

13 India cricketer Kohli, Bollywood actress Sharma marry in Italy



22 Bitcoin tops \$18,000 in debut on major bourse



31 Iconic Gulf singer Abu Bakr Salem of Yemen dies aged 78



16 Ronaldo v Neymar as Real Madrid draw PSG in Champions League



Fresh faces in new Cabinet, but lawmakers unimpressed

Sabeeh in MPs' crosshairs • Hashem slams 'free' treatment of beaten Egyptian



Sheikh Jaber Al-Sabah
Prime Minister



Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah
First Deputy PM; Defense



Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah
Deputy PM; Foreign



Sheikh Khaled Al-Sabah
Deputy PM; Interior



Anas Al-Saleh
Deputy PM; Cabinet Affairs



Nayef Al-Hajraf
Finance



Bakheet Al-Rasheedi
Oil; Electricity & Water



Hind Al-Sabeeh
Social & Labor; Development



Khaled Al-Roudhan
Commerce & Industry; Youth



Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah
Health



Mohammed Al-Jabri
Information



Hossam Al-Roumi
Public Works, Municipal



Fahd Al-Afasi
Justice; Awqaf



Hamed Al-Azmi
Education



Jenan Bushehri
Housing; Services



Adel Al-Kharafi
Assembly Affairs

By B Izzak and A Saleh

KUWAIT: The new government was finally announced yesterday, exactly six weeks after the previous Cabinet resigned over a dispute with lawmakers. MPs had filed a no-confidence motion against former state minister for Cabinet affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, who was left out of the new Cabinet. There were no surprises or changes from the list published by Kuwait Times yesterday, as the son of III the Amir Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was given

his first ministerial posting as the first deputy premier and defense minister, the senior-most position in the Cabinet after the prime minister.

III Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah was retained as the prime minister for his seventh Cabinet since he was appointed to the post exactly six years ago. Other top positions were filled by members of the Al-Sabah ruling family, with Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah retaining their posts. Beside Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah, former defense minister

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah was left out.

The new cabinet includes a new minister of oil and electricity and water, Bakheet Al-Rasheedi, a former top official of Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC), in addition to a new finance minister Nayef Al-Hajraf, the former head of the Capital Markets Authority. Hajraf also served as finance minister a few years ago.

The new Cabinet included nine new faces and saw a number of former Cabinet members given new portfolios. It now has two female members after the addition of Minister of Housing and Services Jenan Bushehri. Minister

of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, the other female member, was retained in the same post and immediately greeted by some lawmakers with grilling threats. Opposition MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei said he will hold consultations with other lawmakers to grill Sabeeh. Subaei had threatened to grill the minister if she was retained. Pro-government MP Saadoun Hammad said the reappointment of Sabeeh will trigger a new political rift, adding that if she is grilled, MPs will file a no-confidence motion against her.

Continued on Page 11

MoI warns no new amnesty for iqama violators

KUWAIT: The director general of the residency affairs directorate said the interior ministry will not give another opportunity to iqama violators to correct their legal status with the possibility of being able to return without paying fines, especially since previous grace periods did not prove worthwhile. Maj Gen Talal Maarafi told Al-Anbaa daily the door is open for any expat residency violator to pay the fines due and correct their status, provided that there are no legal restrictions.

Maarafi also spoke about proposals concerning visit visas and new residency permits, as well as fees the interior ministry believes can be implemented, adding that the proposals will not be implemented without the approval of Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and the National Assembly. He said the proposed fees are not exorbitant as some people believe.

Continued on Page 11

Saudi Arabia lifts decades-long ban on cinemas

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia yesterday lifted a decades-old ban on cinemas, part of powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's far-reaching liberalization drive that is shaking up the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom. The government said it would begin licensing cinemas immediately and the first movie theatres are expected to open next March, in a decision that could boost the Gulf state's nascent film industry.

Reviving cinemas represents a paradigm shift in the kingdom, which is seeking to balance unpopular subsidy cuts in an era of low oil prices with more entertainment options, despite opposition from hardliners who vilify movie theatres as vulgar and sinful. "Commercial cinemas will be allowed to operate in the kingdom as of early 2018, for the first time in more than 35 years," the culture and information ministry said in a statement. "This marks a watershed moment in the development of the cultural economy in the kingdom," the statement quoted Information Minister Awwad Alawwad as saying.

Saudi Arabia is expected to have more than 300 cinemas - with over 2,000 screens - by 2030, giving rise



RIYADH: This Oct 20, 2017 photo shows Saudi women attending a film festival at King Fahd Culture Center. — AFP

to an industry that would contribute \$24 billion to the economy, the ministry said. Like most public spaces in the kingdom, cinema halls are expected to be segregated by gender or have a separate section for families.

Hardliners, who see cinemas as a threat to cultural and religious identity, were instrumental in shutting them down in the 1980s. Saudi Arabia's highest-ranking cleric warned in January of the "depravity" of cinemas, saying they would corrupt morals. But authorities appear to be shrugging off the threat, with some comparing Saudi Arabia's reform drive to a fast-moving bus - either people get on board or risk being left behind.

Continued on Page 11

Bahraini NGO under pressure after Israel visit

DUBAI: An interfaith group from Bahrain said it has sent a delegation to Israel to promote "tolerance and coexistence", at a time of Arab anger over the fate of Jerusalem. The non-governmental organization, which calls itself "This is Bahrain", insisted it had no official status though its mission statements say it has the backing of King Hamad. This is the first public visit by a Bahraini delegation to Israel, which Manama - like most Arab capitals - does not recognize.

Reports in Palestinian media said the delegation was banned from visiting the Al-Aqsa Mosque in annexed east Jerusalem on Sunday. The organizer of the trip, however, declined to confirm, and the Islamic body that governs the site said that while no visit took place, they had not explicitly banned them. Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean at the Simon Wiesenthal Center which organized the delegation's visit, said it was made up of 25 inter-religious leaders from Bahrain. "About one-third of them are Muslims, there are Christians and two Buddhists," he told AFP. "It's not a political visit so there was no request to see politicians."

Continued on Page 11

Putin orders partial troop withdrawal from Syria, inks Egypt nuclear deal

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday ordered the partial withdrawal of Russian troops from Syria, during a surprise visit to the war-torn country. Putin arrived at Russia's Hmeimim airbase in Latakia province, a government stronghold, where he was welcomed by Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, and the two men were pictured smiling, shaking hands and hugging.

Putin, who announced last week he would be seeking a fourth Kremlin term in a presidential poll in March, said he had ordered Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu to start a partial withdrawal. "I have taken a decision: a significant part of the Russian troop contin-



HMEIMIM, Syria: Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Syrian counterpart Bashar Al-Assad pose with Russian air force pilots yesterday. — AFP

gent located in Syria is returning home to Russia," he said in a televised speech to troops at the base.

Russia first intervened in the conflict in 2015, staging air strikes in support of its ally Damascus targeting both the Islamic State group (IS) and other militants as well as rebels fighting government troops.

Continued on Page 11

Explosion rocks NY commuter hub, suspect in custody

NEW YORK: A man with a homemade bomb strapped to his body set off an explosion at a New York commuter hub during rush hour yesterday, injuring himself and three others in what New York Mayor Bill de Blasio called an attempted terrorist attack. The suspect in the incident at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, a block from Times Square, was identified as Akayed Ullah, the New York Police Department commissioner said. The suspect had burns and lacerations while three other people, including a police officer, had minor injuries.

The weapon was based on a pipe bomb and fixed to the suspect with zip ties and velcro, police said. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, speaking at a news conference near the site, described the device as "ama-



NEW YORK: New York City Police Department officers stand guard near the New York Port Authority Bus Terminal after an explosion yesterday. — AFP

teur level". New York Mayor Bill de Blasio told the same news conference that the incident, which happened at the start of the city's rush hour, was "an attempted terrorist attack". "As New Yorkers our lives revolve around the subways. When we hear of an attack in the subways it is incredibly unsettling," de Blasio said.

Continued on Page 11

Amir heads to Turkey today for OIC emergency summit

Amir receives Indonesian Chief Justice



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the visiting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Indonesia Dr Mohammad Hatta Ali and his accompanying delegation. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the outgoing French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Saqer Abu Shatal, the newly-assigned Ambassador to Jordan.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is due to depart today to the Republic of Turkey, heading the State of Kuwait delegation to the emergency summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

In other news, His Highness the Amir received at Seif Palace yesterday Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council, the Cassation Court, and President of the Constitutional Court, Justice Youssef Al-Mutawaa accompanied by the visiting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Indonesia Dr Mohammad Hatta Ali and his accompanying delegation. His Highness the Amir later received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Mutawaa held a separate meeting with his Indonesian counterpart later yesterday, during which they discussed bilateral judicial cooperation. Mutawaa said that this meeting would push forward the framework of joint judicial cooperation with Indonesia, announcing the formation of a joint judicial committee of the two countries to develop bilateral cooperation programs, Ministry of Justice said in a statement. Both sides signed a letter of intent in this regard, and stressed the importance of independent judiciary and its role

in protecting rights and freedoms and achieving justice.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received the outgoing French Ambassador to the country Christian Nakhle on the occasion of his tenure ending. The French Ambassador also met with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince meanwhile received the

Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Ali Al-Sabah.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received cable from His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad, congratulating him on the recent decision by International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) to lift the ban on Kuwaiti football activities. His Highness Sheikh Nasser commended His Highness the Amir's keenness on backing up the sports movement in Kuwait, saying that the executive and legislative authorities play an integral part in lifting the ban. His Highness the Amir replied with a cable thanking His Highness Sheikh Nasser for his sincere sentiments, hoping that the efforts to develop sports in Kuwait will continue.

Separately, His Highness the Amir received a cable from President of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali Mohammad Thunayyan Al-Ghanem, who congratulated His Highness on the success of the 38th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit. In response to the cable, His Highness the Amir thanked Ghanem for the sincere gesture, hoping that he and fellow Gulf leaders would continue to seek the development and welfare of the region's people. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the outgoing Brazilian Ambassador to Kuwait, Norton de Andrade Mello Rapesta.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle.



Amir, Crown Prince meet ambassadors

Kuwait joins Romanian search for missing national: Diplomat

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti security team would travel to Romania soon to help in the search for missing national Mohammad Al-Baghli, a senior foreign ministry official said Sunday. In a statement to reporters on the sidelines of the Romanian embassy's function to mark its national day, Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Waleed Al-Khubaizi thanked Romanian government for facilitating the embassy's follow-up to the fate of Baghli, who has been missing in Romania since August 5, 2015. Khubaizi hailed the strong relations between the two countries which date back to 55 years ago. Kuwait and Romania are cooperating in various domains and had 22 cooperation agreements covering a wide array of fields including healthcare, defense, tourism and investment, he said.

He pointed out the joint Kuwaiti-Romanian committee would hold a meeting early next year to draw a roadmap for developing bilateral relations. He stated that the Romanian foreign minister is expected to visit Kuwait next month. He expressed appreciation of Romania's support to Kuwait's nomination to a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council of 2018-2020, adding that Kuwait would back Romania's nomination for the same post for the next term. Khubaizi estimated Kuwaiti exports to Romania at \$5.2 million and imports from Romania at \$80 million. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Waleed Al-Khubaizi (right) and Romanian Ambassador to Kuwait Daniel Tanase (center) cut the cake during the embassy's national day ceremony. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Senior officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event.



Local

New Kuwaiti Cabinet members' profiles

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has formed the 35th Kuwaiti government since 1962. It has been the seventh since he occupied the premiership post in December 2011. The following are profiles of the newly-formed cabinet including the premier.

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak - Prime Minister:

Born in 1942, Sheikh Jaber has occupied a number of positions since 1968, serving as supervisor of administrative and financial affairs at the Amiri Diwan, director of a State department and assistant undersecretary for financial and administrative affairs.

On March 19, 1979, he was appointed Hawally Governor. Later, he was named Al-Ahmadi Governor, before serving as Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of Information as well as advisor at His Highness the Amir's Bureau. On February 9, 2006, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak was named First Deputy Premier, Minister of Interior and Defense. He retained the same posts in two cabinets, formed on July 11, 2006, and March 25, 2007.

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, in a cabinet reshuffle on October 28, 2007, became the First Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense. He served in the same positions in the subsequent governments formed in May 2008, January 2009, May 2009 and May 2011.

In November 2011, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak was selected to serve as Premier. He was re-appointed to the premiership post in February 2012, July 2012, December 2012, July 2013, January 2014, and November 2017.

Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah - First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense:

Born in April 27, 1948, Sheikh Nasser is the eldest son of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He held several positions including advisor

to His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister on December 7, 1999. He was also Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs in accordance to a decree issued on February 11, 2006. Sheikh Nasser is known for his business mindset which helped him establish several companies and he is also known for his passion for culture and history. He established Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah and is an honorary member of the Metropolitan Museum in New York. He is a founding member of the society for the protection of public wealth.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah - Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister:

Born in 1953. He joined the Foreign Ministry in 1978 as a diplomatic attache, serving in the Arab affairs department 1978-1983 and with the permanent Kuwaiti mission at the (UN) 1983-1989. He worked as the deputy director of the Arab homeland department at the Foreign Ministry 1989-1992, in addition to several other senior posts till assuming the Foreign Minister's post in 2011. He retained the position years later.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah - Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister:

He was named chief of staff on March 4, 2012, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense in July 2013 and remained in the same service as of January 2014. On November 30, he was named Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

Anas Khaled Al-Saleh - Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs:

Born in 1972, Al-Saleh had served in key positions in several private business companies before he was named in 2012 as Minister of Commerce and Industry. He retained the post in the cabinets of December 2012 and July 2013. He was chosen to serve as the Deputy Premier and

Finance Minister in January 2014 and acting oil minister in November 2015. He was re-assigned as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in December 2016.

Adel Musaed Al-Kharafi - Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs:

Born in 1959, Kharafi attained a BA in civil engineering from the Arab academy for science and technology. He held top positions at petroleum and aluminum companies. He was a member of the Municipal Council in 2005 and also a member of the National Assembly in 2013 and 2016. Kharafi held the position of parliament secretary in 2015.

Dr Bassel Humoud Hamad Al-Sabah - Minister of Health:

Dr Sabah was born in 1974 and graduated from Kuwait University's (KU) Faculty of Medicine in 1999. He attained his PhD in otolaryngology from the Canadian medical board in 2006. He is head of Otolaryngology Department Zain Hospital since 2007.

Khaled Nasser Al-Roudhan - Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs:

Roudhan was born in May 26, 1978. He has a BA in business management from KU and work in the private sector. He served as Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs from November 2016 until October 2017.

Jinan Mohsin Ramadan Boushehri - Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services' Affairs:

She attained a BA and MA in engineering from Kuwait University while she got her PhD from Ain Shams University in Cairo. Ramadan was a member of the Municipal Council from 2009 until 2013. She worked as an advisor at the National Assembly from 2014 until 2016 and has been a member of the Central Agency for

Public Tenders since 2016. Ramadan was a member of Al-Harir city's agency and also member of the cabinet's supreme planning committee. She was also a member of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare's (PAHW) strategic housing committee from 2016 until 2017.

Hussam Abdullah Al-Roumi - Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs:

Born in 1959, Roumi has a BA in computer engineering from University of the Pacific in California 1983. He was head of programming at Kuwait Airways from 1983 until 1989 and also was chief of IT at Public Authority for the Council of Ministers from 1989-1990.

Bakheet Shabeeb Al-Rasheedi - Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water:

Rasheedi was born in 1957 and attained his BA in chemical engineering from Kuwait University (KU) in 1982. He was chairman of the board of Kuwait Petroleum International (Q8) and CEO of KPC Holdings Aruba, a Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) company. He was chairman of the board for the Gulf refining federation since 2016. He was a member of the board of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) 2011-2012.

Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf - Minister of Finance:

He attained his PhD in accounting from the UK in 2002. Hajraf was Vice President of the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) and has been a member of the Supreme Petroleum Council since 2010. Hajraf was Minister of Education and Higher Education in February 2012 and was appointed in July 2012 as Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, and Acting Minister of Higher Education. He was re-assigned as Minister of Education and Higher Education in December 2012 as well as in the 32nd incarnation of cabinet in December 2016.

Mohammad Nasser Al-Jabri - Minister of Information:

Jabri was born in 1974 and has an MA in political science. He worked at Kuwait Airways and was member of the board at Khaitan cooperative society. He was a member of parliament in 2012, 2013, and 2016. Jabri was minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and also was Minister of State for Municipal Affairs.

Dr Hamid Mohammad Al-Azmi - Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education:

Azmi was born in May 17, 1969 and is a undersecretary at the Ministry of Higher Education as well a lecturer at the Faculty of Engineering in Kuwait University (KU). He has a BA in electrical engineering from Washington University in Saint Louis and attained both his MA and PhD in the same field from the same university in 1994. Azmi has a PhD in computer engineering from the University of Washington in 2000.

Fahad Mohamad Al-Afasi - Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs:

Born in 1971, Afasi attained his BA and MA in law while studying in Egypt and Lebanon. He has been head of the technical department for fatwa and legislation since 2015 and also a member of the cabinet's fatwa and legislations department since 1995.

Hind Sabeeh Barrak Al-Sabeeh - Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, as well as Minister of State for Economic Affairs:

She began climbing the echelon in 2007 as the assistance undersecretary at the civil service commission. She was chosen as Minister of Social Affairs and Labor in January 2014. In December of 2016, Sabeeh was chosen as Social Affairs and Labor Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs.—KUNA

Kuwaiti lawmakers urge action over US Jerusalem decision

CAIRO: Three Kuwaiti MPs have called on parliaments around the world to respond immediately and appropriately to a US decision recognizing the holy city of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Addressing an extraordinary session of the Arab Parliament yesterday, Kuwaiti lawmaker Khaled Al-Otaibi stressed that Jerusalem is near and dear to the hearts of all Muslims and Arabs, condemning a decision by US President Donald Trump to move the American embassy to Jerusalem and recognize the city as the capital of Israel. He added that the US decision was "in stark contrast to historical facts and international laws that affirm Jerusalem as the capital of an independent Palestinian state."

Meanwhile, Otaibi's fellow MP Askar Al-Enezi said that Arab and Islamic nations should work together to ensure that Trump's decision over Jerusalem is rendered null and void, describing the sacred city as the "eternal capital of a Palestinian state." Enezi underscored Kuwait's unyielding support for the



Kuwaiti lawmaker Ali Al-Deqbasi.

Palestinian people, saying that his country stands in solidarity with the Palestinians and has always been an advocate of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Ali Al-Deqbasi, another Kuwaiti lawmaker, said on the sidelines of the Arab League session that verbal condemnation is not a sufficient response to the US decision on Jerusalem, highlighting the need to turn rhetoric into effective action. The Kuwaiti MP said that all Islamic nations should leap into action to address this dilemma of epic proportions and the US decision has pushed it further away from its role as a mediator in peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians.—KUNA



Kuwaiti lawmaker Askar Al-Enezi



Kuwaiti lawmaker Khaled Al-Otaibi.

Kuwait Times

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* Kuwait Times employees, spouses and their second-degree relatives also cannot participate.

Local

Zain receives Golden Medal for Excellence in Corporate Sustainability on regional level

Awarded by the Arab Organization for Social Responsibility

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, proudly received the Golden Medal for Excellence in Corporate Sustainability on the Arab Region level. The accolade came as part of the Arab Organization for Social Responsibility's 12th awards held recently in Dubai.

The award, attained by Zain for the fourth time, recognized the company's efforts in sustainability areas during 2017, which included a series of social contributions and programs the company launched and supported, as well as a number of strategic partnerships the company signed with entities across the private and public sectors that had a deep positive impact on the community.

The Arab Organization for Social Responsibility organizes this annual award to shed light on the leading organizations in the fields of sustainability and social responsibility across the Arab world. The event witnessed the attendance of many prominent leaders and experts who represented leading CSSR players in the region from both public and private sectors.

Zain is proud of launching and supporting a long-list of initiatives, programs, and projects across all fields, as the company strongly believes in having a key role in supporting sustainability areas reflected in the company's CSSR strategy towards different social causes. Zain will not spare any efforts in strengthening its commitment towards its customers and the community in which it operates, especially that it is considered one of the leading organizations in the region.

Zain's top efforts in sustainability during 2017 included a number of programs and projects that served humanitarian causes, including the strategic partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR), strategic partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), clothes donation campaign for Syrian refugees in partnership with the Kuwait Society for Relief, humanitarian trip to Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan, Zain's online charity campaign during Ramadan, strategic partnership with the Kuwait Food Bank, and more.

During 2017, Zain's CSSR strategy was also centered around a number of partnerships with public and private educational entities with the aim of supporting the youth. Such efforts included the strategic partnership with the Youth Empowerment Symposium, community partnership with Qout Market, strategic partnerships with LOYAC and INJAZ, supporting the Taaleb E-Square program, Zain's FUN program, and more. 2017 also witnessed the launch of the fourth installment of Zain Great Idea, an accelerator program that gave 12 Kuwaiti entrepreneurs an ecosystem to launch their own SMEs in the Kuwaiti and global markets.

Zain also reinforced its cooperation with a number of the leading health organization from both the private and public sectors in Kuwait, including the strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Health, Kuwait Central Blood Bank, Al Salam International Hospital, Dasman Diabetes Institute, Zain Hospital, and more. The company also launched several initiatives that serve the environment by partnering with the Kuwait Dive Team, Kyak4Kuwait team, Omniya recycling program, and more.

It is worth noting that sustainability projects launched and supported by Zain during 2017 came under the company's well-focused CSSR strategy. During this period, Zain renewed its full support and commitment to the different social causes, being a commercial entity that seeks true partnership with the community in which it operates.



Zain supported long-list of initiatives in 2017



DUBAI: Zain's representative receives the award.

KIB sponsors exhibition to support talent

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) sponsored the annual Education and Employment Opportunities Exhibition for the academic year 2017-2018, which was organized by the Hawally Educational District's Social and Psychological Services Department. Held at the Salah Aldin High School for boys, the exhibition aimed at introducing aspiring students and their parents to options and opportunities in public and private universities available both locally and overseas that suit their talents. Additionally, the exhibition also focused on providing students with the proper guidance needed to decide on a course of study.

On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia said: "KIB's sponsorship of this exhibition reflects its strong belief in the importance of providing support and assistance to all segments across the local community. Accordingly, we are keen on supporting and empowering soon-to-be graduating students as they continue their academic journey onwards towards higher education. We believe youth are the true wealth of our nation, both today and in the future."

Najia lauded the exhibition's ability to attract a large crowd of students and parents. During the exhibition, a team from the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB welcomed students and provided them with career coaching and guidance to help them manage their future careers and develop professionally. Additionally, the KIB team presented students with possible career options and opportunities in the banking sector that suit their diverse aptitudes and career ambitions.

KIB always strives to participate in student-based initiatives, as it believes in the importance of strengthening ties between the banking sector and local talents. Accordingly, this exhibition presents the perfect opportunity for achieving this goal by attracting ambitious, talented youth and preparing them to join the national labor force in the future.



KIB is honored.



A scene from the exhibition.

Kuwaiti Proteins Company joins Horeca 2018

KUWAIT: In view of the growing number of companies announcing their intentions to take part in the Horeca Kuwait 2018 exhibition, Kuwait Proteins Company yesterday announced participating in the event as a golden sponsor.

In this regard, the company's Brand Manager Ahmad Murad stressed that Horeca Kuwait has major economic impact in view of the constant development in hospitality, building new hotels and restaurants. He added that taking part in this year's exhibition was a great opportunity for the company to emphasize its 44-year career of excellence compared to other peers in the business.

Further, Murad stressed that his company has built a career spanning over four decades in the business supplying co-operatives, hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, clubs, wholesalers, catering companies, minimarkets, bakeries, pastries, convenient stores and retail food outlets with various food products. He added that Proteins was also the agent of many international food and beverage brands that cater to all Kuwaiti consumers' tastes. He added that Proteins had been annually gaining experience and followed the strategy of meeting its current and potential clients' needs through special marketing plans.

Notably, Kuwait Protein Company is considered a major company in terms of social responsibility and organizing health care and lifestyle awareness campaigns. It also distributes the fully natural sweetener 'Stevia in the Raw,' which provides successful solutions to social and health problems such as obesity and diabetes. Horeca Kuwait 2018 is organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairground in Mishref from January 15-17, 2018.



Ahmad Murad

Amir patronizes event on Oman, region's history

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah patronized yesterday at Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC) the Sixth International Conference on Oman's Relationship with the Countries of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf between the 17th and 19th centuries.

Representing His Highness the Amir at the event was Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. The event was attended by Sheikh Faisal Al-Saud Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, heads and members of various diplomatic missions in Kuwait, and other officials. Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah delivered a speech in which he conveyed greetings from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah to the participants.

He affirmed that His Highness the Amir's patronizing of the conference reflected the Kuwaiti leadership's keenness on safeguarding and preserving the history of the region. The Kuwaiti official lauded the Omani National Records Archives for their efforts in the conference, saying that they played an important part in preserving historical documents for the future generations.

Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah also lauded the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) for co-

hosting the conference, indicating that it would hopefully help those interested in the history of Oman and the region. Learning from past and historical events will only contribute to the development of the future, affirmed Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah who wished the conference success in achieving its goals.

Meanwhile, head of the Omani National Records Archives Hamad bin Mohammad Al-Thouyani thanked the Kuwaiti leadership and friends from the Gulf and Indian regions for taking part in the conference. The highest authorities in Oman gave their blessing on holding the event in Kuwait which in fact reflects the strong relations linking the two Gulf countries, said the Omani official.

He indicated that the sixth international conference will be highlighting the contributions of Oman and other countries in the region to development of human civilization. The regions, which the conference covers, are no less than other civilizations that contributed to history, affirmed Thouyani who indicated that his country, in the past, had important relations with regional countries and beyond. Looking into history will only lead to development and more progress and hopefully the current conference will achieve such goal, said the Omani official who thanked the top NCCAL officials and the Kuwaiti embassy in Omani for their contributions to the event.

After the speeches, the event concluded with the screening of a documentary film as well as a poetry reciting event. His Highness the Amir and his representative Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah were also honored. Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah inaugurated an exhibition showcasing documents and historical manuscripts.— KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah tours a photo exhibition held during the Sixth International Conference on Oman's Relationship with the Countries of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf. — KUNA

Local

Legalese

Copyright



By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

In the past year, we have seen a positive change in legislations in Kuwait for conducting business, especially for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). One of the most positive changes was establishing a one-stop business center in Kuwait to obtain a license - the Kuwait Business Center (KBC). Although the idea of the center is great and has been successful, there has been an impressive demand for the center's services and therefore the process is still taking longer than it should, which I believe defeats the purpose of the center.

Kuwait ranked low over ease of business internationally and the government reacted by not only amending the laws positively, but also by introducing support for the youth in many different forms. Although this is highly appreciated by the Kuwaiti youth, there are still a few issues to be addressed when establishing a company in Kuwait. I am sure though the government will continue to improve and make the necessary amendments.

Source code

Question: I am currently working on a mobile application and I want to know if I can copyright my source code in Kuwait? Is it possible even if I am not using the app for commercial purposes?

Fajer: Yes, you can copyright your mobile application creation at the National Library of Kuwait. You will need to submit the full and complete source code, as well as a form. I believe the KD 10 fee that was previously applied has now been waived. The process takes up to 60 days but may take as little as two weeks.

Registering a logo

Question: I am starting an e-commerce business and although I do not want to currently get a license for my online platform, I would like to know if I should register my logo or not for the time being?

Fajer: For the most part, I think that it is important to register your logo before establishing your company, and this is because you will be able to protect your logo while still being able to discuss work collaborations with third parties. Copyrighting your logo is an initial step as you will have to in the future trademark your logo. The copyright is also done through the National Library and does not require a commercial license. This takes up to 60 days as well and the fee has been waived.

As for trademarking for the future, it will be under the ministry of commerce on the 21st floor of KIPCO tower. The process takes more than six months, as the logos are manually compared to other images and are printed in the local newspaper, giving people the opportunity to claim that the logos are infringed upon should they wish so. There are costs for doing this and requirements for the submission of the trademark, like the size of trademark, the slogan accompanying the logo and so on. I won't get into this here, but you can check www.moci.gov.kw for more information.

One-person company

Question: I own a company by myself, and when I obtained the license, I was told that it was for a one-person company. I am wondering if I can now add partners and also hire people. Surely I can, because I do not understand how a company can only have one employee.

Fajer: You can always hire employees if you have a one-person company and they can also be registered for social security payments through the Public Institution for Public Security. As for bringing in a partner, this should not be an issue, as you can always add a partner and your company will automatically become a WLL (with limited liability) one. This cannot be done at Kuwait Business Center but instead it is best to visit the Ministry of Commerce at the ministry's complex.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or you require a consultation, please email me at ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

Jaber Hospital gets equipment in preparation for its launch

No launch date yet for first phase

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MOH) announced yesterday that it recently received the equipment needed for Jaber Hospital's 120 outpatient and specialized clinics pending launching the first phase of the hospital at a date to be announced later. The ministry added that the departments to be launched in the first phase will include general surgeries, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology and ENT, while the wards will be launched in the second phase and the intensive care unit in the third. The hospital is built over an area of 750,000 square meters, includes 13 floors (eight for patients and five for electro-mechanic services), and has a bed capacity of 1,168 beds, a dentistry building, a shelter, a nurse accommodation building, a central electro-mechanic equipment station, the casualty department and an OPDs building. It is considered the largest in the Middle East and sixth worldwide.

Staff replacement

Sources at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said that government bodies had been responding to its instructions concerning reducing the number of non-Kuwaiti employees and reaching their targeted numbers within five years. The replacement policy has been suspended for years and was recently revived upon correspondence between CSC and various ministries, including the Ministry of Education to provide job opportunities exclusively to Kuwaitis in the following fields: data processors, administrative staff, educational service staff, secretaries, typists, clerks, operators, security, media, public relations, information technology and development staffs to Kuwaitis.

New schools

The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) is currently awaiting government's final approval prior to signing the first contract to build new schools, noting that the authority was also reviewing various offers that were so far submitted. KAPP has referred the contract to a supreme committee for approval pending the final State Audit Bureau's approval which might take days or months, as the sources put it. The project involves designing, building,



KUWAIT: The Jaber Hospital. — KUNA

funding, operating and turning over nine schools: five kindergartens, three primary, one intermediate and a six-lane Olympic swimming pool. The new schools will serve 4,350 pupils.

World Bank

The Competition Protection Authority (CPA) has contacted the finance ministry requesting information

about the mechanism agreed upon with the World Bank concerning the first phase of CPA's cooperation with the bank. CPA has also requested a copy of the cabinet decisions number 719 dated on September 3, 1995 and number 421 dated on May 13, 2007 pertaining the mechanism used prior to 2014, in which the ministry did explain the terms of cooperation with the World Bank.

Power cable thieves arrested

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Farwaniya detectives arrested a gang for stealing copper cables from power transformers. The arrests were made following several reports made about the thefts. Detectives identified the suspects and raided one suspect's house, who gave information about the other culprits and led police to the location of the stolen cables. The suspects and materials were sent to public prosecution.

Airport traffic

The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said passenger traffic through Kuwait International Airport reached 864,000 during November, including 70,000 GCC nationals. The number of departing and arriving citizens reached 262,000, while the number of passengers of other nationalities reached 531,000. The number of visas issued at the airport reached 19,115, while 60 people were deported. Meanwhile, four forgers and 119 wanted persons were discovered through fingerprints. In addition, 1,027 traffic citations were issued, 14 vehicles impounded and seven accidents were handled at the airport.

