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Protesters slam 'reckless' US Jerusalem move, 'Arab silence'

Demos held outside National Assembly, Palestinian Embassy

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: A large number of Kuwaitis and Arabs yesterday demonstrated in Irada Square opposite the National Assembly to express their rejection of the US administration's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the US embassy there. The call to protest had been made by several political groups, including the Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, and civil society associations. A "Wanted" poster of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was torched by one protester and trampled on by others.

Speakers urged Kuwait and Arab governments to pressure US President Donald Trump to reverse his controversial decision, which has sparked protests across the Arab and Muslim world. Loulousa Al-Mulla, head of Kuwait's Women's Cultural and Social Society, said the rally was aimed at "voicing the anger of the Kuwaiti people" at Trump's move. "Trump's decision is unfair. Civil society groups in Kuwait denounce it," she said. The National Assembly is due to hold a special session on Wednesday to discuss Washington's policy shift.

Former MP Abdullah Al-Tamimi described the Trump's decision as 'reckless', adding moves to turn Jerusalem into a Jewish city had never stopped since 1948. Tamimi said much is anticipated from the people rather than the government. "We have never seen any tangible solutions over the past 60 years, as US administrations have been taking advantage of Arabs' endless disputes. However, we say that



KUWAIT: (Left) Protesters step on a poster of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a demonstration in front of the National Assembly yesterday following the US president's controversial recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. (Right) Protesters gather outside the Palestinian Embassy later yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat (More pics on Page 3)

Jerusalem is an Arab city and will remain so regardless of the circumstances," he vowed, noting that Kuwait will never accept this decision. ICM MP Osama Al-Shaheen stressed that Jerusalem is not only an Arab and Muslim cause, but one of humanity in general. He urged Arab governments

against mere verbal condemnations and to act more powerfully by rejecting all forms of normalization. Shaheen said his group has asked the government "to take measures against US interests... and we expect to see concrete measures before Wednesday, not just condemnations". "It

is no longer acceptable to have all our investments, political and financial interests in the United States when there are other countries in the world that have much better (political) positions," he added.

Continued on Page 11

Gulf Cup moves to Kuwait; KFA names coach

DOHA: Gulf Cup organizers will officially announce this week that the tournament will be played in Kuwait and not Qatar after overcoming political and administrative obstacles, a senior official said yesterday. "We will officially announce it on Monday (December 11)," said Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation (AGCFF) general secretary Jassim Al-Rumaihi. Qatari state news agency QNA also reported the transfer will go up for final approval by the Gulf football associations tomorrow, citing Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al-Thani, who heads both the Qatari federation and the regional body.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Football Association's (KFA) technical committee said yesterday it agreed with Jahra football team manager Boris Bunjak to coach the national team for the 23th Gulf Cup. Bunjak, a Serbian, will start the first practice with the national team today, KFA said in a statement. The announcement came after Al-Jahra Sport Club's approval, it said. The tournament has been plagued by problems. It was originally scheduled to take place in Kuwait last year, but the country's football association was suspended by FIFA in Oct 2015.

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Abbas to shun Pence; 2 killed; N Korea slams 'dotard' Trump

RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will refuse to meet US Vice President Mike Pence later this month following Washington's controversial policy shift on Jerusalem, an Abbas aide said yesterday, as protests gripped the Palestinian territories for a third straight day. Retaliatory Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip killed two Hamas militants before dawn, as unrest simmered over President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital on Wednesday.

Four people have been killed and dozens wounded since Trump announced the move, which drew criticism from every other member of the UN Security Council at an emergency meeting on Friday. "There will be no meeting with the vice president of America in Palestine," Abbas' diplomatic adviser Majdi Al-Khaldi told AFP. "The United States has crossed all the red lines with the Jerusalem decision," he added.

Egypt's Coptic Pope Tawadros II also cancelled a meeting with Pence, with the church saying it "declines to receive" him in protest at Trump's announcement which failed to take into account the "feelings of millions" of Arabs. That decision came a day after Ahmed Al-Tayeb who heads Al-Azhar, Egypt's top Sunni



JERUSALEM: Women react as an Israeli mounted policeman disperses Palestinian protesters yesterday. — AFP

Muslim institution, also scrapped plans to meet the US vice president over the "unjust and unfair American decision on Jerusalem".

There were fresh clashes yesterday as Palestinian protesters in the occupied West Bank hurled stones at Israeli troops, who responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds. In the Gaza Strip, mourners vented their anger at the funerals of two people

killed by Israeli troops during clashes at the border fence on Friday and the two Hamas militants killed early yesterday.

An Israeli army statement said "violent riots have erupted at approximately 20 locations" in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip" with protesters throwing rocks, petrol bombs and rolling burning tyres at troops.

Continued on Page 11

Final touches before Cabinet is announced

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The new Cabinet lineup is almost ready to be unveiled today, said informed sources, noting that the announcement might be delayed until evening over some portfolios. They added the Cabinet ministers will have to swear in before HH the Amir prior to his departure to Turkey on Tuesday to take part in an Islamic summit to condemn US President Donald Trump's decision on Jerusalem.

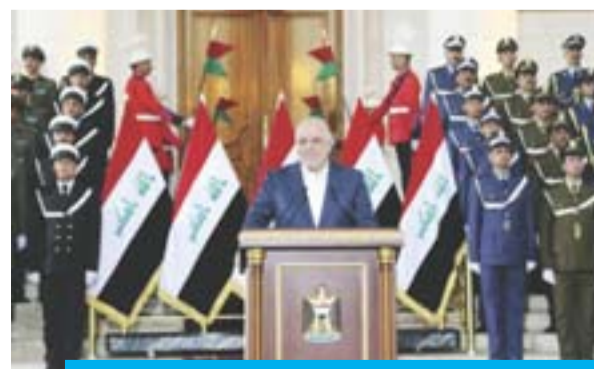
The sources said the new formation will exclude Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, who has been threatened with a grilling if he returns to office. The sources noted that the premier preferred to exclude Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled, who demanded returning to the interior ministry and nowhere else, while the PM insisted on retaining him as his performance is favored by a majority of MPs. The sources said that it was agreed to appoint Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as defense minister.

Continued on Page 11

Abadi declares final victory over IS in Iraq

BAGHDAD: Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi yesterday declared victory in a three-year war by Iraqi forces to expel the Islamic State group that at its height endangered Iraq's very existence. "Our forces are in complete control of the Iraqi-Syrian border and I therefore announce the end of the war against Daesh (IS)," Abadi told a conference in Baghdad. "Our enemy wanted to kill our civilization, but we have won through our unity and our determination. We have triumphed in little time," he said, hailing Iraq's "heroic armed forces".

As the authorities announced a public holiday today "to celebrate the victory", Abadi said in a speech at the defense ministry that Iraq's next battle would be to defeat the scourge of corruption. IS seized vast areas north and west of Baghdad in a lightning offensive in 2014. With Iraq's army and police retreating in disarray at the time, Ayatollah Ali Sistani, spiritual leader of the country's majority Shiites, called for a general mobilization, leading to the formation of Hashed Al-Shaabi paramilitary units. Iraq's fightback was also launched with the backing of an air campaign waged by a US-led



BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi delivers a televised speech in the capital yesterday. —AFP

coalition, recapturing town after town from the clutches of the militants in fierce urban warfare. The US State Department hailed the end of the militants' "vile occupation" but cautioned that the fight was not over.

"The United States joins the Government of Iraq in stressing that Iraq's liberation does not mean the fight against terrorism, and even against ISIS (IS), in Iraq is over," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said. The coalition, meanwhile, tweeted, using an Arabic acronym for IS: "Congratulations to the government of Iraq and the Iraqi security forces on the liberation of all

Continued on Page 11

Harbi insists no new health fee hike, denies expat died due to nonpayment

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi denied plans to further raise fees for medical services provided to expats and stressed that the recent fee hikes were made to provide better healthcare and develop work in various medical departments. Harbi added that the decision to increase expats' annual health insurance to KD 130 is still being studied.

Harbi stressed that he has instructed hospital managers to exempt expats with urgent cases, heart disease and ICU patients from the new fees, and strongly denied that an Egyptian died last week after Amiri Hospital refused operating on him unless he paid in advance for an urgent heart surgery.

He said he called the hospital manager Dr Ali Al-Alandah, who said the patient only needed a bypass surgery costing KD 90.

Local

Kuwaitis demonstrate for Jerusalem

local spotlight

US declaration on Jerusalem



By Muna Al-Fuzal

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

The announcement by US President Donald Trump on Wednesday recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel had major ramifications and reactions that are worth mentioning here for an analysis of the days ahead. I believe there are two main issues. The first is that the US president has a predetermined agenda as per his election promises. We Arabs do not have a specific agenda. Also, we are facing many internal and external problems and challenges, such as intellectual extremism and many others, so the Palestinian case is one issue in a long list.

The US announcement confirmed one of the most serious fears of the Palestinians, who are living in occupied territories and still have hope to reach a just solution for their cause after more than 50 years to end their daily suffering in dealing with the Israeli occupation and managing their lives, needs and security. The declaration came as a hard and cruel shock to them.

The US side probably saw this as an act of courage, because no former president dared to make such an announcement. Well, he is right, because there was never a US president who openly fired his employees and declared tough views on Twitter. I think he's right. The world has never witnessed a president like Trump. As for the Arabs who are busy with their internal issues, yes, the declaration is regrettable and unfortunate, but it's a fact of life and they have to deal with it. I think condemning and perhaps submitting a protest note to the UN Security Council is predictable.

World leaders have differing views on the matter, starting with UN Security Council delegates who criticized Washington's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. They still consider East Jerusalem an occupied territory, stressing that the status of the city should only be decided through negotiations.

The European attitude was frank and straightforward, especially the French position. The French president said in a press conference that Europe is committed to the two-state solution - Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognized borders and with Jerusalem as the capital of the two countries. France's permanent representative to the United Nations said "we do not recognize the sovereignty of anyone over occupied East Jerusalem".

The Gulf countries' position was presented clearly by Saudi Arabia, which said in an official statement that this step is unjustified and will not alter or prejudice the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem. But this is a major setback in efforts to push forward with the peace process, and will complicate the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. I guess this statement summarizes the Gulf's stance.

I believe that even if the American decision came after planning, coordination and consultation before the official announcement, it could lead to a new wave of violence in the Middle East. Terrorist groups may try to benefit from it by more violence and murderous acts, using this statement as a pretext to kill more innocent people. This is indeed frightening, but must be taken into account, especially since extremist movements often raise the banner of the Palestinian cause to denounce ruling regimes.

Undoubtedly, the US decision provoked several angry reactions from Arab and Islamic countries, as the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation called for emergency meetings to discuss appropriate responses, especially as the declaration destroys the hope of a two-state solution and eliminates the peace process. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Trump's decision represents a declaration that the United States will withdraw from the peace process.

I agree that the decision of the US administration to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel hinders all initiatives and negotiations in the peace process, complicates the Palestinian-Israeli issue and creates great embarrassment for the major allies of America in the Middle East, especially those who depend on American aid. I believe there is now an urgent need to convene an urgent international conference to support the demands of the Palestinians and perhaps it is time to present a new peace plan under the auspices of Saudi Arabia, agreed upon by all parties, and taking into account the interests of all.

The US indeed has its interests in the Middle East, so maybe it is also time for the Arabs to submit a new plan to shape the ideas on how to handle this case for the sake of the Palestinians, who are now facing a tough situation.



KUWAIT: Kuwaitis demonstrated yesterday at the Eradah Square in front of the National Assembly, following the US president's controversial recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and decision to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

No plans to lay off expat teachers

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The education ministry's assistant under-secretary for general education Fatma Al-Kandari announced that expat teachers of certain subjects will not be laid off, adding that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) knows the ministry's needs. Responding to a question about exams, Kandari stressed that exam paper delivery boxes will be tracked by GPS devices to prevent leaks. She added that a new measure, which she refused to reveal, will be used during the final exams to prevent cheating.

Applications dropped

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare has achieved a lot of success in providing housing to long-time applicants, said informed sources, noting that applications dropped from 105,000 to 98,000 in 2017. The sources added that the authority's execution manager Ali Al-Hubail recently signed a contract with an international consultancy firm to provide advice on planning the south Sabah Al-Ahmad City project with a total value of KD 7.2 million, adding that the 24-month project will provide housing for 78,000 families. The sources also noted that 50 percent of the West Abdullah Al-Mubarak project's units have been completed and handed over two months prior to the date previously announced.

Conference center

A number of economic advisors are about to make a proposal to the new Cabinet concerning making use of the Jaber Cultural Center in turning Kuwait into a regional conference destination. A feasibility study by a team of Kuwaiti economic experts stressed that making Kuwait a destination for conferences will help lay the foundation of turning HH the Amir's wish to turn Kuwait into a regional commercial and financial hub. In this regard, informed sources said the study was strongly based on activating the development plan, including projects like the Silk City, Boubyan Port, the islands project and the Gulf railway, which will cost around KD 300 billion.

Unlicensed nurseries

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) inspection campaigns at various nurseries resulted in locating 125 unlicensed nurseries. They were accordingly reported to relevant authorities.

Govt buildings

Well-informed sources said that the finance ministry plans to build new government buildings to replace those rented by various governmental bodies, and thus cut expenses spent on rent. The sources added that the ministry has been studying the proposal for a while, and accordingly rejected some bodies' requests to pay high rent values for some buildings.





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Local

Proteges Program's Generation Seven hailed as great success

Graduates give presentation during press conference

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) and the Proteges Program held a press conference yesterday on the Generation Seven's experience in 2017 at KIPCO Tower. Abeer Al-Omar, Corporate Social Responsibility Director at KIPCO Group, noted that KIPCO is supporting and sponsoring the Proteges Program as a strategic partner for the fifth consecutive year. "We are glad that Gulf Insurance Group, one of the subsidiary companies of KIPCO, is the official sponsor of the graduation project of the seventh generation - 'Kamala'," she pointed out.

Various KIPCO companies have cooperated with the Proteges Program during the past five years. "Their cooperation had different forms including sponsorship, organizing visits and interviews with the chief executive officers of the companies of KIPCO," added Omar.

Nasser Al-Humaidi, The Proteges founding member, gave a brief speech about the Generation Seven's experience of The Proteges. "We at The Proteges are proud of the young graduates every year and their skills and passion to effect positive change. This gives hope for a better future for all," he said. "The seventh generation succeeded with their project, called

'Kamala'. The graduates gave a detailed presentation concentrating on the term 'Be Smart and Get It'. The judging panel praised the creativity and message of their project that focuses on investing the profit of their project in restoring a school in an Arab country and buying educational kits, as they see education as one of the most important basics of life," Humaidi added.

Khaled Al-Sanousi, Group Senior Manager - Corporate Communications and Investor Relations at Gulf Insurance Group, said the youth are the vital power of the society that pushes it forward. "Investing in developing their skills, encouraging their creativity and giving them the opportunity to turn their ideas into reality is our responsibility, especially since H.H. the Amir stressed on the importance of supporting the youth," he explained.

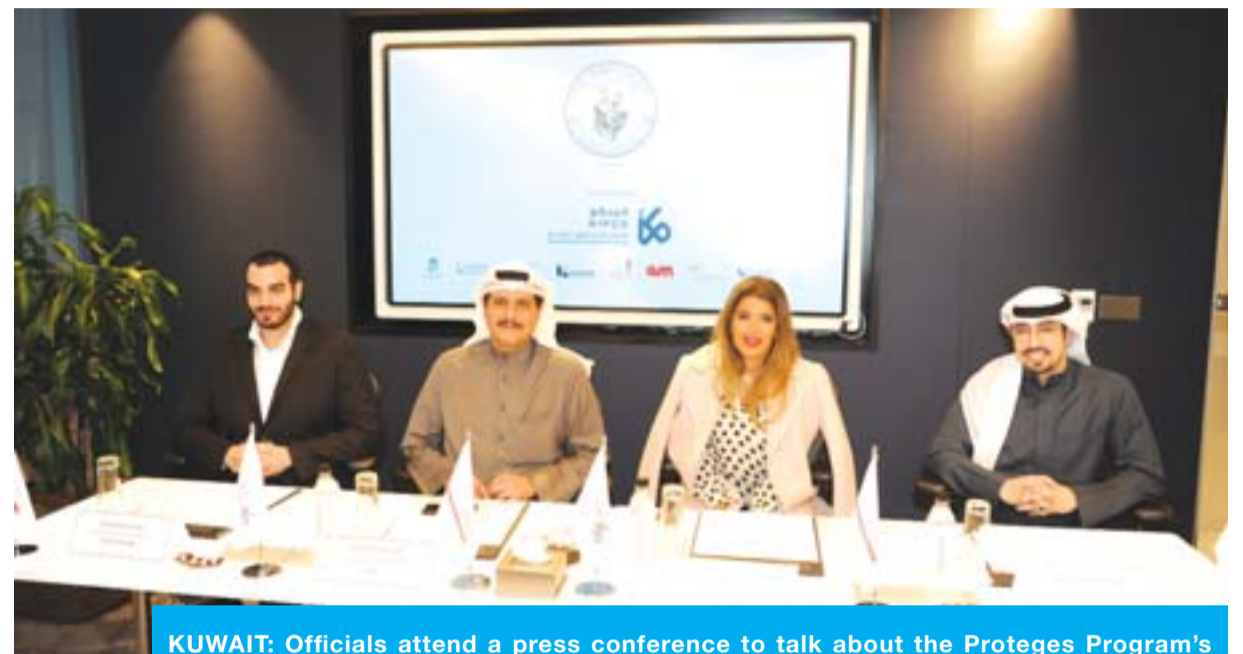
"This was behind renewing our sponsorship of The Proteges by supporting and sponsoring the graduation project of the seventh generation. The 'Kamala' card game is part of our social responsibility that reflects our strong relations with all categories of people. We aim to always support the youth and resolve their problems," stressed Sanousi.

Abdulrahman Ali, Generation Seven's Project Coordinator, praised The Proteges for their support.

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'Be Smart and Get It'

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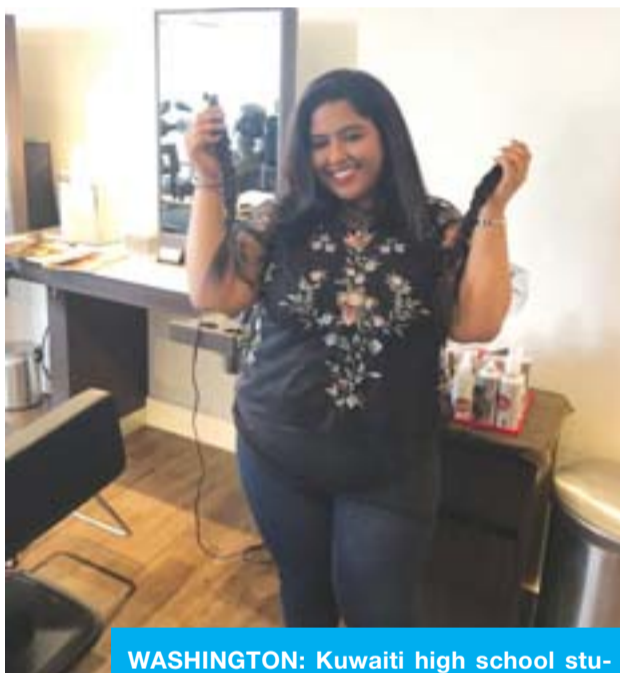
KUWAIT: Officials attend a press conference to talk about the Proteges Program's Generation Seven. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

"After completing the training phase, we spent our gained knowledge and skills in creating a project 'Kamala' that will be a local and international addition. Our project came as a collective idea of a useful card game that combines learning and entertainment

at the same time. I would like to thank all those who helped and supported us," he noted. The judging panel said the graduates of the 7th Generation as Proteges performed really well, and declared the successful completion of their graduation project.

Kuwaiti student in US launches initiative for children with cancer

WASHINGTON: Kuwaiti high school student in the US Mona Al-Qadfan launched an initiative to support children with cancer by donating hair. Qadfan's solo initiative calls for donating hair extensions to those children who are losing their hair due to chemotherapy. Qadfan noted that she had established an online website, where people can donate locks of their natural hair, hair wigs and money for the sick children. She said that she had been thoroughly reading about the suffering of these children and their families for the past three years. She added that she got the idea for her initiative from an ad by an organization that said one can ease the suffering of cancer patients by donating hair. Meanwhile, the student said she started growing her hair since mid-2015 to be able to donate it by November 25, 2017. —KUNA



WASHINGTON: Kuwaiti high school student in the US Mona Al-Qadfan poses after she cut her braids to be donated to children suffering from cancer. —KUNA



KIB hosts students for 'Day as a Banker'

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing efforts which aim at promoting greater economic awareness amongst youth, the Corporate Communications Unit at Kuwait International Bank (KIB) hosted a group of students from the Sawda Bint Malek Middle School for Girls. Taking place at the bank's head office branch, the 'Day as a Banker' initiative was designed to introduce students to the world of banking and to give them the chance to experience firsthand the life of a banker.

The visit included a series of educational lectures presented to students in a simplified way that suits their learning capabilities on the basics of saving and spending. Additionally, the visit gave students a close-up look at the inner workings of a branch and different bank functions by allowing them to carry out several basic roles and tasks within the branch, including serving as tellers and greeters

for one day. On his part, Corporate Communications Team Leader at KIB, Fahad Al-Sarhan, commented: "This visit presented students with the opportunity to learn about the basics of saving, spending, and money management. Additionally, we were able to introduce students to skills used every day in the field of banking, as well as encourage them to further pursue their education and expand their knowledge. In doing so, we were able to directly engage with the younger generation to build a more financially conscious future generation; a generation that will work together to build a flourishing future for the nation."

Sarhan added that these visits are part of KIB's robust financial literacy program which aims at introducing students to the world of banking and finance. The Bank's program also focuses on promoting economic awareness among all the different segments of the community - particularly children and youth, as they are the future of the nation.

As a prominent financial institution, KIB believes it has a significant role to play in providing students with the opportunity to experience working in the banking sector, thereby strengthening their contribution to the national economy. Moreover, the Bank considers these school visits as a core component in its ongoing efforts of spreading financial awareness amongst students in both the public and private sectors.

Kuwait to attract major foreign investments: Experts

LONDON: Kuwait succeeded in providing all legislative and procedural frameworks to boost its ability in attracting foreign investments, a number of economic experts agreed yesterday. At Kuwait Investment Outreach Roadshow, a series of three events that started in London last night, participants underlined that Kuwait, due to its ideal and strategic location and high quality of life can become one of the major centers for investments and economic ventures in the Middle East region.

Matched by consistent oil reserves, modern infrastructure, robust legal framework, strong macroeconomics, sound banking system and low political risk, Kuwait, according to the experts, surpasses its peers.

"Kuwait's doors are open for investments in most sectors in order to achieve the development plan. Foreign investments since the 2013 establishment of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) reached \$234 million," said Sheikh Dr. Mishaal Jaber Al-Sabah, KDIPA's Director General in a speech at the opening of the (Discover the Opportunities in a Transformed Economy), the first event of the Roadshow.

These investment opportunities would create some 1,000 jobs for Kuwaiti youth in the next five years, "and it's our ambition for Kuwait to be within the top 40 countries in investment by 2035," he noted. The conference is co-

organized by KDIPA and the Financial Times. Chairman of the Board of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development in Kuwait Abdullah Al-Jouan said on the sideline of the event that attracting foreign investments is being strategically utilized to benefit from modern technology and bring it to the local market.

Meanwhile, Chief Economist for the Middle East at Citibank Group Farouk Soussa, said that what distinguishes Kuwait is its ability to address deficit. "While other countries in the region are still in the process of dealing with the deficit; Kuwait is already pioneering."

Kuwait is not under short-term pressure to accelerate procedures for lowering budget deficit," he pointed out. To that, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development in Khaled Mahdi said that the country's 2035 vision aims at turning Kuwait into a logistic commercial hub.

He said that the vision also aims at establishing an effective management model, as well as creating sturdy human resources based on a diverse economy and solid infrastructure. Kuwait enjoys strong investment-grade sovereign ratings (AA/Aa2) and low political risk ratings from major credit agencies globally. It was ranked 30 of 137 countries for its overall macroeconomic environment and seventh for its government debt as a percentage of GDP (WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2017-18). And the WEF also ranks it as the world's third most attractive tax system.

In this context, Dr. Nayef Al-Hajraf, Chairman and Managing Director of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) in Kuwait said, "We at CMA believe of the necessity to shadow best international practices in order to become one of the best investment attraction environments in the world." —KUNA



LONDON: Sheikh Dr. Mishaal Jaber Al-Sabah, KDIPA's Director General (left) speaks during the event. —KUNA

Boecker joins Horeca 2018

KUWAIT: Preparations for ongoing for the Horeca Kuwait 2018 exhibition which offers a great opportunity for companies to exchange expertise in matters that help meet the local market's needs and serve the requirements of future expansion plans.

In this regard, Boecker's administrative associate Abraham Hilal announced his company's intention to join other companies specialized in hospitality, hotel equipment, food industries, transport, gas and design which have already announced taking part in Horeca 2018 exhibition. Hilal stressed that Horeca Kuwait is a leading specialized exhibition that provides golden opportunities for participants to display various vital lines or products and services, which in turn would enhance the progress Kuwait is witnessing in the fields of hospitality and food industries. It also supports the state's plans to diversify sources of income and create more job opportunities, he added.

Hilal further indicated that Boecker provides best hygiene services in various Middle Eastern countries

including Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. He also stressed that Boecker would highlight and display its creative solutions in pest control, food safety and disinfection services related to hospitality and restaurants. He added that all Boecker services match the specifications of the ISO 9001:2008, that the company is registered with local authorities and that it is member in NPMA, BPCA and CIEH.

Hilal also said that Boecker would be the official sponsor of regional cooking competitions. In addition, Hilal added that Boecker had developed a special food safety program for small and medium enterprises known as 'Q-Platinum Award', which is an international food safety accreditation program approved by CIEH. He added that the QPA involve periodic checkups throughout the year to make sure all standards food safety standards were fully observed.

The Horeca Kuwait 2018 exhibition is due to be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref in the period of January 15-17, 2018.



Abraham Hilal





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|-----|--|---|--|
| 1 | Medical Consultant Orthopedic "Shoulder Surgeon" | Plans and provides a comprehensive specialist service in Orthopedic, Shoulder Unit including diagnosis, treatment and operation on cases requiring surgical intervention. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Orthopedic Shoulder Surgery or equivalent). - 12 years of experience within the specialty, 7 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Consultant Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 2 | Medical Consultant Ophthalmology "Glaucoma" | Plans and provides a comprehensive specialist service concerned with diagnosis and treatment of Glaucoma , eye injuries, abnormalities and diseases. | - M.B., Ch.B. + FRCS (American/Canadian board in Ophthalmology Glaucoma or equivalent with subspecialty in Glaucoma). - 12 years of experience within the specialty, seven of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Consultant Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 3 | Medical Consultant (Ophthalmology) | Plans and provides a comprehensive specialist service concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of eye injuries, abnormalities and diseases. | - M.B., Ch.B. + FRCS (Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ophthalmology or equivalent). - 12 years of experience within the specialty, 7 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - "Consultant" practice license from Ministry of Health. |
| 4 | Medical Consultant Urology | Plans and provides a comprehensive specialist service in Urology including diagnosis, treatment and operation on cases requiring Urological intervention. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Urology or equivalent). - 12 years of experience within the specialty, 7 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Consultant Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 5 | Medical Consultant Internal Medicine | Plans, directs and controls the provision of clinical and administrative services in Internal Medicine Division. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Internal Medicine or equivalent). - 12 years of experience within the specialty, 7 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Consultant Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 6 | Medical Consultant Psychologist | Plans, directs and controls the provision of clinical and administrative services in Psychiatry Medicine Division. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Psychologist or equivalent). - 12 years of experience within the specialty, 7 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Consultant Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 7 | Medical Consultant (Dermatology & Venereology) | Plans and provides a comprehensive specialist services in Dermatology and Venereology. Performs various investigations to aid clinical diagnosis. | - M.B., Ch.B. + FRCG (Fellowship of the Royal College of Dermatology & Venereology or equivalent). - 12 years experience within the specialty, 7 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - "Consultant" practice license from Ministry of Health. |
| 8 | Medical Consultant Dermatology & Venereology "Dermatology Pathology" | Plans and provides a comprehensive specialist services in Dermatology & Venereology. Performs various investigations to aid clinical diagnosis. | - M.B., Ch.B. + FRCG (American/Canadian board in Dermatology & Venereology or equivalent Plus Fellowship in dermal pathology). - appropriate training certificate in Dermatology Pathology. - 12 years of experience within the specialty, 7 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Consultant Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 9 | Medical Consultant Dermatology & Venereology "Immunologist" | Plans and provides a comprehensive specialist services in Dermatology & Venereology. Performs various investigations to aid clinical diagnosis. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Dermatology & Venereology or equivalent), appropriate training certificate in Immunologist. - 12 years of experience within the specialty, 7 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Consultant Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 10 | Medical Consultant Intensive Care | Plans, directs and controls the provision of a clinical service in Intensive Care and oversees the post-operative management of all seriously ill patients admitted to the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Intensive Care or equivalent). - 12 years of experience within the specialty, 7 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Consultant Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 11 | Medical Consultant Microbiology | Participate in providing and controlling a Consultancy Service in Microbiology specialty. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Microbiology or equivalent). - 12 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Consultant Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 12 | Medical Consultant Surgery "Plastic Surgeon" | Along with the consultants, responsible for all the clinical care and provision of consultation to all surgical patients. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Plastic Surgery or equivalent). - 12 years of experience within the specialty, 7 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Consultant Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 13 | Medical Specialist Orthopedic | To provide a comprehensive specialist service in spine surgery and intervention treatment field including diagnosis, treatment and operation on cases requiring Orthopedics care. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Orthopedic or equivalent). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 14 | Medical Specialist ENT | To provide a comprehensive specialist service in ENT field including diagnosis, treatment and operations on cases requiring ENT care. | - M.B., Ch.B. + FRCS (American/Canadian board in ENT or equivalent). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 15 | Medical Specialist Internal Medicine "Respiratory" | Participates in providing and controlling a specialist Internal Medicine services. | - M.B., Ch.B. + FRCP (American/Canadian board in Respiratory or equivalent with subspecialty in Respiratory Medicine). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 16 | Medical Specialist Dermatology & Venereology "Skin Surgery unit" | To provide a comprehensive specialist service in Dermatology & Venereology field including diagnosis, treatment and operation on cases requiring Dermatology & Venereology care in Skin Surgery unit . | - M.B., Ch.B. + FRCP (American/Canadian board in Dermatology & Venereology Skin Surgery or equivalent + appropriate training certificate in Skin Surgery). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 17 | Medical Specialist Dermatology & Venereology "Mycologist" | To provide a comprehensive specialist service in Dermatology & Venereology field including diagnosis, treatment and operations on cases requiring Dermatology & Venereology care in Mycologist unit . | - M.B., Ch.B. + FRCP (American/Canadian board in Dermatology & Venereology or equivalent + appropriate training certificate in Skin Mycology). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 18 | Medical Specialist Pediatrics "Gastroenterology" | Provides and controls a specialist Pediatric service in Gastroenterology unit . | - M.B., Ch.B. + FRCP (American/Canadian board in Pediatric Gastroenterology or equivalent). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 19 | Medical Specialist Pediatrics "Diabetes & Endocrinology" | Provides and controls a specialist Pediatric service in Diabetes & Endocrinology unit . | - M.B., Ch.B. + FRCP (American/Canadian board in Pediatric Diabetes & Endocrinology or equivalent). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 20 | Medical Specialist Anesthesia & Intensive Care | Participates in providing and controlling a clinical service in Anesthesia within Al-Shahid Hospital and assists in the post-operative management of all seriously ill patients admitted to the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Anesthesia & Intensive Care or equivalent). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |

| S/N | Job Title | Purpose & Scope | Minimum requirements |
|-----|---|--|--|
| 21 | Medical Specialist Anesthesia "Obstetrics & Gynecology" | Participates in providing and controlling a clinical service in Anesthesia Obs. & Gyn. unit and assists in the post-operative management of all seriously ill patients admitted to the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Anesthesia Obstetrics & Gynecology or equivalent). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 22 | Medical Specialist Occupational Medicine | Directs and control the provision of clinical and professional services of occupational health for KOC and other K-companies. That includes occupational medicine, preventive medicine, epidemiology, ergonomics, occupational hygiene, health education and immunization. | - M.B., Ch.B. + (American/Canadian board in Occupational Medicine or equivalent). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 23 | Medical Specialist Endodontics | Performs specialist comprehensive services concerned with the examination, diagnosis and treatment related to endodontic unit. | - Bachelor degree in Dental Surgery + FDS (Fellowship of one of the royal colleges or equivalent). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 24 | Medical Specialist Prosthodontics | Performs specialist comprehensive services concerned with the diagnosis, restoration and maintenance of oral function, comfort, appearance and health of the patient by constructing oral prostheses to replace missing teeth and other oral structure. | - Bachelor degree in Dental Surgery + FDS (Fellowship of one of the royal colleges or equivalent). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 25 | Medical Specialist Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery | Provides a comprehensive specialist service in oral, perioral and the face-maxillary complex including diagnosis, treatment and operation. | - Bachelor degree in Dental Surgery + FDS (Fellowship of one of the royal colleges or equivalent). - 8 years of experience within the specialty, 3 of which must be obtained following election to Fellowship. - Specialist Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 26 | Registrar Occupational Medicine | Provides comprehensive professional services of occupational health for KOC and other K-companies. That includes occupational medicine, preventive medicine, epidemiology, ergonomics, occupational hygiene, health education and immunization. | - M.B., Ch.B. + Master Degree in Occupational medicine or equivalent. - 5 years of experience within the specialty, 1 of which must be after master degree or equivalent. - Registrar Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 27 | Registrar Orthopedic | Provides comprehensive medical care in the diagnosis of patients requiring orthopedic treatment. | - M.B., Ch.B. + Master Degree in Orthopedic. - 5 years of experience within the specialty, 1 of which must be after master degree or equivalent. - Registrar Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 28 | Registrar Family Medicine | Examines, diagnoses and treats patients for illness, disease or disability. | - M.B., Ch.B. + Master Degree in Family Medicine. - 5 years of experience within the specialty, 1 of which must be after master degree or equivalent. - Registrar practice license from Ministry of Health. |
| 29 | Registrar General Dentistry | To examine, diagnose and treat patients for all type of dental and oral disorder. | - Bachelor degree + Master Degree in Dental Surgery from a recognized University. - 5 years of experience within the specialty, 1 of which must be after master degree or equivalent. - Registrar Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 30 | Registrar Anesthesia and Intensive Care | Administers anaesthetics to patients during surgical operations or other medical procedures; and treats critically ill patients in the Intensive Care Unit. | - M.B., Ch.B. + Master Degree in Anesthesia. - 5 years of experience within the specialty, 1 of which must be after master degree or equivalent. - Registrar practice license from Ministry of Health. |
| 31 | Audiologist/ Speech Therapist | To examine, diagnose and provide treatment to hearing and speech disorders. Also, conducts various screening programs. | - University degree in Audiology and Speech or equivalent. - 3 years experience in Audiology and Speech Therapy including 1 year site familiarization. - Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 32 | Sr Path Lab Technician I "Histology" | Provides routine and moderately complex clinical lab testing and analysis on specimens to provide information used in the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of disease. | - University Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology - 6 years related experience in general pathological work including 2 years familiarization. - Experience Certificate in Histology. - Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 33 | Sr Path Lab Technician I "Cytology" | Provides routine and moderately complex clinical lab testing and analysis on specimens to provide information used in the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of disease. | - University Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology - 6 years related experience in general pathological work including 2 years familiarization. - Experience Certificate in Cytology. - Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 34 | Physiotherapist | Provides a comprehensive physiotherapy service to patients served by Al-Shahid Hospital, which involves evaluating and treating patients to relieve pain and increase strength and mobility. | - B.Sc. in Physiotherapy - 6 years of experience of varied physiotherapy procedures gained from within a general hospital including 1 year familiarization. - Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 35 | Imaging Technologist | Operates a wide range of diagnostic imaging equipment at the Radiology Unit, ward, operating theatre and emergency rooms in order to produce both radiographic images and ultrasonography used for diagnostic purposes. | - B.Sc. in Radiography. - 6 years of experience of varied diagnostic imaging procedures gained from within a general hospital. - Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 36 | Dental Technologist | To carry out as assigned advanced designs, constructions, repairs and alterations of dental prosthetic, restorative and orthodontic devices. These devices include bridges, crowns, dentures, implants, orthodontic, chrome cobalt and other dental appliances. | - University degree in Dental Technologist. - 6 years of experience as dental technician including 2 years familiarization within the dental laboratory. - Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 37 | Dental Technician | Constructs various types of dental appliances as per the requirement of the Registrar (Dental Surgery) and dental specialist. Ensure the precision of the construction of each appliance according to the requirement of each individual case. | - Completion of Secondary Education Plus Two Years Diploma in Dental Technology - 6 years of experience as a dental technician, including 3 years specializing in ceramic & metal/ Chrome Cobalt/ Orthodontics plus 6 months site familiarization. - Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 38 | Embryologist | Carries out all related embryologist procedures for In-Fertilization (IVF). | - B.Sc. in Biology and Zoology / Medical Laboratory Technology - 6 years related experience. - Practice License from Ministry of Health. |
| 39 | Pharmacist | To practice the profession in pharmacy in a manner consistent with the legal requirements of the State of Kuwait as set by the Ministry of Health and the principles of good pharmacy management in the preparation, sale and effective use of drugs and therapeutic agents. | - B.Sc. in Pharmacy (Obtained after a minimum 5 years post Secondary Education). - 6 years in hospital pharmacy practice including 2 years on site familiarization. - Practice License from Ministry of Health. |

To apply, please log on to KOC employment website: www.kockw.com

Qualified applicants shall fill-in their application via the above website (only) by following below steps:

- Upon logging on to the above website, select the Recruitment button to enter the local recruitment page, click on "New Applicant" and then read the instructions that will appear on the site or press the help button in case of inquiry.
- All applicants will be notified upon accepting or rejecting their applications, as well as the date assigned for the personal exam and an interview by logging on to the above company's website by entering the applicant's civil ID number and password or checking the applicant's e-mail.

