

**NATO-ICI  
Centre to  
deepen ties  
with Kuwait**



**Jammeh,  
facing military  
pressure, to  
step down**



**Indian PM  
overturns  
ban on  
bull-wrestling**



**Rooney breaks  
United record,  
Swansea rocks  
Liverpool**



## WOMEN LEAD MASSIVE RIGHTS PROTESTS ACROSS US, WORLD

'DUMP TRUMP': PROTESTERS FLOOD WASHINGTON, OTHER CITIES



Min 09°  
Max 19°  
High Tide  
07:37 & 19:05  
Low Tide  
01:40 & 12:40

### UK: ATTACK 'VERY LIKELY' IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: In an advisory, Britain warned its nationals travelling to Kuwait that attacks in Kuwait are "very likely", adding they should "take care" if they plan to travel in "conservative" areas like Jahra and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. "Attacks in Kuwait are very likely and could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. You should be especially vigilant at this time and follow the advice of the local authorities," the advisory said, urging Britons to take additional safety precautions. "Violent crime against foreigners is rare. However, you should take care if you intend to travel in conservative areas like Jahra, where there have been incidents involving firearms, and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh where there have been riots by migrant workers protesting about their conditions," the advisory added. It also reminded travelers that following maritime restrictions issued by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior in 2011, they should take care when sailing in Kuwaiti waters. "Many areas of the Gulf are highly sensitive, including near maritime boundaries and the islands of Boubiyan and Warbah... The area in the northern Gulf, between Iran, Iraq and Kuwait has not been demarcated and vessels entering these areas have been detained and inspected.

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Demonstrators protest on the National Mall in Washington yesterday to send a defiant message to US President Donald Trump. (Inset) A banner is seen at a march in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

WASHINGTON: Women in pink "pussyhats" flooded into Washington by the trainload yesterday for a massive rights march that drew hundreds of thousands in defiance of America's headline new president, Donald Trump. Tens of thousands of people also took to the streets of London, Paris and other cities across the world chanting "Dump Trump" in solidarity with US protesters.

Washington's metro stations overflowed as trains packed to bursting moved cheering, clapping marchers into the city for what was expected to be a record-breaking inauguration-related protest. Michele Phillips, a 45-year-old Canadian from New York State who took US citizenship in 2013, came to make a stand against what she calls Trump's "platform of hate and bigotry". "I know that we can do better, we have to fight for the change we want to see," she told AFP. According to Washington's deputy mayor Kevin Donahue, organizers have upped their initial turnout estimate from 200,000 to 500,000 people faced with the early morning flood of protesters. The city provides no official crowd counts.

Trump's defeated rival Hillary Clinton tweeted her support to the crowds massed near Washington's National Mall, preparing to march on the White House led by celebrity participants including Scarlett Johansson and Michael Moore. "Thanks for standing, speaking & marching for our values, @womensmarch. Important as ever. I truly believe we're always Stronger Together."

Women made up the overwhelming majority of the people who emerged whooping and cheering from Washington's Union Station, arriving on jam-packed trains and buses. Many carried homemade signs.

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## TRUMP MOVES TO WEAKEN OBAMACARE

### MILITANTS BLOW THEMSELVES UP IN JEDDAH CLASH

RIYADH: Two suspects blew themselves up yesterday during a firefight with security forces in the Red Sea city of Jeddah and a third was arrested in another operation, the interior ministry said. Security forces raided a suspected "terrorist" hideout used for making explosive belts and other devices in a southern district of Jeddah, a spokesman for the ministry said in a statement. Two men holed up inside the premises shot at security forces, who returned fire, according to the statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

The suspects refused to surrender and "blew themselves up by detonating their explosive belts", it said, confirming an earlier statement by Jeddah authorities. Pictures posted on Twitter showed a fire at the site of the shootout. The interior ministry spokesman also said that a third suspect was arrested yesterday in a security operation targeting another Jeddah neighborhood. The suspect, a Saudi national, is believed to have had links to the two men who blew themselves up. He was arrested along with a Pakistani woman whom he identified as his wife, the spokesman said.

Earlier this month, security forces shot and killed two suspected jihadists including an explosive belt maker during a police operation in the north of Riyadh. Both were Saudi citizens. At the end of October, authorities said they had foiled a plot to bomb a football stadium in Jeddah during a football match and dismantled two "terrorist" cells linked to the Islamic State group. Eight suspects were arrested in the operation, including two Pakistanis, a Syrian and a Saudi. — AFP

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump directed government agencies on Friday to freeze regulations and take steps to weaken Obamacare, using his first hours in the White House to make good on a campaign promise to start dismantling his predecessor's healthcare law. Heading into the Oval Office shortly after the conclusion of his inaugural parade, Trump signed an order on the Affordable Care Act that urged government departments to "waive, defer, grant exemptions from, or delay the implementation" of provisions that imposed

fiscal burdens on states, companies or individuals.

It also called for efforts to give states greater flexibility in implementing healthcare programs while developing "a free and open market in interstate commerce for the offering of healthcare services and health insurance." Health experts had speculated that Trump could expand exemptions from the so-called individual mandate, which requires Americans to carry insurance or face a penalty, or the requirement that employers offer coverage.

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ISTANBUL: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses supporters yesterday. — AP

### ERDOGAN BUOYED BY VOTE FOR POWERFUL PRESIDENCY

#### PARLIAMENT ENDORSES MOVE

ANKARA: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday began campaigning for constitutional reforms that would greatly expand the powers of his office, only hours after a vote in parliament cleared the way for a national referendum on the issue. Speaking in Istanbul, he hailed the assembly's early-morning decision, saying a more powerful presidency will catapult Turkey to a position of strength. "God willing the people will give the true decision, the final decision," Erdogan said.

After an all-night session capping almost two weeks of acrimonious

debate, Turkish lawmakers passed the controversial set of 18 articles. The measures still need to be approved in a national plebiscite slated for April. The bill would abolish the role of the prime minister and introduce a presidential system that critics fear lacks effective checks and balances. A change to the presidential system would be a crowning achievement for Erdogan, who has outmaneuvered and crushed all his major foes. The reforms would potentially allow him to remain in power until 2029.

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WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump, flanked by Vice President Mike Pence and Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, signs his first executive order on healthcare on Friday in the Oval Office of the White House. — AP

## 16 KILLED IN ITALY SCHOOL BUS CRASH

VERONA, Italy: Sixteen people died when a coach bringing Hungarian teenagers home from a skiing trip crashed and burst into flames on a northern Italian motorway overnight, authorities said yesterday. It appeared the death toll from the tragedy near Verona at around 11:00 pm (2200 GMT) could have been much worse had it not been for the bravery and quick thinking of a teacher. Emergency workers said that the bus carrying 56 people returning from France, most of them teenagers aged 14-16 as well as several teachers and two drivers, ploughed into a bridge pillar.

A huge inferno very quickly engulfed the bus, dramatic pictures released by police showed, completely destroying the interior and reducing the vehicle to a burned-out wreck. Some were killed when they were hurled from the coach on impact, but most of the victims were found badly charred inside the vehicle after being unable to escape in

time. The Hungarian government said that three people were in a very serious condition, including one in an artificial coma. Ten more were seriously hurt and 13 had minor injuries.

All were being treated in nearby hospitals. Twelve others who were not hurt were receiving counseling at a hotel in the vicinity. "These were children. It's the hardest thing to take. Everyone thinks of their own," Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto, fighting back tears, told a news conference in Budapest. "Of course the Hungarian government will do everything necessary to ease the families' pain."

Girolamo Lacquaniti, Verona traffic police chief, said on radio that no other vehicle was involved, pointing to mechanical failure or human error such as the driver falling asleep. "The coach was travelling at quite a constant speed and we haven't found any traces of braking," Lacquaniti said. The vehicle burst into flames "moments after the impact," he

said. One of the drivers was among those killed, Italian media reported. Describing a "devastating" scene, Lacquaniti told Radio Capitale that 13 passengers had managed to escape by jumping out.

"Those who were seated at the back of the bus saved themselves by smashing the windows amid shouting and panic," Hungary's consul in Italy Judit Timaffy told Italian media. "A gym teacher rescued lots of those on board by getting back on the bus. He was taken to hospital with serious burns on his back," Timaffy said. She said that the drivers had changed over around an hour before the accident. Traffic police were still gathering evidence and consulting video evidence meaning it was "still too early to determine the cause of this tragedy," Lacquaniti said.

Once the blaze was put out emergency workers had to wait for a judge to give approval to comb through the smoking

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The wreckage of a bus is seen following a crash on the A4 motorway near the Verona East exit in northern Italy yesterday. — AFP



# STOLTENBERG: NATO-ICI CENTER TO DEEPEN COOPERATION WITH KUWAIT, ENTIRE REGION

## GULF SECURITY DIRECTLY LINKED TO THAT OF ALL NATO ALLIES

**BRUSSELS:** NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg will travel to Kuwait tomorrow to inaugurate the NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Regional Center which will be the Alliance's first such presence in the region.

"I thank Kuwait for its generosity, and commend its active role in promoting regional security. The NATO-ICI Center represents an important milestone in NATO's deepening cooperation with Kuwait and the entire region," he said in an exclusive interview ahead of the two-day visit.

The NATO chief explained that the center will be a hub for cooperation between the Alliance and Gulf partners in a wide range of areas, including strategic analysis, civil emergency planning, military-to-military cooperation, and public diplomacy.

The Center will also facilitate the sharing of expertise and improve understanding between NATO and Kuwait, as well as the three other Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) partners - Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), he said.

He noted that the Kuwaiti authorities proposed the establishment of the Center at NATO's Chicago Summit in 2012, and the Alliance gratefully accepted. "Last year, I toured the construction site, and in a few days, I will be in Kuwait again to celebrate the Center's opening," said Stoltenberg, 58, a former Prime Minister of Norway.

### Directly linked

He stressed that "the security of the Gulf is directly linked to the security of all NATO Allies. We share the same aspirations for peace and stability, and we share common security threats, such as terrorism, weapons proliferation and failing states." "The shared security challenges make it even more important that we work closer together. That is exactly why we are reinforcing our political dialogue and practical cooperation," he stated.

NATO has partnership programs with all four members of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative which was launched during the NATO summit in the Turkish metropolis in 2004. "Taking Kuwait as an example, we work closely in areas including



NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

crisis management, defense policy, and defense against chemical, biological, and radiological and nuclear weapons," Stoltenberg said.

He said the NATO-Kuwait Transit Agreement, signed during his last visit in 2016, is another example of the value this partnership provides: it facilitates the movement of NATO equipment and personnel through the region.

"NATO deeply values its partnerships in the Gulf, and my upcoming visit to Kuwait and the new Regional Center underlines the priority we place on building our cooperation even further," he underlined.

Stoltenberg said he would welcome the membership of Saudi Arabia and Oman in the ICI if they so wished. "The Gulf Cooperation Council, to which they belong, plays a key role in regional stability. I met the Saudi Defense Minister last year at NATO Headquarters, and he expressed Saudi Arabia's readiness for further cooperation. So I look forward to an ongoing dialogue on deepening our relations," he said.

### Fighting terrorism

Further, he said that NATO is committed to

fighting terrorism and projecting stability, including by working with a range of partners throughout North Africa and the Middle East. "We have already trained hundreds of Iraqi officers in Jordan to better fight IS, and from this month we are expanding our efforts into Iraq itself. In Tunisia, we are supporting the training of Tunisian Special Forces, and in Afghanistan, we are helping to ensure that the country never again becomes a safe haven for international terrorism. When our neighbors are more stable, we are more secure," he said.

NATO also continues to offer direct support to the Global Coalition to Counter the so-called Islamic State (IS), with our AWACS surveillance aircraft providing surveillance data to support air operations. And all Allies contribute to the Coalition in different ways, he said.

"The Coalition is making steady progress, and IS is losing ground," he said. "So as we begin 2017, I am confident that NATO will remain the cornerstone of Euro-Atlantic security, and continue to project stability beyond our borders. Again and again, our history has proven that NATO can adapt and deliver. Today, as we face the most serious security challenges in a generation, our adaptation continues," he concluded.

### Meetings

During his visit, the NATO chief is scheduled to have meetings with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah and the President of the Kuwait National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Al-Sabah, according to a statement released earlier by NATO.

A meeting of the North Atlantic Council with senior representatives of the four ICI partner countries will follow the ceremony, with the participation of the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council and representatives of the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The ICI which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE was launched in Istanbul in 2004 to develop security and defence cooperation between the four Arab Gulf states and NATO. —KUNA

# KUWAIT-CHAIRLED OPEC OUTPUT MONITORING PANEL MEETS TODAY

**VIENNA:** OPEC's committee tasked with implementing the recent accord on slashing oil output will hold today the first session in nearly two weeks after the agreement went into effect to trim the production by 1.8 million barrels per day.

The meeting of the commission, chaired by Kuwait's Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq, is of particular significance due to its sensitive mission to oversee the output of the crude oil by OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing nations.

OPEC's insiders said that the Secretariat General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had already begun preparations for hosting the commission session, expressing high hopes that the 24 oil producers would abide by the Vienna accord to the letter. The producers had worked out the key accord with aim of tackling the market glut in a bid to shore up oil prices.

The well-informed sources indicated that the relevant states' determination on slashing the output quotas "has started to bear fruits for the crude prices have relatively moved up in the international markets." The latest OPEC monthly report showed that crudes' prices of the organization's 12 member countries jumped 20 percent in December reaching \$51.65 pb, due to the historic cooperation between the producers from inside and outside OPEC, for the first time since 18 months ago.

As to Kuwait's chairing of the ministerial panel charged with monitoring the accord implementation, the sources said Kuwait was named the committee head at the latest ministerial meeting, noting the deep respect among the producers for the country which has for long years honored its commitments toward the market stability and interests of producers and consumers.

### Coordination

On eve of the official ministerial meeting, the OPEC states' ministers will hold a preparatory and coordination meeting. The Kuwait-chaired commission includes as members Venezuela and Algeria (OPEC members) and Russia and Oman (non-members).

OPEC producers reached an agreement in Vienna, in end of November, to cut the output ceiling by 1.2 million barrels per day, effective start of the New Year. The organization had also received pledges from producing countries outside the organization to cut their output by 458,000 bpd. OPEC's production ceiling will be, according to the agreement, at the level of 32.5 million bpd.

Many analysts concur that the consensus has succeeded in slashing the



Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq

production and keeping the prices at reasonable levels. However, its sustainability hinges largely on continuous commitment by the producers to abide by the set quotas.

OPEC had also hosted, on December 10th, a coordination ministerial meeting grouping OPEC and non-OPEC member countries, including Russia-the first of its kind to be convened since 2002

### Commitment

Upon his arrival to Vienna on Friday, Minister Marzouq said that the meeting will review the commitment of OPEC and non-OPEC countries with their respective output quotas under the historic agreement they reached late last year. "The committee members will review the changes relating to supply and demand after the producers cut the glut of oil on the global oil market by 1.658 million barrels per day," he pointed out.

Asked on his assessment of the commitment of the oil producers, Marzouq expressed upbeat view, citing the recent remarks from Russia, a non-OPEC producer. He affirmed that the representation of non-OPEC countries at the committee indicates their seriousness about the need to maintain equilibrium on the oil market. The oil prices have rallied by 20 percent since the deal was struck here on December 10, 2016.

The minister said the committee will analyze the exact figures and the trends of prices in the coming period after receiving reports from the main producers on their compliance by the end of January. "The OPEC ministers will convene their semiannual meeting in May to look into the possibility of extending the current deal to another six months if need be," he noted. Marzouq reaffirmed Kuwait's keenness on strict implementation of the agreement with a view to serving the interests of both exporters and importers. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti students pose for a group photo before leaving to Albania.

# KUWAITI STUDENTS BEGIN TRIPS TO CUBA, ALBANIA

## FINANCED BY KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**HAVANA/TIRANA:** Kuwaiti students began late Friday a trip financed by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) to Cuba by visiting the UNESCO recognized World Heritage Site of Old Havana. The students were informed about the history of the old city which was established in 1519. The students also visited the Arab Museum which holds a number of exhibits including the "Kuwaiti Tent" and a number of other traditional items which are on permanent display.

Students Mohammad Al-Ka'ak and Rashed Al-Nu'aiem reflected their enthusiasm during their current trip. They affirmed that it was very important to know the history and culture of other nations to widen Kuwaiti students' perspectives about the world. They have expressed

their pride in knowing that one of the oldest Mosques in the capital Havana was renovated by Kuwait in 2015.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Old Havana "retains an interesting mix of Baroque and neoclassical monuments, and a homogeneous ensemble of private houses with arcades, balconies, wrought-iron gates and internal courtyards".

The KFAED "be among the outstanding ones" students program began in 2010 part of a cooperation between the Ministry of Education and KFAED. It involves the annual selection of a number of high achieving 11th grade students who are sent on accompanied trips to see firsthand KFAED and Kuwaiti developmental contributions

and efforts. The students had met with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Cuba Fadel Al-Khalaf and embassy staff who informed them about the history of Kuwaiti-Cuban relations. The Kuwaiti diplomat welcomed the visiting students' delegation to Havana and called on them to use their time to learn about Cuba and its people. Khalaf took the chance to thanked KFAED for its ongoing efforts to develop the mindset of Kuwaiti students, saying that these trips will hopefully benefit the new generation of Kuwaitis.

### Fund's contributions

Meanwhile, students headed yesterday to Albania to begin a trip funded by the KFAED. Amira Al-Kandari, KFAED's media executive said that the trip, which will last till January 28th, will



HAVANA: The Kuwaiti students are pictured during their visit to Cuba. — KUNA

inform students about the fund's contributions in Albania.

The trip, within the KFAED's "Be among the outstanding ones" students program, will highlight the fund's projects in Albania since 1993, said the official. Seven loans were provided by the fund to Albania worth KD 33.438 million, (\$113.6 million) to finance projects within agriculture, transportation, and infrastructure.

On an annual basis, the KFAED organizes trips to mainly showcase Kuwait's huge role in providing assistance to other countries. In a previous statement, KFAED said that

these trips contributed to the development of students' skills in research for knowledge, in addition to helping them to discover their own abilities. The students program is part of a cooperation between the Ministry of Education and KFAED, which kicked off in 2010, and it involves the annual selection of a number of high achieving 11th grade students who are sent on accompanied trips to see firsthand KFAED and Kuwaiti developmental contributions and efforts. KFAED was established in 1961 on an initiative by late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares (center) attends the inauguration ceremony of the 70th annual scouting camp. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares poses for a group photo with officials at the event.

# SCOUTING KEY FOR YOUTH SOUND UPBRINGING: EDUCATION MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares yesterday underscored the key role of national scouting for boosting basic values such as patriotism among the young and contributing to efforts to make a capable new generation.

The minister made the statement after inaugurating the 70th

annual scouting camp, themed 'a building hand and a protecting hand.' The camp, held in Kabad, involves scouts from foreign, Arab and Gulf countries. Up to 1,400 scouts are involved in the camp, featuring diverse activities aimed at sharpening the youngsters' skills. — KUNA



Boy scouts perform during the ceremony.



Young boy scouts perform Kung Fu maneuvers during the ceremony.



From the Heart

## I AM THE 'SAVIOR'... AND FORGET 'MAMA AMERICA'!



By Mohammad Alhusseini

The Inaugural address of US President Donald Trump was harsh, offensive if not insulting to the American political class, both Republican and Democratic.

Trump directly addressed the symbols of this class, including his predecessors, decrying the practices of the traditional political establishment, and accusing it of indulging over the course of decades in idle talk. He also accused the political establishment of serving its interests at the expense of the American people to the point of marginalizing them, destroying their dreams and wasting their achievements all over the world where, as Trump sees it, many countries became rich at his country's expense.

Significantly, Trump was earlier keen on stressing that he wrote his speech himself. Taking advantage of the solemn atmosphere of the ceremony, he purposefully presented himself as the 'Savior', in a strategy that we can conclude from his carefully chosen and frightening words, the likes of which were seldom used by any former American president, about the weakened US economic and military prowess. He used words such as 'decay' and 'depletion' to refer to the country's infrastructure and its army, whose bases are spread across the world.

He painted a grim picture of America as a preamble to his objective of restoring the waning glow and glitter. From the very start, it became clear that he would not be tolerant, and that in a direct message to the Congress in which he warned them that they either go along and work with him, or that he would unmask them and reveal those who are "all talk and no action." All are aware out of experience that he could do that with a morning Tweet, possibly beginning it with: "You ...!"

So far matters seem somewhat obvious and an internal American affair. But there is something more sinister in the speech, which he summed up in an equally harsh message to the whole world: Listen... America first!

Since the collapse of the Iron Curtain, the world became accustomed or forced to fall into the arms of America as a caring mother, carrying out the role of both father and mother. The world paid the price of its recklessness, negligence and miscalculation in many instances. On the other hand, the world benefited from its efforts to enhance globalization and free trade driven by technological advances, in return for its hegemony and control over the decision-making of the international institutions - the financial in particular - and the direction of the world's economy. Trump is saying 'America first'. That is fine, but how? What will America offer in order to continue leading the world if it is monopolizing the priority for itself? Does it want to get rich by impoverishing the world? Or will it turn inwards and relinquish its leadership?

'Mama America' is again bewildering us all, while no one is sure whether we should satisfy it, or be satisfied by it at a time when the world is yet to recover from the economic malaise transmitted from it, and from a human bleeding in many parts as a result of its insufficient care. Trump is waving his stick promising it to be magical and for the better. We can only hope that we are witnessing magic, not jugglery!

Note: Mohammad Alhusseini is the Managing Editor of Al-Anbaa Daily

## MINISTER TOURS ABU HALIFA, WAFRA HOUSING PROJECTS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Utilities Affairs Yasser Abul inspected the Abu Halifa and Wafra residential expansion projects yesterday. Abul was escorted by the Director of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Bader Al-Waqian and his deputy for implementation affairs Ali Al-Hubail. During the tour, Abul inspected both projects' infrastructure and was briefed about the work progress on both sites. Waqian said that PAHW has already handed over the lands in both projects to citizens, and that building licenses have been issued according to schedule.

Waqian explained that Abu Halifa's project includes 171 housing units, a power plant, seven power transformers, a mosque and a number of stores. He added that the Wafra project includes 2,426 housing units, 10 power transformation units in addition to several public facilities such as a kindergarten, a middle school, a high school, a polyclinic, a mosque, a park, a government complex, a shopping mall, a cooking gas cylinders' branch, a police station, a social office, a community development building, an ambulance center and stores.

### Labor demands

Board member of the Ministry of Electricity and Water's (MEW) labor union Khaled Al-Tahous expressed discontent with what he described as MEW officials' ambiguity in dealing with the issue of turning some of the ministry's sectors into separate establishments without consulting with concerned employees' syndicates in the process. He added that the syndicate had asked for the project's draft long ago without any response so far.

Tahous, who is also a member of the executive

board of the union of government employees' syndicates, further stressed that he holds Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essa Al-Marzouq responsible in case any of the employees' rights were harmed, adding that withholding the project's draft was completely rejected, and that employees will line up to face any decisions against their interests. Tahous said that the syndicate had met with Undersecretary Mohammed Boshehri to discuss employees' demands, while this project was discussed as a priority. "We demanded a copy of the project's draft to study it, but failure to meet our demands calls for suspicions," he underlined.

### Oil pipelines

MP Khalil Al-Saleh filed an inquiry asking Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essa Al-Marzouq about the controversial oil pipelines tender, reports about the performance of a contractor responsible for collection center number 31, and the reasons and impact of delaying a refinery project.

### Dangerous phenomenon

Commenting on recent newspaper report claiming that some training centers in Kuwait grant arbitration certificates within 24 hours, Deputy Director of the Arbitration Center of Kuwait Lawyers Association lawyer Ahmed Al-Enezi said that this issue is a dangerous phenomenon, and stressed the importance that such certificates should only be given by accredited centers and institutions. Enezi added that Kuwait Lawyers Association had long ago established the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies with the aim of spreading legal awareness. He also urged fellow lawyers to consolidate and face such negative phenomena.

## MOTORIST HURT IN SALMIYA ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** An expatriate man was severely injured in a collision reported along Salmiya highway, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and had to cut open the wreckage to free the injured man and rush him to hospital.

### Tent fire

A fire broke out in a tent pitched outside a house in Qossour, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and controlled the fire, rescuing an injured citizen with severe burns. An investigation is in progress to determine the cause of the fire.

Also a fire broke out in a house in Hitteen, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene. The house was evacuated and the flames were stopped from spreading. Some tenants were treated for smoke inhalation onsite. Further investigations are in

progress to determine the cause of the fire.

### Suspects caught with contrabands

Two citizens, one of whom was wanted for a 12-year prison drug-related sentence and a KD 34,167 financial claim, were arrested by Capital detectives with alcohol and drugs. Security sources noted that the suspects fled from a checkpoint and tried to run over a police officer when they were asked for their IDs. The sources added that the suspects were chased into Faiha, where the suspects hit a police patrol car. Another car continued in hot pursuit and managed to stop the suspects, who were drunk. A case was filed and the suspects were referred to relevant authorities. Separately, an Asian man with an expired residency visa wanted for a KD 400 financial claim by a local telecom company and KD 300 by another was arrested in Mangaf with 64 home-brewed liquor bottles. The suspect confessed to running an illegal liquor brewery.

Local spotlight

## RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Religious extremism is prevailing in the world today, especially in the Middle East, and the problem is that it is being associated with Islam because of ignorance and fanaticism. Is there a way out, and what can we do about our situation? What are the reasons behind the widespread ignorance and intolerance in the Middle East, despite the presence of education and scholars?

Every day we hear and watch fanatics who are against diversity, dialogue and freedom of expression and thought, because in the minds of these fanatics, they are the only ones who have the right to think, decide and judge, but we don't have these rights.

Religious extremists have supporters in local communities including some well-known conservative scholars and officials. The cause of religious intolerance lies in the absence of information, which was created by extremists. For example, a Muslim scientist called Ibn Al-Muqaffa was executed in 759 AD after being accused of heresy and being an infidel. Some other enlightened scientists like Al-Tabari also faced persecution.

Other causes of religious intolerance are due to differences between the divine text of the Holy Quran and the sayings of scholars and religious men, who may not be capable to issue the right opinions. With time, the public starts to consider views of the scholars as definite and begin to defend them as they defend the divine text.

Islamic civilization, which was launched 14 centuries ago, brought about the finest examples of tolerance and positive coexistence among nations and peoples of different civilizations, cultures, religions and races. Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) had a Jewish neighbor, but I know that no conservative today will accept to have a Jew living next door. Religious intolerance has distorted the image of Islam in the world. The problem of not accepting differences and the legacy of hatred and prejudice have led to this condition today. These are disagreements about the niqab or the hijab, let alone other things in life.

Religious extremists have promoted sectarianism and justified the murder of Muslims. The worst thing is when terrorist organizations speak on behalf of more than a billion Muslims and seek legitimacy, such as IS, and impose their false views. This is an embarrassment for moderate Muslims. This corruption happens under the name of Islam, which is innocent. We must stand up against this campaign. Moderate thinkers need to advocate the public to put forward effective solutions to stop the spread of religious intolerance. The media and columnists need to carry out this task too.

If we want to end civil conflicts and bloodshed in our part of the world, we need to deliver the true image of Islam to the world and dry out all sources of extremism, killing and hatred. This is a long and hard mission and requires a new philosophy. But I honestly don't see us moving an inch towards this direction any time soon.



**KUWAIT:** Telangana Home and Labor Minister Naini Narsimha Reddy (center) addresses the press conference. Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain (second left) and Principal Secretary Dr Rajat Kumar (second right), TOMCOM GM K Bhavani (right) and Managing Director KY Naik (left) are also present. — Photo by Sajeev K Peter

## TELANGANA DELEGATION IN KUWAIT, EYES PARTNERSHIPS ON MANPOWER AROUND 30,000 WORKERS FROM TELANGANA IN KUWAIT

By Sajeev K Peter

**KUWAIT:** A four-member delegation from Telangana state of India headed by Home and Labor Minister Naini Narsimha Reddy has arrived in Kuwait yesterday as part of a GCC-level visit. The delegation will explore the possibility of supplying manpower from the Telangana state to various sectors in Kuwait.

"We are here primarily to interact with the Telangana community and to study the possibility of supplying quality manpower from our state to the State of Kuwait," Reddy told a press conference at the Indian Embassy here yesterday. The minister said that the state government has established a government company called Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM) under official license in order to conduct legalized overseas recruitment and to prevent exploitation of job-seekers by unscrupulous and unauthorized private placement agencies.

The minister said that around 30,000 people including domestic laborers, skilled and semiskilled workers are currently in Kuwait from the youngest Indian state of Telangana. Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain also spoke during the meeting. Other members of the delegation include

Principal Secretary Dr Rajat Kumar, TOMCOM General Manager K Bhavani and Managing Director KY Naik.

"The delegation will interact with the community members and will meet with various stake holders, employers, the labor community and government bodies in Kuwait and most importantly the Indian embassy here to understand how we can develop mutually beneficial partnerships in Kuwait, especially in the area of manpower supply. The presence of the minister, who heads the delegation shows our deep interest in developing partnerships here and providing quality manpower to various sectors in Kuwait," said Dr Kumar.

Bhavani, with the help of a PowerPoint presentation, gave an overview of Telangana and its capability to provide technically skilled manpower to the states in the Gulf. "Initially, we will focus on three major sectors such as healthcare, infrastructure and construction and hospitality," she said. There are around 100 nursing colleges and 244 engineering colleges in addition to hundreds of other specialized institutions in the state that produce trained workforce every year, she added. The delegation visited Qatar before arriving in Kuwait. It will leave for the UAE today.

## PANEL DISCUSSES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO KUWAIT AIRWAYS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** In its upcoming meeting, the parliament's financial affairs committee is due to discuss a bill proposed by the government to withdraw a sum of KD 600 million from the general reserves to support Kuwait Airways. The meeting will be attended by Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Subaih. Committee rapporteur MP Safaa Al-Hashem had rejected the proposal, saying that by doing this, the government is willingly violating public funds, especially since many violations have been committed by Kuwait Airways, according to her.

Meanwhile, the parliament's human rights commit-

tee will discuss a proposal to turn the temporary committee into a permanent one. The committee is also scheduled to discuss activating the role of the National Human Rights Diwan.

In the meantime, the parliament's budgets and final statements committee is scheduled to discuss the Ministry of Education's 2015-2016 final statement and the State Audit Bureau's remarks on it. Also scheduled today, the parliament's legislative committee is set to discuss a number of proposals to pass the juvenile law and other penal laws. The committee's meeting will be attended by the ministers of justice, interior, social affairs, awqaf and municipality, in addition to the head of the Supreme Judicial Council and Director of the Interior Ministry's General Investigations Department.

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Photo Feature



# Kuwait marks International Volunteer Day

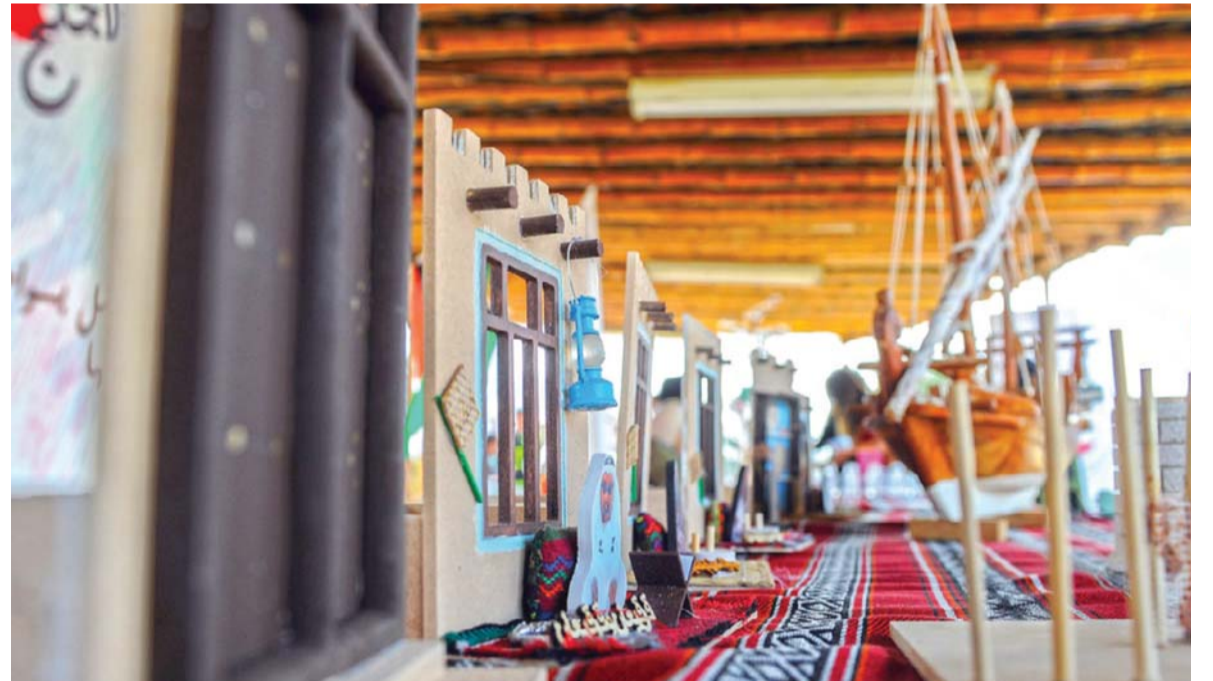
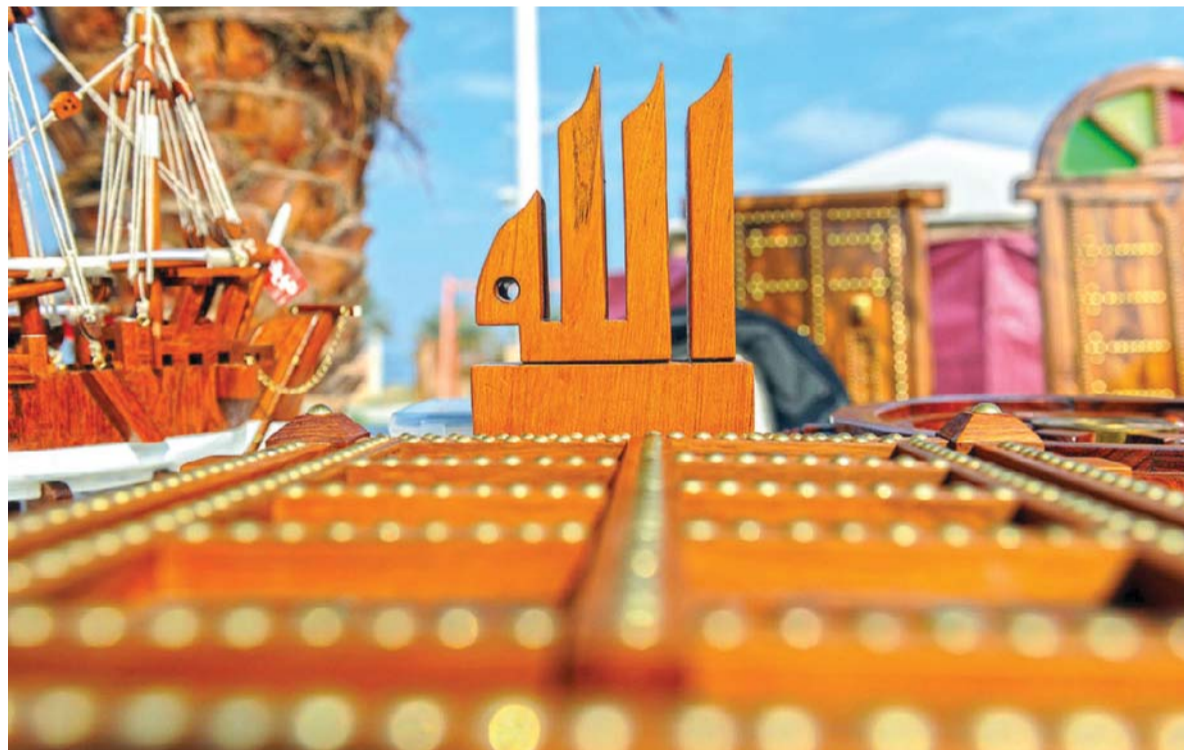


**KUWAIT:** "We have volunteered for your sake, Kuwait" is the motto brandished by a number of handicraft and voluntary associations and ordinary citizens visiting a celebration zone located at the "Yom Al-Bahar" heritage site in Kuwait City, marking the International Volunteer Day. The activity was organized by the Information Ministry's tourism departments. The international occasion falls on December 5th. It is intended to manifest gratitude to volunteers worldwide. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti handcrafters take part in a festival marking the International Volunteer Day.

Models depicting handcrafters from the Kuwaiti heritage. — KUNA photos



Handicraft work.



Classic vehicles put on display at the event.



Participants in the festival pose for a group photo.



In Brief

CROWN PRINCE CONGRATULATES DEPUTY SPEAKER ON SURGERY

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah called Friday the Parliament's Deputy Speaker Essa Al-Kandari, to congratulate him on the successful surgery he underwent in London. His Highness the Crown Prince also sent a cable to Kandari, wishing him speedy recovery. —KUNA



KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 15 cents to \$50.28 per barrel Friday as opposed to \$50.13 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. At the global level, the price went up due to expectations that OPEC and Non-OPEC members will fulfill their deal to reduce their oil output despite news regarding the increase in US petroleum excavation activities. The price of the Brent Crude went up by \$1.33 to \$55.49 per barrel, the same case with the American Crude which went up by \$1.05 to \$52.42 pb. —KUNA



KUNA JUNIOR'S 10TH ISSUE PUBLISHED

**KUWAIT:** The 10th edition of KUNA Junior magazine was published coinciding with the schools' spring break. The new edition includes a variety of topics geared towards children and young adults who are provided with information and data regarding Kuwait and the world. The first issue of KUNA Junior was published in September of 2014. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** Young men ride their all-terrain vehicles away from their camp and close to high voltage overhead power line transmission towers at a location north of Kuwait. Camping sites are designated in specific areas in Kuwait's desert in order to help campers stay away from military, oil and other facilities of sensitive nature. The camping season concludes on March 31, 2017.

— Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# KUWAIT TO TAKE PART IN WHO'S MEETINGS

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi yesterday affirmed Kuwait's participation in meetings of the World Health Organization's Executive Board due to start in Geneva on January 23rd and proceed till February 1st.

In a statement ahead of his scheduled departure to Geneva today for partaking in the meetings, the minister affirmed necessity of cooperation with the organization to revamp national health schemes and programs.

WHO's latest reports affirm that the State of Kuwait has succeeded in decreasing death rates among mothers and babies, combating polio, securing vaccines for children and abiding by international health regulations, minister Harbi added.

The meetings' agenda deals with precautions against non-communicable chronic diseases, affiliated health hazards, and preparations for the UN summit due to address the issue of combating non-communicable diseases (2018). —KUNA



Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi



TAIZ: Ambulances provided by Kuwait are pictured at a location in Taiz, Yemen. — KUNA

# KUWAIT PROVIDES AMBULANCES, MEDICINES TO YEMEN'S TAIZ

**RIYADH:** The State of Kuwait has offered four ambulances and seven tones of different kinds of medicines to the Yemeni city of Taiz, as part of its humanitarian aid to Yemeni people. The aid was delivered by Abou Ismael bin Issa Al-Qurashi, Kuwaiti Higher Committee for Relief representative, to Taiz Governor Ali Al-Muammary Thursday morning in the temporary capital of Aden.

Such ambulances and medicines will work on alleviating suffering of

patients at hospitals of Taiz which are attacked every day by random shelling, Muammary said during a festival. He expressed his gratitude for the delivery of this humanitarian aid to the city which has been suffering from the besiege imposed by Houthi militants. "Kuwaitis have been helping their Yemeni brothers and sisters," he noted, thanking the country, His Highness the Amir and the government for this generous support.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Red Crescent

Society's Director General Abdulrahman Al-Oun said that the visit to Aden and other places aims to be briefed on situations there so as to offer aid to needy people, stressing continued assistance to Yemenis. Abou Ismael also expressed his appreciations to Kuwait, His Highness the Amir and the government for their unlimited support provided to Yemenis in all fields. The festival of delivering aid was attended by some officials from the two sides. — KUNA

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Crime

Report



25 ATVS IMPOUNDED AT AHMADI CAMPS

**KUWAIT:** Responding to campers' complaints about the annoyance caused by all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riders, Ahmadi detectives toured the camping and chalet areas, where they impounded 25 ATVs, issued 40 traffic tickets and arrested seven riders, referring them to relevant authorities.

Man dead in parking lot

An Iranian man reported finding a Bangladeshi national in bad health in a parking lot in Al-Rai, said security sources, noting that on examining the man, paramedics discovered he had died. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Video investigated

Interior Ministry officials are currently investigating a video showing two police patrol cars escaping from the scene after a number of young men assaulted and insulted the policemen. They drove away after hearing noises that sounded like firearm shots in the background, said security sources, noting that investigations are in progress to identify the policemen.

Liquor possession

A citizen was arrested in Hawally when he seemed nervous at a routine checkpoint. Policemen found out three bottles of liquor in his possession, in addition to a plastic bag containing a substance that is suspected to be drugs.

Bootlegger caught

An Asian homebrewed liquor seller was arrested with four bottles of liquor. Security sources said the man was initially stopped because his vehicle's taillights were broken, but when he seemed nervous, detectives searched the vehicle and found the liquor.

Accidents at Gulf Road

Three vehicles collided into each other along Gulf Road outside the National Assembly building. Security sources said no casualties were reported in the incident, which was soon followed by another accident in the same spot when a vehicle turned over.

Beggar arrested

A female Jordanian beggar was arrested in Sabahiya and referred to the deportation department. Meanwhile, an Asian man who was wanted because his residency visa had expired was arrested in Ahmadi with six illicit pills. — Translated from the Arabic press

WALEED MANDANI APPOINTED KFH GROUP CHIEF RETAIL AND PRIVATE BANKING OFFICER

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the appointment of Waleed Khaled Mandani as Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer. This confirms the keenness of the bank to pave the way for national staff to hold senior leadership positions and drive the success for the bank.

With 24 years of extensive experience working in different financial institutions, Mandani is well versed in the banking and financial services. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Arizona in 1992.

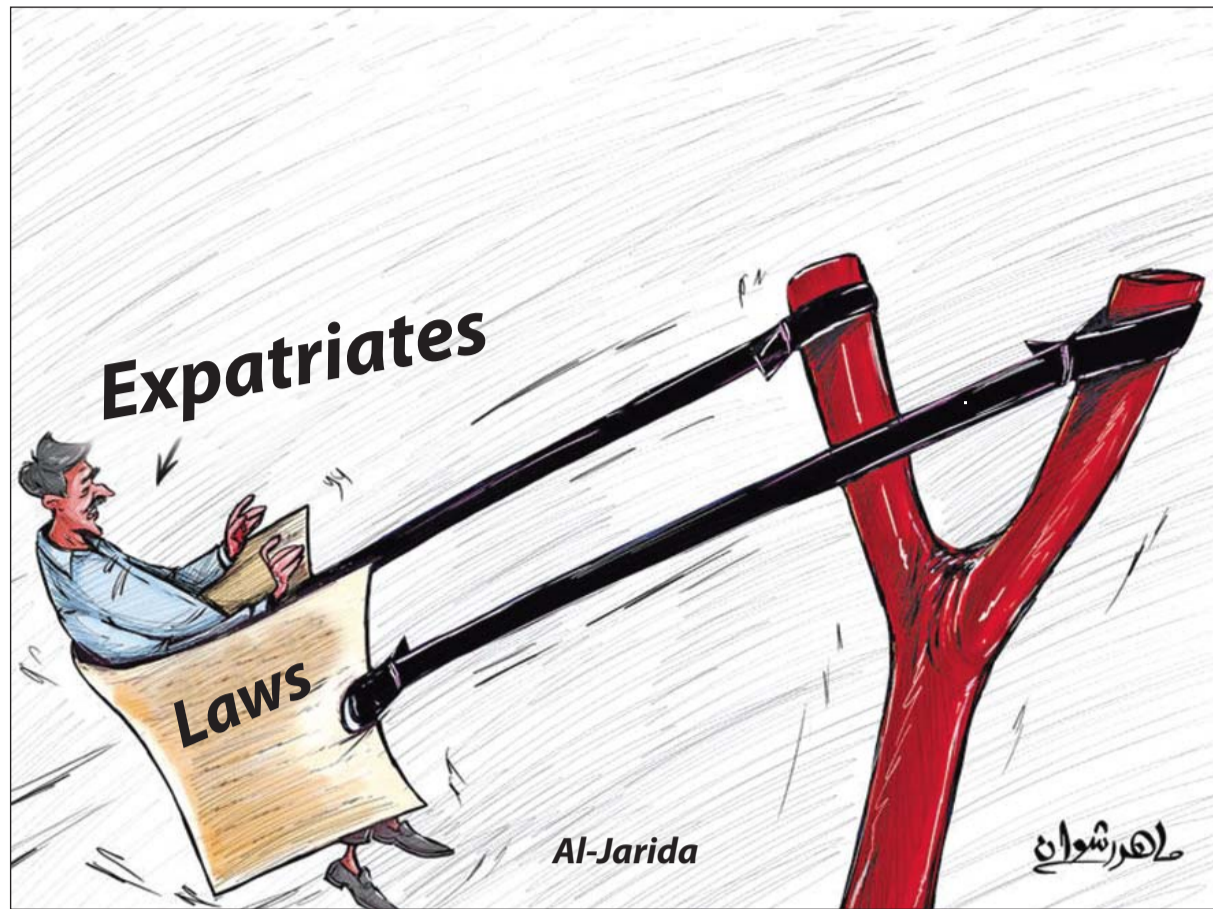
Mandani served as CEO of Wealth Management at BNP Paribas in Kuwait and represented the bank at Kuwait Banking Association during the period from 2005 until 2014. He also worked as a Senior Manager for Private Banking and Institutions at Al-Ahli United Bank (Kuwait) from 2001 until 2005 and Head of Corporate and International Capital Markets at National Investments Company from 1998 until 2001. He started his professional career as a Treasury Corporate Officer (Dealing Room) at the National Bank of Kuwait from 1993 until 1997.

He completed an executive management program from Harvard University specialized in strategy along with an executive management program from Cornell University in 2011. He also completed the Executive Project Management and Leadership Program from Cornell University in New York.

He attended an Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management Euro Outlook for 2000 course held by Solomon Smith Barney Asset Management, a Risk Matrix program organized by JP Morgan and the "Derivative Fundamentals and Equity Valuation" by UBS in London. Furthermore, Mandani completed several specialized courses in the fields of Marketing, Finance and Treasury products.



Waleed Mandani



Al-Jarida

النهار

Al-Anbaa

MY BELOVED CAIRO

By Hadi Bin Ayedh

No matter how beautiful a lady is, she will someday lose her beauty and admirers, except for Cairo. The older that this city gets, the more beautiful it becomes. It is the charming magic of which people never seek remedy. It remains amicable to the

The Nile is another world where many stories revealed a strong link between the voice of Um Kalthoum and love stories developing on dhows sailing up and down the river. Um Kalthoum's voice is so different there. Al-Hussein's narrow overcrowded alleys can

*Its people never keep grudges even if you disagree with them. The more you know them, the more you will love them*

Your days there are as white and pure as the hearts of its people. You might have a dispute with someone there and the following morning find him eagerly looking for you and greeting you as if nothing ever happened. Its people never keep grudges even if you disagree with them. The more you know them, the more you will love them. The 'love at first sight' rule does not apply with them. You never need planning in Cairo about where to go or what to do. You just do whatever you wish and that is it.

I have known many faces there by heart for years. A child who used to mount a coffee table at Al-Feashawi cafe or the one who used to sell nuts is very nostalgic.

Cairo is Arabs' sleepless beloved, who stays up to entertain them and never lets them down in distress regardless of circumstances. We may disagree in many things but we all agree that it is the first in everything. Half a loaf of bread or a plastic can of Koshary on any of its streets equal five-star restaurants elsewhere. Its old taxis and its simple drivers are more fun than most luxurious vehicles. Sitting by the curb with janitor uncle Ibrahim telling me what he had heard on Monte Carlo radio is much better than mingling with others wearing brand suits. All this is only known to those who know the true Cairo. —Translated by Kuwait Times



Minister of Health Jamal Al-Harbi and KFH Chairman Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq inaugurate the medical centers.



MINISTER OF HEALTH PRAISES PERFORMANCE LEVEL OF AL-SALAM HOSPITAL, AFFILIATED TO KFH

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Health Jamal Al-Harbi praised the high performance level of Al-Salam international Hospital affiliated to Kuwait Finance House (KFH). Al-Harbi's statement came on the sidelines of the inauguration of three medical centers at Al-Salam International Hospital in the presence and participation of KFH Chairman Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq.

The centers are for dentistry, kidney diseases and physical therapy. Al-Harbi indicated that the hospital offers distinguished healthcare services to Kuwaitis who hold AFIA health insurance cards, noting that the new centers have 13 dentistry clinics and 16 kidney

dialysis machines equipped with the latest technology. The minister expressed his pleasure with the high quality services provided by Al-Salam Hospital.

Meanwhile, Marzouq accompanied the Minister on a tour to explore the development and expansion work for the new centers that reflect the capacity of the hospital and the appetite to cope with the latest medical technology. He pointed out that KFH boosts support to Al-Salam International Hospital that is considered as a pioneer medical edifice in the private sector.

Al-Salam International Hospital's CEO Dr Ayman Al-

Mutawa stressed the importance of the role played by private medical institutions in easing the burden on government hospitals and medical centers and helping the health ministry realize its strategy and plans. He viewed private medical institutions as key partners of the government in improving healthcare services in the country.

Mutawa said that the expansion efforts and increasing the capacity of the hospital by establishing 3 medical centers for dentistry, kidney diseases and physical therapy will definitely support the hospital's goals by offering best services to patients.

KIB PROVIDES WHEELCHAIRS TO MUBARAK AL-KABEER HOSPITAL

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently donated wheelchairs to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, as part of its ongoing efforts to help promote the development of the healthcare sector in Kuwait. During their visit to the hospital, a team from the Bank's Corporate Communications Unit met with Dr Nader Al-Awadhi, Director of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, and Mr. Saleh Al-Mutairi, from the Hospital's Public Relations team, to discuss the different ways in which KIB and other private sector entities can contribute to the local healthcare sector's development. Meanwhile, Dr AlAwadhi and Dr Al-Mutairi lauded this important initiative from KIB, which seeks to serve the needs of the healthcare sector.

Speaking about this initiative, Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, said: "We have always believed that the private

sector has an important responsibility towards supporting national economic and social development across all areas, including healthcare. KIB has always maintained an all-inclusive approach when it comes to social responsibility, as it engages with all the different segments of the local community to best serve their needs. That being said, we continue to devote special attention to supporting the development of the healthcare sector and promoting greater health awareness within our community."

KIB has always been focused on supporting the local healthcare sector through a diverse program of initiatives. Throughout the year KIB offers its strategic sponsorship to a number of leading healthcare organizations and programs, and focuses on promoting awareness about key health issues affecting Kuwait's society, such as cancer and diabetes.







