SUBSCRIPTION

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# Tillerson arrives in Kuwait in bid to defuse Gulf crisis

## Top US diplomat meets Amir • Terror finance monitoring mulled

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KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson yesterday. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrived yesterday in Kuwait, the key mediator between Qatar and its Arab neighbors, for talks aimed at defusing the Gulf's worst crisis in years. He immediately held talks with HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who is leading the mediation effort between the Gulf states. Tillerson will shuttle between Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia until Thursday in what is the first serious intervention by Washington in the Gulf crisis. In Doha, a Western diplomat said creation of a "terror finance monitoring mechanism" would feature in the talks, but declined to elaborate.

Tillerson was due to discuss the crisis later with Kuwait's acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. UK National Security Advisor Mark Sidwell, who was also received by the Amir, was scheduled to attend part of the meeting between Tillerson and the Kuwaiti foreign minister. The dispute has seen a Saudi-led alliance impose sanctions on Doha over its alleged ties to both Islamist extremist groups and Iran.

As they met in Egypt last week, Saudi Arabia and its allies said they planned to tighten sanctions against the gas-rich emirate, after Qatar refused to comply with a list of demands. A spokesman for Tillerson said ahead of his landing in Kuwait that it remained to be seen "if there's even a possibility of some outcomes" towards resolving the crisis. "Right now, after Egypt, we're months away from what we think would be an actual resolution and that's very discouraging," RC Hammond told reporters.

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## Oil, gas to remain key for 'decades to come': Aramco boss

**ISTANBUL:** Oil and gas will remain central to the world's supply of energy for decades to come, the chief executive of giant producer Saudi Aramco said yesterday, urging market players to ensure energy security by bolstering faltering investment. Oil major bosses and energy ministers are meeting at the World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul, with the outlook clouded by the low price of crude oil, currently trading at around $45 a barrel compared with a peak of over 145 dollars in 2008.

This has driven down investment to record lows, while oil majors are also grappling with the new importance of unconventional sources like shale and renewables. The decision announced last week by Volvo to phase out production of petrol-only cars from 2019 in favor of electric has also sent ripples of concern around the industry. The chief of the Saudi Arabian energy giant, Amin Nasser, said that there is "widespread agreement" that even as the world moves to greater use of renewables over fossil fuels, "petroleum will continue to be the heart of the energy mix."

He said that while "expectations for alternatives are through the roof", history shows that energy transitions to different sources tend to be "long and complex processes".

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## News in brief

### Britain's arms exports to Saudi 'lawful': Court

**LONDON:** Britain's High Court ruled yesterday that UK arms exports to Saudi Arabia are not unlawful, after campaigners argued the weapons were used to violate international humanitarian law in bombing Yemen. "We have concluded that the material decisions of the secretary of state were lawful. We therefore dismiss the claim," Lord Justice Burnett said at the court in London. He added it was not established that there was "a clear risk that the items might be used in the commission of a serious violation of international humanitarian law". Half the evidence presented in the case was heard in secret after the government argued it could not be heard in public for national security reasons.

### Saudi police, civilians wounded in shootings

**RIYADH:** A policeman and two civilians have been wounded in shootings in a Shiite-majority province in Saudi Arabia, police said yesterday. Qatif, an eastern province in Saudi Arabia, has been hit by a string of attacks over the past week, some of them deadly. Police said an off-duty officer was wounded late Sunday when gunmen opened fire on his car as he was driving by private farmland. And two civilians were admitted with gunshot wounds early yesterday to a hospital in Qatif's town of Awamiya, police added. All three are in stable condition.

### Saudis execute six for drug trafficking, murder

**RIYADH:** Six people convicted of drug trafficking and homicide were executed in Saudi Arabia yesterday, the government said, the highest number of executions in a single day this year. A Pakistani citizen was executed for drug trafficking and five Saudi nationals for homicide, the interior ministry said. Yesterday's executions bring to 44 the number of convicts put to death this year, according to an AFP tally of government statements. Ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia has one of the world's highest rates of execution, with suspects convicted of terrorism, homicide, rape, armed robbery and drug trafficking facing the death penalty. Saudi Arabia reported 153 people executed last year, a number confirmed by London-based rights group Amnesty International.

### Activist sentenced to two years in jail

**DUBAI:** A Bahraini court yesterday sentenced prominent human rights activist Nabeel Rajab to two years in jail after finding him guilty of spreading "fake news", a judicial source said. The source, quoted by the official BNA news agency, said Rajab was convicted "of disseminating false news, statements and rumors about the internal situation of the kingdom that would undermine its prestige and status". The verdict, which the source said can be appealed, was immediately condemned by Bahraini and international human rights watchdogs.

# Trump son met Kremlin-linked lawyer

## Donald Jr was promised damaging info about Clinton

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump's eldest son yesterday admitted meeting a Russian lawyer to get dirt on his father's 2016 rival Hillary Clinton, thrusting the White House deep into another Russia-related scandal. Trump junior confirmed reports that he was on the trail of damaging information on the Democrat vying to become America's first woman president, when he met Natalia Veselnitskaya in June 2016. "Obviously I'm the first person on a campaign to ever take a meeting to hear info about an opponent," Trump's son said in a tweet, claiming that it "went nowhere" but he "had to listen."

The FBI and Congress are investigating whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential vote. US intelligence agencies have concluded that Russian President Vladimir Putin approved a mass effort to tilt the election in Trump's favor, including hacking and leaking embarrassing emails from Democrats. The New York Times reported that almost all of Trump's most senior campaign officials - including Paul Manafort and Jared Kushner - were also in the meeting last year.

Veselnitskaya is not well known in Russia, but represented the son of a senior Russian official who was involved in a major fraud probe that had international repercussions. In a statement to the Times, the younger Trump said the lawyer "stated that she had information that individuals connected to Russia were funding the Democratic National Committee and supporting Mrs Clinton". "It quickly became clear that she had no meaningful information," he said, adding

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Donald Trump Jr

Natalia Veselnitskaya

JALAMAH: Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah (second right) and Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz (right) cut a ribbon as they attend a ceremony near the northern West Bank city of Jenin yesterday. — AFP

## Israel minister visits West Bank for electricity deal

**JALAMAH:** Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz made a rare appearance by a high-ranking Israeli official in the occupied West Bank yesterday to sign an agreement on electricity with the Palestinian Authority. Steinitz attended the ceremony in Jalamah near the northern West Bank city of Jenin alongside Palestinian prime minister Rami Hamdallah. They announced a boost in electricity supply in the area that comes with a payment guarantee from the Palestinians and unveiled a new substation.

The ceremony was held with a top adviser to US President Donald Trump, Jason Greenblatt, set to hold another round of meetings in Israel and the Palestinian territories in the coming days. Trump's administration has urged Israel to take measures to improve the Palestinian economy as he seeks ways to restart peace talks. "Of course we hope to achieve peace and security; it is important for all nations - but meanwhile it is important also to improve the infrastructure," Steinitz said.

Hamdallah said "we do not want to depend on Israel forever". "We are about to build a power plant in Jenin that will generate 450 megawatts in the Jenin area. I hope this power plant will start operating in 2020." But the ceremony came in stark contrast to a severe electricity shortage in the Gaza Strip, the other Palestinian territory run by Islamist movement Hamas.

Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, whose Fatah party is based in the West Bank, has sought to pressure his rivals from Hamas in recent months notably by withholding payments for electricity. Israel recently reduced its supply of electricity to the Gaza Strip after Abbas slashed the payments. The cut left the impoverished territory of more than two million people with as little as two hours of mains electricity a day. As an interim measure, Egypt stepped in to deliver fuel to Gaza's sole power plant, but Hamas at the weekend accused Abbas's Palestinian Authority of blocking fuel payments to Egypt.

Hamdallah yesterday said "in 10 years, we have spent more than $15 billion from the Palestinian state's treasury on Gaza while Hamas collects the revenues and spends it on itself and not on the people". Israeli Major General Yoav Mordechai, head of the defense ministry unit that coordinates civilian affairs in the Palestinian territories, said Gazan leaders had electricity "at home, like a nightclub, but why

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## News group slams Google, Facebook online 'duopoly'

**WASHINGTON:** The US newspaper industry yesterday warned of a "duopoly" in online news by Google and Facebook, and called for legislation that would relax antitrust rules allowing collective negotiations with the Internet giants. The News Media Alliance said that because Google and Facebook dominate online news traffic digital advertising, "publishers are forced to surrender their content and play by their rules on how news and information is displayed, prioritized and monetized."

A statement by the association of some 2,000 media groups said news organizations "are limited with disaggregated negotiating power against a de facto duopoly that is vacuuming up all but an ever-decreasing segment of advertising revenue". The group, formerly known as the Newspaper Association of America, includes large dailies like the New York Times and Wall Street Journal as well as hundreds of smaller media groups and regional news organizations.

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the United Kingdom's National Security Advisor Mark Sedwill. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with UK's National Security Advisor Mark Sedwill.

# Amir meets United Kingdom's National Security Advisor

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and United Kingdom's National Security Advisor Mark Sedwill. The meeting was attended by Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Mohammed Daifallah Sharar and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled had held a meeting earlier with Sedwill, in the attendance of Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah, Assistant Foreign Minister and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's Office Director Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and number of Foreign Ministry senior officials.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah discussed with Sedwill security developments on the regional arena and ways of enhancing joint cooperation in the exchange of information and security expertise.

The Interior Ministry's security information department said in a press statement that Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah reviewed with Sedwill and the accompanying delegation a number of issues of common concern and means of enhancing coordination between the two sides in the face of security developments in the region.

He stressed the deep-rooted ties between the State of Kuwait and the United Kingdom and the importance of enhancing cooperation, especially in the field of exchange of information and security expertise. He expressed hope that these "distinguished" relations will witness further security cooperation in the interest of the two friendly countries and the interests of security and peace in the region. —KUNA

Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with UK's National Security Advisor Mark Sedwill.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of Ethiopia Abdulaziz Ahmad Adam. —KUNA

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of Austria Zegord Bakher.

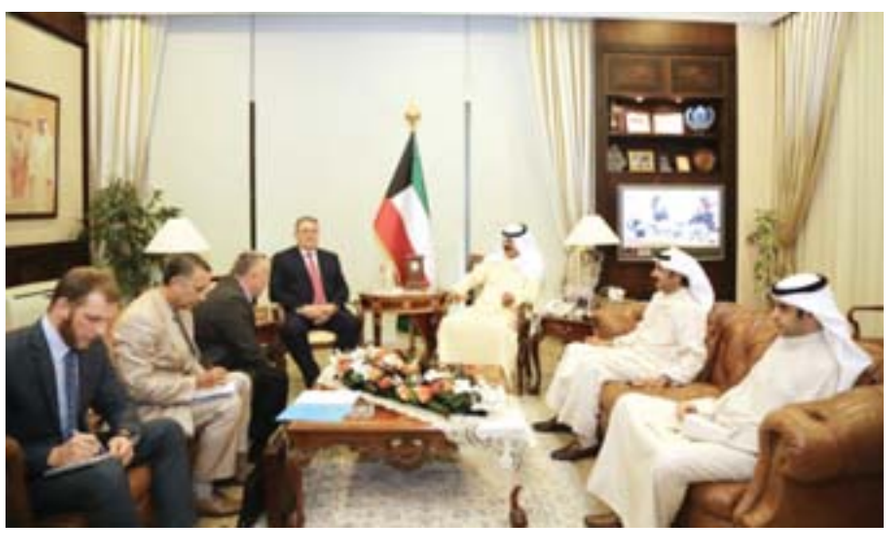
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of Swaziland Sodja Dlamini.

# Crown Prince meets new ambassadors

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday ambassadors of the Democratic Federal Republic of Ethiopia Abdulaziz Ahmad Adam, Republic of Austria Zegord Bakher and Kingdom of Swaziland Sodja Dlamini on the occasion of assuming their tenures in the country. Chief of Protocol Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah attended the receptions.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince received Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh and Minister of Public Works Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of Municipality Mohammed Nasser Al-Jabri. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Chief of National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Al-Sabah. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday visited former member of parliament Abdullah Al-Nibari at Amiri Hospital to check on his health, wishing him speedy recovery. The former lawmaker is in hospital recuperating from a heart attack.—KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah held talks yesterday with Charge d'Affaires of the Russian Embassy in Kuwait Gaidar Gamzatov on bilateral relations. They also discussed regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by Jarallah's Office Director Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA

# Erdogan to visit Kuwait as part of regional tour

## Turkish President extols Kuwait's mediation in Gulf crisis

**ANKARA:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has expressed his support for Kuwait's efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis. Hurriyet Daily News quoted the president as saying upon his arrival from the G-20 summit in Hamburg that Kuwait was playing the role of mediator in the matter, adding that he would embark on a Gulf tour to contribute to the resumption of dialogue between the two sides.

"We are planning to visit Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia specifically in a diplomatic tour after July 15," he said, marking the first anniversary of the failed coup attempt. He said he discussed the Gulf crisis with his US and Russian counterparts Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin and assured all the leaders he met on the sidelines of the G-20 summit the need to find a solution to the crisis through dialogue.

Saudi Arabia highly appreciated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his sincere efforts seeking to solve the Gulf crisis. The Saudi cabinet met yesterday under chairmanship of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, who thanked His Highness the Amir's keenness on the Gulf and Arab unity, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. Several Arab and foreign countries have reiterated support to His Highness the Amir's meditation efforts.

The US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited Kuwait yesterday for talks with senior officials on the efforts to settle the Gulf 'row'. Tillerson's visit is part of a Gulf tour that also includes Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Recently, Kuwait has been the destination of the UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, Germany's Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and the UN Undersecretary General for Political Affairs Jeffrey D Feltman, with the GCC situation featuring high on the agenda of their talks with senior state officials. — KUNA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

# Kuwait consumes an estimated 6 million kilos of tea per year

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** According to the Sri Lankan ambassador to Kuwait, people in the state consume an estimated 5.5 to 6.0 million kilograms of tea annually. "This reflects a high per capita tea consumption. Ceylon Tea enjoys a strong market share of about 50 percent, maintaining its leadership," Kandeepan Bala said during a tea party at the embassy to celebrate 150 years of the Sri Lankan tea industry (Ceylon Tea) at the ambassador's residence in Salwa. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries and a host of people from various communities.

Tea parties were organized by the Colombo Tea Traders Association and the Sri Lanka Tea Board jointly with embassies all over the world with the help of the Sri Lankan ministry of foreign affairs. Sri Lanka is the world's largest exporter of tea and is delighting tea drinkers in almost 150 countries.

"Kuwait has one of the highest per capita GDP in the world, while up to two-thirds of the population in Kuwait is made up of foreign expatriates, dominated by South Asians," Bala explained. "As such, the tea market is broadly classified into the orthodox specialty type Ceylon Tea, which is popular among our Arab friends, and the mass scale CTC type usually consumed by most South Asians. We are grateful to Kuwait for being the leading patrons of Ceylon Tea and the trust they have in it," he added.

"The Global Ceylon Tea Party" was organized at Sri Lankan diplomatic entities in 37 countries, while partner tea companies, cafes and homes across the globe hosted similar parties on July 6. Locations in up to 50 countries, with populations in excess of half the world, celebrated this unprecedented event to set a world record for the largest and longest global tea party ever. Historically, in 1867, an enterprising Scotsman named James Taylor, respected as the "Father of Ceylon Tea", pioneered the commercial cultivation of this "green gold" in Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon. Today, Sri Lanka's tea industry has retained the world renowned Ceylon Tea identity due to its global recognition.

KUWAIT: Sri Lankan ambassador to Kuwait Kandeepan Bala speaks during a tea party held at the embassy. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# EQUATE Group takes Ethylene Unit offline

**KUWAIT:** The EQUATE Group, a global producer of petrochemicals, said yesterday that it is taking an unplanned shutdown of its Ethylene Unit 2 (EU2) in Kuwait due to a technical issue. The EU2 has a production capacity of 850,000 metric tons annually (MTA) and is owned by The Kuwait Olefins Company (TKOC), which is part of the EQUATE Group. The output of other units, such as Ethylene Glycol (EG) and Polyethylene (PE) in Kuwait, was also impacted by this development. EQUATE Group's President and CEO, Mohammad Husain said, "We are currently considering all the details and our preliminary assessment suggests resuming normal operations in about two weeks. Our priorities are simple, which are the safety of everyone and resuming operations at the earliest."

Mohammad Husain

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's meeting yesterday. — KUNA

# Cabinet supports 'fake university degrees' probe

## Global operator sought to run airport's 'Terminal 2'

**KUWAIT:** The cabinet yesterday approved the Education Ministry's efforts to investigate recent reports which suggested that a number of public sector employees, including high ranking officials, had obtained forged university degrees that qualified them for their jobs. Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Al-Fares briefed the cabinet on the recent media reports on 'fake university degrees.'

Fares said that the issue is being thoroughly investigated by a neutral specialized committee at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). The cabinet lauded steps taken to handle the issue, and voiced support to the minister in his efforts to counter whatever that targets the education process.

**Operating airports**

During its weekly meeting yesterday chaired by Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet reviewed recommendations by the parliament's economic affairs committee on operating airports in Kuwait. It entrusted the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) with coordination with relevant bodies on a feasibility study for qualifying some of the best global operators, as well as the offering of the project for managing and operating Terminal 2 of Kuwait International Airport. As part of government efforts to rationalize expenditures, the cabinet approved, in principle, a recommendation on merging the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) in the office of the State Minister for Youth Affairs. The ministers ordered all government bodies to be committed to duration of procedures and the necessary measures to activate e-stamps, in line with the relevant instructions.

**Negative developments**

At the onset of the meeting, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled offered the ministers an account on the ongoing efforts by the State of Kuwait led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to contain the negative developments on the Gulf scene, seeking to remedy the situation and maintain the unity of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member States and their peoples.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled pointed to the recent visits to Kuwait by the Omani Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin Alawi, the UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, Germany's Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and the UN Undersecretary General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman. The latest developments relevant to the situation in the Gulf, featured high on the agenda of the talks held during these visits that also addressed the political situation in the region.

Afterwards, the meeting reviewed political developments on the Arab and international scenes, lauding the final statement of the G20 summit recently held in Hamburg, Germany, where world leaders restated opposition to protectionism, and reaffirmed support to the rapid implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Also in the statement, the G20 leaders strongly condemned terrorist attacks worldwide, vowing to stand united and firm in the fight against terrorism and its financing. It was announced that Saudi Arabia would host the 2020 edition of the G20 summit.

**Cowardly attacks**

The cabinet condemned the cowardly terror attack that recently hit the district of Al-Masoura in Al-Qatif Province, east of Saudi Arabia, killing a security man and injuring several others. The ministers reiterated Kuwait's unwavering stance in rejection of all forms of terrorism, regardless of its sources or motivation, saying it targets all people with no discrimination of religion or ethnicity, said Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. The meeting reaffirmed Kuwait's solidarity with the Kingdom, urging the international community to join forces and fight terrorism, which forms a threat to the world's security and stability.

Also yesterday, the cabinet strongly condemned the terror attack that recently hit posts of the Egyptian army in the Sinai Peninsula, killing and wounding many servicemen. It reaffirmed Kuwait's stance that rejects all forms and goals of terror, as well as the country's support to all measures Egypt might take to combat such acts that threaten its security and stability, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah added. —KUNA

# 20,000 workers secure energy for all consumers: Ministry official

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) has 20,000 employees who are working on securing power and water for all consumers, Undersecretary Engineer Mohammad Bushehri said. Bushehri spoke Thursday evening during a gathering to discuss power rationalization, held in Yarmouk in the presence of Mayor Abdelaziz Al-Meshari. "The services go through three stages; production, which involves turbines, transport and distribution," he explained

He said Kuwait has seven producing power plants in Sibbiya, Shuwaikh, East Doha, West Doha, Shuaiba, as well as north and south Zoor, adding that the current production is enough. As for water, Bushehri said that production goes through several stages until water reaches the faucet. Furthermore, he indicated that 75 percent of bottled water sold in Kuwait is filled with water produced from the ministry's desalination plants.

As for subsidies, Bushehri said that in the previous budget, subsidies reached KD 2.4 billion, while fuel cost the country KD 1.4 billion. The cost of power in Kuwait is high as each kilowatt costs KD 0.028 while it is being sold for KD 0.002. Kuwait consumes 350,000 oil barrels to produce power and water, and each gallon of water costs KD 6 and is sold for KD 0.800 only. The increase in the price of power and water, which go into effect next month, will hit investment and commercial buildings, as the new electricity tariff will be KD 0.008 per kilowatt, he said, adding that private residence will be exempted from the increase. Moreover, he pointed out that the price of water gallon will be increased gradually from KD 0.800 to KD 1 to KD 1.5, and that other sectors such as chalets, stables, industrial, and commercial will see the increase on February 22, 2018.

Mohammad Bushehri

# New teachers to start arriving August 17

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Director of Manpower at the Education Ministry Saud Al-Juwaiser said the last batch of work permits for Egyptian and Jordanian teachers who were contracted recently will be received during this week, adding the permits will be sent to embassies, which will contact the teachers. Teachers' arrival will start on August 17, he said, adding that bookings are already made. As for the Palestinian teachers, Juwaiser said that their procedures are different, adding that the diplomatic core at the Interior Ministry are working on their issue to allow entry for 59 teachers, as 20 teachers chose not to work for the education ministry.

**Physiotherapy**

The Health Ministry is coordinating with other state departments including Kuwait Municipality and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) to allocate lands for an old project to build a modern center for physiotherapy in each health zone. The centers will be built at state-of-the-art standards in order to expand physiotherapy services in all areas.

**Smuggling probe**

Kuwait General Administration of Customs commented on a recent newspaper report claiming that a number of containers were smuggled out of Shuwaikh Port shortly after arrival there. The administration said that the containers contained ceramics sent in one shipment on three separate containers. It said north port officers are the ones who discovered forgery in documents that were made to avoid custom duty and shipment fees. The containers were fully inspected according to known customs procedures. As for the reason why the forgery was made to avoid fees, the administration asked the public prosecution to investigate the case, and the case is still at the prosecution. The statement said an administrative investigation is being conducted and results will be published as soon as they are ready.

# 31,576 tickets issued, 1,033 cars impounded in one week

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The traffic department carried out several traffic campaigns in all of Kuwait's governorates last week, resulting in the issuance of 31,576 tickets. Meanwhile, 1,033 cars were impounded, 68 persons were detained and two expats were deported for driving without a license, the department said in a statement released by the Interior Ministry yesterday.

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department said its roaming vendors team carried out a campaign in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, resulting in the confiscation of four tons of fruits and vegetables and used clothes. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

# Wataniya Airways resumes flights in new shape

**KUWAIT:** Wataniya Airways, one of the three national carriers of Kuwait, resumes its flights today in a new shape after preparations made over a year. The company's first scheduled flight heads to Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, and it operates three flights a week, while other flights are scheduled on July 12-13 to Azerbaijan's Baku and Bosnia and Herzegovina's Sarajevo respectively. The first phase of the flights will head to 16 destinations, mainly Egypt, UAE, Lebanon, Jordan, Iran, India, Pakistan and some European countries. Wataniya is working with a clear budget in line an ambitious plan over the next five years after its new owners had reduced capital from KD 50 million (about $163 million) to KD 10 million (about $32.7 million).

Al-Tuwaijri Group has managed to revive the company, after increasing its capital and meeting most of its commitments. The group named Ali Al-Fozan as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Riyadh Al-Saeed as his deputy, while Khaled Al-Marzouq, Fawzi Al-Ateeqi and Ibrahim Al-Tuwaijri are members of the Board of Directors.

The company's shareholders injected fresh liquidity that met 96 percent of its financial commitments, and it is expected that the company will double its capital to KD 20 million (about $65.4 million) after operating its flights. The company prepared a new operating plan based on some pillars; launching from Kuwait to some world, Arab and Gulf destinations, and creating competitive privileges and additional services to passengers.

During the preparation period, the firm was keen to develop staff and national cadres as well as use technology and digital modern systems and keep pace with initiatives issued by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The return of Wataniya's flights will not be at the account of both Kuwait Airways and Al-Jazeera Airways, but it is an opportunity to achieve integration amongst the three airways. The company resumes its flights with two Airbus A320s, and the fleet will be completed by the end of this year or next year. It has a sufficient number of pilots and crews who have been trained over the past period.

It will work in line with needs of the Kuwaiti market, mainly Kuwaiti passengers, with three categories: national business, economy premium and national service. The company said in a statement that it has a five-year plan until 2022 and focuses on providing excellent services to all travelers. On June 18, Wataniya 18 obtained an Air Operator Certificate from Kuwait International Airport to be a national carrier in the country. It also announced on June 22 that it received its first Airbus A320 plane from its fleet. —KUNA

In Brief

## Amir applauds runners

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent cables of congratulations to runners Abdulaziz Al-Mandeel, Ibrahim Al-Thifeeri and Yaqoub Al-Yoha for winning two gold medals and a sliver one at the 21th Asian Athletics Championship held in the Eastern Indian city of Bhubaneshwar. In the cables, His Highness the Amir praised the Kuwaiti sports achievements which proved the ability of Kuwaiti youth to achieve such sporting achievements. —KUNA

## Amir extends condolences

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables of condolences yesterday to Japanese Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, expressing deepest sympathies for the victims of flash floods that wreaked havoc in Japan's southwest. In his cable, His Highness the Amir wished all those wounded during the deluge a speedy recovery and hoped Japanese authorities would be able to overcome this natural calamity. —KUNA

## US Dollar stable

**KUWAIT:** The exchange rate of the US Dollar was stable at KD 0.303, the same case with the euro stabilizing at KD 0.345, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The CBK added that the Sterling Pound also remained unchaged at KD 0.390, the same case with the Swiss Franc and the Japanese Yen which stood still at KD 0.002 respectively. —KUNA

## Photo of the day

**KUWAIT: Children play with a water fountain at Souk Al-Mubarakiya to cool themselves down as temperatures soar. —KUNA photo**

# Attract volunteers, qualify them to carry out national tasks: KRCS

**KUWAIT: A group photo taken during the opening of the Small Volunteer Club at the KRCS headquarters. —KUNA photos**

**Kuwait Red Crescent Society's Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi.**

**Dr Mohammad Al-Qattan**

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi yesterday stressed the importance of attracting volunteers to train and qualify them to carry out various national tasks. Hasawi said in a statement after the opening of the Small Volunteer Club at the KRCS headquarters, which includes 100 children under the slogan 'Generation After Generation For The Service Of Humanity,' stressed the importance of developing children's abilities and giving them the skills that will benefit them in their voluntary work and their lives in general. He also called for the use of the available capacities of children to promote volunteer work through engaging in voluntary activities to serve the community and participate in the various activities organized by the KRCS.

The club includes programs such as first aid training, time management, healthy culture and sports, as well as dental hygiene and preservation of the marine and wild environment. At the club, the children will recognize the principles of KRCS' international movement and deal with people with special needs, he said. He pointed out that the establishment of such projects is part of the society's plan to create a kind of effective communication and involvement in social activities.

Meanwhile, Dr Mohammad Al-Qattan, a health and physical education specialist and a participant in the training of children at the club, said that he is participating in this club as a coach to raise awareness of healthy food habits and healthy sports. He pointed out that the majority of this course is theoretical and the practical part is challenging by giving up eating sugars and unhealthy food, as children love challenge, thus, encouraging them to exercise continuously. The small volunteer club, which started its activities yesterday at the headquarters of KRCS, will last until August 10 and will include many activities and exercises aimed at giving the children a culture of volunteerism. —KUNA

## Crime Report

# Abdaly farm robbed

**KUWAIT:** Several thieves stole around 50 chickens, seven tents, six mobile toilets and three TVs from a citizen's farm in Abdaly. Forensics experts went to the scene and collected evidence to identify the suspects. The citizen accused his servant of the theft and gave police his details.

### Auto theft

Nugra police station circulated the descriptions of a 2017 model car following a complaint by a citizen claiming his car was stolen by a friend. He said he was with his friend when he went in a store and was surprised by him speeding off with the car with two smartphones and KD 40 inside.

### Break in

A citizen entered the house of one of his relatives after smashing the door with a knife. He then destroyed several items in the house, then left without being confronted. His relative and brother went to Salmiya police and lodged a complaint. Police are working on the case.

### Out of control

A bedoon youth arrived at Mubarak Hospital in an abnormal condition and scared patients and visitors, before being controlled by police. Mubarak Hospital police called Salmiya police about a man with several injuries to his body. Police went to the hospital and found the man singing in the corridors, in addition to uttering indecencies. He was arrested and given pills to calm him down. He told police that he had a fight with his friends in a Salmiya flat.

### Work mishap

The body of 38-year-old Indian was taken to the coroner, and his death was considered as a workplace accident. A Turkish man called police about an Indian who collapsed while working at a building under construction, and it was found he died from electrocution.

### Assault

A minor girl was beaten in Waha, according a security source. He said the girl was taken to Jahra Hospital and an officer was sent to investigate. She said she was beaten by her uncle and cousin in her house. Investigations are underway.

*—Translated from the Arabic press*

Al-Qabas

# Conflicting statements

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

When I review the names of those who had a role in the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in my memory, over the past half century, especially those who were financially simple, I find that most of them, if not all, had achieved a comfortable financial status, while a well-known minority had made a good fortune, that is apart from what they have achieved in fame besides the social, political and family status.

Despite the religious attributes, members of the Muslim Brotherhood are trying hard to cover themselves; they were always closer to being pragmatic and opportunists than being religious. Being in politics requires them to be opportunists especially that the amount of material and moral temptations, particularly in the oil countries, makes extremism, religious commitment and trust worthiness something laughable. So there is no harm at all, as their doctrines allows them to have some lies and hypocrisy, because it will have more benefit than harm.

So it is not strange to hear opinions or see contradicting stands by the same people during relatively short periods, without those involved feeling any shame or regret, as this is their habit and so it will remain. During the Arab Media Forum, in the presence of our colleague Madhi Al-Khamees, a leader in the Muslim Brotherhood said: "I confirm for the 1000th time, and I will keep confirming that we in Kuwait were no longer Muslim Brotherhood members since the Iraqi Invasion in 1990, and there is no Muslim Brotherhood organization in Kuwait. I am not part of the Muslim Brotherhood, rather I am part of the Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM)."

Then during a meeting few years later, the same person said, "Our adversaries do not have any adversary other than us, the Muslim Brotherhood faction, or the Islamic Constitutional Movement. Their main concern became the Muslim Brotherhood, bearing in mind that the Muslim Brotherhood does not have any ambition in power in the entire Gulf. Saddam asked us during the invasion to 'rule' Kuwait, but we refused."

Then during an interview by Ahmad Al-Fadhly on Al-Adalah TV channel, a Muslim Brotherhood member, who is also a major businessman, said in an answer about the truth about Saddam demanding the Muslim Brotherhood to govern Kuwait: "No, it did not happen at all, not from me or any other, nor anyone in the Muslim Brotherhood. This is not true, and I challenge anyone who says otherwise. This is untrue!"

We leave it to the reader to look into these contradicting and dangerous statements at the same time. We thank the creator of YouTube who allowed us to keep the statements of those people intact so it can be a testimony, and the links can be sent to anyone who doubts the accuracy of what we mentioned in this article. *—Translated by Kuwait Times*

Al-Anbaa

# Maulana

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

Maulana is the title of an Arabic movie which created much argument among critics and angered many scholars. But despite that, I will discuss the theme and dramatic plot without any sectarian extremism or following any personal mood. "Maulana" is originally a novel written by media man Ibrahim Essa, then when it was selected to be made into a movie, the writer participated with the film's director Dr Majdji Ahmad in re-writing the dialogues and scenes sequence and other basics to become a cinematic scenario that has the name "Maulana", which was released in January 2017.

It is a reflection of a religious personality that carries much psychological and religious struggles within it. The character who's name is Maulana does not only emulate religious personality, but also analyses the human intellect and what it carries in the form of internal struggles and intellectual turmoil, be it religious, sectarian or political, and who is the victorious at the end; the authority. That is the main aspect around which the film events revolve, and despite the presence of a basic plot, there was a secondary important aspect which happened since the start of the movie until the end, which is the media and its importance in this era.

The film's issue was not built on the main personality 'Maulana' in itself, and did not directly focus on a certain group or sect, but it presented many religious, sectarian and class groups. It also portrayed the media as the secondary aspect that pushes the struggle between the movie's events and characters to show us how extreme a terrorist can be and the extent of the media's role in that. The media brought 'Maulana' to light by accident and made him a beacon of knowledge and fiqh (knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence) though he lacks much of the religious and life's knowledge. And despite that, the media and state instilled him in the society to speak what the state wants and not with what he has. That is the difference between the media and advertisement.

Maulana has total obedience towards the orders he receives for material gains at the beginning, but when finds out that what he is doing may become a main tool in the collapse of his society, he rejects the media, and demands on the suspension of the politicized media. We have reached the end of the story, but it is still being lived in our societies because there are still many of those like 'Maulana,' who are still promoting in our society while ignoring the society's interest. Rather, they seek destruction, terrorism and extremism in order to be on the media and for material gains, but the human entity is not in the promotional dictionary of 'Maulana.'

*—Translated by Kuwait Times*

# Ooredoo participates in raising Kuwaiti flag on Arabian Gulf Coast

## In cooperation with the Kuwait Science Club Flying Team

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, participated in a flying show organized by the Kuwait Science Club Flying Team last week on the coast of the Arabian Gulf Road. Participants in the event raised the Kuwaiti flag across the sky in a one-hour journey from the Kuwait Towers monument.

Ooredoo's sponsorship for this event comes to reiterate its commitment to supporting youth in achieving their potential. In a statement to the press, Ooredoo expressed its pride in supporting a reputable establishment such as the Kuwait Science Club, which is one of the biggest supporters of Kuwaiti youth's passions and habits.

The team of nine pilots, led by Captain Mohammed Al-Sager, used three different types of planes: The Para motor, the Trike, and Power Parachute. Ooredoo prides itself in giving youth the biggest share of its corporate social responsibility agenda. Ooredoo has several memorandum of understandings with esteemed government and private entities that aim to enrich the experience of youth, through year-round activities and events as per the company's corporate social responsibility strategy.

# KIB sponsors Blue Circle's 'Diabetes Challenge Trip'

**KUWAIT:** As part of its ongoing commitment to promote health awareness across all segments of the community, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently sponsored the 'Diabetes Challenge Trip' organized by Blue Circle; the non-profit movement founded by a group of local diabetic youth. The initiative focused on raising awareness about diabetes by sending a group of diabetic youth on a trip to Austria to take part in a number of challenging sporting activities.

Every year, Blue Circle, a voluntary group working with the support of Kuwait Diabetes Society (KDS), seeks to highlight how diabetic patients are able to take charge of their conditions and successfully take part in demanding and challenging activities, irrespective of their diagnosis. This year, Blue Circle members embarked on an empowering trip, highlighting a diabetic's ability to live a normal and fulfilling life and in doing so, correct misconceptions about diabetic patients, both locally and internationally.

Most importantly, the trip provided members with the opportunity to learn about a range of valuable nutritional information, and engage in healthy physical activity, thereby encouraging a healthier and more active lifestyle. Additionally, the entirety of the trip was filmed to create a documentary to showcase the various physical challenges faced throughout the trip, meanwhile underscoring a diabetic patient's determination and strong will.

Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, said: "KIB is always eager to support and sponsor health-based initiatives that seek to enhance the quality of life for all segments of the community, actively seeking to raise awareness and drive real change in the community. As a leading local financial institution, we believe we are active partners in social development, and thereby must continue to offer our support to local youth projects and initiatives. Our sponsorship of Blue Circle's initiative reflects our shared goal of promoting a better quality of life and well-being across Kuwait."

He added that this marks the second time that KIB lends its support to Blue Circle, stemming from its belief in the importance of supporting healthcare-focused initiatives and promoting a greater sense of health consciousness across the country. Through its leading and comprehensive social responsibility program, KIB continues to sponsor initiatives and activities that aim to contribute to the development of the local community, particularly those that promote a culture of health awareness, volunteering, collaborative initiatives and non-profit programs.

**IN THE PRINCIPAL JUDGE, FAMILY COURT AT CHENNAI**

**Hight Court Buildings, Chennai - 104, Tamilnadu India**

**O.P.No.156 OF 2017**

**V.Rosine Keerthana,**
D/o. M.R.Visagan,
No.29/14, Solaiyappa Street,
Mylapore, Chennai-600 004. ...Petitioner

-Vs-

**Mr.A.Dvid Rajan,**
C/o La'ala Al-Kuwait Real Estate Co.
Rassalmiya (St)
1 Lounwat Almarzouq Building,
Kuwait. ...Respondent

Sir,
The above named Petitioner has filed a Decree of Divorce against you, further the Hon'ble Principal Judge, Family Court on 29.6.2017 ordered notice through paper publication to the above said Respondent above named and posted the matter on 27.7.2017, please be present on 27.7.2017 at 10.15 A.M. before The **PRINCIPAL JUDGE, FAMILY COURT AT CHENNAI**, Tamilnadu, India, either in person or through your authorized representative otherwise the matter will be decided in your absence.

**V.Rosine Keerthana,**
Petitioner - in - person

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# International

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Conflict-zone contraception for the Boko Haram homeless Page 10

**PARIS: US army 1st Division, US air force, US Navy and US Marines, march down the Champs Elysees, with the Arc de Triomphe in the background, in Paris during a rehearsal of the annual Bastille Day military parade.—AFP**

# Thousands flee California wildfires

## State of emergency in British Columbia

**LOS ANGELES:** More than a dozen wildfires were raging across California yesterday forcing thousands of residents of the most populous US state to flee their homes. Further to the north, the Canadian province of British Columbia was under a state of emergency as fire crews there also battled blazes fueled by searing temperatures and high winds. The worst of the brush fires in California was the Alamo fire in San Luis Obispo County, which had burned nearly 29,000 acres (117 sq km) as of Monday morning, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection known as Cal Fire.

More than 1,200 fire personnel were battling the Alamo blaze, Cal Fire said, adding that hot and dry conditions were expected to continue for the next several days and the inferno has been only 15 percent contained so far. The California fires have forced the evacuation of around 8,000 people while another 10,000 have fled their homes in British Columbia, Canada's westernmost province, where around 200 blazes of varying degrees of intensity have been reported.

The Alamo fire, which began four days ago, has spread to Santa Barbara County, approximately midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, and is currently the state's largest active fire, according to Cal Fire. Fire containment efforts were particularly aimed at guarding mountain peaks holding vital infrastructure such as a high-voltage line that delivers power to nearby cities, according to the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

Another fire in Santa Barbara County, the Whittier fire, is threatening hundreds of homes in the Santa Ynez Valley and forced the evacuation of nearly 150 children and counselors from a youth camp over the weekend, authorities said. DC-10 tanker aircraft were spreading fire retardant in a bid to prevent the fire, which has engulfed some 10,800 acres (48 sq km), from spreading, according to the Los Padres National Forest service. The Whittier fire has destroyed 20 structures and is threatening 150 more, according to Cal Fire.

Area resident Sarah Gustafson told the Los Angeles Times that she was getting her tires changed when she saw a pillar of smoke rising and realized her six cats were trapped at home. She rushed back and managed to save the animals, and described a sky painted orange and black and "flames up on the ridge". "It was terrifying," she told the paper. "When I got home it was smoky with ash." She then scrambled back to a Red Cross shelter parking lot where she and her cats spent the night.

Another blaze, the Wall fire in northern Butte County, has burned some 5,600 acres (23 sq km) and has been 35 percent contained as of Monday morning, according to Cal Fire. Four people have been injured by the Wall fire, according to the authorities. Most of southern California including metropolitan Los Angeles has been in the grips of a blistering heat wave with temperatures reaching as high as 43 degrees Celsius.

In British Columbia, the provincial government has declared a state of emergency as thousands of firefighters battle blazes across the sprawling territory. Kevin Skrepnek, chief information officer for the BC Wildfire Service, told the National Post that lightning storms on Friday had ignited many of the fires following a prolonged dry spell. "We're focusing now on public safety, keeping these fires away from communities, protecting transportation routes, things like that," Skrepnek said.

Wildfires are common in California and other parts of the American west over the summer. In April, California Governor Jerry Brown declared an official end to the state's drought that lasted more than five years. But he kept in place water reporting requirements, as well as bans on practices such as watering during or following rainfall and hosing off sidewalks. —AFP

**OROVILLE, California: Firefighters save a US flag as flames from a wildfire close in on a luxury home on July 8, 2017. —AFP**

**KIEV: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, center, delivers a speech to members of the Ukrainian Parliament in Kiev yesterday.—AFP**

# NATO vows support for Ukraine against Russia's aggressive actions

**KIEV:** NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg pledged support for Ukraine during a visit to Kiev yesterday, as the ex-Soviet republic battles a bloody insurgency by pro-Russian separatists in the east. More than 10,000 people have been killed since a Russian-backed rebellion against the pro-EU government in Kiev erupted in April 2014. Ukraine and the West accuse Moscow of smuggling weapons and troops across the porous border in support of the separatists, a charge has repeatedly denied.

"Russia has maintained its aggressive actions against Ukraine, but NATO and NATO allies stand by Ukraine and stand on your side," Stoltenberg said at the NATO-Ukraine Commission session in Kiev. "Russia must withdraw its thousands of soldiers from Ukraine and stop supporting the militants," he added during a press conference with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The conflict in eastern Ukraine and Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 have driven ties between Moscow and the West to their lowest point since the Cold War.

"We are also here to demonstrate NATO's solidarity with Ukraine and our firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of your country," Stoltenberg said. "NATO allies do not and will not recognise Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea." The NATO chief's trip came a day after US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson made a maiden visit to Kiev and urged Moscow to take the "first step" to ease the conflict in Ukraine's east. The US and the European Union have imposed sanctions on Russia, although Moscow has denied backing the rebels.

### Path to membership?

Ukraine sees NATO accession as a way to bolster its defenses against former master Moscow. In June, Ukraine's parliament voted to back attempts by the nation to seek membership of the 29-member bloc. It approved legal amendments enshrining membership in NATO as a foreign policy priority. But the Kremlin has long been angered by NATO expansion into what Moscow views as its sphere of influence in the former Soviet region. "It (Ukraine's rapprochement with NATO) will not contribute to the strengthening of stability and security on the European continent," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Moreover, Kiev has yet to officially apply to start the lengthy and politically challenging process of joining the US-led alliance. Poroshenko explained that embattled Ukraine was eager to join the bloc, but painful political and economic reforms need to be implemented before the country was ready to lay out its claims on membership. "We are determined to reforms... to meet the membership criteria," Poroshenko told journalists. "NATO will continue to support Ukraine on the path towards closer relationships with NATO," Stoltenberg added.—AFP

# Syrians displaced to the coast trickle back to Aleppo

**LATAKIA, Syria:** For years as fighting raged in Syria's Aleppo, property agent Saer Daqaq had fleeing residents knocking at the door of his beachside offices, seeking refuge in his flats in coastal Latakia. A popular seaside resort largely untouched by the country's six-year civil war, Latakia became a haven for those escaping Syria's second city, so much so that part of it was even dubbed "Aleppo Beach". But since fighting for Aleppo ended last year, Daqaq's offices just steps from the waters of the Mediterranean have been much quieter.

With the army's recapture of Aleppo in December, many displaced residents are now finally heading home after years away, though others who have set up businesses or whose homes are destroyed are staying put for now. With their faded white paint, the apartment blocks in northern Latakia's "Blue Beach" area have hosted thousands of Aleppans who fled fighting in the country's former economic powerhouse. They were once so numerous that the area was informally rechristened "Aleppo Beach", but since the army's recapture of the city, demand for flats to rent has plummeted.

"Between 40 percent and 50 percent of them have gone back," said Daqaq. Up to 700,000 Syrians displaced from Aleppo city and the surrounding province once lived in Latakia, but more than 30 percent have now left, the local governorate says. "In the last six months, not a single family from Aleppo has come to rent an apartment, whether for a month or a year," said Daqaq, 42, sporting a close-cropped beard. The area "is half empty", he said, before returning to a game of cards with his friends.

**No guarantees of work**

On the balconies of apartment buildings, tarpaulin sheets bearing the logo of the UN refugee agency UNHCR have long replaced curtains, and tangles of electrical wires hang haphazardly at building entrances. Latakia's population nearly doubled with the arrival of displaced residents from across Syria after the war broke out in 2011. The economy of the town, a regime stronghold like its surrounding province of the same name, previously depended mostly on its sea port and status as a beach resort.

But it was transformed by the arrival of so many displaced people, including Aleppans with the money to open small or medium-sized business in the area. "Most of them brought their business with them: bespoke dressmaking, shoemaking, clothes shops, businesses. And some of them bought land and factories," said Daqaq. Those businesses have provided some displaced people with a reason to stay on in Blue Beach.

**LATAKIA: Syrians sit on the beach in the northwestern city of Latakia.—AFP**

On the ground floor of one of the buildings that has been transformed into a shoemaker's workshop, 22-year-old Talal relaxes on a weekend with other workers. "At least here I have a job," said the young man originally from Bab al-Nayrab in formerly rebel-held east Aleppo. "If I went back to Aleppo, there's no way to guarantee I'd have work," he said. Other displaced Aleppans in Latakia simply have no home to return to because of the destruction caused by the fight for the city.

**'Our house was flattened'**

Um Muhammed lives in a modest three-room apartment in the area with her husband and four others. She sleeps in the living room, which is furnished with only a mattress and an old sofa, while the other family members share the two remaining rooms. It's a far cry from her traditional home in Aleppo's Shaar neighborhood, in the formerly rebel-held east, with its pretty patio and five large rooms. That home, which she has not seen for more than four years, is just a memory now.

"Our house has been flattened," Um Muhammed said, her hair covered by a white headscarf. "My sons went to inspect the house and the ceiling has literally collapsed on top of the furniture. The floor tiles have been shattered. It's not remotely habitable." She can hardly believe that the coastal region they once used to visit for family trips has become their place of exile. —AFP

**TEKOA: Israeli security forces stand guard at the site where a Palestinian attempted a car ramming and knife attack against Israeli soldiers at a junction in Tekoa, south of Jerusalem.—AFP**

# Palestinian attempts car ramming attack, shot dead

**JERUSALEM:** A Palestinian attempted a car-ramming and knife attack against Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank yesterday and was shot dead, Israel's army said. The incident occurred at a junction in Tekoa, south of Jerusalem. One soldier was reported lightly wounded. According to the army, the assailant attempted the car-ramming, then exited the vehicle and tried to stab soldiers. The identity and age of the Palestinian were not immediately available.

"A short while ago, a Palestinian assailant attempted a car ramming attack at a junction in Tekoa," the army said in a statement. "He then exited the vehicle, armed with a knife, and attempted to stab (Israeli) soldiers standing nearby. An (Israeli) soldier was slightly injured in this incident and is receiving medical treatment in the hospital. "In response to the immediate threat, forces fired towards the assailant, who died."

A wave of unrest that broke out in October 2015 has claimed the lives of 275 Palestinians, 42 Israelis, two Americans, two Jordanians, an Eritrean, a Sudanese and a Briton, according to an AFP toll. Israeli authorities say most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks. Others were shot dead in protests and clashes, while some were killed in Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip. The violence has greatly subsided in recent months.—AFP

# Israel's opposition Labor seeks renewal with leadership vote

**JERUSALEM:** Israel's main opposition Labor party voted for a new leader yesterday as it seeks to regain waning influence and win back supporters who have drifted toward centrist and right-wing candidates. The runoff election sees two candidates with sharply different political backgrounds: Amir Peretz, a longtime politician and former party leader, and Avi Gabbay, an ex-businessman who joined Labor only months ago. Some 52,000 party members are eligible to vote in the runoff, with polls open from 11 am to 9 pm.

The election is expected to be close. The candidates advanced to the runoff by beating five others in last week's first round, with Peretz winning 32.7 percent and Gabbay 27.1 percent. The vote saw current Labor chairman Isaac Herzog garner only 16.7 percent for a third-place finish, a rapid fall in popularity after leading the party in the last general elections in 2015. Herzog has faced a barrage of criticism over his attempts to negotiate for his party to join Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing coalition and over Labor's slide in opinion polls.

Israeli politics has seen a shift rightward in recent years, with Netanyahu and his Likud party in power since 2009. Centrist parties such as Yesh Atid and Kulanu-which Gabbay was a member of until recently-have also benefited at the expense of Labor. The country's last Labor prime minister was Ehud Barak from 1999 to 2001. Ahead of the 2015 elections, Labor joined forces with Tzipi Livni's Hatnua to form the Zionist Union, which won 24 seats in the 120-seat parliament to become the largest opposition to Netanyahu's government.

