

**3** US urged to restore impartiality in Middle East peace process



**6** Egypt revives dream of new desert capital



**32** WWE announces signing first Kuwaiti competitor



**16** Otamendi wins derby to fire Man City 11 points clear



# Expatriates shun public hospitals as hike bites

Private hospitals cash in • Health insurers eye windfall

By Chidi Emmanuel and Sajeev K Peter

## Kuwait looking into importing Iraqi natural gas

By Faten Omar and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait is looking into ways to import Iraqi natural gas and is negotiating a deal on the final price, said Kuwaiti Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq yesterday. Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the 99th meeting of the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), Marzouq revealed that importing gas from Iraq will be carried out through a new network of pipelines that will replace an old system.

Continued on Page 11



**KUWAIT:** Ministers pose for a group photo during a meeting of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**KUWAIT:** At Sabah Hospital, it is no longer business as usual. The wards appear to be empty with few patients around. At the male ward, Kuwait Times spoke to one of the patients (or rather the only patient) in a room that usually accommodates at least eight, as he packed his things to leave the hospital. "I can't afford to pay KD 10 per day - it's not worth it. I would rather go to a private hospital," said Afzal, a Pakistani expat. At the Al-Razi Hospital too, the halls were quiet and mostly empty.

Hospital staff may be glad over the reduced number of patients, but the expat medical staff is not happy with the increase in fees, which they too must pay. From Sabah Hospital to Adan Hospital, the mood appears to be the same. "Why should I pay KD 10 just for a mere consultation?" asked a male nurse who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "I have been working here at Adan Hospital for nine years. I have never seen anything more demoralizing than this," he added, referring to the hike in medical fees.

The new medical fees stipulate that all expatriates including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, medical lab technicians, etc. pay KD 10 (instead of KD 2) at hospitals and an extra KD 10 for each day an expat stays in the hospital.

Continued on Page 11

## Cabinet almost ready; Assembly session fails over govt no-show

By B Izzak and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah has almost completed the formation of his new government, and the Cabinet is expected to be officially announced and sworn-in by HH the Amir today. The new Cabinet, according to well-informed sources, includes many new faces, with the main highlight being the inclusion of Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the eldest son of the Amir, in his first ministerial posting.

Sheikh Nasser, 69, who has been minister of the Amiri Diwan since early 2006 - a post not in the Cabinet - will become the first deputy premier and defense minister, the most senior post in the Cabinet after the prime minister. Most of the members of the previous Cabinet have either been left out or reshuffled to new posts. The sources explained Sheikh Jaber agreed to include Jenan Bushehri - a former member of the Municipal Council - in the Cabinet as minister of



**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem adjourns yesterday's session due to lack of quorum. — KUNA

housing, replacing Yasser Abul. Sheikh Jaber also thought it would be best to exclude former nominee and Municipal Council member Ali Al-Moussa after he settled on appointing another former Municipal Council member Hossam Al-Roumi as minister of public works.

The sources added that some Rasheed tribe members asked the PM to appoint one of their qualified members as minister, and the PM considered appointing MP Ali Al-Deqbasi, but on second thoughts decided to retain Mohammed Al-Jabri in office. He finally agreed to appoint Bakheet Al-Rasheed as oil minister.

Continued on Page 11

## New protests flare over US Jerusalem declaration

**JERUSALEM:** New protests flared in the Middle East and elsewhere yesterday over US President Donald Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a move that has drawn global condemnation and sparked days of unrest in the Palestinian territories. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has repeatedly warned of the consequences of Trump's move, also lashed out by calling Israel a "terrorist state" that "kills children". Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking at a press conference with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris, hit back, calling Erdogan a leader who "bombs Kurdish villagers" and "helps terrorists".

Trump's announcement on Wednesday has been followed by days of protests and clashes in the Palestinian territories. Four Palestinians were killed either in clashes or by Israeli air strikes in retaliation for rockets fired from the Gaza Strip. Yesterday, a Palestinian stabbed an Israeli security guard at Jerusalem's central bus station, leaving him in a serious condition. The Palestinian was arrested.

Tens of thousands have also protested in Muslim and Arab countries, including Jordan, Turkey, Pakistan and Malaysia. Further protests were held in countries including Lebanon, Indonesia, Egypt and Morocco as well as the Palestinian territories yesterday. Lebanese



**BEIRUT:** Lebanese security forces fire tear gas to disperse protestors as a fire burns in a dumpster during a demonstration outside the US embassy in Awkar yesterday. — AFP

security forces fired tear gas and water cannons at several hundred demonstrators near the American embassy. Tens of thousands rallied in Morocco's capital Rabat, many waving Palestinian flags.

In Jakarta, some 5,000 Indonesians protested in solidarity with the Palestinians, gathering outside the US embassy in the world's most-populous Muslim country. Students and professors in Cairo demonstrated at the prestigious Al-Azhar University, a university spokesman said, with pictures on social media showing several hundred protesters.

Continued on Page 11

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# Amir receives OAPEC oil ministers

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday OAPEC oil ministers participating in an OAPEC meeting in Kuwait. Kuwaiti Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq and Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah were present at the meeting.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with oil ministers participating in an OAPEC meeting in Kuwait yesterday. — KUNA

## Germany praises Kuwait's diplomacy for hosting GCC summit

**KUWAIT:** Germany praised Kuwait's diplomacy for hosting the recently GCC summit, as it also strongly supports Kuwait mediation efforts in the region. "Just the fact that a meeting on this level would take place, it will allow a united voice back again. It's another success for Kuwaiti mediation here in the region, so we strongly support such mediation," German Ambassador to Kuwait, Karlfried Bergner said in an interview.

"First I would like to congratulate His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti diplomacy for hosting the GCC summit. There were many people involved in making this summit happen. We think just the fact that a meeting on this level will take place is already big progress in the Gulf affairs, this is another success for the Kuwaiti mediation, it will allow the Gulf to find its united voice back again, so we strongly support this mediation," Bergner underlined.

When asked about Germany's role in the region and in the Gulf crisis, Bergner said, "as you know, Germany is following up developments in the region very closely, our foreign minister was twice here in the region last April, and at the start of last July, and he is thoroughly following this issue, and he has strong interests in it. But as you know, like Kuwait, we have a caretaking government, Germany went through an election last September, but the minister remains active and he follows developments very closely, and he appreciates all of His Highness the Amir efforts in this mediation."

"On one hand it was a serious situation, it affected not only the countries involved, but also for example Germany, and other countries, because it basically was hurting business and political interests because it's a unified Gulf Cooperation Council. On the other hand, we know that the GCC have gone through rough patches in the past, so we are confident it will overcome these problems," Bergner noted.

On bilateral relations, the ambassador noted that on a political level both countries are on one page. "We will continue to do so; Germany will have a very prominent role in the conference on Iraq that will take place in February here. We are very much involved in the reconstruction in Iraq, so we are very much involved politically with Kuwait. I also commend the (Kuwaiti) government in continuing its long-term infrastructure projects with

Germany. I think this will be good for the Kuwaiti economy, it will open perspectives and opportunities for German companies." Thirdly, "I still hope we would improve cultural cooperation. We hope that the project for the University of Munich in Kuwait will actually take hold at the beginning of next year."

On the ongoing process of forming a government in Germany, Bergner said, "frankly speaking, the voters now have been split now more than ever. We have now six or seven parties in parliament. We used to have three to four, where it's more difficult to form a government."

However, "it's early now to speculate, we hope to see a coalition government, but this is difficult, I am quite confident now that we will make it through." In response to US President Donald Trump's decision to relocate the embassy to Jerusalem, Bergner said, "we clearly stick to the agreed way. Our embassy will remain in Tel Aviv, I think we have no plans to follow that, and I think it will test the patience of the Palestinian authority very much, if such a move would happen." On Iran and the nuclear deal, the ambassador said, "We don't think that Iran has not complied with the nuclear deal, so we don't see any need to reconsider the nuclear deal, and we are strongly in favor of keeping it up, because it's the best solution." On Yemen, Bergner noted that the situation there is tense and unstable, but stressed importance on the humanitarian aspect there, due to famine in many areas. — KUNA

## Top European lawmaker says Kuwait qualified for Schengen exemption

**BRUSSELS:** The President of the Belgian Senate Christine Defraigne has reiterated her strong support that Kuwaiti citizens be exempted from the Schengen visa for the EU. She expressed her position during a luncheon that she hosted in honor of Kuwait's ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, NATO and EU, Jassem Al-Budaiwi, at the Belgian Senate yesterday.

Budaiwi said that Defraigne said Kuwait is a strong candidate and qualified for exemption from Schengen visa and that she will raise this matter with relevant authorities. Over the luncheon, the Belgian Senate President expressed appreciation for being cordially received by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during her visit to Kuwait last November.

She lauded the Amir as a "wise and mod-

erate leader," noting that His Highness is exerting all efforts to calm down the situation in the region. Defraigne also expressed thanks to Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem for the fruitful discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral ties. During her visit, she also met His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and former Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as she discussed with them a number of important subjects of mutual interest.

She underlined Belgium's interests in strengthening bilateral ties with Kuwait and in boosting economic, trade and political cooperation. Meanwhile, Ambassador Budaiwi informed Defraigne that a number of high-ranking visits from Kuwait to Belgium are in the pipeline for early next year. Among others, Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister Khaled Al-Jarallah is expected to visit Brussels early 2018.

Ambassador Budaiwi underlined that both Belgium and Kuwait see eye-to-eye on most regional and international issues and support all efforts to establish peace and security in the world. "Both Belgium and Kuwait are very keen to move the ties to higher levels," he added. — KUNA

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## Local

# Rights activist awarded for humanitarian work

## Humanitarian Rights and the Rule of Law prize

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti national Abdullah Al-Khonaini was named among 15 candidates from various countries as the recipient for this year's Humanitarian Rights and the Rule of Law prize given by the Franco-German Council of Ministers. Khonaini was selected for his role in civil society and his work with several non-governmental organizations.

Khonaini has been part of Sout Al-Kuwait (Voice of Kuwait) for the last nine years. Sout Al-Kuwait is a non-governmental organization that aims to promote constitutional awareness. He also co-founded the 'Raqib50' (Parliamentarian Watcher), an online non-profit website that holds parliamentarians accountable by making their records accessible to the public and co-founded 'Meem3' (M), which aims to challenge censorship and self-censorship in Kuwait.

Speaking with the Kuwait Times after the awards ceremony held at Al-Hamra Tower in Kuwait City, Khonaini said that he was elated to be the recipient of this year's award. "I feel honored for this citation. I would like to dedicate this award to all Kuwaitis and for all human rights and rule of law-loving people.

This award will not be possible without the support of each person in my NGO works. I am proud to receive this prize, which is the first in the Middle East," he noted.

Khonaini emphasized: "Receiving such an award comes with great responsibility. I want to continue my work and hopefully to be the inspiration for my brothers and sisters in Kuwait whatever nationalities they may be."

The Franco-German Humanitarian Rights and the Rule of Law awards was established in April 2016 with the Franco-German Council of Ministers. The prize was first awarded in December 2016 to committed human rights defenders around the world who have done outstanding work in their respective countries to uphold human rights and the rule of law.

Karlfried Bergner, German Ambassador to Kuwait said that Khonaini's selection was not an accident but a product of a thorough selection process. "We want to give the awards alongside with the celebration of International Humanitarian Rights Day, which we celebrate every 10 December. He was selected

because he embodied the epitome of human rights defenders and rule of law. We are happy that for the first time, Kuwait was selected," the envoy said.

Ambassador Bergner added that Khonaini is involved in many NGOs to protect the rights of the people. "Hopefully this prize will serve as encouragement to all the human rights defenders around the world," he concluded. The French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle also attended the event.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti national Abdullah Al-Khonaini (center) poses with German Ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner and French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

“Award comes with great responsibility”

### News in brief

#### 'Fashionista' found with drugs

**KUWAIT:** A social media 'fashionista' was caught at Kuwait International Airport upon her return from Beirut with four hashish joints. Customs officers noticed she was nervous and could not talk straight. Her luggage was searched and the illicit substance was found in her purse. She was sent to concerned authorities for further legal action.



#### Multiple charges

A citizen was sent to Abu Halaifa police station to be charged with possession of fire arms, attempt to escape from police, damaging a police vehicle and DWI. During a routine traffic stop, the suspect was asked by patrolmen to slow down. Instead he refused and collided his vehicle with the police patrol before hitting the pavement. The man then pointed a gun at the officer and received a round of fire warning. He was arrested after a failed attempt to escape.

#### Thieves steal money

Forensics officers went to the house of a citizen in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, and a company in Salmiya to look for evidence left behind by thieves as a total of KD 150,000 were stolen in two separate cases. A citizen told Mubarak Al-Kabeer police that unknown person entered the house and stole KD 61,650 kept in a box by his mother. Detectives are investigating. Meanwhile, cash, cheques and promissory notes worth KD 96,000 were stolen from a company safe in Salmiya. The company was unable to identify a suspect.

#### Cross dresser arrested

Police sent a bedoon male to criminal detectives for dressing as a woman in Qadisiya. A source said police suspected a 'girl' who attempted to escape and when arrested, police discovered that he was a man in woman's clothes.

—Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

## Bangladesh PM thanks Kuwait for project donation

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina Wazed thanked Kuwait for its generous KD 15 million (\$49 million) donation to help fund Shikalbaha power project in her country. During a televised broadcast at the site of the project east of Bangladesh, Wazed also expressed gratitude towards the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) for its numerous contributions to the development of Bangladesh.

Delivering a statement during the project's opening ceremony, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bangladesh Adel Hayat said that the project would help increase the capacity of Bangladesh's national electric network to around 225 megawatts. KFAED provided 17 percent of the total cost of the project which is estimated at \$301 million (around KD 91 million), said the Ambassador. —KUNA

## MPW honors retired engineers

**KUWAIT:** Ministry of Public Works' Assistant Undersecretary for the Maintenance Sector Engineer Mohammad Abdallah bin Nikhi gave credit to ministry employees for their hard work and cooperation which helped the ministry make several achievements in recent years.

Speaking during the honoring ceremony of retired engineers and department directors, Bin Nikhi said "the honorees contributed to enhancing the ministry's performance due to their experience that earned them the ministry's confidence. "We have the right to be proud for organizing such a ceremony during which an elite group of colleagues are honored," he said.

"The honoring is a message of gratitude and recognition for our retired colleagues after their sincere efforts over many years, as they served the march of development that Kuwait witnessed during the past 20 years," he added. Bin Nikhi lauded the retirees' ability to cope with difficulties and pressure during their tenures.



Assistant Undersecretary Mohammad bin Nikhi

## KFSD official inspects new airport project

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Director General of Kuwait Fire Services Directorate Maj Gen Khalid Abdallah Fahad inspected the site of terminal four being built as part of the new Kuwait International Airport project.

He was received at the site by Deputy Director General for Planning and Projects Affairs at the Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) Eng Emad Al-Jlewi, who lauded the continued cooperation between KFSD and DGCA.





## Local

# Zain Platinum Sponsor of 'Start A Business'

## Company to offer 'Zain Business' in partnership with Cisco



Hamad Al-Marzouq

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its Platinum Sponsorship of 'Start A Business' exhibition in collaboration with its strategic partner Cisco. The event, to be held at Kuwait International Fair - Hall 6 in Mishref during 14 -16 December.

Zain's support to the event comes as part of its strategy to dedicate more efforts into supporting and empowering Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, as well as take part in initiatives that contribute to infusing creativity within the entrepreneurial community through partnering with entities that aim at develop-

ing it. Commenting on Zain's participation, Zain Kuwait's Chief Enterprise Business Officer Hamad Al-Marzouq said: "Zain is aware of the important role private sector companies play in supporting the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Small-Office and Home-Office business (SOHO) segments, especially that Zain is one of the leading national companies in the private sector. Our participation today showcases Zain's keenness in developing the Kuwaiti entrepreneurial community."

Marzouq added: "during our participation in 'Start A Business' and in collabora-

tion with our strategic partner Cisco, we will be offering our 'Zain Business' services and solutions to visiting entrepreneurs. Our services were specifically designed to meet the needs of SME owners, including our Hosted Collaboration Solution (HCS), cloud-based collaboration services, as well as industry-leading voice and video, mobility, messaging and presence services".

Zain's participation in this exhibition comes in line with its core objectives that aim at shouldering the advancement of the community as a whole on all levels, where the company reaffirms the principal of part-

nership through similar efforts with the aim of contributing to the further progress of national economy.

'Start a Business' exhibition mainly aims at encouraging promising entrepreneurs to enhance and better shape their businesses by bringing them together with the biggest service providers in Kuwait under one roof. The event features various ministries, business funding and investment companies, as well as new start-up needs providers such as marketing agencies, graphic designers, food suppliers, industrial suppliers, training providers, and more.

Declare the Truth

## Advice for today's youth



By Dr Yousuf Al-Sultan

local@kuwaittimes.net

The value of any person is directly related to the contributions they make to their family, their society and their homeland. These contributions can be in all sectors of the country and should be made without waiting for praise or recognition. As the late US President John F Kennedy famously said: Ask not what your country can do for you. But rather ask what you can do for your country.

In the past three decades, the socio-political structures of the Islamic nations have been disturbed by repeated waves of disorder and rupture. Atrocities of every kind are cloaked in religious dogmatism, attempting to justify and give approval to all manner of evil including political assassinations, bombings, rape, even the expelling of opponents in the name of Islam. Various disasters, losses, emigrations, etc were the results of such trends. Trends which are in fact far from our Islamic nations, education and attitudes.

Some Arab cities are now home for ghosts and animals. The rebuilding of these cities will be a time consuming, lengthy and costly process.

Thus it is right and necessary that the youth and future generations contribute their ideas, abilities and talent to assist in the development of their homelands.

Moreover, the youth of today should also take on the responsibility of protecting society from further harm. They should fight back against the spread of terrorism, fanatical dogma and fanaticism by reporting such propagandists to the authorities.

They should educate themselves in the hard sciences, conduct scientific research and work on innovations that will further develop and enhance our Arab and Islamic societies while protecting our culture and values. No country can grow and progress without a strict adherence to scientific principles. The Arabs are the original scientists and we should not forget the importance of our past.

Youth today should respect and appreciate the older generations, especially their parents and families as well as friends and colleagues. Rather than associating with ill-mannered people, let the youth seek out that which is moral and just and find those who might guide them in the right path for a clean and better life.

Respect for life, for family and for community also requires a respect for freedom. Freedom of opinion, freedom of the press and definitely, democratic institutions. These are the foundations of a strong and thriving society that can weather any challenges and build a sustainable future.

## Arab youth leaders' forum kicks off in Kuwait

**KUWAIT:** A forum bringing together Arab youth leaders along with academicians and experts opened yesterday, part of ongoing festivities to mark Kuwait as the 'Capital of Arab Youth 2017.' In her opening remarks to kick off the event, Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah touted the nation's youth as leaders-in-waiting, advising them to be relentless in pursuit of success. She revealed that the forum, hosted by the ministry, would feature compelling discussion over how capable youngsters are in bringing change to their societies, which she said can only occur with an earnest desire to turn words into actions. Meanwhile, Alaa Al-Khalifa, the head of the forum, said that the youth have an obligation to make tangible changes to their societies, which is the underlying theme of a forum that also examines core issues such as self-identity and motivation. She pointed out that representatives of 13 Arab nations and 84 delegations have assembled for the event, where the 18-24 demographic is the targeted audience. — KUNA

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Yazidis trapped between Baghdad and the Kurds

## Squaring circles: EU, UK plot next Brexit chapter



Construction workers walk on the side of a newly-built road in Egypt's new administrative capital, located 45 kilometers east of Cairo in an area halfway to the seaport city of Suez. — AFP

# Egypt revives dream of new desert capital

## Only a few Gulf companies and a Chinese partner have expressed interest

**CAIRO:** In Egypt's eastern desert, roads are being carved across vast expanses of sand where the government is building a new administrative capital, a long-cherished project that has failed in the past. The city will be complete with luxury hotels, upscale residential districts, a modern airport and a 345-metre tower, touted as Africa's tallest. The work is being carried out about 45 kilometers east of Cairo, between roads connecting the metropolis to the canal city of Suez and the Red Sea resort town of Ain Sokhna.

Workers are building a district to house a new presidential palace, parliament, 32 ministries and foreign embassies. "I work more than 12 hours a day on this useless construction site," complained one laborer, a scarf wrapped around his head to protect him from the sun. "You want to be on TV? No? Then get back to work," yelled his supervisor. The project, seen as expensive and not a priority for Egyptians, has been

hard to sell, especially given past failures. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in 2015 announced the project to build a new capital, expected to cost some \$45 billion and to be completed by 2022, according to the authorities. The cost has angered many in a country with a crisis-hit economy. The first phase of construction was officially launched in October, with the new capital aiming to expand to 170 square kilometers and house over six million people. For the authorities, the project is a necessity due to Cairo's gradual decay and congestion. With its 18 million inhabitants and constant traffic gridlock, Greater Cairo is expected to see its population bulge to 40 million by 2050, according to official figures.

**Hesitation among investors**  
 "We have a dream," said Khaled El-

Husseiny, contracted by the authorities to present the project to journalists. He said Egypt aspires to have a capital in the gleaming image of Abu Dhabi, the oil-rich



**Cost has angered many in a country with a crisis-hit economy**

capital of the United Arab Emirates. The ministry of defense and the ministry of housing manage the project, including its funding, Husseiny said. To carry it out, the

government is currently focusing on key Egyptian private companies.

Orascom Construction, owned by the billionaire Sawiris family, is responsible for many of the sites. Real estate tycoon Hisham Talaat Moustafa, who Sisi pardoned in June after he was jailed for the murder of a Lebanese pop diva in Dubai almost a decade ago, is also involved. Moustafa, who was an associate of ousted president Hosni Mubarak, has bought two square kilometers for himself in the new capital. But amid hesitation from foreign investors, only a few Gulf companies and a Chinese partner have expressed interest in the project.

"We are very optimistic about the participation of Chinese companies in the new capital," said Han Bing of the commercial affairs section at China's embassy. The China State Construction Engineering

Corporation (CSCEC) in October signed a \$3-billion contract to build a large business centre. "We need the Egyptian partner to promote this area to attract Egyptian and international investment," Han said, stressing the need for political stability and a secure environment for foreign investors.

### Abundance of new cities

Among some 30 new cities launched in Egypt since the 1960s, with white and grey walls and brick roofs, inspired by suburbs in the United States and the Gulf, a city called New Cairo stands between Cairo and the new capital's location. It was supposed to house four million people, but only 1.5 million Cairenes live in the district, which also houses banks and businesses. "We can compare the new capital to New Cairo," said Ahmed Zaazaa, an urban architect and planner at 10 Tooba, where a group of researchers promote an alternative urban policy. — AFP

## Rouhani meeting wraps British FM's 'worthwhile' visit

**TEHRAN:** Britain's foreign minister Boris Johnson met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani yesterday, wrapping up a visit in which he pushed for the release of imprisoned dual nationals. A key focus of Johnson's visit had been the case of British-Iranian Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, who is serving five years for taking part in mass protests in 2009, which she denies. She was due in court on Sunday for fresh charges of "spreading propaganda", but her husband announced that the appearance had been cancelled at the last minute.

"Nazanin's case was not held today in the wake of the foreign secretary's visit. This is undoubtedly a good sign," Richard Ratcliffe wrote in an email to reporters. He said Johnson met with her family in Iran and raised the issue in every meeting with the Iranians. The foreign secretary took flak from Iranian officials for not doing more to build on the nuclear deal signed with world powers in 2015. "Relations between the two countries have not matched the potential expected in the post-JCPOA (nuclear deal) atmosphere," Rouhani told Johnson, according to a statement from his office.

There was similar criticism from the powerful parliament speaker, Ali Larijani,



TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani meets British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson yesterday. — AFP

who met with Johnson on Saturday and said other European countries had put in "much more effort". "You haven't even solved the banking problems of the Iranian embassy in London," Larijani said, according to the IRNA news agency. The British foreign office said the two sides had discussed "the full range of regional and bilateral issues, including banking matters and our concerns about the consular cases of dual nationals". "It has been a worthwhile visit and we leave with a sense that both sides want to keep up the momentum to resolve the difficult issues," it said in a statement.

The Zaghari-Ratcliffe case has become a top priority for Johnson after he mistak-

enly said last month that she had been training journalists in Iran - a "slip of the tongue" used by the Iranian authorities to help justify the new charges. Iran has been frustrated that the nuclear deal, which lifted sanctions in exchange for curbs to its nuclear program, has not produced the expected windfall in trade deals - mainly due to continuing US sanctions.

Banking restrictions have also complicated long-running efforts to return an estimated 450 million pounds (\$600 million) owed by Britain from a military contract cancelled due to the 1979 Islamic revolution. Richard Ratcliffe has claimed his wife is a pawn in Iran's efforts to extract the historic debt. — AFP

## Climate victims seek justice, on the street and in the courtroom

**PARIS:** People around the world beset by the impacts of global warming like droughts, heat waves and storm surges are calling for "climate justice," and many are pleading their cases in court. Globally, there are at least 1,000 active legal cases related to climate change, more than two-thirds of them in the United States, according to a recent tally from the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, in London. A summit Tuesday in Paris—with more than 50 heads of state attending—on how to finance the transition to a low-carbon economy will be followed the next day by a climate justice forum.

### Concept

The climate justice movement highlights the fact that rich nations are overwhelmingly to blame for causing climate change, but that poor ones have been the first to cope with its impacts. The 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognized that inequality, declaring that developed countries bear a larger responsibility for fixing the problem. After a climate justice "summit" in The Hague in 2000, a coalition of global non-governmental organizations (NGOs) -

which play a crucial role in channeling grassroots activism-adopted 27 principles.

These included the right to not suffer climate change impacts, a moratorium on new fossil fuel exploration, access to affordable and sustainable energy, the notion that rich nations and industry owe humanity an "ecological debt". "Climate justice affirms the rights of unborn generations to natural resources, a stable climate and a healthy planet," they declared. These ideas slowly gravitated from the fringes toward the centre of formal UN negotiations—and finally into the preamble of the 2015 Paris Agreement, the 196-nation treaty that enjoins the world to cap global warming at "well under" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

### Cases

In parallel to the diplomatic arena, citizens and civic groups also tested the concept's power within a legal framework. Some plaintiffs have targeted governments, while others have taken on individual companies. A few have made headlines: In 2015, a landmark court ruling in the Netherlands ordered the government to slash greenhouse gases a quarter by 2020. The case was brought by 900 Dutch citizens. The government is appealing. Last month, a German court agreed to hear a Peruvian farmer's case against energy giant RWE over climate change damage in the Andes, a decision hailed by campaigners as a "historic breakthrough". Farmer Saul Luciano Lliuya says that RWE—one of the world's top emitters of climate-altering carbon dioxide—must share in the cost of protecting his hometown Huaraz from a glacier lake overflowing from melted snow and ice. — AFP



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## International

## Alabama's choice: Democrat or accused sexual predator

## Republican, Democratic opponent face off

**BIRMINGHAM:** When Alabama voters cast ballots to select a US Senator they will face a choice that echoes the country's partisan political divide: elect a Democrat or pick a man accused of preying on teenaged girls. The Republican candidate-backed by President Donald Trump is Roy Moore, a former state judge known for his battles to publicly display the Ten Commandments. He has more recently made headlines over accusations that he pursued girls as young as 14 when he was in his 30s.

Voters tomorrow can choose Moore or his Democratic opponent Doug Jones, a former federal prosecutor. Or they could shun both by writing the name of another candidate not listed on the ballot—a move that could split the Republican vote and help Jones. Alabama has not elected a Democrat to the US Senate since 1992, and a Jones win would reduce the already-slim Republican majority in the upper house of Congress from 52 to 51 seats out of 100.

In Alabama, a southern state where Trump won 62 percent of the vote, voting for a Democrat is unthinkable for many Republicans, even if they believe the allegations against Moore, which he has rejected as “fake news” orchestrated by his enemies. For Ann Wright, a 69-year-old retiree living in a suburb of Birmingham, the answer is Moore. “I’m sorry, but just to keep the Democrats out,” she said is her reasoning. People “probably think Alabama is terrible, and they go around saying, ‘Oh, you voted for a pedophile.’ Well, it really hasn’t been proven yet,” she added.



## Alabama voters to select US Senator

Multiple women have come forward to accuse Moore of pursuing them when they were teenagers, including one who said he groped her when she was 14 and another who said he assaulted her at age 16. “During that period of time, there were teenage girls that were dating older men,” said Wright, noting that: “I had people in my high school that dated guys in their twenties.” Other Republicans have expressed similar sentiments, and while Moore plunged in the polls after the initial revelations, he has come back slightly ahead.

For those voters who believe the accusations against Moore, there is a third option aside from him or Jones: write in another candidate. That’s what 70-year-old retired teacher Laura Strubel, who opposes Jones’ stance in favor of a woman’s right to have an abortion, plans to do. The election and the surrounding controversy is “crazy” and she is “ready to get it

over with,” Strubel said. Gadsden, the mall where Moore reportedly pursued teenaged girls, is still there, crowded ahead of the Christmas holiday. It’s not hard to find people who know Moore, such as Linda Fain, a librarian who said she went out several times with him and his wife.