Conditions to be met:

1. Applicant must meet the minimum requirements for the job applied to.
2. The applicant shall be fluent in both Arabic and English languages.
3. Ability to use computers and computer applications and software.
4. All required certificates and documents shall be submitted in originals stamped by the relevant authorities in the state of graduation and the Kuwaiti embassy in those states (if any) or certified by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs (for non-Kuwaitis only), in addition to the certificate equivalents from the Ministry of Higher Education, along with copies of such certificates, for both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis.
5. The applicant is not employed by KPC or any of its subsidiaries.
6. The (non-Kuwaiti) applicant must not be employed by the Ministry of Health.
7. Applicants submitting their applications before the publication of the employment announcement shall have to submit new applications in accordance with the above requirements.
8. Applicants for Medical Support Jobs are subject to the English language test and those who pass the test undergo a personal interview.

Documents to be submitted via to the website:

1. Detailed resume.
2. Academic Certificate and grades' statement, along with the equivalent of the Ministry of Higher Education of foreign universities, in addition to the certificate of specialization (Fellowship and Master Degrees).
3. Civil ID (Kuwaitis / non-Kuwaitis)
4. Passport (for non-Kuwaitis)
5. Experience certificates and training courses.
6. Recent copy of the salary statement (Benefits, if any)
7. Personal Photos.
8. Copy of valid practice license, issued by Kuwaiti Ministry of Health.



Remarks:

- Hiring Priority is given to Kuwaitis, then GCC nationals and then other nationalities.
- Applications not meeting the above conditions will be excluded from recruitment process.
- For inquiries, please call the following numbers: 23871217 / 23871616 / 23871822 / 23871837 / 23871226





Modi faces test in home state

Erdogan seeks to lead Muslim response on Jerusalem



CALIFORNIA: Firefighters walk to the fire line at the Lilac fire in Bonsall, California. Local emergency officials warned of powerful winds that will feed wildfires raging in Los Angeles, threatening multi-million dollar mansions with blazes that have already forced more than 200,000 people to flee. — AFP

US firefighters battle raging wildfires

Winds whip California fires as they spread south

BONSALL: Thousands of firefighters battled raging wildfires in California yesterday that have forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee the Los Angeles area, as well as outbreaks closer to San Diego. Nearly 700 structures including multi-million dollar mansions have been destroyed by wildfires raging on six different fronts, but despite the intensity of the blazes, authorities have reported only one fatality.

Black smoke billowed through the region, gagging residents who ventured outdoors. "I've never seen anything like this and I've lived here 20 years," Judy Herman, 76 said. Herman was relieved to find her home in Murrieta, east of Los Angeles, still intact. It was part of the huge evacuation zone forced by the "Liberty" fire—which included many ranches in the area, where rodeos are popular. Meanwhile, since erupting in Ventura county late Monday, the so-called "Thomas" fire has ravaged 143,000 acres.

With gusts of up to 60 miles per hour, the turbulent seasonal Santa Ana winds whipped the fire on Friday, spitting embers and creating "extreme fire danger." A red alert was extended into the weekend due to expected low humidity. Further south in San Diego county the "Lilac" fire was ballooning at a dangerous rate, charring more than 4,000 acres after igniting Thursday morning and triggering a new wave of evacuations as it encroached on the university town of Santa Barbara.

Racehorses and celebrities

The plumes of smoke and flames left at least four people in the area injured from burns or smoke inhalation. Flames also claimed the lives of more than two dozen racehorses after tearing through eight barns at the normally serene San Luis Rey training center, in the town of Bonsall, where some 500 horses

were stabled, the California Horse Racing Board said in a statement. "75 per cent of the stables were consumed, the fire was spreading so fast... they couldn't evacuate



Hundreds of thousands flee Los Angeles

all the horses," fire chief Ross Fowler said. "It's hard when horses are scared, they don't comply, they are heavy, they can hurt you," he added.

In Fallbrook, northern San Diego county, the scene was apocalyptic. With ravaged trees lying horizontal and houses destroyed, everything was black as firefighters inspected for possible sources for a new blaze. Taking advantage of a lull in the wind, they also blasted water on homes affected in both towns. Meanwhile, firefighters also got something of a handle on the "Skirball" fire in Los Angeles, which had speared rivers of flames over 500 acres in the densely populated area of Bel Air, engulfing entire hill-sides. Multi-million dollar mansions were destroyed in the neighborhood, home to many celebrities. Media tycoon Rupert Murdoch has a \$30 million estate, the Moraga Bel Air Winery, there.

State of emergency

Another Los Angeles county blaze, the

"Rye" fire, has consumed more than 6,000 acres and was 50 percent contained, while the "Creek" fire—the largest wildfire menacing the LA region—had grown to more than 15,000 acres and destroyed more than 100 structures, over half of them residential. The "Liberty" wildfire in Riverside county east of Los Angeles, America's second largest city, has scorched 300 acres and was just 10 percent contained.

US President Donald Trump issued a state of emergency in California, authorizing the release of federal funds to "help alleviate the hardship and suffering that the emergency may inflict on the local population." However, several evacuation orders were lifted Friday afternoon. This has been California's deadliest year ever for wildfires. More than 40 people died in October when fires swept through the state's wine-producing counties north of San Francisco. — AFP

Republican resigns after an explosive surrogacy claim

WASHINGTON: Republican lawmaker Trent Franks offered a female staff member \$5 million to bear his child, US media reported Friday as he abruptly resigned from Congress where he was facing an ethics probe over sexual misconduct. Franks, an eight-term lawmaker from Arizona, had announced a day earlier that he would be stepping down from the House of Representatives on January 31. In that statement, he acknowledged that he had discussed surrogacy with two female staffers, but he did not provide details about the discussions.

In a new statement Friday, he said he was vacating his seat in Congress immediately, US media reported. The Washington Post, citing Andrea Lafferty, the president of the Traditional Values Coalition, said one of the women was told she would be given \$5 million to "conceive" his child. The woman rejected Franks's offer but felt sidelined and later quit

her job, added Lafferty. Politico, citing congressional sources with knowledge of the complaints, said the two female staffers had been approached about acting as a potential surrogate for him and his wife—Franks says he and his wife have struggled with fertility for years.

The women, according to the sources, were concerned that the congressman was asking to have sex with them, and that it was unclear whether he was asking about the prospect of impregnating them through sexual intercourse or in vitro fertilization, Politico reported. In his initial statement, Franks, a conservative Republican opposed to abortion rights, said he "absolutely never physically intimidated, coerced, or had, or attempted to have, any sexual contact with any member of my congressional staff."

House Speaker Paul Ryan was told of the misconduct allegations on November 29, his office said, adding that Ryan believed the accusations were "credible" and that he told Franks he should resign. Ryan's office declined to comment on the latest accusations, or Franks's immediate resignation. The scandal comes as sexual harassment allegations have engulfed Capitol Hill. Franks is the third member of Congress this week—following House Democrat John Conyers and Senate Democrat Al Franken—to announce his resignation in the wake of sexual misconduct accusations. — AFP

Trump's Jerusalem decision leaves his Arab allies in bind

CAIRO: Arab allies of the United States have found themselves trapped uncomfortably between their close ties to Washington and popular ire after President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, which are close to Trump or financially dependent on his country's aid, have been placed in a delicate position by the controversial move.

While there have been words of condemnation and widespread anger among the public, it seems Washington's Arab friends in the Middle East are unlikely to push harder or risk altering their policies towards the US. "The decision is a serious embarrassment for the regimes allied with Washington, especially as it is unlikely that they will go further in their opposition to the American decision," said Oraib Al-Rantawi, director for the Al-Quds Center for Political Studies in Amman.

Trump's move is a particularly bitter blow for Jordan, which has custodianship of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, and signed a peace deal with Israel in 1994. Amman, a military ally which has enjoyed close ties to the US for decades, has so far limited its response to the decision by calling it a "violation of international law." Saudi Arabia, the custodian of Islam's two holiest places of Mecca and



BETHLEHEM: Palestinian protesters throw stones at Israeli forces during clashes near an Israeli checkpoint in the West Bank town of Bethlehem yesterday. — AFP

Medina, cannot be seen to remain indifferent on the fate of Jerusalem, which contains the religion's third holiest site, and decried Trump's move as "unjustified and irresponsible".

Riyadh wants to see a peace deal with Israel and closer ties in the face of the shared threat from regional rival Iran, but not at any price, said Giorgio Cafiero, who heads the Washington-based risk management consultancy Gulf State Analytics. The Saudis "are keen to avoid any action, or inaction, on the question of Palestine that gives the Iranian regime more fuel to its narrative that it is Tehran and not Riyadh that is most committed" towards Jerusalem, he said.

No 'significant changes'

Behind the scenes, Saudi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has excellent relations with Trump's son-in-law and aide Jared

Kushner, in charge of a new push to get an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal, said Middle East expert James Dorsey with the University of Wurzburg. "In this scenario Saudi Arabia would ensure Arab backing for a peace plan put forward by Mr Kushner," he wrote.

Mohamed Kamel al-Sayid, a political science professor in Cairo University, insisted that "in official terms, do not expect significant changes" in ties between Washington and its regional Arab allies. However, the decision by Trump will fuel "hatred of American policy in the region," he added. In Egypt, the first Arab country to sign a peace deal with Israel in 1979, Israel remains deeply unpopular. Despite Egypt seeing itself as a key regional player with a responsibility for the Palestinians across its border, the authorities under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will not welcome protests after cracking down on dissent. — AFP

International

Despite furor over Jerusalem, Saudis seen on board with US peace efforts

Saudis 'increasingly in line' with Israelis to counter Iran

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia pulled no punches when it condemned President Donald Trump's move to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. But Palestinian officials say Riyadh has also been working for weeks behind the scenes to press them to support a nascent US peace plan. Trump reversed decades of US policy on Wednesday with his announcement and instructions to begin the process of moving the embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, despite warnings that it would drive the wedge between Israel and the Palestinians deeper.

The Saudi royal court described the decision as "unjustified and irresponsible" and "a big step back in efforts to advance the peace process." But Arab officials privately say that Riyadh appears to be on board with a broader US strategy for an Israeli-Palestinian peace plan still in its early phases of development. Four Palestinian officials, who spoke on condition they not be named, said Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas discussed in detail a grand bargain that Trump and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and adviser, are expected to unveil in the first half of 2018.

One official said Prince Mohammed asked Abbas to show support for the US administration's peace efforts when the two met in Riyadh in November. Another Palestinian official said Prince Mohammed told Abbas: "Be patient, you will hear good news. This peace process will go ahead." The US-Saudi relationship has improved dramatically under Trump, partly because the leaders share a vision of confronting Riyadh's arch-rival Iran more aggressively in the region. Kushner, 36, whose father knew Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu, has also nurtured strong personal ties with the 32-year-old crown prince as he asserts Saudi influence internationally and amasses power for himself at home. The Saudi royal court did not respond to requests for comment. A White House official said Kushner did not ask the crown prince to talk to Abbas about the plan.



Riyadh pushing Trump's peace plan - in private

return for refugees displaced by the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948 and 1967. The Palestinian officials said they were concerned that the proposal that Prince Mohammed communicated to Abbas, which purportedly came from Kushner, presents exactly that scenario.

As told to Abbas, the proposal included establishing "a Palestinian entity" in Gaza as well as the West Bank administrative areas A and B and 10 percent of area C, which contains Jewish settlements, a third Palestinian official said. Jewish settlements in the West Bank would stay, there would be no right of return, and Israel would remain responsible for the borders, he said. The proposal appears to differ little from existing arrangements in the West Bank, widening Palestinian control but falling far short of their minimum national demands. "This is rejected by Palestinians. Abu Mazen (Abbas) explained the position and its danger to the Palestinian cause and Saudi Arabia understood that," the official said.

The White House official denied that Kushner communicated those details to Prince Mohammed: "It does not accurately reflect any part of the conversation." Trump sought to temper the blow from his Jerusalem announcement with a phone call to Abbas on Tuesday, stressing that the Palestinians stood to gain from the plan being drawn up by Kushner and US Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt. "President Trump in a phone call told Abu Mazen: 'I will have some proposals for you that you would like'. When Abu Mazen pressed him on details, Trump didn't give any," the first Palestinian official said.

A Saudi source said he believed an understanding on Israeli-Palestinian peace would nonetheless begin to emerge in the coming weeks. "Do not underestimate the businessman in (Trump). He has always called it the ultimate deal," the source said, declining to be named because of the sensitivity of the subject. "I don't think our government is going to accept that unless it has something sweetened in the pipeline which (King Salman and the crown prince) could sell to the Arab world - that the Palestinians would have their own state."

The red line

Trump's decision on Jerusalem is seen almost uniformly in Arab capitals as a sharp tilt towards Israel, which has only signed peace deals with Egypt and Jordan. Jordan, a US ally which has played a key role in the peace process since inking its bilateral deal with Israel in 1994, insists that no peace can be achieved



JERUSALEM: A Palestinian youth flashes the V-sign for 'victory' during Friday prayers in front of the Dome of the Rock mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City. —AFP

without Jerusalem. Jordanian political analyst Oraib Rantawi, who spoke with King Abdullah after the monarch met with top US administration officials last week, said Amman is worried about being bypassed in favour of Saudi Arabia. "There are direct dealings and a desire to present a deal that is unfair to the Palestinians in return for securing US backing and paving the way for Gulf-Israeli cooperation to confront Iran," he said.

Most Arab states are unlikely to object to Trump's announcement because they find themselves more aligned with Israel than ever, particularly on countering Iran, said Shadi Hamid, senior fellow at Brookings Institution in Washington. "If Saudi officials, including the crown prince himself, were particularly concerned with Jerusalem's status, they would presumably have used their privileged status as a top Trump ally and lobbied the administration to hold off on such a needlessly toxic move," he wrote in an article published in The Atlantic. "It's unlikely Trump would have fol-

lowed through if the Saudis had drawn something resembling a red line." Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz, a member of the security cabinet, told Army Radio in November that Israel has had covert contacts with Saudi Arabia, a disclosure of long-rumored secret dealings between the two countries which have no official ties.

Saudi Arabia denied the reports. It maintains that normalizing relations hinges on Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands captured in the 1967 Middle East war, territory Palestinians seek for a future state. But with both Saudi Arabia and Israel viewing Iran as a major main threat in the Middle East, shared interests may push them to work together. Under Prince Mohammed, the kingdom is pushing back at what it sees as growing Iranian influence in and around its borders. "They've got an unprecedented level of support from Washington right now and seem to be making the most of it," said a diplomat in the region. "They're not willing to jeopardize that. They've got bigger fish to fry." —Reuters

Erdogan seeks to lead Muslim response on Jerusalem

ISTANBUL: Turkey's leader is seeking to spearhead Islamic reaction to the US declaration on Jerusalem, but it is uncertain if he can coordinate a meaningful response among often disunited Muslim nations. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who regards himself as a champion of the Palestinian cause, had fulminated against President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital even before it was officially announced this week.

Erdogan described the status of the city, whose eastern sector Palestinians see as the capital of their future state, as a "red line" for Muslims. With Trump disregarding such warnings, the Turkish president used his position as the current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to call a summit of the pan-Islamic group. "He is seeking to garner an international response," said Ziya Meral, resident fellow at the British Army's Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research, noting Erdogan had spoken to Muslim allies and non-Islamic leaders. "What Turkey can do tangibly next is far from clear and responses have risks for Erdogan and Turkey," he said.

'Exacerbate the malaise'

Turkey in 2016 agreed to resume full diplomatic relations with Israel after the crisis triggered by the deadly storming by Israel of a Turkish ship seeking to break the Gaza blockade in 2010. Cooperation has resumed, most significantly in energy. But Erdogan has rarely mustered much public enthusiasm for ties with Israel and retains warm relations with Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist group that controls Gaza. Erdogan's supporters proudly recall



ISTANBUL: Men stand on the branches of a tree as pro-Palestinian protesters chant slogans and wave Palestinian flags during a demonstration against the US president's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. —AFP

how he famously walked out of a January 2009 debate in Davos with then Israeli president Shimon Peres, complaining he was not given enough time to respond and repeatedly saying "one minute!"

The Turkish leader has left diplomatic niceties aside in warning his US counterpart of the dangers of the move, using the backyard-style rhetoric he usually keeps for bitter enemies. "Hey Trump! What do you want to do?" Erdogan said Thursday. "What kind of approach is this? Political leaders do not stir things up, they seek to make peace!" Bulent Aliriza, director of the Turkey Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said it was unclear if Erdogan's strong reaction would have any

impact on Trump. "What is clear is that the Jerusalem issue will inevitably exacerbate the malaise in the US-Turkish relationship, which was already under considerable strain."

Trump's arrival as US leader was welcomed by Ankara but relations have hit new trouble due to rows over the Syria conflict, an explosive legal case in New York and even a mutual visa suspension. Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkish Research Program at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said Erdogan's Islamic-rooted ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) shares an "ideological affinity" with Hamas. This suggests "Erdogan can never be an honest broker on the Israeli-Palestinian issue," he said. —AFP

It's a man's world: Women scarce in Nobel Prize annals

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Prize statistics are a dour reading for women, who've been awarded only one of every 20 prizes. And while the numbers are slowly improving, the December 10 prize ceremony will be an all-male affair for the second straight year. The Nobel Prizes for medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and economics are awarded in Sweden, and the one for peace in Norway—two pioneering countries in the area of women's rights who proudly boast of their politics promoting gender equality. While the number of women Nobel laureates has risen in recent decades—from just four between 1901, the first year of the prizes, and 1920 to 19 between 2001 and 2017 — the 48 women crowned over the years represent

just five percent of the 896 people honored, excluding organizations.

The statistics vary depending on the discipline: the economics prize has been by far the most unattainable for women. The literature prize remains largely a male domain, while peace does somewhat better. Of the five original Nobel Prizes created in the 1895 will of Swedish industrialist and philanthropist Alfred Nobel—the economics prize was established in 1968 to mark the tricentenary of the Swedish central bank — those for physics and chemistry are the most "misogynist", having gone to just two and four women, respectively. Paradoxically, the only woman to have ever won two Nobel Prizes, Marie Curie, was honoured in these two disciplines in 1903 and 1911.

Locked out of labs

"We are disappointed, looking in a larger perspective, that there aren't more women who've been awarded," admits Goran Hansson, the permanent secretary of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences which selects the physics, chemistry and economics laureates. He insists "there is not any substantial male chau-



STOCKHOLM: Nobel Prize laureates attend the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall in this file photo. —AFP

vinism bias in the committees" that choose the winners, four of which (medicine, chemistry, peace and literature) are currently headed by women.

The reason women are so poorly represented in the science fields, he says, is because laboratory doors were closed to

women for so long. Anne L'Huillier, a member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences who sat on the Nobel physics committee in 2010, agrees, noting that of the few women who made it into the labs, even fewer made it to the top of their fields. —AFP

News in brief

Iran sentences fugitive

TEHRAN: Iran has handed down heavy jail sentences to a former head of its largest state-owned bank who fled to Canada over a record-breaking \$2.6 billion embezzlement scandal, the judiciary said yesterday. Mahmoud Reza Khavari, the former head of Bank Mellat who took refuge in Canada in 2011, "has been sentenced on four charges to long prison terms, a cash fine and compensation," Gholamhossein Esmaili, a top official in Tehran's judiciary, told the Mizan news agency, without giving further details. "The prosecutor will sell his assets and in this way part of his sentence will be executed," he said, adding that the verdict could still be appealed. Khavari obtained Canadian citizenship in 2005, and Canada does not have an extradition agreement with Iran.

Ukraine soldiers killed

KIEV: Ukraine yesterday reported the death of four soldiers in the latest spike of fighting with Russian-backed rebels in the east, in the heaviest daily toll over the past weeks of the simmering conflict. The military said the soldiers died in clashes in the area north of the insurgents' de facto capital of Donetsk. "The situation in the anti-terrorist operation zone has deteriorated," the Ukrainian army said in a statement, referring to the conflict in two breakaway provinces in the country's industrial east. Another two soldiers were wounded in mortar fire, it said, accusing rebels of using heavy weapons banned by ceasefire agreements. A series of periodic truce deals have helped lower the level of violence but not fully ended bloodshed in the European Union's backyard. The war in the former Soviet republic broke out in April 2014 and has claimed more than 10,000 lives.

Lafarge bosses charged

PARIS: Two senior executives at French-Swiss cement maker LafargeHolcim, including its former CEO, were charged on Friday over claims that top management turned a blind eye to payments to jihadists in Syria, a judicial source said. Lafarge is accused of paying the Islamic State group and other militants through a middleman between 2013 and 2014 so that the company's factory in Jalabiya, northern Syria, could continue to operate despite the war. Four people had already been charged over the case. At Friday's hearings in Paris, Bruno Lafont, chief executive from 2007 to 2015, and the group's former Syria chief Christian Herrault, appeared in court and were charged with "financing a terrorist organization and "endangering the lives of others" and remanded in custody.

American Muslims pray

WASHINGTON: Hundreds of Muslims attended Friday prayers in front of the White House to protest President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Responding to the call of American Muslim organizations, worshippers laid out their prayer mats at a park in front of the president's residence. Wearing traditional Palestinian keffiyeh scarves or the colors of the Palestinian flag, protesters also held placards denouncing Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem and the West Bank. On Wednesday, Trump declared that the US recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and announced the relocation of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem—turning his back on decades of American and international diplomacy.

International

Suspected Uganda rebels kill 15 UN peacekeepers in Congo

Worst attack on UN in recent history

GOMA: Suspected Ugandan rebels killed at least 15 Tanzanian UN peacekeepers and wounded 53 others in a raid on a base in Congo that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday called the worst attack on the organization in recent history. Tanzania's President John Magufuli said he was "shocked and saddened" by the deaths, which come amid rising violence against civilians, the army and UN troops in Democratic Republic of Congo's eastern borderlands.

The UN chief said the attack constituted a war crime and called on Congolese authorities to investigate and "swiftly bring the perpetrators to justice". "I want to express my outrage and utter heartbreak at last night's attack," Guterres told reporters at UN headquarters in New York. "There must be no impunity for such assaults, here or anywhere else." The United Nations Security Council condemned the attack on Friday and held a moment of silence for the victims. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert wrote on Twitter that the United States was "appalled by the horrific attack". UN troops were still searching for three peacekeepers who went missing during the more than three-hour firefight that broke out at dusk on Thursday evening. Ian Sinclair, the director of the UN Operations and Crisis Centre, said.

UN officials said they suspected militants from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) staged the assault on the base in the town of Semuliki in North Kivu's Beni territory. The ADF is an Islamist rebel group that has been active in

the area. Congo's UN mission, MONUSCO, said it was coordinating a joint response with the Congolese army and evacuating wounded from the base. Five Congolese soldiers were also killed in the raid, MONUSCO said in a statement. Congo's army said only one of its soldiers was missing, however, while another had been injured, adding that 72 militants had been killed.

'They don't want us'

Rival militia groups control parts of mineral-rich eastern Congo nearly a decade and a half after the official end of a 1998-

2003 war in which millions of people died, mostly from hunger and disease. The area has been the scene of repeated massacres and at least 26 people died in an ambush in October. The government and UN mission have blamed almost all the violence on the ADF but UN experts and independent analysts say other militia and elements of Congo's own army have also been involved. In response to

Raid on UN base comes amid rising wave of violence

the growing unrest, and in an effort to protect civilians, the UN's Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Jean-Pierre Lacroix said MONUSCO had stepped up its activities in the area. "They don't want us there. And I think this attack is a response ... to our increasingly robust posture in that region," he told reporters. Thursday's raid was the third attack on a UN base in eastern Congo in recent months.

Increased militia activity in the east and centre of the country has added to insecurity in Congo this year amid



GBADOLITE, DR Congo: A child walks inside the hall of the derelict Bamboo Palace of former president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (former Zaire), Mobutu Sese Sekoin Gbadolite. Once a five star hotel, the palace is now used to house soldiers and families of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC). —AFP

political tensions linked to President Joseph Kabila's refusal to step down when his mandate expired last December. An election to replace Kabila, who has

ruled Congo since his father's assassination in 2001, has been repeatedly delayed and is now scheduled for December 2018. —Reuters

Cameroon crisis spilling over into Nigeria

LAGOS: Violence in English-speaking areas of Cameroon over the last year is having a knock-on effect in neighboring Nigeria, where thousands of refugees are seeking sanctuary. Some are fleeing the unrest while others are suspected to be secessionists in favor of armed struggle, who could use the Nigerian side of the border as a base. John Inaku, head of the Cross River state emergency management agency in southeast Nigeria, said over 28,000 people have arrived from western Cameroon since October. "But many of them have not been registered yet and people are still coming in," he said. Most have fled across the border on foot through the bush since the start of an increased crackdown by authorities in Yaounde.

Guerilla warfare?

Cameroon was divided between French and British colonial rulers before independence in 1960 and English-speakers account for some 20 percent of the population of 23 million. They have long protested against what they perceive to be a bias towards their French-speaking compatriots. In recent weeks, growing numbers have joined the ranks of the secessionists, some of whom are openly advocating armed struggle for an independent state.

The security situation has worsened significantly since the authorities have cracked down on pro-independence demonstrations. Ten soldiers and police officers, as well as several civilians, have been killed since October 1, when separatists symbolically declared an independent state of "Ambazonia". The recent violence blamed on small, well-organized groups has been concentrated in forested and mountainous border areas. Only two roads link Cameroon and Nigeria.

Cameroon's government now suspects some separatists of using Nigeria as a support base and to obtain weapons, given the difficulty in policing the porous border. "One thing is sure, the most radical elements are in the process of recruiting with the aim of starting guerilla warfare," said Cameroon army spokesman Colonel Didier Badjeck. Eleven people suspected of planning to go to Nigeria for training were arrested last week in the Mamfe area of Cameroon, where four soldiers were killed at a checkpoint.

Close contact

Nna-Emeka Okereke, a political analyst in Abuja, warned that Nigeria's authorities had to be "very careful" about the violence across the border. "For now, this is spontaneous violence—mainly reprisal attacks (against the security forces) - but by the time they are well-coordinated, it will be a big problem that will transcend Cameroon's boundaries," he said. Okereke said there was a risk the separatists in Cameroon could look to "create synergies" with Nigerian groups, even if there was no concrete evidence of links just yet.

Cross River is not far from the badlands of the Niger Delta, where armed rebels have repeatedly hit oil and gas infrastructure to secure more revenue from the lucrative sector. Nigeria's southeast is also the heartland of pro-Biafran separatists. Fifty years ago, their unilateral declaration of independence sparked a bloody civil war. Okereke said groups such as the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) - which the government in Abuja considers a terrorist organization - share "the same ideology". They also have the same sense of "exclusion" from the centre as the anglophone minorities in Cameroon, he added.

The Nigerian government has not yet commented officially on the crisis on its doorstep. But a high-ranking Cameroon official said "presidents (Muhammadu) Buhari and (Paul) Biya have broached the subject and telephones work very well between Yaounde and Abuja". Nigeria and Cameroon have had strained relations in the past, in large part because of their rival claims on the oil-rich Bakassi peninsula in the southeast. —AFP

Why Corsica is not the new Catalonia

AJACCIO: Nationalist gains at the ballot box in Corsica may have earned the French island comparisons with Catalonia, but even its hardcore separatists admit that breaking away is a distant dream. The ruling alliance of separatists and pro-autonomy candidates took 45 percent of the vote in last weekend's first round of regional elections, advances they look set to cement in Sunday's final round. The score represents a ten-point rise in the Pe a Corsica ("For Corsica") alliance's showing when they came to power at the local level two years ago on the island where Napoleon was born.

Like Spain's Catalonia, the stunningly beautiful island wedged between France and Italy has its own language, a proud identity and a history of testy relations with the central government. But while the Catalan separatists led by Carles Puigdemont went as far as a full-blown independence declaration, Corsican nationalists are sticking to more modest goals. Energized by last weekend's gains to push for more autonomy, they have already revived three demands long rejected by Paris. They want equal recognition for the Corsican language and an amnesty for convicts they consider to be political prisoners.

And they want the state to recognize a special Corsican residency status—partly an effort to fight property speculation fuelled by foreigners snapping up holiday homes. These are sensitive issues on an island where a four-decade bombing campaign by the National Liberation Front of Corsica (FLNC) — mainly targeting state infrastructure—was called off only in 2014. The worst nationalist attack saw France's top official on the island, Claude Erignac, assassinated in 1998.

Nationalism, the new normal

Calm returned when the FLNC laid down its weapons— which, according to political analyst Jerome Fourquet, has helped to "normalize nationalism". The nationalists have



AJACCIO: Candidates for the Pe - a Corsica nationalist party for Corsican regional elections sing during a campaign meeting in Ajaccio, on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica. —AFP

become "a responsible, presentable political force". Fourquet wrote in a report for the Jean Jaures Foundation. As part of this more moderate approach, nationalists assure that an immediate independence bid is not on the table. Even separatist leader Jean-Guy Talamoni—nicknamed by some "the Corsican Puigdemont"—suggests the island would split from France in 10 or 15 years at the earliest, if a majority supported it.

Yet opinion polls show that most of Corsica's 330,000 residents, many of whom live off seasonal tourism and rely heavily on state subsidies, want to stay part of France. Even in the northern village of Belgodere, where nationalists scored 90.22 percent last Sunday, the result was largely a reflection of local problems. "I'm not voting out of political allegiance, or for autonomy or independence," said Jean-Paul Pernet, the village's only doctor, who

backed the nationalists. He voted, he said, "for people who will bring concrete plans" to rural areas that feel isolated and neglected by authorities.

Much poorer than Catalonia

The nationalists' opponents have repeatedly raised the prospect of Corsica being "the next Catalonia". But Andre Fazi, a politics lecturer at Corsica University, dismissed a Catalonia-style independence bid as a "fantasy". For Thierry Dominici, a Corsica specialist at the University of Bordeaux, the main barrier to independence is the island's heavy economic dependence on the mainland. That is not the case for Catalonia, where chief among many separatists' complaints is that their wealthy region, representing a fifth of Spain's economic output, does not get enough back for what it pays into national coffers. —AFP

UK, EU expats skeptical about the Brexit deal

LONDON: Campaigners for Britons in the European Union have reacted furiously to the deal struck in the first phase of Brexit negotiations between Britain and the bloc, while advocates for EU citizens called it "a flawed compromise". The agreement said both sides had reached a "common understanding" that all EU citizens would have the right to continue living and working where they reside when Britain withdraws from the bloc in 2019.

The deal, spelled out in a joint report published by the European Commission, also protects the rights of people who have not yet been granted permanent residency in Britain so they can still acquire it after withdrawal. It also includes future family reunification rights for relatives, including spouses, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren, an issue which had been a major sticking point in the negotiations.

On the contentious issue of legal jurisdiction, it said British courts would enforce the rights of EU citizens but judges could refer cases to the European Court of Justice for eight years after withdrawal. But the agreement gave Britons living in EU countries no guarantees for automatic residency rights and free movement beyond any transition period, leaving advocates incredulous. "This deal is even worse than

we expected," said Jane Golding, chair of the British in Europe coalition.

"After 18 months of wrangling the UK and EU have sold 4.5 million people down the river in a grubby bargain that will have a severe impact on ordinary people's ability to live their lives as we do now," she said, referring to the total estimated number of British and European citizens impacted. Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's Brexit coordinator, also underlined that five outstanding issues remained for the final phase of the withdrawal talks, including guaranteeing British citizens future rights on free movement across the bloc.

Still in the dark

About 3.7 million people living in the UK are citizens of another EU country, according to data from Britain's Office of National Statistics covering the year to June 2017. Some 900,000 Britons live in other member state countries, according to a current estimate based on official data from 2010/2011. British Prime Minister Theresa May hailed the agreement as allowing these expatriate citizens caught on different sides of the Brexit divide "to go on living their lives as before" when Britain leaves.

But representatives for Europeans in Britain impacted by Brexit said the proposals still left them in uncertainty. "Today's agreement... has not reassured EU citizens living in the UK," said Maike Bohn of The 3 Million, the largest grassroots organization of EU citizens living in Britain, calling it a "flawed compromise". "There is some progress on the substance of rights but some of the concessions come



LONDON: EU flag and a Union flag held by a demonstrator are seen with Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben) and the Houses of Parliament as marchers taking part in an anti-Brexit, pro-European Union (EU) march enter Parliament Square in central London. —AFP

with a time limit," she said. Campaigners are most concerned that the deal greenlights British proposals requiring people to apply for the right to stay. The current registration system has a 10 percent error rate and has rejected more than a quarter of cases, according to The 3 Million.

"There are a huge number of people still in the dark about whether they will qualify or not," said Nicolas Hatton, the group's chairman. "Hundreds and thousands of them might get a letter that they have to go." Joan Pons, a Spanish nurse working in England, described the deal as

"a house of cards that could crumble in the next phase." He fears in particular the time limit placed on the ability to refer cases to the European Court of Justice, after which politics could change the consensus. "May said that my life would be exactly the same after Brexit, and it's not true," Pons said. "I don't trust May at all." Academics tracking the negotiations had a mixed reaction to the proposals. "On citizens' rights she's got a really good deal... far better than I thought she'd get," said Anand Menon, a professor of European politics at King's College London. —AFP

International

Sanctions and food shortage behind North Korean rescues

Fresh wave of 'ghost ship' washing up in Japanese waters

TOKYO: A severe shortage of food and foreign currency as international sanctions bite are contributing to a fresh wave of North Korean "ghost ship" fishing vessels washing up in Japanese waters, analysts said. Exacerbating the phenomenon is the fact that North Korea has sold fishing rights to China in a bid to raise hard currency, forcing fishermen—often sailing rickety vessels—further out towards Japan in search of a catch.

Dozens of North Korean fishing vessels wash up on Japan's coast every year, but last month Japanese coastguards registered 28 cases, the highest monthly number since records began in 2014. There has been a record number of North Korean fishermen rescued alive—42 this year compared to zero in 2016—but there are still cases of "ghost ships" packed full of bodies, with 18 corpses recovered so far this year. Japanese authorities say it is often hard to determine exactly how they died as the boats often drift for months before washing up in Japan.

"Fishermen are desperate to meet annual catch goals, which are elevated to higher levels every year," Toshimitsu Shigemura, professor emeritus of Waseda University and North Korea expert said. North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un ordered an increase in fishing when he took power in 2013, analysts noted. "Since then, fishermen have been frantically trying to meet (annual) catch goals, but what's different this year is that they are travelling to distant waters in their fragile boats," said Pyon Jinil, a leading

North Korea watcher and writer based in Japan. "North Korea last year sold part of its fishing rights in the Yellow Sea to China to get foreign currency, so their fishermen have been kicked out of the western part of their waters," he said. "So this year, Kim Jong-Un ordered his people in a New Year address to 'establish a fishing base in the Sea of Japan'," Pyon said. Yang Moo-Jin, professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, concurred, adding: "Because they can't fish in their own waters, they have to go farther out." "North Korea's fishing boats are quite old and they don't have much fuel... so they naturally end up adrift and float into Japan," said Yang.

North Korea steps up food rationing

Pyon. "In order to plug the shortages of staple food like rice and corn, they want to buy from China, but they don't have hard currency to buy food, either," he said. North Korea's foreign reserves have shrunk to one third of what it held last year because of new rounds of sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council—two this year and nine in total, he noted.

Spies, with shabby boats?

Japanese media have provided blanket coverage of boats landing coming from the North, with some specu-

lation they may be spy ships. Transport Minister Keiichi Ishii has said he is "boosting efforts to investigate Japan's coastal areas" following a surge in suspicious boats drifting or washing ashore. And top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters Tuesday the government was "investigating cautiously including

whether they are fishermen or not," amid media reports that one of boats carried a sign reading "(North) Korean People's Army." But Shigemura played down the possibility they are spies from Pyongyang. "Japan is very easy to sneak into and spies can enter the country any time if they wish," he said.—AFP



SAMJIYON COUNTY, North Korea: North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un visits Samjiyon County in Ryanggang Province. —AFP

India's Modi faces test in home state as Gujarat votes

AHMEDABAD: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat went to the polls yesterday, in a key electoral test of his popularity after a series of controversial economic reforms. Voters, with their election cards in hand, started lining up at polling booths early in the morning in Gujarat where Modi's Hindu nationalist, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has held power for 22 years. "Urging all those voting today to turnout in record numbers and vote. I particularly call upon youngsters to exercise their franchise," Modi, who forged his political career in Gujarat, tweeted yesterday. Modi built his reputation as an economic reformer in Gujarat which boomed under his rule, attracting investments from around the globe.

But his recent reforms—a new national tax and a shock currency ban to fight graft—have hit India's growth and hurt the very constituency of traders and small business owners who were his biggest supporters in the western state, polls found. Experts say this election is a serious challenge to Modi as his rivals ride a wave of discontent over the stuttering economy, adding that voter anger over the reforms and a desire for change could boost the flagging fortunes of the opposition Congress Party. Voting wrapped up at 5:00 pm local time in the first stage of the election yesterday, with around 50 percent turnout reported as polling booths shut down—much lower than the 71.3 percent registered at the last state election in 2012.

Political pundits guessed that a relatively lower turnout yesterday meant voters were probably not as dissatisfied with the BJP as some analysts had predicted. "High turnout would have been high anti-incumbency. High turnout would have meant high level of anger," political commentator Sagarika Ghose said on NDTV news channel. The Congress campaign has been spearheaded by Rahul Gandhi—the man likely to challenge Modi for premiership at the next general election in 2019. The election is seen as a chance for Gandhi to finally prove his mettle before he is named president of the party his mother Sonia has led for more than two decades.

Another threat to Modi's dominance comes from two prominent groups—the Patidars, who make up almost 14 percent of Gujarat's 43 million voters, and the low-caste



GUJARAT: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (center) gestures as Bharatiya Janta Part (BJP) local leaders speak at a rally at Kalol, some 30 kms from Ahmedabad. —AFP

Dalit community. The Patidars, a relatively well-off caste group comprising farmers and traders who came out in force to support Modi in previous polls, have rocked the state with demands for preferential access to government jobs and education. A little over 21 million voters were eligible to cast their ballots yesterday when 89 constituencies were up for grabs across 19 districts of Gujarat, according to the Election Commission of India. The next stage of voting is on December 14.

Modi still popular

Earlier dozens of electronic voting machines malfunctioned briefly, particularly in the districts of Rajkot and Surat, home to textile and diamond trading industries. "There were initial glitches in more than 30 EVMs due to technical reasons but they have been resolved," said Rajkot district collector and election officer Vikrant Pandey.

Propped up by her relatives, 115-year-old Ajiben Chandravadiya cast her vote at a polling booth in Rajkot to

retain her record of having voted in every election in Gujarat since 1960. Further east in Bharuch district, a young couple, dressed in their wedding attire, made a quick stop at their local polling booth to cast their votes before heading to the marriage ceremony. "My wife-to-be and I came here to vote... As an Indian citizen it is our duty and responsibility to vote," the decked-up groom told local news channels, without giving his name.

