

**Sarah Al-Sayegh:  
Chasing sunsets  
and tornados**

4



**Iran's first new  
Airbus jetliner  
lands in Tehran**

38



**Messi free-kick  
magic sends Barca  
into Cup quarters**

46



**FREE**

# Kuwait Times Friday Times



Min 09°  
Max 19°

www.kuwaittimes.net

NO: 17109- Friday, January 13, 2017



**MP WANTS MORE  
TAXES ON EXPATS;  
MOH HIKES FEES**

**KUWAIT:** MP Safaa Al-Hashem speaks during a session of the National Assembly. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**See Page 7**



PHOTO OF THE DAY



Full moon fills the sky in Kuwait Wednesday night. — Photo by Ahmed Suroor/KUNA

Local Spotlight

# HOW ISLAMIC ARE WE?



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

Which countries apply Islamic values the most? A study by professors at George Washington University came up with a surprising result that is shocking, but rational and wise. The university worked on the study and framed a questionnaire. Upon completion of the study, New Zealand stood first, with Luxembourg in second place and Ireland third. Japan was also ranked among the top. Kuwait ranked 48th globally. Egypt was ranked 153. Malaysia was 38th globally and the first among Muslim countries.

The study did not consider the number of mosques and how many women wear the niqab or the number of bearded men, but looked deeply for things that reflect religious values and behaviors. It's a great study that deserves our attention. For example, Japan focuses since primary school on a subject called "road ethics", in which students learn about dealing with others. The Japanese, even though they are one of the richest people in the world, don't have maids, because the parents are responsible for the house and the children.

I believe that morals are essential, and help reinforce the importance of values of self-reliance and avoiding laziness. I am also convinced that the large number of maids in the house is a negative aspect and dangerous, because it creates dependency and promotes racism. It sets in the minds of children and also adults that you don't have to make efforts for your needs, not

even to get a glass of water, as long as there are those who will work for you. No wonder the rate of obesity is very high, because no one moves, not even in their own homes. Islam calls for work and action and to avoid laziness and dependency, and is against slavery.

The bleak situation we are facing today in the Muslim world is the result of bad decisions and conservative and discriminatory policies and behaviors, because when we face a social problem, we do not recognize our mistakes and seek solutions - we try to accuse others including technology, which is incorrect.

As an example, look at the status of cleaners. How they are viewed by some? There are those who feel pity at their situation, and there are those who pass by them as if they do not exist, because they are poor. Then there are those who accuse them of committing crimes, but no one asks why they are so desperate.

Many still believe that religion is only about clothes, beards, prayers and fasting, and ignore that religion is also morality and good treatment of others. In the Islamic religion, there is no difference between white and black, with emphasis on duties and rights, tolerance and compassion, kindness and affection, and work and diligence. For Islamic countries to be at the bottom of this list is natural, because if we apply Islam in our lives, we wouldn't be in this situation.

The link of the study: <http://hossein-askari.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/how-islamic-are-islamic-countries.pdf>

IN MY VIEW

## THE 'KOUT ATTITUDE'

By Jeri Al Jeri

local@kuwaittimes.net

It is not glib to say that the year 2016 was a very challenging year for many countries around the globe. Trump is one of the latest misfortunes to be unleashed like a caged animal on all that's left of political grace and tolerance. Countries including Belgium, France, Turkey and the United States suffered horrendous terrorist attacks. Wars in Syria, Iraq and Yemen continue the madness. At home, Kuwait's newest parliament has gotten off to a rocky start and few have high hopes that it will achieve any good for the people of Kuwait this year.

The world is interconnected - however, this article will not review the past events on a global scale. Instead, it will focus on where we are headed to as Kuwaitis in 2017. It will attempt to understand the reasons behind the lethargy and lack of confidence that has seemed to have overtaken us. It will attempt to identify why we

have lost our hope for the future and hopefully surmise how we might get it back.

Kuwait has a wealth of untapped potential - and I do not mean in buried oil. The people of Kuwait can reach great heights. It's true we are surrounded on all sides by conflict and instability. Revolts and massacres close to the Kuwaiti borders cause anxiety and tensions between various parties in the Kuwaiti parliament and keep us embroiled in constant - and unnecessary - conflicts. We are distracted and unfocused rather than buckling down and keeping our eye on the ball to rebuild Kuwait to her former and future glory.

Moreover, geopolitical analysts have warned that countries of the size and weight of Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait will eventually be swallowed up by neighboring giants. So the bad news of 2016 is not "out of our concern". Therefore, it is understandable that tensions between various parties in the Kuwaiti parliament have deviated from their familiar cases. The divisions are divided, in 2016, with allegiance to either Iran or Saudi Arabia, the giants of the Middle East.

The corruption in the government sector has reached all-new heights. The crablike pace of all governmental processes and paperwork undermines our productivity. To open a new restaurant or an institution that only

takes a space of a family-size flat in a rundown building requires the infamous "wasta", not to mention key money (another vile import that we should outlaw). Lack of seriousness and speed has disappointed the younger generations and frustrated their efforts to develop themselves and the Kuwaiti economy. Some government efforts are helping - such as the commerce ministry's new office for expediting paperwork for small and medium enterprises. But this is the tip of the iceberg of what requires changing.

Kuwait is considered to be the target of wealth acquisition more than the "motherland" that needs building. Historically, this piece of desert was deserted for its extreme heat and its very poor agricultural possibilities. However, after the advent of the "black gold", more tribes from Iraq and Saudi Arabia found their comfort in the "Kout". "Kout" is a logistical term that meant the storage of goods and services. Nonetheless, these "goods" gravitated all the tribes to a novel central identity. Kuwaitis after the Iraqi invasion have never been more gravitated towards their nationality, for which they paid with their blood and tears. Sadly, in 2017, Kuwaitis are aware that the "Kout attitude" is gaining more ground than "Kuwaiti-ness".



# OVERCHARGED! THE CASE OF A SMALL PACKAGE DELIVERED IN KUWAIT

By Nawara Fattahova

Some shipping companies in Kuwait have begun overcharging customers, tacking on a range of unnecessary and unregulated 'fees' that are not approved by the government. Few people understand what are the legitimate charges for packages shipped to Kuwait and even fewer read the receipts or argue with the charges when a package is delivered to your door.

Kuwait Times recently received several complaints from customers and when investigating the matter, learned that some companies overcharge customers, have no clear and stated customs duties or charges and are sometimes even asking outright for unnecessary 'handling fees'.

No names were used in this report to protect the identity of the customers. It's also worth mentioning that not all shipping companies were involved in overcharging and that many customers in Kuwait were aware of which company had a good reputation and which did not.

One customer was charged KD 12.5 for receiving an accessory, while the sender had already paid more than KD 16 for shipping it from Europe. The company refused to discuss the bill or hand over the shipment unless she paid up. She then called the office of the company, and was told the extra charges were fees charged by govern-

ment authorities in Kuwait including the customs, airport and others.

The bill included unnecessary fees labeled as 'Bayan clearance', 'airport charge', a secondary 'customs duty', 'stamp', 'disbursement fee' and others. After the customer threatened to complain at the customer protection department, the shipping company agreed to refund half the amount.

This isn't the only case. Ibrahim is another customer who received a gift from Dubai. The courier demanded KD 5 as delivery charges. Ibrahim refused to pay, as it was a

gift from a company. On contacting the sender, they told him that all charges were paid for and he only has to take the gift, which was a box of chocolates. The shipping company then delivered the shipment without any extra charges.

## Consumer Protection & Complaints

An inspector who answered the hotline of the Consumer Protection Department of the Ministry of Commerce said since it doesn't have a specific list of delivery charges, a

customer can lodge a complaint. "If the customer suspects any bill on receiving a shipment, he or she can show the bill to the Consumer Protection Department in the governorate where the shipping company is located. The inspector will ask the shipping company's representative to visit the department. If he refuses, the inspector along with the customer will go to the company to resolve the conflict," Ahmad told Kuwait Times.

Not issuing a receipt in Arabic is also a violation. "The customer should bring all the

## The company refused to discuss the bill or hand over the shipment unless she paid up.

documents he has, including the bill that he paid, any emails of his payment in advance or correspondence with the sender proving the charges were paid. If the shipping company doesn't refund the illegal charges, the case will be transferred to the court, which will decide any sanctions against the company. The customer can complain at our department no matter what the amount of the bill is, even if it is only 100 fils," assured Ahmad.

Another customer who received a ship-

ment through the same company narrated his bad experience. "I was receiving goods to distribute in Kuwait, and I never paid a single dinar, as delivery charges were paid by the sender. Unfortunately, the sender once used a different company, which surprised me with its poor service," said Tony.

"It delayed my shipment for almost a month, I usually received it within three days maximum. Moreover, it charged a huge amount for delivery. After I protested, one of the staff there asked for a KD 100 bribe to complete the procedures. I refused and got angry, and threatened to complain at the ministry. I also contacted the sender, who contacted the company, and it finally delivered the shipment without any charges," he told Kuwait Times.

Customs duty in Kuwait is equivalent to five percent of the price of the item. In many cases, if people order online and receive their shipment at their PO boxes, they don't have to pay any customs fees. In some cases, when people import an expensive item like a motorbike, the customs inspector will not consider the price in the invoice if he suspects that the amount is very low compared to the usual price in the market. So the inspector will reevaluate the item and calculate the customs duty accordingly.

The hotline of the Consumer Protection Department is 135.



# SARAH AL-SAYEGH: FIRST KUWAITI-ARAB PHOTOGRAPHER TO CHASE TORNADOS

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

"Get in," she yelled at me, as I struggled to open the car door holding two cups of double extra-hot Americanos in my hands. "Buckle up, I'm a wild driver!" she added as we sped off. Sara Al-Sayegh, a 32-year-old Kuwaiti cityscape photographer, thought the best way to present her story was by inviting me to one of her photo shoots of the sunset in Kuwait.

Men dominate cityscape and landscape photography in the Gulf region, where the most usual types of photography for females are portraiture, food and lifestyle. Sara has broken the image of the Arab female photographer by becoming renowned for her flair.

"As a Middle Eastern woman in this field, I seldom get the heads up from male photographers because they seem to think it's a guy thing. But there are many female landscape photographers here who have proven that it's not a man's world," Sara told Kuwait Times. "Traditions are also another obstacle. Travelling alone as a woman for photography is not paved with welcome and ease."

As she zigzagged between cars while sipping her coffee, she pointed at a big grey cloud in the sky. "It's beautiful, right? I want to include it in my cityscape photographs. We must get there as fast as we can to capture the beauty of the early minutes of the sunset before it gets darker," said Sara.

## Understanding the weather

Aside from photographic skills, Sara believes that a proper landscape and cityscape photographer should have good knowledge about weather conditions and how to use them to create a better picture, in addition to protecting oneself from risks. "For example, it's safer to take a picture of thunderstorm from a rooftop before it rains, as it might mistake you for a lightning rod!" she warned.

When Sara arrived at the high-rise, she was immediately welcomed by the guards, who made sure to remind her of some safety instructions before heading to the rooftop. "It's my third time to come and shoot from the rooftop of this under-construction building. You have no idea how hard and almost impossible it is to shoot cityscapes in Kuwait. After all, this is private property and we need a permit to access it," she said.



Cityscape and Storm chaser photographer Sara Al-Sayegh.



The photographer while making her shoe/cityscape photograph. — By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

*Men dominate cityscape and landscape photography in the Gulf region, where the most usual types of photography for females are portraiture, food and lifestyle.*



Kuwait City





Kuwait City



Iceland Aurora, 2013



Riyadh City

"But I'm lucky to know the right people to speak to. However, it requires a lot of determination, patience and networking, but most importantly, building a good reputation as a photographer. Your work, at the end, will speak for you. Recently, some photographers have attempted to access rooftops without permission, which provokes the guards and causes us troubles," explained Sara.

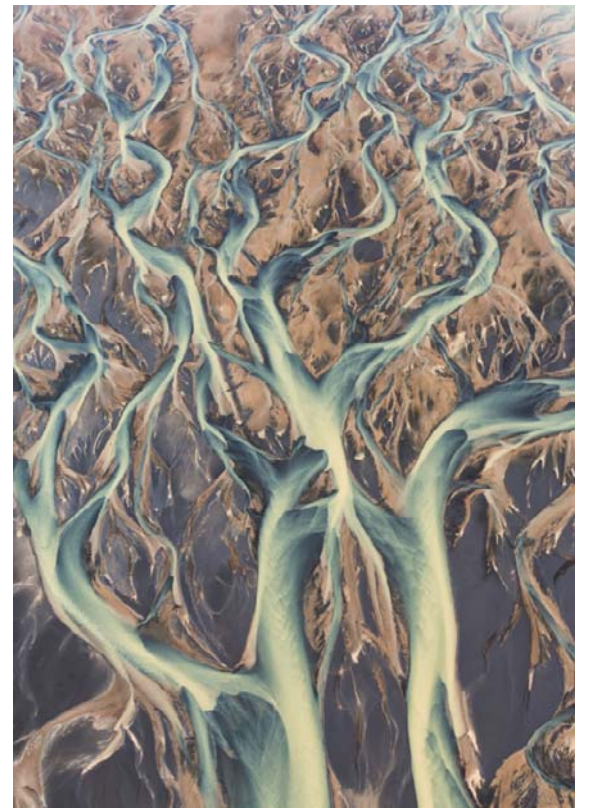
To get around the monotony of landscape photography, Sara added an interesting element in her recent posts - her shoes. On her Instagram account, one can observe the influence of her passion about landscape photography on the way she depicts her coffee break. A photo of a coffee cup looks like it was shot from high above!

#### Storm chasing

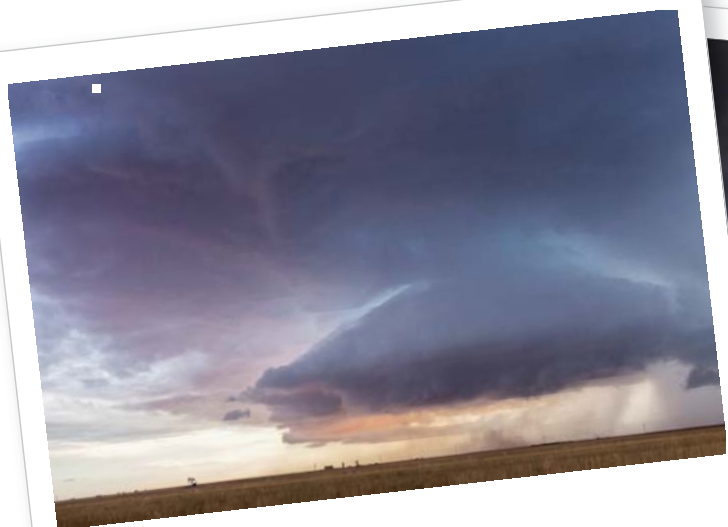
Sara is also taking serious steps towards storm chasing by learning from the masters of this craft. "Storm chasing is a new thing for me. It first captivated me when I took my first haboob (dust storm) image back in March 2011, when it engulfed Kuwait City. It was such an amazing experience. A storm chaser from the United States decided to travel all the way to chase these storms, and together we did so. Later, I travelled to the United States to storm-chase twice in Tornado Alley, between 2015 and 2016. I also learned much about weather maps by meeting weather experts," she added.

If you're a cityscape photographer, don't expect Sara to tell you where did she clicks her pictures, because it's a form of escapism for her. "Photography makes me happier!" she exclaimed. No one will ever tell you where they hide from the hustle of life.

Sara Al-Sayegh's website: [www.salsayegh.com](http://www.salsayegh.com)



Iceland Braided Rivers, 2014



Pictures taken of a storm in the United States  
— Photos by Sarah Al-Sayegh.



# HCA

International Hospitals

THE HARLEY STREET CLINIC

THE LISTER HOSPITAL  
Chelsea

  
London Bridge Hospital

  
The Portland Hospital  
for Women and Children

  
THE PRINCESS GRACE  
HOSPITAL

  
The Wellington Hospital

HCA NHS ventures

  
Leaders in Oncology Care

  
SCRI  
Sarah Cannon Research Institute  
United Kingdom

HCA is an  
American  
company  
providing  
world-class  
private  
hospital care  
in London

Tel: +44 (0)20 7034 8564

Internationalreferrals@hcahealthcare.co.uk

www.hcainternational.com

**HCA**Hospitals

World-Class Healthcare



# MOH CONFIRMS FEE HIKE FOR EXPATS

## NEW MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM IN WORKS

**KUWAIT:** A special panel has been formed to review the fees of health services provided to expats in the country's state hospitals, the health ministry announced Wednesday. The panel will study increasing the prices of some types of drugs prescribed to expats, Dr Mahmoud Al-Abdulhadi, assistant undersecretary for legal affairs at the health ministry, said at a press conference. The ministry will announce the updated prices in February after publishing them in the official gazette, Abdulhadi noted, affirming that the new prices are meant to cope with the rising cost of the ministry's services such as sonar scans, laboratories, nuclear medicine, etc.

The new prices will also be 60 percent lesser than the health services provided in any private hospital, clinic or center, he said, affirming the ministry's keenness to provide high-quality health



**KUWAIT:** Dr Mahmoud Al-Abdulhadi, assistant undersecretary for legal affairs at the health ministry, holds a press conference. — KUNA

services to expats at affordable prices. He noted that the costly services such as bone scan, which costs the ministry

KD 90, could be provided to expat patients for KD 40, cancer screening, which costs KD 480, could be provided

for KD 250, and adrenal gland examination, which costs KD 270, could be provided for KD 70. Moreover, the fees of 3D and 4D pregnancy ultrasound scans are projected to increase to from KD 10 to KD 25, he said.

On the new health insurance system for the expats, the health official said the project is currently in its final stage at the Audit Bureau, adding that the ministry has made preparations for the new system. As soon as the ministry receives the Audit Bureau's approval, the health ministry will sign an agreement with the Health Assurance Hospitals Company (Daman) to start the construction of three hospitals and 15 health centers across the country to provide health services for expats, he noted. Abdulhadi also affirmed that the new insurance system will be mandatory for all expats, except for workers at state bodies, servants and maids. — KUNA

## KUWAIT CUTS OIL EXPORTS BY MORE THAN 133,000 BPD

**ABU DHABI:** Kuwait has cut its oil exports by more than 133,000 barrels per day after global producers agreed last month to reduce output, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq said yesterday. "For our customers in North America and Europe, we have already cut our exports," he said at a conference in Abu Dhabi. "We are maintaining full exports to Asia. We intend as Kuwait to lead by example. We have already cut our production to more than what we have committed," he said. Marzouq also said he was very happy with current oil prices. Brent crude is around \$55 a barrel. Based on statements by oil producing nations so far, there has been more than 60 percent compliance with production cuts specified by the deal, Marzouq added. Some countries may have complied but not announced that yet. — Reuters

## OOREDOO SUPPORTS 'MUROUJ' ACTIVITIES

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo, the fastest network in Kuwait, is proud to continue its partnership with Murouj Market, a monthly weekend market for local entrepreneurs and businesses. The market includes local farm produce, artisanal food products and crafts, with a 'street food' section aimed at highlighting the culinary diversity of Kuwait's local food community. The market also offers a section dedicated for children's activities. The market is ready to receive customers today.

Commenting on this sponsorship, Ooredoo Kuwait Senior Director of Corporate Communications Mijbil Alayoub said: "We're happy with our ongoing support for local businesses and entrepreneurs through this engaging project. This sponsorship comes in tandem with our social responsibility strategy, which in turn is based on our core values of Ooredoo, of caring, connecting and challenging. We look forward to meeting those young enthusiastic small business owners as well as our valued customers at the market today." Ooredoo is a strategic partner of this event. Updates about the market can be found on Murouj's official Instagram account @muroujkw as well as Ooredoo's Instagram account @OoredooKuwait

# MP HASHEM WANTS MORE CHARGES, TAXES ON EXPATS

## CALL TO SPEED UP DEMOGRAPHIC BALANCING

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** MP Safa Al-Hashem yesterday called for imposing more charges and taxes on expatriates to make their stay in the country very costly and pave the way for amending the demographic structure, which is heavily in favor of foreigners. She said in a statement that the government should increase electricity and water charges, impose new taxes like value added tax (VAT) and others and even road taxes on all expatriates living in the country.

The lawmaker said that if this policy is strictly implemented for the next three years, it will help rectify the demographic structure in the country, which now stands at 3.1 million expats against 1.34 million Kuwaiti citizens. Hashem, the only female in the 50-member National Assembly, said that by raising the cost of living for expatriates, Kuwaiti employers will recruit only high-skilled foreigners that the country needs. It will eventually lead to reducing the number of expatriates in Kuwait.

The lawmaker strongly criticized statements by Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih that balancing the demographic structure requires between 15 and 20 years. She insisted the balance must be made within three years and this will make Kuwaitis enjoy what she called "social justice" that they had been lacking. She did not elaborate.

The government has been planning to raise a variety of charges on expatriates, whose incomes are far lower than their Kuwaiti counterparts. A law was approved in March last year to raise electricity prices almost sevenfold. It also stipulates raising water prices starting from August this year. The ministry of health has also announced raising the cost of many services on expatriates starting from mid-February. This includes raising the price of



**KUWAIT:** MP Safaa Al-Hashem is seen during a session of the National Assembly. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

radiology services, drugs and even the cost of health insurance.

Subaih was quoted as saying yesterday that the government is raising charges for expatriates as a way of amending the demographic structure. But a number of lawmakers have already

submitted two draft laws calling for scrapping the law stipulating to raise electricity charges and petrol prices because of their adverse impact on Kuwaitis, although they are excluded from the hike. The two draft laws have not been taken up by the Assembly.

## US SOLDIER COMMITS SUICIDE IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** An American soldier stationed in Kuwait shot and killed himself yesterday at a US military base in the state, the interior ministry said. The ministry said in a statement on Twitter that the soldier, who was not named, used his personal gun to kill himself while on duty. The Pentagon confirmed the death of a US

soldier in a "non-combat related incident" in Kuwait, without elaborating. The interior ministry said the soldier was rushed to Adan Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival. Several thousand American soldiers are stationed at Camp Arifjan, a military base about 70 km south of Kuwait City. — AFP



# SHEIKH SALMAN OPENS QURAIN FESTIVAL

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah opened the 23rd edition of Qurain Cultural Festival on Wednesday evening by honoring the winners of the state incentive and recognition awards for 2016. The festival, organized by the National Council for Culture, Art and Letters (NCCAL) under the auspices of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, continues until Jan 28.

Sheikh Salman, who doubles as president of NCCAL, said at the opening ceremony that Kuwait is proud of its innovative thinkers and artists who contribute to the country's high status and civilization. Through honoring the pioneers in arts and letters, Kuwait is doing its duty towards not only its citizens but its ambitious cultural project as well, he said. Kuwait believes in the role of the intelligentsia in boosting

enlightenment, and the values of tolerance, coexistence and opening up to

cultures of other nations, he pointed out. Sheikh Salman spoke highly of the con-

tributions of state award laureates to the cultural movement in such areas as literature, theater and formative art.

Among the prize winners is Dr Morsel Al-Ajmi who delivered a speech on behalf of all laureates. The winners of the state awards of recognition are Laila Mohammad Saleh (literature), Ibrahim Al-Sallah (theatrical arts), and Mahmoud Al-Radwan (formative arts).

The 13 winners of the incentive awards are; Samar Al-Bader (painting), Maytham Bader (TV drama), Ahmad Al-Awadhi (theatrical drama), Dr Mubarak Al-Mez'al (theatrical direction), Osama Al-Mezei'l (radio direction), Bader Al-Haddad, (music composition), Raja' Al-Qahtani and Jaber Al-Ni'mah (poetry), Taleb Al-Rifa'ei (novel writing), Dr Mohammad Belal and Dr Morsel Al-Ajmi (criticism), Abdul-Rahman Al-Ibrahim (historical studies), and Dr Ali Al-Jaafar (education). — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah honors the winners of the state incentive and recognition awards for 2016. — KUNA

## MOI VOWS FOOLPROOF SECURITY MEASURES

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior (MoI) will not allow any security breaches to take place and will ensure that the security apparatus is fully equipped to protect the nation, MoI's Undersecretary Sulaiman Al-Fahd said yesterday.



**MoI Undersecretary Sulaiman Al-Fahd addresses the meeting. — KUNA**

Fahd presided over a broad meeting involving senior officials to survey security conditions in the country, a statement by the ministry noted. Moreover, the statement added that the meeting also tackled a plan that has been set to uphold the nation's security at a critical juncture rife with challenges and obstacles.

On the meeting, the statement pointed out that it underscored the need of extra efforts to boost the security forces' capabilities of dealing with any situation

deemed detrimental to national security. Fahd also conveyed Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah's warm greetings to security forces, wishing them success and prosperity, the statement added. — KUNA

## AMIR 'GENUINELY INTERESTED' IN HUMANITARIAN ISSUES: ICRC

### ICRC PRESIDENT VISITS KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is "genuinely interested" in humanitarian issues, and believes action in this domain has to be detached from politics, ICRC President Peter Maurer said late Wednesday. "His Highness the Amir is a leader who is genuinely interested in humanitarian issues. He is not one of those leaders who pretends to be interested in humanitarian issues for his own image," Maurer, who heads the International Committee of Red Cross, said in an interview with KUNA.

Maurer was on a visit to Kuwait and met HH the Amir, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, President of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Hilal Al-Sayer and Chairman of the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) and Advisor to the Amiri Diwan Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq. He thanked HH Sheikh Sabah for the great contribution of Kuwait over the last four years, particularly in Syria and Iraq.

Kuwait hosted three conferences and



**ICRC President Peter Maurer**

co-chaired a fourth one, helping Syrians affected by the ongoing crisis in their country since 2011, said the official, adding that Kuwait contributed over \$3 billion to help them.

Kuwait has also been offering humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi people, affirmed the ICRC president. HH the Amir has a "very clear conviction that humanitarian action has to be distinct from political action, and this is immensely helpful today because many actors are politicizing

the conflicts," asserted Maurer.

He said that he provided detailed account of how ICRC spent the funds offered by Kuwait over the past three and half years, and His Highness the Amir emphasized "such a clear commitment to humanitarian values and principles, which is a strength to the ICRC." Maurer said Kuwait, whose relations with ICRC are 26 years old, understood the importance of respecting the law, reunifying families, searching for the missing people and humane treatment of detainees, principles that ICRC followed.

Maurer, who flew to Kuwait from Iraq, also said he discussed with the Kuwaiti officials ICRC's keenness to provide educational services in Somalia, as Kuwait was preparing to host an international conference on education in the African country. Maurer, meanwhile, said his visit to Iraq helped create an understanding of the ICRC mission. He said Kuwait Red Crescent Society donated food parcels that ICRC was distributing in Iraq, part of KRCS's humanitarian contributions to the needy throughout the region. — KUNA

## MAFATEEL, JAM'A TRADITIONAL TRINKETS WORN BY CHILDREN



**KUWAIT:** Al-Mafateel, Al-Hajoul, Al-Jam'a, and Challab Al-Thahab are names of traditional jewelry that were typically worn by Kuwaiti children during cultural and social performances in the past. In her book "Jewelry in Old Kuwait", researcher Salwa Al-Magrebi said that the manufacturing of trinkets and small jewelry in Kuwait was influenced by social surroundings, revealing that the people who lived near the sea wore different kinds of ornaments than their counterparts in the desert.

For example, trinkets that evoked marine cultural values were being made for children near the coast and vice versa, said the researcher, adding that trinkets from nearby countries and abroad were also imported into Kuwait for children to wear. Trinkets were mostly adorned by little girls back then, said Magrebi, adding that babies, regardless of gender, were also given little ornaments consisting of "special" gemstones that had Quranic verses to ward off the evil eye. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Traditional trinkets worn by Kuwaiti children during cultural and social occasions in the past. — KUNA



Crime

Report

**Orthopedist gropes patient in hospital**

**KUWAIT:** A security source said an American expat in her 40s told police that when she went to see an orthopedist at a private hospital, the doctor touched sensitive parts of her body. She added that there wasn't any nurse with him. She said that she admonished him and left the hospital. The doctor, a European national, denied her allegations, but the prosecutor filed a felony complaint.

**Bedoon arrested**

Weapons detectives carried out a raid on a stable in Jahra. A pen-pistol with 25 rounds was found, in addition to four sticks of hashish in a bedoon's house. Detectives learned about the bedoon trading in drugs and unusual firearms, and that he was usually armed. The bedoon confessed to trading in firearms and drugs, and was referred to the public prosecution.

**Expat found dead**

An expat was found dead in the bathroom of a Farwaniya flat. Firemen were called, who broke open the door and found the man. The body was recovered by the coroner.

**Workplace harassment**

A woman told police that a colleague harassed her at work in a communications ministry department, and she was surprised by him attacking her. The man denied her claims, adding that there are differences between them and her action is malicious.

**Parking beating**

Two Egyptians told police they were beaten under a building because of a car parking dispute. The two gave police the license plate number of the attacker's car.

**Officer drunk**

Jahra security director sent a uniformed man and an Iranian to Sulaibiya police station and charged them with being drunk in a public place. The two were stopped as the car they were in was being driven erratically. The driver was in his military uniform, driving while intoxicated. Meanwhile, Nuwaiseeb customs sent a citizen to the Drugs Control General Department on his arrival while under the influence of drugs. Officers also found four used hashish joints hashish, besides a piece of the drug.

**Muggers arrested**

Two Jordanians and a Syrian were sent to the public prosecution for involvement in several armed robberies, the latest of which was against an Egyptian who was beaten and his phone and wristwatch stolen. The suspects were identified by the victim. — Al-Anbaa

**PHF SENDS TEAM TO TREAT SYRIA REFUGEES IN TURKEY**

**ANKARA:** Kuwaiti Patient Helping Fund Society (PHF) is sending a medical team to Reyhanli town in Hatay Province, south of Turkey, to treat wounded Syrian refugees. PHF head of public relations and leader of the team Hamad Al-Omairi told KUNA yesterday that his team will spend three days in Turkey, where they will treat Syrian refugees who have been seriously injured due to airstrikes against Syria's Aleppo. In addition to medical care, the Kuwaiti team will give moral support to the Syrian refugees and will try to bring cheers to their hearts under these critical circumstances. The Kuwaiti team will pay various visits to medical and psychosocial clinics in the province. Reyhanli is a town and district of Hatay Province, on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey, near the country's border with Syria. Syrian refugees in this town amount to 130,000, while its local population is merely 90,000. The Turkish government only allows 20 injured Syrian refugees to cross its border daily to receive medical treatment. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** The bottles of homebrewed liquor found on a bus.



**Officers a surprise security campaign in Salmiya.**

**BIG LIQUOR HAUL BUSTED ON BUS**

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya police arrested an Indian with 1,190 bottles of liquor. The suspect was driving a bus when he was stopped for an ID check, but he seemed nervous and attempted to escape. The liquor was found when the bus was searched.

**Inspection tours**

Director General of the Supervision and Inspection Department Maj Gen Mohammad Al-Enezi, accompanied by several officers, carried out an inspection tour at Ebhaith border center, Warba Island and Failaka Island police station.

**Salmiya campaign**

A surprise security campaign was carried out in Salmiya led by Interior



**Senior officials who toured Ebhaith, Warba and Failaka.**

Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Operations Affairs Maj Gen Hatem Al-Sayegh and Acting Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Tarrah, resulting in the

arrest of 1,126 violators, 42 with expired residencies, 85 with no IDs, one over liquor, 27 over unpaid debts and 44 for traffic violations. Meanwhile, the IDs of 876 persons were checked.

**FIRE BREAKS OUT IN A SCHOOL, CEILING COLLAPSES IN ANOTHER**

**KUWAIT:** Fire broke in a school for boys and a hallway ceiling partially collapsed in another school for girls yesterday, with no report of casualties, Minister of Education Mohammad Al-Fares said yesterday. He told KUNA as he was touring these schools to find the cause of the accidents, adding that students were fine and examinations went ahead as normal.

When the fire broke out in the administration offices at Farhan Al-Khaled High School for Boys in Bayan, the fire department was immediately notified. An investigation was opened to find the cause of the fire. Meanwhile, the ceiling which partially collapsed at Latifa Al-Fares High School for Girls in Fahaeel did not result in any casualties nor did it interrupt the examinations. The minister promised to follow up on these two incidents and swiftly request repairing the damage.