Supporters of the two candidates in the runoff hope their backgrounds will widen Labor's support. Both are of Moroccan descent, rare for a leader of a major party in Israel, and may be able to increase support for Labor among Mizrahi Jews-those of Middle Eastern or North African origin. They also both support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But beyond that, Peretz and Gabbay have little in common.

**Mirror image**

Peretz, 65 and with a trademark salt-and-pepper moustache, is a veteran politician, former trade union leader and ex-defense minister. He was previously head of Labor from 2005-2007 and is the longest serving member of the Knesset, or parliament. His first stint as leader ended after he was accused of failing in his post as defense minister during the 34-day war against Lebanon's Hezbollah militia in 2006.

Peretz however later saw redemption, gaining praise for having pushed for the development of the Iron Dome missile defense system, now seen as an indispensable part of Israel's military infrastructure. He has received backing from Herzog and other party insiders in the runoff. "We will work to heal the society and the divisions caused by Netanyahu," Peretz said on his Facebook page, while also pledging to act "immediately to re-launch the peace process." Gabbay, 50, is seen as a fresh face, having formerly headed Israeli telecommunications firm Bezeq before joining politics. He has never been a member of Israel's parliament. In 2014, he joined forces with former Likud minister Moshe Kahlon to form centre-right Kulanu. Kulanu won 10 seats in the 2015 general elections and joined Netanyahu's coalition, with Gabbay appointed environment minister despite not being a parliament member. He quit in 2016 in protest at the appointment of hardliner Avigdor Lieberman to head the defense ministry, saying the move was against Israel's security interests and would deepen societal divisions.

Gabbay announced only in December that he was joining the Labor party. Barak, the ex-prime minister, has announced his support for Gabbay in the runoff. After polls opened yesterday, he said on his Facebook page that he would bring "hope and change" while injecting new life into the party. The party's voters will be faced with a stark choice. "Amir Peretz's advantage lies in his rich political experience," Nahum Barnea wrote in Israel's Yediot Aharonot newspaper. "That is also a weakness: Over the course of his many years in politics, Peretz has won himself quite a few enemies. Avi Gabbay is Peretz's mirror image: new, fresh and inexperienced."—AFP

# Mosul victory marks win for Pentagon training plan

## US-led strategy in Iraq, Syria, a non-stop air campaign

**WASHINGTON:** The Iraqi military's hard-fought victory over the Islamic State group in Mosul marks a defining moment not just for them. It is also a key win for the US doctrine behind it. Instead of putting large numbers of American boots on the ground, the US-led strategy in Iraq and Syria has been a non-stop air campaign combined with continual training and advising for proxy local forces. Pentagon officials say the outcome is clear-three years after collapsing as flag-waving jihadists swept across their country, Iraq's security forces have become a battle-hardened army that prevailed in a brutal urban fight.

"Training works," said one senior US military officer who was deployed to Iraq from 2015-'16. It "has enabled the Iraqis to take back their country." It's a far cry from when then-Pentagon chief Ashton Carter said in May 2015 that the Iraqi military "showed no will to fight." When IS attacked in 2014, the Iraqi security forces had grown weak under then-prime minister Nouri al-Maliki. Troops turned and ran, often without a fight, dumping precious US-provided weaponry and vehicles as they fled.

"It was stunning," the military official said. "Even ISIS had to have been surprised at how rapidly the Iraqi army utterly just fell apart." The skills they'd learned under previous US tutelage from 2008-2011 centered on fighting an insurgency-not stopping a fast-moving jihadist army. "We needed an army that could fight conventionally," the official said. The decision to use a few hundred US troops and other Western military experts to train local fighters stems partly from the Iraq War, which saw more than 4,400 US troops die. A US public wary of additional deployments did not want Barack Obama recommitting more combat troops.

**New skills**

Obama ordered air strikes and pursued a strategy - known in the Pentagon as "by, with and through" - to train local forces. In the summer of 2015, coalition advisers started instructing Iraqis on conventional warfare-fighting in small units, setting up defenses, how to breech minefields and so on. By the end of that year, the Iraqis began striking back at IS, including with the recapture of Ramadi.

As of this month, the coalition had trained about 106,000 Iraqi security forces, including 40,000 Iraqi troops, 15,000 police, 6,000 border guards, 21,000 Kurdish peshmerga, 14,000 from the elite Counter Terrorism Service and another 9,500 "tribal mobilization forces." The toll has been brutal, with thousands of Iraqi forces killed. But since anti-IS operations began in Iraq and Syria in 2014, only 11 US troops have been killed. The US military is trying a similar strategy with Afghan security forces in their fight against a resurgent Taliban.

**Only horse we had**

For Brian McKeon, a senior Pentagon policy official at the end of the Obama administration, the strategy worked, though not as quickly as had been hoped. The battle for Mosul first began on October 16, 2016. Once the decision was made to work "by with and through partners... it was the only horse that we had to ride," McKeon said. "It has taken longer than might have been assessed at the beginning but that's not really unusual. No plan survives first contact and you never know where it's going to go, given the large number of variables in a war."

The strategy of supporting a proxy army will become increasingly important as the United States shies away from full-on deployments. For John Spencer, a scholar at the Modern War Institute at West Point, the fight for Mosul has been "the biggest modern case study foreshadowing what (urban) war is going to be like in the future." "It's kind of the ultimate end of that scale where you build an army, a police force, and a counterterrorism force that are capable of fighting, and you send only a few hundred troops and air support to help," he said. —AFP

**MOSUL: A member of Iraq's federal police kisses a girl as forces celebrate in the Old City of Mosul after the government's announcement of the 'liberation' of the embattled city.—AFP**

# Turkey marks failed coup that changed country

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey marks one year on July 15 since a coup attempt aiming to topple President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that failed within hours but etched far-reaching consequences into its society and politics. The country is in the throes of the biggest purge in its history against alleged coup supporters while Erdogan has seen his grip on power tightened rather than weakened. But Turkey is also facing some isolation on the diplomatic stage, experiencing tense relations with the European Union and the United States, and now trying to limit the damage from an explosive crisis over its ally Qatar in the Gulf.

"One year on from the coup bid, President Erdogan is stronger than ever," said Ozgur Unluhisarcikli, Ankara office director of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. But he added the crackdown has "unavoidably weakened Turkey's international standing particularly vis-a-vis Europe and the United States."

**Martyrs of July 15**

On the night of July 15, 2016, an army faction disgruntled with Erdogan's one-and-a-half decades of domination sought to seize power, closing the bridges in Istanbul, bombing parliament in Ankara and deploying tanks in the streets. But the coup bid unraveled as Erdogan returned in triumph to Istanbul from holiday and tens of thousands of ordinary Turks poured into the streets to oppose the plotters. Two hundred and forty nine innocent people died in the coup and are regarded as "sehitler" (martyrs for Islam).

The authorities see the coup bid's defeat as a victory for democracy and have renamed the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul that was a centre of the fighting the "Bridge of the 15 of July Martyrs". Extensive commemorations are planned for Saturday including a speech by Erdogan on the bridge, with July 15 now declared an annual holiday, the Democracy and National Unity Day.

**Absolute control**

Turkey's longest night left a litany of images engraved into the memory-the tear-stained face of the state TV presenter forced to make a statement by the coup plotters, or Erdogan peering out through the FaceTime app as he made a live appeal to supporters. Erdogan swiftly said that the coup bid was masterminded by his one time ally turned nemesis, the US-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen who over decades assiduously built up influence in the judiciary, police and the army.

From his secluded base in Pennsylvania, Gulen denied the charges. But Erdogan vowed to wipe out the "virus" of Gulen from Turkish institutions. Turkey subsequently embarked on the most extensive crackdown in its modern history, arresting over 50,000 people and sacking 100,000 more from their jobs. Critics say the state of emergency imposed last July 20 — which remains in place-has been used to go after all opponents of Erdogan, including critical journalists, activists and pro-Kurdish politicians who opposed the putsch bid.

After landing in Istanbul in one of the turning points of the July 15 coup bid, Erdogan described the attempt as a "blessing from God" and critics have accused him of opportunistically exploiting the events. On April 16, Erdogan narrowly won a referendum that from 2019 will grant him sweeping new powers and also allow him to resume his leadership of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). "His control over the AKP is absolute and as a result of the atmosphere of fear created through the post-coup attempt purges, his control over the bureaucracy, private sector and media are tighter than ever," said Unluhisarcikli.

**ISTANBUL: A handout picture take shows Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, center, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, left, and Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu during their meeting in Istanbul.—AFP**

**Betrayal burned the heart**

Turkey's modern history has been littered with repeated interventions by the once all-powerful military, including the 1960 coup that led to the execution of then prime minister Adnan Menderes, Erdogan's political hero. The July 15 bid marked the first time in Turkey's history a military coup had between thwarted and Erdogan rapidly put the military more under his direct control. Around half of all Turkish generals were either arrested or fired after the coup bid.

The coup's defeat even spawned an officially-approved anthem that blares out at Erdogan rallies: "On the night of July 15, the weather was hot/ an attempt of betrayal that burned the heart". Yet questions remain over the timeline, with testimony indicating the army received intelligence of a possible uprising as early as the afternoon of July 15. But Erdogan, who was holidaying in the resort of Marmaris, found out about the plot so late that, according to his own statements, he was just 15 minutes from death.

"Although it is nearly one year after the coup, it does not seem easy to close the discussion over the intelligence aspects," wrote a columnist for the Hurriyet daily, Sedat Ergin. As a NATO member and EU candidate, Turkey lamented the lack of American and European solidarity, with Ankara seeing Brussels as more fixated on the ensuing crackdown than condemning the attempt to oust the democratically-elected government. —AFP

# MEPs threaten to veto Brexit offer on EU nationals

**LONDON:** The European Parliament's chief Brexit negotiator yesterday threatened to veto a plan by the British government on the status of EU nationals after Britain leaves the bloc, calling it a "damp squib". Guy Verhofstadt signed the letter published in Britain's Guardian daily and other European newspapers, along with the leaders of the main centre-right and centre-left groupings in the European Parliament. "The European Parliament will reserve its right to reject any agreement that treats EU citizens less favorably than they are at present," the letter said.

It said Britain's plan "would cast a dark cloud of vagueness and uncertainty over millions of Europeans" by giving EU citizens living in Britain fewer rights than those of British citizens in the EU. "It was a damp squib," the letter said, adding that the risk was of "creating second-class citizenship". Under the proposals, European Union nationals who have been resident in Britain for five years would earn permanent residency rights as is currently the case.

But, like non-EU immigrants now, they would lose the right to vote in local elections in Britain and would be subject to minimum salary requirements to be able to bring family members into the country. The MEPs said the proposals also left it "unclear what the status of post-Brexit babies would be". Children born to EU nationals who do not have permanent leave to remain will have to apply for it. There are estimated to be around 3.2 million European Union nationals living in Britain and around one million British nationals in other parts of the EU.

British Prime Minister Theresa May outlined the proposals last month, calling them a "fair and serious offer". The EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier at the time dismissed the plan in a tweet saying: "EU goal on citizens' rights: same level of protection as in EU law.

More ambition, clarity and guarantees needed than in today's UK position". Britain voted to leave the European Union in a referendum last year and May formally notified the EU earlier this year of the country's intention to leave, starting a two-year countdown to Brexit.—AFP

# Inmates set Guyana prison ablaze

## One officer dead after riot

**GEORGETOWN:** One prison officer was killed and seven others were injured during a jailbreak in South America's Guyana that saw inmates set fire to the facility and four prisoners escape, authorities said. Chaos broke out at the colonial-era maximum security prison in the capital city of Georgetown after inmates obtained firearms and took control of the facility, with police and fire officials initially unable to enter the compound. Prisoners set the facility ablaze in an effort to distract guards, Public Security Minister Khemraj Ramjattan told journalists, calling the escapees "very serious criminals."

Eight police officers were injured, one of whom died during treatment for a gunshot injury to his chest. Heavily armed soldiers had taken up strategic positions around the facility in the former British colony, home to just over 750,000. Police Commissioner Seelall Persaud said authorities in neighboring Suriname were on high alert in the search for escapee Royden Williams, who was sentenced to death in February for killing eight people, and Uree Varswyck, whose trial for robbery and murder was pending. The identities of the other inmates who fled were not immediately known. Prison Chief Gladwin Samuels said there were no immediate reports of injuries or deaths among prisoners. A number of inmates also caused havoc at a prison officer's club building opposite the jail after being escorted there, smashing bottles of alcohol that they poured onto clothing before igniting it. Ramjattan said more than 1,000 inmates had been relocated to the yard of another prison compound. Some 300 of them would be transferred to other facilities, he said, as authorities figure out where to hold the others.—AFP

**GEORGETOWN: Video grab released by People's Progressive Party Civic of a fire coming from a prison compound in Georgetown, Guyana.—AFP**

**MEXICO: In this photo, Isabel Osorio Luna, the great-grandmother of the murdered Martinez children walks past homemade concrete crosses being painted to adorn the simple tombs of the family of six, in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz State, Mexico.—AP**

# In Mexico, massacre of family underlines surging violence

**COATZACOALCOS:** The bullet-riddled bodies of the Martinez children were found on a bloody floor, huddled next to the corpses of their parents in a rented shack. The family of six was massacred, authorities believe, because the Zetas cartel suspected the father, an unemployed taxi driver, had played some part in a rival gang's attack that killed a Zeta gunman. The response underlines the no-holds-barred tactics of drug gangs that are splintering and battling one another for control in much of Mexico, which recently recorded its highest monthly murder total in at least 20 years.

Despite President Enrique Pena Nieto's promises of a safer nation when he came to office five years ago, the violence is outpacing even the darkest days of the drug war launched by his predecessor. "It has taken on the proportions of a ring of hell that would be described in Dante's 'Inferno,'" said Mike Vigil, former chief of international operations for the US Drug Enforcement Administration and author of the book "Deal." "Their strategy was strictly going after the kingpin. ... That was pretty much not the way to go because, you know, you cut off a head and others take its place," Vigil added.

"You have weak institutions, weak rule of law, weak judiciary, massive corruption, particularly within the state and municipal police forces, and all of that contributes to the escalating violence." In the first five months of 2017, there were 9,916 killings nationwide - an increase of about 30 percent over the 7,638 slain during the same period last year. In 2011, the bloodiest year of the drug war, the figure for the same January-May period was 9,466.

In some places the bloodshed has accompanied the rise of the upstart Jalisco New Generation cartel and the breakup of the once-dominant Sinaloa cartel into warring factions following the arrest of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who was extradited to the United States in January. At least 19 people died in turf battles pitting Guzman's son, brother and former allies against each other late last month in the western state of Sinaloa, according to investigators.

In the northern border state of Chihuahua, shootouts last week between Sinaloa gunmen and the gang known as La Linea killed at least 14. In the Gulf Coast oil city of Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz Gov. Miguel Angel Yunes said the slaying of a top gunman in late June prompted the Zetas to kill the entire Martinez family: Clemente; his wife Martimana; 10-year-old Jocelin; Victor Daniel, 8; Angel, 6; and Nahomi, 5. All died in the house where they washed cars for $1 each.

### 'La mana'

"They didn't have anything, not even furniture. They slept on the floor," grandmother Flora Martinez said, sobbing. "I don't understand why they did this, why they did this to my little ones. They were innocent, they didn't know anything." For years it was understood that the Zetas were untouchable in this part of the state. Just ask Sonia Cruz, whose son was killed in Coatzacoalcos in July 2016 in a case that remains unsolved. "They (police) told me that when 'la mana' (drug cartels) are involved, that's where they stop investigating," Cruz said.

But last year's election of Yunes, the first opposition candidate to win the governorship from the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, may have broken old alliances between criminals and corrupt officials. The new governor has shown some willingness to go after the Zetas: The local cartel leader who allegedly ordered the Martinez killings, known as "Comandante H," was arrested a few days afterward. Yunes said the man had "operated with absolute freedom in Coatzacoalcos since 2006" and accused businesspeople in the city of acting as fronts for ill-gotten properties that actually belonged to the gangster.

Raul Ojeda Banda, a local anti-crime activist, said that some were forced to go along with the scheme: "Some were pressured, threatened." Violence in the area has also been exacerbated by Jalisco cartel incursions and other pressures that have threatened key sources of income for the Zetas. Part of "Comandante H's" business model involved large-scale kidnapping for quick ransom, with targets ranging from locals to oil workers to Central American migrants whom gang members tortured to extort payments from relatives in the United States.

But the Zetas abducted so many locals that those who were able moved out of the city, and those who remained began blocking off their neighborhoods at night to keep kidnappers out. An oil industry slump amid low crude prices resulted in fewer energy workers around to prey upon. And suddenly there were fewer migrants as well. Donald Trump's election discouraged some from trying to reach the US and others avoided southern Veracruz for fear of being attacked.

"The vast majority of them are robbed. It is a lucky one who isn't," said priest Joel Ireta Munguia, the head of a Coatzacoalcos migrant shelter run by the Roman Catholic Church. He estimated the number of Central Americans passing though the city has declined by almost two-thirds. The wave of violence has also touched regions that were long seen as peaceful. The Jalisco cartel is believed to have allied with a faction of the Sinaloa gang in a war for the Baja California Sur state cities of Los Cabos and the nearby port of La Paz.

Dismembered bodies, severed heads and clandestine graves have now become almost routine in the once-placid resorts. Dwight Zahringer, a Michigan native who lives in an upscale neighborhood in Los Cabos, said one victim was found at the entrance to his neighborhood recently. "That was more of a message that the narco-traffickers wanted to deliver, sort of to say, 'We can come right up into your Beverly Hills and dump dismembered bodies on your doorstep,'" Zahringer said. "I'm from Detroit. We're used to seeing crime. But heads being left in coolers - that's a little extreme."—AP

# Lopez release raises hopes for talks in Venezuela

**CARACAS:** Venezuela hit its 100th day of anti-government protests Sunday, amid uncertainty over whether the release from prison a day earlier of prominent political prisoner Leopoldo Lopez might open the way to negotiations to defuse the profound crisis gripping the country. Lopez was placed under house arrest immediately after his surprise release from a military prison. Still, the gesture-the most visible sign of conciliation since protests erupted April 1 — triggered speculation over the prospect of talks between the opposition and the embattled leftist government of Nicolas Maduro.

Three months of destructive street protests have left at least 91 dead. On Sunday demonstrations continued as 2,000 people marched in eastern Caracas, wearing T-shirts with Lopez's face and carrying banners that read: "One hundred days and I continue to rebel against tyranny." Meanwhile, thousands of government supporters marched in the city center. Maduro on Facebook voiced support for his controversial plans to form an assembly tasked with rewriting the constitution, which he said had "the hope to build a solid peace among all."

Voting for members of the assembly-which the opposition has rejected as Maduro's bid to maintain power-is scheduled for July 30. Lopez's release was welcomed-sometimes with calls on Caracas to do more by several other Latin American countries, Spain and the United States. Lopez, leader of the Voluntad Popular (Popular Will) party and a leading symbol of anti-Maduro resistance, emerged after his release from prison looking fit and happy-though wearing an ankle bracelet to allow authorities to monitor his movements, his family said.

"I maintain my firm opposition to this regime," Lopez said in a statement read by a leader of his party. "I reiterate my commitment to fighting until Venezuela's freedom is won." President Maduro, in televised remarks Saturday, called for a message of "peace and rectification" from Lopez.

### Opposition credits protests

Lopez's wife, Lilian Tintori, underscored that no deal was negotiated for her husband's release. "You don't cut a deal on freedom, on human rights, on dignity. Never," Tintori said. "It was a unilateral decision by the Nicolas Maduro government." She said Lopez suffered cruel treatment and serious stomach troubles, having shed six kilos. Analysts said it seemed significant the government had agreed to release a man it once termed "a monster," while Lopez had accepted house arrest after insisting he would leave prison only with full freedom and once all opposition members were free.

One analyst, Luis Vicente Leon, said the government hoped to lower tensions in the face of a serious risk of destabilization, while the moderate opposition wanted to avoid "suicide in a lose-lose situation." While negotiations now appear possible, he added, they would require concessions sure to be unpopular with extremists on either side. "No one voluntarily offers to sacrifice their head," he said.

### Release called 'humanitarian'

Lopez-a 46-year-old Harvard-educated politician and former mayor of a Caracas municipality-was imprisoned for more than three-and-a-half years for allegedly inciting violence by calling for anti-government protests. His release has been a key demand of Venezuela's opposition and the international community, amid an intensifying political confrontation aimed at forcing the unpopular Maduro to hold early elections. The Supreme Court said it had ordered Lopez's move to house arrest for health reasons, calling it a "humanitarian measure."

In Madrid, Javier Cremades, Lopez's Spanish lawyer, underscored that "all of Leopoldo Lopez's civil and political rights must still be restored" and all political prisoners must be freed. Foro Penal, an NGO, puts the number of political prisoners at 433. The government insists they are in jail for acts of violence. The US State Department called Lopez's release "a significant step in the right direction," but said more such steps are needed as the crisis deepens.

On Wednesday, pro-government militants wielding sticks and pipes stormed the opposition-held National Assembly and beat lawmakers, injuring at least five. Maduro condemned the violence and said he had ordered an investigation.

In T-shirts emblazoned with Lopez's face, marcher Maria Esther Pinto, 46, called his release "a step forward for his family and all of us who are seeking (political) change." "His release will help keep us in the street demanding freedom for all the political prisoners," she said, marching alongside her daughters. —AFP

**CARACAS: Opposition activists clash with the police during a demonstration marking 100 days of protests against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas.—AFP**

# Twenty tourists robbed at airport hotel in Paris

**PARIS:** Masked men armed with tear gas robbed around 20 tourists who were waiting for shuttle buses outside a Paris airport hotel at the weekend, sources close to the investigation said yesterday. The black-clad thieves arrived in at least two vehicles at the hotel near Charles de Gaulle airport and robbed the French, American and Moroccan tourists of their luggage and personal belongings on Saturday, the sources said.

Hotels around the airport as well as the motorway leading to Charles de Gaulle and Le Bourget-Europe's busiest private jet airport-are frequently targeted by thieves. Last August, around six assailants sprayed tear gas on Chinese tourists outside a hotel near the airport and made off with their luggage. Two Qataris leaving Le Bourget in a Bentley headed for Paris were attacked in November when the thieves made off with some five million euros worth of jewelry and clothing. In February a Russian couple were robbed of jewelry and luxury goods worth some 100,000 euros on the same stretch of motorway.—AFP

# Fire ravages building in London's Market

**LONDON:** Seventy firefighters battled a large fire in a building housing many boutique shops in London's popular Camden Lock Market in the early hours of yesterday. The emergency service said it had sent 10 fire engines to the scene and the fire was extinguished within around three hours with no casualties reported. "The first, second and third floors, plus the roof, of a building within the market are alight," the London Fire Brigade said on Twitter after the fire broke out.

Fire brigade spokesman David Reid said: "Crews worked hard to get the fire under control and to stop it from spreading to neighboring buildings." Images shared on social media showed tall flames and a burnt-out building at the north London market, which is popular with Londoners and tourists. "The fire was moving very fast," witness Joan Ribes, 24, told the Press Association news agency. He said the fire "was flying through the air to the surrounding areas".

"People were watching, but we were scared the building could explode at any time since there are restaurants with kitchens nearby," he said. The market area has around 28 million visitors a year. A London Ambulance Service spokeswoman said they were called to a fire at 00:07 am (2307 GMT Sunday), but that they had not treated any patients.

A spokeswoman for Market Tech, the major shareholder in the market, said the fire was isolated to one building. "While a small section of Camden Lock Market will be closed off to the public until further notice as a precaution, the rest of Camden Lock Market... will be fully open," she said. The Fire Brigade has opened an investigation into the causes of the fire.—AFP

# Austria bars Turkish Economy Minister Zeybekci over rally plans

**VIENNA:** Austria said yesterday it had barred Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci from entering the country to attend a rally marking the anniversary of last year's failed coup attempt in Turkey. "He has been barred because his visit was not planned as part of a bilateral exchange, but was about his public appearance at an event marking the coup attempt," foreign ministry spokesman Thomas Schnoell said. Zeybekci's attendance at the "large event" would have represented a "danger for public order", Schnoell added.

The rally is scheduled to take place in Vienna on Sunday. It is being organised by the Austrian branch of the Union of European Turkish Democrats (UETD), a pro-Ankara group present in several European Union countries. UETD spokesman Ramazan Aktas called Vienna's move "undemocratic". It came three days after the Dutch government warned Turkey against sending its deputy premier, Tugrul Turkes, to address a rally in the eastern Netherlands this week to mark the abortive coup.

Ties between Ankara and the EU have been strained over the crackdown that followed the July 15 2016 attempted coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Earlier this year, several member states including Austria and Germany banned pro-Ankara rallies ahead of a controversial referendum in April on granting Erdogan sweeping powers.

Turkish ministers had been heading to Europe to whip up support for a "yes" vote among millions of Turkey's voters who live abroad. Some 360,000 people of Turkish origin live in Austria, including 11,700 Turkish citizens. Many are believed to be pro-Erdogan supporters whose vote helped him win the referendum.—AFP

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# India holds naval exercises with US, Japan

**NEW DELHI:** India began holding naval exercises with the United States and Japan off its south coast yesterday, seeking to forge closer military ties to counter growing Chinese influence in the region. The exercises come as Indian and Chinese troops face off in a remote and strategically sensitive part of the Himalayas where India, China and Bhutan meet. India has a long-standing territorial dispute with its northern neighbor, which is also expanding its naval presence in the region.

It is the fourth consecutive year Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) has taken part in the Malabar Exercise, conducted annually by the US and India in the Bay of Bengal since 1992. In a statement, the US said the exercises had "grown in scope and complexity over the years to address the variety of shared threats to maritime security in the Indo-Asia Pacific". The US navy is fielding the USS Nimitz, the world's largest aircraft carrier, for the drills which go on till July 17.

China has stepped up its activities in the Indian Ocean in recent years, building ports in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The area also features heavily in Beijing's new One Belt One Road initiative to revive ancient trade routes from Asia, which has caused concerns in New Delhi. Troops from the two nuclear-armed neighbors have for weeks been engaged in a stand-off on a disputed section of land high near what is known as the trijunction, where Tibet, India and Bhutan meet.

China has alleged that the Indian troops are on its soil, but both Bhutan and India say the area in question is Bhutanese territory. The maritime exercises come weeks after US President Donald Trump declared that ties between Washington and New Delhi had "never been stronger" as he held his first talks with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Beijing already claims large swathes of the resource-rich South China Sea and East China Sea, putting it in competition with Japan and other countries in the region.—AFP

**MARAWI: This undated handout photo received from the Philippine military yesterday shows militant members of the so-called Maute group, an ISIS-affiliated group, inside a house in Marawi.—AFP**

# Militants force kids, hostages to fight

**MANILA:** Children and hostages are being forced to fight alongside pro-Islamic State gunmen waging a seven-week battle for a Philippine city, the country's military said yesterday. Militants seized Marawi, considered the Muslim capital of the largely Catholic Philippines, on May 23 in a bid to create an IS province, and over 100 remain holed up in the city despite intense military efforts to oust them. Some of the extremists are teenagers who may have been recruited and trained to use guns when they were still children, said Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla, a military spokesman.

"We continuously get disturbing narratives from (escaped residents) that children as well as hostages are being employed in the firefight," Padilla told reporters in Manila. Casualties among children and civilians forced to take up arms could not be ruled out, Padilla said. "As disturbing as it is, our troops are doing their best to avoid any casualty among these children that are being employed," he said. "But in the event... they bear arms and are involved in the fighting, there is nothing much that we can do. Similarly to the hostages who are being forced."

Shortly after seizing Marawi gunmen took at least a dozen hostages, including a Catholic priest. Some of the estimated 300 other civilians still trapped in the area may have also been taken captive, said Padilla. The military earlier said civilians had been forced to help the gunmen by carrying supplies and ammunition, bearing their wounded and even helping them loot the city. More than 500 people have been killed in the fighting, including 89 soldiers and police, 39 civilians and 379 militants, according to figures released by the government yesterday.

Nearly 400,000 civilians have fled their homes. Daily air strikes and artillery barrages against militant snipers who control tall buildings have left Marawi's central business district a ghost town. Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte last month vowed to "crush" the militants but several government-set deadlines to end the conflict have already been missed. The fighting also prompted Duterte to declare martial law over the entire southern Philippines. Padilla yesterday expressed hope that the fighting would soon be concluded. "We continue to gain headway with our operations on the ground," he said.—AFP

# Conflict-zone contraception for the Boko Haram homeless

## Children exposed to death, cruelty up close

**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria:** Sixteen-year-old Aisha slips into the white family planning tent at the Bakassi camp for displaced people in Maiduguri, northeast Nigeria, and whispers in case she is overheard. The teenager, among the hundreds of thousands of Nigerians who have sought sanctuary from Boko Haram Islamists in the region's biggest city, began taking a contraceptive pill three months ago. Despite her tender years, she has seen death and cruelty up close, fleeing into exile through the hostile, arid bush.

But in the Bakassi camp, which is home to more than 21,000 people like her, she has to fight another type of attack. "I have never been with a man before," she said, lowering her eyes. "But in the camp there are so many rapes, it happens all the time. "One of my friends is pregnant because she was raped and I'm afraid it's going to happen to me." Another woman tells how she heard a neighbor's cries ring out across the camp one night in June. "Young boys came to her tent but nobody would come out to help her," she said. "People are scared, they think its Boko Haram. "There is too much trauma after what we've been through."

**Sexual violence**

For the Hausa and Kanuri, the two main ethnic groups in the region, rape is taboo, said Alice Janvrin of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), which runs the family planning clinic. She said that very few women admit it has happened for fear of being rejected, but added: "Women and girls tell us that sexual violence is pervasive... in and out of camps." Many of those who turn up on their own at Bakassi have been separated from their families during attacks. The situation is hardly any better for those who arrive with their husbands.

The Boko Haram insurgency, which has killed at least 20,000 since 2009, has left more than 2.6 million people homeless and triggered a humanitarian crisis in Nigeria's northeast. More than five million people are starving as the fighting has devastated farmland, leaving farmers unable to sow or cultivate crops for several years. Janvrin, the IRC's reproductive health manager, said internally displaced people (IDPs) were also "extremely vulnerable to sexual abuse". "Many of them exchange sexual services against food and there are much more STI (sexually transmitted infections), abortions or unwanted pregnancies," she added.

**MAIDUGURI: A woman sits during a consultation at the IRC (International Rescue Committee) health clinic in Bakassi IDP (Internally Displaced People) Camp in Maiduguri in north-east Nigeria.—AFP**

**Growing demand**

The IRC women's centre in Bakassi was opened in September 2016 and includes a maternity unit and an obstetrics service, which is always packed. Dozens of women with swollen bellies wait patiently on benches to be seen in the crushing heat of the midday sun. According to the IRC, more than 1,000 women have adopted some form of contraception since January. Similar operations have been set up elsewhere in Borno State, where there are also sizeable numbers of displaced people.Options include oral contraception, an implant under the skin or a hormone injection which lasts up to three months. Fanne, a 20-year-old, said she had never heard of contraception before she arrived in Bakassi. She already has two children and talks of "the stress of having children on and on" in an impoverished region which had poor access to health and education even before the insurgency.

"In the villages, some women give birth every year," Fanne said. "In the current situation, if I have more children, what will I give them to eat?" Talatu, who is in her 30s and has had five pregnancies, said her husband had prohibited her from going to the clinic. But she said she now felt relieved to be taking the pill. "Now I have time for myself. I needed to rest," she said.

**Control over health**

Rachel Sunday Okoye, a midwife, says many women come to the centre in secret, given the strong resistance to contraception among men. "They feel like we don't want their women to reproduce. We try to make them understand that it's not the case. It's about planning for the next pregnancy," she said.

Today, international experts, policy makers and donors meet at a family planning conference in London to increase efforts for women to have access to contraception-and more control of their own future and health. Conflict zones are seen as a priority. In Bakassi, Aisha has just one thing on her mind: how to get back to studies the conflict forced her to abandon, so she can train to become a doctor. "I have nothing to do here," she said. "Every day I come to sit at the clinic and watch the doctors. I'm trying to learn."—AFP

# US apologizes for Taiwan name gaffe

**BEIJING:** The United States has apologized for mistakenly describing Chinese President Xi Jinping as the leader of Taiwan, China said yesterday. Chinese scholars said the mistake shows a lack of competence in the White House that is not conducive to healthy US-China relations. Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China asked the United States for an explanation of the mistake, and the US said it was a technical error.

Washington apologized and corrected the error, Geng said at a daily news briefing. In a statement issued Saturday about a meeting in Germany between Xi and US President Donald Trump, the White House press office described Xi as president of the Republic of China, the formal name for Taiwan. Communist China, led by Xi, is called the People's Republic of China. The issue is particularly sensitive because Beijing insists that Taiwan is part of its territory.

"It is basic knowledge for those working in diplomacy, yet this isolated incident shows how incompetent the White House staff are, how casual they are, and how poorly coordinated they are," said Shi Yinhong, a professor of international relations at China Renmin University. "It will only make the Chinese people look down upon the American government for it to make such a low-level mistake."

The gaffe has gone largely unreported in China because the local media have no motivation to mock Trump, Shi said. Wang Dong, an associate professor in the school of international studies at elite Peking University, said he believes the error was not intentional but still reveals a lack of capacity in Trump's foreign policy team while key positions remain unfilled. "It shows the deficiency in the professionalism on the part of the White House staff in terms of diplomacy," Wang said.

"The mistake itself may not affect China-US relations, but the White House should draw a lesson from it to improve its work flow. It's a politically sensitive mistake that should not have occurred." The mistake occurred in the introduction to the statement and was not in the actual text. By yesterday, the White House had altered the statement to read simply "President Xi of China."

During a 2006 state visit to Washington by then-Chinese President Hu Jintao, a White House announcer said the national anthem of the Republic of China would be played, instead of the People's Republic of China. The correct anthem was used. Other actions by Trump toward Taiwan have drawn Beijing's ire. Upending long-standing diplomatic protocol, Trump accepted a congratulatory phone call from Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in December and questioned the wisdom of the "one-China policy" under which Washington maintains only unofficial relations with Taiwan.

Then last month, to Beijing's indignation, his administration approved a $1.4 billion arms sale to Taiwan, which separated from mainland China in 1949 during a civil war. Almost six months into office, Trump has yet to fill thousands of government positions. His White House staff in particular has been faulted for poor organization.—AP

**HELSINKI: Finnish President Sauli Niinisto and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are seen with interpreters during their luncheon at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki, Finland yesterday.—AFP**

# Japan leader Abe vows Arctic, Russia cooperation in Finland

**HELSINKI:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday pledged to increase cooperation with Finland in Arctic issues and on furthering Russian relations, after talks with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto. Abe noted that Finland is currently chairing the Arctic Council and said his country would increase its role in the agency by "positively contributing more than in the past to (its) activities." "We will be enhancing our cooperation in the area of the environment regarding the Arctic regions," Abe said in prepared statements by the two leaders.

Niinisto said that the two countries signed several agreements, including on developing environmental cooperation. Abe congratulated Finland on this year's 100th anniversary of independence from Russia, with which it shares a 1,300 kilometer border, noting that Russia is "an important neighbor for both of our nations." "We reaffirmed our close collaboration in our relationship with Russia," he said. Neither leader gave any details of the content of their talks. Before arriving in Finland, Abe met with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven in Stockholm, where the two leaders demanded that North Korea halt missile tests, and pledged increased cooperation in the UN Security Council. They also agreed to combat terrorism together.—AP

# Indian lab develops beef detection kits

**MUMBAI:** A government-run laboratory in western India has developed portable "beef detection kits" that will allow police to quickly determine whether meat is that of an illegally slaughtered cow, an official said yesterday. The slaughter of cows, which are revered by Hindus, and the possession or consumption of beef is banned in most Indian states, with some imposing life sentences for breaking the law. "We have been working on beef detection kits for the past eight months and these will be distributed to Maharashtra and Mumbai police in August," K Y Kulkarni, director of the Maharashtra state government's Forensic Science Laboratories, said.

Kulkarni said the new kits were based on the ELISA method, where color changes of samples identify a substance. Police would just need to pour a sample into the kit and it would change colour to identify whether it was bovine meat or not within 30 minutes. At present it can take several days for a laboratory to identify the source of meat through traditional DNA tests, leaving cattle traders languishing in jail, often innocently, while the outcome of tests are awaited. Kulkarni said the kits would cost 8,000 rupees ($123) each. — AFP

# Toxic alcohol kills 12 in India

**LUCKNOW:** A dozen people have died after drinking toxic homemade alcohol in Uttar Pradesh state, police said yesterday, the latest incident of bootleg booze killing Indian drinkers. Police in the northern state said victims complaining of severe stomach pain fell seriously ill after consuming a batch of illicit moonshine last Thursday. "Twelve persons have died after (the) consumption of spurious liquor," Ajay Kumar Sahni, the police chief in Azamgarh district, said.

Police arrested 21 people, including the main suspect behind the toxic brew, he added. At least four other victims were still in hospital undergoing treatment. Authorities in the state dismantled 30 backyard moonshine operations, seized 1,100 liters of illegal liquor and destroyed 10,000 liters of the hooch, the Press Trust of India reported. In response, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath suspended eight district officials, including three police officers, for neglect of duty, according to PTI. Bootleg liquor is widely consumed across India, where a bottle is sometimes sold for less than a dollar.

Deaths are frequently reported, with bootleggers often found adding methanol-a highly toxic form of alcohol sometimes used as an anti-freeze-in their brews to increase its strength. If ingested, methanol can cause blindness, liver damage and death in larger concentrations. In 2015, more than 100 people died in a Mumbai slum died after drinking illegal moonshine. Of the estimated 5 billion liters of alcohol drunk every year in India, around 40 percent is illegally brewed, according to the International Spirits and Wine Association of India.—AFP

# Bomb kills police chief, guard in SW Pakistan

**QUETTA, Pakistan:** A bomb yesterday killed a police chief and his guard, and wounded 11 others in a southwestern Pakistani town bordering Afghanistan, officials said, the latest attack to strike the restive area. The bombing took place in Chaman, a tense border town in southwestern Balochistan province, which has seen many bombings and extremist attacks in the past. "Senior police officer Sajid Khan Mohmand and his guard were martyred, and 11 others were wounded in the bomb blast," Balochistan government spokesman Anwar Kakar said. He said according to initial reports the bomb was planted on a roadside in a motorcycle, which exploded when Mohmand's vehicle passed by. Two senior government officials confirmed the attack and casualties, saying police were targeted.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Tribal rebels, Taliban and other militant groups have carried out attacks against security forces in the province recently.

Pakistan has been battling Islamist and nationalist insurgencies in mineral-rich Balochistan, the country's most restive province, since 2004, with hundreds of soldiers and militants killed in the fighting. Bordering Iran and Afghanistan, it is the largest of Pakistan's four provinces, but its roughly seven million inhabitants have long complained they do not receive a fair share of its gas and mineral wealth.

A greater push towards peace and development by Pakistani authorities has reduced the violence considerably in recent years.—AFP

# Trump son met Kremlin-linked lawyer

Continued from Page 1

that the lawyer then began discussing the adoption of Russian children by American couples under a program Putin had suspended.

The meeting took place at a pivotal point in the 2016 campaign, after Trump had shocked Republicans with a string of primary victories and Clinton had all-but secured the Democratic nomination. US officials have sought to distance the president himself from the encounter. "The President was not aware of and did not attend the meeting," Mark Corallo, a spokesman for President Trump's private lawyer, told AFP. A spokesperson for Kushner did not respond to request for comment. The Kremlin said it "did not know who" Veselnitskaya was. "We can't be aware of all the meetings Russian lawyers have abroad," said spokesman Dmitri Peskov.

President Trump has repeatedly decried allegations of collusion as "fake news" and equivocated about whether Russia tried to interfere in the election. During a meeting with Putin on Friday on the margins of the G20 summit in Germany, Trump raised the issue of election interference before turning to other subjects. "I strongly pressed President Putin twice about Russian meddling in our election," Trump later said. "He vehemently denied it. I've already given my opinion..."

That meeting in Hamburg is raising yet more Russia-related problems for the White House. Scrambling for concrete victories to take away from the controversial two-hour-plus sit-down, the White House hailed deals establishing a joint "cyber unit" and a ceasefire in southern Syria.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin claimed Trump was "brilliant" during the meeting and said the cyber unit would "make sure that Russia and nobody else interferes in any democratic elections." — AFP

# Tillerson arrives in Kuwait in bid...

Continued from Page 1

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt abruptly severed diplomatic ties with Qatar, suspending transport links with Doha and ordering all Qataris to repatriate within 14 days. The four nations later issued a list of 13 demands to be met to lift the sanctions, including that Qatar shut down broadcaster Al-Jazeera, close a Turkish military base and downgrade diplomatic ties with Iran. Qatar refused to meet the demands last week on the grounds they undermined its national sovereignty. It has also categorically denied having any ties to extremist groups.

"We will work with Kuwait and see if we can hash out a different strategy," Hammond said, adding that the demands weren't viable, at least as a package. "Individually there are things in there that could work." Hammond would not elaborate on which demands Qatar could meet, but said concessions from the others would be required. "This is a two-way street," he said of a dispute among parties that each have been accused of funding extremists in some way. "There are no clean hands."

"The patience of the world has changed," Hammond said, noting British and German foreign minister visits to Saudi Arabia and Qatar in the past week to try to resolve the crisis quicker. A resolution could have ripple effects as well, he said, including reducing Iran's influence and ability to support extremists. Iran has been building closer ties with Qatar and is sending food and other supplies there to make up for products the Arab embargo has kept out.

Tillerson, the former chief executive of energy giant Exxon Mobil, arrived in Kuwait after a stop in Istanbul, where he discussed the Syria war and a failed 2016 coup in Turkey. Tillerson was greeted at the airport by his Kuwaiti counterpart. The two chatted in the searing Kuwaiti sun and shared traditional Arabic coffee before sitting down for a meeting. Analysts say Tillerson's success in the Gulf may be contingent on his ability to manoeuver regional skepticism over conflicting stances from Washington on the crisis. US President Donald Trump initially supported longtime US ally Saudi Arabia, but his stance was later contradicted when the US Department of State took a more neutral position.

Tillerson's impact largely depends on whether regional officials "believe that the secretary of state is fully backed by President Trump", London-based political analyst Neil Partrick said. "If Tillerson can convincingly frame his mission as delivering a deal for the United States that is all about defeating terrorism... then he may have some chance," said Partrick, who focuses on Gulf politics.

But despite strong mediation efforts by Kuwait and others, governments across the region say they may remain deadlocked for the foreseeable future. "No diplomatic effort or... mediation will succeed without Doha being rational, mature and realistic," UAE state minister for foreign affairs Anwar Gargash tweeted last week. Tillerson's visit comes on the heels of a string of official visits to the region, including UN diplomats and the foreign ministers of Britain, Germany and Oman.

Despite the deadlock, regional experts say Washington's interest in finding a solution to the crisis is a welcome step. "The tour comes after contradictory statements from Washington over the dispute," said analyst Abdullah Al-Shayeji, a political science professor at Kuwait University. "It is a last-ditch effort to rescue the situation and try to resolve the crisis, which is impacting regional stability, the war on terror and the campaign against the Islamic State" group, Shayeji said. He said mutual concessions from the feuding states would however be necessary.

The United States and its Western allies have vast economic and political interests in the Gulf, which pumps one fifth of the world's oil supplies, houses one third of proven global crude reserves and sits on one fifth of the world's natural gas deposits.

Lori Plotkin Boghardt, a Gulf expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said the US has had some success in recent years persuading Qatar to take action against terrorist financiers. She said if the US appears to be siding with the Saudis and the others, the Qataris could respond by reverting to old habits. "If they feel a decrease in support from their neighbors and a bit more challenging relationship with the US, will they provide additional support to dangerous actors in the region, as part of their security strategy?" Plotkin Boghardt said. She added of Tillerson: "He's putting his reputation as secretary of state on the line." — Agencies

# Israel minister visits West Bank...

Continued from Page 1

don't they put the people (before themselves)?" Those who can afford it have generators to power their homes and businesses in the Gaza Strip.

Israel coordinates with the Palestinian Authority, but not Hamas, which it considers a terrorist organization and has fought three wars since 2008 with Palestinian militants in Gaza. The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli blockade for a decade, badly damaging the enclave's economy, and its crossing with Egypt has also remained largely closed in recent years. UN officials have called for the blockade to be lifted, citing deteriorating humanitarian conditions, but Israel says it is necessary to prevent Hamas from importing weapons or materials that could be used to make them.

Yesterday's agreement will lead to an increase in electricity supply to the West Bank's Jenin area by 60 megawatts, officials said. The West Bank relies almost completely on Israel for its electricity supply and payment disputes have led to blackouts in the past. Such visits by an Israeli minister are extremely rare. In May, Israeli Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon met Hamdallah in Ramallah. Before that, no Israeli member of the internal security cabinet had met a Palestinian official in a West Bank city since 2000, an Israeli official said. — AFP

# News group slams Google, Facebook...

Continued from Page 1

The request comes amid a prolonged slump in traditional print news, as readers increasingly turn to online platforms. News Media Alliance president David Chavern, writing in a Wall Street Journal commentary, said that the internet platforms "distort the flow of economic value derived from good reporting". He said Google and Facebook account for more than 70 percent of the $73 billion spent each year on digital advertising, and they eat up most of the growth, with nearly 80 percent of all online referral traffic coming from the two firms.

"But the two digital giants don't employ reporters. They don't dig through public records to uncover corruption, send correspondents into war zones, or attend last night's game to get the highlights," Chavern said. "They expect an economically squeezed news industry to do that costly work for them."

Facebook and Google, which share some revenue with news organizations on certain platforms, have been stepping up efforts to help media groups with grants and other programs. Facebook's head of news partnerships, Campbell Brown, said in a statement to AFP: "We're committed to helping quality journalism thrive on Facebook. We're making progress through our work with news publishers and have more work to do." Google said in a statement: "We want to help news publishers succeed as they transition to digital. In recent years we've built numerous specialized products and technologies, developed specifically to help distribute, fund, and support newspapers." — AFP

# Oil, gas to remain key for 'decades...

Continued from Page 1

"The renewables still have major challenges, they do not compete with oil. It takes a long time for new fuels to seize market share," he said, noting that electric cars would also still need time to take off. With the global economy forecast to grow sharply as populations increase, he said it is a "mistaken assumption that alternatives will be rapidly deployed". "Rising demand for all sources of energy - with oil and gas at the heart of the mix - will be the reality for decades to come," he said.

But he warned that the tens of billions of dollars lost in deferred and cancelled investment since the current spate of low oil prices began risked harming consumers in the long-run. "Financial investors are shying away from making much-needed investment," Nasser said, warning that without higher investment levels "energy transition and energy security may be fatally compromised". "New discoveries are also on a major downward trend," Nasser added, urging industry players to create a "compelling narrative" for increased investment.

The downturn has blown a major hole in the budgets of key OPEC and non-OPEC producers, reliant on robust oil prices for healthy finances. Nasser confirmed that to counter the sliding investment trend, Saudi Aramco plans to invest some $300 billion in the coming years and was also looking at diversifying its own business. "The continuing market volatility is a powerful reminder that we must transform our own business model," he said. Nasser said that by 2030 Saudi Arabia should be "nothing less than a powerhouse" for solar power and Aramco would play a full part in this.

The chief executive of Royal Dutch Shell, Ben van Beurden, said the sector faced a huge challenge in the years to come, needing to meet "higher energy demands for a growing population" while also reducing greenhouse emissions in line with the Paris Agreement on combating climate change. He hailed the fact there have already been "huge advances" in the field of renewables, with costs predicted to fall further for wind and solar energy. — AFP

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Focus

# Quiet success for China as Xi avoids drama, spotlight

From US anger over inaction on North Korea to a festering border dispute with India and the ailing Chinese Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo, last week's G20 summit was strewn with minefields for China's President Xi Jinping. By chance or by strategy, Xi and his officials picked their way through unscathed. Beijing is ultra-sensitive about Xi's image and ensuring he gets the respect it sees as his due as leader of an emerging superpower, especially when travelling to Western countries where it cannot so tightly control the public narrative.

