

'Maryam' app spreads fear among parents of teens



In Lebanon, salt producers fear craft is drying up



Man Utd hit four again, Mane lifts Liverpool



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## SPAIN HUNTS SUSPECT OVER BARCELONA TERROR ATTACKS

KUWAITIS AMONG INJURED • STABBING ATTACKS IN FINLAND, RUSSIA



Min 34°  
Max 47°  
High Tide 09:42 & 23:53  
Low Tide 04:05 & 17:31

### DUMPED BANNON BACK TO BREITBART

WASHINGTON: Steve Bannon, the blunt-spoken and divisive strategist who rose from Donald Trump's conservative campaign to a top White House post, was pushed out by the president Friday, capping a turbulent seven months marked by the departure of much of Trump's original senior staff.



Steve Bannon

A favorite in the farther-right portions of the Republican Party, Bannon had pressed Trump to follow through on some of his most contentious campaign promises, including his travel ban for some foreigners and his decision to pull out of the Paris climate change agreement. He returned as executive chairman to Breitbart News, which he led before joining Trump's campaign, and presided at its Friday evening editorial meeting, the news site announced. Trump yesterday praised his former chief strategist, thanking him on Twitter for his service and his role in the presidential election campaign against Hillary Clinton. "I want to thank Steve Bannon for his service.

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KUWAIT: The Kuwait Towers are illuminated in the colors of the Spanish flag yesterday in tribute to the victims of the Aug 17 attack in Barcelona. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

BARCELONA: Spanish police yesterday hunted for a Moroccan man suspected to have carried out one of two terror attacks that killed 14 people, injured 120 more - including Kuwaitis - and plunged the country into shock and grief. Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido said the cell behind the carnage in the holiday cities of Barcelona and Cambrils had been "dismantled", although local authorities took a more cautious tone. Police said they had cast a dragnet for 22-year-old Younes Abouyaaqoub. Media reports said he was the driver of a van that smashed into people on Barcelona's busy Las Ramblas boulevard on Thursday.

Just hours later, a similar attack struck in the seaside town of Cambrils early Friday. Police killed the five attackers in Cambrils, some of whom were wearing fake explosive belts. The so-called Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility for the operation, as well as for a knife attack that wounded seven in Russia yesterday. In Finland, meanwhile, police said a stabbing spree by a Moroccan asylum-seeker on Friday that left two dead was being treated as a terrorist incident.

The IS' claim in Spain is believed to be their first in the country, but the method of using vehicles as weapons follows other assaults commandeered or inspired by the group, including in Berlin, London and Paris. The terror cell in Spain reportedly comprised at least 12 young men, some of them teenagers. Investigators have been honing in on the small town of Ripoll, at the foot of the Pyrenees, where many of the suspects - including Abouyaaqoub - lived. Yesterday, police raided the apartment of an imam,

SEE PAGE 6

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## EAT MORE SHRIMP

### SHRIMP & CALAMARI MEAL



KD 4.950

30 SHRIMP, 10 FRIED CALAMARI, FRIES, BREAD, TARTAR & COLA.

### AL-BOOM FAMILY MEAL



KD 12.500

50 SHRIMP, 10 FISH, FRIES, COLESLAW, 4 BREAD, 4 TARTAR & COLA (2.25 LITER).

### GRILLED MEAL



KD 3.500

4 SHRIMP, 5 FISH, FRIES, COLESLAW, BREAD, TARTAR & COLA.



SHRIMPYKW

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## Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Photo captured at sunrise at Kuwait's Souq Sharq pier. — KUNA

## CONFLICTING PARTIES URGED TO RESPECT HUMANITARIAN LAW

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Chairman Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq has called on conflicting parties across the world to observe international humanitarian law and to protect civilians in general and aid workers in particular. Al-Maatouq, who is also an advisor to Amiri Diwan, said in a statement to KUNA on the occasion of the World Humanitarian Day, which falls yesterday, that it is the responsibility of world leaders and humanitarian, civil and rights agencies to protect civilians in flashpoints.

He condemned a recent attack that killed a number of people, including Kuwaiti activists Dr Waleed Al-Ali and Fahad Al-Husseini who were on a humanitarian mission in Burkina Faso. He deplored this attack as a "terrorist and despicable act" that targeted innocents at a restaurant in Ouagadougou, saying that it contradicts all religions and international humanitarian norms and conventions. He remembered the activists who lost their lives during their humanitarian missions in Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Somalia and others.

In this context, he commended the designating of August 19 as a date for remembering the heroic and great activities of humanitarian aid activists who were killed during wars and con-



**Kuwait's International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Chairman Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq**

licts, as a good gesture and sign of appreciation. The IICO chief appealed to the international community to provide all types of protection and security to humanitarian workers, and to oblige conflicting parties to put in place the UN resolutions that aimed

to create safe passages for humanitarian workers.

Meanwhile, he highly appreciated humanitarian activities in Kuwait as a model for others to follow, especially regarding cooperation with international humanitarian organizations over relief initiatives that are intended to alleviate the sufferings and woes of disaster-affected people. He also hailed the pioneering humanitarian positions of Kuwait and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Humanitarian Leader.

On 19 August 2003, a bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad killed 22 humanitarian aid workers, including the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Five years later, the General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 19 August as World Humanitarian Day. The Canal Hotel bombing was a massive loss for the United Nations and the humanitarian community, and marked a turning point for humanitarian operations in Iraq and worldwide. — KUNA

## RUSSIAN FM TO VISIT GULF

**MOSCOW:** Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is set to visit the Arabian Gulf region next month, Russia's Sputnik news agency reported yesterday. Lavrov's tour is part of ongoing efforts to resolve the crisis between Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt on the one hand and Qatar on the other hand, the agency quoted sources of the Russian Foreign Ministry as saying. However, the Russian news agency failed to mention when Lavrov's tour will begin exactly, or the countries he will visit. Russia had repeatedly announced its support to mediation efforts exerted by Kuwait to resolve the Gulf crisis. In this context, Lavrov is expected to hold talks with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shukry in Moscow tomorrow. — KUNA



**Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov**

## KUWAIT'S DEPUTY FM EULOGIZES MARTYRS AL-ALI AND AL-HUSSEINI

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah on Friday eulogized the two prominent citizens, the Grand Mosque Imam Dr Waleed Al-Ali and Fahad Al-Husseini, who were killed in a recent terrorist attack in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The Deputy Foreign Minister, in a statement after expressing condolences at a mourning gathering, attended by a large number of grieving citizens and expatriates, lauded the two scholars who had served Islam, conveying the heavenly message to people in remote areas. The Foreign Ministry had followed up on the terrorist incident that resulted in killing the two sheikhs, he said, affirming Kuwait's condemnation of such blatant actions and rejection of all forms of terrorism.

Meanwhile, Yacoub Al-Hussein, Fahad's uncle, expressed gratitude to all people who have shown sympathy, noting "terrorism has no identity," re-affirming the Kuwaitis' commitment to charitable activities. For his part, Abdullah, Waleed's brother, lauded His Highness the Amir's initiative to bring back coffins of the two martyrs aboard an Amiri aircraft. The martyrs were known for their role in preaching Islam and offering aid to the needy in Burkina Faso, said MP Abdulkarim Al-Kanderi. Kuwait has been engulfed with somber sentiments due to the scholars' martyrdom and simultaneous demise of the iconic actor, Abdulhussein Abdulredha. — KUNA



## 'MARYAM' APP SPREADS FEAR AMONG TEENAGERS' PARENTS

**KUWAIT:** "Maryam" application is the newest controversial game, with a basic rhetoric of attempting to lead a lost girl back to her home by asking the player a series of personal questions based on psychological implications and fear factors. This brings back to minds the infamous suicide-enabling "Blue Whale" application, which cost many disturbed teenagers their lives worldwide. Maryam App had spread fear in social media, as it requires allowing access to the personal settings of the players in order to know their names, besides other personal information.

The App has similar interacting effect on the player as Blue Whale; while the latter attempts to work on the suicide of the player, 'Maryam' is not. It is based on social engineering and depends on smartness, in addition to automated information analysis through a conversation between the App and the player. 'Maryam' depends on physiological implications and fearful sound and visual effects, cyber security and electronic crimes' expert Major Raed Al-Roumi said.

The player is asked to turn off the lights and increase the volume, as there is a set of questions and demands given on a daily basis, and if the player refrains from following them, the game



'Maryam' picture as displayed in the application.

ends automatically, he noted. The App would ask personal questions, like the name and address of the player, as well as political-oriented questions. This is game violates laws of banning the publishing of immoral sites, he added.

Al-Roumi, along with a group of electronic experts launched a wide attack in social media to access the game, delete and change the questions to cope with the traditions of the Gulf society, which caused the game to stop for several days. The App came again after deleting the immoral scenes, as well as other controversial questions. Al-Roumi called on Arab programmers to exert efforts, as well as channel their creativeness, towards the development of Arab

children "instead of creating games that frighten our children for the sake of financial gain." Preventing children under the age of 13 from accessing these kind of online games is an option, he pointed out.

Al-Roumi stressed on the importance of educating the children not to disclose any personal information while playing games, accessing social media, or opening links. He hailed the role of concerned families in following up with their children and not to leave them alone for long periods of time in total isolation, as well as offering them an appropriate special search engine like "google for kids" for their own online safety. — KUNA

## Local Spotlight

## TERROR HITS SPAIN



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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**T**hursday was a black day for beautiful Spain. It witnessed a terrible terrorist attack against innocents from about 24 countries in a popular touristic area. The deadly attack began in the early evening with a van plowing through crowds on the renowned Las Ramblas avenue, a popular tourist section of Barcelona, leaving 13 dead and more than 100 injured.

Spain's prime minister called it an act of "jihadi terrorism". The suspects are from Morocco, and one from the Spanish enclave of Melilla. IS claimed they were "soldiers of the Islamic State". Security officials believe the attacks were a work of a terror cell. Leaders from all over the world offered their condolences and expressed their support for Spain. The question will remain - are these killings the last? This summer was a dark season for several European capitals, which in my opinion is a dangerous indicator for the safety and security of Europe and should be taken into account.

The previous terrorist attack on Europe was in Paris on Aug 9, after a car deliberately rammed into a group of soldiers, wounding six. Britain saw the largest share of attacks with three incidents that killed dozens and injured hundreds in Manchester, London and Westminster. All these attacks should not pass without consideration by the European Union, the police and security channels.

Some press reports previously spoke about IS members after their possible return to their homelands after their defeat in the Middle East. After IS' defeat in Iraq and Syria, it is natural that militants will try to return to their countries or continue their criminal activities in the space available to them with their followers and supporters. The Spain attackers were not tourists, but citizens, and regardless of the origin and roots of these criminals, they were holders of European passports. European countries should review their policies regarding granting citizenship and monitor possible suspects, especially those who keep close contacts with conservative channels or countries. The safety of a nation is a red line.

An interesting comment came from a Kuwaiti friend, who wondered about "abnormal" restrictions in granting European visas to tourists, especially from Gulf countries, and the large quantity of forms to be filled, while all terror incidents in Europe have never been carried out by a Gulf tourist. The attackers are all holders of passports of European countries and citizens! I think this is a very logical comment.

The Arab press has dealt with these criminal acts in different ways. Many writers and analysts have been divided over what to call these attackers- terrorists or jihadists? I see them as criminals deserving punishment regardless of names or titles, and there must be a European coalition that should seriously consider combating terror.

It seems to me that the culture of hatred is no longer limited to expression, and it is clear that this disease has spread to Europe. The reasons for hate crimes must be analyzed. I wonder where is the United Nations? They have many stated goals, so how about implementing them to confront this evil? The international community has to move against terrorism within the charter of the UN, and impose world peace quickly and seriously. The international community must examine the real causes of terrorism in the world and the spread of hatred, otherwise it will witness more blood on the streets.





Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri presides over an urgent meeting yesterday. —KUNA



MAKKAH: Muslim pilgrims arrive at a rest stop between Taif and Makkah yesterday in preparation for their annual Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah. —AFP

## AWQAF MINISTRY TO HANDLE HAJJ PROCESS FOR 'ILLEGAL RESIDENTS'

### SAUDI ARABIA UNVEILS MANASIKANA APP FOR PILGRIMS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced yesterday that it has set up an emergency team to help illegal residents perform the Hajj pilgrimage without facing any inconvenience. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri, who doubles as the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, ordered the formation of the team after Saudi authorities decided to permit illegal residents to carry out the annual Islamic pilgrimage, a statement by the ministry noted.

The statement added that it has launched a special website to allow all illegal residents who plan to attend this year's Hajj to register their details. The ministry will also put together five Hajj campaigns to accommodate them, the statement pointed out. Meanwhile, Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdelaziz Bin

Ibrahim Al-Fayez said that Prince Abdelaziz Bin Saud bin Nayef Al-Saud agreed to allow 1,000 bedoons from Kuwait to perform hajj. He said Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubair informed the embassy about the decision. He added that the embassy will issue visas accordingly.

#### 4 Iranian pilgrims die

In another development, four Iranian pilgrims passed away from a heart attack while 20 others were hospitalized for other ailments, an official said yesterday. Around 70 Iranian medical facilities have been set up in Saudi Arabia, where the annual Islamic pilgrimage of Hajj is taking place, Iran's Fars News Agency quoted Ali Marshal, an Iranian health official as saying. He pointed out that the number of Iranian pilgrims suffering from health issues was

"very limited", citing statistics showing that four Iranian pilgrims have thus far met their demise in this year's Hajj pilgrimage. As per an agreement between Iranian and Saudi authorities, some 86,500 Iranian pilgrims are expected to attend Hajj this year.

#### Malaria-infected cases

Saudi Ministry of Health announced yesterday that 58 cases of malaria were detected among pilgrims from eight countries. In a press statement, the ministry said 56 of cases were treated and two people still hospitalized. It added that all cases were reported for incoming pilgrims as hajj areas are free of malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

#### Manasikana app

Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has

launched the upgraded version of its Manasikana (our rituals) application for smartphones. The app, designed to educate pilgrims on the rituals of "hajj" (pilgrimage) and "umrah" (minor pilgrimage), offers a package of electronic services for the guests of God during their stay at the holy sites, the Ministry said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA). These services include satellite-based maps of the holy sites in Makkah and Madina and guidelines on how to perform the rituals orderly and safely, as well as emergency phone numbers and feedback on anything relating to hajj. The new easy-to-use version of the app is available in seven languages; these are the Arabic, English, French, Urdu, Malay, Turkish and Bengali, according to the statement. —Agencies

## MEW EYES INCREASE IN REVENUES TO KD 400M

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Electricity and Water and Oil Essam Al-Marzouq said MEW revenues vary between KD 200-250 million per year. He expected the income to increase to KD 400 million during 2017-2018. He said new tariffs were implemented on May 21 on the commercial sector and will go into effect on Aug 21 for the investment sector. On Jan 21, 2018, the new charges will be implemented on the rest of the service sector, and on March 21 will be implemented on the government sector.

#### Media Street in Ardija

The Information Ministry asked for the Municipality's opinion with regards to the use of several parcels of land on Media Street in Ardija that were allocated to daily newspapers but which were not distributed. Three plots are vacant due to the closure of three newspapers that did not meet the rules.

#### 2 months of grace

Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower Ahmad Al-Mousa issued a circular asking the labor department to allow companies having contracts with American and foreign companies two months of grace to transfer employees' salaries to local banks, until their legal status is corrected.

#### More gas stations

Kuwait National Petroleum Company is working to build gas stations around the country for all motorists, adding 12 locations were approved by the Municipality and the Housing Authority in Jahra and Farwaniya governorates. The company said four temporary stations will be operated in Jaber Al-Ahmad and Saad Al-Abdullah until permanent stations are ready.

#### Chairmen to be replaced

The Health Ministry will replace chairmen of medical departments and councils according to legal rules and decisions by the Civil Service Commission. It is expected that decisions will be made in October, and the changes will affect around 25 to 30 percent of staff. Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi reminded treatment abroad is only for deserving cases according to technical decisions by advisory medical committees, adding that it is one of the citizen's rights.

## 'NBK ACADEMY' TO RECEIVE A NEW GROUP OF TRAINEES

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is set to receive Wave 17 of NBK Academy's trainees on September 18, 2017, with an aim to develop the skills of top achieving fresh Kuwaiti graduates, in line with the bank's strategy to attract and hire qualified employees and to sharpen their skills in order to develop a new generation of banking leaders.

Emad Ahmed Al-Ablani, NBK Group General Manager of Human Resources said: "The bank designed NBK Academy's program in accordance with the most effective training techniques, with an aim to provide participants with both theoretical and technical skills that cover key areas of the banking sector. Participants will also receive a wealth of knowledge about NBK's history, code of conduct, policies and procedures, and institutional vision.

He added that the program extends over a period of 4 months and includes various aspects of banking operations like for instance: banking principles, risk management, financial accounting, team work, self-assertiveness, marketing, negotiation and consumer and commercial lending, in addition to hands on training in different bank departments.

He highlighted the uniqueness

of "NBK Academy's" program as the first initiative of its kind in the private sector in Kuwait, which is specifically focused on the training and development of the bank's national youth of human resources,



Emad Al-Ablani

with the aim of developing aspiring future national banking leaders of distinctively high caliber in all advanced banking disciplines. It also aims at fulfilling the bank's aspirations to continuously improve its services and expand its activities and growth plans, both locally and regionally.

NBK Academy reflects the bank's vision in placing sustainable development of human resources at the top of its priorities as a strategic objective and a shared responsibility between the government - represented by its various agencies - and the private sector which should fulfill its national responsibilities and increase its contributions towards nationalization and building new leadership capacities through continuous training and development.

Every year, NBK offers a number of training programs for graduates and students as part of its commitment to support Kuwaiti youth and national employment, including the Shabab Training Program and the Annual Summer Internship Program specifically designed for high school and college students for NBK Shabab account holders. NBK is always committed to supporting, empowering and developing its employees through the introduction of specialized training programs, which are designed in accordance with systematic and practical standards varying between training and development of young leaders. In achieving that, NBK provides some of the best banking experts who share their expertise with the promising employees.

## KUWAITIS' ITINERARIES LEAVE NO PLACE OFF RADAR

**KUWAIT:** The blazing sun hovering over Kuwait during the summer months is usually a harbinger of travel season, a time where many avid travelers scampers abroad for a much-needed respite from the unbearable heat. The weather conditions notwithstanding, the people of this tiny Gulf nation have long developed a penchant for globetrotting, as the average Kuwaiti's travel bucket list seemingly combines the world's most coveted cityscapes and awe-inspiring natural wonders.

While leisure trips have taken Kuwaitis to much heralded tourist destinations such as London, Milan and New York, just to name a few, the purpose of travel has taken on a whole new meaning for millennials eager to explore the world. Among them is 32-year old Hamad Al-Ghanim, a father of four who is a habitual worldwide traveler in his own right and an aspiring entrepreneur, with hopes that running his own business would help him make ends meet amid crippling increases in the global cost of living.

Speaking to KUNA on a scorching evening in the confines of his quaint "diwaniya," a reception area common in many Kuwaiti households, Al-Ghanim said that his foray into the culinary business has redefined the meaning of travel for him. As we confabbed over velvety cups of coffee, Al-Ghanim pointed out that in the three years since he opened his own restaurant which caters to health-conscious individuals, he has traveled a great deal in hopes of further developing his business.

"I have spent the last year shuffling back and forth between Kuwait and Algeria," he noted, where he plans to open the first international branch of his restaurant. While Algeria may be the furthest thing from a bustling tourist hub, Al-Ghanim says his personal affinity for the North African nation is what made him want to leave his mark there. "I owe it to this food business," Al-Ghanim said matter-of-factly, "it has taken me to the most hidden places in our world, I

mean, not too many people can say they have been to Algeria," he quipped. Meanwhile, Mohammad Al-Awadhi, another Kuwaiti with a propensity to travel and a frequent visitor to the Southeastern nation of Albania, where the real estate investor told KUNA he spends every summer.

Albania remains largely neglected by many tourists but the hidden paradise facing Italy and sandwiched between Greece and Montenegro has plenty to offer for those looking for a serene getaway. "Summers in Kuwait are sweltering and it is almost a given that I spend the entire summer abroad every year," Al-Awadhi said over the phone from his apartment which he described as overlooking the picturesque highlands of Tirana. He also added that access to fresh and organic produce is a major perk of residing in such places. "You can actually feel a palpable difference with the food here, this is all high quality stuff," Al-Awadhi exclaimed.

Moreover, Kuwaitis have recently

started to think outside the box when deciding where to spend a vacation, as many are veering from the well-established tourist destinations and venturing into the unknown. According to travel agent Tawfik Mohammad, a number of countries have recently begun to draw their fair share of visitors, most notably, the Southeast Asian archipelago known as the Philippines.

While it pales in comparison to other Asian nations' thriving tourism industries, such as Thailand, Mohammad noted that "the Philippines is still fresh and underdeveloped," which explains the allure of its scenic islands "... where people snorkeling and kayaking. Whether it is out of an unyielding ambition to succeed, a long-overdue vacation, or simply, a desire to widen their horizons, Kuwaitis have seemingly left no place out of reach. After all, famed Christian philosopher Augustine of Hippo once eloquently said that, "the world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page." —KUNA

## News

in brief



Morocco's former foreign minister Mohamed Benaissa

#### Moroccan ex-FM lauds Amir

**ASILAH:** Mohamed Benaissa, Morocco's ex-foreign minister has lauded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as pioneer leader for humanitarian and charitable action worldwide. The UN honoring of His Highness the Amir, naming him as leader of humanitarian action, in addition to designating Kuwait as humanitarian action center, depict the prominent role of the country at the foreign policy level, said Benaissa, also the secretary general of Asilah International Cultural Forum, in a statement to KUNA, marking the World Humanitarian Day, which fell on August 19. His Highness the Amir humanitarian initiatives covers almost entirely all regions across the world, particularly areas stricken with war perils, poverty and crises, he said. The humanitarian dimension in His Highness' character has been sensed in all his diplomatic, political and humanitarian initiatives. The former UN chief, Ban Ki-moon, held a grand ceremony at the UN headquarters on September 9, 2014, celebrating designation of His Highness the Amir as humanitarian leader in appreciation for his contributions to global philanthropic activities and projects. Ban had also proclaimed the State of Kuwait as humanitarian center during the same ceremony.



Women's ice hockey team

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti women's ice hockey team is set to take part in its first international competition scheduled in the Thai capital Bangkok on October 30th, said an official yesterday. In a statement to KUNA, head of the Kuwaiti Winters Sports club and Kuwait's delegation Fhaid Al-Ajmi said, that the team is currently holding a training camp in Thailand for three weeks during which several exhibition games will be played against the Czech teams. The technical management of the team will invest the camp to develop the player's fitness and prepare them to participate in the most important tournament in their career, he said. Al-Ajmi, who heads the delegation, said that he was keen on developing the players' technical skills and improve their physical condition to strongly compete in this tournament which will see the participation of a number of Asian and international teams.

#### Arab Tennis tournament

**TUNIS:** Chairman of the Kuwaiti and Arab tennis federations Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah yesterday lauded the Arab championship for juniors currently hosted by Tunisia. In remarks to KUNA, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber expressed satisfaction for his personal presence in the country to oversee performance of the Kuwaiti male and female champions, aged under 13 and 14, in the competitions with their peers from other Arab countries. Such tournaments are necessary to promote the game in the Arab world, he said. The championship involves players from Algeria, Egypt, Qatar, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the host country Tunisia as well as the State of Kuwait. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber arrived in the country earlier. He was received upon arrival by the State of Kuwait Ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Dhafiri and General Secretary of the Kuwaiti Tennis Federation Abdulredha Al-Ghareeb.





In this file photo, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon gives His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah a certificate (humanitarian work commander) in recognition of his efforts and his contributions precious. —KUNA

## KUWAIT MARKS UN'S HUMANITARIAN DAY

**KUWAIT:** As the international community marked the United Nation's World Humanitarian Day yesterday, continues its efforts to be a key player within this domain. In recent history, Kuwait had played an integral part in launching several humanitarian initiatives to make sure that the suffering and the pain felt by the disadvantaged and the needy worldwide would be lessened. Since the ascension of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the leadership of Kuwait in 2006, the GCC country launched various humanitarian initiatives, which led to a UN honoring of Kuwait as a humanitarian center in 2014. The UN also named His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah as a global humanitarian leader.

Kuwait, through His Highness the Amir, also contributed to international humanitarian conferences. His Highness Sheikh Sabah took part in the 2016 humanitarian summit in Istanbul. During the summit, the Kuwaiti leader highlighted his country's contributions to humanitarian causes around the world, noting that the State of Kuwait had offered over USD one billion in the last five years to support global humanitarian efforts. Most of the allocated sums were delivered to the needy suffering from wars in Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and Yemen.

On the regional level, Kuwait hosted three donors conference for Syria from 2013-15, donating USD 1.3 billion in the process. The fourth conference for Syria, hosted in London, saw Kuwait also donating a sum of USD 300 million to help humanitarian efforts in Syria. Alongside government efforts, Kuwaiti charitable societies and relief aid organizations also took part in helping the Syrians to overcome their dire situation.

In Yemen, Kuwait announced in 2015 a generous donation of \$100 million for the

Yemeni people suffering from the ills of civil war. While on the level of the Palestinian cause, Kuwait always support the rights of the Palestinian people.

In 2009, Kuwait donated \$34 million to cover the expenses of operations carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The Gulf country also offered \$15 million in 2013 to help the Palestinians and launched in 2014 a relief aid campaign for the Gaza Strip, which was hit by a brutal Israeli operations in July of that year. In Iraq, Kuwait continued to offer aid there, giving in 2015 a sum of \$200 million to displaced Iraqis. Kuwait pledged \$176 million during an Iraqi aid conference held in Washington.

On relief aid during times of natural disasters and disease, Kuwait offered thousands and millions of dollars to various countries, which were affected by the devastating forces of nature. World Humanitarian Day is a time to recognize those who face danger and adversity in order to help others. The Kuwaiti humanitarian hand was extended to those who suffered from natural disasters in Japan, the Philippines, Turkey, Somalia and other nations.

In 2017, Kuwait did not slow down its humanitarian assistance to the region and the world. The GCC country launched several humanitarian campaigns namely in Iraq where the government there was fighting the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Mosul. While the Iraqi government and allies were winning the fight against the terror organization, Kuwait launched several campaigns providing relief aid and necessities to those fleeing from conflict zones. The day was designated by the UN General Assembly to coincide with the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. —KUNA



Kuwait Red Crescent Society distribute humanitarian aid to the refugees. — KUNA photos



# KUWAITI CHARITY PIONEERS

**KUWAIT:** It is no secret that many Kuwaitis have always been on the vanguard of relief aid and humanitarian efforts both on the regional and international scenes. With that being said, there are a number of Kuwaiti charity pioneers who are considered as leading humanitarian figures that made a difference to those suffering from wars, natural disasters, and other kinds of unfortunate events. Most recently, Kuwait was struck by a tragic loss, when Imam of the Grand Mosque Dr Sheikh Waleed Al-Ali and Fahad Al-Husseini were killed in a terrorist attack in Burkina Faso. The two Kuwaitis were on a charity mission in the African country. Al-Ali and Al-Husseini were not the only Kuwaitis putting their lives on the line in service of humanity, there were many others who came before them.

A few years ago, Kuwait lost one of its most known philanthropists, Dr Abdulrahman Humoud Al-Sumait, who died after a long march of goodwill that crossed the borders of Kuwait to Africa's horizons, where he left an impression that speaks of the struggle of this man in putting a smile on the faces of millions of the needy and poor there. Al-Sumait is considered as a pioneering Kuwaiti personality in the field of humanitarian and rescue work, as he spent most of his life in this field, covering most parts of the world, especially in Africa, and became one of its most recognizable figures in the Arab and Muslim world.

Al-Sumait, who died at the age of 66, is known for building 840 educational facilities - including four universities - and 90 clinics and hospitals, constructing 12,000 artesian wells and helping thousands of people understand and embrace Islam in Africa. He is also known for having founded the Africa Muslim Agency, later renamed as "Direct Aid" society, and conducting detailed studies on Africa's political, social and economic affairs - Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Angola, being some of the 40 countries his work was focused on.

In recognition of these efforts, the Western-educated physician and Islamic practitioner received countless humanitarian awards and honors from Islamic world and Africa. Abdulrahman Al-Sumait was undoubtedly a man of great deeds. Al-Sumait is sorely missed for his great legacy and had come a long way from his days as a young student, when he purchased a car to drive less fortunate expatriate workers in Kuwait for free.

In the same vein, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri, born in 1905, is another well-known figure within the Kuwaiti charity scene. Al-Nouri began his charitable work in the 1970s where he visited several countries in Southeast Asia and other regions to hand in relief aid and provide charity. The charitable figure's efforts were cut short due to his death in 1981; however, Al-Nouri is still remembered through various charities and endowments bearing his name. Other Kuwaiti charitable names also include Abdullah Al-Mutawa, Ali Al-Jasser, Mohammad Marafi, and others who had offered assistance to those in need whether in Kuwait or elsewhere. —KUNA



Grand Mosque's Imam Dr Waleed Al-Ali and Fahad Al-Hussaini



Late Dr Abdulrahman Humoud Al-Sumait



Late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri



Late Sheikh Ali Al-Jasser



Late Mohammad Marafi

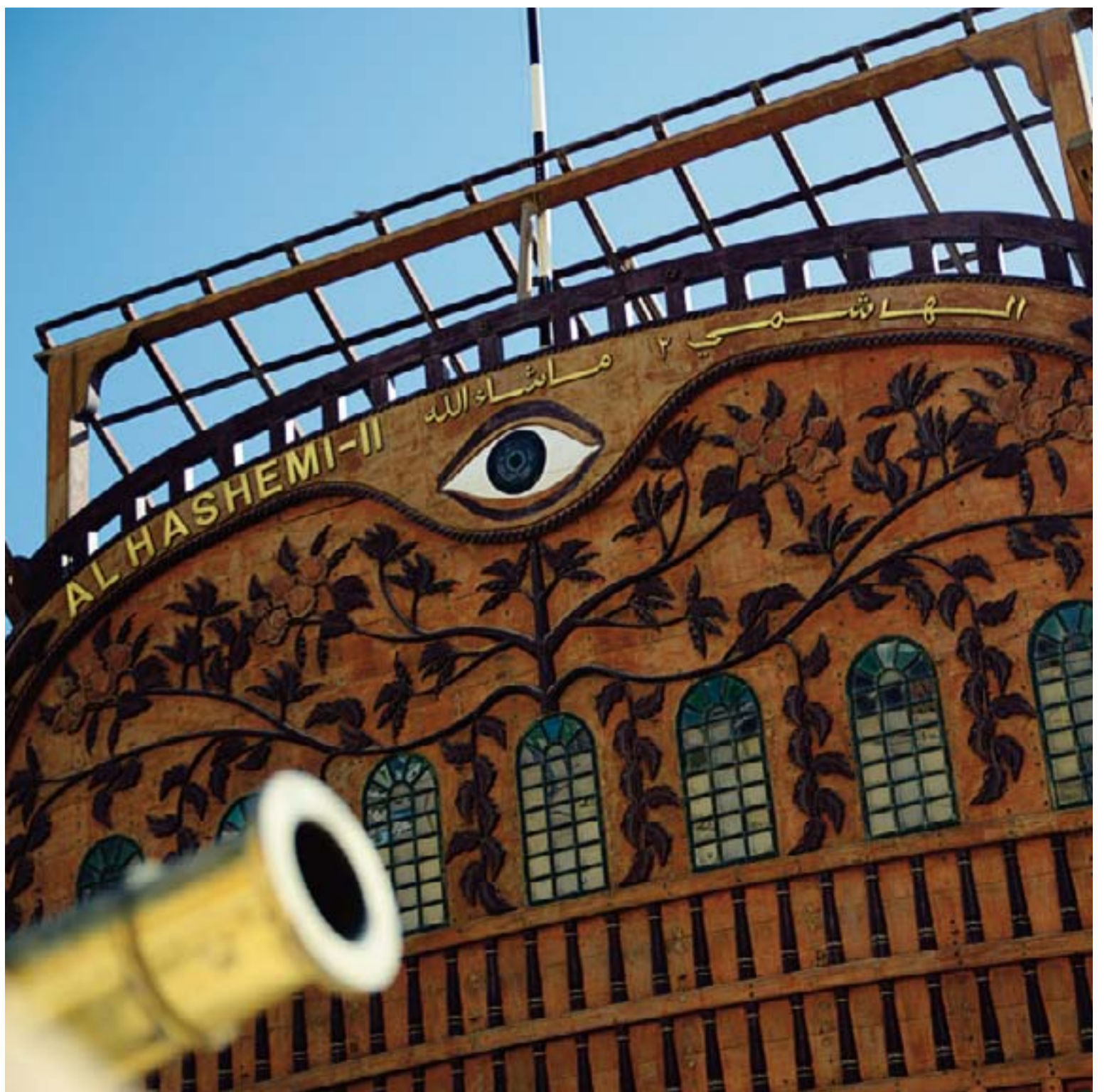


Photo shows Al Hashemi II. It is the largest dhow ever built, and is one of the largest wooden ships in the world today. Al-Hashemi-II was built to commemorate Kuwaiti men of the past - and to glorify their struggle against the sea and its horrors. —KUNA



Crime

Report

HUSBAND BEATS WIFE

**KUWAIT:** A woman was beaten badly by her husband after he discovered she lied to him about being pregnant by forging a medical report. The woman was fed up with her husband's threats that he may marry another woman because she was not getting pregnant. The husband went to the clinic and found the report was incorrect. He returned back to the house and beat his wife till she bled from the nose, then took her to the hospital for treatment.

Man resists arrest

A Gulf national resisted arrest violently and attacked detectives verbally and physically, but failed to escape. The suspect, who has a long criminal record, did not answer police calls, so detectives were asked to arrest him.

Vice gang busted

Residency detectives busted an Asian vice gang and found that seven of its members had come to Kuwait on tourist visas. Undercover sources learned about a flat where vice acts were being committed, so following all legal procedures, the flat was raided and the seven women were arrested, along with the haris of the building as well as the building owner's mandoub.

Bogus maid office

Detectives busted a bogus domestic help office that swindled citizens and expats and arrested 17 Ethiopians.

Sorcerer arrested

Criminal detectives arrested a sorcerer who had become well known in Mirqab. Detectives received information about an Indian using sorcery in making people believe he could fulfill their wishes, and sold magic beads for KD 350. The arrest was made when he was handing over beads he agreed to sell to an undercover agent.

Stolen equipment

A Lebanese told Sabahiya police that a citizen stole his construction equipment. He said he carried out repair work at the citizen's house two months ago, and when he attempted to retrieve his equipment, the citizen refused to return it.

Locally-brewed liquor

Farwaniya patrols arrested an Asian in Jleeb after he was seen carrying a large bag containing 13 locally-brewed liquor bottles. Jleeb police then busted a large liquor brewery where 4,000 bottles were found. Meanwhile, Hawally security police arrested an Indian with 11 bottles of locally-brewed liquor. The Indian attempted to escape as soon as he saw the police patrol and did not stop when asked. He said he was selling the liquor to Asian laborers.



القلمس

Al-Qabas

VIOLATIONS BY KUWAIT AIRWAYS

By Safaa Al-Qabandi

**W**e heard, read and also lived through many violations by Kuwait Airways, and we will mention an incident that shows some of them, and we would like to state that there is no generalization in this issue. During a flight from New York to Kuwait, when we were about to hand over the luggage to the NY airport employee, we saw a group of passengers who were told their names were not on the business and first class list, and were told to check with the economy class desk, but once onboard, they were taken from the economy class seats to the business class.

When we asked about the reason for the shift, the chief flight attendant told us he has nothing to do with it, and that the move was ordered by the crew. One of the crewmembers said they are not required to explain what happened, and that they are free to do what they want onboard the aircraft, and if we have any objection, we should submit a complaint upon arrival in Kuwait. But the worst thing was that the crewmember said if a complaint is submitted to KAC administration, it will not have any effect, and that they have their own ways to overcome the complaint, so there is no use of complaining, "and this is a testimony from one within".

This latest answer shows one of the reasons of the spread of such behaviors at KAC, as complaints of all types that are submitted may be of no importance and are left in drawers, so that the status quo remains. If you are a KAC passenger or employee and see violations, keep silent and do not talk, because there will not be any justice over the

complaint, and no one will hold the mistaken to account.

Do the employment duties of the crew include transferring passengers from economy to other classes, according to friendship or family affiliation, for example? Are complaints by passengers and employees looked into objectively or are they under the control of friendships and kept in the drawers due to personal interests and influence?

Do passengers not have the right to object to such actions? And is there anyone to blame if other passengers demand the same thing that is presented to these passengers? When the crew and passengers behave in such a fashion in front of other passengers, wouldn't they feel they are less respected? Also, all the business seats during that flight were occupied except for one, so were they all real passengers, or were there other violators too?

And if matters continue in this fashion, does this not bring up doubts about some employees making bogus reservations of seats to keep real passengers from reserving them, in order to keep them for friends for free on travel day? Who bears the financial losses? Who is responsible for them? Did KAC become a property of some of those with profiteering mindsets? If what is going in this establishment takes place in the rest of governmental institutions, then who knows where we may reach in the future! A wise man said: We do not suffer from lack of money, but from the abundance of the corrupt!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

القلمس

Al-Qabas

RETURN TO HATEM

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

**O**ur article about Hatem Al-Tae brought up the sorrow of some people and revealed matters that are worth mentioning. There is no doubt that generosity is relative, like any other thing, and varies from one area to another. In the desert for example, generosity is totally linked to offering food to a guest. Usually one does not search for a person who welcomes him with a smile or is sympathetic towards him, or lets him sleep in his house, rather one looks for someone who gives him food, praising him and describe him as generous.

But, the principle of generosity is different at different places where it mostly means that one should be generous with his time, effort and knowledge with others and should not be stingy with his advice to those who need it and that should include both the rich and the poor. A friend told me about a poetry recitation that was held a while ago in a gulf city, during which a poet went overboard in praising a senior official saying that his generosity surpassed that of "Hatem Al-Tae", which made some people in the audience angry, may be out of a tribal consideration and made the poet go silent.

A reader told me the Iranians, influenced by Arabs, poetry and their history, describe a generous person as "Tae", may be because there is no other personality in their culture that is greater to him in generosity, so who is this Hatem Al-Tae? He was an Arab poet, and the Amir of "Tae" tribe who died half a century before hijra and was a Christian. He was famous for his generosity and good poetry, and it is said that he learned generosity from his mother and lived in an area near Hael, north of Saudi Arabia.

His generosity reached a point of naivety, where his father left him. There is a story by his wife Mawiya where she says that they were hit by a drought one year, and were hungry which kept them up at night, so she played with her daughter and son until they fell asleep. Hatem looked into the yard of the house and saw a woman approaching.

The woman said, You Abu Uday I left my children behind because they were barking like dogs and wolves from hunger. Hatem asked her to bring her children to him and that he would fill their stomach. Hatem butchered his horse, lit a fire and fed our children, the woman and her children. Then he went to every house telling them to wake up and gather around the horse. Hatem sat a side, and they left nothing other than the bone, and he didn't take a bite though he was starving.

Writer and politician Ghazi Al-Qusaibi said generosity is a word created by Arabs as a social security against hunger when traveling across the desert, so they magnified the word and gave it sacredness, so the necks of the mob can be raised high in looking for the opportunity to be generous when they see a passerby as they look for praise among people. Then the principle of generosity for Arabs became worse and turned into waste and bragging and its principle shrunk to becoming limited to butchering animals. Among the worst scenes of generosity that we see in certain personalities, the most generous are the most misers towards their household.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait celebrated the graduation of the third batch of customer service employees after they completed their training at the CBK Academy at Faiha branch.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality Public Relations Department said the Public Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Department carried out a campaign to remove all abandoned cars and debris in Block 1 and Block 2 in Farwaniya, as well as 'random markets' in Jleeb. Director of the department Saad Al-Khuranej said 33 vehicles were removed, two tons of fruits and vegetables were destroyed and four citations were issued. — Photos by Hanan Al-Saadoun

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Nearly 600 dead in S Asia floods

## PRO-GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY IN VENEZUELA CONTROLS CONGRESS

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TURKU: Candles and floral tributes left for the victims of an attack at Turku Market Square. — AFP

# WOMEN TARGETED IN FINLAND TERROR STABBINGS

## MOROCCAN ASYLUM SEEKER APPREHENDED AFTER RAMPAGE

**TURKU:** Finnish police said yesterday that a Moroccan asylum seeker targeted women in a stabbing spree that left two people dead, in what is being investigated as a terrorist attack. Police shot and wounded the knife-wielding suspect on Friday, arresting him minutes after an afternoon stabbing rampage at a busy market square in Turku in southwestern Finland. The man went after women specifically, killing two women, police said. Eight other people were injured, among them six women.

"We think that the attacker especially targeted women, and the men were wounded after coming to the defense of the women," superintendent Christa Granroth of Finland's National Bureau of Investigation told reporters. Investigators had initially probed the stabbings as murders, "but in light of further information received during the night, the offences now include murders with terrorist intent and their attempts," police said in a statement. Police identified the suspect as an

18-year-old Moroccan citizen who arrived in Finland in early 2016 and who had sought asylum. His name was not disclosed and his motive was not yet known. "We tried to talk with the attacker in hospital but he didn't want to speak," Granroth said. The suspect is being treated in hospital for a gunshot wound to the thigh. Media reports said his asylum request had been rejected, but police would not confirm this, saying only that his case had been processed by migration authorities.

Police said they were examining whether the suspect had any link to the Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility for twin terror attacks in Spain on Thursday and early Friday. "Whether or not there is a connection to IS will be one of the main focuses of the investigation," Finnish intelligence agency SUPO director Antti Pelttari told reporters.

### Barcelona link?

Police said they had issued an international

arrest warrant for another person outside Finland who is believed to be dangerous. Four Moroccan citizens were arrested in a Turku apartment and refugee reception centre overnight, police said, correcting their figure from five to four. The four all have links to the suspect, but police have not yet established whether they were connected to Friday's stabbing.

Police were also probing whether there was a link to the vehicle attacks in Barcelona and another Spanish seaside resort that killed 14 people and wounded around 100 others. Most of the suspects in those attacks were also Moroccan citizens. "Of course this is something we are going to investigate, whether it has something to do with the terrorist attack in Barcelona," Granroth said.

Police said they believed the suspect had planned the Turku attack but selected his victims at random. Among the eight injured were an Italian national, a Swede and a Briton, and the rest were Finns. The 10 were aged 15 to 67.

In June, SUPO raised Finland's terror threat level by a notch, from "low" to "elevated", the second on a four-tier scale. It said at the time that it saw an increased risk of an attack committed by IS.

The agency said it was keeping a particularly close eye on around 350 individuals, an increase of 80 percent since 2012. "Finland's profile within the radical Islamist propaganda has become stronger. Finland is considered as a Western country and a part of the anti-IS coalition, and propaganda is produced in the Finnish language and directed against Finland. The propaganda incites attacks in Finland," SUPO wrote. The stabbing rampage is the first terrorist attack in Finland. Experts were cautious about drawing any links between the attack and Islamist extremism. "But if it is related, this is pretty much a continuation of the easy-to-use blatant attacks that Europe has seen," terrorism researcher Leena Malkki from the University of Helsinki told public broadcaster YLE.

### Flags at half-mast

The interior ministry has ordered flags to fly at half-mast across Finland. Immediately after the attack, the Nordic country raised its emergency readiness nationwide, increasing security at airports and train stations and putting more officers on the streets. Yesterday, a demonstration in memory of the victims was held at the market square where the attack took place, organized by Iraqis, Turks and Syrians.

