

Education gaining prominence across GCC



Trump reassures supporters in campaign-style fiery speech



Tourism shows signs of recovery in Egypt



Ibrahimovic rescues United, Kane nets Spurs treble



## PANEL PASSES BILL TO SCRAP PETROL, UTILITY PRICE HIKES

MPS URGE HEALTH MINISTER TO APPLY REFORMS



Min 05°  
Max 18°  
High Tide 06:53 & 17:44  
Low Tide 00:33 & 11:42



150 FILS  
NO: 17147  
40 PAGES

### IRAQ LAUNCHES ASSAULT ON WEST MOSUL

**AL-BUSEIF, Iraq:** Iraqi forces seized 10 villages from the Islamic State group yesterday, launching a daunting operation to retake west Mosul which aid groups warned will put civilians in grave danger. Advancing from several directions, the forces moved towards Mosul airport, which lies just south of the city, marking a new phase in Iraq's largest military operation in years. The Islamic State group has put up stiff resistance to defend Mosul, the city where its leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi proclaimed a "caliphate" straddling Iraq and Syria in 2014.

"Our forces are beginning the liberation of the citizens from the terror of Daesh," Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said in a short televised speech, using an Arabic acronym for IS. A top army commander then announced that forces led by federal police units retook villages south of Mosul, including Athbah, which leaves them within striking distance of the airport. "We launched our operation at 7:00 am (0400 GMT)... We are heading towards the airport," said Abbas Al-Juburi of the interior ministry's elite Rapid Response force.

The sky south of Mosul was black with smoke from air strikes and artillery as thousands of forces in armoured convoys worked converged on the airport. "They're desperate," Ali, a Rapid Response officer, said in the village of Al-Buseif as helicopters flew overhead, tracking the last IS fighters attempting to flee. "They will try to cause as many losses as possible, because they know they will die anyway," his colleague Alaa said.

Continued on Page 13



Tanks and armored vehicles of Iraqi forces, supported by the Hashed Al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization) paramilitaries, advance towards the village of Sheikh Younis, south of Mosul, after an offensive to retake the western side of Mosul from Islamic State group fighters commenced yesterday. — AFP

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee yesterday approved a draft bill calling to scrap all increases in utility charges and fuel prices, rapporteur of the panel MP Safaa Al-Hashem said. Hashem said after reviewing nine draft laws submitted by lawmakers, the committee passed a joint draft law stating that increases in public charges and prices of commodities cannot be applied without a law from the Assembly.

The draft law also calls for scrapping a law passed by the previous Assembly almost a year ago calling to raise the prices of electricity and water, starting from May. The committee also called for scrapping the hike in petrol prices which began on Sept 1, adding that prices should be reversed to the old rates, Hashem said.

It will now depend on the Assembly to decide whether to approve the committee's decision or not. But the Assembly is highly expected to pass the draft law because a large number of lawmakers have already committed to oppose any hike in prices. But under Kuwaiti law, the government has the power to reject laws passed by the Assembly, which also has the power to override such rejections by a two-thirds majority in a fresh vote.

Reducing subsidies and increasing prices by the government was one of the top issues raised by candidates during the Assembly election in November. The issue is expected to be debated in the Assembly in the first week of March. A law raising prices of electricity and water was due to be implemented on commercial shops from May and on expatriate houses from late August. Although Kuwaitis are exempt from the hike, MPs anticipated that the hike will result in increasing prices and the cost of living in the country, which will negatively impact Kuwaitis.

Continued on Page 13

### News

in brief

#### Top municipal official jailed for joining IS

**KUWAIT:** The cassation court yesterday sentenced a top bureaucrat to 10 years in jail for joining and fighting with the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. The court also fined the unnamed Kuwaiti national, who was a top official at the Municipality, KD 10,000 and convicted him of calling other people to join the group. The ruling is final and cannot be challenged.

#### No visa transfers for 'dependent' women

**KUWAIT:** The manpower authority plans to stop issuing work permits to women holding article 22 (dependent) visas. The authority met interior ministry officials and agreed to stop transfers to article 18 visas for women living in Kuwait on dependent visas to prevent them from working in the private sector.

#### Barrak injured in prison brawl

**KUWAIT:** Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah yesterday ordered an immediate investigation and a report about a fight between former opposition MP Musallam Al-Barrak and another inmate at the Central Jail. Barrak was rushed to Farwaniya Hospital for treatment after suffering minor injuries.

## DEALS GALORE AT UAE ARMS SHOW

PENTAGON CHIEF SAYS MILITARY RUNNING SMOOTHLY

**ABU DHABI:** Fighter jets screaming overhead and theatrical explosions marked the opening of an arms show yesterday in Abu Dhabi, as a bullet-scarred Emirati armored personnel carrier served as a reminder of the country's ongoing military campaign in Yemen. The Emirates announced over \$1.2 billion in arms deals at the opening of the biennial International Defense Exhibition and Conference, known by the acronym IDEX. It and other Gulf nations, buoyed by rising oil prices and suspicious of nearby Iran, are likely to spend even more in the weeks and months ahead.

Two of the UAE's most-powerful rulers, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, attended the event yesterday. During the military demonstration, they flanked Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir, the world's only sitting head of state facing genocide charges at the International Criminal Court.

Bashir attended the 2015 IDEX arms show, but this year's trip comes after US President Barack Obama issued an execu-

tive order in the waning days of his administration to permanently revoke a broad range of American sanctions on Sudan after a six-month waiting period. US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who was also in Abu Dhabi yesterday, was not seen at the demonstration. Brig Gen Rashid Al-Shamsi, an IDEX spokesman, said he didn't know if Mattis attended.

Shamsi announced over \$1.2 billion in deals, the lion's share coming from the \$544 million purchase of 400 armored personnel carriers from a local manufacturer. Raytheon Co, based in Waltham, Massachusetts, announced a deal with the UAE navy for missiles to arm its Baynunah-class corvettes. Many of the other contracts dealt with resupplying ammunition for the UAE, which is taking part in the Saudi-led campaign against the Houthi rebels and their allies in Yemen.

Meanwhile, Mattis yesterday said America's vast military continues to run smoothly, even though President Donald Trump's first month has been marked by consecutive crises.

Continued on Page 13



ABU DHABI: Emirati armed forces show their skills during a military show at the opening of the International Defense Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) in the Emirati capital yesterday. — AFP

## SAUDIS, ISRAEL IN DE FACTO UNITED FRONT AGAINST IRAN

BIBI MET ARAB LEADERS IN 2016

**MUNICH/JERUSALEM:** Saudi Arabia and Israel both called yesterday for a new push against Iran, signaling a growing alignment in their interests, while US lawmakers promised to seek new sanctions on the Shiite power. Turkey also joined the de facto united front against Tehran as Saudi and Israeli ministers rejected an appeal from Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif for Sunni Gulf Arab states to work with Tehran to reduce violence across the region.

While Saudi Arabia remains historically at odds with Israel, their ministers demanded at the Munich Security Conference that Tehran be punished for propping up the Syrian government, developing ballistic missiles and funding separatists in Yemen. International sanctions on Iran were lifted a year ago under a nuclear deal with world powers, but

Republican senators said at the conference they would press for new US measures over the missiles issue and Tehran's actions to "destabilize" the Middle East.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir called Tehran the main sponsor of global terrorism and a destabilizing force in the Middle East. He sidestepped a question about Israel's call for concerted action with Sunni Arab states amid growing speculation that the two countries could normalize relations and join forces to oppose Tehran, much as Turkey has done.

The six Arab members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), especially Saudi Arabia, accuse Iran of using sectarianism to interfere in Arab countries and build its own sphere of influence in the Middle East. Iran denies the accusations.

Continued on Page 13

## SWEDES MOCKING IMAGINARY TRUMP 'TERROR' INCIDENT

**WASHINGTON:** Bowling Green, Atlanta and now... Sweden? US President Donald Trump was speaking to supporters on Saturday when he apparently referred to the Scandinavian country as the site of a terror incident - the latest example of his administration naming a non-existent attack. He was addressing a campaign-style rally in Florida when he launched into a list of places that have been targeted by terrorists.

"You look at what's happening in Germany, you look at what's happening last night in Sweden. Sweden, who would believe this? Sweden. They took in large numbers. They're having problems like they never thought possible," he said, provoking mockery on social media. His speech was aimed at defending his order last month that blocked refugees and travelers from seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the United States. The order has been suspended by a federal appeals court, and Trump vowed to introduce a new order this week as a means of protecting Americans at home.

Continued on Page 13



MUNICH; Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir delivers a speech on the third day of the 53rd Munich Security Conference (MSC) at the Bayerischer Hof hotel yesterday. — AFP





KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA

# AMIR HOSTS SENIOR OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah hosted yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He also hosted, separately, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince hosted Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and

Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Faleh Al-Azaeb. He also hosted Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA

## KUWAIT MARKS CROWN PRINCE'S 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASSUMING OFFICE

KUWAIT: Kuwait celebrates today the 11th anniversary of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's assumption of office. On February 7th 2006, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah issued an Amiri Decree, naming His Highness Sheikh Nawaf as Crown Prince. On February 20, he was sworn in during an extraordinary National Assembly session, with the MPs unanimously declaring allegiance to His Highness.

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf, the son of Kuwait's tenth leader Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, started his national service following Kuwait's independence in 1961, when he was named Hawally Governor. He continued in this post until March 1978, when he was appointed Minister of Interior; later he became Minister of Defense in January 1988.

Following Kuwait's liberation in 1991, after that he was appointed Minister of Social Affairs and Labor between April 20, 1990 and Oct 17, 1992. In October 1994, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf was named Deputy Chief of the National Guards, serving in the Guards until July 2003, when he was re-appointed as Minister of Interior, as well as the First Deputy Prime Minister. He continued holding these posts until he was proclaimed Heir Apparent in 2006.

### Major accomplishments

Among his major accomplishments was transformation of Hawally, which was a small village, into a residential district bustling with commercial and economic facilities. Since he had taken the interior portfolio, His Highness had been preoccupied with maintaining the homeland security and stability. The Ministry of Interior during his era witnessed a wide-scale overhaul covering security and police sectors, in addition to drawing up an integrated security strategy aimed at combating crime. He had also worked out a strategy for protecting the borders, national sea territorial waters and the islands.

At the defense level, His Highness the Heir Apparent embarked on a major upgrading plan, equipping the forces with modern arms and equipment. Moreover, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf applied advanced technologies in the country's security system as well as the ministries.

Meanwhile, during his position in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, His Highness the Crown Prince issued several orders on providing care to widows, elderly and orphans. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also played a prominent role in defending Kuwait during the Iraqi Invasion in 1990, leading the resistance and the army in the battle to liberate

the country. His Highness took it into his responsibility to face terrorist events that occurred in Kuwait in January 2005, leading the security forces himself and being present at the site of the acts.

### Regional level

On the regional level, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf's priority was to protect the security and stability of the Gulf countries and the Arab World. He took part in meetings of the GCC and Arab interior ministers, that resulted in boosting cooperation in facing terrorism, drugs, money laundering and corruption. Locally, His Highness the Crown Prince took part in different activities and events. In 2016, His Highness attended and patronized the ending ceremony of Kuwait's International Quran Memorization and Recitation Competition.

His Highness also attended and patronized a ceremony to honor teachers for the occasion of the World's Teachers Day, the 28th diving anniversary ceremony and a ceremony to honor outstanding Kuwaiti athletes.

In addition, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf patronized the 6th International Conference on Energy Research and Development, the second convention for business administration faculties at GCC universities, Kuwait National Arabian



KUWAIT: This February 20, 2006 file photo shows His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah swearing in during an extraordinary National Assembly session. — KUNA

Horses Festival and the ceremony to honor winners of His Highness' prize for camel racing.

when he served as the Minister of Interior back then, he said.

### Distinguished role

Kuwait National Guard Deputy Chief Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah praised the devotion and loyalty of His Highness the Crown Prince in serving Kuwait. He added that His Highness Sheikh Nawaf played a vital role in contributing to the development and renaissance of the country in various fields.

His Highness is strongly keen on promoting positive values such as unity and cooperation between various segments of Kuwait society in order to boost our country's stability, Sheikh Mishal added. His Highness the Crown Prince gained many experiences from his father late Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber, as well as his brother, late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Choosing His Highness Sheikh Nawaf to serve as the Crown Prince of the country reflects his wisdom and remarkable efforts His Highness exerted when he served in the ministries of Defense, Interior, National, and Social Affairs, as well as the National Guard, he said, noting that His Highness the Crown Prince worked hard in transforming of Hawalli area from a simple town into the most important and largest commercial and touristic and governorate.

His Highness also served in protecting the security of his country as he vigorously encountered terrorism in the 1980s as he established a highly qualified security device

### 'Successful leader'

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said that His Highness the Crown Prince is a "successful leader who is well-known for efficiency, dedication and perseverance." Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who doubles as acting minister of information, said His Highness the Crown prince took over at a critical time in Kuwait's history and was a partner to the country's development and building drive.

His Highness the Crown Prince was also a prominent contributor to the civilization shift witnessed by Kuwait over the last decades, he said, noting that he acquired political experience, wisdom and shrewdness as well as ability to handle crises and obstacles.

He added that His Highness Sheikh Nawaf has been really a successful leader since he assumed office, and has left clear-cut marks on all posts he has occupied. Furthermore, His Highness the Crown Prince is held in high esteem in Kuwait thanks to his interest in the development of Kuwaiti citizens, he noted.

History will remember proudly the great efforts of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad in fighting terrorism that posed a threat to Kuwait's security and stability, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah added. The minister lauded His Highness the Crown Prince as humble, tender-hearted, pure-hearted, but decisive and determined. — KUNA

## AMIR PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO OMAN TODAY

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is scheduled to pay an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman today, during which he would hold talks with Sultan Qaboos on a host of issues at the bilateral and regional levels. Kuwaiti and Omani officials have regularly exchanged visits, particularly over the past years, namely Sultan's Qaboos' coming to Kuwait in 2012 in response to an invitation by His Highness the Amir.

The Kuwaiti-Omani relations are known as historic and the two countries are bonded by a common destiny. The two GCC countries' leaderships have been keen on cementing these ties and mutual cooperation. Oman stood on Kuwait's side in the face of the blatant Iraqi aggression in 1990. It had also taken part in liberating the country and hosted a large number of Kuwaiti citizens during the plight in the 90s.

At the economic level, the supreme joint

commission plays a key role in bolstering the ties between the two brotherly countries. In March, 2001, they agreed on forming the committee to cement the coordination in the economic, commercial and tourist realms.

Officials from the two countries held a chain of meetings in 2015 discussing cooperation in the sectors of education, scientific research and youth. They resulted in inking a number of memos and executive programs, adding to more than 20 previously-signed ones.

Kuwait is a prime contributor to developing Oman's infrastructure. According to official figures, trade exchanges between the two countries rose in 2013 to \$609 million, higher by 30 percent as compared to 2012. Kuwaiti exports to the Sultanate in 2013 reached \$124 million, while the imports from Oman amounted to \$486 million. Volume of Kuwaiti investments in Oman in 2014 reached some \$1 billion. Moreover, there are some 9,000 Kuwaiti investors oper-

ating in the Sultanate. Meanwhile, leading Omani newspaper 'Oman' affirmed in an article published yesterday the significance of His Highness the Amir's scheduled visit to the Sultanate. The Omani-Kuwaiti ties have been solid and deeply rooted due to keenness on part of Sultan Qaboos and His Highness the Amir on maintaining the close relations, Oman said.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's three-day visit will be a State visit, Oman newspaper added, indicating that the visit coincided with critical regional developments; such events warrant views' exchange at the highest echelons of the ruling hierarchies in the two GCC States.

Close consultations between His Highness the Amir and Sultan Qaboos are needed to stop the blood shedding in several Arab countries and resolve regional conflicts peacefully. Oman newspaper also noted the two countries' keenness on regional peace, security, stability and prosperity. — KUNA



MANAMA: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem arrives in Bahrain. —KUNA

## PARLIAMENT SPEAKER ARRIVES IN BAHRAIN ON OFFICIAL VISIT

MANAMA: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday on an official visit in response to an invitation by his Bahraini counterpart Ahmad bin Ibrahim Al-Mulla. He was welcomed upon arrival by speaker Mulla, Bahraini MPs and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and the State of Kuwait Ambassador to the Kingdom, Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah, and a number of Kuwaiti embassy staff.

Speaker Ghanem is scheduled to meet during his three-day visit top leaders namely King Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa, Prime

Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa and the Crown Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al-Khalifa. His delegation includes MPs Faisal Al-Kanderi, Thamer Al-Suwait Al-Dhafiri, Dr Humoud Al-Khudair, Usama Al-Shahin, Majed Al-Mutairi, Nasser Al-Dosari, Abdulwahab Al-Babtain, AlHumaidi Alsubaiee, National Assembly General Secretary Allam Al-Kandari, the assistant secretary general for media and public relations Abulhakim Al-Sabti and the assistant secretary general for the National Assembly Guards' Affairs Major General Khaled Al-Wugait. — KUNA

## NEW BATCH OF KUWAITI DIPLOMATS TAKE OATH

KUWAIT: Up to 24 Kuwaiti diplomatic attaches took the oath in front of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at the Foreign Ministry headquarters yesterday. Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled, on the occasion, expressed pleasure that a new batch of diplomats are

joining the corps, noting their success in completing a two-year training program, managed by Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute. He advised the new diplomats to abide by work norms and genuine Kuwaiti traditions and morals. The ceremony was attended by senior ministry officials. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other Foreign Ministry officials pose with the new Kuwaiti diplomatic attaches. —KUNA



Legalese

## THE FAMILY LAW

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

I feel very blessed to be able to write to my readers and answer questions that may be of concern and that may affect their lives. I am also grateful that I have the freedom to talk about issues that may be very sensitive at times. Dealing with lawyers, unfortunately (and I hope to change this through my firm), can be very stressful. Dealing with lawyers about family issues is even more stressful for both the person dealing with the issue and the lawyer. Today, I have chosen to write about sensitive family issues. I hope they are of help.

## Very long

**Question:** I heard divorce proceedings generally take a very long time - is this true? What should I expect?

**Fajer:** Unfortunately, going to court (in most countries) is a lengthy process, but with divorce more specifically, it depends on the circumstances. It depends if there was any physical abuse, if there are kids involved, the court where you married, if the husband and wife are agreeing to disagree or not and so on. Something to keep in mind though is that the judge will not look into the divorce without referring you to a marriage counselor first. There is a team of experienced professional counselors that aim to make both parties work on the marriage. Sometimes a partner doesn't want to cooperate or both parties agree not to go for counseling - if that's the case, a paper is signed by both parties and is taken back to the court where the proceedings would start.

I know quite a few married couples who were determined to obtain a divorce but came out of the marriage counseling program willing to reevaluate their marriage. After counseling, the case is taken to court, and the divorce settlement is purely for the divorce - it won't include other disputes like custody of a child, money settlements and so on. If there is no cooperation from both sides, it can take a really long time - up to a year, if not longer.

## Can't pay back

**Question:** I borrowed KD 3,000 from a family member and I promised to pay them back within a few months. Now I cannot afford to pay it back. They keep texting me saying they will sue me. What can I do?

**Fajer:** Honestly, the best way to deal with this is to speak to them and try and negotiate another scenario - maybe paying a small amount every month or getting an extension. Whatever you agree on, make sure you do so in writing. This is not legal advice, but I would like to give it anyway because I have seen things from my experience working at my law firm and dealing with clients with such issues. Do not let money get in the way of family or friends or other fruitful relationships, and always, always, have things in writing, even if it is between friends or family.

The two statements may seem to be contradictory, but they are there to protect you. Always forgive. I know I have moved away from speaking only legally, but it is just that I have seen a family fight over money and the brother is determined to put his sisters in jail for not paying him back the amounts they borrowed that they cannot afford to repay. Situations sometimes get out of hand when it comes to the law, and I felt the need to speak about it publicly.

## Dowry

**Question:** When we first married, I was told that I will receive dowry from my husband and also a payment of money should we get divorced. Is this right?

**Fajer:** This depends on what you agreed upon when you got married. This should be stated clearly on your marriage certificate. For example, let's say you agreed to KD 1,000 as dowry and another KD 1,000 should you get divorced. These amounts are to be paid by the husband to his wife. If your husband did not pay you, you can file a lawsuit to obtain these amounts. Please note that this is a separate case altogether - separate from the divorce, therefore most lawyers will charge extra fees to do so.

## Twice as much

**Question:** We are a Kuwaiti family. Is it true that men get twice as much as women when it comes to inheritance? How can we avoid this? How is this fair?

**Fajer:** This is true for children or for brothers and sisters. A brother will receive twice as much as a sister. Although this is by law, lawyers can assist parents who would like their children to have approximately equal amounts by legal procedures that they can do prior to death to ensure that when they pass away, their daughters/sons will receive a fair share of the inheritance. Many Muslim scholars say that although there is no equality between the two genders under law when it comes to inheritance, it is still fair, because by law, a man is required to take full responsibility of his family financially, including his wife.

So, if a grandparent passes away and has two sons and two daughters, the wealth will be divided into three parts - one for each son, and one part to be shared by the two daughters. The daughters though will not have to share this amount with their children, whereas the man should share the amount with his wife and children.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

## KUWAITIS MAKE UP 74 PERCENT OF PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

EXPATS MOSTLY IN HEALTH, EDUCATION, AWQAF MINISTRIES

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Recent Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) figures have shown that the total number of government employees reached 338,400 as of the beginning of this year, including 252,800 Kuwaitis - 74 percent of the total workforce, while non-Kuwaitis were 85,670, 26 percent of the total. According to CSB statistics, the total number of Arab government employees was 50,350, while non-Arabs numbered 31,180, in addition to only 4,141 from GCC countries including 3,636 from Saudi Arabia.

Statistics also showed that female government employees (of all nationalities) were 191,000 (56 percent) versus 146,000 male employees (44 percent). Female Kuwaiti employees numbered 151,000 compared to 101,000 male Kuwaiti employees. Statistics also showed that the Ministry of Education (MoE) included the largest number of civilian employees with 110,887, including 78,000 citizens, followed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) with 62,000 including 26,000 citizens, then the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) with 20,000 employees, including only 1,500 expats.

In addition, statistics showed that the total number of

citizens working in teaching is 53,000, in addition to over 50,000 in administrative positions, followed by 38,000 in engineering. Statistics also showed that the majority of Arab expats worked in medical and health services, while those working in teaching and education were 24,256. Finally, statistics showed that the largest number of expats in the public sector (over 35,000) worked for MoH, followed by over 30,000 at MoE and over 3,500 in the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

## Overdue payments

In other news, MEW's Undersecretary Mohamed Boshreh stressed instructing the ministry's financial affairs sector to address companies contracted by the ministry to pay overdue payments to their laborers working in ministry projects, as many of them had complained about not receiving salaries for months. Separately, MEW recently signed a contract with an international consultancy firm to study and select new locations to build new power and water distillation plants. The contract includes studying East Doha and South Shuaiba plants with an ultimate goal of increasing power production to 39,000 megawatts by 2035.



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Rawdan speaks during the 4th Kuwait Investment Forum yesterday. — KUNA

## UIC CHIEF UNDERLINES PRIVATE SECTOR'S DEVELOPMENT ROLE

KUWAIT ADOPTS FREE ECONOMIC POLICIES: MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the Union of Investment Companies (UIC) Bader Al-Subai stressed yesterday the significance of establishing the principle of partnership with the private sector at governmental agencies in order to achieve sustainable development and diversify income sources.

This principle can be realized by involving the private sector in the process of developing the state's policies, Subai added in remarks made during the second and last day of the 4th Kuwait Investment Forum. He also underscored the importance of finding solutions to pay differences in both public and private sectors, regarding this as being very essential to overhauling the private sector.

A healthy business environment should be created, and the principle of linking performance to bonus needs to be established in the public sector, he added. On corporate governance, Al-Subai emphasized that it should not be restricted to the private sector due to the significant and sensitive role of the public sector in promoting transparency, efficiency and effectiveness.

Furthermore, the UIC chief urged Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates to be keen on saving money with a view to stimulating the national economy. The 4th Kuwait Investment Forum kicked off Saturday under the partnership of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh under the title: "Investing in Kuwait - Available and Lost Opportunities."

## Free policies

Meanwhile, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Rawdan said that Kuwait is adopting free and developed economic policies in spite of geopolitical reflections and changes in the Middle East region.

Speaking during the forum, the minister said that the business environment improvement committee, set up in cooperation with the National Assembly, mainly aims at drawing foreign investment and spurring Kuwaiti investors.

He added that Kuwait has the 102nd place in the World Bank's doing business index, pointing to the Kuwaiti government's efforts to enact fresh pieces of legislation in order to create a better business climate, especially amid the current regional events. In this context, the minister extolled existing government-parliament cooperation with

a view to developing the business environment in the next 15 months.

Furthermore, MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subai said the business climate in Kuwait requires more developed laws and legislations in order to attract more investors to economic ventures. Addressing the same event, the MP emphasized that several laws need to be amended in order to push forward the current economic situation in the country. He emphasized that the National Assembly seeks to wipe out obstacles bugging Kuwaiti investors so as to encourage and spur them and to develop the local economy.

## Investment promotion

In the meantime, Minister of Justice Faleh Al-Azab said that Kuwait has adopted a package of laws aiming at promoting investment and drawing local and foreign capital. Addressing the forum, Azab, who doubles as Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, said the package mainly includes Law 116/2013 regarding direct investment promotion. It also involves Law 116/2014 as for partnership between public and private sectors, which allows investors from the private sector to invest on state-owned lands in service and infrastructure projects, he elaborated. Kuwait is seeking to create rebalance between both public and private sectors in order to achieve economic development and boost production through wholly or partially operating projects, he added.

Also yesterday, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Yusuf Al-Obeid said financial stability is the base of economic stability in the face of unpredictable jolts. Speaking at the forum, he said monetary stability ensures stable prices of commodities and services, pointing to the CBK's role in maintaining monetary stability by targeting reasonable and static interest rates.

The 4th Kuwait Investment Forum kicked off Saturday under the partnership of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh under the title: "Investing in Kuwait - Available and Lost Opportunities." The forum featured a number of workshops and seminars allowing investors and officials to have fruitful and constructive dialogue on a host of major issues and matters that serve investment promotion.

## CAR THIEVES ARRESTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Criminal detectives arrested thieves who broke into cars and stole their contents in Sharq. The suspects used to take advantage of victims being engaged in prayers and targeted their cars, before escaping. Detectives figured out the times and places of the thefts and a team covered most mosques during prayer times, until an Egyptian man was arrested red-handed after he broke the window of a car. He confessed and led police to his partner, also Egyptian. Both were sent to concerned authorities.

## Six rescued from fire

Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Qurain fire centers rescued a woman, four children and a maid who were trapped during a fire in the basement of a house. The fire was put out, and the six were handed to paramedics.

## Fugitives caught

Ahmedi security carried out a security campaign in Mahboula, Mangaf, Sabah Al-Ahmad, Khairan and Mina Abdullah, resulting in the arrest of 15 persons wanted on financial cases, four wanted on various criminal cases, one for absconding and five with expired residency permits.

## Policemen released

All policemen who are being held for disciplinary reasons were ordered released on the instructions of Interior Minister Lt Gen (Retd) Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah on the occasion of the National and Liberation Days.

Local spotlight

## BABA, SHEELNI, BABA!



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The Syrian tragedy returned in the past few days to the fore in the global media and with the emergence of an image of a Syrian child. A 25-second video shows a young boy with both his legs blown off due to an air strike, screaming at his father to pick him up. The video was heartbreaking and sent a message to the people that the war in Syria is bloody and devastating.

The child's name is Abdul Basset, and he was screaming "Baba, sheelni, Baba" after he survived an air strike in the southern countryside of Idlib. But he was rendered immobile after losing his feet. The video reminded the world of the bloody Syrian war and similarity to the images of Imran in 2016 and Alan in 2015.

Such horrific pictures send a clear message that the Syrian crisis is not only a battle between several forces and militants fuelled by the support of foreign countries - the conflict in Syria has put many innocent lives at stake and forced millions of people to flee their homes to nearby countries such as Turkey and Lebanon, as well as to migrate to Europe, especially Germany. We are confronting a humanitarian crisis, where food aid is on top of priorities.

Although some European countries such as Germany provide tremendous support to Syrian refugees, we should not disregard the possible impact on these countries. The problem today is the transformation of these immigrants to citizens because of coercive circumstances, and this is something worth looking at seriously. What will happen after the victory of Bashar Al-Assad? This is an important question. What happens when pro-regime troops are in control of all areas? What happens to IS?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, a former official in the British police force, told The Times newspaper in an article on terrorism that around 850 Britons have traveled to fight in Syria and Iraq and that police now faced the threat of battle-hardened fighters returning home as IS moves closer to defeat. These people can be a threat to others and the society itself. It's natural to expect that IS is close to an end, and therefore some of these militants will return to their countries in the West, because IS members will not be able to stay in Syria, where they will be hunted. If they return to their respective countries, they will probably tend to stay under the radar, but this doesn't mean the society is safe from their revenge.

The conflict in Syria has entered a new phase, in which the ruling regime is strong on the battlefronts and the negotiating table. The Syrian issue is a war against humanity and must be stopped. In light of the new shift in US policy toward Iran, a new and potential Arab-Israeli alliance is possible, and the rules of the game will change.

Today, the biggest issue is not the image of an injured child or a family that chose to migrate to a country that it does not belong to or bonds with at all. The question is - what about Syria? It can't be evacuated of its citizens because it will become a hotbed for all terrorist cells on Planet Earth.

## WOMAN HOLDS UP ELEVATOR AFTER REJECTED JOB APPLICATION

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** A female citizen in her fifties was arrested yesterday after she held up an elevator inside a famous tower in Sharq and refused to get off in protest after her job application was rejected because of incomplete documents and her age, said security sources. The sources added that the woman told the police that her application to work for a private company was rejected, which made her highly upset.

## Land plots

The Municipal Council is scheduled to hold an extraordinary meeting today to discuss a number of topics including allocating new land plots for Kuwaitis who had sold their government houses, discuss a request by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to build a temporary reservation in Wafra, a request to build an extra building within Adan Hospital's premises and the Interior Ministry's request to allocate a land plot to build a civil defense center in Hadiya.

## Solidarity

The public sector employees union yesterday expressed solidarity with the chairman of the employees' syndicate at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Abdul Rahman Al-Ghanem, who had been referred to investigation by a senior official with whom he had a legal dispute in court. The union's chairman Amer Al-Besais urged Housing Minister Yasser Abul to intervene and contain the problem before it gets worse. "It is unfair to refer an employee to investigation for expressing his opinion and making a statement to the press," he underlined.

## Court order

The court of appeal yesterday sentenced a Kuwaiti professor at theatrical arts teaching staff institute to 20 months jail for slandering His Highness the Amir and religious blasphemy.

## Hajj union

Acting Director of the Public Authority for Manpower Abdullah Al-Motoutah issued ministerial decision number 159/2017 pertaining with the proclamation of the Kuwait Union of Hajj Convoy Owners.

## CORRECTION

**KUWAIT:** Airbus' Defense and Space CEO Dirke Hoke and Helicopter CEO Guillaume Fairy were mistakenly referred to as 'CEO' and 'chief for copters manufacturing', respectively, in an article published in yesterday's issue of Kuwait Times under the headline 'Kuwait eyes Airbus helicopters deal.' We apologize for any inconveniences this error might have caused.



## FIFA DEEMS PITCH IN KUWAIT READY TO HOST INT'L GAMES

**KUWAIT:** A soccer stadium located in the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's (PAAET) sports and technology complex has been accredited by FIFA and could potentially host international games, PAAET announced yesterday. The stadium in Al-Shuwaikh area has been approved by FIFA and found to be fit and on par with international standards, a statement by PAAET noted, adding that the field opened its

doors last November. Moreover, the statement touted the stadium as a monumental project that had been designed using the most modern and reliable methods, possibly paving the way for the first ever international game to take place on Kuwaiti soil. It also pointed out that the stadium is due to host at the tail-end of this year, an academic level Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) soccer tournament. — KUNA



## Special report

# Private sector to play bigger role to cope with growing demand for private schools

## Education budget equals 17.5 percent of total GCC fiscal budget

**KUWAIT:** Significant advancements have been made in the GCC education sector in recent years. Literacy rates and school enrollment have risen and are now at high levels. The average youth and adult literacy rates are above 97 percent and 90 percent, respectively. The gross enrollment rate (GER) across various education levels has improved in GCC in the past few years. Over the previous decade, the education sector has gained prominence across the GCC nations. The sector has witnessed continual improvement and high investments (majorly from the government). Growth in the education sector became a key priority after the Arab Spring in 2011.

Preference for private schools, increasing use of technology and popularity of international curriculum schools are the emerging trends in GCC education sector. The demand for private schools in the GCC region has increased over the last decade from both expat and locals. It is perceived that private schools, particularly those with international curriculum offer better quality of education. The sector is observing growth opportunities in the way of the pipeline of new education projects (schools and colleges), e-learning market attracting investors and PPP in the education sector. Favorable demographics, private sector participation, rising income levels, and inclination toward better quality of education are the growth drivers providing the much needed impetus to the sector. However, the sector faces challenges in the form of shortage of skilled teachers, relatively low tertiary enrollment rate, high cost of construction and education quality not being at par with the global standards. Such challenges have led to an imbalance between the skills imparted and the job market. This demand supply mismatch is being bridged by the government initiatives and increased focus through various reforms and investments in the sector.

### Educational expenditure driven by government

The GCC governments have been allocating a huge share of their budgets to the education sector. Although falling oil prices have impacted their major revenue stream, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have allocated more than 20 percent of their total 2016 budget to develop the education sector. A high budget apportionment to the education sector indicates that the government is concentrated on the overall development of the education system. This is expected to yield a skilled workforce better suited to the employment requisites and address the issue of unemployment. The proportion is much higher in the GCC countries than in developed countries such as Germany, the UK and the US. In 2016, Saudi Arabia (22.7 percent), the UAE (21.2 percent), and Oman (21.0 percent) made the highest allocation to the education sector as a percent of their GDP, while Kuwait (15 percent), Qatar (10.1 percent) and Bahrain (9.2 percent) made the lowest. When compared to the developed countries such as the US (15.2 percent), the UK (11 percent) and Germany (5.2 percent), the top three GCC countries spent much higher on education. However, rationalizing the information in terms of expenditure per student, it seems that GCC spends less than many of the developed countries but higher than the OECD average; approximately \$11,000 per student against an average of \$9,000 for OECD countries but below the expenditure of \$12,000 for Australia and around the same for the US.

### GCC quality of education not at par with developed countries

The quality of education in the GCC countries is not at par with developed nations, majorly in terms of qualification of staff and curriculum drafting. In terms of quality of education, only Qatar and the UAE are at par with developed nations. The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2016-17 ranked Qatar, the UAE and Bahrain high in terms of quality of educational system as compared to other GCC nations. The primary education enrollment rate was high in all GCC countries, whereas the secondary education enrollment rate was high in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman but relatively lower in Bahrain, Kuwait, and the UAE. The region is witnessing an increase in students enrolling in universities for higher education abroad. The students and their parents seek higher education quality as well as the campus experience that universities in the Middle East do not provide. All GCC countries ranked low in terms of the tertiary education enrollment rate. Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE were among the top countries in terms of quality of management schools, while the rest relatively lower. The UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain ranked high in terms of Internet access in schools, whereas the rest of the countries ranked relatively lower. In terms of the pupil-teacher ratio (for primary education) however, the GCC average stands better than other economies; for GCC the ratio stands very low at 12.3 as against 23.8 for the world, 25.7 for developing countries and 14.3 for the developed world.

### Increased private sector participation is the need of the hour

The demand for private schools in the GCC region has increased over the last decade from both expats

and locals. Public schools provide free basic education in GCC only to nationals and commonly do not admit expats. Hence, there has been a gradual increase in demand for private schools with the growing number of expats in the region. Qatar and the UAE have led in alluring private investors to the education sector, mainly because they are home to a relatively large expat community. Both Qatar and the UAE are emerging as the centers for higher education as they have a large number of international schools/universities and educational institutes as well recognized for their encouraging investment climate. About 1mn students pursued education in the UAE in 2015 (4 percent CAGR during 2010-15). Private schools dominate the country's education sector, accounting for about 71 percent of the total students enrolled in the system. The number of students attending private schools expanded at a CAGR of 5.5 percent during 2010-15. Despite the public schools offering free education, nationals as well as expats prefer private schools, mainly because of better quality of education they provide. Private schools are also perceived to be imparting better quality of English among students. The governments are increasingly supporting the private sector through investor-friendly policies and resolution of challenges faced. Their aim is to raise private sector involvement to improve the education system. Gradual growth in the expat community majorly contributed to an increase in private schools in Saudi Arabia.

### Favorable demographics are key to demand growth

The GCC region has among the world's highest population growth rates. GCC's population grew at an average rate of 3.1 percent during 2010-15; it is anticipated to expand at a CAGR of 2.4 percent over 2015-2020 to reach 60mn. According to the United Nations Population Division (UNPD), around 40 percent of the estimated population in GCC was under 25 years in 2015. An improvement in birth rate and life expectancy of the nationals, along with increasing number of expats, has led to rapid growth in the population base in the region. A rapidly expanding school-and-college-going population base is expected to increase student enrollments, thus driving the education demand in the region. This augurs well for growth in the education sector in GCC. In addition, the region is attracting many international schools and universities to cater to the demands of the expats for the requirement of international curricula.

### Rising income levels are keeping the demand buoyant

The GCC countries rank among the wealthiest in the world. In 2015, four of the six GCC nations (namely, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia) ranked among the world's top 10 richest countries, with Qatar standing at the top. This is majorly due to huge oil reserves and an expanding non-oil sector. Even though the recent slump in oil prices has impacted the revenues of the member nations, it is improbable to turn into a long-term phenomenon. Government spending would mostly be supported by diversification to non-oil sectors, large foreign exchange reserves, and fiscal measures such as the VAT implementation plan. A high level of personal disposable income, coupled with a strong inclination to spend on quality education, will be the greatest driver for growth in the education sector. According to IMF, GCC's average per capita GDP (at current prices) forecasted at \$26,458 in 2015 is estimated to expand at a CAGR of ~3 percent to \$30,434 in 2020. The citizens enjoy several benefits such as free public education, free healthcare, and tax-free environment, among others; leading to a high personal income level among the population. A rising income level coupled with a strong preference towards quality education is most likely to boost the sector.

### Strong government support and involvement has continued

Governments across GCC have been taking several initiatives to develop the education sector, in form of budget allocations, long term reforms, and development strategies. In its 2017 budget, Saudi Arabia allocated \$53.3bn (the highest share, i.e., 22.5 percent, of the total expenditure) on education and training. To reform the Saudi education system, the King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz Project for Public Education Development (Tatweer) was established in 2007. The \$2.4bn program, Tatweer intends to improve the quality of graduates in the kingdom. Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah Scholarship Program (KASP), established in 2005, provided full funding support to thousands of Saudi national students to study abroad. KASP is projected to fund about 55,000 students up to 2020. In May 2014, King Abdullah approved a five-year plan valued more than SAR80bn (\$21.3bn) for education sector development. As part of this plan, 1,500 nurseries would be built, 25,000 teachers would be provided training and educational centers would be established. As part of the government's efforts to diversify income and cut public spending, the country also plans to privatize a few government schools and institutions. The kingdom anticipates increasing the number of students going to private schools from 15 percent to 25 percent. Government-owned Tatweer Buildings Company plans to form a PPP to construct and finance educational institutions at a cost of SAR45bn over the next five years.

The Kuwaiti government's approach is to transform its education sector by developing the curriculum, encouraging efficient teaching, constructing distinguished universities, and stimulating higher education bodes well for the sector. The government has launched its second phase of the school education quality improvement project at the end of March 2015. Kuwait's Ministry of Education and National Center for Education Development, along with the World Bank, brought into effect its five-year technical cooperation agreement concentrating on education reforms. The main agenda of the program was providing support to building capacity, improving the quality of learning and teaching, and supervising impact on schools and students. Besides this, the University City project is projected to enhance tertiary enrollments.

To build a top-class education system, the UAE government aims to invest significantly in improving the quality of education and schools, equipping schools



and colleges with smart devices, and recruiting internationally accredited teachers. The MoE's 10-year development strategy 2010-20 is aimed at providing students a high-quality curriculum and excellent teaching, improved student life, affordable and high-quality education, as well as promoting the national identity and confirming administrative effectiveness. The government's AED1bn Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Program aims to deliver each student a smart tablet and provide superior 4G network connectivity by 2019. In June 2009, ADEC introduced a 10-year strategic plan to address the challenges in offering P-12 education.

### Growth in tertiary segment indicates investment opportunities

There has been a significant improvement in the enrollment rates across different education levels in the last couple of years. Bahrain's primary net enrollment rate (NER) is the highest at 96.9 percent, compared with the GCC average of 93.3 percent. Qatar's secondary GER is 109.4 percent vis-à-vis GCC's average of 100.8 percent (ratio is above 100 percent since it includes students whose age exceeds the pre-defined elementary age bracket such as repeaters). Saudi Arabia's tertiary level GER is the highest at 61.1 percent against the GCC average of 31.9 percent. The region's tertiary GER has been growing steadily over the years. This growth was primarily driven by the opening of international universities/colleges and increased government initiatives. This indicates that the efforts by the government and its citizens to pursue higher education and develop skills in order to diversify their economy and fit in the global picture have been fruitful.

### The E-learning market is a definite area to look into

Out of 143 countries in the world, the GCC countries were among the top 50 with the exception of Kuwait's odd performance (72nd). Despite economic challenges, the GCC countries are increasingly investing toward modernizing their education system. To facilitate effective e-learning, the countries are gradually adopting information and communications technology. The Middle East's e-learning market is expected to expand at an annual rate of 8.2 percent to \$560.7mn over 2014-16. This bodes well for regional and global education suppliers. The highest growth is projected in Oman, Kuwait and Qatar. The share of the education sector in tablet shipments to the Middle

### Shortage of skilled teachers is the chief drawback

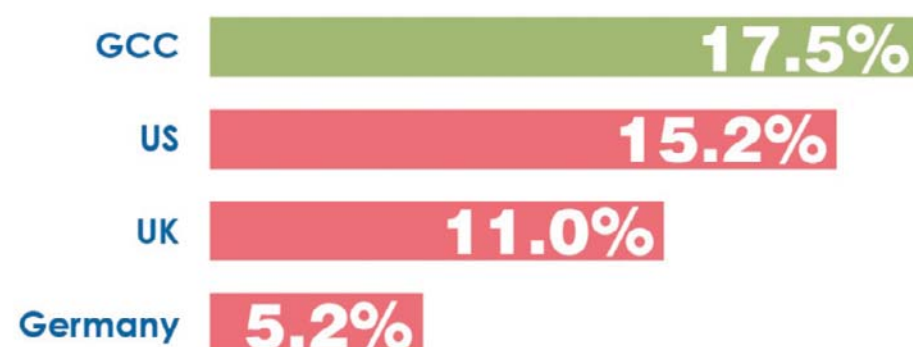
With the expanding student base and a small pool of teachers, it is becoming difficult for GCC to attract qualified teachers. The shortage of qualified teachers is attributable to factors such as low teacher wages and insufficient school management. The private sector offers more economic benefits for teachers than the public sector. Teachers do not have the same social status and respect that they used to have in earlier times. This makes it harder to find and sustain quality teachers. A high percentage of the teachers in the GCC region are recruited from foreign countries. Most of these teachers are hired on a contract for 2-3 years. The schools incur more costs for visa fees, travel expenses, and housing. The costs have increased due to the rising cost of living in the GCC region.

Owing to the small pool of local teachers and a minor percentage of locals being interested in teaching, the GCC region primarily depends on expats to meet the shortage of teachers. The GEMS Group has launched initiatives such as Global Teacher Price, worth \$1mn to inspire the young generation to join the teaching industry. Teach for Qatar is a program being run by the Qatari government that provides training and development to the graduates and professionals to teach in high-need classrooms and schools and to take up teaching as a round-the-clock career option. In spite of the measures being taken to address the shortage, the competitors offering higher incentives poach the skilled teachers. In the UAE demand exceeding the supply is a major challenge. A minimum of 14,000 teachers need to be hired over the next 4-5 years. Both the government and private players are implementing teacher-training programs to boost the workforce. Incompetently skilled teachers could negatively impact students' academic performance, mainly due to unproductively delivered curricula.

### High construction costs for schools is another barrier to entry

The cost of construction in the GCC region has risen due to an increase in the wages of contractors and workers as well as in the prices of building and construction materials, such as steel and cement. The high cost of setting up of a school and university/college is a major obstacle. The cost of construction in Qatar is the highest across GCC. The Doha Port in Qatar has a restriction on the volume of imports, which has further driven up costs and made the construction costs in Qatar the highest in the world. The government has established a committee to prioritize major projects in Qatar, review costs and propose alternative financing and contracting methods. A few economists believe that the drop in oil prices may be a silver lining for the construction industry.

### Government Spending on Education as a % of Total Budgeted



East increased to 10.3 percent in the first half of 2014. Kuwait initiated the e-education program in 2011, which aimed at digitizing textbooks and rolling out e-learning products across schools. Dawrat.org, founded by Mohammed Alsurayy in Kuwait in 2011, has become a hub for GCC training courses and has launched short Arabic Moocs (massive open online courses) in marketing, business and photography.

Several innovative e-learning programs have been introduced in the GCC region. For example, the UAE's Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Program is an integrated e-learning program aimed at shaping the new learning environment in schools. This five-year program worth AED1bn covers all government schools. In 2012, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Education (MoE) launched the Smart Schools Project worth SAR800mn wherein the classrooms would be equipped with modern techniques that would make learning easier, flexible and more enjoyable. Qatar's Supreme Education Council launched an e-learning program to modernize its education system by integrating digital technology.

### Ample opportunities for public-private partnerships (PPPs)

The fiscal position of GCC countries has weakened due to a drastic plunge in crude oil prices, leading to delays in several infrastructure projects. In addition, payment periods for many projects under construction have been extended. This scenario holds ample opportunities for PPPs in terms of operation, delivery, and financing of public infrastructure assets. The GCC governments are expected to turn to the private sector for financing the infrastructure projects. Social infrastructure sectors such as education provide innovation opportunities in the PPP domain. In fact the governments have already started encouraging enhanced private-sector contribution to the economy and also in diversification attempts. In February 2016, Saudi Arabia's MoE launched a new initiative to encourage private sector participation in the education sector. It aims to increase the number of students in private schools from 15 percent to 25 percent over the next few years. The Director General of Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) had acknowledged that PPPs were necessary to take the country's education sector to the next level. He stated that partnering with private players to reform the education system was the most proficient way forward and was also part of the Abu Dhabi Vision 2030.

East increased to 10.3 percent in the first half of 2014. Kuwait initiated the e-education program in 2011, which aimed at digitizing textbooks and rolling out e-learning products across schools. Dawrat.org, founded by Mohammed Alsurayy in Kuwait in 2011, has become a hub for GCC training courses and has launched short Arabic Moocs (massive open online courses) in marketing, business and photography.

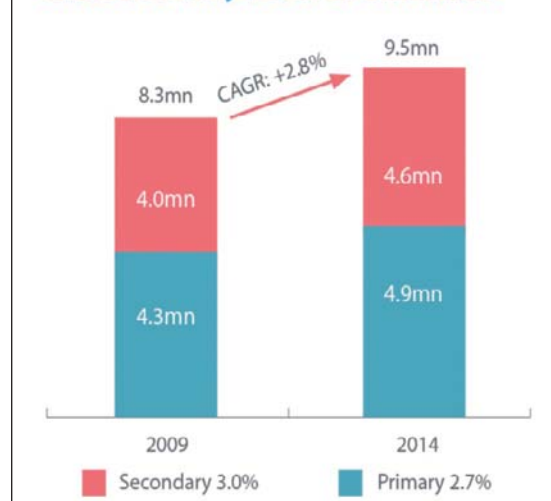
### Enrollment rate in higher education

Enrollment in tertiary education remains low in the GCC countries as compared to developed nations (GER for tertiary education in the US is 86.7 percent and Germany is 65.5 percent), reflecting a disparity between skills imparted to graduates and labor market requirements. The education sector in GCC is yet to align itself with the requirements of the private sector. The skill gap is a reason for the increasing unemployment among the youth of this region. This, in turn, demotivates students for enrolling for higher education. Having recognized this gap, the GCC governments are pursuing for the enhancement of higher education. All the GCC countries have quadrupled their investments in higher education in the last ten years.

### New projects in the pipeline

The GCC region has a number of major projects in the pipeline. Government investments along with private sector support, have led to a rise of projects in the region's education sector. Saudi Arabia accounts for the highest number of projects, followed by Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait. In addition, a number of new schools and colleges are constructed across the region as a part of the Governments strategic plans to increase student capacity. According to the Director-general of the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), Dr Abdullah Al Karam, around 15-20 new private schools will open in Dubai during the academic year 2016-17. Under its Future Schools Project, the ADEC is set to open 100 public schools by 2020. To address the education quality issue, the Kuwaiti government, in partnership with the private sector launched the Kuwait Schools Development program to develop high-quality schools. In the first phase, it would develop nine schools (one middle school, three elementary, and five kindergartens), including accommodation for school faculty and an Olympic-size swimming pool. To boost Qatar's educational infrastructure, the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) awarded contracts valued more than \$343mn for constructing 17 new schools and six kindergartens. Work is already in progress for 38 kindergartens and schools a cost of \$474mn. Lusail City Real Estate Development Company signed an agreement with four private schools to expand their branches in the new city in Qatar.

### GCC student enrollments at primary and secondary levels of education







The Education Ministry's new headquarters' building.



Ongoing construction works at the college of education at Sabah Al-Salem University City.



The college of engineering and petroleum at the Sabah Al-Salem University City.



A building under construction at the Sabah Al-Salem University City.

## EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS CORNERSTONE OF 'KUWAIT VISION 2035'

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's human development is the essence of the 'Kuwait Vision 2035' project, which was launched along education projects which represented a key part to all projects related education organizations. For example, the establishment of the Sabah Al-Salem University City, new colleges, and institutes, as well as the establishment of a variety of schools equipped with all services in various areas of Kuwait. —KUNA



Ongoing construction works at the Sabah Al-Salem University City.



The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's new headquarters' building.

كُوَيْت العَزْ وَلَادَه  
شباب هذا الوطن ابداع

– بدر بورسلي

"Our proud nation creates, its youth is inspired"  
-Bader Bouresli

كُوَيْتِي سَمَاوَنَا  
#SamanaKuwaitiya

kuwaitairways.com

Services

**LAST WEEK TO WIN AN IPHONE 7**

Update your information at any ABK branch ATM using your civil ID this week and enter the final draw to win an iPhone 7.

Terms and Conditions apply 2017 / 24 / ٤٠٠

Simpler Banking

eahli.com Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899

الأهلي  
ABK



Crime

Report

CAFE WORKERS DEPORTED FOR SERVING SHISHA TO TEENS

**KUWAIT:** Three Egyptian nationals are held pending deportation after they were arrested for serving shisha to three teenagers in a Farwaniya cafe. A security source said that the three men were caught red-handed while serving shisha to the Lebanese girls inside the cafe where they worked. The Interior Ministry had recently announced tougher penalties for cafes and restaurants that serve shisha to underage customers.

Passport destroyed

A girl tore apart the passport of a Jordanian woman to stop her from traveling with her boyfriend, after she caught them together in a cafe. The woman had busted her boyfriend sharing a table with another woman inside a cafe at Gulf Road. She approached him and asked who the other woman was, and he replied by saying that she was his coworker and they met to discuss their plans to go on a business trip together. Irked by her boyfriend's response, the woman lashed out at the two, and ended up snatching the Jordanian woman's purse, picking up her passport from inside of it and tearing it apart. Police were called to the scene and arrested the heartbroken woman on charges of 'destroying an official document.'

Attempted murder

An Egyptian man was stabbed by his compatriot in Mangaf. The victim was taken to Adan hospital and admitted inside the intensive care unit (ICU) in critical condition. The suspect was arrested before he tried to escape from the country. Investigations revealed that the suspect visited the victim and stabbed him on his door's step. The man had tried to resist the attack and close the door, but failed. A neighbor called police who arrived to the scene with paramedics. The victim was hospitalized while the suspect was taken in custody and charged with attempted murder.



Thief caught

Jahra detectives arrested a man on charges of robbing expatriates in different areas and residential buildings at knifepoint. Police also discovered that the man has a long history of criminal behavior. Detectives had taken statements of the victims who gave description of the suspect. Eventually, they arrested a man matching the description while he was trying to rob an Indian national. The man was taken to the proper authorities to face charges.

Harasser arrested

A former policeman was able to stop a drug user from harassing mall patrons. The ex-officer was shopping at a Hawally mall when he noticed a person behaving in an abnormal condition, and was harassing shoppers. He caught him and called police, who came over and placed him under arrest. Police found shabu (methamphetamine) in his possession.

