

Kite Team  
coloring  
Kuwait skies

4



Scores dead as  
Italy avalanche  
buries hotel

12



Djokovic out in  
second round,  
loses to Istomin

44



FREE

# Kuwait Times Friday Times



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NO: 17116- Friday, January 20, 2017

## 30 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED AS IRAN HIGH-RISE COLLAPSES

SEE PAGES 10 & 11

TEHRAN: Firefighters battle a blaze that engulfed Iran's oldest high-rise, the 15-storey Plasco building in downtown Tehran yesterday. — AFP



Local Spotlight

# EIGHT MEN OWN HALF THE WORLD



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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A new report published by Oxfam International marking the annual gathering of political and business leaders in Davos said eight men own the same amount of wealth as half the world! Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of Oxfam International, said: "It is obscene for so much wealth to be held in the hands of so few, when one in 10 people survive on less than \$2 a day. Inequality is trapping hundreds of millions in poverty; it is fracturing our societies and undermining democracy."

Oxfam's report, 'Economy for the 99 percent', said eight men own the same amount of wealth as 3.6 billion people, who make up the poorest half of humanity. Such a conclusion by the report speaks for itself on how the gap between the rich and the poor is becoming wider every day.

I believe this is a matter of concern, because it doesn't have negative consequences on rich people, but on local communities, especially those with limited resources, and on humanity as a whole. With more people falling below the poverty line and being unemployed, the rate of crimes and violence will increase. Inequality can lead to troubled societies and civil conflicts.

The report concluded with a call for fundamental change in the way we manage our economies so that they work for all people and not just a fortunate few. It also called for better data on the distribution of global wealth - particularly in India and China. The Oxfam study is good and its calls are fair, but I don't know how these results could be implemented, because rich people always want to make more money, while poor people keep struggling to make ends meet.

The dilemma here is of the middle class, because it is shrinking every day. Few middle class people move up, while many fall behind. It is important to preserve the middle class and strengthen its sources of income. We should not expect the eight men to give away all their money to the rest of the world. They may be making some donations, but we have to be realistic. If you worked so hard for a secure income for yourself and your family, would you give it away just like that, out of humanitarian concern? I have not seen anyone doing this except in movies. This is real life.

The report showed some good aspects that we need to consider related to women and wages, stating that with the current trends, it will take 170 years for women to be paid the same as men. This is true, because women face discrimination in wages and salary benefits around the world. The report called on governments to increase taxes on the wealthy and those with high incomes to generate funds needed to invest in healthcare, education and job creation. It called for decent wages and stopping discrimination against women.

The Oxfam report also called on business leaders to play their part in building a human economy. I trust these findings clearly show that the modern economy is broken.



## RAIN IN KUWAIT

Light rain and grey skies clouded over Kuwait yesterday, cooling temperatures to mid 60s ahead of the start of the weekend. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



IN MY VIEW

# FOR THE WANT OF A STAMP



By Ramona Crasto

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Does humanity exist? This question seems to baffle people today. On one side terrorist attacks have paralyzed the world while on the other hand there seems to be no solution to it. This is the bigger picture but how do we solve the bigger problem without finding solutions to the smaller ones happening within our vicinity. What is humanity? In simple words, it means showing kindness and love to other humans in our darkest hours.

Children are the purest form of bliss and love. Their little cry can bring tears to anyone's eyes. Recently, a friend of mine told me a heart breaking story. Her niece, a beautiful little two year old fell sick. Her worried family took her to the doctor who then advised that they take her to Mubarak Al Kabeer hospital in Jabriya immediately.

But when her family reached there, they faced a major problem. The procedures require that to see a doctor, they need to have a government stamp. Unfortunately the timing was very

late and the stamp machines were all empty. Helpless they waited for the staff to help them and figure out a way to solve this tiny problem as the child was suffering from high fever.

"Without the stamp we cannot help you, we are sorry," explained one of the staff. The family was aghast. What about in cases of emergency? The child was suffering from a very high fever and the family was ready to pay for the stamp, they only needed one urgently. Yet no one helped with a solution.

It's understandable that the government should have proper procedures in place. But red tape should not endanger the health of any one, especially a small, sick child.

How do we solve national issues when issues like this are causing life and death situations at times. Small steps alone make a big change and this is a change we really need right now in a world where humanity is just an emotion and humans are just beings living ruthless lives.

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Large kites can take hours to set up including anchoring, straightening lines, lifting and ensuring all safety precautions are in place.



Abdurahman Al-Farsi with the Al-Farsi Kite Flying team during a recent Friday in Bnaider. - Photos by Yasser Al Zayyat



Al-Farsi Kite Team work together to set up and fly massive sized kites in Bnaider (Road 258) every Friday. Teamwork, cooperation and communication as well as a dedication to kite flying are a must.



# Coloring Kuwait's Skies

By Faten Omar

Every Friday the skies in Bnaider are treated to a colorful, soaring spectacle with roaring dragons, flying fishes and all the colors of the rainbow. This fluttering festival is the creation of Abdurahman Al-Farsi, president of the Al-Farsi Kite Flying Team. Al-Farsi is also the owner of the world's largest kite, a giant manta ray. The team has been flying kites since the 1990s and organizes kite flying activities every Friday during the winter months as well as an annual kite flying festival.

Kuwait Times spoke with Al-Farsi to learn more about the world of kite flying in Kuwait.

"It all started in 1995, when a small kite was dedicated to my son Faris Al Farsi from AbdulRazaq Al Khames, and that's when Faris began admiring this hobby or should I say I'm the one who became obsessed with its breathtaking beauty," explains Al-Farsi. He added that the love of this hobby started to grow in him and he began thinking of owning another kite, but bigger, and he

now owns more than 100 large kites and countless of small ones.

Al-Farsi reveals that it took him years to learn from experts the fundamentals of flying large kites, lifting and stability, adjusting to improve flight or fix problems, safety, anchoring larger kites, line art, and the most difficult challenge: tangled lines.

"We change the way that we fly to make the best of the weather," he explains.

Farsi attends many kites festivals around the world. Through such festivals he met Peter Lynn (Kites' Maestro) and bought some of his unique kites then he decided to cooperate with Lynn to break the World Record with the creation of a giant kite which was created successfully and was launched in Britain's sky.

Al-Farsi also holds the Guinness World Record for the 'largest kite ever flown'. The largest kite ever flown, has a total lifting area of 950 m. When laid flat, it has a total area of 1019 m. The kite measured 25.475 meters long and 40 meters wide. The kite was flown at the Kuwait Hala Festival in Flag Square, Kuwait City, on 15 February 2005.

"We honored to lift our beloved Kuwait's flag," he said.

Al-Farsi team includes many youth volunteers and dedicated kite enthusiasts.

"My team and I fly together, share together and make friends. We communicate about the kites, share experiences and flying techniques," he said. "This year soon, we will break our own world record by the biggest kite about environment signed by our Kuwaiti print," Al-Farsi revealed.

Al-Farsi invites the public to enjoy the kites every Friday (weather permitting) from Noon to 4pm at Bnaider off Road 258 and have their lunch with a beautiful view. "It is an opportunity to fill the sky with color, and people can join us and bring their friends and family to barbeque."

He added that they also participate in February festival along with many countries that fly their kites like France, Italy, US and more than one team from Southeast Asia.



## Committed to collaboration

**HCA NHS Ventures** is a subsidiary of HCA International which was set up in 2006, the HCA NHS Ventures division leads on private partnerships with NHS Trusts across the country.

**Harley Street at UCH** is a joint partnership with top teaching hospital University College London Hospital, formed in 2006. Based on level 15 in the tower at UCLH, the 18 bed acute facility is a specialist cancer centre for complex and rare conditions. Patient rooms are private and en-suite offering panoramic views across London. We offer medical and surgical care including day case chemotherapy and a comprehensive JACIE accredited bone marrow and stem cell transplant service one of only a few in the UK. The centre offers the pioneering cord blood transplant; this treatment significantly widens the opportunity to find a suitable unrelated donor particularly beneficial for international patients.

**The Young Person's Unit at Harley Street at UCH** is the only private teenage cancer unit in Europe, treating any form of cancer in 13-19 year olds and further establishes the relationship with UCLH. The 6 bedded Unit treats all kinds of cancers and provides high quality care. All rooms are private and en-suite with views across central London. There are facilities in each room for a parent or guardian to stay with patients throughout their treatment and international entertainment packages, including internet access to keep in touch with friends and family abroad. Patients also have access to educational facilities and an entertainment lounge. 5\* catering is provided with specially adapted menus to suit international patient requirements.

State-of-the-art technology includes the revolutionary TrueBeam STx™, the latest radiotherapy and radiosurgical equipment which is the most advanced linear accelerator in the world and is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK.

**Harley Street at Queen's** is a joint partnership with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust, based at Queen's Hospital Romford, offering advanced cancer, neurosurgical and general surgery treatment. It is the only centre of its kind in Essex and includes a dedicated High Dependency Unit, Chemotherapy Day Care Unit and advanced radiotherapy through a dedicated linear accelerator including

[www.harleystreetatuch.co.uk](http://www.harleystreetatuch.co.uk)



IMRT and RapidArc™ technology. Harley Street at Queen's offers advanced state-of-the-art treatment in the most comfortable of surroundings.

**The Christie Clinic** is the latest HCA NHS Venture and a partnership with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester. The £35million development houses a state-of-the-art cancer clinic with 34 inpatient rooms, 10 chemotherapy chairs, advanced radiotherapy, sophisticated operating theatres and private patient pharmacy. This impressive facility takes the HCA standard of care outside of London to Manchester and the North of England. Located in the heart of Manchester The Christie Clinic offers light and airy private en-suite rooms, with international entertainment packages and is in close proximity to the city centre.



# Traditional kitchen ventilation methods in historic Kuwait

By Sheikha Al-Lougani

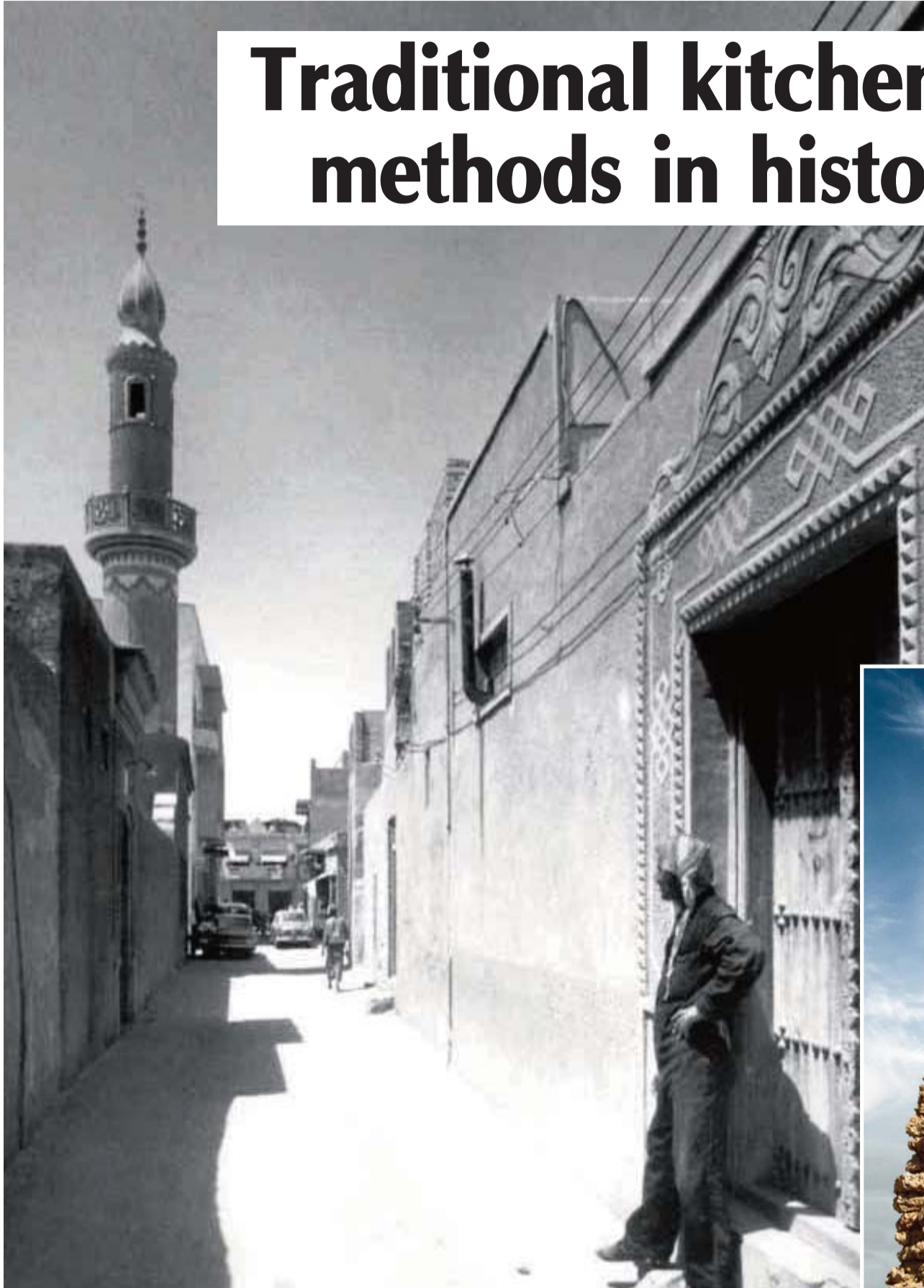
**KUWAIT:** As it's commonly known, the kitchen is one of the most important spaces in any household especially in the olden days public restaurants were not as plentiful.

But with all the "huffing and puffing", Kuwaiti housewives needed a way to ventilate their precious domain and that was done either through "al-sisar" which is basically a Kuwaiti word given to your "good ol'" chimney or "al-katiba", a ventilation window/hole.

Researcher Saleh Al-Methn said that al-sisar was built over the kitchen at a height of around one meter, adding that it was usually made out of rocks found near the coast.

Constructing al-sisar depended on the financial abilities of house owners, said Al-Methn, revealing that sometimes kitchens only had a simple hole or window for ventilation which was commonly known as al-katiba.

The Kuwaiti researcher pointed out that these ventilation methods differed from "al-bakdir", a Persian word for air-cooling method used in old Kuwait.— KUNA



Different ventilation systems and methods used in traditional Kuwaiti houses. — KUNA Photos



## OIC SHORES UP SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A communique issued in an extraordinary meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) underscored collective support of the Palestinian cause, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. Speaking to KUNA, Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah noted that the communique firmly supports a UN resolution that renders Israeli settlements on Palestinian territory legally void.

The Kuwaiti official said that the statement also approves of UN resolution 2334/2016, which states that Israel's settlement activity is a blatant violation of international law and has no legal validity. On a recent Middle East peace conference held in the French capital Paris, he pointed out that the statement heaped praise on



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meeting official on the sidelines of the OIC summit in Kuala Lumpur. — KUNA

efforts to encourage a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Al-Jarallah noted that the statement urged OIC member nations to step up efforts to cleave to international law and decisions made at OIC conferences. It also highlighted the religious and spiritual significance that the holy city of Jerusalem holds, as well as Palestine's rightful sovereignty over the city. Meanwhile, Khaled Al-Jarallah in a statement to KUNA following an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, dedicated for discussing tragic conditions suffered by the Muslim community in Myanmar, said not only the OIC should shoulder the responsibility regarding plight of the Royhingyas, but also the international community. — KUNA

## Crime

Report

### Policeman jailed for 'indecent' comments

**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya's security director general ordered the detention of a Najda policeman accused of making advances towards a female Arab expat. The woman told police that the policeman stopped her and he started to talk indecently to her. She left him and went directly to the police station to file a report. The policeman then arrived at the station and claimed the woman had misunderstood him. He offered to apologize to her. But a security source said an argument between suggested that the woman's complaint was justified and so the station's commander jailed the policeman.

### Man harasses woman

A Tunisian lady said an unknown man chased her all the way to her residence and tried to follow her inside. The woman called police and upon their arrival explained that the man had fled. She then went to Maidan Hawally police station to file a complaint and gave details regarding the car the suspect was driving.

### Woman attempts suicide

A Syrian woman escaped death after ingesting 16 unknown pills and drinking bleach. Mubarak hospital doctors pumped the woman's stomach to remove the poisons. She will now be interviewed by detectives once her condition improves. Suicide is a crime in Kuwait.

### License plates stolen

A citizen in his fifties told Zahra area police his car's license plates were stolen while parked near a cooperative. There have been a spate of license plate thefts in Kuwait in recent weeks.

### Man arrested for assault

An Egyptian man was taken to Maidan Hawally police station accused of assaulting three citizens in a mall. He was sent to concerned authorities.

### Harassing phone calls

A security source said female employees of the 112 emergency call center received indecent calls and insults against them and dignitaries of Kuwait over a period of several days. Police were able to trace the suspect and informed state security about the calls. The suspect's whereabouts were determined and he was arrested at his home. He confessed to making the calls and is being questioned.

## FIVE EXPATS ARRESTED, HUGE QUANTITY OF LIQUOR SEIZED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Hawally police arrested five Nepalese expats for manufacturing liquor in a house. Around 180 drums in large size were found filled with liquor in the Rumaithiya area house. Both suspects and liquor were referred to concerned authorities.

### 26 men rescued from sea

Coast Guard rescued 83 marine vessels and 26 persons who faced minor accidents at sea during December. The Guard rescued 5 boats that ran aground, removed 17 floating objects, and sent 14 boats away from off limits areas. Six persons were rescued from drowning and four injured were taken to hospital while 7 persons were reported missing.

### Coordination

Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said all governorate sectors are keen on continued cooperation and coordination with security departments during the celebration of the National Day 2017. The governor made this remarks during his meeting with Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Fahad Al-Shuwaie.



**KUWAIT:** Drums containing liquor seized from Rumaithiya house.

## YOUTH LEAPS TO DEATH

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A 23-year-old Kuwaiti jumped to death from a building in Sharq area. Criminal detectives are investigating the incident.



**KUWAIT:** Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the officials of the security departments to review preparations for the National Day celebration 2017.



## AMIR SENDS CONDOLENCES TO ITALIAN PRESIDENT

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to Italian President Sergio Mattarella over the victims of an avalanche that buried a mountain hotel in an earthquake-hit region of central Italy.

His Highness the Amir expressed sympathies over the dead and wished speedy recovery for the injured. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Embassy in Rome called yesterday on all Kuwaiti nationals in Italy to take precautions and abide by all safety measures for their own safety after the avalanche quake. The embassy's call comes in light of the aftermath of the quake and snowstorms sweeping the nation, calling on all nationals not to

head to isolated areas or snow camps, and to take all necessary measures to ensure their safety.

The embassy also called on the Kuwaiti nationals to keep in touch with Kuwaiti mission in Rome and report on any eventuality or developments relating to their safety via the following emergency phone No: Emergency Line: 0039 3428598765, Embassy Line: 0039 068088930. Earlier, some 30 people have perished when a

quake-triggered avalanche demolished a hotel located on a hill of Gran Saso Mountain in the nation's heartland, Relief organizations' officials told the local media that prospects of finding any survivors under heaps of the wrecked building were nil. There were two children among those trapped under the rubble. Some 300,000 people have been without power since a fiery earthquake hit the central regions yesterday. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah during the ceremony. — KUNA

### SECURITY FORCES PREPARED TO WARD OFF THREATS: INTERIOR

**KUWAIT:** Security forces are the nation's protective shield that staves off all threats and challenges, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah said yesterday. The Interior Minister made the remarks in a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior after a ceremony where 16 brigadiers ascended to Major General status, as approved by the Cabinet.

He announced that their promotion was a token of appreciation for their efforts to safeguard the nation's security, adding that such diligence leads to an impenetrable security apparatus. — KUNA

### SPECIAL NA SESSION ON DEMOGRAPHY 'CRUCIAL'

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Member of Parliament Abdelkareem Al-Kandari said that the request for a special session to discuss the population structure has received the required number of signatures. He said the request is necessary and the session is important.

Meanwhile, MP Adel Al-Dimkhi said the population problem is large and its treatment should be through corrective measures, not by any racial discrimination against expats who are in the country to earn their livelihood.

He said there is a plan to Kuwaitize government bodies which is important, but it should not be at the expense of the expats through a racist policy and "we as MPs should have a humane approach towards the issue." He said, "if the special session is to discuss the population structure and its problem in a proper way, I will support it, but if it was against the expats, I am not with it."

### KUWAITI RELIEF AID TRICKLES INTO SYRIA FROM TURKEY

**ANKARA:** Some 18 trucks laden with humanitarian aid crossed into Syria from the southern Turkish province of Hatay, the Kuwaiti Society for Relief announced yesterday. Director General of Kuwaiti Society for Relief Abdulaziz Al-Obaid told KUNA that the trucks carried basic necessities including food baskets, heaters and mattresses for needy Syrian families.

He said that the aid is part of Kuwait's efforts to mitigate the misery the Syrian people are mired in, as he thanked all those involved in such benevolent deeds. Meanwhile, head of the Kuwaiti charity's delegation in Turkey Mohammad Al-Houli said that the Kuwaiti contingent was able to deliver the aid despite frigid temperatures. — KUNA

## GCC NEPHROLOGY EMBODIES JOINT COOPERATION IN GULF: DR AL-HARBI

3RD GCC ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION AND NEPHROLOGY CONGRESS OPENS

**KUWAIT:** The 3rd GCC Organ Transplantation and Nephrology congress is an embodiment of joint cooperation in the health and medical fields among the GCC countries where it gives an opportunity to discuss the latest developments in organ transplants and nephrology, Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said yesterday.

Al-Harbi said in his opening remarks at the four-day congress, which kicked off yesterday, that the event provides a platform for elite physicians to discuss medical issues which will enrich the Ministry's with knowledge beneficial to its strategy that it has set for itself three decades ago in developing its own treatment, prevention and rehabilitation programs in this particular field of medicine. The minister added that Hamid Al-Essa Organ Transplant Center is considered the first of its kind in the Middle East and Asia and the sixth internationally. It provides easily accessed services to kidney patients residing in many parts of the country. He added that the Ministry is very careful in providing dialysis centers with highly qualified staff and ample medication availability. Prevention programs take priority in the Ministry's strategy in the treatment of chronic illnesses by getting many sectors of the government involved and by raising awareness campaigns on how to lead a healthy lifestyle. On his part, Chairman of the congress and President



**KUWAIT:** Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi on the sidelines of the 3rd GCC Organ Transplantation and Nephrology Congress yesterday. — KUNA

of Nephrology department at Hamid Al-Essa Organ Transplant Center Dr Turki Al-Otaibi said the meeting is a dynamic, enthusiastic and enjoyable scientific gathering in the field of transplantation and nephrology. He pointed out that the meeting will cover main clinical areas of interest and it will also feature cutting-edge scientific discoveries, adding that it provides an opportunity to hear and discuss the latest issues in organ transplantation and nephrology from the most influential leaders in the

field across the globe and to distill those ideas for use "in our day to day practice." The meeting is seeing 70 lectures, 10 workshops; in addition to more 100 medical thesis that will to be discussed. There are 1,800 patients that have benefited from the kidney transplant program in the country. On an annual basis, there are 80 to 100 patients that get kidney transplants. Hamid Al-Essa Organ Transplant Center supervises around 2,000 cases of kidney transplants done outside of the country. — KUNA

## COURT UPHOLDS JAIL FOR RULING FAMILY MEMBERS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's court of appeals yesterday upheld a five-year jail term for five men including three members of the ruling family for insulting top judges online. The court also confirmed a one-year jail term against a sixth man and upheld the acquittal of six others.

The ruling family members include Sheikh Athbi Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, the former head of the state security police. He is also the younger brother of former oil minister and international sports figure Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who is president of the Olympic Council of Asia and a member of the International Olympic Committee.

The other men whose sentences were upheld include Ahmed Al-Dawoud, Falah Al-Hajraf and Abdulmohsen Al-Ateeqi. Those exonerated include Fawaz Al-Sabah, Ahmad Sayyar, Mohammed Al-Jassem, Youself Shamlan Al-Essa and Meshari Buyabis. The accused were among 13 people

charged with posting on Twitter and WhatsApp fake footage of a judge accepting a bribe. The defendants—a most of whom were jailed for a week in June before being released on bail—were also convicted of spreading lies about the integrity of top judges.

The judges include the current and former chiefs of the supreme judicial council, the highest judicial authority in the oil-rich Gulf state. Also convicted was Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al-Sabah, the editor of Al-Watan newspaper and television which authorities shut down for violating corporate finance rules in a decision ratified by the courts.

Yesterday's rulings are not final as they can still be challenged in the supreme court. The 13th defendant, who allegedly posted online the footage, was sentenced to 10 years in jail by a lower court but the appeals court did not examine his case yesterday as he is on the run. — AFP

# International

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017

**Iran looks to Syria talks to boost regional clout**



**Children among many feared dead in Italy avalanche**



**Obama, after office: writing, minorities and Democrats**



TEHRAN: Iranian firefighters work at the scene of the collapsed Plasco building after being engulfed by a fire, in central Tehran, Iran, yesterday. — AP

## 30 KILLED IN IRAN BUILDING COLLAPSE

FIRE ENGULFS HIGH-RISE BUILDING IN TEHRAN; FIREFIGHTERS AMONG KILLED

**TEHRAN:** A high-rise building in Tehran engulfed by fire collapsed yesterday, killing at least 30 firefighters and injuring some 75 people, state media reported. The disaster struck the Plasco building, an iconic structure in central Tehran just north of the Iranian capital's sprawling bazaar. Firefighters, soldiers and other emergency responders dug through the rubble, looking for survivors. Iranian authorities did not immediately release definitive casualty figures, which is common in unfolding disasters. Iran's state-run Press TV announced the firefighters' deaths, without giving a source for the information.

Local Iranian state television said 30 civilians were injured in the disaster, while the state-run

IRNA news agency said 45 firefighters had been injured. Firefighters battled the blaze for several hours before the collapse. The fire appeared to be the most intense in the building's upper floors, home to garment workshops where tailors cook for themselves and use old kerosene heaters for warmth in winter. Police tried to keep out shopkeepers and others wanting to rush back in to collect their valuables. Tehran's mayor, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said there were "no ordinary civilians" trapped under the rubble. However, witnesses said some people had slipped through the police cordon and gone back into the building. President Hassan Rouhani ordered Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli

to investigate and report the cause of the incident as soon as possible, IRNA reported. He also ordered the ministry to ensure the injured were cared for and to take immediate action to compensate those affected by the disaster.

The building came down in a matter of seconds, shown live on state television, which had begun an interview with a journalist at the scene. A side of the building came down first, tumbling perilously close to a firefighter perched on a ladder and spraying water on the blaze. A thick plume of brown smoke rose over the site after the collapse. Onlookers wailed in grief.

Among those watching the disaster unfold was Masoumeh Kazemi, who said she rushed to

the building as her two sons and a brother had jobs in the garment workshops occupying the upper floors of the high-rise. "I do not know where they are now," Kazemi said, crying. In a nearby intersection, Abbas Nikkhoo stood with tears in his eyes. "My nephew was working in a workshop there," he said. "He has been living with me since moving to Tehran last year from the north of the country in hopes of finding a job." Jalal Maleki, a fire department spokesman, earlier told Iranian state television that 10 firehouses responded to the blaze, which was first reported around 8 am. He later said authorities visited the building "many times" to warn them about conditions there. — AP



TEHRAN: Iranian firefighters work at the scene of the collapsed Plasco building after being engulfed by a fire, in central Tehran, Iran, yesterday. — AP photos



TEHRAN: An Iranian firefighters walk amidst the debris of Iran's oldest high-rise, the 15-storey Plasco building in downtown Tehran yesterday.



TEHRAN: A firefighter consoles his comrade after the collapse of Iran's oldest high-rise, the 15-storey Plasco building in downtown Tehran yesterday.



TEHRAN: Firefighters carry a wounded comrade as they battle a blaze that engulfed Iran's oldest high-rise, the 15-storey Plasco building in downtown Tehran yesterday.



TEHRAN: Firefighters work after the collapse of Iran's oldest high-rise, the 15-storey Plasco building in downtown Tehran yesterday.



TEHRAN: Firefighters battle a blaze that engulfed Iran's oldest high-rise, the 15-storey Plasco building in downtown Tehran yesterday.

## EGYPT TO TRY 304 OVER BROTHERHOOD MILITANT ATTACKS

**CAIRO:** Egypt's prosecution has referred 304 suspects including Muslim Brotherhood leaders in Turkey to military trial for allegedly organizing militant groups that claimed several attacks in Cairo last year. The case is one of the largest to link armed attacks with the Muslim Brotherhood movement of Mohamed Morsi, the Islamist president toppled by the military in 2013. A prosecution statement on Wednesday said the suspects, many of them abroad, had set up the Hassam mili-

tant group that claimed responsibility for several assassinations and attacks in Cairo and the Nile Delta.

Morsi's ouster ushered in a crackdown that decimated the Islamist movement and killed hundreds of his followers, and set off a jihadist insurgency that has killed hundreds of security personnel. "The accused, after many Brotherhood leaders were arrested, agreed to revive armed operations," a prosecution statement said. It also accused them of establishing

Lewaa al-Thawra, another group that surfaced in 2016 to claim several attacks in Cairo, including the assassination of an army general in October. The suspects include Brotherhood leaders and activists who fled the crackdown to Turkey, the statement said.