Diplomatic sources in Beijing, speaking ahead of Xi's trip to the G20 gathering in the German city of Hamburg, said Chinese officials had in private expressed nervousness that he could be asked awkward questions about North Korea, or the cancer-struck Liu, jailed for 11 years in 2009 for "inciting subversion of state power". In the end it was US President Donald Trump's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, amid accusations Russia interfered in the US election, and Trump's refusal to return to the Paris climate agreement that dominated the limelight.

Xi, by contrast, avoided controversy in his bilateral meetings and reaffirmed China's commitment to the Paris deal and to an open global economy, in what the official China Daily called the "burnishing of (his) reputation". "Nobody talked about the South China Sea. No one talked about trade. Everyone was happy with Xi. I think he played this well," said Ulrich Speck, senior fellow at the Elcano Royal Institute in Brussels. "All eyes were on Trump and Putin. But the fact that there was no US-China clash was at least as important. Xi stayed out of the alpha-male fight. China presented itself as a partner to Europe."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Xi "made it clear that the G20 should adhere to taking the path of open development and mutual benefit leading to all-win results, support a multilateral trade mechanism, and promote international trade and investment". "China was in a good place at G20, with reasonable policies," said Jin Canrong of the School of International Studies at the Renmin University of China, who has advised the government on diplomatic matters. "So President Xi was comfortable and positive there."

**Don't Mention Taiwan**

Potentially the biggest test was Xi's meeting with Trump, who in the run-up to Hamburg had voiced frustration over China's inability to rein in its troublesome erstwhile ally, North Korea. In the event, Trump returned to the conciliatory tone struck at their first meeting in April, telling the Chinese leader it was "an honor to have you as a friend" and he appreciated actions Xi had already taken to try to dissuade North Korea from pursuing nuclear weapons.

Influential Chinese state-run tabloid the Global Times said in an editorial yesterday that the Xi-Trump meeting had defied "the naysayers in the West". "Beijing and Washington saw friction on issues including Taiwan and the South China Sea ahead of the meeting, and there was speculation from Western public opinion that the China-US 'honeymoon' had come to an end. But the Xi-Trump meeting repudiates such speculation," the paper said.

Speaking to reporters later on Air Force One, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the Trump-Xi meeting lasted more than an hour-and-a-half, and would have gone on longer had they not had to leave for other engagements. Ruan Zongze, a former Chinese diplomat now with the China Institute of International Studies, a think-tank affiliated with the Foreign Ministry, said Xi was much more upbeat than when he spoke to Trump a few days ahead of G20 and mentioned certain unnamed "negative factors" in their relationship. "Even on trade Trump underscored that he wants cooperation," Ruan said.

China's biggest concern had been US policy towards self-ruled Taiwan, after the Trump administration approved a $1.42 billion arms package for Taiwan, claimed by China as its own. Neither government mentioned Taiwan in their respective accounts of their G20 meeting. Chinese officials were at pains to point out their good relations with the new administration in Washington. Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao told reporters in Hamburg that the Chinese and US teams dealing the bilateral financial relationship clearly understood that both would be hurt by fighting with each other. "Our strength is communicating every morning and every evening. This is unprecedented," Zhu said. — Reuters

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# Jawbone demise case of 'death by overfunding'

Consumer electronics company Jawbone had more than enough money to take on Fitbit and other health-tracking devices in the "wearables" market. That may have ended up being its biggest problem. Top-tier venture capital firms Sequoia, Andreessen Horowitz, Khosla Ventures and Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, and then a sovereign wealth fund, invested hundreds of millions of dollars in Jawbone, lifting its valuation to $3.2 billion in 2014.

Ultimately, all that money couldn't save San Francisco-based Jawbone, which began liquidating proceedings in June after its fitness-tracker product failed to take off. It now ranks as the second largest failure among venture-backed companies, based on total funding raised, according to the research firm CB Insights.

Jawbone's fall after raising more than $900 million provides a stark example of how the flood of cash pouring into Silicon Valley can have the perverse effect of sustaining companies that have no future, technology executives and financiers say. The irony is Jawbone could have been a suitable acquisition target some years ago, these people say, had it just kept its valuation lower by raising less money from venture capital and sovereign wealth funds. "They are basically force-feeding capital into these companies," said Sramana Mitra, a tech entrepreneur and consultant, and founder and CEO of startup accelerator One Million by One Million. "I expect there will be a lot more deaths by overfunding."

The Jawbone case also underscores the risks that non-traditional startup investors such as sovereign wealth funds face as they ramp up investments in Silicon Valley. The Kuwait Investment Authority led a $165 million investment in Jawbone just last year, when its prospects had already dimmed to the point that most of its original investors were unwilling to put up new funding.

These funds, which mange funds of hundreds of billions of dollars, invested $12.7 billion in private tech companies last year, up from $2.2 billion the year before, according to CB Insights. Startup failures are not uncommon, but a billion-dollar company that has raised huge pools of money going belly up remains a rarity. Jawbone ranks behind the solar technology company Solyndra, which became the largest failure among venture-backed companies when it filed for bankruptcy in 2011.

Other recent big-dollar failures include used car marketplace Beepi, which closed after raising about $150 million. Some investors say failures like Jawbone won't seriously dent startup funding in the near term. Venture capitalists last year raised $41 billion, a record. "Everyone is trying to find a way to play in the tech economy," said Rich Wong, a partner with Accel venture firm. "It's inevitable" that there will be big-ticket failures.

But the Jawbone situation could give pause to investors considering nine-figure investments in unproven firms, say venture capitalists. Since Jawbone's "downround" last year, a number of other startups - including human resources software firm Zenefits, food subscription company HelloFresh and ride service Ola - have had their valuations slashed because of poor performance and waning investor enthusiasm, contributing to heightened caution in the startup industry over the last several months.

The quarterly number of startup financing deals continues to drop from its high in 2015, although with so much cash, investors aren't shy to write large checks for the select companies they believe will succeed. Ride-services firm Lyft, for instance, raised $600 million in April. Jawbone's liquidation was first reported last week by technology news site The Information and independently confirmed by Reuters. A spokesman for Jawbone declined to comment. Co-founder and chief executive Hosain Rahman did not respond to email from Reuters, and its VC investors declined to comment. Alex Asseily, Jawbone's co-founder who resigned as board chairman and director in January 2015, told Reuters "it's saddening to see Jawbone end this way."

**Loans from Blackrock**

Jawbone launched in 1999 under the name AliphCom. It cycled through several products, including Bluetooth headsets and speakers, and in 2011 landed on stylish wearable devices to track exercise, sleep and other health data. Along the way, Jawbone burned through more than $500 million in equity and raised more than $400 million in debt, the lion's share from BlackRock, according data provider PitchBook Inc. But the company barely made a dent in the wearables market, with well below five percent market share, and was vastly outperformed by Fitbit, Samsung and others, according to analyst Jitesh Ubrani of International Data Corp.

Still, Jawbone raised $147 million in September 2014, bumping its valuation $3.2 billion, according to Pitchbook. In November of the following year, Jawbone laid off 15 percent of its staff amid financial troubles. By December 2015, BlackRock had marked down the company's shares by 69 percent, according to Pitchbook. Then, in 2016, the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) invested in Jawbone for the first time, leading a $165 million round that halved Jawbone's valuation to $1.5 billion. The KIA did not respond to requests for comment.

Sovereign wealth funds from the Middle East and Asia have in recent years become far more active in investing directly in start-ups, rather than simply investing in venture capital funds. Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund and the Qatar Investment Authority, for instance, both have big stakes in Uber. Because they have so much more money than traditional venture firms and are less experienced as tech investors, sovereign wealth funds are often called upon to co-invest or lead a risky funding round, say people who invest alongside these foreign funds.

Such large fundraising rounds can "create this artificially bloated valuation that doesn't compute with the revenue," Mitra said. They can also be a false signal to investors, who often look at how much money a company has raised as a signal of its success, when "in fact, it's the opposite," said Rebecca Lynn, a partner at Canvas Ventures. Jawbone tried to sell itself in 2016, but was unable to find a buyer, according to investors with knowledge of the matter. It has been sued by vendors who allege the company owes them hundreds of thousands of dollars. — Reuters

# In Pakistan, switch to solar hit by rumors

Mohammad Aslam has finally found a way to give his family relief from extended power cuts. In February this year he installed a 300-watt solar power generating system on the roof of his house. In Pakistan, power outages scheduled by the country's strained public electric utilities frequently hit households, lasting as long as 10 hours a day in towns and cities and up to 16 hours in rural areas.

The situation is worst during the brutally hot summer months, when air-conditioners often overload the national grid. Buying solar panels to create power at home might seem an obvious way to bridge the gap. But although the panels have been available since 2014 in Aslam's town of Larkana, in the southern province of Sindh, the 35-year-old entrepreneur waited two years before finally installing one.

Cost wasn't the problem. Instead, he said, he was put off by rumors that solar panels would actually make things worse. Unscrupulous local utility officials, he says, told him that the dark-colored solar panels, built to absorb the sun's rays and convert them to electricity, would increase the ambient heat in the buildings they were attached to, pushing the temperature indoors even higher.

According to Aslam, the officials even said that the growing use of solar panels was to blame for the more frequent and intense heat waves that Pakistan has experienced - something scientists say is entirely untrue. Climate change and worsening extreme heat is instead driven largely by a huge expansion in the use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas since the start of the industrial revolution, they say.

"I discovered it was a fake rumor only after I installed the solar system on the insistence of my friend, a graduate in electric engineering," Aslam told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview. His friend assured him that the rumors were just a trick by utility company employees bent on discouraging wide-scale adoption of solar energy adoption in order to safeguard their jobs.

Tariq Mehmood, general manager of the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO), a public power utility, said he was not aware of any IESCO employees spreading rumors. "Our power utility has nothing to do with (any rumors) and disowns them. People shouldn't believe them," Mehmood said in a telephone interview.

**'A Great Relief'**

Aslam's new solar home system - two solar panels, four ceiling fans, four energy-saving lights and a rechargeable battery - cost him $500. During the day the system powers the ceiling fans and stores enough electricity in the battery to run the fans and lights for six or seven hours at night if the grid electricity supply goes off. The battery can recharge in sunlight in three hours. "We have fans and lights (that) remain on whenever power outages hit us. What makes me more happy is that my family feels a great relief thanks to it," Aslam said.

Abdul Karim, a solar panel retailer at the Aabpara electronic market in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, said prospective customers often mention having heard the rumors that solar panels add to heat problems. "To prove these rumors wrong, often I have to take them to the rooftop of my shop to show them the solar system that powers my shop," Karim said. "Then many buy solar systems from me."

As solar home systems become more affordable, many households see them as an alternative to trying to get a new electrical connection via the public power utilities. According to Mir Ahmad Shah, executive secretary of the Pakistan Renewable and Alternative Energy Association, public utilities that control power distribution and supply fear that the gradual adoption of solar energy will make people less reliant on the national grid. "Employees of the public power utilities are hampering this growing shift to solar energy through rumours, because they fear the growing adoption solar energy systems will lead to overall revenue decline from new connection applications," Shah said.

**Cash for Service?**

Retired Pakistan Railways employee Raja Jameel said he was unsuccessful in getting a grid connection two year ago for his new home in Ghouri, a rural locality on Islamabad's outskirts. "What (finally) worked in a matter of a few hours to get what I was denied for nearly four months was a $50 bribe to a superintendent of IESCO," Jameel said in an interview.

He said he believes that in some utility companies, employees responsible for approving new power connections try to dissuade potential solar adopters by spreading false rumors about the panels, largely because they do not want to lose potential bribes for approving new grid connections. Jameel plans to build a second storey onto his home to rent out, but he says he will install a 2-kilowatt solar home system to power it, rather than begging for a new power connection from the utility.

IESCO's Mehmood said that although the utility had periodically received complaints from customers about bribe-taking, it had taken steps to reduce the problem. "IESCO management has controlled (bribe-taking) through a strong online public complaint redressal system established a few years ago. Besides, we have made the process of sanctioning and issuing new electricity connection systems more transparent and hassle-free," Mehmood said.

In an interview outside the Parliament building in Islamabad, Minister of State for Water and Power Abid Sher Ali did not deny that power distribution companies, including IESCO, have had problems with corruption, but said the government took all complaints regarding such matters seriously. "We have a zero tolerance policy regarding bribery in the public power utilities across the country," Ali said. The minister added there is a robust complaints mechanism, and that any employees found to have been corrupt are demoted or dismissed. — Reuters

## Thomas says Tour exit yet to sink in

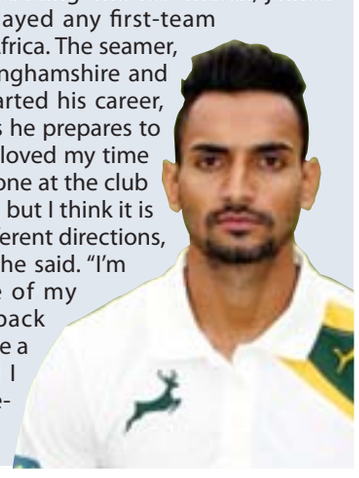
**BERGERAC:** Geraint Thomas admitted yesterday it was too soon to realise the full extent of his disappointment after crashing out of the Tour de France on Sunday. Thomas broke his collarbone in a fall midway through the ninth stage. He was one of five riders to crash out of the race on Sunday as rain made mountain descents slippery and dangerous. What was worse for Thomas, though, was that it was the second Grand Tour of the year he's crashed out of, having also left May's Giro d'Italia at the end of the first week. "It still hasn't really sunk in. I'm sure it will be like the Giro and when I get home is when it really hits home, so to speak," said the 31-year-old Team Sky rider. "The show goes on pretty quickly. So I think it will hit me tomorrow and in a few days time." Thomas, though, was already looking forward to the future and getting back on his stationary training bike. "I'm going to see a specialist on Tuesday and get it operated on this week. I'll have a week off and then I should be back on the turbo trainer." Until his crash it had been a hugely successful Tour for the Welshman. — AFP

## Tevez's Chinese club hit out at fixing claims

**SHANGHAI:** Carlos Tevez's Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua say they are taking legal action over suggestions of match-fixing after they grabbed a last-gasp 2-2 draw at Fabio Capello's Jiangsu Suning. The weekend stalemate means Capello's wait for a first Chinese Super League (CSL) victory goes on and Shenhua said that online speculation about the result was tarnishing the club. Shenhua called on fans to "resist rumours" in a statement. "There is a lot before and after the game about Shenhua and the opponent fixing the result," it added. "Was this the performance of a team and coach told to lose the game? "Recently a few people with ulterior motives fabricated a lot of rumours without basis in fact. They hoped to bring chaos to football and Shenhua," continued the statement, issued on Sunday. "We solemnly tell Shenhua fans, please fully trust our management, coaching staff and all the players. "We have set up a special team of lawyers, using a variety of legal means, to investigate the people involved in these rumours." Suning, who have splashed out on former England coach Capello and Brazilians Ramires and Alex Teixeira, looked set for a badly needed three points when they went ahead through first-half goals by Wu Xi and a Teixeira penalty. — AFP

## Former England bowler Ajmal set for Sussex exit

**LONDON:** Former England bowler Ajmal Shahzad is set to leave Sussex after two years with the county side. The 31-year-old, who played for England 15 times across all formats including one Test match, joined Sussex two years ago, but has not played any first-team matches since mid-May against South Africa. The seamer, who's also played for Lancashire, Nottinghamshire and his native Yorkshire, with whom he started his career, will now be seeking a new challenge as he prepares to depart his fourth county team. "I have loved my time at Sussex and I'm very grateful to everyone at the club for their support over the last few years, but I think it is clear that I and the club are going in different directions, and it suits both parties to part ways," he said. "I'm really excited about the next stage of my career, and it is my intention to be back playing cricket as soon as possible. I have a huge amount to offer a county and I know I will be a valuable asset to someone." —AFP



FIELD HOCKEY

# Field hockey making its mark in Kuwait

## Gaining popularity within the expat community

**KUWAIT:** For more than 50 years field hockey has been silently gaining popularity within the expat community in Kuwait. At the highest level, field hockey is a fast moving, highly skilled game, with players using fast moves with the stick, quick accurate passing, and hard hits, in attempts to keep possession and move the ball towards the goal. Tackling with physical contact and otherwise physically obstructing players is not permitted. Some of the tactics used resemble football (soccer), but with greater ball speed. Though it is often dwarfed by sports like soccer, basketball and cricket, field hockey is now making its mark in Kuwait.

Andres Perez San Emeterio Spanish Junior National player and Kuwait Independence Hockey Club star player had taken the initiative to spread this great sport to next generation and among the Kuwaitis. Before Ramadan and the schools summer holidays a kids games was organized along with senior players of field Hockey Clubs. It was a great pleasure to see the upcoming promising players like Fahad Tareq AlOun , Jaime Perez San Emeterio, Ella Goitiandia who impressed the crowd. There was a time when field hockey was a contact sport. As years passed and rules changed, however, field hockey started to evolve into the modern game is it is today and stick skills became the focal point. Physical contact fell out of the equation and the sport became much more technical.

A few reasons why field hockey has been increasing in popularity in recent years are listed below.

**1) INCREASES SKILL-SET**

In field hockey involves players have to use a Hockey Stick to guide the ball into a small net which is guarded by a Goalie. Though it may sound simple, using a stick to guide the ball into the net, bypassing the goalie, all while evading opposition players and defending the ball can be very difficult. It takes a lot of skill and excellent coordination to wield a ball into the goal using the stick which is basically an extension of a hockey player's hand. The more professional a player gets, he masters skills such as dribbling with the ball, trapping the ball, and becomes more precise in every move he makes.

**2) SCORING IS A FINE ART**

Scoring in Hockey is not easy as compared to some other sports, because the goal is relatively small and the goalie makes himself quite large in the small box to close down shots aimed at the goal. Also, scoring from outside of the D area is not allowed which means scoring has to be precise. To add to the above challenges, there are defenders rushing at the player trying to block his path and provide protection for their goal.

**3) PACE OF THE GAME**

When compared to other sports swing speeds, a field Hockey ball speed hits 103mph, which is a lot faster than Cricket stroke which is only 67mph. The high speed at which the ball travels adds a level of danger which spikes the adrenaline and makes the game more enticing for anyone seeking a little thrill.

Hockey is such a fast-paced sport, players don't have time to dwell on a mistake or take a break; if they do, the opposition will take the opportunity and punish them for it. That's what makes hockey renowned, it is continuous action from whistle to whistle.

Unlike Soccer, Hockey doesn't follow the offside rule which automatically makes for a quicker game. Hockey is therefore more deliberate in its passing. Players use this lack of offside to manipulate the ball and the defenders into dangerous areas which help to setup an attack onto the opposition.

Addition of new rules like the self-pass, improves the speed of the game and creates a better flow of the game by minimizing time taken by teams to setup. The advantage rule is also a great way to ensure play continues without stopping the game unnecessarily.

**4) HONES PLAYERS' PHYSICALITY**

Hockey is not only a fast paced game, but it requires its players to be quick, agile and decide on the spot. Players have to make quick sprints throughout the game and are given little, if any time to recover. Hockey can be physically demanding and players need to be in good shape to keep up with the game. The synthetic turf where the game is played can be very harsh especially after a fall or skid by any player.

**5) ALL ARE WELCOME**

Field hockey is a rare sport that does not discriminate when it comes to its participants. It doesn't matter whether it's a male or female participant, they are allow both in mixed teams. It doesn't matter whether a player is 14 or 50, if he or she is eligible to play, they can. In this way, field hockey is empowering all people who have an interest to take part. This makes field hockey such a great way for the community to gather and be part of something bigger than themselves.

**6) CARD SYSTEM**

In hockey, a player is are less likely to get a red card or a ban unless he commits a serious offence like hitting the opposition. This ensures a player more playing time and teaches him to be more cautious. An umpire can give a card to any player who has commits a repeated offense. There are three types of cards:

a) Green card: Warning for the player to stop whatever she is doing.

b) Yellow card: Temporarily suspends the player for a minimum of five minutes of playing time.

c) Red card: Permanently suspends the player from the match.

If a player is suspended temporarily or permanently, his team plays with fewer players. The green and yellow card systems helps to calm players down by forcing them to leave the pitch.

**7) CAMARADERIE**

There is something about working together with others to achieve a common goal. When players work together during training exercises, and practice sessions, they develops a special bond with their teammates. They begin to rely on each other and trust that their team will have their back if they slip up and make a mistake. Players start to enjoy the wins as a team, just as they support each other through. Players begin to feel like they are part of something much bigger than just a game, they sometimes forge friendships that last a lifetime.

**8) PASSION**

One of the most important reasons, that hockey has risen in the last couple of years is because of the amount of passion involved in the game not only by the players but by everyone the clubs, the mangers coaches and fans. When people come to watch a match, they know that they are going to be entertained. When players are passionate about their teams and the game, it can be clearly seen on the pitch by the performance they put in. When a team put in a lot of belief and hard work in their game, it makes for a very passionate game, especially if the opposition team fights back with equal vigor. Nowadays in a world where everything is corrupted by money and fame, the love for the game is what drives true fans to keep supporting their teams in spite of the odds against them.

The number of people that sign up for field hockey has been rapidly increasing over the years. Although field hockey has taken time to carve out space for itself in a football dominated region, it is here to stay and someday soon, it will get the recognition it deserves.

For more about hockey in Kuwait email internationalhockeykwt@gmail.com

RUGBY

## NZ to keep Lion's share of bumper tour profits

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand Rugby revealed yesterday that the British and Irish Lions series is set to deliver a bumper profit, but ruled out sharing more of it with the four nations whose players made up the touring team.

NZR chief Steve Tew said the 10-match tour was virtually a sellout, with 342,000 tickets sold as tens of thousands of Lions fans poured into New Zealand for an event that only happens once every 12 years. "It's a bit early in terms of wrapping up costs and income, but we were very close to selling out every game which was our budgeted expectation, so we should be on track. There were no red flags, that's for sure," he told Fairfax New Zealand. The loss-making organisation has previously said that profits from the tour were central to its plans to break even by 2020, a point Tew reiterated. "It will be a big income spike this year, but it needs to be spread out over a number of years of expenses," he said.

Tew did not believe income-sharing arrangements needed to be revisited, saying the All Blacks did not receive a share of revenue when they toured northern hemisphere nations and helped fill their stadiums. "We consider the income that the south generates from a Lions tour as a really important part of equalising what is an inequitable distribution of money when we tour north and they tour south in a normal year," he said. Tew did not reveal NZR's profit projections but the amount is almost certain to be more than the NZ$20 million ($14.5 million) the organisation banked after the last tour in 2005. While disappointed that the three-Test series ended in a draw, Tew said the number of talented youngsters who emerged was a good sign for the future. "We've ended up with a lot more younger players playing this series than we would have planned for, but they'll be better for it," he said. "That experience will be banked for the 2019 Rugby World Cup and will be invaluable."

**'HATING IT'**

Former All Blacks and Lions coach Graham Henry said the Lions tour showed that the New Zealanders' main threat in 2019 would come from the northern hemisphere, not the south. He said the Wallabies and Springboks were struggling but the Lions had showed how to pressure the reigning world champions, particularly on defence.

"Over the next couple of years the signs are that the All Blacks will face more competition from the northern hemisphere countries than they will experience here in the Rugby Championship," Henry wrote in London's Daily Telegraph. "Australia and South Africa in particular have tailed off and that is a bit of a negative for the All Blacks."

Meanwhile, Lions coach Warren Gatland has revealed he was left "hating" being on tour at times because of the personal criticism levelled at him by his fellow New Zealanders. Gatland was depicted as a clown by one newspaper and there were accusations he was "unravelling" under the pressure of touring his homeland.—AFP

GOLF

# Rahm heads to British Open inspired by Seve

**PORTSTEWART:** Spanish sensation Jon Rahm brilliantly emulated legendary fellow countrymen Seve Ballesteros in capturing the Irish Open and now he is seeking to do the same at next week's British Open.

Rahm has moved to number eight in the world rankings following his dramatic six stroke success at Portstewart on Sunday. The 22-year-old powerhouse, in only his first full season on both the European and PGA Tour's, is now just three places being fellow Spaniard and reigning Masters Champion, Sergio Garcia.

Rahm's victory in Ireland has marked him down as one of the favourites to become only the second Spanish-born golfer after Ballesteros to win golf's oldest Major that begins on July 20 at Royal Birkdale. "I said at the beginning of the week of the Irish, even before the tournament started, that I haven't played my best golf on links golf courses," Rahm said.

"There was always something else. And to play the way I did here, it proves to me I can perform properly on a links golf course. "And that's what I've got to take to The Open. I know now that I have what it takes. "Before that, there was a little bit of doubt in my mind but now I know that I have what it takes to win a tournament on a links golf course. "The Open Championship, it's a little different deal just because a major championship will be set up probably harder than this week was. "But nevertheless, I know I can read the putts right, and I know I can interpret the wind and I can hit the shots and I can manage myself around the golf course properly enough to have a chance to win The Open.

"Will that happen? I don't know. But I'm going to try to enjoy it as much as I've enjoyed this week." Rahm spoke of the inspiration he gleaned from Ballesteros, who also endeared himself to Irish golf fans winning the event on three occasions. "Seve is the reason why I'm playing golf," he said. "If it wasn't for that Ryder Cup in Spain, my father would have never started to play golf. If he had never started, I would have never picked it up. "Nobody in my family did up until Seve put it on the map in Spain with that Ryder Cup in '97, I believe.

"He is the greatest legend a country can have. He broke so many barriers. He was told he couldn't do so many things. At my age, he won Augusta. He was the first European to win at Augusta. He won it twice. I mean, at the age of 20 and 21, he won The Open Championship.

"So, he would have been sitting right here as a two-time Major Champion, that's something unbelievable, even in those times. "And to do it in the fashion that he did, he is such a role model for any aspect of the game, all we can do is try to emulate. "Nobody will ever be like Seve, but we can try to pick and choose things from Seve.—AFP

**FRENCH LICK: Mike Whan, the LPGA Commissioner, Alice Dye and Steve Ferguson, Chairman of the Board for the Cook Group pose with the winner's trophy before round one of the Senior LPGA Championship yesterday on The Pete Dye Course at French Lick Resort in French Lick, Indiana. —AFP**

PHOENIX: Paul Goldschmidt #44 of the Arizona Diamondbacks is tagged out at home plate by catcher Tucker Barnhart #16 of the Cincinnati Reds during the sixth inning of the MLB game at Chase Field on Sunday in Phoenix, Arizona. The Reds defeated the Diamondbacks 2-1. — AFP

BASEBALL

# Freeland misses no-hitter as Rockies beat White Sox

**DENVER:** Hometown rookie Kyle Freeland came within two outs of the first no-hitter by a Rockies pitcher at Coors Field before surrendering a sharp single to Melky Cabrera in Colorado's 10-0 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Sunday. Freeland, who is from Denver and grew up going to games at the hitter-friendly park, struck out the first batter of the ninth inning and then allowed Cabrera's hit to left field on a 2-2 count. The 24-year-old Freeland (9-7) threw 126 pitches. He was pulled immediately after the hit and left to a standing ovation. The lefty struck out a career-high nine, walked three and hit a batter. Freeland was trying to throw the second no-hitter in Coors Field history. Hideo Nomo accomplished the feat in 1996 when he was with the Los Angeles Dodgers. The only no-hitter in Rockies history was thrown by Ubaldo Jimenez in 2010 at Atlanta. Edinson Volquez of the Miami Marlins pitched the lone no-hitter in the majors this season, doing it last month against Arizona. Freeland even had an RBI single in the seventh for the Rockies' last run. Reliever Jordan Lyles got the last two outs to complete the one-hitter. Pat Valaika drove in five runs, including a three-run homer as part of a five-run sixth that turned a 2-0 lead into a rout. Charlie Blackmon also hit a solo homer.

**REDS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1**

Homer Bailey went 6 2/3 strong innings, Scott Schebler doubled in the go-ahead run and Cincinnati beat Arizona, sending the Diamondbacks to their fifth loss in six games. Bailey (2-2) gave up a run on seven hits in his fourth start since returning from February surgery to remove small bone spurs from his elbow. He struck out five and walked four. A.J. Pollock homered for Arizona, his first since a six-week stint on the disabled list with a groin injury. Patrick Corbin (6-9) allowed two runs in six innings but took the loss. The left-hander scattered seven hits and matched his season high with nine strikeouts. Raisel Iglesias pitched a perfect ninth for his 16th save in 17 tries.

**ASTROS 19, BLUE JAYS 1**

Carlos Correa homered twice and drove in a career-high five runs and Houston romped into the All-Star break, battering Toronto. The runaway leaders in the AL West became just the fifth team in the last 40 years to reach 60 wins before the All-Star Game. They Astros joined the 1998 Yankees, 2001 Mariners, 2003 Braves and this year's Los Angeles Dodgers, who got there Saturday. At 60-29, Houston heads into the break with a whopping lead in a division where no one else is over .500. A day after his career-high 15-game hitting streak ended, Correa had four hits. The All-Star shortstop hit the 20-homer mark with his second of the day for his fifth career multi-homer game and second this year. Fellow All-Star Jose Altuve, Yuli Gurriel and Evan Gattis also homered for Houston. Altuve had three hits for the fifth consecutive game - he became the ninth major leaguer to do so in more than a century, and the first since George Brett's record-tying six-game streak for Kansas City in 1976. Gattis drove in four runs with two hits in Houston's most-lopsided win of the season. Brad Peacock (7-1) pitched six innings of shutout ball, holding the Blue Jays to five hits while walking five. The Astros hit three home runs in the second against J.A. Happ (3-6), the third time this season they've had at least three in an inning.

**PIRATES 14, CUBS 3**

Francisco Cervelli and Andrew McCutchen capped Pittsburgh's 10-run first inning with consecutive homers off Jon Lester, helping the Pirates pound Chicago. Cervelli drove in five runs and Jordy Mercer had two hits and three RBIs as the Pirates closed out a 5-2 road trip with their fifth win in six games. All-Star Josh Harrison homered in the ninth and Chad Kuhl pitched three innings of one-run ball in an emergency start after Jameson Taillon was scratched due to flu-like symptoms. Pittsburgh sent 15 batters to the plate in its highest-scoring inning since it got 10 in the seventh against Colorado on May 17, 2009. It was the first time it scored at least 10 in the first inning since June 8, 1989, against Philadelphia. Cervelli hit his third career grand slam into the basket in left with two out. McCutchen followed with a drive to left-center for his 17th homer, chasing Lester and drawing a smattering of boos from a frustrated crowd of 41,604 at Wrigley Field. Chicago (43-45) heads into the All-Star break with a losing record for the first time since it was 40-54 in 2014. The Cubs were 53-35 at the break a year ago on their way to their first World Series title since 1908. Lester (5-6) was charged with four earned runs and six hits in the shortest start of his 12-year major league career. A.J. Schugel (1-0), the second of three Pittsburgh relievers, pitched three innings for the win.

**DODGERS 5, ROYALS 2**

Clayton Kershaw tossed a six-hitter to become the majors' first 14-game winner, Justin Turner homered twice, and NL West-leading Los Angeles beat defeated Kansas City to complete its major league-best 10th sweep and sixth straight victory. The streaking Dodgers head into the All-Star break owning baseball's best record of 61-29. They've won 18 of their last 19 at home, where they lead the majors with a 39-11 mark. Kershaw (14-2) allowed two runs and six hits on 99 pitches, struck out 13 and walked none to set the Dodgers' record for most wins at the break. The All-Star left-hander, who won't pitch in Tuesday's showcase in Miami, is 10-0 over his last 13 starts, all Los Angeles victories. He allowed a run for the first time in four outings. Danny Duffy (5-5) gave up five runs and six hits in seven innings. He struck out nine and didn't walk anyone.

**BREWERS 5, YANKEES 3**

Travis Shaw and Stephen Vogt both homered and Milwaukee increased its surprising NL Central lead, topping New York. The Brewers have won nine of 11. At 50-41, they go into the All-Star break in first place for the fifth time in franchise history, 5 1/2 games ahead of the reigning World Series champion Chicago Cubs and St. Louis. The Yankees (45-41) have not won a series since June 9-11 and are 3 1/2 games behind first-place Boston in the AL East. Shaw hit a three-run homer in the first off Masahiro Tanaka (7-8). Vogt added a solo shot in the second, his fourth since being plucked off waivers from Oakland two weeks ago. Jimmy Nelson (8-4) pitched five-plus innings of three-run ball. Corey Knebel notched a four-out save, his 14th in 18 opportunities. Clint Frazier homered for the Yankees, the rookie's second shot in as many days and his third in just seven games since his debut.

**NATIONALS 10, BRAVES 5**

Anthony Rendon reached base four times, the Washington bullpen allowed two runs over 5 2/3 innings, and the Nationals beat Atlanta. Rendon scored twice and drove in a pair as the Nationals salvaged a split of the four-game series with the Braves to enter the All-Star break with a 9 1/2-game lead over Atlanta in the NL East. Washington starter Joe Ross left the game with an apparent injury with one out in the fourth. Reliever Matt Grace (1-0) allowed two runs, one earned, over 2 2/3 innings. Joe Blanton, Enny Romero and Matt Albers each threw a scoreless inning. With Washington leading by one, Rendon provided an insurance run in the seventh. He walked, stole second and went to third on a throwing error by catcher Tyler Flowers, and scored on a Matt Wieters' sacrifice fly. Atlanta rookie Sean Newcomb (1-4) allowed four runs on four hits over four innings.

**TIGERS 5, INDIANS 3**

Michael Fulmer outpitched All-Star teammate Corey Kluber and Alex Presley hit a tiebreaking, two-run double and Detroit hung on late to salvage the series finale with Cleveland. Fulmer (9-6) dominated Cleveland's lineup until the seventh, when he gave up a two-run homer to Indians All-Star Jose Ramirez. Detroit's shaky bullpen barely held together over the last three innings. Shane Green worked out of a bases-loaded threat in the seventh and Justin Wilson did the same in the eighth while getting five outs for his 10th save in 11 tries. Fulmer won't pitch for the AL in Miami tonight, so he made the most of a nationally televised matchup against Kluber by beating the Central-leading Indians. He held Cleveland to one run and three hits over the first six innings and won his third start in a row. Presley ripped his double just inside the left-field chalk in the sixth off Dan Otero after the Tigers loaded the bases against reliever Nick Goody (1-1), who replaced Kluber to start the inning. The Indians were again without manager Terry Francona, who underwent a cardiac ablation to correct an irregular heartbeat and spent four days at the Cleveland Clinic. Francona is expected to rejoin the club following the All-Star break.

**PHILLIES 7, PADRES 1**

Freddy Galvis hit two of his team's six home runs, Jerad Eickhoff threw five shutout innings, and Philadelphia topped San Diego. Rookie Nick Williams began the run of homers with his first in the majors during the second inning. Cameron Rupp followed two batters later with another solo homer and Galvis hit a two-run shot in the third inning. Odubel Herrera and Aaron Altherr added solo home runs in sixth and seventh innings respectively and Galvis went back-to-back after Altherr's for his second of the game. Eickhoff (1-7) returned from the disabled list with a strong start for the Phillies. He tied a season high with eight strikeouts and held the Padres to just five hits and a walk. Trevor Cahill (3-3) struggled while striking out eight in five innings.

**CARDINALS 6, METS 0**

Tommy Pham, Paul DeJong and Luke Voit homered and Lance Lynn pitched seven innings of three-hit ball to help St. Louis beat New York. It was Lynn's longest outing since May 23, when he threw 123 pitches in eight scoreless innings in a 2-1 loss to Clayton Kershaw and the Dodgers. Lynn's two strikeouts is a season low, but he needed just 93 pitches while facing two batters over the minimum. Lynn (7-6) did not allow a runner past first and lowered his ERA to 3.61. Trevor Rosenthal struck out the side in the eighth and John Brebbia pitched a scoreless ninth as the Cardinals finished a 6-4 homestand and moved into a tie with the Chicago Cubs for second place in the National League Central. Steven Matz (2-2) gave up five runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings, his shortest outing since June 3.

**MARLINS 10, GIANTS 8**

Giancarlo Stanton homered twice, the second coming after A.J. Ellis' tiebreaking two-run home run in the 11th inning, and Florida held on to beat San Francisco. Miami blew a 7-4 lead when the Giants scored three runs off Kyle Barraclough in the eighth before Ellis and Stanton lifted the Marlins in extra innings. J.T. Realmuto reached on shortstop Brandon Crawford's throwing error leading off the 11th. After JT Riddle flew out, Ellis hit a tiebreaking two-run home run. It was Ellis' first career pinch hit home run. Stanton, who homered in the fifth off starter Johnny Cueto, then tacked on No. 26 against George Kontos (0-3). The Marlins head into the All-Star break having won five of six. Nick Wittgren (2-1) retired six batters for the win and A.J. Ramos pitched the ninth for his 17th save.

**RAYS 5, RED SOX 3**

Brad Miller hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning and Tampa Bay took three of the four from AL East-leading Boston. Miller connected with two outs off Joe Kelly (3-1), sending a drive over the center field wall. Kelly had made a career-best 23 straight scoreless appearances. Brad Boxberger (1-0) worked out of a two-on, two-out jam in the eighth before Alex Colome got three outs for his 25th save. Tampa Bay, at 47-43, has 13 more wins than last year at the All-Star break and trails the Red Sox by 3 1/2 games.

**ORIOLES 11, TWINS 5**

Adam Jones homered twice and drove in five runs to lead a 15-hit attack in Baltimore's victory over Minnesota. Ruben Tejada and Seth Smith each had three hits for the Orioles, who won their second straight and earned a split of the weekend series. Max Kepler had a double and a triple and Robbie Grossman drove in two runs for Minnesota, which reached the All-Star break at 45-43. It's only the second time in the past seven seasons the Twins have been above .500 at the break. Ubaldo Jimenez (4-4) worked five innings for his third win in his past five starts. He allowed four runs in the second inning, but otherwise held off the Twins. Kyle Gibson (5-7) was the loser.

**ANGELS 3, RANGERS 0**

J.C. Ramirez outpitched All-Star Yu Darvish and Albert Pujols hit his 604th career home run as four Anaheim pitchers combined to beat Texas. Ramirez (8-7) allowed two hits in six innings. Angels relievers allowed only one walk with Bud Norris earning his 13th save with a perfect ninth inning. Ramirez made his 16th straight start since mid-April after his previous 108 career appearances in the major leagues were in relief. The 28-year-old was moved into the starting rotation after Los Angeles lost multiple starters to injury. Darvish (6-8) gave up two runs while pitching 7 1/3 innings. He allowed three hits, fanning six and walking four in a start that cost him a potential appearance in Tuesday night's All-Star Game.

**MARINERS 4, ATHLETICS 0**

Felix Hernandez rediscovered some of his past form allowing two hits over six dominant innings, and Nelson Cruz hit his 17th home run of the season to lift Seattle past Oakland. Making his fourth start since coming off the disabled list late last month, Hernandez had the best command of his pitches perhaps all season. Hernandez struck out a season-high eight, including a stretch with four of five outs retired via the strikeout in the fourth and fifth innings. Hernandez had better separation in the speeds between his fastball in the low-90s and a changeup in the mid-80s and an excellent curveball. Hernandez (4-3) allowed only a third-inning double to Matt Joyce and a two-out single to Jaycob Brugman in the fifth. Daniel Gossett (1-4) was the loser. — AP

## MLB Results/Standings

Detroit 5, Cleveland 3; Cincinnat 2, Arizona 1; La Dodgers 5, Kansas City 2; Seattle 4, Oakland 0; Miami 10, San Francisco 8 (11 innings); Colorado 10, Chicago White Sox 0; LA Angels 3, Texas 0; St. Louis 6, NY Mets 0; Baltimore 11, Minnesota 5; Washington 10, Atlanta 5; Philadelphia 7, San Diego 1; Tampa Bay 5, Boston 3; Pittsburgh 14, Chicago Cubs 3; Houston 19, Toronto 1; Milwaukee 5, NY Yankees 3.

| American League | W | L | PCT | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Eastern Division** | | | | |
| Boston | 50 | 39 | .562 | - |
| NY Yankees | 45 | 41 | .523 | 3.5 |
| Tampa Bay | 47 | 43 | .522 | 3.5 |
| Baltimore | 42 | 46 | .477 | 7.5 |
| Toronto | 41 | 47 | .466 | 8.5 |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Cleveland | 47 | 40 | .540 | - |
| Minnesota | 45 | 43 | .511 | 2.5 |
| Kansas City | 44 | 43 | .506 | 3 |
| Detroit | 39 | 48 | .448 | 8 |
| Chicago White Sox | 38 | 49 | .437 | 9 |
| **Western Division** | | | | |
| Houston | 60 | 29 | .674 | - |
| LA Angels | 45 | 47 | .489 | 16.5 |
| Texas | 43 | 45 | .489 | 16.5 |
| Seattle | 43 | 47 | .478 | 17.5 |
| Oakland | 39 | 50 | .438 | 21 |

| National League | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Eastern Division** | | | | |
| Washington | 52 | 36 | .591 | - |
| Atlanta | 42 | 45 | .483 | 9.5 |
| Miami | 41 | 46 | .471 | 10.5 |
| NY Mets | 39 | 47 | .453 | 12 |
| Philadelphia | 29 | 58 | .333 | 22.5 |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Milwaukee | 50 | 41 | .549 | - |
| St. Louis | 43 | 45 | .489 | 5.5 |
| Chicago Cubs | 43 | 45 | .489 | 5.5 |
| Pittsburgh | 42 | 47 | .472 | 7 |
| Cincinnati | 39 | 49 | .443 | 9.5 |
| **Western Division** | | | | |
| LA Dodgers | 61 | 29 | .678 | - |
| Arizona | 53 | 36 | .596 | 7.5 |
| Colorado | 52 | 39 | .571 | 9.5 |
| San Diego | 38 | 50 | .432 | 22 |
| San Francisco | 34 | 56 | .378 | 27 |

# Wolff issues rallying cry for Hamilton title bid

**SPIELBERG BEI KNITTELFELD:** Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff has issued a rallying cry for Lewis Hamilton's title bid after another dose of bad luck cost him points in Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix. The Austrian boss, who saw Valtteri Bottas claim his second win of the year for Mercedes and move into contention for the drivers' championship, said Hamilton had suffered from a run of misfortune.

"In my opinion Lewis had all the bad luck that you can have," he told reporters. "We've let him down with the head-rest, we've let him down with the gearbox. Now it's about time to fight back and hopefully that's going to happen in Silverstone."

The luckless Hamilton was deprived of a near certain victory in last month's Azerbaijan Grand Prix when he was forced to pit for repairs to a loose headrest and had to start Sunday's race at the Red Bull Ring from eighth on the grid due to an unscheduled gearbox change.

Championship leader and four-time champion Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari finished second and extended his lead ahead of the Briton to 20 points, with Bottas 19 points adrift in third. "I feel that he didn't have a great time most recently," said Wolff. "He didn't have a great time in the race because he was suffering from the car and the tyres, he didn't have a great time with the gearbox troubles and the headrest.

"So it's about time that this changes. The momentum goes in the other direction... Lewis is still right in the fight.

**DOWNCAST**

"It's not even half time in the championship and there are 275 points still to be won. Our target will be to let him fight back in the best possible way in Silverstone."

A deflated Hamilton was in downcast mood after Sunday's race, but is certain to recover his poise and be back to his best for his home race this week when he will bid to put recent setbacks behind him. Vettel's good fortune - in escaping a heavy sanction for his 'road rage' attack in Baku and profiting from Hamilton's difficulties - has enabled him to enlarge his advantage, but without winning a race.

"Twenty points behind is 20 points," said Hamilton. "It's not great. But it could have been 30... I don't think there's a call for me to do anything else than I'm already doing. "It's not like the team aren't on my side or they're not working hard or I'm not pushing them hard enough. I just have to keep driving the way I have been and hope things get better."

Vettel, who declared that Bottas was 'un-human' if he had reacted to the lights out to deliver his perfect start from pole position, appears to be enjoying a streak of good fortune.

This was highlighted again on Sunday when, as the 'silly season' rumours about the F1 transfer market began early, Ferrari chairman Sergio Marchionne revealed that the team were keen for him to stay - and had left it up to Vettel to sign a new contract when he is ready. The German will be out of contract at the end of the season, but Marchionne revealed in Austria that he wants him to stay.—AFP

CRICKET

# Lewis ton carries West Indies to thumping win

**KINGSTON:** Evin Lewis blazed his second hundred against India to lead the West Indies to a rampaging nine-wicket victory in the one-off T20 international at Sabina Park on Sunday. Replying to the tourists' challenging total of 190 for six, Lewis stole the spotlight from returning local hero Chris Gayle with a blistering unbeaten 125 in taking the home side to 194 for one with nine balls to spare.

It was the first T20 international hundred scored by a West Indian in the Caribbean, and puts the left-handed opener alongside Gayle and New Zealand's Brendon McCullum as the only players to have scored more than one century in the international format of the game. Lewis' innings was highlighted by 12 towering sixes and six fours off only 62 deliveries.

This memorable knock came 11 months after he compiled an even 100 against the same opponents in Fort Lauderdale, where the West Indies sneaked a one-run win a high-scoring encounter. He completely dominated an 82-run opening stand with Gayle, who fell to debutant Kuldeep Yadav for 18 in the ninth over.

Marlon Samuels then supported Lewis' explosive innings with an assured unbeaten 36 off 29 deliveries as their unbroken second-wicket stand of 112 saw the West Indies home in the 19th over. Lewis fittingly ended the contest with another swing for six off spinner Ravindra Jadeja to achieve the highest individual score in a T20 international chase.

"It was at the back of my mind that I didn't get a score in the one-dayers but I just believe in backing myself and playing my style of game," said a delighted Lewis after receiving the man-of-the-match award. "This is a very good bowling team so any runs you get against them is really appreciated."

As well as the 25-year-old from Trinidad and Tobago played though, India did not help their cause by twice dropping him in the deep as he approached the half-century mark, Mohammad Shami and Dinesh Karthik the culprits in the field.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni also missed a stumping chance when Gayle was on one while Samuels benefited from a couple of narrow escapes in what was an untidy effort by India in the field. Earlier, Indian captain Virat Kohli (39 off 22 balls) and Shikhar Dhawan (23 off 12) led the charge after they were sent in to bat by Carlos Brathwaite, the pair putting on 64 for the first wicket until both fell in the sixth over of the innings to Kesrick Williams.

In just his second T20 international, Rishabh Pant struggled to get going but it was the experienced Karthik who dominated an 86-run third-wicket stand before he fell for 48, bowled behind his legs by Samuels. His innings occupied just 29 deliveries and included three sixes and five fours.

Despite his dismissal at 151 for three in the 16th over, India still looked on course for a total in excess of 200. However Jerome Taylor removed both Dhoni and Pant (38 off 35 balls) off successive deliveries, while Williams claimed his second wicket when he accounted for Kedar Jadhav via a fine diving catch by Sunil Narine coming off the backward-point boundary.

"We fell about 30 runs short with the bat and if you don't grab your chances in the field you don't deserve to win," said an obviously disappointed Kohli. "Someone at the top of the order should have gotten at least 80-90 to take us up to 220-plus. But all these games are good indicators as to how some our guys respond to pressure situations."

Despite being outplayed 3-1 in the preceding one-day international series, there is a sense of anticipation for the return of Gayle, the big-hitting opening batsman whose last appearance for the regional side was at the World T20 final against England in Kolkata 15 months ago.

India were forced to make a late change to their 11 as all-rounder Hardik Pandya picked up an injury in the morning warm-ups with Jadeja taking his place. — AFP

## SCOREBOARD

**KINGSTON, Jamaica:** Scoreboard from the one-off T20 international between the West Indies and India at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Sunday.

**India Innings**

| | |
|---|---|
| V. Kohli c Narine b Williams | 39 |
| S. Dhawan run out | 23 |
| R. Pant c Walton b Taylor | 38 |
| D. Karthik b Samuels | 48 |
| MS Dhoni c Samuels b Taylor | 2 |
| K. Jadhav c Narine b Williams | 4 |
| R. Jadeja not out | 13 |
| R. Ashwin not out | 11 |
| Extras (lb-6, w-6) | 12 |
| Total (6 wkts, 20 overs) | 190 |

Fall of wickets: 1-64 (Kohli), 2-65 (Dhawan), 3-151 (Karthik), 4-156 (Dhoni), 5-156 (Pant), 6-164 (Jadhav)
Did not bat: K. Yadav, M. Shami, B. Kumar
Bowling: S. Badree 4-0-31-0 (1w), J. Taylor 4-0-31-2 (1w), K. Williams 4-0-42-2, C. Brathwaite 2-0-26-0 (3w), S. Narine 3-0-22-0, M. Samuels 3-0-32-1.