Modi's personal popularity remains high, with three major opinion polls this week showing a win for the BJP—although by a margin smaller than in 2012. The combined poll average predicted the BJP grabbing 105-106 seats in the 182-member state house—well over the 92 required for it to form government for a fifth consecutive time. It forecast Congress winning 73-74 seats. India's opinion polls are notoriously unreliable, having been way off mark in previous state and national elections. Votes from the election will be counted on December 18, with results announced the same day.—AFP

Democrats turning harassment crisis into opportunity

WASHINGTON: US Democrats pushed two of their own out of Congress this week for sexual harassment allegations, intent on claiming the moral high ground over Republicans ahead of 2018's mid-term elections. One year into the presidency of Republican Donald Trump, whose boasts about grabbing women's genitals rocked the 2016 campaign, who would have thought it would be the Democrats on the defensive over sex abuse scandals? It has been an embarrassing and extraordinary week for the opposition party, with House Democrat John Conyers, the longest-serving member of Congress, and then Senator Al Franken, a self-described "champion of women," announcing they were stepping down in the face of mounting allegations of misconduct.

But today's crisis could flip to an opportunity, particularly if Democrats can show they have taken steps to root out the cancer while Republicans are circling the wagons around Trump and US Senate candidate Roy Moore. The former Alabama judge is in a dead heat with Democrat Doug Jones despite accusations Moore molested teenaged girls, including a 14-year-old, when he was in his thirties.

Several Republicans have called for Moore to go, but Trump is all in, encouraging supporters Friday to "VOTE ROY MOORE!" in the December 12 election.

Democrats see the endorsement, and Trump's own victory, as evidence that while Democrats are rooting out their problem lawmakers, the Republican strategy—aside from one case—has been to deny accusations and dig in. Franken acknowledged the pain he caused some women, but "Roy Moore has refused to acknowledge it. And in some ways that's worse," said Democratic Senator Tim Kaine. He added, "I think this is a cultural Rubicon that we've crossed" in terms of calling out abuse and empowering victims, many of whom felt marginalized by a system that often swept accusations under the rug.

The reckoning has extended far beyond Congress. Hundreds of women have come forward this year to describe abuse they endured from influential men in the fields of entertainment, media and politics. One Republican lawmaker has fallen in the wave of accusations so far. Arizona congressman Trent Franks abruptly resigned on Friday as he faced an ethics probe over sexual misconduct. US media reported that female subordinates worried he wanted to have sex with them after he approached them about acting as a potential surrogate to help him and his wife have a child.

'Year of the woman'

Time magazine on Wednesday honored



WASHINGTON: Rep Jackie Speier (D-CA) joins members of the House Administration Committee during a hearing on preventing sexual harassment in Congress. —AFP

the women exposing the pervasiveness of sexual harassment, naming such "silence breakers" as their Person of the Year. "It's like another year of the woman," Senator Dianne Feinstein, the chamber's most senior woman, told AFP as she explained the "huge cultural shift."

But she stopped short of saying whether jettisoning Franken and Conyers

will boost her party politically. For years, Democrats have portrayed themselves as the defenders of women's rights and gender equality. Now they aim to solidify that position ahead of next November, when inspiring female voters will be crucial for Democrats' efforts to gain seats in Congress, governors' mansions and state legislatures.—AFP

N Korea blames US for tensions in rare UN talks

SEOUL: North Korea blamed US "nuclear blackmail" for soaring tensions over its weapons program following rare meetings with a senior UN official, but agreed to regular communication with the organization, state media said yesterday. Jeffrey Feltman flew to Beijing Saturday after wrapping up a five-day visit to Pyongyang aimed at defusing the crisis, just a week after North Korea said it test-fired a new ballistic missile capable of reaching the United States. His trip—the first by a UN diplomat of his rank since 2010—saw him meet Foreign Minister Ri Yong-Ho and vice foreign minister Pak Myong-Kuk, and visit medical facilities supported by the UN, the North's state news agency KCNA said.

"At these meetings, our side said the US policy of hostility toward the DPRK (North Korea) and its nuclear blackmail are to blame for the current tense situation on the Korean peninsula," the report said. It added that the North had agreed with the UN "to regularize communications through visits at various levels". The report did not mention any meetings with leader Kim Jong-Un, who has ramped up his impoverished nation's missile and nuclear program in recent years in order to achieve Pyongyang's stated goal of developing a warhead capable of hitting the US mainland.

Feltman, the UN's under-secretary-general for political affairs, visited the country just after the United States and South Korea launched their biggest-ever joint air exercise. Pyongyang reiterated its view that these manoeuvres were a provocation on Saturday, accusing the drills of "revealing its intention to mount a surprise nuclear pre-emptive strike against the DPRK", using the initials of the country's official name. The UN Security Council has hit the isolated and impoverished North with a package of sanctions over its increasingly powerful missile and nuclear tests, which have rattled Washington and its regional allies South Korea and Japan.

Feltman arrived in Beijing, a key transit point with the North, and left the airport without speaking to reporters. China, Pyongyang's sole major diplomatic and military ally, has called on the United States to freeze military drills and on North Korea to halt weapons tests. The Chinese foreign ministry on Saturday published a speech from four days ago by foreign minister Wang Yi in which he warned that the Korean Peninsula "remains deeply entrenched in a vicious cycle of demonstrations of strength and confrontation." "The outlook is not optimistic," Beijing's top diplomat added.

'Emotion-charged days'

Pyongyang ramped up already high tensions on the Korean Peninsula at the end of November when it announced it had successfully test-fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which it says brings the whole of the continental United States within range. Analysts say it is unclear whether the missile survived re-entry into the earth's atmosphere or could successfully deliver a warhead to its target—key technological hurdles for Pyongyang. US President Donald Trump has engaged in months of tit-for-tat rhetoric with Kim, pejoratively dubbing him "Little Rocket Man" and a "sick puppy".

Kim has called the 71-year-old president a "dotard", meaning a weak or senile old man—an insult that was renewed Saturday as the North condemned Trump for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. "Considering the fact that the mentally deranged dotard openly called for a total destruction of a sovereign state at the UN, this action is not so surprising", KCNA quoted a foreign ministry spokesman as saying. "The US will be held accountable for all consequences from this reckless, wicked act." The North on Saturday released photographs of Kim on the summit of the country's highest peak, the fabled 2,750-metre (9,020-foot) Mount Paektu, which he climbed to ponder recent successes in his drive for nuclear statehood.—AFP

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
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Lebanon emerges from crisis with Iran on top, but risks remain

Iran's allies in Lebanon have emerged even stronger from a crisis triggered by Saudi Arabia, which achieved little more than to force the Saudis' main Lebanese ally - Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri - closer to Tehran's friends in Beirut. Saudi Arabia aimed to hurt Iran in Lebanon by forcing Hariri's resignation on Nov 4 and torpedoing his coalition deal with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and its allies, using its influence over the Sunni leader to cause trouble for the Shiite group.

Instead, the move backfired as Western states censured Riyadh over a step they feared would destabilize Lebanon, despite their shared concerns over the regional role of the heavily armed Hezbollah. Hariri revoked his resignation on Tuesday, drawing a line under the crisis caused by his announcement from Riyadh. Lebanese officials say he was put under house arrest before French intervention led to his return home. Riyadh and Hariri deny this.

But while the crisis has abated, its causes - Hezbollah's growing military influence in the region and Saudi Arabia's determination to counter Iran - seem likely to bring more trouble Lebanon's way sooner or later. Hariri has identified possible Gulf Arab sanctions as a major risk to the Lebanese economy. Analysts also see a risk of another war with Hezbollah's old foe, Israel, which is alarmed by the group's strength in Lebanon and Syria.

The episode also leaves big questions over Lebanese politics, long influenced by Saudi Arabia, a patron of the Lebanese Sunni community. One senior Lebanese politician said the experience had "left a big scar" on Hariri, once the "spiritual son of Saudi Arabia". "After this, it will not be easy to have a normal relationship again". Meeting on Tuesday for the first time since the resignation, Hariri's government indirectly acknowledged Saudi concerns over Hezbollah's role outside Lebanon. At Hariri's behest, it reaffirmed its policy of staying out of Arab conflicts.

A top Lebanese official said Western pressure forced Saudi Arabia to retreat from its Lebanon plan but further Saudi moves could not be ruled out: "Can we restrain Saudi from going towards madness? In my view, no." A Western diplomat said Saudi measures targeting the Lebanese economy were "a genuine possibility" at some point though the international community would likely try to influence how tough any sanctions would be. "I think the Saudis have understood from the international reaction that Lebanon isn't a pitch on which they are playing alone. There are other players who have interests who don't want to see those undermined," the diplomat said. "At the same time, the international community's patience isn't unlimited. It will be hard to protect Lebanon indefinitely if there is no tangible progress on rolling back Hezbollah."

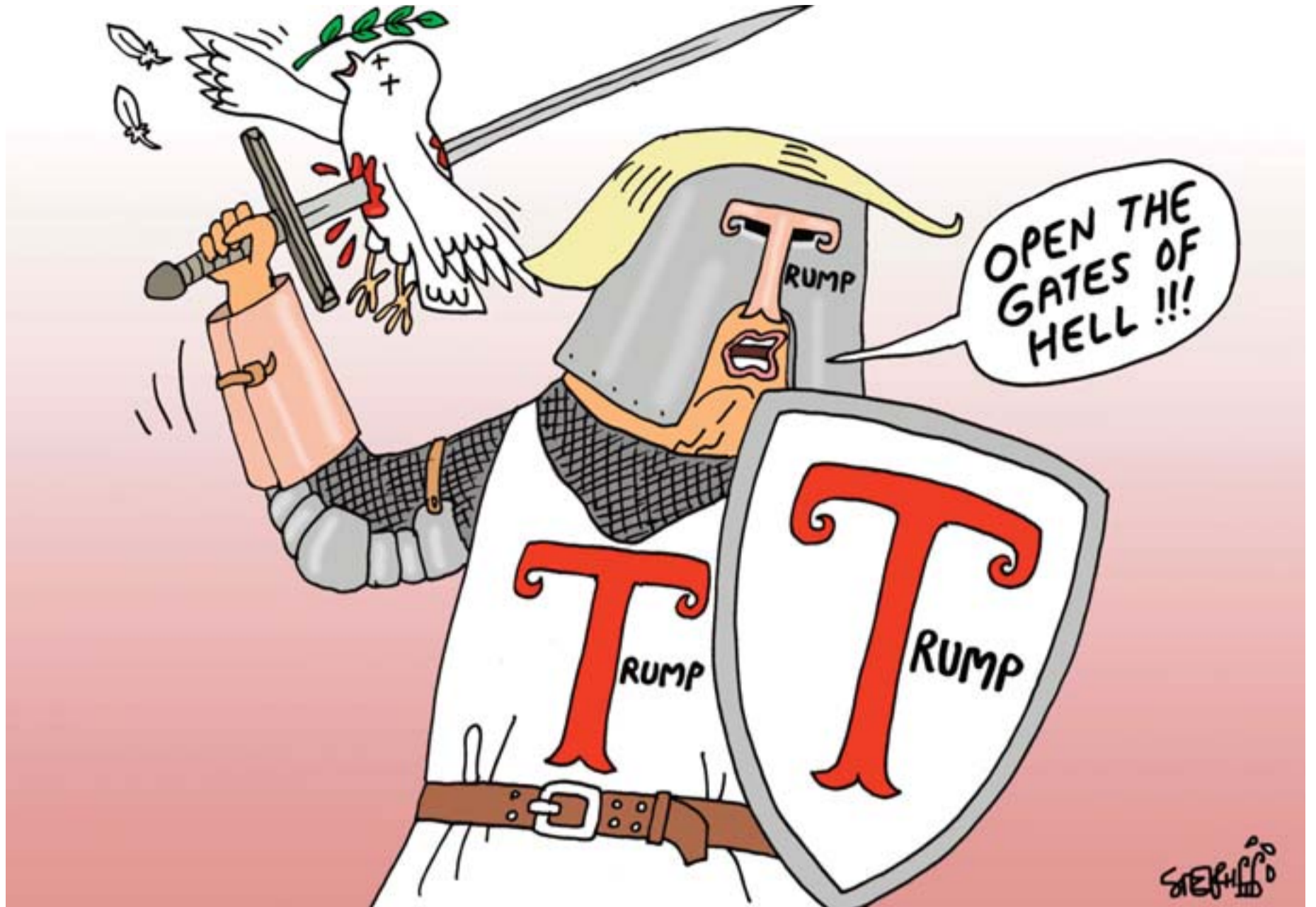
Nasrallah Seen Softening Rhetoric

Hezbollah was the only group allowed to keep its weapons at the end of Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war to fight Israeli forces occupying southern Lebanon. Its militia has been a source of controversy in Lebanon since the Israeli withdrawal of 2000. With Saudi backing, Hariri led a Lebanese political alliance to confront the group, but that resulted in Hezbollah's takeover of Beirut in 2008 during a brief civil war.

Hezbollah's stature has grown in the chaos that swept the Arab world after 2011. It has backed President Bashar al-Assad in Syria and helped in the war against Islamic State in Iraq. But its role in the Yemen conflict is seen as the main factor behind the crisis in Lebanon. Saudi Arabia accuses Iran and Hezbollah of military support for the Iranian-allied Houthis in their war with a Saudi-led coalition. Hariri has repeatedly flagged Yemen as the cause of the latest crisis, and warned that Lebanon's economy is at stake. The economy depends on remittances from expat workers, particularly in the Gulf. Any threat to inflows is seen as a risk to the system that finances the heavily indebted state. Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has appeared to recalibrate his rhetoric in response to the crisis. Last month, he denied his group was fighting in Yemen, or sending weapons to the Houthis, or firing rockets at Saudi Arabia from Yemeni territory. He also indicated Hezbollah could pull its fighters from Iraq. The remarks on the eve of Hariri's return were seen as "appeasing", a source close to Hariri said.

Western Interests

Hariri has twice led coalition governments including Hezbollah despite his enmity towards the group: five Hezbollah members have been charged by a UN-backed tribunal with the 2005 assassination of his father, Rafiq Al-Hariri. Hezbollah denies any involvement. Hariri's willingness to compromise with Hezbollah was a factor behind the Saudi move against him and has drawn criticism from within the Sunni community. His status as Lebanon's most influential Sunni will be put to the test in parliamentary elections next year. Ashraf Rifi, a hawkish Sunni politician, said the way Hariri reversed his resignation was a "farce" and a "surrender to the Hezbollah project". The senior politician, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Hezbollah may offer Hariri a "gesture" over its regional role but saw little prospect of the group fundamentally changing course. —Reuters



Jerusalem move could doom US peace efforts

President Donald Trump's decision to break with decades of US policy and recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital could complicate the already daunting effort by his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, to hammer out a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, analysts say. Defying warnings from Arab nations and appeals from European allies, Trump announced the Jerusalem move at the White House on Wednesday, saying it was a "long-overdue step to advance the peace process."

But Middle East analysts said it may have the opposite effect. "Why now?" asked Ilan Goldenberg, senior fellow and director of the Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington think tank. "He's undermining his own peace efforts," Goldenberg said. "It makes very little sense to make it at this moment. The best case scenario is that it's just going to blow up Trump's peace efforts," he said. "The worst case scenario is you also have widespread protests, major riots."

Goldenberg said the move puts Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who champions East Jerusalem as the capital of an eventual Palestinian state, and other Arab leaders in a tough position. "It's hard to imagine Abbas or any of the Arab leaders being able to engage politically," he said. Within minutes of Trump's announcement Abbas called it "deplorable and unacceptable" and said the United States can no longer play the role of peace broker.

Ultimate deal

Trump, who prides himself as a negotiator, has said on several occasions that he is determined to work toward a Middle East peace settlement, what he has called the "ultimate deal".

Madina, the young Afghan girl who will never see London

Madina will never know London, the city her Afghan family hoped to reach. The six-year-old's body lies in a Serbian grave after she was struck by a train at the Balkan country's border. The Husseinis left Afghanistan around two years ago with the aim of reaching Britain, joining thousands of migrants still crossing the "Balkan route" towards western Europe, although it was officially shut down in early 2016.

But once in Croatia, Madina and five of her relatives were intercepted by Croatian police and sent back to the Serbian frontier, according to her mother Muslima Hussein-who's version of events is denied by Croatian authorities. The family found themselves retreating along a railway line in the dark. "We heard a very loud noise, a train that was coming quickly" from behind, the mother told AFP.

Muslima recalls her panicked cries for her daughter, who was found lying in a pool of blood with her skull broken. After her death on Nov 20, Madina was laid to rest in Sid, a northern Serbian border town. Her grave sits away from the Orthodox tombs that dominate the cemetery. Nearby are three other small piles of earth for other fallen migrants: Hamidi Hadere (1930-2015), Abu Shafar Mustafa (1970-2016) and a Mohamadi, whose first name is already unreadable (1946-2016) on the wooden sign.

Madina's "avoidable death" is a fresh reminder to the European Union and regional authorities "that people are still in danger (in) the Balkans," said Andrea Contenta of Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Serbia. "The practice of pushing people back at EU borders continues to endanger people's lives," he told AFP. This year, to the end of November, 143 migrants are known to have died between Turkey and the European Union, according to MSF. Some were victims of car or train accidents, some drowned, and others committed suicide. But beyond the public data, "we do not know how many people have lost their lives across the region," Contenta said.

Cheeky smile

Rahmat Shah Hussein, 39, sobs over the icy earth where his daughter was buried. He then flicks through his phone to a photograph of Madina, with short hair, a cheeky smile and pink trainers that barely touched the ground as she sits. The picture was taken two days before she died. "She often asked 'Are we there? Is this London?'" the father said. He

stressed Wednesday that recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital in no way negates his "strong commitment to facilitate a lasting peace agreement". "We want an agreement that is a great deal for the Israelis and a great deal for the Palestinians," he said. Goldenberg said if Trump was really serious about promoting Israeli-Palestinian peace he would have made the status of Jerusalem part of a global peace package. But Trump indicated Wednesday that reaching a final resolution of the

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It's a new Middle East

”

thorny question of Jerusalem would be up to the parties themselves. "We are not taking a position on any final status issues, including the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, or the resolution of contested borders," he said. "Those questions are up to the parties involved."

Kushner, Trump's 36-year-old son-in-law, has been quietly working on the Israeli-Palestinian dossier for months but diplomatic sources said they do not expect any peace plan to be

revealed until, at best, early 2018. For Barbara Slavin of the Atlantic Council, Trump's Jerusalem move is "a confirmation that (the peace process) has always been an illusion". "Kushner's peace efforts are a kind of fig leaf to give the Saudis so they could justify working more with Israel against Iran," Slavin said. Since taking office, Trump and Kushner have been cultivating a close relationship with Saudi Arabia, and particularly the new crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, as an ally against mutual foe Iran. But Slavin warned that the Jerusalem move could have unintended consequences. "It's going to strengthen Iran, which this collaboration with Saudi Arabia is supposed to undermine," she said. "Iran will portray itself once again as the true champion of the Palestinian cause while all the Arabs are a bunch of hypocrites," Slavin added. Elliott Abrams, senior fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, was more sanguine. Arab governments would have to "show concern" over the Jerusalem move, he said, "for reasons of public opinion". "(But) it will not change the fundamentals of their relationship with Israel," he said. "Saudis and Emiratis will continue to view Israel as an ally against Iran."

A diplomat with knowledge of the region also said he did not think the Jerusalem move would prove to be too unsettling. "There are tectonic changes in the region," said the diplomat who requested anonymity. "It's a new Middle East." Kushner also appeared undeterred in a rare public appearance on Sunday, seeing an opportunity for peace if the Sunni Arab countries of the region align with Israel in opposition to Shiite Iran. "They look at the regional threats and I think that they see Israel, who is traditionally their foe, is a much more natural ally to them than it was 20 years ago," Kushner said. — AFP



In this photograph taken on Dec 7, 2017, the Hussein family gather around the grave of six-year-old Madina Hussein at a cemetery in the western Serbian town of Sid. — AFP

explained how he set off from the Afghan capital with 14 members of his family after receiving death threats for having worked for US forces.

After passing through Iran, Turkey and Bulgaria, the Husseinis were not together when the tragedy struck. Muslima left first with five of the children, including 15-year-old Rashid, who speaks English. There was not enough money for all of them to try their luck at once, the father explained. That afternoon the small group stopped to gather strength and eat biscuits in an abandoned house near the border, where they were dropped off by a taxi. Then they crossed through a field, lowering and crossing a barbed-wire fence. They were in Croatia, Muslima recalled.

When police officers arrived, the mother asked for asylum and begged that they wait at least until the morning to send them back in daylight, and after the children had rested. But her requests were refused and the police escorted them to the railway track, which the officers lit up with their flashlights before leaving the family. Croatia's interior ministry denies this account of a police escort, saying Muslima "voluntarily" accepted to return to Serbia after the accident happened. The family started walking. "Nobody told us that a train would pass," Muslima said.

Whisked away

The family took the motionless child's body back to the Croatian police and an ambulance was called. Muslima said she was forced out of the ambulance and that a policeman even prevented her from looking through the window of the vehicle that soon left with Madina. The remaining relatives were again pushed back to the railway line. Reunited in Belgrade, the family only learnt about her death two days later. The next day at dawn, they were driven with an imam to Sid, where her body was waiting. They were told she must be buried immediately. — AFP

Ronaldo's fifth Ballon reignites eternal debate

Cristiano Ronaldo collected his joint-record fifth Ballon d'Or on Thursday in Paris in the middle of his worst domestic season for Real Madrid, but with a deserved reputation for delivering on the biggest stage of all and when it matters most. Despite equalling Lionel Messi in being named the world player of the year for a fifth time, he trails the Barcelona forward in the La Liga scoring charts, on a measly two goals to Messi's 13 strikes which have helped Barca lead Real by eight points in the standings after 14 games.

Ronaldo has been able to counter criticism for his dire league form by continuing to lead the way in the Champions League, however, topping the scoring charts for a seventh year in a row with nine goals so far this season, also becoming the first player to score in all six group games. Indeed, he won the award - set up by the magazine France Football in 1956 - for the huge role he played in Real last season becoming the first team to successfully defend the Champions League since AC Milan in 1990.

Ronaldo came into his own in the latter stages of the competition, scoring eight goals against Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid to help put Real in the final in Cardiff, where he netted twice in their 4-1 victory over Juventus. Real also wrestled the La Liga title back from Barcelona last season, with Ronaldo scoring 25 goals along the way, including the first in their title clinching 2-0 win at Malaga.

Ronaldo matching Messi in winning the most coveted individual prize in the game five times will reignite the eternal debate over which of the two players is the best in the world or indeed of all time. It is to the Portuguese's credit that the debate is still raging on after Messi led him with four Ballon d'Or awards to one back in 2012. Ronaldo won the award in 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017, while Messi earned his fifth gong in 2015. No other player has won the award since Kaka collected it in 2007 while at AC Milan.

As well as having five Ballon d'Or awards each, the pair have the same number of European Golden Shoes and Champions League triumphs (four), while Messi has the edge in league titles with eight to Ronaldo's five (two with Real and three with Manchester United). The Argentine is the all-time top scorer in La Liga, although Ronaldo, who joined the Spanish top flight five years after Messi made his debut, has a better goals-to-game ratio. — Reuters

News

Egypt archaeologists find mummy in Luxor

LUXOR: Egyptian archaeologists have discovered a mummy in one of two previously unexplored tombs across the Nile from the southern city of Luxor, the antiquities ministry said yesterday. The tombs were found in the 1990s by German archaeologist Frederica Kamp, though she had only reached the entrance gate "but never entered", the ministry said. It said that both tombs, which were given numbers by Kamp, were likely to date back to dynasties of the New Kingdom, which lasted several centuries until about 3,000 years ago.

Since Kamp's discovery, "both tombs were left untouched" an Egyptian archaeological mission started work. Antiquities Minister Khaled Al-Enany was in Luxor to announce the discovery in Draa Abul Naga necropolis near the famed Valley of the Kings, where many pharaohs, including Tutankhamun, were buried. In addition to funerary items, archaeologists found "a mummy wrapped in linen", the ministry said, adding that "studies suggest the mummy could be for a top official or a powerful person".

The owner is unidentified, though the ministry said they have two possible identities. The tomb might belong to "a person named Djehuty Mes whose name was engraved on one of the walls", the ministry said. Or it could belong to "the scribe Maati as his name and the name of his wife Mehi were inscribed on 50 funerary cones found in the tomb's rectangular chamber". The other tomb was not excavated and only "uncovered" in April, the ministry said, adding that the tomb's owner is not yet known.



LUXOR: Egyptian archaeological workers restore a mummy wrapped in linen, found at the newly discovered tomb at the Draa Abul Naga necropolis on the west Nile bank of this southern Egyptian city yesterday. — AFP

"The tomb has a court lined with stone and mud-brick walls. It has a six-metre deep burial shaft at its southern side that lead to four side chambers," the ministry said. "Studies reveal that the tomb was reused in antiquity," it said. The tomb contains several artefacts and a depiction of "a person, probably the deceased's brother, presenting offerings and flowers to the deceased and his wife". — AFP

Abbas to shun Pence; 2 killed...

Continued from Page 1

It said soldiers responded with unspecified "riot dispersal means", lightly wounding three Palestinians. In Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, police fired stun grenades to disperse Palestinian demonstrators on the main Salahedin street, an AFP cameraman said. A police statement said two policemen were slightly injured and six protesters arrested. The Palestinian Red Crescent said 12 Palestinians were injured by shrapnel from grenades or by blows from police.

There have been fears of a much larger escalation of violence after Hamas leader Ismail Haniya called for a new Palestinian intifada, or uprising. Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad militant group both renewed that call yesterday. Dozens of protesters were wounded by rubber bullets or live fire in clashes in the occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem that followed the main weekly Muslim prayers on Friday. Tens of thousands also protested in Muslim and Arab countries, including Jordan, Turkey, Pakistan and Malaysia.

North Korea meanwhile lambasted Trump for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, renewing its description of him as a "dotard" in a statement released yesterday on state media. Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jong-Un have traded threats of war and personal insults in recent months as tensions remain high over the North's missile and nuclear threats.

Now the hermit state has joined near-universal condemnation of the US president's decision on Jerusalem, calling it a "reckless, wicked act". "Considering the fact that the mentally deranged dotard openly called for a total destruction of a sovereign state at the UN, this action is not so surprising", a foreign ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the state-run KCNA news agency. "But this move clearly shows to the whole world who is the destroyer of world peace and security, pariah and rogue in the international community", he said, using epithets usually reserved for the North.

According to the latest KCNA statement, the North "strongly condemns" the US move to recognise Jerusalem as capital, and expressed "firm support and solidarity for Palestinians and Arab peoples struggling to win their legitimate rights". "The US will be held

Gulf Cup moves to Kuwait; KFA..

Continued from Page 1

over alleged government meddling in sports. After Kuwait's suspension, the tournament was switched to World Cup 2022 host Qatar.

Any hopes that would ensure the tournament would go ahead were dashed by the region's worst political crisis in years. A bitter dispute erupted on June 5 when Qatar was diplomatically isolated by a quartet of neighboring countries including Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain over alleged support for terrorist groups and Doha's warming relations with Riyadh's great regional rival Iran. Qatar denies the allegations, but the dispute has now continued for more than six months.

In November, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain were "withdrawn" from the tournament after failing to respond to an invite to take part from the Doha-based AGCFF. Since the current dispute began, the boycotting countries have cut all communications with Qatar. However a

breakthrough came earlier this month when FIFA lifted Kuwait's suspension after the National Assembly adopted a law meant to end government interference in the sport. That cleared the way to move the tournament back to its original host. Following the lifting of Kuwait's suspension, the Qatar Football Association said it was willing for the tournament to go ahead in Kuwait.

The move has been backed by FIFA chief Gianni Infantino, who said he would attend the tournament's opening games. "It will take place at exactly the same dates, the 22nd of December to the fifth of January," Rumaishi said, the first confirmation from a Gulf Cup official that the competition would go ahead.

He added that organizers were still waiting for confirmation from the federations of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, but it is widely expected they will now take part in the eight-team competition. The fact they would only play after the tournament was switched from Qatar could raise further fears over a potential boycott of 2022. Qatar has said it expects up to 1.5 million fans to attend the World Cup, the majority coming from the region, mainly from Saudi Arabia. Last month, the country's most senior World Cup organizer, Hassan Al-Thawadi publicly urged the boycotting countries to allow their nationals to attend in 2022. — Agencies

Final touches before Cabinet...

Continued from Page 1

as requested by him, adding Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah willingly renounced the title of first deputy PM to him in respect for his age and settled for the title of deputy PM and foreign minister. The sources stressed that Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah was nominated as foreign minister, but a last-minute decision excluded him to appease MPs, who believed his retention is provocative to them, especially after over 30 lawmakers had opposed him. The sources said Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah will be appointed as minister of the Amiri Diwan.

They said Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi will remain in office, although all indicators suggest he will be replaced by Dr Fahd Al-Ibrahim. The sources revealed that Housing

Minister Yasser Abul rejected all attempts to convince him to remain in office and insisted on quitting to take care of his family business, adding he will be replaced by Ali Al-Moussa.

The sources said former MP Adel Al-Kharafi will be appointed as minister of public works and minister of state for National Assembly affairs despite Salafists' insistence to keep the current minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa in office. The sources also noted that Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh will be appointed deputy PM and minister of state for Cabinet affairs and will be replaced by Nayef Al-Hajraf.

The sources said Minister of Justice and Awqaf Mohammed Al-Jabri will remain in office, and that Kuwait's ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah agreed to be appointed minister of information. The sources said despite his good performance, Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq will be excluded to avoid parliamentary threats to be grilled, and might be replaced by Hussein Ismael. Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Planning Hind Al-Sabeeh will remain in office, while Education Minister Mohammad Al-Fares will be replaced by Hamed Al-Azmi, the sources concluded.

Abadi declares final victory over IS in Iraq

Continued from Page 1

Daesh-held populated areas in Iraq." Hisham Al-Hashemi, an expert on militant groups, warned that IS still posed a threat by retaining arms caches in uninhabited desert zones. Iraq's close ally Iran already declared victory over IS last month, as the militants clung to just a few remaining scraps of territory. But Abadi said at the time he would not follow suit until the desert on the border with Syria had been cleared.

The militants' defeat is a massive turnaround for an organization that in 2014 ruled over seven million people in a territory as big as Italy encompassing large parts of Syria and nearly a third of Iraq. On the Syrian side of the border, IS is under massive pressure too. On Thursday, Russia's

defense ministry said its mission in support of the Syrian regime to oust IS had been "accomplished" and the country was "completely liberated". In the border region, pro-government forces and US-backed Kurdish-led forces are conducting operations to clear IS fighters from the countryside north of the Euphrates valley after ousting them from all Syrian towns. The head of Iraq's Joint Operations Command set up to fight IS, General Abdel Amir Yarallah, gave an update yesterday to announce that the desert valley of Al-Jazira was under the control of Iraqi troops and the Hashed all the way from Nineveh province in the north to Anbar in the west. Federal forces "now control the border with Syria from Al-Walid border crossing to that of Rabia", covering a distance of 435 km, he said.

Despite the victory announcements, experts have warned that IS retains the capacity as an insurgent group to carry out high-casualty bomb attacks using sleeper cells. Abadi's victory announcement came the same day as Iraqi forces said they killed 10 IS members in a tunnel near the northern city of Kirkuk and recovered armaments. IS also retains natural hideouts in the deep gorges of Wadi Hauran, Iraq's longest valley stretching from the Saudi border up to the Euphrates River and the frontiers with Syria and Jordan. — AFP

Protesters slam 'reckless' US...

Continued from Page 1

Another ICM member MP Mohammed Al-Dallal said that the Palestinian cause is the Muslims' prime cause and that Trump would not have made such a decision if Arab leaders had not been so weak. He also hailed the Turkish president for calling for an Islamic summit in Istanbul. MP Thamer Al-Suwait condemned what he described as "Arab silence", adding that along with a number of MPs, he has filed a proposal to hold a special session on Wednesday.

MP Ahmad Lari said Trump made the decision for

domestic benefits. Former MP Mubarak Al-Duwailah said the gathering was not only for the Palestinians, but rather for the Muslims' prime cause. MP Khalil Abdullah said Kuwait, which will serve as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term from January, should use its upcoming position to rally support against Trump's decision.

National Democratic Alliance member Hussein Al-Awadhi said that the US decision will set the entire global political arena on fire and urged the Arab League to take practical decisions to force the US to rescind its decision.

The protesters agreed to gather and demonstrate outside the US Embassy later this week. Meanwhile, another demonstration was held outside the Palestinian embassy later yesterday in solidarity with the Palestinians. Authorities allowed the protests at Irada Square and outside the Palestinian Embassy, but banned any demonstration near the American Embassy.

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Sports

Olympic ban opens chasm between Russia's athletes and leaders

Doping allegations against Russia invented by US: Putin

MOSCOW: The International Olympic Committee's decision to ban Russia from the 2018 Winter Games over state-orchestrated doping has created an unprecedented split between the country's athletes and politicians. On Wednesday, President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia would not boycott next year's Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, nor would it prevent athletes from taking part.

It was a decision welcomed by IOC chief Thomas Bach and one that most Russian athletes had been hoping for. But until the decision was announced, Russia's political class had, almost in its entirety, railed against the ruling to exclude the sporting superpower from the February 9-25 competition, calling for a complete boycott. Parliament's deputy speaker Igor Lebedev, a sport fanatic who also sits on the Russian Football Union's executive committee, said he felt the only solution in response to Tuesday's IOC ban was a "complete refusal to take part in the Olympic Games".

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the nationalist LDPR party, denounced what he called a "sporting and politically racist" decision, according to the RIA Novosti state news agency.

On VK, the Russian equivalent of Facebook, pro-Kremlin MP Natalia Poklonskaya-Crimea's former chief prosecutor-said Russian athletes should parade only "under the flag of our great country".

“Real traitors are those who haven't lifted a finger to defend our athletes”

'DIRTY LITTLE POLITICAL GAMES'

Putin said last month that doping allegations against Russian athletes had been invented by the United States, a common theme among Russian officials.

"We are in favour of sport coming out of the realm of dirty little political games. We hope that this approach will prevail in Washington sooner or later," said Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, quoted by the TASS news agency.

The sentiment was echoed by foreign affairs spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, for whom the IOC decision is "a huge attack linked to the fact the political isolation of Russia has failed", leaving the sporting world to deal with the repercussions. But for many Russian athletes, forgoing the Olympics and sacrificing four years of hard work for nothing is simply inconceivable.

A squabble between Pyotr Tolstoy, deputy speaker of the Russian parliament's lower house, and Yolanda Chen, a former triple jump world-record holder, illustrated the conflict between athletes and politicians.

'REAL TRAITORS'

"The real traitors are those who haven't lifted a finger to defend our athletes for two years," Chen argued in a heated exchange on the Pervy Kanal TV channel, which broadcast the IOC decision live.

"It's a confrontation without precedent between the



SOCHI: File photo taken on February 23, 2014 shows (L-R) International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and double-Gold Medallist, Bobsleigh pilot Alexander Zubkov attending the Closing Ceremony of the Sochi Winter Olympics at the Fisht Olympic Stadium. Russia was banned On December 5, 2017 from the 2018 Winter Games by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). — AFP

politicians and athletes. It's clear that the politicians are to blame... for the IOC decision, and now they're trying to make traitors of those who are preparing to go to the Games," Chen told AFP on Wednesday.

"They shout patriotism but we are the real patriots, not them. It's us who are ready to go to the Games without a flag or anthem, to defend the honour of the nation," she said. This sentiment was shared by the large majority of athletes questioned by Russian media, as well as the country's former Olympic stars.

"If I was in their place, I would go to the Games," said double Olympic figure skating champion Evgeni Plushenko. The three-time world gold medalist, now the coach of Sochi individual champion Adelina Sotnikova, added that he was "happy with the IOC decision, because it could have been worse".

The number and identity of Russian athletes likely to compete in Pyeongchang next year will not be known until after a meeting of the national Olympic committee on December 12. —AFP

Formula One reports bigger crowds, Mexico best race again

PARIS: Formula One saw an eight percent rise in the number of fans attending races in 2017 with 13 of the 20 races reporting bigger crowds, according to figures published by the sport's commercial rights holder. Monaco and Abu Dhabi reported no change while five, including two of the races with the biggest overall turnout, saw slight decreases in 2016.

Formula One said in a statement that the season's global average attendance per three-day event was 203,570 and 76,722 on race Sunday. The total attendance over the 20-race season was 4,071,400 and is set to grow next year with an extra race added to the calendar.

"An attendance of more than 200,000 per event means that for 20 weekends per year, the population of a medium-sized city visits a race track to watch a Formula One Grand Prix," said commercial managing director Sean Bratches.

The 2017 season was the first under new US-based owners Liberty Media. Canada reported the biggest overall

attendance of 360,000, an increase of 60,000 on 2016, followed by the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on 344,500 and Mexico with 337,043.

Formula One said the attendance figures were provided by promoters. Azerbaijan saw the biggest percentage rise, up 58 percent with a reported crowd of 71,451. That was still the smallest of any race.

Japan saw the biggest drop, down to 137,000 from a previous 145,000. Malaysia, which has fallen off the calendar after this year's race, pulled in a total of 110,604 — a 19.69 percent rise on 2016. The Mexican Grand Prix was named the best race of the season for the third year in a row.

The award is decided by Formula One management in consultation with teams and stakeholders. "This is the first time ever that the same city gets three in a row," race promoter Alejandro Soboron told Reuters at the governing FIA's end-of-season awards in Paris.

"I think we are going to continue doing bigger and better every time," added Soboron, president and chief executive of the CIE Group that hosts the race with government backing. The Australia Grand Prix also won the award in three successive seasons but one of those was in Adelaide before the race moved to Melbourne.

Soboron said the award was all the more meaningful this year since the Oct. 29 race came after devastating earthquakes in September. — Reuters

Hamilton crowned F1 champion at royal palace

VERSAILLES: Britain's Lewis Hamilton was handed the Formula One world championship trophy for the fourth time on Friday at a gala prizegiving ceremony in the sumptuous palace of France's former monarchy.

With Formula One chairman Chase Carey looking on, newly-re-elected International Automobile Federation (FIA) president Jean Todt handed the 32-year-old Mercedes driver the silverware he won in Mexico with two races to spare.

"This has been an amazing year," Hamilton told the audience of champions and FIA members gathered in the palace's 18th century opera. "I hope that next year's an even better year for all of you."

I know for me that I'm going to try to do better," Hamilton won nine of 20 races in 2017 and set an all-time record of 72 career pole positions as well as scoring points in every grand prix.