## ‘Disaster’ for Alabama

“He’s a good man,” she said, while “the ladies that have come forward are not so truthful.” But some young people are not as indulgent. At a hair salon, Emma Howell, the 21-



**ALABAMA:** Democratic Senatorial candidate Doug Jones takes a group picture with Sen Cory Booker (D-NJ) (right) and Rep Terri Sewell (D-AL) (3rd from Right) and supporters during a campaign event held at Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama. — AFP

year-old manager, rolls her eyes at the mention of Moore, saying he has broken the habitual Republican vote among her generation. “People are realizing that they don’t have to

vote Republican,” Howell said. It is undeniable that Moore has boosted enthusiasm for Democrats, an endangered species in significant parts of the southern US. — AFP

## News in brief

## Czech leader blasts EU

**PRAGUE:** Czech President Milos Zeman has accused EU states of being “cowards” in their response to his US counterpart Donald Trump recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. “The European Union, cowards, are doing all they can so a pro-Palestinian terrorist movement can have supremacy over a pro-Israeli movement,” said Zeman, presenting himself as a defender of Israel. The 73-year-old Zeman, targeting a second term from January and who had Friday said he was happy at Trump’s controversial move, made the comment before delegates attending the congress of the far right Freedom and Direct Democracy party, which opposes immigration and the EU. Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital on Wednesday in a move that outraged Palestinian leaders, but which was hailed as historic by Israel. Zeman said he had himself spoken in favor of Prague moving the Czech embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv on a visit four years ago—a proposal which met with a reserved political response in his homeland.

## Indian trooper kills comrades

**NEW DELHI:** A paramilitary soldier has killed four of his comrades and injured another inside a camp in central India, an official said yesterday. The trooper turned his gun on his fellow soldiers at around 5:00 pm local time Saturday in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh state. The constable from India’s paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) opened fire following a reported altercation. “He fired on four of his CRPF colleagues, who died on the spot. Another one, an ASI (assistant sub-inspector), was injured in the incident,” a Bijapur administrative official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. A senior state police officer, Sundar Raj P, told local media late Saturday that “what happened, why he did it, under what circumstances—these are matters that are being investigated”. He said the officer, 35-year-old Sanath Kumar, was arrested and was being interrogated. Chhattisgarh’s chief minister took to Twitter to condemn the killing of the CRPF soldiers, who are deployed for counter-insurgency operations.

## Venezuela holds polls

**CARACAS:** Venezuelans headed to the polls yesterday for mayoral elections in which an opposition boycott and voter enthusiasm undercut by economic crisis give President Nicolas Maduro’s party a clear path to victory. There are some 14,000 polling stations country-wide, according to the National Election Council (CNE), which began to open early yesterday. The main opposition parties are staying away because they say the vote lacks any guarantees of fairness or transparency as voters pick 335 mayors across the country. The lack of a serious challenge to Maduro aligned candidates has led to skepticism in the main cities of Caracas, Maracaibo and San Cristobal. “I’m not going to vote because I don’t believe in the transparency of the CNE,” said Nerver Huerta, a 38-year-old graphic designer in Caracas. Maduro’s ruling socialist party will be aided by the refusal of the three main parties in the opposition coalition Democratic Union Roundtable (MUD) to participate, although smaller parties have decided to contest the election.

## Japan priestess stabbed

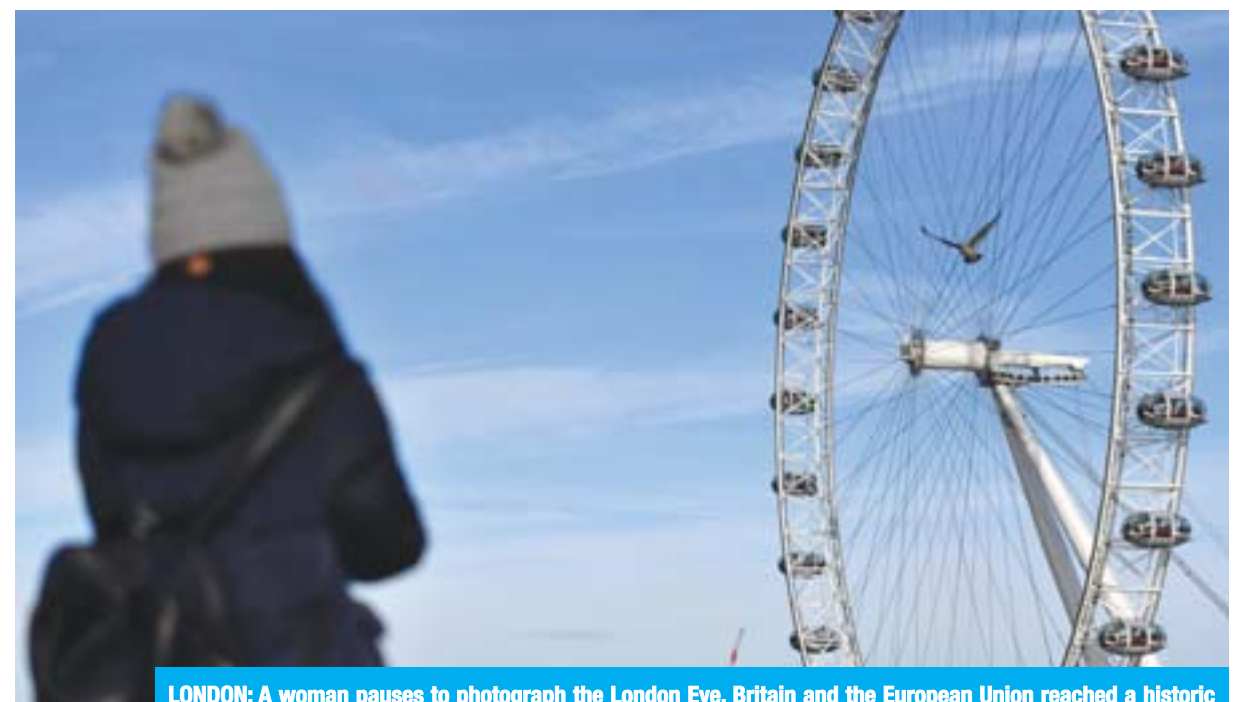
**TOKYO:** A Shinto priestess was killed on the grounds of a famous Tokyo shrine by a man wielding a traditional Japanese sword who then killed another woman before committing suicide, police said, in what local media described as an apparent family feud. Nagako Tomioka, 58, chief priestess of Tomioka Hachimangu shrine in Tokyo, was attacked by Shigenaga Tomioka, 56, as she got out of a car on Thursday evening. Media reports said he was her younger brother. Also, a woman aged in her 30s who was with Shigenaga Tomioka attacked and stabbed the driver of the car with a Japanese sword, police said. The injuries to his shoulder and chest were not life-threatening. After slashing the priestess, Shigenaga Tomioka then stabbed the younger woman to death with a sword, before killing himself, police said.

## Squaring circles: EU, UK plot next Brexit chapter

**BRUSSELS:** The European Commission and the British government let out an audible sigh of relief on reaching Friday’s historic Brexit divorce terms deal. Yet numerous questions remain on the future trade relationship between the EU 27 and the bloc’s departing member as the discussions now move on to a new phase at a December 14-15 Brussels summit. The EU’s chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier warned “there is still work to be done” to “consolidate” the progress made to date. The preamble to the 15-page divorce deal published after British Prime Minister Theresa May’s morning dash for talks with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker illustrates the still precarious nature of the deal. “Under the caveat that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, the joint commitments set out below in this joint report shall be reflected in the Withdrawal Agreement in full detail,” says the introduction to the text. The conclusion notes that the deal is conditional on “an overall agreement under Article 50 on the UK’s withdrawal, taking into account the framework for the future relationship, including an agreement as early as possible in 2018 on transitional arrangements”.

## Unanswered questions

Even Friday’s deal itself leaves elements open to question surrounding the thorny issue of the Irish border post-Brexit, along with the size of Britain’s divorce bill and the protection of expats’ rights. The deal is clear on guaranteeing the post-Brexit rights of Britons already living in the bloc and of their EU counterparts based in Britain with family members able to claim residence. But there is no mention, for example, of future spouses. “We demand before we can give green light to the withdrawal agreement, that... the future free movement and residence of UK citizens will also be guaranteed and this in all 27 Member States,” said Guy Verhofstadt, leader of the liberals group in the European Parliament. It is not yet clear if British



**LONDON:** A woman pauses to photograph the London Eye. Britain and the European Union reached a historic deal on Brexit divorce terms on December 8, but Brussels swiftly warned that even harder talks lie ahead on a future relationship after the split. — AFP

expats will be able to retain their full current rights when they move to another EU country. Regarding citizens rights, the divorce bill text indicates Britain will bring forward a bill to incorporate them into UK law. On adoption, the bill’s provisions in relation to citizens’ rights “will prevail over inconsistent or incompatible legislation, unless Parliament expressly repeals this Act in future”. But it is not clear what will happen if Westminster actually one day repeals the bill. “Any change by UK parliament to citizens’ rights will be very visible and can only happen via express repeal of treaty,” was how Stefaan de Rynek, a member of the EU negotiating team, commented on Twitter.

## How much will it cost?

There are also elements of ambiguity as to the exact size of the divorce bill, despite the methodology having

been agreed to determine how deep Britain must delve into its pockets. “We cannot calculate exactly the sums in question—all these figures will fluctuate,” says Barnier, although unofficial EU estimations are in the order of 60 billion euros (\$70 billion). Britain puts the sum at between 40 and 45 billion euros, though that does not include items such as an EU-guaranteed loan for Ukraine, which could generate costs for all current EU members—Britain included.

Then there is the issue of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which almost scuppered the deal over concerns in the North that Britain was headed for a deal entailing a ‘hard’ border separating the former from the rest of the United Kingdom. In the agreement, the United Kingdom says it “remains committed to protecting North-South cooperation and to its guarantee of avoiding a hard border” between the two. — AFP

## French fighters appear with IS in Afghanistan

**KABUL:** French and Algerian fighters, some arriving from Syria, have joined the ranks of the Islamic State group in northern Afghanistan where the militants have established new bases, multiple international and Afghan sources have said. It is the first time that the presence of French IS fighters has been recorded in Afghanistan, and comes as analysts suggested foreigners may be heading for the war-torn country after being driven from Syria and Iraq.

It is also a troubling sign as France, which has faced the worst of the IS-inspired violence in Europe since 2015, debates how to handle hundreds of its citizens who went to fight for the group in the Middle East. “A number” of Algerian and French nationals entered the largely IS-controlled district of Darzab in northern Jowzjan province in November, said district governor Baaz Mohammad Dawar. At least two women were among the arrivals, who were travelling with a translator from Tajikistan as well as Chechens and Uzbeks. Dawar added. European and Afghan security sources in Kabul confirmed Dawar’s claim that French citizens were among the fighters—though, one cautioned, “we do not know how many there are”.

## ‘The Engineers’

Three of the Algerians seen in Darzab are

believed to have been in Syria and Iraq. Dawar said, suggesting they may link Islamic State-Khorasan Province (IS-K), the group’s franchise in Afghanistan and Pakistan, with the main group in the Middle East. When it first emerged in 2015, IS-K overran large parts of eastern Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, though initially its part in the Afghan conflict was overshadowed by the Taliban.

The jihadists have since spread north, including in Jowzjan on the border with Uzbekistan, and carried out multiple devastating attacks in the capital Kabul. Mohammad Raza Ghafoori, the Jowzjan provincial governor’s spokesman, said French-speaking Caucasian men and women had been seen training IS fighters in Darzab. He cited reports saying that around 50 children, some as young as 10, have also been recruited by the fighters.

Darzab residents said that roughly 200 foreigners had set up camp just a few hundred meters from the village of Bibi Mariam. One local man who gave his name as Hajji said the fighters were of several nationalities, including French, and were tall, aged in their late 20s, and dressed in military clothing. “They ride their (motor) bikes, go to the border and come back, but they talk to nobody,” he said. Hashar, a former district village chief, said some were training others to use suicide bombs and lay mines. “They are... bringing misery to normal people,” he said, as other villagers said many residents had fled the area.

Locals along with district governor Dawar warned the fighters were also exploiting natural resources, such as precious stones and metals. One of the security sources said that two of the French had been nicknamed “The Engineers” and appeared to be organizing



**JALALABAD:** Photo shows alleged fighters for the Islamic State and Taliban at the police headquarters in Jalalabad. — AFP

some sort of extraction, “but we do not know what they are looking for”. Several European services believe the fighters are arriving through Tajikistan, the source said, adding that at least one Frenchman arrested there in July said he had wanted to join IS in Afghanistan.

## Land of jihad

Afghanistan has long attracted foreign fighters, from the mujahedeen during the 1980s war against Soviet invaders to Al-Qaeda’s later use of the country as a haven. The Pentagon has said IS numbers fewer than 1,000 in Afghanistan. But the growing pres-

ence of foreign fighters among them indicates that IS “seeks to create an external operations node for new waves of global attacks,” warned analysts at the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War recently. Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi, an expert on jihadist groups, said he did not think the presence of foreign fighters in Afghanistan meant that IS was necessarily “shifting its base”.

The group’s “natural home is Iraq and Syria, but I presume many of the foreigners in particular are taking the opportunity either to escape entirely or moving to other battlefields for IS where they might prove more useful,” he said. — AFP



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## International

# Yazidis caught in 'political football' between Baghdad and Iraqi Kurds

## Yazidi heartland seized from Kurds by Baghdad loyalists

**SINJAR:** Since Iraqi forces pushed the Kurds out of the Yazidis' mountainous heartland of Sinjar in northern Iraq in October, residents are wondering what could happen to them next. Food and money are in short supply since aid organizations stopped delivery after Iraq's advance. Buildings collapsed in the fighting and of those still standing, many are marked with bullets and littered with IEDs. Water and electricity barely work.

The Yazidis, whose beliefs combine elements of several ancient Middle Eastern religions, have long been viewed with suspicion and repeatedly persecuted by other groups in Iraq. In 2014, more than 3,000 were killed by Islamic State militants in a campaign described by the United Nations as genocidal. Now the land they have lived on for centuries is caught up in a tug of war between Baghdad and Iraq's Kurds, who had controlled it since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

"We're trapped in this game of political football, between Iraq and the Kurds," said a Yazidi resident of Sinjar, Kamal Ali. "But neither of them cares about our future." The militias have hoisted Iraq's tricolor flag over government buildings and any remaining Kurdish flags have been scrawled over with the words "Iraq" and "Allahu Akbar", the blazing sun at its centre scribbled over in black marker. Sinjar is politically important because it's in the disputed territories, ethnically mixed areas across northern Iraq, long the subject of a constitutional dispute between Baghdad and the Kurds, who both claim them.

Sinjar fell under the Kurds' control, despite lying outside Iraqi Kurdistan's recognized borders. Baghdad did little to challenge the arrangement until its October offensive, launched to punish the Kurds for their Sept 25 independence referendum. Iraqi forces have seized the disputed areas the Kurds had expanded into including Sinjar. The referendum reignited long-simmering tensions over geographic dominance in the oil-rich north, between Baghdad and the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), who fought side by side to defeat Islamic State.

### Divided

The Yazidis are divided about what should happen now.

Some are glad the Kurds have gone and see an opportunity for increased autonomy now that they are under federal control following the offensive by Iraq's security forces last October. Kurdish forces handed over Sinjar without a fight to the Laleh Brigades, a Yazidi militia backed by Baghdad's Shiite paramilitary forces (PMF).

Most Yazidis speak a Kurdish dialect, but many don't see themselves as ethnically Kurdish. "We're happy the Kurds have left," said Abu Sardar, a 47-year-old Yazidi man. "We're Yazidis we're not Kurds, we do not want to be part of Kurdistan." Like others, Abu Sardar complained that the Kurds forced him to vote in the Kurdish referendum, accusations the KRG denies. He returned two months ago to the ruins of his home in the Sinuni district of Sinjar and expressed bitter disappointment that little had changed since he left in 2014: hospitals and schools remain shuttered while the city is still mostly rubble. He hopes that Baghdad and its militias will rebuild Sinjar.

Others lament the Kurds' departure. The KRG and allied Yazidi groups hold former Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki responsible for the campaign by Islamic State. They say his troops' desertion of Mosul allowed militants to capture billions of dollars in weapons later used to attack the minority. Yazidi commander Qassem Shesho says Iraq's government is too sectarian and dislikes the Yazidis as much as Islamic State. Like many others, he blames the Kurds for the attack by Islamic State. "But they're all we've got," he said. Shesho is allied to Iraqi Kurdistan's ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party, even though the Kurds cut his fighters' salaries after the Laleh Brigades took over Sinjar.

### 'City of ghosts'

Some days, residents say, there are only bones in Sinjar. Nearly 50 mass graves have been uncovered outside the town since 2014. "Sinjar is a city of ghosts," said the Laleh Brigades' leader Ali Serhan Eissa, also known as Khal Ali. Tens of thousands of Yazidis fled the militant onslaught and headed for Mount Sinjar. Of those who didn't reach the mountain, about 3,100 were killed - with more than half shot, beheaded, burned alive and disposed of in mass graves.



**NAJAF:** Iraqi families pray over the grave of fighters killed in the combat against the Islamic State (IS) group, at the Wadi Al-Salam cemetery in the Shiite holy city of Najaf yesterday. — AFP

Others were sold into sexual slavery or forced to fight, according to a report by the Public Library of Science journal PLoS Medicine. Some are still on the mountain, about to spend a third freezing winter in tents. Before the attack, Sinjar was home to about 400,000 people mainly Yazidis and Arab Sunnis. Only 15 percent of Yazidis have returned home, according to humanitarian estimates. Most Yazidis remain in IDP camps in the Kurdistan region, along with most of the area's displaced Sunnis. Aid workers worry the camps will be closed if tensions between Baghdad and the Kurds flare up. The presence of fighters from Turkey's

separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) further complicates the picture. Many Yazidis credit them with opening up a land route to allow those stranded on Mount Sinjar to escape the militants in 2014. The PKK entrenched itself in the community, even creating a local unit, the Sinjar Resistance Units (YBS) which controls multiple checkpoints around Sinjar. Turkey and neighboring Iran are closely watching the power shift in Sinjar. Tehran wants to secure this north-western region of Iraq as it sits on the border with Syria, while Turkey wants the region free of the outlawed PKK. — Reuters

## Hashed Al-Shaabi: A controversial force on Iraq frontlines

**BAGHDAD:** A vital force that helped defeat the Islamic State group, or a dangerous tool of Iran? Fighters from Iraq's Hashed Al-Shaabi have been a controversial irregular element battling on the country's front lines. The organization formed in 2014 after the country's most revered Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani, urged citizens to take up arms against IS jihadists who had swept aside government forces and seized much of northern Iraq.

Bringing together a dizzying array of paramilitary groups under the command of Iraq's prime minister, the Hashed played a key role in battles against IS. But the Shiite-dominated alliance remains deeply divisive and has been accused of a string of abuses. Following Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi's declaration of victory on Saturday in the country's three-year war against IS, how his government deals with the Hashed fighters is a major issue.

### Martyrs or puppets?

Known in English as the Popular Mobilisation Units, the various forces within the Hashed can field between 60,000 and 140,000 fighters. Iraq's parliament classes it as a state force operating within the country's constitution. While it includes some Christian and Sunni Muslim forces, the umbrella group is dominated by powerful Shiite militias such as Kataeb Hezbollah, Asaib Ahl Al-Haq and the Badr organization.



**SYRIA-IRAQ BORDER:** Members of the Hashed Al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation) paramilitaries, celebrate after the Iraqi Prime Minister declared victory in the war against the Islamic State (IS) group. — AFP

"To many, these martyrs have given up their lives in defense of their country," the Carnegie Middle East Center said in an April report. But "to many critics, the (Hashed) symbolizes Iranian and Shiite efforts to exercise supremacy over Iraq." It said that while the group is riven with internal rivalries, leaders have regularly

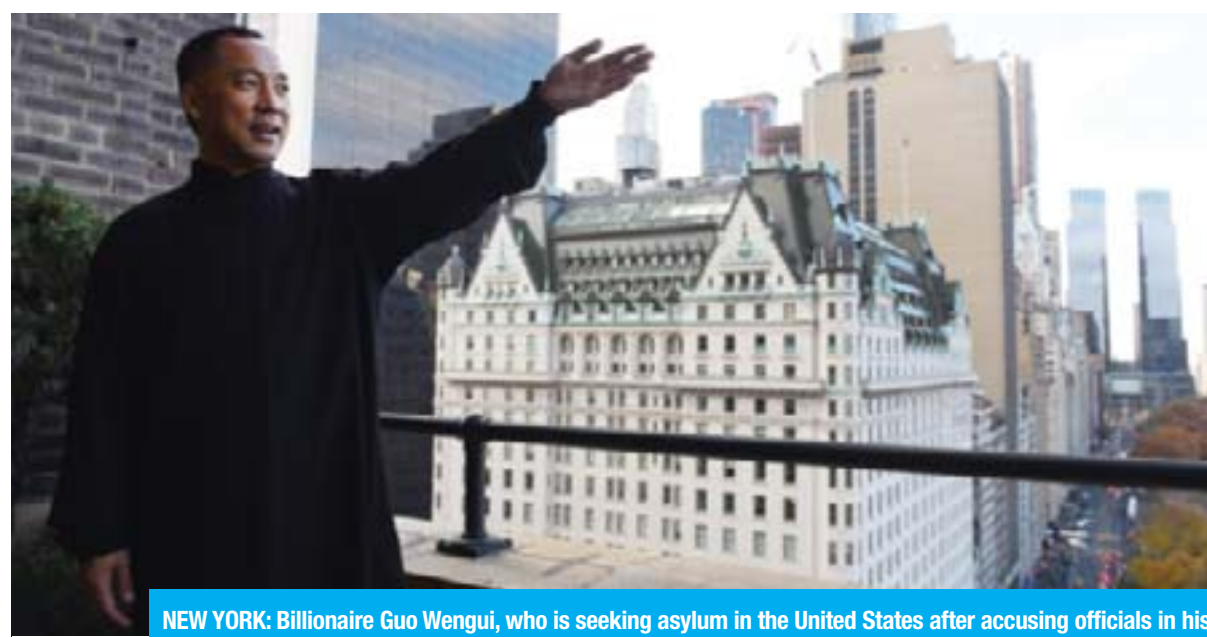
met with Qassem Suleimani, the powerful commander of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards' foreign operations division. That connection was made public in July, when the Hashed's number two Abu Mahdi Al-Mohandis appeared on Iranian TV speaking Farsi and pledging allegiance to Suleimani. — AFP

## Chinese billionaire Guo wants regime change in Beijing

**NEW YORK:** From a luxury Manhattan apartment, Chinese billionaire Guo Wengui is plotting a "change of the regime" in Beijing and developing a new media platform with the aim of introducing democracy in the world's most populous country. The fugitive real estate mogul settled in April in New York, on the 18th floor of a hotel facing Central Park, where he's now waiting with his wife for a decision on his claim for US political asylum. "I want to try and to have rule of law. I want to try and have democracy, freedom, that's my ultimate goal... A change of the regime," he said in a recent exclusive interview. He's set a timeline of three years.

For several months, Guo has been flooding social networks with searing accusations of corruption against China's rich and powerful. Few Chinese tycoons choose dissent. But Guo, whose property was seized and two brothers imprisoned since he fled from China in 2014, says his campaign has been brewing for 28 years. Amid the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters on Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, "my little brother died in front of me... I was detained for 22 months."

It was in prison that he decided to "wrestle with this system under the Communist party that is inhumane, not democratic, unlawful." While some accuse the businessman, who is not shy about publicizing his ostentatious lifestyle, of hypocrisy in his allegations of corruption



**NEW YORK:** Billionaire Guo Wengui, who is seeking asylum in the United States after accusing officials in his native China of corruption, poses at his New York City apartment. — AFP

among China's political elite, Guo denies accusations that he himself is also guilty of graft. "Why would I do this? I don't need the money, I have money," he said, ticking off possessions such as apartments in New York and London and a yacht, as well as "a wonderful family."

### Flee or be eliminated

"But I am a Buddhist, I want to be kind to other people... I want to change the evil regime," said Guo, who gives his age as 47 despite uncertainty about his birthdate due to the upheaval of the Cultural Revolution in

China at the time. "All the successful businessmen in China, there are only two fates for them: one is to flee the country, the other is waiting to be eliminated."

He chose to go on the offensive, posting unsubstantiated yet politically sensitive allegations. His Twitter account, which has nearly 480,000 followers, has been repeatedly blocked since China's Communist Party congress in October, he said. Undeterred, Guo has been developing a new media platform that he intends to launch before the end of December to expose the flaws of China's Communist regime. — AFP

## N Korea's Africa friends face the test of loyalty

**JOHANNESBURG:** Old alliances between North Korea and several African nations forged at the height of the Cold War will not be swept away easily. While threats from the United States and UN sanctions have forced many governments on the continent to keep their distance from Pyongyang, the links are not yet confined to the past. For watchers of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un's regime, the country's presence on the African continent is unmissable and the hermit nation continues to benefit from discrete but vital relations. Statues and Stalinist-style palaces of questionable aesthetic value made by North Korean artists have sprung up in many cities including Dakar, Windhoek, Maputo, Harare and Kinshasa.

But cooperation between the regime and African governments goes much further than construction projects. Experts estimate that economic ties between Africa and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are worth around \$200 million (85 million euros) annually. Minerals and fishing top the league table of exports, closely followed by North Korea's most controversial output—arms. Despite sanctions levied by the UN in 2006 in response to its nuclear weapons program, North Korea's military cooperation with its allies on the continent is strong.

### Military hardware

"A number of countries appear to maintain close relationships with the DPRK," said Graham Neville, an analyst at the London-based international affairs think-tank Chatham House. "More than half of the countries in Africa—around 30 — engage in some form of trade with the DPRK." Arms sales, which are strictly prohibited by the terms of the sanctions, have drawn the ire of the international community. UN experts have accused 11 African countries of seeking closer military ties with Kim Jong-Un's regime in a report published in September. According to the document, North Korea has agreed to supply light weapons to Eritrea and Democratic Republic of Congo, surface-to-air missiles to Mozambique, modern missiles or radar systems to Tanzania and to train security forces in Angola and Uganda.

The authors probed two North Korean companies active in Namibia—Mansudae Overseas Project and Komid—which constructed the new headquarters of Windhoek's spy agency, as well as a munitions factory. Pyongyang's largesse should come as no surprise. Since Africa's wars of liberation, North Korea has sought to befriend Marxist regimes on the continent. "During the Cold War, North Korea gained a reputation for providing useful training for African militaries," said Samuel Ramani, an Oxford University specialist on the world's most reclusive nation.

In the most notorious case, Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe called in North Korea to train the infamous Fifth Brigade, which is accused of killing around 20,000 minority Ndebeles in the 1980s. Kim Jong-Un's provocative run of missile tests and nuclear experiments have finally persuaded some of Pyongyang's African backers to step back. Sudan has cut ties with the DPRK, while Uganda expelled North Korean military advisers and pledged to enforce the latest round of sanctions. Tanzanian foreign minister Augustine Mahiga said recently that the country "had scaled down diplomatic relations to the minimum." — AFP



News

## New protests flare over US Jerusalem...

Continued from Page 1

Dozens of students protested at two other Cairo universities. Palestinian protests yesterday were smaller than in previous days. Protests and clashes broke out in Al-Arroub refugee camp in the south of the occupied West Bank, leaving one Palestinian wounded by rubber bullets, the Palestinian health ministry said.

A few dozen Palestinians in Bethlehem, also in the West Bank, burned tyres and threw stones at Israeli soldiers, who

fired tear gas. Separately, the Israeli military said it destroyed a Hamas tunnel stretching from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory - an incident unrelated to the recent unrest, but which threatened to further increase tensions. Such tunnels have been used in the past to carry out attacks. Trump's declaration has been followed by near universal condemnation and diplomatic fallout, with warnings it risks setting off a new round of violence in the turbulent Middle East. US Vice President Mike Pence is due to visit the region later this month, but Palestinian officials say president Mahmud Abbas will refuse to meet him. Arab League foreign ministers on Saturday called on Washington to rescind the decision. Despite the outrage, Trump's UN Ambassador Nikki Haley insisted yesterday that the Jerusalem declaration would "move the ball forward" on peace efforts.

Netanyahu's Europe trip was long planned, but came after both Macron and EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini criticized Trump's decision. There have also been ongoing tensions between Netanyahu and EU offi-

cial over Israeli settlement building in the West Bank. Macron called on the Israeli leader to freeze settlement building during their talks yesterday and to show "courage" to help restart peace efforts.

Speaking at their press conference, Netanyahu again lauded Trump's Jerusalem recognition and called the White House's bid to restart peace efforts with the Palestinians a "serious effort". He welcomed Macron's condemnation of attacks against Israel after on Saturday criticizing European "hypocrisy" over condemnation of Trump's declaration, saying rockets from Gaza should also be criticized. Netanyahu was to travel to Brussels for talks with EU foreign ministers today in what would be the first of their kind with an Israeli premier in 22 years. Trump's decision upended decades of US diplomacy and broke with international consensus. It drew criticism from every other UN Security Council member at an emergency meeting on Friday. Clashes in the West Bank and along the fence dividing the Gaza Strip from Israel have seen Palestinians burning tyres while hurling stones

and firebombs at Israeli troops, who responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds. Retaliatory Israeli air strikes on Gaza in response to rockets killed two Hamas militants on Saturday while two other Palestinians died in clashes near the border fence the day before.

Palestinian health officials say more than 1,100 people were wounded by tear gas, rubber bullets, live fire and other means between Thursday and Saturday. There have been fears of a much larger escalation of violence after Hamas leader Ismail Haniya called for a new Palestinian intifada, or uprising. In Rome, Pope Francis called yesterday for "wisdom and prudence", asking world leaders "to avert a new spiral of violence".