Mistrust

An Egyptian man told police that he entrusted KD 2,000 in cash with his female relative, but she later denied receiving any money from him. Both were sent to detectives for further questioning. —Translated from the Arabic press



Ahmad Al-Nowaif

KFH-TAKAFUL OFFERS FREE INSURANCE CONSULTANCIES TO SMALL BUSINESSES

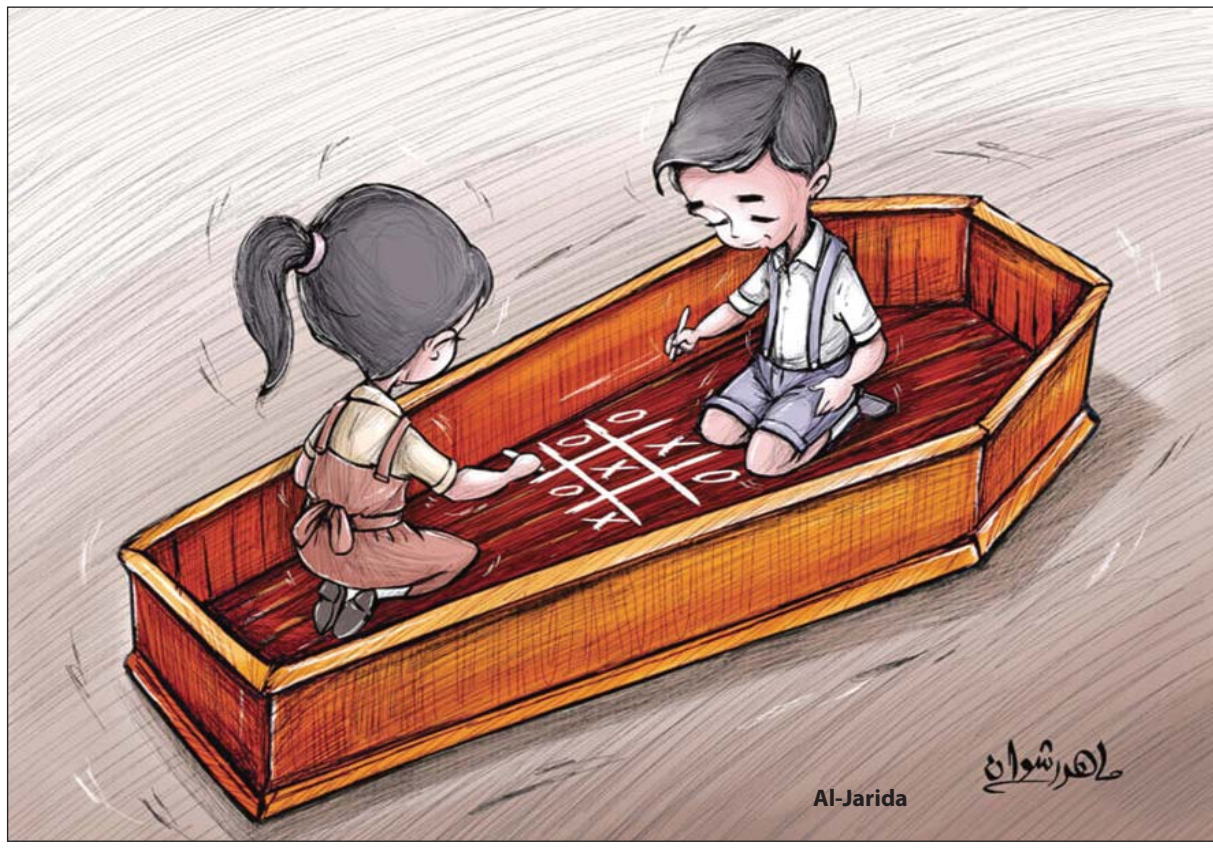
**KUWAIT:** Ahmed Al-Nowaif - Marketing and Development Department Manager at KFH Takaful said that the company is a pioneer in its insurance services. It offers the latest in the market in efforts to meet customers' needs.

He added, in a press release that KFH-Takaful has started supporting the small businesses owners, while providing them with free insurance consultancies within the framework of improving the insurance services. The company will hold a training session for small businesses owners on the sidelines of the Lobby Opening Fair to take place today February 20th at Symphony Hotel in Salmiya.

Nowaif explained that the company is a major sponsor of the fair. It will provide the small businesses owners with insurance consultancies and the methods of studying projects, not to mention providing all services that contribute in making the project a success.

He indicated that KFH-Takaful is ready to answer the small businesses owners enquiries related to insurance activities and risk assessment, affirming that educating entrepreneurs on the organizational and administrative sides of creating an insurance policy offers protection to the project, yet contributes in reducing cost and risk. This also contributes in improving business and ensures achieving security that is considered as a main pillar for development and expanding the small businesses.

He said that the communication with the small businesses owners is not limited to the fair accessibility, but the company will constantly communicate with them in efforts to offer its services and consultancies throughout the whole year.



Al-Jarida

النبا

Al-Anbaa

WHEN A PHYSICIST PLAYS FOOL

By Tha'ar Al-Rasheedi

The opposition in Kuwait is exactly like real estate. It becomes weak but never dies even if it breaks away from the strokes of various parties, including from the parliament's majority. However, it soon recovers as we have recently seen in the present parliament. It regained its strength because of the government's mistakes in handling many issues such as withdrawing citizenships, the 2013 parliament's laws, its mono-decisions on lifting electricity subsidies and increasing fuel prices in addition to the absence of public will in the 2013 parliament, which made voters retaliate and vote against its members.

Thus, choices made in the previous elections were not made out of liking the opposition, but rather as a public message of revenge from a government that had been making solo decisions for over three years. Though the government could have postponed those non-popular decisions until after the elections, it provided the opposition with chances of success on a silver platter. Naturally enough, on the very first test through the grilling of the information minister, this government failed. It was like the genius physicist Stephen Hawking failing a primary stage level math test though it mainly included simple addition and subtraction equations.

In this hypothesis, the test was absolutely easy for a

*Naturally enough, on the very first test through the grilling of the information minister, this government failed*

man in Hawking's caliber, but he failed, which is logically incomprehensible, politically untrue and scientifically cannot be justified. The only possible explanation in that regard is to assume that Hawking failed intentionally. The coming test will be grilling the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and I think that the government will manage to impose its own agenda and take control, for so many reasons that I will talk about in my coming article, once the new grilling motion is filed.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Abdul Rahman Al-Duaij attends the conference.

KFH EMPLOYEE DEMONSTRATES SUCCESS STORY AT ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING CONFERENCE



Abdul Rahman Al-Duaij lectures.

**KUWAIT:** Senior Risk Model Analyst, Risk Quantitative Analytics at Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Abdul Rahman Al-Duaij demonstrated his success story at the bank, indicating the private sector opens new horizons for further career development and allows the employees to assume leadership positions when qualified and equipped with required capabilities.

Duaij added, during his participation on the second day of the Organizational Learning Conference in a session themed "Expertise from Private Sector", that the private sector offers distinguished training programs that meet training needs of employees, yet contribute in honing their skills and qualifying them to take leadership roles in future.

He said that KFH offered Forsah program which is a special program that aligns with the High potential findings in terms of Aspiration, Ability, and Engagement.

The aim of the program is to enable graduates build a career in Islamic Banking by engaging candidates in a set of training programs and projects, and by giving them the opportunity to have on-the-job training in selected KFH Group Areas. The program included 850 training hours encompassing Human resources, Financial Accounting, Risk Management, Credit Analysis, Bank Ratings, Audit, Islamic Finance and Sharia.

Head of Manpower and Government Restructuring Program's (MGRP) Training Department, Iman Al-Ansari honored Duaij in recognition of his success story and excellence at the private sector; KFH. It is worth noting that KFH has won two Awards at Organizational Learning Conference which are "Best Employer for Job Seekers" and "Best Job Stability Award" at the 2016 Excellence awards ceremony for the institutions of the private sector held by the MGRP.

الجريدة Al-Jarida

WHY THE GOVT DID NOT PLACATE MPS?

By Mohammad Al-Weshaihi

Many writers who sympathized with the resigned minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah or those satisfied with the current situation and wish to keep the status quo, sadly wonder why the government did not consolidate with Al-Humoud and back him up, since it can affect MPs in more than one way. At first, these questions seem to be polite, innocent and rosy with nothing 'fishy' about them. However, if you look closely and read between the lines peeling off the words that are used, it completely has a different meaning.

If we manage to rephrase these questions, we will

*Why did the government not pressurize the MPs to win the no-confidence round?*

see them as follows: "Why did the government not pressurize the MPs to win the no-confidence round? Why did the government not violate laws to support its minister and keep him in the office? Why did the government leave the decision to the citizens, through its representatives, without using any of its banned nuclear weapons?" This is how we perceived the inquiries and how some colleagues expressed their view of democracy and lawmakers' constitutional rights.

Nevertheless, we will answer them so that they do not look down upon their 'beloved' government and in order to assure them that the government had already tried placating lawmakers through threats to stop their transactions. This is according to what MP Dr Jamaan Al-Harbash said about a minister who threatened to stop approving lawmakers' transactions if they voted for a no-confidence motion against Al-Humoud, which was not even denied by any of the cabinet members.

This is transaction-wise. On the other hand, if it was not for the same old methods that we all are familiar with, and if it were not for public uprising on Twitter threatening those who would back up on their commitments to support the no-confidence motion, the government would have juggled things, kissing the democracy and freedom of the press goodbye.

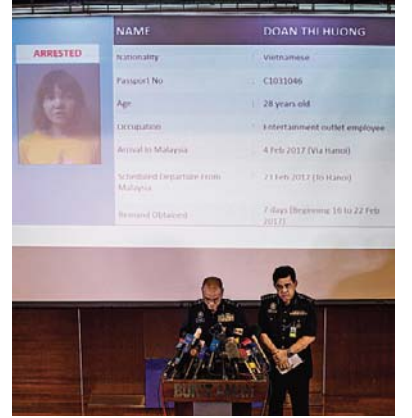
—Translated by Kuwait Times



Iman Al-Ansari honors Abdul Rahman Al-Duaij.



MAPPING A PALESTINE REFUGEE CAMP IN LEBANON



Malaysia searches for N Korean suspects who have fled country



MELBOURNE: President Donald Trump and Melania Trump stand together during a campaign rally at the AeroMod International hangar at Orlando Melbourne International Airport. —AFP

TRUMP REASSURES SUPPORTERS IN FIERY SPEECH

‘THE WHITE HOUSE IS RUNNING SO SMOOTHLY, SO SMOOTHLY’

MELBOURNE: President Donald Trump turned back the clock Saturday with a bold and aggressive Florida speech straight out of his 2016 campaign playbook, enrapturing fans while insisting all is well in the White House despite weeks of turbulence. He also took aim at his favorite foil, the “dishonest” news media that he said has become “part of the corrupt system.”

At the end of a stormy first month in office, the billionaire took the power of the presidency on the road, revisiting the style and substance of the campaign trail. After stepping down from Air Force One to a deafening cheer, he was drawn into the collective bosom of several thousand of his dearest followers—mostly white, mostly male middle-class Americans who feel they have been left behind by the country’s shifting economy. “I’m here because I want to be among my friends and among the people,” he said.

Trump employed a loud and muscular delivery—one which won over millions of voters on the campaign trail last year—to assure Americans he is fulfilling promises to shrink government, rebuild the military, restrict immigration, and tear up health care reforms enacted by predecessor Barack Obama. “This will be change for the ages,” the president said at the event in Melbourne, a sun-bleached city on Florida’s Space Coast.

But Trump was completing his first month in office under a cloud in Washington, where lawmakers pledged to further investigate his possible pre-election ties to Russia, his national security advisor was forced to resign in disgrace, and a cabinet nominee withdrew amid controversy. “The White House is running so smoothly,

so smoothly,” Trump stressed, before going on an extended rant about the US media. “I also want to speak to you without the filter of the fake news,” Trump said. “They’ve become a big part of the problem. They are part of the corrupt system,” he said, continuing the open warfare with the media that has marked his young presidency.

First Lady’s prayer

Aside from the fact that Trump is now leader of the free world, the event was eerily similar in style to his campaign—from the layout, to the recorded music, to the president’s largely impromptu delivery. About the only thing missing was attacks on his 2016 Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. Trump acknowledged that he is always in campaign mode. “Life is a campaign,” he told reporters on Air Force One ahead of the rally. “To make America great again is absolutely a campaign. It’s not easy, especially when we’re also fighting the press.”

During his speech, Trump reiterated his pledge to crack down on terrorism, saying he has “ordered decisive action to keep radical Islamic terrorists the hell out of our country.” And he said his administration would submit “in a couple of weeks” a plan to repeal and replace “the disaster known as Obamacare.” Republican leaders in Congress have said they will unveil their health care plans in the coming weeks as well.

Meanwhile, First Lady Melania Trump, who is usually soft-spoken, broke with form by reciting the Lord’s Prayer to begin the event, then issuing a scathing rebuke of her husband’s enemies and her critics. “I will always stay true to myself and be truthful to you, no matter what the

opposition is saying about me,” she said. At one point, the president broke security protocol by inviting a supporter to hop a barrier and join him onstage. “Mr President, thank you, sir,” said Gene Huber, a car salesman from West Palm Beach who said he arrived at 4 am to be first in line for the event. “This is a world leader now who’s taking control,” Huber told AFP earlier. “No jitters at all.”

‘Total garbage’

The commander-in-chief was clearly seeking to reconnect with his tribe in a reassuring environment. Tensions have soared in recent days as lawmakers pressed for more information about the Trump campaign’s connections with Russia. On Thursday, Trump held a news conference that was startling in its vitriol against the media. He later took to Twitter to call the media the “enemy of the American People.” White House chief of staff Reince Priebus warned the media not to brush off Trump’s denunciation. “I think you should take it seriously,” Priebus told CBS in an interview.

“I think that the problem we’ve got is that we’re talking about bogus stories like the one in the New York Times, that we’ve had constant contact with Russian officials. The next day, the Wall Street Journal had a story that the intel community was not giving the president a full intelligence briefing. Both stories grossly inaccurate, overstated, overblown, and it’s total garbage,” Robert Sponser, 64, a retired railroad worker from Jacksonville who was attending the rally, turned his nose up at the stew in the capital. “We don’t care,” he said of the various controversies. “He don’t owe nobody nothing. I’m with him 100 percent.” —AFP

MCCAIN: SUPPRESSING PRESS IS HOW DICTATORS GET STARTED

MUNICH: US Senator John McCain, defending the media against the latest attack by President Donald Trump, warned suppressing the free press was “how dictators get started.” The Arizona Republican, a frequent critic of Trump, was responding to a tweet in which Trump accused the media of being “the enemy of the American people.”

The international order established after World War Two was built in part on a free press, McCain said in an excerpt of an interview with NBC’s “Meet the Press” that was released in advance of the full Sunday morning broadcast. “I hate the press. I hate you especially,” he told interviewer Chuck Todd from an international security conference in Munich. “But the fact is we need you. We need a free press. We must have it. It’s vital.”

“If you want to preserve - I’m very serious now - if you want to preserve democracy as we know it, you have to have a free and many times adversarial press. And without it, I am afraid that we would lose so much of our indi-

vidual liberties over time. That’s how dictators get started,” he continued. “They get started by suppressing free press. In other words, a consolidation of power. When you look at history, the first thing that dictators do is shut down the press. And I’m not saying that President Trump is trying to be a dictator. I’m just saying we need to learn the lessons of history,” McCain said.

McCain’s comments followed Trump’s tweet and came days after the president held a raucous news conference at which he repeatedly criticized news reports about disorder in the White House and leaks of his telephone conversations with the leaders of Mexico and Australia. German Chancellor Angela Merkel underscored the importance of a free press at the Munich conference on Saturday, saying, “I have high respect for journalists. We’ve always had good results, at least in Germany, by relying on mutual respect.” Merkel did not mention Trump specifically, but called freedom of the press “a very significant pillar of democracy.” —Reuters

المؤسسة العامة للتأمينات الاجتماعية  
 The Public Institution For Social Security

وظائف شاغرة  
 Job Vacancies

The Public Institution For Social Security has job vacancy for “Senior Quality Assurance Analyst”  
 المؤسسة العامة للتأمينات الاجتماعية تعلن عن حاجتها لشغل وظيفة “محلل ضمان جودة أول”

يشترط في المتقدم للوظيفة الآتي:

- الحصول على المؤهل الجامعي تخصص علوم حاسوب - نظم معلومات إدارية.
- 5 سنوات من الخبرة في الالتزام بضمان الجودة في مجال تكنولوجيا المعلومات واختبار البرمجيات.
- خبرة في تحسين عمليات تكنولوجيا المعلومات، ومعايير ضمان الجودة في مجال تكنولوجيا المعلومات المختلفة والعمليات والإجراءات والأفضل الممارسات.
- خبرة في إدارة خطط الجودة الشاملة بما في ذلك استراتيجيات الاختبار الشاملة مثل خطة وتصميم وإجراءات وتنفيذ وبيان الاختبار.
- خبرة في أدوات فحص البرمجيات.
- يجب أن يكون لديه مهارات متميزة في الاتصال اللفظي والتدريبي وكذلك مهارات تحليلية قوية ومهارات عرض قوية ومهارات قوية في إعداد التقارير.
- يجب أن يكون مرناً على التكيف سريعاً مع متطلبات وإجراءات العمل المتغيرة.
- أن يكون ماهراً في التطبيقات المعتمدة على برامج وورد، اكسل وويندوز.
- تقديم طلبات التوظيف بالحضور الشخصي إلى مقر المؤسسة الركنان في منطقة المرقاب - شارع السور - وذلك فيما بين الساعة 9:00 صباحاً حتى الساعة 12:30 من بعد الظهر في موعد أقصاه 2017/3/13، مع ضرورة اصطحاب المستندات التالية:
  - صورة شخصية واحدة.
  - المؤهل الدراسي وكشف الدرجات وصورة من كل منهما.
  - شهادات الخبرة العملية وشهادات حضور الدورات والبرامج التدريبية وصور منها.
  - شهادة الجنسية وشهادة الميلاد والبطاقة المدنية للكويتيين وصورة من كل منها.
  - جواز السفر والبطاقة المدنية لغير الكويتيين وصورة من كل منهما.

تكون الأفضلية للكويتيين ويشترط للتعين اجتياز الاختبارات والمقابلة الشخصية واستيفاء الشروط اللازمة للتعين وفقاً للوائح والأنظمة المعمول بها في المؤسسة وعندما يقع الاختيار على أكثر من مرشح تكون المقابلة وفقاً لما يلي:

- التقدير العام للأمر للمؤهل.
- المؤهل الأعلى.
- الأكثر سناً.
- يقدم المزوج على الأخر.

Priority will be given to Kuwaitis as per the PIFSS applicable regulations, passing interview and meeting appointment terms are essential, if these candidates are short listed, preference will be based on:

- General merit of qualification (GPA).
- Earlier qualification.
- Age seniority.
- Married marital status.

Taminatkw خدمة التأمينات الاجتماعية www.pifss.gov.kw 114



## VENEZUELA AND US CLASH OVER POLITICAL PRISONERS

**CARACAS:** Venezuela and the United States locked horns again over political prisoners held by Caracas, including a jailed opposition leader whose supporters took to the streets of the capital Saturday to demand his release. Hundreds of opposition supporters marched in Venezuela's capital city, blocking one of the main highways in Caracas to protest Leopoldo Lopez's imprisonment.

Lopez, in a letter he wrote in his cell read out to supporters, urged an electoral "rebellion" to press for general elections in the country mired in economic and political crisis. Referring to gubernatorial elections set for last December that were delayed and not yet rescheduled, Lopez called instead for a referendum on whether the presidential election set for

2018 should be held in 2017 instead. Supporters called for Venezuelans to protest for change.

"His only crime was to demonstrate non-violently. And now, more than 80 percent of Venezuelans want (President Nicolas) Maduro to leave power," said David Smolansky, mayor of metro Caracas' El Hatillo district. Smolansky said the elected socialist Maduro's government amounted to a dictatorship that makes "Venezuelans go hungry while it protects criminals," he stressed, adding: "We urge the international community: no more dictatorship. We want to live in a free country where decency can overcome violence." The State Department issued a new call for the release of Lopez and other dissidents, days after the

Venezuelan Supreme Court upheld his imprisonment. Lopez is serving a nearly 14-year sentence on charges of inciting unrest at anti-government protests in 2014. "We call for the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience, respect for the rule of law, the freedom of the press, the separation of constitutional powers within the government, and the restoration of a democratic process that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people," the department's acting spokesman Mark Toner said in a statement.

### 'Dismay and concern'

"The United States reiterates its dismay and concern about these arrests, and other actions taken by the Venezuelan government to criminalize

dissent and deny its citizens the benefits of democracy," the statement said. The ruling on Lopez's appeal, which was filed in July, came a day after Trump received Lopez's wife Lilian Tintori at the White House and posted a tweet calling for the prisoner's release.

"Venezuela should allow Leopoldo Lopez, a political prisoner & husband of @liliantintori (just met w/ @marcorubio) out of prison immediately," Trump tweeted following the meeting. Lopez is the founder of Popular Will, one of the most headline parties opposing Maduro. Shortly before Trump sent his Twitter missive this week, Maduro had warned the US that Venezuela would "respond firmly" to any action deemed aggressive. "Those who tangle with us will get an

appropriate response," he said on state television. Ties had already been strained on Monday when the US Treasury imposed sanctions on Maduro's powerful Vice President Tarek El Aissami and a businessman, whom the US authorities accuse of being involved in drug trafficking. Washington has had a shaky relationship with Caracas since the late Hugo Chavez rose to power in 1999.

The former Venezuelan president was famous for his anti-American rhetoric, which has persisted under Maduro, who blames his country's deep economic woes on a US-backed capitalist conspiracy. The two countries have not exchanged ambassadors since 2010, but do share important economic relations, especially in the oil sector. — AFP



**TYRE:** Claudia Martinez, a humanitarian worker who has helped at the Burj Al-Shamali's refugee camp for years, points at aerial pictures of the camp taken by Palestinian refugees Mustafa Dakhlool (R) and Firas Ismail (L), at a hall in Burj Al-Shamali.

## BALLOON, CAMERA, ACTION: MAPPING A PALESTINE REFUGEE CAMP IN LEBANON

RESIDENTS PLAN EVERYTHING FROM FUTURE GREEN SPACES TO INSPECTIONS

**BURJ AL-SHAMALI:** Equipped with an inexpensive camera and a big red balloon, Firas Ismail—a 20-year-old Palestinian refugee in southern Lebanon—is not your typical urban planner. But the aerial shots he helped capture of the Burj Al-Shamali refugee camp, near the Mediterranean coastal city of Tyre, will help residents plan out everything from future green spaces to health inspections.

"From below, you can't really tell anything about the camp. But from above, you can see just how dense the buildings are and how little space there is," Ismail told AFP. "It becomes clear there was no planning—this map is the first time there's a kind of urban planning for the camp," he said.

The mapping project was born when residents of Burj Al-Shamali, one of 12 Palestinian camps in Lebanon, wanted to create a local green space. They enlisted help from Claudia Martinez, a humanitarian worker who has volunteered in the camp for years. "I asked to see a map, but what they showed me was like a kid's drawing," she told AFP.

"We decided we needed a new map... which could also be useful to deal with problems of electricity grid, fires, and doing health inspections of restaurants." Lebanon is home to around 450,000 Palestinian refugees registered with the UN, who live in cramped camps where infrastructure is dilapidated and services limited. When it was established in 1948 to accommodate Palestinians who fled or were forced from their homes after the creation of Israel, Burj al-Shamali housed just 7,000 people. But it is now home to nearly 23,000 residents and suffers from "extremely high" unemployment, according to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees.

### Phone stores, falafel shops

With Martinez's help, Burj Al-Shamali's residents raised more than \$16,000 in crowd-funding last year to finance a community-led project to map their camp. For days, Ismail and fellow volunteer Mustapha tied "one of those \$60

Canon cameras" to a red helium balloon and flew it over different parts of Burj Al-Shamali to take pictures. The young mappers laugh when recounting the challenges of guiding the balloon through the camp's chaotic maze of narrow alleyways.

On one occasion, the balloon popped when they tried to squeeze it through a particularly narrow street. On another, celebratory gunfire from a nearby wedding shot their camera straight out of the air. Stitching the images together, mappers saw their camp from above for the first time: a monochrome grid of concrete rooftops dotted with water tanks and satellite dishes, broken up occasionally by a row of trees. To produce a real map, they printed large-scale copies of the composite image and invited camp residents to identify landmarks, but also annotate locations with relevant dates or associated memories. In February, curious residents gathered at Al-Houla, the community group that has spearheaded the initiative, to contribute their expertise.

They pored over the bird's eye pictures, trying to find their homes and taping neon pieces of paper identifying local landmarks like Abu Samer's bakery, Najwa's Nursery and the Old Mosque. "People were writing that shops opened a certain year, NGOs were established in this year, this year electricity came to the camp. There's a phone store here, a falafel restaurant there," Ismail said.

### 'We can create'

The annotated images have been sent to designers, who are working on finalizing the map, which will then be printed and distributed to camp residents. For Mahmoud Jumaa, who heads Al-Houla, the map will serve as "a message, carrying within its folds the concerns, problems and lifestyle of the camp."

Many residents had never used a map before, but now, "we can begin planning buildings—planning the future." Inspired by the densely packed concrete rooftops visible in the aerial images, Jumaa says there are already discussions about



**TYRE:** Palestinian refugees Firas Ismail (L) and Mustafa Dakhlool fix an inexpensive camera on a red helium balloon before flying it over different parts of the Burj Al-Shamali refugee camp. —AFP photos

creating urban gardening projects and then a full-fledged park later this year. "I was surprised that, despite the density, we can create," Jumaa, a lifelong camp resident, told AFP. "There is the possibility for innovation—there is a positive image despite all the difficulties."

Organizers say the map may also help make Burj Al-Shamali accessible to Lebanese citizens, whose impressions of Palestinian camps are often colored by stereotypes of the areas as hotbeds of crime and extremism. "There was a big interest (among residents) in building bridges with the Lebanese community, to say this place is not intimidating, you can move around," Martinez said. — AFP

## MOSUL CIVILIANS DIVIDED OVER ARMY ADVICE TO STAY AT HOME

**ARBIL:** The first four months of the Iraqi offensive on Mosul were marked by relatively low displacement but the civilians who remain in the city's west face more dangers than ever. In the east, the Iraqi forces adopted a strategy of protecting civilians by keeping them at home, and the mass exodus expected by humanitarian organizations did not occur.

Since the Mosul offensive against the Islamic State group was launched in October, around 200,000 civilians are estimated to have fled their homes, and some 50,000 have already returned, according to the United Nations. In the early stages of the offensive, the army dropped tens of thousands of leaflets into Mosul, some bearing safety instructions for residents, most of whom remained in the city.

This prevented both sides from resorting to heavier weapons, avoiding large-scale destruction, as was the case in the battles of Fallujah and

Ramadi. "We know that IS targets people who try to flee, causing many casualties," Abdulwahab Al-Saadi, a top commander of the elite Counter-Terrorism Service that did most of the fighting, told AFP. "Of course it would be easier for us to bomb the jihadists with heavy weapons if the city was emptied of its inhabitants, but as our main goal is to preserve the lives of civilians, we are convinced they will be better protected if they stay at home rather than try to flee," he said, stressing this strategy had been a "success" in the east.

### 'Better to flee'

It is a strategy that has been endorsed by some, including Hazem Ghanam, a 58-year-old resident who was in east Mosul during the battle. "It's a good plan, it worked for us in the eastern side," he said. Although he is worried about a brother and two nieces who live in the west, Ghanam said it is better to stay put. "Even though



**MOSUL:** In this Nov 20, 2016 file photo, a woman fires to the air at a Popular Mobilization Units base. — AP

God spared some, the people who tried to flee got hurt. It's better to stay home." But 19-year-old Taha Ahmed thinks those who can should leave the city, as he did with his family after two months of brutal fighting. "We escaped at 2:00 am. There were a lot of families with us. IS was shooting at us but we kept running," he said. "I would tell the people (on the western side) if there is heavy shelling they should hide at home in a safe place.

And if they have a chance to get out, it's better to flee." It took Iraq's most seasoned forces—the CTS—more than three months of heavy fighting to retake the left bank of the Tigris River that divides Mosul. Taking back the city's west bank promises to be even tougher, as the narrow streets of the Old City will be impassable for many military vehicles and force government fighters to take on IS in dangerous dismounted warfare. — AFP

## IRAN DISMISSES US PRESSURE, CALLS FOR 'MUTUAL RESPECT'

**MUNICH:** Iran's foreign minister brushed aside new pressure from the United States yesterday, declaring that his country is "unmoved by threats" but responds well to respect. President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran, the US and five other world powers, under which Tehran agreed to curb its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions, but hasn't said what he plans to do about it.

His administration has said Iran was "on notice" over a recent ballistic missile test, and imposed new sanctions on more than two dozen Iranian companies and individuals. "Iran doesn't respond well to threats," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told the Munich Security Conference, an annual gathering of top diplomats and defense officials. "We don't respond well to coercion. We don't respond well to sanctions, but we respond very well to mutual respect. We respond very well to arrangements to reach mutually acceptable scenarios."

"Iran is unmoved by threats," he said. "Everybody tested us for many years - all threats and coercions were imposed on us," Zarif added. He mocked "the concept of crippling sanctions," which he said didn't stop Iran acquiring thousands more centrifuges, used for enriching uranium, before talks with the US on the nuclear agreement got underway.

### Regional rivals

Iran has always said it has no interest in nuclear weapons. Asked how long it would take to make one if it did decide it wanted such weapons, Zarif replied: "We are not going to produce nuclear weapons, period. So it will take forever for Iran to produce nuclear weapons." Iran's regional rivals aired a laundry list of grievances about Tehran's behavior, pointing to the wars in Syria and Yemen among other issues.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Adel Al-Jubeir, argued that the Iranians "stepped up the tempo of their mischief" during the negotiations on the nuclear deal and have continued to do so since then. "I believe that Iran knows where the red lines are if the red lines are drawn clearly, and I believe that the world has to make it clear to the Iranians that there is certain behavior that will not be tolerated, and that there will be



**MUNICH:** Iran Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif speaks on the last day of the Munich Security Conference. — AP

consequences," Jubeir told the conference. "And those consequences have to be in tune with the financial side." Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman insisted that the main challenges facing the region are "Iran, Iran and Iran."

Asked what approach he seeks against Iran, he replied: "It's a combination of economic pressure, very tough policy and of course to impose the resolutions of (the UN) Security Council, for example the ballistic missiles." Sen Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, said that Iran has been working to try and build a nuclear weapon, and "if they say they haven't, they're lying."

He proposed new sanctions in Iran for various reasons, including what he said were violations of U.N. resolutions and destabilizing the Mideast. "I think it is now time for the Congress to take Iran on directly," he said.

"I think most Republicans are on board with that concept and we'll see where President Trump's at." Jubeir said that he is "very optimistic about the Trump administration." "We see a president who's pragmatic and practical, a businessman, problem-solver, a man who's not an ideologue," he said.

"He wants America to play a role in the world. Our view is that when America disengages, it creates tremendous danger in the world, because it leaves vacuums." "He believes in destroying Daesh (the Islamic State group); so do we," Jubeir added. "He believes in containing Iran; so do we. He believes in working with traditional allies; so do we." — AP

## TRUMP DRAFTS PLAN TO SPEED DEPORTATIONS

**WASHINGTON:** The Department of Homeland Security has prepared new guidance for immigration agents aimed at speeding up deportations by denying asylum claims earlier in the process. The new guidelines, contained in a draft memo dated February 17 but not yet sent to field offices, directs agents to only pass applicants who have a good chance of ultimately getting asylum, but does not give specific criteria for establishing credible fear of persecution if sent home.

The guidance instructs asylum officers to "elicit all relevant information" in determining whether an applicant has "credible fear" of persecution if returned home, the first obstacle faced by migrants on the US-Mexico border requesting asylum. Three sources familiar with the drafting of the guidance said the goal of the new instructions is to raise the bar on initial screening. The administration's plan is to leave wide discretion to asylum officers by allowing them to determine which applications have a "significant possibility" of being approved by an immigration court, the sources said. The guidance was first reported and posted on the internet by McClatchy news organization.

In 2015, just 18 percent of asylum applicants whose cases were ruled on by immigration judges were granted asylum, according to the Justice Department. Applicants from countries with a high rate of political persecution have a higher chance of winning their asylum cases. A tougher approach to asylum seekers would be an element of President Donald Trump's promise to crackdown on immigration and tighten border security, a cornerstone of his election campaign and a top priority of his first month in office. The DHS declined to comment for this story, referring questions to the White House, which did not respond to a request for comment.

### What is 'credible fear'?

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, an applicant must generally demonstrate "a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular

social group, or political opinion." Immigration lawyers say any applicants who appear to meet that criteria in their initial interviews should be allowed to make their cases in court. They oppose encouraging asylum officers to take a stricter stance on questioning claims and rejecting applications.

Interviews to assess credible fear are conducted almost immediately after an asylum request is made, often at the border or in detention facilities by immigration agents or asylum officers, and most applicants easily clear that hurdle. Between July and September of 2016, U.S. asylum officers accepted nearly 88 percent of the claims of credible fear, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services data.

Asylum seekers who fail the credible fear test can be quickly deported unless they file an appeal. Currently, those who pass the test are eventually released and allowed to remain in the United States awaiting hearings, which are often scheduled years into the future because of a backlog of more than 500,000 cases in immigration courts.

Between October 2015 and April 2016, nearly 50,000 migrants claimed credible fear, 78 percent of whom were from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala or Mexico, according to statistics from USCIS. The number of migrants from those three countries who passed credible fear and went to court to make their case for asylum rose sharply between 2011 and 2015, from 13,970 claims to 34,125, according to data from the Justice Department. Former border patrol chief Mike Fisher credits that trend to advice from immigration lawyers who know "asylum officers are going to err on the side of caution and refer most cases to a judge." The new guidance on asylum seekers is for border personnel implementing Trump's Jan. 25 executive order on tightening US border security. Among other measures, the president's directive calls for expediting eligibility claims of those attempting to stay in the United States and promptly deporting those whose claims are rejected. — Reuters



## INMATES ABANDON THEIR GANG LIFE IN EL SALVADOR

**SAN FRANCISCO GOTERA:** Inside a Salvadoran prison Francisco Lopez teaches fellow ex-gang members how to make paper figurines, as part of a program designed to reinsert them into society once they are released. He is one of 460 inmates in El Salvador who have left one of the country's most vicious gangs, in a nation that along with neighboring Guatemala and Honduras makes up the "Northern Triangle" of Central America.

Their main claim to infamy is the gang violence that has propelled them to the top of the list of the most dangerous countries in the world, outside of actual war zones. Criminal outfits-dealing in murder, extortion and drugs-reign with terror over swaths of territory, often whole districts of cities and towns. Security forces clamp down on them, but any respite seems temporary. There are an estimated 70,000 gang members in El Salvador. But some, Lopez among them, have now abandoned their ranks.

"I want a new life," he said. "The streets were all danger and death." His organization was the Barrio 18 gang, and it was part of his life for 21 years—a period he says today was "wasted." "It was a crazy time that I badly lived through," the 38-year-old said on one of the patios in San Francisco Gotera prison in the country's northeast. "But it's never too late to change."

### Preacher shows the way

The catalyst for many to ditch their brutal street "family" was inmate Edwin Chicas, who dropped Barrio 18 to become an evangelical preacher. His example prompted 460 other felons to follow suit—not only breaking with the gang but also converting to Christianity. The change brings with it an improvement to conditions behind bars.

Inmates are no longer kept separate in the prison, in overcrowded cells and with no family visits. They are given the right to leave their cells daily and participate in religious classes and in training workshops. Most importantly, they are given opportunities to prepare for a different life, far from the brutish and often short-lived existence in the gangs.

Oscar Alirio Montano, 29, for instance, taught 60 prisoners the craft of turning mirrors into works of art. But while they have left the gangs, their past affiliation is still evident in tattoos. Alirio Montano, who is two-thirds of the way through his 15-year sentence, intends to go through a painful operation to remove the markings that cover him from head to toe.

### 'Getting rid of the past'

Designed to hold 400 inmates, the San Francisco Gotera penitentiary has a population nearly three times that: 1,122 prisoners. The sentences are lengthy — some have terms of over 100 years-for crimes including murder, extortion and belonging to a criminal organization. Overcrowding is so bad that prisoners have to sleep in hammocks strung up one on top of the other.

Part of the way they prove they have left the gang involves the ex-members cleaning off Barrio 18 graffiti in the three wings where they are held, coating the walls in green and brown paint instead. "We are getting rid of the past that inspired respect and fear of the gang," Chicas said. One of the workshops offered to the gang-free prisoners is in English, taught by Edwin Garcia. The 36-year-old spent 23 years in the United States before being deported and later incarcerated for drug trafficking and weapon possession.

"I was deported from the US for the bad things I did. They grabbed me from home in 2010," he said, without elaborating further. He has served half of his six-year sentence. In a literacy and numeracy workshop—a popular activity with 60 enrolled the level is "beginner," explained one of the four teachers, Marvin Arias, 24.

Over in the guitar lesson, Alexander Lara, 22, and Neftali Escobar, 35, teach tunes with titles like "I'm changing for El Salvador" and "I want a better future." For those looking to shake off their violent, clannish past, there are glimmers of a different future. For other prisoners, though, sticking to the gangs, "the treatment will be drastic," warned the prison warden, Oscar Benavides. "They will learn that society is fed up" with gangs, he said. — AFP



**LOS ANGELES:** People carry signs during the Immigrants Make America Great March to protest actions being taken by the Trump administration. (INSET) In this Feb 10, 2017 photo, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson smiles while greeting the media during a meeting with Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida at the State Department in Washington. — AP photos



## AS TRUMP FORGES POLICIES, TILLERSON SHUNS SPOTLIGHT

PROVING TO BE EVERYTHING HIS EXTROVERTED BOSS IS NOT

**WASHINGTON:** When North Korea fired a ballistic missile into waters between South Korea and Japan, President Donald Trump moved quickly to show US resolve. He appeared within hours alongside visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and said the US "stands behind Japan, its great ally, 100 percent."

Trump happened to be hosting Abe that day in Florida. Yet his lack of any mention of US treaty ally South Korea didn't go unnoticed by new Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. So, while on his first official trip, Tillerson arranged a three-way meeting in Germany with the Japanese and South Korean foreign ministers to show the US wasn't picking favorites, according to a senior State Department official.

The talks culminated in a joint declaration in which the US pledged to defend a pair of Asian nations that don't always get along. There was no elaborate ceremony before the video cameras, no speeches, as their written statement went out in low-key fashion. It was Tillerson's way.

Cautious, reserved and intent on avoiding the spotlight, the former Exxon Mobil CEO is proving to be everything his extroverted Oval Office boss is not. In his first weeks as America's top diplomat, Tillerson has gone to great lengths to avoid attracting attention, despite a growing perception in Washington that the State Department is being sidelined by a power-centric White House.

### Staffing cuts

Some State Department officials have been told by the White House to expect drastic budget cuts, with much of the reduction potentially coming out of US foreign aid money. Trump and his team have also told those interviewing for top State Department jobs that significant staffing cuts will come. Some appear to have started already.

While Tillerson was in Germany, several senior management and advisory positions were eliminated. The staffers were reassigned. Some other top posts are vacant, and there are no signs they'll be quickly filled. While Tillerson has met or spoken with dozens of foreign counterparts in his first weeks, the White House is driving the front-page diplomacy. The lack of State Department involvement has flustered many long-time diplomats. When Trump met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week, acting Deputy Secretary Tom Shannon was assigned to represent the agency in the meeting because Tillerson was flying to Germany. At the last minute, Shannon was blocked from participating in the meeting. The meeting went on without State Department representation.

It was "modified to allow for a more personal discussion," according to a US official, who was authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Tillerson had

dined the evening before with Netanyahu and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and a White House aide who has emerged as Trump's top emissary to Israel, Mexico and other countries. That is a role that traditionally has fallen to the secretary of state.

### Sharp contrast to Kerry

Tillerson has barely spoken in public, save for greeting US diplomats on his first day and brief comments after a get-together with Russia's foreign minister. It's a sharp contrast with the Obama administration's last secretary of state, John Kerry, who routinely found his way to the center of global crises, enthusiastically fulfilling the "public diplomacy" part of the job. Whereas Kerry exhausted staff with impromptu, whirlwind foreign trips and constant press appearances, Tillerson has made it known to his staff that he wants a lower profile.

In private, the Texas oilman with the booming baritone voice is deliberate, independent and cool-headed, according to US and foreign diplomats who have interacted with him and spoke on condition of anonymity in order to avoid possible diplomatic fallout from discussing private conversations. A common thread in Tillerson's meetings with diplomats has been an emphasis on safety of US personnel, State Department officials said. — AP



**RENAULT**  
Passion for life

New  
**Renault SYMBOL**  
A new standard of equipment



Rearview Camera  
16" Two-tone Alloy Wheels  
7" Touchscreen Multimedia System  
C-shaped LED Daytime Running Lights

From  
KWD **3,099**

Facebook, Instagram, YouTube icons and [renault-me.com](http://renault-me.com)



**1 804 888**  
Customer Care Center

شركة عبد المحسن عبد العزيز البابتين دامم  
**Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co. W.L.L**



\*Terms and Conditions Apply. Image is for illustration purpose only.



## DUTCH MUSLIM GROUPS SLAM WILDERS' 'SCUM' COMMENTS

**THE HAGUE:** Muslim organizations in the Netherlands yesterday criticized disparaging comments about Moroccans made by anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders, but say they are just the latest in a long string of insults. Launching his campaign Saturday for the Netherlands' March 15 parliamentary election, Wilders criticized Moroccan youths for making the Netherlands unsafe, although he qualified the comments by saying they didn't apply to all Moroccans.

"If a Dutch person driving in a car drives five miles too fast he will be fined

within a minute whereas the Moroccan scum in Holland - once again, not all are scum, but there is a lot of Moroccan scum in Holland who makes the streets unsafe mostly young people and they are not taken seriously," Wilders said at his first campaign event in the blue collar town of Spijkenisse.

Ebubekir Ozturk, director of the Muslim umbrella group Contact Organ Muslims and Government, called Wilders comments "reprehensible," but added that Moroccans and Muslims are accustomed to such outbursts from Wilders, whose

Party for Freedom is riding high in opinion polls less than a month from the election.

### Appealing the conviction

"It is not the first time and probably won't be the last time," that Wilders has used such language, Ozturk said in a telephone interview. "He has said worse things about Moroccans and Muslims. As crazy as it sounds, people are a bit used to it from him." Wilders was convicted late last year of inciting discrimination and insulting a group for anti-Moroccan comments he made before and after

local elections in 2014. He branded the conviction "political."

Wilders is appealing the conviction, which centered on comments he made before and after Dutch municipal elections in 2014. At one meeting in a Hague cafe, he asked supporters whether they wanted more or fewer Moroccans in the Netherlands. That sparked a chant of "Fewer! Fewer! Fewer!" - to which he replied, "we'll take care of it."

Wilders has a long history of criticizing Islam and Moroccans he says are responsible for a disproportionate amount of

street crime in the Netherlands. His one-page election manifesto also is strongly anti-Islam, vowing to ban the Quran, shut the country's mosques and halt all immigration from Muslim nations. Abdou Menebhi of the Euro-Mediterranean Center for Migration and Development said he expects more such comments in the future. Menebhi filed one of the many complaints that led to Wilders' prosecution last year. "Wilders is not going to stop," Menebhi said in a telephone interview. "He is still spreading hate and discriminating against Moroccans and Muslims." — AP

## EUROPE WONDERERS IF TRUMP WILL ACT ON PENCE'S REASSURANCES

EUROPEAN LEADERS REMAIN SKEPTICAL ON ADMINISTRATION'S PROMISES

**MUNICH:** Vice President Mike Pence was the latest in a trio of high-ranking Trump emissaries to tell European allies in person that the United States will steadfastly support NATO and demand that Russia honor its commitments to end fighting in Ukraine.

Some European leaders, however, remain skeptical of whether Pence and the US secretaries of state and defense actually speak for President Donald Trump. And they worry those declarations might easily be swept away at the whim of the mercurial American president. "We are waiting for actions," said Polish President Andrzej Duda. "We only know what the media has reported and the statements that we've got

imposed on Russia over its intervention in Ukraine could be eased in exchange for a nuclear arms deal.

### 'Our country's so innocent?'

Trump also raised eyebrows when he appeared to draw parallels between Russia and the US when Bill O'Reilly of Fox News referred to Russian President Vladimir Putin as "a killer." Trump replied: "We've got a lot of killers. What do you think? Our country's so innocent?" In the days before his inauguration, Trump referred to NATO as "obsolete" in an interview, but said the 28-nation alliance remained important to him. He has since tempered his language and

served as homeland security secretary under President George W. Bush, noted that Pence's comments were in line with similar assurances given by US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis during a NATO meeting in Brussels earlier in the week.

"They've all been consistent about the fact that there is a strong, deep and enduring commitment to Europe and to NATO and I think that message has been received," Chertoff said. The same day Mattis was in Brussels, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met with his Russian counterpart in Bonn, Germany, saying afterward that Russia must adhere to a 2015 deal to end fighting between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. But whether Trump intends to put Pence's words into action remained a front-and-center issue at the Munich Security Conference.

### No doubts

German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel was pressed after Pence's speech on whether he had doubts about Trump's commitment to NATO. "I have no doubts that the American vice president, and also the defense minister, will do everything to take responsibility within NATO as in the past, and I don't think there is a big argument inside the American government," said Gabriel, who also is Germany's foreign minister. Asked about Trump's commitment, he said, "Since I haven't spoken to him, I can only say what I discussed with Mr. Pence - I did that and there are no doubts there."

Jeff Rathke, a senior fellow with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said Pence's words were likely reassuring to Europeans in light of the similar affirmations from Mattis and Tillerson. "But everyone is aware that this is tentative until it is reaffirmed by the president in his own words," Rathke said in an email. "One tweet or statement casting doubt on the Europeans or on NATO will call back into question all of what Pence and Mattis have been saying."

Democrats are still stung by the conclusion by intelligence agencies that Russia meddled in the 2016 US presidential campaign to help Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton. And they have continued to argue that Trump remains a major liability on the world stage. Wrote Sen Chris Murphy, D-Conn, on Twitter: "Looks like we have 2 governments. @VP just gave speech about shared values btwn US and Europe as @POTUS openly wages war on those values." — AP



**MUNICH:** United States Vice President Mike Pence, right, shakes hands with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin, left, as Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko looks on, centre, during the Munich Security Conference. — AP

Now we are waiting for actions of the new government of Donald Trump."

European countries along Russia's border have been rattled by the prospect of deeper US-Russia ties after Trump bucked the opinions of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other world leaders by suggesting that sanctions

stressed the importance of NATO during telephone conversations with multiple foreign leaders. Pence, making his first overseas trip as vice president, sought to allay some of those fears in Munich on Saturday, reaffirming the US commitment to NATO and promising that the US would "hold Russia accountable." Michael Chertoff, who

## BLAST IN SOMALIA KILLS 15 IN MOGADISHU MARKETPLACE

**MOGADISHU:** A Somali police officer says a blast at a busy market in the western part of Somalia's capital killed at least 15 people. Capt Mohamed Hussein said the powerful blast thought to be from a car bomb tore through shops and food stands in Mogadishu's Madina district yesterday. He said the bomb also wounded more than 10 others and casualties may rise as many of the wounded victims suffered horrific wounds.

Kawo Godey is a small but busy market with shops and food stands.

Ahmed Mohamed, a witness said he saw severed limbs and blood scattered across the market. "Bodies were piled on top of each other," he said by phone as ambulance sirens echoed from the background. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the blast. However, Somalia's homegrown Islamic extremist rebels, Al-Shabab, often carry out such attacks.

Despite being ousted from large parts of south and central Somalia, Al-Shabab continues to carry out

guerrilla attacks in this Horn of Africa nation. An Al-Shabab rebel commander denounced the country's recent election of a new president and vowed to continue fighting the government, the first official comment from Al-Shabab since the president's election earlier this month.

In an audio message released by Al-Shabab's radio arm yesterday, Sheikh Hassan Yaqub, a senior commander of the extremist group, called Somalia's new president Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed an

"apostate" and warned Somalis against supporting him. Mohamed, who holds both Somali and US citizenship, was elected Feb 8. The Al-Shabab leader also referred to the new president as "evil-minded," recalling his eight-month tenure as the prime minister of Somalia in 2010 and 2011, during which the extremists lost control of Mogadishu, the capital. "Remember how much harm he inflicted upon Muslims during his time as prime minister," said Yaqub. — AP



**MOGADISHU:** A man walks past the wreckage of shops destroyed by a blast in a market in the capital. — AP



**QUITO:** A police officer casts his vote at a polling station during the general elections yesterday. — AFP

## ECUADOR IN KEY ELECTION FOR LATIN AMERICAN LEFT

**QUITO:** Ecuador voted yesterday in general elections that could see a pillar of the Latin American left swing to the right at an economic turning point for the oil-rich nation. The vote puts in question the legacy of outgoing leftist President Rafael Correa, who is marking the end of 10 years and three terms in power. The outspoken critic of the United States is not running for re-election. It could also alter the fate of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. The two leading conservative candidates have said that if they win, they will evict him from Ecuador's London embassy where he has taken refuge for fear of extradition to the United States.

### Continuity or change

Economist Correa, 53, initially oversaw a boom in the oil-rich country of 16 million. Now, "what is at stake are two visions of society, two visions of development, two visions of the state," he said of yesterday's election. Voters must decide whether to continue his Socialist agenda by electing his ally Lenin Moreno, or to follow Argentina, Brazil and Peru in switching to a conservative government. Moreno, who leads in opinion polls, promises to continue Correa's tax-and-spend social policies. "The Ecuadorian people have affection (for us) and are determined to continue with this process," the 63-year-old told AFP.

### 21st-century socialism

But in an uncertain contest, Moreno faces a challenge from conservative ex-banker Guillermo Lasso, 61, second in the opinion polls. He has vowed to cut spending and taxes, lure foreign investment and create a million jobs. He has also slammed Correa's allies over alleged links to a corruption scandal. "We have to vote for change to fight against corruption," Lasso said at a campaign rally on Wednesday.

The third-placed candidate is conservative former lawmaker Cynthia Viteri, 51. Correa says Latin America needs a strong leftist movement to resist US President

Donald Trump's hard line on immigration and trade. But Lasso and Viteri have shown more willingness to work with Washington since Trump's election victory in November.

Franco Sandoval, a student in Quito, said he will vote "for a change." "The ones who are in power have been there for a long time. They have done their job," he told AFP. "But at some point they go off the rails." Ecuador exports half a million barrels of oil a day. Correa used the wealth to fund social welfare schemes and public works. He called it "21st-century socialism."

But oil prices have plunged over the past three years, with Ecuador's economy shrinking by 1.7 percent last year. Correa is accused of failing to save any petrodollars for a rainy day, and of hampering businesses with high taxes and duties. "Whoever becomes president will have to dig the grave of '21st century socialism,'" Alberto Acosta-Burneo, an economist at the Spurrier Group consultancy, told AFP. "It is no longer viable in the current economic situation."

### Close contest

Opinion polls indicate Moreno will likely win Sunday's first-round vote. But his lead may not be big enough to avoid a runoff on April 2 against a conservative rival, most likely Lasso. Analysts say voters fed up with Correa may then rally behind whichever conservative candidate gets through. Polls show a high ratio of undecided voters.

"Any party could beat the governing one in the second round, because there is major resistance to and rejection of the government," said political scientist Paolo Moncagatta of Quito's San Francisco University. But Michael Shifter of the Inter-American Dialogue think tank in Washington cautioned: "It is a mistake to underestimate the strength of support for Correa's side." Polling stations opened at 1200 GMT and were due to close at 2200 GMT. — AFP

## AS MUGABE TURNS 93, AN ANXIOUS ZIMBABWE WONDERERS WHO'S NEXT

**HARARE:** As the world's oldest head of state approaches his 93rd birthday tomorrow, Zimbabwe has been planning a party for thousands of people in honor of President Robert Mugabe. For weeks, state television has led its broadcasts with tributes. But those closest to Mugabe, who has led this southern African nation for nearly four decades, appear to be finally looking ahead to a future without him, amid uncertainty.

The ruling ZANU-PF party has already endorsed Mugabe as its candidate in next year's election, and the president has declared that he would like to live until he's 100 and rule for life. In an interview published Sunday ahead of his birthday, Mugabe said he wasn't ready to step down, adding that he would not groom a successor either.

### 'No replacement'

"A successor is groomed by the people. The majority of the people feel that there is no replacement; a successor who to them is acceptable, as acceptable as I am," he was quoted as saying by the state-run Sunday Mail newspaper. Analysts say recent statements by his wife, however, might be more telling as Mugabe shows signs of slowing down. Headlining her first political rally in months on Friday, First Lady Grace Mugabe spoke to a crowd of thousands not about the birthday celebrations but about the possibility of her husband's death.

"If God decides to take him, then we would rather field him as a corpse" in the upcoming election, she said. "We will put his name on the ballot paper just to show that people love their president." The first lady has previously said she would get her husband a wheelchair if necessary

and push it for him so that he can continue to rule. Attention, however, is on a post-Mugabe scenario, said political analyst Alexander Rusero. In the event of the president's death, resignation or incapacity, the first vice-president takes over for the remainder of the term, according to the constitution. The catch is that Zimbabwe has two vice presidents. Both belong to bitterly opposing factions and neither is designated as the official first vice president. This could mean a messy succession, say legal experts. "But then, that is how Mugabe has played it all along, ensuring that his succession remains a mystery by playing one faction against the other," said Gabriel Shumba, a human rights lawyer and chairman of the South Africa-based Zimbabwe Exiles Forum. "It may have served him well, but the downside is that Zimbabwe will be plunged into horrible uncertainty once he is gone."

### International pariah

Mugabe has led the ZANU-PF party since 1975 and has been the country's leader since 1980, when Zimbabwe attained independence from white minority rule. Admired as a statesman during the early years of independence for reconciling with the country's former colonizers, Mugabe later became an international pariah following alleged human rights abuses and electoral irregularities. The country's once-prosperous economy is imploding, bringing more pressure from the opposition and frustration from a restless population. The government has failed to pay salaries on time since June, public hospital doctors are on strike and cash shortages are driving the economy to the edge. — AP



**General Manager - Travel and Tourism - SOS HR Solutions Kuwait**

You will be responsible for actively contributing in developing the sales and operations strategy for the company in line with business plans / objectives set by the executive management, designing and developing the business plans in the areas of strategic, sales, marketing, operations, IT infrastructure and technology platforms.

Apply Now [JB3626225](#)

**Legal Counsel - Kuwaiti Danish Dairy Company (KCSC) Kuwait**

You will be responsible for leading the operations of the legal department, ensuring we comply with all local labour, corporate and all other laws at all times, providing legal advice and guidance on all kinds of legal matters, mitigating risks as and when required, working with Executive Management on matters of civil or corporate law as required.

Apply Now [JB3620099](#)

**Accountant - Al Marar Group Holding Companies Kuwait**

You will be responsible for analyzing financial information and preparing financial reports to determine or maintain record of assets, liabilities, profit and loss, tax liability, or other financial activities within an organization, preparing personnel statements and bank transfers, preparing payment cheques, etc.

Apply Now [JB3620023](#)

**Marketing Manager Star Hotel Kuwait**

You will be responsible for planning, development and implementation of all of the organization's marketing strategies, marketing communications, and public relation activities, both external and internal, overseeing development and implementation of support materials and services for chapters in the area of marketing, communications and PR.

Apply Now [JB3621118](#)

**Coordinator - Training Commercial Bank of Kuwait Kuwait**

You will be responsible for handling all assigned training functions/ tasks/ activities and delivering the expected output successfully, maintaining training records on PC with respect to individual and training database and updating them regularly, handling course and trainee evaluations along relevant statistical analysis, etc.

Apply Now [JB3620836](#)

**Goods Flow Manager IKEA - Al Homaizi Limited Kuwait**

You will be responsible for managing and leading the warehouse team and working with the in-store logistics and store commercial team to secure the highest goods availability for customers at all times and at the lowest possible cost, ensuring the agreed logistics actions from the store business plan are implemented in the goods flow process, etc.