Asked earlier for his highlight of the season, Hamilton singled out his home British Grand Prix at Silverstone because of the support he received after the 'negativity' surrounding his failure to take part in an earlier London event.

He had also told reporters that while he did not like going to award ceremonies, or being on stage, he enjoyed watching others suc-

Bottas shrugs off his low rating by F1 bosses

PARIS: Valtteri Bottas has shrugged off a poll of Formula One team bosses that rated the Mercedes driver in only 10th place despite him winning three races this year and ending up third in the championship.

The placing was one lower than the Finn had managed with Williams in 2016. "There's always all kind of polls and stuff," Bottas, who joined Mercedes in January as a replacement for Nico Rosberg after the 2016 champion retired, told reporters at the governing FIA's end-of-year prize-giving.

"I don't really think about it, if I'm underrated or things like that. "Really what matters is how I perform on track: how many races I will be able to win in future. The main thing is within the team, that they know exactly my level of performance, that they know what I'm capable of doing."

The Finn jokingly hoped his own team boss Toto Wolff had not voted him 10th in the poll conducted by motorsport.com. Bottas also took three pole positions and ended up on the podium 13 times but he also suffered something of a slump after the August break and in some races he was comprehensively out-performed by team mate Lewis Hamilton.

Hamilton, who topped the poll by a huge



PARIS: World's Formula One British driver Lewis Hamilton (L) poses next to the President of the FIA (International Automobile Federation) Jean Todt during a press conference in Paris. — AFP

ceed. Mercedes won both championships for the fourth year in a row but team boss Toto Wolff said 2017 had been particularly difficult. "We keep it now," he said after being handed the constructors' trophy by Carey. Red Bull's 20-year-old Dutch driver Max Verstappen beat a field that included Hamilton and his own Australian team mate Daniel Ricciardo to the 'Personality of the Year' award for the third successive year.

The award is selected by permanently accredited media from all FIA championships. "I always try to be honest and straightforward so I guess that gave me the personality again this year," said the winner of two races

in 2017. "It was a hard season but I learnt a lot from it." Monaco's Formula Two winner and 2018 Sauber F1 driver Charles Leclerc won the Rookie of the Year award while Finnish rally driver Esapekka Lappi won the 'Action of the Year' for a jump in the Rally of Portugal.

British teenager Billy Monger, who had his lower legs amputated after an horrific smash in a Formula Four race at Donington Park in April, was presented with an FIA president's special award. Monger, who has already returned to driving, walked out onto the stage on prosthetic legs to a resounding ovation. — Reuters



Valtteri Bottas

margin, won nine times and took his fourth world championship. The Briton has praised his team mate for bringing a new harmony to the team after a prickly time with Rosberg and emphasised how well the pair get on.

"I think as a driver I've definitely learned a lot. I've felt that sometimes I had quite a hard lesson. I really struggled in some races with the car and my driving," said Bottas. "I really have to work on many of the issues and learn from those and get better. I think out of all the seasons I've had in Formula One, this is the one where I've learnt the most."

The Finn said ending with a victory in Abu

Dhabi, in a one-two with Hamilton, was the perfect way to sign off for the year but he would have to raise his game in 2018 against a team mate who ranks as one of the all-time greats. He was not worried about being categorised as a good team mate, rather than a potential champion. "I know that this will be up to me," he said. "We are able to race Lewis with equal machinery and equal terms, we are going to be allowed to race on the track so it's up to me. "If I can perform in qualifying, and well in the races pace-wise and in racing situations, then I can fight for the title if we have a good car." — Reuters



Formula One saw an eight percent rise in the number of fans attending races in 2017.

Sports

Capitals win four straight and seven of their last eight

Forsling help Chicago snap a five-game winless streak

NHL results/standings

Minnesota 3, Anaheim 2 (OT); Chicago 3, Buffalo 2 (OT); Las Vegas 4, Nashville 3 (SO); Columbus 5, New Jersey 3; Washington 4, NY Rangers 2.

| Western Conference | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Central Division | | | | | | |
| | W | L | OTL | GF | GA | PTS |
| St. Louis | 19 | 8 | 2 | 95 | 75 | 40 |
| Nashville | 18 | 7 | 4 | 95 | 84 | 40 |
| Winnipeg | 17 | 8 | 4 | 99 | 82 | 38 |
| Dallas | 16 | 12 | 1 | 86 | 84 | 33 |
| Minnesota | 14 | 11 | 3 | 83 | 84 | 31 |
| Chicago | 13 | 11 | 5 | 87 | 81 | 31 |
| Colorado | 12 | 13 | 2 | 83 | 91 | 26 |
| Pacific Division | | | | | | |
| Los Angeles | 19 | 8 | 3 | 94 | 66 | 41 |
| Las Vegas | 18 | 9 | 1 | 98 | 88 | 37 |
| San Jose | 15 | 10 | 2 | 71 | 65 | 32 |
| Calgary | 15 | 12 | 2 | 84 | 92 | 32 |
| Vancouver | 14 | 11 | 4 | 79 | 81 | 32 |
| Anaheim | 12 | 11 | 7 | 80 | 89 | 31 |
| Edmonton | 11 | 15 | 2 | 80 | 96 | 24 |
| Arizona | 7 | 19 | 5 | 74 | 110 | 19 |
| Eastern Conference | | | | | | |
| Atlantic Division | | | | | | |
| Tampa Bay | 20 | 6 | 2 | 106 | 71 | 42 |
| Toronto | 18 | 10 | 1 | 101 | 85 | 37 |
| Boston | 13 | 9 | 4 | 75 | 74 | 30 |
| Montreal | 13 | 13 | 4 | 83 | 93 | 30 |
| Detroit | 11 | 12 | 5 | 79 | 91 | 27 |
| Florida | 11 | 13 | 4 | 85 | 97 | 26 |
| Ottawa | 9 | 11 | 7 | 77 | 93 | 25 |
| Buffalo | 7 | 17 | 5 | 62 | 99 | 19 |
| Metropolitan Division | | | | | | |
| Columbus | 18 | 10 | 1 | 85 | 73 | 37 |
| Washington | 18 | 11 | 1 | 94 | 88 | 37 |
| New Jersey | 16 | 8 | 4 | 87 | 86 | 36 |
| NY Islanders | 16 | 9 | 3 | 104 | 96 | 35 |
| Pittsburgh | 16 | 11 | 3 | 90 | 98 | 35 |
| NY Rangers | 15 | 11 | 2 | 93 | 85 | 32 |
| Philadelphia | 11 | 11 | 7 | 83 | 86 | 29 |
| Carolina | 11 | 1 | 6 | 76 | 85 | 28 |

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).

NEW YORK: Matt Niskanen scored the go-ahead goal with 3:32 remaining, Tom Wilson and Nicklas Backstrom each added a goal and an assist, and the Washington Capitals defeated New York. Wilson's goal gave Washington a 4-2 lead with 1:32 left. Backstrom and Jay Beagle also scored for the Capitals, who have won four straight and seven of their last eight.

Michael Grabner and Jesper Fast scored for the Rangers in the first meeting of the season between the Metropolitan Division rivals.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4 PREDATORS 3 (SO)
Reilly Smith's goal in the sixth round of a shootout Friday gave the Vegas Golden Knights a 4-3 win over the Nashville Predators at sold-out Bridgestone Arena.



Golden Knights win over Predators

Vegas forced overtime at 19:20 when, with a sixth skater, Erik Haula ripped a one-timer from the right circle for his 10th goal of the season. Nashville had gained its first lead at 14:56 of the third period off a turnover from Shea Theodore. Viktor Arvidsson took the puck and fed Nick Bonino, who had plenty of time and space in the slot to wire a wristler home for his sixth goal of the season. Arvidsson brought the Predators even at 8:04 of the third with his 10th goal, poking the rebound of Kevin Fiala's shot past a prone Malcolm Subban.

BLACKHAWKS 3, SABRES 2 (OT)
Gustav Forsling scored the winning goal with 4:9 seconds remaining in overtime to lift Chicago over Buffalo at the United Center. Alex DeBrincat and Tommy Wingels also scored for the Blackhawks, who



NASHVILLE: Craig Smith #15 of the Nashville Predators hits the post against goalie Malcolm Subban #30 during a shootout at Bridgestone Arena7 in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP

erased a one-goal deficit with 3:22 remaining in the third period. Forsling finished with a goal and two assists to help Chicago snap a five-game winless streak. Jason Pominville and Kyle Okposo scored for the Sabres, who picked up a point by taking the game to overtime but fell short against Chicago for the 12th game in a row.

BLUE JACKETS 5, DEVILS 3
After losing to New Jersey on Tuesday, Columbus rebounded to end a two-game skid with the help of a five-point game from Artemi Panarin. With the score tied 3-3 early in the third period, Alexander Wennberg came through with only his second goal of the season, snapping a 17-game drought, at 1:32. The goal was just

Columbus' eighth all season on the power play. Zach Werenski put the game away, scoring a four-on-four goal at 15:02 to make it 5-3. Panarin had the primary assist on all five Columbus goals, tying franchise records for most points and assists in one game.

WILD 3, DUCKS 2 (OT)
Matt Dumba scored the winning goal 3:43 into overtime and Devan Dubnyk registered 26 saves as Minnesota defeated Anaheim. The Wild came back from a 1-0 deficit but blew a 2-1 lead in regulation. The win snapped a three-game road losing streak. The Ducks had tied the score 2-2 at 13:35 of the third period on Adam Henrique's seventh goal of the season and third with Anaheim. — Reuters

Vonn injured, Gut crashes at St Moritz



Lindsey Vonn

ST MORITZ: American Lindsey Vonn was injured after finishing the World Cup Super G race in St Moritz yesterday while Switzerland's Lara Gut crashed halfway down the course. Vonn, four-times overall World Cup champion and the finest woman skier of her generation, fell to the ground grimacing as she slowed down after the finishing line and she staggered away with what appeared to be either a hip or back injury.

Vonn spent just under an hour in the medical treatment tent before being escorted to a waiting car and driven away. The 33-year-old walked the few metres to the car with great difficulty. An ambulance was initially called but was not needed.

US team officials declined to immediately comment on her condition. Gut, recently recovered from a serious knee injury, lost her balance high on the course, fell and flew into the safety netting. She was able to walk away after being disentangled by course officials.

Gut, the overall World Cup winner in 2016 and bronze medallist in the downhill at the Sochi Olympics, tore an anterior cruciate ligament in her knee at the same venue at the world championships in February.

The race, on a shortened course, was held in difficult conditions and was interrupted several times as wind blew clouds of sand across the course. — Reuters

Russia's Zagitova takes gold in debut Grand Prix Final

NAGOYA: Russian teenager Alina Zagitova took gold in the women's skate at her debut Grand Prix Final yesterday, while French ice dancers Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron ended the winning streak of Canadian team Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir.

The tournament, seen as a key step on the road to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in two months, lacked the presence of two-time world champion and fellow Russian Evgenia Medvedeva, widely seen as a favourite for Olympic gold, after she qualified but then withdrew with a fractured bone in her foot.

The 15-year-old Zagitova, who last year won the Junior Grand Prix Final, overcame several wobbles on landings to win with a jump-laden routine to "Don Quixote."

Snapping off a clean triple lutz-triple loop combination, as well as a sharp triple Salchow and triple flip in the second half of her routine, Zagitova hit a season's best with a total of 223.30.

"There were a number of small mistakes but they weren't that big a deal. I'm very happy to have won at the Grand Prix," she said just after winning her title. Asked how she managed to keep her stamina up for the unusually jump-heavy second half of her free programme, Zagitova told a news conference that it had taken time to adjust.

"For this programme I wasn't so confident I could skate to the end because in the middle, in the (step) sequence, I'd get tired," she said. "But my coaches believed in me and said 'you can do it,' and that gave me confidence, and I was finally able to skate to the end."

Fellow Russian Maria Sotskova came second with 216.28 while Canadian Kaetlyn Osmond came third. In ice dancing, the French team edged ahead of Virtue and Moir with an elegant, passionate routine to "Moonlight Sonata," winning with 202.16 to 199.86 for the Canadians.

"We're relieved that it's done," Cizeron told a news conference. "We had a good skate." Later, referring to



NAGOYA: (L-R) Second-placed Russia's Maria Sotskova, winner Russia's Alina Zagitova and third-placed Canada's Kaetlyn Osmond celebrate during the awards ceremony after the women's free skating programme at the Grand Prix of Figure Skating final in Nagoya yesterday. — AFP

the looks he gave Papadakis during the routine, he told a small group of reporters: "We have to skate with someone as if we were one person, and we have to be really, really connected."

Two-time Olympians Virtue and Moir, who topped the podium in Vancouver in 2010, had racked up win after win since their return to competition with Skate Canada 2016. At Skate Canada this year they set a new record score.

"We're not going to hang our heads, we're going to go home and work," Moir told a news conference. Germany's Aljona Savchenko and Bruno Massot took gold for pairs with an ambitious, elegiac free skate to "La Terre Vue du Ciel" by Armand Amar, snagging a season's best 236.68 overall. China's Wenjing Sui and Cong Han won silver with 230.89 after a wobble on a triple Salchow, while Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford of Canada came third with 210.83. — Reuters

Angels nab Japanese star Ohtani

LOS ANGELES: Japanese superstar Shohei Ohtani ended the suspense on Friday, agreeing to sign with the Los Angeles Angels where he'll team with two-time Most Valuable Player Mike Trout. "This morning, after a thorough, detailed process, Shohei Ohtani has decided to sign with the Los Angeles Angels," Ohtani's agent Nez Balelo said in a statement, capping a frenzy of courtship and speculation that had surrounded the player's move to the US major leagues.

The Angels have until December 22 to

finalize a deal with the 23-year-old. They must pay the \$20 million posting fee to Ohtani's Japanese club the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters. He'll receive a minor league contract, along with the \$2.315 million in international bonus money the Angels have available. On Wednesday the Angels boosted their international bonus fund by \$1 million by trading outfielder Jacob Pearson to the Minnesota Twins. The acquisition is a coup for the Angels, who beat out a host of suitors. That included six other teams that made his short list: The Seattle Mariners, Texas Rangers, Los Angeles Dodgers, San Francisco Giants, San Diego Padres and Chicago Cubs.

"Shohei is humbled and flattered by all the time and effort that so many teams put into their presentations," Balelo said. "What mattered to him most wasn't market size, time zone or league but that he felt a true bond with the Angels."

"He sees this as the best environment to develop and reach the next level and attain his career goals." The Angels said they were "honored" to have won the race for Ohtani's signature. "We felt a unique connectivity with him throughout the process and are excited he will become an Angel," the club said.

Ohtani, dubbed the Babe Ruth of Japan, is a two-way threat with a fastball clocked at 100 mph (161 km/h) and an explosive presence at the plate. Although his 2017 season with the Ham Fighters was hampered by an ankle injury, in 2016 he put up dazzling numbers, with a 10-4 record and a 1.86 ERA in 140 innings.

At the plate he hit .322 and clubbed 22 home runs. In 403 games over four seasons with the Japan Pacific League club he batted .286 with 48 homers, 166 RBIs and a .859 OPS. As a pitcher, he was 42-15 with a 2.52 ERA in 85 outings (82 starts). — AFP



Shohei Ohtani

Sports

New Zealand look to bowlers after Windies late charge

West Indies need to win Test to square two-match series

HAMILTON: New Zealand drew positives from their batting collapse on day one of the second Test against the West Indies in Hamilton yesterday, saying the signs looked good for their bowlers. The hosts slumped from 154 for one to be 286 for seven at stumps, at one stage losing four top-middle order batsmen for 35 runs. But New Zealand opener Jeet Raval said the innings gave "encouraging signs for our bowlers", who are bolstered by the return of swing bowler Tim Southee. New Zealand would be looking to add at least another 50 when play resumes today, said Raval.

Raval, the top scorer with 84, anchored New Zealand's strong start before the West Indies found lines that worked and they slumped to 189 for five. Lusty hitting by first Test century-maker Colin de Grandhomme (58 off 63 balls) and Mitchell Santner (24) then revived the innings in a rapid 76-run stand before Shannon Gabriel took the new ball and bowled them both. Tom Blundell was not out 12 at stumps with Neil Wagner on one. "I think it's evenly balanced, we had a good start to the day and they came back later so it's even leading into tomorrow," Raval said. The West Indies believe they gifted New Zealand at least 30 runs with an ineffectual spell at the start of the day after winning the toss and bowling in accommodating conditions.

"I think we bowled a little too full. Myself I thought I was a little too full. I didn't assess the conditions well enough but as the day went along things got better," said chief wicket taker Gabriel, who has three scalps so

far including Raval.

But Gabriel, whose first two overs cost 22 runs as he had trouble with a damp piece of ground where he planted his foot, said the West Indies were satisfied with the position of the game. "If we told ourselves this morning we would have them seven down by the end of the day's play we'd have taken that. I think they've scored 30-40 runs too much but I think it was a good day of Test cricket."

Raval featured in a 65-run stand for the first wicket with Tom Latham (22) and then added 89 with Kane Williamson (43) for the second before he became Gabriel's first wicket with an edge down legside to wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich. The left-hand opener was again denied his maiden century, although his average from 14 innings improved to 47.61.

Dowrich took four catches behind the stumps while Gabriel ended the day with three for 79 off 19 overs, and Miguel Cummins had two for 37 off 17 overs. Raymon Reifer, in his Test debut, also bowled 17 overs and removed

Nicholls for 13 to have one for 36.

Reifer, the only change to the West Indies side, was called up for his debut Test to replace the suspended Jason Holder, while New Zealand also made one change with Tim Southee returning and Matt Henry dropping out.

The West Indies need to win the Test to square the two-match series after New Zealand won the first Test by an innings and 67 runs in Wellington. — AFP



Jeet Raval denied maiden Test century

Follow-on decision left Australia skipper sweating

ADELAIDE: Australia captain Steve Smith admits he took a sleeping pill as he dealt with a bout of nerves on the eve of the final day of the second Ashes test after his decision not to enforce the follow-on had given England a sniff of victory. It all worked out in the end with Australia cantering to a 120-run victory to take a 2-0 lead in the series on Wednesday but Smith conceded he might have had a sleepless night if he had not had a bit of pharmaceutical assistance. "I had to have a sleeping pill last night. It has been a pretty tough 24 hours if I'm being honest," he said. "It's all part of being captain of your country. You have to make difficult decisions and sometimes you're going to make the wrong decision."

"I'll think back and reflect over the next day or so and think what I could have perhaps done differently and could have done better, and areas that I can continue to improve in my leadership."

Only South Africa captain Dudley Nourse against Australia in 1950 had previously lost a test after failing to enforce the follow-on, and Smith could have joined him if England had managed 178 runs on Wednesday.

Smith said he was still undecided whether it was a good decision or not but that he had expected Australia to back it up by batting a bit better than they did by making just 138 runs in their second innings. "I guess my rationale was that we're 215 runs in front of the game, if we bat reasonably well then we should be getting up over 400," he said.

"All we needed is one good partnership and the game is dead and buried. We didn't get that partnership. "Over the last day or so I have had a few different thoughts and I've read a lot of things but in the end we won the game so it's all irrelevant." Another factor had been keeping his pace bowlers fresh and tiring out the English seamers. "We know it's a long summer and I think the bowlers we've got are very valuable," he said. "It's part of an Ashes series, it's long. And if we can tire their bowlers early in the summer it can make a big difference at the back end."

Smith, whose 141 not out was the difference between the sides in the first test in Brisbane, contributed 40 and six runs in his two innings in Adelaide. James Anderson said on Tuesday that he thought England had got to Smith with their sledging. Smith disagreed.

"I think the opposite. I think they switched me on to be perfectly honest," he said. "I think when it got me in my little bubble. I have my little idiosyncrasies. It got me going. They can think what they like but from my point of view it got me going." — Reuters



Steve Smith

Duckett dropped, suspended by England after bar incident

PERTH: England's Ashes tour has been plunged into a fresh crisis with batsman Ben Duckett stood down from a tour game yesterday and suspended following a new incident in a Perth bar. Duckett, who was selected to open the batting in England's two-day tour match against a Cricket Australia XI in Perth, was a late omission from the team.

Team coach Trevor Bayliss confirmed that Duckett was involved in an incident late Thursday where he poured a drink over a senior player, identified in reports as fast bowler James Anderson, following a heated row. "I think that was the issue," Bayliss told reporters. "It was boys being boys, I suppose, but totally unacceptable. It's trivial, but in the current climate not acceptable. "Everyone has been warned about how even small things can be blown out of all proportion. "I'm disappointed. With what we have had to go through already with these problems, it is not acceptable."

Bayliss said the Northants batsman was suspended by team management while a disciplinary investigation, which will be led by Lions coach Andy Flower, takes place. "Andy will look after his player and if anything needs to be said or done with the first team, we'll handle that," Bayliss said. "I'm not sure what more I can say to the players. I'm sure there will be some stern words from above."

Bayliss agreed when asked if he was "fed up" about having to address off-field matters. "Very much so. I'm here to coach the team and I end up spending most of the time trying to explain behaviour that the boys have been warned about," he said. It was the first night after

Shastri expects India to export home dominance overseas

NEW DELHI: India will approach 2018 as the year to shed their "poor travellers" tag, head coach Ravi Shastri said ahead of the team's tour of South Africa. India top the Test rankings having sealed their record-equalling ninth consecutive series on Wednesday, six of which came at home and only one-against West Indies in the Caribbean-outside Asia.

Stern Tests await Virat Kohli's men next year when they also travel to England and Australia, where conditions will not be as conducive to their spinners as it is at home, and the moving ball will probe their batting technique. "This team is looking good and they have their priorities in place. They're hungry to prove themselves home and away," Shastri told the Times of India newspaper. "It's often been argued that India are poor travellers. We want to be the team that helped change this perception and this is the year to do it."

"Frankly, we're not too hooked on to this 'home and away' thing, where a lot of chatter goes on about conditions that aren't too familiar," the former test player added. "For instance, once you've played a test match in



HAMILTON: Jeet Raval of New Zealand bats during day one of the second Test cricket match between New Zealand and the West Indies at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

HAMILTON, New Zealand: Scoreboard at stumps on day one of the second Test between New Zealand and the West Indies in Hamilton yesterday.

| New Zealand first innings | | Total (for 7 wickets: 87.0 overs) | 286 |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|-----|
| J. Raval c Dowrich b Gabriel | 84 | Fall of wickets: 1-65 (Latham), 2-154 (Williamson), 3-159 (Raval), 4-186 (Taylor), 5-189 (Nicholls), 6-265 (Santner), 7-275 (de Grandhomme) | |
| T. Latham c Dowrich b Cummins | 22 | To bat: T. Southee, T. Boult | |
| K. Williamson c Dowrich b Cummins | 43 | Bowling: Gabriel 19-3-79-3 (1w, 5nb), Roach 19-7-45-1 (Inb), Cummins 17-4-37-2 (2w, 4nb), Chase 12-1-78-0, Reifer 17-8-36-1, Brathwaite 3-0-11-0. | |
| R. Taylor c Dowrich b Roach | 16 | Toss: West Indies | |
| H. Nicholls lbw Reifer | 13 | Series: New Zealand lead 1-0 | |
| M. Santner b Gabriel | 24 | | |
| C. de Grandhomme b Gabriel | 58 | | |
| T. Blundell | 12 | | |
| N. Wagner | 1 | | |
| Extras (wd3, nb10) | 13 | | |



Ben Duckett

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) director of cricket Andrew Strauss agreed to a relaxing of the mid-night curfew placed on the Test squad a fortnight ago.

That curfew followed news that wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow headbutted Australian Test opener Cameron Bancroft in a Perth bar during the tourists' first night on tour. Duckett, 23, has been touring Australia with England Lions and was among a number of players promoted for the current tour match while senior players rested ahead of next week's all-important third Test against Australia in Perth. Star all-rounder Ben Stokes is already suspended from the tour after he became involved in an incident outside a Bristol nightclub in

September that led to police investigations, although he is currently playing domestic cricket in New Zealand. Reports said that no members of the public were involved in the Duckett incident and police were not involved.

Duckett, who has played in four Tests for England, has been caught up in controversy in the past and was left out of Northants' tour to Barbados in 2015. He was once dropped from the England Under 19 team for fitness issues.

England are 2-0 down in the Ashes series and will relinquish the urn if they are beaten in the third Test, starting on Thursday. — AFP



Ravi Shastri

Kolkata, how long does it take before you play another test there? Two years? Sometimes three? It's the same as an overseas tour. "So that mindset is quite passé. In this day and age, wherever you go, it's home. You just got to walk in there and perform."

Starting on Jan. 5, India play three tests in South Africa as well as six one-day and three Twenty20 internationals- and, for a change, they will be relying more on pace than spin to succeed against the world second-ranked side.

India have named five frontline pacemen in their 17-

man squad, handing a maiden call-up to Jasprit Bumrah, whose unorthodox action and ability to bowl yorkers have made him a limited-overs asset.

"...he has just worked his way to the top so well. He's young, hard working, and has a unique action with which he can whip up quite some pace," Shastri said of the 24-year-old. "Bumrah adds a lot of value to this attack. We have to earn those 20 wickets if we have to make any impact in a test match and we need all the arsenal possible because it's going to be quite a testing tour." — Reuters

Sports

Son sinks Stoke to get Spurs back on track in style

Shawcross, seventh player to score six own goals

LONDON: South Korean forward Son Heung-Min sparked as Tottenham Hotspur returned to winning ways in style by crushing sorry Stoke City 5-1 at Wembley yesterday. After a four-game winless streak in the Premier League, Tottenham took their frustrations out on a poor Stoke side to provisionally climb to fifth place in the table.

Though Harry Kane scored twice, Son was the star of the show, scoring one goal and having a say in four others. An own goal from Ryan Shawcross set Spurs on the way, with Christian Eriksen also weighing in as Stoke, who grabbed a late consolation via Shawcross, were taken to the cleaners.

Following three previous 4-0 victories, it was Spurs' fourth consecutive four-goal league win over Stoke—an English top-flight record. Mark Hughes's Stoke, who have their lowest points tally at this stage of a Premier League season, sought to pack their defence in an effort to frustrate the hosts. But they quickly had to change tack as Spurs made the breakthrough with 20 minutes played. Son, who had already threatened Jack Butland's goal, made a telling contribution, with Shawcross ultimately putting the ball into his own net. Son's cross deflected off Kurt Zouma and Shawcross, with Kane in close attention, could only divert the ball beyond Butland. The luckless Shawcross became the seventh player to score six or more own goals in the Premier League era.

Son almost extended his side's lead three minutes later with what would have been another goal of Stoke's own making. A corner routine by the visitors

backfired and Son burst away on a 40-yard run, ignoring Eriksen's cries for a pass, but could not find his way beyond Butland.

Butland was forced into another save to keep out Eriksen's 28th-minute free-kick and then had to repel a thunderous shot from Mousa Dembele.

Shellshocked Stoke

It was all Spurs and they should have been out of sight, with Kane the next guilty party. Son threaded the ball through and Kane beat Stoke's offside trap, only to fire his low shot the wrong side of the post.

Within eight minutes of kick-off in the second half, Son showed Kane how it was done with a cool finish. Dele Alli's pass sent him scampering through and he out-paced the defence to score.

Stoke must have feared the worst and Kane ensured the game was well and truly beyond them just 60 seconds later. Ben Davies sent in a deep cross from the left and Kane rose highest to head through Butland's legs.

Stoke had barely threatened, but a rare sight of goal saw them foiled by Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

Xherdan Shaqiri bore down on goal, but his low shot was pushed out by Lloris, with Eric Dier on hand to clear the danger. It was brief respite for Stoke as Kane once again demonstrated why he is the country's finest striker with a fourth goal for Mauricio Pochettino's team. Son diverted Eriksen's cross into his path and Kane swept home left-footed from 18 yards out to pile on the misery for the shellshocked visitors. Stoke just



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-Min (L) vies with Stoke City's US defender Geoff Cameron during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Stoke City at Wembley Stadium in London. — AFP

wanted the final whistle to put them out of their agony, but their woes would continue as Eriksen got in on the act in the 74th minute. Another quick break saw Son free the Dane, who never looked like missing.

Stoke would have the last say when Shawcross headed in at the right end after Lloris missed Darren Fletcher's 80th-minute corner. His muted celebration told its own story.—AFP



Harry Kane scored twice

Mounie double helps Huddersfield to 2-0 win over Brighton

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN: Huddersfield Town forward Steve Mounie struck twice in the first half as his side coasted to a 2-0 Premier League win over Brighton and Hove Albion yesterday.

The Benin-born striker, who had not scored since netting a brace on the opening day of the season, ghosted in at the far post to bundle the ball home from Huddersfield's first corner of the game in the 12th minute. The 23-year-old, who arrived at Huddersfield from French side Montpellier in July, made it two with a header just before halftime as Brighton failed to clear another set piece. With Brighton barely threatening in attack, Huddersfield continued to dominate after the break, but wasteful finishing prevented them from adding to their goal tally. — Reuters

Meanwhile, striker Wilfried Bony smashed home from close range with

nine minutes left as Swansea City defeated fellow strugglers West Bromwich Albion 1-0 yesterday for their first Premier League victory in nearly two months.

Ivorian Bony punished West Brom with an unstoppable drive after the visitors failed to clear a Swansea corner, ending Swansea's seven-game run without a victory and lifting them off the bottom of the table. Substitute Tammy Abraham nearly doubled Swansea's lead in stoppage-time but the on-loan striker from Chelsea failed to find the target despite beating West Brom goalkeeper Ben Foster with a deft chip after a swift counter-attack. Alan Pardew is still looking for his first win since taking charge of 17th-placed West Brom, who are winless in 14 games, with fixtures against Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal coming up. — Reuters



HUDDERSFIELD: Brighton's Argentine-born Italian defender Ezequiel Schelotto (L) plays the ball during the English Premier League football match between Huddersfield Town and Brighton and Hove Albion at the John Smith's stadium. —AFP

Vidal fires Bayern eight points clear

BERLIN: Arturo Vidal's fourth goal in as many league games shot Bayern Munich to a 1-0 win at Eintracht Frankfurt and an eight-point lead at the top of the Bundesliga yesterday.

Bayern's win means that they cannot be caught before the winter break, which starts December 17, and makes them 'Herbstmeister' (Autumn champions) for the seventh season in a row.

Bayern head coach Jupp Heynckes rang the changes from Tuesday's 3-1 win at home to Paris Saint-Germain 3-1 in the Champions League, starting midweek goalscorers Robert Lewandowski and Corentin Tolisso on the bench alongside to Germany internationals Sebastian Rudy and Mats Hummels.

The biggest shock however was that third-choice goalkeeper Tom Starke, who had been working in Bayern's academy after retiring last season, was thrown into the fray after Sven Ulreich, who has played in place of Manuel Neuer since the Germany captain fractured his foot in September, injured his groin in the warm-up.

The 36-year-old Starke took the field after coming out of retirement in and being named in the club's Champions League squad in September. Frankfurt made a bright start, but Bayern grabbed what proved to be the winner on 20 minutes.

Joshua Kimmich swung in a cross which found Vidal unmarked at the back post to score in his fourth consecutive league match. Having already picked up a first-half yellow card, Vidal narrowly escaped a red card after fouling Marius Wolf with just under 40 minutes left. Heynckes responded by replacing the Chilean with Tolisso, but Frankfurt also almost finished with ten men. Wolf was shown a straight red card on 72 minutes for tackling James Rodriguez from behind.

However, after consulting with the video assistant referee, the ref reversed the decision, booking Wolf instead. Bayern extended their lead at the top of the Bundesliga after RB Leipzig conceded a late equaliser in their 2-2 draw at home to Mainz, whose replacement



FRANKFURT: Frankfurt's Argentinian defender David Abraham (L) and Bayern Munich's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match of Eintracht Frankfurt vs FC Bayern Munich. — AFP

striker Emil Berggreen equalised three minutes from time. The hosts took the lead at Leipzig's Red Bull Arena when midfielder Kevin Kampl fired home on 29 minutes, but Mainz equalised ten minutes later when Robin Quaison slotted home a rebound from a parried free-kick. Germany striker Timo Werner restored Leipzig's lead in the third minute of added time at the end of the first-half with a controversial penalty.

The decision was backed up by the VAR after Diego Demme went down in the area, but replays showed he had the faintest of touches from Mainz defender Leon Balogun. The incident lingered and Mainz's disgruntled coach Sandro Schwarz was sent to the stands for the final 15 minutes before Berggreen's late header.

Former league leaders Dortmund dropped out of the top six for the first time this season after crashing 2-1 at home to strugglers Werder Bremen. Dortmund are

without a win in their last eight league games and the defeat could well be the last for head coach Peter Bosz.

Bremen went ahead when Germany Under-21 midfielder Maximilian Eggestein fired home unmarked at the edge of the area on 26 minutes. The hosts got back on level terms when Shinji Kagawa's cross hit the arm of defender Philipp Bargfrede on 57 minutes.

However, Bremen restored their lead eight minutes later when a header from Czech defender Theodor Gebre Selassie hit the boot of Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Burki on its way into the net.

Kagawa wasted a late chance to equalise for Dortmund with 15 minutes left when he fired over with the goal at his mercy after Aubameyang had slipped over. Hamburg stay three points clear of the relegation places after their goalless draw at home to mid-table Wolfsburg. —AFP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

| ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Southampton v Arsenal | beIN SPORTS HD 2 | 15:00 |
| Liverpool v Everton | beIN SPORTS HD 2 | 17:15 |
| Manchester United v Manchester City | beIN SPORTS HD 1 | 19:30 |
| SPANISH LEAGUE | | |
| Real Sociedad v Malaga | beIN SPORTS | 14:00 |
| Real Betis v Atletico de Madrid | beIN SPORTS HD 3 | 18:15 |
| Levante v Athletic de Bilbao | beIN SPORTS HD 3 | 20:30 |
| Villarreal v Barcelona | beIN SPORTS HD 3 | 22:45 |
| ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE | | |
| Chievo Verona v Roma | beIN SPORTS | 14:30 |
| Napoli v Fiorentina | beIN SPORTS | 17:00 |
| Udinese Calcio v Benevento | beIN SPORTS | 17:00 |
| Spal v Hellas Verona | beIN SPORTS | 17:00 |
| Sassuolo Calcio v Crotone | beIN SPORTS | 20:00 |
| Milan v Bologna | beIN SPORTS | 22:45 |
| GERMAN BUNDESLIGA | | |
| Koln v Freiburg | beIN SPORTS HD 5 | 15:30 |
| Hannover v Hoffenheim | beIN SPORTS HD 5 | 17:30 |
| Augsburg v Hertha Berlin | beIN SPORTS HD 5 | 20:00 |
| FRENCH LEAGUE | | |
| Amiens v Olympique Lyonnais | beIN SPORTS HD 6 | 17:00 |
| Nantes v OGC Nice | beIN SPORTS HD 8 | 19:00 |
| Olympique Marseille v Saint Etienne | beIN SPORTS | 23:00 |

Defoe equaliser gives Bournemouth draw at Palace

LONDON: A superb equaliser by Jermain Defoe and a last-minute penalty save by Asmir Begovic gave Bournemouth a 2-2 draw at Crystal Palace in the Premier League yesterday. Defoe put Bournemouth ahead after 10 minutes when Andrew Surman crossed from the right into the middle of the box and the former England striker beat Julian Speroni with a shot into the bottom corner.

Three goals in four minutes then saw the teams go in level on 2-2 at halftime after Palace had equalised in the 41st with a Luka Milivojevic penalty after Begovic brought down Wilfried Zaha. Palace went in front in the 44th with a goal from close range by substitute defender Scott Dann but Defoe restored parity with a superb added-time equaliser, lifting the ball from a tight angle on the right over Speroni and into the top far corner. Begovic saved striker Christian Benteke's last-minute penalty to leave Bournemouth in 14th place on 16 points with Palace returning to the foot of the table on 11. — Reuters

12 Hamilton crowned F1 champion at royal palace

13 Russia's Zagitova takes gold in debut Grand Prix Final

14 Duckett dropped, suspended by England after bar incident



LONDON: Chelsea's French midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko (3rd L) watches as West Ham United's English midfielder Michail Antonio (C) falls over West Ham United's Argentinian defender Pablo Zabaleta during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Chelsea at The London Stadium. — AFP

Marko scores first goal for West Ham

Conte says Chelsea no longer in title race after defeat

LONDON: Chelsea coach Antonio Conte said his side were no longer in the Premier League title race after they lost 1-0 to West Ham United yesterday, leaving the champions 11 points adrift of runaway leaders Manchester City who play today.

Marko Arnautovic scored his first goal since he joined West Ham in July after swapping passes with Manuel Lanzini on the edge of the Chelsea penalty area and curling a low shot beyond Thibaut Courtois in the sixth minute of the London derby.

Conte brought on the attack-minded Pedro, Victor Moses and Willian as second-half substitutes but Chelsea failed to break down a West Ham defence that looks much sturdier under new manager David Moyes.

"To lose four games in 16 games, it means you are not in the title race," Conte said. "My experience of this is if you want to stay in the race for the title, in the first

part of the season you can lose once or twice." Particularly galling for Conte was the fact that three of the four defeats have come against clubs which would normally be considered relatively easy opposition for Chelsea-Burnley on the opening day of the season, Crystal Palace and now West Ham.

Chelsea also lost at home to Manchester City, who visit Manchester United today. The champions were left to rue some poor finishing against West Ham in the closing stages as Alvaro Morata blazed wide when he finally found some space

and Eden Hazard wasted a chance moments later.

Chelsea struggled for much of the match to find a way through a West Ham defence that did not concede a goal for the first time since September. West Ham manager Moyes praised his side for a "completely disciplined, organised performance" which had revolved around giving Chelsea little room on the ball and catching them on the break through Arnautovic and Michail Antonio.

"The game plan we set up worked, everything we went about we knew how to engage, and we were very

close at Manchester City as well," he said, referring to last Sunday's 2-1 defeat to the leaders. Despite the improvement since Moyes replaced Slaven Bilic as coach in November, West Ham remain in the relegation zone. Chelsea's Conte said his players looked tired after a mid-week draw in the Champions League with Atletico Madrid and he again hinted at his frustration that his squad of players were not strong enough to challenge for domestic and European honours this season. The Italian reportedly disagreed with the club's top officials in the close season about signings for this campaign. "I think it is better to talk to people in the club and then give my opinion," he said when asked if he wanted to sign more players in the January transfer window. Conte added: "The last decision was with the club. I can give my opinion but the decision is of the club." — Reuters



Moyes praise side for 'organised performance'

Ronaldo stars as rejuvenated Real thrash Sevilla 5-0

MADRID: Real Madrid sent a warning to Barcelona just two weeks ahead of El Clasico by storming back into form as Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice in a 5-0 thrashing of Sevilla yesterday.

