel, the ultimate symbol of power and audacity to match the impulsivity of this enchanted evening. The city sparkles with nocturnal ebullience, like a glamorous Bulgari jewel, while adventure unfolds before her, under the velvety cloak of darkness. Exhilaratingly infused by Roman passion, the goddess follows her impulse, exercises freedom, and drinks the golden elixir of the stars. The grandeur of Rome is illuminated before her, while the sky above her becomes a cinema of light.

Her feminine sensuality recalls the celestial shapes in the sky above her, the shining moon reflecting the brilliance of her luminous soul. She is hope and youth, transcending from day into night, effortlessly, authentically, exquisitely. Empowered by herself as well as her favorite fragrance, Bella Hadid separates the stars in her twilight path: she is Queen of the Roman Night.

**Black gold**  
"I was captivated by the idea of a mysterious, charismatic, fascinating and seductive goddess of the night, in the eternal city of Rome. I create Goldea, The Roman Night fragrance in her image; she unleashes her irresistible aura through a golden elixir of white flowers, as they exude their powerful scent at nightfall."  
-Alberto Morillas, Master-Perfumer

**Jewel of the night**  
"Night-blooming jasmine and tuberose are irresistible nocturnal beauties. Caressed by the delicious kiss of luscious berries and black peony, they trigger desire and demand celebration. When I first imagined a Roman night, the idea of the chypre-infused signature came to me instantly.  
Alberto Morillas, master-perfumer  
This chypre floral musk fragrance embodies joy and sensuality in its purest form. Its enchantingly addictive flowers tell the story of a sleepless, festive and sparkling Roman eve, as they blossom with aromas upon the moonrise. The night sky is studded with fruit-scented jasmine and tuberose blooms, and accented with top notes of delectably ripe, luscious mulberries. Master Perfumer Alberto Morillas reinvents chypre - "This jewel of mesmerizing black musk set with luscious mulberry is enhanced by captivating woody notes, and illuminated by the magnetism of jasmine and tuberose."

**Top notes**  
Luscious Mulberry, Black Peony  
Juicy - Sparkling - Addictive  
Floral energy

**Heart notes**  
Blooming Jasmine, Tuberose Absolute  
Floral -Contrasting - Mysterious  
Hypnotic

**Base notes**  
Black Musk, Patchouli Heart, Vetiver  
Enveloping - Luminous -Sensual  
Feminine strength and charisma.

**Luscious mulberry**  
These appealing, magnetic fruits are bathed in nocturnal hues, conjuring the desire to taste them. Alberto Morillas imagined a luscious, ripe berry with a fruity, musky, almost woody aroma.

**Black peony**  
The Master Perfumer has chosen the black peony - the rarest of all peonies. Infallibly, the black peony of Goldea, The Roman Night declares its dark, wild character at nightfall. Though this silent flower possesses a powerfully emblematic fragrance, it cannot be naturally captured in a perfume. Yielding neither an essence nor an absolute, its bewitching fragrance has nonetheless been masterfully recreated by the olfactory memory of Alberto Morillas. He conceived it as a flower with airy freshness and addictive, explosive accents. By combining the sweetness of the Peony with the power of patchouli, he has created an aroma recognizable to thousands, Bulgari's emblematic chypre.

**Night blooming jasmine**  
The Master Perfumer has chosen to stamp Goldea, The Roman Night with the rounder, sweeter and floral notes of this rarest of all jasmynes - jasmine sambac from China.To accentuate the rich personality of jasmine and capture its all-encompassing beauty, Alberto Morillas chose the rarely-used but traditional method of infusion. Floral infusions are regarded as the vintage method of perfume making, for their authenticity and care.  
The technique uses gentle extraction by a traditional maceration of jasmine flowers in alcohol, which is both time-consuming and costly. After an invaluable period in which the blooms are macerated in ethyl alcohol, the Jasmine flowers unleash their secrets while preserving the purest respect for the raw material. In this meticulous manner, a night-blooming Jasmine delivers its olfactory radiance under the lunar star, while it's most feminine, attractive and bewitching aspects were majestically captured by the Master Perfumer.

**Tuberose absolute**  
Symbol of sensuality, both classic and modern, tuberose is the star jewel of all perfumers. Alberto Morillas adores its scandalous reputation and extravagant signature that offers a delicate, yet powerfully "narcotic" floral aroma. The tuberose that gives Goldea, The Roman Night its trademark signature is grown and harvested in southeast India.  
Elegant and majestic, dainty yet demanding, tuberose is one of the most sought-after fragrances in perfumery. This

goddess of perfume known as the "evening queen" has its scent intensifying at nightfall. Harvested at dawn, tuberose blossoms are picked as buds to instill their wide olfactory spectrum into the very heart of their absolute. Essential oil of tuberose is one of the rarest and most expensive in the world, requiring 5 tons of buds per 1 kg of absolute.

**Black musk**  
Powerful and sensual, black musk is able to exude its amber and woody notes to become one with the skin, as it displays a bold, mysterious character. Devising a round, sensual, almost carnal note, the Master Perfumer has reinvented the myth of Tonkin musk. He created a black musk with a deep, magnetic trail to infuse the skin with radiant, sensual desire. This enhanced black musk possesses a powerful, addictive aura that adds a bolder, more mysterious sensuality to the fragrance.

**Patchouli heart**  
19th century European women discovered patchouli's power of attraction on large cashmere shawls imported from India, wrapped in patchouli leaves. The living plant emits no scent, the magic of patchouli comes to light when its dry leaves release an intensely woody fragrance.. Thanks to an innovative technique, Alberto Morillas has captured the portion of patchouli referred to as the "patchouli heart" that contains pure, crystalline, clear and explosive notes.