Separately, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) put out a fire that broke out at an electric equipment warehouse in Amghara yesterday. The firemen were able to prevent the blaze from spreading to nearby buildings, head of KFSD's Public Relations Department Khalil Al-Amir told KUNA. He added that two firemen were injured at the site. Amir noted that a thorough investigation to determine the cause of the fire was underway, adding that the affected warehouse is spread over 5,000 sq m. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Firemen fight a fire at an Amghara warehouse. — KUNA

**KUWAIT DELIVERS FUEL, FOOD TO DISPLACED IRAQIS**

**IRBIL:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society yesterday distributed 30,000 liters of white fuel to Iraqis who have been displaced from Mosul and taken up refuge in Hassan Sham camp near Irbil. Rezkar Obaid, in charge of the shantytown, told KUNA that the society teams delivered the white fuel to 1,500 families - 20 liters for each one. Obaid expressed gratitude to Kuwait for securing the fuel for the relocated

Iraqis, at a time the northern regions are gripped in a cold wave.

Kuwait also distributed food items to around 25,000 Iraqi displaced from Mosul and who have taken refuge in Depkh camp, near Irbil. Barazani Charity Foundation, under the supervision of the Kuwait general consulate in Irbil, handed over 3,500 food packages to around 3,500 displaced families (about 25,000 persons). — KUNA



Friday Times

# International

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

**'This time is different': Istanbul tourism reels after attacks**



**Trump lashes out over phony dossier claims**



**Feuding Indian politicians do battle over a bicycle**



**NEW JERSEY:** This file photo shows President-Elect Donald Trump meeting with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani at the clubhouse of Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, New Jersey. — AFP

## TRUMP TAPS GIULIANI AS CYBER SECURITY GURU

**'CYBER INTRUSION THE FASTEST GROWING CRIME'**

**NEW YORK:** Donald Trump yesterday tapped former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani to advise his incoming administration on cyber security following outcry over Russian hackers' apparent attempt to meddle in the election. Giuliani, 72, dubbed America's mayor for his leadership in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, said last month he had taken himself out of the running for a cabinet job after coming under scrutiny in the US media over business dealings that could post conflicts of interest.

Yesterday's announcement from the president-elect called cyber intrusion "the fastest

growing crime in the United States and much of the world" and said it was a "major threat" to national security. The New York billionaire and incoming Republican president said "immediate attention" and "input from private sector leaders" was required to "help the government plan to make us more secure." Trump said he had asked Giuliani to initiate this process "because of his long and very successful government career in law enforcement" and his experience providing security solutions in the private sector.

Trump on Wednesday admitted for the first time that Russia was behind the hacking of

Democratic Party computers during the election campaign. He has promised that as soon as he takes office on January 20 he will give a team 90 days to come up with a plan to halt cyber attacks. But the announcement stopped short of giving Giuliani a formal title, leaving unclear the remit of the former US attorney, who forged a tough reputation in the 1980s for indicting members of the New York mafia. The president-elect said Giuliani would be "sharing his expertise and insight as a trusted friend concerning private sector cyber security problems and emerging solutions developing in the private sector."

The statement said Trump intends to meet company executives to obtain "experiential and anecdotal information" about ways to counter intrusions such as hacking and data theft. Giuliani, a Trump surrogate during the campaign, runs an international security consulting firm and had been a candidate for secretary of state until he said last month that he had withdrawn his name. At that time Trump said Giuliani remained a close personal friend, adding that "as appropriate, I will call upon him for advice and can see an important place for him in the administration at a later date."—AFP



## SEX ASSAULT CASES LEAD TO SOUL-SEARCHING IN ISRAEL

**JERUSALEM:** A string of high-profile sexual abuse cases has led to soul-searching in Israel, where women's increasing willingness to report such behavior has collided with retrograde attitudes among some men, experts say. In the most high-profile case, former president Moshe Katsav was freed from prison on parole in December after serving five years of a seven-year term for rape. He had for years refused to show any remorse for his crimes. A general, a former senior government official and a member of parliament are among other top-ranking Israelis who have come under suspicion of sex offences and whose cases have been recently in the spotlight.

Brigadier General Ofek Buchris resigned from the army in July after being charged with rape and other sexual offences. He has since reached a plea bargain that saw him avoid jail time in exchange for admitting to consensual sex with a junior female soldier and conduct unbecoming an officer related to a second woman. In a sign of increasing intolerance of such cases, reports of the plea bargain drew anger and protests.

A video of a song performed by four young women, all army veterans, went viral after its release on social networks. Entitled "Buchris's Girls", the song is a remake of a 1995 anti-war song, with new lyrics slamming the army's alleged tendency to close ranks when threatened and the torrent of abuse directed at complainants on social media. "You were like a blind herd of devotees, worshipping the commander," the four sang, dressed in army uniforms. "We are just meat for the officers."

### 'Name names'

Several hundred protesters recently rallied outside national defense headquarters in Tel Aviv, chanting "No means no! What part of that sentence don't you understand?" Israeli National Theatre actress Noga Shahar, who organized the demonstration, said that women were becoming more willing to report sex crimes. "It's not that there are suddenly more scandals," she told AFP at the protest. "It's simply that women are understanding that they can speak up, make complaints, name names. But the judicial system doesn't follow up," she said.

"Judge Yitzhak Cohen was simply fined 2,500 shekels. It's revolting," Shahar was referring to a Nazareth judge accused of forcing a court employee to sit on his lap and touching her under her blouse without her consent while in his chambers in 2010. He has since resigned from the bench. A plea bargain still under consideration would give Cohen a sentence of community service and order him to pay 2,500 Israeli shekels (\$650 Euros) in compensation to the complainant. — AFP



**ISRAEL:** Israelis demonstrate to denounce sexual violence against women in front of the Kirya, the army headquarters in the Israeli Mediterranean city of Tel Aviv. — AFP



**MOSUL, Iraq:** An Iraqi man pushes cart with cans of water between ruined buildings in Mosul's Qadisiyah neighborhood during an ongoing military operation against the Islamic State (IS) group. — AFP

## LIFE AND BUSINESS RETURN TO PARTS OF IRAQ'S MOSUL

'NEED FREEDOM TO GET OUR SUPPLIES'

**MOSUL, Iraq:** Explosions can be heard a few blocks away but butcher Haj Fawzi is wielding his cleaver again as he greets customers at a reopened market in liberated east Mosul. "Security has returned, the stalls on the market have re-opened and the clients are also here," he said, chopping up meat as cows' heads dangled from hooks behind him in the main market of Al-Zahraa neighborhood. "What we would still need is to be able to come and go freely to get our supplies," said Haj Ramzi, who runs another butcher's shop facing his brother's. The entire area around the city is a military area, where tens of thousands of Iraqi forces are closing in on die-hard jihadists from the Islamic State group defending their last major Iraqi bastion.

The residents who stayed during the offensive or those who fled but have since returned to their homes cannot move without a slew of permits. "We have no water, no electricity. We're having to use water from the well. It's not clean," said Umm Ashraf, listing the hardships faced by Mosul residents battling winter conditions. But her mood brightened when her gaze stopped on the display of lipstick and other cosmetics: "That was forbidden (under IS). You could only find these things on the black market. Now, we are free."

On the main street that runs along the market, a technical team from the electricity ministry was at work, trying to repair lines. A few streets down in the neighboring district, Abdo can see jihadist-controlled western Mosul from his roof, but on the ground floor of his house, he is hoping he can re-open his shop soon. For now, the 25-year-old is trying to build up some capital to restart his grocery store in the Qadisiyah 2 neighborhood by connecting homes to a power generator for nine dollars. "When it's a needy family, I'll connect them for free," he said.

### Trade hub

Iraqi forces retook Qadisiyah 2 only a

few weeks ago and while electricity and water are scarce, the residents who stayed during the fighting are keen to resume business as usual. Most of the houses on Abdo's street and in the area are still standing but some were completely destroyed, and when the fighting took place right in front of his home, Abdo had to close his shop. Under the rule of the Islamic State group, he stayed open. "The goods came from Raqa or from Turkey," Abdo said, referring to the Syrian city that was the other major hub in the "caliphate" the jihadists proclaimed in 2014. "We couldn't sell Coke, it was banned, and the authorized Syrian products we had were really quite bad," he said.

Abdo, his brother and their mother hope that the Iraqi government's reassertion of authority in the area will allow the return of goods from Turkey via Iraq's Kurdish region. Mosul lies on

the Tigris River at a crossroads between Iraq, Turkey and Syria and once prospered as a major trade hub. Areas to the east of Iraq's second city were cleared of IS only weeks ago but despite ongoing operations, commerce wasted no time in coming back to life, as evidenced by the trucks lined up at checkpoints in Mosul's outskirts. Nearby, Abdo's brother Omar and a group of other teenagers and young men played football on the artificial turf of the "Doha Stadium".

"We could still play under Daesh (IS) but we were scared of the air strikes" carried out mostly by the US-led coalition supporting Iraqi forces against the jihadists, said Osama, 22, a fan of Barcelona's star player Lionel Messi. "Now we can play football, but we can also play cards and we can smoke nargileh, and that was forbidden under Daesh," he said, referring to water pipes popular in the region. — AFP

## SYRIA REGIME STRIKES KILL SIX CIVILIANS

**BEIRUT:** Syrian government air strikes killed at least six civilians, including four children, in Aleppo province yesterday, despite a fragile two-week-old truce, a monitor said. In neighboring Idlib province, at least 22 jihadists were killed in air strikes over the past 24 hours, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Some were carried out by government aircraft, others by aircraft of the US-led coalition, the Britain-based monitoring group said.

The civilians were killed early yesterday when a government air strike hit a house in the village of Babka in the west of Aleppo province. It said the death toll could rise because a number of the wounded were in serious condition. Most of the dead in the Idlib strikes were fighters of the for-

mer Al-Qaeda affiliate Fateh al-Sham. Two of the group's commanders were among 16 fighters killed in a coalition strike on their convoy on Wednesday, the Observatory said.

Earlier, three allied jihadists were killed in a government raid. Later, three Fateh al-Sham fighters were killed in apparent drone strikes. The Observatory says it determines whose planes carry out raids according to their type, location, flight patterns and the munitions involved. The strikes came despite a nationwide truce brokered by regime supporter Russia and rebel backer Turkey that has been in place since Dec 30. The truce does not include Fateh al-Sham, formerly known as Al-Nusra Front, or the Islamic State group. — AFP



## IS USING HOBBY DRONES TO BOMB IRAQI FORCES IN MOSUL

**WASHINGTON:** Islamic State jihadists are using small commercial drones to attack Iraqi security forces in the battle for Mosul, a US commander said Wednesday. Colonel Brett Sylvia, who commands an "advise and assist" US unit in Iraq, said IS fighters are attaching small munitions to quad copters in an attempt to kill local forces as they retake Mosul, the last major IS bastion in Iraq. "They are small drones with small munitions that they've been dropping," Sylvia said.

While the munitions were no larger than "a small little grenade," he said, that was enough to do what "Daesh does, and that's just, you know, indiscriminate killing," he said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. The group's use of small drones is not new, Sylvia said, though initially they were mainly used for reconnaissance. "They are (now) using them to drop munitions as Iraqi forces push into Mosul," he said. He added that US-backed local troops have been able to bring

down many of the drones, making them "much less effective than they were."

Tens of thousands of allied troops launched a huge offensive on October 17 to retake Mosul and areas around it. Early in the offensive, a variety of forces quickly retook significant swaths of land, but the going has been much tougher inside the city itself. Iraqi forces have retaken at least 80 percent of east Mosul from Islamic State jihadists, the spokesman of the special forces spearheading the cam-

aign said Wednesday.

Over the past two weeks, Iraqi forces have overrun several districts and, for the first time, reached the Tigris River that runs through the heart of the city. But the western part of Iraq's second city remains largely in IS hands.

"There's a lot of fight that's left to do in western Mosul," Sylvia said, noting that IS had conducted extensive defensive work. Still, he said, IS resistance had weakened in several areas. —AFP

## TRUMP, TOP DIPLOMAT PICK DIFFER ON NUKES

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump's choice for secretary of state, former ExxonMobil head Rex Tillerson, assured senators Wednesday that the United States would continue striving for nuclear nonproliferation, a stance in conflict with some of the president-elect's pronouncements. During his presidential campaign, Trump raised the possibility of Japan and South Korea—both key US allies—arming themselves with nuclear weapons. And late last year, the president-elect revived the specter of a nuclear arms race, saying that the United States would respond in kind if any other nuclear power expanded its arsenal.

Yet Tillerson, in a confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that "one of the vital roles" for the State Department is "the pursuit of nuclear nonproliferation." "We just simply cannot back away from our commitment to see a reduction in the number of these weapons on the planet," said Tillerson, who was named by Trump late last year to succeed Secretary of State John Kerry. As the Republican-controlled Senate weighs the confirmation of Trump's cabinet nominees, most are expected to breeze through relatively unscathed. But the nominees have provided both new clarity—and sometimes a degree of confusion—as to the precise policies Trump aims to pursue.

While President Barack Obama has spent much of his time in office preaching the virtues of "a world without nuclear weapons," Trump has said he is ready, if necessary, to end the decades-old pursuit by both Democratic and Republican administrations to reduce the numbers and strategic importance of nuclear weaponry. Trump said last month in remarks reported by MSNBC that if it came to it, "Let it be an arms race... we will outmatch them at every pass and outlast them all." He said the United States should "greatly strengthen and reinforce its nuclear capability." — AFP

## FISTS FLY AS TURKEY MOVES TO BOLSTER ERDOGAN POWERS

**ANKARA:** Turkish lawmakers yesterday approved three more articles in a hugely controversial bill bolstering the powers of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, as lawmakers brawled and threw objects in a session of high tension. Lawmakers have since the start of the week been debating the first reading of the 18-article bill to change the constitution to create an executive presidency. The articles approved covered lowering the minimum age limit of members of parliament from 25 to 18, stipulating parliamentary elections be held every five years, instead of four, and on the parliament's own powers.

Five of the 18 articles have now been approved with the three-fifths majority required for the new constitution to be submitted to a referendum expected in April. The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has mustered sufficient votes in an alliance with the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). But the changes are vehemently opposed by the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), whose lawmakers boycotted the vote. The two readings are expected to take two weeks, with parliament working without a break. A brawl erupted in the chamber as the voting took place in an overnight session, with lawmakers punching each other and chairs being thrown, television pictures showed. Dozens of lawmakers crowded around the speaker's rostrum with one MP held in a chokehold and another kicked in the shins. "I am proud of my CHP deputies who showed resistance despite all the attacks from the AKP which is desperate to knock down the seat of the nation's will," the CHP faction's deputy chairman Ozgur Ozel said. — AFP



**ISTANBUL:** Sibel Satiroglu, a tour guide places red carnations in Sultanahmet Square, the site where 12 of her German clients were killed last year in a bombing, in Istanbul yesterday. — AFP

## 'THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT': ISTANBUL TOURISM REELS AFTER ATTACKS

'THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM: TERRORIST ATTACKS DON'T STOP'

**ISTANBUL:** Yavuz Indere has worked as a hotel receptionist in Istanbul for nearly half a century, witnessing coups, unrest and economic crises. But as a string of terror attacks erodes the backbone of Turkey's key tourism sector, Indere admits he has never seen anything like this in the city. "I've been doing this job for 45 years, obviously I've had tough years, but this time it was different," he told AFP at his tiny hotel in the historic Sultanahmet area, the scene of a deadly attack on Jan 12 last year that rocked the tourism industry. Exactly a year on from the bombing blamed on Islamic State (IS) jihadists which killed 12 German tourists in the heart of the city, many hotels are suffering, and some have closed their doors for good. "The heart of the problem is that terrorist attacks do not stop. People who go to visit a country want a guarantee. I understand them, it is a human reflex," Indere said. That attack was followed by a slew of strikes blamed on IS and Kurdish militants that killed hundreds in Turkey in 2016, capped by the gunning down of 39 revelers at Istanbul's glamorous Reina nightclub by a suspected jihadist on New Year's night.

### 'Lost my dear travelers'

There were no official ceremonies to mark the Sultanahmet bombing and the anniversary was barely mentioned on Turkish television. But Sibel Satiroglu, the tourist guide who was with the Germans that day, laid single red carnations on each spot where a body had fallen in a lonely and personal act of remembrance. "It is a year today since I lost my dear people and travelers. Faced with their pain, in their absence, I pay my respects," she said "I curse those who have done this, planned this, produced this. Those I lost, I love them all, I love them and they will always live with me," she said as she sobbed with grief.

The number of foreign tourists visiting Istanbul, with its historic mosques and Ottoman palaces, dropped to 9.2 million in 2016, a 26-percent decline on the previous year, tourism ministry statistics show. Tourists can still be spotted on Sultanahmet-

home to sights including the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sofia—but there is no sign of the crowds that once thronged the area and souvenir sellers look forlornly at their stalls. The Sultanahmet attack was followed by another one on the busy Istiklal shopping street last March, which left three Israelis and an Iranian dead.

A gun and bomb attack on the city's Ataturk airport in June slaughtered 47 people, including 19 foreigners. Then on July 15, a failed coup attempt left dozens dead in Istanbul alone while a December double bombing near the Besiktas football stadium claimed by Kurdish militants killed 46 people. "The airport was attacked, Sultanahmet was attacked, then Taksim was attacked, and finally the Reina (nightclub), which for me is an attack on the heart of tourism," said Cetin Gurcun, secretary general of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB).

The country as a whole has paid a steep price: while 42 million people visited Turkey in 2015, some 12 million fewer travelled there in 2016, Gurcun said. "In foreign currency terms, revenues amounted to 31.6 billion dollars in 2015, and we had a fall of almost 10 billion dollars in 2016," he added. In 2015 tourism accounted for 4.4 percent of Turkey's gross domestic product (GDP), according to the latest figures available.

### 'Can't let terrorists win'

Adding to the tensions, the search continues for an IS-claimed jihadist who rampaged through the Reina nightclub in the early hours of 2017, shooting revelers, including Arab and European tourists, before escaping. "It does worry me but you know, if you do not come, then you let the terrorists win," said John Plas, a tourist from the Netherlands. Security measures have been heightened in the wake of the attacks, with heavily armed police patrolling streets. Tourist guide Umran Aslan said it helped make her feel safer: "They're trying to protect us. I feel better when I see police everywhere." But she admitted it was unlikely to reassure tourists. "It's so sad, because I love my job." — AFP



# NEW UN CHIEF OPENS CRUNCH CYPRUS MEET

**GENEVA:** UN chief Antonio Guterres opened a crunch conference yesterday aimed at ending decades of division in Cyprus, billed as the "very last chance" to solve one of the world's longest-running political crises. Guterres was undertaking his first foreign trip as UN chief in a bid to achieve a breakthrough at the Geneva summit that also involves rival Cypriot sides as well as Greece, Turkey and former colonial power Britain. The eastern Mediterranean island has been divided since 1974, when Turkish troops invaded in response to an Athens-inspired coup seeking union with Greece.

Yesterday's multi-party talks follows three days of negotiation between rival Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders aimed at forging a united, two-zone federation. The intra-Cypriot

talks have focused on thorny domestic issues such as territory and what a future, unified government might look like. UN Cyprus envoy Espen Barth Eide has called this week "the moment of truth" and insisted that a deal to solve the long-standing division was within reach. In a crucial step, Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci late Wednesday exchanged maps detailing their visions of how internal boundaries should be redrawn.

Turkish Cypriot leaders have agreed in principle to return some of the land they have controlled since the failed 1974 coup. Greek Cypriot government spokesman Nikos Christodoulides said that the map presented was "within the framework" agreed during previous negotiations

that foresees the Turkish Cypriot zone amounting to a maximum of 29.2 percent of the island. "We consider it as a particularly positive development," Christodoulides said while noting that disputes remain and a final map has not been agreed.

### Guarantor powers

Yesterday's conference marks Guterres's first foreign trip since taking over the UN's top job on Jan 1. British foreign secretary Boris Johnson, Greek foreign minister Nikos Kotzias and Turkish Mevlut Cavusoglu were all on hand representing Cyprus's so-called "guarantor powers." Under a 1959 treaty, those nations were allowed to intervene to defend the island's sovereign integrity, which Ankara used to justify its invasion. Any peace deal will likely include significant changes

to or even the elimination of the guarantor power arrangement. Greece has called it out of date and Britain has said it was happy to give it up if Cypriots asked.

Britain also retains military bases in Cyprus that are sovereign British territory. In a statement before arriving in Geneva, Johnson said Britain was ready to help solve the Cyprus problem "in any way it can", applauding the "courage and commitment that has been shown by both sides." The estimated 30,000 Turkish troops deployed on the island remain a deeply divisive issue, with Anastasiades wanting them to leave the island but Akinci determined to keep a military presence. Ankara has said little about the type of security deal it would be willing to endorse. — AFP



Kuwait Times

# Premier Brands

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



**best OFFER**

**UN-9633GI**



90X60cm

- Stainless steel
- 5 gas burners
- Oven and grill
- Full Safety

**189** Price  
KD .000

**AL-9612GI**



90X60cm

- Stainless steel
- 5 gas burners
- Durable

**159** Price  
KD .000

**UN-8633GI**



80X60cm

- Stainless steel
- 5 gas burners
- Easy to Clean

**159** Price  
KD .000

2017/01/13 إلى 2016/12/05 - 1437/01/13 إلى 1436/12/05



**best** بست  
AL-YOUSIFI اليوسفي

BestAIYouSifi @BestAIYouSifi alyousifIBEST BestAIYouSifi

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

• 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.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

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

**1809 809**



**NOW OPEN**



Chicken Skin



Chicken Breast & Wing (Pachra)



Kalawin wa Tanigue



Sizzling Squid

Block 11, Street 58, - Homoud Al Abdul Aziz Al Sinan Street, Al Hour Complex, Mezzanine Floor, - Fahaheel Kuwait.

**Tel. 23927352 - 69961945**



## FLOODED CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS RESCUED AS STORMS RECEDE

**HOLLISTER, California:** Rescue workers used boats and fire trucks to evacuate dozens of Northern California residents from their flooded homes Wednesday as a drought-busting series of storms began to move out of the region after days of heavy rain and snow that toppled trees and created havoc as far north as Portland, Oregon. Reports of the flooding started about 2 a.m. Wednesday as water from a quickly rising creek in the small rural town of Hollister deluged homes on a two-lane stretch of road called Lovers Lane. Torrents of rain gushed down the street even after rescuers finished evacuating residents more than seven hours later.

Some homes had mud lines about five feet high, marking how far the water rose. The water by that time was receding but still waist-deep in places. "It's just a lot of water," said Kevin O'Neill, emergency services manager for San Benito County. "Fields that look like lakes. The ground just can't soak it up. Vehicles that are partly submerged, homes have water damage." Hollister resident Richard Sanchez said he didn't evacuate because he wanted to look after his animals after seeing his yard flood. "My yard is just an ocean," Sanchez said. "I decided to stay because I have animals. I wasn't being hard-headed. I just wanted to make sure they were safe."

Forecasters said precipitation would continue through Thursday, but the brunt of the back-to-back systems fueled by an "atmospheric river" weather phenomenon had passed after delivering the heaviest rain in a decade to parts of Northern California and Nevada. The massive rain and snowfall that prompted a rare blizzard warning in parts of the Sierra Nevada mountains is helping much of Northern California recover from a six-year drought. The series of storms has also added 39 billion gallons of water to Lake Tahoe since Jan. 1. Stormy weather extended north where Portland, Oregon and Southwest Washington were slammed with a surprising foot of snow, unusual for an area that normally sees rain.

Crater Lake National Park in Oregon closed Tuesday and into Wednesday with more than 8 feet of snow on the ground. The staggering snow totals in the Sierra Nevada - up to 11 feet the past week at some ski resorts around Lake Tahoe - was great for easing drought conditions but bad for area ski enthusiasts as road closures and avalanche threats kept most resorts closed for the third day in a row Wednesday. "In all my years, it's so rare to have too much snow," said Dan Lavelly, who moved to Lake Tahoe in 1968 and now lives in Reno. "Having a season pass, you pretty much live for these conditions. You want 2 or 3 feet of fresh powder, and you want to go play in it."

In Southern California, as the latest round of rain tapered off, a 9,000-pound of concrete wall and foundation slid down a rain-soaked, unstable hillside in Los Angeles' Hollywood Hills neighborhood. It landed on a roadway that had been closed because of concerns about the undermined home. No injuries were reported. The home, built in 1925, was red-tagged as unsafe to occupy while two neighboring homes were yellow-tagged, meaning residents can stay inside but can't go into their backyards. A Kern County Sheriff's Office helicopter flying grand jury members over areas affected by flooding spotted an elderly woman in distress and rescued her Tuesday, the office said. Along the Russian River, north of San Francisco, some residents began to assess the damage. —AP



**CALIFORNIA:** People in a canoe drift past a flooded Playland Miniature Golf Course, as the Russian River crested in Guerneville, California.—AP



**LONDON:** Members of the media film the main entrance to the building housing the offices of business consultants Orbis Business Intelligence Ltd in central London yesterday.—AFP

## TRUMP LASHES OUT OVER PHONY DOSSIER CLAIMS

'BUZZFEED SLAMMED AS A FAILING PILE OF GARBAGE'

**NEW YORK:** Donald Trump attacked US intelligence agencies and the media Wednesday as he denied explosive allegations about his ties to Russia, but admitted for the first time that Moscow had likely meddled in the US election. Just over a week before he takes office, Trump said he had ceded "complete" managing control of his global property empire to his two adult sons but stopped short of making a full divestment, earning a swift rebuke from an ethics watchdog and Democratic Party opponents.

"It doesn't meet the standards that the best of his nominees are meeting and that every president in the last four decades has met," said Walter Shaub, director of the Office of Government Ethics. "He needs to get rid of his business interests and he needs to put them in what's called a blind trust," Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren told Bloomberg TV. But the hour-long press conference, his first in six months, focused firmly on the unsubstantiated claims that his aides colluded with the Kremlin to win the US election, and that Russia has compromising information on Trump.

The president-elect accused CNN of generating "fake news" and slammed BuzzFeed as "a failing pile of garbage" after it published a dossier with the allegedly incriminating material, drawn up by a former British intelligence agent hired to do "opposition research" on Trump. "It's all fake news. It's phony stuff. It didn't happen," he said, referring to allegations of lurid behavior in a Moscow hotel room.

The 70-year old Republican billionaire suggested it may have been released by the intelligence agencies, which would be

a "tremendous blot on their record." Trump dodged questions about whether his campaign had contacts with Russian intelligence, instead tearing into reporters whose outlets reported on the allegations of the existence of compromising material. "I'm not going to give you a question."

You are fake news," he told a CNN reporter, igniting a fresh raft of questions about his respect for constitutional guarantees about the free press. The US intelligence community concluded Moscow interfered in the November election in a bid to tip the race in Trump's favor. But intelligence chiefs last week presented Trump, as well as President Barack Obama, with a two-page synopsis on the potentially embarrassing but unsubstantiated allegations involving Russia, according to CNN and The New York Times.

US intelligence chief James Clapper late Wednesday expressed his "profound dismay" to Trump over the leaks. "This evening, I had the opportunity to speak with President-elect Donald Trump to discuss recent media reports about our briefing last Friday," Clapper said. "I expressed my profound dismay at the leaks that have been appearing in the press, and we both agreed that they are extremely corrosive and damaging to our national security," he said, adding that he did not believe that the US intelligence community was the source.

### 'No dealings with Russia'

Even before the new allegations became public, Democrats and Trump's Republican allies had become increasingly uneasy about Russia's role in the election, with calls for an independent investigation growing. The Kremlin has dismissed the

dossier as a "total fake" aimed at damaging bilateral ties. Trump began the press conference muted and disciplined, but became increasingly agitated as questions piled up.

"I have no dealings with Russia. I have no deals in Russia. I have no deals that could happen in Russia, because we've stayed away. And I have no loans with Russia," Trump said. The president-elect finally admitted for the first time that he believes Moscow likely meddled in the US election. But while secretary of state-designate Rex Tillerson, also seen as close to Moscow, called Russia a "danger" during his confirmation hearing, Trump may have fanned the flames by downplaying Moscow's role. "As far as hacking, I think it was Russia, but I also think we've been hacked by other countries, other people," he said. Trump aides bristle at the suggestion that Russia weighed in behind Trump, seeing it as an effort to delegitimize his election victory. Trump again refused to back away from his openness towards Russian President Vladimir Putin.

### The dossier

"If Putin likes Donald Trump, I consider that an asset, not a liability," Trump said. "I don't know that I'm going to get along with Vladimir Putin. I hope I do. But there's a good chance I won't." Without corroborating its contents, BuzzFeed published a 35-page dossier of memos on which the synopsis reportedly presented to Trump is based. The memos, which had been circulating in Washington for months, describe sex videos involving prostitutes filmed during a 2013 visit by Trump to a luxury Moscow hotel, supposedly as a potential means for blackmail.—AFP



## DUTCH VIGILANT ABOUT CYBER THREAT AS POLLS LOOM

**THE HAGUE:** The Dutch government is on alert for any signs of possible cyber hacking into the accounts of political parties ahead of March elections, Foreign Minister Bert Koenders said yesterday. "There is nothing concrete, but I am not naive," Koenders told the public broadcaster NOS, adding that in the wake of the claims of Russian interference in the US elections the Dutch government remained "very, very vigilant." "It's important to monitor the situation very closely," he added, during a trip to Washington to learn if US intelligence chiefs have any knowledge of a Russian cyber threat against The Netherlands.

According to the Dutch daily De Telegraaf, the Dutch National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) on Tuesday met with party political leaders to help them find ways to boost their digital defenses. The NCSC did not immediately reply to an AFP request for comment, but an assessment released in October acknowledged: "State actors, in particular foreign intelligence services, actively collect digital political information in the Netherlands." On Wednesday, US President-elect Donald Trump acknowledged for the first time Russia may have meddled in the November elections in the United States.

He had so far refused to believe findings from the US intelligence community that concluded Moscow had led an unprecedented bid to influence the US elections. According to an unclassified report released by US Homeland Security late last month, 20 of the IP addresses used by hackers to access accounts in the US including the Democratic party were based in The Netherlands. That compares to 47 IP addresses in the US, and 45 in China. Dutch voters go to the polls on March 15, with surveys showing anti-Islam MP Geert Wilders and his Freedom Party (PVV) may emerge as the largest party in the Dutch parliament, although not with an outright majority.

The vote in The Netherlands is one of several key elections across Europe this year, which will be closely watched. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warned Thursday "any attempt to intervene in, to influence national elections from outside is unacceptable." He insisted the danger was real, adding the US-led military alliance was "concerned" about cyber security and had seen reports about such attacks against "many NATO allies."—AFP

## US SANCTIONS NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS FOR RIGHTS ABUSES

**WASHINGTON:** US authorities on Wednesday announced sanctions against North Korean government agencies and senior officials among them leader Kim Jong-Un's sister-in-law response to Pyongyang's "serious" human rights abuses and censorship activities. The latest action, which sees another seven individuals added to America's growing list of sanctioned North Koreans, targets security and prison officials accused of rights abuses. Those blacklisted include Kim Won Hong, who heads the Ministry of State Security (MSS).

"The MSS engages in torture and inhumane treatment of detainees during interrogation and in the country's network of political prison camps," the US Department of the Treasury said in a statement. "This inhumane treatment includes beatings, forced starvation, sexual assault, forced abortions, and infanticide." The Treasury announcement came as the US State Department released a report on rights abuses in North Korea, which it said are among the worst in the world. "The North Korean government continues to commit extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention, forced labor, and torture," the State Department said.

The Treasury Department also targeted Kim Yo Jong, the vice director of the Workers' Party of Korea Propaganda and Agitation Department and the younger sister of Kim Jong-Un, and Kim Il-Nam, who heads the South Hamgyong Province political prison camp. Also on the list are Choe Hwi, Min Byong Chol, Jo Yong-Won, and Kang P'il Hun. The sanctioned agencies are the State Planning Commission and the Ministry of Labor. The United States in July placed Kim Jong-Un on its sanctions blacklist for the first time, calling him directly responsible for a long list of serious human rights abuses.—AFP



**WASHINGTON:** Renda Tillerson (L) listens during the confirmation hearing for her husband and former ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson, US President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for Secretary of State, before Senate Foreign Relations Committee at Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. — AFP

## TILLERSON PREPARED TO OPPOSE TRUMP ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump's nominee for secretary of state signaled Wednesday he is prepared to diverge from the US president-elect on numerous key issues, notably nuclear non-proliferation, climate change and Russia, which he branded a "danger." Despite accusations of being too cozy with the Kremlin, former ExxonMobil chief Rex Tillerson told skeptical senators at his confirmation hearing which stretches into yesterday that he would take a firm line with Moscow as he contradicted Trump's oft-proclaimed determination to improve ties with America's former Cold War foe.