Kuwaiti, US military commanders discuss cooperation



KUWAIT: Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khadher meets with Commander of United States Central Command General Joseph L. Votel. — KUNA



Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khadher meets with Romanian Defense Attache in Jordan Colonel Catalin Petre. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khadher and Commander of United States Central Command General Joseph L. Votel held a meeting yesterday, discussing ways to bolster defensive cooperation. The Kuwaiti army's public relations department said that the meeting also touched on issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti and US military personnel. Earlier on, Lieutenant General Khadher also met with Romanian Defense Attache in Jordan Colonel Catalin Petre. The two discussed issues of mutual interest. — KUNA



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India's Congress Party names Rahul president

US, S Korea, Japan start missile-tracking drill, irking China

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EAST JAVA: Indonesian anti-terror policemen conduct a raid in Surabaya. More than a dozen people have been arrested by Indonesian anti-terrorism police, authorities said yesterday, as they beef up security in the world's biggest Muslim-majority country ahead of the Christmas and New Year holidays. — AFP

Indonesia arrests 13 in pre-Xmas terror sweep

Indonesian authorities beef up security

JAKARTA: More than a dozen people have been arrested by Indonesian anti-terrorism police, authorities said yesterday, as they beef up security in the world's biggest Muslim-majority country ahead of the Christmas and New Year holidays. Police said they detained 13 suspected militants in separate, pre-emptive raids over the weekend across the Southeast Asian nation, which has long struggled with Islamic militancy. "As usual, we are conducting pre-emptive strikes. We move before they do and we arrest the groups we believe will potentially commit an act (of terror)," national police chief Tito Karnavian said yesterday.

The arrests took place in South Sumatra, East Java and West Kalimantan over the weekend. One of the men arrested in Surabaya, Indonesia's second-biggest city, was known to have gone to Syria in 2013 and has links to Abu Jandal, an influential Indonesian militant who

fought with the Islamic State group in the Middle Eastern country, authorities said. Another suspect was involved in a February terror attack in the Indonesian city of Bandung, where a pressure cooker bomb exploded in a park before a gun battle erupted nearby, leaving one militant dead.

However, authorities have no specific information on a new planned attack, said national police spokesman Setyo Wasisto. "There's no confirmed plan for a terror attack that we have heard so far," he said. Indonesia's anti-terror squad can detain and hold suspected extremists for seven days without charge. Indonesia has suffered a string of deadly incidents, including a Christmas Eve attack in 2000 that left 18 dead and scores injured. In 2002, a bomb in a Bali nightclub killed over 200 people while, more recently, a suicide

bombing and gun attack claimed by IS in the capital Jakarta killed eight people in January 2016.



Hardline Muslim groups burn US and Israeli flags

Hardliners burn US flags
 Meanwhile, hardline Muslim groups in Indonesia burned photos of US President Donald Trump, as well as US and Israeli

flags yesterday during a protest outside the US embassy against Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, has joined a global chorus of condemnation of Trump's controversial move on Israel, which they say threatens security and stability in the Middle East and the world. The status of Jerusalem, a city holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians, is one of the thorniest barriers to a lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Jerusalem's eastern sector was captured by Israel in a 1967 war and annexed in a move not recognized internationally. Palestinians claim East Jerusalem for the capital of an independent state that they seek, while Israel maintains that all of Jerusalem is its capital. Hundreds attended the protest outside the US embassy in

Jakarta, which was barricaded by barbed wire and dozens of police officers. "Let us witness the destruction of Israel's hegemony," one protest leader shouted into a megaphone as protesters burned an Israeli flag. "We will support Palestine with our blood."

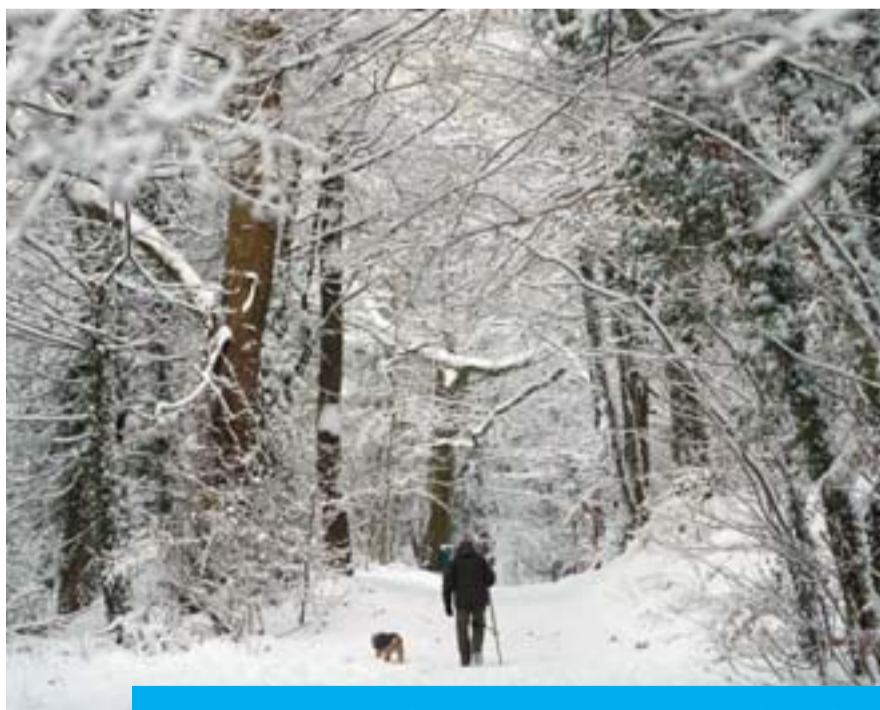
Many protesters waved Palestinian flags and carried banners supporting "intifada", or an uprising against Israel, and rally leaders also shouted anti-Semitic slogans. The protest was led by the Islamic Defenders Front, an aggressive vigilante group that calls for sharia, or Islamic religious law, to be imposed in Indonesia, a secular country. The demonstration followed a much larger protest at the weekend, where thousands called for diplomatic relations with the United States to be severed and for the US ambassador to be expelled. Indonesia supports a two-state solution in the Israel-Palestine conflict. — Agencies

Schools closed, flights delayed after snowfall

LONDON: Britain was recovering yesterday after heavy snow brought freezing temperatures, shutting hundreds of schools and disrupting flights for a second day. Power was restored to more than 100,000 homes, while airports tried to recover their schedules following the winter's first major snowfall—the biggest in four years. The last time Britain saw this much heavy snow nationwide was in March 2013, and during the winter of 2010.

Newspaper front pages were filled with pictures of people either enjoying the snow or stuck in gridlock on the roads. Some 32 centimeters (12.5 inches) of snow fell in Sennybridge in south Wales on Sunday. And temperatures overnight dropped to minus 11.6 degrees Celsius (11 degrees Fahrenheit) in Northumberland, northeast England. The Western Power Distribution network said it has restored power to more than 99,500 customers, while a further 7,000 were still without electricity, largely in west central England.

Meanwhile disruption continued on the roads and at airports. London Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport by



RUTHIN, UK: A man walks his dog through a snow covered wood near Mold, north Wales yesterday. The heaviest snowfall to hit Britain in four years caused widespread yesterday with roads becoming hazardous and flights grounded following runway closures. — AFP

passenger numbers, said it was still experiencing problems. "Some flights at Heathrow were disrupted yesterday due to crew and aircraft being out of position following yesterday's weather," it said. "We're working with our airline partners to return aircraft to where they need to be, and full

service recovery remains the focus." Hundreds of schools were closed in western England and north Wales, while much of the kingdom was on a yellow weather warning for snow and ice. All local authority-run schools in the central city of Birmingham were also shut. — AFP

Anti-bullying video sparks outpouring of support

WASHINGTON: A video of a boy tearfully talking about being bullied at school has gone viral and prompted an outpouring of support from Hollywood celebrities, music stars, athletes and others. Keaton Jones's mother posted the video on Facebook Friday, writing that her son asked to make it after he had her pick him up from school because he was afraid to go to lunch. It has since been viewed 22 million times and shared more than 440,000 times. "Just out of curiosity, why do they bully? What's the point of it? Why do you find joy in taking innocent people and finding a way to be mean to 'em? It's not OK," Jones says in the video.

"They make fun of my nose, they call me ugly, they say I have no friends... (they) pour milk on me and put ham down my clothes, threw bread at me," he says. "I don't like that they do it to me and I for sure don't like that they do it to other people, 'cause it's not OK," Jones says, tears on his face. "People that are different don't need to be criticized about it—it's not their fault. But if you are made fun of, just don't let it bother you—

just stay strong," he says, adding: "It'll probably get better one day." That day may have come sooner than he expected.

Chris Evans, the actor who plays Captain America, invited Jones to the premiere of the next Avengers film. "Stay strong, Keaton. Don't let them make you turn cold. I promise it gets better," Evans wrote on Twitter. "While those punks at your school are deciding what kind of people they want to be in this world, how would you and your mom like to come to the Avengers premiere in L.A. next year?"

'Overwhelmed' is an understatement
 "Why do people do this? I think your sooo cool Keaton! I wanna be your friend (but srsly) ur freakin awesome," tweeted Millie Bobby Brown, who plays Eleven on the hit series "Stranger Things." Rapper Snoop Dogg encouraged Jones to get in touch with him by direct message. "Say lil Man U gotta friend in me for life hit me on dm so we can chop it up love is the only way to beat hate," he wrote in an Instagram post. "Keaton—Don't waste time wondering why a bully would be so mean—They're sad people who think hurting others will make them feel better because they really don't like themselves," tweeted Mark Hamill, who plays Luke Skywalker in the blockbuster space saga "Star Wars." Ultimate Fighting Championship president Dana White invited Jones to its headquarters. "This video is heartbreaking!! I want to bring Keaton to Vegas and hang out at UFC Headquarters," White tweeted. — AFP

International

US, South Korea and Japan kick off missile-tracking drill, irking China

North Korea threats spark South Korea arms sales

SEOUL: The US, South Korea and Japan carried out joint exercises yesterday to track missiles from North Korea, as China warned that such maneuvers fuel tensions following nuclear-armed Pyongyang's longest-range test launch to date. The trilateral drill comes less than two weeks after Pyongyang test-fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and declared it had achieved nuclear statehood, escalating global alarm over its weapons push.

The two-day exercise—the sixth since June last year—kicked off in waters near the Korean peninsula and Japan, Seoul's defense ministry said. "During the drill, Aegis warships from each country will simulate detecting and tracking down potential ballistic missiles from the North and sharing information," it said in a statement. Two US ships are taking part, with one each from the two Asian countries. Both South Korea and Japan have security alliances with the US, although their own relationship is marred by disputes over history and territory.

Washington and Seoul staged their biggest-ever joint air drill last week in a show of force against the North, which is subject to multiple sets of UN sanctions over its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs. The coalition has urged others to take a tougher stance against Pyongyang but has so far found lukewarm reactions from the North's main backers Beijing and Moscow. China criticized the latest drills, which come as President Xi Jinping prepares to host South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-In this week for a summit aimed at soothing ties strained by the US deployment of an anti-missile system in the South.

"The situation is in a vicious cycle of provocation and confrontation. This is not conducive to regional peace and stability," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular news briefing. "If such a vicious cycle continues and leads to a very

bad result, it serves no party's interest," Lu said, echoing recent remarks by Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Russia's top general Valery Gerasimov met Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera in Tokyo and reiterated that Moscow wanted to resolve the crisis via diplomacy.

"We believe that this issue should only be resolved through political and diplomatic means," Gerasimov was quoted as saying by the Russian defense ministry. Exercises around North Korea "destabilize the situation", Gerasimov said, according to a Japanese defense ministry official. Onodera, however, stressed Japan's position: "North Korea's nuclear and missile development are significant threats against the international community. I want us to cooperate over this problem." China and Russia have called for a halt to such US-led drills in return for North Korean suspending its nuclear program.

Maneuvers fuel tensions, Beijing warns

Super-large heavy warhead

Tension flared anew in the flashpoint peninsula after the November 29 launch of

the Hwasong-15 ICBM, which the North claimed could deliver a "super-large heavy warhead" anywhere on the US mainland. Many analysts suggest that the rocket is capable of reaching the US mainland but voiced skepticism that Pyongyang has mastered the advanced technology needed to allow the rocket to survive re-entry to the Earth's atmosphere.

North Koreans threat

Faced with constant missile and nuclear threats from its belligerent northern neighbor, South Korea is boosting its arms sales and aims to become a major exporter, a study said yesterday. South Korea's arms industry accounted for 2.2 percent of global top 100 producers' sales in 2016, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute



SEOUL: A US Air Force B-1B Lancer bomber (right top), two US F-35A (middle) and two US F-35B (bottom) stealth jets fly over South Korea with South Korea's two F-16 (L) and two F-15K (C top) fighter jets during a joint military drill. —AFP

(SIPRI) said in a report listing the world's "top 100" military services.

South Korean arms-producing companies' combined sales totaled \$8.4 billion (7.1 billion euros) the same year with a 20.6 percent rise in sales compared to 2015, SIPRI added.

"The increasing nuclear weapons capability in North Korea has led to major investments in South Korea," SIPRI Senior Researcher Pieter Wezeman said. In defiance of repeated international condemnations and sanctions, Pyongyang fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) last week, which reached an altitude of 4,475 kilometers before splashing into the sea 950 kilometers east of its launch site, North Korean state media said. The North, which says it needs nuclear weapons to protect itself from "hostile" US forces, has vowed to

accelerate its weapons programs in response to "evil" sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council.

Once a mainly agricultural backwater devastated by war, South Korea has been one of the world's largest importers of military equipment and technology for decades—mostly from the US—but in recent years its domestic sector has grown rapidly. In the face of North Korean threats, the proportion of government spending that Seoul devotes to defense is among the world's highest outside Middle East and African conflict zones, according to SIPRI's 2016 figures. South Korea is turning "to its own arms industry to supply its demand for weapons" and "aiming to realize its goal of becoming a major arms exporter", SIPRI Senior Researcher Siemon Wezeman said in a statement. —Agencies

News in brief

3 Journalists on trial

ISTANBUL: Turkish prosecutors yesterday demanded life terms for three veteran Turkish journalists on trial over accusations of links to the 2016 failed coup, in a case that has raised new concerns for freedom of speech in the country. The brothers Ahmet and Mehmet Altan and prominent commentator Nazli Ilıcak are charged with violating the Turkish constitution in the trial, which began in June at the Istanbul criminal court. They are accused of links to US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen who Ankara says masterminded the failed bid to oust Erdogan on July 15 last year. Gulen denies ties to the incident, which left 249 people dead, not including the plotters.

Australia 'first gay divorce'

SYDNEY: Australia is set for its first gay divorce days after a historic marriage equality law came into effect, with lawyers preparing to file papers for a woman caught in legal limbo after marrying at a foreign consulate. Following a parliamentary vote in favor of a landmark gay marriage bill last week, couples wanting to wed were able to begin lodging their notice to marry on Saturday, while those married overseas saw their unions recognized in Australian law—opening the way for divorce. Solicitor Maria Loukas said yesterday she was preparing divorce papers for a client who married in a European country's consulate in Western Australia in 2015, but was unable to divorce after separating from her partner because she was not a resident of that nation.

UK money laundering

LONDON: Britain's government said yesterday it will create a new national economic crime centre to crack down harder on money laundering by drug dealers and people traffickers who are expected to net 90 billion pounds (\$120.3 billion) this year. As a unit of the existing National Crime Agency (NCA), the centre will be tasked with coordinating a national response among the agencies that tackle money laundering and fraud and with increasing the confiscation of crime proceeds. British Interior Minister Amber Rudd said the new initiative was part of a package of measures in response to a review of Britain's economic crime agencies.

Indonesian speaker quits

JAKARTA: The speaker of Indonesia's parliament, who is being investigated for his suspected involvement in a \$170 million graft scandal, has tendered his resignation, two members of the assembly said yesterday. Setya Novanto was arrested last month over his suspected role in the scandal linked to a national electronic identity card scheme. Anti-corruption investigators then took him into custody from where he sent a letter to assembly leaders pleading to be allowed to keep his job while he fought the charges. "Mr Novanto has resigned," member of parliament Yandri Susanto said, referring to a letter in which Novanto announced his decision. "He didn't say why." A replacement for him as speaker was expected to be decided by his party, Golkar, at an extraordinary meeting on Dec. 19, said Dito Ganinduto, a member of parliament from Novanto's Golkar party.

IS long gone, but former Iraqi oil hub still dead

BAIJI: A white rocking horse and a child's toy car lie abandoned on a dusty lane in the Iraqi city of Baiji, a small sign of the ruin that can be seen all around. Two years after the jihadists of Islamic State group were forced from this one-time industrial hub, Baiji remains a devastated ghost city as pledges of funds to help rebuild life have failed to materialize. Home to what was once Iraq's biggest oil refinery, its rubble-strewn streets are lined by the twisted carcasses of buildings, and in 2016 it was declared a disaster zone by the national parliament.

"Up until now there has been no money to reconstruct the town despite the promises made by Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi," Khaled Hassan Mahdi, a member of the regional council said. Instead, Mahdi said, all available funds have gone into financing Iraq's military campaign against IS, which Abadi declared defeated after three years of brutal fighting. "And even if the ministries unblock the money, it will only go to restoring infrastructure, water, roads, electricity, but not pay benefits to people or give them aid to rebuild their homes."

'90 percent destroyed'

For Baiji, 200 kilometers north of Baghdad, its role as a major industrial centre boasting sprawling oil and chemical plants seems like a distant memory. "It will be very difficult to rehabilitate the Baiji refinery, which was built in 1975 and used to produce 250,000 barrels a day, as so much equipment has been pillaged," a high-ranking official in Iraq's North Oil Company said. Even if the facility does get up and running again, the official said, then "it won't have the same capacity as before."

The level of devastation in Baiji is among the worst left behind after Baghdad's punishing campaign to reclaim its towns and cities from the grip the jihadists, who fought fierce house-to-house battles to cling on to the city. "Baiji is the most destroyed place in Iraq after western Mosul," said council member Khazal Hammadi, referring to the obliterated old heart of the country's second city. Before the jihadists seized control in 2014 the city had a population of some 180,000 people. "Now 90 percent of Baiji is destroyed and the people have still not returned," city councilor Sheikh Hatf Bassam said. Wearing a black and white checked keffiyeh headscarf, he insists that "the destruction was the work of the IS terrorists after local Arab tribes rejected their presence."

But the full story of Baiji's downfall is far more protracted and complex. After the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, Baiji found itself at the heart of the so-called "Sunni triangle" where those loyal to ousted leader Saddam Hussein continued to wage a ferocious insurgency—and the oil infrastructure was attacked repeatedly. IS swept into the city in June 2014 as the Iraqi forces collapsed and after more than a year in control were forced out by government troops and allied militias with the help of air power from a US-led coalition in October 2015. —AFP

Al Hamra Hotel is the newest hotel in Kuwait



General Manager Rasheed Hilal

Al Hamra Hotel is a 4-star Hotel with ideal location which started receiving guests from 1st December 2017. The hotel is located in the heart of the Kuwait City in Sharq area and next to Al Hamra Tower, the tallest skyscraper and the tallest stone tower in the world. Close to The Grand Mosque, Souk Sharq, Souk Al Mubarakiya, Kuwait Towers, Seif Palace and the Sea Front. Within five minutes walk, you can reach Shaheed Park, the largest amusement park in Kuwait. It is 18 km from Kuwait International Airport. The hotel's General Manager, Rachid Hilal, stated that the hotel has 60 luxurious rooms and 36 luxurious suites with all the modern requirements of a hotel. It also has Dasmn Restaurant in the first floor, which serves Arabic and Western cuisine through the buffet (breakfast, lunch and dinner). Guests can enjoy light snacks and hot/cold drinks in the hotel's indoor and outdoor lobby Café. The business center, VIP lounge, and meeting rooms (Sharq and Jibla) in the fourth floor are provided with the latest equipments. The hotel also has a gymnasium, sauna, steam room and massage room, as well as a swimming pool where fresh drinks are served. In the evening, enjoy with friends under the moonlight, the Moroccan-style Café next to the swimming pool.



International

Rahul Gandhi takes helm of India's Congress party

Rahul takes over from his mother, Sonia Gandhi

NEW DELHI: India's main opposition Congress party yesterday elevated Rahul Gandhi, the scion of the country's most fabled political dynasty, as its president, preparing to challenge the dominance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of national polls in 2019. In a long-awaited move, Gandhi, the great-grandson of India's founding prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was elected unopposed to head the party. He will take the reins from his mother Sonia, the party's longest-serving president, since 1998.

Calling it a "historic occasion", the Congress party said Gandhi would take charge as president on Dec 16. Television broadcast images of party supporters celebrating and distributing sweets outside Congress offices in the capital, New Delhi, and the financial hub of Mumbai. Gandhi's ascent coincides with state polls in Modi's western home state of Gujarat that are shaping as a test for the prime minister, who has been facing criticism for softening economic growth and poor implementation of a nationwide sales tax.

The Congress hopes a round of state elections offers the party, and Gandhi, a shot at revival ahead of the next national elections, due in 2019. Modi's depiction of Gandhi as an undeserving "prince" has helped sideline Gandhi

since the last national election, during which time Congress has suffered some of its worst results in local elections. The Nehru-Gandhi family has ruled the country for most of its 70 years since independence from Britain. Gandhi's father and grandmother were both prime ministers, and both assassinated.

Gandhi vs Modi

Following Congress' defeat in the 2014 polls, Gandhi struggled to convince voters, as well as many within his party, of his leadership skills. But senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said Gandhi is now ready for the next challenge. "The entire country has lots of expectations from Rahul Gandhi," Azad said. "Much before he was elected he has shown his mettle. He knows his responsibility." Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) swiftly dismissed Gandhi's election, saying he had become president only on the basis of "dynastic principle". "The new India is loath to (accept) dynastic principle and the family character of the Congress further diminishes its appeal," BJP spokesman GVL Narasimha Rao said. Gandhi, until now a vice-president of Congress, is widely seen as a prime ministerial candidate if



NEW DELHI: Combo pictures shows (left to right) the first prime minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru; Nehru's daughter Indira Gandhi, the third prime minister of India; her son Rajiv Gandhi, the sixth prime minister of India; his wife Sonia Gandhi, long-time president of India's Congress Party; and Rajiv and Sonia Gandhi's son Rahul Gandhi, Indian Congress Party leader. Rahul Gandhi's nomination as president of the Congress Party follows years of speculation that he would succeed his mother in the role he has been prepared for since birth. —AFP

the party returns to power one day. The 47-year-old has increasingly gone public in slamming Modi's governance since the last national polls, as he looks to shed the reticent image that has for years been synonymous with his political dynasty. But he has also faced political backlash. In 2015, for example, he took nearly two months of leave, prompting Modi's party to accuse him of "holidaying"

while parliament was in session. Modi still trumps Gandhi in popularity rankings, however. Nearly nine of 10 Indians have a favorable opinion of him and more than two-thirds are satisfied with the direction in which he is taking the country, a Pew survey found in November. Modi's favorable rating was 30 points more than Gandhi's, it showed.—Reuters



Elevation comes ahead of Indian key state polls

News in brief

US citizen on the run

DENPASAR: Indonesian police are hunting for a US citizen who escaped yesterday from an overcrowded prison on the holiday island of Bali by cutting through steel bars in a ceiling, the jail's second breakout of foreign inmates this year. The Kerobokan prison, about 10 km from the main tourist beaches in the Kuta area, often holds foreigners facing drug-related charges. Cristian Beasley, who was a suspect in crimes related to narcotics but had not been sentenced, escaped at 4.10 am, said Badung Police chief Yudith Satria Hananta. "It is thought that the prisoner escaped ... by cutting through the steel bars above the ceiling," he said in a statement, without giving details of how Beasley escaped without being detected. Beasley, 32, from California, is believed to have then used a rope to climb down a wall before getting over a perimeter wall in an area being refurbished. Police had questioned witnesses and guards and were hunting for Beasley, Hananta said. Another American, Paul Anthony Hoffman, 57, was captured while also trying to escape, Hananta said.

Five elephants killed

NEW DELHI: A train has struck and killed five elephants as they crossed over tracks at a tea plantation in north-east India, an official said yesterday. The elephants, including a pregnant female, were part of a larger herd wandering through the plantation early Sunday in Assam state, home to India's biggest wild elephant population, when they were moved down by the train. "All five elephants died on the spot. A stillborn calf was later removed from the pregnant female," said Vikas Brahma, head of Assam's forest department. Brahma said it was uncommon for elephants to move through that section of Assam, a thickly-forested state famed for its tea and wildlife, and officials were unaware there were herds in the area. Railway authorities have been issuing alerts about elephant herds passing through the state to prevent accidents. But a railway spokesman told the Indian Express newspaper that no speed restrictions were in place at the time of the accident on Sunday, as the area was not a designated migratory path for elephants.

Singapore dog circus axed

SINGAPORE: A circus show starring performing dogs in Singapore has been cancelled after an online outcry, with a lawmaker yesterday welcoming the decision to axe the "outdated" form of entertainment. The event was scheduled for February to coincide with the start of the Chinese lunar year of the dog, and a poster advertising it showed poodles with dyed pink fur clapping their paws and doing handstands. However the show, reportedly from China and set to include acrobatics and clown acts, came under fire online and a petition was started on website Change.org. The petition, which quickly garnered over 7,000 signatures, branded using animals in circuses as "archaic, cruel, and unethical" and called for an "end to the inhumane and outdated practice". As anger mounted, the company selling tickets for the event, Sistic, announced at the weekend that it would not go ahead. "The Chinese New Year Dog Circus 2018 show has been cancelled," it said in a Facebook post, adding ticket sales had been stopped.

French journalist detained

SRINAGAR: An Indian court yesterday remanded in custody a French journalist for five days after he was arrested in the disputed Kashmir region for filming a documentary without permission and violating visa regulations, police said. The freelance journalist, Paul Comiti, was arrested on Sunday in Srinagar, the main city in Indian-administered Kashmir where Muslim separatists have been waging a violent campaign against Indian rule since the late 1980s. Comiti held an Indian business visa which did not permit him to make a documentary on political or security-related issues, Senior Superintendent of Police Imtiaz Ismael Parray said. Comiti had met a separatist leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and filmed protesters throwing stones at members of the security forces, said another senior police official, who declined to be identified as he is not authorized to speak to the media. He had also met victims of anti-riot "pellet guns" that the security forces use against protesters.

China, Taiwan spar over diplomat's invasion threat

BEIJING: A threat by a senior Chinese diplomat to invade Taiwan the instant any US warship visits the self-ruled island has sparked a war of words, with Taipei accusing Beijing of failing to understand what democracy means. China considers Taiwan to be a wayward province and has never renounced the use of force to bring it under its control. The United States has no formal ties with Taiwan but is bound by law to help it defend itself and is its main source of arms.

Beijing regularly calls Taiwan the most sensitive and important issue between it and the United States. In September, the US Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act for the 2018 fiscal year, which authorizes mutual visits by navy vessels between Taiwan and the United States. At a Chinese embassy event in Washington on Friday, diplomat Li Kexin said he had told US officials that China would activate its Anti-Secession Law, which allows it to use force on Taiwan if deemed necessary to prevent the island from seceding, if the United States sent navy ships to Taiwan.

"The day that a US Navy vessel arrives in Kaohsiung is the day that our People's Liberation Army unifies Taiwan with military force," Chinese media at the weekend quoted Li as saying, referring to Taiwan's main port. Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said late on Saturday that, while Chinese officials seemed to want to try and win over hearts and minds in Taiwan, they also had been repeatedly using threats that hurt the feelings of Taiwan's people. "These methods show a lack of knowledge about the real meaning of the democratic system and how a democratic society works," the ministry said.

China suspects Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, who leads the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party, wants to declare the island's formal independence. Tsai says she wants to maintain peace with China but will defend Taiwan's security. Relations between China and

crime as gang members wage turf wars and retaliatory attacks on rivals.

'Outsmarted the police'

One elderly man was shot and killed in October on his way to collect his monthly social grant payout, and a mother was fatally wounded by a stray bullet while chatting to a friend outside her house in September. Arrests are few, and police action is often too late. The lucrative drug trade business, goods smuggling and protection rackets are the main source of income for gangs. "I think they have outsmarted the police, they are more organized," said Faldiel de Vries, a co-founder of the Manenberg People's Centre, a community action group. "What is more frightening is that the age of the perpetrators has become younger," she said. "In the 1980s they were in their 30s and 40s," she said, adding that now children as young as 12 years old are recruited into gangs.

Gang membership in Western Cape is estimated at over 100,000 - creating a culture of violence that echoes international crime syndicates in the United States and South America. Manenberg, the stronghold of the notorious Hard Livings gang, has the reputation of being South Africa's "gang capital". Western Cape Premier Helen Zille has asked for military assistance to support the police. "By bringing in the army, the soldiers will be given the same powers as police, not act as soldiers in a war," she said. "What worries me the most about this culture of gangsterism and violence is the seemingly endless flow of firearms and illicit substances."

Rival gang warfare

South African President Jacob Zuma is expected to make a decision on the army deployment soon. Soldiers were last sent into the Cape Flats in May 2015, following a surge in violent crimes. In several neighbor-



TAOYUAN, Taiwan: Photo shows a tourist looking at a statue of the late nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek at a park in Taoyuan, northern Taiwan. Tributes to Taiwan's former dictator Chiang Kai-shek will be removed across the island after lawmakers voted in favor of the mandatory axing of symbols of its authoritarian past. —AFP

Taiwan were becoming even more complex and severe, Zhang Zhijun, head of China's policy-making Taiwan Affairs Office, told a visiting delegation of the New Party, a small pro-China Taiwan opposition party yesterday. Taiwan independence forces are trying to root out Chinese culture in Taiwan and are the gravest threat to peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, the official Xinhua news agency cited Zhang as saying.

China will never back down over Taiwan, influential Chinese tabloid the Global Times, published by the ruling

Communist Party's official People's Daily, said earlier yesterday. "Li's words have sent a warning to Taiwan and drew a clear red line," it said in an editorial. "If Taiwan attempts to hold an independence referendum or other activities in pursuit of de jure 'Taiwan independence', the PLA will undoubtedly take action." China would continue to maintain the principle of peaceful unification, foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said yesterday. "At the same time, we will resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity," he told reporters.—Reuters



CAPE TOWN: Residents gather as South African police officers respond to a shooting of two alleged gang members in Manenberg, Cape Town. — AFP

hoods in the Cape Flats like Bishop Lavis, Hannover Park, Mitchells Plain and Elsies River mostly under-age boys are used as drug runners and to hide weapons. The Hard Livings gang, one of the oldest organized crime groups, use the British Union Jack as their flag and have rivals spread across the Cape Flats, especially a gang that calls themselves the Americans.

Dozens of other gangs have sprung up like the Sexy Boys, Dixie Boys and Clever Kids who battle with the numbers gangs—the 26s and 28s—which originate from prison. "Many young people are lured into gangs, as a result people get into trouble for hanging out with their school friends without knowing that they are gang members," 17-year-old Linden Brown from Manenberg said. In October, an alleged gang leader was shot four times outside the Cape Town

International Airport terminal, in full view of travelers and no one has been arrested for the shooting.

Back in 1996, notorious leader of the Hard Livings, Rashaad Staggie, was shot and set alight by a community mob in the streets of Salt River, in what was seen as one of the toughest stands against gangsterism. According to criminologist Don Pinnock, the gangs in Cape Town's previously marginalized areas were bred by the inequality of the apartheid system. "For as long as there is a problem of poverty, guns and drugs, gangsterism will be hard to eradicate," said Pinnock, based at the University of Cape Town. "Gangs are admired by youngsters who lack social stability and have little prospects in life. That is one of the things that makes it so hard to eradicate.—AFP

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 Travel Consultant
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ANALYSIS

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witches - fighting
AIDS in Zambia

His Royal Highness Chief Sinazongwe has 80,000 subjects, 700 headmen, 160 villages, 14 children and three wives. He also takes a quarterly HIV test to reassure the people that all is well at the top. "My chieftom is vast and the role I play is very huge," the 70-year-old chief told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview at his pastel-yellow palace on the banks of Lake Kariba. "I have great trust within my chieftom. I'm in charge of peace and unity. I'm a peace maker."

Visitors scrape low and clap rhythmically before HRH, a member of the revered "House of Chiefs" and the latest in a line of headmen to protect Sinazongwe's culture. AIDS experts say the chief's public and regular HIV testing carries a strong message in rural Sinazongwe, a pocket of almost 200,000 people in southwest Zambia. Improved testing and effective drugs have put the worst of the AIDS crisis behind Zambia, where 1.2 million of a 16.5 million population live with HIV.