The Brotherhood, once Egypt's largest opposition movement, has long denied involvement in violence. The group emerged from the 2011 uprising that unseated autocrat Hosni Mubarak and

won a series of elections ending with Morsi's 2012 presidential victory. Mass protests against the divisive Islamist prompted the army to overthrow him a year later. Since then, an extensive crackdown on the group has left it in disarray with competing wings that have disagreed on whether to use violence, after police quashed their protests. Analysts say a section of the Brotherhood has encouraged armed attacks against policemen in Egypt. — AFP



**ITALY:** An aerial view of the Rigopiano Hotel hit by an avalanche in Farindola, Italy, yesterday. — AP

## CHILDREN AMONG MANY FEARED DEAD IN ITALY AVALANCHE

**AMATRICE, Italy:** Several children were among more than 25 people unaccounted for, feared dead, yesterday after an avalanche engulfed a mountain hotel in earthquake-ravaged central Italy. The national civil protection agency said the Hotel Rigopiano had suffered a direct hit by a two-meter high wall of snow on Wednesday. Emergency services were struggling to get ambulances and excavation equipment to the remote site with the first snow plough only arriving just before midday. Italian broadcasters showed images of piles of masonry and rubble inside the hotel, which had been moved some ten meters from its original location by the force of the snow.

Local officials confirmed that one body had been recovered from the ruins and that two guests who were not inside when the avalanche struck had been saved. Civil protection chief Fabrizio Curcio said there had been around 30 guests and staff at the small ski hotel on the eastern lower slopes of the Gran Sasso mountain when the first of four powerful tremors rattled the region on Wednesday morning. Francesco Provolò, the head of the Pescara province where the disaster occurred, said there had been around 20 people staying at the hotel, including "several children" along with seven or eight staff.

Specialist mountain police who had reached the hotel on skis or by helicopter overnight had begun trying to move the rubble with spades. They were quoted as saying there were no signs of life inside the building while one of their commanding officers told reporters: "There are many dead." Ambulances were blocked by two meters of snow in the nearest village, Farindola, some nine kilometers away, according to the civil protection agency. Antonio Di Marco, president of Pescara province, said: "What is certain is that the building took a direct hit from the avalanche, to the point that it was moved by 10 meters." Farindola mayor Ilario Lacchetta described the "huge dimensions" of the snow slide. "It took the whole hotel with it," he said.

### Hypothermia

One of the two survivors was taken by a helicopter to a hospital in Pescara suffering from hypothermia but was not in a life-threatening condition. Rai television reported that one of them had told rescuers that his wife and child were trapped in the hotel. The region was hit by four seismic shocks measuring above five magnitude in the space of four hours on Wednesday, when at least one person was confirmed to have died. The hotel is located around 90 kilometers from the epicenter of the quakes at Monteverde, a small village south of Amatrice, the town devastated in an August earthquake in which nearly 300 people died. — AFP

## IRAN LOOKS TO SYRIA TALKS TO BOOST REGIONAL CLOUT

'WAR IN SYRIA PERCEIVED AS MICRO WORLD WAR'

**TEHRAN:** Iran is looking to Syria peace talks next week as a chance to build on its regional clout, experts say, as Tehran, Moscow and Ankara all stake out claims for influence. The Syrian army's victory in recapturing the rebel stronghold of east Aleppo last month has thrust Tehran to the centre of the diplomatic game playing out over the country's future. The win was achieved with crucial assistance from Iranian military advisors and thousands of "volunteer" fighters.

President Hassan Rouhani said this week that the co-sponsors of the peace talks opening in Astana on Monday-Iran, Russia and Turkey-were the only powers with the influence to turn the fragile ceasefire between the Syrian government and rebels into a lasting settlement. But resolving the different interests and plans of the co-sponsors will prove tricky. For Iran, the priority is to ensure the survival of longtime ally President Bashar al-Assad, or at least a carefully managed transition that stops Syria falling into the hands of extremists or a government that sides with its rivals in Saudi Arabia and the United States.

It also wants to maintain a secure land route across Iraq and Syria to Lebanon, where its ally Hezbollah sits on the front-line of its longer-term concern: Israel. "The war in Syria is not seen as a civil war in Tehran. It's rather perceived as a micro world war determining the geopolitics of the Middle East," said Adnan Tabatabai, Iran analyst and CEO of Germany-based think tank CARPO.

"Tehran is convinced that Israel would have carried out air strikes against Iranian nuclear sites... if Hezbollah did not exist as a deterrent on the Israeli-Lebanese border," Tabatabai said. "So access to Hezbollah and maintaining the so-called 'axis of resistance' through Syrian territory is a key priority for Iran."

### Tactical partners

Negotiations between Iran and Turkey, which has been on the opposing side in the war as a backer of Islamist rebel groups, were always going to be thorny. More surprising have been the cracks starting to emerge in Tehran's ties with Moscow, which has been the other chief supporter of Assad.

Iran is worried that Russia appears to be shifting its allegiance towards Turkey: working with Turkish forces against the Islamic State group and excluding Iran from initial ceasefire talks in northern



**ALEPPO:** Syrian boys walk along a damaged street in Aleppo's formerly rebel-held al-Shaar neighborhood, a month after government forces retook the northern Syrian city from rebel fighters. — AFP

Syria. Ali Vaez, of the International Crisis Group, said Iran and Russia were only ever "tactical partners, not strategic allies".

"Russia doesn't appear to share Iran's key priorities in Syria. Not only does Assad appear more dispensable to Russia than he is to Iran, but Russian officials also appear more comfortable with the concept of federalism in Syria than their Iranian counterparts," said Vaez. Others disagree, saying Russia has no choice but to stick by Iran.

"The Russians want a strong strategic presence in Syria and the region," said Ali Montazeri, a Tehran-based analyst. "They know it's necessary to cooperate with Iran because Iran has a growing influence in the whole region."

### Back at the table

Indeed, Iran has seen a string of successes throughout the Middle East in recent months. As well as battlefield successes in Syria, Tehran saw its chosen candidate win the presidency in Lebanon, and its regional rival Saudi Arabia increasingly bogged down in the Yemen conflict and struggling with falling oil revenues. Just

getting to the negotiating table has been a major turnaround for Iran, which was frozen out of previous UN-sponsored peace talks on Syria. The nuclear deal it signed in 2015 with world powers brought it back into the fold, helping to earn it a place at an international conference on Syria in Vienna in October of that year. By then, it had become hard to ignore Iran's central role in the conflict.

Tehran provides few details of its involvement, but in November revealed that more than 1,000 of its volunteer fighters-many recruited from Shiite communities in Afghanistan and Pakistan and overseen by the external operations arm of the Revolutionary Guards-had been killed in Syria. Iran is starting to see some payback for its sacrifices.

A visit this week by Syrian Prime Minister Imad Khamis saw deals giving Iran the right to set up a mobile phone network and a petrol terminal in the country. Now it hopes to turn battlefield strength into negotiating clout. "Iran's first priority is to remind Turkey and Russia that no deal in Syria is feasible without taking Tehran's interest into account," said Vaez. — AFP

# PENTAGON PREPARES NEW MILITARY OPTIONS FOR TRUMP

**WASHINGTON:** He wants to frantically bomb the Islamic State group and has slammed White House micromanagement of America's war fighting generals, but President-elect Donald Trump has offered few specifics about what his Pentagon will look like.

While Obama administration officials, who cede control of US foreign policy at noon Friday, say they did everything possible to destroy IS, senior military commanders are now drawing up fresh plans. These could potentially see more US troops being sent to the Middle East and have the Pentagon taking a more aggressive stance in other key areas, which include countering growing Iranian regional influence.

During his campaign, Trump said he would "bomb the shit" out of IS and claimed to have a secret plan to quickly defeat the group. He gave no details, but later said he will convene his top generals and "give them a simple instruction: They will have 30 days to submit to the Oval Office a plan for defeating" IS. An early indication of a break from Obama policy came last week at the confirmation hearing for incoming Pentagon chief James Mattis, a retired Marine general who has garnered broad cross-party support and will likely be one of the first of Trump's cabinet to be sworn in. He said an ongoing push toward Raqqa, the IS group's main stronghold in Syria and the capital of its supposed

caliphate, "needs to be reviewed and perhaps energized on a more aggressive timeline."

A key question is whether America will arm Syrian Kurdish forces to lead the fight—a move sure to infuriate ally Turkey, which considers the Kurdish fighters terrorists—or whether the United States should send in more combat troops. A US defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that senior planners are readying a slew of options for the president and Mattis to weigh. "If the proper resources—including arms—cannot be distributed to the partners who are actually going to fight going into and around Raqqa, then another option would be to put coalition or

US folks somewhere on the ground to be able to leverage that kind of combat power or direction of combat resources," the official said.

### Arming the Kurds

Potential Syria plans could include adding one or more US fighting brigade, each of which has thousands of troops. Currently, only about 500 US troops are in Syria, mostly special operations forces working behind the front lines to train local Kurdish and Syrian Arab fighters. "Having more US troops would be one way that you can offset not having the ability to properly arm and resource the (local forces), that would be an option," the official said. General Joe Dunford,

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Wednesday he would present Mattis with options to "accelerate the campaign" against IS.

"What is really important is first that we have a conversation about what we are doing today, why we are doing it, and what other things might be done and why we haven't done it to date," Dunford told reporters in Brussels. Because Obama was elected in 2008 on the promise of ending US conflicts in the Middle East, he has been loath to put US forces in combat and has insisted on oversight of even minor strategic tweaks. Trump, on the other hand, is a business executive accustomed to delegating, so may grant Mattis greater autonomy. — AFP

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WASHINGTON: In this file photo, Barack Obama, left, takes the oath of office from Chief Justice John Roberts, not seen, as his wife Michelle, holds the Lincoln Bible and daughters Sasha, right and Malia, watch at the US Capitol in Washington. —AP

## OBAMA, AFTER OFFICE: WRITING, MINORITIES AND DEMOCRATS

### 'FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES ABOUT OUR DEMOCRACY'

WASHINGTON: Whether it's writing a book, working with minority youths or helping the Democratic Party to rise from the ashes, Barack Obama sees life after his eight years in the White House as that of an active "citizen." At 55, Obama will be a year younger than Bill Clinton when he leaves office on Friday. He remains highly popular and says he hopes not to become "the old guy at the bar, you know, who's-who's just hanging around re-living old glories." America's first black president says he has no intention of getting involved in the "day-to-day scrum" of political life once he leaves the White House.

But he also says he will not hesitate to weigh in on "foundational issues about our democracy"—a subtle hint that Donald Trump may face some well-placed pushback over the coming four years from his predecessor. In the short term, after Trump takes the oath of office on the steps of the Capitol at noon Friday, Obama will head on vacation with his wife Michelle and two teenage daughters Malia and Sasha. Destination: Palm Springs, California.

#### After that?

"I have to be quiet for a while. I don't mean politically, I mean internally. I have to still myself," Obama told former close aide David Axelrod in an interview for CNN. Former presidents rarely remain in the nation's capital after their time living and working in the city's oldest public building, but the Obamas will be staying

in Washington while Sasha finishes high school. Jimmy Carter headed home to Georgia and Ronald Reagan did the same, residing in California until his death. Bill Clinton opted for New York, where he launched his family foundation and where wife Hillary launched her own political career as a US senator. George W. Bush went back to Texas.

Obama, a Hawaii native who made his start in politics in Chicago and never expressed any real love for Washington, has rented a home in the city's upscale Kalorama neighborhood. In the middle term, Obama has expressed a wish to work with young minorities from poor neighborhoods, where school dropouts, unemployment and incarceration rates are higher than elsewhere. "Those opportunity gaps begin early, often at birth, and they compound over time, becoming harder and harder to bridge," Obama said in 2015. "This will remain a mission for me and for Michelle, not just for the rest of my presidency, but for the rest of my life."

#### Supreme Court? Too monastic

Hillary Clinton's surprise election loss in November—and Trump's win, which Obama admits he did not see coming—changed the outlook for Obama's post-presidency. The Democrat has clearly said he will work to rebuild his battered party. "I want to make sure that I'm doing everything I can to amplify and lift up a next generation of voices not just in politics, but in civic life," Obama said

in the exit interview with CNN. "And I have the connections and, I think, credibility to be able to do that in some unique some ways." Obama says he hopes that he can push his party to go beyond aiming to win presidential elections and instead be present not just in Democrat-leaning big cities but also in communities "where people feel as if they're not being heard."

Several ex-presidents have stayed in Washington to make a mark in other branches of government. Defeated in 1828 after one term, John Quincy Adams was elected to Congress, where he remained till his death. His oratorical skills served him well, and he is remembered for his passionate fight to abolish slavery. William Howard Taft, who left the White House in 1913, later became a Supreme Court justice. Obama, an expert in constitutional law and the former president of the Harvard Law Review, doesn't see the high court in his future.

"I think being a justice is a little bit too monastic for me," he told *The New Yorker* in 2014. The example of his two Democratic predecessors—Carter and Clinton, who both launched charitable foundations respected at home and abroad—could be instructive. Obama might use his presidential library, which will be built in Chicago, to develop some of his post-White House initiatives. Persistent rumors say he wants to teach at New York's Columbia University, where he earned his undergraduate degree. "I love teaching. —AFP

## THE PINK PUSSYHAT IS SYMBOL OF CHALLENGE TO TRUMP

NEW YORK: New York actress Wendy Peace is learning to knit for the first time—for a cause. She is one of thousands of women across America making hats for those marching Saturday in a giant protest against Donald Trump in Washington. But they are not just woolly hats. They are pink "pussyhats"—with cat ears. More than 60,000 hats have already been made for the Women's March planned the day after Trump's inauguration in the nation's capital, with thousands more on the way.

"It's not just a protest, it's a call for action," says Peace, explaining that she picked up the knitting needles because she was so moved by the expression of solidarity after the most divisive US election in living memory. Marchers say they want to vent against an incoming Republican administration they fear will roll back women's rights.

The PussyHat Project all began when two California women went online to post a knitting pattern for a "unique collective visual statement" for the march, which is being attended by the likes of Katy Perry, Julianne Moore and Cher. Since then, the response has been overwhelming. Organizers chose the play on words for "pussy-cat" and "pussy" in an attempt to claim back the derogatory term for female genitalia that Trump used about groping women in a leaked "Access Hollywood" tape.

#### Reclaim the word

At Knitty City, a cozy yarn studio in Manhattan, about 20 women wearing pink "pussyhats" gossip together as they knit hats for other protesters. "It's very emotional," Peace told AFP, shedding a tear. "We are trying to take back the word pussy and I think unfortunately a lot of us has been grabbed in the pussy and I think it's really important that we stand together." The vast majority of New York voted for Trump's rival, Democratic former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, who won the popular vote but lost her bid to become the first woman president of the world's most powerful democracy. "One hat is a curiosity, but 100,000 hats is a movement," says Maxine Levinson, 68, who has already made 15 of them and who has been teaching at Knitty City since the store opened.

"Knitting is a way to alleviate your anxiety, to alleviate the anger that you might have," she explains. "It's a connection with women that are marching." Despite sex assault allegations, fat-shaming a former beauty queen and taking a controversial stance on abortion, Trump won 42 percent of the women's vote and a majority — 53 percent of votes from white women. Millions of women who did not vote for him now worry that gender rights and other progress on women's health care, access to contraception and abortion could be chipped away under his administration.

"We still don't have financial equality, we want that in the workplace, but more importantly we don't want to see the rights we fought and have won for taken away," said Levinson. "We want health care, to support Planned Parenthood. We don't want the government to tell us what we can and can't do with our bodies," she said. —AFP



New York: A group of women gather at Knitty City in New York to make their pink Pussyhats in preparation for protests, in Washington and New York, for women's rights following the election of Donald Trump. —AFP

## TRUMP COULD ENACT SWEEPING CHANGES TO ENVIRONMENT POLICY

**MIAMI:** President-elect Donald Trump could enact sweeping changes to environmental policy in the beginning days of his administration, with far-reaching effects both in the United States and around the world, experts say. Even though the pro-oil Republican billionaire is buoyed by a partisan majority in Congress, he won't need the support of lawmakers for a host of changes he could make by presidential fiat. But experts admit it is impossible to predict Trump's first steps after his inauguration today.

Even though he declared climate change a "hoax" perpetrated by the Chinese during a speech in 2012, he has since said he was joking. He also told the *New York Times* that he would keep an open mind to the 2015 Paris climate deal, and that climate change might be influenced by human activity. A key pledge of his during the campaign was to "cancel" the 2015 Paris accord, but during confirmation hearings this month, his nominee for Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, said he felt it was important for the United States to stay at the table.

If Trump does decide to withdraw from the Paris climate accord, which saw more than 190 world leaders agree to lower emissions that lead to global warming, he could do that "on his own," said Michael Burger, executive director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University. The process would still take several years. The new US leader could go even further and pull out of a major international environmental treaty negotiated in 1992, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, "which would be a true disaster," Burger added.

"That framework has been the mechanism through which countries have been seeking to address climate change for over 25 years." Trump is expected to stop making payments to the Green Climate Fund, which relies on US and foreign aid to help the world's poorest countries address climate change. On Tuesday, the State Department announced its second \$500 million payment on Tuesday to the fund, as part of a \$3 billion pledge made in 2014. It was the latest in a series of moves made by President Barack Obama's administration in its final weeks to preserve environmental protections, including blocking new leases for oil and gas drilling in sections of the Arctic and Atlantic.

### Friend to fossil fuel

Another swift action that Trump could take would be granting State Department approval to move ahead with the long-contested transcontinental Keystone XL pipeline, carrying crude oil from Canada to US refineries on the Gulf Coast. "The only hold-up for the Keystone pipeline was the Obama administration's denial," said Brendan Collins, an environmental lawyer who represents clients in the electric power sector and the oil and gas industry. Trump's nomination of former ExxonMobil chief Tillerson as secretary of state sent a message that the new administration will be "sympathetic on a fundamental level" to fossil fuel interests, Collins said.

In recent days, Tillerson and other nominees have been grilled by lawmakers about their stances on climate change. Oklahoma attorney general Scott Pruitt, tapped to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, acknowledged Wednesday that human activity affects climate change, but insisted the extent of that impact remains subject to debate. Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke, Trump's nominee for Secretary of the Interior, also said climate change is not a hoax. — AFP



**WASHINGTON:** People pass a barricade in view of the Washington Monument as preparations continue for Friday's inauguration of Donald Trump in Washington. —AP



**INDIANAPOLIS:** In this file photo, President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence wave as they visit the Carrier factory in Indianapolis, Indiana. — AP

## MEDIA GIRDS FOR BATTLE WITH TRUMP WHITE HOUSE

### 'A VERY DISHONEST MEDIA'

**WASHINGTON:** Trump and the media are digging in for what could be a long and bitter war. The president-elect, whose spent much of his campaign at loggerheads with the mainstream press, has been sharpening his attacks, and the news media is bracing for what some see as a looming campaign of intimidation. Days before moving into the White House, Trump told Fox News he plans to keep tweeting his views as the "only way to counteract" what he called "a very dishonest media." While many US presidents have had strained relations with the media, Trump has made maligning the press a core element of his message, foreshadowing a stormy relationship for the years to come.

Journalists and media analysts expect a White House effort to cow feisty news outlets into submission as the two sides battle to define the public narrative. Washington Post media columnist Margaret Sullivan envisions a "hellish" time: she expects Trump to "punish journalists for doing their jobs" and suspects his administration will be "awash in investigations and prosecutions of journalists." Trump appears to have reached a truce with his hometown *New York Times* after a post-election session with the daily. And he has been on good terms with some outlets such as the far-right Breitbart News. But he has been on a rampage against other news organizations.

On Wednesday Trump took aim at NBC News, calling the network "totally biased" for saying he does not deserve credit for job creation announcements from big companies such as Ford, General Motors and Lockheed Martin. In his first, and only news conference since the election, Trump lashed out at BuzzFeed News for its controversial decision to publish what it acknowledged was an unverified report suggesting Russia had compromising information on him. Describing the website as a "failing pile of garbage," Trump said it "will suffer the con-

sequences." At the same Jan 11 news conference he clashed overtly with CNN, which covered the same story minus the lurid details, denying the cable giant's White House correspondent a question and charging: "You are fake news."

### Keeps us honest

Matt Gertz, a senior fellow at the left-leaning watchdog group Media Matters for America, said Trump showed in one event how he intends to manhandle the media. "He will seek to delegitimize news outlets that provide critical coverage, try to turn them against one another, reward sycophantic coverage from openly pro-Trump sources, and encourage others to follow in their lead," Gertz said in a blog post. National Press Club president Thomas Burr warns Trump's use of the "fake news" tag to dismiss stories he dislikes "may foment a dangerous disrespect for journalists" among the public. Trump's team has already signaled that it will not be business as usual for the media, suggesting daily briefings could become a thing of the past and that the press corps could be evicted from the West Wing of the White House. Obama voiced support for a free and combative news media at the final press conference of his two terms in office on Wednesday. "You're not supposed to be sycophants, you're supposed to be skeptical," he told the assembled press corps. "And having you in this building has made this work place better. It keeps us honest, makes us work harder."

### Theater

Lucy Dalglish, dean of journalism at the University of Maryland, was unsurprised by Trump's news conference outburst. "That's his style, and I think we'll see more of that," she said, warning of a risk the media-and the public-get distracted by "theater" from more important policy questions. But after a cam-

paign where a majority of US newspaper editorial boards opposed Trump, media organizations have signaled they would resist any attempt at intimidation.

"While you have every right to decide your ground rules for engaging with the press, we have some, too," said Kyle Pope of the Columbia Journalism Review, in a blog aimed at Trump. "We, not you, decide how best to serve our readers, listeners, and viewers." The *New York Times* announced this week it would invest \$5 million for its coverage of the incoming administration, saying that "covering this story aggressively, fairly and unrelentingly will be the top priority" this year.

### Has set us free

Some even believe the Trump administration's hostility towards the media may have a positive side effect-encouraging the press to play its role as a check against power. "People see there is a need to do real shoe-leather journalism," argues Joel Kaplan, associate dean of journalism at Syracuse University. For Josh Marshall, editor and publisher of TalkingPointsMemo, fears of a campaign of intimidation and retribution are overblown. "America isn't Russia. And I don't think he can change us into Russia," he wrote. "Journalists should be unbowed and aggressive and with a sense of humor until something happens to prevent them from doing so." Politico media write Jack Shafer said the press "ought to start thinking of covering Trump's Washington like a war zone, where conflict follows conflict, where the fog prevents the collection of reliable information directly from the combatants, where the assignment is a matter of life or death." "The harder Trump rides the press-and he gives no sign of dismounting-the higher he elevates reporters in the estimation of many voters," Shafer writes. "In his own way, Trump has set us free." —AFP



INDIA: In this photograph released by the Indian Press Information Bureau (PIB) yesterday, Indian Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu O Panneerselvam meets with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. —AFP

## INDIA'S MODI REFUSES TO STEP IN OVER BULL-WRESTLING BAN 'NO BULLS ARE KILLED IN THE FESTIVAL'

**CHENNAI, India:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi refused yesterday to overturn a Supreme Court ban on a festival featuring young men wrestling with bulls that has brought thousands onto the streets of southern India in protest. Residents of the southern state of Tamil Nadu say the Jallikattu festival is a crucial part of their culture and are demanding the ban be lifted. Critics say the festival is cruel and that organizers lace the bulls' feed with liquor to make them less steady on their feet and throw chilli powder into their faces to send them into a sudden frenzy as they are released from a holding pen.

India's Supreme Court outlawed Jallikattu last year after a plea by animal rights groups, which have long argued that the event-held every year in different parts of Tamil Nadu-abuses the animals. Tensions have been escalating for the last week after hundreds of people were detained by police for allegedly organizing local Jallikattu contests in defiance of the court ban. Thousands of protesters have gathered

in state capital Chennai and other cities, prompting Tamil Nadu's chief minister to travel to Delhi to ask Modi to overturn the ban.

"The ban imposed on Jallikattu by the Supreme Court came up for discussion," Modi's office said on Twitter after the two men met. "While appreciating the cultural significance of Jallikattu, the prime minister observed that the matter is presently sub judice" or prohibited from public discussion because it is still under judicial consideration. Scores of students from Tamil Nadu held protests in New Delhi in support of Jallikattu. "This is an attack on our culture," said Manikanda Venkatesh, a student from Tamil Nadu.

### No harm

"People who have never been to Tamil Nadu are telling us about about culture and calling it barbaric. The farmers treat these bulls like their children and no parent can be cruel to their child. "This is not a festival for Tamils but also for the bulls, which

show their prowess. Through Jallikattu the farmers are able to find the best bulls, which helps in breeding of native species." Pangaj Easwara, a student from Tamil Nadu, said that while he respected the supreme court, he would not tolerate attempts "to amend our cultural practices". "What is the harm is Jallikattu? No bulls are killed in the festival."

Unlike in traditional Spanish bull-fighting, the animals are let loose into open fields and young men then compete to subdue them bare-handed. Organizers insist the animals suffer no harm and Jallikattu is an established part of Tamil culture. A legal expert said the prime minister could in theory issue an ordinance overturning the Supreme Court ruling, although such a move would be rare. Police say the protests have remained peaceful so far but have spread to large parts of Tamil Nadu. India's leading spin bowler Ravichandran Ashwin and several popular Tamil film stars have voiced their support for the demonstrators.—AFP

## THREE WOMEN KILLED IN CENTRAL INDIA BLAST

**NEW DELHI:** At least three women were killed and five others injured in an explosion in the remote forests of conflict-torn central India, police said yesterday. A 14-year-old girl was among the dead in the blast triggered by an improvised explosive device which exploded after a group of women collecting herbs accidentally stepped on the device in restive Chhattisgarh state. "Two women died on the spot and one died in the hospital. Five more are injured in the blast," Abhishek Meena, police chief of Narayanpur district, said.

One of the injured was a six month-old girl, he said. The

officer said they were yet to ascertain whether the explosive was meant to target the security forces in the area, which is one of the strongholds of Maoist rebels. The rebels are often accused of planting IED's to target the troops patrolling the vast swathes of the resource-rich region. Thousands of armed Maoists inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong are fighting the Indian government for land, jobs and other rights for poor tribal groups, with thousands of lives lost in the decades-old insurgency.—AFP

## 2016 DEADLIEST YEAR FOR JOURNALISTS IN AFGHANISTAN

**KABUL:** Afghanistan suffered its deadliest year on record for journalists in 2016, according to a report released yesterday which said the country is the second most dangerous for reporters in the world after Syria. As least 13 journalists were killed last year, the Afghan Journalists' Safety Committee (AJSC) said, adding that the Taliban was behind at least ten of the deaths. The committee also found 101 cases of violence against the media in 2016, a 38 percent increase on 2015, underscoring the threat against a small band of media workers who put their lives on the line to report events in their war-torn country.

"This increase in violence against journalists has turned Afghanistan into the second most dangerous country for journalists in the world, after Syria," Najib Sharifi, chairman of the committee, told reporters yesterday. The report noted that a shift in the Taliban's policy towards the media was the "main driver of the increase in the level of threats and deadly violence against journalists." In January last year, seven employees of popular TV channel Tolo, often critical of the insurgents, were killed in a Taliban suicide bombing in Kabul in what the militant group said was revenge for "spreading propaganda" against them.

It was the first major attack on an Afghan media organization since the Taliban were ousted from power in 2001 and spotlighted the dangers faced by media workers in Afghanistan as the security situation worsens amid a growing wave of militant attacks. In June, American journalist David Gilkey and his Afghan translator were killed in a rocket attack by the Taliban in southern Helmand province. —AFP

## INDIA SCHOOL BUS CRASH KILLS AT LEAST 15 CHILDREN

**NEW DELHI:** At least 15 children were killed and dozens more injured when a school bus collided with a truck in northern India yesterday, police said. The driver of the bus also died in the crash, the latest deadly accident in a country with one of the worst road safety records in the world. "Tragic road accident in Aliganj, Etah. Over 15 school kids feared dead. Rescue of injured ongoing," tweeted Javeed Ahmed, director general of police in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh where the crash occurred. Police in Etah district subsequently confirmed via direct Twitter message that 15 children had died and said the number could increase to 20.

It is not yet clear what had caused the vehicles to crash, although collisions are a common occurrence on winter mornings, when northern India is frequently blanketed with thick fog. Road accidents killed nearly 150,000 people in India last year, around 400 a day, according to the data from ministry of road transport and highways. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted his condolences to the victims' families. "Anguished by the tragic accident in UP's Etah district," he said. "I pray for those injured in the accident in Etah recover at the earliest."—AFP



INDIA: In this image from video, people gather at the site where a truck loaded with sand collided with a school bus in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh yesterday. — AP





**JAKARTA:** Vendors try to save their merchandises from kiosks on fire at one of the biggest shopping centers in Jakarta yesterday. —AFP

## MASSIVE FIRE ENGULFS HISTORIC JAKARTA MARKET

**JAKARTA:** An enormous fire engulfed a historic market in the Indonesian capital Jakarta yesterday, with hundreds of firefighters deployed to battle a blaze that sent huge clouds of black smoke floating over the city. The fire began at dawn on the ground floor of Pasar Senen market, a sprawling complex of stalls on several levels that was built during Dutch colonial rule.