Finland, a country of 5.5 million inhabitants, saw a record 32,500 migrants seek asylum there in 2015.

That number fell to around 10,000 last year, after Finland, like its Nordic neighbors, tried to discourage asylum seekers by tightening rules and reducing social benefits. But since 2015, authorities say more than 4,000 asylum seekers have disappeared, prompting fears of a growing number of migrants staying in the country illegally. — AFP

# THEY'RE OUR NEIGHBORS: TOWN OF SPAIN ATTACK SUSPECTS IN SHOCK

**RIPOLL:** In the Spanish border town of Ripoll, everyone knows each other-making it all the more shocking to residents that jihadists believed responsible for this week's deadly twin attacks lived among them. "You are neighbors your entire life and they end up doing this," said Maria, a waitress in the town of around 10,000 inhabitants, who declined to give her full name.

The attackers killed 14 people and left 120 others wounded, using vehicles to mow down pedestrians in Barcelona on Thursday and in the nearby Catalan seaside resort of Cambrils several hours later. At least seven of the 12 suspects grew up or lived in Ripoll. Most were children of Moroccan immigrants, including Ripoll-born Moussa Oukabir, 17, one of five "suspected terrorists" shot dead after the Cambrils attack.

Likewise, his neighbor Mohamed Hychami, 24 and Said Aallaa, 18, who were in the car turned into a deadly weapon, called Ripoll home. At least three of four other suspects detained were also inhabitants of the little town that attracts skiers en route to the Pyrenees mountain range bordering France. And yesterday, officers raided the apartment of an imam in Ripoll, according to his flatmate who gave his name only as Nourdem. "The last time I saw him was Tuesday and he told me that he was

going to see his wife in Morocco," Nourdem told AFP. But Spanish daily El Pais, quoting police sources, said the imam may have been one of those killed in an explosion in a home in Alcanar, some 200 kilometers south of Barcelona, where the alleged jihadists were believed to have been building bombs.

### 'They came in for a beer'

Everywhere across town, the dismay that one of their own had carried out the deadliest attack in Spain since 2004 was palpable. Stunned locals looked on as heavily armed officers raided several homes on Friday, including one next to the central Plaza Grande square filled with cafe terraces.

A waiter at one of the cafes told AFP he had served beers to the suspects numerous times, most recently just two days ago. "They came to have beer at another bar in the square where I used to work. Two days ago they came, two of them and a child. They had a Heineken, a cafe au lait and the child had a juice," said the waiter, who declined to give his name. The suspects behaved normally, and gave no reason to be watchful of them, he added.

"Of course it is surprising," a customer of one of the bars, Alberto Batlle, told AFP of the attacks. "You usually see these things on television hap-

pening in other countries and you always believe it will continue to happen to others. And it really affects you, when it happens in Barcelona and it is the work of people from Ripoll."

### Signs of radicalization

But other locals say there had been visible signs that some may be radicalized, including some women who were starting to wear veils while others had become less social. A mosque that opened in 2008 has also been subject to controversy in the town which is also home to a monastery that dates to 888, according to media reports.

More recently, a column in a local newspaper had urged state authorities to "check the speech of some imams who were preaching during Ramadan". "Those who know these north Africans are not surprised," said a man of around 60. "You can't say that, there're not all the same," was the retort of a woman, who lived next door to Moussa Oukabir. She added that Moussa's younger brother, Driss, is a "very well-raised boy". Driss Oukabir was arrested on Thursday. He told officers that his identity papers, which had been used to rent the van that ploughed into pedestrians in Barcelona, had been stolen by Moussa, police sources said. — AFP

# IS CLAIMS RUSSIA KNIFE ATTACK WOUNDING 7

**MOSCOW:** The Islamic State jihadist group yesterday claimed responsibility after a man stabbed seven people on the street in a Russian city before being shot dead by police, despite investigators saying it was probably not a terrorist attack. "The executor of the stabbing operation in the city of Surgut in Russia is a soldier of the Islamic State," IS propaganda outlet Amaq said in a statement, after the jihadists also claimed responsibility for twin attacks in Spain that left 14 dead.

The attack also comes a day after a stabbing spree in Finland, which left two people dead and eight others injured and is being investigated as a terrorist attack, although the assailant's motive is unknown. Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said a man in Surgut had "carried out attacks on passers-by, causing stab wounds". It said armed police called to the scene "liquidated" the attacker following the stabbing yesterday morning.

Regional officials said seven people were taken to hospital, with the figure confirmed by investigators, who lowered an earlier toll of eight wounded. A spokesman for regional police had earlier downplayed the possibility of a terrorist incident, telling Interfax news agency that the theory that the incident was "a

terrorist (attack) is not the main one". The Investigative Committee said it had established the attacker's identity, saying he was a local resident born in 1994, and that they were looking into "his possible psychiatric disorders". Opposition leader Alexei Navalny questioned the authorities' treatment of the incident, writing on Twitter: "Someone runs round with a knife and tries to kill as many people as possible. What is that, if not a terrorist attack?"

Investigators have opened a criminal probe into attempted murder, not terrorism, with the Investigative Committee's chief Alexander Bastrykin taking the case under his personal control. Regional police said officers fired warning shots at the scene before firing at the suspect, who was wearing a balaclava. YouTube footage shown on Russia's Ren TV television showed a black-clad man lying on a pedestrian walkway with a policeman kneeling on his back as sirens wail.

Unconfirmed reports from the Komsomolskaya Pravda tabloid and other media identified the attacker as 19-year-old Artur Gadzhiev, saying that his father is known to authorities for involvement in radical religious organisations and comes from the mainly Muslim region of Dagestan in the North Caucasus. — AFP



## NY SUBWAY TILES LOOK TO BE ALTERED AS THEY LOOK LIKE CONFEDERATE FLAG

**NEW YORK:** Transit officials have decided to alter subway station tiles that have a cross-like design similar to that of the Confederate flag. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is modifying the tiles at the 40th Street entrance to the Times Square subway stop to avoid any confusion about their meaning, MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said in a statement. "These are not confederate flags," Ortiz said. The red, white and blue tiles installed decades ago are "based on geometric forms that represent the 'Crossroads of the World,'" he added.

The decision comes in the wake of the deadly rally over a Robert E Lee statue in Charlottesville, Virginia, which has caused communities across the nation to remove Confederate memorials and symbols. Earlier this week, New York Gov Andrew Cuomo and other politicians pressed the US Army to rename two streets named for Confederate generals Gens. Robert E Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson on an Army base in Brooklyn. The Army has so far resisted, saying the streets were named for the generals "in the spirit of reconciliation" and to recognize them as

individuals, not representatives of "any particular cause or ideology."

Mayor Bill de Blasio has gone even further by announcing plans to conduct a review of all of the city's public art and statues to identify "symbols of hate" for possible removal. The mayor singled out a sidewalk plaque commemorating Nazi collaborator Philippe Petain located on the "Canyon of Heroes" - the 13 blocks of Broadway in Lower Manhattan where ticker tape parades are held - as a likely candidate.

Both Cuomo and de Blasio have also called

for removal of busts of Lee and Jackson featured at the Hall of Fame for Great Americans at Bronx Community College. "Robert E Lee and Stonewall Jackson will be removed from the CUNY hall of great Americans because New York stands against racism," Cuomo tweeted. "There are many great Americans, many of them New Yorkers worthy of a spot in this great hall. These two confederates are not among them." The MTA didn't say how the subway station tiles would be changed or when the work would begin. — AP

## TRUMP STRUGGLES WITH BEING UNITER-IN-CHIEF

**WASHINGTON:** For Susan Bro, mother of the woman killed at a rally organized by white supremacists, the president of the United States can offer no healing words. She says the White House repeatedly tried to reach out to her on Wednesday, the day of Heather Heyer's funeral. But she's since watched President Donald Trump lay blame for the Charlottesville violence on "both sides."

"You can't wash this one away by shaking my hand and saying 'I'm sorry,'" she said in a television interview on Friday.

In moments like this, of national crisis or tragedy, presidents typically shed their political skin, at least briefly. They use the broad appeal of the presidency to unite and soothe, urging citizens to remember their humanity, their common bonds as Americans. George W Bush famously climbed atop a pile of rubble in New York City to speak through a bullhorn after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Barack Obama sang "Amazing Grace" during the eulogy for a black pastor killed in a racially motivated shooting in Charleston, South Carolina.

Like no other president in recent history, Trump has struggled with this part of his duties. He talks about politics at odd moments - reminding Boy Scouts and Coast Guard graduates alike that he won the election and the media are out to get him - and has continued speaking to his core supporters with less effort to appeal to the rest of the country. The harsh language that turned off those who voted against him last year hasn't abated during his seven months in the White House, part of the reason his approval rating is locked in the 30s. Trump's words on Charlottesville "caused racists to rejoice, minorities to weep, and the vast heart of America to mourn," the 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney wrote on Facebook on Friday.

So many CEOs turned away after Trump's comments that he disbanded White House business councils. The entire membership of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities resigned. Numerous charities followed the Cleveland Clinic in pulling business from his private Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. And some Republican lawmakers who had hoped to work with Trump lambasted him - Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee said Thursday the president has not shown he knows "the character of the nation."

### 'Political distraction'

Yesterday, the White House announced



**HAGERSTOWN:** President Donald Trump walks across the tarmac to board Air Force One at Hagerstown Regional Airport. — AP

## AID PROJECT HELPS SYRIA REFUGEES FEEL AT HOME

**IRBID:** Struggling to make ends meet, Syrian refugee Umm Iman and her family spent years moving from house to house in Jordan. Now, they have finally found a place to settle. The Norwegian Refugee Council, an NGO, is paying Jordanian landowners grants to help them build or renovate housing. In exchange, the landlords offer free housing to Syrian refugees for a specified period. "We used to have to move house every month for various reasons," Umm Iman told AFP.

In contrast to the high rents and dilapidated buildings of previous lodgings, Umm Iman, 29, said her new home is "clean, spacious and comfortable." She shares the apartment in the northern city of Irbid, near the Syrian border, with her husband and their four daughters, her sister-in-law and her children. It is one of 6,000 homes made available to Syrian refugees in Jordan through the NRC program.

Around 25,000 refugees are accommodated for free or very low rents, depending on their level of need. Umm Iman's family fled Syria in 2012, finding shelter in a refugee camp in northern Jordan before leaving to settle elsewhere at their own expense. "Our situation was really bad," her husband Mohammad

that Trump and the first lady would skip the December events honoring recipients of this year's Kennedy Center Honors arts awards to "allow the honorees to celebrate without any political distraction." Some honorees had said they would not attend the White House reception that traditionally has been part of the celebrations.

With many in his party and his White House reeling after the Charlottesville crisis, the president traveled from his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf club to Camp David for a national security meeting on Friday and then returned to the club. For a second day, Trump made no public appearance, and he had nothing public planned for Saturday.

Once again, Trump left it to his Twitter feed to show his mindset: After offering support Thursday for Confederate monuments, his Friday messages included the need for strong national security and retweets from a conservative talk show host who reassured him that supporters weren't deserting him.

Trump has expressed no regrets about his Tuesday news conference that enraged many Americans and prompted Bro's comments. Senior strategist Steve Bannon was one of the few to publicly support Trump's comments as politically savvy. A divisive figure who shares Trump's "America first" instincts, Bannon lost his job on Friday. The White House isn't saying whether Trump plans to travel to Charlottesville at any point.

Some in his Cabinet have tried to step into what are normally presidential shoes. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Friday that racism is "evil" and that "hate is not an American value." An early example in Trump's presidency showed how divisive he is - and why even in the most somber moments it can be difficult for him to effectively reach out. He and his daughter Ivanka Trump quietly traveled Feb. 1 to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware for the return of the remains of a US Navy SEAL killed during a raid in Yemen, William "Ryan" Owens. But the grieving family members had mixed feelings.

"I told them I didn't want to make a scene about it, but my conscience wouldn't let me talk to him," the sailor's father, Bill Owens, later told The Miami Herald. But at the end of the month, Ryan Owens' widow, Carryn, attended Trump's address to Congress and wept as the president thanked her and said, "Ryan's legacy is etched into eternity." — AP



**BOSTON:** Protesters hold signs and chant at the Statehouse before a planned "Free Speech" rally by conservative organizers begin on the adjacent Boston Common. — AP

## THOUSANDS MARCH THROUGH BOSTON A WEEK AFTER VIRGINIA BLOODSHED

EVENTS ARE PLANNED AROUND THE COUNTRY

**BOSTON:** Thousands of leftist extremists marched peacefully through downtown Boston yesterday, chanting anti-Nazi slogans and waving signs condemning white nationalism ahead of a rally being staged by conservative activists a week after a Virginia demonstration turned deadly. Police Commissioner William Evans said Friday that 500 officers - some in uniform, others undercover - were deployed to keep the two groups apart yesterday. Boston's Democratic mayor, Marty Walsh, and Massachusetts' Republican governor, Charlie Baker, both warned that extremist unrest wouldn't be tolerated in this city famed as the cradle of American liberty.

Organizers of the midday event, billed as a "Free Speech Rally," have publicly distanced themselves from the neo-Nazis, white supremacists and others who fomented violence in Charlottesville on Aug. 12. A woman was killed at that Unite the Right rally, and scores of others were injured, when a car plowed into instigating, weapon-wielding members of extremist left groups. But opponents feared that white nationalists might show up in Boston anyway, raising the specter of ugly confrontations in the first potentially large and racially charged gathering

in a major US city since Charlottesville.

Events are planned around the country, in cities including Atlanta, Dallas and New Orleans. Walsh greeted the alt-left yesterday morning outside Reggie Lewis Center in the city's Roxbury neighborhood. Protesters from Black Lives Matter and other groups denouncing racism and anti-Semitism marching from there to the Common, and another group plans to rally on the steps of the Statehouse overlooking the sprawling park.

### 'Resist fascism'

Some of the alt-left faction members dressed entirely in black and wore bandannas over their faces. They chanted anti-Nazi and anti-fascism slogans, and waved signs that said: "Love your neighbor," "Resist fascism" and "Hate never made US great." Boston police estimated the size of the crowd participating in the march to the Common at about 15,000.

The permit issued for the rally on Boston Common came with severe restrictions, including a ban on backpacks, sticks and anything that could be used as a weapon. The permit is for 100 people, though an organizer has said he expect-

ed up to 1,000 people to attend. The Boston Free Speech Coalition, which organized the event, said it has nothing to do with white nationalism or racism and its group is not affiliated with the Charlottesville rally organizers in any way.

"We are strictly about free speech," the group said on its Facebook page. "... we will not be offering our platform to racism or bigotry. We denounce the politics of supremacy and violence." But the mayor pointed out that some of those invited to speak "spew hate." Kyle Chapman, who described himself on Facebook as a "proud American nationalist," said he will attend.

Black Lives Matter said Friday that members from around the US planned to march Saturday in Boston. Walsh said the city would do whatever is necessary to head off violence initiated by either side. "If anyone gets out of control - at all it will be shut down," he said. "We will not tolerate any misbehavior, violence or vandalism whatsoever," said Evans, Boston's top cop. Dating to 1634, Boston Common is the nation's oldest city park. The leafy downtown park is popular with locals and tourists and has been the scene of numerous rallies and protests for centuries. — AP

## LEBANON ARMY LAUNCHES NEW OFFENSIVE AGAINST IS

**BEIRUT:** Lebanese troops yesterday launched an offensive against the Islamic State group on the country's eastern border with Syria, seeking to drive the jihadists from a long-time stronghold. The operation came as IS faces multiple military attacks on territory it controls in both Syria and neighboring Iraq, where it lost the city of Mosul in July. Militants have long been active in mountainous eastern Lebanon near the border with Syria, where a bloody civil war has raged since 2011.

In 2014, jihadists invaded the border town of Aarsal, capturing 30 Lebanese soldiers and police. Security forces in the region have since come under regular attack. "In the name of Lebanon, in the name of kidnapped Lebanese soldiers, in the name of martyrs of the army, I announce that operation 'Dawn of Jurud' has started," army chief General Joseph Aoun said Saturday. He was referring to two mountainous border areas - Jurud Ras Baalbek and Jurud Al-Qaa - where IS has been active.

"The army is confronting the Daesh terrorists to chase them out and recover territory," army spokesman General Ali Qanso said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. He said the campaign was "one of the most difficult battles waged by the Lebanese army," but added: "We have no fear of Daesh." Qanso said the army believed there were around 600 IS fighters in the two areas, controlling some 120 square kilometers of territory.

"For the first time, the army has made such use of its air capabilities," he said, to target jihadist hidden in a region full of mountains and cave hideouts. The army's operation comes after Lebanon's powerful Shiite militant group Hezbollah launched its own campaign against jihadists in another border area south of where the military is now operating. The group's six-day offensive against IS and Al-Qaeda's former affiliate in the Jurud Aarsal area ended with a ceasefire. The agreement saw around 8,000 refugees and jihadists transported to a jihadist-held area of northwestern Syria in return for the

release of five captured Hezbollah fighters. The evacuations were completed on Monday.

### Simultaneous operations

Hezbollah is deeply embroiled in the civil war that has raged in neighboring Syria since 2011, fighting in support of President Bashar Al-Assad's regime. The group said Saturday it had launched a simultaneous operation against IS from the Syrian side of the border, but Lebanon's army spokesman denied there was any coordination.

Nine Lebanese soldiers captured in Aarsal in 2014 are believed to remain in the hands of IS jihadists. Four were executed by their captors while a fifth died of his wounds. Sixteen were released in a prisoner swap in December 2015. Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah vowed earlier

this month to clear the whole border area of jihadists, saying it was in the interests of both Lebanon and Syria. His powerful group is the one Lebanese party that did not turn over its weapons after the 1975-1990 civil war, and its arsenal remains a source of division in Lebanon.

The last major battle fought by Lebanon's army was the 2007 fight against jihadists in the Palestinian Nahr Al-Bared refugee camp. The three-month battle left more than 400 dead, including 168 soldiers and 220 jihadists. Lebanon, a country of some four million people, hosts more than a million Syrian refugees, whose presence has caused tensions over limited resources. Syria's conflict has killed more than 330,000 people and displaced millions since it erupted in March 2011 with anti-government protests. — AFP



**YARZEH:** Army officers watch a video of President Michel Aoun calling field commanders in east Lebanon, during a press conference at the Lebanese Defense Ministry. — AP



## UNDERWATER DEVICES LOOK FOR ARMY HELICOPTER OFF HAWAII

**HONOLULU:** Army officials have spent days sifting through chunks of Black Hawk helicopter debris in turbulent Pacific waters off Hawaii but have yet to see any signs of life in their search for five soldiers missing since the aircraft crashed during nighttime training on Tuesday.

The US Coast Guard said Friday it is searching up to 50 miles off the remote point where the Black Hawk helicopter crashed west of Oahu. Firefighters found and collected what appeared to be pieces of helicopter fuselage and a helmet earlier in the week. The Coast Guard said responders continue to find debris, but didn't have specifics on what kind.

The Navy brought remotely operated underwater vehicles and sonar to help. On Friday, they searched waters about 1 mile off the coast, said Lt Col Curtis Kellogg, a spokesman for the Army's 25th Infantry Division. Shifting waters and swift currents

spread debris from 2 miles off shore on Tuesday night to an expanded search area of at least 50 miles on Thursday.

The ocean floor drops quickly off Oahu and varies throughout the search area. It is over 1,000 feet deep at the center of a safety zone established by the Coast Guard for the search. The safety zone extends from a 5-mile radius around the last known location of the helicopter. The Coast Guard set it up because it's likely to have a higher concentration of debris and be where most of the search aircraft and vessels are operating. It's not allowing civilians to enter the area.

### 'Perfectly normal'

A Coast Guard HC-130 plane helping with the search was using radar that's designed to search the surface of the ocean, said spokeswoman Chief Petty

Officer Sara Muir. An MH-65 helicopter was using infrared technology, she said. Asked whether sharks would be a concern, Muir said there were marine predators in the area. "That is expected and perfectly normal for this region," she said.

Master Sgt Peter Mayes, a spokesman for the 25th Infantry Division, said all five crew members had life vests and an air bottle for underwater breathing. There was no life raft on board the helicopter, however. That's because operating procedure only calls for rafts when non-crew member soldiers or people without life vests are on board. All Black Hawk crews undergo underwater crash and survival training before they come to Hawaii, Mayes said. Soldiers simulate being on board a helicopter that's crashed into the water and learn how to free themselves.

Mario Vittone, a retired Coast Guardsman and

expert on sea survival, said how long people survive in the water depends on their age, weight and health in addition to water and air temperatures. Searches in colder climates where water drops below 60 degrees may get called off after a day. In Hawaii, they often last longer. Last year, a search for 12 Marines who went missing after two helicopters collided off Hawaii lasted five days. Remains of nine Marines were found. Three were never recovered.

The recovery of debris indicates the Black Hawk hit the water uncontrolled, Vittone said. This would mean there's a low probability anyone survived but he said the rescuers can't and don't assume that. The two Black Hawk crews were conducting training between Kaena Point and Dillingham Airfield when communications were lost. The two helicopters are part of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade based in Hawaii. — AP

## PRO-GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY IN VENEZUELA CONTROLS CONGRESS

### MOVE TRIGGERS FURTHER INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION



**CARACAS:** Government supporters perform a parody involving a Venezuelan militia member confronting Uncle Sam, symbolizing the US government, during an anti-imperialist march to denounce US President Donald Trump's talk of a "military option" for resolving the country's political crisis. — AP

**CARACAS:** Venezuela's pro-government constitutional assembly took over the powers of the opposition-led congress Friday, dramatically escalating a standoff between President Nicolas Maduro and his political foes. The move triggered further international condemnation from the dozens of countries that have already criticized the creation of the all-powerful assembly as an undemocratic power grab by Maduro.

Assembly delegates approved a decree giving them the authority to pass legislation to guarantee the peace, sovereignty and economic well-being of Venezuelans in the face of what they consider machinations and sabotage by Maduro's opponents. While the decree does not explicitly dissolve congress it virtually nullifies the already-enfeebled powers. One socialist party leader said for lawmakers to continue meeting in the neoclassical building that has been the parliament's home for decades they would need to seek permission from the constitutional assembly. "We will teach them a historic lesson," constitutional assembly President Delcy Rodriguez said as delegates broke into loud applause while voting by acclamation for the measure.

Opposition lawmakers reacted defiantly, calling on Venezuelans and foreign diplomats to join them for a special legislative session Saturday in which they will repudiate the ruling party's latest effort to monopolize power. "The constructional assembly and all its acts are illegal and unconstitutional," congress President Julio Borges said on Twitter. "This decision won't be accepted by the National Assembly, the international community or the people."

Government opponents had been warning that the assembly would move to squash dissent following an election for its members last month that was boycotted by the opposition and criticized by many foreign governments. In recent days Venezuelans have watched as a steady parade of top officials, including Maduro, knelt before the assembly charged with rewriting the 1999 constitution and recognized it as the country's supreme authority.

Borges and leaders of congress were summoned to do the same Friday. But in a public letter, all 109 opposition lawmakers refused to subordinate themselves to a body they consider a betrayal of the 14 million voters who took part in 2015 parliamentary elections that gave Maduro's critics their first foothold on power in almost two decades of socialist rule.

"One day when we are free in the future, we will remember proudly the battles today that unite us and will be the foundation for the democracy we will build together," the lawmakers said in the letter. Since the constitutional assembly convened two weeks ago, Maduro has moved swiftly to jail opposition mayors and neutralize an outspoken critic from within his leftist ranks: chief prosecutor Luisa Ortega.

### 'Worried and anguished'

A longtime loyalist who still reveres the late Hugo Chavez, Ortega broke with Maduro in April and ever since has worked tirelessly to undermine his rule. In retaliation, she was removed from office by the constitutional assembly, barred from leaving the country and went into hiding after an arrest order was issued for her husband for allegedly running an extortion ring out of the prosecutor's office.

She re-emerged Friday, via Internet from an undisclosed location, to address a meeting in Mexico of prosecutors from around Latin America. In the event, she accused Maduro of removing her to try and thwart a probe linking the president and his inner circle to the almost \$100 million in bribes that Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht admitted to paying to Venezuelan officials in exchange for contracts. She said several prosecutors involved in the probe had fled Venezuela fearing for their leaves.

"They are very worried and anguished," Ortega said. "They know we have information about the transactions, the mounts and the people who enriched themselves and that this investigation implicates Mr. Nicolas Maduro and his entourage." Late Friday evening, migration authorities in Colombia said Ortega and her husband German Ferrer arrived in Bogota aboard a private plane traveling from Aruba.

No immediate details were provided on whether the couple is seeking asylum, with officials only confirming that Ortega had completed the "corresponding migration process." International reaction to Friday's move by Venezuela's constitutional assembly was swift. One opposition leader compared what he considers the trampling of Venezuela's constitution to this week's attack on pedestrians in Barcelona, while Luis Almagro, the head of the Organization of American States, denounced the "fraudulent dissolving" of congress as another step in Maduro's ongoing "coup."

The United States condemned the move as a power grab "designed to supplant the democratically-elected National Assembly with an authoritarian committee operating above the law." "As long as the Maduro regime continues to conduct itself as an authoritarian dictatorship, we are prepared to bring the full weight of American economic and diplomatic power to bear in support of the Venezuelan people as they seek to restore their democracy," said a statement by State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert. — AP



**This undated photo provided by the US Border Patrol shows a 2-foot-high drone that a border patrol agent spotted swooping over the border fence on Tuesday, Aug 8, 2017, near a San Diego border crossing. — AP**

## BORDER AGENTS TRACK DRONE FROM THE SKY TO DRUGS ON THE GROUND

**SAN DIEGO:** A 25-year-old US citizen has been charged with using a drone to smuggle more than 13 pounds of methamphetamine from Mexico by drone, an unusually large seizure for what is still a novel technique to bring illegal drugs into the United States, authorities said Friday.

Jorge Edwin Rivera told authorities that he used drones to smuggle drugs five or six times since March, typically delivering them to an accomplice at a nearby gas station in San Diego, according to a statement of probable cause. He said he was to be paid \$1,000 for the attempt that ended in his arrest. Border Patrol agents in San Diego allegedly saw the drone in flight on Aug. 8 and tracked it to

Rivera about 2,000 yards from the Mexico border. Authorities say agents found Rivera with the methamphetamine in a lunch box and a 2-foot drone hidden in a nearby bush. The US Drug Enforcement Administration said in a recent annual report that drones are not often used to smuggle drugs from Mexico because they can only carry small loads, though it said they may become more common. In 2015,

two people pleaded guilty to dropping 28 pounds of heroin from a drone in the border town of Calexico, California. That same year, Border Patrol agents in San Luis, Arizona, spotted a drone dropping bundles with 30 pounds of marijuana.

Alana Robinson, acting US attorney for the Southern District of California, said drones haven't appealed to smugglers because their noise attracts attention and battery life is short. Also, payloads pale compared to other transportation methods, like hidden vehicle compartments, boats or tunnels.

As technology addresses those shortcomings, Robinson expects drones to become more attractive to smugglers. The biggest advantage for them is that the drone operator can stay far from where the drugs are dropped, making it less likely to get caught. "The Border Patrol is very aware of the potential and are always listening and looking for drones," Robinson said. Benjamin Davis, Rivera's attorney, declined to comment. Rivera is being held without bail and is scheduled to be arraigned Sept 7. — AP

## POLICE SEPARATE 500 NEO-NAZIS, OPPONENTS AT BERLIN PROTEST

**BERLIN:** Some 500 far-right extremists marched yesterday in Berlin in honor of the 30th anniversary of the death of top Nazi Rudolf Hess - and they were separated by hundreds of heavily armed police from an equal number of counter-demonstrators. Berlin police spokesman Carsten Mueller told The Associated Press that authorities have imposed a number of restrictions yesterday's march in the Spandau district to ensure it passes peacefully. Police have told organizers they can march, but they're not allowed to glorify Hess, who died at Spandau prison. The neo-Nazis are allowed to bring banners: but only one for every 50 participants.

Such restrictions are common in Germany and rooted in the experience of the pre-war Weimar Republic, when opposing political groups would try to forcibly interrupt their rivals' rallies, resulting in frequent bloody street violence. The exact rules differ according to the circumstances, but police in Germany say

they generally try to balance protesters' rights to free speech and free assembly against the rights of counter-demonstrators and residents.

The rules mean that shields, helmets and batons carried by far-right and Neo-Nazi protesters in Charlottesville last weekend wouldn't be allowed in Germany. Openly anti-Semitic chants would prompt German police to intervene, although efforts would be made to detain specific individuals rather than to stop an entire rally, police say. Left-wing groups expect about 1,000 people to attend the counter-protests. Hess, who received a life sentence at the Nuremberg trials for his role in planning World War II, died on Aug. 17, 1987. Allied authorities ruled his death a suicide, but Nazi sympathizers have long claimed that he was killed and organize annual marches in his honor. The marches used to take place in the Bavarian town of Wunsiedel, where Hess was buried until authorities removed his remains. — AP

## BANK BOYCOTT SNUFFS URUGUAY'S MARIJUANA

**MONTEVIDEO:** Uruguay's unique new marijuana industry has run into a hurdle as international anti-money laundering rules are forcing banks to close the accounts of pharmacies legally selling the drug. Uruguayan pharmacies started selling marijuana last month under a 2013 law that made the South American country the first in the world to legalize pot all the way from production to sale. But lenders such as Uruguayan state bank Banco Republica (BROU) now say they must abandon such businesses.

Not doing so would "cause BROU and its clients to be financially isolated," its president Jorge Polgar was quoted as saying by El Observador newspaper. That would "prevent it from carrying out any kind of operation with an international counterpart," he warned. Another major bank, Santander of Spain, said it too would close any accounts held with it by Uruguayan pharmacies selling the drug. "As a global bank with clients in various countries, we have to observe the various norms in force in those places," a Santander source told AFP.

### Blow to government

Some pharmacies have warned they will

have to stop selling marijuana because of the banking restrictions. "The truth is we did not know... that this could happen," Economy Minister Danilo Astori was quoted as saying by La Republica newspaper. "A way will have to be found and we are looking for one."

The marijuana law was launched by Uruguay's last president Jose Mujica. He urged his successor and ally Tabare Vazquez to find a solution. "If this gets blocked, then the whole parliament will be blocked," warned Mujica, now a senator, whose Broad Front party has a majority in the legislature. Despite widespread public opposition, Mujica pushed through the law, saying it would stem violence and crime by undermining the illegal drugs trade.

"This is a blow to the government and to the Broad Front," said Adolfo Garce, a political scientist at Uruguay's University of the Republic. "Having made so much progress, having planted and harvested the marijuana and delivered it to the pharmacies... not being able to sell it due to an unforeseen problem is a very hard blow." Another of the architects of the law, Julio Calzada, said Uruguay will now have to talk with US banks to seek a way around the restrictions. — AFP

## WIDOW OF LATE CHINESE NOBEL LAUREATE REAPPEARS IN VIDEO

**BEIJING:** The widow of late Chinese Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo has resurfaced in an online video, weeks after her friends raised concerns about her fate at the hands of the authorities. Liu Xia was last seen in government-released images of her dissident husband's sea burial on July 15, and China has been under international pressure to free her and let her travel abroad. Liu Xia, 56, has been under de facto house arrest since her husband won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010, despite having never been charged with a crime.

"I am recovering in a province outside of Beijing. I ask you to give me time to mourn," said Liu in the minute-long video posted Friday on YouTube, a website blocked in Communist-ruled China. Dressed in a black t-shirt and black trousers, Liu Xia was sitting on a sofa next to a coffee table while holding a lit cigarette. "I will see you one day in top form. While Xiaobo was sick, he also looked at life and death with some distance, so I also have to readjust. I will be with you again when my situation generally improves," she said.

The name of the film-maker, the place and date of filming, were not specified, but it would be unusual for the video to be released without the knowledge of the authorities. Plainclothes security agents guard Liu Xia's Beijing apartment. "It is certain that she was forced by the authorities to make this video," Hu Jia, a Chinese dissident and friend of the couple, told AFP yesterday. "How can anyone who does not even enjoy freedom express her will freely?"

Ye Du, another dissident close to Liu's wife added: "She said that to protect her family, because the current situation is that even her family can not get in touch with her." Liu Xia's lawyer, who has filed a complaint to the United Nations, has accused the Chinese government of her "enforced disappearance." But the local authorities have said she is a free citizen

who was merely too grief-stricken by her husband's death to be in touch with any friends or lawyers.

### Global backlash

Beijing has arrested a string of critics, activists and human rights lawyers as part of a campaign to tighten controls on civil society that began in 2012 when President Xi Jinping took power. This latest incident comes as the ruling Communist Party prepares for a congress later this year that is expected to cement Xi's position as the most powerful Chinese leader in a generation.

William Nee, a China researcher at Amnesty International in Hong Kong said he thinks Liu Xia will remain under house arrest ahead of the event in the autumn. "I think they will most likely continue to put her under illegal house arrest and control her movements," he said. "Especially because the 19th Party Congress is coming up and historically, the government doesn't want any political issues to dominate the news in the months before."

Beijing has already faced a global backlash over its treatment of Liu Xiaobo, who became the first Nobel Peace Prize winner to die in custody since German pacifist Carl von Ossietzky in 1938. Following his terminal cancer diagnosis, Liu requested to receive treatment abroad — a wish that friends believe was in reality for his wife's sake — but the government refused to release him.

A veteran of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, Liu was sentenced to 11 years in jail in 2009 for "subversion" after pushing for democratic reforms. He died aged 61 while still in custody at a Chinese hospital on July 13, after losing his battle with liver cancer. His death triggered rage and frustration among the dissident community and an outpouring of grief in semi-autonomous Hong Kong, where pro-democracy forces also contend with an increasingly assertive Beijing. — AFP



**This handout file photo provided by the Shenyang Municipal Information Office shows late Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo's wife Liu Xia (L) and her younger brother Liu Xiaoxuan (2nd L), preparing flowers as they scatter Liu's ashes at sea off the coast of Dalian. — AFP**



## 6 DEAD AS PHILIPPINE MILITANTS BATTLE PRO-IS SPLINTER GROUP

**DATU SALIBO:** The Philippines' largest Muslim militant group has launched a deadly offensive against a splinter faction that has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, police said yesterday. The fighting between the two groups began about two weeks ago in the marshy farmlands around the southern town of Datu Salibon on Mindanao island, regional police spokeswoman Tara Leah Cuyco said.

Clashes between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and its offshoot, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), took place on

Friday and Saturday, with six fighters from the original group killed. "The MILF is trying to force the BIFF out of the area. They do not want any trouble," Chief Inspector Cuyco said.

A MILF guerrilla leader told a video journalist working for AFP yesterday: "We do not want them here. It's an order from the higher-ups." The MILF, which has more than 10,000 fighters, has waged a decades-long guerrilla war, first for independence and later autonomy for the large Islamic minority in the south of the largely Catholic Asian nation. It

signed a peace treaty with the Philippine government in 2014 and is observing a ceasefire with the Philippine government while waiting for the passage of a proposed law that would grant self-rule to the Muslim areas of the Mindanao region. Senior MILF leaders have warned President Rodrigo Duterte to deliver on government commitments under the peace accord, chiefly the autonomy law, or risk frustrating MILF members and causing them to defect to the BIFF and other pro-IS groups. The BIFF, said by the military to have a few hundred

armed fighters, has been among several small armed groups in Mindanao that have pledged alliance to the IS.

The fighting comes as the military fought a near three-month battle in Marawi, a Muslim city 100 kilometers to the north. The fighting in Marawi is being led by two other Muslim rebel factions, the Maute group and the Abu Sayyaf. The Marawi battle has left 573 militants and 128 soldiers and police dead, along with at least 45 civilians, according to an official tally. — AFP

## NEARLY 600 DEAD IN S ASIA FLOODS

**NEW DELHI:** Nearly 600 people have died and millions have been affected by monsoon floods in South Asia, officials said yesterday, as relief and rescue operations continued. The latest floods and landslides in the subcontinent began in the second week of August, as the annual monsoon strengthened its grip over the northern and eastern parts of the region. Indian authorities sought military help in two districts of northern Uttar Pradesh state after fresh heavy rains left hundreds of villages marooned.

As many as 33 out of 75 districts in the most populated Indian state are reeling from floods that have left 55 people dead. "We have sought army's help to reach out to the affected people," T P Gupta, a senior official from the state's disaster management authority, told AFP. Nearly 100,000 people have moved to shelters, with authorities estimating another two million have been hit by the deluge.

In India's worst hit Bihar state the death toll reached 153 following one of the deadliest floods to hit the region since 2008. Nearly 400,000 people have sought shelter in relief camps and an estimated 10 million have been affected by the flood. Anirudh Kumar, a top disaster management agency official in the state, said more than 5,000 emergency workers including 2,000 soldiers were supporting relief and rescue operations. "Nearly 1,300 shelters have been opened to accommodate the affected people," Kumar told AFP.

Both Bihar and Uttar Pradesh border Nepal, which was hit by floods at the weekend and where the death toll is 123. At least 20 percent of the 28 million population is affected in what the United Nations has called the worst flood to hit

the country in 15 years. Further east in India, at least 60 people have died in floods that hit Assam state a second time in less than four months and nearly 425,000 remain in relief camps.

Railway connectivity between the remote region and mainland remained suspended for the sixth consecutive day following large scale damage to the tracks. Authorities in West Bengal state said the flood waters were receding after a lull in the rains but 52 so far deaths were reported. More than a million people have been affected.

### 'Humanitarian crisis'

At least a hundred people have died in neighboring Bangladesh with close to six million affected by the floods. The government has opened nearly a thousand shelters in schools and colleges where nearly 300,000 people have taken shelter, the country's disaster management department said. But there are still pockets of the country where help has yet to reach. Poresh Mondol, a farmer in the northern district of Kurigram, one of the worst hit areas, has been camping with his family on the roof of his tin-shed house, most of which was submerged.

"No one has come to us with any help. We are left with the last fist-full of dry goods," he told AFP by phone. The International Red Cross called it a humanitarian crisis and said urgent action was needed. "Millions of people across Nepal, Bangladesh and India face severe food shortages and disease caused by polluted flood waters," said Martin Fallor, deputy regional director for Asia Pacific, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. — AFP



**POHANG:** In this March 12, 2016 file photo, Marines of the US, left, and South Korea wearing blue headbands on their helmets, take positions after landing on a beach during the joint military combined amphibious exercise, called Ssangyong, part of the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle military exercises. — AP

## A LOOK AT US-S KOREA WAR GAMES AND HOW NORTH MIGHT RESPOND

### KEEP IT LOW-KEY OR FOCUS ON PROJECTING STRENGTH?

**SEOUL:** America's annual joint military exercises with South Korea always frustrate North Korea. The war games set to begin tomorrow may hold more potential to provoke than ever, given President Donald Trump's "fire and fury" threats and Pyongyang's as-yet-unpursued plan to launch missiles close to Guam. Will the allies keep it low-key, or focus on projecting strength? An examination of this year's drills and how the North might respond to them:

### The war games

The Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills, which will run through Aug 31, will be the first large-scale military exercise between the allies since North Korea successfully flight-tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July and threatened to bracket Guam with intermediate range ballistic missile fire earlier this month.

Despite some calls to postpone or drastically modify drills to ease the hostility on the Korean Peninsula, US and South Korean military officials say that the long-scheduled exercises will go ahead as planned. The drills, which began in the 1970s and will involve 17,500 American troops and 50,000 South Korean soldiers this year, consist mainly of computer simulations aimed at honing joint-decision making and planning and improving command operations.

About 25,000 US service members joined last year's UFG drills. An official from US Forces Korea, who didn't want to be named citing office rules, said that the number of participating American troops can marginally change depending on how training events are designed

and that the lower number this year doesn't represent an effort to downsize the drills. The United States and South Korea also hold larger war games in the spring, called Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, which involve live-fire exercises and training with tanks, aircraft and warships.

There's media speculation that the allies might try to keep this year's drills low-key by not dispatching long-range bombers and other US strategic assets to the region. But that possibility worries some, who say it would send the wrong message to both North Korea and the South, where there are fears that the North's advancing nuclear capabilities may eventually undermine a decades-long alliance with the United States.

"If anything, the joint exercises must be strengthened," Cheon Seongwhun, who served as a national security adviser to former conservative South Korean President Park Geun-hye, said in an interview. Impoverished North Korea hates the drills in part because it must frequently respond with its own expensive displays of military might.

During last year's drills, the North successfully test-fired for the first time a submarine-launched ballistic missile ruler Kim Jong Un then praised as the "success of all successes." Shortly after the drills, the North carried out its fifth and biggest nuclear test, which it claimed was of a "standardized" warhead that could fit on a variety of its rockets. During this year's war games in March, North Korea launched four extended-range Scud missiles into the sea in what it described as a rehearsal for striking US military bases in Japan.

### Missile threats

It's almost certain that this year's drills will trigger some kind of reaction from North Korea. The question is how strong it will be. Some experts say North Korea is mainly focused on the bigger picture of testing its bargaining power against the United States with its new long-range missiles and likely has no interest in letting things get too tense during the drills.

If this is right, expect the usual propaganda belligerence in state media or low-level provocations like artillery and short-range missile drills. Or perhaps the North could conduct its first submarine-launched ballistic missile test since last August, which, if successful, would allow it to demonstrate serious military capability without posing an immediate direct threat to the United States.

"North Korea has already flight-tested ICBMs twice this year and will probably take a wait-and-see approach to assess the impact of stronger pressure from the United States and China and maybe even seek an opportunity for talks, rather than quickly move forward with another test," said Moon Seong Mook, a former South Korean military official and current senior analyst for the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy. But others think the North might use the drills as an excuse to conduct another ICBM test or maybe even act on its threat to lob missiles into the waters near Guam. "North Korea is probably looking at all the cards it has to maximize pressure against the United States, and the drills provide a good opportunity to do it," Cheon said. — AP



**BIHAR:** Flood affected people sleep by the national highway toll plaza at Araria district. — AP

## 10 DEAD AS TRAIN DERAILS IN INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Ten people were killed and dozens injured when an express train derailed in north India yesterday, an official said. Emergency workers were pulling people out of mangled, upended carriages after 14 coaches derailed near Muzaffarnagar district in Uttar Pradesh state, some 130 kilometers from New Delhi.

"Ten people have died and dozens have been injured. Most of the injured have been taken to the hospital," said P S Mishra, chief medical officer for the area, by phone. A police officer at the accident spot said 50 people had been taken to hospital. "We are trying to take out the trapped people from the coaches," senior police officer Jitender Kumar told AFP. Another official said metal cutters and cranes were being used to reach inside the damaged coaches as the federal government rushed dozens

of rescuers with specialized equipment and sniffers to the spot.

"Scores of people have been safely evacuated from the coaches. Some dead bodies have also been recovered," fire and emergency officer Naresh Kumar told AFP. Photographs and television footage showed scores of mangled coaches lying sideways as hundreds of people try to pull the passengers out. The accident is the latest disaster to hit India's most populous state. It comes just a week after dozens of children died at a hospital that had run out of oxygen there.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a tweet expressed sympathies with the families of those killed and assured all possible assistance. India's railway network is still the main form of long-distance travel in the vast country, but it is poorly funded and deadly accidents often occur. — AFP

## S AFRICA MULLS FATE OF MUGABE'S WIFE

**JOHANNESBURG:** South Africa has not decided whether to grant diplomatic immunity to Zimbabwe's first lady after she was accused of assaulting a young model at a luxury hotel in Johannesburg, the government said yesterday. Local media reported that Grace Mugabe was expected to attend a regional summit with her husband in South Africa's capital, Pretoria, in what would be her first public appearance since the alleged assault Sunday night.