About 21,000 people now die of AIDS-related deaths a year, down from a peak of 70,000 in 2003, according to UNAIDS data. But a stubborn adherence to superstition and risky traditions persists, hampering efforts to lower the number of AIDS-related deaths and with new HIV infections still high among young people and key groups, according to United Nations data.

"Conventional medicines can prolong your life, but our people have a lot of attachment to traditional healers and doctors," Martin Chongo, acting health director for the district, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Roots, leaves, bark and indigenous medicines are routinely used in Zambia to treat illness and cure sexually transmitted diseases such as genital warts, herpes and chlamydia.

Balance with Tradition

Healers usually cut patients' skin with a razor then apply home-made remedies directly to the flesh: a practice that carries a risk of blood sharing and infection. The same razors are used again and again. Chongo said it would be insensitive to discourage traditional medicine but he has summoned traditional healers to a health summit, urging them to stop re-using razors. "We are not sitting idle but it is a difficult issue as a health authority," Chongo said in an interview. He is typical of officials who must walk a delicate line in Zambia - embracing the best that modern medicine offers to control the epidemic, while tiptoeing around questionable local conventions or challenging risky behavior. "Unfortunately, in the villages they have their own cultural beliefs," said Stephen Shajanjika, a district health director. "The government does not come into conflict with the people. We try to encourage everyone. It's a way of life. It's a democracy."

Polygamy is common, multiple partners the norm for men, and unprotected sex the biggest carrier of the virus. Avert, an AIDS education charity, said 90 percent of new Zambian infections follow unprotected straight sex. But with many men enjoying multiple partners, and practicing unprotected sex, HIV - and misinformation - continues to spread. The district commissioner of Sinazongwe said it was hard to inform rural areas like his about HIV protection, as people were reluctant to open up to strangers and accept outside advice that flew in the face of traditional values. "They won't trust you," said Protacia Mulenga, the government's top man in the region. "A belief in satanism is one reason. Witchcraft is behind it - visitors might be false prophets bearing false information."

Modern Man

With three wives and an open manner, the chieftain says he is both a modern leader and a man of convention. "We need traditional and modern methods then we could maybe reach the extremities we are not currently curing," he said. An academic study published last year by the University of Namibia found that up to 80 percent of Zambians used traditional medicine for their primary healthcare, using trees, shrubs and climbers to treat a range of diseases.

It said most healers were men and 90 percent had inherited their remedies from older family members, while the rest said they came from dreams and visions. AIDS, though, said the chieftain, was a foreign import that for now lies beyond the reach of herbal remedies. "We don't know how or where it came from. We don't know who brought it. Zambia was a clean country," he said. "Gonorrhoea and syphilis - they are simple diseases that are treatable in traditional ways by drinking the roots of trees. With gonorrhoea - it's gone. With syphilis - it's gone. This HIV-AIDS, even if you look for the roots, even if somebody says they can treat it, it's a lie." He said chieftains like him had modernized their ways, and no longer practiced "cleansing", a tradition whereby a man inherits and has sex with his brother's widow. "That's all been stopped," he said. Sex with children was also in his sights. Headmasters must report to the chief each December with a precise tally of pregnancies at their schools in a drive to cut underage sex and mother-to-child HIV transmission. "We want a girl child to be in school, not with a baby," he said. "We had some bad practices and we are still frightened, we are still afraid - but we are very serious when it comes to our children." — Reuters



IS battle won, but Iraq faces challenges

Iraq may have announced a final victory over the Islamic State group in the country, but Baghdad's triumph remains fragile and the root causes for the militants' rise have not been tackled. It has taken a long and devastating campaign to wipe IS from the map after the militants threatened Iraq's very existence by seizing roughly one third of its territory in 2014. Troops backed up by the air power of a US-led coalition have waged some of the fiercest urban warfare seen anywhere in decades to oust the militants from a string of cities and towns across the country.

But while Baghdad may be basking in its battlefield success for now, relying on military might will not be enough in the longer term. "Everything remains to be done to dry out the earth on which IS flourished," said Karim Bitar, a regional expert at the Paris-based Institute for International and Strategic Affairs. "The militants have been deprived of oxygen and defeated militarily but the womb from which they emerged remains fertile." Now the fighting is finished, the list of demands facing Iraq's authorities is daunting - and includes many key challenges that Baghdad has failed to address for years. "It involves first of all consolidating the power of the central authorities while pursuing inclusive policies that do not marginalize any community," Bitar said. "Then it is necessary to tackle reconstruction, economic and social problems, stem corruption and ensure the equitable distribution of oil incomes."

All of this comes with Iraq on its knees after the brutal years of IS rule in the territory it controlled and the harrowing battle to defeat the militants. A donor meeting for the country is set to be held in Kuwait in February and estimates put the reconstruction bill facing Iraq at some \$100 billion.

Sunni grievance

Iraq expert Mohammad Ould Mohamedou, a pro-

fessor at Geneva's Graduate Institute, cautioned that even the victory on the battlefield might not be as definitive as it seems. The Sunni Muslim militants have melted into the desert and maintained their capacity to launch brutal attacks across the country - reverting to their roots as insurgent fighters. "The question of IS is not going to disappear. The military aspect is far from over, and in this type of conflict, hostilities remain for a long time at a level that requires a substantial commitment," Ould Mohamedou said.

Key to preventing a resurgence by the militants will be dealing with the profound sectarian grievances among Iraq's Sunni community on which IS fed.

Relying on
military might
will not
be enough

Sidelined in the wake of the 2003 US ouster of Saddam Hussein and targeted by the Shiite-dominated authorities, Sunnis provided fertile ground for the militants. But the harshness of IS rule ended up turning many Sunnis against them and now the group's fighters are gone the government needs to seize the opportunity to bring the community onboard. "The work of reconstruction, in this case, is as much social as in terms of infrastructure," said Ould Mohamedou.

Even if Iraq's government is serious about tackling the sectarian divide, the regional tug-of-war between Shiite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia could make it all the more difficult. The two Middle East titans are

locked in a power struggle that stretches from Lebanon through Yemen and Syria, and now Iraq could start figuring more prominently in the tussle. "The Iranians and the Iraqi Shiite community remain in a position of strength, with control of the main levers of state," said Bitar. "But the Saudis could become more active in the coming months as they seek to stem and repel Iranian influence on a regional scale."

Disarming the militias

As all attention has focused on wiping out IS, experts and Iraq's Western backers warn that another major threat may have emerged from within the very fight to defeat the group. That is the rise and legitimization of the array of militia groups who clubbed together under the banner of the Hashed al-Shaabi, Popular Mobilization force, to play a key role in defeating IS. While to some the militia fighters are heroes who came to Iraq's aid in its hour of need, others fear they are an unruly and unaccountable force.

Nominally under the command of the Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, the Hashed are dominated by Iranian-backed groups accused of being proxies for Tehran. They have fought on the frontline against IS but been accused of a raft of abuses, often revenge attacks directed against Sunnis. How the central government now goes about dealing with the 60,000 to 140,000 fighters estimated to have joined the Hashed, and whether Baghdad can really bring them to heel, is a major issue. "The biggest security challenge is internal, because many of the myriad of Hashed groups are turning into local mafias, setting up illegal checkpoints, toll roads, and the like, to support themselves financially," said Kirk Sowell, an expert who publishes Inside Iraqi Politics. "In this sense, IS is more relevant to the rest of the world, but for Iraqis, a local armed gang which needs money is far more dangerous." — AFP

As trees fall to
development,
protesters fight

A decade ago, artist Suleman Shams left Lahore and moved his family to Pakistan's tree-lined capital, drawn by the city's green and peaceful character. Two years ago, however, the 41-year-old developed asthma and today can't go outside his home without wearing a mask over his nose and mouth. As the capital has expanded, with construction of ever more homes and businesses and with roads being widened to accommodate growing traffic, the city's legions of trees are disappearing. Shams and other residents say, leading to worsening pollution and rarer rain. "Since 2013, I have seen Islamabad losing its green grandeur as trees are fast vanishing from the city, making it only a dusty city," Shams complained.

But residents are now pushing back. After authorities in October cut down more than 200 mature trees in 24 hours to make way for the expansion of Ataturk Avenue, near the Prime Minister's office, the National Commission for Human Rights, backed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, stepped in to halt plans to cut more than 400 additional trees on the project route, in response to public outrage. The Supreme Court called for the commission to hold an inquiry into whether such tree cutting was legal, and ordered the suspension of Suleman Sheikh, the Islamabad Capital

Development Authority's director-general for environment. The human rights commission, which sits under the Federal Law and Human Rights Ministry, directed the authority to look into purchasing machinery to transplant trees up to 14 inches in diameter rather than fell them. In a telephone interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, Sheikh said he now believed such a purchase was a good idea. "As construction, road expansion and other development activities will inevitably continue to happen in the future to accommodate rising number of vehicles and people coming from surrounding towns and villages, for the authority owning such a transplanting machine is now a must to protect the capital city's green character," he said. Saving trees, he said, is "vital for keeping air quality from deteriorating further".

Asad Kayani, a planning and design expert at the Capital Development Authority, said the body was planting more than 2,400 saplings across the city to compensate for the trees being cut. But tree felling protestor Shumaila Nawaz said the new saplings - five to seven feet tall - could not make up for the loss of hundreds of 30- to 40-year-old trees, which are better at absorbing air pollution and regulating rainfall.

"The new tree saplings, even if honestly planted by the authority, will take another three to four decades to be equally able to yield environment and health benefits for the city and its residents," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Taking down old trees and planting new small trees elsewhere in the city is not going to help address the worsening state of air quality of the capital city," she said.—Reuters

The thief
who stole
thousands

Sitting in his prison cell, Paul Buck was determined that something good would come out of a secret addiction that had seen him gamble away millions, attempt suicide and almost destroyed his marriage. The British former wealth manager had a year behind bars to think about it, after being jailed for stealing £434,000 (\$583,000) from his employer, Santander bank, to fund his habit. "It took one bet on a Thursday afternoon in October 1994 to turn me from someone who had no interest in gambling to somebody who didn't go without a bet for 17 years," the 41-year-old told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

As chief executive of Epic Risk Management, a social enterprise that educates people about the dangers of gambling, Buck now shares his story with prisoners, students, soldiers and sports professionals at risk of falling into the same trap. Gambling has higher suicide and bankruptcy rates than any other addiction, he said, and has also been linked to poverty, domestic violence and child abuse. Addiction rates are rising because of the accessibility of online gambling, which accounts for a third of all gambling in Britain, according to the regulatory Gambling Commission.

Losses via computers, mobile phones and tablets rose by 10 percent between 2015 and 2016, to £4.7 billion (\$6.3 bil-

lion), it said. "Prevention is better than cure," said Buck, who lives in Preston in the north of England. "It's a long way back if you are suicidal or have ended up in prison."

Elation

Buck started betting at college, after joining a football team full of gamblers. "There was an enormous buzz when that first horse went over the winning line, an intense adrenaline rush, a complete feeling of elation," he said. In his 20s, Buck's banking career took off. His skill in providing sound financial advice to wealthy individuals earned him successive promotions and a six-figure salary. But he felt overwhelmed by lofty expectations of continued success. Gambling provided a refuge and a release. "Gambling was my safe place, the place where I felt comfortable, without any stress, away from pressure," he said. "In reality, it was the thing that was destroying me."

The amount of time Buck spent gambling on his phone and computer made his wife suspect that he was having an affair. Wins and losses did not matter. It was just the act of gambling on the spinning roulette wheel that had Buck hooked. "You can spend 1,000 pounds every 20 seconds," he said. "And you can do it hidden - at work, at church, wherever."

Buck became a problem gambler, a term which means someone cannot control the time they spend gambling, the money they spend or their thought processes. "Problem gambling is a recognized mental health condition," said Marc Etches, chief executive of the charity GambleAware, which estimates there are 430,000 problem gamblers in Britain.—Reuters

News

Putin orders partial troop withdrawal from Syria, inks...

Continued from Page 1

Putin said the troops had helped the Syrian army crush the "most battle-ready group of international terrorists", apparently referring to IS. "On the whole the task has been completed. And completed brilliantly."

Putin said last month that efforts to end the war were entering a "new stage" as the focus shifted from military intervention to political reforms. He said both Hmeimim and Russia's naval facility in Tartous would continue to function and warned that Russia would repel any fresh attacks by militants. "If terrorists rear their heads again we will inflict the blows that they have not seen yet," he said.

The Kremlin strongman thanked Russian troops for defending Russia from terrorism and helping Syria remain a "sovereign independent state". Putin said the conflict proved that Russia's armed forces, including intelligence officers, pilots, sailors, special forces, military police, sappers and military advisers, were on top form, and he also praised the country's defense industry. "Our homeland thanks you, my friends," he said. "Have a safe trip. I thank you for your service."

After his speech Putin inspected the troops who goose-stepped to the tune of a popular Soviet-era song about World War II. Putin made the Syria stopover en route to Egypt where he arrived later yesterday. A contract between Egypt and Russia for the building of Egypt's first nuclear power plant in Dabaa on the Mediterranean coast was signed during a live ceremony shown on state television and attended by the Russian leader and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. "By realizing this project, Egypt will obtain not

just the nuclear plant but also access to the most modern and safe technologies," Putin said after the signing.

The contract was signed by the head of Russian state nuclear company Rosatom, Alexei Likhachev, and Egypt's electricity and renewable energy minister, Mohamed Shaker. A statement by Rosatom said it would build four 1,200-Megawatt reactors "as well as supplying nuclear fuel throughout the plant's entire operational lifetime". "This will help ensure competitive electricity pricing in Egypt over a period of 60 years," it said.

Rosatom also said it will train the plant's personnel and help Egypt run and maintain the plant for its first 10 years of operation. Russia's state news agency TASS reported the cost of the plant at around \$30 billion. The first unit at the Dabaa plant will be commissioned by 2026, Rosatom said. "Relations between the two countries have a long history and are strong and continuous," Sisi said after the signing ceremony. He said future projects between Russia and Egypt were also being studied. In yesterday's talks, "we discussed another promising project, the creation in Egypt of a Russian industrial zone", Putin said. "It will be the largest center producing and exporting Russian goods to markets in the Middle East and Africa... We expect the volume of total investment in the project to reach \$7 billion." As Egypt eagerly awaits commercial Russian flights to Egypt to restart, Putin said that procedures for a resumption were still under way.

Moscow suspended flights to Egypt in 2015 after the Islamic State group said it had bombed a Russian airliner carrying holidaymakers from a Red Sea resort popular with Russian tourists, killing all 224 people on board. The plane crash and subsequent suspension badly hit Egypt's tourism sector, which was already reeling from the political and security turmoil that followed the uprising that toppled Mubarak. "Russian security services have reported that in general we are ready to open direct flights between Moscow and Cairo. We would need to sign the relevant inter-governmental protocol," Putin said. "We will try to sign it in the nearest future." From Egypt, Putin was scheduled to travel to Turkey for talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. — AFP

Saudi Arabia lifts decades-long ban on cinemas

Continued from Page 1

Saudis themselves appear quietly astounded by the torrid pace of social change, which includes the historic decision allowing women to drive from next June. Saudi Arabia in recent months has organized concerts, comedy shows, a Comic-Con pop culture festival and a mixed-gender national day celebration that saw people dancing in the streets to thumping electronic music for the first time. The social transformation chimes with Prince Mohammed's recent pledge to return Saudi Arabia to an "open, moderate Islam" and destroy extremist ideologies.

Saudi filmmakers have long argued that a ban on cinemas does not make sense in the age of YouTube. Saudi films have been making waves abroad, using the Internet to circumvent distribution channels and sometimes the stern gaze of state censors. "It is a beautiful day in #SaudiArabia!" Saudi female director Haifaa Al-Mansour said on Twitter, reacting to yesterday's announcement. Her film "Wadja" made history in 2013 after it became Saudi Arabia's first Academy Award

entry. The film depicts the dream of a 10-year-old girl to get a bicycle just like the boys in her conservative neighborhood. The lifting of the ban represents a huge opportunity for regional movie chains that have long eyed Saudi Arabia as the Middle East's last untapped mass market. Dubai-based Majid Al Futtaim, which owns the VOX Cinemas chain, said it was looking to launch movie theatres in the kingdom. "These are exciting times and (we) will work with the kingdom to extend the footprint of our VOX Cinemas brand to Saudi Arabia in the months ahead," Majid Al Futtaim said in a statement.

Without cinemas, filmmakers said investment in films was unlikely to flourish and the depiction of society would not move beyond the foreign portrayal of Saudis as extremist or culturally primitive. "Now our young men and women will show the world possibilities and stories worth seeing," Saudi filmmaker Ayman Tarek Jamal said on Twitter. "Congratulations to the 2030 Generation." The reform stems partly from an economic motive to boost domestic spending on entertainment as the kingdom reels from a protracted slump in oil prices. Saudis splurge billions of dollars annually to see movie shows and visit amusement parks in neighboring tourist hubs like Dubai. "Opening cinemas will act as a catalyst for economic growth and diversification," Alawwad said. "By developing the broader cultural sector we will create new employment and training opportunities," the information minister said, adding the cinema industry was expected to generate 30,000 permanent jobs by 2030. — AFP

Mol warns no new amnesty for iqama violators

Continued from Page 1

He said a fee of KD 30 was proposed for a month-long visit with the possibility of renewing it for more than a month. Transfer of the visit visa to an article 14 residency (for temporary work) will be for a fee of KD 1 per day. He said as for permission to remain outside the country for more than six months, there is a proposal to allow it for a nominal fee. He added sponsoring dependents other than

the wife and children can be done for an annual fee of KD 300 per person. Maarafi said the proposals are at the fatwa and legislation department and in the final stages of approval. He said the department is working on amending the rules to allow foreign patients to come to Kuwait for treatment on medical visas, provided the health ministry approves them. He said visas will also be given to students who want to study in Kuwait's private universities, and these students will be allowed to transfer their study visas to work in the country. Also, businessmen and traders will be given multiple-entry visas.

Maarafi said the government is preparing a foolproof plan to crack down on residency violators in order to deport them, adding that there are around 100,000 such violators in the country and warned people against harboring them. He said any violator who voluntarily comes forward to correct his status will be helped, but if he is caught, he will be deported and blacklisted.

Bahraini NGO under pressure after Israel visit

Continued from Page 1

The visit sparked angry reactions on social media and by other NGOs in Bahrain, especially as it comes within days of US President Donald Trump's controversial decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. This is Bahrain issued a statement - carried by Bahrain's state news agency BNA - insisting the visit was unofficial. "The delegation, which includes some foreign nationals from different religions residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain, does not represent any official body in the kingdom," it said. "The delegation represents solely the society and has undertaken the visit on its own initiative." The NGO, which received its official license in May, said the trip was part of an initiative to visit several European countries and the United States.

"The initiative... is based on the principle of tolerance and coexistence, an approach embraced by the Kingdom of Bahrain and a feature of its society, and aims to visit Islamic, Christian, Jewish and other holy sites across the world," it said.

Israeli media published on Sunday pictures of the NGO delegation in Jerusalem, triggering angry reactions condemning the visit. A small protest occurred in the Gaza Strip yesterday morning, sparked by apparently false rumors the delegation would visit the Palestinian enclave. Bahrain's National Islamic Forum branded the visit an act of normalization of ties with Israel and in breach of "Bahrain's established national principles which reject all forms of normalization".

A statement from the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, which calls for a boycott of Israel over its treatment of the Palestinians, "strongly" condemned the cooperation between the "despotic Bahraini regime (and) Israel's regime of occupation and apartheid". Israel has long faced resistance to its efforts to improve ties with Arab nations in the region because of its 50-year occupation of Palestinian territory. It has, however, recently seen increased behind-the-scenes cooperation with some Arab countries, particularly in their opposition to Iran. — AFP

Fresh faces in new Cabinet...

Continued from Page 1

MP Safa Al-Hashem also said she could grill Sabeeh over her decision to provide medical treatment at the state's expense to an Egyptian who was mercilessly beaten by a Kuwaiti. Hashem is objecting as the case is still in court, saying the government should not have provided the man with any assistance. "Has the Egyptian government ever treated any Kuwaiti at its expense?" she demanded, rejecting the provision of special treatment to expats at the expense of Kuwaitis in the name of the law.

But Sabeeh denied paying the expenses of the Egyptian's treatment from public funds, describing such statements as "inaccurate and lacking credibility and objectivity". Sabeeh explained that Kuwait is a humanitarian land and that its laws protect the rights of all people living in it without any special instructions from public officials. "The Egyptian expat has rights guaran-

teed by law. His treatment is routine and happens with all laborers. This case is no exception," she emphasized, denying squandering public funds that are monitored by supervisory bodies. Sabeeh urged citizens not to jump to conclusions and judge things without solid proof. "The fight between the Egyptian and the citizen was referred to court so that each gets his due right without interference from anybody," she affirmed.

The new Cabinet was greeted with mixed reactions. Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said with nine new faces, the new Cabinet should be given the chance to perform and urged MPs to judge ministers by their performance and not names. MP Saleh Al-Fadhlah said the new Cabinet does not deserve to stay in place, since it lacks statesmen and the appointments were made on political considerations. MP Riyadh Al-Adasani charged that the Assembly speaker played a role in the Cabinet's formation. Liberal MP Rakan Al-Nasef said he will assess the new ministers by their performance and not by names.

In another development, the Assembly's legal and legislative committee said a proposal calling to lower the voting age to 18 from the current 21 and to allow servicemen to vote is in line with the constitution. The final decision on the subject will be made by the interior and defense committee.

Explosion rocks NY commuter hub, suspect in custody

Continued from Page 1

New York City was a target, said John Miller, Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism. Miller cited the attacks of Sept 11, 2001, that killed more than 2,750 people in New York and nearly 3,000 people total; and the World Trade Center bombing of Feb 26, 1993, that killed six people. "In the course of the post 9/11 world, as you are aware, there's also been approximately 26 plots that we can talk about that have been prevented through intelligence, investigation and intervention."

The incident was captured on security video, the police said. Video posted on NYPost.com showed smoke and a man lying in the tunnel that connects the Times Square subway station to the bus station. A photograph showed a man lying face down, with tattered clothes and burns on his torso.

"There was a stamped up the stairs to get out," said Diego Fernandez, one of the commuters. "Everybody was scared and running and shouting." Alicja Wlodkowski, a Pennsylvania resident in New

York for the day, was sitting in a restaurant in the bus terminal. "Suddenly, I saw a group of people, like six people, running like nuts. A woman fell. No one even went to stop and help her because the panic was so scary." The bus terminal was temporarily shut down and a large swath of midtown Manhattan was closed to traffic. Subway train service was returning to normal after earlier disruptions.

WABC reported the suspect was in his 20s and that he has been in the United States for seven years and has an address in New York's Brooklyn. Former New York police chief Bill Bratton told MSNBC television that he had been told the suspect was originally from Bangladesh and may have been acting in the name of the Islamic State group. The NYPD shut down the entire block and there was heavy police presence outside the home. First reports of the incident began soon after 7 am (1200 GMT). New York in December sees a surge of visitors who come to see elaborate store displays, the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree and Broadway shows.

US President Donald Trump was briefed on the explosion, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders wrote on Twitter. The incident occurred less than two months after an Uzbek immigrant killed eight people by speeding a rental truck down a New York City bike path, in an attack for which Islamic State claimed responsibility. In Sept 2016, a man injured 31 people when he set off a homemade bomb in New York's Chelsea district. — Reuters



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Sports

Sharma wins South African event he nearly missed

Sharma played 55 holes without dropping a shot

JOHANNESBURG: Indian Shubhankar Sharma completed his maiden European Tour triumph yesterday in Johannesburg by winning the Joburg Open tournament he almost did not compete in. He carded a three-under-par last-round 69 to finish three strokes clear of South African Eric van Rooyen in an event that stretched to five days because of bad weather.

The final round was suspended Sunday due to torrential rain, lightning and hail and resumed Monday at 0730 local time (0530 GMT). Sharma birdied three holes on the outward trek, then parred all the inward-nine holes with immaculate approach shots and putting highlights of his game.

After three bogeys during his opening-round 69 last Thursday, Sharma played 55 holes without dropping a shot and his second-round 61 was the lowest score of the tournament.

Visa delays and tiredness after a long Asian Tour campaign left the 21-year-old Indian contemplating missing the tri-sanctioned European Tour, Asian Tour and South African Sunshine Tour event.

His late decision to visit South Africa for the first time paid rich dividends as he pocketed a 2.6 million rand (\$190,000/160,000 euro) first prize. Victory also guaranteed Sharma, along with Van Rooyen and joint third Shaun Norris of South Africa, places at the 2018 British Open in Carnoustie next July. "I am thrilled that I came to the Joburg Open," said Sharma after adding

to five victories on the Indian circuit.

"It has been a very long Asian Tour season for me so I was considering whether I wanted to visit South Africa. I am really happy that I did." The previous best European Tour finish for the golfer ranked 462 in the world was sharing ninth place at the Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur last February.

"Winning the Joburg Open on my first trip to South Africa is a wonderful feeling," Sharma said after receiving the trophy from Johannesburg mayor and golfer Herman Mashaba. "I met my caddie for the first time last Monday and we worked so well together. Heeding his advice was a key factor in my success.

"Saving par on a number of holes thanks to up and downs played a significant role in keeping me at the top of the leaderboard." It has been absolutely fantastic and the people were very welcoming. I do not think I will ever forget this week.

"This is my first win on the Asian Tour and the European Tour so it means a lot to me," said Sharma. "On the first day there were 240 players. I was just trying to play two good rounds to make the cut, which was really low. "I was playing well and had a great start on the second day which got things going for me. As soon as I reached 13 under after two days, I thought I had a chance to win.

"The only thing I was telling myself was to stay aggressive. I never wanted to be defensive. "Even when



Shubhankar Sharma

I was in front I never thought of defending my lead. I actually set a target of 25 under." Van Rooyen quickly became the only final-round threat to Sharma and five outward-nine birdies narrowed the gap to four shots by

the turn. But he could add only one further birdie, leaving steady Sharma to succeed one week after compatriot Arjun Atwal finished runner-up in the Mauritius Open. — AFP

Iconic WACA prepares for life after Ashes

PERTH: A ground rich with cricketing history but wanting of modern comforts will take its final Ashes bow when Australia host England in the third Test at the WACA on Thursday.

Australia's pace bowlers will hope to make England's last visit a forgettable one for their batsmen on a wicket renowned as one of the world's fastest and bounciest. Future Ashes contests will be held at the shiny, new Perth Stadium on the opposite bank of the Swan River, a 60,000-seat arena that will use a drop-in pitch, host rock concerts and share tenancy with two Australian Rules football teams.

The 22,000-capacity WACA will remain a cricket venue but only host lower-profile internationals, having fallen behind the standards of rival stadiums around the country. Fans seeking a 'state-of-the-art' viewing experience may be glad to head across the river and leave the WACA's bland terraces and ageing facilities behind.

England may also be happy to move on from a venue where they have won only once in nearly 50 years of Tests. Of the rest of those matches, most have been painful defeats, including the last visit in 2013/14 when Michael Clarke's side thrashed Alastair Cook's tourists by 150 runs to reclaim the Ashes. England will march out on Thursday facing the same 2-0 predicament that weighed on Cook's men but Joe Root's team can draw little inspiration from recent history. The last time the English won at the WACA was in 1978, against an Australia team left threadbare by the World Series Cricket rebellion.

DESTRUCTIVE BATTING

As forgettable as the WACA experience has been for England, it has been mostly glorious for Australia, and the backdrop for some classic, comical and quite bizarre Ashes moments since the first test between the teams in 1970.

England batsman Brian Luckhurst holds the distinction of scoring the WACA's first Ashes century with his 301-ball knock of 131 in that drawn first Test. Australians, however, may remember the match as the arrival of one of the game's rarest talents when Greg Chappell, batting at number seven, scored 108 on debut.

Adam Gilchrist's 57-ball century in the 2006 win against England set an Ashes record that still stands and ranks as one of the most destructive

battling displays in test cricket.

Fast bowler Denis Lillee made his mark in Australia's win in the 1979 test by striding out to the crease with an aluminium bat made by a business partner. He faced a few balls from Ian Botham before the match paused for 10 minutes as the umpires demanded he swap the metallic bat for a wooden one. "It was against, if not the rules, all expectations," said Tony Barker, a historian commissioned by the WACA to write a book about the ground. "He got into a lot of strife about that—and a lot of ridicule from the English team at the time."

In the heated atmosphere of the 1982 test, Australia seamer Terry Alderman suffered a calamitous shoulder injury when he tackled a crowd invader after a number of spectators leapt onto the turf. Greg Chappell led his team off the ground and police arrested dozens in the crowd for unruly behaviour. The injury set Alderman's career back years.

'FREMANTLE DOCTOR'

Alderman notwithstanding, seam bowlers have usually thrived at the WACA where an afternoon sea breeze known as the 'Fremantle Doctor' provides additional assistance to the pace and bounce.

"Never underestimate how important that sea breeze is because when you're batting from the far end and there's a fast bowler running from behind it, it's quite intimidating," former test batsman and Western Australia coach Justin Langer told Reuters. Left-arm pacemen, particularly, enjoy the conditions, as Mitchell Johnson would attest. The retired quick took six wickets to help beat England in the 2013 match and had nine victims in 2010, Australia's only win in the dreary 3-1 series defeat.

The WACA may yet be the backdrop to further definitive moments in international cricket but will only welcome fans, ironically, when not enough of them are expected to turn up to the new stadium.

Western Australia state's sports minister Mick Murray said the two grounds could co-exist but suggested the WACA would need some measure of renewal. "Over a period of time I think the interface between the two stadiums themselves will become special," he told Reuters.

"Nobody wants to go to a big stadium if there's only 10,000 people there ... You've lost that atmosphere. "But you put 10,000 at the WACA, if there's redevelopment there, you'll make that a place to be."

As cricket in Western Australia enters a new era, Langer expressed a personal desire for the ground where he scored 711 Test runs, including two centuries, to continue hosting matches. "I hope it remains the hub of cricket in Western Australia, that's very important," he said. — Reuters

IOC 'confident' Tokyo 2020 venues will be ready on time

TOKYO: Tokyo organisers are back on track and will complete their 2020 Olympic venues on schedule, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said yesterday at the start of a three-day visit.

After bungling the rollout of the showpiece Olympic stadium two years ago, local organisers have come under scrutiny but last month unveiled their first new permanent venue for the 2020 Olympics in a welcome public relations boost.

The new national stadium is set to be completed by November 2019 after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe tore up the original blueprints over its eye-watering \$2 billion price tag. But the IOC's Games coordination commission chairman John Coates backed Tokyo 2020 to deliver the venue on time.

"It was a significant accomplishment to complete the first permanent venue," he said before a meeting with key Japanese officials, including Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike and Olympics Minister Shunichi Suzuki.

"There are six other venues under way and with the progress of the national stadium, we are very confident of meeting the delivery dates you've set." Other items on the agenda in Tokyo this week are security, efforts to further reduce the \$12 billion Games budget and anti-doping protocols, officials said.

Coates noted further progress with last week's shortlist of three Tokyo 2020 mascot candidates. Schoolchildren from across Japan will vote on the winner by the end of



Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike (R) delivers a speech beside State Minister in charge of Tokyo Olympics Shunichi Suzuki (L) during the fifth meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Coordination Commission for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 in Tokyo yesterday.

February and Coates said the new sports approved for Tokyo 2020 — including skateboarding, sports climbing and BMX freestyle cycling—would bring some street cred to the Games. "That youth focus and gender balance will be one of the greatest legacies of Tokyo 2020," he added, pointing to the record 48.8 percent of women set to compete in the Games.

Koike, who has often been at loggerheads with local organisers over the prickly issue of costs, revealed the IOC president had "praised Tokyo's progress" during a recent meeting in Paris as both sides painted a rosy picture before getting down to business.

Suzuki, meanwhile, underlined the role of the Japanese government in guaranteeing a

safe Olympics. "Of course security will be of paramount importance," he said. "To that end, the government's cooperation will be crucial, in particular in terms of counter-terrorism measures and identifying potential risks and threats to the Olympics."