'Europe will wake up in 2017', Le Pen says in EU gathering

WORLD NERVOUS ABOUT TRUMP'S 'AMERICA FIRST' INAUGURAL SPEECH

**INAUGURATION COVERAGE SHOWS DEEP DIVISIONS**  
 THE AIR OF CELEBRATION WAS MUTED

**NEW YORK:** The media brought a reverence for history and ceremony to its coverage of President Donald Trump's inaugural on Friday, yet deep divisions exposed in the campaign that brought him there weren't far from the surface.

With the armchair psychologists reading the expressions on Hillary Clinton's face, several sour reviews of Trump's inaugural address and images of rock-throwing protesters, the air of celebration was muted. Non-news networks ESPN, BET and MTV aired the moment when Barack Obama was sworn in eight years ago. Not this time.

**Demonstrations**

An anti-Trump demonstration in Washington, DC, was essentially ignored by television networks until the stands set up for dignitaries witnessing the oath of office cleared. Then pictures of demonstrators clashing with police emerged. No doubt an incoming administration and supporters who frequently view the media as the enemy were taking notes.

**'American carnage'**

"It's just disappointing that it's starting out with a little bit of a cloud," New York Republican Rep Chris Collins said on ABC, in a discussion about colleagues who stayed away from Trump's inaugural in protest. "But that's the decision that they're making." The living ex-presidents attended Trump's oath of office, with the exception of the hospitalized George HW Bush. Both Nicolle Wallace on NBC and Bob Schieffer on CBS noted that there was no evidence any of them voted for Trump.

Clinton reacted with silence when she arrived at the Capitol with her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and reporters shouted questions about what it felt like to attend her rival's inauguration. Some on TV, like ABC's Anita McBride, didn't even need a reply: "That's not the smile of a woman who is happy to be here right now," she said. "It's gotta sting," NBC's Lester Holt said.

Although some shouts of "lock her up" within the audience echoed the campaign, there was a moment of televised grace at the luncheon that followed when Trump saluted Clinton and dignitaries in attendance stood and applauded. Following Trump's 16-minute inaugural address, Brian Williams on NBC drew a contrast to the new president's image of an "American carnage" to the call to action in President John F Kennedy's 1961 speech.

Several commentators noted that the speech was aimed more at Trump's supporters than constituents who are suspicious of him. "I have to say it was surprisingly divisive for an inaugural address," said NBC's "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd. "It's tough to be both a unifier and that populist carrier. He went with populism and I think it's going to play well with his folks but that wasn't the type of inaugural address that was intended to bring this country together."

ABC's Tom Llamas called it the first speech of Trump's re-election campaign. "For anyone who hoped or thought that the magnitude of the moment would change Donald Trump, they were completely wrong," he said. The speech was a repudiation to many of the politicians who sat behind Trump as he delivered it, including the former presidents, some analysts said. "It was definitely a bipartisan hand grenade," said CBS' Gayle King.

While the speech was dark, "if you were a Trump voter, you heard everything you wanted to hear," said CNN's John King. On Fox News Channel, overwhelmingly the news source of choice for Trump supporters, analyst Dana Perino called the speech "very muscular." Tucker Carlson said it was populist, not conservative. "Not poetic, but quite strong," Brit Hume said. "He painted this dark landscape of circumstances in America and promised to fix them all."

**'Impeach Trump now'**

On social media, veteran commentator Keith Olbermann urged fans to boycott television coverage of the inauguration. Olbermann may not have been following his own advice, since he tweeted "Impeach Trump Now" less than a minute after the oath of office was administered. Twitter was also filled with pictures comparing the crowd size at Obama's first inauguration with Friday's turnout for Trump, although it was not entirely clear if the postings depicted comparable moments in the ceremony.

Footage of anti-Trump protests filled the television void between the inaugural address and parade, and instantly became part of the divisive political conversation. "If you want to help Donald Trump have a good start to his presidency, go out on the streets and throw rocks at

police officers," said Fox News Channel's Chris Stirewalt, who said the images should solidify Trump's support in middle America.

Even MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, likely a hero to many of the demonstrators, urged caution. Democrats need to lead their party in a constructive manner, so Trump opponents will feel like they have "another home inside politics and that you don't have to do non-political things like this, which once you're setting fires and throwing stuff at police officers is no longer politics, it's just rioting."

It's a new era in Washington, and at no point was it clearer as when networks showed split-screen pictures of President Trump signing papers on one side, and former President Barack Obama speaking to fans shortly before boarding an airplane for California. Slowly, ABC turned the volume down on Obama and up on Trump. CNN wiped Obama's picture off its screen altogether. — AP



WASHINGTON DC: A demonstrator wearing a mask of US President Donald Trump dances as others march past the US Capitol during the Women's March. — AFP



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WASHINGTON: Protesters gather beside the stage at the Women's March on Washington during the first full day of Donald Trump's presidency. — AP



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## EGYPT WORKING FOR LIBYA POLITICAL SOLUTION: FM

**CAIRO:** Egypt is working for a political solution to fighting in neighboring Libya, its foreign minister said yesterday ahead of regional talks on the conflict. "A political solution is the only way to resolve the crisis in Libya," said Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry.

He was speaking ahead of talks with foreign ministers from Libya's neighbors—Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Niger—as

well as UN envoy Martin Kobler. Libya has been torn apart by fighting between militias, tribes and two rival governments since the fall of Dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011. Jihadist groups have exploited the chaos to gain a foothold in the North African country. A UN-backed unity government based in the capital is struggling to impose its authority. It faces competi-

tion from a rival authority supported by parliament in the country's east, which has refused to recognize the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord.

Militarily, the eastern administration is backed by the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army commanded by Marshal Khalifa Haftar. Haftar enjoys the support of several Arab countries including Egypt and the United Arab

Emirates, as well as an emerging alliance with Russia. GNA-aligned militias from the port city of Misrata, who led the fight to oust the Islamic State group from Sirte last year, control much of the west.

In the east, Haftar's forces have been fighting other jihadist groups for more than two years, particularly in Benghazi. Egypt recently hosted

Haftar, parliament speaker Aguilah Saleh and unity government chief Fayez Al-Sarraj in search of "common ground" that could help solve the crisis, Shoukry said yesterday. "Despite recent victories in the fight against terrorism, in Benghazi and in Sirte, terrorism will never be fully eradicated in Libya until there is a political solution," he added. — AFP

## NETANYAHU SET TO DISCUSS IRAN 'THREAT' WITH TRUMP

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he planned to discuss soon with US President Donald Trump how to "counter the threat" from Iran. "I plan to speak soon with President Trump about how to counter the threat of Iranian regime which calls for Israel's destruction," Netanyahu said in a video message posted on his Facebook page. Before his inauguration on Friday, Trump had repeatedly denounced the nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers, including the United States, which Israel has also staunchly criticized.

On Jan 16, Trump said in an interview with the Times of London and Bild newspaper of Germany: "I'm not happy with the Iran deal, I think it's one of the worst deals ever made. I think it's one of the dumbest deals I've ever seen, one of the dumbest." But he declined to say whether he intended to "renegotiate" the deal, as he asserted regularly during the presidential campaign.

Netanyahu has been an ardent opponent of the 2015 pact signed by Iran, the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany. The deal placed curbs on Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of international

sanctions. In December, Netanyahu said there were many ways of "undoing" the Iran nuclear deal and that he would discuss that with Trump. "I have about five things in mind," he said.

But before he left office, former president Barack Obama warned against rowing back the pact, emphasizing its "significant and concrete results". EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini has also said that the bloc would stand by the accord - which she helped negotiate - because it showed that diplomacy worked and served Europe's security needs. And on Monday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani that the nuclear deal was approved by the UN Security Council and therefore "is not a bilateral deal" with the US that Trump can renegotiate.

In the video message posted online, Netanyahu also addressed the Iranian people saying "we are your friend, not your enemy". Netanyahu addressed the people of Iran in English, with Farsi subtitles. "You have a proud history. You have a rich culture. Tragically, you are shackled by a theocratic tyranny," he said. Meanwhile, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, whose role is largely ceremonial, said in a statement that he had invited Trump to visit Israel. — Agencies



**BANJUL:** People board the ferry yesterday as life slowly returns to normal in the Gambian capital. — AP

## GAMBIANS AWAIT JAMMEH'S EXIT AFTER PLEDGE TO LEAVE

POLITICAL STANDOFF CAME CLOSE TO MILITARY INTERVENTION

**DAKAR:** Gambia's defeated leader Yahya Jammeh is expected to leave soon for Guinea, and the new president said yesterday he plans to return home to take power once the situation is "clear." A visibly tired Adama Barrow told The Associated Press in an interview yesterday that he will enter Gambia once a security sweep has been completed. He has been in neighboring Senegal for his safety during a political standoff that came to the brink of a regional military intervention.

Barrow, who won December's presidential elections, spoke just hours after Jammeh announced he would relinquish power, ending hours of last-minute negotiations with the leaders of Guinea and Mauritania. "It is not yet confirmed information, but reliable sources say he'll be leaving today," Barrow told the AP. "We believe he'll go to Guinea, but we are yet to confirm 100 percent, but that's what we believe." In the Guinean capital, Conakry, the security minister was at the airport with jeeps full of well-armed military personnel, witnesses said. However, a special plane also landed from Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, with only a crew and no passengers, suggesting that could be Jammeh's final destination. Equatorial Guinea, unlike Guinea, is not a state party to the International Criminal Court.

### Heavy security

The new Gambian president said he had not yet been given the communique that should spell out the terms of Jammeh's departure. "What is fundamental here is he will live in a foreign country as of now," he said. Under heavy security, Barrow took the presidential oath of office Thursday at Gambia's embassy in Senegal, with the backing of the international community.

As Jammeh prepared to leave the country after more than 22 years in power, human rights activists demanded that he be held accountable for alleged abuses, including torture and detention of opponents. It was those concerns about prosecution that led the famously mercurial Jammeh to challenge the December election results, just days after shocking Gambians by conceding his loss to Barrow. Jammeh once vowed to rule for a billion years. His agreement to step down has brought an end to the political crisis in this tiny West African nation of 1.9 million, which has promoted itself to European tourists as "the Smiling Coast of Africa." Critics of Jammeh insisted he should not be given any kind of amnesty. "Jammeh came as a pauper bearing guns. He should leave as a disrobed despot. The properties he seeks to protect belong to Gambians and Gambia, and he must not be allowed to take them with him. He must leave our country without conditionalities," said Jeggan Bahomou of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy in Gambia.

An online petition urged that Jammeh not be granted asylum and should instead be arrested. Barrow, though, cautioned that was premature. "We aren't talking about prosecution here, we are talking about getting a truth and reconciliation commission," Barrow told the AP. "Before you can act, you have to get the truth, to get the facts together."

### Increasingly isolated

Jammeh, who first seized power in a 1994 coup, has been holed up this week in his official residence in Banjul, increasingly isolated as he was abandoned by his security forces and several Cabinet members. The West African regional bloc,

ECOWAS, pledged to remove Jammeh by force if he did not step down. The group assembled a multinational military force including tanks that rolled into Gambia on Thursday. The force moved in after Barrow's inauguration and a unanimous vote by the U.N. Security Council supporting the regional efforts.

Jammeh's announcement to relinquish power is a good first step, said Jeffrey Smith, executive director of Vanguard Africa. "For the Gambia to truly move on, President Barrow must reside in State House and begin the task of governing. In an ideal

scenario, Jammeh will also face justice for the many crimes he has committed since 1994," Smith wrote by email. Fearing violence as the political crisis dragged on, about 45,000 people have fled Gambia for Senegal, according to the UN refugee agency. After days of uncertainty, Banjul was peaceful yesterday. At the ferry terminal, Yassin Jallow helped hand out bread to families returning to the capital. "There are so many people who couldn't go out, and nothing is working, the shops are closed, the bakeries are closed ... and we don't want anyone to starve," Jallow said. — AP



**ARIARA:** Arab Israelis take part in a demonstration against home demolitions in Arab neighborhoods carried out by Israeli authorities in this Arab Israeli city yesterday. The death of Yacoub Abu Al-Qiyan in disputed circumstances on Jan 18 when Israeli police raided the Bedouin village of Umm al-Hiran in order to demolish several homes sparked a wave of protest across the country by Arab Israelis, who are descendants of Palestinians who remained after the creation of Israel in 1948 and who now make up around 17.5 percent of the population. — AFP

## BODIES OF FIREMEN RECOVERED AFTER TEHRAN TOWER INFERNO

**TEHRAN:** Rescue teams recovered the bodies of two Iranian firefighters early yesterday, two days after they were killed while tackling a blaze in Tehran's oldest high-rise. They were among around 20 firefighters feared to have been killed when the 15-storey Plasco building collapsed on Thursday after a four-hour blaze while emergency services were still evacuating the tower.

One firefighter already died in hospital from his injuries. Smoldering fires and smoke have complicated the recovery effort as sniffer dogs have combed the rubble. Tehran's chief pathologist said the degree of the burns had made identification of the dead difficult. "Even the identity badges they wore on their uniforms were burnt beyond recognition," Massoud Ghadipacha told Iran's ISNA news agency.

The government announced a day of mourning for the firefighters yesterday, with the cabinet releasing a statement "praising these great men of sacrifice". President Hassan Rouhani, who visited the site yesterday, called for an immediate investigation. Impromptu displays of solidarity and sadness appeared across Iran, with people leaving flowers and lighting candles outside fire stations.

The Plasco building was Iran's oldest high-rise and contained a shopping centre and hundreds of clothing suppliers. When completed in 1962, it was Iran's tallest building, before being dwarfed by the construction boom of later years. It was built by Habibollah Elghanian, a prominent Iranian-Jewish businessman who was arrested for alleged ties to Israel and executed after the 1979 Islamic revolution. — AFP



**TEHRAN:** Iranian firefighters yesterday remove the debris of the Plasco building which was engulfed by a fire and collapsed on Thursday. — AP

## BLAST IN CAMP FOR DISPLACED SYRIANS NEAR JORDAN KILLS 4

**BEIRUT:** A large explosion rocked a camp for displaced Syrians along the Syrian-Jordanian border yesterday, killing at least four, and wounding many others, opposition activists and a resident said. Badr Abu Sultan, a resident of the Rukban camp, said the explosion was caused by a suspected car bomb in a local market. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the explosion caused a huge cloud of smoke over the area. A video posted by the Syrian Media Organization also showed some tents burning, as parts of the car bomb were scattered across the camp.

A Jordanian military official told the official Jordanian Petra news agency said the explosion inside Syrian territory was caused by a small truck. He ruled out that any Jordanians were injured. Jordan has been on edge since a car bomb attack last year launched from Rukban killed seven Jordanian border guards. Jordan then sealed the border, cutting off vital aid to 75,000 Syrians stranded in the area.

"There was a powerful explosion at the beginning of the market," Abu Sultan, a member of a tribal council in the camp, told The Associated Press, adding that the market is located at the entrance to the camp. "It was a car bomb." Abu Sultan said two men, a woman and a child were killed and at least 12 were wounded. The Observatory, which has a network of activists on the ground, said some of the wounded were in critical condition.

The Jordanian official said 14 wounded were admitted to the Jordanian health center at the border which is used to treat Syrian refugees. The camp houses a local militia targeted in the past by rival factions in Syria's war. Another opposition activist network, the Palmyra Coordination group, said the explosion hit a checkpoint for a local militia near the market. The group said two of the victims have been identified as displaced. The displaced Syrians live in makeshift camps between two parallel earthen barriers, or berms, that mark the Jordanian-Syrian frontier. — AP



**BEIRUT:** Civilians gather around the remains of a car bomb in the Rukban camp for displaced Syrians, inside Syrian territory, on the border with Jordan. — AP



# WORLD NERVOUS ABOUT TRUMP'S 'AMERICA FIRST' SPEECH

## A LOOK AT REACTIONS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump's inaugural speech promised "America first" policy led by a forceful executive, in contrast to the coalition building and international conferences which have featured strongly in past administrations. The billionaire businessman and reality television star - the first president who had never held political office or high military rank - promised to stir a "new national pride" and protect America from the "ravages" of countries he says have stolen US jobs. "This American carnage stops right here," Trump declared. In a warning to the world, he said, "From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land. From this moment on, it's going to be America first." A look at some reactions from around the world:

### Speech resonates in Mexico

Perhaps no country was watching the speech more closely than Mexico. Trump has made disparaging remarks about immigrants who come to the United States illegally and sought to pressure companies not to set up shop in Mexico by threatening a border tariff on goods manufactured there and exported to the United States. So Trump's talk of "protect(ing) our borders," "America first" and "buy American and hire American" had particular resonance in America's southern neighbor.

Ricardo Anaya Cortes, president of the conservative opposition National Action Party, called for "the unity of all Mexicans, unity in the face of this protectionist, demagogic and protectionist speech we just heard. Unity against that useless wall, against deportations, against the blockade of investment." "The challenge is enormous. ... We demand the federal government leave aside tepidity, that it tackle with absolute firmness and dignity the new relationship with the United States," Anaya said.

The United States is by far Mexico's largest

commercial partner, buying some 80 percent of its \$532 billion in exports in 2015. Mexico is the second-largest market for US exports. "At least the word 'Mexico' was not heard in the speech. Nevertheless one can expect the United States to launch a hyper-protectionist project," said Ilan Semo Groman, a researcher at Iberoamericana University.

If Trump truly moves to block or drive away US investment in Mexico, Semo said Mexico should focus its commercial efforts on other countries. "There are very clear possibilities," Semo said. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto sent three tweets after Trump's inaugural speech Friday: "I congratulate @realDonaldTrump on his inauguration. We will work to strengthen our relationship with shared responsibility." "We will establish a respectful dialogue with the government of President @realDonaldTrump, to Mexico's benefit." "Sovereignty, national interest and the protection of Mexicans will guide the relationship with the new government of the United States."

### Pakistan worries about Muslim comments

A group of retired government officials gathered after morning prayers for a walk in a sprawling park in the heart of the federal capital of Islamabad and the topic of their conversation was President Trump's inaugural speech.

They expressed concern that Trump would target the Islamic world, particularly Pakistan, because of his campaign rhetoric about Muslims as well as his inaugural speech in which he promised to eradicate Islamic terrorism worldwide. Pakistan has often been accused of harboring militant insurgents and declared terrorist groups that have targeted neighboring India, against whom Pakistan has fought three wars, as well as Afghanistan. Pakistan denies the charges.

"Likely there is more trouble in store for the Islamic world and our country will take the



**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump dances with First Lady Melania Trump at the Liberty Ball on Friday. — AP

most brunt of the harsh treatment from President Trump administration," said Mohammad Afzal. His sentiments were echoed by Shafiq Khan, who said "the one main thing that the new president mentioned about the world outside America is to tackle Islamic radicalism and that should be the matter of concern for all of us."

Amanullah, a school teacher in Islamabad, feared Trump's reference to eliminating radical Islamic terrorism. "I think under this name he wants to malign and eliminate Islam," he said. Umair Khan, an engineer, said of Trump: "Let him taste the burden of government and get settled, I am sure he will calm."

### Concern in Tokyo

Some Tokyo residents are worried that Trump's "America first" policy will usher in an era of populism and protectionism at the expense of the rest of the world. Tadashi Gombuchi, who works in the manufacturing industry, recorded Trump's inauguration speech overnight as he was keen to hear what the new president had to say. "Trump is trying to make big changes to the way things are. Changes are good sometimes, but when America, the most powerful, loses stability ... it's a grave concern," he said. "If you take his words literally, it may destabilize the world going forward and I'm really worried. I hope things will lead to a soft landing." Retiree Kuninobu Inoue, who lived in the US during the 1990s, is concerned about trade frictions between Japan and the US, citing Trump's decision to withdraw from the 12-nation Trans Pacific Partnership.

"Japan-US relations are not just about security. Our good relations rely so much on trade," he said. Protectionist policies such as the withdrawal from TPP and renegotiation of NAFTA will have a negative impact on the global economy including Japan's, said Akio Mimura, head of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "These policies only enhance protectionist and populist movement spreading around the world, and could largely shake the free trade system that has supported global growth," he said.

In his congratulatory message to Trump, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stressed the importance of the Asia-Pacific region as a source for growth but also tensions. "In the 21st century, while the Asia-Pacific region is the source of the global economic growth, the security environment of the region is becoming

more severe," he said.

### Taiwan tweets

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen tweeted her congratulations to Trump, saying: "Congratulations @realDonaldTrump. Democracy is what ties Taiwan and the US together. Look forward to advancing our friendship & partnership." Trump didn't mention the self-ruled island in his speech, but he angered China and broke diplomatic protocol by talking by phone with Tsai shortly after winning November's election. He has said earlier that Washington's "one China policy" under which it recognized Beijing in 1979 was open to negotiation, and questioned why the US should be bound by such an approach without China offering incentives.

### South Koreans put security first

Some in South Korea worried that President Trump would ask Seoul to shoulder a bigger share of the cost of US forces stationed in South Korea as a deterrent against aggression from North Korea, or that their country will be caught in a conflict between the US and China. "I think the biggest challenge is the national defense," said Park Geon-rok, a 30-year-old designer, adding that South Korea was "heavily influenced by the US."

In an editorial, the English-language JoongAng Daily said South Korea's relations with the US under Trump will face a challenge as the new leader will likely ask Seoul to pay more for the cost of the US military forces in the country, and renegotiate a bilateral free trade agreement. But the paper also notes it is "fortunate" that Trump has a strong position on North Korea's nuclear weapons.

There were concerns about potential conflicts between the US and China, South Korea's key business partner. Kim Kyung-jin, a spokesman for the opposition People's Party, said that the international economic order might collapse as the US seeks its own economic interest. Kim urged Trump to ease such worries.

### Indians fret about immigration

Among dozens of young, urban Indians who watched Trump's inauguration and speech at a club in a New Delhi, the 27-year-old Jigar Gorasia said getting work visas for professionals and green cards will become a problem. "It is going to be a little bit challenging for those," said Gorasia, who studied and worked in

Chicago before moving back to India last year. Divya Narayanan, a 21-year-old student of journalism, said that Trump as president worried her. "Someone at the level of the US president coming out and saying things which are bigoted, which are sexist, it sets a precedent for other people in the country, right?" Indian newspapers highlighted Trump's protectionist policies in his speech. "America First President," read the banner headline of The Indian Express newspaper. "Protectionist Trumpet: Buy American, Hire American," was the headline of The Times of India newspaper.

### Vietnamese say speech too America-focused

A Vietnamese analyst said Trump's speech was disappointing because it mainly served the domestic audience. "I think this speech would be right for an election campaign, but not an inauguration speech," said Nguyen Ngoc Truong, president of Hanoi-based private policy think-tank Center for Strategic Studies and International Development. "It should not be that simple because in an inauguration speech, you must introduce an objective and multifaceted vision, not just one-sided vision to the American public," he said. "I don't think Trump could have a magic stick to be able to manage America to realize the goals that he outlined."

### Australians find speech divisive

An Australian father of two, Marek Rucinski, found Trump's speech "very divisive" and lacking substance. "Normally these speeches are used to rally and unite people," he said. "It was, again, more bluster." Rucinski was among some 8,000-10,000 people who attended a Women's March anti-Trump rally in Sydney's Hyde Park. Self-described feminist, Niall Anderson, watched the president's inauguration in disbelief. "Just disbelief that this can happen in 2017," the 35-year-old said.

The Australian newspaper's Foreign Editor Greg Sheridan wrote that "Trump answered one big question with his inauguration address: There is to be no transition from campaign Trump to presidential Trump." "Donald Trump is always Donald Trump. This consistency is perhaps his chief virtue," Sheridan wrote. "And his inauguration address made it clear that he intends to govern just as he campaigned, taking swings at his opponents, extolling his populist mantras, speaking in the slightly weird argot of contemporary down market celebrity," he added. — AP



**WASHINGTON:** A protester holds a sign during a demonstration in Washington, Friday, Jan 20, 2017, after the inauguration of President Donald Trump.



**MANILA:** A protester holding a Donald Trump mask, talks to the media following a brief protest at the Trump Tower hours after Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States, yesterday in the financial district of Makati city. — AP photos

# HUGE CROWD CHEERS TRUMP, BUT NOT EVERYONE HAPPY

**WASHINGTON:** Throngs of happy Donald Trump supporters cheered and clapped Friday as they massed on the National Mall to witness his swearing-in as president, hailing the 70-year-old's unlikely rise to power as "one of the biggest stories in history." Many wore colorful garb with the slogans or face of their man, and they welcomed the 70-year-old Republican billionaire as an overdue agent of change in a nation in need of a political and economic makeover.

"This is one of the biggest stories in history. My grandchildren will be hearing about this," said Nick Questel, a 58-year-old utility worker from New York state. Rain started falling just as Trump—who had never held elected office before Friday—was introduced to deliver his inaugural address. "Rain is a sign of God's blessing," Franklin Graham, a pastor and son of the prominent evangelical Billy Graham, later told the crowd. The audience clapped when Trump vowed to take power in Washington away from politicians and return it to the people.

Norma Cohen-Minardi, a senior citizen from Florida, blessed herself earlier as the ceremonial invocation was given before Trump took the oath of office. Her daughter Beverly Minardi, 55, said Trump's denigrating remarks about women were no big deal. "It's not an issue to stop him from being president. He is a human being that makes mistakes. We are not electing the pope," said Minardi. "It is a very momentous time in my life," Steve McDonald, a 52-year-old carpet dealer from Pennsylvania, said as he walked toward the white, domed Capitol building on a cold, drizzly morning to watch it all.

### 'Despicable'

Not everyone was happy, though. "I find

him despicable," said protester Ben Brun, a teacher from New York state banging a blue plastic bucket as a drum and holding a sign calling for the deportation of Trump. Supporters of Trump said they dismissed, or forgave, his perceived offenses: his remarks about women, Muslims and immigrants; his thin-skinned bluster toward opponents; his penchant for conducting foreign policy via Twitter.

But the unhappy ones like Brun bemoaned him as divisive and phony, or worse racist, a circus barker, a con man only in it for money and sure to lead America down a dark, uncertain path. All however seemed to agree on the singular import of the moment: the rise to the presidency of a blunt real estate billionaire, a political neophyte, a former reality TV star whose White House run was once mocked as a joke. "It's time the country goes to we, the people. We have our signs that say 'we the people,'" said Darla Clark, a 66-year-old banker from California wearing a glittery plastic cowboy hat with the red, white and blue of the American flag.

She then smiled broadly and spun around to show a picture with that line from the preamble of the US constitution and a bald eagle, the US national emblem. "We are the ones who pay the taxes. Things have to be done for us and I think Trump is going to accomplish that," Clark said.

### 'Not my first choice'

Damaris Schuler, a 36-year-old history researcher from Texas, said Trump was not her first preference for president but she has come around to him. She added that when Trump has spoken insultingly of women and immigrants, she was not pleased but he could say what he wanted. "It would not be

my first choice. However, everybody expresses themselves in different ways and that is the great thing about freedom of speech," said Schuler, who carried her 18-month-old son on her chest in a harness. He wore a Stars and Stripes ski cap.

Such memorabilia was on sale all over the place: Trump flags, Trump baseball hats, Trump scarves, and vuvuzela horns to trumpet his arrival to power. In one of several protests

around the city, about 100 people who were kept away from the Capitol grounds by police chanted against Trump at a fountain outside Union Station, the city's main rail terminal.

They carried signs labeling him a racist, and at one point shouted "el pueblo unido jamas sera vencido"—a Latino civil rights battle cry alluding to Trump's pledge to deport millions of undocumented immigrants. David Schein, a 67-year-old actor from Vermont, carried a cardboard sign calling Trump a "loser by 3 million." That was defeated Hillary Clinton's margin of victory in the popular vote. Trump won what mattered, the electoral college. Schein called this moment of American life appalling. What bothers him most about Trump? "That he is a corrupt liar, racist, xenophobe, in-it-for-profit con man, thief, and he has no moral character and he lies. I could go on," said Schein. — AFP



**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump speaks after being sworn in as the 45th president of the United States during the 58th Presidential Inauguration at the US Capitol. — AP



## KREMLIN HOPES FOR US RAPPORT BUT SAYS DIFFERENCES WILL STAY

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman voiced hope for a constructive dialogue with President Donald Trump's administration in comments broadcast yesterday, but warned that differences will remain. Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with state Rossiya television that it would be an "illusion" to expect that US-Russian relations would be completely free of disagreements.

"Successful development of bilateral ties will depend on our ability to solve these differences through dialogue," Peskov said. He added that Putin will call Trump soon to congratulate him. Trump has promised to mend ties with Moscow badly strained over the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria and allega-

tions of Russian meddling in the US elections, and his victory has elated Russian political elites.

Peskov, however, pointed at the challenges posed by the intricacy of nuclear arms control, the complexity of the situation in Syria and other issues. While Russia supports prospective nuclear arms cuts, they should be proportional and not upset the nuclear parity between Russia and the US, which "plays a critical role in ensuring global stability and security," Peskov said. He noted that different composition of Russian and US nuclear forces is a factor that needs to be carefully considered in negotiations.

Asked to comment on Trump's recent interview

with the Times of London in which he indicated that he could end sanctions imposed on Russia in the aftermath of the 2014 annexation of Crimea in return for a nuclear arms reduction deal, Peskov said that the two issues are hard to link. Peskov emphasized the US role in settling the nearly six-year conflict in Syria, where Trump has offered to pool efforts with Russia in fighting the Islamic State group.

"It's quite obvious that it's impossible to constructively solve the Syrian problem without the US participation," he said. Russia already has invited Trump's administration to attend talks between Syrian government and opposition groups in

Kazakhstan capital Monday. Russia brokered the talks together with Turkey and Iran, but Tehran has opposed the US involvement in them.

"There are certain disagreements between Moscow and Tehran on this subject," Peskov said, noting that the Syrian issue "is too complex to have a full harmony in approaches." "Any deals there are unlikely, there are too many parties involved," he added. Turning to the Ukrainian crisis, which has driven Russia's relations with the West to post-Cold War lows, Peskov criticized Barack Obama's administration for an "unconstructive" approach and voiced hope that Trump's administration would revise it. — AP



**KOBLENZ:** French National Front (FN) leader Marine Le Pen gives a speech to open a meeting yesterday. —AFP

## 'EUROPE WILL WAKE UP IN 2017', LE PEN SAYS IN EU GATHERING

### A STRING OF HIGH-STAKES ELECTIONS IN 2017

**KOBLENZ:** French presidential hopeful Marine Le Pen yesterday told a European gathering of rightwing populists in Germany that a string of high-stakes elections in 2017 would blow a wind of change across the region. Emboldened by the Brexit vote and Donald Trump's US presidential victory, the far-right National Front leader said voters in France, Germany and the Netherlands would be next to reject the status quo.

"2016 was the year the Anglo-Saxon world woke up. 2017, I am sure, the people of continental Europe will wake up," she told a cheering crowd at a conference hall in the western city of Koblenz, on the river Rhine. "It's no longer a question of if, but when," she added in a speech that railed against migration, the euro and open borders.

Billed as a "European counter-summit", the Koblenz gathering is also being attended by Frauke Petry of the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD), Geert Wilders of the Dutch anti-Islam Freedom Party, Harald Vilimsky, secretary general of the Freedom Party of Austria and Matteo Salvini of Italy's anti-EU Northern League. It comes just a day after the inauguration of Trump, who assumed power with a staunchly nationalist address in which he vowed to put "America first".

#### 'Good PR'

The Koblenz participants have repeatedly voiced their admiration for the maverick billionaire, and like him are hoping to shake up the political landscape by capitalizing on a tide of anger against the establishment and anxiety over migration. "Yesterday a new America,

today Koblenz and tomorrow a new Europe," Wilders, sporting his trademark peroxide hairdo, told the 800-strong crowd in German. "We are the start of a patriotic spring in Europe," he said to loud applause.

The charismatic Dutch MP, who has vowed to ban the Koran and pull his country of the European Union, currently tops polls ahead of March parliamentary elections. But observers say he will likely struggle to find the coalition partners needed to govern. The Koblenz congress, the first of its kind, has been organized by the European Parliament's Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF) grouping, which was set up by Le Pen in 2015 and now brings together 40 MEPs from nine member states.

It has been touted as an opportunity for the parties to highlight their common ground but political analyst Timo Lochocki of the German Marshall Fund said the event was mainly "just good PR" as the parties had little to gain from strengthening ties. "This is largely to increase media attention," he told AFP. "The reasons why people vote for these parties are purely national and are independent from any alleged cross-national cooperation between the far-right."

The meeting of some of Europe's most divisive politicians has stirred controversy in Germany. Some 3,000 demonstrators protested against the event under the banner "Koblenz stays colorful-No room for rightwing populism", organizers and police told AFP. They displayed cardboard cutouts of Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini, and some protesters carried signs that read "If you sleep through democracy, you wake up in a dictatorship". More than

1,000 police officers have been deployed to keep the protests peaceful.

#### Controversy

Chancellor Angela Merkel has ruled out meeting Le Pen ahead of the French polls, with her spokesman saying the French far-right politician's policies have nothing in common with the German government's. Le Pen hit back at the perceived snub on Twitter. "I am going to Germany to meet its future, the AfD, not its past, the CDU," she wrote, referring to Merkel's conservative party.

In the run-up to the congress, AfD MEP Marcus Pretzell, Petry's husband, triggered widespread criticism when he announced that several German media outlets had been denied accreditation because of their perceived bias.

AfD co-chief Petry meanwhile came under fire for taking part in the meeting at all, with some prominent members questioning whether the party should be cosying up to Le Pen, and in doing so, lurching further to the right. The AfD started out as an anti-euro party but has since gained ground by railing against Merkel's liberal refugee policy, which has brought over a million asylum seekers to the country since 2015.

Petry used her speech to again lash out at the record influx, slamming the establishment's calls for tolerance "while hundreds of thousands, millions, of mostly illiterate young men from a far and partly violent culture invade our continent". The AfD is polling at between 11-15 percent, ahead of a general election in September, boosting its chances of becoming the first headline rightist party to enter Germany's parliament since 1945. — AFP

## POPCORN, SALAMI, BEMUSEMENT IN MELANIA TRUMP'S HOMETOWN

**SEVNICA, Slovenia:** Sevnica is a small town in a small country but on Friday that didn't stop local dignitaries making the most of its most famous daughter-US First Lady Melania Trump. "We are very proud, the people of Sevnica are very proud," Mayor Srecko Ocvirk told AFP in the picturesque riverside town in central Slovenia.

Melanija Knavs, as she was known, was born in 1970, when Slovenia was part of communist Yugoslavia, the daughter of a local entrepreneur. The grander scale of her current life-Slovenia is not even the size of New Jersey, across the Hudson River from Manhattan in New York where she lives — is not lost on those she left behind. Her next stop is the White House, in Washington DC.

"When somebody from a small place like this succeeds in such a way, it represents a strong motivation for the place and its people," Ocvirk said. "Today Melania is putting us on the world map." Her modeling career took off in her late teens, after being noticed by a fashion photographer in Slovenia's capital Ljubljana, 100 kilometers away.

Soon she was jetting around the world, settling in New York where she met and was bowled over by her future husband, property tycoon Donald Trump, 24 years her senior, in 1998. By now known as Melania, she became Trump's third wife in 2005 and in 2006 took US citizenship. Their son Barron was born a year later, the new US president's fifth child. "Many of us like her, she was born here although she has been in the US for many years," Matej, an engineer from Sevnica, told AFP.

#### More tourists

Before Melania became famous, Sevnica and its 5,000 inhabitants were better known for lingerie and furniture factories and the town's 900-year-old castle. But once Trump's run for president started looking serious, the mayor and the tourist office sought to make the most of it, trying to put Sevnica on the tourist map. The number of American visitors jumped by 11 percent, albeit from a low base, to 80,000 between January and October last year

compared to 12 months earlier. Locals hope for even more now.

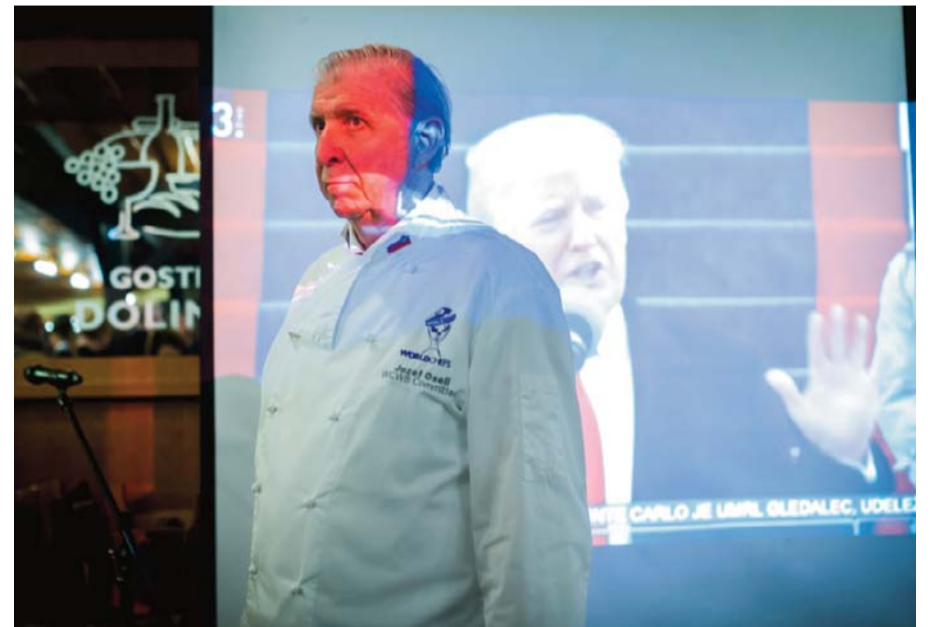
But efforts by businesses to cash in with "Melania" cakes and "White House" slippers were dealt a setback when a Trump lawyer warned them to be careful about trademarks. Sevnica's council promptly took down an advertising billboard that had featured Melania's image. A honey producer also removed jars that claimed the product came from "Melania's home garden". Others changed the name of their products, including the local Rondo pizzeria whose "Trump" burger became the more generic "Presidential" burger.

#### Tito's chef

Events on Friday, however, reflected how far away Melania now is from her homeland-and, perhaps, the lives of its everyday, non-elected citizens. "Nothing's going to change here, probably it will be a good add for Sevnica, but I don't think that will bring any mayor changes," said Stanko, a radiologist.

There were no Stars and Stripes flags or banners on the streets. The main event, other than a tour for half a dozen TV crews, was a charity dinner with 80-100 people out of town at a restaurant where Melania's parents reportedly used to be regulars. Watching the powder-blue suited Melania and the Washington ceremony live, attendees included the mayor and representatives from Slovenia's US Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds were going to a local hospital.

The chef was Jozef Oseli, one of Slovenia's most experienced, who used to cook for Yugoslavia's late dictator Josip Broz "Tito" when he visited the area. The starter, restaurant owner Martin Dolinsek said before, was to be a "crazy" combination of popcorn with Sevnica's salami, served with a wine named in honor of the first lady. But Sevnica's link to Melania Trump and the inauguration seemed tenuous and far away in more ways than one to some. "She is an ordinary woman, nothing special, I can say that her mother was much prettier than she is," said Jelka, a pensioner who used to be neighbors with her family. — AFP



**SEVNICA:** Slovenian chef Jozef Oseli watches the inauguration of the US president live on a screen. — AFP

## AUSTRIA ARRESTS SUSPECT PLANNING ATTACK: POLICE

**VIENNA:** Austrian armed commandos arrested Friday a man suspected of planning a "terrorist" attack in Vienna, police said, with authorities deploying additional officers and warning the public to be vigilant. "In recent days indications have grown of an actual suspect planning a supposed act of terror, and Vienna police... immediately began investigating and implemented security measures," spokeswoman Irina Steier told AFP. "The presence of uniformed and plainclothes police was increased and today at 1800 (1700 GMT) the suspect was arrested in Vienna near his address on the basis of an arrest warrant," Steier said.

He gave no details of the suspect, except to confirm that it was a man and that investigations are continuing. The Kronenzeitung newspaper published online a document from the interior ministry saying that a group of "radical Islamists of Albanian origin" intended to launch an attack in Vienna. It said that according to information from a foreign intelligence agency and, independently from a foreign police force, the attack was to take place between January 15 and January 30.

The document added that a German-speaking sympathizer of the Islamic State (IS) extremist group made explosives in Germany and that he intended

to bring them to Vienna to carry out an attack. He was not immediately able to complete his travel plans but the newspaper said that the suspect travelled from Germany to Austria on Friday. "The man has been in custody... There are still lots of things to clear up," another police spokesman, Thomas Keiblinger, told the Austria Press Agency, declining to comment further.

Police also issued a public warning for people to be on the lookout at crowded public places and to inform police if they see any suspicious objects. Interior Minister Wolfgang Sobotka was due to give a news conference at 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) together with senior police officials, authorities said.

#### Austria spared so far

Austria has been spared in the string of attacks by Islamists suffered by other European countries but has increased security measures. In 2015 a record 90,000 people applied for asylum in Austria after hundreds of thousands of migrants transited the country bound for Germany and elsewhere. A Moroccan asylum-seeker was detained in Austria in December for allegedly planning an attack in Salzburg over the Christmas and New Year period, prosecutors said. — AFP

## ITALY RESCUERS RACE TO FIND 23 MISSING IN AVALANCHE HOTEL

**PENNE:** Italian rescuers pulled four survivors from an avalanche-hit hotel yesterday and said they remained hopeful of finding alive at least some of the 23 people still trapped under the ruins. The latest rescues lifted the total number of survivors to 11. But there were 23 people still unaccounted for, according to a first official statement on the number of missing.



**A handout picture released yesterday by the Corpo Nazionale Soccorso Alpino e Speleologico (CNSAS) shows a child (C) being rescued on January 20, 2017 from the Hotel Rigopiano, near the village of Farindola, on the eastern lower slopes of the Gran Sasso mountain, engulfed by a powerful avalanche a day before. — AFP**

Morale among the teams of mountain police and firefighters remained high after Friday's dramatic rescue of all four children who were inside the Hotel Rigopiano, in central Italy, along with the mother of two of them. But the rescue operation, now in its third day, was increasingly resembling a race against the clock amid fears that anyone still alive could suc-

cumb to the cold before being found. Two men and two women were rescued alive in the early hours of yesterday. There were no reports of any other signs of life but officials emphasized that was no reason to give up hope. Enrica Centi, a spokeswoman for the mountain rescuers involved in the operation, said: "There is still hope because although no more voices have been heard, there may be people trapped behind or under a cement wall which would make it impossible to hear them."

#### 'Extreme conditions'

Heavy snow and poor visibility that grounded helicopters in the area was hampering the rescue effort. "The operation continues to be very complicated," said Fabrizio Curcio, head of the civil protection agency. "The rescuers are working in extreme conditions." Teams of firefighters and police are combing a debris-strewn area bigger than several football pitches as a result of the devastating force of the avalanche, which pushed the three-storey hotel some 10 meters from its foundations.

And Friday's rescue showed that even once someone is located, it can take many more hours to complete their extraction amid an ever-present risk of further masonry collapses. The latest operations bring to 11 the total number people who survived the disaster, including two hotel guests who were outside when the avalanche struck just before nightfall on Wednesday. Five bodies had been recovered by lunchtime yesterday. — AFP



## IS THERE AN EXPLANATION FOR AFRICA'S ODD 'FAIRY CIRCLES'?



In this photo provided by Jen Guyton, one of the mysterious "fairy circles" in the Namib desert that dot the area with circular barren patches. — AP

**WASHINGTON:** The forces behind the mysterious "fairy circles" that dot a desert in southern Africa do not appear to be supernatural, but they are intricate and complex. The formations are circles of land dozens of feet wide that create a stunning pattern in the Namib desert and have mystified locals and scientists for ages. Inside the circles it looks like nothing is growing, while plants grow well on the land surrounding them. Similar patterns have also been seen in Australia.

Paranormal powers like fairies and even dragon breath have been credited with creating them. But Princeton University ecologists have come up with a much less shadowy - and maybe less charming - explanation for what's afoot. Using computer simulations, they

say an intricate combination of animals and plants cooperating and competing help explain the unusual patterns, according to a study in the journal *Nature* Wednesday.

Corina Tarnita, the study's lead author, calls it "simple and elegant geometry on such enormous scale." Until this study, there were two competing explanations: Termites created the pattern or plants surrounding the circles did it. Tarnita's theory borrows from both. The giant circles - from six to 100 feet in diameter - are mostly from termites that cooperate with others in their colony, but compete against other colonies, she said. The unusual patterns seen between circles are plants that establish an orderly root system so they don't compete too much for limited water.

"Out of all these processes, where each is doing what they need to, emerges this large scale pattern," Tarnita said. The circular shape is a result of termites venturing as far as possible from their own colony's nest without encroaching on a competing colony. It's not quite a conspiracy, says co-author Robert Pringle, because the creatures aren't trying to make the patterns. "There's no master plan, there's no kind of blueprint for what's supposed to emerge," he said.

Several outside experts contacted by The Associated Press weren't convinced by the study, because they weren't comfortable with the author's assumptions about rainfall and especially termite colony lifespans. They did not, however, argue that it was fairies at work. — AP

## PM MODI OVERTURNS BULL-WRESTLING BAN

**CHENNAI:** An Indian state lifted a Supreme Court ban on a popular bull-wrestling festival yesterday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered the event should be allowed to go ahead. Modi overturned the ban on the festival after massive protests in southern India by demonstrators who called the court's ruling an attack on their culture.

India's Supreme Court outlawed the bull-wrestling Jallikattu festival last year after a plea by animal rights groups, which have long accused participants in the event-held annually across southern Tamil Nadu state-of cruelty to the animals. Tensions have escalated in recent days with thousands of demonstrators gathering in state capital Chennai and other cities, demanding the ban on Jallikattu be lifted which they say is an attack on their culture and traditions.

The growing protests prompted Tamil Nadu's chief minister to travel to Delhi earlier this week to ask Modi to overturn the ban, which he did late Friday. Tamil Nadu's governor then promulgated the executive order yesterday evening, paving the way for Jallikattu to resume today. "Tamil Nadu Governor Vidyasagar Rao approves

Jallikattu ordinance," the state's ruling AIADMK party posted on Twitter.

Television footage from Chennai showed crowds erupting in joy, waving, giving the thumbs up and flashing peace signs as the news came in. State Chief Minister O Panneerselvam is set to kick off the traditional contest Sunday morning. "Honorable CM Thiru O Panneerselvam thanks the students, women and the public who staged agitations across the state to protect our culture," the party said on Twitter.

In Jallikattu, young men struggle to grab the bulls by their sharpened horns or jump on their backs as the muscular animals, festooned with marigolds, charge down the road.

Unlike in traditional Spanish bullfighting, the animals are let loose into open fields where young men compete to subdue them bare-handed. Critics say organizers lace the bulls' feed with liquor to make them less steady on their feet and throw chili powder in their faces to send them into a sudden frenzy as they are released from a holding pen. Organisers of the centuries-old festival insist the animals suffer no harm, calling the event an established part of Tamil culture. — AFP



KURRAM: Pakistani security officials inspect the bomb explosion site at a vegetable market in Parachinar city. — AFP

## PAKISTAN MARKET BOMB IN SHIITE AREA KILLS 20

### BLAST WAS CAUSED BY AN IED HIDDEN IN A VEGETABLE BOX

**PESHAWAR:** A bomb exploded at a market yesterday in a mainly Shiite area of Pakistan's northwestern tribal belt, killing at least 20 people and wounding 40 others, officials said. The bomb detonated in a crowded vegetable market in Parachinar city, the capital of Kurram tribal district on the Afghan border.

"20 people have been martyred [killed]," the Pakistan military said in a short statement, adding that the injured had been taken to military and civil hospitals in the region's main city of Peshawar. "Troops from army and (paramilitary) Frontier Corps are under taking relief and rescue operations," it said. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, governor for Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province confirmed the death toll in a televised interview with Pakistan's private news broadcaster Geo.

Jhagra said at least 40 people were wounded in the blast, 12 critically. Video footage from the site showed chaotic scenes with people running and shouting in panic and victims strewn in front of vegetables shops among smashed

crates and pushcarts. Victims could be heard screaming and crying while ambulances arrived at the site with sirens blaring.

Ikrumullah Khan, a senior government official in Parachinar, told AFP that the blast was caused by an IED (improvised explosive device) hidden in a vegetable box. In a telephone call to AFP, the Hakimullah Mehsud faction of the Tehreek-e-Taleban Pakistan (TTP), claimed responsibility for the attack. "It was to avenge the killing of our associates by security forces and to teach a lesson to Shiites for their support for Bashar Al-Assad," said the group's spokesman, Qari Saifullah, referring to the Syrian president.

#### Continue attacking

Saifullah warned that his Sunni Muslim group will continue attacking Shiites if they back Assad, whose regime is entrenched in a civil war that began in 2011 and has claimed more than 310,000 lives. In December 2015 an IED blast at the same market killed at least 23 people and wounded more than 30. Prime Minister Nawaz

Sharif expressed grief over the latest loss of life, his office said in a statement.

Kurram is one of Pakistan's seven semi-autonomous tribal districts which are governed according to local laws and customs. The district is known for sectarian clashes between Sunnis and Shiites, who make up roughly 20 percent of Pakistan's population of 200 million. Pakistan's battle against an Islamist insurgency began in 2004 after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan forced Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants to flee across the border. Pakistan's army launched an operation in June 2014 to wipe out militant bases in northwestern tribal areas and bring an end to a bloody insurgency that has cost thousands of civilian lives since 2004. It has conducted a series of military offensives as well as concerted efforts to block militants' sources of funding. Last year the country recorded its lowest number of killings since 2007 when the Pakistani Taliban was formed. But the remnants of militant groups are still able to carry out periodic bloody attacks. — AFP



CHENNAI: Indian students hold placards against the animal rights organization PETA during a demonstration against the ban on the Jallikattu bull taming ritual and call for a ban on animal rights organization PETA. — AFP

## ROMANIAN NIGHTCLUB FIRE SENDS DOZENS TO HOSPITALS

**BUCHAREST:** A fire broke out in a nightclub in the Romanian capital Bucharest early yesterday morning, resulting in more than 40 people being taken to hospital. No deaths were reported. Doctors said one person was in serious condition, while most of the victims suffered from smoke inhalation and hypothermia. Some had bone fractures, doctors said, indicating they had panicked and jumped from an upper floor terrace.

The cause of the fire, which broke out at around 3:30 am and burned the Bamboo club to the ground, was still unknown. Prosecutors have opened an investigation. The unit for emergency situations (ISU) said the club lacked a fire safety permit and that it had been fined several times since 2015. Officials had given club owners a deadline of a few months to obtain the required permit. Bamboo previously burnt down in 2005.

The fire comes a year and a half after one of the European Union state's worst disasters in decades, when a fire at night-

club Colectiv killed 64 people and injured more than 100. That fire occurred when fireworks used during a concert ignited non-fireproofed insulation foam, triggering a stampede towards the single-door exit and trapping many inside. The club was filled beyond capacity and lacked emergency exits.

City officials gave the club an operating license and safety inspectors allowed it to run despite knowing it did not have a fire safety permit. The fire triggered some of Romania's biggest protests in years against failed oversight, lack of accountability and a politicized public administration, but many remain pessimistic about any real chance of reform. "Fortunately, no lives were lost in the Bucharest club fire," President Klaus Iohannis said on his Facebook account yesterday. "However, we passed by another significant tragedy. Rules and laws were apparently broken again. Until we understand once and for all that the law is for everyone, society will always be in danger." — Reuters

## HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT A 'BAND-AID' FOR AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT: OFFICIALS

**KABUL:** Afghanistan's continued descent into crisis is forcing the country to increasingly rely on humanitarian aid that can only provide short-term relief while leaving the underlying problems unsolved, international officials acknowledged yesterday, even as they launched a request for \$550 million in new funding.