Apply Now [JB3613864](#)

**Sales Representative Kaj Steel Co. Kuwait**

You will be responsible for establishing, developing and maintaining business relationships with current and potential clients to generate new business for the company's products/services, following and achieving the department's sales goals on a monthly, quarterly and yearly basis, participating in the development of policies and strategies.

Apply Now [JB3619702](#)

**Direct Marketing Executive (Promoter) - Morpheus Consulting - Kuwait**

You will be responsible for providing information on the launch of latest projects, villas and apartments, providing samples, coupons, informational brochures, and other incentives to persuade people to purchase, identifying interested and qualified customers in order to provide them with additional information etc.

Apply Now [JB3618256](#)

**Employment Advisor (Female) Ingeus KSA**

You will be responsible for providing information, advice and guidance to help Hafiz job seekers make realistic decisions about motivation, training and work, career advice, You will also offer personal development support, planning, and organizational skills to ensure that all Hafiz job seekers are given appropriate assistance to start and sustain work.

Apply Now [JB3620114](#)

**IT Specialist Magrabi Hospitals & Centers KSA**

You will be responsible for operating and maintaining the systems by ensuring proper backup and periodic maintenance, deploying new desktop PCs and maintain old ones, fixing, diagnosing or isolating problems with network, PCs, terminals and all peripherals, initiating and following up on orders for computer parts needed for maintenance.

Apply Now [JB3325450](#)

**Area Sales Supervisor Rasasi Perfumes KSA**

You will be responsible for handling retail outlets and taking care of sales for Riyadh region, generating sales in the local wholesale market, managing inventory on outlets, supervising and monitoring of staff and their sales activities and resolving outlet issues on immediate basis.

Apply Now [JB3620022](#)

**Researcher - Telemarketer Bayt.com KSA**

You will be responsible for generating new or updated records with phone-outs per day, checking daily newspapers and business magazines to note down all the leads from new entrants, new projects or expanding companies, checking various websites for leads that might have been missed in print, and updating CRM for all historic interaction with companies.

Apply Now [JB3616703](#)

**Senior ELV Design Engineer Menasa And Partners UAE**

You will be responsible for handling designing of multiple projects simultaneously, overseeing a team of design engineers, liaising with other disciplines, attending client progress meetings, ensuring design methods are carried out effectively and efficiently throughout the entire project life cycle.

Apply Now [JB3621106](#)

**Manager - Customer Operations - Alliance Global UAE**

You will be responsible for proposing and implementing service/support programs designed to increase income from extended warranties and service contracts, meeting and exceeding the annual target for extended warranties and service contracts, having a complete understanding of the products sold by AGBL.

Apply Now [JB3621086](#)

**ACCA Lecturer - City University College of Ajman UAE**

You will be responsible for delivering lectures to students for assigned ACCA papers, assisting students with ORU Mentor process in order to complete their Bachelor's Degree, developing course design and revising of curriculum offered, mock exams and their assessment, recording achievement of students and attending planning meetings.

Apply Now [JB3620934](#)

**Social Media Specialist Al Burj Holding UAE**

You will be responsible for building and executing social media strategy through competitive research, platform determination, benchmarking, messaging and audience identification, generating, editing, publishing and share daily content (original text, images, video or ITMI) that build meaningful connections for community members to take action.

Apply Now [JB3618913](#)

**Customer Service Assistant Al Fulaim Group Qatar**

You will be responsible for efficiently managing the customer service desk and handle customer issues, inquiries and concerns in a professional and courteous manner so as to achieve the service standards and enhance visitor experience to the mall.

Apply Now [JB3621089](#)

**Manager Maintenance (QACC) Qatar Airways Qatar**

You will be responsible for ensuring that maintenance plans for a range of assets are prepared sufficiently to underpin the effectiveness and efficiency of the achievement of operational availability targets, ensuring that everything works when it needs to. Managing, supervising and controlling all Qatar Aircraft Catering Company (QACC) operations and other facilities that QACC operates in.

Apply Now [JB3620984](#)

**Group Procurement Manager Doha Downtown Hotel Qatar**

You will be responsible for the management of all aspects of the Town Café, room service and banquets function in accordance with hotel standards. Directing, implementing and maintaining a service and management philosophy, which serves as a guide to respective staff.

Apply Now [JB3620507](#)

**Marketing Team Leader (Hospitality F&B) Al Siddiqi Retail - Qatar**

You will be responsible for setting up marketing plan strategies and setting respective timetables of promotions and activities for the hospitality division, maintaining awareness on best practice marketing techniques/tools to achieve successful campaigns and promotions for generating brand revenue, profitability and increasing market share, ensuring maximum ROI, and drive traffic to the stores.

Apply Now [JB3620478](#)

[www.bayt.com](http://www.bayt.com)

Register > Upload your CV > Apply





**KUALA LUMPUR:** Royal Malaysian Police deputy inspector-general Noor Rashid Ibrahim (centre L) speaks about detained Vietnamese suspect Doan Thi Huong (top) during a press conference as Selangor state police chief Abdul Samah Mat (centre R) looks on, at the Bukit Aman national police headquarters. —AFP

## MALAYSIA SEARCHES FOR N KOREAN SUSPECTS WHO HAVE FLED COUNTRY

### MURDER DRAMA CONTINUES HOLLYWOOD-LIKE PLOT

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Investigators are looking for four North Korean men who fled out of Malaysia the same day Kim Jong Nam, the North Korean ruler's outcast half brother, apparently was poisoned at an airport in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian police said yesterday. Since Kim's death last week, authorities have been trying to piece together details of what appeared to be an assassination. Malaysian police have so far arrested four people carrying IDs from North Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam.

One of the suspects in custody, an Indonesian woman, told investigators that she was duped into thinking she was part of a comedy show prank. Yesterday, Malaysia's deputy national police chief, Noor Rashid Ibrahim, said four more suspects were on the run. He said the men were North Korean and had flown out of

the country last Monday, when Kim died. "I am not going disclose where they are," he told a room packed with journalists, adding that Interpol was helping with the investigation. Noor Rashid showed photographs of the four men, who were traveling on regular - not diplomatic - passports and are ages 33, 34, 55 and 57. He also said there were three other people police wanted to question. He said one was North Korean, but that police had not yet identified the other two. It wasn't clear if they were suspects or simply wanted for questioning.

#### Autopsy results

A rotund man in his mid-40s, Kim Jong Nam was waiting for his flight home to Macau when, authorities say, he was set upon by two women. He sought help at a

customer service desk and said "two unidentified women had swabbed or had wiped his face with a liquid and that he felt dizzy," Noor Rashid said yesterday. Kim died en route to a hospital after suffering a seizure, officials say.

Noor Rashid said yesterday that he expected autopsy results to be released within days. "We have to send a sample to the chemistry department, we have to send a sample for toxicology tests," he said. Investigators also want to speak to Kim Jong Nam's next of kin to formally identify the body. He is believed to have two sons and a daughter with two women living in Beijing and Macau.

"We haven't met the next of kin," Noor Rashid said. "We are working, we are trying very hard to get the next of kin to come and to assist us in the investigation." The

case has raised tensions between Malaysia and North Korea. Pyongyang demanded custody of Kim's body and strongly objected to an autopsy. The Malaysians went ahead with the procedure anyway, saying they were simply following procedure.

Kang Chol, North Korea's ambassador to Malaysia, said that Malaysia may be "trying to conceal something" and that the autopsy was carried out "unilaterally and excluding our attendance." South Korea has been quick to blame its enemies in North Korea for Kim's death. "Considering North Korea has so far committed crimes against humanity and terror acts, we, together with the international community, are closely watching this brutal, reckless incident with serious concerns," South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon Hee told reporters yesterday. — AP

## News

in brief

### Avalanche kills seven in northern Pakistan

**CHITRAL:** An avalanche killed at least seven laborers in northern Pakistan yesterday, a senior official said, with up to four more trapped beneath the snow. The accident, which also injured seven, happened near the Lowari Tunnel which connects the districts of Dir and Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, senior local administration official Shahab Hameed told AFP. "Efforts are also being made to pull the remaining workers out alive," he added. Rescue teams have rushed to the area to help travelers stranded by the avalanche and provide medical attention for the injured. At least 13 people were killed and 20 homes destroyed by avalanches and heavy rain which struck the region earlier this month-while the death toll in neighboring Afghanistan rose to almost 200. Severe weather hits Pakistan every year, with avalanches in winter and flash floods in summer.

### US aircraft carrier strike group patrols waterway

**WASHINGTON:** A US aircraft carrier strike group is patrolling in the South China Sea, the US Navy said Saturday, days after Beijing told Washington not to challenge its sovereignty in the waterway. China asserts ownership of almost all of the resource-rich waters despite rival claims from several Southeast Asian countries. It has rapidly built reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes. The USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier group was engaging in "routine operations in the South China Sea," the navy said in a statement on its website. It noted that the ships and aircraft had recently conducted exercises off Hawaii and Guam to "maintain and improve their readiness and develop cohesion as a strike group." "We are looking forward to demonstrating those capabilities while building upon existing strong relationships with our allies, partners and friends in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region," strike group commander Rear Admiral James Kilby said in the statement. China's foreign ministry said ships and aircraft were allowed to operate in the area according to international law. But Beijing "firmly opposes any country's attempt to undermine China's sovereignty and security in the name of the freedom of navigation and overflight," spokesman Geng Shuang told journalists Wednesday, responding to reports that the Vinson was headed to the South China Sea. "We also urge the US to refrain from challenging China's sovereignty and security and to respect regional countries' efforts to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea," he said.



**The dead body of a victim who drowned in the waters off Katukurunda along the southwestern coast of Sri Lanka lays in a morgue yesterday, after a boat carrying Christian pilgrims capsized. — AFP**

### 11 pilgrims drown during Sri Lanka church festival

**COLOMBO:** At least 11 people including a child and five women drowned when an overcrowded boat carrying Christian pilgrims capsized in rough seas off Sri Lanka's southwest coast yesterday, police said. The victims had set off in a parade of fishing boats from the tourist resort of Beruwala but halfway into their journey their craft overturned in choppy seas, police said. "Other fishing boats and volunteers have been able to rescue 32 people, but we still do not have a count on the number of people on board," a police officer in the area told AFP by telephone. He said searches by navy boats as well as aircraft were hampered by heavy winds and rain. Sunday's boat parade came amid a warning to fishing communities from the meteorological department of winds up to 80 kilometers an hour. Yesterday's tragedy was the worst boat disaster since June 2013 when 54 fishermen were killed after several boats capsized during a freak storm in the same area. — Agencies

### CHINA STAGES ANOTHER MASS ANTI-TERROR RALLY IN XINJIANG

**BEIJING:** Chinese security forces have staged another mass anti-terror rally in the restive far western region of Xinjiang, parading hundreds of armed men through the streets of the regional capital Urumqi in a show of force after an uptick in violence. Hundreds have died in Xinjiang in the past few years, mostly in unrest between the Muslim Uighur people, who call the region home, and the ethnic majority Han Chinese. Beijing blames the unrest on Islamist militants.

The Xinjiang government's news website on Saturday showed pictures of hundreds of gun-toting police and soldiers standing in front of a government building shouting out pledges to defeat terror and lines of armored vehicles driving through the streets. Xinjiang deputy party secretary Zhu Hailun said the Urumqi rally, following on from ones in Kashgar and Hotan in Xinjiang's Uighur heartland in the region's deep south, were a sign of "real action" to deepen the fight against terror.

Militants and extremists would be "smashed and destroyed", Zhu said. The

official Xinjiang Daily on Sunday further quoted Zhu as saying at the Saturday rally that no effort would be spared in this regard. "With guns by our bodies, knives unsheathed, fists out and hands extended, we must use thunderous power to strike hard against terrorist activities," Zhu said.

After a period of relative calm, there has been a rise in violence in recent weeks, particularly in the region's south. On Tuesday, three knife-wielding attackers killed five people and injured another five in Pishan County before themselves being shot dead in Hotan prefecture. In December, five people were killed when attackers drove a vehicle into a government building and police shot dead what authorities described as three terror suspects last month. The government has blamed much of the unrest on separatist Islamist militants, though rights groups and exiles say anger at tightening Chinese controls on the religion and culture of Muslim Uighurs is more to blame. China routinely denies any repression in Xinjiang. —Reuters

### CHINA UNDERSTANDS S KOREAN SECURITY NEEDS, OPPOSES MISSILES

**BEIJING:** China understands South Korea's need to protect its security but Seoul still needs to respect Beijing's concerns about the deployment of an advanced US anti-missile system, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his South Korean counterpart. China has repeatedly expressed opposition to South Korea's planned deployment later this year of the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system, which Seoul and Washington say is needed to defend against North Korea.

China worries the system's powerful radar can penetrate its territory and it has objected to the deployment. Meeting on Saturday on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, Wang repeated to South Korea's Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se China's opposition to THAAD, China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. Wang "stressed that one country's security should not be founded on the basis of harming another country's security", the ministry paraphrased him as saying. "China understands South Korea's need to protect its own security, and at the same time South Korea should respect China's reasonable position," Wang added. Yun Fu Ying, chair-

woman of the foreign affairs committee in the Chinese National People's Congress, told a panel discussion at the Munich conference that China could not understand Washington's decision to deploy the system to South Korea.

#### 'Stabbed by your friends'

"It is like being stabbed by your friends," she said, adding the system would not increase South Korea's security anyway. But Yun Byung-se told the panel the system was needed to augment Seoul's existing Patriot missile defence system and guard against the kind of high-arc shot used by North Korea in its last test. "What we need is multiple layers of defense ... THAAD is really relevant," he said. "We don't pose any threat to China." Yun Byung-se said North Korea launched two nuclear tests and 24 missiles last year alone and was nearing the final stage of nuclear weaponisation. "In our analysis, the tipping point may be only a few years away," he told conference participants. "It's a ticking time bomb." Wang told Yun Byung-se that efforts to seek peace with North Korea should not be abandoned, the ministry said. —Reuters



**UTTAR PRADESH:** Indian women walk past a field towards a polling station to cast their votes in Saifai, Etawah, India, yesterday. Uttar Pradesh and four other Indian states are having state legislature elections in February-March, a key mid-term test for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government which has been ruling India since 2014. — AP

## HUNDREDS OF ROHINGYA RETURN FROM BANGLADESH

**DHAKA:** Hundreds of Rohingya who fled to Bangladesh to escape persecution in Myanmar have returned home, community leaders said yesterday, adding that most had gone back temporarily to fetch relatives. Tens of thousands of Rohingya have fled across the border from Myanmar's western state of Rakhine since October to escape a bloody crackdown by troops and police. Duda Mia, a refugee camp leader in the coastal town of Teknaf, said nearly 1,000 Rohingya-mostly young men-had returned to their home villages to collect elderly family members left behind earlier.

"Most of those men are hoping to bring their relatives back to Bangladesh. It's been four months and they have barely even talked to their parents back home," Mia told AFP. Myanmar's army has halted its operations in the north of Rakhine, a senior official said last week, ending the four-month crackdown which the UN has warned may amount to crimes against humanity.

Hundreds from the Rohingya Muslim minority are thought to have died and almost 70,000 have fled to Bangladesh since the military launched a campaign to find militants who attacked police border posts. Bangladeshi authorities estimate 400,000 Rohingya refugees are now living in Bangladesh, including the 70,000 most recent arrivals. Escapees have given harrow-

ing accounts of how security forces raped, killed and tortured Rohingya and burnt their houses to the ground.

Another Rohingya leader said some of the refugees had left Bangladesh permanently because their home villages had not been damaged by the Myanmar army and they had properties to protect. "They left (their homes) because they were panicked. They didn't want to stay here as beggars, rather they would live in their own houses and work at land back home," he said on condition of anonymity. The Border Guard Bangladesh confirmed that some Rohingya refugees had gone back to Myanmar.

"Scores of Rohingya people have reportedly returned home in last few days," said local commander Abujar Al-Jahid. "But we're remaining on high alert about any illegal infiltration." A satellite image published last year by Human Rights Watch showed how Myanmar troops burned down Rohingya villages, displacing thousands. Most of the Rohingya who fled to Bangladesh are now living in squalid conditions in refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar district, which borders Rakhine and is also home to the country's biggest tourist resort. Bangladesh has already approved a controversial plan for their relocation to an island and instructed officials to identify undocumented Myanmar nationals as part of the campaign. —AFP



## SWEDES MOCKING IMAGINARY TRUMP 'TERROR'...

Continued from Page 1

He went on to name Brussels, Nice and Paris - European cities that have been struck by deadly terror attacks.

Sweden's embassy in Washington has asked for an explanation, the foreign ministry in Stockholm said yesterday. "We have now contacted the American (State Department) to understand and receive clarity," ministry press officer Catarina Axelsson told AFP. Users on Twitter, Trump's favorite communication platform, cracked jokes about the apparent misuse using the hashtags #lastnightinSweden and #SwedenIncident. Former Swedish prime minister Carl Bildt asked: "Sweden? Terror attack? What has he been smoking? Questions abound?"

Gunnar Hokmark, a Swedish member of the European Parliament, retweeted a post that said "#lastnightinSweden my son dropped his hotdog in the campfire. So sad!" Hokmark added his own comment: "How could he know?" Numerous Internet wags responded with Ikea-themed tweets. Some posted photos of the impossible-to-understand instructions for assembling Ikea furniture, calling it "Secret Plans for the #SwedenIncident." Addressing Trump in an article yesterday, the Aftonbladet tabloid wrote, "This happened in Sweden Friday night, Mr President," and then listed in English some events that included a man being treated for severe burns, an

avalanche warning and police chasing a drunken driver. Posts flooded into @sweden, the country's official Twitter account which is run by a different Swede each week. This week's curator, Emma, who describes herself as a school librarian and mother, said the account had received 800 mentions in four hours. "No. Nothing has happened here in Sweden. There has not (been) any terrorist attacks here. At all. The main news right now is about Melfest," she said, referring to the competition to pick the performer who will represent Sweden at the Eurovision singing contest.

Top Trump aides in his month-old administration have faced criticism and ridicule after speaking publicly about massacres that never took place. White House counselor Kellyanne Conway - who famously coined the term "alternative facts" - referred to a "Bowling Green massacre" during an interview. She later tweeted that she meant to say "Bowling Green terrorists" - referring to two Iraqi men who were indicted in 2011 for trying to send money and weapons to Al-Qaeda, and using improvised explosive devices against US soldiers in Iraq. And White House spokesman Sean Spicer made three separate references in one week to an attack in Atlanta. He later said he meant to say Orlando, the Florida city where an American of Afghan origin gunned down 49 people at a gay nightclub last year. — AFP

## IRAQ LAUNCHES ASSAULT ON WEST MOSUL

Continued from Page 1

The jihadists overran Mosul and swathes of other territory north and west of Baghdad in 2014, routing security forces ill-prepared to face the assault. The Iraqi government launched the offensive to reconquer Mosul on Oct 17, throwing tens of thousands of forces into the long-awaited counter-attack with air and ground support from a US-led coalition fighting IS in Iraq and Syria. The Joint Operations Command coordinating the fight against IS declared east Mosul "fully liberated" on Jan 24. But it took Iraq's most seasoned forces - the elite Counter-Terrorism Service - more than two months to clear the eastern side of Mosul.

After a pause, federal forces now face what was

always billed as the toughest nut to crack: Mosul's west bank, home to the narrow streets of the Old City. "West Mosul had the potential certainly of being more difficult, with house-to-house fighting on a larger and more bloody scale," said Patrick Skinner, from the Soufan Group intelligence consultancy. The coalition said it carried out a total of 40 air strikes on Saturday, nine of which struck targets in the Mosul area.

"The US forces continue in the same role they were in in east Mosul and the coalition forces are in support of this operation," US Defence Secretary James Mattis told reporters while on a trip to the United Arab Emirates. More than half of the 9,000-plus coalition forces deployed in Iraq are American and some were visible on the frontline yesterday. — AFP

## PANEL PASSES BILL TO SCRAP PETROL, UTILITY...

Continued from Page 1

In another development, 15 lawmakers yesterday signed a statement urging new Health Minister Jamal Al-Harbi to take swift actions against senior officials in the ministry, whom they held responsible for a serious deterioration in the ministry and widespread corruption. The lawmakers said that there are attempts to protect corrupt elements in the health ministry by owners of highly suspicious contracts and called on the minister to forge ahead with reforms in the vital ministry. They also called on the prime minister to back the health minister in his work to apply reform decisions.

MP Humoud Al-Hajeri said that it is not acceptable to see infighting within the ministry between the minister and some senior officials and that the problem must be resolved. A number of other lawmakers, however, came to the defense of senior officials in the health ministry, insisting that they have been performing their duties in the best way. The issue is expected to snowball in the coming weeks, especially because the ministry is responsible for sending Kuwaiti patients for treatment abroad and some MPs charge that this has been misused by officials to send "undeserved" patients for political reasons. Some say the cost of such actions ballooned to around KD 750 million last year.

## SAUDIS, ISRAEL IN DE FACTO UNITED FRONT...

Continued from Page 1

"Iran remains the single main sponsor of terrorism in the world," Jubeir told delegates at the conference. "It's determined to upend the order in the Middle East ... (and) until and unless Iran changes its behavior it would be very difficult to deal with a country like this."

Jubeir said Iran was propping up the government of President Bashar Al-Assad in the Syrian civil war, funding the Houthi movement in Yemen and fomenting violence across the region. The international community needed to set clear "red lines" to halt Iran's actions, he said, calling for banking, travel and trade restrictions aimed at changing Tehran's behavior.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said Iran's ultimate objective was to undermine Riyadh, and called for a dialogue with Sunni Arab countries to defeat "radical" elements in the region. "The real division is not Jews, Muslims ... but moderate people versus radical people," Lieberman told delegates. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu also criticized what he called an Iranian "sectarian policy" aimed at undermining Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. "Turkey is very much against any kind of division, religious or sectarian," he said. "It's good that we are now normalizing our relations with Israel."

Zarif opened yesterday's session with the call for dialogue to address "anxieties" in the region. This followed a visit by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to Oman and Kuwait last week to try to improve ties, his first visit to the Gulf states since taking power in 2013. Asked if Iran's envisioned regional dialogue could include Israel, Zarif said Tehran was looking at a more "modest" approach. "I'm focusing on the...Gulf. We have enough problems in this region so we want to start a dialogue with countries we call brothers in Islam," he said. Zarif dismissed any suggestions his country would ever seek to develop nuclear weapons. When asked about the new US administration's tough rhetoric on Iran's role in the region and calls to review the nuclear deal, he said

Tehran did not respond well to threats or sanctions.

Separately, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met secretly with Arab rulers last year to hear then US secretary of state John Kerry pitch a regional peace plan, an Israeli newspaper reported yesterday. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi also attended the Feb 2016 talks hosted by King Abdullah II in the Jordanian city of Aqaba, Haaretz said, citing former senior officials in the Obama administration who asked to remain anonymous. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas did not attend the Aqaba meeting but was updated by Kerry, Haaretz said.

It said Kerry wanted the sides to endorse six principles, which he laid out publicly in a December speech. They included a call for Israel to vacate territory it occupied during the 1967 Six-Day War, subject to land swaps agreed between the two sides. Kerry's parameters envisioned a Palestinian state, with Palestinians recognizing Israel as a "Jewish state". Both would share Jerusalem as the "internationally recognized capital of the two states". "Netanyahu did not accept Kerry's proposal and said he would have difficulty getting it approved by his governing coalition," Haaretz wrote.

Meeting on Wednesday at the White House, Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump each spoke of prospects of a regional Middle East understanding to end the stalemated Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "For the first time in the life of my country, Arab countries in the region do not see Israel as an enemy, but increasingly as an ally," Netanyahu told Trump. Trump said Netanyahu's proposal for a regional alliance was something that "hasn't been discussed before", adding that it would take in "many, many countries and it would cover a very large territory".

Egypt and Jordan are the only Arab states to have formal peace treaties with Israel. Gulf states like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar do not have diplomatic relations with the Jewish State, but they share informal links.— Agencies

## DEALS GALORE AT UAE ARMS SHOW

Continued from Page 1

"Welcome to democracy," Mattis told reporters during his first trip to the region as Pentagon chief. "It's at times wildly contentious, it's at times quite sporting, but the bottom line is this is the best form of government we can come up with."

Mattis was responding to a question about a comment last week from Army General Raymond "Tony" Thomas, who said the US government was in "unbelievable turmoil". The new Pentagon chief said Thomas may have been taken out of context and, as far as he is concerned, everything is running smoothly from a military perspective. "The military job is to hold the line, to hold the line and to hold the line, while our government sorts

out the way ahead and our people speak," he said. "We don't have any disarray inside the military and that's where my responsibility lies."

Military commanders in the region say they have so far seen little impact from the presidential transition. Mattis also referred to Trump's continued diatribe against journalists and his branding of several media outlets as the "enemy of the American people". "I have had some rather contentious times with the press," said Mattis, a former Marine general whose fiery war talk has landed him in hot water on several occasions. "But the press as far as I am concerned are a constituency that we deal with, and I don't have any issues with the press myself," he told reporters. — Agencies



To see your ad here, call: **+965 248 35 616 / 617**  
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
 ads@kuwaittimes.net  
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

---

**25 & 26**  
k.d

**Hala Feb Offers**

**KARCHER**  
K2-BASIC-GB  
Pressure Washer

1400 Watts



• 1400W  
• 110 bars  
• 360l/h

**Panasonic**  
MX-GX1061 WTZ  
Blender

400 Watts



• 1000 ml  
• 1 Speed  
• Glass jar  
• Wet & Dry Mill

25 30 5

**SHARP**  
EC-CA1820-Z  
Vaccum Cleaner

1800 Watts



20 Ltr

19 31 11

• 1800W • 20 Litre  
• Copper Machine  
• Filter SMS  
• Cable 8 Litter Long

best AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Start from 5KD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online: [www.best.com.kw](http://www.best.com.kw) Free Delivery

**1809 809**

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 ( Bin Khaldon str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road)  
 • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya ( Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra ( Opp. Main Co-op.) • AlRport (Departure Hall)

**CLASSIC 500**



**ROYAL ENFIELD**

**Awesome and well-known**

- Single Cylinder, 4 stroke, Twinspark, Aircooled
- Digital Electronic Ignition
- 5 Speed Constant Mesh
- Electronic Fuel Injection

**NOW IN KUWAIT**

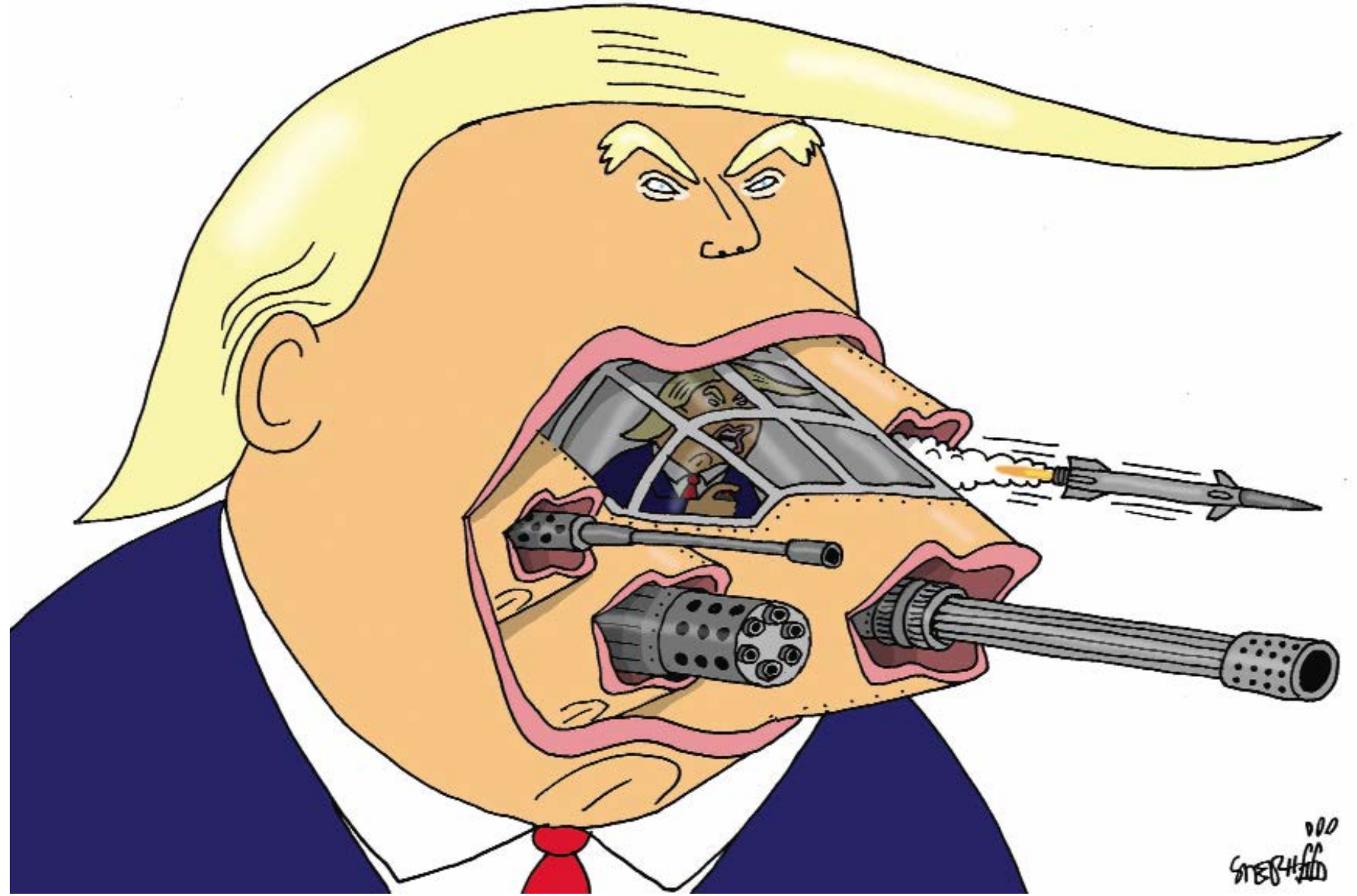
Available in:  Lagoon Blue  Chrome Green  Classic Black  Classic Tan

الشركة الكويتية لاستيراد السيارات ذ.م.م  
 Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. W.L.L.

اتصل على: **6902 1397 / 6902 4472**  
 KAICO available in



## TRUMP LASHES OUT AT MEDIA IN PRESS CONFERENCE



## TURKEY EYES STRONG TRUMP ALLIANCE

Turning a blind eye to multiple policy differences, Turkey is seeking a tighter alliance with Washington under President Donald Trump but the road to a rapprochement may not be easy. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's relationship with the White House worsened drastically in the final months of the Barack Obama administration, mired in rows on issues from Syria to the extradition of the preacher Fethullah Gulen, the Turkish leader's arch-foe.

But Turkish officials repeated none of the gloom that some EU leaders expressed after Trump's election, instead hoping that he would open a new page in relations. Trump's administration has a "good opportunity to make bold moves" in his foreign policy after the previous administration's "disregardful" attitude, Ayse Sozen Usluer, head of international relations at the Turkish presidency, told AFP. She added the new administration would assess anew its relationship with Turkey regarding trade, military, the fight against terror among other issues and "take new steps to improve relations".

## 'Withholding criticism'

So could a potential bromance now be brewing between two men who have made macho politics a trademark? Less than 48 hours after Trump and Erdogan had their first conversation of the new US president's term, new CIA chief Mike Pompeo came to Ankara last week to meet the Turkish leadership in his first foreign visit. In a sign of the importance of realpolitik in the relationship, Pompeo had only last year described Turkey as a "totalitarian Islamist dictatorship" in a now deleted tweet.

Meanwhile in a flurry of activity, US joint chiefs of staff Joseph Dunford also visited Turkey on Friday. But for all the good intentions, analysts believe it is doubtful the two sides will progress much beyond a honeymoon period before traditional disagreements reappear. Ankara hopes Trump is "the man who can deliver (a rapprochement) to them, so they're quite obviously withholding any criticism of him even though his rhetoric in multiple cases is completely against everything they stood for," said Aaron Stein, resident fellow of the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Centre for the Middle East. "I'm not sure that the Trump administration is hearing them yet," he told AFP.

## 'Tactical love affair'

Keen not to disturb the relationship in its early days, Erdogan stayed unusually quiet over Trump's attempt to bar entry to nationals from seven predominantly Muslim countries. Erdogan regards himself as a champion in the battle against Islamophobia and has also not criticized Trump's repeated use of the phrase "radical Islamic terrorism". Yet when German Chancellor Angela Merkel came to Ankara and used the expression "Islamist terrorism", Erdogan swiftly rebuked her.

Well-connected Turkish columnist Abdulkadir Selvi

wrote Ankara wanted good start with the Trump administration "but at the same time, it is cautious". Fadi Hakura, Associate Fellow at Chatham House in London, told AFP the "thin-skinned" leaders would have major policy differences, particularly over political Islam. "This current love affair is short-term, tactical and ad-hoc," he told AFP.

## More serious on Gulen?

One key issue is whether Trump continues the Obama policy of supporting the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) and its armed wing, the Kurdish Peoples' Protection Units (YPG), as the best fighting force on the ground against IS in Syria. Turkey views the PYD and YPG as sister groups of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) which has waged a bloody insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984. Turkey has repeatedly floated the idea of a joint operation to capture the IS de-facto capital of Raqqa in Syria but insisted the Kurdish militia are not involved.

Meanwhile the shadow also lurks of Gulen, who has

lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999 and Turkey accuses of ordering a July 15 failed putsch. Gulen strongly denies the charges but Ankara has repeatedly called for him to be extradited. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim discussed the issue with US Vice President Mike Pence on Saturday after the men met on the sidelines of the Munich security conference.

Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said the Trump administration was taking the Gulen issue "more seriously" although there has yet to be a clear sign in Washington of a change in attitude. Stein said although Trump would not be able to extradite Gulen as it is handled by the US justice department, the Turks wanted "more pressure" on the Muslim cleric. Hakura of Chatham House said Turkey's key conditions - the extradition of Gulen and Washington ceasing all cooperation with the YPG - were unlikely to be met in the medium or long term. "The greater likelihood is a rupture in relations... rather than a continuation of the current pantomime." - AFP

## SOMALI PRESIDENT FACES DELICATE BALANCING ACT

Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed's victory in Somalia's presidential election last week brought joyous crowds into the streets of Mogadishu, a testament to the former prime minister's enduring popularity. But analysts warn that the iron will and nationalist discourse that Somalis fondly remember from his time as premier could be Mohamed's biggest obstacles when it comes to rebuilding the world's most notorious failed state.

Mohamed, who is better known by his nickname Farmajo, or "Cheese", has inherited an administration that has limited control over Somali territory due to the presence of Shabaab Islamists, and is heavily propped up by the international community. This fragile core is further weakened by deeply entrenched corruption and the rivalries in a maze-like clan structure that dominate Somali politics. "There is a super-sized expectation, but the problems that bedeviled Somalia for three decades won't vanish because Farmajo is the president," said Abdirashid Hashi, a researcher at the Heritage Institute.

## Why so popular?

While prime minister for a mere eight months in 2010-11, Farmajo swiftly won over Somalis with his efforts to improve governance. His resolute nationalism, in which he tried to revive Somali pride in a nation best-

known for anarchy and bloodshed, was also well regarded. He culled the number of government ministers and banned non-essential foreign trips by officials, and launched a program for stamping out corruption.

Farmajo's image also received a boost from the improved security in Mogadishu which saw Shabaab militants driven from the capital a few months after he stepped down as premier. "It was under Farmajo that the groundwork was laid for this victory," said Roland Marchal, a researcher at Sciences Po university in Paris. He was also highly popular within the military, not least because his government made sure to regularly pay soldiers, a rarity in Somalia's turbulent history.

## Risky nationalism

Farmajo inherits a Somalia still operating under an interim constitution, with little in the way of solid administrative structures: the army, central bank, fiscal administration and electoral commission remain rudimentary. While Farmajo favors a strong central government, Somalia has in recent years shifted towards a system of federalism. The building of a state will require careful negotiations with powerful regions such as Puntland, Jubaland and Galmudug to finalize the constitution, properly define the federal agenda - which has already been a bone of contention - and stabilize the country. — AFP

## MOSCOW FINDS PEACE TRICKIER THAN WAR

With its show of military force, Russia changed the tide of the Syrian civil war. It is finding the next phase - brokering an end to the fighting - a tougher proposition. A round of Syria peace talks sponsored by Russia ended on Thursday with no joint communique, usually the minimum outcome of any diplomatic negotiation, and saw opposing Syrian groups exchanging angry tirades at each other and the brokers. With no concrete progress to report, media representatives at the talks venue in ex-Soviet Kazakhstan, were so hungry for a scrap of news that at one point a crowd formed around an Arabic speaker who they thought was a participant in the talks. He turned out to be another journalist.

Western diplomats, who say Russian President Vladimir Putin's campaign of air strikes has worsened the conflict, have, in private, reacted to Russia's tribulations as a peacemaker with variations on the phrase: "We told you so!" Russia proposed a series of negotiations in the Kazakh capital Astana late last year with the expectation that, as the predominant outside power in Syria following its military intervention, it could break a deadlock that had defied the repeated efforts of the big Western powers and UN mediators.

Moscow's peace drive started hopefully, with the first Astana meeting in January. The Syrian rebels and government came together for the first time in nine months, and agreement was reached to consolidate a shaky ceasefire. But by the second round this week, things had gone downhill. The Syrian rebels debated until the eleventh hour about whether to attend at all, finally sending a smaller delegation which arrived in the Kazakh capital a day late.

Russia's efforts were hampered by the deep enmity between the rival Syrian sides, but also by contradictions among its co-sponsors. One of them, Turkey, is fiercely opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Russia and the third co-sponsor, Iran, are Assad's staunchest allies.

Syrian government negotiator Bashar Jaafari said on Thursday that peace talks in Astana had not produced a communique because of the "irresponsible" late arrival of rebel participants and their Turkish backers which delayed the joint session by a day.

He also criticized the rebels and Turkey for downgrading their delegations from the previous meeting. "Turkey cannot ignite the fire and at the same time act as a firefighter," he told a briefing after the talks. The rebels, in turn, accused the Syrian government and Iran of routinely violating the ceasefire and Russia of failing to enforce it. "We know that the Russians have a problem with those for whom they are guarantors," rebel negotiator Yahya Al-Arabi told reporters, referring to Tehran and Assad's forces.

## A step too far

According to two sources - a senior French diplomat and an official present for the talks from a country not directly participating - one of the main reasons progress had slowed were Moscow's attempts to expand the talks beyond the ceasefire and discuss political solutions to the Syrian crisis. Moscow has offered the Syrians a draft of a new constitution, Russian negotiator Alexander Lavrentiev told reporters on Thursday.

He also said the joint Russia-Turkey-Iran ceasefire monitoring task force agreed upon in Astana in January could in the future expand its activities to include a political settlement of the crisis. But the sources said other parties resisted those efforts, because they were still more focused on the fighting on the ground in Syria. Iran, according to one of the sources, wants to push on with territorial gains achieved by its allies in Syria, while Turkey is hell-bent on not allowing any Kurds near its border. The rebels also indicated they wanted the talks to focus on more down-to-earth matters such as air strikes on their territory - which

they said Russia has promised to stop - and release of prisoners. "We did not come here to make incorrect political decisions," said rebel negotiator Mohammad Alloush.

## Caged parrots

Even the hosts for the talks, the Kazakh government, downgraded their presence. A deputy foreign minister welcomed the delegates instead of the minister himself, as was the case in January. The rebels sent nine people, instead of the 15-person delegation that attended the previous round. Organizers cordoned off most of the lobby of the Rixos Hotel, venue for the meeting, so negotiators could step out and have tea or coffee at tables surrounded by plants and parrots in cages.

Several ambassadors from Middle Eastern countries kept walking in and out of a conference room where the talks were being held behind closed doors, but mostly spent their time in the hotel's Irish pub, though they did not appear to drink any alcohol. United Nations special envoy on Syria Staffan de Mistura attended the first round of talks where he stressed that Syria's political transition must be discussed in Geneva rather than in Astana. He did not attend the second round, travelling to Moscow instead for talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Originally, Thursday's talks were billed as a low-key technical meeting. The co-sponsors then upgraded it last Friday, raising expectations that real progress could be achieved. A successful outcome would have handed a PR coup to Russia right before UN-led talks on Syria in Geneva on Feb 23. But instead, Lavrentiev, the Russian negotiator, was left trying to explain why the latest round had ended in acrimony. "The level of mutual distrust is rather high and there were many mutual accusations, but I think we must keep moving forward every time, step by step," he said. — Reuters

## Kuwait Times

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher  
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief  
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
ACCOUNTS : 24835619  
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## Focus

## PR OFFENSIVE FAILS TO QUELL EUROPE'S ANXIETY ON TRUMP

One month into the unusual presidency of Donald Trump, his most senior cabinet members were deployed to Brussels, Bonn and Munich this week to reassure nervous Europeans that everything would be okay. The Europeans heard from Defense Secretary James Mattis that the NATO military alliance was not "obsolete" after all, despite Trump's repeated suggestions to the contrary. And they were told by Vice President Mike Pence that Russia would be "held accountable" for its actions in Ukraine, despite Trump's friendly overtures to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

But if the aim of the visits was to reassure Europe that the pillars of U.S. foreign policy are fully intact, they fell short of the mark, European diplomats, politicians and analysts gathered in Munich said. "What we heard here is not reassuring," Ruprecht Polenz, former head of the foreign affairs committee in the German parliament, told Reuters after Pence's speech to the Munich Security Conference. "There is absolutely no vision for how we are going to work together, going forward."

Pence was the highest-ranking member of the Trump team to travel to Europe and his address was eagerly awaited. Eight years ago in the same hall, his predecessor Joe Biden made headlines with a promise to "reset" relations with Russia. But unlike Biden, Pence came to Munich with a fatal handicap: the perception, fuelled by the circumstances surrounding the recent resignation of national security adviser Michael Flynn, that he is not part of Trump's inner circle. "His mission was always going to be hard, but it was made even more so by the questions about his lack of influence inside the White House," said Derek Chollet, a top defence policy adviser to former president Barack Obama who is now with the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

## 'Robotic Salute'

The vice president tried to tackle these doubts head-on by making clear at the start of his speech that he was speaking for Trump. But then he went on to mention the president 19 times in the course of the 20-minute speech, prompting one audience member, the author and historian Robert Kagan, to dismiss the address as a "robotic salute to the man in power". "Pence and Mattis and Tillerson can come here and talk about the importance of the transatlantic relationship and NATO - and that is all good," said Elmar Brok, head of the foreign affairs committee of the European Parliament and a party ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "But we don't know what's coming on Twitter tomorrow morning," he said, referring to Trump's penchant for spilling out policy statements via social media.

Flynn's resignation has deepened the mystery over who Trump will listen to on foreign policy, although his chief strategist Steve Bannon and son-in-law Jared Kushner are both seen as influential. One European diplomat likened the challenge of figuring out who to listen to in the Trump administration to the task of "Kremlinologists" during the Cold War.

Ulrich Speck, a foreign policy analyst at the Elcano think tank in Brussels, said the conundrum that Henry Kissinger evoked when he famously asked who he should call when he wanted to talk to "Europe" seemed to have been turned on its head. "Now Europe is asking who it should call if it wants to talk to the United States," Speck said. Besides his reassurances on NATO and Russia relations, Pence tried to assuage fears that the United States is moving away from democratic values under Trump, who has attacked the media and judiciary repeatedly since taking power a month ago. "This is President Trump's promise," Pence said. "We will stand with Europe, today and every day, because we are bound together by the same noble ideals - freedom, democracy, justice, and the rule of law."

## EU support

This message was welcomed, but others went down poorly. Pence raised eyebrows by suggesting that the nuclear deal between the world's major powers and Iran, which has strong support across Europe, was freeing up resources for Tehran to promote terrorism. And his repeated references to "radical Islamic terrorism" irked some who feel the Trump administration is targeting all Muslims in its fight against extremists. Merkel explicitly warned against this in a speech just before Pence spoke.

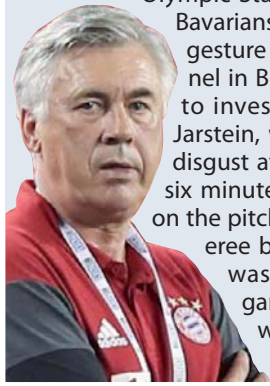
Some audience members were also dismissive of Pence's promise to relegate Islamic State to the "ash-heap of history", saying such hyperbolic rhetoric was better suited to a U.S. election campaign than a European audience. — Reuters

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.



## ANCELOTTI SHOWS HERTHA FANS THE MIDDLE FINGER

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich's Carlo Ancelotti could be in hot water with the German FA (DFB) after admitting showing the middle finger towards Hertha Berlin fans who he claims spat at him. "Yes, I made the gesture after being spat at," Bayern's coach told broadcaster ARD. Hertha fans were enraged after Bayern equalised with a Robert Lewandowski goal in the 96th-minute at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on Saturday to snatch a 1-1 draw which left the Bavarians eight points clear in the Bundesliga. The middle finger gesture happened as Ancelotti walked towards the players' tunnel in Berlin. According to magazine Kicker, the DFB are poised to investigate both Ancelotti and Hertha's goalkeeper Rune Jarstein, who kicked a ball which struck Bayern's Xabi Alonso in disgust at the result. Hertha's coach Pal Dardai later branded the six minutes of added time a 'Bayern's bonus' and tempers frayed on the pitch as Lewandowski equalised just seconds before the referee blew the final whistle. "We always fight until the end. It wasn't my best goal and was my last ball contact of the game-you can't get later than that," admitted Lewandowski who scored after 95 minutes, 59 seconds. — AFP

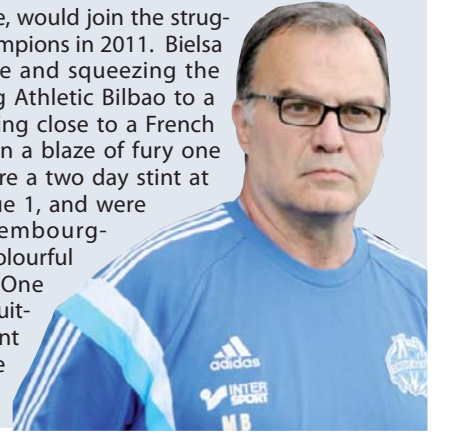


## AUSTRALIA BACK LEALIIFANO'S LEUKAEMIA IN REMISSION

**SYDNEY:** Wallabies back Christian Lealiifano has been told his leukaemia is in remission after he received a bone marrow transplant last year. The 29-year-old inside centre, who has 19 test caps, was diagnosed with leukaemia last August, a diagnosis which rocked his team mates and prompted a number of them to shave their heads in a show of support. Lealiifano underwent two chemotherapy treatments and then a bone marrow transplant late last year after his sister proved to be a match for donation. "The doctors said the transplant was a success and everything is looking good in there and the cancer isn't showing up so I'm in remission at the moment but there is still a ways to go," Lealiifano told the Canberra Times. "It's a massive milestone today (on Saturday) because that's the time frame they sort of give you, 100 days after the transplant gives you a rough idea of where you stand, so to be cancer-free is quite amazing and why I've got a big smile on my face." Lealiifano was named as co-captain of the ACT Brumbies this season but is unlikely to play at all, with lock Sam Carter leading the side on the field. — Reuters

## LILLE LURE BIELSA BACK TO FRANCE

**LILLE:** Iconic Argentinian coach Marcelo Bielsa, known as 'el Loco' for his intense 'all in' style, will be back in France as manager of Lille as of July, the newly bought Ligue 1 club said yesterday. "Lille and the Argentine coach have signed a two years deal which comes into effect in July," Lille announced. Rumours had been ripe that Bielsa, who handled Argentina and Chile before successful stints at Atletico Bilbao and Marseille, would join the struggling northerners who were French champions in 2011. Bielsa is known for cranking up the pressure and squeezing the most out of modest formations, taking Athletic Bilbao to a Europa League final in 2012, and coming close to a French title with Marseille. He left Marseille in a blaze of fury one game into the 2015-2016 season, before a two day stint at Italian side Lazio. Lille are 14th in Ligue 1, and were taken over three weeks ago by Luxembourg-Spanish businessman Gerard Lopez, a colourful tycoon and former owner of Formula One team Lotus. Earlier this week Lopez recruited Franck Passi who was Bielsa's assistant at Marseille, to oversee the rest of the season. — AFP



### BASKETBALL

## GLENN ROBINSON III IS NBA'S NEW DUNK KING

**NEW ORLEANS:** Glenn Robinson III is the NBA's new dunk king, with an assist to Indiana teammate Paul George, the Pacers' mascot and a Pacers cheerleader.

Robinson leaped over all three, snagging the ball from George along the way before finishing with an emphatic, two-hand, reverse jam, giving him a perfect score - and the title - on his final dunk.

Robinson edged out Phoenix's Derrick Jones Jr., who was done in by his failure to complete his difficult first dunk of two in the final round.

Jones still managed a perfect score on his second dunk, when he received a bounce-pass in the paint, put it between his legs and threw down a left-handed jam. But Robinson made sure it wasn't enough.

In the 3-point contest, Houston's Eric Gordon dethroned Golden State splash brother Klay Thompson. Kristaps Porzingis of the New York Knicks won the Skills Challenge. Both dunk finalists delighted the crowd with soaring slams over teammates and others that showcased the explosive spring in their vertical leaps.

Robinson had one dunk in which he leap-frogged one man sitting on another's shoulders, grabbed the ball from the elevated man's hands and slamming it home.

Jones jumped over four teammates including Devin Booker and Marquese Chriss in the first round. He also drew roars from the crowd when he took a pass off the side of the backboard from Booker with his right hand, put the ball between his legs to his left for a round-house jam.

The dunk that cost him was a bold one. He tried to leap a friend and the Suns' gorilla mascot, grab the ball on the way over, put it between his legs and then finish with a windmill. But he couldn't get the dunk to go down in his allotted three attempts.

DeAndre Jordan of the Los Angeles Clippers and Aaron Gordon of Orlando were unable to emerge from the first round. Jordan dunked over DJ turn tables and Gordon dunked after receiving a bounce pass from a drone that had flown over the court with the "Star Wars" theme music playing.

### FREE AGENCY

Eric Gordon got his win in New Orleans, where he played the previous five seasons before leaving last summer in free agency.

Gordon's score of 21 in a final-round tiebreaker defeated Cleveland's Kyrie Irving, the 2013 winner who had 18. The pair had each finished with a score of 20 in the final round, meaning they each had to shoot 25 more balls to decide it.

"I wasn't really concentrating on how many I made," Gordon said. "It's all about just knocking down the shot. I never counted in my head or anything. I just go out there and just shoot the ball."

Thompson was stunningly eliminated in the first round, missing a final shot from the corner that could have put him through ahead of Kemba Walker. Big men reigned supreme for a second straight year in the skills competition, with the 7-foot-3 Porzingis beating Utah's Gordon Hayward in the final round. Those vanquished in earlier rounds included guards John Wall of Washington and Isaiah Thomas of Boston, both because they couldn't make their initial 3-pointers required to close out the course before Hayward did, even though Hayward had trailed each of them dribbling down the court by a considerable margin before hitting his clinching shots.

Porzingis emerged from the big-men's division that included the Pelicans' Anthony Davis and Denver's Nikola Jokic.

"It's a good feeling that I'm able to showcase my skill with my size and show to the kids that you're capable of doing that even if you're tall and lanky like me," Porzingis said. "I think a lot of kids now growing up will improve those perimeter skills just seeing guys like - I don't want to mention myself, but big guys with perimeter skills that can do it."

Porzingis and Hayward were neck-and-neck until the end of the course, but Porzingis hit his 3 first to end it.

The three-round, head-to-head obstacle-course competition tests dribbling, passing, agility and shooting skills.

Earlier on Saturday, Rollie Massimino, who coached Villanova to the 1985 NCAA championship, and Chris Webber were among the 14 finalists for this year's Basketball Hall of Fame induction class.

Others include NBA referee Hugh Evans, Connecticut star Rebecca Lobo, two-time NBA scoring champion Tracy McGrady, five-time All-Star Sidney Moncrief, Baylor women's coach Kim Mulkey, Kansas coach Bill Self and two-time NBA champion coach Rudy Tomjanovich.

Previous finalists returning to the ballot include point guard Tim Hardaway, record-setting high school coach Robert Hughes, Notre Dame women's coach Muffet McGraw, former Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan and 10-time AAU national champion Wayland Baptist University.

Enshrinees will be announced at the Final Four on April 3. The induction ceremonies in Springfield, Massachusetts are Sept. 7-9. — AP



The final game between LA and Wlad El Bahr.

## WLAD EL BAHR WIN RED BULL REIGN

**KUWAIT:** The maiden Red Bull Reign 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Kuwait utterly pushed participating teams to their sheer physical and mental limits, mostly during the final game between Wlad El Bahr who overcame a tough battle against Los Andalus, by outscoring them 5-4.

The winning team played with harmony and skill all day long until they scored the final bucket and grasped the trophy and the boarding pass to Washington, where the Red Bull Reign's World Final will take place.

Friday was not just a normal day for all the participants who amassed at Marina World's Basketball courts after enduring a series of tough qualifying games on the previous day - it was the final 3-on-3 round out of which one team would qualify to the World Final.

The local final witnessed surprising showers right before the games were scheduled to start. The teams lined up at the entrance waiting for the sky to clear with eagerness to compete and defeat one another. Sooner than expected, the rain stopped and the first whistle announced the beginning of 75 hard games of fouls, missed buckets, dunks and unexpected cold wind. "We did not expect to win this great championship, but we did expect to advance towards the semifinals at least," said Kareem Jaber, Wlad El Bahr team member. He continued: "The toughest game we played was the final; it was physically and mentally draining but absolutely worth it. We would like to tell the teams qualifying from other countries to watch out!" Wlad El Bahr's Kareem Jaber, Ahmad Yassin, Essam Abdulsatar and Abdullah Khedr will compete in the World Final held in September at the Goodman League in Washington, DC.



Red Bull Reign - Marina.



Wlad El Bahr winning team of Red Bull Reign Kuwait.

## LEBRON JAMES TALKING A GOOD GAME, STILL PLAYING GREAT

**NEW ORLEANS:** Older, wiser and more aware of the world, LeBron James isn't afraid of letting his views known on politics or social issues or even the business of basketball. It wasn't always that way.

But in his 14th season, with more NBA playing years in his rear-view mirror than left in front of him, James doesn't see much reason to stay silent these days. His voice is louder than ever when he deems it appropriate while his numbers remain as good as ever. It's one of the reasons why he'll again be the star attraction yesterday night when he plays in the All-Star Game for the 13th time.

"I've been vocal about a lot," James said Saturday. "That's who I am. I'm a vocal guy. I've been vocal about a lot of things this year."

