

**Mogherini urges talks to resolve Gulf crisis**



**Ex-Gaza chief says Hamas deal will open border**



**Princes William, Harry remember their final call with Diana**



**Shrubsole stars as England edge India in Women's World Cup final**



## ERDOGAN VISITS KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA TO DEFUSE QATAR CRISIS

TURKISH PRESIDENT MEETS AMIR, SUPPORTS MEDIATION EFFORTS



Min 33°  
Max 51°  
High Tide 00:57 & 11:37  
Low Tide 06:12 & 19:18



(Left) Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is welcomed by HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah upon his arrival at Kuwait International Airport late yesterday. (Right) Erdogan is greeted by Saudi King Salman upon his arrival in Jeddah yesterday. — KUNA/AP

KUWAIT: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday began a key trip to the Gulf aimed at defusing the standoff over Turkey's ally Qatar, saying no one had an interest in prolonging the crisis. Erdogan, whose country has come to Qatar's aid in the dispute, had talks in Jeddah with King Salman who hailed the Turkish leader's "efforts in the fight against terrorism and its financing", Saudi state news agency SPA reported. He also met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman before leaving for Kuwait for the second leg of his tour. Erdogan was received by Kuwait's Amir HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has been mediating to resolve the crisis.

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of backing extremism and fostering ties with their Shiite rival Iran. Doha denies the claim and has been strongly backed by Ankara throughout the standoff. The Turkish president will visit Qatar today for his first face-to-face talks with Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani since the crisis began. "No one has any interest in prolonging this crisis anymore," Erdogan said before leaving Istanbul. He accused "enemies" of seeking to "fire up tensions between brothers" in the region.

Erdogan praised Qatar's behavior in the crisis, saying Doha had sought to find a solution through dialogue. "I hope our visit will be beneficial for the region," he said. The crisis has put Turkey in a delicate position, and Erdogan has repeatedly said he wants to see an end to the dispute as soon as possible. In recent years, Qatar has emerged as Turkey's number one ally in the Middle East, with Ankara and Doha closely coordinating over issues

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### MP PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO PENAL CODE

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari said yesterday he has completed a proposal calling to amend five provisions in the penal code to toughen penalties against those harboring wanted criminals. Kandari said the proposed amendments call for increasing penalties related to crimes of those who evade jail terms and those who provide assistance to help wanted and convicted criminals flee or hide them.

The amendments came in light of the reported escape of 14 Kuwaitis convicted for being members of the so-called "Abdaly cell", a 26-member terror cell convicted of having links to Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah, possessing large quantities of arms and plotting attacks in Kuwait. The amendments must first be approved by Assembly committees before they can be sent to the National Assembly for a debate.

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## RALLIES HELD IN SUPPORT OF AQSA



KUWAIT: (Left) Demonstrators gather at the Kuwait University campus in Khaldiya yesterday against Israeli violations at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound. (Right) A man carries a placard with a slogan reading "the National Liberation Movement of Ahwaz supports the right of worship of Palestinians in Al-Aqsa mosque" at a demonstration outside the Palestinian Embassy in Bayan yesterday. — Photos by Joseph Shagra and Yasser Al-Zayyat

### BODIES OF EIGHT MIGRANTS FOUND IN TEXAS TRUCK

WASHINGTON: Eight people were found dead yesterday inside a truck in a Walmart parking lot in San Antonio, Texas in what police said appeared to be "human trafficking crime". Another 28 people were injured - 20 of them severely - and were being treated at seven local hospitals, San Antonio Police Chief William McManus and Fire Chief Charles Hood told reporters. The police chief said the group included children, but later told CNN that the eight dead were adult men. He said the truck driver had been arrested.

"We got a call from a Walmart employee about a welfare check in a tractor-trailer that was parked on the lot here," McManus told a news conference. "He was approached by someone from that truck, who was asking for water." The employee returned with the water and then called the police who "found eight people dead in the back of that trailer," the police chief said, calling it a "horrific tragedy".

He said store security footage showed that some vehicles came to pick up some travellers who were on the truck and who had made it out alive. "We're looking at a human trafficking crime this evening," he added. It was not immediately clear how many people may have survived and fled, McManus said. Hood said the air conditioner in the trailer was not working. "We started extricating patients out of the back of a semi-truck ... we had another 20 patients that were either in extremely critical condition or very serious condition and they have been transported to a number of hospitals."

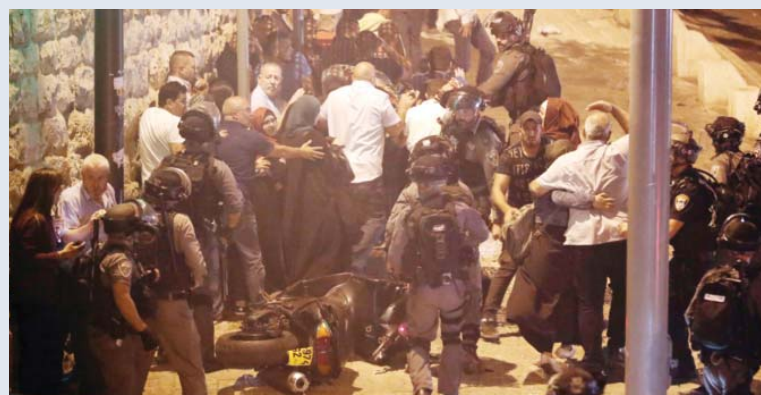
San Antonio is a few hours' drive from the border with Mexico's Nuevo Leon state. Weather in the area has been hot and dry. Federal immigration officials with Immigration and Customs Enforcement have also been notified, the police chief said. The deadly discovery, sadly "is not an isolated incident. This happens quite frequently under cover of night," McManus said. Illegal migration over the US border with Mexico is an everyday fact. — AFP

### BIBI FACES PRESSURE OVER AQSA SITE AFTER 8 KILLED

MAN KILLED AT AMMAN ISRAELI EMBASSY

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced mounting pressure yesterday over new security measures at a sensitive Jerusalem holy site after a weekend of violence left eight people dead, with fears of further unrest. Israeli officials signaled they may be open to changing the measures at the Haram Al-Sharif mosque compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, after metal detectors were installed at entrances following an attack that killed two policemen. The detectors remained in place yesterday, though cameras had also been mounted near at least one entrance to the compound in Jerusalem's Old City - a possible indication of an alternative.

Meanwhile, a Jordanian was killed yesterday and an Israeli seriously wounded at the Israeli embassy in Amman, a security source said. "A Jordanian man was killed and an Israeli man wounded and is in a serious condition following an incident inside the (Israeli) embassy" in the residential Rabyeh neighborhood of Amman, said the source. Jordanian security forces deployed in the streets around the embassy, an AFP correspondent said. Israel and Jordan are bound by a 1994 peace treaty, but tensions



JERUSALEM: Israeli border guards attempt to disperse Palestinian Muslim worshippers outside Lions' Gate, a main entrance to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City on Saturday as they gather in protest. — AFP

have been high in recent days. Netanyahu was holding a cabinet meeting and was due to meet his security cabinet later yesterday. "Since the start of the events, I have held a series of assessments with security elements including those

Continued on Page 11

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Student groups and a number of local organizations gathered at the Kuwait University campus in Khaldiya yesterday to condemn ongoing Israeli violations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem. The National Union of Kuwaiti Students, in collaboration with the Youth Association for Jerusalem, organized the rally under the slogan "Rage over Al-Aqsa" to support Palestinians. Another demonstration was held outside the Palestinian Embassy in Bayan yesterday.

Mohammad Al-Otaibi, President of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, said Kuwait supported and will always support Palestine, and the Muslim world will not remain silent. "It is our responsibility to support them because Al-Aqsa belongs not only to the Palestinians - it also belongs to Muslims worldwide," he said.

Yousef Shamsah, member of global movement for a campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel, said "our role is to spread awareness of the importance of boycotting the Zionist entity". "We are trying not only to boycott Israeli products, but also companies that support them, such as G4S, which is a British security company that controls the Israeli airport, helps Israel run checkpoints, a police training center and prisons where Palestinian political prisoners are held," he said. "In response to international pressure, G4S has announced that it may sell its Israeli operations," Shamsah noted.

Cleric Sheikh Mohammed Al Awadhi urged scholars and advocates to educate people about Palestine. "The recent situation in Aqsa requires strong knowledge of its history and our constant support for it," he told the crowd. The event was attended by the Kuwaiti Literary Association, Jerusalem Cultural Forum, Kuwait Lawyers Association and the BDS movement.





**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with European Union's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

## AMIR MEETS WITH EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace European Union's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, on the occasion of her and delegation's visit to the country. She was escorted by First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The reception was attended by Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Dhaifallah Sharar and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah.

Later, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace European Union's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, and the two discussed regional and international affairs, according to a ministry statement. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled praised the distinguished relationship between the EU and Kuwait, along with relations between the European bloc and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Mogherini is in Kuwait to express EU support of mediation efforts assumed by His Highness the Amir to find solution to the Gulf crisis.

"Kuwait is the mediator that we support and accompany and with whom we are constantly in touch," she told a press conference last week. Kuwait's mediation efforts emerged as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt had cut their ties with Qatar.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. His Highness also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness then received Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. — KUNA



**First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with European Union's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini.**

## ILLEGAL RESIDENT'S INCENTIVES STEM FROM KUWAIT'S HOSPITABLE NATURE: OFFICIAL

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait offers education and healthcare freely to illegal residents according to its humanitarian policies, an official in a state body tasked with that community's affairs said yesterday. Executive Director of the Illegal Residents Affairs' Apparatus, Saleh Al-Fadalah, made the comment as he briefed the Dutch Ambassador to Kuwait Frans Potuyt at the body's headquarters in Nayef Palace. A Cabinet decision, adopted in 2011, granted these

incentives along with others to illegal residents, he said.

Fadalah explained that these initiatives stem from the Kuwaiti society's hospitable nature, and the country's leading position in the field of global humanitarian work. These efforts saw His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honored by the UN, as humanitarian leader. However, he stated that granting citizenship is a sovereign right of nations. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Executive Director of the Illegal Residents Affairs' Apparatus Saleh Al-Fadalah meets with the Dutch Ambassador to Kuwait Frans Potuyt. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Yasser Atef hosted a ceremony recently to celebrate his country's July 23rd Revolution anniversary. Senior officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



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## FIREFIGHTERS DOUSE LARGE FIRE IN SHARQ INDUSTRIAL

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said it has put out a large fire which broke out at several garages in Sharq Industrial yesterday. The fire, which first engulfed four garages at around 9:00 am, quickly spread to another two businesses, encompassing a 1,500 sq m area, KFSD said in a statement. Firefighters from six fire stations were dispatched to tackle the blaze. An investigation was opened to determine the causes of the fire. — KUNA



## RAMP SERVES DRIVERS FROM SIXTH RING ROAD TO FARWANIYA HOSPITAL

### COMMITTEE TO REVIEW EXPATS' LICENSES

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** A 700-meter ramp will be open today for drivers coming from the Sixth Ring Road to Farwaniya Hospital and Ardhiya as well as the institutions and colleges' in Ardhiya, Public Works Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Roads Engineering Engineer Ahmad Al-Hussan said. The ramp is part of the project of constructing and maintaining intersections of main roads with the seventh and sixth ring roads that lead to the new residential areas in west Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, he said. The project aims at easing traffic towards the new university in Shadadiya, he added.



#### Expats' licenses

The parliament's interior and defense committee approved the formation of a permanent committee to review drivers licenses of all expats, and that reports must be submitted every three months to the interior minister, while sending violators to the public prosecution. The proposal was made by MP Waleed Al-Tabtabae.

#### Conflict of interests

The government rejected the proposed law related to the conflict of interests, which the parliament's legislative committee almost completed debating it. The government said that the law's articles are available in other effective laws, which also meet its purpose. The proposed law, which was presented by MP Riyadh Al-Adsani and others, said in explaining behind its proposal that "due to what the conflict of interest may cause in the

form of problems and risks on the stability of state departments, which in turn threatens development in general and compromise the laws clout. Also, because conflict of interest is one of the corruption facts that were mentioned in the UN treat on fighting corruption."

#### Iraqi fishermen

The National Reform Faction in Iraq accused Kuwait of detaining some Iraqi fishermen who were in the joint waters between the two countries, and demanded that Kuwait should not hold them accountable. Member of the Iraqi Parliament Zaher Al-Abbadi said that Kuwaiti authorities detained some Iraqi fishermen who were in the Khor Abdullah Canal. He said that among the fishermen, there are three brothers, and asked his foreign and interior ministers to intervene for their release.

## DUO HELD WITH DRUGS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Two expatriates were arrested yesterday with possession of 30,000 Tramadol tablets, a banned substance in Kuwait, and a small bag of shabu (methamphetamine). The two were taken to the relevant authorities to face charges, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said in a statement.

#### Absconders arrested

Eighteen expatriates, including sixteen

domestic helpers were sent to the deportation center following their arrest during a recent police raid on two domestic help offices. Police had raided a fake office that offered their services through Facebook, and harbored absconding maids. The other office was licensed, but police discovered that it employed maids reported absconding by their original sponsors. Officers at the interior ministry's domestic help department noticed a person offering the services of maids to work by the hour through Facebook, and action was taken that led to the suspects' arrest.



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KUWAIT: Retro video game consoles and cartridges displayed at a shop in Kuwait. —KUNA



A player from the new generation of gamers is introduced to the classic Neo Geo system.

# RETRO GAMING IN KUWAIT ALIVE AND KICKING



Old generations of Gameboys.

**KUWAIT:** The video-gaming industry have evolved in the last few decades, transforming itself into a multi-million-dollar business that provides entertainment to people worldwide. Despite high-resolution graphics, nonstop action, and deep provocative storylines in the current generation of consoles, the seemingly easy, yet hard tasks in classic games; like Capcom's Street Fighter, Nintendo's Super Mario Bros, and Konami's Penguin Adventure, apparently offered some gamers challenging experiences, making retro gaming make a stylish comeback. This nostalgic vibe exists in Kuwait with a number of shops offering vintage gaming consoles and cartridges. Some global companies, like Atari, took notice and started to remanufacture vintage gaming systems in smaller compact versions to satisfy the needs of retro gamers. —KUNA



A collection of FamiCom, Sega and Atari titles.



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsored Loyac's trip to Morocco this year, in which young volunteers were introduced to the culture, customs and traditions of the North African country.



## OOREDOO KUWAIT HOSTS 'TOMORROW'S LEADERS' IN THEIR SEVENTH SEASON

IN COLLABORATION WITH MGRP, KUWAIT LAWYERS SOCIETY

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait hosted a special training workshop for 'Tomorrow's Leaders', a summer program aimed at training and developing the skills of law graduates in cooperation with the Manpower Restructuring Program (MGRP) and the Kuwait Lawyers Society. Speaking at the workshop, Ooredoo's Chief Corporate Legal and Regulatory Affairs Officer Dr Yousef Al-Selili has congratulated the trainees on their achievements, saying: "At Ooredoo, we always seek opportunities to support youth in various areas, we believe that investment in the youth is an investment in the

future. This is one of the pillars of our Social Corporate Responsibility."

He added: "We are pleased with the success of the previous phases of the program, which enters its seventh season this year. In this season we focused on promoting personal and scientific skills in the field of law and won the support of law offices, banks, and other private sector establishments in Kuwait"

At the end of the workshop, Dr Selili led an interactive session with the trainees in which several legal issues were discussed and various stimulating competitions were held, with the partici-

pants winning valuable prizes in appreciation of their efforts.

Tomorrow's Leaders aims at building a distinguished generation of legal practitioners by introducing youths to the applied aspect of law after their theoretical studies. This is done through various activities like internships, visits to the legal departments of public and private entities, and courses in human development and law delivered by specialists. The program also seeks to promote the culture of volunteering among the youth. The program's team consists of young men relying only on their personal efforts.



## CONDOLENCES

**Kuwait Journalists Association's Board of Directors**

and Journalism community announce the demise of Association member and Columnist in Alrai Newspaper.

**Ma'souma Hussein Abdullah Ashkanani**

*May Allah bestow his mercy on her*



Legalese

## HOW TO APPROACH A LAWYER

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

It may be unconventional for me to be writing about how to approach a lawyer, but as a lawyer myself, I have experienced dealing with lawyers and clients alike, so I thought it would be useful to write how to find the best lawyer. Fortunately and unfortunately, the Kuwaiti market is saturated with lawyers. This should make it easy to find a lawyer, but it is still confusing to many clients on what information to share, what level of trust should be there and what are the expectations. Therefore, I have decided today to write about a few common questions.

**Keep in mind**

**Question:** What to keep in mind when approaching a lawyer? Can I trust that everything will be confidential?

**Fajer:** Yes, everything by law should be under a confidentiality clause. When you approach your lawyer, you should be clear with the following:

1. What documents or correspondences you have in writing.
2. What do you want out of it? Vengeance should not be a goal - instead it should be for x amount of money, to know what your rights are, or obtaining a certain right or obligation.

**Power of attorney**

**Question:** What is a POA and how much power should I give my lawyer? Also, where can I obtain one?

**Fajer:** First of all let me explain what a POA is - it is a power of attorney that gives your lawyer the right to continue on your behalf with any legal processes required. Some POA will give the lawyer the right to obtain money on your behalf, while others will let them do administrative work on your behalf. Let me give a common example - let us say you sue your previous employer for not giving you your indemnity. Your lawyer wins and your indemnity is KD 15,000. If you gave your lawyer the right to obtain money on your behalf, then they could take the amounts and then transfer them to you. This is something you should discuss with your lawyer, because there are positive and negative consequences. Positive being that it is less work for you to execute the verdict, and it is only negative if you are having difficulties trusting your lawyer. So I suggest you understand this point carefully with your lawyer.

You can obtain one from any court of law in Kuwait, the bar association, the ministry complex or Liberation Tower. You will need a KD 2 stamp, a letter from the lawyer and the lawyer's ID as well as yours.

**Lawyer charges**

**Question:** What are the common charges for lawyers?

**Fajer:** I get this question a lot and really, it depends on the type of case and the type of proof required (what documents you have and what documents are missing). It is a service industry and therefore each lawyer has a different way of charging their clients. One thing to keep in mind though is only trust a lawyer that has studied your case before they provide you with a quotation. I personally do not trust lawyers that give quotations without seeing the whole picture.

**Contract with a lawyer**

**Question:** I am about to sign a contract with a lawyer and was wondering if you have any advice on what to keep an eye out for?

**Fajer:** There are many things to be wary of when signing any contract in general. The most important thing though for any contract is that the obligations and responsibilities of each party are clearly written out. It is highly important that both parties involved understand what is required from them.

Let me give an example - when signing the service agreement with your lawyer for an employment case, your contract should clearly state what your lawyer is asking on your behalf by writing out all the benefits that you are rightfully entitled to. So the contract between your lawyer and yourself would mention, for example, that your lawyer will obtain your termination indemnity plus your economy return class ticket to your home country, remuneration for your off days and so on.

The payments should be agreed on in the contract, including the amount to be paid, the dates of payment and the preferred method of payment for the amounts mentioned. Also, keep in mind that if the lawyer is representing you for any cases or issues that involve them obtaining money on your behalf, then your contract should include their method of payment to you. Will they obtain the money from the court in their name and then transfer it to you? And if so, when will they pay you back, etc.

*Should you have any questions or concerns, or you require a consultation, please email me at ask@fajerthelawyer.com.*

## MAN QUESTIONED OVER HOAX BOMB REPORT

**KUWAIT:** The Ahmadi prosecutor ordered detectives to arrest a man who claimed to be an Australian national named Deshoka and charged him with false information. Deshoka told police that there was a bomb in Fintas, gave them directions, then turned off his phone. Police went to the area and combed the streets, but found nothing.

**Body found**

Hawally detectives are investigating the case of dead body found in a rented car in front of a Jabriya house. Police who arrived to the scene in response to an emergency call discovered that the body had been there for a full day, where extreme heat caused it to start decomposing. Forensics recovered the body and sent it to the coroner.

**Theft**

A man stole KD 4,000 from his sponsor who asked him to deposit it in the bank. The citizen went to Nugra police station and told them he always trusted his Indian employee and used to give money to deposit in the bank, but the last time he gave him KD 4,000, the man escaped instead. Detectives are working on the case.

**Drug possession**

A citizen was arrested with possession of one kilogram of hashish. He seemed nervous when he saw a police patrol and obstructed traffic. The young man was on his way to deliver some drugs, but became nervous when he saw the police and obstructed traffic. Policemen asked the driver to pull over, then noticed the drugs inside his vehicle. The man was arrested and sent to concerned authorities. —Translated from the Arabic press

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**Divided UK, uncertain election could put the brakes on Brexit**

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CHICAGO WOMEN WORRIED ABOUT VIOLENCE JOIN UP WITH GUN CLUBS



VERMONT: President Donald Trump speaks during the commissioning ceremony of the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R Ford (CVN 78) at Naval Station Norfolk. — AP

## TRUMP ASSERTS 'COMPLETE POWER' FOR PARDON PRESIDENT HAS URGED AUTHORITIES TO PROSECUTE LEAKERS

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump said Saturday that he has "complete power" to issue pardons, an assertion that comes amid investigations into Russian interference in last year's presidential election. It was one of many topics that appeared to occupy the president's mind as the day broke.

On a day when most people are ready to forget about the issues that nagged them during the week, Trump revved up. In an early morning flurry of 10 tweets, he commented about pardons, former presidential rival Hillary Clinton, son Don Jr, health care, the USS Gerald Ford, the attorney general and other issues. Trump said in one of his 10 messages: "While all agree the US President has the complete power to pardon, why think of that when only crime so far is LEAKS against

us. FAKE NEWS." The Washington Post recently reported that Trump has inquired about the authority he has as president to pardon aides, relatives or even himself in connection with the widening investigation into Russian interference in the election and whether any Trump associates were involved. The president has long criticized leaks of information about the investigation, and has urged authorities to prosecute leakers. Trump maintains that no crimes have been committed.

One of Trump's attorneys, Jay Sekulow, said the president has not discussed the issue of pardons with his outside legal team. Sekulow reiterated that point Saturday evening. Speaking to reporters at the site of the Western Conservative Summit in Denver, he said that Trump's private legal team is "not researching it

because it's not an issue." "I don't know where this came from. There is nothing to pardon," said Sekulow, who added that "what's going on in Washington is an attack on the president."

Next week, Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr.; his son-in-law and White House adviser, Jared Kushner; and Paul Manafort, his former campaign chairman, are scheduled to appear before Senate committees investigating Russian meddling.

Trump defended his son in one of the tweets, saying he "openly gave his e-mails to the media & authorities whereas Crooked Hillary Clinton deleted (& acid washed) her 33,000 e-mails!" Trump's namesake has become a focus of the investigation after it was revealed that he, Kushner and Manafort met with Russian representatives at Trump Tower in June 2016. Trump

Jr. later released email exchanges concerning the meeting on Twitter, after learning that The New York Times was about to publish them.

The FBI investigated Clinton for using a private email server as secretary of state. She turned over thousands of pages of emails to the government, but deleted thousands of others that she said were personal or unrelated to her work as the nation's top diplomat.

Trump also complained Saturday about a Washington Post report that the Russian ambassador to the US said he discussed election-related issues with Jeff Sessions when the men met during the 2016 presidential race. Sessions, now the attorney general, at the time was a U.S. senator and foreign policy adviser to Trump. Trump tweeted: "A new INTELLIGENCE LEAK from the Amazon Washington Post, this

time against AG Jeff Sessions. These illegal leaks, like Comey's, must stop!"

The Post on Friday cited anonymous US officials who described US intelligence intercepts of Ambassador Sergey Kislyak's descriptions of his meetings with Sessions. The Justice Department said Sessions stands by his previous assertion that he never had conversations with Russian officials about any type of interference with the election.

Trump also said "Republican Senators must step up to the plate and, after 7 years, vote to Repeal and Replace" the Obama-era health care law. An effort to advance legislation collapsed in the Senate earlier this week after several Republicans said they wouldn't vote for the bill. Trump ended the tweet with "Tax Reform and Infrastructure. WIN!" — AP

## BOSNIA'S WARTIME 'MISTRESSES OF LIFE AND DEATH'

**SARAJEVO:** She may once have been known as "the mistress of life and death", but in the court trying her for war crimes Azra Basic hardly stands out. Basic is among around a dozen women charged or convicted of crimes committed during Bosnia's inter-ethnic war in the 1990s which claimed nearly 100,000 lives.

Compared to the several hundred men convicted by local and international courts for crimes committed during the 1992-1995 war, the number of women is not many. But several ex-prisoners have already testified in court to Basic's brutal torture of detainees since the trial opened in February. One witness at Basic's trial recalled in testimony Friday the glimmer of hope he felt on April 26, 1992.

Dusan Nedic said he saw a woman called Azra enter a detention facility in the northern town of Derвента, where he was being held by ethnic Croats. She spoke with other detainees, he recalled. "For me it was a glimmer of hope," said Nedic. "I told myself that a 'woman should not be aggressive as men.'" But he was wrong. "She started to beat the detainees, she was jumping on them while they were on the floor," the 55-year-old shoe factory worker said.

Looking at her in court, it is difficult to link Basic with the brutal violence, including one murder, of which she is accused. A short, silent, bespectacled woman, she avoids eye contact when in court. When in 2011 the authorities finally caught up with her after the war, she

was working in a food factory in the United States. Basic has pleaded not guilty to war crimes against civilians and prisoners of war at the start of her trial, including a charge that she killed a prisoner. "This person was not me," she told the court on Friday, her voice trembling. "I swear before God and that's all," she added, as Slavisa Djuras, the son of Blagoje Djuras, the man she allegedly killed, looked on.

### 'Better' than men

Biljana Plavsic, now aged 86, remains the most famous woman war criminal from the former Yugoslavia. The former Bosnian Serb vice-president Biljana Plavsic is also the only one tried before the UN war crimes court in The Hague. She was sentenced to 11 years in jail in 2003 after pleading guilty to crimes against humanity for her leading role in a campaign of persecution against Croats and Muslims during Bosnia's war.

"Women are just as capable of committing crimes," prominent Croatian writer Slavenka Drakulic, told AFP. That much is clear from her essay on war criminals in the former Yugoslavia titled "They Would Never hurt a Fly". "A woman in such a position has to be 'better' than men," Drakulic wrote in an essay on Plavsic. "In the given circumstances it meant taking more radical views." Drakulic recalled the scientific-racist rhetoric used by Plavsic during Bosnia's war, the kind of ideas

the Nazis would not have rejected.

Plavsic, a former biology professor, labeled Bosnian Muslims a "genetic mistake on the Serbian body". Bosnia's war crimes prosecutors say more cases against women suspects are in the pipeline. According to local media, some 40 women are being investigated for war

crimes. Visnja Acimovic, a 45-year-old Bosnian Serb who now lives in neighboring Serbia, is one of them. She is accused of having taken part in the 1992 executions of 37 Muslims in the eastern Bosnian town of Vlasenica, most of them between 15 and 20 years old. She denied the charges before a Belgrade court in

January, and Serbia will not extradite its citizens for trial in Bosnia. They do not trust Bosnian justice, her lawyer Krsto Bobot said. But not everyone enjoys such protection.

### 'Notably cruel'

In March, Switzerland extradited Elfeta Veseli, a former member of Bosnian Muslim forces, back to Bosnia. She is accused of the 1992 murder of a 12-year-old Serb in eastern Bosnia. As his family had fled, the boy returned for a forgotten dog and paid for it with his life. Veseli's trial has yet to start. But as well as Basic, the United States has also extradited Rasema Handanovic, 44.

She had lied about her past as a former member of a special Bosnian Muslim unit. In 2012 she pleaded guilty to the execution of three civilians and three ethnic Croat prisoners of war in the central Bosnian town of Trusina. "The order was to do the work at Trusina, so that no one remained alive," she told the court. She was jailed for five and a half years. "Each of these women had her own personal reason that could explain her sadistic outburst that targeted men in particular," said Bosnian psychologist Ismet Dizdarevic. While there were fewer women war criminals they were notably cruel "to prove their power among men," he told AFP. Most of war crimes committed by women took place in a detention context. — AFP



SARAJEVO: This handout picture taken on November 22, 2016 and released by Bosnia and Herzegovina Prosecutor Office, shows Azra Basic (58), (L), while being processed by a law officer after her arrival at Sarajevo International airport. — AFP



## SRI LANKA NAVY RESCUES TWO ELEPHANTS WASHED OUT TO SEA

**COLOMBO:** Two young elephants washed out to sea were saved from drowning yesterday by the Sri Lankan navy in the second such incident off the island in as many weeks. The navy said the pair of wild elephants were brought ashore after a "mammoth effort" involving navy divers, ropes and a flotilla of boats to

tow them back to shallow waters. Photos showed the elephants in distress, barely keeping their trunks above water in the deep seas about one kilometre off the coast of Sri Lanka.

"Having safely guided the two elephants to the shore, they were subsequently released to the Foul Point jungle

(in Trincomalee district)," the navy said in a statement. "They were extremely lucky to have been spotted by a patrol craft which called in several other boats to help with the rescue." Two weeks ago, the navy mounted a similar operation in the same region to save a lone elephant washed eight kilometers off the Sri Lankan coast

into the deep waters of the Indian Ocean.

Navy officials say the animals were likely swept out while crossing shallow lagoons in the region. They are not the only wildlife to encounter trouble in the biodiverse island. In May, the navy and local residents saved a pod of 20 pilot whales that became stranded in

Trincomalee, a natural harbor that is popular for whale watching. The waters around Trincomalee, which were used by Allied forces as a staging post during World War II, have a high concentration of blue and sperm whales, while the surrounding jungles have herds of wild elephants. —AFP

## CHINA CASHING OUT AS MOBILE PAYMENT SOARS

**BEIJING:** Yang Qianqian holds out her smartphone to scan a barcode on the mobile of a vendor selling fresh fruit and vegetables at a bustling outdoor market in Beijing. The dance student is part of an explosion in the use of mobile payment platforms in China as consumers increasingly take out phones instead of cash to pay for everything from a coffee to a language class or a gas bill.

"Even though I have cash on me it's not convenient to get it when I am carrying a lot of bags," said Yang, 25, clutching plastic bags filled with pears, potatoes and watermelon. China was the first country in the world to use paper money but centuries later the soaring popularity of mobile payment has some analysts forecasting it could be the first to stop.

The gross merchandise value of third party mobile payment rose more than 200 percent to 38 trillion yuan (about \$5.6 trillion) in 2016 from a year earlier, according to China-based iResearch. The growth of the cash-free system has been supported by China's rapidly expanding e-commerce market as Chinese shoppers increasingly shun bricks and mortar stores. "I think it's really very possible that China becomes the first or one of the first cashless societies in the next decade," said Ben Cavender, a director at China Market Research Group. Cavender estimates China's mobile payment market is already 40-50 times larger than the United States.

### Cashless

Alipay, started by e-commerce giant Alibaba and now owned by its affiliate Ant Financial, and WeChat Pay, which is built into Tencent's popular messaging service, have hundreds of millions of users between them and are China's dominant payment platforms.

In Beijing it is hard to find a product or a service that cannot be purchased with a mobile. At the fresh produce market, stallholders display barcodes on tables laden with fruit and vegetables for customers like Yang to scan-though many shoppers appeared more comfortable with cash.

"People at my age don't dare to use it," said a woman in her 50s. Some restaurants in the capital no longer accept bank notes while it is common for motorbike taxis, street food carts and hair salons to offer mobile payment. Mobile accounted for eight percent of the total value of retail payments in 2015 and is expected to reach 12 percent in 2020, according to a report published in April by UN-backed Better Than Cash Alliance.

But cash is still king in China-although less so than it used to be. The Better Than

Cash Alliance expects cash's percentage of the value of retail payments to fall to 30 percent by 2020. It stood at 61 percent in 2010. A key attraction of mobile payment is convenience.

People can carry little or no cash and avoid the problem of their debit or credit card being rejected due to the limited number of point-of-sale terminals in stores. China's relatively short history of using bank cards also makes consumers more open to new technology, said Martin Utreras, vice president of forecasting at eMarketer. "In China a lot of people never had any financial instruments that were automated in any way and the first thing they had was mobile payment," he said.

### 'Hands off'

But some have been reluctant converts to the cashless system. Among them is a 63-year-old woman surnamed Song who sells hand-knitted sunflowers and peashooters from the popular video game Plants vs Zombies in a pedestrian underpass in Beijing. She prefers cash but accepts mobile payment because some customers do not carry real money. "Cash is more convenient for me because I'm getting older and have bad eyesight," she said, standing next to her bright-colored ornaments neatly displayed on the ground.

Riding on their success, payment providers are expanding their businesses to offer consumer and business credit scoring, short-term lending and even investment products. The shift fits with the Chinese government's domestic agenda of boosting consumer spending and increasing access to financial services among ordinary people.

Alibaba and Tencent are also taking their technology and deep pockets-abroad as they target cashed-up Chinese tourists and nascent payment markets in developing countries.

Tencent earlier this month teamed up with German payments company Wirecard to launch WeChat Pay in Europe where Alipay is already available. Security of mobile payment is a growing concern, however, after reports of criminals replacing real barcodes with fake ones carrying software that steals personal information or drains users' bank accounts.

Authorities are still working out "the right balance between innovation and regulation", according to Better Than Cash Alliance, but they have been "more active" in taking steps to reduce financial risk and fraud. "The government doesn't want to slow down adoption... that's why they have kept their hands off," said Cavender. —AFP



**ANKARA:** Vendors sell products featuring coup-victim Omer Halisdemir during the first anniversary of a failed coup attempt on July 16, 2017 at Taksim Square. —AFP

## ERDOGAN TELLS GERMANY - DON'T INTERFERE IN ANY TURKISH AFFAIRS

### LATEST BROADSIDE IN A BLISTERING ROW

**ISTANBUL:** Germany has no right to interfere in Turkey's domestic affairs, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday, his latest broadside in a blistering row sparked by the waves of arrests under the current state of emergency. Several German nationals are among those being held and Berlin has warned its citizens that their safety cannot be guaranteed in Turkey and that consular access is not assured in case of arrest.