**West Indies Innings**

| | |
|---|---|
| C. Gayle c Doni b Yadav | 18 |
| E. Lewis not out | 125 |
| M. Samuels not out | 36 |
| Extras (b-5, lb-2, w-8) | 15 |
| Total (1 wkts, 18.3 overs) | 194 |

Fall of wickets: 1-82 (Gayle)
Did not bat: C. Walton, K. Pollard, R. Powell, C. Brathwaite, S. Narine, J. Taylor, S. Badree, K. Williams
Bowling: B. Kumar 4-0-27-0, R. Ashwin 4-0-39-0 (w-2), M. Shami 3-0-46-0 (1w), K. Yadav 4-0-34-1 (3w), R. Jadeja 3.3-0-41-0 (2w).
Result: West Indies won by nine wickets

**SAN DIEGO: Mexico's Jeusus Duenas (20) challenges El Salvador's Alexander Larin (13) during Group C play in the 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup, on Sunday at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, California. —AFP**

SOCCER

# Elias Hernandez leads Mexico past El Salvador

**SAN DIEGO:** Elias Hernandez has never played in the World Cup since joining Mexico's national soccer team in 2010. He's doing everything he can to change that. Hernandez scored and had two assists to help Mexico beat El Salvador 3-1 on Sunday night in a CONCACAF Gold Cup opener.

"He did great, important things for us," assistant coach Luis Pompilio Paez said of the 29-year-old forward. Hedgardo Marin scored his first goal for the Mexican national team, and Orbelin Pineda scored as a second-half substitute. Jesus Gallardo contributed to two goals in front of the pro-Mexico crowd of 53,133.

"There were a lot of positives," Pompilio Paez said. "This team is going to get better by a lot." Mexico coach Juan Carlos Osorio, serving the first game of a six-game sideline suspension for berating an official, watched from a stadium suite. Pompilio Paez directed the team from the sideline. Mexico will face Jamaica, a 2-0 winner over Curacao, in a Group C match Thursday in Denver. All three of Mexico's goals came off lengthy right-to-left passes. "We played well on the outside," said Pompilio Paez, who lauded Hernandez and Gallardo for playing different positions than usual. Gallardo, working mostly at right wing, set up the first goal by earning a free kick after beating his defender. Hernandez had success across the entire front line. "That was the idea, to have him play on the outside and come inside," the assistant coach said.

Mexico opened the scoring eight minutes into the game on defender Marin's header off Hernandez's free kick. Taller than any El Salvador starter, the 6-foot Marin found the upper-left corner.

El Salvador countered two minutes later, scoring on a deft one-touch pass and one-touch shot, Rodolfo Zelaya to Nelson Bonilla. Bonilla's far-post grounder got past Mexico goalkeeper Jesus Corona.

"We had a couple of problems (in the first half)," Pompilio Paez said. "It may have been the way El Salvador played." Corona later got away with an errant rollout in the middle of the field, El Salvador's shot going over the crossbar.

Mexico created another clean look at the 29th minute. This time, the 22-year-old Gallardo looped a pass to a waiting Hernandez, whose full-volley drive made it 2-1. Hernandez created the third goal with a crossing pass. His initial target at the near post was unable to connect. But the roller got past El Salvador's goalkeeper, and Pineda put it away for a 3-1 lead in the 55th minute.

Pineda celebrated with two somersaults. Osorio was an active presence, moving around a third-level box and taking notes. "The hardest part is that I can't be on the bench, helping our team win," Osorio had said Saturday. "I think that's probably the worst situation for every manager."

Mexico was crisper in the second half, especially on defense, a sign that the coaching staff made effective adjustments. "We will take positives from it," Pompilio Paez said. The assistant coach said it was "very important" to open the tournament with a victory. Mexico held out some of its top players, and still controlled most of the play after the early hiccups. "That gives our group a lot of confidence," the assistant coach said. Pompilio Paez praised the work of several less experienced, younger players. "There is a new generation of players in Mexico, and they have to get used to playing in these types of games," he said. "Our object is that some of them will make it to the World Cup." — AP

# Raza gives Zimbabwe historic ODI triumph

**HAMBANTOTA:** Sikandar Raza starred with the bat and ball to help Zimbabwe edge out Sri Lanka by three wickets and clinch a historic series victory in the fifth one-day international yesterday. Taking the series 3-2 in Hambantota, the 11th-ranked Zimbabwe registered their maiden series win in Sri Lanka and first overseas triumph in eight years. Off-spinner Raza claimed three wickets to restrict the hosts to 203-8 after Zimbabwe elected to field first. He then anchored a tense chase with an unbeaten 27 as the visitors won with 71 balls to spare. Zimbabwe opener Hamilton Masakadza top-scored with a fluent 73 before rookie off-spinner Akila Dananjaya struck back with four wickets to rattle the Zimbabwe middle-order.

The visitors slipped from 137-1 to 175-7 — losing six wickets for 38 runs but Raza and skipper Graeme Cremer (11 not out) hung on for an unbeaten 29-run stand as the perennial underdogs erupted in celebrations. "Happy that Sikandar came to the party. It turned around very quickly but happy we pulled it off in the end," an elated Cremer said following their win.

"This win is very special, fans must be jumping around back home. We knew we're playing good enough cricket to put them under pressure." Earlier the Pakistan-born Raza, who opened the bowling for the visiting side, returned with impressive figures of 3-21 at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Stadium.

Raza, named man of the match, was complemented by Cremer, who took two wickets with his wily leg-spin, most notably the prized scalp of his opposite number Angelo Mathews (24).

**'WEAPON WITH THE NEW BALL'**

"Raza is a definite weapon with the new ball. I was hoping for a breakthrough or two and he gave us that in the powerplay," Cremer said. Sri Lanka suffered from a lack of partnerships but opener Danushka Gunathilaka (52) and Asela Gunaratne (59 not out) hit gritty half-centuries to steady the home side.

The hosts slipped to 153-8 in the 42nd over before Gunaratne and Dushmantha Chameera (18 not out) put on an unbeaten 50-run stand for the ninth wicket. Paceman Tendai Chatara drew first blood after getting opener Niroshan Dickwella-who came into the match with two successive centuries-caught behind for three. The wicket also pulled the brakes on Sri Lanka's rampaging opening starts in the previous one-day internationals against the visiting African side. Dickwella and Gunathilaka made ODI history in delivering back-to-back double century partnerships in the previous two contests against Zimbabwe. Mathews said even though the conditions were "tough" for batting, their final run tally was far below what was expected. "Credit to Zimbabwe, they gave us a really tough time and we didn't have any answers," said a disappointed Mathews. The defeat was Sri Lanka's worst bilateral ODI series in recent times. The eighth-ranked side face India for a full series later this month. — AFP

**HAMBANTOTA: Zimbabwe cricketers pose for photographers after victory in the fifth one-day international (ODI) cricket match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the Suriyawewa Mahinda Rajapakse International Cricket Stadium in the southern district of Hambantota yesterday. — AFP**

## SCOREBOARD

**HAMBANTOTA, Sri Lanka:** Final coreboards of the fifth and final one-day international between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in Hambantota yesterday.

**Sri Lanka**

| | |
|---|---|
| N. Dickwella c Moor b Chatara | 3 |
| D. Gunathilaka lbw b Williams | 52 |
| K. Mendis c Cremer b Raza | 1 |
| U. Tharanga b Raza | 6 |
| A. Mathews c Masakadza b Cremer | 24 |
| A. Gunaratne not out | 59 |
| W. Hasaranga c Cremer b Raza | 0 |
| N. Kulasekara b Cremer | 5 |
| A. Dananjaya c Musakanda b Waller | 7 |
| D. Chameera not out | 18 |
| Extras (b5, lb7, w 16) | 28 |
| Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) | 203 |

Did not bat: L. Malinga
Bowling: Raza 10-1-21-3 (1w), Chatara 9-1-49-1 (4w), Cremer 10-1-23-2 (1w), Mpofu 6-0-36-0, Williams 10-0-41-1 (3w), Waller 5-0-21-1 (1w).

**Zimbabwe**

| | |
|---|---|
| H. Masakadza c Kulasekara b Malinga | 73 |
| S. Mire b Gunaratne | 43 |
| T. Musakanda c Hasaranga b Dananjaya | 37 |
| C. Ervine lbw b Dananjaya | 2 |
| S. Williams c Mendis b Dananajaya | 2 |
| S. Raza not out | 27 |
| M. Waller c & b Malinga | 1 |
| P. Moor c Mendis b Dananjaya | 1 |
| G. Cremer not out | 11 |
| Extras (lb2, w4, nb1) | 7 |
| Total (7 wickets, 38.1 overs) | 204 |

Did not bat: C. Mpofu, T. Chatara
Bowling: Dananjaya 10-1-47-4, Hasaranga 6.1-0-45-0, Chameera 4-1-16-0, Gunathilaka 1-0-2-0.
Result: Zimbabwe beat Sri Lanka by three wickets
Series: Zimbabwe clinch the 5-match series 3-2

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# Sports

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Freeland misses no-hitter as Rockies beat White Sox Page 14

LONDON: Britain's Andy Murray returns against France's Benoit Paire during their men's singles fourth round match on the seventh day of the 2017 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, yesterday. — AFP

# Murray into 10th successive Wimbledon q-final

## Kerber crashes out, Venus oldest q-finalist for 23 years

**LONDON:** Defending champion Andy Murray reached a 10th successive Wimbledon quarter-final yesterday with a 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, 6-4 win over Benoit Paire of France. The world number one will face Sam Querrey, who he leads 7-1 in career meetings, for a place in the semi-finals.

"I thought I played well. Maybe a couple of sloppy service games in the first set but that was by far the best I'd hit the ball so far in the tournament. So I'm really pleased with that," said Murray. "He's not an easy guy to play. He's got one of the best backhands." Only Roger Federer and Jimmy Connors (11 each) have reached more consecutive Wimbledon quarter-finals than Murray. The 30-year-old's progress is particularly noteworthy as he came into the tournament nursing a hip injury.

**OLDEST**

"Two weeks ago I was resting, I was also a little bit concerned when you're having issues a few days before a big event, it's frustrating," said Murray. "But I've managed it well and I think I've played some good stuff. "That was the best I've played so far in the tournament. I'm doing well so hopefully I keep it up."

Earlier, Angelique Kerber crashed out of Wimbledon and lost her hold on the world number one ranking, while five-time champion Venus Williams became the oldest All England Club quarter-finalist in 23 years yesterday.

Kerber was beaten 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 by Spanish 14th seed Garbine Muguruza as the German's fourth round exit extended a miserable run for last year's Wimbledon runner-up. The 29-year-old, who lost to Serena Williams in the final 12 months ago, has failed to make the last eight at any of this year's three Grand Slams. Kerber had taken the top ranking from Serena in March, but her Wimbledon defeat leaves her with a dismal 0-9 record against top 20 opponents in 2017. She will be replaced at number one by either Karolina Pliskova or Simona Halep.

Halep takes on Victoria Azarenka in the last 16 later on Monday and the Romanian world number two will be guaranteed top spot if she makes the semi-finals.

If Halep loses before the last four, then Czech world number three Pliskova will be the new number one despite losing in the second round. Muguruza, the 2015 Wimbledon runner-up, goes on to play Russian seventh seed Svetlana Kuznetsova for a place in the semi-finals. With only two women's matches scheduled for Wimbledon's two main show-courts on Monday, Kerber was exiled to the less grand Court Two. It was a decision that brought criticism for Wimbledon chiefs and Kerber was visibly frustrated by the state of surface after she slipped on several barren patches of grass on the baseline.

Despite her complaints, Kerber managed to take the first set, but Muguruza hit her stride as she took the second. Kerber twice led by a break in the final set, but couldn't close out the victory as Muguruza showed she has been absorbing the lessons of her coach Conchita Martinez, the only Spanish woman to win Wimbledon back in 1994. Granted showcourt billing, Williams didn't hang around as she crushed 19-year-old Croatian Ana Konjuh 6-3, 6-2 in 64 minutes on Centre Court. Williams made her Grand Slam debut at the 1997 French Open, seven months before Konjuh was born. And at 37 years and 29 days, Venus is Wimbledon's oldest female quarter-finalist since Martina Navratilova in 1994.

**TITLE FAVOURITE**

Seven-time major winner Venus, who clinched the last of her Wimbledon titles in 2008, will hope to emulate Navratilova, who went on to reach the final 23 years ago.

Williams plays French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko for a place in the semi-finals. Ostapenko advanced to her first Wimbledon quarter-final after finally converting her eighth match point to defeat Elina Svitolina 6-3, 7-6 (8/6). Latvian 13th seed Ostapenko, the 2014 junior Wimbledon champion, squandered seven match points in the second set before eventually seeing off the Ukrainian world number five to make just her second last eight appearance at a major. The 20-year-old's triumph in Paris last month made her only the third player born in the 1990s to win a Grand Slam.

Kuznetsova reached her first Wimbledon quarter-final in 10 years with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Polish ninth seed Agnieszka Radwanska. Kuznetsova, a former US and French Open champion, crushed 37 winners in her 14th victory in 18 meetings with Radwanska.

The 32-year-old has never made it to the Wimbledon semi-finals and last reached that stage at a Grand Slam in the 2009 French Open. Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova is into her maiden Grand Slam quarter-final after a 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 win over Croatian qualifier Petra Martic. Rybarikova, 28, had failed to make the last eight in all 35 of her previous Grand Slam appearances, losing in the Wimbledon first round for seven successive years between 2008 and 2014.

Next up for the world number 87, who has 17 wins from 18 grass-court matches this year, is a clash with either former world number one Caroline Wozniacki or American 24th seed Coco Vandeweghe. Later on Monday, Britain's Johanna Konta, the bookmakers' favourite for the title, faces world number seven takes on France's Caroline Garcia. Konta is aiming to become the first British women into the Wimbledon quarter-finals since Jo Durie in 1984. Virginia Wade was the last Briton to win the women's crown in 1977. — AFP

LAUSANNE: (From left to right) Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, Allyson Felix, US Sprinter, International Olympic Committee, IOC, President Thomas Bach from Germany, and Michael Johnson, former US Sprinter, pose on the 200m track during a visit of the Los Angeles 2024 Candidate City delegation, at the Olympic Museum, in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday. — AP

# IOC to discuss double host decision for 2024, 2028

**LAUSANNE:** Olympic chiefs will meet in Lausanne today to discuss and likely rubberstamp the process to award the 2024 and 2028 Games simultaneously. Members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will hold an extraordinary session after presentations by the campaign teams for Los Angeles and Paris, battling for the right to succeed 2020 hosts Tokyo and stage the Games in seven years' time.

Last month IOC bosses backed a plan to award both the 2024 and 2028 Games together, with the recommendation expected to be backed by a vote at their Swiss headquarters today. Bach opened a ground-breaking week for the Olympic movement on Sunday by telling IOC top brass: "We'll have some interesting days in Lausanne. Some very important decisions will be taken. More decisions will be made in Lima."

The Peruvian capital Lima hosts the 130th IOC Congress on September 13 where the vote to decide the 2024 and likely 2028 hosts will be made. Both Paris, whose delegation is being led by French President Emmanuel Macron, and Los Angeles will present their bids to the IOC today.

Last week the IOC Evaluation Commission report lavished praise on both bidding cities, stating there was "very little to separate" the two rivals. "Members of the Evaluation Commission have used the terms 'forward-looking', 'innovative', 'vibrant' and 'cool' to describe the Los Angeles candidature, and 'historical', 'cultural', 'iconic' and 'amazing backdrops' for that of Paris," said Patrick Baumann, IOC member and chair of the 2024 Evaluation Commission.

"However, whatever the description, it truly is a tale of two great Olympic cities. The two projects are different in nature, but each city presents a proposal which is genuinely authentic and reflects the best of what each has to offer." The IOC report noted that in line with the reforms of Olympic Agenda 2020, both Los Angeles and Paris are planning to use a record number of existing and temporary venues, a first in Olympic history and a move designed to cut costs and boost sustainability.

Bach said the proposal to award the two Games had been "unanimously" endorsed, adding the IOC had a "golden opportunity" with two "great cities" competing for 2024 and did not want to turn either away, particularly at a time when interest in hosting Olympics has faded, with cities increasingly reluctant to take on the vast expense.

But a double awarding would not be a first, the IOC having, in 1921, awarded the 1924 and 1928 Summer Games to Paris and Amsterdam, as well as later promising Los Angeles the 1932 Games.

Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, had pushed for the joint awarding as the world, and Europe in particular, struggled to rebound after the devasting First World War. — AFP

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# BUSINESS

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Chasing a dream? Fix your finances first Page 18

Sleep technology explodes Page 18

World stocks rally, dollar up against yen Page 20

Myanmar workers in Thailand victims of a broken system 19

DOHA: In this Saturday, April 7, 2012 file photo, the new high-rise buildings of downtown Doha, photographed in the background as Qatari women and a man walk by the sea. —AP

# Qatar Central bank: $340bn in reserves

## Doha claims it can handle isolation • Joint venture with Total

**DUBAI:** Qatar has $340 billion in reserves that could help the Gulf country to weather the isolation by its powerful Arab neighbors, central bank governor Sheikh Abdullah Bin Saoud Al-Thani said. "This is the credibility of our system, we have enough cash to preserve any... kind of shock," he told the CNBC news channel in an interview published early yesterday on its website.

Al-Thani said the central bank has $40 billion in reserves plus gold, while the Qatar Investment Authority sovereign wealth fund has $300 billion in reserves that it could liquidate. Qatari stocks have weakened and the riyal has been volatile in the spot market since Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut diplomatic and transport ties with Qatar on June 5, accusing it of backing terrorism. Doha has denied these allegations.

**'Unique system'**

"Qatar has already had a good and unique system. We have laws established against all these kinds of terrorists ," Al Thani told CNBC. "We work with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and other institutions to establish our laws and audits and reviews." "We have no challenges, we welcome those to review all our books, they are open," he added. Al-Thani said while the central bank has noticed fund outflows from some non-residents, the amounts weren't particularly significant.

An amount of less than $6 billion left Qatar over the last month, he said. "There is more coming in," he said, confirming that inflows are exceeding outflows. Al-Thani said there had been an increase of up to $15 billion in the first week in the usage of central bank's repo facility by the commercial banks. "We have enough CDs (certificate of deposits) and Treasury Bills and Treasury Bonds in the hand - in the asset side of the banking sector, that provide them with the liquidity," he said.

He also said the stability of the Qatari riyal, which is pegged to the US dollar, will "continue for the future." Al-Thani said long-term contracts in the gas and oil sectors were not seeing any disruptions. Rating agency Moody's Investors Service earlier this month changed the outlook on Qatar's credit rating to negative from stable, citing economic and financial risks arising from the ongoing dispute between Qatar and the Saudi-led alliance.

Despite the market ructions, economists say Qatar, the world's top liquefied natural gas exporter, has taken a number of measures such as a planned boost in gas output and new transport routes to weather the crisis. Qatar's banking sector still has significant dependence on foreign funding. Thirty-six percent of commercial banks' total liabilities in May were to foreigners, including others in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Saudi, UAE and Bahraini banks have already largely frozen new business with Qatar because of guidance from their central banks; some jittery foreign banks have followed suit.

Should the rift escalate and more money flows out, the country's banking system has enough buffers to "meet all the requirements," according to Al-Thani. "We find our banking sector well-capitalized, meeting Basel III as they have high liquid assets, plus they have very good inter-banking activity inside and outside, and they are very stable at this moment. So we don't believe there is anything to worry about at this moment."

**Joint venture with Total**

State-owned Qatar Petroleum and French energy giant Total will formally launch a 25-year joint venture to develop the Al Shaheen oil field this week, the companies said yesterday. The North Oil Company, to be launched today, will be made up of a 70 percent stake from QP and a 30 percent stake from Total, which is taking over operations from Maersk Oil, according to a statement released by Qatar Petroleum. The site it will develop is located some 80 kilometers off Qatar's northeast coast and lies over the North Field, one of the world's largest oil and gas fields.

While the contract was announced last year, the launch comes amid the worst crisis to hit Qatar, the world's largest exporter of natural gas, in years. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain last month cut diplomatic, political, and economic ties with Qatar, which they accuse of supporting Islamist extremism. Qatar denies the charges.

Despite its regional isolation, Qatar has said it can survive what it has called a "blockade". Qatar Petroleum last week announced it would increase natural gas production by 30 percent by 2024. Central bank Governor Sheikh Abdullah Bin Saoud Al-Thani also told US media at the weekend that Qatar has $340 billion in reserves to weather the crisis.

The signing of the Total contract also comes amid reports that Saudi Arabia and the UAE may pressure international companies to either do business with them or with Qatar. The deal comes in the same month that Total defied US pressure to sign a multi-billion gas contract with Iran on July 3, the first by a European firm with Tehran in more than a decade. —Agencies

# Reliance Jio investigating mass data breach claims

**MUMBAI:** India's Reliance Jio is investigating whether personal data of over 100 million of its customers had leaked onto a website, in what analysts said could be the first ever large-scale breach at an Indian telecom operator. Jio, India's newest telecoms entrant, said that the data on the website, "Magicapk.com", appeared to be "unauthentic" and that its subscriber data was safe and maintained with the highest security. But people complained on Twitter about personal information of Jio users being publicly available on Magicapk.com, and some Indian media said that their checks had led them to believe the leak was real.

Jio declined to comment on the Indian media reports. "We have informed law enforcement agencies about the claims of the website and will follow through to ensure strict action is taken," a Jio spokeswoman said. Newspaper Indian Express said it was able to cross-verify details on a number of Jio customers known to them. "Indianexpress.com checked with some Jio numbers and found that details of numbers bought as late as last week are up on the site. However, it was not clear if all the numbers are available on the site, as a lot of queries were throwing a blank," the newspaper reported. Magicapk.com is showing as "suspended" since late on Sunday. Rony Das, a security analyst with Defencely, an online security firm, described the likely data breach as "dangerous".

**Aadhaar at risk**

Many users had been registered for Reliance Jio services by using a 12-digit Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) provided number, commonly known as the 'Aadhaar' number. The Indian government has begun mandating the use of Aadhaar for everything from opening a bank account to filing tax returns. The 'Aadhaar' number, which works on similar lines as US Social Security numbers, is unique to every Indian citizen and it stores biometric data of users in a centralized database.

Local tech website MediaNama said that Aadhaar information on the website had been redacted. It also said it had independently verified data on the website for multiple Jio numbers, and that the data was accurate for those numbers. Srinivas Kodali, an independent security researcher, said it was tough to assess the scale of the alleged breach until "Jio releases a statement saying what went wrong, and how they're fixing it."

He said that while the alleged breach was only reported by media late Sunday, data from the potential breach was shared on a message board forum in June and screenshots of it were also available on the "dark web". Jio declined to comment. Jio, run by Reliance Industries Ltd, launched last September and has already added over 100 million subscribers.

If the claims of the data breach are true, it would be a big setback for the Indian telecom entrant's aggressive push led by Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani. Ambani, India's richest man, through months of free and cut-price deals has propelled Jio into the nation's fastest growing wireless operator. It added 3.9 million subscribers to its network in April. Shares in Reliance were up slightly in afternoon trading in India yesterday. —Reuters

# UAE's main state oil company eyes partnerships, share float

**DUBAI:** The United Arab Emirates' main state oil company said yesterday it is seeking to create joint ventures with international investors and is considering floating shares in some of its businesses in an effort to raise billions of dollars and create more jobs locally. The Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., or ADNOC, said it is considering an initial public offering for minority stakes in some related services businesses, though it ruled out for now floating shares in the overall company, which will remain owned by the Abu Dhabi government.

The company said other plans include creating a regional drilling company, a new "energy infrastructure venture" that bundles select assets, and further opening up its refinery and petrochemical operations to outside investors. UAE Minister of State and ADNOC Group CEO Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber said the moves aim to generate higher revenues and create more jobs for Emiratis. In a statement, the company also stressed these initiatives "will bring significant benefits to the UAE and its citizens."

**'Career opportunities'**

"Most importantly, it will create new, high-skilled jobs and attractive career opportunities," it said. Abu Dhabi holds the bulk of the oil wealth in the seven-state Emirates federation, one of OPEC's largest crude producers. The company produces around 3 million barrels of oil per day and 9.8 billion cubic feet of gas per day.

FUJAIRAH: In this Sept 21, 2016 file photo, an oil tanker approaches the new Jetty during the launch of a $650 million oil facility. —AP

A company press release yesterday sad global energy demand is shifting to the East, and that this change means a rapid increase in demand for products derived from hydrocarbons - petrochemicals, plastics and polymers. In October, it announced plans to combine two major offshore divisions to streamline its operations amid a slump in oil prices.

The drop in oil energy prices since mid-2014 increased pressure on the UAE to find new ways to raise non-oil revenue, such as lifting some petrol subsidies and introducing value-added tax next year. In the UAE and other Arab Gulf countries, citizens prefer to work for the government, where wages and perks are generous. In recent years, however, Gulf governments curbed public sector hiring in the face of tighter budgets as jobs across the region's oil and gas sector were also slashed.

ADNOC's plans follow a decision by Saudi Aramco, the state oil company of neighboring Saudi Arabia, to sell shares for the first time for a minority stake in its business. That IPO isn't expected to happen before next year at the earliest and is aimed at generating greater revenue for the government's public investment fund. —AP

# Independent Petroleum Group announces completion of capital increase procedures

**KUWAIT:** The Independent Petroleum Group (IPG) and Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" announced, in a joint statement, completion of the subscription procedures for IPG capital increase with a total value of KD 10.847 million through issuing 36.158 million shares at a subscription price of 300 fils per share. The impact of the capital increase will be reflected in the financial statements for the period ended on 30 June 2017. The subscription was completed on 7 June 2017 and the allocation period was completed on 14 June 2017.

The Independent Petroleum Group has valued the role of the Capital Markets Authority for their rapid response and support during the capital increase process, Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz"(Issue Manager, Underwriter & Subscription Agent) and Al-Hossam Legal Al Taraki & Partners Law Firm (Issuer Legal Advisor).

Independent Petroleum Group K.S.C.P.

Khalaf A Al-Khalaf, Chairman of the Independent Petroleum Group said that the subscription process in the capital increase of the company has met all the legal procedures in accordance with the instructions of the Capital Markets Authority regarding the issuance of shares. In addition to the fact that the issue was very strong and was fully covered by the current and new shareholders.

Al-Khalaf stated, "We are pleased that the capital increase has been completed. The demand for the shares of the capital increase reflects the investors trust in the company and strength and stability of the Kuwaiti financial market, despite the unstable economic conditions in the region. The proceeds of capital increase will be used in developing the company's operations and enter into new projects. IPG is currently expanding its operations in Saudi Arabia, East Africa and Morocco."

Manaf A Al-Hajeri, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" stated that the capital increase was the first of Independent Petroleum Group since 2005, which will support the company's expansion into current projects in the markets in which IPG operates and will help in entering new projects in other markets.

Al-Hajeri added, "Recognizing the importance of financial markets in supporting the stability of the Kuwaiti economy, Markaz is always keen to contribute to the development and strengthening of the stock market through participation in capital increases of public companies as well as publishing research and periodic reports on the financial markets. Markaz Capital Markets teamhas over 19 years of experience and has managed 16 capital increases in additional to listing and bond issuance transactions and we are proud to be associated with the Independent Petroleum Group to make this capital increase successful."

# Sleep technology explodes

**NEW YORK:** Pillows that track your snoozing patterns? A bed that adjusts based on how much you twist and turn? Companies are adding more technology into their products, hoping to lure customers craving a better night's sleep.

Some specialized businesses are making gadgets that promise to measure and improve the quality of slumber, while mass-market retailers like Best Buy are offering simpler ideas like the effect different lighting can have on falling sleep. But with ever-growing options, people may find items that are getting more sophisticated - but may still not be accurate.

The interest in sleep has intensified. The number of sleep centers accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine nearly tripled from 2000 to 2015, the group says. People are more likely to brag about how much they spent for a mattress than on their clothes, says Marian Salzman, CEO of Havas PR North America.

"Sleep is the new status symbol," she says. It's a big business. One of the more expensive products is Sleep Number's 360 Smart Bed, which runs from $3,449 to $4,999. It makes adjustments based on how restless people are while they're sleeping. The Zeeq pillow, which sells for $299 and is from bedding brand REM-Fit, monitors snoring and can gently vibrate to nudge someone into a different sleep position. "I'm willing to spend more on sleep technology because it will hopefully help me fall asleep quicker, stay asleep longer and be more rested when I wake up," says Frank Ribitch, a self-described gadget junkie from Martinez, California, who tracks his sleep with apps connected to a Sleep Number bed and the Zeeq pillow.

**Public concern**

Insufficient sleep is a public health concern, federal officials say, with more than one-third of American adults not getting enough on a regular basis. That can contribute to problems like obesity and diabetes. And a study published by the Rand Corp. put the financial loss to US companies at up to $411 billion a year.

Finding solutions could be a lucrative enterprise. Earlier this year Apple Inc. bought Finland-based Beddit, which was making an app and sleep monitoring device that's placed under the sheet on top of the mattress. The $150 sensor begins tracking when a person lies down, and analyzes data such as the portion of time someone is in bed asleep before waking up. It also monitors heart rate, temperature, movement - and even snoring.

"Previously, it was about the sleeping pill and people didn't want to talk about sleep apnea," Lasse Lepp‰korpi, co-founder and now former CEO of Beddit, said before Apple bought the company. "Snoring is embarrassing. But this has been untapped opportunity."

Apple, whose own Apple Watch tracks activity and offers sleep-tracking experiences through third-party apps, declined to talk about the future of Beddit. Leppakorpi noted before the acquisition that Beddit had been working with sleep labs like the MIT Lab, which used the devices to collect data on patients.

**Wearable devices**

At the Stanford Sleep Medicine Center, neurologist and medical director Clete A. Kushida tests new therapies and medications. Over the past two years, the analysis has expanded to wearable devices. The scientists assess how well the devices match the center's own overnight sleep studies, which use measures such as heart rate and brain wave activity to determine the length and the stages of sleep. Kushida's conclusion? "Consumer wearable devices are not there in accurately detecting the stages of sleep," he said. The problem: They focus on motion, which can be deceptive since a person could be lying in bed awake.

In fact, San Francisco-based startup Hello, the maker of a product aimed at tracking sleep via a clip attached to a person's bedsheet, recently announced it was shutting down amid reports the device didn't correctly track sleep patterns. Still, Kushida believes the consumer products are getting better and will be able to accurately monitor and solve sleep issues in the next five to 10 years.

Separate from gadgets, some stores are highlighting sounds and smells they say can help people sleep better. Longtime insomniac favorite HSN Inc. offers a $299 Nightingale Sleep System that masks indoor and outdoor noises. Best Buy has a Philips Lighting's system that works with devices like Nest and Amazon Alexa to let people choose the colors and brightness of lights and program them to turn off at certain times or respond to the sun.

And a company called Sensorwake is launching a product in the U.S. that releases smells like fresh linen it says can help you sleep better. If nothing worked and you've had a fitful night, you can at least be woken up more gently. The same company makes a $99 olfactory alarm clock, with scent options that include a strong espresso. But if you let it go for three minutes without shutting it off or hitting snooze, it'll start making noise - good if you have a stuffy nose.— AP

**ISTANBUL: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (L) receives an award from President of the World Petrolium Council Jozsef Toth during the 22nd World Petroleum Congress opening ceremony. — AFP**

# Tillerson gets oil industry award

**ISTANBUL:** US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson took a brief break from his diplomatic duties on Sunday, returning to his Exxon Mobil comfort zone to bask in the glow of approval from his former colleagues in the oil sector.

Accepting a lifetime achievement award from the World Petroleum Congress, the former Exxon CEO reminisced about his more than 41 years as an oilman, calling the energy industry "marvelous" and the people in it some of the most talented in any business. He also took time to meet with Turkey's president and foreign minister. "I miss all of you," he said wistfully to his former colleagues in the oil business. "I miss you as colleagues, I miss you as partners, I miss you as competitors."

Tillerson said he learned he would be honored with the WPC's Dewhurst Award before then-President-elect Donald Trump chose him to be America's top diplomat and thought his trip to Istanbul to accept it would be a pleasurable interruption of a fishing trip in his planned retirement followed by a "leisurely journey back home." "It didn't quite work out that way," he said to laughter from the crowd of oil executives and top government energy officials from dozens of nations. Tillerson arrived in Istanbul after attending the Group of 20 summit in Germany and a brief visit to Ukraine. He departs Monday for what may be a week of grueling shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East.

**Growth and prosperity**

Tillerson has been criticized for leading Exxon during a period when the company downplayed climate change and global warming but nonetheless argued unsuccessfully for Trump not to pull the US out the Paris climate accord. In his acceptance speech, he mentioned the importance of protecting the environment, but spent more time extolling the economic and social benefits of energy production. "Energy is fundamental to economic growth and prosperity, it's fundamental to lifting people out of poverty the world over," he said, adding "that it requires massive investments over long periods of time and requires enormous risk-taking and risk management."

Tillerson also made a pitch for the promotion of longstanding US priorities around the world. He called rule of law and international order, respect for the sanctity of contracts and integrity "crucial elements" for success. "Whenever those elements are present, investors will make the massive investments, they'll take the risk, and they'll persevere through the challenges in order to achieve the objective," he said.

He also talked up another US priority that predates the Trump administration: European energy diversification and security. He noted that Turkey will play a critical role in weaning Europe from its dependence on Russian oil and gas supplies because of its location.

"It's just a fact of geography that Turkey sits at the crossroads of vital energy resources along supply routes and routes to consumers," he said. Before leaving the ceremony to meet Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Tillerson paid tribute to the men and women of Turkey who stood up to last year's attempted coup, the first anniversary of which is Saturday.

"It was on that day that the Turkish people exercised their rights under the Turkish constitution, defended their place in a prosperous Turkey, and we remember those who were injured or died in that event," he said. Tillerson and Erdogan did not speak to reporters at the start of their meeting that comes at a moment of high tension in US-Turkish relations, mainly over Washington's support for Kurds in Syria. — AP

# Chasing a dream? Fix your finances first

**By Liz Weston**

Mark Howard of Basalt, Colorado, earned a hefty six-figure income during his 25-year career in financial services. His dream, though, was to teach high school - a job that paid about $40,000 a year. When he floated the idea past his wife and business partner, Danielle Howard, her reaction was surprise and unease. He was 54, she was 44. They had two kids in college, a big house and a lifestyle based on their $250,000-plus income.

But her experience in the life planning branch of financial advice taught her to ask searching questions of clients and follow up on their answers. "One of the questions is, 'What would you regret not having done if you were on your deathbed?'" says Danielle Howard, a certified financial planner. "And his answer was, 'I would regret not having taught school.'"

After a lot of "soul-searching and number crunching," she says, they sold their house and downsized to a smaller one. They gave up expensive vacations for shorter trips closer to home. Mark Howard, now 66, happily taught English for 10 years and recently retired from teaching this past spring. "It was a wonderful time. I loved it," he says.

**Roll the dice - but reduce the risks**

Improving your life sometimes means taking big risks, whether it's starting a business, going back to school, changing careers or quitting a job you hate. Whether that risk pays off depends a lot on how you handle your money. "Two things, in particular, make a huge difference: having small ongoing expenses and having a large cash rainy-day fund," says Jon Luskin, a certified financial planner in San Diego.

Reducing expenses and paying off debt helps build a cash hoard ahead of your big leap and increases the odds you'll be able to cover the bills afterward, Luskin says. Typically financial planners recommend dual earners have an emergency fund equal to at least three months of expenses. Single earners should have a six-month stash. People making a transition that involves a pay cut, or no pay at all for a while, should save even more, Luskin says. "Figure out how long you anticipate your pay cut - one year? Two years? - and save accordingly," he says.

The planning required to project future income and expenses should help people discover whether their leap makes sense. Those considering a return to college, for example, should determine the new job they want, how much the job pays, how plentiful those jobs are and the total cost of the education. That will give them a far more realistic picture of their prospects than just assuming education will always pay off, says Breanna Reish, a certified financial planner in Riverside, California.

**Before you quit, use your benefits**

People also need to look farther down the road to see how the change may affect their ability to save for retirement and other goals. Earning, or saving, less may require working longer, for example. Financial planners advise clients to take full advantage of any benefits they currently have before making their leap. Getting dental work or new glasses now makes sense if you'll be making do with bare-bones health care coverage during your transition, for example. You also may want to stay put in your current job awhile longer if you're about to vest in a retirement or stock option plan or qualify for some other financial benefit. Samuel Boyd, a certified financial planner in Washington, D.C., had one client who was planning to leave her job at a nonprofit to start her own business. Boyd discovered that the client was eligible to have the balance of her student loans erased through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program if she stuck with the job for a few more months. "She'll be one of the first Americans to take advantage of this program that she had no clue about," Boyd says.

Leon C LaBrecque, a CFP and CPA in Troy, Michigan, asks his clients to tell him the pros and cons of not making the leap as well as the risks and benefits of going through with their plans. Those are the same questions LaBrecque asked himself before starting his own wealth management firm in 1989. LaBrecque says he had "a nice six-figure job in corporate education" but wanted more freedom. "I measured the benefits of doing versus the risks and weighed those against the benefits of not doing and the risks," LaBrecque says. "I decided (hockey legend) Wayne Gretzky was right. You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

*— Liz Weston is a certified financial planner and columnist at NerdWallet*

# EXCHANGE RATES

## Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

| | |
|---|---|
| **ASIAN COUNTRIES** | |
| Japanese Yen | 2.701 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.693 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.899 |
| Srilankan Rupees | 1.976 |
| Nepali Rupees | 2.941 |
| Singapore Dollar | 221.380 |
| Hongkong Dollar | 389.200 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.753 |
| Philippine Peso | 6.016 |
| Thai Baht | 8.957 |
| **GCC COUNTRIES** | |
| Saudi Riyal | 81.081 |
| Qatari Riyal | 83.510 |
| Omani Riyal | 789.631 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 807.360 |
| UAE Dirham | 82.782 |
| **ARAB COUNTRIES** | |
| Egyptian Pound - Cash | 20.650 |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 16.715 |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000 | 1.220 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 125.040 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 428.680 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000 | 2.026 |
| Syrian Lira | 2.167 |
| Morocco Dirham | 31.984 |
| **EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES** | |
| US Dollar Transfer | 303.850 |
| Euro | 348.360 |
| Sterling Pound | 396.520 |
| Canadian dollar | 234.391 |
| Turkish lira | 86.940 |
| Swiss Franc | 318.330 |
| Australian Dollar | 234.720 |
| US Dollar Buying | 302.650 |
| **GOLD** | |
| 20 Gram | 254.190 |
| 10 Gram | 130.01 |
| 5 Gram | 65.850 |

## Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

| Rate for Transfr | Selling Rate |
|---|---|
| US Dollar | 303.750 |
| Canadian Dolla | 235.465 |
| Sterling Pound | 393.975 |
| Euro | 346.455 |
| Swiss Frank | 294.730 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 805.645 |
| UAE Dirhams | 83.095 |
| Qatari Riyals | 84.315 |
| Saudi Riyals | 81.895 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 428.335 |
| Egyptian Pound | 16.990 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.977 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.696 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.895 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.766 |
| Philippines Pesso | 6.015 |
| Cyprus pound | 167.630 |
| Japanese Yen | 3.685 |
| Syrian Pound | 2.415 |
| Nepalese Rupees | 2.940 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 71.550 |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 45.110 |
| Thai Bhat | 9.925 |
| Turkish Lira | 85.715 |

## Bahrain Exchange Company WLL

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | | |
| British Pound | 0.386296 | 0.396296 |
| Czech Korune | 0.005309 | 0.017309 |
| Danish Krone | 0.042675 | 0.047675 |
| Euro | 0. 341695 | 0.350695 |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.032382 | 0.037582 |
| Romanian Leu | 0.084278 | 0.084278 |
| Slovakia | 0.009085 | 0.019085 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.032070 | 0.037070 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.309450 | 0.320450 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.080639 | 0.090939 |
| **Australasia** | | |
| Australian Dollar | 0.223403 | 0.235403 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.215603 | 0.225103 |
| **America** | | |
| Canadian Dollar | 0.231035 | 0.240035 |
| Georgina Lari | 0.137347 | 0.137347 |
| US Dollars | 0.300000 | 0.304420 |
| US Dollars Mint | 0.300500 | 0.304420 |
| **Asia** | | |
| Bangladesh Taka | 0.003429 | 0.004013 |
| Chinese Yuan | 0.043216 | 0.046716 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 0.037098 | 0.039848 |
| Indian Rupee | 0.004212 | 0.004900 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000019 | 0.000025 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.002590 | 0.002770 |
| Kenyan Shilling | 0.002985 | 0.002985 |
| Korean Won | 0.000253 | 0.000268 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.067221 | 0.073221 |
| Nepalese Rupee | 0.002944 | 0.003114 |
| Pakistan Rupee | 0.002690 | 0.002980 |
| Philippine Peso | 0.005982 | 0.006282 |
| Sierra Leone | 0.000067 | 0.000073 |
| Singapore Dollar | 0.214935 | 0.224935 |
| South African Rand | 0.016836 | 0.025336 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 0.001607 | 0.002187 |
| Taiwan | 0.009735 | 0.009915 |
| Thai Baht | 0.008596 | 0.009146 |
| **Arab** | | |
| Bahraini Dinar | 0.799528 | 0.808028 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.015200 | 0.021108 |
| Iranian Riyal | 0.000084 | 0.000085 |
| Iraqi Dinar | 0.000191 | 0.000251 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 0.424311 | 0.433311 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound | 0.000156 | 0.000258 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.019770 | 0.043770 |
| Nigerian Naira | 0.001257 | 0.001892 |
| Omani Riyal | 0.783450 | 0.789130 |
| Qatar Riyal | 0.079239 | 0.084179 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.080007 | 0.081307 |
| Syrian Pound | 0.001289 | 0.001509 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 0.122212 | 0.130212 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.080639 | 0.090939 |
| UAE Dirhams | 0.081370 | 0.083070 |
| Yemeni Riyal | 0.000988 | 0.001068 |

# Sudan hopes 'courageous' Trump removes sanctions

**KHARTOUM:** Hopes are running high in Sudan that US President Donald Trump will decide this week to lift Washington's sanctions on Khartoum, despite rights groups calling for the decades-old embargo to be maintained. "The time is right for permanently lifting the sanctions on Sudan," senior Sudanese foreign ministry official Abdelghani Elnaim told AFP ahead of the end of a review period on Wednesday. "We are counting on President Trump to take this courageous decision that will make not just the people of Sudan, but all of Africa, happy."

Washington imposed a complex set of economic sanctions on Sudan in 1997 for its alleged backing of Islamist militant groups. Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who was killed in a US commando raid in Pakistan in 2011, was based in Khartoum from 1992 to 1996. Washington also justified the embargo with accusations of scorched-earth tactics by Khartoum against ethnic minority rebels in war-torn Darfur. Barack Obama eased the sanctions before leaving office in an attempt to improve ties with Sudan whose leader President Omar al-Bashir is accused of genocide charges related to the conflict in Darfur. However, he made the permanent lifting of sanctions dependent on Khartoum's progress in five areas of concern during the six-month review period.

The concerns-known as "five tracks"-include improved access for aid groups in conflict areas, an end to support for rebels in neighbouring South Sudan, an end to hostilities in the conflict zones of Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan, and counter-terrorism cooperation with US intelligence agencies. Trump can lift the sanctions permanently, extend the review period or fully re-impose the embargo.

**'New era of ties'**

"The two countries have worked together on this five-track plan. I can say that our relations have reached a new era," said Elnaim. "It is now only logical that the sanctions are lifted as we have made great progress on the five tracks." Sudanese officials have regularly highlighted how Khartoum has supported US intelligence agencies in fighting extremism in the region, and also how it is aiding hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese refugees who have arrived fleeing a brutal civil war in their country.

Washington's envoy to Khartoum, Steven Koutsis, told AFP in June that in recent months Khartoum had even shown "extreme restraint" when fighting rebels in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan. The sanctions have hit Sudan's economy, which is battling surging inflation, rising food prices and growing unemployment. Lifting the embargo will allow all previously prohibited trade between the United States and Sudan, in turn helping the Sudanese economy integrate with the global economy, officials said. "It will open new opportunities for us that never existed for 20 years, like accessing easy loans or technical expertise," Finance Minister Mohamed Al-Rikabi said in an interview to a local newspaper. The Trump administration has given little indication of how it will proceed and a European diplomat said that there was a good possibility that sanctions would not be lifted.

"It sounds irrational that on one hand Washington bans Sudanese citizens from entering the United States and on the other lifts the sanctions," the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Trump administration has included Sudanese in a travel ban that restricts citizens from six predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States. The US Supreme Court allowed the ban to be partially implemented and it took effect in late June.

**Concerns over rights abuses**

Some global rights groups and think-tanks have urged Washington to maintain the sanctions, citing Khartoum's record of human rights violations. Khartoum continues to repress independent voices and has failed to rein in "war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur and other conflict zones," Human Rights Watch said after Obama eased the embargo.

At least 300,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million displaced since a brutal conflict erupted in Darfur in 2003, the United Nations says. The conflict broke out when ethnic African rebels took up arms against Khartoum's Arab-dominated government, accusing it of marginalizing Darfur. "Given what appears to be inconclusive evidence concerning multiple tracks, the Trump administration should defer the decision to lift comprehensive sanctions on Sudan," the Washington-based Enough Project campaign group said in a recent report. — AFP

**BEIJING: People shop for eggs at a market yesterday. China's factory gate prices stabilized in June after slowing for three straight months, official data showed yesterday, but analysts expect weakening economic growth will continue to weigh on inflation. — AFP**

# Inflation elusive, central bankers getting twitchy

**LONDON:** A significant pickup in inflation still remains tantalizingly out of reach in most developed economies-aside from asset prices-yet several central banks are leaning toward launching or stepping up efforts that could slow it down. What has shifted in recent months is an acceptance that fiscal policy, touted around the turn of the year as the essential comeback kid after the shock election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, has not yet come back.

Much of this is because of a lack of progress on Trump's tax cut agenda, dimming down what was called the "Trumpflation" trade in financial markets and now even calling into question a multi-year rally in the US dollar. But what this does is thrust central bankers-who only six months ago were said to be waning in influence-back into the spotlight.

Many seasoned central bank watchers say past experience shows that until inflation really accelerates convincingly, and for a sustained period for reasons other than a rise in the price of oil, the best monetary policy is to be doing nothing. The latest minutes from the Federal Open Market Committee's policy discussions show a split over inflation, which is sure to cast unusually sharp focus on Fed Chair Janet Yellen's testimony to both houses of Congress in the coming week.

Indeed, with the exception of persistent four-decade-low first-time claims for jobless benefits, U.S. economic data has been undercutting relatively modest expectations for the past several months, particularly on measures of inflation. Wage inflation across most of the developed world, widely viewed by economists as the most compelling and potent driver of sustained overall price inflation, hasn't picked up the way central bankers have predicted it would either.

The Fed, however, remains set on further interest rate rises, and is now contemplating how and when to start reducing its $4.5 trillion balance sheet, bloated by years of mass asset purchases as stimulus once it had no interest rate left to cut. "Of course the evolution of the economic data over the next few months remains of critical importance," notes Investec's chief economist Philip Shaw. "In particular, will the momentum of the economy be maintained and is the recent run of soft inflation idiosyncratic, as most senior Fed officials seem to believe?"

**Worthwhile Canadian initiative ?**

It's not only Yellen who might set the mood in the coming week. The Bank of Canada meets to set policy on July 12 following a run-up in the Canadian dollar, with markets leaning toward expecting the first rate rise in nearly seven years.

The domestic debate is partly over whether a rate rise is now warranted in part to tamp down rampant urban housing markets-particularly in Vancouver and Toronto-as soaring real estate prices have pushed Canada's household debt to income ratio to near the highest in the world. Like in other similar economies, Canada's consumer price inflation on its own does not point convincingly to a need for the Bank of Canada to deliver higher interest rates. "Its decision one way or the other could have an effect on markets beyond its shores as it will be seen as a proxy for policy normalization over a wider jurisdiction," notes Shaw.