Trump said his defiant move - making good on a 2016 presidential campaign pledge - marked the start of a "new approach" to solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But Washington has found itself isolated on the global stage. Five European countries on the Security Council insisted the new US policy was inconsistent with past resolutions. — AFP

## Expatriates shun public hospitals as hike bites

Continued from Page 1

in addition to other additional charges. "When it was KD 2, we never complained. But an increase of 500 percent is really something else," he lamented.

Most of the doctors and paramedics interviewed echoed the same sentiments. According to a ministerial decree issued by health ministry, the new health fees for expatriates for using services at public hospitals is now KD 10, and a stay in public wards costs KD 10 per day (which was completely free before). Expatriates in Kuwait are already required by law to pay an annual health insurance of KD 50 in order to renew their iqamas. This KD 50 health 'insurance' fee is still required despite the rise in fees at hospitals and clinics.

Also, a stay in the intensive care unit now costs KD 30 per day, while a stay in a private room at a public hospital is KD 50 per day with a KD 200 deposit. These fees do not include surgeries, laboratory tests and x-rays. Moreover, a medical checkup at the public maternity hospital now costs KD 10, while the delivery charge is KD 50, among others. A few days after the hikes, public hospitals recorded a 30 percent drop in the number of expatriate patients, Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said, as expats shunned public hospitals and clinics.

### Health insurers

Meanwhile, as public hospitals keep recording a decline in the number of patients, private hospitals and insurance companies in Kuwait are cashing in. Private hospitals and clinics in Kuwait have witnessed a sharp increase in the number of patients visiting their facilities since the government implemented the new fees. Several of those who spoke to Kuwait Times said some private hospitals, in the face of a sudden rush of patients, were forced to refurbish their infrastructure facilities and boost their workforce. This in turn brings more investment into the sector and creates more job opportunities, giving a new momentum to the healthcare segment of the private sector.

"I can say for certain that we have recorded at least a 25 percent rise in patient numbers since October 1. There is also a considerable spike in the number of visitors who come for medical tests such as blood tests, ECG, x-rays, ultrasound test, CT scan, endoscopy, colonoscopy, routine urine microscopy, urine cultural sensitivity tests, etc," said Yousef, an administrator at a private hospital. While admitting that the government decision is indirectly helping private medical facilities in the country, he declined to comment on a popular belief that the harsh move was initiated to aid private hospitals.

At a private hospital in Salmiya, Kuwait Times spoke to a young couple who just had their new baby. "We really thank God for the new baby. The hospital staff is nice and caring and the charges here are really affordable. Their services are better," said Rose, a European expat.

### Insurance

Interestingly, medical insurance companies in the country have begun to see a windfall of opportunity in the perceptible shift of expat patients from government hospitals to private medical facilities. For expats, the exorbitant fees for healthcare services in the public sector have forced them to

seek medical services in the private sector, thanks to insurance companies. "I have to pay only 10 percent or 20 percent of the total charges for the services now, depending on the medication or tests I undergo and the rest is covered by my insurance company. This is manageable for many people like me," said Pulikeshi, an Indian expat who works in a private company.

Many like Pulikeshi are now covered by private health insurance companies who are tied with a vast network of healthcare providers consisting of all major hospitals, private clinics, laboratories and pharmacies in Kuwait. The private healthcare insurance market in the country is flourishing as a result of the shift of patients. In Kuwait, all major insurance companies are currently offering attractive health insurance products, setting the stage for fierce competition.

"For health insurers like us, this is the right time to cash in on the flow of patients to the private sector. For the next five years or so, the companies are going to bank on the opportunity. And once the impact of the settlements begins to feel, insurers could resort to reinsurance to spread liabilities," said John Abraham, a health insurance specialist. However, he predicted that after a period of 10 years, insurance companies may have to eventually incur losses unless the government brings in some drastic policy changes.

Usually, insurance companies divide the amount the policyholder pays by the amount he/she uses and multiply it by a number. Then they make assessments based on this figure and decide if they should increase the premium. Many companies also limit costs for a particular treatment within a calendar year, in addition to having an overall annual limit for all treatments.

### The human dimension

Many expats and MPs have urged the government to reconsider the move - arguing that the average incomes of most of the foreigners working in the country cannot support the increase. "There is an urgent need to consider the human dimension and the average income of a large number of foreigners," MP Khalid Al-Otaibi said. MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei called for widening the scope of health insurance instead of raising medical fees. He suggested a clear health insurance scheme to help foreigners instead of resorting to higher medical fees.

On the other hand, some Kuwaiti lawmakers have launched aggressive media campaigns advocating against providing services to foreigners for free or at affordable prices. They argue that with the drop in oil prices, the country can no longer afford to foot the bill for the expatriate population, which constitutes more than two thirds of Kuwait's population.

### Hospitals for expats

Meanwhile, the annual health insurance fees for expatriates will be increased to KD 130 as new hospitals and clinics that will exclusively serve foreign residents are being built. The Health Assurance Hospitals Company (Dhaman) last month inaugurated such a hospital in Ahmadi governorate in a groundbreaking ceremony. The hospital is one of the main components of the healthcare system for expatriates, which is implemented and managed by Dhaman as a leading development model for public-private partnership within the government's work program and development plan.

Dhaman CEO Dr Ahmed Al-Saleh said according to ministry decisions, health insurance for expats will cost KD 130 annually. Over two million expats working in the private sector and that their families will benefit from the Dhaman health services in various governorates. Two additional hospitals will be built in Farwaniya and Jahra, in addition to 12 medical centers, which will reduce crowding at public hospitals and primary healthcare centers.

## Kuwait looking into importing Iraqi natural gas

Continued from Page 1

The entire process will be done in phases, and Kuwait agreed on importing 50 million cubic feet of gas, said the minister, adding that the second phase will involve imports of 200 million cu ft for a period of a decade. On Thursday, Marzouq laid the cornerstone of Al-Zour Refinery, a project designed to process heavy crude oil, which will have an impact on the country's economy. Gas installations in Al-Zour will cover the country's needs for the resource for up to 30 years, said the minister.

Marzouq said the international crude market is expected to rebalance in the fourth quarter of 2018 after producers extended a deal to curb output. He also said oil prices would maintain at "current levels". Producers from OPEC and non-OPEC members agreed on Nov 30 to extend a deal to cut output by 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) until the end of 2018. The producing nations aim to reduce an oil supply glut that sent crude prices crashing. As a result of the curbs, oil prices have doubled since dipping under \$30 a barrel

in early 2016. Marzouq said OPEC would hold a crucial meeting in June to "review the production cuts deal... and the possibility of preparing a study to exit the output curbs". A Kuwaiti-chaired ministerial committee monitoring the market and compliance of the cuts would hold meetings every two months to assess the situation, the minister said.

Marzouq touched on proceedings within OAPEC, revealing that the UAE will hold the presidency next year, while the next meeting of the organization will be held in Kuwait in Dec 2018.

Iraqi Minister of Oil Jabbar Al-Luaibi affirmed that both countries are in the final stages of the agreement to export natural gas from Iraq to Kuwait. An Iraqi delegation will arrive in Kuwait next week to put the final touches on the accord, revealed Luaibi. On his prediction for the global price of oil, the Iraqi minister said it might hover at \$60 per barrel. He touched on his country's production, saying that Iraq produced around 4.3 million barrels per day. Luaibi hoped that production would reach five million bpd by the second half of next year.

With regards to the Iraqi-Iranian accord signed yesterday, Luaibi said that Iraq will export around 30 to 60 million bpd to Iran and the Iranians will export a similar number of barrels to Iraq. The minister also indicated that Iraq had a memo signed with British Petroleum (BP) to evaluate Kirkuk oilfield, adding that the Iraqi side is eager to increase production by 700,000 bpd. The OAPEC meeting came as the Kuwait-based regional bloc celebrates its golden jubilee five decades after its inception in 1968.

## Cabinet almost ready; Assembly...

Continued from Page 1

The sources added that pressure from the Mutairi tribe to appoint one of them led to last-minute changes, and Fahd Al-Afasi was appointed minister of justice and awqaf. Jabri has been appointed information minister - replacing Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah - after Sheikh Thamer Al-Jaber declined the portfolio and preferred to remain as Kuwait's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, especially after the ruling family nominated Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah as health minister to replace the nominee Fahd Al-Ibrahim, who placed several conditions to accept the post.

Moreover, the sources said that with support from the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and the liberal bloc, Hind Al-Sabeeh retained her portfolios as minister of social affairs and labor and minister of state for economic development.

The Cabinet includes nine new faces including the ministers of oil, finance and public works, which means that the new Cabinet has almost a new economic team. Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh has been given the state minister for Cabinet affairs portfolio and replaced by Nayef Al-Hajraf, a former finance minister and the current head of the Capital Markets Authority, the sources said.

Accordingly, the proposed Cabinet is expected to include: Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmed as first deputy

PM and minister of defense; Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as deputy PM and foreign minister; Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah as deputy PM and interior minister; Anas Al-Saleh as deputy PM and minister of state for Cabinet affairs; Bakheet Al-Rasheed as minister of oil and minister of electricity and water; Hamed Al-Azmi as education minister; Hossam Al-Roumi as minister of public works and municipal affairs; Fahd Al-Afasi as justice and awqaf minister; Adel Al-Kharafi as minister of state for Assembly affairs; Nayef Al-Hajraf as finance minister; Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah as health minister; Mohammed Al-Jabri as information minister; Jenan Bushehri as housing and services minister; Khaled Al-Roudhan as minister of commerce and industry and Hind Al-Sabeeh as minister of social affairs and labor and minister of state for economic development.

A number of lawmakers immediately criticized the new Cabinet as the names were leaked out, with MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei saying that the new oil minister was being selected to maintain control over the oil sector and not based on competence and programs. MP Riyadh Al-Adasani said the prime minister still has time to rethink his Cabinet lineup, expressing dissatisfaction with some faces.

In another development, the National Assembly could not hold a special session yesterday to debate national reconciliation and the jailing of 67 opposition activists including MPs. Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem told the Assembly that he was notified that the government will not attend the session. Only 26 lawmakers, well short of the required quorum of 33 MPs, attended the session. A number of lawmakers strongly lashed out at the government and "its lawmakers", and insisted they will try again to hold the session.



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# Rafaat Al Yahyai crowned the 2017 King of Drift at the Red Bull Car Park Drift Series Final hosted in Kuwait, for the first time



In front of 4,000 spectators, Rafaat Al Yahyai from Oman managed to clinch the 2017 Red Bull Car Park Drift Series Final title in a spectacular manner. Second place went to Othman Al Takriti from Jordan, followed by Ahmad Hamada from Egypt who rounded the podium.

The day started with motorsport spectators lining up at Sirbb Circuit to witness the exciting event and find out who will be crowned the 2017 King of Drift. At 2:30, the event kicked off with the national anthem of Kuwait.

Red Bull Car Park Drift final was held under the patronage of Sheikh Ali Fawaz AlSabah, organized by Basel Salem AlSabah Motor Racing Club, with cooperation of SIRBB Circuit and was partnered with Total, Falken, Shop & Ship, PS4, Nissan, Boubyan Bank, Drag 965, Acqua Eva and Trolley, Media partners, MBC Action, Kuwait Times and Aljarida covered this popular event.

The drifters then began the first heat consisting of 15 drifters going up against

the challenging track set for them. Round 1 featured 15 global drifters from Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritius, Bahrain, Tunisia, Jordan, Oman, Morocco, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Palestine. With only one drifter from each participating country, the Red Bull Car Park Drift contest rules allows three drifters from the hosting country; this year, Kuwait. The three drifters from Kuwait participated in the local qualifier and topped the leaderboard: the winner, Ali Makhseed, 1st runner up, Fahad Aljadei, and the third place winner, Abdullah Aljadi.

Consisting of top motorsport and drifting experts and athletes, the judging panel were assigned the difficult task of evaluating the competitors. Brothers, Elias and Johannes Hountdonji, together forming "Team Driftbrothers", are both expert drifters from Germany with a history of full-on drifting careers. Aleksandr Grinchuk, Ukrainian native, has participated in every competition in the city of Odessa, Ukraine, since kick starting his drifting career in 2007. Local racer and Kuwait's first certified

FIA racing driver, Khaled Al Mudhaf, rounded up the highly qualified judging panel.

Aiming to elevate the competition year after year, Abdo Feghali, the Guinness World Book Record holder for the longest drift, had modified the criteria to challenge the drifters. This year their performance was determined based on Car Look & Design (10%), Tire Smoke (10%), Car Sound (7%), Section 1 Drifting (15%), Section 2 Drifting (15%), Boxes (15%), Gates (15%), and Pendulum (13%).

The best 8 managed to qualify for round 2. Raafat Al Yahyai, Othman Al Takriti, Ahmad Hamada, Sary Zahalan, Mohammed Al Mansouri, Shahab Pishanidar, Ali Makhseed, and Nassim Saad all then proceeded to overcome the challenge of the track, once again. This time, only four would make it to the next round. Before moving on to the next round, Julien Welsch, pro stunt rider since 2009, displayed his unique talents to the spectators as they eagerly awaited for the competition to begin.

Culminating the series and ending the 2017 Red Bull Car Park Drift Series, the final four, Rafaat Al Yahyai, Othman Al Takriti, Ahmad Hamada, and Sary Zahalan all went head to head, with one aim; to be crowned the 2017 King of Drift. Local Kuwaiti competitor, Ali Makhseed impressed the judges with his Tire Smoke and secured the title of King of Smoke by Falken Tires.

Due to the stellar performance of the drifters and a tight race, the judges faced a challenge of selecting the winner. Ultimately, Oman national, Rafaat Al Yahyai, surpassed the competition and clinched the title with a jaw dropping performance collecting an impressive 378 points, ensuring that the crown remains in Oman. He was beaming with pride as he held the trophy and explained what it meant to him, "I am incredibly happy to be crowned the 2017 King of Drift and delighted that the crown will remain in Oman for another year."









## Sports

# Maple Leafs score twice in opening two minutes to beat Penguins 4-3

## Blue Jackets survive two penalties against Panarin

**PITTSBURGH:** The Toronto Maple Leafs scored twice in the opening two minutes on Saturday and held on to beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3. Toronto (19-10-1), which has won four of five, received goals from Connor Brown and James Van Riemsdyk in the first 1:42. Tyler Bozak made it 3-0 later in the initial period with the first of his two goals to go along with an assist. Mitch Marner added three assists. Riley Sheahan scored for the second game in a row, and Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby also tallied for Pittsburgh (16-12-3), which had won five of six. Toronto goaltender Frederik Andersen made 33 saves to improve to 10-2-1 with two shutouts and 25 goals allowed in his past 13 games. Pittsburgh goalie Casey DeSmith, making his second NHL appearance, stopped 10 shots in relief of Tristan Jarry.

### GOLDEN KNIGHTS 5, STARS 3

Four different players scored and Maxime Lagace stopped 35 of 38 shots for Vegas in a win against Dallas. Alex Tuch, David Perron, Reilly Smith, Brayden McNabb and Erik Haula scored for Vegas (19-9-1), which won its fourth straight. Brendan Leipsic and Cody Eakin added two assists. Tyler Pitlick, Jason Spezza and Jamie Benn scored for Dallas (16-13-1), which lost its third straight. The Stars have been outscored 13-5 over their last three losses.

### KINGS 3, HURRICANES 2

Tanner Pearson scored with 20 seconds left in overtime and Los Angeles won its eighth consecutive game with a victory over Carolina. Pearson, Anze Kopitar and Tyler Toffoli each had a goal and an assist for the Kings (20-8-3), who pulled within a win of their franchise record of nine straight victories from Jan. 21 to Feb. 6, 2010. Jonathan Quick made 32 saves for Los Angeles. Carolina scored twice in the final seven minutes of regulation to tie the score. Victor Rask prevented Quick from getting his 47th career shutout when he took a pass from Teuvo Teravainen and scored on a one-timer with 6:57 remaining.

### BLUE JACKETS 1, COYOTES 0

Columbus left winger Artemi Panarin delivered the primary assist on a sixth consecutive goal in the past two games and the Blue Jackets held off Arizona. Josh Anderson scored his team-leading 11th goal in the opening minute of the game with the assist from Panarin and Blue Jackets goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky posted his fourth shutout of the season. The Blue Jackets (19-10-1) survived two penalties against Panarin with 2:53 remaining in the third period to remain atop the Metropolitan Division standings after

completing a back-to-back with two wins. They beat the New Jersey Devils on the road the night before. In that game, Panarin tied the franchise record with five primary assists in the 5-3 victory. He has a team-leading 19 assists and 26 points in 30 games this season. The Coyotes (7-20-5) have lost five of their past six games. They became the first team in the NHL with 20 losses this season.

### RANGERS 5, DEVILS 2

Mats Zuccarello scored twice and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 26 shots as the New York Rangers defeated New Jersey. The Rangers (16-11-2) won for the seventh time in nine games. Jimmy Vesey, Jesper Fast and Kevin Hayes also scored for the Rangers. Rick Nash had two assists. The Devils (16-9-4) lost consecutive games in regulation for the first time this season. Damon Severson and Miles Wood scored for the Devils, who received 34 saves from Keith Kinkaid.

### BRUINS 3, ISLANDERS 1

Tuukka Rask turned aside 30 shots for his fourth straight win, leading Boston to a victory over the New York Islanders. Rask, who had been struggling to start the season, causing a bit of a goaltending controversy as Anton Khudobin ripped off four straight wins, has allowed four goals during his winning streak. He lost what would have been his 40th career shutout when Andres Lee scored with 3:08 left but raised his record to 7-8-2. With the Islanders pressing for the tying goal, Danton Heinen hit the empty net with 41.2 seconds remaining in the game. Brad Marchand (11th goal) and rookie Jake DeBrusk scored, with Torey Krug and David Pastrnak assisting on both goals as the Bruins won for the fourth time in their last five games.

### BLUES 6, RED WINGS 1

St Louis scored four goals on five shots in the first and second periods and defeated Detroit. Brayden Schenn and Jay Bouwmeester had a goal and an assist each and Jayden Schwartz, Vladimir Sobotka, Scottie Upshall and Dmitrii Jaskin scored for St. Louis, which won its third straight. Alex Pietrangolo had two assists and goalie Jake Allen made 28 saves. Frans Nielsen scored for Detroit, which has lost eight of its last nine.

### LIGHTNING 4, JETS 3

Brayden Point scored his third overtime goal of the season to lead Tampa Bay to a victory against Winnipeg. Point raced in on goalie Connor Hellebuyck and flipped a backhander into the net for the winner as Tampa Bay won its fourth consecutive game to cap off



**PITTSBURGH:** Leo Komarov #47 of the Toronto Maple Leafs reaches for the puck against Ian Cole of the Pittsburgh Penguins at PPG PAINTS Arena in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. — AFP

a perfect four-game homestand. Nikolaj Ehlers, Andrew Copp and Kyle Connor scored for Winnipeg, which is on a season-long three-game losing streak. Nikita Kucherov, Mikhail Sergachev and Yanni Gourde scored for the Lightning in regulation.

### AVALANCHE 7, PANTHERS 3

Colorado scored four straight goals—including two within 41 seconds—snapping a four-game losing streak with a win over Florida. Semyon Varlamov made 39 saves to earn the win. The Avalanche got goals Mikko Rantanen, a tying score from Nathan MacKinnon, a tiebreaking deflection from Alexander Kerfoot, insurance markers by Erik Johnson and Colin Wilson and empty-netters by Matt Nieto and Carl Soderberg. Florida got goals from Aaron Ekblad, Denis Malgin and Jonathan Huberdeau but was unable to avoid its fourth loss in the past five games. Malgin has four goals this season—all of them within the past six games.

### OILERS 6, CANADIENS 2

Jujhar Khaira scored two goals and Laurent Brossoit made 22 saves to help Edmonton to a win against Montreal. Michael Cammalleri, Milan Lucic, Oscar Klefbom and Yohann Auvito also scored for the Oilers (12-15-2), who won for the fifth time in eight games (5-3-0). Edmonton captain Connor McDavid had two assists. Alex Galchenyuk and Phillip Danault scored for the Canadiens (13-14-4), who have dropped three in a row (0-2-1) following a five-game winning streak. Carey Price allowed four goals on 14 shots and

was replaced by Antti Niemi at 2:24 of the second period.

### SHARKS 5, SENATORS 0

Four different skaters scored and Aaron Dell registered his second shutout of the season as the Sharks beat the Ottawa. Dell made 25 saves for his third career shutout. The Senators have been blanked in three of their last four outings. San Jose has won consecutive games. Joe Pavelski scored his sixth goal of the season at 3:24 of the third period on the power play. Logan Couture provided the primary assist, which was his 400th career point. And Tomas Hertl scored his sixth goal of the season at 17:38 of the third. The Sharks were all over the Senators through 40 minutes, leading 3-0 and outshooting the visitors by a 31-14 count.

### FLAMES 4, CANUCKS 2

Sam Bennett scored the game-winning goal with 1:10 remaining in the game and Calgary beat Vancouver. Bennett skated out from the corner and put a backhand past Canucks goalie Anders Nilsson for his fourth goal of the season. Matthew Tkachuk added an empty netter with 23 seconds left for his second goal of the night. Troy Brouwer also scored for Calgary. Brock Boeser and Jake Virtanen were the Canucks scorers. The Flames (16-12-2) ended a home losing skid at three games and returned to the .500 mark at the Saddledome through 16 games with their eighth home win. The Canucks (14-12-4) lost for the second

## Hirscher wins Val d'Isere slalom

**VAL-D'ISERE:** Austrian Marcel Hirscher called on all his experience to master incredibly tough conditions and deliver a fast-charging second run to snatch victory in the World Cup slalom in Val d'Isere yesterday. Starting in eighth position in the second run, during which the top 30 from the first run start from the slowest up, six-time World Cup overall champion Hirscher clocked the second fastest time of 52.39sec for a winning combined total of 1min 41.94sec.

It was the 28-year-old Hirscher's 47th victory on the circuit and 21st in the slalom, the most technical discipline skiers tackle, and a perfect confidence booster just under two months away from the Winter Olympics in South Korea.

"We made a little adjustment (for the second run) and obviously it worked, it felt much better so thanks to the whole team," Hirscher said. "It was very tough, I've never seen so much snow in one hour. We're just thankful we could race today," he said, praising the course workers for tirelessly clearing the course. Hirscher, who made his comeback last month after being out of action with a fractured ankle sustained in August, was understandably thrilled with his victory.

"The results are pretty good!" he said, admitting to now feeling extremely nervous despite his experience.

"Before the race I was really nervous because I've missed so many training days... I get so nervous before races, 'Am I ready for this or not?'; so many questions. 'Every turn makes you stronger.'"

Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen, slalom winner in Val d'Isere in the last two seasons ahead of Hirscher, claimed second, 0.39sec adrift of Hirscher and just one-hundredth of a second ahead of third-placed Swede Andre Myhrer. First run leader Stefano Gross of Italy could only finish sixth, at 0.76sec. Earlier, American skier Lindsey Vonn pulled out of yesterday's super-G in St Moritz after sustaining a back injury 24 hours previously. With less than two months to go before the Winter Olympics, Vonn said: "Unfortunately I will not be able to race today. I am extremely disappointed but my biggest goal this season is the Olympics and I need to take care of myself now so I can be ready for next week, and more importantly, for February. As always, thank you for the well wishes."

Her tweet ended with icons of a red heart and hands in prayer. Vonn explained overnight that she had suffered an "acute facet (spinal joint) dysfunction". "I got compressed on the 6th gate and my back seized up. Rested and had a lot of therapy tonight." She added: "Our @usskiteam doctor checked me out and no imaging is needed, just need the joint and the muscles to calm down so I can move again." —AFP

## Lomachenko retains title as Rigondeaux quits after six

**NEW YORK:** Vasily Lomachenko continued his meteoric rise up the boxing ladder, retaining his WBO junior lightweight title Saturday night after challenger Guillermo Rigondeaux quit on his stool after six rounds. The 29-year-old Lomachenko was awarded the victory when Rigondeaux elected not to come out for the seventh round in the first world title professional showdown between two multiple Olympic gold medal winners.

The outclassed Rigondeaux becomes the fourth straight boxer to quit mid-fight against Ukrainian Lomachenko. "Maybe I should change my second name, now my name is 'No Mas Chenko'." Lomachenko joked in the ring, referring to Roberto Duran when he threw in the towel against Sugar Ray Leonard in 1980.

Lomachenko improved to 10-1 as he handed the Cuban defector the first loss of his career in front of a crowd of 5,100 at the Madison Square Garden Theater. Lomachenko humiliated Rigondeaux, using his size and hand speed to dominate every round except the first.

He grew increasingly frustrated with Rigondeaux's tactics which included low blows and more clutching and grabbing than throwing punches. Lomachenko landed 55 punches overall while Rigondeaux landed just 15. Rigondeaux, who was booed loudly after the fight, looked the much smaller of the two fighters as the 37-year-old moved up two weight classes to challenge for the title. Rigondeaux (17-1) said after the fight that he hurt his hand in the second round and that was the reason he couldn't go on.

"I lost, but it was because of my hand," he said. "In the second round I injured the top of my hand and I could no longer continue." It marked the first time double Olympic gold medal winners battled for a world title as professionals.

Lomachenko, who won gold in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, has rocketed to the top of



**NEW YORK:** Vasily Lomachenko (L) punches Guillermo Rigondeaux during their Junior Lightweight bout at Madison Square Garden in New York City. — AFP

his weight class since turning pro in 2013, winning nine world championship fights in his first 11 contests. Lomachenko lost his second pro fight to veteran Orlando Salido but then

won a world title in his next bout by beating Gary Russell. He became a two division champion by moving up in weight in just his seventh fight to beat Roman Martinez. — AFP



**KUWAIT:** The course of organizing festivals, and sports events as well as voluntary work was opened under the patronage of Acting Director General of Public Authority for Sports, in the presence of Abdallah Al-Salem Center for preparing leaders Mahmoud Abul. 50 persons from all sports and government entities are participating. The course will continue until Dec 14.



Sports

# Thousands participate in NBK's Walkathon titled 'We're Stronger... With Every Step'

NBK's annual walkathon exceed all expectations



KUWAIT: Amidst a carnival-like atmosphere, nine thousands of male and female enthusiastic participants of all age groups on Saturday took to the smooth course of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK's) Annual Walkathon titled "We're Stronger... With Every Step". Thousands of cheering supporters and spectators and media lined the racing route on the Arabian Gulf Street to the finish line at the Shuwaikh Beach Park where the hugely successful conclusion of this event and the award ceremony was marked with a variety of entertainment activities. NBK organized its annual Walkathon for the 23rd consecutive year. Isam Al Sager, NBK Group Chief Executive Officer, Salah Al Fulaij, NBK - Kuwait Chief Executive Officer and NBK - Kuwait Deputy CEO and NBK General Manager, Treasury Group, Sulaiman Al Marzouq joined NBK officials who took part in the Walkathon.



Speaking in front of thousands of contestants, spectators and guests, who gathered at the end of the walkathon to celebrate the awarding of the first-place winners and enjoying the carnival, NBK Public Relations Assistant General Manager, Manal Al Mattar said that the huge participation from the various age categories at the 23rd version of NBK's Annual Walkathon had by far exceeded all expectations, providing yet another testament of the great community confidence in this mega event which has become one of the much awaited NBK public activities. Al Mattar commended the great collaboration exhibited by different ministries and governmental institutions, spearheaded by both the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior, in addition to the Kuwaiti Association of Athletics Federations, all showing great cooperation to ensure the

event's success. Al Mattar added "NBK strongly supports sporting events and encourages sporting activities as means to promote a healthier and more active lifestyle for members of the community. NBK's 2017 Walkathon aimed to encourage each individual to believe in their ability towards making a change."

The Walkathon culminated with a prize giving ceremony where NBK awarded the top 100 participants, and gave away many valuable prizes alongside the two brand new Renault cars from Al Babbain Group as grand prizes. NBK's Social Media team broadcast the Walkathon live on NBK's Official Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram Pages, posting regular updates throughout the day.

**RACE PREPARATIONS**  
Several communication points were set up along the race route between the Green Island and Shuwaikh Beach Park. By the early morning hours, organizers ensured the full readiness of the site to receive the participants. The event started after NBK volunteers finalized all required organizational and preventive measures to ensure the safety of the contestants.

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT SHUWAIKH BEACH PARK**  
For the second year, the event included organizing events dedicated to children aged 5 to 11 years old, set up at Shuwaikh Beach Park. The children participated in several fun-filled contests and games, under the supervisor of NBK's volunteers.

**SPECIAL NEEDS AND ELDERLIES**  
NBK dedicates an annual special competition within the race for people with special needs, as part of the bank's beliefs of the utmost importance of involving all members of society and their ability to prove their active and vital role in various areas and fields, particularly sports. This year witnessed the participation of special needs contestants who successfully took part in the competition, thanks to their determination and enthusiasm, thus achieving a significant milestone in reinforcing their confidence and boosting their hopes.

Also, for the first time this year, NBK initiated a new racing category for participants aged 60 years old and above to encourage a healthier lifestyle among all members of the society.

**TWO NBK WALKATHON GRAND PRIZE WINNERS OF RENAULT**

Ibrahim Mohammed Al Desouki and Don Solo were the lucky winners of two brand new Renault cars presented by Al Babbain Group during NBK's 23rd Walkathon grand prize draw, supervised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The winners were among thousands of participants who placed their race coupons in the designated draw box at the time of registration. The two winners received their car keys from Saleh Al Babbain, Al Babbain Group CEO and Isam Al Sager, NBK Group CEO. Additionally, NBK presented a large number of prizes and surprises, in response to the public great interaction with the bank's social mission, which receives overwhelming response each year from all age groups, particularly young people.