Throwing away any pretence at diplomatic nuance, German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel had Thursday also warned German firms against investment in Turkey and spoke of an "overhaul" of the entire relationship. "Turkey is a social democratic state based on law and no one has the right to interfere in its internal affairs," said Erdogan before heading off on a trip to the Gulf.

Addressing Gabriel's comments, he said: "We (Turkey and Germany) are together in NATO. We (Turkey) are in negotiations to join the EU. "So the strategic partnership between us is nothing

new. We have been partners for a long time. No step should be taken to overshadow this partnership," he added.

In an interview with the daily Bild, however, Germany's powerful finance minister, Wolfgang Schauble, warned Erdogan that he was "jeopardizing the centuries-old partnership between Turkey and Germany". "It is truly dramatic-there is actually so much that connects us. But we will not be blackmailed," he said, according to extracts of the interview to be published on Monday.

### Public security

The German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) estimated that the prevailing uncertainty would likely wipe two billion euros (\$2.3 billion) off bilateral trade, the Welt am Sonntag newspaper reported. Turkey remains under a state of emergency imposed days after last year's July 15 failed coup which critics claim

is being used to go after any opponent of Erdogan. The authorities say the emergency is needed for public security.

The latest crisis was precipitated by the order of a Turkish court to remand in custody a group of human rights activists detained on an island off Istanbul, including Amnesty International's Turkey director Ildi Eser and Berlin-based activist Peter Steudtner. But Berlin was already furious over the jailing in February of Deniz Yucel, Turkey correspondent for Die Welt newspaper, who Erdogan has personally denounced as a "terror agent".

Meanwhile, Turkey accuses Germany of not doing enough to deal with Kurdish militants and suspects from the failed coup who has taken refuge on its soil. Erdogan said Ankara had passed Berlin 4,500 dossiers on Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) suspects alone. Both Turkey and the EU as well as the US outlaw the PKK as a terror group. —AFP



**BEIJING:** This file photo shows a woman making purchases by scanning QR codes using her smartphone at a fruit stall in a market in Beijing. China was the first country in the world to use paper money but centuries later the soaring popularity of mobile payment has some analysts forecasting it could be the first to stop. —AFP

## SYRIA STRIKES NEAR DAMASCUS DESPITE CEASEFIRE: MONITOR

**BEIRUT:** Syria's regime carried out air raids on one of the last rebel strongholds near Damascus yesterday, a monitor said, a day after it declared a ceasefire in parts of the besieged enclave. The Syrian army on Saturday announced a halt in fighting for parts of Eastern Ghouta, a rebel-held region on the outskirts of the capital that has been ravaged in the six-year conflict.

"Regime warplanes targeted the area of Ain Terma with at least six strikes since early morning, and two raids were carried out on and around the city of Douma," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said. The Britain-based monitor, which relies on sources in Syria for its information, did not report any casualties.

Regime shelling also hit the outskirts of the town of Jisreen on Sunday, the Observatory said, after regime artillery and rocket fire on areas including Ain Terma and the town of Harasta on Saturday after the ceasefire started. President Bashar Al-Assad's forces have surrounded the Eastern Ghouta

region for more than four years, and regime forces have regularly targeted the area.

Assad's forces have for weeks been fighting rebels on the outskirts of Ain Terma, which links Eastern Ghouta to opposition-held parts of the Damascus district of Jobar. Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said no jihadist forces were present in the areas targeted by regime bombardment. The army announced a halt in fighting in areas of Eastern Ghouta on Saturday from midday local time, but did not say which areas exactly would be included.

The ceasefire announcement came after regime ally Russia said it had reached a deal with "moderate" rebels on the boundaries and policing of the safe zone. It said the sides had also agreed "routes to supply humanitarian aid to the population and for free movement of residents". But no rebel group yielding influence in Eastern Ghouta said they had signed that agreement. —AFP

## HOW IT HAPPENED: HOLY SITE CRISIS

**JERUSALEM:** Eight people have been killed in a weekend of violence following new Israeli security measures at an ultra-sensitive Jerusalem holy site. Here is a timeline of events related to the crisis:

### Attack and mosque shutdown

On July 14, three Arab Israelis armed with automatic rifles and a knife exit Jerusalem's Haram Al-Sharif compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, and shoot dead two police officers stationed nearby. The assailants flee back into the flashpoint holy site, which includes Al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, before being shot dead by security forces.

Arab Israelis are descendants of Palestinians who remained on their land following the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. They largely identify with the Palestinian cause. Israel then takes the highly unusual decision to shut down the compound, meaning Muslim worshippers cannot attend Friday prayers there the same day, triggering anger from Muslims and Jordan, the holy site's custodian. The site remains closed the next day, while parts of Jerusalem's Old City are under lockdown as Israel conducts searches for concealed weapons.

### Metal detectors

Late on July 15, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announces the site will open the next day and security forces will install metal detectors and surveillance cameras to prevent further attacks. But when the compound opens on July 16 with metal detectors in place, Muslim worshippers refuse to enter due to the new security measures, which they perceive as a means for Israel to assert further control over the site. Prayers are instead held in the streets leading to the site. The compound is located in east Jerusalem, which was occupied by



**JERUSALEM:** Palestinian youths hurl stones towards Israeli police officers during clashes. —AFP

Israel in 1967 and later annexed in a move never recognized by the international community.

### Clashes

From July 16 to 20, sporadic clashes break out after prayers. Muslim worshippers hold firm in their resolution to not enter the compound while the metal detectors remain in place as concerns rise over a possible escalation of the situation. On July 20, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan joins the Palestinian leadership in urging Israel to remove the metal detectors. But after consultations with the security establishment, Netanyahu decides to leave the metal detectors in place, though allows police to apply discretion in using them.

### Friday eruption

Ahead of Friday prayers on July 21, Israeli police take the rare measure of closing off the Old City to men under 50. Mass protest prayers are held around Jerusalem's Old City and demonstrations there and in the occupied West Bank lead to clashes in which three Palestinians are killed. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas says he is freezing contacts with Israel. Later the same day, a Palestinian breaks into a Jewish home in the settlement of Neve Tsuf in the West Bank and stabs four Israelis, killing three of them before being shot by a neighbor. The Israeli army says the assailant had spoken of the Jerusalem holy site and of dying as a martyr in a Facebook post.

### More clashes

On July 22, clashes in east Jerusalem and the West Bank continue, resulting in the death of two Palestinians, including one when a petrol bomb explodes prematurely. Diplomats say the UN Security Council will hold closed-door talks two days later about the spiraling violence after Egypt, France and Sweden seek a meeting to "urgently discuss how calls for de-escalation in Jerusalem can be supported". On July 23, a rocket fired at Israel from Gaza hits an open area, causing no injuries. The Israeli cabinet convenes, with officials not ruling out removing the metal detectors if a satisfactory alternative to them is approved by police. —AFP



## GERMANY MUST ACT NOW TO STOP RE-RUN OF REFUGEE CRISIS, MERKEL RIVAL SAYS

**AACHEN:** Germany needs to take action now to prevent a re-run of 2015, when some 890,000 migrants arrived in the country, Chancellor Angela Merkel's Social Democrat challenger for a September election told Reuters yesterday.

In September 2015, Merkel threw open Germany's borders to thousands of migrants to avoid a humanitarian disaster - a move that later hit her popularity and boosted the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD), though her conservatives have since recovered and support for the AfD has dropped. Martin Schulz, whose Social Democrats

(SPD) are lagging far behind Merkel in the polls ahead of a Sept. 24 election, warned against a repeat scenario after more than 93,000 mainly sub-Saharan African and Bangladeshi migrants have arrived by boat in southern Italy so far in 2017, up 17 percent on the same period last year.

"The numbers in Italy are worrying - thousands per day," he said in an interview in the western German city of Aachen. "If we don't want a repeat of what we experienced in 2015 we need to take action now as the Italians are reaching their limit in terms of what they can do." Other European Union

countries need to help Italy, such as by taking in refugees, he added.

### Logistical help

Schulz said he had spoken to European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker yesterday about what financial or logistical help Brussels might be able to offer countries prepared to take in refugees and said he would speak to both the Italian government and the Commission about this during the week. In an interview with the Bild am Sonntag newspaper, Schulz said the situation was "highly explosive" and suggested he wanted to

turn it into an election campaign issue, saying: "Those who play for time and try to ignore the topic until the election are acting in a very cynical way."

Migrant arrivals in Germany have been far lower this year than in the previous two years, with data from the Interior Ministry showing the number of new arrivals seeking asylum fell to 90,389 in the first half of 2017, about half as many as in the year-earlier period. Last year, some 280,000 migrants arrived in Germany - a sharp drop compared with 2015 - and the refugee issue has not yet played a major role in the election campaign. —Reuters

The latest Emnid poll showed Merkel's conservatives on 38 percent and the SPD on 25 percent. Horst Seehofer, leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU) - the Bavarian sister party to Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) - told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper the situation was calm now but added: "We all know that the wave of migrants will continue." The CSU, which takes a tougher tone on migrants than Merkel's CDU, has long called for an upper limit on the numbers arriving and Seehofer yesterday repeated his call for a cap of 200,000 per year. Merkel has rejected a cap. —Reuters

## DIVIDED UK, UNCERTAIN ELECTION COULD PUT THE BRAKES ON BREXIT

### WORK ON EU DIVORCE HAS ALREADY SLOWED TO A CRAWL

**LONDON:** Lucy Harris thinks Britain's decision to leave the European Union is a dream come true. Nick Hopkinson thinks it's a nightmare. The two Britons - a "leave" supporter and a "remainer" - represent the great divide in a country that stepped into the unknown just over a year ago, when British voters decided by 52 percent to 48 percent to end more than four decades of EU membership.

They are also as uncertain as the rest of the country about what Brexit will look like, and even when it will happen. Since the shock referendum result, work on negotiating the divorce from the EU has slowed to a crawl as the scale and complexity of the challenge becomes clearer. Harris, founder of the pro-Brexit group Leavers of London, says she is hopeful, rather than confident, that Britain will really cut its ties with the EU.

"If we haven't finalized it, then anything's still up for grabs," she said. "Everything is still to play for." She's not the only Brexiteer, as those who support leaving the EU are called, to be concerned. After an election last month clipped the wings of Britain's Conservative government, remainers are gaining in confidence. "Since the general election I've been more optimistic that at least we're headed toward soft Brexit, and hopefully we can reverse Brexit altogether," said Hopkinson, chairman of pro-EU group London4Europe. "Obviously the government is toughing it out, showing a brave face. But I think its brittle attitude toward Brexit will break and snap."

### New divide

Many on both sides of the divide had assumed the picture would be clearer by now. But the road to Brexit has not run smoothly. First the British government lost a Supreme Court battle over whether a vote in Parliament was needed to begin the Brexit process. Once the vote was held, and won, Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative government officially triggered the two-year countdown to exit, starting a race to untangle four decades of intertwined laws and regulations by March 2019.

Then, May called an early election in a bid



**LONDON:** In this Saturday, June 25, 2016 file photo, the front pages of Britain's newspapers report on the EU referendum result. —AP

to strengthen her hand in EU negotiations. Instead, voters stripped May's Conservatives of their parliamentary majority, severely denting May's authority - and her ability to hold together a party split between its pro- and anti-EU wings. Since the June 8 election, government ministers have been at war, providing the media with a string of disparaging, anonymously sourced stories about one another. Much of the sniping has targeted Treasury chief Philip Hammond, the most senior minister in favor of a compromise "soft Brexit" to cushion the economic shock of leaving the bloc.

The result is a disunited British government and an increasingly impatient EU. EU officials have slammed British proposals so far as vague and inadequate. The first substantive round of divorce talks in Brussels last week failed to produce a breakthrough, as the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, said Britain must clarify its positions in key areas. Barnier said "fundamental" differences

remain on one of the biggest issues - the status of 3 million EU citizens living in Britain and 1 million UK nationals who reside in other European countries. A British proposal to grant permanent residency to Europeans in the UK was dismissed by the European Parliament as insufficient and burdensome. There's also a fight looming over the multi-billion-euro bill that Britain must pay to meet previous commitments it made as an EU member. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson recently asserted the bloc could "go whistle" if it thought Britain would settle a big exit tab.

### Britain's goals

"I am not hearing any whistling. Just the clock ticking," Barnier replied. EU officials insist there can be no discussion of a future trade deal with Britain until "sufficient progress" has been made on citizens' rights, the exit bill and the status of the Irish border. "We don't seem to be much further on now

than we were just after the referendum," said Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London. "I'm not sure anybody knows just how this is going to go. I'm not sure the government has got its negotiating goals sorted. I'm not sure the EU really knows what (Britain's goals) are either."

"I think we are going to find it very, very hard to meet this two-year deadline before we crash out." The prospect of tumbling out of the bloc - with its frictionless single market in goods and services - and into a world of tariffs and trade barriers has given Britain's economy the jitters. The pound has lost more than 10 percent of its value against the dollar in the last year, economic growth has slowed and manufacturing output has begun to fall.

Employers' organization the Confederation of British Industry says the uncertainty is threatening jobs. The group says to ease the pain, Britain should remain in the EU's single market and customs union during a transitional period after Brexit. That idea has support from many lawmakers, both Conservative and Labour, but could bring the wrath of pro-Brexit Conservatives down on the already shaky May government. That could trigger a party leadership challenge or even a new election - and more delays and chaos.

In the meantime, there is little sign the country has heeded May's repeated calls to unite. A post-referendum spike in hate crimes against Europeans and others has subsided, but across the country families have fought and friendships have been strained over Brexit. "It has created divisions that just weren't there," said Hopkinson, who calls the forces unleashed by Brexit a "nightmare."

On that, he and Harris agree. Harris set up Leavers of London as a support group after finding her views out of synch with many others in her 20-something age group. "I was fed up with being called a xenophobe," she said. "You start this conversation and it gets really bad very quickly." She strongly believes Britain will be better off outside the EU. But, she predicts: "We're in for a bumpy ride, both sides." —AP

## CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE SLOWS, RESIDENTS TRY TO RECOVER

**LOS ANGELES:** Steve Valdez was back at work Saturday at a hardware store, days after his home and those of his neighbors were incinerated in a gigantic wildfire that swept through a rural area of California near Yosemite National Park. "This is a hardware store in a small town. There are people out there who depend upon us to get power, to get water, to get their equipment fixed," said Valdez, a clerk at Coast Hardware Do It Best in Mariposa. "They're getting stuff to get by."

The aggressive wildfire sweeping through the Sierra Nevada foothills covered with dense brush and dead trees has destroyed 60 homes and 64 other buildings. It spared Mariposa, a historic Gold Rush-era town but burned homes nearby. The blaze that erupted on July 16 scorched nearly 118 square miles (305 sq. kilometers) of trees and grass and continued to threaten about 1,500 homes, but its spread had slowed drastically.

"They are still out in front of an uncontrolled fire but the fire isn't moving at 30 mph, the fire is crawling along," fire spokesman Brandon Vaccaro said. Nearly 4,500 firefighters, air tankers and fleets of helicopters and bulldozers fought the blaze by chopping firebreaks and dumping rivers of water and fire retardant.

### Wet winter

The blaze fed on long grass that sprouted from a wet winter along with brush that had been struck by five years of drought and trees killed off by a beetle infestation. In some places, the

flames were so fierce that "every bit of vegetation is gone and you're down to the scorched earth," Vaccaro said. The fire grew by up to 30,000 acres a day at its peak, but by the weekend the growth rate was down to about 1,000 acres a day despite dry, blistering weather, he said. The blaze, moving northeast, was 40 percent contained but it could take another two weeks for firefighters to fully surround it, Vaccaro said. The smoke blurred the scenic vistas of Yosemite National Park, about 35 miles west of the fire. Tourists expecting the grandeur of falls and granite peaks instead saw hazy gray silhouettes. Ken Welsh, 60, of New Zealand said he had been prepared to be "blown away by a Technicolor dream" at Yosemite.

He shrugged his shoulders and headed back to the car. "It leaves a lot to the imagination, doesn't it?" he told the Los Angeles Times. At its peak, the blaze forced about 5,000 people to evacuate. Some roads remained closed but Mariposa, with a population of about 2,000, was coming back to life. People were coming into the hardware store for plumbing parts and electrical cords a day after evacuations were lifted.

Valdez said he decided to work even though his 4,400-square-foot home was among those destroyed. "Older people know that everything heals," said Valdez, 60. "Everything gets better if you just keep plugging away." Valdez and his wife had 20 minutes to grab a few photographs, bills and some family Bibles before they fled the encroaching flames. —AP



**CHICAGO:** Dr. Shandrea Boyd (R) shoots at a target as instructor Will Smith looks on during her concealed carry certification test at the Eagle Sports gun range. —AFP

## CHICAGO WOMEN WORRIED ABOUT VIOLENCE JOIN UP WITH GUN CLUBS

**OAK FOREST:** Her hands slowed by rheumatoid arthritis, 71-year-old Marietta Crowder stands in front of her paper target, steadies her gun and pulls the trigger. Shots are fired in quick succession. Crowder is perhaps not the typical patron of a gun club. But she is one of seven women learning to safely handle firearms at a shooting range in a suburb of Chicago, a city wracked by gun violence and a soaring murder rate.

"My husband influenced me and we thought about it a long time. Maybe you need a gun these days, in your house at least," said Crowder, who lives in a gated community with her retired banker husband. A fellow retiree, Javondlynn Dunagan, came up with the idea of gun training classes geared toward women, and for the "Ladies of Steel" gun club - after successful training, the women gather twice a month to practice their skills.

Dunagan served as a parole officer for 25 years before finishing her career in January, but had rarely held a gun when dealing with convicts. She said she started carrying one after divorcing her police officer husband. "I was at home by myself with my daughter, and I was used to having a firearm in a home with my ex-husband," she explained. "So, I wanted to make sure that we were safe." But Dunagan noticed something curious when she visited gun ranges around Chicago to practice. "I noticed that I never saw two women at the range together or a group of ladies," she recounted.

### 'Scared of guns'

Dunagan was particularly struck by the lack of African-American women like herself interested in learning how to use firearms. "I started asking friends and they said, 'Yeah, I'm scared of guns.'" That answer prompted her to start JMD Defense & Investigations, offering gun training programs geared towards women. The "investigations" side of the business will debut next year. Dunagan also offers classes such as the "Mommy & Me Self-Defense Class," where women can bring their daughters, ages 8-18 years, to learn hand-to-hand combat.

"That came about because my daughter was going to college four years ago and she couldn't find a self-defense class on the south side of Chicago," Dunagan said. Her clients are from the predominantly African-American communities in Chicago's south side, in or near neighborhoods struggling with runaway gun violence.

Chicago does not have the worst crime rate in the nation, but owing to its large population - it's the third-biggest US city - it has seen a staggering number of killings and shootings. By mid-July, there had been 1,557 shootings and 369 people murdered so far this year, according to the Chicago Police Department. Gangs and the drug trade are behind most of the shootings, and they are indiscriminate. Just this week, a 78-year-old man was wounded in one shooting, and a six-year-old girl and her four-year-old brother were wounded in another. All survived. —AFP



**MARIPOSA:** An air tanker drops retardant while battling a wildfire. —AP

## News

in brief

### Shoot drug traffickers who resist: Indonesia Prez

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia's President Joko Widodo has ordered the police to shoot drug traffickers who resist arrest in the latest effort to eradicate drug use in the country. In a speech to one of Indonesia's political parties late Friday, Widodo urged law enforcers to crack-down on drug dealers in Indonesia. "Be firm. Especially to foreign drug dealers who enter the country. If they resist even the slightest, just shoot them," Widodo said. The Indonesian Narcotics Agency recorded there are 6 million drug users in the archipelago out of its 255 million people, a situation the president labeled "drug emergency." But Widodo's remarks prompted criticism from human rights activists.

### Tibetan student sets himself alight in India

**NEW DELHI:** A Tibetan student who self-immolated in an act of protest against Chinese rule in the Himalayan region has died in an Indian hospital, a doctor said yesterday. Tenzin Choeying, 19, succumbed to critical burn injuries in New Delhi a week after shouting "Victory to Tibet" and setting fire to himself at a university campus in Varanasi, in India's northern Uttar Pradesh state. "He died on Saturday days after he was shifted from a Varanasi hospital for specialized treatment," a medical superintendent said. His body will be handed over to the authorities after a postmortem.

### Indian gang held for stealing 50 million liters of crude oil

**NEW DELHI:** Police in Rajasthan have cracked a criminal syndicate accused of smuggling more than 50 million liters of crude oil inside water tankers from India's largest onshore oilfield, an official said yesterday. The theft at the Cairn India oilfield went undetected for nearly six years until police in the western desert state arrested 25 people this week for involvement in the sophisticated smuggling network. Local media reported \$7.75 million worth of oil could have been stolen in total from the oilfield run by a subsidiary of British mining giant Vedanta Resources.

### Robot finds possible melted fuel in Fukushima reactor

**TOKYO:** Lava-like rocks believed to be melted nuclear fuel have been spotted inside Japan's stricken Fukushima reactor by an underwater robot, the plant's operator said at the end of a three-day inspection. Large amounts of the solidified lumps and deposit were spotted for the first time by the robot on the floor of the primary containment vessel underneath the core of Fukushima's No. 3 reactor, the Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) said. "There is a high possibility that the solidified objects are mixtures of melted metal and fuel that fell from the vessel," a TEPCO spokesman said, adding that the company was planning further analysis of the images.

### Mass protest calls to curb incense burning in Taiwan

**TAIPEI:** The sound of clanging cymbals and blaring horns filled downtown Taipei yesterday as thousands marched in a colorful Taoist procession, protesting a government call to cut back on the burning of incense sticks. About 100 temples took part in the demonstration, where performers carried statues of Taoist gods on their shoulders while others danced in larger-than-life costumes. Taipei police said more than 10,000 people took part in the protest. Officials have been pushing to curb the practice of burning incense sticks and paper money along with lighting firecrackers to combat pollution on the island. —Agencies

## RUSSIANS MARCH AGAINST STATE INTERNET CRACKDOWN

**MOSCOW:** Around 1,000 people marched through central Moscow yesterday to protest against the government's harsh legislative controls on the internet. Demonstrators at the rally, which was authorized by city authorities, shouted slogans including "No to censorship, no to dictatorship!" and "Down with the police state!" Some adapted a popular slogan from opposition rallies against President Vladimir Putin's rule, shouting "Russia without Putin and censorship!" Police said that around 800 people attended the protest, which was organized by Pamas opposition party, headed by former prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov. An AFP journalist estimated the turnout at 1,000 to 1,500.

OVD Info website, which monitors detentions of political activists, said three had been detained, one for giving out leaflets promoting opposition leader Alexei Navalny. Pavel Rassudov, 34, the former head of the Pirate Party campaign group, said at the march that "restrictions on the internet began in 2011," as the opposition to Putin held mass rallies in Moscow. "The authorities realised the Internet was a tool for mobilisation, that it brings people out onto the streets," Rassudov said.

Another marcher, Lyudmila Toporova, 56, said she came to the rally because "Freedom is the most important thing in life. That's why I'm here." Russia in recent years has moved to impose restrictions on internet use, blacklisting web pages for extremist content and prosecuted a growing number of individuals for posting online. Since January 1, internet companies have been required to store all users' personal data at centres in Russia and provide it to the authorities on demand. —AFP



## AFGHAN POLICE SEARCH FOR VILLAGERS AFTER KIDNAPPING

**KANDAHAR:** Afghan police yesterday launched a search for some 30 villagers still missing two days after a mass kidnapping blamed on Taliban militants in the southern province of Kandahar. Seventy people were abducted Friday from their village along the main road in the south and seven of them were found dead the following day alongside the highway, from the city of Kandahar to Tarinkot in Uruzgan province.

Around 30 people have been released while 30 others remain missing, Kandahar police spokesman Zia Durrani told AFP. It remained unclear why the villagers were seized. But some officials said they suspected the Taliban had kidnapped or killed them for suspected cooperation with the Western-backed government which the militants are striving to topple. The insurgents have a heavy presence in Uruzgan, a poppy-growing area.

Yesterday they denied involvement, while confirming they had attacked police checkpoints in the area. "Our mujahideen killed a number of local police and pro-government militias there, also capturing 17 suspects who were later released after interrogation. We have not killed or kidnapped any civilians," the Taliban said in a statement. Civilians are increasingly caught in the crosshairs of Afghanistan's worsening conflict as the Taliban step up their annual spring offensive launched in April.

Highways passing through insurgency-prone areas have become exceedingly dangerous, with the Taliban and other armed groups frequently kidnapping or killing travelers. In July Taliban fighters closed a highway connecting Farah to Herat city in the west, stopping a bus and forcing 16 passengers off it. They shot at least seven of them while the remainder was taken hostage.

Elsewhere in the country, the Taliban yesterday captured a district in the northern province of Faryab after an overnight attack that triggered hours of heavy fighting, said provincial police spokesman Abdul Karim Yourish. He said troops had retreated two kilometers from the centre of Kohistan district. There was no word on casualties.

Local media on Sunday also reported that the Taliban had overrun Taywara district in the central province of Ghor, though there was no immediate official confirmation. There has been a surge in fighting in several northern and southern Afghan provinces in recent days, including in Helmand in the south where 16 Afghan police officers were killed by a US air strike on Friday night.

The strike, the latest setback in Washington's efforts to pacify the country, hit a compound in Gereskh district, large parts of which are under Taliban control.

Afghan troops and police are battling largely alone on the ground against the



**KABUL:** In this photograph taken on July 21, 2017, Afghan Shiite mourners gather to offer prayers for their relatives, members of the 'Enlightenment Movement', buried in a graveyard on the outskirts of Kabul. — AFP

insurgency, after US-led foreign forces withdrew from most combat operations in December 2014.

The United States is actively considering sending more troops to Afghanistan and US commanders there have requested thousands of extra soldiers on the ground. The US contingent now numbers about 8,400, and there are another 5,000 from NATO allies, a

far cry from the US presence of more than 100,000 six years ago. They mainly serve as trainers and advisers.

### Taliban seize 2 districts

Meanwhile, Taliban fighters overran a second district headquarters in as many days on Sunday, this one in western Ghor province, the provincial police chief said. At least eight

police were killed in separate battles against Taliban militants, who have stepped up their attacks in the north and west of the country laying siege to district headquarters, said Mohammad Mustafa Moseni.

Moseni said the Taliban launched four assaults on Ghor's Taywara district headquarters early yesterday and "we had no choice but to retreat." He said police have taken up positions about 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the district headquarters while they wait for reinforcements to launch a counterattack. After capturing Taywara district Taliban fighters stalked the corridors of the only hospital looking for wounded Afghan National Security personnel to kill, said provincial public health department director Ghulam Nabi Yaghana.

He said he received reports that they killed four or five patients. The area is remote and telephone communication is sporadic, he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from the provincial capital of Ferozkoh. He said Taliban entered the 20-bed hospital early yesterday. It's believed all the dead are military or police personnel, he said. The Taliban, in a statement to the media, announced the capture of Taywara district headquarters. The statement, however, said 46 Afghan government security forces were killed. The Associated Press could not independently verify either death toll. — Agencies



**CARACAS:** Opposition activists hide behind shields as they clash with the police during a march towards the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) in an offensive against President Maduro and his call for Constituent Assembly. — AFP

## VENEZUELAN OPPOSITION READIES FRESH STRIKE

PLANS TO HAVE THE CONSTITUTION REWRITTEN

**CARACAS:** Venezuela's opposition has called a fresh 48-hour general strike against embattled President Nicolas Maduro's plans to have the constitution rewritten giving him broader powers. The walk-out comes as violent and sometimes deadly protests continue amid a political and economic crisis that has led to shortages of basic goods and soaring inflation. "We are calling out the entire people, all groups in society, for a 48-hour strike" Wednesday and Thursday, lawmaker Simon Calzadilla said.

Calzadilla said that the strike would be capped on Friday with a march demanding that Maduro officially scrap his Constituent Assembly vote scheduled for July 30. Earlier on Saturday, police on motorcycles fired tear gas to break up an opposition march on the Supreme Court to press demands that elected socialist Maduro leave office. That rally was also meant as a show of support for a slate of 33 magistrates—a so-called shadow supreme court—whose names were put forward Friday by the opposition to replace Venezuela's current high court, which is closely allied with Maduro and frequently rules in his favor.

Emboldened by a nationwide strike on Thursday that paralyzed parts of the capital Caracas and other Venezuelan cities, opposition leaders held a mock swearing-in ceremony Friday for the shadow court's new "judges." Many of the actual court's justices were hastily appointed shortly before Maduro's ruling party lost its majority in congress. "Everyone has given their backing to the new Supreme Court," tweeted Freddy Guevara, a leader of the opposition-led congress.

### 'They won't frighten me'

"We support the new judges because they will restore independence to the Supreme Court," said 43-year-old demonstrator Luis Torrealba, marching with his wife and teenage son. Their swearing in was condemned by the government as "incitement to subversion" and an act of "treason," and officials threatened to throw the dissidents into prison. One of the judges was arrested by intelligence

services, the National Assembly said on Twitter. Maduro said the opposition's bid to derail the constitutional assembly would fail. "We are going to be implacable if they try to use violence to stop what cannot be stopped," the president warned on television.

In Saturday's march, hundreds of people took to a key Caracas motorway to head downtown toward the court building. But uniformed National Guard troops riding motorcycles fired tear gas to disperse them. Wully Arteaga, a violinist who has gained celebrity for playing at many marches, was injured and taken to a clinic. The 23-year-old was seen with blood pouring from cuts on the left side of his face. He said later he had been struck with buckshot.

"They are not going to frighten me," Arteaga said in a video he posted on Twitter. The musician became an icon of the protest movement when he was pictured calmly weaving through tear gas with his violin on his shoulder, playing the classic Venezuelan folk song "Alma Llanera." Immortalized in photographs from that performance during a demonstration on May 8, he said he meant it as a "message of peace."

### Deadly marches

With the situation already inflamed, the stakes have risen further, after the United States threatened economic sanctions if Maduro proceeds with his controversial vote for a body to rewrite the constitution. The president has vowed to maintain the election of 545 members to the Constitutional Assembly. Saturday's demonstrations, like many others since April, were organized by the Democratic Unity Roundtable, a coalition of political opposition groups. The number of deaths in protests across the country since April has reached 103 — about one fatality per day. Datanalisis surveys have shown that more than 70 percent of Venezuelans reject Maduro's leadership. But the president has brushed aside moves to oust him because he can count on the loyalty of the Venezuelan military, which has been given control of swaths of the economy. — AFP

## POPULARITY TUMBLES FOR FRANCE'S MACRON: POLL

**PARIS:** A poll out yesterday shows the popularity rating of France's new President Emmanuel Macron has slumped 10 points to hit 54 percent over the past month. While Macron has made a strong start on the world stage and won a solid majority in parliament, his first three months in power have not been completely trouble-free.

He was widely criticized by opponents and the press as heavy-handed after a row over budget cuts that ended with the resignation of a highly-regarded military chief. The 39-year-old leader has also backed a controversial bill to toughen France's security laws that includes measures some rights groups have branded as draconian. His majority in parliament has drawn concern, with opponents and several newspapers expressing concern over the concentration of power in the presidency.

According to an Ifop poll carried out for Journal du Dimanche newspaper, the number of French people sat-

isfied with his performance fell 10 points from 64 percent in June. Macron's Prime Minister Edouard Philippe marked an eight point drop to hit 56 percent of French people happy with him, said the poll of 1,947 adults carried out from July 17-22. France's youngest-ever president, who has sought to project an image of authority since taking office in May, made clear during the row with the military boss that he would brook no insubordination as commander-in-chief.

The leftist Liberation newspaper said Macron's "little authoritarian fit" could be a sign he was drunk on power and said it was time for him "to grow up a bit". A relative newcomer to politics who won election on a tide of disaffection with mainstream politics, Macron has enjoyed a honeymoon with voters, drawing particular praise for standing up to US President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin. — AFP

## NELSON MANDELA'S BOOK ON HIS TREATMENT STIRS DISPUTE

**JOHANNESBURG:** A new book by a former South African military doctor that documents Nelson Mandela's medical treatments before his 2013 death violates doctor-patient confidentiality, according to some relatives of the anti-apartheid leader and Nobel laureate.

But the retired doctor, Vejay Ramlakan, said in an interview this weekend on the eNCA news channel that the Mandela family had requested that the book be written. While Ramlakan declined to say which family members had given permission for the book, his remarks could indicate continuing rifts in a family whose members have feuded over the years on issues such as inheritance.

The book, "Mandela's Last Years," covers Mandela's health while he was imprisoned during white minority rule, during his tenure as South Africa's first black president and in retirement. It also focuses on the dramatic final months of Mandela's life, when he was suffering a lung infection and other ailments before



**JOHANNESBURG:** In this Jan 31, 2006 file photo former South African President Nelson Mandela smiles during his meeting. — AP

dying at age 95. "It documents the complex medical decisions; disputes between family members and staff; military, political, financial and security demands; constant scrutiny from the press; and the wishes of Mandela himself, all of which contributed to what he and those closest to him would experience in his final days," according to Penguin Random House, the publisher.

Mandela's widow, Graca Machel, said she is considering legal action and will consult with the executors of Mandela's will, South African media reported.

"We are deeply disappointed that the doctor appears to have compromised himself and the man whom he had the privilege to serve," Nkosi Mandela, a grandson of the anti-apartheid leader, said in a statement. He said the book might contain ethical violations. In the eNCA interview, Ramlakan said he had permission to write the book and that "all parties who needed to be consulted were consulted." Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Mandela's ex-wife and a prominent figure in the anti-apartheid movement, was with her former husband when he died, according to Ramlakan, a former surgeon general of South Africa who headed Mandela's medical team. "She's the one who was there when he passed on," he said. "I think Mrs. Machel was in the house or busy with other issues. But I have no idea because I was focusing on my patient." — AP



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EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
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## Focus

## HEADSTRONG RENZI STRUGGLES TO FIND POLITICAL TOUCH

Matteo Renzi is struggling to regain the political initiative after a disastrous spell during which he lost his job as prime minister and his party fractured. His approval ratings are in slow decline, his attempts to reassert control over the ruling Democratic Party (PD) are flailing and his efforts to control the coalition government from outside parliament have foundered. Unless he manages to revive his fortunes quickly, he will surely lose national elections expected in early 2018, and possibly open the door for groups that are hostile to the single euro currency and likely to spook financial markets.