Amid rising violence, economic stagnation, and social upheaval, the United Nations estimates at least 9.3 million Afghans, or nearly a third of the population, will need humanitarian assistance in 2017, a 13 percent increase from last year. While praising the humanitarian workers who provide vital care around the country, Swedish ambassador to Afghanistan Anders Sjoberg said the continued reliance on their services is a sign of broader failures.

"Let us acknowledge that we've been doing this work in Afghanistan for too long," he said at an event with international and Afghan officials in Kabul yesterday. "This is a failure in itself. Humanitarian aid is not short-term anymore, it has unfortunately become a Band-Aid for the unresolved conflict." Since even before a US-led military operation toppled the Taliban regime in 2001, international organizations have helped provide both more short-term humanitarian aid designed to address the most pressing and life-threatening problems, as well as long-term development support.

But last year saw record increases in the number of people displaced by fighting, with at least 626,000 additional people fleeing their homes, compared to around 70,000 in 2010, when the international military effort

was at its height. The number of refugees returning - in many cases forcibly - to Afghanistan from neighboring countries like Pakistan and Iran also spiked dramatically, from 181,000 in 2015 to at least 618,000 in 2016, according to the UN.

That has led the humanitarian community in Afghanistan to request \$550 million to help an expected 5.7 million of the most vulnerable people in 2017, the highest amount of funding requested since 2011. "We need to link humanitarian and long-term develop-

ment aid much more effectively and we must not allow humanitarian aid to contribute to cementing the conflict," Sjoberg said, noting that the crisis highlights the need to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Mark Bowden, the UN's humanitarian coordinator, told Reuters in a recent interview that the prolonged violence has created a "vicious cycle" in which Afghanistan struggles to address the root causes of problems like economic malaise, limited access to medical care and education and malnutrition. — Reuters

## AFGHANISTAN'S ABDULLAH WELCOMES TRUMP COMMITMENT TO TROOPS

**KABUL:** Afghan chief executive Abdullah Abdullah yesterday expressed hope that the United States would continue its support for the Afghan government after American President Donald Trump publicly spoke with US troops stationed in Afghanistan after his inauguration on Friday.

"I want to congratulate the US president on behalf of myself, the Afghan government and the people of Afghanistan," Abdullah said at an event to launch a bid for \$550 million in international humanitarian aid for Afghanistan, which remains locked in a bloody war between the Western-backed government and insurgent groups like the Taliban.

Trump, attending a post-inauguration ball in Washington, spoke by video link with American troops stationed at a base north of Kabul.

"I'm with you all the way... we're going to do it together," he told the troops. "The courage that you show is incredible." As president-elect, Trump spoke by phone with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in early December, but has provided few details on whether he will continue the billions of dollars per year in military and development aid to Afghanistan, nor has he confirmed the future of the nearly 9,000 American troops still deployed there.

Abdullah, who shares power with Ghani after a 2014 US-brokered political deal, said he interpreted Trump's comments to the troops as a positive sign. "I watched the US president's message to their soldiers... and he announced his support for them, which is a good and graceful step and I am sure that cooperation will continue in all aspects." — Reuters



NEW DELHI: An Indian woman participates in a nationwide "I Will Go Out" march to raise questions about safe access for women and marginalized communities in public spaces across in India. — AFP



## S KOREA MINISTER RESIGNS AFTER ARREST OVER ARTISTS' BLACKLIST

**SEOUL:** South Korea's culture minister resigned after being arrested yesterday for allegedly creating a "blacklist" of nearly 10,000 artists who voiced criticism of impeached President Park Geun-Hye. Cho Yoon-Sun, who is the first minister in active service to be arrested in South Korea, is accused of creating the vast catalogue to starve the artists of government subsidies and private investments and place them under state surveillance.

The list's existence has sparked widespread anger, raising the spectre of Seoul's 1960-80s army-backed rule including under dictator Park Chung-Hee, the impeached leader's late father-when the news, arts and entertainment were heavily censored. Shortly after her arrest, Cho tendered her resignation to Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn, a spokesman for the prime minister's office said.

### 'Left-leaning artists'

The Seoul Central District Court had issued a warrant to arrest Cho on charges of abuse of authority and perjury following a request from prosecutors. Cho, 50, known as "Park's Cinderella", is a staunch loyalist of the impeached president and previously served as the minister for gender equal-

ity. The court also issued an arrest warrant for Kim Ki-Choon, a powerful former chief of staff for Park. Kim is accused of ordering Cho to create the list of "left-leaning" artists.

Kim, 78, a former top intelligence official, came under fire for his alleged involvement in human rights abuses committed under Park's father. "Charges are verified... and there are risks of the accused seeking to destroy evidence", a court judge said in a statement issuing the warrants for Cho and Kim. Some Korean media reports have alleged that Park asked for the blacklist to be drawn up, while others said she approved it.

Prosecutors questioned Cho and Kim as part of their probe into a wider political scandal involving Park and her confidante, Choi Soon-Sil, who is currently on trial for abuse of power and coercion. Park stands accused of colluding with Choi to coerce top local firms including Samsung to "donate" nearly \$70 million to non-profit foundations Choi later used for personal gain.

She is also accused of letting Choi, who has no title or security clearance, meddle in a wide range of state affairs including nomination of senior officials. Park was impeached by parliament last

month and Seoul's Constitutional Court is currently reviewing the validity of the motion, with the frequency of hearings sparking speculation that it might reach a verdict before mid-March.

### Big names blacklisted

The scandal has already seen more than a dozen former senior officials and presidential aides arrested. But the Seoul Central District Court this week rejected a prosecution request for the arrest of Samsung heir Lee Jae-Yong who is accused of bribing Choi in a bid to seek governmental favours-citing lack of evidence.

The scandal has brought huge numbers of protesters onto the streets every Saturday over the past three months, urging the Constitutional Court to verify Park's impeachment and her immediate departure from office. Protestors, whose number was estimated at 150,000 by organizers, braved icy weather and slippery roads for a rally in Seoul yesterday, demanding Park's removal and the arrest of Samsung heir Lee Jae-Yong, accused of being involved in the bribery scandal.

The blacklist reads like a Who's Who of Seoul's art scene. Among the names are novelist Han Kang, winner of the 2016 Man Booker International Prize,



**SEOUL:** South Korea's former culture minister, Cho Yoon-Sun (C), is escorted by police following her arrest. — AFP

and "Oldboy" film director Park Chan-Wook, who won the Grand Prix at the Cannes film festival in 2004. Many artists on the list had voiced support

for opposition parties, or criticized or satirized the administration of Park or of her late father, who ruled from 1961 to 1979.— AFP



**BELGRADE:** This file photo taken on January 11, 2017 shows a migrant receiving a hot meal from volunteers, outside of derelict warehouses which they use as a makeshift shelter, in Belgrade, as temperatures dropped to -15 degrees Celsius overnight. — AFP

## LICE, LUNG TROUBLES PLAGUE MIGRANTS IN FREEZING SERBIA

**BELGRADE:** They cough, suffer from frostbite and are infested with body lice: hundreds of young migrants remain in appalling conditions in derelict Belgrade warehouses in the middle of Serbia's freezing winter. Since Europe shut down its borders in March last year, thousands have found themselves stuck in limbo in the Balkan country-and its authorities are under pressure to do something about it.

But despite the young men sheltering near the snowy railway tracks in the heart of the capital, "we do not think a 'new Calais' can be born near the station in Belgrade," said Ivan Miskovic, from Serbia's Commissariat for Refugees. "We would not allow anything like that," he said, referring to the notorious refugee camp outside the northern French port city of Calais. Dubbed the "Jungle," it was dismantled last October.

This week, for the first time, aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF) erected five tents in an area by the station, near the warehouses which have no running water or electricity. The goal is to protect the most vulnerable, especially children, said Stephane Moissang, head of MSF in Serbia. They include eight-year-old Afghan Aziz Rahman, waiting with his 17-year-old uncle for his father, who is serving 10 days in detention

for illegally crossing the border. MSF's initiative "does not help us to convince these people to join (official) reception centres," said Miskovic.

### 'Poor clothing, shelter'

By opening new centers for migrants, "the Serbian government has shown that it takes into account the urgency of winter," says Moissang, but that "is not enough to absorb everyone". Most of the 7,300 migrants currently estimated to be in Serbia by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) are sleeping in one of 17 official centers. But there are always more than 1,000 outside, above all in Belgrade, who are male and mostly young, often minors.

Temperatures can drop below minus ten degrees Celsius at night. Cases of frostbite "can only increase in the coming days as most of the refugees have really poor clothing and shelter," said Momcilo Djurdjevic of MSF. He lists the other health problems his team has dealt with since temperatures plummeted: body lice, respiratory infections, scabies. In the largest warehouse, thick with smoke from the fires lit to keep warm, the sound of deep coughs can be heard from migrants huddled under grey blankets. Some concede that they refused to move to an official

camp for fear of being deported, booted out of the EU and cut off from the people-smugglers who lurk around the station.

They also worry about restrictions in the centers, like the one in Presevo in southern Serbia, where freedom of movement is limited. But many have given in and when Serbian authorities opened up a new camp this week in an old barracks about 30 kilometers from Belgrade, its 225 beds were immediately occupied, half of them by minors.

### 'We need shoes'

In the largest of the warehouses, faces are reddened by the cold and eyelids are swollen, making the youngsters look much older than their years. The outside walls bear political slogans such as "One World, One Struggle!" most likely written by activists. Others bear the mark of exhausted travellers: "We need shoes" reads one, while another calls for doctors. Liaqat Khan, a 17-year-old from Bajaur in the northwestern tribal areas Pakistan, said he had tried and failed to get access to an official centre. In his current squat, "sleeping is big problem, shower is big problem, water is big problem, eating is big problem," he told AFP in broken English. — AFP

## TRUMP 'SISTER MARCHES' BEGIN IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

**SYDNEY:** Thousands of protesters in Australia and New Zealand yesterday joined the first of hundreds of women's marches organized around the world in a show of disapproval of US President Donald Trump as he began his first day in office. In Sydney, Australia's biggest city, about 3,000 people - men and women gathered for a rally in Hyde Park before marching on the US consulate downtown, while organisers said 5,000 people rallied in Melbourne.

"Feminism is my Trump card" and "Fight like a girl," were among the placards held aloft by the protesters in Sydney. "We're not marching as an anti-Trump movement per se, we're marching to protest the hate speech, the hateful rhetoric, the misogyny, the bigotry, the xenophobia and we want to present a united voice with women around the globe," organiser Mindy Freiband told Reuters.

Many of the protesters in Sydney and Melbourne wore pink hats, that activists referred to as their "pussyhats". The emergence of a 2005 tape in which Trump spoke of women in a demeaning way sparked widespread outrage and was one of the low points of his election campaign. In the tape he was heard saying: "Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything." In New Zealand, there were marches in four cities, involving around 2,000 people, Wellington's march organiser Bette Flagler told Reuters by phone.

### Salt in Asia

Elsewhere in Asia, hundreds of people

joined protests in Tokyo, including many American expatriates. "Trump presidency gets my blood boiling ... Everything we value could be gone. It's time to speak your mind and concerns and to do our best to salvage the values we cherish in America," said Bill Scholer, an art teacher. And in Manila on Friday about 200 demonstrators from a Philippine nationalist group rallied for about an hour against Trump outside the US embassy in Manila.

Some held up signs demanding US troops leave the Philippines while others set fire to a paper US flag bearing a picture of Trump's face. Worldwide some 673 "sister marches" are planned for yesterday, in addition to a protest in Washington DC, according to the organizers' website which says more than two million marchers are expected.

In Washington DC, at Trump's inauguration back-clad activists, who were not related to the women's marches, threw rocks and bottles at police in Washington as Trump was sworn in as President. Although protests in the United States are common at inaugurations, in living memory only the inauguration of Richard Nixon in 1968 - as the United States fought an unpopular war in Vietnam - has drawn such a strong reaction worldwide.

In Sydney, many were worried about that Trump's politics and his attitude towards women and minorities could spread. "As a mature 56-year-old lesbian I feel for the first time what is global is local," Vicki Skehan, 56, told Reuters. "We've come so far with inclusiveness and I don't want to see that go away." — Reuters



**SEOUL:** A protester carries a placard showing an image of Samsung heir Lee Jae-Yong during an anti-government protest. — AFP

## PROTEST DEMANDS SAMSUNG HEIR ARREST, PARK REMOVAL

**SEOUL:** Tens of thousands of protesters braved icy weather and slippery roads for a rally in Seoul yesterday, demanding impeached President Park Geun-Hye's removal and the Samsung heir's arrest for corruption. Park was impeached by parliament last month over an influence-peddling scandal and the Constitutional Court now has to confirm the impeachment.

Protestors chanted slogans demanding the arrest of Park and business tycoons including Lee Jae-Yong, heir to the Samsung empire, calling them "co-culprits" in the scandal. Organisers put the size of the crowd at 150,000. A South Korean court has refused to authorize the arrest of Lee, accused of bribing Choi Soon-Sil, Park's confidante at the centre of the scandal, in return for favors. It cited lack of sufficient evidence.

The political turmoil has brought huge numbers onto South Korea's streets every Saturday for the past three months, urging

the court to verify Park's impeachment and calling for her immediate departure from office. She is accused of colluding with Choi to extract money from large companies including Samsung and letting her friend meddle in a wide range of state affairs.

"Arrest Park and Lee Jae-Yong immediately," protesters chanted loudly, waving banners and brandishing candles during the evening rally in the capital. "I was shocked and very angry. The court knelt down before Samsung," Agnes Choi, 51, told AFP. "This shows the business empire is above the law," she said.

A 71-year-old retired teacher, Kim Tae-Won, said the court had missed "a good chance to teach a lesson for the country's corrupt business tycoons". Nearby, around 10,000 pro-Park supporters staged a rally protesting Park's impeachment. Police mobilized dozens of police vehicles and hundreds of officers to separate the two rival groups. — AFP

## MYANMAR REBUFFS MALAYSIA FOR ROHINGYA OIC MEETING

**YANGON:** Myanmar rebuffed Malaysia yesterday for organizing a meeting of Muslim governments to put pressure on Myanmar over the plight of Rohingya Muslims following a military crackdown that sent at least 66,000 people fleeing to Bangladesh. Hosting a meeting of representatives from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation on Thursday, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak called on Myanmar to stop attacking, and discriminating against the Rohingya minority.

Najib urged the OIC, which groups 57 Muslim nations, to act to end the unfolding "humanitarian tragedy". In response, Myanmar, a mostly Buddhist country, said it was "regrettable" that Malaysia had called the meeting, and accused Kuala Lumpur of exploiting the crisis "to promote a certain political agenda" and disregard for the government's efforts to address it.

"The Government has been endeavoring to safeguard lives and ensure the security of the people from the violent attacks of new extrem-

ists," said Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement printed in the country's state-run daily, the Global New Light of Myanmar. The ministry is run by Nobel Peace Prize winner and de facto leader of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi, who won 2015 elections in a landslide after decades of pro-democracy struggle, ushering in Myanmar's first civilian government for about half a century.

Myanmar authorities say the military launched a security sweep in response to what they say was an attack in October by Rohingya insurgents on border posts near Myanmar's border with Bangladesh in which nine police officers were killed. Since then, at least 86 people have been killed and the United Nations says at least 66,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh.

Residents and refugees accuse the military of killing, raping and detaining civilians while burning villages in northwestern Rakhine State. The government denies the accusations and insists a lawful counter-insurgency operation is underway. About 56,000 Rohingya live in Malaysia having fled unrest and persecution in Myanmar.

Kuala Lumpur summoned Myanmar's ambassador last year to protest against the treatment of Rohingya, breaking a tradition of non-intervention by members of the Association of South East Asian Nations in each other's affairs. Najib said it would be a disgrace if the Southeast Asian group did not do its utmost to "avert the catastrophe that has been unfolding". On Friday, a United Nations human rights investigator criticized Myanmar's operation and urged the military to respect the law and human rights. — Reuters



**This handout photo from Myanmar's Ministry of Information released on January 20, 2017 and taken on January 15, 2017 shows UN special reporter on Myanmar, Yanghee Lee (centre R in blue jacket), being escorted during a visit to the Rakhine ethnic Sein Pan Myaing village, near the town of Maungdaw in strife-torn Rakhine State near the Bangladesh border. — AFP**



## WOMEN LEAD MASSIVE RIGHTS PROTESTS...

Continued from Page 1

"Keep your tiny hands off me," said one. "Rise, Love, Resist," read another. The incoming tide of women in knitted pink hats flushed through a city that the day before had welcomed throngs of Trump supporters in red "Make America Great Again" caps for the Republican's swearing-in to a four-year term.

For his first full day in the world's most powerful office, Trump attended a multifaith service at Washington National Cathedral. He was later due to visit the headquarters of the CIA, an agency he feuded with bitterly before taking office. Powered by social media, the "Women's March on Washington" illustrates the divisions of a country whose incoming leader faces levels of public mistrust unseen in recent decades. He faces resistance dramatized by the show of force by demonstrators with fresh memories of his fat-shaming a former beauty queen, sex assault allegations and a controversial stance on abortion.

The knitted "pink pussyhats" they wore were an allusion to his boasts in a leaked videotape of grabbing women's genitals with impunity. Yesterday's march comes on the heels of a first day of anti-Trump protests marred by sporadic outbreaks of vandalism, with windows smashed downtown and more than 200 people arrested. Authorities were on alert for any new flare-up of violence - although the stated goals of the women marchers are resolutely peaceful.

Jennifer Behr, a 42-year-old accessory designer, rode a packed train from Baltimore to make her voice heard. "It's important we assert our majority and we have a large physical presence to show Trump and the Republicans that they cannot railroad our country," she said. While Trump won 42 percent of the women's vote, millions who did not vote for him worry that gender rights and other progress on women's health, contraception and abortion could be chipped away.

Organizers have not specifically used the term "anti-Trump" to describe their efforts, but the message is clear. Bringing together "people of all genders, ages, races, cultures, political affiliations and backgrounds," they say the protest seeks to secure immigrant rights and access to abortion, among other demands - things which Trump's critics accuse him of wanting to curb.

Dozens of progressive groups are supporting the event, as well as Amnesty International and Planned Parenthood, the women's healthcare provider that is a Republican target because of the abortion services it provides. The Women's March began with a simple Facebook post from Hawaii grandmother and retired lawyer Teresa Shook to about 40 of her friends. Word traveled quickly, and eventually made it to the pro-Clinton Facebook group Pantsuit Nation, which has nearly four million members.

Some 300 sister marches were being held across the country, from New York to Seattle. In London, a largely female crowd, which also had many men and children, packed a Trafalgar Square rally in solidarity with women-led demonstrations throughout

the United States. "Our Rights Are Not For Grabs - Neither Are We" were among the banners held aloft, along with "We shall overcomb" and "Make bigotry wrong again."

Hannah Bryant, a 34-year-old museum worker, brought her four-year-old daughter - both of them wearing the bright pink "pussyhats" worn by US demonstrators. "I've been teaching her about equality and prejudice," she said. "It's a feeling of solidarity - not in our name," said Jill Pickering, a 56-year-old American student. "I'm angry - I didn't vote for Trump."

Organizers said 100,000 attended the London march, although there was no independent verification as police do not give an estimate. In Paris, at least 2,000 people gathered near the Eiffel Tower, holding up banners that read "liberty, equality, sorority", in a reference to France's national motto. "I am here for women and for all minorities because Trump is a threat to all humanity," said a US national Kendra Wergin, who is in her mid-30s. Andrea Rossi, a 39-year-old Brazilian, told AFP she was taking part "because I am a woman, but also because I want to protest against everything Trump represents." She added: "It's very dangerous, he has lied to all those who voted for him, and that can happen in France too."

In Barcelona, Rome, Amsterdam and Geneva too, protesters were enraged by Trump's derogatory remarks on women. "We are here for women and for human rights," one of a large contingent of American expatriate women told SkyTG24 news channel in Rome. "This American says Trump go back to your own planet," read a placard brandished by a protester.

"We must defend democratic values," said Karen Olson, who organized the Swiss march, as motorists driving by honked their horns in support. "When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty," read a banner held up by a Barcelona protester. "Make America sane again," read a banner in Amsterdam. In Budapest, up to 400 people gathered in solidarity with the Washington marchers. "Bridges not walls," read one of their banners, a reference to Trump's threat to build a wall separating the United States from Mexico to stop migrants from entering the country - and to have Mexico pay for it.

In Berlin, hundreds rallied in front of the US embassy, chanting pro-migrant slogans in a nation that welcomed nearly a million people fleeing war and poverty in 2015. "No hate, no fear, immigrants are welcome here," they cried. In Prague, protest organizer Johanna Nejedlova branded Trump's rhetoric "hateful". "We want to express our support for values such as democracy, human rights, ecology and women's rights," she said.

There were also solidarity marches beyond Europe too, with protests in Johannesburg, South Africa, where marchers held up banners reading "Black lives matter" and "Love trumps hate". Anti-Trump protests also took place in Australia with several thousand marching in Sydney and Melbourne. And in New Zealand, hundreds joined demonstrations in the capital Wellington as well as in Auckland. — Agencies

## 16 KILLED IN ITALY SCHOOL BUS CRASH

Continued from Page 1

remains, which they then spent the rest of the night doing to establish the complete death toll. At the Szinyei secondary school in the heart of Budapest, which is well known and has an excellent academic reputation, people were laying flowers and candles outside yesterday, an AFP photographer said. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban

expressed his horror and shock.

"Losing children, young lives, is the worst thing for any family, community or nation," Orban said in a statement carried by state news agency MTI. "At this time of mourning I am praying and am with the families and loved ones of those affected by this tragedy," Orban said. Several parents of the children arrived at the Verona traffic police headquarters late morning yesterday as well as 10 or so young people. — AFP

## ERDOGAN BUOYED BY VOTE FOR POWERFUL...

Continued from Page 1

The bill envisions granting the office of the presidency - currently a largely ceremonial position - the power to appoint government ministers and senior officials, dissolve parliament, declare states of emergency, issue decrees and appoint half of the members in the country's highest judicial body. Bickering and brawling cast a pall over the two-round voting process, with one opposition legislator handcuffing herself to the rostrum in protest to the package. Many AKP legislators voted in breach of the secret ballot protocol by showing their "yes" votes - a move the opposition said placed pressure on others to do the same. The deliberations, which were not televised, dragged on late into the night.

Kemal Kilicdaroglu, head of the opposition Republican People's Party, vowed to lead a "struggle for democracy" to have the reforms rejected in the national vote. "The Turkish people will spoil this game being played in parliament, I believe this with all my heart," he

said. Lawmakers of the pro-Kurdish and liberal People's Democratic Party, or HDP, argued freedoms were being rolled back in the name of stability at a time when a divided nation needs more, not less democracy.

"If this presidential system passes, the state of chaos, crisis, instability, clashes, polarization we've experienced in the past 11/2 to 2 years will become institutionalized and made permanent," Hidar Ozsoy of the HDP said in a motion to dismiss the bill. The HDP also demanded that their leaders and representatives jailed on "terrorism-related" charges be allowed to cast votes - a request that was ignored. "Taking into account rising terror attacks in Turkey by (the Islamic State group) and Kurdish militants, in a potential referendum, Erdogan's winning recipe will be to cast himself as the strong man, rightwing leader able to deliver security to the Turks through the office of his newly created executive-style presidency," said Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkish Research Program at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. — AP

## TRUMP MOVES TO WEAKEN OBAMACARE

Continued from Page 1

Experts also believe the administration could try to reduce the "essential benefits," such as maternity care and mental health services, that insurance plans must cover. The White House did not provide further details about the executive order. Trump's spokesman Sean Spicer said the White House also directed an immediate regulatory freeze for all government agencies in a memo from Trump's chief of staff, Reince Priebus. He did not offer details.

"It's a sign that the Trump administration is looking to unwind the law in every way it can administratively," said Larry Levitt of the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonpartisan clearinghouse for information and analysis about the healthcare system. Leslie Dach, campaign director of the Protect Our Care Coalition, issued a statement saying, "While President Trump may have promised a smooth transition, the Executive Order does the opposite, threatening

disruption for health providers and patients." He called the executive order "irresponsible".

Repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, one of former President Barack Obama's signature laws, was a central pledge for Trump during the presidential election campaign. Republicans in the US Congress have not yet laid out a plan to recast the insurance program. In a hastily arranged ceremony, surrounded by some of his aides, Trump sat behind the presidential Resolute Desk and signed the order. He also signed commissions for his newly confirmed defense secretary, James Mattis, and his homeland security secretary, John Kelly.

Trump spoke briefly about his day with reporters. "It was busy, but good. It was a beautiful day," he said. Vice President Mike Pence then swore in Mattis and Kelly in a separate ceremony. There were other signs of change in the Oval Office, which Obama vacated on Friday morning. Golden drapes hung where crimson ones had earlier in the day and new furniture dotted the room. — Agencies

## UK: ATTACK 'VERY LIKELY' IN KUWAIT

Continued from Page 1

There have been occasional arrests. Make careful enquiries before entering these waters or visiting ports," the advisory warned.

Among other information in the advisory, it warned that driving in Kuwait is "hazardous". "Many drivers pay little attention to other road users, drive in excess of speed limits, switch lanes without warning, ignore traffic lights and use mobile phones while driving."

Kuwait Times

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## Focus

## DEATH OF BRAZIL JUDGE TO DELAY CORRUPTION PROBE

The death of a Supreme Court justice handling corruption accusations against dozens of Brazilian politicians will not derail the country's biggest ever graft probe but will delay it, handing valuable breathing space to President Michel Temer. Justice Teori Zavascki was killed in a plane crash on Thursday, just weeks before he was due to unveil explosive testimony from executives at engineering group Odebrecht SA that is expected to implicate as many as 200 politicians in a vast kickback scandal.

Postponing the fallout from evidence that could incriminate powerful political figures in his coalition gives the president more time to push through reforms to generous pension and labor rules and restore business confidence in a country stuck in a two-year recession. "This can give Temer more room to move ahead with his reform agenda in Congress but Zavascki's death won't stall or change the course of the investigations," said Thiago de Aragao, partner at ARKO consultancy that advises corporations and banks on investment in Brazil. "It will just pause it for a while."

Temer, who has himself been named by one defendant as a recipient of illegal campaign funds, has said he will rapidly appoint a new justice who, under Supreme Court rules, would take over Zavascki's cases. The nominee would have to be confirmed by the Senate, which could take weeks if not months after Congress returns from its Christmas recess in February.

The new judge would then need to get up to speed on the sprawling corruption investigation, dubbed Operation Car Wash, which is centered on bribes and political kickbacks from state-run companies, principally oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA, commonly known as Petrobras. "Zavascki was ready to resolve Car Wash promptly and take decisions that would clear up who could stay in government or Congress and who had to go," said Ives Gandra Martins, a constitutional lawyer in Sao Paulo. Those decisions will be delayed until at least March or April, Martins said, preventing Brazil from turning the page on a corruption probe so massive and complex it paralyzed public sector construction projects and deepened the recession.

### 'Got to be Quick'

That is too long for some Brazilians who want to know which of their leaders were embroiled in the scandal that involved at least 6.4 billion reais (\$2 billion) in bribes for contracts with state-run enterprises. In Brazil, federal politicians and other senior officials can only be tried by the Supreme Court. Given the public's suspicion of politicians, the Supreme Court should opt for a rule that in urgent cases lets it name a replacement from its ranks, rather than wait for Temer's nominee, said left-leaning Senator Cristovam Buarque.

"Any presidential choice would be questionable," Buarque said in a telephone interview. "It has got to be quick. Brazil cannot wait another six months. We want to know what happened and who should be punished." At least one justice on the 11-seat court, Marco Aurelio Mello, has come out publicly in favor of one of his peers immediately taking charge of Car Wash. Though he was appointed by impeached former President Dilma Rousseff, the 68-year-old Zavascki had gained a reputation as independent and willing to target corrupt politicians of any stripe, including Rousseff's Workers Party. Police are investigating the crash in which a small, twin-prop plane that was carrying him plunged into the sea south of Rio de Janeiro during heavy rain.

### 'Bad for Brazil'

Zavascki's replacement will have to approve hundreds of plea deal statements by defendants that are expected to shake Brazil's political establishment to the core. Temer has already lost four cabinet members to corruption allegations. Several other ministers and leaders of his PMDB party in Congress have been named in Odebrecht plea deals, raising concern about the survival of his government. Odebrecht SA is the holding company for the group's interests, which include 14 subsidiaries.

"In the short-run, any delay works in Temer's favor because it will put off the instability that the new accusations will bring," said Roberto Dias, a constitutional law professor at the FGV think tank in Sao Paulo. "But it's bad for Brazil." For Brazilians dismayed by the scandals that Car Wash has uncovered, Zavascki's death - whether an accident or not - was just the latest reason to lose faith in their institutions. "His death will delay the Odebrecht testimony and, depending on who takes over, the Car Wash investigation could take a different course," said Rio de Janeiro systems analyst Bruno Bokel. "I do not believe in our justice system." — Reuters

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## Washington Watch

## WHAT WILL DONALD TRUMP DO?

By Dr James J Zogby

When Donald Trump shows up for work next week, it's anyone's guess as to what he will do. Over the past month, many reporters have asked me "what do you think Trump will do and what are you most concerned about?" My simple answer has been "I know what worries me most, but I have no idea what he'll do because I don't think he knows either."

During the campaign, Trump promised a boatload of dramatic initiatives and actions. After winning, many have been substantially changed or just disappeared. Hillary Clinton isn't going to jail; Mexico isn't paying for a wall; Muslims aren't being banned; and, lest we forget, Wall Street and lobbyists aren't problems anymore (actually, they are now the government).

We'll soon see what Trump will do. If I had to guess, I'd assume that he'll undo some of President Obama's executive orders that protected air quality, water purity, consumers and workers. These will all, no doubt, be serious set-backs, but they won't make good on the new President's "big promises" to transform our country from the dark post-Apocalyptic nightmare of his speeches to his vaguely defined vision of being "Great Again". That will require more than "I promise you".

The job of being president is different than starring in a reality TV show, running a campaign, tweeting, or being a real estate self-promoter. Boastful rhetoric and vainglorious promises may have defined Donald Trump's road to the White House but I fear that he may not be able to adjust to the challenges of being there. There are several reasons to be concerned.

### Control

Donald Trump likes to be in control, but as he will soon learn, the president is not so much captain of the team as he is captive of the team. He's not the only actor in this drama nor does he have complete control over events, or even over those who supposedly work for him. Being president is not as easy as starring in your own TV show or running a campaign. A president is dependent on staff for input and on their ability to execute.

This might sound simple, but when you consider the

degree to which Trump's cabinet appointees have already made clear in Senate hearings their disagreements with his views on critical issues and the extent to which the positions of some cabinet appointees differ dramatically from those of key White House staff (think of General Mattis versus General Flynn, or General Kelly versus Steve Bannon and Steve Miller), internal conflicts will make for messy decision-making.

The new president will also need Congress and the much maligned GOP establishment to support his agenda. And here too, his control will be limited. Republican leaders in both houses will give Trump a bit of a honeymoon, but they know that he starts his presidency with low approval ratings. With all Members of Congress and eight Republican Senators facing reelection in 2018, expect that Congress will soon start thinking more about their own careers and less about the success of the President's agenda. One big blunder, embarrassing incident, or ethics or financial scandal and we'll see how loyal Republicans will be to "their" President.

More significant than the difficulties the President will face in attempting to control competing staff or Congress will be his inability to control unforeseen events that will unfold at home or abroad. I often note that Presidents are judged less by their success in accomplishing the agenda they set for themselves and more by how they respond to the agenda set for them by an unpredictable world.

George W Bush was confronted with the horror of 9/11, the devastation of Katrina, and the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression. He squandered the world's goodwill after 9/11, launching two disastrous wars and engaging in torture abroad and repression at home. He bungled Katrina and struggled to deal with the recession.

Barack Obama began his race for the White House before the recession hit. It was presented to him as an unwanted gift. He inherited an Israeli-Palestinian conflict reeling from the disastrous Gaza War and the election of an incorrigible and intransigent Israeli leader. He also had to contend with a resurgent Russia, an increas-

ingly aggressive China, and the unsettling out-of-control consequences of the so-called Arab Spring. Obama successfully managed an economic turnaround while managing to pass a sweeping health care reform bill and other significant pieces of social legislation. But he had much less success in foreign affairs. Netanyahu was a persistent headache whom Obama felt pressured to deal with gingerly. His efforts to "reset" with Russia and the Muslim World failed, and his desire to "pivot to Asia" was stymied by domestic politics and the unraveling of the Middle East.

### Test

This inability to control people, institutions, and events will test the Trump presidency. He won't find it easy to fire whoever doesn't play by his rules. And unlike business, he won't be able to declare bankruptcy and get a "do over". In the White House, should he screw up - he, the rest of us, and possibly the entire world, will suffer the consequences (think of George W Bush's Iraq war debacle).

As much as the new president has to be concerned about dissension within his Administration, an uncooperative Congress, independent-minded foreign leaders, foreign wars or terror attacks or other calamities that may occur, I am concerned with how a volatile and unpredictable Donald Trump will respond to situations he can't control. He hasn't demonstrated the patience, discipline, and thoughtfulness that will be required to handle complex issues and unexpected problems.

So yes, I am troubled by the prospect of Donald Trump undoing some of the key elements of Barack Obama's progressive agenda. But, to be honest, more than that I am concerned that on any given day, given what we've seen of his personality and what we know about the demands of the job he has now assumed, we could be one Tweet away from an international incident or one terror attack away from a campaign of mass repression.

**NOTE:** Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

## SYRIAN REBELS BITTERLY DIVIDED BEFORE TALKS

Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's opponents appear more divided than ever as they prepare for peace talks this week, demoralized by their defeat in Aleppo and unable to unite into a single force to defend their remaining territory. The new diplomacy led by Assad's Russian allies has exposed yet more splits in a rebellion that has never had a clear chief, with rebel factions long fractured by regional rivalries, their ties to foreign states, and an ideological battle over whether to pursue Syrian national or Sunni jihadist goals.

Several leaders became prominent only to be killed in the nearly six-year-old conflict and numerous military and political coalitions have come and gone. After the rebels' defeat in Aleppo last month, the latest effort to unify the jihadist and moderate wings of the insurgency collapsed. By contrast Assad is as strong as at any time since the fighting began, his Russian and Iranian backers committed to his survival while the differing agendas of foreign states backing the rebels have added to their divisions.

The delegation of rebels that will attend the talks with the Syrian government starting tomorrow in the Kazakh capital Astana represents only part of the moderate opposition that has fought Assad in a loose alliance known as the Free Syrian Army. Most are from groups fighting in northern Syria with the backing of Turkey. Other rebel groups seen closer to the United States and Saudi Arabia have been left out.

The delegation will be led by Mohammad Alloush, the politburo chief of the Jaish al-Islam rebel group, which is at the more moderate end of the Sunni Islamist spectrum and has its main stronghold near Damascus. Alloush, who lives outside Syria, has not been appointed to the role because he wields influence over the rebellion as a whole - he does not. He was chosen because he is a member of the High Negotiations Committee (HNC), an

alliance set up with Saudi and Western support in 2015.

The HNC itself, the broadest opposition body formed since the war began, has not been invited to Astana. Its chairman, former prime minister Riad Hijab, is the nearest thing the moderate opposition has to "a face". But his role is closer to that of a spokesman for the myriad groups on the ground and he will not be in Astana either. The HNC has said it hopes the Astana talks will be a step towards new peace talks in Geneva. But while Russia says Astana aims to supplement Geneva, some in the opposition fear Moscow is trying to supplant the UN-backed process with its own and wants to increase divisions in the rebel camp.

"Going to Astana has more danger than going to Geneva," said Mohammad Aboud, a member of the HNC. "In Geneva, there

was a political front for the opposition that had gained international recognition while in Astana there is a lot of ambiguity and with Russia sponsoring this and being an occupying force and not a mediator." He said "polarization may increase" in the opposition and added: "This is perhaps one of the real goals of the Russians - to increase the division."

### Widening Divisions

Russia's peace moves have also exacerbated the split between the moderate and jihadist wings of the insurgency, fuelling tensions that have spilled into confrontation in Idlib, the rebels' main remaining foothold. A ceasefire brokered by Russia and Turkey last month has excluded the main jihadist group in northwestern Syria, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, while a spate of ir

strikes targeting its leaders have increased mistrust in the rebel camp.

All this plays further to Assad's advantage, as his Russian and Iranian allies want to lead diplomacy over Syria, with Donald Trump indicating he will cut backing for the moderate Syrian opposition as US president. The rebels going to Astana say the meeting must focus on shoring up the ceasefire and will resist political discussions although Assad has said he is open to such talks. "If Astana is just about a mechanism for a ceasefire, and humanitarian access, then it is positive. But it won't be good if they discuss political affairs in Astana because that will amount to the marginalization of the other political forces," said one FSA commander.

After years of failed international diplomacy, Moscow says it wants to advance peace by dealing directly with rebels fighting on the ground. It says the aim of the talks, which Iran will also attend, is to consolidate the ceasefire. Turkey, which backs the revolt against Assad, is also behind the new peace drive and is widely believed to have put pressure in the rebels to go to Astana. This reflects its shifting goals in Syria, where its priorities are now shaped around combating Kurdish militia and Islamic State near its border.

### Uncertain Outlook

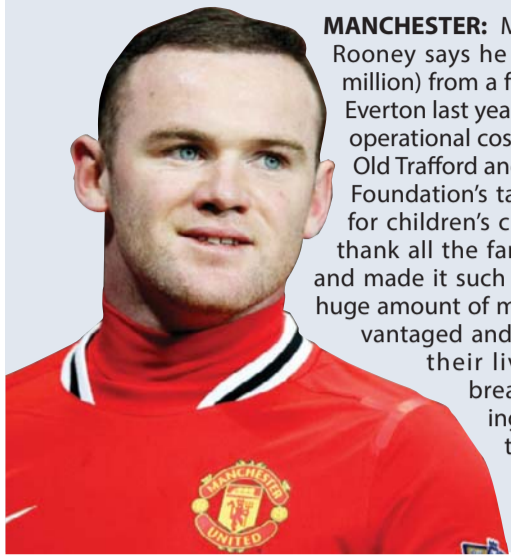
The outlook for the moderate rebels is more uncertain than ever as Trump has signalled he will cut American support for rebels who have been armed under an aid program backed by the United States, Arab states and Turkey. An invitation to Astana has been sent to the United States, but Saudi Arabia and Qatar have been left out. The rebel divisions have long worked in Assad's favor in the conflict, which grew out of protests against Assad and his government in March 2011 and is estimated to have killed several hundred thousand people. — Reuters



Syrian man sits under a building in the rebel-held town of Douma on the eastern outskirts of the capital Damascus on Friday. — AFP



## ROONEY RAISES \$1.5M FROM CHARITY GAME



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney says he raised 1.2 million pounds (\$1.5 million) from a friendly game against former club Everton last year. That represents the profits, after operational costs, from August's sellout match at Old Trafford and goes toward the Wayne Rooney Foundation's target of raising 5 million pounds for children's charities. Rooney said: "I'd like to thank all the fans who came to the testimonial and made it such a special night. They've raised a huge amount of money for children who are disadvantaged and it will make a real difference to their lives." Rooney is one goal from breaking Manchester United's scoring record, with the striker currently tied with Bobby Charlton on 249 goals. Rooney joined United from Everton in 2004. — AP

## 'NEXT ZLATAN' CLOSE TO DEAL WITH DORTMUND

**STOCKHOLM:** Swedish football prodigy Alexander Isak dubbed the next Zlatan Ibrahimovic is on the verge of signing with Borussia Dortmund, snubbing an offer from Real Madrid, Swedish daily Aftonbladet reported yesterday. "Alexander Isak looks set to snub Real Madrid. Instead the 17-year-old has apparently decided on another option: the big German club Borussia Dortmund," the paper wrote, citing unnamed sources close to the club. Isak, who earlier this month became Sweden's youngest ever international goalscorer at 17 years and 113 days, had been close to a deal with the Spanish club, according to Spanish media reports a week ago. Aftonbladet said the transfer fee looked set to exceed 82 million kronor (8.6 million euros, \$9.2 million). If confirmed, Isak's move to Dortmund could be part of a bigger switch-up at the Bundesliga club. Star striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang admitted Friday he could leave Borussia Dortmund in the summer. The German league's top scorer so far this season with 16 goals in his 15 Bundesliga games, he has a Dortmund contract until 2020. — AFP

## INJURED INIESTA IRREPLACEABLE

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona boss Luis Enrique believes there isn't another player in world football who can adequately replace what injured captain Andres Iniesta brings the Catalan giants. However, as Barca go in search of a fourth straight win at Eibar on Sunday night, Enrique is hopeful the Spanish champions are finally beginning to find the form that will help them chase down Real Madrid at the top of La Liga. "There is no one, not in the squad or in world football (like Iniesta)," Enrique said yesterday. "That is the problem. I have many very good players, but none of them are like Iniesta. Iniesta will miss the trip to the Basque country after coming off at half-time in Barca's 1-0 Copa del Rey quarter-final, first leg win at Real Sociedad on Thursday due to a calf problem. However, the club remain hopeful he will return in time for the second leg against Sociedad on Thursday. — AFP



## REFRESHED JOHNSON SHOOTS 64, IN CONTENTION IN ABU DHABI

**ABU DHABI:** Over his jet lag and familiar with the golf course, Dustin Johnson is finally a real factor at the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship.

The US Open champion shot an 8-under-par 64 in the third round yesterday to catapult into title contention in his first event of 2017. He started the day eight shots off the lead and finished it in a five-way tie for second at 12 under par, one stroke behind new leader Tyrrell Hatton.

Johnson is showing a steady improvement on the 7,583-yard, American-style National Course, which was always going to suit one of the biggest hitters in the sport. He opened with an even-par 72, made the cut by shooting a 68 and then refreshed after his best sleep of the week - powered through the field by making six birdies and chipping in for eagle from the back of the eighth green.

"Definitely by far the best day I've been feeling out on the golf course," said Johnson, who is playing for the first time in Abu Dhabi after receiving a sponsor's invitation. "You know, just felt the swing, my body was moving a lot better."

"I think it's a course you need to play a few times to get the exact lines you need to take off the tees and stuff."

### BIT SURPRISED

He's in contention despite missing out on the par 5s, which are usually his strength. In 12 attempts, he has 11 pars and one eagle, which is bemusing the easy-going American. "I'll make four birdies tomorrow, it will be all right," said Johnson, who switched back to an old putter after the first round. Martin Kaymer, seeking a fourth victory in Abu Dhabi, started the third round with a one-shot lead over Rafa Cabrera Bello, but they were two of the 14 players who failed to break par on a low-

scoring day. Kaymer shot a 72 and Cabrera Bello had a 74.

Hatton, a rising star from England, broke free from a five-way share of first place late in the day by rolling in an 8-foot putt for a birdie on the 18th for a 68.

"I'm a little bit surprised where I am," said the 23rd-ranked Hatton, who said he spent most of his offseason on his Xbox playing "Call of Duty." He finished in the top 10 at both the British Open and US PGA Championship, and he won the Alfred Dunhill Links in Scotland in October for his first European Tour title.

Hatton will be grouped with Johnson and 2014 winner Pablo Larrazabal, who shot a 69 in the third round, in the final round today. Johnson and Larrazabal are tied for second with Kaymer and two players who shot a 70 yesterday, Tommy Fleetwood and Kiradech Aphibarnrat.

Sixteen players are within three shots of the lead. "Having Stenson, Dustin up there ... it's going to be nice if you win that tournament, knowing that you beat (some) of the best players in the world," Kaymer said. "That always gives you a little bit more satisfaction, so it will be an exciting day no matter what."

Kaymer won the event in 2008, 2010 and 2011, but is often reminded of his finish two years ago, when he gave up a 10-shot lead with 13 holes to play in his final round and lost out to unheralded Frenchman Gary Stal. Now, the German is the hunter.

"I'm not having a lot of pressure of winning the golf tournament," he said. "Always when you lead a golf tournament by three or four shots, you kind of expect yourself to win, and I don't really have that pressure tomorrow. I know I've done very well here in the past, so I can play very free and very aggressive." — AP



**FOXBOROUGH:** In this Sept. 22, 2016, file photo, New England Patriots' Stephen Gostkowski (3) watches his successful field goal against the Houston Texans during an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass. Touchdowns are always nice, but clutch kickers are welcome security blankets for NFL offenses, especially in the playoffs. — AP

# KICKERS FOR FINAL FOUR NFL PLAYOFF TEAMS HAVE LEG UP

**GREEN BAY:** Touchdowns are always nice, but clutch kickers are welcome security blankets for NFL offenses, especially in the playoffs.

Three of the four teams left in the postseason have seasoned veterans. And the fourth team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, has a kicker who booted a league playoff-record six field goals last week in Kansas City. Talk about getting a leg up on the competition. "He's pretty smooth. Nothing really puts him off," said Steelers punter Jordan Berry, the holder for kicker Chris Boswell.

A second-year player, Boswell already has post-season pedigree. He won Pittsburgh's wild-card game last season against the Cincinnati Bengals with a 35-yard field goal with 14 seconds left, one of four successful tries in that game. No kicker left has playoff familiarity like Stephen Gostkowski, who has 20 postseason appearances with the New England Patriots entering the AFC championship game on Sunday against Pittsburgh.

No kicker left has been in the league longer than Matt Bryant, the balding, 15-year veteran for the Atlanta Falcons. "As far as kicking as long as I've kicked, I've never taken anything for granted. Even though I am 41 and even though this is Year 15, it's still a dream," Bryant said.

Then there is Green Bay's Mason Crosby, who enters the NFC championship game Sunday against Atlanta fresh with the confidence of having hit a 51-yard field goal as time expired to beat the Dallas Cowboys last week.

"That's my biggest kick that I've had and I've had a 10-year career here," Crosby, who is from Texas, said this week. "To be able to have a 51-yarder in (the) divisional playoffs down in Dallas, such a big game like that, it was special."

Crosby actually hit two 51-yarders, except the first was waived off because Cowboys coach Jason Garrett had called timeout just before the attempt. Crosby also drilled a 56-yard field goal with 1:33 left. "Come kind of down the hash, take a swing, just get back into that rhythm," Crosby said in describing his thought process after Garrett called the timeout. "Just focus on trying to be smooth and hit a good ball." The conditions were ideal at roof-covered AT&T Field, just like they should be inside the Georgia Dome today. "When you see Mason operate inside, he's pretty flawless," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "He's a machine. Frankly, I don't think anybody was concerned." A few more notes and stats on the remaining playoff kickers:

### CHRIS BOSWELL

Career playoff stats: 14 of 14 on field-goal attempts, 4 of 5 on extra-point attempts in four games. 2016 regular season: 21 of 25 FGs, with long of 49 yards; 36 of 36 on extra points.

**Notable:** Also booted six field goals in Week 15 against Cincinnati. ... Signed in October 2015 following an open tryout and after Josh Scobee missed a couple kicks in a loss to Baltimore.

### STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI

Career playoff stats: 26 of 28 FGs, 64 of 65 on extra points in 20 games. 2016 regular season: 27 of 32 FGs, with long of 53; 46 of 49 on extra points.

**Notable:** Five missed field goals in regular sea-

son were most since missing six in 2012 ... No missed extra points since Week 11, and two missed field goals in that span. ... Hasn't missed a field goal in postseason since a failed 44-yarder on Jan. 10, 2010 in 33-14 loss to Baltimore.

### MASON CROSBY

Career playoff stats: 26 of 28 FGs, 58 of 58 on extra points in 17 games. 2016 regular season: 26 of 30 FGs, with long of 53; 44 of 47 on extra points.

**Notable:** First kicker in NFL history to make two 50-yard field goals in the final 2 minutes of a post-season game. ... Crosby's 1,267 points are second most by an NFL player in his first 10 seasons, behind only Gostkowski (1,330 points, 2006-15).

### MATT BRYANT

Career playoff stats: 8 of 9 FGs, 21 of 21 on extra points in seven games. 2016 regular season: 34 of 37 FGs with long of 59; 56 of 57 on extra points, both league highs.

**Notable:** Made his first Pro Bowl this season. ... Falcons' all-time scoring leader with 892 points, having passed Morten Andersen's mark of 806 points.

### Bryant is looking for more.

"I know my window is starting to close a little bit," he said about his long career. "I fight every day to try to keep that window open." — AP

## CLERMONT PILE ON AGONY FOR EXETER

**PARIS:** Top French club Clermont, already assured a place in the quarter-finals, launched a first-half blitz to overcome Exeter 48-26 in their European Cup tie yesterday.

The three-time European champions went on a five-try rampage in the first period and added two after the break. But plucky Exeter refused to lie down, bouncing back valiantly with a four-try riposte in a thrilling second half but left it too late to change the outcome.

French Top 14 league leaders Clermont stamped their mark on the game after just two minutes with hooker Benjamin Kayser piling over for Morgan Parra to convert.

Clermont were awarded a penalty try on 30 minutes and Fijian winger Noa Nakaitaci, centre Wesley Fofana and former Bath fullback Nick Abendanon also crossed the line to pile on the pain for the visitors, who trailed 34-0 at half time.

After the break winger James Short went over for a try on 41 minutes converted by fly-half Gareth Steenson to get Exeter on the score sheet but a double volley of

tries from backrower Peceli Yato and Alexandre Lapandry for Clermont restored the home side's dominance.

That was until the hour mark, when Exeter sensed their chance as Clermont tired and centre Ollie Devoto, winger Olly Woodburn and Michele Campagnaro all crossed the line in an eight-minute spell of high-octane aggression from wide and deep.

But time ran out for Exeter and Clermont held on for a victory which nevertheless came at the cost of the loss of French international centre Fofana, who suffered a knee injury and was forced off after 38 minutes. Fofana, 29, has won 44 caps and is a first choice for France, who open their Six Nations campaign against England in two weeks. Bordeaux-Begles beat Ulster 26-22 in Saturday's other pool five game in Belfast with both sides already ruled out of a place in the knock-out phase.

On Friday three-time former champions Leinster, already assured of a spot in the knock-out round, were held 24-24 by Castres. — AFP



**BELFAST:** Bordeaux-Begles' New Zealand fly-half Simon Hickey kicks a penalty during the European Rugby Champions Cup pool 5, rugby union match between Ulster and Bordeaux Begles at Kingspan Stadium in Belfast, Northern Ireland yesterday. Bordeaux won the game 26-22. — AFP

## STORM DISRUPTS SINGAPORE OPEN

**SINGAPORE:** Australia's Adam Scott was among four players tied for the lead at the Singapore Open yesterday when a tropical storm and fading light forced the suspension of the third round.

Already behind schedule after Southeast Asia's fickle weather disrupted the opening day, the storm left Asian Tour officials scrambling to finish the US\$1 million tournament on time. Organisers face the possibility of a Monday finish after heavy rain resulted in more long delays at the Sentosa Golf Club.