## Lakmal leads rout as S Lanka romp home against India

DHARAMSALA: Sri Lanka pace bowler Suranga Lakmal helped them steamroll India by seven wickets in the first one-day international in Dharamsala yesterday. The 30-year-old claimed four wickets for 13 runs in his impeccable 10 overs, which included four maidens, as the tourists bundled out India for 112 in 38.2 overs at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium.

India were reeling at 29-7 in the 17th over before Mahendra Singh Dhoni struck a belligerent 65, with the former captain contributing more than half of the team total. Sri Lanka's top order were not completely convincing against the moving ball but Upul Tharanga's breezy 49 helped them chase down the small target with nearly 30 overs to spare and go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

Smarting from their 1-0 loss in the preceding test series, Sri Lanka opted to field against an Indian team led by Rohit Sharma in the absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli who has been rested ahead of the team's imminent tour of South Africa. India got off to a terrible start losing Shikhar Dhawan, one of their five scoreless batsmen in the match, in the second over which triggered a spectacular collapse. Angelo Mathews, an all-rounder who has been reduced by injury to an occasional bowler, dismissed Dhawan leg-before and Lakmal sent back Sharma caught behind for two in the fifth. On both occasions, Sri Lanka used the review option to overturn the original not out decisions. The double blow completely unhinged India, who lost the top half of their batting order to score their first 16 runs.

Dhoni combined with number nine Kuldeep Yadav (19) to help India first go past the record for lowest ODI total of 35 — by Zimbabwe against Sri Lanka in a 2004 match in Harare — and then their own lowest total of 54 against the Sri Lankans.

Dhoni hit 10 boundaries and a couple of sixes but India still ended up with a total which Sri Lanka overcame without breaking a sweat. Mohali hosts the second ODI on Wednesday. — Reuters

### SCOREBOARD

**DHARAMSALA, India:** Scoreboard of the first one-day international between India and Sri Lanka in Dharamsala yesterday:

India	
R. Sharma c Dickwella b Lakmal	2
S. Dhawan lbw b Mathews	0
S. Iyer b Pradeep	9
D. Karthik lbw b Lakmal	0
M. Pandey c Mathews b Lakmal	2
M.S. Dhoni c Gunathilaka b Perera	65
H. Pandya c Mathews b Pradeep	10
B. Kumar c Dickwella b Lakmal	0
K. Yadav st Dickwella b Dhananjaya	19
J. Bumrah b Pathirana	0
Y. Chahal not out	0
Extras (lb2, w3)	5
Total (all out, 38.2 overs)	112
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Dhawan), 2-2 (Sharma), 3-8 (Karthik), 4-16 (Pandey), 5-16 (Iyer), 6-28 (Pandya), 7-29 (Kumar), 8-70 (Yadav), 9-87 (Bumrah), 10-112 (Dhoni)	
Bowling: Lakmal 10-4-13-4 (w1), Mathews 5-2-8-1 (w2), Pradeep 10-4-37-2, Perera 4.2-0-29-1, Dhananjaya 5-2-7-1, Pathirana 4-1-16-1.	

Sri Lanka (target 113)	
D. Gunathilaka c Dhoni b Bumrah	1
U. Tharanga c Dhawan b Pandya	49
L. Thirimanne b Kumar	0
A. Mathews not out	25
N. Dickwella not out	26
Extras (lb1, nb2, w10)	13
Total (3 wickets, 20.4 overs)	114
Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Gunathilaka), 2-19 (Thirimanne), 3-65 (Tharanga)	
Did not bat: A. Gunaratne, T. Perera, S. Pathirana, S. Lakmal, A. Dananjaya, N. Pradeep	
Bowling: Kumar 8.4-1-42-1 (w1), Bumrah 7-1-32-1 (w2, nb2), Pandya 5-0-39-1 (w7)	
Result: Sri Lanka won by seven wickets	
Series: Sri Lanka lead the three-match series 1-0	

## Southee, Boult dominate for N Zealand as Windies stutter

HAMILTON: Tim Southee and Trent Boult took centre stage with bat and ball as New Zealand seized command on a rain-affected day two of the second Test against the West Indies in Hamilton yesterday.

They shared a 61-run last wicket stand to get New Zealand up to 373 in their first innings. The new ball pair then took four wickets between them on a benign pitch as the West Indies plummeted to 215 for eight at stumps. Southee has two for 34 and Boult two for 67. Raymon Reifer on debut was not out 22 with Miguel Cummins on 10. Southee, unavailable for the first Test, capped his day with a stunning catch to remove Kraigg Braithwaite, the West Indies' top scorer with 66.

The 1.93 metre (6ft 4in) Southee leapt to get a hand to block an edge off Colin de Grandhomme, and then dived to get a hand under the ball just as it was about to hit the ground. Play was interrupted for nearly 90 minutes by rain when the West Indies were 87 for two with Brathwaite and Shai Hope laying the foundations for a solid partnership.

But when play resumed, 20 minutes after the scheduled tea break, Hope only lasted six more balls before he was gone to end a 44-run stand and put the tourists into a tailspin that saw six wickets fall in the final session. They included Sunil Ambris, out for two when he stepped back onto his stumps for the second time in only his third Test innings. Bowler Boult shook his head and said "unbelievable" as Ambris hung his head and trudged back to the pavilion. Southee struck first in the opening over of the innings, taking the wicket of Kieran

Powell without scoring, and Boult caught and bowled Shimron Hetmyer for 28.

### FLEETING HOPE

Hope reached 15 off four scoring shots—two fours, a six and a single—when he was caught at first slip to give Southee his second wicket. Roston Chase had no sooner brought up his 1,000th Test run than he was bowled by de Grandhomme with a ball that straightened and slipped between bat and pad. Brathwaite was dropped on 14 by Tom Latham and an edge on 47 fell just short of Ross Taylor at first slip before being dismissed by a phenomenal piece of fielding from Southee.

The stand-in Calypso captain faced 116 balls and hit nine fours and a six. Shane Dowrich had the second best score for the West Indies with 35, which included seven boundaries. New Zealand had resumed the day at 286 for seven and lost Neil Wagner for one and Tom Blundell for 28 early before Southee and Boult opened up. Mixing classic strokes with unorthodox cuts and pulls, Southee faced 39 balls for his 31 which included two sixes and a four. Boult had two sixes and five fours in his 37 off 27 deliveries. — AFP



Matches on TV  
(Local Timings)

### SPANISH LEAGUE

Espanyol v Girona	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	

### ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Genoa v Atalanta	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Lazio v Torino	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	



**14** Lomachenko retains title as Rigondeaux quits after six



**14** Maple Leafs score twice in opening two minutes to beat Penguins 4-3



**15** Lakmal leads rout as S Lanka romp home against India



OLD TRAFFORD: Manchester City's Spanish midfielder David Silva scores the opening goal past Manchester United's Spanish goalkeeper David de Gea (2L) during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Manchester City at Old Trafford. — AFP

## Man City down title rivals Man Utd

### Otamendi wins derby to fire City 11 points clear

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United's defensive deficiencies gifted Pep Guardiola's Manchester City a 2-1 derby victory yesterday that allowed them to establish a massive 11-point lead in the Premier League.

Romelu Lukaku was United's fall guy, his failure to clear two set-pieces enabling David Silva and Nicolas Otamendi to score either side of Marcus Rashford's opportunistic equaliser in first-half injury time. City's win at a snowy Old Trafford was their 14th in succession in the Premier League, equalling the English top-flight record and setting a new benchmark for consecutive victories within the same campaign. It also gave City an enormous advantage at the summit and with Chelsea, Liverpool and Arsenal having all lost ground this weekend, it will take a calamity to deprive Guardiola's team of the title.

Guardiola has beaten opposite number Jose Mourinho in nine of their 20 meetings and this latest win came with

the added satisfaction of denying United a club-record 41st home game without defeat. City were also the last team to emerge victorious at Old Trafford, winning 2-1 in Guardiola's first Manchester derby in September 2016.

United saw a run of four wins come to an end and having lost eight of the last 13 derbies, they will find it harder to play down talk of a Manchester power shift.

In switching to a back four and naming a fleet-footed attacking quartet of Rashford, Lukaku, Jesse Lingard and Anthony Martial, Mourinho made it clear he would look to hit City on the break.

The visitors were allowed to make the running and their crisp exchanges gave United moments of alarm on the edge of their own penalty area. Raheem Sterling created a shooting chance after a neat one-two with Gabriel Jesus and Jesus procured a sight of goal by sending Marcos Rojo crashing to the turf, but both players shot straight at David de Gea.

City made De Gea work hard for the first time in the 42nd minute when Leroy Sane controlled Fabian Delph's deep cross on his thigh and obliged the Spaniard to tip his rasping drive over the bar.

From the corner that followed, City took the lead. Kevin De Bruyne's ball from the City right struck Lukaku and skipped up for Silva to leap and hook a close-range volley past De Gea. City's fans were goading United, mocking cries of "Hooff!" emanating from the away end every time the hosts launched the ball forwards, but it was from one such agricultural attack that Mourinho's men drew level.

After Otamendi mistimed his attempt to head away a hopeful high ball from his Argentina team-mate Rojo, Delph allowed the ball to skip past him and Rashford darted in to clip a low shot past Ederson. Rojo departed at half-time, having been involved in a clash of heads with Silva, while Ilkay Gundogan replaced City skipper Vincent Kompany, with Fernandinho dropping to centre-back.

United looked more enterprising early in the second half, but another set-piece in the 54th minute—and another Lukaku blunder—would prove their undoing. — AFP



City's win was their 14th in succession in EPL

### Rooney gives Everton a share of derby spoils

**LIVERPOOL:** Wayne Rooney scored his first goal in a Merseyside derby as his late penalty earned Everton a 1-1 draw with Liverpool yesterday. Liverpool had taken the lead in the 229th meeting of the old rivals when Mohamed Salah spectacularly curled a shot home just before half-time, but the Reds were unable to find a killer second goal at Anfield.

Everton kept their discipline and refused to wilt and were awarded a spot-kick after Dejan Lovren barged over Dominic Calvert-Lewin. Rooney, who rejoined his boyhood club from Manchester United in July, showed no nerves as he equalised with 13 minutes left.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp made six changes from the side which thrashed Spartak Moscow 7-0, including the surprise decision to leave Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino on the bench. Dominic Solanke and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain were selected ahead of the Brazilian duo while Andrew Robertson replaced Alberto Moreno at left-back.

The start was typical of a Merseyside derby; feisty tackles, misplaced passes, no chances taken with clearances booted into row Z if required. Liverpool looked to show the early attacking intent, with Salah and Sadio Mane on the ball frequently with an eagerness to run at Everton's defence. After 15 minutes the game settled, Liverpool monopolising possession with Everton's two

banks of four happy to sit deep and seek to frustrate the home side. Liverpool carved out an opening just before the half-hour mark when Mane received the ball on the byline and cut it back for Solanke inside the box, but under pressure from Tom Davies the striker scuffed his effort. Everton fought hard, with Rooney using his strength to shoulder James Milner to the ground to the approval of the visiting supporters. Gylfi Sigurdsson took things a little too far and received the first booking of the contest for a late challenge which caught the ankle of Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson while Idrissa Gueye was also shown yellow for a tackle from behind on Mane. The first goal arrived three minutes before half-time with the influential Salah, Liverpool's most effective attacking player in the first half, the source.

Salah was fed the ball by defender Joe Gomez on right flank, shrugged Cuco Martina easily to the ground and cut inside on his left foot. The Egypt international dropped a shoulder to move past Gueye and then curled a sublime finish into the top corner with Jordan Pickford grasping at thin air.

Liverpool should have been two goals ahead by the break when Mane stole possession and found himself through on goal. However, the Senegal forward dragged his shot wide when he could have given passed for a tap in. Allardyce introduced Aaron Lennon and Morgan Schneiderlin at half-time with Oumar Niasse and Tom Davies making way. Liverpool remained the likelier to score. From Milner's cross early in the second half, Salah headed wide with the goal at his mercy. Then, Mane had the Kop on its feet with an acrobatic effort, but Pickford was well stationed to save comfortably.

The hosts went close again in the hour when Salah's curling free-kick picked out Gomez who glanced a header just over the crossbar. — AFP

### Giroud's late header rescues Arsenal

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Olivier Giroud's last-gasp header salvaged a point for Arsenal in a 1-1 draw at Southampton yesterday as Arsene Wenger's side avoided a second successive Premier League defeat. Wenger's team appeared destined to follow last weekend's home loss to Manchester United with another setback when they trailed to Charlie Austin's third minute goal.

But France striker Giroud conjured a response with two minutes left when he directed Alexis Sanchez's cross past Fraser Forster shortly after appearing as a substitute. A single point, though, denied Arsenal the chance to climb into the top four.

Southampton can consider themselves unfortunate to have seen Austin's fourth goal in three starts cancelled out late on, but Mauricio Pellegrino's side have won just one of their last seven games.

After seeing his side ship two early goals in the United defeat, Wenger had demanded concentration from the start. Unfortunately for Wenger, it appears his words went unheeded. Per Mertesacker had been restored to the line-up in place of the injured Shkodran Mustafi. But the Germany international was left red-faced just two minutes into his return as he gifted Southampton the goal that allowed Pellegrino's side to control the first half. A poor clearance from Mertesacker conceded possession deep inside his own half and then

slipped as he attempted to make up for his mistake, allowing Dusan Tadic the time and space to pick out Austin's run into the box where the striker finished from 12 yards out. It was the perfect start for the home side and they should have been two up inside five minutes when Tadic and Austin again combined to open up the unconvincing Gunners backline.

This time Tadic delivered a through ball from near the halfway line, sending Austin into space with a clear run on goal, but the forward placed his shot too close to keeper Petr Cech who was given the chance to save.

Arsenal looked vulnerable to every early Southampton attack and the satisfaction that followed Thursday's 6-0 Europa League defeat of BATE Borisov was quickly forgotten.

Theo Walcott and Jack Wilshere had both impressed in that win but Wenger adjudged that neither had done enough to force their way into his starting line-up. Wilshere in particular had cause to feel hard done to with Granit Xhaka making little impression in the central midfield areas as Arsenal fought to get back on level terms. In fact most of the visitors' first half opportunities came on the break, and in particular when Alexis Sanchez controlled a Southampton corner inside his own area and led a sweeping attacking move that was halted by Pierre-Emille Hojbjerg's saving tackle as Alexandre Lacazette made to shoot.

And when Aaron Ramsey did manage to fire off a shot towards Forster's goal a first time effort from Sanchez's 32nd minute cross - the Southampton keeper reacted superbly to dive low to his left after push the ball beyond the post. Arsenal pressed forward with more purpose after the restart, dominating possession yet unable to penetrate a home defence that demonstrate far more resilience than their own. — AFP



## Business

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017

**19** Brexit negotiations change gears; Dollar holds on to weekly gains**21** Honda Alghanim hosts KU students in sales challenge**22** Cadillac opens doors to the 'Letters to Andy Warhol' expo

TEHRAN: Iranian school-girls attend President Rouhani's presentation of the for 2018-2019 budget to the parliament yesterday in Tehran. —AFP

# Iran eyes major economic growth next year

## Rouhani presents conservative 2018 budget as US tensions cloud economy

TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani promised high economic growth as he laid out next year's budget yesterday, despite uncertainty over whether the United States will pull out of the nuclear deal.

Rouhani proposed to parliament yesterday a conservative state budget of about \$104 billion for next year, with the outlook for the economy and state revenues clouded by tensions with the United States.

Presenting the budget to parliament, Rouhani said overall economic growth would hit 6.5 percent in the fiscal year starting in March 2018, and seven percent with the oil sector excluded. Significant economic growth was a cornerstone of Rouhani's campaign when he was re-elected in May. The government has also forecast 6.5 percent growth for this year but other estimates have been less optimistic. Parliament's research centre has said Gross Domestic Product will grow by only 3.9 percent this year, while the International Monetary Fund forecasts 3.5 percent in 2017, 3.8 percent in 2018 and four percent in 2019. Rouhani's first term from 2013 to 2017 was marked by the conclusion of the nuclear agreement with world powers in July 2015, which the president vowed would boost the economy by ending Iran's



**Overall growth seen hitting 6.5% in fiscal year**

international isolation. But major economic improvements have yet to materialize, with foreign investments limited due to fears of US President Donald Trump abandoning the nuclear deal and the return of the economic and financial sanctions that were lifted under the accord. Unemployment remains high and the IMF estimates it will reach 12.7 percent for 2017. It also says inflation may hit double digits this year as the rial slides against the US dollar.

Rouhani announced a draft budget for the Iranian year starting next March 21 of 3,681 trillion rials (\$103.9 billion at the official exchange rate), excluding the spending of state enterprises.

That is up about 6 percent from the budget plan for the current year, but since inflation is running at nearly 10 percent, the budget extends the conservative fiscal policy which Rouhani introduced after taking office in 2013.

In a speech broadcast live by state television, Rouhani described the budget as one that would work towards full employment, eliminating poverty and creating social justice.

After struggling for years under sanctions, Iran's economy picked up in 2016 after most restrictions

were removed under a deal with world powers on its nuclear program. Gross domestic product grew 12.5 percent last year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

But that leap in growth was almost entirely due to a surge in the oil sector as Iran became able to increase its oil exports; the rest of the economy, which is more important to the welfare of most Iranians, improved much less. The IMF projects growth of just 3.5 percent this year.

Unemployment, officially put at around 12.5 percent, is a major cause of public concern and Rouhani said in his speech that 840,000 people would enter the job market next year.

Rouhani is under pressure to boost economic growth and create jobs as his hardline opponents, who were against the nuclear agreement, say he has failed to improve living standards as much as hoped after the lifting of sanctions. US President Donald Trump, who has taken a hawkish approach towards Iran, has said Tehran's missile program should be curbed and wants to punish Iran over its roles in Yemen and Syria. Trump has also dealt a blow to the nuclear deal by disavowing Iran's compliance with its terms, and the US Congress may re-impose sanctions or impose new sanctions. This threat has deterred many foreign banks and companies from doing business with Iran.

As in past years, the draft budget shows spending and revenues in balance, although the actual result will depend on fluctuations in oil prices. Next year's budget assumes oil prices of about \$55 per barrel, Iranian news agencies reported, up from about \$50 assumed



TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani presents to the parliament his budget for 2018-2019 yesterday in Tehran. —AFP

for the current year's budget.

The total draft budget, including state enterprises, amounts to 11,949 trillion rials, according to the text of the proposed plan published by Iranian news agencies.

The draft budget has to be passed by parliament and approved by a clerical body that vets legislation before it becomes law. —Agencies

## After Brexit, UK aims for trade deal with EU

LONDON: Britain is aiming to secure a comprehensive free trade deal with the European Union and wants it to be signed shortly after it leaves the bloc in 2019, Brexit minister David Davis said yesterday. After securing an initial agreement on Friday to move Brexit talks to a second phase, Prime Minister Theresa May is keen to start discussing future ties with the EU, and especially the type of trading agreement to try to offer greater certainty for businesses. But despite Davis striking a confident tone, EU officials say they will only launch negotiations on a legally binding treaty after Britain leaves and becomes a "third country", according to draft negotiating guidelines.

"It's not that complicated, it comes right back to the alignment point ... We start in full alignment, we start in complete convergence so we can work it out from

there," Davis told the BBC's Andrew Marr show. "The thing is how we manage divergence so it doesn't undercut the access to the market," he said, describing his preferred deal as "Canada plus plus plus". The EU has been considering a post-Brexit free trade deal with Britain along the lines of one agreed last year with Canada. But the UK economy is nearly twice the size of Canada's and British officials have said that their current alignment with EU standards and much closer trading links with the continent give them scope for an even deeper relationship.

### Limited respite

May has been hailed by many in her deeply divided Conservative party for rescuing the agreement to unlock the Brexit talks by offering EU member Ireland and her allies in Northern Ireland a pledge to avoid any return of a hard border. By playing with the wording, May agreed that if the two sides failed to agree an overall Brexit deal, the United Kingdom would keep "full alignment" with those rules of the EU's single market that help cooperation between Ireland's north and south. —Reuters

## US Fed to hike interest rates as Trump tax cut looms

WASHINGTON: The US central bank is set to raise the benchmark interest rate this week, looking to get ahead of price increases that, though absent so far, are still expected to materialize.

It would be the third rate hike this year, and is overwhelmingly expected by economists and traders, and hinted at by policymakers, even though official data show inflation remains well below the Federal Reserve's two percent target.

With the world's largest economy growing and near full employment—confirmed by a strong November jobs report on Friday—the central bank has long been expecting to see signs of inflation in the pipeline.

And now a Republican plan nearing approval in Congress to slash corporate taxes offers a potential jolt to the economy that could prompt the Fed to hike rates faster, economists say.

The Fed's forecast in September indicated three rate hikes were likely next year, but any

increase in anxiety over fiscal policy and its impact on inflation could be reflected in the revised projections from policymakers that will be released at this week's meeting.

Since the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee last met six weeks ago, economic data have seen ripples of distortion from the multiple hurricanes of late summer, including rebounds in home construction and industrial output, for example.

And a key measure of consumer inflation posted its first gain in nine months in October—though this was partly driven by the cost of hotels and lodging, which rose as people left home to flee Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

The Fed's latest nationwide survey of the economy also contained reports of rising prices and worker pay—just the thing the central bank watches closely.

But the underlying trends have not changed much: an economy humming along at near three percent quarterly growth, robust—but-slowing job creation and record low unemployment, accompanied by weak inflation and sluggish wage gains.

The absence of inflation has baffled Fed officials and led to a split among those who want to go slow, and those who want to hike more quickly before price increases hit the economy.

Fed governor Jerome Powell, President Donald Trump's pick to lead the central bank

starting in February, testified last month that the case for a rate hike was "coming together," in an unusually strong hint about the likely move this week.

But Chicago Federal Reserve Bank President Charles Evans, currently a voting member of the FOMC, questioned the need to raise rates again so soon, and said the central bank could simply sit on its hands "until the middle of next year."

### Below three percent, impossible?

How a massive tax cut that slashes corporate tax rates to 20 percent from 35 percent might change the outlook for the economy and inflation remains unclear as estimates vary widely. Much depends on the final details and when they take effect.

According to economists at Goldman Sachs, the version of the tax bill adopted by the Senate could boost growth by 0.3 percentage points over the next two years—before turning flat or even negative the following year. Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics said tax cuts at full employment "make no sense" and could drive the unemployment rate to three percent.

"You might think that's impossible," he said in a client note, "but note that 108 metro areas... already had sub 3.5 percent unemployment rates in September." —AFP



Business

# Venezuela in new defaults on two bonds, says S&P

## Country failed to make \$183 million coupon payment

**CARACAS:** Crisis-wracked Venezuela has defaulted on two bonds, failing to make a \$183 million coupon payment, ratings agency S&P said Friday. The agency said OPEC-member Caracas failed to make the payment within a 30-day grace period on global bonds due in 2023 and 2028.

The grace period expired Friday. "In line with our criteria for timeliness of payments, we are lowering the issue ratings on these bonds to "D" from "CC," the agency said.

Falling oil prices and corruption have decimated the economy under socialist President Nicolas Maduro, leading to hyperinflation and chronic food and medicine shortages in the oil-rich but cash-poor South American nation. Maduro is under fire internationally for marginalizing the opposition and stifling independent media. Earlier this year, 125 people were killed in several months of violent protests against his rule.

Despite this, Maduro is set for the latest in a sweep of poll victories in mayoral elections on Sunday, with the main opposition parties boycotting the polls and showing little sign they can prevent his re-election next year. Next year's presidential election is scheduled for December, but some experts believe it could be brought forward to March.

Global ratings agencies already had declared Venezuela and state-owned oil company PDVSA to be in "selective default" due to late payments on multiple bond issues.

PDVSA is Venezuela's primary source of income.

Key bosses at the oil company have been sacked and arrested on corruption charges in what analysts see as a purge by Maduro to consolidate power ahead of next year's

elections. Newly-installed oil minister Manuel Quevedo, a former general, told reporters recently that oil production at PDVSA had been sabotaged as a preamble to a coup attempt. Although it sits atop the world's biggest oil reserves, Venezuela is struggling under an estimated debt burden of \$150 billion. S&P on Thursday said the worsening financial and social crisis in the country had put the credit of Venezuela's US-based oil company Citgo at risk.

The ratings agency put the ratings of Citgo Holdings and Citgo Petroleum on "CreditWatch with developing implications"—indicating a credit move is likely within 90 days. The worsening financial and social crisis in Venezuela had now put the credit of the country's US-based oil company Citgo at risk, ratings agency S&P announced.

In the wake of the government and state oil company PDVSA defaulting on debt payments, S&P put the ratings of Citgo Holdings and Citgo Petroleum on "CreditWatch with developing implications." The move indicates a ratings move is likely in the next 90 days. And while Citgo's debt is graded separately from its parent company, S&P cited "heightened uncertainty regarding the separation between CITGO" and PDVSA.

And while it is possible the situation will develop favorably for Citgo's "B-" debt rating, "we believe that it is somewhat more likely to be negative than positive." Global ratings agencies already had declared Venezuela and state-owned oil company PDVSA to be in "selective default" due to the late payments on multiple bond issues. PDVSA is the primary source of income for the oil-rich but cash-poor country. —AFP



### Ratings on bonds lowered to 'D' from 'CC'



**CARACAS:** Venezuelans register to receive their "Fatherland's Card", an electronic identity card aimed at organizing and regulating government social benefits, at Francisco de Miranda Chavist Operations Center in Caracas. — AFP

News in brief

### Sudan curbs imports to support currency

**KHARTOUM:** Sudan has imposed a temporary import ban on selected foods and other items in an effort to protect its currency and narrow its budget deficit after the end of US trade sanctions in October, the government said. The Sudanese pound has been weakening against the dollar since Washington lifted 20-year-old economic embargo, paving the way for traders to step up import volumes and putting pressure on already scarce hard currency. The central bank holds the official exchange rate at 6.7 pounds to the dollar, but a low supply in formal channels have meant traders have had to rely on Sudan's black market for dollars. Meat products, fish and fresh produce were among the 19 items included in the temporary ban the trade ministry signed, according to a statement released late on Saturday. The ban was effective Dec 7, the day it was signed.

### Egypt's annual urban inflation falls to 26%

**CAIRO:** Egypt's inflation in November fell to a 2017 low a year after the country floated its pound currency as part of a \$12 billion International Monetary Fund deal to boost the economy. Inflation has shot up since the pound's flotation last November, reaching a record high in July on the back of energy subsidy cuts, but has gradually eased since. Annual urban consumer price inflation eased to 26 percent in November from 30.8 percent the previous month, official data showed yesterday. Core inflation, which strips out volatile items such as food, fell to 25.53 percent from 30.53 percent. The central bank has raised key interest rates by 700 basis points since the pound float, but economists see it cutting them in its monetary policy meeting later this month amid a continuing easing of post-float inflationary pressure. Egypt's finance minister said yesterday that he expected inflation to reach 20 percent by January and 13-14 percent by August. Chinese electric

## With new internet rules set for vote, firestorm won't die

**WASHINGTON:** US regulators are gearing up for a vote on a plan which—depending on your viewpoint—would "restore internet freedom" or, alternatively, result in "the death of the internet" as we know it. The Federal Communications Commission will consider a rollback of its 2015 order aimed at enforcing "net neutrality," or the notion of treating all data and content providers equally.

FCC chairman Ajit Pai last month unveiled the plan, the latest twist in a dispute over more than a decade, with both sides claiming to promote a "free and open" internet. The plan, widely expected to be approved on a 3-2 party-line vote Thursday, would reverse the rules adopted two years earlier which ban broadband providers from blocking or throttling rivals, or using "fast" and "slow" lanes for different services.

Pai, named chairman by President Donald Trump, said the 2015 rules "depress investment and innovation." Critics of the existing rules say they rely on 1930s-era rules for telephone companies, which could in theory lead to price regulation and other burdens.

But net neutrality backers argue that the rollback will enable internet service providers (ISPs) to shut out rivals that compete with their services or those of partners. They point out that some ISPs in the past have tried to force users to their own search engines, or block online calling services such as Skype or Vonage, or require a premium for Apple's FaceTime video calling.

The Pai proposal "will lead to a dramatic transformation of how the internet works," said Sarah Morris, who heads the New America Foundation's Open Policy Institute. "Internet service providers as gatekeepers have a lot of incentives to engage in shenanigans. The threats to our ability to navigate the internet and go to every corner of it are at risk" if the Pai plan is adopted, she told a conference on Tuesday.

Pillow in the face?

New York Times columnist Farhad Manjoo wrote that "the free-wheeling internet has been dying a slow death"

and that the FCC actions "would be the final pillow in its face." Senior executive vice president Bob Quinn of AT&T, one of the large broadband firms which has lobbied and sued to block earlier FCC regulatory efforts, said apocalyptic predictions are wrong. "AT&T intends to operate its network the same way AT&T operates its network today: in an open and transparent manner," Quinn said in a blog post last month.

Michael Powell, head of the trade group for major broadband firms NCTA - The Internet & Television Association, said member companies have agreed to respect principles to "satisfy their customers' desire to visit any lawful website or run any lawful application."

But some are not mollified by these assurances, arguing that broadband is largely controlled by a handful of firms—including AT&T, Verizon and Comcast—with little competition or consumer choice in many markets. "Why would they spend millions of dollars lobbying if they are going to treat everybody equally and not extract monopoly rents?" asked Ed Black, president of the Computer & Communications Industry Association, which represents major tech firms.