Italy has the highest outstanding sovereign debt in the European Union and investors fear a populist-led government in Rome could yet lead to the breakup of the euro zone. "Renzi keeps on saying that everything is going well, but it clearly isn't," said parliamentarian Giuseppe Civati, a one-time friend of the centre-left leader who walked out of the PD two years ago in disaccord over policy priorities. "He seems disconnected from reality. He is getting into fights with everyone and turning people off," he told Reuters.

Civati was one of many people criticised in Renzi's new book called "Avanti" (Forward), which was published this month and was meant to focus on future plans, but instead set off fierce rows over his reading of recent history. While rallying to Renzi's side, party chiefs are exasperated by constant public feuding as they fear it is exasperating voters worn down by years of economic underperformance, stagnant wages, high unemployment and falling living standards. "Something isn't working and we have six months to sort it out. All these controversies will be reduced to zero. We will adopt an institutional, upright attitude," said lawmaker Matteo Richetti, who is head of communications for the PD. One PD source, who declined to be named, said that to help calm frayed tempers, the 42-year-old Renzi would adopt a very low profile in August and only return to television screens in the middle of September.

## Fragmentation

The general election must be held by May, with February or March seen as the most likely. An electoral milestone will come in November, however, via a ballot in Sicily which could see the anti-system 5-Star Movement chalk up its first regional victory. "This vote will have a major impact and set the tone for the subsequent general election," Richetti said. Unfortunately for Renzi, Sicily, blighted by a jobless rate of some 22 percent, has little love for him. More than 70 percent of islanders voted against him in a December referendum, his worst showing in the country besides Sardinia.

The PD won more than 40 percent of the vote across Italy in European elections in 2014 shortly after Renzi took office in an internal party coup, but it has been downhill ever since. He was forced to resign as prime minister in December after losing the referendum on his plans to streamline parliament. Two months later, a group of senior PD members broke away, saying the party had shifted too far to the centre.

Although Renzi comfortably won a party leadership contest in May, the PD fared badly in June's local elections, and a poll on Sunday for Corriere della Sera newspaper put the PD on 26.9 percent, behind 5-Star on 27.6 percent. The survey also showed a trio of loosely allied rightist parties, including Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, taking some 35 percent of the combined vote. None of these scores would be enough to let any group govern alone under the terms of a new electoral law, which Renzi has tried but failed to change. The system restores proportional representation (PR) to Italy and looks certain to produce highly fragmented legislatures in both the upper and lower chambers.

This means the PD could still be at the heart of the next government even if it comes second at the ballot box, but this will depend on Renzi's ability to forge coalition alliances. The return to PR will give smaller parties greater negotiating power, which helps to explain the schisms and fomentation rattling Italian politics. "This electoral law is to blame for a lot of the agitation we are seeing," European Affairs Minister Sandro Gozi told Reuters. "People are looking where best to position themselves for votes and that is causing tensions."

## Manifesto

The breakaway PD dissidents see gains to be made following the path of Britain's Jeremy Corbyn, a diehard socialist who galvanised the youth vote in Britain's June election. Renzi is drawn instead to the recipe that helped centrist Emmanuel Macron win this year's French presidential election. "Don't forget, Corbyn lost. He is a nice guy, but he lost. This is not the model we want to follow," said Gozi, a close Renzi supporter. "Macron's success shows you can bring together different ideas and win... this is what Renzi wants." — AFP

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## WOULD TRUMP SELF-PARDON END RUSSIA PROBES?

By Alison Frankel

The Washington Post reported Thursday that President Donald Trump is talking to advisers about issuing pardons to aides, family members and even himself in order to undermine Special Counsel Robert Mueller's widening Russia investigation. Trump outside counsel John Dowd told my Reuters colleague Karen Freifeld that the Post's "stuff on pardons is nonsense," Dowd said. "It's just a smear job on the president. It's not true."

That said, the Post story raises a couple of interesting questions. Can a US president pardon himself prospectively? And if constitutional law allows a prospective self-pardon, what are the implications for ongoing investigations of the president's conduct? Mueller is investigating possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia during the 2016 presidential election. Moscow has denied interference in the US election, and President Trump has said his campaign did not collude.

The US Constitution does not specifically prohibit presidents from pardoning themselves before they're formally accused of wrongdoing (a person need not be charged to be pardoned). So if President Trump, who has not been implicated in wrongdoing, were to decide to grant himself a pass from any prospective prosecution, he would not be violating the letter of the Constitution. But he would be stretching the bounds of presidential power as they've never been tested before - and, more importantly, legal experts told me, Trump probably would not be able to halt Justice Department and congressional investigations simply by pardoning himself and any allies known to be under scrutiny.

In fact, attempting to use pardons to obviate the special counsel investigation could backfire, said Walter Dellinger, who wrote about prospective presidential pardons as a top official in the Clinton Justice Department in 1995. Pardons themselves might raise questions about obstructing justice, Dellinger said. Prospective pardons would also remove Fifth Amendment obstacles to congressional testimony from those who received them, since you can't assert a right against self-incrimination if you aren't facing criminal consequences. No court in the US has ever had to decide whether a president has the authority to pardon himself because no president has ever done so.

## The Nixon Memo

Before Trump, the only previous president known to have contemplated a pardon for himself was Richard Nixon as he faced possible obstruction of justice charges from the Watergate special prosecutor. Nixon asked his Justice Department whether a self-pardon was legal. Justice lawyers issued a memo opinion in 1974 advising that it was not. The DOJ memo said that under the age-old legal maxim that no one can be the judge of his own case, even the president of the United States cannot pardon himself.

The 1974 Justice Department memo is the first, last and only official word on a US president's power to pardon himself, according to Michigan State law professor Brian Kalt, who has been thinking and writing about presidential self-pardons since he was a Yale Law student in the 1990s. The issue has simply never come before a US court, even tangentially.

In fact, the mere discussion of the legality of presidential self-pardons leads to a rabbit hole of unanswered hypotheticals, such as whether a sitting president can be indicted or prosecuted, said law professor Sanford Levinson of the University of Texas. It's not clear, Levinson said, whether a special counsel could go to court to challenge a presidential self-pardon if the special counsel can't prosecute the president while he's in office. "It's just a conundrum," Levinson said. Kalt, who has become a mini-celebrity since the Trump self-pardon news broke, told me that in the vacuum of precedent, both proponents and opponents of self-pardons have legitimate arguments. He said he believes the stronger argument is against the legality of presidents pardoning themselves. According to Kalt, the primary argument that presidents can pardon themselves is that the Constitution doesn't say they can't.

But three factors, he said, weigh against legality: The traditional meaning of the word pardon, which implies one person giving and another receiving; the legal principle against serving as one's own judge, as cited in the Nixon memo; and the text of the US Constitution. Here's why. Article II of the Constitution authorizes the president to "grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment."

That language, Kalt said, gives presidents immense power. We've seen presidents, for instance, issue pardons

to people who haven't been charged with any crime, most famously when President Gerald Ford pardoned Richard Nixon before Nixon was charged with obstructing justice. Presidents can also pardon people whose identities are unknown, as when President Jimmy Carter granted amnesty to all Vietnam draft evaders.

But the words of the Constitution do not give the president unlimited pardon powers. Kalt looked back to James Madison's notes from the 1787 Constitutional Convention and found that the framers discussed whether treason ought to be excluded from the president's pardon powers in case the president were a traitor. The drafters, according to Kalt, concluded that if the president were a traitor, "he can be impeached and prosecuted" under the language they adopted. Outside of that context, Kalt said in a May 2017 Foreign Policy analysis, self-pardons "never came up, which is a very telling omission in a discussion about criminal presidents abusing the pardon power," he wrote. "It apparently went without saying - literally - that self-pardons are not possible."

## 'Unbearable' Pressure

Constitutional language brings me to my second point. The pardons clause, as you probably noticed, explicitly says that presidents cannot grant pardons from "cases of impeachment". That clause, said former Clinton Justice official Dellinger, could give special counsel Mueller a mandate to continue investigating the Trump campaign even if the president were legally entitled prospectively to pardon himself and everyone else under Mueller's scrutiny for possible violations of federal criminal laws.

Dellinger drew an analogy to Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who did not charge President Bill Clinton with crimes but prepared a report that served as the basis for articles of impeachment against the president. "The pardon clause expressly does not apply to impeachment," Dellinger said. "That's the same reason Starr kept going." (I can imagine the Trump team countering Dellinger's point with the argument that grand juries are convened to investigate crimes, not politics, and if the president has prospectively pardoned every potential target, the grand jury must be dismissed.) — Reuters

## RISE AND FALL OF THAILAND'S TOP TRAFFICKER

An army 'Big Shot' whose influence seeped across the south, Lieutenant-General Manas Kongpan sat at the apex of Thailand's grisly trade in humans, raking in an untold fortune to keep prying eyes off the trafficking route. As the number of desperate Rohingya and Bangladeshis shuttled through the trafficking operation shot up, so did Manas' rank in the Thai military. But the silver-haired general was condemned to 27 years in prison on Wednesday for profiting from the trade, an extraordinarily rare conviction of a senior member of an army that dominates the kingdom.

The 61-year-old's downfall was hastened in 2015 after investigators uncovered secret jungle prisons in the south where traffickers starved and tortured migrants while holding them for ransom. The discovery exposed Thailand's horrifying role in a criminal operation that shifted victims from Myanmar to Malaysia, and forced the ruling junta to launch a belated crackdown.

Police followed a money trail that lead straight to Manas, an army hardliner with a passion for bullfighting. "He was involved in such an obvious way...at a time when the junta was really trying to show themselves to be clean," said Paul Chambers, an expert on Thailand's military. "He is going down because he was at the wrong place at the wrong time."

## Money trail

Manas was first highlighted as a suspect in early 2015 after 98 famished Rohingya were found in trucks in Nakhon Si Thammarat, stopped by a random police checkpoint. Provincial police - aided by anti-trafficking NGO Freeland - used the drivers' cell phones to trace their regular route. The trail carved through Thailand's southern neck from coastal Ranong, where boatloads of migrants arrived from Myanmar, to malaria-infested camps near the Malaysian border, where they were held in appalling conditions.

Phone and e-banking records from the drivers led to key trafficker Sunan Saengthong, a Ranong politician and businessman who had deposited nearly \$600,000 in accounts belonging to Manas. In May 2015 police found more bank slips revealing that Sunan's nephew had also transferred huge sums to Manas, including some \$400,000 in just over a month. Sunan was jailed for 35 years in a sep-

arate trial but his nephew Nattaphat Saengthong and others remain at large.

Around the time of the money transfers, Manas served as a top commander of Thailand's southern security arm. His job was to enforce its controversial "push-back" policy - which meant turning around boats of stateless Rohingya who were trying to flee persecution in Myanmar. But he used this position to do just the opposite, according to last

week's verdict, which exposed a matrix of collusion between state officials and businessmen who profited from trafficking.

Witnesses said Manas instructed officers to force back a boat of 265 Rohingya in 2012 - only to covertly re-route the ship to shore and truck the human cargo south to the jungle prisons. Manas "had direct responsibility in the push-back mission and must have been part of this human trafficking network, otherwise the Rohingya would not have been able to return to Thailand so quickly," the verdict read.

## Southern 'Big Shot'

The trafficking operation flourished until the 2015 crackdown, with tens of thousands of victims funnelled through a trade worth an estimated \$250 million dollars. Many were lured from the Myanmar-Bangladesh border by brokers who promised jobs, while others were violently kidnapped and forced onto the boats. The big money was made in Thailand, where jungle camp wardens phoned relatives of the weakest migrants and threatened to kill them if they didn't send more cash.

The young and strong were sold off as labor to Malaysian palm oil plantations or fishing boats, according to Freeland. All the while, Manas' seemingly inexorable rise up the army ranks continued, with his command stretching over increasingly large chunks of the south. Months before his arrest in 2015, he was promoted to Lt-General and given the sweeping role of "military advisor."

It wasn't the first time the hawkish officer had hurdled controversy. He was linked to a 2004 raid on a mosque that left more than 30 Muslim rebels dead in Thailand's far south, one of the early sparks of an insurgency still burning today. "He had a reputation for often going beyond the law," said Chambers, adding that he was known as a "big shot" in the region.

Manas was the only military man convicted in last week's trafficking trial, which saw more than 60 people sent to jail. Rights groups welcomed the verdict but warned that many perpetrators remain at large. "We know not everyone has been accounted for in this trial," said Amy Smith from Fortify Rights, which closely tracked the investigation. "More needs to be done to account for the horrific crimes that took place... and to ensure this never happens again." — AFP



General Manas Kongpan



# EX-GAZA CHIEF: HAMAS DEAL WILL OPEN BORDER

**RAMALLAH:** An exiled Palestinian politician who quietly negotiated a power-sharing deal for Gaza with former arch foe Hamas discussed the details for the first time in an interview, saying he expects it to lead to a swift opening of the blockaded territory's border with Egypt and an easing of crippling power outages. The Egypt-Gaza border crossing is expected to open by late August and funding has been secured for a \$100 million power plant, Mohammed Dahlan, a former Gaza security chief, told AP in a phone interview from the United Arab Emirates.

Dahlan said his chemistry with Gaza's newly elected Hamas chief, Yehiyeh Sinwar, helped forge the once unthinkable alliance. The two grew up in the tough streets of southern Gaza's Khan Younis refugee camp before joining rival camps, the Islamic militant Hamas and the mainstream Fatah movement, respectively. "We both realized it's time to find a way out" for Gaza, Dahlan, 55, said in an hour-long conversation Saturday. He said both sides had learned lessons from the destructive rivalries of the past.

The deal, backed by Egypt and the UAE, is still in the early stages of implementation. There are no guarantees of success, but all involved seem to benefit. It enables Egypt to contain Hamas, the militants on its doorstep, through new security arrangements. Dahlan has a chance to return to Palestinian politics. And cash-strapped Hamas can prolong its rule through the promised border opening.

If it goes ahead, the deal could deliver a crushing blow to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who presides over autonomous enclaves in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Abbas has a toxic relationship with Hamas, which seized Gaza from him in 2007, and with Dahlan, a former top aide he sent packing in 2010. A Hamas-Dahlan alliance would further sideline the 82-year-old Western-backed Abbas and undercut his claim that he represents all Palestinians.

### Mini-state

The objectives of the Dahlan-Hamas deal - ending the border blockade, reviving Gaza's battered economy - could also weaken Palestinian statehood aspirations by creating a "mini-state" in Gaza. For more than two decades, Palestinian leaders, including Abbas, have unsuccessfully sought to establish a state in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in negotiations with Israel. Israel, which captured those territories

in the 1967 Mideast war, withdrew from Gaza in 2005, but keeps a tight grip on the rest.

The territories sit on opposite sides of Israel which has deepened the geographic separation with strict travel bans. Dahlan dismissed concerns that his deal with Hamas will gradually turn Gaza into a separate entity. "We are patriots, not separatists," he said, adding that he would do everything in his power to prevent a further drifting apart of the Palestinian territories.

The multi-millionaire with far-flung business interests in the region and close ties to leaders of Egypt and the UAE said he no longer aspires to replace Abbas. "I have no ambitions to be president," he said. "Maybe that was the case when I was younger, but now I see the situation. ... Seventy percent of the land is in the hands of the Israelis, and they have no intentions to give us a state."

Dahlan said the new deal is meant to revive Palestinian political institutions that have been paralyzed since the 2007 split between Hamas and Fatah. This would include a new attempt to form a national unity government and revive parliament. Dahlan said Abbas is welcome to lead such efforts, but that "we are not going to wait for him forever" to make a move. Previous Abbas-led efforts to form a unity government with Hamas backing have failed over the years, with both sides ultimately refusing to give up power in their respective territories.

### Egypt's blessing

In recent weeks, Abbas took a different approach, stepping up financial pressure on Gaza to force Hamas to cede ground there. Azzam Al-Ahmed, an Abbas aide who negotiated with Hamas in the past, said yesterday that the Dahlan-Hamas understandings "are going nowhere". He said Abbas' Palestinian Authority supports Gaza with \$1.2 billion every year, covering wages of ex-loyalists, social welfare payments and electricity. He suggested Dahlan and Hamas would be unable to cover such sums.

Ahmed also said Egypt assured Abbas "that they are not going to help any new entity in Gaza". However, the lengthy negotiations between Dahlan's representatives and a Hamas team in Cairo last month would not have been possible without Egypt's blessing, participants said. Dahlan presented an upbeat vision of Gaza, a crowded sliver of land on the



**A Palestinian boy runs for cover from tear gas during clashes between demonstrators and Israeli security forces at the Qalandiya checkpoint between Ramallah and Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank yesterday as crowds protest against new Israeli security measures implemented at Al-Aqsa mosque complex. — AP**

Mediterranean with 2 million people.

He said he has raised funds to refurbish Gaza's gate to the world, the Rafah crossing with Egypt, and that he received Egyptian assurances that the crossing will open by the end of August. "Everyone who needs to travel will be able to travel," he said. Over the past decade, Rafah only opened sporadically because of the blockade, and thousands of Gazans are currently on waiting lists, hoping to travel abroad for study, work or medical care.

The UAE has promised \$100 million for a power plant that would be built on the Egyptian side of the border, Dahlan said. Once the exact location is chosen, construction would take 18 months, he said. In recent years, Gazans have endured blockade-linked rolling power cuts, most recently of as long as 20 hours a day. Egypt has been sending fuel to Gaza's existing power plant in recent weeks, as part of the understandings.

### Hamas role

Hamas officials describing the deal have said their group will remain in charge of security in Gaza. Dahlan is to raise money and advocate for Gaza abroad. He hasn't been back to Gaza since the Hamas takeover in 2007. In the months preceding the takeover, he had led Fatah forces in Gaza street battles with Hamas, and grievances of families of close to 400 people killed in the fighting - from both sides - still haven't been addressed.

Disbursements to the families from a multi-million-dollar UAE-backed compensation fund are to begin soon, in an attempt to buy calm that is in line with tribal traditions. Several dozen of Dahlan's lieutenants and key supporters are expected to return from exile as part of the arrangements. Dahlan said he will remain in exile. "It's better for Gaza that I stay in the diaspora and approach everyone who can extend a helping hand to Gaza," he said. — AP

## MP PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO PENAL CODE

Continued from Page 1

Kandari said he backs a motion calling to hold an emergency session of the Assembly to discuss the implications of the escape of the cell members and also bilateral relations with Iran. Kuwait expelled around 15 Iranian diplomats from the country following the court ruling in protest against Iranian involvement in the case. The Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) has called for holding to account all those who helped the cell members to flee the country.

Meanwhile, the government has informed the Assembly of its rejection of a draft law regulating con-

flict of interests, which has been under study by the legal and legislative committee, on grounds that its provisions already exist in other legislation. The government told the Assembly committee that the objectives of the law are achieved through the presence of similar provisions in other laws, and accordingly there is no need to duplicate the laws.

Separately, MP Faisal Al-Kandari, a member of the Assembly's investigation panel, denied yesterday that the Kuwaiti health office in Germany had dealings with an Israeli company. The story was reported yesterday in a local daily. Kandari said the health office has never dealt with brokers or any other companies, adding that an investigation is still going on.

## BIBI FACES PRESSURE OVER AQSA SITE AFTER...

Continued from Page 1

in the field," he said at the start of the meeting. "We are receiving from them an up-to-date picture of the situation, as well as recommendations for action, and we will decide accordingly."

Israeli Major General Yoav Mordechai - head of COGAT, the defense ministry agency responsible for civilian affairs in the Palestinian territories - signaled changes to the policy were possible. "We are examining other options and alternatives that will ensure security," Mordechai said in an interview with Al-Jazeera. Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, who has announced he was freezing contacts with Israel over the dispute, said yesterday this included the security coordination that has been credited with preventing wider unrest in recent years. "They must know that they will be the main losers because we play an important role in assuring our security and theirs," Abbas said.

The crisis has resonated internationally. The UN Security Council will hold closed-door talks today about the spiraling violence. Arab League chief Ahmed Abul Gheit yesterday accused Israel of "playing with fire" with the new security measures, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called them an insult to the Muslim world. Pope Francis said he was following events with concern and urged dialogue and moderation.

Tensions have risen throughout the past week over the metal detectors at the compound, which includes the revered Al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, following the July 14 attack that killed two policemen. Palestinians view the move as Israel asserting further control over the site. They have refused to enter the compound in protest and have prayed in the streets outside. Israeli authorities say the July 14 attackers smuggled guns into the site and emerged from it to shoot the officers.

Friday's main weekly Muslim prayers - which typically draw thousands to Al-Aqsa - brought the situation to a boil. In anticipation of protests, Israel barred men under 50 from entering the Old City for prayers.

Clashes broke out between Israeli security forces and Palestinians around the Old City, in other parts of annexed east Jerusalem and in the occupied West Bank, leaving three Palestinians dead. On Friday evening, a Palestinian broke into a home in a Jewish settlement in the West Bank during a Sabbath dinner and stabbed four Israelis, killing three.

The Israeli army said the 19-year-old Palestinian had spoken in a Facebook post of the holy site and of dying as a martyr. On Saturday, Palestinian youths hurled stones and petrol bombs as the army used a bulldozer to close off the attacker's West Bank village and prepare his house for demolition. Netanyahu said yesterday the demolition would go ahead "as soon as possible". Israel frequently razes or seals attackers' homes as a deterrent, although rights groups say this amounts to collective punishment. Clashes also flared in east Jerusalem and other Palestinian villages in the West Bank near Jerusalem on Saturday, police said. Two Palestinians died, including one when a petrol bomb exploded prematurely.

Israeli security forces said yesterday they had arrested 25 men active in the militant Hamas group that rules the Gaza Strip. The arrests throughout the West Bank included "senior members", a statement from the Shin Bet internal security agency said, and was part of preventive measures in the wake of "the tensions around the Temple Mount". Also yesterday, a rocket fired at Israel from Gaza hit an open area, the Israeli army said, causing no injuries. No Palestinian group claimed the attack.

The holy site in Jerusalem has served as a rallying cry for Palestinians. In 2000, then Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon's visit to the compound helped ignite the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, which lasted more than four years. The Haram Al-Sharif is central to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is in east Jerusalem, seized by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed in a move never recognized by the international community. Considered the third holiest site in Islam, it is the most sacred for Jews. — AFP

## ERDOGAN VISITS KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA...

Continued from Page 1

including the Syria conflict where both are staunch foes of President Bashar Al-Assad. Turkey is also setting up a military base in Qatar, its only such outpost in the region. It has expedited the process since the crisis began and reportedly now has 150 troops there. "From the first moments of the Qatar crisis, we have been on the side of peace, stability, solidarity and dialogue," said Erdogan. But Turkey, which is also going through a turbulent time with the European Union and the United States, also does not want to wreck its own relations with regional kingpin Saudi Arabia.

"As the elder statesman in the Gulf region, Saudi Arabia has a big role to play in solving the crisis," said Erdogan, taking care not to explicitly criticize the kingdom. Erdogan said he supported the mediation efforts of Kuwait's Amir, a possible indication Ankara sees Kuwait as the key to solving the crisis. The Qatari emir said Friday he was ready for talks to resolve the row as long as the emirate's sovereignty is respected. His call received a cold reception from the UAE's state minister for foreign affairs,

Anwar Gargash, who said he hoped the emir had pledged to reconsider Qatar's position. "Dialogue is necessary, but it should be based on a revision" of Qatar's stance, he tweeted.

Erdogan is likely to get a warm welcome in Doha where Turkey has been loudly applauded for sending in food, including fruit, dairy and poultry products by ship and by plane to help Doha beat an embargo. Turkey has also benefited, with its exports to Qatar doubling in the past month to more than \$50 million. According to the economy ministry, Ankara has sent around 200 cargo planes filled with aid since the crisis began.

Erdogan's tour coincides with a visit to Kuwait by the EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini, who held talks yesterday with Kuwaiti officials. A statement said Mogherini paid tribute to Kuwait's "relentless mediation efforts" in the dispute and called for a resolution "through dialogue and without delay". Rights group AFD International called yesterday for an end to the "blockade" of Qatar, warning that the regional boycott has led to "forced separation" of families. — Agencies

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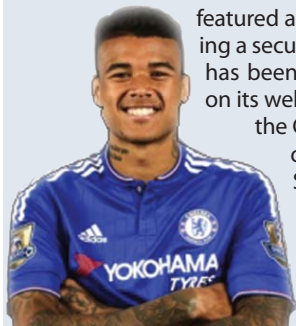
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## CHELSEA APOLOGIZES FOR KENEDY'S NASTY MESSAGES

**LONDON:** Chelsea has apologized for social media comments by Brazilian player Kenedy which it accepts "caused great offence and hurt the feelings" of the country during the Premier League champions' pre-season tour. The 21-year-old Kenedy's since-deleted Instagram posts featured a profanity relating to China and a message mocking a security guard he photographed. Chelsea says Kenedy has been "strongly reprimanded and disciplined," adding on its website that it "solemnly and sincerely apologizes" to the Chinese people. The messages were posted ahead of Chelsea's 3-0 victory over Arsenal in Beijing on Saturday. Chelsea says "the negative impact we have seen over the last two days has left us shocked and saddened. Once again, we sincerely apologize for the hurt caused to our Chinese fans as well as to the Chinese people." — AP



## SALVADORAN PLAYERS BANNED AFTER BITING INCIDENTS

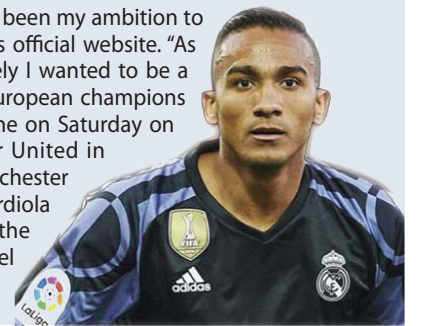
**LOS ANGELES:** Henry Romero received a six-game ban and Darwin Ceren for three on Saturday for "anti-sporting" behavior in a CONCACAF Gold Cup match in which they bit US players.

Los Cuscatlecos defender Romero bit Jozy Altidore on the back in El Salvador's 2-0 Gold Cup quarter-final loss to the United States and also grabbed the US forward's nipple and twisted it. Midfielder Ceren, who plays for Major League Soccer's San Jose Earthquakes, bit Omar Gonzalez during the contest.

CONCACAF's disciplinary committee announced the sanctions shortly before the United States' semi-final clash against Costa Rica kicked off on Saturday in Dallas. CONCACAF, which did not specify the biting incidents in their announcement, said the suspensions would affect only "official matches. El Salvador have already been eliminated from 2018 World Cup qualifying." — AFP

## DANILO COMPLETES MAN CITY MOVE

**LONDON:** Real Madrid right-back Danilo completed his move to Manchester City yesterday, the Brazilian joining Pep Guardiola's Premier League giants on a five-year contract. The 26-year-old will now link up with City on their pre-season tour of the United States after agreeing personal terms and passing his medical. "There has been strong interest from other clubs, but it has always been my ambition to play for Pep Guardiola," Danilo told his new club's official website. "As soon as I heard of his interest, I knew immediately I wanted to be a City player," he added. His departure from the European champions had been confirmed by Real boss Zinedine Zidane on Saturday on the eve of his team's meeting with Manchester United in California. According to the BBC he moves to Manchester on a £26.5 million (29.5 million euros) deal. Guardiola had made full-backs his top transfer priority in the close season having released Pablo Zabaleta, Gael Clichy and Bacary Sagna. — AFP



**SOUTHPORT:** Jordan Spieth of the United States plays a shot on the 1st hole during the final round of the British Open Golf Championship, at Royal Birkdale, Southport, England, yesterday. — AP

GOLF

# SPIETH SETS OUT LOOKING TO WIN BRITISH OPEN TITLE

**SOUTHPORT:** Jordan Spieth set out in his final round at the British Open yesterday looking to win the third major of his career in glorious conditions at Royal Birkdale. Spieth, 23, sat atop the leaderboard overnight on 11 under par after shooting a flawless 65 on Saturday—his third consecutive round in the 60s—while compatriot Matt Kuchar was his nearest challenger at eight-under. The American duo were the last pairing to tee off in their final round, going out at 2:30pm local time (1330 GMT).

Spieth admitted on Saturday night he would be trying to put the nerves to one side until then and get some much-needed rest before starting his round. "It's a little bit tougher to sleep but I've been fine recently," he said of the pressure that comes with going out late in the day.

"I expect to be. If not, I can sleep during the day—we don't tee off until pretty late. "But I wouldn't rather be in any other position than where we're at. And we have an opportunity to have a really special day on the golf course. I'm excited about it."

Behind Kuchar, there was a gap to 20-year-old Open debutant Austin Connolly born and brought up in Texas like Spieth but representing Canada—and current US Open champion Brooks Koepka, who were both on five under par. They teed off at 2:20pm and the final pair-

ings were hoping the perfect summer weather that greeted the earlier starters on Sunday held into the afternoon.

Japan's world number two Hideki Matsuyama and Branden Grace of South Africa were both four-under with the latter fresh from becoming the first player ever to shoot a round of 62 in a major championship on Saturday.

Chan Kim, Sweden's defending champion Henrik Stenson and world number one Dustin Johnson were all three-under, surely too far back to threaten Spieth.

### MEMORIES OF AUGUSTA

Winner of the Masters and US Open in 2015, Spieth is looking to emulate the great Jack Nicklaus by getting his hands on a third different major before turning 24. Memories are still fresh of the Masters last year, when like this week he led after each of the first three rounds but choked when it came to the crunch.

He was five shots clear approaching the 10th on the Sunday at Augusta, only to drop six shots in three holes and eventually lose out to England's Danny Willett.

"I think I'm in a position where it can be very advantageous, just everything I've gone through, the good, the bad, and everything in the middle," said the world number

three when asked if he would use that experience to his advantage.

"I understand that leads can be squandered quickly, and I also understand how you can keep on rolling on one." In contrast to Spieth, the 39-year-old Kuchar has never triumphed in a major. But the last seven majors have all gone to first-time winners and five of the last six British Opens have been won by players aged 39 or older.

"Continue with good golf. Again, I'll be playing with him but not focused on him. My goal is to go out and play Royal Birkdale," said Kuchar ahead of his battle with Spieth for the Claret Jug.

The odds are in favour of a sixth American winner in 10 Opens to be held at Birkdale, on the Irish Sea coast in the town of Southport near Liverpool. Former winners include Arnold Palmer in 1961 and Tom Watson in 1983.

Those chasing Spieth will need to score low, just as Australia's Aaron Baddeley did early in the morning. He went round in six-under 64 but is +1 for the championship. Xander Schauffele of the United States had a 65 to sit at one-under overall. Crowds thronged the course from early on at Birkdale and organisers the R&A announced that a record attendance had been set for an Open outside St Andrews with 235,000 spectators over the week. — AFP

## NOAH GOODWIN RALLIES TO WIN US JUNIOR AMATEUR

**ANDOVER:** Noah Goodwin rallied to beat Matthew Wolff 1 up in 100-degree heat Saturday in the US Junior Amateur final to become the third player to win a year after losing the title match. The 17-year-old Goodwin, from Corinth, Texas, was four holes down with eight to play at Flint Hills National before pulling off the second-biggest comeback in tournament history. "It's every junior's dream to win the U.S. Junior," Goodwin said. "It's the most prestigious junior event in the entire world. Everybody knows about it, and to add my name among the greats like Jordan Spieth and Tiger Woods just means everything to me."

Goodwin works with Spieth's instructor, Cameron McCormick, and the noted teacher was quick to send his pupil a congratulatory text message. "That just means a lot," Goodwin said. "He's done so much for my game. I can't really express my gratitude for Cameron. I wouldn't be where I am without him."

The match ended when Wolff conceded Goodwin's 6-foot birdie putt on the par-5 36th. Wolff drove left into the water hazard and was facing a putt for

double bogey. Goodwin plans to graduate from high school early and enroll at SMU in January. The 18-year-old Wolff, from Agoura Hills, California, will be a freshman at Oklahoma State.

"It's tough to come out on the bottom, but I played great all week," Wolff said. Goodwin dropped 4 down when Wolff took the par-3 28th with a birdie. Goodwin won the par-5 29th with a 35-foot birdie putt and took the par-4 30th, par-3 32nd and par-4 33rd with pars to pull even. The only larger comeback came two years ago when Phillip Barbaree edged Andrew Orischak in 37 holes at Colleton River Plantation Club after trailing by five holes with eight to play. Andy Hyeon Bo Shim, in 2012 at The Golf Club of New England, also rallied from 5 down at the start of the afternoon 18 in beating Jim Liu, 4 and 3. The USGA lengthened the final from 18 holes to 36 in 2005.

Last year, Goodwin fell 2 and 1 to Australia's Min Woo Lee at The Honors Course in Tennessee. Mason Rudolph (1950) and Tim Straub (1983) also won a year after falling in the title match. "It's a feeling that I'm still kind of trying to grasp," Goodwin said. — AP

## US TEEN ROOKIE KORDA GRABS 2-SHOT LPGA LEAD

**WASHINGTON:** US teen rookie Nelly Korda, the daughter of retired Czech tennis star Petr Korda, fired a five-under par 66 to seize a two-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the LPGA Marathon Classic.

Korda, who turns 19 next Friday, birdied four of the first seven holes and closed with birdies at the par-5 17th and 18th to stand on 15-under 198 after 54 holes at Highland Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania, Ohio. "There's still 18 more holes and a lot of golf left to be played, so I'm just going to stay patient and see how it goes," Korda said. "When you end on a birdie, you're just really excited to play the next day and get it going, so I'm definitely excited."

Korda, whose older sister Jessica is also on the circuit, seeks her first LPGA title. The world number 87's best finish in 14 LPGA starts this year was a share of fifth in January's season-opening Bahamas LPGA Classic. "Not really going to think about it too much," Korda said about playing in the final pairing. "I'm not going to get ahead of myself. I've done that a couple times this year and I'm just going to take it shot by shot." Starting the day one stroke off the lead after a second-round 64, Korda birdied the third hole and ran off three birdies in a row ending at the par-5 seventh. She closed the front nine with her lone bogey but finished with back-to-back birdies to seize the lead.