Tokyo won hosting rights in 2013, beating bids from Istanbul and Madrid, but preparations have been far from smooth. After the fiasco of the Olympic stadium, designs for the official Games logo were ditched following accusations of plagiarism.

There was more bad news in October when organisers admitted that prolonged summer rain had brought high levels of bacteria to a venue earmarked for triathlon and open water swimming. — AFP

Pakistan bans Jamshed for 12 months in fixing case

LAHORE: Pakistan yesterday handed former opener Nasir Jamshed a one-year ban for failing to cooperate with investigators in a spot-fixing case that rocked the Pakistan Super League earlier this year.

Jamshed was allegedly the middle man between players and an alleged bookie. He has denied all charges. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) legal adviser Taffazul Rizvi announced the verdict, saying the investigation into fixing charges was still under way.

"The three-member tribunal banned Jamshed for one year for non-cooperation with the investigation," Rizvi told media. "PCB has not levelled any fixing charges on Jamshed as yet as there is another investigation under way against him in (the) UK."

Britain's National Crime Agency arrested Jamshed and one unnamed person five days after the spot-fixing allegations surfaced dur-



Nasir Jamshed

ing the second edition of the PSL in February. Former Pakistan opener Sharjeel Khan was banned for five years—with half of that sentence suspended—while his fellow teammate Khalid Latif was also banned for five years and fined one million rupees (\$9,460) in the same case.

Khan was charged for playing two dot balls during the PSL match between Islamabad United and Peshawar Zalmi as part

of a spot-deal struck by Latif. Spot-fixing is the practice of pre-determining the outcome of a specific part of a match in return for money.

Jamshed has played two Tests, 48 one-day internationals and 18 Twenty20 for Pakistan. He was last included in Pakistan's World Cup 2015 squad as a replacement but was booted off by the crowd for being overweight and in poor form. — AFP

Sports

West Indies in trouble after Taylor record sets monumental target

Trent Boult misses out on a hat-trick

Kohli, Bollywood's Sharma marry in Italy

MUMBAI: Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma got married in Italy yesterday, they said in a statement, ending weeks of frenzied speculation that they were getting hitched. "Today we have promised each other to be bound in love forever. We are truly blessed to share the news with you," the celebrity couple said, adding that it had been a "beautiful day".

A statement sent to journalists said the wedding had been attended by close family and a few friends as "they wished their wedding to be a very private affair". The ceremony was performed according to Hindu rituals, it added. Kohli and Sharma, both 29, posted different photos of themselves smiling together and dressed in colourful Indian wedding garb on their Twitter feeds late yesterday.

The statement added that the couple will host a reception in New Delhi for relatives on December 21, followed by a celebration in Mumbai on December 26 to be attended by Bollywood stars and cricketers.

Afterwards, Sharma will accompany Kohli to South Africa where he will prepare for India's forthcoming tour there which is taking place early next year. The statement added that after spending New Year's Eve together Sharma will return to Mumbai in the first week of January to resume her acting commitments.

They will live in Mumbai, the home of India's Hindi film industry, it said. The pair, dubbed "Virushka" by Indian media, are one of the highest profile couples in star-obsessed India. Kohli is among the world's highest-paid athletes and a huge star in the cricket-mad nation, and Sharma is one of the top actresses in the country's multi-billion-dollar film industry.

They started dating in 2013 after they met during the filming of a shampoo advert and made their first public appearance a year later during a football match.—AFP

HAMILTON: A record-equalling 17th century by Ross Taylor had New Zealand closing in on a series sweep against the West Indies after day three of the second Test in Hamilton yesterday.

The West Indies, set a world-record target of 444 to win, were in trouble at 30 for two by stumps with two full days of play remaining. It was New Zealand's day as they shut down the West Indies for 221 to lead by 152 on the first innings.

New Zealand declared their second innings at 291 for eight, with Taylor 107 not out, and then took two top-order wickets by stumps. Taylor joined the late Martin Crowe and current captain Kane Williamson on 17 Test centuries. The 33-year-old, who offered two chances in an otherwise majestic innings, reached the



Taylor did give chances in a near majestic innings

milestone driving Raymon Reifer to the boundary for only the 11th four in his 198 ball innings.

Williamson was earlier out for 54 as he looked to lead New Zealand to a series sweep following the innings victory in the first Test. The current record for a victorious fourth innings chase is 418, achieved 14 years ago when the West Indies reached the target against Australia for the loss of seven wickets.

Taylor did give chances in a near majestic innings, with a top edge from Miguel Cummins flying just out of reach of wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich and on 35 he was dropped in the gully by Shai Hope off Shannon Gabriel.

BOULT ON HAT-TRICK

New Zealand were 263 for eight when Taylor brought up his hundred and with tailender Tim Southee (not out 22) plundering more boundaries they added a



HAMILTON: Ross Taylor (R) and Neil Wagner (L) of New Zealand run between the wickets during day three of the second Test cricket match between New Zealand and the West Indies at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday. — AFP

further 28 runs before declaring.

The West Indies first innings folded quickly on the third morning with Trent Boult taking the last two wickets to fall in successive balls. But he missed out on a hat-trick when the West Indies batted again-needing a wicket first ball he removed Powell on his third delivery.

As New Zealand built on their lead, the West Indies continued to fight with Miguel Cummins reviving memories of a time when the calypso cricketers had seriously venomous bowlers. He zipped the ball around the ears of the New Zealand batsmen in a short-pitched salvo mixed with full-length deliveries to have three for 69. His scalps included Williamson for 54 when the New Zealand skipper could not get his bat down fast enough on a yorker the ripped out the middle stump. It

was Cummins first ball after lunch and followed his first ball caught and bowled dismissal of Jeet Raval for four in the morning session.

He returned to the short delivery to send off the inconsistent Henry Nicholls for five when an attempt to fend the ball away was taken by wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich. Mitchell Santner had a life when an edge off Cummins burst through Dowrich's hands to the boundary, and he was hit on the helmet when he ducked into a ball that did not bounce as expected.

But when the short-pitched salvo ended it was spinner Roston Chase who accounted for Santner, caught at long-on for 26. New Zealand were 190 for five at tea and declared three wickets later to have 40 minutes bowling at the West Indies before stumps. — AFP

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Sports

Oladipo scores career-high 47 points to lead Pacers 126-116 over Nuggets

Celtics turn tables on Pistons

NBA result/standings

NY Knicks 111, Atlanta 107; Minnesota 97, Dallas 92; New Orleans 131, Philadelphia 124; Indiana 126, Denver 116 (OT); Boston 91, Detroit 81; Toronto 102, Sacramento 87.

Eastern Conference

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	23	5	.821	-
Toronto	17	7	.708	4
NY Knicks	13	13	.500	9
Philadelphia	13	13	.500	9
Brooklyn	10	15	.400	11.5

Central Division

Cleveland	19	8	.704	-
Milwaukee	15	10	.600	3
Indiana	16	11	.593	3
Detroit	14	12	.538	4.5
Chicago	5	20	.200	13

Southeast Division

Washington	14	12	.538	-
Miami	12	13	.480	1.5
Orlando	11	17	.393	4
Charlotte	9	16	.360	4.5
Atlanta	6	20	.231	8

Western Conference

Northwest Division

Minnesota	16	11	.593	-
Denver	14	12	.538	1.5
Portland	13	12	.520	2
Utah	13	14	.481	3
Oklahoma City	12	13	.480	3

Pacific Division

Golden State	21	6	.778	-
LA Lakers	10	15	.400	10
LA Clippers	9	15	.375	10.5
Phoenix	9	19	.321	12.5
Sacramento	8	18	.308	12.5

Southwest Division

Houston	20	4	.833	-
San Antonio	19	8	.704	2.5
New Orleans	14	13	.519	7.5
Memphis	8	18	.308	13
Dallas	7	20	.259	14.5

DENVER: Victor Oladipo scored a career-high 47 points to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 126-116 overtime victory over the Denver Nuggets on Sunday night. The Pacers held a 12-2 advantage in overtime as Oladipo scored six points in the extra session. Oladipo sank 15 of 28 shots, including 6 of 12 3-point attempts. Myles Turner added 24 points on 10-of-15 shooting and had eight rebounds for the Pacers. Thaddeus Young scored 18 points. Trey Lyles, a 2014 Indiana Mr. Basketball who played for Arsenal Tech High School in Indianapolis, scored a career-high 25 points for Denver. Gary Harris,



Pelicans blew an 11-point halftime lead

from the Indianapolis suburb of Fishers, and Will Barton each had 21 points, and Wilson Chandler scored 18 for Denver.

CELTICS 91, PISTONS 81

Al Horford amassed 18 points, nine rebounds and six assists, and Boston handed Detroit its sixth consecutive loss. Kyrie Irving tossed in 16 points, while Marcus Smart and Jaylen Brown had 12 apiece for Boston. Rookie Jayson Tatum added 11 points, and Aron Baynes snared a season-high 13 rebounds for the Celtics, who overcame a scoreless drought of more than six minutes in the fourth quarter. Tobias Harris led the Pistons with 19 points. Anthony Tolliver contributed a season-high 15 points off the bench. Avery Bradley had 12 and Ish Smith added 11. Andre Drummond was held to six points but grabbed 15 rebounds.

PELICANS 131, 76ERS 124

Jrue Holiday made three 3-pointers and Anthony Davis added another in a decisive 18-4 fourth-quarter run to lift New Orleans past Philadelphia. The Pelicans blew an 11-point halftime lead by allowing Philadelphia a 40-point third quarter, and they trailed 103-96 with 9:48 left. However, over the next 2:40, New Orleans



NEW ORLEANS: James Blackmon Jr. #23 of the Philadelphia 76ers goes to the basket against the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. — AFP

outscored Philadelphia 18-4, with Holiday scoring 11 points. Holiday finished with 34 points, tying his season high, and Davis had 29. DeMarcus Cousins added 23 points for the Pelicans, and Rajon Rondo registered an NBA-season-high 18 assists. The Sixers, playing without Joel Embiid, who was a late scratch due to back tightness, got 28 points from J.J. Redick, while Ben Simmons had 27 points and 10 assists.

RAPTORS 102, KINGS 87

DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points and led a late third-quarter spurt that lifted Toronto to a victory over Sacramento. Serge Ibaka added 20 points, and Kyle Lowry had 15 points and 12 rebounds for Toronto, which won its sixth in a row and stayed unbeaten halfway through a four-game road trip. The Raptors also ended a four-game skid against the Kings, beating them for the first time since January 2015. Zach Randolph scored 19 points to pace the Kings. Buddy Hield added 17 points off the bench for Sacramento.

TIMBERWOLVES 97, MAVERICKS 92

Minnesota hung on to beat Dallas for the third time this season. Karl-Anthony Towns scored a team-high 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Jimmy Butler added 22 points for the Timberwolves. Jamal Crawford scored 16 points. Harrison Barnes had 19 points for Dallas, which lost its third game in a row. Maxi Kleber and J.J. Barea added 16 points apiece.

KNICKS 111, HAWKS 107

Kristaps Porzingis had 30 points and Doug McDermott added 23 points off the bench to lead New York past Atlanta. Dennis Schroder scored 21 points and Ersan Ilyasova had 20 to lead the Hawks, who shot just 9 for 31 from 3-point range. Porzingis had 15 points in the first half and nine in the fourth quarter as he was particularly effective at the end of quarters. Porzingis had 15 points in the final three minutes of each period combined. — Reuters

Africans Aubameyang, Hakimi star in Europe

PARIS: Former African Footballer of the Year Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and teenager Achraf Hakimi were among the African stars in the major European leagues at the weekend. Gabon striker Aubameyang was belatedly credited with a Borussia Dortmund goal to become the leading all-time Bundesliga scorer with 97 goals. Morocco defender Hakimi became only the sixth African to score for reigning European champions Real Madrid as they routed Sevilla 5-0 in La Liga.

ENGLAND MOHAMED SALAH (Liverpool)

The Egypt winger maintained his superb form with a sublime strike in a 1-1 draw against Everton at Anfield. Salah broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute when he curled home from the edge of the penalty area. It was his 13th goal in 12 games and 19th of the season.

WILFRIED BONY (Swansea)

The Ivorian international struck with a much-needed goal for his club, himself and manager Paul Clement to secure a 1-0 win over fellow strugglers West Brom. It was the first time since December 2014 that the 28-year-old has scored in back-to-back matches.

ANDRE AYEWE (West Ham)

Their record signing has not rewarded the outlay for him with many eye-catching performances, but although he didn't score in a 1-0 win over Chelsea, his sublime tackle on Nigerian substitute Victor Moses late in the match all but extinguished the champions' hopes of getting even a point.

SPAIN

ACHRAF HAKIMI (Real Madrid)

Morocco right-back Hakimi fired home his first Madrid goal with an impressive effort from a narrow angle as Real ran riot in thrashing Sevilla 5-0 with all five goals coming before half-time. The 19-year-old, deputising for suspended Dani Carvajal, did his chances of featuring more regularly for the European champions in 2018 no harm as an inexperienced Madrid backline nullified Sevilla's threat.

ITALY

FRANCK KESSIE (AC Milan)

Ivorian midfielder Kessie played a pivotal role as AC Milan got their first victory under new coach Gennaro Gattuso with a 2-1 win against Bologna. The 20-year-old former Atalanta player bolstered the defence and provided impetus up front.

Tarasenko lifts Blues to their fourth consecutive win

BUFFALO: Vladimir Tarasenko scored with 36 seconds left in overtime to lift the St. Louis Blues to their fourth consecutive win, 3-2 over the Buffalo Sabres on Sunday night. The Sabres tied the game 2-2 with 1:27 left to play in the third period on Evan Rodrigues' second goal of the game, off a rebound, after Buffalo pulled goalie Robin Lehner for an extra attacker. Blues goalie Jake Allen had to stop just 14 shots through the first two periods before the Sabres cut the lead to 2-1 on a power-play goal by Rodrigues 1:42 into the third period. Rodrigues was playing just his third game for the Sabres, and the two goals were his first of the season.

Maple Leafs 1, Oilers 0

Backup goaltender Curtis McElhinney earned his first shutout of the season as Toronto made Zach Hyman's goal in the first minute of the game stand up for a victory over Edmonton.

McElhinney, who was playing in his fifth game of the season, made 41 saves, some spectacular, in picking up his sixth career shutout. He improved to 6-0-0 in his career against Edmonton. Oilers goalie Laurent Brossoit stopped 22 shots.

Blackhawks 3, Coyotes 1

Artem Anisimov scored the go-ahead goal with 4:47 left in the third period, and Chicago pulled away for a win over Arizona.

Tommy Wingels and Nick Schmaltz also scored as the Blackhawks earned their second consecutive win. Chicago improved to 8-5-2 on home ice and beat Arizona for the eighth straight meeting. Anthony Duclair scored the Coyotes' lone goal. Arizona is winless in its past four games.

Chicago goaltender Corey Crawford made 31 saves to improve to 13-7-2. Arizona goaltender Scott Wedgewood dropped to 3-6-3 despite turning aside 34 shots.

Wild 4, Sharks 3 (OT)

Minnesota's Nino Niederreiter stole the puck from San Jose defenseman Dylan DeMelo and scored with 1:34 left in overtime. San Jose rallied from a 3-1 deficit after two periods to force the extra session.

The Sharks' Brent Burns started the third-period comeback with his second goal of the game and fourth of the season at 2:41 on the power play. Tomas Hertl tied it with his seventh of the season at 14:59 after Minnesota goalie Alex Stalock failed to freeze a shot by DeMelo. — Reuters



TORONTO: Connor McDavid #97 of the Edmonton Oilers skates against the Toronto Maple Leafs during an NHL game at the Air Canada Centre on Sunday in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. — AFP

NHL results/standings

Minnesota 4, San Jose 3 (OT); Chicago 3, Arizona 1; St. Louis 3, Buffalo 2 (OT); Toronto 1, Edmonton 0.

Western Conference

Central Division

	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
St. Louis	21	8	2	104	78	44
Nashville	18	7	4	95	84	40
Winnipeg	17	8	5	102	86	39
Minnesota	15	11	3	87	87	33
Dallas	16	13	1	89	89	33
Chicago	14	11	5	90	82	33
Colorado	13	13	2	90	94	28

Pacific Division

Los Angeles	20	8	3	97	68	43
Las Vegas	19	9	1	103	91	39
San Jose	16	10	3	79	69	35
Calgary	16	12	2	88	94	34
Vancouver	14	12	4	81	85	32
Anaheim	12	11	7	80	89	31
Edmonton	12	16	2	86	99	26
Arizona	7	21	5	75	114	19

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Tampa Bay	21	6	2	110	74	44
Toronto	20	10	1	106	88	41
Boston	14	9	4	78	75	32
Montreal	13	14	4	85	99	30
Detroit	11	13	5	80	97	27
Florida	11	14	4	88	104	26
Ottawa	9	12	7	77	98	25
Buffalo	7	17	6	64	102	20

Metropolitan Division

Columbus	19	10	1	86	73	39
Washington	18	11	1	94	88	37
New Jersey	16	9	4	89	91	36
NY Islanders	16	10	3	105	99	35
Pittsburgh	16	12	3	93	102	35
NY Rangers	16	11	2	98	87	34
Carolina	11	10	7	78	88	29
Philadelphia	11	11	7	83	86	29

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

Sports

Suarez, Messi maintain Barca's La Liga lead by five points

Real Madrid are eight points back in fourth

MADRID: Barcelona restored their lead at the top of La Liga to five points as Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi struck in the final 20 minutes to edge out 10-man Villarreal 2-0 on Sunday. Daniel Raba's red card on the hour mark for a wild lunge on Sergio Busquets handed Barca the initiative.

And their pressure told when Suarez rounded off a fine team move before Messi blasted home a second to get the Catalans back to winning ways after successive draws with Valencia and Celta Vigo in La Liga. Valencia remain Barca's closest challengers five points back, but Atletico Madrid also maintained their title charge with a 1-0 win at Real Betis to stay six points off the top.

Real Madrid are eight points back in fourth and Barca will have the chance to go into El Clasico away at Real in two weeks' time with an 11-point lead over their rivals. Barca host Deportivo la Coruna next weekend, whilst Madrid are in action at the Club World Cup in Abu Dhabi. Gerard Pique nearly gave Barca the perfect start at the Ceramic Stadium, where they have struggled in recent seasons, as his header came back off the crossbar from Messi's corner just four minutes in. However, Barca dominance of possession was largely stale before the break as Villarreal posed the greater threat on the counter-attack. Nicola Sansone had the hosts' best effort that forced Marc-Andre ter Stegen into a stunning one-handed stop high to his left.

Messi orchestrated the visitors' attacking threat after the break as he constantly freed Jordi Alba down Barca's left. Paco Alcacer was denied by Sergio Asenjo from Alba's low cross before the left-back teed up

Messi for a cushioned effort that drifted inches wide. Villarreal had to survive the final half hour a man light when Raba was dismissed for connecting with his studs on Busquets' ankle as the Spanish international cleared. Another Alba cross was turned onto the post by Suarez on the stretch. However, the Uruguayan finally broke Villarreal's resistance after exchanging a neat one-two with Alcacer to round Asenjo and net his seventh goal of the season. And Messi secured all three points seven minutes from time as he was played in by Busquets to smash past the helpless Asenjo.

ATLETICO BOUNCE BACK

Betis posed more of a goal threat

Earlier, Atletico bounced back from the disappointment of being dumped out of the Champions League in midweek to keep their title challenge afloat at Betis. The hosts dominated possession throughout but were made to pay for their

lack of cutting edge, as well as some fine goalkeeping by Jan Oblak. By contrast, Atletico were clinical even in the absence of the injured Antoine Griezmann as Saul Niguez slid in at the back post to turn home Sime Vrsaljko's cross with their first serious attack on the half-hour mark.

"They played some spectacular football today, but we took advantage of the chance we had," Atletico midfielder Koke told BeIN Sports Spain. Betis posed more of a goal threat after the break but were denied by Oblak, who produced a wonder save to turn Cristian Tello's sweetly struck half-volley behind for a corner. "One team had the ball, which was Betis, and they tried many different ways to damage us, but the team was



VILAREAL: Villarreal's midfielder Rodrigo Hernandez (L) vies with Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi during the Spanish league football match between Villarreal CF and FC Barcelona at La Ceramica stadium in Vila-real. — AFP

very strong defensively," said Atletico boss Diego Simeone. At the other end of the table, Malaga and Athletic Bilbao secured big away wins to ease their relegation fears. Malaga remain in the drop zone but

moved off the foot of the table with a 2-0 victory at Real Sociedad. Athletic, meanwhile, bagged their first league win in nearly two months 2-1 at Levante to move up to 13th. — AFP

Goal hero Giroud not for sale, says Wenger

SOUTHAMPTON: Arsene Wenger insists Olivier Giroud will not leave Arsenal in January despite the France striker's lack of starting opportunities. Giroud has yet to start a Premier League game this season, but he showed his value coming off the bench when he headed a late equaliser to secure a 1-1 draw at Southampton on Sunday.

It was his fourth league goal in 13 substitute appearances and while Giroud may be growing frustrated at his lack of starts, Wenger is determined to hold on to the player when the transfer window opens.

"Why should we lose an important player?" said the Arsenal manager of a striker who was close to joining Everton at the end of the last transfer window. "It's up to us." Wenger added: "Yes he will start games. It's always the same, when you have many good players, some of them cannot play. The question you get is always why does a guy who is good not play? Because if you take him on, you have another guy who is good who will not play. It is as simple as that. He will start games because we play every three days. He is mentally very strong and we have to be grateful to a player who comes on when he is needed. It is a remarkable achievement." Giroud's goal, which cancelled out Charlie Austin's third minute opener, was the 17th time the France international has scored from the bench, six behind Jermain Defoe in the Premier League all-time list and alongside Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Kanu. "I always try to bring something for the team when I come on the pitch," Giroud said. "Today we missed players in the box so I tried to bring it. It was a good cross from Alexis. I tried to be at the right place at the right time. It is nice to come back." The point meant Wenger's side remain outside the top four and the manager admitted his players were still feeling the effects of last weekend's home defeat of Manchester United when they were caught cold by Austin's early finish.

"I felt that the Man United game played a bit of a part in the heads of our defenders," he said. "It was a bit in their head, and a bit apprehensive, to start well again. That's why sometimes it's not too good to talk about a



SOUTHAMPTON: Arsenal's French striker Olivier Giroud celebrates scoring the team's first goal during the English Premier League football match between Southampton and Arsenal at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton, southern England. — AFP

problem, because you create even a bigger one. "We played a big part of the game with a back-four today. But away from home recently we had done quite well, we've won games. "Today we played a team who was highly determined, defended every single ball.

"I must say I'm frustrated because in the second half there was a lot of time-wasting, especially on the final ball. "The waste of time is becoming a real problem in England in the last two seasons. "First, it has to be in the head of the players to respect the game and to play. Then it is up

to the referees to act. The answer is in the authority of the referee. They have it in their power."

Southampton manager Mauricio Pellegrino believes his side's performance confirms they are moving in the right direction. "When you play against Arsenal who one of the biggest teams in the Premier League you have to be close to excellent to win this game. I feel we are growing," he said. "We were competitive, that is one of my goals. We have another possibility Wednesday and hopefully we can continue in this way." — AFP

Arsenal's Europa League hopes to be tested by Swedish minnows

NYON: Arsenal's hopes of Europa League glory will be tested in the last 32 by Swedish minnows Ostersunds, ironically coached by the only English manager left in European competition and founded in the same month Arsene Wenger took over the Gunners.

In the draw made yesterday, the Gunners were pitched against the central Swedish club coached by Graham Potter, who played for Southampton in the Premier League as part of a long career that saw him win one under-21 England cap and make 307 Football League appearances.

Now 42, Potter led Ostersunds—created in October 1996 when three local clubs (Ope IF, IFK Ostersund, Ostersund/Torvalla FF) merged—to the Swedish Cup last season, having taken the side from the Swedish fourth division to the top flight in six seasons.

Far from being intimidated, Ostersunds seemed ecstatic with the draw, their English manager freely admitting his outfit would not be favourites against Wenger's Arsenal, currently sitting fifth in the Premier League.

"I think it's really cool to go home to England and meet one of the best teams in the Premier League," said Potter, who first signed for Ostersunds in 2010. "Now we are really underdogs," he added in a report in Swedish on the club's website. The club, who claimed a shock win over Galatasaray in the second qualifying round and then finished second in a group featuring Athletic Bilbao and Hertha Berlin after only losing one game, reported that Potter looked delighted as he and the club chairman realised who they had been drawn against.

"Jubilation in Ostersund, OFK meet Arsenal in the next round," the club said on Twitter. Meanwhile, Brendan Rodgers' Celtic face Roberto Mancini's ambitious Zenit St Petersburg, who beat Rangers in the 2008 UEFA Cup final. "It's never easy playing in Russia," Celtic's Olivier Ntcham tweeted. Celtic dropped out of the Champions League, as did Napoli and RB Leipzig, who will meet each other in what appears to be the toughest draw of the round. Lyon, who are desperate to get to the final which will be played at their own stadium, will face Villarreal, while AC Milan will face Ludogorets of Bulgaria. The first legs will be played on Thursday, February 15, with the return matches a week later. — AFP

Tigres take title after Monterrey miss late penalty

MEXICO CITY: Tigres beat city rivals Monterrey 2-1 to win their sixth Mexican league title on Sunday but the home side will be upset at a missed penalty minutes from the end of an engrossing tie. The Apertura championship triumph, which followed Thursday's 1-1 draw in the first leg, gave Tigres their third title in two years and coach Ricardo "Tuca" Ferretti his sixth winner's medal. Monterrey took the lead after just two minutes when Dorlan Pabon's shot went in off the post. Tigres, though, equalised after half an hour through Eduardo Vargas and five minutes later Francisco Meza headed home the winner.

Aviles Hurtado should have levelled for Monterrey after 81 minutes but he missed from the spot. To make matters worse for the home side, they had Neri Cardozo sent off in injury time. The result was a major disappointment for Monterrey, who had the best attack and stingiest defence over the season and had put six past Atlas and five past Morelia in the previous two rounds. — Reuters



MONTERREY: Tigres players celebrate their victory as they raise the trophy, after winning the Mexican Apertura 2017 football tournament final match against Monterrey. — AFP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Burnley v Stoke City	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:45
Crystal Palace v Watford	beIN SPORTS HD 1	23:00
Huddersfield Town v Chelsea	beIN SPORTS HD 2	23:00
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA		
Wolfsburg v Leipzig	beIN SPORTS HD 5	20:30
Freiburg v Borussia Monchengladbach	beIN SPORTS HD 8	22:30
Hamburg v Eintracht Frankfurt	Eleven Sports 1 HD	22:30
Mainz v Borussia Dortmund	beIN SPORTS HD 9	22:30
	beIN SPORTS HD 5	

12 IOC 'confident' Tokyo 2020 venues will be ready on time

13 Kohli, Bollywood's Sharma marry in Italy

15 Suarez, Messi maintain Barca's La Liga lead by five points



RESULTS OF THE DRAW

JUVENTUS FOOTBALL CLUB (ITA)	VS	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR FC (ENG)
FC BASEL 1893 (SUI)	VS	MANCHESTER CITY FC (ENG)
FC PORTO (POR)	VS	LIVERPOOL FC (ENG)
SEVILLA FC (ESP)	VS	MANCHESTER UNITED FC (ENG)
REAL MADRID CF (ESP)	VS	PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN (FRA)
FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK (UKR)	VS	AS ROMA (ITA)
CHELSEA FC (ENG)	VS	FC BARCELONA (ESP)
FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN (GER)	VS	BESIKTAS JK (TUR)

NYON: A picture shows a screen displaying the fixtures after the draw for the round of 16 of the UEFA Champions League football tournament at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon yesterday. — AFP

Real to face PSG in Champions League

Manchester City listed as favourites

NYON: Holders Real Madrid will have to overcome a sizeable obstacle when the Champions League resumes in February after yesterday's draw pitted the 12-times winners against Paris St Germain. Bidding for a hat-trick of titles in Europe's elite club competition, Real paid a heavy price for not winning their group as they were drawn with the big-spending Parisians who were tipped as many people's favourites ahead of the draw in Nyon.

Five-times champions Barcelona will face English champions Chelsea, one of five Premier league clubs in the draw. Tottenham Hotspur, who topped their group ahead of Real Madrid thanks to a 3-1 victory at Wembley, will face Serie A champions and last seasons' runners-up Juventus. Manchester City, who clocked up a record 14th successive Premier League victory on Sunday, are now listed as favourites after being handed a last-16 clash with Swiss club Basel.

Five-times winners Bayern Munich, who finished below PSG in the group, will be happy with a two-legged clash with Turkish outsiders Besiktas. Europa League champions Manchester United take on Sevilla while, Liverpool

will meet Porto while AS Roma's reward for winning their group ahead of Chelsea is a tricky tie against Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk.

The Champions League has proved beyond even the vast riches available to PSG and last season they were stunted in the last 16 by Barcelona, losing the second leg 6-1 after beating the Spanish side 4-0 in the French capital.

A clash with Real is hardly what they would have desired at such an early stage but with Neymar and Edinson Cavani having scored six goals apiece in the group, they will be hopeful-if they can keep Real's nine-goal Cristiano Ronaldo quiet.

"This could have been the final, given the power of the two clubs. The last 16 is a bit early, we could say. Logically

we are both challengers for the trophy," Emilio Butragueno, Real's director of institutional relations, said following the draw.

"PSG get stronger and stronger, they had an impeccable group phase and have a lot of power. I don't think it's a good draw for them either. It will be a thrilling tie."

PSG and real have played six times in Europe, most recently in the 2015-16 group stage when the sides drew 0-0 in Paris with Real edging the return match 1-0. Chelsea and Barcelona will renew a regular Champions league rivalry that last surfaced in the 2012 semi-final when Chelsea won 3-2 on aggregate before going on to claim the trophy for the only time in their history.

Barcelona won the 2009 semi-final on away goals.

"We've had some great times at Stamford Bridge, haven't we?" Barca's Andres Iniesta said on Twitter.

While Antonio Conte's Chelsea were handed a tough draw, the other English qualifiers would have been reasonably content with their opponents, especially Manchester City. While Basel are a formidable side at home and have some big English scalps at home in the Champions League, Pep Guardiola's side will be big favourites to progress.

"We have to be careful, they deserve to be here," City's technical director Txiki Begiristain said. Tottenham will face Juventus for the first time while Manchester United and Sevilla have also never met before.

Bayern Munich will meet Besiktas for the first time since winning 2-0 home and away in the 1997-98 group stage. "Bayern are a powerful team but we are not a piece of cake either," Besiktas president Fikret Orman said. The first legs, with group winners PSG, Tottenham, Liverpool, Manchester United, Roma, Manchester City, Barcelona and Besiktas away first, take place on Feb. 13-14 and Feb. 20-21 with the returns on March 6-7 and March 13-14. —Reuters

Stewart's third touchdown run lifts Carolina

CAROLINA: Jonathan Stewart's third touchdown run of the game, a one-yard leap with 1:47 remaining, lifted Carolina (9-4) past Minnesota and into a tie for first place in the NFC South with the New Orleans Saints. The Vikings (10-3) had an eight-game winning streak snapped. Carolina quarterback Cam Newton ran 62 yards on second down to take the ball to the Minnesota eight-yard line to set up the winning score. Newton completed 13 of 25 passes for 137 yards with a touchdown and an interception. Stewart gained 103 yards on 16 carries. Vikings quarterback Case Keenum was 27 of 44 for 280 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

CHIEFS 26, RAIDERS 15

Kansas City shook off the absence of All-Pro cornerback Marcus Peters with one of its stronger defensive outings, knocking off Oakland and remaining atop the tight AFC West race. Alex Smith finished 20 of 34 for 268 yards with an inter-

ception and Kareen Hunt led the Chiefs on the ground with 116 yards and a touchdown on 25 carries as Kansas City (7-6) ended a four-game losing streak. Oakland (6-7) finally broke onto the scoreboard midway through the fourth quarter on a 22-yard touchdown run by Marshawn Lynch.