Fifty fire engines were deployed to battle the blaze, which was still going strong in the afternoon. Several people suffered from minor burns.

It was not clear what caused the fire in the market, which is in central Jakarta and sells goods ranging from textiles to food. Despite the fire, some shop owners rushed into the market in a bid to salvage their goods, while others who were barred from entering by security guards and police hurled stones at the complex in frustration.

"My shop is inside. It's all gone, finished, nothing left," shopkeeper Edwin, who only gave his first name, said. Pasar Senen—which translates as "Monday market"—has been hit by several big fires in the past. —AFP

## N KOREA PREPARING TO LAUNCH NEW MISSILES

**SEOUL:** North Korea is preparing to test new rockets, a report said yesterday, after its leader Kim Jong-Un said the country was in the final stages of developing intercontinental ballistic missiles. Pyongyang's missile program and its pursuit of nuclear arms have seen it repeatedly sanctioned by the UN Security Council. Quoting high-level South Korean officials and South Korean and US military sources, the South's Yonhap news agency said two new missiles had been loaded onto mobile launchers. They were believed to be equipped with new engines that the North tested last April, it added, when Pyongyang said they would "guarantee" an eventual nuclear strike on the US mainland.

The missiles' existence appeared to have been intentionally leaked by Pyongyang, according to Yonhap, to send a "strategic message" to incoming US president Donald Trump, due to be sworn in today. CNN and other US news reports, quoting a US defense official, said last week that the Pentagon had deployed a high-tech sea-based X-band radar system to keep watch for a possible North Korean long-range missile launch in the coming months.

A spokesman for the South Korean military's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the Yonhap report had not been verified. In his closely-watched New Year speech, Kim Jong-Un said North Korea was in the "final stages" of developing an ICBM. He said the country had significantly bolstered its nuclear deterrent in 2016, pointing to a string of nuclear and missile tests last year. Analysts are divided over how close Pyongyang is to realizing its full nuclear ambitions, especially as it has never successfully test-fired an ICBM. —AFP



**BALI:** British national and former news correspondent David Fox inside his cell speaks to his lawyer after his trial in Bali, Indonesia, yesterday. —AP

## BRITISH EX-WAR CORRESPONDENT ON TRIAL IN BALI FOR DRUGS

**DENPASAR, Indonesia:** A British former war correspondent and an Australian businessman went on trial yesterday on the Indonesian resort island of Bali accused of using hashish. David Fox, 55, and Giuseppe Serafino, 48, appeared separately in court in the Balinese capital Denpasar after allegedly being caught in possession of small amounts of the drug in Oct. They are charged with using, possessing and transporting hashish and could be jailed for several years if found guilty. The defendants do not deny the charges, their lawyers said.

After being arrested, Fox admitted to police that he had been using hashish for years due to the stress of covering conflicts. The former Reuters journalist covered wars and disasters in countries including Bosnia, Rwanda and Iraq. "After being interrogated the defendant (Fox) admitted owning the drugs, the hashish... to use for himself," said prosecutor Erawati Susina. Serafino also admitted to using hashish, saying it was to treat the symptoms of cancer.

Authorities raided Serafino's house after a tip-off that a foreigner living there had been using drugs, Susina said. Police found about seven grams (a quarter of an ounce) of hashish, after which Serafino said Fox had helped him buy the drugs. Fox was later arrested and police found 10 grams of hashish in his pocket and at his house, along with a bong. Indonesia has some of the toughest anti-narcotics laws in the world but the pair will escape the death penalty as they have not been charged with trafficking. —AFP

## S KOREAN MURDERED IN PHILIPPINE POLICE HQ

**MANILA:** A South Korean businessman kidnapped by Philippine policemen under the guise of a raid on illegal drugs was murdered at the national police headquarters in Manila, authorities said yesterday. Philippine police chief Ronald Dela Rosa said he felt deep shame as he announced the latest development in the case, which has fuelled fears about widespread abuse by officers as they prosecute President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly anti-drug war.

"They know the whole story of how they took him, brought him to Camp Crame, and strangled him," Dela Rosa said, referring to police officers accused of involvement in kidnapping and murdering the businessman, who was aged in his 50s. Camp Crame, the national police headquarters, has a jail as well as administration buildings where all the top officers are based. It was not clear exactly where the man, who has been identified only by his surname of Ji, was killed in Camp Crame.

Ji disappeared from his home in

Angeles city, about two hours' drive north of Manila, in October last year. The kidnappers demanded from his wife a ransom and she initially paid five million pesos (\$100,000), thinking he was still alive, authorities said on Wednesday when they first announced details of the police officers' involvement. Police chiefs said then that three officers were directly involved and one superior oversaw the operation. The policemen led the wife to believe her husband was alive for months, but he had been in fact killed on the day he was abducted, police said on Wednesday.

The policemen were from a special taskforce focused solely on illegal drugs stationed at Camp Crame. The incident has shocked and angered the South Korean government, with Foreign Minister Yun Byung-Se demanding those behind the crime be brought to justice. Dela Rosa expressed deep regret yesterday. "I want to just disappear from the face of the Earth because

I am so ashamed of what my people did," he said. The police force have been under intense scrutiny as the frontline troops in Duterte's efforts to eradicate illegal drugs in society, with human rights groups accusing them of mass extrajudicial killings.

Police have reported killing 2,250 drug suspects since Duterte assumed office, with 3,710 others murdered by unknown suspects who at times have left signs at the crime scenes accusing their victims of being drug dealers or addicts. Duterte has promised to protect police from prosecution if they are charged with murder for killing a drug suspect, leading to fears corrupt officers feel they have a green light to commit crimes in the name of the drug war. Duterte yesterday reiterated his support for police. "I won't neglect my police. If you work in the performance of your duty, I will protect you. You have no problem," he told police officials. Duterte has not commented directly on Ji's murder. —AFP

# S KOREA COURT REJECTS ARREST WARRANT FOR SAMSUNG HEIR

‘FAIR RULING, REQUIREMENT FOR ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT’

**SEOUL:** A South Korean court yesterday refused to authorize the arrest of the heir to the Samsung business empire, in a setback to prosecutors probing a corruption scandal engulfing President Park Geun-Hye. Officials on Monday sought the arrest of Lee Jae-Yong on charges of bribery, embezzlement and perjury, sending shock waves through the group, which is a major part of the South Korean economy and includes the world's largest smartphone maker. It is already reeling from the debacle over the recall of its flagship Galaxy Note 7 device and reports have suggested it

court rejected the request on grounds of insufficient evidence, which could mar investigators' plan to question Park-impeached by parliament last month on charges of bribery. A spokesman for the prosecution team described the decision as "very regrettable" but said they will "carry on with our probe without wavering". Opposition politicians and analysts questioned the decision.

Seoul mayor Park Won-Soon, who is expected to stand for president later this year, accused the court of basing its decision on the potential economic ramifications rather than justice. "A fair ruling is a

added: "A court usually approves arrest warrants over bribery cases involving such an enormous amount of money and circumstantial evidence." As well as the investigation of Park, the decision could weaken prosecutors' probes into the heads of other conglomerates implicated in the scandal, said Choi Chang-Ryol, a professor of politics at Yongin University. "It would be far easier for prosecutors to quiz Lee if they have him under detention, and eventually build a bribery case against Park as well," he said.

#### Camera flashes

Lee, 48, was seen early yesterday leaving a detention centre where he had awaited the decision for the previous 18 hours, following a hearing by the court. Investigators said Lee gave or promised some 43 billion won (\$36.3 million) worth of bribes to Choi, allegedly in return for the state pension fund's backing of a merger of two Samsung affiliates-deemed crucial for Lee's hereditary succession at Samsung.

Lee and his lawyers have claimed Park pressured the group into making donations, but that it did not expect special favors in return for the funds. In a statement released by the prosecutors, the court said it was "difficult to accept the reasons, need and justification" for his arrest. "We appreciate the fact that the merits of this case can now be determined without the need for detention," Samsung said in a statement yesterday.

#### Merger deal

Choi is accused of using her presidential ties to force top local firms into donating nearly \$70 million to two non-profit foundations controlled by her. Samsung is the single biggest contributor to the foundations and separately paid Choi millions of Euros, allegedly to bankroll her daughter's equestrian training in Germany. Prosecutors have been probing whether Samsung's payments were aimed at securing government approval for the controversial merger of Cheil Industries and Samsung C&T in 2015. — AFP



**UIWANG, South Korea:** Lee Jae-yong, right, a vice chairman of Samsung Electronics Co leaves from a detention centre after waiting for the court's decision in Uiwang, South Korea, yesterday. —AP

could face sanctions from overseas authorities if Lee is punished.

Lee, who became Samsung's de facto head after his father suffered a heart attack in 2014, is accused of bribing Choi Soon-Sil, Park's secret confidante at the centre of the scandal, and receiving policy favours from Park in return. But the

requirement for economic improvement," he said on Facebook. "A country that tolerates corruption cannot do well economically." Samsung is South Korea's largest business group and its revenue is equivalent to about a fifth of the country's GDP. Kim Nam-Geun, a Seoul lawyer and a political commentator,



**HANOI:** Activists place chrysanthemums and pray during a rally marking the 42nd anniversary of the 1974 naval battle between China and then-South Vietnamese troops over the Parcel Islands, in Hanoi yesterday. —AFP

## ARRESTS AS VIETNAM BREAKS UP ANTI-CHINA RALLY

**HANOI:** Vietnamese police yesterday scuffled with activists marking the 1974 Chinese invasion of a disputed island chain as they arrested several people and dispersed journalists. About 100 people gathered in central Hanoi for the 43rd anniversary of the Chinese takeover of the Parcel islands in the South China Sea-territory claimed by both nations that remains a diplomatic flashpoint. In a rare act of public defiance in the communist nation, activists chanted "Down with the invaders!" and held banners against the "age-old enemy" near the capital's Hoan Kiem Lake.

Plainclothes police swiftly swooped in, snatching banners away and hauling at least a dozen people into a nearby bus. Journalists were unceremoniously ordered to leave the scene and turn off cameras. Though Hanoi and Beijing routinely trade barbs over contested territory in the South China Sea, Vietnam often breaks up anti-China protests to avoid stoking anger from regional powerhouse China. The Parcels remain a bitter bone of contention between the neighbors. China has controlled the islands since invading them shortly after US-backed Vietnamese soldiers withdrew in 1974.

The attack left 70 Vietnamese soldiers dead. Activists called on Vietnam to take a tougher stance with China. "I think Vietnam must be determined towards China... to get back Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Islands," said activist Pham Van Troi, 46, using Vietnamese names for the Parcels and the nearby Spratly islands, which are also disputed. Beijing lays claim to virtually all of the South China Sea, and has built up islands capable of hosting military installations.

The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have also sparred with Beijing over territory in the disputed waterway. Tensions have eased slightly in recent months but the issue remains a potential global flashpoint. In 2014 China moved a controversial oil rig into contested territory, prompting deadly riots in Vietnam. Last week Chinese state media reacted with fury to comments by US secretary of state nominee Rex Tillerson that he would seek to deny Beijing access to the artificial islands it has built up in the contested sea. —AFP

# HONG KONG'S MR. PRINGLES ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP BID

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong's former finance chief John Tsang announced yesterday his bid to run for leader, promising to resolve conflict after a tumultuous period which has seen major anti-Beijing protests. The city has become sharply divided under outgoing chief executive Leung Chun-ying, who opponents cast as a puppet of the Chinese government squeezing the semi-autonomous city's freedoms. Nicknamed "Mr. Pringles" for his resemblance to the crisp brand's mascot, a smiling Tsang, 65, held up his phone to reveal a cartoon sticker of himself in the style of the mustachioed Pringles icon as he announced his candidacy.

Tsang is seen as more moderate than Leung, but is still an establishment figure and slammed those seeking independence for Hong Kong as an "extreme minority." He will go head-to-head with Leung's tough former deputy Carrie Lam, who is seen as Beijing's favored candidate for the vote in March. "What I fear most is that the confrontation

and conflicts that we have seen in our society recently have eroded permanently our courage and confidence to seek solutions," Tsang said, adding that he wanted to garner support from across the political spectrum.

#### Historic juncture

"Looking back on history, darkness always gives way to light," said Tsang, who served as finance secretary for nine years. Describing the city as being at a "historic juncture" Tsang said he wanted to stem emigration as residents consider jumping ship because of political uncertainties, a widening wealth gap and sky-high housing costs. He compared their anxiety to the atmosphere in the lead-up to Britain handing Hong Kong back to China in 1997, which prompted some residents to leave. Having emigrated from Hong Kong as a teenager to live in the United States before returning in 1982, Tsang sought to bolster his patriotic credentials. "You all may know that I



**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong's former Financial Secretary John Tsang Chun-wah gestures during a press conference in Hong Kong, yesterday. —AP

have practiced martial arts since I was little-but you may not know that while in the US I once was involved in a fight because a person insulted Chinese people to my face," Tsang said. He

also emphasized the importance of relations with China saying the city could benefit from "a motherland that is welcoming the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation", a phrase often used by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Democracy activists say whoever becomes the next leader will not truly represent Hong Kong because they will be chosen by a 1,200 member election committee made up of special interest groups skewed towards Beijing.

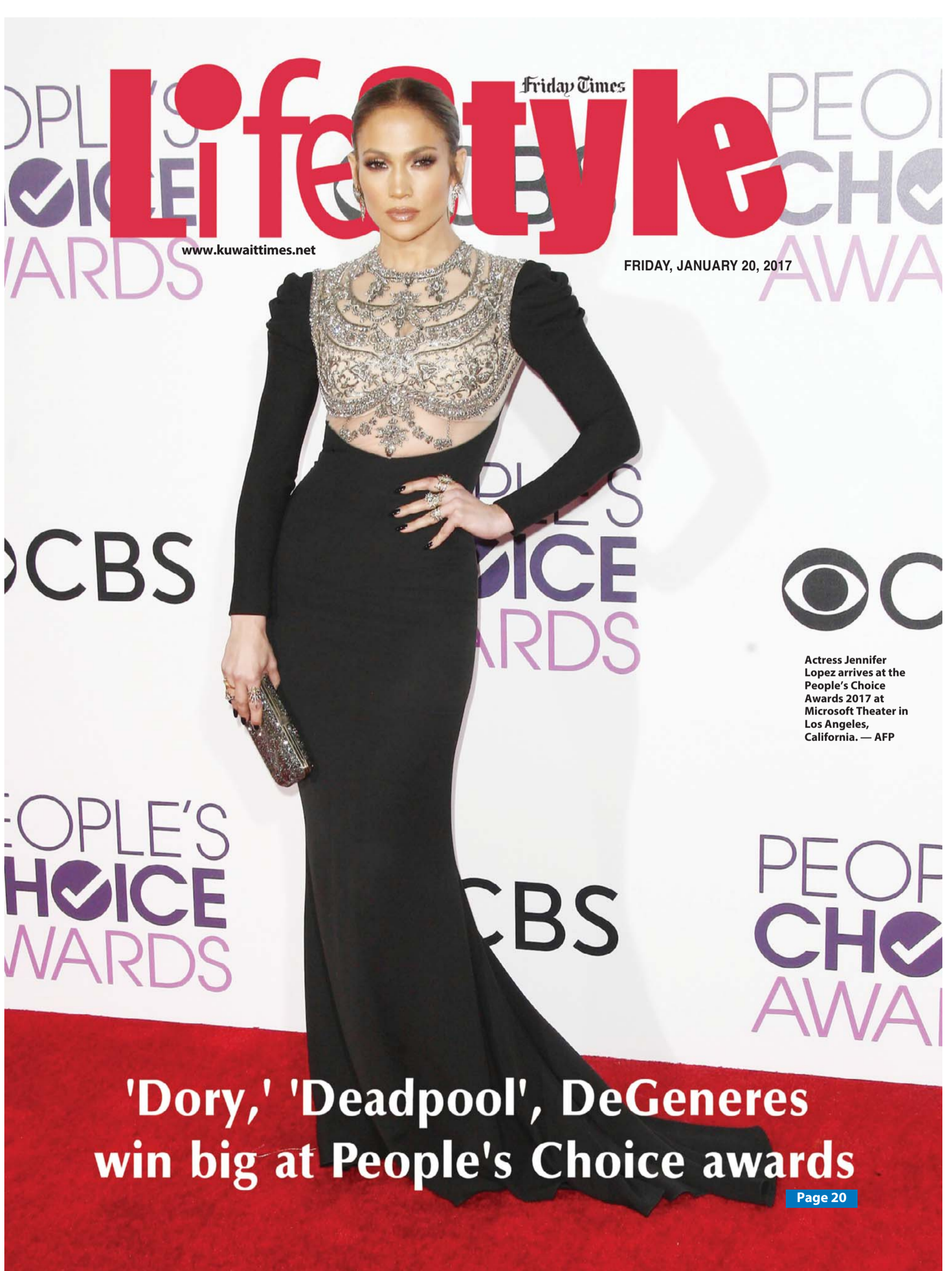
A Beijing-backed proposal which said the public could vote for their own chief executive but must choose from vetted candidates led to mass protests in 2014 and the plan was eventually voted down by pro-democracy lawmakers. Since then, the political reform process has stalled. When asked if he would kick-start it, Tsang said the government would need a "proper dialogue" to see if any compromise was possible. "If we remain in our positions and won't budge a bit, it will not serve any purpose," he said. —AFP

# Lifestyle

Friday Times

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017



Actress Jennifer Lopez arrives at the People's Choice Awards 2017 at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

'Dory,' 'Deadpool', DeGeneres win big at People's Choice awards



Justin Timberlake looks on from left as Ellen DeGeneres, winner of the awards for favorite animated movie voice, favorite daytime TV host, and favorite comedic collaboration, speaks on stage at the People's Choice Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. — AP/AFP photos



Kevin Hart accepts the award for favorite comedic movie actor.



Robert Downey Jr accepts the award for favorite action movie actor.



Melissa McCarthy, center, accepts the award for favorite comedic movie actress from John Stamos, left, and Kaitlin Olson, right.



Tom Hanks, left, accepts the award for favorite dramatic movie actor from Bill Paxton, center, and Justin Cornwell.

## 'DORY,' 'DEADPOOL,' DEGENERES WIN BIG AT PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

"Finding Dory" and "Deadpool" were the big screen's big winners at the People's Choice awards where comedian Ellen DeGeneres made history by taking home the show's most trophies over a career. The awards handed out Wednesday for film, television and music, are based on public voting via the internet, unlike many award show counterparts. Favorite movie and favorite family movie both went to "Finding Dory," Pixar's animated tale of a forgetful fish who is on a quest to find her parents. DeGeneres, who played Dory, won the award for favorite animated movie voice. It was one of three awards for the talk-show star, who also took the trophy for favorite daytime TV host and shared an award with Britney Spears for favorite comedic collaboration.

That made DeGeneres the most decorated artist in the award show's history, with 20 trophies over the course of her career. Superhero blockbuster "Deadpool," meanwhile, won for favorite action movie, while its star Ryan Reynolds took favorite movie actor. Favorite movie actress went to Jennifer Lawrence, who had already won the prize in 2015. Robert Downey Jr and Margot Robbie took the awards for action movie actor and actress. And Johnny Depp was named favorite movie icon.

On the music front Spears took home an award in three more categories: female artist, pop artist and social media celebrity. Television fans chose "Outlander" for favorite TV show while "The Big Bang Theory" won favorite network TV comedy. "Bates Motel" nabbed the award for cable TV drama.

The Oscars, the United States' most prestigious film awards, will be held on February 26 after the Grammys for music on February 12. Unlike the People's Choice, industry insiders chose the winners for those contests. — AFP



Blake Lively accepts the award for favorite dramatic movie actress.



Tahj Mowry, from left, Chelsea Kane, Jean-Luc Bilodeau, Derek Theler, and Melissa Peterman pose in the press room with the award for favorite cable TV comedy for 'Baby Daddy'.



The cast and crew of "The Big Bang Theory" accept the award for favorite network TV comedy.



Johnny Depp accepts the award for favorite movie icon.



Sofia Vergara accepts the award for favorite comedic TV actress.



Tom Hanks accepts the award for favorite dramatic movie actor.



Priyanka Chopra accepts the award for favorite TV drama actress.



Jennifer Lopez accepts the award for favorite tv crime drama actress.



Sarah Jessica Parker accepts the award for favorite premium series actress.



Dwayne Johnson accepts the award for favorite premium series actor.



Kristen Bell accepts the award for favorite actress in a new TV series.



Jodie Sweetin, back row from left, Jeff Franklin, Candace Cameron-Bure, John Brotherton, Dave Coulier, Scott Weinger, Lori Loughlin, Andrea Barber, and front row from left, Juan Pablo Di Pace, Bob Saget, and John Stamos pose in the press room with the award for favorite premium comedy series for 'Fuller House'.

## Winners

**FAVORITE MOVIE**

Finding Dory

**FAVORITE MOVIE ACTOR**

Ryan Reynolds

**FAVORITE MOVIE ACTRESS**

Jennifer Lawrence

**FAVORITE ACTION MOVIE**

Deadpool

**FAVORITE ACTION MOVIE ACTOR**

Robert Downey Jr

**FAVORITE ACTION MOVIE ACTRESS**

Margot Robbie

**FAVORITE ANIMATED MOVIE VOICE**

Ellen DeGeneres in Finding Dory

**FAVORITE COMEDIC MOVIE**

Bad Moms

**FAVORITE COMEDIC MOVIE ACTOR**

Kevin Hart

**FAVORITE COMEDIC MOVIE ACTRESS**

Melissa McCarthy

**FAVORITE DRAMATIC MOVIE**

Me Before You

**FAVORITE DRAMATIC MOVIE ACTOR**

Tom Hanks

**FAVORITE DRAMATIC MOVIE ACTRESS**

Blake Lively

**FAVORITE FAMILY MOVIE**

Finding Dory

**FAVORITE THRILLER MOVIE**

The Girl on the Train

**FAVORITE MOVIE ICON**

Johnny Depp

**TV**

**FAVORITE TV SHOW**

Outlander

**FAVORITE NETWORK TV COMEDY**

The Big Bang Theory

**FAVORITE COMEDIC TV ACTOR**

Jim Parsons

**FAVORITE COMEDIC TV ACTRESS**

Sofia Vergara

**FAVORITE NETWORK TV DRAMA**

Grey's Anatomy

**FAVORITE DRAMATIC TV ACTOR**

Justin Chambers

**FAVORITE DRAMATIC TV ACTRESS**

Priyanka Chopra

**FAVORITE CABLE TV COMEDY**

Baby Daddy

**FAVORITE CABLE TV DRAMA**

Bates Motel

**FAVORITE CABLE TV ACTOR**

Freddie Highmore

**FAVORITE CABLE TV ACTRESS**

Vera Farmiga

**FAVORITE TV CRIME DRAMA**

Criminal Minds

**FAVORITE TV CRIME DRAMA ACTOR**

Mark Harmon

**FAVORITE TV CRIME DRAMA ACTRESS**

Jennifer Lopez

**FAVORITE PREMIUM DRAMA SERIES**

Orange is the New Black

**FAVORITE PREMIUM COMEDY SERIES**

Fuller House

**FAVORITE PREMIUM SERIES ACTOR**

Dwayne Johnson

**FAVORITE PREMIUM SERIES ACTRESS**

Sarah Jessica Parker

**FAVORITE NETWORK SCI-FI/FANTASY TV SHOW**

Supernatural

**FAVORITE CABLE SCI-FI/FANTASY TV SHOW**

The Walking Dead

**FAVORITE PREMIUM SCI-FI/FANTASY SERIES**

Outlander

**FAVORITE SCI-FI/FANTASY TV ACTOR**

Sam Heughan

**FAVORITE SCI-FI/FANTASY TV ACTRESS**

Caitriona Balfe

**FAVORITE COMPETITION TV SHOW**

The Voice

**FAVORITE DAYTIME TV HOST**

Ellen DeGeneres

**FAVORITE DAYTIME TV HOSTING TEAM**

Good Morning America

**FAVORITE LATE NIGHT TALK SHOW HOST**

Jimmy Fallon

**FAVORITE ANIMATED TV SHOW**

The Simpsons

**FAVORITE ACTOR IN A NEW TV SERIES**

Matt LeBlanc

**FAVORITE ACTRESS IN A NEW TV SERIES**

Kristen Bell

**FAVORITE NEW TV COMEDY**

Man with a Plan

**FAVORITE NEW TV DRAMA**

This Is Us

**MUSIC**

**FAVORITE MALE ARTIST**

Justin Timberlake

**FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST**

Britney Spears

**FAVORITE GROUP**

Fifth Harmony

**FAVORITE BREAKOUT ARTIST**

Niall Horan

**FAVORITE MALE COUNTRY ARTIST**

Blake Shelton

**FAVORITE FEMALE COUNTRY ARTIST**

Carrie Underwood

**FAVORITE COUNTRY GROUP**

Little Big Town

**FAVORITE POP ARTIST**

Britney Spears

**FAVORITE HIP-HOP ARTIST**

G-Eazy

**FAVORITE R&B ARTIST**

Rihanna

**FAVORITE ALBUM**

If I'm Honest / Blake Shelton

**FAVORITE SONG**

"Can't Stop the Feeling" / Justin Timberlake

**DIGITAL**

**FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA CELEBRITY**

Britney Spears

**FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA STAR**

Cameron Dallas

**FAVORITE YOUTUBE STAR**

Lilly Singh

**FAVORITE COMEDIC COLLABORATION**

Ellen DeGeneres and Britney Spears' Mall Mischief



Ellen DeGeneres, winner of the awards for favorite animated movie voice, favorite daytime TV host, and favorite comedic collaboration, poses in the press room at the People's Choice Awards.



Matt Cook, from left, Grace Kaufman, Hala Finley, Matthew McCann, Matt LeBlanc, Liza Snyder, Diana Maria Riva, and Kevin Nealon pose in the press room with the award for favorite new TV comedy for 'Man with a Plan'.



Justin Timberlake poses in the press room with the awards for favorite song for 'Can't Stop the Feeling' and favorite male artist.



Lilly Singh poses in the press room with the award for favorite YouTube star.



Jodie Sweetin



Tyler Perry accepts the award for favorite humanitarian.



Host Joel McHale speaks at the People's Choice Awards.



Ally Brooke, from left, Normani Kordei, Lauren Jauregui, and Dinah Jane of the musical group Fifth Harmony winners of favorite group.



Host Joel McHale speaks onstage.



(From left) Actors Bob Saget, Dave Coulier and John Stamos pose in the press room.



Chrissy Metz, from left, Lonnie Chavis, and Chris Sullivan pose in the press room with the award for favorite new TV drama.



Blake Shelton performs at the People's Choice Awards.



Actress Jada Pinkett Smith speaks onstage.



Blake Shelton accepts the awards for favorite album for "If I'm Honest" and favorite country male artist.

## Paul McCartney sues to take back Beatles catalogue

Paul McCartney on Wednesday filed a lawsuit to secure the copyright to the Beatles back catalogue in a case that could have wide ramifications for the music industry. The complicated dispute centers around the US Copyright Act of 1976 which aimed to address pop music's checkered history with artists by ensuring long-term rights for songwriters and their heirs. Under the law, artists could reclaim copyright for songs 35 years after they gave them away-or 56 years for tracks from before 1978.

But in a startling win for publishers, a British court in December refused to grant Duran Duran the US rights to the pop group's early hits-such as "Rio" and the James Bond theme "A View to a Kill"-on the grounds that the US act did not apply in Britain. McCartney filed the lawsuit in a federal court in New York against Sony ATV Music Publishing, which was also involved in the Duran Duran case, in a bid to guarantee the transfer of copyright.

Next year will mark 56 years, the timeframe spelled out in the US Copyright Act, since the Beatles released their first single, "Love Me Do," in 1962. The lawsuit said that the CEO of Sony ATV encountered McCartney's lawyer at a con-

cert shortly before the Duran Duran decision and hinted that the publisher would fight harder in light of the British case. The lawsuit said that McCartney had asked Sony ATV to make clear that it recognized the former Beatle's notices that he planned to terminate publishing contracts under the US law.

"Defendants have refused to provide such confirmation," the lawsuit said, voicing worry that Sony ATV would instead declare McCartney—who wrote much of the Beatles catalogue with the late John Lennon—to be in breach of contract. The case could have wide effects on the future of payments in the music industry. Publishers collect and distribute royalties to songwriters—an especially lucrative area for classic tunes. Sony ATV has rights to millions of songs including those by other top names in rock history including Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye and Bob Dylan.