"It's a new position. I'm excited," Korda said of her first lead entering an LPGA final round. "My mentality hasn't changed. It's the same as the first two days. I just try to take it shot by shot." Petr Korda reached as

high as second in the world rankings and won the 1998 Australian Open title before retiring in 1999 while Jessica Korda, 24, has won four LPGA titles, most recently in Malaysia in 2015. South Korea's 28th-ranked Kim In-Kyung, who captured her fifth career LPGA title at last month's ShopRite Classic, fired a 68 to stand second on 200. Newly crowned US Women's Open champion Park Sung-Hyun fired a 67 to finish in a pack sharing third on 201 that included India's Aditi Ashok, Taiwan's Chien Pei-Yun and Americans Gerina Piller, Sandra Changkija and Lexi Thompson. "There are so many good young players out here on Tour that I don't even feel like I'm 18," Korda said. "But it's really cool." Ashok, who added the tournament to her schedule at the last minute in a bid to qualify for the Women's British Open in two weeks in Scotland, fired a 68. "This is my first time being in contention on the LPGA, but I'm assuming it's pretty much the same every tournament you're in contention," Ashok said. "I've won a couple times on the European Tour, so I'm going to hope that experience helps tomorrow."

Taiwan's rookie Chien, ranked 266th in the world, does not have a top-10 finish this season and has missed the cut in 10 of her 16 prior LPGA starts this year. "If I won I'd be very happy," she said. "It's very important because I play a lot of golf, trying to get qualified, the LPGA is pretty tough... Everybody is very hungry, very strong. I'm very lucky top 10." Piller, chasing her first LPGA title, fired a 70 to fall back. She has four runner-up showings in 34 career top-10 finishes. — AFP



**SYLVANIA:** Nelly Korda hits to the 18th green Saturday, during the third round of the LPGA Tour's Marathon Classic golf tournament at Highland Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania, Ohio. Korda birdie the hole. — AP

## CARSON PALMER FEELS STRONG STARTING 15TH NFL SEASON

**GLENDALE:** For the first time in his career, Carson Palmer abandoned his usual pattern and didn't throw at all for several months. The 37-year-old quarterback says the results are obvious as he begins his fifth training camp with the Arizona Cardinals.

"It's hard to explain. You just feel better," Palmer said before the team went through its first training camp practice Saturday. "You feel like you have more zip, more velocity. ... I feel like I can go out and throw 150 balls in practice. I don't think I felt that way coming into camp last year." After their disappointing 2016 season, the Cardinals aren't getting much national attention this year. Experts point to Palmer's age and the fact his play diminished a year ago after his outstanding 2015 campaign. Palmer is entering his 15th NFL season and said when he was younger he never dreamed he would play so long.

"In football years, I think it's perceived once you get to 35 you're old," he said, "but if you can still put it on every day and play and work out and train and prepare mentally, I look at it as being experienced and mature."

Coach Bruce Arians acknowledged that a team's success is usually tied to the play of its quarterback. "I've been fortunate to be around some really, really good ones," he said. "It's always



Carson Palmer

fun going to practices and going to the stadium on Sunday when you have a good one. When you don't have one, it's rough."

So, much of any success Arizona has this season will depend on Palmer, who is used to that kind of scrutiny. "You get probably a little nervous at first as you're coming up," he said, "but you get kind of addicted to it and enjoy it and enjoy the pressure that comes with the position."

Palmer had his best season as a professional in 2015, throwing for 4,671 yards and 35 touchdowns, both career highs, with 11 interceptions. He guided the team to a 13-3 record and an appearance in the NFC championship game, a loss at Carolina.

The team had virtually everybody back last year, but staggered to a 1-3 start and finished 7-8-1. Palmer had his sixth career 4,000-yard passing season (4,233), but his touchdown total dropped to 24 with 16 interceptions. He was better the last half of the season, after Arians started giving him off for Wednesday's practice.

That led to the decision to severely limit his throwing in the offseason. Palmer said he followed orders. "I've been playing so long you get so ingrained in throwing in March, April and June," he said, "and then to not do it is just odd. It just feels like something's wrong. But I listened to experts, like coach Arians. ... I listened to their approach and I'm all in." Much is being made of that "window of opportunity" nearly closing for this group of Cardinals. This could be the final go-round for the trio of Arians, Palmer and Larry Fitzgerald. One or more of them might retire after this season. Palmer said he doesn't know how much longer he will play. "I still love it," he said. "I'm excited to be here." — AP



## LEDECKY OFF TO A BLAZING START ON BUSY WEEK AT WORLDS

**BUDAPEST:** Katie Ledecky started a very busy week at the world championships with a dominating performance in the preliminaries of the 400-meter freestyle yesterday. The 20-year-old American set a meet record with a time of 3 minutes, 59.06 seconds, nearly 3 seconds ahead of the next-fastest qualifier, teammate Leah Smith (4:02.00). Barely breathing hard, Ledecky eclipsed her winning time of 3:59.13

from the world championships in Kazan two years ago. She heads into the evening final as an overwhelming favorite to defend her title, the only bit of drama being whether she can break her world record of 3:56.46 from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

"It's good to get the first swim out of the way," Ledecky said. "You're always a little bit nervous for the first swim. Now I can kind of carry that momentum forward through the rest of the meet."

Ledecky is hoping to win six gold medals in Budapest with a daunting schedule that would require her to swim a total of 6,300 meters. She won five gold medals at Kazan.

"I know how to manage a meet like this," Ledecky said. "I've worked toward this meet all year. Just trying to put it all together now." In other preliminaries on the first day of swimming at Duna

Arena, home country favorite Katinka Hosszu led the women's 100 individual medley, world-record holder Adam Peaty of Britain dominated the men's 100 breaststroke, Sweden's Sarah Sjöström paced the women's 100 butterfly, Austria's Felix Aueck topped the men's 400 freestyle and Ukraine's Andrii Govorov was fastest in the men's 50 fly.

Also qualifying for the men's 400 free final were China's Sun Yang, South

Korea's Park Tae-hwan and Australia's Mack Horton. Yang and Park have served suspensions for doping and drawn the ire of Horton, who doesn't think anyone caught using performance-enhancing drugs should be allowed to compete. Ledecky and Olympic gold medalist Simone Manuel are expected to join the U.S. women's relay for evening final. "That's all up to the coaches," Ledecky said. — AP

### TENNIS

## ISNER TO FACE AUSSIE QUALIFIER EBDEN IN NEWPORT FINAL

**WASHINGTON:** Top seed John Isner blasted 15 aces to defeat fellow American Bjorn Fratangelo 6-2, 6-4 Saturday, booking an ATP Hall of Fame Open final against Australian qualifier Matthew Ebden.

Isner has not faced a break point in three matches this week on the grass at Newport, Rhode Island, as he goes for his 11th career title and third Hall of Fame crown after 2011 and 2012.

"I've played three matches and six sets and I haven't played a tie-breaker I can't remember the last time I did that," Isner said. Ebden, the lowest-ranked ATP finalist of the year at 249th, downed Germany's 131st-ranked Peter Gojowczyk 6-3, 6-3 in the other semi-final.

The 29-year-old South African-born former Commonwealth Games bronze medalist, appearing in his maiden ATP semi-final, needed just 62 minutes to advance. "This is pretty cool," Ebden said. "I can't believe it. I'm obviously very happy. Definitely couldn't be happier, not only winning but getting lots of matches."

Isner, whose most recent ATP title came at Atlanta in 2015, made his first final since last November's Paris Masters, where he lost to Britain's top-ranked Andy Murray. The lanky 32-year-old credits work on being more aggressive on his return game for faster finishes than his trademark hard serves typically produce.

"There's no other way I should have to play. I should be aggressive. It's easier said than done," Isner said.

He likes the extra rest as well, noting the benefits to such stalwarts as world number one Andy Murray of Britain and Serbia's fourth-ranked Novak Djokovic. "I feel good," Isner said. "To be like Murray and Djokovic and win these matches 2 and 2, it's great."

Isner, ranked 21st, broke at love to close the first set in 34 minutes and the match ended after 72 minutes when 142nd-ranked Fratangelo swatted a forehand long, lifting Isner's career mark at Newport to 18-5.

Isner has won both prior matches against Ebden without dropping a set, in the fourth round at Indian Wells in 2012 and in the second round at Wimbledon in 2015. "It's going to be a tough match," Isner said of facing Ebden. "He's feeling very good about his game and I think it's his best surface."

Ebden, only 3-3 in ATP main draw matches this year until this week, has won six matches in as many days. He broke Gojowczyk five times and sealed victory on his second match point when the German smacked a backhand wide.

A left knee injury led to a long 2016 layoff for Ebden that revitalized his game once healthy. "That helped me turn a corner mentally and just enjoy myself," Ebden said. — AFP



**BUDAPEST:** Australia's Mack Horton (L) and Italy's Gabriele Detti (R) react after competing in a men's 400m freestyle heat during the swimming competition at the 2017 FINA World Championships in Budapest, yesterday. — AFP

### SWIMMING

## NERVOUS HORTON SETS UP SUN YANG SHOWDOWN

**BUDAPEST:** Olympic champion Mack Horton set up a showdown with Chinese superstar Sun Yang yesterday after the Australian squeezed into the men's 400m freestyle final at the world aquatic championships.

Horton dethroned Sun as Olympic champion over 400m at last year's Rio Games, branding the Chinese superstar a "drugs cheat" after his three-month doping ban in 2014. The pair will lock horns at the worlds in Budapest, but neither were fastest in the morning heats.

Austria's Felix Aueck clocked three minutes, 44.19 seconds with Sun second fastest at 0.36secs behind with Horton fifth fastest, at 1.41 back, of the eight finalists. "I felt OK in the morning and I took the heats as a warm-up. I will try my best in the final but I did not set any goal for the evening," said Sun. Horton admitted he had a few nervous moments after finishing third in his heat, but did enough to secure a berth in the final. "The plan was just to make the final. You usually go for the top two, so when I was third, I was a little bit worried, but it was OK," admitted Horton.

"I feel pretty relaxed, you always feel better when you get the first one out of the way and blow out the cobwebs. I just need to go faster tonight." On Friday, Horton described his clash with Sun as "a rivalry between elite athletes and athletes who have tested positive", but was more reserved after the heats, simply saying "everyone knows how I feel about that".

### LEDECKY, PEATY BLAST OUT

The USA's gold-medal machine Katie Ledecky could lower her own world record in the women's 400m freestyle final today evening. The 20-year-old broke her own championships record, set two years ago in Rio, when she clocked three min, 59.06 secs in the heats.

Her time was three seconds slower than the world record she set in Rio last year, but Ledecky says there is more to come. "It's good to get the first one out of the way, but I feel like I have more for tonight," said Ledecky.

"I've worked towards this meet all year, I'm just trying to put it all together now." Ledecky will compete in six freestyle events in Budapest and races twice yesterday evening. After the 400m final, she will join the USA's 4x100m freestyle relay squad, who were the fastest into the final.

Great Britain's Olympic breaststroke champion Adam Peaty came within a whisker of his own championships record as the fastest into Sunday's 100m semi-finals with 58.21secs, just ahead of Cody Miller and Kevin Cordes of the USA.

Peaty is looking to lower his world record of 57.13secs set in Rio last year. "It was a lot faster than I've normally been in heats, so it's looking very promising," said Peaty. "Personally, it's how far can I take my body."

Elsewhere, Sarah Sjöström, the defending world and Olympic champion, was the fastest into this evening's semi-finals of the women's 100m butterfly. Sweden's Sjöström clocked 55.96secs-half a second slower than her world record set last year at the Rio Olympics-with Kelsi Worrell of the USA and Australia's Emma McKeon, the next fastest qualifiers. Home-crowd favourite and Hungary's 'Iron Lady' Katinka Hosszu blasted her way into the women's 200m individual medley final today. The world record holder clocked the fastest time of two mins, 07.49 secs-more than two seconds faster than her nearest rival. — AFP

## MELBOURNE BEAT CANBERRA TO STAY TOP IN NRL TABLE

**SYDNEY:** Melbourne overcame injuries to stars Cameron Smith and Billy Slater to beat Canberra 20-14 and to stay atop the National Rugby League table with six regular season rounds remaining.

Canberra's Sia Soliola was placed on report for a late, swinging arm tackle on Slater, who was knocked out and carried from the field in the 50th minute. Melbourne protested that Soliola, who later set up a try for Canberra, should have been sent off.

"If it's not a sending off then I don't know what is a sending off," coach Craig Bellamy said. "For him to get knocked out like that, it's pretty severe. He's talking but he's not feeling too good." In a statement late Saturday, NRL referees boss Tony Archer agreed Soliola should have been sent off.

"It's important to note that Sia Soliola is on report and the matter will be addressed by the Match Review Committee," Archer said. "But based on a review of the tackle, the incident did meet the indicators of a send off."

Slater is thought likely to be sidelined for at least a week but Australia captain Smith, who left the field with a pectoral injury, might miss more of Melbourne's run-up to the playoffs. It was the first time since 2009 Smith played less than 50 minutes of a premiership match for Melbourne.

Smith later said the decision to leave the field was precautionary and the seri-

ousness of the injury was yet to be determined. "The decision was to come off because there's still a long way to go in the season," he said.

"It wasn't worth the risk, to be honest," Cameron Munster kicked a penalty after Slater's departure to give Melbourne a 14-6 lead before Soliola contributed to a try by Nick Cotric which cut their lead to four points with 15 minutes remaining.

Dale Finucane's second try restored the lead and Canberra halfback Aidan Sezer completed his double with a try in the final minute after Munster was sin-binned.

Canberra's loss was a major setback to its playoffs hopes, dropping it back to 10th place, two matches outside the top eight. The Roosters' 28-4 win over Newcastle left it in second place, two points behind Melbourne and two points ahead of Brisbane, who beat the Bulldogs 42-12. Brisbane took charge of the match when it scored 18 points in a seven-minute spell spanning halftime.

Cronulla beat Souths 26-12, and North Queensland beat the New Zealand Warriors 24-12 to join the Broncos in fourth and fifth places respectively, separated by points differential.

Sixth-placed Manly has a chance to move up when it plays St. George Illawarra on Sunday, while St. George could move up from eighth place. Parramatta, two points behind Manly in seventh place, plays Wests. — AP



**NASSAU:** The Australia girls team celebrate victory in the Girl's Rugby 7's Gold medal Final on day 4 of the 2017 Youth Commonwealth Games at QE Sports Centre on Friday in Nassau, Bahamas. — AFP

### RUGBY

## LIONS, CRUSADERS STAY ON COURSE FOR SUPER SHOWDOWN

**SYDNEY:** Leading contenders the Golden Lions and Canterbury Crusaders are one game away from playing off for this season's Super Rugby title after contrasting victories this weekend. South Africa's Lions, who finished top of the regular season standings, needed a huge late penalty goal from Ruan Combrinck to scrape home 23-21 over the Coastal Sharks in Johannesburg.

The Lions will face a New Zealand team for the first time this season, against defending champions Wellington Hurricanes, in next weekend's semi-finals. If the Lions win they will host the final on August 5. The Crusaders, bidding for their eighth Super Rugby crown, grounded out a 17-0 win over the Otago Highlanders in driving rain to reach the last four. The Crusaders have to negotiate an all-New Zealand semi-final against the Waikato Chiefs to advance to the final.

Shaun Stevenson scored a try four minutes from time to seal a 17-11 win for the Chiefs over South Africa's Western Stormers in Cape Town to claim their semi-final spot. The Lions, beaten only once this season, were facing a shock elimination at Ellis Park until Combrinck landed an angled 58-metre kick under massive pressure to squeeze home over the Sharks.

The Sharks, dismissed as no-hopers after a 17-point regular-season home loss to the Lions the previous weekend, built a 14-3 half-time lead and were one point ahead when Combrinck struck. The Crusaders scored two tries in wild weather to overcome the Highlanders in the South Island derby.

"It was hugely satisfying," coach Scott Robertson said. "It was a final, that was what we talked about because the Highlanders are better than a seventh-placed team. We knew we had to treat it as we did, and front up."

The result keeps alive the Crusaders' dream of adding to their record seven Super Rugby titles, their most recent success coming in 2008. The Hurricanes scored 20 unanswered points in a dominant second-half to keep alive their title hopes and end Australia's ACT Brumbies bid in Canberra. Wellington were relentless, overcoming a 16-15 half-time deficit in a 35-16 victory to reach the semi-finals.

"We knew they would come out with a lot of emotion and intent and we worked hard in the first-half and came away with building pressure in the second-half," All Black ace fly-half Beauden Barrett said. It was an emotional comeback to rugby for cancer survivor Christian Lealifano, who came on in the second-half as a replacement for the Brumbies. Hurricanes skipper TJ Perenara paid a post-match tribute to Lealifano: "I want to congratulate Christian for coming back."

"Everyone focuses on the game and the result, but when men like that come back with the fight he's had, it's humbling to be around him and he's inspiring not just to his team but to the rest of the rugby community." The Hurricanes' biggest win in Canberra extended New Zealand teams' record over Australian opposition to 26-0 this season.

The Chiefs survived some late pressure from the Stormers before hanging on for victory in South Africa. Substitute winger Stevenson gathered a long pass from skipper and fly-half Aaron Cruden to cross the line unopposed for the Chiefs' clinching try. "We are a team of warriors with a clear game plan that we try to execute whenever and wherever we play," All Black Cruden said.

"The Crusaders in Christchurch is going to be a tough test, but we can beat any Super Rugby team anywhere on our day." — AFP



British and Irish Lions in action



## KYLE BUSCH'S CLOSING QUALIFYING FLURRY LANDS INDY POLE

**INDIANAPOLIS:** Less than an hour after watching one winning streak end Saturday, Kyle Busch started working on another.

Now the two-time defending Brickyard 400 champion is in the best possible position for an unprecedented three-peat at Indianapolis.

Busch became the first Cup driver in nearly two decades to win back-to-back Indy poles by saving his fastest lap for the final one of the day. His speed of 187.301 mph was almost a mph faster than second-place Kevin Harvick and was the second-fastest pole-winning speed in the race's 24-year history.

"Obviously, we've had a really fast car," Busch said after winning his fourth pole of the season. "We've been focused on race trim and I felt like we did a pretty good job with that. But I wasn't sure about qualifying. So, obviously, they were listened to what our teammates

had to say."

He couldn't quibble with the results. Harvick's No. 4 Ford was second at 186.332 and Jamie McMurray, in the No. 1 Chevrolet, wound up third at 186.274. Nobody else topped 185. If the 2015 Cup champion wins Sunday, he will join former Formula One star Michael Schumacher as the only drivers with three straight Indy wins in the premier series of their respective leagues. Schumacher won the U.S. Grand Prix four consecutive times on the road course. Nobody has ever won three straight races on Indy's oval.

"We've just got to keep it there, stay up front and, of course, lead the last lap," Busch said as his 2-year-old son, Brexton, giggled into a microphone. For Busch, it was another marathon session on another hot, humid midsummer afternoon in the No. 18 Toyota.

He drove in both of the morning's

Cup practices, qualified for the NASCAR Xfinity Series race in the early afternoon and watched his four-race Indy winning streak snapped after a late pit stop dropped him from first to 21st. Busch finished 12th.

After about a 30-minute break, he was back in the car for three more qualifying rounds. His last lap allowed him to join Jeff Gordon (1995-96) and Ernie Irvan (1997-98) as the race's only back-to-back pole winners.

It certainly wasn't strategy. "When you're in such a short window, five minutes, you couldn't come back and get the tires cooled in time to make another lap," he said. But it was good enough. Harvick, meanwhile, found the consistency he was seeking but avoided going too hard to get into trouble.

"I think that was the right approach," Harvick said. "I've tried to get too much in the last round and this is just not the

place where you can overdrive the entry and make up for something. The problems compound fast here, but it's good to have that speed."

### GOING TO THE BACK

For the second consecutive week, series officials threw out a qualifying speed. This time, it was BJ McLeod who drew the penalty after a post-qualifying inspection showed the No. 51 car had taped shut a cooling aqueduct. It was supposed to remain open and the penalty cost McLeod five spots on the starting grid.

He will start from the back of the 40-car starting grid after initially qualifying 35th with a speed of 176.294. Kyle Larson's pole-winning run was disallowed last week at New Hampshire.

### JUNIOR'S FINALE

Dale Earnhardt Jr., the most popular

driver in the series, qualified 13th for his final Indianapolis start. The 42-year-old driver announced in April that he will retire at the end of the season. But before he goes, Earnhardt hopes to join Al Unser and Al Unser Jr. as the only two father-son winning tandems in Indy history.

"Considering how our season has gone, winning here would right all the wrongs," Earnhardt said. Chase Elliott, who qualified 16th, also has a chance to join the father-son winner's list Sunday.

### HARD LESSON

One of Harvick's spotters, Tim Fedewa, had his credential taken away briefly Saturday after dropping a sandwich from the spotter's stand. NASCAR spokesman Matt Humphrey said the hard card was returned following a short investigation. Fedewa is a former driver in the series. — AP



**ANAHEIM:** Kole Calhoun #56 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim is safe at second as second baseman Dustin Pedroia #13 of the Boston Red Sox can't reach the ball on a throwing error by shortstop Xander Bogaerts #2 on an attempted force play in the fifth inning at Angel Stadium of Anaheim on Saturday in Anaheim, California. — AFP

### BASEBALL

# SIMMONS SLUGS ANGELS TO WIN OVER RED SOX

**ANAHEIM:** Andrelton Simmons drove in three runs, including a go-ahead two-run homer and Albert Pujols went 3 for 4 with two RBIs as the Los Angeles Angels rallied for a 7-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox in Major League Baseball on Saturday. Simmons hit his 10th homer of the season to left and put the Angels ahead 4-3 in the third inning after falling behind early. Pujols doubled to score Yunel Escobar and Mike Trout to start the four-run burst. Pujols became the 26th player to score 1,700 runs when he touched home plate after Simmons went deep. Pujols joins Barry Bonds, Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Alex Rodriguez and Willie Mays in amassing at least 600 home runs and 1,700 runs. JC Ramirez (9-8) recorded his second win at home in 11 starts, striking out six while allowing one earned run and five hits in six innings. David Price (5-3) gave up five earned runs and seven hits in five innings, allowing more than three earned runs for only the second time this year.

### CUBS 3, CARDINALS 2

Kris Bryant raced home from first base on Anthony Rizzo's bloop double, capping the Cubs' three-run rally in the eighth inning. Bryant also had a tying, broken-bat single during the comeback. A classic pitchers' duel between Jon Lester and Adam Wainwright kept it scoreless into the eighth. Lester (7-6) had a perfect game until Wainwright singled with two outs in the sixth. Lester gave up three hits and struck out 10 in eight innings.

Wainwright allowed two runs on four hits in 7 2/3 innings, retiring 14 straight at one point.

### GIANTS 5, PADRES 4, 12 INNING

Backup catcher Nick Hundley singled in Kelby Tomlinson with two outs in the 12th for San Francisco. It was Hundley's fifth game-ending hit of his career and his first since July 11, 2014, with Baltimore. One day after the teams played 11 innings in a game that lasted nearly 5 hours, the Giants and Padres had another extended battle. Eduardo Nunez had three hits and two RBIs, Hundley singled twice and San Francisco took advantage of an error by San Diego shortstop Allen Cordoba that led to three unearned runs. Will Myers hit his second homer in two days as part of San Diego's four-run fourth. Josh Osich (3-1) retired five batters and struck out three in getting the win.

### MARINERS 6, YANKEES 5, 10 INNINGS

Nelson Cruz hit a winning single off Adam Warren in the 10th inning, and Seattle beat New York after Edwin Diaz allowed a tying hit to Ronald Torreyes in the ninth. Masahiro Tanaka had another shaky outing and New York trailed 4-2 before Aaron Judge hit his MLB-leading 32nd home run, a sixth inning drive against Steve Cishek. Diaz blew a save for the fourth time in 22 chances when Didi Gregorius walked leading off the ninth, pinch-runner Jacoby Ellsbury stole second and Torreyes followed with a single. Ben Gamel opened the 10th with a double against Warren

(2-2), Robinson Cano was intentionally walked and Cruz lined a pitch to left for his AL-leading 75th RBI. Tony Zych (4-2) pitched a perfect 10th, throwing called third strikes past Clint Frazier and Judge.

### BREWERS 9, PHILLIES 8

Domingo Santana singled home the go-ahead run in the ninth inning after the Brewers blew a big lead, and Milwaukee ended a season-worst six-game losing streak. Ryan Braun homered and drove in four runs, and Travis Shaw also homered for the Brewers, who maintained a one-game lead over the Cubs in the NL Central division. Milwaukee led 8-1 after batting in the seventh and manager Craig Counsell removed Braun, who had missed the past three games with a wrist injury. The Phillies rallied to tie it with four runs in the seventh and three in the eighth. Santana came through with a one-out single to left off Hector Neris (2-4) to score Hernan Perez and put Milwaukee back in front. Jacob Barnes (3-1) gave up three runs and four hits in the eighth but ended up getting the win. Herrera had four hits with a homer and a pair of doubles for Philadelphia, which had won three straight.

### MARLINS 5, REDS 4

J.T. Realmuto hit a pair of two-run homers and a double, powering Miami to its second straight victory. Miami won for only the third time in eight games, getting its first back-to-back wins since the All-Star break. Realmuto connected in the second and sixth innings off Robert Stephenson (0-3), who made his first start of the season after 13 relief appearances. It was the catcher's second career multi-homer game - he also had one in 2015. Nick Wittgren (3-1) relieved starter Chris O'Grady in the fifth and got the win. Scooter Gennett singled home a run in the eighth off Junichi Tazawa, cutting it to 5-4. A.J. Ramos pitched the ninth for his 19th save in 21 chances.

### NATIONALS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Bryce Harper homered and drove in two runs, Tanner Roark struck out a season-high 11 and Sean Doolittle stranded the potential tying run to preserve the Nationals' win. Roark (8-6) gave up two runs and three hits in seven innings for the NL East-leading Nationals. Harper hit his 25th home run of the season on a full-count changeup from Anthony Banda (0-1), who lost in his major league debut. Chris Iannetta hit a two-out RBI double in the bottom half, but the Nationals opened a 4-1 lead with a three-run sixth. Harper hit a run-scoring double and scored on Ryan Zimmerman's double, and Anthony Rendon beat out an RBI sin-

gle that sent Zimmerman home.

### ROCKIES 7, PIRATES 3

Colorado's German Marquez matched a career best with nine strikeouts in seven solid innings and also had a wayward pitch that fueled a near brawl. Mark Reynolds added a pair of run-scoring singles and Charlie Blackmon scored after doubling in the third and tripling in the eighth. Marquez (8-4) hit Andrew McCutchen with a pitch in the sixth inning, and the Pirates outfielder strode toward the mound before being headed off by the home plate umpire and taking his base. Pittsburgh's Chad Kuhl then threw an inside pitch in the sixth that narrowly missed Carlos Gonzalez. Players and coaches from both teams streamed onto the field and though there were some heated exchanges, no punches were thrown. Greg Holland got four outs for his major league-leading 31st save in 32 chances. Kuhl (3-7) allowed four runs and nine hits in six innings.

### DODGERS 6, BRAVES 2

Chris Taylor drove in three runs with a home run and a triple, and Corey Seager and Chase Utley hit solo home runs to lead the Dodgers past Atlanta. Ending the two-game hiccup which saw the Dodgers outscored 18-6, Los Angeles has won 32 of 38, and 19 of 22 at Dodger Stadium, for the best record in Major League Baseball. The Dodgers' 67-31 mark is their best through 98 games since the Brooklyn Dodgers were 69-29 in 1942. Taylor led off the bottom of the inning by driving an 0-1 pitch from Julio Teheran (7-8) into the left field bleachers, giving the Dodgers a 4-2 lead. Taylor added a two-run triple off reliever Luke Jackson with two outs in the eighth for the final margin. Dodgers starter Rich Hill (7-4) struck out eight as he held the Braves to two runs and six hits over 6 1/3 innings.

### METS 6, ATHLETICS 5

Wilmer Flores hit a solo home run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning as New York rallied from an early five-run deficit to beat Oakland for its fourth consecutive victory. Pinch-hitter Lucas Duda delivered a tying single with two outs in the eighth off left-hander Daniel Coulombe. Jay Bruce hit a two-run homer in the sixth to begin New York's comeback, and Jose Reyes tripled twice. Hansel Robles (6-1) tossed a hitless inning to win for the second straight day.

### ROYALS 7, WHITE SOX 2

Mike Moustakas homered twice, and Salvador Perez, Brandon Moss and Jorge Bonifacio also went deep to lead Kansas City over the White Sox, extending Chicago's

longest losing streak in two years to eight games. Mike Pelfrey took a two-hitter into the sixth, but put leadoff man Lorenzo Cain on with his sixth walk. David Holmberg (1-3) relieved and gave up three homers in an eight-pitch span. Perez's two-run homer tied the score, Moustakas homered two pitches later, and Moss then homered for a 4-2 lead.

### ASTROS 8, ORIOLES 4

Marwin Gonzalez stepped in for injured Colin Moran and delivered a pinch-hit, three-run homer in the sixth inning to propel Houston past Baltimore. Moran fouled a ball off his left eye and had difficulty standing before being carted from the field. An update on his condition was not immediately available. Gonzalez subsequently ended a nine-pitch at-bat by driving a 2-2 offering from Darren O'Day (1-3) over the right-field wall. It was Houston's first pinch-hit homer of the season, and it capped a five-run uprising that wiped out Baltimore's 4-1 lead. Alex Bregman and Yuli Gurriel also homered for the Astros. Astros right-hander Collin McHugh allowed four runs in 4 2/3 innings in his season debut and Francis Martes (3-0) pitched 2 1/3 innings of hitless relief.

### INDIANS 2, BLUE JAYS 1

Francisco Lindor hit a leadoff home run in the bottom of the 10th inning as Cleveland defeated Toronto. Lindor hit a 2-2 pitch from Danny Barnes (2-3) to right field for his 15th homer of the season. Bryan Shaw (3-4) retired Kevin Pillar on a groundout with two on to end the 10th.

### TWINS 6, TIGERS 5

Kyle Gibson took a shutout into the eighth inning in his longest start of the season. Zack Granite had three of the Twins' 14 hits, and Minnesota held off a late rally to beat Detroit. The Twins have been rumored to be searching for starting pitching as the trade deadline approaches and Gibson (6-8), who entered the game with a 6.29 ERA, was a likely candidate to be replaced in the rotation. Brandon Kintzler retired Andrew Romine on a grounder to get out of the eighth inning and then pitched a scoreless ninth for his 27th save.

### RANGERS 4, RAYS 3

Texas turned three Tampa Bay miscues into a three-run sixth inning and beat the Rays. Elvis Andrus, who entered the series hitless in 16 at-bats, homered in his second consecutive three-hit game for the Rangers. Andrew Cashner (5-8) gave up three runs and four hits over six innings. Chris Archer (7-6) allowed four runs, four hits and struck out 11 to set a team record with his 24th career game with double-digit strikeouts. — AP

## MLB Results/Standings

LA Dodgers 6, Atlanta 2; Seattle 6, NY Yankees 5 (10 innings); LA Angels 7, Boston 3; Colorado 7, Pittsburgh 3; Washington 4, Arizona 3; Kansas City 7, Chicago White Sox 2; Texas 4, Tampa Bay 3; Minnesota 6, Detroit 5; Miami 5, Cincinnati 4; NY Mets 6, Oakland 5; Cleveland 2, Toronto 1 (10 innings); Houston 8, Baltimore 4; Milwaukee 9, Philadelphia 8; San Francisco 5, San Diego 4 (12 innings); Chicago Cubs 3, St. Louis 2.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	55	44	.556	-	Washington	58	38	.604	-
NY Yankees	50	46	.521	3.5	Atlanta	47	49	.490	11
Tampa Bay	51	47	.520	3.5	NY Mets	45	50	.474	12.5
Baltimore	46	51	.474	8	Miami	44	51	.463	13.5
Toronto	44	53	.454	10	Philadelphia	33	62	.347	24.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	50	45	.526	-	Milwaukee	53	47	.530	-
Minnesota	49	47	.510	1.5	Chicago Cubs	50	46	.521	1
Kansas City	49	47	.510	1.5	Pittsburgh	49	49	.500	3
Detroit	44	52	.458	6.5	St. Louis	47	50	.485	4.5
Chicago White Sox	38	56	.404	11.5	Cincinnati	40	57	.412	11.5
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	65	32	.670	-	LA Dodgers	67	31	.684	-
Seattle	49	50	.495	17	Arizona	56	41	.577	10.5
LA Angels	48	51	.485	18	Colorado	57	42	.576	10.5
Texas	47	50	.485	18	San Diego	42	55	.433	24.5
Oakland	43	54	.443	22	San Francisco	38	61	.384	29.5



## COUTINHO BID A WASTE OF TIME, KLOPP TELLS BARCA

**HONG KONG:** Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has told Barcelona they are wasting their time trying to sign Brazilian playmaker Philippe Coutinho no matter the offer. Klopp has already rejected a \$93 million bid for Coutinho, who scored a superb winner in Liverpool's 2-1 Premier League Asia Trophy victory over Leicester City in Hong Kong on Saturday.

Barca are set to test Liverpool's resolve with an improved offer but Klopp has told the Catalan giants not

to bother. "If I say he is not for selling, he is not for selling," the German told British media.

"There is nothing else to say. It's a club decision, it's my decision. That's how it is." Liverpool sold Luis Suarez to Barca and Raheem Sterling to Manchester City in recent years but Klopp bristled when asked if he had received assurances from the board that Coutinho would not be next. "I can say 20 times, he is not for sale," said Klopp, who has been frustrated so far

in his attempts to sign Leipzig midfielder Naby Keita and Southampton defender Virgil van Dijk during the transfer window. "If you ask the other question the other way and I say, 'there has been no assurance', you make the story the other way. 'With Suarez I was far away,' added the former Borussia Dortmund coach, who joined Liverpool in 2015.

"When the club sold Sterling I was maybe the last to know about it. Those situations have nothing to do with this

one. "We are approaching a very important moment and we want to get better. For this we have to keep our key players," said Klopp, insisting his word was final. "There is no story for me," he added. "Whatever happens from their side, I say he is not for sale. You can say whatever you want. The answer is 'not for sale'."