Whether it was his stance on the presidential election where he supported Hillary Clinton, expressing his displeasure about Phil Jackson's characterization of the people closest to him, speaking directly to fans through video messages or even saying his Cleveland Cavaliers need another playmaker to help with their NBA title defense, James has been taking

full advantage of his massive platform.

This weekend, though, he is trying to take a break from any negativity and enjoy the moment. "Truly blessed," James said. "This is a special time for me."

He's not alone in that sort of thinking. For all the subplots - the Kevin Durant-Russell Westbrook drama, Kyrie Irving's claim that the Earth is flat and Carmelo Anthony's All-Star nod after some trying times in New York - none of the 24 players who'll be on the floor Sunday night will likely be thinking about anything besides putting on a show.

James' two sons are hoping for a show, too. Not from their dad, so much - but rather from their favorites like Westbrook and Stephen Curry. "LeBron Jr. wore 0 for the longest time because he loves Russ," James said. "Bryce wore 30 because he likes Steph and likes to shoot the ball from deep. I think that's pretty cool."

James' arrival was the big news of All-Star Saturday, largely because he missed Friday's events because of family obligations. Durant and Westbrook shared the floor for practice but had minimal interaction - not even looking at

each other when they were maybe a foot apart in the back of the Superdome while trying to find their assigned spots for a media session.

"This game, it's for the fans," said Westbrook, the two-time reigning All-Star MVP.

It always is, though this All-Star weekend has a younger feel. Today's will be the first All-Star Game since 2005 - James' first All-Star - where no player in the game will be older than 32. Kobe Bryant was 37 when he made his All-Star farewell in Toronto last season, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was two months shy of turning 42 when he played in the game for the last time in 1989.

Anthony is the oldest All-Star, seven months older than James and eight months older than Marc Gasol. They're all 32.

"It's pretty weird to be the veterans now when we were the young guys a few years ago, but that's just the way the league is going, man," Durant said. "Teams are drafting two or three 18-year-olds a year. ... The league is getting younger and at some point we're going to be the old guys passing the torch to the young guys." — AP



NEW ORLEANS: Indiana Pacers Glenn Robinson III holds up his trophy after winning the slam dunk contest during NBA All-Star Saturday Night events in New Orleans, Saturday. — AP



## AUSTIN THERIAULT WINS ARCA SEASON OPENER RACE AT DAYTONA

**DAYTONA BEACH:** Austin Theriault would have welcomed another restart in the ARCA season opener.

After all, he figured he had the field covered. "I feel strongly we still would have been in good shape," he said. Theriault never got a chance to find out. He won at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday.

Saturday after a harrowing late accident damaged part of the energy-absorbing wall and halted the race. The 200-mile event was called with five laps remaining - with Theriault sitting in his No. 52 Chevrolet on the high-banked

track. "When you're fast and you play a smart race, you're hard to beat," Theriault said. "Fortunately everything played out in our favor." While Theriault celebrated his second ARCA victory in three career starts, Justin Fontaine was headed to a hospital. The 19-year-old Fontaine sustained a mild compression fracture of his L1 vertebrae and will be kept overnight for evaluation and will be in back brace for the next three months.

"Justin is awake and alert following a hard crash at Daytona International Speedway," Win-Tron Racing owner Kevin Cywinski said. "Justin is in good spirits,

and we hope to be able to provide a further update on his recovery time when it's appropriate." Fontaine thanked safety personnel for "their quick actions after the accident." "I just want to let everyone know that I'm OK and I'm thankful for the outreach of support," he added.

Fontaine's wild ride brought out the final red flag. He slammed into the outside wall, slid on his driver's side door, flipped and then came to a stop on his roof. Fontaine was stuck in the car for several minutes as safety workers turned his car over and cut him out of the cockpit. Eight-time race winner Bobby

Gerhart, Codie Rohrbaugh and Derrick Lancaster also were caught up in the late melee. None of them was injured.

Terry Jones finished second, followed by Shane Lee, Dalton Sargeant and pole-sitter Tom Hessert.

Theriault passed Jones for the lead with eight laps to go, but the race was red-flagged after Fontaine's crash damaged part of the SAFER barrier at Daytona. The energy-absorbing wall had to be repaired before the Monster Energy Cup Series exhibition Clash.

Theriault sat in his car for more than 10 minutes until the race was called. He

then made his way to victory lane to celebrate.

"Our focus is to win the championship," said Theriault, who drives for Ken Schrader Racing. "I

think we made that clear tonight. We have a long season to go, though, and a lot of work to do. We always want to get better, and Daytona's kind of a different animal, obviously. "Once we get to Nashville (in April), we'll have a better idea of maybe what we have to work on and what we're good at and we can go from there. But our intention is to go for the championship." — AP

### GOLF

## RUMFORD BEATS KHONGWATMAI IN SUPER 6 MATCHPLAY FINAL

**PERTH:** Australia's Brett Rumford captured his sixth European Tour title with a historic victory over Thailand's Phachara Khongwatmai in the final of the inaugural World Super 6 Perth yesterday.

Rumford, who dominated the field by five shots after 54 holes of strokeplay, won four match play rounds of the revolutionary new European Tour format to claim victory. His 2 and 1 victory over Thai teenager Khongwatmai in the final at Lake Karingup will now earn Rumford an exemption on the European Tour until the end of the 2018 season. It was Rumford's first win since the 2013 Volvo China Open. "It's amazing, particularly being a new format, the first winner of that," Rumford said.

"It's great to be back. I've done a lot of reflection these past few months after missing my (European) Tour card last year.

"I had a tough year and didn't see my family that much, only four weeks in six months. It was a gruelling six months, but I'm back and I couldn't be happier."

Khongwatmai, 17, would have become the second youngest winner in European Tour history if he had beaten Rumford in the final. Rumford had a bye in the first round of the match play round and overcame Hideto Tanihara, Wade Ormsby and Adam Bland on the way to the final.

Khongwatmai squeezed into the 24th and final spot in the Super 6 and defeated Australians Sam Brazel, Lucas Herbert, Matthew Millar and Jason Scrivener en route to the final.

Rumford got off to a sensational start, putting his approach to the first to within three feet, and when Khongwatmai flew the green into a bunker and failed to get up and down, the hole was conceded.

The 39-year-old Australian conceded on the second hole, sending his tee-shot well right and his second well left, with Khongwatmai safely on the green in two.

Khongwatmai found a bunker off the tee at the par three third but recovered well, with Rumford playing his ball up to the hole as they walked off all square.

Rumford looked in trouble again with a wayward second shot on the par five fourth but he hit a sensational shot over a bunker to set up a ten-foot birdie and a one-hole lead. An approach to two feet on the fifth piled the pressure on Khongwatmai, and when the young Thai found the bunker with his tee-shot and failed to get out with his second, it was all over.

Bland finished third after beating Scrivener in a play-off, with South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen fifth followed by Steven Jeffress, Millar and Ormsby. — AFP

## JOHNSON LEADS AT RIVIERA, EDGES TOWARD NUMBER ONE

**LOS ANGELES:** Dustin Johnson left the Genesis Open in the twilight Saturday realizing he could be as little 24 hours away from reaching No. 1 in the world. He wasn't the least bit concerned, mainly because he still had 36 holes ahead of him. And all that really mattered to Johnson was winning at Riviera, the course he loves that has done nothing but tease him over the last five years. Johnson had it really easy on a sloppy Saturday of light rain and a muddied course. He only had to play 18 holes of the second round, making three birdies over his last four holes for another 5-under 66 that gave him a one-shot lead at the halfway point of the rain-plagued tournament. "I want to win this tournament," Johnson said. "Whether I get to No. 1 or not doesn't affect me at all." The tournament lost an hour to fog Thursday, then seven hours when heavy rain and wind arrived in southern California on Friday, and two more hours Saturday morning to get the course cleaned up for play.

Jordan Spieth hit his first shot at 9 a.m. and his last shot at 5:40 p.m. That's a total of 10 shots for the day - two pars to close out his second round at 68, and two shots on the par-5 opening hole to start the third round. Johnson was at 10-under 132 and had a one-shot lead over Pat Perez, who birdied his last two holes for a 66, and Cameron Tringale, whose wedge from 82 yards flew straight into the cup on No. 18 for a birdie and a 64.

Jhonattan Vegas finished his second round well before lunch with four pars for a 68. He was in the group at 7-under 135 along with Patrick Rodgers (67) and PGA Tour rookie J.T. Poston (69).

Sam Saunders, who opened with a 7-under 64 on Thursday and didn't play at all on Friday, stumbled to a 77. He was right on the cut line and was in danger of becoming the first player in four years to go from leading the first round to missing the cut until a long birdie on the 17th. Saunders was nine shots behind. The PGA Tour got a big break when 71 players made the cut, making it possible to complete 72 holes by Sunday. The third round began Saturday afternoon, though the last two groups did not tee off because of darkness and will face 36 holes on the final day. The

weather had cooperated enough that players no longer could lift, clean and place their golf balls in the short grass.

### MARATHON

Johnson was in control of his game and the focus going into a marathon yesterday. Play was set to resume at 6:50 a.m. He said earlier this year that Riviera was the one tournament he wanted to win outside the majors because of his love for the course and how much he loves it, even though it has given him nothing but heartache. He has had a chance to win four times in the last five years.

Now, a victory might be enough to move him to No. 1 in the world. Johnson would have to win the Genesis Open and have world No. 1 Jason Day finish out of the top three to go to No. 1 for the first time.

"I don't really worry about that," Johnson said. "I want to put myself in position to win this golf tournament. That's really all I care about is what it takes to get it done here. The rest of the stuff, the points and the world golf rankings, yeah, I would like to get there but I'm not worried about it."

Day had another 70 and was eight shots behind and tied for 40th. Spieth, coming off a victory at Pebble Beach, managed his 19th consecutive round under par on the PGA Tour with a 68 even though he felt as though he hit it short and crooked most of the week. He was at 5 under and in a tie for 11th. Perez was coming off a bogey on the par-5 ninth when he drove left of the 10th green and hit what he thought was as good a shot as he could that ran onto the green toward the pin. It kept rolling into a bunker, though he hit a nifty shot from the sand to 3 feet for par.

"Another birdie," he said as he walked off the green, paying homage to a 313-yard hole that bedevils him. He saved his best work for the end of the round, chipping in from birdie from deep rough on the 17th and stuffing his approach into 8 feet for birdie on the 18th. Perez already has made a remarkable return from shoulder surgery, winning in his third tournament back in Mexico. Now he's headed back to Mexico in two weeks for a World Golf Championship, and a big yesterday could set him up for another WGC at the Dell Match Play. — AP



**ST MORITZ:** Silver medalist Manuel Feller, left, of Austria, Gold medalist Marcel Hirscher, center, of Austria, and Bronze medalist Felix Neureuther, right, of Germany, pose with their medals, during the award ceremony of the men's slalom at the 2017 Alpine Skiing World Championships in St Moritz, Switzerland, yesterday. — AP

### ALPINE SKIING

## IMPERIOUS HIRSCHER HAILS 'PERFECT' WORLDS

**ST MORITZ:** Marcel Hirscher was at his imperious best as he sped to victory in the slalom at the World Ski Championships yesterday to add to his triumph in the giant slalom and silver in the combined. The 27-year-old Austrian, who also won the world slalom title on home snow in Schladming in 2013, led after the first run and went on to clock a combined total of 1 min 34.75sec to bring the curtain down on what he dubbed a "perfect" championships.

That was a massive 0.68sec ahead of teammate Manuel Feller, whose silver was a career-first podium finish. Germany's Felix Neureuther, victor in 10 World Cup slaloms and previously a silver and bronze medal winner at the last two worlds, claimed bronze, at 0.93sec.

Hirscher admitted to racing the slalom without pressure after his successes in the week leading up to the most technical of the alpine skiing events. "It is a very great feeling to ski without this pressure on your shoulders," he said.

"After the silver medal in the combined, the minimum goal was reached with one medal in five starts at these world champs.

"After that very emotional giant slalom gold medal, which I've waited for for a pretty long time, twice second position behind Ted Ligety at the last two world champs, it was super easy for me mentally to go into this race. "Everything was ok, it didn't matter if I straddled at first gate. The only thing that would not be fine was skiing slow so I decided to give everything in these two runs and it worked and now the perfect championships are over." Hirscher's victory was his sixth world gold, two coming in team events, and confirmed his status as men's skiing's top performer, although he only has one Olympic medal to his name - slalom silver in the Sochi Games. Only Austrian Toni Sailer (seven) has more world titles than Hirscher, who is now level with France's Jean-Claude Killy.

Hirscher has also notched up 43 victories and 105 podiums in the World Cup and is seemingly on track to claim a sixth consecutive overall title on the season-long circuit.

### EMULATING TOMBA

His slalom/giant slalom double was the first since legendary Italian Alberto Tomba achieved the feat in 1996. The Austrian also becomes the first man to claim three world medals at three different editions. In a nerve-racking race down the Suvretta course basked in sunshine, Austrian duo Marco Schwarz and Michael Matt, second and third fastest after the first run, dropped valuable seconds to eventually finish seventh and eighth. Sweden's Mattias Hargin looked to be set for a podium place, with a healthy lead time as he dropped into the bottom section, only to ski out. Teammate Andre Myhrer, winner at last season's World Cup finals on the same slope, came in sixth, one place behind Russia's Alexander Khoroshilov. There was the disappointment of another fourth place for Henrik Kristoffersen, the Norwegian having missed out on a giant slalom bronze by just five-hundredths of a second.

This time around Kristoffersen, winner of five slaloms this season and considered a gold medal

contender here, was 0.11sec short of a medal. Norway, in the absence of the injured Aksel Lund Svindal, finished fourth in all five of the men's events in St Moritz.

Britain's Dave Ryding, whose second place in the Kitzbuehel slalom in January was the coun-

try's best for a male skier since 1981, also threatened in the first run, in which he was fourth fastest. But a bad mistake on the second descent saw him clock up just the 22nd fastest time for 11th place overall. "I just wish I could have done better," said the Englishman. — AFP

## S KOREA'S JANG WINS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

**ADELAIDE:** South Korea's Jang Ha-Na stormed to a three-shot victory in the Australian Open at Royal Adelaide with a blistering eagle-birdie finish yesterday. The world number six claimed her fourth LPGA tournament win with a sensational flourish to her final round.

Jang, 24, conjured a remarkable finish with an eagle from long range at the 17th followed by a brilliant birdie at the 18th to reach 10-under 282. Her round of four-under 69 equalled the lowest round of the day but it was done in the toughest of the conditions with gusty winds.

Jang defeated Denmark's Nanna Madsen on seven-under 285 with a group of four including Thailand's world number two Ariya Jutanugarn at joint third on six-under 286.

The Korean star had a sizzling back nine of five-under 31 with birdies at the 13th, 14th

and 18th holes as well as the eagle at 17.

Overnight leader American Lizette Salas, who led by three shots at the 11th hole yesterday, fell away badly to record a five-over 78 and finish tied for seventh. New Zealand's world number one Lydia Ko never fired in the tournament and finished tied for 46th place on two-over after a closing round of two-over 75. Ko completed just one round under par at Royal Adelaide in her first outing since changing coach, club-makers and caddie. She focused on the positives. "I hit my driver really well and that was the biggest thing that I was struggling with towards the end of my year last year," she said. "It was great to be confident and be able to hit those fairways, especially with the wind this week, it wasn't easy to hit them. "A lot of positive signs. Hopefully by next week it will be polished. It was my first tournament back." — AFP



**LOS ANGELES:** Dustin Johnson tees off on the 13th hole during the second round of the Genesis Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club, Saturday, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles. — AP



**PACIFIC PALISADES:** Ben Crane plays his shot from the first tee during the third round at the Genesis Open at Riviera Country Club on Saturday in Pacific Palisades, California. — AFP



## PAKISTAN SUPER LEAGUE FINAL MUST BE IN LAHORE: GILES CLARKE

**DUBAI:** A top international cricket official insisted yesterday that the final of Pakistan's Twenty20 league must be held in Lahore despite a major bomb attack in the country last week.

Giles Clarke, head of an International Cricket Council team seeking to revive cricket in the country, said the March 5 final of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in Lahore would be a key part of efforts to revive cricket in the country.

"PSL is Pakistan's domestic event and

its final should be held in Lahore," Clarke told AFP from London. "It is really important that the final should be held successfully." The Pakistan Cricket Board has vowed to maintain the final in Lahore, assuring VIP security arrangements reserved for state heads-for foreign players willing to travel to the city.

A suicide bomb blast in Lahore on Monday, which left 14 people killed and over 100 injured, had threatened the event. But the Pakistan army and gov-

ernment have backed plans to stage it in the city. Lahore was also where the Sri Lankan team bus was attacked by militants in March 2009, killing eight people and injuring seven visiting players.

Since then foreign teams have stayed away from Pakistan tours over security fears. Pakistan hosted a short limited over series with Zimbabwe in May-June 2015 but that failed to convince major teams to tour. Clarke, who visited Pakistan last month to study security

arrangements for international teams, said reviving international cricket in Pakistan will take time. "It's a long road for the return of bilateral international cricket to Pakistan. On my recent visit, I noticed that not just the authorities but the man in the street is seeking the return of cricket to Pakistan," said Clarke, a former chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board.

"Terror has no place in our society," said Clarke. "Terrorists should share

whatever arguments they have or use ballott boxes." Clarke praised Pakistan cricket fans. "Pakistanis are cricket fanatics and have a great knowledge of cricket and I am sure they want to see their heroes and their own players playing at home and enjoy thrilling matches."

Since 2009 Pakistan have been forced to play all home series in United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ireland and West Indies have refused offers to tour Pakistan in the last five years. —AFP

## GUNARATNE INSPIRES S LANKA TO SERIES VICTORY OVER AUSTRALIA

**VICTORIA:** All-rounder Asela Gunaratne struck a superb 84 off 46 balls to inspire Sri Lanka to a dramatic two-wicket victory over Australia in the second Twenty20 International in South Geelong, Victoria yesterday.

The touring side needed 48 runs off the last three overs to clinch the series and Gunaratne, who smashed five sixes and six fours, led them home. Australia got off to a flying start, hitting 60 runs in the first six overs, and although medium-pace Nuwan Kulasekara took four wickets, Moises Henriques made an unbeaten 56 off 37 balls to lift the hosts to a decent total of 173. Sri Lanka stumbled early as their top order collapsed, losing five wickets for 41 runs in the first five overs. A spirited 52-run partnership between Gunaratne and Chamara Kapugedera steadied the innings,

however, before the 31-year-old Gunaratne took charge to guide his side to an unlikely victory. "Asela's was an amazing innings," Sri Lanka captain Upul Tharanga said.

"We lost too many wickets early but Asela finished the game for us. Winning in Australia is a huge achievement. This is Asela's first tour to Australia and we are happy."

Australia are fielding a depleted side with their full-strength Test squad currently in India. The third and final match of the series will be played on Wednesday in Adelaide. "That was one hell of an innings," Australia captain Aaron Finch said. "When you have a good player in good form, they hurt you. "Sri Lanka played very well there. Take nothing away from them. The series is gone, but hopefully we can salvage something in Adelaide." — Reuters

### SCOREBOARD

**GEELONG, Australia:** Scoreboard in the second Twenty20 international between Australia and Sri Lanka in Geelong, Victoria, yesterday.

Australia		Sri Lanka	
M. Klinger c Dickwella b Bandara	43	N. Dickwella c Paine b Faulkner	14
A. Finch c and b Bandara	12	U. Tharanga c Richardson b Turner	4
B. Dunk b Gunaratne	32	D. Munaweera c Paine b Tye	10
M. Henriques not out	56	K. Mendis c Paine b Richardson	5
T. Head c Dickwella b Kulasekara	4	A. Gunaratne not out	84
A. Turner c Siriwardana b Prasanna	7	M. Siriwardana c Turner b Tye	0
J. Faulkner lbw b Malinga	1	C. Kapugedera c Dunk b Cummins	32
T. Paine lbw b Malinga	7	S. Prasanna c Head b Faulkner	7
P. Cummins b Kulasekara	3	N. Kulasekara c Klinger b Tye	12
A. Tye lbw b Kulasekara	0	L. Malinga not out	1
J. Richardson b Kulasekara	0	Extras (lb2, w5)	7
Extras (lb5, w3)	8	Total (8 wickets, 20 overs)	176
Total (all out, 20 overs)	173	Did not bat: S. Bandara	
Fall of wickets: 1-18 (Finch), 2-63 (Dunk), 3-113 (Klinger), 4-121 (Head), 5-134 (Turner), 6-144 (Faulkner), 7-162 (Paine), 8-169 (Cummins), 9-173 (Tye), 10-173 (Richardson)		Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Tharanga), 2-22 (Dickwella), 3-27 (Mendis), 4-40 (Munaweera), 5-40 (Siriwardana), 6-92 (Kapugedera), 7-119 (Prasanna), 8-160 (Kulasekara)	
Bowling: Malinga 4-0-31-2, Kulasekara 4-0-31-4 (2w), Bandara 4-0-32-2 (1w), Munaweera 1-0-22-0, Gunaratne 3-0-26-1, Prasanna 4-0-26-1.		Bowling: Turner 2-0-15-1, Cummins 3-0-28-1 (1w), Faulkner 4-0-32-2, Richardson 3-0-24-1, Tye 4-0-37-3 (1w), Henriques 4-0-38-0 (2w).	
		Result: Sri Lanka won by 2 wickets	
		Series: Sri Lanka 2-0	



**HAMILTON:** Quinton de Kock of South Africa (R) bats as New Zealand's Tom Latham watches during the one-day international (ODI) cricket match between New Zealand and South Africa at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday. — AFP

### CRICKET

## DE VILLIERS GETS S AFRICA HOME WITH A BALL TO SPARE

**HAMILTON:** A polished Quinton de Kock half century laid the foundation for South Africa's four wicket win over New Zealand in a tense finish to a rain-shortened opening one-day international in Hamilton yesterday.

In a clash that went down to the wire, it was a man-of-the-match performance from de Kock on a wicket that took an exceptional amount of spin in New Zealand conditions.

The departure of de Kock for 69 sparked a middle order collapse as even the New Zealand quicks turned to bowling cutters on the responsive pitch before an AB de Villiers rescue mission saw his side home with a ball to spare.

"We never expected it to turn like that in Hamilton," de Villiers said. "From past experience this becomes a really good batting track in the evening but that was far from it."

With the fixture reduced to 34 overs a side following heavy rain early in the day, New Zealand posted 207 for seven, boosted by a whirlwind 51 off 23 balls at the end by unbeaten pair Colin de Grandhomme and Tim Southee.

But any thoughts New Zealand had that they were in a strong performance were soon dashed by the way de Kock launched into South Africa's reply. "At the halfway stage we felt we were right in the game," captain Kane Williamson said. "We knew needing five and a half on that surface was going to be difficult and they got off to a very good start which made chasing down that total a lot easier."

"South Africa showed their class with the bat, batted very well and their composure towards the end was very important on a tough surface"

South Africa went into the final over of their reply requiring 12 to win, and de Villiers ended the game with a four off the fifth ball of Tim Southee's over.

### SCOREBOARD

**HAMILTON, New Zealand:** Scoreboard yesterday from the first one-day cricket international between New Zealand and South Africa at Seddon Park (reduced to 34 overs per side):

New Zealand		South Africa	
Dean Brownlie c Behardien b Morris	31	Quinton de Kock c Taylor b Boult	69
Tom Latham lbw b Morris	0	Hashim Amla c & b Williamson	35
Kane Williamson b Shamsi	59	Faf du Plessis lbw b Sodhi	14
Ross Taylor c & b Morris	1	AB de Villiers not out	37
Neil Broom c Bhardien b Morris	2	JP Duminy c and b Southee	1
James Neesham c de Kock b Rabada	29	Farhaan Behardien b Southee	0
Mitchell Santner c de Kock b Rabada	17	Chris Morris c Boult b Santner	16
Colin de Grandhomme not out	34	Andile Phehlukwayo not out	29
Tim Southee not out	24	Extras (2b, 3lb, 4w)	9
Extras (1b, 9w)	10	TOTAL (for 6 wickets)	210
TOTAL (for 7 wickets)	207	Overs: 33.5.	
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-69, 3-72, 4-82, 5-108, 6-186, 7-156.		Fall of wickets: 1-88, 2-117, 3-125, 4-126, 5-126, 6-156.	
Did not bat: Ish Sodhi, Trent Boult.		Did not bat: Tabraiz Shamsi, Kagiso Rabada, Imran Tahir.	
Bowling: Kagiso Rabada 7-1-31-2 (7w), Chris Morris 7-0-62-4 (1w), Andile Phehlukwayo 5-0-28-0 (1w), Imran Tahir 7-0-42-0, Tabraiz Shamsi 7-1-39-1, JP Duminy 1-0-4-0.		Bowling: Mitchell Santner 7-0-33-1, Trent Boult 7-0-45-1, Tim Southee 6-5-0-47-2 (3w), Colin de Grandhomme 4-0-27-0, Ish Sodhi 7-0-36-1, Kane Williamson 2-0-17-1 (1w).	
		Result: South Africa won by 4 wickets.	

With de Kock in sublime form, assisted by Hashim Amla, South Africa started their run chase strongly with an 88-run stand.

Williamson used five bowling changes in the first 15 overs in an attempt to break up the pair but only succeeded when he put himself, a part-time spinner, on and had Amla caught and bowled for 35. Faf du Plessis (14) joined de Kock to get the score to 117 when the South African innings suffered a collapse with five wickets falling in the space of 39 runs.

Trent Boult had de Kock caught in a sharp piece of fielding by Ross Taylor at short mid-wicket and Tim Southee removed JP Duminy and Farhaan Behardein with consecutive deliveries.

### IN TATTERS

Chris Morris survived the hat-trick ball and

made 16 before his dismissal had South Africa at 156-6 with 44 balls remaining.

De Villiers with 37 off 34 balls and Andile Phehlukwayo (29 off 23) combined efforts to get the tourists home. De Grandhomme and Southee's whirlwind partnership gave the New Zealand innings a respectable look after they too suffered a middle order collapse.

De Grandhomme was unbeaten on 34 off 19 balls while Southee faced 13 balls to be 24 not out. They were particularly harsh on the most successful of the South African bowlers, Morris, smacking the all-rounder for 25 in the final over.

It saw Morris's figures balloon out to four for 62 off his seven overs, after he had four for 24 off five. Morris left the New Zealand top order in tatters with only Kane Williamson (59) and Dean Brownlie (31) offering any resistance. — AFP



**GEELONG:** Asela Gunaratne of Sri Lanka (L) celebrates with a teammate after scoring the winning run during the second Twenty20 cricket match between Australia and Sri Lanka at Kardinia Park in Geelong yesterday. — AFP

## SMITH REPLACES DHONI AS IPL TEAM SKIPPER

**NEW DELHI:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been removed as skipper of his Indian Premier League team with Australia's Steve Smith replacing him for the upcoming tournament, an official statement said yesterday. Dhoni, who stepped down as India's limited-overs captain last month, will continue to play as wicketkeeper-batsman for the Rising Pune Supergiants in the Twenty20 franchise-based competition that begins April 5. "Rising Pune Supergiant today announced the appointment of Steve Smith as their new captain for the forthcoming edition of IPL season 10," a team statement said.

Team owner Sanjiv Goenka said Dhoni "is supportive of the decision, keeping the franchise's best interests in mind".

Under 35-year-old Dhoni's captaincy, the Pune team finished second last in their debut IPL season in 2016, winning only five games

and losing nine. Dhoni scored 284 runs in 12 innings at a strike rate of 135 while 27-year-old Smith, who captains Australia in all formats, hit 270 in seven at a 153-strike rate.

Some reports said Dhoni took the decision to step down and was not sacked, but team owner Goenka told the Press Trust of India that wasn't the case. "Dhoni has not stepped down. We have appointed Steve Smith as the skipper," Goenka told PTI. "Frankly speaking, we did not have a good last season and we wanted someone young to lead the side and revamp it ahead of the upcoming season 10." There was no immediate reaction from Dhoni.

Dhoni was chosen to head the Pune franchise after the Supergiants and Gujarat Lions replaced Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals, which were suspended for two seasons following a spot-fixing scandal in 2013. He had been the captain of the Super Kings

since the IPL's inception in 2008 and made it the most successful team, having won the short-form tournament in 2010 and 2011 and finishing runners-up on four occasions.

Yesterday's announcement came as a shock to scores of his fans who took to Twitter to vent, making "MS Dhoni" one of the top trending topics in India. "Pune team removed Dhoni from captaincy. I think this is time to remove @RPSupergiants from @IPL," said Twitter user Vaishali. Separately, India's cricket board said Australian left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc was no longer a member of the Royal Challengers Bangalore team. Starc had been signed up to the Bangalore franchise since 2014, but played only two tournaments for them. He skipped last year's edition due to a foot injury. The latest moves come just before the IPL player auction in Bangalore today. — AFP



**CANBERRA:** This file photo taken on January 20, 2016 shows Australia's captain Steve Smith (L) and Indian captain MS Dhoni (R) shaking hands before starting the fourth one-day international cricket match between India and Australia at the Manuka Oval in Canberra. Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been sacked as skipper of his Indian Premier League team with Australia's Steve Smith replacing him for the upcoming tournament, an official statement said yesterday. — AFP



RUGBY

## RACING SHRUG OFF CARTER SHOCK, CLERMONT GO TOP

**PARIS:** Racing 92 put Dan Carter's drink-driving shock behind them with a 33-25 win over Brive in the French Top 14 on Saturday as Clermont grabbed pole position after a 46-27 victory over rock-bottom Bayonne. Defending champions Racing maintained their unbeaten home record despite dealing with the fall-out from All Blacks legend Carter being pulled over for drink-driving in Paris on Wednesday.

The 34-year-old two-time World Cup winner, who apologised for his "massive error of judgement", was injured and absent Saturday as he took a break in his native New Zealand. Racing were also

without Eddy Ben Arous, Camille Chat, Bernard le Roux and Maxime Machenaud, all away on Six Nations duty, as well as fly-halves Carter, Benjamin Dambielle and Remi Tales and scrum-half Xavier Chauveau. Despite the absences, they were quickly into their stride with Gerbrandt Grobler grabbing a 14th-minute try with two penalties from James Hart giving them an 11-0 lead. Brive stunned the champions as Sevanaia Galala and Karlen Asieshvili scored tries for a 15-13 lead. Lock forward Leone Nakarawa restored Racing's lead with the first of two tries in the 47th minute before adding his second 18 minutes later

for a 30-18 advantage. Guillaume Ribes scored a consolation try for Brive at the death. "We knew that this would be a complicated day as every year Brive pose us problems," said Racing's backs coach Laurent Labit.

Clermont lead the standings on points difference after their six-try, 46-27 win over Bayonne allowed them to leapfrog La Rochelle who earlier downed Stade Français 37-18.

Clermont had the game wrapped up by half-time, building up a 29-0 lead thanks to scores from Aurelien Rougerie, a brace from Charlie Cassang and Damien Penaud. Judicael Cancoriet and

skipper Alexandre Lapandry, in the last minute, secured the bonus-point triumph. "The first half was perfect to be 29-0 ahead but in the second half we gave away two tries, both on interceptions, that's 14 easy points which gave Bayonne a new lease of life," said Clermont boss Franck Azema.

"But I was satisfied in how we reacted after that, the way we scored a bonus point while we were under pressure."

Three-time European champions Toulon are third, 12 points behind Clermont and La Rochelle, after a 31-17 win over Lyon secured however without a bonus point. A penalty try and a score

from Fijian Olympic Games gold medalist Josua Tuisova saw Toulon reach the interval at 17-17. But second half tries from Juan Smith and Bryan Habana, both converted by Matt Giteau, saw Toulon home.

Unheralded Pau are fifth after beating Grenoble 39-22 for a sixth successive win with All Blacks fly-half Colin Slade excelling with the boot with 24 points.

La Rochelle were made to struggle for their victory against Stade and would have been in deeper trouble without Brock James, the veteran Australian fly-half who booted 22 points from six penalties and two conversions.—AFP

## FA CUP 'GLADIATOR' SPIRIT HITS PREMIER LEAGUE

**LONDON:** Lincoln City boss Danny Cowley hailed his players for bringing the "magic" back to the FA Cup after they stunned Premier League Burnley to become the first non-league team in more than a century to reach the last eight.

Sean Raggett's 89th-minute header secured a famous 1-0 win and Burnley boss Sean Dyche was not the only Premier League manager bemoaning his unwanted role in a football "fairytale".

Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri called on his players to become "gladiators and soldiers" after the Premier League champions latest defeat saw them beaten 1-0 by third tier Millwall in their fifth round tie. This time a 90th minute goal by Shaun Cummings deepened the crisis for Ranieri ahead of a crunch Champions League game against Sevilla. Millwall could be in trouble over a crowd invasion after the final whistle though.

Manchester City face a troublesome replay-and an unwanted extra fixture as they battle to claw back the eight point deficit to league leaders Chelsea — after a goalless draw with Huddersfield of the Championship on a landmark weekend of Cup upsets.

Lincoln's fellow non league side Sutton will be hoping to round it off today against an Arsenal side still reeling from the 5-1 reverse they suffered at the hands of Bayern Munich in the Champions League last Wednesday.

Lincoln—who had already beaten Ipswich and Brighton on the Championship—are the first non-league club since Queen's Park Rangers in 1914 to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals. Many Premier League and Championship sides now field weakened teams in domestic cup competitions leading to accusations of disrespecting the world's oldest senior football knockout tournament.

'FIGHTERS' WANTED

"I think maybe we've brought some of the magic back," said Cowley. "It is a brilliant cup competition. Whoever says the FA Cup is dead hasn't lived in Lincoln for the last six to eight weeks. "And it has gal-

vanised our football club." Burnley manager Dyche, who as a player featured in Chesterfield's surprise run to the FA Cup semi-finals in 1997, acknowledged Lincoln's achievement.

"We've unfortunately played a part in Lincoln's fairytale and obviously we didn't want to do that," he said.

Leicester boss Ranieri, FIFA's coach of the year for his Premier League upset last year, was again angry and frustrated after seeing his relegation-threatened side collapse again. "I want to speak again with the players and say we have to fight every match," said the Italian.

"Who wants to fight? Tell me. I need the soldiers, I need the gladiators, because Millwall, with 10 players, showed they are fantastic gladiators.

"It is strange because last season we won for this, to be more determined than the opponent and play with more heart than the opponent. We could also lose but we would fight every match. I want to see this, the fight until the end.

"This defeat could be good for us because when you lose against a team who fights, you have to say well done to them but why did we lose?"

But the day was spoiled by ugly scenes when Millwall fans spilled onto the pitch and goaded the Leicester fans. Missiles appeared to be thrown by both sets of supporters while police horses were called upon to defuse the situation.

"No-one wants to see that on the football pitch," said Millwall manager Neil Harris. "I can't condone that, but if I have not seen it I am not going to say anything negative because you have to see something to make a realistic judgement."

Chelsea boss Antonio Conte warned his players to avoid complacency as they seek to become just the third club to win the Premier League and FA Cup 'Double' on two separate occasions.

A 2-0 fifth round win away to second tier Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday took Chelsea through to the quarter-finals.

"I think it's a little early to talk about this," Conte said of double talk. "But for sure we are in these two competitions."—AFP



**MONTREAL:** Carey Price #31 of the Montreal Canadiens gloves the puck during the NHL game against the Winnipeg Jets at the Bell Centre on Saturday in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The Winnipeg Jets defeated the Montreal Canadiens 3-1. — AFP

NHL

# JETS SPOIL JULIEN'S RETURN WITH 3-1 WIN

**MONTREAL:** Winnipeg scored two third-period goals to break a 1-1 tie and spoil Claude Julien's first game as Montreal's coach. Julien had been hired by the Canadiens on Tuesday after being fired by the Boston Bruins on Feb. 7. Mathieu Perreault and Patrik Laine both scored in the third period for Winnipeg. Perreault put the Jets ahead 2-1 at 1:16 with a backhand shot past Carey Price from the slot after Dustin Byfuglien carried the puck along the right boards and made a centering pass. Laine collected his 28th goal into an empty net with 1:17 remaining. Connor Hellebuyck made 19 saves for Winnipeg (27-29-5) with Price having 30 saves for Montreal (31-20-8), which extended its losing streak to three games.

RED WINGS 3, CAPITALS 2

Henrik Zetterberg scored the winner in the fifth round of the shootout as Detroit ended Washington's six-game winning streak. After Zetterberg's goal, Detroit goalie Petr Mrazek made a sliding pad save to foil Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin and clinch the victory. Mrazek stopped four of the five shots he faced. The victory ended a four-game losing streak and a five-game winless slide for the Wings.

SABRES 3, BLUES 2

Evander Kane had a goal and an assist as Buffalo snapped St. Louis' six-game winning streak. Nicholas Baptiste and Ryan O'Reilly also scored for the Sabres (26-23-10), who won their third game in a row. Robin Lehner made 37 saves. Vladimir Tarasenko and Scottie Upshall scored for the Blues (31-23-5). Jake Allen made 26 saves.

WILD 5, PREDATORS 2

Jason Zucker had two goals and an assist, and Devan Dubnyk stopped 37 shots as Minnesota defeated Nashville. Mikko Koivu and Mikael Granlund, Zucker's linemates, each had a goal and assist, while Eric Staal added an empty-net goal as the Wild surpassed their win total from last season with their 39th victory and drew within one point of Washington for best record. Colin Wilson and P.K. Subban scored for the Predators. Pekka Rinne made 28 saves as Nashville was the latest team to struggle coming out of its mandated week off as clubs are 3-12-4 in their first game back, including 0-8-3 in February.

SHARKS 4, COYOTES 1

Brent Burns scored two goals, and Melker Karlsson had a goal and two assists as San Jose defeated Arizona. Micheal Haley scored his first goal of the season and added an assist and the Sharks got a career-high 36 saves from backup goaltender Aaron Dell to win for the second time in their last seven games (2-1-4). Martin Hanzal scored for Arizona, which got 29 saves from Mike Smith but finished the season series 3-1-1 against San Jose. Smith entered 12-7-3 with a 2.08 goals-against-average and .944 save percentage in 23 career games against San Jose.

PANTHERS 4, KINGS 3

Alexander Barkov scored the decisive goal in the third period and Roberto Luongo made 34 saves as Florida won its fourth straight game. The Panthers prevailed for the seventh time in their last eight games to climb into third place in the Atlantic Division. Jonathan Huberdeau and Jussi Jokinen added goals as Florida avenged a 6-3 loss Feb. 9 to split the season series. Los Angeles lost its second straight game after returning from its week off. Tanner Pearson and Dwight King registered goals while Peter Budaj stopped 22 shots.

SENATORS 6, MAPLE LEAFS 3

Derick Brassard scored two goals and ended a tie with a power-play goal in the third period as Ottawa came back to defeat Toronto. Chris Wideman, Ryan Dzingel, Mike Hoffman and Mark Stone also scored for the Senators, who won their second straight. Stone added four assists for Ottawa while Craig Anderson made 34 saves. Morgan Rielly, Nazem Kadri and William Nylander scored for the Maple Leafs, who lost their second straight. Auston Matthews had two assists for Toronto. Frederik Andersen stopped 36 shots.

CANUCKS 2, FLAMES 1 (OT)

Chris Tanev scored 34 seconds into overtime as Vancouver improved its playoff hopes with a victory over Calgary. The Flames' Mark Giordano forced overtime when he tied the game with six seconds left in the third period. Brian Elliott stopped 17 shots for Calgary. The Canucks moved within four points of the Flames in the race for the final wild card playoff spot in the Western Conference. Vancouver goaltender Ryan Miller made 35 saves, including 17 in the third period when Calgary out-shot the Canucks 18-2.

DEVILS 3, ISLANDERS 2

Cory Schneider made 40 saves, including 20 in the second period, as New Jersey won an important Metropolitan Division game over New York. The win was only the third in their past 12 home games for the Devils, while the Islanders lost their third straight road contest. The teams switch sides Sunday when the Islanders host the Devils at the Barclays Center. Schneider's most important save came at the 8:10 mark of the first period when he denied Islanders captain John Tavares with his right pad on a penalty shot. Schneider faced 16 penalty shots in his career, and stopped 14.

OILERS 3, BLACKHAWKS 1

Matt Benning, Milan Lucic and Connor McDavid scored and Cam Talbot made 38 saves as Edmonton beat Chicago. Lucic produced the winning goal for the Oilers, who won their third straight game, when he scored unassisted midway through the third period. McDavid sealed the victory with an empty-netter, his 20th goal of the season and 67th point. After Talbot stopped 34 straight shots, the Blackhawks got on the board when Richard Panik beat Talbot with just under five minutes to play. But despite maintaining a large advantage on shots, the Blackhawks had their five-game winning streak snapped.

STARS 4, LIGHTNING 3 (OT)

Antoine Roussel had a hat trick and Jamie Benn scored the game-winning goal at 3:47 of overtime as Dallas defeated Tampa Bay. Benn picked the corner over goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy's shoulder for his 20th goal of the season. The Stars ended a three-game losing streak and won for only the second time in February. Victor Hedman recorded a goal and two assists for the Lightning, who lost their first game after a five-day break. — Reuters

### NHL results/standings

Vancouver 2, Calgary 1 (OT); Florida 3, Los Angeles 2; San Jose 4, Arizona 1; Dallas 4, Tampa Bay 3 (OT); Minnesota 5, Nashville 2; Edmonton 3, Chicago 1; Ottawa 6, Toronto 3; New Jersey 3, NY Islanders 2; Winnipeg 3, Montreal 1; Detroit 3, Washington 2 (SO); Buffalo 3, St. Louis 2.

Western Conference						Eastern Conference							
Central Division						Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
Minnesota	39	13	6	195	133	84	Ottawa	31	19	6	154	149	68
Chicago	35	18	5	167	150	75	Florida	27	20	10	147	161	64
St. Louis	31	23	5	169	171	67	Boston	29	23	6	157	155	64
Nashville	27	22	8	160	156	62	Toronto	26	20	11	177	173	63
Winnipeg	27	29	5	177	192	59	Buffalo	26	23	10	146	163	62
Dallas	23	27	10	165	193	56	Tampa Bay	25	24	8	157	164	58
Colorado	16	38	2	111	187	34	Detroit	23	25	10	144	173	56
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division							
San Jose	35	18	6	165	142	76	Washington	39	11	7	194	124	85
Edmonton	32	19	8	171	152	72	Pittsburgh	36	13	8	202	160	80
Anaheim	30	19	10	153	151	70	Columbus	37	15	5	184	139	79
Calgary	29	26	4	153	167	62	NY Rangers	37	19	1	194	151	75
Los Angeles	28	25	4	143	144	60	NY Islanders	26	21	10	168	170	62
Vancouver	26	27	6	140	169	58	Philadelphia	27	24	7	151	177	61
Arizona	20	30	7	137	181	47	New Jersey	25	23	10	134	164	60
Eastern Conference						Atlantic Division							
Montreal	31	20	8	166	153	70	Carolina	24	22	8	141	158	56

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

SOCCER

## WHEN LOVE TURNED SOUR FOR 5 MANAGERIAL ICONS

**LONDON:** Arsenal legend Arsene Wenger and Claudio Ranieri who guided Leicester City to the unlikelyst of titles last season are facing rocky futures for different reasons. Wenger-whose side tackle non league Sutton in the FA Cup on Monday-is in the spotlight as yet another season threatens to end in disappointment vis a vis the title and the Champions League.

And Ranieri because the Foxes have lost their bite and are in danger of becoming the first English league champions to be relegated since Manchester City in 1938. Ranieri's last refuge-third tier Millwall ousting them from the FA Cup on Saturday despite being reduced to 10 men-is the Champions League and his team have a tricky away trip to Sevilla this week. Here AFP Sports looks at five other managerial icons who fell foul of the very same fans who used to chant their names from the rooftops.

LUIZ FELIPE SCOLARI - BRAZIL

'Big Phil' never stood taller than when he guided a Brazil side numbering the three 'R's' Rivaldo, Ronaldo and Ronaldinho to the 2002 World Cup triumph over Germany. Seen as the man most capable of delivering World Cup glory on home soil in 2014 the dream descended into a barely credible nightmare as without injured superstar Neymar the Germans dismantled the hosts in a 7-1 walloping which plunged the nation into mourning. Describing it as the 'worst day of his life' he jumped before he was pushed, resigning from the post after the Netherlands beat them 3-0 in the meaningless third place play-off.

ROBERTO DI MATTEO - CHELSEA

The Switzerland-born Italy international was a popular figure as a player at the club-he scored goals in both the 1997 and 2000 FA Cup final victories-but his standing became almost godlike when against all expectations he delivered the Champions League in 2012, the trophy above all others that Russian oligarch owner Roman Abramovich desired. The FA Cup was added that season. Rewarded

with a two year contract in June 2012 the amiable di Matteo was sacked in November as a series of poor results prompted the never patient Abramovich to fire him.

JOSE MOURINHO - CHELSEA

The self anointed 'Special One' returned to Chelsea for a second spell and duly delivered the 2015 Premier League title in his second season back. All seemed set fair for another trophy-laden term in office but things quickly disintegrated not least his fragile temperament. A very public row with the club doctor Evas Carneiro and woeful results plus certain players growing disenchanted with the Portuguese handler resulted in the unthinkable happening and his leaving the club in December 2015 by 'mutual consent'.

CESAR LUIS MENOTTI - ARGENTINA

Chain smoking long-haired coach who despite the permanent smoke clouds emanating from the dugout could see clearly enough of what was going on on the pitch to mastermind the 1978 side captained by Daniel Passarella to World Cup success at home. Menotti stayed on for their 1982 title defence but they lost to Belgium in their first game. An early return home for a side including young talent Diego Maradona but a labouring ageing defence came after defeats to eventual winners Italy and bitter rivals Brazil in the second round group stage. Menotti had run out of puff.

JUPP HEYNCKES - REAL MADRID

Real Madrid are not renowned for sparing a manager's feelings or career and Heynckes can attest to that more than anyone. The German handler brought 'the meringues' their seventh European Cup trophy-and first in 32 years-in defeating Juventus in 1998. Ecstasy turned to misery as with a singular lack of gratitude Real sacked him days later for finishing fourth in the league. He had the last laugh years later, ending his career by guiding Bayern Munich to the treble of the league title, Cup and Champions League. — AFP



## INFANTINO CALLS UNPRECEDENTED AFRICAN SUMMIT MEETING

**JOHANNESBURG:** FIFA President Gianni Infantino will meet more than 50 presidents of African football associations in an unprecedented summit in Johannesburg this week, officials said yesterday.

Each of the continent's 54 member countries has been invited to a day-long executive summit with Infantino, called to discuss general issues in the game and explain FIFA's plans to expand the World Cup and changes to its development structures.

The association presidents will be

divided into two groups with some 25 meeting Infantino and other FIFA officials on Tuesday and the rest repeating the exercise the next day, organisers told Reuters. It is the first time such a summit has been held at which FIFA deals directly with all the leaders of African football.

Infantino, however, did meet about 20 association presidents in Nigeria last July in a gathering that pointedly snubbed long-standing Confederation of African Football (CAF) President Issa Hayatou and members of his executive committee. Usually the only time all

association presidents get together is for annual FIFA and CAF Congresses.

The meetings, which are being held behind closed doors, will be followed by a trip by Infantino to Harare on Thursday to join birthday celebrations for the Zimbabwe Football Association President Philip Chiyangwa, a vocal critic of Hayatou who is backing his opponent in next month's CAF president election. Hayatou, 70, is seeking to extend his tenure in office into a third decade but faces a strong challenge from Ahmad of Madagascar, a former govern-

ment minister who uses just one name. The CAF elections are to be held in Addis Ababa on March 16.

Chiyangwa has invited a wide array of African football administrators to travel from Johannesburg to Harare as he seeks to galvanise support for Ahmad.

In an exchange of letters published by local media last week, Hayatou threatened Chiyangwa with sanctions if he went ahead with the meeting, saying he had no right to call such a gathering.

But Chiyangwa, a wealthy businessman who has used his own money to

fund the bankrupt Zimbabwe Football Association, responded by saying it was a celebration of his birthday and his election as President of the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations, a regional body made up of 14 countries.

Infantino's presence in Harare is seen as a tacit sign of support for the anti-Hayatou camp.

Hayatou and CAF last year formally endorsed the candidacy of Bahrain's Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim al Khalifa who Infantino beat in the FIFA presidential elections. — Reuters

## BALOTELLI SENT OFF IN NICE VICTORY

**PARIS:** Mario Balotelli was sent off on his return to the Nice team but Lucien Favre's side held on for a 1-0 win at Lorient on Saturday which sees them close the gap on Ligue 1 leaders Monaco. Wylan Cyprien scored the only goal of the game in Brittany, collecting Arnaud Souquet's pass and firing home from inside the area in the 15th minute. The result allowed Nice to go back above Paris Saint-Germain into second place and close to within three points of Monaco, who could only draw 1-1 at Bastia on Friday.

"To win away from home does us good and it is well deserved because we had to hold on at 10 against 11," Favre said.

"We saw how difficult it is for all teams with the Monaco result, so logically it was going to be difficult for us too."

Balotelli was sent off after apparently talking out of turn to match referee Tony Chapron midway through the second half. It was his third red card this season in the French top flight, although his first, also against Lorient back in October, was later overturned. "I didn't see what happened. All of a sudden the card came out. Apparently there were words," said Favre.

The Italian, who has scored nine league goals, has endured a frustrating couple of weeks—he was dropped from the team for a 1-0 win against Saint-Etienne and then missed last week's draw at Rennes due to illness, but returned in Lorient in place of injured leading scorer Alassane Plea. It was a first away win since the end of November for Nice, while Lorient remain rooted to the foot of the table.

### MARSEILLE WIN WITHOUT GOMIS

Defending champions PSG, fresh from their famous win against Barcelona in the Champions League in midweek, can leapfrog Nice again and cut Monaco's lead

to a single point if they beat Toulouse at the Parc des Princes on Sunday night.

Elsewhere, Marseille overcame the absence of injured leading scorer Bafetimbi Gomis to beat Rennes 2-0 and boost their hopes of European qualification.

Clinton Njie and Florian Thauvin, the latter with a superb strike, both netted in the second half for the hosts as Marseille moved to within a point of fourth-placed Lyon, albeit having played two games more. "We had an obligation to win here and it was quite an accomplished performance," said Marseille coach Rudi Garcia, whose team face great rivals PSG next.

"Life without Bafe is possible, but in a different style. Now we have eight days before the match against PSG, but first of all we will enjoy this result." On-loan Swansea City striker Gomis, scorer of 16 league goals this season, suffered a knee injury in last weekend's defeat at Nantes that will rule him out for around a month.

Njie, filling in as the central striker, fired home first-time after the ball broke to him inside the area to open the scoring just before the hour mark. Five minutes later Marseille had scored again thanks to a superb goal from Thauvin as he smashed a shot high into the net on his left foot to make it 2-0. There was no way back after that for Rennes, who have now gone 10 league games without a win.

Lille eased their relegation fears with a 1-0 win at fellow strugglers Caen in their first game under new coach Franck Passi. They had defender Adama Soumaoro sent off just after the hour mark but Anwar El Ghazi, a January signing from Ajax, struck the only goal of the game with 20 minutes left. Giant Malian striker Cheick Diabate's late penalty secured a 1-1 draw for Metz at home to Nantes and Angers beat Nancy 1-0. —AFP



**VERONA:** Napoli's Piotr Zielinski scores during a Serie A soccer match between Chievo Verona and Napoli, at the Bentegodi stadium in Verona, Italy, yesterday. —AP

### SOCCER

## NAPOLI BEAT CHIEVO TO GO SECOND, INTER PAST BOLOGNA

**ROME:** Napoli eased past Chievo 3-1 away yesterday to provisionally move second and Gabriel Barbosa came off the bench to score his first Serie A goal as lethargic Inter Milan snatched a late 1-0 victory at Bologna to reclaim fourth place in the standings.

Napoli bounced back from their Champions League defeat by Real Madrid and extended their undefeated league streak to 14 games by defeating Chievo.

Lorenzo Insigne opened the scoring in the 31st minute with a delicious effort when he cut in from the left and curled a right-foot strike into the far corner, before Marek Hamsik finished from close range after hesitant defending in the 38th.

Piotr Zielinski added a third in the 58th minute when he finished calmly from the edge of the box, before Riccardo Meggiorini pulled a goal back for the hosts.

The win took Napoli up to 54 points in second place behind Juventus, one point ahead of AS Roma who host Torino later.

In Bologna, Inter moved back level with Atalanta on 48 points and above Lazio who both won on Saturday after Brazilian Gabriel settled a lacklustre contest with an 81st-minute winner.

The 20-year-old Brazilian forward, nicknamed "Gabigol", entered in the 74th minute and took seven minutes to end his goal drought when he finished calmly after being picked out by Danilo D'Ambrosio's cross.

Before the youngster's intervention, Inter had lacked the ideas and verve that have characterised recent performances under Stefano Pioli and looked set to rue a remarkable miss from Rodrigo Palacio, who fired over from four yards in the 12th minute.

"In the locker room they said that Gabigol

would invite everyone for a Brazilian-style dinner when he got his first goal," Pioli told Italian television. "I'm happy for him."

"He's working hard after a troubled start which is normal for a young player coming from abroad, but he's doing well now and the whole squad deserves credit for that."

Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic denied Vasilis Torosidis with an excellent save in stoppage-time as Bologna rallied, while the home side will feel hard done by after Eder's blatant penalty-box foul on Blerim Dzemalini went unpunished.

Elsewhere, bottom-club Pescara's decision to reappoint Zdenek Zeman for a second spell in charge prompted an immediate change of fortunes as they ended a 22-game winless streak and picked up their second victory of the season with a stunning 5-0 triumph over Genoa. —Reuters



**LORIENT:** Lorient's Senegalese defender Zargo Toure (3dL) heads the ball during the French L1 football match Lorient vs Nice at the Moustoir stadium in Lorient, western France, on Saturday. —AFP

## GIANT-KILLERS SUTTON SEEK SCALP OF WAVERING WENGER

**LONDON:** A plastic pitch, a vulnerable heavyweight and minnows with giant-killing pedigree could conspire to produce one of the great FA Cup shocks when Arsenal visit non-league Sutton United today. Arsenal approach the fifth-round tie reeling from Wednesday's 5-1 humiliation by Bayern Munich and with manager Arsene Wenger closer to the exit door than ever before. Sutton stunned Coventry City, FA Cup winners 19 months previously, in 1989 and Micky Stephens, who played in that game and is now assistant manager, says they will approach Monday's match with a similar mentality. "It's very difficult to stop them, but you don't want to give the players too much information," he told AFP this week.

"I didn't want to know too much when I played against Coventry. I wanted to know about the weaknesses, but not the strengths of the Coventry players."