Sevilla had started the afternoon on the same number of points as Madrid in joint fourth, but the sides looked worlds apart as Real scored all five goals before half-time to close to within five points of Barca at the top of the table.

Nacho got the hosts off to a perfect start before Ronaldo doubled his La Liga tally for the season with a cool finish and a penalty inside the half mark. Toni Kroos and Achraf Hakimi rounded off the rout as Real leapfrogged cross city rivals Atletico Madrid

into third. Barca can regain their eight-point advantage over Real when they visit Villarreal today. Real's spirits were lifted even before kick-off as Ronaldo showed off his record-equalling fifth Ballon d'Or to an adoring Santiago Bernabeu. There had been concern in Madrid ranks all week at the European champions' lack of defensive options with Sergio Ramos, Dani Carvajal and Casemiro all suspended and Raphael Varane injured.

However, it was Sevilla who looked like the side without a defence as they gifted the hosts the opener after just three minutes. A harmless corner to the back post saw Sevilla duo Simon Kjær and Luis Muriel get in each other's way and present Nacho with a gift to fire home from point-blank range.

Ronaldo has just become the first player to score in all six games of a Champions League group, but there had been a stark contrast between his stunning European form and his lack of goals in La Liga.

On Saturday, Ronaldo struck twice. The Portuguese swept home Marco Asensio's lovely through ball to double Madrid's advantage. Ronaldo's penalty then had just enough

power to beat Sergio Rico after Jesus Navas handled inside his own area.

Only a fine reaction save from Rico prevented Ronaldo completing a first-half hat-trick moments later.

However, the Madrid goals kept coming before half-time as a lovely one-two on the counter-attack between Kroos and Lucas Vazquez left the German midfielder with a simple finish. Hakimi then made it five with his first Madrid goal from a narrow angle after being played in by Benzema's inch-perfect pass. With Madrid facing a busy fortnight as they jet off to Abu Dhabi to defend the Club World Cup this week before hosting Barca, Zinedine Zidane's men understandably took their foot off the gas after the break.

Ronaldo, Luka Modric and Kroos were all withdraw, but Real could easily have added to their tally as Benzema's diving header came back off the post. Yet, a first five-goal haul in La Liga season in undoubtedly Madrid's best performance since they swept aside Barca in the Spanish Super Cup in August was more than enough to set up the Catalans' return visit on December 23 nicely. — AFP



MADRID: Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema (C) challenges Sevilla's German midfielder Johannes Geis (L), Sevilla's Argentinian defender Gabriel Mercado (2ndL), Sevilla's Danish defender Simon Kjær (2ndR) and Sevilla's French defender Clement Lenglet (R) during the Spanish league football match. — AFP

Business

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18 China's November producer prices ease to 4-month low**20** Bursa Kuwait continues to languish amid selloff**21** Boeing, Turkish Airlines celebrate the airline's first 777 Freighter

WASHINGTON, DC: Commuters walk past an office building on the way to a metro station at the end of the work day in Washington, DC, yesterday. The US economy continued to see robust job creation in November, with strong gains in manufacturing, health care and construction. — AFP

Job growth bolsters US economy's outlook

Nonfarm payrolls increase 228,000 in November

WASHINGTON: US job growth increased at a strong clip in November, painting a portrait of a healthy economy that analysts say does not require the kind of fiscal stimulus that President Donald Trump is proposing, even though wage gains remain moderate.

Nonfarm payrolls rose by 228,000 jobs last month amid broad gains in hiring as the distortions from the recent hurricanes faded, Labor Department data showed on Friday. The government revised data for October to show the economy adding 244,000 jobs instead of the previously reported 261,000 positions. November's report was the first clean reading since the storms, which also impacted September's employment data.

Average hourly earnings rose five cents or 0.2 percent in November after dipping 0.1 percent the prior month. That lifted the annual increase in wages to 2.5 percent from 2.3 percent in October. Workers also put in more hours last month. The unemployment rate was

unchanged at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent amid a rise in the labor force. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls rising by 200,000 jobs last month.

The fairly upbeat report underscored the economy's strength and could fuel criticism of efforts by Trump and his fellow Republicans in the US Congress to slash the corporate income tax rate to 20 percent from 35 percent. "The labor market is in great shape. Tax cuts should be used when the economy needs tax cuts and it doesn't need tax cuts right now," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pennsylvania. "When politics and economics are mixed in the stew, the policies that are created often have a very awful smell."

Republicans argue that the proposed tax cut package will boost the economy and allow companies to hire more workers. But with the labor market near full employment and companies reporting difficulties finding qualified workers, most economists disagree. Job openings are near

a record high. The White House said the strong jobs report was a sign that "Trump's bold economic vision continues to pay off." The Democratic Party, however, said Republicans are handing working American families a "bad deal." The economy grew at a 3.3 percent annualized rate in the third quarter, the fastest in three years, and appears to have maintained the momentum early in the October-December quarter.

The average workweek rose to 34.5 hours in November, the longest in five months, from 34.4 hours in October. Aggregate weekly hours worked surged 0.5 percent last month after October's 0.3 percent gain. "A six-minute increase in the work week does not sound like much, but given the size of the labor market, it turns out to be significant in terms of output," said Marc Chandler, global head of currency strategy at Brown Brothers Harriman in New York. The dollar was trading higher against a basket of currencies, while prices for US Treasuries fell. Stocks on Wall Street rose.

While November's employment report had no impact on expectations the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates at its Dec. 12-13 policy meeting, it could help shape the debate on monetary policy next year. The US central bank has increased borrowing costs twice this year and has forecast three rate hikes in 2018.

Employment growth has averaged 174,000 jobs per month this year, down from the average monthly gain of 187,000 in 2016. A slowdown in job growth is normal when the labor market nears full employment. The economy needs to create 75,000 to 100,000 jobs per month to keep up with growth in the working-age population. The unemployment rate has declined by seven-tenths of a percentage point this year. A broader measure of unemployment, which includes people who want to work but have given up searching and those working part time because they cannot find full-time employment, ticked up to 8.0 percent last month from a near 11-year low of 7.9 percent in October.

Economists believe shrinking labor market slack will unleash a faster pace of wage growth next year. Higher wages and tax cuts will fuel inflation. Some say wage growth is being understated. "Most recognize that average hourly earnings is a flawed gauge of wages, since it is currently being held down by the fact that higher-paid older workers are retiring," said Michelle Girard, chief economist at NatWest Markets in Stamford, Connecticut.

The growth in employment was broad in November. Construction payrolls increased by 24,000 jobs, thanks in part to rebuilding efforts in the areas devastated by the hurricanes, after rising 10,000 in October. Manufacturing scored another month of solid job gains, with payrolls increasing by 31,000 jobs after rising 23,000 in the prior month. Retail payrolls grew by 18,700 jobs last month, the largest gain since January. Employment at department stores increased by 3,100 jobs, likely boosted by hiring for the holiday season. — Reuters

Trump's trade chief gets his chance to confront WTO nemesis

WASHINGTON/GENEVA: After railing against the World Trade Organization for years, US President Donald Trump's trade chief will get a chance to stare down his WTO counterparts over Trump's "America First" trade agenda.

The question is whether US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will try to work to build consensus within the organization or

weaken it through neglect at the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, which opens today.

Lighthizer has already signaled that he doesn't want major new agreements at the meeting, and US officials have blocked the WTO's efforts to draft a statement of unity over the "centrality" of the global trading system and the need to aid development.

The former steel industry trade lawyer has denied wanting to undermine the body, despite voicing criticism over the past decade of WTO rulings against US trade actions. In a 2010 testimony to a congressional China security review panel, he advocated that the United States could "derogate", or partially ignore, some WTO decisions to force change in the trading system.

"We are pursuing a successful ministerial in Buenos Aires this December that reinvigorates the WTO," Lighthizer told US senators in June. "We do not advocate a meeting that seeks major deliverables or significant negotiated outcomes."

Lighthizer in September called for reforms to a

"deficient" WTO dispute settlement system that he says is too interpretive, creating "indefensible" new obligations on the United States.

And he has warned that any WTO ruling that grants "market economy status" to China would be "cataclysmic" for the WTO. The issue, now in the body's dispute settlement system, would severely weaken US and EU trade defenses against subsidized Chinese goods.

Trade analysts interpret this statement as suggesting that Washington would simply ignore a ruling in favor of Beijing, weakening the WTO and inviting other countries to follow suit.

In a previous stint at USTR in the 1980s before the WTO's birth, Lighthizer relied on powerful US trade laws and tariff threats to pressure Japan into voluntary export restraints. He has turned to those same laws to try to rein in China's massive US trade surpluses, including launching a Section 301 investigation into China's intellectual property practices that could lead to retaliatory trade restrictions. It is unclear whether those laws can pass muster with the WTO. — Reuters

Brexit progress takes shine off safe-haven eurozone bonds

LONDON: Borrowing costs across the euro zone rose on Friday as a breakthrough in divorce talks between Britain and the European Union took the shine off safe-haven bonds.

The European Commission said on Friday enough progress had been made in Brexit negotiations with Britain for a second phase of negotiations to begin, ending an impasse over the status of the Irish border. In the

United States, meanwhile, Congress moved rapidly on Thursday to send President Donald Trump a short-term funding bill to avert a government shutdown this weekend.

That set the backdrop for world markets, with investors dumping safe-haven bonds and snapping up risk assets. Germany's 10-year bond yield rose 1 basis point to 0.30 percent, up slightly from three-month lows hit this week at 0.29 percent. "Bund yields had slipped below 30 basis points this week, so prices were already at high levels and that was in part because of risk aversion," said Daniel Lenz, rates strategist at DZ Bank.

"Now that risk aversion is abating as we see the first breakthrough in Brexit negotiations, we also appear to have a solution to US budget talks." Britain's 10-year bond yield jumped up 7 basis points to 1.32 percent in early trade before settling back down at 1.27 percent by late afternoon. — Reuters

China's November producer prices ease to 4-month low

Factory activity softens as pollution curbs bite

BEIJING: China's producer price inflation slowed to a four-month low in November as factory activity softened due to the government's ongoing efforts to curb pollution, cooling demand from factories for raw materials. Producer prices rose 5.8 percent from a year earlier - the lowest since July, the National Bureau of Statistics said yesterday. The rise was slightly less than market expectations and compared with the previous month's 6.9 percent increase.

Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted the PPI in November would rise an annual 5.9 percent, easing back also because of a high base a year earlier. On a month-on-month basis, the PPI rose 0.5 percent in November. As northern China officially entered the heating season in mid-November, the government has stepped up efforts to address winter smog, ordering many steel mills, smelters and factories to curtail or halt production to rein in pollution.

Analysts expect producer price pressures to recede as the war on smog curtails production, cooling demand from

factories for raw materials. Raw materials prices rose 7.5 percent in November year-on-year, compared with 9 percent in October, data from the statistics bureau showed.

However, production curbs at factories have triggered fears of supply shortages, giving a major boost to iron ore and steel futures prices. Shanghai steel futures rose 9.7 percent in November, while iron ore prices surged 16.5 percent over the month.

In particular, the government's plan ordering millions of households in northern China to convert to gas heating from coal this year caused

an unexpected shortage in natural gas supplies as prices soared despite a record amount of natural gas imports in November.

Oil and natural gas prices jumped 20.3 percent year-on-year in November, compared with a 16.5 percent rise in October, the bureau's data showed.

Coal mining and processing prices rose 8.6 percent from a year earlier, compared with a 19.7 percent rise in October. The latest anti-pollution measures come on top of ongoing government efforts to trim down and upgrade the country's bloated industrial sector by shutting outdated capacity, which has also helped support producer prices.

Consumer prices soften

China's consumer inflation, which has stayed well within Beijing's 2017 target of 3 percent this year, also slowed more than expected in November to 1.7 percent from 1.9 percent previously, as food prices fell. Non-food price inflation quickened to 2.5 percent in November from 2.4 percent in October.

The consumer price index (CPI) had been expected to edge down to 1.8 percent on-year compared with an increase of 1.9 percent in October. The world's second-biggest economy has defied market expectations with economic growth of 6.9 percent in the first nine months of the year, supported by a construction boom and robust exports.

But factory activity has shown signs of cooling in the past few months as Beijing extended a crackdown on financial risks, which has increased borrowing costs and weighed on new investment. —Reuters



Producer price Pressures could further ease

KIB official sponsor of 'Business Kid' program

KUWAIT: As part of its leading social responsibility program, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) sponsored the "Business Kid" program for the second consecutive year. Organized by Safira CSR Company, the entrepreneurship program aimed at promoting the development of business and entrepreneurship skills and experience amongst the children of Kuwait. Accordingly, the Bank participated in the program's registration day which was held at the Promenade Mall and drew a large number of participants from amongst Kuwait's younger generations.

Speaking on this occasion, the Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia said: "KIB is a key supporter of local talents and continues to nur-

ture their potentials from an early age, by virtue of its robust social responsibility program. For that reason, we have provided our full support to the 'Business Kid' program, as we believe it is one of the most integral initiatives that nurtures the potential of Kuwait's children. The program targets young children aged 10 to 16 years, and seeks to foster basic business and professional skills from a very young age."

As the first of its kind in Kuwait, the entrepreneurship program aims to enrich participant's business and entrepreneurial skills and encourage them to channel their entrepreneurial energies towards building a successful future.

This can be achieved through its training programs, as well as empowering them through real-world experiences and visits to a number of companies and factories across different business sectors.

KIB remains committed to supporting and sponsoring educational programs and activities that achieve positive, concrete results and truly make a difference in the development of Kuwait's children. By providing them with basic business skills and support, the Bank seeks to expand their knowledge and enrich their experience across different fields; thereby, driving the country's young generation to establish their own businesses in the future.



Bayt.com weekly report

10 myths debunked about getting a job in Kuwait

Here is the unquestionable truth: job seeking could be classed as a job of its own with the amount of time and effort that goes into it. The basic steps to the unexpected challenges and hurdles can make the process lengthy and strenuous. Adding onto the stress is the long list of things you will hear about finding a job that are simply untrue. The problem here is that a lot of these myths can hold you back or prevent you from trying your utmost best throughout your application process. It is for that reason that Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, has compiled a list of the ten biggest myths you will hear about getting a job in Kuwait.

Myth #1: You cannot get a job without the right connections

Fact: While connections certainly don't hurt your chances of getting a job; since they give you an advantage in knowing more about the work culture, the kind of people who exist at the organization and what you can add to the company; they are not everything or the only thing you need to get hired. If you expect anything beyond the edge the increased knowledge of the company will give you, you are doing an insult to your own skills and abilities. Chances are the recruiter is not going to sacrifice their ideal candidate based on your professional connections alone.

Myth #2: Employers don't read cover letters

Fact: A well-written, creative and fresh cover letter can get you an interview when your CV alone might not. There are, of course, employers who do not read cover letters, but with those who do, cover letters can hugely influence your chance of success. A brilliant cover letter will motivate the employer to look over your CV and consider you for the position. Remember that you can always go the extra mile and opt for a professionally written CV and cover letter that will guarantee stand-out performance.

Myth #3: If the employer hasn't gotten in touch within a few days, they are not interested

Fact: Hiring is not as easy as you think, and usually takes longer than expected at each step of the process. Shortlisting and approval for the next steps can sometimes drag on. It might involve consulting with management at several levels, a crucial person may be on vacation, or there might be many candidates to sift through. Remember that patience is virtue, keep answering the phone upbeat and friendly, check your messages frequently and keep heart! There is no reason to be a sitting duck either. Use your free time to apply for more jobs that catch your interest in the meanwhile. You never know what might turn up!

Myth #4: Job hunting during certain times of year is a waste of time

Fact: That couldn't be further from the truth! In fact, during Ramadan 2017, Bayt.com had more job postings than the average

month. Whether there are holidays coming up, Ramadan in the air, holiday songs on the radio, or any other festive spirit engulfing the workforce, there will always be positions that need filling. No hiring manager is going to hit pause on their search because they're in a festive mood. Instead of letting yourself get sucked into the holiday doldrums, keep up your rhythm and continue applying for jobs.

Myth #5: Settling for a lower salary will increase your attractiveness as a candidate

Fact: While you should be realistic when giving your salary expectation, undervaluing yourself with a lower salary than you deserve is not good either. Not only will you potentially settle for less, but it can give the impression that you are not confident in your worth as an employee. Instead, you should provide a reasonable salary expectation, which you can ascertain through Bayt.com Salaries.

Myth #6: It's impossible to change careers

Fact: Since the workplace is dynamic and continues to change and evolve, an increasing amount of people will change careers in their lifetime. Some will even change careers more than once. You should know that it is not impossible to change your career as long as you have a plan of action and do your absolute best to stick to it.

Myth #7: Your CV should do all the marketing for you

Fact: The notion that a CV or application should speak for itself is idealistic at best. In today's cutthroat, competitive job market, you need to do all you can in order to stand out in a sea of job seekers. Furthermore, with the rise of the internet and digital age, personal branding is super important and can make a big difference in your chances in finding a job. You can achieve this through optimizing your Bayt.com profile, participating in online discussions, and networking vigorously.

Myth #8: It doesn't matter what you do on the internet

Fact: You would be surprised how many employers give consideration to online activities. Pictures, events and posts that could be deemed as inappropriate or inflammatory should never make their way onto your potential employer's screen. You should delete these, no longer post such items or fix your privacy settings so they can only be viewed by those you trust.

Myth #9: Following up is like nagging and pesters the employer

Fact: While you definitely don't want to seem obsessive, there is nothing wrong with following up after a period of suspended contact. It is A-OK to send an email or give a phone call to the company you are interested in, reiterate your interest, and say anything you might not have had a chance to add in the interview. Less is more when it comes to this, however, so if you find yourself reaching for the call button more than once or twice a week, you should probably distract yourself with something else so you don't come across as too desperate.

Myth #10: There just aren't any jobs out there right now

Fact: This could not be further from the truth. On Bayt.com alone, there are over 10,000 jobs available daily. Don't feel discouraged by people who will tell you this and, more importantly, don't listen!

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen | 2.690 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.700 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.866 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.866 |
| Nepali Rupees | 2.937 |
| Singapore Dollar | 225.740 |
| Hongkong Dollar | 38.713 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.640 |
| Philippine Peso | 5.967 |
| Thai Baht | 9.305 |

GCC COUNTRIES

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Saudi Riyal | 80.747 |
| Qatari Riyal | 83.166 |
| Omani Riyal | 786.383 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 804.040 |
| UAE Dirham | 82.441 |

ARAB COUNTRIES

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Egyptian Pound - Cash | 19.900 |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 17.069 |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000 | 1.215 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 122.760 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 426.680 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000 | 2.017 |
| Syrian Lira | 0.000 |
| Morocco Dirham | 32.538 |

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| US Dollar Transfer | 302.600 |
| Euro | 360.550 |
| Sterling Pound | 408.810 |

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Canadian dollar | 239.870 |
| Turkish lira | 78.700 |
| Swiss Franc | 309.090 |
| Australian Dollar | 232.550 |
| US Dollar Buying | 301.400 |

GOLD

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 20 Gram | 260.520 |
| 10 Gram | 133.180 |
| 5 Gram | 67.430 |

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer Selling Rate

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| US Dollar | 302.450 |
| Canadian Dollar | 235.955 |
| Sterling Pound | 410.300 |
| Euro | 357.275 |
| Swiss Frank | 302.915 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 802.725 |
| UAE Dirhams | 82.735 |
| Qatari Riyals | 83.560 |
| Saudi Riyals | 81.510 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 427.865 |
| Egyptian Pound | 17.090 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.976 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.693 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.866 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.668 |
| Philippines Peso | 5.989 |
| Cyprus pound | 17.995 |
| Japanese Yen | 3.665 |
| Syrian Pound | 1.590 |
| Nepalese Rupees | 2.939 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Malaysian Ringgit | 75.035 |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 46.130 |
| Thai Bhat | 10.255 |
| Turkish Lira | 78.550 |

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| British Pound | 0.400552 | 0.408052 |
| Czech Korune | 0.005935 | 0.017935 |
| Danish Krone | 0.043829 | 0.048829 |
| Euro | 0.351294 | 0.358794 |
| Georgian Lari | 0.134911 | 0.134911 |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.032470 | 0.037670 |
| Romanian Leu | 0.064826 | 0.081676 |
| Russian ruble | 0.005113 | 0.005113 |
| Slovakia | 0.009030 | 0.019030 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.031777 | 0.036777 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.298945 | 0.309945 |
| Australasia | | |
| Australian Dollar | 0.219557 | 0.231557 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.201460 | 0.210960 |
| America | | |
| Canadian Dollar | 0.230725 | 0.239725 |
| US Dollars | 0.298800 | 0.303220 |
| US Dollars Mint | 0.299300 | 0.303220 |
| Asia | | |
| Bangladesh Taka | 0.003300 | 0.003884 |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Chinese Yuan | 0.044288 | 0.047788 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 0.036843 | 0.039593 |
| Indian Rupee | 0.004118 | 0.004759 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000018 | 0.000024 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.002593 | 0.002773 |
| Korean Won | 0.000267 | 0.000282 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.070251 | 0.076251 |
| Nepalese Rupee | 0.003022 | 0.003192 |
| Pakistan Rupee | 0.002633 | 0.002923 |
| Philippine Peso | 0.005897 | 0.006197 |
| Singapore Dollar | 0.218786 | 0.228786 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 0.001698 | 0.002278 |
| Taiwan | 0.010007 | 0.010187 |
| Thai Baht | 0.008938 | 0.009488 |

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------|
| | Arab | |
| Bahraini Dinar | 0.796560 | 0.805060 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.014518 | 0.020236 |
| Iranian Riyal | 0.000084 | 0.000085 |
| Iraqi Dinar | 0.000186 | 0.000246 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 0.422613 | 0.431613 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound | 0.000156 | 0.000256 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.023736 | 0.046736 |
| Omani Riyal | 0.780435 | 0.786116 |
| Qatar Riyal | 0.078909 | 0.083849 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.079687 | 0.080987 |
| Syrian Pound | 0.001284 | 0.001504 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 0.117101 | 0.125101 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.073831 | 0.084131 |
| UAE Dirhams | 0.081043 | 0.082743 |
| Yemeni Riyal | 0.000984 | 0.001064 |



ALSAYER LAUNCHES LARGEST SHOWROOM FOR TOYOTA CERTIFIED CARS

Walk in Today for a Certified Experience like Never Before

Faisal Bader Al Sayer Chairman, Mohamed Naser Al Sayer Board Member along with ALSAYER team members cuts the ribbon of the largest showroom for Toyota Certified Cars



You will find in the brand new Certified Vehicles Showroom at Al Rai all trusted car models, in a spacious and state-of-the-art environment.

- Competitive Prices
- Full Service History
- Certified Vehicles
- Low Mileage
- 60 Safety Points Check
- High Resale Value

Part of its strategic commitment towards facility expansion and best customer service, Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons (MNSS), a subsidiary of ALSAYER Holding held a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the latest and largest showroom for Toyota Certified Cars at Al Rai. The event was attended by Faisal Bader Al Sayer Chairman, Mubarak Naser Al Sayer CEO, Mohamed Naser Al Sayer Board Member, Johan Heislitz Senior Business Director Toyota Group Sales, Hesham Hamad Deputy General Manager Toyota Certified Cars, Group members from senior Management, Group Sales, Marketing along with representatives of the press and media.

On this occasion Faisal Bader Al Sayer said "We strive to reflect Toyota's values of putting the customer first and continuous improvement at the work place. Today's ceremony is dedicated to our beloved customers. We seek to build long term relationships through our passion for excellence in all aspects of customer service."



Mr. Faisal Bader Al Sayer Chairman, Mr. Mohamed Naser Al Sayer Board Member, Mr. Johan Heislitz Senior Business Director Toyota Sales along with ALSAYER team members cut the ribbon of the largest showroom for Toyota Certified Cars

According to Mubarak Naser Al Sayer "Our mission is to deliver the best products, facilities and customer service. We are constantly finding new ways of pleasing our customers. Moving forward we continue to invest in technology enhancement, employee training for the benefit of our valued customers."

Excellent Customer Satisfaction Since the inception, Toyota Certified cars has successfully become a top value brand and also capitalized on the strong position in the pre-owned cars market segment through delivering exceptional quality of vehicles and services besides consistently exceeding customer

expectations. For over a decade the attractive promotional offers on top of additional complimentary benefits have always received high appreciation from customers in Kuwait.

"Toyota Certified Cars have earned incredible reputation in Kuwait, reflecting same Toyota values of quality, durability and reliability. We are extremely pleased to open this brand new facility to enhance convenience for our customers. For the first time in Kuwait we have prepared Toyota Certified Cars showroom in an area covering 4000 sq. m. with a capacity to display as many as 80 cars" said Johan Heislitz. Stringent inspection and reconditioning Every Certified Vehicle at ALSAYER is put through comprehensive 60 points check by our highly skilled and trained technicians. All vehicles must pass the stringent inspection and reconditioning procedure in order to match the Dealer standards in terms of overall quality and appearance of interior and exterior. Relatively newer and low-mileage models in excellent overall condition will finally qualify to be a certified vehicle.

Advantages of owning a Toyota Certified Vehicle

Toyota Certified pre-owned vehicle ensures total peace of mind for customers together with years of satisfaction. Some of benefits and added advantages customers receive are comprehensive 12 month warranty covering practically all major mechanical and electrical components, 12 month road side assistance and free inspection after 1500 km.



Business

Bayan Weekly Market Report

Boursa Kuwait continues to languish amid selloff

Regional political issues pressure market

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 6,186.94 points, down by 0.15 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 1.24 percent after closing at 393.84 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 894.99 points down by 1.49 percent. Furthermore, the week's average daily turnover increased by 2.47 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 12.58 million, whereas trading volume average was 68.29 million shares, recording an increase of 6.44 percent.

The trading activity during the last week showed an upward direction for the market at start, where its three indices were able to record increases in the first session of the week, however, it could not continue such performance and its indices declined gradually in the following sessions under the influence of the elevated political issues that the region is undergoing this period, which pushed many traders to take the selling operations direction, and contributed in diverting the market to the red zone.

On the other hand, Boursa Kuwait recorded market losses of over KD 290 million during the last five sessions, whereas the total market cap for the listed stocks in the regular market reached by the end of the last week KD 26.38 billion, down by 1.09 percent of its value at a week earlier, where it was KD 26.67 billion. On an annual level, the market cap gains reached 3.84 percent compared to its value at end of last year, where it reached KD 25.41 billion. (Note: The market cap for the listed companies in the regular market is calculated based on the average number of outstanding shares as per the latest official available financial statements).

Moreover, the market initiated its first session of last week with mixed gains for its three indices, benefiting from the heavy purchasing operations that targeted some listed stocks in the market, headed by the nine stocks nominated to join (FTSE) Index, which in turn received the highest portion

of the traded cash liquidity during the session. On the next session, the Boursa ended it with mixed closings for its three indices, whereas the Price Index continued its increase affected by the quick speculations that targeted some small-cap stocks, while the profit collection operations that included some leading stocks pushed the Weighted and KSX-15 indices to record different losses by the end of the session.

On the mid-week session, the three market indices declined in light of the increased selling pressures and the profit collection operations on many stocks of both leading and small-cap ones, amid decreased traded liquidity and volume compared to the previous session, whereas the value reached



Market lose KD 290 million during the last five sessions

KD 11.45 million only, while the volume reached by the end of the session 59.21 million share.

Also, Boursa Kuwait witnessed in the last two sessions of the last week a continued control of the random selling operations on the trading activity, amid refrain of some traders from trading temporarily, waiting for some positive indicators to appear to encourage them to enter the market once again, especially in light of the presence of many negative factors surrounding the market whether internally or externally.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 7.63 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 3.62 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 1.13 percent growth.

Sectors' Indices

Eight of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, three recorded increases, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change from the week before. The Technology sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 3.74 percent to end the week's activity at 480.25 points. The Consumer Goods sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 3.41 percent, closing at 847.34 points, followed by the Telecommunications sector, as its index closed at 535.69 points at a loss of 2.08 percent. The Real Estate sector was the least declining as its index closed at 877.08 points with a 0.18 percent decrease.

On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Insurance sector, achieving 4.16 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,044.99 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Industrial sector's index closed at 1,722.61 points recording 1.01 percent increase. The Consumer Services sector came in third as its index achieved 0.14 percent growth, ending the week at 920.83 points.

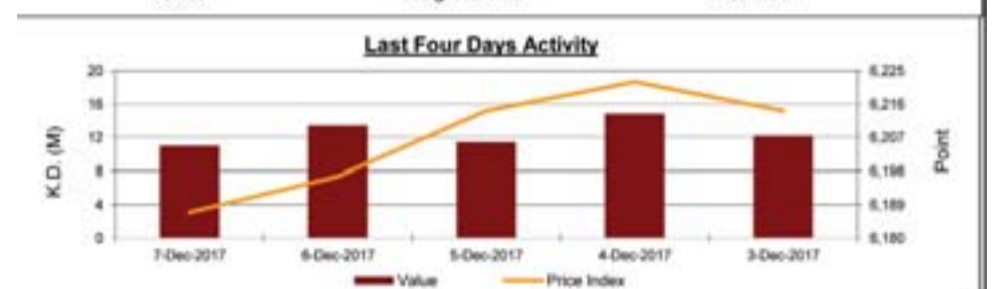
Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 116.49 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 34.11 percent of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 24.02 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 82.03 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 27.40 million or 43.56 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 10.94 million representing 17.40 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 | 6,186.94 | 393.84 | 894.99 |
| | Previous week | 6,196.50 | 398.78 | 908.54 |
| | Change (Point) | -9.56 | -4.94 | -13.55 |
| | Change (%) | -0.15% | -1.24% | -1.49% |
| Annual | Last year | 5,748.09 | 380.09 | 885.02 |
| | Change (Point) | 438.85 | 13.75 | 9.97 |
| | Change (%) | 7.63% | 3.62% | 1.13% |



Wall Street Weekly Roundup

Wall Street closes higher after payrolls report

NEW YORK: US stocks advanced on Friday, buoyed by a solid payrolls report for November that locked in expectations for an interest rate hike from the US Federal Reserve next week and raised optimism about economic prospects in 2018. Technology stocks such as Microsoft, Apple and Oracle helped pace the advance, as they continued to rebound from a selloff in the sector earlier in the week.

Nonfarm payrolls rose by 228,000 jobs last month amid broad gains in hiring as the distortions from the recent hurricanes faded. Labor Department data showed, topping expectations calling for a rise by 200,000 jobs. Average hourly earnings rose 0.2 percent in November after dipping 0.1 percent the prior month, but fell shy of the estimated 0.3 percent rise. "It's hard to find much fault with it. I guess if you are looking to find fault it would be that the wage growth isn't as fast as we would like it to be and came up a little bit short," said JJ Kinahan, chief market strategist at TD Ameritrade in Chicago.

"It's a great report overall."

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 117.68 points, or 0.49 percent, to 24,329.16, the S&P 500 gained 14.52 points, or 0.55 percent, to 2,651.5 and the Nasdaq Composite added 27.24 points, or 0.4 percent, to 6,840.08. For the week, the Dow rose 0.4 percent, the S&P advanced 0.35 percent and the Nasdaq fell 0.11 percent. The jobs data cemented expectations the Fed will raise rates at its meeting next week as traders now see a 96.2-percent chance of a quarter-point hike, according to Thomson Reuters data. "The focus is moving to what the Fed is going to do next week, what the composition of the board is going to look like," said Rob Stein, CEO of Astor Investment Management in Chicago. US President Donald Trump signed legislation to fund the federal government for two more weeks, averting a government shutdown while Congress negotiated a longer-term budget deal, temporarily removing a potential headwind for stocks. —Reuters

Burgan Bank's new Al Thuraya winner

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, announced yesterday Matooq Naser Matooq Alaslawi as the lucky winner of the Al-Thuraya Salary Account monthly draw.

The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win a Nissan Patrol SUV every month. With every KD 10 available in the account, the customer receives one chance to enter the draw.

The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option to hold money in Kuwaiti Dinar and other major currencies and can access account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards, and benefit from the discounts and offers throughout the year.

Al Mulla introduces in Kuwait Sharp's interactive display line-up

KUWAIT: Sharp Middle East & Africa showcased its line-up of professional Intelligent Touch Boards (ITB) along with their partner, Al Mulla Office Automation Solutions, a division of Al Mulla Group. The products were presented to a variety of selected end users from various industry verticals customers at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel, Kuwait.

The Sharp Intelligent Touch boards are available in sizes ranging 40", 60", 65", 70", 80" and 84". The ITBs can be used in schools, shopping malls, office meeting spaces, university campuses and other businesses for collaboration, sharing information and interaction. These products promote greater collaboration with participants in a group discussion, boost information sharing, have effective annotation on documents, wireless interconnectivity with other electronic devices, and are designed with interactive multi-touch technology.

The event was attended by Bharat Bhushan, DGM B2B Sales and Stanley Samuel, DGM Marketing from Sharp Middle East and Africa along with other senior executives from Sharp. Representing Al Mulla Office Automation Solutions, was Santanu Das, General Manager along with the full sales team.

"Sharp and Al Mulla Group have been associated together in Kuwait market since 1981, for the office automation product line," said Bharat Bhushan, DGM B2B Sales, Sharp Middle East & Africa.

Sharp offers an entire suite of software solutions along with the Intelligent Touch Boards such as the

Sharp Pen Software, Sharp Touch Viewing Software and Sharp Display Connect. The Sharp Pen Software allows for annotation on the ITBs with features including handwriting recognition, diagram recognition, screen capture, insertion of images, MS PowerPoint collaboration. Sharp Touch Viewing Software is a Multi File Viewing software that allows for users to view, manipulate and annotate various kinds of files such as MS Office Files, PDFs, Webpages, Images, Video files simultaneously. Sharp Display Connect allows for wireless collaboration from the Intelligent Touch Board to Multiple Devices (Windows, Mac OS, IOS, and Android) to show onscreen content.

"Our commitment to bringing the latest technologies to serve better our customers in Kuwait is reflected in the addition of Sharps' ITBs to the Al Mulla portfolio," said Santanu Das, General Manager, Al Mulla Office Automation Solutions.

Participants at the event also witnessed the launch of the new 40" Intelligent Touch board, PN-40TC1. The PN-40TC1 offers a full-flat design with 10 point multi-touch functionality ideal for meetings among groups of two to six people that are held in limited spaces, or "huddle spaces". The PN-40TC1 is also a perfect fit for interactive kiosks & learning spaces. This state-of-the-art innovative product offers Full-HD resolution (1,920 x 1,080 pixels) with capacitive touch technology enabling feather-light touch for precise and responsive functionality. The PN-40TC1 also includes an expansion slot compatible with Intel Mini Open Pluggable Specification (Mini OPS) system for wireless connectivity, HDBaseT input or PC Module.

"For over 100 years SHARP has been a symbol of innovation and inspiration for one-of-a-kind products that have benefited numerous communities and businesses. We have a diverse product range of Document Solutions, Managed Print Services, Visual Solutions, and Point of Sale. In Kuwait, Al Mulla are our distributors for Document Solutions and we have now extended this partnership for our interactive Visual Solutions. We are pleased with this new venture and are set to make big strides within the country." Ravinder Kumar,



Director of Business Solutions at SHARP. Sharp Middle East FZE was established in 1998 in Jebel Ali Free Zone, Dubai, UAE as a wholly owned subsidiary of Sharp Corporation. The office is the regional hub for the Middle East and Africa regions, covering 76 countries. Sharp's primary business activities include audio-visual and communication equipment, health and environment equipment and information equipment.

Founded in 1980 as a distributor of leading brands of photocopiers, computers and peripherals in Kuwait, Al Mulla Office Automation Solutions is today a leading total solution provider for office-automation related products and services. The Company offers its customers a complete range of office-automation solutions, a portfolio of products that use cutting-edge technology from renowned international brands, under one roof.

Strategic alliances with leading global industry players have helped Al Mulla Office Automation Solutions in building its current position of market leadership in the country. A portfolio of world-class products and efficient after-sales service help Al Mulla Office Automation Solutions in winning satisfied customers and increasing its market share. The Company is ISO-9001 2015 certified.



Business

Boeing, Turkish Airlines celebrate the airline's first 777 Freighter

Delivery to bring great value to airline's cargo operations



KUWAIT: Boeing and Turkish Airlines celebrated yesterday the delivery of the airline's first 777 Freighter. It's the first of two 777 Freighters, Turkish Airlines has on order for this year.

"The delivery of our first 777 Freighter is a milestone event in our cargo business," said M Ilker Ayçi, Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee of Turkish Airlines. "As a prominent sub-brand of Turkish Airlines, Turkish Cargo increased its freighter destinations served from 55 to 73 from the beginning of this year, reaching to approximately 1 million tons of cargo with 29 percent increase compared to the previous year's same period. It is surely beyond doubt that this is a remarkable success. We're sure that this significant delivery which will bring great value to our rapidly growing cargo operations will also enable our leading sub-brand to further compete, expand and reach new short and long-range destinations from our hub in Istanbul."

"We are honored to deliver the 777 Freighter to Turkish Airlines," said Marty Bentrott, Senior Vice

President of Sales, Middle East, Turkey, Russia, Central Asia and Africa, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "This aircraft's range capability, combined with its enhanced cargo capacity, makes it a perfect airplane for Turkish Airlines to continue to profitably grow its global cargo service."

The 777 Freighter, the world's longest-range twin-engine freighter, is based on the technologically advanced 777-200LR (Longer Range) passenger airplane and can fly 4,900 nautical miles (9,070 kilometers) with a full payload of 112 tons (102 metric tons or 102,000 kg).

Based in Istanbul, Turkish Airlines is one of the fastest growing and prosperous airlines in the world. It carries over 60 million passengers a year, with direct flights to 300 destinations in 120 countries. The airline made its first domestic flight in 1933 and the first international flight in 1947. Turkish Airlines was founded in 1933 with a fleet of five airplanes that carried a total of 28 passengers expanding to 329 aircraft the airline operates today. Counting the 170 aircraft on order, and



the aircrafts whose rental periods are due to come to end by the end of 2023, the fleet of the carrier including cargo aircrafts expected to reach 500 aircraft,

which is also an important objective of Turkish Republic's 2023 Vision that laid down to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic.

Total celebrates 20 years in Kuwait



KUWAIT: Total celebrates its long presence in the State of Kuwait after 20 years of collaboration and partnership with Kuwait Petroleum Company (KPC). Since then, Total's existence in the country has been visible through upstream, working closely with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and by providing them specific assistance in conducting surface and sub-surface investigations. Also, Total partnered with KUFPEC to expand exploration and production business internationally. As for downstream activities, Total imports Lubricants and motor oil to the country, which is supplied to clients through its network of Rapid Oil Change Centers and Total Quartz Pit-stop around Kuwait.