Thunder and lightning caused a three-and-a-half-hour delay and of the 77 players who made the cut, only 45 completed their third rounds, leaving the remaining 32 to return to the course early on Sunday to finish where they left off. "It's one of those unfortunate days

- stop and start, and kind of tricky conditions at the end there," said Scott.

"Unfortunately I dropped a shot, but I'm still in the mix, so it's not too bad and I'm in good shape." The players did manage to get back on course after ground staff drained the greens of surface water and made some repairs to the bunkers, but play was again halted when darkness fell. Scott, playing in the final group, was on the 14th hole when play was abandoned for the day in drizzling rain. Already a three-time winner of the Singapore Open, he was locked in a four-way share of the lead with his playing partner, South Korean-born American Han Seung-su, and Thai pair Tirawat Kaewsiribandit and Phachara Khongwatmai, who managed to complete their rounds to share the clubhouse lead.

Tirawat charged up the leaderboard with a superb round of five-under 66, the best of the day, that featured an eagle three on the fourth hole and four birdies on the back nine.

"I am very happy with how I finished. It wasn't easy out there, especially with the rain," said Tirawat, who only secured his Asian Tour card last week after going through qualifying school. Han, who led after the second round, surrendered his place at the top of the leaderboard when he double bogeyed the third hole but pulled one shot back on the fourth to stay in contention while Parachat birdied the last to sign for a 67 just before the hooter sounded to stop play. "I'm glad I managed to finish the round as that would give me some extra rest for tomorrow," Parachat said. "It was pretty tough out there with the rain but I'm happy to sink that last birdie to bring me to the top."

Scott held the outright lead at nine-under at the turn but the 2013 US Masters champion dropped back to minus eight when he three-putted the 12th hole after hitting his approach to the fringe of the green. — AFP



**SINGAPORE:** Adam Scott of Australia tees off on the 8th hole during the SMBC Singapore Open golf tournament at Sentosa Golf Club's Serapong Course yesterday, in Singapore. — AP



## 'BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS': VONN BACK ON TOP WITH DOWNHILL WIN

**GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN:** Lindsey Vonn is back on top in just the second race of her comeback from a knee injury and a broken arm.

The American edged defending overall World Cup champion Lara Gut to win a downhill event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, yesterday and claim career victory No. 77, moving her within nine wins of the record held by Ingemar Stenmark.

After finishing 0.15 seconds ahead of Swiss rival Gut and 0.48 ahead of Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany, Vonn collapsed to the snow in celebration and shed tears of joy. She also grieved emotional when she embraced her once-estranged father, Alan Kildow.

"I just got to the bottom and I cried,"

Vonn said. "I worked really hard to come back. I feel like sometimes I come back so quickly. Everyone forgets how much time and energy and blood, sweat and tears it takes to come back without any training and just jump in there."

"I had to trust myself and my team and my technician and we all did our best and today was just amazing. I'm so happy that it only took me two races to get back on the top step," the four-time overall World Cup champion added.

Vonn broke her upper right arm 10 weeks ago in a training crash on Copper Mountain, Colorado, while recovering from a left knee injury that ended last season prematurely in February. She finished 13th in the first race in Altenmarkt-Zauchensee, Austria, last weekend.

"I honestly wasn't sure after Zauchensee how long it would take me and I proved to myself today that all the work that I put in is really coming through," Vonn said.

Last week, Vonn revealed that she struggled with nerve damage so severe that she couldn't move her fingers soon after undergoing arm surgery in November. She has been skiing with a battery-operated heated sock over her right hand to help her maintain feeling and hold onto her ski pole.

Without any sun on the Kandahar course, it was difficult for skiers to see the bumps and terrain. Still, Vonn pushed from start to finish. Racing after Gut and Rebensburg, Vonn lost some time when she went wide midway

through her run but was able to hold to her advantage in the lower section where she missed a gate in training a day earlier. "I gave myself a little bit of extra room so I could carry the speed in that section," Vonn said.

Vonn's last win also was in a downhill event in Garmisch last February. She already passed Annemarie Moser-Proell's women's record of 62 wins across all events two years ago. Next up is the outright record held by Stenmark, the Swedish great who garnered his wins between 1975 and 1989.

In the overall standings, Gut gained 80 points on Mikaela Shiffrin, more of a technical specialist who is not racing this weekend, but still trails by 235 points.

Ilika Stuhec of Slovenia finished eighth

and leads Gut by 117 points in the downhill standings. Ramona Siebenhofer, the Austrian who led both training sessions, finished fourth, and Italy's Sofia Goggia was fifth. The surprise of the day came from Ricarda Haaser, an Austrian who finished 10th with the No. 53 bib.

American skier Breezy Johnson finished 11th to match her best career result. Christine Scheyer, the Austrian who recorded her first win last weekend, went wide a few gates from the finish and failed to clear a gate. Johanna Schnarf had trouble in the same spot, losing control and falling, but the Italian appeared to avoid serious injury. Vonn will be aiming for another win today in a super-G event on the Kandahar course. —AP



**KITZBUEHEL:** Italy's Dominik Paris, center, winner of an alpine ski, men's World Cup downhill, poses on the podium with second placed France's Valentin Giraud Moine, left, and third placed France's Johan Clarey, in Kitzbuehel, Austria, yesterday. — AP

## PARIS CLAIMS SECOND KITZBUEHEL DOWNHILL WIN

**KITZBUEHEL:** Italy's Dominik Paris joined the pantheon of skiing greats who have won the World Cup's most prestigious event, the Kitzbuehel downhill, twice after his latest triumph yesterday.

Paris previously won in 2013 and the Italian's second victory down the notoriously difficult Streif course, in 1min 55.01sec, was his seventh win on the World Cup circuit. The 27-year-old joins a list of multiple winners including Didier Cuche (5), Franz Klammer (4), Swiss duo Franz Heinzer and Pirmin Zurbriggen, and France's Luc Alphand all winning three times.

"From the midpoint down it was very good," Paris said. "It is one of the most beautiful races, I am really chuffed. I have not been in such good shape in the downhill, but that's a great start!"

Unheralded Valentin Giraud Moine claimed second, 0.21sec adrift, with French teammate Johan Clarey in third (+0.33) in perfect conditions with temperatures of -8 degrees Celsius (18F) and clear skies.

The Hahnenkamm, or rooster's comb, the mountain on which the "Streif" piste lies, is widely recognized as the toughest course on the World Cup circuit, with racers touching 100kph within 8.5 seconds of leaving the start and hitting 140kph further down the piste.

Starting with bib number nine, Paris attacked from the off and picked a particularly good line in the bottom section of the 3.3km-long course that demands everything of man and material as racers fight not only creeping exhaustion but also a

3.5G centrifugal force to change direction into the final descent.

### Blast through

Coming into view of an estimated 50,000 flag-waving spectators packed into the picturesque Tyrolean town, Paris kept his nerve to blast through the finish line, his fist pumping the air in delight.

Fancied Norwegian Kjetil Jansrud finished well down the field, more than 2sec off the pace, a mistake at the top of the course costing him dear.

Austrian Matthias Mayer, the reigning Olympic downhill champion and winner of Friday's super-G, finished eighth, at 0.75sec, despite words of encouragement from onlooking former California governor and Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"Do it!" Schwarzenegger intoned on the big screen, then deadpanning, to a raucous reception: "He'll be back!"

As ever, the course claimed its victims, notably Austrian hope Max Franz and Switzerland's Beat Feuz, who was third in the super-G.

Feuz tore down the piste and came into the final descent well in the lead, but the centrifugal forces got the better of him, the Swiss racer unable to get back on line and crashing heavily into the safety netting.

On each occasion, there were collective gasps of shock from the crowd, followed by a deathly minutes-long silence before widespread cheers as the respective racers got to their feet and waved to signal they were okay. — AFP

## LIPINSKI, WEIR SHINE AS A TOP PAIR AT SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

**KANSAS CITY:** Johnny Weir and Tara Lipinski have something to say.

About figure skating? Probably. Fashion and dogs and their social life? Absolutely. They are the Jimmy Fallon and Tina Fey of the figure skating commonwealth, a buddy-buddy relationship forged on making skating fun for the audience rather than a droll play-by-play of a free skate.

"Our hope for us is we bring attention back to the sport in a new way," Lipinski said during some downtime at the US Championships this weekend. "I bet there are a lot of people that are very nervous about the way we ... "Conduct ourselves," Weir interjected.

"Get on air," Lipinski continued, "We are honest, we are truthful, and we want people to learn. We know what's so great about skating. It's annoying. I hate that everyone just watches football and soccer." "And baseball!" Weir said.

Figure skating has never had a turn at the plate as the national pastime and hasn't really been in the national consciousness since the 1990s when Lipinski, Michelle

Kwan and Kristi Yamaguchi were winning medals. (Oh, and that baton whack to the knee). But it may not be too late for a comeback!

The 34-year-old Lipinski and 32-year-old Weir are in the broadcast booth for nationals and called the action on Deanna Stellato's return to the ice after a whopping 16-year hiatus. Stellato, 33, took a break from her job in the professional world to team with former Olympian Nathan Bartholomay in pairs.

Instead of tossing the mic to Lipinski, might it be more fun for Weir to actually toss Lipinski on a triple lutz?

"You might see us next year," Lipinski said. "The dance!" Weir said. "Or the pairs event!" she said.

OK, slow down on those thoughts of the two turning the podium into their own gold-coated runway.

"We sit up there and watch all these youngins go out there and skate," Lipinski says, "and I've been out there, and there's never been moment that I think - I love competing and there's always that moment where I'd love to compete. But not really."

But when she watched Stellato skate ... "I turned to Johnny and I was like, I want to go out there!" Lipinski said.

### 'IT'S A DREAM'

Lipinski and Weir have done just fine together calling skating for NBC and its networks. But the tag team has also worked the Kentucky Derby, the Academy Awards and even the National Dog Show. They also host a "Tara and Johnny" podcast. Hard-hitting topics include "Making out in Montana," "Missing House Keys and Taco Bell," and "St. Barts and Skin Care."

Even more Johnny and Tara could show up on a streaming device near you.

"My dream for us is always to have a Sonny and Cher variety moment, late night, where we just enjoy ourselves and have so much fun," Weir said. — AP



**KANSAS CITY:** Johnny Weir and Tara Lipinski pose for a photo while working the broadcast at the US Figure Skating Championships on Friday, in Kansas City, Mo. — AP

## WARRIORS GET SIXTH STRAIGHT WIN, 125-108 OVER ROCKETS

**HOUSTON:** Kevin Durant scored 32 points and the Golden State Warriors used a big third quarter to build a huge lead and coast to their sixth straight victory, 125-108 over the Houston Rockets on Friday night. In a matchup of two of the best teams in the Western Conference and All-Star starting guards Stephen Curry and James Harden, the Rockets fell short. Houston, which entered the game leading the NBA with 667 3-pointers, was just 7 of 35 behind the arc. Harden went 0 for 5 and Eric Gordon, who entered the game leading the NBA with 160 3s, missed all seven attempts. Clint Capela had 22 points and Harden added 17 points with 11 assists for the Rockets, who are third in the West behind Golden State and San Antonio. Curry finished with 24 points and made five 3-pointers, including one with about 3 1/2 minutes remaining that left the Warriors up 117-93. Both teams cleared their benches after that.

### HORNETS 113, RAPTORS 78

Kemba Walker scored 32 points on 11-of-16 shooting, and Charlotte beat Toronto. Walker, who came in averaging 23 points and looking to earn his first All-Star selection, scored 16 points in the pivotal third quarter, including a four-point play as the Hornets outscored the Raptors 33-15 to build a 25-point lead. Walker didn't play at all in the fourth quarter after the Hornets stretched their lead to 30. He finished with eight assists. Frank Kaminsky had a solid night off the bench for the second straight game, scoring 16 points and grabbing eight rebounds. Kyle Lowry had 24 points and DeMar DeRozan added 23 points for the Raptors, who have lost two straight.

### 76ERS 93, TRAIL BLAZERS 92

Robert Covington scored 22 points and made two 3-pointers in the final 40 seconds to lead streaking Philadelphia over Portland. Ersan Ilyasova scored 24 points and Joel Embiid added 18 points, 10 rebounds and five assists for the Sixers, who have won four straight and eight of their last 10. Embiid, who sparked the recent surge, suffered a bruised left knee in the second half and didn't play the final 8:50 of the game. But the Sixers rallied for the victory without their prized center as Covington drilled the winner with 4.5 seconds left before Mason Plumlee missed a shot at the buzzer on the other end. Damian Lillard scored 30 points for the Blazers, who have lost four straight.

### HAWKS 102, BULLS 93

Dennis Schroder scored 23 points, Paul Millsap added 14 and Atlanta held back a late scare to beat Chicago. The Bulls put up little resistance all night until their reserves went on a 33-4 run in the fourth quarter to pull within five on Bobby Portis' dunk with 1:08 remaining. Chicago trailed by 22 at the end of the first, by 29 at the end of the second and 30 at the end of the third. Atlanta's lead was tenuous enough that Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer brought back Schroder and Millsap, who had rested the entire fourth quarter, for the last 2 minutes. Dwight Howard and Thabo Sefolosha combined by 24 points for Atlanta, which has won 10 of 12. Jimmy Butler finished with 19 points for the Bulls, who looked uninspired most of the night. They have dropped five of seven.

### GRIZZLIES 107, KINGS 91

Marc Gasol had 28 points and nine rebounds, Mike Conley added 16 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, and Memphis coasted past Sacramento. The Grizzlies used the 3-point shooting of Gasol and Zach Randolph to build the advantage to 19 at the end of the third quarter. At that point, Sacramento coach Dave Joergel sat his starters as Memphis eventually would build the advantage to 22 in the fourth. Randolph finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds for Memphis, which snapped a two-game losing streak. Tony Allen also had a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Sacramento has lost seven of its last eight. DeMarcus Cousins led the Kings with 19 points and 10 rebounds, while Garrett Temple added 14 points and Ty Lawson had 13.

### MAGIC 112, BUCKS 96

Elfrid Payton scored 20 points, Jeff Green added 18 points and seven rebounds off the bench, and Orlando snapped a three-game losing streak by beating Milwaukee. The Magic, returning home from a 1-5 road trip, played with a small lineup for much of the night and it provided the offense they needed with two of their top scorers out. Orlando had six players in double figures, including starters Aaron Gordon (17), Serge Ibaka (13) and Nikola Vucevic (13). Orlando shot 46 percent from the field while limiting the Bucks to 41 percent. Jabari Parker led Milwaukee with 25 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo contributed 17 points and 14 rebounds as the Bucks dropped their fourth straight game.

### NETS 143, PELICANS 114

Brook Lopez and Bojan Bogdanovic scored 23 points apiece and Brooklyn ended an 11-game losing streak by routing New Orleans. Caris LeVert added 17 points on 6-of-6 shooting for the Nets, who had seven players in double figures while beating their season high for points by 16. Their 29-point victory was 11 more than their previous



**HOUSTON:** Houston Rockets guard Eric Gordon, right, shoots next to Golden State Warriors forward James Michael McAdoo (20) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, in Houston. —AP

## NBA Results/Standings

Charlotte 113, Toronto 78.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB	
Toronto	28	15	.651	-	Utah	28	16	.636
Boston	26	16	.619	1.5	Oklahoma City	25	19	.568
NY Knicks	19	25	.432	9.5	Denver	17	24	.415
Philadelphia	15	26	.366	12	Portland	18	27	4.00
Brooklyn	9	33	.214	18.5	Minnesota	15	28	.349
Central Division				Pacific Division				
Cleveland	30	11	.732	-	Golden State	37	6	.860
Indiana	22	20	.524	8.5	LA Clippers	29	15	.659
Chicago	21	23	.477	10.5	Sacramento	16	26	.381
Milwaukee	20	22	.476	10.5	LA Lakers	16	31	.340
Detroit	20	24	.455	11.5	Phoenix	13	29	.310
Southeast Division				Southwest Division				
Atlanta	25	18	.581	-	San Antonio	33	9	.786
Washington	23	19	.548	1.5	Houston	33	13	.717
Charlotte	22	21	.512	3	Memphis	26	19	.578
Orlando	18	27	.400	8	New Orleans	17	27	.386
Miami	13	30	.302	12	Dallas	14	29	.326

largest. They also set season highs for points in the second quarter (37) and points in any quarter with 43 in the third. Anthony Davis led New Orleans with 22 points and nine rebounds despite leaving in the third quarter with a leg injury. The defeat was a huge comedown for him and the Pelicans a day after he was named a starter for the NBA All-Star Game in New Orleans.

### JAZZ 112, MAVERICKS 107, OT

Rudy Gobert had career highs with 27 points and 25 rebounds, including one on his missed free throw in overtime that led to the tying 3-pointer by Joe Johnson, and Utah beat Dallas. Gobert had just missed both of his free throw attempts with 1:50 left, but the second one ricocheted right back to him. Johnson then hit a 3 to make it 107-107. After a Dallas miss by Deron Williams and a foul in the aftermath, Joe Ingles put the Jazz ahead to stay with two free throws with 1:35 remaining. Gobert finished with his 29th consecutive 10-rebound

game. Gordon Hayward had 26 points, including a big 3-pointer late in regulation. Johnson finished with 15 points. Harrison Barnes had 19 points for Dallas, which had seven players score in double figures. Williams had 16 points and Seth Curry 15.

### LAKERS 108, PACERS 96

Lou Williams scored 27 points, Nick Young hit five 3-pointers and Los Angeles snapped its five-game losing streak with a victory over Indiana. Julius Randle scored 16 points while Young and rookie Brandon Ingram added 15 apiece as the Lakers made a prolonged second-half surge to win for just the sixth time in 27 games since November. The Lakers even did it without D'Angelo Russell, who left after slipping on their second possession of the game, mildly spraining a ligament in his right knee and straining his right calf. Paul George scored 21 points and Al Jefferson added 20 for the Pacers, who had a dismal second half in just their second loss in nine games. — AP



**PHILADELPHIA:** Portland Trail Blazers' C.J. McCollum goes up for a dunk during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Friday, in Philadelphia. — AP



## FEDERER GRACIOUS IN PRAISE OF TODAY'S OPPONENT AT AUSSIE OPEN

**MELBOURNE:** As befitting his status as a 17-time Grand Slam champion and as an astute judge of the sport, Roger Federer's reply to a simple question about his next opponent was handled with the same aplomb as one of his stylish groundstrokes.

The player in question was Kei Nishikori, who plays Federer in a fourth-round night match Sunday at Rod Laver Arena. "I'm a big fan of his game," Federer said. "He's got one of the best backhands out there. I love how he can crush it down the line or cross-court. He's got wonderful second serve returns. He's fast on his legs. Strong in his mind. I know how tough he is as the match goes along. He finds his range and his rhythm, he's tough to stop."

Federer said he'll need another

strong service game if he's going to give Nishikori some trouble. In Federer's win over Tomas Berdych on Thursday, he didn't face a break point and he won points on 95 percent of the first serves he got into play - 39 of 41, and all 16 in the third and final set.

"This one's going to be completely different to Tomas ... there's going to be more rallies, even though the surface remains fast. I said it at the beginning of the week, it's not easy to control the ball. Today again, when you serve well, it pays dividends. I hope I can keep that up against Kei."

Asked if Nishikori should be considered the favorite because of the No. 5 seeding (Federer is 17th after a six-month left knee injury layoff) Federer replied, smiling: "Yeah, sure, he's the

favorite. Maybe. I don't know."

Nishikori said he watched some of the Federer-Berdych match and was impressed. "Roger, it's a big challenge for me," Nishikori said. "I'm just happy to play him because I think we needed him on the tour. Happy to see him back 100 percent."

Here are some other featured matches today:

### NO PRESSURE

Top-seeded Andy Murray plays Mischa Zverev in an afternoon match at Margaret Court Arena. Murray, a five-time Australian Open finalist, is heavily favored. The 50th-ranked Zverev, the older brother of 19-year-old rising star Alexander Zverev - who lost to Rafael Nadal in the third round - says Murray

could go either way while pondering his ranking advantage.

"I don't know if it's more pressure on him or maybe it's a relief," Mischa Zverev said. "If someone like Novak (Djokovic) is out of the tournament, I feel like the whole rhythm of the tournament changes a little bit, so we'll see what's going to happen." Zverev hopes to possibly rattle the often volatile Murray.

"If he plays his best tennis, obviously I don't think I have a lot of chances, but it'll depend on the day," he said. "Let's see if I can annoy him a little bit. If I'm serving well and not missing any volleys, maybe I can do some damage."

### KERBER IN CONTROL?

Defending champion Angelique Kerber plays American CoCo

Vandeweghe in the match following Federer-Nishikori on Rod Laver. Kerber holds a 2-0 career edge, although the last time the two played - in Wuhan, China in 2015 - Vandeweghe retired from the match with a left ankle injury while trailing 6-1, 3-1. "CoCo is a tough opponent ... she's serving well," Kerber said. "I have to move good ... bring a lot of balls back, but also be aggressive."

Venus Williams, who is appearing in her 73rd Grand Slam main draw - a record for the Open era - plays Mona Barthel in an afternoon match. US Open champion Stan Wawrinka continues his quest for titles in consecutive Grand Slams - and his fourth major overall - when he plays Andreas Seppi. French Open champion Garbine Muguruza plays Sorana Cirstea. — AP

## AGASSI BACKS DJOKOVIC TO REBOUND QUICKLY

**MELBOURNE:** Andy Murray is yet to reach his maximum potential and should only get better but the world number one has not seen the back of Novak Djokovic, according to eight-times grand slam champion Andre Agassi.

Djokovic, a six-times champion at Melbourne Park, was bundled out of the second round by Uzbek wildcard Denis Istomin on Thursday, leaving top seed Murray a raging favourite to win a first Australian Open title after five trips to the final. Djokovic's exit, which comes on the heels of a dip in form in the second half of last season, raised fresh doubts about the 12-times grand slam champion's motivation after he surrendered the world number one ranking to Murray at the ATP Tour Finals. Agassi, however, felt the Serb's struggles would pass quickly and he would be back to contesting the pointy end of grand slams sooner rather than later.

"I've celebrated Novak's accomplishments to the point of predicting he's going to win everything and the truth is it's always a surprise when he loses," Agassi told reporters in a video conference call from Las Vegas.

"What I can speak to is Novak's game and his abilities and there's no reason in the world why he can't turn it around."

"In my opinion, (he is) one of the greats of all time so I give him a high chance of coming back in a hurry."

Murray expressed sympathy for Djokovic after his Melbourne exit but cannot have felt too mournful to see the back of the man who beat him in four finals at the tournament, including the last two.

Murray's rise to world number one after 10 years of hard graft has raised British hopes of a sustained run of success for the Scot and Agassi was not about to pour cold water on them.

However, the 46-year-old American felt Murray's outstanding defensive game might actually be holding him back from realising his full potential.

"He's very impressive. I've always talked about Andy as a person that has never really realised his maximum potential," said Agassi. "He's so good at certain things it almost makes him a bit indecisive. It almost makes him not bring his strengths to the table as much as he could."

"If he actually minimised his defensive skills by just five percent he might actually be a better player."

"My expectation is he is only going to get better. It looks like he's strong. It looks like he's fit. It looks like he knows how to invest in himself." — Reuters



**MELBOURNE:** Spain's Rafael Nadal serves against Germany's Alexander Zverev during their men's singles third round match on day six of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

## AGELESS NADAL OUTLASTS TEENAGER, SERENA CRUISES

**MELBOURNE:** Rafael Nadal's ageing legs outlasted German teenager Alexander Zverev in an epic five sets as Serena Williams sailed into the last 16 at the Australian Open yesterday. Nadal needed all his trademark grit against Zverev, 19, dubbed "the future of tennis", and his superior fitness told as he ground out a thrilling 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-2 win. Germany's Zverev looked in discomfort as he won a punishing 37-shot rally nearly four hours into their contest as Nadal, still full of running, pressed his advantage in the final set.

It means Nadal, 30, follows fellow veteran Roger Federer into the last 16 of a contest now missing defending champion Novak Djokovic after his stunning defeat to Denis Istomin. "Everybody knows how good Alexander is," said Nadal, who will play France's Gael Monfils in the fourth round. "He's the future of our sport, and the present." Williams, by contrast, had no such trouble as she brushed off fellow American Nicole Gibbs 6-1, 6-3 to maintain her charge towards a 23rd Grand Slam title.

Williams, back after an injury break at the end of 2016, has been in brilliant form and she will take some stopping as she zeroes in on Steffi Graf's Open-era record.

The next player to take on Williams will be Barbora Strycova, who ousted France's Caroline Garcia to earn a shot at the world number two.

### 'FIGHT UNTIL MIDNIGHT'

"Obviously I'm here for one reason," said Williams, who again lifted her index finger in celebration at her victory, symbolising the number one. "But at the end of the day, this is all bonus for me and I look forward to playing (Strycova). I'm ready for her." Elsewhere 117th-ranked Istomin built on his win over Djokovic by beating Pablo Carreno Busta 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 to reach the last 16 for the first time. David Goffin halted towering Croatian Ivo Karlovic, who won a tournament-record 84-game match in the first round, to set up a clash against Austrian eighth seed Dominic Thiem. "I was ready to fight until midnight if I had to," grinned the Belgian. Roberto Bautista Agut ousted fellow Spaniard David Ferrer 7-5, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 and will next play third seed Milos Raonic, who beat Gilles Simon 6-2, 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 6-3.

In the women's draw, Britain's Johanna Konta maintained her sizzling form with a dominant 6-3, 6-1 victory over former world number one Caroline Wozniacki.

"Against someone like Caroline, she's not going to give it to you. You really do have to earn it and win it till the very last point. I'm just very happy I was able to keep that pressure on," said the ninth seed. Konta's prize is a round-of-16 rematch with Russia's Ekaterina Makarova, whom she edged at the same stage last year, going 8-6 in the final set. Makarova, seeded 30, beat sixth seed Dominika Cibulkova in a three set marathon.

Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, who hadn't won an Australian Open match since 1998 before this year, extended her fairytale run by beating Greece's Maria Sakkari 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Next up for the 34-year-old Croatian, who put her career on hold to flee her abusive father, is American qualifier Jennifer Brady, who upset 14th seed Elena Vesnina. — AFP

## KONTA WIPES OUT WOZNIACKI TO SET UP RUSSIAN REMATCH

**MELBOURNE:** Rampant Johanna Konta blitzed former world number one Caroline Wozniacki yesterday to set up an intriguing fourth-round Australian Open rematch with Russia's Ekaterina Makarova.

The British ninth seed, who made the semi-finals last year to kickstart a breakthrough season, discarded the Danish former world number one 6-3, 6-1 on Margaret Court Arena. It sets up a showdown with Makarova, also a former Melbourne semi-finalist, who upset sixth seed Dominika Cibulkova in three hard-fought sets.

Whoever comes through that test-a-repeat of last year's round of 16 clash, which Konta won-will have the mighty Serena Williams as a potential quarter-final opponent.

"I was very happy I was able to keep that pressure on," Konta, who is on an eight-match win streak after her victory at this month's Sydney International, had never played Wozniacki before, making for an interesting battle.

The Briton, 25, kept the Dane on the move, pushing her around the baseline as she looked for an opening, which came in the seventh game when she worked Wozniacki wide and came to the net to smash a volley winner.

The confident, Australian-born Brit wasted no time in holding serve then breaking again to secure the set in 42 minutes, hitting an incredible 20 winners to Wozniacki's one.

Konta likes to play high on the baseline, taking the ball early and dictating the point, a tactic that left Wozniacki struggling.

She broke the 20th-seeded Wozniacki to go 2-0 in front with the Dane, who prides herself on being one of the fittest on tour, having no answers to a player on a hot run of form.

It was one-way traffic as Konta raced to the finish line, leaving a dazed Wozniacki, who has put injury struggles aside and enjoyed a resurgence over the past year, left to wonder what hit her. Next up is Makarova, whom she beat at the same stage in Melbourne last year on her way to the semis, going 8-6 in the third set.

Makarova, who in 2015 enjoyed a memorable run to the semi-finals, losing to Maria Sharapova, is seeded 30 this year and needed nearly three hours to get past Cibulkova. She remembers last year's Konta battle well. "After that match, she started playing really good and all year at the top level," she said, adding that physically she felt 100 percent and was ready to get her revenge. —AFP



**MELBOURNE:** Britain's Johanna Konta hits a return against Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki during their women's singles third round match on day six of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

## RAONIC FIGHTS FEVER, DOWNS SIMON TO REACH LAST 16

**MELBOURNE:** Milos Raonic's machine-like advance through the Australian Open hit a brief glitch against Gilles Simon but the Canadian re-booted to delete the dogged Frenchman 6-2 7-6(5) 3-6 6-3 and reach the fourth round yesterday.

The third seed, who revealed he has been suffering from a "bad fever", lost his first set of the tournament against the indefatigable Simon, whose hard running and sublime passing shots threatened to turn the game on its head.

The big-serving Canadian drowned out the Gallic cheers by capturing the decisive break in the sixth game of the fourth set and sealed the match with a big kicking serve to set up a clash with Spanish 13th seed Roberto Bautista Agut.

"I've had a rough last 48 hours, everything was aching, just sort of those kind of symptoms," said Raonic.

"I'm managing it. I'm sure I'll probably get something after today's match."

Raonic became the first Canadian man to reach the semi-finals here last year and backed it up with his first grand slam final at Wimbledon in his best season to date.

His chances of blazing a trail to a maiden final in Melbourne were handed a huge boost when Uzbek journeyman Denis Istomin knocked out six-times champion Novak Djokovic in the second round. That

upset has left Raonic as the highest seed left in the lower half of the draw.

Raonic has long been tagged a grand slam contender and he looked the part early on against Simon, mowing through the first set in 28 minutes and showing impressive composure to fend off the 25th seed in a tense tiebreak in the second.

The 26-year-old stumbled in the third as he gave up two breaks of serve but refused to put it down to two days battling illness catching up with him.

"He started playing a bit more aggressive, I became a little bit too passive," Raonic said. "It was more just a dip in sort of dictating. It wasn't a physical dip of any kind." He pushed a shot wide to give up a break-point at 4-3 and Simon grabbed the chance with a delightful drop-volley played off his feet. Simon sealed the set with a thumping first serve that triggered raucous cheers from the French fans in Hisense Arena and sent Raonic back to his chair muttering.

The Canadian regrouped, however, and raced to 3-1 before stumbling again to lose serve a third time. But he grabbed back the break and grimly held to close out a galvanising win before returning to his sick bed. "The most important thing for me right now is just to get myself at full capacity or as close to it as possible," Raonic added. — Reuters



**MELBOURNE:** Canada's Milos Raonic hits a return against France's Gilles Simon during their men's singles third round match on day six of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP



## SOUTH AFRICA BEAT S LANKA BY 19 RUNS IN 10-OVER MATCH

**CENTURION:** South Africa continued its test-winning form against Sri Lanka with a 19-run victory on Friday in the first Twenty20, which was reduced to 10 overs per side due to rain. South Africa reached 126-5 after Sri Lanka won the toss and chose to bowl.

Sri Lanka could only score 107-6 in reply. The hosts stumbled to 54-3 after 4.5 overs but David Miller smashed 40 off 18 balls - including three sixes - and new South Africa captain Farhaan Behardien ended 31 not out, also off 18 deliveries. Only Asele Gunaratne could contain

the batsmen, with 0-12 off two overs, while Nuwan Kulasekara took 2-27 in his pair of overs at SuperSport Park. Sri Lanka began the chase well, moving to 59-1 off 5.1 overs. Niroshan Dickwella hit 43 runs off 19 balls, including two sixes and six fours. Fellow opener

Dhananjaya de Silva got 27 off 16. But the rest of the innings collapsed with only Seekkuge Prasanna (12) and Gunaratne (10 not out) reaching double figures. Lungi Ngidi, among five South African players making their T20 debut, was de-

astating with 2-12 off two overs to earn the man-of-the-match award. The second of three T20 matches is in Johannesburg today. South Africa swept Sri Lanka 3-0 in the test series, including an innings and 118-run victory in the third and final match. — AP

## CHAMPIONS I COAST HIT BACK TO HOLD DR CONGO

**OYEM:** Defending champions the Ivory Coast twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with the Democratic Republic of Congo Friday in a lively Africa Cup of Nations clash.

The result in the northern Gabonese town of Oyem kept the vibrant Congolese top of Group C with four points from two matches followed by the Ivorians with two.

Togo have one point and Morocco, their opponents later Friday in the second match of a double-header, are pointless.

Another defeat for Morocco, guided by twice Cup of Nations-winning coach Hervé Renard, and they will be eliminated having gone down by a lone goal to DR Congo four days ago.

Neeskens Kebano and Junior Kabananga scored for the Congolese while Wilfried Bony and captain Geoffrey Serey Die got the Ivorian goals.

"I think we conceded easy goals," admitted Serey Die, successor to retired midfielder Yaya Toure as skipper of the Elephants.

"We have to concentrate more as we had the match in our hands. It's a shame that we woke up too late, but these lessons will serve us well in our last match."

Coach Michel Dussuyer said: "They gave us lots of problems and we suffered physically. We weren't attentive enough on the two goals conceded. Now we have our destiny in our hands."

The fixture has a history of goals with four previous Cup of Nations meetings delivering 13, including four when the Ivory Coast won a semi-final 3-1 two years

ago. It was no surprise, then, that a first half in which both sides were committed to attack ended 2-1 in favour of the Congolese. Kebano put twice champions DR Congo ahead on nine minutes with a sizzling shot across goalkeeper Sylvain Gbohouo into the far corner.

The goal stemmed from a throw-in to Kabananga, who pushed it back to Kebano, whose first name stems from the respect his father had for former Dutch star Johan Neeskens.

DR Congo looked sharper than the title-holders until recalled Bony began to make an impact from midway through the half through his aerial strength.

He nodded his first chance narrowly wide and equalised on 25 minutes with a powerful glancing header past goalkeeper Ley Matampi following a corner.

The teams remained level for only three minutes, though, before Kabananga put the Congolese ahead again with his second goal of the group phase.

Left unmarked at the far post, he soared to powerfully nod a cross past Gbohouo, who plays his club football in DR Congo with six-time African champions TP Mazembe. Ivory Coast equalised again midway through the second half with a deflected shot from Serey Die leaving Matampi stranded.

Substitute Salomon Kalou thought he had snatched a stoppage-time winner for the Ivorians with a close-range shot, but was correctly ruled offside. — AFP

## GHOULAM, KOULIBALY GO HEAD TO HEAD AT CUP OF NATIONS

**NAPLES:** Colleagues at club level, Kalidou Koulibaly and Faouzi Ghoulam will come up against each other when Senegal meet Algeria at the Africa Cup of Nations tomorrow. The game in Franceville, south-eastern Gabon, is decisive for Ghoulam's Algeria, who have to win and hope Tunisia lose to outsiders Zimbabwe if they are to progress to the quarter-finals of a competition for which they were among the pre-tournament favourites.

In contrast, Koulibaly's Senegal-Africa's top side in the FIFA rankings — have lived up to their billing so far and two wins from two mean they have already secured progress to the last eight as winners of Group B. Usually, the pair play alongside each other in the Napoli defence in Serie A, having both come from France before moving to Italy in 2014. "My second language was Italian, but after that, thinking about coming here to play...not at that time," says the 25-year-old centre-back Koulibaly, who moved to the San Paolo from Belgian side Genk after getting the call from then-Napoli coach Rafa Benitez.

"I realised that it was a very good idea to come to Italy. Especially for a defender, coming to Italy is what I was lacking."

"Also I think at my level of the game, tactics, rigorous defending, that's what I was lacking, and it also allowed me to grow, so I do not regret it." A starter in both of Senegal's games in Gabon so far alongside his one-time Genk teammate Kara Mbodj, Koulibaly's stock has risen in Italy to the extent that speculation has linked him to a mega-bucks move to Chelsea in recent months. But the player added: "I am doing very well in Italy and I hope to stay for a long time, we will see."

When he arrived in southern Italy in the

summer of 2014, Ghoulam was already there, the left-back having joined from his local club Saint-Etienne six months earlier.

Eligible to represent France by birth, Ghoulam has said he went with his heart in choosing Algeria, the land of his roots.

And he says being in Naples, one of the great Mediterranean ports, has been like coming to a home from home.

"I arrived here and it is true that I was surprised because I felt like I was in Algeria, because the way of life is similar and the way football is viewed is similar," said Ghoulam, who turns 26 on February 1. "The difference is that this is a city while Algeria is a country. But I was surprised: I had the feeling that I was seeing all of Algeria concentrated in the same city."

### 'PROGRESS EVERY DAY'

The danger is that Ghoulam and Algeria are heading for an early exit from this Cup of Nations, while Senegal are already looking ahead to the knockout stage as they target a first ever Cup of Nations title. Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri—who is also currently deprived of Morocco's Omar El Kaddouri at the moment—has said scheduling the Cup of Nations at the midway point in the European season is "absurd". However, they can be sure of having the trio back in time for their UEFA Champions League last-16 tie against Real Madrid, with the first leg in Spain on February 15, 10 days after the Cup of Nations final. Napoli are also still involved in a domestic title race and Koulibaly added: "I think we are looking to make progress every day and even today with the Champions League, we are making progress every day for the championship, which is still really very competitive." — AFP



**FRANCEVILLE:** Senegal's Idriss Gassama, right, with Zimbabwe's Khama Billiat, left, during the African Cup of Nations Group B soccer match between Senegal and Zimbabwe at Stade de Franceville Stadium in Franceville, Gabon, Thursday. — AP



**RALEIGH:** Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) makes a shot on goal against Carolina Hurricanes goalie Cam Ward (30) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Raleigh, N.C., Friday. — AP

## BIG SECOND PERIOD HELPS PENGUINS BEAT HURRICANES

**RALEIGH:** Phil Kessel had a goal and an assist during Pittsburgh's four-goal second period, and the Penguins routed the Carolina Hurricanes 7-1 on Friday night. Connor Sheary scored twice, and Evgeni Malkin had a late goal and an assist. Carl Hagelin and Chris Kunitz joined Sheary in scoring during the second for Pittsburgh. Trevor Daley scored early and Matt Murray finished with 27 saves while earning his 16th victory - most among NHL rookies. The defending Stanley Cup champions led 6-0 in winning their third straight overall and earning their first consecutive road victories since early December. Viktor Stalberg scored and Cam Ward - making his 21st straight start - had 34 saves for Carolina, which has lost two straight. Ward allowed seven goals for the third time in his career.

### BLACKHAWKS 1, BRUINS 0

Marian Hossa scored with 1:26 left to lift Chicago over Boston. Scott Darling stopped 30 shots for his second shutout of the season. Tuukka Rask made 21 saves for Boston, which has lost three straight games and four of its last five. Tanner Kero slid the puck across the crease for Hossa, who put it in the net. Darling made his first start since Jan. 6 in place of a resting Corey Crawford.

### CANUCKS 2, PANTHERS 1

Henrik Sedin had a goal for his 1,000th career point before Luca Sbisa scored the winner early in the third period to help Vancouver beat Florida. Ryan Miller stopped 34 shots for the Canucks, who improved to 8-1-3 in their last 12 games. Jaromir Jagr scored for the Panthers, and Roberto Luongo made 30 saves against his former team. It was Jagr's 758th NHL goal. Sedin converted a pass from twin brother Daniel on a 2-on-1 rush for his 11th goal of the season. Henrik Sedin became the 85th player in NHL history to reach 1,000 points, and the 38th to accomplish the feat with one franchise.

### SABRES 3, RED WINGS 2, OT

Kyle Okposo scored a power-play goal 4:34 into overtime and Buffalo rallied to beat Detroit. Ryan O'Reilly had a goal and an assist, and Sam Reinhart also scored to help the Sabres overcome a pair of one-goal deficits. Anders Nilsson made 32 saves for Buffalo, which has won two straight against Detroit in one season for the first time since 1989-90. Darren Helm and Frans Nielsen scored for the Red Wings, and Petr Mrazek was sharp in stopping 33 shots. The Red Wings had their three-game winning streak snapped and took a rare loss to Buffalo. They fell to 8-0-2 in their past 10 meetings with the Sabres and 31-4-3 with a tie in their past 39. It's a run Detroit began with a 4-2 win on March 27, 1996. Okposo's goal came shortly after the Sabres killed off a Red Wings power play.

### CANADIENS 3, DEVILS 1

Shea Weber and Max Pacioretty each scored a power-play goal during a major penalty early in the third period, and Montreal snapped a two-game skid with a victory over New Jersey. Alex Galchenyuk added a goal and two assists, and Alexander Radulov had three assists as Montreal ended the Devils' three-game winning streak. Canadiens goalie Al Montoya made 15 saves as New Jersey was limited to a season-low 17 shots in its return home from a four-game road trip. Rookie defenseman Steven Santini gave the Devils an early 1-0 lead, but the Canadiens dominated after that, scoring all their goals on the power play (3 of 7) against Keith Kinkaid, who faced 26 shots.

### PREDATORS 3, OILERS 2, SO

Ryan Ellis scored in the third period and added the shootout winner as Nashville snapped Edmonton's four-game winning streak. Viktor Arvidsson also scored in regulation for the Predators, who have won five of six. Matt Hendricks and Milan Lucic had the goals for the Oilers, who got 42 saves from Cam Talbot. Pekka Rinne stopped 30 shots for the win. — AP

### NHL results/standings

Vancouver 2, Florida 1; Nashville 3, Edmonton 2 (SO); Montreal 3, New Jersey 1; Chicago 1, Boston 0; Buffalo 3, Detroit 2 (OT); Pittsburgh 7, Carolina 1.

Western Conference					Central Division					Metropolitan Division										
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS			
Minnesota	29	10	5	145	99	63	Chicago	29	14	5	133	120	63	Ottawa	24	15	4	113	111	52
Chicago	29	14	5	133	120	63	St. Louis	23	18	5	131	142	51	Boston	23	20	6	122	124	52
St. Louis	23	18	5	131	142	51	Nashville	22	17	7	126	120	51	Toronto	21	14	8	134	128	50
Nashville	22	17	7	126	120	51	Dallas	19	20	8	126	147	46	Florida	20	19	9	112	133	49
Dallas	19	20	8	126	147	46	Winnipeg	21	23	4	135	148	46	Detroit	20	19	7	120	135	47
Winnipeg	21	23	4	135	148	46	Colorado	13	29	1	87	145	27	Tampa Bay	21	21	5	127	137	47
Colorado	13	29	1	87	145	27	Anaheim	26	13	9	127	118	61	Buffalo	18	18	9	107	126	45
Anaheim	26	13	9	127	118	61	San Jose	28	16	2	122	105	58	Washington	30	9	6	145	97	66
San Jose	28	16	2	122	105	58	Edmonton	25	15	8	137	128	58	Columbus	30	10	4	145	98	64
Edmonton	25	15	8	137	128	58	Calgary	24	21	3	127	131	51	Pittsburgh	29	11	5	164	133	63
Calgary	24	21	3	127	131	51	Vancouver	22	19	6	114	131	50	NY Rangers	29	16	1	163	125	59
Vancouver	22	19	6	114	131	50	Los Angeles	22	19	4	113	113	48	Philadelphia	22	18	6	132	148	50
Los Angeles	22	19	4	113	113	48	Arizona	13	26	6	97	147	32	Carolina	21	17	7	123	128	49
Arizona	13	26	6	97	147	32	Eastern Conference						New Jersey	19	19	9	106	135	47	
Atlantic Division							Montreal	28	13	6	142	118	62	NY Islanders	18	17	8	123	128	44

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

## LATE BANGLADESH WICKETS LEAVE TEST EVENLY POISED

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Bangladesh spinner Shakib Al Hasan took three wickets within eight balls late in today's play to send New Zealand to stumps on day two at 260-7 in its first innings, leaving the second test at Hagley Oval evenly poised. Shakib used drift and flight to trap Mitchell Santner lbw for 29 with the fourth ball of his sixth over, then bowled B.J. Watling (1) and Colin de Grandhomme (0) with the third and sixth balls of his seventh over to turn the course of the test on its head.

Half centuries by Ross Taylor (77), Tom Latham (68) and Henry Nicholls, who was 56 not out at stumps, had lifted New Zealand to 252-4 in reply to Bangladesh's first innings of 289, giving the home side the upper hand.

But the hard work of the top order was undermined by the brief collapse close to stumps, which came 50 minutes early due to rain. Shakib's success capped an outstanding bowling performance by Bangladesh on a pitch which is hard and fast but offered little seam or spin. Latham negotiated a rocky first session in which New Zealand lost the wickets of Jeet Raval (16) and Kane Williamson (2) within two balls. Raval was dropped twice in slips before chopping a ball from Kamrul Islam onto his stumps and Williamson edged a superb outswinger from the same bowler to wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan.

Latham helped New Zealand reach lunch at 70-2, then combined with Taylor in a 106-run partnership for the third wicket which put the

home team in a strong position. Latham was struck on the helmet by a bouncer which left him dazed but unhurt. He composed himself to reach his half century from 87 balls; his sixth 50 in his last seven tests which is a better run of form than any other New Zealand batsman has achieved.

Taylor scored slowly at first but grew in confidence and reached his 27th half century in tests from 60 balls, rushing to the milestone with two fours and a six in four balls from Rubel Hossain. The pair was on top of the Bangladesh attack when Latham was caught behind for 68 off Taskin Ahmed and Taylor followed soon after, holding out at midwicket off Mehedi Hasan. Taylor became the third New Zealand player after Stephen Fleming and Brendon McCullum to surpass 6,000 runs in tests. Henry Nicholls was left to rebuild and did so in an innings which was riddled with chances but also full of character, reaching 56 not out by stumps.

"They bowled really well this morning and were pretty demanding on a good length on a wicket that did a little bit," Latham said. "They bowled good areas before lunch and it was good me and Ross managed to get through that period. "Ross is a fantastic player and he's been a great player for many years for New Zealand and that's another milestone that he's ticked off today. I'm sure he's got many more to come." Shakib ended the day with 3-32 from seven overs and Kamrul 2-48 from 13. — AP



**CHRISTCHURCH:** New Zealand's Mitchell Santner bats during day two of the second international Test cricket match between New Zealand and Bangladesh at Hagley Park Oval in Christchurch yesterday. — AFP



## WEST BROM VOLLEYS LEAVE SUNDERLAND ROCK BOTTOM

 West Brom	2
 Sunderland	0

**BIRMINGHAM:** Clinical first-half volleys from Darren Fletcher and Chris Brunt gave buoyant West Brom a 2-0 win over Sunderland yesterday, leaving the visitors bottom of the Premier League.

For Tony Pulis's West Brom this was three wins from four Premier League games and leaves them in a lofty eighth place on 32 points. The visiting fans chanted "Are you watching Ellis Short" for much of the second half, directed at their owner, the American equity fund manager who is trying to sell the club which is winless in five league games.

Powerful West Brom have made a habit of seeing off weaker opponents and after a 4-0 thrashing by Spurs and defeat to Derby in the FA Cup in their last two outings the

Baggies showed no mercy to David Moyes' modest Sunderland line-up.

West Brom's opener came on the half hour when their captain Fletcher controlled a ball on his chest from a poorly cleared corner before volleying it left-footed from the edge of the area. Sunderland were left with only themselves to blame for having failed to clear the corner and for giving the Scot so much time unchallenged.

Brunt then made it 2-0 on 36 mins after a fine run and shot from Matt Phillips saw Vito Mannone forced into a desperate save.

The rebound was fired onto the crossbar by Nacer Chadli before Brunt produced a stunning finish from just inside the box.

Moyes' men came out in the second half with more fight in them and Adnan Januzaj and Jermain Defoe both produced decent efforts while Jack Rodwell's shot from distance was easily dealt with by Ben Foster in the West Brom goal.

Pulis's first capture of the transfer window, Jake Livermore-capped once by England when he was at Spurs-made a lively cameo appearance for an upbeat West Brom. — AFP



**ANFIELD:** Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Roberto Firmino (L) heads the ball to score a goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Swansea City at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

## RAMOS SAVES MADRID AS FANS TARGET RONALDO

**MADRID:** Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos struck twice within eight first-half minutes to get the European champions back to winning ways with a 2-1 victory over Malaga at the Santiago Bernabeu yesterday. Madrid's 40-game unbeaten run had come to a crashing halt with back-to-back defeats to Sevilla and Celta Vigo in the past week, but after a nervy start Ramos ensured they opened up a four-point gap at the top of the table.

Ramos opened the scoring with a towering header from a Toni Kroos corner on 35 minutes. And the Spanish international soon took his career tally to 50 La Liga goals by bundling home another Kroos delivery despite standing in an offside position. Juanpi got Malaga back into the game just after the hour mark and could even have snatched a point but for a fine save from Keylor Navas to deny Chory Castro soon after. Second-placed Sevilla and Barcelona, a further point adrift in third, can close the gap when they travel to Osasuna and Eibar respectively today.

Whilst Ramos was riding to Real's rescue, Cristiano Ronaldo endured another forgetful afternoon in front of goal and was even whistled by the Madrid fans early on after a sluggish start to 2017.

Ronaldo shot straight at Carlos Kameni with just the Cameroonian to beat and Karim Benzema headed just over as Madrid started brightly.

However, the hosts suffered an early injury blow when left-back Marcelo limped off with a thigh injury and could have been behind midway through the first half when Castro's driven effort came back off the post. Ignacio Camacho was also inches away from giving the visitors the lead when his backpost header flew across the Madrid goal. However, Ramos looked to have settled Real's nerves when he leapt highest to power home Kroos's outswinging corner 10 minutes before the break.

And eight minutes later Ramos had his eighth goal of the season, albeit in scrappier fashion, as he appeared to be offside when tapping home Kroos's low free-kick.

Malaga are yet to register a point in three games under new boss Marcelo Romero since former Tottenham Hotspur manager Juande Ramos's surprise December resignation.

Yet they didn't let their heads go down and were back in the game 18 minutes into the second half when Juanpi's initial effort was well saved and Juanpi tucked home the rebound.

Seconds later Navas was called into action to prevent Malaga equalising as Castro tore through the Madrid defence and his powerful effort was turned to safety by the Costa Rican.

At the other end Kameni nearly gifted Real the breathing space they craved as a harmless backpass rolled under his foot, but he recovered just in time to clear off the line and then deny Ronaldo's follow-up effort. And a frustrating afternoon for Ronaldo was rounded off 14 minutes from time when his sweetly struck volley came back off the post before Kameni got down low to again deny the reigning World Player of the Year for a third time late on. —AFP

### Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Southampton v Leicester City	15:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Arsenal FC v Burnley	17:15
BeIN SPORTS	
Chelsea FC v Hull City	19:30
SPANISH LEAGUE	
Osasuna v Sevilla FC	14:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Bilbao v Atletico de Madrid	18:15
BeIN SPORTS	
Real Betis v Sporting Gijon	20:30
BeIN SPORTS	
Real Sociedad v Celta de Vigo	20:30
BeIN SPORTS	
SD Eibar v FC Barcelona	22:45
BeIN SPORTS	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE	
Juventus FC v SS Lazio	14:30
BeIN SPORTS	
Bologna FC v Torino	17:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Genoa CFC v Crotone	17:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Empoli v Udinese Calcio	17:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Citta v Internazionale	17:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Pescara v Sassuolo Calcio	17:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Atalanta v UC Sampdoria	20:00
BeIN SPORTS	
AS Roma v Cagliari Calcio	22:45
BeIN SPORTS	
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA	
Bayer 04 v Hertha Berlin	17:30
BeIN SPORTS	
FSV Mainz 05 v FC Koln	19:30
BeIN SPORTS	
FRENCH LEAGUE	
AS Monaco FC v Lorient	17:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Saint Etienne v Angers	19:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Lyonnais v de Marseille	23:00
BeIN SPORTS	
AFRICAN NATIONS CUP	
Cameroon v Gabon	22:00
BeIN SPORTS	
Guinea-Bissau v Burkina Faso	22:00
BeIN SPORTS	



**MADRID:** Real Madrid's French defender Raphael Varane (C) vies with Malaga's defender Jose Luis (L) and Malaga's midfielder Recio (R) during the Spanish league football match Real Madrid CF vs Malaga CF at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid yesterday. — AFP

# SIGURDSSON STRIKE STUNS LIVERPOOL

 Liverpool	2
 Swansea	3

**LIVERPOOL:** Gylfi Sigurdsson's decisive goal boosted Swansea's hopes of Premier League survival as they inflicted Liverpool's first home defeat for almost a year with a 3-2 triumph at Anfield yesterday.