Ironically, Jackson bought rights to Beatles songs after a leisurely chat with McCartney who explained the importance of music publishing. Sony ATV was initially a joint venture with Jackson. Japan's Sony Corp. last year bought out the late King of Pop's 50 percent stake from his estate for \$750 million. — AFP



This file photo shows British musician and former Beatles' member Paul McCartney performing on stage at the Bercy stadium in Paris. — AFP



Photo shows the members of Lady Antebellum, from left, Dave Haywood, Hillary Scott, and Charles Kelley pose in Nashville, Tenn. — AP

## After short hiatus, Lady Antebellum is back with new music

The short hiatus country vocal trio Lady Antebellum announced in 2015 kept them apart for longer than they had been in a decade. Hillary Scott and Charles Kelley went in different directions on their solo albums, while Dave Haywood honed his skills as a producer. So when they did reunite in the studio last year, they spent as much time together as possible. "We lived together for two months pretty much, half of it in Florida and half of the other time we wrote and recorded in Los Angeles," Scott, 30, said.

"Dave cooked for us," Kelley, 35, said. "And all kinds of craft cocktails," Haywood, 34, added. "It was like adult summer camp," Kelley said. Yesterday, the Grammy-winning vocal group released a new single, "You Look Good," from their forthcoming album "Heart Break," coming out June 9, which is their first new album since their 2014 album, "747." The single mixes a dazzling horn section with a swaggering bass riff that reflects the band's sun-filled days in the Hollywood Hills and white sand beaches of Florida. "I think we wrote half the record, the majority of half the record, in three or four days when we were down in Florida," Kelley said.

"Nine songs in four days," Scott said. The time apart, however brief, was just the reset the band needed after a decade of grinding through five studio albums and numerous arena tours. Following major success early on with their multi-platinum hit crossover song and album "Need You Now," the trio that formed in their 20s became accustomed to writing songs together on the road and quickly recording during breaks at home in Nashville.

"Writing while you're touring, which we've done a lot, after a while can become a little tiresome," Haywood said. Kelley said writing that way felt disjointed. "You're always having to write in little chunks," Kelley said. "So you'll start a song, then you'll do the next verse after a little while and then you've got to go somewhere and do a meet and greet." But living together for weeks on end without the pressure of performing every weekend and away from the daily demands of Music City enabled them to explore more challenging musical material. It also helped to have a demanding producer in busbee, who has been producing pop and R&B-influenced country records with Maren Morris and Keith Urban.

"He just pushed us, vocally and lyrically," Kelley said. "I got really frustrated with him at times and that's what he loves. He cherished every time I would argue against him." This year, they'll embark on their next world tour, which starts in May in Bakersfield, California, and will take them to Canada, Europe and South Africa. For the first time, all three singers will be bringing along their children for parts of the tour. "It's so much fun watching them play with each other and sometimes share, sometimes not," said Haywood.

But the band says it's too early to tell if their kids have inherited their musical talents. Kelley's son Ward is almost 1, while Scott's daughter is 3. "Eisele can sing," Kelley said of Scott's daughter. "She's got good pitch. I don't know about Ward. He'll be a roadie." — AP

## Alanis Morissette manager admits he stole \$5 million

The manager of rocker Alanis Morissette admitted on Wednesday to fleecing the singer of nearly \$5 million and falsely claiming the money was used to grow marijuana. Jonathan Todd Schwartz agreed to plead guilty to embezzling the money in court papers filed in Los Angeles federal court. Schwartz admitted that between May 2010 and January 2014 he withdrew about \$4.8 million from Morissette's account without her knowledge and labeled the unauthorized cash withdrawals as "sundry/personal expenses" on accounting records.

When confronted about the missing funds, he then lied and claimed the money was used as an investment to illegally grow cannabis. Schwartz also admitted to embezzling more than \$1.7 million from one other unidentified celebrity and a sports figure. "Mr Schwartz was hired to protect his clients' money by managing it professionally, but instead misappropriated millions to enrich himself," Deirdre Fike, the assistant director in charge of the FBI office in Los Angeles, said in a statement.

Morissette, who filed a lawsuit against Schwartz in May, said her former manager had cost her \$15 million overall both through theft and other malfeasance. The Canadian-born, Los Angeles-based singer said she turned down a "lucrative" offer to perform five shows in Las Vegas after Schwartz convinced her that she did not need the money. She said she fired Schwartz in March after he failed to clearly explain her finances.

According to GSO Business Management, which employed Schwartz and has also filed a lawsuit against him, he maintained a lavish lifestyle that included a \$50,000 vacation to the Pacific island of Bora Bora and a \$75,000 debt from a casino. Schwartz on February 1 is expected to formally enter his guilty plea to two felony charges of wire fraud and filing a false tax return. Although he technically faces up to 23 years in prison, the plea deal states that a sentence of four to six years in prison will be considered by the judge. — AFP



Alanis Morissette



A picture shows architect and scenographer Yekaterina Kostrikina (right) and financial analyst Lyubov Soldatikova examining a piece of wax dropped into a glass of cold water as they hold a fortune-telling seance at a flat in Moscow.



A picture shows architect and scenographer Yekaterina Kostrikina (left) and financial analyst Lyubov Soldatikova observing the shadow projected on the wall while burning a piece of paper during a fortune-telling seance at a flat in Moscow.



A picture shows architect and scenographer Yekaterina Kostrikina (right) and financial analyst Lyubov Soldatikova dripping hot wax into a glass of cold water as they hold a fortune-telling seance at a flat in Moscow. — AFP photos

## Russians seek secrets of future with pagan rites

"A horse's head—that means a man," says Muscovite Yekaterina Kostrikina as she watches hot wax harden in a glass of cold water. In a Moscow flat, she and a group of female friends turn to pagan traditions in an attempt to learn about their futures. By candlelight, they peer at a piece of melted wax whose shape is supposed to provide clues about their love lives or careers for the next year. They then burn a ball of paper and closely observe the shadows cast by the flames on the wall, looking for potentially significant images.

Russian women traditionally hold such fortune-telling rituals between Orthodox Christmas on January 7 and the Orthodox Epiphany on January 19, when believers plunge into icy water to commemorate the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. But their origins date back to pagan customs that endured after Russia adopted Christianity in the 10th century. "We consider that during this time we are freed from our obligations towards the Church since Christ was only baptized on January 19, and between Christmas and Epiphany the world was under pagan influence and people could call up spirits," says Kostrikina, who describes herself as an Orthodox believer.

"That's why now is the best time to try to find out your future," adds Kostrikina, an architect and stage designer who

has worked for many Moscow theatres. She gets ready to melt more wax in a silver spoon along with her friend Lyubov Soldatikova, a financial analyst.

The women are following one of the rules laid down over centuries: those who wish to know the future should not wear any metal objects, such as rings or earrings, for the body to be "absolutely free," Kostrikina explains. Another popular custom is to bake cakes containing coins, peppercorns or a ring. Whoever finds these can expect a year of financial prosperity, exciting adventures or a forthcoming wedding.

### A 'state of mind'

"So I'm going to have an interesting year," says Soldatikova, fishing out pepper grains from her slice of cake. Russians are often relaxed about mixing up pagan and religious traditions which may be a result of the suppression of religion under the Soviet regime, although the Russian Orthodox Church has seen a revival since the breakup of the Soviet Union. Russian women, in particular, are keen on visiting psychics, witches and fortune-tellers. A 2013 survey by the Sociology Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences found that 67 percent of Russian women had gone to sorcerers, fortune-tellers or psychics.

Fortune-telling is also widely described in Russian literature studied in school, including Alexander Pushkin's classic novel in verse "Eugene Onegin". Natalia Shpakovskaya, a 39-year-old masseuse in a high-end beauty salon, admits that she and her friends have observed a tradition since their school days in which single women ask the name of the first man they meet on the street on the eve of Epiphany—said to be that of their future husband. "Once a school friend was really annoyed because the name of the passerby was the same as the ugliest boy in the class," she says.

"But some years later, that friend met a man who became her husband and he had that same name!" says Shpakovskaya, who is married and has a teenage daughter. "People aren't always happy with what they learn about their future in this way," admits Kostrikina. But she thinks that there may be a psychological explanation for some of the signs people see. "Everything depends on your state of mind," she says. "When you're depressed, you see negative signs everywhere. When your whole being is open to happiness, you won't have to wait long for positive changes." — AFP



A Moroccan man drives his Peugeot 103 moped, with a trailer attached to it, in the capital Rabat. — AFP photos



A Moroccan man drives his Peugeot 103 moped through a busy street, in the capital Rabat.

## Iconic moped lives on in hearts of Moroccans

In France it slipped into legend after delighting long-haired teenagers in the seventies and eighties, but in Morocco the tireless moped spurts on despite an invasion of cheaper Chinese scooters. The Peugeot 103 has been around for so long in the North African country that most Moroccans do not notice it. But with its rounded handlebars, spluttering engine and signature exhaust cloud of blue smoke, the Peugeot 103 is to Morocco what the Renault 4L is to Madagascar: almost a national emblem.

"We adore the 103," says Mohammed Ngaire, a salesman at a used motorbike and moped market in the capital Rabat, showcasing the most beautiful specimens of the Peugeot 103 still in circulation. "Come and see, we have them all," calls the 63-year-old, a popular character at the seaside venue who says he was once a "400-metre champion" in running. "The Fox, named after its headlight that makes it look like a fox. The Ninja with its black coat and steel hubcaps. The safe Vogue, and the unmissable 103" Sport Prestige, he adds.

Passersby can also admire the Ramzey, a Turkey-made knock-off. They can even find the antique "Motobecane", whose clumsy appearance and large saddlebags today inspire love in grandfathers France-wide. That one's "a real Rolls Royce. When you have one, it's for life. But nowadays good deals are rare," Ngaire says. The first models of the Peugeot 103 were made in France in 1971, intended for older people living in the countryside. But the model caught on fast, overtaking its predecessors the 101 and 102, becoming a must-have among youth and blue-collar workers.

In Morocco, "they started arriving in the eighties," says a mechanic in central Rabat who gave his name as Habachi. The model "became popular among the working class and low-ranking public servants," says the man in his fifties. "Today it's become a bit outdated. But it's so solid, it still has a lot of followers."

### Pimped mopeds

No permit is required to drive the moped, which can be spotted at virtually every street corner in Morocco. They scoot around in all their legendary glory-starting pedals, 49cm<sup>3</sup> engine, miraculous petrol tank back-up, 45-kilometre-per-hour (28-mile-per-hour) speed limit and all. Some models have been customized in new chrome colors. But the must-have item is a special kit to boost the engine's carburetor.

Urban legend has it that all thieves in the southern city of Marrakesh once pimped their mopeds like this, so police were ordered to arrest anyone riding one at more than 80 kilometers an hour. In amateur videos shared online, moped fanatics from all over North Africa appear lying flat over their handlebars as they overtake cars at lightning speed on the motorway. France stopped producing the 103 in 2011 and Morocco followed suit three years later when it shuttered its DIMAC-Peugeot plant in Casablanca.

Nostalgic moped lovers are now forced to make do with an obsolete if beautiful catalogue of seven models priced from 7,400 dirhams (\$740) for the orange 103 Classic to 10,600 dirhams for a Fox with a pointy nose. Fans can also sign up to a one-week road trip from Essaouira to Agadir along the Atlantic coast for "an adventure behind the handlebars of a moped... between friends", according to the French organizers. But at the Rabat motorbike market, worries are high over a new arrival in town.

For about a decade, cheap Chinese scooters have invaded the country, says Ngaire, with "that aggressive look youth like so much". The Asian two-wheelers zip all over the capital, but at the used bike market, vendors are unanimous. "Chinese bikes work, but they're not quality. They're like disposable razors." — AFP



# Trump waxwork replaces Obama at Madame Tussauds London

**A** Donald Trump waxwork was unveiled on Wednesday at Madame Tussauds museum in London, complete with his signature suntan and yak hair. Dressed in a navy suit, white shirt and red tie, the wax figure of Trump was placed in a mock-up of the White House's Oval Office. With a United States flag lapel pinned to his suit jacket, the model stands with his hands to his waist and a sombre look on his lined face. Specialists were brought in to weave yak hair into Trump's scalp, while makeup artists went about creating his suntanned look. "Since Mr Trump was announced as the victorious candidate in what was a nail-biting and hard-fought campaign for both parties, our studio team have been frantically busy matching his infamous glowing tan and trademark hairstyle in time for the start of his presidential reign," said museum manager Edward Fuller. Trump is due to be inaugurated as US president on Friday, after his surprise victory in the November election.

His arrival at Madame Tussauds's version of the Oval Office saw the outgoing president Barack Obama moved out of the museum display. Along with Trump, the museum hosts waxworks of other politicians including Russian leader

Vladimir Putin and British Foreign minister Boris Johnson. The Trump model is due to open to the public on Friday and remain in the museum until the end of the real-life American's presidency. — AFP



An employee puts the final touches to the waxwork model of US President-elect Donald Trump ahead of its unveiling at the Grevin museum.



The waxwork model of US President-elect Donald Trump (left) stands in front of outgoing US President Barack Obama during its unveiling at the Grevin museum in Paris yesterday. — AFP

# A BEAUTY PAGEANT OF THE SEA IS COMING TO QUEBEC CITY

**A**s the story goes, the training ship Amerigo Vespucci was sailing the Mediterranean in 1962 when the US aircraft carrier Independence spotted it and radioed: "Who are you?" Came the reply: "School ship Amerigo Vespucci, the Italian Navy." The Independence answered: "You are the most beautiful ship in the world." Tall ships sometimes come with tall tales, and whether that one is true may be lost to history. What's not in dispute is that the venerable three-masted frigate is a handsome piece of work and just one of dozens of majestic ships that will be sailing North Atlantic waters this summer, visiting ports along the St. Lawrence River for weeks and gathering en masse in Quebec City July 18-23.

It's a beauty pageant from the age of sail, a spectacle that brings to mind the parade of "cathedrals of the sea" in New York harbor for America's bicentennial in 1976. Early planning may pay off because hotel rooms are likely to be hard to come by close to the event. The gathering will bring a wallop of European seafaring history to a city already steeped in it. Stone-walled Old Quebec, with its cobbled streets, commanding cliffs and fortifications from the British-French struggle over New France, is the only place the entire fleet of more than 40 ships will rendezvous. The event is a highlight of Canada's 150th birthday, which is also being celebrated with free entry to all national parks for the year and festivals of every flavor.

Even in normal times, Quebec City vibrantly



In this file photo, the Italian tall ship Amerigo Vespucci sails past Fort Monroe at the entrance to Hampton Roads during OpSail 2000 in Norfolk, Va. — AP photos

lives up to its claim, "So Europe, so close," and it knows how to party. During the tall ship festivities, the waterfront will be alive with music, street performers and visitors clambering aboard the ships for free tours. Also free: arena performances by the Spanish troupe Xarxa Teatre, a parade of more than 3,000 sailors and even more fireworks than Quebec City usually puts on during the summer.

The bulk of the fleet will be engaged in a five-month-long trans-Atlantic race from Britain to North America to France. Joining them in Quebec City will be more tall ships, based in

Boston and the Great Lakes.

Among superstars of Rendez-vous 2017: the US Coast Guard's Eagle, a cutter built by Nazi Germany and seized by the US as a war prize. It's the sixth Coast Guard ship to be named Eagle in a line dating to 1792. Germany's graceful Alexander von Humboldt II, distinguished by 24 green sails, is also on tap. So are El Galeon, replica of the Spanish galleons that for three centuries linked Asia, the Americas and Spain; the reconstructed War of 1812 warship Niagara; the 1928-built Picton Castle barque; and the Peruvian Navy's four-masted BAP Union.

## Millennium celebrations

Both the Eagle and Amerigo Vespucci, built in 1931, were among the 16 or so tall ships that sailed into New York harbor with a vast array of spectator vessels on July 4, 1976. Both returned for the Statue of Liberty centennial in 1986 and the millennium celebrations of 2000. From Gaspésie inland, the St. Lawrence provides plenty of opportunities to see scattered contingents of the fleet under sail and at anchor. July 7 and July 9 are the dates to see the fleet from the cliffs of Land's End in Forillon National Park. The communities of Rimouski, Gaspé, Sept-Îles and Tadoussac, as well as Îles de la Madeleine, are among the prime locations that have activities planned while some of the ships are in port.

Those on the wide river's south shore are almost guaranteed a backdrop of spectacular sunsets in clear weather. As well, the racing ships among them are stopping for several days at a time at ports marking each leg of the competition, which begins April 13-16 in the London borough of Royal Greenwich, Britain, and ends Aug 31-Sept 3 in Le Havre, France.

Their schedule: April 29-May 1, Sines, Portugal; June 1-5, Bermuda; June 17-22, Boston; and more than 30 Canadian ports, June 30-Aug 20. As for the main rendezvous point, Paule Bergeron, speaking for Quebec City Tourism, says the city's hotels could well be full for the event. With flexible hotel cancellation policies the norms, she said, "you can hardly go wrong by booking early." — AP



A photographer captures the vista in the south sector of Forillon National Park, in Gaspésie, Quebec.



A schooner sails against the backdrop of Quebec City and the iconic Chateau Frontenac overlooking the port.



People stroll the cobblestoned streets of Old Quebec in this photo.

# Cauliflower is surprisingly versatile

By Sara Moulton

Until pretty recently, there was nothing sexy about cauliflower. Boiled or steamed, it's bland at best. And if you overcook it, you'd better duck or suffer the smell of dirty diapers. But roasting or sauteing cauliflower is a different story. The veggie's natural sugars caramelize and its tasty inner cauliflower suddenly blossoms. Think popcorn with an attitude.

Cauliflower is surprisingly versatile, too. Pulsed in a food

processor, it ends up looking and feeling like white rice. Indeed, given that it's high in fiber and an assortment of vitamins and minerals, cauliflower is a healthy alternative to white rice.

In the interest of coaxing out cauliflower's best flavor, I have cooked this recipe's allotment as if it were fried rice, sauteing it until golden. The "rice" is then infused with the usual Asian suspects ó scallions, ginger, garlic, soy sauce and sesame oil ó and bulked up with mushrooms and peas.

Wonderful as it is the first time around, this dish is also the per-

fect foil for leftovers. Steak, chicken, shrimp, other cooked vegetables? Whatever's sitting in the refrigerator and awaiting its second chance, toss it in. And if you need an excuse to go Asian, consider the Lunar New Year, which begins Jan. 28. Otherwise, feel free to enjoy this recipe year-round.

## FRIED CAULIFLOWER 'RICE' WITH SHIITAKES AND PEAS

### Ingredients

Servings: 4

1 small cauliflower (about 1 3/4 pounds)  
1/4 cup plus 1/2 tablespoon vegetable oil, divided  
2 large eggs  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
2 ounces sliced shiitake mushrooms  
1 1/2 bunches scallions, sliced thin  
2 teaspoons minced garlic  
1 tablespoon finely grated fresh ginger  
1 cup blanched fresh or thawed frozen peas  
1 tablespoon low-sodium soy sauce  
2 teaspoons sesame oil  
1/4 cup pine nuts, toasted

### Preparation

Remove the core and chop the cauliflower roughly into 1 to 1 1/2-inch pieces. In a food processor pulse the cauliflower in 2-cup amounts until chopped into rice-size pieces (you should have about 4 cups) In a large nonstick or stick-resistant skillet over medium-high heat 1 tablespoon of the vegetable oil.

In a small bowl, lightly beat the eggs with a tablespoon of water, a pinch of salt and some pepper and add the eggs to the pan. Tilt the pan to spread the eggs all around to make a flat pancake. Cook until almost set, 30 to 45 seconds. Turn over the egg (you can cut it in a few pieces to make it easier, using the side of a nonstick pan-safe spatula) and cook for another 10 seconds. Transfer the cooked eggs to a cutting board.

Add 1 tablespoon of the vegetable oil, the the shiitakes to the pan and cook, stirring occasionally. Transfer the mixture to a bowl with a slotted spoon. Reduce the heat to medium-low, add 1/2 tablespoon of the remaining oil and the white part of the scallion to the pan, and cook, stirring occasionally, about 2 minutes. Add the garlic and ginger, and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Transfer the mixture to the bowl with the mixture and return the skillet to the heat.

Add the remaining 2 tablespoons vegetable oil to the skillet, then add the cauliflower and a hefty pinch of salt, pressing it flat with the back of the spatula. Cook until the "rice" is golden brown in spots, turning it over with the spatula, about 10 to 12 minutes. While the "rice" is cooking slice the egg into strips and add it along with the peas to the bowl. When the "rice" is nicely crisped, the peas, soy sauce and sesame oil to the skillet and cook, stirring, until the mixture is heated through. Transfer the fried cauliflower "rice" to four bowls and top each portion with some of the sliced scallion greens and the pine nuts.



# CRAB BISQUE MAKES FOR AN ELEGANT, CHEAP DATE NIGHT

Nothing says indulgence like noshing on some seriously giant Alaskan King Crab legs. They're not just tasty, they're a low-fat source of protein - one leg has about 25 grams of protein, and a whole host of vitamins and minerals (including sodium, incidentally, so a heads-up if you are watching salt), but only a couple of grams of fat. Which gives you a little celebratory wiggle room to add a little lemon butter - mix 1 tablespoon of melted butter with 2 tablespoons of lemon juice.

But all this goodness does come at a price. Literally, crab legs are pricey. So my strategy is to buy them for a date night with my husband instead of going out to dinner. We can load

up Alaskan King Crab legs for less than the cost of one meal at a moderate restaurant.

My favorite way to eat them is simple: steamed and then cracked open and dunked in my lemony butter. The succulent sweet meat will absolutely elevate your macaroni and cheese, tacos, or salads, so feel free to experiment in recipes and swap out fish or shrimp for crab. But, I'm a purist and love that unmistakable flavor of Alaskan crab front and center, not diluted in other ingredients.

But here is the secret I want to tell you about today: after you've enjoyed that restaurant-quality meal at home, keep those shells. Because you can get a whole second crab-dish

from that one purchase by making crab bisque the next day. (Or, stick shells in a freezer bag and freeze them for a couple of weeks, if you want to space out the crab meals.) Tossing the shells in a hot oven for just a couple of minutes brings out a roasty-crab aroma that will create quick depth of flavor for a speedy homemade stock, even if you don't have a ton of shells. (Cheat sheet tip: You can also boost the flavor by adding a little bottle clam juice to your stock.) The stock can then be added to a simple roux, a little sherry and a bit of low-fat evaporated milk for a creamy, satisfying soup that tastes fattier and more expensive than it is.



## CRAB BISQUE

### Ingredients

Servings: About 6 servings, 1 cup each

#### Stock

Shells from 2 pounds of Alaskan King crab legs  
1 teaspoon olive oil  
1 carrot, chopped  
2 celery stalks, chopped  
1 small yellow onion, roughly chopped  
1 teaspoon dried tarragon  
2 tablespoons tomato paste  
3 cloves garlic, smashed  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
8 cups water  
1 bay leaf

#### Soup

2 tablespoons butter

2 tablespoons flour  
1/2 cup dry sherry  
6 cups crab stock  
1/2 cup organic 2 percent evaporated milk  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
Crab meat, for garnish (optional, if you happen to have leftovers)

#### Make the stock

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Place the crab shells on a baking sheet and roast them in the hot oven until fragrant, about 5-7 minutes. Meanwhile, place the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat and cook the carrot, celery onion and tarragon until vegetables begin to soften, about five minutes, stirring frequently. Add the tomato paste, and garlic, stir and cook until fragrant and tomato paste deepens in color, about two more minutes. Pour the lemon juice into the pan and let it

bubble for a minute or two. Add the crab shells, 8 cups of water and bay leaf. Bring to a simmer, cover and let simmer on low for about 1 hour. Strain out the solids using a fine meshed sieve, and set the stock aside. You should have about six cups. (If not, add enough water, clam juice, or chicken stock to make it six cups.)

#### Make the soup

In a soup pot, melt the butter and add the flour, whisking into a thick paste. Allow to cook and bubble for one minute. Add the sherry and whisk as it bubbles and thickens. Slowly add the crab stock, whisking to incorporate the stock into the thickened roux (flour mixture). Bring the soup to a boil and simmer over low heat for 3-5 minutes, until it thickens a little. Stir in the evaporated milk, garnish with crab meat (optional) and serve. — AP

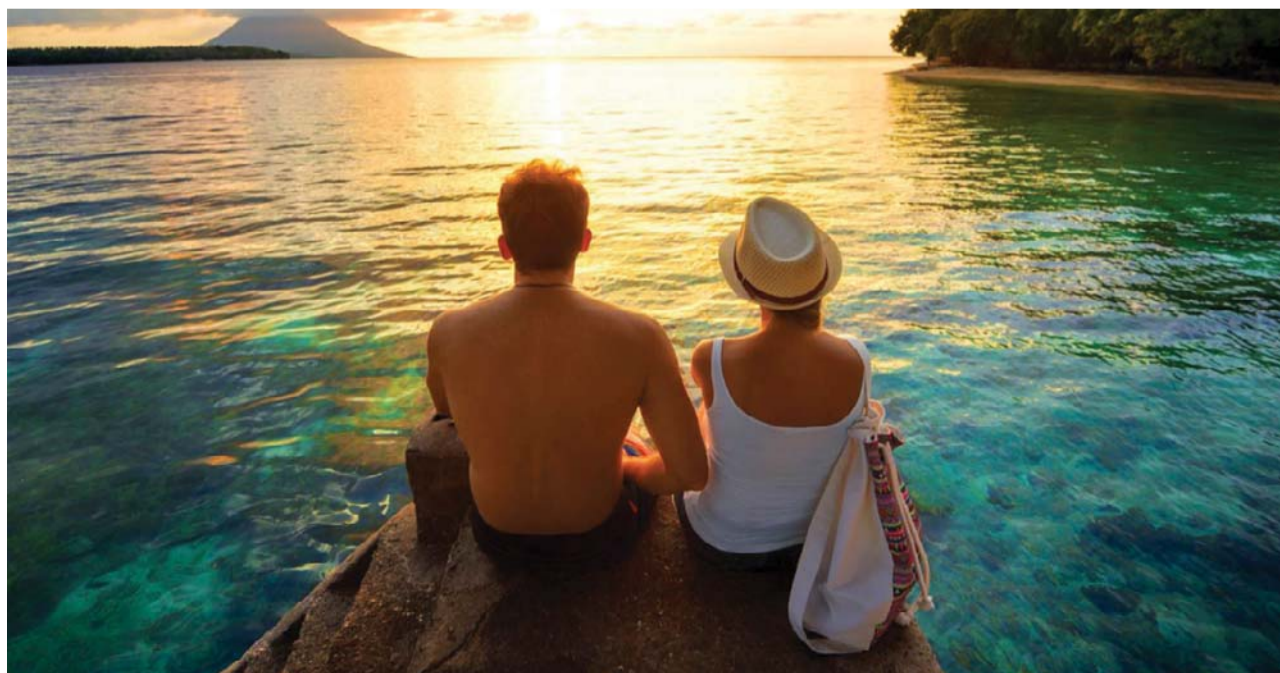


# Friday Times Travel



# TOP 10 BUDGET HONEYMOONS

## Morocco



Indonesia's diverse landscapes offer endless opportunities for adventure

**W**hen planning your perfect wedding day who wouldn't be looking for the dream honeymoon to match? But between the flowers, favors and the flights costs can rack up pretty quickly. With these top ten budget-friendly getaways you can count your pennies without compromising on all the once-in-a-lifetime experiences, dynamic culture and delicious cuisine you could want for your first adventure as newlyweds.

### Morocco

Arabian exoticism, fragrant spices - and lovely low prices. Morocco's hard to beat for bargain romance. Marrakesh, Fez and Essaouira offer time-warp medinas chock-full of character and cheap cafes. Eschew your sense of direction to get lost in the maze-like souqs - the shopping possibilities are plentiful, with everything from carpets to babouches to be snapped up. Converted riads (traditional courtyard houses) offer accommodation with oodles of atmosphere; some are pricey but many are astonishingly reasonable, enabling palace-like stays on a pauper's budget.

### India

Long-favored by the impecunious, India has become more expensive - but, mostly, it's still amazingly cheap. For instance, opulent Palace On Wheels trains might be dear, but even budget 'mooners can afford first-class on India



**Even budget 'mooners can get the first-class treatment on India's railways**

Rail - a Delhi-Udaipur overnigher costs around US\$20 second-class, and only US\$10 more in first-class sleeper.

**Vietnam**

You could get by for less than US\$10 a day in Vietnam and still eat like a king - it's street-food heaven. Make sure to sample the city's signature dishes: beef pho, bun cha (barbecued pork with rice noodles) and chow a b-nh mĩ (baguette) as you wander. A mid-range trip won't break the bank either, but will buy more characterful guesthouses, a better Halong Bay cruise and memorable experiences (a cookery class, a cycle around Hoi An) with change left for a beach stay on beautiful Phu Quoc Island.

**Portugal**

Portugal is liberating. The little anxieties - is that cafe too

posh for us? Can we afford another coffee? - don't exist here. Even in fancier establishments, espressos usually cost less than US\$1, beers no more than US\$2. You find yourself ordering a second pastel de nata (divine Portuguese custard tart) - well, why not? There are cute casas and converted farmhouses oozing charm for under US\$100 a night, too.

**Indonesia**

Numbers are high, costs are low in Indonesia. Rooms might start from a startling-sounding 350,000 rupiah - but that's only US\$25. It's easy to be a millionaire here, so even budget 'mooners can afford plenty of fun. Obvious-choice Bali has great beaches, boutique stays, culture in Ubud, cracking surf. But Indonesia has 17,000 isles! Consider Lombok and the Gili Islands, culture and volcanoes on Java and jungle adventures on Sumatra.