In this occasion, Dr Wafik Beydoun, the General Manager of Total in Kuwait and the Group representative, said: "We are proud to be working with KPC since 1997, to provide support for upstream operations and to share Total's advanced technology capabilities, which we valued with our contribution to Kuwait's successful efforts to sustain production". He also added: "With our commitment to deliver excellence to our stakeholders and high standards of quality, alongside the skilled people of KPC, we see a promising future in the Kuwaiti Energy industry." Nizar Al-Adsani, CEO of KPC stated during the ceremony that: "KPC is glad to expand its collaboration with Total in

sharing experience and technology. We believe lasting relations with a well reputed IOC such as Total will certainly help upkeep our growing business and stellar reputation with our customers."

Moreover, said the French Ambassador Christian Nakhle: "Ever since its inception, Total has proven to be an engine driving economic growth, both at home in France and overseas. With a presence in 130 countries, state of the art technologies, and unrelenting commitment, Total's impact extends beyond the Energy industry. It promotes cultural exchange."

Total has always been engaged in social responsibility. They have partnered with the "Voluntary Work Center" and the "Scientific Center" of Kuwait, which its main aim is to protect turtles found in our Kuwaiti waters. As for the cultural contribution, Total has been collaborating with the Arab World Institute in Paris to hold exhibitions in the Museum of Kuwait City. Not to mention Total and the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters alliance to support the archaeological excavation work in Failaka Island which adds to our Kuwaiti heritage. As for Education, Total has signed a MoU with the College of Engineering and Petroleum of Kuwait University, to provide opportunities for selected and highly qualified students to access scholarships and

internships between Kuwait and France.

Finally, Dr Beydoun mentioned in his closing statement at the ceremony: "Today, we are celebrating our presence in Kuwait since 1997. As a trusted industry partner with a wide and long-standing presence in the region, Total is indeed eager to further contribute to the achievement of Kuwait's energy objectives by identifying and developing win-win business opportunities with KOC and other K-companies, both in Kuwait and internationally."

Ooredoo hosts LinkedIn at its headquarters

KUWAIT: Ooredoo hosted a seminar in collaboration with LinkedIn under the title "Ooredoo LinkedIn Day" at its headquarters under the leadership of Omar Al-Bassam, Chief Human Resources and Administration Services Officer at Ooredoo along with LinkedIn representatives Mohamad Darsha, Senior Key Account Director and Cyril Al Kayem, Customer Success Manager. The objective of Ooredoo LinkedIn Day was to raise awareness of LinkedIn and guide employees on how to project the right image on their profiles. They also assisted Ooredoo employees in setting up their profiles. Al-Bassam emphasized the importance of attracting local talent to Ooredoo through LinkedIn where the number of followers has increased to 5000. He added that Ooredoo plans on hosting LinkedIn in quarter 4 of next year.

Al-Bassam shed the light on the achievements and highlights of the Human Resources and Administration Services Division at Ooredoo during 2017 and his outlook for 2018. He stressed that the company focuses on investing in its employees and motivating them to succeed. He further added that Ooredoo follows a unique strategy that is built on exploring the talents of its employees and works on bringing the talents to life, in addition to supporting

these talents continuously. Al-Bassam reiterated on the importance of understanding of the employees of the company's strategic objectives and working together in achieving that strategy.

Al-Bassam stated that the achievements of 2017 also include the implantation of the company strategy aimed at attracting and recruiting local talent into the Ooredoo family, in addition to providing them with the necessary development programs to further enhance their skills in collaboration with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). This will help Ooredoo utilize these skills in the right places and leverage on inter-

nal expertise and share knowledge.

Other highlights of 2017 include the digitalization of employee personal files and training records to safeguard employee information and maintain backup. The introduction of on-the-job training and coaching programs. Ooredoo also participated at career fairs and performed recruitment coaching sessions at GUST, ACK, AUM, and ACM as well as workshops to KILAW students.

In conclusion, Al-Bassam stressed that dedication is the engine that drives any organization to success and he thanked the Ooredoo family for their hard work and dedication during 2017.

Celebrate your individuality and expression with HUAWEI Mate 10 lite



Just like your best friend, your smartphone is always there for you! Whether you're with your family or friends, celebrating or chilling, your smartphone is there for you, 24/7, to keep you company and enable you to express yourself and connect with the world. If you're looking for a smartphone that can do it all, here are 5 reasons why you need to get hold of the new HUAWEI Mate 10 lite!

1. Amazing FullView screen

No need for a TV or laptop to view your favorite movies and pictures anymore! You can enjoy reading your favorite online magazines, watching the latest series and play games knowing that the HUAWEI P10 lite will give you an amazing viewing experience thanks to its 5.9-inch screen and FullView display.

2. Amazing pictures that will get you all the likes

With the HUAWEI P10 lite, you will score tons of likes! First-of-its-kind in the world, this phone packs 4 cameras: 2 front and 2 rear cameras; the front camera features a 13 MP lens and a 2MP lens combined. The f/2.0 13 MP lens captures details and colors to produce stunning pictures with a beautiful bokeh effect. Coupled with a depth-of-field algorithm, the 2MP camera can snap artistic shots with clear details and vivid colors, while the background remains blurred. Best of all, the front camera is equipped with a toning flash that automatically adjusts depending on the lighting conditions to give you brighter colors and lights; even with zero makeup on, your selfies will look stunning, just like the stars! With the HUAWEI Mate 10 lite, no need to be a pro to capture artistic, professional pictures. Even if you're a photography amateur, you still can get beautiful pictures of places you visit, memorable trips or group of friends; the phone offers 2 rear cameras using a 16 MP and a 2MP lenses to capture studio-like pictures with sharp details, vivid colors and a natural bokeh effect.

3. A trendy design that expresses your style

The HUAWEI Mate 10 lite design spells out fashion. Featuring an eye-catching sleek body with curved edges, the HUAWEI Mate 10 lite is made for fashion trendsetters. Available in trendy color: Graphite Black, Aurora Blue and Prestige Gold, it's the ultimate choice for you if you're looking to express your personality and style. The design of this phone has been crafted with the finest materials and the glass display adds a lot to its style.

4. A battery that never dies on you

What's better than a smartphone with an incredible battery? No matter how much you use it, the HUAWEI Mate 10 lite battery can take you through two days of usage; you can play your favorite games, tweet or chat all the time without worrying about the battery life. The HUAWEI Mate 10 lite features an amazing 3340 mAh battery that lasts over two days, with up to 20 hours talk time and 9 hours of video watching.

5. An unparalleled experience

Fast is all what we need in a smartphone! A perfect balance between software and hardware, the HUAWEI Mate 10 lite sports the powerful Kirin 659 and the EMUI 5.1 to deliver an outstandingly fast performance. The phone also offers 4GB or RAM and 64GB of ROM so you can run multiple tasks efficiently. The HUAWEI Mate 10 lite is now up for grabs.

Technology

'Go home' drone seeks to stop Japan overtime binge

Drone blares music, forces to go home

TOKYO: A drone that hovers over Japanese employees and blares music to force them to go home was unveiled Thursday, as the country tries to reduce its notoriously long work hours. The "T-Frend" buzzes over those trying to work late, blasting out the strains of "Auld Lang Syne", a Scottish tune typically used in Japan to announce that a store is closing. "You can't really work when you think 'it's coming over any time now' and hear 'Auld Lang Syne' along with the buzz," said Norihiro Kato, a director at Taisei, an office security and cleaning firm that co-developed the system.

The drone is equipped with a camera, which stores footage on an SD card. Office scenes can also be monitored almost in real time from a remote location. The machine recognizes its location on a building floor without GPS. It takes off from its port, makes a surveillance flight on a pre-set path and then returns autonomously. Taisei plans to start the T-Frend service in April in collaboration with drone system developer Blue Innovation and telecoms operator NTT East.

The fee for the service is yet to be officially set but "the target price" is around 50,000 yen (\$450) a month, said Kato. T-Frend's developers are also studying the

possibility of giving the drone facial recognition technology to tell who is in the office after hours or whether there is an intruder. Administrative officials at many companies push overtimers out of the door but this has ironically resulted in these officials working overtime themselves, to say nothing of "causing friction between employees", the companies said in a statement.

Firms have therefore turned to security companies for this task, but they have struggled to provide enough staff given a nationwide labor shortage in Japan. T-Frend therefore serves the twin function of reducing overtime and making up for this labor shortage, the firms claimed. Japan's government has been trying to change a culture in which working long hours

Premium Friday program

is perceived as proof of loyalty and dedication.

Every year in Japan, long working hours are blamed for dozens of deaths due to strokes, heart attacks and suicides. In February, the country launched the "Premium Friday" program, urging employees to knock off early on the last Friday of the month with the aim of both reducing work hours and invigorating spending. But the plan fell flat with many claiming the last Friday of the month is one of their busiest days.—AFP



TOKYO: This handout image shows a T-Frend indoor drone inside an office in Tokyo. —AFP

Hong Kong turns to virtual reality to honor ancestors

HONG KONG: A lack of space for cemeteries in crowded Hong Kong clashes with the age-old Chinese tradition of reverence for one's ancestors. But one entrepreneur uses virtual reality software to reconcile the two, allowing people to honor Confucian traditions of filial obligation in the territory where it can cost up to \$130,000 to store the ashes of loved ones. Anthony Yuen's firm, iVeneration.com, offers users the ability to create virtual headstones anywhere in an augmented reality landscape of Hong Kong, including such unlikely places as a downtown park.

Apart from the cost savings, Yuen expects his business model to appeal to more eco-conscious young residents. "The dead are taking so much more space than those who are still alive, as those buried use that piece of land for many years," said Yuen, as he manipulated his mobile telephone to correctly position a candle in front of a virtual headstone. "For those who are still alive, they won't stay on the same piece of land forever."

Yuen, who hopes to launch the website to the public in the first quarter of 2018, has already attracted 300 users. Filial piety, or respect for parents and older people, is a paramount virtue in the Confucian tradition. "We need to educate the next generation on filial piety, no matter how you show it, as long as it comes from the heart," Yuen added. "We think the next generation might use these services for their parents."

Alex Lee, a 46-year-old employee of a technology company, uses iVeneration to pay his respects to his departed grandfather. "Everyone is aware the lack of land is a problem in Hong Kong and the government has been encouraging green burial," said Lee, as he leafed through an album of family photographs. "For me, you don't have to go to a thing to remember those passed away, it's all in your heart."—Reuters

'Grinch bots' may steal Christmas by snatching up prized toys

SAN FRANCISCO: If no one comes to the rescue, an online army of "Grinch bots" may end up spoiling Christmas for many kids by using automated software to scoop up prized toys and other sought-after items for big profit. The bots—yes, the same kinds of automated programs that spread political propaganda and manipulate opinion on social media—can use superfast technology to snatch up popular electronics, dolls, toys and sneakers when they are deeply discounted, and then resell them with a huge markup.

The techniques have drawn the attention of security researchers, consumer advocates and a US senator. "Grinch bots cannot be allowed to steal Christmas, or dollars," Senator Charles Schumer said in a recent release. "It's time we help restore an even playing field by blocking the bots." Schumer sent letters to the US National Retail Federation and the Retail Industry Leaders Association calling on them to investigate and thwart dishonest software cheating consumers.

The trade groups did not respond to AFP requests for comment. The bots have come into the limelight after researchers discovered "scalpers" commanding armies of bots to snap up popular toys even before they are meant to be available for purchase.

Too fast for humans

Some of the practices were highlighted last month by Omri Iluz, founder and chief executive of web defense firm PerimeterX. Scalper bots relentlessly check retail websites planning sales on hot toys to determine if pages go live a few seconds ahead of schedule, according to Iluz. "Bots are also lightning fast, of course, able to complete multiple orders in a second," Iluz said in a blog post.

"There is simply no competition between a bot and even the most organized human. The bot will poll the site hundreds of times per second, tirelessly waiting for the sale to start." Software also "scrapes" retail websites for information about what bargains will be offered on pages



FRANCE: This file photo shows people shopping for Christmas presents in a toy shop in Chambrey-Les-Tours. —AFP

not yet made public. Some scalpers were said to subscribe to a Twitter interface that provides a few seconds' jump on tweeted announcements of bargains.

These same programs have also been used to scoop up tickets to hit Broadway shows for resale at exorbitant markups—a practice which prompted an investigation by New York state regulators. Schumer gave the example of Fingerlings, baby monkey dolls that cling to children's digits, typically selling for \$15 but being diverted to resale websites with prices as high as \$1,000. Online searches by Schumer's office revealed a recurring scenario—hot toys sold-out at websites of major retailers but offered at many times original prices at resale websites.

Another example was a Super Nintendo entertainment system NES Classic Edition sold by major retailers for \$80 was out of stock online at BestBuy, Game Stop, and Target

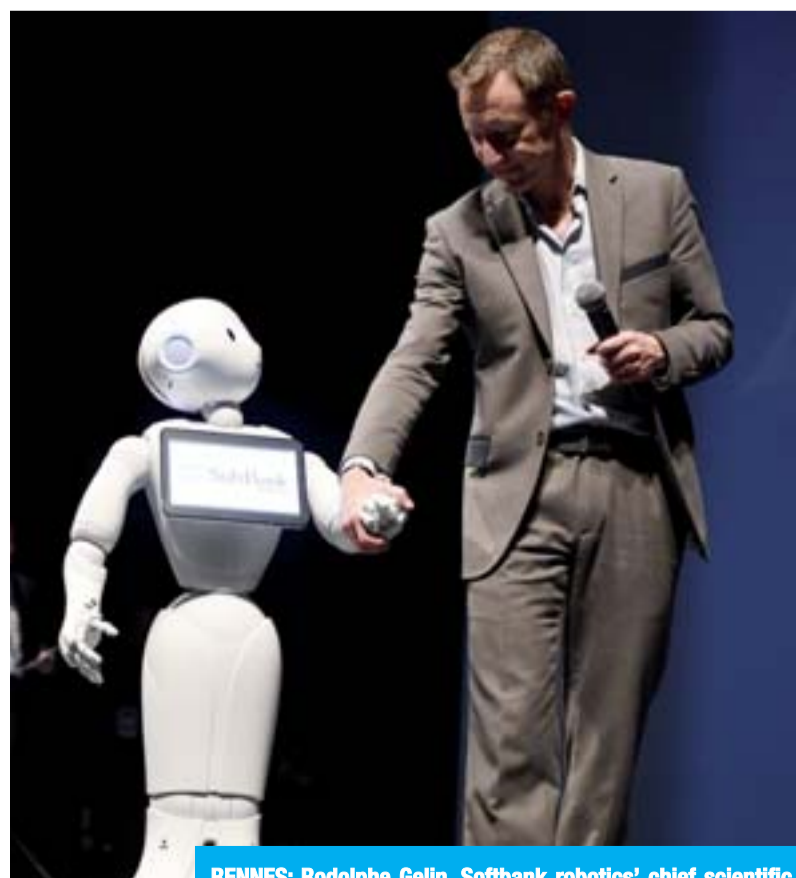
but available from resellers on Amazon and eBay for as much as \$13,000. Iluz speculated that the future of online shopping could include battling bots, with consumers using their own software programs to snag bargains before scalpers get them, "leaving frustrated humans to complain on Twitter."

Retailers can block scalping with technology that detects and stymies bots in real-time by recognizing the ways software acts differently than people, according to Iluz. Nonprofit group Consumer Reports urged retailers and policy makers to collaborate to stop Grinch bots from essentially taking toys from children. Retailers and policy-makers need to "work together to develop solutions, so that consumers will be able to shop for toys and other gifts on a level playing field," said Chuck Bell, programs director for Consumers Union. —AFP

Digital Tech Show



RENNES: Waldo robot is displayed during the digital tech show in Rennes. —AFP photos



RENNES: Rodolphe Gelin, Softbank robotics' chief scientific officer walks with Pepper robot.



Maava robot

Health

Volcanic eruptions no match for cockfighting, Bali-style

Gamblers can face public whipping under Islamic law

KARANGASEM, Indonesia: A volcano may be rumbling off in the distance, but for a group of Balinese men and their fighting roosters it's the roar of the crowd that says the show must go on. Far off the Indonesian resort island's tourist trail, heavily-tattooed men gather at a clandestine site where birds battle each other—usually to the death—in a gory spectacle known as *tajen* that meshes bloodsport with ancient Balinese Hindu traditions. About 100 male spectators gather on bamboo benches around a dirt ring as two roosters pulled from wicker baskets lunge at each other even before the match starts.

The two owners exchange birds to check weight and temperament, a show of sportsmanship to make sure they're evenly matched. "If the owners of both fighters reach a deal and say 'okay, let's fight', then the roosters fight," said I Made Gunawan, who's rooster was fighting that day. A small dagger about 10 centimeters long is tied to each rooster's left ankle.

The heady smell of incense wafts over the ring as a roar erupts from the crowd. Bets are placed, usually between 20,000 and 100,000 rupiah each, with most events lasting 15 fights.

Good fighters

The roosters are set loose and feathers fly in an explosion of jumping and pecking that sets the already excited crowd into a bloodthirsty frenzy. The match goes the distance—three rounds over eight minutes—until the referee calls it a draw. Both roosters, weak and wounded, are unable to keep fighting. The ankle blades usually make it a fight to the death in a matter of minutes, punctuated by trails of blood seeping into the dirt.

The winner's owner not only gets bragging rights and some of the betting proceeds—usually 10 percent of the purse which can reach \$2,000—but they also get the carcass of their opponent's rooster, for eating. "My fighter lost today—it won the last time," said Sudira as he helplessly watched his dying rooster be slaughtered

to make dinner. It's a short career for surviving roosters, who are retired after just a few matches. "They're then used to breed with hens," said Kadek Rudi, whose best fighter was recovering from severe belly wounds.

"The offspring will also be good fighters like their father." The fight took place not far from Mt. Agung, which recently burst to life again, sparking mass evacuations and leaving tourists stranded after the main airport was temporarily shuttered. Despite the dangers, leaving his roosters alone in Pring Sari, a tiny community less than eight kilometers from the belching crater, was not an option for Wayan Kompyang. "I have

to keep taking care of them to make sure they are healthy and ready to fight after this situation calms down," he said.

Spilling of blood

Gambling is illegal in Indonesia, where it could land these men in jail for as much as a decade. In conservative Aceh province gamblers can face a public whipping under Islamic law.

Cockfighting—the sole source of income for some Balinese men—cuts a sharp contrast with tranquil images of the island as a palm-fringed paradise. But it dovetails with centuries-old traditions of Balinese Hinduism in the mostly-Muslim archipelago.

"*Tajen* (cockfighting) is closely related to a ritual known as '*tajen rah*' held at temples," said Ni Made Ras Amanda Gelgel, a cultural studies lecturer at Bali's Udayana University. "The spilling of blood to the earth is needed to expel '*buta*' or demons, because their blood is believed to appease demons so they don't disturb people and so the ceremony can be held successfully and safely," she said. "But it eventually shifted to become entertainment."

Training roosters isn't for everyone, however, even those who have a stomach for violence. "Taking care of the roosters isn't easy—they have special food and you need to know how to treat the animals," Gelgel said. "It's not as simple as having a good fighter that wins a lot so you can get rich. There is lot more involved."—AFP

French animal rights groups call for ban on fox, deer hunting



LAMNAY: This file photo shows a hunter holding a dead fox by his dog in a forest of Lamnay, northwestern France, on the opening day of France's hunting season in the Sarthe department. —AFP

PARIS: A coalition of more than 20 French animal rights groups, including one led by former film star Brigitte Bardot, called Friday for a ban on hunting with hounds. "Several European countries (including Germany, Britain and Belgium) have already outlawed this cruel sport," they wrote in a letter to Environment Minister Nicolas Hulot. "What is France waiting for to join these countries that had the courage to ban hunting with hounds?" it said.

Fox and deer hunting with dogs are legal in France where wild boar and hares are also traditionally hunted with hounds. The call comes after Hulot,

France's most famous ecologist, indicated last month that he wanted a rethink of the laws governing hunting. "Certain practices like hunting with hounds prolong the agony and stress of the animal. That deeply upsets me," Hulot said in an interview with the French magazine, *L'Obs*.

"That is not what I call civilised," he said, adding he that wanted to initiate a "big rethink" of the way animals were treated with the minister of agriculture. More than 20 animal rights groups backed the call for a ban including PETA, Sea Shepherd and the International Fund for Animal Welfare.—AFP

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What's On

Fine outdoor dining awaits you at Kuwait's idyllic resort



Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, welcomes guests to celebrate the joyous season with festive-inspired dining experiences in luxurious ambiance up to the 25th of December. Guests who book their table before December 15, 2017, will get a special 25 percent discount. Award-winning restaurants are all set for the season of warmth, joy and cheerful spirit in specially-decorated settings, impeccable service and highly-acclaimed cuisine.

Garden Cafe Restaurant offers celebratory brunches and dinner on December 24 and 25 and on January 7, 2017. Overlooking stunning surroundings and garden views, diners will indulge in festive temptations ranging from Peking duck, roasted pumpkin specialties, chicken roulade with red apple compote and pink peppercorn, and much more. Live music entertainment and kid's activities will add to the excitement throughout.

A highlight not to be missed is the restaurant's Live Festive Carvery Treats, including whole roasted turkey,

glazed turkey ham, and herb-marinated Wagyu beef rump with delicious sides such as Yorkshire pudding and gravy. The celebrations continue at the award-winning luxury dining venues with 3-course set menus, where Pepper Steakhouse offers a must-try winter mountain treat of Swiss Gruyere cheese fondue and slow-roasted pies to get guests into the holiday mood. At Olivo Italian Restaurant, the chef greets you with Italian spirits to indulge in homemade Italian specialties of baked turkey and risotto with savory handmade tortellini in a warmly-relaxed atmosphere overlooking the beautiful Arabian Gulf.

The season's favorites are also available at the lobby area, where guests can purchase all their festive essentials - a merry display of freshly-made sweet treats, cookies, gingerbread houses, and freshly-made roasted turkey ready to order from the hamper shop to take home to their families and friends. Stay different this season, and celebrate the festive season at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa as you cherish beautiful and unforgettable moments with family and friends.



Kuwait welcomes Good Stuff restaurant

Kuwait is proud to welcome the first restaurant in the country dedicated to serving organic fresh foods cooked through airbaking - an innovative new cooking method using only heat and steam. With the growing concerns over health and environment issues throughout the country, Good Stuff is a local concept created by Shireen Alhasawi, that gives the public what they need - their favorite meals without the guilt. Aside from serving wholesome natural tasty meals, air-baking uses zero frying and oils, resulting in 60 percent less fat and calories when cooked.

Good Stuff is the new exciting place to eat, catering to all ages and demographics, especially those looking for organic quality meals that are clean cooked, where everything is air-baked and never fried. Air-baking allows people to devour their favorite cravings, such as french fries, without having to worry about 'deep frying' with artery clogging grease. All the food is 100 percent air-baked, allowing them to retain the nutritional value and taste.

In order to bring people only the best quality, the ingredients used are all natural, organic, and deliciously fresh. Good Stuff sticks to its core offering in giving people 100 percent taste, with 0 percent guilt. Good Stuff is loyal to its beliefs in being clean in not only the way that we eat, but in the way we live as well. Not only do they care about the health of the community, but they also uphold a social responsibility to the environment.

The store is designed using only raw and recycled materials, which are 100 percent



plastic free, reflecting the brands mission of being "simply green in everything" to provide the community with healthier lifestyle overall. The lights and equipment are energy

efficient, no paint is used on the walls in order to avoid the use of harmful chemicals, and biodegradable packaging is used to help the environment.

CBK organizes entertainment day for customers



CBK invited "my first account" customers to attend activities of an outstanding entertainment day at the entertainment hall "Infinity" in 360 mall. Hundreds of young customers and children attended along with their families who enjoyed many games the bank had organized, free of charge.

ICK Senior students lend a helping hand to the less privileged

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands: One for helping yourself, the other for helping others." As a step forward in social responsibility, the Indian Community School (Senior) Kuwait, organized a visit to labor camps in Mahboula, Kuwait, on November 24, 2017. The trip was an eye-opener to the teenagers who witnessed the tragic living situations of people who, separated from home and family and labor for their daily wage in disparate environments. In pursuit of survival, these workers

are often ignored by society and are ostracized from societal concepts of family, love and community.

The working conditions of these migrants are not very favorable, given the extremities of weather and manual labor involved. The workers are resultantly thrust into a world of darkness, exhaustion and seclusion. The students of ICSK Senior were welcomed into their solitary lives, to observe the other side of a wealthy coin and empathize with the lives of these fighters who daily brave against the most harrowing. Under the guidance and leadership of the class teachers various items like sugar, pulses, tea bags and blankets were collected class wise and kept in separate rooms.

The students took initiative for collecting these and they were given five days for the same. 300 packets were made by the students which included 1kg of sugar, 5kgs of rice, 1 packet of dal, 1 packet of loose tea/tea bag and 1 blanket per packet. The neediest one among all the camps in Mahboula, Kuwait, is identified and students loaded the packets in to the buses and set forth to the labor camp to distribute them accompanied by their teachers.

The packets were handed over by the students individually to the needy.

The students delivered food, clothing, toiletries and other urgent inevitable needs, in an attempt to display solidarity with these workers and lighten their load in some ways. The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention. Dr Binumon, Principal, ICSK (Senior), commended the industrious effort of the students in packing and distributing food items, under the guidance of teachers. The students expressed their readiness in continuing this benevolent act of kindness.

As per the request from the people of the camp the school has decided to increase the frequency of these visits. Charity is always another manifestation of love and it benefits the giver more than the receiver. Providing service and extending charity towards others helps us overcome our own difficulties and makes them seem less challenging. Initiatives like this from ICSK Senior has definitely helped the students evolve into better human beings with a mind set to "give rather than to receive" and will show the way to others to emulate their path towards compassion and empathy.



TV



00:50 The Viral Factor
02:55 6 Ways To Sundown
04:40 The Net
06:35 Con Air
08:35 Sonmuss
10:05 The Avengers
12:30 The Net
14:30 Con Air
16:30 Drop Zone
18:15 Virtual Revolution
19:55 The Mask Of Zorro
22:20 Entrapment



00:50 Untamed & Uncut
01:45 Meet The Orangutans
02:13 Meet The Orangutans
02:40 Meet The Orangutans
03:08 Meet The Orangutans
05:15 Shamwari: A Wild Life
05:30 Shamwari: A Wild Life
06:02 Preposterous Pets
06:49 Cats 101
07:36 Orangutan Island
08:00 Orangutan Island
08:25 Whale Wars
09:15 Treeshouse Masters
10:10 Treeshouse Masters
11:05 Treeshouse Masters
12:00 Treeshouse Masters
12:55 Treeshouse Masters
13:50 Africa's Trees Of Life
14:45 Keeping Up With The Kruger
15:40 Wildest Africa
16:35 Meet The Orangutans
17:03 Meet The Orangutans
17:30 Shamwari: A Wild Life
17:58 Shamwari: A Wild Life
18:25 Meet The Orangutans
18:53 Meet The Orangutans
19:20 Monsters Inside Me
20:15 River Monsters
21:10 Glory Hounds
22:05 Wildest Indochina
23:00 Deadly Islands
23:55 Untamed & Uncut



00:30 Cold Feet
01:25 Cold Feet
02:20 The Good Karma Hospital
03:15 War And Peace
04:05 Doctors
04:35 EastEnders
05:05 Death In Paradise
06:00 EastEnders
06:30 Death In Paradise
07:25 I Want My Wife Back
08:00 Doctor Who
08:50 Doctors
09:20 EastEnders
09:50 Death In Paradise
10:50 New Tricks
11:45 Doctor Who
12:35 Call The Midwife: Christmas Special 2016
13:25 Doctors
13:55 EastEnders
14:30 Death In Paradise
15:25 Doctor Who
16:15 Call The Midwife: Christmas Special 2016
17:05 New Tricks
18:30 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 The Good Karma Hospital
21:00 Doctor Foster
22:00 Line Of Duty
22:55 Doctor Foster



00:00 Homicide Hunter
01:00 Homicide Hunter
02:00 My Haunted House
03:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
04:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
05:00 Homicide Hunter
06:00 Homicide Hunter
07:00 The First 48
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
10:00 It Takes A Killer
10:30 It Takes A Killer
11:00 It Takes A Killer
11:30 It Takes A Killer
12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
14:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
15:00 It Takes A Killer
15:30 It Takes A Killer
16:00 It Takes A Killer
16:30 It Takes A Killer
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Cold Case Files
19:00 Cold Case Files
20:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
21:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
22:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
23:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill



00:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition
00:55 Workaholics
01:20 Another Period
01:45 Another Period
02:10 Amy Schumer-Mark Normand: Don't Be Yourself
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:25 Tosh.0
03:50 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Key And Peele
05:05 Important Things With Demitri Martin
05:30 Impractical Jokers
05:55 Disaster Date
06:20 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:50 Lip Sync Battle UK
07:15 Lip Sync Battle UK
07:40 I Live With Models
08:05 Impractical Jokers
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Key And Peele
10:10 Important Things With Demitri Martin
10:35 I Live With Models
11:00 Impractical Jokers
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:20 Impractical Jokers
12:45 Lip Sync Battle UK
13:08 Lip Sync Battle UK
13:30 Important Things With Demitri Martin
13:55 Friends
14:20 Friends
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Key And Peele
15:35 Kroll Show
16:00 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Friends
17:18 Friends

17:40 Disaster Date
18:05 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:35 Lip Sync Battle UK
19:00 Lip Sync Battle UK
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
20:12 Friends
20:35 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef
22:00 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
22:25 The Half Hour
22:50 The Half Hour
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Ultimate Survival
01:20 Origins
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:15 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 Destroyed In Seconds
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Origins
07:25 Origins
07:50 Origins
08:15 Origins
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 Destroyed In Seconds
13:15 Destroyed In Seconds
13:40 Destroyed In Seconds
14:05 Destroyed In Seconds
14:30 Destroyed In Seconds
14:55 Destroyed In Seconds
15:20 Destroyed In Seconds
17:00 What Happened Next?
17:25 What Happened Next?
17:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
18:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
18:40 The Carbonaro Effect
19:05 The Carbonaro Effect
19:30 Troy
20:20 Troy
21:10 Troy
22:00 Curiosity: Nefertiti - Mummy Queen Mystery
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Ultimate Survival



00:50 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:45 Obsession: Dark Desires
02:40 The First Kill
03:35 Obsession: Dark Desires
04:30 Guilty Rich
05:25 Killing Richard Glossip
06:20 Murder By Numbers
07:10 Obsession: Dark Desires
08:00 Young, Hot & Crooked
08:25 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
12:55 I Almost Got Away With It
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 I Almost Got Away With It
15:40 I Almost Got Away With It
16:35 I Almost Got Away With It
17:30 Shadow Of Doubt
18:25 Shadow Of Doubt
19:20 Shadow Of Doubt
20:15 Shadow Of Doubt
21:10 American Monster
22:05 Sexual Assault In College: Tamron Hall...
23:00 Gone
23:55 Jonben?!: An American Murder Mystery



00:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.
01:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
01:50 Evermoor Chronicles
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Binny And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
04:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
04:20 Hank Zipzer
04:45 Alex & Co.
05:10 Alex & Co.
05:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:25 Binny And The Ghost
06:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks
07:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:50 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
07:55 Elena Of Avalor
08:20 K.C. Undercover
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
09:35 Tangled: The Series
10:00 Frozen Northorn Lights
10:25 Disney Cookabout
10:50 K.C. Undercover
11:15 Liv And Maddie
11:40 Austin & Ally
12:05 That's So Raven
12:30 That's So Raven
12:55 Frozen: Magic Of The Northern Lights
13:00 Bunk'd
13:25 Tangled: The Series
13:50 Jessie
14:15 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
14:40 K.C. Undercover
15:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
15:30 Bizaardvark
15:55 Elena Of Avalor
16:20 Stuck In The Middle
17:00 Tangled: The Series
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 K.C. Undercover
18:15 Descendants Wicked World
18:20 Bunk'd
18:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
19:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
20:05 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
20:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
20:35 Disney The Lodge
21:00 Alex & Co.
21:25 Alex & Co.
21:50 Lollipop

22:15 Lollipop
22:40 Evermoor Chronicles
23:05 Rolling With The Ronks
23:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
23:45 Lollipop



00:00 PJ Masks
00:30 Vampirina
01:00 The Hive
01:15 Calimero
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Loopdidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Henry Hugglemonster
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopdidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopdidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Henry Hugglemonster
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopdidoo
07:00 Henry Hugglemonster
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopdidoo
07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
08:00 P-King Duckling
08:30 Picky Dog Pals
09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:30 Doc McStuffins
10:00 PJ Masks
10:30 Sofia The First
11:00 Vampirina
11:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:00 The Lion Guard
12:30 PJ Masks
13:00 PJ Masks
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
14:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
15:00 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
15:30 Goldie & Bear And The Magic Map
15:55 Sofia The First
16:00 PJ Masks
16:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:00 Doc McStuffins
17:30 Vampirina
18:00 Welcome To Mcstuffinsville
19:00 Sofia The First
19:30 Vampirina
20:00 PJ Masks
20:30 P-King Duckling
21:00 The Lion Guard
21:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
22:00 Doc McStuffins
22:30 Doc McStuffins
23:00 P-King Duckling
23:30 PJ Masks



00:15 Street Customs 2008
01:00 Fast N' Loud
01:45 Alaska: The Last Frontier
02:30 Street Customs 2008
03:15 Fast N' Loud
04:00 Fast N' Loud
04:50 Boy To Man
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Gold Divers: Under The Ice
06:45 Street Outlaws
07:30 Diesel Brothers
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:00 Container Wars
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:12 Alaska: The Last Frontier
10:57 Yukon Men
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:48 Storage Hunters UK
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Deadliest Catch
14:40 Gold Divers: Under The Ice
15:25 Diesel Brothers
16:10 Street Outlaws
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Storage Hunters UK
18:20 Container Wars
18:50 Deadliest Catch
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Harley And The Davidson's
21:50 Supertrucks
22:40 What On Earth?
23:30 Diesel Brothers



06:00 Disney11
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
07:45 Walk The Prank
08:10 Phineas And Ferb
08:35 Mech-X4
09:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
09:25 Lab Rats Elite Force
09:50 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures
10:20 Gravity Falls
10:45 Kid vs Kat
11:10 Milo Murphy's Law
11:35 Right Now Kapow
12:00 Pants On Fire
13:29 Phineas And Ferb
13:45 Marvel's Spider-Man
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Marvel's Spider-Man
14:40 Lab Rats
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
15:55 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
16:20 Two More Eggs
16:25 Kirby Buckets Warped
16:50 Kirby Buckets Warped
17:15 Kid vs Kat
17:40 Kid vs Kat
18:05 Right Now Kapow
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
18:35 Right Now Kapow
19:00 Mech-X4
19:25 Mech-X4
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Phineas And Ferb
20:20 Phineas And Ferb
20:45 Milo Murphy's Law
21:10 Milo Murphy's Law
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Supa Strikas
22:10 Supa Strikas
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



00:00 The Platinum Life
00:55 The Platinum Life
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story

03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 So Cosmo
04:40 So Cosmo
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:50 El News
07:20 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 El News
09:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
10:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
10:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
11:50 WAGS La
12:45 WAGS La
13:40 WAGS La
14:35 The Platinum Life
15:25 The Platinum Life
16:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 El News
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 WAGS La
23:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians



00:15 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
00:45 A Is For Apple
01:10 Rustic Adventures Argentina
01:40 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
02:35 Fearless Chef
03:30 Maximum Foodie
03:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
04:25 Miful's Feasts
04:50 Sinful Sweets
05:20 Eat Street
05:45 Croatia's Finest
06:15 Dog Whisperer
07:10 World's Best Beaches
08:05 Fusion Forager
09:00 What's For Sale?
09:25 What's For Sale?
09:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
10:20 Migue's Feasts
10:50 Stepping Out
11:15 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
11:45 The Food Files
12:10 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
12:40 Eat Street
13:05 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
13:35 Fearless Chef
14:30 Maximum Foodie
14:55 Stepping Out
15:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
15:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
16:20 Chef On The Road
17:15 Croatia's Finest
17:40 Croatia's Finest
18:10 The Wine Show
19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
19:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
20:00 Chef On The Road
21:00 Croatia's Finest
21:30 Croatia's Finest
22:00 The Wine Show
22:55 Eat Street
23:20 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
23:50 Fearless Chef



00:10 Coronation Street
00:35 Coronation Street
01:00 The Chase
02:00 Coronation Street
02:25 Coronation Street
02:55 Coronation Street
03:25 Coronation Street
03:55 5 Star Family Reunion
04:45 Gino's Hidden Italy
05:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
06:10 Catchphrase
07:05 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
08:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
09:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
10:15 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
11:15 Tracey Ullman's Show
12:45 Catchphrase
12:45 The Chase
13:40 The Chase
14:35 Tracey Ullman's Show
15:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
16:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
17:25 5 Star Family Reunion
18:15 Gino's Hidden Italy
18:45 Gino's Hidden Italy
19:15 The Chase
20:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
21:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
22:25 Tracey Ullman's Show
23:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?