For some, discussion of "normalisation" appears eerily similar to 2011, when the European Central Bank, faced with a similarly shaky-looking inflation outlook, raised interest rates in what is now regarded as a mistake, arguing higher rates would be supportive of business confidence. A punishing sovereign debt crisis followed and a period of eye-watering high unemployment, ushering in an expansion of the central bank's balance sheet by well over a trillion euros and counting, along with negative interest rate policy.

For now, the ECB appears to be moving very gingerly toward unveiling how and when it will trim back its tens of billions worth of monthly bond purchases, but that date is approaching. Some of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee also now think that now is the time to raise rates-despite the uncertainty of Britain starting to negotiate its way out of the European Union. They are prompted by a surge in inflation caused in large part from a plunge in sterling after the Brexit vote.

For now, they remain in a minority, but the possibility has supported the pound and markets have been put on notice. But a change of mood appears to have taken place at the Bank of Japan, however, which is backing off initial attempts to signal an imminent shift away from its ultra-easy monetary policy. On Friday it launched a bond-buying bonanza, offering to snap up unlimited quantities in order to calm markets. — Reuters

# Myanmar workers in Thailand victims of a broken system

## New chaos to highlight the precarious lives of migrants

**MYAWADDY:** With only meager belongings stuffed into backpacks and duffel bags, tens of thousands of Myanmar migrants have streamed home across the Thai border over the past two weeks. But it is not a joyous homecoming for the truckloads of men and women, who fled Thailand in fear of a new law that hardens penalties on the millions of undocumented migrant workers underpinning its economy. Thailand's sudden rollout of the labor decree, which hikes up fines on unregistered workers and their employers, sent a lightning bolt of panic through migrant communities.

"If we were arrested, we would have to pay money to police. If this happened, all of our money would disappear," Thu Ya, who worked in a Thai plastics factory, told AFP while preparing to cross back into Myanmar's eastern border town of Myawaddy. The mass exodus of migrants-estimated to be more than 60,000 — is only the latest chaos to highlight the precarious lives of migrant workers who take up difficult and dangerous jobs in Thailand's factories and fishing boats.

Much of the work force lacks proper documentation and lives in constant fear of exploitation from police, bosses, and traffickers. And yet many Myanmar migrants scrambling across the border said these hardships still beat the prospect of dire poverty in their homeland, where jobs and good wages are difficult to come by. "I will consider coming back in a legal way, with the full documents," said Thu Ya, 32, who has spent much of his life in Thailand.

**'We have a problem'**

Myanmar's new civilian government, which came to power last year, was expected to usher in a windfall of foreign investment into a resource-rich country that was closed off to the world during the former junta's 50-year reign.

In a jubilant visit to Thailand in June 2016, de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi vowed to drive the economic growth that would bring her countrymen home. But a year on the gains have fallen short of expectations and Myanmar is still years away from offering wages that rival those in Thailand. A steep decline in foreign investment-down 28 percent in the last quarter of 2016 — sounded alarm bells over an economy whose initial opening in 2011 was met with a rush of investor excitement. The country's GDP growth also fell below seven percent for the first time in five years in 2016, clocking in at 6.5 percent. Having fleetingly become the fastest-growing economy in the region, Myanmar now lags behind the Philippines, Laos and Cambodia. Economists blame the slump on a lack of clarity from the new government on its economic policies, as well as the ponderous progress in passing a new investment law.

"We have a problem because the ministers have no economic culture, and then the reforms are done too slowly," said Myanmar economist Khin Maung Nyo. The young civilian government, stacked with political novices, faces the monumental challenge of trying to unpick the junta's devastating economic legacy. "We need to create thousands of jobs but I doubt we will be able to do it quickly," Khin Maung Nyo added.

**'They'll be back'**

In the meantime, Thailand looks set to continue to be a magnet for its neighbour's workers. Huge sections of Thailand's economy, especially construction and food production, rely on migrants to do jobs that comparatively wealthier Thais have long since eschewed. And while the country has one of the slowest growth rates in Asia, the minimum wage of 305 baht ($9) a day is more than three times the equivalent in Myanmar.

Since coming to power in 2014 Thailand's junta has unveiled a series of campaigns to clean-up abuses in its migrant labour sector, which also attracts significant numbers of workers from Cambodia and Laos. But rights groups say the drives are often short lived and ad-hoc, creating more confusion. This time was no different.

Caught off-guard by the mass exodus, Thailand's junta ruled last week to suspend its new law for six months. Junta chief Prayut Chan-O-Cha called for calm and reassured business owners: "Don't panic, they will come back soon." He is likely to be right. Silar, a Myanmar nurse working in Bangkok, went home full of hope in 2015, eager to reunite with her husband and daughter. But she struggled to find work and is now back in the Thai capital-gripped with fear after misplacing her work permit. "In Myanmar, there is still not enough work, especially in the countryside, and wages remain very low," she told AFP, using a pseudonym for anonymity. "I do not know what I'm going to do." — AFP

**MYAWADDY: This photo taken on July 7, 2017 shows migrant workers arriving in an official service truck from Thailand at the Myanmar immigration office. — AFP**

# 1,000-year-old court settles water disputes in Valencia

**VALENCIA:** Eight men in black robes, sitting in a circle on chairs in the street outside a cathedral look on, stony-faced, as a bailiff calls the accused. They form the Water Court of Valencia, a millennial institution in Spain. In just a few minutes and without any paperwork, this tribunal settles irrigation conflicts that erupt in the fertile plain that surrounds Valencia, Spain's third largest city, a Mediterranean region of orchards.

UN cultural body UNESCO has included the court-which bills itself as "the oldest institution of justice in existence in Europe" — on its list celebrating the world's "intangible cultural heritage" which deserves protection. The tribunal's existence dates back at least to the 10th century when this region was ruled by Muslims and the Gothic cathedral where the tribunal meets today was a mosque.

It deals with cases of stolen water, a precious resource in drought-prone Spain, or disagreements over the interpretation of rules managing the irrigation system. Disputes can happen at any time of the year but they are more frequent during droughts when special rules governing irrigation are imposed and "supervision is enforced to control the availability of water," said historian Daniel Sala, an expert on the Water Court.

**'No choice'**

One recent case was brought forward by Vicent Marti, who has operated an ecological farm for over 30 years. He turned to the tribunal after noticing that the water arriving at his farm was polluted with traces of cement and paint thrown into the irrigation system by workers renovating a neighbor's house.

After hearing both sides, and a brief debate among the tribunal members, the president of the court announced that Marti's neighbor was at fault. Following tradition, he indicated his acceptance of the ruling by saying "correct" and was later fined 2,000 euros ($2,285). "I felt bad reporting it because we are neighbours, but I did not have much choice," Marti told AFP. His farm produces ecological produce, which is subject to strict quality controls, and the "survival" of his business was at stake, he added.

**Every Thursday**

The court in its current form is made up of eight members, all of them men, who are elected by the roughly 10,000 farmers who use the irrigation system set up in the plains around Valencia. Each member of the tribunal represents one of Valencia's eight communities of irrigators, known as "acequias", which grow vegetables and tubers, such as tiger nuts that are pounded to make horchata, a popular Spanish drink.

The court meets every Thursday at noon outside the Door of the Apostles of Valencia's cathedral, which houses a gold chalice said to be the one used by Jesus at the Last Supper. Its members wear a black robe similar to those used by judges but that only goes down to their waists. The proceedings, which are watched by a crowd of locals and tourists, are carried out in Valencian, the local language. All decisions are final and cannot be appealed. The tribunal's rulings "have been respected by dictators, presidents, kings, everybody," said Sala.

**'Preventing a fossilized institution'**

Two factors are threatening farming on the plains of Valencia-and by extension the survival of the tribunal: the reduction in the amount of land that is farmed due to urbanization and the ageing of the population. Enrique Navarro, a 44-year-old farmer, criticizes the fact that the majority of tribunal members are over the age of 60.

He says a "generational renewal" is needed so that the court "does not end up becoming a fossilized institution." Of the hundreds of water disputes that arise each year, just 20-25 actually reach the tribunal. On some Thursdays no one appears at the door of the cathedral with a case. The crowds, which turn out to watch the proceedings held in the historic centre of Valencia, also dissuade many farmers from bringing forward a case.

"For a laborer it is almost an offence to come here," said Jose Antonio Monzo, who enforces irrigation rules at a community of irrigators called Quart. —AFP

**VALENCIA: People look at the bailif and the members of the Water Court (Tribunal de las Aguas) waiting to deal with irrigation conflicts that erupt in the fertile plain that surrounds Valencia. — AFP**

# Global demand for food products to slow: FAO

**PARIS:** Global demand for food and agriculture products is projected to slow "considerably" over the next decade, mainly due to weakening consumption in China, the UN food agency said yesterday. Over the 10-year period beginning this year, growth in the demand for agricultural products "will slow considerably compared to the previous decade," the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) predicted in a newly released report.

The joint report by the FAO in Rome and the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) of 34 leading world economies contained major food and agriculture products forecasts to 2026. One of the main reasons given for the decline was a slowdown in growth in China, where incomes over the outlook period are projected to flatline, driving down spending on foodstuffs. China has traditionally boosted demand for food and agriculture products in the past, including in the last decade when agricultural markets "experienced a demand increase of historical proportions", driven in part by China's high consumption of meat and fish.

But as "income growth moderates and the propensity for households to spend additional income on food declines," growth rates for foods, including cereals, meat, fish and vegetable oil, "will be cut by around half." The FAO added that the use of biofuels-which "was heavily policy-driven" because of concerns over greenhouse gas emissions and thus boosted demand for maize, sugarcane and vegetable oils over the past decade-will experience a similar production slowdown. —AFP

# World stocks rally, dollar up against yen

**LONDON:** Stock markets rallied yesterday and the US dollar hit a two-month high against the yen, as robust economic data from the United States and Germany left investors increasingly confident about the strength of the world economy. Focus also turned to Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen's semi-annual testimony on monetary policy and a meeting of Canada's central bank on Wednesday for the latest signals on policy from major central banks.

For now, unease about an end to an era of ultra-cheap money has given way to optimism about global growth, with Friday's stronger-than-expected U.S. non-farm payrolls report bolstering risk appetite. Data on Monday showed exports from Germany, Europe's biggest economy, rose more than expected in May.

The pan-European STOXX 600 rallied 0.4 percent, with banks and utilities the strongest sectors. Blue-chip stock markets in London, Paris and Frankfurt climbed 0.2 to 0.5 percent. They followed gains in Asia, where MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.3 percent and Japan's Nikkei gained 0.8 percent to a one-week high, helped by weakness in the Japanese currency. MSCI's emerging markets benchmark posted its best day in two weeks. US stock futures were largely flat after strong gains on Wall Street on Friday.

### Critical release

"Stocks have opened higher at the start of this week, the dollar continues to bask in the glory of the stronger-than- expected non-farm payrolls data, and US bond yields are approaching the key 2.4 percent level," said Kathleen Brooks, research director with City Index in London. "This week is shaping up to be a critical one for data releases, central bank speak and earnings releases, and it could all add up to an important director of asset prices throughout the summer months."

The dollar rose almost 0.4 percent to 114.29 yen, a two-month peak, while the dollar index - which measures the dollar's value against a basket of other major currencies - was a touch firmer at 96.142. The euro was softer at $1.1388. Oil prices declined, extending losses at the end of last week on the back of high drilling activity in the United States and ample supplies from OPEC and non-OPEC nations. Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were at $46.27 per barrel, down 50 cents, or around 1 percent, from their last close.

### Central banks in spotlight

A generally more hawkish tone from the European Central Bank, Bank of England and Bank of Canada in the past two weeks have boosted market expectations that central bank policy is at a turning point. The US Federal Reserve has lifted rates twice this year and is seen tightening again by the end of the year. The Bank of Japan yesterday offered its most optimistic view of the country's regional economies in more than a decade on solid exports and private consumption, underscoring its conviction a steady recovery is gathering momentum. But BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda reiterated his resolve to maintain ultra-loose monetary policy until inflation is stably above its 2 percent target.

"Unlike in recent years, where there was very patchy growth across the world, we are seeing a synchronized upswing in the global economy," said Alex Dryden, global market strategist at JP Morgan Asset Management. "So while it may not be coordinated communication, I do think there's been a change in rhetoric from central banks across the world — though the ECB is the central bank to watch in the second half of the year."

The brighter economic outlook and expectations for tighter monetary policies pushed gold prices to their lowest since mid-March at $1,204.45 an ounce. Markets expect the Bank of Canada to raise interest rates on Wednesday. Such a move would be its first increase in nearly seven years. The Group of 20 meeting in Hamburg over the weekend did not have much impact on markets yesterday. —Reuters

## Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Global

Monday 10 July 2017

| Index | | Change | Closing | Last Closing |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Price index | ▲ | 24.97 | 6,748.54 | 6,723.57 |
| Weighted Index | ▲ | 1.65 | 400.81 | 399.16 |
| KSX 15 | ▲ | 4.44 | 913.94 | 909.50 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Volume | 88,091,573 |
| Value (KWD) | 13,752,326 |
| Number of Trades | 3,328 |

| Security | High | Low | Trades Volume | Value (KD) | Trades | Last | | Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IFG | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 330 | — | 0.0 |
| NAPESCO | 1,560 | 1,560 | 60 | 94 | 1 | 1,560 | ▼ | -49.0 |
| ENERGYH | 38.9 | 37.6 | 6,270 | 236 | 7 | 38.9 | ▲ | 1.1 |
| GFI | 41.5 | 38.0 | 1,583,458 | 64,039 | 55 | 40.7 | ▲ | 0.2 |
| ABAR | 89 | 89 | 100 | 9 | 1 | 89 | ▲ | 0.0 |
| **Oil & Gas** | | | **1,589,888** | **64,377** | **64** | **1043.52** | ▼ | **-8.60** |
| KFOUC | 265 | 265 | 150 | 40 | 1 | 265 | ▲ | 14.0 |
| BPCC | 560 | 560 | 50,000 | 28,000 | 3 | 560 | ▼ | -10.0 |
| ALKDUT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 590 | — | 0.0 |
| ALQURAIN | 335 | 330 | 54,099 | 17,980 | 14 | 331 | ▼ | -3.0 |
| **Basic Materials** | | | **104,249** | **46,019** | **18** | **1213.93** | ▲ | **3.40** |
| KCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 460 | — | 0.0 |
| CABLE | 430 | 410 | 17,148 | 7,035 | 3 | 430 | ▼ | -3.0 |
| SHIP | 209 | 195 | 10,443 | 2,087 | 4 | 209 | ▼ | -7.0 |
| PCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 900 | — | 0.0 |
| PAPER | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300 | — | 0.0 |
| MRC | 87 | 75 | 570 | 49 | 4 | 87 | ▼ | -0.5 |
| ACICO | 251 | 251 | 3,000 | 753 | 2 | 251 | ▼ | -4.0 |
| HCC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 208 | — | 0.0 |
| KBMMC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 136 | — | 0.0 |
| NICBM | 190 | 184 | 20,500 | 3,775 | 3 | 184 | ▲ | 4.0 |
| EQUIPMENT | 50 | 46.0 | 10,100 | 465 | 4 | 50 | ▲ | 0.5 |
| NCCI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 119 | — | 0.0 |
| GYPSUM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 98 | — | 0.0 |
| SALBOOKH | 61 | 59 | 145,500 | 8,667 | 7 | 61 | ▲ | 0.6 |
| AGILITY | 790 | 749 | 998,500 | 770,834 | 116 | 780 | ▲ | 21.0 |
| EDU | 368 | 349 | 1,278,684 | 452,982 | 124 | 349 | ▼ | -18.0 |
| CLEANING | 49.0 | 41.0 | 272,357 | 17,008 | 23 | 48.8 | ▲ | 7.8 |
| KGL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | — | 0.0 |
| KCPC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 165 | — | 0.0 |
| HUMANSOFT | 4,260 | 4,195 | 74,568 | 314,498 | 36 | 4,260 | ▲ | 64.0 |
| NAFAIS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150 | — | 0.0 |
| GFC | 60 | 60 | 8,739 | 524 | 1 | 60 | ▼ | -10.0 |
| MAYADEEN | 26.9 | 26.0 | 50,410 | 1,311 | 6 | 26.9 | ▲ | 0.9 |
| CGC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 619 | — | 0.0 |
| MTCC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | — | 0.0 |
| UPAC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 851 | — | 0.0 |
| ALAFCO | 317 | 317 | 10,000 | 3,170 | 2 | 317 | ▲ | 2.0 |
| MUBARRAD | 72 | 72 | 25,000 | 1,800 | 1 | 72 | — | 0.0 |
| LOGISTICS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 51 | — | 0.0 |
| SCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 84 | — | 0.0 |
| GCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 74 | — | 0.0 |
| QIC | 78 | 78 | 194 | 15 | 1 | 78 | — | 0.0 |
| FCEM | 79 | 79 | 414 | 33 | 2 | 79 | — | 0.0 |
| RKWC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | — | 0.0 |
| SPEC | 88 | 86 | 88,000 | 7,662 | 4 | 86 | ▼ | -1.8 |
| **Industrials** | | | **3,113,605** | **1,592,569** | **343** | **1898.69** | ▲ | **8.70** |
| PAPCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | — | 0.0 |
| CATTL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 220 | — | 0.0 |
| DANAH | 72 | 69 | 29,724 | 2,135 | 8 | 72 | ▲ | 1.9 |
| FOOD | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,400 | — | 0.0 |
| **Consumer Goods** | | | **29,724** | **2,135** | **8** | **1073.72** | ▲ | **5.30** |
| MHC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 498 | — | 0 |
| ATC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,100 | — | 0 |
| YIACO | 178 | 160 | 5,075 | 813 | 3 | 161 | ▼ | -21 |
| **Health Care** | | | **5,075** | **813** | **3** | **1702.27** | ▼ | **-21.20** |
| KCIN | 1,400 | 1,350 | 2,740 | 3,825 | 3 | 1,360 | ▼ | -320 |
| KHOT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 | — | 0 |
| SULTAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | — | 0 |
| CABLETV | 31.0 | 26.0 | 3,000 | 81 | 2 | 31.0 | — | 0 |
| EYAS | 899 | 860 | 78,931 | 69,723 | 29 | 899 | ▲ | 49 |
| IFAHR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 285 | — | 0 |
| OULAFUEL | 118 | 117 | 20,245 | 2,388 | 15 | 118 | ▼ | -1 |
| MUNTAZAHAT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | — | 0 |
| JAZEERA | 476 | 470 | 108,062 | 51,346 | 42 | 475 | — | 0 |
| SOOR | 123 | 119 | 15,560 | 1,860 | 12 | 123 | ▲ | 4 |
| FUTUREKID | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 105 | — | 0 |
| ALRAI | 120 | 120 | 4,454 | 534 | 1 | 120 | ▼ | -1 |
| ZIMAH | 51 | 46.0 | 20,005 | 980 | 5 | 49.0 | ▼ | -2 |
| Muzain | 940 | 928 | 138,600 | 129,648 | 18 | 940 | ▲ | 20 |
| **Consumer Services** | | | **391,617** | **260,385** | **127** | **1049.03** | ▼ | **-9.60** |
| ZAIN | 418 | 412 | 2,767,867 | 1,150,457 | 154 | 417 | ▲ | 5 |
| OOREDOO | 1,100 | 1,075 | 6,960 | 7,612 | 9 | 1,100 | ▲ | 12 |
| HITSTELEC | 39.7 | 38.5 | 470,093 | 18,443 | 25 | 39.7 | ▲ | 1 |
| VIVA | 820 | 796 | 29,516 | 23,551 | 36 | 797 | ▼ | -23 |
| **Telecommunications** | | | **3,274,236** | **1,200,064** | **224** | **580.66** | ▼ | **-2.50** |
| NBK | 688 | 684 | 739,331 | 506,628 | 110 | 685 | ▲ | 1 |
| GBK | 239 | 237 | 111,694 | 26,683 | 10 | 239 | ▲ | 2 |
| CBK | 311 | 303 | 72,219 | 22,319 | 3 | 311 | ▲ | 3 |
| ABK | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 327 | — | 0 |
| ALMUTAHED | 403 | 392 | 96,790 | 38,081 | 15 | 403 | ▲ | 8 |
| KIB | 250 | 246 | 1,044,810 | 260,074 | 50 | 249 | ▲ | 4 |
| BURG | 332 | 330 | 57,124 | 18,962 | 11 | 330 | ▼ | -2 |
| KFIN | 458 | 454 | 2,042,073 | 962,963 | 90 | 457 | ▲ | 3 |
| BOUBYAN | 409 | 407 | 275,467 | 112,375 | 29 | 408 | ▲ | 2 |
| AUB | 209 | 207 | 1,994,297 | 414,056 | 60 | 207 | ▼ | -1 |
| ITHMR | 44.4 | 44.0 | 1,806,310 | 79,696 | 63 | 44.4 | ▲ | 0 |
| WARBABANK | 267 | 256 | 3,053,099 | 800,570 | 193 | 266 | ▲ | 8 |
| **Banks** | | | **11,295,234** | **3,272,426** | **634** | **919.12** | ▲ | **6.40** |
| KINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 260 | — | 0 |
| GINS | 501 | 501 | 3,058 | 1,532 | 1 | 501 | ▼ | -29.0 |
| AINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 430 | — | 0.0 |
| WINS | 72 | 72 | 133 | 10 | 1 | 72 | ▼ | -5.8 |
| KUWAITRE | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 186 | — | 0.0 |
| FTI | 51 | 51 | 1,500 | 77 | 1 | 51 | ▲ | 1.5 |
| WETHAQ | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 | — | 0.0 |
| BKIKWT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 355 | — | 0.0 |
| **Insurance** | | | **4,691** | **1,619** | **3** | **1002.39** | ▼ | **-12.40** |
| SOKOUK | 47.5 | 45.5 | 176550 | 8,233 | 10 | 46.7 | ▼ | -0.3 |
| KRE | 56 | 55 | 838,356 | 46,667 | 27 | 56 | ▲ | 0.8 |
| URC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 88 | — | 0.0 |
| NRE | 113 | 110 | 1,009,030 | 112,307 | 77 | 113 | ▲ | 5.0 |
| SRE | 384 | 384 | 100 | 38 | 1 | 384 | ▼ | -1.0 |
| TAM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 400 | — | 0.0 |
| AREEC | 136 | 121 | 1,252 | 153 | 2 | 136 | — | 0.0 |
| MASSALEH | 44.0 | 40.0 | 34,050 | 1,362 | 6 | 40.0 | — | 0.0 |
| ARABREC | 32.9 | 31.9 | 708,416 | 22,608 | 14 | 32.0 | ▼ | -1.0 |
| ERESCO | 43.0 | 41.0 | 893,933 | 37,341 | 29 | 43.0 | ▲ | 2.0 |
| MABANEE | 760 | 750 | 666,470 | 502,393 | 25 | 760 | ▲ | 5.0 |
| INJAZZAT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | — | 0.0 |
| INVESTORS | 23.8 | 23.0 | 3,329,591 | 78,477 | 52 | 23.8 | ▲ | 0.3 |
| IRC | 32.5 | 30.0 | 24,501 | 736 | 3 | 32.5 | ▼ | -0.3 |
| ALTIJARIA | 73 | 73 | 1,374,699 | 100,209 | 25 | 73 | ▼ | -0.3 |
| SANAM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | — | 0.0 |
| AAYANRE | 85 | 82 | 13,920 | 1,153 | 3 | 85 | ▲ | 2.5 |
| AQAR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | — | 0.0 |
| ALAQARIA | 35.0 | 35.0 | 250,000 | 8,750 | 1 | 35.0 | — | 0.0 |
| MAZAYA | 113 | 112 | 731,000 | 81,873 | 17 | 112 | ▲ | 1.0 |
| THEMAR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 70 | — | 0.0 |
| TIJARIA | 58 | 58 | 1,000 | 58 | 1 | 58 | — | 0.0 |
| TAAMEER | 39.0 | 32.5 | 2,498,350 | 86,079 | 47 | 36.0 | ▲ | 3.5 |
| ARKAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85 | — | 0.0 |
| ARGAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 160 | — | 0.0 |
| ABYAAR | 24.5 | 23.5 | 6,496,003 | 156,019 | 115 | 24.1 | ▲ | 0.7 |
| MUNSHAAT | 53 | 52 | 820,000 | 42,846 | 37 | 53 | ▲ | 0.8 |
| FIRSTDUBAI | 47.9 | 46.6 | 421,986 | 19,880 | 28 | 47.9 | ▲ | 1.3 |
| KBT | 47.0 | 46.0 | 31,000 | 1,439 | 5 | 46.8 | ▼ | -0.2 |
| REAM | 209 | 209 | 2,550 | 1,017 | 4 | 209 | ▲ | 11.0 |
| MENA | 24.2 | 22.1 | 275,829 | 6,353 | 21 | 24.2 | ▲ | 1.2 |
| ALMUDON | 39.5 | 35.1 | 350,755 | 13,200 | 27 | 38.0 | ▲ | 1.0 |
| MARAKEZ | 42.5 | 42.5 | 100 | 4 | 1 | 42.5 | — | 0.0 |
| REMAL | 81 | 79 | 4,278,547 | 341,118 | 101 | 80 | ▲ | 3.0 |
| AWJ | 75 | 75 | 139,500 | 10,463 | 3 | 75 | — | 0.0 |
| **Real Estate** | | | **25,334,468** | **1,686,777** | **680** | **939.71** | ▲ | **9.80** |
| KINV | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 96 | — | 0.0 |
| FACIL | 171 | 171 | 184,950 | 31,626 | 6 | 171 | ▲ | 1.0 |
| IFA | 31.8 | 31.0 | 1,042,288 | 32,693 | 38 | 31.8 | ▲ | 0.8 |
| NINV | 103 | 100 | 125,260 | 12,633 | 10 | 103 | — | 0.0 |
| KPROJ | 340 | 333 | 3,410,610 | 1,137,837 | 83 | 333 | ▼ | -2.0 |
| COAST | 39.6 | 39.0 | 710,200 | 27,749 | 13 | 39.4 | ▲ | 1.1 |
| SECH | 40.9 | 39.5 | 1,248,700 | 50,286 | 40 | 40.9 | ▲ | 1.4 |
| ARZAN | 34.0 | 32.0 | 128,710 | 4,120 | 4 | 32.0 | ▼ | -1.9 |
| MARKAZ | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 109 | — | 0.0 |
| KMEFIC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29.0 | — | 0.0 |
| ALAMAN | 42.5 | 42.3 | 200,000 | 8,485 | 4 | 42.3 | ▲ | 0.3 |
| ALOLA | 46.0 | 45.5 | 250,720 | 11,493 | 11 | 46.0 | ▲ | 0.5 |
| ALMAL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15.9 | — | 0.0 |
| GIH | 36.0 | 34.0 | 548,801 | 18,879 | 29 | 35.9 | ▲ | 1.9 |
| AAYAN | 40.3 | 38.8 | 4,409,308 | 174,404 | 164 | 40.1 | ▲ | 1.3 |
| BAYANINV | 51 | 49.2 | 1,070,600 | 54,047 | 60 | 51 | ▲ | 2.1 |
| OSOUL | 59 | 58 | 8,739 | 456 | 2 | 59 | — | 0.0 |
| KFIC | 40.0 | 40.0 | 15,516 | 621 | 1 | 40.0 | ▲ | 4.8 |
| KAMCO | 79 | 68 | 130,027 | 8,989 | 18 | 79 | ▲ | 1.0 |
| NIH | 60 | 60 | 61,000 | 3,646 | 7 | 60 | ▲ | 0.2 |
| UNICAP | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45.0 | — | 0.0 |
| MADAR | 21.5 | 21.2 | 558,310 | 11,863 | 51 | 21.3 | ▲ | 0.1 |
| ALDEERA | 31.5 | 28.0 | 2,142 | 61 | 4 | 30.5 | ▲ | 0.6 |
| ALSALAM | 46.4 | 44.8 | 425,528 | 19,420 | 28 | 46.4 | ▲ | 1.6 |
| EKTTITAB | 37.0 | 34.5 | 123,346 | 4,344 | 9 | 37.0 | ▼ | -0.5 |
| ALMADINA | 47.5 | 45.0 | 37,800 | 1,714 | 6 | 47.0 | ▲ | 2.0 |
| NOOR | 52 | 51 | 96,952 | 4,991 | 5 | 52 | ▲ | 1.0 |
| TAMINV | 300 | 300 | 5,000 | 1,500 | 1 | 300 | — | 0.0 |
| EXCH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 158 | — | 0.0 |
| KSHC | 33.0 | 31.0 | 1,010 | 31 | 2 | 33.0 | — | 0.0 |
| ASIYA | 43.4 | 43.0 | 474,134 | 20,485 | 9 | 43.4 | ▼ | -0.1 |
| GNAHC | 35.7 | 35.7 | 50,000 | 1,785 | 2 | 35.7 | ▲ | 1.4 |
| AMWAL | 50 | 46.5 | 26,700 | 1,295 | 14 | 48.0 | ▲ | 0.5 |
| ALMTIAZ | 171 | 166 | 19,737,670 | 3,333,947 | 314 | 171 | ▲ | 5.0 |
| MANAZEL | 45.3 | 44.1 | 2,564,592 | 115,090 | 54 | 45.2 | ▲ | 0.3 |
| NIND | 125 | 122 | 2,479,396 | 307,177 | 63 | 125 | ▲ | 3.0 |
| BIHC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39.0 | — | 0.0 |
| SENERGY | 37.0 | 35.0 | 399,399 | 14,014 | 36 | 37.0 | ▲ | 1.9 |
| AGHC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85 | — | 0.0 |
| KPPC | 49.0 | 47.2 | 1,302,592 | 62,568 | 42 | 47.2 | ▼ | -1.7 |
| TAHSILAT | 31.9 | 31.9 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 31.9 | ▲ | 4.9 |
| EKHOLDING | 180 | 178 | 121,702 | 21,863 | 4 | 180 | ▲ | 1.0 |
| GFH | 175 | 170 | 300,500 | 52,095 | 8 | 175 | — | 0.0 |
| INOVEST | 105 | 102 | 595,103 | 61,135 | 34 | 103 | ▼ | -1.0 |
| **Financial Services** | | | **62,847,069** | **5,613,347** | **1,212** | **674.24** | ▲ | **9.20** |
| **Investment Instruments** | | | **0** | **0** | **0** | **1081.97** | — | **0.00** |
| ASC | 184 | 151 | 74,028 | 13,444 | 12 | 181 | ▼ | -3.0 |
| OSOS | 123 | 122 | 40,000 | 4,905 | 7 | 122 | ▼ | -11.0 |
| HAYATCOMM | 86 | 72 | 16,630 | 1,297 | 13 | 81 | ▼ | -4.0 |
| **Technology** | | | **130,658** | **19,647** | **32** | **632.66** | ▼ | **-44.20** |
| SANAD | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | — | 0.0 |
| AFAQ | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 130 | — | 0.0 |
| EFFECT | 32.0 | 30.0 | 30,215 | 907 | 6 | 32.0 | ▲ | 2.0 |
| AJWAN | 92 | 74 | 36,310 | 2,674 | 3 | 74 | ▼ | -18.4 |
| MASAKEN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | — | 0.0 |
| DALQAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 350 | — | 0.0 |
| ALEID | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | — | 0.0 |
| MIDAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,220 | — | 0.0 |
| THURAYA | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 204 | — | 0.0 |
| AMAR | 49.0 | 45.0 | 2,000 | 92 | 2 | 49.0 | — | 0.0 |
| **Parallel Market** | | | **68,525** | **3,673** | **11** | **1158.91** | ▼ | **-38.90** |

**TOKYO: Pedestrians are reflected on an electronic stock indicator on a window of a security company displaying the current rate of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. —AFP**

## National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

At 02:00 PM Previous Day

### Global Stock Indices

| Index | Previous Close | Last Price | Change | | Daily Performance % | Yearly Performance % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dow Jones | 21,320.04 | 21,414.34 | 94.30 | ▲ | 0.44 | 8.36 |
| NASDAQ | 6,089.46 | 6,153.08 | 63.62 | ▲ | 1.04 | 14.30 |
| S&P 500 | 2,409.75 | 2,425.18 | 15.43 | ▲ | 0.64 | 8.32 |
| Financial Times | 7,350.92 | 7,347.77 | -3.15 | ▼ | -0.04 | 2.87 |
| DAX | 12,388.68 | 12,434.40 | 45.72 | ▲ | 0.37 | 8.30 |
| CAC 40 | 5,145.16 | 5,155.11 | 9.95 | ▲ | 0.19 | 6.02 |
| Swiss | 8,883.27 | 8,944.18 | 60.91 | ▲ | 0.69 | 8.81 |
| Nikkei 225 | 19,929.09 | 20,080.98 | 151.89 | ▲ | 0.76 | 5.06 |
| Topix | 1,607.06 | 1,615.48 | 8.42 | ▲ | 0.52 | 6.38 |
| Hang Seng | 25,340.85 | 25,500.06 | 159.21 | ▲ | 0.63 | 15.91 |
| Straits Times | 3,229.01 | 3,246.35 | 17.34 | ▲ | 0.54 | 12.69 |

### MENA Stock Indices

| Index | Previous Close | Last Price | Change | | Daily Performance % | Yearly Performance % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kuwait | 6,723.57 | 6,748.54 | 24.97 | ▲ | 0.37 | 14.51 |
| Saudi Arabia | 7,166.77 | 7,224.33 | 57.56 | ▲ | 0.80 | -0.61 |
| Dubai | 3,402.66 | 3,417.94 | 15.28 | ▲ | 0.45 | -3.63 |
| Abu Dhabi | 4,410.50 | 4,397.96 | -12.54 | ▼ | -0.28 | -2.99 |
| Bahrain | 1,310.04 | 1,308.25 | -1.79 | ▼ | -0.14 | 7.34 |
| Qatar | 8,904.16 | 8,995.12 | 90.96 | ▲ | 1.02 | -14.68 |
| Oman | 5,134.88 | 5,158.83 | 23.95 | ▲ | 0.47 | -11.20 |
| Lebanon | 1,151.41 | 1,151.41 | 0.00 | - | 0.00 | -5.06 |
| Jordan | 2,183.49 | 2,174.16 | -9.33 | ▼ | -0.43 | 0.61 |
| Egypt | 13,342.09 | 13,475.75 | 133.66 | ▲ | 1.00 | 8.08 |
| Morocco | 12,354.35 | 12,327.68 | -26.67 | ▼ | -0.22 | 5.87 |
| Tunisia | 6,141.29 | 6,184.44 | 43.15 | ▲ | 0.70 | 11.89 |

### Global Currencies Exchange Rate

| Currency | Kuwaiti Dinar | Saudi Riyal | US Dollar | Euro | Sterling Pound | Swiss Franc | Japanese Yen | Australian Dollar |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kuwait Dinar | | 12.2516 | 3.2808 | 2.8807 | 2.5451 | 3.1716 | 374.28 | 4.3192 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.08162 | | 0.2678 | 0.2351 | 0.2077 | 0.2589 | 30.55 | 0.3525 |
| US Dollar | 0.30480 | 3.7343 | | 0.8780 | 0.7757 | 0.9667 | 114.08 | 1.3165 |
| Euro | 0.34714 | 4.2530 | 1.1389 | | 0.8839 | 1.1010 | 129.96 | 1.4997 |
| Sterling Pound | 0.39292 | 4.8139 | 1.2891 | 1.1313 | | 1.2461 | 147.07 | 1.6973 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.31530 | 3.8629 | 1.0344 | 0.9083 | 0.8025 | | 118.05 | 1.3618 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.00267 | 0.0327 | 0.0088 | 0.0077 | 0.0068 | 0.0085 | | 0.0115 |
| Australian Dollar | 0.23153 | 2.8366 | 0.7596 | 0.6668 | 0.5892 | 0.7343 | 86.66 | |

### MENA Currencies Exchange Rate

| Currency | US Dollar | Kuwaiti Dollar | Saudi Riyal | Bahraini Dinar | Qatari Riyal | Omani Riyal | Emirates Dirham | Egyptian Pound |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | | 0.30480 | 3.7343 | 0.3742 | 3.6265 | 0.3831 | 3.6576 | 17.8400 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 3.2808 | | 12.2516 | 1.2278 | 11.8980 | 1.2569 | 12.0000 | 58.5302 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2678 | 0.08162 | | 0.1002 | 0.9711 | 0.1026 | 0.9795 | 4.7773 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 2.6722 | 0.81447 | 9.9786 | | 9.6906 | 1.0237 | 9.7737 | 47.6712 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.2757 | 0.08405 | 1.0297 | 0.1032 | | 0.1056 | 1.0086 | 4.9193 |
| Omani Riyal | 2.6103 | 0.79561 | 9.7476 | 0.9768 | 9.4662 | | 9.5474 | 46.5675 |
| Emirates Dirham | 0.2734 | 0.08333 | 1.0210 | 0.1023 | 0.9915 | 0.1047 | | 4.8775 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.0561 | 0.01709 | 0.2093 | 0.0210 | 0.2033 | 0.0215 | 0.2050 | |

### Global Interest Rates

| Currency | 1-Week | 1-Month | 3-Month | 6-Month | 1-Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 1.19 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 | 2.25 |
| US Dollar | 1.18 | 1.22 | 1.30 | 1.46 | 1.75 |
| Euro | -0.41 | -0.40 | -0.37 | -0.30 | -0.18 |
| Sterling Pound | 0.23 | 0.25 | 0.29 | 0.44 | 0.65 |
| Swiss Franc | -0.78 | -0.78 | -0.72 | -0.65 | -0.48 |
| Australian Dollar | 1.55 | 1.62 | 1.61 | 1.64 | 1.70 |
| Japanese Yen | -0.04 | -0.03 | -0.01 | 0.01 | 0.12 |

### Global Bond Yields

| Country | 2-Year | 5-Year | 10-Year | 30-Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | 1.38 | 1.92 | 2.36 | 2.91 |
| Europe | -0.62 | -0.13 | 0.53 | 1.32 |
| United Kingdom | 0.28 | 0.65 | 1.26 | 1.90 |

### Commodities

| Index | Previous Close | Last Price | Change | | Daily Performance % | Yearly Performance % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kuwait Oil | 43.45 | 43.54 | 0.09 | ▲ | 0.21 | -22.46 |
| Brent | 46.73 | 46.06 | -0.67 | ▼ | -1.43 | -16.97 |
| West Texas | 44.30 | 44.20 | -0.10 | ▼ | -0.23 | -21.33 |
| Gold | 1212.80 | 1213.58 | 0.78 | ▲ | 0.06 | 5.03 |
| Silver | 15.58 | 15.41 | -0.17 | ▼ | -1.10 | -2.30 |

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

# China's COSCO in multi-billion buyout of Hong Kong rival

**HONG KONG:** Chinese shipping giant COSCO has offered $6.3 billion to buy Hong Kong's rival firm Orient Overseas International Ltd, which would make it one of the world's largest container liners in an industry dominated by European players. The move is the latest in a consolidation wave following the 2008 financial crisis, which led to too many vessels chasing too little cargo and shrinking freight rates.

Industry leaders are hoping the string of mergers will boost rates once more. COSCO-OOIL would become the third-largest shipping player behind Danish conglomerate Maersk and Mediterranean Shipping Company, headquartered in Switzerland, if the takeover is given the green light. The completion of the buyout will depend on approval from regulators and COSCO shareholders, the companies said in a statement Sunday.

Shares in OOIL were up 19 percent in afternoon trading in Hong Kong on Monday, while COSCO rose five percent. State-owned COSCO said it will pay shareholders of the smaller privately owned OOIL HK$78.67 per share in cash, a 31 percent premium over the stock's last closing price, according to Bloomberg News.

The family of former Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa has accepted the offer for its 68.7 percent stake in OOIL and is projected to make more than $4 billion out of the deal. "This decision has been carefully considered and we believe it helps ensure the future success of OOIL," said Andy Tung, the Hong Kong firm's executive director, in a statement. COSCO chairman Wan Min said the company remained "committed to enhancing Hong Kong as an international shipping centre".

"We respect OOIL's management team and its expertise, not to mention its people, brand and culture," he added. Once the deal is completed, COSCO will hold 90.1 percent of OOIL, while Shanghai International Port will hold 9.9 percent. But the companies will continue to be listed separately on the Hong Kong exchange and OOIL's global headquarters will remain in the city.

COSCO also vowed to retain all employees and their benefits, the statement said. The move would give the company more than 400 ships and a capacity of 2.9 million containers, according to independent research company Crucial Perspective. Jason Chiang, Singapore-based director at Ocean Shipping Consultants, predicted the COSCO buyout would be the last of the major mergers. "Bad times in the industry made M&As necessary but with rates recovering that need will become less," he told Bloomberg.

In October 2016 Japan's three biggest shipping companies, Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha and Mitsui OSK, agreed to merge, with combined operations set to start in April 2018. Last year, France's CMA CGM completed a takeover of Singapore's Neptune Orient Lines while Germany's Hapag-Lloyd and United Arab Shipping merged this year. South Korea's titan Hanjin Shipping sank into bankruptcy in 2016, further slimming down the field in a reflection of the slump in global trade and a growth slowdown in China. —AFP

# GBK announces the winners of the Al Danah daily draws

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al Danah daily draws on 9 July 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 2 July - 6 July 2017. The Al Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner. The winners were:

**(Sunday 2/7):** Mona Abdullah Ali Al Haraz, Zainab Ahmad Mohammad Al Haffar

**(Monday 3/7):** Thwaini Ibrahim Al-Thwaini, Asrar Falah Guloum Mohammed

**(Tuesday 4/7):** Maryam Reda Hajiyah, Hamda Qassem Ahmad

**(Wednesday 5/7):** Pillay Sankar Satheesh, Maen Abdulwahab Abdullatif Al-Mattooq

**(Thursday 6/7):** Alia Shakeer Abdulmajeed Al-Kazemi, Jassar Munawer Mubarak Al-Jassar

Gulf Bank's Al Danah 2017 draw line-up includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al Danah's 2nd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD 250,000 will be held on 13 July and the 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al Danah Millionaire will be announced. Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

Al Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al Danah winner. Gulf Bank's Al Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days.

# Qatar Airways celebrates Skytrax 'world's best airline' award

**KUWAIT CITY:** Qatar Airways is celebrating winning the Skytrax "World's Best Airline" award by offering passengers up to 40 percent off on flights to popular holiday destinations across its growing global network, as part of its 'Fly with the World's Best Airline' global sales campaign launched this week.

This special promotion follows a string of major recent wins for Qatar Airways at the prestigious 2017 Skytrax World Airline Awards held during the Paris Air Show last month, where it was named "World's Best Airline," "World's Best Business Class," "Best Airline in the Middle East," and "World's Best First Class Airline Lounge."

Passengers can now take advantage of special discounts on fares to a host of popular holiday destinations, including its recently launched routes to Nice, France and Dublin, Republic of Ireland, as well as many other destinations on the airline's growing global network that now spans six continents.

Qatar Airways Chief Commercial Officer Mr. Ehab Amin said: "We are tremendously proud to have been named World's Best Airline, in addition to having been awarded the titles of World's Best Business Class, Best Airline in the Middle East, and World's Best First Class Airline Lounge. We are delighted to celebrate these great wins with our passengers from all over the world, and we hope this unique offer will allow them to experience our renowned, world-class service on our rapidly-expanding global network."

From 10-19 July, passengers will be able to book special premium fares from Kuwait to Thailand (starting from KWD 321), Europe (starting from KWD 553), and America (from KWD 882) for travel until 10 December 2017. Further discounts are also on offer for our recently announced like Nice, France; Skopje, Republic of Macedonia; Sohar, Oman and Prague, Czech Republic. Additionally, Qatar Airways Privilege Club members will enjoy double Qmiles when they book on qatarairways.com.

The airline has maintained its position at the forefront of international air travel with the introduction of a game-changing, patented new Business Class seat, set to transform the face of aviation and Business Class travel: "Qsuite." Qsuite features the industry's first-ever double bed available in Business Class, with privacy panels that stow away, allowing passengers in adjoining seats to create their own private room.

Adjustable panels and movable TV monitors on the centre four seats allow colleagues, friends or families travelling together to transform their space into a private suite, allowing them to work, dine and socialize together. These new features provide the ultimate customizable travel experience that enables passengers to create an environment that suits their own unique needs.

With a rapidly growing network and a modern fleet of 200 aircraft, the airline will expand its global destinations in 2017-18, adding Skopje, Republic of Macedonia; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Kiev, Ukraine and many more exciting new destinations.

# Etihad Holidays expands in SA, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain

**ABU DHABI:** Etihad Holidays has launched operations in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain to provide a wide choice of package holiday options to travelers in the four countries. The move follows the successful introduction of Etihad Airways' holiday division in the UAE, UK, Germany, India and North America.

Launched in 2004, Etihad Holidays offers dynamically packaged holidays at exceptional rates at many of the world's leading hotel brands. Guests can now book their flights with Etihad Airways and its partner airlines together with their hotel, rental car, transfers, tours and activities, with real time availability, at the best available prices.

From family, beach and luxury holidays to sporting breaks, fly drives and city stays, the choices to destinations across Europe, the Americas, Asia, Australia, Africa and across the Middle East are endless. Guests can design their dream holiday from the comfort of their own home on the Etihad Holidays website at - sa.holidays.etihad.com - to tailor-make packages to suit their individual needs. A team of travel professionals is only a phone call away for assistance and provides a Concierge Service for the discerning traveler.

Darren Peisley, Managing Director of Etihad Holidays' parent Hala Group, said: "We continue our growth across the region, ensuring a new wave of customers have access to the great range of packages and hotels on offer through Etihad Holidays. We are excited to bring to residents of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain access to great rates for over 150 destinations around the world."

The Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Stopover Program can be combined with any Etihad Holidays package, allowing guests to break their journey in Abu Dhabi, and take advantage of the special 2-for-1 night accommodation offers in the capital of the UAE. Etihad Holidays is part of the Hala Group which brings together supporting services for the Etihad Aviation Group that are vital to its future growth. The core components include the Global Loyalty Company, Etihad Holidays, Hala Abu Dhabi, Hala Travel Management and the Amadeus Joint Venture.

# Britain should give more rights to gig economy workers: BBC

**LONDON:** A British government-commissioned report is to recommend that those working in the so-called "gig economy" for firms like taxi app Uber, receive rights such as sick pay and holiday entitlement, the BBC reported yesterday. Last year, Prime Minister Theresa May set up a review into modern employment practices after an outcry over the increasing use of zero-hour contracts and the rising number of self-employed people working for apps such Uber and food courier Deliveroo.

Firms say the burgeoning "gig economy", in which people can work simultaneously for different companies without fixed contracts, gives greater flexibility to both them and their staff but such practices have been criticised as exploitative by unions. In Britain, the self-employed have no entitlement to employment rights beyond basic health and safety and anti-discrimination laws. Regular workers receive entitlements such as annual leave, rest breaks and the minimum wage. The review, due to be published on Tuesday, will recommend that ministers create a new type of worker called a "dependent contractor", the BBC said, granting greater entitlements.

The review will also call for firms to be obliged to show that a person working for them is able to earn at least 1.2 times the national living wage, which stands at 7.50 pounds ($9.65) an hour for the over-25s, by calculating the average number of tasks worked. Britain's business ministry declined to comment on the report's findings when contacted by Reuters yesterday. —Reuters

# German trade surplus swells

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** Germany's trade surplus widened in May, official data showed yesterday, just days after a stormy G20 summit that saw clashes with the United States over protectionism. Exports from Europe's largest economy grew 1.4 percent compared with April adjusting for seasonal effects, reaching 107.9 billion euros ($123.02 billion), according to federal statistics office Destatis.

With imports gaining 1.2 percent to 87.6 billion euros, Germany's trade surplus-the amount its exports outweigh its imports-grew to 20.3 billion euros in May, compared with 19.7 billion in April. Using a year-on-year comparison, exports were 14.1 percent higher than in May 2016. The trade surplus reached around 250 billion euros across the full year last year.

The surplus is a major source of tension between Germany and historically close allies in the US and the European Union. Critics accuse Berlin of failing to import and invest enough to allow other countries to profit indirectly from its success. Alongside China, Germany has been one of US President Donald Trump's most frequent targets for complaint, featuring as a key argument in his "America First" trade policy.