BILLS 13, COLTS 7 (OVERTIME)

LeSean McCoy ran for a 21-yard touchdown with 1:39 remaining in overtime to give Buffalo the victory over Indianapolis in the snow. McCoy rushed for 158 yards on a career-high 32 carries and surpassed 1,000 yards on the season as the Bills (7-6) weathered relentless snow, swirling winds and near whiteout conditions to keep their playoff hopes alive. Bills rookie quarterback Nathan Peterman started in place of the injured Tyrod Taylor and was 5-of-10 passing for 57 yards and a touchdown pass to Kelvin Benjamin before leaving the game in the third quarter to be evaluated for a concussion. Joe Webb was 2-of-6 passing for 35 yards and also rushed for 27 yards. Frank Gore rushed for 130 yards on a career-high 36 carries for the Colts (3-10). Jacoby Brissett was 11-of-22 passing for 69 yards and a touchdown pass to tight end Jack Doyle.

LIONS 24, BUCCANEERS 21

Matt Prater kicked a 46-yard field goal with 20 seconds remaining, allowing Detroit to keep alive its flickering NFC

playoff hopes with the victory over turnover-plagued Tampa Bay. Detroit quarterback Matthew Stafford completed five straight pass attempts on a nine-play, 49-yard drive that led to Prater's winning kick. Stafford completed 36 of 44 passes for 381 yards and one touchdown. Meanwhile, running back Theo Riddick had a pair of scoring runs for the Lions (7-6). The Buccaneers (4-9), who had five turnovers, rallied from a two-touchdown deficit in the fourth-quarter and tied it 21-21 on Jameis Winston's two-yard touchdown pass to rookie tight end O.J. Howard, and then a two-yard toss to tackle-eligible Leonard Wester with 8:10 remaining.

PACKERS 27, BROWNS 21 (OVERTIME)

Green Bay overcame a 14-point, fourth-quarter deficit and beat Cleveland in overtime on a 25-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Brett Hundley to wide receiver Davante Adams. The Packers (7-6) kept their playoff hopes alive in the NFC. The Browns (0-13) missed out on their best chance to get into the win column.

COWBOYS 30, GIANTS 10

Running back Rod Smith had an 81-yard touchdown reception and a 15-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter as Dallas manhandled New York Giants 30-10. Dak Prescott completed 20-of-30 passes for 332 yards and three touchdowns for the Cowboys (7-6). The Giants fell to 2-11 with Eli Manning back

under center after being benched last week for Geno Smith.

49ERS 26, TEXANS 16

Jimmy Garoppolo recorded his second victory in as many starts as San Francisco beat Houston. Garoppolo passed for 334 yards and produced his first touchdown pass with the 49ers, a six-yard strike to tight end Garrett Celek with 1:53 remaining in the third quarter. That scoring pass snapped a 16-16 tie and helped lift the 49ers (3-10) to their second consecutive road triumph. San Francisco kicker Robbie Gould drilled field goals of 52, 35, 25 and 41 yards to aid the cause. The 49ers knocked out Texans quarterback Tom Savage in the second quarter, but backup T.J. Yates engineered consecutive scoring drives for Houston (4-9), capping both with touchdown passes to receiver DeAndre Hopkins.

BEARS 33, BENGALS 7

Mitchell Trubisky passed for 271 yards and a touchdown and Jordan Howard rushed for 147 yards and two scores, lifting Chicago over Cincinnati. Kendall Wright had 10 catches for 107 yards, helping Chicago (4-9) snap a five-game losing streak. Tarik Cohen ran for 80 yards for the Bears, who rushed for 228 yards. Cincinnati (5-8) was minus four defensive starters, including top tacklers Vontaze Burfict and Nick Vigil. Quarterback Andy Dalton passed for 141 yards with a touchdown and interception. He was sacked twice. —Reuters

Business

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18 Kuwait's current account surplus widens in Q2 2017**19** Ithmaar Bank awarded 'Best Islamic Retail Bank in Bahrain'**22** Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons partners with Allied Telesis & Dahua Technology

BUENOS AIRES: US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer (right) takes notes as Susana Malcorra, chair of the 11th Ministerial Conference of the WTO walks by, before the start of the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) plenary session in Buenos Aires yesterday. —AFP

WTO losing focus on trade talks: US

Trade body meets in Buenos Aires amid criticisms

BUENOS AIRES: US President Donald Trump's trade chief said yesterday that the World Trade Organization is losing its focus on trade negotiations in favor of litigation and needed to rethink how it defines developing economies. "We need to clarify our understanding of development within the WTO. We cannot sustain a situation in which new rules can only apply to a few and that others will be given a pass in the name of self-proclaimed development status," US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told the opening session of the WTO's ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires.

The WTO opened a conference yesterday under the cloud of US hostility to multilateral trade accords. The 164-member WTO is also wracked by disagreements over China and has been struggling to kick start stalled trade talks. The Buenos Aires meeting, which lasts through tomorrow, is the first in the era of US President Donald Trump, who has pummeled the body relentlessly since taking office, describing it as a "disaster." The Trump administration has made the WTO a preferred target of its "America First" policy, threatening to pull the US out of the trade organization it says is hampering its

ability to compete. Argentina's President Mauricio Macri said, in opening remarks, that "WTO problems get fixed with more WTO-not with less WTO."

Trump has already withdrawn the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and insisted on renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Mexico and Canada.

WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo said yesterday he will ask US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer for "political commitment, political will and flexibility."

"Without flexibility we will not get anywhere," Azevedo said at an opening press conference at a Buenos Aires hotel. Washington has been blamed for blocking appointments of judges to the WTO's dispute settlement system, saying it was

ineffective and insisting on a more aggressive approach to defending its interests.

The dispute body arbitrates international rows over subsidies or tariffs, among other things playing an important role in the standoff between US and European plane-makers Boeing and Airbus.

The European Union, on the other hand, comes to the conference with a robust spirit of multilateralism. The EU and Japan announced Friday that they have finalized a major trade agreement.

EU officials will also meet with counterparts from the South American trade bloc known as Mercosur to continue talks on a free trade accord. These discussions have been going on for nearly 20 years.

Low expectations

Expectations for any kind of a breakthrough at the Buenos Aires meeting are low. For the past decade the WTO has failed to make progress in the so-called Doha Round of trade liberalization talks, which began in 2001. The WTO is also accused of failing to do enough to resolve problems that some of its members have with China. "There is life after Buenos Aires," said the president of the conference, Susana Malcorra of Argentina. She has said a deal was likely to end harmful fisheries subsidies, of keen interest to developing countries.

Beijing, meantime, wants to be seen by the WTO as a "market economy," but the Europeans and the United States-for once on the same wavelength on trade issues-oppose this. Any such recognition would entitle China to preferential economic treatment under WTO rules.

It is currently classed as a non-market economy. That status allows the US and others to use a special recourse to levy anti-dumping duties against China if they determine that it is selling its goods-notably steel and aluminum—at unfairly low prices abroad.

A European diplomat in Buenos Aires said protectionist US rhetoric may actually give fuel to negotiations between the EU and Mercosur. —Agencies



Breakthrough unlikely at Buenos Aires

Boursa Kuwait plans for market segmentation

KUWAIT: Taking another step towards strengthening its position on both regional and international levels and adding a new achievement to its track record, Boursa Kuwait has announced its plans for the Market Segmentation, which divides the market into three segments: Premier Market, Main Market and Auction Market. This major accomplishment will lead to a substantial leap in enhancing the conditions of the market and increasing liquidity.

In preparation, Boursa Kuwait is applying major changes to its infrastructure and conducting tests with relevant stakeholders before it officially launches the market segmentation.

The new market segments aim to remedy two major problems facing the current market, the lack of liquidity and the unattractive issuer's base, by providing an attractive investment platform that helps increasing the percentage of traded shares in the market. The new basis of segmentation will be based on certain criteria related to liquidity, market capitalization, price to par ratio, years of operations plus disclosure and compliance with the terms and conditions of listing.

Primer market

"Primer Market" forms the elite category, which will be occupied by high caliber companies with high liquidity and medium to large market capitalization requirements. Companies in this segment are subject to annual reviews to prove its powerful performance throughout the year to be able to remain in the segment it falls under or to be re-classified to either the "Main Market" or "Auction Market". Also, "Premier Market" listed companies are requested to hold quarterly analyst conferences and are required to disclose in both Arabic and English. Companies classified under the "Premier Market" are among the Premier Market index and the All-Share index.

Main market

Companies which are not qualified for the "Premier Market" category will be classified under the "Main Market", those companies need to maintain minimum level of liquidity in accordance with all basic requirements for the "Main Market". Companies in this segment are subject to annual reviews to prove its performance throughout the year to be able to remain in the segment it falls under or to be re-classified to the other segments. Companies classified under the "Main Market" category are among the Main Market index and the All-Share index.

Auction market

The "Auction Market" will include companies with low liquidity regardless of its



بورصة الكويت
BOURSA KUWAIT

market capitalization. Companies in the "Auction Market" will not be part of any index. Trading in the "Auction Market" will trade following an auction trading mechanism with no continuous trading.

Market segmentation is a common practice worldwide, many reputable world exchanges such as the London Stock Exchange, Deutsche Borse and NASDAQ have similar markets and have benefited from it. Since established, Boursa Kuwait has recorded a lot of achievements, the latest and the biggest was the upgrade from developed to an emerging market by FTSE Russel. The company has also managed to launch number of services and products within very brief period and continued to maintain transparency to strengthen its leading position at the regional level.

UK consumers cut spending in run-up to Christmas: Visa

LONDON: Squeezed British consumers reined in Christmas travel plans and bought fewer new cars last month, setting the stage for the first fall in festive spending in five years, credit card company Visa said yesterday.

The downbeat message came alongside a cut by the British Chambers of Commerce to its economic outlook for the next two years as the business organization sees inflation rising faster than pay for the next two years. Visa said inflation-adjusted consumer spending last month was 0.9 percent lower than in 2016. This was a smaller decline than October's 2.1 percent drop but still enough to make annual falls in spending likely for the first time since 2012 for both the Christmas season and 2017 overall, the company said.

The biggest falls in spending came on expensive items such as cars and Christmas trips abroad, while cheaper luxuries such as beauty treatments and cosmetics saw gains.

"People opt for smaller treats, at the same time tightening their belts when it comes to larger purchases," Visa executive

Mark Antipof said.

Black Friday discounts in late November boosted online sales at the expense of physical stores, Visa added. British inflation has held at a five-year high of 3.0 percent since September, pushed up by the fall in the pound since June 2016's Brexit vote, while wages have failed to keep pace.

The British Chambers of Commerce, in a quarterly update to its economic outlook on Monday, said it expected this to persist throughout 2018.

"Continued uncertainty over Brexit and the burden of upfront cost pressures facing businesses is likely to stifle business investment, while falling real wage growth is expected to weigh on consumer spending," BCC economist Suren Thiru said.

The BCC cut its forecasts for 2017, 2018 and 2019, seeing growth of 1.5 percent this year, slowing to 1.1 percent in 2018 and only partially recovering to 1.3 percent in 2019. This is slightly below the average for economists polled by Reuters, who expect growth of 1.3 percent next year and 1.5 percent in 2019, when Britain is due to leave the European Union. On Friday, Britain and the EU agreed on a Brexit divorce deal, enabling them to begin talks about trade and a two-year transition period that will start when Britain leaves the bloc on March 29, 2019.

But businesses said they would need to see a clear transition agreement as soon as possible for them to be able to put contingency plans on hold.

Business

Powell faces early test of policy view as tax cuts near approval

Weak wage growth, inflation support view on economy

WASHINGTON: Incoming Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell, chosen by US President Donald Trump to keep the recovery humming, appears set to let an expected trillion-dollar tax cut run its course through the economy as weak wage growth and inflation buttress his view that the economy remains underpowered.

Powell in statements throughout the year, culminating with his recent Senate confirmation hearing, has been clear he sees little risk of inflation that would prompt the Fed to raise rates faster than expected, and takes weak wage growth as a sign that sidelined workers remain to be drawn into jobs. New data added evidence to that view on Friday. Employment in November grew faster than expected, but wage growth remained muted. The share of working age adults with jobs continued a steady, six-year recovery that is approaching its pre-crisis peak.

Even with the unemployment rate at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent, "there's no sense of an overheating economy or a particularly tight labor market," Powell told members of the Senate Banking Committee, saying that the Fed should raise rates only gradually.

Debate among Powell's colleagues, meanwhile, has highlighted other risks if the Fed speeds its pace of rate increases. Some policymakers feel the central bank has already undercut its credibility by raising interest rates while inflation remains so weak. Others have noted that if the Fed continues raising short-term rates while long-term rates remain stalled, it could turn the shape of the bond yield curve upside

down, a typical signal of recession.

"If the Fed gets its paradigm wrong and sees inflation that ultimately doesn't materialize, and they take rates too far, then markets would feel aggrieved," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at Northern Trust in Chicago, and a former senior risk official at the Fed Board.

Other analysts are starting to see a potential dovish surprise when Powell takes over in February, the tax cuts could kick in, and the Fed stands aside.

'More dovish Fed'

With a background as an investment banker rather than as an economist rooted in a particular analytical framework, Powell will lead "a more data-driven Fed, which at the current juncture means a more dovish Fed," until and if inflation recovers, said Robin Brooks, chief economist at the Institute of International Finance. He expects the Fed under Powell to only

Powell may lead a more data-driven Fed



raise rates twice next year. Policymakers will give an initial reading on the impact of the Republican tax plan when they meet next week. They are expected to raise interest rates for the third time this year. They will also update their economic and interest rate projections for 2018 and beyond, the first such forecasts since the outlines of the tax overhaul became clear.

Top Republicans from the House and the Senate are rushing to complete negotiations to push the tax plan into law. Though Janet Yellen remains Fed chair

until February, her final scheduled press conference on Wednesday afternoon will set the policy backdrop Powell inherits. The 64-year-old lawyer will attend the meeting as a sitting governor, and help shape the statement issued that day by the Federal Open Market Committee.

It is a group struggling with a fundamental issue. The economy is arguably as much as a half a percentage point below full employment, a condition in which prices and wages should be rising. Yet both remain weak. Into that mix, the tax cut legislation would put tens of billions of dollars back in the hands of corporations and households.

If there is still "slack" in the economy, that could produce faster real growth as spending and investment increase, and more workers are hired. However, if the economy is near or above its potential, as some measures indicate, it may merely cause faster-than-desired price increases, or a jump in stock and other asset values that raise concerns of a bubble.

As the tax plan advanced in Congress, forecasting shops at Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan and others penciled in a faster pace of Fed rate increases - essentially expecting the Fed would need to lean against the inflationary outcome. The tax package is "ultimately worth almost two additional Fed hikes" in coming years, Goldman Sachs economists David Mericle and Alec Phillips wrote in a recent analysis. But the new chair's own public speeches and comments throughout the past year have shown an evolving faith that the Fed's go-slow approach can continue, giving more time for workers to rebound from the 2007-2009 crisis without creating other economic risks.

"Accommodative policy did not generate high inflation or excessive credit growth; rather, it helped restore full employment," Powell said in June in his last extensive speech on monetary policy before he emerged as a contender for the top Fed job.



Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell

His outlook is consistent with positions Trump and current chair Janet Yellen have taken, and the depth of his commitment to that view will be a critical part of the Fed's debate about whether and how to react to the tax plan.

At his confirmation hearing, Powell avoided any direct critique or endorsement of the pending legislation, telling lawmakers fiscal policy was their domain.

But when asked about Fed staff research that challenged a key Republican premise that corporate tax cuts generate jobs, Powell kept his distance. "It's just someone's research," Powell told senators. "Don't associate that with a position of the board." —Reuters

Ithmaar Bank awarded 'Best Islamic Retail Bank in Bahrain'

MANAMA: Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, was honored at a ceremony attended by senior bankers from across the Middle East after it was named Best Islamic Retail Bank in Bahrain.

Ithmaar Bank was presented the prestigious award following a comprehensive selection and review process conducted by a committee of high-level economists and banking professionals, as well as the research department of the Union of Arab Banks and the World Union of Arab Bankers. The award was received on behalf of the Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, by the Ithmaar Bank Head of Commercial and Financial Institutions, Abdulla Talib.

"Ithmaar Bank is committed to becoming the region's premier Islamic retail bank," said Abdul Rahim. "This is a commitment we take very seriously, and I am pleased to note that our efforts in this direction are being noticed, recognized and celebrated at a regional level," he said.

"Winning this award is testimony to the fact that the vision spelled out by the Ithmaar Bank Board of Directors, led by the Chairman His Royal Highness Prince Amr Al Faisal, is being translated into a tangible reality," said Abdul Rahim. "It is significant achievement by any measure, and is a result of the commitment, dedication and expertise of our employees," he said.

"Enhanced customer satisfaction, as well as the subsequent growth of our core retail banking business, is great reward in itself and I am confident that the recognition will help inspire us to even greater achievements," said Abdul Rahim. "This, in turn, will help further reinforce Bahrain's



MANAMA: Talib (center) receives the Award from Fattouh (left) and WUAB Chairman, Dr Joseph Torbey.

position as a key banking and finance hub in the region," he said. Wissam Fattouh, Secretary General, World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB) and Union of Arab Banks (UAB) congratulated Ithmaar Bank on winning the award and wished the Bank continued success.

"The Arab Banking Awards celebrates achievements of excellence across the Arab Banking sector," said Fattouh. "Winning the Best Islamic Retail Bank in the Bahrain category is testimony to Ithmaar Bank's reputation for excellence, and we congratulate them on this major achievement," he said.

"Ithmaar Bank was selected as the Best Islamic Retail Bank in Bahrain by a high level committee of economists and bankers, as well as the WUAB and UAB research teams," said Fattouh. "It is a great achievement and a pow-

erful testimony to the Bank's remarkable success," he said. The World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB) is a prominent Arab Forum that is patronized by Arab leaders of economics and finance, as well as influential banking pioneers, top experts, successful businessmen, remarkable professionals and brilliant entrepreneurs. WUAB, a sister organization of the Union of Arab Banks (UAB), is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that enjoys the privileges, immunities and exemptions extended to regional and international organizations operating under the Arab League. The UAB enjoys full financial, administrative and organizational autonomy. It is considered the true representative of the Arab banking and financial community, and the major supporter to Arab banks and financial institutions as well as the Arab mutual banking institutions.

Bakers, farmers struggle to make any dough on poor wheat crop

WINNIPEG, Manitoba/CHICAGO: Chicago's iconic sandwiches - Italian beef heroes dripping with gravy, and hot dogs loaded with pickles and hot peppers - wouldn't be such culinary institutions without the bread. But this fall, bakers faced a crisis getting the right kind of bread to delis and sandwich shops locally and across the United States.

Gonnella Baking Co - which supplies the buns to Major League Baseball's Wrigley Field - faced an unusual problem in October when flour from this year's US wheat harvest arrived at their factories containing low levels of protein. That meant bakers couldn't produce bread with the airy texture customers demand, setting off two weeks of tinkering with temperatures and the mixing process, and the eventual purchase of gluten as an additive. By the time the alchemy was done, Gonnella had thrown away more than \$20,000 worth of substandard bread and buns, said president Ron Lucchesi. —Reuters

ABK hosts event to launch Talent Program



ABK's Talent Program Attendees

KUWAIT: In line with its continuous efforts to support the development of its employees, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) launched its 'Talent Program' for the second consecutive year at the Chairman's Club on the 29th November 2017. The program witnessed participants from the Bank's high performing and high potential employees coming together to undertake a structured learning experience, and ensuring they receive the support and guidance required to succeed in existing roles and future responsibilities. The talent program is divided into three tiers namely high performing employees, high potential employees and current leaders in the organization.

Commenting on the program, Hamza Enki, Human Resources General Manager at ABK said, "Our people are at the heart of our business, and as a result, we will always maintain their career development as a top priority at the Bank. The talent program has been devised to recognize select ABK employees and empower them to further devel-

op and succeed in their roles. At ABK, we strongly believe that the success of our people is the success of the Bank, and we endeavor to ensure that we sustain the culture of the Bank through developing leaders from within."

This year, ABK's high potential performers will develop their leadership capabilities through classroom learning and project work in a move to be prepared for future leadership roles. This structured program will be delivered in partnership with the Australian College of Kuwait, and is certified under the internationally recognized Highfield Leadership Institute.

Current leaders that have been identified as part of the succession plan will have a more flexible program which focuses heavily on context with limited classroom learning, and concentrates more on practical learning and ongoing career discussions. ABK will continue to invest in its people, and constantly review its approach and procedures to ensure a healthy, productive, and satisfying work environment in the future.



Balwant Bains, Chief Internal Auditor - ABK, speaking at the Talent Program



ABK CEO Michel Accad speaking at the Talent Program

Business

Research finds digitization can check risk of unplanned events

ServiceMax study commissioned by GE Digital

DUBAI: The costs, causes, and repercussions of unplanned downtime are triggering investment in digital tools and field service management, according to a new study commissioned by ServiceMax from GE Digital, the leading provider of field service management solutions. The research was conducted by leading technology consultancy firm Vanson Bourne, and targeted IT and field service leaders across the Middle East and Turkey.

The study found:

- Unplanned downtime happens a lot: 82 percent of companies have experienced at least one unplanned outage over the past three years (the average being two). These outages lasted an average of four hours.
- Unplanned downtime is expensive: Based on Aberdeen's calculations, downtime costs \$260,000 an hour across all businesses - two episodes of downtime lasting four hours each equates to more than \$2 million.
- Awareness is low: More than 65 percent of companies lack full awareness of when their equipment is due for maintenance, upgrade, or replacement.

The new study, "After The Fall: Cost, Causes and Consequences of Unplanned Downtime," surveyed 150 field service and IT decision makers in Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the UAE across the manufacturing, medical, oil and gas, energy and utilities, telecoms, distribution, logistics, and transport sectors, among others.

The study finds that production and productivity, IT, and customer service are hit hardest by unplanned downtime, with damaging repercussions for businesses as a whole.

The study further reveals the extent to which businesses are investing in digital tools and field service management solutions:

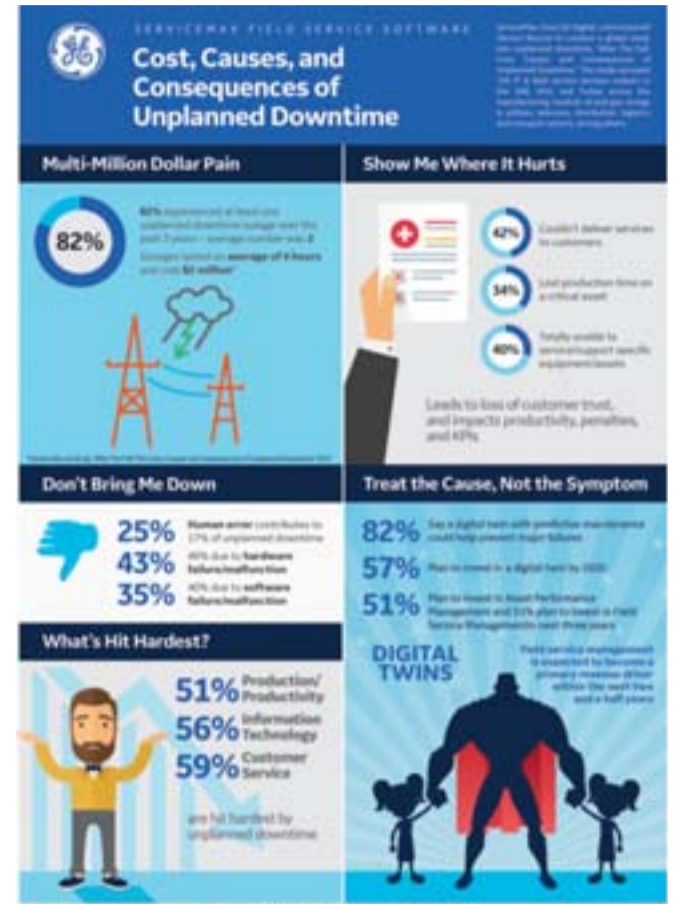
- More than 8 in 10 companies recognize that digital tools can eliminate unplanned downtime, and zero unplanned downtime is now the number one or high priority for 62 percent of organizations surveyed.
- 51 percent of organizations confirm that digital transformation is a high or number one board level priority, and 40 percent report the same for innovation.

Forty-five percent of respondents say that a digital twin, which is a digital representation of a physical asset, and predictive maintenance analytics would help prevent major failures. Fifty-seven percent say they are planning to invest in a digital twin by 2020. Likewise, field service management is expected to become a primary revenue driver within the next two and a half years, on average.

"As digital solutions have become increasingly prevalent, we've seen a widening gap in asset efficiency awareness that's historically gone largely unnoticed," said Ali Saleh, SVP and Chief Commercial Officer, GE Digital Middle East, Africa & Turkey. "Lack of data is unnecessarily lengthening recovery time, but the research hints at a tipping point in recognition of the problem and planned investment to address it. In the same way field service management solutions moved from being reactive to proactive to preventative, we are seeing a similar shift in attitudes to unplanned downtime from recovery to protection to pre-emptive. Over time, zero unplanned downtime will become the norm as companies develop and invest in their industrial digital strategies."



Study conducted in UAE, KSA and Turkey



A special numbered edition launched in ME celebrate Longines' 185th anniversary

Founded in Saint-Imier in 1832, the Swiss watch brand Longines celebrates its 185th anniversary this year. As a celebration and a tribute to its customers in the Middle East, Longines is launching a very special edition numbered and limited to 185 pieces. Based on a Heritage honey-colored model re-edition of a timepiece from 1918, this watch displays Arabic numerals such as those used in the Middle East.

As a tribute to its long watchmaking tradition, the Swiss brand Longines loves to reissue some of the iconic pieces that have enhanced its profile throughout its existence. This 1918 model draws its inspiration from the rich history of the brand with the winged hourglass and echoes the first bracelet-chronographs created by Longines. As with the latter, this timepiece features a dial also found on pocket watches from this period, but with Arabic numerals instead of the European ones found in the original model. Its vintage aesthetic and refined fabrication will entice admirers of fine watchmaking.

Blued steel and honey-colored varnish impart character to hands that stand out on a white-lacquered polished dial, which mark the hours and minutes on this reissued model. The small second



hand at 6 o'clock adds dimension and contrast to the dial with its Longines' blue color. The honey color can also be found on the large Arabic numerals painted on the dial, providing this emblematic early 20th century timepiece with a remarkably successful balance.

This refined model is limited to 185 pieces and each model is numbered on the caseback. Measuring 41 mm, it houses an L615 automatic winding mechanical caliber. To complete the set, a honey-colored alligator strap echoes the dominant color of the dial harmoniously.

Longines has been based at Saint-Imier in Switzerland since 1832. Its watchmaking expertise reflects a strong devotion to tradition, elegance and performance. Longines has generations of experience as official timekeeper of world championships and as partner of international sports federation. Known for the elegance of its timepieces, Longines



is a member of the Swatch Group Ltd, the World's leading manufacturer of horological products. With the winged hourglass as its emblem, the brand has outlets in over 150 countries.

Flydubai uses new structures to finance its fleet of MAX aircraft

KUWAIT: Dubai-based flydubai, yesterday announced, that it has closed two new financing structures: a Japanese Operating Lease with a Call Option (JOLCO) and an Aircraft Finance Insurance Consortium (AFIC) insured debt financing structure, to support the airline's strategy of integrating the Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft into its growing fleet. This was the first time a JOLCO transaction financed this aircraft type. In addition, the AFIC transaction marks the first time that this product has been used in the region.

The JOLCO and AFIC structures allow flydubai to further diversify its funding sources and efficiently source funding for its fleet. The JOLCO funding structure comprises of equity participation from local Japanese entities with the balance coming in the form of bank debt. This constitutes a brand-new financing source for the airline with a high advance rate typical of a combined debt and equity facility. Credit Agricole (CA-CIB) acted as overall JOLCO arranger and debt underwriter. Ghaith Al-Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai, said: "with more than 70 aircraft to join our fleet by 2023 this marks the first time that flydubai has accessed financing models of this kind and reflects our desire to access the most innovative financing structures available in the market."

With respect to the AFIC structure, Marsh, a global leader in insurance brokerage and innovative risk management solutions, served as broker and the insurance was provided by a consortium of four leading global insurance companies: Allianz, Axis Capital, Fidelis and Sompo International. The consortium provides AFIC non-payment insurance (ANPI), designed for banks and capital market investors that are funding new aircraft purchases from Boeing. Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) provided the debt financing for



flydubai against the AFIC insurance policy. The AFIC financing structure is fast gaining credibility as an innovative product providing the airline with yet another alternative source of funding.

Arbind Kumar, Senior Vice President, Finance at flydubai, said: "we have previously sought sale and lease-back, commercial debt financing and in 2014 we issued our first Sukuk. This is the next step in flydubai's evolution of its financing structures and we will continue to consider new financing structures at competitive pricing levels that support the needs of the airline. We

thank our partners and appreciate this validation of the airline's strategic growth story."

In 2017, the JOLCO structure was used to finance one aircraft and the AFIC structure financed a total of three aircraft. flydubai has received five Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft and is due to receive a further aircraft by the end of the year. It has a further 70 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft due for delivery by 2023 and at the Dubai Airshow held in November 2017, flydubai announced a commitment to a \$27 billion order for 225 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah daily draws for week



KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 10 December 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 3 December - 7 December 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

- (Sunday 3/12): Abdullah Jadooa Shalal Al-Anzi, Maryam Mohammed Abdullah Al-Shatti
- (Monday 4 /12): Fathiah Ahmed Abdulatif Al-Marhon, Qais Dhehair Mostafa Al-Khamees
- (Tuesday 5/12): Mohammad Shraird Mohammad Al-Ajmi, Arkan Farhan Karkan Al-Shammari
- (Wednesday 6/12): Fatima Abdulkareem Mohammed Al-Saqer, Salman Faisal Abdulrida Al-Bather
- (Thursday 7/12): Fayeze Abdulaziz Fayeze A-Dosari, Hakeem Mohammad Al-Baji

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's final draw for KD 1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize according to Guinness World Records
 - 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
 - 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
 - 4) The most chances to win
 - 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year
- Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.

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

Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD200 at any given time, a KD2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days.

Technology

Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons partners with Allied Telesis & Dahua Technology

Networking vendor, security solutions provider continue expansion in ME



KUWAIT: Allied Telesis & Dahua Technology, leading provider of networking hardware and leaders of security solutions, announced their appointment of Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company as its Added Accredited Systems Integrator exclusively and security solutions provider agent in Kuwait.

This event took place at the Radisson Blu Hotel on 29th November with the presence of company clients, vendor's ministry officials and Al-Yousifi top management, also with the presence of press and media.

Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company is considered one of the leading ICT companies with more than 60 years of rich history in Kuwait. The company offers wide variety of solutions including security, network, surveillance, telecom, video conferencing, smart office and education solutions among others. Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons company has a division called (ESG) Engineering Services Group, providing leading business solutions in the State of Kuwait and represent world's leading brands in its portfolio such as

Panasonic, IBM, Lenovo, Netavis, Dahua, Samsung, Epson, TOA, Teledes, PKLNS, York, Nova Light and



Accredited systems integrator and solutions provider for Kuwait

several others. EHY Company will be distributing the entire range of Allied Telesis products across the country as the exclusive agent.



Commenting on joining hands with Allied Telesis & Dahua Technology, Sami Abdou, Sales and Support Manager at Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons said, "Powered with Japanese technology, Allied Telesis & Dahua Technology has emerged as one of the fastest growing brand in the region. With our strong focus on networking, security and surveillance market prompted us to partner with Allied Telesis & Dahua for its technical superiority, flexibility and cost competitiveness. The range of the products to cater to ELV requirements bundled with an attractive price points is the right combination. This association with Allied Telesis & Dahua Technology compliments our product and technology portfolio and enables us to offer complete solutions to our partners and end-users," said Abdou.