With Trump set to take office on Jan 20, the billionaire real estate mogul aims to enter the White House with several of his top lieutenants confirmed and in position, despite Democratic calls to slow the process and allow broader study and questioning of nominees. In his marathon testimony, Tillerson told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that it remained vital for Washington to be "pursuing nonproliferation," and he expressed a desire for the US to "maintain its seat at the table" with regard to climate talks.

On trade, his position countered that of Trump, who has vowed to rip up the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a massive free-trade agreement negotiated by 12 countries, on his first day in office. "I do not oppose TPP," Tillerson said. The strongest break though regarded Russia. His testimony came against a backdrop of controversy over US intelligence conclusions that Russia conducted election-related cyberattacks against US democratic institutions. Tillerson said he believed it was "a fair assumption" that Russian President Vladimir Putin would have ordered his nation's meddling in the US election.

"Russia today poses a danger, but it is

not unpredictable in advancing its own interests," he said. While Tillerson signaled his intention to be "clear-eyed" about Moscow, he refused to commit to economic sanctions against Russia. In a startling exchange with Senate Democrat Robert Menendez, an architect of previous sanctions, Tillerson revealed he has not yet discussed with Trump the incoming administration's position on Russia. "That's pretty amazing," Menendez said.

### 'Alarmed'

Tillerson, whose entire professional career has been in the energy industry, has faced criticism for his business relations with Putin and other authoritarian leaders. But the 64-year-old stressed that as Washington's top diplomat, he will conduct a more robust US foreign policy than during President Barack Obama's presidency. To achieve 21st century stability, "American leadership must not only be renewed, it must be asserted," he said. Trump says he would like closer US ties with Russia, but Tillerson appeared keen to assure lawmakers he would be either an adversary or a partner to Moscow, but not a friend.

"Our NATO allies are right to be alarmed at a resurgent Russia," he said, voicing frustration that Obama did not take a more "forceful response" when Russia annexed Crimea. The position diverges from that of Trump, who has waved off concerns about Putin's aggressions in Ukraine. Tillerson also hit out at China, warning that the Asian power pursues its "own goals" and has not sufficiently helped rein in a nuclear-armed North Korea. "It has not been a reliable partner in using its full influence to curb North Korea," he added. Beijing, Pyongyang's closest ally, is seen as critical to containing the pariah state's nuclear weapons pro-

gram. Tillerson, however, said disagreements with Beijing on some issues should not preclude "productive partnership" on other matters.

### 'Vast experience'

The Senate's Democratic minority spent hours digging into Tillerson's record. Senator Ben Cardin warned that operating an oil firm was far different than safeguarding American interests worldwide, and he questioned Tillerson's capacity to handle global crises, particularly with Russia. "It cannot be business as usual," Cardin insisted. Until he stepped down from ExxonMobil on New Year's Eve, Tillerson was also director of Exxon Neftegas, an affiliate that operates the Sakhalin-1 field in Russia's Far East.

The US parent firm was chasing greater investments in Russia, including Arctic fields, and Tillerson was a familiar and popular figure in Moscow, awarded an Order of Friendship medal by Putin in 2013. Tillerson was a staunch opponent of US and international sanctions against Russia for its aggressive behavior in Ukraine, where it annexed the Crimea region. Some Republicans have raised concerns about Tillerson. Republican Senator Marco Rubio asked him if he believed Putin is a "war criminal" for the Russian military's attacks on Aleppo, Syria, and if Saudi Arabia was a human rights violator.

Tillerson said he needed more information before making such determinations. If just three Republicans jump ship, his nomination could fail, despite support from party heavyweights. Rubio sounded openly doubtful about supporting the nominee. "America cares about democracy and freedom," Rubio said. "We need a secretary of state that will fight for these principles."—AFP



# BANGLADESH URGES MYANMAR TO END UNREST

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh urged Myanmar yesterday to end months of violence that has forced tens of thousands of Rohingya to flee across the border, saying the influx was hitting economic development. At least 65,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since Myanmar launched a military operation in October following attacks on police posts in western Rakhine state, a third of them over the past week. Rights groups say members of the stateless Muslim minority have faced abuses so severe they could amount to crimes against humanity. On Wednesday Bangladeshi foreign minister A H Mahmood Ali held talks with a special envoy of Myanmar's de-facto leader

Aung San Suu Kyi in Dhaka.

"The special envoy has been informed that the recent arrival of a huge number of Myanmar nationals and the long and illegal stay of approximately 300,000 unregistered Myanmar nationals have disrupted stability and economic development in the very important region of Chittagong," he told reporters yesterday. There were already 33,000 registered and 300,000 unregistered Rohingya refugees in the country before the latest outbreak of violence. "Bangladesh has demanded quick restoration of normal situation in Rakhine state so that Myanmar nationals who have taken shelter in Bangladesh can

quickly go back home with full security and safety to their livelihood," he said.

Dhaka is under pressure both at home and abroad to open its border to the Rohingya, but the recent arrivals are already putting enormous strain on the impoverished nation of 160 million people. It has instead reinforced its border posts and deployed coastguard ships to prevent fresh arrivals. There was no comment from the envoy, Kyaw Tin, Myanmar's deputy foreign minister, who was to wrap up his three-day visit to Dhaka yesterday. Last month the Bangladesh foreign ministry summoned Myanmar's ambassador to express "deep concern at the continued influx."

Those who arrived in Bangladesh have brought harrowing accounts of rape, murder and arson at the hands of Myanmar's army or police. Their stories have raised global alarm and galvanized protests against Suu Kyi who has been accused of not doing enough to help the Rohingya. Myanmar's government has said the claims of abuse are fabricated and launched a special commission to investigate the allegations. The government refuses to recognize the Rohingya as one of the country's ethnic minorities, instead describing them as Bengalis-or illegal immigrants from neighboring Bangladesh-even though many have lived in Myanmar for generations.—AFP

## INDIAN SOLDIER KILLS THREE COLLEAGUES

**NEW DELHI:** A paramilitary soldier from one of India's elite security units shot dead three colleagues and injured another yesterday in an apparent row over leave, police said. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) soldier fired indiscriminately at four senior officers at the barracks in Aurangabad district in eastern India's Bihar state before trying to flee. "There was some argument between the victims and the accused before he opened indiscriminate fire. He tried to flee but was caught by his colleagues," Satya Prakash, Aurangabad police chief, said.

"We don't know what exactly led to the firing but he was upset over vacations." All the victims were unarmed and were off-duty when the incident took place at a thermal power plant where they were stationed, Prakash said. The CISF guards the country's most vital civil and government installations including airports, atomic plants and government buildings. India's security forces have historically had a high incidence of suicides and killings linked to long hours, poor working conditions and inadequate time off. In 2014, a soldier killed five colleagues before shooting himself in Indian-administered Kashmir after a superior denied him leave.—AFP



**INDIA:** This file photograph, shows Indian activists of the Samajwadi Party as they take part in a torch procession on the eve of celebrations for the third anniversary of the party's control of the Uttar Pradesh state government in Allahabad.—AFP

## PAKISTANI COURT STAYS EXECUTION OF MENTALLY ILL CONVICT

**ISLAMABAD:** A Pakistani court yesterday stayed the execution of a mentally ill convict who was sentenced to death in 2003 for murdering a fellow police officer over a land dispute, a rights group said. The order from the Lahore High Court came just days before the scheduled execution of 55-year-old ex-police officer Khizar Hayat, said Wassam Waheed, a spokesman for the Justice Project Pakistan rights group. The court order also asked the government to provide a new report on the convicted man's health by Jan 30, said Waheed, adding that the group was "relieved to hear" of the temporary reprieve.

Hayat's mother, Iqbal Bano, yesterday urged the country's president, Mamnoon Hussain, to pardon her son. She said she visited her son in prison and that he "doesn't know what is going to happen to him, he is not in a stable state of mind." "My son needs medical treatment, not execution," she said. Last year, Pakistan's Supreme Court stayed the execution of Imdad Ali, a convict diagnosed with schizophrenia. Pakistani and international rights group have also pleaded for a pardon for Ali. A court-mandated medical board in July confirmed that Hayat suffers from a mental illness.

According to Sarah Belal, the executive director of Justice Project Pakistan, Hayat's execution would be "unlawful and inhumane." Pakistani and international rights groups have for years called for a ban on executions in this South Asian country. Pakistani authorities have executed 427 prisoners since 2014, when they lifted that ban on the death penalty following a Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar that killed 150 people, nearly all of the schoolchildren. Pakistan is now considered to be one of the world's top executioners.—AP

## FEUDING INDIAN POLITICIANS DO BATTLE OVER A BICYCLE

'SYMBOLS ARE STILL POWERFUL MARKETING TOOLS'

**NEW DELHI:** The humble bicycle has taken centre stage in a bitter battle for control of the party that runs India's most populous state, underscoring the enduring importance of symbols in the politics of the world's biggest democracy. India's myriad political parties are all represented in the polling booth by pictorial symbols—a system that dates back to the first elections after independence, when fewer than one in five voters could read. Although literacy rates have vastly improved since then, the symbols are still seen as hugely powerful marketing tools that provide instant brand recognition.

Party names do not appear on the electronic voting machines in poll booths, which show only the name of the candidate alongside the party symbol. That makes the bicycle a hugely valuable commodity ahead of elections in Uttar Pradesh, India's biggest state, whose youthful chief minister Akhilesh Yadav, famously cycled around the campaign trail last time around. "If pitched right, the symbol defines a value proposition," said the Bangalore-based branding expert Shivakumar Viswanathan.

"The bicycle is a poor man's transporta-

tion so it appeals to the masses-effectively it is saying, I am with you." Today the Election Commission will hold a hearing to determine whether Yadav or his septuagenarian father Mulayam, who is refusing to cede control of the ruling Samajwadi Party (SP), has the right to use the bicycle symbol in the event of a formal split. If no agreement can be reached, the Commission could rule that neither side can use the symbol and force the party and any breakaway factions to choose new ones with just weeks to go before the polls open.

They could face a difficult choice. The symbols the Commission's website lists as free include a plane and a car, neither of which has quite the same party-of-the-people connotations. More baffling are the symbols that appear rooted in another era. These include a harmonium, a steam train, and a doli—a covered sedan chair once used to carry those who could afford to be carried and now used mostly for wedding ceremonies.

### Ban on animals

There are several precedents for a party losing its symbol, such as when the

Congress party of India's first leader Jawaharlal Nehru split in the late 1970s. When the Election Commission chose to freeze the party symbol showing a cow tending to her calf Nehru's daughter, party leader Indira Gandhi, chose the current party symbol of a hand, palm facing forward to signify openness. According to The Times of India the choice was initially unpopular with some party members who feared it could remind voters of traffic police—but the symbol stuck nonetheless. The ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) uses a lotus flower, which is associated with Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.

Perhaps the most successful new symbol of recent years is the broom deployed by the Aam Aadmi (common man) Party that won state elections in Delhi two years ago on a promise to sweep away endemic corruption. Parties are no longer allowed to pick animal symbols after activists raised concerns that it could lead to abuse of real animals. According to reports, one candidate in the 1950s lost after a live chicken he brought to the polling booth to match his chosen symbol was eaten by vultures—a less than auspicious sign.—AFP





**BANGALORE, India:** Motorists ride past a hoarding advertising an Amazon product in Bangalore, India, yesterday. —AP

## INDIA OUTRAGED OVER NATIONAL FLAG DOORMATS SOLD ON AMAZON

**NEW DELHI:** India's foreign minister demanded an apology Wednesday from Amazon.com Inc. for selling doormats depicting the Indian flag on the online shopping giant's Canadian website. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj warned on Twitter that she could deny Indian visas to Amazon employees if the company did not apologize and "withdraw all products insulting our national flag immediately." "If this is not done forthwith, we will not grant an Indian visa to any Amazon official. We will also rescind the visas issued earlier," Swaraj tweeted.

The doormats were being sold by a third party and other

mats showed other national flags, including the US, UK and Canada. Swaraj ordered the embassy in Canada to take up the matter with Amazon "at the highest level." The site removed the Indian-themed product, following Swaraj's Twitter threat. The doormats had outraged many people among the Indian diaspora in Canada, who posted pictures of them on social media and urged the foreign minister to formally object. In India, insulting the national flag is punishable with fines and imprisonment. Last year, there were protests after the online marketplace offered doormats depicting Hindu gods. —AP

## FIFTH PAKISTANI SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVIST REPORTED MISSING

**ISLAMABAD:** A fifth Pakistani rights activist has gone missing, his colleagues said yesterday, as the United Nations raised concerns over shrinking freedoms for campaigners. Samar Abbas, a middle-aged IT worker and head of the anti-militancy Civil Progressive Alliance, disappeared under mysterious circumstances after arriving in the capital Islamabad from the southern port city of Karachi on Saturday, Jan 7, according to Talib Raza, a colleague from his organization. "We formed the alliance to protect the rights of minorities. He had launched a struggle against the banned militant outfits' activities and we together staged protests for the rights of the minorities," said Raza.

"This seems to be an organized attempt to shut the progressive and liberal voices in the country," he added. Four leftist bloggers were previously

reported missing from various cities in Pakistan between Jan 4 and 7, raising fears of a crackdown on social media, the last bastion of free speech in a country where journalism is increasingly under threat. Human Rights Watch said their near simultaneous disappearances raised concerns of government involvement. The government has denied this, and on Tuesday Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan told the Senate authorities would soon recover all the missing.

Rights groups say Pakistani activists and journalists often find themselves caught between the security establishment and militant groups including the Taliban. The United Nations and Amnesty International have expressed concern for the missing activists. "No government should tolerate attacks on its citizens," said the UN's special rap-

porteur on the right to freedom of expression, David Kaye. "By making the investigation of these disappearances an urgent priority, the Pakistani authorities can send a strong signal that they take seriously the responsibility for the life and security of all of its citizens, particularly in cases involving freedom of expression."

Pakistan is also ranked among the world's most dangerous countries for journalists, and reporting critical of the military is considered a major red flag, with journalists at times detained, beaten and even killed. In April 2014, unidentified gunmen attacked but failed to kill Hamid Mir, one of the country's most recognized TV anchors. His employer and his family later accused the director general of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence agency of involvement. —AFP

## US, AFGHAN FORCES KILLED 33 CIVILIANS IN SELF-DEFENSE

**KABUL:** NATO confirmed yesterday that US forces in Afghanistan killed 33 Afghan citizens "in self-defense" in Kunduz last year in a single incident highlighting civilian casualties, one of the most contentious issues of the 15-year campaign. The incident on November 3 saw US and Afghan troops call for air reinforcement as they engaged with Taliban forces hiding in civilian houses in a village in the volatile northern province. Civilian men, women and children were "likely inside the buildings from which the Taliban were firing", the report said. Two US forces and three Afghan commandos also died in the firing.

The civilian deaths sparked outrage at the time, with victims' relatives parading the mutilated bodies of dead children piled into open trucks through the streets of Kunduz city. "The investigation determined, regrettably, that 33 civilians were killed and 27 others wounded," NATO's Afghan mission Resolute Support said in a statement. "To defend themselves and Afghan forces, US forces returned fire in self-defense at Taliban who were using civilian houses as firing positions," the statement added. "Regardless of the circumstances, I deeply regret the loss of innocent lives," said General John Nicholson, commander of US forces - Afghanistan.

The United Nations has also launched an investigation, calling any loss of civilian life "unacceptable", with its findings due to be released by the end of this month. The carnage underscored worsening insecurity after the Taliban in October 2016 overran Kunduz city for the second time in a year, as NATO-backed Afghan forces struggle to rein in the insurgents. Civilian casualties caused by NATO forces have been one of the most divisive issues in the 15-year battle against the insurgents, prompting strong public and government criticism. Errant air strikes contributed to a 42 percent jump last year in casualties caused by pro-government forces compared to last year, according to the UN. —AFP

## HONG KONG DEPUTY ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP BID

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong's tough pro-Beijing number two Carrie Lam announced her bid to lead the deeply divided city yesterday after stepping down from her current post. Lam is deputy to Hong Kong's unpopular leader Leung Chun-ying and rose through the ranks as a career civil servant before taking public office. The city has become sharply polarized under Leung, whose term has been marked by anti-Beijing protests. Opponents cast him as a puppet of the Chinese government squeezing the semi-autonomous city's freedoms.

While Lam is less hated than Leung, critics fear she will take a similar hard line if she wins the leadership at elections in March. Lam, who has worked in government since 1980, would become the city's first woman chief executive. She said yesterday she was stepping down as deputy leader in order to stand for the top job. If her resignation is accepted by Beijing, she will run for chief executive she said. "There is only one reason for me to resign at this juncture," Lam told reporters. "I intend to prepare to contest in the upcoming chief executive election."

She said it had been an "honor and a privilege" to have served the people of Hong Kong for more than 36 years. Lam ended the brief press conference without taking questions, with one reporter shouting after her "Are you going down the path of CY?" referring to current leader Leung. Political analysts said Lam was considered by the public to be a capable leader.

"The worry is that her ambition might prompt her to side exclusively with Beijing because that's where her power comes from," Willy Lam, a professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said.

The city leader is chosen by a 1,200-strong committee of representatives of special interest groups, weighted towards Beijing. Mass pro-democracy rallies in 2014 called for fully free leadership elections but failed to win concessions. Critics are already accusing Lam of trying to gain favor with Chinese authorities by pushing through a museum project which would bring historic cultural artifacts to Hong Kong from Beijing's Palace Museum. They say the project is cultural brainwashing and accuse Lam of failing to consult the public on the plans. —AFP



## CHINA MUTED AFTER TILLERSON VOWS ISLANDS BLOCKADE

**BEIJING:** China offered a muted response yesterday after Donald Trump's secretary of state pick Rex Tillerson warned the US would stop it from using its artificial islands in the South China Sea. Tillerson's comments, during his confirmation hearing in the US senate, are the latest salvo the Trump team has aimed at Beijing. "We're going to have to send China a clear signal that, first the island building stops, and second, your access to those islands is also not going to be allowed," Tillerson told the panel.

Beijing has fuelled regional tensions by turning tiny, ecologically fragile reefs and islets in the strategically vital South China Sea into artificial islands hosting military facilities. The former ExxonMobil chief said China's building in the disputed waters and its declaration of an air defense identification zone over the Japanese-controlled Senkaku islands in the East China Sea were "illegal actions." "They are taking territory or

control or declaring control of territories that are not rightfully China's."

Beijing asserts a claim to almost the whole of the South China Sea, based on a "nine-dash line" dating to 1940s-era maps. An international tribunal-whose jurisdiction Beijing rejected-ruled last year that there was no legal basis to such claims. Tillerson added that "building islands and then putting military assets on those islands is akin to Russia's taking of Crimea." Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang offered a measured response to the comments during a regular press briefing, saying that China has "the full right" to conduct activities in the region.

"The South China Sea situation has cooled down and we hope non-regional countries can respect the consensus that it is in the fundamental interest of the whole world," he said. Taken at face value Tillerson's threat to deny access to China is not a "credible objective" for

the US and may be "counterproductive," Rory Medcalf, head of the National Security College at the Australian National University said. The US has military power in Asia but relatively few ships, he said, making a blockade unrealistic, and "it's very difficult to imagine the means by which the United States could prevent China from accessing these artificial islands without provoking some kind of confrontation".

### 'Conflict with American interests'

Tillerson's remarks came amid rising tensions between the two countries as Trump has suggested Washington could jettison its decades-old "One China" policy, and the Chinese military has ramped up activities in a show of strength, with its Liaoning aircraft carrier passing through the Taiwan Strait on Wednesday. Tillerson said the US should affirm to Taipei it will live up to its commitments to Taiwan,

which could require the US to intervene militarily if China attacks the island, but added he did not know of any plans to alter the "One China" policy.

In his remarks to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he also criticized China for failing to sufficiently help rein in North Korea. "China has proven a willingness to act with abandon in the pursuit of its own goals which at times has put it in conflict with American interests. We have to deal with what we see, not what we hope," Tillerson said. "It has not been a reliable partner in using its full influence to curb North Korea," he added. Beijing is a close Pyongyang ally and is seen as critical in helping contain the pariah state's nuclear activities. But the former oil executive said disagreements with Beijing on some issues should not preclude "productive partnership" on other matters. —AFP

## GERMAN HOSTAGE ABDUCTED IN PHILIPPINES APPEARS IN VIDEO

**MANILA:** Philippine Islamic militants have released a video showing an elderly German sailor abducted at sea late last year is alive, according to a security group that monitors jihadist activity. The Abu Sayyaf, a notorious kidnap-for-ransom gang based in the southern Philippines, released the video of Jurgen Kantner on Wednesday along with photos that had a date stamp of Dec 26 last year, SITE Intelligence Group reported.

The military on November 7 last year reported finding Kantner's yacht, Rockall, adrift off the southern Philippines. The body of a woman with a bullet wound, later identified by the hostage as his partner, Sabine Merz, was found on board the vessel. In Berlin, German authorities declined to comment on the video. "As a matter of policy, the government does not comment on cases of kidnapping and hostage taking of German citizens abroad," said a source from the German foreign ministry.

The Abu Sayyaf, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, later claimed the abduction and the killing. The group is made of up several small armed bands based in the mainly Muslim southern islands of Basilan and Jolo, where they are also holding a Dutchman and foreign crew members of several other vessels. It is blamed for the Philippines' deadliest bombing attacks as well as dozens of kidnappings-for-ransom. The Abu Sayyaf murdered two Canadian hostages last year after ransom demands were not met. —AFP

## BAN RETURNS TO S KOREA AFTER HINTING AT PRESIDENCY RUN

**SEOUL:** Retired UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon returned to South Korea yesterday as momentum builds around his possible run in elections to succeed impeached President Park Geun-Hye. "I have seriously considered and thought about how I can put my experience and knowledge as a UN Secretary General to best use," Ban said in televised remarks after his arrival. Speaking before a crowd of hundreds at Incheon International Airport, Ban said he was prepared to meet with the public this week before making a "selfless decision".

Ban's return comes at a time of national uncertainty with tens of thousands of people marching in weekly protests demanding the permanent removal of scandal-hit Park, who was impeached by parliament last month over a corruption scandal. If the Constitutional Court upholds the parliamentary vote, Park will be permanently removed and elections held within 60 days. "It breaks my heart," said Ban, referring to the ongoing political turmoil. "We must never forget the people's desire that was expressed on the streets."

A career diplomat, Ban never joined any South Korean political party, although he served as foreign minister under the late liberal president Roh Moo-Hyun from 2004 to 2006. —AFP



**MANILA:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (left) raise a toast during a state dinner at the Malacanang Presidential Palace in Manila yesterday. —AFP

## JAPAN PM ABE OFFERS DRUG WAR SUPPORT TO PHILIPPINES

### TERRITORIAL DISPUTES DISCUSSED

**MANILA:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe offered support for Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's controversial drug war yesterday as the pair met in Manila for talks that also focused on territorial disputes with China. Abe's two-day visit to the Philippines is the first by a foreign leader since Duterte took office in the middle of last year, highlighting Japan's importance as the Southeast Asian nation's top trading partner and foreign aid donor. Abe is also intent on maintaining Japan's strong ties with the Philippines as Duterte shakes up his nation's foreign policy with a shift away from the United States, both nations' longtime ally, in favor of China and Russia.

The trip began with a warm welcome by Duterte at the presidential palace, with the Philippine leader then winning much sought-after backing for his drug war that has claimed about 6,000 lives and raised concerns of mass extrajudicial killings. "On countering illegal drugs, we want to work

together with the Philippines to think of relevant measures of support," Abe said afterwards, according to an interpreter. Abe said Japan would help with unspecified drug "facilities" and treatment programs. Duterte, who has railed against US President Barack Obama and European politicians for criticizing his drug war, highlighted Abe's offers of support.

"As the Philippines pursues its campaign to destroy the illegal drug trade apparatus, we welcome the expression of interest of Japan to support measures to address the tremendous social cost of drug addiction," Duterte said. Duterte won last year's elections in a landslide after vowing that 100,000 people would be killed in an unprecedented crackdown against illegal drugs. Since then police have reported killing 2,180 people in anti-drug operations. More than 3,000 others have been killed in unexplained circumstances, according to official figures.

Often masked assailants break into

shanty homes and kill people who have been tagged as drug traffickers or drug users. Rights groups have warned of a breakdown in the rule of law with police and hired assassins operating with complete impunity. While using foul language to hit back at Obama and other critics, Duterte has praised the leaders of China and Russia for "not interfering" in his drug war. Trade between Japan and the Philippines was worth \$18 billion in 2015, according to official figures, and Abe said yesterday he was committed to more.

### Security tensions

With a severely under-equipped military and coast guard, the Philippines has also looked to Japan to boost maritime security as the two nations face separate sea disputes with China. Japan and China are locked in a long-running row over uninhabited islets in the East China Sea, while Manila and Beijing have overlapping claims in the South China Sea. —AFP



FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

Friday Times

# Lifestyle

www.kuwaittimes.net

## LEGEND LIVES ON DOWN UNDER AS ELVIS EXPRESS DEPARTS

Page 20

Singer Enrique Iglesias performs on a bus top during the filming of his video in Old Havana, Cuba, Wednesday. Latin pop star Enrique Iglesias is in Cuba to film his latest music video for an upcoming single to be released later this year. — AP







Elvis fans arrive at Central station to board a train to take them to The Parkes Elvis Festival from Sydney. — AFP photos



Elvis fans board a train to take them to The Parkes Elvis Festival.

# Legend lives on down under as Elvis Express departs



Elvis fans arrive at Central station.



Elvis fans board a train to take them to The Parkes Elvis Festival.

Sequin jumpsuits and Vegas showgirls outnumbered shirts and ties at Sydney's Central station yesterday as hundreds of Elvis fans boarded a train bound for a festival dedicated to The King. Peak hour travellers were serenaded by tribute acts performing on a stage erected on the platform, while poodle skirts twirled at one of the city's busiest commuter hubs as fans danced away the wait for the 9.20am "Elvis Express" to Parkes in the Australian countryside.

The annual Parkes Elvis festival, which last year attracted more than 20,000 people, features five days of tribute concerts, memorabilia exhibits and even a Priscilla Presley look-a-like competition. "It's unique in its own right, especially if you're an Elvis fan and you love Elvis," said Johnny Angel, one of the hundreds of tribute acts from all over the world performing at the event. "You got to do this once in your lifetime, it would be grand. You should put it on the bucket list.

"For those fans I'm going to sing 'Viva Las Vegas', because that is the theme-so I'm gonna sing that one, 'Don't be Cruel', 'Teddy Bear' and some love songs," he added. Held in the small rural town of Parkes, about 350 kilometers (217 miles) west of Sydney, the festival began 25 years ago as a modest Elvis-themed birthday party and has since ballooned into a tourism boon for the area, with more than 120 events scheduled over the five days.

"Absolute flat-out dancing and partying-every concert, every movie and every karaoke (song)," said Michelle Campbell, from behind her gold chromed Elvis-signature sunglasses, when asked what she planned to do at the festival. "(It's) his music, his dancing, his costumes," the 50-year-old fan added of the lure of the music icon. For others, the excitement of five days in the Australian countryside, embracing the Graceland

legend, is difficult to put into words. "I don't think that any Elvis fan can really tell you what it is about Elvis," said impersonator Aaron Mansfield. "It's magic, it's got this sort of... I don't know man, you just can't describe it." The Elvis Parkes Festival runs from January 11 to 15. — AFP



Elvis fans arrive to board a train to take them to The Parkes Elvis Festival.



Elvis fans wait at Central station to board a train to take them to The Parkes Elvis Festival.



Elvis fans arrive at Central station to board a train to take them to The Parkes Elvis Festival.



## IN 'PATRIOTS DAY,' A COMMUNITY DISARMS TERRORISM

Bombs detonated in the center of Boston are disarmed by bonds of family and community in Peter Berg's "Patriots Day," a stirring ode to civic life in the age of terrorism. "Patriots Day," which recreates the 2013 Boston Marathon and the subsequent four-day manhunt, is the third in a string of docudramas for Berg, following the Navy SEAL drama "Lone Survivor" and the recent oil rig disaster film "Deepwater Horizon." In tales of real-life American heroes, Berg has found a potent balance of fact and fiction, mixing expert big-budget filmmaking with realism. Following the all-around disappointment of "Battleship," he has made his muscular, masculine tales leaner and truer. In each, a skillfully visceral chronology culminates cathartically in moving codas of the real people from the movie.

"Patriots Day," coming just over three years after the bombing that killed three and maimed many, could easily seem like typical Hollywood exploitation of a tragedy, or, on the other side of the coin, simple-minded rah-rah patriotism. That it's neither is due in part to the detail of Berg's many-peopled portrait of American life. Everyone here is an individual, a family member, someone doing their job. The film, from a screenplay by Berg, Matt Cook and Joshua Zetumer, weaves together a spectrum of characters from across the city - police detectives to victims to the bombers.

### Workplace of the characters

While Berg gravitates toward tough-guy realms like the battlefield and the gridiron, he's most at home in the home. His films are grounded in quotidian family life, of husbands kissing wives goodbye and parents making breakfast for their kids. (The tremendous home life of Berg's TV series, "Friday Night Lights," is the best example of this.) He has surely made a close study of John Ford Westerns and their tender lingering on the hearth. Beginning in the hours before the pressure-cooker bombs explode, Berg visits the home or workplace of the characters he'll stitch together throughout the film: newlyweds planning to watch the race (Rachel Brosnahan and Christopher O'Shea), an MIT officer (Jake Picking) flirting with a student (Lana Condor), and others. The final stop is the Tsarnaev brothers home, which, aside from the jihadist video playing, isn't so different from the others. The characters are all based on real people except for one: Boston police Sergeant Tommy Saunders (Mark Wahlberg, who starred in Berg's last two). He's a composite invented to connect the movie's many parts, a movie-star MacGuffin who happens to be there for every plot turn. His presence isn't jarring, though, in the superlative ensemble that includes Kevin Bacon (as the FBI team leader), John Goodman (as the Boston police commissioner), J.K. Simmons (as a Watertown sergeant) and, in one blistering scene, Khandi Alexander as a government interrogator.

### Chinese student

The Tsarnaev brothers are played by Themo Melikidze (as Tamerlan) and the especially good Alex Wolff (as Dzhokhar) who's presented here as a frivolous, foolhardy teenager most concerned with an iPod jack to play tunes in the carjacking of Chinese student Dun Meng (Jimmy O. Yang).

"Patriots Day" has too little curiosity for the motives of the bombers; its street-level perspective doesn't go beyond Boston. Berg's film isn't seeking answers; it's seeking solace. "Patriots Day" puts forth a vision of a multicultural society that rises up to reject the fear of terrorism. Its heroes are of all colors, immigrants and Southies, alike. "Patriots Day," a CBS Films/Lionsgate release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "violence, realistically graphic injury images, language throughout and some drug use." Running time: 133 minutes. Three stars out of four. — AP



In this image released by CBS Films, Kevin Bacon, standing from left, Mark Wahlberg and John Goodman appear in a scene from iPatriots Day. — AP



File photo shows Jamie Foxx at the premiere of 'Sleepless,' in Los Angeles. — AP photos



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Ansel Elgort, right, and Jamie Foxx in a scene from 'Baby Driver,' in theaters on Aug 11.

## No mystery to weight loss for 'Sleepless' star Jamie Foxx

Over a few months he lost the equivalent weight of a microwave oven or a chubby toddler, but don't expect Jamie Foxx to bring out a dieting guide any time soon. It's not that he doesn't have wisdom to impart on getting into shape, it's just that his way of expressing the secrets of his success is rather unconventional. "I didn't really diet, I just cut all that shit out," the 49-year-old actor tells AFP, recalling the moment it dawned on him that he could no longer gorge on fast food and just run it off.

His latest movie "Sleepless," a claustrophobic, taut police procedural which takes place over one night, sees Foxx playing a Las Vegas detective with ties to the underworld who scours a casino in search of his kidnapped son. The role would require the actor and his 40-year-old co-star Michelle Monaghan ("Mission: Impossible III," "Patriots Day") to run, jump, fight and generally be in the shape of their lives.

At the time Foxx was tipping the scales at 216 pounds (98 kilograms) in July last year, with cholesterol levels that would make a polar bear blanch, but managed to get down to 183. "I ate chicken, fish and vegetables," he tells AFP at a plush hotel in Beverly Hills, where he is promoting the crime thriller. "Within two weeks I lost eight pounds and I started working out with my trainer and before you know it I was at 198 within two or three, four weeks and then just steady, steady, steady."

### Classically trained

All the training in the world, however, could not have helped Foxx avoid a full-on punch to the teeth delivered by Monaghan during a fight scene in a casino hotel room. "I didn't knock them out, but I did chip them," Monaghan confesses to AFP at the same promotion event. "We were in the heat of the moment and I don't know if the adrenaline got the best of me but I hit him just square in the teeth and I chipped them. He took it and he honestly said 'keep going.'"