Iceland international Sigurdsson, who has repeatedly been linked with a move away from the Welsh club, struck with 16 minutes left after Paul Clement's side had let a two-goal lead slip against title-chasing Liverpool.

Fernando Llorente had scored twice in the first seven minutes of the second half for Swansea, but Liverpool's Roberto Firmino responded with a double of his own.

Swansea showed great spirit to come back and earn both the Welsh club's first-ever league win at Anfield and their first under Premier League victory under new manager Clement.

In doing so, they lifted themselves off the foot of the Premier League table and out of the bottom three, at least for a few hours.

Liverpool, playing their eighth match in 25 days, paid for sloppy defending, and missed the chance to put pressure on leaders Chelsea, losing at home for the first time since Stoke won

the second leg of a League Cup semi-final at Anfield on January 26 last year.

Philippe Coutinho, now fully recovered from injury, made his first league start since November after playing for 65 minutes in Wednesday's FA Cup win at Plymouth, but showed only occasional sparks of creativity during a tepid first half.

It was Swansea, for all the pressure they had to absorb, who came closest to scoring before the interval. Midfielder Tom Carroll, signed from Tottenham during the week, ran in from the left on to Sigurdsson's pass infield and struck the outside of the near post from a tight angle, via a deflection off Dejan Lovren.

Both Carroll and fellow debutant Martin Olsson, brought in from Norwich, performed solidly, with the Swedish full-back making one positive attacking run that ended when he was bodychecked by Ragnar Klavan.

One excellent turn from Coutinho just after the half-hour mark allowed him to create a chance for Firmino, who would have scored but for Alfie Mawson's block.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp's frustration grew as Swansea went ahead with little more than two minutes of the second half played.

**LLORENTE AT THE DOUBLE**

Not for the first time this season, Liverpool conceded from a set-piece; Sigurdsson's corner was headed down by Federico Fernandez, Wayne Routledge blocked off the defender and the ball bounced loose for Llorente to prod in

from eight yards. Astonishingly, Llorente scored again from Swansea's next attack, barely four minutes later. Olsson and Carroll combined down the left, and the former Tottenham man crossed for the Spain striker to climb between Lovren and Klavan, planting a downward header past Simon Mignolet.



Liverpool, however, pulled a goal back within three minutes. James Milner crossed from the left, the ball drifted over Olsson, and Firmino guided a header into the bottom corner of the net. Swansea continued to threaten but Klopp's side equalised with little more than 20 minutes to go courtesy of a superbly constructed goal.

Georginio Wijnaldum controlled a pass down the left touchline, and looped in a cross that Firmino gathered on the chest under pressure from two Swansea defenders, before hooking a first-time shot past Lukas Fabianski.

Yet having worked their way back into the match, Liverpool fell behind again amid chaotic defending. Carroll charged into the penalty area after taking on Llorente's pass and, as Klavan slid in to challenge, the ball ran loose for Sigurdsson to steer beyond the exposed Mignolet.

Swansea had more nervous moments to come, with Fabianski blocking substitute Divock Origi's shot on the turn following a Milner corner, and then watching helplessly as Adam Lallana looped a header against the bar. But the visitors, denied victory by an Everton stoppage-time equaliser on their last visit to Merseyside in November, hung on to all three points. — AFP

## CARROLL BRACE FIRES HAMMERS PAST BORO

 Middlesbrough	1
 West Ham	3

**MIDDLESBROUGH:** Andy Carroll scored twice as West Ham added to Middlesbrough's struggles in the Premier League with a 3-1 win at the Riverside Stadium yesterday.

The England international sent a thumping header beyond Victor Valdes to give the Hammers, who were again playing without want-away France playmaker Dimitri Payet, a ninth-minute lead. Christian Stuani finished off a superbly constructed team move to draw Boro level before the half hour, but Carroll struck again two minutes before the break with substitute Jonathan Calleri sealing the victory at the death.

Slaven Bilic's men have now won five of their last seven matches to climb into the top half of the table, but Boro remain in 16th place after a fifth straight game without a win. Payet's refusal to play for West Ham amidst his desire to return to Marseille has seen the Frenchman forced to train with the club's Under-23 squad and he was again left out the first-team squad for the trip to Boro.

But despite the absence of their influential midfielder, West Ham quickly found their stride with Michail Antonio slicing wide on the volley from Aaron Cresswell's cross.

The visitors went ahead soon after as Carroll rose to meet Manuel Lanzini's inswinging corner and plant a thumping header past a helpless Valdes to get on the scoresheet for the second game running. Aitor Karanka's Boro are the league's lowest-scoring team but they hit back on 27 minutes through Stuani as the Uruguayan side-footed home Calum Chambers' pass following a passage of slick play from the hosts.

West Ham regained the lead before the interval when Carroll pounced to slot in the rebound after Valdes had kept out a fierce long-range drive from Antonio, West Ham's leading scorer with eight goals this season.

Antonio then headed over at the start of the second half while Lanzini fluffed a one-on-one with Valdes having been slipped in by Carroll. Republic of Ireland goalkeeper Darren Randolph turned behind a firm header from Boro's Marten de Roon as Adama Traore was proving a handful down both flanks. And the Hammers were fortunate not to concede a fluke equaliser when Cresswell smashed an attempted clearance straight into Stuani, with the ball looping off the bar and away to safety. Karanka introduced new signing Patrick Bamford, who scored 19 goals in 44 appearances while on loan from Chelsea in 2014-15, with 10 minutes play but West Ham wrapped up the points with Calleri's deflected effort deep into stoppage time. —AFP



**LONDON:** Crystal Palace's Scottish midfielder James McArthur (C) goes down under a challenge from Everton's English defender Leighton Baines (L) during the English Premier League football match between Crystal Palace and Everton at Selhurst Park in south London yesterday. — AFP

## COLEMAN DEEPENS CRISIS FOR ALLARDYCE AND PALACE

 Crystal Palace	0
 Everton	1

**LONDON:** Seamus Coleman's late strike gave Everton a 1-0 win over Crystal Palace yesterday to leave the losers without a win under Sam Allardyce in five Premier League matches and third from bottom of the table. The Irish international's goal four minutes from time was no more than the visitors deserved—recording wins in their first three league matches in a calendar year for the first time since 2008 — having peppered the Palace goal with 16 shots prior to that. Palace, with just one win in their last seven league matches and only one clean sheet in their last 22, dropped into the bottom three when Swansea pulled off a thrilling 3-2 win over Liverpool earlier yesterday. Things look even bleaker for Palace and Allardyce as their run-in will see them play the present top five in their last nine games. Palace pressed early on, Christian Benteke going close with his glancing header clipping the crossbar.

Palace's bright start, though, petered out

and Everton's Belgian international midfielder Kevin Mirallas—who had had a penalty appeal turned down—then forced Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey into a decent save. The Welsh international goalkeeper, though, could do nothing about Romelu Lukaku's shot from 12 yards out—after receiving a perfectly threaded pass from Gareth Barry—but it rebounded off the post. Ross Barkley went close early in the second-half, although he could have done better by squaring it to Lukaku who was better-placed.

Everton then went close again through Barkley after Coleman's curled effort was palmed away by Hennessey and fell to the England international. Barkley kept on battering away at the Palace goal but the results didn't improve as he went one-on-one with Hennessey but missed again.

Palace barely managed to get out of their own half. However, they went close to stealing the three points but Joel Robles pulled off a smart save from Benteke's header. The visitors, though, were not to be denied and all their pressure paid off with Coleman deftly lifting the ball over Hennessey to break the deadlock four minutes from time after being found by Tom Davies. Palace players and Allardyce were furious as they had a player down at the time of the move and Everton didn't put the ball out whilst the referee allowed play to carry on. —AFP



# Sports

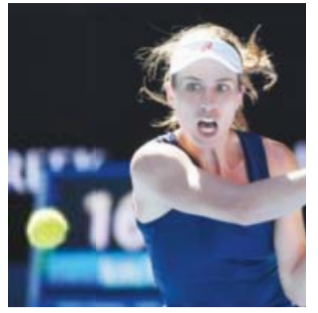
Vonn back on top with downhill win

16



Konta wipes out Wozniacki to set up Russian rematch

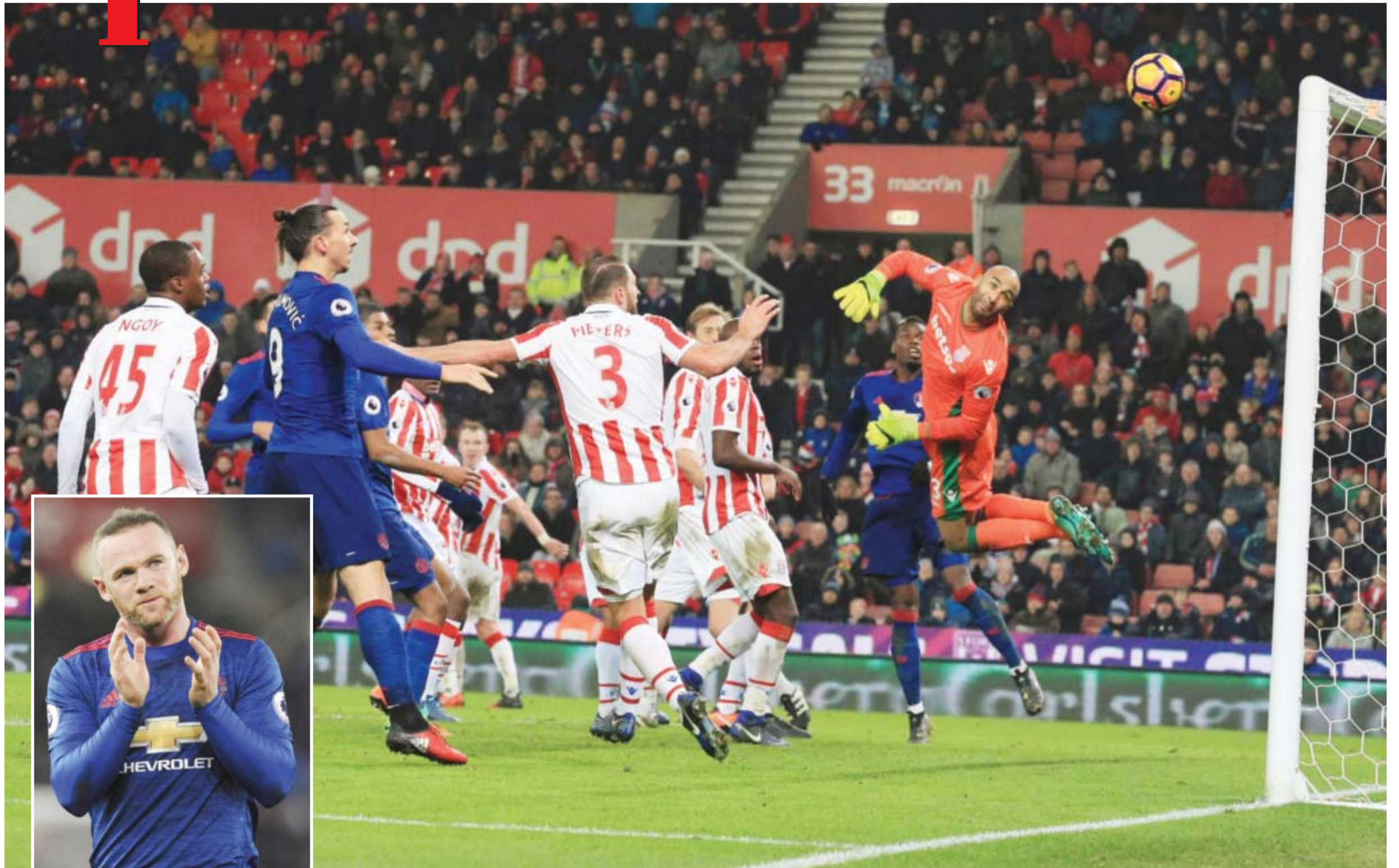
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017

## SIGURDSSON STRIKE STUNS LIVERPOOL

Page 19



STOKE-ON-TRENT: Stoke City's English goalkeeper Lee Grant (R) looks back as he dives to see the ball go into his goal from a free kick hit by Manchester United's English striker Wayne Rooney (L obscured) for Rooney to score an equalising goal for 1-1 and his 250th goal for Manchester United. (Inset) Wayne Rooney waves to fans after the English Premier League soccer match between Stoke City and Manchester United. — AFP, AP

## ROONEY BREAKS UNITED RECORD IN DRAW AT STOKE



STOKE-ON-TRENT: Wayne Rooney fired home a spectacular injury-time equaliser to break Bobby Charlton's Manchester United goalscoring record and force a 1-1 draw with Stoke City in yesterday's Premier League clash.

Rooney couldn't have chosen a better way to grab his 250th goal for the club from a free-kick with time running out after United had trailed since the early stages to an unfortunate own goal by Juan Mata.

While Rooney was delighted with his personal record, the point did little to advance United's title claims as they trail Chelsea by 11 points with the leaders

due to play struggling Hull on Sunday.

Rooney's strike was appropriately enough witnessed by 1966 World Cup-winning star Charlton sitting in the director's box.

"It means a hell of a lot," said Rooney. "It is a great honour and I am very proud. "It is difficult at the minute to be over-pleased because of the result but in the grand scheme it is huge honour.

"It is not something I expected when I joined. As I said before, I am proud and I hope there is more to come." United manager Jose Mourinho said the record allowed Rooney to be termed a legend.

"The record is the record. It is the record of the biggest club in England and one of the biggest in the world," said the Portuguese coach. "Before him the record belonged to a legend of English football. Now Wayne becomes a legend of Manchester United." United had gone behind to a lame goal in the 19th minute.

Erik Pieters was picked out by Marko Arnautovic's

astute pass and his low cross was deflected past David De Gea by Mata at his near post. With Marouane Fellaini recalled to the starting line-up, it was clear United would adopt a direct approach and it almost got them straight back into the game when Zlatan Ibrahimovic's control in front of goal let him down badly at the crucial moment.

### ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

Mata's afternoon then went from bad to worse when he missed a glaring opportunity to atone for his earlier mishap on the half hour.

Paul Pogba's vision picked out Ibrahimovic bursting forward and he laid the equaliser on a plate for the Spaniard with his cross to the far post, but Mata somehow contrived to scoop it over a gaping net from just inside the six-yard box.

It was all one-way traffic in the closing stages of the first half as United pressed hard for an equaliser and

Stoke were indebted to Lee Grant.

First, the keeper reacted smartly to tip over a volley from Fellaini and then from the resulting corner he denied Pogba with another fine save.

The pattern of play didn't change after the break, but it wasn't long before Mourinho had seen enough as Rashford was sent on in place of Fellaini.

Pieters and Mata were then involved in another incident which resulted in United having furious appeals for a penalty waved away by referee Mark Clattenburg.

The Stoke defender got across to block Mata's attempt at goal from a Pogba cross, but the ball clearly struck his outstretched arm in doing so.

United hung their heads in frustration when Jesse Lingard beat Grant with a long-range effort, but watched as it clipped the bar.

However, their persistence eventually got its reward deep into injury time when Rooney struck with his free-kick from wide on the left. — AFP

## SPURS FIGHTBACK THWARTS GUARDIOLA'S MAN CITY



MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola's Manchester City were denied a morale-boosting Premier League victory as Tottenham Hotspur came from two goals down to earn a contentious 2-2 draw yesterday.

Blunders by Spurs goalkeeper Hugo Lloris allowed Leroy Sane and Kevin De Bruyne to give City a deserved 2-0 lead, only for Dele Alli and substitute Son Heung-Min to grab a point for the visitors. The game's main talking point occurred shortly before Son's 77th-minute leveller when Kyle Walker got away with a push on City forward Raheem Sterling inside the Spurs box as he took aim at Lloris.

Guardiola reacted furiously and having seen his team humiliated 4-0 at Everton on their previous outing he will know this was a huge missed opportunity for his misfiring team. City, for whom £27 million (\$33 million, 31 million euros) new signing Gabriel Jesus made his debut, remain fifth and will fall 12 points off the pace if leaders Chelsea beat Hull City on Sunday.

While Spurs remain second, the point earned at the Etihad Stadium came at a cost for Mauricio Pochettino's side, who had been chasing a seventh

successive league win.

Toby Alderweireld was forced off by injury in the second half, meaning he will potentially join fellow Belgian centre-back Jan Vertonghen on the sidelines. City's defeat at Everton was the heaviest league reverse of Guardiola's stellar coaching career, but his response was to go on the attack.

Centre-back John Stones was dropped again, while De Bruyne and David Silva joined Yaya Toure in an attacking midfield trio that enabled City to pierce holes in Spurs' rearguard right from kick-off.

After sights of goal for Pablo Zabaleta and Sergio Aguero, Lloris turned a low Silva shot behind and then stood motionless as Zabaleta's drive from De Bruyne's corner skidded inches wide.

With Spurs incapable of playing through City's high press, Kevin Wimmer and Eric Dier were both booked inside the first 13 minutes.

By the time De Bruyne rolled a cross-shot across goal and wide after Aguero had robbed Dier, Pochettino had seen enough, moving Dier into midfield and swapping his 3-4-2-1 for a more stable 4-3-2-1. Still City came, with Sane heading wide and Lloris twice thwarting Aguero, springing to his right to catch a header and then getting down at his near post to parry a left-foot drive.

Pochettino made another change at the interval, sending on Son for Wimmer, but within nine minutes of kick-off his side were 2-0 down as Lloris unwittingly took centre stage.

Flying out to meet De Bruyne's 50-yard pass on the edge of his box, Lloris contrived to head the ball



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Leroy Sane, right chests the ball past Tottenham Hotspur's goalkeeper Hugo Lloris as he scores the opening goal of the match yesterday. — AP

against Sane, who had the simple task of tapping into an empty net. If fortune deserted Lloris on that occasion, he only had himself to blame five minutes later as his failure to gather Sterling's cross from the right allowed De Bruyne to bundle in City's second.

It was no more than the hosts deserved, but just four minutes later Spurs hit back, Alli heading in Walker's superb right-wing cross for his eighth goal in seven games. Danny Rose had to produce a brilliant last-gasp tackle to prevent Sterling restoring City's two-goal cushion before Alderweireld limped off holding the back of his right thigh. — AFP

## GHANA BEAT MALI TO REACH LAST EIGHT

PORT GENTIL: Ghana became the second team at the African Nations Cup to book a quarter-final place after veteran striker Asamoah Gyan scored the only goal of the game against Mali in Group D yesterday.

A second successive 1-0 win for Ghana ensured they progressed past the group stage for the sixth successive tournament, although they needed two late saves from goalkeeper Razak Brimah to make sure of the victory.

Gyan delivered a power header in the 20th minute to set up the win after Ghana had beaten Uganda by the same score line in their opening match.

They joined Senegal as teams through to next weekend's knockout phase in Gabon. There was a shocking miss from Andre Ayew after 17 minutes as the Mali defence was breached by a skilful burst from Christian Atsu.

He laid a square pass in the direction of Jordan Ayew but his elder brother got in the way of what looked an easy tap-in, but recovered to control the ball and turn towards goal, only to put his shot wide from right in front of the target.

Ghana only had to dwell on the missed opportunity for four minutes before going ahead as Jordan Ayew whipped in a perfect cross, met by a powerful header from Gyan who steered it wide of a despairing dive from Oumar Sissoko.

Aston Villa striker Ayew then had a shot saved just after the half hour mark by Sissoko, who had to deal with a difficult bounce on an uneven surface.

Mali brought on midfield playmaker Yves Bissouma after halftime to lift them out of a slumber and he orchestrated a vastly improved showing, with chances finally being created.

The first for Moussa Marega went wide before Brimah pulled off a point-blank save to deny Kalifa Coulibaly and stopped a rasping volley from Bakary Sako two minutes into stoppage time.

Mali have a single point and need to beat Uganda in their last game to stand any chance of progress alongside the Ghanaians.

Seven-times champions Egypt play Uganda later in the second Group D game at the newly built stadium in Port Gentil. — Reuters





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THE MOST FREQUENT JOB INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

CHINESE SKEPTICAL ABOUT ECONOMIC TIES UNDER TRUMP

BUSINESSES WARY OF PLAN TO SLAP 45% TARIFF ON CHINESE IMPORTS

**BEIJING:** People in Beijing expressed doubts yesterday about President Donald Trump's ability to steer the US economy and manage China-American relations, underscoring concerns over trade, Taiwan and other issues. While Trump didn't mention China in his inaugural address Friday, he referred often to the country during the campaign and upended diplomatic protocol after the election by speaking on the phone with the president of self-governing Taiwan, the island China considers its own territory.

Aaron Wang, who works for a logistics company, said he hoped for the best but was wary of Trump's threat to disrupt commerce between the countries, including imposing a 45 percent tariff on Chinese imports.

"I will wait and see what Trump actually does in the future, but I do hope that the China-US relations can develop in a good direction under Trump's presidency," said Wang. A retired teacher, who would only give her surname, Wei, said Trump hadn't yet shown that he could handle the US presidency.

"It's really uncertain whether he can properly run the US," Wei said. "A business person can run a country very well, but he can also do a very bad job." On a visit to Beijing, Dunkin' Brands CEO Nigel Davis said he wanted to reinforce the importance of global free trade to Trump, who opposes the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership and has suggested he might renegotiate the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement.

"I will give him concrete examples and talk to him about how you can overcome obstacles," Davis told The Associated Press. China is the world's second-largest economy behind the US, and Trump railed during his campaign against alleged Chinese cheating at trade and manipulation of its currency. Those assertions came despite evidence that for the past couple of years, China has been intervening in markets to prop up its currency, not push it lower in a manner that would benefit exporters to the detriment of US businesses.

China's economy slowed over the past year and exports fell back into contraction last month, signaling renewed weakness as it faces possible trade tensions under Trump. However, China still sells considerably more to the United States than it buys, resulting in a trade deficit in goods amounted to \$289 billion through the first 10 months of 2016. In a commentary on Trump's inaugural address, the official Global Times newspaper



SHANGHAI: A Chinese man reacts near a board showing the Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index at a brokerage in Beijing. People in Beijing expressed doubts yesterday about President Donald Trump's ability to steer the US economy and manage China-American relations, underscoring concerns over trade. — AP

said he had made a number of "lofty promises" but offered few details on how he intended to carry them out.

"It remains to be seen if he can keep his ambitious promise throughout his term - correcting the domestic and foreign policies and the world order he believes to have strayed off track," the paper said. The commentary

also stated that Trump has yet to formulate a China policy despite his constant references to the country during the presidential election campaign.

"His China policy will hinge on how well he understands the overlapping interests of the world's two largest economies, how their national interests intertwine, and

whether he is motivated to change the existing structure with force," the paper said. Along with stating that relations with Beijing were open for re-negotiation, Trump has criticized China's creation of man-made islands in the South China Sea furnished with airstrips and military infrastructure. —AP

TRUMP TO GET FIRST SIGN OF US ECONOMIC HEALTH

GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

**BRUSSELS:** Donald Trump's policy plans in his first days in office are likely to dominate headlines in the coming week, but the new president himself will also get a first read-out on the health of the US economy. And for all his call to make America great again, data should confirm that the economy is clipping along at a healthy rate even before Trump's promised tax cuts and infrastructure spending.

While Trump has talked of a feverish first full day - with orders and notifications to withdraw from the TPP trans-Pacific trade pact, cancellation of restrictions of energy production and curbs on illegal immigrants - the economic diary is light.

Further details of a stimulus package, which could be watered down by Congress, could be the dominant economic event. Other than that, a week before the monetary policy meetings of the Federal Reserve, the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan and a week after a European Central Bank sitting, the stand-out figures are likely to be first estimates for US growth on Friday and for British growth a day earlier. The US economy is seen expanding by an annualized rate of 2.2 percent in the final quarter of 2016, easing from the 3.5 percent of third quarter as net trade turns negative, but with solid consumption growth and a reduced drag from the energy price collapse that hit investment.

"We're seeing a lot of momentum

in some areas of the economy," said Laura Rosner, economist at BNP Paribas. "It's a bit of a step down, but is still very healthy and really should support expectations for further growth and expansion." "It's an important number but at the same time markets are focused on the outlook, particularly given all the potential policy changes," she added.

Rosner, like other economists, sees US growth accelerating this year and next, buoyed by the fiscal stimulus. Harm Bandholz, chief US economist at UniCredit, sees the effect of that being at the end of 2017, but says there is then a risk increased consumption hikes imports, leading to a call for growth-draining trade protection. According to a Reuters poll in the past week, the top risk to US growth is that Trump keeps his protectionist promises.

Brexit hit for UK economy in 2017? In Britain, it is the week after Prime Minister Theresa May's big speech on Britain's plans to leave the European Union. The chief Brexit news is likely to be Tuesday's supreme court ruling on parliamentary involvement in triggering the EU's Article 50 exit clause.

Britain too will report a first estimate for economic growth in the fourth quarter. Like the United States, GDP is seen easing, to 0.5 percent quarter-on-quarter from 0.6 percent in the July-Sept period.

James Knightley, ING senior econo-

mist, said the report is likely to confirm that the UK economy grew faster than that of the United States, the euro zone and Japan in 2016. However, the outlook for 2017 is less rosy. "Inflation is going to rise, driven by import costs for energy and food, particularly as hedged positions end. This should weaken consumer spending, while the triggering of Article 50 could lead to business being more cautious," Knightley said.

For the eurozone, purchasing manager indexes should confirm continued steady growth across industry and services in January. In Europe's largest economy, business sentiment is forecast to push slightly beyond December's near three-year high in Ifo's report on Wednesday, with both the assessment of current conditions and expectations ticking higher.

The mood among German analysts and investors improved slightly in January, figures showed on Tuesday, with rising expectations "a leap of faith for 2017" after a stronger-than-expected economic performance by Germany last year. Elsewhere, Turkey is one of few countries where central bank policymakers will meet faced, like many emerging markets, with a challenge from the strong dollar. Its central bank will undergo a credibility test, with investors hoping for a significant interest rate hike after attempts to defend the Turkish lira with liquidity measures proved ineffective. —Reuters



JAKARTA: A vendor sits in from of his kiosk waiting for customers in Jakarta yesterday. —AFP



شركة الاستثمار الوطنية  
 NATIONAL INVESTMENTS COMPANY

**Advertisement**  
 For all shareholders of Kuwait Food Company (Americana) K.S.C.P

**Mandatory Acquisition Offer from Adeptio AD Investments SPC Limited "Adeptio" on the shares of Kuwait Food Company (Americana) K.S.C.P.**

National Investments Company (K.S.C.P) as Acquisition Manager on the shares of Kuwait Food Company (Americana) submitted by "Adeptio" is pleased to announce to esteemed Americana shareholders that CMA has approved to publish the Mandatory Acquisition Offer Document at the price of KWD 2.650 per share (Two Dinars Six Hundred and Fifty fils) and that the share collection period will start on 12 January, 2017 and end on 13 February, 2017 "Collection Period". The Offer Document was published starting 2 January 2017 on the following websites:

• الموقع الإلكتروني للبورصة :  
<http://www.boursakuwait.com.kw>  
 • الموقع الإلكتروني لشركة الاستثمار الوطنية (ش.م.ك.ع.) ممثلاً عن شركة أديبتيو :  
<http://www.nic.com.kw> , representing Adeptio  
 • الموقع الإلكتروني للشركة الكويتية للأغذية (الأمريكانا) ش.م.ك.ع. :  
<http://www.americana-group.com>

Therefore, all shareholders wishing to partake in the Offer should head to National Investments Company headquarters in Sharq, Mutanabi Street, Khaleejia Building – 10th floor – Customer Care Unit within Wealth Management Department during official business hours from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm during the collection period to fill in required documentation. Shareholders should come in person or in case of a POA, the POA assignee in accordance to an official POA document accompanied by the original identification documents (Civil ID and Passport for non-Kuwaiti residents) in addition to the original KCC issued share certificate.

**Note:** In case of Foreign Companies not domiciled in Kuwait, all company documents shall be authenticated from the relevant issuer(s) and from Kuwait's Embassy or Representative Office in the country of domicile of that company. All such documents are to be further authenticated by Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For any inquiries, please contact us on 965 22266666, ext. (6772).

Respectfully,  
 Acquisition Manager



شركة الاستثمار الوطنية  
 NATIONAL INVESTMENTS COMPANY



# THE MOST FREQUENT JOB INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

## Bayt.com weekly report

No matter how impressive your CV is, your performance during an interview is crucial for getting the job. The first impression you leave on your potential manager and colleagues is powerful. So, proper interview preparation is essential for succeeding.

The good news is that many interviews share similar questions, phrased and tweaked differently depending on the position. Familiarizing yourself with the most common questions will get you in shape for the next interview. But keep in mind that you, as a job seeker, should also prepare questions to ask the employer.

Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site, has compiled the most frequent questions that employer and job seekers ask during a job interview.

### Employer questions:

#### 1. What do you know about us?

Always do your homework. Your employer wants to measure how much you know about the company, as it is a factor in deciding whether you belong with them or not.

#### 2. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Your goals are important. Interviewers want to understand how well you align with the company's objectives. This could also give them an idea on how long you plan to stay with the company.

stand how well you align with the company's objectives. This could also give them an idea on how long you plan to stay with the company.

#### 3. Why did you leave your previous job?

This is a tricky question. It says a lot about your personality, dedication, and work ethics. Did you leave due to positive reasons, or because you felt underappreciated? Or are you looking for a different career path? Craft your answer carefully so you are not misunderstood.

#### 4. How convincing are you?

Arguments and discussions are part of any job. So employers ask this type of question to measure your communication skills and how you act within a team. You will need to negotiate, debate and discuss different perspectives at some point in your career.

#### 5. How do you handle criticism?

Your reaction towards constructive feedback and how likely you are to accept criticism are vital to your employer. You should not get defensive and take things personally

when given feedback. It is rather a chance to acknowledge strengths and weaknesses and grow professionally.

### Job-seeker questions:

#### 1. What is the most important qualification for this job?

This will give you a better understanding of what the employer is actually looking for. In case you missed a point pertaining to that qualification, this would be the time to mention it and reinforce your suitability for the job.

#### 2. What do you like the most about working here?

This question will make your interview less rigid and will allow you to know more about the company's environment and culture.

#### 3. What is the typical career path for this role?

Candidates ask this question to know more about the company's promotion policy and what would be the next steps for the vacancy. This question indicates your interest in this company and your willingness to serve for a long time.

#### 4. Will there be any training provided?

This question will reflect your eagerness towards learning and improving your skills and knowledge. The employer will be impressed by your interest in growing your competencies.

#### 5. What is the process moving forward?

This is a good question that is typically asked at the end of the job interview. It shows that you are still interested in the company and eager to move forward with the hiring process.

Final note: Always remember to be well-prepared for your interview, practice your questions and answers, show up 10-15 minutes early, and dress professionally.

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KUWAIT: Sayed Mustafa Al-Moussawi with Gulf Bank team.



KUWAIT: Gulf Bank team welcoming the new Al-Danah millionaire winner Sayed Mustafa Al-Moussawi.

## GULF BANK WELCOMES KUWAIT'S NEW AL-DANAH MILLIONAIRE

### SAYED MUSTAFA AL-MOUSSAWI TAKES KD 1 MILLION HOME

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank was pleased to welcome Kuwait's newest Al-Danah millionaire Sayed Mustafa Al-Moussawi at its head office on December 19, 2017. Gulf Bank's annual Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million took place in early January and Al-Moussawi won the big Al-Danah prize.

Also during the live event, Gulf Bank set a new Guinness World Records achievement for "largest prize linked to a bank account" in the world! This draw, as with all Gulf Bank draws, was conducted in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce.

In order to mark this special occasion, Gulf Bank arranged with Al-Zayani Trading Company to send a chauffeur driven Bentley Flying Spur to pick Al-Moussawi and his son and bring them to the bank. Accompanying the Al-Moussawis in the car was Ali Al-Saffar, Unit Head - Wealth Management, at Gulf Bank.

They were driven straight to the front entrance of Gulf Bank's MAK branch and were greeted by Meshari Shehab, Assistant General

Manager at Gulf Bank, and welcomed into the head office where a team of senior management was waiting to meet him.

Commenting on the occasion, Meshari Shehab said, "It was truly a pleasure to have Al-Moussawi and his daughter at Gulf Bank today. On behalf of Gulf Bank's management and staff, I extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to Al-Moussawi for his trust in Gulf Bank over the years; we always aim to provide our customers with a combination of excellent products and superior customer service."

Al-Moussawi, Kuwait's newest Al-Danah millionaire said, "I am happy to have won Gulf Bank's Al Danah KD 1 million prize. I've been a Gulf Bank customer for many years and it was an honor to have won the draw. It is even more special to know that with this prize, I am part of a Guinness World Records!"

Shehab continued, "We wish Al-Moussawi all the best and look forward to his continued trust in Gulf Bank. We also thank our friends at Al-

Zayani Trading Company and Bentley for being part of this special day."

Gulf Bank successfully completed the biggest annual draw event in Kuwait, on Thursday, 5 January 2017 at The Avenues Mall. This year, the Bank was exceptionally honored to receive a well-respected and esteemed international recognition from Guinness World Records live during its draw event, in addition to naming Kuwait's new Al-Danah millionaire, Salary and red Accounts cash and car winners, and winners of unique "Catch the Cash" money box competition.

In order to participate in Al-Danah millionaire draw 2018, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing a minimum of KD 200. Chances of winning can be increased by adding to the amount deposited in Al-Danah account. This will also maximize your chances of winning up to KD 500,000 quarterly, and one of the two KD 1,000 cash prizes which are drawn each working day.

## ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 38TH 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' WEEKLY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 38th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 16th January, 2017 at the bank's head office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw. The campaign will run until June 27, 2017.

### The winners this week are:

- 1) Raweayah Ali Eissa Salman Al-Attar, Al-Shaab Branch
- 2) Nermeen Abdulrahman M Abu Zaid,

Salmiya Branch. New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 23rd January, 2017 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.

## GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 15 January 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 8 January - 12 January 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

### The winners are:

- Sunday 8/1: Sayed Ameer Bouj, Alaa Abdulsattar Behbahani
- Monday 9/1: Anwar Ismael Ibrahim Al-Bana, Ayah Adel Abdulfatah Samarrah
- Tuesday 10/1: Batool Redha Najar Boor, Fawzya Ibrahim Moad Abdulrahman
- Wednesday 11/1: Naser Fahad Salim Al-Humaidhi, Hussain Ahmed Abdulkhalif Al-Banaa

Thursday 12/1: Ahmad Hamzah Abass Al-Khayat, Jaber Ahmad Abdullah Al-Saqoubi

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al-Danah's 1st quarterly draw for the prize of KD200,000 will be held on 30 March, the 2nd quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on 29 June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

## AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD WEEKLY DRAW

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program January 18 2017. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners.

The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Sharia principles. The program has been developed to fulfill the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in

the amount of KD 25,000/- is: Abdullah Mejbel Alrasheedi. The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Salwa Muhammed Abdelnaby, Mohamad Abdalraheem Salem, Rashed S A Alrashed, Samiyah Hasan Ghaleb, Hussain Sulaiman Alghadban, Khudhair Ahmed Alqadhi, Abdulaziz Mohsen Alenezi, Mahmoud Eissa Almahmoud, Abd Alrasoul Ali Bader, Sabeekah Abdullah Yousef, Shehab A Hameed Shehab, Jack Kouyoumjian, Abdulrahman Abdullateef Aldosari, Ahmad Khaled Aljasmii, Qais Saleh Alduwairi, Muath Sami Al Dallal, Nasser Mohd Al Sayer, Ahmad Jaafar Albadri, Nawaf Atallah Alenezi, Dhiya Ahmed Almahmeed, Jameel Taher Mohammed, A Majeed A Jalil i, Abdulla Ebrahim Al-Fudhalah, A Aziz Ali Ahmed, Khadija Taher Mohammed.

The prize program of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

## HAITHAM ASHRAF MOHAMMAD WINS KD 4000 IN BURGAN BANK'S DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank yesterday announced Haitham Ashraf Mahmoud Mohammad as the winner of the Value Account KD 4000 draw. The winner expressed his excitement of winning the cash prize of KD 4,000.

Dedicated to offer the best in-class services, Burgan Bank's Value Account presents customers with exceptional features which were specifically designed to suit the needs of expatriates living in Kuwait. Account holders will be able to enjoy matchless benefits that include receiving a free credit card for one year, application for a loan, in addition to a chance to enter the quarterly draw to win KD 4000.

Additionally, customers are guaranteed

attractive exchange rates for US Dollars while remitting money back home through Al Muzzaini Exchange Company as well as other discounts from several merchants. Burgan Bank will continue presenting exclusive services and draws with an aim of exceeding customers' expectations while offering them chances to win valuable cash prizes all year round.

Opening a Value account is simple, interested individuals with salaries starting from KD 150 and above are eligible to open a Value Account. To do so, customers are required to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch, or simply call the bank's Call Center 1804080, or log on the bank's website www.burgan.com for more information.



## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.672
Indian Rupees	4.497
Pakistani Rupees	2.921
Srilankan Rupees	2.045
Nepali Rupees	2.816
Singapore Dollar	215.630
Hongkong Dollar	39.471
Bangladesh Taka	3.868
Philippine Peso	6.149
Thai Baht	8.693

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.708
Qatari Riyal	84.156
ani Riyal	795.738
Bahraini Dinar	813.600
UAE Dirham	83.422

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.400
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.227
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.230
Tunisian Dinar	134.590
Jordanian Dinar	431.480
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.041
Syrian Lira	2.183
Morocco Dirham	31.023

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	306.200
Euro	329.780
Sterling Pound	380.610
Canadian dollar	230.920
Turkish lira	81.820

Swiss Franc	307.430
Australian Dollar	233.020
US Dollar Buying	305.000

GOLD	
20 Gram	247.740
10 Gram	126.790
5 Gram	64.240

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	305.850
Canadian Dolla	230.680
Sterling Pound	379.445
Euro	328.225
Swiss Franc	305.995
Bahrain Dinar	810.785
UAE Dirhams	83.665
Qatari Riyals	84.885
Saudi Riyals	82.485
Jordanian Dinar	432.550
Egyptian Pound	16.522
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.042
Indian Rupees	4.496
Pakistani Rupees	2.917
Bangladesh Taka	3.873
Philippines Peso	6.142
Cyprus pound	167.960
Japanese Yen	3.665
Syrian Pound	2.425
Nepalese Rupees	3.805
Malaysian Ringgit	69.640

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.965
Thai Bhat	9.650
Turkish Lira	80.465

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.363456	0.373458
Czech Korune	0.004040	0.016040
Danish Krone	0.039746	0.044746
Euro	0.320411	0.329411
Norwegian Krone	0.031915	0.037116
Romanian Leu	0.072257	0.072257
Slovakia	0.009185	0.019185
Swedish Krona	0.030225	0.035225
Swiss Franc	0.297215	0.308215
Turkish Lira	0.077912	0.088212
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.428488	0.233468
New Zealand Dollar	0.212132	0.221632
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.227747	0.236747
Georgina Lari	0.138321	0.138321
US Dollars	0.302150	0.306550
US Dollars Mint	0.302650	0.306550
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003871	0.004255
Chinese Yuan	0.042976	0.046476
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037397	0.040147
Indian Rupee	0.002836	0.005511

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002609	0.002789
Kenyan Shilling	0.002941	0.002941
Korean Won	0.000250	0.000265
Malaysian Ringgit	0.065051	0.071051
Nepalese Rupee	0.003148	0.003318
Pakistan Rupee	0.002764	0.003054
Philippine Peso	0.006049	0.006349
Sierra Leone	0.000038	0.000044
Singapore Dollar	0.209526	0.219526
South African Rand	0.016525	0.025025
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001683	0.002263
Taiwan	0.009577	0.009757
Thai Baht	0.008323	0.008873
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.805763	0.814263
Egyptian Pound	0.013214	0.022467
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.426895	0.435895
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000153	0.000253
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020163	0.044163
Nigerian Naira	0.000370	0.001006
Omani Riyal	0.789033	0.794713
Qatar Riyal	0.083308	0.084758
Saudi Riyal	0.080580	0.081880
Syrian Pound	0.001299	0.001519
Tunisian Dinar	0.129308	0.137308
Turkish Lira	0.077912	0.088212
UAE Dirhams	0.081956	0.083656
Yemeni Riyal	0.000996	0.001076





## RENAULT AL BAPTAIN DEBUTS THE ALL-NEW KOLEOS IN KUWAIT



— Photos by Joseph Shagra

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co., (AABC), the authorized dealer for Renault vehicles in the state of Kuwait has recently announced the arrival of Renault's extended SUV model range –the latest, redesigned and restyled All-New Koleos in the Kuwait market. The much-awaited addition to Renault's product line-up bears all the hallmarks of a charismatic SUV echoing an unseen alliance of power and refinement that shall provide the Kuwait market with a wider and complete choice to fulfill local expectations.

Commenting on the launch of the brand's new flagship SUV, Mohamed Shalaby, Al Babtain Group Chief Operating Officer said, "The extraordinary new Koleos carries forward a legacy which is rare in the automotive industry. With such an extensive redevelopment, the vehicle has been raised to another level in terms of power, performance and design. The All-New Koleos is outstanding and has broadened our outlook. One needs to drive it to experience the vast changes, resulting in the perfect blend of robust SUVs and larger saloon cars."

He continued, "The All-New Koleos in our Kuwait showrooms is finely tuned with the GCC requirements with a local product range specifically designed that has undergone extensive road testing in real-world conditions over several million kilometers during its course of development".

The All-New Koleos' comprehensive redesign is well documented with the new model distinct at just first glance. In keeping with Renault's design strategy the new Koleos' exterior echoes robustness and a taste for adventure, all that is expected of a D-segment SUV.

It's taut, muscular and powerful features amplifies the athletic exterior design with door protective moldings, large diameter two-tone alloy wheels, alloy roof rails, shark antenna, fender chrome lines and silver front skid.

It's four wheel drive technology and all-terrain ability with a ground clearance of 210 mm, 15 cm longer than the previous model and 550 dm<sup>3</sup> VDA boot (equivalent to 600 litres). The stylish body colors include six metallic colors: ultra-silver, universal white, metallic grey, metallic black, mineral beige and Meissen blue.

New KOLEOS' engine and transmission line-up has been tailored to meet the needs and expectations of the market. The 2.5-litre petrol engine is also an atmospheric, four-cylinder, power is 170hp (126kW) at 6,000rpm, with peak torque of 233Nm at 4,000rpm.

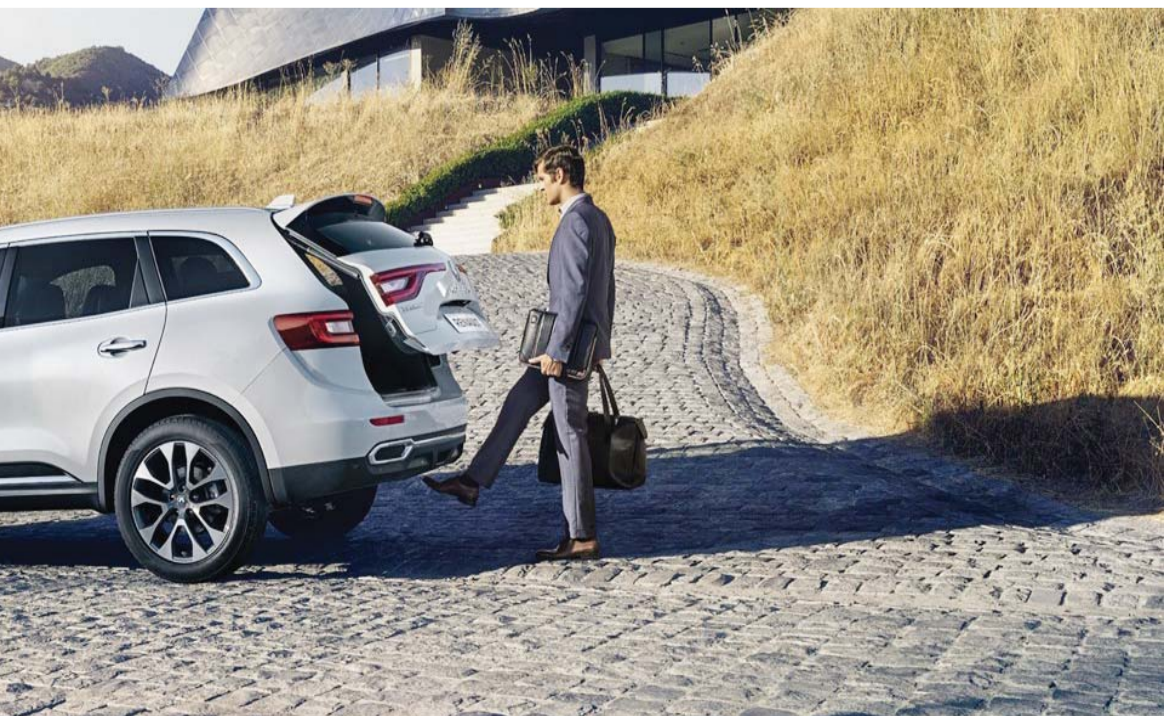
Besides, this new add-on to the catalog highlights Renault's know-how: a refined, comfortable interior with seats including technology and design amongst the very best in its category, class-leading cabin space, including 289mm of rear knee room, 8.7" touchscreen tablet with

R-LINK 2 multimedia & navigation system. New KOLEOS delivers a blend of robust SUV codes as well as the refinement and features associated with large sedan cars.

New KOLEOS future drivers will be seduced by the Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) such as Easy Park Assist and Blind Spot Warning. Besides, many other equipment that will make each journey unforgettable.

As a result, New KOLEOS is instantly recognizable as a top-of-the-range Renault, thanks notably to its front-end design that incorporates a prominent Renault logo set at the center of a broad chrome grille. The taut bonnet lines contribute to both cars powerful design, an impression that is heightened by the presence of several chrome embellishments, including strips that run from the head lights along the full length of the wings to visually lengthen the front end and exude an impression of dynamism and elegance.

Without a doubt, the All-New Koleos inherits the best of the Renault brand and brings with it unparalleled package with a refined and high quality exterior design, increase performance and a classy interior, a comprehensive and advanced safety features combined with an environmental performance on par with the best in its game—AN INSTANT RECOGNIZABLE icon yopping the Renault range.





The following tables summarize last week's performance of Boursa Kuwait

Description	Week 3	Week 2	Diff %
	19/01/2017	12/01/2017	
Working days	5	5	
AlShall index (38 Companies)	391.8	374.6	4.6%
Boursa Kuwait index (price)	6,435.8	6,107.7	5.4%
Value Trade (KD)	317,658,264	197,282,900	
Daily average (KD)	63,531,653	39,456,580	61.0%
Volume Trade (Shares)	3,799,919,334	2,755,320,551	
Daily average (Shares)	759,983,867	551,064,110	37.9%
Transactions	60,746	44,127	
Daily average (Transactions)	12,149	8,825	37.7%

# DEMOGRAPHIC IMBALANCE AND POLICY FLAWS

## AL-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

According to the latest available data about population and workforce, figures of the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), indicate that the total population of Kuwait scored 4,330 million with 30.5 percent Kuwaitis on Jun, 30 2016. Work force figures for the same period indicate that its number scored 2.645 million workers, 16.7 percent of which are Kuwaiti. Certainly this structure is imbalanced and with a big gap that should be remedied. The imbalance in the quality of the population and the labor force is more dangerous because the level of education and expertise is quite low to the majority. The purpose behind reviewing the demographic structure, as if it was discovered yesterday, is the current talk about the desire to discuss its conditions.

What we want to emphasize is that its structure is not the mistake of the expatriates but the sin of the miserable public policies. The root of the problem lies in the public policies. The demographic increase and in the foreign labor are only a variable subordinate to the financial expansion resulting from the prosperous oil market.

The badness of that expansion does not affect the demographic growth only but it is designed to attract the marginal part of it as well. Figures indicate that most of the demographic expansion occurred in the 1970s when the population growth in the period 1973-1982 scored about 5.9 percent of the total population, about 7.3 percent of non-Kuwaitis and for the period 2003-2016 it scored 4.1 percent, and 4.8 percent of non-Kuwaitis.

These two periods were periods of intensive financial expansion. But it scored during the period 1997-2001, the post-recession period following the "Asian Tigers" crisis in autumn 1997; it scored only 1.4 percent of the total population and 0.3 percent of non-Kuwaitis. In fact, the expansion period witnesses prosperous trade in humans. Individuals and companies importing labor against expensive commission increase only to release them into the streets to look for work. This represents a human and political crime. Anyway and without any effort, the near future will witness a continuous decline in the demographic growth rate with continued oil market recession.

The remedy of the four structural imbalances in Kuwait lies in adopting a correct development approach or project which, if found, does not only remedy the quantitative acceleration in demographic growth but by replacing it with the qualitative accumulation.

This kind of project should be driven neither by emotion nor by inhumane inclinations that target the innocent victim instead of the guilty. We have to keep in mind that Kuwaitis until a near past were immigrants searching for earning their living. We say this in advance of deviation in treating the imbalance by exerting pressure on its weakest rings rather than addressing the real problem and by escaping the adoption of the difficult path, such as reviewing the expansion of the horizontal housing is a genuine development project to guarantee the sustainability of the country's stability: economically, politically and socially.

### Boursa Kuwait liquidity

14 working days passed since the beginning of the current year and until the end of last week. Boursa Kuwait achieved liquidity in the amount of KD 595.7 million, a daily liquidity average of KD 42.5 million, or 3.7 times the daily trading average for 2016 which scored KD 11.6 million and 2.7 times of 2015 average which was at KD 15.9 million. We frequently reiterated that the more important variable of the Boursa which affects it up or down is the liquidity variable. The big rise in the liquidity since the beginning of the year is quite positive if it is a genuine sustainable one.