"With our technical strength, we will be able to reach the entire business spectrum in the country and cover lot of market verticals, like Government, Construction, Healthcare, Education, Retail, Telecom and much more,"



Jassem Al-Yousifi



Arif Al-Yousifi

said Abdou. "We have already trained and certified our staff on Allied Telesis's & Dahua Technologies in terms of networking, designs, products, solutions and technology to offer support to our partners and customers in Kuwait." "Caring for our clients is our distinguished main interest"

Small Canadian miners in pole position for electric vehicle battery boom

VANCOUVER: Canadian developers of cobalt and lithium mines stand to benefit from a round of investments from the makers of electric vehicles and the batteries powering them, a potential game-changer for small miners short on money to develop deposits of these critical battery ingredients.

Toronto-listed cobalt companies, Ecobalt Solutions and Fortune Minerals, are in talks, ranging from preliminary to more advanced, with more than a dozen groups, including car and battery makers, on financing their projects, their chief executives told Reuters.

The interest in miners from downstream players along the battery supply chain - a new area of investment for most - would provide a life-line to miners at time when equity funding for developers remains relatively tight after a five-year downturn on weak metals prices.

"We anticipate additional transactions in the coming months and years. It is a function of demand-supply imbalance," said John Kanellitsas, President and Vice Chairman of Lithium Americas Corp, which raised nearly \$300 million this year for a project in Argentina.

A string of potential financing deals in Canada comes after a handful of predominantly lithium miners in Australia - the world's biggest lithium producer - secured investment from mainly Chinese automakers and battery makers this year looking to lock in future raw material supply.

Lithium mine developers have been able to secure funding earlier than their cobalt peers as fears of a supply shortage started in late 2015, when cobalt was still in surplus. Like lithium, cobalt's price has doubled - but most of that upswing has come this year on concerns of multi-year shortfalls in the next decade as demand from the electric vehicle sector surges.

Cobalt's fortunes are more closely tied to batteries than lithium's: about 55 percent of all cobalt goes into battery chemicals compared to about 40 percent for lithium, according to a Dec. 4 BMO Capital Markets report.

Although there are no guarantees that deals will be struck, the cobalt miners, who are in their strongest position yet to secure funding, said Cormark Securities analyst MacMurray Whale. That is because of deficit forecasts due to constrained supply and expected soaring demand from the electric vehicle market. "All those elements together suggest to me that it can't be better," Whale said.

Mining hub in Canada

With more than 1,200 publicly listed mining companies, Canada has long been the global hub for mine developers with projects around the world. Vancouver-based Ecobalt's "path forward" is to first sign a long-term supply agreement, called an offtake, with one or more customers to provide a portion of the funds it needs to develop its Idaho cobalt project, CEO Paul Farquharson said in an email.

Once in place, this would significantly lower the risk for the project, making it more attractive for banks to provide debt financing and other investors to fund the balance.

Ecobalt outlined plans on Dec. 7 to produce for offtake a cobalt concentrate, a less-processed cobalt product than initially planned - a step that could slash as much as \$100 million, according to analysts, off its previous project capital cost estimate of \$187 million.

Ecobalt, whose Idaho project is the only fully-permitted, primary cobalt deposit in the United States, is the most likely of the Canadian cobalt developers to secure financing, possibly within six months, said Eight Capital analyst David Talbot. Canada's Nemaska Lithium and Mason Graphite, which both have projects in Quebec, could also secure funding in coming months, Talbot said. —Reuters

Bitcoin tops \$18,000 in debut on major bourse

NEW YORK: Bitcoin surged past \$18,000 after making its debut on a major global exchange but was trading lower yesterday, highlighting the volatility of the controversial digital currency that has some investors excited but others nervous.

Trading on a futures contract began at 6:00 pm (2300 GMT) on the Chicago board options exchange (Cboe) at a price of \$15,000. Heavy traffic made the Cboe website inaccessible in the first 20 minutes, but it said that "trading runs on very separate systems and was totally unaffected by the website issues." Around 1000 GMT yesterday, bitcoin was trading at \$17,600 per unit for the futures contract expiring on January 17 after reaching a high of \$18,850, according to Cboe's website, meaning it exceeded the highest value reached on alternative non-regulated internet platforms.

Futures expiring on February 14 and March 14 were higher, trading at \$19,140 and \$19,100 respectively at the same time yesterday.

A futures contract is a financial product that allows investors to bet on whether the currency's price will rise or fall. Bob Fitzsimmons, a futures manager at Wedbush Securities, described the opening as "quiet and steady," as Cboe data showed around a thousand trades were made in the first two hours.

The Cboe debut is expected to be followed a week later by a rival listing on Chicago Mercantile Exchange. It marks the first opportunity for professional traders to invest in bitcoin on a traditional platform, even as some steer away because of a lack of regulations surrounding the currency.

"It gives it legitimacy. It recognizes that it's an asset you can trade," said Nick Colas, of Data Trek research. 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 (CFTC), 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.

VIVA launches new Huawei Nova 2 Plus plan

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched the new Huawei Nova 2 Plus device with KD 10.5, KD 12 and KD 15 postpaid plans, that allows customers to enjoy the experience of selfie superstar.

The new Huawei Nova 2 Plus grants the customers the opportunity to take their selfie experience to a whole new level with a never-before 20MP front camera and exceptional low-light performance for adventure shots. The phone comes with light weight, strong and slim metallic body, 5.5 inch full HD screen, octa-core HiSilicon Kirin 659 processor 4GB RAM and 64GB internal memory, 2 rear cameras 12MP and 8MP, wide angle lens for broader scenery, 3340 mAh battery for longer life, AK4376a Hi-Fi for superior audio at low power consumption, in addition to Huawei



LONDON: A gold plated souvenir Bitcoin coin is arranged for a photograph on a smart phone displaying current value of a single bitcoin, and options to buy or sell, on an app for the digital asset broker, Coinbase, in London on November 20, 2017. —AFP

Going mainstream

The actual opening of the Cboe market, an electronic trading venue, was 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. The embrace by mainstream exchanges of bitcoin futures marks a sea change from the days when the digital currency was associated with drug dealing and other illicit activities.

The Cboe said it has taken precautions to address wild fluctuations: trading will be suspended for two minutes if bitcoin prices go up or down 10 percent, for instance. "We are committed to continue to work closely with the CFTC to monitor trading and foster the growth of a transparent, liquid and fair bitcoin futures market," the Cboe said.

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 clear-

ing 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.

The Cboe, for its part, sought to reassure investors. "We are committed to continue to work closely with the CFTC to monitor trading and foster the growth of a transparent, liquid and fair bitcoin futures market," it said in a statement.

Wedbush Securities has lifted its margin requirements and is only permitting trades from clients on a "selected" basis, said Fitzsimmons. "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

Uber's London license appeal to be heard next year

LONDON: Uber will defend its right to operate in London in court next year after the app was deemed unfit to run a taxi service and stripped of its license in its most important European market. Regulator Transport for London (TfL) shocked the Silicon Valley firm by rejecting its license renewal bid in September, citing its approach to reporting serious criminal offences and background checks on drivers. Uber's 40,000 drivers, representing around one in three of all private hire vehicles on the British capital's roads, can continue to take passengers until the appeals process is exhausted, which could take years. The legal battle pitches one of the world's richest cities against a tech giant known for its forays into new markets around the world that have prompted bans, restrictions and protests, including by drivers of London's famous black cabs. —Reuters



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Health

Cold turkey at Vietnam's compulsory drug rehab centers

The rehab model in Vietnam isn't efficient

HAIPHONG, Vietnam: During four years of compulsory rehab in Vietnam, Trung spent his drug-free days gluing together false eyelashes as part of what authorities billed as valuable 'work therapy' for his heroin addiction. But critics say the work of Trung and tens of thousands of others is tantamount to forced labor that rarely helps users extinguish their addiction. Police sent Trung to a state-sponsored rehab center on the outskirts of Hanoi, one of 132 in Vietnam, where he says he faced routine beatings from guards and hours of labor for nominal pay.

"Life there, from eating, to walking, to sleeping, to working—there was no human rights at all," explained the 50-year-old, who first began using drugs some three decades ago. He started using again soon after his release in 2014 — up to 80 percent of addicts from the centers relapse, according to official figures. Trung's labor therapy has since been replaced by a daily shot of methadone from a government-run drop-in clinic, which he insists is the only effective treatment he's had. Today he says he is keeping the addiction at bay, and is trying to mend ties with his only son.

Money-makers?

Between 2014 and 2016 more than 65,000 addicts cycled through the centers, usually a mix of compulsory patients sent by police with those admitted by exasperated relatives. Sometimes they house other marginal groups—the mentally ill and disabled, the homeless, the elderly—along with addicts like Trung, who support the treatment model on paper even if they resent the abuse inside. Most will stay for one or two years, or up to four if they are deemed unfit for release, and are subject to a range of daily labor—from farming cashews to making sportswear for Western clothing brands, which they can sometimes earn a meagre salary from.

Rights groups accuse officials at the centers of skimming from those salaries or pocketing boarding fees paid by some users' families, and say addicts are detained against their will. "These are a failure in terms of drug treatment, but they're incredibly successful in terms of generating money for government functionaries who run the centers," said Richard Pearhouse, an associate director at Human Rights Watch who authored a report about the facilities. Though similar centers exist throughout Asia, experts say the term length and the sheer number of facilities in Vietnam set it apart.

'Lock them away'

Conditions inside vary widely, though several overcrowded centers have experienced mass breakouts. The government has acknowledged the need to reform the facilities and has softened drug policies, piloting community-based treatment and methadone clinics. "Vietnamese laws and regulations are being perfected, especially when it comes to drug rehabilitation and treatment, to consider drug addicts patients," said Le Thanh Tung, director of the Department of Social Evils Prevention in Hai Phong city. The center houses some 500 addicts—mostly admitted by relatives—who after an initial period of cold turkey withdrawal behind padlocked doors are moved to dorm rooms.

Once clean, they are put to work sewing shoes or tending vegetable gardens and can receive vocational training as electricians or carpenters. Many in Vietnam think the scheme is a good thing. "Drug addicts do nothing good for the family or the community, they should be locked away," said Ms Luong, mother of two heroin-addicted sons. "When you have a drug addict in your house, you live in hell. I have two as such," she told AFP in tears. Her sons used to pawn her furniture to fund their habit, prompting her to send one to a rehab center. She kicked the other out and hasn't seen him in years. Like most of the 200,000 registered drug addicts in Vietnam, her sons were hooked on heroin, though methamphetamine is increasingly popular among Vietnam's youth.

No silver bullet

Several organizations are trying to roll out community-based care to allow recovering addicts to lead normal lives, and even keep steady work. But some programs have struggled to gain traction. "The number one obstacle for us is the lack of awareness about how complex addiction treatment is, people want to have a silver bullet," said Oanh Khuat, executive director of the Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI), an NGO that promotes voluntary and community-based programs.

That approach is one that heroin addict Quan thinks could work for him. He spent three months and nearly \$900 on a voluntary program—another rehab option run by the government—hoping for better treatment he might have received at a compulsory center. But he quickly started using again after he left. "The rehab model in Vietnam isn't efficient," the chain-smoking 46-year-old told AFP. He's home again with his family, but jobless and getting high every day. "We see no help, nothing from the local authorities," he said. "They have always created trouble for me, supervising me as if I was a criminal." —AFP

“ We see no help, nothing from the local authorities ”

Sanofi urges Philippines to lift dengue vaccine suspension



MANILA: Protesters hold a mock mosquito (left) and a syringe (right) during a protest in front of the Department of Health office in Manila on December 8, 2017. —AFP

MANILA: French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi yesterday urged the Philippines to lift the suspension of its anti-dengue vaccine, insisting it was safe, but the government accused the firm of "dishonesty". Sales of Dengvaxia and a landmark public immunization program using the vaccine were suspended by the Philippines this month after Sanofi warned it could lead to "severe" symptoms for people who had not previously been infected with dengue. But the company's regional head said yesterday that removing the vaccine from the Philippine market did the public a "disservice", as it was safe and effective for most Filipinos. "That will be a regression in the country's approach in solving a major public health concern and a disservice to the Filipino people," Thomas Triomphe, Sanofi Pasteur's head of Asia-Pacific, said at a senate hearing in the capital Manila. "Doing so would in

effect leave 90 percent of the population at the mercy of an epidemic which has been found to be preventable," Triomphe added, referring to health department figures on the number of Filipinos who contract dengue. In late November, Sanofi released findings of a new study that it said showed Dengvaxia could lead to severe infections for vaccinated people who caught the disease for the first time. The vaccination program was launched last year by the administration of previous president Benigno Aquino, making the Philippines the first nation to use Dengvaxia on a mass scale. About 830,000 schoolchildren had received at least one dose of the vaccine under the public program while 32,000 patients were vaccinated in private hospitals, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said yesterday. —AFP

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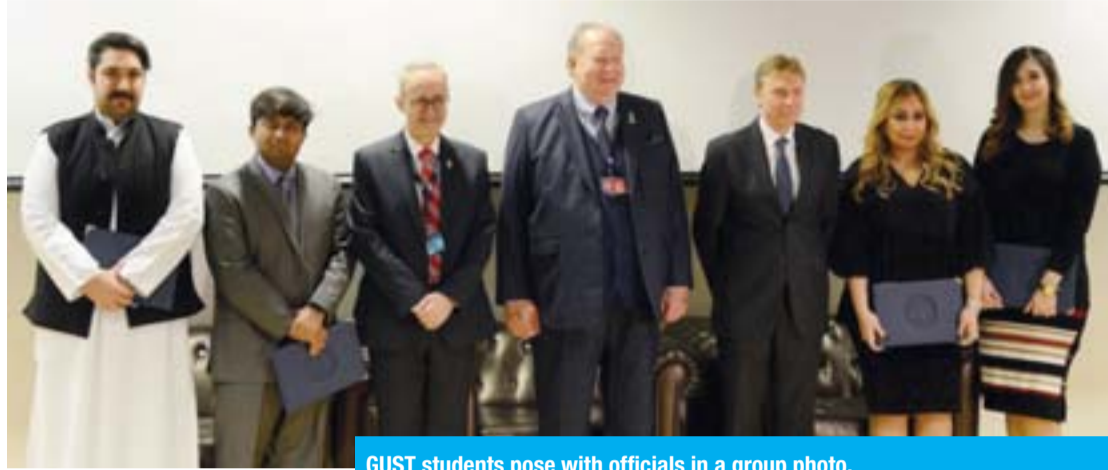
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What's On

Jazeera Airways celebrates successful consultancy workshop with GUST



GUST students pose with officials in a group photo.



GUST honors Al-Jazeera Airways



Student Rawan Albalani

Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low cost airline, operating regionally and internationally, announced yesterday in a press conference and ceremony held at Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) campus, that after a successful project completion by four students from GUST's MBA program earlier this year, Jazeera Airways has been chosen as the university's first consultancy workshop moving into 2018. The press conference was attended by the Jazeera Airways team, GUST management and MBA students, along with local media partners.

In 2016, Jazeera Airways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GUST that allows for an effective collaboration between both private entities, to share relevant business insights through student integration from their various majors. The MoU seeks to further develop aviation and business related academic studies, introduce new academic content to the curriculum, and provide graduate and undergraduate students with opportunities to explore locally-relevant real world challenges.

While working under the supervision of Jazeera Airways staff, a group of GUST

MBA students, Madouna Antoine Ghanem, Sulaiman Abdulaziz Al-Awadhi, Menino Xavier Noronha, and Rawan Osamah Ballani, assessed the meaning of customer loyalty and its inherent role in affecting buyers' decisions, which produced a productive case study that led to plausible recommendations for the award winning carrier. The students were awarded during the press conference for their tremendous work on the project.

During the press conference, GUST President Professor Donald Bates honored Jazeera Airways with a token of appreciation for the valuable support provided by their in-house team to GUST's first group of students. "We are pleased to have forged this fruitful collaboration with Jazeera Airways, a true home-grown pioneer. GUST is committed to the development of upcoming projects and looks forward to retaining a knowledge base that spans from finance and legal, to marketing and HR. As we progress into 2018, no doubt the New Year will be fruitful for our students and instructors alike as they witness and partake in the new movements by Jazeera Airways" said Bates.

With a focus on building long lasting



GUST President Professor Donald Bates

relationships with the business community, GUST's MBA program is indeed the graduate program of choice for all major stakeholders. An enviable position that GUST is determined to maintain and further enhance; providing its students with a well-rounded educational experience. GUST has been at the forefront of local institutions when it comes to providing internship programs, scholarship opportunities abroad, and even tools to search and

apply for a suitable career upon graduation with its newly launched internal recruitment platform.

Jazeera Airways also awarded vouchers to the students as a small token of appreciation for their hard work that included detailed surveys, focus groups, market and industry research, and a competitive analysis.

Rohit Ramachandran, CEO of Jazeera Airways said, "GUST has made its mark

academically over the years, and this project proves its prominent abilities. This partnership reflects our corporate social responsibility approach to build future Kuwaiti generations with advanced skill sets, and equip them to be employable in the private sector. As the first private and non-government airline in the Middle East, following a progressive business model that has received recognition on several fronts, we are best placed to offer GUST a unique working experience. At Jazeera, we have been running a successful graduate program since October 2016 which has admitted 37 graduates to the scheme so far - many of whom have gone on to full employment with the airline."

It is worth noting that Jazeera Airways' long term objectives include providing important opportunities for the youth to prosper which is also demonstrated through its Graduate Development Program, a six month training program across various divisions in Jazeera Airways. At the end of the tenure, graduates would have gained a wealth of understanding in the commercial aviation business, technical fields, while also improving their career opportunities.

KU hosts Japanese Speech Contest



Center of Community Service and Continuous Education at Kuwait University organized the 11th Japanese Speech Contest with collaboration of Embassy of Japan in Kuwait and the Japanese Society Association. The contest was under the name of Vice President of Kuwait University Dr Jassem Al-Kandari. The contest was held on Thursday December 7th, at Kuwait University campus in Khaldiya. Fatema Bahman from the center, the Counselor at the Japanese Embassy Ueda, the Cultural Attache

Bantani, and the President of the Japanese Society Association Sugiyama attended the contest. Six persons participated in the contest and they showed their abilities using the Japanese language in front of an audience whom are interested in the Japanese culture. Some students presented an episode of the famous Japanese anime 'Maruko-chan' dubbed with their voices in Japanese. Zahra Ahmed won first place, Mousa Al-Bloushi won the second, and Hisham Najem won the third.

IIDAA formed for differently abled children

An Indian Embassy registered voluntary organization for Differently Abled Kids called India International Differently Abled Association (IIDAA) was officially launched on December 8th at the Indian Central School auditorium.

The organization is headed by Dr Prathap Unnithan as its president, the

Principal of ICS Dr Shantha Maria as patron and Rev Antony Gonsalves as General Secretary. IIDAA's mission is to help as many kids with learning disabilities as possible.

The main highlight of the launching ceremony was a mega musical drama "Any Dream Will Do" which was conceived and performed by over a hundred volunteers of IIDAA from the three most prominent church youth groups EPIC (Abbasiya), SPY (Salmiya) and C YOU, Kuwait City and included over a dozen differently abled kids. The successful event was an emotional occasion for many parents who saw their children on stage and performing. IIDAA sincerely thanks all its volunteers and well-wishers.



Kuwait Theatre Group honors play cast

Board chairman of the Kuwait Theatre Group Ahmad Al-Salman stressed the significance of the achievement made by the 'Atsah' play which won the gold medal during the Jordan's 24th

Theatre Festival that recently concluded in Amman, Jordan. Speaking on the occasion, Salman stressed that the group would hold a special dinner to honor the play's cast along with those of other plays. He added that the honoring ceremony would be held under auspices and with the presence of Dr Bader Al-Doweesh, assistant secretary general of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL). Salman added that the play cast includes a number of creative promising young artists who are expected to keep blossoming from one festival to another.



TV

AM MOVIES ACTION 01:00 Street 02:40 Jurassic World 04:45 Compadres 06:30 The Legend Of Zorro 08:40 Street 10:10 Jurassic World 12:20 Project Almanac 14:10 The Legend Of Zorro 16:25 Point Break 18:25 The Last Witch Hunter 20:15 Ant-Man 22:15 Tiger House 23:40 The Asian Connection

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

ANIMAL PLANET HD 00:50 Untamed & Uncut 01:45 Trechouse Masters 02:40 Cats 101 03:35 Shamwari: A Wild Life 04:25 Monsters Inside Me 05:15 River Monsters 06:02 Deadly Islands 06:49 Untamed & Uncut 07:36 Orangutan Island 08:25 Shamwari: A Wild Life 09:15 Trechouse Masters 10:10 Cats 101 11:05 Deadly Islands 12:00 Shamwari: A Wild Life 12:55 Monsters Inside Me 13:50 River Monsters 14:45 Cats 101 15:40 Deadly Islands 16:35 Untamed & Uncut 17:30 Trechouse Masters 18:25 North Woods Law 19:20 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You 20:15 Cats 101 21:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life 22:05 North Woods Law 23:00 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You 23:55 Deadly Islands

BBC FIRST 00:40 Call The Midwife: Christmas Special 2015 01:25 SS-GB 02:30 Father Brown 03:25 Call The Midwife: Christmas Special 2016 04:15 Death In Paradise 05:10 Casualty 06:00 Casualty 07:00 Death In Paradise 08:00 Casualty 08:50 Casualty 09:45 Death In Paradise 10:45 New Tricks 11:40 Doctor Who 12:45 Stella 13:35 Casualty 14:25 Death In Paradise 15:20 Doctor Who 16:25 Stella 17:15 New Tricks 18:15 Holly City 19:05 Death In Paradise 20:00 Five By Five 20:05 Silent Witness 21:10 Silent Witness 22:10 Line Of Duty 23:10 Orphan Black 23:55 Class

crime investigation network 00:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos 02:00 It Takes A Killer 02:30 It Takes A Killer 03:00 Jack The Ripper 04:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 05:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos 06:00 It Takes A Killer 06:30 It Takes A Killer 07:00 Homicide Hunter 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 Polygam 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 The First 48 20:00 The First 48 21:00 The First 48 22:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill 23:00 The First 48

00:05 Graves 00:35 Nightcap 00:55 Comedy Central Roast Of David Hasselhoff 02:10 Chappelle's Show 02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 03:25 Tosh.0 03:50 Chappelle's Show 04:15 Kroll Show 04:40 Key And Peele 05:05 Important Things With Demetri Martin 05:30 Impractical Jokers 05:55 Disaster Date 06:20 Ridiculousness Arabia 06:50 Frankenfood 07:15 Frankenfood 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 Demetri 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 Frankenfood 13:05 Frankenfood 13:30 Important Things With Demetri 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 3alwagef 16:30 Impractical Jokers 16:55 Friends 17:20 Friends 17:45 Disaster Date 18:10 Ridiculousness Arabia 18:35 Frankenfood 19:00 Frankenfood

ID 00:50 Murder By Numbers 01:45 Chandra Levy: A Mistress Murdered 02:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall 03:35 I Speak For The Dead 04:30 Murder By Numbers 05:25 The Locator 05:50 The Locator 06:20 I Almost Got Away With It 07:10 Evil Online 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 Murder Calls 12:55 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It 14:45 Evil Online 15:40 I Am Homicide 16:35 Gone 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 Murder Chose Me 23:00 Guilty Rich 23:55 American Monster

Disney HD 00:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 00:35 Binnie 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 Binnie And The Ghost 03:30 Binnie 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 Binnie 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 Bunk'd 09:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series 09:35 Tangled: The Series 10:00 Teen Beach 2 10:10 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 Bizaardvark 15:55 Elena Of Avalor 16:20 Stuck In The Middle 17:00 Tangled: The Series 17:25 K.C. Undercover 17:50 K.C. Undercover 18:15 Descendants Wicked World 18:20 Bunk'd 18:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series 19:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 19:15 Liv And Maddie 19:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 20:05 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny 20:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 20:35 Disney The Lodge 21:00 Alex & Co. 21:25 Alex & Co. 21:50 Lofirock 22:15 Lofirock 22:40 Evermoor Chronicles 23:05 Rolling With The Ronks

Disney Junior 00:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers 00:25 Unbungalievable 00:35 Loopedoo 00:55 Henry Hugglemonster 01:15 Calimero 01:30 Art Attack 01:55 Henry Hugglemonster 02:05 Loopedoo 02:20 Henry Hugglemonster 02:35 Calimero 02:50 Henry Hugglemonster 03:05 Art Attack 03:30 The Hive 03:40 Loopedoo 03:55 Henry Hugglemonster 04:10 Art Attack 04:35 Loopedoo 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 Loopedoo 07:00 Henry Hugglemonster 07:15 Calimero 07:30 Loopedoo 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 A Goofy Fairy Tale 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 15:55 Sofia The First 16:00 PJ Masks 16:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers 17:00 Doc McStuffins 17:30 Vampirina 18:00 The Great Never Sea Conquest 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 22:00 A Goofy Fairy Tale 22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons 23:00 P-King Duckling 23:30 Puppy Dog Pals

00:00 Restaurant Impossible 01:00 Mystery Dinners 01:30 Mystery Dinners 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 03:00 Man Fire Food 03:30 Man Fire Food 04:00 Chopped Junior 04:30 Guy's Grocery Games 05:00 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 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 21:00 Man Fire Food 21:30 Man Fire Food 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 23:00 Chopped

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

Street Outlaws 01:05 Gold Rush 01:50 Gold Divers 02:35 Cooper's Treasure: The Hunt For A Secret Fortune 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 Gold Rush 10:57 Gold Divers 11:42 Cooper's Treasure: The Hunt For A Secret Fortune 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? 21:00 Madiba 21:50 Bushcraft Build-Off 22:40 Ed Stafford: Left For Dead 23:30 Diesel Brothers

06:00 Disney I1 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 Lab Rats: Sink Or Swim 12:55 Pair Of Kings 13:20 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 18:00 Supa Strikas 18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man 18:35 Disney I1 19:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero 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 Elite Force 22:10 Lab Rats Elite Force 22:35 Phineas And Ferb 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

00:10 What Really Happened 01:00 What Really Happened 02:00 Clash Of Warriors 03:00 Missing In Alaska 03:50 Ancient Aliens 04:40 Hoard Hunters 05:30 Million Dollar Genius 06:20 What Really Happened 07:10 The Universe 08:00 Clash Of Warriors 09:00 Missing In Alaska 10:00 Ancient Aliens 11:00 Hoard Hunters 12:00 Million Dollar Genius 13:00 What Really Happened 14:00 Clash Of Warriors 15:00 Missing In Alaska 16:00 Ancient Aliens 17:00 Hoard Hunters 18:00 The Universe 19:00 What Really Happened 20:00 Clash Of Warriors 21:00 Missing In Alaska 22:00 Ancient Aliens 23:00 UFO Files

Million Dollar Genius 01:00 What Really Happened 02:00 Clash Of Warriors 03:00 Missing In Alaska 03:50 Ancient Aliens 04:40 Hoard Hunters 05:30 Million Dollar Genius 06:20 What Really Happened 07:10 The Universe 08:00 Clash Of Warriors 09:00 Missing In Alaska 10:00 Ancient Aliens 11:00 Hoard Hunters 12:00 Million Dollar Genius 13:00 What Really Happened 14:00 Clash Of Warriors 15:00 Missing In Alaska 16:00 Ancient Aliens 17:00 Hoard Hunters 18:00 The Universe 19:00 What Really Happened 20:00 Clash Of Warriors 21:00 Missing In Alaska 22:00 Ancient Aliens 23:00 UFO Files

00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 00:36 Rabbids Invasion 01:00 Rabbids Invasion 01:24 Sanjay And Craig 01:48 Sanjay And Craig 02:12 Winx Club 02:36 Winx Club 03:00 Harvey Beaks 03:24 Harvey Beaks 03:48 The Loud House 04:12 The Loud House 04:36 Breadwinners 05:00 Breadwinners 05:24 Get Blake 05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 07:24 Rabbids Invasion 07:48 Get Blake 08:12 Harvey Beaks 08:36 Sanjay And Craig 09:00 SpongeBob SquarePants 09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 09:48 Henry Danger 10:12 Game Shakers 10:36 Regal Academy 11:00 Winx Club 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants 11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 12:12 The Loud House 12:36 Rabbids Invasion

00:21 Ultimate Wheels 01:11 American Pickers 02:00 Swamp People 02:50 Counting Cars 03:15 American Pickers 04:05 Time Team 05:00 Counting Cars 05:25 Counting Cars 06:00 Ultimate Wheels 06:50 American Pickers 07:40 Counting Cars 08:05 Counting Cars 08:30 Pawn Stars 08:55 Pawn Stars 09:20 Aussie Pickers 10:10 Ax Men 11:00 Ultimate Wheels 11:50 American Pickers 12:40 Counting Cars 13:05 Counting Cars

01:55 So Cosmo 02:50 Celebrity Style Story 03:20 Celebrity Style Story 03:50 So Cosmo 04:40 So Cosmo 05:30 Celebrity Style Story 06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 06:55 El News 07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 08:10 El News: Daily Pop 09:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 12:00 El News 12:15 WAGs La 13:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 14:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 15:00 El News 15:15 El News: Daily Pop 16:15 The Platinum Life 17:10 The Platinum Life 18:05 The Platinum Life 19:00 El News 20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 22:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 23:00 El News 23:15 WAGs La

00:15 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti 01:10 Rustic Adventures Argentina 01:40 Croatia's Finest 02:05 Sara's Australia Unveiled 02:35 What's For Sale? 03:30 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia 04:25 Wineroads 05:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 06:15 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia 06:40 Stepping Out 07:10 Croatia's Finest 07:35 Sara's Australia Unveiled 08:05 What's For Sale? Scandinavia 09:00 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia 09:55 Wineroads 10:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 11:45 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia 12:10 Stepping Out 12:40 Tom's Istanbul Delight 13:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 13:35 What's For Sale? Scandinavia 14:30 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia 14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 15:25 Wineroads 16:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 17:15 Carnival Eats 17:40 Stepping Out 18:10 Migue's Feasts 18:35 Maximum Foodie 19:05 Wineroads 19:30 Wineroads 20:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 21:00 Carnival Eats 21:30 Stepping Out 22:00 Migue's Feasts 22:25 Maximum Foodie 22:55 Tom's Istanbul Delight 23:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 23:50 What's For Sale?