For now, "the protectionist talk of the new US administration has had no impact so far on German exports to the US," ING Diba bank analyst Carsten Brzeski pointed out. America accounts for almost nine percent of all German sales abroad, making Washington a major reason why "the success of the German economy is endangered by political risks like never before," said Joachim Lang, director of the Federation of German Industry (BDI).

G20 leaders' joint statement on trade signed Saturday "did not break the dangerous worldwide trend towards protectionism," he continued. Meanwhile, Britain's decision to quit the EU "has clearly left its mark," Brzeski said, noting that Britain was the destination for just 6.9 percent of all German exports between January and March-well below the 7.5 percent recorded over the whole year in 2015. — AFP

# KFIC Report for the Global and GCC Financial Markets in June

**KUWAIT:** Global equity markets rise during the second quarter of 2017 as the MSCI World Index gained +3.38%. Japan's Nikkei 225 index was the top performing Index, followed by the Dow Jones Industrial Average. In the US, S&P 500 climbed +2.57% QTD as retail sales increased +0.4% in April (forecast was 0.6% rise) after a 0.1% increase the prior month (revised from 0.2% decline) and US consumer confidence index rose to 97.7 in May (forecast was 97) from 97 in April. The US Federal Reserve also raised short-term interest rates to 1.25% from 1.00% amidst an improvement in the US economic conditions.

In Europe, Germany's DAX index increased by +0.1% QTD ECB president Mario Draghi gave the strongest suggestion that the central bank is not yet ready to relax its fiscal stimulus policy, despite better economic growth across the Eurozone, which caused the euro to turn lower against the dollar. France's CAC 40 closed flat by -0.04% after French President Emmanuel Macron's upstart party scored a majority in parliamentary elections, which brings more optimism into the French economic reform policies. UK's FTSE 100 declined -0.14% as the U.K formally begins EU exit. According to S&P ratings agency, Britain continues to be overshadowed by political uncertainty, which may lead to a negative effect on foreign investment in the UK following fears over Brexit. However, Pound strengthened against the USD after Prime Minister Theresa May announced in April 18 to hold snap elections in June 2017.

In China, Shanghai's Composite Index decreased by -0.93% QTD as Moody's downgraded China's rating to A1 from Aa3 and changes outlook to stable from negative. Meanwhile, China A shares entered the MSCI Emerging Market index with a small factor of 5%, which constitutes 0.73% of the benchmark. Analysts are expecting the country to take longer than its peers for full inclusion, which could eventually drive USD 340 billion of foreign capital. This could approximately account for 11% of the A-share's market capitalization, into China, according to MSCI's estimates.

In Japan, Nikkei 225 increased +5.95% as exports rose +14.9% in the last quarter compared to last year mainly due to an increase in shipments of cars and steel. In Commodities, oil prices continued to slump during the second quarter as WTI dropped -10.88% QTD to close at USD 46.0 bb/l and Brent fell -9.84% QTD to close at USD 48.8 bb/l. Crude oil posted consecutive weeks of losses as OPEC members failed to agree on production cuts to reduce the supply glut. Gold prices declined by -0.62% QTD and Silver fell by -8.97% QTD due to subdued demand of precious metals from jewelers, retailers and industries.

**GCC Economic Overview**

Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries cut diplomatic, economic and transportation ties with Qatar, accused of having links to terrorism and working against the interest of the Gulf nations. Qatar has strongly denied the accusations as lacking factual basis. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt sent Doha a list of 13 demands, including closing the state-funded Al Jazeera News network as conditions to normalizing relations. Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah continues to play a major role in mediating relationship between the Gulf countries by visiting Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE in efforts aimed at resolving the diplomatic rift.

In other news, Saudi Arabia's King Salman has appointed his son Mohammed bin Salman as crown prince, replacing his nephew, Mohammed bin Nayef. During the month, MSCI decided to include Saudi Arabia on its watch-list for potential addition to Emerging Market Index as The Kingdom showed significant willingness to improve stock market regulations and easing conditions for foreign investors.

In the UAE, The Emirates NBD UAE Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a key indicator of the health of the UAE's non-oil private sector, fell to 54.3 from 56.1 during the quarter amid a slowdown in demand for exports. In Oman, S&P has lowered its long-term rating to BB+ from BBB- with a "negative" outlook, which officially places Oman in junk category.

The rating agency estimated that Oman's net external asset position has fallen to 30% of its current account, from 60% a year ago. Bahrain, having the largest fiscal deficit, has been unable to reduce the decline in its foreign reserves; according to a new research note from Bank of America Merrill Lynch Bahrain is one of the most vulnerable oil exporters as oil prices strain the smallest economy in the gulf.

# Microsoft to offer local version of Azure cloud

**WASHINGTON:** Microsoft Corp yesterday unveiled a new service that allows customers to use its cloud technology on their own servers, part of the company's efforts to refocus its product line to compete more effectively with rivals Amazon.com Inc and Google. "One of the key differentiations we have with Azure versus our two biggest competitors in the cloud platform space is our ability to support true hybrid solutions," Judson Althoff, Microsoft's executive vice president of worldwide commercial business, told Reuters.

Microsoft is hoping to carve a niche among customers who cannot or do not want to have to move all their computing operations to the massive shared data centers that are collectively known as the cloud. Azure Stack could serve companies in highly regulated industries or in parts of the world where using the cloud is not yet feasible, Althoff said.

"We've seen a lot of pent-up demand from end-user customers as well as third-party providers who are anxious to deploy this solution," said Gartner analyst Ed Anderson. "I anticipate that this offering will provide a significant boost to Microsoft's overall cloud business." Dell EMC, Lenovo Group Ltd and Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co will provide servers and equipment needed to run the service. Dell EMC, Lenovo and HPE will ship the first systems to customers in September. Microsoft also announced Microsoft 365, a service that allows customers to purchase the Office 365 productivity suite, Windows 10 and other services in one bundle. The product announcements, part of the company's Inspire customer conference in Washington, come just days after the layoff of thousands of sales reps. Microsoft is reorganizing to simplify its sales and marketing efforts and put more emphasis on partnerships with services companies such as KPMG. — Reuters

**BELLEVUE: This file photo taken on November 30, 2016 shows the Microsoft logo at the Microsoft Annual Shareholders Meeting. — AFP**

# Sophos placed in Leaders Quadrant of Gartner's 2017 Magic Quadrant

**DUBAI:** Sophos, a global leader in network and endpoint security yesterday announced that it has once again been positioned in the "Leaders" quadrant of Gartner, Inc.'s June 20, 2017, "Magic Quadrant for Unified Threat Management (SMB Multifunction Firewalls)." The quadrant is based on an assessment of a company's ability to execute and completeness of vision. Sophos is one of only three vendors to be placed in the Leaders quadrant in this latest report. Sophos is the only IT security company to be consistently positioned as a Leader by Gartner in both the January 2017 Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms and the Magic Quadrant for Unified Threat Management.

"We believe the consecutive placement of Sophos as Leader in this report validates the strength of our vision and our ability to deliver products with the scale, reliability, and highest levels of protection that customers demand," commented Dan Schiappa, senior vice president and general manager of the Enduser and Network Security groups at Sophos. "Organizations of all sizes face known and unknown threats on a daily basis, and they are bombarded with security data and alerts from endpoint to server. To turn all that security data into usable security action, Sophos continues to invest in its synchronized security strategy that directly connects UTM and endpoint security for a faster, more automated response. The above market growth of both our network and endpoint businesses demonstrates that we are meeting a rapidly expanding market need."

The Sophos network security business continues to gain market share due to ease of use, security feature richness and successful integration with its endpoint product. In Sophos' fiscal year ended March 31, 2017, reported billings grew 17.8 percent to $319.1million for the network security business which is well above the reported market growth of 10 percent. For the same period, the UTM and next-generation firewall (NGFW) business represented approximately half of Sophos billings worldwide.

One recent review of the Sophos UTM on the Gartner Peer Insights review site stated, "When we met the team from Sophos over 6 years ago we were looking for a reliable and cost effective security solution for our clients. Not only did they provide that but they also took the time to really understand our business model. They listen to the feedback we provide and use it to drive enhancements in their product and with their team. As a result, they are continuing to help us drive down our support costs by providing innovative solutions that help us secure our client's networks from the increasing number of threats each year."

**ALLAHABAD: A boy runs on a street in the rain. — AFP**

# Facebook's Oculus drops price of virtual reality set

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Oculus, the virtual reality company owned by Facebook Inc, is temporarily cutting the price of its hardware, as the industry tries to figure out why the technology for immersive games and stories has not taken off among consumers.

Oculus is cutting the combined price of its Rift headset and Touch controllers to $399 for six weeks beginning today, said Jason Rubin, Oculus vice president for content. That matches the price of another virtual reality set, PlayStation VR, made by Sony Corp.

Vive, a virtual reality set developed by HTC Corp, is listed for sale at $799 on its website, and it has not recently cut the price. Facebook paid $3 billion to acquire Oculus and retain its employees in 2014. Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg said at the time that the medium, which offers a 360-degree panoramic view through headsets, would "become a part of daily life for billions of people."

That has not happened, although it is unclear if that is because of high prices, something inherent in the technology or some other reason.

Pricing discounts are sometimes a sign of weak product sales. Rubin, though, said in an interview that was not the case with Oculus, which he said could have cut the price sooner but wanted to wait until there were enough games, movies and other entertainment to keep a broad audience busy. The pace of game releases has quickened, making a wider appeal possible, Rubin said: "We're now in a space where the mass market can be much happier." — Reuters

# Poor nations need help to use big data to end poverty: Expert

## Lack of technology infrastructure is slowing big data analytics

**NEW DELHI:** From boosting crop yields to controlling the spread of disease, big data analytics is increasingly being used by poor nations to tackle development challenges but a lack of technology infrastructure is slowing efforts, a leading expert has warned. Paul Szyarto, head of the Big Data program at the US's Rutgers University, said many developing nations are attempting to collect, organize and analyze large, varied data sets to uncover patterns and trends to help address poverty.

For example, countries like Kenya and India are gathering data related to weather patterns and using models to forecast climate variations, which can help farmers adapt agricultural practices, boost crop yields and tackle hunger. While in West Africa, nations are trying to capture data on previous disease outbreaks, such as Ebola, to predict where an infection may begin, what may cause its spread and identify high risk zones which can be targeted with prevention programs.

But Szyarto told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on Monday that developing nations were not utilizing big data analytics to its full potential, largely due to low investment in infrastructure such as hardware, servers and computers. "Thanks to technologically advanced countries, there are several models which could be leveraged to analyze data, but most developing countries lack the infrastructure to capture, gather, store and analyze the data being created," said Szyarto in an interview via email.

**'Unstructured data'**

"Many of these countries lack the technical devices internally and externally to collect unstructured data due to corruption, low operational cash, and plagued poverty." Szyarto said there were some efforts by Western governments and tech firms such as Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, and Google, to support the development of data capture and analytics programs in poor nations. To deal with increasing populations and build smarter infrastructures and cities, China is, for example, leveraging big data to understand how to best provide solutions for water shortages, housing needs, and employment. While in countries such as Tanzania, Nepal and the Philippines, big data is being used to understand weather and geographical challenges - from analyzing flood and earthquake and tsunami risks - to strengthen disaster preparedness.

But Szyarto - who is a global expert on business transformation and advises firms on making fundamental changes in order to cope with shifts in the market environment - said much more needed to be done. "Many developing countries don't possess the knowledge needed to drive a value-added program around the use of big data," he said. "Improving the capacity of developing countries begins with developed countries communicating the value of leveraging the data being created, collected, and analyzed." — Reuters

# OMA Emirates enhances Mashreq Bank Point of Sale terminals

**SHARJAH:** OMA Emirates, a provider of cutting edge technology for the payment industry has recently completed the deployment of Ingenico Point of Sale (POS) terminals for Mashreq Bank in the UAE. The terminals which meet with the bank's specific requirements for superior performance will provide new, secure and a wider range of services for their customers in a cost effective manner.

Mashreq leads the path by embracing innovative technology to strengthen their business strategy. The new POS terminals that are supported with customized solutions will provide a robust system for the range of cards including magstripe, contact and contactless. Mashreq Bank is now equipped with Ingenico IWL series which are wireless terminals that are supported by the broadest connectivity capabilities such as GPRS, Wi-Fi, 3G and Bluetooth to accept any payment methods.

Pankaj Kundra, Head of Personal Banking, Cards and Payments at Mashreq Bank comments, "We are delighted to partner with OMA, a state of the art technology solutions systems provider to combine forces and lead the technology space with innovative ways to bank. As the banking sector becomes increasingly focused on customer experience rather than branch footfall, it's important to ensure that all our innovations are tailored to meet customer expectation, demand and convenience. We are excited to be rolling out our new and improved system offering customers multi-use POS terminals to bank at ease. Partnering with OMA Emirates has moved the bank one step ahead, equipping Mashreq with the safest and highest technology standards to ensure top customer experience."

"As one of the largest partners of Mashreq Bank's acquiring business strategy, OMA Emirates understands their need to combine advanced technologies that are secure, geared for reliable connectivity and able to support merchants with value added services. The new smart terminals that have been deployed adhere to the strict PCI standard and supports payment methods across all channels in-store via EMV, NFC, as well as e-Wallet while also providing merchants with online payment opportunities," said, Niranj Sangal, Group CEO, OMA Emirates Group.

The new terminals supplied to Mashreq Bank brings in value additions to merchants with their higher security systems while protecting sensitive customer data. Besides, it provides them several other services that can be added to the terminals which include loyalty programs, etc. Additionally, the terminals can be customized to accept EMV, contact and contactless cards. More over with the multi-services provided, merchants can now focus on their core business and are relieved from payment complexities. OMA Emirates provides Mashreq with strong support to ensure that the deployed terminals are well maintained and guarantees smooth operation and helps the bank optimize the user experience.

# AXILSPOT launches high-performance rugged outdoor access point in MENA

**DUBAI:** AXILSPOT, a global vendor in enterprise wireless networking, unveiled its latest rugged, outdoor, long distance Access Point - AIP10 in the Middle East and North Africa. The new AIP10 Access Point is capable of managing a variety of enterprise wireless networking workloads. This is a dual-frequency access point, using the latest IEEE 802.11 ac Wave2 Wi-Fi standard, supporting additional SFP interface with transmission speed of 1.2Gbps, and maximum of 400+ users, up to a range of 500M.

"The AIP10 access-point is a highly versatile device, meant to support indoor and outdoor enterprise wireless networks. With the fast pace of adoption of connectivity across all segments of business and consumer users, in emerging markets such as Middle East and North Africa, providing seamless access both indoors and outdoors, is critical. The AIP10's rugged outdoor capabilities and inbuilt features like MU-MIMO, Turbo RF, carrier grade security, help to provide this much-needed user experience," said Nick Huang, Regional Sales Manager, AXILSPOT.

Capable of withstanding salt spray, vibration, extreme thermal conditions, shock and dust, it is IP67-rated, and can operate in extreme environments. Supporting the latest 802.atPoE, makes the AIP10 access-point well suited for power-based, backhaul, enterprise networking applications into 3G and 4G base stations, including video surveillance. It can work well, both as pole or wall mounted, increasing its outdoor versatility.

"With growing interest in the productivity benefits of smart city applications by governments, as well increased emphasis on security and surveillance, by law enforcing agencies, AXILSPOT's AIP10 exceptional, rugged, outdoor access point, can meet many of the use-case requirements. Its inbuilt Power over Ethernet and controller management capability, allow it to support the latest enterprise wireless network applications," said August Chen, Director of Global Sales at AXILSPOT.

The high-performance characteristics of AXILSPOT's AIP10, provide range, speed and outdoor durability, making it well suited for enterprise network smart city and backhaul applications. It meets the use case requirements of Middle East and North African emerging markets, which are characterized by expansion of transit hubs like airports, and large visitor presence in conferences centers, retail malls and upmarket plazas. Turbo RF technology, another in-built feature, helps to provide high performance WLAN environment with intelligent load balancing, automatic frequency adjustment, and band steering.

AXILSPOT's AIP10 outdoor access point has inbuilt and external antenna. The customer can select different antenna type according to the application, which means AIP10 supports antenna switchover by software. This provides multiple, spatial wireless throughput streams, supporting multiple devices simultaneously inside enterprise WLANs. This improves coverage, efficiency, reliability, and user experience for all enterprise wireless connected devices. AIP10's antenna and patented filter technology, optimizes the wireless strength towards each connected client device, improving speed, coverage, consistency, and reliability.

**Other specifications include:**

**Enterprise Grade Security:** AIP10 supports main-stream, standards-based security, including WEP, WPA-PSK, WPA-E, 802.1X, Active Directory, Social Login, Web Portal, SMS authentication. It uses Layer 7 application fingerprinting, automatic RF optimization with spectrum analysis, and carrier and enterprise grade security.

**Centralized Management:** AIP10 is designed with the flexibility to function as a standalone access point, or it can be centrally managed through on-premises management platform. This allows it to seamlessly scale from being a part of a small wireless network to a complex enterprise network.

# Afghanistan enacts law to control cyberspace

**KABUL:** Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani has signed into law a cybercrime bill targeting online crime and militancy by groups such as the Taleban and Islamic State, officials said yesterday, amid concerns it could limit free speech. The Cyber Crime Law criminalizes a range of online activities including hacking, spreading ethnic hatred, distribution of online defamatory speech, exposing government secrets, and cyber-terrorism within the provisions of the newly reviewed penal code. 'The law has 28 articles and it is going to control all cybercrimes. All criminals will be tracked and referred to courts,' Najib Nangyal a spokesman for the ministry of communication told AFP.

While much of Afghanistan remains deeply rural, over 8.5 million Afghans are using the internet in big cities such as Kabul, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif, most of them vocal on social media such as Twitter and Facebook. The guerrilla war waged by militants and grisly video footage of war casualties, torture, hostage victims and destruction compete daily with celebrity gossip and the latest sports news in Afghan online communities.

The Taleban, who previously rejected all modern technology, have developed a media-savvy online PR team using Twitter, Facebook and the internet, posting statements, breaking news of the latest attacks and taking responsibility for assaults, though their claims are often wildly exaggerated. — AFP

# World's 'oldest' hippo dies at Philippine zoo

**MANILA:** Bertha, believed to be the world's oldest hippopotamus, has died aged 65, the Manila zoo said yesterday, having beaten the typical lifespan for the mostly herbivorous mammals by decades. The 2.5-tonne female was found dead Friday in her enclosure, with a post mortem examination concluding that Bertha, the zoo's oldest resident, had died from multiple organ failure, zoo director James Dichaves said." Bertha was among the pioneer animals here. Her mate died sometime in the 1980s and the couple failed to produce any offspring," he told AFP. A seven-year-old Bertha arrived at the zoo in the Philippines' capital the year it opened in 1959. The zoo has lost the records of where she came from, Dichaves said.

Fed a diet of grass, fruit, and bread in a 1,000 square-meter (quarter-acre) pen, Bertha lived far beyond the 40 to 50 year lifespans which are typical for the species in the wild and in captivity respectively, Dichaves said. Zoo officials believed Bertha was the oldest living hippo in captivity at the time of her death. Donna, who died in 2012 at the age of 62 at the US Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden in Evansville, Indiana, was previously said to be the world's oldest hippo, according to media reports at the time. Two years ago, an adult male hippo named Bertie was euthanized at the Denver Zoo in Colorado at the age of 58, the reports said.

Bertha's death touched off a wave of sympathy on social media. "It's a sad day. Bertha the world's oldest hippo has passed away," Twitter user Eric M. Davis posted with a crying emoji. "You're one of my favorites to see in the zoo ever since. Sleep peacefully," Jen Tolibas tweeted. The common hippopotamus of sub-Saharan Africa faces a "high risk of extinction in the wild" from habitat loss and illegal hunting for meat and ivory from its teeth, according to the Swiss-based International Union for Conservation of Nature. Animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals criticized Manila Zoo's "cruelty" for having "imprisoned" the hippo and other wild animals.

"Bertha's life at the Manila Zoo was one full of boredom, misery and deprivation. It's a tragedy that she only realized freedom through death," PETA's Jason Baker said in a statement. "This cruelty will end only when animals are no longer held as living 'exhibits'", Baker added. Bertha's death leaves Mali, a 43-year-old Asian elephant, as the oldest remaining animal among the some 500 residents at the Manila Zoo, Dichaves said. PETA and global celebrities had teamed up on a seven-year campaign for Mali, a female, to be retired from the zoo and sent to a Thai sanctuary. However, the country's environment department eventually allowed the zoo to keep the elephant after experts ruled it was healthy. The authorities were also uncertain how Mali would react to the other elephants at the Thai sanctuary, Dichaves said. —AFP

**MANILA: This undated handout photo received from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA-MANILA) yesterday shows the 2.5-tonne female hippopotamus 'Bertha' in her enclosure in Manila zoo in the Philippine capital. —AFP**

**LONDON: Supporters of Charlie Gard hold up placards outside the High Court in central London yesterday. —AFP**

# UK court hearing begins for terminally ill baby

**LONDON:** A British court yesterday began re-examining the case of a terminally ill baby whose life support is due to be withdrawn at a London hospital, after Pope Francis and US Donald Trump intervened in the case. Great Ormond Street Hospital last week said it had received "claims of new evidence" that 11-month-old Charlie Gard could be treated for his disease and has asked a court to rule on how to proceed. Gard's parents, who submitted a petition of over 350,000 signatures demanding that they be allowed to take him to the United States for treatment, attended the hearing at the High Court in London.

Pope Francis last week expressed his support for the baby's parents and said he hoped doctors would allow them to "care for their child until the end". Bambino Gesu, a Vatican-run hospital in Rome, has since offered to treat Gard and sent medical advice suggesting that treatment could be possible. Trump also waded into the debate last week, tweeting that the United States "would be delighted" to help. A US doctor has also proposed treatment for Gard. The British hospital on Friday said it stood by its opinion that Gard's rare form of mitochondrial disease, which causes progressive muscle weakness in key organs such as the heart, was not treatable.

Doctors there believe Gard's brain damage is "severe and irreversible" and have said the baby may be suffering, in contradiction to the parents' views. But doctors said it was "right to explore" any new evidence and said they were seeking the court's view. Gard's parents have lost a series of appeals in British courts and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and had no further legal recourse. "He's our son, he's our flesh and blood. We feel that it should be our right as parents to decide to give him a chance," his mother Connie Yates said on Sunday. "The whole world knows about us and about Charlie and our fight... Until you're in this situation, you don't understand the power of hope," she said. —AFP

# Medicaid cut in GOP health bill worries the nursing home set

## 'Without Medicaid supplementing, I don't know what would happen'

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida:** Amy Bernard and her brother kept their mother out of a nursing home as long as they could, until Parkinson's and dementia took their toll and she was seriously injured in a fall. Bernard is happy with her mother's nursing home care, but it comes at a steep price: $7,000 per month, an amount that would be way beyond the older woman's means if not for Medicaid, which picks up $3,000 of the tab.

Which is why Bernard and many other Americans like her are watching the health care debate on Capitol Hill with trepidation. The Senate Republicans' plan to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act would cut projected Medicaid spending over the next decade by 25 percent. Supporters of the bill say nursing home subsidies would not suffer significant cuts, but opponents say they are inevitable. The uncertainty is frustrating to those who rely on them. In the case of Bernard's 83-year-old mother, retired teacher Franceen Golditch, the $4,000 that she receives each month from her pension and Social Security goes almost entirely to the nursing home. "Without Medicaid supplementing, I don't know what would happen," said Bernard, a self-employed graphic artist in Boynton Beach, Florida. She added: "I have a house and kids to support myself. I honestly have no answer." While the federal-state Medicaid program is most often associated with poor children and single mothers, almost two-thirds of its spending goes to the elderly and the disabled, even though they make up just 1 in 4 recipients.

### Congressional Budget Office

The reason: Well over half the nation's 1.3 million senior citizens in nursing homes receive Medicaid. The burden is expected to balloon as the 74 million surviving baby boomers - those born between 1946 and 1964 - get older. They are 52 to 71 now. In part because of the Medicaid cuts, the GOP bill lacks the votes to pass in the Senate, which is expected to take up the measure again after Congress' weeklong July Fourth recess.

The bill would cut Medicaid's projected budget over the next 10 years by a combined $772 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office. That would decrease the amount projected to be spent federally on Medicaid during that time to about $4.2 trillion. Even with those cuts, nursing home patients would continue to receive significant assistance because federal Medicaid spending would grow by 20 percent over the next decade from its current level, said Zach Hunter, a spokesman for the GOP-led House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which helped write the House version of the bill.

Meanwhile, he said, federal regulations would be eased, giving states more flexibility to tailor their programs. The proposed changes are "an important step towards strengthening the Medicaid program and ensuring vital funds go to the most vulnerable," Hunter said. He said the bill makes provisions, for example, for possible medical advances such as drugs for Alzheimer's or other diseases of the aged.

Joe Baker, president of the Medicare Rights Center, an advocacy group that opposes the bill, said substantial cuts eventually would hurt those who rely on nursing home assistance. "You can't say you are going to save a lot of money on kids and pregnant women because there isn't a lot of money there to save," Baker said. "Look at the population that is costing you a lot and, frankly, that is older adults and older adults who are 85-plus."

**SOUTH ELGIN, Illinois: Chuck Schwarz, left, holds hand with his wife Cathy at Heritage Woods of South Elgin in South Elgin, Ill. —AP**

### Former Navy commander

Medicare, the federal health insurance program that primarily covers people 65 and older, does not cover long-term nursing home care. To qualify for Medicaid nursing-home coverage, unmarried senior citizens in most states must have incomes of less than $2,205 per month, including Social Security and pensions. Some states have a lower limit. The threshold is higher for married couples. Single people also must have drained their assets below $2,000, though there is an exemption for home equity.

People with higher incomes can become eligible if their medical and nursing home expenses are too heavy. That is why Golditch is covered. In 45 states and the District of Columbia, Medicaid also covers some senior citizens who are in assisted living centers or need home health aides. Chuck Schwarz, who suffered a stroke in 2014, said Illinois' Medicaid program allows him and his wife of 60 years, Cathy, to stay at an assisted living complex in South Elgin, about 40 miles from Chicago. She has Alzheimer's, and Schwarz said being able to visit her daily has kept them both alive. Medicaid pays about 85 percent of their $9,785 monthly bill.

"I don't know if I will be affected by the cuts or not. I may not be. If they do, I don't know what I would do," said Schwarz, an 82-year-old retired salesman and former Navy commander. "We have pretty much exhausted our savings. We didn't expect to live this long." Daniel Reingold, CEO of the nonprofit that runs New York City's 1,000-bed Hebrew Home at Riverdale, a nursing home, said Medicaid cuts will reduce the quality and amount of care for the aged and sick. He said nursing homes will reduce staff and might send their residents to the hospital for some medical procedures, at a higher cost to the government. "It is a short-sighted view," he said. —AP

# Enjoy stay at Hilton Kuwait resort for the perfect summer vacation

Looking for the ultimate staycation this summer? Look no further - Hilton Kuwait Resort is the perfect choice for those looking for a unique, contemporary destination offering classic Arabian hospitality.

Whether taking a short break close to home if you won't be travelling abroad, or an extended trip to recharge your batteries, the Resort is a truly special place and offers guests the chance to discover and enjoy its impressive first-class facilities and services, including fine dining options, spa treatments, and superb accommodation.

For GGC residents or locals who are keen to enjoy a staycation this year, Hilton Kuwait has an exclusive summer package on offer. Book a two-night stay in a Royal Villa which boasts its own private swimming pool or else a Presidential Villa - both are suitable for a family of up to 8. Guests will be treated to a whole host of benefits including a 70 percent discount on all Spa facilities and treatments and a 25 percent discount on lunch or dinner at Teatro restaurant. If it's fun and adventure you are looking for then Hilton Kuwait Resort has everything covered - other perks include free rides for two people on a banana boat or an inflatable and free PlayStation games for two hours in the games corner! With special prices also offered by Delham and Visitor shops throughout the Resort, it really is the perfect place to enjoy your summer retreat. In addition, Royal Villa residents can get free lunch or dinner buffet for eight people once during their stay.

Guests can choose from a variety of comfortable and stylishly decorated accommodation, offering views of the tranquil garden or out to the beautiful Arabian Gulf. Those visiting the Hilton Kuwait Resort will be spoiled for choice, with options including rooms, studios and chalets at unbeatable prices.

The facilities and services are second-to-none and designed to exceed the expectations of guests. As well as two outdoor pools, five blissful sandy beaches, a spa with an extensive variety of treatments and services, and a fully-equipped gym, Hilton Kuwait Resort ensures guests can enjoy a unique dining experience with every meal. Foodies can enjoy a truly memorable dining experience in a private air-conditioned tent and sample authentic Arabic fare, accompanied by a delicious mocktail at Palm Court.

**The Kuwait Elite Swimming Team left the country recently to participate in the 'Telekom 2017' tournament in Radovljica, Slovenia, and that in preparation to take part in the world championship that takes place late July in Budapest, Hungary.**

# ASSE Kuwait Chapter congratulates president for receiving global award

ASSE Kuwait Chapter takes the opportunity to congratulate CH Rama Krushna Chary, President, ASSE Kuwait Chapter who has been awarded with ASSE Global Region (IX) Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) 2017 award for his significant achievement in the profession as well as for his outstanding volunteering service to Kuwait Chapter and for ASSE Global Region (IX) as a whole.

ASSE recognized him with this award for his ongoing efforts to HSE profession and contributions to the Society. Tom Cecich, CSP, CIH, ASSE President with Ashok Garlapati, ASSE Global Region IX) Vice President presented this award during Chapter Recognition Luncheon, Safety 2017 in Denver, Colorado, USA on Tuesday, June 20, 2017. This is an honor acknowledging his dedication and outstanding contributions in advancing the health, safety and environmental (HSE) profession through exemplary volunteer service to the ASSE Global Region (IX) and at professional career.

He is holding a Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) in Chemical Engineering from National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal, India and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Oil and Gas from the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES), India. He is having more than 16 years of experience in various organizations like Oil and Gas, Refinery, Consultancy, etc., His experience involved in the field of waste and air quality management, compliance, permit applications and establishment and implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS). Present he is working as Senior Environment Engineer, Drilling and Technology Directorate, Kuwait Oil Company, Kuwait. He is a lead auditor for ISO 14001, internal auditor for OHSAS 18001, ISO 50001 and ISO 9001 and certified H2S Awareness train the trainer.

Chary has been providing an volunteer services to ASSE Global Region (IX) as a Best Practices Chair and member of Regional Operating Committee (ROC), ASSE Practice Specialty as a Executive Secretary of Environmental Practice Specialty and Technical Question Coordinator of Environmental Practice Specialty and Kuwait Chapter as an organizing committee member of Chapter International HSSE and Loss Prevention Professional Development Conference and Exhibitions, GCC HSE Excellence Award Programs, Chapter Secretary, Committee Head, etc., He published many HSE articles in National and International magazines and presented technical papers in National and International conferences.

He has been recognized by various prestigious awards such as Distinguished Young Alumni Public Service Award (DYAPSA) 2016 from National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal, India. Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) CEO HSSE Awards from 2013 to 2015 (three conjugative years), Safety Professional of the Year awards 2015 and 2016 from ASSE Environmental Practice Specialty, USA and Kuwait Chapter respectively.

**The one day league of Kuwait Sneakerheads Group was held recently at Al-Arbi gym. The winners were announced as follows: Aris Del Mundo, CJ Cape, Chino Garcia, Andoy Sunga, and Rolan Santos.**

**Deputy General Director for Human Resources Affairs at Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Major General Khalid Al-Terkait visited the firemen training center recently to oversee the working mechanisms followed there to prepare new recruits both physically and mentally.**

## Animal Planet HD

00:45 Animal Cops Philadelphia
01:40 Animal Cops Houston
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Wildest Latin America
04:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
05:02 Catching Monsters
05:49 Lone Star Law
06:36 Meet The Orangutans
07:00 Meet The Orangutans
07:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
08:15 Animal Cops Houston
09:10 Wildest Latin America
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
11:55 Animal Cops Philadelphia
12:50 Lone Star Law
13:45 Catching Monsters
14:40 Wildest Latin America
15:35 Tanked
16:30 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants
17:25 Dog Rescuers
18:20 Guardians Of Rescue
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
21:05 Dog Rescuers
22:00 Guardians Of Rescue
22:55 Wildest Latin America
23:50 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants

## Crime & Investigation Network

00:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
01:00 It Takes A Killer
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
04:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
05:00 It Takes A Killer
06:00 Evil Up Close
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
10:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
11:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
14:00 The First 48
15:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
16:00 Evil Up Close
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Homicide Hunter
19:00 The First 48
20:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
21:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
22:00 I Didn't Do It
23:00 It Takes A Killer
23:30 It Takes A Killer

## Discovery Family

00:30 Unchained Reaction
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
02:10 The Carbonaro Effect
02:35 The Carbonaro Effect
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Doki
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 Bad Dog
08:40 How It's Made
20:20 The Locator
21:10 I'd Kill For You
22:00 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
22:50 Grave Secrets
23:40 Adnan Syed: Innocent Or Guilty?

## Disney Channel HD

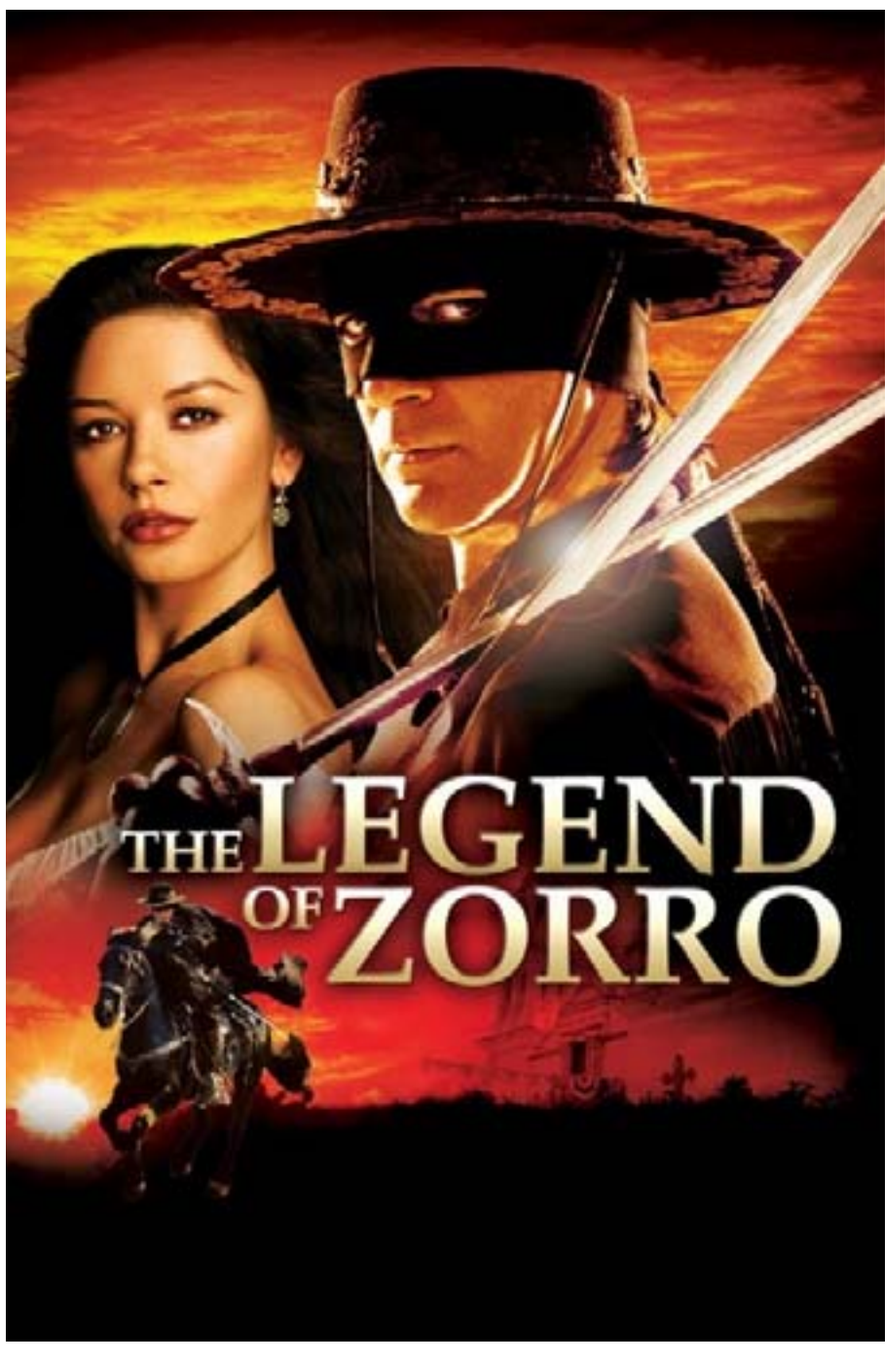
00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 The 7D
06:00 Jessie
06:50 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
07:15 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 The Zhuzhus
08:10 Bizaardvark
08:35 Disney Mickey Mouse Shorts Compilations
09:00 Stuck In The Middle
09:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
09:50 Best Friends Whenever
10:15 Liv And Maddie
10:40 Cheetah Girls 2
12:20 Jessie
12:45 Jessie
13:10 Girl Meets World
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:25 Lolirock
14:50 The Zhuzhus
15:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
15:20 Bizaardvark
15:45 Elena Of Avalor
16:10 Liv And Maddie
16:35 Descendants Wicked World
16:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:05 Stuck In The Middle
17:30 Bunk'd
17:55 Girl Meets World
18:20 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
18:25 Alex & Co.
18:50 Best Friends Whenever
19:15 Star Darlings
19:20 Liv And Maddie
19:45 Mako Mermaids
20:10 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
20:35 Cracke
20:40 Bizaardvark
21:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
21:30 Stuck In The Middle
21:55 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
22:00 Bunk'd
22:25 Bunk'd
22:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:00 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
16:05 Sofia The First: The Floatin Palace
16:50 PJ Masks
17:05 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
17:35 The Lion Guard
18:05 PJ Masks
18:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:05 Sofia The First
19:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:05 The Lion Guard
20:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:00 Goldie & Bear
21:25 Doc McStuffins
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:00 Sofia The First

## Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:05 Gold Divers
01:50 Deadliest Catch
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Deadliest Job Interview
04:50 Gold Rush
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Gold Divers
06:45 Wheeler Dealers
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Deadliest Job Interview
09:00 Baggage Battles
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Gold Divers
10:55 Deadliest Catch
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Baggage Battles
13:10 Gold Rush
13:55 Deadliest Job Interview
14:40 Gold Divers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Wheeler Dealers
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Baggage Battles
18:20 Baggage Battles
18:50 Deadliest Job Interview
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 The Island With Bear Grylls
21:50 The Wheel: Survival Games
22:40 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
23:30 Fast N' Loud

## Disney XD

06:00 Gravity Falls
06:25 Disney11
06:50 Supa Strikas
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Future-Worm!
08:05 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Walk The Prank
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Gravity Falls
10:15 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
10:20 K.C. Undercover
10:45 Right Now Kapow
11:10 Lab Rats
11:35 Mech-X4
12:00 Pants On Fire
13:30 Milo Murphy's Law
13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything




**THE LEGEND OF ZORRO ON OSN MOVIES HD**

16:15 Second Wives Club
17:10 Second Wives Club
18:05 Second Wives Club
19:00 E! News
20:00 Botched
21:00 Botched
22:00 Famously Single
23:00 E! News

## Food Network

00:00 Restaurant: Impossible
01:00 Mystery Diners
01:30 Mystery Diners

**RAMPAGE: PRESIDENT DOWN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD**

09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Unchained Reaction
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bear Grylls Survival School
11:35 Bear Grylls Survival School
12:00 Bear Grylls Survival School
12:25 Bear Grylls Survival School
14:30 Doki
14:55 Kids vs Film
15:20 Bad Dog
16:10 Unchained Reaction
17:00 The Next Great Magician
17:50 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
18:40 Breaking Magic
19:05 Breaking Magic
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 The Next Great Magician
22:00 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds

## ID

00:30 The Coroner: I Speak For The Dead
01:20 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
02:10 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
03:00 Murder Chose Me
03:48 California Investigator
07:00 Blood Relatives
07:50 Blood Relatives
08:40 Blood Relatives
09:30 Blood Relatives
10:20 Lauryn Is Lost: A Disappeared Special
11:10 Blood Relatives
12:00 California Investigator
12:25 California Investigator
12:50 California Investigator
13:15 California Investigator
13:40 California Investigator
15:20 The Locator
15:45 The Locator
16:10 Betrayed
17:00 Unravelled
17:50 Unravelled
18:40 Unravelled
19:30 Unravelled

## Disney Junior

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:25 PJ Masks
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:40 Doc McStuffins
09:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:35 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
09:40 Mickey's Pirate Adventure
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:25 Goldie & Bear
11:50 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:15 Sofia The First
12:40 The Lion Guard
13:10 Doc McStuffins
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Unbungalievable
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Future-Worm!
14:40 Kirby Buckets
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Disney11
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Gravity Falls
18:35 Lab Rats
19:00 Supa Strikas
19:25 Milo Murphy's Law
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Disney11
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

## E HD

00:05 Rob & Chyna
00:55 Rob & Chyna
01:50 Botched
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:40 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Just Jillian
06:55 E! News
07:10 Just Jillian
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Rob & Chyna
10:05 Rob & Chyna
11:00 Rob & Chyna
12:00 E! News
12:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
13:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
14:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
15:00 E! News
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
06:30 Barefoot Contessa
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 The Pioneer Woman
17:30 The Pioneer Woman
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Chopped Junior
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Man Fire Food
21:30 Man Fire Food
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

## itv hd Choice

00:10 Pick Me!
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Chopping Block
03:25 Broadchurch
04:20 Victoria
05:40 Royal Stories
06:10 Pick Me!
07:05 Chopping Block
08:00 Broadchurch
09:00 Victoria
10:25 Royal Stories
10:55 Pick Me!
11:50 Chopping Block
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Pick Me!
15:10 Chopping Block
16:00 Grantchester
16:55 Doc Martin
17:50 Tonight At The London Palladium
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Chopping Block
21:00 Grantchester
21:55 Doc Martin
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

## History HD

00:20 101 People Who Made The 20th Century
01:10 The Warfighters
02:00 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Lost In Transmission
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Time Team
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Ice Road Truckers
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Lost In Transmission
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars

## Nat Geo People HD

00:15 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
00:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:40 A Is For Apple
02:05 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
02:35 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
03:00 Places We Go
03:30 Places We Go
03:55 David Rocco's Dolce India
04:25 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
04:50 Eat Street
05:20 Eat Street
05:45 A Is For Apple
06:15 A Is For Apple
06:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
07:10 A Is For Apple
07:35 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
08:05 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
08:30 Places We Go
09:00 Places We Go
09:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
09:55 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
10:20 Eat Street
10:50 Eat Street
11:15 A Is For Apple
11:45 A Is For Apple
12:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
13:35 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
14:30 Places We Go
14:55 Maximum Foodie
15:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
15:50 Eat Street
16:20 Eat Street
16:45 A Is For Apple
17:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
17:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
18:10 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
18:35 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
19:05 David Rocco's Dolce India

## OSN Movies HD Action

00:10 The Exorcism Of Molly Hartley
01:50 Compadres
03:35 The Lovers
05:25 DCU: Justice League vs Teen Titans
06:45 King Arthur
08:55 Rampage: President Down
10:40 Compadres
12:25 Judge Dredd
14:05 King Arthur
16:15 Diggstown
18:00 Momentum
19:40 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
22:00 Spooks: The Greater Good
23:45 The Green Inferno

## OSN Movies Drama

01:00 The World Made Straight
03:00 Jappeloup
05:15 The Better Angels
07:00 Penthouse North
09:00 The Love Guide
10:30 Jappeloup
13:00 The Better Angels
15:00 Fast Girls
17:00 The Love Guide
19:00 Fury
21:30 Big Eyes
23:30 Only God Forgives

## OSN Movies HD Family

00:00 Frankenweenie
01:30 Clockstoppers
03:05 Snow Dogs
04:45 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame II
06:00 Frankenweenie
07:25 Clockstoppers
09:00 Brother Bear
10:25 Tarzan
11:55 Snow Dogs
13:35 Brother Bear
15:00 Meet The Robinsons
16:35 Herbie Fully Loaded
18:15 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
20:10 Alone For Christmas
21:40 Meet The Robinsons
23:15 High School Musical 3: Senior Year

## OSN Movies HD

01:15 Just Married
03:00 The Legend Of Zorro
05:15 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
07:10 Goldfinger
09:10 Just Married
10:45 Jurassic World
12:50 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
14:35 Ghostbusters II
16:25 Rocky III
18:10 The Walk
20:20 X-Men: First Class
22:35 Higher Learning

## OSN Movies HD Comedy

01:20 Barbershop 2: Back In Business
03:10 Life
05:00 Miss You Already
06:50 Taxi
08:30 Life
10:25 Miss You Already
12:15 Taxi
13:55 Cheech & Chong's The Corsican Brothers
15:30 Other Plans
17:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
18:45 Hanging Up
20:25 Highland Park
22:00 Garden State
23:40 Baby, Baby, Baby

## OSN Movies Festival

00:40 Farewell My Queen
02:25 Paper Towns
04:15 We Are Many
06:20 Boychoir
08:20 Man In The Moon
10:10 2001: A Space Odyssey
12:35 Paper Towns
14:25 A Birder's Guide To Everything
15:55 Of Mice And Men
17:50 Quiz Show
20:05 The Water Diviner
22:00 Stop-Loss
23:55 Jayne Mansfield's Car

## OSN Movies HD Kids

00:00 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
01:30 Izzie's Way Home
02:55 Big Baby
04:25 Albert
06:00 Lego: Scooby Doo Haunted Hollywood
07:20 Frog Kingdom
08:50 Pooh's Heffalump Movie
10:00 Vickie And The Treasure Of Gods
11:40 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
13:00 Izzie's Way Home
14:20 Bee Movie
15:55 Pooh's Heffalump Movie
17:05 Lego DC: Justice League Gotham City Breakout
18:25 Tom And Jerry: Back To Oz
19:50 Bee Movie
21:25 Frog Kingdom
22:55 Vickie And The Treasure Of Gods

## OSN First HD Comedy

00:15 The Middle
00:40 The Middle
01:05 Man Seeking Woman
01:30 Man Seeking Woman
01:55 Family Guy
02:20 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
04:50 The Bill Engvall Show
05:15 Malibu Country
05:40 Speechless
06:05 Speechless
06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
06:55 Angie Tribeca
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 The Bill Engvall Show
10:15 Malibu Country
10:40 The Bernie Mac Show
11:05 Men At Work
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Seinfeld
12:45 Seinfeld
13:10 The Middle
13:35 The Middle
14:00 The Bill Engvall Show
14:25 Two And A Half Men
14:50 The Bernie Mac Show
15:15 Speechless
15:40 Speechless
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Seinfeld
17:30 Seinfeld
18:00 The Middle

## Discovery Science

00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Weird Or What?
02:10 Mega Engineering
03:00 Da Vinci's Machines
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Weird Or What?
06:12 Mega Engineering
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Da Vinci's Machines
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Mega Engineering
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Weird Or What?
11:26 Da Vinci's Machines
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Mega Engineering
14:38 Da Vinci's Machines
15:26 Weird Or What?
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Mega Engineering
17:50 Da Vinci's Machines
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Man v Expert
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Extreme Engineering
22:00 Man v Expert

## Nickelodeon HD

00:12 Henry Danger
00:36 Get Blake
01:00 Sanjay And Craig
01:24 Rabbids Invasion
01:48 Breadwinners
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Game Shakers
05:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Breadwinners
13:00 School Of Rock
13:24 Hunter Street
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 The Thundermans
14:36 Henry Danger
15:00 Big Time Movie
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Regal Academy
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
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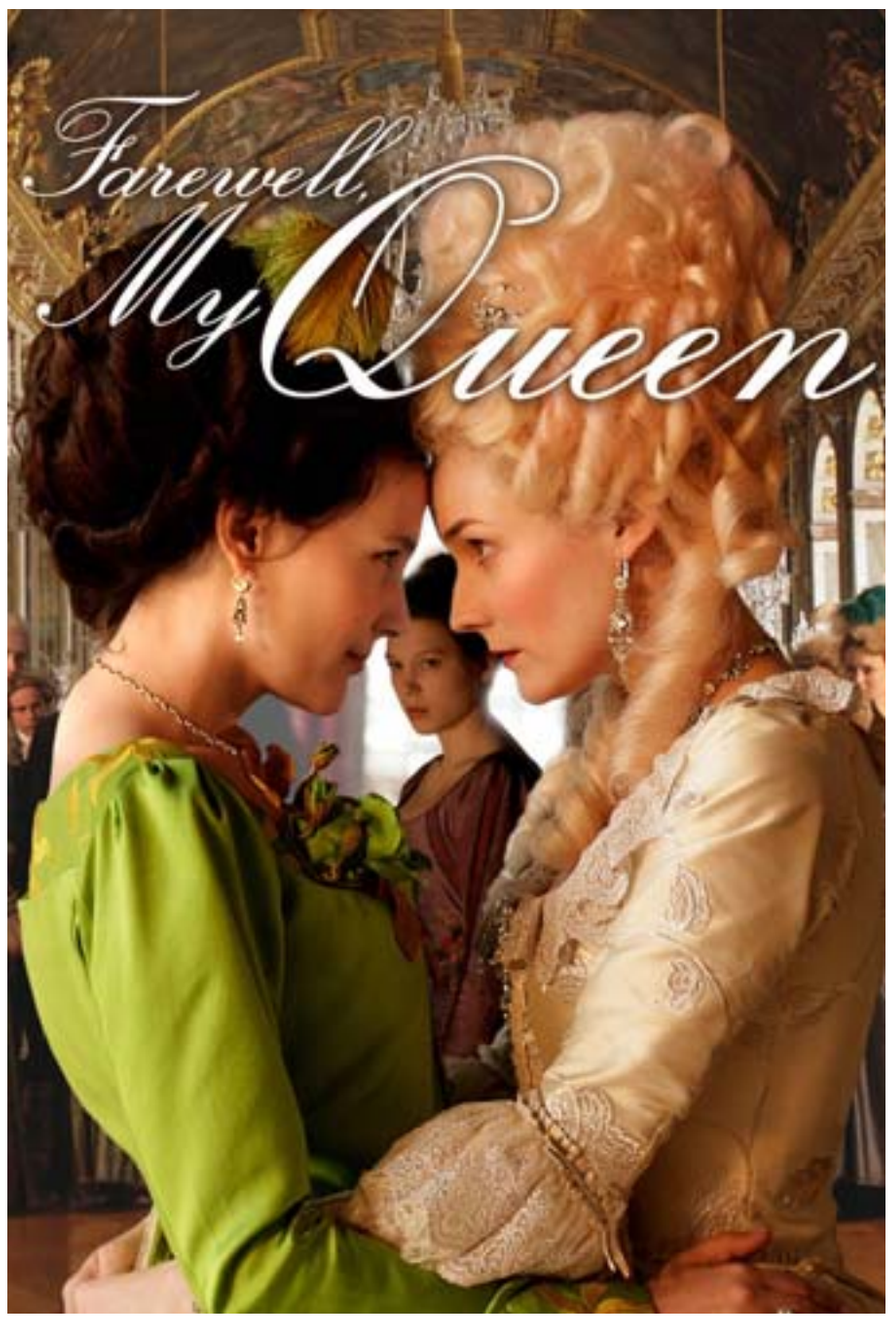
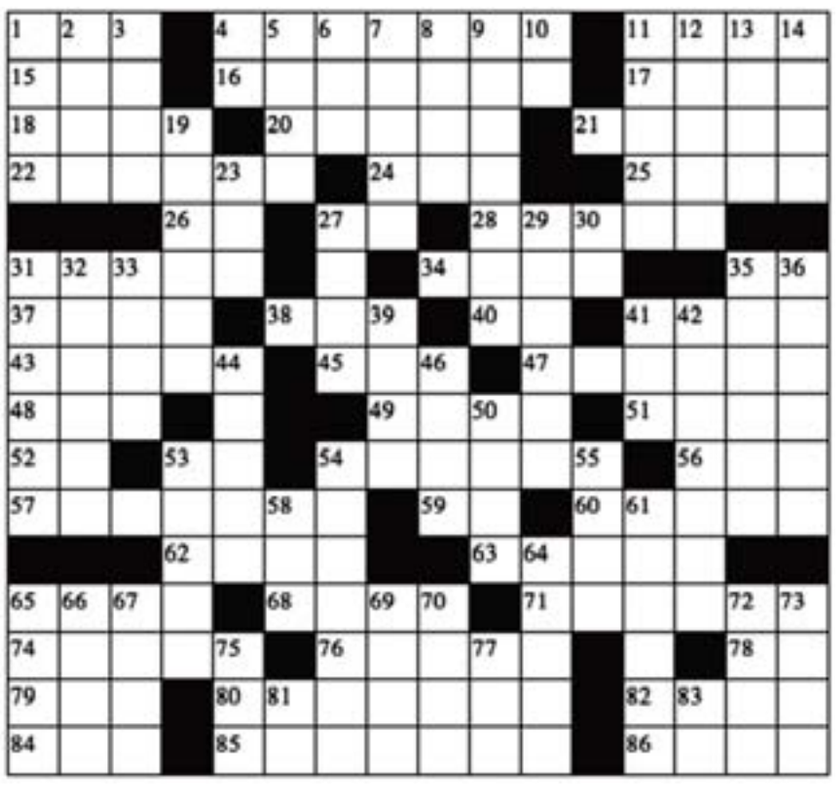
23:24 Game Shakers




**FAREWELL MY QUEEN ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL HD**

# CROSSWORD 1656



**ACROSS**

1. (computer science) Protocol that allows users to copy files between their local system and any system they can reach on the network.
4. A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
11. Type genus of the Anatidae.
15. Having a toe or toes of a specified kind.
16. A word for chaos or fiasco borrowed from modern Hebrew (where it is a loan word from Russian).
17. Something causes misery or death.
18. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
20. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Thailand and Burmese borderlands.
21. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
22. 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.
24. The number that is represented as a one followed by 6 zeros.
25. A large piece of fabric (as canvas) by means of which wind is used to propel a sailing vessel.
26. A radioactive transuranic metallic element.
28. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
31. A city in southeastern South Korea.
34. Queen of the Olympian gods in ancient Greek mythology.
37. A cruel wicked and inhuman person.
38. A light touch or stroke.
40. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
43. A family of Amerindian languages spoken in Washington and British Columbia.
45. An audiotape recording of sound.
47. A state of individual psychological well-being based upon a sense of confidence and usefulness and purpose.
48. And nothing more.
49. Cook and make edible by putting in a hot oven.
51. Little known Kamarupan languages.
52. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
56. Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.
57. A Bantu language spoken by the Chaga people in northern Tanzania.
59. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
60. The mission in San Antonio where in 1836 Mexican forces under Santa Anna besieged and massacred American rebels who were fighting to make Texas independent of Mexico.
62. Chief port of Yemen.
63. (neurology) Of or relating to the vagus nerve.
65. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
68. A town in north central Oklahoma.
71. New Zealand timber tree resembling the cypress.
74. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
76. A popular island resort in the Netherlands Antilles.
78. A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.
79. (folklore) A small grotesque supernatural creature that makes trouble for human beings.
80. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
82. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
84. Used of a single unit or thing.
85. Genus of New Zealand mat-forming herbs or subshrubs.
86. A quantity of no importance.