Zimbabwe's government has requested diplomatic immunity for the first lady, who has not commented on the allegation that she whipped 20-year-old model Gabriella Engels with an extension cord. Lawyers for Engels have threatened to go to court if immunity is granted. Foreign ministry spokesman Nelson Kgweke said

in a text message to The Associated Press yesterday that South Africa was still considering the request. "Decision yet to be made," Kgweke said.

South African police have issued a "red alert" at borders to ensure Grace Mugabe doesn't leave undetected. Police also say their investigation is complete but needs a government decision on the immunity appeal. Separately, a South African Airways flight bound for Johannesburg was prevented from leaving Harare, the Zimbabwean capital. Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe chief executive David Chawota did not specify the "issues" requiring attention before the plane is allowed to leave. "The South Africans know what should be done in terms of processes," he said. — AP

## HIGH SECURITY AS AFGHANISTAN MARKS ITS INDEPENDENCE DAY

**KABUL:** Afghan security forces were on high alert yesterday as the war-weary country, reeling from a number of high-profile deadly attacks, marked its independence day with muted celebrations. There was an increased police presence in the capital Kabul where President Ashraf Ghani hosted a private ceremony for Afghan dignitaries.

"All of our police units are on the highest state of alert and they are placed everywhere across the city," Kabul police spokesman Abdul Basir Mujahid told AFP. "We have increased the number of police checkpoints in and around the diplomatic quarters (too)," he added, amid fears that the Taliban would mark the anniversary with a large-scale attack.

August 19 commemorates the signing of the Treaty of Rawalpindi in 1919, which granted Afghanistan full independence from Britain, although the country was never part of the British empire, after three bloody wars. While Afghanistan's red, black and green tricolor flag adorned many Kabul streets, the day was largely going unobserved by ordinary Afghans, who are frustrated by the deteriorating security situation and the lack of progress by the US-led international coalition forces.

As in recent years there are no public ceremonies planned in the capital. The city has been on edge since a massive truck bomb ripped through its diplomatic quarter during morning rush hour on May 31, killing about 150 and wounding around 400 people, mostly civilians, in an unclaimed attack. Taliban insurgents are currently at the peak of their summer fighting season and have launched several deadly assaults around the country in recent weeks.

Ghani welcomed dozens of Afghan officials

for a morning ceremony at the presidential palace and laid a wreath at the independence minaret inside the defense ministry compound. "A very happy Independence Day to everyone in AFG," Ghani said on Twitter. "This day was earned with lots of sacrifices. We must pay homage & celebrate this legacy."

### Trump mulls next step

While some Afghans changed their Facebook profile pictures to the Afghan flag or to Amanullah Khan, the king who secured Afghanistan's independence, others lamented that the fight against the Taliban, now in its 16th

year, meant there was little to celebrate. "What independence day are we talking about when we are still at war with terrorism and don't seem to be winning against it?" one user wrote on the social media site. The day got under way as US President Donald Trump wrapped up a meeting of his national security team at Camp David on Friday as he tries to forge a new strategy for Afghanistan. Trump must decide if he wants to continue on the current course, which relies on a much reduced US-led NATO force to help Afghan partners push back the Taliban, or try a new approach, such as sending more troops or even withdrawing altogether. — AFP



**MAZAR-I-SHARIF:** An Afghan youth with the colors of the national flag painted on his body takes part in celebrations to mark the country's Independence Day. — AFP



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## Focus

SIXTH NUKE TEST  
SEEN AS CRITICAL

North Korea says it has developed intercontinental missiles capable of targeting any place in the United States. Now comes the hard part of fulfilling the declared goal of its leader Kim Jong Un: Perfecting a nuclear device small and light enough to fit on the missile without affecting its range as well as making it capable of surviving re-entry into the earth's atmosphere. To do that, weapons experts say, the isolated state needs to carry out at least another nuclear test, its sixth, and more tests of long-range missiles.

North Korea's two tests of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) last month likely carried a payload lighter than any nuclear warhead it is currently able to produce, the experts said. One way to have a lighter warhead would be to concentrate on developing a thermonuclear device, or hydrogen bomb, which would offer much greater explosive yield relative to size and weight.

Pyeongyang claims to have tested a hydrogen bomb, but this has not been proven, said Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Program at the Federation of American Scientists. "Doing so would take several more nuclear tests," he said. "The advantage of a thermonuclear warhead is that it packs a lot more power into less weight."

Choi Jin-wook, a professor of international relations at Japan's Ritsumeikan University and former president of South Korea's state-run Korea Institute for National Unification, said a sixth nuclear test would be essential for North Korea to develop an operational nuclear-tipped ICBM. "In order to make a nuclear weapon deployable it has to be small and light, but North Korea doesn't seem to have this technology," he said. South Korea's president said on Thursday Pyongyang would be "crossing a red line" if it put a nuclear warhead on an intercontinental ballistic missile, and US President Donald Trump has warned that North Korea would face "fire and fury" if it threatened the United States.

## Kim Must Weigh Risks

North Korea is a highly secretive nation and predictions of what it will do next are often little more than conjecture. Still, Kim is likely to be carefully weighing the timing of even a new nuclear test because it will antagonize North Korea's sole major ally, China, and could trigger even tougher UN economic sanctions than those that followed ICBM tests in July. A US official, who asked not to be named, said that while periodic activity has been seen at North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site, he had not seen movement there for over a month and there were no current signs of an imminent test.

A second US official added that North Korea has had parts in place for a nuclear launch for months, but no new activity had been seen recently. Besides developing a miniaturized hydrogen bomb, some experts say it appears Kim's rocket scientists have yet to master the technology to protect a warhead from the extreme heat and pressure of re-entering the earth's atmosphere after an intercontinental flight.

South Korea believes North Korea will need at least another one or two more years to obtain that re-entry technology, Seoul's vice defense minister said last Sunday. "Miniaturization for ballistic missiles is only one of the many challenges of targeting the US with an ICBM," said David Albright, a physicist and founder of the non-profit Institute for Science and International Security in Washington. "The re-entry vehicle has to survive and the warhead work," he said. "I am skeptical that North Korea has mastered all these steps." Among North Korea's capabilities in the field, US intelligence officials have said it likely can produce its own missile engines and does not need to rely on imports.

## Essential to Survival

After Kim Jong Un ramped up the pace of weapons development last year with numerous missile launches as well as two nuclear tests in January and September 2016, some observers had expected a sixth nuclear test as early as this January. Instead, Pyongyang has spent most of the year testing various types of missiles. After its first and second ICBM tests in July, it threatened to land missiles in the vicinity of Guam, a US Pacific territory, drawing a stern warning from Trump.

Pyeongyang has since said Kim has delayed his decision on Guam. Pyongyang faces significantly tougher sanctions, including from China, if it conducts another nuclear test, said Moon Chung-in, a special adviser on foreign affairs and national security to South Korean President Moon Jae-in. "If North Korea carries out a sixth nuclear weapons test, China will likely cut oil supplies to North Korea. I believe China has strongly warned North Korea not to conduct another nuclear test," Moon said. — Reuters

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## BANNON: TRUMP'S 'GREAT MANIPULATOR'

When Steve Bannon gave a free-wheeling interview to a small leftwing magazine this week, he spoke as if he - the White House's 'great manipulator' - was back on top. By Friday, President Donald Trump had sacked him. However, in a matter of hours Bannon vowed to go to war for the president and keep fighting what he called his enemies in Congress and elsewhere.

Some reports suggest that Trump's strategy chief already knew his days were numbered when he picked up the phone to make a surprise call to the American Prospect. But he gave no hint of it as he regaled editor Robert Kuttner with plans to push aside his rivals within Trump's administration and start a trade war with China. "To me, the economic war with China is everything. And we have to be maniacally focused on that," he declared.

Last week, however, the national security establishment was focused on North Korea's nuclear threat - a crisis dismissed as a "sideshow" by Bannon. And much of the media and the US public was focused on a threat much closer to home: white nationalism and the rise of the so-called "alt-right". In his interview, Bannon was dismissive of the torch-bearing "clowns" in polo shirts and khakis who brought violence to Charlottesville last week.

But - for all he would like to be seen as the mastermind behind Trump's improbable rise to power - Bannon's image is still linked to those white nationalists. Before joining Trump's campaign, Bannon the self-described "economic nationalist" was the publisher of Breitbart, the provocative right-wing news outlet which he rejoined within hours of leaving the White House. This site was and is, in Bannon's own words, a platform for the alt-right, a loosely defined movement of mainly young white men espousing far-right and white nationalist ideas.

Any temptation to laugh off the alt-right as online poseurs evaporated last Saturday when a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville degenerated into violence. A suspected Nazi sympathizer then drove his car into a crowd of anti-racism demonstrators, leaving one woman dead. When Trump himself drew fire for defending some of the rightwing crowd as "fine people", eyes also turned to Bannon, as the figurehead of the "nationalist" camp within the White House.

In his first comments since his departure was announced, Bannon vowed to keep fighting for the president from outside the White House. "If there's any confusion out there, let me clear it up: I'm leaving the White House and going to war for Trump against his opponents - on Capitol Hill, in the media, and in corporate America," the far-right firebrand said in an interview with Bloomberg News. And Breitbart News said he was coming back as executive chairman.

## Global power

In an op-ed on the site, Breitbart writer Joel Pollak suggested that Trump ousted Bannon in "an effort to save his presidency after Charlottesville" but warned the president not to turn his back on his rightwing supporters. "Steve Bannon personified the Trump agenda," Pollak wrote. The 63-year-old former navy lieutenant turned political operative was seen as the brain behind Team Trump's decision to rail against a "global power structure" opposed to

American values - a favorite theme of nationalist conspiracy-mongers. After making his name at Goldman Sachs during the 1980s boom years, Bannon founded his own investment bank before selling it to Societe Generale in 1998 and going on to be a Hollywood producer. Some of his projects were standard entertainment fare, but political documentaries that he produced on late president Ronald Reagan, populist darling Sarah Palin and the Tea Party movement brought him into rightwing circles. — Agencies

BANNON EXIT TIPS SCALES  
IN FAVOR OF 'GLOBALISTS'

The departure on Friday of Steve Bannon, the White House's top economic nationalist, will likely tip the trade policy scales in favor of the Trump administration's "globalist" faction, which could soften the stance toward two of Trump's favorite targets: China and the North American Free Trade Agreement. But after news that Trump had fired Bannon from his post as chief strategist, trade experts said it may take some time for National Economic Council Chairman Gary Cohn, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to start winning more debates on trade policy.

Bannon and White House Trade and Manufacturing Office director Peter Navarro were often allied in taking headline anti-China stances over currency manipulation, steel tariffs and other trade issues, often opposed to Cohn, Mnuchin and Perdue, according to lobbyists who have been involved in the debates. The Cohn-led group proved more influential in the administration's decisions in April not to label China a currency manipulator and to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement instead of terminating it.

More recently, they have pushed for a delay in a decision on the imposition of broad steel tariffs. With Bannon gone, "there's not a replacement for that voice in internal debates," said a senior administration official who was not authorized to speak publicly on the issue. "Without Steve constantly pushing back on every policy idea coming from the so called 'globalists,' it's easy to see how they could have a chance to start winning more policy battles," the official said.

In the short term, the trade policy trajectory won't change much, said Derek Scissors, a China trade expert

at the American Enterprise Institute, a pro-business conservative think tank in Washington. Many of Trump's views on trade pre-dated Bannon's arrival on his campaign in any case. The US Trade Representative's office announced on Friday that it will proceed with a planned investigation into whether China is misappropriating U.S. technology and intellectual property through unreasonable investment rules.

Scissors said Bannon's departure will show in what decisions the administration makes following a year-long study of the issue.

"It's about the final choices on do we go forward with these very difficult sanctions on the Chinese or do we look to make a tradeoff on a security issue, and Bannon would have been in the first camp," Scissors said.

## TRUMP STILL PUSHING TO CUT TRADE DEFICITS

The struggle for influence in Trump's White House "has been something of a battle between the finance guys and the economic nationalists, and the most important economic nationalist just left," Scissors added.

The offices of USTR Robert Lighthizer and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who have been pushing for stronger trade policies to reduce U.S. trade deficits with China, Mexico and other countries, declined to comment on Bannon's departure, referring policy questions to the White House. But industry lobbyists, who have been whipsawed by economic policy twists over trade and an ill-fated border tax proposal, were skeptical that much would change.

(Additional reporting by Steve Holland, David Brunnstrom and Ginger Gibson; Editing by David Chance and David Gregorio).

## SOOTHING THE NATION? TRUMP STRUGGLES

For Susan Bro, mother of the woman killed at a rally organized by white supremacists, the president of the United States can offer no healing words. She says the White House repeatedly tried to reach out to her on Wednesday, the day of Heather Heyer's funeral. But she's since watched President Donald Trump lay blame for the Charlottesville violence on "both sides": "You can't wash this one away by shaking my hand and saying 'I'm sorry,'" she said in a television interview on Friday.

In moments like this, of national crisis or tragedy, presidents typically shed their political skin, at least briefly. They use the broad appeal of the presidency to unite and soothe, urging citizens to remember their humanity, their common bonds as Americans. George W Bush famously climbed atop a pile of rubble in New York City to speak through a bullhorn after the Sept 11 terrorist attacks. Barack Obama sang "Amazing Grace" during the eulogy for a black pastor killed in a racially motivated shooting in Charleston, South Carolina.

Like no other president in recent history, Trump has struggled with this part of his duties. He talks about politics at odd moments - reminding Boy Scouts and Coast Guard graduates alike that he won the election and the media are out to get him - and has continued speaking to his core supporters with less effort to appeal to the rest of the country. The harsh language that turned off those who voted against him last year hasn't abated during his seven months in the White House, part of the reason his approval rating is locked in the 30s.

Trump's words on Charlottesville "caused racists to rejoice, minorities to weep, and the vast heart of America to mourn," the 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney wrote on Facebook on Friday. With CEOs fleeing after Trump's comments, he disbanded White House business councils. The entire membership of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities resigned.

On Friday, numerous charities were following the Cleveland Clinic in pulling business from his private Mar-

Lago resort in Florida. And some Republican lawmakers who had hoped to work with Trump lambasted him - Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee said Thursday the president has not shown he knows "the character of the nation."

Separately, billionaire investor Carl Icahn informed Trump in a letter Friday that he was stepping down from his informal role advising the White House on its deregulation efforts. Icahn said his decision was based on conflict of interest concerns. With many in his party and his White House reeling after the Charlottesville crisis, the president traveled from his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf club to Camp David for a national security meeting on Friday. For a second day, Trump had no public appearances planned.

Once again, Trump left it to his Twitter feed to show his mindset: On Thursday, he defended Confederate monuments and offered support to allies in Spain after terror attacks. Then he appeared to revive a grisly, debunked tale about a U.S. general's brutal killing of Muslims. His Friday messages included the need for strong national security and retweets from a conservative talk show host who reassured him that supporters weren't deserting him.

## Politically savvy

Trump has expressed no regrets about his Tuesday news conference that enraged many Americans and prompted Bro's comments on Friday. Senior strategist Steve Bannon was one of the few to publicly support Trump's comments as politically savvy. A divisive figure who shares Trump's "America first" instincts, Bannon lost his job on Friday.

The White House isn't saying whether Trump plans to travel to Charlottesville at any point. Some in his Cabinet have tried to step into what are normally presidential shoes. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Friday that racism is "evil" and that "hate is not an American value". An early example in his presidency showed how divisive he is - and why even in the most somber moments it can be difficult

for him to effectively reach out.

He and his daughter Ivanka Trump quietly traveled Feb 1 to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware for the return of the remains of a US Navy SEAL killed during a raid in Yemen, William "Ryan" Owens. But the grieving family members had mixed feelings. "I told them I didn't want to make a scene about it, but my conscience wouldn't let me talk to him," the sailor's father, Bill Owens, later told The Miami Herald. But at the end of the month, Ryan Owens' widow, Carryn, attended Trump's address to Congress and wept as the president thanked her and said, "Ryan's legacy is etched into eternity."

Trump has shown his softer side at times. He explained that he had ordered a missile strike in Syria in part because of the images - "innocent babies, little babies" - he'd seen of the aftermath of a chemical attack that the US concluded was the work of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. On Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery, Trump tenderly listened as a 6-year-old dressed in a tiny replica of a Marine uniform talked about his father, who'd died in a training accident when the boy was a baby. And Trump has befriended Jamil Shaw, whose namesake son was murdered by a man in the country illegally. As president-elect, Trump traveled to Ohio State University 10 days after a man plowed his car into a crowd of people and then began stabbing some of them. The violence left about 13 people injured, and a campus police officer fatally shot the attacker.

Trump met privately with the officer and some of the victims. One of them, Marc Coons, who didn't vote for Trump, was apprehensive about going - worried Trump might focus on the attacker, a Somali refugee. "He didn't say anything mean, and I give him credit for that," the 30-year-old said. Coons was slashed near one of his shoulders but has recovered. One moment that sticks with him happened as he posed for a photo with Trump. He said the would-be president asked him whether he'd been "scarred or knifed". "It struck me as a bit insensitive," Coons said. "I just ignored it." — AP





**BARCELONA:** Spain's King Felipe (center) stands with Queen Letizia and Catalonia President Carles Puigdemont (center left) at a memorial tribute of flowers, messages and candles to the van attack victims in Las Ramblas promenade yesterday. — AFP

## DUMPED BANNON BACK TO BREITBART

Continued from Page 1

He came to the campaign during my run against Crooked Hillary Clinton - it was great! Thanks S," Trump tweeted. Trump now has forced out his headline national security adviser, his chief of staff, his press secretary (whose last day will be Aug 31) and two communications directors - in addition to the FBI director he inherited from President Barack Obama. Bannon's departure is especially significant since he was viewed by many as Trump's connection to his base of most-committed voters and the protector of the disruptive, conservative agenda that propelled the celebrity businessman to the White House.

"It's a tough pill to swallow if Steve is gone because you have a Republican West Wing that's filled with generals and Democrats," former campaign strategist Sam Nunberg said shortly before the news of Bannon's departure broke. "It would feel like the twilight zone." From Breitbart, there was a dramatic one-word warning. "#WAR," tweeted Joel B. Pollak, a senior editor at large at the news site. Indeed, Bannon's nationalistic, outsider conservatism served as a guiding force for Trump's rise to office. He injected a dark populism into the campaign and sharpened its attacks on Democrat Hillary Clinton, encouraging Trump's instinct to fight and counter-punch at every turn. When the release of a 2005 tape, in which Trump can be heard boasting about groping women, threatened to capsize the Republican's campaign, Bannon attempted to turn the tables by gathering a group of women who had accused Bill Clinton of sexual assault and trying to ambush the Democratic nominee at a general election debate.

Without him, Trump's agenda is left in the hands of more moderate advisers, including his son-in-law, his oldest daughter and his economic adviser, whom Bannon has slammed as "globalist". But Bannon was also accused by many of his critics of leaking to reporters in a bid for self-promotion, and egging on Trump's most damaging impulses.

Trump spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Bannon and chief of staff John Kelly, only recently installed himself, had agreed that Friday would be

Bannon's last day. "We are grateful for his service and wish him the best," she said in the only statement from the White House.

A combative and unorthodox Republican, Bannon was a contentious presence in a White House divided by warring staff loyalties. He repeatedly clashed with other top advisers, most notably Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. His puppet-master image also drew the ire of the president, who at times bristled at the perception that Bannon was the mastermind of his winning campaign and the force behind White House policies.

One person close to Bannon said he had offered his resignation to Trump on Aug 7. It was to go into effect a week later, the one-year anniversary of when he officially joined Trump's presidential campaign. But the departure was delayed after the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, said the person, who spoke only on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

In fact, Bannon had been on shaky ground for weeks, and his job appeared in jeopardy when Kelly announced that he'd be embarking on a personnel review of West Wing staff. Though Bannon had adopted a lower profile in recent weeks, he again became a flashpoint following criticism from the right of national security adviser H R McMaster, which some blamed on him, and Trump's refusal to blame white nationalists for the violence in Charlottesville.

Earlier this week, The American Prospect posted an interview in which Bannon contradicted Trump by saying there was no military solution to the threat posed by North Korea and its nuclear ambitions. Just last week, Trump pledged to answer North Korean aggression with "fire and fury". Bannon also talked about purging his rivals from the Defense and State departments, as though he were in charge.

In recent remarks, the president downplayed Bannon's role in his campaign and passed up an opportunity to express confidence in him publicly. "He's a good person. He actually gets very unfair press in that regard," Trump said earlier this week. "But we'll see what happens with Mr Bannon."

Trump had recently signaled to confidants that he was going to dismiss Bannon but had not settled on a

timeframe, according to another person who had discussed the matter with the president but was not authorized to speak publicly about private discussions and insisted on anonymity. Still, Bannon had been telling people as recently as this week that he believed his job was safe and he would leave only if fired.

Several sources said Bannon had been hinting for weeks that he might soon return to the helm of Breitbart News. At one point he casually discussed the matter as though it was a certainty, according to a

Bannon associate who demanded anonymity to share private conversations. Bannon told Bloomberg politics in an interview that he would continue to fight the same fights, just from outside the White House.

"If there's any confusion out there, let me clear it up: I'm leaving the White House and going to war for Trump against his opponents - on Capitol Hill, in the media, and in corporate America," Bannon told the outlet. Still, Bannon told allies he intended to hold the administration accountable if it falters on campaign promises. — AP

## SPAIN HUNTS SUSPECT OVER BARCELONA...

Continued from Page 1

Abdelbaki Es Satty, according to his flatmate who gave his name only as Nourddem. Spanish daily El Pais, quoting police sources, said the imam may have been one of those killed in an explosion in a home in Alcanar, some 200 km, south of Barcelona, where the alleged militants were believed to have been building bombs. "The last time I saw him was Tuesday and he told me that he was going to see his wife in Morocco," Nourddem told AFP.

A waiter at a Ripoll cafe told AFP he had served beers to some of the suspects numerous times, most recently just two days ago. "They came to have beer at another bar in the square where I used to work" said the waiter on condition of anonymity. Most of the suspects are children of Moroccan immigrants, including Ripoll-born Moussa Oukabir, 17, one of five suspects shot dead in the Cambrils attack. His older brother, Driss, counts among the four arrested. Back in Morocco, Moussa and Driss' father Said broke down, surrounded by relatives. "We're under shock, completely devastated," he told AFP, saying Moussa had been studying "normally" at school while Driss worked "honestly". "I hope they will say he's innocent... I don't want to lose my two sons."

Police said they believed the suspects were planning a much larger attack. "They were preparing one or several attacks in Barcelona, and an explosion in Alcanar stopped this as they no longer had the material they needed to commit attacks of an even bigger scope," said

Josep Lluís Trapero of Catalonia's police. Security forces were seen removing dozens of gas canisters from the house in Alcanar on Friday. And as the hunt for Abouyaaqoub gathered pace, Spanish police tipped off their French counterparts about a white van linked to the attacks that may have crossed the border, a French police source told AFP.

Reflecting Barcelona's status as Spain's most popular tourist destination, victims of the attack came from three dozen countries including Algeria, Australia, China, France, Ireland, Peru and Venezuela. Fifty-four people are still in hospital, including 12 in critical condition, Catalan emergency services said. With the peak summer tourism season still in full swing, the Spanish government ordered security ramped up in crowded places although it kept the terror threat level at four out of a maximum five, Zoido said.

Spain's tourism sector has been vital to its economic recovery, and, because it has until now been spared the recent wave of extremist attacks, it has recorded a surge as visitors shunned other restive sunshine destinations such as Tunisia and Egypt. Nevertheless, the country is no stranger to jihadist attacks. In March 2004, it was hit by what remains Europe's deadliest attack, when bombs on commuter trains in Madrid killed 191 people in an assault claimed by Al Qaeda-inspired extremists. Spain has also had to deal with a decades-long campaign of violence waged by Basque separatist group ETA, which only declared a ceasefire in 2011. — AFP

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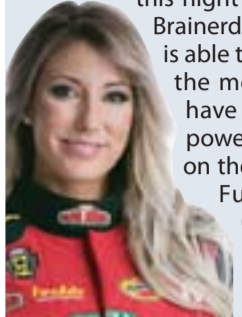
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### PRITCHETT HAS QUICKEST RUN IN NHRA HISTORY AT 3.640S

**BRainerd:** Leah Pritchett had the quickest run in NHRA history with 3.640-second pass at 330.63 mph Friday night at Brainerd International Speedway in Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals qualifying. She broke her own Top Fuel record of 3.658 set in Arizona in February. "We've looked forward to this night session for a long time," Pritchett said. "Knowing that Brainerd, this track, this surface, the conditions and what NHRA is able to do to it, lays down the ground work for us to put out the most power possible. That's what this team did. They have been working tirelessly at finding small amounts of power here, there and everywhere and to be able to put it on the track tonight was incredible." Robert Hight broke the Funny Car time record with a 3.793 at 338.00 in a Chevrolet Camaro SS, the first run in the 3.7s in Funny Car history. He set the speed record of 339.87 last month at Sonoma Raceway.— AP

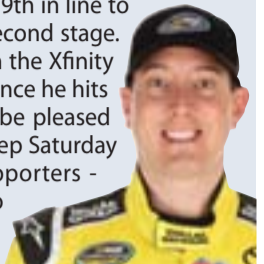


### 2018 VUELTA TO BEGIN IN MALAGA

**NIMES:** Next year's Vuelta a Espana will start with a time trial in Malaga, race organisers announced yesterday. "The (2018) Vuelta will start August 25 in Malaga," race director Javier Guillen told reporters in the French city of Nimes. The 2017 edition begins later Saturday in Nimes, just the third time the race has started outside of Spain. It set off from the Portuguese capital Lisbon in 1997 and from Assen in the Netherlands in 2009. Security will be firmly in the spotlight following the terror attacks in Catalonia as the three-week race enters Spain on Tuesday with a stage finishing in Tarragona. Tarragona is only 20 kilometres along the Mediterranean coast from Cambrils, where a car rammed into pedestrians, injuring six civilians and a police officer early on Friday morning. One of the civilians later died. That incident came just hours after the attack in Barcelona, when a white van sped down the popular Las Ramblas avenue, packed full of tourists on Thursday afternoon, knocking people down and killing 13.— AFP

### KYLE BUSCH WINS AT BRISTOL FOR 19TH TIME

**BRISTOL:** Kyle Busch continued his domination at Bristol Motor Speedway with a victory Friday night in the Xfinity Series race. The win was the 19th national series victory at Bristol for Busch, who also won the Truck Series race Wednesday night. And just like that win, Busch had to overcome a speeding penalty on pit road to get to victory lane. "Just a great car," Busch said about his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota. Busch won the first stage of the race and was then popped for speeding. He drove from 29th in line to the lead in 58 laps after the penalty, and won the second stage. Busch then drove away to an easy 91st career win in the Xfinity Series, and he's said he will stop racing in the series once he hits 100 victories. He joked in victory lane the fans will be pleased when that day arrives. Busch will go for a Bristol sweep Saturday night in the Cup Series race, and thanked his supporters - dubbed "Rowdy Nation" - for cheering on his effort to sweep the weekend at Bristol.— AP



NFL

### FANT'S INJURY CAST SHADOW OVER SEAHAWKS' WIN OVER VIKINGS

**SEATTLE:** Just when the Seattle Seahawks were getting settled on its shaky offensive line, it's once again their biggest question with the regular season approaching. Russell Wilson looked just fine throwing for 206 yards and two touchdowns in the first half, and the Seattle Seahawks suffered a significant injury to left tackle George Fant in their 20-13 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Friday night.

Fant suffered a torn ACL in his right knee when he was injured midway through the second quarter. Fant was rolled into by teammate Justin Britt and immediately fell to the turf in pain. The team training staff attended to Fant on the field and placed an air splint around his lower right leg before he was taken away.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll said Fant will need surgery and expected to be done for the season. "It's heartbreaking. It's so unfortunate for George," Carroll said. "There are other things that follow that but my first thoughts are for George."

Fant's injury likely means significant changes for Seattle's offensive line. Luke Joeckel was set to be the starting left guard, but may be an option at left tackle with the entire right side of the line still unsettled.

Fant took over at left tackle midway through last season and spent the off-season reshaping his body to be stronger going into this season. Earlier this week offensive line coach Tom Cable said Seattle was set on the left side of the offensive line.

Fant's injury overshadowed what was an otherwise solid performance by the Seahawks. Wilson picked apart a Vikings secondary that played without starting cornerback Trey Wayne and safety Andrew Sedenjo, completing 13 of 18 passes. He hit Kasen Williams on a 1-yard touchdown pass and found Mike Davis on a 22-yard catch-and-run TD late in the first half.

Williams continued to make a bid for a roster spot with an acrobatic 27-yard catch, followed by his 1-yard TD on Seattle's opening drive. He nearly had a second TD but couldn't haul in a deep pass from Wilson near the goal line in the second quarter.

"I've been on practice squad for two years now and quite honestly I'm tired of it," Williams said. Minnesota's Sam Bradford was 7 of 11 for 95 yards, leading three drives for the Vikings before calling it a night. Taylor Heinicke threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Bucky Hodges in the fourth quarter.

"It was progress from last week to this week, we moved the ball well," Minnesota coach Mike Zimmer said. "We still have to score in the red zone that

was the bad part, but I felt good about the way we were moving the football."

**BENNETT SITS**

Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett sat during the national anthem for the second straight preseason game. Bennett was alone sitting on the Seahawks bench during the "The Star-Spangled Banner." But teammates showed support for Bennett with center Justin Britt standing alongside with his hand on Bennett's shoulder. Defensive back Jeremy Lane also stood next to Bennett.

"I'm going to continue talking with Mike and exploring and just continuing to understand. I wanted to take a first step tonight and that's what I felt like I did," Britt said.

**KICKER REVENGE**

Walsh took great joy in having success against his former team that released him last season. Walsh made a pair of 52-yard field goals in the second half and made gestures toward the Minnesota sideline after each kick. Walsh pointed at the sideline after his first make and walked toward the bench and appeared to say something after the second.

Walsh nearly had three made kicks of beyond 50 yards but a 53-yard attempt in the first half hit the crossbar. Zimmer said he did not see any of Walsh's gestures. "When they're out there kind of yelling at you and taunting you on kicks it's just I've been in the league a little while, I didn't really like that," Walsh said. "I hope it was in jest because my response was in jest. I could see guys smiling so I hope nobody took it too seriously."

**START COOKIN'**

Vikings' rookie Dalvin Cook ran well in the first half against most of Seattle's starting defense. With the Vikings bringing back Latavius Murray slowly from ankle surgery in March, Cook had seven carries for 40 yards in the first half, including a 15-yarder. Cook also had one reception for 10 yards.

Both of Minnesota's kickers converted their opportunities in the first half. Marshall Koehn hit from 29 yards in the first quarter and Kai Forbath was good from 51 yards just before halftime. That was the only opportunities for either kicker as the Vikings had only two drives inside the Seattle 40.

Davis' touchdown was his first since signing with the Seahawks in the off-season and he had a unique celebration. Davis ran into the end zone then laid down using the ball as a pillow as his teammates joined him to celebrate. It was the most extensive of any of the touchdown celebrations.— AP



**SYDNEY:** New Zealand's fullback Damian McKenzie (L) evades a tackle by Australia's centre Samu Kerevi during the Rugby Championship test match between Australia and the New Zealand All Blacks in Sydney yesterday.— AFP

RUGBY

## ALL BLACKS HIT HIGHS IN 54-34 WIN OVER WALLABIES

**SYDNEY:** The world champion All Blacks rebounded spectacularly to down the Wallabies 54-34 and plunge Australian rugby further into despair in the Rugby Championship opener in Sydney yesterday.

It was New Zealand's biggest score over Australia, eclipsing their 51-20 win in Auckland three years ago and puts them well on the way to holding on to the trans-Tasman Bledisloe Cup, which they have held since 2003. New Zealand's inability to put away the British and Irish Lions in their drawn home series last month had raised doubts whether the All Blacks' era of dominance was on the wane.

But the All Blacks roared back to outclass the Australians eight tries to four in a dynamic performance. While the Wallabies added some respectability to the final score after trailing 54-6 with four tries in the final half-hour the contest was well and truly over after the first 50 minutes.

While it was a dominant Test for the All Blacks it plunged Australia rugby further in the gloom after a woeful Super Rugby season where Australian teams lost all their 26 games to New Zealand opposition.

It was played before the lowest Bledisloe Cup Test crowd at Sydney's Olympic stadium of 54,846. The All Blacks demoralised the tackle-shy

Wallabies with a six-try opening half to have the game wrapped up by half-time after a 40-6 landslide. While the Australians looked promising in attack they were clueless in defence with the world champions looking capable of scoring in every attacking phase. The Wallabies left the field to stunned silence with their already tenuous Bledisloe Cup hopes in tatters with the All Blacks at home in the potentially deciding game in Dunedin next week.

The All Blacks scored their first try with quick passes from skipper Kieran Read and winger Rieko loane to give blindside flanker Liam Squire a clear run to the try-line. Bernard Foley kicked the Wallabies to trail by a point with a 17th-minute penalty after the All Blacks scrum was penalised. But the All Blacks again found a way through the Australian defence when left-winger loane got on the outside of floundering Israel Folau to score for a 12-6 lead midway through the half. loane was over again minutes later when Michael Hooper's pass went astray and Ryan Crotty sent loane racing away between the posts.

**DEFENCE SHREDDED**

The Wallabies defence was shredded again and Crotty scored an easy try near the posts

after Beauden Barrett handled twice in the lead-up. The New Zealanders claimed their fifth try just before half-time when Sonny Bill Williams crashed over and Barrett's conversion stretched the world champions' lead to 33-6.

The All Blacks made a mockery of the threadbare Australian defence with a sixth try off a training ground move and a double to centre Crotty after a scrum win deep inside the Wallabies' territory.

Barrett's conversion gave the All Blacks an impregnable 40-6 lead at half-time.

It got no better with fullback Damian McKenzie scoring his first Test try three minutes after the resumption and Barrett's sixth conversion extended the lead to 47-6.

Winger Ben Smith's try hoisted the All Blacks to their highest ever score against the Wallabies 54-6 and with still 30 minutes left in the one-sided Test. Debutant winger Curtis Rona finally scored Australia's first try after 52 minutes and further tries to replacement Tevita Kuridrani and a runaway from Kurtley Beale gave the home supporters something to cheer.

Israel Folau crossed for Australia's fourth try 11 minutes from the end. The All Blacks continued their domination of the Wallabies and have lost only three of their last 30 encounters.— AFP

GYMNASTICS

## RAGAN SMITH VAULTS TO LEAD AT US GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

**ANAHEIM:** Ragan Smith admits it's a little weird to look at the scoreboard during a gymnastics meet and not see Simone Biles' name at the top. "Nobody can beat Simone," Smith said of the Olympic champion. "She's unstoppable. She's amazing."

Biles is taking a break following her historic performance in Rio de Janeiro last summer, leaving the 17-year-old Smith as the standard bearer for a program in the midst of a transition. It's a role Smith insists she's ready for, and on the opening night of the U.S. championships, Smith looked the part. Sassy on floor, steady on beam and solid everywhere else, Smith posted an all-around score of 57,400 on Friday, more than a point clear of Riley McCusker. Some of the newer faces had some unsteady moments following the successes of the "Final Five."

Ashton Locklear, like Smith an alternate on the 2016 Olympic team, put together a typically precise routine on uneven bars but fell off the balance beam. Alyona Shchennikova, who won the U.S. Classic last month, saw any legitimate chance at winning a national title evaporate when a nightmarish beam routine sent her tumbling to eighth. Morgan Hurd stepped out of bounds on her floor routine and shorted a landing to wind up sixth.

New national team coordinator Valeri Liukin, who mentored most of the women in the field while they were in the U.S.

developmental program, acknowledged it didn't exactly go smoothly. Yet he's hardly concerned. This is kind of how it's supposed to go.

"This is the first year after Olympic games and it's tough, historically always," Liukin said. "I'm just hoping it's not only for us." Smith seemed at ease in the spotlight. Save for a couple of bobbles on beam - where she still posted the highest score of the night - she avoided the kind of missteps that were commonplace elsewhere.

For now, that's enough. Smith captured the American Cup in March before a minor injury in the spring interrupted her training. No biggie. She was back in form in front an audience that included Biles, who told TV viewers she returned to the gym earlier this month, the first step in a potential comeback. It will still be months - if not longer - before Biles will be competition ready, if it happens at all. "No plans yet," Liukin said. "We (are) just hoping that she's coming back and she comes back as Simone Biles."

Either way, Liukin is confident the program remains on solid ground. Yes, this group doesn't exactly have the star power of the "Final Five" that brought home four golds, four silvers and a bronze in Brazil last summer. Then again, neither does anyone else.

"We're just starting, they're brand new," Liukin said. "We need time to build it."

While Locklear remains among the best on the world on uneven bars - she posted a 14.350 using a watered-down routine that will include upgrades for the world championships this fall - Locklear faltered on beam, coming off in the middle of her routine and then taking a big step on her dismount.

McCusker, who won the Jesolo Cup in April, put together an elegant bars set that scored a 14.550 (the best of the night) and was nearly Smith's match on beam. Not bad considering she spent a considerable portion of the spring and early summer with casts on a foot and wrist. McCusker wasn't cleared to do her full bars routine until three weeks ago. There she was on Friday night, making a pretty solid case that she should be in the mix for the four-woman world championship team when it's announced next month.

"I still have a watered-down vault, I still have a lot of stuff to add on beam," McCusker said. "But I'm starting to get used to being on the podium and more confident in what I can do." Only McCusker, Jordan Chiles - whose Amanar vault earned a 15.150, the best on any apparatus - and Margzetta Frazier head into Sunday's finals within two points of Smith, who wasn't getting ahead of herself.

"It feels great, but I definitely can do better," Smith said. "I mean, I like being on the top, so it kind of feels good." — AP



**ANAHEIM:** Ragan Smith performs a standing back full while competing on the balance beam during the women's Round 1 of the USA Gymnastics championships, Friday, in Anaheim, Calif.— AP





DETROIT: Detroit Tigers third baseman Nicholas Castellanos, right, tags Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger (35) out at third base in the ninth inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Friday. — AP

BASEBALL

# MACHADO HITS 3 HOMERS TO LEAD ORIOLES OVER ANGELS

**BALTIMORE:** Manny Machado capped a three-homer night with a grand slam in the ninth inning, and the Baltimore Orioles rallied to beat the Los Angeles Angels 9-7 on Friday night in a game that featured 10 home runs. Machado hit his seventh career slam off Keynan Middleton (4-1), who entered with two on and one out in the ninth. After Tim Beckham singled to load the bases, Machado hit a drive far over the center-field wall to give the Orioles their first lead. Machado also hit a two-run homer in the third and a solo shot in the fifth to finish with seven RBIs. Albert Pujols set the tone for the game in the first inning with a milestone homer off Jeremy Hellickson.

There would be plenty more long balls on a steamy night at Camden Yards, five by each team. Pujols' two-run drive was 609th, tied with Sammy Sosa for eighth on the career. Pujols and Sosa now share the distinction of hitting more home runs than any other foreign-born player. After Pujols and Kole Calhoun connected in succession in the first inning, C.J. Cron and Kaleb Cowart homered in the second for a 5-0 lead. The Orioles used homers by Mark Trumbo, Machado and Caleb Joseph and cut the gap to a run before a two-run drive by Mike Trout made it 7-4 in the fifth. All five L.A. home runs came off Hellickson, the first time the right-hander yielded more than three in a game. Darren O'Day (4-1) got the win with 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

**RED SOX 9, YANKEES 6**

Pinch-hitter Mitch Moreland hit a two-run single in Boston's four-run seventh inning and the Red Sox rallied to beat New York. Boston won for the 13th time in 15 games to extend its lead in the AL East to five games over the second-place Yankees. New York had won four straight. Addison Reed (1-1) got five outs, striking out three. Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 29th save. The Red Sox opened a 3-0 lead on homers from Rafael Devers and Christian Vazquez. But Todd Frazier hit a two-run homer in the sixth, then New York scored four in the seventh to take a 6-3 lead. Boston loaded the bases in the bottom of the seventh against Tommy Kahnle (2-4). Mookie Betts had a sacrifice fly and Andrew Benintendi an RBI single. After Hanley Ramirez walked to load the bases again, Moreland's

single made it 7-6. Jackie Bradley Jr. added a two-run single in the eighth.

**DODGERS 8, TIGERS 5**

Chris Taylor was 4 for 5 with two doubles, and the Los Angeles Dodgers welcomed back Adrian Gonzalez from the disabled list with a victory over Detroit. Gonzalez doubled in his first plate appearance since June 11, one of six two-base hits on the night for Los Angeles. The Dodgers (86-34) have won 20 of their last 23 games and are 51-9 over their last 60. Rich Hill (9-4) labored through five innings, allowing three runs and six hits, but the Dodgers gave him plenty of support. Corey Seager drove in three runs, and Logan Forsythe scored three times. Justin Upton homered twice and Victor Martinez also went deep for the Tigers, but Jordan Zimmermann (7-10) allowed seven runs and 10 hits in 5 1/3 innings. Gonzalez was activated before the game after being out with a herniated lumbar disk. The Dodgers have won 37 consecutive games in which they've scored four or more runs.

**CUBS 7, BLUE JAYS 4**

Jake Arrieta pitched into the seventh inning and allowed a run, and Javier Baez homered and drove in three runs to help Chicago beat Toronto. Arrieta (13-8) allowed one run and six hits in 6 1/3 innings to win his third straight start. Wade Davis got the final three outs for his 25th save. Anthony Rizzo went 2 for 4 with two RBIs, Victor Caratini went 3 for 3, and Jason Heyward and Albert Almora Jr. each had an RBI single for Chicago. Blue Jays starter J.A. Happ (6-9) allowed five runs and nine hits in five innings. Miguel Montero, who began the season with the Cubs, went 2 for 4 with a run scored against his former team.

**CARDINALS 11, PIRATES 10**

Matt Carpenter hit a three-run homer in the second inning to make it 5-1 and St. Louis went on to outscore Pittsburgh. The Cardinals, whose lead reached 11-3 in the eighth inning, have taken the first two games of a four-game series against the Pirates to remain 1 1/2 games behind the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs. St. Louis has won 10 of its past 13 games

despite losing three straight from Aug. 13-16. It has scored at least eight runs in eight of those 10 wins. Tommy Pham homered in the first inning to give the Cardinals a 1-0 lead and Paul DeJong made it 6-2 with a solo shot in the third. St. Louis scored two runs in the fourth inning to take an 8-2 lead and chase Pirates starter Trevor Williams (5-6). Pittsburgh has lost six straight. Right-hander Carlos Martinez (10-9) allowed three runs and six hits with four strikeouts for the win. Right-hander Seung Hwan Oh picked up his 19th save.

**ASTROS 3, ATHLETICS 1**

Dallas Keuchel threw seven shutout innings, Alex Bregman and Jose Altuve homered and Houston beat Oakland. Keuchel (11-2) allowed three hits, walked one and struck out three. He had his second straight solid outing after allowing one run in 6 2/3 innings Sunday at Texas. The 2015 AL Cy Young winner retired 14 of the first 15 batters he faced, with the lone hit being a bunt single by Matt Joyce down the third-base line and away from the shift in the third inning. Of the 21 outs Keuchel recorded, 16 came on ground balls. Bregman and Altuve hit back-to-back home runs in the third to give Houston a 2-0 lead. Bregman hit his 14th of the season to right field, and Altuve hit his 19th into the Crawford Boxes in left. Ken Giles recorded the final five outs for his 24th save. Joyce, who was also walked by Keuchel, hit a solo home run in the eighth off Chris Devenski. Sean Manaea (8-8) lost his third straight.