**Honduras**

Honduras is the budget choice in Central America. Inexpensive food and lodgings are easily found. It's also one of the cheapest places to learn to dive. Head for the white sands of Utila to scuba or simply relax by the Caribbean for less; the nearby islands of Cayos Cochinos offer the most romantic escape. Tack on the Mayan ruins of Cop-n and adventures in Pico Bonito National Park.

**Cambodia**

Cambodia is a happy marriage of world-beating sights and budget-friendly prices. It's home to Angkor Wat, for which a seven-day entry ticket costs US\$60 - ridiculously expensive compared with everything else in the country; ridiculously cheap for a week's worth of exploring the vastness of the site's Unesco-listed temples and jungle. Cheap



**Dive over kaleidoscopic reefs in Honduras**



**A floating market in Vietnam**



**If Italy is out of budget, Croatia makes for a pretty stunning compromise**



**Ta Prohm temple in Cambodia**



**Soak up some culture and admire the colourful architecture of San Juan**

beers (US\$1), meals (US\$2) and ever-improving low-cost accommodation ice the cake.

#### **Bulgaria**

Not the most obvious honeymoon choice, but an inexpensive option whatever the season. Capital Sofia has enough to interest urbanites. Sun-lovers can loll by the Black Sea: soft sand, beers for US\$2 - what's not to love? Winter-mooners can hit Europe's best-value skiing: Bansko and Borovets have slopes for all levels, plus family-run pensions, hearty taverns and (thanks to that cheap beer) lively aprÈs-ski.

#### **South Africa**

Safaris aren't usually budget options, but in South Africa you can save by self-driving Kruger National Park's 2WD-friendly roads, staying at rest camps en route. Right across the country, food prices are good and accommodation plentiful, ensuring there's something for all budgets - the winery hotels on the Western Cape are particularly good value compared with those in rival wine regions around the world. The best bargain? The Shosholozha Meyl Sleeper train runs virtually the same scenic route, between Johannesburg and Cape Town, as the luxurious Blue Train but costs a twentieth of the price.

#### **Puerto Rico**

The Hispanic islands tend to offer the best value in the paradisiacal-but-pricey Caribbean. Puerto Rico has affordable inns and resorts, plus super sand and more history than most - capital San Juan is one of the Americas' oldest cities. For extra honeymoon magic, kayak at night with glowing plankton in Bioluminescent Bay. For extra savings, go in May: prices are up to 40% cheaper May to early December because of hurricane season (June-November), but in May it hasn't begun yet. ([www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com))



### Aries (March 21-April 19)

This day moves along quickly as you communicate with groups of people. You will be making decisions concerning issues surrounding young people and will know just what to do. Someone may compliment you on that new outfit and a subject matter involves you in some fun conversations with co-worker friends during lunch. From now until June is the time to create the idea for your book, gather information, read and take notes. You have a lot to say and if you find it difficult to put pen to paper, consider a tape recorder for your ideas-you or someone else can type them. You will have vivid dreams that will be indicators of the future, so keep a record; do not forget to meditate. Play relaxing music this evening-romance is possible.



### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself fussing with others regarding matters of group concern. You may be going against tradition and too independent for group approval. You could let your emotions become carried away under this kind of pressure and make mistakes you may regret. An instinctive urge to get serious about taking care of you is emphasized now. There will be opportunities to sell your personal creations today. Perhaps you are getting ready for a family party by creating some work of art. You will see rewards for your hard work if you can find cool ways in which to display your work. Financially, your outlook is better than in the past. Thanks to your own creative thinking, you move into many positive new areas now.



### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

When you have some free time today, take notes on what is needed in the office. A request voucher may be required and there may be odd details that will bring your attention to discovering what might have happened to the supplies. The changes you suggest today will make a difference in the future so that items are not lost. A voucher to check items out and check items back in may be an important step in keeping the cost of supplies reasonable. Resist the urge to start anything new this afternoon. Marriage and ties to other people are among your central focus now-and there is a lot to learn from each other. You express the need for domesticity, security and attachment in your life at this time: animal friends, human friends and family enrichment.



### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Professionally speaking, business is a bit slow. You have the opportunity to find ways that will attract the customer to your part of the store. Be sure to get approval for what you want to do to your arena and add lots of color for added appeal. There may already be some advertisement that was placed off to the side in storage somewhere. This may only last a few days but you will come up with just the right solution. Being in touch with faraway people and places satisfies an intellectual yearning. Relatives at a distance may be thinking about you, for there is a strong telepathy trend on this day. Others are drawn to you, almost magnetically, by your charm and good humor. What you should be buying and not buying is in strong focus.



### Leo (July 23-August 22)

You will assert yourself with confidence today. Other people listen and see the importance of doing things your way and they will back you on your project. You stay up-to-date with the times as you constantly gather information through reading as well as networking with educated friends in the business world. You know a little about a wide variety of things and you enjoy conversations that increase your information. This satisfies a need for mental stimulation. This afternoon is one of the best days for love and passion. Take lunch, if possible, with your loved one. Spend special time with each other. Whatever it takes, begin a habit that will improve or deepen your relationship in a surrounding with no interruptions and lots of good smells.



### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Control within your workplace has possibilities this day. The question is, who has control and how do you get it, you may soon learn that the educated and the experienced mind will change places for control from time to time. The best thing to do is to go with the flow and have confidence in your own abilities. You will shine when it is time. The energies for a new project are positive and you could accomplish much more than you had planned. The people you help this day have interests similar to your own and much communication can be enjoyed. You are energetic and resourceful and it is only a matter of time before that perfect house, or some other long-time desire will be found. This evening, you find an old recipe book and you cook.



### Libra (September 23-October 22)

Repairs at work or near your work may create so much of a distraction that it is difficult to focus. An end to the repair situation will come about in the afternoon. There is plenty of time to get important calls made and transactions completed. You may be running a bit late as you leave work this evening but you will have a good feeling about staying late and getting several things accomplished. You enjoy your family and friends and may have some sort of commitment for tonight. You might be happiest if you met your family or friends at the theatre or performance place instead of going home first. Stop and pick up a little snack and a package of mints and you will be good to go and no complaints to be found. Enjoy the entertainment.



### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

As you think back on how you handled a recent difficulty and how you solved problems from the past, you have a good sense of accomplishment. Giving a lecture or taking time to teach a newbie gains you some positive attention you had not planned on. You may find you have a new talent that is surfacing and it will gain you a little extra bit of income. Stability and permanence satisfies a deep emotional need. A child or lover may come to you, asking for help and the action is very gratifying. You are able to help or guide a person to a positive end result. They will remember and utilize the tools they learn from you so they will have confidence to solve the problems they encounter. This evening, you could enjoy the company of a close friend.



### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Pleasure and popularity are your bywords today. You may rise early this morning to join a bicycle team or fast-walking team for some fun exercise. By the time your workday begins you are mentally and physically ready for most anything. Working with horticulture is a specialty of yours and if you are not a gardener, you are probably in a job that gives you the opportunity to be near nature. Today and tomorrow are the best times to start a diet. Don't miss meals in order to lose weight; try cutting back on the amount instead. As much as you exercise, you should not have to spend much time in concentrating on weight loss. Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever! You are wise to keep control over your weight.



### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are most trustworthy and a relative or loved one is giving you more responsibility now. The secret for this trust to continue is your respect and concern for others. A curious person may be asking too many questions today and you do not respect people who gossip. People can trust you. Keep up the work with the nutritional changes of late; they are working and you are feeling healthy. With a powerful imagination being a little more active this day, you could publish all sorts of interesting poems, music lyrics, etc. Keep a little notebook near you to jot down all those wonderful thoughts because there is an opportunity for you in this area soon. There is a surprise change in plans later today. There is a fun energy present this evening.



### Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may be sought after for your advice and counsel regarding a business issue. You will be able to handle the problem. You are able to find the cause and lend some guidance. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others just now and are in a good position to communicate concerning groups and society in general. You may be able to bring a group together with words or ideas. Challenging young people to write poetry and encouraging their artistic talents may get you motivated to do the same. There is a never-ending need for one-liners in radio and television as well as short stories for busy people or the elderly. Go over the budget again this evening and make any adjustments that are necessary.



### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You take on a challenging job with enthusiasm today; however, too many responsibilities can clutter your thinking. If possible, practice choosing the long-term projects instead of setting time limits on an array of projects. Pretend you are in charge of scheduling servers at a dinner and establish a balance between your basic personal needs and the demands you feel from others-leave room for inserts from time to time. Demands at work are furious, so work on pacing yourself, initiating help and creating a balance. Friends or a friend can be great company this afternoon. You will have a second chance to deal with a personal issue today. Romance can be fun tonight. A secret wish or dream could come true at this time.

## 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 Legend Of Croc Gold  
 02:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island  
 03:40 Fast N' Loud  
 04:30 The Liquidator  
 05:00 How Do They Do It?  
 05:30 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 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive  
 11:00 Venom Hunters  
 11:50 Mega Trains  
 12:40 Guy Martin's Last Of The Vulcans  
 13:30 Fast N' Loud  
 14:20 Misfit Garage  
 15:10 Street Outlaws  
 16:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
 16:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
 17:40 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
 18:30 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
 21:00 Fast N' Loud  
 21:50 Misfit Garage  
 22:40 Street Outlaws  
 23:30 Guy Martin's Last Of The Vulcans



00:00 The Killing Season  
 01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
 02:00 Gangsters: America's Most Evil  
 03:00 Homicide Hunter  
 04:00 The Killing Season  
 05:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
 06:00 Gangsters: America's Most Evil  
 07:00 Gangs Of Britain...  
 08:00 Evil Up Close  
 09:00 Gangs Of Britain...  
 10:00 Homicide Hunter  
 11:00 Footsteps In The Snow  
 13:00 O.J. Speaks: The Hidden Tapes  
 15:00 Evil Up Close  
 16:00 The First 48  
 17:00 Homicide Hunter  
 18:00 Gangs Of Britain...  
 19:00 Gangs Of Britain...  
 20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
 21:00 The First 48  
 22:00 Evil Up Close  
 23:00 Monster In My Family



00:30 Nextworld  
 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 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild  
 08:00 K9 Cops  
 08:45 How It's Made  
 09:05 How It's Made  
 09:30 Nextworld  
 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 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild  
 16:45 Do You Know?  
 17:00 Dynamo: Magician Impossible  
 17:50 The Carbonaro Effect  
 18:15 The Carbonaro Effect  
 18:40 Nextworld  
 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  
 22:25 The Carbonaro Effect  
 22:50 What Happened Next?  
 23:15 What Happened Next?  
 23:40 Ultimate Survival



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 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
 08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
 08:20 Elena Of Avalor  
 08:45 Bunk'd  
 09:10 Gravity Falls  
 09:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place  
 10:25 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 Sky High  
 19:20 Disney Mickey Mouse  
 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  
 22:05 Best Friends Whenever  
 22:30 Mako Mermaids



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 The Lion Guard  
 09:20 Doc McStuffins  
 09:35 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  
 15:30 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  
 21:00 Unbungalievable  
 21:05 Goldie & Bear



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  
 13:20 Lab Rats  
 13:45 Atomic Puppet  
 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
 14:15 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution  
 14:40 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
 15:05 Lab Rats Elite Force  
 15:30 Disney Cookabout  
 15:55 Danger Mouse  
 16:25 K.C. Undercover  
 16:50 Future-Worm!  
 17:15 Gravity Falls  
 17:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island  
 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
 18:10 Supa Strikas  
 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 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution  
 22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man  
 22:35 Boyster

15:10 Come Dine With Me Couples  
 16:00 Midsomer Murders  
 17:50 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime  
 18:45 Emmerdale  
 19:15 Emmerdale  
 19:45 Coronation Street  
 20:10 Come Dine With Me Couples  
 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 Great Escapes  
 02:15 The Food Files  
 02:40 The Food Files  
 03:05 Trekking Malaysia With Jason Aji  
 03:55 Sara's Australia Unveiled  
 04:20 Places We Go  
 04:45 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 Great Escapes  
 08:05 The Food Files  
 08:55 The Wine Show  
 09:45 Sara's Australia Unveiled  
 10:10 Places We Go  
 11:00 Street Food Around The World  
 11:50 Trekking Malaysia With Jason Aji  
 12:40 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
 13:05 A Is For Apple  
 13:35 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala  
 14:30 The Food Files  
 14:55 Eat Street  
 15:25 Sara's Australia Unveiled  
 16:20 Places We Go  
 17:15 Street Food Around The World  
 18:10 The Wine Show  
 19:05 Eat Street  
 19:30 Sara's Australia Unveiled  
 20:25 Places We Go  
 21:15 Street Food Around The World  
 22:05 The Wine Show  
 22:55 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
 23:20 A Is For Apple  
 23:45 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala



00:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 00:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 01:50 E! News  
 02:50 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  
 15:00 E! News  
 15:15 Hollywood & Football  
 16:15 Hollywood & Football  
 17:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 18:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 19:00 E! News  
 20:00 Rob & Chyna  
 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
 23:00 E! News  
 23:15 Famously Single



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



00:20 The Lakeshore Killers  
 01:10 Killer Shots  
 02:00 Pythonathon  
 02:50 World's Deadliest  
 03:45 Swamp Men  
 04:40 Natural Born Monsters  
 05:35 Pythonathon  
 06:30 World's Deadliest  
 07:25 Swamp Men  
 08:20 Natural Born Monsters  
 09:15 Animal Fight Club  
 10:10 Borneo's Secret Kingdom  
 11:05 Lion Ranger  
 12:00 Natural Born Monsters  
 12:55 Snow Leopard Of Afghanistan  
 13:50 World's Deadliest  
 14:45 Swamp Men  
 15:40 Natural Born Monsters  
 16:35 Urban Jungle  
 17:30 Borneo's Secret Kingdom  
 18:25 Lion Ranger  
 19:20 Swamp Men  
 20:10 Natural Born Monsters  
 21:00 Urban Jungle  
 21:50 Borneo's Secret Kingdom  
 22:40 Lion Ranger  
 23:30 Natural Born Monsters



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 Dirty Rotten Survival  
 08:25 Live Free Or Die  
 09:20 The Numbers Game  
 09:45 The Numbers Game



REIGN OF FIRE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017

- 10:15 Locked Up Abroad
- 11:10 The Border
- 12:05 Big, Bigger, Biggest
- 13:00 Lords Of War
- 13:30 Lords Of War
- 14:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
- 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
- 23:20 Car SOS



- 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
- 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
- 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
- 22:45 Little Charmers
- 22:57 Bubble Guppies



CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 23:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 23:40 Zack & Quack
- 23:52 Team Umizoomi



- 01:30 Area 407
- 03:15 Panic Room
- 05:15 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
- 07:45 Reign Of Fire
- 09:30 Divergent
- 12:00 Mutant World
- 13:30 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
- 16:00 Reign Of Fire
- 17:45 Divergent
- 20:15 Real Steel
- 22:30 The Dead Lands



- 01:00 Peter Pan
- 03:00 Mousehunt
- 05:00 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn...
- 07:00 Santa Claws
- 09:00 Capture The Flag
- 11:00 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn...
- 13:00 Peter Pan
- 15:00 Despicable Me 2
- 17:00 Muppets Most Wanted
- 19:00 Gulliver's Travels
- 21:00 The Education Of Little Tree
- 23:00 Despicable Me 2



- 01:30 Backtrack
- 03:30 Far From The Maddening Crowd
- 05:30 Batman Unlimited: Monster Mayhem
- 07:00 Me And Earl And The Dying Girl
- 09:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness
- 11:00 The Martian
- 13:30 Chloe And Theo
- 15:00 Home
- 17:00 Barely Lethal
- 19:00 San Andreas
- 21:00 Captain America: Civil War
- 23:30 Run All Night



- 00:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything
- 02:00 Just Married
- 04:00 The Butcher's Wife
- 06:00 Overboard

- 08:00 Under The Tuscan Sun
- 10:00 The Butcher's Wife
- 12:00 Just Married
- 14:00 A Lot Like Love
- 16:00 Under The Tuscan Sun
- 18:00 Hot Pursuit
- 20:00 The To Do List
- 22:00 The Hooligan Factory



- 02:15 Ordinary People
- 04:30 Gridiron Gang
- 06:45 Eight Men Out
- 09:00 Ronaldo
- 11:00 Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
- 13:00 Gridiron Gang
- 15:15 Searching For Bobby Fischer
- 17:15 Ronaldo
- 19:00 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
- 21:15 American Sniper
- 23:30 Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas



- 01:00 The Nutcracker Sweet
- 02:45 Bolts And Blip
- 04:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 06:00 Gladiators Of Rome
- 07:45 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 09:15 Tarzan
- 11:00 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest
- 12:30 Bolts And Blip
- 14:15 Worms
- 16:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
- 18:00 Tarzan
- 20:00 Space Warriors
- 22:00 Worms



- 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 Joe Rogan Questions
- Everything
- 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 Joe Rogan Questions

- 07:12 How Do They Do It?
- 07:36 Food Factory
- 08:00 How Do They Do It?
- 08:26 Joe Rogan Questions
- Everything
- 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 Joe Rogan Questions
- Everything
- 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 Joe Rogan Questions
- Everything
- 17:14 Mythbusters
- 18:02 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World
- 18:50 Joe Rogan Questions
- Everything
- 19:40 Mythbusters
- 20:30 Mythbusters



- 00:20 Belief
- 01:10 Single Dad Seeking...
- 02:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 02:50 Love At First Swipe
- 03:15 Cake Boss
- 03:35 Belief
- 04:20 Little People, Big World
- 04:45 Little People, Big World
- 05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 06:00 Little People, Big World
- 08:30 Twirl Life
- 09:20 Sister Wives
- 10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 11:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 11:50 Love At First Swipe
- 13:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
- 14:45 Belief
- 15:35 Cake Boss
- 16:00 Cake Boss
- 16:25 Cake Boss
- 16:50 Cake Boss
- 17:15 Cake Boss
- 17:40 Ugly House To Lovely House
- 18:30 Suddenly Rich
- 19:20 Twirl Life
- 20:10 Sister Wives
- 21:00 My Kid's Obsession
- 21:50 Sister Wives
- 22:40 Weighing Up The Enemy

- 20:00 Mud Men
- 21:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 22:00 Ancient Aliens
- 23:00 Serial Killer Earth

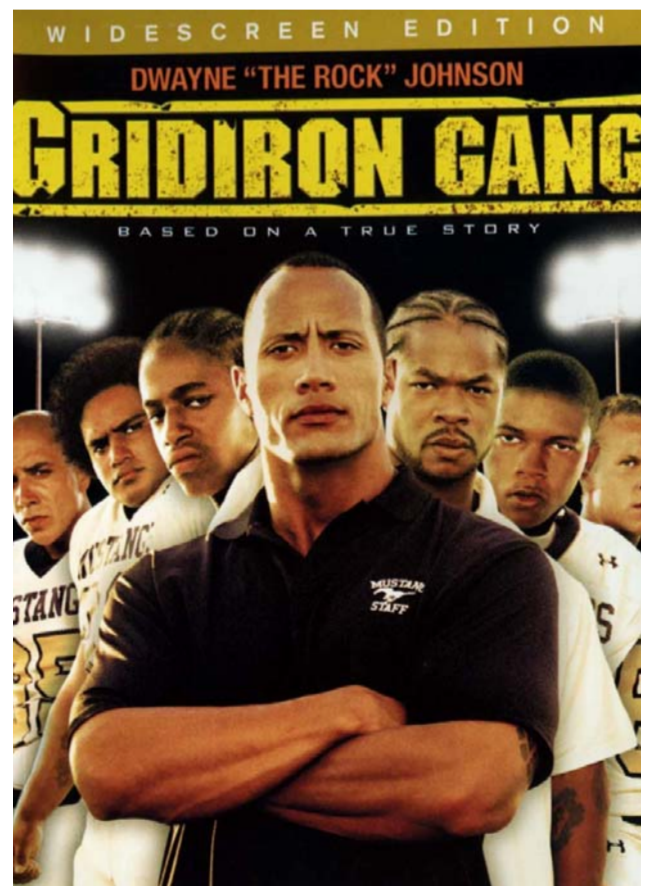


- 00:20 Time Team
- 01:10 America's Greatest Prison Breaks
- 02:50 Storage Wars
- 03:15 American Pickers
- 04:05 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Mountain Men
- 06:00 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 06:50 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
- 07:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 08:30 Shark Wranglers
- 09:20 Mountain Men
- 10:10 Swamp People
- 11:00 American Pickers
- 11:50 Counting Cars
- 12:15 Car Hunters
- 12:40 Pawn Stars
- 13:05 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 13:30 American Pickers
- 18:30 Shipping Wars
- 19:20 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 20:10 Ice Road Truckers
- 21:00 American Pickers
- 21:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
- 22:40 Forged In Fire



- 00:00 The Universe
- 01:00 Patton 360
- 02:00 Mud Men
- 03:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 03:50 Ancient Aliens
- 04:40 How 2 Win
- 05:30 The Universe
- 06:20 Patton 360
- 07:10 The Universe
- 08:00 Mud Men
- 09:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 10:00 Ancient Aliens
- 11:00 How 2 Win
- 12:00 The Universe
- 13:00 Patton 360
- 14:00 Mud Men
- 15:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 16:00 Ancient Aliens
- 17:00 How 2 Win
- 18:00 The Universe
- 19:00 Patton 360

- 00:00 Private Chef
- 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 05:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 06:00 The Kitchen
- 07:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:00 Siba's Table
- 09:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:00 Siba's Table
- 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 The Kitchen
- 16:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 17:00 Chopped
- 18:00 Iron Chef America
- 19:00 Man Finds Food
- 20:00 Follow Donal... To Europe
- 21:00 Bite This With Nadia G
- 21:30 Bite This With Nadia G
- 22:00 Iron Chef America
- 23:00 Man Finds Food



GRIDIRON GANG ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL HD

WORD SEARCH

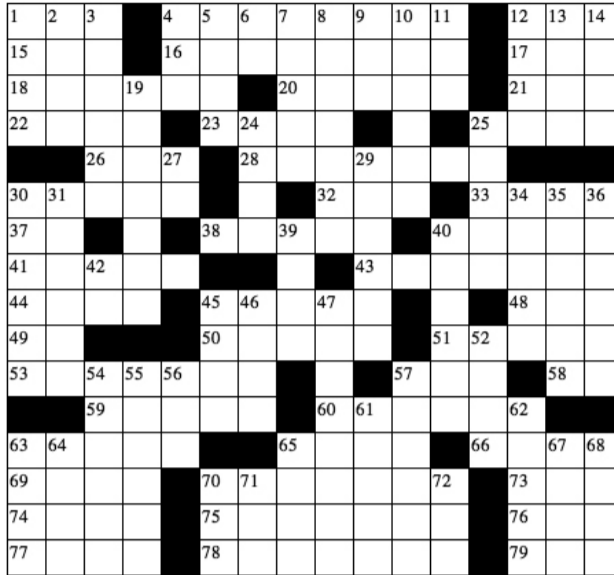
Flowers

Find and circle all of the flowers that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a quotation from *Romeo and Juliet*.

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

- |                  |               |            |            |
|------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| ALSTROEMERIA     | CORNFLOWER    | GOLDEN ROD | PANSY      |
| AMARYLLIS        | DAFFODIL      | HEATHER    | PEONY      |
| ANTHURIUM        | DAISY         | HOLLYHOCKS | PETUNIA    |
| ASTER            | DELPHINIUM    | HYACINTH   | ROSE       |
| BABY'S BREATH    | FORGET-ME-NOT | HYDRANGEA  | SNAPDRAGON |
| BELL FLOWER      | FOXGLOVE      | IRIS       | STATICE    |
| BIRD OF PARADISE | FREESIA       | LAVENDER   | STOCK      |
| BOUVARDIA        | FUCHSIA       | LILAC      | SUNFLOWER  |
| CALLA            | GERANIUM      | LILY       | TULIP      |
| CARNATION        | GERBERA       | LISIANTHUS | VIOLET     |
| CHRYSANTHEMUM    | GINGER        | MARGOLD    | YARROW     |
| CLEMATIS         | GLADIOLUS     | ORCHID     |            |

CROSSWORD 1496



ACROSS

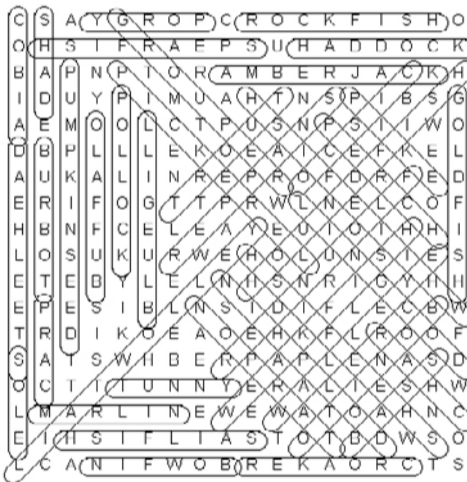
- A rapid escape (as by criminals).
- The fourth compartment of the stomach of a ruminant.
- A master's degree in library science.
- (Babylonian) The sky god.
- Lower in range than tenor and higher than bass.
- A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
- Attach a yoke or harness to, as of a draft animal.
- The fur of a rabbit.
- A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
- (British) An open river valley (in a hilly area).
- Unpleasantly cool and humid.
- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- Educator who founded the first kindergarten in the United States (1804-1894).
- Of or relating to a speaker of the Tamil language or the language itself.
- A writing implement with a point from which ink flows.
- A girl or young woman who is unmarried.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- The capital of Morocco.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- God of dawn and light.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- A heavy silvery toxic univalent and bivalent metallic element.
- A clique that seeks power usually through intrigue.
- Any of several Old World herbs of the genus *Medicago* having small flowers and trifoliate compound leaves.
- A small vessel with a rim curved to fit the orbit of the eye.
- A New England state.
- Russian country house.
- Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
- A poplar that is widely cultivated in the United States.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
- 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
- Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
- Experiencing or manifesting pleasure.
- The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
- A condition requiring relief.
- The official published verbatim report of the proceedings of a parliamentary body.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.

DOWN

- Set down according to a plan.
- A former copper coin of Pakistan.
- Of or relating to or supporting Islamism.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- An unofficial association of people or groups.
- A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
- English writer of stories for children (1882-1956).
- A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
- Piece of solid food for dipping in a liquid.
- Corresponding exactly.
- The force of workers available.
- A member of a rural Finnish people living in eastern Russia.
- A Russian river.
- The act of scanning.
- A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- The capital of Western Samoa.
- The woody part of plants.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- A house of worship (especially one for sailors).
- Reduction or lack of an immune response to a specific antigen.
- Wild sheep of northern Africa.
- Of or related to a musical scale.
- Of superior grade.
- Divulge information or secrets.
- Made dim or less bright.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- A hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland that stimulates the adrenal cortex.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
- Outstanding United States athlete (1914-1956).
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- United States swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-).
- A narrative song with a recurrent refrain.
- (informal) Of the highest quality.
- Any of the terminal members of the hand (sometimes excepting the thumb).
- East Indian tart yellow berrylike fruit.
- The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
- A large bundle bound for storage or transport.
- A sign of something about to happen.
- King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).
- Lacking sufficient water or rainfall.
- A doctor's degree in preventive medicine.
- Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
- Not divisible by two.

Yesterday's Solution

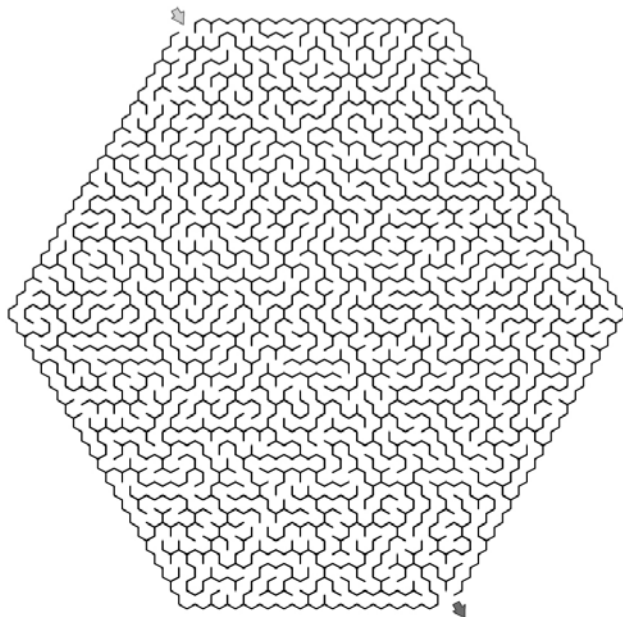
Fish 2



- |           |           |             |            |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| AMBERJACK | CROAKER   | PICKEREL    | SOLE       |
| BASS      | DOLPHIN   | PIKE        | SPEARFISH  |
| BLUEGILL  | FLOUNDER  | POLLOCK     | STEELHEAD  |
| BONITO    | GOLDFISH  | PORGY       | TARPON     |
| BOWFIN    | GROUPE    | PUMPKINSEED | TROUT      |
| BUFFALO   | HADDOCK   | ROCKFISH    | TUNNY      |
| BURBOT    | HOUNDFISH | SAILFISH    | WALLEYE    |
| CARP      | LINGCOD   | SHAD        | WEAKFISH   |
| CHAR      | MARLIN    | SHEEFISH    | WHITEFISH  |
| CISCO     | PERCH     | SNAPPER     | YELLOWTAIL |
| COBIA     |           |             |            |

Hidden sentence: A COUNTRYMAN BETWEEN TWO LAWYERS IS LIKE A FISH BETWEEN TWO CATS

CHALLENGING MAZE



Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

## SONAR MAPS FROM MH370 SEARCH WILL REVEAL MORE ABOUT SEAFLOOR

**CANBERRA, Australia:** The deep-sea sonar search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 may not have found the plane but will reveal more about how land beneath the Indian Ocean formed over millions of years and where oil fields could lie. National geoscience agency Geoscience Australia will soon release detailed sonar mapping of 120,000 square kilometers (46,000 square miles) of seabed that was searched for the wreckage of the Boeing 777 that vanished with 239 passengers and crew on March 8, 2014.