**DOWN**

1. A linear unit of measurement (equal to 6 feet) for water depth.
2. 100 toea equal 1 kina.
3. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit available in many varieties.
4. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
5. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
6. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
7. (Hinduism and Buddhism) The effects of a person's actions that determine his destiny in his next incarnation.
8. American novelist (1909-1955).
9. (plate tectonic theory) A hypothetical continent including all the landmass of the earth prior to the Triassic period when it split into Laurasia and Gondwanaland.
10. An associate degree in nursing.
11. Lower in esteem.
12. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
13. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
14. Fastener consisting of a resinous composition that is plastic when warm.
19. (plate tectonic theory) A hypothetical continent including all the landmass of the earth prior to the Triassic period when it split into Laurasia and Gondwanaland.
23. (computer science) The part of a computer (a microprocessor chip) that does most of the data processing.
27. A small ball with a hole through the middle.
29. A Ukrainian peninsula between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.
30. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
32. Agile long-legged rabbit-sized rodent of Central and South America and West Indies.
33. At a previous time.
35. (botany) Tissue that conducts synthesized food substances (e.g., from leaves) to parts where needed.
36. (electronics) Designating sound transmission from two sources through two channels.
39. A small cake leavened with yeast.
41. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
42. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
44. A rechargeable battery with a nickel cathode and a cadmium anode.
46. A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.
50. Capital and largest city of the Ukraine.
53. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
54. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
55. Kamarupan languages spoken in northeastern India and western Burma.
58. A unit of force equal to the force exerted by gravity.
61. An officer of the law.
64. Jordan's port.
66. A historical area and former kingdom in northwestern Spain.
67. A French abbot.
69. Plants with sword-shaped leaves and erect stalks bearing bright-colored flowers composed of three petals and three drooping sepals.
70. A bodily passage or tube conveying a secretion or other substance.
72. Scottish sea captain who was hired to protect British shipping in the Indian Ocean and then was accused of piracy and hanged (1645-1701).
73. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
75. Enlarged prostate.
77. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
81. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
83. A state in midwestern United States.

## Yesterday's Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | U | I | B | ■ | O | L | M | S | T | E | D | ■ | A | M | P |
| O | R | C | A | ■ | N | O | E | T | H | E | R | ■ | B | A | I |
| A | G | A | R | ■ | E | G | G | A | R | ■ | A | B | A | S | E |
| D | E | C | A | L | ■ | J | A | P | E | ■ | B | R | ■ | A | D |
| ■ | ■ | O | K | A | ■ | A | B | E | A | M | ■ | A | B | ■ | ■ |
| G | P | ■ | A | C | ■ | M | A | L | T | O | ■ | G | A | S | P |
| E | L | M | ■ | ■ | C | ■ | T | I | ■ | L | F | ■ | D | A | L |
| N | A | I | F | ■ | A | K | ■ | A | T | T | A | C | A | P | A |
| I | N | T | E | R | R | E | D | ■ | H | E | X | A | G | O | N |
| P | A | R | N | A | I | B | A | ■ | E | N | ■ | B | A | T | E |
| A | R | A | R | I | B | A | ■ | B | B | ■ | B | A | ■ | A | R |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | I | D | ■ | B | ■ | R | E | S | A | L | E | ■ | ■ |
| Z | A | G | R | E | B | ■ | F | A | ■ | A | G | A | M | I | C |
| A | R | A | ■ | R | A | I | L | H | E | A | D | ■ | B | A | A |
| M | A | R | C | ■ | A | N | O | M | A | L | A | ■ | E | E | G |
| A | B | B | E | ■ | S | H | E | A | R | E | D | ■ | D | A | Y |

# STAR TRACK

### Aries (March 21-April 19)

You will be extremely busy today. There will be many times where you will have to supply a solution to a particular problem. Be prepared to work hard. This is not a great time to attempt to plan a noon break with friends as you may find yourself less conversational. It would be good to walk or visit a pet or music store, if possible. Transferring your concentration to a lighthearted arena would do wonders for your energy level and enthusiasm as you return to the work expectations. Take care to examine all aspects of your work or dealings today-there is success! A long-awaited dialogue with an older person may take place later. You enjoy keeping up-to-date with the news regarding your friends, relatives or neighborhood events.

### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is a fine day . . . Your work benefits from your total concentration. This may be a good thing as you will be able to forget about personal plans for a while and relax your expectations of the day. Surprises happen all day long and, you are able to finish what you start in the work world. The noon break is fun with co-worker friends and somewhere in the visit there is talk of metaphysics, horoscopes and telling fortunes. You are also interested in the subject of writers and teachers that talk about self-help techniques. You might spend time in a bookstore after work for a short while. Young people want some of your time this afternoon and you enjoy their company. Later this evening you will want to have a camera handy.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Whether you are working in a place of business or at home, your attention is in getting things completed. If you find yourself working within a group today, you will be productive. You expect praise for your good works but this may not come on your time schedule so-do not push. Emotions and feelings of those around you may be very clear allowing you to know what is expected of your energies and your time. If you have things you want to accomplish that might be a separate interest from the people you are with-set reasonable time limits before obligating yourself to new projects. This is a good time to use your writing skills as you can communicate with real originality. Learning ways to release the restlessness is beneficial to your health.

### Cancer (June 21-July 22 )

You waste few words when you describe or give instructions. You could be in a hurry, so if someone has a lot of difficulty in understanding what you want, be wise with your response. You have a natural sense of organization and come across as disciplined and careful, perhaps a little too sober. An inner vision, coupled with the ability to see the big picture, may find you working as a go-between with others. You could even have a special gift for spanning the generation gap, bringing older and younger spirits together. A love of animals, children, older people and the needy, is a lifelong trait that is visible today. It is easy for you to work with people in authority. There are opportunities for outdoor activity with friends this afternoon.

### Leo (July 23-August 22)

Opportunities may go against your own sense of security and you may feel it is best not to take chances. This is a tough call when it comes to business and some compromise is perhaps the best way to a workable solution. Your career, practical vision and skills are of central importance to you now. You feel there is a waste of time if there is no organization and your actions are deliberate in this area of your life. Your reputation and image are a source of concern and you do everything you can to make them solid. You appear perhaps more charming and refined than usual this evening as people gather to celebrate or just simply gather together away from the workplace. Putting your best foot forward may take on a greater importance this evening.

### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your work or career is in true harmony with the rest of your life. Much can be accomplished. You could gain from subordinates or young people just now as information or help is available for whatever you want to complete. You make your way through ideas and concepts, and you have a good ability to communicate and express them to others. Reading or attending a lecture on law, politics, education, travel or religion may be part of your day, which is productive. Your creative side is showing this afternoon when you help a friend decorate or update an old look. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general become simplified and receive encouragement. Things may seem almost magical in the way they work out in your favor.

### Libra (September 23-October 22)

Self-sacrifice and an understanding attitude on your part could have far-reaching effects on your own life-path and career during this time. You have improved your working abilities and higher-ups are taking note. This may mean that you are working more efficiently with others and this helps you to achieve bigger and more encompassing goals. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward with regard to developing your career. You will have no problem moving up the professional ladder. Now is the time when personal insight into your most secret and psychological self may be possible. There is the possibility of new visions or sudden insights into your self-image or into your beliefs and dreams.

### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your idea of where you want to be in this life and where you really are with your goals are very close. You are progressing well with your goals and you will want to set some new goals soon. Do not be afraid that present goals will be forgotten as you begin to look into toward the future-they will soon be realized. This is a time of good fortune-when things open up in a very natural way for you. Situations are within your reach and it is easy to see which path is the one for you to take. Opportunities to improve and enlarge your friendships are available to you now. You may find yourself wanting to do almost anything today. This is a good time to project your image. Give yourself more credit for the original ways you handle family matters.

### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Go with the flow today. Trust in your own instincts. Your ideas are just as good, if not better, than someone else's ideas. Take a chance-try out your new ideas-you will have a feeling of accomplishment. Perhaps you are improving or updating a piece of technical equipment or some new computer software. Your perseverance pays off, particularly when you stop occasionally for a break or two-all work and no play, etc. A person that you were close to in the past may contact you this afternoon. An earnest effort in letting go of hard feelings can free you to move forward. This person has something special to offer you. This is a day of good surprises, opportunities, money and romance. A new game fills your evening hours.

### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Investigating and examining results and statistics find you at your mental best. Your analytical abilities are at a high. This can be an expansive, creative and successful time-a time you may remember with much fondness. You are your warm, loyal and generous self today and others follow your example as you deal with the public and interact with others in the workplace. Your need for admiration and appreciation will certainly be met as you entertain and visit with friends this afternoon. Others could seek you out for your psychological insight and understanding. This could be a time to make changes in your environment. Any work toward creating a balance in your life will be beneficial. Good vibes are present all week long.

### Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You will make practical decisions concerning group issues today. A supervisor or higher-up is listening to your intelligent summations about how things should be run. You have a natural sense of what the public wants. You are always making new discoveries. Clear decisions affecting others are requested and triumphant. You have a great appreciation of how your life is going and this afternoon you will be able to enjoy the company of a good friend. You will both enjoy talking about what each of you has accomplished. Perhaps you will even be evaluating and reassessing your plans for the future. Life, like a good painting, has to be looked at occasionally to really appreciate the true essence. Friends may visit this evening.

### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Money, money, money-it seems to occupy your mind much of this day. You could be applying for a loan or looking to purchase a vehicle or home and there is almost a feeling of static electricity in the air. Easy does it, meaning, have more confidence. If you really need this new item to make your life work better, it will be yours! Be aware, however, that time and process may not meet with your own idea of how things should move along. Do not let these thoughts occupy your time-you will want to be attentive to your work. You are valued for your ability to make practical decisions and you could find yourself representing co-workers in sensitive issues. Clear decisions affecting others could be made by higher-ups as a result of your input.

## Word Search

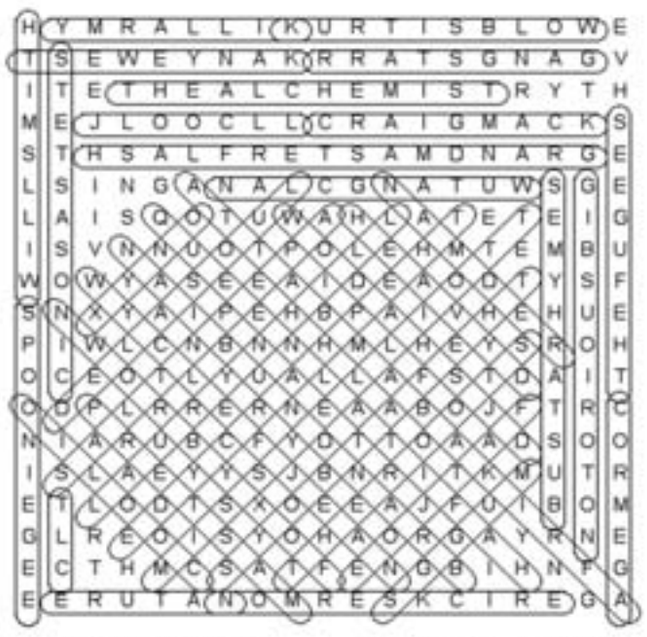
### Hockey

Find and circle all of the Hockey words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Rodney Dangerfield quotation.

ARENA, ASSIST, BLUE LINE, BOARDING, BOARDS, BODY CHECK, BREAKAWAY, CENTER, CHARGING, CONTACT, CREASE, DEFENSEMEN, DEKE, EJECTION, ELBOWING, ENFORCER, FACE MASK, FACE-OFF, FOREWARD, FOUL, GAME, GLOVES, GOALPOST, GOALTENDER, HAT TRICK, HELMET, HOLDING, HOOKING, ICE RINK, ICING, JERSEY, KNEEING, LEAGUE, LINE CHANGE, LINESMAN, MISCONDUCT, NHL, OFFENSE, OFFICIALS, OFFSIDE, OVERTIME, PASS, PENALTIES, PENALTY BOX, PERIOD, PLAYER, POINT, POKE CHECK, POWER PLAY, PUCK, RED LINE, REFEREE, ROUGHING, SAVE, SCORE, SKATES, SLAPSHOT, SLASHING, SLOT, SPEARING, STANLEY CUP, SUSPENSION, TIME-OUT, TRIPPING, WHISTLE, WINGS, WRIST SHOT, ZAMBONI, ZONES

## Yesterday's Solution

### Hip-Hop Artists



AFRIKA BAMBATTA, BRAND NUBIAN, BUSTA RHYMES, COOLIO, CORMEGA, CRAIG MACK, DE LA SOUL, DJ SHADOW, ERICK SERMON, FAT JOE, FOXY BROWN, GANG STARR, GRANDMASTER FLASH, HEAVY D, KANYE WEST, KILLARMY, KURTIS BLOW, LAURYN HILL, LL COOL J, MASTER P, MISSY ELLIOTT, MUGGS, NATURE, NOTORIOUS B.I.G., ONYX, QUEEN LATIFAH, REDMAN, SALT N PEPA, SPOONIE GEE, STETSASONIC, THE ALCHEMIST, THE FAT BOYS, THE FUGEES, THE PHARCYDE, THE ROOTS, TLC, WILL SMITH, WU-TANG CLAN, WYCLEF JEAN

The hidden sentence is: EVERYTHING IS EVERYTHING

## Daily SuDoku

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

## Yesterday's Solution

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

# CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017

## Kuwait CINEMA

### KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/07/2017 TO 12/07/2017)

**SHARQIA-1**
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 11:30 AM
DESPICABLE ME 3 2:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 4:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 6:00 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 8:00 PM
THE MUMMY 10:45 PM
THE MUMMY 1:00 AM

**SHARQIA-2**
DESPICABLE ME 3 11:45 AM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 1:45 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 4:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 7:15 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 10:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:45 AM

**SHARQIA-3**
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 11:30 AM
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) 2:30 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 5:00 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 7:45 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 9:45 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 11:45 PM

**MUHALAB-1**
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 12:00 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 2:45 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 5:15 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 7:45 PM
THE MUMMY 10:30 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 12:45 AM

**MUHALAB-2**
DESPICABLE ME 3 11:30 AM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 1:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 1:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 3:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 5:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 7:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 9:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 11:30 PM

**MUHALAB-3**
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 1:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 1:45 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 3:45 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 6:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 9:15 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:15 AM

**FANAR-1**
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 11:30 AM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 1:30 PM
THE MUMMY 4:15 PM
MOM - HINDI 6:30 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 9:30 PM
THE MUMMY 12:15 AM

**FANAR-2**
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:45 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 3:30 PM
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) 5:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 8:15 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 10:15 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 12:30 AM

**FANAR-3**
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 11:30 AM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 2:15 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 4:15 PM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 7:00 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 9:00 PM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 12:05 AM

**FANAR-4**
DESPICABLE ME 3 11:45 AM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 1:45 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 4:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 7:15 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 10:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:45 AM

**FANAR-5**
DESPICABLE ME 3 2:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 3:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 5:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 7:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 9:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 11:45 PM

**MARINA-1**
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 2:45 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 5:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 7:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 9:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 11:30 PM

**MARINA-2**
DESPICABLE ME 3 11:30 AM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 1:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 4:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 6:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 8:00 PM
THE MUMMY 10:00 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 12:15 AM

**MARINA-3**
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 11:30 AM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 1:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 4:15 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 7:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 9:45 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:30 AM

**AVENUES-1**
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 12:45 PM
TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight 3:30 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 6:30 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 9:15 PM
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) 12:05 AM

**AVENUES-2**
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 11:45 AM
DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX 2:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX 4:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX 7:15 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX 9:15 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX 12:05 AM

**AVENUES-3**
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 11:30 AM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 1:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 3:30 PM
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) 5:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 8:00 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 10:00 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 12:15 AM

**AVENUES-4**
DESPICABLE ME 3 1:00 PM
Special Show "TUBELIGHT (Hindi)" 11:30 AM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 3:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 5:45 PM
Special Show "THE MUMMY" 5:30 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 7:45 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 10:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:30 AM

**AVENUES-5**
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D 2:45 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 5:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D 8:15 PM
Special Show "SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING" 8:15 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 11:00 PM

**AVENUES-6**
DESPICABLE ME 3 11:30 AM
DESPICABLE ME 3 1:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 3:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 5:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 7:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 9:30 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 11:30 PM

**360°- 1**
DESPICABLE ME 3 12:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D) 2:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 4:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D) 6:30 PM
Premiere Show "War For the planet of the Apes" 8:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 8:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 10:30 PM
TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight 12:30 AM

**360°- 2**
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 11:30 AM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 1:30 PM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 3:30 PM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 5:30 PM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 7:30 PM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 9:30 PM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 11:30 PM

**360°- 3**
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 12:00 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 2:45 PM
MOM - HINDI 5:45 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 8:45 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 11:45 PM

**AL-KOUT.1**
DESPICABLE ME 3 11:45 AM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 1:45 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 4:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 7:15 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 10:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:45 AM

**AL-KOUT.2**
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) 12:00 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 2:45 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 4:45 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 7:30 PM
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) 9:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 12:05 AM

**AL-KOUT.3**
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:15 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 3:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 5:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 7:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 9:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 11:45 PM

**AL-KOUT.4**
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 11:30 AM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 1:30 PM
THE MUMMY 4:00 PM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 6:15 PM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 8:15 PM
TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI 10:15 PM
THE MUMMY 12:15 AM

**BAIRAQ-1**
DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D) 11:30 AM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 1:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D 4:15 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 7:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D 9:45 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 12:30 AM

**BAIRAQ-2**
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 11:30 AM
DESPICABLE ME 3 2:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 4:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 6:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 8:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3 10:00 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales 12:05 AM

**BAIRAQ-3**
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 12:00 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 2:00 PM
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) 4:00 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi) 6:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR 9:15 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING 11:15 PM

## SITUATION WANTED

**Accountant** holding qualifications of ACCA, MBA Finance and B.Com, with 8 years of experience in Kuwait, looking for suitable job in reputed Audit Firms, Investment companies or Islamic banks. Contact: 55829223, email: acconline@ymail.com **(C 5324) 9-7-2017**

## FOR SALE

**Toyota** Camry 2008, single driven 210000 KMs, good condition. Honda CRV 1999, lady driven 136000 KMs, good condition. Contact: 99535898. **(C 5326) 9-7-2017**

## MATRIMONIAL

**Suitable** alliance invited from the parents of God fearing bride preferably engineers for a Keralite Christian boy (mechanical engineer 27 years) from an aristocratic Christian Orthodox family. Who is employed at Kuwait in a reputed company. Please Contact: mavilareji@gmail.com **(C 5327) 9-7-2017**

## PRAYER TIMINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Fajr: | 03:23 |
| Shorook: | 04:56 |
| Duhr: | 11:53 |
| Asr: | 15:28 |
| Maghrib: | 18:50 |
| Isha: | 20:21 |

## Flight Schedule

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

**DIAL161** FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

**Arrival Flights on Tuesday 11/7/2017**

| Airlines | Flt | Route | Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| JAI | 574 | Mumbai | 00:05 |
| THY | 772 | Istanbul | 00:10 |
| SVA | 502 | Jeddah | 00:20 |
| SVA | 514 | Riyadh | 00:25 |
| MSC | 411 | Asyut | 00:30 |
| KAC | 786 | Jeddah | 00:30 |
| JZR | 267 | Beirut | 00:35 |
| RJA | 642 | Amman | 00:45 |
| KAC | 102 | London | 00:55 |
| DLH | 635 | Doha | 01:00 |
| PGT | 858 | Istanbul | 01:15 |
| JZR | 539 | Cairo | 01:20 |
| UAE | 853 | Dubai | 01:40 |
| THY | 1464 | Istanbul | 01:50 |
| KKK | 6506 | Istanbul | 01:55 |
| AXB | 395 | Kozhikode | 02:00 |
| KLM | 446 | Bahrain | 02:05 |
| JZR | 553 | Alexandria | 02:10 |
| QTR | 1086 | Doha | 02:10 |
| GFA | 211 | Bahrain | 02:15 |
| ETH | 620 | Addis Ababa | 02:15 |
| KAC | 418 | Manila | 02:50 |
| THY | 752 | Istanbul | 03:05 |
| OMA | 643 | Muscat | 03:05 |
| MSR | 606 | Luxor | 03:05 |
| ETD | 305 | Abu Dhabi | 03:10 |
| RJA | 644 | Amman | 03:10 |
| MSR | 612 | Cairo | 03:15 |
| FDB | 069 | Dubai | 03:15 |
| KAC | 382 | Delhi | 03:15 |
| PGT | 860 | Istanbul | 03:25 |
| QTR | 1076 | Doha | 03:45 |
| KAC | 544 | Cairo | 03:50 |
| LMU | 5510 | Cairo | 04:00 |
| QTR | 1090 | Doha | 04:05 |
| UAE | 873 | Dubai | 04:15 |
| KAC | 346 | Ahmedabad | 04:15 |
| KAC | 358 | Kochi | 04:50 |
| FEG | 937 | Sohag | 05:00 |
| AAG | 143 | FJR | 05:00 |
| KAC | 784 | Jeddah | 05:00 |
| THY | 6376 | Istanbul | 05:05 |
| THY | 770 | Istanbul | 05:05 |
| THY | 1414 | TZX | 05:05 |
| DHX | 170 | Bahrain | 05:10 |
| PGT | 4580 | BJV | 05:15 |
| KAC | 414 | Bangkok | 05:20 |
| JZR | 529 | Asyut | 05:35 |
| KAC | 332 | Trivandrum | 05:40 |
| BAW | 157 | London | 06:05 |
| KAC | 678 | Dubai | 06:25 |
| KAC | 206 | Islamabad | 06:40 |
| KAC | 284 | Dhaka | 06:50 |
| KAC | 302 | Mumbai | 06:55 |
| JZR | 1541 | Cairo | 07:10 |
| JZR | 503 | Luxor | 07:25 |
| FDB | 053 | Dubai | 07:50 |
| KAC | 354 | Bangalore | 07:50 |
| KAC | 384 | Delhi | 08:00 |
| UAE | 855 | Dubai | 08:25 |
| ETD | 301 | Abu Dhabi | 08:55 |
| ABY | 125 | Sharjah | 09:00 |
| QTR | 1070 | Doha | 09:25 |
| FDB | 055 | Dubai | 09:40 |
| IRA | 675 | Lar | 09:40 |
| SVA | 512 | Riyadh | 10:00 |
| GFA | 213 | Bahrain | 10:40 |
| SAW | 703 | Damascus | 10:45 |
| MEA | 404 | Beirut | 10:55 |
| QTR | 1074 | Doha | 11:00 |
| PAL | 668 | Manila | 11:00 |
| JZR | 561 | Sohag | 11:10 |
| MSC | 403 | Asyut | 11:15 |
| KAC | 614 | Bahrain | 11:15 |
| RBG | 553 | Alexandria | 11:30 |
| KAC | 742 | Dammam | 11:45 |
| JZR | 165 | Dubai | 11:50 |
| JZR | 239 | Amman | 12:25 |
| JZR | 1443 | Doha | 12:35 |
| UAE | 871 | Dubai | 12:45 |
| FEG | 933 | Sohag | 12:55 |
| MSR | 610 | Cairo | 13:00 |
| THY | 766 | Istanbul | 13:00 |
| AXB | 393 | Kozhikode | 13:10 |
| SYR | 341 | Damascus | 13:30 |
| KAC | 672 | Dubai | 13:55 |
| KAC | 692 | Muscat | 13:55 |
| QTR | 1078 | Doha | 14:10 |
| KAC | 364 | Colombo | 14:15 |
| GFA | 221 | Bahrain | 14:15 |
| FDB | 059 | Dubai | 14:20 |
| KAC | 618 | Doha | 14:20 |
| SVA | 500 | Jeddah | 14:45 |
| KAC | 788 | Jeddah | 14:55 |
| KAC | 304 | Mumbai | 14:55 |
| KNE | 529 | Jeddah | 14:55 |
| ETD | 303 | Abu Dhabi | 15:05 |
| OMA | 645 | Muscat | 15:10 |
| KAC | 562 | Amman | 15:10 |
| KAC | 502 | Beirut | 15:25 |
| KAC | 412 | Bangkok | 15:30 |
| ABY | 127 | Sharjah | 15:35 |
| UAE | 857 | Dubai | 15:45 |
| RJA | 640 | Amman | 16:00 |
| FDK | 801 | Damascus | 16:00 |
| MSR | 575 | Sharm el-Sheikh | 16:10 |
| QTR | 1072 | Doha | 16:15 |
| FDB | 051 | Dubai | 16:15 |
| JZR | 257 | Beirut | 16:20 |
| JZR | 535 | Cairo | 16:20 |
| JZR | 125 | Bahrain | 16:25 |
| KAC | 118 | New York | 16:25 |
| NIA | 361 | Alexandria | 16:50 |
| KAC | 542 | Cairo | 17:05 |
| SVA | 510 | Riyadh | 17:15 |
| GFA | 215 | Bahrain | 17:30 |
| JZR | 777 | Jeddah | 17:35 |
| JZR | 177 | Dubai | 17:45 |
| QTR | 1080 | Doha | 18:10 |
| JZR | 483 | Istanbul | 18:30 |
| MSR | 620 | Cairo | 18:30 |
| KAC | 776 | Riyadh | 19:05 |
| WAN | 986 | TBS | 19:05 |
| UAE | 875 | Dubai | 19:05 |
| GFA | 217 | Bahrain | 19:05 |
| FDB | 063 | Dubai | 19:10 |
| NIA | 0161 | Cairo | 19:15 |
| ABY | 123 | Sharjah | 19:20 |
| KAC | 154 | Istanbul | 19:30 |
| KAC | 674 | Dubai | 19:40 |
| KAC | 616 | Bahrain | 19:40 |
| KAC | 178 | Vienna | 19:45 |
| FDB | 057 | Dubai | 19:50 |
| KAC | 620 | Doha | 20:05 |
| OMA | 647 | Muscat | 20:05 |
| JZR | 1543 | Cairo | 20:15 |
| DLH | 634 | Frankfurt | 20:15 |
| MEA | 402 | Beirut | 20:15 |
| QTR | 1088 | Doha | 20:40 |
| KAC | 514 | Tehran | 20:55 |
| KAC | 166 | Rome | 20:55 |
| ICV | 675 | Luxembourg | 20:55 |
| KAC | 564 | Amman | 21:00 |
| KAC | 168 | Paris | 21:05 |
| KAC | 172 | Frankfurt | 21:05 |
| ETD | 307 | Abu Dhabi | 21:10 |
| ALK | 229 | Colombo | 21:15 |
| KLM | 445 | Amsterdam | 21:15 |
| UAE | 859 | Dubai | 21:15 |
| THY | 764 | Istanbul | 21:30 |
| GFA | 219 | Bahrain | 21:50 |
| QTR | 1082 | Doha | 22:05 |
| ETD | 309 | Abu Dhabi | 22:10 |
| AIC | 987 | Chennai/Hyderabad | 22:25 |
| PIA | 239 | Sialkot | 22:35 |
| JZR | 241 | Amman | 22:55 |
| JZR | 185 | Dubai | 23:00 |
| JAI | 574 | Mumbai | 23:00 |
| MSC | 405 | Sohag | 23:30 |
| MSR | 2614 | Cairo | 23:30 |
| FDB | 071 | Dubai | 23:35 |

**Departure Flights on Tuesday 11/7/2017**

| Airlines | Flt | Route | Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| AIC | 976 | Goa/Chennai | 00:05 |
| RBG | 556 | Alexandria | 00:05 |
| BBC | 144 | Dhaka | 00:10 |
| JZR | 1540 | Cairo | 00:20 |
| MSR | 2615 | Cairo | 00:30 |
| MSC | 406 | Sohag | 00:30 |
| FDB | 072 | Dubai | 00:30 |
| JZR | 502 | Luxor | 01:15 |
| SVA | 503 | Jeddah | 01:20 |
| JAI | 573 | Mumbai | 01:25 |
| SVA | 515 | Riyadh | 01:25 |
| MSC | 412 | Asyut | 01:30 |
| THY | 773 | Istanbul | 01:40 |
| KAC | 677 | Dubai | 01:45 |
| KAC | 363 | Colombo | 01:55 |
| DLH | 635 | Frankfurt | 02:00 |
| PGT | 859 | Istanbul | 02:35 |
| THY | 765 | Istanbul | 02:50 |
| KKK | 6505 | Istanbul | 02:55 |
| AXB | 396 | Kozhikode | 02:55 |
| ETH | 621 | Addis Ababa | 03:05 |
| UAE | 854 | Dubai | 03:30 |
| KLM | 446 | Amsterdam | 03:30 |
| RJA | 645 | Amman | 03:55 |
| THY | 753 | Istanbul | 04:00 |
| MSR | 607 | Luxor | 04:05 |
| OMA | 644 | Muscat | 04:05 |
| QTR | 1087 | Doha | 04:10 |
| ETD | 306 | Abu Dhabi | 04:10 |
| MSR | 613 | Cairo | 04:15 |
| KAC | 417 | Manila | 04:20 |
| PGT | 861 | Istanbul | 04:25 |
| JZR | 560 | Sohag | 04:45 |
| LMU | 5511 | Cairo | 05:00 |
| QTR | 1091 | Doha | 05:05 |
| QTR | 1077 | Doha | 05:35 |
| KAC | 303 | Mumbai | 05:50 |
| FEG | 934 | Sohag | 05:55 |
| THY | 1465 | Istanbul | 06:00 |
| PGT | 4581 | Istanbul | 06:15 |
| UAE | 874 | Dubai | 06:15 |
| RJA | 643 | Amman | 06:25 |
| THY | 771 | Istanbul | 06:25 |
| GFA | 212 | Bahrain | 06:50 |
| JZR | 238 | Amman | 07:00 |
| FDB | 070 | Dubai | 07:05 |
| THY | 6376 | Dubai/Istanbul | 07:05 |
| KAC | 167 | Paris | 07:15 |
| JZR | 164 | Dubai | 07:15 |
| KAC | 171 | Frankfurt | 07:50 |
| KAC | 501 | Beirut | 07:50 |
| KAC | 613 | Bahrain | 07:55 |
| BAW | 156 | London | 08:20 |
| KAC | 177 | Vienna | 08:25 |
| KAC | 741 | Dammam | 08:30 |
| KAC | 691 | Muscat | 08:30 |
| FD | B054 | Dubai | 08:30 |
| AAG | 144 | IQA | 09:00 |
| JZR | 1442 | Doha | 09:00 |
| JZR | 256 | Beirut | 09:00 |
| KAC | 671 | Dubai | 09:15 |
| KAC | 787 | Jeddah | 09:15 |
| KAC | 117 | New York | 09:15 |
| KAC | 165 | Rome | 09:20 |
| KAC | 561 | Amman | 09:30 |
| JZR | 534 | Cairo | 09:30 |
| ABY | 126 | Sharjah | 09:40 |
| JZR | 482 | Istanbul | 09:40 |
| KAC | 101 | London | 09:45 |
| UAE | 856 | Dubai | 09:50 |
| KAC | 541 | Cairo | 10:00 |
| ETD | 302 | Abu Dhabi | 10:00 |
| KAC | 617 | Doha | 10:15 |
| KAC | 153 | Istanbul | 10:30 |
| QTR | 1071 | Doha | 10:35 |
| FDB | 056 | Dubai | 10:35 |
| IRA | 674 | Lar | 10:40 |
| SVA | 513 | Riyadh | 11:00 |
| GFA | 214 | Bahrain | 11:35 |
| SAW | 704 | Damascus | 11:45 |
| MEA | 405 | Beirut | 11:55 |
| VIZ | 203 | TQD | 12:00 |
| JZR | 776 | Jeddah | 12:00 |
| QTR | 1075 | Doha | 12:10 |
| RBG | 554 | Alexandria | 12:10 |
| MSC | 404 | Asyut | 12:15 |
| PAL | 669 | Manila | 13:10 |
| JZR | 176 | Dubai | 13:10 |
| WAN | 985 | TBS | 13:15 |
| JZR | 1542 | Cairo | 13:25 |
| JZR | 124 | Bahrain | 13:30 |
| FEG | 938 | Sohag | 13:55 |
| THY | 767 | Istanbul | 13:55 |
| MSR | 611 | Cairo | 14:00 |
| AXB | 394 | Kozhikode | 14:10 |
| UAE | 872 | Dubai | 14:15 |
| SYR | 342 | Damascus | 14:30 |
| KAC | 673 | Dubai | 15:00 |
| GFA | 222 | Bahrain | 15:00 |
| FDB | 060 | Dubai | 15:05 |
| QTR | 1079 | Doha | 15:15 |
| KAC | 775 | Riyadh | 15:30 |
| KAC | 563 | Amman | 15:40 |
| SVA | 501 | Jeddah | 15:45 |
| KNE | 530 | Jeddah | 15:55 |
| KAC | 619 | Doha | 16:00 |
| OMA | 646 | Muscat | 16:10 |
| ABY | 128 | Sharjah | 16:15 |
| ETD | 304 | Abu Dhabi | 16:20 |
| KAC | 615 | Bahrain | 16:30 |
| KAC | 513 | Tehran | 16:30 |
| MSR | 576 | Sharm el-Sheikh | 16:50 |
| FDK | 802 | Damascus | 16:55 |
| RJA | 641 | Amman | 16:55 |
| FDB | 052 | Dubai | 17:05 |
| JZR | 266 | Beirut | 17:15 |
| QTR | 1073 | Doha | 17:25 |
| JZR | 240 | Amman | 17:30 |
| KAC | 361 | Colombo | 17:35 |
| UAE | 858 | Dubai | 17:40 |
| KAC | 357 | Kochi | 17:40 |
| NIA | 362 | Alexandria | 17:50 |
| KAC | 381 | Delhi | 17:50 |
| KAC | 331 | Trivandrum | 17:55 |
| KAC | 343 | Chennai | 18:00 |
| KAC | 283 | Dhaka | 18:00 |
| JZR | 512 | Sharm el-Sheikh | 18:00 |
| SVA | 511 | Riyadh | 18:15 |
| GFA | 216 | Bahrain | 18:20 |
| JZR | 184 | Dubai | 18:25 |
| JZR | 538 | Cairo | 18:30 |
| KAC | 785 | Jeddah | 18:45 |
| QTR | 1081 | Doha | 19:15 |
| KAC | 345 | Ahmedabad | 19:20 |
| JZR | 552 | Alexandria | 19:20 |
| MSR | 621 | Cairo | 19:30 |
| GFA | 218 | Bahrain | 19:50 |
| FDB | 064 | Dubai | 19:50 |
| ABY | 124 | Sharjah | 20:00 |
| NIA | 0162 | Cairo | 20:15 |
| FDB | 058 | Dubai | 20:30 |
| UAE | 876 | Dubai | 20:35 |
| DLH | 634 | Doha | 21:00 |
| KAC | 543 | Cairo | 21:00 |
| OMA | 648 | Muscat | 21:05 |
| MEA | 403 | Beirut | 21:15 |
| KAC | 301 | Mumbai | 21:40 |
| QTR | 1089 | Doha | 21:50 |
| DHX | 171 | Bahrain | 21:50 |
| KAC | 205 | Islamabad | 21:55 |
| ETD | 308 | Abu Dhabi | 22:00 |
| KAC | 155 | Istanbul | 22:15 |
| ALK | 230 | Colombo | 22:20 |
| KLM | 445 | Bahrain | 22:25 |
| THY | 1403 | AYT | 22:25 |
| UAE | 860 | Dubai | 22:35 |
| KAC | 383 | Delhi | 22:35 |
| GFA | 220 | Bahrain | 22:50 |
| ICV | 675 | Hong Kong | 22:55 |
| ETD | 310 | Abu Dhabi | 23:00 |
| KAC | 783 | Jeddah | 23:10 |
| KAC | 795 | Madinah | 23:10 |
| QTR | 1083 | Doha | 23:20 |
| PIA | 240 | Sialkot | 23:35 |
| KAC | 411 | Bangkok | 23:35 |
| KAC | 1801 | Cairo | 23:55 |

# Nicks joins Petty for duet at BST Hyde Park

**Stevie Nicks** joined Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers on stage for a duet of 'Stop Draggin' My Heart Around' at Barclaycard presents British Summer Time on Sunday. The Fleetwood Mac legend and the US band recorded the collaboration in 1981 and performed it midway through their headlining set at London's Hyde Park for the first time in more than 18 years. Petty, 66, introduced Nicks as an "honourary" member of the group as she walked onto The Great Oak stage. Paying tribute to his bandmates on the band's 40th anniversary, the 'I Won't Back Down' hitmaker told the sun-kissed crowd: "It's great to be here. It's has been far too long, and this beautiful London summer is amazing. "We are celebrating our 40th year together ... these people [his bandmates] have been in my life a long time and somehow we are still together. We are probably closer than family." Petty and the Heartbreakers pulled out all of their biggest hits including 'Free Fallin' and 'Learning To Fly'. Earlier in the day, Nicks played her own set opening with her song 'Gold and Braid' before closing with Fleetwood's 1975 classic 'Landslide'. The set featured many songs from the iconic 70s group; 'Gypsy', 'Dreams', 'Gold Dust Woman' and 'Rhiannon'. The 69-year-old star also performed her hit with her bandmate Lindsey Buckingham, 'Crying in the Night', from 1973. Before singing the number, Nicks recalled how the track meant she "didn't have to be a waitress anymore". She then reminded festival-goers to keep dreaming as "dreams do come true". She continued: "And 44 years later ... so if you ever fear that dreams don't come true, they do." Nicks said that her BST show will be one "heartfelt" memory she will never forget. She said: "This is one big, heartfelt memory that I, Stevie, will take with me forever."

# Tempah joins Wizkid on stage at Wireless

**Tinie Tempah** made a surprise appearance at Wireless Festival on Sunday. The 28-year-old rapper sent the young crowd into a frenzy when he jumped on stage during Wizkid's set in the main arena to perform their hit single 'Mamacita' together. But he didn't just do one song and leave, as the songwriter - whose real name is Patrick Chukwuemeka Okogwu - stuck around to perform his 2010 single 'Pass Out' as well. Wizkid kicked off his set with his new song 'Come Closer', which features Drake, before he went into 'Naughty Ride' and told revelers that he "I loves London." Earlier on in the day, North London artist Abra Cadabra asked festival goers to take part in a minute's silence, before he kicked off his performance, as a tribute to the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire, which saw an estimated 150 people lose their lives when an inferno ripped through the apartment block in West London, last month. The commemorative moment was also in honor of Bradley Lowery - a six-year-old boy who died last week following a tough battle with neuroblastoma - a rare type of cancer. A notice published on site read: "Abra Cadabra asks fans to join him at the Pepsi Max Stage and across the whole site to observe a minute silence at 1:45pm for the victims of those affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy." He told fans as they gathered at the stage for his performance: "You know what happened in West London in the fire, it's a sad thing - God bless everyone that passed away. The community came together, stick together and now they will pull together." He then asked the crowd to put their hands together and applaud the victims.

# The Weeknd closes Wireless festival

The 'Starboy' hitmaker rounded off the three-day music extravaganza, held at Finsbury Park in North London, on the main stage on Sunday with hit after hit from his 'House of Balloons' album as the crowd went wild for his incredible voice. The 27-year-old hunk - whose real name is Abel Makkonen Tesfaye - appeared to be having the time of his life as he bounced around on stage to shrieks from his fans. It's not known if his girlfriend Selena Gomez - whom he's been dating since the end of last year following his split from Bella Hadid - was backstage watching his set but there were rumours floating around that she had touched down in the English capital. Earlier on in the day, the likes of Bugzy Malone, Tyga, Ty Dolla $ign, Pusha T, Nas and Wizkid took to the main stage to perform their energetic set under the hot sun. Things turned adventurous in the early evening when Tory Lanez decided to try something new towards the end of his gig by crowd-surfing to his song 'Diego'. The 24-year-old rapper told the crowd: "Ok, we're going to try something now. I need you all to make a line and I'm going to surf from the front to the back and back again." It all seemed to be going well until he was almost dropped and security was forced to intervene and heave him back on to the stage so that he could finish off his song. Despite his bright idea, Tory - real name is Daystar Peterson - appeared to be exhausted when his feet finally touched the stage again as he collapsed on the floor and asked his staff if he could have some water. He concluded his 40-minute gig by thanking his fans for having him and telling them he'll be back soon for another show.

# Radiohead plan 2018 tour

**Radiohead** are planning to hit the road in 2018. The 'Creep' hitmakers will go on a "little tour" next year but after that they don't have any further plans to team up again and will concentrate on solo projects. Speaking to the BBC at the TRNSMT festival, guitarist Ed O'Brien said: "We'll hang up our Radioheads. It's time for everyone to go off and do their own thing for a bit." The group are currently touring their 2016 album 'A Moon Shaped Pool' and will conclude their latest run of gigs with a performance at Hayarkon Park in Tel Aviv, Israel on July 19. However, the show is somewhat controversial and several celebrities, including Roger Waters, have signed a letter with Artists for Palestine UK to ask the group to reconsider the performance in a country "where a system of apartheid has been imposed on the Palestine people". The letter reads: "I'm asking you not to perform in Israel, Palestinians have appealed to you to take one small step to help pressure Israel to end its violation of basic rights and international law. Since Radiohead campaigns for freedom to the Tibetans, we're wondering why you'd turn down a request to stand up for another people under foreign occupation. "Surely if making a stand against the politics of division, of discrimination and of hate means anything at all, it means standing against it everywhere - and that has to include what happens to Palestinians every day." Radiohead's guitarist Jonny Greenwood has links to Israel as he is married to Israeli artist Sharon Katan. The Weeknd closed this year's Wireless Festival in London with a bang as fireworks exploded from the stage while he belted out his popular track 'The Hills'.