## Coen brothers to make their first TV series

The Coen brothers will make their first TV show, a miniseries titled "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs." Joel and Ethan Coen will write and direct the project, set in the Old West, Annapurna Television announced late Tuesday. The production company said it plans to make "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" with "an innovative television and theatrical integrated approach."

Though the Coens' film " Fargo " was adapted into an FX series, the filmmaking brothers had no involvement in that show. They have previously voiced disinterest in television. In 2015 at the Cannes Film Festival, Ethan said he hadn't watched a TV show "in decades." "It's not that I don't like TV," he said. "It's alien to me." — AP

Foxx has been one of the most sought-after actors in the business since bagging an Oscar in 2005 for his portrayal of blind American musician Ray Charles in Taylor Hackford's biopic "Ray." A classically trained pianist, Foxx jammed with Charles before the artist's death in June 2004 at the age of 73. Born Eric Marlon Bishop on December 13, 1967 in Terrell, Texas, Foxx was encouraged by his grandmother, who raised him, to start tinkling the ivories at a young age. He studied piano at New York's prestigious Juilliard School and moved to Los Angeles in the late 1980s to become a musician, but was quickly sidetracked by comedy.

### 'Seven years' grace'

Soon a fixture on the stand-up circuit, he landed a job in the sketch show "In Living Color" in the 1990s, before being given his own sitcom, the "The Jamie Foxx Show." He won secondary roles in a number of comedy movies but his first dramatic role was as a football player in Oliver Stone's 1999 drama "Any Given Sunday," opposite Al Pacino. In "Sleepless," Foxx's character Vincent struggles to balance the rigorous requirements of the day job with making the time to see his son-a dilemma which any hard-working actor with a family must confront.

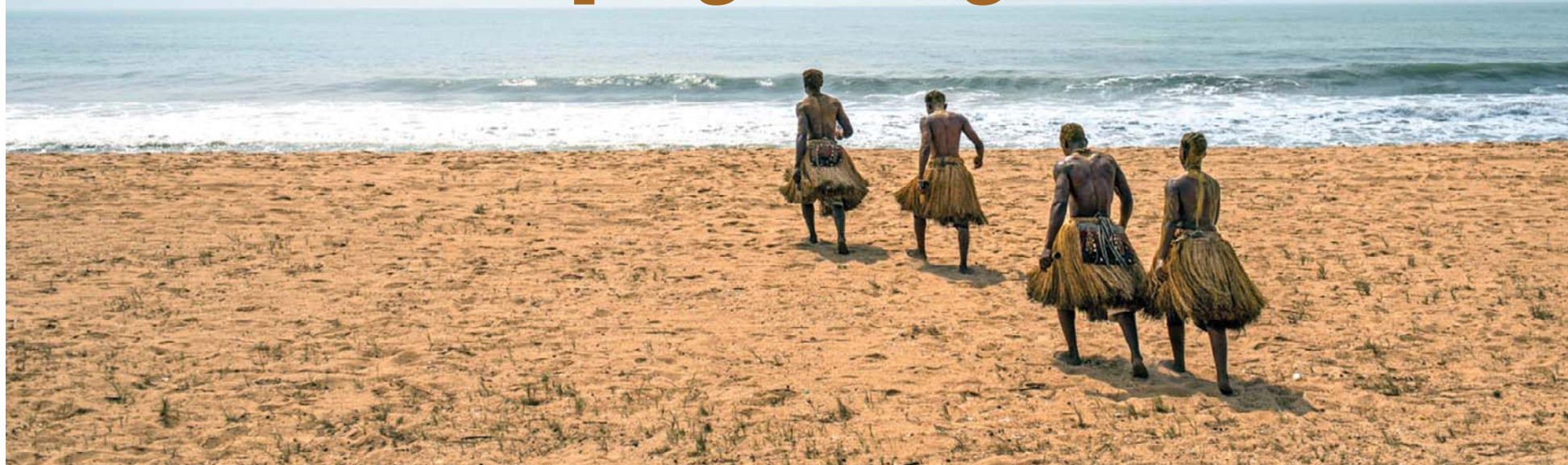
"Oliver Stone gave me advice when we were shooting and my kid was young," the father of two daughters-one seven, the other now grown up-tells AFP. "He said 'bring your kids everywhere with you, bring them to set.'" Foxx took the advice, and brought along his youngest, Annalise, when he was filming Quentin Tarantino's gory western "Django Unchained." "And that's what you've got to do," he laughs. "Once your kids have an explanation of what it is you do, then you're pretty much cool." — AFP



This file photo shows brothers Ethan Coen, left, and Joel Coen at the world premiere of 'Hail, Caesar!' in Los Angeles. — AP



# Descendants of slaves on a voodoo pilgrimage in Benin



Voodoo devotees walk toward the ocean to pay respects to Mami Wata (Water Mother). — AFP photos



A Voodoo devotee dressed up in a costume performs at the annual Voodoo Festival on January 10, 2017 in Ouidah.



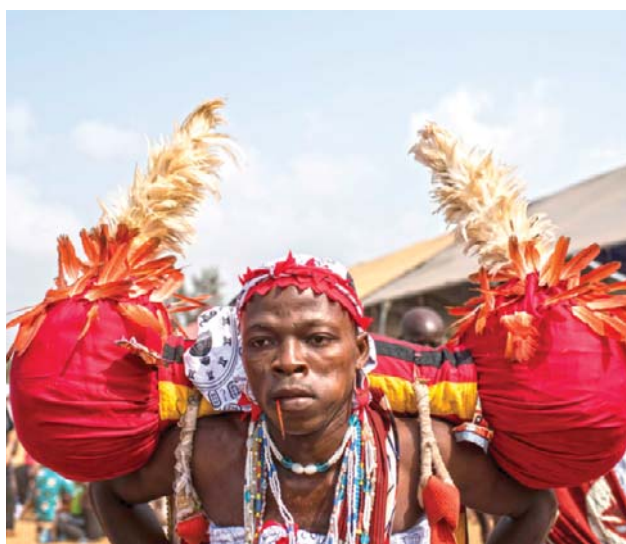
A Voodoo devotee in a trance performs at the annual Voodoo Festival.

Every January, thousands of voodoo worshippers joined by crowds of tourists and descendants of slaves trudge down the long sand track leading to the beach at Ouidah in Benin. The cars, motorbikes and women in wrap skirts with tribal scars on their cheeks head to the Gate of No Return monument overlooking the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean beach. Erected in 1992 in memory of those packed on ships bound for the New World, it is a living reminder that the small Beninese coastal town of Ouidah once was the muster point for the black slave trade on the southern coast of West Africa.

Over the centuries, five million, possibly 10 million slaves took this route. No-one knows the exact numbers. Though Ouidah is not the source of voodoo—which originated in the old kingdom of Dahomey, modern-day Togo and Benin—it was from here that the cult of the invisible and of natural spirits was exported to Louisiana, Brazil and Haiti. After the fall of the communist regime in Benin, President Nicephore Soglo launched the first voodoo festival in 1993, making Ouidah voodoo's most famous place of pilgrimage for its 50 million followers worldwide.

### 'Way of life'

"Ouidah is a duty of memory," said voodoo priest Erol Josue, who heads the national ethnology bureau in Haiti and who travelled to Benin with seven others to "make peace with the past". "It's important to return to the ancestral land to accept oneself as a Caribbean," he added, his eyes thick with khol cosmetics and a heavy ring from Mali's Dogon tribe on his finger. "To understand the behavior of the Haitian people, you have to go back to the source."



A Voodoo devotee performs on a beach at the annual Voodoo Festival.

Josue breaks off to film a video on his smartphone as a man climbs a bamboo pole nearly 15 meters (50 feet) high with his bare hands. The crowd goes wild. Nearby, a group of men daubed with soil from head to toe dance in a trance to the rhythm of the djembe hand drum and make offerings to talismans. "Voodoo is a way of life," said Gizirbtah, a young black American who changes her name whenever she travels to the home of her ancestors. Gizirbtah, who works for a US airline, has been travelling across West Africa for two months with a dozen or so voodoo devotees from as far away as London and Chicago.

"Every day I do ablutions, purifications, prayers. But in the US voodoo is frowned upon, people don't understand," she said. She turned to voodoo six years ago when she began what she said was an "internal quest". "All my life, the story of my ancestors has echoed inside me," she said.



A Voodoo devotee is seen wearing a costume at the annual Voodoo Festival.



Voodoo devotees covered in oil, powder and yellow colorant talk to each other.





Voodoo devotees walk through a palm tree plantation on their way to the annual Voodoo Festival.



A man performs at the annual Voodoo Festival.



A Voodoo devotee dressed up in a costume performs at the annual Voodoo Festival.

**'Spiritual sadness'**

Strictly speaking, voodoo is not a cult of ancestors. It is "the palpable representation of what we cannot see", said Vincent Hariso, a choreographer of French, Beninese and Togolese heritage who is working on a dance project on voodoo. "Every human has his inner 'fa' (a voodoo divinity), his other self. And we are all looking for our other self. Call that voodoo here or psychology in Europe," he added. Gail Hardison, a 57-year-old American, chose science over spirituality to get to know her origins.

Several years ago she had a DNA test that revealed her ancestors came from northern Cameroon. This year she has brought her ancestral quest to Benin. "I'm not a follower but I respect voodoo as a religion. Voodoo isn't about dolls with

pins in it," she said. The dancing and the tourists gives a folklore feel to the festival, a weeklong event marked by the beach procession on January 10 every year. But despite the crowds, the noise and the scorching sun, Hardison said she feels a "spiritual sadness" in Ouidah. Looking at the Gate of No Return, where hundreds of visitors are crowded together trying to find some shade, she says: "I wish it could have been different for all the people who passed through here." "I feel them with me." — AFP



A Voodoo devotee arrives at the festival ground of the annual Voodoo Festival.



A Voodoo devotee arrives at the festival ground of the annual Voodoo Festival.



A man performs acrobatics on a bamboo pole at the annual Voodoo Festival.



COOKING ON DEADLINE:  
**ASIAN BOK CHOY**

By Katie Workman

If you tend to fall into cooking ruts, one easy way to snap out of it is to check out the holiday calendars of different cultures. Next up on my list of inspirations is the Lunar New Year, or Chinese New Year.

I love cooking Chinese and Asian food all year, but certain foods carry symbolism in Chinese culture and are intrinsic parts of this holiday. Many of the new year's foods are associated with luck and prosperity. Long noodles symbolize longevity; the word for "orange" in Chinese is similar to the word for "gold," thus signifying wealth, so that fruit is commonly presented and shared (the round shape also signifying fullness); fish is served whole, to symbolize a strong year to come, start to finish; and green foods are equated with money.

It takes just a few ingredients - garlic, ginger, soy sauce, hot chili sauce - to turn a variety of vegetables into a delicious Asian side dish. Because my husband is knee-deep in love with bok choy these days, that was the vegetable I picked to create my prosperity green vegetable dish. Bok choy is available in cute baby versions, but for this dish you can use the inexpensive bigger bunches. Look for it in well-stocked produce sections or Asian specialty stores.

This dish has a nice amount of cooking liquid, so serve it over rice alongside a main course. I'm under no illusions that money equals happiness, but I do know that this green dish makes my family happy, and that's a rewarding feeling. Wishing all of you lots of luck in the Rooster New Year.

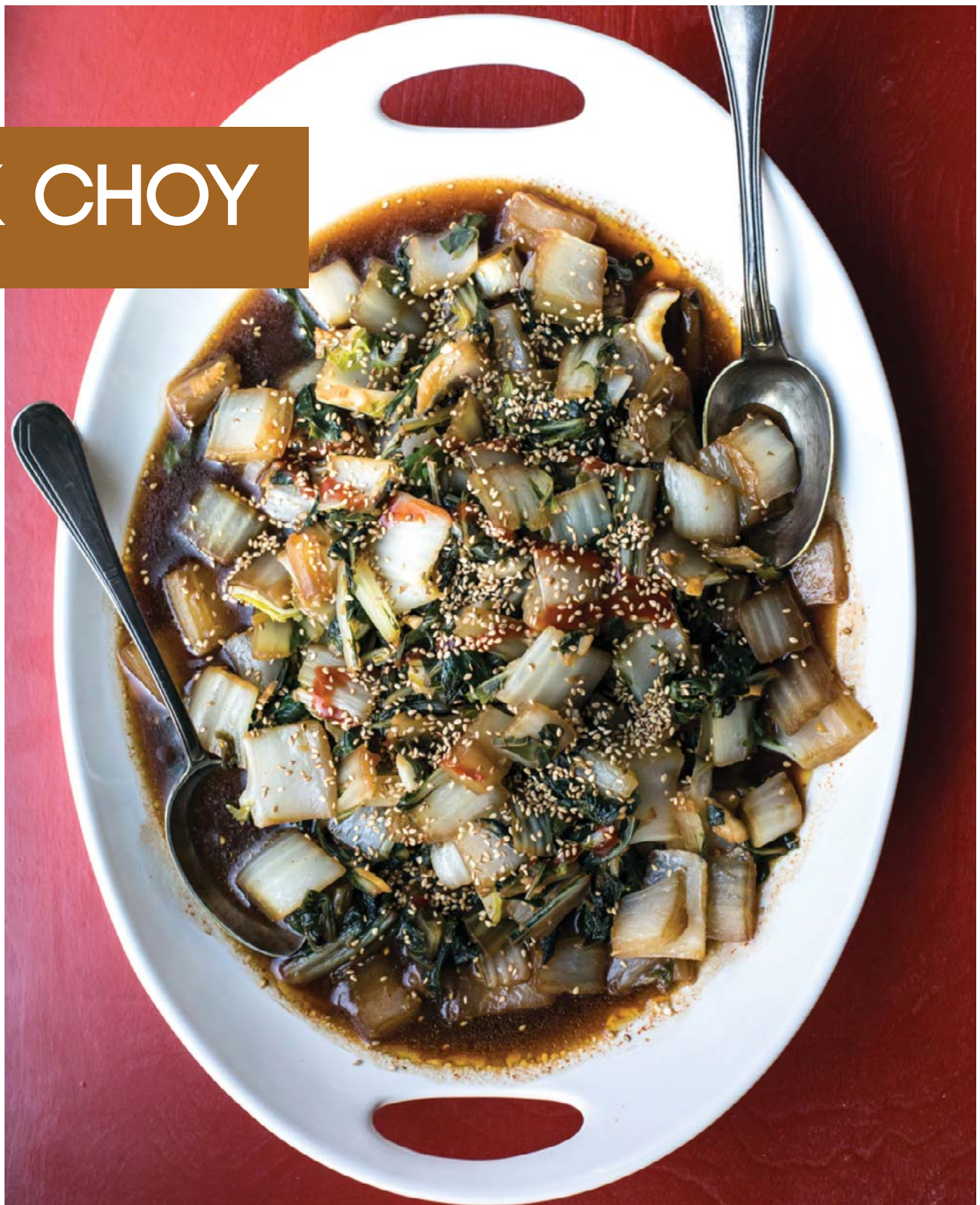
**ASIAN BOK CHOY****Ingredients**

Serves 6  
Start to finish: 20 minutes  
2 tablespoons sesame seeds (optional)  
1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger  
2 pounds bok choy, trimmed, sliced into 1-inch pieces, and rinsed  
1/2 cup chicken broth  
2 tablespoons soy sauce  
1 teaspoon Sriracha or other hot chili sauce

**Preparation**

Place the sesame seeds, if using, in a large stock pot or braiser (this will seem silly, but you will use the same pan to cook the bok choy). Heat the pan over medium heat, stirring frequently until you can smell the sesame seeds and they turn a bit more golden in color. This will only take 2 or 3 minutes; watch carefully that they don't get too brown. Turn the seeds onto a small plate and set aside.

Heat the vegetable oil in the same pan over medium-low heat. Add the garlic and the ginger and stir for 1 minute until you can smell the aromas. Add the bok choy (it's OK if it's still a bit damp) and stir for another 2 minutes, then pour in the chicken broth, soy sauce and hot sauce, and bring to a simmer. Cover the pan and cook the bok choy for about 8 minutes, until it is tender, stirring occasionally. Transfer to a serving bowl with its cooking liquid and serve hot, with the sesame seeds sprinkled on top if desired. — AP





# THIS SHEET-PAN SALMON SUPPER WILL START 2017 JUST RIGHT

By **Melissa D'arabian**

New year new you. Right?

So let's get right down to it: If healthy eating is complicated and time-consuming, we will lose interest before Valentine's day has arrived. That's why sheet-pan salmon suppers are so terrific - they take minutes to make, and yet the healthy fats in salmon are filling. Today's recipe features salmon alongside super-quick-cooking asparagus, which tastes sweet and less grassy when roasted. This incredibly simple recipe will start off the 2017 menu rotation right.

Sheet-pan suppers are perfectly quick for weeknight

eating, and versatile enough that you can swap out ingredients to match your tastes and your fridge. Don't have salmon? Use sea bass or cod, no problem. Just pay attention to the cook times, particularly as you swap out veggies - you may need to pre-cook hardier vegetables like broccoli or cauliflower. (Tip: you can do a quick microwave steam to par-cook slower-cooking ingredients like potatoes before placing them on the sheet-pan.) You can even use frozen fish fillets for this recipe if you add a little cooking time (use an instant meat thermometer to check for doneness).

Since my daughter is gluten-sensitive, I use almond flour for a bit of bread-less breaded texture on top of the

salmon, but feel free to use crunchy panko breadcrumbs if you prefer. Herbes de Provence is my go-to dried herb blend, and it can be found now in most well-stocked grocery stores, and is a worthy little splurge. Otherwise, use a mix of dried oregano, marjoram and thyme and the results will still be delicious.

A final weeknight strategy: you can prep this whole dinner ahead of time on your sheet tray and stick it in the fridge. Then, when you get home, pop the whole thing into the oven for a dinner that is even faster than microwaving a frozen lasagna. You'll save both time and calories, and who couldn't use that in 2017?

## EASIEST SHEET PAN SALMON



### Ingredients

Start to finish: 20 minutes  
Servings: 4

4 fillets salmon, skin removed, about 5 ounces each  
1/3 cup almond flour or almond meal  
1 1/2 teaspoons dried herbes de Provence  
1/2 teaspoon granulated garlic  
1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 bunch of asparagus, cleaned and trimmed, about 1 pound

1 teaspoon olive oil  
1/2 teaspoon salt, divided  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
Lemon wedges for serving

### Preparation

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F and cover a baking sheet with parchment paper. Pat the salmon dry gently with a paper towel. On a small plate, mix the almond flour, herbs, garlic, lemon zest, half the salt, and pepper with a fork until well-blended. Sprinkle or brush the lemon juice even on top of

the salmon fillets. Dip the top of the salmon fillets into the almond flour crumbs, gently pressing them into the top of the fillets, evenly dividing the almond flour and herb mixture among the fillets. Place the fillets on the sheet pan. Toss the asparagus with the olive oil and remaining salt. Place around the salmon fillets. Cook until salmon reaches 135 internal temperature and asparagus is tender, about 15 minutes. Serve with lemon wedges. — AP





26

Friday Times

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

Kids

ACTIVITY

Paper Plate Wiggle Snake

Materials

Scissors, Paper plate, Googly eyes  
 Craft glue, Small piece of red ribbon  
 4 Paper fasteners (brads), Hole punch  
 Paints, markers and other items to deco-  
 rate the snake with.  
 Snake head pattern

Punch a hole near the ends of the sec-  
 tions as show - with only one hole punch  
 for the head and one for the tail.

Use the paper fasteners to attach the  
 sections, so that opposite curves are con-  
 nected (to form a bit of an S shape).

Attach the googly eyes and small snip  
 of red ribbon to the head.

Instructions

Decorate the top of a paper plate with  
 paints or markers. Use a pattern or random  
 design.

Cut out the inside circle of the plate as  
 shown above and cut the outer circle into  
 4 sections.

Cut out the snake's head from the cen-  
 ter part of the paper plate.

Slightly round each of the 4 pieces of  
 the snake's body. On one of the sections,  
 snip the end for a pointed tail.



Did You Know?

The Sun is over 300000 times larger than  
 earth. Halley's Comet was last seen in  
 the inner Solar System in 1986, it will  
 be visible again from Earth sometime in 2061  
 (get your camera ready).

Venus is the hottest planet in our solar  
 system with a surface temperature of over  
 450 degrees Celsius.

Many scientists believe that an asteroid  
 impact caused the extinction of the  
 dinosaurs around 65 million years ago.

The Solar System formed around 4.6 bil-  
 lion years ago.

The Moon appears to have more craters  
 and scars than Earth because it has a lot less  
 natural activity going on, the Earth is con-  
 stantly reforming its surface through earth-  
 quakes, erosion, rain, wind and plants grow-  
 ing on the surface, while the moon has very  
 little weather to alter its appearance.

Saturn isn't the only ringed planet, other  
 gas giants such as Jupiter, Uranus and  
 Neptune also have rings, they are just less  
 obvious.

Footprints left behind by astronauts on  
 the moon will stay there forever as there is  
 no wind to blow them away.

In 2006, astronomers changed the defini-  
 tion of a planet. This means that Pluto is now  
 referred to as a dwarf planet.

Because of lower gravity, a person who  
 weighs 200 pounds on earth would only  
 weigh 76 pounds on the surface of Mars.

The only planet that rotates on its side  
 like a barrel is Uranus. The only planet that  
 spins backwards relative to the others is  
 Venus.

Some of the fastest meteoroids can travel  
 through the solar system at a speed of  
 around 42 kilometers per second (26 miles  
 per second).

The first man made object sent into space  
 was in 1957 when the Russian satellite  
 named Sputnik was launched.

Jupiter's 4 biggest moons are named  
 Europa, Ganymede, Callisto and Io.

It is because of the Sun & Moons gravity  
 that we have high & low tides.



SUDOKU

	1							
6			3	4	8	5		
8	9				5			3
			4				8	
	7			6			1	
				9			7	2
5								6
		2	7		9	4		
							2	

SOLUTION

7	8	3	6	5	4	1	2	9
8	9	4	7	3	9	4	5	8
5	4	9	2	8	1	7	3	6
4	5	1	8	9	3	6	7	2
9	7	8	5	6	2	3	1	4
2	3	6	4	1	7	9	8	5
8	9	4	1	7	5	2	6	3
6	2	7	3	4	8	5	9	1
3	1	5	9	2	6	8	4	7





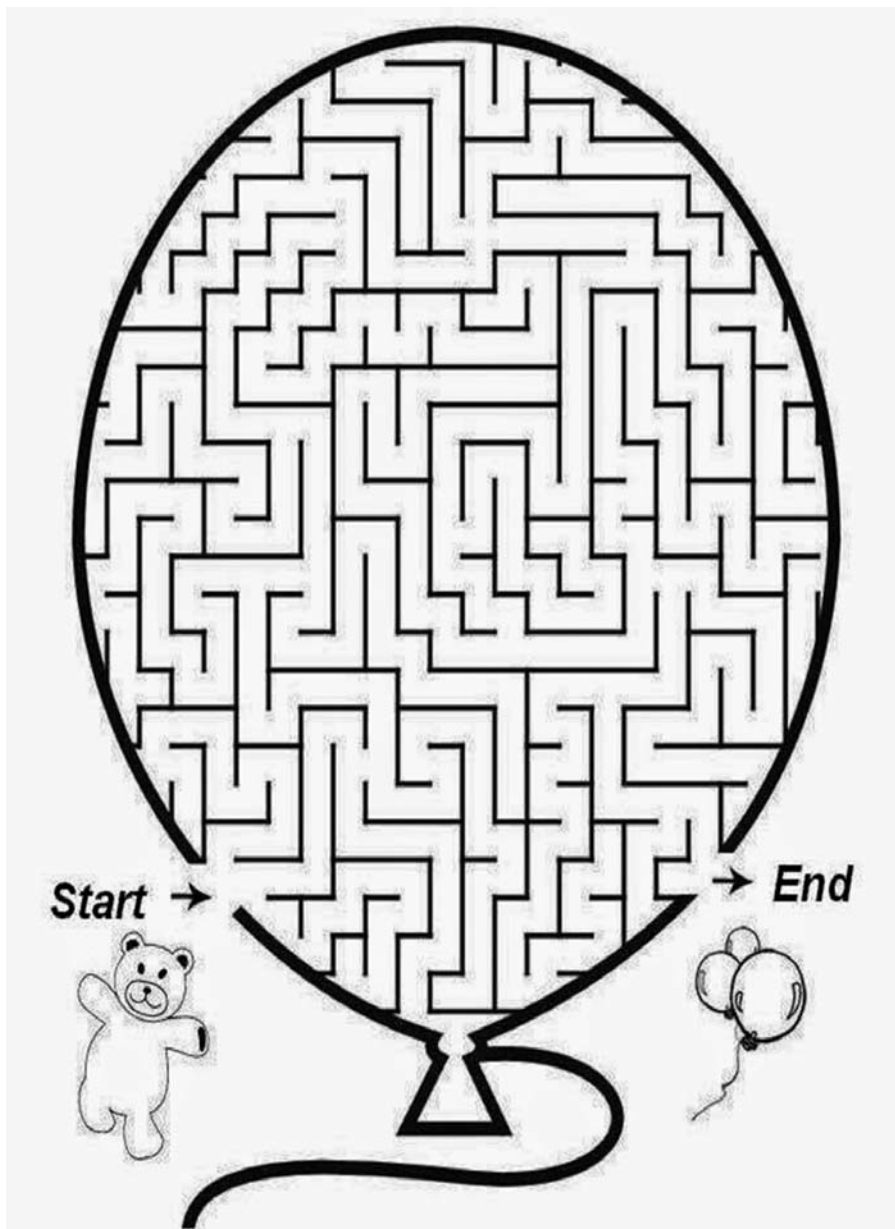


# WINTER WORD SEARCH

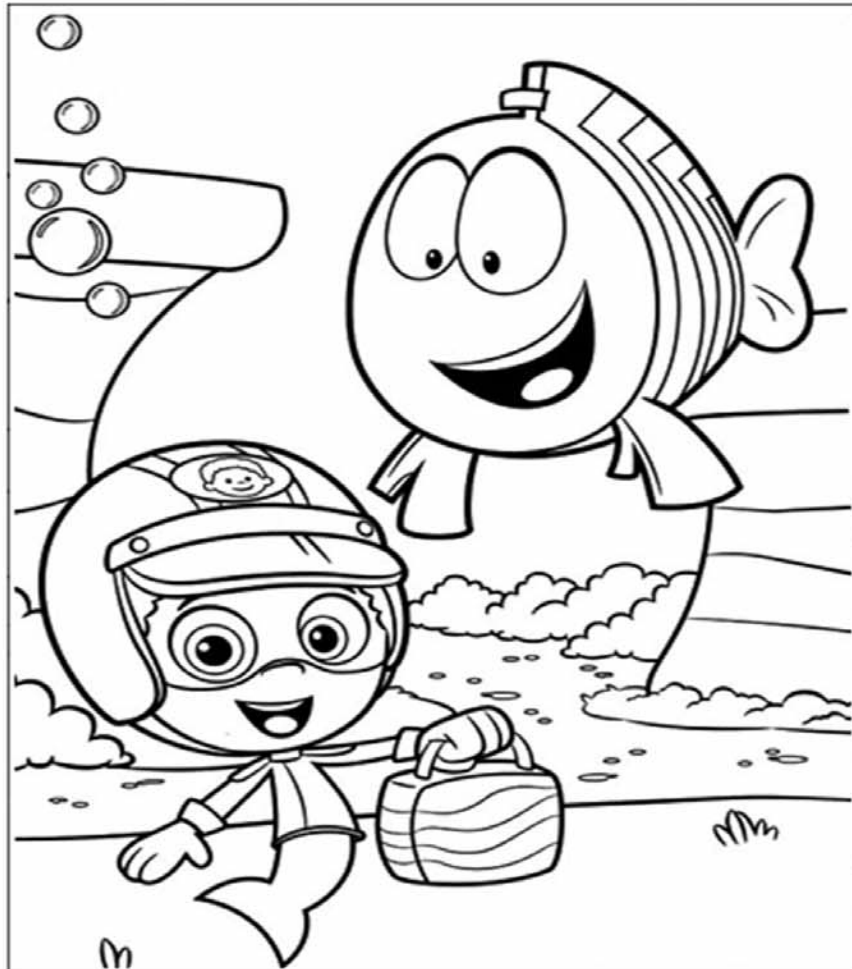
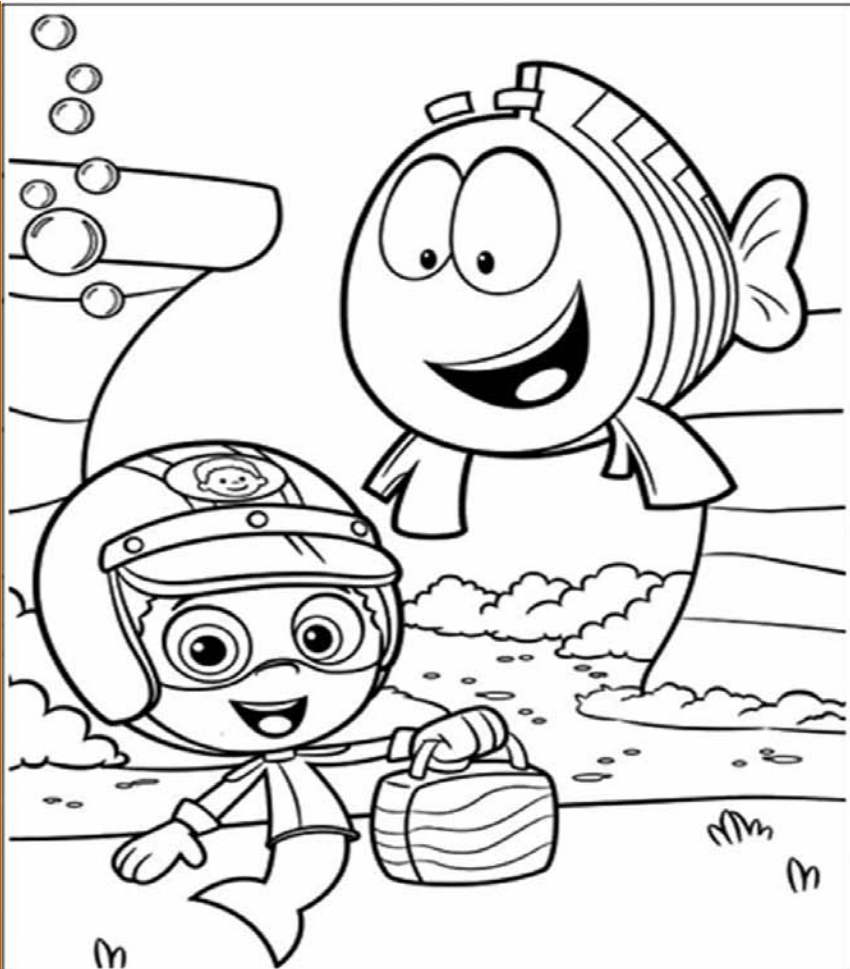
E T C G B W T B X E S S Y H I  
 T N A H Q L W I K Q E N T O J  
 A Y E H I I I A U V F O S L T  
 L W C Z N L L Z O S W W O I S  
 O I W T O F L L Z I W G R D E  
 C I E M W R G Y P A H O F A W  
 O R D O W T F W I B R F N Y O  
 H S N E E R T E N I P D J S S  
 C S C T M I T T E N S Y A N N  
 T E P A E L C I C I F K O A G  
 O J E K R H B O O T S W M C I  
 H Y U S E F D N I W B W O V V  
 F I R E P L A C E A O L E E I  
 A V U C R U G U L N D D C E N  
 C P Y I J U U L S U Q S I Y G

## WORDS TO FIND:

- |          |           |              |
|----------|-----------|--------------|
| BLIZZARD | BOOTS     | CHILLY       |
| COLD     | FIREPLACE | FROSTY       |
| FROZEN   | GIVING    | GLOVES       |
| HAT      | HOLIDAYS  | HOTCHOCOLATE |
| ICE      | ICESKATE  | ICICLE       |
| MITTENS  | PINETREE  | SCARF        |
| SNOW     | SNOWBALL  | SNOWFLAKE    |
| SNOWMAN  | SNOWSUIT  | WIND         |
| WINTER   |           |              |



Find the 5 differences







# Friday Times Travel



# Adventures in the

# Flathead Valley:

# Experiencing Montana's wild side





**I**t's impossible to come to the Flathead Valley and not feel like you're a part of the wild frontier. The valley fades into a lavender mountain backdrop that melts up into the sky. The rivers are rugged and untamed. Wildlife encounters are primal and some species - like the mountain goat - are iconic to the region. More than anything, it's a region that sticks with you long after you've returned home. Here are some of the top ways to enjoy the wonders this amazing region of Montana has to offer.