In one of our previous reports, (35/2016), we stated that 80% of listed companies are sold by a discount on their book value and 45.4% of these listed companies sold at a discount between 50% and 90%. The week before last, we called for government intervention to reduce the supply of listed stocks and profit from that through contemplated investment and not the Boursa support. The recent rise in the Boursa liquidity would be positive and sustainable if the current liquidity directed to the Boursa was private sector's funds aiming at benefitting from continues weakness, which dropped most prices to an unjustifiable level, creating lucrative

investment opportunities. In this case, the private sector's intervention substitutes the government's intervention and may support it if the continued drop duration in the Boursa liquidity coincides with a hot real estate market, especially in its investment activity. After the recent correction in prices, the rise in interest rates and their pressure on prices and liquidity, those funds headed toward the only available cheap asset, namely, the stocks at the Boursa. It is also supported by the rise in oil prices after producers' agreement in the end of last year and the rise in the liquidity and prices of the regional stock exchanges especially the Saudi market which recovered in the last two months of 2016 substantial losses and began to achieve gains by the end of the year.

On the contrary, that liquidity may be temporary if it resulted from injecting public funds to purchase high value operational stocks and aiming at reinforcing the demand side to support prices. It is usually associated with the entry of private risk funds that bet on cheap stocks which any rise in their prices would achieve high instant profits.

Continued rise in liquidity for several weeks drives the naive to try to catch up those who preceded them to achieve quick profits after which the musical chairs game begins. Such liquidity lasts for a limited period during which holders of expensive stocks benefit from liquidating their stocks and settling their financial conditions. In other words, the general liquidity transforms to private funds and exits the Boursa. Gamblers on cheap stocks begin withdrawing leaving behind new victims, liquidity is harmed and the trust level drops again.

The chances whether this liquidity is sustainable or opportunist and temporary are equal or perhaps joint. If we take a sample of 10 percent of listed companies, which takes a highest liquidity, or 18 companies, we note they captured 52.1 percent of all market liquidity. The market value of 10 companies of these 18 companies is at least KD 100 million each and for the other 8 companies is between KD 17.7 million and KD 99.9 million, ie a mixture of big and small companies or a mixture of investments with unknown source and adventure obsession.

The gap is still wide between liquid and an illiquid company continues. 92 listed companies, or 50 percent of listed companies, captured 97.5 percent of the Boursa liquidity while 92 companies continued to be a burden on the Boursa and illiquid, captured only 2.5 percent of this liquidity. However, we should admit that what we mentioned is just an indicator and there is no judgment on Boursa liquidity trends. Time is still too short to conclude judgments but it is worth following up.

### GCC states' growth projections: World Bank report

In its January 2017 report, the World Bank raised its projections for real GDP growth for the six GCC countries, increasing five of them and one country - Bahrain - decreased. The highest growth rates expected were for Qatar whose economy is expected to grow by about 1.8 percent in 2016 (June 2016 report) but its January 2017 report issued after the rise in oil prices in late 2016, doubled its growth esti-

	Company Name	THU	THU	DIFF	CLOSE	DIFF
		19/01/2017	12/01/2017	%	2016	%
1	The National Bank Of Kuwait	386.2	368.7	4.7	362.9	6.4
2	The Gulf Bank	207.2	195.0	6.3	195.0	6.3
3	Commercial Bank Of Kuwait	358.2	362.5	(1.2)	349.7	2.4
4	Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait	212.8	196.4	8.4	196.4	8.4
5	Kuwait International Bank	235.5	220.9	6.6	214.7	9.7
6	Ahli United Bank	378.6	356.6	6.2	361.0	4.9
7	Burgan Bank	297.7	283.4	5.0	283.4	5.0
8	Kuwait Finance House	1270.0	1270.0	0.0	1172.1	8.4
	<b>Banking Sector</b>	<b>404.2</b>	<b>390.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>379.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>
9	Commercial Facilities Co	128.5	119.8	7.3	112.6	14.1
10	International Financial Advisors	389.1	324.2	20.0	251.3	54.8
11	National Investments	143.5	133.4	7.6	119.5	20.1
12	Kuwait Investment Projects	1158.8	1114.2	4.0	1114.2	4.0
13	Coast Investment & Development	72.4	62.2	16.4	52.6	37.6
	<b>Investment Sector</b>	<b>344.6</b>	<b>324.0</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>311.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>
14	Kuwait Insurance Company	63.9	63.9	0.0	61.7	3.6
15	Gulf Insurance Company	410.6	410.6	0.0	382.1	7.5
16	Al-Ahleia Insurance Company	169.0	170.9	(1.1)	170.9	(1.1)
17	Warba Insurance Company	83.6	83.6	0.0	83.6	0.0
	<b>Insurance Sector</b>	<b>150.6</b>	<b>151.0</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>	<b>145.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>
18	Kuwait Real Estate Company	124.7	114.9	8.5	100.1	24.6
19	United Realty Company	220.3	197.8	11.4	191.7	14.9
20	National Real Estate Company	298.1	261.4	14.0	238.5	25.0
21	Salhiah Real Estate Company	1453.6	1453.6	0.0	1433.4	1.4
	<b>Real Estate Sector</b>	<b>222.9</b>	<b>207.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>195.8</b>	<b>13.8</b>

mates in 2017 to 3.6 percent but it reduced it to 2.1 percent in 2018. The second highest growth rate expected was for Oman which the Bank increased its growth projections from 2.5 percent in 2016 to about 2.9 percent in 2017, then to 3.4 percent in 2018. The United Arab Emirates came third with increased forecast for growth from 2.3 percent in 2016 to 2.5 percent in 2017 and to 3 percent in 2018. Kuwait came forth with increase in growth estimates from 2 percent in 2016 to 2.4 percent in 2017 and then to 2.6 percent in 2018. The fifth position went to Saudi Arabia the largest economy in the region, the World Bank raised its estimate from 1 percent in 2016 to 1.6 percent in 2017, and then to 2.5 percent in 2018. Bahrain alone has reduced growth estimates from 2 percent in 2016 to 1.8 percent in 2017 but it remains higher than what is anticipated for Saudi Arabia. But this means that the increase in oil prices did not support its growth.

The World Bank adjusted estimates upwards between its June 2016 report and January 2017 report is based on how true will its assumptions that a barrel of oil price in 2017 settles at US\$ 55. But this is also dependent on other assumptions, such as how far will the agreement to withdraw 1.8 million barrels a day from oil production: 1.2 million barrels a day from OPEC countries and 0.6 million barrels a day from outside producers, primarily Russia, will last. Secondly and to a less degree in the short term, it is based on the technical developments that might reduce the cost of non-conventional oil production.

Despite the high projections of growth rates for most of the GCC countries, they remain weak compared to their historical levels and remain below the level of being able to create enough jobs opportunities, while unemployment is the real forthcoming challenge for all of them. Even the

weak growth rates are not guaranteed. 2017 will be rich with potential political changes worldwide that would have significant adverse effects on the performance of the global and individual economy similar to the changes in 2016 when Britain exited from the EU, "Donald Trump" winning the US presidency elections.

The region also has its own surprises. The geopolitical violence events have positive effects if they cool down and negative impacts if they intensify on potential growth rates either from a psychological perspective or from decrease or increase of saved or wasted resources of its funding. In summary, increased revenues because of the oil agreement and the support of the increase to growth rates in most GCC States are not guaranteed or sustainable. Assuming that the agreement would be respected and those other risks are not to be realized only given a short pace of time that enhances the chances of success of the reforms but does not postpone it.

### Global Economy growth prospects

Two reports were released in January 2017 each with its vision of the potential global economy growth. One was issued by the World Bank which expects growth of 2.7 percent in 2017, and the second was released by the IMF which expects growth by 3.4 percent, with 0.7 percent difference which is big. The difference involves all components of the global economy, advanced, emerging and developing countries. An example of the difference is the World Bank's estimate for the economic growth for KSA's economy, the largest regional economy. The World Bank estimated its growth in 2017 by 1.6 percent which is 4 times IMF estimate at 0.4 percent. The significant difference in the estimates is because macro variables, mainly political, became very influential on the

performance of global economy, while estimating their correct weight and track is extremely difficult which causes the discrepancy between the two estimates. In 2016, with weak growth, dominant expectations were for Britain remaining within the European Union. They also did not expect the winning of "Donald Trump".

Facts came contrary to expectations with negative effects. And 2017 is full of such issues at global and regional levels. President "Trump" ushered his reign by introducing a new term to economic policies named "Trump" Impact. The fear of a return to protectionism and starting a new cold war with a change in its poles has become a fact. And next March is the beginning of Britain's exit talks from EU. The differences in its impacts are quite big, whether it would be safe exit or stormy exit with intervention from the new US Administration.

The two poles of the European Monetary Union, namely Germany and France, will have general elections. The fear of repeating the American experience, i.e. the winning of the radical Right, is a probability, with very serious consequences on the performance of the world economy if happened. The foregoing variables will have impacts on geopolitical violence events in our region with their unbearable levels regardless of the position of any party. The results of Iran's presidential election this year will also have an impact on them.

The purpose of the above is that the growth of the world economy will have a positive effect if it rises and a negative impact if it drops on the demand side for oil, which has become obviously difficult to agree on its levels or to guarantee any level. The reports of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are examples of the weak ability to predict. The geopolitical events of the region are an influential factor on the supply side of the traditional oil market.

It is very difficult to predict the course of those events, and their potential impact, positive or negative, on cohesion of oil prices at a time of huge financial deficits. Therefore, we believe that logic invites us to be extremely cautious. Economic and financial reform rely on hypotheses that are accomplishable in a normal time while the conditions of the world and the region demand adopting the worst case scenario for reform programs because stability and not growth is at stake.

### The Weekly performance of Boursa Kuwait

The performance of Boursa Kuwait for the last week, was more active compared to the previous one, where all indexes showed an increase, the traded value index, the traded volume index, number of transactions index, and general index, AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 391.8 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing an increase of about 17.2 points or about 4.6 percent compared with its level last week and it increased by 28.8 points or about 7.9 percent compared with the end of 2016.

22	The National Industries	126.9	119.7	6.0	109.0	16.4
23	Kuwait Cement Co	663.3	648.2	2.3	618.1	7.3
24	Refrigeration Industries Co	107.0	107.0	0.0	110.5	(3.2)
25	Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries	177.9	163.9	8.5	149.9	18.7
26	Contracting & Marine Services Co	39.1	33.6	16.4	39.1	0.0
	<b>Industrial Sector</b>	<b>190.6</b>	<b>182.8</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>172.4</b>	<b>10.6</b>
27	Kuwait National Cinemas	728.2	728.2	0.0	778.4	(6.4)
28	Kuwait Hotels Company	145.8	145.8	0.0	145.8	0.0
29	The Public Warehousing Co	2677.8	2561.4	4.5	2406.1	11.3
30	Mobile Telecommunications Co - ZAIN	728.4	572.3	27.3	541.1	34.6
31	Safat Energy Co	14.5	12.2	18.9	11.1	30.6
	<b>Services Sector</b>	<b>971.4</b>	<b>862.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>822.1</b>	<b>18.2</b>
32	Livestock Transport & Trading Co	186.7	181.7	2.8	178.3	4.7
33	Danah Aalsafat Foodstuff Company	91.0	90.0	1.1	89.0	2.2
34	Kuwait United Poultry Co	60.0	65.3	(8.1)	65.3	(8.1)
35	Kuwait Food Co	2581.6	2561.9	0.8	2561.9	0.8
	<b>Food Sector</b>	<b>894.0</b>	<b>888.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>887.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>
36	Sharjah Cement Co	354.1	358.3	(1.2)	358.3	(1.2)
37	Gulf Cement Co	342.7	322.6	6.2	302.4	13.3
38	Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries	588.6	588.6	0.0	551.8	6.7
	<b>Non Kuwaiti Companies</b>	<b>231.0</b>	<b>228.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>222.6</b>	<b>3.8</b>
	<b>General Index</b>	<b>391.8</b>	<b>374.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>363.0</b>	<b>7.9</b>



# AS POPULISM SOARS, DAVOS ELITE TOLD: PAY YOUR TAXES

## WORLD'S MULTINATIONALS PUT ON NOTICE

**DAVOS:** The world's biggest multinationals have been put on notice to start paying their fair share of tax or risk accelerating the rise in populism that has carried Donald Trump to the White House.

From Panama Papers to LuxLeaks, recent years' headlines have been filled with revelations on the secret ways the rich and multinationals, with the help of accountancy firms, shift profits across the globe to drastically cut tax. Perfectly legal, these methods helped divert billions in profit from the tax man, using well established wealth hubs such as Luxembourg, the British Virgin Islands and Switzerland, the host country of this week's World Economic Forum in the posh ski resort of Davos.

"No, we don't promote fiscal evasion," a testy Bob Moritz, chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers, said when hounded by one journalist in the corridors of the forum.

Accountancy giant PwC has been in the centre of the LuxLeaks tax storm, after a pair of employees turned whistleblowers leaked thousands of documents that exposed Luxembourg's huge tax breaks for major companies, including Apple, IKEA and Pepsi.

"This is a political issue of the greatest consequence," said Angel Gurría, head of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Paris-based club of rich nations that has led a global push for fair taxation. "Here

at Davos, businesses are listening and if we had their backing things would be a whole lot easier," he said.

Gurría's message to his audience was clear: "You must pay tax where you turn a profit."

Amid voter rebellions across the West, politicians and leaders warned corporate captains that the times were fast changing. "The landscape is changing in a radical way," said EU Economy Commissioner Pierre Moscovici, who is leading a push in Brussels to draw up a blacklist of tax havens.

The EU has made cracking down on low taxes a high-profile priority since LuxLeaks unveiled two decades of tax deals made when Jean-Claude Juncker, now head of the European Commission, was prime minister of Luxembourg. "We must tackle this much more decisively and much more quickly," said Mateusz Morawiecki, deputy prime minister of Poland.

"Middle-income countries... emerging markets, they are losing huge money," he said.

### 'Race to the bottom'

Oxfam opened the Davos forum on Monday with its annual assessment of inequality that pointed directly at the tax problem. The charity called for an increase in tax rates targeting "rich individuals and cooperation", as well as a global agreement to end competition between coun-

tries to lower corporate tax rates. Britain's vote to leave the European Union and Trump's presidential campaign were symptomatic of inequality in rich countries and a sense that the game is rigged for the better off, it said.

Tax games by companies, even if legal, "deny the government the investments for infrastructure, (and companies) the education of their workforce that they need for their businesses", said Winnie Byanyima, the executive director of Oxfam.

Companies were only "working against themselves", she said. Also present in Davos, French Finance Minister Michel Sapin warned against any race to the lowest tax rate, in an oblique warning to the US of Trump and post-Brexit Britain. Trump has promised to slash the US corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 15 percent, while Britain has sent veiled threats that it could undercut the EU on tax rates if Brussels does not offer London a good divorce deal.

But Davos-goers were dubious of government efforts to trigger any movement towards a higher tax take. "The European Union seems to want to enact a tax cartel which will be the race to the top (tax rate)," said Daniel Aegerter, a Swiss investor and entrepreneur.

"It feels any competition between states will mean a race to the bottom. Obviously the truth lies somewhere in between," he said. —AFP



**DAVOS:** World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Roberto Azevedo gestures as he speaks during a press conference on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum on Friday in Davos. —AFP

## CITY CHIEF PLAYS DOWN BREXIT RISK AS BANKS MOVE JOBS

**LONDON:** The City of London's policy chief played down Brexit risks for the world's top financial hub in an interview with AFP on Friday, even after a string of banks said they may have to shift jobs from London. "Brexit won't be... so damaging as to risk London's status," Mark Boleat said, while acknowledging there would be "a loss of tax revenue and... a loss of jobs" as Britain prepares to leave the European Union.

"I am sure London will be the leading global financial centre whether Britain is in the European Union or not. There are many assets that London has that no other centre has," he said.

Boleat, policy chairman of the City of London Corporation—the Square Mile's local authority—made his remarks after Prime Minister Theresa May unveiled her historic Brexit blueprint on Tuesday.

"Corporates come from all parts of the EU, whether it is to hedge their currency risks, to insure, to raise money on the bond market or the equities market.

"They also use other centres in the EU—that's the benefit of having a single market. London is by far the largest. That is something that not only British negotiators will be conscious of; so will the European negotiators."

### 'No wish for damage'

Fragmenting the City—which serves all of the EU—would strengthen rival finance hubs outside Europe.

"There will be no wish in the EU to do things that would damage the rest of the EU." Fragmenting the financial centre that currently is based in London is not going to benefit anybody in Europe; it may benefit people like New York, Singapore, and Hong Kong." Ever since Britain's June 23 referendum to quit the EU, speculation has been rife that other hubs—particularly in the eurozone—would battle to win precious market share.

The finance sector argued in the run-up to the shock vote that Brexit would spark major City job losses. Boleat himself was a powerful supporter of the "Remain" campaign, as was the City of London

Corporation. It emerged at Davos this week that top-flight banks—including Goldman Sachs, HSBC, JP Morgan and UBS—could shift thousands of London jobs to elsewhere in Europe.

Boleat however shrugged off the news. "They are not moving all of their people; they are not closing down in London, but they are preparing to move part of their business to other centres in the EU where they will need to have authorization somewhere that is other than the United Kingdom," he told AFP. Research consultancy Oliver Wyman suggested Brexit could lead to as few as 2,000 London job losses to elsewhere—but as many as 35,000 in a worst case scenario.

"It's very difficult to say how many jobs are going to move away from London as a result of Brexit," Boleat said.

"A lot depends on the deal that is done between Britain and the European Union—and then on what the British government does in respect of its policies generally to keep business in London."

The City employs some 164,000 people, according to 2015 data, while two million work in Britain's financial services sector. The loss of single market access and passporting rights—which allows for trading across the entire EU—remains key.

May vowed Tuesday that Britain would quit the common market in order to control EU immigration—but would seek new trade deals with the EU and beyond.

### Business 'prepared for everything'

"There's a chance of a good Brexit deal. There's a chance it might not be good, and business is prepared for everything," Boleat said Friday. "What we really want ... is continued access to the European markets from Britain, and continued access to the British market from the EU." Boleat sounded a diplomatic tone about other hubs—such as Dublin, Frankfurt and Paris—drumming up business. "It's perfectly reasonable that other European cities are trying to attract business from London. It's what we would be doing in the same circumstance." —AFP

# VENEZUELA 2016 INFLATION HITS 800%, GDP SHRINKS 19%

**CARACAS:** Venezuelan consumer prices rose 800 percent in 2016 while the economy contracted by 18.6 percent, according to preliminary central bank figures seen by Reuters, the sharpest contraction in 13 years and the worst inflation reading on record.

The extended slump in oil prices has turned the OPEC nation's once-prosperous oil-boom economy into a mirror of the latter day Soviet Union, with rampant product shortages leading leaving to skip meals and wait hours in food lines. President Nicolas Maduro's government blames the situation on an "economic war" led by political adversaries with the help of the United States. As problems mounted, the central bank has stopped releasing quarterly and monthly economic indicators.

The oil sector, which provides nearly all of Venezuela's hard currency, in 2016 shrank 12.7 percent, according to an excerpt of a document containing the figures that was shown to Reuters. The non-oil sector shrank by 19.5 percent, according to the document.

The figures could be changed in the process of approval by the central bank's board of directors, according to a source with firsthand knowledge of the situation. In 2015, the economy contracted 5.7 percent while inflation reached 180.9 percent, the central bank said last year. Maduro accuses opposition-linked businesses of artificially creating economic problems. He says inflation is the result of speculative price-gouging by unscrupulous capitalists, and insists workers are better off as a result



**CARACAS:** Venezuelans line up to get the "Fatherland's Card" at Bolivar Square in Caracas on Friday. The Fatherland's Card will allow to buy subsidized food and to take profit of social programs. —AFP

of minimum wage increases in 2016 that totaled 454 percent.

"In a year we have raised minimum wage five times, and I say today that (those increases) are well above 2016 inflation," he said during a news conference this week, without offering an inflation figure.

The country's currency controls have left businesses unable to obtain dollars, meaning merchants struggle to stock shelves and factories sit idle for lack of raw materials or machine parts. Venezuelans last year began crossing into neighboring Brazil and Colombia to buy groceries.

# PUERTO RICO GOVERNOR REJECTS FEDERAL CONTROL BOARD ORDERS

**SAN JUAN:** Puerto Rico's new governor on Friday rejected orders from a federal control board in the first clash over how best to tackle the government's deep financial crisis after a decade-long economic slump in the US territory.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello called the board's demands unacceptable and said they differ greatly from his vision to promote economic growth.

"Any fiscal plan premised exclusively on a reduction in the health, well-being, and living standards of the people of Puerto Rico through health care delivery cutbacks, current retiree pension reductions ... and layoffs is by its nature unacceptable," he said in a letter to the board,

adding that he is willing to work with the board to reach "acceptable balance."

Rossello's reply comes as his administration faces pressure to submit a revised fiscal plan this month and next month's expiration of a stay on lawsuits filed by creditors. The governor has asked for an extension on both deadlines, and the board said earlier this week that it was inclined to grant them.

The board also ordered Rossello's administration to present a plan that would generate \$4.5 billion a year in revenue or savings through 2019. Board members said Puerto Rico should reform its tax system and reduce health care and higher education spending as well as mini-

mize the size of government in part by reducing payroll costs by 30 percent, among other things.

"Puerto Rico faces a daunting fiscal challenge," the board said. "Unless significant fiscal and structural measures are implemented, the government will have an annual average fiscal gap of \$7.0 billion from fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2026."

This is in addition to a nearly \$70 billion public debt load that Puerto Rico is seeking to restructure. The board has said the government should set aside \$800 million in annual debt service, which would represent a nearly 80 percent shortfall on payments due, but Rossello has said the administration will pay based upon resources available at the time. He has said he is willing to keep negotiating with creditors, many of whom have filed lawsuits following multimillion-dollar defaults by the previous administration. Rossello and others have criticized board members for their demands, saying they are putting too much pressure on a wobbly economy that has prompted more than 200,000 Puerto Ricans to move to the US mainland in recent years. Economist Vicente Feliciano said that if the board's demands were implemented, the local economy could contract up to 16 percent in a worst-case scenario.

"That's the sort of contraction you get in a civil war or an Ebola epidemic," he said in a phone interview. "The proposals are extreme." He said that while major adjustments are needed, the board and Rossello's administration need to reach a consensus: "Any debt renegotiating right now is a waste of time." A statement from the board said it was studying Rossello's letter and would respond later.

Rossello has already taken several steps to help offset the government's financial crisis, including signing executive orders to reduce spending per agency by 10 percent as well as ordering a 10 percent cut in contracts for professional services. The board has previously stated that those measures are not enough.

"We must be candid and stress that, to get closer to fiscal balance, a lot more will need to be done beyond the measures already adopted by your administration," said the board, which was created last year after President Barack Obama signed a rescue package for Puerto Rico. —AP



**DAVOS:** India's Mukesh D. Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited, speaks during a plenary session in the Congress Hall, at the 47th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos. — AP

## IN TIME OF TROUBLES, DAVOS ORGANIZERS SEND IN THE CLOWN

**DAVOS:** With an ear-piercing whistle, a professional clown in the crowd startles to order a conference room full of some of the world's elite thinkers, writers and religious minds. That's why Sabine Choucair was invited to Davos, quips a quick-witted panel moderator.

The Lebanese-born, curly-haired artist in baggy green trousers and with a frequent raspy laugh made her debut this week at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, a special invitee more accustomed to entertaining refugees than livening up serious thought-fests.

"They got in touch with me, and I was like 'Whoa, who are these people?'" said Choucair, on hand from Beirut, with a chuckle. "I was like, 'Yeah, let me check if I'm available or not.' Then I looked, and I was like 'Oh my God, I have to come!'"

Choucair, a clown and storyteller, has often worked with refugee children in places like the Greek island of Lesbos. This time, wearing no particular getup or red nose, she was working a different crowd—joking with world-class cellist Yo-Yo Ma in

front of a bunch of well-heeled onlookers in an entrance hall of the Davos Congress Center. In one event this week, Choucair enlivened a Davos dinner on the theme of "The Power of Play."

"I gave them one very, very silly game of, like, smiling ridiculously at each other, and talking about their first kiss, or a co-worker they don't like, or how do they like to eat their eggs? Just silly stuff," she said on Friday, the closing day of the WEF in Davos this year.

"People just played because they loved to play," she said, assenting that Davos attendees might have been expected to be a bit uptight. "You know how we all have prejudices about things, but no. I think everybody wants to play." "It was also an opportunity for me to really tell them about what I'm seeing, because at the end of the day, I'm the one on the ground working with the people," she said of the refugees she's seen. Writer Grenville Byford, who attended the dinner featuring Choucair, said: "She's quite something." —AP



**SAN JUAN:** Ricardo Rossello, then the Puerto Rican gubernatorial candidate, speaks during a forum organized by the Gasoline Retailers Association, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Governor Rossello has signed his first law on Wednesday aimed at boosting the US territory's economy via public-private partnerships. —AP





## ALL-NEW 2017 CIVIC CAN BE ALL YOURS WITH A SINGLE TAP

### WIN THE DRIVE OF A LIFETIME WITH HONDA ALGHANIM'S CIVIC COMPETITION



**KUWAIT:** The start of the year brings a feeling of newness and excitement. The same can be said about Honda Alghanim's brand new Honda Civic campaign that comprises a uniquely engaging social media competition in collaboration with popular social media celebrities and many more activities that all lead up to the grand prize of all: an effortlessly cool and ever so stylish 2017 Honda Civic, the ultimate drive for the youth.

Reflecting the 2017 Honda Civic's combination of vitality and glamor is the social media competition currently being held from January 12 until February 9, 2017. All that people have to do is visit Honda Civic's booth and upload a Boomerang video on Instagram with #MyStyleMyCivic. The participant with the most likes will drive back home in his new 2017 Honda Civic. Follow @AlghanimHondaKW to know more about Honda Civic's booths or visit Honda's showroom at Al Rai or Shuwaikh to participate in the competition any day from 9 am till 10 pm.

The 2017 Honda Civic has set an all-new standard in compact car style and performance with its sleek, sporty lines and improved power-to-weight ratio that has proven to be every driver's daily delight. While the spacious,

dual-zone automatic climate control and premium-grade cabin is loaded with premium features for class-above comfort and convenience, the exterior features boast color-coordinated power side mirrors with integrated LED turn signals, wide, low beam fog lights that enhance visibility in dust storms or heavy fog as well as signature LED headlights. Convenience is a key factor in the redesign Honda Civic; from the capless fuel system, electric parking brake and aerodynamic wing spoiler to the Smart Entry engine start

and stop button and 7-inch touchscreen audio display, the Honda Civic is truly the ideal drive for the youth who yearn for a smooth and comfortably stylish drive that reflects their lifestyle.

Get your style on and your cameras ready for Honda Alghanim's most exciting competition yet! Follow Honda Alghanim on Instagram at @AlghanimHondaKW and get it on the glamor-tastic that will hopefully get you in the driver's seat of a brand-new 2017 Honda Civic.



## KIB GOLD SPONSOR OF COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND PETROLEUM EXHIBITION

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait International Bank (KIB) sponsored the 31st Engineering Projects Exhibition organized by the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University, which was held under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, with the participation of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

KIB's gold sponsorship comes as a continuation of the Bank's efforts to provide financial and moral support to various social programs and community initiatives, particularly those that target youth and students. The Bank actively seeks to empower young local talents, fostering their creativity and encouraging their innovations to enable them to contribute to national development across all sectors.

Fahad Alsarhan, Team Leader of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, said: "Youth empowerment continues to be one of the main pillars of our social responsibility program. We have always been committed to offering our support

and patronage to aspiring creative talents and young innovators; as we adamantly believe in the importance of investing in national talents and the need to empower youth with knowledge and education. This exhibition is a perfect example showcasing the innovative drive and creative spirit of Kuwait's youth, and we are proud of the role we are playing in nurturing and supporting the limitless potential of this country's younger generations."

KIB has always been dedicated to providing comprehensive support to the youth population in Kuwait. The Bank participates in various youth-focused initiatives throughout the year, focusing especially on career and student fairs in an effort to attract young local talents into the banking sector. KIB also offers a number of tailored products and banking solutions that are crafted to suit their contemporary lifestyles and meet their particular financial needs. This includes the Shabab Al Dawli youth account, as well as numerous promotional campaigns and special offers taking place during the year.



## ETIHAD AIRWAYS GOES DOUBLE DAILY TO DUSSELDORF

**ABU DHABI:** Etihad Airways yesterday announced its Abu Dhabi - Dusseldorf route will be operated 14 times a week with the addition of a new daily service, effective 26 March 2017.

The double daily schedule will provide greater choice to local passengers travelling between Abu Dhabi and Dusseldorf, and further increase connectivity to and from Germany over the airline's Abu Dhabi hub. Etihad Airways will also increase international connections through codesharing with partner carrier airberlin via Dusseldorf.

The new mid-morning departure from Abu Dhabi and return overnight service from Dusseldorf will offer two-way connectivity to additional markets across Asia and Australia, including Brisbane, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Seoul, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, Phuket, Kathmandu and Seychelles. The extra daily frequency will provide further connections to popular destinations including Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Sydney, Mumbai and Delhi.

With the additional capacity, Etihad Airways' frequency between Abu Dhabi and its three German gateways of Dusseldorf, Frankfurt and Munich rises from 35 to 42 services a week, ensuring consistency of

double daily flights to each city. Partner carrier airberlin also operates twice-daily flights between Abu Dhabi and Berlin.

Peter Baumgartner, Etihad Airways Chief Executive Officer, said: "Increased frequency to our key destinations globally is a focus for Etihad Airways as expansion ensures more travel options for guests looking for greater flexibility. We are therefore delighted to soon offer double daily options to all four German destinations on Etihad Airways and our strategic partner airberlin." Thomas Schnalke, Dusseldorf Airport CEO, added: "Etihad Airways is one of the world's highest quality airlines, and with its new twice-daily service between Dusseldorf and Abu Dhabi, this clearly shows that the airline recognizes the great significance of the Rhine-Ruhr Region as an attractive destination with one of Europe's strongest catchment areas."

"North Rhine-Westphalia is a key business region, home to many international companies, and it is hugely important to offer the best possible accessibility for business travellers from the Gulf. Abu Dhabi too is an excellent destination for both leisure and business, and promises to appeal even more for travellers from Dusseldorf and the neighboring region with these new services."

## GENUINE SPARE PARTS FROM CHEVROLET AND CADILLAC ALGHANIM HOLDS FIRST DRAW

**KUWAIT:** With the established popularity of the Genuine Spare Parts campaign, Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet and Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, as well as the largest distributor of genuine spare parts from General Motors, held the first draw on January 17th under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce, and in the presence of VIPs and clients. iPhone 7 winners were announced, while another batch of phones, as well as the grand prize - the 2017 Chevrolet Trax - are still up for grabs. Clients who purchase in the value of 25 KD can still receive 4 chances to enter the 2nd and 3rd draw.

Valid from December 17, 2016, until March 17, 2017, the promotion offers customers multiple chances to win valuable prizes. Customers will get the chance to win one of 30 iPhone 7 on a number of draws - the first of which already took place on January 17, 2017, and the second will follow on February 16, 2017. As for the grand draw on the new 2017 Chevrolet Trax LT, the event will take place on March 20, 2017.

As the agent of GM in Kuwait, Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive provides its customers with world-renowned, genuine spare parts that enhance customers' safety and prolong vehicles' longevity and performance. Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive facility is equipped with a modern and air-conditioned warehouse that stocks all the required parts using the latest global systems and processes,

which include making deliveries to all parts locations in Kuwait.

Customers can purchase spare parts from any of the Alghanim Genuine Spare Parts outlets: Shuwaikh (Tel 24967772), Canada Dry Street (Tel 24834822) - Faheheel, (Tel 23929849) - Sharq (Tel

22460972) and Jahra (Tel 24965935) open from Saturday to Thursday, from 8:00 am to 7:30 pm, with the exception of the Shuwaikh Main Branch (Tel 24969772). For more inquiries about spare parts and campaigns, customers may contact Alghanim auto parts at 24969772 / 700.



## MASDAR, BEE'AH TO BUILD 300,000 TON WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT IN SHARJAH

**ABU DHABI:** Masdar, Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company, is to develop a cutting-edge waste-to-energy plant in Sharjah, in partnership with Bee'ah, the Middle East's leading and award-winning environmental management company, it was announced yesterday at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2017.

Diverting as much as 300,000 tons of solid waste from landfill each year, the project will help Sharjah reach its "zero waste-to-landfill" target by 2020 - and the UAE deliver on its 2021 goal of diverting 75% of solid waste from landfills.

Masdar and Bee'ah signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in the development of new energy projects at ADSW 2016. The facility will incinerate up to 37.5 tonnes of solid waste per hour to create 30 megawatts (MW) of energy. This will add more power to what is produced by Bee'ah's auxiliary waste-to-energy project, which will eventually produce a total of 90 MW and will be supplied to the Sharjah electricity grid.

Khaled Al-Huraimel, Group CEO of Bee'ah, said: "Today marks the first venture in the realization of the partnership that we announced

with Masdar last year. The cutting-edge Waste-to-Energy plant in Sharjah is a concrete example of what this strategic partnership will deliver to the UAE and the communities that we serve. We, at Bee'ah, have always been driven by our mission to make the UAE an icon of environmental best practices, and this plant will help us achieve our ambitious environmental goals for the Emirate."

"The agreement signed today will lead to more projects and bold initiatives that will help the partner-

ship to ensure a sustainable and green future for the UAE."

Established in 2007, Bee'ah collects approximately 2.3 million tons of waste from nearly one million households in Sharjah each year, diverting around 70 percent of its collected waste to its recycling waste management facilities from landfill.

"As one of the leading renewable energy developers in the Middle East & North Africa, we are proud to enter into a partnership with Bee'ah that will both diversify

our clean energy portfolio and help commercialize sustainable solutions to Sharjah's and the UAE's waste management challenges," said Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar.

"With GCC countries having among the highest rates of per-capita waste production in the world, sustainable waste management solutions are both critically important and a clear business opportunity. Masdar will combine its proven expertise in renewable energy project development over the last ten years with Bee'ah's track record in environmentally responsible waste management, to deliver a project that will catalyse further investment in waste-to-energy infrastructure in the UAE and beyond."

Masdar's Clean Energy division is a leading developer and owner of utility-scale, grid-connected projects; remote applications providing energy access to communities away from the electricity grid; and carbon abatement projects. Since 2006, Masdar has invested in renewable energy projects with a combined value of \$8.5 billion; Masdar's share of these projects is US\$2.7 billion.





## SPAIN ARRESTS RUSSIAN BANK ACCOUNT HACKER WANTED BY FBI

**MADRID:** Spain has arrested a 32-year-old Russian computer programmer at Barcelona airport who is alleged to have designed and used software to steal bank account details from banks and individuals, Spanish police said on Friday. Working with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the man, named Lisov, was arrested by Spanish police on Jan 13 as he waited

to take a flight to another European country. He is suspected of leading a financial fraud network, the police said in a statement.

Lisov, wanted by the United States under an international arrest warrant, had been under observation by authorities for several days in the north-eastern region of Catalonia, police said. Police did not give the man's first name. Lisov

had been under investigation by the United States for two years for developing and using "NeverQuest," a computer virus that spreads itself via social media, email and file transfers and has led to the loss of millions of dollars.

An investigation of servers operated by Lisov in France and Germany revealed databases with lists of data stolen from banks, including account

balances. One of the servers had files with millions of bank account access details such as user names, passwords and security questions, police said. The Russian is being held in Catalonia before Spain's High Court decides whether to extradite him to the United States. The United States has requested his extradition, a police spokesman said. — Reuters



LATVIA: This file photo shows snowboarders being pulled by sixteen propeller drone on Niniera lake surface near Cesis, Latvia. — AFP

## OMA EMIRATES TIES UP WITH SKIDATA FOR PARKING SOLUTIONS

OMA Emirates, a provider of cutting edge technology for the payment industry is partnering with Austria based SKIDATA for parking management solutions. The project entails quick and easy payment of parking fees with hardware and software that will allow payment through credit and debit cards. The move strengthens the OMA Emirates solutions portfolio, and highlights the company's focus on providing a wider range of services while supporting the growing regional parking needs.

SKIDATA made its entry into the Middle East in 2000 and has made strong progress with services provided to several key airports, shopping malls, recreational facilities and Theme Parks, and has helped businesses move forward with increased end user value additions. The company is an innovative partner for access control and car park management systems and sets high standards in mass access and revenue management. With customized solutions, the new tie up with OMA Emirates guarantees customers optimal solutions to maximize sales and provide better comfort levels for visitors.

"Parking facilities have seen tremendous growth in the Middle East with growing need for better facilities to be provided to visitors across several sectors. Simultaneously OMA Emirates has been making a conscious effort to evaluate growth opportunities and has found the perfect partner in SKIDATA to make our entry into payment solutions for parking management. Their global leadership and large base of existing installations in the region provides us a strong entry into the market and will be supported by Ingenico's unattended terminals for card payments across SKIDATA's parking solutions and installations," said Niranj Sangal, Group CEO, OMA Emirates Group.

OMA Emirates will provide Ingenico's iSelf solution with hardware that will be integrated with SKIDATA's software and will comply with their required specifications. The payment terminals meet with the highest and latest mandatory hardware and software security requirements. The enablement of EMV chip and PIN and magstripe transactions on kiosks improves customer interactivity which are simple, faster and more secure. It also supports the increasing use of use of contactless payments in the region which includes e-wallet and NFC/contactless cards and complies with industry standards such as MasterCard PayPass and Visa payWave.

"SKIDATA supports the customer through the whole journey. From the first discussion of the used case to the project design, implementation and after sales and support. We are right there where our customers are - another reason why we have opened 25 subsidiaries worldwide, with the newest in the United Arab Emirates. Right now, we are extending our product offerings in all segments in the GCC region, and having a proper credit card solution with a top notch partner like OMA-Emirates is an important step. I am sure that many of our existing customers will use this to upgrade their installations," said Philipp Heindl, Executive Director of SKIDATA Middle East LLC & Regional Manager GCC, SKIDATA. The region with its growing number of airports, amusement parks, stadiums and retail facilities provide OMA Emirates and SKIDATA vast potential for business growth opportunities. The two companies will also look at possible synergies in India and other countries.



Niranj Sangal, Group CEO, OMA Emirates Group

## APPLE ANTITRUST SUIT: QUALCOMM OVERCHARGED 'BILLIONS'

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Apple on Friday sued Qualcomm, accusing the California chipmaker of abusing its market power to demand unfair royalties, echoing charges filed days earlier by US antitrust regulators. Tech giant Apple said in the court filing that it has been overcharged "billions of dollars" by its chip making partner's "illegal scheme." The company also claimed Qualcomm owes it a billion dollars but is refusing to pay in retaliation for the iPhone maker's cooperating with South Korean antitrust regulators looking into the chipmaker's actions in that country.

"For many years Qualcomm has unfairly insisted on charging royalties for technologies they have nothing to do with," Apple said in an email statement. "To protect this business scheme Qualcomm has taken increasingly radical steps, most recently withholding nearly \$1 billion in payments from Apple as retaliation for responding truthfully to law enforcement agencies investigating them."

Qualcomm rejected Apple's claims at baseless, contending the iPhone maker "intentionally mischaracterized" agreements as well as the value of the company's technology. "Apple has been actively encouraging regulatory attacks on Qualcomm's business in various jurisdictions around the world... by misrepresenting facts and withholding information," Qualcomm general counsel Don Rosenberg said in a statement. "We welcome the opportunity to have these meritless claims heard in court."

The suit charges Qualcomm of building a business model on using its rights to older, legacy technology considered telecommunication industry standards to raise royalties when Apple innovates with features such as TouchID fingerprint recognition or digital wallets in mobile devices. "Despite being just one of over a dozen companies who contributed to basic cellular standards, Qualcomm insists on charging Apple at least five times more in payments than all the other cellular patent licensors we have agreements with combined," Apple said.

### Antitrust woes

Apple noted in the suit that Qualcomm's business practices have come under scrutiny by antitrust regulators in an array of countries for selling its smartphone chipsets only to makers agreeing to its "preferred license terms" for essential mobile telecom patents. Apple asked for a jury trial, and for damages including Qualcomm paying the company what it owes plus giving up excessive royalties it has raked in. Qualcomm did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment.

The Apple filing came three days after the US Federal Trade Commission filed suit in federal court in California claiming Qualcomm abused its market power in as part of its "unlawful maintenance of a monopoly in baseband processors," which are devices that enable cellular communications in phones and other products.

Qualcomm rejected the agency's case as "significantly flawed," arguing that reasoning at the heart of the civil complaint is wrong. South Korea's anti-trust watchdog last month slapped Qualcomm with a record fine exceeding \$850 million for abusing its dominant market position as a maker of baseband chipsets used in mobile phones.

### Room for rivals

Apple relies on Qualcomm for chip-based modems that enable iPhones and iPads to communicate with telecommunication networks. Apple undoubtedly knows of the antitrust tide rising against Qualcomm and would like to help provide room for rival chipmakers to flourish, perhaps letting Intel improve its position, according to analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights and Strategy. "I think Apple is not comfortable in feeling that they have only one source and are taking this opportunity to go after Qualcomm," Moorhead said, referring to the mobile device modems.

"Qualcomm is being looked at on every continent on the planet; this is probably, strategically, the right time for Apple to do this." While the legal case alleges exclusionary contracts and the idea of being overcharged for licensing, it may well be powered by Apple wanting to ramp up competition to Qualcomm so it can negotiate better deals, the analyst said. Modem chips are separate from processors that act as the brains or graphics engines for mobile devices. — AFP



Shan Abdul Salam, CTO, Bebuzzd

## LAUNCH OF BEBUZZD 3.0 TO HELP LOCAL SMES

**B**ebuzzd, a leading loyalty program provider based in Dubai, has announced the release of the latest version of Bebuzzd, a multi-store digital loyalty program, which is available for download on app stores. The mobile application will provide local SMEs the advantage of further enhancing their customer experiences and reinforcing consumer-business ties. The updated loyalty app, which allows consumers to earn points and redeem rewards from their favourite outlets, now presents itself with new and improved features such as easier navigation, faster searching and a better design.

The release of the newest version is expected to draw in more users as hundreds of outlets have now joined the Bebuzzd bandwagon. Furthermore, everything customers have wanted to know about their favourite businesses can be found in the Bebuzzd app. Recent industry reports have indicated that retailers and other businesses have demonstrated continued confidence in a brighter 2017, expecting to drive in key growth and revenue. In line with this, Bebuzzd has now shifted into a more material design model, driven by the objective of enhancing customers' experience with value additions that will ensure customer loyalty at high levels.

The new 3.0 version has been made more user friendly based on feedback received. One new element added to the app is the ability to remotely join offered loyalty programs and adding it to a set preferred list, which allows users to get easily notified on special offers from their favourite outlets. Another innovative feature is the 'Try me offer' section designed to attract new customers via the invite to experience participating outlets. In addition, the cate-

gorization of merchants has also been included to allow for easy searching by users.

"We are very proud to announce the release of Bebuzzd 3.0 version. The launch complements our commitment to provide our users with offers that will ensure loyalty to our participating businesses. With the wide array of new and exciting offers, we can surely say that Bebuzzd has now advanced to the next level," said Shan Abdul Salam, CTO, Bebuzzd. "The main objective of this updated version is to enhance the customer experience and consolidate relationships with their preferred outlets. We want to help SME businesses in the UAE to engage with each of their customers for their own unique experience with individualized incentives."

According to Bebuzzd senior executives, participating outlets have now been sorted distance wise so that customers can see nearby businesses, offering loyalty programs and try-me-offers. Users will find it very easy to navigate through the new app and be a part of their regularly visited or favorite outlets. Brands will also benefit as the customer can now join their loyalty program even without visiting the outlet.

With key milestones and behavior change thresholds defined, the Bebuzzd loyalty program can offer specific rewards to customers to motivate long-term loyalty and deepen engagement. Brands and marketers can also use their data to quantitatively determine which customers are the best ones by looking at recent activities, frequency and spend metrics and targeting accordingly. The new app is now available for download for both IOS and Android platforms.



## TRAPPED IN DYING TEA GARDENS, CHILDREN GET LOST TO TRAFFICKERS

**JALPAIGURI:** Fagua Ooraon was running late for work when traffickers stopped outside his hut and said they were taking his teenage daughter with them to the city for better employment. Ooraon said 'no' and went to work. When he got home that evening, his daughter was gone. "They took her anyway," he said, sitting in his home in Diana Tea Estate in the east Indian state of West Bengal.

"If I wasn't late that morning, I would have stayed and talked my daughter out of it. But they had lured her with the promise of good clothes, a new mobile, better education and money - everything I have been struggling to give my family since the tea gardens started closing." Tea gardens began shutting in 2002 and within five years, most had fully closed because management said they were unable to run or struggled with big loans.

Sabita, 16, is among the growing number of adolescent girls coerced to leave the tea-growing belt of West Bengal, whose pickers endure severe

poverty, social isolation and health problems now their jobs have gone. West Bengal reported 14,671 cases of missing children in 2014, according to Child Rights and You, a non-profit organization that analyzed government data. One in every five missing children in India is from West Bengal, it stated.

"There is a close linkage of missing children to organised crime," said Atindra Nath Das of Child Rights And You. "Large number of missing children are actually trafficked, kidnapped or abducted." In the 276 mostly closed tea gardens of West Bengal, young girls are dropping out of high school and "disappearing" with agents, according to a Child Welfare Board official, who did not want to be identified.

"Parents are helpless and in many cases don't even file a missing person's report in the hope that their daughter will safely return home," said Victor Basu of Dooars Jagron, a non-profit group fighting for child rights in the region. "In some cases the parents are given a few

thousand rupees and told that everything is fine," he said. "Then the money stops coming and all contact with the child is lost."

### Lured by lipstick

Not very far from Ooraon's hut, Rukmani Naik holds up a passport-size picture of her 14-year-old daughter, Alisa. "She went in the first week of January," Naik, a temporary picker in the Diana Tea garden, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "She was taken last year also but we managed to find her and bring her back. Then a man who came to my neighbor's house this month managed to convince her a second time and she's gone."

Campaigner say many young girls are directly approached by agents - an outsider and a local resident usually work together - and that fancy clothes and make-up are the biggest lure. Earlier this month, undergraduate student and activist Sulochana Naik joined a group of students to prevent a teenager from

being trafficked. "The agents said they would buy her lipstick, cut her hair fashionably and buy her new clothes," the 21-year-old member of an anti-trafficking campaign said. "They said she would be enrolled in a school and all she had to do was babysit for a couple of hours. The girl told us that she thought she would earn, help her parents and become more beautiful." Reports of human trafficking in India increased 25 percent in 2015 compared to the year before, with more than 40 percent of cases involving children, according to government crime data.

### Growing despair

Hunger and death are deep set in the tea gardens. But for the nearly 200,000 families that still live here, despair is only growing. Most live in abject poverty. Women who once plucked leaves for some of the finest tea blends now break boulders on the river bank, earning 150 rupees (\$2) a day. "The girls have dropped out of school, mostly because their parents can't even afford the bus

fare," Basu said. A team from the National Commission for Women, a statutory body that advises the Indian government on women's issues, last week visited the tea gardens to assess the conditions and were met with anguished questions about missing children. At the Red Banks tea estate, Shanti Kesh stood up and told the commission: "Children are seeing our struggle and are moving out to earn money."

"But many are not coming back, some die there and most of us have no contact with them at all. We want our jobs back so that our children are safe with us." Ooraon believes his daughter is in the neighboring state of Sikkim, a new destination for many trafficked children who are then employed in the booming tourism industry, anti-trafficking campaigners say.

"I miss her terribly," he said quietly. "She would always have my lunch box ready when I left for work. My wife thinks I sold her for a little money. I didn't, she was just taken." — Reuters

## GAY PRINCE ON FRONT LINE: INDIA'S WAR AGAINST AIDS

### HYPOCRISY IN OUR SOCIETY REFUSING TO ACCEPT TRUTH

**NEW DELHI:** From setting up his own charity to hanging condoms on trees, Manvendra Singh Gohil has dedicated himself to fighting the scourge of AIDS since coming out 10 years ago as India's first openly gay royal. A member of a royal warrior clan and heir apparent to the throne of Rajpipla in deeply conservative Gujarat state, Gohil uses his fame and status to educate the gay community about safe sex and their rights in a country where gay sex is a criminal offence.

"People say homosexuality is a part of west-

and tell the world 'I am gay, so what? And I am proud of it.' Gohil has been part of a campaign against the colonial-era law that bans homosexual acts in India, which he says has contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS. His charity the Lakshya Foundation works with homosexual men and the transgender community to promote safer sexual practices, though they face constant obstruction from police. "People are having sex under fear and unsafe sex practices are going on," he said. "When we started work

### 'Spreading homosexuality'

Gay sex was effectively decriminalised in 2009 when the Delhi High Court ruled that prohibiting it was a violation of a person's fundamental rights. But in 2013 the Supreme Court ruled that the responsibility for changing the 1861 law rested with lawmakers and not judges. Prosecutions are rare, but gay people say they face significant discrimination as well as harassment from the police.

Gohil said even a government contract to distribute condoms did not protect his workers from police harassment. "They said we were spreading homosexuality," he recalled. "Some of our workers were arrested and taken to the police station where the cops themselves had forced sex with them without condoms." India has the third highest number of HIV/AIDS cases in the world according to the United Nations, with about 2.1 million people in 2015, although the rate of infection is falling.

In another positive sign, two bills designed to end discrimination against transgender people and individuals infected with HIV are currently going through the Indian parliament. Working with people in the transgender community is a priority for the government in its national AIDS response plan, but social isolation means the community is still at particularly high risk of HIV transmission.

The bill seeks to prohibit discrimination in any form and specifically bans denying them access to public places, on pain of up to two years' imprisonment and a fine. But campaigners have objected to a clause which would force people to undergo tests to determine their gender identity. They say this is against the spirit of a 2014 Supreme Court judgement that allowed anyone to "self identify" which gender they are.

"When the social empowerment ministry itself is not clear who a transgender is how will they address their issues?" said Gohil. "It is a challenging situation. I don't blame any political party. It's not the party but the individuals who are either homophobic or gay friendly. 'It's our duty to educate them because they are ignorant.' — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** In this photograph taken on December 12, 2016, "Prince" Manvendra Singh Gohil, India's first gay royal and AIDS activist, speaks with an AFP reporter during an interview. — AFP

ern culture. It is absolutely wrong," Gohil told AFP in an interview, citing the Kamasutra and the homoerotic sculptures that feature in ancient temples across the country. "It is the hypocrisy in our society which is refusing to accept this truth."

And this motivated me to come out openly

among the MSM (men having sex with men), we would be harassed and threatened by police. "We would keep condom packets in public toilets, and even hang them on trees in public parks because we did not want to stop them from having sex in toilets or behind the bushes. We just wanted them to have safe sex."

## CLIMATE SCIENCE BEDEVILED BY SEVERAL 'TIPPING POINTS'

**PARIS:** Of the many things that keep climate scientists awake at night, tipping points may be the scariest. To start with, these thresholds for deep, sometimes catastrophic change in the complex web of Earth's natural forces, caused by man-made global warming, are largely invisible. You can't see them on the horizon, and could easily cross one without noticing.

Also, there is no turning back—at least not on a human timescale. Ice sheets with enough frozen water to lift sea levels more than a dozen meters; powerful ocean currents that keep bone-chilling winters at bay on both sides of the Atlantic; monsoon rains upon which hundreds of millions in Asia depend for food—all are at risk of irretrievable disruption.