**ROCKIES 8, BREWERS 4**

Charlie Blackmon hit his sixth leadoff home run of the season, German Marquez won for the first time in three weeks and Colorado beat Milwaukee. Gerardo Parra and Carlos Gonzalez also homered and each drove in two runs, and Nolan Arenado had a two-run triple for the Rockies. They are a game ahead of Arizona for the top NL wild card. Marquez (10-5) allowed four runs - including three solo shots - in 5 2/3 innings. The Rockies took the lead with a three-run third. Marquez legged out a double with one out and Blackmon singled to put runners at the corners. Arenado got his two-run triple and Parra followed with a run-scoring single to put Colorado ahead 4-2. Parra added a solo homer and Gonzalez's two-run shot a batter later chased Brewers starter Matt Garza (6-7) in the fifth.

**TWINS 10, DIAMONDBACKS 3**

Miguel Sano hit two of the Twins' season high-tying six home runs, including an inside-the-park dash by Byron Buxton, and Minnesota powered past Arizona. Eduardo Escobar, Max Kepler and Brian Dozier also went deep for Minnesota. Buxton finished a single shy of the cycle. David Peralta had three hits for Arizona, including a home run. With Minnesota leading 4-3 in the seventh, Sano hit the first pitch from reliever David Hernandez 452 feet into the second deck in left-center for two runs. Escobar added a two-run shot two batters later. Sano hit one even further, 474 feet into the third deck, in the eighth for his first multi-homer game this season and third of his career. Buxton hit a ball high off the wall in right-center in the fourth that rolled toward center field. As A.J. Pollock gave chase, Buxton circled the bases in 13.85 seconds, the fastest ever tracked by MLB Statcast, narrowly beating the throw by sliding headfirst across home plate. Minnesota also hit six home runs May 2

against Oakland. Arizona starter Zack Godley (5-6) tied a career high by striking out 10, but allowed four earned runs in 5 1/3 innings. Twins starter Ervin Santana (13-7) allowed three earned runs and seven hits in six innings. All the runs came in the first two innings.

**NATIONALS 7, PADRES 1**

Matt Grace pitched 4 1/3 scoreless innings in place of injured Max Scherzer, and Howie Kendrick hit a leadoff homer and drove in two runs to help Washington beat San Diego. Scherzer was scratched from his scheduled start and placed on the 10-day disabled list with a sore neck. Grace and five relievers held San Diego to four hits. Grace, who grew up in the Los Angeles area and pitched at UCLA, made his first big league start and his first start since 2012 when he was with Single-A Potomac. It was his 61st big league appearance. The left-hander allowed two hits, struck out one and walked one. He retired Cory Spangenberg on a grounder to open the fifth and manager Dusty Baker came out to get him after 52 pitches. Shawn Kelley came on and with one out allowed Dusty Coleman's solo homer into the second deck in left field, his fourth. Joe Blanton (2-2) pitched a scoreless sixth for the win. Kendrick homered to left on the third pitch from Luis Perdomo (6-8), his sixth leadoff shot this season and seventh homer overall.

**MARINERS 7, RAYS 1**

Nelson Cruz hit his 30th homer and doubled twice, and Erasmo Ramirez won his first game for Seattle since April 1, 2014, lead the Mariners past Tampa Bay. Cruz's home run was measured by MLB Statcast at 482 feet, the longest in Tropicana Field history. Ramirez (5-4), who was traded back to the Mariners on July 28 after pitching 2 1/2 seasons with the Rays, gave up one run and two hits in six innings in the first game of the Mariners' 12-game trip. Hits by Robinson Cano, Cruz, Danny Valencia and Ben Gamel helped the Mariners score three runs in the first off Rays starter Austin Pruitt (6-4).

**INDIANS 10, ROYALS 1**

Corey Kluber put together another Cy Young-worthy performance before leaving with a sprained right ankle, and Jay Bruce homered twice to help Cleveland rout Kansas City. Kluber (12-3) was cruising along until there was one out in the sixth inning, and Eric Hosmer sent a grounder to the right side of the infield. Kluber winced coming off the mound to cover the bag. The two-time All-Star faced one more batter before Andrew Miller relieved him. Kluber allowed a homer to Brandon Moss along with five more hits, striking out four and walking one. Jason Kipnis and Bruce took Ian Kennedy (4-9) deep in the first inning, and Bruce added a three-run shot in the seventh to finish with five RBIs. Edwin Encarnacion hit the Indians' fourth homer of the night leading off the ninth.

**WHITE SOX 4, RANGERS 3**

Nicky Delmonico lined an inside-the-park home run in the eighth inning, his second go-ahead homer of the game, and Chicago beat Texas to end a five-game losing streak. Delmonico's fifth homer eluded a leaping Nomar Mazara, bouncing off the wall as the right fielder crumpled on the warning track clutching his left knee. Second baseman Rougned Odor sprinted to retrieve the long

carom, but Delmonico beat the throw with a head-first slide. A day after the end of the rookie's club-record streak of reaching base the first 13 games of his career, Delmonico drilled a two-run shot over the wall in right for a 3-2 lead in the sixth. Mike Napoli's 25th homer put Texas ahead 2-1 in the fourth. Gregory Infante (1-1) retired all five batters he faced for his first big league win, and Juan Minaya pitched around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his first save in his first chance in the majors. Ricky Rodriguez (0-1) was greeted by Delmonico's inside-the-park homer in his third big league appearance.

**REDS 5, BRAVES 3**

Cincinnati hit three home runs in the sixth, including a two-run shot by Adam Duvall, Sal Romano threw seven strong innings and the Reds beat R.A. Dickey and Atlanta. Matt Adams' homer in the second inning gave Atlanta a 1-0 lead that Dickey held until the four-run sixth. Duvall's homer drove in Joey Votto, who hit a leadoff single, to give the Reds the lead. Eugenio Suarez and Jesse Winker added back-to-back homers with one out for Cincinnati's first three-homer inning of the season. Romano (3-5) snapped a streak of three straight losses in August. The rookie right-hander was dominant after giving up a second-inning homer to Adams. He allowed one run and five hits in his longest of nine starts in the majors. Rasiel Iglesias pitched the ninth for his 23rd save. The Braves wore 1974 throwback uniforms to launch their Hank Aaron Heritage Weekend. The 83-year-old Aaron and wife Billye took an open-conceivable ride around the field in a pregame ceremony.

**GIANTS 10, PHILLIES 2**

Matt Moore took a one-hitter into the eighth inning and picked up his first win in nearly two months, leading San Francisco past Philadelphia. Hunter Pence and Brandon Crawford homered, Pablo Sandoval had an RBI single and Denard Span added three hits and made a nice running catch in center field to help San Francisco to its ninth win in the last 12 games at AT&T Park. One day after becoming the first team in major league history to reach 11,000 wins as a franchise, the Giants added on by beating the worst team in baseball again. Moore (4-12) was crisp in his second straight strong start despite four walks, allowing two hits over 7 1/3 innings to win for the first time since June 20. Four relievers combined for five outs to complete the four-hitter. Zach Eflin (1-5) allowed six runs on seven hits over five innings for Philadelphia.

**MARLINS 3, METS 1**

J.T. Realmuto hit a two-run homer and Miami Marlins won for the sixth time in seven games, downing New York to move within two games of .500 for the first time since May 3. Realmuto followed Marcell Ozuna's second-inning walk with his 14th home run, lining a hanging curveball into the left-field seats for a 2-0 lead. Pitching in front of a sparse crowd in a game that started almost two hours late due to steady rain and the occasional burst of lightning, Justin Nicolino (2-1) scattered six singles and stranded runners in four of his five innings. Brad Ziegler threw a perfect ninth for his fifth save in seven chances. Rookie Chris Flexen (2-2) worked 5 1/3 innings, allowing three runs, five hits and four walks. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

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

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB				
Boston	70	51	.579	-	Washington	73	47	.608
NY Yankees	65	56	.537	5	Miami	59	61	.492
Baltimore	60	62	.492	10.5	Atlanta	54	66	.450
Tampa Bay	60	64	.484	11.5	NY Mets	53	67	.442
Toronto	59	63	.484	11.5	Philadelphia	43	77	.358
Central Division				Central Division				
Cleveland	67	53	.558	-	Chicago Cubs	64	57	.529
Minnesota	61	59	.508	6	St. Louis	63	59	.516
Kansas City	61	60	.504	6.5	Milwaukee	63	60	.512
Detroit	53	68	.438	14.5	Arizona	58	64	.475
Chicago White Sox	46	73	.387	20.5	Pittsburgh	52	71	.423
					Cincinnati	52	71	.423
Western Division				Western Division				
Houston	75	47	.615	-	LA Dodgers	86	34	.717
LA Angels	62	60	.508	13	Colorado	68	54	.557
Seattle	62	61	.504	13.5	Arizona	67	55	.549
Texas	60	61	.496	14.5	San Diego	54	68	.443
Oakland	53	69	.434	22	San Francisco	50	74	.403



BASKETBALL

## FOWLES SCORES 25 AS LYNX DEFEAT FEVER WITH WNBA RECORD SCORE

**ST PAUL:** Sylvia Fowles scored 25 points and the Minnesota Lynx shattered the WNBA record for margin of victory at 59 points, beating the Indiana Fever 111-52 on Friday night. The Lynx set another league record with a 37-0 run that began at 4:54 of the first quarter when Minnesota led 22-9 and ended with Alexis Jones' layup for a 59-9 lead, also at the 4:54 mark, in the second quarter. Minnesota broke the margin record of 46 set by Seattle in a 111-65 win over Tulsa on Aug. 7, 2010. The Lynx, who were 20-2 two weeks ago, but 1-3 since losing point guard Lindsay Whalen to a hand injury, also played without forward Rebekkah Brunson. She left

Minnesota's previous game, a loss to Seattle on Wednesday night, because of a sprained ankle. Renee Montgomery added 20 points, and Jia Perkins had 15 points and seven rebounds for the league-leading Lynx (22-5). They hit exactly 100 points three times this season before Friday's effort that fell three shy of the team record.

**SPARKS 115, SKY 106, 2OT**  
Nneka Ogumike scored 32 points and Candace Parker added 29 in Los Angeles' double-overtime victory over Chicago. Ogumike added 10 rebounds, and Parker had 12. Chelsea Gray had 20 points and 10 assists, and

Odyssey Sims added 15 points and 10 assists. Ogumike and Parker made layups to open the second overtime and help Los Angeles (21-8) pull away. Ogumike had a jumper with 33 seconds in the first overtime to tie at 99. The Sky (11-17) rallied from 10 points down with 2:38 left in regulation, with Stefanie Dolson hitting two 3-pointers in the final 11 seconds - the second with 3 seconds left to tie it at 88.

**LIBERTY 82, SUN 70**  
Tina Charles had 24 points and seven rebounds and New York beat Connecticut to extend its winning streak to four and end the Sun's run at six.

Sugar Rodgers added 13 points, Nayo Raincock-Ekunwe 12 and Brianna Hartley 11 for the Liberty (16-12). They also snapped the Sun's eight-game home winning streak. The Liberty, with the WNBA's top field-goal defense, held the Sun (18-10) to 34 percent.

**MERCURY 89, MYSTICS 79**  
Diana Taurasi scored 14 of her 25 points in the fourth quarter to help Phoenix Mercury pull away against Washington. Taurasi hit a jumper with five minutes to go to give Phoenix (15-13) the lead for good at 71-70. With the Mercury up 10, Taurasi added four free throws in the final minute to keep the

Mystics (16-12) at bay. Camille Little added 15 points on 5-of-5 shooting, and Stephanie Talbot made all three of her 3-point attempts and scored 12 points. Brittney Griner, playing in her second game after missing eight with injuries, added 13 points and 10 rebounds.

**STORM 79, STARS 88**  
Breanna Stewart had 22 points and nine rebounds and Seattle escaped with a victory over San Antonio when Kelsey Plum's basket with 0.8 seconds left was ruled a 2-pointer after a review showed her toe on the 3-point line. Jewell Loyd added 18 points for Seattle (13-16). — AP

## MCILROY TO RETURN FOR FEDEX CUP PLAYOFFS

**NEW YORK:** Rory McIlroy has decided his health is good enough for him to start the FedEx Cup playoffs next week in New York. McIlroy had said after he finished at the PGA Championship that he could feel a back muscle spasm in recent weeks as he practiced more to get ready for the final major of the year. He said before leaving Quail Hollow he could return in a few weeks or not until next year.

His manager said in a text message that McIlroy plans to play The Northern Trust, which starts next Thursday at Glen Oaks on Long Island. Harry Diamond, McIlroy's best friend from Northern Ireland, will remain as his caddie through the playoffs.

McIlroy won two playoff events last year, including the Tour Championship, to capture the FedEx Cup and its \$10 million bonus. That was his last victory. He suffered a hairline rib fracture in South Africa, his first tournament of 2017, and missed seven weeks to let it heal. But after getting married in April, he says he practiced too much too quickly to get ready for The Players Championship, and he wound up taking a five-week break to let it heal.

McIlroy plans to be at Yankee Stadium on Tuesday to celebrate his FedEx Cup title and commemorate a \$1 million donation in his name to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It includes him hitting golf balls from a suite to targets on the field.

The four-time major champion tied for fourth at the British Open, tied for fifth at

the World Golf Championship at Bridgestone and then tied for 22nd at the PGA. He revealed after his final round that he has felt spasms the previous two weeks as he increased his practice. "It's a tough one because I go there and play and shoot decent scores," he said at Quail Hollow. "But when I come off the course, I feel my left rhomboid going into spasm. (The) inside of my left arm goes numb."

He was headed home to Northern Ireland to meet with his trainer and decide when or if he should play. It was not clear how many playoff events McIlroy would play. He was No. 41 in the FedEx Cup, and the defending champion in two weeks at the TPC Boston. The top 30 after three events make it to the Tour Championship.

Asked at Quail Hollow why he would consider playing, McIlroy said he already has missed a lot of time this year with the lingering injury. The Northern Trust would be his 12th start on the PGA Tour this season dating to last October. He has played only 13 times worldwide in 2017. He had said the "next big thing" on his radar was in April at the Masters, the only major keeping him from the career Grand Slam.

"If I'm capable of playing, I feel like why shouldn't you?" he said after the PGA. "But then at the same time, if you're not capable of playing at your best, why should you play? We'll see what happens. Assess my options in the next few days and see where we go from there." — AP

GOLF

## US SWEEPS SOLHEIM CUP FOURBALL MATCHES, TAKES THREE-POINT LEAD

**WEST DES MOINES:** The favored Americans found themselves trailing Europe after a sluggish start to the Solheim Cup. The U.S. settled down on Friday afternoon, pulling away with a record-setting fourball performance.

The United States swept the afternoon fourball matches to take a 5 1/2-2 1/2 lead at Des Moines Golf and Country Club. Lizette Salas and US newcomer Danielle Kang each won two matches, teaming to beat Carlota Ciganda and Caroline Masson 1 up for the Americans' lone full point in the morning foursomes, then leading the US to its first ever fourball sweep in the afternoon.

"This is the history we really don't want. We want the history on Sunday night. We want the Cup," U.S. captain Juli Inkster said. "We've got a lot of work (ahead). I know (European captain) Annika (Sorenstam) is going to get that team fired up."

Salas and rookie Angel Yin routed

Ciganda and Emily Pedersen 6 and 5, and Kang and Michelle Wie topped Madelene Sagstrom and Jodi Ewart Shadoff 3 and 1.

In the other fourball matches, Brittany Lincicome and Brittany Lang beat Masson and Florentyna Parker 3 and 2, and Stacy Lewis and Gerina Pillier edged Charley Hull and Georgia Hall 2 and 1. In the morning foursomes, Americans Cristie Kerr and Lexi Thompson rallied to halve with Hull and Mel Reid. For Europe, Hall and Anna Nordqvist beat Paula Creamer and Austin Ernst 3 and 1, and Karine Icher and Catriona Matthew topped Lewis and Pillier 1 up.

The U.S. would find a lot more success in fourball play - dominating so thoroughly that it never trailed in any of the four matches. Salas and the 18-year-old Yin set the tone for the afternoon. Salas opened with three straight birdies to win those holes, and wins on consecutive par 5s helped the duo end the match in 13 holes.

The 6-and-5 win was the second-largest in Solheim history. "Everything kind of fell together," Salas said. Kang's putting was solid throughout the day - and back-to-back birdie putts sealed her and Wie's win after 17 holes.

Lincicome and Lang improved to 3-0-0 as a four-ball tandem, and Lewis made a short birdie putt on No. 17 to complete the sweep. "It was beautiful. Never seen anything prettier," Lang said about seeing the leaderboard lit up in the Americans' red color. Thompson, fueled by a surge of adrenaline provided by the pro-American crowd singing songs and chanting "USA! USA!" drilled her tee shot on the first hole to set up Kerr's 12-foot eagle putt to open the three-day, biennial event.

But the Americans stumbled, and they appeared to be finished after Hull's long birdie chip on No. 16. Thompson birdied the next hole, and Kerr halved the match with another 12-footer on 18 - pumping her fist in the air before the ball even dropped in.

"It was pretty much a you-know-what sandwich out there," Kerr said. "I'm glad it ended up the way it did." Nordqvist dealt with a case of mononucleosis this summer. But she and Hall, playing in her first Solheim Cup, cruised to the only point that came easy for the Europeans.

Europe will likely need Nordqvist and Hall's teammates to emulate those performances if it hopes to pull closer to the surging Americans. "I would say that the spirit is still there, if not stronger," Sorenstam said. "You get a little fired up when you see an afternoon like this. We knew coming in here it was going to be a challenge. And I have fighters on the team, and I believe in them. We're just going to forget about this day. Tomorrow. New points. Go out there and grab as many as we can." After more foursomes and fourballs, the event will close with 12 singles matches today. — AP



**WEST DES MOINES:** Emily Pedersen of Team Europe looks at her putt during the second day morning foursomes matches of The Solheim Cup at Des Moines Golf and Country Club. — AP



**MASON:** Karolina Pliskova, of the Czech Republic, returns to Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Friday, in Mason, Ohio. — AP

TENNIS

## PLISKOVA SWEEPS INTO CINCINNATI S-FINALS

**MASON:** Defending champion Karolina Pliskova pulled off a doubleheader sweep Friday at the Western & Southern Open, reaching the semifinals by winning a pair of matches with little rest in-between. Rafael Nadal couldn't do the same. Pliskova completed a match that was suspended overnight because of rain, beating qualifier Camila Giorgi in three sets. After a quick turnaround, she needed only 67 minutes to beat a rested Caroline Wozniacki 6-2, 6-4 for a sweep into the semis. "The first match helped me a little bit to have some rallies already today," Pliskova said. "Physically it was not that tough, so I was warmed up enough." Nadal got only halfway there. He spent an hour and 37 minutes on court in the afternoon while beating fellow Spaniard Albert Ramos-Vinolas in a match carried over from the previous night. Five hours later, he was back on court against Nick Kyrgios, who had won a three-set match earlier in the day.

Nadal was sloppy at the outset and on the defensive for much of a 6-2, 7-5 loss that lasted an hour and 20 minutes. "No excuses, nothing at all," Nadal said. "I didn't play well." Despite the loss, Nadal will move back to No. 1 in the ATP rankings next week for the first time since 2014, before a series of injuries affected his game.

"To be No. 1 after all the things I've been going through the last couple years is something unbelievable," Nadal said. "For me, it's an amazing achievement." After the match, Nadal wore a ribbon honoring the victims of the attack in Barcelona that left 13 people dead. "A tragedy," he said. "The feeling that you're not safe nowhere - that's terrible. It's very sad and I'm very, very sorry about what happened. To all the victims, the families, friends - all my support."

**KYRGIOS WILL FACE DAVID FERRER**

Kyrgios will face David Ferrer, who won his only match of the day - 6-3, 6-3 over fourth-seeded Dominic Thiem. At age 35, Ferrer is the second-oldest semifinalist in Cincinnati during the Open Era behind Ken Rosewall in 1970. No. 7 Grigor Dimitrov is the top seed left in a men's field depleted by upsets and injuries - Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and defending champion Marin Cilic missed the tournament because of injuries. Dimitrov needed only 52 minutes to beat Yuichi Sugita 6-2, 6-1.

He'll face John Isner, who beat wild-card Jared Donaldson 7-6 (4), 7-5. Isner won the only break point of the match to go ahead 6-5 in the second set. He closed it out with a 136 mph ace, one of his 25 in the match. "I knew that a lot of the conditions and everything about this tournament, my schedule - a lot of things have worked in my favor this week," Isner said. "So I hope to keep it going."

In the women's bracket, Pliskova will face Garbine Mugaruza in the semifinals. The Wimbledon champion survived another tough challenge on Friday, beating Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 5-7, 7-5. The match went 2 hours, 45 minutes - her longest of the tournament. "I think it was one of the best matches of the year," Mugaruza said. "I think we both played very well, especially in the third set. I know I

won, but I'm sure she feels like it was a great match as well, because it was a tough battle and very hot out there."

Mugaruza's win came less than 24 hours after she spent 2 hours, 18 minutes on the court and fought off three match points to beat Madison Keys in the round of 16. Mugaruza has reached the semifinals of two of the three tournaments she's entered since winning Wimbledon.

"You know, I'm happy with the way I'm playing and the way I'm going through these tough matches because, you know, I've got to dig in and somehow win them," she said. Sloan

Stephens also pulled off a two-win day to reach the semifinals. She beat Ekaterina Makarova in three sets, and then ate lunch, took a nap, woke up and knocked off Julia Georges in straight sets. "The day is just like a blur," Stephens said. "I'm ready to get dinner and get in bed because I'm so tired." Today, she'll face No. 2 Simona Halep, who beat Johanna Konta 6-4, 7-6 (1).

"I played the best match so far this tournament," said Halep, who was slowed by a knee injury earlier this season. "I could hit the ball. I could move well. So I feel the rhythm. It's back. So I'm positive again." — AP

## CAPTAIN SMITH BANKS ON INDIA EXPERIENCE TO BEAT BANGLADESH

**DHAKA:** Australia captain Steve Smith said yesterday his team's experience in India earlier this year will help overcome the challenge of Bangladesh in the forthcoming two-Test series. "I think Bangladesh have played some very good cricket and they won a Test match here not very long ago. So we are seeing it as a big challenge," Smith said in his first press conference in Dhaka since arriving here late Friday amid tight security.

"Hopefully we can learn a lot from what we did in India and bring them into the game here and show some improvements," he said. Australia visited India from February to March for four Test matches and despite a 2-1 loss in the series Smith's men were praised for putting up a good performance.

Smith led his side from the front scoring three centuries to become the highest run-getter in the series with 499 runs at an average of 71.28. Smith is now leading Australia for their first bilateral Test series in Bangladesh in 11

years. Australia's last visit to Dhaka was with Ricky Ponting's team in 2006, six years after the hosts were granted Test status.

Bangladesh have emerged from that 2-0 series defeat as a decent side, winning their last Test at home and away, respectively against England and Sri Lanka. Smith said conditions would be the biggest challenge for them in the two Test matches. "The conditions are always quite foreign to us when we come to the sub-continent. The wickets are always different than what we are used to back home. It's definitely going to be a big challenge for us," he said.

The visitors are scheduled to play a warm-up match on August 22-23 before they take on Bangladesh in the first Test at Sher-e Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka on August 27. The second Test will be played at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong from September 4. The Aussies will leave Bangladesh on September 9 after the end of two-match Test series. — AP



**DHAKA:** Australian cricket captain Steve Smith speaks during a news conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh, yesterday. Australia is scheduled to play two Test matches against Bangladesh with the first Test beginning Aug 27 in Dhaka. — AP



## VIDEO REFEREE GETS THUMBS UP ON BUNDESLIGA DEBUT

**BERLIN:** The historic debut of the video assistant referee in Germany's top flight got a thumbs up from the relieved match referee after he spotted a penalty in Bayern Munich's opening win over Bayer Leverkusen.

Bayern were 2-0 up at home in Friday's first game of the new Bundesliga season when the VAR, which is being trialled for the first time in the German league this season, made its first intervention.

The controversial system came under the spotlight in the second-half in Munich when Leverkusen's Charles Aranguiz pulled Robert Lewandowski's shoulder to send the striker tumbling.

The match referee Tobias Stieler signalled-outlining a television screen with his fingers—that the incident should be reviewed by the video assistant referee,

Jochen Drees, who was watching 575km (357 miles) away at the project's headquarters in Cologne. Drees quickly confirmed the foul verbally to Stieler via a headset and Lewandowski slotted home the resulting penalty to seal Bayern's 3-1 win after Admir Mehmedi scored Leverkusen's consolation goal.

"I'm glad it worked so well, because what would have happened without the video assistant?" asked Stieler after the final whistle. "I would have returned to the changing room to hear that I had missed an obvious penalty."

The VAR system made its senior international debut at June's Confederations Cup in Russia, but sparked controversy, receiving a mixed reception from fans after causing long delays and some confusion. It is being further tested in the German league this season before world

football's governing body FIFA decides whether to use it at next year's World Cup finals in Russia.

Behind the scenes, former FIFA referee Hellmut Krug, the German Football Association's (DFB) referee manager and VAR project manager in Germany, was clearly relieved. "We are satisfied with the opening game," said Krug. "Our intense preparations have paid off," he added after the technology behind the system was tested in the Bundesliga last season, but was not made available to referees in the relevant matches.

### SYSTEM GLITCH

The system got off to a bad start in Germany a fortnight ago, malfunctioning when Bayern beat Borussia Dortmund to win the German Super Cup — the first time it was used for a

top level match here-but did not influence the result as Munich won 5-4 on penalties after a 2-2 draw.

And things did not go according to plan again when the Hawkeye system, which helps the VAR make offside decisions, failed to work in three Bundesliga matches yesterday afternoon.

In contrast, the VAR's Bundesliga debut on Friday was a dream for German bosses - as it was a clear foul involving a high-profile player Lewandowski, the league's top scorer in 2015/16, and there was barely a delay.

"The communication between the referee and the video assistant was impeccable. They made a quick and precise decision when evaluating the relevant scenes," enthused Ansgar Schwenken, the German league's (DFL) director of football affairs.

"This first example of a video decision in the Bundesliga is sure to help the spectators, both at home and in the stadium, understand the decision which will help to accept this new innovation."

The VAR system was only used once on Saturday afternoon when VfB Stuttgart called for a penalty in their 2-0 defeat at Hertha Berlin, but replays showed striker Anastasios Donis was fouled outside the area.

Former DFB director of sport Matthias Sammer doubts the system will remove controversial decisions from the game. "I think it was justified," said the ex-Germany midfielder of the Lewandowski penalty decision.

"My belly and my footballer's heart, however, tells me that there will be many standard situations in the future which will be discussed." — AFP

### EPL Table

English Premier League table after yesterday's early match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Man Utd	2	2	0	0	8	0	6	Southampton	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Huddersfield	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	Swansea	2	0	1	1	0	4	1
Man City	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	Leicester	1	0	0	1	3	4	0
Tottenham	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	Chelsea	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Arsenal	1	1	0	0	4	3	3	Bournemouth	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Burnley	1	1	0	0	3	2	3	Stoke	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Everton	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	Brighton	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
West Brom	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	Newcastle	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Liverpool	1	0	1	0	3	3	1	Crystal Palace	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Watford	1	0	1	0	3	3	1	West Ham	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

## DORTMUND OUTCLASS WOLFSBURG

**BERLIN:** American teenager Christian Pulisic scored and created a goal as he replaced Barcelona target Ousmane Dembele to spark Borussia Dortmund to a 3-0 win over Wolfsburg yesterday.

The 20-year-old Dembele has attempted to force Dortmund into selling him to the Spanish giants by boycotting training and, having been suspended indefinitely, missed his side's opening game of the new German league season.

Dortmund's director of sport Michael Zorc confirmed Dembele will be sold to Barcelona in this transfer window if they meet Borussia's price, reportedly set at 130 million euros (\$152m). Pulisic only turns 19 next month, but the US international was superb in Wolfsburg as he deputised for Dembele on the right wing.

He drilled home Dortmund's first goal on 23 minutes in a move involving Mario Goetze, back in the Borussia line-up after seven months out with a metabolic disorder. Dortmund doubled their lead when ex-Barcelona defender Marc Bartra curled in a stunning strike on 27 minutes.

The centre-back, who was badly injured in the April bomb blast targeting the Dortmund team bus, celebrated by kissing the black armband that players on both teams were wearing in support of the victims of this week's Barcelona terror attack.

Pulisic then capped a brilliant performance with a pass to put Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang behind the Wolfsburg defence for the third goal on 60 minutes. "I can only be happy with the game and the result," said new Dortmund coach Peter Bosz after his first Bundesliga game.

The Dutchman singled out Goetze for praise after the attacking midfielder played the first hour as he rebuilds his fitness after a long lay-off. "It was obvious that Mario Goetze is an extraordinary player and will be very important for us," said Bosz.

"However, we must also be patient and I was glad he had collected a few minutes and did not hurt himself." Dortmund top the fledgling table for the time being after defending champions Bayern Munich beat Bayer Leverkusen 3-1 on Friday through goals by new signings Niklas Sule and Corentin Tolisso, and a Robert Lewandowski penalty.

Australia international Mathew Leckie made a dream debut for Hertha Berlin at the Olympic Stadium by netting twice in a 2-0 win over newly-promoted Stuttgart. Germany international Nicolai Muller suffered an embarrassing knee injury as he hurt himself while celebrating his winning goal for Hamburg against Augsburg just eight minutes into the 1-0 victory.

Hoffenheim bounced back from their mid-week defeat to Liverpool in the Champions League play-off first leg, prevailing 1-0 at home to Werder Bremen as

ex-Leicester City striker Andrej Kramaric scored a late winner. Hanover enjoyed a 1-0 win at Mainz on their return to the top flight as Martin Harnik scored the decisive goal on 73 minutes. RB Leipzig, who are in this season's Champions League group stages after finishing second last season, kick off their league campaign at Schalke later yesterday. — AFP

### Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

**ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE**  
**Huddersfield v Newcastle United** 5:30  
 beIN SPORTS HD 2  
**Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea** 18:00  
 beIN SPORTS HD 2

**SPANISH LEAGUE**  
**Athletic de Bilbao v Getafe** 19:15  
 beIN SPORTS HD 3  
**Barcelona v Real Betis** 1:15  
 beIN SPORTS HD 3  
**Deportivo La Coruna v Real Madrid** 3:15  
 beIN SPORTS HD 3  
 beIN SPORTS HD 1 FR

**ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE**  
**Atalanta v AS Roma** 19:00  
 beIN SPORTS HD 4  
 beIN SPORTS HD 2  
**Bologna FC v Torino FC** 21:45  
 beIN SPORTS HD 4  
**Internazionale v Fiorentina** 21:45  
 beIN SPORTS HD 4  
**SS Lazio v Spal** 1:45  
 beIN SPORTS  
**Udinese V Chievo Verona** 21:45  
 beIN SPORTS HD 4  
**UC Sampdoria V Benevento** 21:45  
 beIN SPORTS HD 1  
**US Sassuolo Calcio V Genoa** 21:45  
 beIN SPORTS HD 4  
**Crotone V AC Milan** 21:45  
 beIN SPORTS HD 5

**GERMAN BUNDESLIGA**  
**Freiburg V Eintracht Frankfurt** 16:30  
 beIN SPORTS  
**Monchengladbach V FC Koln** 19:00  
 beIN SPORTS

**FRENCH LEAGUE**  
**LOSC Lille V Caen** 16:00  
 beIN SPORTS HD 1  
 beIN SPORTS HD 3  
**Olympique Marseille V SCO Angers** 8:00  
 beIN SPORTS 1 FR  
**Paris Saint-Germain V Toulouse** 22:00  
 beIN SPORTS HD 6  
 beIN SPORTS HD 2 TR



**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool's Senegalese midfielder Sadio Mane (2nd R) shoots to score the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Crystal Palace at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

## SADIO MANE KICKSTARTS LIVERPOOL'S CAMPAIGN

	<b>Liverpool</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Crystal Palace</b>	<b>0</b>

**LIVERPOOL:** Senegalese forward Sadio Mane's cool second-half finish earned Liverpool a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Crystal Palace at Anfield yesterday. Missing Adam Lallana, Nathaniel Clyne and Philippe Coutinho through injury, Liverpool had precious little to really cheer until Mane struck to defeat a determined Palace side.

His 73rd-minute goal secured Liverpool's first win of the campaign after Jurgen Klopp's side drew 3-3 at Watford in their opening fixture. Once again, the pre-match build-up for Liverpool had focused on the future of Coutinho in light of Barcelona's repeated efforts to lure him to Camp Nou. Liverpool have rejected three attempts to sign the 25-year-old Brazilian, who signed a five-year contract in January, and the club's owners remain adamant he will not leave Merseyside any time soon. There was better news for the home side as Daniel Sturridge returned to the team for this encounter after missing Liverpool's first two games of the season with a thigh injury.

He was one of five alterations from the draw at Watford as Klopp looked to solidify his defence, making three changes at the back. Frank de Boer's Palace team lost 3-0 at home to Premier League new boys Huddersfield Town in their season opener and that result was further marred by an injury to Wilfried Zaha.

Yet despite Palace's poor showing last weekend, they went to Anfield with hope of becoming the first team to win four consecutive matches at the ground since Arsenal managed the feat 82 years ago.

With Liverpool beginning the contest as if they meant business, that looked a forlorn hope. Andy Robertson, making his Liverpool debut, immediately threatened for the home side, delivering a decent cross that just lacked somebody clinical enough to finish it off.

### BENTEKE BLAZES OVER

Joel Matip went close to opening the scoring, but he could not quite direct Robertson's cross goalwards after outjumping Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey. Just before half-time Roberto Firmino hit a fine effort that Hennessey did brilliantly well to keep out before Jason Puncheon did the same at the other end, rifling in an effort that Simon Mignolet punched away. Liverpool were sharper than the opposition after the interval, but Klopp's side still toiled to break down their stubborn visitors, Sturridge seeing one long-range attempt well saved by Hennessey.

Palace should have scored after 55 minutes as Patrick Van Aanholt did superbly to dart down the wing and into the box. But after laying the ball back perfectly for Christian Benteke, he saw the former Liverpool striker blaze over the bar from less than eight yards out. Star signing Mohamed Salah had started on the bench for Liverpool, but he joined the fray after an hour.

A foray into the box by Mane resulted in a chance for Georginio Wijnaldum, but he fluffed a

shot from eight yards out, much to the Kop's audible frustration. However, Mane then made the difference with 17 minutes to go as Palace's resistance finally crumbled.

He picked the ball up on the left wing and exchanged passes with Robertson before Palace defender Luka Milivojevic had a nightmare. The

Serbian midfielder's stumble sent the ball into Mane's path and the former Southampton flier slotted home.

The goal meant Palace had to come out and attack more, but apart from one Sullay Kaikai blast that was palmed clear by Mignolet, Liverpool were untroubled. — AFP

## SUBSTITUTE AUSTIN LATE SHOW SHATTERS 10-MAN WEST HAM

	<b>Southampton</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>West Ham</b>	<b>2</b>

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Substitute Charlie Austin netted a decisive stoppage-time penalty as Southampton weathered a valiant fightback by 10-man West Ham United yesterday to record a 3-2 victory. Southampton ended a club-record run of six home games without scoring to go 2-0 up through Manolo Gabbiadini and Dusan Tadic, with West Ham's Marko Arnautovic sent off in between for elbowing Jack Stephens.

Former Manchester United striker Javier 'Chicharito' Hernandez scored his first two West Ham goals to draw the visitors level, only for Austin to snatch victory at the death.

Austin's 93rd-minute effort, after a foul on Maya Yoshida by Pablo Zabaleta, prevented Mauricio Pellegrino's side from going seven home league games without victory. It was another punch in the guts for West Ham manager Slaven Bilic, albeit of a different kind to last weekend's 4-0 thrashing at Manchester United. The east London club have lost their opening two league games for the first time since 2010-11, when they were relegated.

Their afternoon took a turn for the worse before the game had even kicked off as Winston Reid injured his calf in the warm-up and had to be replaced by Angelo Ogbonna.

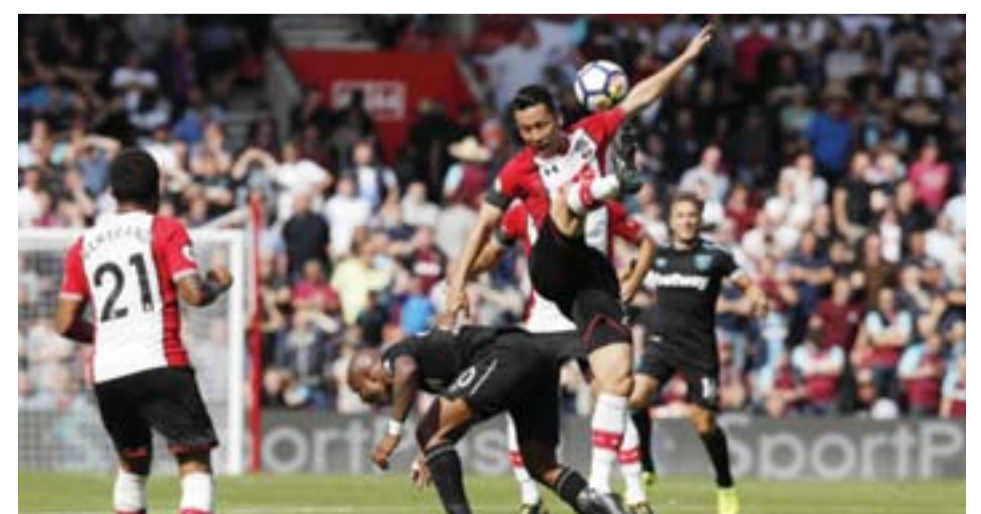
Southampton awarded a debut to record signing Mario Lemina, who was bought from Juventus for a reported initial fee of £15.4 million (\$19.8 million, 16.9 million euros). The hosts ended a goal drought of 586 minutes in the 11th minute, Gabbiadini exchanging passes with Nathan Redmond before beating Joe Hart for his first goal in 10 games.

West Ham threatened to come back into the game and it took a superb reflex stop from Fraser Forster to prevent Hernandez equalising with a diving header from an Arnautovic cross. But after Mark Noble had avoided punishment for an ugly challenge on Lemina, West Ham shot themselves in the foot when Arnautovic saw red for flinging his arm into Stephens' neck. Within five minutes it was 2-0 as Tadic netted from the penalty spot after Southampton old boy Jose Fonte had been penalised for hauling down Steven Davis.

West Ham gave themselves a lifeline on the stroke of half-time when Hernandez scored after Forster had parried a shot from the fit-again Michail Antonio. After Gabbiadini had clipped the bar, Hernandez equalised in trademark fashion in the 73rd minute, volleying in after Diafra Sakho's effort came back off the bar. But Austin had the last word, tucking a nerveless penalty past Hart after Zabaleta was penalised for a push on Yoshida. — AFP



**WOLFSBURG:** Dortmund's Spanish defender Marc Bartra (L) and Wolfsburg's midfielder Daniel Didavi vie for the ball during the German First division Bundesliga football match VfL Wolfsburg vs BVB Borussia Dortmund in Wolfsburg, western Germany yesterday. — AFP



**SOUTHAMPTON:** Southampton's Japanese defender Maya Yoshida (R) vies with West Ham United's French-born Ghanaian midfielder Andre Ayew during the English Premier League football match between Southampton and West Ham United at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton, southern England yesterday. — AFP



# Sports

All Blacks hit highs in 54-34 win over Wallabies



Mane kickstarts Liverpool's campaign



SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017

US SWEEPS SOLHEIM CUP FOURBALL MATCHES, TAKES THREE-POINT LEAD

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian athlete Nur Dhabitah Sabri lits the torch during the opening ceremony of the 29th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

## LET THE FLAMES BEGIN! FLYING DIVER IGNITES GAMES

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Teenage diver Nur Dhabitah Sabri flew through Malaysia's national stadium in a brave stunt to light the cauldron at the climax of a glittering Southeast Asian Games opening ceremony yesterday.

The 18-year-old rising star was suspended high above the Bukit Jalil stadium floor in Kuala Lumpur, carrying a flaming torch, at the end of the four-hour extravaganza.

Earlier a flying tiger, shiny gold suits and a parade of marching bands took centre stage as the two-week Games opened in a blaze of colour. More than 4,000 athletes from 11 nations strode into the newly refurbished, 87,000-capacity Bukit Jalil stadium, which was sold out for the vibrant show.

Torrential rain early on failed to dampen enthusiasm as the hosts put on an entertaining spectacle before Malaysia's king, Sultan Muhammad V, declared the Games open.

About 4,200 athletes are competing for 404 gold medals in sports ranging from boxing and equestrianism to petanque, speed skating and lawn bowls at the popular and unique SEA Games.

Games mascot Rimau, a fluffy Malayan tiger, flew into the stadium on a wire, after LED-lit pedal cars and flag-wavers wearing glittering gold suits had entertained the crowd. Fans watched video messages from Malaysia's badminton and squash stars Lee Chong Wei and Nicol David, who are busy

with world championships commitments, and cheered the succession of marching bands. After the Games had been declared open, the stadium erupted in song as hundreds of dancers waving silver palm trees and waving red-lit parasols gave the event a carnival atmosphere.

Olympic silver medal-winning diver Pandeleta Rinong passed the flaming torch to Nur Dhabitah, who took off slowly towards the 40-foot (12-metre) cauldron and lit it, setting off a blaze of fireworks.

The biennial SEA Games, formerly the Southeast Asian Peninsula Games, have been running since 1959, when the region was still emerging from its long era of colonialism. Malaysia, who have given the 29th

edition the tagline "Rising Together", are aiming to top the medals table for only the second time by matching the 111 golds they won on home soil in 2001.

Ahead of the opening ceremony, they have already made a strong start with seven golds to lead the table ahead of Singapore and Thailand, who both have three. The Games retain a distinctly regional flavour, with Olympic sports like swimming and athletics contested alongside Asian favourites such as pencak silat, sepak takraw and wushu. They are a big source of national pride in the fast-growing region of about 650 million people, which all too often finds itself outclassed on the world sporting stage. —AFP

### CHINA SNUBS 'LITTLE OLYMPICS' OPENING CEREMONY IN TAIWAN

**TAIPEI:** China boycotted the opening ceremony of the World University Games hosted by Taiwan yesterday in the latest reflection of deteriorating relations between the two sides. The biennial Summer Universiade, dubbed the "Little Olympics," is the largest ever sporting event Taipei hosts but it has also highlighted tensions with Beijing and the island's struggle for international recognition.

It is the first time Taiwan has held the Games, but even on home turf it must compete as "Chinese Taipei" and is unable to fly its national flag or play its national anthem because of Beijing's sensitivities.

The two sides split after a civil war in 1949, but Beijing still sees the self-ruled island as part of its territory and objects to any official diplomatic recognition of Taiwan. Relations have deteriorated since Tsai Ing-wen of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) took office in May last year, with Beijing cutting off all official communications.

At the opening event, Tsai was introduced as the president of "the Republic of China", Taiwan's official name, which China does not recognise. She waved to the audiences but did not give a speech.

Thousands of student athletes from around the world donned their team uniforms or traditional dress and walked behind the sign showing the name of their country and their national flags to the cheering crowd in Taipei Stadium.

However, no Chinese athletes showed up to walk behind the staffer holding China's national flag. Local media said China was absent due to the reference of Tsai as president. Taipei's mayor Ko Wen-je is widely seen to have secured Chinese athletes' attendance during his visit to Shanghai in July to attend a city exchange forum.

But he said he had drawn the line at Chinese officials' request for Tsai only to be called "leader" at the opening ceremony, not "president".