#### Hiking Glacier National Park

No visit to Montana is complete without seeing Glacier National Park, aka 'The Crown of the Continent'. This stunning and majestic testament of nature's beauty offers over 700 miles of hiking trails that crisscross the 1583-sq-mile park. Summit trails reach peaks that allow you to see for miles in every direction, and few places offer more in the way of day-hike options. If you want vistas, try Logan Pass, a spectacular Hidden Lake Overlook hike that brings you past Reynolds and Clements Mountains before reaching the overlook itself. By then you'll feel the altitude, but the reward is mountain peaks, often cloud-shrouded, everywhere you look. In springtime the trails explode with wildflowers, and mountain goats are often spotted on the cliff sides. Be sure to look for the many signs explaining the flora, fauna and natural history of the area. Watch out both for wildlife and for 'jammers,' the nickname of the ubiquitous red sightseeing buses, given because the drivers 'jam' the gears into place while riding the Going-to-the-Sun Rd.

#### Camping in Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex

Named after the naturalist and conservationist, 'the Bob' as it is affectionately called by locals is the third largest wilderness in the contiguous United States, and spans the Continental Divide. No motorized or mechanical traffic is allowed (not even bicycles), so plan on hiking and camping in some of the most pristine, remote and wild areas the US has to offer. The Chinese Wall, a ridge of white stone on the Continental Divide in the interior of the wilderness, is a popular destination. Access it via Benchmark Road Campground in the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, where you can leave your vehicle overnight for the five- to six-day round-trip expedition. It can be done faster, but you'll lose the luxury of fully exploring the area.

#### Rafting the Flathead River

Made famous by the Meryl Streep movie, *The River Wild*, the Flathead River starts in the Canadian Rockies and runs through northwestern Montana before emptying into Idaho's Clark Fork. Along the way it comprises of one of the region's wildest river systems, fringed by vast forests and rugged mountain peaks. Rafting the Flathead River merges the adren-







adrenaline-fueled experience of class III rapids with serene views, wildlife sightings and a hearty stock of fish like cutthroat trout. Tour operators offer half-, full- or multi-day trips, all geared toward a specific set of abilities or tastes for adventure.

#### Mountain biking in Whitefish

While the Bob Marshall Wilderness doesn't allow bicycles, mountain bike enthusiasts will be happy to know Montana has hundreds of places for great trail riding. There are winding dirt roads accessible only to 4x4 vehicles that make for adrenaline-pumping rides, as well as dirt-bike and cycle trails, and numerous paved access points for finding your own way. The Whitefish Trail system is a donor-supported network of trails starting just minutes from downtown Whitefish. Highlights include Lion Mountain, which provides quick and easy access to scenic viewpoints, and Spencer Mountain, with its miles and miles of thrilling freeride trails.

One of the more unique ways to mountain bike here is at Whitefish Bike Park, which is a ski resort in winter and has lift-

served mountain biking in the summer. From there, you let gravity and endurance take over for the downhill adventure.

#### Hiking Jewel Basin

Not far from Kalispell in the Flathead Valley, is the aptly named Jewel Basin, where there are over two dozen lakes and about 35 miles of trails, bringing you face-to-face with mountain goats, elk, deer, coyotes and other fauna. The popular (but often uncrowded) 4.3-mile Mt. Aeneas Trail starts at Camp Misery and ends at Picnic Lakes; the latter offer mirror-like reflections of clouds and sky on calm days. It's a moderate-level hike but doable even for energetic beginners. The Jewel Basin is open year-round, but only maintained June through October.

#### Dude ranching

The other side of this area is its rich history of cowboy life and livestock wrangling, and Flathead Valley prides itself for being home to many family-owned ranches and farms where

visitors can join the experience. Try your hand at horseback riding, cattle driving or other classic occupations of the Wild West. One of several spots to consider is Flathead Lake Lodge ([flatheadlakelodge.com](http://flatheadlakelodge.com)), a family-owned and operated ranch on the shores of Flathead Lake. Dark wood paneling, deer horns mounted on the walls, authentic family-style cooking and a host of outdoor excursions from swimming to horseback riding are why people come here.

#### Tips for experiencing Montana's great outdoors

As with any wild area, take care to leave it as wild as it was before you arrived. Pack in and pack out all your gear and trash, and make sure you leave camping areas refuse-free. You'll need permits and plans for nearly all the overnight expeditions. In many of the above, you will be entirely on your own if any emergencies occur, without access to cellphones or easy ways out. For most, if not all, however, that's part of the reason you come here: to really and truly get away from it all. - ([www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com))







**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

This easy, calm day should find everything running smoothly at your workplace. Ideas and interplay with authority figures or older people may make up part of your morning. Working with-rather than against-the flow should be easy at this time. Luck is on your side, particularly if you are asked to decide or choose between two or three things. You have an easy manner that makes conversations and interactions go well. You may find yourself more talkative and skilled than usual. You teach others about good judgment through your own actions, making yourself a good mentor. Tonight you can relax; pile everyone into the family vehicle this evening and enjoy a fun meal at your favorite nearby eating place. Laughter and conversations are good.



**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

You could be the one chosen to be in charge of a particular project. Your timing should be perfect and those around you will find you most energetic. Your mood is appropriate as you work to get projects moving in the right direction. Higher-ups may think that the honesty you exhibit is the reason you might not see advancement in your profession. However, once you learn discretion while you retain your honesty, you will be looking at a new name and a new paycheck. World history and the struggles of kings and queens may be the instigators of your desire in writing at this time. A book that will make it fun to learn about history may be in the works. Children around you are eager to learn and you earnestly want to create a desire for learning.



**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

Be careful about giving hasty responses in the workplace today. It's wisdom, not knowledge, that counts most just now. Personal and business problems are solved successfully; you do best when you exercise patience. Personal finances need review soon. You might consider looking into the amount of money spent on insurance. An advisor can help you pick the right insurance to purchase and eliminate some of the insurance that has become unnecessary. You will receive encouragement and advice from an unexpected source at this time. Open your mind to new concepts. Choose new opportunities that will lead in the direction of education, travel, creative writing or communication. Distribute your energies wisely and one more thing ... Smile.



**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

Wanting to develop your goals in the best direction, you might sign up to take a workshop or update your skills. This will help you to know if you are either taking the right educational classes, or involving yourself in a business that will help you open doors to your future. Conferences or educational interests are positive moves. From now through the middle of next month, you will have the opportunity to join in a new fitness program. Be sure to follow safety precautions. You may have a tendency to rush things in order to get faster results. You are learning more about the inner you at this time, but the new you will become more evident as the year moves along. Consider taking a little time to work on your favorite hobby this evening.



**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

What you want just now may be unrealistic or unobtainable for now and you may be looking for perfection in an imperfect world. Perhaps perfection is in fine workmanship, accurate reporting, matching colors, etc., etc. Without your type of thinking, we would never be able to fly in a plane safely. Today, you help others see the importance of a job well done. Your wishes can come true this afternoon-everything is working in your favor. There may be a particular fraternity, sorority or organization that offers an invitation to you. You are probably some type of genius as professional opportunities also open up to you all the time. With your varied interests, you may want to think about keeping focused. This is a positive time.



**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

You could be experiencing some emotional changes at this time. This could be hormonal, or perhaps you are dealing with some change that you were not expecting. The energies this morning may be a bit negative, but nothing you cannot handle. In relating to others, you may want to verbalize the desire to return an answer at a later time instead of rushing to give a quick answer. Giving thought to a request or quandary may allow you the opportunity to see things from a different perspective. You are very talented when it comes to the determination to rise above any difficulties. Today you will see some real growth in the way you communicate. You are worthy of the extra time you spend in learning problem-solving skills; keep up the good work.



**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

Success at this time depends on how well you know your own motivations. If your motives are largely unconscious, then you will experience this period as wild self-assertion or aggressive actions and opposition from others. If you find yourself becoming angry today, stop and take stock of the situation. Once you discover what you are angry about, you may find that it isn't important or it really does not relate to you after all. Do not try to suppress your anger, as this can only lead to illness. Instead, try to resolve the things that truly matter and move forward. You make real headway in emotional and professional work today. Your thoughts this evening turn to the romantic and erotic. Imagination can only add spice to your relationship.



**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

Learning experiences can sometime come through disappointments. Don't get all troubled about a recent disappointment-it could be a blessing in disguise. Emotional rewards are available if you are observant. Honesty and clarity define instructions, rules and guides. Ask for these things so that you can be clear with others or in your own work. You could be in advertising and need some basic information before you can exercise that imagination of yours. This, coupled with the ability to put your thoughts into words, allows you to captivate and spellbind. Psychic awareness is possible with a small amount of work. Emotions are very present but within control. You may feel like exercising or getting out and about before dark this evening.



**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

Of all the good days so far this year, this day should be freest of problems in visible ways. The path is open for an increase in production. This would be a good day to follow instructions-head down, pencil busy. Write, read, create and communicate carefully! The exchange of ideas becomes a focal point in your life now and in a group meeting of some sort there is much to learn from others. Learning and knowing a little about many things, staying in touch and on top of the latest developments-these things satisfy a need for mental stimulation. Independence, as well as anything unusual or different, is valued. When there is an opportunity to meet up with some old friends this afternoon, you may enjoy getting away from your daily routine.



**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

Today is a celebration of not only you, on your day of birth, but the quiet little underlying ways in which you have learned to solve problems. Such growth is commendable, yet you may not have even realized this growth. You are learning to treat your emotions with an easy-going flow and although at times you take things a bit too seriously, you are learning to remove all but the facts and concentrate on just that: the facts. Your professional standing is getting better and better and will continue to grow in positive ways. Keep learning and practicing the tools of conversation and you will continue to gain approval and power. You enjoy communicating with lots of people and you might enjoy a hobby such as ham radio.



**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)**

Pay up your debts and clear any misunderstandings now. The energies are working in your favor for these things to be completed. Soon, you will be getting the hint that you or your ideas are approved; then it will be full steam ahead. A delay could come from some behind-the-scenes happening. There could be one or more issues that must be developed before your job can move forward. You attract upstanding individuals that have honorable intentions. You may be able to fine-tune each other's skills since you have the same interests. You do not fail people and your optimistic manner is once again a mark of your leadership abilities. You may find yourself bringing a friend home for dinner this evening. This is a great time for music.



**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

Someone will give you advice on travel or income and it would be worth your time to listen; this could be fun, rewarding and educational. Be careful that you keep a possible growing affection for a co-worker on hold just now. Trouble could brew if you pursue this co-worker. There is a harmonious aspect toward starting new projects. You may consider how you can best use your talents with regard to the new project. You attract the people that admire your rational thinking and your knack for handling business issues. Make sure that you create a positive atmosphere in which to enjoy digesting your meal. Stay away from tense discussions at the dinner table as this only contributes to indigestion. Vary your menu as the same thing can become dull. Hum.

**COUNTRY CODES**

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antigua	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Niger	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976





- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
- 01:10 So You Think You'd Survive?
- 02:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 02:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
- 03:40 Fast N' Loud
- 04:30 The Liquidator
- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Blowing Up History
- 06:50 Mega Shippers
- 07:40 Impossible Engineering
- 08:30 Sean Conway - Running Britain
- 09:20 Deadliest Catch
- 10:10 Kings Of The Wild
- 11:00 Venom Hunters
- 11:50 Mega Trains
- 12:40 Life After: Chernobyl
- 13:30 Fast N' Loud
- 14:20 Misfit Garage
- 15:10 Street Outlaws
- 16:00 The Island With Bear Grylls: USA
- 20:10 The Island With Bear Grylls: USA
- 21:00 Fast N' Loud
- 21:50 Misfit Garage
- 22:40 Street Outlaws



- 02:05 South Park
- 02:30 South Park
- 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 04:15 Ridiculousness
- 05:05 Tosh.0
- 05:30 Tosh.0
- 05:55 Workaholics
- 07:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 08:30 Lip Sync Battle
- 08:55 Lip Sync Battle
- 09:20 Bondi Ink
- 10:10 Workaholics
- 10:35 Workaholics
- 11:00 Frankenfood
- 11:50 Urban Tarzan
- 12:40 Key And Peele
- 13:30 Workaholics
- 14:45 Tosh.0
- 16:00 Ridiculousness
- 16:30 Ridiculousness
- 16:55 Tosh.0
- 17:50 The It Crowd
- 18:39 Key And Peele
- 19:03 Key And Peele
- 19:27 The It Crowd
- 20:13 Ridiculousness
- 20:37 Key And Peele



- 00:30 Invent It Rich
- 01:20 Space Voyages
- 02:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
- 03:00 What Happened Next?
- 03:25 What Happened Next?
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 How It's Made
- 05:05 How It's Made
- 05:30 Storm Chasers
- 06:20 Mythbusters
- 07:00 Do You Know?
- 07:15 Doki
- 07:35 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 08:00 K9 Cops
- 08:45 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 Invent It Rich
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Storm Chasers
- 12:00 K9 Cops
- 12:50 Ultimate Survival
- 13:40 How It's Made
- 14:05 How It's Made
- 14:30 Storm Chasers
- 15:15 Mythbusters
- 16:00 Doki
- 16:20 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 16:45 Do You Know?
- 17:00 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
- 17:50 The Carbonaro Effect
- 18:15 The Carbonaro Effect
- 18:40 Invent It Rich
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
- 22:00 The Carbonaro Effect



- 00:10 Hank Zipzer
- 00:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 01:00 Violetta
- 01:45 The Hive
- 01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:40 Hank Zipzer
- 03:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 03:30 Violetta
- 04:15 The Hive
- 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:10 Hank Zipzer
- 05:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 06:00 Violetta
- 06:45 The Hive
- 06:50 Mouk
- 07:00 Jessie
- 07:25 Jessie
- 07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 07:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 08:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 08:45 Bunk'd
- 09:10 Gravity Falls
- 09:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:00 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:25 A.N.T. Farm
- 10:50 A.N.T. Farm
- 11:15 Good Luck Charlie
- 12:05 Shake It Up
- 12:30 Shake It Up
- 12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 13:00 Welcome To The Ronks
- 13:15 Gravity Falls

- 13:40 Hank Zipzer
- 14:05 Star Darlings
- 14:10 Austin & Ally
- 15:00 Jessie
- 15:25 Jessie
- 15:50 Rolling To The Ronks
- 16:15 Sunny Bunnies
- 16:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 16:45 Elena Of Avalor
- 17:10 Bunk'd
- 17:35 Finding Nemo
- 17:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:20 The Next Step
- 19:25 The Next Step
- 19:50 Austin & Ally
- 20:15 Star Darlings
- 20:20 Shake It Up
- 20:45 Backstage
- 21:10 Liv And Maddie
- 21:35 Cracked
- 21:40 The Next Step



- 00:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:35 The Hive
- 00:45 Loopdidoo
- 01:00 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:15 Calimero
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 01:50 Zou
- 02:05 Loopdidoo
- 02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 02:35 Calimero
- 02:50 Zou
- 03:05 Art Attack
- 03:30 The Hive
- 03:40 Loopdidoo
- 03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:10 Art Attack
- 04:35 Loopdidoo
- 04:50 Calimero
- 05:05 Art Attack

- 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:45 Zou
- 06:00 Art Attack
- 06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:45 Loopdidoo
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:15 Calimero
- 07:30 Loopdidoo
- 07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
- 08:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 08:05 PJ Masks
- 08:15 Goldie & Bear
- 08:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 08:45 Miles From Tomorrow
- 08:55 Sofia The First
- 09:20 Doc McStuffins
- 09:25 Goldie & Bear
- 09:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 10:00 PJ Masks
- 10:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 10:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 10:35 Sofia The First
- 11:30 Doc McStuffins
- 12:20 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 13:15 Gummi Bears
- 13:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 14:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:30 Little Mermaid
- 15:55 Unbungalievable
- 16:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 16:55 The Lion Guard
- 17:20 Goldie & Bear
- 17:50 PJ Masks
- 18:15 Sofia The First
- 18:40 Doc McStuffins
- 19:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:30 Little Mermaid
- 20:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates



- 06:00 Danger Mouse
- 06:25 Gravity Falls
- 06:50 The 7D
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:15 Counterfeit Cat
- 07:40 Supa Strikas
- 08:10 K.C. Undercover
- 08:35 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures
- 09:00 Lab Rats
- 09:25 Lab Rats
- 09:50 Danger Mouse
- 10:20 Supa Strikas
- 10:45 Supa Strikas
- 11:10 Counterfeit Cat
- 11:35 Pair Of Kings
- 12:00 Pair Of Kings
- 12:30 Future-Worm!
- 12:55 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 13:20 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 13:45 Atomic Puppet
- 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:15 Supa Strikas
- 14:40 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 15:05 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 15:30 Disney Cookbook
- 15:55 Danger Mouse
- 16:25 K.C. Undercover
- 16:50 Future-Worm!
- 17:15 Gravity Falls
- 17:40 K.C. Undercover
- 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:10 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 18:35 Supa Strikas
- 19:00 Atomic Puppet
- 19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 19:55 K.C. Undercover
- 20:20 Counterfeit Cat
- 20:45 Mighty Med
- 21:10 Pickle And Peanut
- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 22:35 Boyster
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

- 15:10 Alphabetical
- 16:00 Midsomer Murders
- 17:50 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:15 Emmerdale
- 19:45 Coronation Street
- 20:10 Alphabetical
- 21:00 Midsomer Murders
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Emmerdale
- 23:40 Coronation Street



- 00:10 Food School
- 00:35 What's For Sale?
- 01:00 My Dubai
- 01:25 A Is For Apple
- 01:50 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 02:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 02:40 The Food Files
- 03:30 Bondi Rescue Outback Adventure
- 04:20 Places We Go
- 05:10 Street Food Around The World
- 05:35 Street Food Around The World
- 06:00 The Wine Show
- 06:50 My Dubai
- 07:15 A Is For Apple
- 07:40 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 08:05 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 08:30 The Food Files
- 09:20 The Wine Show
- 10:10 Places We Go
- 11:00 Street Food Around The World
- 11:50 Bondi Rescue Outback Adventure
- 12:40 My Dubai
- 13:05 A Is For Apple
- 13:35 Great Escapes
- 14:00 The Food Files
- 14:55 Trekking Malaysia With Jason Afl
- 15:50 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 16:20 Places We Go
- 16:45 Places We Go
- 17:15 Street Food Around The World
- 17:40 Street Food Around The World
- 18:10 The Wine Show
- 19:05 Trekking Malaysia With Jason Afl
- 20:00 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 20:25 Places We Go
- 20:50 Places We Go



- 00:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 01:50 E! News
- 02:50 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 03:45 Just Jillian
- 05:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:55 E! News
- 07:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 08:10 E! News
- 09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 12:00 E! News
- 12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 14:05 Botched
- 15:00 E! News
- 15:15 Fashion Police
- 16:15 Hollywood & Football
- 17:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 18:05 So Cosmo
- 18:30 Botched
- 19:00 E! News
- 20:00 Rob & Chyna



- 00:10 The Chase
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Coronation Street
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Alphabetical
- 03:25 Big Star's Little Star
- 04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 05:15 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 06:10 Don't Tell The Bride
- 07:10 Alphabetical
- 08:00 Big Star's Little Star
- 09:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 09:00 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 10:55 Don't Tell The Bride
- 11:55 Alphabetical
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Emmerdale
- 13:45 Coronation Street
- 14:10 Don't Tell The Bride



- 00:20 Hyena Queen
- 01:10 I, Predator
- 02:00 Croc Labyrinth
- 02:50 World's Deadliest
- 03:45 Swamp Men
- 04:40 Natural Born Monsters
- 05:35 Croc Labyrinth
- 06:30 World's Deadliest
- 07:25 Swamp Men
- 08:20 Natural Born Monsters
- 09:15 Animal Fight Club
- 10:10 Wild Kalahari
- 11:05 Lion Ranger
- 12:00 Kingdom Of The Oceans
- 12:55 Pythonathon
- 13:50 World's Deadliest
- 14:45 Swamp Men
- 15:40 Natural Born Monsters
- 16:35 Animal Fight Club
- 17:30 Borneo's Secret Kingdom
- 18:25 Lion Ranger
- 19:20 Swamp Men
- 20:10 Natural Born Monsters
- 21:00 Animal Fight Club
- 21:50 Borneo's Secret Kingdom
- 22:40 Lion Ranger
- 23:30 Kingdom Of The Oceans



- 00:10 The War Generals
- 01:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
- 02:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 02:55 Air Crash Investigation
- 03:50 The War Generals
- 04:45 The Numbers Game
- 05:10 The Numbers Game
- 05:40 Car SOS
- 06:35 Inside Cocaine Wars
- 07:30 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
- 08:25 Lords Of War
- 08:50 Lords Of War
- 09:20 The Numbers Game



SWORD OF VENGEANCE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

- 09:45 The Numbers Game
- 10:15 Locked Up Abroad
- 11:10 The Border
- 12:05 The Chinese Hajj
- 13:00 The Two Million Year Old Boy
- 13:30 The Rolex Awards
- 14:00 Dawn Of Humanity
- 15:00 Inside Cocaine Wars
- 16:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 17:00 The Border
- 18:00 Taboo USA
- 19:00 Inside Cocaine Wars
- 20:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 20:50 The Border
- 21:40 Taboo USA
- 22:30 Inside Cocaine Wars



- 00:15 Team Umizoomi
- 00:38 Louie
- 00:45 Louie
- 00:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 00:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 01:03 Max & Ruby
- 01:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 01:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 01:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 02:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 02:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 02:45 Zack & Quack
- 03:05 Team Umizoomi
- 03:28 Louie
- 03:35 Louie
- 03:40 Olive The Ostrich
- 03:44 Olive The Ostrich
- 03:49 Paw Patrol
- 04:01 Paw Patrol
- 04:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 04:35 Dora The Explorer
- 04:59 Max & Ruby
- 05:07 Bubble Guppies
- 05:29 Little Charmers
- 05:41 Shimmer And Shine
- 06:05 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 06:27 Zack & Quack
- 06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 07:00 Paw Patrol
- 07:13 Paw Patrol
- 07:36 Dora The Explorer
- 08:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 08:11 Zack & Quack
- 08:22 Dora And Friends
- 08:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 09:10 Paw Patrol
- 09:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 09:58 Dora The Explorer
- 10:21 Paw Patrol
- 10:45 Little Charmers
- 10:57 Bubble Guppies
- 11:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 11:40 Zack & Quack
- 11:52 Team Umizoomi
- 12:15 Team Umizoomi
- 12:38 Louie
- 12:45 Louie
- 12:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 12:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 13:03 Max & Ruby
- 13:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 13:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 13:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 14:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 14:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 14:45 Zack & Quack
- 15:05 Team Umizoomi
- 15:28 Louie
- 15:35 Louie
- 15:40 Olive The Ostrich
- 15:44 Olive The Ostrich
- 15:49 Paw Patrol
- 16:01 Paw Patrol
- 16:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 16:35 Dora The Explorer
- 16:59 Max & Ruby
- 17:07 Bubble Guppies
- 17:29 Little Charmers
- 17:41 Shimmer And Shine
- 18:05 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 18:27 Zack & Quack
- 18:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 19:00 Paw Patrol
- 19:13 Paw Patrol
- 19:36 Dora The Explorer
- 20:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 20:11 Zack & Quack
- 20:22 Dora And Friends
- 20:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 21:10 Paw Patrol
- 21:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 21:58 Dora The Explorer
- 22:21 Paw Patrol



FANTASTIC FOUR ON OSN MOVIES HD

- osn MOVIES HD ACTION**
- 22:45 Little Charmers
  - 22:57 Bubble Guppies
  - 23:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
  - 23:40 Zack & Quack
  - 23:52 Team Umizoomi
- 00:00 Snakes On A Plane
- 02:00 Dracula Untold
- 04:00 Sword Of Vengeance
- 06:00 The Taking Of Pelham 123
- 08:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 10:00 Pompeii
- 12:00 Jurassic Hunters
- 14:00 The Taking Of Pelham 123
- 16:00 Echo Effect
- 18:00 Pompeii
- 20:00 Taken 3
- 22:00 Snatch

- osn MOVIES HD FAMILY**
- 00:45 Goosebumps
  - 02:45 Marvel's Iron Man & Captain America: Heroes United
  - 04:15 The Education Of Little Tree
  - 06:15 Scooby-Doo! And The Beach Beastie
  - 07:15 Goosebumps
  - 09:00 Max
  - 11:00 The Good Dinosaur
  - 13:00 Scooby-Doo! Moon Monster Madness
  - 15:00 Frozen
  - 17:00 Paddington
  - 19:00 Houba! On The Trail Of Marsupilami

- osn MOVIES HD COMEDY**
- 01:00 Kidnapping Mr. Heineken
  - 03:00 Pan
  - 05:00 4 Minute Mile
  - 07:00 Stonehearst Asylum
  - 09:00 Pan
  - 11:00 Fantastic Four
  - 13:00 A Royal Night Out
  - 14:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
  - 17:00 The Walk
  - 19:15 Daddy's Home
  - 21:00 The Peanuts Movie
  - 22:45 Spy

- osn MOVIES HD COMEDY**
- 00:00 The Five Year Engagement
  - 02:15 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2

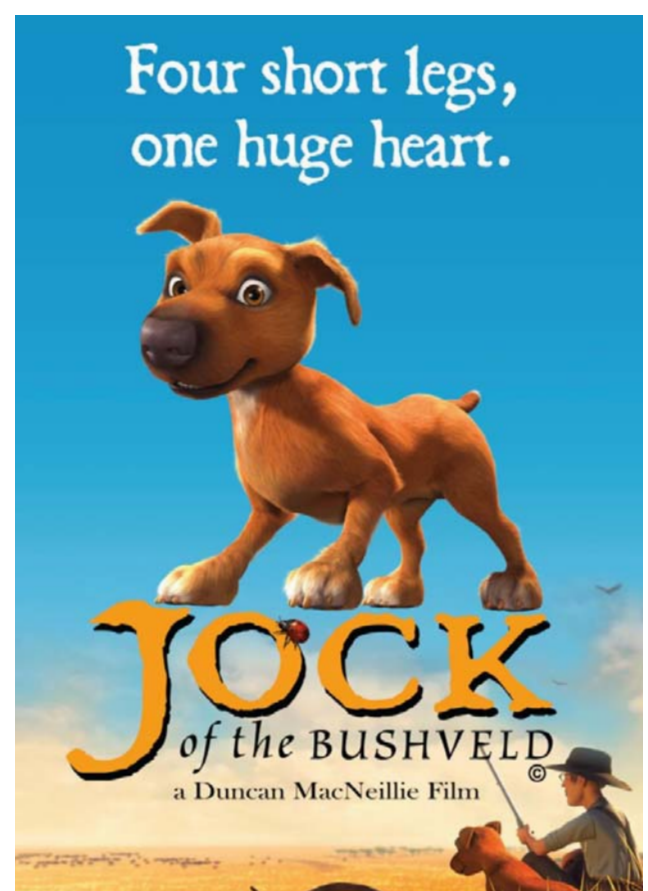
- osn MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**
- 04:00 Baby Mama
  - 06:00 Caveman
  - 08:00 Honeymooners
  - 10:00 Caveman
  - 12:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
  - 14:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
  - 16:00 Honeymooners
  - 18:00 Easy A
  - 20:00 Pitch Perfect 2
  - 22:00 Horrible Bosses 2

- osn MOVIES HD KIDS**
- 01:30 Batkid Begins
  - 03:00 Unbroken
  - 05:30 The Imitation Game
  - 07:30 Ironweed
  - 10:00 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
  - 12:15 The Imitation Game
  - 14:15 2001: A Space Odyssey
  - 16:45 The Girl
  - 18:30 The Judge
  - 21:00 The Help
  - 23:30 The Gambler

- osn MOVIES HD KIDS**
- 01:15 Columbus In The Last Journey
  - 02:45 Egon And Donci
  - 04:30 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
  - 06:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
  - 07:45 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
  - 09:30 Jock The Hero Dog
  - 11:00 Jetsons: The Movie
  - 12:45 Egon And Donci
  - 14:15 Yellowbird
  - 16:00 The Wild Thornberrys Movie
  - 18:00 Jock The Hero Dog
  - 20:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
  - 22:00 Yellowbird

- DISCOVERY SCIENCE**
- 00:40 Mythbusters
  - 01:30 How Do They Do It?
  - 01:55 Food Factory
  - 02:20 The Quick And The Curious
  - 02:45 Sci-Fi Science: Physics Of The Impossible
  - 03:10 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
  - 04:00 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World
  - 04:48 Mythbusters
  - 05:36 The Quick And The Curious
  - 06:00 Sci-Fi Science: Physics Of The Impossible
  - 06:24 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
  - 07:12 How Do They Do It?
  - 07:36 Food Factory
  - 08:00 How Do They Do It?
  - 08:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
  - 09:14 Mythbusters
  - 10:02 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World
  - 10:50 How Do They Do It?
  - 11:14 Food Factory
  - 11:38 The Quick And The Curious
  - 12:02 Sci-Fi Science: Physics Of The Impossible
  - 12:26 Mythbusters
  - 13:14 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
  - 14:02 How Do They Do It?
  - 14:26 Food Factory
  - 14:50 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World
  - 15:38 The Quick And The Curious
  - 16:02 Sci-Fi Science: Physics Of The Impossible
  - 16:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

- H2 HD**
- 00:00 The Universe
  - 01:00 How The States Got Their Shape
  - 02:00 Ancient Impossible
  - 03:00 America's Book Of Secrets
  - 03:50 Ancient Aliens
  - 04:40 How 2 Win
  - 05:30 The Universe
  - 06:20 How The States Got Their Shape
  - 07:10 The Universe
  - 08:00 Ancient Impossible
  - 09:00 America's Book Of Secrets
  - 10:00 Ancient Aliens
  - 11:00 How 2 Win
  - 12:00 The Universe
  - 13:00 How The States Got Their Shape
  - 14:00 Ancient Impossible
  - 15:00 America's Book Of Secrets
  - 16:00 Ancient Aliens



JOCK THE HERO DOG ON OSN MOVIES KIDS HD

- 17:00 How 2 Win
- 18:00 The Universe
- 19:00 How The States Got Their Shape
- 20:00 Ancient Impossible
- 21:00 America's Book Of Secrets



- 00:20 Time Team
- 01:10 DB Cooper: Case Closed?
- 02:50 Storage Wars
- 03:15 American Pickers
- 04:05 Pawn Stars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Mountain Men
- 06:00 Time Team
- 06:50 Time Team
- 07:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 08:30 Shark Wranglers
- 09:20 Mountain Men
- 10:10 Mountain Men - Closest Calls
- 11:00 American Pickers
- 11:50 Counting Cars
- 12:15 Car Hunters
- 12:40 Pawn Stars
- 13:05 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 13:30 Swamp People
- 18:30 Shipping Wars
- 18:55 Shipping Wars
- 19:20 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 20:10 Ice Road Truckers
- 21:00 American Pickers
- 21:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar



- 00:00 Private Chef
- 00:30 Private Chef
- 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:00 Man Fire Food
- 02:30 Man Fire Food
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 05:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 05:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 06:00 The Kitchen
- 07:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 07:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:00 Siba's Table
- 08:30 Siba's Table
- 09:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 09:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:00 Siba's Table
- 12:30 Siba's Table
- 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Chopped



WORD SEARCH

Elvis

Find and circle all of the words, names, songs, and movies that have to do with Elvis. The remaining letters spell a line from an Elvis song.