Klopp confirmed he had spoken to Coutinho in private at the team's hotel in Hong Kong before Saturday's game but refused to reveal what was said.

The German did, however, explain the reason for his first-half rant at referee Bobby Madley following some heavy challenges on Coutinho. "I was not too happy about two decisions around Phil," said Klopp. "He (Madley) told me if I behave like I behaved today (in the Premier League) then I would have to go in the stands. 'I said: 'If I behave like today then I go in the stand, no problem. But you have to change how you whistle'. For me, it was a clear foul, it's dangerous." —AFP

## DE GEA 'GUARANTEED' TO STAY AT UNITED: MOURINHO

**SANTA CLARA:** Jose Mourinho has given a "guarantee" that David De Gea will stay at Manchester United this season, despite the long-running saga over a potential move to Real Madrid. Transfer speculation over De Gea returning to hometown club Real has stretched on for the last two years, ever since the goalkeeper was a whisker away from heading to the Bernabeu in the summer of 2015. But ahead of United's International Champions Cup pre-season encounter against Real, Mourinho has delivered an unequivocal message about the 26-year-old's future.

Mourinho implied that there were negotiations with Real which fell through last summer, yet he believes the prospect of returning to La Liga has now become less appealing for the Spanish international. "I can guarantee that he's not going this season. My feeling is that it will be very difficult for him to go," said Mourinho. "He's a very honest boy, very straight. He was contacted for a long time.

The club was closed [for negotiations]. "Then we opened [it] because I always have this feeling that when a player has the desire to go, I don't like to stop them. In the end, you don't get from them what you expect. "So we opened it and then they decided to close. "I don't think the feeling from him [towards Real] is very good. I see him really happy, focused and working better than ever. For me, 100 per cent he stays with us." Prior to the £75million (\$97.4 million) signing of Romelu Lukaku, United had been keen to do business with Real after pursuing now Chelsea frontman Alvaro Morata.

### BALE NO-GO

But Mourinho has confirmed that Real's ex-Tottenham winger Gareth Bale was never a realistic target. He said: "You have contacts, you have feelings, you understand things. It was clear that Bale likes Madrid, likes the situation and is in a club with a very good situation now.

"I never felt the desire for him to leave so why use time and energy on that?" Mourinho still hopes to add a further two players to his squad before the end of the summer transfer window, despite describing the market as "very difficult."

But while Mourinho is content with the make-up of his current options, he faces going into the new season without the injured trio of Luke Shaw, Ashley Young and Marcos Rojo. The three have been recuperating with United's squad in California, yet Shaw is ruled out until September, Young until October and Rojo until December. "No chance [that any are fit] for the beginning of the Premier League," said Mourinho.

"But it's good to have them, good for them to be with us and recover with the group." Their absence does open the door for the young hopefuls at United. The likes of Timothy Fosu-Mensah, Andreas Pereira and Axel Tuanzebe are all due to feature against Real, in Santa Clara, with Mourinho keen to rest several key figures after Thursday's win over Manchester City. "I'm going to play other players and give rest for some," added Mourinho. "[For] Tim Fosu Mensah and Andreas Pereira, it's going to be a great experience for them." —AFP



**PARIS:** Tour de France winner Britain's Chris Froome, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, holds son Kellan as his wife Michelle looks on on the Champs Elysees avenue after the twenty-first and last stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 103 kilometers (64 miles) with start in Montgeron and finish in Paris, France, yesterday. — AP

### CYCLING

## FROOME WINS FOURTH TOUR DE FRANCE TITLE

**PARIS:** Briton Chris Froome secured his fourth Tour de France title at the end of the 21st and final stage won by Dylan Groenewegen in Paris yesterday.

Sky's Froome had previously won the 2013, 2015 and 2016 editions and sits fifth overall in the all-time list of Tour victors behind greats Eddy Merckx, Jacques Anquetil, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain.

At the end of three weeks, 21 stages and more than 3,500km, Froome rolled over the line on the Champs Elysees with a broad grin alongside his Sky team-mates, who wore a special kit for the occasion with their usual blue stripe replaced by a yellow one.

It was Froome's closest Tour struggle yet as his final winning margin was less than a minute for the first time, Colombia's Rigoberto Uran finishing second at 54sec with Romain Bardet of France, the runner-up last year, third at 2min 20sec.

The 103km final stage began with a nod to history in Montgeron, where the very first stage of the inaugural Tour in 1903 also began, at a leisurely pace giving Froome, his team-mates and the winners of the other distinctive jerseys the chance to celebrate with glasses of champagne as they rode out of the town and towards the French capital.

By the time they got there the tempo had risen to the opposite scale of the spectrum and it was a full pelt bunch that rode to the finish, where 24-year-old Groenewegen struck out for home from a long way out and held off the hard-charging Andre Greipel, winner on the Champs Elysees in the previous two years, with Edvald Boasson Hagen third.

Dutchman Groenewegen of the Lotto NL Jumbo team secured the biggest victory of his young career but the day undoubtedly belonged to Froome. Alongside the yellow jersey winner, Australia's Michael Matthews won the sprinters' green points jersey, France's Warren Barguil triumphed in the polkadot king of the mountains competition and Simon Yates of Britain succeeded twin brother Adam as the best young rider in the white jersey.

Froome's Sky finished as the best team having claimed the yellow helmets on the first stage in Dusseldorf three weeks ago and never relinquished their lead in the competition, which they won for the first time despite claiming the yellow jersey in five of the last six years.

The last remaining prize went to Barguil, a winner of two stages, who was named the most combative rider of the Tour. — AFP

### SOCCER

## DEMPSEY RECORD GOAL, ASSIST LEADS US INTO GOLD CUP FINAL

**ARLINGTON:** Clint Dempsey grew up playing youth soccer in the Dallas area, nearly 200 miles from his Texas hometown. Back in his home state and coming off the bench, Dempsey matched the American international scoring record and sparked the US to a spot in the CONCACAF Gold Cup title game.

Dempsey fed Jozy Altidore for the go-ahead goal not long after entering, then scored on a free kick to match Landon Donovan with his 57th international goal Saturday night in a 2-0 semifinal win over Costa Rica.

"This has to be the best in Texas for me, since I tied the record and it was an important game," the 34-year-old forward from Nacogdoches. Dempsey entered in the 66th minute and made a perfectly timed through pass six minutes later that allowed Altidore to break in alone and beat goalkeeper Patrick Pemberton with a left-footed shot from 10 yards. Dempsey doubled the lead in the 82nd minute with a 27-yard shot that went around a four-man defensive wall that got past Pemberton on two bounces. "I saw the keeper cheating a little bit, and it went in," Dempsey said.

Dempsey has 136 international appearances, trailing only Cobi Jones (164) and Donovan (157) among American men. The assist was his 20th for the national team. "Coming back from two heart procedures, being able to still play at this level," Dempsey said in his Texas twang, "living a dream. So I'm happy."

After starting in Wednesday's quarterfinal win over El Salvador, Dempsey moved to a reserve role against the Ticos. While the US inserted five new starters in a roster rotation, Costa Rica went with the same 11 who opened in Wednesday's win against Panama. "I know it's something that was important to Clint, and to score that goal in a big game makes it even more special for him," coach Bruce Arena said.



**ARLINGTON:** Clint Dempsey #28 of United States controls the ball against Yeltsin Tejada #17 of Costa Rica and Giancarlo Gonzalez #3 of Costa Rica during the 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup Semifinal at AT&T Stadium on Saturday in Arlington, Texas. — AFP

## SPURS OPEN PRE-SEASON WITH 4-2 FRIENDLY WIN OVER PSG

**ORLANDO:** Harry Kane's late penalty helped Tottenham Hotspur start their pre-season preparations in emphatic fashion as French champions Paris St Germain imploded in Orlando. PSG were reduced to 10 men just moments into the second half when German goalkeeper Kevin Trapp, who had endured an awful first 45 minutes, was sent off for handballing outside of the box.

And although Unai Emery's side were difficult to break down, late strikes from Belgian defender Toby Alderweireld and Kane, both on as substitutes, sealed a 4-2 triumph in front of 33,332 fans at the Camping World Stadium. It's very early days in this pre-season yet there was certainly enough on show from the London team to suggest a strong campaign in the Premier League beckons.

Both teams arrived at the Camping World stadium with tremendous uncertainty surrounding their transfer dealings this summer. The French champions are reportedly poised to land Neymar from Barcelona in a world record 222-million euro (\$256.8 million) deal, and also remain confident of landing Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez.

Emery was giving nothing away when asked about the potential transfers. "We are always looking for players who can help the team," he said. "Now for us the most important thing is to concentrate on the matches we have coming up," added the coach, who on the evidence of Saturday's game could use the infusion of talent. Tottenham, meanwhile, were once again forced to contest claims that Eric Dier, their versatile

England international, was the subject of a \$50 million bid from Manchester United. There is certain to be movement involving both teams as their respective domestic seasons draw closer, yet this was the first time Mauricio Pochettino's side had played this pre-season.

PSG beat Roma on penalties in Detroit last Wednesday after their exhibition game finished 1-1 after 90 minutes. That match saw Dani Alves, the Brazilian defender, make his Paris debut following his transfer from Juventus and he was started again here by Emery in a line-up which also included Thiago Motta and Uruguayan forward Edinson Cavani. Pochettino, whose side travel to New York on Sunday ahead of Tuesday's match with Roma at Red Bull Arena, kept star men Kane and Dele Alli on the bench, although Dier began in midfield alongside Mousa Dembele. On six minutes, Cavani powered the French side ahead. Youngster Cameron Carter-Vickers was caught out by Adrien Rabiot who raced clear and squared for the Uruguayan frontman.

Tottenham looked culpable defensively, yet just five minutes later, Christian Eriksen pulled the Premier League side level. The Danish international unleashed an unstoppable, curling effort from 30 yards which flew past Kevin Trapp into the top corner.

While Eriksen's equaliser was world class, Dier's 18th minute goal was pure luck. Trapp's poor clearance was hit straight at the Spurs player who gleefully saw the ball rebound over the line. — AFP



**ORLANDO:** Cameron Carter-Vickers #38 of Tottenham Hotspur leaps for the ball during the International Champions Cup 2017 match between Paris Saint-Germain and Tottenham Hotspur at Camping World Stadium on Saturday in Orlando, Florida. — AFP

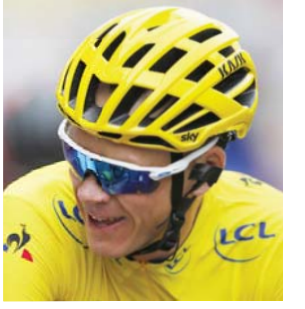


# Sports

Spieth sets out looking to win British Open title



Froome wins fourth Tour de France title



MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017

SIMMONS SLUGS ANGELS TO WIN OVER RED SOX

Page 14



LONDON: England players pose with the trophy after winning the ICC Women's World Cup cricket final between England and India at Lord's cricket ground in London yesterday. — AFP

## ENGLAND EDGE INDIA IN WOMEN'S WORLD CUP FINAL

LONDON: Anya Shrubsole bowled England to a dramatic nine-run win over India in the Women's World Cup final at Lord's yesterday. India, set 229 to win, were well on course for victory at 191 for three in front of a full house of more than 26,000. But the dismissal of opener Punam Raut, who made a fine 86, lbw to Shrubsole, sparked a stunning collapse. Shrubsole took five wickets for 11 runs in 19 deliveries as India, bidding for a first World Cup title on the ground where their men's side won an inaugural World Cup crown in 1983, slumped to 219 all out. Pace bowler Shrubsole finished with stunning figures of six for 46 in 9.4 overs as England won a fourth World Cup title and third on home soil, by gaining revenge for their opening group stage loss to India. Opener Smriti Mandhana—who made 90 in that match—was bowled for a duck by Shrubsole. But fellow opener Raut hit Shrubsole back over her head for six. Meanwhile India captain Mithali Raj, in what was, together with fellow 34-year-old Jhulan Goswami, likely to be her last chance to win a World Cup after being on the losing side in 2005, struck several fine boundaries. But the all-time leading run-scorer in women's one-day internationals, effectively ran herself out for just 17.

Her exit brought in the big-hitting Harmanpreet Kaur, whose stunning 171 not out had set up India's semi-final win over reigning champions Australia. Kaur lofted and swept left-arm spinner Alex Hartley for two huge sixes.

Raut went to fifty in 78 balls and Kaur got there in 80 balls. But the duo were separated when Kaur swept Hartley straight to Tammy Beaumont at deep backward square to end a stand of 95. Sarah Taylor, arguably the best wicket-keeper in the women's game, then missed a chance to stump Raut, on 65 off spinner Laura Marsh. Another chance went begging when Veda Krishnamurthy (10) was dropped by England captain Heather Knight at extra cover off pace bowler Jenny Gunn. India's target was now under a run a ball and Veda Krishnamurthy raised a fifty stand with Raut off just 54 balls when she cut

SCOREBOARD		
LONDON: Scoreboard in the Women's World Cup final between England and India at Lord's yesterday:		
<b>England</b>		
L. Winfield b Gayakwad	24	M. Raj run out (Sciver/Taylor)
T. Beaumont c Goswami b Yadav	23	H. Kaur c Beaumont b Hartley
S. Taylor c Verma b Goswami	45	V. Krishnamurthy c Sciver b Shrubsole
H. Knight lbw b Yadav	1	S. Verma b Hartley
N. Sciver lbw b Goswami	51	D. Sharma c Sciver b Shrubsole
F. Wilson lbw b Goswami	0	J. Goswami b Shrubsole
K. Brunt run out (Sharma)	34	S. Pandey run out (Shrubsole/Taylor)
J. Gunn not out	25	P. Yadav not out
L. Marsh not out	14	R. Gayakwad b Shrubsole
Extras (lb3, w7, nb1)	11	Extras (lb3, w7, nb1)
Total (7 wks, 50 overs)	228	Total (all out, 48.4 overs)
Did not bat: A Shrubsole, A Hartley		
Fall of wickets: 1-47 (Winfield), 2-60 (Beaumont), 3-63 (Knight), 4-146 (Taylor), 5-146 (Wilson), 6-164 (Sciver), 7-196 (Brunt)		Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Mandhana), 2-43 (Raj), 3-138 (Kaur), 4-191 (Raut), 5-196 (Verma), 6-200 (Krishnamurthy), 7-201 (Goswami), 8-218 (Pandey), 9-218 (Sharma), 10-219 (Gayakwad)
Bowling: Goswami 10-3-23-3 (3w); Pandey 7-0-53-0 (1nb, 1w); Gayakwad 10-1-49-1 (1w); Sharma 9-0-39-0 (1w); Yadav 10-0-36-2; Kaur 4-0-25-0 (1w)		Bowling: Brunt 6-0-22-0; Shrubsole 9.4-0-46-6 (4w); Sciver 5-1-26-0; Gunn 7-2-17-0 (1w); Marsh 10-1-40-0 (1w); Hartley 10-0-58-2 (1w); Knight 1-0-7-0
<b>India</b>		Result: England won by nine runs.
P. Raut lbw b Shrubsole	86	
S. Mandhana b Shrubsole	0	

Shrubsole over point and drove her over mid-off for two fours in as many balls. Raut's fine innings ended when she was lbw to Shrubsole, having faced 115 balls including four fours and a six.

It was the start of a cascade of wickets as panic set in. Krishnamurthy made a fine 35 before she holed out off Shrubsole before Goswami was yorked by Shrubsole for a duck. Shika Pandey was run out before Shrubsole, after Jenny Gunn had dropped a simple catch, ended the match by bowling Rajeshwari Gayakwad for a duck as England won yet another close game this World Cup. Earlier pace bowler Goswami took three for 23 in 10 overs as India held England to 228 for seven.

Goswami's haul, which saw her take two wickets

in two balls, included the dismissals of star batsman Taylor (45) and top-scorer Nat Sciver (51). England started steadily after Knight won the toss. But from 47 for none, they lost three wickets in quick succession to be 63 for three, with leg-spinner Poonam Yadav (two for 36) having Knight lbw for just one on the sweep.

Taylor and Sciver put on 83 before Goswami, the all-time leading wicket-taker in women's ODIs, struck in her second spell. Taylor was caught down the leg-side by wicket-keeper Sushma Verma. And 146 for four became 146 for five when Fran Wilson was lbw for a golden duck next ball. But England's tail, with Katherine Brunt making 34, took them past 200 and those runs proved vital in the end. —AFP



EAST RUTHERFORD: Barcelona's Brazilian forward Neymar (C) vies for the ball with Juventus players during the International Champions Cup (ICC) match between Juventus FC and FC Barcelona, at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on Sunday. FC Barcelona defeated Juventus 2-1. — AFP

## NEYMAR DAZZLES AS BARCA DOWN JUVENTUS

EAST RUTHERFORD: Neymar gave Barcelona fans a dazzling reminder of what they could be about to lose on Saturday, scoring twice as the Spanish giants defeated Juventus 2-1 in a pre-season friendly. The 25-year-old Brazilian superstar is at the centre of frenzied speculation linking him to a gargantuan, world record 222-million-euro (\$256.8 million) transfer to Paris Saint-Germain.

Neymar had kept the guessing game about his future bubbling away after posting a picture of himself looking pensive on Instagram on Friday. But there was little to suggest that the charismatic striker is overwhelmed by the transfer saga as he produced a bewitching performance in front of a sell-out 82,104 crowd at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. The Brazilian broke clear after only four minutes but saw a tame shot from near the edge of the area drift away from the goal.

Barcelona, with Lionel Messi starting, looked by far the more threatening of the two teams with Aleix Vidal and Messi both drawing early blocks from the Juventus defence.

At the other end Mario Mandzukic might have given Juve the lead on 14 minutes but his header from a Stefano Sturaro cross went wide. The Italians were made to rue Mandzukic's profligacy a minute later when Neymar fired the Catalans into the lead, playing a clever one-two with Paco Alcacer and drilling his finish past Gianluigi Buffon. Nine

minutes later and Neymar grabbed his second, picking his way through a static Juventus defence before burying a low shot beyond Buffon once more. Neymar might have had a hat-trick three minutes from half-time, when Messi floated a delightful pass in behind the Juve defence for the Brazilian. Buffon on this occasion was equal to the challenge however and blocked safely.

Barcelona rang the changes at half-time, withdrawing all but two of their starting line-up, Neymar exiting for Sergi Roberto and Arda Turan replacing Messi.

Juventus also made a raft of substitutions which led to the introduction of Paulo Dybala, Gonzalo Higuain and Douglas Costa amongst others. The changes immediately gave Juve a sharper attacking edge and Dybala was quick to test Adria Ortola with a rasping shot on 62 minutes that was turned around for a corner.

From the ensuing setpiece, Giorgio Chiellini nodded home Dybala's cross to make it 2-1. However it was Barcelona who finished the stronger of the two sides, with Luis Suarez repeatedly threatening to extend the Spanish side's lead. Man of the moment Neymar departed the stadium without addressing reporters, while Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde could only repeat his desire to keep the Brazilian. "We want Neymar to be with us," Valverde said. "We know his value on the pitch and what he brings to the locker room." —AFP



LONDON: England's Jenny Gunn slides into the crease as India's Rajeshwari Gayakwad unsuccessfully attempts to run her out during the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 final match between England and India at Lord's in London. — AP





**Nissan Al-Babtain launches new 2018 Nissan Pathfinder in Kuwait**

## SMALL-CAP RALLY COULD SHRINK ON EARNINGS, TAX HURDLES

# VIVA REPORTS KD 19.5M NET PROFIT

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the financial results for the six-month period ended 30 June 2017; whereby VIVA's net profit grew to reach KD 19.5 million recording a growth of 1 percent compared to the same period in 2016; whereas the revenues during the first six-month period in 2017 reached KD 133 million. VIVA achieved these results due to a bundle of innovative plans and offers to meet all customers segments' needs and aspirations, in addition to direct customer-focused marketing campaigns.

telecommunications solutions to satisfy our customers' aspirations and needs."

He added, "VIVA was able to achieve net profit of KD 19.5 million (earnings per share of 39 fils) during the six month period ended 30 June 2017 compared to net profit of KD 19.4 million (earnings per share of 39 fils) during the same period in 2016. These results achieved by VIVA during the first six-month period in 2017 reflect the efficient business strategy adopted by the company to achieve outstanding results despite of the increasing competition. In addition, VIVA managed to achieve positive earnings for its shareholders as a result of the commitment to elevate the quality of customer service and improving the operational efficiency."

On his part, Eng. Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, VIVA's CEO said: "Results of the six-month period ended 30 June 2017 came in line with VIVA's goals and boundless ambitions to achieve an increase in its operational revenues and strengthen its leadership in the telecom market. It is noteworthy to mention that, VIVA has won many awards including "Best Telecommunications Company of the year, Kuwait 2016" by International Finance Magazine in recognition of the telecom firm's exceptional performance and leadership role through innovative solutions and technology, which serve all the segments in the Kuwaiti market."

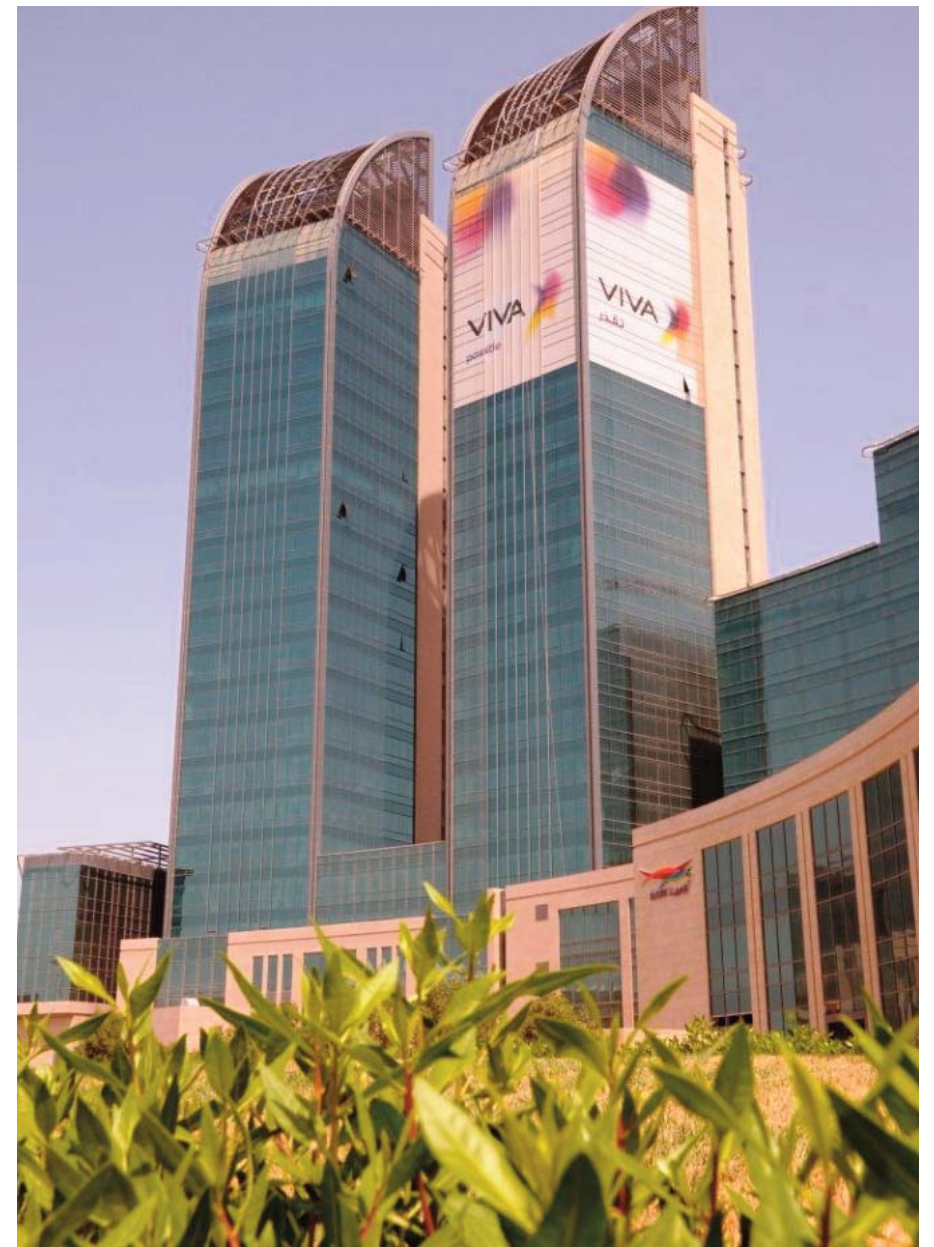
He said, "The Best Contact Centre Experience", "Excellence Governance Award", "VIP Customer Service Award", ISO/IEC 27001:2013 certification for Information Security Management System, attaining global status by meeting applicable mandatory requirements from two leading entities International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electro technical Commission (IEC). In addition VIVA successfully established the first Voice Over LTE (VoLTE) interconnection in the Middle East and North

Africa region in partnership with a local network, and was the first telecom company in Kuwait that has successfully tested the fifth-generation "5G" in its lab that will enable customers to exchange information and communicate at higher speeds."



Al-Badran added, "VIVA has achieved good levels of profitability which improved the company's financial and operational efficiency. As a result, VIVA recorded revenues of KD 133 million during the first six-month period in 2017 and achieved net profit of KD 19.5 million (earnings per share of 39 fils), whereas the operating profit has reached KD 20.8 million during the same period. On the other hand, VIVA customer base has reached 2.2 million at the end of June, 2017."

"VIVA's financial results reflect its ability to compete, sustain revenues and maintain its position as the second largest telecom operator in the Kuwaiti market in term of revenues in the telecom sector. The company managed to decrease its leverage ratio due to its conservative financial policy to reach 0.27x at the end of June 2017 as compared to 0.55x recorded at end of June 2016". He added, "We will continue our hard work in implementing our strategy to maintain our competitive edge and achieve further growth and success in the Kuwaiti telecom market through offering innovative products and services in line with the latest technology to meet our customers' needs."



Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran



Dr Mahmoud Ahmed Abdulrahman

Commenting on the six-month's financial results, Dr Mahmoud Ahmed Abdulrahman, VIVA's Chairman said: "Despite the high competition witnessed in the Kuwaiti Telecom Market, VIVA was able to achieve a growth in the profitability, in addition to sustaining the operational efficiency thus generating positive return to our shareholders. The witnessed growth in VIVA's profits was a result of the approved business strategy to be one of the most developed telecom companies in Kuwait and the region. Moreover, our positive and key role, as a pioneer telecom company, always contributes in providing smart

# 2017

## First Half

## Total Revenues

# 133

KD million

The Board of Directors of Kuwait Telecommunications Company (VIVA) is pleased to announce to its shareholders that the company has achieved a net profit of KD 19.5 million during the first half of the financial year 2017.

Operating Profit	Net Profit	EPS	Subscribers
20.8	19.5	39	2.2
KD million	KD million	Kuwaiti fils	Million subscribers

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# NIGERIA'S FORMER OIL MINISTER BATTLES SLEW OF GRAFT CASES

## LID OFF SCALE OF CORRUPTION IN COUNTRY'S OIL SECTOR

**LAGOS:** Nigeria's former oil minister faces charges only at home but her name crops up in a growing number of international cases that lift the lid on the scale of alleged corruption in the country's oil sector. Since leaving office in 2015, Diezani Alison-Madueke has been implicated in bribery, fraud, misuse of public funds, and money laundering cases in Nigeria, Britain, Italy and the United States.

The first female president of the global oil cartel OPEC — who was one of Africa's most prominent politicians — has always denied the allegations, which involve billions of dollars syphoned from oil deals and state coffers.

But former US State Department Nigeria specialist Matthew Page suggested that a US civil forfeiture case to seize \$144 million (124 million euros) of assets from allegedly ill-gotten crude contracts may just be the start of Alison-Madueke's legal troubles.

"Although this is the first attempt by US law enforcement to go after assets allegedly stolen by Diezani and her henchmen, it almost certainly will not be the last," he told AFP. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari, elected in 2015 on a promise to eliminate graft, has said that "mind-boggling" sums of public money were stolen by previous administrations. Officials in Abuja say they are talking with US prosecutors about repatriating the money if the civil forfeiture claim is successful.

### String of cases

Alison-Madueke served under president Goodluck Jonathan from 2010 to 2015 and was Nigeria's first female minister of petroleum resources. But her tenure was dogged by scandal. On her watch, the former central bank governor Lamido Sanusi was sacked for claiming the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) had failed to remit \$20 billion. In one case heard in Nigeria in February, Alison-Madueke was accused of diverting some \$153 million from the NNPC coffers.

In another ongoing trial, some 23 billion naira (\$73 million) of NNPC money is alleged to have been used to influ-



Diezani Alison-Madueke



This file photo taken on April 20, 2017 shows a view of an illegal oil refinery destroyed by members of the NNS Pathfinder of the Nigerian Navy forces in the Niger Delta region near the city of Port Harcourt. — AFP

ence the 2015 presidential election to keep Jonathan in power.

Prosecutors in Lagos this week began proceedings to recover \$1.76 billion of assets owned by Kola Aluko and Jide Omokore, whose companies were awarded oil contracts by Alison-Madueke.

A similar asset recovery case was filed last week in Houston, Texas, seeking the seizure of luxury property, including a New York apartment and superyacht,

bought by the businessmen. On Wednesday, another judge ordered the forfeiture of Alison-Madueke's \$37.5 million luxury Lagos property, saying it was purchased with ill-gotten funds. Meanwhile, Italian prosecutors allege that she and Jonathan received kickbacks from oil majors ENI and Shell as part of a \$1.3-billion deal for an offshore oil block in Nigeria. Charges relating to the same oil block deal have also been filed against the oil majors and some

senior Nigerian politicians. Jonathan and Alison-Madueke are not named in the suit but the former president is under pressure from parliament to answer questions about the so-called Malabu deal. Finally, Diezani-Madueke was arrested in London in October 2015 in connection with a British probe into international corruption and money laundering, but she was freed on bail.

### 'Morale booster'

As the international cases pile up, anti-graft campaigners hope the growing body of evidence will boost current President Muhammadu Buhari's faltering war on corruption. Several high-profile figures in Jonathan's government have been charged with corruption since Buhari came to power, however so far there have been no major convictions. Still, some activists believe the overseas cases will serve as a powerful example of justice. Debo Adeniran, of the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders lobby group, said the latest cases involving Alison-Madueke, Aluko and Omokore could be a "morale booster".

"Once a conviction is got abroad, the right signal will be sent to all looters that the judgment day has come," he said. "The fight against corruption will receive a boost. At last, the chickens are coming home to roost."

Dolapo Oni, an oil analyst with Ecobank, said that in contrast to Nigeria's sluggish courts, the overseas corruption cases may be concluded faster. But whatever positive impact that may have, fears remain that with Buhari on indefinite medical leave, his anti-corruption war is losing momentum. Leading Nigerian lawyer Festus Keyamo said the cases demonstrated the need fundamentally to overhaul the NNPC-and to investigate just how far up corruption went in the ruling elite. "The big unanswered questions: is it possible one Minister allegedly stole so much without the knowledge, connivance & approval of the C-in-C (commander-in-chief)?", he tweeted. — AFP

# GREEN BONDS: COMING OF AGE

By Gordon French



The green bond market turns ten years old this year and is rapidly heading towards adulthood. As it comes of age, this market will be an increasingly critical source of capital for projects that will help the global economy limit the impact of climate change.

It's not been an entirely easy childhood so far. The first-ever "green bond," a EUR 600 million issue in July 2007, was followed by, well, not very much in the same vein for several years. It took until 2013 for green bond issuance to vault the \$10-billion-a-year mark — and even that is a tiny amount compared with the overall bond market.

Ten years on, however, the baby of the capital markets has grown spectacularly. Over \$90 billion was raised via green bonds last year — more than double the 2015 amount. That included the first ever sovereign green bond, a EUR 750 million issue by Poland. And in January this year, France issued a EUR 7 billion, 22-year green bond — a milestone in terms of its size and long tenor — and all the more remarkable because investor demand, at more than EUR 23 billion, far outstripped the size of the offering.

Climate change is an urgent threat to the planet, and major injections of capital are required to finance less carbon-intensive technologies and infrastructure. Think wind turbines and solar-energy farms. Think low-carbon transport systems. Think technologies that will make buildings — and entire cities — ever more energy- and water-efficient.

The green bond market may be a late developer, but it is now critical to financing a lower carbon economy. It enables companies to tap the growing pool of cash globally that is looking for climate-friendly investment opportunities, converting those funds into capital for environmentally sustainable projects.

At present, green bonds still account for less than 1 percent of the overall global bond market. But here's why we believe the market is rapidly growing up:

First, there have been profound changes in the way businesses, consumers and investors perceive the risks stemming from pollution and rising global temperatures. The 2015 Paris Agreement established an overwhelming global consensus on the need to address climate change. It required the nearly 200 signatories to develop their own national plans to meet the target of limiting the increase in global temperatures to two degrees Celsius or less over pre-industrial times. This has galvanized global green-tech investments and financing.

Second, technological advances are making more and more low-carbon alternatives (from alternative energy technologies, to electric vehicles and batteries) economically viable. Green investments are increasingly not just ethically but also financially sound. Third, the authorities in China and India have thrown their considerable weight behind efforts to green their economies. By launching green bonds for the first time in 2015, Chinese and Indian institutions added geographical diversity to a market that had until then been dominated by the likes of Scandinavia, the United States and Britain. Last year, more than \$33 billion-worth of Chinese green bonds were issued. That's over one-third of the global total — and up from just \$1 billion in 2015. Indian volumes are more modest, at just over \$1 billion last year, but the country is likewise going through a paradigm shift in low-carbon technologies.

The increasing momentum behind green bonds means issuers and investors can no longer afford to ignore them.

True, there is lingering skepticism over the "greenness" of specific bonds. Are proceeds really deployed to finance climate-related or environmental projects? Or are they headed towards projects or companies whose "greenness" is debatable? Who assesses whether a particular issue is as "green" as another? Many investors are still put off by the lack of consistency and transparency on those fronts, while issuers shy away from the extra efforts (and costs) of disclosing, reporting and certifying "green" ventures.