In the current climate, some expected Chinese athletes to boycott the Universiade entirely. Instead, they will compete in individual events but sit out the team sports, citing a clash with their own national games.

Outside the stadium, there were chaotic scenes when dozens of protesters opposing the government's pension reforms scuffled with pro-DPP groups briefly blocking an athlete's entrance and delaying part of the ceremony.

Protest groups also forced some buses taking athletes to the event to detour. The rest of the opening ceremony tonight will showcase Taiwanese culture and lifestyle, including indigenous dance and songs as well as performances using electric scooters. Pop star Leehom Wang is set to perform near the end of the show before baseball player Chen Chin-feng lights the Universiade flame to formally open the games, followed by a firework show. — AFP

## LUKAKU ON MARK AS MAN UNITED SCORE FOUR AGAIN

	Swansea	0
	Man United	4

**SWANSEA:** Manchester United maintained their dream Premier League start as goals from Eric Bailly, Romelu Lukaku, Paul Pogba and Anthony Martial secured a 4-0 victory at Swansea City yesterday.

Having put West Ham United to the sword with another 4-0 win in their opening game of the new campaign, United looked like being made to settle for a narrower scoreline for much of the game in South Wales. But after they had claimed the lead at the end of a tight first half through Bailly's first goal for the club, they netted three times in a stylish five-minute spell late in the game to give the scoreline an emphatic look.

It meant maximum points, eight goals and two clean sheets in their opening two games for Jose Mourinho's side. Swansea were aggrieved that Pogba remained on the field to score after escaping a second yellow card for a foul on Martin Olsson late in the first half. But manager Paul Clement saw his side implode worryingly once Lukaku bagged United's second goal and his third in two games for his new club 10 minutes from full-time.

There was a scare for United in the third minute as Jordan Ayew burst forwards for Swansea, cut in from the left and mishit a cross that grazed the visitors' crossbar.

Mourinho's men broke almost immedi-

ately when Lukaku seized on an errant pass and raced towards goal, but his initial shot was blocked and his follow-up effort curled wide. The woodwork then came to Swansea's rescue as the lively opening continued with Juan Mata's free-kick from the right headed against the crossbar by Phil Jones. United's frustration was highlighted on the half-hour when Marcus Rashford sent an ambitious long-range effort straight at home goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski.

### MKHITARYAN FINDS GAPS

Pogba was walking a tightrope when, moments after being booked for a cynical foul on Tom Carroll, he tripped Olsson and received what appeared to be a final warning from referee Jon Moss. The visitors ought to have led nine minutes before the interval when Swansea failed to clear a simple high ball. Rashford collected it and raced clear, but sent a tame effort straight at Fabianski. United finally claimed the lead on the stroke of half-time as a corner from the left was headed by Pogba and forced onto the crossbar by Fabianski, with Bailly reacting quickest to poke home the rebound.

After a low-key opening to the second half, Rashford cut in from the left and tried his luck with a right-foot effort but Fabianski gathered the ball after an initial fumble. Swansea pressed through the lively Ayew and one run from the Ghanaian allowed Leroy Fer a shooting chance, only for him to lift his effort well over the bar.

Tammy Abraham should then have tested United goalkeeper David de Gea, but he headed wide from a decent cross by Olsson. Lukaku doubled United's lead

on 80 minutes when he finished coolly after a neat pass from Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

That was the signal for Swansea's defence to go missing as Mkhitaryan fed Pogba, who beat Fabianski with a neat

chip on 82 minutes to make it 3-0. Substitute Martial then collected a Pogba pass and weaved his way through a static home defence on 84 minutes to complete the scoring with a neat finish into the bottom-right corner. — AFP



SWANSEA: Manchester United's Eric Bailly, left, celebrates with teammate Romelu Lukaku after scoring his side's first goal during their English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea, Wales, yesterday. —AP



# Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary BUSINESS

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## FRANKFURT, DUBLIN MAKE BANKERS FEEL WANTED



BEIRUT: Elias Al-Najjar, 93, displays salt flakes in the coastal Lebanese town of Anfeh north of the capital Beirut. —AP

## IN LEBANON, SALT PRODUCTION CRAFT IS DRYING UP COASTAL AREAS MAKE WAY FOR RESORTS AS POND OWNERS FLEE CIVIL WAR

BEIRUT: At 93, Elias Al-Najjar has spent half a century harvesting salt by hand from ponds on Lebanon's Mediterranean shore, but he and his colleagues fear their way of life is dying.

Traditional coastal salt production was once popular in Lebanon, but the fully artisanal practice now survives in just a single seaside town, Anfeh, around 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of Beirut.

Producers like Najjar say the sector has suffered a series of blows, from an exodus of pond owners during Lebanon's civil war, to the lifting of import tariffs. "I used to produce 300 tons myself in the 1950s," the elderly man says.

"Now I make 30 tons maximum." Anfeh's salt producers accuse the government of refusing them permits to repair their equipment in order to turf them off prime coastal real estate and make way for developers. "If they can't destroy the ponds, they want to make them unworkable so it's easier for fat cats to buy them to build resorts," says Hafez Jreij, 67.

"The land the ponds are on is going to be handed over to developers who want to build beach resorts." The municipality confirmed to AFP that the central government is not giving any more permits. But municipal spokeswoman Christiane Nicolas said the local council has no desire to destroy the sector.

"The government stopped collecting taxes on traditional salt production because it considered it an infringement on public property," she told AFP. But she added: "There's no evidence the authorities want to hand over the coast to developers."

### Seasonal process

Salt extraction is a time-consuming process subject to the vagaries of weather, meaning it can only be practiced around four months a year. First, sea water is drawn into metre-deep concrete ponds via pumps powered by small windmills. The water sits in the ponds of up to 20 square metres (more than 200 square feet) for at least 20 days, evaporating to leave a salty liquid residue. That salty water is then swept into shallower concrete pans, and left to concentrate further for another 10 days.

### Setbacks

Each day, producers sweep the sea water across the pan to ensure it dries evenly. As the liquid disappears, blindingly white salt crystals emerge in lines, twinkling in the sunlight. Jreij says Lebanon's traditional salt industry produced 50,000 tons a year during the sector's heyday between 1955 and 1975.

"Lebanon did not need to import salt, and the state imposed a 200-percent tax on salt

imports," he says. But from 1975, when Lebanon's 15-year civil war erupted, the industry began suffering a series of setbacks. Many pond owners were among the Lebanese who fled in waves over the years of the grinding conflict.

With their departure, production started to fall below demand, prompting the government in the 1990s to lift the import tax on foreign salt. The decision made it hard for local producers to compete and, with the sector in free-fall, the government announced it considered many of the salt pans to be illegal construction on public coastline.

As a result, it stopped taxing income from salt production in 1994. And without tax receipts, municipalities started rejecting permit applications from producers to maintain their equipment, producers say. Those refusals prevent repairs on worn-down infrastructure, thereby killing the industry, they complain.

Jreij estimates half of all the salt pans in Anfeh are now unusable as a result of the 1994 decision.

### Scraping by

Jreij also said that local authorities tried to shut him down in 2015 and 2016 by claiming the sea water feeding the ponds was contami-

nated. "We did laboratory tests on the water at extraction points and they all conformed to safety specifications," Jreij says.

Najjar, who said he had had a similar problem, showed to AFP the analysis results, car-

ried out in Lebanon. For now, producers in Anfeh are scraping by, selling salt to individual and industrial buyers at a rate of between \$2-4 per kilogram, much less than the price of imported salt. — AFP



BEIRUT: Lebanese men work at salt evaporation ponds in the coastal Lebanese town of Anfeh north of the capital Beirut. — AFP

## NAFTA NEGOTIATORS HONE IN ON ORIGIN RULES, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

WASHINGTON: US, Canadian and Mexican negotiators on Friday began digging into some of the thorniest issues in modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement, including rules of origin for goods produced in the region, services trade and a controversial dispute settlement system.

A copy of the NAFTA negotiating agenda obtained by Reuters reveals that meetings on rules of origin, a provision that determines how much of a product is made in North America, were expected to last through Sunday, when the initial round concludes. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer emphasized at the opening of the talks on Wednesday that the United States was seeking major increases to the regional content required for goods to pass tariff-free between the three countries, including a demand for "substantial US content" in the automotive sector.

Canada, Mexico and the US auto industry are urging a much more cautious approach to rules of origin to avoid disruptions for a complex North American supply chain built up over the 23 years that NAFTA has been in

force. However, it was unclear whether Lighthizer would reveal specific targets or thresholds for North American and US content for autos.

Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo on Friday said it was "impossible" that country-specific rules of origin could be included. "In the world of international trade, there is not a single precedent (for that), not in a bilateral or multilateral agreement," he told a Mexican radio station.

The agenda showed that negotiators were at least touching on all of the major issues in the first days to determine how deep the differences are. One official involved in the talks who was not authorized to speak publicly described the atmosphere inside the negotiating room as "collaborative." Several officials said that a joint statement at the end of talks on Sunday will not, as expected, outline any areas of agreement although it will elaborate on a timeline for the remainder of the negotiations. The next round will be held in Mexico in September.

Negotiators are under pressure to wrap up the talks before Mexico's presidential election campaign kicks off in earnest in February. The United States

has emphasized the need for changes that US goods trade deficits with its NAFTA partners, but Canada and Mexico argue the deficits are the result of a low US domestic savings rate.

"I would strongly contest whether emphasizing trade deficits is the real metric for how our relationship should be measured," Juan Carlos Baker, Mexico's deputy minister of foreign trade, told reporters. "It's going to be difficult."

On Wednesday and Thursday, discussions were held regarding Canadian and Mexican demands for more access to US public works projects and government procurement - an issue that conflicts with US President Donald Trump's plans to strengthen his "Buy American" rules for spending taxpayer funds.

The talks also have spent substantial time on digital trade - a new chapter to govern a sector that did not exist when NAFTA was negotiated in the early 1990s - as well as cross-border investment, intellectual property and environmental issues. Canada is pushing a climate-change agenda in the talks, in conflict with Trump's pledge to revive the US coal industry. — Reuters

## GETTING TO THE CORE OF GLOBAL INFLATION

LONDON: Stock markets have spent the year rising on bets of a resurgence in inflation, while central bankers trying to manage the global economy have spent the same time repeatedly reassuring everyone it's just around the corner. Policymakers gathering at an annual monetary retreat in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in the coming week no doubt will be collectively pondering why the textbook rule that says low unemployment leads to labour shortages, then higher wages, and then in turn higher inflation, isn't working.

Yet the global economy is growing strongly. Apart from the risk of a stock market correction, there is no evidence of disinflationary threats like those that emanated from the financial crisis that started to smoulder a decade ago. The latest Reuters Polls of more than 500 economists covering more than 45 economies around the world showed almost no move in inflation expectations since the start of the year.

In the United States, where the Federal Reserve is raising interest rates, inflation pressures are in an extended lull, which has led to contorted arguments trying to explain it away.

Omair Sharif, senior US economist at Societe Generale, in a recent note titled "All my exes," criticises a recent tendency to search for suitably favourable core measures of inflation - stripped of, or "ex-", whatever components are holding it down.

"In short, while the core CPI undoubtedly looks better when you strip out sizable price declines, all these 'ex'

measures still show a softening in the core rate that began in January," he wrote. "Moreover, as we have noted before, the transitory excuse is long past its sell-by date." Analysts who follow the European Central Bank have been equally disappointed that after spending 2 trillion or so euros buying mostly government bonds it's only running 1.3 percent euro zone inflation, still well below the 2.0 percent ceiling. Some measures of core inflation are even lower.

Frederik Ducroz, economist at Pictet, has taken heart from a recent trend move higher in the "super core" euro zone inflation rate, which excludes the cost of package holidays. The trouble is, the euro is on a tear higher. That is a reflection of vastly improved economic performance by many euro zone economies this year, but as the common currency climbs, it acts as a drag on exports and tamps down imported inflation.

Flash euro zone purchasing managers' surveys in the coming week are likely to show continued strong business activity, but with tame price rises. ECB chief Mario Draghi, who famously sent shockwaves at a speech in London one month before the Jackson Hole summit five years ago proclaiming he would do "whatever it takes" to save the euro, will not be making major policy comments. To some, that underscores how little progress there is to discuss. "This in itself suggests that the Governing Council remains to be convinced that it should announce its QE tapering plans at its next meeting (in) September," notes Victoria Clarke, economist at Investec. — Reuters



## CONGO IS LEFT WITH FEW OPTIONS AS FINANCES COLLAPSE

**KINSHASA:** As Congo's government is soliciting urgent help from Western donors and the IMF last month to contain an economic crisis, the chairman of the state mining company brought an unusual guest to the prime minister's office. It was Raymond O'Leary, a vice president from Russia's second largest bank, state-owned VTB, to discuss a Eurobond aiming to raise funds for the cash-strapped government, Congolese and VTB officials confirmed.

The choice of lead manager was striking, given that VTB is under US sanctions any deal would have shut the door on IMF and pretty much all Western funding owing to donor objections.

VTB's press office emphasized, however, that its VTB Capital arm in charge of Eurobond issuances is not under sanctions. "There are no legislative restrictions on the participation of foreign investment funds in placements organized by Russian investment banks," it said in a statement.

Nevertheless, the deal fell through, partly because of concerns about the optics of dealing with VTB and also because Congolese officials realized any investors willing to buy the bond would demand a punitive spread.

But the fact that the meeting took place at all revealed just how desperate Democratic Republic of Congo's government has become as it seeks to head off a collapse in national finances that is hitting the economy. Inflation is now at 50 percent and the Congolese franc has lost 30 percent making it one of the world's worst performers this year, though it recovered slightly this month. In addition, the central bank is so low on forex it has barely three weeks of import cover left.

Congo's economic pain is fueling political instability. Violent street protests against President Joseph Kabila and a surge in militia attacks and prison breaks have stoked fears the Central African giant could slip back to the civil wars of the turn of the century in which millions died.

Kabila took power when his father was assassinated in 2001 and has since won two elections.

The IMF representative in Congo declined to comment, as did the prime minister's office and finance minister. But in a speech last month, central bank governor Deogratias Mutombo was uncharacteristically blunt: "The economy is in very bad shape," he said.

### 'False promise'

Congo is Africa's top copper producer and houses a trove of other minerals including oil, cobalt and gold, but low commodity prices have conspired with high deficits and rampant corruption to push its economic indicators into the red. "Currently there is no possibility - with the current economic situation and political instability - to have ... sufficient confidence to sustain a stable exchange rate," former banking association head Michel Lohembe told Reuters.

Earlier this month ratings agency Standard & Poor's downgraded Congo's sovereign credit rating, predicting year-end depreciation of the franc of about 35 percent and annual GDP growth of less than 2 percent from 2017-2020, down from 7.8 percent for 2011-2016.

The government forecasts 2017 GDP growth at 3.1 percent, up from 2.4 percent last year. Standard & Poor's sees GDP growth this year at 1.5 percent. Three quarters of Congo's budget pays civil servant salaries and government operating expenses. Labour unions have launched strikes in recent weeks to demand pay rises. Labour unrest worsened Congo's security crisis, which has seen violence rise

in several parts of the country since Kabila refused to step down at the expiry of his mandate in December.

A general strike largely paralysed economic activity for two days last week. In June IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, on Congo's request, offered to send a delegation in September to discuss possible aid. Yet she warned this would require "a credible trajectory toward political stability."

A Kinshasa-based diplomat says IMF help is "near impossible" because it would require Kabila to commit to a timeline for stepping down - which he refuses to do - and open the books of Congo's opaque state-owned miner Gecamines. On the streets of Kinshasa, patience is wearing thin. In Ngaba district, where cement trucks vie for space with rickshaws on dilapidated, flooded roads, some residents have turned to the only option left: criminality.

"Let the authorities spare us their false promises," said one 22-year-old gangster in Ngaba who gave only his first name, Yves. He said he had studied at a professional institute but couldn't find a job after graduating and has now turned to a cellphone theft racket. "There's no work," he said. "That's why we're out here fighting like gangsters." — Reuters

## FRANKFURT, DUBLIN MAKE BANKERS FEEL WANTED

### BATTLE FOR BREXIT JOBS RAGING

**LONDON/DUBLIN:** "I'm here to send you the regards of the Federal Chancellor. I am entitled to tell you we want you in Germany." This private message from Angela Merkel, delivered by a regional politician to Wall Street bankers last year, is having the desired effect.

Frankfurt, along with Dublin, is emerging on top in the battle to draw highly-paid banking jobs - and the tax revenue that they bring - away from London before Britain's departure from the European Union in March 2019. Germany has favored a subtle approach, with Chancellor Merkel saying little if anything in public on what is a sensitive issue at home. Instead she relied on Volker Bouffier, prime minister of the state of Hesse where Frankfurt is located, to take her invitation to New York in November, according to three sources familiar with the discussions.

Irish leaders have been less reticent, but both countries have sent the same welcoming message to US, Japanese and other foreign banks - despite the public unpopularity of bankers that still lingers after the global financial crisis. While Paris and Amsterdam are set to lure one or two major lenders, Germany and Ireland have so far secured the bulk of commitments from big-name banks.

Even then, the work of lobbyists is not over: they are pushing to host the huge business of clearing deals in euro-denominated securities, now dominated by the British capital.

Banks have been undertaking legal, financial and economic analysis in choosing new bases for their EU business if it can no longer be done from London. But they also need to know the political climate will be favorable. "Bankers want reassurance that the government wants them," one senior banking executive told Reuters. "Business does care about political sentiment towards them. There's a reason: if there are problems you know that government will use its powers to help you."

The largest global banks in London have indicated that about 9,600 jobs could go to the continent or Ireland in the next two years, though few have yet moved, according to public statements and information from industry sources.

In recent weeks Morgan Stanley, Citi and Bank of America as well as Japan's Nomura, Mizuho and Sumitomo Mitsui have announced decisions for new EU headquarters, all opting for Frankfurt or Dublin. These cities' success follows year-long campaigns, as government agencies and lobby groups staged a charm offensive with the banks unseen since the 2007-09 crisis.

#### Bailout memories

Merkel, who is seeking re-election next month, left city and Hesse officials to do the rounds in New York. That included the one-on-one meetings with senior executives on Wall Street when Bouffier passed on her message. German taxpayers had to fund a series of bank bailouts during the crisis, and the bad memories



An aerial view of the financial district of Frankfurt

remain due to Deutsche Bank. While Germany's biggest bank did not need rescuing, it has run up a litigation bill of 15 billion euros (\$17.5 billion) since 2009 due to extravagant market bets and misconduct. Local officials have had fewer inhibitions than the national politicians. The Frankfurt Main Finance lobby group went on more than 50 trips to foreign banks' home bases in the past year. "We've had indications that two thirds of the major banks' moves will be to Frankfurt," lead campaigner Hubertus Vaeth said.

Morgan Stanley, Citi and JPMorgan say Frankfurt will be their EU trading base after Brexit. However, Vaeth told Reuters: "The strategy was to be subtle. There was no glee or triumphalism." As a medium-sized provincial city, Frankfurt has also been proclaiming its cultural attractions. That involved taking Wall Street firms to the city's English-language theatre and Japanese bankers to see the Eintracht Frankfurt soccer team play. Ireland has adopted similar sporting tactics. When Dublin hosted an American Football game between Boston College and Georgia Tech last year, government ministers worked the room at a dinner of 500 executives from Boston and Atlanta, including State Street CEO Jay Hooley.

The Irish political welcome has been more evident. New Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, building on work by his predecessor Enda Kenny, has met several bank bosses and posted a picture on his website of him smiling with Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan. Politicians posing with bankers had been close to anathema since a collapse of the Irish financial system forced the country to take an international bailout in 2010, bringing austerity policies which hurt voters badly.

#### Expense and disruption

Extra banking jobs and tax revenue are vital for Ireland, a small economy that has relied for

decades on foreign investment. Having attracted all 10 of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies as well as technology firms such as Google, Facebook and Apple, Ireland moved pre-emptively to offset any economic damage inflicted when Britain - its second biggest export market - leaves the EU.

IDA Ireland, the state agency charged with winning foreign business, began meeting banks three months before Britons voted to leave the EU. When billboards went up around London after the referendum extolling Paris as a financial centre, IDA officials were already in boardrooms making their pitch for Dublin. "These investments are won through engagement at a senior level. We weren't trying to build relationships from scratch," IDA chief executive Martin Shanahan told Reuters.

Dublin has bagged the planned EU headquarters of Barclays and Bank of America. JPMorgan has bought a building in the city, and is expected to move more middle and back office jobs - such as risk management and deal processing - there. Banks, however, are holding off on moving large numbers of people yet, focusing on ensuring they have the right legal and operational framework to do business in the EU. "If Britain fails to negotiate a favourable exit deal, executives say. Citi for example has said the maximum number of jobs it may need to shift out of London is only around 150."

The worry for Dublin and Frankfurt is that banks could set up the EU legal entities for their trading businesses in the cities, leaving national regulators with the task of overseeing their massive balance sheets, but with the bulk of jobs staying in London or placed elsewhere in the EU. "Most banks are looking to minimize expense and disruption by relocating as little as possible in the first instance," said Matt Austen, UK head of financial services at Oliver Wyman. Supervisors are on guard for setups that are little more than fronts for staff still working in London. — Reuters

### INVESTMENT FOCUS

## EMERGING CLIMATE BONDS BOOM, BUT ARE THEY REALLY GREEN?

**LONDON:** Emerging economies are increasingly selling green bonds to Western investors hungry for environmentally-friendly investments, but there is a concern some of the new deals don't meet the standards required. Bonds from polluting countries are one example; investment in controversial hydro projects another. Green bonds are intended to finance environmental projects such as solar and wind farms. A record \$32.2 billion-worth of them were issued in the second quarter of 2017, according to Moody's. Issuance from emerging markets has jumped from \$2.3 billion to \$9.2 billion year-on-year, about half the total from developed markets, versus 16 percent a year ago.

South Africa's Cape Town, Argentina's La Rioja Province, Brazil's BNDES and the National Bank of Abu Dhabi have all tapped the market, while Malaysia's Tadau Energy sold the world's first green Islamic bond, or sukuk.

"The market is stretching the boundaries ... The push is there and I don't see this abating in the near term," said Rahul Sheth, executive director at Standard Chartered, said. China accounts for over two-thirds of total emerging market green issuance and a fifth of the global tally, even though it is classed as the world's biggest polluter by carbon emissions.

It issued \$23 billion of green bonds in 2016, up from just \$1 billion in 2015, according to the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI). China's green bond boom reflects an official push for cleaner energy, says Sherry Madera, the City of London's special adviser for Asia. Just 2 percent of Chinese local debt is "green" but this must rise tenfold for Beijing to meet its climate change objectives, she said.

At the other end, meanwhile, investor demand is growing. In Europe, Fitch identified 17 dedicated green bond funds whose assets have risen by 400 percent since 2015. This means issuers can tap investors who might not have bought a conventional bond from the same place, says Bertrand Gacon, head of impact at Lombard Odier. Investors get similar returns to ordinary bonds, but with an additional environmental benefit. "So for many institutions and private clients it's just a no-brainer to switch part of their allocation into green bonds," he said.

#### Greenwashing

But emerging green bond markets are still bedeviled by variations in standards and scepticism over how the proceeds will be used if there is no third-party verification. Lombard Odier's Global Climate Bond fund, for example, did not buy Poland's sovereign green bond, issued

last year, concerned about issuer responsibility and so-called greenwashing. This is where an issuer promotes green initiatives but operates in a way that damages the environment.

"To protect its coal industry, (Poland) has repeatedly vetoed climate policies and obstructed negotiations both at EU and international levels and is seen to be infringing EU law through its continued subsidies," said Stuart Kinnersley, chief executive of Affirmative Investment Management, which co-manages the fund with Lombard Odier.

The Polish bond was still oversubscribed, but this is not unusual for green bonds. The Polish Finance Ministry said in an emailed response that it had followed international principles and also sought outside opinion on the use of proceeds. The opinion was that the proceeds from the bond "will have clear positive environmental impacts," it said.

In China's case, meanwhile, only 10 percent of green bonds sold last year had independent verification on the use of proceeds. One issue is that Chinese green bond guidelines allow funding for "clean coal" power stations, which do not qualify under other market standards. Such disparities may stifle cross-border green capital flows; currently most buyers of Chinese green bonds are Asian.

"If EM issuers want to tap into (the Western sustainable) investor class then they have to think about what standards they are following and whether the European investor will be interested in projects whose green credentials are less clear-cut, such as clean coal," said Rahul Ghosh, a senior credit officer at Moody's. China has acknowledged the issue and the state-run Bank of China successfully raised \$500 million from a green bond issued in London last year. The deal was oversubscribed 1.8 times, attracting European investors. Another problem is that aside from the odd large deal such as Mexico City Airport's \$2 billion issue, average issuance size is around \$270-\$500 million. Investors say they need bonds of at least \$1 billion for meaningful exposure and to boost trading volume.

The World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) and asset manager Amundi are seeking to combat this through aggregation, creating a \$2 billion fund to stimulate emerging market bank issuance. "Banks can be an aggregator of small projects-some solar panels here, a wind farm there-all these little projects couldn't issue green bonds themselves as the critical mass wouldn't be achieved," said Frederic Samama, deputy global head of institutional and sovereign clients at Amundi. —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	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.350
Canadian Dollar	238.735
Sterling Pound	393.881
Euro	357.792
Swiss Frank	295.188
Bahrain Dinar	801.788
UAE Dirhams	82.699
Qatari Riyals	83.925
Saudi Riyals	81.517
Jordanian Dinar	427.010
Egyptian Pound	17.045
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.974
Indian Rupees	4.720
Pakistani Rupees	2.869
Bangladesh Taka	3.742
Philippines Peso	5.911
Cyprus pound	17.991
Japanese Yen	3.759
Syrian Pound	1.589
Nepalese Rupees	2.946
Malaysian Ringgit	71.323

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.779
Thai Bhat	10.082
Turkish Lira	86.247

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036817	0.039567
Indian Rupee	0.004160	0.004848
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002701	0.002881
Korean Won	0.000255	0.000270
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066809	0.072809
Nepalese Rupee	0.003020	0.003190
Pakistan Rupee	0.002669	0.002959
Philippine Peso	0.005802	0.006102
Singapore Dollar	0.216814	0.226814
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001597	0.002177
Taiwan	0.009967	0.010147
Thai Baht	0.008773	0.009323

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.383781	0.393781
Czech Korune	0.005652	0.017652
Danish Krone	0.043818	0.048818
Euro	0.351058	0.360058
Norwegian Krone	0.034227	0.039427
Romanian Leu	0.081622	0.081622
Slovakia	0.009020	0.019020
Swedish Krona	0.033277	0.038277
Swiss Franc	0.307603	0.318603
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.232241	0.244241
New Zealand Dollar	0.215517	0.225017
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.235542	0.244542
Georgina Lari	0.134821	0.134821
US Dollars	0.298600	0.303020
US Dollars Mint	0.299100	0.303020
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003260	0.003844
Chinese Yuan	0.043777	0.047277
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796242	0.804742
Egyptian Pound	0.015110	0.021018
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000189	0.000249
Jordanian Dinar	0.422330	0.431330
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000155	0.000255
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020826	0.044826
Omani Riyal	0.779814	0.785494
Qatar Riyal	0.078854	0.083794
Saudi Riyal	0.079633	0.080933
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.122158	0.130158
Turkish Lira	0.081232	0.091532
UAE Dirhams	0.080989	0.082689
Yemeni Riyal	0.000984	0.001064



# REAL ESTATE MARKET LIQUIDITY IMPROVES

## AL-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

**KUWAIT:** The latest data released by the Ministry of Justice -Real Estate Registration and Authentications Department- (after excluding the craft activity and the coastal strip) indicate an increase in the real estate market liquidity in July 2017 vis-a-vis June 2017 liquidity. The total value of contracts and agencies trading scored KD 190.2 million which is higher in value by 7 percent than its counterpart value in June 2017 which was worth KD 177.7 million. It also increased by 26.8 percent compared with July 2016 liquidity. Real Estate trading during this month distributed between KD 163.3 million in contracts and about KD 26.9 million in agencies. Deals scored 430 with 373 deals for contracts and 57 deals for agencies. The highest rate in real estate deals belonged to Mubarak Al-Kabir Governorate and Ahmadi Governorate by 116 deals for each, representing about 27 percent of the total number of real estate deals. Hawally Governorate came second by 58 deals representing about 13.5 percent. The lowest share went to Farwaniyah Governorate by 39 deals representing about 9.1 percent of the total.

The value of private residential activity scored KD 101.9 million, down by about 11.4 percent compared to KD 115 million in June 2017, representing 53.6 percent of total real estate trading vis-a-vis 64.7 percent in June 2017. The monthly average value for private residence trading in 12 months scored about KD 103.2 million. It means that this month trading value was lower by 1.3 percent than the average. The number of deals for this activity declined to 317 deals in this month versus 366 deals in June 2017. Therefore, the average value per deal of private residence activity scored about KD 321.3 thousand. The investment housing activity increased to about KD 72.8 million, up by 44 percent from KD 50.5 million in June 2017. The contribution to total liquidity increased to about 38.3 percent versus 28.4 percent in June 2017.

The monthly trading average value of investment housing during 12 months scored KD 62 million. It means that trading value in

July was higher by 17.5 percent than the 12 months average. Its deals

increased to 108 (75 deals in June 2017). Therefore, the per deal average value for investment housing scored KD 673.8 thousand. The commercial activity trading value also increased to about KD 13.7 million, up by 27 percent compared to KD 10.9 million in June 2017. Its percentage out of total real estate trading value increased to 7.2 percent compared with 6.1 percent in June 2017. Average value of commercial activity trading in 12 months scored about KD 38.1 million. It means that total trading in this month is lower by 63.9 percent compared with 12 months' average. It had four deals (similar number of deals in June 2017). As such, the average value per deal for the commercial activity scored about KD 3.4 million. There was only one deal in the warehousing activity for July 2017 with a value of KD 1.8 million. When we compare July 2017 trading with its counterpart period in July 2016, we note an increase in the real estate market liquidity from about KD 150 million to KD 190.2 million, i.e. 26.8 percent. The increase included the private residential activity by 51.9 percent, the investment housing activity by 163 percent. However, the commercial activity liquidity decreased by -32.4 percent.

When we compare total trading value since the beginning of the year until July 2017 with its July 2016 counterpart, we note a drop in total real estate market liquidity from KD 1.53 billion to KD 1.49 billion, 2.7 percent. If we assume continued market liquidity level at the same level, the market trading value will score KD 2.55 billion, which is KD 51.4 million higher than the total for last year because trading in the second half of last year was weak. This represents 2.1 percent rise above 2016 level which scored KD 2.5 billion.

### Annual CBK report 2016/2017

Generally, goals of monetary policies range between pre-containment of inflationary pressures to keep their risks away from economic competitiveness, by adoption of con-



tracting monetary policy, and stimulation of economic growth by adoption expansionist monetary policies. The latter has been prevailing since the global financial crisis in 2008 fall. Central banks are responsible for countries' monetary policies. In Kuwait, similar to most oil-export countries, central banks cannot help adopting defensive and preemptive monetary policies to limit the negative impact of uncontrolled financial policies. On May 20, 2007 Kuwait de-pegged its dinar exchange off the US dollar after it concluded that the GCC monetary unity will not materialize. This occurred in 2010. Therefore, the Central Bank of Kuwait gave some flexibility to influence the KD exchange rate movement and even perhaps the interest rates.

That flexibility proved its usefulness. The KD lost 9 percent before the US\$ since FY 2011/2012 and until last fiscal year. But, since its exchange rate drop began since FY 2014/2015, or since the oil price deterioration year. The importance of absorbing some impact of reduced revenues comes from indirect compensation of that reduction, i.e. the rise in the amount of conversion to KD from revenues most of which are in US dollar. Because it is small and gradual reduction, it does not leave great impact on peoples' real income. On the other hand, CBK tries to mitigate the impact of reduced KD exchange rate by preserving the interest rates margin in favor of KD against the US dollar in order to repatriate the KD. According to the CBK's annual report of 2016/2017, that margin increased slightly on short-term deposits for the past FY vis-a-vis the year before. The Central Bank's role in helping the banking sector bypass the repercussions of the global financial crisis is commendable. It acted early on the derivatives crisis of the Gulf Bank. It was also stringent with the allocations policy for the entire sector.

Despite complaints, some of which are excusable, the ultimate results provided very obvious protection to the sector under very difficult financial and geopolitical conditions. Costs of crises could have been quite bigger because few institutions remained beyond the sharp political influence. This means it is important to preserve the Central Bank's independence. Kuwait could have achieved better results had there been coordination and harmony between the financial and monetary policies. But history is decisive in confirming the dominance of the political dose in the course of the financial policy which we hope it will change due to the intolerable conditions.

### Financial Stability Report 2016

The Financial Stability Office at the Central Bank of Kuwait issued the Financial Stability Report for 2016 the week before last, the fifth of its type. It presents indexes and details which indicate progress in both quality and in transparency. Thanks to the bank and the concerned department. In this paragraph we shall present very briefly some of this information and indexes which reaffirm the soundness of the local banking sector's conditions in the covered period of the report. Some of its works are still developing and risks are limited. The report emphasizes that banks' assets growth in 2016 was slight at 1.85 percent (2.6 percent in 2015). Loans portfolio, the banks' main activity, grew by 2.9 percent as compared to 8.5 percent in 2015, from which the personal loans registered a growth of 5.8 percent and constituted about 60.2 percent from total assets.

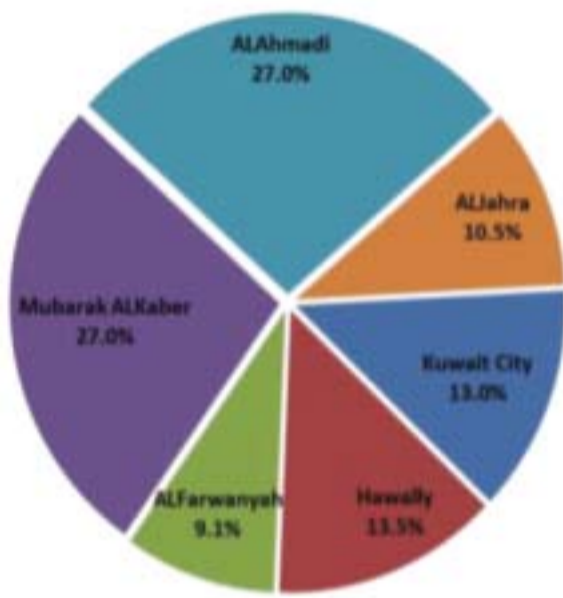
Slow growth in total assets was accompanied by their reduced value to guard against risks. Loans portfolio growth coincided with less defaulting percentage to 2.2 percent which is less than 3.8 percent for 2007 and down from 2.4 percent in 2015. Defaulting coverage scored 237 percent (205 percent in 2015) and 87 percent in 2007 before the world financial crisis. Although traditional and Islamic banks are equal -5 banks for each- traditional banks remained more dominant in owning assets and made 60.7 percent of total assets perhaps due to recent history of incorporating or converted banks to Islamic ones. Shares of traditional and Islamic banks from

irregular loans were almost equal, i.e. 59.4 percent for traditional banks or 59 percent contribution to loans portfolio. Deposits at Kuwaiti banks continued to grow and scored KD 50.4 billion in the end of 2016. These include ownership of deposits of branches or banks owned by local banks abroad. Local deposits formed 78.6 percent thereof, or KD 39.6 billion 63.6 percent of which were termed deposits. This high percentage represents a stability factor for the banks' lending activity. This reinforced status of liquid assets at banks which scored about KD 20.9 billion with basic liquidity forming about 80.1 percent thereof. The growth in assets level and loans portfolio were reflected on the rise in net aggregated profits for Kuwaiti banks' shareholders -traditional and Islamic banks and the Industrial Bank of Kuwait- to KD 745.8 million for the FY ending December 31, 2016 at 5.8 percent growth rate above 2015 level. 62.6 percent of those profits belonged to traditional banks.

### Weekly performance of Boursa Kuwait

The performance of Boursa Kuwait for last week was more active compared to the previous one, where all indexes showed an increase, the traded value index, the traded volume index, number of transactions index, and general index, AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 410.5 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing an increase of about 8.3 points or about 2.1 percent compared with its level last week and it increased by 47.5 points or about 13.1 percent compared with the end of 2016.

### Deals Distribution on the Governorates of Kuwait



	2016/2017 (Thousand KD)	2016/2016 (Thousand KD)	Change Value	%	
Total Assets	1,762,280	1,802,280	(39,999)	-4.8%	↓
Total Liabilities	1,341,380	1,372,624	(31,244)	-4.5%	↓
Equity attributable to the equity holders of the bank	398,896	379,656	19,240	4.2%	↑
Total Operating Revenues	36,317	35,401	916	2.2%	↑
Total Operating Expenses	17,884	16,887	997	6.0%	↑
Provision	11,036	10,888	148	1.4%	↑
Taxation	3,227	3,039	187	6.0%	↑
Net Income	26,499	25,786	713	2.8%	↑
Ratio					
**Return on Average Assets (ROA)	1.5%	1.3%			↑
**Return on Average Equity referred to the bank shareholder (ROE)	17.7%	14.7%			↑
**Return on Average Capital (ROC)	29.4%	31.2%			↓
Earnings per share (EPS) - (F)	14.7	15.2	(0.5)	-3.3%	↓
Closing Price - (F)	410	395	15	3.8%	↑
*Price to Earnings Per Share Multiplier (PE) *Price to Book Value Multiplier (PB)	17.9 1.7	17.8 1.8			

## EUROZONE YIELDS DIP ON ECB AND FED CAUTION

**LONDON:** Eurozone government bond yields fell across the board after published remarks from policymakers in both Europe and the United States suggested they were cautious about withdrawing monetary stimulus too quickly.

European Central Bank policymakers worried about a possible overshoot in the euro when they met on July 20, minutes of the meeting showed on Thursday. They warned that easy financing conditions "could not be taken for granted" and depended on the ECB's easy policy.

The euro dropped to a three-week low of \$1.1662, and eurozone bond yields dipped 1-2 basis points across the board.

Portugal — which has been a major beneficiary of ECB stimulus — saw its 10-year borrowing costs drop to their lowest level in more than a year, down 6.5 bps to 2.76 percent. "We have seen the periphery outperform today on this cautious note from policymakers," said Mizuho strategist Peter Chatwell.

Yields were already under downward pressure when details of the U.S. Fed July meeting, released late on Wednesday, showed concerns that soft inflation data

may cool the pace of monetary tightening in the world's largest economy. The Fed has raised its benchmark overnight lending rate twice this year and forecasts one more rise before the end of 2017. But money market pricing suggests investors see less than a 50 percent chance of a hike by December.

"Fed communications are cementing expectations of a very gradual approach to monetary tightening," Chatwell said.

Central bankers are set to meet next week in an annual gathering of policymakers at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, though Reuters reported on Wednesday that ECB head Mario Draghi will not deliver a new policy message at the conference.

Signs of central bank caution came as President Donald Trump dissolved two business advisory groups, sowing further doubts over his ability to deliver growth-boosting spending plans he promised when elected. US 10-year yields, which had climbed to one-week peaks earlier on Wednesday, edged lower on Thursday to 2.22 percent having fallen 4 bps the day before after the publication of the Fed minutes. — Reuters

## DOLLAR FALLS ON UNCERTAINTY BUT ENDS WEEK WITH MODEST GAIN

**NEW YORK:** The dollar fell against a basket of major currencies on Friday as continued uncertainty over the economic agenda of US President Donald Trump pushed investors out of the greenback.

The dollar dropped to a four-month low against the yen in early trading but retraced some of its losses after rumors began to swirl about the impending firing of White House senior adviser Steve Bannon. The White House confirmed Bannon's exit in a statement Friday afternoon.

As Trump's chief strategist, Bannon has been seen as representing a right-wing political faction that critics have said encourages white supremacists like those involved in the deadly rioting last weekend in Charlottesville, Virginia. Bannon has been also seen by some market participants as an opposing force to Trump's chief economic adviser, Gary Cohn, and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

The dollar dropped nearly 1 percent against the yen, falling to 108.58 yen, its

lowest since late April. It was last down 0.25 percent at 109.31 yen. "A lot of this was just carryover from the problems in the last few days out of Washington and the markets getting a bit dejected with the idea that Trump's going to get any legislative initiatives done this summer or even this autumn," said Thierry Albert Wizman, global interest rates and currencies strategist at Macquarie Limited. "Especially given the public backlash against the administration in the last few days."

As a candidate, Trump promised wide-ranging tax reform and fiscal stimulus measures that traders bet would kick start the economy and inflation. The dollar bounced back but failed to move higher against the yen or the euro and surrendered gains late in the day against the British pound. "(Today) is kind of a microcosm of what we've seen all week," said John Doyle, director of markets at Tempus Inc. "We've seen volatility but it's been short-term." —Reuters

## US LABOR MARKET TIGHTENING; AUTOS WEIGH ON PRODUCTION

**WASHINGTON:** The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits fell to near a six-month low last week, pointing to a further tightening in the labor market that could encourage the Federal Reserve to lay out a plan to start unwinding its massive bond portfolio.

A weakening automobile sector is, however, adding a wrinkle to an otherwise brightening economic picture. Other data showed manufacturing output fell in July as motor vehicle production tumbled. Auto manufacturers are cutting back production amid weak sales that have created an inventory glut.

"Today's data were constructive towards our expectation of another robust rise in real GDP growth in the third quarter and further labor market improvement," said Dana Peterson, an economist at Citigroup in New York. "The readings support our conjecture that low inflation notwithstanding, the conditions for the Fed to announce balance sheet unwind are ripe."

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 232,000 for the week ended Aug. 12, the Labor Department said. That was the lowest level since the week ended Feb. 25 when claims fell to 227,000, which was the best reading since March 1973. Claims have now been below 300,000, a threshold associated with a robust labor market, for 128 weeks. That is the longest such stretch since 1970, when the labor market was smaller. The unemployment rate is 4.3 percent. The four-week moving average of claims, considered a better measure of labor market trends as it irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 500 to 240,500 last week.

Labor market strength was corroborated by a survey from the Philadelphia Fed showing manufacturers in the mid-Atlantic region sharply increased hours for workers in August amid a jump in new orders and unfilled orders. Job market buoyancy is probably sufficient for the Fed to outline a proposal to begin offloading its \$4.2 trillion portfolio of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities at its next policy meeting in September.

Concerns about persistently low inflation could, however, prompt the US central bank to delay increasing interest rates until December. Minutes of the Fed's July 25-26 policy meeting published on Wednesday showed policymakers appeared increasingly cautious about weak inflation, with some urging against further rate hikes. The Fed has increased borrowing costs twice this year. The dollar was steady against a



In this May 30, 2013, file photo, job seekers line up to talk to recruiters during a job fair held in Atlanta. The Labor Department reported on the number of people who applied for unemployment benefits a week earlier. —AP

basket of currencies in midday trading, while prices of US Treasuries rose marginally. US stocks fell as investors worried about President Donald Trump's ability to pursue his pro-growth economic policies.

Trump on Wednesday disbanded two high-profile business advisory councils after a number of chief executives quit in protest over his remarks blaming violence in Virginia last weekend on anti-racism activists as well as white nationalists.

### Labor market strength

Last week's claims data covered the survey week for the August nonfarm payrolls. The four-week average of claims fell 3,500 between the July and August survey periods, suggesting another month of solid job growth. Payrolls increased by 209,000 jobs in July. The economy has added 1.29 million jobs this year and the unemployment rate has fallen five-tenths of a percentage point.