U O Y N O K C U T S C L A M B A K E Y O  
G N I K E H T R O C K A B I L L Y U C B  
D N I A R Y K C U T N E K A S N D O A L  
O S N Y E G O D D N U O H D T H B S L U  
N A R E T U R N T O S E N D E R U D E E  
T G U I S V G I N G T I B J G A R R T H  
B E O R I E U Y A T M U A L O L N O O A  
E V Y A S R C C R S A I P Y O L I C H W  
C S T M E N R O U A L O R E D S N E K A  
R A O A L O F O L H T E K S L H G R A I  
U L N S T N I S O O D I U O U O L N E I  
E A S I T C E U D N N R N H C O O U R Y  
L V E L I U S N E G R E C G K K V S B P  
L I H P L E A T C E N I O F P C U E S T P  
E V S B R L E R N I M O F P H M I R A  
P U I O E M E D G O Y Y M R A S U H A H  
S G C C E O E H O A A R O N R R B P E L  
O K A V L R T T S Y D A L G M L K M H R  
G R O E I N T H E G H E T T O U E E S I  
G L U E D E S R O U S T A B O U T M R G  
D R A F T E D A L L I C S I R P H O E S

- |                |                  |                  |                  |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| AARON          | GOOD LUCK CHARM  | LITTLE SISTER    | STUCK ON YOU     |
| ALL SHOOK UP   | GOSPEL           | LOVE ME TENDER   | SUN RECORDS      |
| BLUE HAWAII    | GRACELAND        | MEMPHIS          | SURRENDER        |
| BURNING LOVE   | GYRATING         | ONE NIGHT        | SUSPICIOUS MINDS |
| CLAMBAKE       | HEARTBREAK HOTEL | PRISCILLA        | THE KING         |
| COLONEL PARKER | HOUND DOG        | RCA              | TOO MUCH         |
| DON'T BE CRUEL | IN THE GHETTO    | RETURN TO SENDER | TUPELO           |
| DRAFTED        | JAILHOUSE ROCK   | ROCKABILLY       | U.S. ARMY        |
| G.I. BLUES     | KENTUCKY RAIN    | ROUSTABOUT       | VERNON           |
| GIRL HAPPY     | KING CREOLE      | SHE'S NOT YOU    | VIVA LAS VEGAS   |
| GLADYS         | LISA MARIE       |                  |                  |

Yesterday's Solution

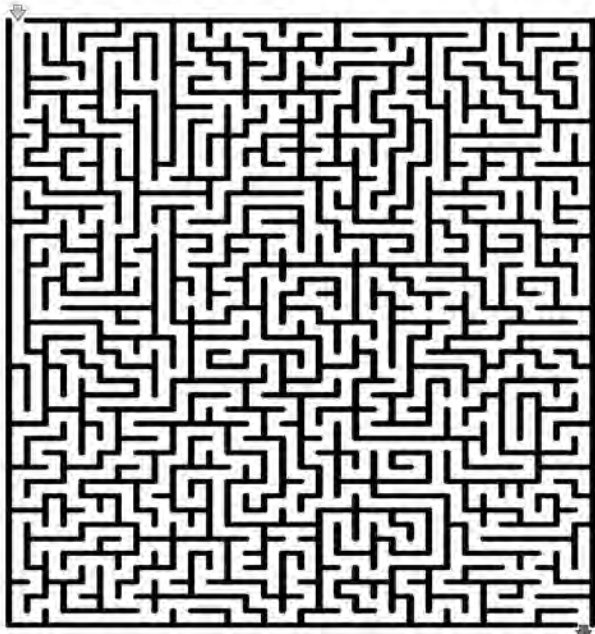
Electronics

A N A L O G L T I N N I N G R E W O P C A P A C I T O R E R N O T Y I  
R E W O P C A P A C I T O R E R N O T Y I  
E I E D O R T C E L E R D A D R I C I  
C P T W G S A H C T E A I M L T C I  
N O T M I N T A R V I N O P O C I R  
A S A R O R T C A O R S I D E S E R T  
D I W D E H E C A O T I E R T L T C  
P I T E I O S U M T I N S O E T E C  
M V E O M C U S G O A O I R A N L E  
I E C T C D H A T L F R C T Y F E  
D P U U N I T E U A C S I F A H S  
A B I O R I L S S U N G N R L L T  
E G C H V R N I M I C A A L U D  
L I O E C T E T S D H D E E R D X  
I N D U C T A N C E S O C G A T E  
E G A T L O V E T R O T S I S E R

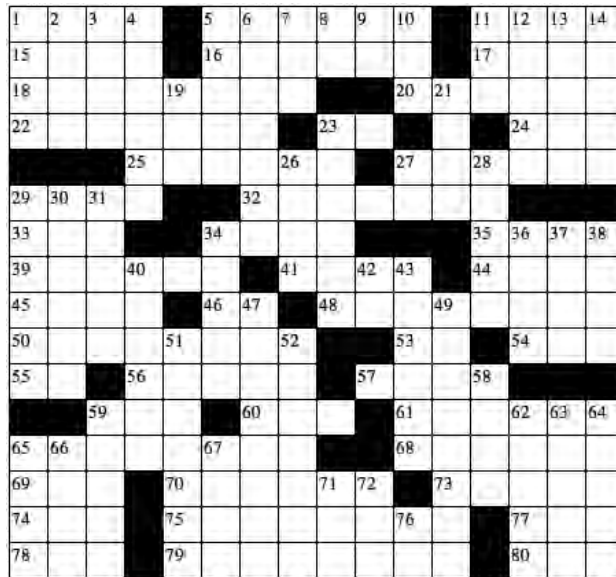
- |           |             |            |             |
|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| AMPERE    | CURRENT     | INDUCTANCE | SOLDER      |
| ANALOG    | DIGITAL     | INSULATORS | SWITCHES    |
| ANODE     | DIODE       | LEAD       | THYRISTOR   |
| CAPACITOR | ELECTRICITY | NEGATIVE   | TINNING     |
| CATHODE   | ELECTRODE   | OHMS       | TRANSFORMER |
| CELLS     | ELECTRON    | POSITIVE   | TRANSISTOR  |
| CHIP      | FARADS      | POWER      | VACUUM TUBE |
| CIRCUIT   | FLUX        | RESISTANCE | VOLTAGE     |
| CONDUCTOR | GATE        | RESISTOR   | WATT        |
| CONTACTS  | IMPEDANCE   | SILICON    | WIRE        |

The hidden item is: LIGHT EMITTING DIODE

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1489



ACROSS

- A French abbot.
- A soft cotton or worsted fabric with an open mesh.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
- Pitiable in circumstances especially through abandonment.
- One of the inherent cognitive or perceptual powers of the mind.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- A watercourse that carries water away from a mill or water wheel or turbine.
- By a small margin.
- (chemistry) Relating or belonging to the class of chemical compounds having a carbon basis.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- (anatomy) A somewhat rounded subdivision of a bodily organ or part.
- A group of people attractively arranged (as if in a painting).
- The month following March and preceding May.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- Syncopated music in duple time for dancing the rumba.
- A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- (zoology) Lacking a tail or taillike appendage.
- The branch of mechanics concerned with the forces that cause motions of bodies.
- Not out.
- (informal) Roused to anger.
- A mouth or mouthlike opening.
- A water wheel with buckets attached to the rim.
- Made from residue of grapes or apples after pressing.
- A United States unit of weight equivalent to 100 pounds.
- A member of the Wakashan people living on Vancouver Island and in the Cape Flattery region of northwestern Washington.
- A radioactive transuranic element synthesized by bombarding curium with carbon ions.
- A member of a nomadic Berber people of the Sahara.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Live so as to annul some previous behavior.
- Fleshy spore-bearing inner mass of e.g. a puffball or stinkhorn.
- A caustic detergent useful for removing grease.
- Capable of being scaled.
- A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
- The starting place for each hole on a golf course.
- A town in southeastern New Mexico on the Pecos River near the Mexican border.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- Of or being the lowest female voice.
- Old World wild swine having a narrow body and prominent tusks from which most domestic swine come.
- Two-masted sailing vessel square-rigged on both masts.
- Spin or twist together so as to form a cord.
- (computer science) A system of world-wide electronic communication in which a computer user can compose a message at one terminal that is generated at the recipient's terminal when he logs in.
- A baroque musical composition (usually for a keyboard instrument) with full chords and rapid elaborate runs in a rhythmically free style.
- A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
- The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- Being nine more than forty.
- A long projecting or anterior elongation of an animal's head.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Causing fear or dread or terror.
- An expression of greeting.
- Israeli general and statesman (1915-1981).
- A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
- A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
- A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- Wild sheep of northern Africa.
- A hardy genus of terrestrial orchids of Europe and northern Africa and western Asia.
- A conventional name for a bear used in tales following usage in the old epic "Reynard the Fox".
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- The biblical name for ancient Syria.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- In bed.
- A person of mean disposition.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- (heraldry) Applied to a fish depicted horizontally.
- Narrow and long and pointed.
- Not wearing rouge.
- Invertebrate having a soft unsegmented body usually enclosed in a shell.
- A large sawing machine.
- Fossil fuel consisting of carbonized vegetable matter deposited in the Carboniferous period.
- Lower in esteem.
- An evergreen tree of the family Ulmaceae that grows in tropical America and Africa and Asia.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- Look at with amorous intentions.
- A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
- A tube in which a body fluid circulates.
- A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.

Yesterday's Solution

A B M A M O E B I N A A S P  
G A D B E S I E G E D G C A  
H A M A G R A G E D R A B  
A L A S A B E D B A E D A  
A R E A A D A G E  
S P A R E R I B C O N D I G N  
C A B A L A G O A N O A  
A D A N A M E A G R E G U I  
M A M X E P E E K R G A  
P U P P I S E L A N I C E D  
O K A N K L E R O T C  
A L G A E B E H E A D  
B A B E L A S E R N E V E R  
A G A P I N I T E R A I S E  
Y E S E T E R N I S E C I A  
A D E P H R E A T I C T R M

Daily SuDoku

			5		
4	3			6	2
	5		6	9	4
		7	9	3	
	2		6	4	8
			5	8	4
	3	4		9	2
2	9			1	3
			7		

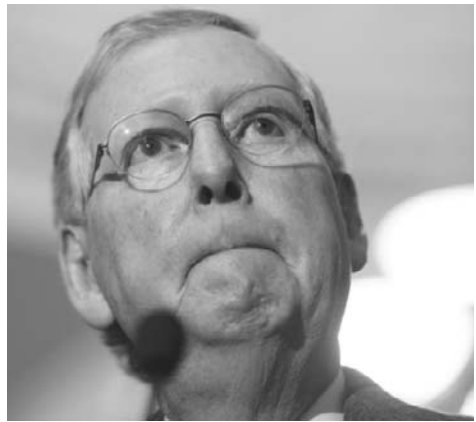
Yesterday's Solution

6	3	7	9	2	8	1	5	4
2	8	4	5	3	1	7	9	6
9	1	5	6	4	7	2	8	3
5	4	9	7	6	2	8	3	1
1	7	6	3	8	5	9	4	2
3	2	8	1	9	4	5	6	7
7	9	1	4	5	3	6	2	8
4	5	2	8	1	6	3	7	9
8	6	3	2	7	9	4	1	5



## REPUBLICAN-LED SENATE TO MOVE FORWARD ON 'OBAMACARE' REPEAL

**WASHINGTON:** The Republican-led Senate is poised to take a step forward on dismantling President Barack Obama's health care law despite anxiety among GOP lawmakers over the lack of an alternative. Senate approval - was expected late Wednesday or early yesterday - and then House passage as early as today would trigger committee action to



**WASHINGTON:** In this file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. pauses during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.—AP

write repeal legislation that could come to a vote next month. A full replacement would follow sometime after that, presuming Republicans can come up with one. "We must act quickly to bring relief to the American people," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

President-elect Donald Trump said Wednesday that repealing and replacing the law should happen "essentially simultaneously," even in the same day, week or hour. That will be almost impossible to achieve due

to complex Senate rules, united Democratic opposition and substantive policy disagreements among Republicans. Republicans plan to get legislation voiding Obama's law and replacing parts of it to Trump by the end of February, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said Wednesday on "The Hugh Hewitt Show," a conservative radio program. Other Republicans have said they expect the process to take longer.

The 2010 law extended health insurance to some 20 million Americans, prevented insurers from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions and steered billions of dollars to states for the Medicaid health program for the poor. The Senate procedural vote will set up special budget rules that will allow the repeal vote to take place with a simple majority in the 100-member Senate, instead of the 60 votes required to move most legislation.

### Repeal legislation

That means Republicans, who control 52 seats, can push through repeal legislation without Democratic cooperation. They're also discussing whether there are some elements of a replacement bill that could get through at the same time with a simple majority. But for many elements of a new health care law, Republicans are likely to need 60 votes and Democratic support, and at this point the two parties aren't even talking. Increasing numbers of Republicans have expressed anxiety over obliterating the law without a replacement to show voters. Sen Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she wants to at least see "a detailed framework" of a GOP alternative health care plan before voting on repeal. She said Republicans would risk "people falling through the cracks or causing turmoil in insurance markets" if lawmakers void-

ed Obama's statute without a replacement in hand. Collins was among several Republicans sponsoring an amendment to give more time for congressional panels to devise legislation to repeal "Obamacare" and replace it with a GOP alternative. Another sponsor, Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., said the move "will ensure adequate time is given to repeal Obamacare and replace it with a substantive alternative."

Virtually all of the other amendments will be offered by Democrats, including several attempting to create procedural obstacles to repealing various portions of the health law. They were all likely to be shot down by

majority Republicans. House leaders planned a Friday vote on the budget, though Republicans in that chamber also had misgivings. Many members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus were insisting on first learning details about what a GOP substitute would look like. They also were demanding that once a future repeal bill becomes law, it should take no longer than two years to take effect. Some GOP senators have discussed a phase-in of three years or longer to give lawmakers more time to replace Obama's overhaul and make sure people now covered by that law can adjust to a new program.—AP

## STUDY SHOWS THE WAY STRESS MAY HARM YOUR HEART

**PARIS:** Scientists said yesterday they may have uncovered a biological explanation for the long suspected link between stress and heart disease. People with a highly active amygdala—a region of the brain involved in stress processing—also have a higher risk of heart disease and stroke, the researchers revealed. A hard-working amygdala was also linked to increased bone marrow activity and inflammation of the arteries, which may explain the higher heart disease and stroke risk, the team said.

The data suggested that stressed amygdala may send signals to the bone marrow to produce extra white blood cells, which may in turn cause arteries to narrow and become inflamed, causing cardiovascular problems. The potential link "raises the possibility that reducing stress could produce benefits that

extend beyond an improved sense of psychological wellbeing," said lead author Ahmed Tawakol of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Published in The Lancet medical journal, the study entailed PET and CT scans of the brain, bone marrow and spleen activity, as well as artery inflammation, of 293 patients.

The group was surveyed for 3.7 years on average, during which time 22 suffered "cardiovascular events"—including heart attack, heart failure, stroke and narrowing of arteries, said the study. "Those with higher amygdala activity had a greater risk of subsequent cardiovascular disease and developed problems sooner than those with lower activity," said the researchers. In a sub-study, 13 patients with a history of post-traumatic stress disorder were tested separately.—AFP

CLINIC  
PAGE



Kuwait Times  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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





## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (12/01/2017 TO 18/01/2017)

<b>SHARQIA-1</b>	
MOANA	11:45 AM
MOANA	2:00 PM
MOANA	4:15 PM
DANGAL -Hindi	6:30 PM
THE GREAT WALL	9:45 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	3:30 PM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu	6:30 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	9:30 PM
THE GREAT WALL	12:15 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>	
A MONSTER CALLS	12:45 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	3:00 PM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu	4:00 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	5:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	7:30 PM
THE GREAT WALL	7:30 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	9:45 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	12:05 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>	
PATRIOTS DAY	1:15 PM
MOANA	1:45 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	4:00 PM
MOANA	4:30 PM
THE GREAT WALL	6:45 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	6:45 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	9:00 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	11:45 PM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>	
THE GREAT WALL	1:00 PM
DANGAL -Hindi	3:45 PM
DANGAL -Hindi	7:00 PM
NO THU+FRI+MON	
THE GREAT WALL	10:15 PM
NO THU+FRI+MON	
THE GREAT WALL	1:30 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	4:00 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	7:00 PM
THU+FRI+MON	
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu	10:00 PM
THU+FRI+MON	
THE GREAT WALL	12:45 AM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>	
PATRIOTS DAY	11:30 AM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu	2:00 PM
FRIMOANA	2:15 PM
MOANA	4:45 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	7:00 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	9:45 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	12:30 AM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>	
A MONSTER CALLS	12:15 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	1:45 PM
FRI	
A MONSTER CALLS	2:30 PM
NO FRI	
A MONSTER CALLS	4:45 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	7:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	9:30 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	11:45 PM
<b>FANAR-1</b>	
THE GREAT WALL	11:30 AM
THE GREAT WALL	2:00 PM
NO FRI	
SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA	4:15 PM
NO FRI	
THE GREAT WALL	6:00 PM
NO THU+FRI+MON	
ASSASSIN'S CREED	8:15 PM
NO THU+FRI+MON	
THE GREAT WALL	10:45 PM
NO THU+FRI+MON	
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	3:30 PM
FRI	
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu	6:30 PM
THU+FRI+MON	
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	9:30 PM
THU+FRI+MON	
ASSASSIN'S CREED	1:00 AM
<b>FANAR-2</b>	
PATRIOTS DAY	1:30 PM
MOANA	4:15 PM
BAIRAVAA - Tamil	6:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	9:45 PM

<b>PATRIOTS DAY</b>		12:30 AM
<b>FANAR-3</b>		
SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA		11:45 AM
SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA		1:45 PM
DANGAL -Hindi		3:30 PM
NO FRI		
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu		3:45 PM
FRI		
DANGAL -Hindi		6:45 PM
NO THU+FRI+MON		
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu		7:00 PM
THU+FRI+MON		
DANGAL -Hindi		10:00 PM
THE GREAT WALL		1:15 AM
<b>MARINA-1</b>		
THE GREAT WALL		1:15 PM
MOANA		3:30 PM
MOANA		5:45 PM
THE GREAT WALL		8:00 PM
THE GREAT WALL		10:15 PM
THE GREAT WALL		12:30 AM
<b>MARINA-2</b>		
A MONSTER CALLS		12:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		2:45 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		5:00 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		7:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		9:30 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		11:45 PM
<b>MARINA-3</b>		
PATRIOTS DAY		1:00 PM
ASSASSIN'S CREED		1:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		3:45 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		6:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		9:15 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		12:05 AM
<b>AVENUES-1</b>		
WARRIOR'S GATE		12:30 PM
WARRIOR'S GATE		3:00 PM
WARRIOR'S GATE		5:30 PM
WARRIOR'S GATE		7:45 PM
WARRIOR'S GATE		10:15 PM
WARRIOR'S GATE		12:30 AM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu		7:30 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu		10:30 PM
WARRIOR'S GATE		1:15 AM
<b>AVENUES-2</b>		
MOANA -3D- 4DX		1:15 PM
MOANA -3D- 4DX		3:45 PM
MOANA -3D- 4DX		6:00 PM
THE GREAT WALL -3D- 4DX		8:15 PM
THE GREAT WALL -3D- 4DX		10:30 PM
ASSASSIN'S CREED -3D- 4DX		12:45 AM
<b>AVENUES-3</b>		
THE GREAT WALL		1:30 PM
THE GREAT WALL		4:15 PM
THE GREAT WALL		7:00 PM
THE GREAT WALL		9:45 PM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu		1:30 PM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu		4:15 PM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu		7:00 PM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu		9:45 PM
THE GREAT WALL		12:30 AM
<b>AVENUES-4</b>		
A MONSTER CALLS		12:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		2:30 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		4:45 PM
Special Show " LEVEL UP"		4:45 PM
DANGAL -Hindi		7:00 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		10:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		12:30 AM
<b>AVENUES-5</b>		
PATRIOTS DAY		11:45 AM
PATRIOTS DAY		2:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		5:15 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		8:00 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		11:00 PM
<b>AVENUES-6</b>		
PATRIOTS DAY		12:30 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu		1:45 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu		4:45 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		3:15 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		6:00 PM

<b>PATRIOTS DAY</b>		8:45 PM
<b>PATRIOTS DAY</b>		11:30 PM
<b>360°- 1</b>		
PATRIOTS DAY		1:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		4:15 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		7:00 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		9:45 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		12:30 AM
<b>360°- 2</b>		
WARRIOR'S GATE		11:30 AM
DANGAL -Hindi		1:45 PM
DANGAL -Hindi		5:00 PM
DANGAL -Hindi		8:15 PM
DANGAL -Hindi		11:30 PM
<b>360°- 3</b>		
ASSASSIN'S CREED		11:30 AM
ASSASSIN'S CREED		1:45 PM
SING		4:15 PM
ASSASSIN'S CREED		6:45 PM
ASSASSIN'S CREED		9:15 PM
ASSASSIN'S CREED		11:45 PM
<b>AL-KOUT.1</b>		
A MONSTER CALLS		1:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		3:30 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		5:45 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		8:00 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		10:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		12:30 AM
<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>		
THE GREAT WALL		12:00 PM
MOANA		2:15 PM
MOANA		4:30 PM
MOANA		6:45 PM
THE GREAT WALL		9:15 PM
THE GREAT WALL		11:30 PM
<b>AL-KOUT.3</b>		
PATRIOTS DAY		12:45 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		3:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		6:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		9:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		12:30 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu		6:30 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu		9:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		12:15 AM
<b>AL-KOUT.4</b>		
WARRIOR'S GATE		12:30 PM
WARRIOR'S GATE		3:00 PM
WARRIOR'S GATE		5:15 PM
THE GREAT WALL		7:30 PM
WARRIOR'S GATE		9:45 PM
WARRIOR'S GATE		12:05 AM
<b>BAIRAQ-1</b>		
A MONSTER CALLS		12:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		2:30 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		4:45 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		7:00 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		9:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS		11:30 PM
<b>BAIRAQ-2</b>		
THE GREAT WALL		1:00 PM
MOANA		3:30 PM
MOANA		5:45 PM
MOANA		8:00 PM
THE GREAT WALL		10:15 PM
THE GREAT WALL		12:30 AM
<b>BAIRAQ-3</b>		
SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA		12:45 PM
SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA		2:45 PM
SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA		4:30 PM
DANGAL -Hindi		6:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		9:45 PM
PATRIOTS DAY		12:30 AM
<b>PLAZA</b>		
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu		3:45 PM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu		6:45 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu		10:00 PM
<b>LAILA</b>		
THE GREAT WALL		3:30 PM
NO SAT		
A MONSTER CALLS		5:45 PM

### WANTED

**Power Tools Technician  
Or  
Electrical Motor Winder**  
Call  
**66502023  
96627667**

CHANGE OF NAME

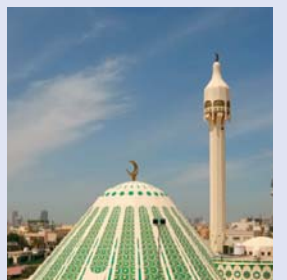
I, **Danny Ameer Kahn S/o Abdul Khader Ameer Kahn** holder of Indian PP No. J3624269 hereby change my name as **Muhammad Ameer Khan**, with immediate effect. (C 5256)  
**13-1-2017**

**My old name** was Iqbal Gafoor Sahab my new name is **Mohammed Iqbal Gafoor Shaikh S/o Gafoor Shaikh**. Address: Flat No A :- 402, A wing, Mahesh Apartments, Sai Sahawas Co-op, Housing Society Ltd. Shreenath Nagar Gilbert Hill Road Andheri (W) 400058 Mumbai. (5255)  
**9-1-2017**

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation for Filipino Bachelor ONLY near Big Jamiya Farwaniya. Available already, Contact 66826412 or 97512782  
**9-1-2017**

### PRAYER TIMINGS



**Fajr: 05:20**  
**Shorook: 06:44**  
**Duhr: 11:56**  
**Asr: 14:49**  
**Maghrib: 17:08**  
**Isha: 18:30**

### EMERGENCY

**112**

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



# Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

CHINA TURNS TO ROBOTS AS WORKERS AGE

Page 39

Page 40



Globalization 'easy scapegoat': Schwab



NEW YORK: US President-Elect Donald Trump stands with his children Ivanka and Donald Jr during Trump's press conference at Trump Tower on Wednesday. — AFP

## TRUMP UNDER FIRE OVER BUSINESS PLAN

ETHICS WATCHDOG SLAMS LACK OF FULL DIVESTITURE

**NEW YORK:** Donald Trump said Wednesday he had handed complete control of his business to his adult sons but stopped short of a full divestment, earning a swift rebuke from the government ethics watchdog. Trump, the wealthiest man ever to ascend to the US presidency, has until now run the Trump Organization whose network of hotels, golf clubs and luxury residences stretches across 20 countries but is not listed on the stock market, thus releasing no public statistics.

The 70-year-old billionaire has so far flouted recommendations that he sell off all his assets in a blind trust to avoid any suspicion of corruption or conflict of interest. As he prepares to be sworn in as America's 45th president in nine days, Trump still refuses to release his tax returns, claiming they are under audit, meaning relatively little is known about the extent of his interests. "My two sons, who are right here, Don and Eric, are going to be running the company," the president-elect told a news conference in New York. "They're not going to discuss it with me," he added.

Don Jr, 38, and Eric, 32, are Trump's eldest

sons from his first marriage and are currently, with their sister Ivanka, executive vice presidents in the Trump Organization. Trump said manila files covering a table next to the lectern were the signed documents "turning over complete and total control to my sons", before handing the stage to his lawyer, a Washington law firm partner. The attorney, Sheri Dillon, defended the plan saying it would "completely isolate" Trump from the management of his business during his presidency and that no new foreign deals "whatsoever" would be made during his time in the White House.

### 'Not feasible'

All pending deals - more than 30 - were canceled, causing a "financial loss of millions of dollars" to Trump and his children, said Dillon, a partner in the firm Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. Under the plan, an ethics advisor would review and give written approval to any "new deals, actions, and transactions that can potentially raise ethics or conflicts of interest concerns," she said.

Longtime Trump associate Allen

Weisselberg, currently the company's chief financial officer, will assist the Trump sons in running the business, according to Dillon. Daughter Ivanka, whose husband Jared Kushner will be a special adviser to the president, will have no further involvement in the business. Tackling head on why Trump would not divest, Dillon alleged that selling "would not eliminate possibilities of conflicts of interest. In fact, it would exacerbate them."

The president-elect "should not be expected to destroy the company he built," said Dillon. "Selling the entire Trump organization isn't even feasible," she added. Instead the plan would "sever" the presidency from the Trump Organization and in addition Trump will donate all proceeds from any foreign officials to his hotels to the US Treasury, she said.

### Sub-standard

But the head of the Office of Government Ethics publicly criticized the plan, saying it fell short of the example set by commanders-in-chief for 40 years. "It doesn't meet the

standards that the best of his nominees are meeting and that every president in the last four decades has met," said Walter Shaub, holding up secretary of state nominee Rex Tillerson, who stepped down as CEO of ExxonMobil, as a model to follow.

Shaub said the refusal to engage in new deals does not solve the problem of existing business interests, and called on Trump to divest fully. "Nothing short of divestiture will resolve these conflicts," he said. "This isn't the way the presidency has worked since Congress passed the ethics and government act in 1978 in the immediate aftermath of the Watergate scandal," he added.

According to PrivCo, which seeks to provide financial and business information on private companies, The Trump Organization employs about 22,000 people and had revenues of \$9.5 billion in 2014. Trump closed his press conference by joking that if his sons did a bad job, he would come back in eight years and tell them "you're fired" using his catchphrase from his reality TV show "The Apprentice". "#nopressure," tweeted Don Jr shortly afterward. — FP



# SAUDI CARRIER FLYNAS IN \$8.6BN AIRBUS DEAL

**RIYADH:** Low-cost Saudi carrier flynas has concluded an \$8.6 bn purchase deal with Airbus, a major shareholder said yesterday, as competition grows in the kingdom's expanding market. Kingdom Holding Co, which owns a 34 percent stake in the airline, said flynas has finalized the "deal with Airbus for the purchase of new aircraft". It gave no details of the number or type of planes that flynas will acquire but a source close to the negotiations told AFP they are from the A320 family of single-aisle aircraft.

Bloomberg News reported Wednesday that a flynas order for A320 short- to medium-haul jets was imminent, and that the airline had been considering a deal for 60 planes with an option on 40 more. The 10-year-old airline exclusively operates the A320, with a fleet of 29 as of last February,

according to its website. It serves 33 domestic and international destinations in the Arabian Peninsula and immediate vicinity.

With new-found cash flow and profitability, flynas is ready to expand its fleet - currently all leased - to more than 100 planes over the next decade, CEO Paul Byrne told arabianbusiness.com in an interview last March. He said flynas passenger numbers were expected to rise from 5.5 million in 2015, and that there was room for growth even as competition increased. "Nobody knows how big the Saudi market is yet," he was quoted as saying.

Two new entrants, Nesma and SaudiGulf, have launched domestic flights. State-owned Saudi Arabian Airlines, known as Saudia, is the dominant player and aims to expand its own fleet to 200 aircraft by 2020. Saudia flew

more than 29 million passengers in 2015, and in June last year placed an \$8-billion order with Airbus for 50 planes for domestic flights.

## Saudi diversifies economy

Under its wide-ranging Vision 2030 plan announced in April, Saudi Arabia aims to diversify its oil-dependent economy. Among the measures is development of the tourism sector, privatisation of state-owned services including airports, and a linking of transport networks to position Saudi Arabia as a regional logistics hub. Even before it unveiled its economic reform plan, the Arab world's largest economy was spending billions of dollars on building and upgrading airports.

Riyadh-based Kingdom Holding is chaired and 95 percent owned by Prince Alwaleed bin Talal. It is a vast global investor with shares in

the Euro Disney theme park, Apple, News Corporation and US banking giant Citigroup, among others. Airbus said on Wednesday that it had outstripped its own delivery expectations in 2016, closing the gap with Boeing and beating its US rival on orders.

The European manufacturer said it delivered a record 688 commercial planes, exceeding its own target which was raised in November from 650 to 670. The figures were buoyed by a last-minute surge in December when it delivered 111 aircraft. Airbus also booked a total of 731 net orders, beating Boeing despite a significant drop on the previous year when it logged demand for 1,036 aircraft. Last week, Boeing confirmed orders of 668 planes throughout the year, also down 13 percent on 2015 when net orders reached 768. —AFP

## QATAR SEEKS ENGINE GUARANTEES FOR NEW AIRBUS ORDER

**PARIS:** Qatar Airways is seeking strict guarantees as it talks to CFM International about supplying engines for a revamped order for Airbus narrow-body jets, which it expects to finalize "soon", its chief executive said yesterday. The Gulf airline has cancelled four A320neo jets powered by alternative Pratt & Whitney engines and expects to swap the overall aircraft order, which was originally for 50 jets, to larger A321neo aircraft.

CFM, a joint venture of General Electric and France's Safran, is locked in a fierce battle with Pratt & Whitney to supply engines for new Airbus medium-haul jets. CFM exclusively supplies engines for the competing Boeing 737 aircraft, which Qatar Airways has also ordered. Chief Executive Akbar Al-Baker acknowledged Qatar Airways had received attractive prices when it originally ordered the new Pratt & Whitney engine, but said a decision on whether to keep those or switch to CFM for the upgraded A321neo order would depend on other guarantees. "It is a factor, but what we decide will be based on what sort of guarantees we get on deliveries and at the same time performance," he told Reuters in an interview.

Qatar plans to take delivery of around 10 Airbus A350s and 6 Boeing 777s this year. It will also receive some Boeing 737s on behalf of Italy's Meridiana, where it hopes to tie up a deal to take a 49-percent stake around the end of the month. It has told Boeing it is interested in taking earlier delivery of future 777-9 aircraft, because that program is ahead of schedule, Baker added. Asked if Qatar Airways could take on delivery of aircraft for airlines in which it has stakes, like BA owner IAG and Latam, he said "why not," but added he believed those airlines would take their planes as planned.

He was speaking after opening a 1,000-square-metre business lounge at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport, the airline's third premium lounge abroad after London Heathrow and Dubai. It is building further lounges in Beirut and Bangkok and is negotiating lounge space in seven other airports, he said. The expansion comes as Gulf airlines have seen premium yields suffering due to low oil prices and rising capacity.

Qatar Airways, which also plans to launch a new premium cabin at a trade fair in March, is investing an unspecified amount in new product to attract passengers "with the right yield" or average revenues, Al Baker said. But he suggested fuel surcharges may soon be back on the agenda because of a recent rebound in oil prices. "(Qatar Airways) had to lower (prices in 2016) because oil prices were going down, but now we are starting to put prices up because oil prices are starting to go up," he said. "Soon, I think not only Qatar Airways but most of the airlines will re-introduce the fuel surcharges because they budgeted on lower fuel price and prices are now rising rapidly."

Oil prices have risen 20 percent in the last three months. Baker said the airline had not seen traffic to France fall after recent attacks. It plans to serve Nice five times a week from July and announce a similar service to Lyon soon. It continues to experience double-digit growth in passenger numbers, Baker added. — Reuters



**TEHRAN:** An Airbus A321 airliner arrives at the Mehrabad International Airport during the delivery of the first batch of planes to the Iranian state airline IranAir in the capital yesterday. — AFP

# IRAN'S FIRST NEW AIRBUS JETLINER LANDS IN TEHRAN

## FIRST POST-SANCTIONS PLANE FLIES IN

**ANKARA:** An Airbus A321 airliner landed in Tehran yesterday, the first to arrive out of the 200 Western-built aircraft ordered by IranAir following the lifting of sanctions on Iran last year. "This is a historic moment for Iran, signalling the end of the sanctions era for the country ... This is a prelude to the delivery of other aircraft and the renovation of Iran's ageing air fleet," state TV said. Analysts say IranAir flies one of the world's oldest fleets and has had to rely on smuggled or improvised parts to keep them operational. Iran, which has not directly purchased a Western-built plane in nearly 40 years, has ordered 100 airliners from Airbus, 80 from Boeing and 20 turbo-prop aircraft from Toulouse-based ATR, which is jointly owned by Airbus and Italy's Leonardo Finmeccanica. The one exception was the sale of a plane to replace an Airbus jet shot down by the US Navy in 1988.