The unique information about plate tectonics would interest geoscientists as well as oil and gas explorers, said Australian National University marine geologist Neville Exon, who has advised Geoscience Australia on the sonar data. "It's fascinating that so much good science is coming out of an absolute disaster and a heck of a lot of money has gone into it," Exon said. The mapping was unique in its detail of the enormous area up to 6.5 kilometers (4 miles) in depth, he said.

Australian marine research ship RV Investigator will use the detailed sonar images, once they're available, to identify areas of interest to collect rock and core samples and work out how the seabed formed, he said. "What'll happen now is that academia will do a whole lot of studies working out what is going on there and they will publish those studies and industry will be interested in those, particularly if they are working in an adjacent area," Exon said.

Before the search for Flight 370, maps of the seafloor in the search area were derived from satellites and only indicated the depth at a coarse resolution, not showing the shape of the seafloor in enough detail for safe navigation of underwater vehicles. These coarse maps provided data at a low resolution of approximately 1,500 meters per pixel. Searchers conducted a bathymetric survey of more than 200,000 square kilometers (77,000 square miles) of sea bed and collected data at 40 to 110 meters (130 to 360 feet) per pixel before the task of looking for wreckage began. Exon said two seafloor features within the search zone potentially contained oil and gas: Broken Ridge and Kerguelen Plateau. But he doubted drilling in such deep water would be financially viable. — AFP

## 'THREE-PARENT' BABY BORN IN UKRAINE USING NEW TECHNIQUE

**KIEV:** A baby boy has been born in Ukraine to an infertile couple after the first ever use of a new technique using the DNA of three parents, the head of a Kiev fertility clinic said Wednesday. The boy was conceived using DNA from his mother and father but also from an egg donor in a technique called pronuclear transfer, said Valeriy Zukin, director of the Nadiya private fertility clinic in Kiev. "It is the first delivery (using) pronuclear transfer all over the world," Zukin told AFP. The clinic said in a statement that the 34-year-old mother gave birth to a healthy boy on January 5 after trying for a baby for more than 15 years and undergoing several failed rounds of IVF.

This became possible after the woman's eggs were fertilized with her partner's sperm, but then their nuclei were transferred to a donor's egg which had previously been stripped of its own nucleus. As a result of the procedure, the egg was almost entirely made up of genetic material from the couple, plus a very small amount (some 0.15 percent) of the female donor's DNA. Zukin said he hopes the pronuclear transfer technique could help other women whose embryos stop developing at a very early stage of development during cycles of IVF.

The boy is considered to be the second "three-parent" baby after a similar baby was born in Mexico in 2016 after the use of a different technique. Zukin said the pronuclear transfer method could be used to help women who suffer from a rare condition called embryo arrest. Zukin estimated that annually some two million women across the



**KIEV:** Embryologist Pavlo Mazur is pictured in a laboratory of the private Nadiya clinic in Kiev.—AFP

world try to have a baby using IVF and around 1 percent of these suffer embryo arrest. "So I think approximately 10-20 thousand women per year could be potential candidates for using this method," Zukin said.

Experts urged caution over using the method as a fertility treatment, however, stressing that it was intend-

ed for those at very high risk of passing on serious genetic disease. "Caution and safety assessment is urged before widespread use of this technology," said Yacoub Khalaf, director of the Assisted Conception Unit at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in London, quoted by the Science Media Centre website.—AFP

CLINIC  
PAGE



Kuwait Times

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (19/01/2017 TO 25/01/2017)

| Time     | Movie/Event                    | Time     | Movie/Event                               | Time     | Movie/Event                    |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------|---|----------|--------------------------------|
| 12:30 PM | SHARQIA-1 AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film | 10:15 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 2:45 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 2:30 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 12:15 AM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 4:45 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 4:30 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |          | <b>MARINA-1</b>                           | 6:45 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 6:30 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 11:45 AM | THE GREAT WALL                            | 8:45 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 8:30 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 2:30 PM  | BALLERINA                                 | 10:45 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 10:30 AM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 4:45 PM  | MOANA                                     | 12:45 AM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 12:30 AM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 7:00 PM  | THE GREAT WALL                            |          |                                |
|          |                                | 9:15 PM  | PATRIOTS DAY                              | 11:45 AM | AL-KOUT.2 PATRIOTS DAY         |
|          |                                | 12:05 AM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 2:30 PM  | BALLERINA                      |
| 1:00 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |          | <b>MARINA-2</b>                           | 4:30 PM  | MOANA                          |
| 3:00 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 12:00 PM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      | 6:45 PM  | BALLERINA                      |
| 5:00 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 2:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      | 8:45 PM  | PATRIOTS DAY                   |
| 7:00 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 4:00 PM  | BALLERINA                                 | 11:30 PM | PATRIOTS DAY                   |
| 9:00 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 6:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      |          |                                |
| 11:00 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 8:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      | 12:30 PM | AL-KOUT.3                      |
| 1:00 AM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 10:00 PM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      | 2:30 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |
|          |                                | 12:05 AM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      | 4:30 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |
| 12:00 PM | BALLERINA                      | 12:45 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 6:30 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |
| 2:00 PM  | DANGAL -Hindi                  | 2:45 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 8:30 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |
| 5:15 PM  | BALLERINA                      | 4:45 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 10:30 PM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |
| 7:15 PM  | THE GREAT WALL                 | 6:45 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 12:30 AM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |
| 9:30 PM  | PATRIOTS DAY                   | 8:45 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                |          |                                |
| 12:15 AM | PATRIOTS DAY                   | 10:45 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 1:15 PM  | AL-KOUT.4                      |
|          |                                | 12:45 AM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 3:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 11:45 AM | DANGAL -Hindi                  | 11:30 AM | SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA                    | 5:15 PM  | THE GREAT WALL                 |
| 3:00 PM  | BALLERINA                      | 1:30 PM  | THE GREAT WALL                            | 7:30 PM  | THE GREAT WALL                 |
| 5:00 PM  | BALLERINA                      | 1:30 PM  | SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA                    | 9:45 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 2:00 PM  | BALLERINA                      | 3:45 PM  | A MONSTER CALLS                           | 11:45 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 4:00 PM  | KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu         | 6:00 PM  | PATRIOTS DAY                              |          |                                |
| 7:00 PM  | KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu         | 8:45 PM  | A MONSTER CALLS                           | 1:00 PM  | BAIRAQ-1                       |
| 9:45 PM  | DANGAL -Hindi                  | 11:00 PM | THE GREAT WALL                            | 3:00 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 1:00 AM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 1:15 AM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 5:00 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE -3D |
|          |                                |          |   | 7:00 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 12:00 PM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |          | <b>AVENUES-1</b>                          | 9:00 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 2:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 12:15 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 11:00 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 4:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 2:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 1:00 AM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 4:00 PM  | BALLERINA                      | 4:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                |          |                                |
| 6:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 6:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 12:00 PM | BAIRAQ-2                       |
| 8:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 8:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 2:00 PM  | BALLERINA                      |
| 10:00 PM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 10:15 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 3:45 PM  | SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA         |
| 12:05 AM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 12:15 AM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                | 6:00 PM  | MOANA                          |
|          |                                |          |   | 8:00 PM  | BALLERINA                      |
|          |                                |          |   | 10:15 PM | MOANA                          |
|          |                                |          |   | 12:15 AM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 12:15 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 1:00 PM  | PATRIOTS DAY                              | 12:15 AM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |
| 2:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 1:30 PM  | THE GREAT WALL                            |          |                                |
| 4:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 4:00 PM  | PATRIOTS DAY                              | 12:30 PM | BAIRAQ-3                       |
| 6:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 4:00 PM  | KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu                    | 2:30 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |
| 8:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 6:45 PM  | KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu                    | 4:30 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |
| 10:15 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 9:45 PM  | PATRIOTS DAY                              | 6:30 PM  | DANGAL -Hindi                  |
| 12:15 AM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 12:30 AM | PATRIOTS DAY                              | 9:45 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |
|          |                                |          |   | 11:45 PM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |
| 11:30 AM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |          | <b>360°- 1</b>                            |          |                                |
| 1:30 PM  | BALLERINA                      | 12:00 PM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      |          |                                |
| 3:30 PM  | BALLERINA                      | 2:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      |          |                                |
| 5:30 PM  | BALLERINA                      | 4:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      |          |                                |
| 7:30 PM  | A MONSTER CALLS                | 6:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      |          |                                |
| 9:45 PM  | PATRIOTS DAY                   | 8:00 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      |          |                                |
| 12:30 AM | PATRIOTS DAY                   |          | NO FRI                                    |          |                                |
|          |                                |          | Special Show "xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE" |          |                                |
|          |                                |          | 8:00 PM                                   |          |                                |
| 12:45 PM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 10:00 PM | FRI                                       |          |                                |
| 2:45 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 12:05 AM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film                      |          |                                |
| 4:45 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |          |   |          |                                |
| 6:45 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           |          | <b>360°- 2</b>                            |          |                                |
| 8:45 PM  | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 1:45 PM  | DANGAL -Hindi                             |          |                                |
| 10:45 PM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 5:00 PM  | DANGAL -Hindi                             |          |                                |
| 12:45 AM | AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film           | 8:15 PM  | DANGAL -Hindi                             |          |                                |
|          |                                | 11:30 PM | DANGAL -Hindi                             |          |                                |
|          |                                |          | <b>360°- 3</b>                            |          |                                |
| 12:30 PM | DANGAL -Hindi                  | 11:45 AM | THE BYE BYE MAN                           |          |                                |
| 4:00 PM  | THE GREAT WALL                 | 2:00 PM  | SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA                    |          |                                |
| 6:15 PM  | DANGAL -Hindi                  | 4:15 PM  | SING                                      |          |                                |
| 9:30 PM  | DANGAL -Hindi                  | 6:30 PM  | THE BYE BYE MAN                           |          |                                |
| 12:45 AM | THE GREAT WALL                 | 8:45 PM  | THE BYE BYE MAN                           |          |                                |
|          |                                | 11:00 PM | THE BYE BYE MAN                           |          |                                |
|          |                                | 1:15 AM  | THE BYE BYE MAN                           |          |                                |
| 12:15 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |          | <b>AL-KOUT.1</b>                          |          |                                |
| 2:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     | 12:45 PM | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE                |          |                                |
| 4:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |          |   |          |                                |
| 6:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |          |   |          |                                |
| 8:15 PM  | xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE     |          |   |          |                                |

### CHANGE OF NAME

M.A. Nijam S/o Abdul Alam holder of Indian Passport No. G1276440, Civil ID No.

278041804378 has changed my name to Nijam Mohamed Meeran, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Nijam Mohamed Meeran. (C5258) 19-1-2017

I, Mohammad Salim S/o Azizul Haque, Passport No

F2525309, Civil ID No 272020116835, has changed my name to Mohammad Aslam hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5257)

### ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation for Filipino Bachelor ONLY near Big Jamiya Farwaniya. Available already, Contact 66826412 or 97512782 19-1-2017

### PRAYER TIMINGS

|          |       |
|----------|-------|
| Fajr:    | 05:20 |
| Shorook  | 06:43 |
| Duhr:    | 11:59 |
| Asr:     | 14:56 |
| Maghrib: | 17:16 |
| Isha:    | 18:36 |



## Hospitals

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Sabah Hospital            | 24812000   |
| Amiri Hospital            | 22450005   |
| Maternity Hospital        | 24843100   |
| Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital | 25312700   |
| Chest Hospital            | 24849400   |
| Farwaniya Hospital        | 24892010   |
| Adan Hospital             | 23940620   |
| Ibn Sina Hospital         | 24840300   |
| Al-Razi Hospital          | 24846000   |
| Physiotherapy Hospital    | 24874330/9 |

## Clinics

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kaizen center       | 25716707 |
| Rawda               | 22517733 |
| Adaliya             | 22517144 |
| Khaldiya            | 24848075 |
| Kaifan              | 24849807 |
| Shamiya             | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh            | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem      | 22549134 |
| Nuzha               | 22526804 |
| Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Qadsiya             | 22515088 |
| Dasmah              | 22532265 |
| Bneid Al-Gar        | 22531908 |
| Shaab               | 22518752 |
| Qibla               | 22459381 |

# Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017



ECB maintains stimulus as growth picks up

LEBANON GETS A NEW GOVT, NOW IT NEEDS NEW ECONOMY

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DAVOS: Saudi's Oil Minister Khalid Al-Falih speaks on the third day of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos yesterday. —AP

## OPEC OIL OUTPUT TO DROP IN JANUARY: IEA OIL RISES FROM ONE-WEEK LOW AFTER REPORT

**PARIS:** Steeper cuts in OPEC oil production are likely this month as producers increasingly implement a recent key deal aimed at stabilizing oil prices, the IEA said yesterday. "Initial indications are that a steeper (month-on-month) decline may be on the way in January," said the International Energy Agency, which analyses energy markets for major oil consuming nations.

Under a landmark deal on November 30, aimed at reducing a global supply glut that depressed oil prices, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is meant to slash its output ceiling by 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) to 32.5 million bpd, effective January 1. On Wednesday, the cartel said that its oil production fell in December but remains well above levels envisaged the deal. However, steeper cuts would come this month as Saudi Arabia and nearby producers move to implement the agreed reductions, the IEA said. Under the deal, Saudi Arabia is to cut production to 10.1 million bpd, Iraq to 4.4 million bpd, Kuwait to 2.7 million bpd and UAE to 2.9 million bpd, according to OPEC.

Iran, able to export crude freely again following the lifting of sanctions under a 2015 nuclear deal with major powers, can ramp up output to 3.8 million bpd. Libya and Nigeria are exempt from the accord, while Indonesia has suspended its membership.

### Coordinated cuts

"OPEC's elevated supply during 2016 helped push global oil stocks to record levels and the explicit aim ... of the deal is to

speed the market's return to balance by working off the excess," the IEA said. "Coordinated action with non-OPEC countries... could hasten the process." On December 10, OPEC also struck an agreement with countries outside the group, most notably Russia but not the United States, for them to reduce production.

Both deals boosted oil prices by around 20 percent to above \$50 per barrel, but gains have been capped by unease about implementation and rising US shale production thanks to the higher prices. On Thursday oil prices firmed, with WTI up 27 cents at \$51.35 and Brent 34 cents higher at \$54.26.

Both agreements are valid for six months and are extendable for another six months. However, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khaled Al-Falih said Monday it was "unlikely" that an extension would be necessary, pointing to a pick-up in global demand. The IEA said the output cuts "have entered their probation period and it is far too soon to see what level of compliance has been achieved." "The coming weeks will provide more clarity." A committee to monitor compliance-Kuwait, Algeria and Venezuela along with non-OPEC producers Russia and Oman-is tentatively scheduled to meet in Vienna this weekend.

### Vigorous demand

In the meantime, the IEA said it had revised upwards its estimate for global oil demand growth in 2016 and now saw growth at 1.5 mbd, "with most of the revision contributed by stronger European demand." In particular, demand was vigorous in the fourth quarter of 2016 as it was "pulled higher by a

combination of resurgent industrial activity and colder winter weather conditions," the agency said. "In 2017, however, we still expect the rate of growth for global demand to fall back to 1.3 mbd," it continued. "The prospect of higher product prices—assuming that the cost of crude oil rises in 2017 — plus the possibility of a stronger US dollar are factors behind our reduced demand growth outlook for this year."

### Oil rises from 1-week low

Oil bounced back from a one-week low yesterday as the International Energy Agency (IEA) said global oil markets were tightening even before cuts promised by OPEC and other producers could take shape. Oil prices have gyrated this year as the market's focus has swung from hopes that oversupply may be curbed by output cuts announced by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and others producers to fears that a rebound in US shale production could swamp any such reductions. Brent crude, the international benchmark for oil prices, was up 27 cents at \$54.19 a barrel by 1015 GMT after closing down 2.8 percent in the previous session. US West Texas Intermediate crude oil was up 25 cents at \$51.33 per barrel, having dropped to a one-week low on Wednesday at \$50.91 a barrel.

Stocks data coming out of the United States sent more mixed signals. American Petroleum Institute (API) data on Wednesday showed that US crude stocks fell by 5.04 million barrels in the week to Jan. 13, well above the expectations of a 342,000-barrel decline. — Agencies

# LEBANON GETS A NEW GOVT, NOW IT NEEDS NEW ECONOMY

## FIRST BUDGET SINCE 2005 IS TOP PRIORITY: PM'S ADVISOR

**BEIRUT:** After years of political deadlock, Lebanon finally has a new government. Now it needs a new economy. Battered by war in neighboring Syria, neglected by wrangling politicians and caught in rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran, the pillars of the economy - remittances from overseas workers, tourism and real estate - are not what they were.

Long-term, Lebanon is searching for new sources of growth, which fell from 8-9 percent to below 2 percent when Syria's civil war began in 2011. Beirut is working to start oil and gas exploration, offering support to technology start-ups and urging its vast diaspora to bring their brains and bank accounts home. But before these dreams can be realized, the government, which started work in the new year after the country spent 2-1/2-years without a president, has an urgent to-do list.

The country's infrastructure has been awaiting repair since the 15-year civil war ended in 1990: roads are clogged with cars, beaches are littered with waste, internet links are slow or patchy and cuts to power and water supplies are frequent. Reams of legislation, such as a hydrocarbon industry tax law and the privatization of the stock market, await completion. Top of Prime Minister Saad Hariri's list is a budget, which the country has not had since 2005, and a better environment for business, his

economic adviser Mazen Hanna told Reuters. The cabinet encompasses most sides of the country's political spectrum and all of its religious sects, making any agreement a challenge. "The first sign of the government's seriousness is if they will pass a new budget," Hanna said. "This is the priority now."

Without one, there will be little chance of tackling Lebanon's growing fiscal deficit and debt-to-GDP ratio, forecast by the World Bank at 155 percent this year, the third highest in the world.

The government's term may be as short as five months if long-overdue parliamentary elections take place on time, but Hanna said it can work on telecoms and the electricity shortages that drive people to hook up to expensive private generators. It also plans to resolve problems with rubbish disposal which spurred anti-government protests last year and the cabinet includes an anti-corruption minister for the first time. The fate of Lebanon's economy is important not only for the livelihoods of 4 million Lebanese, but for avoiding even more chaos in the Middle East: the country is home to more than one million Syrian refugees and half a million Palestinian refugees, and has its own history of instability.

### CENTRAL BANK ROLE

Following its 1975-90 civil war, much

of Lebanon's reconstruction focused on reestablishing its tourism image as "the Paris of the Middle East", particularly for wealthy Gulf Arabs.

Beirut's cooler climate and less restrictive social mores are a big draw for people from conservative Saudi Arabia, but bouts of civil strife, assassinations, deadlocked government and regional rivalries are still taking their toll. An executive at a luxury hotel in Beirut last summer lamented the dearth of wealthy Gulf Arabs and their \$3,000 room service bills. Saudi Arabia advised citizens last February against travel to Lebanon, part of a dispute over the powerful role of the Iranian-backed Lebanese Shi'ite group Hezbollah.

President Michel Aoun, a Christian ally of Hezbollah, said after a fence-mending visit to Riyadh this month he was confident Gulf tourists would return. In the absence of political leadership, the central bank has quietly steered policy, using stimulus packages and financial engineering to keep foreign reserves stable and growth ticking over. It has also guaranteed housing, energy and business loans, testing the globally accepted principle of central bank distance from political decisions.

"This has kept the economy growing for the last five to ten years," said Marianne Hoayek, an executive director at the central bank. — AFP



**TOKYO:** People use mobile phones in front of an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm showing Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 in Tokyo yesterday. — AP

## EGYPT CONSIDERING TEMPORARY STAMP DUTY ON STOCK MARKET DEALS

**CAIRO:** Egypt is considering temporarily reintroducing a stamp duty on stock market transactions after the tax was frozen in 2014, two finance ministry sources told Reuters yesterday.

The comments come a day after the International Monetary Fund released the details of its \$12 billion, three-year agreement to support a wide-ranging program to reform Egypt's ailing economy and restore financial stability. The agreement revealed that Egypt had committed to imposing either a capital gains tax or a stamp duty on stock market transactions by the 2017/18 fiscal year.

"We are studying temporarily re-imposing a stamp duty on stock market transactions pending the return to a capital gains tax, which has been postponed since May 2015," one of the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The source did not say when the levy might be reinstated. Amr Al-Munayer, a senior finance ministry official, told Reuters no law to reinstate the duty was in the works "at this time." Sherif Samy, the head of Egypt's financial regulator, told Reuters he had yet to be consulted on such legislation.

Egypt imposed a stamp duty on buyers and sellers in May 2013, collecting more than

350 million Egyptian pounds (\$18.77 million) in revenue before the levy was replaced in July 2014 by a 10 percent capital gains tax. Egypt suspended the capital gains tax in May 2015 for two years, under pressure from investors. They said it was discouraging business just as Egypt was struggling to recover from a plunge in confidence after a 2011 uprising and subsequent political upheavals.

The Higher Investment Council last year extended the suspension of capital gains tax for three years, until 2020 as part of efforts to draw investors back. Egypt won final approval for its IMF program just days after the central bank took the historic step of

floating the currency. Together, the moves unleashed a deluge of investment in the Egyptian stock market, which has hit record highs in recent weeks.

But the blue-chip index tumbled 3.4 percent by early yesterday afternoon after Reuters reported the stamp duty on stock market transactions may be restored. "Now is the right time to impose a tax on the bourse, as it is in its best possible state. The tax rate will be much higher than it was previously, which was 1 pound per 1,000. We are now looking at the volumes and values of stock market transactions to make it fair," another finance ministry source said. — Reuters

## News

in brief

### Fingerprint policy pushes Mobily into Q4 loss

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia's second largest telecommunications operator, Etihad Etisalat (Mobily), posted a fourth-quarter loss yesterday because of the cost of implementing a government initiative to register fingerprints with phone numbers. Mobily, an affiliate of the United Arab Emirates' Etisalat, made a net loss of 70.7 million riyals (\$18.9 million) in the three months to Dec. 31. This compares with a profit of 10.6 million riyals in the prior-year period, according to a bourse statement. The result beat estimates; six analysts polled by Reuters had forecast Mobily would make an average quarterly net loss of 106 million riyals.

### Alawwal Bank gets regulatory approval

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia's Alawwal Bank said yesterday it had received regulatory approval to set up a fully owned subsidiary that could trade derivatives and repo agreements. Establishing the subsidiary, located in the Cayman Islands, will have no impact on the company's current financial statements, Alawwal said. Alawwal changed its name from Saudi Hollandi Bank last November.

### Saudi's Dar Al-Arkan Q4 net profit falls

**DUBAI:** Dar Al Arkan, one of Saudi Arabia's largest property developers, reported a 23.4 percent fall in fourth-quarter net profit yesterday. Net profit of 37.3 million riyals (\$9.8 million) in the three months ending Dec 31, versus 48.7 million riyals a year earlier. Quarterly revenue 1.8 billion riyals versus 2.2 billion riyals in the corresponding period of 2015. Income fell due to lower property sales revenue and higher operating expenses, Dar Al-Arkan said.

### Egypt to boost gas output to 6.8bn cubic feet per day

**CAIRO:** Egypt aims to increase its production of natural gas to 5.3 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) in 2017/18 rising to 6.8 bcf/d in 2018/19, an official at state gas company EGAS said yesterday. Egypt's current production stands at about 5 bcf/d, the official said.

## SABIC STILL KEEN ON EXXON MOBILE VENTURE

**RIYADH:** Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) remains upbeat on a proposed petrochemical venture in the United States with Exxon Mobil and a preliminary investment decision could be made within months, SABIC's chief executive said yesterday.

Last July SABIC, one of the world's largest petrochemical groups, said it was studying whether to build a petrochemical complex on the US Gulf Coast with an Exxon affiliate. The project would supply ethylene to other units making derivatives.

SABIC chief executive Yousef Al-Benyam told Reuters yesterday that he would travel to the United States at the end of this month to look at the proposed project. "The outlook is still very positive...We will be working with Exxon Mobil to come up with a very strong competitive structure of this project. — Reuters

## CHINA'S RICHEST MAN WARNS TRUMP AGAINST TRADE WAR

**DAVOS, Switzerland:** China's richest man, Hollywood investor Wang Jianlin, warned Donald Trump Wednesday against dragging the entertainment industry into a trade war—saying his country's millions of movie-lovers are key to the future of cinema. The Chinese billionaire joined a chorus of concern from international business chiefs gathered at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland this week over the protectionist leanings of the US president-elect, who takes office Friday.

Wang, whose Wanda conglomerate owns a US cinema chain, a Hollywood production company and the firm that runs the Golden Globe awards, said America would be the bigger loser if the entertainment sector fell victim to a trade war. "The main growth market of English-language films out of the US

is actually China, not anywhere else," Wang told an audience in Davos, noting that China had the most movie screens in the world with 15,000 added in the past year alone. "If China were to retaliate, it would be bad for both parties so I don't wish to see that scenario materializing."

Chinese President Xi Jinping has led calls in Davos for an open global economy as Trump prepares to take power, warning Tuesday: "No one will emerge as a winner in a trade war."

Wang said last month that the jobs of his 20,000 US employees would be on the line if the Trump administration mishandled Chinese investment. The 62-year-old acknowledged US political concerns over his acquisitions, which include the \$2.6 billion purchase of cinema chain AMC in 2012 and Legendary

Entertainment, the company behind the "Batman" trilogy, for \$3.5 billion last year. Several US lawmakers have urged the government to examine the national security implications of such investments in Hollywood, if such Chinese "soft power" is allowed to take root.

### 'More emotion, fewer superheroes'

As China eyes a growing stake in US movie-making, internet billionaire Jack Ma also expressed an interest in further Hollywood investment Wednesday after his company Alibaba bought a stake in Steven Spielberg's firm last year. "I think we should partner with Hollywood," he said as he too held court at Davos. Wang, who has been talked of as a potential buyer of Paramount Pictures, reiterated his interest in buying one of the "big six" Hollywood companies. "These six com-

panies are not in a selling mood," he said, adding that if they were, "I would be a happy buyer". Wang said both China and the US would benefit from more joint movie productions, as these are exempt from Beijing's tight limits on the screening of foreign blockbusters.

Only 34 foreign films are allowed cinema releases in China each year, limiting Hollywood studios' ability to cash in on a massive potential audience but "there's no limit" on co-productions, Wang pointed out. Legendary's "The Great Wall", a monster movie starring Matt Damon, has been billed as the first such blockbuster jointly made by China and the US. Damon, in Davos to promote his water charity, told AFP he would work on another Chinese project "in a heartbeat". — AFP

## CHINA-BACKED TRADE PACT GAINS AS TRUMP THREATENS TO DITCH TPP

**DAVOS:** Asia will push ahead with a Chinese-supported free trade agreement if Donald Trump follows through on pledges to ditch the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), global leaders in Davos were told yesterday. Speaking at the World Economic Forum, a panel of regional experts said Asia must be prepared for a world in which the United States will take a back seat in global trade while China assumes a bigger leadership role.

Trump, who takes office today, has promised to tear up existing free-trade deals and withdraw from the TPP negotiated by his predecessor Barack Obama. Trump has also said he will focus on creating employment at home and threatened to impose punitive measures on companies that move business overseas at the expense of local jobs.

"We really have to prepare ourselves for a very different world where America—instead of becoming the cheerleader for trade—becomes in some ways the biggest obstacle to trade," said Kishore Mahbubani, dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore. Mahbubani praised Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech at Davos on Tuesday in which he warned against blaming globalisation for the world's ills or retreating behind protectionist walls. "It's amazing. In the past, American presidents usually gave those kinds of speeches. Now it's the president of China who does it," he said.