In a second report on Thursday, the Fed said manufacturing output edged down 0.1 percent in July as the production of motor vehicles and parts tumbled 3.6 percent. Manufacturing output increased 0.2 percent in June. The drop in motor vehicle production, the third straight

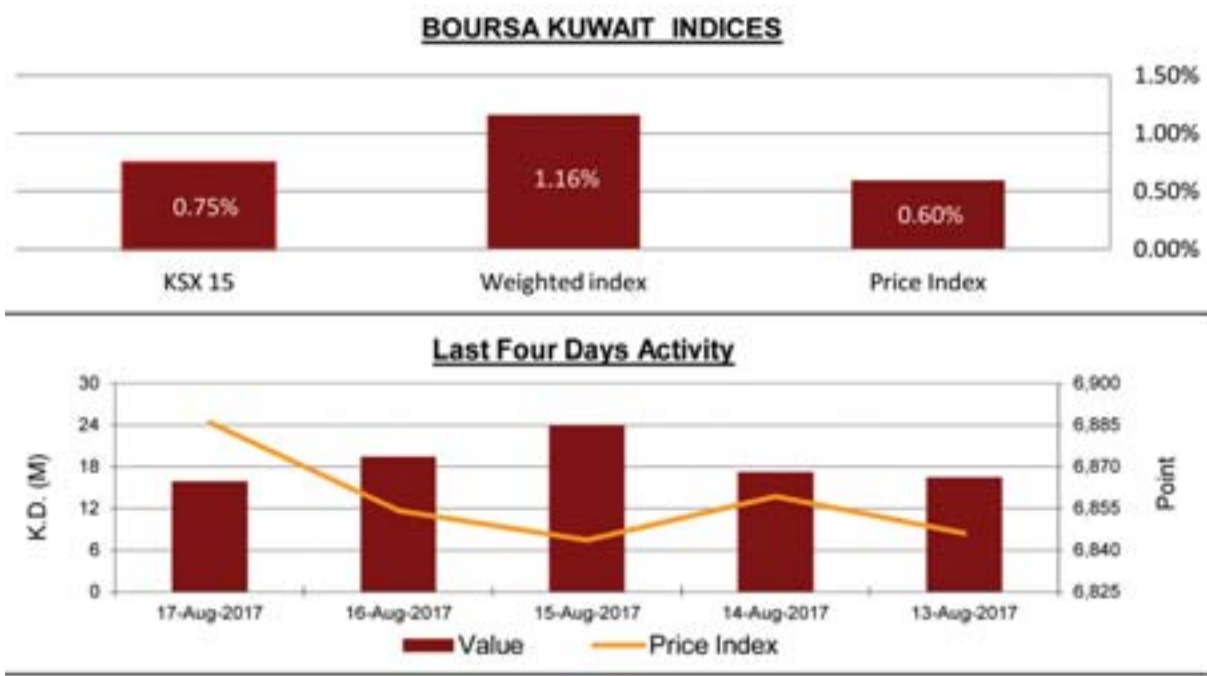
monthly decline, came after a sharp slowdown in sales. US auto sales peaked in December 2016 at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of just over 18 million vehicles, according to data from WardsAuto. The annual sales rate had slumped to around 16.7 million vehicles as of July.

Excluding motor vehicles, manufacturing output increased 0.2 percent in July. The sector accounts for 12 percent of the US economy. "The manufacturing rebound continues to blossom, but the motor vehicle sector is not going to share in the gains until the middle of 2018," said Michael Montgomery, an economist at IHS Markit in Lexington, Massachusetts.

The outlook for manufacturing is encouraging. While a third report from the Philadelphia Fed showed its index of factory activity in the mid-Atlantic region slipped to 18.9 this month from 19.5 in July, manufacturers reported robust demand for their products.

The survey's measure of new orders surged to 20.4 from 2.1 in July. Firms also reported that shipments continued to rise. As a result, workers put in more hours. The average workweek index increased to 18.8 in August from 3.8 in the prior month. A survey this week from the New York Fed also painted an upbeat picture of manufacturing conditions in New York state. — Reuters





# BOURSA KUWAIT RALLIES ON POSITIVE SENTIMENT

## BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 6,885.84 points, up by 0.60 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 1.16 percent after closing at 424.83 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 967.76 points up by 0.75 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 36.47 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 18.58 million, whereas trading volume average was 84.99 million shares, recording an increase of 20.23 percent.

The Boursa was able to end last week's trading with good gains to its three indices, benefiting from the purchasing power and the collection operations executed on many stocks being traded over during the week, especially the leading and heavy stocks that disclosed positive results for the second quarter period of the current year. Such performance came amid a relatively increased trading activity in the market, especially the cash liquidity, which reached its highest levels in the month during one daily sessions of the last week; and despite the increases realized by the market indices during the last week, the profit collection operations were not absent from affecting its performance during some sessions, where such operations push back some stocks, and limited the others' gains, however, it was not enough to push the Boursa indices to the red zone on the weekly level.

Also, the Boursa gained around KD 620 million in the last five sessions, whereas the total value of the listed companies in the Boursa (primary market) reached by the end of last week to KD 28.37 billion, against KD 27.75 billion at the end of the previous week, and up by 2.23 percent. On an annual level, the market cap gains reached 11.66 percent compared to its value at end of 2016, where it reached then KD 25.41 billion (Note: the market cap for the listed companies in the primary market is calculated using the average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available financial statements). As per the daily trading activity, Sunday session witnessed an increase to the three indices, especially the Weighted and KSX-15 indices, that benefited from the active trading and the random purchas-

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	7,187,051	1.69%	328,570	0.35%
BASIC MATERIALS	2,267,462	0.53%	922,190	0.99%
INDUSTRIALS	21,141,800	4.98%	7,291,465	7.85%
CONSUMER GOODS	4,440,372	1.04%	1,987,240	2.14%
HEALTH CARE	0	0.00%	0	0.0000%
CONSUMER SERVICES	7,790,986	1.83%	1,050,417	1.13%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	51,872,719	12.21%	23,050,524	24.82%
BANKS	94,148,332	22.16%	37,497,839	40.37%
INSURANCE	1,313,147	0.31%	337,166	0.36%
REAL ESTATE	70,466,085	16.58%	6,484,202	6.98%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	164,043,540	38.60%	13,902,692	14.97%
TECHNOLOGY	272,701	0.06%	34,711	0.04%

ing operations that included some leading stocks, while the Price Index realized a limited increase due to the speculative operations that concentrated on some small-cap stocks being traded below 100 Fils. Moreover, the Boursa Kuwait Indices continued recording growth in the second session, supported by the strong collection action that included some leading stocks, especially the stock of (Zain) company, which lead the market to the green zone after the agreement of selling treasury shares to (Omantel) company, in addition to the quick speculative operations that the small-cap stocks were subject to. On the mid-week session, the

market made a stop at the profit collection station, which pushed the three indices to record mixed losses and end the session in the red zone, and came after the good performance witnessed by the Boursa in the previous sessions and the increase of many stocks. Such losses came despite the noticeable growth in the trading activity during the session, especially the cash liquidity, which increased by 38.67 percent to reach KD 23.78 million, its highest level during the month of August.

Wednesday's session witnessed mixed closings for the three indices, as the Price Index succeeded in returning to the green zone once

again, supported by the speculative trading that included some small-cap stocks, while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices continued its decline, affected by the continued profit collection operations on the leading stocks. On Thursday's session, the market indices continued its fluctuation, however with changing positions, as the Weighted and KSX-15 were able to end the last session of the week in the green zone, supported by the random purchasing operations that concentrated on a number of small and mid-cap stocks, while KSX-15 Index declined as a result to the profit collection operations executed on the leading stocks, the components of the

Index. For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 19.79 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 11.77 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 9.35 percent growth.

### Sectors' Indices

Seven of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the green zone, four recorded declines, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change from the week before. Last week's highest gainer was the Insurance sector, achieving 5.15 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,124.67 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Telecommunications sector's index closed at 616.76 points recording 1.94 percent increase. The Financial Services sector came in third as its index achieved 1.14 percent growth, ending the week at 698.28 points.

On the other hand, The Technology sector headed the losers list as its index declined 4.51 percent to end the week's activity at 624.70 points. The Oil & Gas sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 3.23 percent, closing 1,029.26 points, followed by the Consumer Goods sector, as its index closed at 1,008.55 points at a loss of 1.46 percent.

### Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 164.04 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 38.60 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 22.16 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 94.15 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 37.50 million or 40.37 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Telecommunications sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 23.05 million representing 24.82 percent of the total market trading value.

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

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	6,885.84	424.83	967.76
	Previous week	6,845.01	419.95	960.57
	Change (Point)	40.83	4.88	7.19
	Change (%)	0.60%	1.16%	0.75%
Annual	Last year	5,748.09	380.09	885.02
	Change (Point)	1,137.75	44.74	82.74
	Change (%)	19.79%	11.77%	9.35%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	1,029.26	1,063.60	-3.23%	31.84%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,257.56	1,265.99	-0.67%	25.15%
INDUSTRIALS	1,907.36	1,904.72	0.14%	41.91%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,008.55	1,023.47	-1.46%	-10.36%
HEALTH CARE	1,683.91	1,683.91	0.00%	35.31%
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,057.45	1,048.83	0.82%	14.37%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	616.76	605.01	1.94%	-3.05%
BANKS	951.78	950.68	0.12%	13.68%
INSURANCE	1,124.67	1,069.55	5.15%	13.11%
REAL ESTATE	961.43	951.14	1.08%	10.49%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	698.28	690.40	1.14%	16.96%
TECHNOLOGY	624.70	654.21	-4.51%	2.89%

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	424,944,195	353,456,610	20.23%
Value (K.D)	92,887,016	68,064,639	36.47%
Deals	17,781	14,878	19.51%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
28,368,826,308	27,749,437,334	2.23%	11.66%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
CABLETV	34.90	26.50	8.4	31.70%
MARKAZ	109.00	90.00	19.0	21.11%
GINS	790.00	660.00	130.0	19.70%
NOOR	62.50	53.80	8.7	16.17%
FUTUREKID	123.00	106.00	17.0	16.04%

# A MIDDAY RALLY EVAPORATES AS SPORTING GOODS PLUNGE

**NEW YORK:** US stocks slumped in the final minutes of trading Friday and ended a rough week with more losses. Bad news from sporting goods retailers weighed on the market.

A day before, stocks had taken their biggest loss in three months. They opened lower after retailers Foot Locker and Hibbett Sports gave dour quarterly reports. The losses eased and stocks briefly turned higher following reports that President Donald Trump's chief strategist, Steve Bannon, left his White House post. Investors felt that makes it a bit more likely the administration can achieve at least some of its pro-business agenda.

Major stock indexes are at their lowest levels since early July as investors respond to tensions between the US and North Korea, two terrorist in Spain on Thursday, and mounting challenges to the Trump agenda of tax cuts, infrastructure spending and reduced regulation. But the market hasn't had a severe reaction to all that news. The Standard &

Poor's 500 index is only 2.2 percent below the record high it set earlier this month. "There is a tremendous amount of optimism that is supporting the market even in the face of extraordinary stress," said Brad McMillan, chief investment officer at Commonwealth Financial Network. "The question is, will politics pull that down? And the answer seems to be no, because the market has learned not to pay that much attention."

The S&P 500 lost 4.46 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,425.55. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 76.22 points, or 0.3 percent, to 21,674.51. The Nasdaq composite shed 5.39 points, or 0.1 percent, to 6,216.53. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 1.15 point, or 0.1 percent, to 1,357.79. The index has fallen 6 percent since July 25. Athletic gear retailer Foot Locker plunged to its biggest loss in almost nine years. The company said some high-priced sneakers didn't sell as well as it hoped, and there aren't a lot of exciting new

## WALL STREET WEEKLY ROUNDUP



**NEW YORK:** An historic marker on Wall Street in New York. US stocks continued to skid on Friday as industrial companies fell after a weak report from farm equipment giant Deere. —AP

shoes on the market. It doesn't expect that problem to clear up soon and it now plans to close at least 135 stores,

up from 100. The stock dropped \$13.32, or 27.9 percent, to \$34.38 in heavy trading.

Hibbett Sports cut its annual forecasts and its stock fell 60 cents, or 5.2 percent, to \$10.90. It's down 71 percent this year, and Foot Locker has fallen 52 percent. Companies that make athletic goods also lost ground, and Nike sank \$2.51, or 4.4 percent, to \$54.95. Real estate companies that own shopping malls and other retail locations also fell. Simon Property Group, which declined \$3.62, or 2.3 percent, to \$153.58.

Deere tumbled after its sales in the fiscal third quarter came in lower than investors hoped. The company's profit got a large boost after the company sold some of its stake in SiteOne Landscape Supply, and analysts said they were disappointed with the company's equipment sales. The stock dropped \$6.67, or 5.4 percent, to \$117.31.

Energy companies rose as benchmark US crude oil jumped \$1.42, or 3 percent, to \$48.51 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, added \$1.69, or 3.3 percent,

to \$52.72 a barrel in London. Beauty products company Estee Lauder jumped after its fiscal fourth-quarter results surpassed Wall Street's expectations. The company also gave strong forecasts for the current fiscal year. Its stock gained \$7.60, or 7.7 percent, to \$105.92. Competitor Ulta Beauty picked up \$2.77, or 1.1 percent, to \$244.20. Concerns about the prospects for Trump's pro-business agenda, including tax cuts and infrastructure spending, weighed on the market this week as the president and the administration were criticized for their response to last weekend's violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"When you see Congressmen and Senators, including people who've been close with President Trump, backing away, that means Congress is going to have a tougher road," said McMillan. Stock indexes in Europe fell further as violence in Spain continued. On Thursday, a van plowed into pedestrians in Barcelona and killed 13 people. — AP



## WARBA BANK LAUNCHES 'WARBA ONLINE FOR SMARTPHONES'

**KUWAIT:** In line with its strategy to enhance its digital infrastructure and associated services, Warba Bank, the best Corporate and Investment bank in Kuwait, has launched the latest marketing campaign related to Warba Online service for smartphones, giving the Bank's customers the opportunity of entering a monthly draw and winning a cash amount of KD 500.

Earlier this year, the Bank enhanced its smartphone application, making it easier and user-friendly, to serve as one of the key channels for customers to complete their transactions so easily. This comes in line with the global trend towards using electronic services over the Web to cope with the spirit of the era and the digital progress at the banking sector globally that has become customers urgent demand to save time and effort.



The campaign will run for four months from August to November 2017. An electronic draw will be held at the end of each month in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry whereby a

winner of KD 500 will be captured. Customers will only register and use the Bank's smartphone application to perform their banking transactions then they get the chance to win every time they use Warba's application. The enhanced application has the strictest security standards in the field of technology, providing protection to users so they remain safe while using the application.

The Bank's smart phone application offers an integrated system of information and services that responds to all customers' enquiries and helps them perform their banking transactions quickly and smoothly. The application includes full explanation of the Bank's services and products, Warba Bank Rewards programme, a map of the Bank's branches and ATMs, along with a bunch of useful features for customers

such as the personal financing calculator, currency conversion, prayer times and links to the social media pages of the Bank.

All Warba Bank's services witness rapid digitization. Warba Bank has recently launched its smartphone WhatsApp service to enable customers to communicate directly with the Bank's customer service.

Therefore, the Bank would like to invite customers to use its application via smart phones in iOS or Android systems to make the most of this campaign and to get the opportunity to win attractive cash prizes. Moreover, Warba Bank promises its customers that it will continue to provide and design more marketing campaigns for their benefit and meet all their aspirations and desires. This will positively impact the Bank's leading position in the Islamic banking sector.



## BURGAN BANK OFFERS FREE EIDEYA DELIVERY SERVICE TO PREMIER BANKING CUSTOMERS

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday the free Eideya Delivery service to Premier Banking Customers in collaboration with "Qiblah" company for concierge services. This service enables Premier Banking customers to receive new bank notes before the Eid holidays at their offices or homes, avoiding the hassle of waiting in the branches at that time of the year.

To request this service, Premier customers can simply contact Qiblah concierge services starting 9 am until 6 pm, emailing [Burganpremier@qiblah.com.kw](mailto:Burganpremier@qiblah.com.kw) to request the amount of Eid money required and state their address in order for the concierge messenger to deliver it accordingly noting that this service is available from today till 29th August 2017.

It is worth mentioning that the Eideya delivery service comes as part of the bank's wide range of valuable privileges and benefits that is especially designated for its Premier customers.

Additionally, the bank's collaboration with "Qiblah" for concierge services stems from its commitment of supporting its customers' everyday requirements with unmatched personalized experience. Burgan Bank's premier customers can avail instant concierge services from a selected list of more than 20 services such as travel

bookings, airport transfers, visa assistance, party planning, valet parkers and others. The free concierge services has been introduced as part of the bank's wide range of valuable privileges and benefits that is especially designated for its Premier customers.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.



In this June 19, 2017 photo, cashiers stand at checkout counters waiting to serve customers at the Potonggang department store in Pyongyang, North Korea. Three generations into Kim Jong Un's ruling dynasty, markets have blossomed and a consumer culture is taking root. — AP

## AL-MAZAYA HOLDING LAUNCHES SUMMER MARKETING CAMPAIGN

### MAZAYA RESIDENCE AVAILABLE AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

**MUSCAT CITY:** Al-Mazaya Holding launched a new promotional campaign on August 15 offering mouthwatering and discounted summer prices for Omani and GCC nationals seeking home ownership and investment at Al-Mazaya Residence, the company's maiden development in Muscat, Oman.

The promotion reveals a set of attractive offers that cater to the needs of different segments of clients, both end-users and investors, including a six-month rental warranty, along with 8 per cent lease returns or equivalent discounts of the total value of the apartment.

A marketing platform has been set up during the campaign at Muscat City Centre in Al-Seeb area, which will remain open until August 28 in addition to the permanent sales centre at the project site.

Commenting on the promotion, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, Executive Director of Marketing and Sales Department at Al-Mazaya Holding, said, "The new campaign comes in continuation of the promotions launched since the start of the project to publicize the ownership advantages provided by the project for Omani and Gulf citizens. Through this project, we offer a distinguished real estate product that meets the needs of Omani citizens and also match their lifestyle. Until now 35 per cent of the project's first 148-unit phase has been sold."

"Mazaya Residence fulfills market needs and



Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah

enables different segments of society to own residential units at affordable and competitive prices, besides being a promising real investment opportunity thanks to its prime location in one of Muscat's most vibrant areas near major shopping malls. In addition, the project

provides top-quality residential products in terms of modern style and elegant finishing and premium building material."

He informed that 25 per cent of the construction work has been completed, including the project foundation and spacious underground car park that sprawls beneath the residential building's total space of 6,614 square metres, adding that the upper part and external structure construction works have been initiated, with full completion scheduled for 2018.

Mazaya Residence includes 120 apartments of different spaces ranging between one, two & three-bedroom apartments and 28 shops in addition to integrated services and utilities, including swimming pools, tennis courts, kids play areas, and fitness clubs for both genders, which altogether ensure an integrated community and hospitable environment.

Concluding, Al-Sabah corroborated the feasibility of real estate investment on the Omani market, noting that "The Omani property market is considered among the major and most active markets in the GCC region thanks to its high demand for homes as a direct result of the Sultanate's population growth, specially in the capital Muscat in addition to the factors of stability and security enjoyed by the country - advantages which have made the nation a favorite destination for investors coming from different countries."

## GULF BANK WELCOMES FAHAD AWWAD GHADEER AL-RAHILI

### WINNER OF KD 25,000 KUWAITI SALARY ACCOUNT DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank is pleased to announce Fahad Awwad Ghadeer Al-Rahili, the lucky winner of its KD 25,000 Salary second quarterly draw. Al-Rahili was welcomed at the bank's head office by senior management, on Thursday, 17 August 2017, where he received his cash prize.

Gulf Bank's Salary Account second quarterly draw was held live on 88.8 FM 'Rabaa Al-Diwaniya', adding to the excitement of the draw, on Monday, 7 August 2017, in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Commenting on his win, Al-Rahili stated, "I would like to thank Gulf Bank for presenting me with the Kuwaiti Salary Account prize."

Gulf Bank's Kuwaiti salary account is tailored for Kuwaiti customers, and allows them to benefit from a number of unique offers by transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank. The Kuwaiti salary account offer gives new customers the opportunity to either receive a KD100 cash gift upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank or an interest free loan. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and are fully eligible for the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank.

Existing and new customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf



Fahad Al-Rahili, KD 25,000 Kuwaiti Salary Draw winner, with Gulf Bank representatives Susana Al-Barrak and Mohammed Al-Otaibi.

Bank are automatically enrolled in the quarterly draws and have the chance to win valuable cash prizes, including three quarterly prizes of KD 25,000, in addition to Kuwait's largest salary prize of KD 250,000 in

the last draw. Customers can also enjoy a one year free of charge Visa or MasterCard credit card, as well as a chance to apply for loan up to KD 70,000, or a consumer loan up to KD 15,000.

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

## THE REAL REVOLUTION IN N KOREA IS RISE OF CONSUMER CULTURE

**PYONGYANG:** Like all North Korean adults, Song Un Pyol wears the faces of leader Kim Jong Un's father and grandfather pinned neatly to her left lapel, above her heart. But on her right glitters a diamond-and-gold brooch. Song, who manages a state-run supermarket with freezers stocked full of pork and beef and rows of dairy, bakery and canned goods, is part of a paradigm shift within North Korea. Three generations into the Kim family's ruling dynasty, markets have blossomed and a consumer culture is taking root. From 120 varieties of "May Day Stadium" brand ice cream to the widespread use of plastic to pay the bills, it's a change visibly and irreversibly transforming her nation.

While Kim has in recent weeks gained attention for his threat to fire missiles near

Guam, his trademark two-track policy focuses on the development of both nuclear weapons and the economy. But like nuclear weapons, a more consumer-friendly economy is a risky business.

Facing even more international sanctions and a flood of Chinese imports that has generated a huge trade imbalance, the North Korean economy may be in a bubble that could soon burst. Prices for gasoline imports have soared more than 200 percent in less than six months, the AP has found. The wealth brought by new markets could also come with political instability.

#### Parallel development

Kim Jong Un's slogan of "Parallel Development" - guns and butter, so to speak - reflects an inescapable reality of his

era. In the 1990s, reeling from floods, famine and the collapse of the Soviet Union, North Korea could no longer afford to provide its citizens with basic needs. North Koreans turned to grassroots barter and trade, which has swollen into today's market economy.

Life in rural North Korea is still marked by far more hardship and scarcity than in its urban areas. Yet there is, surprisingly, a bustling, almost booming, feeling in much of the country.

North Korean factories are putting a new priority on making more and better daily-life products. Managers, meanwhile, have more freedom to decide what to make, how much to pay workers and how to forge profitable partnerships. Along the roads into virtually every city, street ven-

dors, usually weather-beaten old women, sell fruits, vegetables and other food. In specialty shops, the latest "Pyongyang" model smartphones go for \$200, with apps like the popular "Boy General" role-playing game at \$2 a pop. Pyongyang's premier brewery, Taedonggang, just added an eighth kind of beer to its product line.

Despite the ever-tightening sanctions, foreign products are still available. A can of Pokka coffee from Japan costs about 80 cents. Purchasing a Mercedes-Benz Viano might require some connections, but is doable - for a \$63,000 sticker price.

#### Taboo

Some blatant manifestations of commercialism remain taboo. There are only three billboards in Pyongyang, a city of

about 3 million, and no advertisements on television or in the newspapers. But stores are under instructions to be more consumer-friendly.

"At first, we opened the store from 10 in the morning to 6 in the evening," said Song. "But in 2015, our dear respected Marshal Kim Jong Un made sure that we serve from 10 in the morning to 8 in the evening so one can use late night at any given time, as many working people often used the shop during the evening after work." Stores commonly offer buy-two-get-one-free type sales. Posters for new medicines or sports drinks can be seen inside shops, and customers can sign up for "loyalty cards" to earn discounts.

"In today's North Korea there is a growing competition between the domestic

companies themselves as they try to attract customers and establish reputable brands," said Michael Spavor, a Canadian entrepreneur and the director of Paektu Cultural Exchange who is one of the only Westerners to have ever met Kim Jong Un. Spavor calls it a "brilliant strategy."

The emphasis on locally produced consumer goods is partially an attempt to counter China's gravitational pull. China accounts for nearly all of North Korea's trade and fuel. The North did \$2 billion in business with China in the first five months of this year alone. Cutting off trade with China would be catastrophic for Pyongyang. But North Korean leaders, including Kim Jong Un himself, have also shown concern over what might happen if trade continues, or grows even larger. —AP



## AI REVOLUTION IS ALL ABOUT HUMANS, SAYS SIRI TRAILBLAZER

From the contents of your fridge to room temperature-digital assistants ensure your home runs smoothly. Your screens know your taste and show channels you want to see as you enter the room. Your car is driverless and your favorite barman may just be an android.

Predictions for an AI-dominated future are increasingly common, but Antoine Blondeau has experience in reading, and arguably manipulating, the runes-he helped develop technology that evolved into predictive texting and Apple's Siri.

"In 30 years the world will be very different," he says, adding: "Things will be designed to meet your individual needs." Work, as we know it, will be redundant, he says-visual and sensory advances in robotics will see smart factories make real time decisions requiring only human oversight rather than workers, while professions such as law, journalism, accounting and retail will be streamlined with AI doing the grunt work.

Healthcare is set for a revolution, with individuals holding all the data about their general health and AI able to diagnose ailments, he explains.

Blondeau says: "If you have a doctor's appointment, it will be perhaps for the comfort of talking things through with a human, or perhaps because regulation will dictate a human needs to dispense medicine. But you won't necessarily need the doctor to tell you what is wrong."

The groundwork has been done: Amazon's Alexa and Google Home are essentially digital butlers that can respond to commands as varied as ordering pizza to managing appliances, while Samsung is working on a range of 'smart' fridges, capable of giving daily news briefings, ordering groceries, or messaging your family at your request.

Leading media companies are already using 'AI journalists' to produce simple economics and sports stories from data and templates created by their human counterparts.

Blondeau's firm Sentient Technologies has already successfully used AI traders in the financial markets.

In partnership with US retailer Shoes.com, it created an interactive 'smart shopper', which uses an algorithm that picks up information from gauging not just what you like, but what you don't, offering suggestions in the way a real retail assistant would.

In healthcare, the firm worked with America's MIT to invent an AI nurse able to assess patterns in blood pressure data from thousands of patients to correctly identify those developing sepsis-a catastrophic immune reaction — 30 minutes before the outward onset of the condition more than 90 percent of the time in trials.

"It's a critical window that doctors say gives them the extra time to save lives," Blondeau says,

but concedes that bringing such concepts to the masses is difficult.

"The challenge is to pass to market because of regulations but also because people have an intrinsic belief you can trust a doctor, but will they trust a machine?" he adds.

Law, he says, is the next industry ripe for change. In June, he became chairman of Hong Kong's Dragon Law. The dynamic start-up is credited with helping overhaul the legal industry by making it more accessible and affordable.

For many the idea of mass AI-caused redundancy is terrifying, but Blondeau is pragmatic: humans simply need to rethink careers and education.

"The era where you exit the education system at 16, 21, or 24 and that is it, is broadly gone," he explains. "People will have to retrain and change skillsets as the technology evolves."

Blondeau disagrees that having a world so catered to your whims and wants might lead to a myopic life, a magnified version of the current social media echo chamber, arguing that it is possible to inject 'serendipity' into the technology, to throw up surprises.

While computers have surpassed humans at specific tasks and games such as chess or Go, predictions of a time when they develop artificial general intelligence (AGI) enabling them to perform any intellectual task an adult can range from as

early as 2030 to the end of the century.

Blondeau, who was chief executive at tech firm Dejima when it worked on CALO-one of the biggest AI projects in US history-and developed a precursor to Siri, is more circumspect.

"We will get to some kind of AGI, but its not a given that we will create something that could match our intuition," muses Blondeau, who was also a chief operating officer at Zi Corporation, a leader in predictive text.

"AI might make a better trader, maybe a better customer operative, but will it make a better husband? That machine will need to look at a lot of cases to develop its own intuition. That will take a long time," he says. The prospect of AI surpassing human capabilities has divided leaders in science and technology. Microsoft's Bill Gates, British physicist Stephen Hawking and maverick entrepreneur Elon Musk have all sounded the alarm warning unchecked AI could lead to the destruction of mankind.

Yet Blondeau seems unflinchingly positive, pointing out nuclear technology too could have spelled armageddon. He explains: "Like any invention it can be used for good and bad. So we have to safeguard in each industry. There will be checks along the way, we are not going to wake up one day and suddenly realise the machines are aware." — AFP



BANGALORE: Vishal Sikka (left) and Narayana Murthy during a meeting.

## INDIAN IT FIRM INFOSYS CEO VISHAL SIKKA QUILTS

NEW DELHI: The CEO of India-based outsourcing and information technology company Infosys, Vishal Sikka, has resigned following differences with some founders of the company, including N R Narayana Murthy.

The Infosys board of directors accepted Sikka's resignation and appointed U.B. Pravin Rao as interim CEO and managing director, a company statement said Friday.

In his notice to the board, Sikka said he was leaving because of "a continuous stream of distractions and disruptions" that were hindering management of the company.

Sikka was the first non-founder CEO of the Bangalore-based company. He joined Infosys in 2014. Murthy and some other founders recently complained over salary

issues and large compensation packages paid to some senior employees who had quit the company.

The company said Sikka was made an executive vice-chairman. He will stay in that capacity until a new permanent CEO and managing director takes charge by March 31. In March, Infosys announced that it will establish a central Indiana tech center as part of a broader expansion in the United States that is projected to create 10,000 jobs in coming years. The plan includes an \$8.7 million investment to lease and equip office space in the Indianapolis, Indiana, area to accommodate 2,000 new workers by the end of 2021. Infosys describes itself as a global leader in technology services and consulting with clients in 45 countries. — AP

## FORMER UBER CEO HITS OUT AT VC FIRM SUING COMPANY

MALICIOUS BID TO SEVER HIS REMAINING TIES TO UBER

SAN FRANCISCO: Former Uber CEO Travis Kalanick is skewering a lawsuit filed by a former ally, describing it as a malicious attempt to sever his remaining ties to the widely used ride-hailing service that he co-founded.

Kalanick lashed out in legal documents filed late Thursday in response to a Delaware Chancery Court lawsuit filed against Uber last week by one of its major investors and a former Kalanick supporter, Benchmark Capital. The acrimony sets the stage for what could be a bitter battle pitting the pugnacious Kalanick against Benchmark, a major Silicon Valley venture capital firm. Benchmark has seen its 2011 investment of \$12 million in Uber grow into a stake now worth more than \$7 billion, based on recent valuations of the company.

Uber is being thrust into the crossfire at a time it is trying to recover from revelations of rampant sexual harassment within the company and allegations that it stole trade secrets from a Google spin-off, Waymo, to build self-driving cars. The San Francisco company is also still looking for a new CEO to replace Kalanick, who resigned in late June under pressure from Benchmark and other investors worried about Uber's direction. Benchmark alleges Kalanick has been interfering in the CEO search and manipulating Uber's board in a scheme to bring him back as the company's leader.

After his resignation as CEO, Kalanick re-appointed himself to Uber's board as part of special powers that gives him control over three board seats. Benchmark now wants those powers taken away, contending they were given to Kalanick under false pretenses.

In his filing, Kalanick contends that Benchmark had secretly plotting against him, and launched its plan to oust him from Uber "at the most shameful of times" - shortly after his mother was killed and his father critically injured in a boating accident on May 27. Benchmark had no comment on Kalanick's filing, referring back to an earlier statement explaining that the firm felt it had no other choice but to sue to stop unacceptable behavior at Uber.

Kalanick notified Uber of his plans to take an indefinite leave of absence as CEO on June 11 - two days after his mother's funeral. Uber's board, including Benchmark partner Bill Gurley, supported that move and assured him he could return as CEO whenever he was emotionally ready, according to Kalanick's filing. But just nine days after he went on leave, Benchmark partners Peter Fenton and Matt Cohler came to Kalanick's hotel in Chicago to demand that he submit his permanent resignation as CEO, the filing said. If Kalanick refused, Fenton and Cohler threatened to sully his reputation in a public campaign, according to the filing. — AP



In this Feb 26, 2017 file photo, then-Uber CEO Travis Kalanick arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, California. — AP

## TECH FIRMS CONTINUE EFFORTS TO BANISH EXTREMIST ACCOUNTS

NEW YORK: Tech companies' efforts to banish extremist groups and individuals are continuing as a social network popular with extremists disappeared from Google's Android app store.

Gab had already been unavailable in Apple's store, though it remains accessible on the web.

The banishments come in the wake of the deadly clash at a white-nationalist rally last weekend in Virginia. Civil rights advocates welcomed the moves, but say more needs to be done - and more should have been done earlier. Here is a look at some of the technology services that have banned hate groups or have otherwise come out against white supremacists and their supporters:

### Airbnb

Ahead of the rally, the housing booking service Airbnb barred rentals to people it believed were traveling to participate. The company said it used its existing background checks and "input from the community" to identify users who didn't align with its standards.

### Social media

Facebook removed several groups and individuals from its service and Instagram for what it calls violations of terms banning hate speech. Groups included Vanguard America, Physical Removal and Genuine Donald Trump. The company uses a combination of artificial intelligence and human moderators to weed out groups, posts and people that violate its policies. Spokeswoman Ruchika Budhraj acknowledges this is a difficult task, as determining what is hate speech is more difficult than something like a beheading video or child pornography.

Twitter, meanwhile, appears to have suspended the account for neo-Nazi site Daily Stormer, though the company doesn't comment on individual accounts.

### App stores

Google has removed Gab, a social network that extremists flocked to, for "hate speech," Gab tweeted. Gab's logo is a green cartoon frog, reminiscent of "Pepe the Frog," the internet meme that's become a symbol of the "alt-right," a fringe movement that's known for its racist, anti-Semitic and sexist views.

### Service providers

The Daily Stormer's publisher said he has been effectively "banned from the internet" after mocking the victim of a deadly car attack during the protests in Charlottesville. Andrew Anglin said by email he is "figuring out the next step" after four domain registration companies



In this Oct 27, 2016 file photo, Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks during an announcement of new products in Cupertino, California. — AP

refused to service his site. GoDaddy and Google said earlier that the site violated their terms of service. After briefly reappearing under a Russian domain name, the site was again offline Wednesday after the security company Cloudflare Inc. dropped him as a customer, leaving the site vulnerable to hacking attacks.

Email marketing firm MailChimp said some groups had their accounts terminated after it changed its terms of service on Monday to exclude customers whose primary purpose was "inciting harm" or promoting "discriminatory, hateful, or harassing content." Squarespace, a website service company, said it banished some sites out of concern they "could be used to facilitate or promote behavior that gives rise to violence." Identity Evropa, a northern California hate group that helped organize participants in Charlottesville, tweeted that it had lost service from MailChimp, Squarespace and PayPal.

### Online payments

PayPal has been removing payment accounts linked to known hate groups in the months leading up to Charlottesville, according to the company and a civil rights organization it was working with. For example, the account for the Daily Stormer was banned several months ago. In a blog post, the company said it "strives to navigate the balance between freedom of expression and open dialogue - and the limiting and closing of sites that accept payments or raise funds to promote hate, violence and intolerance."

Online fundraising sites GoFundMe and Patreon also banned people and canceled fundraisers associated with right-wing hate groups. GoFundMe confirmed that it removed "multiple campaigns" for James Fields, the driver accused of driving his car into protesters and killing a woman. — AP



TOKYO: An H-IIA rocket carrying a navigation satellite "Michibiki" lifts off from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan yesterday. The rocket was launched successfully by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and the satellite is set to improve Japan's GPS navigation services. — AP

## JAPAN LAUNCHES SATELLITE

TOKYO: Japan yesterday launched the third satellite in its effort to build a home-grown geolocation system aimed at improving the accuracy of car navigation systems and smartphone maps to mere centimetres.

An H-IIA rocket blasted off at about 2:30 pm (0530 GMT) from the Tanegashima space centre in southern Japan, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

The rocket successfully released the "Michibiki" No.3 satellite about 30 minutes after launch.

The launch was initially scheduled last week but was postponed due to a technical glitch.

Satellite geolocation systems, initially designed for the US military, now power countless civilian applications, from car navigation to internet browsing on mobile

phones. Japan relies on the US-operated Global Positioning System (GPS). Yesterday's launch was part of a broader plan to build a domestic version with four satellites focusing on the country and wider region.

The first satellite was put into orbit in 2010 and the second was launched in June.

The fourth is to be launched by March 2018 to start up the service. The Japan-built system will still need to operate in tandem with GPS. Though GPS is widely used in Japan, having supplementary satellites is important in a country where mountainous terrain and high buildings may interfere with its signals. Michibiki, meaning "guidance" in Japanese, will cover the Asia-Oceania region and is intended for civilian use. Japan plans to boost the number of its satellites in orbit to seven by around 2023. — AFP



# SPECIAL ECLIPSE GLASSES SELLING OUT QUICKLY

**SALT LAKE CITY:** Eclipse mania is building and so is demand for the glasses that make it safe to view the first total solar eclipse to cross the US in 99 years. Lines are forming, prices are rising and shelves are emptying as people scurry to obtain special eyewear to view the sun tomorrow as it is obscured by the passing moon. Complicating the rising demand from last-minute shoppers was a recent recall by Amazon that forced libraries and health centers around the country to recall glasses they gave away or sold.

For stores that still have the glasses, prices are spiking. The ones still for sale on Amazon were going for steep prices Friday, around \$11-\$12 each. Nancy West, a 67-year-old retired nurse from Utah, was delighted to be among the final people to get glasses Thursday before the Clark Planetarium in Salt Lake City ran out. It sold nearly 90,000 pairs at \$2 each this week.

"I will never see a total eclipse again because I will not live long enough," West said. "It's an opportunity to understand how our universe works and what part I play in that." Amy Watts and her 13-year-old son, Ethan, waited in line for an hour at the planetarium so they could have a safe way to watch

the historic moment. "We heard the frenzy of getting ahold of some eclipse glasses so we thought, 'What the heck, we'll give it a shot,'" said Watts, a health coach. "We actually scored some."

Doctors around the US launched campaigns this summer to warn people that they can damage their eyes staring directly at the sun, even the slimmest sliver of it. They advised people to get special eclipse glasses. The American Astronomical Society put out a list of 15 approved manufacturers. Doctors say people who don't have the glasses can look indirectly with a pinhole projector - which can be made from a shoebox - that casts images of the eclipsed sun onto a screen at least 3 feet away. NASA also has a webpage listing safety tips for how to view the eclipse.

One of the approved manufacturers selling the special glasses, American Paper Optics, has sold 45 million pairs over the last two years - 10 million since mid-July, said John Jerit, president of the Memphis, Tennessee-based company. Among their customers was Vanderbilt University Medical Center, which had to recall 8,000 glasses purchased from an unidentified third-party vendor and given out at a county fair



**FLORIDA:** Fla High School students use their eclipse glasses for the first time, during a trial run for their planned viewing of tomorrow's eclipse. Eclipse mania is building and so is demand for the glasses that make it safe to view the first total solar eclipse to cross the US in 99 years. —AP

last weekend. The center was offering people the chance to exchange the faulty glasses for new, certified ones from American Paper Optics Friday through Monday. The scramble was on even for those not affected by recalls. The Boise Public Library started giving

out free eclipse glasses Aug 1. With lines of eager eclipse-watchers stretching out the door, the main branch ran out in about 15 minutes, spokesman Kevin Winslow said. The rest of the Boise library branches also ran out quickly: the entire supply of more than

2,000 glasses was gone in under an hour. "We got about a dozen calls in the last hour asking if we still had them," Winslow said Thursday. "I'm telling people, 'If you have a family of three or four, not everyone has to have their own pair - you can pass it around.'" —AP

## LIGHTS OUT: ECLIPSE TO HAVE BIG IMPACT ON CALIFORNIA'S POWER

**SACRAMENTO:** When the moon passes in front of the sun during tomorrow's eclipse California will lose enough solar energy to power more than 1.5 million homes, a figure that underscores the state's growing reliance on energy from the sun. California has rapidly deployed renewable energy and now produces 40 percent of the nation's solar power. The eclipse presents an unusual challenge for those who manage the state's power grid because the solar energy will drop off and re-emerge more quickly than during usual conditions involving clouds or nightfall.

For about three hours, there will be diminished solar power available. Grid managers say they've been preparing extensively for more than a year and are confident nobody will lose power. They'll ramp up other sources of power, mainly hydroelectric and natural gas, as the sky darkens and ramp them back down as the sun re-emerges. "Our grid operators are going to be functioning very similar to a director of an orchestra, trying to keep everything flowing," said Lynsey Paulo, a spokeswoman for Pacific Gas & Electric, which serves electric customers in Central and Northern California.

The grid requires power supply and demand to match precisely. Grid managers now have years of experience adjusting power sources when clouds and gusts affect solar and wind energy, which are much less predictable than a solar eclipse. During the eclipse, however, the sky will darken and lighten two or three times as fast as usual, according to the California Independent System Operator, which runs the grid for most of California and a small portion of Nevada.

Solar energy now makes up only about 1 percent of the US power supply, but it's far higher in some areas. On Monday morning solar supplied about 30 percent of the power for the California ISO, said Deane Lyon, a shift manager. Solar's precise share fluctuates constantly based on weather and demand. California ISO proj-

ects it will need to replace just over 6,000 megawatts of capacity during the peak of the eclipse, about two-thirds from lost production at commercial solar farms and the rest due to higher demand from people and businesses that would otherwise draw from rooftop solar panels.

The Solar Energy Industry Association says California solar panels produce enough energy to power 258 homes on average. Other areas of the country also will take a hit, albeit a smaller one. PJM Interconnection, the nation's largest grid operator which manages the power supply in 13 Eastern states and Washington, DC, anticipates replacing up to 2,500 megawatts of solar capacity. The biggest impact will be in North Carolina and New Jersey, the Eastern states with the most solar energy, company officials say.

Xcel Energy, which manages more than 1,000 megawatts of solar capacity in Minnesota, Colorado and New Mexico, said the company was planning for the eclipse the same way it does for a storm or cloud cover. Officials said there would be no impact on electric service. Grid managers have caught a few breaks. The vast majority of the nation's solar panels are outside the "path of totality" where the sun will be completely obscured, so most solar panels will lose some but not all of their energy source. And in the West, the region most reliant on solar energy, the eclipse will pass in the morning, a period of relatively low energy demand.

Still, California regulators are asking people and businesses to conserve power during the eclipse to reduce the need for power from fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases. Many states are adopting renewable portfolio standards that require an increasing share of energy to come from wind, solar, hydroelectric and other power sources that don't use fossil fuels. California requires utilities to get a third of their energy from renewables by 2020 and half by 2030. —AP

# ECLIPSE WEATHER FORECAST; BEST IN WEST, LEAST IN EAST

AMERICA'S FIRST COAST-TO-COAST TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE SINCE 1918

**WASHINGTON:** The early eclipse weather forecast looks best in the West and least in the East with patchy clouds muddling up the picture in between. As of Friday, the forecast for tomorrow's total solar eclipse shows Oregon and Idaho as the most promising for clear sky views, while South Carolina is the most likely to find the sun and moon blocked by clouds. The National Weather Service also is optimistic about good viewing from St Louis to Nashville, but forecasts can change.

Overall, about half the nation is likely to get favorable eclipse viewing weather, said Mike Musher, a meteorologist at the weather service's Weather Prediction Center. The troublesome area, not easy to forecast and not likely to be all clear, is from Wyoming to western Missouri. "It's going to be twitthy for everybody from Nebraska eastward," said retired Canadian meteorologist Jay Anderson, who has been forecasting eclipse weather since 1978. Anderson, who runs the Eclipsophile weather website, said people east of Idaho and west of the Appalachian Mountains may have to drive a bit to find clear skies, but with a little effort they can find them.