"Everyone will know their strengths. All we can ask of our players is that they do their best." Sutton currently sit 17th in the fifth tier, 105 places below Arsenal in the English football pyramid, and have reached the fifth round for the first time.

Their National League counterparts Lincoln City have shown them the way, having beaten Burnley 1-0 on Saturday to become the first team from outside England's top four divisions to reach the last eight since 1914. Sutton entered the tournament in the first round in November and have already upset fourth-tier Cheltenham Town, third-tier AFC Wimbledon and Championship promotion-chasers Leeds United.

Their down-at-heel Gander Green Lane ground in south London will be at its 5,000 capacity on Monday for a game that will pres-

ent Arsenal with the unusual challenge of playing on a synthetic 3G pitch.

It will be a particularly special occasion for Sutton trio Craig Eastmond, Roarie Deacon and Jeffrey Monakana, all of whom came through the youth ranks at Arsenal.

Eastmond, 26, was the only one to reach the first team, making 10 appearances between 2009 and 2013 and playing alongside current Arsenal regulars Theo Walcott, Laurent Koscielny, Francis Coquelin and Kieran Gibbs.

### AMAZED BY ARSENAL

"I will be nervous before the game because I am an Arsenal fan through and through," said Eastmond, who returns from a three-game suspension.

"I never thought I would play Arsenal, but that is part of being a footballer and playing against a team you support."

"As a team we would obviously like to win. We are not going to come here on Monday, look at the Arsenal players and be like 'Oh my days' and be amazed by them."

Jack Jebb also spent time on Arsenal's books, but he-like Ben Jefford and Craig Dundas-is cup-tied. Wenger confirmed this week that he will make a decision regarding his Arsenal future in March or April.

The heavy loss in Munich left the north London club on the brink of a seventh successive last 16 exit in the Champions League and they trail leaders Chelsea by 10 points in the Premier League. But while it is 13 years since Wenger last led Arsenal to league glory, FA Cup triumphs in 2014 and 2015 left him level with Aston Villa's George Ramsay as the competition's most decorated manager on six wins each. —AFP

**WOLVERHAMPTON:** Antonio Conte has warned his players to avoid complacency as they seek to become just the third club in the history of English football to win the Premier League and FA Cup 'Double' on two separate occasions.

A 2-0 fifth round win away to Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday took Chelsea through to the quarter-finals of the FA Cup, while they maintain a healthy, eight-point, lead at the top of the Premier League table. That has left Conte's team on course to join Arsenal, one of their London rivals, and Manchester United in winning 'The Double' for a second time, although the cautious manager refused to take anything for granted. "I think it's a little early to talk about this," Conte said. "But for sure we are in these two competitions."

"In the league we are doing a great job to stay on top of the table. Now, in the FA Cup, we are in the quarter-finals and I'm pleased with this because it means we're doing very well," the Italian added. "We're working very well but honestly, after this game it's important to understand that nothing is easy," explained Conte, who joined Chelsea in pre-season after a stint managing Italy's national side. "If someone thinks that for sure in the league Chelsea will become champions, and for sure we can win the FA Cup, it will be very difficult. "But we know that. We understand we want to stay there and we want to try to reach the end and win some trophies. "Because when you stay at a great club then your job is this, to try to fight until the end to try to win some trophies. We're in a good position now but we have to work very hard."

The biggest crowd at Molineux for 36 years — 30,193 — saw Chelsea negotiate the fifth round tie with second-half goals from Pedro and Diego Costa. But the top-flight visitors were forced to battle for the victory and withstand a strong first half performance from a Wolves team that is currently struggling at the wrong end of the second-tier Championship table.

### 'BOW DOWN TO LINCOLN'

Meanwhile Conte also joined football fans all over the country in expressing his admiration for non-league Lincoln City who produced one of the biggest FA Cup upsets of all-time to win 1-0 at Premier League Burnley earlier on Saturday

and reach the last eight.

"We must bow down to them," said Conte. "It's true this is a great achievement for them and also I think that's the beauty of football. It is the FA Cup, it's incredible."

"In Italy, it's impossible for this to happen. It's fantastic because it shows that football is incredible and anything can happen if you trust in your work, if you have a great will to fight and to take on the challenge. "When you start, the challenge can be impossible but instead, Lincoln are now in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup and deserve a great compliment from me, from Chelsea and from the whole country."

"It's a fantastic story, historic, and I'm pleased to live this story with them because now we're with Lincoln in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup.

That's fantastic."

For his part, Wolves manager Paul Lambert insisted that it would be tough for any of Chelsea's top-flight rivals to stop them winning both the Premier League and FA Cup this season. "They're a very, very good team with a top manager who's played the game and knows the emotion on and off the pitch," said Lambert. "I think it will be a hell of a team to stop them. Without a doubt they could win the league and cup double."

"They're relentless. They have so many lads who didn't even play tonight. I looked at the team tonight and thought it might have been a tad weaker, but dear oh dear! It's going to be a hell of a team that stops them from winning both trophies." — AFP



**WOLVERHAMPTON:** Wolverhampton Wanderers' English midfielder Jack Price (R) vies with Chelsea's Brazilian-born Spanish striker Diego Costa during the English FA Cup fifth round football match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Chelsea at the Molineux stadium in Wolverhampton, central England on Saturday. — AFP



# Sports

Glenn Robison  
III is NBA's  
new dunk king



Napoli beat Chievo  
to go second,  
Inter past Bologna



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2017

DE VILLIERS GETS S AFRICA HOME WITH A BALL TO SPARE Page 17



BLACKBURN: Manchester United's English midfielder Jesse Lingard heads the ball over the goal during the English FA Cup fifth round football match between Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United at Ewood Park in Blackburn, north west England yesterday. — AFP

## ZLATAN RESCUES UNITED, KANE NETS SPURS TREBLE

LONDON: Manchester United turned to Paul Pogba and Zlatan Ibrahimovic to come to the holders' rescue and eliminate second-tier Blackburn in the FA Cup yesterday. The duo came off the bench with around 30 minutes remaining at Ewood Park and combined to complete United's comeback. Ibrahimovic ran onto Pogba's long, high pass to clinch the 2-1 victory and a spot in the quarterfinals.

A day after three Premier League teams endured difficulties against lower-league oppo-

sition in the fifth round, Tottenham was taking no risks at Fulham. The north London club started Harry Kane and its top-scorer delivered, netting a hat trick as Fulham was swept aside 3-0.

**BLACKBURN 1, MANCHESTER UNITED 2.** United, the record 20-time English league champions, trailed for 10 minutes in the first half at the home of the 1995 Premier League champions, who have been out of the top-flight since 2012. On a rare start for Jose

Mourinho's side, Marcus Rashford canceled out Danny Graham's opener. The striker was played through by Henrikh Mkhitaryan and he ghosted past goalkeeper Jason Steele before slotting into an unguarded net in the 27th minute.

It took until 75th minute for United to find a winner. Pogba sent the ball over the top of the Blackburn defense for the 35-year-old Ibrahimovic, who netted his 24th goal of his first season at United.

### FULHAM 0, TOTTENHAM 3

While the FA Cup is now regularly used by top-flight teams to rest leading players, Kane's appearance at Craven Cottage was a sign of Tottenham's lack of options up front and the desire to avoid a third successive loss.

Defeats in the Premier League and Europa League prompted manager Mauricio Pochettino to gather his players for meetings to dissect the difficulties.

"The reaction was fantastic," Pochettino said. "It was a great opportunity to show we are alive, to change the feeling after two defeats ... and this was a big boost of confidence."

Especially for Kane. Since scoring three times against West Bromwich Albion in the Premier League last month, Kane had only scored once in five games before facing an inviting Fulham defense.

Fulham, which was relegated from the Premier League in 2014, was caught out by Tottenham's speedy move down the right flank for the 16th-minute opener. Christian Eriksen met Kieran Trippier's long throw-in and delivered a cross to Kane, who slid in to nudge the ball over the line.

After being wasteful for the rest of the first half, Kane was quick off the mark six minutes after the break. Kane evaded US defender Tim Ream, in front of national team coach Bruce Arena, to meet another cross from Eriksen and put the ball between goalkeeper Marcus Bettinelli's legs. Dele Alli set up Kane's third with a through-ball in the 73rd minute that the England striker fired past Bettinelli.

The remaining fifth-round fixture today sees Arsenal play away at non-league side Sutton United, which plays in the fifth tier with Lincoln. — AFP



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane (R) scores his and Tottenham's second goal past Fulham's English goalkeeper Marcus Bettinelli (C) during the English FA Cup fifth round football match between Fulham and Tottenham Hotspur at Craven Cottage in London yesterday. — AFP

### CYCLING

## OMAN WINNER HERMANS HAILS MAIDEN TOUR

MUSCAT: Belgium's Ben Hermans yesterday celebrated "the most beautiful" first big win of his career in the Tour of Oman yesterday. Alexander Kristoff took the final day honours in a sprint with 30-year-old Hermans avoiding any mishaps in the closing sixth stage. The BMC rider had topped the overall standings since surprising a group of better fancied rivals with a late attack to win Wednesday's second stage.

He followed that up with Saturday's penultimate mountain stage to set up the win which comes after his second place finish in last month's Tour of Valencia. Hermans' main claim to fame up to this season was serving as lieutenant to his more decorated compatriot Philippe Gilbert. But after the former world champion's move to Quick Step Hermans has capitalised on what he says

is his "newfound responsibility and freedom" at BMC. "To be worthy of this confidence I worked really hard over the winter, that's clearly the reason behind my early season form," he said.

Looking ahead he added: "The aim now will be to build on this in the Ardennes classics." Kristoff, followed across the line in Muscat by Eduard Grosu of Romania and Italy's Sacha Modolo, was annexing his third stage of the race.

The Katusha rider described the final dash for the line at the end of a 152 kilometre ride as "very complicated" due to the headwind on Muscat's Muttrah Corniche.

The Norwegian added: "This week is going to give me a lot of confidence before my main objectives, the Nieuwsblad (a one day race in Belgium) and the Paris-Nice." — AFP



MUSCAT: Belgium's Ben Hermans (C-R), from BMC Racing Team, raises an arm in celebration as he wears the red jersey of the overall winner of the tour, while standing between Norwegian Alexander Kristoff (R) from Team Katusha Alpecin wearing the green jersey of the best sprinter, Eritrean Merhawi Kudus (C-L) from Team Dimension Data wearing the white jersey of the best young rider, and Belgian Aime De Gendt from SVB team wearing with the dotted jersey of the most aggressive rider, during the victory ceremony. — AFP





YELLEN DEFENDS FED POLICY AS GROWTH SLOWS



ROTTERDAM: A woman holds a fake hundred guilder note, the Dutch currency before the introduction of the euro, baring the portrait of firebrand int-islam lawmaker Geert Wilders during an election campaign stop in Spijkenisse, near Rotterdam, Netherlands yesterday. —AP (See Page 23)

ZAIN GROUP FULL YEAR 2016 NET PROFIT UP 2%

COMPANY RECORDS REVENUES OF KD 1.1 BILLION, EBITDA UP 3% FOR FULL YEAR

**KUWAIT:** Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for the year 2016, and fourth quarter ended 31 December, 2016. Zain served 47 million customers at the end of 2016, reflecting a 3 percent increase year-on-year (Y-o-Y).

For the full-year 2016, Zain Group generated consolidated revenues of KD 1.1 billion (\$3.6 billion), down 4 percent Y-o-Y, while consolidated EBITDA for the period grew by 3 percent Y-o-Y and reached KD 512 million (\$1.7 billion), reflecting a healthy EBITDA margin of 47 percent. Consolidated net income reached KD 157 million (\$519 million), up 2 percent and reflecting Earnings Per Share of 40 fils (\$0.13).

For the full-year 2016, foreign currency translation impact, predominantly due to the 60 percent currency devaluation in Sudan from 6.4 to 15.9 (SDG / USD) in the beginning of November 2016, cost the company \$92 million in revenue, \$38 million in EBITDA and \$44 million in net income.

The Board of Directors of Zain Group recommended a cash dividend of 35 fils per share subject to the Annual General Assembly and regulatory approvals.

For the fourth quarter of 2016, Zain Group recorded consolidated revenues of KD 261 million (\$860 million), a decline of 8 percent on the same period of the previous year (Q-o-Q). EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 122 million (\$400 million), reflecting a healthy EBITDA margin of 47 percent. Net income for the quarter reached KD 32 million (\$106 million), reflecting Earnings Per Share of 8 fils (\$0.03).

Specifically, for the fourth quarter of 2016, currency translation impact cost the company \$83 million in revenue, \$33 million in EBITDA and \$42 million in net income, again predominantly due to Sudan currency devaluation from 6.4 to 15.9 (SDG / USD), a 60 percent decrease.

Key Operational Notes for 12 months ended 31 December, 2016:

- Substantial investments in 3G and 4G LTE network expansion and upgrades continue to pay off as Group data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) increase 6 percent during 2016, representing 23 percent of the Group's consolidated revenues.
- The 60 percent currency devaluation impact in Sudan in the beginning of November 2016 affected both Zain Group's full-year and Q4 2016 financial results.
- In December 2016, Zain Iraq entered into a negotiated settlement with the country's Finance Ministry for \$ 93 million related to an imposition of a capital gains tax on its acquisition of Iraqna in 2007. This resulted in the lifting of restrictions on the trading of Zain Iraq's shares, access to the company's bank deposits and also waived penalties and interest on taxes.
- The continued political instability in Iraq during 2016 saw the operator endure frequent temporary network interruptions and associated higher network operational costs. These unavoidable occurrences coupled with heightened levels of price competition and a 20 percent sales tax on mobile services hit spending on mobile services. All these factors contributed to a negative impact on Zain Iraq's and consequently Zain Group's overall key financial metrics.
- In Saudi Arabia, through a Royal Order on October 1, 2016, Zain received an extension of its telecommunications license by 15 Hijri years,



Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer



Zain Group Chairman Asaad Al-Banwan

effectively extending the license term from 25 Hijri years to 40 Hijri years in total (to expire on 18th January 2047). The impact of this extension for the company was the immediate reduction of its license fee amortization, which amounts to approximately SAR 433 million (\$115 million) per annum, in effect reducing Zain KSA's net losses by the same amount.

6. Heavy investment in 3G & 4G network expansion upgrades across operations saw CAPEX spend for the year amount to \$635 million (excluding Saudi Arabia), reflecting 18 percent of Group revenues.

Commenting on the results, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Asaad Al-Banwan said, "The Board is pleased to record relatively stable financial results; an achievement by the management given the many socio-economic challenges facing all our operations. The currency issue in Sudan in the last quarter of 2016 had an adverse impact on the results, as did the settlement of cumbersome litigation in Iraq that resulted in a payment of \$93 million. Nevertheless, we draw confidence from both the freeing of our cash deposits in Iraq and the favorable gesture by the Saudi leadership in extending our license in the Kingdom by an additional 15 years, which had a positive impact on the operator's financials and growth strategy."

The Chairman continued, "We have invested significantly in 3G / 4G network expansion upgrades across all our markets in order to improve the mobile experience for our customers. Our investments in capital expenditure reached \$635 million (excluding Zain Saudi Arabia), which represents 18 percent of our revenues, reflecting Zain's commitment to innovation and quality of service. I remain proud that we have been able to maintain our leadership position in the majority of the markets we operate in, test-

ment to our valued brand reputation and attention to customer service. The Board is working closely with the executive management in driving the business forward and we shall continue managing the highly volatile environments we face in an efficient and effective manner."

Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "Considering the sound operational progress and transformation we have undertaken across all our markets, it's unfortunate that exceptional circumstances such as the currency issue in Sudan and the tax settlements in Iraq affected our financial performance, as it would have otherwise been very positive. Nevertheless, we are pleased with the progress of our cost optimization initiatives have had in driving efficiency, resulting in an impressive 47 percent EBITDA margin for the year."

Gegenheimer continued, "We are delighted by the success of our data monetization and Enterprise (B2B) initiatives across our operations, both of which are fast-growing and profitable business areas. During 2016 in key operations, we built-up dedicated B2B business units and premium B2B care models, installed state-of-the-art IoT/M2M platforms as well as developing new service propositions for Small Medium Enterprises and small home offices, leading to high-double digit sales growth. We are excited by the enormous potential that B2B offers and will continue to invest in and develop this strategic area of the business."

The CEO concluded, "Our strategic investment in smart city solutions are starting to reap benefits and we expect exponential growth in this lucrative key area. We are committed to our strategy that will leverage our strengths, including our people, brand, customer experience, cutting edge technology innovations, and geographic coverage in our bid to become a diversified and innovative digital lifestyle operator."



Operational review of key markets for the 12 months ended 31 December, 2016:

**Kuwait:** Maintaining its market leadership, the flagship operation of Zain Group saw its customer base grow 1 percent to serve 2.95 million in a very challenging year that saw intense price competition impact its financial performance for the year. Revenues remained stable at KD 322 million (\$1.1 billion), EBITDA amounted to KD 160 million (\$531 million) and net income came in at KD 90 million (\$298 million). Zain Kuwait's healthy EBITDA margin of 50 percent for the year reflects the efficiency drive implemented by the operation, with Zain Kuwait's nationwide 4G LTE network seeing data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) form 36 percent of total revenues.

**Iraq:** The exceptional circumstances facing the operation plus the negotiated settlement of \$93 million saw Zain Iraq's financial performance severely affected, with revenues for the full-year reaching \$1.1 billion, a decrease of 11 percent Y-o-Y, with EBITDA reaching \$394 million, down 18 percent, with a net loss of \$5 million, down 104 percent Y-o-Y. EBITDA margin stood at 36 percent, and with the launch of 3.9G services at the beginning of the year, data related revenue formed 9 percent of total revenues, reflecting an annual growth of 21 percent.

**Sudan:** In local currency (SDG) terms, the operator continues to perform well, as revenues grew by 15 percent Y-o-Y to reach SDG 5.2 billion (\$709 million), down 1 percent in USD terms) for the full-year 2016. EBITDA increased by 4 percent to reach SDG 2.1 billion (\$290 million, down 7 percent in USD terms) while net income decreased 62 percent to reach SDG 398 million (\$ 91 million, down 44 percent in USD terms). Data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) formed 13 percent of total revenues, with

an impressive annual growth of 42 percent (23 percent in USD terms).

**Saudi Arabia:** The cost optimization and efficiency drives of the third operator in the Kingdom are taking effect, resulting in a 10 percent increase in EBITDA to reach \$479 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 25 percent. For the full-year 2016, the operator recorded a 2 percent Y-o-Y increase in revenues to reach \$1.9 billion, with net losses relatively stable to reach \$261 million. The introduction of the biometric identification requirement during the year adversely affected the total customer base by 10 percent which stood at 10.7 million customers at the end of 2016. Impressively, the operator witnessed a 36 percent rise in data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) Y-o-Y, which represents 33 percent of total revenues.

**Jordan:** Despite the intensification of price competition, Zain Jordan managed to increase its customer base by 5 percent Y-o-Y, serving 4.3 million customers, and maintaining its lead in the market. Y-o-Y revenues increased 5 percent to reach \$483 million, with EBITDA reaching \$240 million, with a healthy EBITDA margin of 50 percent. Net income reached \$105 million. With the launch of 4G services, data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) represented 34 percent of total revenues, growing by 23 percent Y-o-Y.

**Bahrain:** During 2016, Zain Bahrain generated revenues of \$175 million, down 9 percent Y-o-Y. EBITDA for the period reached \$66 million, down 12 percent, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 38 percent. Net income amounted to \$11 million, reflecting a 17 percent decrease. The operator's focus on new attractive packages coupled with a totally revamped 4G network in Zain Bahrain, saw a 22 percent increase in the customer base to reach 971,000 with data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) increasing 11 percent, representing 41 percent of overall revenues.

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for the Full-Year 2016

Total Active Customers	47 million	up 3% on 2015
Consolidated Revenues	KD 1.1 billion	- (USD 3.6 billion)
EBITDA	KD 512 million	- (USD 1.7 billion)
EBITDA Margin	47%	
Net Income	KD 157 million	- (USD 519 million)
EPS	40 Fils	- USD 0.13



# NIC COMPLETES COLLECTION OF AMERICANA SHARES

## AMERICANA'S MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS AGREE TO SELL 107.1 MLN SHARES TO ADEPTIO

**KUWAIT:** NIC Chairman Hamad Al-Ameeri has announced the completion of the collection of Americana shares during the Mandatory Acquisition Phase, which was officially launched on January 12, 2017 and ended on February 13, 2017.

The said acquisition went through many phases after Bursa Kuwait announced that the block trade phase of Americana shares was a complete success, whereby 66.790 percent of total issued shares were bought by Adeptio AD Investments from AlKhair National for Stocks and Real Estate. The sizeable purchase deal was signed on October 20, 2016 whereby National Investments Company represented both the buyer and the seller during that sale execution ceremony which took place at Bursa Kuwait.

During the Mandatory Acquisition Phase, which lasted 30 calendar days, the total number of collected Americana shares has reached 107,071,177 shares equaling 26.634 percent of the issued share capital. This represents 87.293 percent of the available target shares amounting to 122,657,505 shares. It is worth noting that 191 individual and institutional shareholders from inside and outside Kuwait have provided NIC with their Offer Acceptance applications during the collection period.



National Investments Company spared no effort in planning and executing all logistic and technical arrangements needed. To that end, NIC revamped its website allowing it to be a user-friendly platform where all announcements and information about this deal in both Arabic and English were added to the website in a timely, apparent, and transparent manner. The offer document and all supporting deal documents were also included on the website to allow all Americana shareholders easy and immediate access to information. NIC has further put together a professional well-trained team in order to properly answer all incoming calls and inquiries.

Capital Markets Authority (CMA), Bursa Kuwait and Kuwait Clearing Company had a pivotal role in overcoming all challenges related to the acquisition deal. The collection process began at a somewhat lumbered pace



**KUWAIT:** Hamad Al-Ameeri addresses a press conference.

which increased significantly after the first week, and it reached its peak at the last few days of the collection. This is mainly due to the

fact that Americana shareholders and investors had a better vision, which lead them to sell their shares. Obviously, Americana's deal



was the main culprit in the upside positive performance of Bursa Kuwait after many years of stagnation and low trading volumes in the past.

Adeptio's Mandatory Acquisition on Americana shares is definitely considered an enormous success. NIC's unwavering Teamwork and tenaciousness had a pivotal role in achieving this. Hamad Al-Ameeri (NIC's Chairman of the Board of Directors) expressed his sincere appreciation and pride in the executive management of the company and the team of Americana Mandatory Acquisition deal for a job well done, which showcases NIC's great experience and professional capabilities in managing acquisition deals of this magnitude.

Hamad Al-Ameeri has also expressed his gratitude for the Capital Markets Authority as the CMA played a positive role in guiding NIC through all stages.

# US CRUDE OIL CLOSED AT \$53.40

## KAMCO RESEARCH FOR FEBRUARY

The price is lodged in broad trading range of \$50.70-\$55.25 since mid-December. It is necessary for the price to break either line for a directional move to take place. In addition, the daily and weekly RSI indicators offer little insight at present as to where it should go from here. To the upside, a swift move above \$55.25 is required to increase the chances of reaching the high of year 2015 at \$62.60. On the counter side, a close below the support line at \$50.70 would trigger \$49.00 and \$47.50. However, the price could continue its sideways move for a while until one of the two lines is cleared.

**Technical Analysis:** Aims to identify the direction of prices and reveal any indication of possible changes as soon as possible, so it can be used as much as possible in making buying and selling decisions in the most appropriate time in order to minimize risk and maximize profits.

**Trend:** The general direction of a market or of the price of an asset.

**Resistance:** A chart point or range that caps an increase in the level of a stock or index over a period of time.

**Support:** The price level which, historically, a stock has had difficulty falling below. It is thought of as the level at which a lot of buyers tend to enter the stock.

**Breakout:** A signal that prices are beginning to trend, either upward or downward.

**Bull:** An investor who thinks the market, a specific security or an industry is likely to rise.

**Bear:** An investor who thinks the market, a specific security or an industry is likely to decline. Channel: is two parallel trend lines either rising or declining.

**Consolidation Area:** is a sideways movement in prices that interrupts or reverse a trend.

**Moving Average (MA):** The most common applications of MAs are to identify the trend direction and to determine support and resistance levels.

**MACD (Moving Average Convergence-Divergence):** A trend-following momentum indicator that shows the relationship between two moving averages of prices.

**Relative Strength Index:** A technical momentum indicator (ranges from 0 to 100)

that compares the magnitude of recent gains to recent losses in an attempt to determine overbought and oversold conditions of an asset.

**Overbought:** A situation in which the price of a security has risen to such a degree that an oscillator has reached its upper bound. This is generally interpreted as a sign that the price of the asset is becoming overvalued and may experience a pullback.

**Oversold:** A situation in which the price of a security has fallen to such a degree that an oscillator has reached its lower bound. This is generally interpreted as a sign that the price of the asset is becoming undervalued and may represent a buying opportunity for investors.

**Fibonacci:** A term refers to areas of support or resistance and to help identify strategic places for transactions to be placed, target prices or stop losses.

**On Balance Volume (OBV):** is a simple running total of up day (added) and down day (subtracted) volume. If OBV is moving with price, it confirms the current trend. Divergences between OBV and price indicates the price may be due for a reversal.



# MORTGAGE SERVICE FIRM OKS \$225M CALIFORNIA SETTLEMENT

**SACRAMENTO, Calif:** A mortgage services company signed a \$225 million settlement with California regulators on Friday to settle allegations it overcharged active-duty military members, was late in providing key information for some civilian borrowers seeking to modify their loans and violated other laws. Florida-based Ocwen Loan Servicing agreed to pay \$20 million to reimburse borrowers and make \$198 million in loan modifications over three years that will lower costs for thousands of California borrowers.

The settlement with the California Department of Business Oversight covers January 2012 through mid-2015, when Ocwen says it serviced more than 531,000 California loans. Under the terms, Ocwen may begin handling new California mortgages.

The settlement "will hold Ocwen accountable for widespread violations of laws that harmed borrowers in our state," department Commissioner Jan Lynn Owen said in a statement. Telephone and email messages left with Ocwen seeking comment were not immediately returned. Wilbur Ross, President Donald Trump's choice to head the U.S. Commerce Department, served on the board of Ocwen's parent company, Ocwen Financial Corp., in 2013-14. The billionaire investor sold subprime mortgage specialist Homeward

Residential to Ocwen in 2012 amid investigations into his company's business practices.

Ocwen previously settled a lawsuit with the US Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and attorneys general in 49 states, including California, over alleged misconduct by Ocwen and by Homeward during the time it was under Ross's control. The Senate is expected to vote on his nomination during the week of Feb. 27.

Ocwen previously paid about \$2 million to more than 3,100 California borrowers because

of what California regulators said was a practice of sending time-sensitive letters to borrowers after the date on the letter.

The tardy letters sometimes made it difficult for the borrowers to modify their loans, said regulators, who also found the company charged active-duty military personnel more than the 6 percent rate mandated by federal law. The settlement requires the company to contact more than 19,000 borrowers and compensate them if they were harmed. —AP

# IRAQ'S OIL RESERVES UP TO 153BN BARRELS

**BAGHDAD:** Iraq's oil reserves have increased to 153 billion barrels, from a previous estimate of 143 billion barrels, Oil Minister Jabal Al-Luaibi said yesterday.

Iraq will ask the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to adopt the new figure as the official estimate for its reserves, he said in a statement. The increased estimate is the result of appraisals and exploration carried out at seven oil fields

in central and southern Iraq, he said. Iraq says proven oil reserves rise to 153 billion barrels.

Luaibi said that the increase comes from seven oil fields in central and southern Iraq, without naming them. Iraq will remain the fourth largest OPEC member, after Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and Iran. Oil revenues make up nearly 95 percent of Iraq's budget. Like other oil-exporting countries, its economy has been hit hard by plummeting prices. —Agencies

# PEUGEOT TO KEEP GERMAN JOBS IF IT BUYS OPEL: REPORT

**BERLIN:** French automaker PSA has pledged to keep Opel plants in Germany running if a planned merger goes forward, and to refrain from layoffs until at least 2019, a newspaper report said yesterday.

PSA, the parent company of France's Peugeot, Citroen and DS, has confirmed it is interested in taking over Opel, the German arm of US giant General Motors.

But the plans have sparked fears in Germany that Peugeot will cut jobs that overlap with existing positions in France. German newspaper Bild am Sonntag reported that Olivier Bourges, who sits on PSA's executive committee, had assured high-level German officials at a meeting at Chancellor Angela Merkel's office on Thursday that existing contracts would be respected.

They stipulate that redundancies in Germany's Opel workforce would be

ruled out until the end of 2018 and that investment pledges for four German factories would be kept until at least 2020.

The Bild am Sonntag report did not cite its sources. "Peugeot wants to make sure it doesn't seem like a hostile takeover," an unidentified workers' representative told the newspaper. Bild said Opel executives expected PSA to set out the broad terms for a merger in the coming week, with the aim of signing the deal at the latest at the Geneva International Motor Show, which starts March 9. Founded in 1862 as a sewing machine maker, Opel, with its lightning-bolt emblem, has long been a familiar sight on German and European roads.

But in recent years, the company has booked repeated losses, costing Detroit-based GM around \$15 billion (14 billion euros) since 2000. —AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.		DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD		BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b> Japanese Yen 2.689 Indian Rupees 4.571 Pakistani Rupees 2.919 Sri Lankan Rupees 2.034 Nepali Rupees 2.866 Singapore Dollar 216.060 Hongkong Dollar 3.946 Bangladesh Taka 3.831 Philippine Peso 6.132 Thai Baht 8.756		<b>GOLD</b> 20 Gram 306.460 10 Gram 237.110 5 Gram 128.950 65.320		<b>CURRENCY</b> British Pound 0.374897 Czech Korune 0.004085 Danish Krone 0.039881 Euro 0.320571 Norwegian Krone 0.032916 Romanian Leu 0.084861 Slovakia 0.009183 Swedish Krona 0.030517 Swiss Franc 0.299347 Turkish Lira 0.078592		<b>Indonesian Rupiah</b> 0.000018 <b>Japanese Yen</b> 0.002634 <b>Kenyan Shilling</b> 0.003009 <b>Korean Won</b> 0.000256 <b>Malaysian Ringgit</b> 0.064884 <b>Nepalese Rupee</b> 0.002995 <b>Pakistan Rupee</b> 0.002611 <b>Philippine Peso</b> 0.006025 <b>Sierra Leone</b> 0.000068 <b>Singapore Dollar</b> 0.210993 <b>South African Rand</b> 0.017573 <b>Sri Lankan Rupee</b> 0.001682 <b>Taiwan</b> 0.009676 <b>Thai Baht</b> 0.008398	
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b> Saudi Riyal 81.694 Qatari Riyal 84.142 ani Riyal 795.608 Bahraini Dinar 813.470 UAE Dirham 83.408		<b>Rate for Transfer</b> US Dollar 305.850 Canadian Dolla 234.865 Sterling Pound 382.745 Euro 326.235 Swiss Frank 306.265 Bahrain Dinar 810.785 UAE Dirhams 83.665 Saudi Riyals 84.885 Qatari Riyals 82.485 Jordanian Dinar 432.550 Egyptian Pound 18.715 Sri Lankan Rupees 2.035 Indian Rupees 4.572 Pakistani Rupees 2.917 Bangladesh Taka 3.854 Philippines Peso 6.129 Cyprus pound 167.960 Japanese Yen 3.670 Syrian Pound 2.425 Nepalese Rupees 3.855 Malaysian Ringgit 69.490		<b>Australasia</b> Australian Dollar 0.227082 New Zealand Dollar 0.214877		<b>Bahraini Dinar</b> 0.805630 <b>Egyptian Pound</b> 0.013822 <b>Iranian Riyal</b> 0.000085 <b>Iraqi Dinar</b> 0.000187 <b>Jordanian Dinar</b> 0.426213 <b>Kuwaiti Dinar</b> 1.000000 <b>Lebanese Pound</b> 0.000148 <b>Moroccan Dirhams</b> 0.020158 <b>Nigerian Naira</b> 0.001270 <b>Omani Riyal</b> 0.789903 <b>Qatar Riyal</b> 0.083294 <b>Saudi Riyal</b> 0.080567 <b>Syrian Pound</b> 0.001299 <b>Tunisian Dinar</b> 0.130778 <b>Turkish Lira</b> 0.078592 <b>UAE Dirhams</b> 0.081943 <b>Yemeni Riyal</b> 0.000996	
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b> Egyptian Pound - Cash 20.450 Egyptian Pound - Transfer 17.537 Yemen Riyal/for 1000 1.230 Tunisian Dinar 134.810 Jordanian Dinar 431.290 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 2.041 Syrian Lira 2.183 Morocco Dirham 30.924		<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b> US Dollar Transfer 306.150 Euro 327.580 Sterling Pound 384.680 Canadian dollar 234.780 Turkish lira 83.310		<b>America</b> Canadian Dollar 0.228652 Georgina Lari 0.138298 US Dollars 0.302100 US Dollars Mint 0.302600		<b>Asia</b> Bangladesh Taka 0.003624 Chinese Yuan 0.043131 Hong Kong Dollar 0.037394 Indian Rupee 0.002683	



## COULD 'NEXIT' FOLLOW BREXIT AFTER DUTCH POLLS?

**ROTTERDAM, Netherlands:** For a small nation that has grown hugely wealthy thanks to centuries of doing business far and wide, the political mood in the Netherlands has turned surprisingly inward.

As a March 15 parliamentary election looms in the Netherlands - one of the founding members of the European Union - popular lawmaker Geert Wilders is dominating polls with an isolationist manifesto that calls for the Netherlands "to be independent again. So out of the EU."

After Britons voted last year to divorce from the EU, could a Dutch departure - known here as "Nexit," after "Brexit" - be close behind? "I see the European Union as an old Roman Empire that is ceasing to exist. It will happen," Wilders said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Wilders' Party for Freedom is a serious contender to win the popular vote, with most polls a month out from the election showing it ahead of all other parties. Over the past dozen years, the Dutch have already voted in referenda against EU proposals twice. Few analysts think "Nexit" would materialize: Despite his popularity, Wilders will struggle to find coalition partners among mainstream parties, which shun him and his strident anti-Islam, anti-EU rhetoric.

Then again, few observers predicted last year that Britain would vote to become the first country to leave the EU, so the worries are real about the possible effects of a Nexit - or a further disintegration of European unity driven by the rise of nationalist populism throughout the continent.

An exit from the EU would likely deal a huge blow to Rotterdam, a cosmopolitan city known for its port, one of the world's busiest. The city employs 90,000 people, and a further 90,000 are directly linked to its activities elsewhere in the country. Port of Rotterdam corporate strategist Michiel Nijdam believed a Dutch exit from the EU seemed unlikely, though not impossible.

"Because we are so dependent on our trade with other countries that it would clearly hurt us so much that I don't think it's likely," he said. "But you never know what happens if a lot of people think it's a good idea and you vote on a party that is pro-Nexit." Nijdam was speaking in the port's imposing Norman Foster-designed headquarters, which commands views over the port and the Nieuw Maas river that bisects the city. Cranes at container terminals can be seen to the west, while low-slung barges glide past, heading eastward along

ivers and canals into the heart of Europe.

The port made a profit of 222 million euros last year as it dealt with 461 million metric tons of freight. Some 28,000 seagoing vessels and 100,000 inland waterway barges used the port in 2016.

"The effects will be the opposite of the effects we had from the opening of Europe," Nijdam said. "That means that it's more difficult to organize your logistics through the Netherlands, so it will clearly have an impact on supply chains that will shift their routes from Rotterdam to other ports. "The Netherlands will be less attractive that's for sure. For logistics it's not a good decision to leave the EU."

Wilders disagrees, pointing to a report his party commissioned that showed the Dutch economy would benefit from an exit. The Netherlands would remain a strong trading nation while saving billions in funding to the trade bloc, it claimed.

"The position of Rotterdam will really be the same after we would leave the European Union," he said. "It will not be that Rotterdam all of a sudden will have moved to Sweden."

Dutch bank Rabobank published four scenarios this month for the future of Europe and its effects. A scenario in which the bloc disintegrates amid a messy divorce from Britain and growing skepticism about Europe among remaining member states doesn't look pretty for the Netherlands or Rotterdam. The bank even suggested that a huge new extension to Rotterdam's port could turn into a "nature reserve." One Rabobank economist, Elwin de Groot, said Rotterdam's port underscores how deeply embedded the Netherlands is in the EU and its single market.

"We are the spider in the logistic web of Europe," he said. "So if that is affected by, for example, a Nexit ... that could have significant consequences for our economy." A new economic hit is the last thing this nation of 17 million needs. After being pummeled by the global economic crisis in 2007 and 2008, it was struck again around 2012 but is now bouncing back strongly. Figures released this month showed that the Netherlands' economy grew a robust 2.1 percent in 2016.

Rabobank researcher De Groot says a Nexit could slam the brakes on that growth. If the Netherlands were to leave the EU, he said, "suddenly we are confronted with all kinds of trade restrictions. That could have, you know, a very negative impact on the Dutch economy." —AP



**ULAANBAATAR:** Choijilsuren Battogtokh, Mongolia's Minister of Finance (second from right), attends at a press conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, yesterday. The Mongolian government and envoys from the International Monetary Fund said that they and other partners have agreed on terms for a more than \$5 billion loan package to the north Asian country to help get its economy back on track. —AP

## IMF AGREES ON \$5BN LOAN TO DEBT-RIDDEN MONGOLIA

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MUST CLEAR PACKAGE

**ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia:** The Mongolian government and envoys from the International Monetary Fund said yesterday that they and other partners have agreed on terms for a more than \$5 billion loan package to the north Asian country to help get its economy back on track.

The deal is subject to approval by the IMF's executive board, which is expected to consider Mongolia's request in March. Under the preliminary agreement, the IMF would provide \$440 million over three years. The Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Japan and South Korea are together expected to provide up to \$3 billion, and the People's Bank of China is expected to extend its 15 billion RMB (\$2 billion) swap line with the Bank of Mongolia for at least another three years, the IMF said in a statement. Finance Minister Choijilsuren Battogtokh said that the six-month negotiations had been tough, and that the government would be revising its 2017 budget before the IMF executive board considers whether to approve the loan.

He said the government proposed to bring in more money for the budget by increasing income, fuel and other taxes, and by raising the retirement age from 55 to 65 for women, and from 60 to 66 for men. Its proposals have to be approved by parliament during a session in March, which is likely because the ruling Mongolian People's Party has a clear majority.

Battogtokh said that with the loan package, the government estimated growth would be "below zero percent" in 2017, 1.8 percent in 2018 and 8.1 percent in 2019. The economy of mineral-rich Mongolia has been hit hard in recent years by a sharp decline in commodity prices and a collapse in foreign direct investment.

Mongolia's national debt now stands at about \$23 billion, or twice the annual economic output, and a \$580 million payment to foreign bondholders is due March 21. Battogtokh said that the government, at the IMF's suggestion, will refinance the \$580 million bond with another similar commercial bond.

"We will offer the new bonds at a market-friendly rate," the finance ministry said on its website. The IMF statement said the loan agreement would mean Mongolia has to strengthen its banking system and adopt fiscal reforms to ensure that budget discipline is maintained. Generally, terms required by the IMF as a condition for such lending prompt complaints in borrower countries that the conditions hurt the poor or undercut economic growth by reducing social spending or investment in public facilities.

Adding to Mongolia's woes is an exceptionally cold winter for the second straight year, which the Red Cross warned last week was putting the livelihoods of more than 150,000 nomadic herders and family members at risk. Dale Choi, an analyst with the Mongolia Metals and Mining research firm, said the agreement announced Sunday means investors can now make assumptions and investment decisions. "It brings clarity, which investors have been waiting for," he said. Associated Press writer Louise Watt in Beijing contributed to this report. —AP

## THE MAN WHO TURNED THE LIGHTS ON IN ENERGY-STARVED NEPAL

**KATHMANDU:** The continuous whirl of hair dryers is a novel sound at the Blush Beauty Point parlor in Nepal's capital Kathmandu, which until just five months ago had to close at regular intervals because of power cuts.

Scheduled power cuts-known as load-shedding-have been a part of daily life in the impoverished landlocked country for decades, forcing small businesses to rely on expensive generators or simply close when the lights went out.

"We had to run our business according to the load-shedding schedule. Clients would call and check if there was light," the salon's owner Anita Shrestha told AFP.

But that has all changed since Kulman Ghising was appointed head of the Nepal Electricity Authority in September last year. Load-shedding-previously up to 16 hours a day in the winter dry season has all but ended in the country's three largest cities and in other major towns been reduced to around two hours on alternate days.

"When I was appointed I set the goal that I would at least make Kathmandu load-shedding free," Ghising told AFP.

"But at that time I felt that whatever I said I could manage more than that." Demand for electricity has long outstripped supply in Nepal, with energy production severely depressed by chronic under-investment and inefficiencies in the power network. The result has been crippling for domestic industry and deterred foreign investment, while crucial infrastructure development has flagged in the years of political paralysis that followed the end of the Maoist insurgency in 2006 and the overthrow of the monarchy two years later.

### Political alignment

Ghising's formula to end the power cuts involved tackling some basic inefficiencies. He overhauled the hydropower generation system-storing water at times of low demand so more could be generated at peak hours. He also ended a policy that provided electricity round the clock to certain industries.

The policy was meant to give 24-hour power to around 20 big employers, but had expanded after decades of mission creep-and backhanders. "Before there was some mismanagement that some industries get 24 hours (of power), some industries get 12 hours, some industries get only 8 hours. There was unequal distribution of electricity that was not as per the rules of NEA," said Ghising.

In addition, he brought online some power plants that had been sitting idle due to poor maintenance, and launched

a public awareness campaign to encourage people to avoid electricity-guzzling activities-like ironing and pumping water-in the evenings when demand for power is at its highest.

But arguably the single greatest weapon Ghising has is the backing of the prime minister and the energy and finance ministers. For one of the first times in Nepal's short history as a parliamentary democracy, all four are members of the Maoist party and that political alignment is bearing fruit.

The country is due to hold its first local elections in nearly two decades later this year and the Maoists need to show results to boost their chances at the polls.

### Hydro potential

But while Ghising might have turned on the lights for much of Nepal, the country will need to harness its huge hydropower potential to keep the electricity flowing. "It's cautious optimism because we are known to squander opportunities," said Sujeev Shakya, founder of the Kathmandu-based Nepal Economic Forum, of the recent drop in load-shedding.

He added: "Now at (the) NEA you have a good guy and he may try to reform, but the system is designed to take care of the interests of few." Nepal with its mountain river system should be an energy-producing powerhouse. Experts say it could be generating 83,000 megawatts of power, but its total installed generation capacity currently stands at less than two percent of that.

Construction on two long mooted projects is finally expected to begin later this year. It will take around seven years before they come online, but even one would double Nepal's current generation capacity, eventually transforming it into an energy exporter. That would be a game changer for the Himalayan nation, which currently relies on India for electricity in the winter dry season.

But with the average tenure of governments in Nepal at around seven months, many are concerned that another change at the top could reverse the recent gains. "Development of hydro energy infrastructure requires a long-term view. And with these short-term governments it's very difficult to believe they can have a long-term view," said Shakya. And on the now lit streets of Kathmandu, suspicion darkens the mood.

"I don't know the details, but I feel like Nepalis were kept in the dark for too long," said Shrestha as she styled a client's hair into cascading curls. "There is a tension that there will be power cuts again if the government changes." —AFP



## 2016 Year End Results for Mobile Telecommunications Company - Zain

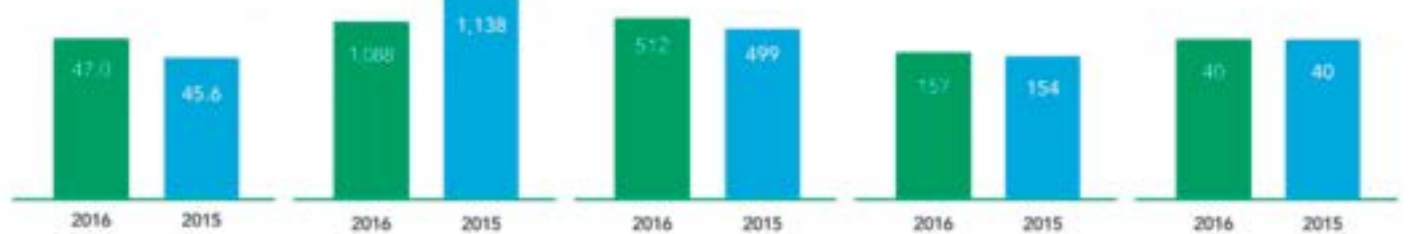
The Board of Directors of Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P. would like to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a Net Profit of **KD 157 million (USD 519 million)** for the twelve months ended 31 December 2016.

The Board proposed a cash dividend of 35 Fils per share. The proposal is subject to General Assembly and statutory approvals.

The Board would like to express its gratitude to its customers and stakeholders for their confidence and assures them of the company's commitment to excellence and profitable growth.

### Board of Directors

47 Million	3,602 USD Million	1,694 USD Million	519 USD Million	13 Cents
Customers	Revenues	EBITDA	Net Income	EPS
	1,088 KD Million	512 KD Million	157 KD Million	40 Fils





# LONDON STOCKS GET UNILEVER FIZZ AS TRUMP RALLY FADES

**LONDON:** World stock markets eased back on Friday as a Trump-fueled surge fizzled out, but London gained in an end-of-week flurry of excitement prompted by a Kraft Heinz bid for Unilever.

"After a five-day running streak markets are looking a bit tired," said Jasper Lawler at London Capital Group, adding that losses were light so far and "no justification for alarm".

Wall Street fell, as did Paris, while Frankfurt ended the day unchanged with strong Allianz results helping the Dax index off its earlier lows. But London posted closing gains as Unilever shares surged, topping the day's winners, after the Kraft bid which the Dutch company rejected. Dutch-British giant Unilever, whose main list-

ing is in London, saw its stock rise by 13.6 percent by the close. Kraft Heinz said it had made an offer to Unilever to merge both companies, creating a leading consumer goods company. But Unilever turned down the bid, saying the \$143 billion offer "fundamentally undervalues" the company, and that it saw no basis for further talks.

### Kraft may be back

Kraft, however, promised to continue trying. Mike van Dulken at Accendo Markets said Unilever's initial thumbs-down was par for the course in takeover negotiations. "If someone is that interested, they'll be back with a better offer. Which Kraft may well do," he said. He said a 30 percent premium over the targets' last share

price has been the average in takeovers in recent years, which compares with the 18 percent that Kraft has brought to the table.

The Unilever stock surge helped London recoup early losses, as did renewed sterling weakness after news of a fresh drop in British retail sales. A weaker pound boosts the earnings outlook for British exporters which are heavily represented in the FTSE 100 benchmark index. But elsewhere investors kept taking profits, capping a rally fuelled by US President Donald Trump's announcement of a "phenomenal" tax plan, as uncertainty crept in over his ability to deliver.

Remarks by Trump during a Thursday news conference clearly had investors rattled. "The week will be finishing with investors weighing

up the likelihood of another Trump Twitter rampage or press conference," said Michael Hewson at CMC Markets.

### Honeymoon over?

"Whilst these create great headlines for the media it does little to improve stability in the markets, and may well be wondering whether the honeymoon period is over already." There remained a lot of uncertainty, particularly with Trump's first weeks in office engulfed in controversies, most recently over his relationship with Russia, dealers said. "The current political landscape is unlikely to change soon, nor will the debates surrounding tax, fiscal and Fed policies," said Oanda analyst Stephen Innes. "As such we should expect the markets to

come under renewed pressure and to be severely tested in the weeks to come." The dollar recovered, underpinned by Fed chief Janet Yellen's comments this week to Congress that the economy continued to improve, leaving open the chance of a March rate hike.

Elsewhere in forex markets, the ruble gave up some of its spectacular recent gains after Russia's Economy Minister Maxim Oreshkin said that authorities expected the ruble to begin weakening soon, but would react if the currency continues to strengthen.

But at current levels the greenback is still 10 percent lower against the ruble than it was three months ago, and 23 percent lower than a year ago. —AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Sunday 19 February 2017						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price index	▼ -33.56	6,790.93	6,824.49	6,838.08	6,769.78	
Weighted Index	▼ -1.98	428.78	428.76	430.23	425.37	
KSX 15	▼ -5.34	969.55	974.89	978.13	965.16	

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
MARIN	63	63	100	6	1	63 ▲ 0.0
IPG	420	400	11,036	4,619	4	420 ▲ 20.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	820 ▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	46.0	43.0	840,115	37,789	33	45.0 ▼ -0.5
GPI	55	53	6,404,233	346,288	143	54 ▼ -1.0
ABAR	93	89	289,207	28,388	15	93 ▲ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>7,544,691</b>	<b>415,090</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>873.47 ▲ 7.51</b>
KFOUC	320	315	20,138	8,393	8	320 ▲ 0.0
BPCC	580	580	309,301	179,395	16	580 ▲ 0.0
ALKOUT	700	700	1,177	824	1	700 ▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	325	320	1,169,246	374,429	32	320 ▲ 0.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>1,499,860</b>	<b>561,040</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1306.32 ▲ 0.00</b>
KCEM	490	485	21,520	10,537	4	485 ▲ 0.0
CABLE	570	560	64,010	36,126	9	570 ▲ 0.0
SHIP	230	220	30,100	8,623	2	230 ▲ 4.0
PCEM	1,100	1,080	131,750	142,690	23	1,080 ▲ 0.0
PAPER	435	410	188,125	71,118	17	435 ▲ 25.0
MRC	92	92	94	9	1	92 ▲ 2.0
ACICO	325	305	1,091,584	345,646	57	320 ▲ 10.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	325 ▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170 ▲ 0.0
BMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180 ▲ 0.0
NICBM	216	216	170	37	1	216 ▼ -2.0
EQUIPMENT	68	64	3,945,909	260,303	103	65 ▼ -2.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50 ▲ 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95 ▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	77	76	679,650	51,801	31	76 ▼ -2.0
AGLTY	640	610	7,704,477	4,762,563	303	610 ▼ -30.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200 ▲ 0.0
CLEANING	58	54	5,593,787	318,783	128	56 ▲ 0.0
KGL	71	65	3,414,174	236,443	95	70 ▲ 3.0
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198 ▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	3,100	3,040	25,134	79,519	8	3,060 ▲ 0.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200 ▲ 0.0
GFC	45.5	43.0	2,287,182	101,261	80	45.5 ▲ 2.5
MAYADEEN	35.5	34.0	4,336,360	149,576	87	34.5 ▼ -0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500 ▲ 0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56 ▲ 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	820 ▲ 0.0
ALAFCO	255	255	64,397	16,421	4	255 ▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	75	73	793,617	59,125	16	74 ▼ -2.0
LOGISTICS	75	74	2,622,355	195,326	68	75 ▲ 0.0
SCEM	87	87	83,000	7,221	2	87 ▲ 0.0
GCEM	95	90	12,647,656	1,170,784	287	91 ▼ -1.0
QIC	91	82	16,752	1,375	2	91 ▲ 5.0
FCM	88	88	604,250	53,174	10	88 ▲ 0.0
RKWC	100	99	300,100	29,710	4	100 ▲ 0.0
SPEC	98	84	500,010	47,516	43	98 ▼ -1.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>47,126,163</b>	<b>8,148,668</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>1517.03 ▲ 2.16</b>
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180 ▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54 ▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100 ▲ 0.0
CATTL	220	214	94,101	20,404	17	216 ▲ 2.0
DANAH	90	87	2,330,250	206,218	58	89 ▲ 1.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,520 ▲ 0.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>2,424,351</b>	<b>226,622</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1131.13 ▲ 1.80</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250 ▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920 ▲ 0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290 ▲ 0.0
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00 ▲ 0.00</b>
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,380 ▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	238 ▲ 0.0
SULTAN	80	79	494,500	39,485	24	79 ▼ -3.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.5 ▲ 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385 ▲ 0.0
IFAHF	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192 ▲ 0.0
QULAFUEL	128	128	138,319	17,698	17	128 ▲ 0.0
MUNTAZAHAT	88	87	2,335,059	203,542	47	88 ▲ 2.0
JAZEERA	630	630	1,212	764	1	630 ▲ 0.0
SOOR	126	124	44,759	5,590	14	124 ▼ -2.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	120 ▲ 0.0
ALRAI	178	178	464,342	81,724	21	178 ▼ -2.0
ZIMAH	71	67	1,965,726	135,240	84	68 ▼ -2.0
Mezzan	960	960	15,000	14,400	3	960 ▼ -1.0
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>5,458,917</b>	<b>498,410</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>985.97 ▼ -2.88</b>
ZAIN	495	490	3,166,721	1,563,008	71	495 ▲ 5.0
OOREODO	1,380	1,260	286,168	391,192	36	1,260 ▼ -8.0
HITSTELEC	61	58	9,875,948	588,288	170	58 ▼ -1.0
VIVA	860	850	99,086	85,121	42	850 ▼ -1.0
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>13,427,923</b>	<b>2,627,607</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>678.98 ▼ -11.55</b>
NBK	750	730	1,700,189	1,249,993	54	730 ▼ -1.0
GBK	255	250	3,029,000	761,875	61	250 ▲ 2.0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500 ▲ 0.0
ABK	305	300	102,448	30,737	7	305 ▲ 5.0
ALMUTAHED	440	435	88,466	38,548	19	440 ▲ 5.0
KIB	250	246	11,380,123	2,836,819	258	250 ▲ 10.0
BURG	320	315	1,554,588	494,230	65	320 ▲ 5.0
KFIN	630	620	514,181	319,412	29	630 ▲ 0.0
BOUBAYAN	415	410	71,674	29,411	14	410 ▼ -5.0
AUB	232	228	1,237,594	283,339	35	230 ▲ 0.0
ITHMR	89	83	51,843,308	3,395,621	742	83 ▼ -5.0
WARBANK	275	270	2,728,367	739,641	164	270 ▼ -5.0
<b>Banks</b>			<b>74,249,938</b>	<b>10,179,626</b>	<b>1,448</b>	<b>983.01 ▼ -5.82</b>
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305 ▲ 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800 ▲ 0.0
AINS	500	500	307	154	1	500 ▲ 10.0
WINS	100	100	2,195	220	1	100 ▲ 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186 ▲ 0.0
FTI	74	69	687,416	47,533	58	69 ▼ -5.0
WETHAQ	63	60	166,700	10,086	11	60 ▼ -3.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355 ▲ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>856,618</b>	<b>57,992</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1156.11 ▼ -17.66</b>

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
SOKOUK	53	50	681,2494	341,713	107	52 ▼ -1.0
KRE	78	76	2,884,796	223,847	31	77 ▼ -2.0
URC	106	99	360	37	7	106 ▲ 7.0
NRE	116	114	6,256,106	713,687	104	116 ▼ -2.0
SRE	390	390	100,000	39,000	3	390 ▼ -10.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460 ▲ 0.0
AREEC	182	176	70,050	12,329	5	182 ▼ -4.0
MASSALEH	54	54	100	5	1	54 ▲ 4.0
ARABREC	53	48.5	20,947,305	1,064,779	315	49.0 ▼ -1.0
ERESCO	50	48.0	3,534,127	173,465	79	48.5 ▼ -1.5
MABANEE	850	840	224,348	190,682	8	840 ▼ -10.0
INJAZZAT	84	82	161,000	13,204	3	84 ▲ 0.0
INVESTORS	32.5	31.0	25,575,698	814,074	250	31.0 ▼ -1.5
IRC	36.5	34.0	920,200	32,887	21	36.0 ▼ -0.5
ALTIJARIA	87	86	730,679	63,084	11	87 ▲ 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	57 ▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	77	76	170,000	12,990	5	76 ▲ 0.0
AQAR	80	80	20,000	1,600	2	80 ▲ 1.0
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.5 ▲ 0.0
MAZAYA	140	134	4,108,103	564,999	84	134 ▼ -6.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0 ▲ 0.0
THEMAR	94	90	216,588	19,493	3	94 ▼ -14.0
TJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64 ▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	39.5	37.0	5,554,277	213,810	87	37.0 ▼ -2.0
ARKAN	88	85	676,500	58,007	18	85 ▼ -2.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198 ▲ 0.0
ABYAR	38.5	35.0	57,117,487	2,097,478	480	35.0 ▼ -2.5
MUNSHAAT	72	69	1,284,570	90,590	40	71 ▲ 0.0
FIRSTDUBAI	74	70	2,692,242	196,198	75	72 ▼ -2.0
KBT	58	55	8,460,434	478,145	131	55 ▼ -2.0
REAM	0.0	0.0				



# YELLEN DEFENDS FED POLICY AS GROWTH SLOWS

## NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

Now that Fed Chair Yellen's tenure is coming close to an end, the market is likely to start shifting its focus on her potential replacement. In addition, coming April, there will be three vacancies on the board of governors of the Federal Reserve and given the fact that the republicans have the congress and the senate, it is likely to be an easy task for the President to appoint people close to his agenda.