# David Bowie's Blackstar gets top prize at Sky Arts Awards

**David Bowie's** 'Blackstar' was awarded yet another posthumous prize at the South Bank Sky Arts Awards on Sunday. The late music legend - who died in January 2016 after a secret battle with cancer - was honoured with the Pop Music gong for his final album at the ceremony held at London's The Savoy Hotel. The 'Starman' hitmaker's close pal Iggy Pop appeared via a video message to pay tribute to the icon - whose record continues to pick up accolades including this year's Mastercard British Album of the Year prize at the BRIT Awards. The 'I Wanna Be Your Dog' hitmaker, who worked with Bowie on the album 'Lust For Life', said he changed '"the game in rock and roll and in popular music". The 70-year-old rocker recalled how they once lived together in London and how the 'Labyrinth' star never missed an episode of the arts television programme 'The South Bank Show'. He said: "[We]"shared digs ... in London at a beautiful old Victorian house that was looked after by a lady named Mrs Potter." Meanwhile, it was recently revealed that Bowie had been in talks to do a joint record with LCD Soundsystem's frontman James Murphy, but he was already too consumed in what would be his final record. The 'All My Friends' hitmaker did however record some James said recently: "I reached out to David and said, 'I'd love to do a record just me and you'. "He said, 'It's funny you mention that, please look me up when you get back to New York.'" The 47-year-old musician was surprised he even spoke with the 'Heroes' singer as he was so starstruck by his idol, but they ended up having a great relationship over email. Speaking about how he would've been speechless if he met the late great Lou Reed, he admitted: "I don't think I could have talked to him. "And that's saying a lot because I knew David Bowie, I talked to David Bowie. I thought I couldn't talk to him, but he was so gracious and so friendly... I had an email friendship with David Bowie, which one of the weirder, more amazing things."

# Mumford and Sons return to their 'early days mentality'

**Mumford & Sons** have returned to the "mentality" of their early days for their new album. Frontman Marcus Mumford has revealed the British group are currently busily working away on new material for their fourth studio album and he said they're in a similar frame of mind to that which inspired their debut release, 'Sigh No More', back in 2009. He shared: "We've been playing a couple of new songs a night on this tour, and we've gone back to the mentality we had when we first started out, when every song was new to the audience and we'd get away with experimenting on them almost every night - working out what wasn't quite right, which lyrics didn't work, how 60 people in a pub reacted to certain things. "That was always part of our writing process, but on 'Wilder Mind' we kind of changed that mentality - we wrote it less on the road and more in the studio. "People can share songs online so much more easily these days, so that experimentation is a little riskier than before, but we try not to be too precious about it." Marcus' thoughts have been echoed by guitarist Winston Marshall, who revealed the band are happy to bide their time before releasing the follow-up to 2015's 'Wilder Mind'. Speaking to NME magazine, Winston explained: "We all feel slightly different about the next album, but I feel like we've got a really good chunk of the record done, although there's still a lot more to do. "If you're going to write an album of 10 songs, our attitude is that you need to write 30 and choose 10 good ones. We could probably put out a not-so-good album right now, but it's better to wait and put out a great one."

# Lana Del Rey's A$AP Rocky tunes

**Lana Del Rey** is set to release two songs with A$AP Rocky. The 'Video Games' hitmaker will debut the two tracks, believed to be called 'Summer Bummer' and 'Groupie Love', on Apple Beats 1 Radio and BBC Radio 1 on Wednesday. Sharing a clip of herself singing along to one of the tracks on Instagram, Lana wrote: "2 new tracks w ASAP ROCKY dropping on the 12th. Hear them first on beats and radio 1 that day. (sic)" The tracks are from the 32-year-old singer's forthcoming album 'Lust for Life' which drops on July 21. The record already includes collaborations with rapper The Weeknd on the album-titled track, Stevie Nicks, who recorded vocals on 'Beautiful People, Beautiful Problems' and 'Tomorrow Never Came' featuring Sean Lennon. Speaking about teaming up with the Fleetwood Mac legend, she previously said: "She was amazing. She's just everything you hope she's gonna be. She's so contemporary, and she knows all the new music that's out weekly. She loved the track and she added so much to it." The 'Born To Die' singer previously said she needed "space" to create the forthcoming record and needed to be as "far away" from "real life" as possible. She said: "You know in this time an artist really needs a lot of space when they are trying to create something special. "A place to cultivate a world of their own away from the real world that is around them. "Luckily for me, I live right inside the middle of the edge of the Hollywood sign. "And this is how I spend most of my nights, perched high above the chaos that swirls within the city of angels below." 'Lust for Life' is the follow-up to 2015's 'Honeymoon'.

# Okonedo and Harkness join Country Music film

**Sophie Okonedo** and James Harkness have been cast in the new comedy-drama 'Country Music'. The Tony Award-winning actress Okonedo, 48, and Harkness join 'Taboo' star Jessie Buckley and 'Harry Potter' actress Dame Julie Walters in the comedy-drama produced by Faye Ward, Deadline reports. Okonedo - who has starred in 'Hotel Rwanda' and 'Doctor Who' - has just finished performing on the West End in Edward Albee's 'The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia'. Harkness, meanwhile, has had roles in 'Rogue One: A Star Wars Story', 'Macbeth' and 'The Program'. Helmed by 'Peaky Blinders' director Tom Harper, the film follows the story of Rose-Lynn Harlan (Buckley) who wants to get out of Glasgow after having left prison and make it as a country singer in Nashville. The script will be penned by 'The C Word' screenwriter Nicole Taylor and the director teased that it is "full of energy". He said: "Nicole Taylor has written a cracking script full of energy and charm. Her witty dialogue will have you in stitches but at its heart, this is a moving, universal story about roots and dreams. "Nicole has written the most wonderful script: hugely entertaining, sharp, funny and with something to say about the way we live today. I'm thrilled to be bringing it to life with such an exceptional team of people. Jessie Buckley is a revelation in the lead role and I can't wait for audiences to hear her sing." Back in 2015, the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' star Karen Gillan was rumored to be in talks for the movie but the actress doesn't appear to be connected to the film anymore.

# A$AP Rocky teaming up with Under Armour for a sneaker collection?

**A$AP Rocky** has reportedly teamed up with Under Armour for a sneaker collection. The 'Wild for the Night' hitmaker is said to have signed up to lead the brand's lifestyle category and they are hoping adding the rapper's name to their designs will help them break into the competitive footwear market. However, Under Armour wouldn't be pushed when asked if the rapper was to join the team. A spokesperson for the brand said in a statement: "We are always talking to those with a passion to change the game, from athletes to creators to entrepreneurs." Meanwhile, A$AP Rocky - who is dating model and television personality Kendall Jenner - has previously teamed up with the likes of adidas to create his own sneakers. Speaking prior to the release of the shoe, when asked if he feels competition from other rappers getting their own pair of sneakers, he said at the time: "Not at all. I'm not even looking at this like a competitive thing. I'm like that horse that's winning the race right now. "My eyes are just on getting to the finish line and hoping that my damn horse jockey stops whipping me. That's what it's like. My creative drive keeps me going like that. "I don't even see anything like I've got those eye shields blocking the peripheral vision so I can just focus on the finish line. That's just how it is with me. I'm just focused on what I'm ready to accomplish and doing it the best." And the rapper - whose real name is Rakim Mayers - thinks it is "revolutionary" that he has his own sneakers. He said: "Let's put it like this. If I get the creative control and platform to put out a sneaker, it's gonna be revolutionary and tomorrow. It's gonna be new age, new age. It's gonna be the best and that's all I'm gonna say. I'm gonna leave it at that."

# Christopher Nolan wants to direct the next James Bond film

**Christopher Nolan** wants to direct a James Bond movie. The 'Dunkirk' filmmaker has already spoken to James Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G Wilson about taking the helm of the upcoming installment of the spy franchise as he "deeply loves" the character. Asked if he would ever tackle a James Bond movie, he told Playboy magazine: "A Bond movie, definitely. I've spoken to the producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G Wilson over the years. I deeply love the character and I'm always excited to see what they do with it. "Maybe one day that would work out. You'd have to be needed, if you know what I mean. It has to need reinvention; it has to need you. And they're getting along very well." In 2015, Daniel Craig, who currently plays the English spy, was asked if he'd be back again after finishing a difficult 'Spectre' shoot and he replied

he would rather "slash his wrists". He also said he doesn't care about who should take over the role, which stars such as Pierce Brosnan and Sean Connery have played in the past. Since Craig's comments, a number of actors have been rumoured to take over the role of the Secret Service agent including Tom Hiddleston, Aidan Turner, Tom Hardy, Damian Lewis and Idris Elba. However, a source has told the Daily Mirror that Craig and Adele - who sang the theme song for 'Skyfall' - are both set to return for the 25th Bond film. The source said: "Craig and Adele together are the winning team, the ultimate choice, the money spinners. "It's taken time but Craig has come round and the strong consensus in the Bond offices in that Craig is 007 again. "As for Adele, she's more of an unknown quantity but loved being part of Bond, so the signs are positive."

# Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom wraps filming

**'Jurassic World:** Fallen Kingdom' has wrapped filming. Director J.A. Bayona took to his Twitter account to confirm the movie's production had completed, and thanked the cast and crew for their hard work. He tweeted: "This is a wrap for Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom! What a journey! Thank you to everyone that made it possible. #JurassicWorldFallenKingdom (sic)" Colin Trevorrow is on scripting duties for the latest project after directing the 2015 original, and he congratulated Bayona for wrapping on the motion picture. He wrote on Twitter: "Congratulations @FilmBayona, cast and crew. #wrap (sic)" The forthcoming film is the second in the 'Jurassic World' series following the 2015 self-titled movie, but is the fifth 'Jurassic

Park' film, which was released in 1993. Trevorrow recently teased fans to expect an "insane" action sequence in the middle of the movie, but insisted it will be different to what the franchise has previously produced. He said: "It's deeper, more character-based, and it definitely leans into suspense, especially in the second half. It does have the big action in the middle. "There's a sequence in the middle that I've been watching - I mean, I watch dailies every day - but I've started to see stuff come together, and it's just insane. "I apologize to those who thought they were never going to need to see another 'Jurassic World' movie, because I think J.A. Bayona is going to prove [them] wrong." 'Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom' - which stars Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Pratt and Jeff Goldblum - will first be released in the UK on June 8th 2018, two weeks ahead of the US.

# Rihanna to bring Fenty Puma show back to NY

**Rihanna** is bringing her Fenty Puma by Rihanna collection back to New York Fashion Week. The 'Where Have You Been' hitmaker has decided to head back to the US city after two years of showcasing her new designs at Paris Fashion Week. Puma said in a statement: "After two successful seasons showing during Paris Fashion Week, Rihanna has decided to return to New York and show her Fenty Puma by Rihanna spring 2018 collection during NYFW, making this the first time she will present during September NYFW." It is not known when or where the show will take place as of yet but it is no doubt going to be a stunning venue if any of her previous shows are to go by. The first collection was shown off at 23 Wall Street with the following two for Spring and Fall 2017 in Paris' Hotel Salomon de Rothschild and BibliothËque Nationale de France respectively. Meanwhile, Rihanna is adding another string to her bow after she recently announced she will launch her Fenty Beauty by Rihanna collection this year. Posting a picture of her brand, alongside the release date for her new capsule on her Instagram account, she captioned it: "You ready? @fentybeauty ... new generation of beauty... coming this FALL! ... "head over to FENTYBEAUTY.com and send me your email address to join the @fentybeauty family!! (sic)." And the 'Work' hitmaker admits she has "never" been more in love with a fashion range than she was with her most recent Fenty x Puma collection. She said: "I have never been in love with a collection more than this one ... It's a lot of simple things and then a lot of color, more exaggerated pieces that combine really well together. And that's my favorite thing to do." — Bang Showbiz

# Dion never afraid to vary her fashion

**Celine Dion** is "never afraid" to try different outfits. The 'My Heart Will Go On' hitmaker's stylist Law Roach has revealed the 49-year-old singer is happy to experiment with her fashion choices and insists no outfits are every planned and the pair decide on what Celine can wear based on "what resonates on the day". He said: "The Gucci is very much a new side of her, this experiment with silhouette and embellishment. I can literally bring Celine any silhouette, any colour and she will want to see it on. "Some things just don't work, that's the nature of fashion, but she's never afraid to find out. It's never planned, though, we always go with what resonates on the day ... "The clothes you see in the picture are all her clothes, she comes to this room to get dressed every day with me. She comes down in the morning, we greet each other, and then based on her mood we'll choose her outfit for the day." And Law is able to read his client easily, knowing what sort of outfit to suggest. He added: "I've been working with her for a year now so I kind of know what she's in the mood for - she'll give me an impression that she's thinking jeans, or something really cool and relaxed, or some days she'll want to be more dressed up. It depends on the weather, and what she did last night!" Celine sought out Law after the tragic death of her husband Rene Angelil and the stylist is glad he could help with the "healing process" following Rene's death in some way. Law told The Telegraph: "Beyond anything else, it's just enough for me that this amazing woman has had a good time and that I could help in any way with her healing process."

# Spider-Man: Homecoming pays homage to original comics

**'Spider-Man:** Homecoming' screenwriters John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein reveal why they included one iconic comic book scene in the new film. The latest re-imagining of the webslinger stars Tom Holland as the titular role and, in one particular scene, he is crushed by rubble caused by his foe Vulture - played by Michael Keaton - which pays homage to the comics drawn by Steve Ditko, John Romita and Stan Lee. Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter, Daley said: "That allusion was something Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige wanted to put into this script, because it sort of embodies the internal struggle that Peter Parker is facing throughout, where he is his own greatest enemy in some ways, to have to accept himself before he can do anything helpful for the world. We have him starting the scene with such self-doubt and helplessness, in a way that you really see the kid. You feel for him. He's screaming for help, because he doesn't think he can do it, and then in the context of that flashback, he kind of realises that that's been his biggest problem. He didn't have the confidence in himself to get himself out of there." In the comic 'Amazing Spider-Man #33', Spidey is nearly crushed by his nemesis Doctor Octupus when his lair caves in on him but the guilt Peter Parker feels over the death of his Uncle Ben and his determination to save Aunt May gets him the strength to carry on. 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' marks the first time Marvel Studios and Sony Pictures have worked together on the fan favorite superhero and follows the events after 'Captain America: Civil War'. Holland will reprise his role as Spider-Man in the upcoming 'Avengers: Infinity War' but recently admitted he doesn't think any member of the Marvel Cinematic Universe is ready for it. Speaking to the Toronto Sun newspaper, the 21 year old said: "It needs no teasing. That movie literally needs no teasing. It's going to be the biggest movie of all time. Believe me; no-one is ready for that movie."

# LeAnn Rimes' husband uses her beauty products

**LeAnn Rimes'** husband borrows her beauty products. The 'Can't Fight The Moonlight' hitmaker has revealed her spouse Eddie Cibrian has been known to try her skincare products in the past and "really loved" them. She said: "I had some La Mer and he was like, 'Let me try that,' and he ended up really loving it! I think guys get curious about our stuff every once in a while." Whilst skincare is really important to the 34-year-old singer, she admits she doesn't wear much make-up when she's not on stage. She shared: "Unless I'm on stage, I don't wear a lot of make-up. The most I might put on is a bit of concealer and some bronzer. "I love Charlotte Tilbury The Retoucher concealer pen and La Mer The Reparative SkinTint tinted moisturiser." And LeAnn admits touring can be tough on her so she enjoys massages to relax. She said: "I put a lot of strain on my body with all the travelling and performing I do, so I love a massage." Meanwhile, when it comes to fashion, the blonde singer prefers to shop online and likes going for a relaxed look with her fashion choices. She explained to Express.co.uk: "I usually shop online. I love anything from Shopbop.com, Revolve.com and Net-a-Porter.com, but I also find some cute things in Zara and H&M. One of my favorite designers is Isabel Marant - I've always been a huge fan of her boots ... "[My style is] very relaxed. I'm a jeans and T-shirt kind of girl most of the time. Comfort is my main thing ... Victoria Beckham's style is simple and tailored. I'm a fan of Gwyneth Paltrow's simplicity, too. She's always beautifully done, but not too fussy, and that is totally my kind of style."

# Owen Wilson's treasured letter from Ben Stiller

**Ben Stiller** wrote a letter to Owen Wilson saying he loved 'Bottle Rocket' before the pair ever met. The two Hollywood comedy actors have appeared together in 13 films, including 'Zoolander' and 'Night at the Museum', but before they met Stiller felt compelled to contact Wilson to tell him how much he loved his debut movie - which he co-wrote with Wes Anderson. Speaking to the Metro newspaper, Wilson, 48, said: "I first met Ben when I auditioned for him for 'Cable Guy'. But before that he'd written me this really nice letter to say how much he had loved 'Bottle Rocket', which I co-star with Wes Anderson. And that meant a great deal because no one had gone to see 'Bottle Rocket'." Explaining how the crime-comedy - which also starred Owen's brother Luke Wilson - was brought to the big screen by producer James L Brooks, he added: "James L Brooks was a big mentor for me. He was the one who produced our first movie 'Bottle Rocket'. He brought me and Wes Anderson and my brothers Luke and Andrew out to Los Angeles and got the studio to greenlight the movie and let us act in it because we were all beginners, and let Wes direct, because he had never directed before. "I am aware just how much I benefited from people helping me, so when friends call and say they have a kid looking for a summer job I will always try to help." Although they enjoy a great working relationship, Wilson, 48, insists he and Stiller, 51, have very different approaches to making movies. The 'Cars 3' star explained: "I am always nervous on the first couple days of shooting a film and Ben is always open, always encouraging new ideas. We tend to laugh at the same things: our own shortcomings and failures and those of other people."

Jay Z performing during a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) at the Wolstein Center in Cleveland, Ohio. —AFP

# Jay-Z extends return to music with tour plan

Rap mogul Jay-Z yesterday announced a tour across North America, extending his return to music after releasing an introspective and widely acclaimed album. Jay-Z, who has devoted the past several years to business projects, will open the tour October 27 in Anaheim, California, and play a total of 31 dates across the United States and Canada through December, promoters said in an announcement. The rapper will preview his tour with two previously announced headlining sets in September-Made in America, a Philadelphia festival that will partially raise money for charity, and The Meadows festival in New York.

Jay-Z last toured in 2014 in a series of shows with his wife, pop superstar Beyonce. The tour announcement comes 10 days after Jay-Z released his 13th studio album, "4:44," highlights of which include the rapper apologizing to Beyonce for infidelity and supporting his mother as she comes out as lesbian. — AFP

## Exclusively on OSN, 'Game of Thrones' Season 7 Sparks Winter in July for the Middle East

It might be 50 degrees outside but 'Winter is Here' as the long-awaited season seven of Game of Thrones premieres exclusively on OSN, the region's leading entertainment network. One of the best TV series of all time, Game of Thrones will be available exclusively in the region to OSN subscribers, from Monday, July 17 at 4:00am (KSA) at the same minute as the US release, on OSN On Demand and OSN Play.

The new season of HBO's epic series will air weekly on OSN First HD Home of HBO at 10:00pm (KSA), with fresh episodes each Monday, starting July 17. GOT fans and newcomers to the show can enjoy every previous episode as all the battles, betrayals and brutality in Westeros from seasons one to six are available for catch up anytime, anywhere with OSN On Demand and OSN Play.

Season seven, with its extended length episodes, promises a "great war" as fearless Cersei now sits upon the Iron Throne, but with enemies all around her and alliances ever changing, how will she maintain the upper hand in her game of thrones? Get a sneak-peek of what's to come with the Season 7 trailer at osn.com/GoT.

# 'Spider-Man' slings $117 million debut and Sony rejoices

"Spider-Man: Homecoming" swung past expectations, opening with an estimated $117 million in North America and giving a Sony Pictures a much needed hit. "Homecoming" was one of the biggest tests yet for the notion that domestic moviegoers are growing weary of sequels and reboots and suffering so-called "franchise fatigue." "Homecoming" kicks off the third "Spider-Man" iteration in the last 15 years, and the second reboot since 2014's "The Amazing Spider-Man," with Andrew Garfield.

But Sony has kept Spider-Man airborne. For "Homecoming," the studio returned to Spider-Man's teenage roots, casting Tom Holland in the part. Critics and audiences responded, with many calling Jon Watts' iteration one of the best Spider-Man films. Sony also, for the first time, partnered with Kevin Feige and Marvel Studios to produce the film and rope "Homecoming" into Marvel's wider cinematic

universe. Robert Downey Jr.'s Tony Stark/Iron Man appears as Spider-Man's mentor, and Michael Keaton plays the villain Vulture.

Those ingredients, along with a marketing effort that appealed to young moviegoers, pushed "Homecoming" to the best "Spider-Man" debut since 2007's "Spider-Man 3." The film, made for about $175 million, also grossed $140 million internationally over the weekend. "It's a triumphant return for Spider-Man," said Josh Greenstein, Sony Pictures' president of worldwide marketing and distribution. "It's an incredible win for Sony, for our partners at Marvel and Kevin Feige and Amy Pascal, who produced it."

**A quick and quirky original**

"Even though there have been other Spider-Man movies, this film feels fresh and new and different and special, and I think that's what's really resonating with audiences right now," added Greenstein. Sony has struggled in the years since the infamous cyber hack of 2014, after which Tom Rothman eventually replaced Pascal as studio chief. (Pascal has since turned to producing, including this and future "Spider-Man" installments.) Box-office disappointments like the Dan Brown adaptation "Inferno," Ang Lee's high-frame-rate gambit "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" and the cultural flashpoint "Ghostbusters" have dotted its lineup.

But now, Sony has arguably the two biggest hits in the land: one a smartly recycled franchise, the other a quick and quirky original. Edgar Wright's acclaimed action-musical "Baby Driver" slid just 38 percent in its second week, coming in third with $12.8 million. The movie, which cost $34 million to produce, has already earned $56.9 million domestically. Last week's top film, "Despicable Me 3," dropped to second with $34 million.

As good as the news was for Sony, the weekend's results also proved a modern-day movie maxim: No one does franchise-building better than Marvel. "Spider-Man" is one of three major summer hits thus far, following the Marvel-Disney sequel "Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2" and the Warner Bros.-D.C. Comics release "Wonder Woman." The latter success came only after several high-profile missteps in Warner Bros.' attempt to build a Marvel-style universe of films. Earlier this summer, Universal's plans for its "Dark Universe" of monster movies got off to a rocky start with the poorly performing "The Mummy."

Sony's smartest move on "Spider-Man: Homecoming" might have been deciding to bring it into the Marvel fold. "Nobody knows Marvel better than Marvel," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. They really understand the mythology of these characters, the legacy of these characters, and Spider-Man is one of the crown jewels of the superhero world. No way was Sony ever going to give up on Spider-Man. So what do they do? They collaborate more closely with Marvel, and it paid off handsomely this weekend." Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers also are included. Final domestic figures will be released yesterday.

1. "Spider-Man: Homecoming," $117 million ($140 million international).
2. "Despicable Me 3," $34 million ($139 million international).
3. "Baby Driver," $12.8 million ($3.9 million international).
4. "Wonder Woman," $10.1 million ($6.8 million international).
5. "Transformers: The Last Knight," $6.3 million ($18.1 million international).
6. "Cars 3," $5.6 million ($3.1 million international).
7. "The House," $4.8 million ($1.4 million international).
8. "The Big Sick," $3.7 million.
9. "47 Meters Down," $2.8 million.
10. "The Beguiled," $2.1 million. — AP

# Sting donates Swedish music prize money to refugees

British rock star Sting said yesterday he has donated the prize money from a prestigious Swedish music award to a non-profit project which helps young refugees in Sweden integrate through music. Known for promoting human rights through his music, the 65-year-old singer and US jazz star Wayne Shorter in February won the 2017 Swedish Polar Music Prize, which awards each laureate one million kronor (104,000 euros, $118,000).

"I was deeply honored to receive this year's Swedish Polar Music Prize and now, I am delighted to donate the prize money to the Swedish youth initiative Songlines," Sting said in a statement released on the project's website. "Music can help build bridges and this project highlights the vital role that music can play in providing young refugees the opportunity to connect with a new society," he added. The Songlines project involves young asylum seekers mostly from Afghanistan, Eritrea and Syria who have fled war and now stay at refugee shelters in Sweden. The project says it offers them musical activities to help them integrate into society.

"Music is a fantastic tool for integration! Through music, new friendships are formed and language skills are developed," Julia Sandwall, national coordinator for Songlines, said in the statement. The project will spend the prize money on organizing music camps, arranging concerts and buying musical instruments for the young refugees. Sting won international recognition as a member of the rock group The Police, which released its hit song "Roxanne" in 1979 and "Don't Stand So Close To Me" the following year. The Polar Music Prize honors two laureates every year to "celebrate music in all its various forms" and "to break down musical boundaries by bringing together people from all the different worlds of music." — AFP

This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Karin Konoval, left, and Amiah Miller in "War for the Planet of the Apes." — AP photos

Review

# A thrilling epic in 'War for the Planet of the Apes'

Apparently all the new Planet of the Apes films needed to do to really hit a home run was take the humans out of the equation. It's what this whole trilogy has been leading to, really, as we dipped our toes into the rise, dawn and now war of this burgeoning civilization of apes and the humans who are desperately and often dishonorably fighting for their survival. "War for the Planet of the Apes " is a riveting and surprisingly poignant epic that's a shade above the rest of the franchise dreck populating every multiplex in the country. It's as though director Matt Reeves, screenwriter Mark Bomback and the production actually put care and thought into what they were doing with their characters.

Reeves wastes no time getting the action started with a gripping opening battle. We enter the world through the eyes of some terrified intruders. A group of human soldiers walk through the woods in search of Caesar (Andy Serkis). They don't know whether he's still alive, but their leader is hell-bent on exterminating the apes. Caesar and his followers have been operating from a secret hideout in the woods - a gorgeous little Eden tucked away behind a thundering waterfall. When the soldiers find them, the apes fight back swiftly and effectively and nearly take out all of the combatants. Caesar spares the lives of the few survivors to send a message back to their leader that the apes are not savages and just want to live in peace separately from the humans.

**Sign language**

Of course the message inspires exactly the opposite reaction and the beautiful and harrowing and nearly silent nighttime raid that comes soon leaves the apes no choice but to abandon their home and hit the road in search of safety. Caesar, however, decides he must go off alone and avenge his community by destroying the Colonel (Woody Harrelson), a deranged Kurtz figure who is truly one of the best true villains we've had in quite some time. A few of Caesar's comrades follow him on his journey to find the Colonel. Along the way they pick up a young, mute girl (Amiah Miller) and a tiny, manic and adorable zoo ape voiced by Steve Zahn who has the same sort of comic energy as Yoda on Dagobah (without all the force stuff and Jedi training). When they arrive at the Colonel's base, they find a much bleaker and more complicated situation than they could have ever expected.

To say too much more about the plot would probably be a mistake and part of the greatness of Bomback's script is how even in following a pretty standard exodus story, it still manages to surprise and captivate throughout, and with minimal dialogue too. At times, it even feels like "War for the Planet of the Apes" is essentially a silent movie with the mute girl and the majority of the apes communicating in sign language. Caesar also continues to be a fascinating and truly complex character that's as well-conceived and executed as a live-action performance. Harrelson, too, is a menacing delight in his role that has more layers than might meet the eye.

"War for the Planet of the Apes" should be a satisfactory conclusion for the series, but that's naively assuming franchises are even allowed to have intentional endings. Regardless of what happens or doesn't happen next for the Planet of the Apes, this installment is very simply a great time at the movies. "War for the Planet of the Apes," a 20th Century Fox release, is rated PG-13 for "sequences of sci-fi violence and action, thematic elements, and some disturbing images." Running time: 142 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four. MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. — AP

The Tissot Chrono XL is characterised by its big case that has a diameter of 45mm. The size of the dial makes time easily readable, with contemporary Arabic numerals at 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock. The chronograph function adds to its urban style. It's time to see big with the Tissot Chrono XL.

**Stylish**

The Tissot Chrono XL collection offers multiple styles. Some may prefer the vintage touches of old school leather bracelets in various shades of brown with stylish stitches. Extra character is added with grey or black PVD coating on the case of certain watches. The dials vary depending on the model, from dark green, blue or black. Others may prefer the mat stainless steel bracelet and case for a more sophisticated feel. Whichever one you choose, the Tissot Chrono XL will definitely make a statement.

**Features**

* Swiss Made
* Quartz Chronograph movement
* 316L stainless steel case
* Water resistance up to a pressure of 10 bar (100 m / 330ft)
* 316L stainless steel bracelet with folding clasp and push-buttons or leather strap with standard buckle
* All grey and black executions are PVD coating
* Diameter: 45mm

People cycle past Boschpoort Prison, a dome-shaped prison in Breda.

Netherland's Interior Ministry real estate project manager Anneloes van Boxtel poses inside of Boschpoort Prison, a dome-shaped prison in Breda.

# Life behind bars gets new twist in empty Dutch prisons

Voices echo around the magnificent, luminous dome of Breda prison, breaking the silence of the 130-year-old building, now empty of inmates like dozens of others in The Netherlands. Falling crime rates over the last decade, as well as changing ideas about punishing criminals have robbed this penitentiary of its original purpose, and its gates clanged shut in 2014. Built in 1886, it was possible to watch everything happening in the prison from its central courtyard under the main dome-a classic example of the 18th century social theory of Panopticism on passive behavior when people are constantly observed, first mooted by the English philosopher Jeremy Bentham and later built upon by his French counterpart Michel Foucault.

Metal spiral staircases snake all around the dome down to the former canteen under the glass floor. Old sports areas are marked out on concrete, all are surrounded by cells stacked four storeys high, their now-rusted doors swinging open. Unlike the previous occupants, some 90 businesses hold the keys to the building, free to come and go at will.

**'A lot of history'**

Miguel de Waard, co-founder of the 3D Red Panda VR start-up, is among those who believe they have found a perfect office location, helping give new life to a protected national monument. "We just instantly fell in love with this particular office: the high ceiling, the nice touches and the big windows and the lighting," de Waard told AFP. "We don't see bars, I think, when we look outside, we just see a beautiful part of Breda." But he acknowledged the past has cast long shadows. "Every time we enter the dome or the women's prison, it's pretty dark, that's true. And there's a lot of history and sometimes you can feel it as well," he said. "The first time we were here and we had the keys, we were, like, wandering around at night in the dark and it's a pretty amazing experience."

A woman walks through Boschpoort Prison, a dome-shaped prison in Breda, which is being transformed into offices and an entertainment venue following a drop in incarcerations in Dutch prisons for the past 20 years in Breda.— AFP photos

Communication and Marketing Manager for VPS, a Dutch property managing company, Mandy Jak poses inside of Boschpoort Prison.

Prison Escape guardsman actor Sander (right) and escorts prisoner actor Dennis roleplay in Boschpoort Prison, a dome-shaped prison in Breda.

**From cells to restaurants**

There are now only 38 prisons still in operation in The Netherlands, with 27 closed since 2014. Six were sold for about 20.7 million euros ($23 million), while others have been rented out, often as centers for asylum seekers, bringing in a total of around 18 million euros. After leaping crime rates swelled Europe's prison population in the 1990s, numbers in The Netherlands have dropped thanks, in part, to prevention programs and a greater focus on re-integration. "Judges are sentencing people in different ways. Not more lightly, but differently, with community service, or ankle bracelets" and rehabilitation clinics, said Anneloes van Boxtel, who administers the interior ministry's real estate.

Crimes fell some 26 percent between 2007 and 2015, according to the official Central Statistics Bureau. In a decade, the number of people imprisoned every year in The Netherlands fell from 50,650 in 2005 to 37,790 in 2015. And the rate of incarceration stands at 57 prisoners per 100,000 residents, compared with 458 in the United States. So the Dutch have sought to put their empty cells to good use.

A detention center in northern Veenhuizen has been rented out-guards included-to Norway to house its own inmates. A former women's jail in northeastern Zwolle is now an award-winning restaurant. With a 60-million-euro price tag, a penitentiary in Amsterdam Overamstel is to be transformed into a new residential district with thousands of homes. And a center in Haarlem, bought by the local municipality for 6.4 million euros, will open its doors in 2019 as a university college.

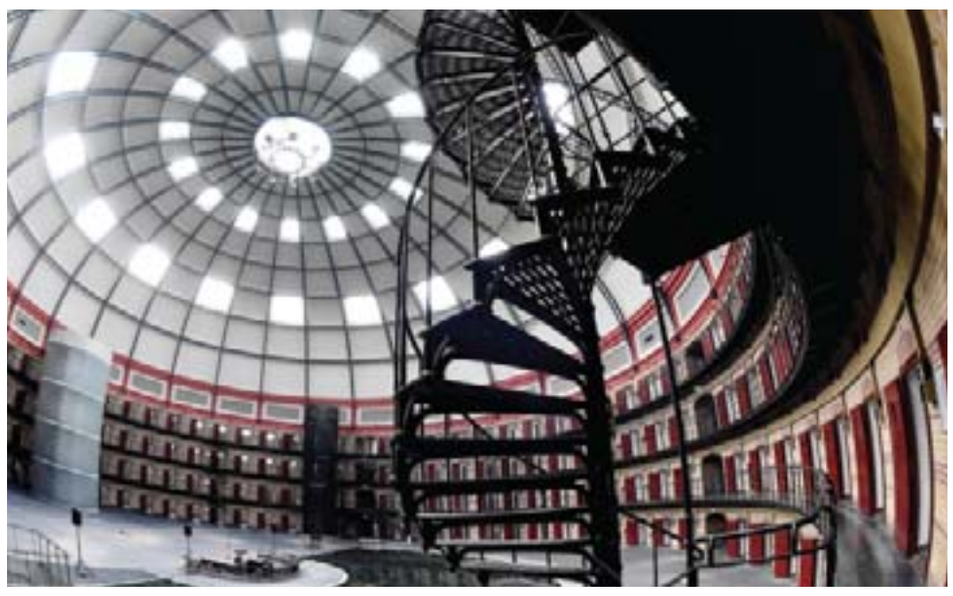
**New buzz**

In Breda, the prison and its 33,302 square meters (358,330 square feet) of space was handed over to a special body in 2016 to be re-used for "social" projects. "That was our biggest challenge: to open the prison again," said Mandy Jak, communications and marketing advisor for the VPS association. But interest has been huge, with some 300 people swiftly signing up to move in. "It actually feels like not a prison any more. If you look around, it looks like a prison of course, but with all those start-ups, it's got new energy," she added.

However, one summer evening new "inmates" were spotted, as about 350 people were once again locked in, taking part in perhaps the ultimate "Prison Escape" adult adventure game that have become popular in many countries. Barricaded into the cells, participants have to plot an escape over three hours with the help of some 80 actors. But once rid of these thrill-seekers, the building again sank into silence. Until the next business day. — AFP

A man walks through the grounds of Boschpoort Prison, a dome-shaped prison in Bred.

Prison Escape producer Rik Stapelbroek poses in Boschpoort Prison, a dome-shaped prison in Breda, which is being transformed into offices and an entertainment venue following a drop in incarcerations in Dutch prisons for the past 20 years.



The inside of Boschpoort Prison, a dome-shaped prison in Breda.

# BAD BEHAVIOR IS TRENDING ONLINE, INSPIRING IT IN REAL LIFE

Young children know that name-calling is wrong. Tweens are taught the perils of online bullying and revenge porn: It's unacceptable and potentially illegal. But celebrities who engage in flagrant attacks on social media are rewarded with worldwide attention. President Donald Trump's most popular tweet to date is a video that shows him fake-pummeling a personification of CNN. Reality TV star Rob Kardashian was trending last week after attacking his former fiancÈe on Instagram in a flurry of posts so explicit his account was shut down. He continued the attacks on Twitter, where he has more than 7.6 million followers.

While public interest in bad behavior is nothing new, social media has created a vast new venue for incivility to be expressed, witnessed and shared. And experts say it's affecting social interactions in real life. "Over time, the attitudes and behaviors that we are concerned with right now in social media will bleed out into the physical world," said Karen North, a psychologist and director of the University of Southern California's Digital Social Media Program. "We're supposed to learn to be polite and civil in society. But what we have right now is a situation where a number of role models are acting the opposite of that ... And by watching it, we vicariously feel it, and our own attitudes and behaviors change as a result."

**Celebrities and political leaders**

Catherine Steiner-Adair, a psychologist and author of "The Big Disconnect: Protecting Childhood and Family Relationships in the Digital Age," said she's already seeing the effects. She said she's been confronted by students across the country asking why celebrities and political leaders are allowed to engage in name-calling and other activities for which they would be punished. On some middle-school campuses, "Trumping" means to grab a girl's rear end, she said. And teenagers have killed themselves over the kind of slut-shaming and exposure of private images Kardashian leveled at Blac Chyna, with whom he has an infant daughter. "We are normalizing behaviors, and it's affecting some kids," Steiner-Adair said. "And what's affecting kids that is profound is their mistrust of grown-ups who are behaving so badly. Why aren't they stopping this?" Social media satisfies a human need for connection. Users bond over common interests and establish digital relationships with their favorite public figures, following and commenting on their lives just like they do their friends'.

Gossip is a bonding activity, and it doesn't take a Real Housewife to know people love to share dirt about others' perceived misdeeds. Collective disapproval creates a feeling of community, regardless of which side you're on. Having a common enemy is "one of the strongest bonding factors in human nature," North said. With 352,000 retweets, Trump's CNN-pummeling post isn't in the realm of Ellen DeGeneres' Oscar selfie (3.4 million retweets). And Kardashian's rant against Chyna paled in popularity with Beyonce's Instagram pregnancy announcement, which collected 8 million likes. Still, Trump's attack tweets have proven his most popular, according to a new study by Ohio State University Professor Jayeon "Janey" Lee. "Attacks on the media were most effective," Lee said of her analysis of tweets posted during the presidential campaign. "Whenever Trump criticized or mocked the media, the message was more likely to be retweeted and 'favorited.' " Trump, who has 33.4 million Twitter followers, has defended his social-media approach as "modern day presidential."

**Body language and tone of voice**

Cyber incivility, particularly when practiced by cultural leaders, can have a profound impact on human relations, North said. Studies show that young people who witness aggressive behavior in adults model and expand on that behavior. She pointed to Stanford University psychologist Albert Bandura's famous "Bobo Doll Experiment," which found that kids who saw adults hit a doll in frustration not only hit the doll as well, but attacked it with weapons. Social media is an atmosphere devoid of the social cues that mitigate behavior in real life, she said. When violating social norms in person, there's immediate feedback from others through body language and tone of voice. No such indicators exist online, and retweets can feel like validation.

Cruel and humiliating posts often become "an instant hit online," Steiner-Adair said. "It's one of the best ways to become popular." Viral posts then get mainstream media attention, spreading digital nastiness into everyday conversation. By not expressly rejecting cruel or hateful online behavior, "we are creating a bystander culture where people think this is funny," she said. "When we tolerate leaders - in the popular media like a Kardashian, or a president - behaving in this way, we are creating a very dangerous petri dish for massive cultural change," Steiner-Adair said. Young people, who may be the most plugged in, are getting mixed messages as they form their moral concepts. "It behooves us all to question why we are participating in this mob of reactivity," Steiner-Adair said, "and what are the character traits we need to model for our children."— AP

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# Lifestyle

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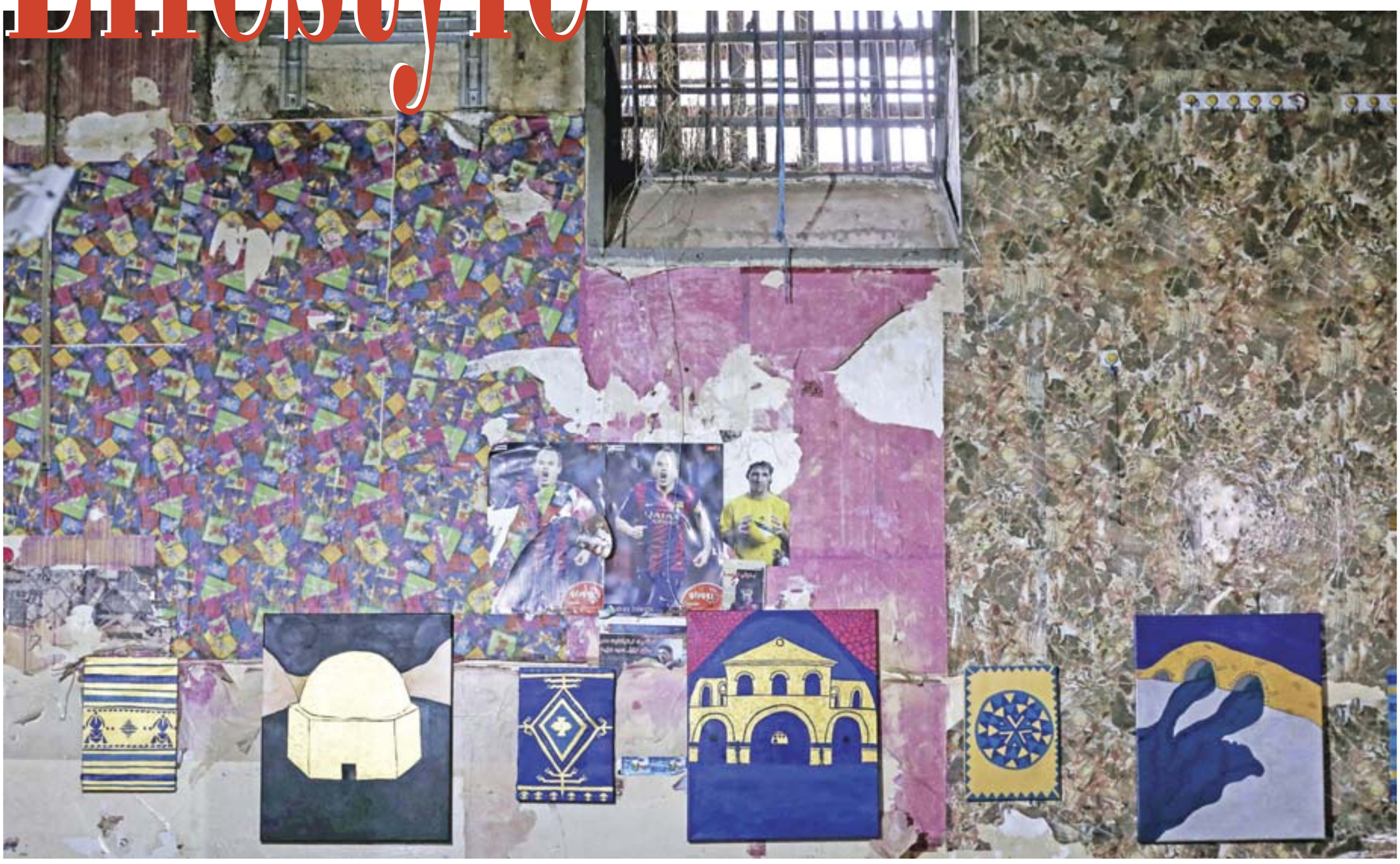

A picture shows artwork on display at the "60 Glasses of Tea" art exhibition in Arbil, the capital of the autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq. The exhibition is called "60 Glasses of Tea" as each of the 60 pieces of work is like a glass of tea served to enjoy in the humble setting of an old prison. It features dual art by two female artists, Kurdish-Iraqi Asuda Rwandzi and the Danish Lone Bendixen Goulani. — AFP

## No girls allowed: Japan's men-only island gets UNESCO nod

A men-only island in Japan where women are banned and male visitors must bathe naked in the sea before visiting its shrine, has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. The tiny landmass of Okinoshima is permanently manned by a Shinto priest who prays to the island's goddess, in a tradition that has been kept up for centuries. Limited numbers are permitted to land on the island in the Sea of Japan (East Sea) — this year it was 200 — for a yearly festival that lasts just two hours, but they must adhere to strict rules.

Most importantly, they must be men, but they must also strip off and take a purifying dip in the ocean before they are allowed to set foot on the sacred ground of the shrine. Despite its inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage list-often the prelude to a leap in tourist numbers-shrine officials say they are now considering banning future travel for anyone apart from priests, partly out of fears the island could be "destroyed" by too many visitors. "The island has sometimes been said to ban women, but in principle anyone but the priests who pray there for 365 days a year is barred from entering," said a spokesman.

The ban on female visitors specifically "has nothing to do with discrimination against women," the official told AFP by phone. It is considered dangerous for women to travel by sea to get to the island and the shrine will not change the centuries-old rule, he said. "It is meant to protect women, the birth-giving gender," he added. The island, which sits off the northwest coast of Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands, was an important window for foreign trade in Japan since ancient times, forming part of a trade route that linked the archipelago to the Korean peninsula and China. Thousands of gold rings and other valuable items have been found there.

"These treasures are believed to have been offered to the gods in order to pray for national prosperity and the safety of marine traffic," says the website of Munakata Taisha, the shrine which owns Okinoshima. UNESCO's heritage committee considered 33 sites for the prestigious status at its annual gathering in Poland. On Sunday it also accepted Taputapuatea, a portion of the "Polynesian Triangle" in the South Pacific thought to be the last part of the globe settled by humans, to the list. It also added Britain's Lake District-muse for artists from William Wordsworth to Beatrix Potter-and the Valongo wharf in Rio de Janeiro where slaves from Africa first arrived in Brazil. UNESCO's World Heritage list includes over 1,000 sites, monuments and natural phenomena that are of "outstanding universal value" to humankind. It includes treasures such as Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the Taj Mahal in India, and the rock-carved city of Petra in modern-day Jordan. — AFP

This picture shows residents in Munakata city celebrating following the news that Okinoshima, its nearby reefs and four other related sites in the Munakata region have been included as UNESCO world heritage sites. — AFP

## Indian woman claims to be Indira Gandhi's granddaughter

An Indian woman who claims to be the secret granddaughter of the murdered former prime minister Indira Gandhi has gone to court to block a new Bollywood movie that she says shows the dynasty in a bad light. Priya Singh Paul, 48, told a press conference yesterday she had been adopted as a baby and only told after she grew up that her biological father was Indira's eldest son Sanjay, who died in a plane crash in 1980. She is fighting a legal battle for access to her birth certificate and adoption papers, but said she decided to make her claim public after watching a trailer for the upcoming "Indu Sarkar".

Priya Singh Paul alleges that she is the secret granddaughter of the murdered former prime minister Indira Gandhi. — AFP

The movie deals with the controversial state of emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi in 1975, a period of deep unrest which saw civil liberties being suspended across the country. "The film is 70 percent fiction and 30 percent fact. I can't stay quiet if somebody points a finger at my father or grandmother," said Paul in New Delhi. "I am not ashamed, I am not afraid. I am not after power, wealth or property. I just want to establish my identity and protect my family name which is being sullied." No one in the Gandhi family has commented publicly on Paul's claim, which began to emerge in the media over the last few weeks.

Indira Gandhi was the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India. She had two sons-Sanjay and Rajiv Gandhi, whose widow Sonia currently heads the opposition Congress Party. The Nehru-Gandhi dynasty has provided three prime ministers and the Congress has dominated Indian politics since independence. Paul says her mother married Sanjay Gandhi in secret because she was underage and was later made to give her up for adoption. She was brought up by a wealthy couple who did not know her identity but started making enquiries when a family friend told her that she descended from the powerful political family. Her lawyer Tanveer Nizam said they would seek the court's permission to conduct a DNA test. "Indu Sarkar" is directed by the award-winning Madhur Bhandarkar and is slated for release later this month. — AFP

## Bull Run Festival

Participants run ahead of Fuente Ymbro's fighting bulls during the fourth bull run of the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, northern Spain yesterday. Each day at 8:00 am hundreds of people race with six bulls, charging along a winding, 848.6-metre (more than half a mile) course through narrow streets to the city's bull ring, where the animals are killed in a bullfight or corrida, during this festival, immortalized in Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises" and dating back to medieval times and also featuring religious processions, folk dancing, concerts and round-the-clock drinking. — AP/ AFP photos