"If they are allowed to build superfast lanes, they would cease to invest in the other lanes. It means everybody else is going to be left on the equivalent of dirt roads."

The question of "paid prioritization," whether broadband firms can charge more for improved access, has been among the most hotly debated. Critics say broadband firms would be able to extort higher fees and limit access for new startups if the proposal is adopted.

But University of California economist Michael Katz argues this is a basic business principle at work.

"The logic of net neutrality would also argue for banning e-commerce sites from purchasing faster delivery from FedEx or UPS, or from offering free shipping," Katz said in a research paper. The net neutrality battle has been the subject of a series of court challenges over the past decade, and more litigation is likely unless Congress establishes clear guidelines.

Large tech firms like Google, Facebook and Netflix oppose the FCC draft rules, arguing that ISPs could effectively cut off or limit user access to some services. But with political and public sentiment shifting against Silicon Valley in recent months, Pai has turned the tables by blaming the large tech platforms for limiting consumer choice. "These providers routinely block or discriminate against content they don't like," Pai told a recent conference. —AFP

## Maldives rushes through trade pact with China despite opposition

**MALE:** The Maldives government signed a free trade agreement with China during a visit to Beijing by its leader, Abdulla Yameen, it said, despite criticism from the opposition over the speed at which the deal was concluded. Under the deal - a document of more than 1,000 pages that the Maldives parliament signed off on last week after less than an hour of discussion - China and the archipelago nation will impose no tariffs on imports from each other. Fisheries are the main export from the Maldives, an Indian Ocean country of 400,000 that also relies heavily on tourism.

"The free trade agreement between China and Maldives signed during the visit was a milestone in the development of China-Maldives economic and trade relations," Yameen's official website said in a joint communique. The Maldives government also endorsed China's proposed Maritime Silk Road business development project, part of its vast Belt and Road infrastructure project.

China's state-run Xinhua news agency quoted Chinese President Xi Jinping as telling Yameen that the Belt and Road program matched up with the Maldives' development strategies.

President Yameen's government has had good relations with China since taking power in 2013. China has been striking deals with countries in Asia and Africa to improve its imports of key commodities and boost its diplomatic clout. The main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) said in a statement that the FTA contained technical details that should have been thoroughly reviewed and called for its implementation to be suspended until an independent feasibility study is conducted.

The government says the FTA will help diversify the \$3.6 billion economy and boost fisheries exports, crucial since the European Union declined in 2014 to renew a tax concession on them. Fisheries account for 5 percent of Maldives' economic output and earned the country \$140 million in 2016. The EU declined to extend the tax exemptions because the country has failed to comply with international conventions on freedom of religion, European diplomats in Colombo say. —Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.690
Indian Rupees	4.700
Pakistani Rupees	2.866
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.966
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
<b>Europe</b>		
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
Slovenia Krona	0.031777	0.036777
Swiss Franc	0.298945	0.309945
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.219557	0.231557
New Zealand Dollar	0.201460	0.210960
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.230725	0.239725
US Dollars	0.298800	0.303220
US Dollars Mint	0.299300	0.303220
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003300	0.003884

Chinese Yuan	0.042288	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
<b>Arab</b>		
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



## Business

## NBK Money Markets Report

# Brexit negotiations change gears; Dollar holds on to weekly gains

## US economy upbeat, non-farm payrolls increase

**KUWAIT:** Last week in the United States, positive economic data indicated that the economy created more jobs than forecasted in November. Non-farm payrolls increased by 228K, compared to 200K expected by analysts. Gains in hiring are being partly attributed by the return to work of thousands of employees who had been temporarily dislocated by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Meanwhile, data from the department of labor also pointed to a rebound in wages as average earnings rose 0.2 percent in November compared to a month earlier. This has elevated the annual increase in wages to 2.5 percent, up from 2.3 percent last month. In addition, the unemployment rate in the US economy remained at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent.

The data, which came at the end of the week, did little to change the upward direction of the US dollar at a time when it is being supported by an imminent interest rate hike this month as well as progress regarding tax reform. The dollar had consistently drifted higher throughout the week as speculation mounted that the US House and Senate will reconcile their tax bills before the end of the year.

In Europe, Brexit negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Union have made "sufficient progress" as PM May and EU commission President Juncker both expressed optimism in an initial deal reached on Friday. The deal was made possible as a result of a compromise on both sides. However, while the EU stated that it has given ground, PM May conceded on all the main subjects, bringing to Brussels an offer on the financial settlement, an agreement on Europeans living in the UK and a solution to keep open the border that divides the island of Ireland after the split. This agreement will allow negotiations to transition into other topics, particularly trade negotiations and the nature of the post-Brexit future.

Despite the significance of such event, the FX market held an unusually muted response. Some analysts have claimed that the market was already long and was positioned for a deal despite the recent speed bumps in negotiation talks. Nevertheless, the accomplishment marks a major milestone that will aid in diminishing the uncertainty of the UK's future outlook as it parts ways with the EU after 40 years.

The Bank of Canada kept interest rates unchanged on Wednesday. The bank took a cautious tone even as it said more rate hikes are likely in store amid diminishing slack in the labor market and signs of inflation

pressures. In addition, the central bank provided few hints as to when the next rate hike will come as chances of hike in January declined to 35 percent. As a result, the Canadian dollar had its worst week in nearly 4 months as the dovish central bank statement coincided with strong US dollar prospects. While the USDCAD pair opened the week at a level of 1.2684, it closed 161 points higher at 1.2845.

With no major economic indicators released throughout the week with respect to the Euro, the single currency lost ground slowly but surely to the strength of the US dollar. While the EURUSD opened the week at 1.1880, it closed it lower at a level of 1.1765. Moreover, the Euro also lost ground to Sterling after an initial Brexit deal was struck. The EURGBP pair reached a near 6 month low of 0.8791 towards the end of the week.

A week of mixed economic indicators and speculation ahead of late Brexit negotiations managed to intensify Sterling volatility. After reaching a December low of 1.3318, the pound managed to close the week higher at a level of 1.3388 against the US dollar.

The Australian dollar managed to rally during the beginning of the week after data indicated that retail sales in the country bounced in October. However, weaker than expected economic data pressured the Aussie throughout the week causing it to close 1.17 percent lower at 0.7505. Regarding commodities, gold marked its worst week since May as it reached a low of \$1,243.71. Gold lost 2.7 percent of its market value this week as prospects of higher interest rates and progress regarding tax reform lifted the dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar had a similar, yet weaker, effect on oil prices as they dipped slightly towards the end of the week.

### UK construction PMI

In the UK, the construction PMI, a leading indicator of economic health, reached a 5-month high. The solid figure was driven mainly by the residential sector as commercial and civil engineering activity continued to decline. Tim Moore, Associate Director at IHS Markit, which compiles the report, commented on the report saying that "UK construction companies experienced a solid yet uneven improvement in business conditions during November. Once again, resilient house building growth helped to offset lower volumes of commercial work and civil engineering activity." Moore also added that "business optimism across the construction sector remained relatively



subdued, but picked up from the near five-year low seen in October".

### UK services PMI

Additionally in the UK, reports showed that consumer prices face the sharpest increase in prices charged by services firms in almost a decade as a range of businesses from hotels to IT companies seek to protect profits against rising costs since the EU referendum. Chris Williamson, Economist at IHS which compiles the report, commented saying that "the big news is in relation to prices, with the PMI surveys pointing to the largest monthly increase in average prices charged for goods and services since August 2008: a time when oil prices soared just before the global financial crisis. Rising oil prices were again to blame in November, with firms also reporting the need to pass higher costs of a wide variety of other inputs on to customers as a result of the weak pound having driven up import prices. As such, the survey data suggest that inflationary pressures have yet to peak."

### Australian data

Solid economic data in Australia indicated that retail sales rose above expectations at 0.5 percent from the previous month, the strongest rise since May. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of Australia

decided to hold rates as expected, at 1.5 percent. The central bank indicated that it is no rush to follow the US, Canada, and the UK in raising rates as it continued to cite the outlook for household consumption as a source of certainty. "Household incomes are growing slowly and debt levels are high" added RBA Governor Lowe.

Despite a solid start to the week, further economic data from Australia indicated that the economy grew at a pace that is slower than expected by analysts. The GDP figure, which came in at 0.6 percent q/q, also showed that household spending rose at the weakest pace since the 2008 financial crisis, reinforcing the likelihood of the central bank keeping interest rates on hold for longer. The AUDUSD pair dropped around 46 points immediately following the release of the data.

Furthermore, data out of Australia revealed that Australia's trade surplus fell to its lowest level since December of 2016. The figure disappointed markets as it came in at \$0.11B, whereas analysts were expecting \$1.60B. The weakness in the trade balance surplus was also accompanied by exports falling 3 percent as imports rose by 2 percent.

### Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar  
The USDKWD opened at 0.30215 yesterday morning.



## Forex market renders a muted response

## Bitcoin futures launch sparks excitement, warnings

**NEW YORK:** Bitcoin was to make its debut on a major exchange yesterday, a landmark for the cryptocurrency that has generated enthusiasm among some investors and more than a little anxiety from others.

The Cboe Futures Exchange in Chicago was to open trading in bitcoin futures at 2300 GMT yesterday, a move that is expected to be followed a week later by a rival listing on Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

"Bitcoin bonanza takes hold of world markets," proclaimed the front page of the Times of London on Friday, reporting on the latest record price of the digital currency.

Among those cheering the launch are the Winklevoss twins, who have been called the first bitcoin billionaires. Critics include financial commentator Jim Cramer, who warns that prices could tumble once the new trading venues open the door to "short sellers," who bet on downward moves in assets.

The two launches were made possible after a key US regulator, the Commodities and Futures Trading Commission, gave the green light to the exchanges on December 1, while warning "of the potentially high level of volatility and risk in trading these contracts."

Anticipation of the first mainstream listings for the digital currency has been a catalyst for a sharp price increase in recent weeks. Bitcoin opened 2017 at around \$1,000, surged past \$10,000 for the first time last month and soared as high as \$16,777 on Thursday before retreating somewhat.

The actual opening of the Cboe market, an electronic trading venue, is expected to be a low-key affair, lacking the pomp of an initial public offering, which is often marked by the new entrant ringing the bell of the New York Stock Exchange.

"There won't be any ceremony, no champagne," said a person close to the Cboe process. "It's going to happen quietly, a switch flipping," the person added. "There are not going to be many people in the office."



This file photo taken in Washington, DC shows bitcoin medals. —AFP

### Going mainstream

The embrace by mainstream exchanges of bitcoin futures—a type of derivative contract that allows trading based on bitcoin's movement, without taking ownership of the currency itself—marks a sea change from the days when the digital currency was associated with drug dealing and other illicit activities. Still, plenty of key figures in and around markets are taking a cautious approach to bitcoin, which has no central bank backing it, and no legal exchange rate.

The Futures Industry Association, which includes some of the world's biggest derivatives brokerages, criticized the CFTC's move in a letter to the regulator, saying contracts are being rushed through without properly weighing the risks.

"A more thorough and considered process would have allowed for a robust public discussion among clearing member firms, exchanges and clearing houses," the association said.

Several leading financial heavyweights are still

studying bitcoin and not serving as financial intermediaries. This group includes JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Citigroup, Barclays, Morgan Stanley and Societe Generale, said people close to the matter.

Of the larger banks, only Goldman Sachs and ABN Amro are serving as intermediaries for the trades. That means most of the terrain will be dominated by smaller entities that are typically requiring larger than usual margin requirements—funds set aside as collateral in case of losses.

Wedbush Securities has lifted its margin requirements and is only permitting trades from clients on a "selected" basis, said Bob Fitzsimmons, a managing director for the firm.

"We are commissioning only the select clients who have experience in bitcoins," he said. "Our risk systems are ready and we have made sure we have our customers and firm protected by increased margins and increased scrutiny." —AFP

## Argentina blocks two activists from entry on eve of WTO meeting

**BUENOS AIRES:** Argentina blocked two European activists from entering the country on the eve of the World Trade Organization's ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires, the two told a local radio program on Saturday.

Sally Burch, a British activist and journalist for the Latin American Information Agency, said Argentina had already revoked credentials given to her by the WTO to attend the meeting but thought she would be able to enter the country as a tourist.

"They found my name on a list and started asking questions ... supposedly I was a false tourist," Burch said on Radio 10. "It's not very democratic of Argentina's government."

Petter Tittland, the spokesman for the Norwegian NGO Attac Norge, said authorities denied him entry without explaining why. Late last month, Argentina rescinded the credentials of some 60 activists who had been accredited by the WTO to attend the meeting because it determined they would be "more disruptive than constructive."

WTO meetings often attract protests by anti-globalization groups, but they have remained largely peaceful since riots broke out at the 1999 meeting in Seattle.

WTO's spokesman, Keith Rockwell, reiterated on Saturday that it disagreed with Argentina's decision to revoke activists' credentials. "We didn't have the same perspective but we're now moving on," Rockwell told journalists. Argentina's President Mauricio Macri has promoted business-friendly policies since taking office in December 2015, and Argentina will host global events as chair of the G20 group of major economies next year. —Reuters



AL-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

# Boursa Kuwait still a local market, Kuwaitis form largest trading bloc

## Individuals largest contributors to liquidity

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Clearing Company issued its report titled "Trading Volume According to Nationality and Category" for the period extending from 01/01/2017 to 30/11/2017 published on the official website for Boursa Kuwait. The report indicated that individuals still form the largest trading group and their share started to increase and they captured 49 percent of total value of sold shares (45.7 percent for the same period 2016) and 48.8 percent of total value of purchased shares (41.5 percent for the same period 2016). Individual investors sold shares worth KD 2.710 billion and purchased shares worth KD 2.697 billion with a net trading, selling, by KD 13.235 million. The second large contributor to market liquidity is the clients' accounts (portfolios) which captured 22.4 percent of total value of sold shares (18.3 percent for the same period 2016) and 20.9 percent of total value of purchased shares (15.9 percent for the same period 2016). The sector sold shares worth KD 1.240 billion and purchased shares worth KD 1.157 billion, with a net trading, more selling, by KD 82.842 million.

The third contributor, is corporations and companies sector which captured 21.4 percent of total value of purchased shares (33.3 percent for the same period 2016) and 20.9 percent of total value of sold shares (26.8 percent for the same period 2016). The sector purchased shares worth KD 1.182 billion and sold shares worth KD 1.156 billion with a net trading, purchasing, by KD 25.860 million.

The last contributor to liquidity is the investment funds sector which captured 9 percent of total value of purchased shares (9.3 percent for the same period 2016) and 7.7 percent of total value of sold shares (9.2 percent for the same period 2016). The sector purchased shares worth KD 495.110 million and sold shares worth KD 424.893 million, with a net trading, more purchasing, by KD 70.218 million.

Boursa Kuwait still continues to be a local bourse with more share for Kuwaiti investors forming the biggest trading group and sold shares worth KD 4.886 billion capturing 88.3 percent of total sold shares, (85.6 percent for the same period 2016), and purchased shares worth KD 4.783 billion capturing 86.5 percent of total value of purchased shares (86.4 percent for the same period 2016). Thus, their net trading, the only one selling, by KD 103.171 million, which is an indicator of the continued decline in confidence of local traders, despite the relative activity of the Boursa.

Other investors share, out of the total value of purchased shares, scored 9.3 percent, (9.7 percent for the same period 2016), and purchased shares worth KD 512.475 million and sold shares worth KD 443.437 million, or by 8 percent of total sold shares (11.3 percent for the same period 2016); thus their net trading value, more purchasing, by KD 69.037 million.

GCC Investors' share out of total value of purchased shares scored 4.3 percent (3.9 percent for the same period 2016), worth KD 235.510 million, while value of sold shares scored 3.6 percent (3.1 percent in the same period 2016), worth KD 201.377 million, their net trading, purchasing, by KD 34.134 million.

Relative distribution among nationalities changed from its previous one and became as follows: 87.4 percent for Kuwaitis, 8.6 percent for traders from other nationalities, and 3.9 percent for GCC traders vis-à-vis 86 percent, 10.5 percent and 3.5 percent for Kuwaitis, other nationalities and GCC traders respectively for the same period in 2016. This means that Boursa Kuwait remained a local one with the rise in the share of its investors from local traders. However, the turnout is still higher from investors mainly outside the GCC region than from the inside of the GCC region in which an

overtrading of individuals is a dominant factor, who also increased their share with the increasing activity of the Boursa.

Number of active accounts between the end of December 2016 and the end of November 2017 rose by 9.6 percent, (compared to a decrease by -41.1 percent between the end of December 2015 and the end of November 2016). Number of active accounts in the end of November 2017 scored 17,101 accounts or 4.5 percent of total accounts versus 17,703 accounts in the end of October 2017, i.e. about 4.7 percent of total accounts for the same month, with a decrease of -3.4 percent during November 2017.

### Comparative performance of selected markets

November's performance was inclined towards negative performance. During this month 9 markets achieved losses while 5 markets achieved gains. Losses outweighed gains. The number of winners from among mature and emerging markets was 2 only (out of 7 markets). Three markets achieved gains, while other four markets recorded losses in the GCC region. The losing markets increased during the 11 months, i.e. since the beginning of the current year, up to 5 markets from 4 markets as in the end of October. All 5 losing markets belong to the GCC region.

The biggest loser in November was Dubai market whose index lost in one month 5.9 percent which pushed it to the bottom of the negative zone with accrued losses since the begin-

ning of the current year by 3.1 percent, although it was among gainers from the beginning of the current year until the end of last October. The second biggest loser in November was the Qatari market which lost -5.5 percent in one month which increased its losses from the beginning of the current year to -26.1 percent to lie deep in the bottom of the negative zone. The third biggest loser was Boursa Kuwait whose weighted index lost about 5 percent in one month though it remained gaining 4.9 percent since the beginning of the current year though it abandoned its position as the best performing GCC stock market until the end of October and was replaced by Bahrain market which gained 5.2 percent since the beginning of the current year and achieved positive performance in

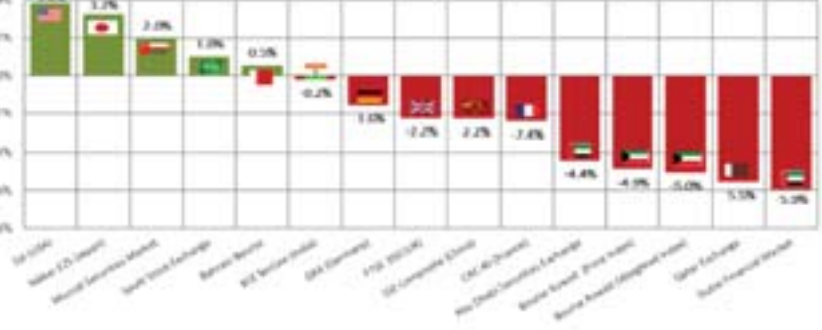
one month despite the rumors about raising the interest rate in December and perhaps due to reducing corporate tax from 35 percent to 20 percent. It retained its position as the second biggest gainer since the beginning of the current year by 22.8 percent gain. The second biggest gainer was the Japanese market by 3.2 percent gains and it was the biggest gainer in October by 8.1 percent gains. With the two months' gains the Japanese market surpassed the German's to the third gainer since the beginning of the current year by 18.9 percent gains perhaps as a result of the late elections which provided political stability supportive to the economic reform contrary to stumbling efforts in Germany to form a government. The third biggest gainer was Muscat market which was the biggest gainer in November among the 7 GCC markets. It added 2 percent gain in one month; nevertheless, it remained the biggest loser since the beginning of the current year by its index losing -11.6 percent since the beginning of the current year.

Predicting markets' future performance in December remains difficult. It has been customary from stock markets to be active in December even without a convincing justification. Their activity aims to achieve the best possible closures for their indexes in the end of the year in an attempt to influence the financial results for dealers at these stock markets. That may also be supported by better projections of economic growth for the emerging and mature markets. In the Gulf region, the trends are divided between improved oil prices as a positive

Performance of Selected Stock Markets during the month of November 2017 compared to the end of 2016



Performance of Selected Stock Markets during the month of November 2017



	30/09/2017	30/09/2016	Change	%
	(Thousand KD)	(Thousand KD)	Value	%
Total Assets	1,899,239	1,832,864	66,375	3.1%
Total Liabilities	1,629,624	1,582,357	47,267	3.0%
Total Equity Attributable to the Equity Holders of the Bank	269,615	250,507	19,108	7.6%
Total Operating Income	45,654	46,633	(979)	-2.1%
Total Operating Expenses	24,757	21,993	2,764	12.6%
Provision	6,710	10,528	(3,818)	-36.3%
Taxation	643	609	34	5.6%
Net Income	13,544	13,503	41	0.3%
<b>Ratios</b>				
**Return on Average Assets (ROA)	0.97%	0.99%		
**Return on Average Equity Relevant to the Bank Shareholder (ROE)	7.1%	7.3%		
**Return on Average Capital (ROC)	17.41%	17.36%		
Earnings per share (EPS) - (Fib)	14.42	14.43	(0.01)	-0.1%
Closing Price - (Fib)	247	188	59	31.4%
*Price to Earnings Per Share Multiples (PE)	12.8	9.8		
*Price to Book Value Multiples (PB)	1.0	0.8		

ning of the current year by 3.1 percent, although it was among gainers from the beginning of the current year until the end of last October. The second biggest loser in November was the Qatari market which lost -5.5 percent in one month which increased its losses from the beginning of the current year to -26.1 percent to lie deep in the bottom of the negative zone. The third biggest loser was Boursa Kuwait whose weighted index lost about 5 percent in one month though it remained gaining 4.9 percent since the beginning of the current year though it abandoned its position as the best performing GCC stock market until the end of October and was replaced by Bahrain market which gained 5.2 percent since the beginning of the current year and achieved positive performance in

### November by 0.5 percent gain.

The biggest gainer in November was the American market which gained 3.8 percent in

sign and the development of geopolitical events as a negative sign on the other. Sustained stability of oil prices supported by some political events weaken their worse evolution. We predict that December's performance will be positive in general; this includes the regional stock markets if geopolitical events continue without deterioration.

### Weekly performance of Boursa Kuwait

The performance of Boursa Kuwait for last week was mixed, where the indexes of traded value, volume, and number of transactions showed an increase, while the general index showed a decrease. AISHALL Index (value weighted) closed at 379.2 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing a decrease of about 5.3 points or about 1.4 percent compared with its level last week, while it increased by 16.2 points or about 4.5 percent compared with the end of 2016.

## Bayt.com connects over 30m with their ideal firms and career opportunities online

**KUWAIT:** A new poll by Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, entitled "Preferred Work Arrangements in the MENA," has revealed that nearly three-quarters (74.2 percent) of professionals in the region prefer to work for 'large or multinational' companies over 'small or medium-sized' companies (9.2 percent) or 'startups' (2 percent). Given that preferences for work arrangements have evolved to suit employees' changing priorities, this may be contributed to the perception of larger companies being better equipped to fulfill their employees' desires for work arrangements.

Nine in ten (90.5 percent) respondents agree that they mostly want to have full-time work, rather than part-time (1.9 percent) or freelance (1.9 percent) work. When asked about the reasons employees in the MENA region prefer full-time work, nearly half (48.3 percent) of respondents cited 'job security' as the key advantage, followed by 'better career growth prospects' (26.6 percent), a 'stable source of income' (15.7 percent), and 'greater ease in communicating and completing work' (9.4 percent).

But even with full-time employment, job seekers are on the lookout for flexibility. A large majority (85.9 percent) of MENA professionals

said they prefer to work for a company that offers 'flexible hours'. Additionally, 79 percent said they prefer to work for a company that offers 'remote-work options'.

In fact, flexible hours is also the most frequently cited advantage of freelancing, according to two-thirds of professionals in the MENA. Other benefits of freelancing, according to respondents, are 'more independence and control over work' (16.5 percent), the ability to 'explore more career options' (14.2 percent), and 'more control over income' (2.5 percent).

Despite the perceived perks of freelance work, though, a large majority (84.4 percent) of MENA professionals prefer to have an employment contract with a specified duration when starting a new job. In terms of priorities in choosing a job opportunity, four in ten (41 percent) respondents cite salary as the number one attribute they value. Meanwhile, nearly one-quarter (23 percent) value career growth and training the most, followed by passion and interest in the job itself (15.6 percent), job security (10.6 percent), and work-life balance (9.8 percent). And in considering the type of working environment they desire, nearly two-thirds (64.9 percent) of MENA professionals say they prefer to work indoors at a desk, while (14.5 percent) prefer to work outdoors at different sites. The remaining fifth (20.6 percent) has no preference on where they work.

When it comes to working beyond their prescribed schedules or duties, most employees in the MENA are willing to do so in exchange for appropriate compensation. According to the poll, nearly 9 in 10 (86.5 percent) respondents are okay with working overtime so long as

they're compensated for it - and more than eight in ten (82.8 percent) respondents are okay with traveling if they are compensated for it. Further, more than three-quarters (76.4 percent) of MENA professionals say they are willing to relocate for employment, while less than a fifth (17.4 percent) say their willingness to relocate depends on the country, and only 6.2 percent are unwilling to relocate at all.

"As the job landscape changes in the face of employees' evolving lifestyles and priorities, so do preferences for work arrangements in the MENA region. At Bayt.com, we aim to identify these changing preferences and provide the most accurate and relevant information, and in turn help bridge the gap between the millions of employees and employers we work with on a regular basis," said Suhail Masri, VP of Employer solutions at Bayt.com. "We can see from the Preferred Work Arrangements poll that today, professionals care most about elements of autonomy, such as flexible hours and room for growth; as well as financial stability factors, such as job security and suitable compensation for their contributions to the company. With insights like these, employers in the region can evaluate and adapt their employee provisions to suit the desires of their workforce, ultimately helping drive employee morale and engagement across the board."

Data for the 2017 Bayt.com 'Preferred Work Arrangements' poll was collected online from 24 October to 3 December 2017. Results are based on a sample of 8,936 respondents. Countries that participated include the UAE, Bahrain, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Qatar, KSA, Yemen, and Others.

**National Bank of Kuwait**

**Financial Markets**

**Daily Report**  
At 02:00 PM Previous Day

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**Global Stock Indices**

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	24,211.48	24,329.16	117.68	▲	23.11
NASDAQ	6,812.84	6,840.08	27.24	▲	27.24
S&P 500	2,626.98	2,651.50	24.52	▲	18.43
Financial Times	7,320.75	7,393.94	73.19	▲	3.52
DAX	13,045.15	13,153.70	108.55	▲	14.57
CAC 40	5,383.86	5,399.09	15.23	▲	11.04
Swiss	9,270.57	9,319.14	48.57	▲	13.37
Nikkei 225	22,498.03	22,811.06	313.03	▲	19.34
Tokyo	1,784.25	1,803.73	19.48	▲	18.78
Hang Seng	28,303.19	28,439.85	136.66	▲	30.18
Straits Times	3,388.14	3,424.64	36.50	▲	18.88

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**MENA Stock Indices**

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	6,188.94	6,162.35	-26.59	▼	7.09
Saudi Arabia	7,085.51	7,147.72	62.21	▲	-1.73
Dubai	3,393.46	3,393.39	-0.07	▲	-3.89
Abu Dhabi	4,276.93	4,294.87	17.94	▲	-5.93
Bahrain	1,267.39	1,265.44	-1.95	▼	-3.85
Qatar	7,773.59	7,827.71	54.12	▲	-25.52
Oman	5,064.09	5,062.61	-1.48	▼	-12.39
Lebanon	1,118.94	1,118.94	0.00	-	-7.72
Jordan	2,108.73	2,112.08	3.35	▲	-2.84
Egypt	14,294.72	14,441.83	147.10	▲	15.79
Morocco	12,359.48	12,386.50	27.02	▲	6.38
Tunisia	6,216.28	6,206.10	-10.18	▼	13.75

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**Global Currencies Exchange Rate**

Currency	Kuwait Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.2963	3.2927	2.7987	2.4595	3.2680	373.46	4.3862
Saudi Riyal	0.08132		0.2678	0.2000	0.2658	30.39	0.3567	
US Dollar	0.30370	3.7344		0.8500	0.7469	0.9925	113.48	1.3321
Euro	0.35730	4.3935	1.1765		0.8791	1.1685	133.63	1.5676
Sterling Pound	0.40659	4.9996	1.3388	1.1375		1.3298	151.99	1.7843
Swiss Franc	0.30599	3.7626	1.0076	0.8558	0.7520		114.29	1.3422
Japanese Yen	0.00244	0.0329	0.0088	0.0075	0.0066	0.0087		0.0117
Australian Dollar	0.22799	2.8034	0.7507	0.6379	0.5604	0.7451	85.19	

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**MENA Currencies Exchange Rate**

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwait Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahrain Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Oman Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30370	3.7344	0.3742	3.6272	0.3831	3.6572	17.7700
Kuwait Dinar	3.2927		12.2963	1.3320	11.8434	1.2615	12.0421	58.5117
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08132		0.1002	0.9713	0.1026	0.9793	4.7585
Bahrain Dinar	2.6727	0.81171	9.9810		9.6945	1.0240	9.7747	47.4943
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08373	1.0296	0.1032		0.1056	1.0083	4.8991
Oman Riyal	2.6101	0.79268	9.7471	0.9766	9.4673		9.5456	48.3811
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08304	1.0211	0.1023	0.9918	0.1048		4.8589
Egyptian Pound	0.0563	0.01709	0.2102	0.0211	0.2041	0.0216	0.2058	

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**Global Interest Rates**

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwait Dinar	1.25	1.56	1.75	2.00	2.31
US Dollar	1.34	1.44	1.54	1.72	2.01
Euro	-0.42	-0.40	-0.38	-0.31	-0.25
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.49	0.52	0.58	0.78
Swiss Franc	-0.78	-0.82	-0.75	-0.45	-0.52
Australian Dollar	1.54	1.61	1.65	1.66	1.70
Japanese Yen	-0.02	-0.05	-0.02	0.01	0.10

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**Global Bond Yields**

Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	1.79	2.14	2.38	2.77
Europe	-0.75	-0.37	0.30	1.54
United Kingdom	0.49	0.77	1.28	1.85

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**Commodities**

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	59.92	60.16	0.24	▲	0.40
Brent	64.34	64.32	-0.02	▼	-0.03
West Texas	57.30	57.10	-0.10	▼	-0.17
Gold	1247.76	1247.76	0.00	-	0.00
Silver	15.84	15.84	0.00	-	0.00



Business

# Honda Alghanim hosts KU students in sales challenge at its showroom

As part of its commitment to support the growth of youth



**KUWAIT:** In its continued commitment to supporting academic programs and initiatives that aim at developing the skills of youth in Kuwait, Honda Alghanim hosted 28 students from the Rhetoric and Presentation skills class taught by Dr. Lamees Ahmad Al-Bustan from the College of Arts at Kuwait University in a two-hour hands-on interactive challenge in which students had to present a sales pitch to sell a Honda vehicle.