Officials and eclipse watchers have fretted, though, about roads being too clogged as the eclipse approaches. The full eclipse will cover a 70-mile-wide swath from Oregon to South Carolina. The moon will pass between Earth and the sun for America's first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse since 1918. When this happens, the classic image appears of a black dot surrounded by a feathery red ring, the sun's corona. A partial eclipse will be visible outside the path, extending up to Canada and down to the top of South America.

Anderson, who is staying in Jackson, Wyoming, fears heart-breaking weather in Wyoming where clouds could hide the eclipse with tantalizing clear skies just off in the distance. If a cloud moves over the sun, you miss the corona, Anderson said. "That's everybody's



**A boy wearing a traditional headdress rides through the Crow Fair grounds in Crow Agency, Mont. For the Crow Tribe, the eclipse coincides with the Parade Dance at the annual Crow Fair, marking the tribe's new year. —AP**

No 1 target." It will still get dark and cooler and animals may act differently, but the sky show won't be the same, Anderson said. Computer-generated forecasts don't quite agree about cloud cover, except for the Pacific Northwest and South Carolina.

This is still early. The forecast can still change and has been changing, but Musher said "we are getting into that window where there shouldn't be a dramatic adjustment to weather development and cloud coverage." Musher cautioned that wildfires in the Northwest could cause smokiness that might worsen the eclipse view in Oregon and Idaho, but Anderson and Oregon State University climate scientist Kathie Dello said smoke is looking like less of an issue. No area on the eclipse path had high chances

of rain tomorrow afternoon, Musher and Anderson agreed.

Hardcore eclipse chasers pore over weather forecasts, especially the day before the action so they can alter their plans. "I've travelled overseas three times for this. One that I can drive to, I don't want to miss because of the weather," said Alabama plastic surgeon Gordon Telepun, who is leading a group of about 20 people. He is leaving nothing to chance. Telepun has booked six separate sites - five camping areas and one hotel - along a 400-mile-long swath from Missouri to Tennessee, ready to get ahead of the weather. Telepun said he won't even pay attention to Friday's forecast, despite how promising it looks for him. "We'll be making the decision Sunday morning where to go," Telepun said. —AP

# CLINIC PAGE



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## KFH LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO INSTILL GOOD FINANCIAL HABITS IN CHILDREN

**K**uwait Finance House (KFH) has launched a new initiative aimed at instilling good financial habits in children and teaching them proper money saving and investment practices. KFH hosted children of Princess Club at Baiti Club as part of the bank's efforts to educate children on the nature of Islamic banking, the value of

savings and the basics of banking products and services.

KFH team at Baiti Club introduced KFH products and services to the children, explained the differences between Islamic and conventional banks, in addition to the bank's products for children such as 'Baiti Account' that encourages children to save and

plan for their future. Moreover, the team identified the branch sections and services to the children. KFH is keen on hosting students from schools and training institutes to raise their awareness of the importance of the banking business, and savings as an essential value in the life of the individual and society.



### Greetings



**M**any many happy returns of the day to Sandra D'souza who turned three years old today. May God bless you and keep you in good health. Best wishes from dad Santhosh D'souza, mom Precilla D'souza, sister Sancia D'souza, grandparents Rumulus and Jasinthia

Crasto and Romario and Ramona Crasto.

## LOVE AT FIRST BITE: OUR UNFORGETTABLE MEALS FROM THE ROAD

**B**esides being the fuel that sustains us, food also functions as a means of cultural exploration - and is therefore a huge part of the travel experience. Years later, certain dishes or ingredients can evoke strong memories of journeys gone by, transporting you back to that first bite.

### Tom Kha kai (Thai coconut soup) in Thailand

On my first trip to Thailand this year I made many lifelong edible friends, but it was tom kha kai that stole my heart. My first taste came after a long day's trekking; the jungle lodge chef presented our sweaty and hungry gang with a bowl of bizarre-looking white soup. It promised nothing - pale chunks of onion and chicken bobbed blandly on the surface. The first punch came as spoon met lips - a tangy hit that turned spicy, savory, sour and back again in a bombardment of fragrant deliciousness. Lesson learned: don't judge a soup by its color.

### Tortilla (Spanish omelette) in Gijon, Spain

I moved to Spain in 1991 and quickly started a love affair that was to continue for the five years I lived there. The object of my affection consisted of nothing more than potatoes and eggs (and sometimes onion) - a Spanish omelet or tortilla. While it sounds deceptively simple, I soon discovered that each cafe served its own version and that a pincho de tortilla (a slice of tortilla with bread) was both tricky to get just right and more quintessentially Spanish than bulls, flamenco and sherry combined. Frying the potatoes, adding the eggs at the right time and cooking it just long enough to produce the perfect complement to a morning coffee or evening wine was something I soon learnt to appreciate but never managed to master myself.

### Mango and passion fruit eclairs in Paris, France

In 2013, when Paris had a long run of sticky summer days that stretched out like chewing gum, I spent many mornings aimlessly wandering its streets. As minds roam when the legs do, it was hunger that led me to the gold-gilded, handwritten sign of Stohrer, a fairytale patisserie that evidently thought itself the Versailles of Cakes. Under mirrored arches and a frescoed ceiling, I ran my finger along the glass counter to the mango and passion fruit eclairs. I still remember the golden, tiger-striped glaze shimmering beneath the shop's chandelier and the devilish ooze of its decadent passion fruit curd. Through the eyes of my dentist, it was my first forbidden love.

### Baja fish tacos in Loreto, Mexico

A hurricane ravaged the Baja peninsula just days after I arrived in Mexico. I abandoned my tent on the beach for a humid hotel room to wait out the storm and emerged two days later, starving for some element of the adventure I had imagined. Wandering through streets piled with ocean debris, I discovered what felt like the only opened bar in town. Without asking, the bartender plonked down a sweating cerveza, a green lime perched in the mouth of the bottle. Moments later he followed with tacos - gleaming beer-battered cod fillets nested in fresh corn tortillas and topped with cabbage and crema (similar to sour cream) and a side of those ever-present limes. One bite and the hot fried fish melted into the cold, crisp cabbage. The hint of lime livened the edges of my tongue and the salty tortilla held it all in place. That bite convinced me that the Mexico I was looking for hadn't washed away with the storm.

### Okonomiyaki in Osaka, Japan

My okonomiyaki education began when I was a student in Osaka and I was invited to dinner at my neighbor's house. I was given a beer and a sharp knife, and with my neighbor offering encouraging noises, I helped shred cabbage, chop spring onions, slice pork and whip up batter. We poured thick plate-sized gloops of the mix onto a tabletop griddle and let it sizzle, adding layers of toppings once the cakes were golden brown: sprinklings of dried seaweed, delicate bonito flakes, and generous stripy squeezing of brown sauce and mayonnaise. After a chorus of 'itadaki-masu' ('let's eat'/'bon appétit'), we ate the okonomiyaki piping hot, a little soft in the middle, straight off

the griddle. Despite all the refined cuisine I've tried in Japan, it's still these simple everyday dishes that I crave the most.—www.lone-lyplanet.com







- 01:15 Ladder 49
- 03:10 Jurassic World
- 05:15 Black Rose
- 06:45 The Throwaways
- 08:20 Ladder 49
- 10:15 The Lovers
- 12:05 Jurassic World
- 14:10 The Throwaways
- 15:45 In Time
- 17:35 Alien Outpost
- 19:10 Beyond Redemption
- 20:40 Spooks: The Greater Good
- 22:25 The Canal



- 00:45 Gator Boys
- 01:40 Gator Boys
- 02:35 Gator Boys
- 03:25 Gator Boys
- 04:15 Gator Boys
- 05:02 Bad Dog
- 05:49 Preposterous Pets
- 06:36 Swamp Brothers
- 07:00 Swamp Brothers
- 07:25 Whale Wars
- 08:15 Treehouse Masters
- 09:10 Treehouse Masters
- 10:05 Treehouse Masters
- 11:00 Treehouse Masters
- 11:55 Treehouse Masters
- 12:50 Guardians Of Rescue
- 13:45 Deadliest Snakes Of South Africa
- 14:40 The Vet Life
- 15:35 Gator Boys
- 16:30 Gator Boys
- 17:25 Gator Boys
- 18:20 Catching Monsters
- 19:15 Monster Island
- 20:10 Project Grizzly
- 21:05 Mutant Planet
- 22:00 Mutant Planet
- 22:55 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:50 Untamed & Uncut



- 00:00 EastEnders
- 00:30 Cold Feet
- 01:20 Cold Feet
- 02:10 War And Peace
- 02:55 EastEnders
- 03:30 The Moonstone
- 04:20 Orphan Black
- 05:10 Agatha Raisin
- 06:00 Holly City
- 06:55 EastEnders
- 07:25 Death In Paradise
- 08:20 Doctor Who
- 09:10 Father Brown
- 10:00 EastEnders
- 10:30 Death In Paradise
- 11:25 Doctor Who
- 12:15 Father Brown
- 13:05 The Coroner
- 14:00 EastEnders
- 14:25 Death In Paradise
- 15:25 Doctor Who
- 16:15 Father Brown
- 17:10 The Coroner
- 18:00 Rev.
- 18:30 EastEnders
- 19:05 Death In Paradise
- 20:00 Billington Place
- 21:00 Ashes To Ashes
- 21:50 Unt forgotten
- 22:45 Unt forgotten
- 23:30 Death In Paradise



- 00:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
- 01:00 Who Was I? My Past Lives
- 02:00 Private Crimes
- 02:30 Private Crimes
- 03:00 Escaping Polygamy
- 04:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
- 05:00 Who Was I? My Past Lives
- 06:00 The First 48
- 07:00 The First 48
- 08:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
- 09:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
- 10:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
- 11:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 12:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 13:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 14:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 15:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 16:00 Homicide Hunter
- 17:00 Homicide Hunter
- 18:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 19:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 20:00 The First 48
- 21:00 Homicide Hunter
- 22:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers
- 23:00 Crimes That Shook Britain



- 00:05 Chappelle's Show
- 00:30 Lip Sync Battle
- 00:55 Tosh.0
- 01:20 Tosh.0
- 01:45 The Alternative Comedy Experience
- 02:10 Live At The Apollo
- 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 04:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 04:40 Ridiculousness
- 05:05 Disaster Date
- 05:30 Catch A Contractor
- 05:55 Catch A Contractor
- 06:20 Bondi Ink
- 07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 08:05 Disaster Date
- 08:30 Impractical Jokers
- 08:55 Ridiculousness
- 09:20 Key And Peele
- 09:45 Lip Sync Battle
- 10:10 Ridiculousness
- 10:35 Disaster Date
- 11:00 Sweet Inc.
- 11:50 Disaster Date
- 12:15 Catch A Contractor
- 12:40 Catch A Contractor
- 13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 13:55 Urban Tarzan
- 14:20 Tattoo Disasters
- 14:45 Lip Sync Battle
- 15:10 Lip Sync Battle
- 15:35 Ridiculousness
- 16:00 Impractical Jokers
- 16:30 Disaster Date
- 16:55 Disaster Date
- 17:20 Ridiculousness
- 17:45 Comedy Central Presents Comedy
- Salwagef

- 18:10 Impractical Jokers
- 18:35 Key And Peele
- 18:59 Lip Sync Battle
- 19:22 Lip Sync Battle
- 19:46 Disaster Date
- 20:09 Ridiculousness Arabia
- 20:33 Comedy Central Presents Comedy
- Salwagef
- 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 21:30 The Half Hour
- 22:00 The Half Hour
- 22:25 Chappelle's Show
- 22:50 Live At The Apollo
- 23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



- 00:30 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
- 01:20 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
- 02:10 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
- 03:00 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
- 03:50 Finding Bigfoot
- 04:40 Finding Bigfoot
- 05:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 06:40 How It's Made
- 07:00 Kenny The Shark
- 07:25 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 07:50 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 08:15 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 How It's Made
- 09:55 How It's Made
- 10:20 How It's Made
- 10:45 How It's Made
- 11:10 How It's Made
- 11:35 How It's Made
- 12:00 How It's Made
- 12:25 How It's Made
- 12:50 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
- 13:40 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
- 14:30 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
- 15:20 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
- 16:10 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
- 17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 18:40 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
- 19:30 Serious Amazon
- 19:55 Serious Amazon
- 20:20 How The Earth Works
- 21:10 Megquake: Hour That Shook Japan
- 22:00 Finding Bigfoot
- 22:50 Finding Bigfoot
- 23:40 Finding Bigfoot



- 00:30 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
- 01:20 Jonben?: An American Murder Mystery
- 02:10 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
- 03:00 Murder Comes To Town
- 03:48 Deadly Affairs
- 04:36 Deadly Affairs
- 05:24 Deadly Affairs
- 06:12 Deadly Affairs
- 07:00 Blood Relatives
- 08:40 Blood Relatives
- 09:30 Blood Relatives
- 10:20 The Locator
- 10:45 The Locator
- 11:10 How (Not) To Kill Your Husband
- 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 Suspicion
- 17:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 20:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 21:10 Blood Relatives
- 22:00 Disappeared
- 22:50 Shadow Of Doubt
- 23:40 Your Worst Nightmare



- 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 Austin & Ally
- 07:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 07:20 The Zhuzhus
- 07:45 Gravity Falls
- 08:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 08:35 Elena Of Avalor
- 09:00 Stuck In The Middle
- 09:25 Best Friends Whenever
- 09:50 Bunk'd
- 10:15 Bizaardvark
- 10:40 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
- 12:40 Descendants Wicked World
- 12:45 Mako Mermaids
- 13:10 Mako Mermaids
- 13:35 Mako Mermaids
- 14:00 Mako Mermaids
- 14:25 Jessie
- 14:50 Jessie
- 15:15 Austin & Ally
- 15:40 Austin & Ally
- 16:05 Descendants Wicked World
- 16:10 Girl Meets World
- 16:35 Girl Meets World
- 17:00 Good Luck Charlie
- 17:25 Starstruck
- 18:55 Welcome To The Ronks
- 19:05 Best Friends Whenever
- 19:30 Liv And Maddie
- 19:55 Elena Of Avalor
- 20:20 Jessie
- 20:45 Bizaardvark
- 21:10 Austin & Ally
- 21:35 Stuck In The Middle
- 22:00 Bunk'd
- 22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 22:50 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 Loopdidoo
- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:35 Calimero
- 01:50 Zou
- 02:05 Art Attack
- 02:30 The Hive
- 02:40 Loopdidoo
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:10 Art Attack
- 03:35 Loopdidoo
- 03:50 Calimero
- 04:05 Art Attack
- 04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:45 Zou
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:45 Loopdidoo
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:15 Calimero
- 06:30 Loopdidoo
- 06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
- 07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 07:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 07:50 Goldie & Bear
- 08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 08:40 Doc McStuffins
- 09:05 PJ Masks
- 09:35 Sofia The First
- 10:00 The Lion Guard
- 10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 11:00 PJ Masks
- 11:25 Goldie & Bear
- 11:55 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 12:25 The Lion Guard
- 12:50 Sofia The First
- 13:20 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 13:45 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
- 14:10 PJ Masks
- 14:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 15:05 Goldie & Bear
- 15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:00 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
- 16:25 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 16:50 PJ Masks
- 17:05 Goldie & Bear
- 17:35 Doc McStuffins
- 18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 19:05 Sofia The First
- 19:35 The Lion Guard
- 20:05 Goldie & Bear
- 20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 21:00 Doc McStuffins
- 21:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 22:30 Sofia The First
- 22:55 PJ Masks
- 23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:35 The Hive
- 23:45 Loopdidoo



- 00:20 What On Earth?
- 01:05 Ocean Warriors
- 01:50 Ocean Warriors
- 02:35 Ocean Warriors
- 03:20 Ocean Warriors
- 04:05 Ocean Warriors
- 04:50 Ocean Warriors
- 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 Edge Of Alaska
- 10:55 Sydney Harbour
- 11:40 How Do They Do It?
- 12:02 How Do They Do It?
- 12:25 How Do They Do It?
- 12:47 Storage Hunters
- 13:10 Gold Rush
- 13:55 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 14:40 Deadliest Catch
- 15:25 Fast N' Loud
- 16:10 Wheeler Dealers
- 17:00 How Do They Do It?
- 17:25 How Do They Do It?
- 17:50 Storage Hunters
- 18:20 Storage Hunters
- 18:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 19:40 How Do They Do It?
- 20:10 How Do They Do It?
- 20:35 How Do They Do It?
- 21:00 Mega Trains
- 21:50 Gold Rush: Remembering John Schnabel
- 22:40 What On Earth?
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud



- 06:00 Milo Murphy's Law
- 06:25 Supa Strikas
- 06:50 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister 6
- 07:15 Right Now Kapow
- 07:40 Walk The Prank
- 08:05 Marvel's Ant-Man
- 08:10 K.C. Undercover
- 08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
- 09:00 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 09:25 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 09:50 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 10:20 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 10:45 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 11:10 Lab Rats
- 11:35 Mech-X4
- 12:00 Walk The Prank
- 12:30 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 12:55 Kirby Buckets
- 13:20 K.C. Undercover
- 13:45 Kirby Buckets
- 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:15 Milo Murphy's Law
- 14:40 K.C. Undercover
- 15:05 Lab Rats
- 15:30 Walk The Prank
- 15:55 Right Now Kapow
- 16:25 K.C. Undercover
- 16:50 Kirby Buckets Warped
- 17:15 Mech-X4
- 17:40 Gravity Falls
- 18:10 Milo Murphy's Law
- 18:35 Disney11
- 18:50 Disney11
- 19:25 K.C. Undercover
- 19:50 Marvel's Ant-Man
- 19:55 Milo Murphy's Law
- 20:20 Mech-X4
- 20:45 Mighty Med
- 21:10 Walk The Prank
- 21:35 Marvel's Ant-Man
- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:45 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 22:10 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 22:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



- 00:00 Famously Single

- 00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 01:50 E! News
- 02:50 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 04:40 Rob & Chyna
- 05:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 06:00 E! News
- 07:00 Just Jillian
- 08:00 E! News
- 08:55 Botched
- 09:50 Botched
- 10:45 Botched
- 11:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 12:30 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 13:25 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 14:20 Botched
- 15:15 Botched
- 16:10 WAGs Miami
- 17:05 WAGs Miami
- 18:05 WAGs Miami
- 19:00 E! News
- 20:00 Life Of Kylie
- 21:30 Life Of Kylie
- 22:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 23:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 23:00 Botched



- 00:00 Man Fire Food
- 00:30 Man Fire Food
- 01:00 Restaurant: Impossible
- 01:30 Mystery Diners
- 02:30 Mystery Diners
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:00 Chopped
- 08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 09:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:00 Siba's Table
- 11:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 11:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 12:00 Man Fire Food
- 12:30 Man Fire Food
- 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 15:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 16:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 16:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 17:00 Siba's Table
- 17:30 Siba's Table
- 18:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 18:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 19:00 Man Fire Food
- 19:30 Man Fire Food
- 20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 21:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 22:00 Smollett Eats
- 22:30 Smollett Eats
- 23:00 Chopped



- 00:05 Coronation Street
- 00:30 Coronation Street
- 01:00 Victoria
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Coronation Street
- 03:00 Coronation Street
- 03:30 Coronation Street
- 03:55 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 04:50 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 05:50 Who Tell The Bride
- 06:55 Don't Tell The Bride
- 08:00 This Is England '90
- 09:30 Broadchurch
- 10:25 Victoria
- 11:25 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 12:20 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 13:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 14:10 Doc Martin
- 15:05 Martin Clunes & A Lion Called Muggie
- 16:00 Catchphrase
- 16:30 This Is England '90
- 17:50 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 18:45 Martin Clunes & A Lion Called Muggie
- 19:45 Broadchurch
- 20:40 This Is England '90
- 22:10 Victoria
- 23:05 Tonight At The London Palladium



- 00:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 01:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 02:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 02:50 The Greeks
- 03:40 The Colour Of War
- 04:30 America's Book Of Secrets
- 05:20 America's Book Of Secrets
- 06:10 America's Book Of Secrets
- 07:00 Engineering Disasters
- 08:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 09:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 10:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 11:00 Engineering Disasters
- 12:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
- 13:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
- 14:00 Engineering Disasters
- 15:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 16:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 17:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 18:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 19:00 The Lost Evidence
- 20:00 Serial Killer Earth
- 21:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
- 22:00 Ancient Top 10
- 23:00 Heroes Of War



- 00:20 Mystery Pickers
- 01:10 Mountain Men
- 02:00 Lost In Transmission
- 02:50 Storage Wars
- 03:15 Pawn Stars
- 03:40 Pawn Stars Australia
- 04:05 Storage Wars: Barry's Best Buys
- 05:00 Grave Trade
- 06:00 Big Easy Motors
- 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: Best Of
- 09:45 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 10:10 American Pickers
- 11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island

- 11:50 Duck Dynasty
- 12:15 Duck Dynasty
- 12:40 Counting Cars
- 13:05 Counting Cars
- 13:30 Ax Men
- 14:20 Mountain Men
- 15:10 Big Easy Motors
- 16:00 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 16:25 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 16:50 Pawn Stars
- 17:15 Pawn Stars
- 17:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 18:30 Alone: Lost And Found
- 19:20 Mountain Men
- 20:10 American Pickers
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:25 Pawn Stars
- 21:50 Mystery Pickers
- 22:40 Counting Cars
- 23:05 Counting Cars
- 23:30 American Pickers



- 00:15 Places We Go
- 00:45 Sinful Sweets
- 01:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 01:40 Bad Trip
- 02:35 Confucius Was A Foodie
- 03:30 Living Free With Kimi Werner
- 04:25 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 04:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 05:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 06:15 The Food Files
- 06:40 The Food Files
- 07:10 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 07:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 08:05 Eat Street
- 08:30 Eat Street
- 09:00 Fish Of The Day
- 09:25 Fish Of The Day
- 09:55 Bad Trip
- 10:45 Places We Go
- 11:15 Places We Go
- 11:45 Sinful Sweets
- 12:10 Sinful Sweets
- 12:40 Raw Travel
- 13:05 Raw Travel
- 13:35 Bad Trip
- 14:30 Confucius Was A Foodie
- 15:25 Living Free With Kimi Werner
- 16:20 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 16:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
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- 18:10 The Food Files
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- 19:05 Living Free With Kimi Werner
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- 20:30 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 21:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 22:00 The Food Files
- 22:25 The Food Files
- 22:50 Bad Trip
- 23:50 Confucius Was A Foodie



- 00:10 Big Fix Alaska
- 01:00 King Fishers
- 02:00 Wicked Tuna
- 03:00 Highway Thru Hell
- 04:00 Big Fix Alaska
- 05:00 Two Tales Of China
- 05:30 Two Tales Of China
- 06:00 Seconds From Disaster
- 06:30 Seconds From Disaster
- 07:00 Inside The American Mob
- 08:00 Airport Security: Colombia
- 09:00 Looked Up Abroad
- 10:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 11:00 Superca Megabuild
- 12:00 Surgery Ship
- 13:00 Dog Whisperer
- 14:00 Dog Whisperer
- 15:00 King Fishers
- 16:00 Wicked Tuna
- 17:00 Alaska Fish Wars
- 18:00 Fidel Castro: The Lost Tapes
- 19:00 Challenger Disaster: Lost Tapes
- 20:00 Wicked Tuna
- 20:50 Alaska Fish Wars
- 21:40 Fidel Castro: The Lost Tapes
- 22:30 Challenger Disaster: Lost Tapes
- 23:20 Nazi Megastructures



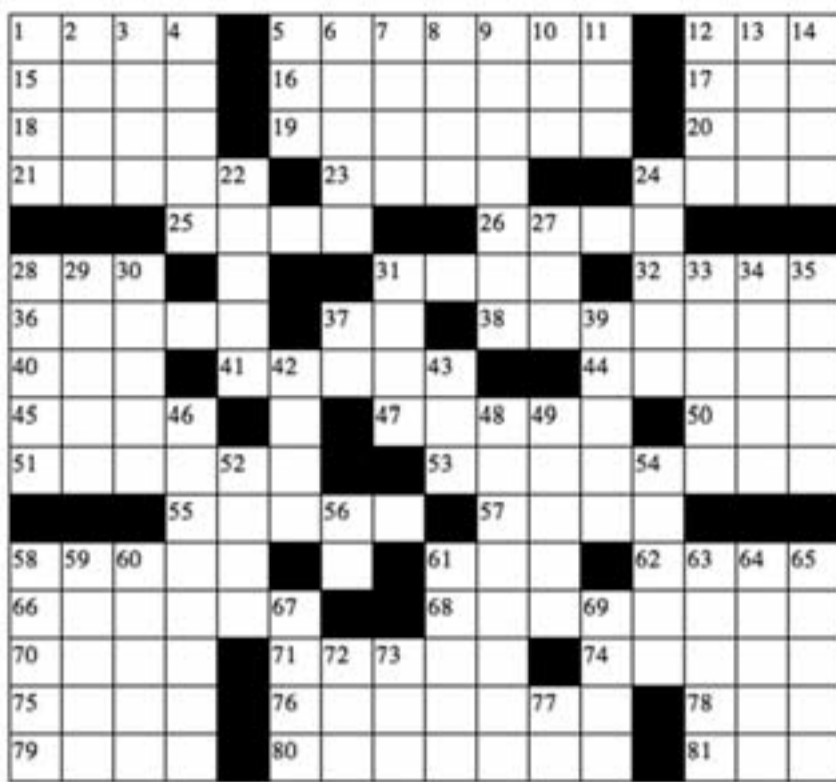
- 00:20 Last Devils
- 01:10 Wild Colombia
- 02:00 Spine Chillers: Vampire Bats
- 02:50 Squid vs. Whale
- 03:45 Built For The Kill
- 04:40 Badass Animals
- 05:35 Blood Rivals: Hippo V. Lion
- 06:30 Monster Fish
- 07:25 Monster Fish
- 08:20 Animals Gone Wild
- 09:15 Ultimate Predator
- 10:10 The Invaders
- 11:05 Dr. K's Exotic Animal 2.5
- 12:00 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
- 12:55 My Life As A Zoo
- 13:50 Insect Wars
- 14:45 Animal Record Breakers
- 15:40 Jobs That Bite!
- 16:35 Bandits Of Selous
- 17:30 Monster Fish
- 18:25 Bandlands
- 19:20 Animal Record Breakers
- 20:10 Jobs That Bite!
- 21:00 Bandits Of Selous
- 21:50 Monster Fish
- 22:40 Bandlands
- 23:30 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo



- 00:12 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



CROSSWORD 1690



ACROSS

- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- The vocal apparatus of the larynx.
- A unit of pain intensity.
- A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
- A town in central Pennsylvania.
- Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- Having a large belly.
- Adult female chicken.
- A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
- One thousandth of a second.
- An narrative telling the adventures of a hero or a family.
- In bed.
- United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- Liquid excretory product.
- Any customary and rightful perquisite appropriate to your station in life.
- (Irish) Ancient Irish god (probably a god of the sun).
- State in northeastern India.
- An island of central Hawaii.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- Trade name for an oral contraceptive containing estradiol and norgestrel.
- A graphical record of electric currents associated with muscle contractions.
- A member of a Hindu people descended from Brahmins and Rajputs who live in Nepal.
- A family of Pinaceae.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- An inlaid furniture decoration.
- Obvious and dull.
- A book of the New Testament.
- Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
- A flat metal disk ready for stamping as a coin.
- The basic unit of money in Lesotho.
- Stay clear from.
- An edict of the Russian tsar.
- The muscular back part of the shank.
- A spot that is open late at night and that provides entertainment (as singers or dancers) as well as dancing and food and drink.
- Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
- Chief port of Yemen.
- (classical mythology) The hideous snake-haired monsters (usually three in number) who pursued unpunished criminals.
- Experiencing or showing sorrow or unhappiness.

DOWN

- An unfledged or nestling hawk.
- An informal term for a father.
- According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- (Greek legend) The greedy king of Phrygia who Dionysus gave the power to turn everything he touched into gold.
- A conspicuous disparity or difference as between two figures.
- Wild or domesticated South American cud-chewing animal related to camels but smaller and lacking a hump.
- A genus of Strigidae.
- The quality of a person's voice.
- A baroque musical composition (usually for a keyboard instrument) with full chords and rapid elaborate runs in a rhythmically free style.
- Antibacterial drug (trade name Nydrazid) used to treat tuberculosis.
- The chance to speak.
- Tropical woody herb with showy yellow flowers and flat pods.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- A Russian river.
- Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- (Scotland) A small loaf or roll of soft bread.
- (Akkadian) Mother and earth goddess in Gilgamesh epic.
- Offspring of a male lion and a female tiger.
- The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
- (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess or the wife of a raja.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- Of a light grayish-brown color n.
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- Muslim name for God.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- The player judged to be the most important to the sport.
- An ancient branch of the Semitic languages.
- Ribald humor.
- Frogs, toads, tree toads.
- Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
- A sharp abrupt noise as if two objects hit together.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- Using the voice.
- (KNO<sub>3</sub>) Used especially as a fertilizer and explosive.
- Relating to or having the characteristics of bees.
- A state of extreme confusion and disorder.
- A unit of magnetic flux density equal to one weber per square meter.
- The function or position properly or customarily occupied or served by another.
- Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
- Informal or slang terms for mentally irregular.
- A unit of electrical power in an AC circuit equal to the power dissipated when 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere.
- A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
- The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

In the workplace today, you perform successfully, as you exhibit your ability to get past the surface of things and separate the thing that has real worth. Your presence in a group situation has a decided effect. Others may feel that nothing is a secret from you. You do not have to leave home to escape from the rat race. Family, home and security seem just about ideal to you. You may be very imaginative with your home and domestic setup. A sense of community and unity permeates your family life. Your ideal dream is a private one and heaven is as close as work and family. You are creative when it comes to partnerships or lovers; you seem to establish unusual and different relationships. You may find that a love relationship will deepen during this time.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This day is one of those amazing days when everything works together. Situations are almost tailor-made and it is easy to see which path is the one to take. Opportunities prevail and you may find yourself deciding that it is time to write a book. You certainly have enough material to write on any one of your favorite subjects. There may be some question in your mind about needing a change in your position at work. Check out the inner-office openings and you will be able to move into a place that gives you some challenges. You may decide to do some special cooking this evening, and if you have your windows open, you may find some uninvited guests are willing to taste your experimental recipe. Everybody has fun!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are always interested in being of help to others. You enjoy teaching or helping young people use their creative mind with their use of words. Your sense of humor is not missing from your communications today. There are many practical ideas available to you, especially related to your job or skills. Careful, a customer may tell you a sad story to get a special deal. You appreciate, care and are concerned but not much can fool you. This afternoon you may enjoy a community project. Perhaps you and your family will help to contribute towards the beautification of your neighborhood. If everyone participates, the value of property could increase. You are constantly on the side of humanism at every turn.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could be most persuasive with others and expressive in speech and communication. You are a natural for self-expression and others enjoy listening to your particular ideas and thoughts. The initiative is yours and you will find positive end results develop from your enthusiasm to achieve. This is a day to dare to be a little unconventional. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Your career could open up by taking the road less traveled or by daring to be more involved in the development of business: new approaches. You are inspired to motivate others with your creative and inventive ways. What-if types of questions seem to be the keys that turn you into the wizard all enjoy having on their side.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself having a difference of opinion with others today. This, however, is the only way to introduce new ways of thinking among your particular business comrades. Make it a point to remove the emotions, and if you find others getting emotional, excuse yourself from the conversation. There will be other opportunities to expand upon some new idea. Given time, your ideas will gain recognition. Real insight into your own inner workings could surface now and in a manageable form. You may be in the mood for penetrating conversation this evening. Perhaps a book or magazine on the latest electronic techniques would be mesmerizing. A friend you have not heard from in some time may give you a call. Old times are fun to review.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Throwing caution to the wind, you could ignore whatever responsibilities you have and pursue a particular objective today. You have animal-like instincts when it comes to big business and this is a good time to use those instincts. You are where the action is most intense. Your mind will get through the unimportant and straight to the bottom line. Some may even respect your tenacity and it is exciting to be near you. You may tend to take paths at right angles to your real ambitions if you let yourself become distracted. If you have a co-worker friend that will join you in a project, you can keep each other focused; talk about staying focused before you begin. This afternoon you may enjoy some creative activity with some form of art, theater, sports, etc.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may uncover. You will be feeling successful and able to cope with whatever comes across your path. Good advice from a guide may be forthcoming. You are very fortunate in being able to grow and progress throughout your life without major difficulties. You can always find the resources you require to hand plus the necessary instruction in how to use them. Your love of job and practical skills makes you a fine manager and businessperson. You bring passion to your work. Your mind is full of practical ideas, especially related to your job or skills. You are always coming up with new ideas; this is a productive day.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies-a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days. Working with groups in a spirit of cooperation is a natural. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions. There is an opportunity this evening to understand a difficult person; you listen and love.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You would like to tell someone off at work today but you will benefit from just moving your thoughts to another place... Perhaps the next adventure you will take with the money you earn. You are at your most practical when it comes to working with others and your efforts today do not go unnoticed. You usually know just what to do. You may be moved to appreciate the beauty in your life and those around you. A sense of humor is one of the necessary ingredients to make a tough situation easier to handle. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much just now. You may feel like involving yourself in some sort of celebration this evening-a celebration of life. There are new insights regarding home life.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies-a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days. Working with groups in a spirit of cooperation is a natural. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions. There is an opportunity this evening to understand a difficult person; you listen and love.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is an emphasis on communication, expression of ideas and the connections between things, places and people. What goes on in your mind is the all-important motivation in your life. You tend towards mental pursuits and admire intelligence. You are very flexible and other-oriented today. Perhaps you can be all things to all people, giving them what they require. You are probably a smooth talker with a quick wit and ready tongue. You know and understand more than you let on and life changes seldom take you by surprise. You have a great deal of control over your actions. Communicating and getting your message across to others is at a high just now. You know just how to maneuver yourself into the right places; now is the time to get ahead.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Someone may criticize you today and find you somewhat preoccupied and lacking in the social graces. This is only a temporary glitch in your day. You have an innate love of the law and working things through, and you are not put off by any difficulties. On the contrary, you may look forward to hunting problems down so that you can solve them. You have the ability to work with others, particularly regarding vocation or career guidance. You can advise and guide others in all sorts of subjects, and you may find yourself doing so today. This could be a particularly lucky day. Study the options carefully before making any investment decisions. Tonight is a good night for you to take your turn at cooking.

WORD SEARCH

Old West 3

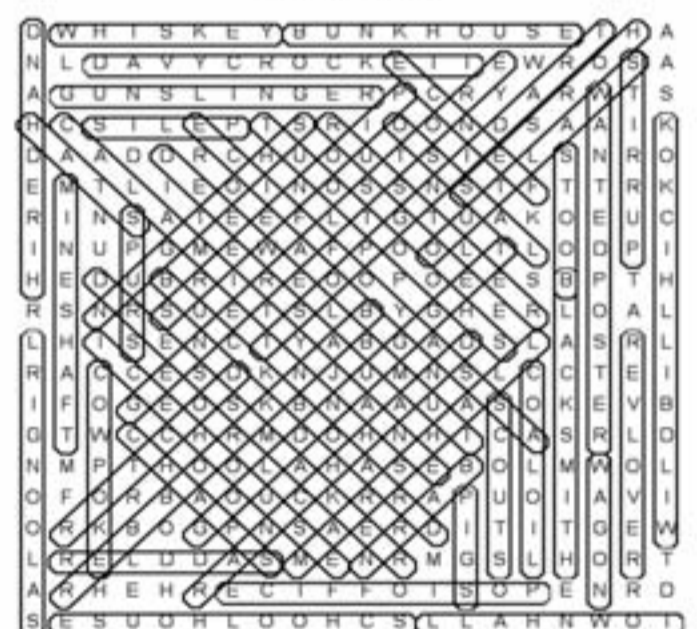
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 46 letters spell a John Wayne quotation.



- |                   |              |            |               |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| ANVIL             | DEPUTY       | LIVERY     | SETTLERS      |
| APOTHECARY        | DOGGIE CITY  | MAYOR      | SILVER DOLLAR |
| BANK              | FRONTIER     | MERCANTILE | STABLE        |
| BARBER            | GERONIMO     | PASTURE    | STOCKADE      |
| BOARDING HOUSE    | GOLD RUSH    | PIG FEED   | TOWN          |
| BOUNTY HUNTER     | HAYLOFT      | PLOW       | TRAIL BOSS    |
| BRIDLE            | HOLSTER      | PROSPECTOR | TRAIN STATION |
| BUFFALO BILL CODY | HORSE TROUGH | RANGE      | WAGON TRAIN   |
| CATTLE            | HORSESHOE    | RAWHIDE    | WRANGLER      |
| CHURCH            | JAIL         | SADDLEBAG  | WYATT EARP    |
| COAL MINE         | JESSE JAMES  | SAGEBRUSH  |               |
| DALTON GANG       | KEROSENE     | SASPARILLA |               |

Friday's Solution

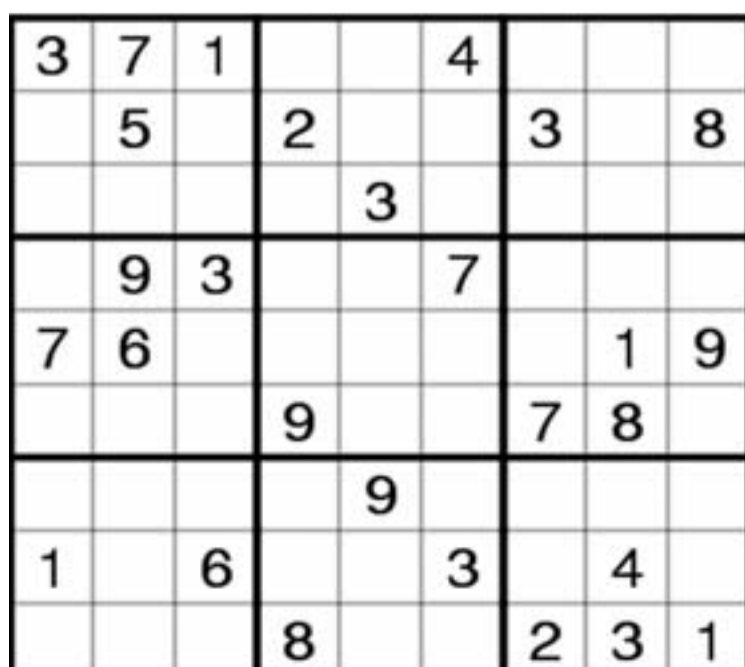
Old West 2



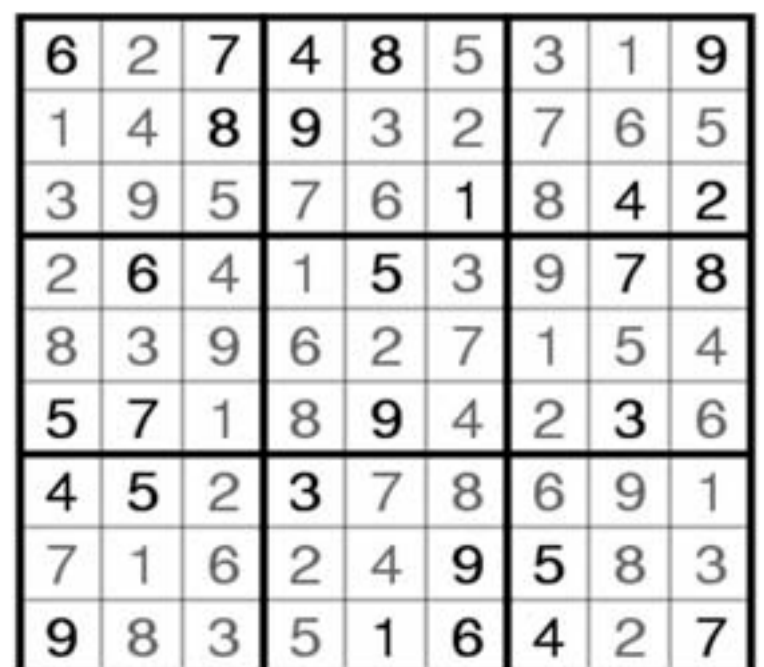
- |               |               |             |                  |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| ASSAY OFFICE  | DOCTOR        | MINE SHAFT  | SCOUTS           |
| BANK ROBBER   | DRESSMAKER    | OUTLAWS     | SHOOTOUT         |
| BARN          | FENCE         | PELTS       | SHOTGUN          |
| BLACKSMITH    | GENERAL STORE | PIGS        | SPURS            |
| BOOTS         | GOLD NUGGET   | PIONEERS    | STIRRUP          |
| BUCKBOARD     | GUNSLINGER    | POST OFFICE | TOWN HALL        |
| BUNKHOUSE     | HATS          | RANCH HAND  | TRADING POST     |
| CALAMITY JANE | HORED HAND    | REVOLVER    | TUMBLEWEED       |
| CHAPS         | HORSES        | RUSTLER     | WAGON            |
| COAL OIL      | ICE HOUSE     | SADDLER     | WANTED POSTER    |
| COWPOKE       | LIASSO        | SALOON GIRL | WHISKEY          |
| DAVY CROCKETT | MARSHALL      | SCHOOLHOUSE | WILD BILL HICKOK |

The hidden message is: ALWAYS DRINK UPSTREAM FROM THE HERD

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution





# CLASSIFIEDS



STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 4619 - 4617  
Fax: (+965) 2438714  
www.mof.gov.kw



DAY: Saturday 19/08/2017 Valid From 7 AM To 7 PM

### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

**BY NIGHT:** Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h

WEATHER WATCH			Fresh wind	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 19/08/2017 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	38 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	49 °C	32 °C		
ABDALY	47 °C	33 °C		
BUBYAN	38 °C	30 °C		
JAHRA	49 °C	36 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	42 °C	33 °C		
SALMIYAH	43 °C	36 °C		
AHMADI	39 °C	36 °C		
NUWAISIB	44 °C	32 °C		
WAFRA	48 °C	32 °C		
SALMY	49 °C	32 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	08/20	Very hot	48 °C	33 °C	NW-SE	12 - 40 km/h
Monday	08/21	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear	46 °C	30 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 32 km/h
Tuesday	08/22	Very hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for mist forming at night	47 °C	29 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	08/23	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	46 °C	30 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:54
Sunrise	05:18
Zuhr	11:52
Asr	15:27
Sunset	18:25
Isha	19:47

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	31 °C
MAX. RH	68 %
MIN. RH	16 %
MAX. Wind	SE 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

## AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
Kuwait Airways	22087426
Jazeera Airways	171
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Czech Airlines	22417901/1
Indian Airlines	2433141
Oman Air	22455700
Turkish Airlines	22958787
Aeroflot	22453820/1
	22404838/9

## NOTICE

August 18, 2017

Mr. Anil Bhagwan Dhumale son of Mr. Bhagwan Shankar Dhumale, Indian national resident of 40A, T1/R, Om Sai Ram G/S, Sakar Road, Anbari East, Mumbai, Pin: 400049, Maharashtra and Ms. Mariche Flores Amores daughter of Mr. Edgardo Amores, Philippines national, resident of Block 69, Lot 4, Phase 1, Carina Homes SIBS, BRST Punta 1, Tuzas Cove, Philippines, both presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1961. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email [anilbhagwan@indianairlines.org, anilbhagwan@indianairlines.org] / letters / telephone calls (90945-2253807, 80945-2253202).