**Bewitching bottle**  
Hypnotic and symbolic, its scales winding around the bottle top Bulgari's Serpenti is the enchanting spirit animal of the Goldea collection. Representing seduction and life, the sinewy serpent was a royal sign of strength for ancient queens. Recalling the Roman sky, Goldea's silhouette conjures those rare and precious moments when the sun, moon and Earth are perfectly aligned. Resplendent as an eclipse, the sun appears as though through a ring of light surrounding a lunar disk,  
Encircled by a black line, the transparent cap tops the enchanting elixir. Its perfume box features an interlaced geometric pattern to recall the tactile nature of Serpenti scales. Glittering with golden accents, it features sparkling diamonds, artfully set by Bulgari's masterful jewelers. Shining like a scintillating woman, Goldea, The Roman Night embodies its queen of the Roman night.

# JEMBER FASHION CARNIVAL



Costumed Indonesian performers participating in a parade during the Jember Fashion Carnival on eastern Java island. — AFP photos





This picture shows a costumed Indonesian performer participating in a parade during the Jember Fashion Carnival on eastern Java island. — AFP

# Project aims to attract tourists to remote Albanian villages

High in the mountains of southern Albania, a bone-jarring drive along a rough track with switchbacks frequented more by goats than by cars leads to a cluster of small villages where time appears to have stood still for decades. Sheep's milk is still carried to the local cheesemaker by donkey. Elderly villagers hike into the mountains to collect fistfuls of wild oregano and other herbs. Old rituals of lighting candles to honor ancient, gnarled, sacred oaks are kept alive, although no one who practices them seems to know why or how they came about.

Strung out along a sheer cliff behind an old, crumbled fortress, the village of Nivica is unknown to many even in Albania. But an ambitious project is aiming to open it up to the outside world and to tourists wanting to discover the spectacular natural beauty and rural way of life of the more isolated parts of the country. "We are doing a pilot project on the concept of how to connect rural communities very close to the coastline but (which have) never been helped by coastline tourism," said Auron Tare, who heads Albania's National Coastline Agency and is

leading the project in Nivica. The area's attractions are many. Crystal-clear streams run through sheer canyons and gorges slicing through the landscape. Small stone Ottoman-era bridges still arch over gullies, untouched for centuries. At sunset, shepherds drive their flocks through the fields to small corrals for milking. And like everything in the Balkans, the region is steeped in history.

"Apart from the landscape, the reason to come here is because of the stories. This is a place where Roman troops traveled, this is a place where Normans traveled, this is a place where Ottomans traveled. World War I, World War II. There are many stories to be connected to this area," Tare said.

"Plus the wonderful landscape, and also the untouched life. Here you see people milking their sheep and their goats as they did 4,000 years ago. You see people in their pastoral daily life, which is extremely attractive to people who have lost that heritage, and you would come here and find that spiritual enrichment in your life." For now, visitors are mainly young backpackers from European countries hiking along Albania's ancient trails and camping in a

field just outside the village. Tare says about 150 tourists visited the village over the past month, mainly from the Czech Republic, drawn by comments on social media from a team of Czechs who have been working on marking centuries-old paths as hiking trails.

**Local culture**

The area is still far off the beaten track; many of those living on the coast just over the other side of the mountains have never even heard of Nivica. "This village, we can say that it is deeply (hidden) in the mountain," said Lorena Sinatrakaj, a 29-year-old archaeologist working on the project. Even she herself had never heard of it, she admits. When the project leaders arrived, they found a village based on agriculture and animal rearing, she said. Tourism was an alien concept, and the village was in a general state of dilapidation. Many of the locals had moved away to towns and cities elsewhere in the country.

With little state infrastructure or services, waste management consisted largely of throwing garbage down the ravines or tossing it in the street. "When we came here last year,

there was 30 years' worth of garbage in the village square," Tare said. The project's first task was to clear up the trash, both inside the village and in the nearby ravine. Now the village square has been cleared, and villagers drive their sheep past stonemasons chipping at rocks, the sound of chisels striking stone echoing through the sultry summer heat as they work on the village's biggest single project: a new guesthouse, scheduled for completion next spring.

The overall project includes restoring old buildings to be used as guesthouses, and helping locals start grass-roots bed-and-breakfast businesses in their homes. Sinatrakaj says locals quickly embraced the project once they saw the potential for tourism. For Dallandyshe Merio, a local woman who left the village two decades ago and moved to the southern port town of Vlorë, the project has brought such hope to the village that she is considering moving back.

"I'm happy that the village has come back to life again. Before, everyone was gone," said Merio, who initially converted one of the rooms in her house in the village for paying

guests. When she saw how well the system worked with her first guest, a German, she renovated a second room and now runs a small bed-and-breakfast. "People are coming back and rebuilding," she said. Crucially, part of the project includes turning the dirt track leading to the village from the nearest town of Tepelene into a road, to ease access.

But the danger of opening up too fast to too much tourism is a real one, and something Tare and Sinatrakaj are well aware of. The aim, they say, is not to turn Nivica into a place where tour buses disgorge thousands of tourists, something that would shatter the tranquility of the area and endanger the local way of life. "As we know, tourism has a lot of good benefits but also negative effects, such as destroying local culture and destroying (the) environment. And that's a very good point to take into consideration," Tare said.

"And as we go slow, we're trying to convert the traditional hospitality to a more welcoming feeling and place for visitors to come, without disturbing the local culture. It is a challenging aspect, of course, and time will tell if we are right or not."—AP



In this local residents sit at a cafe as workers build a guest house in the village of Nivica, southern Albania.



In this workers build a guest house in the village of Nivica, southern Albania. — AP photos