00:00 Weapons At War
01:00 A Distant Shore: African Americans Of D-Day
02:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
03:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
04:40 What Really Happened
05:30 Ancient Aliens
06:20 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
08:00 Ancient Top 10
09:00 Ancient Top 10
10:00 Million Dollar Genius
12:00 Ancient Aliens
13:00 Ancient Top 10
14:00 Ancient Top 10
15:00 Million Dollar Genius
16:00 Million Dollar Genius
17:00 Ancient Aliens
18:00 In Search Of Aliens
19:00 UFO Files
20:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
21:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
22:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
23:00 Ancient Top 10



00:20 Counting Cars
00:45 Counting Cars
01:10 Ax Men
02:00 Ax Men
02:50 Big Easy Motors
03:15 Big Easy Motors
03:40 Counting Cars
04:05 Counting Cars
04:30 Ax Men

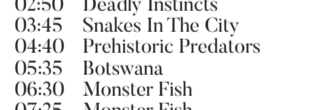
05:20 Ax Men
06:00 Ultimate Wheels
06:50 American Pickers
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Aussie Pickers
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 Ultimate Wheels
11:50 American Pickers
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Time Team
14:20 Swamp People
15:10 Alone
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Counting Cars
17:15 Counting Cars
17:40 Swamp People
18:30 Alone
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Storage Wars
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 American Pickers Best Of's
22:40 Time Team
23:30 Alone



00:15 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
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19:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
20:00 Chef On The Road
21:00 Croatia's Finest
21:30 Croatia's Finest
22:00 The Wine Show
22:55 Eat Street
23:20 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
23:50 Fearless Chef



00:10 Crowd Control
00:35 Crowd Control
01:00 Yukon Gold
02:00 Cold Water Gold
03:00 Live Free Or Die
04:00 Sea Of Hope
05:00 China Circus
06:00 Straits Dreams
07:00 Facing...
08:00 Classified: Secret Service Files
09:00 Airport Security: Colombia
10:00 Atlantis Rising
12:00 Route Awakening
12:30 Route Awakening
13:00 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Yukon Gold
16:00 Cold Water Gold
17:00 The Long Road Home
17:50 No Man Left Behind
19:00 Every Singaporean Son
19:30 Every Singaporean Son
20:00 Cold Water Gold
20:50 The Long Road Home
21:40 No Man Left Behind
22:30 Every Singaporean Son
22:55 Every Singaporean Son
23:20 Bad Trip



00:20 1000 Days For The Planet
01:10 Animal ER
02:00 Savage Kingdom: Uprising
02:50 Deadly Instincts
03:45 Snakes In The City
04:40 Prehistoric Predators
05:35 Botswana
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Caught In The Act GPU Revisions
09:15 Snake City Compilations
10:10 Animal ER
11:05 Jobs That Bite!
12:00 World's Weirdest
12:55 Savage Kingdom: Uprising
13:50 Deadly Instincts
14:45 Ultimate Predators GPU
15:40 Cameramen Who Dare
16:35 Baby Animals In The Wild
17:30 Monster Fish
18:25 Wild 24
19:20 Ultimate Predators GPU
20:10 Cameramen Who Dare
21:00 Baby Animals In The Wild
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 Wild 24
23:30 World's Weirdest
00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

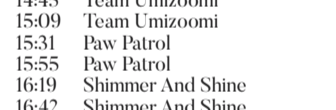


00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Wix Club
02:36 Wix Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blak
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blak
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig

09:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Wix Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Hunter Street
14:12 I Am Frankie
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
15:24 School Of Rock
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 I Am Frankie
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 SpongeBob SquarePants
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:15 Shimmer And Shine



00:39 Shimmer And Shine
01:01 Max & Ruby
01:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:47 The Day Henry Met
01:52 The Day Henry Met
01:57 The Day Henry Met
02:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:24 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:45 Team Umizoomi
03:09 Team Umizoomi
03:31 Paw Patrol
03:55 Paw Patrol
04:19 Shimmer And Shine
04:42 Shimmer And Shine
05:05 Nella The Princess Knight
05:27 Nella The Princess Knight
05:50 Rusty Rivets
06:14 Rusty Rivets
06:37 Blaze And The Monster Machines
07:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
07:24 Paw Patrol
07:37 Dora The Explorer
08:00 Nella The Princess Knight
08:21 Bubble Guppies
08:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
09:07 Dora The Explorer
09:53 Nella The Princess Knight
10:15 The Day Henry Met
10:22 Paw Patrol
10:45 Rusty Rivets
11:05 Walkykazam!
11:28 Bubble Guppies
11:52 Team Umizoomi
12:15 Shimmer And Shine
12:39 Shimmer And Shine
13:01 Max & Ruby
13:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:47 The Day Henry Met
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13:57 The Day Henry Met
14:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:24 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:45 Team Umizoomi
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15:31 Paw Patrol
15:55 Paw Patrol
16:19 Shimmer And Shine
16:42 Shimmer And Shine
17:05 Nella The Princess Knight
17:27 Nella The Princess Knight
17:50 Rusty Rivets
18:14 Rusty Rivets
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19:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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20:21 Bubble Guppies
20:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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21:30 Shimmer And Shine
21:39 Shimmer And Shine
21:53 Nella The Princess Knight
22:15 The Day Henry Met
22:22 Paw Patrol
22:45 Rusty Rivets
23:05 Walkykazam!
23:28 Bubble Guppies
23:52 Team Umizoomi
01:05 A Little Game



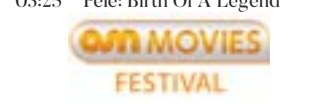
04:45 Even Money
06:30 Cypher
08:15 Cinderella
10:00 Havoc
11:15 The Time Being
12:45 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
14:30 Ginger & Rosa
16:00 Shanghai
17:45 The Painted Veil
20:00 Snow Cake
22:00 Broken English
23:45 Night Moves
00:00 Project Runway
01:00 Project Runway



02:00 Wedding Band
03:00 Fashion Star
04:00 Project Accessory
05:00 Fashion Star
06:00 Project Accessory
07:00 Fashion Star
08:00 Fashion Star
09:00 Fashion StartUp
10:00 Project Accessory
11:00 Fashion Star
12:00 Cedar Cove
13:00 Cedar Cove
14:00 Cedar Cove
15:00 Fashion StartUp
16:00 Project Accessory
17:00 Fashion Star
18:00 Three
20:00 Cougar Town
20:30 Cougar Town
21:00 Fashion StartUp
22:00 Project Accessory
23:00 Fashion Star
00:20 Dr Christian Will See You Now



02:40 Beethoven's Second
04:10 Curious George
05:40 Operation: Neighborhood Watch
07:20 A Little Game
09:00 Minions
10:35 Beethoven's Second
12:05 Hey Arnold! The Movie
13:25 Chilly Christmas
14:55 Inside Out
16:35 Mousehunt
18:15 Step Dogs
19:45 Hey Arnold! The Movie
21:05 Chilly Christmas
22:35 Mousehunt
01:10 Ted 2



05:15 The Benefactor
06:50 The Beat Beneath My Feet
08:25 Pele: Birth Of A Legend
10:15 The Benefactor
11:50 The Beat Beneath My Feet
13:25 African Safari

14:55 Waiting For Superman
16:50 Yosemite
18:15 Dead Poets Society
20:25 Days Of Heaven
22:00 The Lady In The Van
23:50 Born To Be Blue
01:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase



02:40 Dinofroz The Origin
04:15 Bark Ranger
05:45 Help And Freedom
07:25 Bark Ranger
08:55 Operation Arctic
10:35 A.R.C.H.I.L.E.
12:10 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
13:35 Moomins And The Comet Chase
15:00 Dinofroz The Origin
16:35 Last Wizard
18:00 A.R.C.H.I.L.E.
19:35 Freddy Frogface
21:05 Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie
22:50 Last Wizard
00:10 Get Rich Or Die Tryin'
00:10 Mr. Popper's Penguins



03:50 Cinderella Man
06:15 The Express
08:25 Zoolander 2
10:10 Dirty Dancing
12:20 Cinderella Man
14:45 Rocky
16:45 It's Complicated
18:50 Money Monster
20:30 Runner Runner
22:05 Troy
00:40 Prototype This
01:30 Prototype This



02:20 Prototype This
03:10 Prototype This
04:00 Prototype This
04:48 How Do They Do It?
05:12 How Do They Do It?
05:36 How Do They Do It?
06:00 How Do They Do It?
06:24 Food Factory USA
06:48 Food Factory USA
07:12 Food Factory USA
07:36 Food Factory USA
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Prototype This
09:14 Prototype This
10:02 Prototype This
10:50 Prototype This
11:38 Prototype This
12:26 Mythbusters
13:14 Mythbusters
14:02 Mythbusters
14:50 Mythbusters
15:38 Mythbusters
16:26 Food Factory USA
16:50 Food Factory USA
17:14 Food Factory USA
17:38 Food Factory USA
18:02 Food Factory USA
18:26 How Do They Do It?
18:50 How Do They Do It?
19:15 How Do They Do It?
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:05 How Do They Do It?
20:30 Atari Codebreaker
20:55 How Do They Do It?
21:20 Secret Space Escapes
22:10 Secret Space Escapes
23:00 Atari Codebreaker
23:25 How Do They Do It?
23:50 Space Pioneer
01:45 Ginger & Rosa
03:15 Laws Of Attraction



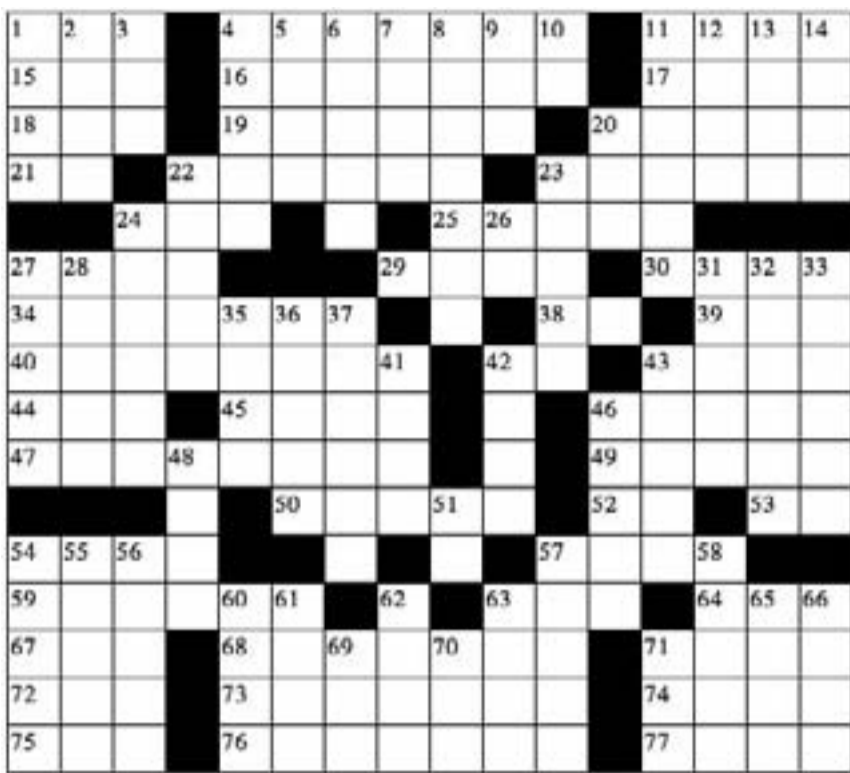
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20:30 Cougar Town
21:00 Fashion StartUp
22:00 Project Accessory
23:00 Fashion Star
00:20 Dr Christian Will See You Now

Stars

CROSSWORD 1780



ACROSS

1. Wet spongy ground of decomposing vegetation.
4. A person who practices masturbation.
11. Gully or streambed in North Africa and the Middle East that remains dry except during rainy season.
15. A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
16. Type genus of the Solanaceae.
17. A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
18. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
19. Armor plate that protects the thigh.
21. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
25. A drama set to music.
27. A fraudulent business scheme.
29. Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise.
30. An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
34. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
38. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
39. A close friend who accompanies his buddies in their activities.
40. Coil in which voltage is induced by motion through a magnetic field.
44. Type genus of the family Myacidae.
45. A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
47. Low stingless nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
49. East Indian tree yielding a resin used medicinally and burned as incense.
50. The fifth of the seven canonical hours.
52. A heavy precious metallic element.
53. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
54. The sixth month of the civil year.
59. (botany) Tissue that conducts synthesized food substances (e.g., from leaves) to parts where needed.
64. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
67. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
68. Of or in or belonging to the cavity of the abdomen.
71. An associate degree in applied science.
72. Any of various coarse shrubby plants of the genus *Iva* with small greenish flowers.
73. English artist noted for a series of engravings that satirized the affectations of his time (1697-1764).
74. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
75. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
76. Dragonflies and damselflies.
77. Fill to satisfaction.

DOWN

1. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
2. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
3. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
4. An Oscan-speaking member of an ancient people of Campania.
5. (British) Common sense.
6. (law) A defense by an accused person purporting to show that he or she could not have committed the crime in question.
7. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
8. (of winds) Coming from the sea toward the land.
9. French writer whose novels described the sordid side of city life (1804-1857).
10. A soft silvery metallic element of the rare earth group.
11. Send a signal by waving a flag or a light according to a certain code.
12. An elaborate song for solo voice.
13. Unpleasantly cool and humid.
14. Any tree or shrub of the genus *Inga* having pinnate leaves and showy usually white flowers.
20. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
22. A Bantu language spoken by the Kamba people in Kenya.
23. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
24. Someone who drives a taxi for a living.
26. An informal term for a father.
28. Genus of large deciduous nut-bearing trees.
31. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
32. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
33. Of or pertaining to or written in Altaic.
35. (physics and chemistry) The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element.
36. Any plant of the genus *Lupin*.
37. French writer who generalized surrealism to literature (1897-1982).
41. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
42. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
43. Sports equipment that is worn on the feet to enable the wearer to glide along on wheels and to be propelled by the alternate actions of the legs.
46. Made of wood of the aspen tree n.
48. A rounded thickly curled hairdo.
51. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
55. An Indian tree of the family *Combretaceae* that is a source of timber and gum.
56. Of or relating to alga.
57. Russian country house.
58. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
60. The persistence of a sound after its source has stopped.
61. A characteristic (habitual or relatively temporary) state of feeling.
62. A secret society of white Southerners to resist Black emancipation.
63. Not reflecting light.
65. Expel, as of gases and odors.
66. Give over.
69. An inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others.
70. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Knowing how to manage and direct others will be your calling card now and could have someone in authority seeking you out to handle a special project. It's a great time to be involved with other people either personally, or in a work environment. Your sensitivity and understanding of others will be appreciated, as your life takes on a kind of mysterious quality at the emotional and instinctive levels. Hopes and fantasy are the things that stimulate deep feelings now. The former and the future combine and any problems between people seem to magically vanish. This is the key to the greater sensitivity that you feel now. Do yourself a favor and pat yourself on the head or on the back; you are on the right path to succeed with your goals.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This should be a landmark day to solve problems and make important decisions. You will find your way around almost any obstacle and are in control and able to guide yourself with ease. Your sense of inner direction is good and should lead to social opportunities. This is an easy, calm day for you as you may be having quite a lot of fun as you dive into the process of helping others to solve problems. Note, today the problems could be in guiding others to win at chess. You may be a chess tutor. Your emotions or the feelings of those around you are very clear. You will find yourself able to understand better your own situation, as well as others. You will know just what to do to be a kind but good teacher. Volunteer work can be considered as well.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Purchasing gifts and selecting colors are at a high just now. You enjoy shopping, particularly today with all the decorations of the season to cheer you as you go. Circumstances may augment and stimulate appreciation and enjoyment of your life situation. Your system of values may deepen, providing you with a better sense of discrimination and good taste. You absorb emotional energy and a feeling of protection from principles, friends and social interaction. You long for the new, the different and the unique. Your mind is quick and you are fun to network with and will probably have a lot to say about most anything this day. You and your partner or sweetheart may talk over career concerns. It helps to bond on an emotional level.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could be feeling quite ambitious, as a rather practical streak motivates you to get the things in your life organized. You want very much to be respected for who you are and what you can achieve for your family and community; this means a great deal to you now. You are practical when it comes to interacting with others. You just seem to have a natural talent for knowing what to do and can take action with very little fuss or bother. You are often called upon to make use of your natural abilities. Being conscientious is of special importance. Taking care of the necessary underpinnings of life—health, work and such—becomes a greater preoccupation. A cultural event involving your favorite people can be enjoyed this evening. Praise others.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This should be a time when you can put your commonsense and your insights into words and convey them to others. Communication with older members of your family is enhanced now. Gather more information before drawing a conclusion or helping with a decision that may mean a move for an older person. Others should find you almost charismatic in speech and communication and would probably follow you to the ends of the earth if you asked. The conditions are ripe for your kind of self-expression and this works very well with your particular ideas and thoughts. Good feelings abound, so take all of the positives that this day has to offer and enjoy them to the fullest. This kind of day comes too seldom to ignore—enjoy.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Try to break out of a routine you find dull this month. You might find yourself really enjoying a good book dealing with romantic fantasies or a movie with a similar theme. Later today you will have an opportunity to visit with a friend or relative that may invite you to a meal. You love people watching and visiting with others. Some conversations with this person may involve future ideas and a plan could begin to form that would interest you in joining a volunteer group. You may discover, through this volunteer group, how you want to share more of your free time. At home this evening you may decide to create your own greeting card and may consider having it reproduced for sending out to family members and friends.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Old friends are like gold, new ones like silver, hold on to the new, but cherish the old. That could be the sentiment that you feel as a great wave of nostalgia hits you at this time. You may enjoy using your talents in creating gifts for your friends or in designing your own clothing for a party you want to attend. Your independent spirit may surface today and need to be dealt with, finding you latching onto anything that is unusual or different. Visiting with good friends this afternoon may feel a deep love. At home this evening you may find someone complimenting you on something you are doing, or on some of your personal belongings. It should not be hard for you to enjoy and value your own state of affairs.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

Take care to plan a budget and stick to it. You give careful consideration to the use of money. You are drawn to reading and will find pleasure frequenting a bookstore or local library. You likely are experiencing hesitation with the physical this afternoon. You are the ideal candidate to take charge of a project—your creativity and originality are abnormally high. Luckily, you are presented with many opportunities to release this energy. A friend who needs you, or something that you believe in that needs your support, gains your attention. You may be called on to lend a helping hand. You love to find ways to help your friends make their dreams come true. A plan to travel is in their future and you are good at mapping out a journey. You enjoy the research.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may find your life taking on a kind of mystical quality on the emotional and instinctive levels. Dreams and illusions, forgiveness and understanding of human frailties are the things that arouse deep feelings. The past and the future come together—thankfully the stumbling blocks between people go away. This is the key to the greater psychic and spiritual sensitivity that you may be feeling now. This time also presents an opportunity to resolve health issues. You look for new opportunities to grow. Someone compliments you today on your decisions or your style. You value your own life situation at this time. You take pleasure in being with others and planning and enjoying fun times with friends and relatives this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Now is a great time to find some space to move forward with any unfinished personal business. This, however, may not be the best time to make any important decisions that could affect your living situation or life conditions. You may find others challenging your authority or questioning the direction you are taking. This time may need you to change the direction you wanted to go today—perhaps it is time to wash the car or take a trip to the pet store for supplies, etc. You may allow yourself a few meditative moments which will prove a valuable asset from time to time. You lend a listening ear to a dear friend later this afternoon. You might consider taking on a boarder around your place soon. If you have the extra room, the extra money will be appreciated.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You are feeling encouraged. You are motivated to really get serious about taking better care of yourself on many levels. The bottom line to all of this is that you simply want to continue to feel good about yourself and the way that you do things. Diet, exercise and work all somehow mean more to you now. Your ambitions increase and you could find yourself mentally sorting through your accomplishments and goals with logic and practicality these days. Organization is the number one key to helping you find success. Sticking to a good program never hurts anything either. Make your goals attainable and then do not allow yourself to become discouraged if you do not feel that you are making progress. You will continue to move forward.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may be seen by those around you as just the person to be put in charge of some project that requires a conservative mind. Expect challenges, but there is nothing that you cannot handle today. You may feel elated that a new friend has the same sort of likes and dislikes that you have—it is easy to appreciate this individual. This is a great time to shop and choose colors, etc., considering you compare prices and keep within the boundaries of your budget. You like good food, creature comforts and security—both financial and the emotional kind. This afternoon you may prefer to pay attention to the things that need organizing in your personal affairs. You look for new ways to bring the older traditions back into your life and home.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Computer Jargon 1

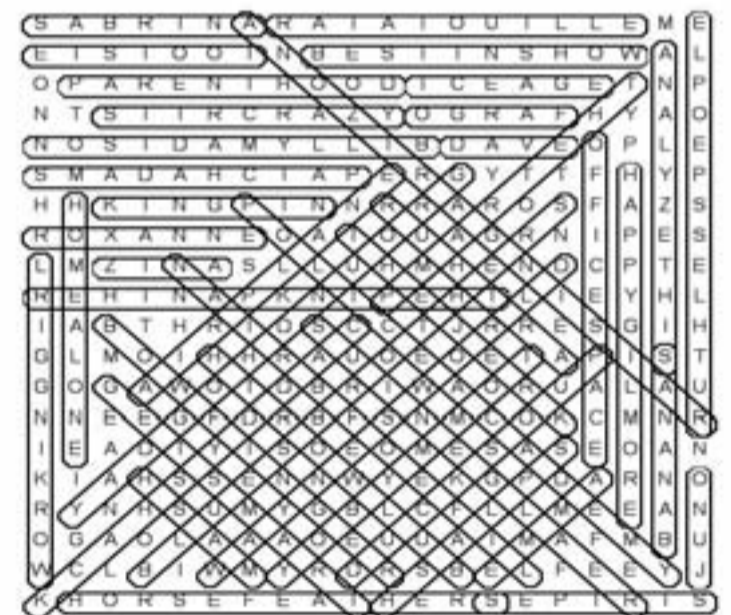
Find and circle all of the computer words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word.



- | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| APPLICATION | DEFRAGMENT | GOOGLE | NANOSECOND | SCANNER |
| BACKUP | DIRECTORY | HTML | NETWORK | SECURITY |
| BINARY | DISK DRIVE | ICON | PARTITION | SHAREWARE |
| BLUETOOTH | DOS | INTERNET | PASTE | SOFTWARE |
| BOOT | DRAG | JAVASCRIPT | PDF | SPAM |
| BYTE | EMAIL | KEYPAL | PIXEL | TASKBAR |
| CHAT | ENCRYPTION | LCD | POWER SUPPLY | THUMBNAI |
| CLICK | FILE | LOGIN | PROGRAMMER | UNIX |
| COOKIE | FIREWALL | MEMORY | ROUTER | WALLPAPER |
| CURSOR | FOLDER | MONITOR | SAVE AS | WIRELESS |
| DATA | GIF | MOUSE | | |

Friday's Solution

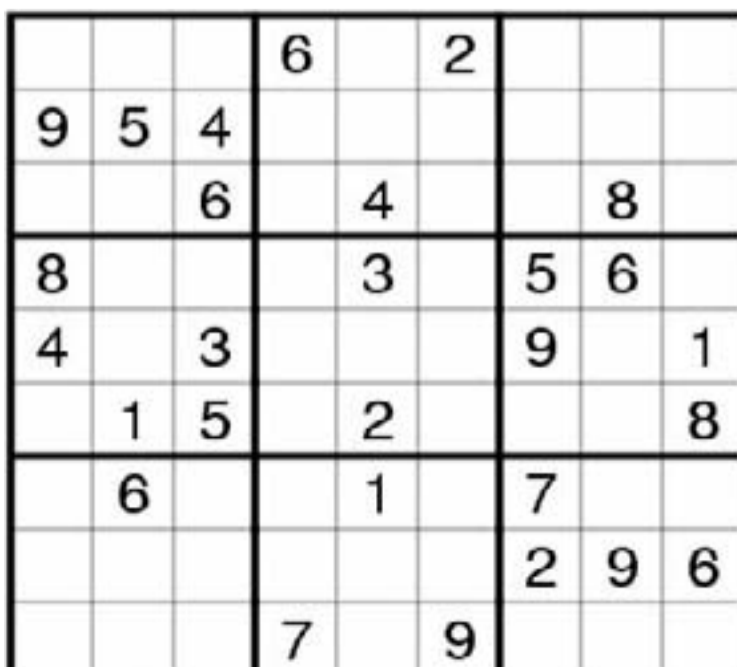
Comedy Movies 2



- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| AIRPLANE | DUCK SOUP | LIFE OF BRIAN | SABRINA |
| ANALYZE THIS | ERMA | MASH | SPLASH |
| ANTZ | FARGO | OFFICE SPACE | STIR CRAZY |
| ARTHUR | GET SMART | PARENTHOOD | STRIPE |
| BANANAS | GROUNDHOG DAY | PATCH ADAMS | THE JERK |
| BEST IN SHOW | HAPPY GILMORE | POLICE ACADEMY | THE PINK PANTHER |
| BILLY MADISON | HOME ALONE | RAISING ARIZONA | THE TRAMP |
| BLUES BROTHERS | HORSE FEATHERS | BATATOUILLE | TOHMY BOY |
| BOWFINGER | ICE AGE | REAL GENIUS | TOOTSIE |
| BULWORTH | JUNO | ROXANNE | WAYNES WORLD |
| CADDYSHACK | KINGPIN | RUTHLESS PEOPLE | WORKING GIRL |
| DAVE | | | |

The hidden movie title is: MONTY PYTHON'S THE MEANING OF LIFE

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Sunday, December 10, 2017

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METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Cool with light to moderate freshening at times specially over coastal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Cold with light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h .

| WEATHER WARNING | | | No Current Warnings | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| STATION | MAX. EXP. | MIN. REC. | SFC. CHART 09/12/2017 0000 UTC | |
| KUWAIT CITY | 18 °C | 10 °C | | |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 19 °C | 08 °C | | |
| ABDALY | 18 °C | 05 °C | | |
| BUBYAN | 17 °C | 05 °C | | |
| JAHRA | 19 °C | 08 °C | | |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 17 °C | 09 °C | | |
| SALMIYAH | 16 °C | 11 °C | | |
| AHMADI | 17 °C | 11 °C | | |
| NUWAISIB | 17 °C | 06 °C | | |
| WAFRA | 18 °C | 07 °C | | |
| SALMY | 17 °C | 01 °C | | |

| 4 DAYS FORECAST | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|--|--------------|-------|----------------|--------------|
| DAY | DATE | WEATHER | Temperatures | | Wind Direction | Wind Speed |
| | | | MAX. | MIN. | | |
| Sunday | 12/10 | Fair | 21 °C | 08 °C | NW | 12 - 38 km/h |
| Monday | 12/11 | Fair | 20 °C | 08 °C | NW | 10 - 32 km/h |
| Tuesday | 12/12 | Fair with a chance for rising dust over open areas | 20 °C | 10 °C | NW | 15 - 45 km/h |
| Wednesday | 12/13 | Cool and some scattered clouds will appear | 19 °C | 10 °C | NW-VRB | 08 - 28 km/h |

| PRAYER TIMES | |
|--------------|-------|
| Fajr | 05:07 |
| Sunrise | 06:31 |
| Zuhr | 11:40 |
| Asr | 14:31 |
| Sunset | 16:50 |
| Isha | 18:12 |

| RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| MAX. Temp. | 17 °C |
| MIN. Temp. | 10 °C |
| MAX. RH | 49 % |
| MIN. RH | 18 % |
| MAX. Wind | NW 53 km/h |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR. | 0 mm |

AIRLINES

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| American Airlines | 22087425 |
| | 22087426 |
| Kuwait Airways | 171 |
| Jazeera Airways | 177 |
| 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/ |
| | 2433141 |
| Indian Airlines | 22456700 |
| Oman Air | 22958787 |
| Turkish Airlines | 22453820/1 |
| Aeroflot | 22404838/9 |

CHANGE OF NAME **SITUATION WANTED**

I, Shaik Shabbir Hussain, S/o Shaik Ibrahim holder of Indian Passport No. M3439430 & Civil ID no. 275072002729 hereby changed my name to Shaik Rafi Hussain hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5368)

Admin/ facilities/ accommodation/ transportation manager with 20 years experience in Gulf, seeking suitable placement. Contact: +965 55259659. (C 5366) 7-12-20197

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One of the leading Pastry (Catering company) in Kuwait is recruiting the below positions immediately.

- Showroom Sales Managers
- Sales Supervisor
- Assistant Pastry Chef
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- Kitchen Assistant

Candidates with Article 18 Visa (Transferable) can only apply.

Kindly send your updated CV to hr@opera.com.kw with your photo. Interested local candidates who can join soon can contact 94422399 for a walk-in-interview schedule.

LOST
Lost Indian Passport
J1331475, Name: Kalidindi Sujata on 29th November 2017 at airport, finder please inform 97942497. (C 5367) 7-12-20197

FOR SALE

Springly used Laser Engraving Cutting Machine (Co2 Glass Tube) bed size: 90 cms x 60 cms Laser Tube new.

Contact: 00965 99862794
Mr. Akbar (Mob. & Whatsapp)
C.I.D. 250120100294

EMERGENCY 112

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

| Arrival Flights on Sunday 10/12/2017 | | | | Departure Flights on Sunday 10/12/2017 | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------|--|------|------------|-------|
| Airlines | Fit | Route | Time | Airlines | Fit | Route | Time |
| JAI | 572 | Mumbai | 00:05 | MSR | 611 | Cairo | 14:00 |
| JZR | 267 | Beirut | 00:30 | UAE | 872 | Dubai | 14:15 |
| KAC | 504 | Beirut | 00:30 | AXB | 394 | Kozhikode | 14:15 |
| JZR | 539 | Cairo | 00:50 | JZR | 124 | Bahrain | 14:30 |
| KAC | 102 | London | 00:50 | KNE | 382 | Dubai | 15:00 |
| PGT | 858 | Istanbul | 00:55 | KAC | 673 | Dubai | 15:05 |
| THY | 772 | Istanbul | 00:55 | FDB | 060 | Dubai | 15:10 |
| WAN | 416 | Beirut | 01:05 | GFA | 222 | Jeddah | 15:25 |
| RJA | 642 | Amman | 01:05 | KAC | 785 | Doha | 15:30 |
| UAE | 853 | Dubai | 01:45 | QTR | 1079 | Doha | 15:30 |
| DLH | 625 | Bahrain | 01:45 | SV | A501 | Jeddah | 15:45 |
| THY | 764 | Istanbul | 01:50 | KNE | 530 | Jeddah | 15:45 |
| ETH | 620 | Addis Ababa | 02:15 | KAC | 775 | Riyadh | 15:50 |
| QTR | 1086 | Doha | 02:20 | KAC | 743 | Dammam | 16:05 |
| GFA | 211 | Bahrain | 02:30 | PAL | 669 | Manila | 16:10 |
| JZR | 125 | Bahrain | 02:35 | KAC | 619 | Doha | 16:10 |
| OMA | 643 | Muscat | 02:55 | KAC | 563 | Amman | 16:10 |
| KKK | 1268 | Istanbul | 02:55 | ETA | 304 | Abu Dhabi | 16:20 |
| KAC | 414 | Bangkok | 03:05 | OMA | 646 | Muscat | 16:35 |
| ETA | 305 | Abu Dhabi | 03:10 | ABY | 128 | Sharjah | 16:40 |
| MSR | 612 | Cairo | 03:15 | KAC | 615 | Bahrain | 16:40 |
| QTR | 1076 | Doha | 03:50 | FEQ | 932 | Alexandria | 16:45 |
| JZR | 555 | Alexandria | 03:55 | KAC | 675 | Dubai | 17:00 |
| LMU | 510 | Cairo | 04:00 | QTR | 1073 | Doha | 17:15 |
| KAC | 382 | Delhi | 04:15 | KAC | 503 | Beirut | 17:15 |
| KAC | 1544 | Cairo | 04:25 | JZR | 240 | Amman | 17:15 |
| KAC | 418 | Manila | 04:25 | JZR | 266 | Beirut | 17:15 |
| KAC | 784 | Jeddah | 04:35 | KAC | 283 | Dhaka | 17:30 |
| FDB | 069 | Dubai | 04:55 | FDB | 052 | Dubai | 17:40 |
| JZR | 609 | Hyderabad | 05:10 | UAE | 858 | Dubai | 17:45 |
| DHX | 170 | Bahrain | 05:20 | KAC | 357 | Kochi | 17:45 |
| JZR | 143 | Doha | 05:25 | KAC | 361 | Colombo | 17:45 |
| THY | 770 | Istanbul | 05:25 | RJA | 641 | Amman | 17:55 |
| KAC | 346 | Ahmedabad | 05:30 | WAN | 415 | Beirut | 18:00 |
| KAC | 332 | Trivandrum | 05:40 | KAC | 331 | Trivandrum | 18:00 |
| KAC | 358 | Kochi | 05:40 | KAC | 343 | Chennai | 18:00 |
| KAC | 344 | Chennai | 05:50 | SV | 511 | Riyadh | 18:15 |
| KAC | 678 | Dubai | 06:00 | JZR | 538 | Cairo | 18:15 |
| KAC | 302 | Mumbai | 06:10 | GFA | 216 | Bahrain | 18:20 |
| QTR | 8511 | Doha | 06:25 | JZR | 184 | Dubai | 18:30 |
| KAC | 362 | Colombo | 06:25 | JZR | 608 | Hyderabad | 18:40 |
| KAC | 284 | Dhaka | 06:30 | KAC | 381 | Delhi | 18:50 |
| WAN | 342 | Sohag | 06:35 | FDB | 064 | Dubai | 19:10 |
| KAC | 206 | Islamabad | 06:50 | WAN | 115 | Bahrain | 19:20 |
| BAW | 157 | London | 07:10 | UAE | 876 | Dubai | 19:30 |
| FEQ | 933 | Sohag | 07:30 | MSR | 621 | Cairo | 19:30 |
| FDB | 053 | Dubai | 07:35 | QTR | 1081 | Doha | 20:00 |
| KAC | 354 | Bengaluru | 07:35 | RBG | 556 | Alexandria | 20:05 |
| WAN | 332 | Alexandria | 08:00 | ABY | 124 | Sharjah | 20:05 |
| KAC | 384 | Delhi | 08:00 | GFA | 218 | Bahrain | 20:15 |
| UAE | 855 | Dubai | 08:35 | JZR | 554 | Alexandria | 20:30 |
| ETA | 301 | Abu Dhabi | 09:05 | FDB | 058 | Dubai | 20:35 |
| ABY | 125 | Sharjah | 09:05 | KAC | 345 | Ahmedabad | 20:40 |
| QTR | 1070 | Doha | 09:10 | KAC | 301 | Mumbai | 20:50 |
| FDB | 055 | Dubai | 09:40 | KAC | 353 | Bengaluru | 20:55 |
| IRA | 665 | Shiraz | 09:40 | OMA | 648 | Muscat | 21:20 |
| IRC | 528 | Ahwaz | 10:00 | KAC | 1543 | Cairo | 21:20 |
| MSC | 415 | Sohag | 10:15 | DLH | 624 | Bahrain | 21:30 |
| GFA | 213 | Bahrain | 10:40 | DHX | 171 | Bahrain | 21:50 |
| WAN | 114 | Bahrain | 11:00 | QTR | 1089 | Doha | 22:00 |
| SYR | 341 | Damascus | 11:00 | KAC | 411 | Bangkok | 22:05 |
| QTR | 1074 | Doha | 11:20 | KAC | 205 | Islamabad | 22:05 |
| JZR | 165 | Dubai | 11:30 | ETA | 308 | Abu Dhabi | 22:10 |
| WAN | 134 | Doha | 11:45 | KAC | 203 | Lahore | 22:10 |
| MEA | 404 | Beirut | 11:55 | MEA | 403 | Beirut | 22:20 |
| KAC | 614 | Bahrain | 12:10 | ALK | 230 | Colombo | 22:25 |
| SAW | 701 | Damascus | 12:30 | GFA | 220 | Bahrain | 22:30 |
| JZR | 561 | Sohag | 12:45 | KAC | 783 | Jeddah | 22:35 |
| FDB | 075 | Dubai | 12:45 | KAC | 383 | Delhi | 22:40 |
| UAE | 871 | Dubai | 12:50 | UAE | 860 | Dubai | 23:00 |
| KAC | 742 | Dammam | 12:50 | ETA | 310 | Abu Dhabi | 23:05 |
| MSR | 610 | Cairo | 13:00 | QTR | 1083 | Doha | 23:20 |
| AXB | 393 | Kozhikode | 13:15 | | | | |

Lifestyle | Gossip

Nicola Roberts
wants ownership

Nicola Roberts wants "complete ownership" of her music. The 32-year-old singer/songwriter is busy writing new songs for the likes of her former Girls Aloud bandmate Cheryl Tweedy and The Saturdays star Vanessa White, and while she's happy for them to bring in other contributors, she won't accept outside help for her own record. She told LOOK magazine: "I'm in the writing process at the moment. I started in July. I've been doing it alone because I want complete ownership. "For your own project, it's important to have full control and not be creatively swayed." For Cheryl, maybe we will bring in other people to contribute and that's fine. "I do send Vanessa songs and I've suggested a few people I think she should work with." Although she's focusing on her own career at the moment, the flame-haired beauty has admitted it would be an absolute dream to pen some hits for Rihanna. Recently asked who she'd like to write for, she simply said: "Rihanna." Nicola may even follow her Cheryl's footsteps one day and bag a seat on 'The X Factor' judging panel - but only if she can choose which mentors sit beside her. Asked her dream panel, she said: "Lauryn Hill, Solange and Cardi B." Meanwhile, there's been a lot of speculation over recent months about whether Girls Aloud will reunite next year for the 10-year anniversary of their number one single 'The Promise' and, while Nicola refused to divulge any plans, she has admitted that she'd "never say never" to a reunion. She said when asked about the milestone: "Who knows - never say never!"

Rihanna songwriter LP wants
to work with star again

Rihanna's 'Cheers (Drink To That)' songwriter LP would jump at the chance to work with the R&B superstar again. The 36-year-old singer/songwriter - whose full name is Laura Pergolizzi - has penned hits for the likes Cher, Backstreet Boys and Christina Aguilera over the years, but a career highlight was when the 'Wild Thoughts' hitmaker made barely any changes to the track she co-wrote for the 29-year-old beauty's 2010 album, 'Loud'. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, LP said: "It was really cool. I was like, wow, I thought she was going to change every single thing, but not one thing was changed. "She just added one of her amazing Rihanna-isms at the end of a note." When suggested that the pair must have an organic connection considering the minimal editing to the lyrics and that they should probably head into the studio again, LP said: "You never now. I would in a heartbeat. I think she is one of the coolest artists. "She has been cool her whole career. "She's curated this really amazing body of work that she has put forth as her image. "She has a nobility to her that I like." LP - who can class 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star Kendall Jenner as a fan - recently performed sold-out shows in the UK in support of her brand new record 'Lost On You', and as far as songwriting, she plans on focusing on her own music for the time being. She said: "My songwriting job right now is for me. I have my own castle of songs right now, so we'll see." LP's album 'Lost On You' is out now.

James Arthur's Naked was
intended for Zara Larsson

James Arthur's latest single 'Naked' was pitched to Zara Larsson before him. The 29-year-old pop hunk has revealed the Swedish star - known for hits 'I Would Like' and 'Lush Life' - was originally meant to have the song, which he worked on with Taylor Swift and Katy Perry songwriter and producer Max Martin, but they decided it would be more interesting to have a male doing the "vulnerable" vocal. James - who won 'The X Factor' in 2012 - jazzed the track up adding in his "gospel" influence. He shared: "They had a chorus that I think they were pitching to her at one point. "But then they played it to me and they thought, 'How nice would it be if it was a male singer doing a vulnerable thing like that?' "So we re-wrote it and made it suit me. I put the gospel middle eight in there. I was quite happy with that." Meanwhile, James confessed he fears his music has become too predictable. The 'Say You Won't Let Go' hitmaker - who made a comeback with the album 'Back From The Edge' in 2016 - wants to "branch out" and make songs that his fans wouldn't expect him to release, as his most popular singles that get the most radio airplay are all ballads. He told the BBC: "I'm starting to feel like people know what to expect from me. "If you come and see my shows, I'm all over the stage. We do grunge, we do gospel, we do R&B - but the songs that make it on the radio are the acoustic, heartfelt ballads. "I'm starting to feel the urge to branch out and do some stuff that nobody would expect."