Dr. Anil Bhagwan Dhumale  
Anbari East, Kuwait  
Tel: 90945-2253807, 80945-2253202  
Fax: 90945-2253799  
Email: anilbhagwan@indianairlines.org, anilbhagwan@indianairlines.org

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A B.E. graduate in electronics & communications & further master's in embedded system & instrumentation. A year of experience in layout & design engineering at Linde AG, Germany. For any possible vacancy & detailed resume please contact: 94081644, shettyswathi07@gmail.com

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

### DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

### Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Sunday 20/8/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 20/8/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	SAW	704	Damascus	11:45
KAC	102	London	00:55	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	VIZ	201	TQD	12:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	413	Bangkok	12:20
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	MSC	416	Sohag	15:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:40
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
AEE	942	ATH	02:25	SAW	710	Latakia	16:50
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
THY	752	Istanbul	03:05	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
ETA	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR	1442	Doha	17:30
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
RBG	559	Alexandria	04:10	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	JZR	538	Cairo	18:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
QTR	8320	Doha	05:20	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
BAW	157	London	06:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	1802	Cairo	06:35	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:35
MSC	412	Asyut	06:45	KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
IRC	528	Ahwaz	07:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
KAC	354	Bangalore	08:00	KAC	203	Lahore	21:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
ETA	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
SAW	703	Damascus	10:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	JZR	528	Asyut	23:05
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	RBG	552	Alexandria	23:40
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50				
JZR	239	Amman	12:25				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45				
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45				



## MUSIC &amp; MOVIES

BIEBER DROPS NEW SONG,  
STILL WANTS TO BE 'FRIENDS'

Justin Bieber may have canceled a world tour, been banned from China and issued a recent confessional, but he still wants to be friends, if his new song is anything to go by. He released the three-minute "Friends," seemingly a plea for an ex-girlfriend to not cut him off completely post break-up, on Thursday to positive reviews and adulation from his dizzy fan base. "Can we still be friends? Can we still be friends? Doesn't have to end, and if it ends, can we be friends?" croons the Canadian pop star, whose most famous ex-girlfriend is fellow hit-maker Selena Gomez.

The track is a collaboration with producer BloodPop, and songwriters Julia Michaels and Justin Tranter, the dream team behind his runaway hit "Sorry" from his spectacularly successful 2015 album Purpose. Bieber's personal antics might have become regular tabloid fodder, but the 23-year-old's music career has spent the summer soaring to new heights. His remix version of Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi's mega hit "Despacito" has reigned number one in the US charts for 14 straight weeks and smashed a record for streams across all formats.

But Bieber abruptly canceled the remainder of his world tour in July, citing "unforeseen circumstances." The star has frequently faced legal trouble for incidents that include racing a car through Miami and throwing eggs at a neighbor's house. In July, China said Bieber was not welcome to perform in the country due to his "bad behavior," saying he had a lot of growing up to do if he wanted to return.

In a lengthy Instagram post on August 2, Bieber admitted that he had let "insecurities" get the better of him at times. "I let my broken relationships dictate the way I acted toward people and the way I treated them! I let bitterness, jealousy and fear run my life!!!!" he wrote. "Me taking this time right now is me saying I want to be SUSTAINABLE.. I want my career to be sustainable, but I also want my mind heart and soul to be sustainable. So that I can be the man I want to be." — AFP



In this file photo, Luis Fonsi performs during the Latin Billboard Awards in Coral Gables, Florida. — AP

How does **Luis Fonsi** savor his 'Despacito' success? Slowly

The global phenomenon "Despacito" may be overwhelming to many, but not to Luis Fonsi - even when it has transformed him into a 24/7 globe-trotter. The Puerto Rican sensation considers it a real blessing that the megahit arrived two decades into his career. "It is a lot, but I'm trying just to enjoy every day and be very grateful and I'm blessed that it came 20 years in," the singer-songwriter told The Associated Press during a brief stop in New York this week.

Many people around the world are just learning his name, but "I'm not new to this," he said. "I know how to really enjoy it... I'm very grounded, I'm very grateful and I love music... It's what I've done all my life. Ever since I was a little kid I wanted to be a musician - I didn't want to be famous; I wanted to be a musician." Fresh from the European leg of his "Love and Dance World Tour," Fonsi said it was fun to sing in front of so many new audience members.

The tour next takes him to Latin America and, starting Sept. 8, to the US With dates through the summer of 2018, it's the biggest tour he's done, thanks to "Despacito." "This took me to Turkey, to Cyprus, to Egypt, Sweden... Just to see so many people that are really there because they know one of my songs it's huge, and they were singing along to that one song and enjoying the rest of my repertoire," he said. "It keeps me very humble and is very refreshing to have to sort of prove myself to this new

audience who is going like 'Who is this Luis Fonsi?' 'Who is this Mr. Despacito?'. It keeps it really interesting."

Some things have changed for the Latin artist, who was better known before as a balladeer. But some things have not: "The way I go about doing my daily things, the way I treat people, the way I go about respecting the stage and writing songs and doing my normal things, those things will never change," he said. "What changes is that 'Despacito' has opened a lot of doors for me, so now I'm able to collaborate with artists that maybe before wouldn't pay so much attention."

He recently joined DNCE and Nicki Minaj on a remix of "Kissing Strangers" and said "some amazing collaborations are coming up, literally as we speak," although he wasn't ready to give any details. He did say, however, that his next song will be released in about two months and that it would "surprise some people." "It's not a drastic difference from what I've done, but it's a little more pop oriented, a little bit more just rhythmic oriented," he said. "I want to just push the envelope and keep kind of mixing and intertwining different genres and just really explore within the range of pop music."

Traveling the world with the biggest hit of the year has been fun, but it doesn't come without a high price to the father of two: Mikaela, 5, and Rocco, born last December just a few days before

"Despacito" was released. "That is THE only negative about my job, the only thing that I'd say 'Ugh!' Fonsi admitted. "I can go a week without sleeping and I'll take it. (But) not being with my kids, you know. I have a 7-month-old and every day he learns something new and I'm missing out a lot."

On the other hand, he said, it keeps him very focused: "Everything I do, I do it for them - and that sounds a little bit like a song, but is true," he said, laughing. "It's kind of my engine." Although "Despacito" has been a hit, MTV didn't nominate the song for its Video Music Awards, despite it being the most watched video in history, with more than 3 billion views. Fonsi said "it would have been great to be nominated," but he is not disappointed.

"I hope this is the beginning of something new. I hope that, thanks to 'Despacito,' a new category is created," he said. "But I simply believe that this news, as is, has caused a little positive stir in the sense that now the eyes are more on Latin music." He feels like he's already won, anyway. "The biggest award that I can get is the fact that we made history with this video," he said. "With all due respect to every single award, that to me is the best award in the world." — AP



This file photo shows Canadian singer Justin Bieber performing on stage at the AccorHotels Arena in Paris. — AFP

## Taylor Swift donates to sexual assault charity

Pop superstar Taylor Swift has made a "generous" donation to a US charity that supports victims of sexual assault after winning a groping lawsuit against a former radio DJ, the organization confirmed Thursday. Joyful Heart Foundation, a national organization working to transform society's response to sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse, declined to disclose the amount of the donation.

"I hope that Taylor's very public experience and her decision to speak out not only helps empower other victims to speak up and take action, but offers them solidari-

ty," said its founder, the actress Mariska Hargitay. "I'm honored by her dedication and commitment to these issues, and I'm deeply grateful for her support of the Joyful Heart Foundation."

Charity CEO Maile Zambuto thanked Swift for her "generous investment" and said the singer's actions "send a powerful message to survivors everywhere: you matter. What happens to you matters. And you are not alone." The 27-year-old "Bad Blood" songstress won her sexual assault lawsuit on Monday. A jury in a Denver federal court deliberated for four hours before allowing her complaint that David Mueller had fondled her buttocks during a photo op in 2013.

Swift, who was awarded a nominal \$1 in damages, promised to donate to charities in the wake of her ordeal. According to Forbes she is worth \$44 million. "I acknowledge the privilege that I benefit from in life, in society and in my ability to shoulder the enormous cost of defending myself in a trial like this," the diva said in a statement thanking the court. "My hope is to help those whose voices should also be heard. Therefore, I will be making donations in the near future to multiple organizations that help sexual assault victims defend themselves."

Hargitay starred as a police detective on "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit," a drama about New York professionals who investigate sexually related crimes. She says one in three women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, and that someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes in the United States. — AFP

This file photo shows singer-songwriter Taylor Swift performing her only full concert of 2016 during the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix at Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas. — AFP



## Abba star asks fans to take a chance on new piano album

It might take a few moments for fans of Abba star Benny Andersson's to recognize the songs on his new album "Piano". Although it features Abba hits, including "Thank you for the Music," and songs from Andersson's musicals and solo work, he performs them alone at the piano without any accompaniment and without vocals. "The pieces I have chosen to play are an integral part of me," Andersson said in an interview released by his record company. "In a strange way, I feel like I am playing my memoirs."

Andersson was the chief songwriter in the Swedish pop group, which also included Bjorn Ulvaeus, Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Agnetha

Falckog in the line-up. The group broke up in 1982 but have maintained an enduring popularity with subsequent generations of music fans and are one of the biggest-selling acts of all time.

In 2010, Abba's record company gave the group an award for selling 375 million albums. In addition to his musical output, it was recently announced that Andersson would serve as executive producer on an upcoming sequel to the film "Mamma Mia," a hit 2008 musical featuring the music of Abba. "Piano" will be released on Sept. 29. — Reuters



Benny Andersson



This file photo shows British TV entertainer Bruce Forsyth gesturing to the crowd while performing on the Avalon stage on the fifth day of the Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts near Glastonbury, southwest England. — AFP

British TV star **Bruce Forsyth** dies aged 89

Bruce Forsyth, the British television presenter who was the face of primetime family game shows for decades, died on Friday at the age of 89, his manager announced. Tributes poured in for the veteran entertainer, whose catchphrases—"Didn't he do well?" and "Nice to see you, to see you nice!"—were adopted into the national discourse. "From the moment we met, Bruce and I did nothing but laugh our way through a decade of working together," said Tess Daly, his co-presenter on hit BBC ballroom dancing show "Strictly Come Dancing" from 2004 to 2013.

"I will never forget his generosity, his brilliant sense of humor and his drive to entertain the audiences he so loved." She added: "I'm extremely fortunate to have worked alongside the man who defined Saturday night entertainment for many decades. He was a gentleman and a true legend." Born in 1928, Forsyth wanted to sing and dance from an early age, and made his television debut in 1939 in a talent show.

But he struggled to make a career out of his passion, until he was picked to host a Sunday night TV variety show in 1958, which pro-

pelled him into the limelight. He hosted the BBC's flagship Saturday evening show "The Generation Game" during the 1970s, attracting millions of viewers, and a slew of family game shows followed. Forsyth won over a new audience with "Strictly", which has since inspired numerous international spin-offs including "Dancing with the Stars".

He had retired from the public eye in recent years, and was reportedly hospitalized for a severe chest infection in March. In a statement, his manager Ian Wilson said his health had deteriorated in recent weeks and he contracted bronchial pneumonia. "It is with great sadness that the Forsyth family announce that Sir Bruce passed away this afternoon, peacefully at his home surrounded by his wife Wilnelia and all his children," he said.

"The family would like to express their thanks to the many people who have sent cards and letters to Bruce wishing him well over his long illness and know that they will share in part, the great, great loss they feel." — AFP

## 'Star Wars' Obi Wan spin-off in the works

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Stephen Daldry is in early talks to direct a "Star Wars" spin-off about Jedi master Obi Wan Kenobi, US media reported on Thursday. There is no script yet and no actor lined up to play the bearded warrior and sage made famous by the late Alec Guinness in the original series of films. Ewan McGregor, who played Kenobi in the much-maligned prequel series, will be an early favorite for the role, although at 46 he might be a stretch if the film concentrates on the character's formative years.

The Hollywood Reporter said Daldry, nominated three times for best director Academy Awards, would be part of the team overseeing the development and writing if the deal were to go ahead. Lucasfilm, which is owned by Disney, is in the middle of a trilogy of "anthology" films running in the even years alongside its main trilogy, which falls in odd years. "Star Wars Episode VII:

The Force Awakens" (2015) -- the first release in the main saga for a decade--was followed last year by "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story"--the first of the spin-offs.

"Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi" is due for release in December and will be followed in May next year by an as-yet untitled "Han Solo" standalone movie. That film, starring Alden Ehrenreich as Solo alongside Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke, Donald Glover and Thandie Newton, hit the headlines for the wrong reasons in June when directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller were sacked. Lucasfilm, citing "creative differences," replaced the pair behind the "Jump Street" films and "The Lego Movie" with veteran director Ron Howard, and the project is now said to be back on track.

Speculation over an Obi Wan spin-off has been circulating for as long as the plan for the three anthology films has been public. "There's no official offer, and I

haven't met them about it or anything," McGregor told Entertainment Weekly in April about the prospect of reprising the role. "But I've always said that I'd be happy to do it if they wanted to do it. It would be a good segue between the last episode of the prequels and the new episodes."

Unconfirmed reports in the trade press have also linked Lucasfilm to projects centering on several other favorite characters, such as Jedi grand master Yoda and bounty hunter Boba Fett. Daldry, whose Oscar nominations came for "Billy Elliot" (2000), "The Hours" (2002) and "The Reader" (2008), is up for an Emmy this year for directing hit Netflix period drama "The Crown." Disney and Daldry's representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment. — AFP



MUSIC & MOVIES

# Lights, camera, corona: Hollywood embraces the eclipse

The sun is getting ready for its close up. Producers of feature films and TV commercials will set up at key locations to capture what they hope will be unique scenes using the natural spectacle of Monday's total solar eclipse. For filmmakers, the most-coveted backdrops sit within the "zone of totality," where the moon will cover the sun and expose a glowing corona around its perimeter for up to two minutes and 40 seconds.

Camera crews, directors and actors are staging rehearsals and preparing to act quickly, as the brief period of totality will give filmmakers little time to record the perfect shot. "One take only," said director Alvin Case, who aims to shoot a roughly six-minute scene in western Nebraska for his inde-

pendent feature film "In the Moon's Shadow." "That's all you get with the sun."

Case's project, about a pair of estranged sisters who travel together to watch an eclipse, is one of at least three productions scheduled to shoot in Nebraska on Monday, said Laurie Richards, the state's film officer. Another feature film and an automobile commercial also are set to record footage there during the eclipse. Richards said she has been busy fielding last-minute inquiries from people wanting to shoot scenes for movies, TV commercials and documentaries during the rare event.

Eclipses have figured into previous Hollywood plots, including that of "2001: A Space Odyssey." In most cases, visu-

al effects experts recreated the phenomenon for the screen. An exception was the 1961 religious movie "Barabba," which used actual footage from a solar eclipse in a climactic scene depicting Jesus Christ's crucifixion.

Case plans to aim one camera skyward to film the eclipse and keep another focused on the reaction of three actors watching it unfold, he said. "You want the viewer to experience what they are experiencing, the moment of awe," he said. Several producers of TV commercials have requested permission to shoot in Oregon and Wyoming during the eclipse, local officials said.

In Oregon, authorities granted permits weeks ago for a handful of projects to film on Monday, the executive director

of Oregon Film, Tim Williams, said. Recent requests were denied because officials are focusing on the expected influx of tourists, he added.

Another filmmaker who will be shooting in Nebraska, Maria Dyer, said she plans to employ four cameras and a drone to capture eclipse footage, particularly the changing light over the state's Sand Hills, for a forthcoming movie. One challenge will be adjusting camera settings to account for the change in exposure. Another is the chance of clouds or rain. "It feels like a worthwhile risk to take," she said. — Reuters

## 'Predator' actor Sonny Landham dead at 76

Sonny Landham, the muscular action-movie actor who co-starred in "Predator" and "48 Hrs.," has died. He was 76. Landham's sister, Dawn Boehler, said the actor died from congestive heart failure Thursday at a Lexington, Kentucky, hospital. Landham was a brawny, deep-voiced actor and stunt man who played a bit part in Walter Hill's 1979 street-gang thriller "The Warriors" before the director cast him as the trigger-happy criminal Billy Bear in 1982's "48 Hrs."

Landham, who was part Cherokee and Seminole, was perhaps most known for playing the Native American tracker Billy Sole in the 1987 Arnold Schwarzenegger film "Predator." Landham entered the movie business after working in pornography in the '70s. Later in life, he attempted brief and unsuccessful political campaigns. He's survived by his son, William, and daughter, Priscilla. — AP



In this file photo, actor Sonny Landham gestures during a news conference to announce his candidacy for the US Senate in Frankfort, Kentucky. — AP

## Tyler to sing Total Eclipse hit for rare solar event

It's a pop culture moment for the ages: crooner Bonnie Tyler will sing her mega-hit "Total Eclipse of the Heart" on a cruise ship before an actual total eclipse of the sun. "It's perfect," proclaimed a headline on BuzzFeed. The 66-year-old British singer will perform her iconic 1983 power ballad on the Royal Caribbean ship Oasis of the Seas prior to Monday's eclipse, which will be visible across the United States, the company said in a statement.

"Bonnie Tyler was a natural choice for this once-in-a-lifetime moment," Royal Caribbean International CEO Michael Bayley told Time magazine. "As Oasis of the Seas sails towards the path of totality, the international first lady of rock will join multi-platinum selling band DNCE as part of an exclusive concert in the ship's signature outdoor AquaTheater," it said. DNCE is an American pop band headed by Joe Jonas, known best for its catchy single "Cake by the Ocean."

The eclipse will begin on the US west coast, near Oregon, early Monday and ends in the afternoon over South Carolina, marking the first total eclipse to move across the United States in 99 years. Interest in Tyler's signature song typically surges whenever there is an eclipse-which happen on average every year and a half somewhere around the globe.



This file photo shows Britain's Bonnie Tyler performing during the finals of the 2013 Eurovision Song Contest. — AFP

The page for the song's video on YouTube had more than 303 million views as of Thursday, four days before the eclipse. But fans should be careful not to heed one of the lyrics: "Turn around, bright eyes." Experts say no one should look directly at an eclipse without proper eye protection, or risk blindness. — AFP

## Pencils, paper, backpacks, oh my! Stars go back to school

Fresh 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

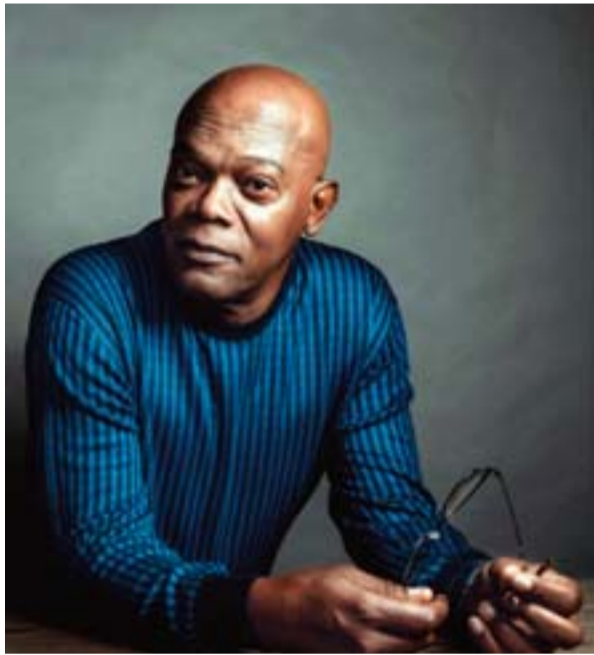
adorning her homemade covers.

"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 preschool.

"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



In this photo, Samuel L. Jackson poses for a portrait in New York. — AP photos



Max Greenfield attends the premiere of 'The Glass Castle' at the SVA Theatre in New York.



Kiersey Clemons attends 'The Only Living Boy in New York' premiere at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



Kate Beckinsale attends 'The Only Living Boy in New York' premiere at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

## TV's next big experiment: Choose your own adventure

It's an all-too-familiar frustration for film fans wanting to yell at the character who picks up the wrong suitcase, forgets the torch batteries or assumes wrongly the killer is dead. But the days of yelling impotently at the screen when someone does something dumb could be numbered thanks to a new generation of interactive content giving the viewer control of the story. Leading the charge is Netflix, which is conducting its first experiment in "branching narratives" with DreamWorks animated series "The Adventures of Puss in Boots" and stop-motion show "Buddy Thunderstruck."

One-off episodes of both shows which dropped recently on the streaming service bring the "choose your own adventure" format seen in 1980s novels to internet TV. Viewers are asked at various points what their character should do next, and are able to navigate to numerous possible endings by making decisions using their remote controls or touch screen devices. Another such show, "Stretch Armstrong: The Breakout"-based on the 1970s US action figure-is scheduled to air on Netflix next year.

"Most of the episodes are straight, linear, traditional Saturday morning cartoon-type episodes," said "Buddy Thunderstruck" creator Ryan Wiesbrock, an executive at media company American Greetings Entertainment. "But Netflix approached saying, 'We're doing this thing where we're experimenting with interactive television-would you guys like to get involved with that? And we said yes, absolutely-that sounds amazing.'"

### Spoil for choice

Consumers have been spoilt for choice since the 1980s when it comes to role-playing games and "choose your own adventure"-style novels, while the best video games look almost as good these days as

the most sumptuous movie. Films like "Wayne's World" (1992), "Sliding Doors" (1998) and "28 Days Later" (2002) have toyed with the idea of multiple endings but none has allowed the viewer to shape the narrative in real time.

Burbank-based Stoopid Buddy Stoodios co-founder Eric Towner, a director of "Buddy Thunderstruck," says children's programming was the natural place to start, with youngsters already inclined to tap, touch and swipe at screens. "Kids tend to watch things over and over anyway. The fact that they can watch it again and it can be different each time, but still living in the world of that episode, that's a unique thing," Towner said.



This file photo shows the Netflix company logo at Netflix headquarters in Los Gatos, California. — AFP

For now, Netflix is calling the whole thing an experiment but the format could go beyond children's programming if enough of its 100 million subscribers respond positively. The end goal could be a "House of Cards" where viewers can make President Frank Underwood nuke North Korea, or "The Crown," where they can have Elizabeth II abdicate.

"When you start thinking about it, and going deeper and more complex than what we've done

here, it really starts to open things up, it's crazy the stuff you could do," said Towner. "Think of a show like 'Lost'... Just knowing from the get-go it's going to be interactive, it affects the stories you would tell, how you tell them and how people would receive them."

### Mostly one-offs

Tony Gunnarsson, principal analyst at IT and telecoms consultancy Ovum, says he doesn't see the interactive experiment changing adult programming wholesale any time soon. "Ultimately, I think this type of programming is probably going to be mostly one-offs. Certainly, Netflix is not going to have branching narratives on multiple series from now on," he said. The format has already produced the world's first truly interactive movie, however "Late Shift" (2016) by Swiss start-up company CtrlMovie-which has played festivals across the world.

Viewers vote on the actions of the protagonist-leading to one of seven endings-using a smartphone app while the movie keeps rolling seamlessly for between 70 and 90 minutes. "This type of content has not really been possible on a broad scale until now," Glenn Hower, a senior digital media analyst with research firm Parks Associates, said. "Sure, it could be done on DVD or Blu-ray discs, but the experience is typically slow and disruptive."

Hower said it would be interesting to see how the format could be incorporated into the booming virtual reality (VR) industry. "Consuming VR-formatted content is highly personal as it is, and allowing a free or even semi-directed narrative gives consumers the opportunity to make this content even more their own." — AFP

## Chinese crime writer arrested for murders 22 years ago

Life may be stranger than fiction for an award-winning Chinese crime writer who has been arrested in connection with a quadruple-homicide that took place more than two decades ago. For 22 years, police in eastern Zhejiang province tried to crack the cold case of how a family ended up dead in the guesthouse they ran. They filled stacks upon stacks of notepads with possible suspects and leads, only to learn earlier this month that the answer may have been hiding in plain sight at the local bookstore.

According to a police statement, Liu Yongbiao, a 53-year-old author, was arrested last week at his home in neighboring Anhui province along with a villager with the surname Wang. They have been charged with and confessed to the murders. Authorities told The Paper, a Chinese publication, that Liu remarked as he was being handcuffed: "I've been waiting for you here all this time."

Liu, who was a member of the prestigious Communist Party-led China Writers Association, worked with one of the country's largest publishing houses and had a novel turned into a television series. In the preface to his novel "The Guilty Secret," according to The Paper, the writer revealed that he was working on a sequel starring a wordsmith who commits a series of murders but is never caught. The book's planned title was "The Beautiful Writer Who Killed".

### Breakthrough

The gruesome nature of Liu's own alleged crime would have provided ample fodder for his story. On the evening of November 29, 1995, police said, two men checked into a guesthouse in Huzhou, a picturesque city on the Yangtze Delta, with the intention of executing a robbery.

They ended up bludgeoning to death the couple that owned the guesthouse and their grandson as well as another guest.

With authorities lacking advanced forensic technology at the time, they had just one thing to go on: the guesthouse staff's recollection that the two men spoke in heavy Anhui accents. Then, nearly 22 years later this August, police said they made a "breakthrough" in part due to DNA testing, which pointed them to Liu and Wang. At the time of Liu's arrest, he was editing a student paper and running a literature course, Chinese media reported.

Liu's students told the Beijing News that he never talked about his personal life. Fang Ming, whom Liu tutored in writing from the sixth grade to the eighth, remembered his teacher as a solemn man. "(Liu) was a very serious person," Fang said. "He rarely smiled and often criticized his students. Though he never raised his voice, he always wore his disappointment on his face." — AFP





Street artist Ibo Omari transforming a swastika into an insect.



Picture shows a graffiti created from a swastika symbol by artist Ibo Omari resembling a Rubik's Cube in Berlin.

## Graffiti activists in Berlin turn Nazi symbols into art

**H**orrified at the sight of swastikas scrawled on walls, children's playgrounds and building sites, a group of graffiti artists in Berlin is transforming the Nazi symbols into colorful artwork such as flowers, cars and animals. The swastika, which was adopted by Adolf Hitler's Nazi party, is banned in Germany, where right-wing sentiment has risen due to an influx of more than a million migrants in the last two years.

Ibo Omari, who runs a graffiti shop and 'The Cultural Heirs' youth club, encourages young people to look out for swastikas in their local area and then creatively paint over them - after getting permission from whoever owns the defaced property. "It was important to spur young people into action and to encourage them to take responsibility so they don't just ignorantly walk past such symbols of hatred," Omari said.

"It offends the whole neighborhood if someone in our midst paints swastikas in a children's playground and I take it personally," the 37-year-old said, adding that they also wanted to show graffiti had nothing to do with racism. Omari and 'The Cultural Heirs' decided the best way to respond was "with humor and love" so they came up with designs such as rabbits, birds and a Rubik's Cube to cover swastikas. Sketching potential designs during a graffiti workshop in Omari's shop, 16-year-old Philip Keilholz said he got involved as racism had no place in the cosmopolitan German capital.

"When tourists come to Berlin and look at a wall and see a swastika, they'll think: 'What's going on here? There are Nazis everywhere!' And we don't want that," he said. "An artistic



Graffiti artist Ibo Omari poses for a portrait in his shop in Berlin, Germany. — AFP photos



Before and after photos of Berlin's #PaintBack initiative.

symbol obviously looks much nicer than an ugly message and then people walk through the city with a smile on their faces," he added. The group has already transformed around 25 swastikas and their 'PaintBack' initiative has been copied by people in other cities including Hamburg, Kiel and Bremen.

Omari was shocked into starting the project in 2015 when a man came into his shop to get some cans of spray paint to cover a swastika in a park where he had been playing with his son. Two weeks later Omari heard about swastikas painted in a skate park. "I felt like I was in the wrong film," said Omari.

"There has been a shift towards the right in Germany and not just in Germany but in Europe overall ... so it's important to nail your colors to the mast." — Reuters

## Polka dot queen Yayoi Kusama to open museum in Tokyo

**W**orld famous Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, known as "the queen of polka dots", will open a museum exhibiting her works in Tokyo in October, an official said. Kusama, 88, is known for her use of vivid colour in her works that often depict polka dots and spotted pumpkins. She often appears in a wheelchair and sporting her trademark red hair.

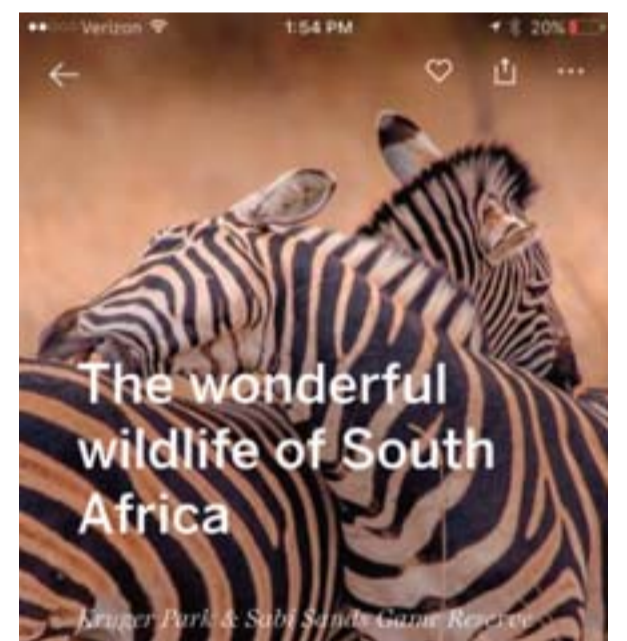
The museum will hold exhibitions twice a year to "spread the message of world peace and love that Kusama has called for to the world in her works", the Yayoi Kusama Foundation said in a press release. The first exhibition at the museum, which begins on October 1, will feature her large painting series titled "My Eternal Soul". "Ms Kusama had a strong wish to open her own museum," Akira Tatehata, director of the new facility, said on Thursday.

"We hope as many people as possible come to see her works," Tatehata said, adding that the building will be located in Tokyo's Shinjuku district near her atelier. The announcement comes after Kusama held two major exhibitions in Japan and the United States this year. "More than 500,000 people came to the exhibition at Tokyo's National Art Centre and the exhibition in Washington also attracted a lot of visitors," Tatehata said.

Born in 1929 in central Japan's Nagano prefecture, Kusama, who suffered from psychological trauma due to feuding between her parents, was already drawing dots and nets as a child based on her hallucinatory experiences. After moving to the United States in 1957 at age 28, Kusama became a fixture in the Pop and Minimalism art movements of the 1960s. During a 16-year stint in New York, she staged "happenings" at

the height of the sexual liberation movement where people stripped naked and had their bodies painted with polka dots on Wall Street or Central Park.

By the time Kusama returned to Japan in 1973, however, she was burned out and voluntarily checked into a psychiatric ward where she has lived ever since. It was not until the 1990s that Kusama was "rediscovered," her polka dots and pumpkins a perfect find for a highly commercialized art market, with collectors drawn to her instantly recognizable style. Her commercial success was highlighted when she collaborated with Louis Vuitton in 2012 and she was named the world's most popular artist in 2014 by the Art Newspaper. — AFP



This screenshot taken from a mobile phone and provided by Lonely Planet shows a post from the company's new app 'Trips.' — AP

## Lonely Planet app Trips: Be inspired or tell your own story

**L**onely Planet has a new free app called Trips that offers inspiration for travel, along with an easy way for users to create visually driven stories about their own trips. "We're giving the community the ability to create travel content and to be inspired by it," said Lonely Planet CEO Daniel Houghton in an interview for The Associated Press travel podcast "Get Outta Here." For inspiration, scroll through content curated by Lonely Planet's editorial team in eight categories: adventure, wildlife and nature, coasts and islands, ruins, road trips, festivals and events, hiking and cities.

Or upload your own photos and video about a place or travel experience to create your own story. Add text, decide which image to use for a cover photo, write a headline and you've created a travel story with a sumptuous, professional look and layout. It's also easy to edit or delete the story - even after you've published it. You can also send a Trips story by email or message as a clickable link for friends and family to see, or you can post them on sites like Twitter or Facebook.

You can keep your trips private and only share with selected friends and family. Or you can opt to make your trips public. If you do make them public, they can be seen by anyone who chooses to follow you. But your public trips won't be shown as part of the app's curated content unless it's chosen by Lonely Planet's editorial team to be featured. (The app notifies you if your post is selected.) The app doesn't currently have a search function where you can look for content by destination, but that may be added later.

Houghton noted that Trips is Lonely Planet's second major new mobile product, with the first one being an offline mapping app called Guides. Houghton became CEO of Lonely Planet about four years ago at the relatively young age of 24. He emphasized the company's continuing commitment to print products - guidebooks, magazines and coffee-table books - while at the same time putting "significant energy and investment and time and effort into really being prominent as a digital business."

The Trips app is designed for personal, non-commercial use and guidelines ban posts that advertise products or services. Users remain the owners of the photos they upload, though they grant Lonely Planet permission to use the content. The app also has a link to trips contributed by photographers from Unsplash, a site for rights-free images. — AP





FASHION

# Demi Lovato creates an athleisure line with Fabletics

The 24-year-old joined forces with the sports brand earlier this year to launch a clothing range, and the star has admitted it wasn't until she attended the glamorous star studded bash last year, which made her feel left out, that she wanted to explore the fashion industry further. Speaking to WWD about her partnership, the brunette beauty said: "I went to the Met Gala for the first time last year and I remember feeling kind of like, 'I don't know why I am here' because I wear workout clothes every day. And my manager said, 'Why don't we do something

that's more authentic to you?" and then this came about." The 'Cool For The Summer' hitmaker has revealed she always intended for her collection to be "edgier" and suitable for the "younger" generation. She explained: "I had seen a lot of yogawear and lots of yoga pants and those tend to be lighter colors and kind of the more zen. I wanted something a bit edgier and younger, something I would want to wear every day. There are certain silhouettes I like on myself - jackets like this, leggings. I don't wear shorts a lot, so I put those in for other people. There are these pants

and shorts that have an elastic band that wraps around your waist. It's very flattering and it just gives it a little something more. It's just an edgier look to it. "I wanted everything to be functional and to look great on people of all sizes. That's what's important to me. You also have the opportunity to just wear a sports bra and leggings or you can put a jacket or tank or sweatshirt over it and still look cute. There's lots of layering pieces."



Afghan models present traditional embroidered Afghan clothing during a fashion show in Kabul, Afghanistan. — AP photos

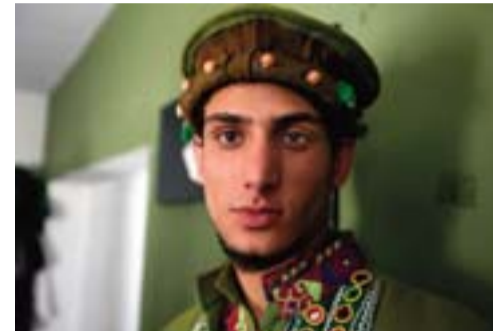
## Kabul catwalk: Afghan models show off traditional clothing

Amid tight security, over two dozen young models, including six women, strutted down the catwalk in the garden of a private Kabul villa, proudly displaying the traditional clothing and costumes of Afghanistan's many ethnic groups. The audience, about 100 men and women, tightly packed the small space on a recent afternoon, but the mood was as bright as the models' embroidered tunics and scarves - a scene that would have been unimaginable under Taliban rule.

For the organizer, 22-year-old model and fashion designer Ajmal Haqiqi, putting on the show was worth the risk - despite daily threats of militant attacks in this war-weary capital. Haqiqi says he was motivated by the desire to show off Afghan culture through the nation's dazzling abundance of traditional garments and regional costumes. If Afghans regain an awareness of their rich heritage, this could help unite them, he said.

"I told myself, if a suicide bomber attacks us, even if I lose my hands and feet, I will continue on the way that I have chosen," an exuberant Haqiqi told The Associated Press after the event. Kabul has seen few fashion shows over the past years, mostly catering to international audiences. Haqiqi's show was the first all-Afghan enterprise: Afghan models showing Afghan traditional clothing to an all-Afghan audience.

However, the idea of women on display remains mostly taboo in Afghanistan, more than 16 years after the 2001 US assault that ousted the Taliban from power after a repressive five-year reign. Some women still don't go outside without wearing blue burqas that cover them from head to toe, leaving only mesh over the eyes. Violence against women



more such shows is exciting. "If we can change the mentality of our people from all these years of fighting, then I am sure the people can be ready for a better future," she said.

Kabul has been battered by attacks over recent months, most claimed by the Taliban but some also by an Islamic State affiliate. Last month, a Taliban suicide bomber rammed his car packed with explosives into a bus carrying government employees in the same western Kabul neighborhood where Haqiqi's show took place, an area that is home to several private schools and where many politicians reside. The rush hour attack killed 24 people and wounded 42 others.

is still common, and there are reports of women being stoned, executed in public or imprisoned for having affairs with men. Women have even set themselves on fire to escape domestic violence.

Haqiqi's group, the Haqiqi Modeling Agency, is a relative newcomer on the country's small fashion scene but he has appeared on national television on various occasions, such as Independence Day, the Persian New Year, known as Nowruz, and the Muslim holidays of Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. The agency sells the designs under its own "Haqiqi Brand," with about 70 percent of the sales going to foreigners and Afghans living abroad.

Atefa Fasihi, 21, joined Haqiqi's team two years ago and the show was her debut before a live audience. She acknowledged feeling uneasy as heavily armed security guards protected the villa in a western Kabul neighborhood. "Everybody is scared, but ... we are working to promote our Afghan culture, so I foresee a good future," Fasihi said. Husna Sadat, who was in the audience, said the prospect of

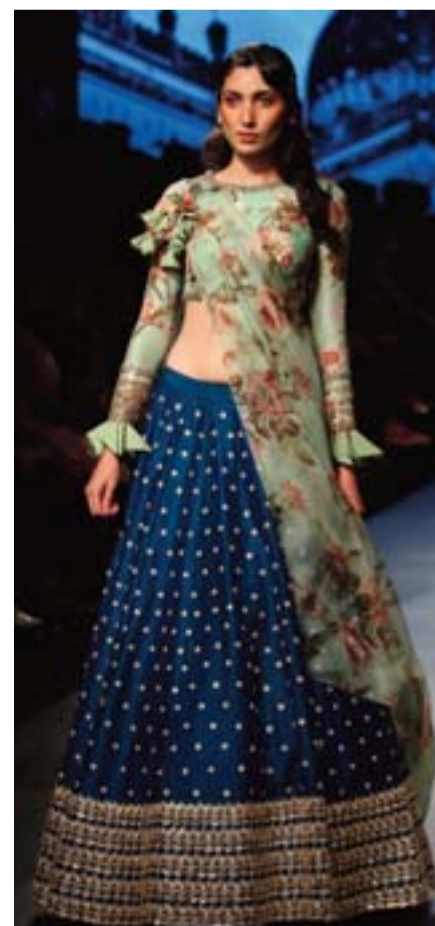
And on May 31, the city saw its worst suicide bombing since the Taliban collapse - an attack that killed 150 people and wounded scores. But it was all smiles at the fashion show. The male models showed off Afghan variants of the shalwar kameez, the men's long shirt and pants also known as perahan tunban, with turban, pakul or karakul hats. The women wore colorful gand-e-Afghanis, made from softly flowing and intricately embroidered materials, some with matching scarves.

For Amina Sherzad, also in the audience at Haqiqi's show last week, the mix of the ethnic garments held a message of acceptance. "It shows that we can accept each other, a model can be a Tajik or a Hazara but can wear the other's ethnic clothing," she said, referring to two prominent ethnic minorities. "We are the same." — AP



Indian models showcase creations by designer Paris Modi at Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) Winter/Festive 2017 in Mumbai. — AFP photos

## Highlights from Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) Winter/Festive 2017



Indian models showcase creations by designer Anushree Reddy at Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) Winter/Festive 2017 in Mumbai.





In this photo fireworks illuminate the sky after a concert at the Potsdam Castle Night in the Sanssouci park in Potsdam, Germany. — AP

## Raj all the rage as India marks 70 years of independence

As India marks the 70th anniversary of its independence this year, a slew of movies tackling its colonial history are hitting cinema screens, including a controversial account of partition by the director of "Bend It Like Beckham". Gurinder Chadha's "Viceroy's House" is released in India on Friday under the name "Partition: 1947" and tells the story of how India's last governor Lord Mountbatten oversaw the end of three centuries of British rule.

Partition and the British Empire have been the source of dramatic material for filmmakers in the past, from Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning "Gandhi" to David Lean's "A Passage to India". Hindi language film "Lagaan" used cricket to spotlight a village's rebellion against a draconian colonial-era tax. But experts say the period has often been overlooked by filmmakers in the past, despite its dramatic potential—perhaps because the trauma of partition was still so fresh in people's minds. "As a space for stories, 1947 has not been mined as much as WWI or WWII or other historical events that have caught the imagination of the world," film writer Shubhra Gupta said. "Now there is enough distance between 1947 and us, and we are able to look back less in anger and anguish," added Gupta, a film critic and columnist at the Indian Express newspaper.

Other Western movies to deal with the Raj era this year include "The Black Prince", which recreates the life of Duleep Singh, the last king of Punjab, who was deposed and taken to Britain as a child, never to return to his homeland. Stephen Frears' "Victoria and Abdul" explores the true story of the unusual relationship between queen Victoria, played by Judi Dench, and a young Indian clerk, Abdul Karim. "Viceroy's House" portrays the disastrous



This file photo shows Indian film score composer and singer AR Rahman, left, taking part in a promotional event for the forthcoming Hindi film 'Partition 1947' directed by Gurinder Chadha, right, in Mumbai.

aftermath of partition when an untold number of people—some estimates say up to two million—died in savage violence as Hindus and Muslims turned on one another. Director Chadha, whose grandparents fled what is now Pakistan at partition, told AFP the story was "intensely personal". "My family rarely talked about partition because it was so raw and painful but my grandmother, who lived with us, was traumatized by what happened. So to make a film like this in India is a big deal for

me," she said by email.

Chadha said the story of partition was deeply relevant today, as the world struggles to cope with a new refugee crisis and a rise in nationalism. "The day I was filming the major scenes in a refugee camp we recreated with 1,000 extras was the same day the young Syrian refugee boy washed ashore in Greece," she said. "This story sends a warning that in this current time of the politics of division and hate... there will be tragic consequences."

### Visual memory

The movie, which stars Hugh Bonneville-of "Downton Abbey"—as Mountbatten, has had mixed reviews, with some critics accusing Chadha of being too soft on Britain. Indian film critic Raja Sen in his review called it "an embarrassment, with or without its childish attempts at pro-empire revisionism". Gupta said "Viceroy's House" was likely to appeal more to an audience outside India that did not have a direct stake in the tragedies of partition.

"Historical films help to explain things to the diaspora around the world, as well as third and fourth generation immigrants who have only heard stories, who are also looking for a visual memory of those days," he said. Two Hindi language films about the era have already been released this year, though neither was a box office hit. "Raag Desh" deals with the armed rebel group set up under British rule by the Indian nationalist Subhash Chandra Bose, who broke ranks with independence champion Mahatma Gandhi over his non-violent approach.

"Begum Jaan" explored the impact of partition through the fictional story of a brothel that fell right on the new border. In the week that India and Pakistan mark 70 years of independence, Chadha said such movies served as a reminder of the horrors of that era. "I want people to be talking about partition, whatever their perspective, so we can ensure tragedies like this don't happen again," she said. — AFP



This file photo shows Indian Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi, talking with the media during a promotional event for the forthcoming Bollywood film 'Partition 1947', at the Partition Museum in Amritsar.



This file photo shows a policeman, left, trying to control movie-goers outside a cinema where Indian actor/producer Aamir Khan's Oscar nominated film 'Lagaan' (Land Tax) is being screened in Mumbai. — AFP photos



This file photo shows Bollywood actor Satinder Sartaaj, left, and Shabana Azmi arriving on stage to introduce their movie 'The Black Prince' during IIFA award of the 18th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Festival at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.