"There are points-of-no-return where, for example, a certain amount of warming triggers unstoppable collapse of glaciers off of Antarctica, even if the planet cools again," explained Ben Strauss, vice president of the US research group Climate Central. Think of someone leaning back on two legs of a chair, suggests Sybren Drijfhout, a professor at the University of Southampton.

"The tipping point is when you're exactly in between two states," he said. "A tiny perturbation—a gentle shove" will make the system tip over." In the case of ice sheets, how this might happen is well understood. Thick ice shelves astride land and sea in Greenland and Antarctica act as giant bulkheads, preventing even larger inland ice masses from sliding into the ocean. West Antarctica's would lift the global water-mark by at least six meters.

### Permafrost (not)

Were these ice dams eroded by warming water (below) and air (above) — to fall away, "the blocking features may not be able to reform even after hundreds of years of cooling," Strauss told AFP. As if by way of illustration, an ice block nearly 100 times the size of Manhattan is poised to break off West Antarctica's Larsen C ice shelf within months, scientists said earlier this year. But if experts agree on the mechanics, they sharply disagree on how much a region would need to warm up to trigger collapse, or

how long it would take. "We don't know exactly when we might pass these points—or whether we already have crossed some of them," Strauss added. James Hansen, former head of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, has argued that West Antarctica could disintegrate rapidly, adding up to a couple of metres to ocean levels this century. But most experts say humanity is still within a "safe operating space" for the ice sheets, even if the margin for error has become uncomfortably thin.

Other tipping points could trigger the natural release, on a massive scale, of the same greenhouse gases that humans have spewed into the atmosphere, further destabilizing the delicate balance that has made our planet so livable over the last 11,000 years. Methane and CO2 locked in the increasingly misnamed permafrost of Russia, Canada and northern Europe is equivalent to roughly 15 years worth of global emissions from fossil fuels at today's levels.



**This handout image obtained from Monash University via Nature Communications shows an artists impression of a menagerie of megafauna that inhabited Australia some 45,000 years ago. Humans exterminated an array of weird and wonderful Australian creatures within only 4,000 years of arriving on the continent, according to a study published on January 20, 2017 that shifted blame away from climate change. — AFP**

The release of these gases—negligible so far—would, in turn, aggravate the problem in a vicious circle of warming, what scientists call a positive feedback loop. Likewise, rock-like formations in shallow ocean waters called methane hydrates, prime suspects for episodes of rapid global warming millions of years ago. Little is known about what it would take to trigger their disintegration today.

### No perfect analogue

"Even if global warming is limited to below two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit)—the red line drawn in the 196-nation Paris climate pact — "some important tipping elements may already be harmed or transformed," Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, commented recently in the journal Nature Climate Change. — AFP



**MARSEILLE:** This file photo taken on January 3, 2012 in Marseille, southeastern France, shows a breast implant produced by the implant manufacturer Poly Implant Prothese company (PIP). — AFP

## BREAST IMPLANT VICTIMS WIN PAYOUT FROM SAFETY BODY

**TOULON:** A French court on Friday ordered German safety certifier TÜV to pay 60 million euros (\$64 million) in compensation to 20,000 women who received defective breast implants that the group had approved. TÜV Rheinland was ordered to make a provisional payment of 3,000 euros to each plaintiff for certifying that implants made by French firm Poly Implant Prothese (PIP) met safety standards.

In the far-reaching health scandal, the devices were later found to contain substandard, industrial-grade silicone gel that was seven times cheaper than medical-grade silicone. "The final amount will be determined after an assessment, but (TUV) is required to make a provisional payment of 3,000 euros" per person, said lawyer Laurent Gaudon, representing 7,000 women. Another lawyer Olivier Aumaitre, representing some 13,000 women, praised the commercial court in the southern port of Toulon for a ruling he said was inevitable given "TUV's glaring negligence". TÜV's lawyer Cecile Derycke said the firm would appeal the latest ruling in a long-running saga. The court "persists in ignoring very clear elements of the PIP dossier that establish that (TUV Rheinland) fulfilled its mission of a certifying body with diligence and full conformity with applicable regulations," she said in a statement.

The Toulon court in 2013 ordered TÜV to pay 53 million euros to six foreign distributors of the implants as well as 1,600 users. But an appeals court later overturned that decision, saying that TÜV had fulfilled its obligations as a certifying body and could not be held responsible for failing to detect PIP's cover-up. The company maintains it

was never its job to check the actual implants, and their task was only to inspect the manufacturing process.

The court said that if TÜV staff had carried out "the slightest unannounced inspection... the fraud would have been easily detected." The scandal made global headlines in 2011, the year after doctors first noticed abnormally high rupture rates in the implants. Some 300,000 women in 65 countries, most in Latin America, are believed to have received the faulty implants. PIP's founder, Jean-Claude Mas, was convicted of fraud and sentenced to four years in jail in 2013, confirmed on appeal in 2016.

### Toxicity ruled out

Mas was ordered to pay a fine of 75,000 euros and was banned from working in the health sector or running a business. He is appealing that ruling to a court of cassation. Two other pending legal cases are pending against Mas, one for involuntary manslaughter—the implants were suspected in several deaths from systemic toxicity—and another linked to the financial implications of the scandal.

He always denied the implants posed any health risks. In a setback for the plaintiffs, a scientific panel mandated by the European Commission concluded in May 2014 that the implants could not be linked to toxicity and users did not have to remove them as a precaution. Thousands of women have had the implants removed, even though health officials in several countries have said they are not toxic and are not thought to increase the risk of breast cancer. — AFP

## PRO-CANNABIS GROUP GIVES FREE JOINTS IN WASHINGTON

**WASHINGTON:** Hundreds of people dispersed through the streets of Washington on Friday during the inauguration of Donald Trump to hand out thousands of free joints and raise public awareness about cannabis consumption. DCMJ, the organizing group, said it was distributing some 8,500 marijuana cigarettes—double the originally planned number, following an "overwhelming public response."

Alan Amsterdam, one of the event's organizers, said volunteers had been rolling joints for three weeks. Amsterdam, who looks rather like a biker, said his main hope is that the new administration will keep its hands off the city's legalization of cannabis. Trump's nominee as attorney general, Jeff Sessions, is a critic of legalization. Amsterdam said Friday's dope distribution was not political. "This is a nonpartisan event," he said. "We welcome Trump supporters,

Clinton supporters and Bernie (Sanders) supporters. Everyone who stands with cannabis is welcome." He added: "We want people to know that cannabis is legal here in DC and we want it to stay that way. Our message to

Trump is: Leave it that way." Marijuana was legalized in the District of Columbia for medicinal and recreational use in 2014, though not for commercial sale.

Natally de Leon, a member of the pro-cannabis group, was handing out joints Friday, one at a time, to a line that seemed to just keep growing. She supports the medicinal use of cannabis. "So many patients have severe illnesses that cannabis can really help them with," she said. She called it "ridiculous" that people in most parts of the country can legally consume alcohol but not smoke marijuana.

Dawn Lee-Carty quipped that legalization was "one thing that will contribute to 'Make America Great Again'"—the Trump slogan seen on a multitude of red hats around Washington on Friday. More seriously, she said she wanted to help educate people on the benefits of marijuana use. Her ailing 9-year-old daughter, she said, had been helped by cannabis therapy. The DCMJ group worked in 2014 for the passage of Initiative 71, which legalized cannabis use in the US capital. Since then, DCMJ has been working to make cannabis accessible to Americans in every state. — AFP



## TINY 'HAIRDO' MOTH NAMED AFTER TRUMP

**LOS ANGELES:** A tiny moth has been named after Donald Trump partly because of its distinctive 'hairdo' which resembles that of the president-elect. The minuscule creature, *Neopalpa donaldtrumpi*, was discovered by Canadian scientist Vazrick Nazari who said he was struck by the resemblance of the golden scales on the head of the moth to Trump's signature hairstyle. He said he also named the new species, which measures about 0.4 inches (9 mm), after the incoming president to focus attention on ecological issues.

"The reason for this choice of name is to bring wider public attention to the need to continue protecting fragile habi-

tats in the US that still contain many undescribed species," Nazari wrote in a review of the species published on Tuesday. The newly discovered moth, the first animal to bear Trump's name, is native to southern California but its habitat extends to Baja California in Mexico.

According to Live Science, President Barack Obama has had nine species named after him, more than any other US president. They include a coral reef fish native to Hawaii and a trapdoor spider. Last year, a caterpillar found in the Peruvian Amazon was informally named "Trumpapillar" because its orange-yellow furry cover resembled Trump's hairdo. — AFP



ORLANDO: This Feb 1, 2012, file photo shows Kellogg's cereal products. — AP

## AVALANCHES: VOLATILE MOUNTAIN MENACES

**PARIS:** Avalanches such as the one that smashed into a hotel in central Italy on Wednesday are complex phenomena triggered by a combination of local factors. An avalanche occurs when abundant snowfall fails to adhere to snow already on the ground—a process in which winds, topography, ground conditions and recent temperature change can each play a role.

And the incline of the spot where an avalanche begins is a key factor in determining its size. Avalanches can consist of light, powdery snow, sometimes called "loose-snow" avalanches, or of dense wind-packed snow which breaks off to become a "slab" avalanche. They can rumble or roar downhill at speeds of 10 to 400 kilometers per hour.

Loose-snow avalanches often occur during or shortly after heavy snowfalls at low temperatures. The incline of the slope where they start often accounts for their overall size, as it determines how much snow provides the initial "punch" for the

slide. At extremely low temperatures, even a relatively light snowfall can set off an avalanche up to a meter deep.

In other cases, high winds create snowdrifts in sheltered areas, and the resulting slab can wrench free because of a steep gradient. Finally, when the snowpack becomes wetter and heavier in the spring, slabs can break off from the slippery, still-frozen underlying layers, depending on how fast the surface snow melts. Forecasting avalanches is difficult, but areas known to be frequent corridors and which threaten villages or ski areas are regularly purged with explosives to limit the risk.

The avalanche that buried the Hotel Rigopiano near Farindola occurred after the nearby town of Amatrice was rocked by moderate earthquakes with magnitudes of 5.2 to 5.7, according to the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC). Quake experts said the tremors almost certainly triggered the snowslide. — AFP

## CAN BREAKFAST KEEP US THIN? NUTRITION SCIENCE IS TRICKY

SORTING THE HYPE FROM RELIABLE DIETARY ADVICE

**NEW YORK:** Cereal makers have happily encouraged the belief that eating breakfast can help keep us thin and bring other benefits, partly by paying for studies that seem to support the idea. So, does that mean breakfast is bad for you? Not that either. What it does show is how difficult it can be to sort the hype from reliable dietary advice when studies are funded by the makers of Froot Loops, nutrition science is often inconclusive, and gray areas can be spun for marketing.

Take Special K. In the 1990s, Special K boxes featured findings that people who didn't normally eat breakfast lost more weight after they started doing so. "That was the little piece they put on the cereal box," said David Schlundt, a co-author of the study of about 50 women. Not mentioned on those boxes: Regular breakfast eaters who started skipping the meal lost even more weight, compared to those who stuck with their routines. That doesn't mean particular breakfasts can't help some people control their appetites, or bring other benefits like energy. Schlundt's study was tiny. But it shows how easy it is to simplify the complexities and limitations of nutrition science and cherry-pick the findings.

Our understanding of what's healthy can evolve, which is why dietary guidelines are regularly updated to reflect the latest science. A recommendation that breakfast can help with weight control - inserted in 2010 - is no longer in the guidelines. With its last update, the government said it looked at broader eating patterns. A look at some research around breakfast and weight illustrates why advice about it is so tricky.

### 'White hat' bias

To investigate the long-held idea that breakfast can prevent weight gain, researchers in 2013 reviewed dozens of studies examining the premise. Their conclusion: Popular opinion outweighed the scientific evidence. A major issue they identified was that studies often misleadingly used language to indicate that breakfast influenced weight, even though the findings did not establish a cause-and-effect relationship. Like a lot of nutrition research, the studies drew links between physical traits and what people said they ate. "It

goes back to the idea that correlation doesn't equal causation," said Andrew Brown, one of the researchers who conducted the analysis. Brown, a nutrition scientist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, noted that it could be that heavier people were skipping breakfast in hopes of losing weight. When citing past studies, scientists also tended to mischaracterize inconclusive results in favor of breakfast. Brown chalked that up to "white hat" bias, since people are constantly told breakfast is "the most important meal of the day."

Brown also noted that "breakfast" can consist of any number of possibilities, whether it's cold pizza, yogurt or an egg sandwich. It's possible to question all sorts of dietary ideas. A study published last month, for instance, said the science behind recommendations to limit sugar was weak. That study drew criticism from health advocates because it was paid for by an industry group that includes Coke and Hershey - but it underscored the vulnerability of dietary recommendations.

Timothy Caulfield, an expert in health law and policy at the University of Alberta, said nutrition science often comes with uncertainties and shouldn't be discarded just because it doesn't provide slam-dunk evidence. He said health experts give advice on the best available research, but there needs to be greater understanding about its limitations. With breakfast and weight, Caulfield said there hasn't been a pendulum swing in the data, just that the evidence doesn't seem as powerful as once believed.

### 'Not good, not good'

Disclosures about who paid for the research became the norm only in recent years, so it's unclear how much of the literature on breakfast and weight from past decades was funded by breakfast food makers. The 1992 study featured on Special K boxes, for example, doesn't list a funding source. Schlundt told the AP that Kellogg paid for it. "Only the ideas they see as favorable get money," Schlundt, an associate professor at Vanderbilt, said of industry-funded research. Even when funding is disclosed, people may not realize that not all studies are that meaningful. "The paper is not good, not good = There are major

structural problems with it that cannot be fixed," Carol O'Neil, a professor at Louisiana State University, wrote to her co-author in 2011 about a Kellogg-funded study, according to emails obtained through a records request. O'Neil and her co-author wanted to withdraw the paper from submission, but felt they couldn't because Kellogg expected it to be published. When the paper kept coming back with notes, O'Neil said she didn't see a way around the problems. "But let me look at the comments again and see if there is some sort of clever verbiage we can present," she wrote.

The paper did not find a link between cereal consumption among Mexican-American children and better weight, but found one between cereal and higher nutrient intake. As eventually published in 2013, it concluded that nourishing breakfasts - including those with cereal - should be encouraged. O'Neil did not respond to requests for comment. Kellogg said it is unable to comment on the study and the research by Schlundt because they were done long ago. General Mills, which has funded studies about breakfast, cereal and weight, declined to comment. Another study funded by Kellogg last year found breakfast consumption was not consistently linked with differences in weight among Canadian adults. It found people who ate cereal had lower weights than those who ate other types of breakfast, though results varied by age and sex. Yoni Freedhoff, an obesity expert at the University of Ottawa, said many of his patients find protein-rich breakfasts help control their appetites. Yet he noted that breakfast studies are often funded by cereal makers, and look specifically at cereal.

Those studies can help shape policy. In its 2010 guidelines, the US government cited breakfast as a way to manage weight. Of the 15 studies involving children mentioned to support the recommendation, five listed funding from General Mills or Kellogg, with three looking specifically at cereal. With its 2015 update, though, the government decided to look instead at "the combination of what you eat and drink over time," according to the Health and Human Services Department. As a result, it no longer recommends breakfast for weight loss. — AP

## FRANCE TO INVESTIGATE FOOD ADDITIVE THAT HARMED RATS

**PARIS:** France ordered an inquiry on Friday after scientists reported that a food additive widely used in Europe to whiten toothpaste and chewing gum could cause precancerous lesions in rats. Researchers from France and Luxembourg gave the additive, called E171 in Europe and the United States, to lab rats in their drinking water for 100 days.

In 40 percent of the rodents exposed, they observed the development of "preneoplastic lesions" or precancerous growths, the team reported. The additive also inhibited the immune systems of the rats and "accelerated" the growth of lesions induced for the experiment, France's INRA agricultural research institute, which took part in the study, said in a statement.

### Colorectal cancer

"These results demonstrate a role in initiating and promoting the early stages of colorectal cancer formation," it added, though it said no conclusion could be drawn about later phases of cancer, or of any danger to humans. The results were published in the *Nature* journal published by Scientific

Reports. Reacting to the report, France's ministers of health, agriculture and economy instructed the country's food health and safety agency, Anses, to investigate whether the additive poses a risk for human health.

The agency must report its findings by the end of March. E171 contains nanoparticles of titanium dioxide, a naturally occurring metal oxide. It is one of the five nanomaterials most commonly used in consumer products, including food, paints and cosmetics, according to the study.

E171 is commonly used as a whitening and brightening agent in candies, chewing gum, white sauces and cake icing. The US Food and Drug Administration approved it in 1966 at levels of no more than one percent of a food product's weight. But the study's authors said that in Europe, current regulations establish no daily intake limit.

The study was prompted by "growing concerns that daily oral... intake is associated with an increased risk of chronic intestinal inflammation and carcinogenesis", or cancer formation, they said. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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## LULU HYPERMARKET LAUNCHES INCREDIBLE INDIA 2017

Lulu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket in the region, launched its 'Incredible India 2017' promotion, as a celebratory gesture to its large Indian patrons to mark their country's Republic Day. Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sunil Jain inaugurated the promotion at the brand's Al-Rai outlet on 19 January in the presence of LuLu management, staff and a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers. To commemorate the occasion, a cultural program was organized that

highlighted the diversity and color of India's culture and customs, presenting upbeat dance and song. Under the promotion, LuLu Hypermarket is touting many special offers encompassing groceries, fresh foods, vegetables and meat from India. In addition to a variety of Indian food products, freshly-prepared Indian dishes and sweets are available at special prices. It is also a great time to reignite your love for Indian wear with a selection of branded gar-

ments, exquisitely designed sarees, churidars, kurthas and footwear by Indian craftsmen on offer during the festival. The Incredible India festival, which is common for all LuLu Hypermarket outlets, will be attractive to shoppers looking for great deals on their favorite Indian products. During the promotional period, visitors to LuLu Hypermarket get the chance to experience the authentic touch of India.



### Congratulations



#### Happy Birthday Ashfaq

Here's wishing you a very happy birthday Mohammed Ashfaq Shaik! May Allah bless you with good health. Lots of Love from Pappa and Ammi (Zaheer), Badey Abbu and Ammi (Tanveer - Safer), sister (Shagufta) and brother (Yaseen) grandfather - Chand Basha (Hotel Bahar), Mama: Nizam, Imthiyaz, Munwar, friends and relatives from Kuwait and India.



#### Happy Birthday Ruth

To dearest Ruth Pasco Jamala and God bless you always. Greetings from your friends and colleagues Lilian, Jessa, Adela, Pyan, Roqer and Song Bird family.

## ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER ORGANIZE 1ST SESSION OF CONTRACTOR SAFETY MONTH



American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Kuwait Chapter is Kuwait's premier voluntary and non-profit organization providing professional guidance, training and consultancy; in the field of Health, Safety and Environment; to the industrial and social sectors in the region. Continuing its constant efforts toward social responsibility and commitment, American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter, in collaboration with Kuwait Oil Company organized First session of the Contractor Safety Month 2016, where specialists Subhasish Dash and Kamesh Sharma, Product Excellence Team Specialists from M/s Process MAP conducted a presentation on EH&S and Sustainability Software Solutions. The event was conducted at KOC Hubara Assembly Hall at Ahmadi Township. The event started with a safety moment and welcome address by Sanjay Jaiswal, Chapter Secretary. In his opening address Rama Krushna Chary, President ASSE Kuwait chapter, informed that the chapter is organizing the Contractor Safety month for the benefit of contractors in state of Kuwait who are exposed to various safety risks. He men-

tioned that these technical meet events are open to everyone, so that the contractors who have a major role in industrial sector are updated to the best HSE practices and latest technologies in the personal protective equipment. Engineer Nayef Al-Anezi, Chief Guest and Manager (Technical Support Services) of Kuwait Oil Company acclaimed the efforts of ASSE in organizing these events for the benefit of contractors working in the industrial sector. Fahd Al-Dhameen, Team Leader HSE D&T of Kuwait Oil Company praised the ASSE Kuwait chapter activities and advised the participants to participate in all the programs organizing by the Society. Balaji, Manager of Safety Plus (Raja Company), briefed about the important of the topic and introduced the speakers. He has also explained to the participants on the benefits of joining ASSE. Subhasish Dash and Kamesh Sharma explained about the EH&S and Sustainability Software Solutions in detail and the uses of the it in the field of HSE. Sunil Sadanand, Treasurer of ASSE Kuwait Chapter, in his closing address acknowledged the support of Kuwait Oil



Company to ASSE Kuwait chapter in conducting these events. He also thanked the Speakers Subhasish Dash and Kamesh Sharma of M/s Process MAP, and the sponsors M/s Raja Company for the presentations. He thanked the all the participants who took their time in the evening to attend and enrich their

knowledge. Around 150 persons from different sectors participated in this event. As a token of appreciation, speakers were presented with memento. Certificate of participation was distributed to all the participants.







## AL-KHARAFI COMPANY HONORS LONGTIME EMPLOYEES

Chairman and board members of Mohammed Abdulmohsin Al-Kharafi and Sons Company honored Public Relations Manager Zakariya Mohammad Hussein, who recently celebrated the 50th

anniversary of his appointment in the company. Hussein was appointed on Dec 26, 1966, and is considered one of the company's oldest staff members. Chairman of the Board of Directors Fawzi

Mohammad Al-Kharafi expressed gratitude to Hussein for his dedication throughout his time in the company.

## SLOAN'S ICE CREAM PARTICIPATES IN HORECA KUWAIT EXHIBITION

Sloan's Ice Cream is branching out and taking its sweet treats into the boardroom by showcasing its range of products at HORECA Kuwait Exhibition, taking place in Kuwait International Fair - Hall number 8, from Jan 16-18, 2017.

The ice cream parlor, that opened its first location at The Promenade Kuwait, is showcasing its Home Made Ice cream, Cookies, Brownies, Candies and Chocolates. The idea to open up new channels of distribution for Sloan's through many local cafés, restaurants and Hotels!

HORECA is a tailor-made B2B trading platform, which brings together more than 1,000 local and international

exhibitors and tens of thousands of visitors, including tourism professionals and hospitality and foodservice leaders.

Ali Al-Mutawa, general manager of AFM Establishment, the company behind that acquired Sloan's franchise rights in Kuwait, said: "Sloan's is renowned as a family destination, keeping families and children entertained as an iconic destination for all things sweet." He added:

"While this will continue to be important for us, participation in HORECA is important as we look for business opportunities and supply routes in the corporate world." Visit Sloan's iconic outlet at the Promenade to find out more about its sweet offerings.



# MALABAR GOLD AND DIAMONDS OPENS 7 NEW SHOWROOMS IN A DAY ACROSS GCC



• 162nd showroom: MGD - Lifestyle Jewellery outlet at Al Barsha Mall, Dubai, UAE was inaugurated by MP Ahammed, Chairman - Malabar Group in the presence of management team members of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, other dignitaries, well-wishers and guests.

• 163rd showroom: Malabar Gold and Diamonds showroom in Satwa, Dubai, UAE was jointly inaugurated by MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group along with Dr. PA Ibrahim Haji, Co-Chairman of Malabar Group in the presence of management team members of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, other dignitaries, well-wishers and guests.

• 164th showroom: Malabar Gold and Diamonds showroom in Gold Center, Dubai, UAE was jointly inaugurated by PB Das - Senior Executive Officer - NBF Capital Limited, National Bank of Fujairah PJSC and Vikram Pradhan - Head - Corporate and Institutional Banking - National Bank of Fujairah PJSC in the presence of management team members of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, other dignitaries, well-wishers and guests.

• 165th showroom: Malabar Gold and Diamonds showroom in Gold Center, Dubai, UAE was jointly inaugurated by MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group along with Dr. PA Ibrahim Haji, Co-

Chairman of Malabar Group in the presence of management team members of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, other dignitaries, well-wishers and guests.

• 166th showroom: Malabar Gold and Diamonds showroom was jointly inaugurated by MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group along with Mayankutty. C - Director of Malabar Gold and Diamonds in the presence of management team members of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, other dignitaries, well-wishers and guests at Sharjah Shopping Centre, K.M. Trading, Rolla, Sharjah, UAE.

• 167th showroom: MGD - Lifestyle Jewellery outlet was inaugurated by Zainab Hussain in the presence of management team members of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, other dignitaries, well-wishers and guests at Sama Mall, Kuwait

• 168th showroom: MGD - Lifestyle Jewellery outlet was inaugurated by Hesham Zaal Khalifa Zaal Alkubflaseh in the presence of management team members of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, other dignitaries, well-wishers and guests at Gold City, Manama, Bahrain

Malabar Gold and Diamonds' the leading jewellery retailer across the globe has opened 7 new showrooms on 18th January 2017. The inaugurations was held in UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain in the presence of vari-

ous dignitaries, special invited guests and well-wishers.

Commenting on the same, MP Ahammed - Chairman, Malabar Group said "We are dedicating this feat to our millions of satisfied customers and we also thank them for trusting and being with us since the inception of the company. Our heartfelt gratitude to the authorities; investors; management team members and well-wishers for being a part of our successful journey and playing an important role in it."

Malabar Gold and Diamonds, one of the world's largest gold and diamond jewellery retailer announces a major investment amounting Dh 335 million (US\$91.28 million) in expansion plans of its retail network. The plan will see an addition of 24 stores in 3 months, from January 2017 to March 2017 period, taking the number of total outlets to 185 by the end of March 2017.

The newly opened outlets unveil a significantly large collection of traditional as well as contemporary designer jewellery. The new showrooms showcases the exquisite collection of gold jewellery in 18K, 22K and 24K alongside Diamond, Uncut diamond and precious gem jewellery hand-picked for the jewellery lovers.



**OSN MOVIES**  
**ACTION**

- 01:00 Harley Davidson And The Marlboro Man
- 03:00 Mercy
- 05:00 Betrayed
- 07:00 S.W.A.T.
- 09:00 The Machine
- 11:00 Mega Shark vs. Mecha Shark
- 13:00 Close Range
- 15:00 S.W.A.T.
- 17:00 The Machine
- 19:00 Cradle 2 The Grave
- 20:45 Tomorrowland
- 23:00 Wanted

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

- 00:00 Lone Star Law
- 00:55 Gator Boys
- 01:50 Gator Boys
- 02:45 A Panda Is Born
- 03:40 Baby Panda's First Year
- 04:35 Giant Pandas Go Wild
- 05:25 Giant Pandas Go Wild
- 06:15 Earthquake: Panda Rescue
- 07:02 A Panda Is Born
- 07:49 River Monsters
- 08:36 Meet The Orangutans
- 09:00 Meet The Orangutans
- 09:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 10:15 Treehouse Masters
- 11:10 The Vet Life
- 12:05 Lone Star Law
- 13:00 Wild Animal Repo
- 13:55 Gorilla School
- 14:20 Going Ape
- 14:50 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 15:45 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 16:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 17:35 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 18:30 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 19:25 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
- 20:20 Treehouse Masters
- 21:15 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 22:10 The Vet Life
- 23:05 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet

**BBC FIRST**

- 00:40 Doctors
- 01:10 Eastenders
- 01:40 Poldark
- 02:35 Last Tango In Halifax
- 03:30 Sherlock

- 02:15 Tosh.0
- 02:40 Another Period
- 03:05 Chappelle's Show
- 03:30 Ugly Americans
- 04:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 04:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 05:15 Key And Peele
- 05:40 Impractical Jokers
- 06:05 Ridiculousness
- 06:30 Framework
- 07:20 Hungry Investors
- 08:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 09:05 Impractical Jokers
- 09:30 Ridiculousness
- 09:55 Tosh.0
- 10:20 Key And Peele
- 10:45 Workaholics
- 11:10 The It Crowd
- 11:35 Ridiculousness
- 12:00 Framework
- 12:50 Lip Sync Battle
- 13:15 Workaholics
- 13:40 The It Crowd
- 14:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 14:55 Ridiculousness
- 15:20 Framework
- 16:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show
- 16:35 Ridiculousness
- 17:00 Impractical Jokers
- 17:30 Workaholics
- 17:55 Tosh.0
- 18:25 Workaholics
- 18:50 Catch A Contractor
- 19:39 The It Crowd
- 20:03 Framework
- 20:50 The Jim Gaffigan Show
- 21:13 Key And Peele
- 21:37 Ridiculousness
- 22:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 22:30 The Half Hour
- 22:54 Eugene Mirman: An Evening Of Comedy

**Discovery Family**

- 00:15 What Happened Next?
- 00:40 The Carbonaro Effect
- 01:05 The Carbonaro Effect
- 01:30 Nextworld
- 02:20 Nextworld
- 03:10 Storm Chasers
- 04:00 Storm Chasers
- 04:50 Ultimate Survival
- 05:40 Ultimate Survival
- 06:30 Ultimate Survival
- 07:20 How It's Made
- 07:40 How It's Made
- 08:00 Doki

- 11:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 11:25 Bizaardvark
- 11:50 Liv And Maddie
- 12:15 Stuck In The Middle
- 12:40 The Return Of Jafar
- 13:55 The Suite Life On Deck
- 14:20 The Suite Life On Deck
- 14:45 The Suite Life On Deck
- 15:10 The Suite Life On Deck
- 15:35 The Suite Life On Deck
- 16:00 The Suite Life On Deck
- 16:25 Jessie
- 16:50 Jessie
- 17:15 Disney Cookabout
- 17:40 Austin & Ally
- 18:05 Descendants Wicked World
- 18:10 Elena Of Avalor
- 18:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 19:00 Gravity Falls
- 19:25 High School Musical 2 Singalong
- 21:00 Frozen: Magic Of The Northern Lights
- 21:05 Stuck In The Middle
- 21:30 Elena Of Avalor
- 21:55 Liv And Maddie
- 22:20 Best Friends Whenever
- 22:45 Austin & Ally
- 23:10 Mako Mermaids
- 23:35 Dog With A Blog

**Disney Junior**

- 00:00 The Lion Guard
- 00:30 The Lion Guard
- 00:55 PJ Masks
- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:35 The Hive
- 01:45 Loopdidoo
- 02:00 Henry Hugglemonster
- 02:15 Calimero
- 02:30 Art Attack
- 02:50 Zou
- 03:05 Loopdidoo
- 03:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:35 Calimero
- 03:50 Zou
- 04:05 Art Attack
- 04:30 The Hive
- 04:40 Loopdidoo
- 04:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:10 Art Attack
- 05:35 Loopdidoo
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:05 Art Attack
- 06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:45 Zou
- 07:00 Art Attack
- 07:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 07:45 Loopdidoo

- 21:35 The Liquidator
- 22:00 Mega Trains
- 22:50 Curiosity: X-Ray: Yellowstone
- 23:40 Legend Of Croc Gold

**Disney XD**

- 00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA
- 07:00 Supa Strikas
- 07:25 Supa Strikas
- 07:50 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution
- 08:15 Future-Worm!
- 08:40 Kirby Buckets
- 09:10 Mighty Med
- 09:35 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 10:00 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 10:25 K.C. Undercover
- 10:50 K.C. Undercover
- 11:20 Supa Strikas
- 11:45 Supa Strikas
- 12:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 13:00 The Jungle Book
- 13:30 Danger Mouse
- 14:45 Atomic Puppet
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Supa Strikas
- 15:40 Gravity Falls
- 16:05 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 16:30 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 16:55 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 17:25 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 17:50 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 18:15 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 18:40 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 19:35 The Jungle Book
- 21:05 Danger Mouse
- 21:20 Counterfeit Cat
- 21:45 Mighty Med
- 22:10 Pickle And Peanut
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 22:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution
- 23:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 23:35 Boyster

**EHD**

- 00:00 E! News
- 00:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 01:00 Hollywood & Football
- 01:55 Hollywood & Football
- 02:50 E! News
- 03:50 Botched By Nature
- 04:40 Botched By Nature
- 05:35 Botched By Nature
- 06:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 07:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 08:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 08:30 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 09:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 09:30 Kourtney & Khloe Take Miami
- 10:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 11:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 12:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 13:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
- 14:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
- 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 20:00 E! News
- 21:00 Mariah's World
- 22:00 Mariah's World
- 23:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian

**food network**

- 00:00 Man Fire Food
- 00:30 Man Fire Food
- 01:00 Restaurant Stakeout
- 02:00 Mystery Dinners
- 03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:00 Man Fire Food
- 04:30 Man Fire Food
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:00 Chopped
- 08:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 08:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 09:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:00 Siba's Table
- 10:30 Siba's Table
- 11:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 11:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 12:00 Man Fire Food
- 12:30 Man Fire Food
- 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics

- 15:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 16:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 16:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 17:00 Siba's Table
- 17:30 Siba's Table
- 18:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 18:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 19:00 Man Fire Food
- 19:30 Man Fire Food
- 20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 21:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 22:00 Private Chef
- 22:30 Private Chef
- 23:00 Chopped

**itv HD CHOICE**

- 00:05 Coronation Street
- 00:30 Coronation Street
- 00:55 Coronation Street
- 01:15 Coronation Street
- 01:35 Coronation Street
- 02:00 5 Star Family Reunion
- 02:45 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 03:15 Coronation Street
- 03:40 Coronation Street
- 04:05 Coronation Street
- 04:30 Coronation Street
- 04:55 Coronation Street
- 05:15 The Chase
- 06:05 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 07:00 5 Star Family Reunion
- 07:50 Surprise Surprise
- 08:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 09:35 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 10:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 11:25 Endeavour
- 12:55 Murdoch Mysteries
- 13:45 Murdoch Mysteries
- 14:40 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 15:10 Surprise Surprise
- 16:00 5 Star Family Reunion
- 16:55 Midsomer Murders
- 18:25 Jericho
- 19:15 The Chase
- 20:05 Surprise Surprise
- 21:00 5 Star Family Reunion
- 21:55 Murdoch Mysteries
- 22:45 Murdoch Mysteries
- 23:35 Midsomer Murders

**H2 HD**

- 00:00 Engineering Disasters
- 01:00 Engineering Disasters
- 02:00 Engineering Disasters
- 03:00 Engineering Disasters
- 04:00 Engineering Disasters
- 04:50 Engineering Disasters
- 05:40 Engineering Disasters
- 06:30 Engineering Disasters
- 07:20 Engineering Disasters
- 08:10 The Universe
- 09:00 Engineering Disasters
- 10:00 Engineering Disasters
- 11:00 Engineering Disasters
- 12:00 Engineering Disasters
- 13:00 Engineering Disasters
- 14:00 Engineering Disasters
- 15:00 Engineering Disasters
- 16:00 Engineering Disasters
- 17:00 Engineering Disasters
- 18:00 Engineering Disasters
- 19:00 Engineering Disasters
- 20:00 Monster Quest
- 21:00 Ancient Impossible
- 22:00 How 2 Win
- 23:00 Ancient Aliens

**H HD HISTORY**

- 01:20 Ice Road Truckers
- 02:10 Hunting Hitler
- 03:00 Counting Cars
- 03:25 Car Hunters
- 03:50 American Restoration
- 04:40 Leepu And Pitbull
- 05:30 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 06:00 Battle 360
- 07:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 07:50 Shipping Wars
- 08:15 Shipping Wars
- 08:40 Counting Cars
- 09:05 Counting Cars
- 09:30 Pawn Stars
- 09:55 Pawn Stars
- 10:20 Storage Wars
- 10:45 Storage Wars
- 11:10 American Pickers
- 12:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 12:50 Time Team
- 13:40 Swamp People
- 14:30 Ax Men
- 15:20 Mountain Men
- 16:10 Ice Road Truckers
- 17:00 Counting Cars
- 17:25 Counting Cars
- 17:50 Pawn Stars
- 18:15 Pawn Stars
- 18:40 America's Greatest Prison Breaks
- 20:20 Ax Men
- 21:10 American Pickers



**WHAT IF ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD**

- 22:00 Pawn Stars
- 22:25 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 22:50 Storage Wars
- 23:15 Storage Wars
- 23:40 Counting Cars
- 22:50 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
- 23:40 Swamp Men

**OSN MOVIES DRAMA**

- 00:00 The Hot Club
- 02:00 Standoff
- 04:00 Fading Gigolo
- 06:00 A Teacher's Obsession
- 08:00 The Beat Between My Feet
- 10:00 Stolen From Suburbia
- 12:00 Standoff
- 14:00 Breaking Through
- 16:00 The Better Angels
- 18:00 Stolen From Suburbia
- 20:00 Lullaby
- 22:00 We Gotta Get Out Of This Place

**OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**

- 00:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 01:30 Happy Endings
- 02:00 The Simpsons
- 03:00 Saturday Night Live
- 04:00 2 Broke Girls
- 04:30 Life In Pieces
- 05:00 The Bill Engvall Show
- 05:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 06:30 Trophy Wife
- 07:00 \$#! My Dad Says
- 07:30 The Bernie Mac Show
- 08:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 09:00 The Bill Engvall Show
- 09:30 Trophy Wife
- 10:00 2 Broke Girls
- 10:30 Playing House
- 11:00 Playing House
- 11:30 The Bernie Mac Show
- 12:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 13:00 \$#! My Dad Says
- 13:30 The Bill Engvall Show
- 14:00 Trophy Wife
- 14:30 The Bernie Mac Show
- 15:00 Life In Pieces
- 15:30 Playing House
- 16:30 Happy Endings
- 17:00 The Simpsons
- 17:30 \$#! My Dad Says
- 18:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 19:00 New Girl
- 19:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
- 20:00 The Last Man On Earth
- 20:30 The Mindy Project
- 21:00 The Goldbergs
- 21:30 The Goldbergs
- 22:00 The Simpsons
- 22:30 The Simpsons
- 23:00 Girls
- 23:30 Girls

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD**

- 00:20 Nazi Underground
- 01:10 Mega Factories
- 02:00 Air Crash Investigation
- 03:00 Inside Cocaine Wars
- 03:55 The Numbers Game
- 04:20 The Numbers Game
- 04:50 Beyond Magic With DMC
- 05:45 Ancient Secrets: China's Lost Pyramids
- 06:40 Continent 7: Antarctica
- 07:35 Reagan: The Assassination Attempt
- 08:30 Facing...
- 09:25 The War Generals
- 10:20 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
- 11:15 The Border
- 12:10 Locked Up Abroad
- 13:05 Live Free Or Die
- 14:00 Dog Whisperer
- 15:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
- 15:30 Desperate Hours
- 16:00 Sea Of Hope
- 17:00 Wicked Tuna
- 18:00 Explorer
- 19:00 The Real Saddam Hussein
- 20:00 Beyond Magic With DMC
- 21:00 Wicked Tuna
- 21:50 Explorer
- 22:40 The Real Saddam Hussein
- 23:30 Beyond Magic With DMC

**OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**

- 00:00 Inside Out
- 02:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
- 04:00 Zootropolis
- 06:00 Bonta
- 08:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
- 10:00 Inside Out
- 12:00 Zootropolis
- 14:00 Curious George
- 16:00 Hotel Transylvania 2
- 18:00 Storm Rider
- 20:00 Beyond The Mask
- 22:00 Little Man Tate

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

- 01:15 The Stanford Prison Experiment
- 03:15 Life After Beth
- 04:45 The Best Of Me
- 06:45 Marvel Super Hero Adventures: Frost Fight
- 08:15 Dad's Army
- 10:00 Miss You Already
- 12:00 The Best Of Me
- 14:00 The Grand Seduction
- 16:00 Krampus
- 17:45 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
- 20:00 Captive
- 22:00 Spy

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

- 01:00 Freaks Of Nature
- 03:00 The Invention Of Lying
- 05:00 What If
- 07:00 Accidental Love
- 09:00 How Do You Know
- 11:00 What If
- 13:00 The Invention Of Lying
- 15:00 Take Care
- 17:00 How Do You Know
- 19:00 The Out Of Towners
- 21:00 The Mexican
- 23:15 Top Five



**BETRAYED ON OSN MOVIES ACTION**

- 05:05 Doctors
- 05:35 Eastenders
- 06:05 Death In Paradise
- 07:00 Eastenders
- 07:30 Holby City
- 08:25 Death In Paradise
- 09:20 Stella
- 10:05 The Musketeers
- 11:00 Doctors
- 11:30 Eastenders
- 12:00 Death In Paradise
- 12:55 Stella
- 13:50 The Musketeers
- 14:45 Doctors
- 15:15 Eastenders
- 15:45 Death In Paradise
- 16:40 Stella
- 18:30 Doctors
- 19:00 Eastenders
- 19:30 Eastenders
- 20:00 Death In Paradise
- 21:00 One Of Us
- 22:00 Luther
- 23:00 Ripper Street
- 23:55 Silent Witness
- 08:25 Doki
- 08:50 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 09:15 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 09:40 How It's Made
- 10:05 How It's Made
- 10:30 How It's Made
- 10:55 How It's Made
- 11:20 How It's Made
- 11:45 How It's Made
- 12:10 How It's Made
- 12:35 How It's Made
- 13:00 How It's Made
- 13:25 How It's Made
- 13:50 Ultimate Survival
- 14:40 Ultimate Survival
- 15:30 Ultimate Survival
- 16:20 Ultimate Survival
- 17:10 Ultimate Survival
- 18:00 Nextworld
- 18:50 Nextworld
- 19:40 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
- 20:30 Wildest Africa
- 21:20 Bahama Blue
- 22:10 One Giant Leap
- 23:00 What Happened Next?
- 23:25 What Happened Next?
- 23:50 What Happened Next?
- 08:00 Zou
- 08:15 Calimero
- 08:30 Loopdidoo
- 08:45 Henry Hugglemonster
- 09:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 09:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 09:50 Goldie & Bear
- 10:15 Miles From Tomorrow
- 10:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:30 Doc McStuffins
- 12:00 The Lion Guard
- 12:30 Goldie & Bear
- 13:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 13:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 14:00 PJ Masks
- 14:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 14:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 15:20 Doc McStuffins
- 15:45 Sofia The First
- 16:10 Goldie & Bear
- 16:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 17:05 Doc McStuffins
- 17:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:00 The Lion Guard
- 18:25 PJ Masks
- 18:55 Doc McStuffins
- 19:20 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 19:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 20:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 The Lion Guard
- 21:30 The Lion Guard
- 22:00 Unbungalievable
- 22:05 Goldie & Bear
- 22:35 Miles From Tomorrow
- 23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 23:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 23:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons

**Disney Channel HD**

- 00:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:10 Hank Zipper
- 01:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:00 Violetta
- 02:45 The Hive
- 02:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:40 Hank Zipper
- 04:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 04:30 Violetta
- 05:15 The Hive
- 05:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 06:10 Hank Zipper
- 06:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 07:00 Violetta
- 07:45 The Hive
- 07:50 Mouk
- 08:00 Jessie
- 08:25 Jessie
- 08:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 08:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 09:20 Sunny Bunnies
- 09:25 Rolling To The Ronks
- 09:50 Frozen: Magic Of The Northern Lights
- 09:55 Jessie
- 10:20 Descendants Wicked World
- 10:25 Elena Of Avalor
- 10:50 Star Darlings
- 10:55 Girl Meets World

**Discovery Channel HD**

- 00:30 Gold Rush
- 01:20 Wheels That Fall
- 01:45 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 02:35 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 03:25 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 04:15 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 05:05 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 07:00 Deadliest Catch
- 07:50 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
- 08:40 Fast N' Loud
- 09:30 What On Earth?
- 10:20 The Liquidator
- 10:45 How Do They Do It?
- 11:10 How Do They Do It?
- 11:35 So You Think You'd Survive?
- 12:25 Legend Of Croc Gold
- 13:15 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
- 14:05 How Do They Do It?
- 14:30 The Liquidator
- 14:55 The Liquidator
- 15:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 16:10 What On Earth?
- 17:00 Deadliest Catch
- 17:50 Fast N' Loud
- 18:40 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
- 19:30 How Do They Do It?
- 19:55 How Do They Do It?
- 20:20 What On Earth?
- 21:10 The Liquidator



**CAPTIVE ON OSN MOVIES HD**

**COMEDY CENTRAL**

- 00:05 The Half Hour
- 00:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 01:00 Tosh.0
- 01:25 Tosh.0
- 01:50 Tosh.0



# CLASSIFIEDS



**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

**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) 18-1-2017

**Australian Embassy Kuwait**

**Job Vacancy**

**Administrative and Consular/Passports Assistant (LE3)**  
**Closing date for applications is 31 January 2017**

The Australian Embassy Kuwait is looking for an Administrative and Consular/Passports Assistant. The position provides a range of administrative office support services including consular and passport services for Australians living and travelling in Kuwait.

In addition to having excellent client liaison and organisational skills, the applicant should have experience in a similar service oriented environment with proficiency in Microsoft Office software applications and sound communication skills, with fluency in Arabic and English. The applicant should have a strong capacity to exercise discretion and judgement.

For the full position description, including salary and application requirements

Please visit the Australian Embassy website at [www.kuwait.embassy.gov.au](http://www.kuwait.embassy.gov.au)



**Government of Canada**

The Embassy of Canada in Kuwait seeks a full time

**Consular Assistant**

The applicants must speak English, French and Arabic and be legally residing in Kuwait.

Please consult our website

[www.kuwait.gc.ca](http://www.kuwait.gc.ca), for more information and instructions on how to apply prior to the closing date: 28 / 01 / 2017

Please note that only those chosen for further consideration will be contacted.

**REQUIRED FOR AN INDUSTRIAL COMPANY**

- ◆ Sales and marketing, B.Sc Chemistry, 5 years experience in cement factories, gypsum and lime. Fluent in English, Computer, Kuwait driving license, transferable visa.
- ◆ Quality Control Technician, B.Sc Industrial Chemistry, 5 years experience in Analyzing Chemicals and Minerale , English, Computer, transferable visa.
- ◆ Storekeeper, Diploma, 3 years experience, English, Computer, transferable visa.
- ◆ Loaders drivers, forklift, passengers buses, heavy duty driver's license, two years experience, transferable visa.
- ◆ Office boy, transferable visa.