00:10 Facing... 01:00 Live Free Or Die 02:00 Supercar Megabuild 03:00 Straits Dreams 04:00 Facing... 05:00 Building Wild 06:00 Route Awakening 06:30 Route Awakening 07:00 Bad Trip 08:00 Air Crash Investigation 09:00 Building Wild 10:00 Yukon Gold 11:00 Cold Water Gold 12:00 Brain Games 12:30 How To Win At Everything 13:00 Bad Trip 14:00 Science Of Stupid 14:30 Science Of Stupid 15:00 Route Awakening 15:30 Route Awakening 16:30 Yukon Gold 17:00 Yukon Gold 17:40 Air Crash Investigation 18:00 Seconds From Disaster 20:00 Yukon Gold 21:40 Air Crash Investigation 22:30 Seconds From Disaster 23:20 Brain Games 23:45 How To Win At Everything

00:10 Facing... 01:00 Live Free Or Die 02:00 Supercar Megabuild 03:00 Straits Dreams 04:00 Facing... 05:00 Building Wild 06:00 Route Awakening 06:30 Route Awakening 07:00 Bad Trip 08:00 Air Crash Investigation 09:00 Building Wild 10:00 Yukon Gold 11:00 Cold Water Gold 12:00 Brain Games 12:30 How To Win At Everything 13:00 Bad Trip 14:00 Science Of Stupid 14:30 Science Of Stupid 15:00 Route Awakening 15:30 Route Awakening 16:30 Yukon Gold 17:00 Yukon Gold 17:40 Air Crash Investigation 18:00 Seconds From Disaster 20:00 Yukon Gold 21:40 Air Crash Investigation 22:30 Seconds From Disaster 23:20 Brain Games 23:45 How To Win At Everything

00:10 Facing... 01:00 Live Free Or Die 02:00 Supercar Megabuild 03:00 Straits Dreams 04:00 Facing... 05:00 Building Wild 06:00 Route Awakening 06:30 Route Awakening 07:00 Bad Trip 08:00 Air Crash Investigation 09:00 Building Wild 10:00 Yukon Gold 11:00 Cold Water Gold 12:00 Brain Games 12:30 How To Win At Everything 13:00 Bad Trip 14:00 Science Of Stupid 14:30 Science Of Stupid 15:00 Route Awakening 15:30 Route Awakening 16:30 Yukon Gold 17:00 Yukon Gold 17:40 Air Crash Investigation 18:00 Seconds From Disaster 20:00 Yukon Gold 21:40 Air Crash Investigation 22:30 Seconds From Disaster 23:20 Brain Games 23:45 How To Win At Everything

00:20 Return Of The Lion 01:10 Caught In The Act GPU Reversions 02:00 Man-Eater Of The Congo 02:50 Monster Fish 03:45 The Invaders 04:40 Animal Fight Club 4.5 05:35 Man-Eater Of The Congo 06:30 Monster Fish 07:25 The Invaders 08:20 Animal Fight Club 4.5 09:15 Savage Kingdom: Uprising 10:10 Deadly Instincts 11:05 Secret Life Of Predators 12:00 Fish Tank Kings 12:55 Predator Battleground 13:50 Monster Fish 14:45 Cameramen Who Dare 15:40 Animal Fight Club 4.5 16:35 Savage Kingdom: Uprising 17:30 Deadly Instincts 18:25 Secret Life Of Predators 19:20 Cameramen Who Dare 20:10 Animal Fight Club 4.5 21:00 Savage Kingdom: Uprising 21:50 Deadly Instincts 22:40 Secret Life Of Predators 23:30 Fish Tank Kings

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00:02 Wuthering Heights 01:55 Eat That Question - Frank Zappa In His Own 03:40 David Lynch: The Art Life 05:20 The Best Of Me 07:20 Noble

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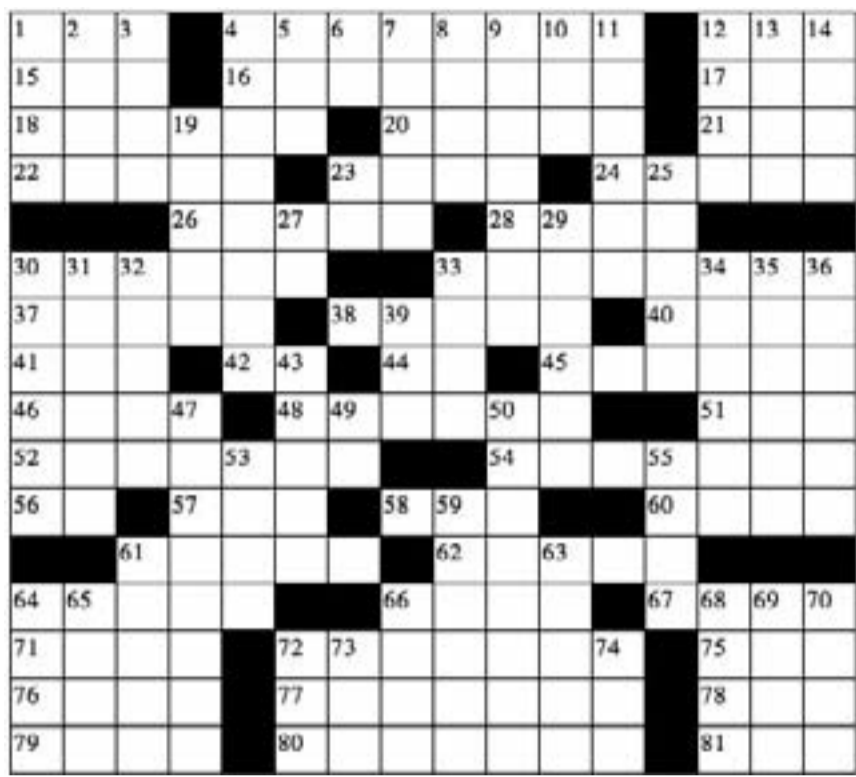
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CROSSWORD 1782



ACROSS

- 1. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
4. Of or relating to the French dynasty founded by Hugh Capet.
12. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
15. An informal term for a father.
16. Acting according to certain accepted standards.
17. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
18. The capital of Eritrea.
20. Any of many long-legged birds that wade in water in search of food.
21. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
22. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
24. The principal evil jinni in Islamic mythology.
26. Relating to or having the characteristics of bees.
28. Being two more than ninety.
30. Celestial shepherd god.
37. Ludicrously odd.
38. Lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike.
40. The content of cognition.
41. An inflammatory disease of connective tissue with variable features including fever and weakness and fatigability and joint pains and skin lesions on the face or neck or arms.
42. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
44. A state in northwestern North America.
45. Consisting of or made of cedar.
46. (Greek mythology) Daughter of Zeus and Demeter.
48. New Zealand timber tree resembling the cypress.
51. The vessel that contains the seeds of a plant (not the seeds themselves).
52. A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
54. Coat a metal with an oxide coat.
56. A public promotion of some product or service.
57. A light touch or stroke.
58. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
60. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
62. Insectivorous usually semiaquatic web-footed amphibian with smooth moist skin and long hind legs.
64. (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
67. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
71. One of a set of small pieces of stiff paper marked in various ways and used for playing games or for telling fortunes.
75. An associate degree in applied science.
76. Tall New Zealand timber tree.
77. No longer active in your work or profession.
78. Government agency created in 1974 to license and regulate nuclear power plants.
79. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
80. Sharply exact or accurate or delimited.
81. A doctor's degree in preventive medicine.

DOWN

- 1. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
2. A vigorous blow.
3. Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
4. Hard outer covering or case of certain organisms such as arthropods and turtles.
5. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
6. The ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle.
7. King of Northumbria who was converted to Christianity (585-633).
8. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
9. Someone who provides an index.
10. (informal) Of the highest quality.
11. (Greek mythology) Any of the 50 sea nymphs who were daughters of the sea god Nereus.
12. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
13. East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
14. A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.
19. A genus of Indridae.
23. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
25. (botany) Divided into two lobes.
27. Not out.
29. A high-kicking dance of French origin performed by a female chorus line.
31. Leave or unload, esp. of passengers or cargo.
32. Of a stern or strict bearing or demeanor.
33. A member of a North American Indian people speaking one of the Hokan language.
34. Extinct small mostly diurnal lower primates that fed on leaves and fruit.
35. A thin membrane lining the closed cavities of the body.
36. A bicycle with two sets of pedals and two seats.
39. The sound made by corvine birds.
43. Jordan's port.
47. Textual matter that is added onto a publication.
49. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
50. A desert in southwestern Africa - largely Botswana.
53. A small cake leavened with yeast.
55. An informal term for a father.
59. Relating to or characteristic of Arabs.
61. (Hinduism and Buddhism) The effects of the person's actions that determine his destiny in his next incarnation.
63. Verbal abuse.
65. Being the one previously mentioned or spoken of.
66. The officer below the master on a commercial ship.
68. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on land.
69. The lean flesh of a fish that is often farmed.
70. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
72. Alsatian artist and poet who was cofounder of Dadaism in Zurich.
73. (Irish) The sea personified.
74. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Feeling very nostalgic and domestic could be calling to your attention the need for security and a sense of roots. Anything relating to family, home, relatives or real estate may play a bigger part in your life. You want to belong on a private, intimate and personal level. You long to be needed and to feel needed. You are quite practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste and emotion. You are called on to make use of your natural abilities and common sense. Friendships and interaction in group activities play a more important part for you this afternoon. Friends are our only true riches and the satisfaction that comes from doing things cooperatively is wonderful.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a good time to work on a project of a large or complicated manner. You might enjoy stepping back to see what others have to offer—observing. You should enjoy great headway later as you and others struggle to complete this project. Care must be exercised this afternoon as you could find yourself making some inappropriate choices—in particular as to how they could affect your living situation. You may suffer from a bit of wanderlust and find yourself looking for adventure and something new and different. You could be seeking out some form of independence and allow yourself to go to places that you have never gone before. These experiences could bring you romantic encounters, a love that might not be too choosy—careful.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Many projects come to your attention—recognition is easy to find. Your ideas gain a great deal of attention. Since you will be feeling so healthy and natural, you are likely to be the one taking the lead in an important project—attitude is everything. You should have all of the support that you could possibly want from those around you. Finding yourself on the same wavelength with others is a most welcomed situation. General good feelings are in the air and should have you in the mood to think about just how much support and harmony you really have in your life and how you might return the encouragement of others. You could probably sell an ice house to an eskimo with little problem; you are very persuasive and will appear calm and in control.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Optimism is easy to find this Tuesday. This is a fine time to try out some new ideas or engage in some new business dealings or investments. Compromise should be exercised whenever possible. Mental stimulation from others is key for you right now and it is a good idea to make every effort to cooperate and compromise when the opportunity arises. At home this evening, it is good that you always look for ways to have family members together in open conversation times. Sharing chores is good as one person can become exhausted doing everything solo. Insights into purchases for the family can be considered now, which may include a new car, or groceries. You may be of great help to someone today without even knowing it.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Successful leadership qualities are in your favor. You are able to handle most any situation. After the workday is over, you might spend a little bit of time in a bookstore or a library. You want adventure, freedom and to go where no one has gone. These are the things you read about, and you might even consider renting a small place, perhaps in a strip mall, and creating your own business that consists of travel hints, how to pack less, where to go that would match a person's personality or talents or desire to become involved in an adventure. If you cannot afford any of this, it may be time to start planning and saving for setting up a business. A family member that might have your enthusiasm for the out-of-doors may decide to join you in your little venture.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You will find materialistic things on your mind. The whole idea of saving money to retire may have been introduced to you from time to time but now you have given this much more thought. Perhaps you and your co-workers could request retirement planning advice through the company. Some companies add an incentive for saving—it encourages the employees. It is something you might have thought about and talking to the boss is a fine idea. This is a perfect time for new ideas, a breakthrough in thinking, a novel approach. In the workplace, the way you arrange a display or take care of a customer may come to the attention of all your friends and they copy your behavior—the business improves. Solutions to old problems seem to be very inventive.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may find yourself in the mood for some rather deep and penetrating conversations or thoughts. Expect some real insight into your own inner workings or psychology and in a form that you can manage. Procuring and sharing information assume more emotional significance for you just now, and that would be achieved in any way it comes: business insights, personal insights or over the back-fence gossip. Communicating feelings becomes important. You may find yourself out and about hunting for new clothes before the next family celebration. There is much anticipation between you and your family and friends regarding the new year celebrations and you can feel it in the air as you shop. You make a discovery this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It may be a perfect time to be assertive and to move forward in your career decisions. This should be a wonderful time to be with others and to work together. Someone in authority could come to you with a proposition for a very special task. Your management and directional abilities are prominent. There is a yearning for adventure and far horizons that beckons to you now. There is an opportunity to join up with a few sports enthusiasts and you look forward to getting together what you will need for this event. To roam, to wander and wonder, to seek freedom and go where no one has gone before, are the things that are deep and powerful longings. You have a great deal of energy that runs over into the evening and you make plans.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You should find this a particularly enjoyable day, perhaps filled with some renewed appreciation for all that is beautiful and fine. A feeling of value and valuing may find you bestowing affection on those near you. Your ability to make good commonsense decisions concerning group matters is appreciated. You seem to be blessed with a natural sense of what the public wants and needs at this time. Clear decisions that influence others could be made now. Anything that gets accomplished this day will probably be due to the fact that you took the initiative to get the ball rolling. You could feel that you have a good support system. Being as flexible as possible will help you move forward with others. Magazines with gossip news entertain you this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

The need for emotional security is strong. Charisma, self-transformation, the development of personal power—all play a bigger role in your life now, more than ever before. You present a most positive and upbeat side while you lecture or speak to young people that need to hear what you have to say. Fun and upbeat activity that helps you to teach will prove successful. You will be able to make a positive difference. Work this afternoon may include shoveling snow or chopping wood. Moral issues and the love of others are much more important now than material concerns—which may create a most unselfish time. This afternoon is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends. You are happy to be included in whatever activities are considered.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You are quite talented at figuring things out by digging beneath the surface and getting at what is beneath and behind a situation. This talent is what could have a friend or associate coming to you for help and advice regarding something quite personal and emotional. You should have little problem in handling and understanding any sort of emotional material. Your friendships will be strengthened by your compassion at this time. You may be a bit more on the reflective side this afternoon—wanting to spend more time with your loved ones. You may not feel very outgoing or want to present yourself to the world. Too many parties lately may have you looking for some quiet time. You work your magic in a relationship this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Because you could be feeling an urgency to get total control over your life, you may find yourself with a greater interest or experience in healing and investing—and of course, the great mysteriousness of life and death. Sensual needs are but one of the life issues that you could find being emphasized for you now. You are embarking on a phase of emotional directness and impulsiveness now, one that is marked by forceful and powerful feelings. Emotional beginnings and perhaps even the establishment of some new habit could be what you are dealing with at this time. Just be sure that they are good changes as they will set the tone for quite some time to come. Tonight you may need to call a halt to someone that has borrowed one too many things.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Countries of Europe

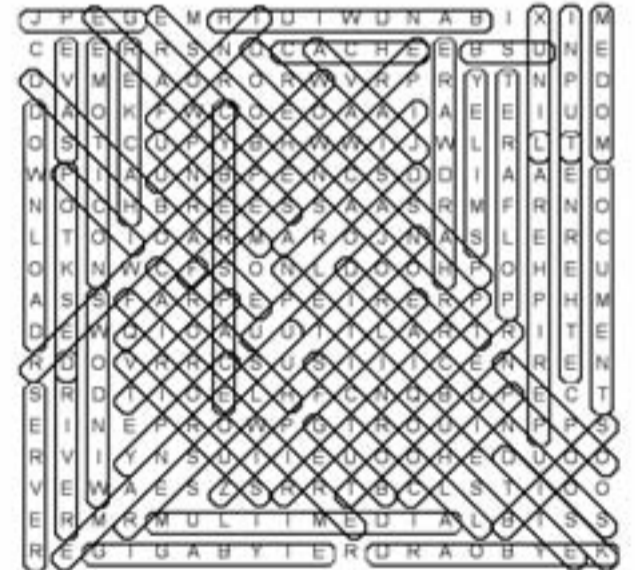
Find and circle all of the Countries of Europe that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message. Note: IRELAND and NORTHERN IRELAND are separately hidden and do not overlap.



- ALBANIA, ANDORRA, ARMENIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CHADIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ENGLAND, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MACEDONIA, MALTA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, NETHERLANDS, NORTHERN IRELAND, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAN MARINO, SCOTLAND, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UKRAINE, SERBIA-MONTENEGRO, VATICAN CITY, WALES.

Yesterday's Solution

Computer Jargon 2



- ASCII, BANDWIDTH, BIOS, BUG, CACHE, CHIP, COPY, CPU, CRASH, CYBERSPACE, DATABASE, DESKTOP, DISK, DOCUMENT, DRIVER, DOWNLOAD, JAV, EMOTICON, ETHERNET, FAQ, FIREWIRE, FRONT, FREEWARE, GIGABYTE, HACKER, HARDWARE, INPUT, JAVA, PERIPHERAL, PORT, PRINTER, REBOOT, USB, RESOLUTION, SAVE, MULTIMEDIA, NETIQUETTE, OPEN, PASSWORD, PC, SERVER, SOUNDCARD, SPYWARE, TERAFLOP, TROJAN HORSE, UPLOAD, USERNAME, VIRUS, WEB BROWSER, WINDOWS, ZIP FILE.

The hidden word is: MICROPROCESSOR

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku

9x9 grid for a Daily Sudoku puzzle with some numbers pre-filled.

Yesterday's Solution

9x9 grid for a completed Yesterday's Sudoku puzzle.

Kuwait Times Classifieds

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Cold with light to moderate freshening at times over costal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
-----------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	19 °C	12 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	20 °C	03 °C
ABDALY	19 °C	04 °C
BUBYAN	19 °C	04 °C
JAHRA	19 °C	06 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	19 °C	08 °C
SALMIYAH	18 °C	12 °C
AHMADI	19 °C	09 °C
NUWAISIB	21 °C	08 °C
WAFRA	19 °C	05 °C
SALMY	17 °C	05 °C

SFC. CHART 11/12/2017 0000 UTC	
MAX.	MIN.
21 °C	04 °C
20 °C	05 °C
23 °C	07 °C
22 °C	07 °C

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	12/12	Fair	21 °C	04 °C	NW	15 - 45 km/h
Wednesday	12/13	Partly cloudy to cloudy	20 °C	05 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 28 km/h
Thursday	12/14	Warm and some scattered clouds will appear	23 °C	07 °C	SE-NW	10 - 32 km/h
Friday	12/15	Mostly Sunny	22 °C	07 °C	NW-N	08 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	05:07
Sunrise	06:32
Zuhr	11:41
Asr	14:31
Sunset	16:50
Isha	18:12

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	19 °C
MIN. Temp.	04 °C
MAX. RH	60 %
MIN. RH	17 %
MAX. Wind	NW 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
Kuwait Airways	22087426
Jazeera Airways	171
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Czech Airlines	22417901/2433141
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

CHANGE OF NAME

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

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

SITUATION WANTED

Admin/ facilities/ accommodation/ transportation manager with 20 years experience in Gulf, seeking suitable placement. Contact: +965 55259659. (C 5366) 7-12-2017

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 12/12/2017				Departure Flights on Tuesday 12/12/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:25
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	UAE	859	Dubai	21:35
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
WAN	416	Beirut	01:05	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:50
KAC	102	London	01:20				
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45				
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50				
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00				
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15				
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20				
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30				
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30				
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55				
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55				
KAC	414	Bangkok	03:05				
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10				
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15				
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50				
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00				
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15				
KAC	418	Manila	04:25				
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25				
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35				
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50				
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55				
JZR	609	Hyderabad	05:10				
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:10				
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20				
JZR	143	Doha	05:25				
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25				
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30				
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40				
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40				
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10				
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30				
WAN	342	Sohag	06:35				
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50				
BAW	157	London	07:15				
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35				
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35				
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00				
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35				
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05				
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05				
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10				
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40				
JZR	787	Riyadh	09:50				
IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
IRA	675	Lar	10:40				
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00				
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15				
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30				
WAN	134	Doha	11:45				
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55				
ZAV	4102	IQA	12:00				
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:10				
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30				
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45				
FDB	075	Dubai	12:45				
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50				

Lifestyle | Gossip

Plant wowed Royal Albert Hall with Hynde duets

Robert Plant was joined on stage by The Pretenders' Chrissie Hynde at London's Royal Albert Hall on Friday. The Led Zeppelin legend and the 66-year-old rocker wowed fans at the iconic venue with a rendition of her bands hit '2,000 Miles' and Ersel Hickey's 'Bluebirds Over The Mountain'. Plant's backing band The Sensational Shapeshifters were on fine form with the latest addition, multi-instrumentalist Seth Lakeman, doing a fantastic job switching between the viola and the fiddle. Speaking ahead of the tour about his nerves performing for his hero, Seth exclusively told BANG Showbiz: "If something goes wrong on that ... the thing about that tour is there will be a lot of people. There will be technicians. There will be a lot of people if something does happen." The showstopper of Plant's solo material was 'Carry Fire' from the album of the same name. However, fans were highly-anticipating which Zeppelin tracks Plant would perform. The 69-year-old rocker has been playing the iconic heavy rock band's 'Misty Mountain Hop' on his tour this year after a three-year gap. He also did a rendition of 70s hit 'That's the Way', one of the soundtracks to 2000 movie 'Almost Famous', which starred the likes of Kate Hudson, the late Philip Seymour Hoffman and Zoey Deschanel. The encore ending with 'Whole Lotta Love' concluded that while Plant's voice may not manage the higher-register tracks like it used to, the rock legend still has his sublime showmanship to fall back on.



Rak-Su aren't envious of heartthrob band mate Myles



Rak-Su are happy having at least one heartthrob in the band. The 'X Factor' winners have addressed band member Myles Stephenson's reported fling with 'Love Island' beauty Malin Andersson, and reassured their fans that they are ensuring the hunky star's "ego" stays "in-check". Ashley Fongho - who completes the group along with Mustafa Rahimtulla and Jamaal Shurland - told The Sun newspaper: "There's only one heartthrob, but his ego stays in check and he's not arrogant about it. We love Myles." Myles, 25, hasn't been short of female attention since the group swiped the crown last weekend but, although they were told not to get into any relationships while competing on the series, he reportedly hooked up with the star from last year's series of the dating show. A source previously revealed: "Myles clearly took a fancy to Malin after she made contact on Twitter and Instagram. They met up in secret and enjoyed a few nights together at her home in Milton Keynes before going their separate ways. It was a cheeky move by Myles given that X Factor's bosses ask contestants

to concentrate on the show while they were still involved." However, their relationship was short lived as Myles realized he still had feelings for his ex-girlfriend Rebecca Bignell - who he split from once his band made the live rounds of the show - and couldn't give Malin what she wanted emotionally. And it doesn't look like Myles will be rekindling his romance with Rebecca as the foursome decided to focus on their music for the time being and side line any relationships. Ashley said recently: "We've had a lot of female interest since we went on 'X Factor'. We've had messages on social media but we haven't been responding. While you're on the show it just isn't possible, and now we've got to focus on our music." And the quartet revealed they already have a back catalogue of tracks ready to release, and can't wait to get into the recording studio - leaving no time for partying. Jamaal explained: "We want to take our music around the world. We're not going to wait like some other winners have. We've got an advantage because we already have our own material ready to go."

Ed Sheeran and Beyonce tipped for Christmas No1

Marvin Humes is tipping Ed Sheeran and Beyonce's 'Perfect' to be crowned 2017's UK Christmas number one. The Capital FM DJ and presenter says the 26-year-old singer/songwriter was "smart" getting the global superstar to feature on another version of the song, as he thinks it's going to nab the top spot this year. However, he also thinks 'X Factor' favorites Rak-Su have a chance with their single 'Dimelo'. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz at Capital's Jingle Bell Ball with Coca-Cola at London's The O2 arena, Marvin said: "For me there are two contenders for Christmas number one. For me, it's going to be either Rak-Su with 'Dimelo', obviously 'X Factor' winners and they are super-hot right now. Then obviously Ed Sheeran and Beyonce's 'Perfect'. I think the song is doing well anyway, but Ed, the smart guy that he is put Beyonce on it, and the streaming numbers have just gone through the roof. If I had to put money on it, I'd say Ed and Beyonce. It's the cliché, perfect song for this time of year. It's going to be played at a lot of Christmas parties for sure." 'Shape of You' hitmaker Ed recently hinted he's dropping a new song in a bid to top the chart. He said: "I do have one more trick up my sleeve. It's not like a Beyonce track, but it's quite a cool trick." And it looks like he's collaborated with a big star from the past. He added: "This next one, no-one's expecting. It's more for my dad's generation. It'll be out next week. You'll see then." Ed still hasn't released his 'Despacito' style remix of 'Perfect', so it could be that. Describing it previously, he said: "The vibe is that it's a remix to 'Perfect'. I'm just basically going to 'Despacito' 'Perfect'."



James Arthur: Producers woo artists with studio gimmicks

James Arthur says top producers are having to woo artists into their studios to work with them. The 'Naked' singer has revealed the likes of Naughty Boy (Shahid Khan) - who has worked with Beyonce, Emeli Sande and Sam Smith - have turned their recording spaces into havens with unusual gimmicks to entice stars in. The 29-year-old pop star visited Naughty's studio to work on several tracks on his self-titled debut LP, including 'Roses' and 'Certain Things', in 2013. James told The Sun newspaper: "There's such competition. Naughty Boy's is like a trip. He's got a fish tank, lasers, rhinos running about, all kinds of s***." The 'Say You Won't Let Go' hitmaker clearly wasn't tempted by Naughty's lasers and fish tank this time round, as on his comeback LP 'Back From The Edge', which was released in 2016, he opted to work with the likes of Alex Beitzke and Jamiroquai producer Bradley Spence. The 'X Factor' alumni was speaking at Capital's Jingle Bell Ball with Coca-Cola, before he sang his heart out with a flawless performance of 'You're Nobody till Somebody Loves You' and spine-chillingly good rendition of his new song 'Naked'. James later laughed off the fact he had been flying low with his jean zipper undone for the whole set, after playing a game with Capital FM host Roman Kemp before he took to the stage. He wrote on Twitter: "I forgot all about the flies challenge, ended up flying low the whole set @romankemp (sic)"



Jax Jones secretly tied the knot in Thailand

Jax Jones has revealed he got married in secret in Thailand. The 'House Work' star - whose real name is Timucin Fabian Kwong Wah Aluo - is officially off the market after tying the knot at a lavish ceremony in Asia, that ended with his guests diving into the pool fully clothed. Jax - who recently dropped new single 'Breathe', featuring Ina Wroldsen - told the Daily Star newspaper: "I'm off the market ladies, I'm sorry. We got married out in Thailand in the mountains. We had water buffalos greeting the guests as they came in, and then the most amazing pool party as the after-party. Everyone ended up in the pool suited and booted!" Meanwhile, the 'Instruction' hitmaker has revealed he's working with 'Luther' star and occasional DJ, Idris Elba, on a track. The 30-year-old star told The Sun newspaper: "I was hanging out with Idris last night. He's a top boy." Idris, 45 - who released album 'Murda Loves John (The John Luther Character Album)' in 2015 - previously said it's easier for him to be more "honest" with his music than acting. He said: "To be honest, I'm going to keep making music regardless of whether people love it or not. I can actually be more personal, and more honest to anyone that's interested via my music than I can when I'm acting." Meanwhile, Jax performed one of his biggest shows to date at Capital's Jingle Bell Ball with Coca-Cola at the weekend, the producer brought out Raye for 'You Don't Know Me' and had a Carnival theme as scantily-dressed dancers with feather wings paraded around, whilst he managed the decks inside a cup-shaped booth with Jax Jones emblazoned across it.

Morrissey cancels headline slot at KROQ event

Morrissey was forced to cancel his headlining slot at an annual concert. The 'Everyday is Like Sunday' hitmaker axed his latest performance at the KROQ Almost Acoustic Christmas show in Los Angeles, which was due to take place last night because of "illness". A KROQ statement read: "It is with great regret that we must inform you that Morrissey's performance for Sunday night's show has been cancelled due to illness. Earlier this week the tour's performances in Philadelphia and Boston were also forced to be canceled, but it was hoped that conditions would improve for the KROQ Almost Acoustic Christmas performance to continue as scheduled. (sic)" A tweet on the music festival's page read: "UPDATE: Morrissey will no longer be performing tomorrow night at #KROQXMAS. (sic)" The 58-year-old star and his team are said to be keen to "make it up" to fans in LA soon. The statement added: "Morrissey's team and KROQ apologize greatly for this disappointment and Morrissey looks forward to making it up to the Los Angeles fans as soon as possible. (sic)" Despite the news, The Killers softened the blow somewhat for fans of The Smiths frontman by performing the band's hit 'This Charming Man' at the event, which took place at The Forum. Other groups who performed over the two-day spectacle - run by the Los Angeles radio station KROQ-FM - included Muse, Weezer, Queens of the Stone Age, Thirty Seconds to Mars and The Lumineers. Morrissey's latest cancellation comes after he had to axe gigs in Philadelphia and Boston last week.



Karl Lagerfeld renews contract with Marchon Eyewear

Karl Lagerfeld will collaborate with Marchon Eyewear until 2023. The 84-year-old designer first teamed up with the eyewear brand in 2007, just one year before they released their debut collection, but the mogul collaborated with the company again four years later, which saw them sign a five-year contract in 2013 that will come to an end next year. And according to WWD, the creative mastermind has already renewed his licensing agreement with the company for a further five years. After working with Marchon Eyewear for the last decade, Karl - who is the head creative director of his eponymous label, as well as Chanel and Fendi - has hailed the company as a trustworthy partner. Speaking about the partnership Pier Polo Righi - who is the chief executive officer of Karl Lagerfeld - said: "Over the past 10 years, Marchon has proved to be a trusted partner that shares our passion for premium quality product and cutting-edge design innovation." And Karl is excited to "further expand" their work with the label. Pier added: "As we continue to grow our overall business, we look forward to further expanding our iconic eyewear across the globe." And Marchon Eyewear are also "looking forward" to continuing their work with the mogul and his "innovative, fashion-conscious brand". Nicola Zotta - who is the CEO and President of Marchon Eyewear - said: "We look forward to continuing to collaborate with this innovative, fashion-conscious brand to captivate our consumers and successfully grow the Karl Lagerfeld eyewear business globally." But Nicola is not the only figure in the fashion business to praise Karl, as Lily Rose Depp has admitted the businessman is not as "scary" as people assume and he makes work more "enjoyable" and really "comfortable". Speaking previously, the 18-year-old model said: "A lot of people will think that working with Karl is intimidating as he is such an icon and presence, and in a way I guess it is."



Lifestyle | Gossip

Serkis says Supreme Leader Snoke is more powerful than Darth Vader



Andy Serkis says Supreme Leader Snoke believes he is "more powerful than Darth Vader". The 53-year-old actor starred as the leader of the First Order in 2015's 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' and has reprised his role in the anticipated eighth installment 'The Last Jedi', helmed by Rian Johnson. Serkis insists his evil alter ego is a very powerful individual in the 'Star Wars' universe and is "more dangerous and despicable" than the Sith Lord, who was Emperor Palpatine's apprentice. At the world premiere of the new movie in the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Sunday Serkis said: "I think Supreme Leader Snoke would say he's more powerful than Darth Vader, but he's an egotistical narcissist. So yes, I think he believes himself to be so, and thinks that this is his divine right to be the leader. He has limitless resources and has massive military capability, which isn't working, and that's deeply frustrating. There's this sense of feminine force and energy that's coming towards him that seeks to undue him, which is terrifying. He feels vulnerable and he will do anything to stop it, which makes him even more dangerous and despicable than Darth Vader." Serkis returns in the saga along with cast members John Boyega (Finn), Daisy Ridley (Rey), Adam Driver (Kylo Ren), Oscar Isaac (Poe Dameron), Lupita Nyong'o (Maz Kanata), Gwendoline Christie (Captain Phasma), Anthony Daniels (C-3PO), and Domhnall Gleeson (General Lux).

Gillan knows why Nebula wasn't in Avengers: Infinity War trailer

Karen Gillan understands why Nebula wasn't in the trailer for 'Avengers: Infinity War'. Just two weeks ago the trailer for the highly anticipated movie dropped and fans went wild after seeing many of their favourite characters in the Marvel Cinematic Universe film - including Captain America (Chris Evans), Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr) and Spider-Man (Tom Holland). However, the bald, blue alien assassin Nebula - who is a regular in the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' movies - was absent but Gillan, who plays her, admitted "it makes sense" why she wasn't featured in the teaser footage. Speaking to RadioTimes.com, Gillan said: "I wasn't really disappointed because also it sort of makes sense ... it makes sense! How do I say this without giving anything away? It makes sense - I feel like Nebula might be in future trailers." Nebula was last seen at the end of 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2' on a mission to find mad titan Thanos, her adoptive father, and murder him. Thanos - who will be played by Josh Brolin and featured in the trailer - stole her and her "sister" Gamora (Zoe Saldana) from their parents and turned them into killing machines prior the first 'Guardians of the Galaxy' movie. And Gillan admitted this backstory is set to be developed in the upcoming ensemble movie. She said: "It's gonna be so good! A lot of stuff that we have planted in previous films is going to all come together in quite an explosive way, I would say. Daddy issues will be faced. Thanos is the big bad guy, the ultimate supervillain, so this is the biggest fight that the 'Avengers' will ever have. And being his daughter, Nebula will get entwined in there somehow." And Gillan has promised the forthcoming movie is going to be "the most epic, cinematic event of all time". Speaking previously to BANG Showbiz, she said: "It's amazing. It's going to be the most epic, cinematic event of all time."