This week, Yellen faced tense criticism during her testimony in front of the House of Representatives, mainly from lawmakers who viewed that low interest rates and buying large amounts of bonds from the market in response to the last financial crisis led to the slowest US economic recovery since the Second World War. Although, Yellen defended the FED's policy by claiming the Fed used the appropriate tools to rescue the economy from disaster, she admitted the recovery hasn't been at par.

Yellen elaborated that economic growth in the US continues to accelerate with inflation edging higher and the labor market remains near full employment. She added that waiting too long to hike rates will eventually lead to a faster pace of tightening, causing financial instability and increase the chance of a recession.

During the second day of testimony, Yellen said "Unemployment has come down substantially and we're quite close to achieving our labor market objectives, but slow productivity growth hasn't helped." Moreover she asserted "the economic growth performance has been quite disappointing," a point she agrees on with the president.

On the currency front, the US dollar index started the week in positive territory and reached a high of 101.76 on Wednesday due to the robust economic data and Yellen's hawkish comments on the first day of the congressional testimony. However, the bullish momentum was short lived as Yellen's second day of testimony was less hawkish after she stated that economic growth has been quite disappointing. The index opened the week at 100.95 and ended the week 100.95.

The EURUSD was on a down trend at the start of the week on worries over political uncertainties in Europe. However, on Wednesday the euro started to reverse its losses after the dollar dipped. The single currency opened the week at 1.0630 against the dollar and reached a low of 1.0520. On Friday, the EURUSD pair closed at 1.0611.

The USDJPY appreciated for a short period on Monday after the Japan-US summit ended smoothly in Washington and President Trump did not talk about the Yen's devaluation. The pair then jumped on Tuesday after Yellen's Hawkish comments and rose to a high of 114.95 on Wednesday. The bullish momentum

did not last for long and continued its decline until Friday. The pair started the weekly session at 113.63 and ended at 112.85.

In the commodities space, gold opened the week at \$1,231 and depreciated after President Trump spoke about tax cuts reaching the market fairly quickly. On Wednesday the price of gold fell to a one week low at \$1,216, however the drop was short lived after the dollar backed away from its upward momentum closing the week at \$1,235.

Oil was particularly volatile this week as the market took crude prices as high as \$53.59, before tumbling to \$52.68 on Friday, and then reverse again into the close to actually finish up +0.60% at around \$53.36. A combination of growing US inventories following the latest EIA data and a news report suggesting that OPEC could look to extend the six-month production cut both seemed to play their part.

### Strong growth

The latest data from the Philadelphia Fed indicate that manufacturing activity continues to expand after falling over the last couple of years by depressed energy investment and weak global demand. The February Philadelphia Fed manufacturing index jumped 19.7 points to 43.3, the largest one-month gain since June 2009. The figure is now at its highest level since January 1984 at 47.0. More importantly, the details of the survey showed an improvement that point to an ongoing increase in business spending this year. New orders came at 38.0 against expectations of 26.0 and shipments at 28.6 versus 20.5. In addition, one of most observed series within the Philadelphia Fed survey, the six-month outlook for capital expenditures, remained elevated in February. The broader pick-up in manufacturing sentiment bodes well for business spending, which has been extremely depressed over the past year. Looking at historical patterns, in 1984 when the Philly Fed index was around the 44 level, the GDP growth was at 7.3 percent. Based on the historical relationship, the data would point to a GDP growth of at least 6 percent for this year.

Retail sales as well continue to expand for a fifth consecutive month even though inflation soared near four years high. US retail sales came in at 0.4 percent on a monthly basis, well above market expectations of 0.1 percent and compared to January last year retail sales were up 5.6 percent. The jump in retail sales is mainly due to the purchases of electronics and appliances, which advanced 1.6 percent in January, the most since June 2015. Consumer spending accounts for as much as 70 percent

of US economic growth, reinforcing optimism that consumer spending will be able to push economic growth at the beginning of 2017.

Last but not least, US inflation rose for a third consecutive month due to surge in prices for clothing, new vehicles, gasoline and other commodities. The consumer price index jumped 0.6 percent in January from the previous month of 0.3 percent, the largest gain since February 2013. Last month's data placed the yearly CPI at 2.5 percent, the biggest year on year gain since March 2012. Core CPI also increased slightly by 0.1 percent to 0.3 percent on a monthly basis and to 2.3 percent from January 2016.

On the wholesale level, prices recorded their biggest jump in more than four years. The producer price

index for final demand jumped by 0.3 percent to 0.6 percent last month as half of the gain is attributed to a 12.9 percent surge in gasoline prices. Despite the month to month gain, the PPI only increased by 1.6 percent on a yearly basis.

In summary, the strong data along with the up trending inflation at a three year high have brought the Fed close to the target of 2 percent inflation with full employment. This is why, looking now at the dot plot, the Fed has more ammunition to move faster into a tightening mode in 2017.



index for final demand jumped by 0.3 percent to 0.6 percent last month as half of the gain is attributed to a 12.9 percent surge in gasoline prices. Despite the month to month gain, the PPI only increased by 1.6 percent on a yearly basis.

In summary, the strong data along with the up trending inflation at a three year high have brought the Fed close to the target of 2 percent inflation with full employment. This is why, looking now at the dot plot, the Fed has more ammunition to move faster into a tightening mode in 2017.

### Europe & UK

The main event in the Euro zone this week was the publication of the latest ECB meeting minutes which confirmed that the ECB's underlying message remains unchanged. The dovish stance was evident with the ECB remaining reluctant to consider any unwinding of its quantitative

slightly revised up from the previous forecast of 1.5 percent in 2017 and 1.7 percent in 2018.

According to the report, the recovery in Europe is positively correlated to the growth expectations in developed economies outside the EU, which have improved in recent months. The improvement of anticipated growth in developed nations is largely due to the expectations of a fiscal stimulus in the United States.

### Greece...Again?

During the past week, Greece has returned as a concern for markets. The second review of its third A86 billion bailout has run into roadblocks which need to be cleared ahead of large debt redemptions in mid-July. The second review is also when the IMF has to decide whether it wants to participate in the program. This all will require difficult compromises between Greece and its European creditors, and potential-

ly the IMF - each of which are under pressure from stakeholders. In details, Greece is facing heavy redemptions in July of EUR 6.5 billion due to the ECB, IMF, and from maturing bonds, in addition to a EUR 2 billion redemption in Treasury bills.

Nevertheless, if the recovery in the EMU continues on the back of a strong global growth, the tone of the central bank should potentially turn more hawkish in 2017.

Despite the ongoing political uncertainties, the eurozone economic recovery is expected to advance at higher rate in 2017 and 2018 than previously anticipated by the European Commission. Looking at future prospects, the European Commission predicts eurozone GDP growth of 1.6 percent in 2017 and 1.8 percent in 2018. The latest data is

Consumers may be displaying a

ment rate remained at an 11 year low of 4.8 percent.

On the monetary front, speculation on monetary tightening has increased since inflation has accelerate for four consecutive months and the Bank expects inflation will rise above 2.7 percent in a year time as Brexit pushes cost of imports higher. However, the BoE expects wage growth to fall further to 2.2 percent in 2017. In summary, the central bank may not be able to raise interest rates until wage growth picks up and as UK's economy adjusts through Brexit uncertainties.

**China's inflation**

China's consumer price index soared in January to a level not seen since June 2014 due to rising energy prices and higher demand for food during the Lunar New Year festival. The CPI index year to year accelerated from 2.1 percent in December to 2.5 percent for January versus a forecast of 2.4 percent. However, the rise in inflation may be short lived as the increase in food demand is a seasonal appetite.

On the producer front, the producer price index continues its upward momentum since September 2015. The index climbed 6.9 percent in January from a year earlier and 1.4 percent month to month, this sets the PPI to the largest rise since 2011. The boost is attributed to a rebound in commodity prices including iron ore and oil. In details, mining products surged 31 percent year on year while those for raw materials climbed 12.9 percent. In conclusion, the continuous rise in PPI is elevating global inflation as the world's largest exporter transfers the bill to its clients after emerging from years of deflation.

**Continuous growth**

The Japanese economy continues to expand for a straight fourth quarter, a streak not seen in three years led by solid exports and firmer capital expenditure. The Latest data shows that overseas demand now accounts for about half of the expansion in gross domestic product, leaving the economy particularly exposed to any new trade barriers from the US, which is Japan's biggest export market after China.

On a quarterly basis, the economy grew 0.2 percent in the fourth quarter versus a forecast of 0.3 percent, placing the yearly growth at 1 percent and also missing an expected growth of 1.1 percent. In conclusion, the strength in exports that has supported economic growth indicates how important it is for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to ease trade tensions with the Trump administration.

**Kuwait**

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30525  
The USDKWD opened at 0.30525 yesterday morning.

## INVEST GLOBALLY WITH THEMATIC STRATEGY

By Hayder Tawfik

There are the traditional investments that are based on first identifying the global economic cycle then trying to be ahead of the next cycle by positioning your investment accordingly. This investment tradition has been going on for more than a century. However, in recent years this way of investing has become somewhat non-rewarding for those who want to outperform the market. Thematic investments have been very rewarding for those who have the patient and the wish of their clients.

It goes way beyond the old way of investing, being geographical or sectorial approach. Thematic investing involves lots of research that are based on one or more investment themes. It pursues to identify the themes and future economic trends that are going to push market returns in the future. Equity researchers and investment managers can only pick on trends and follow them rigorously so they can identify the industry and companies that can deliver on those themes. Once identified investors can easily expose themselves to a few selected companies then wait to achieves the returns they targeting. At the end it is all about finding future growth opportunities.

Over the past decade or so, the traditional investments have been less attractive and been delivering mediocre returns to investors. An investment that is based on a specific theme approach should help equity investors to achieve superior returns. Traditional investors who want to invest in themes, should first use the top-down analysis of global and regional macroeconomic trends then select sectors and companies that are best fit to benefit from new trends. However, within a region or sector, performance may be driven by specific trends that can only be identified with a thorough bottom-up analysis of the companies in this region or sector. Linking this bottom-up analysis with the top-down process, investors should be able to recognize the trends and investment themes that are likely to deliver the outperformance that are desperately needed nowadays.

Thematic investing requires much focused approach and it helps greatly in narrowing the search for good investments ideas. Usually investments themes start with small events that could be initiated by governments, industry or simply by changing in consumer's behaviors. Investors should not mix new investments themes with some old themes that might become a fashion these days. Investing in sectors that are going to upgrade old infrastructure or in new planned infrastructure are not investments themes and are not going to deliver excellent returns. For instance,

Donald Trump has spoken about big spending on US infrastructure and Europe might do the same. Yes, there might be big spending on neglected and outdated infrastructure in the US and Europe but again these are not new investment themes.

One investment theme that has been dominating the car industry is the introduction of the electric-powered cars. Tesla, the US-based electric car company, which is owned and run by billionaire Elon Musk, hopes to boost production tenfold to 500,000 vehicles by 2018. Such is the optimism surrounding environment-friendly electric cars that many say that in 20 years the majority of cars on the road will be powered by electricity.

It is not going to be an easy ride for the electric-powered cars. It still faces some difficulties though. A big issue for the industry is the lack of modern high tech infrastructure that is needed to support and maintain this kind of cars. One of the most important issue for the electric car industry to be successful is to have a network of charging stations to enable more mainstream take-up, but this will take time and investments to achieve and importantly needs government help. There is no doubt that the demand for the electric car is growing year by year but it is still in its infancy. Electric car sales are growing just by 1 percent annually putting this in numbers is just around 1 million out of over 100 million cars sold annually worldwide.

Despite the difficulties that are electric car industry is facing, equity investors who have the time horizon on their side will be reward handsomely in the long run. Investors should avoid the traditional or the electric car manufacturers and should focus on the broader supply chain; in particular, the power-providing components, communication equipment's, radars, sensors and batteries which are typically rechargeable lithium and cathode batteries.

But when it comes to investing in battery producers, it is difficult to see viable investment opportunities that give good exposure to the electric-car theme. A major challenge is finding suppliers with sufficient exposure to this area instead of consumer-focused batteries. Although some pure-play battery producers have emerged as start-ups, their track record is not promising. To avoid any potential risk with battery producers, investors should focus on the components and materials that go into the batteries themselves.

Sustainability appeals to an increasing number of investors, both as a theme and a way for investors to support their convictions. We find that with the increased use of batteries in electric vehicles and electric storage systems, for instance, investing along the value chain of battery production is one of the most promising themes for the coming year. It taps into a fast growing market and offers some benefits of diversification for traditional stock portfolios. The electric powered car is becoming reality and with time it is becoming affordable, investors should take a long look at the industry and the supply chain and invest in a new revolution in the auto industry. @rasameel



**LERWICK, United Kingdom: Scotland has 24 percent of Europe's entire marine energy potential because of its powerful tides. Around 10 percent of the Shetland Islands' electricity is generated from renewables. —AFP**

## WEANING OFF OIL, SCOTTISH ISLES EYE RENEWABLE FUTURE

**LERWICK, United Kingdom:** Strong winds and stormy seas have helped turn the Shetland Islands in the North Atlantic into a European renewable energy giant, producing more power than it knows what to do with. The tidal power underwater turbines that were completed last month are only the latest green energy project for an archipelago that has been reliant for decades on the North Sea offshore industry. Even homeowners are getting in on the act with small wind turbines in their gardens and solar panels on their roofs-somewhat optimistically in an area where winter daylight lasts just six hours.

"We're not 100 percent self-sufficient but we're quite a long way towards it," Jim Dickson, 69, told AFP at his home in the windswept village of Brae, referring to electricity generation for his own house.

Dickson, who lives near the Sullom Voe oil terminal, can power the building and an electric powered Nissan Leaf car from a turbine in his garden with enough left over to feed into the island's grid when conditions are favourable.

"What I make for the government for producing per kilowatt hour more than pays for what I buy from the grid, so effectively there is no power bill!"  
The former harbour master knows about the dangers of fossil fuels.  
He was winched aboard the out of control oil tanker MV Braer in 1993 during the worst cyclone on record in the North Atlantic, in an ill-fated attempt to prevent it running aground.  
His efforts to attach a tow rope failed and the ship crashed into the rocks at Quendale Bay, spilling 84,700 tons of crude oil into the sea. The nation was aghast at images of Shetland's famous seabirds drowning in black ooze.

**Harnessing the sea**  
The oil industry in Shetland began in the 1970s with the development of the North Sea fields. The Brent field east of the archipelago became an emblem of the industry, with "Brent Crude" becoming a benchmark for oil trading around the world. Oil giant Shell has announced plans to decommission the field but new discoveries west of Shetland could give a boost to the industry.

French energy firm Total has invested £3.5 billion (4.1 billion euros, \$4.4 billion) in a new gas plant near Sullom Voe that opened last year to extract gas from its fields west of Shetland, Laggan and Tormore. "Producing gas and oil from the west of Shetland basin is very, very challenging," field operations manager Simon Hare told AFP on a hill overlooking the plant, a sprawling development which stands in sharp contrast to the rest of the islands' natural beauty. The gas plant is designed for a lifetime of 30 years. But environmentalists are pinning their hopes on another energy asset under the waters around Shetland.

"In tidal, we're very fortunate in Scotland," said Patrick Ross-Smith, Shetland development officer at Nova Innovation, which has installed three 100 Kilowatt turbines in the Bluemull Sound.

Scotland has 24 percent of Europe's entire marine energy potential because of its powerful tides.  
"It's great to harness some of that in Shetland," he said. The turbines' success has had the odd effect of creating too much power. "The Shetland grid is itself constrained now. It cannot take any more renewables," he said. Around 10 percent of the islands' electricity is generated from renewables and wind and tidal generators are only licenced to produce up to that limit. —AFP



## RENAULT-NISSAN ALLIANCE DELIVERS SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN 2016 ALLIANCE SALES REACH 9,961,347 VEHICLES IN 2016, ONE IN 9 CARS SOLD WORLDWIDE

**DUBAI:** The Renault-Nissan Alliance delivered significant growth in 2016, with global sales of 9.96 million vehicles. The car group also reinforced its leadership in zero-emission vehicles with cumulative sales of nearly 425,000 electric vehicles since the introduction of the Nissan LEAF in 2010, followed by the Renault ZOE.

The Alliance sales figures include Mitsubishi Motors sales of 934,013 vehicles globally. Mitsubishi Motors joined the Alliance last fall with Nissan's acquisition of a 34 percent equity stake in the company.

"The combination of Groupe Renault, Nissan Motors and Mitsubishi Motors creates a new force in the global auto industry," said chairman and CEO Carlos Ghosn. "The strength of this innovative partnership that began 18 years ago has allowed us to improve our competitiveness, boost our growth and engage in the race for the vehicle of the future." The Alliance brands accounted for about one in nine cars sold worldwide last year.

Groupe Renault's sales were up 13.3 percent to 3,182,625 vehicles in 2016 for the last year of the "Drive the Change" plan. This marked the fourth consecutive year of sales growth with a record year-

on-year increase of 374,000 units.

Both Renault and Dacia brands had a record year in terms of sales volumes and Renault Samsung Motors volumes were up by 38.8 percent. Market share and sales volumes are up in all regions, with the Renault brand becoming No 2 in Europe.

Nissan Motor Co Ltd sold a record 5,559,902 cars and trucks worldwide, up 2.5 percent. In the USA and China, the company achieved sales growth of 5.4 percent and 8.4 percent respectively, setting new records in both markets. Infiniti sold over 230,000 vehicles in 2016, a 7 percent increase from the previous year. In December alone, Infiniti sold 27,200 vehicles, an 18 percent increase versus the prior year.

Mitsubishi Motors sold 934,013 cars worldwide, down 13 percent. Sales grew in the United States and Australia, but were offset by lower sales in Brazil, Russia, and the Middle East. Japan sales were also affected by lower consumer confidence following the fuel consumption issue.

Through Nissan's partnership with Mitsubishi Motors, Nissan expects to target synergy benefits worth 24 billion yen



in fiscal year 2017, rising to 60 billion yen in fiscal year 2018 and beyond. The gains will contribute to increased earnings per share worth an estimated 4 yen per share in fiscal year 2017 and 10 yen per share in fiscal year 2018 - on top of any earnings accretion linked to Nissan's overall shareholding in Mitsubishi Motors.

AVTOVAZ, which sells cars under the LADA brand, sold 284,807 vehicles. Together, the Renault-Nissan Alliance and AVTOVAZ sell about one in three cars in Russia.

### Sustained leadership in electric vehicles

The Renault-Nissan Alliance, with Mitsubishi Motors, cumulatively sold 424,797 electric vehicles through 2016, making it the undisputed leader in zero-

emission mobility. The Nissan LEAF, the first mainstream, mass-marketed electric vehicle, remains the world's best-selling EV with more than 250,000 vehicles sold since its launch in December 2010.

In addition to the LEAF, Nissan also sells the e-NV200, a light commercial vehicle sold mainly in Europe and Japan since 2014. Renault has sold more than 112,000 electric vehicles worldwide since 2011, including the Renault ZOE, Kangoo Z.E., Fluence Z.E., the SM3 Z.E. and the Twizy.

Renault was at the top of the European EV market last year, with sales up by 11 percent at 25,648 units (excluding Twizy). ZOE led the EV ranking with 21,735 sold. Renault Pro+ recently announced the addition of two new commercial EVs to its lineup: the

New Kangoo Z.E. and Master Z.E. In 2016, the Renault-Nissan Alliance, including Mitsubishi Motors i-Miev series, sold 94,265 EVs, up more than 8 percent from 2015.

• Including Venucia E30 sales in China. No CO2 emissions and no regulated exhaust pollutants while driving, according to NEDC homologation cycle.

### Boosting innovation for the vehicle of the future

In 2016, the Renault-Nissan Alliance took several steps to advance the development of future vehicles that will be electric, autonomous and connected.

The Alliance plans to launch at least 10 models with autonomous drive functionality by 2020. Development and tests of connectivity and autonomous drive technologies are underway with several partners, including Microsoft and NASA.

"We were the first to launch an affordable electric car back in 2010. Other major automakers are now recognizing that EVs are the most effective zero-emission solution," Ghosn said. "With autonomous drive and connected cars and services, we are firmly engaged in the race for the vehicle of the future."

## KIPCO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TEN-YEAR \$500M BOND ISSUE

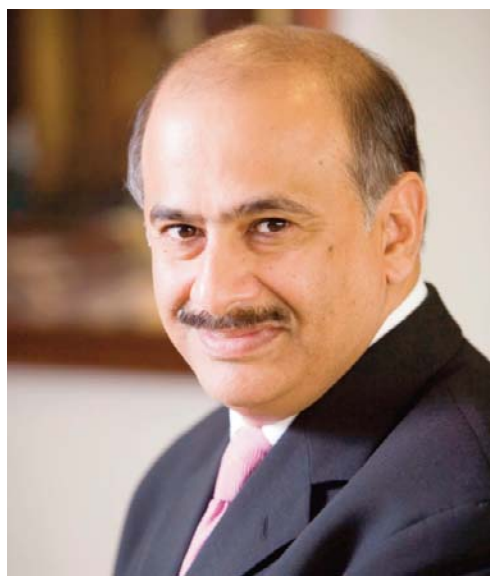
**KUWAIT:** KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - has announced that it has successfully completed the issuance of a \$500 million (KD 152.5 million) bond under its \$3 billion Euro Medium Term Note (EMTN) Program, with a simultaneous tender of its existing 2019 bonds. The new issue was four times oversubscribed.

The ten-year fixed rate notes, issued at a fixed rate coupon of 4.5 percent, set a new benchmark for the issuer. KIPCO was met with a solid reception by investors during a global roadshow - covering key centers across Hong Kong, Singapore and London - while the tender period was ongoing, and prior to the launch and issue of its ten-year bond. The success of the trade was evident in the tightening of the initial price guidance of the KIPCO bond by a significant 37.5 basis points to the final issue price, reflecting the global and regional investors' recognition of the company's credit quality among a busy period of regional MENA supply.

The bond issuance took place alongside a repurchase of its existing five-year bond maturing in 2019 that carried a fixed coupon rate of 4.8 percent through a simultaneous any-and-all tender process made to investors. The purchase price was set at 105.25 percent and 53 percent of holders opted to tender. KIPCO is the first-ever company to execute a liability management exercise out of Kuwait, and is the first company in the MENA region to do so this year.

Commenting on the transactions, KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive), Faisal Al-Ayyar said:

"The order book of around \$2 billion is a reflection of the confidence that the global investors have in our sound business model and prudent practices. KIPCO led this journey for Kuwaiti issuers when it began to issue bonds in international markets in 2006. Since then, KIPCO has educated global investors about the fundamental strength of the Kuwait economy and how it stands out in the MENA region and the world. This decade-long effort fulfils our purpose of



Pinak Maitra



Faisal Al-Ayyar

being a role model for the private sector in the MENA region."

On his part, Pinak Maitra, KIPCO's Group Chief Financial Officer said: "The success of the 2017 bond issue, eleven years after the debut issue, confirms that global investors support regular engagement and reward issuers with fine pricing for this investor interaction. This is reflected in the tightening of the KIPCO 2023 bond by 59 basis points from December 31, 2016. Also, despite a fairly priced tender offer for the KIPCO 2019 bonds, 47 percent of the holders chose to hold on to their notes, demonstrating demand for KIPCO bonds across the maturity spectrum. The two transactions result in the extension of the average life of KIPCO's debt to 5.6 years and reduce overall cost of funds."

The issue attracted 205 investors, including leading fixed income global institutions, insur-

ance companies and pension funds. The bond order book closed at \$2 billion. The bonds were allocated across a wide range of quality investors. The distribution profile was very well balanced, with European investors allocated 35 percent of the transaction and MENA investors allocated 34 percent, while Asian investors and US offshore/others accounted for 25 percent and 6 percent respectively. The notes are listed on the London Stock Exchange. The joint lead managers on the transaction were Citi, HSBC, JP Morgan and KAMCO Investment Company, with HSBC being the dealer manager on the tender process.

KIPCO launched its EMTN Program in 2006. This is the seventh issuance under this flexible arrangement. Since inception, KIPCO has raised over \$3 billion in US dollars and Euros, and kept an impeccable record of payment and repayment of interest and principal.

## WARBA BANK SIGNS PARTNERSHIP WITH JARALLAH GERMAN SPECIALIZED CENTER

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, Kuwait's best investment bank and corporate consultancy institution, continues to present flexible financing solutions that add value to clients' lives. Based on that, the bank recently added a new partner to its list of strategic partners, which is the Jarallah German Specialized Center which is known for its high quality medical services. The partnership comes as part of the bank's financial solutions under the 'medical financing' category.

As part of this partnership, anyone - whether a Warba Bank client or not - can benefit from medical services presented at the Jarallah German Specialized Center through the 'medical financing' product that the bank provides, and that as long as they meet the required terms and conditions.

On that regard, Chairman of the Retail Banking Group Simon Clement said: "The 'medical financing' products presented by Warba Bank covers treatment expenses at the Jarallah German Specialized Center, starting with a minimum of KD 1,000 and a maximum of KD 15,000, and that through cash-price installments that can be paid back in periods suitable for the client and extend to up to five years, thus providing more flexibility in payment."

The Jarallah German Specialized Center offers an integrated selection of medical services at the hands of a distinguished crew of doctors and specialists. These services include dentistry, dermatology and skin care, nutrition, pediatrics, internal medicine and urology, bariatrics, obstetrics and gynecology.

"Warba Bank is glad to cooperate with Jarallah German Specialized Center, which is considered one of the best clinics in Kuwait," Clement added. "This proves the quality of the services that



Simon Clement

Warba Bank seeks to present through its strategic partners." The partnership between Warba Bank and the Jarallah German Specialized Center is considered an added value for clients, and offers more high quality options with wider domains and easier payment methods. The bank continues with making partnerships that diversify options for clients, and that stemming from its motto of "distinguished by solutions."

Warba Bank was established pursuant to Emiri decree and officially registered as an Islamic bank by the Kuwaiti central bank on 5 April, 2010. It offers a bundle of comprehensive integrated services and banking solutions that comply with the Islamic sharia jurisdiction, and such services are offered through three groups or services, namely, the Banking Group, the Company Financing Group and the Investment and Treasury Group. The bank has ten branches in strategic locations with over 400 employees working under its umbrella.



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

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws yesterday announcing the names of its winners for the week of 12 February - 16 February 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

**The winners are:**  
(Sunday 12/2): Meshaal Ghali Mohsen Al-Anizi, Raed Abdullah Husain Al-Roughani  
(Monday 13/2): Zain Bader Mahmoud Al-Khabaz, Thwaini Ibrahim Al-Thwaini

(Tuesday 14/2): Saadatollah Yadoollah Najafabadi, Mohammed Abdulkarim Mohammed Al-Awadi (Wednesday 15/2): Nassar Jres Naser Al-Azmi, Abeer Fouzi Khoulaf Al-Thefiri

(Thursday 16/2): Eman Yousef Eissa Al-Shamlan, Moayad Wajeeh Mousa Edress

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1000). Al-Danah's 1st Quarterly draw for the prize of KD200,000 will be held on 30 March, the 2nd quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on 29 June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

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

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD 500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD 1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year.

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

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al Danah 2017 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulfbank.com/al-danah-winners, to find out more about Al Danah and its winners.

## BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Abdulla Mahmoud Hussein Fyrouz
2. Zahra Hussien Ali Al Attar
3. Omar Saleh Merdhi Al Sehaib
4. Hussain Radi Ateiah
5. Sami Mahmoud Hasan Al-Rabiah

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

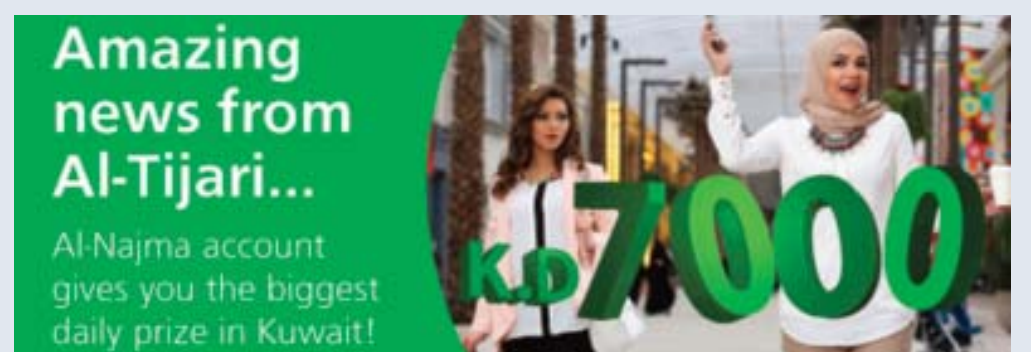
For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information. Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the

MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious

ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.



## AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

### The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:-

- |                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Bassam Moussa                 | — KD 7000  |
| Ahmad Mahmoud Shareeda        | — KD 7000  |
| Suhailah Hasan Mohammad Hasan | — KD 7000  |
| Khalid Ahmed Haji Alamuddin   | — KD 7000  |
| Syed Mohideen Nisar Basha     | — KD 7000. |

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

**The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account:**  
Daily draw to win KD 7000

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000

- |             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1ST QUARTER | — KD 250,000     |
| 2ND QUARTER | — KD 100,000     |
| 3RD QUARTER | — KD 150,000     |
| 4TH QUARTER | — KD 200,000 and |
|             | — KD 250,000.    |

With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

- Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

### Additional features

- ATM card
- Issue a credit card against your account
- Obtain all CBK banking services

You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.



## SMARTPHONES ARE REVOLUTIONIZING MEDICINE

**BOSTON:** Smartphones are revolutionizing the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, thanks to add-ons and apps that make their ubiquitous small screens into medical devices, researchers say. "If you look at the camera, the flash, the microphone... they all are getting better and better," said Shwetak Patel, engineering professor at the University of Washington. "In fact the capabilities on those phones are as great as some of the specialized devices," he told the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting this week.

Smartphones can already act as pedometers, count calories and measure heartbeats. But mobile devices and tablets can also become tools for diagnosing illness. "You can use the microphone to diagnose asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder)," Patel said. "With these enabling technologies you can manage chronic diseases outside of the clinic and with a non-invasive clinical tool." It is also possible to use the camera and flash

on a mobile phone to diagnose blood disorders, including iron and hemoglobin deficiency.

"You put your finger over the camera flash and it gives you a result that shows the level of hemoglobin in the blood," Patel said. An app called HemaApp was shown to perform comparably well as a non-smartphone device for measuring hemoglobin without a needle. Researchers are seeking approval from the US Food and Drug Administration for its wider use. Smartphones can also be used to diagnose osteoporosis, a bone disorder common in the elderly. Just hold a smartphone, turn on the right app in hand and tap on your elbow.

"Your phone's motion picture sensor picks up the resonances that are generated," Patel said. "If there is a reduction in density of the bone, the frequency changes, which is the same as you will have in an osteoporosis bone." Such advances can empower patients to better manage their own care, Patel said. "You can imagine the broader

impact of this in developing countries where screening tools like this in the primary care offices are non-existent," he told reporters. "So it really changes the way we diagnose, treat and manage chronic diseases."

### Lower costs

Mobile smartphone devices are already helping patients manage cancer and diabetes, says Elizabeth Mynatt, professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology. "Someone who is newly diagnosed with diabetes really needs to become their own detectives," she said. "They need to learn the changes they need to make in their daily lifestyle." For women newly diagnosed with breast cancer, researchers provided a tablet that allows them real-time access to information on the diagnosis, management of their treatment and side effects.

The technique also helps patients who may not be able to travel to a medical office for regular care, reducing their costs. "Our tool becomes a personal

support system," Mynatt said. "They can interact to get day-to-day advice." Research has shown this approach "changes dramatically their behavior," she added. "The pervasiveness of the adoption of mobile platform is quite encouraging for grappling with pervasive socio-economic determinants in terms of healthcare disparities."

A growing number of doctors and researchers are turning to smartphones for use in their daily work, seeing them as a useful tool for managing electronic health data and figuring out the most effective clinical trials, said Gregory Hager, professor of computer science at Johns Hopkins University. Clinical trials currently cost around \$12 million to run from start to finish, he said. "The new idea is micro-randomized trials, which should be far more effective, with more natural data," he said. Although the costs could be dramatically lower, too, the field is still new and more work needs to be done to figure out how to fully assess the quality and the effectiveness of such trials. —AFP

## SPACEX BLASTS OFF CARGO FROM HISTORIC NASA LAUNCHPAD

CARGO EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT THE SPACE STATION ON FEB 22

**MIAMI:** SpaceX yesterday blasted off its Falcon 9 rocket carrying the unmanned Dragon cargo ship, packed with food and supplies for the six astronauts living at the International Space Station.

The white rocket soared into the cloudy, gray skies over Cape Canaveral, Florida at 9:38 am (1438 GMT). The mission was the first to take off from NASA's historic launchpad 39A, the origin of the pioneering US spaceflights that took

astronauts to the Moon in the 1960s and 1970s, as well as the space shuttle missions that ran from 1981 to 2011. The launch was initially planned for Saturday, but was canceled just 13 seconds before liftoff due to a glitch with the rocket engine.

"They resolved all the technical issues last night," said NASA's Bob Cabana, director of Kennedy Space Center. The origin of the problem—a piece of equipment known as the thrust vector control actuator in the second stage—was replaced. Subsequent tests showed it was working fine, a SpaceX spokesman explained. The unmanned spaceship is packed with more than 5,000 pounds of food, gear and science experiments for the astronauts in orbit. It is the 10th such resupply mission for SpaceX, which along with Orbital ATK has a multi-year contract with NASA to send supplies to the International Space Station. The cargo is expected to arrive at the space station on Feb 22, a SpaceX spokesman said.

### Successful landing

About 10 minutes after the launch, SpaceX refired the engines on the booster portion of the Falcon 9, guiding it down to a controlled, upright landing at a different part of Cape Canaveral. "The Falcon has landed once again," a SpaceX spokeswoman said on a live webcast, as loud cheers and applause erupted at the company's mission control center in Hawthorne, California. The touchdown marked the third time SpaceX has managed to stick a landing on solid ground. Other such landings have taken place on floating ocean platforms, as the company perfects its techniques of powering costly rocket parts back to land instead of jettisoning them in the ocean after a single use.

### Crew vehicle

SpaceX is also developing a version of its Dragon capsule that can one day carry astronauts to space. SpaceX says the first crew flights will take place in 2018, though a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report out last week predicted that schedule delays and budget cuts would push it back to 2019. SpaceX's chief operating officer Gwynne Shotwell insisted Friday that the company is on target for 2018, saying she was "very confident" in that deadline.

The retirement of the US space shuttle program in 2011 left the United States without any spacecraft for sending people into orbit. Since then, the world's astronauts have hitched rides aboard Russia's Soyuz spaceships, which fit three people at a time. The cost for a single astronaut's transport is currently \$82 million, the GAO report said. —AFP



**FLORIDA:** The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, carrying a Dragon cargo capsule, launches from the Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A in Florida yesterday. —AFP

## TECH TOOLS GAIN TRACTION AMID TRUMP WAR ON LEAKS

**WASHINGTON:** As President Donald Trump warns of a crackdown on US government leaks to media, interest is growing in technology tools that allow sources to share information anonymously. One such tool called SecureDrop, being used by at least 30 US and global media organizations, offers a way for sources to anonymously communicate via encrypted servers. "We've seen an explosion of interest in SecureDrop in the past two months," said Trevor Timm, executive director of the Freedom of the Press Foundation, which created the tool.

Timm said "dozens" of news organizations had expressed interest in using the tool which enables sharing without leaving digital traces. "Ever since the election there seems to be an urgency within these organizations to set up a more secure way to get information from whistleblowers," he said. While news leaks have come from a variety of sources, Trump, who took office on January 20, has denounced the release of classified information by officials as "criminal" and vowed to punish leakers.

Timm argued however that the news leaks have been important in holding elected officials accountable and helping the truth emerge. He said the resignation of national security adviser Michael Flynn, caught lying about his contacts with Russia, was an important example. "Not only are leaks allowing the public to put pressure on the government to pull back awful policies, but it's even informing other people within the Trump administration," Timm said in a blog post for the Columbia Journalism Review.

Though the methods for leaks are not always known, some news organizations have acknowledged using SecureDrop, including the

Associated Press and First Look Media's investigative site The Intercept. SecureDrop "is the system easiest to use for newsmen to facilitate communication that allows a back-and-forth exchange while allowing the source to remain completely anonymous," said Intercept editor-in-chief Betsy Reed. The system "has become an increasingly useful source of genuinely newsworthy documents for us," Reed noted.

"In the current political environment there can be tremendous risks to cooperating with a journalist and becoming a whistleblower, and it makes sense to offer this as protection," Reed said she expects the media to rely more on these kinds of sources, with the Trump administration seeking to control the flow of information. "We're going to have feistier independent journalism that depends on cultivating these kinds of sources," she said. "Whistleblower journalism will have its heyday, and access journalism is on the decline."

### Secure mobile apps

Meanwhile some government officials, fearful of monitoring, have taken to using encrypted mobile applications to share information. Some newsmen use a secure chat app called Signal. Another application called Confide, which takes a cue from Snapchat by allowing people to send messages that disappear after being read, also is gaining popularity. The app offers "the digital equivalent of a face-to-face conversation," according to Confide co-founder Jon Brod.

"End-to-end encryption ensures that only the intended recipient can read the message, but ephemerality adds another layer of protection ensuring that no copies reside on any servers or

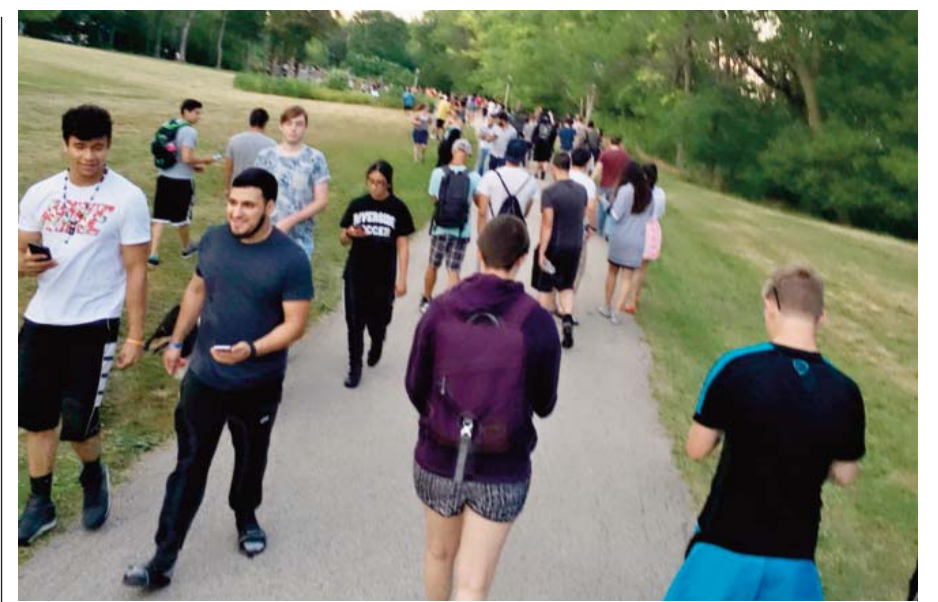
devices." Founded in 2014, Confide has seen downloads and usage spike during times of well-publicized hacks or leaks. "Our growth has accelerated significantly since the US election and we have seen a recent surge in our business—the number of new users joining Confide this week is more than seven times higher than last week's," Brod said.

### Legal questions

But the use of private channels by officials raises a host of questions, such as those that surfaced over Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's private email server. "Conducting official White House business in this way almost certainly violates the Presidential Records Act, which requires preservation of any correspondence or records" of top officials, says a Lawfare blog post by Brookings Institution fellow Susan Hennessey, with Harvard law student Helen Klein Murillo.

Analysts point out that leaking classified information may be illegal, but the degree of enforcement has varied over the years with leakers, and even journalists, facing potential prosecution under the Espionage Act. Even without these specific tools, news organizations have gotten major stories from leaks provided through systems such as WikiLeaks and documents obtained by former national security contractor Edward Snowden.

Hennessey and Murillo note that the Trump administration "might have a range of criminal statutes and enforceable legal obligations to use (or threaten to use) to stem the tide of leaks." But they added that "investigations are opened only when the leaked information is accurate—that is, the mere fact of an investigation is an indirect confirmation of the accuracy of the leak." —AFP



**MILWAUKEE:** In this photo, throngs of people take to Lake Park in Milwaukee, while playing Pokemon Go, shortly after the release of the popular smartphone game. —AP

## MILWAUKEE TO POKEMON MONSTERS: GET A PERMIT TO ENTER PARKS

**MILWAUKEE:** "Pokemon Go" monsters can roam virtually wherever they please, but they'll need a permit to get into Milwaukee County parks. At the height of the game's popularity last summer, the large crowds it attracted to one Milwaukee park left county officials at a loss for how to deal with the sudden influx of players and the trash they left behind. With more augmented-reality games in development, the permitting process Milwaukee County set up puts it at the forefront of an emerging challenge for government officials who want to regulate them.

"We're prepared for all of them now," said County Supervisor Sheldon Wasserman, who wrote the proposal setting up a permitting process that County Executive Chris Abele signed on Feb 10. Other places where officials are looking at how to handle such games include Illinois, where lawmakers are considering requiring companies to remove sites from games when they receive a request to do so. The bill pending in the Illinois Legislature is a response to heavy foot-traffic last year at a suburban Chicago park with protected dunes.

Kate Edwards, the executive director of the International Game Developers Association, said in an email that local and state regulations haven't been on developers' radars because there haven't been any "that specifically affect game content or design." Most people associate augment-

ed-reality smartphone apps with "Pokemon Go," which allows players to catch monsters in the real world when they appear on their phones. But the number of games is growing. Other apps allow people to blast zombies on streets, race cars around the office, and aim basketballs at virtual hoops anywhere.

Edwards warned that "legislation and regulation at this early stage of an emerging technology" can stifle its growth. But Wasserman said something needed to be done after months "of basically absolute hell" at a Milwaukee park along Lake Michigan. Hundreds and sometimes thousands of players came to Lake Park at all hours of the day, he said, leading to traffic congestion, overtime for sheriff's deputies providing security, overflowing bathrooms and so much trash that the county had minimum-security inmates help clean up.

The new ordinance requires that game developers such as Niantic, the San Francisco-based creator of "Pokemon Go," get a permit like any other business or group that wants to host park events. The fees will be on a sliding scale - anywhere from \$100 to \$1,000, depending on how much of the park will be used and how many people are expected to be there, Wasserman said. The money will help with the park's upkeep, he said, and the permits will help the county prepare for the volume of people. Wasserman said the county could pursue legal action if a company doesn't comply with a permit. —AP

## QUALITYNET LAUNCHES OFFERS AND ITS NEW APP FOR MOBILES

**KUWAIT:** Qualitynet, Kuwait's No 1 ICT, Data Communications and Internet Services Provider announced the launch of its annual campaign titled "Everyone is a winner with Qualitynet." The campaign which is scheduled to run till the end of March offers exciting prizes for both new and existing customers, in addition to Scratch and Win coupons to win guaranteed gifts. The gifts include iPhones, Snapchat spectacles, PlayStations, GoPro Cameras, Smart TVs and more.

The company also simultaneously launched its new application for both smartphones and tablets. Available on the Apple Store and Google Play Store, the

app gives Qualitynet's residential internet subscribers easier access to manage their accounts. The app keeps in line with technological trends worldwide, and offers a sleek and quick interface that is both user friendly and feature packed.

Subscribers can now renew their subscriptions, upgrade their speeds or purchase bandwidth on demand, all from their phones or tablets. They will also get sneak previews to exclusive offers and new services being launched. Subscribers can also utilize the app to communicate with technical support, provide feedback on services, or find more info on services and products.

## ADVANCES IN IMAGING COULD DEEPEN KNOWLEDGE OF BRAIN

**BOSTON:** New imaging techniques enable exploration of the brain in much more detail than ever before, opening the door to greater understanding of neurological problems and possibly new treatments, researchers say. Showcased this week at the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting, the research and innovations are the product of three US scientists involved in a project launched by former president Barack Obama in 2013 to unlock the inner workings of the brain.

Obama's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) initiative promised a multidisciplinary approach, with a budget of \$434 million for 2017, aimed at unlocking the mysteries of the brain and treating diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and schizophrenia. One of the technolo-

gies developed as part of the initiative, called Scape, enables scientists to see brain structures at a microscopic level. Scape permits the three-dimensional observation of individual neurons in the brain of a fruit fly as the insect is in flight, searching for food or suddenly afraid for its life, said Elisabeth Hillman, professor of biomedical engineering at Columbia University.

"You can see actually flashing green as the brain is telling the body to move," she told the conference. "We can image every single neuron in the entire brain of these organisms, which was never possible to do before." The new tool opens up multiple paths for research, including deciphering the signals currently seen in magnetic resonance imagery (MRI). "We are hoping to leverage this new technique to better understand diseases," she said. —AFP



## TAI CHI TIED TO REDUCE FALL RISK IN OLDER ADULTS

**NEW YORK:** Seniors who practice tai chi - a Chinese meditation practice that combines deep breathing and slow, fluid movements - may be less likely to fall than their peers who don't do this type of exercise, a recent study suggests. Researchers examined data from 18 previously published trials of tai chi for fall prevention with a combined 3,824 participants aged 65 and older.

Tai chi was associated with a 20 percent lower risk of falling at least once and a 31 percent drop in the number of falls, the analysis found. "This is a fairly significant finding because tai chi is an activity that can be easily taught and that people can do independently at home or at their workplace or at the retirement center on their own or in a group," said Jean-Michel Brismee, a physical therapy researcher at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and

University Medical Center in Lubbock.

"So in regard to cost and preserving independence and health it is significant because people do not have to go to the gym or a special facility as they can do it anywhere," Brismee, who wasn't involved in the study, added by email. Worldwide, up to 40 percent of people over 65 and about half of people over 80, fall each year, researchers note in BMJ Open. Falls are often associated with considerable decline in mobility, independence and quality of life and are a leading cause of death in older adults.

For the study, Zhi-Guan Huang of Guangzhou Sport University in China and colleagues analyzed data from published trials that randomly assigned older adults to either receive tai chi lessons or join a control group that didn't get this interven-

tion. Overall, 10 seniors would need to practice tai chi in order to avoid one fall, Huang and colleagues estimated. When researchers accounted for how often seniors practiced tai chi, how much time they spent at it, the style of tai chi and the falling risk for individual patients, they still found these exercises associated with a lower risk of falling.

Sometimes the fall risk appeared smaller but the difference between the tai chi groups and control groups was too small to rule out the possibility that it was due to chance, however. Increasing the frequency of tai chi sessions from once a week to more than three times weekly was associated with a dramatic improvement in risk reduction, from 5 percent to 64 percent.

One limitation of the study is that it examined data from trials where partici-

pants knew what intervention was being tested and whether they received it, which has the potential to bias results, the authors note. Even so, the results confirm previous research showing tai chi can improve balance, flexibility, strength of knee extension and reduce the risk of falls in older adults, said Dr. Chenchen Wang, director of the Center for Complementary and Integrative Medicine at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

"Many important components include: exercise, breathing techniques, awareness of the body, focused attention, mindfulness, balance and function, visualization and relaxation," Wang, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. "These components also positively impact health by improving self-efficacy, psychosocial functioning, and depression and can help patients bolster self-confidence, which also

helps balance and coordination to avoid falls," Wang added.

The complex nature of tai chi exercise sequences can also support cognitive function because it requires steady effort to coordinate multiple movements at the same time, said Dr. Rome Lauche of the University of Technology in Sydney and the Australian Research Center in Complementary and Integrative Medicine.

"For frail elderly patients who can't go to the gym and conduct conventional exercises, or those with a preference towards relaxing mind/body interventions, the slow and flowing nature of tai chi might be the right choice," Lauche, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. "For patients who have already fallen, it is important to undergo a medical examination first." —Reuters

## WHY THERE'S A US SURGE IN MUMPS DESPITE VACCINE

**NEW YORK:** Fifty years ago, mumps was once a childhood rite of passage of puffy cheeks and swollen jaws. That all changed with the arrival of a vaccine in the late 1960s, and mumps nearly disappeared. But now the US is in the midst of one of the largest surges in decades. Arkansas has been hardest hit, but schools and college

campuses in many states have been contending with outbreaks. Some basics about the illness and the situation:

### What is mumps?

Mumps is caused by a virus. It's contagious and spread through coughing and sneezing. Common symptoms are fever, headache, and

painfully swollen salivary glands that can cause puffy cheeks. Most cases occur in children and teens who spread it at schools and dormitories. Some people never have symptoms. In most others, it is a mild disease that people completely recover from in few weeks. Sometimes it can lead to complications: hearing loss, meningitis and

swollen testicles. In rare cases, infections lead to sterility.

### How common is it?

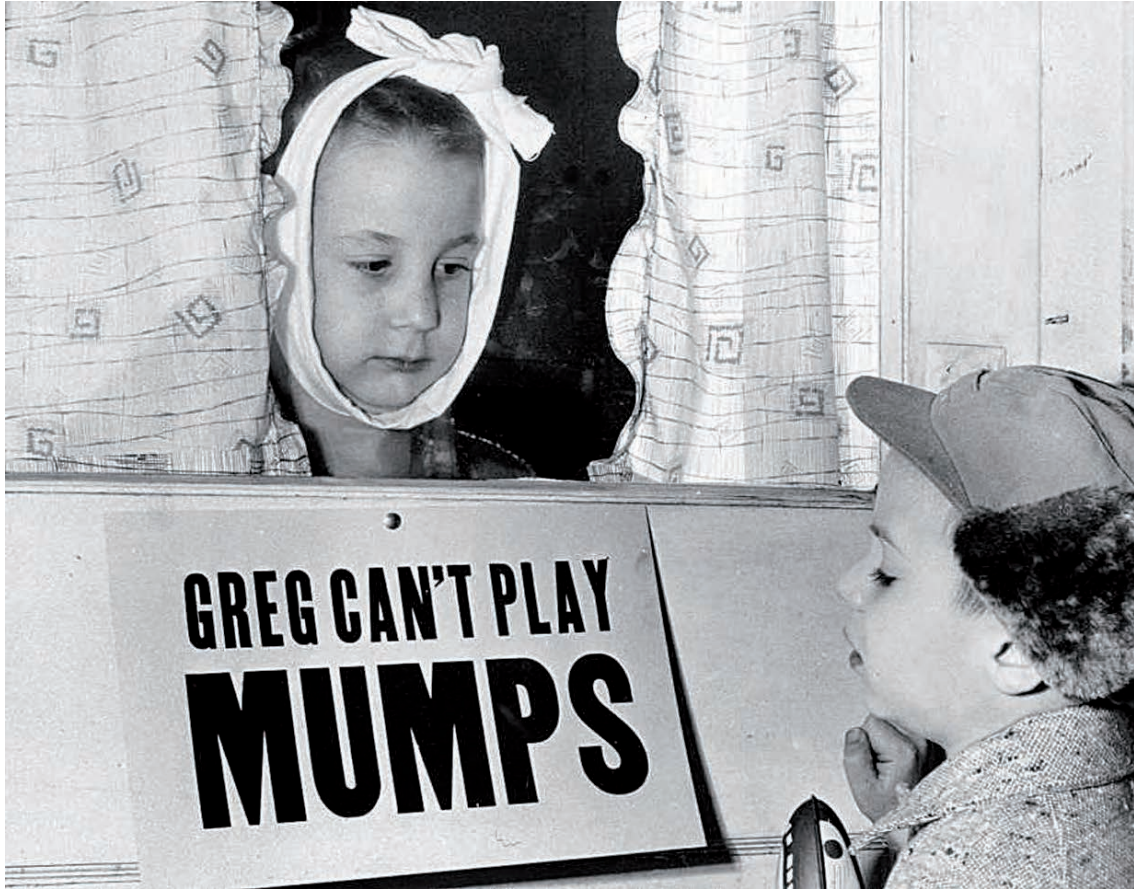
Before the vaccine, roughly 200,000 cases were reported each year. Then the numbers dwindled to around 200 a year. But some years, cases have jumped up. In 2006, there were nearly 6,600 cases, most of them college students in the Midwest. Cases surged again last year, reaching 5,300 - the bulk of them in Arkansas, Iowa and Oklahoma. High numbers have continued this year, mostly in Arkansas and Missouri, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### Who gets the vaccine?