### 'Let's pedal harder'

Malaysian Trade Minister Mustapa Mohamed said that with TPP "dead", countries are pushing for an alternative free trade deal in the form of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

"Because the TPP is dead, therefore all of us are committed to ensure that RCEP becomes successful," he said. "It's a win-win, the concept is a balanced outcome, there's something for everyone." The RCEP covers 16 countries: the 10 members of the Southeast Asian ASEAN group plus their regional trading partners China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India. It notably excludes the United States. — AFP



**DAVOS:** Eric Olsen, CEO of LafargeHolcim, attends a panel session at the 47th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos yesterday. — AP



**DAVOS:** British Prime Minister Theresa May delivers a speech on the third day of the Forum's annual meeting yesterday in Davos. — AFP

## FOR WHITE-COLLAR STAFF, AI PRESENTS WORKPLACE CRISIS

### MACHINES REPLACING HUMANS IN 4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

**DAVOS:** If your job involves inputting reams of data for a company, you might want to think about retraining in a more specialized field. Or as a plumber. After industrial robots and international trade put paid to many manufacturing jobs in the West, millions of white-collar workers could now be under threat from new technology such as artificial intelligence (AI). The issue of how best to face up to this "Fourth Industrial Revolution" has been exercising politicians and business leaders this week at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss Alpine town of Davos. The progress of artificial intelligence has been "staggering" in recent years, said Vishal Sikka, chief executive of Indian IT services giant Infosys.

"But in many ways we are at the beginning of this evolution and we face the prospect of leaving a larger part of humanity behind than in any other (industrial) advance," he warned. Public disquiet about technological change and globalization has already sparked a populist backlash in Western countries, culminating in Donald Trump's inauguration as US president today. But much more dislocation could yet be coming, and both the public and Western governments need to wake up to the challenge,

observers say. New technologies are "going to completely disrupt and change the working place for a long time", and governments must put in place policies, skills training and safety nets to cope, International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde said.

Education systems are failing to plug skills shortages, experts say. Europe and the United States have hundreds of thousands of vacancies in IT and engineering which often get filled by immigrants, for want of homegrown talent, feeding in turn the anti-globalization backlash. And according to a survey of 18,000 employers in 43 countries by employment consultancy ManpowerGroup, up to 45 percent of tasks done daily in the workplace could be automated using current technology. For its part, global consultancy McKinsey said more than 60 percent of jobs and 30 percent of business activities could be automated today. "We can't rely on government to re-skill people in the face of rapid technological change and automation. Business will have to drive this," said McKinsey's global managing partner, Dominic Barton.

**Education, education, education**  
"Back office" labour in banking, insur-

ance and other financial services, which involves clerical work such as data inputting, is seen as most at risk from IT automation. But even professions like medicine and accountancy could face upheaval as AI evolves to ever-more sophisticated heights. A computer using machine intelligence is perfectly equipped to crunch through the available academic literature when analysing suspected cancer in a doctor's patient.

But the doctor would still be needed ultimately to exercise his or her judgment over the best course of treatment, a pattern of adding specialist value that needs to be replicated in other professions if they want to stay relevant. People have managed to adapt to past shifts as new industries and types of work emerge. Telephone operators used to be a ubiquitous feature of daily life. Now they are extinct, but life goes on and IT support staff are instead found in most companies. Companies such as Uber and Airbnb are disrupting old business models, creating new opportunities, albeit ones that pay less well than the stable industrial jobs of the past. And people will need to be more flexible, transitioning over multiple careers during their working lifetimes, experts predict. — AFP

## INDIA COURT ASKS BANKS TO RECOVER LOANS FROM MALLYA

**NEW DELHI:** An Indian court ordered a consortium of banks yesterday to start the process of recovering loans from the tycoon Vijay Mallya who has refused demands to return home from exile in Britain. The Debt Recovery Tribunal ordered a consortium of 17 banks led by the State Bank of India to start the process of recovering 62 billion rupees (around \$1 billion) at an annual interest rate of 11.5 percent from Mallya and his companies, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

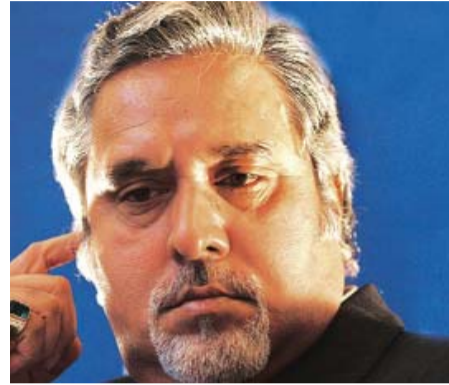
Among the companies named in the ruling were United Breweries—a liquor company which Mallya once owned and in which he still retains a small shareholding—along with the now defunct Kingfisher Airlines. The lenders had filed a case with the tribunal in 2013 to recover loans made to Kingfisher

Airlines which started running into financial difficulties in 2011 and eventually went bust.

There was no immediate comment from Mallya who fled to Britain last March as pressure grew from the banks to pay back the loans.

He has repeatedly failed to appear before investigators at the Enforcement Directorate, a financial crimes agency, who suspect him of misusing funds loaned by a state bank. Experts say Thursday's ruling may be too late to enable lenders to recover anything from Mallya, who was known for his flamboyant lifestyle and styled himself as the "King of Good Times".

"The DRT ruling is welcome, but it has come three years too late," said Anjali Sharma, a consulting professor at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research



**Vijay Mallya**  
in Mumbai. "Perhaps in 2013, when the case was filed, there was some value recoverable

in the company.... but now is there anything left to recover for lenders? "Leased assets like planes have no value, the management has gone, there is no value to Vijay Mallya's promises. I wouldn't place any bets on recovery."

Mallya, who remains a part-owner of the Force India Formula One team, has come to personify India's problems with bad debt that are piling up on the balance sheets of banks. The previous central bank governor, Raghuram Rajan, had made cleaning up the banking sector's mountain of soured loans—defined as in default or close to it—a priority of his tenure. In 2015, the RBI ordered banks to undertake an Asset Quality Review—forcing lenders to classify many more loans as soured—and set a 2017 deadline for them to clean up their balance sheets. —AFP



**FRANKFURT/AM:** The European Central Bank (ECB) is pictured prior to the press conference following the meeting of the Governing Council in Frankfurt/Main yesterday. —AFP

## ECB MAINTAINS STIMULUS AS GROWTH PICKS UP SPEED

### INTEREST RATES, QE REMAIN UNCHANGED

**FRANKFURT:** Even as eurozone growth and inflation slowly pick up pace, the European Central Bank is set to argue yesterday that its extra-easy policy stance is still needed to keep the recovery on course. The ECB is all but certain to leave current monetary policy in place and maintain a promise for lengthy stimulus, having extended its bond-buying program just last month.

ECB President Mario Draghi can argue the bank has done its part to mend growth, but he will also likely note the recovery is not self-sustaining, underlying inflation is weak and markets could become more volatile as the Federal Reserve gradually raises rates. So turning down the taps now is inappropriate, Draghi is expected to say, once again underscoring diverging policy paths between the ECB and the Federal Reserve, whose chair, Janet Yellen, signalled further interest rate increases on Wednesday.

"Draghi seems to be comfortable to allow inflation to drift higher before declaring full victory over deflation," David Kohl an economist at Swiss private bank Julius Baer, said. On the face

of it, Draghi should be relaxed. Inflation hit a three year high last month, manufacturing activity is accelerating and confidence indicators are firming, all pointing to solid growth at the end of last year.

Indeed, euro zone business growth was the fastest in more than five years in December, order books are surging on export demand, and consumption is holding up, despite rising energy costs, all pointing to the sort of resilience not seen since before the bloc's debt crisis. The underlying picture is mixed, however, giving Draghi plenty of arguments to bat back criticism, particularly from Germany, the bloc's biggest economy and the ECB's top policy foe.

Inflation is still just half of the bank's 2 percent target and the jump is mostly down to higher oil prices while underlying price growth remains dangerously weak. The market euphoria after Donald Trump's surprising US election win is also yet to be backed up concrete policy action and the threat of more protectionist policies from the United States and possibly Britain could reverse market sentiment. The ECB announces its

rate decision at 1245 GMT and Draghi holds a news conference at 1330 GMT.

#### GERMAN ANGST

The ECB last month agreed to cut its asset buys by a quarter from April but extended the 2.3 trillion euro scheme, known as quantitative easing, until the end of the year, promising substantial accommodation and extended market presence. The extension threatens to reignite tensions between the bank and Berlin, particularly as Germany heads towards an election in the fall and with Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble often pointing the finger at the ECB for problems. Berlin argues that super cheap borrowing costs negate pressure on inefficient euro zone members to reform but unduly punish frugal German savers, who have seen the return on their savings evaporate.

Indeed, with German inflation rates above the euro zone average and government bond yields in negative territory across much of the yield curve, real rates are negative for many savers, pushing some voters towards the rightist Alternative for Germany party.— Reuters

## BARCLAYS CHAIR SAYS UK BACKS 3-YEAR TRANSITION FOR BANKS

**DAVOS:** The British government is supportive of a three-year transition period for the financial sector once Britain leaves the European Union, Barclays Chairman John McFarlane said yesterday. "I think the government does [support it] because I think they understand the complexity of this," McFarlane told Reuters on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

The initial stage of divorce talks will last two years until 2019, after which a transition phase, of, say, three years, would begin. Many questions remain unanswered, however, as to how this would work in practice.

Financial firms have accepted that they will lose their 'passporting' rights to freely sell services across the 28-nation bloc when Britain leaves, but want more time to adapt before they lose full access to the single market.

"We have known for months that passporting is not going to happen," said McFarlane, who is also chair of financial industry lobby group TheCityUK. "We want a standstill arrangement for three years, that would kick in after the government's negotiations on Brexit are finalised," he added.

Prime Minister Theresa May confirmed this week that Britain would quit the EU single market when it leaves the European Union, setting a course for a clean break with the world's largest trading bloc. She also signaled for the first time that she strongly believes in a transition phase but banks are not relying on that happening, instead planning for a worst-case scenario that would see them lose access to the single market once Brexit kicks in, expected in the first-half of 2019.

Brexit minister David Davis said on Wednesday companies will only have a maximum of a two-year transitional deal to help smooth Britain's exit from the EU after 2019. May said in her speech on Tuesday the length of any such deal may vary for different industries. McFarlane said international and British banks, insurers and asset managers were seeking a bespoke deal with Europe that would give 'mutual recognition' to as many of their products and services as possible.

Barclays will keep the bulk of its activities in Britain after the UK leaves the EU, Chief Executive Jes Staley told BBC radio yesterday. UBS and HSBC <HSBA.L, two of Europe's biggest banks warned on Wednesday that they could each move about 1,000 jobs out of London.

Major banks including Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan and Barclays, are keen to keep their dealing rooms, which buy and sell bonds, shares and other securities and employ thousands of people, in London. May will meet with the chief executives of some of Wall Street's largest firms including Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan, Bank of America and Morgan Stanley as well as money manager Blackrock and private equity firm Blackstone in Davos later yesterday, according to sources familiar with the matter. Representatives for the firms either declined to comment or could not immediately be reached for comment. — Reuters



## BIG OIL BACK ON ACQUISITION TRAIL AS OUTLOOK BRIGHTENS

**LONDON:** The world's top oil companies are back in acquisition mode, targeting smaller exploration and development firms to boost oil and gas reserves rather than the mega-mergers that followed previous slumps in crude prices. Since late November, major oil companies have announced 11 deals worth more than \$500 million each with a combined value of \$31 billion, the clearest sign yet that oil executives are more confident a recovery is underway.

When crude prices collapsed in the second half of 2014, large oil firms slashed spending on exploration and production and offloaded assets to reduce debt so they could cope with lower revenue from oil and gas sales. But with crude reservoirs declining at a rate of 10 percent a year in some cases, major oil companies are now looking to snap up assets to start growing again and there are plenty of smaller firms burdened with debt looking to sell.

"You're seeing the majors sharpening their pencils after a long while and actually flipping around from disposals to acquisitions," said Tony Durrant, chief executive of British energy firm Premier Oil, which is looking to sell several stakes in its North Sea operations.

Total acquisitions of oil and gas fields, known as upstream assets, tripled to \$31 billion in December from a month earlier, when the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to cut output for the first time in eight years, according to data from consultancy Energy Market Square.

### MAJOR DEALS

BP announced a string of investments in the last two months of 2016, including a \$1 billion partnership with Dallas-based Kosmos Energy in Mauritania and Senegal in West Africa, as well as acquisitions in Abu Dhabi and Azerbaijan. The

British company also spent \$375 million on a 10 percent stake in Eni's giant Zohr gas field in Egypt while Russian oil giant Rosneft bought 30 percent stake of the same field for \$1.575 billion.

France's Total and Norway's Statoil bought into Brazil's lucrative sub-salt deepwater oil fields while ExxonMobil Corp bought assets in Papua New Guinea to meet growing Asian demand for liquefied natural gas. The trend continued in January with Total boosting its stake in Uganda's Lake Albert oil project by snapping up most of Tullow Oil's stake for \$900 million. ExxonMobil and Noble Energy also struck deals worth nearly \$10 billion combined for a larger slice of the Permian Basin, the largest US oil field. While deal making outside the United States almost ground to a halt at the start of 2016, acquisitions in North American shale basins have continued at a steady pace. In the Permian Basin, for example, the time it takes to produce

oil and gas after an initial investment is far quicker and cheaper than developing conventional fields over three to five years.

### ONLY CHOICE

More deals are likely this year as the large overhang of crude oil in the world that has weighed on the market since 2014 continues to clear and oil prices rise. "When you can cut capex (capital spending), two-and-a-half to three years later you see production decline and reserves depleting and you have one choice only and that is going after high quality resource," said Sachin Oza, co-manager with Stephen Williams of the Guinness Global Oil and Gas Exploration Trust. "If you've not spent any time filling your hopper with these opportunities that take five years to build up, there is only one choice: you have to buy them," said Oza. — Reuters

## 'NONPARTISAN' CB CLOSE TO GOALS: YELLEN

**WASHINGTON:** The US central bank is close to achieving its inflation and employment goals, but any policy moves will depend on how the economy evolves, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Wednesday. Speaking just two days before President-elect Donald Trump takes office, perhaps the most remarkable thing about the speech was that Yellen twice emphasized that the Fed is nonpartisan and designed to be isolated from political pressures.

"At the Fed, we too are nonpartisan and focused squarely on the public interest," Yellen told the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco. "We strive to conduct our deliberations impartially and base our decisions on factual evidence and objective analysis."

Trump has criticized both the Fed and Yellen's handling of monetary policy, raising concerns that his administration and a Republican-controlled Congress might implement legislation to change how the central bank operates. The Fed's structure as designed "intentionally insulates us from short-term political pressures, so we can focus on what's best for the American economy in the longer run," Yellen said in her prepared remarks, which at times sounded almost like a plea, very unusual in a Fed speech.

"I promise you, with the sometimes imperfect information and evidence we have available, we will do just that by making the best decisions we can, as objectively as we can."

And while Fed chiefs typically have regular contact with administration officials to exchange views—including her weekly breakfast with outgoing Treasury Secretary Jack Lew—and they have "definitely respected the independence of the Fed."

"I have never had a situation where a member of the administration has tried in any way to pressure me for any reason about the stance monetary policy," she said in response to a question following her speech.

### Fed policy working

The policy decisions by the Fed appear to be working, since "the economy is near maximum employment and inflation is moving toward our goal" of 2 percent. The unemployment rate is less than five percent, and the economy has added about 15.5 million new jobs, she said, although wage growth only recently has started to pick up. That improvement and the Fed's confidence in the recovery prompted central bankers to raise the key benchmark interest rate last month for only the second time in a decade. But Yellen stressed that she cannot say for sure when the next rate hike will come. "The simple truth is, I can't tell you because it will depend on how the economy actually evolves over coming months," she said.

"What I can tell you is what we expect—along with a very large caveat that our interest rate expectations will change as our outlook for the economy changes." One of the things the Fed will review are any policy changes from the new administration, as Trump has promised tax cuts, deregulation and huge spending on infrastructure.

"We are at a point where many economic policy changes are under consideration. — AFP



**WASHINGTON:** In this Jan 25, 2016, file photo, a passenger talks on the phone as American Airlines jets sit parked at their gates at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport. — AP

## AMERICAN AIRLINES TO SELL 'BASIC ECONOMY' TICKET

### PASSENGERS DIVIDED, TREATED DIFFERENTLY

**DALLAS:** The evolution of a caste system in the economy cabin of jetliners is deepening, with passengers divided and treated differently based on how much they are willing to pay the airline.

American Airlines announced Wednesday that passengers will be able to buy "basic economy" tickets starting next month that will be similar to bare-bones fares already offered by Delta Air Lines and soon to be matched by United Airlines. If you want to get the cheapest fare on American or United, you will have to leave that rolling carry-on bag at home. Passengers who pay basic-economy rates on those carriers will be limited to one item that fits under their seat - no wheeled bags that take up space in the overhead bins.

American didn't describe prices for its version of basic economy, which will begin at 10 US airports and later be expanded nationwide and to close international destinations such as the Caribbean.

On randomly chosen flights next

month on Delta, the basic-economy price ranged from \$7 to \$25 cheaper than a regular economy ticket. Rick Seaney, CEO of FareCompare.com, said savings can be even higher because Delta tends to try to match prices for Spirit Airlines and Frontier Airlines. But, he said, Delta limits the number of basic-economy seats much the same way that it limits seats available for customers paying with frequent-flier miles. The idea behind the stripped-down ticket is to better compete with discount airlines for travelers on a tight budget. Spirit and Frontier go after those customers with cheap fares, then tack on fees for extras including use of the overhead bins. Delta offers basic economy on about 40 percent of its US routes and plans to cover them all by year-end and expand it to international flights. United officials said Wednesday that they will begin selling a similar ticket by the end of March at one airport, Minneapolis, for travel starting in late spring or early

summer, then expand to the rest of the US. United President Scott Kirby said basic economy could bring in \$250 million in revenue this year. If you buy a basic-economy fare on American, you can expect this:

#### No seat assignment when a ticket is purchased.

#### • No upgrades or changes allowed.

You will be in the last group to board the plane unless you're already a high-level member of American's loyalty program or hold an American-branded credit card.

Just a single carry-on item that fits under the seat. Basic-economy customers who bring a big rolling bag to the gate for an American or United flight will get hit with a \$25 checked-bag fee and a separate \$25 handling charge. The big airlines hope that cut-rate fares will win back some of the passengers they are now losing to fast-growing discount carriers. — AP



PERTH: Australia's Peter Handscomb bats during the third one-day international (ODI) cricket match between Pakistan and Australia at the WACA. — AFP

## SMITH CENTURY MAKES WEAK PAKISTAN PAY FOR MISTAKES

PERTH: Pakistan was left lamenting missed chances after Australia capitalized on their errors to win the one-day international in Perth yesterday by seven wickets, with skipper Steven Smith scoring a century. Pakistan made 263 for seven after being sent to bat, having looked set to post a much bigger score at several stages. But the home side replied with 265 for three, winning with 30 balls to spare.

After paceman Josh Hazlewood applied the brakes to a promising Pakistan innings with three wickets, skipper Smith and ODI debutant Peter Handscomb put on 183 for the third wicket in the chase to set their team on the path to victory. It could have been much different for Pakistan, as they squandered two golden opportunities to remove Handscomb early in his innings. He was caught from a no-ball before he scored, and was then dropped on 10.

Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur could only rue the mistakes that helped Australia take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. "Our only chance of really exerting pressure was to take early wickets, and we nearly had that right," Arthur said. "And where we're at as a team, we just can't afford those little lapses, so very disappointing." When they claimed openers David Warner (35) and Usman Khawaja (nine) in five balls Pakistan had Australia wobbling at 45 for two.

One run later Handscomb was on his way back to the pavilion for a duck on debut, caught at first slip from the bowling of Junaid Khan. Australia should have been 46 for three, but Handscomb was recalled to the centre due to a front foot no-ball. To make matters worse, Handscomb had another life on 10 when a simple catch was dropped at point, with Junaid again the aggrieved bowler. It proved to be Pakistan's undoing.

Handscomb eventually fell for 82 from 84 balls, but the game was safely in Australia's hands by then and the Australia batsman admitted he had a lucky day. "I think I'm going to buy a lottery ticket tonight," Handscomb said. "As I was walking off, I started to hear the crowd going nuts, and couldn't quite work out what was going on. "So I looked up on the big screen and saw the no-ball." Smith brought up his eighth ODI century by pulling the 97th ball he faced to the mid-wicket boundary and finished unbeaten on 108. Earlier in the day,

Hazlewood reined the visitors in after they made a flying start, picking up 3-32 from his 10 overs.

### Vital wickets

He claimed the vital wickets of Babar Azam, who top-scored with 84 from 100 balls, Umar Akmal (39) and opener Mohammad Hafeez (4). Babar played beautifully and appeared set to add another century to his blossoming career, before he was brilliantly caught by Handscomb. In his 21st innings, the Pakistani number three equaled the record held by four other players for being quickest to 1,000 runs before falling to Hazlewood. He attempted a pull shot and Handscomb took a great diving catch in the outfield, with the third umpire confirming the Australian got his hands under the ball. Babar did have some luck and was twice dropped by bowlers on their follow-through. He was dropped low down by James Faulkner on 31 and then Patrick Cummins grassed a tough chance when he was 74. Umar should have been stumped on one to give part-time spinner Travis Head (2-65) a third wicket, but wicketkeeper Matthew Wade botched an easy dismissal. — AFP

## NZ WARN NO END TO BOUNCER BARRAGE

CHRISTCHURCH: Bangladesh have been warned to expect a fresh barrage of short-pitched deliveries when the second Test against New Zealand starts in Christchurch today. While there were regrets Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim was struck on the head and rushed to hospital during the first Test, New Zealand pace spearhead Trent Boult described the intimidating bouncer as a valuable part of their armoury.

"I'm sure there'll still be some short-pitched bowling," Boult said on the eve of the second Test as New Zealand look to wrap up a sweep in all formats against the injury-hit tourists. "People have to realise why people are bowling short in the first place and that's to upset the batsmen and get them stuck on the crease to make the fuller ball more effective. "You're not going in there with the intention of trying to hurt anyone—it's to make your other skills more effective and have a bit more purpose."

## OILERS OT GOAL MAKES IT 4 IN 4

EDMONTON: Connor McDavid scored the winning goal in overtime as the Edmonton Oilers won their fourth game in a row, 4-3 over the Florida Panthers on Wednesday night. McDavid, who also had two assists in the game, got a breakaway late in overtime and got the puck away with 2.6 seconds left. Florida's James Reimer made the glove save, but the puck was ruled to be across the line via video review. Zack Kassian, Mark Letestu and Jordan Eberle also scored for the Oilers, who have their longest winning streak since December 2015. Vincent Trocheck, Michael Sgarbossa and Greg McKegg had goals for the Panthers, who have lost two straight.

### SHARKS 3, KINGS 2

Brent Burns, Joe Pavelski and Tommy Wingels scored in the San Jose Sharks' seventh win at Staples Center in their last eight trips, topping the Los Angeles Kings. Joe Thornton had two assists and Martin Jones made 22 saves for the defending Western Conference champion Sharks, who wrapped up their regular-season series against their biggest rivals with three victories in five games. After Burns scored his 19th goal in the opening minutes, San Jose hung on through a scoreless third period to continue its recent domination in downtown Los Angeles, including three victories in last season's first-round playoff series. Tanner Pearson and Marian Gaborik scored for the Kings, who ended a seven-game homestand with four defeats.

### RED WINGS 6, BRUINS 5, SO

Thomas Vanek and Frans Nielsen scored in a shootout, lifting the Detroit Red Wings to a comeback win over the Boston Bruins. The Red Wings rallied from 3-0 and 4-1 deficits in the first period, and with 3:04 remaining in regulation, Gustav Nyquist scored to pull them into a tie. In the shootout, Tuukka Rask and Petr Mrazek stopped the first shots they faced before Vanek scored for the Red Wings and Brad Marchand countered with a goal for the Bruins. Nielsen, who like Vanek joined the team last summer as a free agent, scored on the team's third attempt and Vatrano missed the net with a chance to extend the 1-on-1 duels.

### JETS 6, COYOTES 3

Ondrej Pavelec made 30 saves in his season debut, and the Winnipeg Jets halted a four-game losing streak with goals from six players. It was Pavelec's first NHL game this season after the veteran goalie was sent to the American Hockey League's Manitoba Moose at the end of training camp. The 29-year-old Pavelec was recalled Tuesday to start instead of Connor Hellebuyck and Michael Hutchinson, who each struggled during the team's winless skid (0-3-1). Josh Morrissey, Blake Wheeler, Andrew Copp, Shawn Matthias, Jacob Trouba and Nikolaj Ehlers scored for the Jets, who started a four-game homestand. Arizona's Mike Smith stopped 29 of the 35 shots he faced before being replaced by Louis Domingue following Winnipeg's sixth goal midway through the third period.

### PENGUINS 4, CANADIENS 1

Eric Fehr and Jake Guentzel scored in the second period to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins past the Montreal Canadiens. Defensemen Ian Cole and Olli Maatta also scored for Pittsburgh, which won its second game in a row after a three-game skid. Sven Andrighetto scored for Montreal, which lost its second straight and has only two wins in its last six games. Penguins goalie Matt Martin was back in form after Monday's wild 8-7 win over Washington, making 19 saves. —AP

# DURANT'S 40 POINTS SILENCES THUNDER

**OAKLAND:** Kevin Durant took it to his former team on Wednesday, erupting for 40 points to propel the Golden State Warriors to a 121-100 NBA triumph over the Oklahoma City Thunder. Durant, who scored 39 points in the Warriors 26-point win over the Thunder in November, was brutally efficient, connecting on 13 of his 16 shots from the field, including five of seven from three-point range. He had 12 rebounds, four assists and three blocks to help the Warriors withstand Thunder guard Russell Westbrook's 21st triple-double of the season.

"The ball just found whoever was open," Durant said, "and we did a good job of making the shots." Durant downplayed the significance of facing his former club. "It's good to see everybody," he said, "but once the ball tips, you're just playing. Simple as that." But Warriors coach Steve Kerr said he wasn't surprised the match-up brought out the best in Durant. "Every player in the NBA wants to play well against his old team," Kerr said. "For most guys, you feel that little extra juice. I think it's even more so with KD because of his history with that franchise... for sure he's motivated and it's a big deal."

The gloss of Westbrook's 27 points, 15 rebounds and 13 assists was somewhat dimmed by his 10 turnovers. "It was big," Westbrook said of the turnovers. "They scored off of pretty much all of them. That's what they do." Tensions mounted late in the second quarter, when Golden State center Zaza Pachulia sent Westbrook to the floor with a flagrant foul. "I don't play like that. I'm going to get (him) back," Westbrook vowed. "Whenever that is, I don't know when it's going to be. But I don't play that game."

## PACERS 106, KINGS 100

Paul George scored 24 points, Jeff Teague had 22 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds, and the Pacers used a big second half to rally for the road win. Indiana trailed by as many as 22 points in the first half, and then outscored Sacramento 65-40 in the final two quarters to win for the seventh time in eight games. Reserve Al Jefferson had 20 points in 17 minutes for the Pacers, and Myles Turner had 16 points. DeMarcus Cousins had 25 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for Sacramento, which lost Rudy Gay to a torn left Achilles tendon in the third quarter. It was Cousins' fifth career triple-double. The Kings closed out a 1-6 homestand and have dropped eight of 10 overall.

## 76ERS 94, RAPTORS 89

Joel Embiid scored 26 points, Ersan Ilyasova added 18 and resurgent Philadelphia won for the seventh time in nine games. Embiid, who was questionable because of the flu, surpassed 20 points in fewer than 30 minutes in his 10th straight game. With Embiid leading the way, the Sixers are no longer the NBA's laughingstock. They're only 14-26 but have rejuvenated a city that has patiently waited for a winner through three miserable seasons. DeMar DeRozan scored 25 for the Atlantic Division-leading Raptors, and Kyle Lowry had 24 points.

## WIZARDS 104, GRIZZLIES 101

John Wall had 25 points and 13 assists, and the Wizards earned their 13th consecutive home win. James Ennis III missed a potential tying 3-pointer at the buzzer for Memphis. The Wizards are just 4-13 on the road but now 18-6 at home, where they've compiled their longest winning streak since a 15-game run in the 1988-89 season. Washington never trailed and led by as many



**OAKLAND:** Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant (35) drives for a dunk attempt past Oklahoma City Thunder's Andre Roberson, center left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game. — AP

as 19 points in the first half, then held on after a 10-0 run by Memphis made it a two-point game with 2 1/2 minutes left. That's when Wall took over, scoring on consecutive drives. Marc Gasol led Memphis with 28 points, and Mike Conley had 20.

## ROCKETS 111, BUCKS 92

James Harden had 38 points, eight assists and six rebounds, powering the Rockets to the win. Harden drilled a straightaway 3-pointer with six minutes left to give Houston a 13-point lead and shimmied his shoulders down the court in a celebratory dance as the Bucks called timeout. Eric Gordon made seven 3-pointers and scored 25 points for the Rockets, who had dropped three of four. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points, 11 rebounds, six assists and three blocks for Milwaukee, which was outscored 30-12 in the second quarter.

## KNICKS 117, CELTICS 106

Derrick Rose matched his season high with 30 points, helping the slumping Knicks to the road win. New York played without injured starters Kristaps Porzingis and Joakim

Noah, but Mindaugas Kuzminskas and Willy Hernangomez each scored 17 points. It was just the third win in 14 games for the Knicks. Isaiah Thomas led Boston with 39 points, his 13th time this season with 30 or more points. Jae Crowder added 21 for the Celtics, who lost for only the fourth time in 17 games.