But the extras tend to be overestimated, and progress is being made on standardization and monitoring. For example, Standard & Poor's in April launched a tool designed to evaluate not just whether a bond is green, but how green it is. Meanwhile, the advantages of issuing a green bond are substantial — though perhaps not yet as widely recognized as they should be.

For a start, issuing green bonds allows companies to tap the growing demand for such instruments among pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and other investors who are concerned about their portfolios' exposure to high-carbon and unsustainable issuers and activities. As of early 2016, there were some \$23 trillion of assets professionally managed under responsible investment strategies. That's up 25 percent since 2014, and represents more than a quarter of all professionally-managed assets globally. Likewise, a recent HSBC survey found that two-thirds of global institutional investors want to put more capital into low-carbon and climate-related investments.

What's more, the launch of a green bond allows an issuer to demonstrate they are aware of and preparing for the long-term challenges of global warming. And, by requiring them to identify, minimize and monitor their climate risk profile, it can help them embed low-carbon thinking in their corporate culture and business strategy. Over the long term, this could well create an advantage over less well-prepared companies in terms of valuation and business prospects.

Given what's at stake, the green bond market's coming-of-age can only be welcome. Happy 10th birthday. \*Note: Gordon French is Head of Global Banking and Markets, Asia Pacific, HSBC.

## ECB SURVEY FINDS MARKETS EXPECT LOWER INFLATION

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** Financial experts in the European Union have lowered their inflation expectations for the coming years, a European Central Bank survey publish showed, reflecting the institution's complicated path to its price stability target. In its quarterly survey of professional forecasters, the ECB found average price growth predictions had been revised down 0.1 percentage points for 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Forecasters now expect inflation to reach 1.5 percent this year, followed by 1.4 percent next year and 1.6 percent in 2019. The latest survey results are largely in line with the ECB's own predictions, although central bank staff expect inflation to slow slightly in 2018 to 1.3 percent. ECB policymakers use the central bank's powers to try and hold inflation at its target of close to, but below 2.0 percent—the level believed to be most favorable to growth. The bank has intervened massively in the economy in recent years to fend off the threat of deflation, offering cheap loans to banks, setting interest rates at historic lows and buying tens of billions of euros per month in government and corporate bonds.

But while central bank governors believe their policy has boosted economic growth in the 19-nation euro-zone—reaching 0.6 percent in the first quarter of 2017—there has been little sign of a corresponding surge in inflation. That pattern was reflected in Friday's survey, with forecasters upping their growth predictions for the coming years even as they saw rate of inflation turning out lower. The private-sector experts match the ECB's expectations for 1.9-percent growth this year and 1.8 percent in 2018, but remain slightly less confident for 2019 with a 1.6-percent prediction — 0.1 percentage points lower than the central bankers. The survey of 56 professional forecasters was conducted on July 3-7. —AFP

## MULTIPLE ROUNDS OF NAFTA TALKS POSSIBLE, SAYS MEXICO MINISTER

**MEXICO CITY:** There could be between six to nine rounds of negotiations between the United States, Canada and Mexico in the event a quick deal is reached on a revamp of the North American Trade Agreement, Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said.

Guajardo told reporters in Mexico City on Friday the NAFTA members were looking at avoiding gaps of more than three weeks between negotiating rounds with a view to making quick progress. "If we calculate the times toward the end of the year, we're saying that this would give us a universe of rounds that could be between six and nine rounds," Guajardo said.

Reuters this week reported the three countries had agreed an aggressive timetable to broker a deal on NAFTA in order to avoid politicizing Mexico's pres-

idential election in July 2018, forecasting rounds held at three-week intervals.

The first round of talks on renegotiating NAFTA is due to begin in Washington on Aug 16. Two Mexican officials said the neighboring countries aimed to hold seven rounds of negotiations, and US officials told Reuters that Mexico wanted the talks wrapped up by year-end 2017. Guajardo noted that it was in the interests of the negotiators to wrap up talks in good time lest a new government take office in Mexico and refuse to honor the terms. US President Donald Trump has pushed for a renegotiation of NAFTA, threatening to dump it if he cannot rework the accord to the benefit of the United States. He argues it has fueled a trade deficit with Mexico and cost thousands of US jobs. — Reuters

## SPAIN'S BUSINESS LEADERS WORRIED ABOUT CATALAN SECESSION

**BARCELONA:** Almost three quarters of Spanish business leaders fear Catalonia's plans for an independence referendum on Oct 1 could harm the country's economy, according to a study by Deloitte published in Spanish newspaper El Pais.

Madrid has condemned as illegal plans by the northeast region's government to hold a referendum on seceding from Spain and, if the yes vote wins, declare independence unilaterally within 48 hours.

Last week, the Spanish government said Catalonia would lose access to some public funds if it used the money to prepare for the unsanctioned plebiscite. Nationwide 74 percent of 265 business leaders surveyed believe the Catalan independence movement threatens

the Spanish economy, while 43 percent of those based in Catalonia itself agree, according to the Deloitte Survey of Companies study commissioned for El Pais.

Despite concerns about the political deadlock over Catalonia, confidence in Spain's continued economic growth remains high, according to the poll. Eight out of 10 directors polled said the economy had improved in the first half of the year. Seven out of 10 expect to bill more in the second half of the year than in the first six months. Spain has surpassed expectations for GDP growth this year. Last week the International Monetary Fund said it expected Spain's economy to grow by around 2.5 percent in 2018, up from its previous forecast of 2.1 percent. —Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.706
Indian Rupees	4.713
Pakistani Rupees	2.887
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.953
Singapore Dollar	228.800
Hongkong Dollar	38.886
Bangladesh Taka	3.731
Philippine Peso	5.978
Thai Baht	9.052

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.974
Qatari Riyal	83.400
Omani Riyal	788.591
Bahraini Dinar	806.300
UAE Dirham	82.673

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.100
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.830
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.219
Tunisian Dinar	125.910
Jordanian Dinar	428.480
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.023
Syrian Lira	2.164
Morocco Dirham	32.111

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.450
Euro	351.400
Sterling Pound	399.190
Canadian dollar	241.120
Turkish lira	86.640

Swiss Franc	317.920
Australian Dollar	241.090
US Dollar Buying	302.250

GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.100
Canadian Dollar	240.555
Sterling Pound	395.155
Euro	354.530
Swiss Frank	289.630
Bahrain Dinar	803.920
UAE Dirhams	82.920
Qatari Riyals	84.135
Saudi Riyals	81.720
Jordanian Dinar	427.420
Egyptian Pound	16.954
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.972
Indian Rupees	4.715
Pakistani Rupees	2.877
Bangladesh Taka	3.746
Philippines Peso	5.976
Cyprus pound	167.275
Japanese Yen	3.710
Syrian Pound	2.415
Nepalese Rupees	2.950
Malaysian Ringgit	71.725

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.280
Thai Bhat	10.050
Turkish Lira	86.255

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.388332	0.398332
Czech Korune	0.005357	0.017357
Danish Krone	0.042850	0.047850
Euro	0.343465	0.352465
Norwegian Krone	0.033509	0.038709
Romanian Leu	0.076252	0.076252
Slovakia	0.009055	0.019055
Swedish Krona	0.032446	0.037446
Swiss Franc	0.310701	0.321701
Turkish Lira	0.081072	0.091372
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.231960	0.243960
New Zealand Dollar	0.216182	0.225582
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.234840	0.243840
Georgina Lari	0.137053	0.137053
US Dollars	0.299350	0.303770
US Dollars Mint	0.299850	0.303770
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003390	0.003974
Chinese Yuan	0.043319	0.046819
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036779	0.039529

Indian Rupee	0.004247	0.004935
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002619	0.002799
Kenyan Shilling	0.002912	0.002912
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067235	0.073235
Nepalese Rupee	0.002983	0.003153
Pakistan Rupee	0.002676	0.002966
Philippine Peso	0.005931	0.006231
Sierra Leone	0.000037	0.000043
Singapore Dollar	0.215993	0.225993
South African Rand	0.017354	0.025854
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001602	0.002182
Taiwan	0.009838	0.010018
Thai Baht	0.008667	0.009217
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.797806	0.806306
Egyptian Pound	0.015158	0.021066
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423391	0.432391
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019702	0.043702
Nigerian Naira	0.000392	0.001027
Omani Riyal	0.781762	0.787442
Qatar Riyal	0.079060	0.084000
Saudi Riyal	0.079833	0.081133
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001506
Tunisian Dinar	0.121146	0.129146
Turkish Lira	0.081072	0.091372
UAE Dirhams	0.081148	0.082848
Yemeni Riyal	0.000986	0.001066



## DOLLAR LOWER; EURO HIGHER DESPITE ECB

### NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

**KUWAIT:** The US dollar continued to trade in a subdued manner against most of its major counterparts last week on the back of heightened uncertainty surrounding the future of the Fed's rate path. Additionally, concerns over Trump's ability to push his agenda in the White House helped push the greenback lower. The lack of confidence in the market is clearly reflected in US 10-year treasury yields which traded at 3-week lows. Meanwhile, equities maintained recent gains on the back of a generally positive earnings season and prospects of a less aggressive Fed interest rate policy.

The market continued to be dictated by central banks and their agendas with regards to the withdrawal of their huge quantitative easing programs. Last week, the European Central Bank meeting and press conference took center stage as investors were eagerly awaiting any hint on when the ECB would start tapering. However, the European Central bank left its ultra-loose monetary policy unchanged and did not even discuss reducing back stimulus, which suggested it may delay an inevitable decision on tapering asset purchases until the latest possible moment.

The BOJ had a similar story as it kept its monetary policy unchanged and has extended the timeframe for reaching its 2% inflation target to fiscal year 2019. Regardless of whether the BOJ acknowledges that inflation won't reach its target as expected, Governor Haruhiko Kuroda won't get anywhere near a policy exit before his five-year term expires in April, Hideo Hayakawa, said in an interview with Bloomberg last week.

On the foreign exchange front, the US dollar declined by 1.42 percent last week. The dollar index opened the week at 95.088 and reaching as high as 95.348 but the dollar lost all momentum and slipped to 11-month low of 94.180. The market has started to lose faith in "Trumpflation" as the possibility to pass the Republican health care reform bill appears even dimmer. Three Republican Senators voiced opposition to the proposed bill and it does appear that the bill won't have enough votes to pass, casting further doubts on Trump's influence on the White House policies.

Even after a dovish Draghi in the ECB press conference, the Euro was the biggest winner last week gaining 2.13 percent on the back of solid economic figures and weakness in the dollar. The currency opened the week at 1.1462 and rose as high as 1.1677 on Friday. The euro closed the week at 1.1658.

The pound sterling had a different story than the euro as mixed retail and inflation data hit the market. Furthermore, the softer inflation figure had depressed expectations of an interest rate hike in the short-term. The cable opened the week at 1.3099 and reached a high of 1.3125 but quickly lost all gains and fell to a low of 1.2970. The currency closed the week at 1.2992.

The safe haven yen traded in a relatively narrow range opening the week at 112.49 and reached a low of 111.46 despite mixed economic data and a cautious BOJ statement. The yen continues to gain against the greenback as differentials continue to drop on the back of lower US yields. The currency closed the week at 111.10.

In the commodities complex, oil prices had a volatile movement increasing by up to 3.89 percent as Brent Crude reached a six week high of \$50.19. US crude oil inventory decreased by 4.7 million as the refineries produced 125,000 barrels per day less than the previous week's average. However, Brent closed the week at \$48.06 due to forecasts of a rise in OPEC production for July despite the group's pledge to curb output.

#### Housing sector

The housing market registered the fastest annualized pace in four months according to the Commerce Department data released last Wednesday. Housing starts increased by 8.3 percent to 1.22 million annualized rate up from 1.12 million reached in May. While building permits, a proxy for future construction, climbed 7.4 percent to a 1.25 million annualized rate up from May's figure of 1.17 million. Despite three interest rate hikes since December 2016 and increased inflation, the housing market keeps on expanding at a considerably fast pace, which may potentially deem alarming in the near future.

The Philly Fed Manufacturing index decreased from a reading of 27.6 in June to 19.5 this month. The index has been positive for 12 consecutive months, but July's reading is the lowest since November. Thirty-seven percent of the firms indicated increases in activity in July, down from 42 percent last month. The shipments index decreased 16 points, while the new orders index fell 24 points. Nearly 31 percent of the respondents reported a rise in new orders this month, down from 45 percent in June. Both the delivery times and unfilled orders indexes were positive for the ninth consecutive month, suggesting longer delivery times and increases in unfilled orders.

#### Dovish Draghi

The European Central Bank left its benchmark refinancing rate unchanged at 0.00 percent, as expected, on Thursday. President Mario Draghi also said the ECB would continue its monthly asset purchases at the current rate, 60 million euros a month, until December 2017 or beyond, if necessary. Following are highlights of ECB

President Mario Draghi's comments at a post-policy meeting press conference. On potential changes to the QE program he said "We need to be persistent and patient because we aren't there yet."

Draghi also added that "We also were unanimous in communicating no change to the forward guidance and also we were unanimous in setting no precise date for when to discuss changes in the future - in other words, we simply said that our discussions should take place in the autumn." The ECB's president emphasized that we need to think and gather lots of information as there is lots of uncertainty around. He also stressed that the Governing Council doesn't want to be forced to take decisions in an absence of full information

#### Eurozone annual CPI holds firm

Euro area final annual inflation figure came at 1.3 percent for June, matching the market's expectations yet lower than the revised 1.4 percent May figure. It is worth mentioning that in June last year inflation was at 0.1 percent, but with the ECB's loose monetary policy and asset purchase program helped lift the inflation to a decent 1.3 percent a year later.

However core CPI excluding energy, food, alcohol and tobacco strengthened to 1.1 percent y/y compared with 0.9 percent in May. Of further comfort to the central banker would be the core inflation excluding energy & processed food but including tobacco & alcohol, ECB's preferred measure of core inflation, came in 1.2 percent y/y - highest in over two and half years.

#### UK retail sales

UK's inflation unexpectedly slowed down year to year in June. The 2.6 percent was lower than expectations by 0.3 percent and thus removing some pressure from the BOE as price growth was getting out of hand. This figure marks the first drop in annual CPI rate since October of last year. Economists had forecasted that the data would hold at the four-year high of 2.95 reached last month. The data undermines arguments for the immediate interest-rate hike that a minority of policy makers supported at the last BOE decision as inflation looked set to veer further above the 2 percent target. There are also signs economic growth is cooling as consumers, the engine of growth for the past year, start to rein in spending.

In addition, the quantity of goods sold in stores and online rose by 0.6 percent, more than economists forecast, following a 1.1 percent decline in May, figures from the Office for National Statistics showed Thursday. Sales rose in almost every category last month. Spending on clothes helped lift sales at department stores by 2.7 percent and household goods rose 3.3 percent. Food sales fell 0.5 percent, partly due to weaker alcohol demand.

#### RBA minutes

In its July meeting minutes, the RBA again stated that developments in the labor market warrant careful monitoring. In the detail of the minutes the better growth data (the flow of jobs) is contrasted with high levels of underemployment (to stock of spare capacity). It is notable that the RBA characterized the labor market improvement as removing "some of the downside risk in the Bank's forecast of wage growth".

#### China's GDP expands

China's economy expanded faster than expected in the second quarter of 2017, as traditional growth sectors continued to underpin the economy. The National Bureau of Statistics said gross domestic product (GDP) expanded at an annualized 6.9 percent in the second quarter, unchanged from the previous quarter and well within the government's target range of 6.5 percent to 7 percent.

Over the past four quarters, the Chinese economy has relied on government spending and access to cheap credit to fuel a faster than expected expansion. At the same time, efforts to curb a red hot housing market have largely come up short amid a resurgence of demand. Buyers anticipating further restrictions on housing have flooded the market after authorities introduced curbs back in March. Furthermore, Industrial production, the broadest measure of factory output, expanded 7.6 percent in the 12 months through June. That was well above the previous month's 6.5 percent growth pace signaling a healthier and more solid economy.

#### BOJ policy unchanged

Bank of Japan's meeting last week was uneventful as expected by market participants. The central bank kept the interest rate unchanged at -0.10 percent and 80 trillion yen QE program in place as well as the 10-year JGB yield target at about 0.00 percent. In addition, the BOJ admitted defeat of deflation and delayed the timing of reaching their 2 percent inflation target to fiscal year 2019.

Finally, Bloomberg Intelligence economist Yuki Masujima warned that a big risk ahead for BOJ after two board members leave this week is tunnel vision. Takahide Kiuchi and Takehiro Sato routinely challenged the policy board's consensus, and their successors are less likely to oppose Kuroda.

#### Kuwait

**Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30215**  
The USDKWD opened at 0.30215 yesterday morning.



## NISSAN AL-BABTAIN LAUNCHES NEW 2018 NISSAN PATHFINDER IN KUWAIT

### NEW 3.5-LITER V6 ENGINE ADDS DIRECT INJECTION SYSTEM

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the sole authorized dealer of Nissan in the State of Kuwait, recently launched new 2018 Nissan Pathfinder in Kuwait. The Nissan Pathfinder is reborn for the 2018 model year with more adventure capability, a freshened exterior look and enhanced safety and technology - pure Pathfinder taken to a higher level of performance and style.

The latest iteration of this popular, family-oriented four-wheel drive vehicle draws on Nissan's vast experience of building vehicles designed to operate in testing off-road conditions while remaining perfectly at home on the highway. As an SUV vehicle, the Pathfinder retains plenty of capability in off-road environments.

"Pathfinder has a logical and hugely practical place within the Nissan model line-up in this region," explained Mohammed Shalaby - Chief Operating Officer for Al-Babtain Group[M1] "For 2018, Pathfinder receives much more than a typical facelift. It now offers more power, improved driving dynamics and new available driver assistance features - more of what customers need for safe, comfortable every day and weekend family adventures."

"Most people with a family need to commute to work, drop the kids off at school and generally use their vehicles on paved surfaces. But at weekends it's great to have the Pathfinder's capacity to explore further afield, getting to special places that an ordinary family car cannot reach, be that in a desert or beach."

The refreshed Pathfinder benefits from changes both externally and internally. The revised 3.5-litre V6 engine has more horse power and more torque.

The seven-seat vehicle offers enhanced driving dynamics such as more controlled ride and handling, less vibrations on turns and easier manoeuvring. This is due to many enhancements such as smaller strokes, less understeer, improved roll balance and improved steering ratio. The 2018 Pathfinder is offered in 2-wheel drive configurations and a choice of two well-equipped grade levels: S & SV. Externally,



Pathfinder now aligns more closely with Nissan's latest design language thanks to signature elements, including the new "V-Motion" grille and striking boomerang-shaped headlights with LED daytime running lights. Other new styling elements include a redesigned front bumper, fog lights, wing mirrors with integrated indicators and new 18-inch and 20-inch aluminium-alloy wheel designs. The rear taillight cluster and rear bumper have also been refreshed.

In terms of practicality, a Motion-Activated liftgate comes as standard on SV. On sweeping a foot under the tailgate, it opens automatically and stops at the desired point.

Inside, the revamped Pathfinder offers stylish, comfortable seating for seven occupants who benefit from a variety of updated connectivity features. The latest Pathfinder adopts new-generation information technology with an Advanced Drive-Assist Display located in the centre of the instrument binnacle providing supplementary infotainment and driver assistance displays compared to the previous model. A standard 8.0-inch touch-screen monitor, situated in the middle of the instrument panel controls a wide variety of vehicle systems and settings including navigation and infotainment func-

tions. Options such as Intelligent Emergency Breaking, Intelligent Cruise Control, Blind Spot Warning (BSW), Forward Collision Warning and Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) are available on the SV.

#### Revised 3.5-liter V6 engine

In a major step up of its already highly capable adventure credentials, Pathfinder's new 3.5-liter V6 engine features more power and torque. It utilizes more than 50 percent new or new-to-Pathfinder engine parts and components - including combustion chamber design, pistons, intake manifold and e-VTC (fully electronic on intake).

#### A powerful new look

When the fourth-generation Pathfinder was introduced for the 2013 model year, its design represented a major step forward in refined styling and aerodynamic emphasis. For 2018, the refreshed exterior goes even further, adding a stronger sense of adventure, character and presence and continued fine-tuning of aero efficiency.

The updated appearance incorporates the latest Nissan signature design elements introduced on the award-winning Maxima sport sedan and Nissan X-Trail crossover - including the new "V-Motion" grille and boomerang-shaped headlights. Other exterior enhancements include a new, more aggressive hood, front bumper and fog lights. The outside rearview mirrors now include standard integrated turn signals. In the rear, changes include new taillights and a stronger bumper design.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to visit its dedicated showrooms in Al-Rai & Ahmadi to view up close the refreshed Pathfinder's refined styling and design as well as take a test drive to enjoy the newly enhanced performance and an advanced driving experience. Nissan Al-Babtain is known on being keen to constantly provide the best to its customers throughout the year, as well as after-sales service to meet the growing demand for Nissan and achieve the company's goals to always remain at the forefront of leading automotive brands.



## THE NEW NISSAN LEAF WITH E-PEDAL, PREMIERES ON SEPT 6

**DUBAI:** Nissan has announced that the widely anticipated new Nissan LEAF will come with e-Pedal, a revolutionary technology that transforms the way we drive.

With the flip of a switch, the technology turns your accelerator into an e-Pedal, allowing drivers to accelerate, decelerate and stop using just the e-Pedal. e-Pedal technology is the world's first one-pedal operation that allows drivers to bring the car to a complete stop

even on hills, stay in position, and resume driving instantly.

Drivers can cover 90 percent of their driving needs with the e-Pedal, making the process of driving more exciting. In heavy traffic and during city commutes, drivers will greatly reduce the need to shift from one pedal to the other, making your drive simpler and more engaging.

The e-Pedal technology represents another key milestone in

Nissan's ongoing commitment to bring accessible, advanced driver assistance technologies to the mainstream. Set to make driving safer and more enjoyable, the development of these technologies is part of Nissan Intelligent Mobility, the company's blueprint for transforming how cars are driven, powered and integrated into society. By launching the Nissan LEAF, the world's first mass-market electric vehicle, Nissan established

itself as pioneer in the EV movement. Today the Nissan LEAF is the world's best-selling electric vehicle, with more than 277,000 sold worldwide.

For the latest updates, follow #Nissan #LEAF #ElectrifyTheWorld and join in the conversation.

For more information about Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.'s products, services and our commitment to sustainable mobility, visit Nissan-Global.com. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn, and view our latest videos on YouTube.

Nissan is a global full-line vehicle manufacturer that sells more than 60 models under the Nissan, Infiniti and Datsun brands. In fiscal year 2015, the company sold more than 5.4 million vehicles globally, generating revenue of 12.2 trillion yen. Nissan engineers, manufactures and markets the world's best-selling all-electric vehicle in history, the Nissan LEAF. Nissan's global headquarters in Yokohama, Japan manages operations in six regions: ASEAN & Oceania; Africa, Middle East & India; China; Europe; Latin America and North America. Nissan has been partnered with French manufacturer Renault since 1999 and Mitsubishi Motors since 2016 under the Renault-Nissan Alliance.



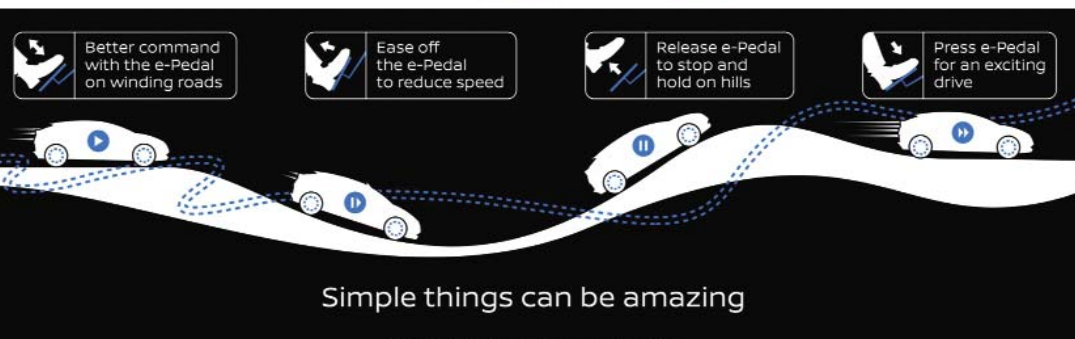
### The New Nissan LEAF with e-Pedal

NISSAN INTELLIGENT MOBILITY

Technology can turn your accelerator into an e-Pedal



Speed up, slow down and brake with just the accelerator pedal



Simple things can be amazing

1. Use conventional brake pedal for aggressive braking situations.



# SMALL-CAP RALLY COULD SHRINK ON EARNINGS, TAX HURDLES

## WALL STREET WEEK AHEAD

**NEW YORK:** Optimism is souring around small-cap stocks for some investors, with a host of factors conspiring to up-end gains that have taken them to record highs.

Small-caps, which led the market's rally just after the Nov 8 election of Donald Trump as US president, are facing weak earnings forecasts, little progress on tax reform and recent outflows. "We have downside risk here. Earnings numbers aren't great, and valuations are ... pretty rich," said Steven DeSanctis, equity strate-

gist at Jefferies.

Investors had expected the administration of Republican Trump, with his promises of aggressive tax cuts and a healthier US economy, would be a boon for small-caps, which tend to be more domestically focused. Republicans so far have been unable to push through bills to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, the first leg of the Trump agenda. That has raised doubts about the likelihood of any tax reform this year. Small-caps have higher

effective tax rates - about 32 percent versus 26 percent for large-caps, a note from Nuveen Asset Management showed.

The performance of both the Russell 2000, a widely used gauge for small-caps, and the small-cap S&P 600 has lagged that of large-caps so far this year, but the Russell is up 20.3 percent since the election compared with a gain of 15.3 percent for the S&P 500.

All three indexes hit record highs in recent sessions, just as the earnings report-

ing period was getting under way. But analysts estimate earnings for S&P 600 companies declined 8.3 percent in the second quarter, dragged down by projected drops in consumer discretionary, energy and health care results, according to Thomson Reuters data. Revenue is expected to have risen slightly in the quarter.

Among consumer companies, weakness in apparel, accessories and luxury goods and other retailers is expected to have hurt results, said David Aurelio, Thomson Reuters senior research analyst.

In the small-cap energy sector, services and equipment companies continue to be affected by project cutbacks by larger companies. The small-cap outlook is in contrast to expectations for another quarter of strong profit growth for the S&P 500 and a sharp year-over-year jump in large-cap energy.

"Small-cap earnings growth has been trailing large-caps for the last four years, and that continues to be the case in the first half of this year," said Dan Suzuki, senior U.S. equity strategist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in New York.

That does not bode well for valuation metrics for small-caps, which the bank calls "the most expensive seg-

ment of an expensive market." The Russell 2000 is trading at about 26 times forward earnings as per Thomson Reuters Datastream data, above a median of about 21. The S&P 500 trades at about 17.3 times, also above its median.

While analysts expect small-cap earnings to rebound in the second half of the year, some strategists said those lofty expectations are not likely to hold since US economic growth remains sluggish.

Large-caps have benefited from recent weakness in the US dollar, which makes foreign currency earnings for US companies worth more in dollars. "This may explain why mid- and large-caps have seen a stronger bounce in earnings revisions than small-caps recently," Lori Calvasina, Credit Suisse's chief US equity strategist, wrote in a research note.

Recent fund data also shows a weakening trend. According to Lipper, US-based small-cap funds have recorded five straight weeks of withdrawals. At the same time, technical momentum indicators are trailing the Russell 2000's recent push to new highs, a possible warning that its foray into record territory is on less than firm footing. "We're in a longer period of underperformance," Suzuki said. —Reuters



### Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Sunday 23 July 2017

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing
Price Index	▲ 18.65	6,799.67	6,781.02
Weighted Index	▲ 0.78	408.48	407.70
KSX 15	▲ 0.97	932.32	931.35

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
119,301,623	21,403,689	3,892

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	1.525	1.525	12	18	1	1,525	▲ 70.0
ENERGYH	39.6	37.5	8,640	329	9	37.5	▲ 0.2
GPI	43.0	40.3	9,012,876	374,951	252	41.9	▲ 1.7
ABAR	91	89	51,500	4,626	8	89	▼ -2.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>9,073,028</b>	<b>379,925</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>1038.41</b>	<b>▲ 29.30</b>

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
KFOUC	289	289	50	14	1	289	▲ 9.0
BPCC	557	554	112,893	62,641	12	554	▼ -3.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	590	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	341	336	531,442	180,055	31	336	▼ -5.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>644,385</b>	<b>242,711</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1238.86</b>	<b>▼ -0.30</b>

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
SOKOUK	48.5	46.9	87,1581	41,041	33	46.9	▼ -0.1
KRE	57	57	1,605,380	91,543	27	57	▲ 0.3
URC	88	82	11,000	903	3	88	▲ 0.1
NRE	125	124	2,042,427	254,473	33	125	▼ -1.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	410	▲ 0.0
AREEC	158	126	17,100	2,224	8	158	▲ 18.0
MASSALEH	43.9	43.9	50,000	2,195	1	43.9	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	34.6	33.7	50,250	1,698	7	34.5	▲ 0.0
ERESCO	40.7	39.6	751,510	30,020	43	39.6	▼ -0.9
MABANEE	774	763	1,703,502	1,303,701	86	765	▲ 2.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
INVESTORS	24.9	23.9	10,766,912	260,597	201	24.1	▼ -0.8
IRC	31.5	31.5	130,000	4,095	3	31.5	▼ -0.1
ALTIJARIA	74	73	56,220	4,134	5	74	▲ 0.7
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.0	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	84	84	10,000	839	1	84	▲ 2.1
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	▲ 0.0
ALAQARIA	38.8	38.0	411,000	15,635	11	38.0	▼ -0.5
MAZAYA	119	115	2,734,501	323,360	62	118	▲ 3.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▲ 0.0
TIJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	35.8	35.1	797,490	28,084	24	35.4	▼ -0.5
ARKAN	85	84	70,000	5,930	2	85	▲ 3.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	▲ 0.0
ABYAAR	24.5	24.0	5,706,460	138,515	110	24.3	▲ 0.3
MUNSHAAT	54	54	238,220	12,828	14	54	▼ -0.1
FIRSTDUBAI	49.9	49.3	567,051	28,080	42	49.6	▲ 1.0
KBT	49.9	48.4	434,000	21,072	12	49.0	▼ -0.4
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	399	▲ 0.0
MENA	22.9	22.1	1,596,130	35,490	27	22.1	▼ -0.4
ALMUDON	39.8	38.2	442,400	17,055	14	38.5	▼ -0.5
MARAKEZ	43.5	43.5	100	4	1	43.5	▲ 0.0
REMAIL	73	71	211,000	15,218	7	72	▼ -2.0
AWJ	80	79	290,000	23,070	7	80	▲ 0.6
<b>Real Estate</b>			<b>31,564,234</b>	<b>2,661,804</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>960.17</b>	<b>▲ 4.40</b>

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	445	▲ 0.0
CABLE	438	435	5,483	2,391	3	438	▲ 18.0
SHIP	206	205	58,000	11,893	4	205	▲ 0.0
PCEM	921	920	6,995	6,436	4	921	▼ -1.0
PAPER	295	295	5,000	1,475	1	295	▲ 0.0
MRC	120	120	20	2	1	120	▲ 0.0
ACICO	259	259	290	75	1	259	▲ 4.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▲ 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	▲ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	49.9	▲ 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	▲ 0.0
GYSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	65	62	345,300	21,387	15	65	▲ 0.0
AGLTY	840	830	586,797	489,131	108	840	▲ 4.0
EDU	345	335	137,380	46,263	25	335	▼ -4.0
CLEANING	52	52	10	1	1	52	▲ 2.0
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▲ 0.0
KCCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	155	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	4,299	4,200	10,132	43,449	8	4,299	▲ 99.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	▲ 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▲ 0.0
MAYADEEN	28.4	27.4	68,400	1,904	6	28.0	▲ 0.0
CGC	616	614	17,000	10,452	9	614	▲ 0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0
UPAC	779	779	4,000	3,116	3	779	▼ -72.0
ALAFCCO	350	340	40,850	13,949	12	348	▲ 6.0
MUBARRAD	76	73	19,869	1,444	2	76	▲ 0.1
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	▲ 0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	▲ 0.0
GCEM	76	76	49,000	3,724	2	76	▲ 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▲ 0.0
FCEM	82	77	44,081	3,402	3	82	▼ -0.5
RKWC	89	89	1,200	107	1	89	▲ 6.0
SPEC	95	91	791,356	73,136	73	91	▲ 0.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>2,191,123</b>	<b>733,737</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>1905.23</b>	<b>▲ 10.60</b>

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▲ 0.0
CATTL	219	219	5,000	1,095	1	219	▲ 0.0
DANAH	74	74	38,657	2,868	2	74	▲ 0.5
FOOD	2,200	2,100	430	928	2	2,100	▼ -318.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>44,087</b>	<b>4,891</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1019.59</b>	<b>▼ -53.60</b>

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▲ 0.0
YIACO	179	165	6,925	1,144	4	179	▲ 15
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>6,925</b>	<b>1,144</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1514.56</b>	<b>▲ 15.20</b>

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,400	▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲ 0.0
CABLETV	27.0	27.0	2	0	1	27.0	▼ -1
EYAS	860	805	15,550	12,739	12	845	▼ -5
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	▲ 0.0
OULAFUEL	125	122	49,292	6,109	14	123	▲ 1
MUNTAZAHAT	80	80	12,300	983	1	80	▲ 0.0
JAZEERA	500	480	180,100	89,761	17	500	▲ 5
SOOR	125	121	56,228	6,911	17	125	▲ 2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	▲ 0.0
ALRAI	122	120	80,010	9,761	3	120	▼ -2
Jiyad	53	53	100	5	1	53	▲ 2
Mezzan	920	907	765,922	696,793	66	910	▼ -7
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>1,159,504</b>	<b>823,063</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1043.44</b>	<b>▲ 0.70</b>

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
ZAIN	433	430	2,079,056	896,632	80	432	▲ 2
OOREDOO	1,151	1,060	16,259	18,658	10	1,151	▼ -19
HITSTELEC	43.2	42.0	1				



## CBK ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS IN DAILY DRAW OF 'AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT'

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the daily draw on "Al-Najma Account" yesterday at the Bank's Head Office to select 5 winners to win a cash prize of KD 7000 for each. The draw was held in the presence of Abdulaziz Ashkanani, representative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The following names were announced as winners of the prizes:

1. Naser Ahmad Al-Munayekh
2. Abrar Hamdan Al-Hadiya
3. Tareq Mohammed Zreq
4. Zeeshan Ashraf Mohammed Ashraf
5. Roumani Ezzat Abdulmaseeh Ibrahim

Al-Najma Account allows its customers to win a daily prize of KD 7000 which is the highest daily prize in Kuwait. In addition, the Account offers quarterly draws that provide customers with opportunity to get their dreams turned to reality by winning great prizes starting from KD 100,000 for the first quarter escalating thereafter by KD 50 thousand for each quarter to reach KD 250,000 in the last quarter. Customers can enjoy additional benefits including obtaining ATM card and a credit card against the customer's account along



with enjoying all other banking services. The Bank congratulates all the lucky winners and draws their attention that the cash prizes will be credited into their accounts with the Bank.