Send CV to:  
**Email: jazirasys@yahoo.com**

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



SHARQIA-1	Time
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:30 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	2:30 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	4:30 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	6:30 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	8:30 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	10:30 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:30 AM

SHARQIA-2	Time
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	1:00 PM
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	3:00 PM
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	5:00 PM
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	7:00 PM
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	9:00 PM
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	11:00 PM
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	1:00 AM

SHARQIA-3	Time
BALLERINA	12:00 PM
DANGAL -Hindi	2:00 PM
BALLERINA	5:15 PM
THE GREAT WALL	7:15 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	9:30 PM

PATRIOTS DAY	Time
MUHALAB-1	11:45 AM
DANGAL -Hindi	3:00 PM
BALLERINA	5:00 PM
BALLERINA	2:00 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	4:00 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	7:00 PM
DANGAL -Hindi	9:45 PM
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	1:00 AM

MUHALAB-2	Time
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:00 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	2:00 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	4:00 PM
BALLERINA	4:00 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	6:00 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	8:00 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	10:00 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:05 AM

MUHALAB-3	Time
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	12:15 PM

xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	Time
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	2:15 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	10:15 PM
xxx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	12:15 AM

FANAR-1	Time
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	11:30 AM
BALLERINA	1:30 PM
BALLERINA	3:30 PM
BALLERINA	5:30 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	7:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	9:45 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	12:30 AM

FANAR-2	Time
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:45 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	2:45 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	4:45 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	6:45 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	8:45 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	10:45 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:45 AM

**REQUIRED**

**FOR A MANUFACTURING CO.**

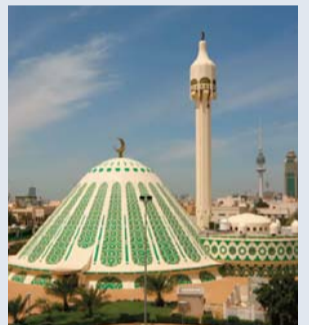
**ASSISTANT STORE KEEPER**

- THE CANDIDATE SHOULD BE BELOW 35 YEARS
- WITH MINIMUM 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- READ & WRITE ENGLISH WITH COMPUTER LITERATE

CONTACT NO. 24710120  
 OR SEND C.V TO FAX NO. 24761261

**PRAYER TIMINGS**

Fajr:	05:19
Shorook	06:42
Duhr:	12:00
Asr:	14:57
Maghrib:	17:17
Isha:	18:38



**Flight Schedule**

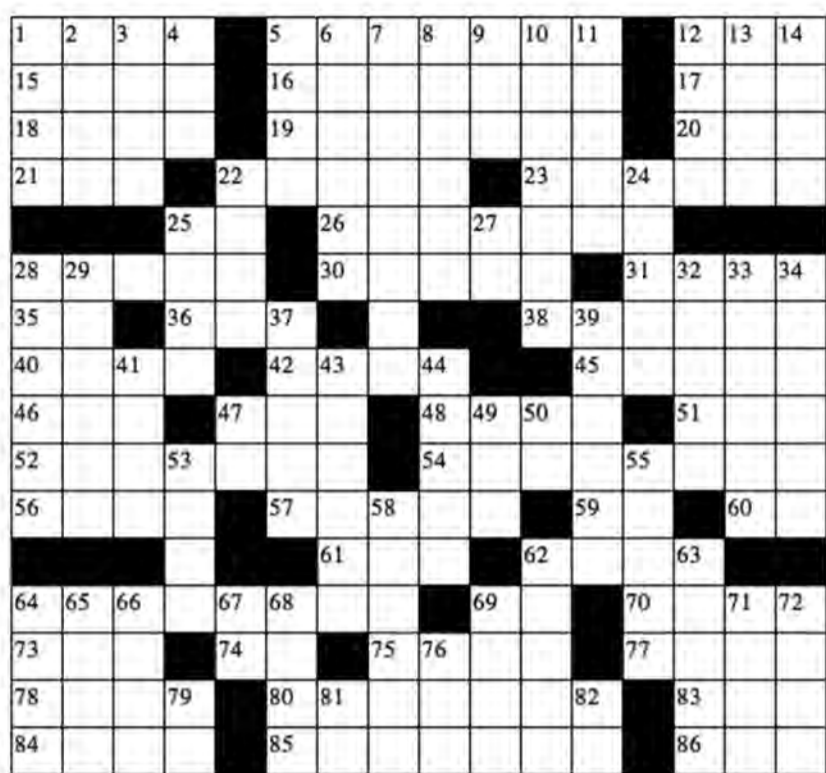
**Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)**

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Sunday 22/1/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 22/1/2017			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	1335	Al Najaf	00:30	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	155	Istanbul	13:50
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	102	London	00:55	FDB	076	Dubai	14:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KAC	742	Dammam	01:00	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	KAC	693	Muscat	14:30
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	561	Amman	15:00
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	JZR	554	Alexandria	16:10
KAC	412	Bangkok	02:50	KAC	1543	Cairo	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	357	Kochi	16:20
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
CEB	0018	Manila	03:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
KAC	358	Kochi	03:30	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	03:45	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	363	Colombo	17:40
PGT	4860	Istanbul	04:05	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KAC	514	Tehran	04:35	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
UAE	873	Dubai	04:55	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	KAC	353	BLR	18:15
QTR	8511	Doha	05:45	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	1541	Cairo	05:55	KAC	205	Islamabad	18:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:15
BAW	157	London	06:40	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	QTR	1081	Doha	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	KAC	383	Delhi	20:30
KAC	362	Colombo	09:05	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	20:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	QTR	1089	Doha	21:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	DLH	634	Doha	21:35
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	741	Dammam	21:45
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:05	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	351	Kochi	22:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:10
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05	KAC	413	Bangkok	22:15
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
KAC	618	Doha	12:45	JZR	502	Luxor	22:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:50	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
KAC	680	Dubai	12:55	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20



CROSSWORD 1498



ACROSS

- Little known Kamarupan languages.
  - A band around the crown of a hat just above the brim.
  - The residue that remains when something is burned.
  - Not widely known.
  - A large group of islands in the south Pacific including Melanesia and Micronesia and Polynesia (and sometimes Australasia and the Malay Archipelago).
  - Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
  - The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
  - The branch of medical science that treats disease or injury by operative procedures.
  - Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
  - The cry made by sheep.
  - Leave voluntarily.
  - Low spreading tropical American shrub with long slender leaves used to make a mildly stimulating drink resembling tea.
  - The main city of ancient Phoenicia.
  - A radioactive gaseous element formed by the disintegration of radium.
  - An artificial source of visible illumination.
  - Before noon.
  - Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
  - Pertaining to one of the small sacs (as in a compound gland).
  - Of or relating to or characteristic of the Republic of Chad or its people or language.
  - (criminal law) Money that must be forfeited by the bondsman if an accused person fails to appear in court for trial.
  - Lighted up by or as by fire or flame.
  - A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
  - At or constituting a border or edge.
  - An association of countries in the western hemisphere.
  - A member of a North American Plains people (now living in Oklahoma and Wyoming).
  - Something or someone that causes trouble.
  - A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
  - English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
  - The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
  - A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
  - Any of various units of capacity.
  - The highest waterfall in Canada.
  - A doctor's degree in music.
  - Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
  - A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
  - According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
  - Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
  - An island in Indonesia south of Borneo.
  - A Powhatan Indian woman (the daughter of Powhatan) who befriended the English at Jamestown and is said to have saved Captain John Smith's life (1595-1617).
  - (informal) Roused to anger.
  - Toward the mouth or oral region.
  - (architecture) Lacking columns or pillars.
  - A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- DOWN**
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
  - A small cake leavened with yeast.
  - Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
  - A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloid particles etc, except for certain white blood cells.
  - Socks and stockings and tights collectively (the British include underwear as hosiery).
  - Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade names Acular and Toradol) that is administered only intramuscularly.
  - Beef or chicken or seafood marinated in spicy soy sauce and grilled or broiled.
  - Capital and largest city of Iraq.
  - Used of a single unit or thing.
  - (Hinduism and Buddhism) The beatitude that transcends the cycle of reincarnation.
  - Israeli general and statesman (1915-1981).
  - Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
  - Singing jazz.
  - Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
  - Emblem usually consisting of a rectangular piece of cloth of distinctive design.
  - The civil and religious leader of a Muslim state.
  - (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
  - A radioactive metallic element that is similar to tellurium and bismuth.
  - A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
  - A negatively charged atom.
  - A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
  - Set in advance.
  - A unit of resistance equal to a billionth of an ohm.
  - Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy (100-44 BC).
  - (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
  - Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
  - United States tennis player (born in Czechoslovakia) who won several singles championships.
  - Informal terms for a mother.
  - Owed and payable immediately or on demand.
  - Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
  - A large indefinite number.
  - A unit of current equal to 10 amperes.
  - A power unit equal to the power dissipated when 1 ampere flows across a potential difference of 1 abvolt (one ten-thousandth of a milliwatt).
  - A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
  - Tropical tree of Central America and West Indies and Puerto Rico having spikes of white flowers.
  - (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
  - (Polynesian) An alcoholic drink made from the aromatic roots of the kava shrub.
  - A radioactive element of the actinide series.
  - God of love and erotic desire.
  - Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
  - Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
  - An informal term for a father.
  - A boat with a flat bottom for carrying heavy loads (especially on canals).
  - A public promotion of some product or service.
  - A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
  - A colorless and odorless inert gas.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is your lucky day. Do with it what you will, but do not overdo. Now that you are feeling more energetic, try to avoid stressful situations by getting outside and investing your day in some sort of discovery adventure. Perhaps you could take a trip to the zoo or, particularly if the weather is difficult, visit museums. If you have not experienced the public transit in your town, now might be a good time to make that discovery; who knows, you might find that this type of transportation would cut back on the amount that the family vehicle is used. The shortest path to nirvana is through your relationships. You surround yourself with friends this evening and have a great time. You have a good attitude and you are also a good mentor to young people.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may be a bit restless today. It may be difficult to find another person to chat with about your new ideas. An internet chat room might be fun or creating your own blog would be resourceful; in no time at all you could gain a focus for your thoughts. If you do not have internet access, try the library. The library will probably have internet and they will probably have shelves and shelves of ideas you could use for your next project, hobby or job. This is a great time to think about making some changes in your life. Life will be a lot more stimulating if you are willing to move yourself out of a rut. Talk to a friend about going with you to give blood, make dolls or learn how to create some useful item that might bring financial relief-a rewarding time.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Chatting with friends this morning gets your day off to a pleasant start as you communicate about your excitement for the events coming up today. Work and the joy of success mean a lot to you. You will constantly work to update and fine-tune your skills. You may find yourself involved in some competitive speaking-perhaps a speech, a presentation or a debate class before noon. Whether at work or at home, you are usually most persuasive with others; You are also happy to do favors for others. You teach young people to communicate with their positive strengths. This way, each person can be an influence and somehow help turn a negative situation into a positive one. A good conversation with those you love is possible. Home life is happy.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

It may be difficult to express yourself today, as there may be many distractions. You can rise above the interruptions by creating a few notes that will help guide you through your day. Your sense of value is strong and it may be a good time to consider after-holiday sales to purchase accessories for the house-throw rugs, pillows, pictures, sheets, towels, etc. If you take a family member or friend shopping with you this afternoon, you will be able to purchase the things that all the members of the household would appreciate. Perhaps the happiest and most rewarding events this month come because of your determination to help or take in others. Your position to help in a charitable organization is strengthened at this time; you are happy to have support.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

As you spend much of your time in advising or in guidance to young people, you may experience an inner healing for yourself at this time. Charitable activities will bring you monetary rewards and romantic opportunities. You will soon hear good news about the health of a loved one. Do not waste time trying to figure out who has responsibility for a particular job; just do what needs to be done. This is how you make progress these days. Relationships can be very passionate. Children and young people give you great pleasure. This time can be enjoyed with a young person with his or her needs: hobby, school project or just sharing time together to get to know each other. This evening a movie or new book will keep you totally occupied.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Do not underestimate yourself or your talents. Today, when someone asks if you would like to be in the talent show-give it some serious thought. This could involve a community, school or church charity function. Take a chance on your natural abilities; you will be pleasantly pleased. You will enjoy testing and stretching yourself to do something beyond the usual; perhaps to try out for a talent show or by writing a play. This afternoon, your friends may have you helping them. Perhaps someone is moving or expecting the arrival of some new equipment. This will all go rather well; later, everyone may want to pitch in for a pizza order. Tonight is good to catch up with your e-mail and chat on the internet; perhaps you will want to order a horoscope chart.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You have discovered a fun new way to get exercise. You go about implementing ideas; technologies that change the way people live all over the country are a major new focus in your life now. Ideas are also available for the expression of art. Take advantage of this weekend and plot out a plan for the next art project. You may even receive a big surprise on your first efforts of the year. Now is a time when your path of self-development and expression becomes more and more unusual-setting you apart from the crowd and from all that is traditional. The new, the advanced, the high-tech are the marks of your lifestyle as this part of your life is started. Your art reflects some unusual metaphysical visions. Use your art to express yourself more often.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Today and tomorrow are great times to begin a vacation. You could be in a hurry today and misplace a credit card or some other equivalent item. Canceling the card quickly in hopes that no one else uses it, then finding it later, is a frustration you may find. You may feel you have wasted your day going in different directions and lacking any result for your efforts. This will change, however, as your day moves along. Perhaps you are trying to cram too much into one day. If you are shopping later, you may have your patience tested. Your ideas and thoughts may lead to some way in which you could help the community. Don't keep these ideas to yourself! Get out there and make the difference you know you can make. Perhaps you could write an article.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have an appreciation for ideas and thoughts from others now. You and your family may experience dissatisfaction with what you have or find around you. This may cause everyone in your household to stop and think about the space and the school system and the closeness to work and the idea of enlarging or moving from the place where you live now. Family, home, relatives and real estate come into play when you create your plans. You do not want to leave people out of your life when you make your personal plans. You want to belong on a private, intimate, personal level, to be needed and to feel it is okay to have needs. Lots of thinking is needed now and, after you have a handle on your ideas, share them with love ones.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are finally able to see some positive successes with the changes you have slowly been making to your living area. Put your mind to work and take care of any details that you may have; mental discipline should come easily. You could discover your home is worth more than you thought previously. Problems and obstacles that have previously been confounding should find easy explanation under your keen examination. Friendships are strong-now is an excellent time to enjoy some time with your friends. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with all the people in your life-the lines of communication are open for whatever you want to impart or accomplish. Lovers, children and other people dear to you are emphasized now.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may be tired of feeling as though you were spinning your wheels, so to speak. You look for shortcuts, ways to simplify and stop having to rework a problem. In many cases, this process is not unusual, but today you may want to see the finished work without having to go back through the steps. There is some insight or feeling that now is the time for final decisions and completed projects. This afternoon you see an opportunity to use your expertise or knowledge to step up and help a friend, perhaps provide some sort of support. You have a lawyer type of mind and you appreciate what is fair. Although the evening is just for you, there are many times when you ask to be helpful; stop, relax and enjoy. You are all about encouragement.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

The universe, neighbors, family and kids all seem willing to move forward with a new project. The kids pick the type of brick or stonework, the neighbors decide on how tall the new cabana should be and the family puts in a pool for the spring coming-out parties. Landscaping conversations, the type-of-grill conversations and cheers for having already built a fence may call for a celebration. All agree to bring food on the times your family will want to have a pool party together with the neighbors. Things may seem almost magical in the way they work out. This is a great time to prepare and get your projects underway. You may be able to enjoy and value your circumstances today or feel especially kind towards a friend or loved one.

WORD SEARCH

Friendship

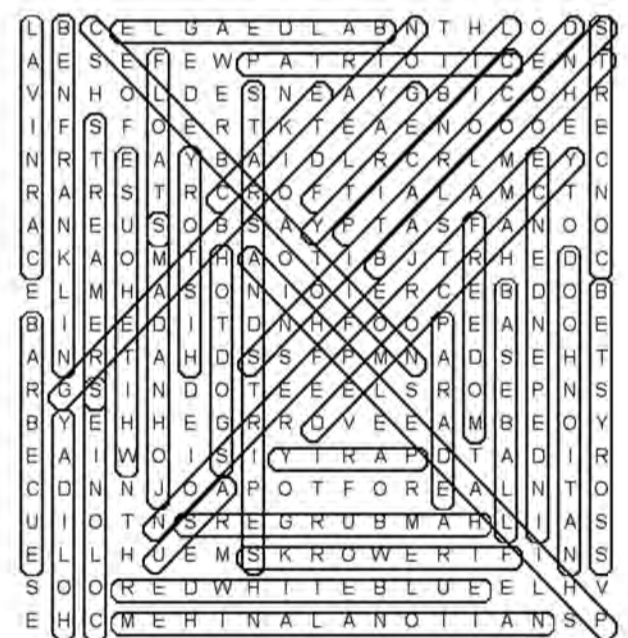
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word related to friendship.



- |              |              |            |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| ACQUAINTANCE | COMPANION    | HONESTY    |
| AFFECTION    | COMRADE      | KINSHIP    |
| AFFINITY     | CONFIDE      | LEND       |
| ALLY         | EMPATHY      | LOYALTY    |
| AMIGO        | FAVOR        | PAL        |
| AMITY        | FONDNESS     | ROOMMATE   |
| BOYFRIEND    | FRIENDLINESS | SHARE      |
| BUDDY        | FUN          | SUPPORTIVE |
| CHUM         | GIRLFRIEND   | SYMPATHY   |
| CLOSENESS    | GOOD TIMES   | TRUST      |

Yesterday Solution

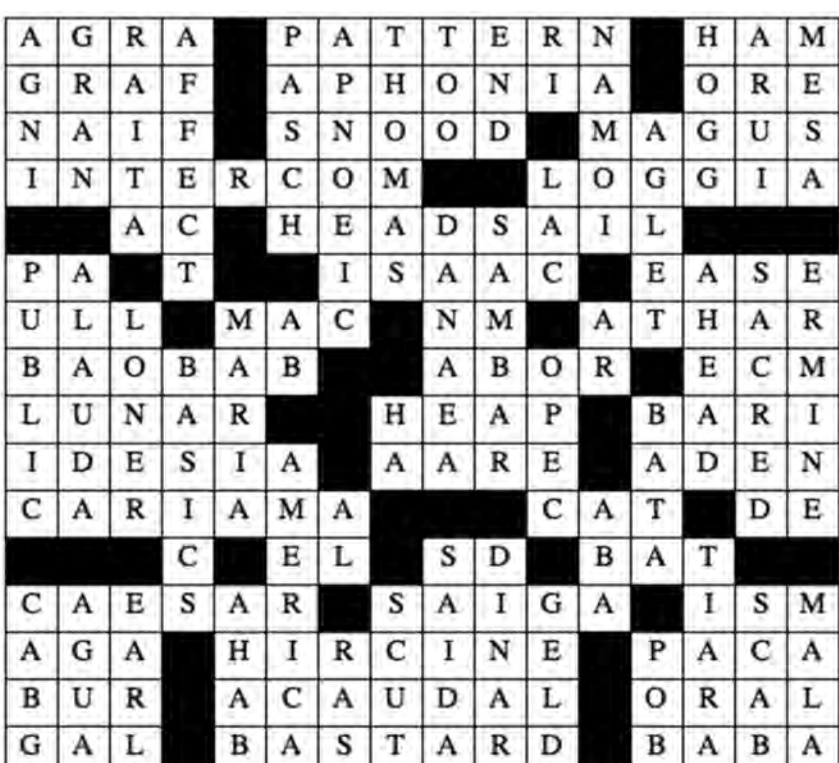
Fourth Of July



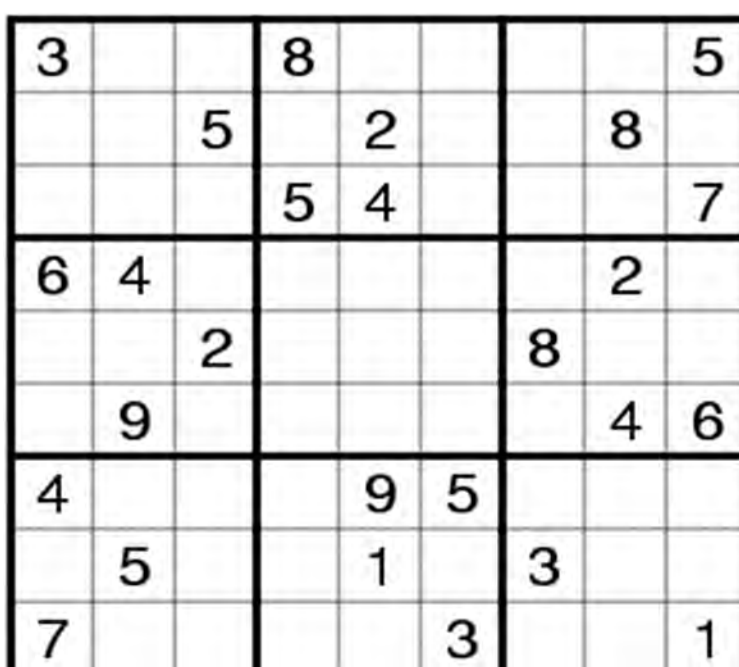
- |              |               |                 |                   |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| BALD EAGLE   | CONCERTS      | HOLIDAY         | PATRIOTIC         |
| BALLOONS     | DECORATIONS   | HOT DOGS        | PHILADELPHIA      |
| BARBECUE     | DEMOCRACY     | INDEPENDENCE    | PICNIC            |
| BASEBALL     | FIREWORKS     | JOHN ADAMS      | RED WHITE BLUE    |
| BEN FRANKLIN | FLAG          | LIBERTY         | STARS AND STRIPES |
| BETSY ROSS   | FLOATS        | NATIONAL ANTHEM | STREAMERS         |
| CAKE         | FREEDOM       | NATIONHOOD      | THOMAS JEFFERSON  |
| CARNIVAL     | GREAT BRITAIN | PARADE          | USA               |
| CELEBRATION  | HAMBURGERS    | PARTY           | WHITE HOUSE       |
| COLONIES     | HISTORY       |                 |                   |

The hidden quote is: THOSE WHO DENY FREEDOM TO OTHERS, DESERVE IT NOT FOR THEMSELVES!

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

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

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



### PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
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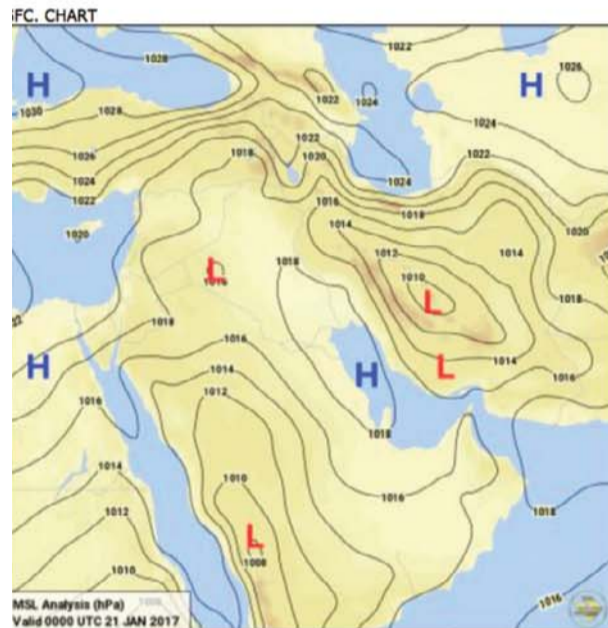


#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 21/01/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 20 °C

**Day** : Partly cloudy with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 6 - 26 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain  
**Night** : Partly cloudy with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 22 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain



#### Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain	sunny	sunny
Min Temp °C	08	07	06	07
Max Temp °C	18	17	18	19
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly to light variable
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 26	12 - 35	15 - 40	06 - 26

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

#### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

#### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	12		21	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	10		20	
ABDALY	08		21	
BUBYAN	10		20	
JAHRA	11		21	
FAILAKA ISLAND	11		20	
SALMIYAH	12		21	
AHMADI	13		18	
JAL ALIYAH	08		20	
QAROH ISLAND	15		19	
UMM AL-MARADEM	15		19	
NUWAISIB	10		21	
WAFRA	10		21	
MANAGISH	08		20	
SALMY	05		20	
MUTRIBA	07		21	

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	20
Min Temp (°C)	10
Max Rel Hum (%)	94
Min Rel Hum (%)	50
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:42
Sunset	17:17

#### Prayer Times

Fajr	05:19
Sunrise	06:42
Zuhr	11:59
Asr	14:57
Sunset	17:17
Isha	18:37

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



## PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr. Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisani	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr. Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisani	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR. Mohammed Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688 info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
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## Jennifer Lopez is head over heels for Drake

The 47-year-old star and the 30-year-old singer started dating late last year and friends say the romance is heating up. A source told Entertainment Tonight: "She's head over heels for Drake. It's a new relationship, but she really likes him. She's really into him." And Jennifer revealed the pair have been in the studio recording new music together. Asked about her new project with Drake at a 'Shades of Blue' TCA panel, she simply said: "He just asked me to do a song with him and that's what we've been doing. We'll see if it's on his next album." While Jennifer is now ready to get serious about Drake, she initially wanted to keep their romance "easy, light and fun" as she worried he was a "player." The insider said: "She has not been gushing about her new romance to friends or family, and instead has been trying to play it all cool. She wants to keep things between them easy, light and fun. "She knows

Drake is a bit of a player, so to help her avoid getting whipped on him, she is trying to take things slow and not put any pressure on him. The last thing Jennifer wants is for Drake to do something to make her look foolish or feel like she has been played." Jennifer has eight-year-old twins Emme and Max with her former husband Marc Anthony and recently revealed she felt extremely lucky to have "wonderful people" in her life. She said: "Nobody does anything alone. Even with the kids, it takes a village. But I just have wonderful people in my life. I have a lot of loving people, a lot of people that believe in me and believe in what we're doing together. They know the kids come first and everything else kind of falls in line after that, and we just take it one day at a time."

## Kim Kardashian West and Kanye West are back on track

Although the reality TV star and the rapper went through a rough patch after an eventful 2016 - in which Kim was held up at gunpoint and Kanye was rushed to hospital following a meltdown caused by sleep deprivation and exhaustion - the pair are looking ahead to their future. A source told E! News: "Kim is in a really great place right now. Kim and Kanye are very happy. "Kanye's kids are his number one priority for him and he wants to be a good dad and make his late mother proud. He thinks about her every day." Kim, 36, and Kanye - who married in 2014 - have daughter North, three and son Saint, 13 months, together. And Kanye, 39, is also keen to get back to work and finish his 'Saint Pablo' tour, which he axed after being admitted to hospital. The source said: "Kanye has a few surprise projects coming up that involves music and concerts in the spring and summer. Plus he is working on his fashion line and some collaborations." "Kanye wants to finish

the tour. He loves his show. He wants everyone in the world to see it." It was previously revealed that Kim and Kanye were working hard on their marriage. An insider said: "Kim and Kanye have to work at their marriage, just like any couple. Of course, there are some bumps in the road at times, but that's not unlike any other marriage. It takes work. They are definitely still together and more madly in love than ever. "Kim is slowly getting back to her normal routine. She finally feels ready to get back out in public, but she is doing it little by little. "Kanye is doing really well. He's living at home with Kim and the kids. He spends his days with the kids, and plays with them all day long. "He's still under medical care. He'll do everything and anything to make sure he's in tip-top shape for his family. That's his motivation to get out of any dark spot."



## Kristen Stewart slammed Donald Trump for being obsessed with her

Back in 2012, the now-President of the United States of America took to Twitter to share his views after Kristen cheated on her then-boyfriend Robert Pattinson and Kristen, 26, admitted she found the 70-year-old businessman's tweets bizarre. She said: "He was mad at me a couple years ago, really obsessed with me a couple years ago, which is crazy." "I can't even understand it. I literally cannot even understand it. It's such far-out concept that I don't want to believe that actually is happening. It's insane. "At that point, he was just, like, a reality star. I had no reference. It wasn't like really a thing. But in retrospect, somebody reminded me of that and I was like, 'Oh my gosh, you're right!' "He's probably, like, going to tweet about this." Some of Trump's tweets read: "Robert Pattinson should not take back Kristen Stewart. She cheated on him like a dog

and will do it again-just watch. He can do much better!" "Everyone knows I am right that Robert Pattinson should dump Kristen Stewart. In a couple of years, he will thank me. Be smart, Robert." "Lots of response to my Pattinson/reunion. She will cheat again--100 certain-am I ever wrong? "Robert Pattinson is putting on a good face for the release of Twilight. He took my advice on...I hope! "After Friday's Twilight release, I hope Robert Pattinson will not be seen in public with she will cheat on him again! (sic)." Despite his protestations, the 'Twilight Saga' co-stars did briefly reconcile, although they have since moved on. Kristen is currently dating Miley Cyrus' ex Stella Maxwell, while Robert, 30, is engaged to musician FKA Twigs.

## KHLOE KARDASHIAN IS FEELING TRAPPED BY HER REVENGE BODY

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star has shed an impressive 40lb and is showing off a highly-toned physique but she is now said to be worried that she won't be able to keep up her tough regime forever. A source said: "Khloe is starting to feel the pressure of keeping the weight off. "She's never had to work this hard in her life. She's really proud of what she's achieved but she's just not sure she can sustain that level of fitness." The idea of getting up and doing over 100 stomach crunches every morning for the rest of her life makes her feel physically ill. "She's always had huge body hang ups and promised herself she'd get rid of the 'chubby' label. "Getting in shape was her ultimate revenge on the people who ditched her - but where does she go from here? She wants her life back and is questioning if being thin is worth it." But the 32-year-old star is worried about how to backtrack after "body-shaming" her old self so publicly. The insider added to heat magazine: "Khloe's workouts are insanely tough. She does rower sprints, med-ball slams, sled pushes, back squats, endless stomach crunches, dumbbell lifting and lunges. "It takes everything out of her and doesn't feel sustainable. "What if she gets pregnant or suffers an injury? But now she's talked about her weight loss so much in interviews, and basically body-shamed her old self on social media, she's stuck. She feels really trapped."



## David Beckham came to the aid of an elderly woman in London

The 41-year-old retired soccer star was driving through Kensington in the English capital when he came across the woman who had fallen over and he stopped to offer his assistance. A spokesman for the London Fire Brigade said: "At around 16.45 a fire engine was flagged down to an elderly woman who had tripped when crossing the road and fell and hit her head. "David Beckham was parked nearby and had already given her a bottle of water. He assisted and when the ambulance arrived was thanked and told he could move on." Another woman, who also stopped to help the injured person, tweeted: "Was helping an old lady who fell over on my lunch break and guess who drives up to help? David Beckham. That's who. What a gentleman." Meanwhile, David and his wife Victoria do a lot of work for various charities and David previously revealed how proud he was that their son Cruz, 11, released his debut single 'If Every Day Was Christmas', in December, for charity. He said: "For us, we always want in our



children, we always hope they're listening to us or pay attention to us as parents, so we do a lot of work for charity for obviously UNICEF and my wife does for the UN. And Cruz came to us and said 'How about I do a Christmas song for charity? And all the proceeds go to charity.' There's nothing more to this than that at the moment.



## Katie Price was haunted by old aged pensioners

The 38-year-old star has revealed she was plagued by constant supernatural activity at one of her former homes and after becoming freaked out by the ghostly goings-on she decided to investigate the history of the property with the help of a team of

mediums. Katie was shocked to discover that the house had been built on the same site as a destroyed nursing home and the swimming pool, which had been the location where most of the disturbances occurred, had formerly been the holding area for the bodies of the elderly residents who had died. During her appearance on the panel of 'Loose Women' on Friday, she said: "I had a house that had memories. It was amazing but I couldn't understand why it had been up for sale for two years and no one had bought it. So I bought it and I had so many ghostly experiences there that I ended up having mediums come round and they told me what happened. "I ended up finding out it had been built on a nursing home which had been knocked down. The orangery where the swimming pool was I found out was where they put the bodies and stuff. So many things happened there, with water and other stuff." Katie currently lives in a nine-bedroom mansion on a farm in Surrey, South East England, with her husband Kieran Hayler, their two children Jett, three, Bunny, two, and three other kids, Harvey, 14, Junior, 11, and Princess, nine, from previous relationships. And she had that property cleared of specters after her kids complained that had seen unusual figures at night.



## Britney Spears' father is buying her Louisiana estate

The 35-year-old singer has petitioned to have the 39 acre land parcel in Tangipahoa Parish transferred to her dad Jamie - who has been in charge of her affairs since she suffered a highly-publicized breakdown in 2008 - and he will pay \$59,688.18 for it. According to RadarOnline.com, attorney Andrew Wallet - who acts as Britney's co-conservator alongside Jamie - wrote in documents: "The sale of the Property to Mr. Spears for not less than fair market value is in the best interest of the Conservatorship Estate and would prevent the Estate from otherwise suffering a large loss on the sale." A hearing to discuss the request will be heard in Los Angeles Superior Court on Jan 30. It was previously claimed Britney - who has sons Sean Preston, 11, and Jayden, 10, with ex-husband Kevin Federline - could remain under a conservatorship indefinitely

as all parties are happy with the agreement and the 'Toxic' singer has "substantial day-to-day freedom to make her own decisions." Meanwhile, Britney's friends and family are said to be worried she is "moving too fast" in her new relationship with 22-year-old Sam Asghari, who she met on the set of her 'Slumber Party' music video. A source said: "Britney has been thrown off-balance by Sam, the hot new guy in her life. Her friends and family have been trying to warn her that she is moving too fast. "Those close to Britney are warning her that Sam may not be the best match for a star of her caliber. They are urging Britney to slow down with Sam, even though Britney is way into him and friends fear she trusts him maybe way more than she should."



FEATURES



### Vin Diesel calls fatherhood the craziest stunt he ever did

The 49-year-old actor has daughters Simlice, eight and Pauline, 22 months, along with son Vincent, six, with long-time love Paloma Jimenez, and said that being a dad is the biggest adventure he has ever had. Speaking to Entertainment Tonight, the action star said: "The craziest stunt I ever did? Fatherhood." He also went on to praise his partner Paloma, saying: "She's everything. She's the perfect mother. She's just so wonderful in so many ways. She's so stunningly beautiful, but the thing people don't realize is she's my rock, so she's so stunningly beautiful on the inside." Vin previously revealed his late co-star Paul Walker - who he named Pauline after - was instrumental in encouraging him to start a family. He said: "He must've been God-sent because he put me on the

right path. He set me up. And when we did the first 'Fast & Furious', I was already 30 years old or something, but he was a father. "When we were in the cars in between takes, he would tell me, 'Hey, Vin, it's not a scary thing to become a father' [and] give me all the good advice. Next thing I know, I am a dad ... [He] is why I named my daughter Pauline because of the credit that Paul Walker deserves in my personal life. "Paul was very instrumental in my segue into fatherhood. He was the one that told me to go to the hospital. "He's the one that told me to cut the umbilical cord. He told me to cut the umbilical cord! [He was] the only person, in California, that knew I was about to have a child."

### JK Rowling ruled out a Harry Potter and the Cursed Child movie trilogy

Although it was recently speculated that the author was planning to turn her London stage show - which is set 19 years after the events of the final 'Harry Potter' film - into a movie franchise, she took to Twitter to insist it will not happen. Tweeting on Friday, she wrote: "I know a lot of people are looking for reasons to be cheerful today, but there is NO TRUTH to the rumor about a #CursedChild movie trilogy (sic)." However, theme park journalist and historian Jim Hill, who first revealed speculation about the trilogy, insisted that he has sources at Warner Bros, who are considering the movies. In a series of tweets, he wrote: "I have great respect for J.K. Rowling. So I'm not going to dispute what she posted earlier today. But my source on his story is on the Warner Bros. side of the fence. And (though I'm not looking to stir up a hornet's nest here) WB doesn't always keep JK in the loop when it comes to things that it's thinking

of doing with the Harry Potter franchise. "Case in point: The 'Fantastic Beast' films. Lionel Wigram (i.e., the producer of the first four Harry Potter movies who then went on to executive produce the final four) was the guy who originally came up with the idea of building a movie around Newt Scamander back in 2011 after "Deathly Hallows - Part II" was released. Warner Bros then pitched this idea to Rowling, who then went off and wrote the "Fantastic Beasts" screenplay. "If you don't believe me, you can actually read about this in the official making-of book, "Inside the Magic: The Making of Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them." Again, I don't mean to dispute what Jo posted (I've been a fan of the Potter books and films for almost 2 decades now). But there are two sides to this story."



### Jennifer Aniston is desperate to make a return to TV

The 47-year-old screen beauty is best known for playing the role of Rachel Green in global hit sitcom 'Friends' but since the series ended in May 2004 she has been almost exclusively working on films and has become a much in-demand comedy actress with roles in movies such as 'Horrible Bosses', 'We're the Millers' and most recently 'Office Christmas Party'. After 13 years of the big screen, Jennifer is eager to return to the small screen and be a part of some "wonderful stories." Speaking about future career, she said: "I've thought about it a lot. That's where the work is. That's where the quality is. At this point in my career, I want to be part of wonderful stories, exciting characters, and also just having a good time. Anywhere would be a wonderful place. Netflix, Amazon - everything you're seeing on television is fantastic "It's almost like there's not much of a difference." As she has gotten older, Jennifer can't believe how quickly time flies and she is determined to make the most of every moment. She explained: "When you're in your 20s, going away from home was an adventure. Meeting new people - seeing other parts of the country or world - was so exciting. Now it's really about wanting to stay closer to home and just enjoying your time. It goes really fast. The experience needs to be a good experience. I have no time for the yelling, angry directors or bad behavior anymore." And Jennifer - who married actor-and-screenwriter Justin Theroux, 45, in 2015 - has admitted she is keen to embark on more projects where she will be behind the camera because she enjoys being part of a project "from the seed of it".



### Iconic SS'17 collection launch

Captivate in chic separates and flowing silhouettes with bohemian undertones. The look is inspired by the 70's smart boho trend with the classic shapes taking center stage in a clean and streamlined casual line with offbeat pairing. Making you believe in the power of a woman to change attitudes and life and ultimately the world around her. Can't go wrong with tapestry, jacquard, and cotton and patterned knit. Decorate paisley, paisley mixes with oversized checks, and ditsy medley inspired print are some such details that create that statement. Key colors this Spring include astral aura, radiant caviar, nude and evening sand while key pieces include color block lace jumpsuit, lace tie-up blouse, applique sweat top and match the set top with cropped culottes.

The collection Stately Nomads inspired by the nomadic traveler collecting beloved pieces from their travels and mixing them in offbeat pairings to create a Soft tailoring look with continuation of minimalist dressing. This trend is a modern line that reflects the style sensibilities of the urban women. An interesting element to the collection is the presence of prints that draws essence from the world travels. Key colors from this collection are burnt brick, caviar, nude and evening sand while key pieces include color block lace jumpsuit, lace tie-up blouse, applique sweat top and match the set top with cropped culottes.

The collection Wayfarers Mix is all about clean lines, simple cuts and a soft, slightly oversized silhouette lend easy structure to the looks. A juxtaposition of stripes and floral mixes adds newness and a fresh, contemporary attitude, while loose, easy silhouettes create an effortless yet elegant look. Key colors from this collection are paradise pink, evergreen and egret while Key Pieces are embroidered sweat dress, long shirt and printed shirt dress. The collection Fearless Romance consists of dresses which accentuate the female form, while contrasting textures on ladylike ensembles lend an eccentric ambience to this look.

Both pretty and daring this collection is laced with bursting blooms with fresh aesthetics of colors and lavish embroi-

deries. Key colors include bubblegum pink, pale blue, cream and egret while the Key Pieces are patterned blouse, ruffle maxi dress and applique pencil skirt. The men's collection consists of Havana Spice, Tokyo Calling and Modern Nautical. Havana Spice is a casual daywear look is inspired by the faded grandeur of old Havana and a relaxed Cuban lifestyle with a strong tropical inspiration for prints and easy utility. Endless Summer afternoons, perhaps playing chess in street-side cafe's offer direction for light and casual 50's tailoring.

Fabrics are textured and washed for comfortable and easy-to-wear outfits. Key pieces include field jacket, knit resort shirt and tropical printed Polo's while key colors are olive, white, berry and washed navy blue for a strong rustic essence. The Perennial trend freshens up with neat designs to update your maritime style with a modern twist incorporating monochrome contrasts and simple accent colors with the Modern Nautical collection. The styling has a casual sports hybrid feel with stark graphics. Stripes are blocked and laid on more into fresh white bases for maximum sporty effect.

Jackets and outerwear are with more technical details. Key pieces include graphic short sleeve sweatshirts, blocked striped and graphic tees, sporty baseball jacket, white trucker and white pants while key colors are the quintessential white, navy blue and red. Tokyo Calling, this minimal, sports-luxe story is inspired by the spare aesthetic of Japanese Zen. Hi-tech and clean-finish fabrics bring a contemporary element to this casual and easy-wear look. Abstract nature landscape prints and a clean color palette offer a casual yet sophisticated feel which can be taken from the Campus to the lounge in evening. Key pieces include technical fabric hoodie, neoprene coat, ottoman crew neck sweats, lounge hoodie and joggers sets. Key colors are textured tones of greys, ivory, taupe and petrol blue. Head over to ICONIC and shop the latest spring summer collection available at the Avenues Mall, Level 1, Salam Mall in Salmiya and Sama Mall.





FEATURES

# Adele to return to Grammys after snafu

Adele will sing at this year's Grammy Awards, the Recording Academy announced Friday, offering her a chance at redemption a year after her set went musically awry. The chart-topping English balladeer will perform a song at the televised Feb 12 gala in Los Angeles, joining the ranks of the previously announced John Legend and Metallica. Last year at the Grammys, a microphone fell on the strings of the piano as she sang "All I Ask" off her blockbuster album "25." The sound briefly went out and Adele's voice drifted out of tune during the rest of the song.

The Recording Academy, which organizes the music industry's premier awards night, took responsibility for the snafu. Adele made light of the situation, telling fans on Twitter that she sulked by indulging in a burger from California's popular In-N-Out chain. Adele, one of the top-selling artists of the 21st century, has previously won 10 Grammys. She is in the running for five awards this year including in three of the most prestigious categories, although she trails in overall nominations with Beyonce in the lead. — AFP



## Sons and daughters of stars are fashion's new royalty

They are fashion's new celebrity aristocracy, the sons and daughters of stars who are themselves becoming the kings and queens of the catwalk shows. From Lily-Rose Depp and Will Smith's daughter Willow—the faces of Chanel to the Beckham boys and Sylvester Stallone's two daughters modeling for Dolce & Gabbana, celebrity offspring are luxury labels' new not-so-secret weapon. With their huge followings on social media and instant name-recognition, these millennial born in the limelight have become the perfect avatars for advertising campaigns. British actor Jude Law's daughter Iris is the new face of Burberry having followed her brother Rafferty in modeling, while the daughters of singer Lionel Richie, Cindy Crawford and even Bob Dylan's grandson have all embarked on catwalk careers.

Michael Jackson's daughter Paris turned up in the French capital this week for a photo shoot, adding her name to a bulging celebrity model roll call that includes the daughter of Oasis singer Noel Gallagher, the son of Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Day-Lewis, the daughter of Nastassja Kinski and Quincy Jones, and the sons of Sean Penn and Pierce Brosnan. The list is endless and seemingly inexhaustible, with marketing experts maintaining that young consumers cannot get enough of celebrity dynasties. You just have to look at the Kardashians, said Gachoucha Kretz, professor of fashion marketing at the HEC business school in Paris, to see how the model works.

### Kardashian effect

They have converted their reality television fame into fashion hard currency, with Kim Kardashian and her half sister Kendall Jenner now established stars of the firmament, their every wardrobe choice scrutinized on social media. Brands hope to piggyback on "the popular fascination with these tribes and families", Kretz said. With no problem about name recognition "there is much less marketing to do", she added. "The associations are already created." With their Instagram and Twitter endorsements of their favored brands, they become the ultimate "influencers" to help push demand.

Aged only 17, Brooklyn Beckham has nine million followers on Instagram. After two years as a model he has branched out into fashion photography, shooting an advertising campaign for Burberry this summer that made headlines around the world. Even fashion's biggest players are happy to play along with the family fame game. Chanel's Karl Lagerfeld, for instance, has been an enthusiastic nepotist, hiring Depp, Smith and Jenner, and taking former supermodel Ines de la Fressange's daughter Violette d'Urso as his muse.

### Self-replicating elite

"The tabloids and celebrity magazines love these famous families and that assures media coverage," said Aurore Gorius, co-author of a French book "Sons and Daughters of...". The 2015 book casts a critical eye on the public's fascination with this "phenomenon of elites reproducing themselves and blocking social mobility. "These children have grown up under the eyes of the media and we are curious what will become of them," she said. Trends expert Cecile Poinant, who teaches at the New School Parsons Paris, said there has been a gradual push toward the "starification of childhood" over the last 15 years. She said it began with photographer Annie Leibovitz's famous front cover of a naked Demi Moore pregnant for Vanity Fair magazine.

"For a lot of models and celebrities, the child has become something of a fashion accessory, a must have," Poinant said. But could the omnipresence of celebrity offspring now finally lead to a backlash. Fashion student Marie Richaud said she found it irksome that their fame "is not based on merit but family links. It excludes." Even so the 25-year-old follows several second generation celebs on Instagram even if "she doesn't identify with them." "These children who seems to have had it all give people something to dream about. But at the same time they can just as easily annoy," said Poinant. "Do any of them have any talent or is their name enough (to succeed)? We will have to wait and see," she added. — AFP



# Paris fashion takes on the great men's suit conundrum



French fashion designer Haider Ackermann, acknowledges the public at the end of the year Berlutti show during men's Fashion Week for the Fall/Winter 2017/2018 collection in Paris. — AFP photos

Do suits suit us anymore? Designers wrestled with how to reinvent the boring old jacket and pants combo for skate-kid millennial at the Paris menswear shows Friday. With everyone wondering if Haider Ackermann would take his scissors to the classic lines of Berlutti in his debut show for the Italian brand, much brainpower is being expended on trying to make the classic two-piece relevant. Purists need not panic, not as far as Ackermann is concerned in any case. The Colombian-born designer's first Berlutti collection was exquisite, a symphony in velvet, suede and cord, classic yet right on the button of cool.

His suits of often subtly contrasting browns and blacks were paired with coats in rich reds, blues and gold and woolly halo collars. Trousers-as has often happened this week—stopped at the ankle over Berlutti's trademark Chelsea boots. The celebrity-studded audience included the British actress Tilda Swinton, a longtime fan of the 45-year-old creator, whose show earlier in the week for his own label was adored by critics. Cerruti turned the clock back to the 1930s in its search to find the roots of the suit. The result was a show that was lock, stock and two smoking barrels of gangster chic which channeled both Al Capone and "Goodfellas" influences from the 1950s.

Wide fur-collared coats were matched with Homburg hats and three-pieces suits for the capos and shirts, braces and "Peaky Blinders" style Irish caps for the foot soldiers. For all its mobster vibe it had none of the simmering menace of Australian Justin O'Shea's failed attempt last year to make over Brioni in his own image with gangsterish silk shirts and full-length chinchilla coats. Margiela too eschewed cheap machismo in its collection inspired by the American Beat poets Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. Its two suits were unadorned, simply cut showing the man within rather than trying to put on a show.

### Nice skirt, sir

Masanori Morikawa of Christian Dada went for a bigger statement with his rethought pinstripe suits, contrasting them with sweatshirts emblazoned with slogans like "Loser" and what seemed to be "I Don't Like the Drugs But the Drugs Like Me." Another Japanese brand, Commes Des Garçons, went unisex, turning the conventional jacket and trousers combo into jacket and skirt or jacket and culottes. Yohji Yamamoto deconstructed the waist coated three-piece suit with traditional Japanese layering's, which although hugely comfortable looking, may take some convincing for the average businessman to wear.

Pinstripes had made a tentative comeback earlier in the week in Ackermann's own label show and in the debut Icosae collection by young Parisian brothers Valentin and Florentin Glemarec. Sebastien Meunier at Ann Demeulemeester, however, went for outright romanticism, skipping back two centuries to the poets and dreamers of the early 19th century and their trailing black greatcoats. These were the kind of dashing gothic get-ups that Byron and Shelley would have given a finger or two on their writing hands for. His see-through lacey greatshirts with high collars or ruff necks and hats plumed with feathers were an ode to dreamier days, ribbons trailing down to long baggy trousers.

Setting it all to Roxy Music's doomed love song "A Song for Europe"—"Here I sit at this empty cafe, thinking of you..."—was a stroke of genius. "Romanticism is the DNA of this brand and we tried to keep it very strong," Meunier later said. "The show tells the story of a beautiful dandy who is in love," saying he used male and female models—the dominant trend in this year's menswear shows—"because love is the same for us all." — AFP



Models present creations by Berlutti during men's fashion week for the Fall/Winter 2017/2018 collection in Paris.





President Donald Trump, left, dances with Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Catherine Cartmell as First Lady Melania Trump is spun by Army Staff Sgt. Jose A. Medina during a dance at The Salute To Our Armed Services Inaugural Ball in Washington.



President Donald Trump kisses First Lady Melania Trump as they dance at The Salute To Our Armed Services Inaugural Ball in Washington.

# Trump feted by Tony Orlando, Jackie Evancho at inauguration

Donald and Melania Trump were feted at their inaugural balls by the Rockettes and by singer Tony Orlando, who sang his famous "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree." Meanwhile, earlier in the day, it was 16-year-old singer Jackie Evancho who had the spotlight, singing the national anthem in a soft, solemn voice. "Great job, Jackie!" the new president called out. In the evening, Trump and his wife first hit the Liberty Ball, where the new president told the crowd how much he had enjoyed his first day as commander in chief.

"People that weren't so nice to me were saying that we did a really good job today," he said. "It's like God was looking down on us." The couple danced to "My Way," joined by Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Susan, as well as Trump family members. "My Way" was also the couple's song of choice at the next stop, the Freedom Ball, where Trump asked the crowd playfully whether he should "keep the Twitter going?" The crowd roared in apparent approval.

Trump, who was given a second, POTUS Twitter account on Friday, said his all-hours tweeting to his more than 20 million followers is "a way of bypassing dishonest media." Melania Trump stood by his side in an elegant ivory column gown reportedly designed by Herve Pierre, former creative director of Carolina Herrera. "Now," the president added, "the fun begins." At

the Trumps' final stop, the "Salute to Our Armed Services Ball," the evening began with a solemn prayer and a moment of silence in honor of soldiers killed in the line of duty.

### The arts, an easy target

Tony Orlando was introduced to the crowd as "America's most loved and enduring entertainer." When Texas musician Josh Weathers took the stage, on the other hand, he quipped: "I know that nobody in this room knows who I am." Upon arrival, the Trumps danced to "I Will Always Love You," with Mrs. Trump singing along and smiling. The couple then separated to dance with service members. Mrs. Trump also spoke, delighting the crowd when she told them: "I'm honored to be your first lady. We will fight, we will win, and we will make America great again."

Not all the entertainment Friday night was in celebration of the new president. The Grammy-winning group Blues Traveler headlined the quadrennial gala thrown by the Creative Coalition, a nonpartisan advocacy group for the arts. TV actors like Tim Daly, Christina Hendricks and Cheryl Hines spoke of the urgent need to keep pushing for arts funding. "The arts is an easy target," said Dean Norris, who played DEA agent Hank Schrader on "Breaking Bad." "Some people think it's an extra. We think it's more essential than the politicians feel."

Earlier in the day, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir sang "America the Beautiful" at Trump's swearing-in ceremony, and the Missouri State University Chorale sang "Now We Belong." It was a ceremony that featured decidedly less star power than in 2013. At President Barack Obama's second inauguration, Beyonce sang the anthem, James Taylor sang "America the Beautiful," and Kelly Clarkson sang a powerful "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." The various inauguration performances have become a hotly debated topic and have reflected the obvious divisions in the country following the election of Trump, who is deeply unpopular in Hollywood.

A number of top artists declined the opportunity to perform, and Broadway singer Jennifer Holliday even said she'd received death threats before she pulled out of her scheduled appearance. On Saturday, artists Janelle Monae and Maxwell were scheduled to perform at the Women's March on Washington. Also slated to attend were Katy Perry, Julianne Moore, Scarlett Johansson, Amy Schumer and Cher. — AP



Tony Orlando performs at The Salute To Our Armed Services Inaugural Ball, Friday in Washington.



The Rockettes perform at the Freedom Ball in Washington, at the Washington Convention Center during the 58th presidential inauguration. — AP photos



Singer Jackie Evancho arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington, for the presidential inauguration of Donald Trump.





# Lifestyle

Trump feted by  
Tony Orlando, Jackie Evancho  
at inauguration

# 39

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017



US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump dance at the Armed Forces ball at the National Building museum following Donald Trump's inauguration as the 45th President of the United States in Washington on Friday. — AFP

## Melania Trump stuns in First Lady fashion stakes

First Lady Melania Trump stunned fashion watchers by donning a sleek, off-the-shoulder cream dress with a daring thigh-high slit to dance with President Donald Trump at the inaugural balls. Her column dress, finished with a sculpted ruffle that cascaded down the front of the gown and cinched at the waist with a red ribbon, won praise for being fresh, modern, elegant and yet understated. She won rave reviews for her look and originality in choosing in Herve Pierre a New York-based designer who last year struck out on his own after working as creative director for famed label Carolina Herrera.

Her pick is likely to boost sales and publicity for the relatively unknown Pierre, much like her predecessor Michelle Obama's selection of the then relatively unknown Jason Wu in 2009 turned him into a star. The 46-year-old former model glowed as she stepped onto the dance floor, her auburn hair hanging around her shoulders, with her husband, dressed in a black tie, to "My Way" the song made popular by Frank Sinatra and considered something of a personal anthem for Trump.

The couple swayed rather gingerly, the Republican

president clutching his wife tightly by one hand and placing his other on her back as they nuzzled, and exchanged smiles and laughs. The former reality TV star, who reportedly refused to practice the dance ahead of time, at times broke away from his wife to wave or flash a thumbs up to unidentified members of the crowd. They were joined by Trump's adult children from his two previous marriages, each dancing with their other halves, and first daughter Ivanka stunning in a pink bead-encrusted princess Herrera gown.

### Channeling Jackie O in Ralph Lauren

Women's Wear Daily, quoting Pierre, said Trump collaborated on the gown. He said it had been an honor to dress her "under my name" after dressing first ladies Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush and Michelle Obama while working for Oscar de la Renta and Carolina Herrera, it said. The new first lady's sartorial picks for the inauguration went some way to silencing critics who have complained in the past that she favored high-end European clothes rather than American creations.

Earlier in the day she donned a custom-made power

blue suit from US fashion royalty Ralph Lauren for her husband's swearing-in ceremony. Her cashmere turtleneck dress fell to her knee, paired with a cropped bolero jacket and matching suede gloves. The Slovenian-born first lady wore her hair swept up, showcasing diamond stud earrings. It was a look that channeled her 1960s predecessor Jackie Kennedy, of whom she has spoken admiringly, the wife of slain Democratic president John F. Kennedy and considered one of the most stylish first ladies.

Lauren, a 77-year-old master who personifies a rags-to-riches American dream is perhaps the country's most iconic living designer, whose clothes define a uniquely American sense of elegance. His decision to work with the new first lady comes after a string of other designers refused to dress her, citing opposition to her husband's controversial policies on immigration and campaign insults. An American first lady's clothes have become hugely influential, believed to send implicit messages about the tone of their husbands' administrations.

### Old fashioned feel

Both Melania Trump's outfits on Friday are likely to go on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History along with first lady inaugural wear dating back to Mamie Eisenhower. Obama was particularly praised for her savvy blend of accessible high street clothes with striking high-end pieces that championed a host of little known designers. As the wife of a billionaire, it remains unclear whether Trump will follow Obama's example and include cheaper outfits in her wardrobe.

She will also have to work hard to keep up with 35-year-old Ivanka, who unlike Melania is moving straight to Washington with her husband, Jared Kushner, an incoming White House advisor. Tickets to the official balls went for \$50 a head, which the Trump team said was designed to make them accessible to the ordinary voters who helped propel Trump into the White House, electrified by his populist, message that has nonetheless alarmed vast swaths of America.

The three official balls, the grand finale to inauguration day, served up a slice of old fashioned glamour with performances from the likes of the Rockettes, Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance and Sam Moore. Aged 70 and the oldest man ever sworn in as US president, and the first to have never previously held elected or military office, Trump and his family took to the dance floor at all three. The choice of "My Way," a song made globally famous by Sinatra in 1969 is synonymous with Trump's hometown New York and is own tear-up-the rule book approach to politics that ended in his widely unexpected election. — AFP



Melania Trump, the wife of President Donald Trump, leaves the President's Room of the Senate, at the Capitol in Washington, after President Trump signed his first legislation.