Rian Johnson wanted Star Wars: The Last Jedi to be emotional

Rian Johnson wanted 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' to be an "emotional" movie. The 43-year-old filmmaker has helmed the eighth installment of the popular sci-fi franchise which sees the return of Mark Hamill as Jedi Master Luke Skywalker and the late Carrie Fisher as General Leia Organa as the Skywalker family saga continues. Although the plot has been a tightly guarded secret, Johnson admits the middle installment of the new trilogy had to "challenge the characters". Speaking at the world premiere of the sci-fi movie in the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Sunday where he was accompanied by his partner Karina Longworth, Johnson said: "It's the middle chapter, so we got to challenge the characters, and it's going to darker and intense places. I wanted the story to be emotional. That was an element that I really wanted to get in the movie. "And because each one of these characters has such a brilliant set-up in 'The Force Awakens', I wanted to take each one of them and push them." 'The Last Jedi' also sees the return of cast members John Boyega (Finn), Daisy Ridley (Rey), Adam Driver (Kylo Ren), Oscar Isaac (Poe Dameron), Lupita Nyong'o (Maz Kanata), Gwendoline Christie (Captain Phasma), Anthony Daniels (C-3PO), Andy Serkis (Snoke) and Domhnall Gleeson (General Lux). The eighth installment marks the last outing for Fisher as Leia, as she tragically passed away last December, and before the premiere screening began, Johnson paid tribute to the actress. He said: "I want to dedicate tonight to Carrie. I know she's up there right now flipping me the bird, saying, 'Damn it Rian, how dare you bring the mood down and make this night a solemn tribute.' So let's all have a blast together for Carrie."



Daisy Ridley struggled to master her lightsaber

Daisy Ridley has admitted that learning to wield a lightsaber for 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' was the "hardest thing" she has done as an actress. The 25-year-old British star reprises her role as Force-sensitive Rey in the eighth film in the sci-fi saga and underwent a demanding training regime with fight coordinator Lian Yang which required her to really push herself. Speaking to Vanity Fair at the world premiere of the eighth installment of the franchise in the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Sunday, Ridley said: "It was the hardest thing I have done physically. I really had to push myself. I was training around filming, but I was very, very happy with how strong I looked and felt. What you see in the movie is really me. No special effects." The new movie - helmed by Rian Johnson - is focused on Rey and her relationship with Jedi Master Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), who she finds at the end of the last movie 'The Force Awakens'. Hamill is not the only original trilogy character coming back in 'The Last Jedi' as the late Carrie Fisher is making her final appearance as General Leia Organa, following the actress' shock death last December at the age of 60.



Nikolaj Coster-Waldau found Shot Caller very challenging

Nikolaj Coster-Waldau found meeting former prisoners while shooting 'Shot Caller' "very exciting". The 47-year-old actor stars as Jacob Harlon in the new crime thriller by Ric Roman Waugh and he loved doing the research around the prison system and the gang culture. Speaking to the Metro newspaper, he said: "One of the things I love about my job is that you get to educate yourself and you get to be exposed to things you haven't before. "I learned so much about [the prison] system. Once you get institutionalized, how that affects you... to actually meet former prisoners was very challenging and very exciting. "Everyone looks so tough and mean but when you talk to them they tell you they have to do that. Everyone is scared all the time." The new film also stars Lake Bell, Benjamin Bratt and Jon Bernthal, and follows Jacob, who has recently been released from prison and finds himself forced by his gang leaders to orchestrate a major crime with a rival gang. While filming, the actor met a former shot caller who had been involved in researching the plot, and the 'Game of Thrones' star learned from him that people in prison don't always commit a violent crime but their behavior escalates because of the inmates that surround them. He said: "The guy who did the research for the film had been a shot caller himself. "He went into prison when he was 20 and hadn't done any violent crime. He'd done a lot of carjacking and stuff. "Suddenly you come into a world where you are with very violent people. He raised himself up the ranks and he ended up being a shot caller. "That was what was interesting about my character in the film. He made a really horrible, stupid mistake - he had a glass of wine too many and drove. "It was such a stupid thing to do and it had horrible consequences but these things can happen to anyone. "What's interesting about the story is that it shows you don't necessarily enter the world of prison as someone committing a horrible crime."

The Kardashian/Jenner family to star in new Calvin Klein campaign

The entire Kardashian/Jenner family are reportedly set to star in the new Calvin Klein fashion campaign. The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' stars, including Kendall Jenner, 22, Kylie Jenner, 20, Kim Kardashian West, 37, Kourtney Kardashian, 38, and Khloe Kardashian, 33, as well as 62-year-old momager Kris Jenner, are rumored to be working on a new commercial for the American fashion house for a project based on families. And it has been reported on WWD the brood have already been photographed for the Our Family #MyCalvins underwear advertorial, which is believed to be unveiled in January 2018. This news comes shortly after Solange Knowles appeared in brand's campaign alongside fellow singers and songwriters Kelela, Devy Hynes, Caroline Polachek and Adam Bainbridge, as the five of them depict a "musical family". A string of images of Solange in the artwork have been shared on Calvin Klein's official Instagram page. The posts read: "OUR MUSIC. #MYCALVINS: Some families we choose: @saintrecords leads this talented musical family, featuring @kelelam, @devyhynes, @carolineplz, and @kindnessmusic. Shot by @willyvanderperre. Discover more at the link in bio. "OUR IDEAS. #MYCALVINS: @saintrecords is about clarity of expression. She is the head of her musical family, shot here by @willyvanderperre. Discover more at the link in bio. "OUR CRAFT. #MYCALVINS. @saintrecords and her musical family, @devyhynes, @kelelam, @carolineplz and @kindnessmusic have all worked on each other's music in some way, shape, or form over the years. (sic)." And a video of the group playing music has also been posted on the site. It was captioned: "OUR MUSIC. #MYCALVINS: @saintrecords, @kelelam, @devyhynes, @carolineplz and @kindnessmusic explore new ideas, together as a family. (sic)." And the 'Don't Touch My Hair' hitmaker is not the only musician to star in the advert as ASAP Rocky and his hip-hop pals, including ASAP Ferg, ASAP Nast, ASAP Twelvyy, ASAP Ant, ASAP Lou and ASAP J. Scott, have also teamed up with the label to front the campaign. The imagery on the photo-sharing site has been captioned: "OUR CREW. #MYCALVINS."



Jourdan Dunn thought she was a witch

Jourdan Dunn used to think she was a witch. The 27-year-old model - who has eight-year-old son Riley - has admitted when she was younger she used to pretend to be a sorceress and would hide in certain areas of the room and cast spells on people. Speaking about her childhood to her close pal and fellow model Karlie Kloss on her upcoming show 'Movie Night With Karlie Kloss', which will hit the small screen on Freeform on December 28, Jourdan said: "I used to think I was a witch when I was younger. I used to be behind the curtain and just be doing spells." But the catwalk icon's actions baffled her friends who would quiz her on her unusual behavior. She explained: "And everyone would be like, 'What is Jourdan doing? Who is Jourdan talking to? Oh, she's in her witch phase.'" This news comes after Karlie told the brunette beauty she thought her school would be like the institution in the 'Harry Potter' franchise Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. While watching 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' on the programme, Karlie said: "When I think of Hogwarts, I feel like you went to Hogwarts growing up in London." And though Jourdan used to pretend she was an enchantress, she has admitted her school was not as "magical" as the fictional school. Jourdan replied: "My school was definitely not magical." The Kode with Klossy founder's six-part series will feature several big names from the celebrity world, including Karlie's fellow model pals Kaia Gerber, Joan Smalls and Amber Valletta, as well as special guests, including actor Burkely Duffield and magician Joel Ward. Other stars lined up for appearances over the series include 'Orange Is the New Black' actress Ruby Rose, tennis legend Serena Williams, former 'Hart of Dixie' star Rachel Bilson, and YouTube star Lilly Singh. — Bang Showbiz



Lifestyle | Fashion

Kylie to launch a 16-piece make-up brush collection

The 20-year-old television personality has revealed the "third holiday surprise" coming to her Kylie Cosmetics Silver Series range on December 13 on social media, which will include a vast array of luxury brushes, such as a large powder brush, a fan brush, as well as an angled blending brush, and many other products. The details of her upcoming release have been shared on the brand's official Instagram account.

Alongside a video of the campaign, it read: "The third holiday surprise... 16 luxury makeup brushes! Launching December 13 #SilverSeries (sic)." This post was then followed by a string of images of the forthcoming merchandise, which can be purchased individually or in a set for almost \$400. The images read: "The Silver Series Brush Collection, all of Kylie's favorite brushes, available individually and as a set on December 13! "All brushes are sold individually, or you can buy the limited-edition set for \$360, which comes with the silver roll to store all of your brushes. #SilverSeries

- 1. Large Powder Brush \$48
- 2. Large Stippling Brush \$30
- 3. Medium Tapered Brush \$28
- 4. Dense Powder Brush \$26
- 5. Angled Face Brush \$24
- 6. Rounded Face Brush \$28
- 7. Medium Stippling Brush \$22
- 8. Small Fluff Brush \$22
- 9. Fan Brush \$20



Kylie Jenner

- 10. Large Shader Brush \$20
- 11. Angled Blending Brush \$16
- 12. Medium Shader Brush \$20
- 13. Small Shader Brush \$18
- 14. Concealer Brush \$18
- 15. Tapered Blending Brush \$20
- 16. Small Smudge Brush \$18

"The complete limited-edition set of all 16 luxury brushes, all of Kylie's must-haves, is \$360 and comes with the silver brush roll. (sic)." The "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" star is also releasing a range of concealers in 30 shades, as well as a 20-piece lipstick line when she drops the Silver series Brush set. Alongside a video of the nude-colored merchandise, it read: "Our second holiday surprise from the #SilverSeries... 30 shades of concealer, launching Dec 13! #SkinConcealer

"Our new Skin Concealers provide medium buildable coverage for a beautiful skin-like, flawless finish! Pictured here: Oak and Amber Skin Concealers. #SilverSeries #December13 "Available in an all-inclusive range of 30 shades from fair to deep dark. #December13 #SilverSeries (sic)." And Kylie believes her lipstick line will provide "a little something for everyone". She said at the time: "A little something for everyone! Nudes, pinks, mauves, berries, oranges and browns. 20 shades launching December 13 #SilverSeries (sic)." — Bang Showbiz

Gwen Stefani has 'really changed' her skincare routine

Gwen Stefani has only "really changed" the way she removes her make-up. The 48-year-old singer struggled to have a thorough cleansing routine when she was younger and on tour, as she used to have to wash her face with just a bottle of water, although she knows the "key" to flawless skin is to clean her face thoroughly in the evenings to let her skin "breathe". Speaking to ElleUK.com, the 'Rich Girl' hitmaker said: "The one thing that I have really changed is trying to get all the makeup off. It was hard when I was younger because I was always on a tour bus, literally washing my face with bottled water, inside a bus. But the key is to keep it clean at night. Let your face breathe (because I really don't let it breathe at any other time). I'm such a make-up crazy girl, I love make-up."

Gwen - who has sons Kingston, 11, Zuma, nine, and three-year-old Apollo with her ex-husband Gavin Rossdale - has revealed she was warned to stay out of the sun when she was younger, and she wished she could make her younger self to take heed of that advice because she has realized the damage it can cause. Asked about the best beauty advice she has received, she said: "Stay out the sun! Ok so you guys [in England] have no problem with that. It's funny though, because you definitely see it as you get older. Later in life, you're like 'what is that?!', and it turns out it's from the sun and you're like, 'oh why did I do that to myself?'. That said, growing up in California, I was pretty good. Not when I was a kid, but once I hit my twenties."

Although Gwen - who is currently dating Blake Shelton - would tell her younger self to stay out of the sunshine, she would also tell herself to "listen to [her] heart". She added: "Stay out of the sun! But apart from that, I would say listen to your heart. I've always listened to my heart, but I do think that sometimes I didn't listen to my instinct."



Tinashe

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 shut

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."

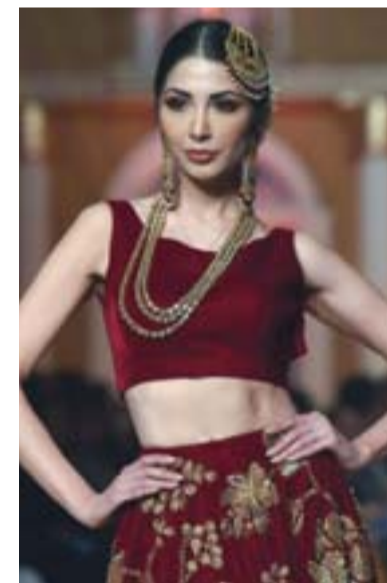


Models present creations by designer Ahsan on the last day of the Pantene Hum Bridal Couture Week in Lahore. — AFP photos

Bridal Couture Week



Models present creations by designer Umsha by Uzma Babar.



Models present creations by designer Zonia Anwaar.

Lifestyle | Music & Movies



Lady Macbeth wins big at BIFAs

Lady Macbeth and 'God's Own Country' were the big winners at the British Independent Film Awards (BIFAs). The drama movie added to its two (BIFAs) victories announced last month - Best Cinematography and Best Costume Design for Ari Wegner and Holly Waddington respectively - by taking home Best Actress for Florence Pugh.



Best Screenplay for Alice Birch and Naomi Ackie won Most Promising Newcomer. The plot of the movie - which also stars Cosmo Jarvis - follows a woman in 1865 who is trapped in a

loveless marriage to a much older man and begins a passionate affair with a man her own age.

The most coveted prize went to the 'God's Own Country' studio as they won the Best British Independent Film gong on Sunday night. Leading man Josh O'Connor won Best Actor and Francis Lee was awarded the Best Debut Screenwriter accolade for the motion picture, which tells the story of a farmer who develops an intense relationship with a Romanian migrant worker. 'The Death of Stalin' also added to its previously announced awards - Best Casting accolade for Sarah Crowe, and Nicole Stafford and Cristina Casali's Best Make Up & Hair Design and Best Production Design respectively - with Simon Russel Beale winning Best Supporting Actor.

Patricia Clarkson, who appeared in 'The Party', won the equivalent award in the actress category. Other winners at the star-studded event, which took place at London's Old Billingsgate, included Best Director and Best Debut Director victor Rungano Nyoni for 'I Am Not a Witch'. Emily Morgan was also handed the Breakthrough Producer prize for the same movie.

- British Independent Film Awards 2017 winners:**
- Best British Independent Film:** God's Own Country
 - Best Director:** Rungano Nyoni - I Am Not a Witch
 - Best Screenplay:** Alice Birch - Lady Macbeth
 - Best Actress:** Florence Pugh - Lady Macbeth
 - Best Actor:** Josh O'Connor - God's Own Country
 - Best Supporting Actress:** Patricia Clarkson - The Party
 - Best Supporting Actor:** Simon Russel Beale - The Death of Stalin
 - Most Promising Newcomer:** Naomi Ackie - Lady Macbeth
 - The Douglas Hickox Award (Best Debut Director):** Rungano Nyoni - I Am Not a Witch
 - Debut Screenwriter:** Francis Lee - God's Own Country
 - Breakthrough Producer:** Emily Morgan - I Am Not a Witch
 - The Discovery Award:** In Another Life
 - Best Documentary:** Almost Heaven - Carol Salter
 - Best British Short Film:** Fish Story
 - Best Cinematography:** Ari Wegner - Lady Macbeth
 - Best Casting:** Sarah Crowe - The Death of Stalin
 - Best Costume Design:** Holly Waddington - Lady Macbeth
 - Best Editing:** Jon Gregory - Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
 - Best Effects:** Nick Alder, Ben White - The Ritual
 - Best Make Up & Hair Design:** Nicole Stafford - The Death of Stalin
 - Best Music:** Carter Burwell - Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
 - Best Production Design:** Cristina Casali - The Death of Stalin
 - Best Sound:** Anna Bertmark - God's Own Country
 - Best International Independent Film:** Get Out - Bang Showbiz

Iconic Gulf singer Abu Bakr Salem of Yemen dies aged 78

Abu Bakr Salem, one of the most popular singers of the Gulf who synthesized Yemen's rich musical traditions, has died aged 78 in Saudi Arabia after leaving an indelible mark on music in the Arab world. Salem, who held Yemeni and Saudi nationalities, died of a long illness Sunday in a Riyadh hospital, his son Aseel Abu Bakr said in a Twitter post. "My father and mentor has passed away," he said. Salem was mourned in war-torn Yemen, both by the Huthi rebels and the internationally-recognized government the insurgents are battling, and in Saudi Arabia.

The Huthi rebels who control the Yemeni capital Sanaa mourned "one of the rare Arab artists to combine song, composition, musical arrangement and poetry", the insurgents' media reported. The government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, based in the southern port city of Aden, also paid tribute to Salem, calling him in a statement "a giant of Yemeni, Gulf and Arab music". Dubbed by music critics as the "father of Khaleeji (Gulf



This file photo taken on January 4, 2007 shows Saudi-Yemeni singer Abu Bakr Salem performing during the fourth night of the annual Muscat Festival in the Omani capital. — AFP

music" and considered one of the most popular singers in the region, Salem had a rich repertoire ranging from romantic ballads, folk music to patriotic songs. He began his career in 1956 in southern Yemen—an independent state prior to the country's reunification in 1990—where he created songs fusing traditional sounds from Aden to those of the southeastern province of Hadramawt and later Sanaa. Salem's patriotic odes to Yemen celebrated landmarks in the country's history—from the abolition of the monarchy in the north in 1962 to the independence of the south in 1967, and finally the unification of Yemen in 1990.

His repertoire also includes songs paying tribute to Saudi Arabia, where he is very popular and which granted him citizenship. Generations of Arab singers from the Gulf to Lebanon and Syria and even Morocco have sang his songs. Salem gave numerous concerts across Gulf countries in the 1990s and the early 2000s at the height of his career, drawing adoring crowds each time.

Rocker Homme under fire for kicking photographer

Queens of the Stone Age frontman Josh Homme apologized Sunday as he came under fire for kicking a photographer, who said she spent the night in the hospital. The rock guitarist and vocalist was playing Saturday in Los Angeles at an annual holiday festival of radio station KROQ when video shows him slamming his foot into the face of a photographer in the pit next to the stage. Chelsea Lauren, who shoots for Shutterstock, an agency that provides stock photos, said she spent the night in the emergency room and Sunday was still suffering a sore neck, a bruise in the eyebrow and nausea. "Assault in any form

is not okay, no matter what the reasoning," she wrote on Instagram.

She speculated that Homme may have been impaired by drugs or alcohol. She posted another picture in which Homme smiled as blood trickled down his face after he stabbed himself in the forehead on stage. "I was where I was allowed to be, I was not breaking any rules. I was simply trying to do my job," Lauren wrote. Homme apologized and described the incident as an accident. He said he was "in a state of being lost in performance" and also kicked equipment. "I would never intentionally cause harm to anyone working at or attending one of our shows and I hope Chelsea

will accept my sincere apology," he wrote on Twitter.

His explanation triggered a stream of negative reactions on social media, with some people urging that he face charges. Homme, 44, known for his rugged, high-powered rock, is a founding member both of Queens of the Stone Age and Eagles of Death Metal, although he was not present in Paris when the latter band's concert was attacked as part of a 2015 assault by supporters of the Islamic State group. Based in the desert of southeastern California, Homme is also a prolific producer and collaborator, notably working with punk legend Iggy Pop on his latest album. — AFP



This file photo shows "Queens of the Stone Age" frontman Josh Homme attending the premiere of 'Eagles of Death Metal' at the Avalon Theatre in Los Angeles, California. — AFP



Actor Garrett Hedlund speaks at the 75th annual Golden Globe Awards nomination.



Actress Kristen Bell attends the 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards nomination announcement.

Golden Globes: Hollywood's test of the Weinstein effect

The nominations will be unveiled yesterday for the Golden Globes, kicking off an awards season expected to be overshadowed by the sexual misconduct scandal engulfing the movie industry. The announcements, which come two days before the influential Screen Actors Guild nominations, are the first major bellwether of momentum going into the Oscars race. Awards analysis website Gold Derby is predicting that coming-of-age romance "Call Me By Your Name" will be the top contender with six nominations.

"In addition to best film drama, we're betting on nominations for lead actor Timothee Chalamet, supporting actors Arnie Hammer and Michael Stuhlbarg, director Luca Guadagnino, and the screenplay by James Ivory," said senior editor Daniel Montgomery. He added that Guillermo del Toro's fairy tale "The Shape of Water" should get five nods while four movies—"Get Out", "Lady Bird", "The Post" and "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"—are expected to pick up four each.

Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk," much-loved for its masterful cinematography if not its sparkling dialogue, is expected to pick up just two nominations, for best film drama and best director. Gold Derby said however that it is likely to win both awards at the ceremony itself. The Globes is seen as a chance for Hollywood to demonstrate its intolerance of sexual misconduct following a wave of allegations that emerged after movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was accused of a career of misbehavior that would make him the most egregious sexual predator in the history of filmmaking.

Seismic effect

The Weinstein Company, which sacked its co-founder, was a long shot to land a sixth consecutive nomination in the prestigious best film drama category, even before the scandal broke. The wider fallout, however, is likely to have a seismic effect on the awards season, as numerous other powerful figures have been accused of sexual misconduct. "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" director James Gunn told AFP at the recent Academy Governors Awards that the scandal was the hot topic of conversation whenever filmmakers and actors got together. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) is said to be sensitive to the message it would send out by rewarding

the work of Kevin Spacey, James Toback, Jeffrey Tambor, Louis C.K., Brett Ratner, Bryan Singer, Amazon Studios boss Roy Price or numerous other scandal-hit big players. Spacey, who won best actor in 2015 for "House of Cards," has no chance of a repeat following a litany of allegations against him. But his alleged misdeeds against young men could also harm the chances of colleagues such as Robin Wright, another previous winner, or of any further nominations to add to the show's overall haul of eight.

Comedy series "Transparent," which has also had numerous nominations and a win for Tambor, will find itself in the same boat if HFPA members feel squeamish enough to give the entire show a hard pass. Spacey was also expected to front an awards campaign for "All the Money in the World" before Ridley Scott decided to expunge the actor from his latest movie, replacing him via last-minute reshoots with Christopher Plummer.

Scandal-free nominees

Meanwhile the HFPA has a wide choice of scandal-free nominees from diverse backgrounds like filmmakers Jordan Peele ("Get Out"), Greta Gerwig ("Lady Bird") and Dee Rees ("Mudbound"). "Get Out"—a satire on racism and middle class white guilt—made perhaps the biggest and most unexpected impact of any movie this year and will be a strong contender in the comedy category.

Martin McDonagh's "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," starring Frances McDormand as a mother seeking to avenge the rape and murder of her daughter, took the influential audience award at the Toronto International Film Festival in September. Steven Spielberg's "The Post," a defense of the free press widely seen as a rebuke to President Donald Trump, is the favorite for many experts to take best film drama. "Coco" should be the comfortable frontrunner for best animated film—unless its chances are harmed by Pixar co-founder John Lasseter's recent admission of inappropriate behavior towards employees.

"The Weinstein scandal, and everything that followed, created a climate in which it is increasingly important for Hollywood to send the right message and do the right thing," wrote entertainment website The Wrap in an editorial. "And there's no question that the voters in the Hollywood Foreign Press Association

are aware of that." The Golden Globes, televised by NBC, takes place at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, on January 7. — AFP

Key film nominees for the 2018 Golden Globe awards

- Best Drama**
 - "Call Me by Your Name"
 - "Dunkirk"
 - "The Post"
 - "The Shape of Water"
 - "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"
- Best Comedy or Musical**
 - "The Disaster Artist"
 - "Get Out"
 - "The Greatest Showman"
 - "I, Tonya"
 - "Lady Bird"



- Best Actor, Drama**
 - Timothee Chalamet - "Call Me by Your Name"
 - Daniel Day-Lewis - "Phantom Thread"
 - Tom Hanks - "The Post"
 - Gary Oldman - "Darkest Hour"
 - Denzel Washington - "Roman J. Israel, Esq."
- Best Actress, Drama**
 - Jessica Chastain - "Molly's Game"
 - Sally Hawkins - "The Shape of Water"
 - Frances McDormand - "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"
 - Meryl Streep - "The Post"
 - Michelle Williams - "All the Money in the World"
- Best Actor, Comedy or Musical**
 - Steve Carell - "Battle of the Sexes"
 - Ansel Elgort - "Baby Driver"
 - James Franco - "The Disaster Artist"
 - Hugh Jackman - "The Greatest Showman"
 - Daniel Kaluuya - "Get Out"
- Best Actress, Comedy or Musical**
 - Judi Dench - "Victoria"
 - Helen Mirren - "The Leisure Seeker"
 - Margot Robbie - "I, Tonya"
 - Saoirse Ronan - "Lady Bird"
 - Emma Stone - "Battle of the Sexes" — Reuters

ROCKER HALLYDAY'S FIRST WIFE 'HEARTBROKEN' AT CARIBBEAN BURIAL

French rock icon Johnny Hallyday will be laid to rest in the Caribbean yesterday as his first wife and many fans bemoaned that he was being buried so far from mainland France. Hundreds of thousands of people thronged the center of Paris on Saturday for his funeral, with at least 12 million people watching the grand ceremonial of the "people's tribute" to the star live on television. France has not seen such an outpouring of emotion for a singer since the death of Edith Piaf.



Former wife of late French singer Johnny Hallyday, French singer Sylvie Vartan stands by a portrait at the La Madeleine Church prior to the funeral ceremony in tribute to late French singer.

But hours before the burial in a seaside cemetery on the French Caribbean island of St Barts, Hallyday's first wife Sylvie Vartan said she was heartbroken he was being buried there. "It is with a broken heart that I must accept the idea that Johnny will be buried today," the 1960s pop star said in a statement to AFP. "It is very sad that Johnny will be so long from all of us who loved him so much," she added.

Many of Hallyday's mainly working class fans who lined the streets of Paris Saturday were also upset that the singer would be so far away. Veteran pop star Michel Polnareff, an old friend of the man they called the French Elvis, had earlier said he found it "strange that his fans should be deprived of Johnny" in this way.

Part of France's heritage

"He's part of our heritage. I find it unthinkable that all those like myself who are inconsolable now should be prevented from paying their respects" at his grave. Vartan, 73, did not accompany Hallyday's white coffin to St Barts, though their children David and actress Laura Smet will be among the small group of mourners at the graveside. Hundreds of islanders kept a vigil through the night at a "public wake" for the singer. Vartan and Hallyday were the golden

couple of French pop in the 1960s, but their marriage—which ended in 1980—was often troubled. Hallyday attempted suicide in 1966 because he was afraid she was about to leave him. A leather-clad showman who was almost unknown abroad, the singer died of lung cancer on Wednesday aged 74. Vartan said that "Johnny will always be in my heart... after 17 passionate years together, I can tell you first love never dies."

But the Caribbean island's leader Bruno Magras told AFP that Hallyday had always wanted to be buried there. His said the singer, who is credited with introducing France to rock 'n' roll, told him "several times he wanted to be buried in St Barts", where the longtime tax exile had a home. Marie-Helene Delcasse, of the Friends of Johnny Hallyday and Rock 'n' Roll fan group, said "it will be difficult for fans to go and see him". — AFP

Lifestyle

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017



A general view shows fireworks above the Mohammad Al-Amin mosque during an event to turn on the lights of a Christmas tree in downtown Beirut on December 10, 2017. — AFP

The best buys this Christmas

December has finally arrived, and the one thing on everyone's mind is what to buy their friends, family or colleagues. But panic is over as BANG Showbiz are lending a helping hand to those struggling with gift ideas this Christmas. As the festive period is filled with Christmas parties and glitzy balls to celebrate the New Year, there is nothing better to receive than the new beauty or skincare products.

Benefit have an array of cosmetic gift sets suitable, and their City Lights Party Nights collection is the one to go for as it includes My Brow pencil, Dandelion blusher, They're Real! mascara in jet black, and They're Real! double the lip product in nude scandal. The Benefit set also includes a metallic make-up bag, and the entire kit is worth almost £50, although it retails for almost half the price at £28.

Sleek have also collated this season's best cosmetic items in their Bring on The Night collection, which features the iDivine Eyeshadow Palette in Vintage romance, as well as a palette filled with highlighting products, and a three-piece blusher set, which retails for £30. And if that was not enough Mark Hill's When the Girls Go Out the Curls Come Out set, which is complete with a mini curler, radial brush and curling spray for £30, is this season's must-have for any woman to pamper themselves during the party season.

But for those looking for simple and sophisticated stocking filler can rely on Deborah Lippmann, who has created a string of nail varnish sets, all of which include two of their best-selling yet festive

polishes. The Shining Star ornament, which costs £18, is the best go-to for the winter season as it features a sparkly white shade and an uber feminine metallic pale pink

shade. And so not to leave out the men in your life Body Shop's Shave Away Kit for King's and Gentlemen for just £15 will work a treat. The kit is simple yet effective as it

features Men Maca Room Shave Cream, as well as an authentic shaving brush, but it is the packaging that steals the show as it is decorated like a pack of cards. For couples who are looking to coordinate forever more can opt for Daniel Wellington's gift sets. Both the men's and women's products are complete with a watch as well as a matching cuff bracelet, which range from £129 to just under £160 depending on the size of the arm candy.

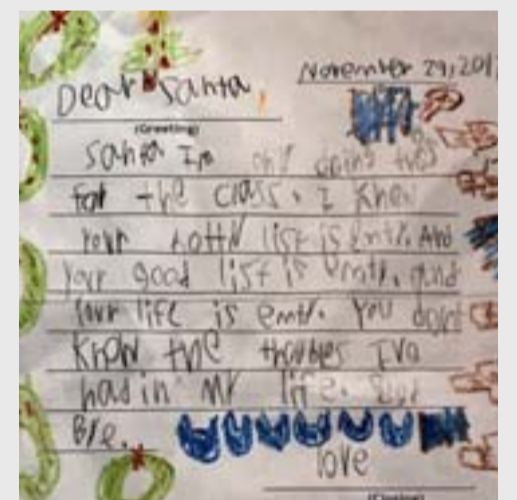
But for those who are looking for a luxury gift without the jaw-dropping price tag should look to Jo Loves, as there is something for everyone; from fragrances, bath and body products and scented candles to fun experiences such as Fragrance Tapas to the Candle Shot studio where you can give the gift of creating a candle.

Jo Loves merchandise may leave you spoilt for choice, so for the indecisive buyers we recommend the limited edition festive candles, in particular the Christmas Tree candle, which has notes of fresh pine, aromatic lavender, incense and amber infused together to give off a sweet smell that instantly makes the entire home and not just one room feel cosy, festive and warm. And let's not forget the little ones, who will be desperate to see the Peppa Pig Interactive Play Mat under the tree on December 25. The interactive floor mat is ideal for children aged three years old and above as there are four modes; 'Peppa Says', a numbers game, 'Where is?' and a sing-along game, which will leave kids amused for hours, and at a reduced price of £14.99 at Argos what is not to love? — Bang Showbiz



Gift Guide 2017

Child writes jaded letter to Santa



Jaded letter to Santa

A child has written a jaded letter to Father Christmas. Sarah McCammon's little six-year-old son took a more cynical approach when asked to write a wish-list to Santa during his class. His mum posted the letter to Twitter, and wrote: "My 6yo Santa skeptic was told to write a letter to Santa at school. So he did... (sic)" The little child refused to give his name and accused the mythical legend of not paying attention to any of the "naughty or nice" children's lives. Decorated with skulls around the edge, her son wrote: "Dear Santa,

"Santa I'm only doing this for the class. I know your naughty list is empty. "And your good list is empty. And your life is empty. You don't know the troubles I've had in my life. "Good-bye (I'm not tell you my name). (sic)" His mother also took to Twitter to defend the "troubles" he has had in his short life, and said it was because of his brother and asked for people not to call social services. — Bang Showbiz



African penguins clad in Christmas-themed costumes go for a stroll at Hakkeijima Sea Paradise amusement park in Yokohama, a suburb of Tokyo. The Christmas event will run twice daily till December 25. — AFP

Charity runners dressed as Father Christmas participate in a 'Santa Run' charity fun run in Stockholm. Hundreds of participants dressed in Santa suits and wearing white beards ran through the streets of the old town in Stockholm in an all charity run. — AFP