Students were divided into five groups, each assigned a Honda vehicle. Groups were then provided 30 minutes to conduct an extensive research about the car that was assigned to them, learning more about its features, specifications, strengths and segments of the community it caters to. Following the research, each group had to present a sales pitch to successfully sell the car. The student groups had 10 to 15 minutes to convince their audience to buy the car. Results of the challenge were graded as part of the students' final test score.

Honda Alghanim aims through the challenge to enhance communication channels with the young segment of the population and engage with them by sharing knowledge and expertise, as well as train with Honda Alghanim's team of professionals who maintain an advanced level of service from sales to after-sales following international servicing standards and provide a smooth and unique experience in

line with Honda's culture.

The initiative comes as part of Honda's philosophy "Power of Dreams" which reflects the belief that dreams should be combined with skill in order to be achieved. Honda was fond of saying "If you can dream it, you can build it. If you use your imagination and pair that with sound and innovative engineering, you can achieve what other people can only dream about."

Customers can take any of Honda's wide range of cars on a test drive by visiting one of the two Honda Alghanim showrooms located in Al-Rai and Shuwaikh.

The Honda Alghanim showroom in Al-Rai area operates from 9 am to 10 pm Saturday to Thursday, and from 9.30 am until 10 pm on Fridays. The Shuwaikh showroom operates from 9 am to 10 pm. The cars service center waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers, digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing

massage chairs. The service center, located in Al-Rai, operates from Saturday to Thursday from 8.30am to 8.30pm, and from 2pm to 7.30pm on Fridays. Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine products in Kuwait, is committed to providing customers with flexible payment solutions and efficient and cost-effective services.



**28 students attend interactive challenge**



## Qatar Airways reconfirms and upsizes its order for 50 A321neo ACF

**TOULOUSE:** Qatar Airways has re-affirmed its earlier order for 50 A320neo with a firm order for 50 A321neo ACF (Airbus Cabin Flex configuration). The selection of the largest member of Airbus' single Family reflects the airline's need for efficiency and additional capacity. This updated order replaces the original one placed in 2011.

Joining Qatar Airways' fleet of 50 A320neo from 2019 onwards, the A321neo ACF will support the continuous development of Qatar Airways' network 'leveraging from the A321neo range capability and the unprecedented customer experience. The total value of the deal is at \$6.35 billion at list prices.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said: "At a time when Qatar Airways is experiencing unprecedented growth and expansion the need for efficient, reliable and modern aircraft has never been greater. To answer our need for growth and additional capacity, the A321neo ACF is a world-class choice for our passengers and for our business. Qatar Airways is the fastest growing airline in the world and with this aircraft we will operate the youngest fleet whilst delivering unprecedented comfort and services to our customers."

"We are pleased that a signature airline like Qatar



Airways has chosen the A321neo ACF," said Fabrice Bregier, Airbus Chief Operating Officer and President Commercial Aircraft. "This is an endorsement for the largest member of our single aisle family. It confirms the aircraft's strong position as the ideal Middle of the Market airplane for the Middle East. We look forward to seeing the A321neo ACF flying in Qatar Airways colors and to contributing to the airline's continued success and excellence."

The A321 is the largest member of the A320 Family, seating up to 240 passengers. Incorporating the latest engines, aerodynamic advances, and cabin innovations, the A321neo offers a significant reduction in fuel con-

sumption of at least 15 percent per seat from day one and 20 percent by 2020. The A321neo ACF introduces new door and fuselage enhancements allowing airlines to make better use of the cabin space and also provide provision for more underfloor fuel capacity for up to 4,000nm transatlantic range.

The A320neo Family incorporates the very latest technologies including new generation engines and Sharklets, which together deliver at least 15 percent fuel savings at delivery and 20 percent by 2020. With more than 5,200 orders received from 95 customers since its launch in 2010, the A320neo Family has captured some 60 percent share of the market.

## Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Mohammad Qambar Mukhtar Mohammad
2. Nahed Saadou Hasan Abdoh
3. Omar Ali Fahad
4. Naif Abdullah Hazaa Aldousiri
5. Taleb Ahmad Ibrahim Albaghli

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer

to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

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

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong



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

## CBK announces winners of Al-Najma Account draw



**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the daily draw on "Al-Najma Account" yesterday at the Bank's Head Office to select winners to win a cash prize of KD 7,000 for each. The draw was held in the presence of Latifa Al-Jiaan, representative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The following names were announced as winners of the prizes:

1. Jassim Mohammad Al-Arbash
2. Fatemah Abdullah Abdulredha Qasem
3. Mohammad Yamen Ahmad Sabah Baibars
4. Ahmad Mousa Al-Rasheed
5. Jawaher Abdullah Al-Fahad

Al-Najma Account allows its customers to win a daily prize of KD 7,000 which is the highest daily prize in Kuwait. In addition, the Account offers quarterly draws that provide customers with opportunity to get their dreams turned to reality by winning great prizes starting from KD 100,000 for the first quarter escalating thereafter by KD 50 thousand for each quarter to reach KD 250,000 in the last quarter. Customers can enjoy additional benefits including obtaining ATM card and a credit card against the customer's account along with enjoying all other banking services.

The Bank congratulates all the lucky winners and draws their attention that the cash prizes will be credited into their accounts with the Bank. Further, the Bank appreciates the Ministry of Commerce & Industry's significant role and its continuous cooperation and effective supervision on the draw that was smoothly and transparently organized.



## Technology

# Cadillac opens doors to the 'Letters to Andy Warhol' exhibition in UAE

## Travelling exhibition now on show at Dubai design district

**DUBAI:** For the very first time in the Middle East, 'Letters to Andy Warhol,' an exhibition uncovering rarely-seen letters and artwork from the archives of The Andy Warhol Museum, is now open to the public at the Dubai Design District (D3). In collaboration with Cadillac, the artwork underscores Warhol's love of iconic American brands and features some of Cadillac's well-known models.

The exhibition opening was celebrated with a star-studded night and attended by Patrick Moore, the director of The Andy Warhol Museum, Cadillac executives and members of the art and design community in the UAE. Guests were taken on a guided tour inside the exhibition and given an expert insight to the stories narrated through the artwork.

Patrick Moore, the director of The Andy Warhol Museum, commented: "Our relationship with Cadillac, as a museum and as an integral part of the 'Letters to Andy Warhol' exhibition highlights Warhol's idealization of the American dream in an iconic American brand. Warhol drew and painted Cadillacs and the letters give an illuminating view into the world of a famously private individual. This is only the second time that the exhibition has left the US and the very first time in the Middle East; it is a fantastic opportunity to showcase Warhol's life and work to a brand new audience."

Christian Soemmer, Managing Director of Cadillac Middle East said, "Cadillac has played a unique part in Andy Warhol's art and is synonymous with American culture. This collaboration gives us the opportunity to show Middle East fans Cadillac's legacy with one of the world's greatest pop artists."

The artwork includes five pieces by Warhol himself, showcasing his intimate connection to the worlds of fashion, music, media, art, and celebrity. The exhibition also houses the creations of six modern day artists who used the letters to examine their own connection to Warhol's legacy.



## Tech titans ramp up tools to win over children

**SAN FRANCISCO:** From smartphone messaging tailored for tikes to computers for classrooms, technology titans are weaving their way into childhoods to form lifelong bonds, raising hackles of advocacy groups. The debut this month in the US of a version of Messenger mobile application for children younger than 12 marked the first time leading online social network Facebook has stepped into the sensitive market.

California-based Facebook said Messenger Kids complies with regulations protecting children online, and offers more safeguards for youngsters.

Facebook said the new app, with no ads or in-app purchases, is aimed at 6- to 12-year-olds and does not allow children to connect with anyone their parent does not approve. Messenger Kids is being rolled out for Apple iOS mobile devices in the United States on a test basis as a standalone video chat and messaging app.

Product manager Loren Cheng said the social network leader is offering Messenger Kids because "there's a need for a messaging app that lets kids connect with people they love but also has the level of control parents want." Groups which monitor social media gave mixed reviews to the Facebook effort. "Ideally, young children should not really be subjected to this kind of environment," said executive director Jeff Chester of the Center for Digital Democracy, a consumer protection group. "(Messenger Kids) is the best we can do at the moment. The pressure on parents to let their children be on these services is so strong."

Facebook, meanwhile, is motivated to increase the ranks of people using its offerings and get a new generation in the habit of using the social network.

John Simpson of the activist group Consumer Watchdog argued a need for academic studies into how the use of technology affects children.

"Tech companies are not doing this out of generosity and kindness of the heart, they're doing it so they will build potentially loyal customers in the future," Simpson said. Two US senators wrote Thursday to Facebook with concerns about how children's personal data might be collected or used in Messenger Kids.

### Tech invasion of schools

With Messenger Kids, Facebook gets children to spend time on the internet and social networks, said David Monahan of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood. He saw similar approaches from other tech giants, such as Google, which has spent years getting US schools to use its Chromebook devices for connecting to cloud-based content and services.

A Google for Education website aimed Chromebooks directly at classrooms, touting the devices as low-priced and easy to use. Chromebooks have become the most prevalent computing hardware in US schools, despite Apple starting years earlier in aiming its Macintosh machines at education.

Selling computers to schools at attractive prices, aimed at high-volume deals and becoming part of people's lives at early ages, is not new.

Apple, Microsoft, and HP have a history of it. But, Google has triumphed on this ground to the extent that the New York Times referred to the accomplishment in coverage as the "Googification of Classrooms." Since Chromebooks act as portals to computing power and applications hosted online, Google gets the benefit of having students use its software for classwork, messaging and other services powered by the internet cloud. Google charges a one-time \$30 licensing fee per Chromebook, and claims that more than 20 million students use its devices in schools around the world.—AFP

## Celebrate your individuality and expression with HUAWEI Mate 10 lite

**KUWAIT:** 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 bat-



tery 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.

## Big media scrambles to meet challenge from Big Tech

**WASHINGTON:** America's media giants have seen this movie before: Big Tech enters an industry with piles of cash and new ways of doing business, devastating the competition.

That's why Big Media are scrambling for partnerships and tie-ups to bolster their content arsenal in the face of a well-funded onslaught from the tech sector. This shifting landscape helps explain talks between Walt Disney Co. and 21st Century Fox to sell key television and film assets from the Rupert Murdoch family-controlled group, and a proposed AT&T purchase of media-entertainment powerhouse Time Warner.

More deals are likely as the industry adapts to a consumer shift to online, on-demand services like Netflix, and efforts by tech giants such as Facebook and Apple to jump into original content.

"It's an incredibly complicated game of musical chairs happening simultaneously," said Robert Thompson, who heads Syracuse University's Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture.

"Everyone is trying to make sure

that when the music stops they have enough content and people to keep making it for them."

### 'Game of Thrones'

The old model of hefty pay TV packages supporting the content creators is fading, and the struggle for power in the industry is now referred to by some analysts as a "Game of Thrones," a reference to the popular HBO series.

Streaming services like Netflix and Amazon have already disrupted the sector. According to a report by the investment firm Raymond James, 31 percent of Americans said their primary source of video was streaming services. About 32 percent of consumers have canceled or "traded down" to a less expensive package, and many young viewers rely entirely on Internet platforms for video, the report said. Google-owned YouTube is also ramping up its original content offerings and Apple has reportedly created a \$1 billion war chest for its television service programs.

"It's more than taking away money and subscriptions. It's about viewership, eyeballs," said Bruce Leichtman of Leichtman Research Group, who follows media and entertainment.

Richard Greenfield, an analyst at BTIG Research, says the established "legacy" companies are being forced to sell, diversify or "scale up" to compete against tech players. But Greenfield said Disney's plan to acquire Fox's stake in Sky TV and studio assets while gearing up for its own streaming offerings may not be enough.

Disney, which owns the ABC television

network along with ESPN sports channels, still appears wedded to "legacy distribution platforms." Greenfield said in a research note. With more consumers moving away from big pay TV bundles, "industry fundamentals are worsening by the day," Greenfield writes.

"At the same time the tech giants/platforms are flourishing and they are taking aim at consumer time spent with legacy media." Analyst Brian Wieser at Pivotal Research said the moves come amid concerns about eroding profits, and mergers can give the firms better scale.

"The pursuit of size allows for more cost efficiencies and a better negotiating position" for content, Wieser said.

### Pipes and content

An AT&T-Time Warner deal would merge one of the largest distribution platforms-AT&T's pay TV and Internet service-with the media-entertainment conglomerate's HBO, CNN and other content channels, putting it on the same level as Comcast, a cable giant which owns NBCUniversal.

But the Trump administration's Department of Justice has filed an antitrust suit to block the AT&T deal, fueling concerns the move is aimed at punishing White House foe CNN.

The "vertical integration" of a company with content as well as "pipes" could present a formidable foe to the tech sector. And a plan by US regulators to end "net neutrality"-rules aimed at treating all online traffic equally-may force companies like Netflix and Amazon to pay more to

deliver to consumers. With relaxed rules, firms like AT&T and Comcast may be able to use some of the same tools employed by Netflix and Facebook by gaming data on viewers for promotions and advertising, according to independent media consultant Alan Wolk.

"Right now if you are ABC, you have no idea who is watching your shows," Wolk said. Having better data "is probably the most important thing" for these media firms, Wolk said, adding that it allows for more efficient targeted advertising.

Thompson, of the Bleier Center, said that even as the industry faces disruption, content creators-writers, directors and producers-will have more choices and potentially more bargaining power.

"I think these new tech operations can disrupt the old legacy means of distribution, but they still have to make this stuff," he said.

While Big Tech has disrupted many industries, its roots come from a culture of math and engineering geeks who may not be adapted to the entertainment sector.

Wolk said Google-owned YouTube "bombed pretty badly" with most of its shows for a paid streaming service. "They didn't hire anyone with Hollywood programming experience and they underestimated the skill for this," he said.

Apple by contrast "made a smart move" by hiring entertainment executives, according to Wolk, and Facebook is pursuing a different strategy of finding "niche" programs for devotees of certain kinds of shows.—AFP



Health

# France caught in war with wolves

Wolves are a fundamental element of our natural European heritage

**S...DERON, France:** Furtive, wily and the animal of fairy tales, wolves fascinate nature lovers, but they raise fears among French sheep breeders who are trying to save their flocks. Amid debate in France on a future policy towards wolves, the government is being asked to come to the aide of sheep farming. "In one night, we lost 10 percent of our flock," said Claire Lapie, 32, a breeder in Sederon in the picturesque southeast Drome department.

On the limestone hillsides dotted with shrubs, she has been raising sheep for three years with her companion Yann Rudant. "A wolf attack, we knew one day it would happen to us. We accept the idea of 'a share for the wolf', one or two sheep, but finding 15 sheep eaten, slaughtered or dying-it's a nightmare," says Lapie. For the young couple, who went into debt to acquire 150 sheep and build a vast sheepfold, they live in fear of new attacks.

**Big bad wolf**

Fear-as well as fascination-of wolves has historic roots fed by many children's stories, including famous versions by the Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault. "When Charles Perrault wrote 'Little Red Riding Hood' in 1697, it was during the worst series of attacks by wolves with at



**PLEUGUENEUC, France:** This file photo shows a wolf feeding on an animal carcass in the forest of the Bourbansais zoo in Pleugueneuc, northwestern France.



**NICE, France:** This file photo shows people taking part in a demonstration of several wildlife conservation associations, to protest against the hunting of wolves, in Nice, southeastern France. — AFP photos

least 500 children killed each year," said Jean-Marc Moriceau, an historian of wolves in France. The grey wolf was wiped out in the country in the 1930s and only returned in 1992 via Italy—currently home to around 2,000 wolves—then into Switzerland and Germany.

Since the Bern Convention of 1979, the wolf has gone from public enemy to a protected species as "a fundamental element of our natural European heritage". In some countries, like Romania and Poland where there have always been wolves, people adapt to treat an attack on sheep "like an accident, like a flock that falls into a ravine", says Farid Benhamou, a specialist on predators. "But in the new zones of (wolf) colonization—in France and in some regions of Italy and Spain—there are major tensions."

**On a wolf mission**

In his four-wheel drive vehicle, environmental inspector Cedric Arnaud roams the foothills of the Alps of Haute Provence in southern France. His mission includes collecting hairs and excrement left by the wolves which allow researchers to determine their DNA and to classify them. Like his colleagues, in the month of August he also howls to the wolves to try, by listening to their responses, to

determine the number of wolf cubs born in the spring. All these elements, along with images taken in camera traps, enable France's national office of hunting and wildlife (ONCFS) to estimate the wolf population, currently at around 360, compared with 292 last year.

At the top of the food chain, wolves have a key role in maintaining the ecosystem, Yvon Le Maho, emeritus research director at the National Centre for Scientific Research told AFP.

"It has been amply demonstrated in the United States that an excess of deer in the protected reserves has led to a degradation of the environment." The example of Yellowstone national park in the western US is a case in point. In 1994, the authorities decided to reintroduce the wolf and since then the deer population has diminished, easing the pressure on the vegetation and causing other positive effects such as the return of certain insects and birds and less erosion, according to a 2007 study by the University of Oregon. But Le Maho adds that preserving wolves requires Europe-wide attention as some countries like Sweden allow hunting. Sweden regularly authorizes a hunting season, despite opposition from conservationists, although this year parliament set a quota of 22 wolves. — AFP

## India faces painful move to cleaner energy

**UNCHA AMIRPUR, India:** Subedar Singh bears the scars of India's painful reliance on dirty power and its struggle to pay for the costly transition to the brave new world of solar and renewable electricity. Last year, the farmer walked into a field in his village and suffered 70 percent burns to his feet and ankles from an underground coal fire caused by a nearby power plant. Singh said he dragged himself out of the field and then fainted from the searing pain.

The people of Uncha Amirpur in the northern Uttar Pradesh state-east of the smog-afflicted capital New Delhi—discovered that a mix of water and coal used by the nearby NTPC Dadri power plant had accumulated under the field and caught fire. Some cattle died. Hundreds of millions of people in India are forced to live with the fallout of the dirtiest fuels—with the government blaming a lack of funds to pay for greener power. Money will be the key issue when about 100 countries meet in Paris tomorrow for the One Planet Summit organized by French President Emmanuel Macron. The meeting will focus on marshaling public and private funds to speed the move to a low-carbon economy. Developing countries say barely a tenth of the \$100 billion promised by the end of the decade under a 2010 deal has come in so far. "If more money is available, of course the (Indian) government is in a position to push renewable energy faster," energy analyst Narendra Taneja told AFP. "The pollutants accumulated over the decades, we didn't do that. It was the West and they should clear up those dues as soon as possible," said Taneja, a consultant to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

India needs \$140 billion to reach Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious target of installing 100,000 megawatts of solar power by 2022, according to Arunabha Ghosh, chief executive of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, a New Delhi think tank. So far it has just 15,000 MW, less than five percent of the country's total generation capacity of 331,000 MW. — AFP

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248 33 199

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What's On

# GUST Public Relations Club awarded Club of the Year

Club demonstrated most initiative, creativity, and inspiration



Public Relations Club



Human Development Club

Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) Office of Student Life (OSL) awarded the student-run Public Relations Club the 'Club of the Year' award in a ceremony held in on its campus. The award is presented annually to the club that demonstrates the most initiative, creativity, and actively inspires students by offering educational and engaging activities throughout the year. Dr Raghad Al Kazemi, Dean of Student Affairs at GUST was present at the event to honor the winning club.

The Public Relations (PR) Club was the clear winner of this year's award due to their exceptional presence on campus all year round and their diligent organization of 14 engaging and practical events. Their events included setting up several workshops, organizing football tournaments, a trip to the European School of Economics in London, and an 'Iftar Saem' campaign. In addition to collaborating with the 'Hamad Show', a local live broadcasted talk show, to promote the program for the whole season.

Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Raghad Al Kazemi, said, "It is my honest belief that to get an extra dose of knowledge, you need



to leave the classroom. Our clubs demonstrate that our students have a real hunger to apply what they learn in their lectures to real life situations, and create an atmosphere that is fun, educational, social, and applicable to the real world."

The ceremony also gave out an additional award to show clubs that their efforts do not go unnoticed by the university community. The Social Club Award, which is based on professionalism and interaction with other clubs, the student

body, and the GUST community as a whole, was awarded to the Human Development (HD) Club. The club managed to set up 12 events throughout the academic year which included organizing several health awareness campaigns, self-help workshops, and an 'Iftar Saem' campaign.

The purpose of the event is not only to recognize the efforts of GUST's student clubs and acknowledge their hard work throughout the academic year, but to also motivate the other 18 student run clubs,



and show them that GUST as a university appreciates all efforts invested by students in organizing activities. PR Club members were awarded KD 100 each totaling KD 4100, while the HD Club was granted an extra KD 400 for their budget.

The announcement was made in a gala-style ceremony that was set up in the campus's fountain area. After giving out the awards, students enjoyed a lunch buffet to a live Spanish guitar music performance.

This year, the number of GUST clubs

participating were 20, and include: The Anime Club, the Islamic Finance Club, the Media Club, the Management Club, the Accounting Club, the Talent Club, the Marketing Club, the Technology Club, the English Club, the Public Relations Club, the Debate Club, the Foundation Club, the Human Development Club, the Investment Club, the Human Rights Club, the Social Responsibility Club, the Sports Club, the Music Club, the Ruwwad Business Club, and the AIESEC Club.

## LAPA concludes Festival of Arts and Dance



Loyac Academy for Performing Arts (LAPA) concluded its Festival of Arts and Dance (FAD), which took place for four days at Loyac's head-

quarters. Loyac officials attended a ceremony organized recently to announce the conclusion of the festival, featuring performances by LAPA students.

## PAAET nursing college honors graduates



The nursing college at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) hosted a ceremony recently to honor its graduates for the 2017/2018 academic year. Senior PAAET officials attended the ceremony.

## LuLu Hypermarket marks International Day for People with different Abilities

Under the elegant banner of 'Lulu with Differently Abled Artists', LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait marked the International Day for People with Different Abilities by creating a platform to exhibit the creative expressions of artists with different abilities.

Artists with different abilities from various Special Education Schools and Institutions in Kuwait were invited to submit their artwork, which was then displayed on 3 December at the Al-Qurain outlet of LuLu Hypermarket. The exhibition of creative talent by differently abled artists, which is scheduled to continue for two weeks, underlines LuLu Hypermarket's commitment to cater to all sections of society and to provide opportunities to ensure that no one is left behind.

The event aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons



with different abilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation

of persons with different abilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life of the country.



TV

AM MOVIES ACTION
00:20 Road House
02:20 Rob The Mob
04:10 Somnus
05:45 The Mask Of Zorro
08:15 Drop Zone
10:05 Virtual Revolution
11:45 Compadres
13:35 The Mask Of Zorro
16:00 Street
17:30 Jurassic World
19:40 The Legend Of Zorro
22:00 Hardcore Henry
23:40 Universal Soldier: The Return

ANIMAL PLANET HD
00:50 Untamed & Uncut
01:45 Treehouse Masters
02:40 Treehouse Masters
03:35 Treehouse Masters
04:25 Treehouse Masters
06:49 Cats 101
07:36 Orangutan Island
08:00 Orangutan Island
08:25 Shamwari: A Wild Life
08:50 Shamwari: A Wild Life
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 Cats 101
11:05 Deadly Islands
12:00 Shamwari: A Wild Life
12:28 Shamwari: A Wild Life
12:55 Keeping Up With The Kruger
13:50 Wild Africa
14:45 Cats 101
15:40 Deadly Islands
16:35 Untamed & Uncut
17:30 Treehouse Masters
18:25 Monsters Inside Me
19:20 River Monsters
20:15 Cats 101
21:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life
21:38 Shamwari: A Wild Life
22:05 Monsters Inside Me
23:00 River Monsters
23:55 Deadly Islands

BBC FIRST
00:00 The Good Karma Hospital
00:50 Death In Paradise
01:45 Doctor Foster
03:35 Doctors
04:05 Doctors
04:35 EastEnders
05:05 The Good Karma Hospital
06:00 EastEnders
06:30 Death In Paradise
07:25 I Want My Wife Back
07:55 Doctor Who
08:55 Doctors
09:25 EastEnders
09:55 Death In Paradise
10:50 New Tricks
11:45 Doctor Who
12:45 Call The Midwife: Christmas Special 2016
13:30 Doctors
14:05 EastEnders
14:35 Death In Paradise
15:30 Doctor Who
16:30 Call The Midwife: Christmas Special 2016
17:15 Casualty
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Call The Midwife: Christmas Special 2016
21:40 SS-CB
22:00 Line Of Duty
23:00 Death In Paradise
23:55 Casualty

crime investigation network
00:00 Cold Case Files
01:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
04:00 Cold Case Files
05:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak
06:00 Homicide Hunter
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
09:00 It Takes A Killer
09:30 It Takes A Killer
10:00 Homicide Hunter
11:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
12:00 Escaping Polygamy
13:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
14:00 It Takes A Killer
14:30 It Takes A Killer
15:00 Homicide Hunter
16:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
17:00 The First 48
18:00 It Takes A Killer
18:30 It Takes A Killer
19:00 Evil Up Close
20:00 Evil Up Close
21:00 Evil Up Close
22:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
23:00 Jack The Ripper

COMEDY CENTRAL
00:05 Comedy Central Roast Of David Hasselhoff
01:20 The Roast Of James Franco
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Tosh.O
03:50 Chappelle's Show
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 Catch A Contractor
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
12:15 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Catch A Contractor
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 3alwagaf
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Friends
17:20 Friends
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:35 Punk'd (Bet)
19:00 Punk'd (Bet)
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
20:12 Friends

Discovery Family
20:35 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 The Roast Of James Franco
22:50 Teachers
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family
00:30 Ultimate Survival
01:20 Origins
01:45 Origins
02:10 Origins
02:35 Origins
03:00 Origins
03:25 Origins
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:15 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 Destroyed In Seconds
05:05 Destroyed In Seconds
05:30 Destroyed In Seconds
05:55 Destroyed In Seconds
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Destroyed In Seconds
07:25 Destroyed In Seconds
07:50 Origins
08:15 Origins
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Nextworld
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 Tethered
12:00 Somebody's Gotta Do It
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Nextworld
14:30 Destroyed In Seconds
14:55 Destroyed In Seconds
15:20 Origins
15:45 Origins
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Tethered
17:50 Somebody's Gotta Do It
18:40 Nextworld
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Destroyed In Seconds
20:45 Destroyed In Seconds
21:10 Tethered
22:00 Somebody's Gotta Do It
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Origins

Discovery Family
00:50 American Monster
01:45 Ghost Stalkers
02:40 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
03:35 I Speak For The Dead
04:30 American Monster
05:25 Murder By Numbers
06:20 Reasonable Doubt
07:10 Sexual Assault In College: Tamron Hall...
08:00 The Locator
08:25 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
09:15 The Locator
09:40 The Locator
10:10 Swamp Murders
11:05 Shadow Of Doubt
12:00 The Perfect Murder
12:55 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 Swamp Murders
15:40 Shadow Of Doubt
16:35 Murder Calls
17:30 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
18:25 The Locator
18:50 The Locator
19:20 I Almost Got Away With It
20:15 Evil Online
21:10 I Am Homicide
22:05 Gone
23:00 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
23:55 I Speak For The Dead

Discovery Family
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 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:55 Elena Of Avalor
08:20 K.C. Undercover
08:45 Frozen Northern Lights
09:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
09:35 Tangled: The Series
10:00 Teen Beach Movie
11:40 Austin & Ally
12:05 That's So Raven
12:30 That's So Raven
12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
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 Bizarrodvark
15:55 Elena Of Avalor
16:20 Stuck In The Middle
16:45 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
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 Loloirock
22:15 Loloirock
22:40 Evermoor Chronicles
23:05 Rolling With The Ronks

Discovery Family
00:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
03:20 Loloirock
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 Puppy Dog Pals
09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:30 Sofia The First
10:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
10:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
11:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:00 The Lion Guard
12:30 The Lion Guard
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Sofia The First
14:00 PJ Masks
14:30 PJ Masks
15:00 P-King Duckling
15:30 Goldie & Bear And The Magic Map
15:35 Sofia The First
16:00 PJ Masks
16:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:00 Doc McStuffins
17:30 Vampirina
18:00 Sofia The First: The Floating Palace
19:00 Sofia The First
19:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
20:00 The Lion Guard
20:30 P-King Duckling
21:00 Doc McStuffins
21:30 PJ Masks
22:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
23:00 P-King Duckling
23:30 Puppy Dog Pals