Further, the Bank appreciates the Ministry of Commerce & Industry's significant role & its continuous cooperation and effective supervision on the draw that was smoothly and transparently organized.



## AL-BABTAIN GROUP RECEIVES TADANO'S PRESIDENT AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

BUSINESS LEADERS EXCHANGE VIEWS, FURTHER STRENGTHEN THEIR PARTNERSHIP

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Tadano LTD Co in the State of Kuwait since 1979, is honored to have welcomed Tadano's President and Owner, Koichi Tadano and Tadano's Management Team during their first ever visit to Kuwait. Tadano's team met with Al-Babtain's group most senior leadership during a historic visit cementing the successful decades-long partnership.

The two parties shared their visions in pursuing excellence for their customers, discussed growth opportunities and reconfirmed their commitment to working together to deliver trusted solutions in the local market. Led by Tadano, the Japanese delegation was also represented by Kazuomi Hiwatashi, General Manager; Koji Kakudo, Service Manager; Norihiro Kawai, Sales Manager and Koichi Kanno, Officer. They were warmly received by Mohamad Shalaby, Chief Operations Officer; Abdulmohsen A Al-Babtain, Chief Human Resources Officer and Ghazi Al-Babtain, Group Business Development Manager.

Commenting on the visit, Shalaby said: 'It is a pleasure to meet Tadano's Management team here in Kuwait and discuss how we can best collectively answer the needs of our customers in Kuwait to ensure the best-in-class products and after-sales services. Our long partnership has been a major success that goes from strength to strength. It is no surprise that the Tadano Cranes continue to dominate the Kuwaiti market in terms of sales with a remarkable 70 percent market share over the last four years. We look forward to working hand in hand with our Tadano partners for many more years.'

The Al-Babtain Group brings all types of Tadano's hydraulic cranes to Kuwait, provides



after sales services and genuine spare parts ensuring the seamless customer experience that the Al-Babtain Group name commands.

Tadano is the largest Japan-based manufacturer of cranes and aerial work platforms and the seventh largest crane manufacturer in the world, established in 1948 and listed in the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Led by its principle 'safety first, quality second and efficiency third', Tadano name has become synonymous with trust and reliability around the world, and in the region.

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948, to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication, gaining a solid reputation in the State of Kuwait and the Middle East area. Today, Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East.

For more than 60 years, Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success and a large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long-term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information technology, industrial and Finance.

The automotive sector is the main activity within Al-Babtain Group's business, which represents some of the bestselling brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipment. The Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC) is proud to be the sole agent and distributor of leading Japanese, European (French) and Chinese vehicles in Kuwait such as Nissan, Infiniti Renault & Citroen.

## ahli united bank AUB MAKES A CUSTOMERS' DREAM COME TRUE WITH KD 250,000 GRAND PRIZE

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 19 July. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al-Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300.

**The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 is Ali Hasan Jasim.**

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows:

Thuraya Mostafa Alhazreeri, Sulaiman Mashaan Alenezi, Fahad Matrouk Alrasheed, Abdullah Essa Alhaddad Jabr Ahmad Aljabr, Ablah Orabi Qassab, Hessah Dlayel Alotaibi, Nabila Abdulrida Dabous, Salamah Saad Alenezi, Mansour

Ghareeb Haji, Ahlam Abdulrahman Almeshri, Milad Sami Bitar, Anyukourn Chanphirom, Wejdan Yousef Alshatti, Malek Ali Alsulaiman, Jameelah Mubarak Aldaihani, Huda Hassan Slab, Nasser Karem Obaid, Ahmed Mohd Ali Abdulla Almaqabi, Taibah Mansoor Hussain, Hiba Abdulaziz Abdulla, Badal Khan Miazan, Nabbel Jaffar Hasan, Mohamed Amin Mohamed, Tariq Al Hussaini.

Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al-Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year."

Al-Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions. Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For every KD 50 deposited in the account, customers are given one chance to enter the quarterly draw. They must have held the minimum deposit requirement for at least two weeks prior to the draw date. The more deposits made, the higher the chances of winning on a weekly basis.

## 2018 KIA CARS' LINEUP AVAILABLE AT KFH SHOWROOMS AL-EISSA: KFH PURCHASES OF KIA CARS OUTPACES KD 11M

**KUWAIT:** Ahd Al-Eissa, Executive Manager Cars and Leasing Products at Kuwait Finance House (KFH) said that 2018 KIA cars lineup of different makes and models is available at KFH showrooms.



Ahd Al-Eissa

He added in a press release that with the operational leasing option from KFH, customers can drive a car without having to worry about its maintenance. Customers can choose from a wide variety of 80 car models that suit their demands and decide on the period of the lease contract. Leasing from KFH also comes with a variety of customized options that guarantee customers' peace of mind at all times. The financing leasing contract (lease to own) starts from 12-26 month period.

Al-Eissa stressed the importance of customer service, while meeting their requirements, boosting the market and strengthening ties with partners, indicating the bank's partnership with KIA is very successful and fruitful, where the value of this partnership outpaced KD 11 million.

The advantages and benefits include full maintenance throughout the duration of lease term, Full Takaful insurance cover throughout the duration of the leasing period, a substitute car when the leased car is under maintenance or repair for more than 24 hours, 24 / 7 road-side assistance, a wide range and variety of categories and models that will surely meet the client demands, and the option to drive the leased car beyond Kuwaiti borders according to terms and conditions.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of

excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.

## BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

**The lucky winners are:**

1. Mohammad Abdullah Al Hamad
2. Mohammad Abdullah Ali
3. Sarah Hasan Al Qattan
4. Fatma Jafar Marafi
5. Abdulwahab Abdulsamad Al Saffar

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD

125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and Quarterly Draws, wherein the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.



## AMNAH HASSAN BIN NEKHI, WINNER OF AL-DANAH'S KD 250,000 RECEIVES PRIZE

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank was pleased to welcome Amnah Hassan Bin Nekhi (minor) who is 8 years old, the winner of Al-Danah's second quarterly draw for this year. Amnah and her family have received 250,000 cash prize upon visiting the bank's Mishref branch on 20 July 2017, where Mishref's branch Manager and members of senior management greeted them and handed them the prize.

The winner's family was delighted to hear the good news; they have expressed their gratitude to Gulf Bank for this valuable prize, which was a great surprise that will help them reach a lot of Amnah's goals and wishes in the future.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah second quarterly draw was held live on 88.8 FM 'Rabaa Al-Diwaniya' show, on Thursday, 13 July 2017, under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce and Industry Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws; with two winners per working day and each receive KD 1000, quarterly draws

and the final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million. Al-Danah's third quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 28 September, 2017. The final Al-Danah draw for KD1 million will be held on 11 January 2018, when the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank invites its customers to increase their chances of winning by depositing more into their Al-Danah account, through the Bank's ITMs, ATMs, and the new 'e-Pay' service or by visiting any of the Banks' branches across Kuwait.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2017 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on for assistance and guidance.



Amnah Bin Nekhi, the winner of KD 250,000 prizes with her family and Gulf Bank team.



# ISYX TECHNOLOGIES, MICROSOFT SHOWCASE SOLUTIONS TO TRANSFORM BUILDING INDUSTRY

**DUBAI:** ISYX Technologies, a fast-growing business innovation consulting company in the Middle East and Africa, successfully held a joint workshop with Microsoft on the challenges faced by the construction and building materials industry. The event focused on how specific solutions provided by ISYX Technologies using Microsoft Dynamics 365 can improve the productivity of the industry players on various projects.

The key objective of the workshop was how to focus on the improvement of specific project parameters like sales automation, supply chain and delivery, material estimation, project P&L management, dashboard, KPI's per project, resource allocation per project, service maintenance, amongst others.

"While construction is important for the world economy, it has a poor record of productivity. Construction related spending accounts for 13 percent of the world's GDP, but its annual productivity growth has only increased by 1 percent over the past 20 years. There are two characteristics linked to the lack of automation and innovation in the construction industry. First, it is a highly fragmented



**Sharoon Shamsuddin**

industry making integration cumbersome, and second it is amongst the least digitized end-to-end, ranking just above agriculture and below hospitality and healthcare," explained Sharoon Shamsuddin, CEO, ISYX Technologies.

"Having other business ventures such as construction and asset management, I certainly see the potential of a digital future for the construction industry, where the decision-making functions will be moved to intelligent software and the devices that run on it," he added. The McKinsey Global Institute has identified ten root causes for the low productivity in the construction industry. They include three from within external forces, three from within industry dynamics, and four from within firm-level operational factors.

Some of these include inadequate design processes, poor project manage-



ment, under investment in innovation and digitization, insufficiently skilled supervisory and frontline workers, amongst others. Clashing behavior amongst the various construction ecosystem players is also responsible for the continuing low productivity. Suitable action in seven areas can boost the sector's productivity by an estimated 50 percent to 60 percent, including regulations, contracts, design, procurement and supply chain, onsite execution, technology

and innovation, and reskilling workers.

"Our solutions which are, built on the Microsoft Dynamics 365 platform are meant to digitally transform the legacy project approach prevalent in this industry and boost gains for vendors, suppliers, contractors, consultants, and the end customer. The Microsoft D365 solution covers an extended collaboration model linking design, construction and operations. It covers various stages like digital mockup, design review, process simula-

tion, project management and facility management. The solution provides a single place to understand the complete project performance including, portfolio analysis, project progress analysis, punch list analysis across projects, cash flow, EVA, and other variables," added Shiva Kathiresan, VP Applications, ISYX Technologies.

D365 is completely project-centric and is a work-breakdown structure, driven solution. It covers actual versus budget variance analysis, material variance, labor variance, cash flow analysis, EVA analysis, projected cash flow over six-month period, project portfolio analysis, amongst others. It provides coverage for every process of a project based organization. This includes inquiry, estimation, quote, sales order, planning, execution, cash, RFQ, procurement, quality, payouts, financial planning, project dashboards, work breakdown and activity alerts, workflows and hand offs, knowledge base, field service management, amongst others. Other solution capabilities include BIM integration, GIS and map integration, augmented and virtual reality capability, and IoT integration.

## CHEAP 3D PRINTED PROSTHETICS COULD BE GAME CHANGER FOR NEPAL

**KATHMANDU:** Ram's new hand was manufactured on a 3D printer in Nepal's capital for just \$30, an innovation that could be a game changer for many in the impoverished Himalayan country. Once a farmer, Ram lost his hands and toes within a few years of contracting leprosy, forcing the father-of-three to turn to begging in a desperate bid to feed his family. That's where he was spotted by US-born Matthew Rockwell, the founder of Disaster Hack, a non-profit technology startup that is making functional prosthetic hands for those who couldn't otherwise afford them.

Disaster Hack makes its money doing tech consulting and teaching people to code, while running altruistic ventures on the side like teaching Nepalis IT skills and manufacturing low-cost, basic prosthetics. Rockwell—who flits between Nepal and the US, where he is part of the tech team behind the annual Burning Man festival in Nevada's Black Rock Desert—brought a 3D printer to Kathmandu after a powerful earthquake struck the country in 2015.

Soon, he began printing new hands for those in need: a girl who lost both limbs after being electrocuted by hanging power lines, a construction worker whose hand was crushed beyond repair. "We've only distributed to five so far but we have a list that keeps on growing," said Rockwell, sitting in a cramped office in Kathmandu, the 3D printer whirring behind him.

### Recycled materials

Rockwell only has the capacity to make hands at the moment—a leg

requires a more heavy-duty printer—but he has identified more than 7,000 people in Nepal who could benefit from Disaster Hack's creations. "A traditional prosthesis costs anywhere between \$1000 to \$3000 to \$5000," Rockwell explained. "Now we're able to produce prostheses for right around \$30 so it (3D printing) lowers the cost dramatically for a functional prosthesis."

Rockwell hopes to bring down the cost even further by recycling plastic bottle tops to make the wire that feeds the printer. Nepal's healthcare sector is chronically underfunded and ill-equipped but 3D printing can reduce both the cost and time it takes to bring medical equipment to those who need it most. The 3D printed hands being manufactured by Disaster Hack take nearly a full day to print, and are comprised of roughly 20 different parts. Rockwell hopes the mostly volunteer-run project will sow the seeds for something bigger.

He has now trained 20 prosthetists at hospitals in Nepal in 3D printing, and signed a deal with Kathmandu's largest university to set up the country's first biomedical 3D printing lab. Meanwhile for Ram, a new hand could mean a chance to give up begging. "What should I say, I have nothing to eat. If I stay here I make 100 rupees (\$0.97), 50 rupees," he said from his daily spot on the corner of a busy intersection. He lifted the new prosthetic hand, and as he slowly contracted the plastic fingers to make a fist, a smile spread across his face.—AFP



**KATHMANDU:** This photo shows Disaster Hack founder Matthew Rockwell, right, attaching a 3D printed prosthetic hand to leprosy sufferer Ram's arm in Kathmandu. —AFP photos



**KATHMANDU:** This photo shows Disaster Hack founder Matthew Rockwell during an interview with AFP in Kathmandu.



**KATHMANDU:** This photo shows leprosy sufferer Ram, who lost his hands and toes to the disease, begging on the streets of Kathmandu.



**MUMBAI:** India's richest man and oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, right, and his wife Nita Ambani (2R) pose with their children (L-C) Akash Ambani, Anant Ambani and Isha Ambani as they arrive for the company's 40th AGM in Mumbai. —AFP

## INDIA'S AMBANI TO LAUNCH FREE SMARTPHONE, SHAKES UP TELECOMS

**MUMBAI:** India's richest man Mukesh Ambani said Friday that his telecoms venture Jio would launch a free smartphone, escalating a price war that is shaking up the country's ultra-competitive mobile market. The announcement, made at a boisterous Reliance Industries annual general meeting in Mumbai, sent shares in rival telecoms operator Bharti Airtel plummeting almost six percent. "This breakthrough and revolutionary device named JioPhone, along with Jio's disruptive tariff, will unleash the power of digital life in the hands of 1.3 billion citizens of the largest democracy in the world," said Ambani.

The tycoon told shareholders and staff, who regularly burst into chants of "Jio, Jio, Jio," that the phone, the latest entry into India's crowded

market, would be available from September. He said customers would only have to pay a deposit of 1,500 rupees (\$23.32) for the 4G-enabled device, which would be fully refundable after three years. The announcement comes almost a year after Ambani launched the Reliance Jio 4G network with free voice calls for life and vastly cheaper data plans, forcing rivals to dramatically slash their tariffs.

Jio has signed up 125 million subscribers since its launch in September 2016, causing a rush to consolidation in the multi-billion-dollar sector as competitors scramble to match its deep pockets. British mobile phone giant Vodafone is merging its Indian unit with Idea Cellular to help fend off Jio, which is backed by

Reliance Industries—India's immensely wealthy energy-to-chemicals conglomerate headed by Ambani.

Bharti Airtel and Idea Cellular have endured losses since Jio's arrival and shares in the companies fell nearly three percent and six percent respectively following Ambani's announcement Friday. Reliance rose three percent. The news will have also been carefully watched by South Korean tech giant Samsung and Chinese mobile phone maker Xiaomi who possess the lion's share of India's smartphone market. Samsung leads the market with 28 percent while nearly 14 percent of phones sold in India are made by Xiaomi, according to a study by the International Data Corporation, an IT research firm. —AFP

## CHICAGO FESTIVAL TO MARK POKEMON GO ANNIVERSARY GOES AWRY

**CHICAGO:** A Pokemon Go festival at Chicago's Grant Park to celebrate the virtual game's one-year anniversary went awry when a technical glitch prevented many players from logging on. The Chicago Tribune reported the festival's organizers decided to issue refunds for the \$20 tickets and \$100 in credits for use on the app. The Chicago Sun-Times reported the CEO of the game's developer was booted when he tried to explain the problem to the crowd.

Niantic Inc.'s John Hanke said "the whole Niantic team" was working to fix a glitch in the server and log-on problems with cellular service providers AT&T, Sprint and Verizon. Some in attendance paid as much as \$400 online for the tickets when they sold out within minutes of their June release. The augmented reality game that uses GPS to locate, capture, battle and train virtual creatures was introduced in the United States in July 2016. Niantic says Pokemon Go has been downloaded 750 million times.—AP



**CHICAGO:** Festival goers wander the grounds at the Pokemon Go Fest at Grant Park in Chicago. —AP photos



# HOTTEST DAY EVER IN SHANGHAI AS HEAT WAVE BAKES CHINA

**SHANGHAI:** Shanghai sweltered under a new record high of 40.9 degrees Centigrade on Friday, authorities said as they issued a weather "red alert" over a stubborn heat wave that has plagued much of the country. Hospitals in the city have reported increased numbers of patients suffering from heat-related illnesses, according to state media, and the Shanghai zoo said it was putting large blocks of ice into some animal enclosures to help them beat the

heat, while providing frozen apples to its pandas. China's most populous city has baked under soaring summer temperatures for more than two weeks and Friday afternoon reached the hottest point since the establishment of its benchmark weather station in 1872, the municipal weather bureau said. Other areas of China also have seen records set in recent weeks, in what has been a torrid summer so far for much of the country, while large areas of south-central

China have endured raging floods from torrential rain. Shanghai's "red alert"—the first this year—is triggered when temperatures in excess of 40 degrees are forecast and comes with a warning to citizens to keep cool and avoid too much time outdoors, especially children, the elderly, or the sick. It also puts authorities on heightened alert against fires breaking out and advises special care with perishable foods to prevent

spoilage and bacteria. Shanghai is getting hotter—the previous record of 40.8 degrees was set only in 2013, and eight of the 12 highest temperatures reached over the past century were recorded in the last five years, according to the city weather bureau. People are losing their cool, said the state-run Shanghai Daily. Shanghai has "seen a spike in accidental injuries, triggered by fights or traffic accidents, as people are more easily irritated in

the extreme heat and failing to exercise proper judgment," it said Friday. Even dogs are on edge, according to a state media report this week that said the heat wave has coincided with a rise in dog bites. Shanghai's weather bureau said Thursday a stubborn subtropical high and hot southwesterly winds were to blame and that the city will continue to bake at least until early August when typhoon season begins and the weather begins to shift. — AFP



**COFFEE BAY, South Africa:** This file photo shows traditional Xhosa initiates Fezikhaya Tselane, 20 years old, and Khanyisile Mapope, left, 18 years old, sitting down covered with blankets during a traditional initiation process, in a rural hut in the Coffee Bay area in Umtata, South Africa.— AFP

## S AFRICA CIRCUMCISION RITUAL: A DANGEROUS ROUTE TO MANHOOD

**COFFEE BAY, South Africa:** Naked, covered in white clay mud, and with his penis wrapped in leaves, Abongile Masegu, 20, sits in a hut in South Africa recovering from his circumcision—a traditional ritual that can prove fatal. For Masegu, it has been a grueling initiation test that marks his arrival as an adult, and the pain is an essential part of the experience. "You must go through that pain to show that you are a man," he said outside the coastal village of Coffee Bay about 100 kilometers from Umtata in Eastern Cape province.

"We don't even think of (getting) a medical circumcision because it is the easy way out. We laugh at those who go to hospitals." Masegu is one of thousands of youths from the Xhosa ethnic group attending this year's annual winter initiation schools across Eastern Cape province. After his foreskin is cut off by a tribal elder using a knife, he is kept in the small thatched rondavel hut with two other initiates for up to four weeks, with a "bush doctor" present at all times monitoring their wounds.

The initiates are allowed no contact with women, and spend their time playing cards, applying mud and stoking the smoky fire to try to keep warm. "If you go to hospital you are weak, you are not a man. Your wound must not be treated with Betadine (disinfectant)," Masegu said. "There is special traditional medicine for that and it heals fast."

### Secretive ceremony

He revealed tree leaves tied like a bandage around his genitals, which are also covered in a traditional healing ointment and held to one side by string. The ritual is revered and guarded by the Xhosa people, but the unhygienic conditions—and abuse by some initiation schools—exact a heavy toll. At least 11 youths have already died during this southern hemisphere winter in Eastern Cape, according to provincial officials, while the

government says several hundred have died nationwide in initiation schools since 1995.

Often the cause is infection from a botched circumcision, which can lead to penis amputation surgery. Circumcision has also been demonstrated to be a powerful weapon in the fight against HIV, by helping to protect men from the AIDS virus. But specialists-meeting in Paris from Sunday for a four-day forum on HIV/AIDS—remain worried about botched operations and poor hygiene. Other risks include dehydration or maltreatment by initiation leaders, who conduct the secretive circumcision rituals deep in the mountains.

### Recognized as a man

In another grass-thatched hut, 200 meters away, sitting on a reed mat, is 20-year-old Fezikhaya Tselane, who has just returned from his circumcision rites in the remote bush. As he nurses the sore wound, his bush doctor sits close by, surrounded by dirty pots, plates and empty beer bottles strewn over the floor. "I have been waiting for this day. All my brothers have gone through this process," Tselane said, entirely covered in white mud, which is meant to ward off evil spirits as well as preserve body warmth.

"In our Xhosa culture, if you don't go through traditional circumcision you are not recognized as a man. Now I can marry, have my own house and kids and not depend on my parents." Mxolisi Dimaza, chairman of the Eastern Cape provincial health committee, said authorities were determined to curb injuries and deaths in the initiation schools.

"This year a considerable amount of resources were made available so that we do not experience many more deaths," he said after his recent field visit to several initiation sites. "However, there are still problem areas where we have illegal initiation schools. These are where the school itself is not registered and the initiates are often below 18 years old." — AFP

# HEADWAY ON AIDS THREATENED BY SLOW FUNDING UNDER TRUMP

2018 TRUMP BUDGET COULD DEPRIVE 830,000 PEOPLE

**PARIS:** Progress in beating back the AIDS epidemic risks being eroded by a funding shortfall set to grow under Donald Trump's proposed cuts to global health projects, experts and campaigners warned ahead of a major HIV conference. If adopted by Congress, the 2018 Trump budget could deprive some 830,000 people, mostly in Africa, from life-saving anti-AIDS drugs, according to calculations by the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), a California-based health policy NGO. "We will see lives needlessly being lost," said Linda-Gail Bekker, president of the International AIDS Society (IAS) hosting some 6,000 experts in Paris from Sunday to take stock of advances in HIV science.

"We're not talking about maybe a slowing down... if these (US) cuts come about we could very well see a real turnaround in terms of the progress that has been made," she said. A Trump budget could lead to nearly 200,000 new HIV infections, according to the KFF. It could also leave as many as 25 million couples without access to sponsored contraceptives, which not only prevent pregnancy but also virus spread. "I cannot tell you how anxious I feel... To have the funding carpet taken from under our feet just seems such an incredible travesty," said Bekker.

The United States has for years been the biggest contributor to the global fight against HIV infection, accounting for about two-thirds of funding by governments. Last year, it contributed \$4.9 billion (4.2 billion euros) to global HIV projects — 7.5 times the amount provided by second-placed donor Britain. Trump's proposed budget, submitted in May, would reduce this amount by about \$1 billion, according to Health Global Access Project, an activist group which crunched the numbers.

### Others must do more

The US president put forward a blueprint which, in its own words, "reduces funding for several global health programs, including HIV/AIDS, with the expectation that other donors can and should increase their commitments." The draft spending plan proposes to "maintain current commitments and all current patient levels on HIV/AIDS treatment" under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, set up by George W. Bush in 2003. The program provides anti-retroviral treatment (ART) to over 12 million people.

The goal of PEPFAR, said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), a US government research agency, "is to get more people who have been newly infected on therapy"—which means more money. "If you don't increase it, you... have more responsibilities that you are not able to meet." Trump also proposed a 17-percent cut of \$222 million to the government's 2017 contribution of \$1.13 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria, which provides about 10 million people with ART.

"The future outlook of donor funding for HIV remains uncertain, given recently proposed cuts to HIV funding by the US, amidst other competing demands on donor budgets more generally," said the KFF report. Since the epidemic erupted in the 1980s, 76.1 million people have been infected with



**WASHINGTON:** This file photo shows US President Donald Trump announcing his decision to withdraw the US from the Paris Climate Accords in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, DC.— AFP

HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Some 35 million have died. Last year, AIDS killed a million people and infected another 1.8 million, according to the UN. And while infections and deaths are on the decline, the number of people living with HIV—requiring lifelong treatment—continues to grow.

### Coming up short

Last year, 19.5 million of the 36.7 million people who needed it, had access to ART. By 2020, the UN is aiming for 90 percent of HIV-infected people to be on medication. But to achieve this target, annual spending must reach \$26.2 billion (22.4 billion euros), according to UNAIDS. In 2016, public and private funders were able to muster \$19.1 billion for AIDS research, prevention and treatment programs in poor and middle-income countries. "We are maximizing the use of every dollar available, but we are still \$7 billion short," UNAIDS executive director Michel Sidibe said this week.

The IAS conference organisers warned in a statement that "all of the scientific challenges still before us are threatened by a weakening resolve to fund HIV science." The gap is set to grow larger. "It is... a difficult moment for all of us," said French HIV expert Jean-Francois Delraissy, who will co-chair the Paris meeting, citing a "modification in funding in the US" and a shift in "the political vision of the US government" on working with other countries.

Just over half of AIDS-related health spending came from domestic sources in 2016, but many of the poorest countries remain heavily reliant on foreign help. Globally, said the KFF, government donor funding for HIV dropped in 2016 to the lowest level since 2010 — from \$7.5 billion to \$7 billion. "We've seen two successive years of declines," said Jen Kates, the foundation's HIV policy director. "This raises concerns about the ability of the global community to successfully tackle the epidemic." — AFP

## 600,000 YEMENIS COULD CONTRACT CHOLERA IN 2017

**ADEN, Yemen:** More than 600,000 people are expected to contract cholera in Yemen this year, the International Committee of the Red Cross warned yesterday as the war-torn country's healthcare system faces collapse. One in every 45 Yemenis will have contracted the disease by December as "a direct consequence of a conflict that has devastated civilian infrastructure and brought the whole health system to its knees," the ICRC said in a statement.

More than 370,000 people have fallen ill and 1,800 have died since late April in Yemen's second cholera outbreak in less than a year. According to

the ICRC and the World Health Organization, a war between the Saudi-backed government and Iran-backed Huthi rebels has killed thousands of people and displaced millions.

Furthermore, a string of vital ports along the country's Red Sea coastline are blockaded, leaving millions of people with limited access to food and medicine. Less than half of the country's medical facilities are currently functional and the war in Yemen, one of the world's most impoverished countries, has killed more than 8,000 people and wounded a further 44,500 since Saudi Arabia and its allies joined the conflict in 2015.—AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

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## LOYAC, NCCAL host a concert for Iraqi artist Youssef Abbas

LOYAC has recently hosted a concert for the Iraqi artist Youssef Abbas with the collaboration of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) at Abdulhussein Abdulredha's theater. The

Assistant Secretary-General for Culture at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Mohammed Al-Assoussi presented a memorial shield to the Iraqi singer. The concert was attended by a large number of arts fans.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Abbas expressed his thanks to the officials at (NCCAL) and LOYAC academy for the efforts they have concerted at supporting young talents. For her part, LOYAC's Chairman of

the Board of Directors Farah Al-Saqqaf stressed the importance of partnership and cooperation with (NCCAL) to present cultural activities and enhancing cultural movement of Kuwaiti and Arab youth.



## NBK sponsors new LOYAC program

The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsors "Jahez (ready) program" offered by the LOYAC's Volunteers Foundation. It aims to prepare young people to join the labor market and to



support the Foundation's various activities and its pioneering role in supporting community and humanitarian institutions. NBK sponsorship includes full support for the "Jahez" program, which will last for 10 days starting from July 30 till August 10, 2017. As for the timing, it will be from 5 to 8 pm on Sunday to Thursday.

"The 'Jahez' program offers a real value added for young people and gives them a distinctive educational experience that prepares them for joining the labor market," said NBK Public Relations Officer Joanne Al-Abduljaleel. She added that the program includes lectures provided by a group of lecturers from the Human Resources Department in the bank on customer service. The program will be attended by 30 students between the ages of 16 and 21 years.



## TSC collaborates with Ghanima Al-Fahad in 'Stay Fit All Summer'



Due to the positive feedback received from customers on the "Healthy Ramadan" campaign conducted by Ghanima Al-Fahad, The Sultan Center continued its collaboration with Al-Fahad a macrobiotic expert- as part of its healthy eating campaign called "Stay Fit All Summer". Through the "Stay Fit All Summer" program, Ghanima Al-Fahad greeted TSC customers, on Fridays during the month of July at TSC Shaab store and provided them with simple, healthy and nutritious meals that promote good health during the summer season.

The program has been custom designed to provide informative information and benefits related to cooking ideas to keep you and your family healthy and hydrated against the summer heat by using fresh and natural products available at TSC stores. During the sessions, participants enjoyed cooking with Ghanima Al-Fahad and were provided with all the necessary tools to prepare the meals at home for their families.

They also got the chance to ask Al-Fahad about how to cook healthier and lighter options that can provide the same taste, but with less fat and calories and more nutritional value. TSC takes the lead in educating customers about the importance of eating healthy food options and plays an active role in the community by supporting health initiatives and wellness campaigns that promote a healthy lifestyle.

## NAFO anniversary 'Kadal' upsurges musical reverberations



NAFO Kuwait (National Forum Kuwait) celebrated its 14th anniversary in a colorful and splendid manner on May 26 at the sophisticated art theatre of American United School, Sabah-Al-Salem. The inaugural meeting started with the national anthems of Kuwait and India, followed by the soothing Vedic invocation chants of NAFO Symphony kids into the silent and serene venue. A brief audiovisual documentary, on the socio-welfare activities and mega cultural shows of NAFO was showcased.

The meeting observed a minute silence in respect of deceased Senior Indian Citizen and highly regarded expatriate community leader late Sunny Mathews, as a gesture of NAFO's respect and commemoration. Chief Guest, U S Sibi, Second Secretary Indian

Embassy, inaugurated the function by lighting the traditional lamp, along with the NAFO office-bearers, Advisory Board, Program Convener and Ladies' Wing Chief Coordinator.

General Secretary Vijaykrishnan welcomed the chief guest and the gathering. Vijaykrishnan briefed the recent activities and also about the relevance of the active role of young Nafaitans in the working front to implement the planned future activities with a change approach. President O N Nandakumar delivered presidential address and his inspiring anniversary message. Nandakumar briefed about NAFO'S socio-welfare activities and the program as a whole. In his inaugural address US Sibi congratulated NAFO for their commitment towards extending welfare assistance to



the downtrodden and oppressed sections of the society. He further praised the NAFO team for their continued efforts in carrying out such noble services. He also appreciated the NAFO family for its relentless services to the humanity and promoting the rich Indian cultural heritages in Kuwait. Chief Guest wished all success to its future socio-welfare activities. NAFO Advisory Board member BS Pillai rendered a felicitation speech and greeted the function.

On behalf of NAFO, Chief Guest US Sibi was honored with a memento by President Nandakumar, for his commendable leadership and humanitarian services rendering to Indian diaspora in Kuwait in a short span of time. The Chief Guest released anniversary souvenir, by collecting a copy from the Editor M S Nair and handed over to Shaju Mohandas and to the

delegates. Program convener Madhu G Menon, in his vote of thanks expressed gratitude to dignitaries and guests.

He also thanked music band KADAL for their participation and the management of American United School for providing the most beautiful auditorium and premises. This year's celebration showcased an overall improvisation with the astonishing stage performances by NAFO Ladies' and children co-ordinated by NAFO Ladies' Wing, followed with a musical extravaganza "Kadal" featured high voltage folk-rock band which carried the audience on a humungous upsurge of musical reverberations. Excellent competing by Darshana Jayadevan, Vrichika Vinayan and Sheethal Rajiv Menon mystically guided the audience throughout the event.