## HORNETS 107, TRAIL BLAZERS 85

Kemba Walker scored 23 points, Roy Hibbert provided a huge boost off the bench, and Charlotte stopped a five-game slide. Nicolas Batum added 17 points for the Hornets, who limited the Trail Blazers to 35 percent shooting and snapped an eight-game streak of allowing at least 100 points. Hibbert, who came in averaging 5.2 points per game, had a season-high 16 points on 7-of-8 shooting, including an alley-oop pass intended for Frank Kaminsky that inadvertently went in. Damian Lillard scored 21 points and CJ McCollum had 18 for Portland, which has lost three straight and 16 of 22 since Dec. 5.

## PISTONS 118, HAWKS 95

Reggie Jackson scored 26 points to lead

the balanced Pistons to the win. Each of Detroit's starters scored in double figures, and the Pistons shot 49.5 percent from the field. Tobias Harris had 19 points, Reggie Bullock finished with 15 and Andre Drummond added 13 points and 17 rebounds. Detroit raced out to a 42-18 first-quarter lead and never trailed. Paul Millsap had 21 points and eight rebounds for the Hawks, who had won nine of 10. Dennis Schroder added 13 points and six assists.

## PELICANS 118, MAGIC 98

Anthony Davis had 21 points and 15 rebounds, and New Orleans cruised past short-handed Orlando. Tyreke Evans and Langston Galloway added 18 points apiece for the Pelicans, who never trailed after the first quarter and extended their lead to as many as 28 points. Aaron Gordon and Elfrid Payton each had 14 points for Orlando, which finished 1-5 on a season-long six-game trip that featured five games in the last eight days. The Magic played their third straight game without leading scorer Evan Fournier, who is out with a bruised right heel. — Agencies



**MELBOURNE:** Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin celebrates his win against Serbia's Novak Djokovic during their men's singles second round match on day four of the Australian Open tennis tournament. — AFP

## DJOKOVIC SUFFERS HUGE SHOCK, SERENA SERENE

**MELBOURNE:** Novak Djokovic suffered arguably the biggest defeat of his career when he crashed out of the Australian Open to 117th-ranked Uzbek Denis Istomin yesterday, extending his mystifying slump in form. With Istomin inspired, the defending champion sent down 72 unforced errors as he lost 7-6 (10/8), 5-7, 2-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 in the second round to end his bid for a record seventh title at Melbourne Park.

Later, Rafael Nadal beat Marcos Baghdatis and in the women's draw, Serena Williams ousted Lucie Safarova 6-3, 6-4. But third seed Agnieszka Radwanska was a major casualty when she lost 6-3, 6-2 to Croatian veteran Mirjana Lucic-Baroni. It is more than a decade since Djokovic made such an early exit from the Australian Open, and he hasn't lost in the second round of any Grand Slam since Wimbledon in 2008.

Djokovic had only been defeated by a player outside the top 100 once in the past seven years, when he went down to 145-ranked Juan Martin del Potro at the Rio Olympics. The stunning result blows the men's competition wide open as the six-time champion was widely expected to reach the January 29 final, where he was seeded to meet five-time runner-up

Andy Murray. It also raises fresh questions for the world number two, who has been in a funk since completing a career Grand Slam and winning his 12th major title at last year's French Open. "It's one of these days when you don't feel that great on the court, don't have much rhythm, and the player you're playing against is feeling the ball very well," he shrugged. "That's sport."

### Mother's love

While Djokovic was rocked by the defeat, there was joy for Istomin, who is coached by his mother and has never got beyond the third round in 11 visits to Melbourne Park. "I feel sorry for Novak, I was playing so good today," he said. "I surprised myself also." One beneficiary of Istomin's win could be world number three Milos Raonic, who was seeded to meet Djokovic in the semi-finals.

Despite suffering from 'flu, the Canadian strode into the third round with 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) demolition of Gilles Muller and will next play France's Gilles Simon. Croatia's Ivo Karlovic made a miraculous recovery from his record-breaking 84-game win over Horacio Zeballos two days earlier to beat Australian wildcard Andrew Whittington.

The 6ft 11ins (2.11m) Karlovic, who fired 75 aces as he beat Zeballos 22-20 in the fifth set on Tuesday, won 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to set up an encounter with Belgium's David Goffin. Grigor Dimitrov, a winner this month in Sydney, beat South Korea's Chung Hye-On in four sets to go into a testing clash with Frenchman Richard Gasquet. Nadal, attempting to improve on an injury-riddled 2016, swamped former finalist Baghdatis 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 and next plays top-rated German teen Alexander Zverev. Radwanska was the strong favorite against Lucic-Baroni, 34, but the Pole's famous shot-making deserted her as she succumbed to her earliest exit since 2009.

Britain's Johanna Konta kept up her hot run of form as she beat Japan's Naomi Osaka 6-4, 6-2 to set up a meeting with former world number one Caroline Wozniacki. US Open finalist Karolina Pliskova ousted Russian qualifier Anna Blinkova to stay unbeaten this year, and WTA Finals winner Dominika Cibulkova saw off Taiwan's Hsieh Su-Wei. Second-seeded Williams, seeking a record 23rd major title, will face fellow American Nicole Gibbs in the third round after her high-level victory over Safarova. — AFP

## FEDERER TO FACE BERDYCH EARLY

**MELBOURNE:** The last time Roger Federer met Tomas Berdych before the fourth round of a tournament, the Czech was 22 years old and the pair was at the Beijing Olympics. Since that third-round encounter, which Federer won, they have met 13 times in knockout matches, 11 of which have been in quarter-finals or later.

Today, they headline the men's top half of third round action at the Australian Open in the final match on Rod Laver Arena after a quirk of the draw due to the 17-times grand slam champion's knee injury last year. Federer, who tore the meniscus in his knee at the Australian Open, was forced to have surgery after Wimbledon. He did not play again and dropped to 17th in the world entering this sea-

son's opening grand slam in Melbourne. The 35-year-old Swiss has won the last five matches against the Czech—including last year's Melbourne Park quarter-final and holds a 16-6 record overall, though he was wary of placing too much emphasis on that. "I know I've got to lift my game a little bit," Federer said. "The court plays fast and he's caused difficulties for me in the past on faster courts; Cincinnati, New York, Wimbledon, Olympics in Athens. "I know what he's got."

Federer and Berdych will no doubt also be keeping an eye on the match between fifth seed Kei Nishikori and Lukas Lacko, with the winner of that earlier clash on Margaret Court Arena their fourth round opponent. — Reuters

## NADAL BLITZES BAGHDATIS

**MELBOURNE:** Rafael Nadal set up an enticing third-round showdown with rising German star Alexander Zverev after powering past Marcos Baghdatis at the Australian Open yesterday. Ninth-seeded Nadal, hoping to improve on an injury-hit 2016, was too strong and accurate for the 36th-ranked Baghdatis winning 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 in 2hr 13min. Nadal, who beat Roger Federer in the 2009 Australian final, will step up his challenge for a second title against the 19-year-old German in a draw now missing six-time winner Novak Djokovic.

The bottom half has opened up significantly with the stunning defeat of world number two Djokovic by Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin earlier yesterday. "It will be a high-quality match against a potential Grand Slam winner and a future world number one," Nadal said of his match with Zverev. "I have no injuries and I can't ask for more right now," he added. In his 10th meeting with Baghdatis, Nadal dominated proceedings against the 2006 finalist, cracking 16 forehand winners and only dropping his serve once.

Nadal broke Baghdatis's serve twice and gave one break back in taking the opening set in 48 minutes. But the 14-time Grand Slam champion got down to work in the second set with three service breaks to race to a two-love sets lead. Nadal broke in the sixth game of the final set when Baghdatis double-faulted to close in on victory. "When you have been away, off the tour for a while, you need to come back. The thing that you need is to win," Nadal said.

"I know I have been working great. I know I have been working a lot and very well. I have been practising at high level. So every time that I have the chance to go on court, I am able to have more confidence on what I'm doing," Nadal is bidding to win his second Australian title and become the first man in the Open era—and only the third man in history—to win each of the four Grand Slam titles twice. Roy Emerson and Rod Laver are the only players to have won each Grand Slam on two or more occasions. Nadal is looking to win his 15th Grand Slam title and close the gap on Roger Federer's 17 in the list of all-time Grand Slam title holders. — AFP



**MELBOURNE:** Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts after winning a game against Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championships. — AP



**MUNICH:** This file photo taken on November 5, 2016 shows Bayern Munich's Spanish midfielder Xabi Alonso playing the ball during the German first division Bundesliga match between the FC Bayern Munich and TSG 1899 Hoffenheim. — AFP

# ROBBEN WANTS SHOW OF STRENGTH AT FREIBURG

## BUNDESLIGA PREVIEW

**BERLIN:** Arjen Robben is demanding a show of strength when Bayern Munich resume their hunt for a fifth straight title at Freiburg today as the Bundesliga resumes after its winter break. The German league is back after a four-week rest with Bayern three points clear of nearest rivals RB Leipzig, who briefly kept the Bavarians off top spot for three weeks until early December.

Bayern defeated 10-man Leipzig 3-0 in Munich when the sides met just before Christmas, but now Robben wants another display of strength at Freiburg's Schwarzwald Stadion, a notoriously hard place to get a win. Mid-table Freiburg are unbeaten in their last four league games and have won five of their seven home matches this season.

"The anticipation is big. We simply want to win our first game and set a marker," said Robben. "We want to get straight into our rhythm and I believe we have improved, but talk is cheap and we have to prove ourselves." Robben turns 33 on Monday and, having signed a year's extension until June 2018, says he wants to enjoy his last 18 months at Bayern before deciding his future.

Having been beaten by Bayern, second-placed Leipzig need to get back to winning ways tomorrow at home to fourth-placed Eintracht Frankfurt, one

of the surprise packages this season. Eintracht only kept their Bundesliga status last season by winning a promotion/relegation play-off. But Niko Kovac's side has been on fire this season with midfielder Marco Fabian scoring three goals and providing four assists in recent months.

Their defense has only conceded 12 goals—the second-best record in the league behind Bayern. Scotland winger Oliver Burke hopes to start for Leipzig, who have Sweden midfielder Emil Forsberg suspended for the next three games after he was sent off at Bayern. Robben is full of praise for Leipzig's young squad, whose average age is just over 24, who have won 11 of their 16 games so far in their debut Bundesliga season under coach Ralph Hasenhüttl. "The quality is there, they are a young, fresh squad with a great coach and they can make life hard for us," said Robben.

### Dortmund's woes

Sixth-placed Borussia Dortmund are at Werder Bremen tomorrow with top scorer Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang on Africa Cup of Nations. Dortmund are also set to be without Colombia striker Adrian Ramos, who is poised to join Chinese Super League side Chongqing Dangdai Lifan. Borussia coach Thomas Tuchel has injury woes.

Germany midfielder Sven Bender hobbled out of Tuesday's 6-1 friendly win over third division Paderborn with an ankle injury, while winger Ousmane Dembele (hip) and defender Sokratis (ankle) are doubtful. Injury-prone Germany defender Holger Badstuber, whose six-month loan spell from Bayern to Schalke is a highlight so far of the league's January transfers, is poised to make his Royal Blues' debut at strugglers Ingolstadt.

VfL Wolfsburg, who took just 16 points from their first 16 league games, host third-from-bottom Hamburg and have recruited hard to boost their squad. After selling attacking midfielder Julian Draxler to Paris Saint-Germain, winger Paul-Georges Ntep was signed from Stade Rennais. Goal-scoring Turkey midfielder Yunus Malli will slot into the play-maker role Draxler vacated and Netherlands midfielder Riechedly Bazoer has also joined from Ajax.

There will be two fresh faces on the benches when bottom side Darmstadt host Borussia Moenchengladbach tomorrow. Ex-Germany midfielder Torsten Frings has taken charge of Darmstadt, while Gladbach, who are only three points from the bottom three, have replaced Andre Schubert with ex-Wolfsburg coach Dieter Hecking. — AFP

## MAN UNITED DETHRONE MADRID AS CASH KINGS

**LONDON:** Manchester United's relative failure on the pitch has not been reflected off it as for the first time in over a decade they top Deloitte's Football Money League for revenue in the 2015/16 season. United—who were last on top in the 2003/04 campaign—earned record revenue of 689m euros (£515.3m, \$736m) — and dislodged Champions League holders Real Madrid who have ruled the roost for the past 11 years.

United's topping of the revenue table in a season where they failed to sparkle under Louis van Gaal in the league or the Champions League leading to him being sacked—is largely down to one thing according to Tim Bridge, Senior Consultant at Deloitte. "It is the commercial power of Manchester United that takes them to the top of the league," he told AFP.

More galling perhaps for Real is that despite passing the 600m euros barrier for the first time they also found themselves edged into third by bitter rivals Barcelona, who bettered them by just 100,000 euros — 620.2m euros to Real's 620.1m—although the Catalan side have yet to top the table. The top trio also filled the first three positions when Deloitte's first published the league in the 1996/97 season with United topping then on £88m—pretty much the amount they spent on Paul Pogba almost 20 years later.

United's reign, though, could be short-lived as they failed to qualify for the Champions League this season, even when figures from the huge Premier League TV deal that came into force this season are taken into account, according to Bridge. "The TV deal will counterbalance some of it but much depends on where they finish in the league," said Bridge. "The truth is it will be a three-way battle next year mainly because United are not in the Champions League and the impact of the exchange rate (it was 1.33 euro to the pound when Deloitte did the 2015/16 table as opposed to Wednesday's rate of 1.15) and weakening of the pound following the decision to leave the European Union. "It will be challenging for them to stay on top next year."

German champions Bayern Munich and Manchester City fill out the top five—French giants Paris Saint Germain dropping out of the leading quintet to sixth. City's appearance in the top five for the first time is on the back of reaching the Champions League semi-finals.

### Italians struggling

In all the top 20 clubs generated revenue of 7.4 billion euros, a rise of 12% on the previous year. The English Premier League's commercial attractiveness compared to other European leagues is reflected with eight teams appearing in the top 20 — five in the top 10 — and generating total combined revenue of 3.2bn euros.

Champions Leicester break in for the first time and are 20th with revenue of 172.1m euros whilst rivals West Ham also crept into the top 20 in 18th spot with recorded revenues of 192.3m euros. However, thoughts of the EPL being an unstoppable force and all 20 clubs entering the Top 30 next year should not be taken for granted, says Bridge. "When the new TV deal was announced two years ago we might well have thought more there would be more English clubs coming into the Money League for 2017/18," said Bridge. "But with the rise of their European competitors it might not be as great as one thought. "It is a testament to European football generally and it has to be said clubs are operating in a more financially sustainable manner now.

"The introduction by UEFA of European Fair Play (EFP) has seen a huge reduction in losses." The decline of Serie A continues. Although there are four teams in the top 20 — Juventus the highest at 10th—Deloitte think there is a real danger they could just have one representative next year.

"I think it certainly reflects the situation in Italy," Bridge said. "AC Milan were in the top five in 2002/03 so their decline (they are 16th and even passed by rivals Roma) has been relatively steady over the past 13 years. "It kind of reflects the inability to generate new revenues in Italy both commercially and matchday, antiquated stadia being one of the issues. "Inter Milan (19th) are almost certainly going to drop out and there is a real danger the same can happen to AS Roma and AC Milan." — AFP

## CITY COMPLETE JESUS TRANSFER

**LONDON:** Brazilian starlet Gabriel Jesus has formally completed his move to Manchester City from Palmeiras, the Premier League club announced yesterday. City agreed to sign Jesus on a five-year contract in August, but the 19-year-old was immediately loaned back to Palmeiras until the end of the Brazilian season in December. With City having now completed his registration, he could make his debut for Pep Guardiola's side in Saturday's home game with high-flying Tottenham Hotspur.

"I want to win titles and Manchester City is a club that is used to winning," Jesus said in com-

ments published on the City website. "City is a club that always competes for the title in the competitions it enters, so that was an important factor, and because of the manager, Guardiola, and the squad." Jesus, who can play right across the front line, is one of the most highly rated youngsters in world football and is reported to have cost City an initial fee of £27 million (\$33.3 million, 31.2 million euros). He helped Palmeiras to their first league title in 22 years last year and has scored five goals in his first six games for Brazil.

"Gabriel is a technically gifted player who was

chased by some of Europe's biggest clubs and we are delighted he decided to join City," said City's director of football Txiki Begiristain. "He has the potential to become one of the best attacking players in the game and we look forward to watching him develop further here in Manchester. "I think with Pep Guardiola as manager and the squad we already have here, Jesus has the perfect platform to reach his full potential." Jesus's arrival is a timely lift for Guardiola, who finds himself under intense scrutiny after last weekend's chastening 4-0 defeat at Everton. — AFP



**MADRID:** Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos, center right, heads a ball on goal during a Copa del Rey, quarterfinal, 1st leg soccer match between Real Madrid and Celta at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. — AP

## CELTA INFLICT SHOCK CUP DEFEAT ON REAL MADRID

**MADRID:** After surrendering a record 40-game unbeaten run, Real Madrid suffered a second defeat in four days on Wednesday as Celta Vigo took a 2-1 first leg lead from their Copa del Rey quarterfinal at the Santiago Bernabeu.

All three goals came in a six-minute spell midway through the second-half as strikes from former Liverpool striker Iago Aspas and Jonny either side of Marcelo's reply for Madrid handed Celta a famous win. Real can still salvage their quest for a first ever treble of Cup, La Liga and Champions League, but now need to score at least twice when the visit Balaidos for the second leg on January 25. "I am not worried," insisted Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane. "It is not a good moment for us, two defeats (in a row), but we can overcome this. We still have the return leg to go."

"Losing 2-1 the result is not in our favour, but we know we can go there and change that." Celta Vigo boss Eduardo Berizzo said the Galicians' first win at the Bernabeu in a decade didn't surprise him, but that they would need to be even better next week on home soil to finish the tie off. "None of my team's victories surprise me. It is a huge win, coming to a place like this and facing the best team in

the world, but we believed we could do it," said Berizzo. "We are happy to win, but it obliges us to play even better in Vigo because we are facing a brilliant opponent and it is the toughest footballing test."

Cristiano Ronaldo was making his first appearance in the Copa del Rey for two years as Zidane named a strong side with just four changes from the team that was beaten for the first time in 41 matches at Sevilla on Sunday. However, with temperatures plummeting below zero and the match not kicking off until 21:15 local time, the subdued atmosphere at the Bernabeu was matched by a lacklustre Madrid display.

### Unfortunate injury

Ronaldo had to wait until 33 minutes for his first clear sight of goal, but failed to make a clean connection with Sergio Ramos's cut-back and Jonny was able to clear from underneath his own crossbar. An unfortunate hand injury to Marco Asensio as he was accidentally trod on by Facundo Roncaglia ensured Ronaldo moved from the centre of the Madrid attack back onto his habitual position on the left as Alvaro Morata was introduced early in the second-half.

Morata has scored four times as a substitute this season, and nearly had an instant impact when he blazed over when well-positioned inside the area. Instead, it was Celta who got the opener as the game sprung into life in the final 25 minutes. Marcelo's miscued clearance from Theo Bongonda's cross only found the grateful Aspas alone inside the area and he rifled the ball high past Kiko Casilla for his 15th goal of the season.

Madrid rallied as they so often have this season when Marcelo made amends with a brilliant volley from the edge of the box. However, no sooner had Celta kicked-off when they were back in front as a huge hole appeared in the middle of the Madrid defence and Aspas teed up Jonny to bear down on goal and slot coolly past Casilla. Zidane threw on Karim Benzema for the hapless Danilo as the hosts chased the game in the final 10 minutes. And the Frenchman's daring approach should have been rewarded with a second equalizer, but Benzema somehow blazed over with the goal at his mercy seven minutes from time meaning Madrid have it all to do at Balaidos next week. In the night's other tie, two late goals from Ibai Gomez handed Alaves a 2-0 win at second division Alcorcon. — AFP

## LUCAS SEES LIVERPOOL THROUGH IN FA CUP

**PLYMOUTH:** Stand-in captain Lucas Leiva scored his first goal in seven years to earn Liverpool a 1-0 victory at fourth-tier underdogs Plymouth Argyle in Wednesday's FA Cup third-round replay. The Brazilian, playing at centre-back, met countryman Philippe Coutinho's 18th-minute corner with a firm near-post header to sink Plymouth, who had drawn 0-0 at Anfield 10 days previously.

A second-string Liverpool team could even afford for Divock Origi to squander a late penalty, the Belgium striker seeing his effort saved by home goalkeeper Luke McCormick. "Every week in training we play old versus young and he is a top scorer for old, which is unbelievable," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said of Lucas's goal. "Maybe it wasn't the most exciting game, but for us it's very important as it's another game for a few of the young boys, so that's all good."

Liverpool, third in the Premier League, will host second-tier Wolverhampton Wanderers in round four on January 28. Lucas did a jig of joy after he evaded the attentions of his marker to head the ball past McCormick at Home Park. It was his first goal since a Europa League tie against Steaua Bucharest in September 2010.

The goal also vindicated Klopp's decision to put Coutinho in his starting line-up for the first time since he limped off injured in the 2-0 defeat of Sunderland at Anfield in late November. Coutinho helped ensure the Premier League side dominated the opening exchanges of their contest with the League Two promotion contenders. Despite the setback of conceding, Derek Adams's home side rallied and carved out a couple of chances themselves. But Loris Karius pulled off a fine save to tip away Graham Carey's long-range shot before Trent Alexander-Arnold denied Arnold Garita with a smart interception.

### Long late show

It was far from plain sailing for Liverpool in a place known as Britain's 'Ocean City' and Karius found himself placed under pressure as Argyle raised their game. Adams had to go into the game without striker David Goodwillie after a civil court judge ruled that he and former Dundee United team-mate David Robertson raped a woman in 2011. Plymouth started where they had left off after the break, but Karius dealt comfortably with David Fox's low drive. Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge wasted a decent chance from a tight angle and Origi had a powerful shot saved by McCormick. Klopp decided to withdraw Coutinho in favour of the club's Under-23s captain Harry Wilson, who made his senior debut. — AFP



**PLYMOUTH:** Liverpool's Lucas Leiva, center, celebrates scoring against Plymouth Argyle during the English FA Cup, third round replay match at Home Park. — AP

## STRIKERS FIRE LAZIO INTO INTER CUP QUARTER TIE

**MILAN:** **Ciro Immobile** and **Sergej Milinkovic-Savic** struck in the second half as stuttering Lazio overcame Genoa 4-2 on Wednesday to book an Italian Cup quarter-final with Inter Milan. Lazio enjoyed a bright start at the Stadio Olimpico and were off the mark on 20 minutes when Filip Djordjevic sprung the offside trap to meet Felipe Anderson's through ball and fire into the roof of the net.

Djordjevic's first Lazio goal since April 2016 augured well for the hosts, but misfortune followed instead. Cristiano Lombardi's angled drive flashed across goal and Gil Patric hit the side netting. When Lucas Orban pulled Djordjevic down from behind, the penalty was given but Anderson's tame effort was easily parried by Genoa 'keeper Eugenio Lamanna.

Although Goran Pandev's drive at the other end inched wide of the top corner, Lazio doubled their lead 10 minutes later, Wesley Hoedt unleashing a bouncing drive from 30 yards out that beat Lukas Zima. But Lazio were soon back to earth with a bump. Mauricio Pinilla curled a superb shot past Lamanna and into the far top corner five minutes before half time and when Isaac Cofie's drive took a deflection Pandev pounced on the loose ball to pull Genoa level.

Lazio almost fell victim to a Lucas Ocampos screamer that hit the upright shortly after the restart, but the hosts restored their lead in spectacular fashion. Milinkovic-Savic had come off the bench to replace Lombardi on the hour and when a poor clearance fell kindly he controlled with his chest before volleying home from seven yards. Pinilla came close to leveling with an overhead kick that was just off target.

But Lazio secured the points on the counter minutes later, Jordan Lukaku setting Immobile up for a fine finish on 75 minutes. Earlier, Cesena forward Karim Laribi sent parent club Sassuolo crashing out of the competition with a late winner in a 2-1 upset that sent the second division side into the last eight. Sassuolo were off to a flying start against the current Serie B strugglers when Lorenzo Pellegrini tapped home the rebound from Matteo Politano's strike after just four minutes at the Mapei Stadium. — AFP



**LIBREVILLE:** Guinea-Bissau's forward Piqueti (L) challenges Cameroon's defender Michael Ngadeu-Ngadjui during the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations group A football match between Cameroon and Guinea-Bissau at the Stade de l'Amitie Sino-Gabonaise. — AFP

## EURO 2020 LOGO UNVEILED

**SAINT PETERSBURG:** UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said yesterday he had no security fears as Russia's second biggest city Saint Petersburg unveiled its Euro 2020 host city logo. Saint Petersburg is one of 13 European cities that will stage matches for the continental tournament with the logo representing the city's iconic Palatial Bridge and the championship trophy.

"I'm sure that Saint Petersburg will be a great organiser," said Slovenian Ceferin, who took over the UEFA helm in September, and had visited Russia for the first time after his election. "I'm sure that there will be friendship and there will not be any problems with security." Russian Football Union (RFU) president Vitaly Mutko added that the city would gain useful experience from hosting this year's Confederation Cup and World Cup in 2018. The city's futuristic 67,800-seater arena—which was finished last month will stage three group matches and a quarter-final. The semi-finals and the final of the 2020 European championship will take place at Wembley stadium in London, England. — AFP



**SAINT PETERSBURG:** The UEFA EURO 2020 host city Saint Petersburg logo is seen on a screen during its launch. —AFP

## CAMEROON CLOSE IN ON LAST EIGHT AS AUBAMEYANG, GABON HELD AGAIN

**LIBREVILLE:** Cameroon closed in on the quarter-finals of the Africa Cup of Nations by beating Guinea-Bissau 2-1 on Wednesday while hosts Gabon were left still waiting for a win despite another goal from Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. The Indomitable Lions came from behind to defeat Guinea-Bissau with Sebastien Siani and Michael Ngadeu netting after Piqueti's contender for goal of the tournament had given the debutants the lead. Cameroon now know a draw against Gabon in their final Group A game on Sunday will secure them a place in the last eight after a build-up to the finals marred by the refusal of several marquee names to accept call-ups.

Earlier, Aubameyang's penalty allowed Gabon to come from behind and draw 1-1 with Burkina Faso after Prejuice Nakoulma had put the Stallions in front at the Stade de l'Amitie. It was their second 1-1 draw in as many matches. Cameroon travelled to Gabon with arguably their weakest ever squad at the Cup of Nations but Hugo Broos's side played well for much of their opening draw with Burkina Faso and showed great spirit to come from behind against Guinea-Bissau.

The west African minnows were heading for their first ever win at the tournament after Piqueti, who plays for Sporting Braga's B team in the Portuguese second division, put them in front in the 13th minute. It was a breathtaking goal as he collected possession midway inside his own half, lobbed one opponent and then outpaced another on his way into the box, where he crashed a shot past Fabrice Ondoa.

However, Cameroon equalised when skipper Benjamin Moukandjo laid the ball off for midfielder Siani to hammer a first-time effort into the net from 20 yards just after the hour. Ngadeu, the Slavia Prague defender, then fired in a low shot at the near post to win it, although Belgian coach Broos was still not too happy at the end.

"Our first-half performance was not worthy of Indomitable Lions, it was more like tame lions," he said. "I have never seen

such a weak team. There was nothing, no aggression, no fight. "But I think we deserved to win the game on the basis of our second half. We came here to get through the group."

### Raft of injuries

Guinea-Bissau, known as the 'Wild Dogs', now have to win their next game against Burkina Faso if they are to stay alive, although they could be aided by the injuries that have hit Paulo Duarte's team. The Stallions lost star man Jonathan Pitroipa and Jonathan Zongo to injury as they failed to hold onto the lead given to them by Nakoulma midway through the first half in the Gabonese capital.

Gabon were level again before the interval, Borussia Dortmund star Aubameyang scoring his second goal in as many games at this Cup of Nations from the penalty spot after being brought down by goalkeeper Herve Koffi. The Panthers had the best chances to win it, not least when Denis Bouanga met Aubameyang's knockdown with a first-time effort eight yards from goal only for Koffi to make a superb block.

"The Ivory Coast won the last Africa Cup of Nations after drawing their opening two games," recalled Gabon coach Jose Antonio Camacho. "Maybe it is a good omen. Everything still depends on us. If we beat Cameroon we will qualify." However, Gabon's hopes going into that game have already been hit by injuries to Juventus midfielder Mario Lemina and full-back Johann Obiang, with Camacho ruling both men out of the rest of the competition.

The injuries put the state of the pitch in Libreville in the spotlight, but Burkinabe coach Paulo Duarte was philosophical. "The injuries are nothing to do with the pitch or our preparations. That's just football at the top level," he said. The action moves back to Group B in Franceville in south-eastern Gabon yesterday as Riyad Mahrez's Algeria meet Tunisia in a north African derby in the afternoon. Later, Africa's top-ranked side Senegal know a win against outsiders Zimbabwe will secure their place in the last eight. —AFP

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# Sports

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MELBOURNE: Serbia's Novak Djokovic serves against Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin during their men's singles second round match on day four of the Australian Open tennis tournament. — AFP

## Djokovic crashes out of Australian Open

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