Discovery Family
00:20 Street Outlaws
01:05 Harley And The Davidson's
01:50 Supertruckers
02:35 What On Earth?
03:20 Diesel Brothers
04:05 Deadliest Catch
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
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 Street Outlaws
10:57 Garage Rehab
11:42 Misfit Garage
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 Gold Rush
21:50 Gold Divers
22:40 Cooper's Treasure: The Hunt For A Secret Fortune
23:30 Diesel Brothers

Discovery Family
06:00 Disney11
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
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 Saving The People Who Save People
12:55 Pair Of Kings
13:45 Phineas And Ferb
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Phineas And Ferb
14:40 The Suite Life Of Zack & Cody
15:30 Gravity Falls
16:20 Two More Eggs
16:25 Lab Rats
16:50 Lab Rats
17:15 Kirby Buckets
17:40 Kirby Buckets
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
19:00 Disney11
19:25 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Walk The Prank
20:20 Walk The Prank
20:45 Supa Strikas
21:10 Supa Strikas
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

Discovery Family
00:00 WAGs La
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:45 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
04:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
06:55 El News
07:25 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
08:20 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
09:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
10:10 El News
10:40 Celebrity Style Story
11:10 WAGs La
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:00 The Platinum Life
15:00 The Platinum Life
16:00 The Platinum Life
17:00 The Platinum Life
18:00 The Platinum Life
20:00 The Platinum Life
21:00 The Platinum Life
22:00 Famously Single
23:00 El News
23:15 Famously Single

Discovery Family
00:00 Bakers vs. Fakers
01:00 Patti Labelle's Place
01:30 Patti Labelle's Place
02:00 Private Chef
02:30 Private Chef
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Bakers vs. Fakers
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
06:25 Barefoot Contessa
06:50 Bake With Anna Olson
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
09:55 Bake With Anna Olson
10:25 Bake With Anna Olson
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Cooking For Real
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Bake With Anna Olson
17:30 Bake With Anna Olson
18:00 Chopped Junior
19:00 Holiday Baking Championship
20:00 Restaurant: Impossible
21:00 Mystery Dinners
21:30 Mystery Dinners
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

Discovery Family
00:00 Who's Doing The Dishes?
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
04:50 Gino's Hidden Italy
05:15 Murdoch Mysteries
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:05 The Chase
08:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
09:10 5 Star Family Reunion
10:00 Murdoch Mysteries
10:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
15:10 The Chase
16:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
17:15 Tracey Ullman's Show
17:50 Murdoch Mysteries
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
22:15 Tracey Ullman's Show
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

Discovery Family
00:00 Cities Of The Underworld
01:00 UFO Files
02:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
03:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
03:50 Hangar I: The UFO Files
04:40 Ancient Top 10
05:30 Cities Of The Underworld
06:20 Ancient Impossible
07:10 The Universe
08:00 UFO Files
09:00 Ancient Impossible
10:00 Ancient Discoveries
11:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
12:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
13:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
14:00 UFO Files
15:00 Ancient Top 10
16:00 Ancient Impossible
17:00 Ancient Discoveries
18:00 Hangar I: The UFO Files
19:00 What Really Happened
20:00 Clash Of Warriors
21:00 Missing In Alaska
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 Hoard Hunters

Discovery Family
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 Puppy Dog Pals
09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:30 Sofia The First
10:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
10:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
11:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:00 The Lion Guard
12:30 The Lion Guard
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Sofia The First
14:00 PJ Masks
14:30 PJ Masks
15:00 P-King Duckling
15:30 Goldie & Bear And The Magic Map
15:35 Sofia The First
16:00 PJ Masks
16:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:00 Doc McStuffins
17:30 Vampirina
18:00 Sofia The First: The Floating Palace
19:00 Sofia The First
19:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
20:00 The Lion Guard
20:30 P-King Duckling
21:00 Doc McStuffins
21:30 PJ Masks
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14:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
15:10 The Chase
16:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
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18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
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22:15 Tracey Ullman's Show
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23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

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Stars

CROSSWORD 1781



ACROSS

1. A book of the New Testament.
5. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
11. (trademark) A liquid that temporarily disables a person.
15. Cassava with long tuberous edible roots and soft brittle stems.
16. A victory cheer.
17. A city in northern India.
18. Liquid excretory product.
20. A crown-like jewelled headdress worn by women on formal occasions.
21. Distinguished from Bovidae by the male's having solid deciduous antlers.
22. Jordan's port.
23. A short film and commentary about current events.
25. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
29. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
30. A bachelor's degree in religion.
32. Deciduous South African tree having large odd-pinnate leaves and profuse fragrant orange-yellow flowers.
33. State in northeastern India.
37. An associate degree in applied science.
41. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
42. United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).
43. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
48. A city in northwestern Turkey.
50. The ending of a series or sequence.
51. The quantity a cask will hold.
52. Noisy like the sound of a bee.
53. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
54. The lean flesh of a fish similar to cod.
55. Ask for or request earnestly.
57. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
59. A public promotion of some product or service.
60. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
62. United States physicist (born in Austria) who proposed the exclusion principle (thus providing a theoretical basis for the periodic table) (1900-1958).
71. A graphical recording of the cardiac cycle produced by an electrocardiograph.
72. Transparent anterior portion of the outer covering of the eye.
75. Squash bugs.
76. An inflammatory complication of leprosy that results in painful skin lesions on the arms and legs and face.
77. A fragment of brick used as a weapon.
79. A local computer network for communication between computers.
80. Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
81. A genus of Mustelidae.
82. Black-and-white short-necked web-footed diving bird of northern seas.

DOWN

1. Largest known toad species.
2. Disturb in mind or make uneasy or cause to be worried or alarmed.
3. The cardinal number that is the sum of one and one and one.
4. In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells of the fantastic adventures he had in his voyages.
5. The fifth day of the week.
6. Not in.
7. The use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images.
8. Wild geese.
9. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
10. A wad of something chewable as tobacco.
11. A state in southeastern India on the Bay of Bengal (south of Andhra Pradesh).
12. American novelist (1909-1955).
13. A member of an Algonquian people living in central Canada.
14. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
19. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
24. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
26. Long green edible beaked pods of the okra plant.
27. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
28. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
31. The 2nd longest European river.
34. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
35. A state in northwestern North America.
36. Having its true character concealed with the intent of misleading.
38. A spore-producing structure in certain lichens and fungi.
39. Affect with wonder.
40. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
44. Pretentious or silly talk or writing.
45. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
46. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
47. A member of one of the four divisions of the prehistoric Greeks.
49. United States conductor (born in Hungary) (1897-1970).
56. Being ten more than one hundred ninety.
58. Leave voluntarily.
61. City in Sudan.
63. An inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands of the skin.
64. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
65. A ballistic missile that is capable of traveling from one continent to another.
66. Fleshy and usually brightly colored cover of some seeds that develops from the ovule stalk and partially or entirely envelopes the seed.
67. Beyond what is natural.
68. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
69. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
70. Unpleasantly cool and humid.
73. A metal-bearing mineral valuable enough to be mined.
74. A graphical recording of the cardiac cycle produced by an electrocardiograph.
78. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A fresh, invigorating quality blows into your life this morning. This would be an ideal time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having a good time. You are comfortable with your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you. It should be a great time to look at your circumstances and understand just how you feel about your present goals. Your emotions and the feelings of those around you are crystal clear. This is a wonderful time. Things seem to be pointing to your taking the first step in anything that needs to be started. Either the support that you feel from others or some circumstance could dictate your taking action. You should be feeling very healthy and up to most any task this day.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find the need to take the bull by the horns, so to speak, and tackle tasks that require real discipline and organization. You find yourself in a most businesslike mood—working with, instead of against, yourself. Perhaps if you are not in a work position you are in some volunteer program. You may have some serious or contemplative moments as you make special plans to complete an important goal. Everything seems to be flowing in sync with you successfully. Your talents are particularly useful. You should have no problem in getting the attention of others—you will have knowledge of abstract and spiritual things and will not mind sharing what you know with those around you. You feel fulfilled in being able to offer your services.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You enjoy taking care of others as much as you enjoy having someone care for you. Any form of nurturing to take care of your needs or another person's needs is a very important element in your life at this time. Perhaps you will be able to treat yourself and your loved one to a professional massage. You are esteemed for your ability to make commonsense decisions that concern others. You just somehow know what the community wants and needs. A family meeting this afternoon, however, may call for stepping back to let someone else take charge. When you speak, it is important that other people understand exactly what you mean. Your timing should be perfect for taking pictures, coming up with the right change or making a special phone call.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You will benefit from taking a more inward direction today. Accepting a compliment from someone is almost always a nice experience and now will be no exception. Someone will flatter you on your preferences or possessions. You may find it very easy to enjoy and value your own life circumstances. This may be a good time to think and study, for you have a real knowledge for ideas and thoughts. You may find yourself engrossed in a long conversation, writing a letter, or making a special phone call. Your personal popularity is on the upswing. Whatever you are doing, keep it going! Avoid making large purchases at this time. In everything you do, create a balance and make sure your energies match the things you strive to accomplish.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find it a bit hard to organize or persist today. Some chaos may be present this morning, but your patience will see things through to a positive end. You may feel like talking a bit more than usual, exploring new ideas or getting lost in a conversation. There will be an urge to communicate. Also, perhaps a short trip or a special phone call is in order. Priorities call your attention to family matters this afternoon. You may find you have missed those special times with family. You now have an opportunity to join in on some joint project or game activity. Tonight there is much harmony and you will find others in a good mood. You are interested in future group get-togethers. There is talk of making your own movie; you have good ideas.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Think of things that make you laugh and share those feelings with others. Perhaps when you saw the antics of small children was when you laughed the hardest. Perhaps a charity or a volunteer position is where you place the importance of your time. If you could take your friends or family members with you, they could see what you do and perhaps want to help. Teaching is something that can be done through watching others and you have friends and family members that set their behavior patterns after you. Later today you will want to catch up on some photograph albums or update a private phone directory. Choose an activity that you think of as fun and go out and have fun with your loved one this evening. Consider a drive to see the holiday lights.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a great day with lots of energy and ambition. New projects are upbeat and interesting and old projects have a way of ending successfully. You may enjoy a sense of creating your own opportunities. Someone older or in authority may be a motivating force. An instinctive urge to get really serious about taking better care of you on many levels is a focus later. You know that diet, exercise and work are important factors in feeling good and in staying healthy and mentally sharp. You put forth a great deal of effort to maintain your life in healthy ways. A sense of belonging to something bigger than the merely personal becomes a greater focus in your life. You also know the importance of friendships and taking part in group activities.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You will flourish by pursuing your ideals and most deep-seated dreams of how life could be. Don't be afraid to project your image and make those dreams real. Ideas of group cooperation and communion could further your career. Consider volunteering next week to help in group projects. You could be feeling the need to care for others or to have them care for you—possibly on a public level, as in politics. You have requirements and you sense the needs of others. Being able to incorporate the two together is what will make everything work well. Being out and about this time of year and keeping up to date with styles, news, trends, etc., makes you feel in touch. This evening a new adventure magazine has your attention.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Family, home and the other roots in your life give you a sense of mission. There is growth and gain through these things. Generally, this is a fruitful period for real-estate investments, if you do not bite off more than you can chew. Knowledge and communicating take care of an instinctive need. You may find that someone you are close to will be there to support you in your rather eccentric behavior. You should benefit appreciably from allowing more unique and unusual qualities to evolve. Some new solutions to problems that may have confounded you for some time may be possible. Or, you could find that some very inventive things come forth. Dare to dream your dreams—from these dreams come big realities.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A friend or associate may come to you for help in working through some issues that are very private and personal. You have a way of understanding your friends and honoring their privacy. This is very commendable—you set examples for others to follow. Your friendship is always valued. Your inborn talent for knowing just what the public wants and needs puts you in a good situation to organize a charity bazaar. You might even consider this talent as a way to make money. Go into business for yourself as an advisor or coordinator of events or work for a party service as a party coordinator. Those around you may appreciate your very humorous and kind of eccentric side this evening. Your independent spirit and unique qualities are enjoyed by friends.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Emotional security, a feeling of belonging to someone and being nurturing are issues that you feel instinctively now. You may not fancy the easy way or clear-cut option and may choose instead, a more difficult path. A need to be respected could have you developing a system for organizing things and people, as a feeling of ambition and practicality takes hold. Work, achievement and ambition are all things that mean a great deal to you. Today you aim for a better lifestyle. This afternoon you enjoy dressing up to attend some special celebration party. Perhaps it's a wedding shower, baby shower, sports victory party or a welcome party for a new member or neighbor in your community. All is in fun and this afternoon brings lots of smiles and photo times.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Fondness and appreciation for the past and for your roots in life take on greater meaning and importance. Making your home situation pleasant and attractive plays a part in this and the sale or purchase of real estate could bring you much gain. You may yearn for the family gatherings of your youth. You may decide to add to the intimate gatherings at home this season by inviting a group of friends or neighbors. There is an opportunity to do the inviting in person and to plan a game or two with a few snacks. This afternoon there are chores to do and decorations to buy so you keep yourself quite busy. A walk or some other exercise later today proves to be most enjoyable and now that the weather is cold, perhaps the exercise adds to your enthusiasm.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Computer Jargon 2

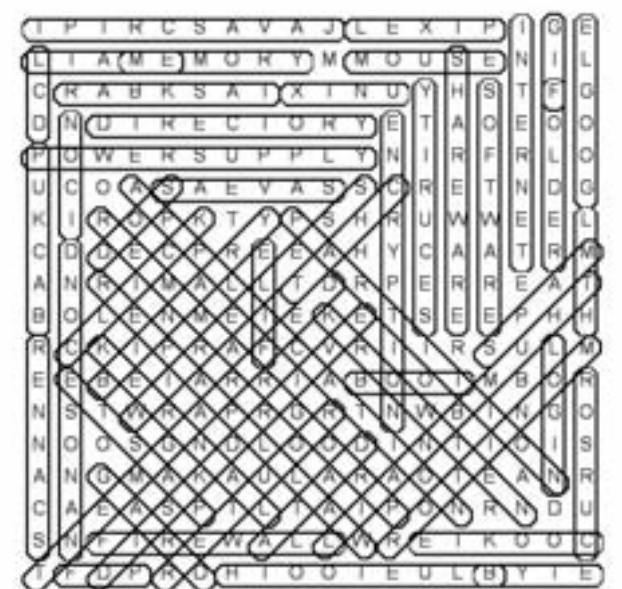
Find and circle all of the computer words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional computer word.



- |            |          |             |            |              |
|------------|----------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| ASCII      | DISK     | HARDWARE    | PASSWORD   | SOUNDCARD    |
| BANDWIDTH  | DOCUMENT | INPUT       | PCI        | SPYWARE      |
| BIOS       | DOWNLOAD | JAVA        | PERIPHERAL | TERAFLOP     |
| BUG        | DRIVER   | JPEG        | PORT       | TRIJAN HORSE |
| CACHE      | EMOTICON | KEYBOARD    | PRINTER    | UPLOAD       |
| CHIP       | ETHERNET | UNIX        | REBOOT     | USB          |
| COPY       | FAQ      | MENU        | RESOLUTION | USERNAME     |
| CRASH      | FIREWIRE | FONT        | MODEM      | SAVE         |
| CYBERSPACE | FREEWARE | NETTIQUETTE | SERVER     | WINDOW       |
| DATABASE   | GIGABYTE | OPEN        | SMILEY     | ZIP FILE     |
| DESKTOP    | HACKER   |             |            |              |

Yesterday's Solution

Computer Jargon 1



- |             |            |            |              |           |
|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| 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      | KERNAL     | PIXEL        | TASKBAR   |
| CHAT        | ENCRYPTION | LCD        | POWER SUPPLY | THUMBNAIL |
| CLICK       | FILE       | LOGIN      | PROGRAMMER   | UNIX      |
| COOKIE      | FIREWALL   | MEMORY     | ROUTER       | WALLPAPER |
| CURSOR      | FOLDER     | MONITOR    | SAVE AS      | WIRELESS  |
| DATA        | GIF        | MOUSE      |              |           |

The hidden word is: MOTHERBOARD

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





# Kuwait Times Classifieds

Monday, December 11, 2017

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## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

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

**BY NIGHT:** Cold with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 35 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 10/12/2017 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	20 °C	10 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	18 °C	04 °C		
ABDALY	19 °C	04 °C		
BUBYAN	20 °C	04 °C		
JAHRA	19 °C	07 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	19 °C	08 °C		
SALMIYAH	18 °C	11 °C		
AHMADI	19 °C	09 °C		
NUWAISIB	20 °C	06 °C		
WAFRA	19 °C	07 °C		
SALMY	16 °C	01 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	12/11	Fair	20 °C	05 °C	NW	12 - 35 km/h
Tuesday	12/12	Fair with a chance for rising dust over open areas	20 °C	06 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Wednesday	12/13	Partly cloudy to cloudy	19 °C	06 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 28 km/h
Thursday	12/14	Fair	20 °C	07 °C	VRB-NW	06 - 26 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	05:07
Sunrise	06:31
Zuhr	11:41
Asr	14:31
Sunset	16:50
Isha	18:12

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	19 °C
MIN. Temp.	08 °C
MAX. RH	59 %
MIN. RH	19 %
MAX. Wind	NW 50 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

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CHANGE OF NAME

LOST

**I, Dias Lily Roney D/o Peter** Stephen holder of Indian Passport No. L3462505 & Civil ID No: 267121103885 has changed my name to Lily Eugin hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5369) 11-12-2017

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

**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) 7-12-2017

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## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

### DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 11/12/2017				Departure Flights on Monday 11/12/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:01	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:30	FDB	072	Dubai	00:35
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	PIA	206	Lahore	01:00
KAC	102	London	00:50	MSC	502	Alexandria	01:00
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	JZR	502	Luxor	01:30
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	JZR	142	Doha	01:45
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:55
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	363	Colombo	02:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	WAN	331	Alexandria	02:05
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:45
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	351	Kochi	03:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1087	Doha	03:40
JZR	555	Alexandria	03:25	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
JZR	609	Hyderabad	05:10	FDB	070	Dubai	05:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	KAC	303	Mumbai	06:05
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	JZR	560	Sohag	06:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40	RJA	643	Amman	07:05
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	KAC	167	Paris	07:35
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:30	KAC	161	Geneva	08:20
WAN	342	Sohag	06:35	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	08:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	BAW	156	London	08:50
BAW	157	London	07:10	KAC	691	Muscat	08:50
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	KAC	117	New York	09:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	ABY	126	Amman	09:40
JZR	503	Luxor	07:45	KAC	101	London	09:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45
WAN	332	Alexandria	08:00	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	QTR	1071	Doha	10:20
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	10:30
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	JZR	778	Jeddah	10:40
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	ZAV	4101	IQA	11:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	IRA	666	Esfahan	11:00
WAN	134	Doha	11:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JZR	786	Riyadh	12:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:45	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	QTR	1075	Doha	12:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40				
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10				
KAC	692	Muscat	14:15				
KAC	618	Doha	14:15				
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20				



## Lifestyle | Gossip

**Niall Horan wants Justin Bieber charity single collaboration**

Niall Horan wants to collaborate with Justin Bieber on a fundraising single for the victims of the California fires. Justin recently revealed that wants to help raise funds for those who have been affected by the devastating natural disaster sweeping across the state and Niall, who has a home in Los Angeles, wants to help. He told Mirror Online: "We both live in LA and that's not too far from my house really where all those fires are kicking off, it's absolutely horrific. Three to four hundred homes destroyed and people's lives in tatters, so I thought about it when Justin reached out and sent that video. "Of course if something is going on like that [a charity single] it's a no brainer, if he needs a hand with something I'd love to give him a hand." Justin shared a video on his Instagram account, in which he pledged his support. He said: "I'm going to have a conversation with some people and we are going to get moving on a solution. Obviously I'm not a fireman but I can use my resources to figure out ways to get some sort of restoration in certain communities. "Fundraisers or whatever we can do, I'm going to get on that and in the meantime all the families and everyone who are struggling, just know that everything is going to be OK." Other stars also offered their support too, with Niall posting under the photo, "Good man. Give me a shout if ya need a hand (sic)" And Patrick Schwarzenegger wrote: "Let's do it buddy." It comes after Justin donated \$25,000 to the American Red Cross in aid of their relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey. Speaking in a video clip posted at the time: "Just looking at these photos from Hurricane Harvey. I just want to say that I am so sorry to all the families that have lost their homes, people that have lost their lives. I'm going to accept the Kevin Hart challenge and donate \$25,000 towards the Red Cross, and I love you guys in Houston. You guys are awesome, you guys are strong. I am so sorry this is happening."

**Noel Gallagher slams modern rock stars**

Noel Gallagher doesn't think there are any rock stars left. The 50-year-old rocker has blasted the state of UK music, insisting most bands have either "naff" frontmen or they're too old, and no one looks very cool anymore. He said: "There are no English rock stars left. "There are famous guys in bands, but rock stars now in England? Meh. "They're either very naff, or the wrong side of 40, or they don't write their own music and have nothing to say. "And they have bad hair and even worse shoes." And Noel finds it "boring" hearing bands sing about current affairs, so wanted his own new album, 'Who Built the Moon?' to be full of "joy and optimism". He said: "There was no big master plan but when it's finished and you take a step back and listen to it, there's just an overriding feeling of joy and optimism. "It's very easy now to pick up a guitar and just sing what's on the news. "Well, I say, that's boring. If I want to know what's going on in the world, I can watch the news. "I want to hear beauty and truth in music, not the news. The news is boring." While Noel thinks rock stars are getting too old, he has no plans to retire himself for at least 15 years. He said: "I think, even as I sit here today, I've got another three records left in me, so that's about 15 years. "As long as I can stand up and sing, I'm good. As long as I can still write, I'll be obliged to sing. "So I've got no plans of bowing out just yet."

**Mel C appoints boyfriend as manager**

Mel C has made her boyfriend her manager. Nancy Phillips, who she always worked with during her Spice Girls days, Mel has decided to appoint her boyfriend of two years, Joe Marshall, to the role. A source told the Sun yesterday: "It's not a long-term plan but if things work out well, who knows what could happen? "It is a huge display of trust from Mel as her singing career is incredibly important to her." Mel previously revealed that Joe gives her confidence in her career. She said: "My partner gave me confidence. He challenges me but respects and loves me. "I don't think I've ever been in a relationship where someone has got my back." Mel has an eight-year-old daughter, Scarlett Starr, from a previous relationship with Thomas Starr and she admitted last year that she would consider having more children with Joe. She said: "I've never wanted to get married but maybe I've never met the person. Life's complicated. So no plans! "It would be lovely to think about more children in the future." Meanwhile, Mel opted not to join a Spice Girls reunion last year after her bandmate Victoria Beckham decided against it. She said: "I know there are people that want to see it. But there were various reasons ... but the one thing that I couldn't get away from was that, we did reunite as a five piece [for the Olympics] and it was so incredible, and for me we are like a jigsaw puzzle and if there's a piece missing it's not complete. We're not a band of interchangeable parts. So for me, it didn't feel right."

**John Boyega's Star Wars drama**

John Boyega made it to the 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' premiere in Los Angeles on Saturday despite fears he would be trapped in Atlanta by a snowstorm. The 25-year-old actor - who plays Finn in the franchise - took to Twitter to reveal that he could not get a flight out of Atlanta due to the weather. He wrote: "Wow ATL. Looks like no one's leaving! Guess I'll start a family now... "Cold! My thighs won't even generate the heat anymore. "Trying to get back for the LA premiere! I actually NEED a pilot !!! (sic)" When director Rian Johnson tweeted: "Hahahaha oh my god GET HERE JOHN!", he jokingly replied: "Roger that! BB-8 PUNCH IT!!! (sic)" John finally made it to Los Angeles for the premiere at The Shrine auditorium but made time to poke fun at his co-star Harrison Ford's flying skills, when someone suggested the actor and pilot should fly him in. He tweeted: "I made it ! Without luggage but wooooooohooooo! As if weather can stop a Nigerian kmt. "Harrison will land that ship in the damn auditorium! I'm here though thank you and thanks everyone ! See you tonight. I need a shower because.....ew. (sic)" And Mark Hamill joined in with the teasing, writing: "Only fly with Harrison on green-screen, son. #FatherlyAdvice." John continued with the Star Wars references at the premiere when he was asked about his journey. According to Deadline, he referred to Oscar Isaac's character and quipped: "Poe Dameron is the best pilot in the galaxy."

**Jodie Foster found acting tough**

Jodie Foster found acting "cruel and hard". The 'Silence of the Lambs' actress has moved behind the camera in recent years but she admitted she doesn't think she'd have even been a film star if she hadn't been "thrown into" her career at the age of just three. She said: "I don't think I would have been an actor had I not been thrown into it at the age of three. "It's just not my personality. Maybe that's what's made my work interesting. But it's been really cruel and hard to be an actor." And the 55-year-old star has deliberately tried to stay out of the spotlight as much as she can because she hates the idea of being seen as a "celebrity". She said: "It's hard for me to live with myself as the idea of celebrity. "It makes me feel like I'm in a reality show. So I think I've neurotically gone in the other direction. I was raised in the public eye, so you have two options, you guard [your privacy] or you let it be for sale." Jodie took a break from acting in 1980 to study English at Yale and she adored the experience because it made her feel normal. She told Red magazine: "I was surrounded by people my own age for the first time in my life. "It was my little utopia because I got to believe I was like everybody else." The 'Little Man Tate' filmmaker believes her own life has had a huge impact on her work. She quipped: "When I direct movies, I feel like every character is me. It all gets processed through me - my favorite subject. "I'm well-adjusted enough about the tragedies in my life that I just can't take them that seriously. "I can't just wallow and be like, 'My mother was mean to me'. I have to cut it with a little cynical humor."

**Jonathan Anderson collaborates with Converse on a new line**

Jonathan Anderson has collaborated with Converse on a new line. The 33-year-old designer has created a new footwear range for the company, and he is proud of his creations because he thinks the collection gives an "intimate portrayal" of himself, as well as an insight into his personal style. Speaking to Vogue.co.uk, the mogul - who received the Accessories Designer of the Year for his work with Loewe, as well as British Womenswear Designer of the Year for his namesake label JW Anderson at The Fashion Awards 2017 - said: "The collection for me feels more like an intimate portrayal of myself. It's the taciturnity of it. It's a self-portrait of what I'm into and what I wear." And this is the "first time" Jonathan has been this "excited" about a project he has ever worked on. He explained: "It's the first time I'm excited about projecting myself into a product, which is a weird and new thing for me." Jonathan has hailed Converse as a "subcultural icon" and he believes the brand are timeless as their designs have not "really changed" over the last 100 years. Speaking about the longstanding American company, he said: "Converse is a subcultural icon! You can define its sneakers by three adjectives - quintessential, comfortable and affordable. It's an item that all the brands would like to create! It's amazing how the design hasn't really changed since 1917." And the reason Jonathan was keen to team up with the label was because he wanted to work on something "new and unexpected", and he hopes his own eponymous company will be as "universal" as Converse. He said: "I wanted to work on something new and unexpected for the brand. "The brand he [Chuck Taylor] created is universal and I would love JW Anderson to be that universal."

**Delevingne credits Bailey for her successful career**

Cara Delevingne has hailed Christopher Bailey for helping her break into the fashion industry. The 25-year-old model's career catapulted when she was scouted by the 46-year-old designer -who announced he was leaving Burberry earlier this year, but will continue working with the British fashion house until May 2018 - and made her catwalk debut in Burberry Prorsum's Autumn/Winter show in 2011. And the 'Suicide Squad' beauty has credited the mogul for giving her her "first leg up" into the business and supporting her over the years. Speaking to Refinery29 about her partnership with the company, she said: "Burberry to me represents British fashion in such a wonderful way, I think the way that they can bring together so many different fashions through the ages and still manage to bring youthfulness to this very, very dapper and sophisticated, but very cool and fun brand. And Christopher is incredible at bringing actors and musicians together. He really gave me my first leg up into the fashion industry and also from there, he's always supported whatever I've done, and everyone at Burberry is a friend of mine, I have their numbers, and it's a wonderful brand to be a part of." Cara believes her style as "definitely changed" over the years, but has also "stayed quite the same", and she has revealed comfort is her main priority when she is picking her outfit for the day. She said: "It's definitely changed, but it's also stayed quite the same."





Lifestyle | Gossip

## Grande collaborates with Urban Outfitters



Ariana Grande is set to launch a fashion line with Urban Outfitters. The 25-year-old singer has joined forces with the retailer, which will see her drop unreleased merchandise from her Dangerous Woman tour - that came to an end in September this year - in stores in North America on Friday, before it launches online today. According to WWD, the 'Side to Side' hitmaker's collection will include sweatshirts, sweatpants, T-shirts as well as a variety of jackets and coats, which will retail between \$34 and \$299. Although Ariana has kept quiet about her latest project, she hopes people will support her latest venture as she believes it is vital for women to encourage others instead of "clawing each other done". Speaking previously, she said: "Misogyny is ever present, and we have to be there to support one another. That's really it. It's about the sisterhood. There's no competing in that. We have to lift each other up, not try and claw each other down." And the idea of being supportive is one the 'Dangerous Woman' singer encourages between all social groups, as she says standing up for one another is "the most important thing" people can do. She added: "I think the most important thing is to have each other's backs. When you see something or hear something that's upsetting, or someone says something that's upsetting, even if it's not to you, just say something and be there and support each other. It's a scary thing. It's a hectic thing. It's a very real problem. I appreciate people exactly how they are. There isn't a certain kind of beauty that I look for or appreciate or one thing [that] is more beautiful than the other. I love people's uniqueness. I love the quirky, weird, and interesting - different things about everybody."