The arrival of the Airbus 321 on Thursday comes just over a week before

the Jan 20 inauguration of US President-elect Donald Trump, who is opposed to the deal struck by Western powers in 2015 which lifted sanctions against Iran in return for curbs on the country's nuclear activities. Republicans in the US Congress have also objected to the pact, which was signed by the United States, Britain, Russia, France, China, Germany and Iran.

Iran's pragmatist president Hassan Rouhani's success in ending international sanctions by reaching the deal has also intensified a power struggle among the country's faction-ridden elite, who have criticized the deal for a lack of tangible economic benefits since sanctions were lifted. "This (aircraft) delivery was very crucial ... especially the timing of it. Now people can see the result of lifting sanctions," a senior Iranian official told Reuters on condition of anonymity. "It will increase Rouhani's popularity ... and his chances for re-election in May."

IranAir Chairman Farhad Parvaresh

said in France on Wednesday in taking delivery of the Airbus plane that he hoped the United States would not block the agreement. Both Airbus and Boeing needed US export licenses to deliver the jets because of the number of US parts they contain. Both have received licenses but Boeing needs to have the majority extended due to the lengthy delivery period and analysts expect it to point to the Airbus delivery in order to press its case.

"Everything has been done according to the international regulations and rules up to now. We hope that nothing special happens to end this contract," Parvaresh told reporters on Wednesday. IranAir hopes to receive at least two more aircraft from Airbus by the end of March and a total of six A320 aircraft in calendar year 2017. State TV quoted Parvaresh as saying yesterday that Iran's Bank of Industry and Mines had financed the purchase of the first plane delivered. — Reuters



# CHINA TURNS TO ROBOTS AS WORKERS AGE

**WUZHEN, China:** Flat, orange robots glide under stationary cars and ferry them to empty Chinese parking bays, using space more efficiently and, their creators say, reducing driver stress. It is one of a number of elegant - and expensive - mechanical solutions China is turning to as it faces an ageing population, which, even in the world's most populous country, is making workers harder to come by. With an eye on the rising numbers of cars on Chinese roads, Hikvision has been testing a robotic parking system in Wuzhen, 130 km west of Shanghai.

"The technology and scale of the industry is still at a very early stage," said Wu Yonghai, the company's head of robotics. "This is about finding a solution to the car parking problem." Most firms in the sector focus on industrial robots rather than service robots, the kind which might sweep an apartment floor or act as a companion for elderly people. With China's labor force shrinking under the impact of the now abandoned one-child policy, the world's second-largest economy is turning to machines to try to fill the gap.

The working-age population - defined as those from 15 to 59 - fell for the first time in decades in 2012, according to official figures, and has declined ever since. It is expected to carry on falling until at least 2030, and economic growth is also slowing. China decided to allow couples to have a second child starting last year but the looming labor shortage will take decades to address, if at all. The country is already the world's largest market for the mechanical helpers and it will only get bigger, according to the International Federation of Robots, which estimates China will account for 40 percent of the global industrial robot market by 2019.

"The country is facing lots of problems, one of which is a rapid increase in labor costs," said Wang Hesheng, a professor of robotics at Shanghai Jiaotong University. "At the entire state level, China takes the robotics strategy very seriously," he told AFP as half a dozen students tinkered with drones and other devices in a robot laboratory. The government is investing heavily in robotics research, Wang added, and his students have access to the latest imported robots, including one from leading German robotics firm Kuka.

Chinese appliance giant Midea took over Kuka this year in a deal worth \$5 billion, despite protests from German politicians that key technology is being lost to China. As demand surges, Chinese President Xi Jinping has called on the nation's robot makers to take a larger chunk of the domestic market, currently dominated by foreign players. But it will be a long time before robots become part of everyday life, given the cost and technical challenges. —AFP



**TONGXIANG CITY, China:** This picture taken on Nov 25, 2016 shows people watching a robotic unit of the smart parking system developed by Hikvision in a garage in Wuzhen Township in east China's Zhejiang province.—AFP

## CHINA MAKES AWKWARD CHAMPION OF FREE TRADE

### XI TO GIVE KEYNOTE SPEECH AT DAVOS

**BEIJING:** As the biggest beneficiary of globalization, China stands ready to proclaim itself the champion of free trade in the face of a more protectionist US, but analysts say Beijing's attitude is much more one of pick and choose. Since Donald Trump was elected on a platform of tearing up trade pacts that he says have drained American jobs, China has embraced its role as a defender of globalization and multilateral economic arrangements.

At next week's World Economic Forum in Davos - to many the unparalleled symbol of globalization - President Xi Jinping will make a keynote speech to "contribute China's wisdom" and "encourage all parties to put economic globalization in the right perspective", according to vice foreign minister Li Baodong. China always seeks to "advance the well-being of mankind", he added. But the idea that Beijing could fill the vacancy and lead international trade if the US gives up the job, is a non-starter, say analysts. The global trade regime has been built around US demand and its large deficits with trade partners; China consistently runs huge trade surpluses with the US and other countries as the workshop of the world - a mainstay of the decades-long boom that has propelled it to become the world's second-largest economy.

It would be "virtually impossible" for China to lead a global trade regime, said Michael Pettis, professor at Peking University, in a recent analysis, and its partners would be hit by lower demand if it did. "The consequence of a US withdrawal from global governance, in other words, is unlikely to be an orderly, rules-

based global trading system in which leadership has shifted from Washington to Beijing," he said. Rather, it will be a return to the pre-Bretton Woods days of "trade conflict and beggar-thy-neighbor policies", he said.

#### Letter vs spirit

Since its accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001, China's share of world GDP and merchandise exports has skyrocketed. As anti-globalization sentiment has surged with the shock Brexit vote and Trump's election, Chinese media outlets have spoken out in its defense. On Wednesday a commentary in the Global Times newspaper argued in favor of globalization's benefits, saying it allowed developed countries to "buy more products with excellent quality and at reasonable prices", while noting the disruptions created by unemployment. But China's putative position as free trade champion contrasts with Beijing's restrictions that prevent foreign companies from competing in a variety of sectors, often forcing them to partner with local competitors and share vital technology. Vice foreign minister Li said accusations of protectionism against China are "unjustified".

Beijing has also shown its willingness to use trade as a cudgel, with Norwegian salmon exports plummeting after jailed dissident Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and South Korean entertainers effectively barred from performing in China over Seoul's planned deployment of the US THAAD missile defense system. "What China has shown is an extreme prowess at using global institutions to its own end in its own

way," said Andrew Polk of Medley Global Advisors. "They're very clever in using the letter of global institutions versus the spirit of global institutions."

#### Opening new markets

Unlike the Trans-Pacific Partnership, arduously negotiated under President Barack Obama - which calls for imposing high environmental, labor and intellectual property standards on its members - analysts say a Chinese-led trade regime would feature limited preconditions to tariff-free trade. "China has shown that if an agreement is expected to bolster profits, partner countries are willing to hold their noses," Brian Jackson of IHS told AFP. China is the world's biggest trader in goods, and its performance affects partners from Australia to Zambia, which have been battered as its expansion has slowed to levels not seen in a quarter of a century. Under Xi Jinping the government has moved away from liberalization on several fronts, with strengthened state-owned enterprises, increased capital controls, and heightened restrictions on free exchange of information and ideas online.

Authorities hope to open foreign markets to soak up Chinese overcapacity through Xi's signature One Belt, One Road policy, which calls for constructing vast rail and infrastructure links connecting Chinese exporters to markets across Eurasia. But Polk said the aim was less to provide investment for foreign companies but rather "developing export markets so China can send its goods abroad, so the near abroad can be more and more reliant on China".—AFP

## WORLD FOOD PRICES FELL IN 2016 FOR 5TH STRAIGHT YEAR: FAO

**ROME:** World food prices fell for a fifth straight year in 2016 as losses in cereals, meat and dairy outweighed rises in sugar and vegetable oils, the United Nations food agency said yesterday. Prices remained stable in December from the month before, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) main food price index, which has edged up steadily after hitting a seven-year low in January. The full year 2016 logged a 1.5 percent annual drop in the index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar.

December's reading of 171.8 points versus 171.9 points in November resulted from strong gains in vegetable oils and dairy largely offsetting falls in sugar and meat, the FAO said. Sugar prices rose by about a third across the year, despite an 8.6 percent dip in December that mainly stemmed from a weaker Brazilian real against the dollar and an expected jump in production in Brazil's main sugarcane-growing region. "Economic uncertainties, including movements in exchange rates, are likely to influence food markets even more ... this year," FAO senior economist Abdolreza Abbassian said. Cereal prices steadily declined during the year, ending 39 percent below their 2011 peak. Vegetable oil prices reached their highest since July 2014 in December. Palm oil rose on low global inventory levels and tight supplies, while soy oil quotations were boosted by the prospect of rising use for biodiesel in North and South America. —Reuters



# GERMAN ECONOMY GROWS AT FASTEST RATE IN 5 YRS

**BERLIN:** The German economy, the major driver of euro zone growth, expanded by 1.9 percent in 2016, the strongest rate in five years, a preliminary estimate from the Federal Statistics Office showed yesterday. Europe's largest economy is benefiting from rising private consumption and increased state spending on refugees, compensating for a weaker contribution from trade amid sluggish demand from major trading partners and emerging markets.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of 1.8 percent for 2016 after an expansion rate of 1.7 percent in the previous year. The growth rate of 1.9 percent matched the highest forecast in the poll. The Statistics Office said it estimated growth was around 0.5 percent for the fourth quarter. "The German economy in 2016 once again defied an entire series of downside risks, thanks to strong domestic demand," said ING economist Carsten Brzeski, adding that Germany's biggest risk now was complacency.

"The economy urgently needs new impetus from new structural reforms and stronger public and private investment. It is very unlikely that it will get any of these before the elections," he said. Germany goes to the polls for a federal election in September. A breakdown of the 2016 GDP figures showed private consumption rose by an adjusted 2.0 percent on the year, contributing 1.1 percentage points to the overall 2016 growth rate.

State spending jumped by 4.2 percent after a rise of 2.7 percent in 2015. The increased state spending added 0.8 percentage points to the overall growth rate. Investment in machinery and equipment contributed 0.1 percentage points while construction added 0.3 points. As exports rose less strongly than imports, net foreign trade subtracted 0.1 percentage point from the overall growth rate. Germany's Ifo economic institute said last month the economy will rebound more strongly than previously expected in the fourth quarter and this growth momentum will carry through into 2017. — Reuters



**HAMBURG:** In this Oct 9, 2016 file photo, shipping containers are stacked on a ship. — AP

## STRONG GROWTH SPURT IN EURO ZONE ECONOMY

**BRUSSELS:** Industries across the euro zone cranked up output in November and Germany ended the year with its strongest growth in five years, data showed yesterday, pointing to an economic spurt that may be arriving earlier than some ECB policymakers expect. Euro zone industrial output in the 19-country currency bloc surged 1.5 percent on the month and 3.2 percent year-on-year as firms stepped up production before Christmas. Both figures were far better than expected.

That gelled with a surprisingly large increase in Italian industrial production, also reported on Thursday, and similarly robust numbers earlier this month from France. The German statistics office, meanwhile, estimated growth in the euro zone largest economy was around 0.5 percent for the fourth quarter and expanded by 1.9 percent in 2016, the strongest rate in five years. Economists said these figures added to the evidence that euro zone gross domestic product will have picked up in the last quarter of last year.

The strong rise of industrial output "reinforces our belief that euro zone GDP growth could well have reached 0.5 percent quarter-on-quarter in the fourth quarter of 2016," said Howard Archer, economist at IHS Global Insight. Euro zone GDP grew a modest 0.3 percent in second and third quarter of last year, after a 0.5 percent rise in the first quarter. Thursday's figures add to a jump in the bloc's economic sentiment which in December reached its strongest level since March 2011. Euro zone consumer confidence also hit a 20-month high in December and has been rising for four consecutive months, European Commission's estimates showed. Monthly retail sales in the bloc did fall by 0.4 percent in November but only after a rise by 1.4 percent in October, by far the largest in years.

### Caution

The surprising burst in economic activity may fire up criticism from economists and politicians in countries such as Germany that the European Central Bank is hanging on too long to its ultra-easy monetary policy, including asset purchasing. The ECB, however, remains cautious about the outlook and will need sustained evidence before it moves. Indeed, the improved outlook for the last quarter of the year may however not carry over to 2017 in part because it brings with it an increase in prices.

"We expect rising inflation to weigh on consumer spending growth, causing overall GDP growth to slow in 2017," Jack Allen of Capital Economics said. Euro zone consumer inflation in December was 1.1 percent, the highest level since September 2013, as oil prices are going up. It remains under the roughly 2 percent target sought by the ECB, however. — Reuters

# GLOBALIZATION 'EASY SCAPEGOAT': SCHWAB

## WEF CHIEF SAYS IT'S ONE FACTOR FOR GLOBAL ANGST

**GENEVA:** The man behind the annual Davos forum that for decades has been singing the praises of global trade insists that globalization is only one factor in dramatic shifts provoking angst and anger. Klaus Schwab, the 78-year-old founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, told AFP in an interview this week he understood that rapid changes in our societies were provoking anxiety, but stressed that globalized trade was not the sole culprit. "It's not just a backlash against globalization," he said, adding that "what we are witnessing is a time of enormous change."

Rapid shifts in technology, economies and social structures have fuelled "a certain anxiety of the people, (who) are looking for an identity in this new world," he said. This year's Davos meetings take place next week, and Schwab's comments come after a wave of anti-establishment populism over the past year which saw Britain vote to leave the European Union and maverick billionaire businessman Donald Trump elected as US president.

Other populists have also been gaining ground in many Western democracies, largely by stoking fears about globalization, immigration and refugee flows. Schwab said the world appeared to be in "emotional turmoil" but said the turbulence was rooted in a range of factors, including deep concerns over how new technologies are threatening jobs. Globalization, he insisted, is simply "a very easy scapegoat."

### A more fragile world

But while globalization is easy to blame, there are no good alternatives to it, he suggested, warning of the dangers of growing isolationism. A more isolationist world would be "different from today's world," he said, including a likely return of borders and border controls in Europe "with all the inconvenience for business but also for peo-



**COLOGNY, Switzerland :** Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab gestures during an interview on Jan 10, 2017 at its headquarters near Geneva. — AFP

ple that borders represent". "But what I'm much more concerned with is the fact that countries become much more egotistical under the pressure of the national electorate," he said. An isolationist world would be one that is no longer "based on shared values, but a world which will be characterized by interests," he warned, saying that if global cooperation happened at all it would be based on shared interest alone. "But a global cooperation which is based just on sharing interests will be very unstable because values remain the same, but interests move over time," he said. "We will be in a much more fragile world," he said.

WEF, which for the past 47 years has been organizing the Davos forum of political and business elites, pointed out this week that Schwab had been sounding the alarm on this issue for decades. The organization pointed to an opinion piece in the New York Times that he co-authored in 1996, in which he warned that the "mounting backlash against (globalization's) effects ... is threatening a very disruptive impact on economic activity and social sta-

bility in many countries." Schwab said Davos is the perfect place to begin addressing the problem, with its strong focus on "the need for responsive and responsible leaders". "Responsive means that if you are a good leader, you have to listen to the people who have entrusted you with leadership," he said. "But in the end, it's not enough just to listen. You have to solve the issues. You have to address... the root causes. Why the people are angry, and why they are not satisfied. That's responsibility which needs courage and which needs decision-making and which needs action orientation," Schwab said.

But Davos is not just about political leaders, he said, insisting that the forum offered a unique platform for cooperation across politics, business, civil society and experts. "The big issues in the world cannot be solved by governments alone or by businesses alone," Schwab said. "I think in a world which is disintegrating and which is polarizing, you need a clue, and you need a mechanism for interaction, you need a mechanism for dialogue," he said. —AFP



# DOLLAR TUMBLES AS TRUMP TRADE FIZZLES

**LONDON:** The US dollar nursed widespread losses yesterday after President-Elect Donald Trump's long-awaited news briefing provided little clarity on future fiscal policies, disappointing bulls who had bet on major stimulus. Trump did not mention possible tariffs against Chinese exports, however - a relief for Asian share markets that have feared the outbreak of a global trade war.

The lack of detail about a potential stimulus also put safety plays such as bonds and gold back in favor, cooling bets that have built in recent months on significantly higher global inflation and series of US interest rate hikes. It was enough to send the dollar tumbling back below 114 yen for the first time in five weeks and brought some welcome relief to Brexit-bruised sterling and Turkey's lira, which has been badly beaten up this year.

"The risk was always that a president like Trump would end up upsetting that consensus (of faster US growth, stronger dollar) view by introducing more political uncertainty," said asset manager GAM's head of multi-asset portfolios Larry Hatheway.

European shares also fell, bucking gains in Asia and Wall Street overnight and weighed down by a 2 percent slump in healthcare stocks after Trump said pharmaceutical firms had been "getting away with murder" with their prices. They weren't being helped either by a deck of stronger currencies. The euro was back at \$1.0650 for the first time in a month, shaky sterling climbed above \$1.22 and Sweden's crown hit a four-month high and cracked its 200-day moving average against the euro after pacy inflation data.

It was also bliss for bond markets that have

been in reverse since Trump's election fuelled bets on higher US interest rates that tend to set the bar for global borrowing costs. Euro zone bond yields fell 2 to 6 bps as German Bunds rallied and as US 10-year Treasury yields fell to their lowest level in more than a month at around 2.30 percent. "Overall, investors are wary ahead of Trump's inauguration - a case of buy the talk (Trumpflation), but sell the news," analysts at Societe Generale said in a note.

## Good as Gold

Wall Street had overcome its brief wobble to end Wednesday firmer, though the Dow Jones still didn't manage to break the 20,000 points barrier and looked set to start around 0.2 percent lower later, according to futures prices. Wednesday's first Trump news conference since the Nov 8 election contained no details

on tax cuts or infrastructure spending, anticipation of which had fuelled the five-week rally in stocks and a selloff in global bond markets.

"The news conference was a far cry from the market friendly, pro-growth "presidential" comments that Trump delivered at his acceptance speech," wrote analysts at Westpac, adding it left a "veritable laundry list" of questions unanswered. In commodity markets, oil was a shade firmer in Europe after a minor dip in Asian trading. US crude was trading at \$52.33 and Brent crude was up 30 cents at \$55.40 a barrel follow gains of nearly 3 percent on Wednesday. The weaker dollar also helped metals markets. Gold rose to a seven-week high just shy of \$1,200 per ounce while London copper traded up almost 2 percent after electronic trading there was delayed by a mystery five-hour outage. —Reuters

## BIG INVESTORS IN TURKEY TO GET CITIZENSHIP

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey will grant citizenship to those who invest or buy valuable property in the country, the Official Gazette said yesterday, as it tries to boost its flagging economy. Passports will be granted to foreigners who buy at least \$1 million of real estate in Turkey, invest at least \$2 million, or deposit at least \$3 million in an account, the Official Gazette said. The announcement comes as the country battles a serious slide in the lira, with analysts saying the currency is taking a pounding because of a toxic combination of political and security uncertainty and economic woes.

In a similar move, last week Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said skilled Syrian and Iraqi refugees currently working on the black market would be granted citizenship if they pass security tests. The European Union has called on Turkey to make it easier in general for Syrian refugees to find work, which would in theory make them less likely to come to Europe. It is a key demand in negotiations over Ankara's decade-long accession process to join the EU, as the bloc tackles the worst migration crisis since the Second World War.

At the end of 2015 Brussels and Ankara struck a deal whereby EU leaders pledged three billion euros (\$3.2 billion) in aid for Syrian refugees on Turkish soil, while Turkey said it would stem the flow of migrants to Europe. The bloc also agreed to end the visa requirement for Turkish visitors to the EU's passport-free Schengen zone. But in May a European Commission report acknowledged concerns criminals were plotting to get their hands on Turkish passports to get into the Schengen zone and carry out attacks. Turkey, a Muslim-majority NATO member, has demanded the EU come through on its visa-free promise, but progress has stalled, with the EU accusing Turkey of breaching human rights with its anti-terror laws. —AFP

## ERDOGAN SAYS LIRA FALL IS 'TERRORISM'

**ANKARA:** President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday blamed a conspiracy aimed at weakening Turkey for the recent plunge in value of the lira, saying those who worked to pressure the currency were no different from a "terrorist". The lira has plunged to record lows in recent weeks against the dollar, losing almost 10 percent in the last month alone and raising fears over the stability of the economy. But addressing a meeting with loyal local officials in Ankara, Erdogan said: "There is no difference between the terrorist who has a weapon (and) a bomb and the terrorist who is using the dollar, the euro and interest rates for their purpose."

"The purpose is to bring Turkey to its knees. They're using the exchange rate as a weapon," Erdogan added. Erdogan did not say who was to blame for the purported conspiracy, or if he was referring to foreign powers or private currency speculators. Standard and Poor's and Moody's both downgraded the country's credit rating to junk status in 2016. —AFP



**NEW YORK:** US President-Elect Donald Trump speaks during a news conference in the lobby of Trump Tower on Wednesday. — AP

## MEXICO, US CLASH OVER WALL AS TOUGH TRADE TALKS LOOM

### PESO FALLS TO RECORD LOW

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and US President-Elect Donald Trump clashed anew Wednesday on who should pay for a massive border wall while the countries ready tough talks on trade and other issues. With nine days to go until Trump succeeds Barack Obama as US president, Mexico is bracing for a new and complex relationship with its main trade partner. Pena Nieto said his government will seek "open and complete negotiations" with the next US government and that "everything is on the table," including security, immigration and trade. But, he said, "at no time will we accept anything that goes against our dignity as a country, and our dignity as Mexicans."

Drawing applause at an annual meeting with Mexican ambassadors at the national palace, Pena Nieto continued: "It is obvious that we have some differences with the next government of the United States, like the issue of the wall that Mexico of course will not pay for."

The cost of building a wall - which might end up being more fence than wall, analysts say - has been estimated at up to \$25 billion.

At a press conference earlier in New York, Trump said his administration will quickly begin work on the wall, which the United States will pay for first and get reimbursed later by Mexico. "I could wait about a year and a half until we finish our negotiations with Mexico, which we'll start immediately after we get to office, but I don't want to wait," Trump said. "Mexico in some form - and there are many different forms - will reimburse us," he said. "That will happen. Whether it's a tax or whether it's a payment."

While the Republican billionaire did not mention his previous threat to tap into the remittances Mexican migrants send back home, Pena Nieto said he would work to "maintain the free flow of remittances". The Mexican currency plunged to a new

record low after Trump's press conference, falling 0.9 percent to trade at 22.20 pesos per dollar.

### 'Fears and threats'

Trump also renewed his pledge to impose "a major border tax" on companies that ship jobs to other countries like Mexico. The real estate tycoon claimed credit for a recent announcement by auto maker Fiat-Chrysler of plans to boost investments in the United States as well as Ford's decision to cancel a \$1.6 billion plant in Mexico and create new jobs in the US instead.

While Pena Nieto said Mexico was ready to discuss the future of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Trump wants to renegotiate, the Mexican leader said his government rejects any attempt to influence foreign investors "on the basis of fear or threats". Pena Nieto issued his own demands to the incoming administration, which takes office on Jan 20. — AFP





**FOXBOROUGH:** In this Nov 13, 2016, file photo, Seattle Seahawks cornerback DeShawn Sheard (35) intercepts a pass intended for New England Patriots wide receiver Malcolm Mitchell, right, during the first half of an NFL football game. — AP photos



**GREENBAY:** In this Oct 16, 2016, file photo, Dallas Cowboys' Barry Church celebrates his interception during the second half of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers.

## OVERLOOKED PLAYERS TO WATCH IN THE NFL PLAYOFFS

**DALLAS:** When Seattle Seahawks receiver Paul Richardson made a miraculous, one-handed touchdown catch in his team's playoff opener, then followed it up with another acrobatic grab, plenty of folks watching the game on TV had one simple question: "Who is that guy?" Happens every season.

Because while even the most casual NFL fan is familiar with certain players on each team - Russell Wilson, the quarterback throwing to Richardson, for example - there are plenty of others on the roster who are relatively, or completely, unknown to even thorough fans. They're not mysteries to their coaches and teammates, though.

"This is the kind of play we see from him in practice, so it's not unfamiliar," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said about Richardson. "Some of the plays were circus-like, but he has done that. ... He's been waiting a long while to help this team and feel significant about that impact and he's done that." Maybe Richardson will again step out of the shadows Doug Baldwin or Jimmy Graham to make a mark for Seattle against the Atlanta Falcons on Saturday. Or maybe another unheralded player will wind up making a difference. AP writers who cover each remaining playoff team picked one player who you might not have heard of but could play a key role in the divisional round this weekend.

### DALLAS COWBOYS

**You've Heard of Them:** QB Dak Prescott, RB Ezekiel Elliott, LB Sean Lee.

**You Might Not Know Him:** S Barry Church (42).

**Why You Should:** While Lee had a career year in his first All-Pro season, Church anchored the league's No. 1 rushing defense as a run-stopping safety. He missed all of November with a broken arm, and it was clear that Dallas' D was not as sturdy without him. When Dallas played Green Bay in the regular season, Church intercepted Aaron Rodgers.

### ATLANTA FALCONS

**You've Heard of Them:** QB Matt Ryan, WR Julio Jones.

**You Might Not Know Him:** WR Taylor Gabriel (No. 18).

**Why You Should:** Gabriel, a 5-foot-8 speedster who was undrafted out of Abilene

Christian, was looking for a job a week before this season began after getting cut by the Cleveland Browns, of all teams. Now he's a threat to go all the way any time he touches the ball, whether via a screen pass or an end-around run, and scored more TDs (7) than Jones (6).

### SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

**You've Heard of Them:** CB Richard Sherman, S Kam Chancellor, LB Bobby Wagner.

**You Might Not Know Him:** CB DeShawn Sheard (No. 35).

**Why You Should:** Sheard has been under the radar his whole career, an undrafted guy from Portland State who only this season became a regular starter on a talented defense famous for "Legion of Boom" members Sherman and Chancellor. While Sherman will be counted on to take away one side of the field, Sheard is capable of stopping whichever wideout he covers. He was responsible for one of Tom Brady's two interceptions this season.

### GREEN BAY PACKERS

**You've Heard of Them:** QB Aaron Rodgers, WRs Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb, LBs Clay Matthews and Julius Peppers.

**You Might Not Know Him:** TE Jared Cook (No. 89).

**Why You Should:** The 6-foot-4 Cook gives Rodgers the kind of athletic target that he hasn't had at tight end in years. Cook's return from an ankle injury that sidelined him in October, when Green Bay lost to Dallas, added an option to the offense, helped open up the middle and gave opposing safeties something else to think about.

### NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

**You've Heard of Them:** QB Tom Brady, RB LeGarrette Blount, TE Martellus Bennett.

**You Might Not Know Him:** LG Joe Thuney (No. 62).

**Why You Should:** Thuney, a rookie, has been a key member of a Patriots offensive line that has allowed just 17 sacks one season after giving up 38. Thuney didn't allow a sack until Week 15. He's also been an ironman, playing 1,114 of 1,118 snaps. If Houston's defense is kept away from Brady, Thuney will part of the reason.

### KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

**You've Heard of Them:** S Eric Berry, CB Marcus Peters.

**You Might Not Know Him:** S Daniel Sorensen (No. 49).

**Why You Should:** Sorensen, a former undrafted free agent out of BYU, might be listed as a backup safety, but he rarely leaves the field. Along with playing special teams, he helps give Berry, Peters and the rest of the defensive backfield a hard-hitting presence. And he is always around the ball, recovering three fumbles and picking off three passes this season, with one returned for a touchdown.

### PITTSBURGH STEELERS

**You've Heard of Them:** QB Ben Roethlisberger, WR Antonio Brown, RB Le'Veon Bell.

**You Might Not Know Him:** TE Jesse James (No. 81).

**Why You Should:** The 6-foot-7 James was

simply supposed to be a placeholder until Ladarius Green got healthy. But James became a productive part of Pittsburgh's versatile offense, catching 39 passes and scoring three TDs. His blocking, a weak spot during his rookie season in 2015, is much improved. The proof came when he took on two defenders on Brown's 50-yard catch-and-run score last weekend.

### HOUSTON TEXANS

**You've Heard of Them:** DE Jadeveon Clowney, WR DeAndre Hopkins

**You Might Not Know Him:** LB Benardrick McKinney (No. 55).

**Why You Should:** The 6-foot-4, 260-pound McKinney leads the Texans with 129 tackles, almost twice as many as any teammate on the league's top-ranked defense. He also accumulated five sacks and forced a fumble. Defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel loves that McKinney is able to drop into coverage at his size. — AP



**HOUSTON:** In this Sept 18, 2016, file photo, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith (11) is sacked by Houston Texans inside linebacker Benardrick McKinney (55) during the second half of an NFL football game.



## DUMINY, AMLA POST CENTURY PARTNERSHIP

**JOHANNESBURG:** JP Duminy and Hashim Amla shared a century partnership as South Africa recovered from a double blow on the first day of the third and final Test against Sri Lanka at the Wanderers Stadium yesterday. South Africa were 193 for two at tea after deciding to bat on a well-grassed pitch in overcast conditions.

Duminy was on 87 not out, while Amla, playing in his 100th Test, was unbeaten on 50. The pair added 148 runs after coming together when both opening batsmen, Stephen Cook and Dean Elgar, were dismissed within six balls when the total was on 45. The left-handed Duminy was the dominant partner as he

shepherded a struggling Amla early in the stand. Amla was dropped by Dhananjaya de Silva at gully off Suranga Lakmal when he had five and only scored six in the pair's first 50 runs together.

Gradually, though, Amla found his timing and he reached his first half-century in 11 Test matches shortly before tea. He had faced 109 balls and hit seven fours. Duminy, by contrast, cruised to his half-century off 62 balls with ten boundaries and had faced 127 deliveries, adding three more fours, by tea. Cook and Elgar survived the first hour before both were out soon after the mid-morning drinks break.

Cook, playing in a Test on his home ground for the

first time, was leg before wicket to Sri Lankan captain Angelo Mathews for ten. He sought a review of umpire Bruce Oxenford's decision but was palpably in front of his stumps. In the next over Elgar, on 27, pushed at a lifting delivery from Lahuri Kumara and was caught at first slip by Dimuth Karunaratne.

South Africa opted for an all-pace attack and gave a first cap to Duanne Olivier, 24, with left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj being left out. Left-arm seamer Wayne Parnell replaced Kyle Abbott, whose contract with Cricket South Africa was cancelled after he revealed he had signed a Kolpak contract to play English county cricket with Hampshire. — AFP

## RAHANE GIVES INDIA A BIG WIN OVER ENGLAND

**MUMBAI:** Skipper Ajinkya Rahane struck a dominating 91 to help India A trounce England XI by six wickets in the second 50-over warm-up match in Mumbai yesterday. Chasing 283 for victory, India A rode on the 119-run opening stand with Rahane and Sheldon Jackson (59) to race to their target in 39.4 overs. India A, who lost their opening game to the Eoin Morgan-led side on Tuesday, made the English bowlers toil at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium. Rahane, coming off a long injury lay-off, smashed 10 fours and a six during his 83-ball knock as the India A top-order came good. Earlier opting to bat first, England were bowled out for 282 in 48.5 overs with Jonny Bairstow top-scoring with 64 runs. India off-spinner Pervez Rasool claimed three wickets.

After a good start the visitors dramatically collapsed from 161-1 to 211-9 before Adil Rashid (39) and number 11 David Willey (38 not out) put together a 71-run 10th-wicket partnership to stage a fightback. Opener Jason Roy (25) was out hit wicket after pacer Pradeep Sangwan's delivery struck the back of his helmet flap and the extra protective gear fell on the stumps as the bails were dislodged. Alex Hales scored a well-made 51 but Morgan, who made three in the first warm-up, once again failed with the bat after registering a first-ball zero. The two sides now head to Pune for the first of the three one-day internationals starting Sunday before the sides play three Twenty20 matches. — AFP



**WELLINGTON:** Bangladesh's Mominul Haque plays a shot during day one of the first Test cricket match between New Zealand and Bangladesh at the Basin Reserve. — AFP

## MOMINUL, TAMIM SHINE IN NEW ZEALAND GLOOM

**WELLINGTON:** Mominul Haque and Tamim Iqbal plundered the New Zealand attack to have Bangladesh 154 for three at stumps on a rain-disrupted opening day of the first Test in Wellington yesterday. New Zealand were all smiles when they won the toss and put Bangladesh into bat in prime bowling conditions. But at the end of the day after rain and bad light had restricted play to 40.2 overs, it was Bangladesh with their heads held high.