The mumps vaccine is part of routine childhood shots. U.S. health officials recommend that by age 6, all children get two doses of a combination vaccine against mumps, measles and rubella. The vaccine is highly effective when children get the shots on schedule, they say, and there has not been any new, mutated mumps strain going around to change that. Yet, most of the children who got sick recently were fully vaccinated, health officials have said.

### The vaccine didn't work?

No vaccine is perfect and it's expected that some people who get the shots will still get mumps. Also, some research suggests that 10 or more years after the second dose, immunity may fade enough to allow outbreaks to take hold. During some outbreaks, like one currently at the University of Missouri, students and others have been offered a third booster dose to increase protection and snuff out the outbreak. —AP



**ALTAMONT:** In this file photo, Jon Douglas, 6, right, visits his friend, Greg Cox, standing behind a sign warning he has mumps, on the door of his home in Altamont, Illinois. —AP



**MONTANA:** In this file photo a Franklin County police officer counts pills containing pseudoephedrine during a raid of a suspected meth house in Gerald, Montana. —AP

## MONTANA OFFICIALS ALARMED AS THEY FIGHT SURGE IN METH USE

**HELENA, Montana:** Methamphetamines continue to make an alarming surge in Montana, as law enforcement, health officials and communities struggle to address the problem. Panelists at a drug summit convened Saturday by the Montana Legislature said resources are being strained because of a widening prevalence of the drug. While authorities attempt to stanch the flow of meth into the state from Mexican cartels, courts are burdened by a growing caseload of drug cases.

Family services are also strained by drug-related cases that are tearing apart families. And drug clinics are struggling to serve an increasing population of meth users seeking to treat their addictions. As meth use in Montana continues to rise, authorities are also bracing for a possible influx of heroin in an expansive rural state whose borders aren't easy to patrol. "I've never seen it this bad before," said Bryan Lockerby with the Montana Department of Criminal Investigations.

"The problem we're all trying to solve is like boiling the ocean, and we have people drowning in meth." The concern over meth and opiates, such as heroin, in Montana is shared nationwide. More Americans are dying from opioids than at any time in recent history, with overdose deaths hitting a peak of 28,000 in 2014. That amounts to 78 Americans dying from an opioid overdose every day, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But meth remains the drug of choice in Montana and other nearby states because it is inexpensive and so widely available.

Lockerby told legislators that law enforcement is but a component in the effort to eradicate the drug from Montana. But the challenges, he said, are daunting as the meth supply transforms a homegrown substance cooked in clandestine labs to a well-financed out-of-state import that crosses statelimits and national borders. In 2015, the state's crime lab analyzed about twice the number of samples as two years prior, according to state statistics. Montana health officials say meth-related cases now account for more than 40 percent of the caseload being handled by the state's child and family services - doubling from a decade ago.

While authorities attempt to stanch the

flow of meth into the state from Mexican cartels, courts are being burdened by a growing caseload of drug cases. Family services are also being strained by drug-related cases that are tearing apart families. And drug clinics are struggling to serve an increasing population of meth users seeking to treat their addictions. As meth use in Montana continues to rise, authorities are bracing for a rise in heroin use as that drug further encroaches into an expansive rural state whose borders aren't always easy to patrol.

Meth is the primary drug encountered by Montana's 11 drug task forces, according to the Montana Department of Justice. Attorney General Tim Fox called for more collaboration among state, federal and community agencies to deal with the issue. "One of the largest challenges is for us all to work together," he said. "We have various agencies with all the same general goal to protect our citizens and in promoting health. Because we're compartmentalized in separate places, and we all have our separate missions, we sometimes don't work together well."

That means identifying "all the stakeholders, what money is being spent where, what kind of success rates we have and where are we not doing enough," Fox said. What's needed in particular, Fox said, is to develop stronger partnerships with tribal authorities, who are also struggling to attack the scourge of meth and other substances on reservations. "Meth is so devastating to a community, to a family, to children," said Alexis MacDiarmid, an addiction counselor at the Helena Indian Alliance.

Zoe Barnard, an administrator for the Department of Public Health and Human Services, called the economic burdens associated with substance abuse alarming. From 2010 to 2014, she said, there were \$714 million in charges for hospital admissions in Montana because of substance abuse. About a fifth of that amount was charged to the taxpayer-funded Medicaid program. Sen. Diane Sands, a Democrat from Missoula, said the summit sought to bring awareness about the state's drug problems and to help fellow legislators understand the need for more resources, particularly for drug treatment programs. —AP

## SANCTUARY HOLDS SEVEN COWS SAVED FROM SLAUGHTER TO PROMOTE PEACE

**SAN TAN VALLEY:** An Arizona sanctuary is sheltering seven cows that were intended for slaughter as part of an effort that owners believe promotes peace and good health. Goshala cow sanctuary President Naren Koka told the Casa Grande Dispatch that the organization protects cows while educating people about how saving these animals promotes a sustainable ecosystem. "We believe that kindness to animals leads to kindness to humans and hence a peaceful world," Koka said.

Groups visit the farm and cows make public appearances to spread awareness. Support comes from the Indian community and some animal advocates. One cow's care can cost \$150 monthly. A volunteer said the cows' milk cannot be sold but is shared with groups for religious uses. "One of the purposes in establishing Goshala was so milk may be offered for deity worship at temple," said one of the founders, Prayag Narayan Misra.

Cows are good for the Earth when they are given proper care, Koka said. "Cows eat grass, and the cow dung is very good for the earth. It protects the topsoil, and the manure can be used to feed the corn," he said. "The manure has anti-bacterial properties. In India, it's mixed with water and used as a floor cleanser, and the cow urine is a natural way to repel insects from plants." The sanctuary plans to bring cows to the Festival of Colors on March 19 in Tempe. —AP



**ARIZONA:** In this photo, Prayag Narayan Misra stands by Laila, a cow rescued by the Goshala cow sanctuary in San Tan Valley, Arizona. —AP

## ZOO INTRODUCES AFRICAN PAINTED DOG PUPS TO PUBLIC

**CUMBERLAND, Ohio:** An Ohio zoo says a litter of six African painted dog puppies born in December can now be viewed by the public. The Columbus Zoo says the puppies from the endangered species have begun exploring publicly visible areas of the zoo's conservation center, The Wilds, in Cumberland, Ohio. Dan Beetem, director of animal management at The Wilds, says the puppies are the center's first successful litter of painted dogs. Beetem says the dogs' mother, Quinn, was an attentive caregiver after their birth, a rarity for first-time painted dog mothers. The Wilds says that painted dogs are one of Africa's most endangered species because of continued habitat loss, conflict with humans, and infectious disease. —AP

## TANZANIA STOPS 40 HEALTH CENTERS FROM OFFERING AIDS SERVICES

**DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania:** Tanzania's government has stopped 40 privately run health centers from providing AIDS-related services, accusing them of catering to homosexuals in a country where gay sex is criminalized. It is the latest move by this East African country to crack down on the activities of homosexuals. The government believes that non-governmental organizations are using some health centers to promote gay sex, Health Minister Umy Mwalimu said Thursday while announcing the restrictions.

In Tanzania, gay sex is punishable by up to 30 years in prison. Around two-thirds of

African countries criminalize consensual same-sex sexual conduct, according to Amnesty International. The HIV rate among gay men in Tanzania stands at 30 percent, according to government figures. The health minister also announced that the government was expanding HIV/AIDS services at 3,000 other health centers across the country. The news comes about six months after the government threatened to deregister pro-gay civic groups it said were harmful to the "culture of Tanzanians." In September, the government temporarily suspended HIV/AIDS outreach projects targeting gay men. —AP



**NETHERLANDS:** A bird rests on an agricultural field near op Zoom. —AFP





KENYA: In this photo, a student looks up at the moon through a telescope. —AP photos



KENYA: In this photo, students look up at a projected display inside an inflatable planetarium.



KENYA: In this photo, astronomer and company co-founder Daniel Chu Owen sets up a telescope during a visit by The Traveling Telescope to show students the science of astronomy, at St Andrew's School near Molo in Kenya's Rift Valley.



KENYA: In this photo, an image of the planet Saturn is seen on the lens of the projector inside an inflatable planetarium.

## ROAMING TELESCOPE BRINGS KENYAN KIDS VIEWS OF NIGHT SKY STUDENTS LOOK AT CONSTELLATIONS USING VIRTUAL REALITY GOGGLES



KENYA: In this photo, astronomer and company co-founder Susan Murabana is interviewed during a visit by The Traveling Telescope to show students the science of astronomy, at St Andrew's School near Molo in Kenya's Rift Valley.

**MOLO, Kenya:** Thousands of schoolchildren in Kenya are getting a rare opportunity to look at the stars. The Traveling Telescope visits some of this East African country's most remote areas, showing students the night sky and the describing the science of astronomy with telescopes and virtual reality goggles. One by one, the children in this Rift Valley town lined up to peer through the telescope. Fourteen-year-old Evie Clarke gazed into the sky. "Over there is Venus and just above it is Mars and there are loads of suns," she said, pointing. "You have such a nice picture of the moon and you can see all the craters. Oh man, it was amazing, yes!"

Students also enter an inflatable planetarium to learn more about astronomy, and they look at constellations using virtual reality goggles. Although Kenya lies on the equator and has dramatic nighttime skies in rural areas, children find it hard to name planets and other bodies as astronomy is rarely taught in schools. The telescope "has been around for more than 400 years and yet very few people have looked through one," said Susan Murabana, who founded the Traveling Telescope project in 2013 with Daniel Chu Owen.

They charge 200 to 300 Kenyan shillings, or about \$2 to \$3, per child at international or private schools. They do not charge at public schools. They would like to expand the project across Africa "There is something really powerful about seeing things for yourself and seeing those photons coming from a star or planet or whatever is going through the telescope hitting your eye, you know," Owen said. "You are not looking at a screen, you are not looking in a book ... It stays with you." Fifteen-year-old Tamara Lugonzo said she is considering a career in astronomy after her experience: "It's so cool, yeah!" —AP



KENYA: In this photo, students walk around wearing Google Cardboard virtual reality goggles during a visit by The Traveling Telescope to show students the science of astronomy, at St Andrew's School near Molo in Kenya's Rift Valley.

**CLINIC  
PAGE**



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199



**Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem**  
**د. فهد علي المخيزيم**



Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال  
 M.B. Bch. FRCPC, FAAP, PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368





## GUST HOLDS SHIEKHA FADYA AL-SAAD SCIENTIFIC COMPETITION 2017



Shiekha Fadya Al-Saad

A special ceremony was recently held at GUST to launch the Shiekha Fadya Al-Saad Scientific Competition 2017 with participation of Kuwaiti qualified contestants. The ceremony was sponsored by KFAS and GUST and as attended by KFAS director, Dr. Salam Al-Ablani, information ministry's assistant undersecretary for new media, Yousif Mustafa, a number of MOE general supervisors who hailed the role played by Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research in providing students from various stages to innovate and excel in science and technology. The ceremony was inaugurated by a speech delivered by GUST president, profes-

sor, Donald Bates who congratulated the winners and highly commended partnership with Al-Saad Foundation in patronizing creative youth. Speaking on the occasion, chairperson of the Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research, Shiekha Fadya Al-Saad stressed how proud she was of the winners and pointed that ever since inception, the Ibtikar Al-Kuwait competition aimed at boosting fine social concepts such as accepting others and exchanging visions and ideas. She stressed on the need to enhance Kuwaiti women role in achieving sustainable development and called for combining efforts to set a special quota for Kuwaiti women in various parliaments.

In addition, Al-Saad expressed hopes that Ibtikar Al-Kuwait competition will exceed local and GCC gifted participants to include others from the Arab world and, eventually, from worldwide. On her part, Ibtikar Al-Kuwait manager, Dr. Fatima Al-Hashim stressed that the competition was the first of its kind in the Arab world to embrace scientific fiction on the primary stage. Al-Hashim added that intermediate stage competitions focused on electronic recycling to protect the environment while those of the secondary stage merged science, technology, engineering and mathematics with the aim of preparing learners for university studies.



Dr. Fatima Al-Hashim



Shiekha Fadya Al-Saad honoring Yousif Mustafa



Shiekha Fadya Al-Saad honoring Professor Donald Bates



## LAPA, NCCAL ORGANIZE CONCERT AT ABDUL HUSSEIN ABDUL REDHA THEATRE

In collaboration with NCCAL, LOYAC's Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA) recently organized a concert on the occasion of celebrating the National and Liberation day's anniversaries. The concert was presented by the Arab Heritage Band led by maestro Nisreen Nasser at Abdul Hussein Abdul Redha theatre. The band sang a number of traditional, national songs and Andalusian Muwashahat (stanzas) that highly appealed to the audience who raised Kuwaiti flags and sang the national anthem on concluding the concert.



## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA CELEBRATES LEADER KIM JONG II'S BIRTHDAY



The ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea So Chang Sik hosted a reception on the occasion birthday of great leader Kim Jong II at the embassy. Officials, friends and media persons attended the event.—Photos by Joseph Shaqraa

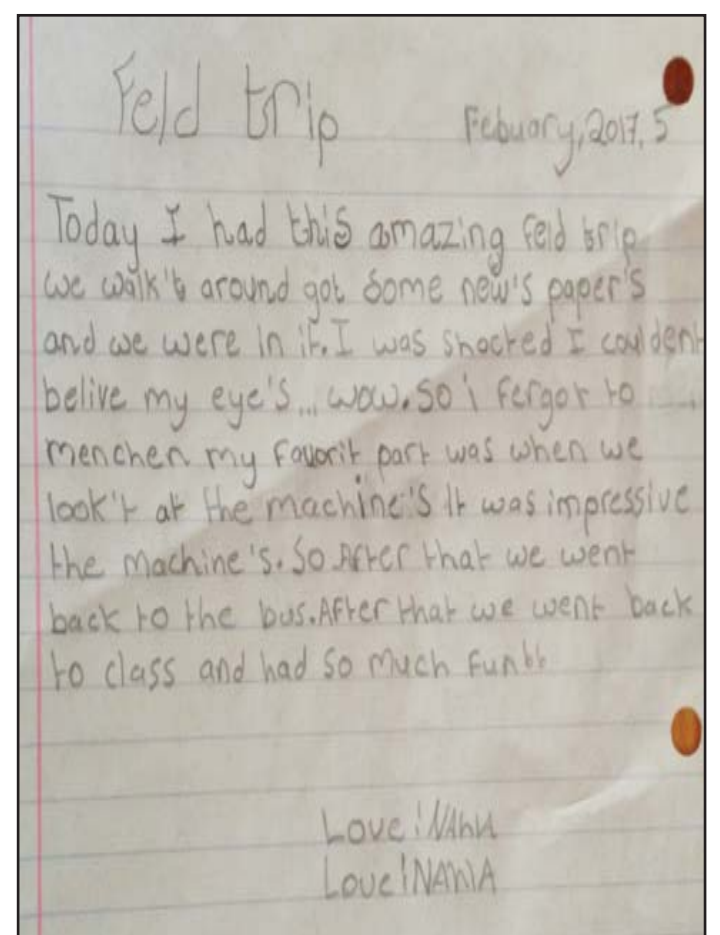
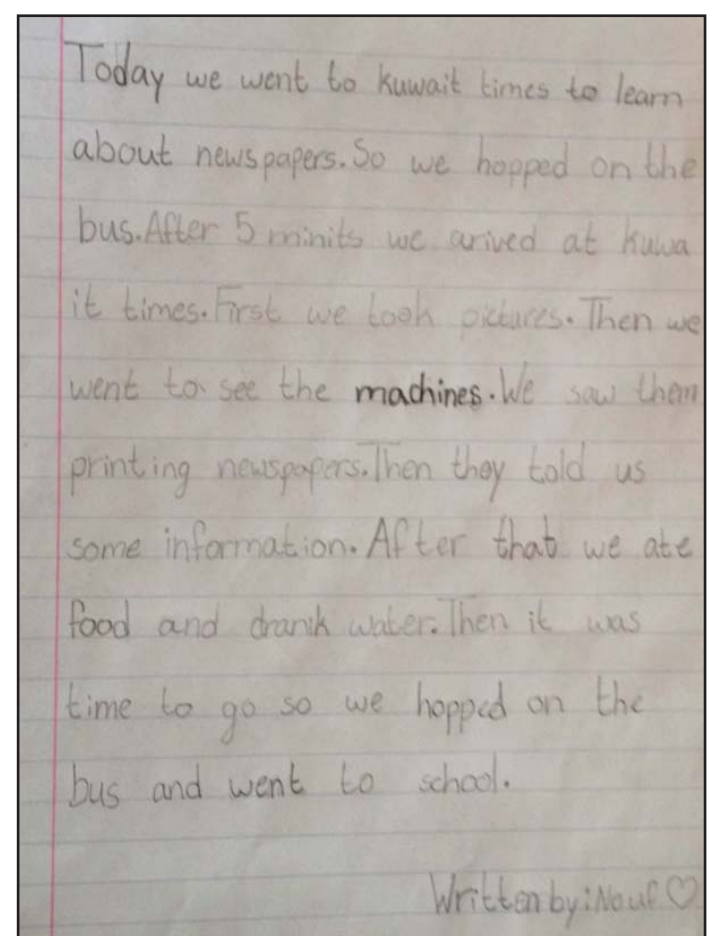
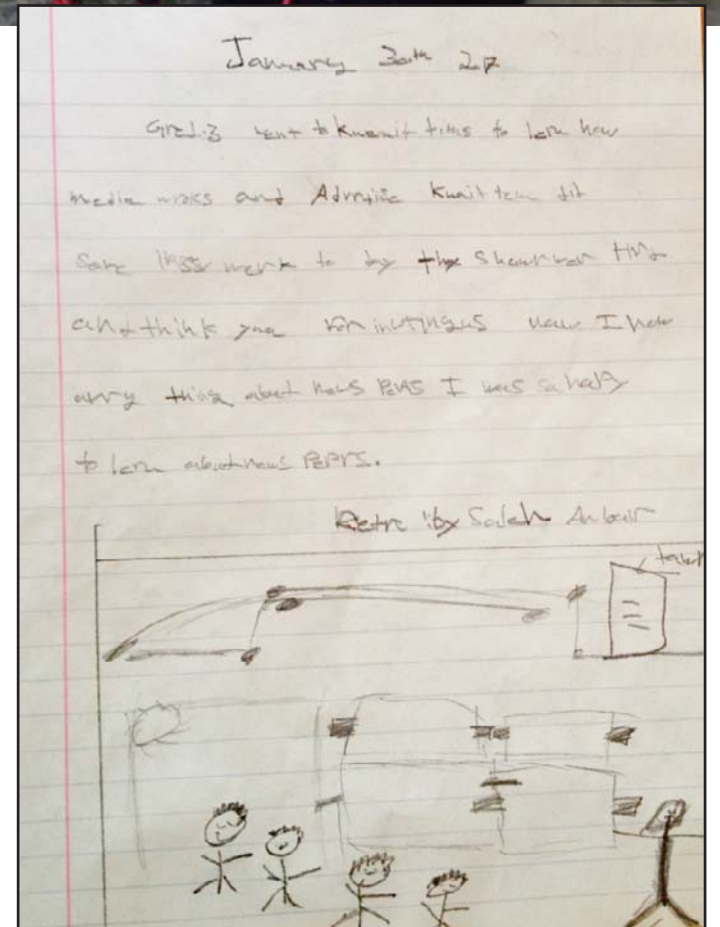
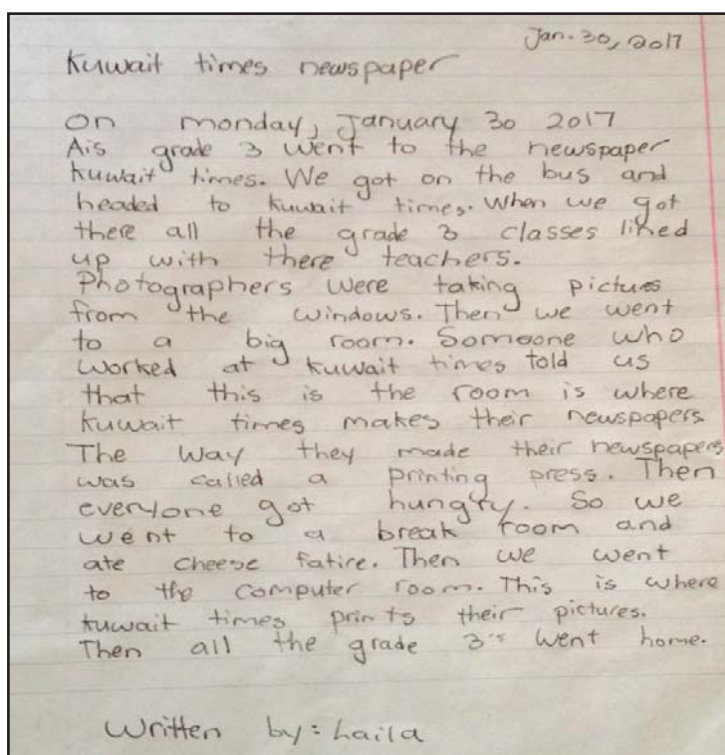
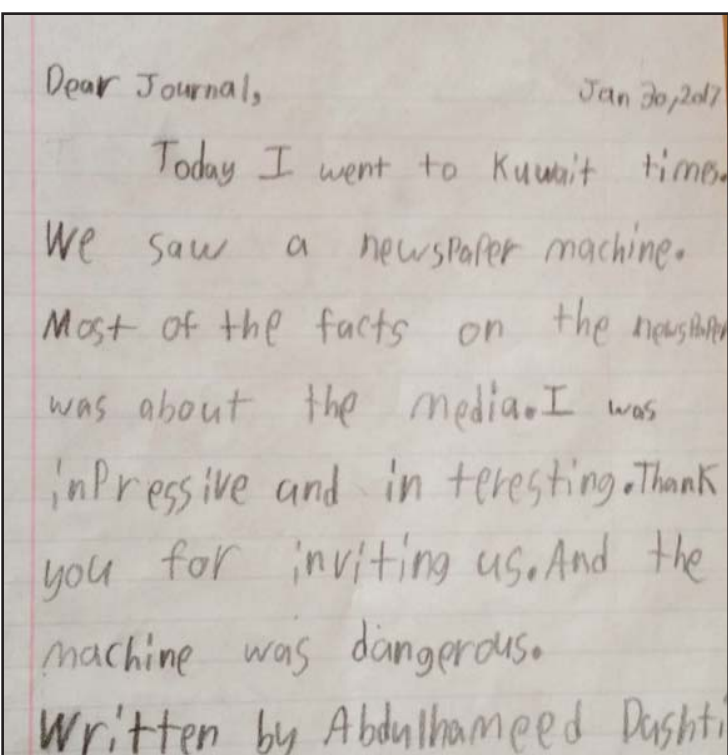
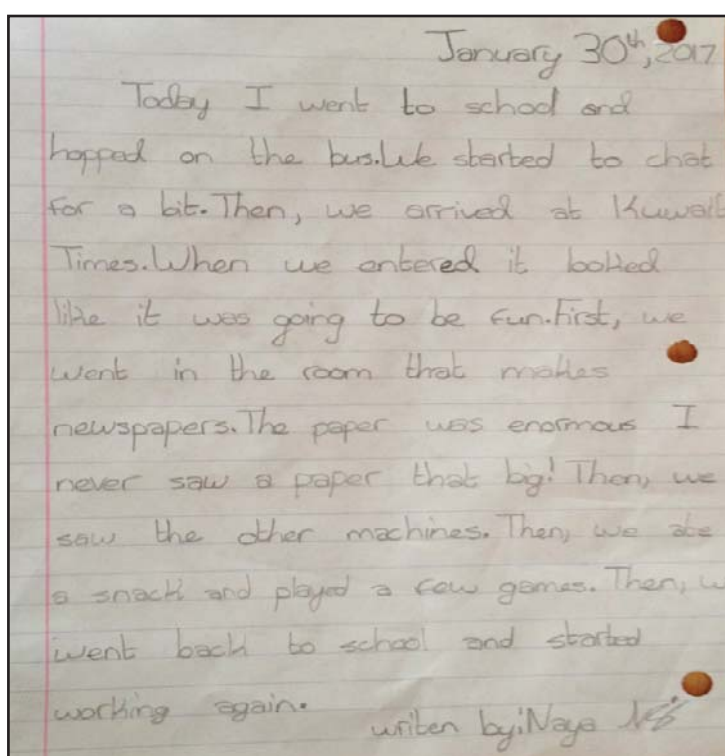
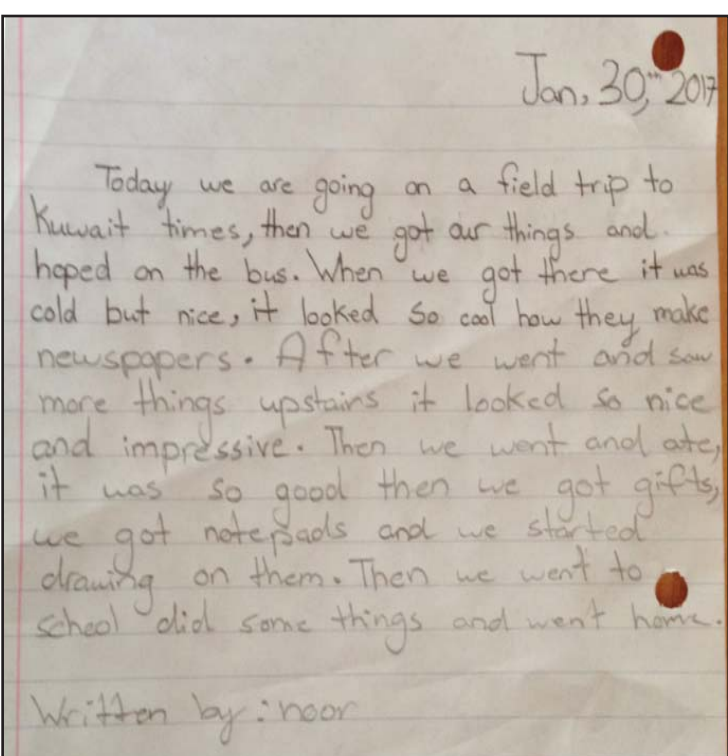
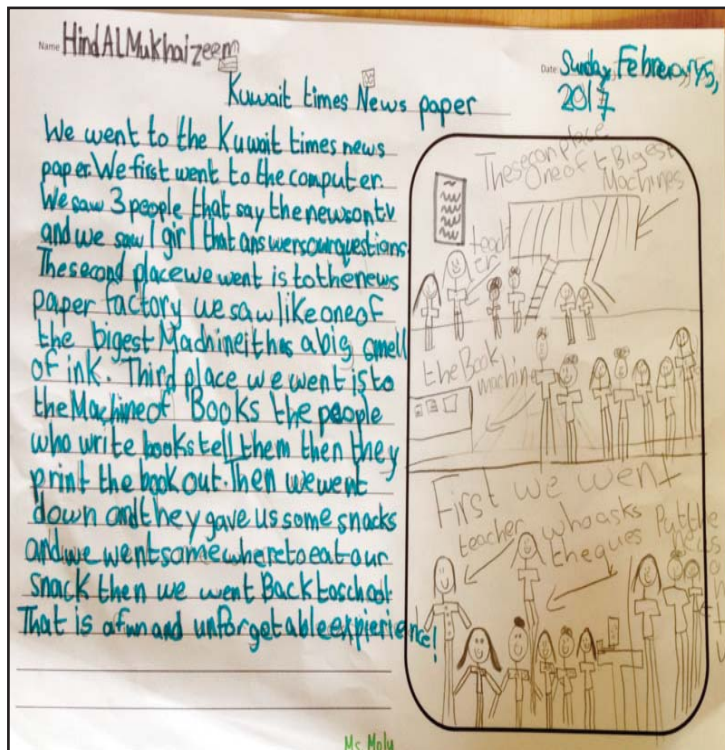






# AIS student essays on visit to Kuwait Times

In late January third grade students from the American International School visited Kuwait Times. They also wrote short essays about what they learned during the visit. We share some of them here.





**OSN MOVIES**  
**ACTION**

- 01:00 The Green Inferno
- 03:00 Mega Shark vs. Mecha Shark
- 05:00 Deep Rising
- 07:00 Seventh Son
- 09:00 Christmas Twister
- 11:00 Deep Rising
- 13:00 Escape
- 14:30 Seventh Son
- 16:30 Six Days Seven Nights
- 18:30 Dragon Blade
- 20:45 Fury
- 23:15 The November Man

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

- 00:00 Treehouse Masters
- 00:55 Gator Boys
- 01:50 Gator Boys
- 02:45 Call Of The Wildman
- 03:10 Call Of The Wildman
- 03:40 Call Of The Wildman
- 04:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 04:35 Call Of The Wildman
- 05:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 05:25 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:49 River Monsters
- 08:36 Going Ape
- 09:00 Going Ape
- 09:25 Groomer Has It
- 10:15 Biggest And Baddest
- 11:10 Call Of The Wildman
- 11:35 Call Of The Wildman
- 12:05 Tanked
- 13:00 Groomer Has It
- 13:55 Bondi Vet
- 14:50 Biggest And Baddest
- 15:45 Gator Boys
- 16:40 Call Of The Wildman
- 17:05 Call Of The Wildman
- 17:35 Tanked
- 18:30 River Monsters
- 19:25 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 20:20 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 21:15 Tanked
- 22:10 Call Of The Wildman
- 22:35 Call Of The Wildman
- 23:05 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet

**BBC FIRST**

- 00:10 Orphan Black
- 00:55 Eastenders
- 01:25 Scott & Bailey
- 02:15 Silent Witness

- 04:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 04:25 Catch A Contractor
- 05:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 05:40 Ridiculousness
- 06:05 Ridiculousness
- 06:30 Hungry Investors
- 07:20 Lip Sync Battle
- 07:50 Lip Sync Battle
- 08:15 Catch A Contractor
- 09:05 Disaster Date
- 09:30 Ridiculousness
- 09:55 Ridiculousness
- 10:20 Workaholics
- 10:45 Disaster Date
- 11:10 Ridiculousness
- 11:35 The It Crowd
- 12:00 Life Or Debt
- 12:50 Ridiculousness
- 13:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 13:40 The It Crowd
- 14:00 Catch A Contractor
- 14:55 Ridiculousness
- 15:20 Hungry Investors
- 16:10 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef
- 16:40 Ridiculousness
- 17:05 Ridiculousness
- 17:30 Disaster Date
- 17:55 Lip Sync Battle
- 18:25 Workaholics
- 18:50 Gym Rescue
- 19:39 The It Crowd
- 20:00 Bondi Vet
- 20:50 Disaster Date
- 21:13 The Jim Gaffigan Show
- 21:37 Kroll Show
- 22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 22:30 Important Things With Demetri Martin
- 22:54 Inside Amy Schumer
- 23:18 Inside Amy Schumer
- 23:42 Kroll Show

**Discovery Family**

- 00:15 Destroyed In Seconds
- 00:40 Destroyed In Seconds
- 01:05 Destroyed In Seconds
- 01:30 Science Of The Movies
- 02:20 Science Of The Movies
- 03:10 Dirty Jobs
- 04:00 Dirty Jobs
- 04:50 Ultimate Survival
- 05:40 Ultimate Survival
- 06:30 Ultimate Survival
- 07:20 How It's Made
- 07:40 How It's Made
- 08:00 Kids vs Film
- 08:25 Bear Grylls Survival School
- 08:50 Bondi Vet

- 13:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:00 Welcome To The Ronks
- 14:15 Gravity Falls
- 14:40 Hank Zipper
- 15:05 Star Darlings
- 15:10 Austin & Ally
- 15:35 Jessie
- 16:00 Bunk'd
- 16:25 Kirby Buckets
- 16:50 Rolling To The Ronks
- 17:15 Sunny Bunnies
- 17:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 17:45 Elena Of Avalor
- 18:10 Stuck In The Middle
- 18:35 Descendants Wicked World
- 18:40 Girl Meets World
- 19:05 Bizaardvark
- 19:30 Bunk'd
- 19:55 Best Friends Whenever
- 20:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 20:25 The Next Step
- 20:50 Austin & Ally
- 21:15 Star Darlings
- 21:20 Shake It Up
- 21:45 Backstage
- 22:10 Liv And Maddie
- 22:35 Cracked
- 22:40 The Next Step
- 23:05 Best Friends Whenever
- 23:30 Jessie
- 23:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts

**Disney Junior**

- 00:00 PJ Masks
- 00:30 PJ Masks
- 00:55 PJ Masks
- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:35 The Hive
- 01:45 Loopedidoo
- 02:00 Henry Hugglemonster
- 02:15 Calimero
- 02:30 Art Attack
- 02:55 Zou
- 03:05 Loopedidoo
- 03:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:35 Calimero
- 03:50 Zou
- 04:05 Art Attack
- 04:30 The Hive
- 04:40 Loopedidoo
- 04:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:10 Art Attack
- 05:35 Loopedidoo
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:05 Art Attack
- 06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:45 Zou
- 07:00 Art Attack
- 07:30 Henry Hugglemonster

- 14:30 Storage Wars Canada
- 14:55 Storage Wars Canada
- 15:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 16:10 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 17:00 Deadliest Catch
- 17:50 Fast N' Loud
- 18:40 Misfit Garage
- 19:30 How Do They Do It?
- 19:55 How Do They Do It?
- 20:20 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 21:10 Storage Wars Canada
- 21:35 Storage Wars Canada
- 22:00 Gold Rush
- 22:50 Everest Rescue
- 23:40 Killing Fields

**Disney XD**

- 00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA
- 07:00 Danger Mouse
- 07:25 Gravity Falls
- 07:50 Atomic Puppet
- 08:15 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 08:25 Counterfeit Cat
- 08:40 Supa Strikas
- 09:10 K.C. Undercover
- 09:35 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures
- 10:00 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 10:25 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 10:50 Danger Mouse
- 11:20 Supa Strikas
- 11:45 Supa Strikas
- 12:10 Counterfeit Cat
- 12:35 Pair Of Kings
- 13:00 Pair Of Kings
- 13:30 Future-Worm!
- 13:55 Lab Rats
- 14:20 Lab Rats
- 14:45 Atomic Puppet
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 15:40 Supa Strikas
- 16:05 Lab Rats
- 16:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 16:55 Right Now Kapow
- 17:25 K.C. Undercover
- 17:50 Future-Worm!
- 18:15 Gravity Falls
- 18:40 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 Supa Strikas
- 19:35 Right Now Kapow
- 20:00 Atomic Puppet
- 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Kickin' It
- 21:45 Mighty Med
- 22:10 Danger Mouse
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 22:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution
- 23:10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
- 23:35 Boyster

**EHD**

- 00:00 So Cosmo
- 01:00 Fashion Police
- 01:55 Famously Single
- 02:50 El News
- 03:50 Botched
- 04:45 Botched
- 05:35 Botched By Nature
- 06:30 Botched
- 07:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:55 El News
- 08:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 09:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 11:10 El News
- 11:40 Celebrity Style Story
- 12:10 Mariah's World
- 13:10 Mariah's World
- 14:05 Mariah's World
- 15:05 Fashion Police
- 16:00 El News
- 16:30 Fashion Police
- 17:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 18:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
- 19:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
- 20:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 20:30 Fashion Bloggers
- 21:00 So Cosmo
- 22:00 So Cosmo
- 23:00 Fashion Police

**food network**

- 00:00 Food Network Star
- 01:00 Private Chef
- 01:30 Private Chef
- 02:00 Patricia Heaton Parties
- 02:30 Patricia Heaton Parties
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 Food Network Star
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:00 The Kitchen

- 08:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:00 Siba's Table
- 09:30 Siba's Table
- 10:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 10:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 11:00 The Kitchen
- 12:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 13:00 Siba's Table
- 13:30 Siba's Table
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 The Kitchen
- 17:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 17:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 20:00 Restaurant Stakeout
- 21:00 Mystery Diners
- 21:30 Mystery Diners
- 22:00 Restaurant Takeover
- 23:00 Iron Chef America

**itv HD CHOICE**

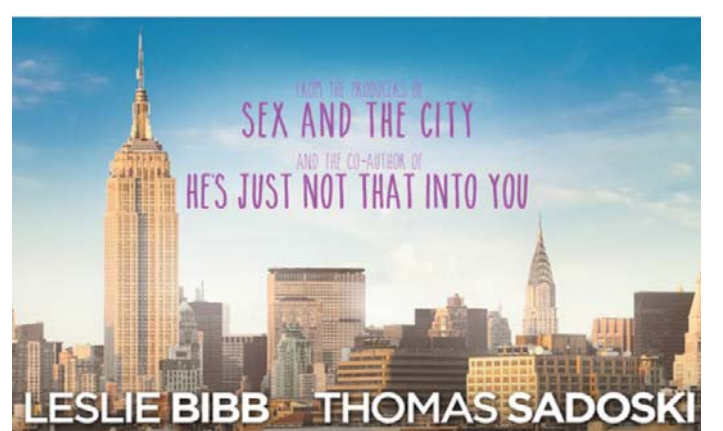
- 00:40 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 01:10 The Chase
- 02:00 Emmerdale
- 02:30 Emmerdale
- 03:00 Coronation Street
- 03:30 Couples Come Dine With Me
- 04:25 Don't Tell The Bride
- 05:25 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 06:15 The Trials Of Jimmy Rose
- 07:10 The Chase
- 08:05 Couples Come Dine With Me
- 09:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 10:00 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 11:00 The Trials Of Jimmy Rose
- 11:55 The Chase
- 12:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
- 13:45 Emmerdale
- 14:15 Coronation Street
- 14:45 Coronation Street
- 15:15 The Chase
- 16:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
- 17:00 Vera
- 19:45 Grantchester
- 19:45 Emmerdale
- 20:15 Coronation Street
- 20:45 Coronation Street
- 21:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
- 22:00 Vera
- 23:50 Emmerdale

**H2 HD**

- 00:00 Last Days Of The Nazis
- 01:00 Heroes Of War
- 02:00 Monster Quest
- 03:00 Ancient Impossible
- 04:00 The Human Calculator
- 04:50 Ancient Aliens
- 05:40 Last Days Of The Nazis
- 06:30 Heroes Of War
- 07:20 Monster Quest
- 08:10 The Universe
- 09:00 Ancient Impossible
- 10:00 The Human Calculator
- 11:00 Ancient Aliens
- 12:00 The Universe
- 13:00 Heroes Of War
- 14:00 Monster Quest
- 15:00 Ancient Impossible
- 16:00 The Human Calculator
- 17:00 Ancient Aliens
- 18:00 The Universe
- 19:00 Heroes Of War
- 20:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
- 21:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 22:00 Missing In Alaska
- 23:00 Ancient Aliens

**H HD HISTORY**

- 00:05 Car Hunters
- 00:30 American Pickers
- 01:20 Time Team
- 02:10 Pawn Stars
- 02:35 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 03:00 Storage Wars
- 03:25 Storage Wars
- 03:50 Storage Wars
- 04:15 American Pickers
- 05:05 Pawn Stars
- 05:30 Pawn Stars
- 06:00 Mountain Men
- 07:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 07:50 Shipping Wars
- 08:15 Shipping Wars
- 08:40 Counting Cars
- 09:05 Counting Cars
- 09:30 Pawn Stars
- 09:55 Pawn Stars
- 10:20 Storage Wars
- 10:45 Storage Wars
- 11:10 American Pickers
- 12:00 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 12:50 Time Team
- 13:50 Swamp People
- 14:30 Ax Men
- 15:20 Mountain Men



**TAKE CARE**



**TAKE CARE ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD**

- 16:10 Snipping Wars
- 16:35 Snipping Wars
- 17:00 Counting Cars
- 17:25 Counting Cars
- 17:50 Pawn Stars
- 18:15 Pawn Stars
- 18:40 Storage Wars
- 19:05 Storage Wars
- 19:30 Pawn Stars
- 19:55 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 20:20 Mountain Men
- 21:10 American Pickers
- 22:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 22:50 Hunting Hitler: Inside The Investigation
- 23:40 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle

**OSN MOVIES**

**DRAMA**

- 00:00 Double Jeopardy
- 02:00 Glass Chin
- 04:00 Session 9
- 06:00 Kept Woman
- 08:00 Haunting In Hollow Creek
- 10:00 13 Sins
- 12:00 The Frozen
- 14:00 Transcendence
- 16:00 Oliver's Deal
- 18:00 The Darkness
- 20:00 The Haunting
- 22:00 Final Girl

**OSN MOVIES HD**

**FAMILY**

- 00:00 Brother Bear
- 02:00 Eight Below
- 04:00 Toy Story
- 06:00 Houdini On The Trail Of Marsupilami
- 07:30 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame II
- 08:45 Toy Story
- 10:15 Brother Bear
- 12:15 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame II
- 14:00 Toy Story 2
- 16:00 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
- 18:00 Treasure Planet
- 20:00 Snow Dogs
- 22:00 House Arrest

**OSN MOVIES HD**

- 00:15 Crimson Peak
- 02:15 Tiger House
- 04:00 Where Hope Grows
- 06:00 I'll See You In My Dreams
- 08:00 Tumbledown
- 10:00 The 5th Wave
- 12:00 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II
- 14:15 Miracles From Heaven
- 16:15 Me And Earl And The Dying Girl
- 18:00 Everest
- 20:00 The Huntsman: Winter's War
- 22:00 10 Cloverfield Lane

**OSN MOVIES HD**

**COMEDY**

- 01:00 Freaks Of Nature
- 03:00 Perfect Match
- 05:00 A Merry Christmas Miracle
- 07:00 Absolutely Anything
- 09:00 Perfect Match
- 11:00 A Merry Christmas Miracle
- 13:00 Absolutely Anything
- 15:00 The Final Girls
- 17:00 Take Care
- 19:00 Blue Streak
- 21:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness
- 23:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2

**OSN MOVIES**

**FESTIVAL**

- 02:15 Summer In February
- 04:00 Escobar: Paradise Lost
- 06:30 Mystic River
- 09:00 The Express
- 11:30 2001: A Space Odyssey
- 14:00 The Man Who Wasn't There
- 16:30 Ironweed
- 19:00 The Help
- 21:30 Unbroken

**OSN MOVIES HD**

**KIDS**

- 00:15 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 02:00 Worms
- 03:30 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
- 05:15 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
- 07:00 The Wild Thornberrys Movie
- 08:45 Miffy The Movie
- 10:15 The Unbeatables
- 12:00 Worms
- 13:30 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
- 15:15 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 17:00 The Unbeatables
- 19:00 The Three Dogateers
- 21:00 Cher Ami
- 22:45 Bamse And The City Of Thieves

**NAT GEO people HD**

- 00:20 The Shelbourne
- 00:45 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 01:10 Chocolate Covered
- 01:35 Glamour Puds
- 02:00 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 02:25 Carnival Eats
- 02:50 Carnival Eats
- 03:15 Chocolate Covered
- 03:40 Glamour Puds
- 04:05 Home Strange Home
- 04:55 The Wine Show
- 05:45 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 06:10 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 06:35 Poh & Co
- 07:00 Chocolate Covered
- 07:25 Glamour Puds
- 07:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 08:15 Carnival Eats
- 08:40 Carnival Eats
- 09:05 Chocolate Covered
- 09:30 Glamour Puds
- 09:55 Home Strange Home
- 10:45 The Wine Show
- 11:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 12:00 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 12:25 Poh & Co
- 12:50 Chocolate Covered
- 13:15 Glamour Puds
- 13:40 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 14:05 Carnival Eats
- 14:35 Carnival Eats
- 15:00 Glamour Puds
- 15:30 One Man & His Campervan
- 15:55 Home Strange Home
- 16:50 The Wine Show
- 17:45 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 18:15 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 18:40 Poh & Co
- 19:10 Glamour Puds
- 19:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 20:05 Home Strange Home
- 21:00 The Wine Show
- 21:50 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 22:15 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 22:40 Poh & Co
- 23:05 Glamour Puds
- 23:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 23:55 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD**

- 00:20 Battleground Brothers
- 01:10 Wicked Tuna
- 02:00 Egypt's Treasure Guardians
- 03:00 StarTalk
- 03:55 Mine Kings
- 04:50 Wicked Tuna
- 05:45 Big, Bigger, Biggest
- 06:40 Megacities
- 07:35 Nazi Temple Of Doom
- 08:30 Drain The Ocean: WWII
- 09:25 Nazi Underworld
- 10:20 Big, Bigger, Biggest
- 11:15 The Border
- 12:10 Highway Thru Hell
- 13:05 Dirty Rotten Survival
- 14:00 Nazi Underworld
- 15:00 Apocalypse: The Battle Of Verdun
- 16:00 Apocalypse: The Battle Of Verdun
- 17:00 The Border
- 18:00 Highway Thru Hell
- 19:00 Mine Kings
- 20:00 Mega Factories: Supercars
- 21:00 The Border
- 21:50 Highway Thru Hell
- 22:40 Mine Kings
- 23:30 Mega Factories: Supercars

**NAT GEO WILD HD**

- 00:30 Hidden Worlds
- 01:20 World's Deadliest
- 02:10 Dead Or Alive
- 03:00 Thunder Beasts
- 03:50 Maneater Manhunt
- 04:45 Botswana
- 05:40 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
- 06:35 Thunder Beasts
- 07:30 Maneater Manhunt
- 08:25 Botswana
- 09:20 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
- 10:15 Freaks & Creeps
- 11:10 Giant Panda: The Last Refuge
- 12:05 Botswana



**FURY ON OSN MOVIES ACTION**

- 03:20 Silent Witness
- 04:20 Orphan Black
- 05:05 Doctors
- 05:35 Eastenders
- 06:05 New Tricks
- 07:00 Doctors
- 07:30 Eastenders
- 08:00 Casualty
- 08:55 Death In Paradise
- 09:50 Stella
- 10:35 New Tricks
- 11:30 Doctors
- 12:00 Eastenders
- 12:30 Death In Paradise
- 13:25 Stella
- 14:20 New Tricks
- 15:15 Doctors
- 15:45 Eastenders
- 16:15 Death In Paradise
- 17:10 Stella
- 18:05 New Tricks
- 19:00 Casualty
- 20:00 Death In Paradise
- 21:00 Line Of Duty
- 22:00 Line Of Duty
- 23:05 Ripper Street

**crime & investigation network**

- 00:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 01:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
- 02:00 The Haunting Of...
- 03:00 Stalked By A Ghost
- 04:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 05:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
- 06:00 The Haunting Of...
- 07:00 Stalked By A Ghost
- 08:00 The First 48
- 09:00 Evil Up Close
- 10:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 11:00 It Takes A Killer
- 11:30 It Takes A Killer
- 12:00 Crime Stories
- 13:00 Crime Stories
- 14:00 Crime Stories
- 15:00 Crime Stories
- 16:00 Evil Up Close
- 17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 18:00 It Takes A Killer
- 18:30 It Takes A Killer
- 19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 20:00 The First 48
- 21:00 The First 48
- 22:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 23:00 Evil Up Close

**Disney Channel HD**

- 00:00 Kirby Buckets
- 00:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:10 Hank Zipper
- 01:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:00 Violetta
- 02:45 The Hive
- 02:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:40 Hank Zipper
- 04:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 04:30 Violetta
- 05:15 The Hive
- 05:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 06:10 Hank Zipper
- 06:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 07:00 Violetta
- 07:45 The Hive
- 07:50 The 7D
- 08:00 Jessie
- 08:25 Jessie
- 08:50 Rolling To The Ronks
- 09:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 09:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 09:45 Bunk'd
- 10:10 Stuck In The Middle
- 10:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 11:00 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 11:25 A.N.T. Farm
- 11:50 A.N.T. Farm
- 12:15 Good Luck Charlie
- 12:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 13:05 Shake It Up
- 13:30 Shake It Up



# CLASSIFIEDS



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2017

**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

**Kuwait Times**

Kuwait CINEMA				KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (16/02/2017 TO 22/02/2017)			
<b>SHARQIA-1</b>	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	11:30 AM	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	1:30 PM	<b>MARINA-3</b>	RINGS	12:00 PM
	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	1:30 PM	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	3:30 PM		JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	2:30 PM
	NO FRI+SAT		THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	5:30 PM		RINGS	5:00 PM
	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	1:30 PM	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	7:45 PM		JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	7:15 PM
	FRI+SAT		EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	9:45 AM		JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	9:45 PM
	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	3:45 PM	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	11:45 AM		JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:15 AM
	KAABIL- HINDI	6:00 PM			<b>AVENUES-1</b>	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	11:30 AM
	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	9:00 PM	<b>FANAR-2</b>	PET		THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	1:45 PM
	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	11:00 PM		12:30 PM		THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	4:00 PM
	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	1:00 AM		2:30 PM		THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	6:15 PM
				4:30 PM		THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	8:30 PM
				6:30 PM		THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	10:30 PM
				8:30 PM		AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	12:30 AM
				10:30 PM		AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	
				12:30 AM		AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>	GOLD	12:45 PM					
	ARSENAL	3:00 PM					
	GOLD	5:00 PM					
	GOLD	7:15 PM					
	ARSENAL	9:30 PM					
	ARSENAL	11:30 PM					
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:45 PM					
	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	3:15 PM					
	RINGS	5:45 PM					
	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	7:45 PM					
	RINGS	10:15 PM					
	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:30 AM					
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>	PET	12:15 PM					
	PET	2:15 PM					
	PET	4:15 PM					
	NO FRI+SAT						
	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	4:15 PM					
	FRI+SAT						
	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	6:30 PM					
	RINGS	8:45 PM					
	RINGS	10:45 PM					
	PET	12:45 AM					
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	12:00 PM					
	KAABIL- HINDI	2:00 PM					
	JOLLY LLB 2 -Hindi	5:00 PM					
	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	8:00 PM					
	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	10:00 PM					
	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	12:05 AM					
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:45 PM					
	ARSENAL	3:15 PM					
	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	5:15 PM					
	ARSENAL	7:45 PM					
	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	9:45 PM					
	ARSENAL	12:15 AM					
<b>FANAR-1</b>	EL QERD BEYETKALIM-Arabic	11:30 AM					

**NOTICE**  
 February 8, 2017

Mr. Phintsho Tshering Bhutia son of Mr. Palden Bhutia, resident of Doma s communication, Rishi Road Kalimpong, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India and Ms. Sarita Subba daughter of Mr. Shankar Subba, resident of Sunwar Busty, Aalobari, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India, both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (attachecoms@indembkwt.org, welfaresection@indembkwt.org) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).