Stormzy wins Artist of the Year
at BBC Music Awards

Stormzy was crowned Artist of the Year at the BBC Music Awards 2017. The 'Big For Your Boots' rapper has had a phenomenal year thanks to his award-winning LP 'Gangs, Signs & Prayers' and topped it off picking up the biggest prize of the night at the annual bash, which was broadcast on Friday. Stormzy said: "I'm actually blessed to be able to say that I'm an artist that's managed to be regarded as someone that's worthy of this award. Thank you guys. Love." Elsewhere, Foo Fighters took home Live Performance of the Year for their headline set at Glastonbury Festival in the summer. Speaking of their slot at Worthy Farm in Somerset, South West England, frontman Dave Grohl said: "It really did just turn into this one big ball of love and energy and celebration and music. That's what you want every show to be, but when it's on that scale it's a big feeling." British soul star Rag'n'Bone Man was also honored on the night, collecting the Album of the Year Award for 'Human', which was the biggest-selling debut LP of 2017. He commented: "I keep thinking at one point that someone is going to fish-hook me off and tell me it's a joke, but it's not, and it's a wonderful thing to have." Bob Shennan, director, BBC Radio and Music, said: "Congratulations to all the recipients of the awards and to the nominees - the calibre of all the artists involved this year was outstanding. It's been a brilliant year for music on BBC TV, with our At The BBC specials with Sam Smith, Harry Styles and U2, the launch of 'Sounds Like Friday Night', and the defining music event of the year, One Love Manchester. "The Year in Music 2017 on BBC Two really has provided a fantastic opportunity to acknowledge the artists that have made an impact over the past year, as well as reflect on the greatest musical moments - many of which brought people together through their shared love of music." This year saw winners announced on a one-hour BBC Two show, titled 'The Year in Music 2017', which was hosted by Radio 1 DJ Clara Amfo and Strictly Come Dancings's Claudia Winkleman. In previous years, a host of stars performed at the ceremony, but it was pulled this time due to poor rating figures.

Ed Sheeran's battle to
Christmas No1

Ed Sheeran has hinted he's dropping a new song in a bid to secure this year's UK Christmas number one spot. The 26-year-old singer/songwriter already has a strong chance with his song 'Perfect' featuring Beyonce already sat at the top of the chart, but he has teased he has "one more trick" up his sleeve to beat the likes of Wham!'s 'Last Christmas' and 'X Factor' winners Rak-Su and their song 'Dimelo' to be crowned 2017's festive chart-topper. He told the BBC: "I do have one more trick up my sleeve. It's not like a Beyonce trick, but it's quite a cool trick." And looks like he's collaborated with a big star from the past. He added: "This next one, no-one's expecting. "It's more for my dad's generation. It'll be out next week. You'll see then." The 'Shape of You' hitmaker still hasn't released his 'Despacito' style remix of 'Perfect', so it could be that. Describing it previously, he said: "The vibe is that it's a remix to 'Perfect'. I'm just basically going to 'Despacito' 'Perfect'." Meanwhile, the flame-haired singer recently said he'd like to work with Drake after working with rap legend Eminem. Ed that he doesn't think his fans appreciate his own rapping skills, but he'd love to get the 'Hotline Bling' star to spit some lines on a track for him. He quipped: "I don't feel like anyone thinks I can rap, but I really enjoy doing it so - "I really enjoy doing it, but in that aspect I wouldn't because you'd be going against one of the greatest rappers in all time, so I'd stick to what I was good at. "Like, I rap on my own stuff because I enjoy doing it. That's something that I'd definitely put together in the future. "I think someone like Drake would be really fun to work with. I'd want him to rap though because I love it when he raps, when he's baring." The 'Castle on the Hill' hitmaker features on the song 'River' on Eminem's comeback LP 'Revival', and has revealed his ideas for future collaborations with the rapping legend. He said: "I think I'd do two different songs with him and choose one of them. "One of them would be like an introspec-



tive story telling thing like 'Stan' and one of them would be like-you know when he used to joke rap ... like in the shower this morning, I was doing 'I murder a rhyme, one word at a time/You never heard of a mind as perverted as mine."

Eminem's most
'diverse' album

Eminem says his new album 'Revival' is diverse enough to appeal to all. The 'Not Afraid' hitmaker spent over a year writing and working on the highly-anticipated LP - including scrapping earlier material to make way for fresher songs - and he feels it is a fair representation of himself as a person at the moment. Speaking to Sir Elton John for Interview Magazine, he said: "I've been working on it for over a year. You know how it is - you make songs, and as you make the new ones, the old ones get old and you throw them out. "The album is called 'Revival'. It's a reflection of where I'm at right now, but also I feel like what I tried to do was diversify. I've tried to make a little something for everyone." Opening up candidly about his process as a songwriter, Slim Shady - whose real name is Marshall Mathers III - admitted some of his albums and songs in the past have left a bit to be desired, compared to some of his stronger material. However, he suggested that's simply part of what drives him, revealing he works on almost 50 tracks for each album, and makes sure each one is better than the previous to earn its keep on the finished product. He explained: "You're not going to hit it every single time, and that's why, when I record an album, I do probably close to 50 songs. "Each song I record has to get better. If it's not better than the last song that I made, it'll usually linger for a couple of months, and then it'll be put on the backburner, and then there'll be another song that I do, and then it often doesn't make it on the album." 'Revival' is released on December 15.



Rak-Su to collaborate with Little Mix?

Rak-Su have hinted they could be collaborating with fellow 'X Factor' stars Little Mix. The popular four piece - made up of childhood friends Mustafa Rahimtulla, Ashley Fongho, Jamaal Shurland and Myles Stephenson - received advice from the girl group who won the ITV talent show in 2011 and would love the chance to team up with them on a track. Speaking about the advice they got from Leigh-Anne Pinnoch from the 'Shout Out To My Ex' group, they said: "The Girls from Little Mix have actually been really helpful. There's not been a great deal of interaction. I think you bumped into Leigh-Anne [Pinnoch] once, didn't you?! yeah, I bumped into her and she was just saying just kinda trust the process. There can be a lot going on but just keep your head down and keep working hard. The lads have set their sights high on collaborators for the future, with the likes of Jay-Z, Frank Ocean and Camila Cabello on their wish-list. When asked who they'd like to duet with, the foursome told music show 'BeBox': "There are so many artists we'd like to work with, in the future. "All the people we kinda grew up listening to and that our tastes have been moulded by like Usher, Babyface, Jay-Z, Skepta, Frank Ocean, Camilla Cabello. I mean she's good init, Little Mix there's actually so many." Rak-Su shot straight to number one with their original winners' charity single 'Dimelo', which features Wyclef Jean and Naughty Boy, within 24 hours of winning the contest. They will make live debut since winning the competition at Capital's Jingle Bell Ball with Coca-Cola at London's The O2 yesterday. The group - who had five songs in the top 10 of the iTunes chart earlier this week - were mentored by Simon Cowell, and he said he's convinced they will become as big as One Direction - who finished third in the 2010 series of the show, and have gone on to sell more than 70 million records. Ashley of the group explained recently: "I think for us, we knew who we wanted to be and we knew who we wanted to be going onto the show and obviously we saw it as a good opportunity to get some exposure for ourselves, we didn't know it was going to go this far. I think we were just fortunate in that when we said we wanted to do our own songs, the staff were kind of like: 'OK, if it's really what you want to do, it's a risk but fine."



Lifestyle | Gossip

Bruno eyes Eddie Murphy for biopic

Frank Bruno wants Eddie Murphy to play him in the film of his life. The 56-year-old former boxer revealed there is a script for a biopic about him and though it's still in its early days, he already knows who he wants to see in the leading role. He told BANG Showbiz: "The film is very early days, we are talking. But to make a film is quite a long process, you've got to get funding and etc, so very early days yet we don't have a director or anything like that. "The script is on the table but we're not sure what we're going to do, hopefully it will be made in Britain, that makes sense. Lenny Henry would be good. I'd like to see Eddie Murphy do it really, get him out of retirement. Eddie has been settling down but we need him back." Frank is currently busy working with Heineken on their Brewing Good Cheer campaign which aims to reduce social isolation over the Christmas period, which will see an estimated nine million people spending a large proportion of the festive holiday alone. This campaign will see 50 pubs across the country put on a free Christmas lunch for hundreds of socially isolated people and Frank visited The White Horse pub in Brixton, South London, near his former childhood home and old gym to see how the establishment is helping vulnerable people this December, spending time chatting with locals. Frank was joined by members of Opening Doors, a support network for elderly people in the LGBT community, and people from Sound Minds, a charity that uses art, music and film to help people deal with depression or other mental illnesses. The beloved pugilist - who documented his own battle with mental health and struggle against loneliness in his memoirs 'Let Me Be Frank' - said of his visit: "Without the strong support and safety net of my friends and supporters I wouldn't be standing in front of you today."



Karen Gillan spends four hours getting into make-up for Nebula

Karen Gillan spends four hours getting into costume for her 'Guardians of the Galaxy' character. The 30-year-old actress portrays the assassin alien named Nebula in the fantasy franchise, and she is set to reprise her role in the highly-anticipated 'Avengers: Infinity War' movie, which is slated for release next year. But the star has revealed it is a painstakingly long process preparing for the movies as she sits in hair and make-up to get blue skin "stuck" to her face for numerous hours each day. Speaking on ITV's 'This Morning' on Friday, Gillan said: "I've been in there [Marvel Cinematic Universe] for a little while now, nearly five years playing this blue bald character. "It takes four hours in the morning of having a skin stuck on my face." 'Avengers: Infinity War' will see the hero squad, which includes Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen), Vision (Paul Bettany), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), join forces with the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' troop to save the Earth. The two teams will have to work together to fight intergalactic tyrant Thanos, but they will also receive a helping hand from Spider-Man (Tom Holland), Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman), Dr Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), as well as Captain Marvel (Brie Larson), which will mark the 28-year-old star's debut in a Marvel production. And Gillan has teased the forthcoming movie is going to be "the most epic, cinematic event of all time". Speaking previously to BANG Showbiz, she said: "It's amazing. It's going to be the most epic, cinematic event of all time." Gillan has had a busy year as she has not only been shooting 'Avengers: Infinity War', she has also been filming 'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle', which sees her portray Ruby Roundhouse. And though Gillan underwent gruelling fitness sessions in preparation for the follow up to the 1995 original movie, which starred the late Robin Williams, she fears she has taken her foot off the pedal and Nebula may be a "little less in shape" than in the previous two installments. She said: "When I was shooting this I was just training every second that I had. "I was doing a lot of fight choreography and dance lessons basically so it was actually really intense but I've calmed down a little bit. Nebula might be a little less in shape these days."



Tarantino's 'Star Trek' to be R rated

Quentin Tarantino's 'Star Trek' movie will be R rated. Following reports the 'Pulp Fiction' director had shared his idea for the next Starship Enterprise story with J.J. Abrams and was keen to direct, Deadline claims Tarantino has already met with writers. But the 'Kill Bill' filmmaker is insisting on an R rating - and Paramount and Abrams are said to have agreed to this condition. Big budget blockbusters traditionally edit films to be no higher than a PG-13 (12A) in order to maximize their audience. Tarantino's films have mostly been R rated - which means at least a 15 certificate in the UK - due to their use of extreme profanity and violence. This bold new move could see a very different tone to the banter on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise in the next installment. The 'Reservoir Dogs' director is also reported to have spent several hours discussing his plot idea with writers including Mark L. Smith, who is now thought to be the front-runner to pen the script. He is best known for writing epic western 'The Hateful Eight' which won Leonardo DiCaprio his first ever Oscar after years of being nominated but going home empty handed. Also said to be in the room were 'Godzilla vs. Kong' writer Lindsey Beer, and 'Iron Man 3' scribe Drew Pearce. Tarantino is also in the process of prepping a movie about Charles Manson, which he had begun work on before the cult leader died in November this year.

Marshall in line to direct The Little Mermaid

Rob Marshall is currently the top choice to direct Disney's live-action remake of 'The Little Mermaid'. The 57-year-old filmmaker - who helmed Academy Award winning 'Chicago' and recently directed 'Mary Poppins Returns' - looks to be taken on the next Disney live-action remake of the 1989 classic, Deadline reports. 'The Little Mermaid' follows Princess Ariel - a mermaid who has an obsession with the human world above sea level - who, on one of her visits to the surface, falls in love with Prince Eric after she rescued him from drowning. Determined to be with her new love, Ariel makes a deal with the sea witch Ursula to become a human for three days but has to give up her voice for payment. The deal turns sour when it turns out Ursula's plan was to use the naïve princess to take control over the seas from King Triton. The original classic featured songs including 'Under the Sea' - which won the Academy Award for Best Song - and 'Part of Your World'. The film also earned four Golden Globe nominations including Best Picture - Comedy or Musical and won the awards for Best Song and Best Score. In the upcoming remake, 'Hamilton' creator Lin-Manuel Miranda - who also provided the music for Disney's 'Moana' - will score new songs along with Disney regular Alan Menken. Although it is unclear as to whether the new film will follow the same story as the original, 'Kick-Ass' scribe Jane Goldman is writing the script. This project joins Disney's ever-growing franchise of live-action reboots, which has included 'Maleficent', 'Cinderella', 'The Jungle Book' and most recently, the box office smash 'Beauty and the Beast'. Among the other remakes being lined up are 'The Lion King', 'Mulan' and 'Dumbo'. — Bang Showbiz



Hamm wants Batman gig



Jon Hamm is reportedly "desperate" to takeover from Ben Affleck as Batman in the DC Extended Universe. The pair previously starred alongside each other in 2010's 'The Town' and are believed to have remained friends ever since, but a source says that won't stop the 'Baby Driver' actor audition for the part should Affleck step down from the role as The Caped Crusader. An insider told Radar Online: "This is business for Jon - not personal. (Ben and Jon) enjoyed working together and have been on good terms since. "But Jon knows Ben faced some criticism over 'Batman v Superman' and 'Justice League', and frankly thinks he'd be better suited for the job ... Of course, Ben's not officially out of the role yet, but the writing's on the wall, and Jon's desperate for the gig - friend or not." On Friday, Affleck admitted he doesn't know if he will continue playing the superhero. The 45-year-old actor has starred as Batman in two films so far, 'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice' and the upcoming 'Justice League' and also cameoed in both 'Suicide Squad' and 'Wonder Woman', but is non-the-wiser what the future holds for his character. He said: "I don't know about that. We'll see what the future holds." Affleck will be seen once again as Batman alongside Gal Gadot (Wonder Woman), Jason Momoa (Aquaman), Ezra Miller (The Flash), Ray Fisher (Cyborg) and Henry Cavill (Superman) in ensemble superhero movie 'Justice League' which hits cinemas this month. Affleck is also due to be Bruce Wayne and his heroic alter ego in 'Justice League 2' and the standalone Batman movie planned by Warner Bros. Pictures, which is being directed by Matt Reeves from a script co-written by Affleck. Recently, Miller admitted he would love to see Jeffrey Dean Morgan be Batman in 'Flashpoint'. The 25-year-old actor is set to get his own standalone film as the speedy superhero, which if it follows the comic storyline of the same name, will explore an alternate universe for the famous characters. 'Flashpoint' involves Barry Allen aka The Flash travelling back in time and saving his mother's life, creating a radical new reality where the Justice League never formed. With the new reality, heroes and villains have swapped places, while characters like Aquaman and Wonder Woman have become competing warlords and Batman's father Thomas Wayne takes on a very different version of The Dark Knight.



Nicole Kidman puts kids first

Nicole Kidman gave up her dream Broadway role because her kids didn't want her to take it. The 50-year-old actress was offered the chance to reprise her award-winning West End part from 'Photograph 51' to the New York stage but, after taking Sunday, nine, and six-year-old Faith - who she has with husband Keith Urban - on location to Tasmania to shoot 'Lion' and California for 'Big Little Lies', the girls were desperate to return to their Nashville home. She said: "It was one of the greatest experiences of my life, doing that play in London. And I would have loved to take it to Broadway. But the girls wanted to go home and I make choices for my family - I have to." And the Oscar-winning star admitted one of the reasons she took on the part of Queen Atlanna in the upcoming 'Aquaman' movie - which was shot in Queensland - was because she doesn't really like to take on lead roles any more because they take up too much time. She said: "I needed some irreverent fun after the 'Killing of a Sacred Deer' and 'The Beguiled' but a lot of the choices I make are based on not being the lead, so I'm not on location for long. "The kids don't like the separation so we just keep it together. And Keith is a touring musician - they're used to being on the road. "He's willing to travel and make it work." The family are based in Nashville, meaning the 'Killing of the Sacred Deer' star has to travel more for work, but she insists it's worth it because they can lead such a relaxed lifestyle when she isn't working. She told Red magazine: "It's an easier lifestyle - smaller town, slower pace, which I prefer. It takes work because you have to travel more for your career but it's worth it."



Richardson slams the British movie industry

Miranda Richardson doesn't think the UK has a "thriving movie industry". The 59-year-old actress has starred in a number of British movies and TV series, including 'Chicken Run' and 'Blackadder II' - but she has slammed the country's entertainment business, and has claimed the reason she has moved "about a bit" in the industry is because she doesn't think it is as successful as other places. Speaking to The Guardian newspaper, Richardson said: "Well, everybody's doing everything now, as we know. "I've always thought of work like that. And because we don't have a thriving movie industry here, you've got to move about a bit." Richardson currently stars in 'Stronger' alongside Jake Gyllenhaal, which depicts the life of American author Jeff Bauman who was lost both his legs in the Boston marathon bombing in 2013. In the movie, which was directed by David Gordon Green, Richardson portrays Gyllenhaal's on-screen mother Patty, who is an alcoholic. But Richardson feared she was going overboard in her portrayal of an intoxicated parent. She said: "I'm going to have to disappoint you, because there wasn't much talk about it. "We just did it, and I had to trust that it wasn't too much." The Boston marathon bombing killed three people, but left hundreds of innocent people severely injured and Bauman was among 16 people to lose limbs. The incident only happened four years ago, but Gyllenhaal insists the creative team were "very mindful" when working on the production, although the 36-year-old actor appreciates some people in the audience may think it's too soon to tell the tragic story on the big screen. He previously said: "We have been very mindful with this film. And if people haven't seen it, and don't know what the movie is about, they might think it's too soon [to do a film like this]. But I do understand the sensitivities around it."



Hard history: Mississippi museums explore slavery, Klan era



Media and invited guests were able to get a "sneak peek" into the state's two new history museums, the Museum of Mississippi History, seen, and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, in Jackson, Miss. —AP



A monolith listing the names, dates and rationale for the lynching of African-American residents rests in the foreground of a photograph of a burning Ku Klux Klan cross on display.



Booking photographs of Freedom Riders, stories and images of civil rights activists attempting to register and organize African Americans in the state, mix with a re-created jail cell and police paddy wagon in "A Tremor in the Iceberg," gallery that also features a number of interactive electronic exhibits.

In the 1950s and '60s, segregationist whites waved Confederate flags and slapped defiant bumper stickers on cars declaring Mississippi "the most lied about state in the Union." Those were ways of making a dig against African-Americans who dared challenge racial oppression, and journalists covering the civil rights movement. Decades later, as Mississippi marks its bicentennial, the state is getting an unflinching look at its own complex and often brutal past in two history museums, complete with displays of slave chains, Ku Klux Klan robes and graphic photos of lynchings and firebombings.

The Museum of Mississippi History takes a 15,000-year view, from the Stone Age through modern times. The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum concentrates on a far shorter, but intense span, from 1945 to 1976. They are opening Saturday, the day before the 200th anniversary of Mississippi becoming the 20th state. The two distinct museums under a single roof are both funded by state tax dollars and private donations. Officials insist the museums are not intended to be "separate-but-equal" in a state where that phrase was cynically invoked to maintain segregated school systems for whites and blacks that were separate and distinctly unequal.

"We are telling a much longer story in the Museum of Mississippi History, a much deeper story in the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum," said Katie Blount, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. "We want everybody to walk in one door, side by side, to learn all of our state's stories." The general history museum depicts Native American culture, European settlement, slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction. It examines natural disasters, including the massive Mississippi River flood in 1927 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It also has only-in-Mississippi items such as the crown Mary Ann Mobley wore as Miss America 1959.

1966 KKK firebombing

The museums' opening caps a yearlong bicentennial commemoration. Some events have celebrated Mississippi's success at producing influential authors and musicians, such as William Faulkner, Richard

Wright, B.B. King and Elvis Presley. Others took a critical look slavery and segregation. President Donald Trump is scheduled to attend the museums' opening, a White House official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the trip before it is formally announced. Republican Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant, a Trump supporter, invited the president. The Mississippi NAACP president is asking Bryant to rescind the invitation, with state chapter president Charles Hampton saying "an invitation to a president that has aimed to divide this nation is not becoming of this historic moment."

One of the nation's poorest states, with a population that's 59 percent white and 38 percent black,



There is no flagpole outside the new museums

Mississippi remains divided by one of its most visible symbols. It's the last state with a flag featuring the Confederate battle emblem that critics see as racist. All eight public universities, and several cities and counties, have stopped flying the flag in recent years. There is no flagpole outside the new museums.

Ellie Dahmer (DAY'-mur), the 92-year-old widow of slain civil rights leader Vernon Dahmer, said the Mississippi flag represents an unabashed defense of slavery. She marveled at the existence of the civil rights museum in a state that won't abandon the banner.

A display in the civil rights museum tells of the 1966 KKK firebombing of the Dahmer home outside Hattiesburg after Vernon Dahmer, the local NAACP leader, announced he would pay poll taxes for black

people registering to vote. He fired back at Klansmen who were shooting at his burning house. The family escaped, but Vernon Dahmer's lungs were seared and he died. The couple's 10-year-old daughter was severely burned.

'Mississippi was ground zero'

Parts of the Dahmers' bullet-riddled truck are in the museum with several photos. The Mississippi museum joins several others focused on civil rights: the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta; the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee; the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Alabama; Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Alabama. The National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington has attracted large crowds since opening in September 2016.

Eddie S. Glaude Jr., a 49-year-old Mississippi native who now chairs African-American Studies at Princeton University, said "Mississippi was ground zero" for the civil rights movement, and it's significant that the state is presenting an honest account of its history. "America can't really turn a corner with regards to its racist and violent past and present until the South, and particularly a state like Mississippi, confronts it - and confronts it unflinchingly," Glaude said.

In the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, columns list about 600 documented lynchings in the state - most of them, of black men. The ceiling of one gallery shows racist advertising images from decades ago. Ku Klux Klan robes are on display. So is the remnant of a cross that was burned in 1964 outside the home of white merchants in McComb after they refused to fire black employees who registered to vote. So are the jail mug shots of black and white Freedom Riders, who were arrested in Jackson in 1961 for challenging segregation on interstate buses.

A large display tells about Emmett Till, the black teenager from Chicago who was kidnapped and killed after witnesses said he whistled at a white woman working in a rural Mississippi grocery store in 1955. The central gallery in the civil rights museum provides a hopeful respite: It features an abstract sculpture that's 30 feet (9 meters) tall and lights up as a sound-



A burned cross, a Klan robe and hand bills announcing Klan meetings are among the artifacts that are on display in the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

track plays the folk song, "This Little Light of Mine." As more visitors enter, more voices join the chorus and more lights flicker, symbolizing how one person's work can become part of a larger effort that leads to change. —AP

flydubai announces new destinations in Europe



Catania, Italy



The Greek Theatre of Taormina, Catania



Krakow, Wawel Castle

Dubai-based carrier flydubai yesterday announced the launch of two new European routes for next year: flights to Krakow will start on April 8, 2018 and flights to Catania will start on 13 June 2018. flydubai becomes the first UAE carrier to operate direct flights to these destinations, offering daily flights. With the launch of these new European routes, flydubai's network grows to over 100 destinations in 47 countries.

Ghaith Al-Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai, said: "With the launch of flights to Krakow and Catania, flydubai is committed to open up new direct air links to Dubai and we strive to expand our network to offer our passengers more choice. Our latest route launches are testament to that commitment and demonstrate our efforts in offering our passengers more options to explore our network especially as we see more connecting traffic onto our network as a result of our interline and codeshare agreements."

Flights to Krakow will start in April 2018 and will further grow the carrier's Eastern and Central European network, which includes Belgrade, Bratislava, Bucharest, Prague, Skopje, Sarajevo and Sofia. flydubai's European network includes 24 destinations. Krakow is known for its scenic old town, featuring the city's well preserved medieval core

where visitors can enjoy a walk around the remains of the city walls or Poland's largest city park: Planty.

flydubai further diversifies its network by opening up direct air links to Italy. Flights to Catania will start in June 2018 and mark the first time the Dubai-based carrier operates flights to the South of Europe. Catania is located on Italy's most popular island,



First time flydubai operates to Italy and Poland

Sicily, and offers travellers from Dubai and the GCC a great variety of activities including exploring Catania's historic sites or a hike up to the summit of Mount Etna, Italy's well-known volcano.

Emirates will codeshare on both routes and as

part of the Emirates flydubai partnership, each airlines' passengers will have the opportunity to connect in Dubai to hundreds of destinations across the world.

Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President Commercial (UAE, EU, ME, CIS) at flydubai, added: "flydubai will be the first UAE carrier to offer direct flights to Krakow and Catania and we are excited to start operations to the South of Europe for the first time. We have seen increasing demand for our summer destinations this year, so we decided to expand our offering with these new routes. We look forward to start the flights to Krakow and Catania and the new opportunities the new routes will provide for trade and tourism."

To offer passengers more comfort and an enhanced travel experience, the carrier will operate the new routes on its brand-new Boeing 737 MAX 8. flydubai's Boeing 737 MAX 8 was unveiled at the Dubai Airshow in November and will be rolled out across the carrier's fleet upon delivery over the coming years. The MAX 8 will help to improve operational efficiency and overall fleet performance, while offering more flexibility and more comfort for passengers.



Krakow, St Mary's Basilica

France bids emotional farewell to rocker Hallyday



Relatives arrive outside the La Madeleine Church prior to the funeral ceremony in tribute to late French singer Johnny Hallyday yesterday in Paris. —AFP photos



Son of late French singer Johnny Hallyday David Hallyday (right), daughter Laura Smet (second right), Johnny's wife Laeticia (second left), their daughters Jade (left) and Joy (third right) stand by the coffin outside the Eglise de la Madeleine (Madeleine Church) at the start of the funeral ceremony.



People gather outside the La Madeleine Church prior to the funeral ceremony.



People gather outside the La Madeleine Church.



People throw white roses during a 'popular homage' to late French singer Johnny Hallyday as his coffin is driven down the Champs-Elysees avenue.

France paid an emotional farewell yesterday to Johnny Hallyday—the singer who taught the country how to rock—in a highly theatrical “people’s tribute” that brought Paris to a standstill. Tens of thousands of people lined the Champs Elysees to watch his white coffin, escorted by some 700 bikers, descend the great ceremonial avenue in what was a state funeral in all but name. Diehard fans of the leather-clad “French Elvis” began to gather overnight in the center of the French capital for an outpouring of emotion for a singer not seen since the death of Edith Piaf.

As the huge cortege paused in front of the grand Madeleine church where French President Emmanuel Macron waited on the steps with the singer’s family, the throng—many in tears—began chanting over and over, “Johnny, Johnny, Johnny Hallyday”. “Because he loved France he would have loved this,” Macron declared as the coffin was laid on the steps of the church before the crowd. “He was part of us, part of France... its prodigal son who suffered terribly, furiously on stage for us. Johnny was ours... because Johnny was a lot more than a singer, he was life,” the president added.

Hallyday, once condemned as the rock ‘n’ roll “corrupter of youth” who went on to become a very French cultural icon, died of lung cancer on Wednesday. With an untipped Gitanes cigarette often at his lip, he held France entranced for five decades with his spectacular stage shows and equally colorful private life, reinventing himself for each generation. A huge portrait of the singer hung from the facade of the grand Madeleine church, with fans—hundreds of whom had spent the night in the surrounding streets—singing his songs and doing the twist to keep warm on a bright but freezing cold morning. Television stations cleared their schedules to broadcast the “people’s tribute” live, ensuring that the “beast of the stage”, who sold more than 110 million records, went out with one last big show.

Pop cultural idol

The ceremony will end with a concert by his band in front of the Madeleine, which also hosted Chopin’s funeral in 1849. That the French government had to

invent a new type of ceremony to honor the singer, who was almost unknown outside the French-speaking world, speaks volumes about his pop cultural cachet. “He was someone who really counted in French people’s lives,” said former president Nicolas Sarkozy, a huge fan who officiated at the singer’s fifth marriage and tried to lure him back from tax exile.

“For lots of people Johnny represents the idea of happiness. He leaves a huge hole,” he added. But for some in Hallyday’s white working-class fan base, the fact that he will be buried in the French Caribbean island of Saint Barts—where he had a home—added to the heartache. Veteran French pop star Michel Polnareff, an old friend of the star’s, said Friday that he found it “strange that his fans should be deprived of Johnny” in this way. Others found it hard to swallow that an idol adored for his “ordinariness and simplicity” should be laid to rest in a millionaires’ hideaway. His body will be flown to the island on Sunday morning and buried on Monday.

Fans’ grief

One fan, Francois Le Lay, told AFP that “we would have preferred if he was buried in Paris, but if Johnny wanted that, we will respect it”. “My wife and I will put the money aside that we would have spent going to his concerts so we can fly to Saint Barts one day,” he said. Other fans

demanding that a monument be built in France to the star, who was abandoned by his parents as a baby and brought up by an aunt and uncle, who were cabaret performers. While not all French people were taken by his often derivative American-rooted rock, with one critic labeling him “France’s independent musical nuclear deterrent”, his mark on national life was undeniable.

“There is a before and after Johnny Hallyday,” said Michka Assayas, author of the “New Dictionary of Rock”. Philosopher Raphael Enthoven said it was difficult to overplay the effect of Hallyday’s passing. “He was an idol. His death is that of a god who was in fact mortal,” he told French radio. “People say they can’t believe he is dead because their belief in him will never die. Many people never believed that Elvis died. It’s the same for Johnny.” —AFP

Why do the French love Johnny Hallyday?

France bid farewell yesterday to rock star Johnny Hallyday, in a huge ceremony for a cultural icon akin to a French Elvis Presley. But if you asked people outside the French-speaking world who Hallyday was, most would greet you with a blank stare. AFP explains the “Johnny” phenomenon, and why the singer’s death has sparked such an emotional outpouring in France.

Why did France love his music?

Hallyday is the man who brought American-style rock ‘n’ roll to conservative post-war France, releasing his first record in 1960 and going on to sell 110 million. He acted as a French-American cultural translator, copying Presley’s quiff and leather trousers while belting out French versions of songs like “House of the Rising Sun”. He also moved with the times—veering over the years from rock to prog and blues—and was almost a caricature of a rock star, complete with the drug problems and tumultuous love life.

Hallyday may be best loved by the baby-boomers who came of age with him, and his power ballads were sometimes mocked as outdated. But even though he had long since gone from being a heart-throb to a grandfatherly figure, even the young can still sing along to his biggest hits.

Is it just about the songs?

No. For many of those mourning, it’s more about what he symbolized. Like Elvis and the Beatles, Hallyday shot to fame in the 1960s as a symbol of youthful rebellion in a society that was shaking off the war and learning to loosen up. And he was simply around for so long—both on the stage and on the front covers of gossip magazines, having wed four women, one of them twice—that for many it feels like the end of an era.

For others, Johnny provided markers in their lives from listening to his songs as children in the car on family holidays or attending his concerts as adults. Much like France itself, he also had his ups and downs. “If the artistic quality of his work remains a matter of debate, his ability to capture the contradictions of French society is obvious,” sociologist Jean-Luc Fabiani wrote in *Le Monde*. “His songs capture vulnerability and indecision, strokes of bad luck, and a capacity for resilience.”

Is he really universally beloved?

It would be an exaggeration to say the entire nation is in mourning—many young music fans in particular met his passing with indifference. Hallyday also unleashed a political storm in 2006 for his decision to move into tax exile in Switzerland. And he was often ridiculed by comedians as being rather stupid, though he insisted to AFP: “I’m not nearly as dumb as people think.”

How has France reacted to his death?

TV schedules were hastily cleared for tribute shows as news of his death at 74 broke, and his songs are set to blare out before this weekend’s football matches. There were some calls for him to be granted a state funeral, but the presidency instead said he would be sent off with “people’s tribute” in Paris. Hundreds of motorcyclists will accompany his coffin on its way down the Champs Elysees—Johnny was a life-long biker who adored his Harley—and President Emmanuel Macron will speak in church.

In the press, there has been a flood of pieces about his qualities as a unifying cultural figure, with Macron himself declaring: “There is something of Johnny in all of us.”

Why is he so unknown outside France?

This is something of a puzzle. His cult status was not dissimilar to that of stars like Edith Piaf or Serge Gainsbourg who are much better known abroad. Some have suggested it’s because he was so insistent on trying to copy American stars rather than sticking to “being French”. “There was something comical about his determination to copy—and some would say murder—every passing fashion in Anglo-Saxon popular music,” John Lichfield wrote in the *Guardian*.

Hallyday longed to make it big in the US and recorded his third album in English. He moved his family to Los Angeles in 2010 — saying he loved going incognito—and remained cheerful about his failure to crack America. “My international career? It’ll happen if it happens,” Hallyday once told AFP. “But I don’t especially want to succeed elsewhere. It’s better to be king in one’s own country than a prince elsewhere.” —AFP



Motorcyclists ride their bikes during a 'popular homage' to late French singer Johnny Hallyday.



(From second left to right) French singer Maxim Nucci aka Yodelice, French singer Line Renaud, French actress and humorist Muriel Robin and her partner French actress Anne Le Nen, arrive at La Madeleine Church.



People carry the coffin in the La Madeleine Church at the start of the funeral ceremony in tribute to late French singer Johnny Hallyday.

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017



People gather outside the La Madeleine Church prior to the funeral ceremony in tribute to late French singer Johnny Hallyday yesterday in Paris. — AFP

Saudi Arabia finds its funny bone with stand-up comedy

Saudis took the stage one by one to poke fun at the world—and themselves—introducing a hissing, cackling audience to an art form widely unknown in the conservative kingdom: stand-up comedy. Chuckles and squeals ran through the crowd at a rare amateur comedy festival last week in the capital Riyadh, organized by the official General Entertainment Authority, the main engine of social reforms sweeping the kingdom. The authority is boosting entertainment options like never before, from a Comic-Con festival to concerts by female musicians, helping shed the kingdom's austere reputation and introducing many Saudis to a novel concept—having fun in public.

"I am a jobless dentist," 26-year-old Battar Al-Battar said in a slow, deadpan delivery on stage to a smiling audience. "My prayers have been answered. I see lots of braces in this

crowd." Next up was a short, corpulent man, equally deadpan as he took on the skewed power relations between the sexes in the patriarchal kingdom. "I called my fiancée to say: 'Listen, I am the man. If I eat dust, you eat dust'."

"She hung up. A week passed by. I heard nothing. 'In a panic I texted her: 'I am not the man! Take me back!' 'Men in the audience—as well as women sitting across the aisle—erupted in laughter. The festival would hardly be unusual if it weren't in Saudi Arabia, typically stereotyped as a nation of stern, unsmiling hardliners. "The common perception is that Saudis don't have a funny bone," Yaser Bakr, a festival jury member and founder of the kingdom's first comedy club, told AFP. "Saudis love to laugh. Numbers don't lie," he said, scrolling through a list of Saudi comedy videos on his mobile's YouTube app, each with hundreds of thousands

'Comedy cleanses the soul'

The venue for the five-day festival, Riyadh's King Fahd Cultural Centre, was like a bubble of laughing gas over the course of the performances. The festival, a talent-hunt of sorts for Saudi Arabia's own version of "Seinfeld", was a rare attempt to introduce stand-up comedy to the masses. Aside from a handful of Saudi YouTube comedy stars, performers are largely struggling without theatres and entertainment companies, as well as a lack of mass awareness of the art form. "Many people think comedy is only sex jokes. We are trying to change that," festival director Jubran Al-Jubran told AFP.

"Saudi Arabia needs to cultivate this art. Comedy has a purifying effect, it cleanses the soul. It's a relief to laugh about our own problems." But the audience was only mildly amused by cringe-worthy jokes and low-brow humor from some performers. None of the participants



Saudi members of the Stand-up Comedy Festival, Yusuf Aljarrah (left), Faisal Alamer (center) and Yasser Baker stand on stage during the amateur comedy festival at the Riyadh's King Fahd Cultural Centre.

breached what are typically considered red lines in the conservative kingdom—sex, religion and politics.

But some deftly pulverized a few old stereotypes associated with Saudis, including perceived links to extremists, while others dared to mock the once-untouchable elites. "When I first came to Riyadh I was afraid they would lock me up in the Ritz," quipped Rakain Al-Zafer, one of the performers, prompting sniggers and groans from the audience. Riyadh's opulent Ritz-Carlton hotel has become a gilded prison for dozens of princes, ministers and tycoons swept up in an anti-corruption purge. The joke resonates with most Saudis—except perhaps those locked inside reflecting a strong public revulsion for the elite.

decades-long ban. Legendary Greek composer and pianist Yanni performed to a packed mixed-gender audience in Riyadh last week, accompanied by female vocalists. The change chimes with Prince Mohammed's recent pledge to return Saudi Arabia to an "open, moderate Islam" and destroy extremist ideologies. Expanding on the prince's comment, Jubran said: "We aim to destroy extremism through comedy, by making people laugh." — AFP



Saudi comedian Nawaf Al-Qahtani performs on stage during the Stand-up Comedy Festival at the Riyadh's King Fahd Cultural Centre. — AFP photos



Saudi comedian Abdullah Barqawi performs on stage.



A picture taken on December 6, 2017 shows Lebanese singer Hiba Tawaji performing during the first ever female concert in the capital Riyadh at the King Fahd Cultural Center in the Saudi capital Riyadh. — AFP



Saudi comedian Abdulrahman Al-Soumaili performs on stage.



Saudi comedian Hashim Housawi performs on stage.



Saudi comedian Barakat Al-Asiri performs on stage.