## Klum thinks her new Lidl line has 'something for everyone'

Heidi Klum says her festive collection with Lidl has "something for everyone". The 44-year-old supermodel teamed up with the label earlier this year to launch her clothing line Esmara, and the star has since released a clothing line ahead of Christmas, which includes jeans, tops, jumpsuits, and embellished skirts and dresses. And the catwalk icon believes the line is suitable for any woman to wear for any occasion, as the garments have all been "elevated" and have a "little extra sparkle" in them to suit the festive season. Speaking to Us Weekly about her latest project, she said: "#LETSCELEBRATE is a collection that has something for everyone and has arrived just in time for the holiday season. "No matter the occasion, whether it be a holiday party, dinner with your girlfriends or a special night out, you can piece together a super chic outfit. I have basic pieces, like jeans, tops and dresses that I elevated to have a little extra sparkle to them." The dresses have sequins all over them, jeans can be paired with one of my velvet t-shirts or a sequin blazers to take your outfit from day to night." But Heidi - who has Helene, 13, Lou, eight, Henry, 12, and Johan, 11, - also believes the collection features timeless pieces that can become wardrobe staples. She continued: "These are pieces that can become staples in your wardrobe and I'm so excited to share them all with you." Meanwhile, Heidi has admitted she loves dressing up on December 25 and having the "whole family" together to celebrate. The Heidi Klum intimates founder said: "There's something about dressing up, having the whole family together and celebrating under one roof that makes it super special. I love the holidays!"



## Cindy Crawford is a 'better' model now than when she was younger



Cindy Crawford feels she is a "better" model now than she was when she was younger. The 51-year-old supermodel believes experience has massively "helped" her career as it has improved her technique on the runway and in fashion campaigns over the years, although she is just "so happy" she is still recognized by the public. Speaking to PEOPLE, she said: "Experience has helped, but I am so happy to be recognized. I feel like I am better at my job now." Cindy has revealed modeling is not her only passion, as she enjoys designing, which she has described as a "fun new aspect" in her life, as well as building her homes and making a "great home environment." Speaking about her other ventures, Cindy - who has 16-year-old daughter Kaia and 18-year-old son Presley with her husband Rande Gerber - said: "This is who I am now, and it [designing] has become a fun new aspect of my life. In fact, creating a great home environment for my family is a passion. Even my husband likes design. We have built four of five houses." Cindy's children have followed in her footsteps and have embarked on a career in the fashion industry, and she has revealed she is regularly telling Kaia to clean her face thoroughly before she goes to sleep and to not "over tweeze" her eyebrows. She said: "I'm so happy for Kaia and tell her there are no beauty secrets but she needs to remember to take off her makeup before she goes to bed each night. I also tell her not to over tweeze her eyebrows because they won't necessarily grow back." But Kaia also passes on her own words of wisdom to her mother. She added: "I can suggest these health and beauty tips from my own experience but when it comes to modern technology, I have both of my kids advise me."

## Miranda Kerr reveals her beauty essential to prevent stretch marks



Miranda Kerr swears by Kora Organics Noni Glow Body Oil to prevent stretch marks. The 34-year-old model - who has six-year-old son Flynn with her ex-partner Orlando Bloom, and is pregnant with a second child with her husband Evan Spiegel - has revealed she is "consistently" using the skincare product from her beauty brand "morning and night" to avoid getting the fine lines on her skin while her belly is "growing rapidly". Speaking to Us Weekly about her pregnancy skincare treatments, she said: "I'm consistently using the body oil morning and night to prevent stretch marks and you know, the great thing is, is that the basis of the Noni Glow Body Oil is rosehip oil and rosehip oil is so rich in vitamin C that it really has been incredible for preventing stretch marks, so that's why I've been very diligent with that, even when I'm super tired. I'm like, 'I'm going to do it.' My belly is growing rapidly at the moment, so that's super important." And the mogul - who founded the organic skincare brand in 2009 - has revealed she will also add a touch of the Noni product in with her face creams, which she wears during the day because she is "obsessed" with the item. She said: "I will have the Hydrating Day and Night Cream mixed in with a couple of drops of the Noni Glow Face Oil, which I'm obsessed with. At night I use it as a treatment, but in the morning I use it mixed with my moisturizer and it's great to use it as a base underneath makeup because your skin is literally glowing after you use it." Miranda is "excited" she has launched the Noni seed oil because it contains multiple vitamins and antioxidants, which are "hard to get" but are "super important". — Bang Showbiz

## Tinashe reveals her beauty fear

Tinashe is "very afraid" of "abnormal" hair colors. The 24-year-old singer has admitted she had "frizzy" hair all the time when she was younger, and even though she embraced her wild tresses and is open to experimenting with her locks she is fearful of dying her hair a bold and unusual shade. Speaking to Us Weekly, the '2 On' hitmaker said: "When I was a kid my hair was so frizzy at all times. I didn't really care at the time, so shout out to myself for having the self-confidence to rock that frizz. "I've gravitated towards John Freida's Frizz Ease products for a long time because they're great for smoothing out the texture of my hair and helping it out when I do heat styling. "I'm very afraid of abnormal hair colors, but I would change it a lot within the spectrum of colors people are born with." And Tinashe thinks being able to "switch up" her hairstyle is the "perk" of being a female. She explained: "I like to switch up my hair like I do with my style. It's part of the perks of being a woman and being able to switch up how you dress to how you feel and express yourself day-to-day. I think hair is an extension of that." Tinashe has revealed she is equally as experimental with her style as well, as she will alternate between "more conservative" outfits and "more fun, sexy or playful" looks. Speaking about her wardrobe choices, she said: "Sometimes I want to be more conservative and other times I want to be more fun, sexy or playful. "I would probably just go with nice, simple hair down. But if you're going to a nice dinner, wearing your hair up is a good option because you will look smart, classy and sophisticated which are good things to give off on a first date as well."



## Adwoa Aboah says the fashion industry is a 'fickle business'

Adwoa Aboah says the fashion industry is a "fickle business". The 25-year-old model has admitted it took her a "long time" to adjust to her career at the helm of the fashion industry, but she has acknowledged people in the sector can be disloyal. Speaking to Vogue.co.uk, she said: "It really took me a long time... I think everyone forgets, but it is a fickle business." And even though the Gurls Talk founder felt there was no woman like her when she was breaking into the business, she was determined to pursue her dream. She explained: "When I started the kind of woman who was 'on-trend' wasn't me. But I stuck at it." But Adwoa has hinted the fact she was different to her predecessors is what made her a success, and she has encouraged budding models to "have something else" that they can bring to the business, because she believes that is what the industry is looking for. She said: "So what I would say to anyone who wants to be a model is: have something else. This shouldn't be your be-all and end-all in life, there are so many other amazing things to be done in the world. I also think that the industry really celebrates a woman who does something else. So keep at it, but always have something else." Adwoa was awarded the Model of the Year honor at The 2017 Fashion Awards, but she is "baffled" by her successful career, and she still wakes up in the morning "pinching" herself because she cannot believe her work on the runway, on the big screen and with her online platform are "real".

## Stella McCartney gives advice to budding designers

Stella McCartney has encouraged budding designers to be "honest" with themselves. The 46-year-old mogul - who launched her namesake brand, which is entirely cruelty free, in 2001 - has advised people looking to break into the fashion industry to be "passionate" and true to themselves when they are launching a label or a collection. Speaking to Vogue.co.uk, the designer - who took home the Special Recognition Award for Innovation at The Fashion Awards 2017 - said: "Find what drives you, what you are passionate about, and be honest with yourself." And the creative mastermind thinks when an entrepreneur is "lucky enough" to crack the business, they must try to be unique about their work and stand out in the crowd, as she believes there are not enough people who have their own style. She explained: "If you are lucky enough to break into the industry, try and enjoy it, but also try and do something different. I think the world is looking for a point of difference. There aren't enough people in fashion approaching it in a different way." Although Stella believes naivety in a person is a "really powerful gift", she thinks there is a fine line between becoming fearful, which is "not a good thing". She said: "I believe that naivety is a really powerful little gift - a powerful little gun in your pocket to take you to a certain stage. But fear... Fear is not a good thing." And Calvin Klein's chief creative officer, Raf Simons, shared the same view as Stella, as he believes people will only be successful if they "take risks and stand for change". Raf - who was recognized as the Designer of the Year title at The Fashion Awards - said: "I think the only way to succeed in fashion is to just keep doing what you believe and try to not be too manipulated by the industry's way of dealing with fashion."





# Teng bong! Minority languages on the rise in Singapore



This photograph shows Kevin Martens Wong (center), 25-year-old linguist tutor conducting Kristang language class at the national library board in Singapore. —AFP photos



Students from various cultures in a group discussion during their Kristang language class session at the national library board in Singapore.

Kevin Martens Wong reels off sentences in Kristang, which is among several minority languages in Singapore enjoying a new lease of life after a decades-long drive to encourage the use of English and Mandarin. “Teng bong, ozi nus prendeh sorti-sorti di tempu,” the linguist told his eager students in the 500-year-old mish-mash of Portuguese and Malay—a greeting, and information that the class would be about the weather. A former British colonial trading post that has long been a melting pot of different cultures, Singapore has an ethnically diverse population whose ancestors mostly came from across Asia, principally China, India and the Malay archipelago.

On independence in 1965, Singaporeans spoke an array of tongues. English was common, but many used Chinese dialects, such as Hokkien, as well as Tamil from India, Malay and a smattering of more obscure languages. But authoritarian founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew believed change was necessary to ensure a secure future for the tiny city-state, which had been thrown out of neighboring Malaysia following a brief and stormy union. He made the study of English compulsory in schools as he positioned the country as a global commerce and finance hub, as well as one other “mother tongue”. For local ethnic Chinese, who today make up the majority of Singapore’s population, it was usually Mandarin, as Lee had an eye on China’s rise as

a world power, while it was Tamil or Malay for other citizens.

### Controversial policy

The policy initially ran into opposition from ethnic Chinese, most of whom trace their ancestry to southern China. Lee, who ruled Singapore for over three decades and died in 2015, described in his memoirs how he had to force the issue. “To emphasize the importance of Mandarin, I stopped making speeches in Hokkien,” wrote Lee, who was ethnic Chinese, while most TV and radio broadcasts in Chinese dialects were also stopped.

Those restrictions still stand except in special cases, such as radio news broadcasts in Chinese dialects for senior citizens who struggle with Mandarin. Non-Chinese tongues, such as Kristang-spoken by descendants of Portuguese colonizers who arrived in what is now Malaysia in the 16th century and married locals—also faded. One thing that unexpectedly flourished was “Singlish”, a local patois that mixes English with words

from the myriad tongues spoken in Singapore. It is still widely used, despite official efforts to discourage it.

In recent years however Singaporeans have started to take more of an interest in their ancestors’ languages. As well as Kristang, efforts have been made by organizations promoting Chinese culture to keep Hokkien alive. It is the Chinese dialect that is most common in Singapore but it has become less widespread, particularly among the young. Other minority languages enjoying renewed attention include Baba Malay, spoken by descendants of Chinese immigrants who married into the local Malay population, which mixes elements of Malay and a Chinese dialect, and Boyanese, a language from a corner of Indonesia.

### Form of root-tracing

### Reconnect with the past

Observers see a relaxation in attitudes towards the old languages in the city-state of 5.6 million, which has grown into one of the world’s wealthiest and most stable societies. Most Singaporeans have already achieved

an enviable level of English by international standards, lessening fears that focusing on other tongues will affect their English-speaking ability.

There has also been growing concern about losing touch with the past. Young Singaporeans’ desire to revitalize the languages is a “form of root-tracing” while for the older generation it’s due to a sense of nostalgia, associate professor Tan Ying Ying, head of linguistics at Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University, told AFP. “Linguists working in Australia, New Zealand, and the US, have dedicated frameworks and systems to revitalize minority languages that are in danger of being extinct,” he said. “In Singapore, while there is such no formal system in place, the sense that these languages need to be ‘saved’ is felt by the communities of speakers themselves.”

The students learning Kristang-spoken in parts of the Malaysian city of Malacca as well as Singapore-attend classes led by Wong, 25, thrice weekly, and range from young professionals to senior citizens. One of the first to enroll in the class was Wong’s grandmother, 81-year-old Maureen Martens, who lost touch with Kristang when she moved to Singapore from Malaysia in 1952. “This is supposed to be my language, my heritage,” she told AFP, her eyes welling up. “I wish more people will learn it, especially people from my line like my grandchildren.” —AFP

# The hype reawakens: ‘Star Wars’ stages ‘Last Jedi’ premiere



Guest arrive for the premiere of Disney Pictures and Lucasfilm's "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" at The Shrine Auditorium, in Los Angeles. —AFP photos



Star Wars characters perform for the premiere of Disney Pictures and Lucasfilm's "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" at The Shrine Auditorium.



Star Wars characters perform for the premiere of Disney Pictures and Lucasfilm's "Star Wars: The Last Jedi".

Stormtroopers, droids and celebrities from galaxies near and far hit the red carpet in the shadow of a giant AT-AT assault vehicle Saturday at the glittering world premiere of “Star Wars: The Last Jedi”—although one star almost didn’t make it. John Boyega, who plays the heroic stormtrooper-turned-rebel Finn, had tweeted that he feared missing the big event because a snowstorm had gridlocked air travel out of Atlanta. “Trying to get back for the LA premiere! I actually NEED a pilot!!!” he lamented, before turning up in the nick of time for the big screening in downtown LA after managing to catch a flight.

“It’s thanks to Poe Dameron, the best pilot in the galaxy!” he joked on the red carpet, referring to the rebel pilot who aided his escape in the previous film. He was joined on the red carpet by the rest of the all-star cast, including Daisy Ridley (Rey in the space saga) who arrived wearing a suitably shimmering dress decorated in stars. Hotter than one of Yoda’s root leaf curries, the “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” is expected to cash in on 12 months of relentless hype with one of the biggest domestic opening weekends ever.

Thousands of guests lucky enough to get tickets were the first moviegoers in the world outside of the production to see the eighth installment of the blockbuster space saga. Director Rian Johnson introduced the movie by bringing onstage the cast, and paid an emotional tribute to the late Carrie Fisher, the iconic General Leia Organa in the series, who died last December. Moviegoers clapped throughout as she appeared onscreen, and rose for a standing ovation as the credits rolled.

### Rapturous initial reactions

Lucasfilm has embargoed detailed reviews until 9:00 am Los Angeles time (1700 GMT) on Tuesday, but fans were quick to flood social media with rapturous initial reactions to the movie, the longest in the series at 153 minutes. “There aren’t enough words to express how much I LOVED ‘Star Wars: The Last Jedi. It is mind-blowing! I’m in geek heaven!” tweeted Jenna Busch, a writer for fansite LegionofLeia.com. “‘Star Wars: The Last Jedi’ is so very different, exciting, surprising. So many emotions, so many amazing moments. Stay away from spoilers,” added Peter Sciretta of entertainment portal slashfilm.com.

The premiere came six days before the movie’s general release in US theaters,

kicking off a run widely expected to be the most successful worldwide since 2015’s “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” Experts are predicting an opening weekend domestic box office of around \$220 million, which would push it beyond “Jurassic World” (2015) into second place behind “Awakens” (\$248 million). The cast came together in LA with director Rian Johnson yesterday to build buzz for “The Last Jedi,” which sees the return of the characters introduced in J.J. Abrams’s first entry in the rebooted trilogy.

Gwendoline Christie, who plays stormtrooper commander Captain Phasma, put the continued relevance of “Star Wars” down to its foundational mythology of good versus evil. “I think it’s because the world we live in is a changing and evolving place that it retains the simplicity of those elements,” she said. “But it really resonates with what it is to follow your own human, dark, narcissistic tendencies, where that will take you.”

### ‘Dire situation’

Christie was joined at yesterday’s by returning stars Ridley, Boyega, Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Andy Serkis, Domhnall Gleeson and Luke Skywalker himself—Mark Hamill. There were new faces too: Kelly Marie Tran as Resistance maintenance worker Rose Tico and Laura Dern, who plays Vice Admiral Amilyn Holdo. “The Last Jedi”—filmed on the west coast of Ireland and at Pinewood Studios near London—marks the last appearance of Fisher, who died after already having wrapped her scenes.

Written by Johnson, “The Last Jedi” picks up directly where “The Force Awakens” left off, with Rey looking to Luke to teach her about The Force. It presages adverse times for the Resistance—prompting comparisons with the middle chapter of the original trilogy, “The Empire Strikes Back.” Like Fisher and Hamill, Harrison Ford was a “Star Wars” mainstay as loveable rogue Han Solo—but the character is missing from the latest chapter, having been killed off. “There hasn’t been a ‘Star Wars’ movie yet that has explored war the way ‘The Last Jedi’ has,” said Boyega. “It’s very messy. The categorizing of good and evil is all mixed together.” “It’s a dire situation, it’s critical. The Resistance is on its last legs,” added Isaac. “When you’re trying to survive, the First Order’s right on top of us, it is like war, where you’ve got to keep moving to try to survive. You feel the momentum of everything that happened in ‘The Force Awakens’ just pushing to a critical mass.” —AFP



Actor Joe Manganiello and Sofia Vergara



Actress Gwendoline Christie



Lupita Nyong'o and Peter Nyong'o



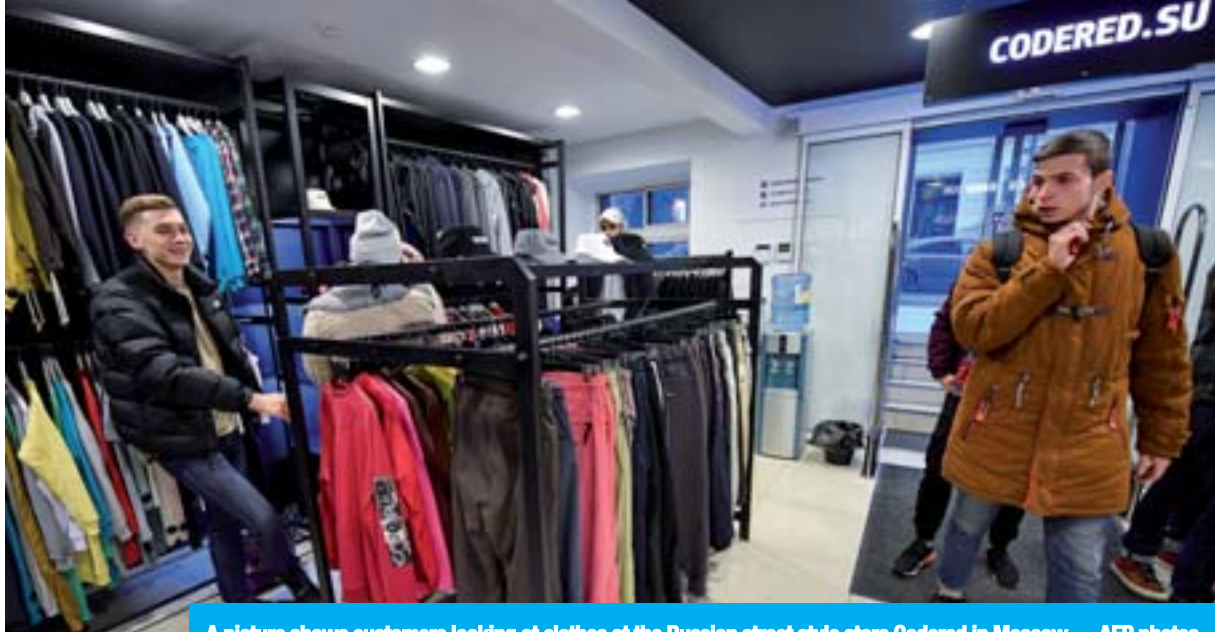
Christian Louboutin and Dita Von Teese



Actress Meg Donnelly



# Get the 'post-Soviet' look: How Russian street style went global



A picture shows customers looking at clothes at the Russian street style store Codered in Moscow. —AFP photos



Alexander Selivanov, the founder and the designer at the Russian street style store Codered, speaking during an AFP interview in Moscow.

Russian street style might not conjure up images of high glamour, but the look is making its mark on the global fashion industry, from the catwalk to the high street. In-demand Muscovite designers such as Gosha Rubchinskiy and Andrey Artyomov have brought "post-Soviet" style to Paris, London and New York fashion weeks. Western chains like Urban Outfitters and Topman have picked up on this contemporary take on 1990s Russian wear, selling T-shirts with Cyrillic slogans. The post-Soviet look also includes graphic T-shirts, football scarves, cropped jeans and sportswear brands, worn together with higher-end items. Largely appropriated from the Russian working class, it also draws on the suburban "gopnik" subculture that appeared 25 years ago at the collapse of the USSR.

### 'Glorifying suburban hooligan'

For years after the Soviet Union's breakup, Russians were "students" of global fashion and their tastes imitated those of the West, said cultural commentator and entrepreneur Ilya Oskolkov-Tsentsiper. "But step by step, as the customer became more sophisticated, well-travelled, with more access to information, pictures, clothes and so on, we started to see the emergence of Russian street style," he told AFP.

With his sartorial "glorification of the suburban hooligan", Rubchinskiy has explored the previously ignored style possibilities of the "underprivileged",

added Oskolkov-Tsentsiper, founder of the Strelka design institute who splits his time between Moscow and New York. He believes Western shoppers' enthusiasm for the post-Soviet trend could be tied to perceptions of Russia's increasing global reach, from Syria and the annexation of Crimea to accusations Moscow interfered in last year's US presidential election.

### 'Ai dont laik yu'

Sergei Pakhotin, the 32-year-old founder of clothes brand Sputnik 1985, agrees the political climate could be a factor in Russia's fashion resurgence in the West. "Before you had to study Chinese, now everyone wants to learn Russian," he said, half-jokingly, in Sputnik's store in a fashionable downtown Moscow shopping street. Despite it being set back in a courtyard, making it invisible from Pokrovka Street, full of shops and bars, the clothes store attracts a number of foreign visitors who have heard about the brand online.

Sputnik's garments feature Soviet imagery with an

occasional punk twist. A T-shirt with an image of Swan Lake ballerinas and the numbers 1991 — in a reference to the ballet played continuously on television during the attempted coup that year — sells for 1500 rubles (\$25, 22 euros), while a badge with the phrase "Ai dont laik yu" spelled out in Cyrillic letters costs 300 rubles. Radiation symbols also feature in the designs of Pakhotin, who grew up in western Belarus, an area heavily affected by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

### 'Russian irony'

Whether foreign or Russian, few Sputnik customers will have had firsthand experience of the Soviet Union as most are in their mid-20s or younger. "There are people, who, even if they didn't necessarily grow up in Russia or the

Soviet Union, they understand the Russian type of irony, the Russian type of cynicism, the Russian type of humour," said Oskolkov-Tsentsiper. He points to the internationally sought-after stylist Lotta Volkova from Russia's Far Eastern Vladivostok as another example of someone who has expanded the look's global reach. At

the central Moscow bar and clothes shop Denis Simachev, an \$85 T-shirt adorned with the face of oligarch Roman Abramovich and the Russian-language slogan "My happiness depends on your success" hangs on the sales rack. Standing outside, Why Not events company co-founder Zhenya Popova says Muscovites are now more stylish than urbanites in Europe. "Everyone's moved on from wearing just one brand," says the 32-year-old, who is dressed in a green trouser suit from the homegrown Studio Nebo and a jacket from Italian label, No. 21. "Everyone's stopped thinking; if I wear Chanel now, that's really cool. They've started to dress in a more contemporary way, to mix things up, to combine something mass market with something more designer."

### Tie-ups with Western labels

But Alexander Selivanov, the designer at the Russian street style store Codered, insists Western style still has a far greater influence on Russia than vice versa. Russian designers come to prominence abroad by allying themselves with foreign brands, he said, as was the case with Rubchinskiy's 2016 collaboration with Japan's Comme des Garçons.

"Because of (Rubchinskiy), the West is taking a lot of interest in what is going on here. "And while they're watching, you have to do something very quickly, make some contacts, get in on the story," he said. —AFP



## Glorification of the suburban hooligan

## Bishkek Fashion Week



Models present creations by Kyrgyz designer Katya Zabolotnova during the Fashion Week in Bishkek.



Models present creations by Kyrgyz designer Ivan Kornilov.



Models present creations by Kyrgyz designer Askarall uulu Zalkar.



# Lifestyle

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017



Women wearing fancy costumes stand in the Atrium lobby of the Monte Carlo Casino, decorated under the theme "Let's fall in Diamonds" by Belgian artist and designer Charles Kaisin, at the start of a Surrealist Dinner Party in Monaco. — AFP

## WWE announces signing first Kuwaiti competitor

*Alruwayeh looks to train to become pro wrestler*

By Ahmad Jabr

Kuwaiti athlete Nasser Alruwayeh became the first competitor from the Gulf country to sign a contract with WWE, which was officially announced this past Friday during a live event in Abu Dhabi.

Alruwayeh signed his contract, which qualifies him to train at the WWE Performance Center in Orlando, Florida to become a professional wrestler, during a press conference with WWE Executive Vice President of Talent, Live Events and Creative Paul 'Triple H' Levesque held as part of WWE's live tour in the UAE capital. He was joined in the same press conference with Shadia Bseiso, who was announced in October as the first female athlete from the Middle East to earn a WWE contract.

Levesque was first to make the announcement on his Twitter account on Friday, posting a picture showing himself, Alruwayeh and Bseiso with a caption reading "Another historic moment here in #WWEAbuDhabi as we welcome Shadia Bseiso, the first woman from the Middle East and Nasser Alruwayeh the first Kuwaiti signee, to WWE."

"It is an honor to sign with WWE and represent the Middle East," Alruwayeh said in



WWE Executive Vice President of Talent, Live Events and Creative Paul 'Triple H' Levesque (center) poses with Nasser Alruwayeh (left) and Shadia Bseiso during a press conference in Abu Dhabi on Friday. — (Photo courtesy of Triple H's Twitter account)

a statement. "I look forward to competing with world-class athletes as I begin my journey in becoming a WWE Superstar."

"Signing Nasser is another example of WWE's ongoing commitment to building a talent roster that mirrors the diversity of our fan base," said Levesque. "We are confident that Nasser will inspire future WWE Superstars from the Middle East as we continue to recruit the most talented athletes and

entertainers from around the world."

Alruwayeh has already established himself as an accomplished CrossFit athlete in Kuwait, gaining reputation as one of the most skilled competitors in the field on the local and regional levels. He - along with Bseiso - participated in a tryout the WWE held earlier this year in Dubai to select potential athletes from the Middle East and India to join the major worldwide entertainment company.

WWE Superstars performed in a live event in Abu Dhabi this past weekend before they headed to Delhi, India in their ongoing international tour. WWE has held several 'house shows' in the Middle East in recent years, capitalizing on its growing popularity in the region, including stops in Dubai, Qatar, and most recently in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The last time WWE has held a live event in Kuwait was in 1997, which was its second in the country after a very successful event held a year before.



Kuwaiti athlete Nasser Alruwayeh signs his contract as WWE Executive Vice President of Talent, Live Events and Creative Paul 'Triple H' Levesque looks on.

Sirb Al-Hamam wins two awards at Delhi International Film Festival



(From left) Cinarrist Razi Al-Shatti, Kuwaiti actor Dawoud Husain, Ahmad Al-Amiri and director Ramadhan Khasrouh.

Kuwaiti film 'Sirb Al-Hamam' (The Pigeon Flock) won two awards at the 2017 Delhi International Film Festival in India. The film competed with 20 films from all over the Arab world, including Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. It was announced as the winner of the Best Picture and Best Director for the Arab film category during the festival which was held yesterday.

The movie's director Ramadhan Khasrouh said that the win came as a result of the efforts of all actors and technical staff who worked on the film, in addition to the full support of Sheikha Intesar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, who have supported the film from the beginning.



Emirati visitors look at exhibits during the opening of the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum on November 11, 2017 on Saadiyat island in the Emirati capital. — AFP

## JK Rowling speaks out on casting Johnny Depp in Fantastic Beasts 2

J.K. Rowling is "genuinely happy" to have Johnny Depp play a major character in 'Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald' - despite the backlash it's received. The 54-year-old actor recently confirmed he was reprising his role as Gellert Grindelwald in the sequel, but some fans slammed bosses' decision to bring him back for the next movie because of his controversial divorce from Amber Heard last year, in which she claimed he'd been abusive towards her throughout their marriage before later dropping the allegations, and begged them to recast the part.

However, Rowling has confirmed that producers did consider recasting the villain but decided against it once the allegations were dropped - and she agrees with them. Taking to

her website, she wrote: "When Johnny Depp was cast as Grindelwald, I thought he'd be wonderful in the role. However, around the time of filming his cameo in the first movie, stories had appeared in the press that deeply concerned me and everyone most closely involved in the franchise. "Harry Potter' fans had legitimate questions and concerns about our choice to continue with Johnny Depp in the role.

"As David Yates, long-time 'Harry Potter' director, has already said, we naturally considered the possibility of recasting, I understand why some have been confused and angry about why that didn't happen. "However, the agreements that have been put in place to protect the privacy of two people, both of whom have expressed a desire to get on with their lives, must be respected. — Bang Showbiz



JK Rowling