Ph.00965-22550171 - 00965-22533125  
 Fax: 00965-22573910  
 Email: attachecoms@indembkwt.org, welfaresection@indembkwt.org

**MATRIMONIAL**

Jacobite parents invite proposals for their son, Post Graduate Engineer, 29/173, working in Kuwait. M4marry profile ID - 4178223. Email: scariahrej@gmail.com (C 5275) 18-2-2017

**TRANSPORT**

Transport required from Dhajeej to Hawally Qutaiba street, from 5 pm. Friday & Saturday off. Contact: 99878317. 15-2-2017

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, GANIJI ZAINAB QURESH, wife of Murtuza Mustufa Jawadwala, holder of Passport No. J0366967 & Civil ID No. 283021503013 has changed my name to ZAINAB MURTUZA JAWADWALA hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by my new name ZAINAB MURTUZA JAWADWALA. (C 5274) 16-2-2017

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

**PRAYER TIMINGS**

**Fajr: 05:05**  
**Shorook: 06:24**  
**Duhr: 12:02**  
**Asr: 15:15**  
**Maghrib: 17:40**  
**Isha: 18:57**

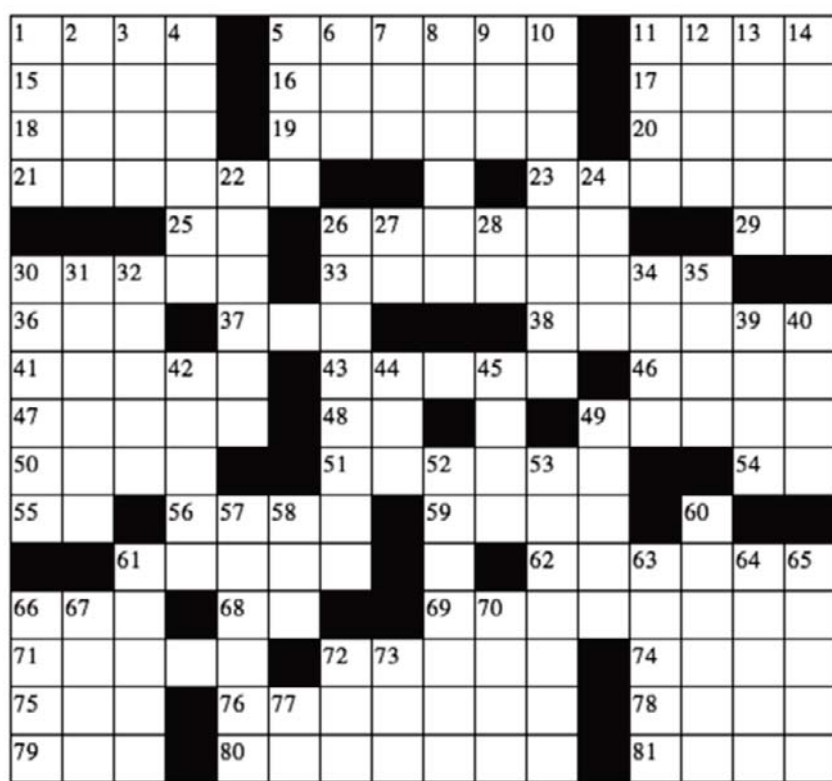
**Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)**

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Monday 20/2/2017				Departure Flights on Monday 20/2/2017			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	KAC	564	Amman	13:40
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	FEG	931	Alexandria	13:55
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
FDK	803	Damascus	01:00	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
KAC	742	Dammam	01:00	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	KAC	414	Bangkok	14:35
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	542	Cairo	14:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	KAC	286	Dhaka	15:20
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05	KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10
CEB	0018	Manila	03:15	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25
KAC	358	Kochi	03:30	KAC	788	Jeddah	16:30
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	16:35
KAC	784	Jeddah	03:55	RJA	640	Amman	16:55
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	KAC	118	New York	17:00
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
JZR	503	Luxor	05:10	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:45	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	KAC	502	Beirut	18:45
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:20	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25
BAW	157	London	06:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	620	Doha	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	KAC	166	Rome	19:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	KNE	381	Taif	19:55
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	KAC	694	Muscat	20:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	FDB	5053	Dubai	21:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
FDK	801	Damascus	11:45	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:05
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	ETD	919	Abu Dhabi/Bahrain	22:45
FEG	953	Asyut	12:35	JZR	241	Amman	22:45
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	KAC	164	Paris	22:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:50	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
				BBC	143	Dhaka	23:55



CROSSWORD 1527



ACROSS

1. Young sheep.
5. Derived from, or resembling, tan or tannin.
11. Footwear usually with wooden soles.
15. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
16. Trade name for an alloy used to make high-energy permanent magnets.
17. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
18. Affected manners intended to impress others.
19. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Columba and Eridanus.
20. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
21. The quarter of many North African cities in which the citadel is located.
23. An insane person.
25. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
29. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
30. Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.
33. Line that is the commercial organization responsible for operating a railway system.
36. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
37. The law enforcement agency in the Justice Department.
38. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
41. A farewell remark.
43. A hidden storage space (for money or provisions or weapons).
46. Wearing or provided with clothing.
47. Employing variations in pitch to distinguish meanings of otherwise similar words.
48. One thousand periods per second.
50. Oval reproductive body of a fowl (especially a hen) used as food.
51. A minor parish official who serves as an usher and preserves order at services.
54. A public promotion of some product or service.
55. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
56. English essayist (1775-1834).
59. Flowing in drops.
62. Wig for men fashionable in 17th-18th centuries.
66. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
68. The second largest state.
69. Resulting from inflammation.
71. A person to whom money is paid.
74. An aggressive remark directed at a person like a missile and intended to have a telling effect.
75. A pointed tool for marking surfaces or for punching small holes.
76. Relating to or like or divided into areolae.
78. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
79. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
80. Desk or stand with a slanted top used to hold a text at the proper height for a lecturer.
81. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

1. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
2. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
3. The 4th planet from the sun.
4. An electrical conductor that makes a common connection between several circuits.
5. Measuring instrument for indicating speed of rotation.
6. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
7. The compass point that is midway between north and northeast.
8. Large Indian antelope.
9. A hospital unit staffed and equipped to provide intensive care.
10. Transactions having the objective of supplying commodities.
11. A pointed instrument used to prod into motion.
12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
13. The first of three divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures comprising the first five books of the Old Testament considered as a unit.
14. A particular environment or walk of life.
22. The quantity that can be contained in the arms.
24. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
26. A fragment of brick used as a weapon.
27. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
28. A soft gray malleable metallic element that resembles tin but discolors on exposure to air.
31. A lake in northwestern Russia north of St. Petersburg.
32. Growing old.
34. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
35. Surrealist Spanish painter (1904-1989).
39. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
40. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
42. (of pain or sorrow) Made easier to bear.
44. (informal) Of the highest quality.
45. A blind god.
49. Cause to move back by force or influence.
52. Capable of being added or added to.
53. Any of various terrestrial ferns of the genus Cheilanthes.
57. Of or relating to the corpus luteum.
58. Being nine more than fifty.
60. Guinea fowl.
61. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
63. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
64. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
65. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
67. A field of cultivated and mowed grass.
70. Not far distant in time or space or degree or circumstances.
72. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
73. (often followed by 'of') A large number or amount or extent.
77. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Discovering what you truly believe in-fighting for it, even-is a high personal priority now. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the arenas where this interest takes place. Close relationships offer a lot of potential for good fortune. A marriage or other partnership can raise high hopes and give your spirits a boost. People close to you are optimistic and have good prospects. This evening your creative skills may come into play as your inner awareness of beauty may show itself through your involvement in sculpting, painting or weaving. This is also a good time for romance. Perhaps a shared hobby will hold your attention now. You are happy to share whatever information you have regarding your hobby. A tradition has begun.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself unrealistic, in a dreamy mood and at odds with your duties. Friends may not appreciate or agree with your dreamy side just now. Travel may be just the thing to help you achieve a focus for what you want to accomplish. If you cannot take several days off from your daily activities, at least take a one-day outing, perhaps to the next city or an interesting nearby tourist site. You can have some wonderful close up times with young people this evening. You may be sought after for your guidance regarding very personal and emotional issues. You will be able to be understanding and handle this unpredictable material. Neighbors may ask for your input on community matters this evening. Your suggestions make a positive difference.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The new, the futuristic and the high-tech all have your attention today. Actually, a shopping trip can prove quite fruitful. While others may consider your purchase a sort of white elephant type of purchase, you may consider your purchase an investment. Confidentially, you made a good choice! A bookstore may also get your attention today and you will want to encourage each member of the family to find a book he or she can enjoy as well. Do not push your energies too far now, as you could incite an argument. You may spend the rest of this day enjoying your purchases. The evening will find you visiting with one or two of your many friends. Talking and listening to experiences and laughing over the change of the times relieve much tension.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Complete any physical changes you want to make now such as a new hairstyle, clothes, etc. You may be surprised and pleased at the new emerging butterfly you see in yourself. You have a need to be acknowledged and a new look may help to boost your confidence. Remember to continue to make notes on your calendar so that you will stay updated with the chores you feel you need to do. This will keep things from adding up and crashing in on you when you are busy. You may feel that you are in touch with others; the lines of communication are open. The support you need is there for you now. New friends and an involvement in idealistic groups take on greater importance; the old is worth review but the new seems to hold all the answers.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Mundane tasks are not for you-your interests are elsewhere! You may yearn for an adventure to take you out and away! Regardless-it is important to perform your chores-they are necessary ingredients that get you from one place to another. After the chores are completed, you can sit down with your feet up and just relax for a bit. This afternoon, you may want to become involved with what others are doing. You will find this is a time of high energy-any project begun now has the potential of being quite successful. Everything conspires to reveal you at your most elegant, particularly in social situations. You will have a real connection when joined by others with the same commonalities-religion, political issues, community support, etc.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Stretch as if you were a cat and then get your wishing mind focused because this is a day that can take you in many positive directions. Wishes can come true! Science, philosophy and religion are likely to seem as if they hold the ultimate answers. True wisdom lies in discovering that there are no ultimate answers, only good questions. Ideological crusades can set your head spinning; distant journeys can stir your soul. There is money coming in your direction as well as the removal of a past debt. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation today and feel especially kind toward a friend or loved one. Sharing a little time with your lover or with close friends completes your day. Beautiful music fills the air this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Change what you can and stop picking at the rest. This could be emotional as well as material. You will have support when you begin to upgrade and improve any situation that lacks approval. Once a particular difficulty is understood, acceptance can be enjoyed. Phone conversations and over-the-fence visits with neighbors add to pleasant times. In the afternoon you and your friends could enjoy a bicycle ride or a trip to a popular tourist attraction. One important lesson this year is in communicating clearly. There is no better way to learn this than when you are with others. You will have new insights as you observe others. See if you can spot the people that communicate with authority, respect, love, aspiration, exhilaration or curiosity.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have entered a period of greater social involvement-especially with neighbors and brothers or sisters. Learning and teaching satisfy an important need. You encourage and show others in your family that slowing down your day in order to play with games or some other face to face interaction brings out fun jokes, silly games and a relaxed atmosphere for all to enjoy. Self-expression is the word for today and many will be on the receiving end of your chatter. One of your friends needs advice today but if you can encourage your friend to answer her or his own questions, your opinion or approval will not be needed, but will be appreciated. Letter writing, telephone conversations and visits with neighbors make for a busy day and good fellowship.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Excited to have a free day, you may feel like getting out and visiting with those you love. Looking through the papers or hearing about an event from a friend may give you some ideas for your unplanned day. Your workweek has been full of accomplishments and today you deserve some time to yourself that will make you happy. This happy time may be spent in the company of others, viewing a movie with or without others, trying out some new exercise equipment or any other activity-even vegetating. This afternoon you could meet up with an old friend. A snack, watching or playing sports, chats over a sports game, etc. Spiritual values will prevail and poetry or some form of art can be expressed this evening. Music plays a big part of your peace.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You have excellent taste in clothes and the proper attire. As you well know, this can make a difference in your success by making those good first impressions. This is not a good time to shop for yourself-however, it is a good time to shop for others or to cull through that closet of yours and plan your shopping. Set aside some of the things that will need cleaning or mending. Avoid lifting heavy objects, even if it means storing things in more than one container. Shopping for a friend's or loved one's gift today turns out to be lots of fun. Others may find you especially witty this afternoon. Movies, books and all forms of escape could prove very enjoyable. Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized at this period in your life.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your confidence and happiness attract joyful and contented people into your life. Home, family and real estate are some of the interests that require a lot of discipline and responsibility. Relationships need nurturing and you are in the mood to listen. Possessions need a reassessment-you may want to dive in and sell or give away some of the things you have been storing and are not using any longer. Neatness is your trademark; you may have been just waiting to find this time to clean out and get rid of those outworn and little-used items. Clutter is not your thing! You may be reading, reviewing or learning about some new tax law this evening-discovering some winning tax strategies. There is a sense of teamwork and respect that promotes harmony.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Do your outside work early in the day today and make sure you protect yourself from the wind and cold. Others may take advantage of your generous nature. You tend to bail friends and loved ones out of financial trouble whenever you hear about their plight. It is important for you to see the necessity for all people to learn their own lessons with financial responsibilities. Do not confuse wishful thinking for sound financial judgment. You will profit from your intuition later this afternoon. Lovers, children and other people dear to your heart are emphasized this evening and tonight may be a time of a family gathering that needs the attention of any available camera. As your family grows, a pocket notebook calendar will help you remember special occasions.

WORD SEARCH

Movie Actresses 1

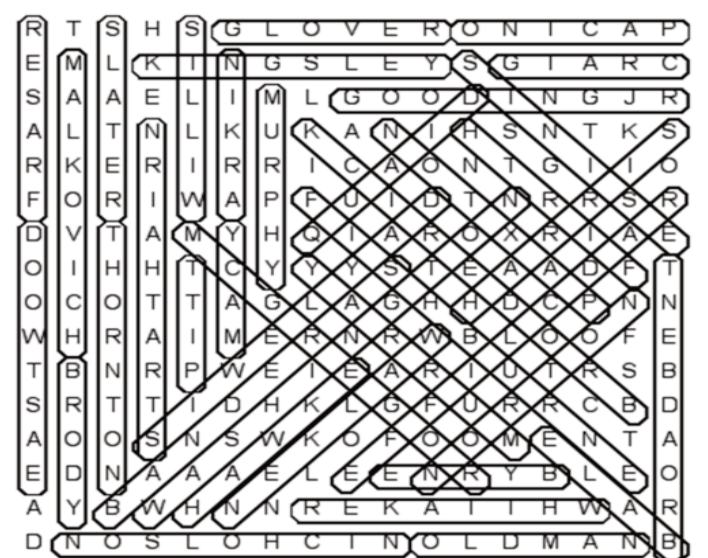
Find and circle all of the Movie Actresses that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a movie for which Jodie Foster won an Oscar.



- |                    |                   |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| ADAMS, Amy         | CUTHBERT, Elisha  | LANE, Diane        |
| ALBA, Jessica      | DAVIS, Hope       | LONGE, Jessica     |
| ALLEN, Joan        | DENCH, Judi       | MCDORMAND, Frances |
| BARRYMORE, Drew    | DIAZ, Cameron     | MIRREN, Helen      |
| BENING, Annette    | FANNING, Dakota   | MOORE, Demi        |
| BERRY, Halle       | FOSTER, Jodie     | PALTRON, Gwyneth   |
| BIEL, Jessica      | GUGINO, Carla     | PAQUIN, Anna       |
| BLANCHETT, Cate    | HATHAWAY, Anne    | RICCI, Christina   |
| BLETHYN, Brenda    | HUNTER, Holly     | SWANK, Hilary      |
| BLUNT, Emily       | HUSTON, Anjelica  | THERON, Charlize   |
| CLOSE, Glenn       | JOLIE, Angelina   | THOMPSON, Emma     |
| CONNELLY, Jennifer | KEENER, Catherine | WATSON, Emily      |
| CUSACK, Joan       |                   |                    |

Yesterday's Solution

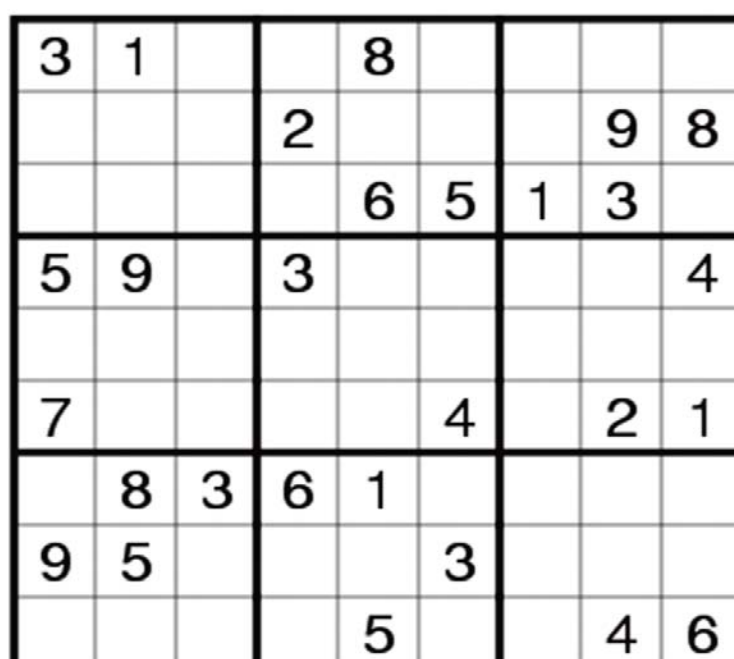
Movie Actors 3



- |                     |                  |                     |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| ARKIN, Alan         | GLOVER, Danny    | PACINO, Al          |
| BALE, Christian     | GOODING JR, Cuba | PAXTON, Bill        |
| BANDERAS, Antonio   | HARRIS, Ed       | PITT, Brad          |
| BROADBENT, Jim      | HAWKE, Ethan     | QUAID, Dennis       |
| BRODERICK, Matthew  | KINGSLEY, Ben    | RADCLIFFE, Daniel   |
| BRODY, Adrian       | MACY, William H. | SINISE, Gary        |
| BYRNE, Gabriel      | MALKOVICH, John  | SLATER, Christian   |
| CRAIG, Daniel       | MCGREGOR, Ewan   | STRATHAIRN, David   |
| DAY-LEWIS, Daniel   | MURPHY, Eddie    | THORNTON, Billy Bob |
| EASTWOOD, Clint     | MURRAY, Bill     | WALKEN, Christopher |
| FIRTH, Colin        | NICHOLSON, Jack  | WASHINGTON, Denzel  |
| FISHBURNE, Laurence | NORTON, Edward   | WHITAKER, Forest    |
| FRASER, Brendan     | OLDMAN, Gary     | WILLIS, Bruce       |

The hidden movie title is: THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



## PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

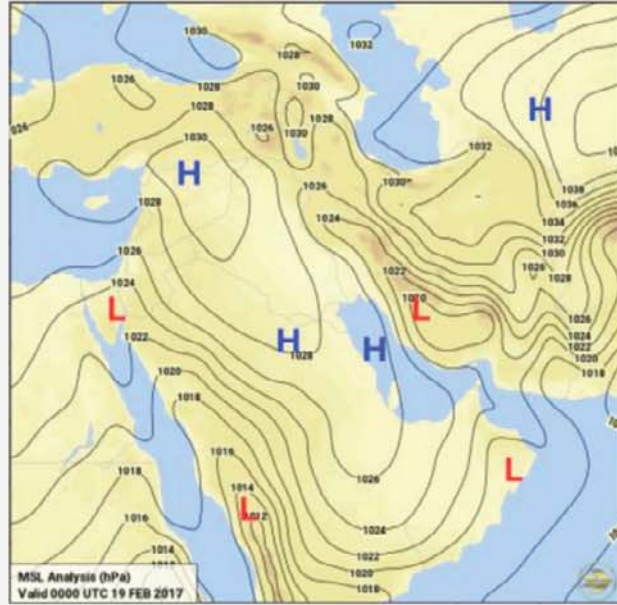
### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 19/02/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 16 °C

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h  
By Night : Very cold with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather				
Min Temp °C	04	07	07	08
Max Temp °C	18	18	20	20
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly to light variable	north westerly to light variable	variable wind changing to south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 32	08 - 30	08 - 28	06 - 28

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	07	15
KUWAIT AIRPORT	01	16
ABDALY	01	14
BUBYAN	03	14
JAHRA	04	15
FAILAKA ISLAND	05	14
SALMIYAH	08	13
AHMADI	06	13
JAL ALIYAH	01	13
QAROH ISLAND	10	13
UMM AL-MARADEM	10	13
NUWAISIB	03	15
WAFRA	02	15
MANAGISH	02	13
SALMIYAH	-0	12
MUTRIBA	00	15

### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	14
Min Temp (°C)	06
Max Rel Hum (%)	43
Min Rel Hum (%)	15
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	46 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

	Sunrise	06:24
	Sunset	17:40

### Prayer Times

Fajr	05:05
Sunrise	06:24
Zuhr	12:02
Asr	15:15
Sunset	17:40
Isha	18:57

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



## PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	Family Doctor
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24550505 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	Psychiatrists
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24550505 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrah	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
DR.Mohammed Akkad	24550505 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists / Psychotherapists	Soor Center	Kaizen center	Noor Clinic	William Schuilenberg, RPC
info@soorcenter.com	Tel: 2290-1677	25716707	23845955	2290-1677
www.soorcenter.com	Fax: 2290 1688			Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

Psychologists / Psychotherapists	Soor Center	Kaizen center	Noor Clinic	William Schuilenberg, RPC
info@soorcenter.com	Tel: 2290-1677	25716707	23845955	2290-1677
www.soorcenter.com	Fax: 2290 1688			Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



## MUSIC &amp; MOVIES



Israeli Arab Maysaloun Hamoud, director of the film 'Bar Bahar', poses with a tattoo bearing the title of her film.



Israeli Arab Maysaloun Hamoud, director of the film 'Bar Bahar', speaks during an interview with AFP in Tel Aviv.



Israeli Arab Maysaloun Hamoud, director of the film 'Bar Bahar', poses as she hugs a friend during an interview with AFP in Tel Aviv. — AFP photos

## Alcohol, drugs and sexuality: Arab Israeli film faces backlash

The culture clash in "Bar Bahar" starts off when Nur, a veiled and conservative Muslim, moves into a flat with two other Arab Israeli women and sees their drug-taking, party-going lives. But for its director, the real shock of the film, which opened last month in Israel, has been the controversy it has whipped up, even death threats on social media. Maysaloun Hamoud, herself an Arab, always hoped her first feature film would hit hard. In its two hours, the Galilee-born filmmaker, 35, tackles almost all the taboos of Arab Israeli society: Drugs, alcohol, homosexuality.

Salma is rejected by her Christian family for being a lesbian, while Leila leaves her boyfriend when she discovers he is more conservative than he claims. But above all, there is the story of Nur, a native of the conservative city of Umm Al-Fahm—a stronghold of the Islamic Movement, close to the ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood. Conservative, and initially shocked by the attitude of her roommates, Nur and the other two become friends and allies. She ultimately rebels against her family and tradi-

tions by leaving her religious fiancé Wissam after he rapes her, a scene shown on screen.

### Death threats

The film has already been released in the United States, under the title "In Between", and it won three prizes at the San Sebastian Film Festival in Spain last year. US magazine Variety called it a "compelling" drama and The Hollywood Reporter trumpeted it as a "sparkling, taboo-breaking first feature". The film company has not released ticket sale numbers but Hamoud said there had been a lot of feedback, mostly positive but some less so. The response from Umm Al-Fahm has been particularly sharp. The municipality issued a statement condemning a film as being "without the slightest element of truth" and barring it from being screened there.

They insisted, however, that they were happy to support "meaningful" art, but did not reply to a request for an interview. Hamoud as well as her actresses have received death threats. "Those who speak ill of Umm Al-Fahm dig their own

grave," said one. "You need a bullet in the head and another in the heart," a second read, Hamoud told AFP.

"For me as an artist, a director and a screenwriter who is a part of this society, it is my right to tackle any issue I feel is important enough for me to talk about," Hamoud said in a cafe near where she lives in Jaffa, a predominantly Arab district of Tel Aviv. "For the audience, if they want to see it they are welcome and I will be very happy. But if you don't want to, don't go," she added. Her face is framed by short black hair and she has tattooed arms, including one with the title of the film in the colors of the Palestinian flag. Her film, she said, brings to the screen issues usually "hidden" among Arab Israelis, such as lustful, youthful evenings where cannabis smoke billows among dancers.

Bar Bahar, literally meaning "land and sea" in Arabic, translates as "neither here, nor there" in Hebrew. For its director it aims to be "the voice of a generation" of young Arab Israelis who feel trapped between cultures. Making up around 18 percent of Israel's population, the 1.4 million Arab Israelis are

descended from Palestinians who remained on their land after Israel was established in 1948. Many identify as Palestinian but feel torn between identities-saying they experience discrimination and racism living and working in major Israeli cities. "I'm not exaggerating, every scene is realistic," Hamoud insisted.

### 'Contradictions'

Hamoud chose to set the film in Tel Aviv, regarded the most tolerant and liberal city in Israel, to make a point that even there racism against Arabs is prevalent. She wanted to show the girls' "otherness" in the city. "They discover that no matter how far they go from their towns and the traditions they came from, they are shocked that the place where they are (Tel Aviv) doesn't accept them." Hamoud wants to make films that help society "face its contradictions in order to move forward". "No one should feel good after the movie, neither Israelis nor Palestinians in this society." — AFP



## OSN unveils new prices and new packs bringing exclusive entertainment for everyone

OSN today reinforced its position as the region's leading entertainment network, launching new prices and new packs that will bring its unmatched breadth of world-class content to hundreds of thousands of new subscribers.

The game-changing prices and packs are the first steps in a customer-first strategy that defines the ambitions of a #newOSN. The company is placing its emphasis on delivering extraordinary value, ensuring customers get affordable access to the latest and exclusive entertainment OSN is renowned for.

The company launches its 'new prices, new packs, new OSN' strategy today after over six months of extensive research. 40,000 households across the region were surveyed to find out what they wanted. Their answer was clear: choice, flexibility and great value.

With prices starting from just AED/SAR 79, the company is offering customers a choice of new sports, movies and entertainment packs that lets customers create their perfect mix and puts them in control of what they want to watch based on their available spending power.

Faisal Hamad Al-Ayyar, Chairman of OSN, said: "OSN has consistently set benchmarks in the region's entertainment landscape through its exclusive content partnerships and an unbeatable viewing experience. We are pushing the boundaries and making this value proposition available for one and all, marking a new era for the entertainment industry. This is the organic evolution of OSN, a response to what our customers want."

OSN has streamlined the world of content it provides into convenient, easy-to-navigate packs that put customers in charge of their entertainment experience. From movies and sports, to series in Arabic, English, Tagalog and South Asian languages, new OSN opens doors to all the best content available at great value.

Leading the drive to bring OSN within the reach of all customers is the organisation's new Chief Executive Officer, Martin Stewart. Widely acknowledged for his contribution to the European pay TV industry, Martin has served as Director General of ONO, a

Spanish broadband communication and entertainment company, and as Chief Financial Officer for Sky, Europe's leading entertainment company.

Since taking charge in August 2016, Martin has prioritised the company's core values of putting customers first, offering unrivalled content and unbeatable value. Martin said: "OSN's ambition is to offer entertainment everywhere, for everyone, at a price that suits every pocket. We've listened to our customers and we're delivering what they want, how they want it. Relevant, exclusive and affordable, our new prices and new packs will put the world of OSN - exclusive content and an unmatched viewing experience - within the reach of all. That is our mission and ambition, and we are committed to delivering on it."

He added: "Television viewing habits have changed and with the new packs, customers can customise what they want to watch, paying only for their packages of choice. This is just the first step in an exciting journey ahead with a number of further initiatives this year as new OSN."

OSN continues to strengthen its credentials as the home of the biggest Hollywood blockbusters, award-winning series at the same time as the US unrivalled kid's and family entertainment, talks-shows, Arabic programming as well as being the home of cricket and WWE and a plethora of can't miss action sports.

OSN's power to deliver the best content to the region was recently affirmed by its ground-breaking renewal deal with family entertainment giant Disney, and its exclusive deal with UFC, which brings the incredibly popular mixed martial arts shows to the network's channels.

OSN's deep and broad programming portfolio is unbeatable in this region with long-term exclusive deals with all the major international studios such as Disney, HBO, NBC Universal, Fox, Paramount, MGM, Sony and Warner Brothers, among others, ensuring customers always have a great line-up of 'nowhere else' content to enjoy. For more information, visit osn.com. Join the conversation using #newOSN and tag @OSN.

## SYRIA'S WHITE HELMETS TO TRAVEL TO US FOR OSCARS

Rescue workers from Syria's White Helmets—the subjects of an Oscar-nominated documentary—said on Saturday they have received US visas to attend next week's prestigious Academy Awards ceremony. For weeks, the rescuers and the film's staff had been nervously watching the fallout from US President Donald Trump's now-suspended travel ban for seven countries, including Syria. "We got our visas yesterday (Friday), but we're not yet sure if we'll be able to travel or not," Raed Saleh, leader of the rescue group, told AFP by phone on Saturday. "We don't want to have problems at the borders or the airport," he said.

The documentary titled "The White Helmets", directed by Orlando von Einsiedel, was named a contender in late January in the Oscars short documentary category. Since it emerged in 2013, the rescue group has attracted over 3,000 volunteers and says it has saved more than 78,000 lives. It is named for the distinctive white hard hats worn by its volunteers and has gained international renown for its daring rescues, often filmed and circulated on social media. The Oscars award ceremony will take place on February 26 in Hollywood.

"With so many people watching, it would be such an important opportunity to talk about the suffering happening in Syria," Saleh said. More than 310,000 people have died since Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011, and over half the

country's citizens have been forced to flee their homes. "The documentary took a lot of effort to make and we've been working on it for a long time. People who are featured in the film have since died. There's equipment that you see that has been destroyed," Saleh said.

"This film is history for us. We hope that we win the Oscar, because that would provide moral support to the White Helmets and show them that their sacrifices weren't for nothing." According to the film's producer Joanna Natasegara, Saleh will be joined by fellow White Helmet Khaled Khatib, who shot much of the footage. Natasegara told AFP by phone that the last few weeks had been a "roller coaster" ride. "Initially, we were totally delighted at the nomination and invited them to join us, and two days later the executive order came through," she said. Under Trump's short-lived executive order, travellers from seven mainly-Muslim countries, including Syria, were banned from travelling to the United States for 90 days.

The travel ban has since been suspended in court, but Natasegara said she and the film's team would "be nervous until (Saleh and Khatib) are on US soil". "For us as filmmakers, we wanted to be able to give them that platform," she said. "It's their day. Their message is one of hope and peace. We're just really excited to share that day with them." — AFP



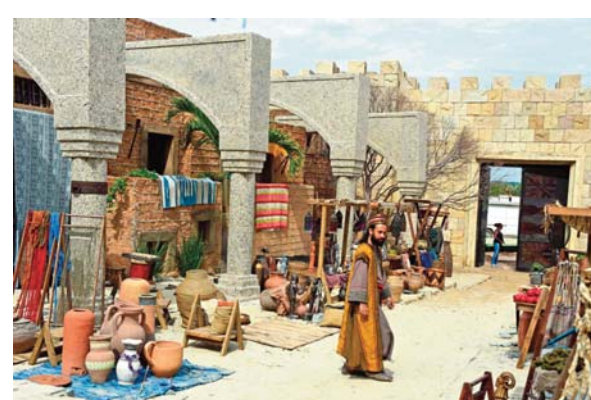
Syrian civil defense volunteers, known as the White Helmets, rescue a boy from rubble last year after a barrel bomb attack on the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. — AFP



Dancers perform during the shooting of 'O Rico e Lázarus' (The Rich Man and Lazarus) soap opera at the studios of Record TV in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AFP photos



Actors wait on the set of 'O Rico e Lázarus' (The Rich Man and Lazarus) soap opera.



Actors perform during the shooting of 'O Rico e Lázarus' (The Rich Man and Lazarus) soap opera.

## Brazil mega-church scores TV hit with biblical soaps

Nebuchadnezzar II is about to be crowned in a sumptuous Babylonian palace, and production assistants in Havaiana flip-flops are rushing to get a small army of extras into place. Welcome to the set of "The Rich Man and Lazarus", the latest biblical telenovela from the media empire of one of Brazil's largest evangelical mega-churches. Edir Macedo, the controversial founder of the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, has already scored two prime-time hits with soap operas based on the Bible: "The Ten Commandments", in 2015, and "The Promised Land", currently on air.

Macedo is the owner of Brazil's second-largest television network, TV Record, whose foray into telenovelas is reshaping prime-time in the giant South American country. Telenovelas or "novelas," in Brazilian Portuguese—are a national obsession in Brazil, nearly on par with football. They used to be strictly secular, with the dominant player, TV Globo—the country's largest network—dealing with subjects such as gay couples and racial discrimination in its scripts.

But Macedo and TV Record saw an opening for a new kind of series in a country where evangelical Christianity is booming, steadily eroding the numbers of the world's largest Catholic population. Spending \$230,000 per episode, the network has drawn viewers and advertisers with extravagant biblical sets, costumes and, in the case of "The Ten Commandments," action filmed partly on location in Israel. "In the 27 years I've been in this business, I've never seen a set like this. It's a very bold project, and it will be a wonderful story," said the director of "Lazarus," Edgard Miranda. "The Bible is a fantastic script."

### 'Family time'

On a recent visit to the sprawling studios on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, AFP saw large Mesopotamian sphinxes and gold-tipped columns framing the palatial set where the ancient Babylonian king was about to be crowned. TV Record has built an artificial river, a Babylonian temple and Jerusalem streets in its quest to create an authentic Old Testament feel. The soaps' scripts do not lack for romance and intrigue. But in between staple telenovela plot lines, characters preach the word of God. "The stories deal with very current issues with a high level of quality," said Miranda, a 44-year-old Rio

native who cut his teeth at Globo. But "TV Record's greatest success has been bringing the whole family together in front of the television again," he said.

It is a strategic shift for the network, whose nighttime programming originally featured pastors preaching to their flock. About six years ago, TV Record began producing religious mini-series with modest budgets. Emboldened by their success, the network then went out on a limb and commissioned "The Ten Commandments," Brazil's first biblical telenovela. It managed to beat Globo in the ratings several nights, and sold the show to networks in some 20 countries around the world. "Promised Land" achieved similar success, and TV Record is now hoping "Lazarus" will do the same.

The 150-episode series explores a parable of Jesus with two protagonists, one poor and bound for heaven, the other rich and bound for hell. "It teaches certain tenets of ethical behavior. People are tired of the aggression and ugliness of daily life," said actor Cassius Scapin, who plays a villain on the show.

### Powerful pulpit

Evangelicals have grown from five percent of Brazil's population in 1970 to nearly 25 percent in the 2010 census. Evangelical denominations have capitalized on an extensive network of churches, deftly using TV, radio and social media to draw millions of Christians away from the Catholic Church. In a country with millions of poor, evangelical churches typically teach a message of change for the better in this life and after—whereas the local Catholic church traditionally puts the accent on the afterlife. The power of Macedo's church is evident in Rio, where his nephew Marcelo Crivella, a former bishop, was recently elected mayor.

But Macedo's rise has also been controversial. Macedo, 71, was charged with fraud and money laundering in 2011 for allegedly buying jewelry, real estate and cars with billions of dollars skimmed off his followers' charitable donations. He denies the accusations, which have done little to dent the popularity of his church. But the evangelical boom is not the only reason for the success of biblical telenovelas, said TV critic Nilson Xavier. — AFP



AWARDS



Best Film Golden Bear winner director Ildiko Enyedi speaks during the award winners press conference for the film "On Body and Soul" during at the 2017 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, Saturday. — AP/AFP photos



Festival director Dieter Kosslick, left, poses with Ildiko Enyedi after she won the Golden Bear Best Film award for "On Body and Soul".



French director Alain Gomis poses for photographers with the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize for the film, "Felicite".



Director Estaban Arrangoiz Julien poses for the photographers with his Best Short Film Silver Bear for the film 'Reverie in the Meadow'.



Austrian actor Georg Friedrich wins the Silver Bear for Best Actor for 'Helle Nächte (Bright Nights)'.

# HUNGARIAN SLAUGHTERHOUSE LOVE STORY WINS BERLIN FEST GOLDEN BEAR

**H**ungary's "On Body and Soul", a tender love story set in a slaughterhouse, won the Golden Bear top prize Saturday at the Berlin film festival, Europe's first major cinema showcase of the year. The drama by Ildiko Enyedi, one of four female filmmakers in competition, features graphic scenes in an abattoir set against the budding romance of two people who share a recurring dream. The win marked an upset at the 11-day Berlinale, where a European refugee comedy by cult Finnish filmmaker Aki Kaurismaki, "The Other Side of Hope", had been the odds-on favorite. Kaurismaki took the Silver Bear for best director. Enyedi thanked the festival for embracing her first full-length feature in 18 years but said working conditions in Hungary were growing more difficult under Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

"We live in a more and more absurd country, frighteningly absurd country," she told reporters after the ceremony, while adding that the state film fund served as a "sort of island". "We can work there at relative freedom, peace and we get professional support." The runner-up jury prize went to Franco-Senegalese filmmaker Alain Gomis for "Felicite" about a Kinshasa nightclub singer who has to scrape together funds to pay for her son's treatment after a serious road accident. South Korea's Kim Min-Hee, the star of Hong Sang-Soo's intimate drama "On the Beach at Night Alone" about a failed love affair with a director, won best actress. And Austria's Georg Friedrich scooped best actor for his role in the German drama "Bright Nights" as a mourning father who takes his teenage son on a road trip through Norway.

**'Fight the dark ages'**  
Best screenplay went to another favorite of the festival, "A Fantastic Woman" by Chile's Sebastian Lelio, starring transgender actress Daniela Vega. Lelio, joined on stage by Vega, said the film about a singer fighting for her right to attend the funeral of her much older lover was a call for tolerance in trying times. "We have to fight the dark ages with beauty, with elegance, with poetry," he said. Best documentary, awarded for the first time at the festival, was picked up by Palestinian director Raed Andoni for "Ghost Hunting". The film recre-

ates a notorious Israeli interrogation center and has ex-prisoners re-enact experiences in a bid to free them of their demons.

"We still have 7,000 Palestinians living in those jails... They never get the recognition as I do," said Andoni, who also served time behind bars in Israel. Capping a politically charged year at the festival, US documentary jury member Laura Poitras ("Citizenfour") said filmmakers must stand up for basic freedoms. "Yesterday the president of the United States described the press as the enemy of the people," she said, referring to a tweet by Donald Trump on Friday. "As documentary filmmakers we're here to say that we're the enemy of nationalism and of exclusion."

**Jury 'fell in love'**

A seven-member jury led by Paul Verhoeven ("Basic Instinct", "Ella") and including US actress Maggie Gyllenhaal ("The Dark Knight") and Mexican director and actor Diego Luna ("Rogue One: A Star Wars Story") selected the main prizes among 18 contenders. Last year, jury president Meryl Streep gave top honors to Italy's "Fire at Sea", a portrait of the refugee crisis on the island of Lampedusa. It is nominated for an Academy Award for best documentary this month.

Presenting the Golden Bear, Verhoeven said the jury "fell in love" with "On Body and Soul", adding that it was about "two people connecting in quite an amazing way". The enigmatic film features Andre and Maria, who by day work in a slaughterhouse but by night have the same dream about a male and a female deer nuzzling in a snowy forest. Andre, the abattoir's financial director, has a deformed hand that makes him self-conscious while Maria, the new quality control inspector, is crippled by shyness and an obsessive-compulsive disorder. Enyedi contrasts the growth of their relationship and the petty squabbles at the company with stomach-churning scenes of the cattle bound for the butcher's hooks. Film industry bible Variety said the film "blends mournfully poetic whimsy with stabs of visceral brute reality". — AFP



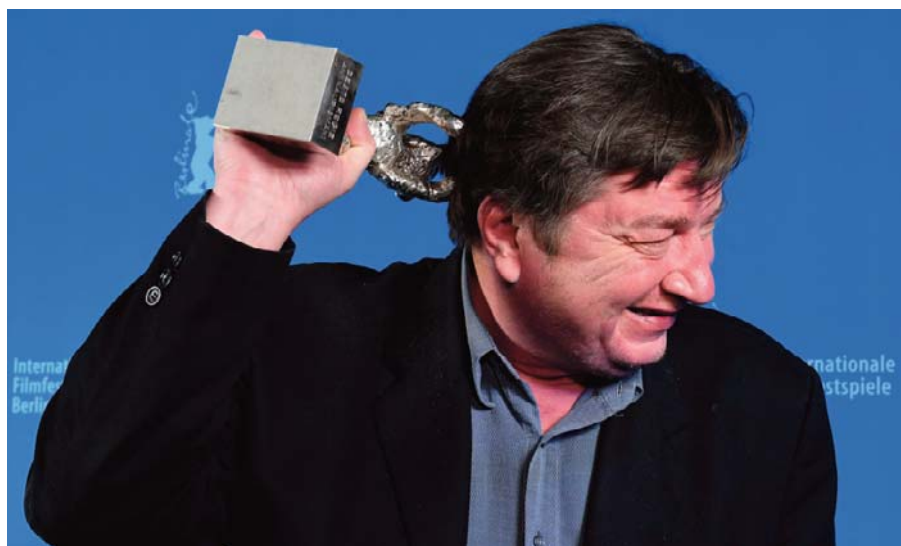
Dana Bunescu poses for the photographers with her Outstanding Artistic Contribution Silver Bear for the Film 'Ana, mon amour'.



Sebastian Lelio, centre, , Gonzalo Maza, right and Daniela Vega with their Silver Bear for Best Script for the film 'A Fantastic Woman'.



Hungarian director Ildiko Enyedi (center) poses after receiving the Golden Bear for Best Film (On Body and Soul) with producers Erno Mesterhazy (left) and Monika Mecs at a press conference after the Award Ceremony.



Finnish director Aki Kaurismaki poses for photographers after receiving the Silver Bear for Best Director for 'The Other Side of Hope'.



Director Diogo Costa Amarante poses for the photographers with his Best Short Film Golden Bear for the film (Small Town).



Polish director Agnieszka Holland (left) and her daughter and co-director Kasia Adamik pose the Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize for the movie 'Pokot' (Spoor).



Director Diogo Costa Amarante ('Small Town') wins the Golden Bear for Best Short Film at the awards ceremony.



Palestinian director Raed Andoni poses after being awarded for Best Documentary for his film 'Istiyad Ashbah' (Ghost Hunting) after the Award Ceremony.



FEATURE



Men walk along a canal past the site of Middleport pottery, which was originally constructed in 1888, in Stoke-on-Trent, central England. — AFP photos



Derelict bottle kilns, surrounded by vegetation are pictured in Stoke-on-Trent, central England.

# Artisans break the mold in Britain's pottery capital



Molds for crockery designs, some dating back over 80 years, are pictured on the site of the former Spode pottery in Stoke-on-Trent, central England.

At the 18th-century Spode pottery works in Stoke-on-Trent, start-up artisans like 22-year-old Emma Price are moving into abandoned buildings and breathing new life into a once-mighty industry. The 10-acre (four-hectare) site in the heart of the Staffordshire city in central England whose name worldwide is synonymous with pottery has become a creative hub that is drawing a new generation. "It's a real privilege to be on this site," said Price, wearing blue overalls flecked in plaster, as she worked on the mold for a bowl.

"This offers me the opportunity to do my own thing and gives me the space to work in and do what I'm passionate about," she told AFP. "A lot of people now are starting to move away from the mass-produced work and want something that's more bespoke." Iconic Stoke brands such as Wedgwood, Royal Doulton and Spode are renowned across the globe for their fine chinaware. On a rich seam of clay in England's West Midlands, Stoke became the world center of pottery production by 1800.

Now fewer than 10,000 people still work in an industry that once employed 80,000 in Stoke, as factories closed and production shifted to Asia over the last 20 years. But young artists are making the most of the latent factory space, skills and expertise that still exist in the 250,000-strong city, not to mention the coveted "Made in Stoke-on-Trent" backstamp. At the Spode works, founded in 1767, a few dozen artisans have moved into the derelict buildings.

Cobwebbed storehouses on the site are stuffed with Spode molds from the past, stacked on wooden shelves marked with names like Louis XV, Old Comport and Rose Tazza. The cavernous China Hall, once bustling with people and machines, now stands like an empty cathedral, filled with light and silence. Ceramic artist Jo Ayre, 34, works in a makeshift studio just off the China Hall, in a space formerly known as Scorpion Alley, so fierce was the reputation of the women who worked there. Besides producing her own works, she runs adult learning classes, teaching groups of locals who want to know more about the craft that made their city's name.

**'Endless possibilities'**

Among those taking their first steps in learning how to manipulate the clay was 36-year-old barber Craig Urwin. "We are doing it in the old-fashioned way, by hand. It's fascinating," he said. "We've probably got ancestors who did work here or in other factories." Ayre, who hails from Stoke, trained at the Royal College of Art in London but moved back in 2015. "There's so much space, people you can talk to who know a tremendous amount about ceramics, so it feels like there's endless possibilities here."

In 2011, Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, stepped in to save Middleport Pottery, another historic site and the home of Burleigh chinaware. As part of the regeneration project, artists

have moved in there too, while the new visitor center tells people about traditional pottery production.

Laura Cohen, chief executive of the British Ceramic Confederation trade association, said the industry was in good health in Stoke as sales and employment had surged since the depths of the recession in 2010. "It forced those companies that were surviving to look at their business models, to think about how they can become truly world-class," she told AFP.



A worker hand-paints crockery in the Emma Bridgewater factory.

**Only pottery left**

Steph Woodhouse, spokeswoman for the Emma Bridgewater factory, one of the more established brands, said: "We've seen a real return of artisan potters coming back to Stoke to utilize the skills and experience". Bridgewater began producing ceramics on a tiny scale in Stoke in 1985, and bought the Victorian-era Meakin factory in 1996 as the business expanded. The pottery now produces 32,000 hand-made, hand-decorated items per week and exports internationally.

Some 250 people work in the Bridgewater factory, from the men casting the clay to the women using traditional sponging techniques to press on the decoration. John Buckley, 59, has been working in potteries since he was 16. "The mining's gone, the steel's gone, there's only this, really," he said of Stoke's traditional industries. "I'm surprised this is still going, and it's coming back, and I'm proud to be part of it." — AFP



Molds for crockery designs, some dating back over 80 years, are pictured.



Ceramic artist Emma Price poses for a photograph in her studio, located on the site of the former Spode pottery in Stoke-on-Trent, central England.



A worker hand-paints crockery in the Emma Bridgewater factory, which employs around 185 people and manufactures 1.3 million pieces of pottery each year.



A worker hand-paints crockery in the Emma Bridgewater factory.



Workers hand-paint crockery in the Emma Bridgewater factory.



Pieces of crockery await finishing in the Emma Bridgewater factory.



Hand-painted crockery is moved on trollies in the Emma Bridgewater factory.



A worker produces crockery in the Emma Bridgewater factory.





A beach in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh.



A tourist sitting in a boat off the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh.



Boats harbored off the coast of the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. — AFP photos

# Tourism shows signs of recovery in Egypt

Tourists are slowly returning to Egypt, easing pressure on a key sector battered by years of turmoil and the 2015 bombing of a plane carrying Russian holidaymakers. "There is an increase in the number of tourists. This situation was much better in January than in previous years," tourism ministry spokeswoman Omaira Al-Husseini said. Visitors from China, Japan and Ukraine account for a large part of the growth. China's top public travel agency, China International Travel Service, reported a 58 percent increase in tourists flying to Egypt compared with 2015.

"There are more bookings between October 2016 and January 2017 than last year," said Egyptian Federation of Tourism chief Karim Mohsen. "There is an improvement, especially in cultural tourism in Cairo, Luxor and Aswan," key historical sites, he said. The uptick is a sign of hope for a country also reeling from the shock of an economic reform program that has triggered massive inflation. Once a key foreign currency earner, the tourism sector crashed in 2011 after a popular uprising overthrew veteran strongman Hosni Mubarak, ushering in years of sporadic unrest. Recoveries in the sector since then have been set back by new crises. In June 2015, a massacre of tourists at a Luxor temple was narrowly averted when assailants armed with assault rifles and

explosives bungled the attack and were intercepted by police.

But in October that year, Islamic State group jihadists, who are waging an insurgency in the eastern Sinai Peninsula, struck again. They bombed a Russian airliner carrying holidaymakers home from the popular Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. All 224 people on board were killed. Russia suspended flights to Egypt and Britain cut air links with Sharm El-Sheikh. Visitor numbers plunged from 9.3 million in 2015 to 5.3 million the following year, Husseini said.

### Recovery hinges on Russia, UK

But industry officials have cautiously welcomed what they say is a noticeable improvement since October. In December 2016, 551,600 tourists visited Egypt compared with 440,000 the year before, according to the government's statistics agency. "Activity has picked up a bit in the winter of 2016-2017," said Tamer Al-Shaer, vice president of the Blue Sky travel agency. He said that included a 30 percent increase in Ukrainian tourists and a 60 percent increase in visitors from China, with daily flights to Aswan, a southern city rich in ancient sites. Japan's HIS travel agency said the number of tourists heading to Egypt "multiplied by four to five times" last year.

Since charter flights from Japan to Egypt resumed in April 2016, they have been on average 80 percent full, said a spokesman for the Japan Association of Travel Agents. Egypt hosted a record 14.7 million foreign tourists in 2010, a year before Mubarak's overthrow and the ensuing economic nosedive. Restoring even two thirds of that number is a key government goal, but it hinges on Russia and Britain resuming flights, Husseini said.

"There are ongoing negotiations... we hope the issue will be resolved as soon as possible," she said. More than 60 percent of tourists arriving in Sharm El-Sheikh by plane used to come from Britain or Russia. "So long as the Russians do not come back, there will be paralysis," the tourism federation's Mohsen said. "Russians and Britons are the backbone of Sharm El-Sheikh." Other European countries such as Germany and France have registered a slight increase in reservations to Egypt. In early February, four other European countries—Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden—eased travel warnings against travel to south Sinai, where Sharm El-Sheikh and other resorts are situated. — AFP



Tourists preparing to dive in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh.

## ADOLF HITLER'S PERSONAL TRAVELING PHONE FOR SALE



A Maryland auction house is selling Adolf Hitler's personal traveling telephone. Bill Panagopoulos of Alexander Historical Auctions in Chesapeake City says, occupying Russian officers gave the phone to Brig. Sir Ralph Rayner during a visit to Hitler's Berlin bunker. Rayner's son is now selling the red phone with a Nazi party symbol and Hitler's name engraved on the back.

The phone is estimated at \$200,000 to \$300,000 and Panagopoulos says bidding will start at \$100,000 this weekend. Panagopoulos considers the phone a "weapon of mass destruction," noting that the orders Hitler gave over the phone took many lives. He says the seller and auction house hope it ends up in a museum, where people who see it "really understand what extreme fascist thinking can bring about." — AP

Adolf Hitler's personal traveling telephone is displayed at Alexander Historical Auctions in Chesapeake City. — AP photos



An engraving of a swastika and Adolf Hitler's name are seen on the back of Hitler's personal traveling telephone at Alexander Historical Auctions.



By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** In a romantic warm celebration, the German women's wear designer Dorothee Schumacher launched its new Resort 2017 collection at the at Salhia Mall on Feb 15, 2017. This event was attended by the social media influencer Ahood Alenzi, singer Carol Souki, fashion consultant Musaed Al-Mutairi, and other personalities.

The designer's playful tailoring and feminine elegance enchants women all over the world. With this exclusive get together, the focus laid on the Dorothee Schumacher Resort 2017 collection, which is celebrating the perfect wardrobe for the modern woman. The collection included crisp colors and floating silhouettes encountered with luxurious lace and hand-painted prints displaying fairytale chimeras.

The guests were smitten by the craftsmanship and modernity of the Resort collection, and can enjoy a fashionable outlook from the Spring / Summer 2017 collection. The Dorothee Schumacher boutique in Salhiya is the first boutique of the brand launched outside Europe, and it gained great success in Kuwait since its launch in 2010.

Dorothee Schumacher first started in 1989 in Germany. "The brand then start expanding and we launched its first store in Kuwait in 2010. As it was successful, we launched our second branch at the Prestige, Avenues Mall in the same year. We seek opportunities through the interest in this region," Naomi Emiko, Communications Manager told the Kuwait Times.

The sizing of Dorothee Schumacher starts from No. 1-6. "As the sizes differ in general between Europe

and this region, we use different range of sizes. So for instance here in Kuwait we focus more on ranges between size 3-6, while in the European market it ranges mostly between 1-4. We don't choose different models for each region," she added.

"Dorothee started with a vision in her heart. She realized that women used to dress almost masculine and she wanted the opposite. She wanted to express the femininity in women, which makes her confident, and it shouldn't keep them from reaching their goals. So she started with the tiny t-shirt collection, which was very feminine, elegant, and luxurious. She travelled to Italy and France and passed away transferring the ownership to the brand," concluded Emiko.



## Dorothee Schumacher in Kuwait







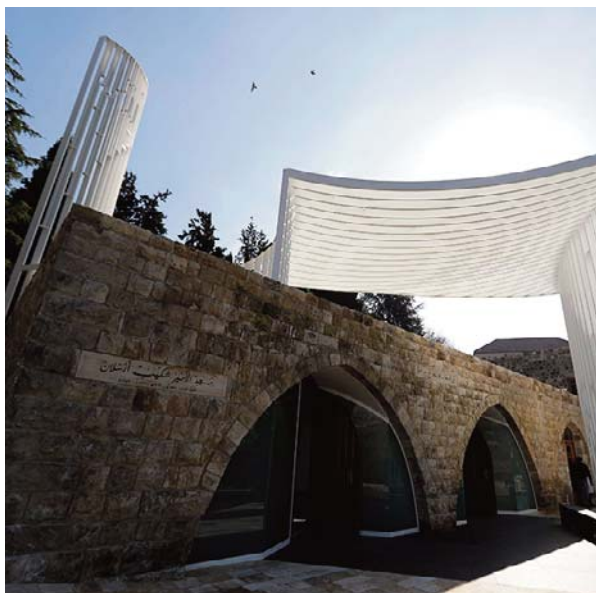
Models display 2017-18 Fall/Winter creations by Spanish designer Francis Montesinos during the Madrid's Fashion Week in Madrid, Friday. — AP

## In Lebanon, an avant-garde mosque to preach coexistence

'Lebanon cannot survive but through its diversity'



The exterior of the Amir Shakib Arslan mosque.



The exterior of the Amir Shakib Arslan mosque.

From a distance, there's little to suggest that the building at the entrance of the Druze heartland village of Mukhtara in Lebanon's Chouf mountains is a mosque. After all, despite practicing a faith that is an offshoot of Shiite Islam, the Druze do not worship at mosques, and the building strays far from the traditional rendering of a Muslim prayer house. But the Amir Shakib Arslan mosque is intended to make visitors reflect on religion and modernity and on the symbolic gesture of constructing a mosque in a village whose residents worship elsewhere.

It is named after the grandfather of Walid Jumblatt, the head of Lebanon's Druze community, who commissioned and funded the project, and replaces a mosque that once stood in Mukhtara but was destroyed decades ago in a feud. Its unusual design is the result of Jumblatt's decision to give architect Makram El-Kadi free reign to reinterpret what a mosque could look like. Instead of the traditional domed roof alongside a minaret tower, a cage-like structure of white steel beams has been constructed to sit over an existing traditional Lebanese stone building like a "veil", Kadi says.

At one back corner of the roof, the white blades of the structure bend up towards the sky in a tower that implies a minaret. Light and air flow between the blades, which contrast with the heavy sand-coloured stone of the one-storey traditional building beneath. In places, the spaces between the blades are filled to create two words that can only be perceived from a distance: on the minaret above, "Allah" or "God", and below, the word "Al-Insan" or "human being". For Kadi, the project is the product of years of reimagining the architecture of the mosque. "There's nothing scripted, neither in the Koran nor in the hadith (words and practices of the Prophet Mohammed) that tells you what a mosque should be," he told AFP.

### 'A new kind of calligraphy'

But despite the lack of religious constraints and the young demographics of Islam, the design of mosques has remained largely static. "Given this big number of young people in the religion, you don't see as much experimentation in the architecture of the mosque as you would expect," Kadi said. Inside,

the Mukhtara mosque's walls are largely bare and white, with the sun streaming in from a skylight cut into the vaulted roof. At the back of the room, where religious texts are traditionally stored, the word "Iqra" or "read" appears in wooden latticework, a nod to the first word of the Quran and a reminder, Kadi says, of the religious imperative to read, not merely recite. The interior is dominated by a striking carpet featuring an abstract black-and-white pattern—a first-of-its-kind print of soundwaves taken from a recording of Koranic recitation.

"The carpet is a new kind of calligraphy, in the sense that it's a visual representation of spoken language," said artist Lawrence Abu Hamdan, who conceived the piece. Moments in the soundwaves where the word "God" appeared were removed, in part to avoid the possibility of visitors stepping on the word. "But also to reflect something that's very important in this mosque... that God is both concealed and ultimately very present," added Abu Hamdan.

For all the innovation of the mosque, it retains certain elemental features, including an orientation towards Mecca, which Muslims face to pray and, for now, a traditional adhan, or call to prayer. Abu Hamdan produced a reinterpreted adhan, with the words spoken rather than sung, but it was deemed a little too avant-garde and has been replaced for now with a standard sung recording.

### 'Diversity and coexistence'

For Jumblatt, the project's aims were twofold: to emphasize the ties between the Druze faith and other branches of Islam, but also to promote religious tolerance. Lebanon still bears the scars of its 1975-1990 civil war, in which all factions and sects committed abuses, and it has been rocked by the consequences of the conflict in neighboring Syria. "I think the message that we have to say again and again, always in Lebanon, is that it's a place of diversity and coexistence," Jumblatt said. "Lebanon cannot survive but through its diversity."

The Chouf area where Mukhtara is located witnessed some of the bloodiest massacres of the civil war, committed both by and against the Druze. More recently, the Druze have been among the religious

minorities targeted for forced conversions and expulsions by jihadists in Syria who consider them apostates. For Mukhtara residents, the mosque is something of a curiosity, regarded as a gesture towards outsiders rather than a potential prayer house for themselves.



"I haven't been inside, but from the outside the design is really nice," said 50-year-old Sabah Abdel Samad, whose pharmacy is opposite the mosque. "It's something very lovely, promoting pluralism and acceptance of the other," she added. "Many of our Muslim brothers pass through here, it's a good thing for them to have a place to pray." Kadi sees the mosque as an "act of bridging" between the different branches of Islam at a time "when such gestures... are rarely being made". "The fact that it's done in this way, that it's done at this time specifically, sends a strong message: that there's an alternative, you can be religious without being close-minded." — AFP



The exterior of the Amir Shakib Arslan mosque designed by Lebanese architect Makram El-Kadi at the entrance of the Druze heartland village of Mukhtara in Lebanon's Chouf mountains. — AFP photos



The interior of the Amir Shakib Arslan mosque.