Mominul was unbeaten on 64 at the close and Shakib Al Hasan on five after being dropped on four. Opener Tamim went for 56. "Today was Bangladesh's day," New Zealand seamer Neil Wagner conceded, blaming the bowling unit for not making the most of the conditions. "We didn't do that. We missed a little bit and we got hurt."

Wagner said the New Zealand seamers need to bowl a better line on Friday to get into the match. "We're going to have to find a way. We know if we put the ball in the right area for a period of time and build that pressure and bowl consistently in partnerships you can get two, three, four wickets quickly."

### Aggressive approach

Tamim, who led the way for Bangladesh with his aggressive approach, said the tourists were happy with the state of the game. "History says the first innings is really difficult on this wicket and not too many runs have been scored by the best of teams. In that case we handled it pretty well," he said. "We are very new to this wind so at times we had to stop the bowlers because it was too heavy. There were seven, eight occasions when the bails fell down. For us it was difficult

because we haven't faced this situation before but still we played really well."

The overcast weather, strong wind and green wicket at the Basin Reserve suggested a bowler's paradise at the start of the day, but the conditions proved not as threatening as first thought. Instead the bowlers, particularly Trent Boult in the early overs, had trouble keeping their balance and control in the wind-with gusts of up to 120 kilometers per hour.

The wind sent the bails, players' caps and sunglasses flying and forced the television cameramen to vacate their tower at the exposed end of the ground, but it could not stop Tamim and Mominul cashing in.

### Whirlwind innings

Tamim only faced 50 deliveries for his whirlwind 56, which included 11 boundaries, while Mominul has 10 fours and a six to his name. Tamim was particularly tough on Boult at the start of the day and New Zealand's new-ball specialist, with the wind behind him, was pulled out of the attack after three overs which cost 26 runs of which Tamim had 25.

But Boult had the final say in their battle when play resumed after the first rain break as he trapped Tamim lbw in the first over of his second spell. Mominul, who has scored two centuries in four previous innings against New Zealand, had been circumspect until the rain arrived for a second time 89 minutes into the middle session. The left-hander launched into Tim Southee with two fours and a top-edge that flew over the wicketkeeper's head for six before the players left the field. — AFP

## PAKISTAN BLOW AS SARFRAZ LEAVES AUSTRALIA TOUR

**BRISBANE:** Sarfraz Ahmed has become the second Pakistan player forced to return home this week in a troubled lead-up to today's opening one-day international against Australia in Brisbane. Captain Azhar Ali confirmed on Thursday that his team will be without their vice-captain and wicketkeeper for the opening game at the Gabba and possibly this month's entire five-match series.

Azhar said Sarfraz had gone back to Pakistan to be with his mother, who is in intensive care in hospital. Mohammad Rizwan will take the gloves for the first day-night match and could remain in the side if Sarfraz does not return to Australia. The news comes just days after fast bowler Mohammad Irfan also left the team following the death of his mother. "We'll definitely miss Sarfraz tomorrow. Hopefully, he can rejoin the team but, as for right now, he's not here," Azhar told reporters.

Pakistan have retained half the players who were involved in 3-0 Test series wipeout to Australia for the ODI part of their tour. Azhar said the addition of some new faces and Tuesday's 196-run thumping of a Cricket Australia XI in a one-day practice game in Brisbane had helped lift the team's mood. "I know it wasn't a very competitive game, but I still believe the batsmen who scored runs will get a lot of confidence," he said. "The bowlers had a good outing as well. There's nothing like playing matches. It's good to be out there no matter what sort of team you play against."

Pakistan's need for victories is even more urgent given they are currently the eighth-ranked one-day nation in the world, three rankings points ahead of the West Indies. If they drop out of the top eight by September, they'll miss out on automatic qualification for the 2019 World Cup and be forced to enter a 10-team qualifying tournament in Bangladesh in 2018. — AFP





**PHILADELPHIA:** Philadelphia 76ers' TJ McConnell (1) takes the game-winning shot against New York Knicks' Kristaps Porzingis (6) and Carmelo Anthony (7) during the final seconds of an NBA basketball game. — AP

## MCCONNELL'S BUZZER-BEATER STUNS KNICKS

**WASHINGTON:** TJ McConnell nailed a short jump shot at the buzzer to give the Philadelphia 76ers a 98-97 home NBA win over the reeling New York Knicks on Wednesday. With their 11th win of the season the 76ers surpassed their total from their dismal 10-72 campaign in 2015-16. McConnell, a second-year guard, connected from the left baseline, capping a rally that saw Philadelphia erase a 13-point deficit in the final 8:17. Joel Embiid had 21 points and a career-high 14 rebounds for the 76ers, and Ersan Ilyasova contributed 16.

"I thought they made gutsy plays," 76ers coach Brett Brown said of his team. "I thought they executed stuff that we drew. I thought they didn't play afraid." Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 28 points. Derrick Rose, whose unexcused absence from Monday's loss to New Orleans rocked New York, scored 25, but the performance of the Knicks stars wasn't enough to stave off a ninth defeat in 10 games.

Rose's layup with 34.5 seconds remaining gave the Knicks a 97-94 lead, but the 76ers' Gerald Henderson hit two free throws with 27.8 seconds left. Henderson also rebounded a missed three-pointer by New York big man Kristaps Porzingis in the waning seconds and raced downcourt. He passed to Ilyasova, who fired the ball to McConnell, who dribbled, spun away from Anthony and fired as Porzingis flew at him.

The basket dropped as the buzzer sounded. McConnell finished with eight points and seven assists. While Philadelphia's decision not to call a timeout to set up a last-posses-

sion play raised eyebrows among some pundits, Brown was satisfied with it. "We told them, if you feel like you've got something, take it," he said, adding that his young team is gaining confidence with every win. The Knicks, in contrast, seem a team in some disarray. They fined Rose an undisclosed amount after he skipped Monday's home game, later saying only that he had a "family issue" that prompted him to travel to his hometown of Chicago.

Coach Jeff Hornacek said the team determined a fine was punishment enough, and while he thought Rose should have notified the team sooner of his situation, he sounded an understanding note. "It happens," Hornacek said. "He knows that he'll handle it differently, if it ever happens again, but we have to move forward." Hornacek said he had no qualms about putting Rose in his starting lineup, and Rose justified that faith. He made six of seven shots en route to 12 first-quarter points.

He scored eight in the fourth quarter as the Knicks tried in vain to hold off the Sixers. Rose met with Knicks president Phil Jackson and Steve Mills after rejoining the team on Tuesday and said before the game he was glad to be back with his teammates, two days after he said he didn't get in touch with the team because he needed space. "I feel fine," Rose said. "What happened a couple of days ago, that's in the past."

### THUNDER 103, GRIZZLIES 95

Russell Westbrook posted his 18th triple-double of the season, and the Oklahoma City

Thunder defeated the Memphis Grizzlies 103-95 on Wednesday night. Westbrook finished with 24 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists for the 55th triple-double of his career. He already has matched his triple-double total from last season less than halfway through this one, and last season's total was the most for an NBA player since Magic Johnson had 18 during the 1981-82 season. Enes Kanter scored 19 points and Victor Oladipo added 16 for the Thunder, who won their third straight and avenged their worst loss of the season. Oklahoma City lost 114-80 in Memphis on Dec. 29, a game Westbrook was ejected from. Mike Conley scored 22 points for the Grizzlies.

### TIMBERWOLVES 119, ROCKETS 105

Andrew Wiggins scored 28 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and 18 rebounds, and Shabazz Muhammad scored 20 to help Minnesota beat Houston. James Harden had 33 points and 12 assists for the Rockets, who had their nine-game winning streak snapped. Ricky Rubio tied his own franchise record with 17 assists to go with 10 points for the Timberwolves, who used a 17-4 run to build an 89-77 lead after three quarters.

### CELTICS 117, WIZARDS 108

Isaiah Thomas scored 20 of his 38 points in the fourth quarter and Boston pulled away late to beat Washington. Al Horford added 16 points and nine rebounds for the Celtics, who won for the fifth time in six games and ended Washington's three-game winning streak. Jae Crowder scored 20 and Terry Rozier had 11. Bradley Beal led the Wizards with 35 points.

Otto Porter Jr. scored 20 and Markieff Morris finished with 14. Boston held John Wall to a season-low nine points. The star guard did have 10 assists for the Wizards, who fell to 19-19 a day after moving above .500 for the first time since November 2015.

### TRAIL BLAZERS 102, CAVALIERS 86

CJ McCollum had 27 points and Portland shook off fatigue caused by weather-related travel delays to beat defending NBA champion Cleveland. Allen Crabbe added 24 points off the bench for the Trail Blazers, who have won four straight home games against the Cavaliers. Portland led by as many as 24. LeBron James had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland (28-10). McCollum scored 21 points in the second half. He has had seven straight games with 25 or more. A snowstorm that dumped as much as 14 inches on parts of Portland caused travel problems for both teams late Tuesday.

### CLIPPERS 105, MAGIC 96

JJ Redick had 22 points and Los Angeles hit five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to hold off Orlando, improving to 5-0 in the new year. Marreese Speights scored 10 of his 13 in the fourth, including three 3-pointers, on a night when the Clippers committed 21 turnovers. DeAndre Jordan grabbed 20 rebounds (to go with 10 points) for his NBA-leading sixth game with 20 or more. Aaron Gordon had 28 points, 18 in the first half, to lead Orlando, which has lost four in a row and six of seven. Nikola Vucevic had 16 points and 12 rebounds.—Agencies





**CAIRO:** Egypt's Mohamed Salah takes part in a training session prior to the international friendly football match between Egypt and Tunisia at the Cairo International Stadium. —AFP

## 'THE EGYPTIAN MESSI': SALAH'S STAR RISING

**MILAN:** He may have failed to impress Jose Mourinho, but Mohamed Salah has the chance at the Africa Cup of Nations to demonstrate just why he has been hailed as the 'Egyptian Messi'. "Salah looks great," Egypt coach Hector Cuper told the *asroma.it* website on Wednesday. "If he continues the way he's going, he can become one of the best players in the world. I would love that for him."

For most, including Chelsea's demanding fans, Salah probably doesn't even belong in a sentence that includes the names of Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi. But one thing is for sure: since his departure from Chelsea, the 24-year-old's star is on the rise. Roma's fans owe a big thank you to Mourinho, who handed Salah a resolute 'thanks but no thanks' note in February 2015 after just 13 appearances, following an initial 11 million euros move from FC Basel 13 months earlier.

Italian supporters are big fans of the faster-paced English game, and when Salah came to Serie A, he was welcomed with open arms. Salah has since repaid their affection with relentless energy, lightning pace, great ball control and an eye for goal that saw him bag a maiden Serie A hat-trick last month as he continues to build an increasingly strong rapport with Roma striker Edin Dzeko. Voted Roma's player of the year in 2016, Salah has become an integral part of the club's push for a first title since 2001. It is 15 years since Francesco Totti drove Roma to just their third 'scudetto', and in the 40-year-old club icon's 25th and probably final season, Roma are Juventus's biggest title challengers. Salah certainly feels more at home at the Stadio Olimpico than at Stamford Bridge. Despite flashes of brilliance, including scoring his first Chelsea goal in a 6-0 win over bitter London rivals Arsenal after replacing Oscar, Salah never impressed Mourinho.

### Revived career

Little did he know it, but after switching numbers from 15 to 17 when Eden Hazard took number 10 at the start of the following season, Salah's time in a Chelsea shirt was almost up. He made only three appearances in the 2014-2015 season and by February was on his way to Florence in a bid to revive a career that had blossomed at Basel, where he scored three times against Chelsea in Europe in successive seasons.

Salah signed an 18-month loan deal, settling in quickly with a series of crucial goals including a brace in a 2-1 Italian Cup semi-final first leg win over Juventus and a goal against Tottenham in the Europa League that secured Fiorentina's entry to the round of 16. Coach Vincenzo Montella, now at AC Milan, must have felt like Christmas had come again. —AFP

## RIYAD MAHREZ: THE HIGH-RISE DESERT FOX TAKES ON AFRICA

**SARCELLES:** "Riyad Mahrez? He's an example!" goes the mantra in Sarcelles, a north Parisian housing project where strings of high-rise blocks were built in the 1950s and 1960s primarily to accommodate French settlers from Algeria. It was in this town 16km north of Paris that the Algerian international was born and raised, and the Premier League winner with Leicester who will be one of the stars of the upcoming African Cup of Nations continues to inspire.

At AAS Sarcelles, Mahrez's first club, the young wannabe footballers all seem to favour their left feet, like their idol, now 25. On one of the football pitches belonging to the multi-faceted Sarcelles sports club, the regional under-16 team fight to talk about Mahrez, and the praise is, unsurprisingly, high. Sekou and Yanis, naturally left-sided attacking midfielders, express their admiration for the path trodden by a player long ignored as a youth because of what was deemed a puny physique.

Mahrez stagnated in Sarcelles' second or third teams, plying his trade in the wider Paris region until he was 18 before touching down in England five years later, after spells at Quimper and Le Havre. Mohamed, yet another 'leftie', speaks of the 'street' style Mahrez has maintained despite going professional. "When he's in front of a player, you know he's going to skin him," he said. "It's his speciality and I love it! Imagine you're facing a defender, you do a step-over, change direction and he falls: the crowd goes nuts! It's too cool." Faysal Abdelwahbi, 23, a childhood friend of Mahrez's, was adamant that "everything started here". "All the things he does to defenders in England, we were on the receiving end right back in the beginning. That step-over dribble against Manchester United, sending (Chelsea's Cesar) Azpilicueta the wrong way, or really taking (Martin) Demichelis to the cleaners..." he reminisced to general hilarity.

### 'Source of pride'

And Faysal doesn't want to forget the significance of the African Player of the Year award handed to a dual-national brought up in the "most cosmopolitan city in the world!" "That someone from Sarcelles manages to shine on a world level is a source of massive pride for us," said Mohamed Coulibaly, the current Sarcelles coach.

"You mustn't forget the French side because he remains a Franco-Algerian. It's a good image for the city, given all you hear, the stigmatization that it can bring. It shows there is talent in sport. We'd love that to shine through in other areas." His Sarcelles friends all concurred that Mahrez, from a very young age, was convinced he would succeed, even when the going got tough.

"Most of the youngsters of his generation had signed for a club, but not him," said Hayel Mbemba, 30, who worked at Mahrez's Chantereine secondary school supervising the teenagers. "And despite that, Riyad swore on his life and that of his mum



**ABUJA:** Algerian and Leicester forward Riyad Mahrez poses for a photo after being crowned African Footballer of the Year. — AFP

that he'd become a professional. "We weren't optimistic then, but now he's achieved it, we can only have respect for him." Mahrez's thirst for success increased after the death of his Algerian father Ahmed, his most fervent backer, in 2006. "That gave him strength. He really did it for him, for me, the family," says his big brother Wahid, 30. And choosing to represent Algeria was something he did "for his dad". "What made the difference was that he always had a ball with him," added another childhood friend, Sofiane Seghiri. "When you were 16 to

18 years old and went out, you wanted to have fun with your mates, go and see some girls," said Seghiri. "Riyad had his ball - that's why he's unique!"

### 'Mahrez effect'

Despite an unsuccessful trial in Scotland when he was 18, Mahrez's patience eventually paid dividends when he signed for fourth division side Quimper, departing for second division club Le Havre a year later. Leicester, then in the Championship, snapped up Mahrez for £400,000 in 2014, and the rest is history. —AFP

## GHANA LOOKING TO END CUP DROUGHT

**ABUJA:** The Black Stars of Ghana will again be one of the favorites for the Africa Cup of Nations as they aim to clinch a fifth title after their last triumph 35 years ago. Ghana are one of the most successful teams in the continent's football showpiece having won it in 1963, 1965, 1978 and 1982. However, they have since fallen short, being beaten in the championship games for the 2010 and 2015 editions and reaching the semi-finals in 2012 and 2013.

In 1982, oil-rich Libya paid for cash-strapped Ghana to attend the tournament with the Black Stars inspired by youngster Abedi Pele Ayew eventually edging past their hosts in the final. It was therefore understandable when Ayew's son Andre will weep uncontrollably after Ghana fell on penalties in the championship game in Equatorial Guinea 33 years later. The signs are again good they will enjoy another fine run in Gabon after they qualified unbeaten in a group that included Mozambique, Rwanda and Mauritius. But at the same time, there have been concerns over the team's recent form after going without a win

in their last four games towards the end of last year so much so that their qualification hopes for the 2018 World Cup hang in the balance. Juventus midfielder Kwadwo Asamoah will be the biggest absentee for Ghana as he has stayed back at his team to fight to regain his first-team shirt after he was sidelined by injury for almost a year.

However, Torino midfielder Afriyie Acquah has backed his team to be champions again after a long wait. "I think we have a good team like we had in the last tournament. We played in the final in the previous edition but we lost to the Ivory Coast after a penalty shootout," said Acquah. "We have a tougher mentality this time around. We are working hard to be in the final and win the cup."

Skipper Asamoah Gyan has continued to provide the goals and leadership for a team who have brought in new blood with the inclusion of the likes of Bernard Tekpetey from Schalke 04 and Austria-based midfielder Samuel Tetteh. The Black Stars are drawn in a tough-looking Group D along with World Cup rivals Egypt and Uganda as well as Mali. — AFP



## I'VE CONQUERED ENGLAND IN THREE MONTHS: IBRAHIMOVIC

**LONDON:** Zlatan Ibrahimovic has set his sights on leading Manchester United to the Premier League title after boasting he took just three months to establish himself as one of the best players in England. Despite critics claiming Ibrahimovic would struggle to adapt to the Premier League, the Swedish forward has already scored 18 goals since joining United on a free transfer from Paris Saint Germain last year. Ibrahimovic has netted 13 times in the Premier League and the 35-year-old has only one goal less than Chelsea striker Diego Costa, who is currently the division's leading marksman.

But the former Barcelona, Juventus and Inter Milan star insists he doesn't care about winning the race to finish as top scorer because his impressive first half of the season has been the perfect response to his doubters. And, having won the league title in Italy, Spain, France and Holland, he is

looking to add a Premier League medal to his collection. "I'm chasing the head trophy, the Premier League. That is my aim," Ibrahimovic told United's website yesterday.

"The individual things come as part of the main objective because that is like a bonus for every individual player. If the collective does well, then the individuals will do well". I try to help the team and try to do what I'm best at, scoring goals, playing good and creating chances for my team-mates. As long as I can do that, I know I will help my team.

"The same thing with them, they help me the way they can for the team. I have no individual targets because that I did already, after three months in England. I conquered England - it took three months." Ibrahimovic, who is set to return after illness to face Liverpool on Sunday, believes United are finding their feet under Jose Mourinho following

a shaky start to the Portuguese coach's Old Trafford reign. United are unbeaten in 15 games in all competitions and have won their last nine in row, with Ibrahimovic continuing to thrive to such an extent that England forward Wayne Rooney has found himself marginalised for much of the campaign.

"I said from the beginning - slowly, slowly, we will get better and everything was about the click. We needed to click as a team. Now you see the identity of the team," Ibrahimovic added. Ibrahimovic is adamant sixth placed United can still make a strong challenge for the title, despite trailing leaders Chelsea by 10 points. "The last one-and-a-half months have shown the right way. The gap has been bigger but now it's better, so we are closer to that now," Ibrahimovic said. "We wait for the other teams to have their dips, to make their mistakes, and we will be there." — AFP

## MESSI FREE-KICK MAGIC SENDS BARCA INTO COPA QUARTERS

**BARCELONA:** Lionel Messi's third goal from a free-kick in as many games this year secured Barcelona's place in the quarter-finals of the Copa del Rey as the holders beat Athletic Bilbao 3-1 to edge through 4-3 on aggregate on Wednesday.

Luis Suarez's 100th Barca goal and Neymar's penalty cancelled out Athletic's 2-1 first leg lead, but Enric Saborit's header six minutes into the second-half had the tie headed for extra time.

However, just as in the first leg and in a 1-1 draw at Villarreal on Sunday, Messi rode to Barca's rescue with another exquisite free-kick that clipped the inside of the post on its way past Gorka Iraizoz. "There is a reason why Messi is the best in the world," Suarez told Barca TV. "He surprises you with something beautiful in every game."

Barca were under huge pressure to deliver their first win of the year as the slip-up at Villarreal left them five points adrift of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga, who also have a game in hand. "It is important for our confidence. We wanted and needed a result like that," added Suarez. "We are calm, working hard and know that the results will come." The build-up to the game had been dominated by talk of controversial refereeing calls in the first leg as Athletic ended the game with nine men, whilst Barca had a stonewall penalty claim waived away.

And there was more controversy on 26 minutes when Neymar was wrongly flagged offside as he set up Suarez for a tap in. However, the same combination wasn't to be denied 10 minutes before half-time when Neymar's cross was hammered into the far corner by Suarez to bring up his Barca century. "The important thing is it contributed to us going through, which is what we wanted," said Suarez.

### MSN returns

The former Liverpool man's strike was also the 300th goal scored by Barca's fearsome "MSN" forward line since he joined the club in 2014 with Messi netting 124 and Neymar 76. It was 301 just three minutes into the second-half when Neymar was chopped down by Eneko Boveda.



**BARCELONA:** Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi scores a goal during the Spanish Copa del Rey (King's Cup) round of 16 second leg football match FC Barcelona vs Athletic Club de Bilbao at the Camp Nou stadium. — AFP

Messi handed Neymar responsibility from the spot and the Brazilian ended a 1,023-minute drought for Barca as he sent Iraizoz the wrong way to register his first goal since October 19.

Barca's joy was short-lived, though, as with their first serious attack Athletic got the away goal they needed when Saborit's downward header at the back post beat both Jasper Cillessen and Samuel Umtiti on the line. However, Messi proved the match winner 11 minutes from time as he outfoxed Iraizoz. A week after beating the Athletic 'keeper to his right, the five-time World Player of the Year pulled his free-kick in off Iraizoz's left-hand post for his 26th goal in 23 games this season.

An incredible individual run by Neymar nearly sealed the tie as he hit the outside of the post moments later, but Barca held on to maintain their record of not being eliminated by anyone other than Real Madrid since 2008. "I am very satisfied," said Barca boss Luis Enrique. "We controlled the game at every moment."

Barcelona will be joined by Real Sociedad, Alcorcon and Alaves in Friday's draw after they also secured their place in the last eight on Wednesday. Atletico Madrid moved into the last eight on Tuesday 4-3 on aggregate despite losing 3-2 at home to Las Palmas. Real Madrid carry a comfortable 3-0 lead into the second leg of their tie away at Sevilla. — AFP

## PAYET WANTS TO LEAVE WEST HAM

**LONDON:** West Ham United playmaker Dimitri Payet has informed the club of his desire to leave and no longer wishes to play for them, manager Slaven Bilic revealed yesterday. Payet, 29, joined West Ham from Marseille in a reported £10.7 million (\$13.1 million, €12.3 million) deal in 2015 and had a sensational first season, scoring 12 goals and supplying 12 assists. But with West Ham lying 13th in the Premier League table and amid speculation linking him with a return to Marseille, the France international has decided he wants out.

"We have said we don't want to sell our best players, but Dimitri Payet does not want to play for us," Bilic told a press conference. But he added: "We are not going to sell him." Bilic has asked Payet to stay away from training and said he would not feature in Saturday's home game with Crystal Palace. Payet signed a new five-and-a-half-year contract last February and Bilic seemed annoyed by the player's stance.

"We have said hundreds of times we don't want to sell our best players. He's definitely our best player," he said. "That's why we gave him a long contract and then a new contract four months later. I phoned him with that and he refused to play for us. I have a team to manage. He's probably been tapped up by some clubs or whatever. That is usual at this time of year."

"But until he changes his attitude he is out of the team and he's not going to train with us. But we are not going to sell him." Payet is reported to be the top January transfer target for Marseille coach Rudi Garcia, who previously worked with him at Lille between 2011 and 2013. The Frenchman's departure would be a major blow to West Ham and their fans, for whom Payet has become a terrace darling.

Despite the stand-off between player and club, Bilic remains hopeful that Payet has not played his last game for West Ham. "I expect him to come back and show commitment and determination to the team, like the team has shown to him," said the Croatian. "I have spoken to the club, the chairman and the vice-chairman. It's not a money issue. We want to keep him. That's it." After a seventh-place finish last season, West Ham have struggled to adapt to life in their new London Stadium home-formerly the Olympic Stadium-and were thrashed 5-0 by Manchester City in the FA Cup last Friday. — AFP



## NERVY JUVE EDGES INTO ITALIAN CUP QUARTERS

**MILAN:** A late penalty from Miralem Pjanic saw holders Juventus scrape through to an Italian Cup quarter-final clash with either AC Milan or Torino after a nervous 3-2 win over high-flying Atalanta. Atalanta travelled to Turin looking to cause an upset as they enjoy their best season in years under Gianpiero Gasperini, who has steered the Bergamo side to within 10 points of Juve's lead in Serie A at the halfway point.

But Juventus were clinical in an impressive first-half that saw Paulo Dybala beat Etrit Berisha with a superb first-time strike in the 22nd minute from 25 yards then send Mario Mandzukic on his way to double Juve's lead 12 minutes later. With one eye on Sunday's trip to Fiorentina, and with Croatian starlet Mark Pjaca fully recovered from a recent injury, Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri rested striker Gonzalo Higuain for the entire game.

Pjaca, sidelined for the past two months, replaced Dybala on the hour but it was a nervous last half hour for the hosts. Abdoulay Konko pulled one back for Juventus on 72 minutes with a superb snap shot that beat stand-in Juve 'keeper Norberto Neto at the far top corner of the net. Although Pjanic fired his spot-kick past Berisha and into the roof of the net three minutes later following a foul on Stephan Lichtsteiner, it was far from over.

Emmanuel Latte Lath, an 18-year-old from Ivory Coast, got past Lichtsteiner to reach a low cross that sneaked past Rafael in the 81st minute. Atalanta should have pushed the match to extra-time but Andrea Petagna's curler was finally contained by Neto. Remo Freuler pounced on an error by Hernanes but fired over and defender Rafael Tolo fired wide in the final minutes.

Earlier, Federico Bernardeschi netted an injury-time penalty to fire Fiorentina into the quarter-finals with a 1-0 win over Chievo. Chievo looked to have held on for extra time at the Artemio Franchi stadium until the referee pointed to the spot after Bernardeschi was felled from behind by the away side's Massimo Gobbi. Gobbi earned a caution and Bernardeschi stepped up to send Stefano Sorrentino the wrong way with a crisp low strike into the bottom corner to seal the win. Napoli on Tuesday sealed their place in the last eight with a 3-1 win over second division La Spezia. AC Milan, beaten Cup finalists last year but who beat Juventus in Doha to win the Italian Super Cup three weeks ago, host Torino yesterday. Inter Milan, Sassuolo, Lazio and Roma all play their last 16 ties next week against, respectively, Bologna, Cesena, Genoa and Sampdoria. — AFP



**SOUTHAMPTON:** Liverpool's Croatian defender Dejan Lovren (R) tackles Southampton's English midfielder James Ward-Prowse during the EFL (English Football League) Cup semi-final first-leg football match between Southampton and Liverpool at St Mary's Stadium. — AFP

## REDMOND PUTS SAINTS WITHIN TOUCHING DISTANCE OF FINAL

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Southampton edged one step closer to the League Cup final as Nathan Redmond's cool finish secured a 1-0 win over Liverpool in the semi-final first leg on Wednesday. Claude Puel's side went in front through Redmond's first half strike at St Mary's and only a strong display from Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius prevented Southampton from winning by more.

Southampton haven't reached the League Cup final since 1979 when they were beaten by Nottingham Forest. But by ending a run of four games without a win in all competitions they are now within touching distance of facing Manchester United or Hull at Wembley. "We are deserving this result with all the many chances we had. It was important to win with the clean sheet," Puel said.

"Liverpool had just the one chance. We were unlucky at the end because we know the second leg will be very difficult." With United having won the first leg against Hull 2-0, Liverpool would love to face their old rivals at Wembley, especially after losing to Manchester City on penalties in last season's final. But Jurgen Klopp's team, without a win in their last three games, will need to improve significantly to overturn the deficit at Anfield in the second leg on January 25.

"After the goal we conceded our reaction was not good. We were not compact enough," Klopp said. "Loris Karius had to save our life. It's a deserved win for Southampton but it's only half-time in the tie."

Klopp had fielded the youngest team in Liverpool's history for Sunday's embarrassing FA Cup draw against fourth-tier Plymouth at Anfield, but his senior stars fared no better on their return to the line-up.

With Senegal winger Sadio Mane away at the Africa Cup of Nations, Daniel Sturridge started in attack as Klopp made eight changes. Klopp's team had routed Southampton 6-1 in the League Cup quarter-finals last season and, with the hosts missing dropped captain Jose Fonte, a lively start suggested another emphatic display

was possible. Former Southampton defender Nathaniel Clyne had Liverpool's first effort when his goalbound strike was blocked by Steven Davis.

### Toothless

Roberto Firmino had an even better chance when Adam Lallana knocked a high ball down for the Brazil forward, but his powerful shot was close enough to Fraser Forster for the goalkeeper to tip over. But Liverpool's aggressive intent was undermined by their lack of focus at the back and Redmond, in yards of space at the far post, drew a fine stop from Karius in Southampton's first incisive attack.

Puel's side weren't to be denied for long and in the 20th minute a woeful miskick from Reds defender Ragnar Klavan allowed Jay Rodriguez to thread a pass to Redmond, who advanced into the penalty area before slotting into the far corner for his first goal since October. Despite dominating possession for much of the first half, Liverpool were toothless in attack and the eight-time League Cup winners almost fell further behind in the 43rd minute.

Once again it was slack Liverpool defending that let in the hosts, with Dusan Tadic gifted time and space for a low cross to Redmond, who should have done better than blast straight at Karius from close-range. By the time Lallana snatched at a half-chance early in the second half, Klopp had seen enough and he sent on Brazil forward Philippe Coutinho for his first appearance following a seven-week absence with an ankle injury.

Yet, with Coutinho showing a few signs of rust on his return, Liverpool still lacked a cutting edge. Coutinho's presence couldn't cure Liverpool's defensive failings in any case and when no-one tracked Cedric's run into the penalty area the visitors were fortunate Southampton's right-back shot hurriedly into the side-netting. Redmond almost doubled Southampton's lead in the closing moments, but his lobbed effort hit the bar and was cleared by Lallana. — AFP

## SILVA NODS HOLDERS PSG INTO LAST FOUR

**PARIS:** Captain Thiago Silva showed the wasteful Edinson Cavani how to do it with two crashing headers as holders Paris Saint-Germain surged into the semi-finals of the French League Cup with a 2-0 win over Metz on Wednesday. Also into the last four are Nancy, Monaco and Bordeaux, who won their quarter-final 3-2 at home to Guingamp earlier in the evening. Home side PSG were all over Metz, struggling near the bottom of Ligue 1, from the off and should have been 2-0 ahead after a quarter of an hour.

Both times it was striker Cavani who was wasteful, heading wide from near the penalty spot and then minutes later seeing his shot from point-blank range saved by the legs of goalkeeper David Oberhauser. Angel Di Maria—who has failed to really win over the fans at the Parc des Princes since his big-money move from Manchester United—was the next one guilty of profligacy, attempting to set up Cavani with a panenka-style pass when a simple cross would have sufficed.

The pressure finally told shortly before the half-hour mark when Brazilian defender Silva, a doubt coming into the quarter-final, rose to thump home a header from a Di Maria corner. Metz offered nothing as an attacking force and had just one shot on goal—a tame free kick that was easily saved—in the first half.

The second half was more of the same. Cavani missed another easy header, this time from a Di Maria clipped cross, on 50 minutes and a minute later the increasingly influential Argentine winger Di Maria had an effort cleared off the line. Di Maria was heavily involved again after the hour, his run ending up with Cavani—the top scorer in French Ligue 1 — having yet another chance saved. — AFP



FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

Friday Times

# Sports

www.kuwaittimes.net

BRISBANE: Alize Cornet of France celebrates her victory over Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia in their women's single quarter-final match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane yesterday. — AFP



## MSN leads Barca to Cup quarters