- 00:45 Wildest Middle East
- 01:40 Wildest Middle East
- 02:35 Wildest Middle East
- 05:49 Big Fish Man
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
- 08:15 Wildest Africa
- 09:10 Wildest Middle East
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
- 11:55 Animal Cops Philadelphia
- 12:50 Wildest Africa
- 13:45 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
- 14:40 Wildest Middle East
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
- 17:25 Animal Cops Houston
- 18:20 Animal ER
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
- 21:05 Animal Cops Houston
- 22:00 Animal ER
- 22:55 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
- 23:50 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall

- 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
- 06:25 Jessie
- 06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 07:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 07:45 Bunk'd
- 08:10 Stuck In The Middle
- 08:35 Bizaardvark
- 09:00 Austin & Ally
- 09:50 Good Luck Charlie
- 10:40 Alex & Co.
- 11:05 Lolo
- 11:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 12:00 Welcome To The Ponks
- 12:15 Hank Zipzer
- 12:40 Dog With A Blog
- 13:05 Star Darlings
- 13:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Jessie
- 14:25 Lolo
- 14:50 The Zhuzhus S1
- 15:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
- 15:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 15:45 Elena Of Avalor
- 16:10 Liv And Maddie
- 16:35 Descendants Wicked World
- 16:40 Girl Meets World
- 17:05 Stuck In The Middle
- 17:30 Bunk'd
- 17:55 Bizaardvark
- 18:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:25 Alex & Co.
- 18:50 Best Friends Whenever
- 19:15 Star Darlings
- 19:20 Liv And Maddie
- 19:45 Mako Mermaids
- 20:10 Jessie
- 20:35 Cracked
- 20:40 Alex & Co.
- 21:05 Austin & Ally
- 21:30 Stuck In The Middle
- 21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 22:00 Bunk'd



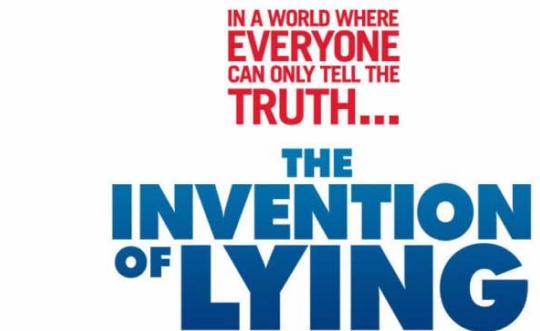
- 00:00 Cursed
- 01:00 Stalked By A Ghost
- 02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 03:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
- 04:00 Cursed
- 05:00 Stalked By A Ghost
- 06:00 The First 48
- 07:00 Evil Up Close
- 08:00 The First 48
- 09:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 10:00 Gangs Of Britain With Gary And Martin Kemp
- 11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 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 Gangs Of Britain...
- 21:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 22:00 Homicide Hunter



- 00:30 The Big Brain Theory
- 01:20 The Big Brain Theory
- 02:10 Dirty Jobs
- 03:00 Dirty Jobs
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 Ultimate Survival
- 05:30 Ultimate Survival
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 06:40 How It's Made
- 07:00 Doki
- 07:25 Doki
- 08:15 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 08:40 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 How It's Made



- 00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:15 Calimero
- 00:30 Art Attack
- 00:55 Zou
- 01:05 Loopidoo
- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:35 Calimero



THE INVENTION OF LYING ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 09:55 How It's Made
- 10:20 How It's Made
- 10:45 How It's Made
- 11:10 How It's Made
- 12:25 How It's Made
- 12:50 Ultimate Survival
- 13:40 Ultimate Survival
- 14:30 Ultimate Survival
- 15:20 Ultimate Survival
- 17:00 The Big Brain Theory
- 17:50 The Big Brain Theory
- 18:40 Breaking Magic
- 19:05 Breaking Magic
- 19:30 Prehistoric
- 20:20 Clash Of The Dinosaurs
- 21:10 David Baddiel On The Silk Road
- 22:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 22:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Untamed & Uncut

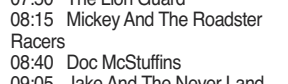
- 01:50 Zou
- 02:05 Art Attack
- 02:30 The Hive
- 02:40 Loopidoo
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:10 Art Attack
- 03:35 Loopidoo
- 03:50 Calimero
- 04:05 Art Attack
- 04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:45 Zou
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:45 Loopidoo
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:15 Calimero
- 06:30 Loopidoo
- 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, Lex!
- 09:40 Mickey's Monster Musical
- 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 Unbreakable
- 15:00 Goldie & Bear
- 15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 16:00 Disney Lights, Camera, Lex!
- 16:05 Sofia The First: Once Upon A Princess
- 16:50 PJ Masks
- 17:05 Doc McStuffins
- 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

- 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
- 22:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

- 08:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:00 Siba's Table
- 09:30 Siba's Table
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:30 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 Restaurant: Impossible
- 21:00 Mystery Diners
- 21:30 Mystery Diners
- 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Chopped



- 00:30 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
- 01:20 Alaska Haunting
- 02:10 Evil Lives Here
- 03:00 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
- 03:48 Grave Secrets
- 04:36 Murder Comes To Town
- 05:24 The Detectives Club: New Orleans
- 06:12 Blood Relatives
- 07:00 Beauty Queen Murders
- 10:20 The Locator
- 11:10 Nightmare Next Door
- 12:00 Blood Relatives
- 12:50 Blood Relatives
- 13:40 Blood Relatives
- 14:30 Blood Relatives
- 15:20 The Locator
- 16:10 Blood Relatives
- 17:00 Nowhere To Hide
- 17:50 Nowhere To Hide
- 18:40 Nowhere To Hide
- 19:30 Nowhere To Hide
- 20:20 The Locator
- 20:45 The Locator
- 21:10 Hate In America
- 22:00 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
- 22:50 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence



- 00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 00:55 Famously Single
- 01:50 E! News
- 02:50 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:50 Mariah's World
- 04:40 Mariah's World
- 05:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 06:00 Botched By Nature
- 06:55 E! News
- 07:25 Botched By Nature
- 08:20 Botched By Nature
- 09:15 Botched By Nature
- 10:10 E! News
- 10:40 Celebrity Style Story
- 11:10 WAGs Miami
- 12:05 WAGs Miami
- 13:05 WAGs Miami
- 14:00 Botched
- 15:00 E! News
- 15:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 16:00 Botched
- 17:00 Botched
- 18:00 Botched
- 19:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 22:00 Botched
- 23:00 E! News



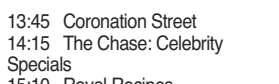
- 00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Emmerdale
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Royal Recipes
- 03:25 Inside Windsor Castle
- 04:20 Royal Stories
- 04:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 05:15 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 06:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 07:05 Royal Recipes
- 08:00 Inside Windsor Castle
- 09:00 Royal Stories
- 09:30 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 10:00 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 10:55 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 11:50 Royal Recipes
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street



HARLOCK: SPACE PIRATE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



- 00:00 The Great Food Truck Race
- 01:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 01:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 02:00 Private Chef
- 02:30 Private Chef
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 The Great Food Truck Race
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 06:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 07:00 The Kitchen
- 08:00 The Pioneer Woman



- 00:20 Ice Road Truckers
- 01:10 Pawn Stars
- 01:35 Pawn Stars
- 02:00 Storage Wars Miami
- 02:25 Storage Wars Miami
- 02:50 Storage Wars
- 03:15 American Pickers
- 04:05 Pawn Stars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Mountain Men
- 06:00 Fifth Gear
- 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 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 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 Fifth Gear
- 16:00 Storage Wars
- 16:25 Storage Wars
- 16:50 Pawn Stars
- 17:15 Pawn Stars
- 17:40 Pawn Stars
- 18:05 Pawn Stars
- 18:30 Storage Wars Miami
- 18:55 Storage Wars Miami
- 19:20 Mountain Men
- 20:10 American Pickers
- 21:00 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
- 21:50 The Wrights
- 22:40 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
- 23:30 American Pickers



- 01:05 Diggstown
- 02:50 Harlock: Space Pirate
- 04:45 Compadres
- 06:40 Spooks: The Greater Good
- 08:30 Diggstown
- 10:10 Harlock: Space Pirate
- 12:05 Momentum
- 13:45 Spooks: The Greater Good
- 15:35 The World Is Not Enough
- 17:45 Die Another Day
- 20:00 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
- 22:20 Hardcore Henry



- 01:20 Oliver & Company
- 02:40 Pirates Code: The Adventures Of Mickey Matson
- 04:15 Mousehunt
- 05:55 The Shaggy Dog
- 07:40 Pirates Code: The Adventures Of Mickey Matson
- 09:15 Cars
- 11:15 The Shaggy Dog
- 13:00 The Incredibles
- 15:00 Wall-E
- 16:40 Minions
- 18:15 Secretariat
- 20:20 Little Women
- 22:20 The Incredibles



- 01:15 Dirty Work
- 02:40 You Again

- 04:30 The Beautician And The Beast
- 06:20 Perfect Match
- 07:50 You Again
- 09:40 The Beautician And The Beast
- 11:30 Perfect Match
- 13:00 Almost Christmas
- 15:00 Outside Bet
- 16:50 Three Men And A Little Lady
- 18:40 Holiday Joy
- 20:25 Life After Beth
- 22:00 Middle Men
- 23:55 Garden State

- 15:40 Making History
- 16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 17:00 Seinfeld
- 18:00 The Middle
- 19:00 Speechless
- 20:00 The Good Place
- 21:00 Seinfeld
- 21:30 Seinfeld
- 22:00 Man Seeking Woman
- 22:30 Man Seeking Woman
- 23:00 Better Things
- 23:25 The Good Place
- 23:50 The Good Place

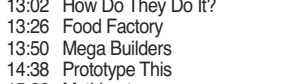


- 00:00 End Of Days
- 02:05 Last Knights
- 04:00 Ghostbusters
- 05:50 Ghostbusters II
- 07:40 Last Knights
- 09:40 Finding Forrester
- 11:55 The Walk
- 14:00 The Invention Of Lying
- 15:40 The Finest Hours
- 17:40 Changeling
- 20:00 Reality Bites
- 22:00 St. Elmo's Fire
- 23:50 Fifty Shades Of Grey

- 00:30 Extreme Engineering
- 01:20 Mega Builders
- 02:10 Mythbusters: The Search
- 03:00 Mythbusters
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Prototype This
- 08:14 Mythbusters
- 09:02 Mega Builders
- 09:50 How Do They Do It?
- 10:14 Food Factory
- 10:38 Mythbusters: The Search
- 11:26 Prototype This
- 12:14 Mythbusters
- 13:02 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Food Factory
- 13:50 Mega Builders
- 14:38 Prototype This
- 15:26 Mythbusters
- 16:14 Mythbusters
- 17:02 Mega Builders
- 17:50 Prototype This
- 18:40 Mythbusters
- 19:30 Future Firepower
- 20:20 How Do They Do It?
- 20:45 Food Factory
- 21:10 Mega Builders
- 22:00 Future Firepower
- 22:50 Prototype This
- 23:40 Mythbusters



- 00:30 Sunday, Bloody Sunday
- 02:25 Spooks
- 04:35 5 Flights Up
- 06:10 I Am Bolt
- 08:00 The Great Gatsby
- 10:25 Healing
- 12:25 Spotlight
- 14:35 The Express
- 16:40 Charlots Of Fire
- 18:45 Swing Kids
- 20:40 The Assassination Of Jesse James
- 23:20 Hostile Border



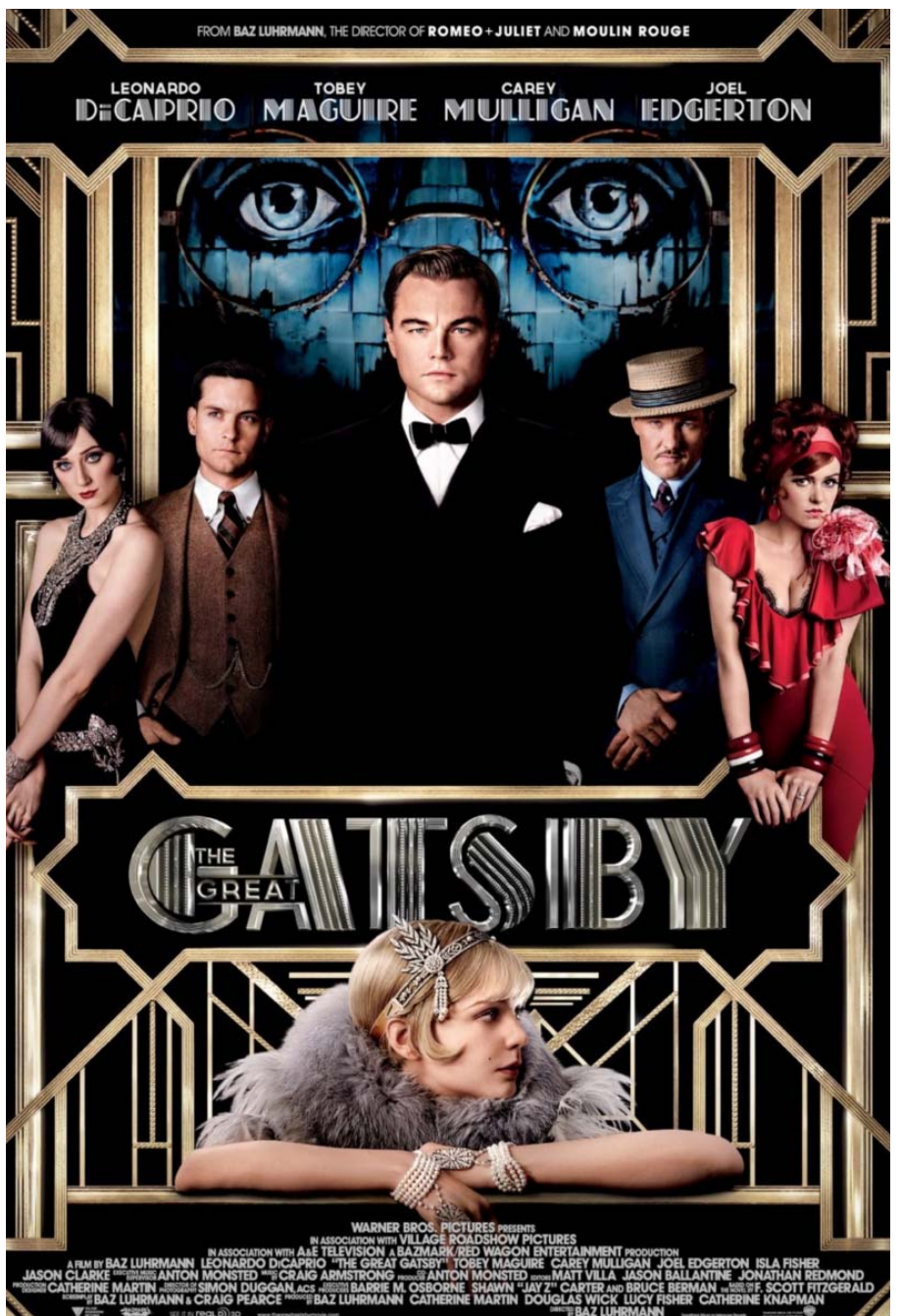
- 00:02 Max & Ruby
- 00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 00:45 The Day Henry Met
- 00:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 01:40 Zack & Quack
- 02:02 Team Umizoomi
- 02:25 Olive The Ostrich
- 02:35 Paw Patrol
- 02:57 Little Charmers
- 03:09 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 03:21 Dora The Explorer
- 03:44 Max & Ruby
- 04:07 Nella The Princess Knight
- 04:30 Shimmer And Shine
- 04:53 Dora And Friends
- 05:16 Zack & Quack
- 05:26 The Day Henry Met
- 05:31 The Day Henry Met
- 05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 06:00 Rusty Rivets
- 06:12 Paw Patrol
- 06:37 Dora The Explorer
- 07:00 Zack & Quack
- 07:22 Bubble Guppies
- 07:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 08:07 Paw Patrol
- 08:30 Shimmer And Shine
- 08:54 Nella The Princess Knight
- 09:16 The Day Henry Met
- 09:22 Paw Patrol
- 09:45 Rusty Rivets
- 09:57 Bubble Guppies
- 10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 10:43 Zack & Quack
- 10:55 Team Umizoomi
- 11:18 Shimmer And Shine
- 12:03 Max & Ruby
- 12:26 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 12:47 The Day Henry Met
- 12:58 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 13:20 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 13:43 Zack & Quack
- 14:04 Team Umizoomi
- 14:26 Olive The Ostrich
- 14:36 Paw Patrol
- 14:59 Little Charmers
- 15:11 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 15:22 Dora The Explorer
- 15:45 Max & Ruby
- 16:08 Nella The Princess Knight
- 16:30 Shimmer And Shine
- 16:53 Dora And Friends
- 17:15 Zack & Quack
- 17:28 The Day Henry Met
- 17:38 Blaze And The Monster



- 00:05 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie
- 01:15 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
- 02:45 Bunny Tales
- 04:20 Outback
- 06:00 Cher Ami
- 07:30 We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story
- 08:50 The Heart Of The Oak
- 10:15 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
- 11:35 Pooh's Heffalump Halloween Movie
- 12:45 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
- 14:10 Tom And Jerry: Back To Oz
- 15:35 The Heart Of The Oak
- 17:00 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
- 18:25 Winnie The Pooh
- 19:35 Tom And Jerry: Back To Oz
- 21:00 We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story
- 22:20 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
- 23:40 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia



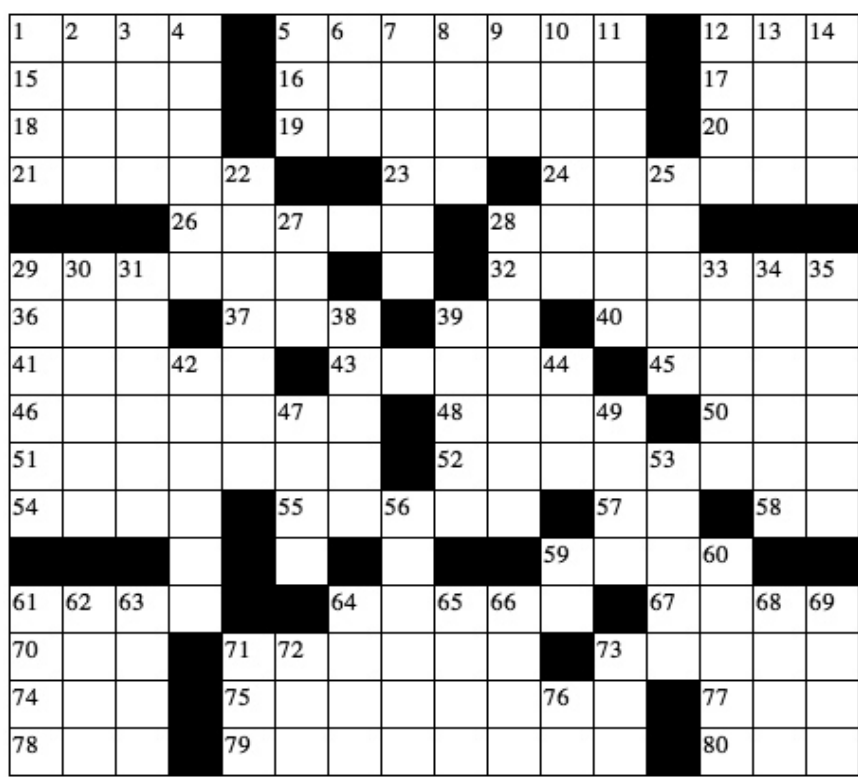
- 00:15 The Middle
- 01:05 Community
- 01:30 Saturday Night Live
- 02:20 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 04:50 George Lopez
- 05:15 Two And A Half Men
- 05:40 Trial & Error
- 06:05 Making History
- 06:30 Mom
- 06:55 Community
- 07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 09:50 George Lopez
- 10:15 Two And A Half Men
- 10:40 Mom
- 11:05 Community
- 11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 12:20 Seinfeld
- 13:10 The Middle
- 14:00 George Lopez
- 14:25 Two And A Half Men
- 14:50 Mom
- 15:15 Trial & Error



THE GREAT GATSBY ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL



CROSSWORD 1667



ACROSS

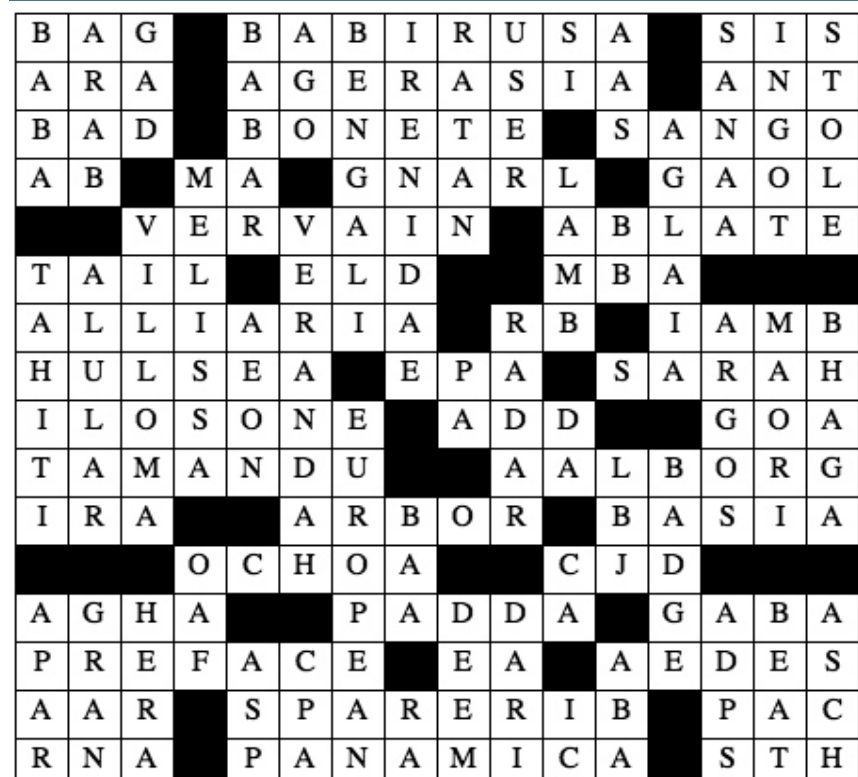
- Material used to daub walls.
- Tropical American trees.
- Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
- A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
- Fortification consisting of a low wall.
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
- (heraldry) Standing on four feet.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
- A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
- Norwegian explorer of the Arctic and director of the League of Nations relief program for refugees of World War I (1861-1930).
- (sports) Someone in charge of training an athlete or a team.
- A member of the Moslem dynasty that ruled India until 1857.
- Climbing salamanders.
- Fiddler crabs.
- Someone (especially a woman) who annoys people by constantly finding fault.
- Come into existence.
- A violin made by Antonio Stradivari or a member of his family.
- Of or relating to or located near a hillum.
- Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
- Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Pertaining to filberts or hazelnuts.
- The wanton killing of many people.
- A three-tone Chadic language.
- Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- A silver-white metallic element of the platinum group that resembles platinum.
- A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
- An anxiety disorder associated with serious traumatic events and characterized by such symptoms as guilt about surviving or reliving the trauma in dreams or numbness and lack of involvement with reality or recurrent thoughts and images.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
- Shrubby lichens of the family Usneaceae having a flattened thallus.
- A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
- Headress that protects the head from bad weather.
- United States writer of detective thrillers featuring the character of Philip Marlowe (1888-1959).
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- Distinguished from Bovidae by the male's having solid deciduous antlers.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.

- In or relating to or obtained from urine.
- The whiteness that results from removing the color from something.
- The unit of frequency.
- Take in solid food.
- A unit of apothecary weight equal to an eighth of an ounce or to 60 grains.
- Amount of a charge or payment relative to some basis.
- A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- English rock star and guitarist and songwriter who with Paul McCartney wrote most of the music for the Beatles (1940-1980).
- Unarmed feather palms of central and northern South America.
- By bad luck.
- A narrow way or road.
- The act of scanning.
- A unit of force equal to the force that imparts an acceleration of 1 foot/sec/sec to a mass of 1 pound.
- The basic unit of money in Nigeria.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- Water buffalo of the Philippines.
- A feast day and the seven days following it.
- A storehouse for threshed grain or animal feed.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- A steep artificial slope in front of a fortification.
- Having the surface burned quickly with intense heat.
- A republic in West Africa on the Gulf of Guinea.
- Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pinktinged fruit.
- An organ in its earliest stage of development.
- A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc, except for certain white blood cells.
- Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
- A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
- The 1st letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- A native or inhabitant of Crete.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- An ancient upright stone slab bearing markings.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Anything that serves as an enticement.
- God of love and erotic desire.
- With no effort to conceal.
- A blue dye obtained from plants or made synthetically.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- A communist nation that covers a vast territory in eastern Asia.
- The syllable naming the sixth (submedian) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
- Any of various dark heavy viscid substances obtained as a residue.
- A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

There may be temptations to overextend your budget as short-distance travel is possible with friends today. Perhaps you will need to travel some distance to a popular entertainment attraction. Take time today to plan future time with your friends-it has been too long since you have been able to have long conversations and catch up on the news. Spending time with close, old friends can be rewarding. An outgoing and very expressive cycle of experience has begun for you. Now more than ever, you want to be admired by others, to do and create things that stir their hearts. This is child's play; this is romance; this is taking a chance. Really enjoy your companion this evening without being afraid to speak your feelings. Music can be most relaxing.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You should know there may be a few surprises this morning. The more you go with the flow, the more fun the surprises will become. This is really not the time to object; besides, your friends or family want an excuse to have a little fun with you today. There may be a little time this afternoon for making some desired personal changes... Perhaps your hair color, style or diet. You will be able to have your own surprise this evening. There is talk of visiting with some friends later today, perhaps taking a drive through the country or at the least, the outskirts of town. Be sure to stop at a roadside vegetable stand and purchase some of your favorite vegetables and fruits. You may want to add plants to your own garden.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may be able to enjoy your surroundings and the people that are in your life. You are happy and feel good about your place in the world at this time. You may even be ready to take on additional work or a new family member or some type of volunteer work. Talking with your family, you may even discover they are ready to take on some volunteer work as a group. You enjoy talking about history, the past and nostalgia with your friends. You can demonstrate understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others just now and you are in a good position to communicate concerning groups and society in general. You are driven to excel in any form of physical exercise or creative expression this evening-sports, theatrics, arts and crafts, etc.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have a natural aptitude for describing the most sensitive areas of the human psyche, a practical psychologist of the first order. You can manage touchy issues that others would not go near. Today brings about an opportunity to heal through speech. You may be the first or the last to give a speech that many will remember and be better for having heard it. You communicate with accomplished skill and others will find it stimulating just being with you. Your dreams have been quite clear lately-you may want to start a dream diary. It might be a good idea to write in this diary what you think might have inspired the dream as well as how your health was the day or evening before the dream. You may find some of your dreams are just fun.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are intense, passionate and very personal today. You will find yourself rushing past the superficial right to the heart of any matter. Communication is high and you may enjoy some good solid conversation with neighbors this morning. Home, family and security have been on your mind lately, and you may find yourself teaching young people about fairness, evenhandedness, goals, roots and the importance of family. An insight about your support system, your mother or other females may be important. You have clearheaded and practical insights for most anything you choose to do this day. This is a time of good fortune when things open up in a very naturally. Tonight you may meet a student that you can help or tutor.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

There are opportunities for success with money now that were not previously available. Lady luck may smile brightly on you during this time. Moving quickly is the secret to securing a tidy sum or gaining the end result of your desire. Perhaps you are going to a casting call or displaying your creative accomplishments. Whatever the case, you will be successful. Fun, a good sense of humor and the ability to get along with most folks put a smile on everybody's face. There is a desire to understand a loved one's psyche and there may also be an opportunity for a deep emotional talk this afternoon. Take the time to really listen to the one who needs you. There is an opportunity to take the time to show others how much they mean to you.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may find yourself more than a little hungry today. Your current appreciation for just about everything may lead you to overspend or indulge too much. However, you will make some good choices as you seek a balance. You can expect some sort of major revision of your likes and dislikes, how and what you enjoy or appreciate about yourself and life-your value system. You may find that your appreciation for the quality of everything is stronger. Reappraisal is in order. Breakthroughs regarding relationships and the social life in general may be possible now. Unconventional approaches to partnerships and lovers are possible. An important relationship, perhaps to a younger person or someone in your near environment, may come into focus tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You will prosper by pursuing your ideals and most deep-seated dreams of how life could be. Don't be afraid to project that image, create your path and make those dreams real. You will find that your mind and thoughts could be very intense. Keep your focus strong and you will see successful results. You can be very intuitive when it comes to expressing yourself and you will know just what to say. Periods of intense creativity allow you to go through changes and inner growth and give you time to think and plan. This creative intensity is good for music, poetry, art, etc. Your friends, partners and relationships mean a lot to you. They are a primary source of strength and you look to them for encouragement. Enjoy your friends today.



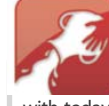
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This is a good time to initiate a feeling or sense of easy going. The need for security, however, may dominate that easygoing nature you yearn for just now. Finding a new place to live and becoming comfortable in a professional position will help to alleviate much of your anxiety. List three things you can do now that will help you feel more secure and work in that direction-do not stagnate. A volunteer service can be most beneficial in your life. This can also be a way to express your talents and help others. Some of the ways in which you could feel quite useful would be in a medical, counseling or clergy type of organization. You may be teaching someone techniques of a sensible diet today. You will be pleased with the results of your plans.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Don't let a cranky person rule your morning; there may be more to his or her story than you know. Be attentive in your surroundings so that you catch any problems before they escalate. Keep your eye focused on new, renewed and better. Your statistical mind can be used to find better ways to improve, update or plan future goals that will help keep your family a strong unit. Today will certainly bring new inspiration. It is a good time to communicate. A new person will enter your life this afternoon and you may find some common beliefs or ideas that will promote a good friendship. You are warmly receptive and sympathetic toward particular causes and it may be the time to consider how you could help. Perhaps the family could work together as a group.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is a cornucopia of emotional vulnerabilities available for you to cope with today. Change is the easiest thing to do now. Acknowledge this, create a new and positive insight and then let the old and perhaps negative become a moth that flies away. Quick answers, great wit and a surplus of insights and solutions are obtainable. This is a good time to write with real zest and originality. Insert your good sense of humor as a tool to get through some of the sensitive areas that may have formerly tripped you. This is a time of new beginnings in your life. There is an urge to strike out on your own in a new direction, to take on new challenges no matter what the risks. You can be bold-perhaps headstrong; you go where angels fear to tread.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your personality and your mode of living appear to change at a moment's notice. Your attention is divided among numerous people and subjects. Be wise with your tendency to overexert your energies to help someone or to go in too many directions. Others may challenge your authority or the direction you are taking just now. Maintain a right mental attitude-the attitude of patience, sincerity and good cheer. To think rightly contributes to positive results. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have others understand you. The time is right for unexpected changes in the normal routine of family life. This evening there could be some special moments with someone you love. A sense of harmony creates a happy time.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Moods & Emotions 3

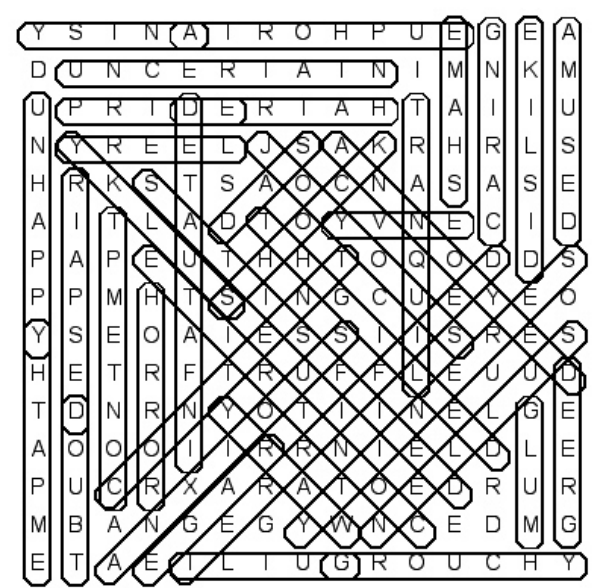
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 13 letters spell an additional word.



- |              |           |             |          |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| ANGER        | EDGY      | GRUMPY      | OUTRAGE  |
| APPRECIATIVE | ENVIIOUS  | HAPPY       | PUZZLED  |
| ARROGANT     | EXUBERANT | HOPE        | REGRET   |
| BITTER       | FEAR      | INDIFFERENT | SADNESS  |
| CALM         | FRANTIC   | JEALOUS     | SCARED   |
| CHEERFUL     | FRETFUL   | JOLLY       | SCORNFUL |
| CONFIDENT    | GLAD      | JOYFUL      | SORRY    |
| CURIOUS      | GLEEFUL   | MOROSE      | SURPRISE |
| DISGUST      | GRATEFUL  | MOURNFUL    | TRANQUIL |
| DUBIOUS      | GRIEF     | NERVOUS     | WORRY    |

Yesterday's Solution

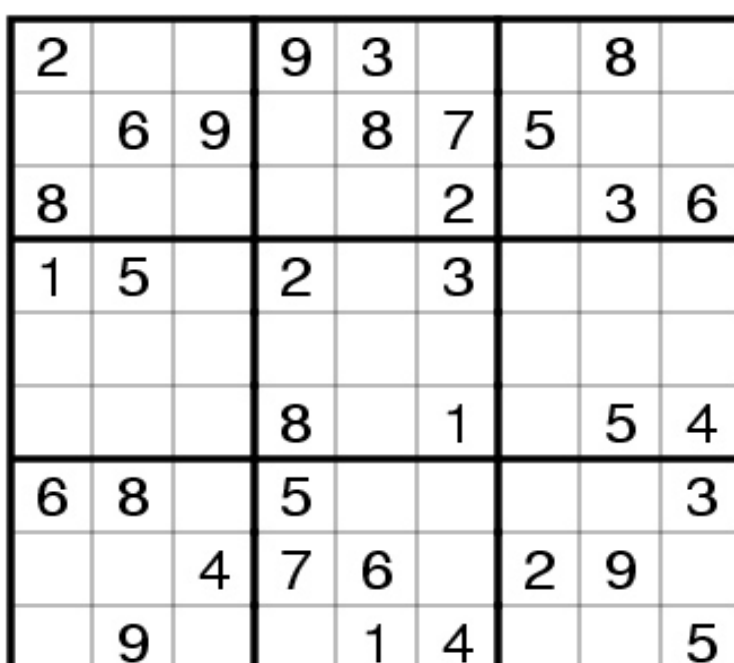
Moods & Emotions 2



- |          |          |            |           |
|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| AMUSED   | DISLIKE  | HORROR     | SHOCK     |
| ANNOYED  | DOUBT    | INFATUATED | SULKY     |
| ANTSY    | EMPATHY  | JOYOUS     | SULLEN    |
| ANXIOUS  | ENVY     | LEERY      | TERRIFIED |
| CARING   | EUPHORIA | PRIDE      | TRANQUIL  |
| CONTEMPT | GLUM     | RAGE       | UNCERTAIN |
| CONTENT  | GREED    | SAD        | UNHAPPY   |
| CONTRITE | GROUCHY  | SATISFIED  | WARY      |
| DELIGHT  | GUILT    | SERENITY   |           |
| DESPAIR  | HATRED   | SHAME      |           |

The hidden word is: DISCOURAGED

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





# CLASSIFIEDS



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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (20/07/2017 TO 26/07/2017)

Channel	Time	Programme	Channel	Time	Programme
SHARQIA-1	11:45 AM	LONDON HEIST	10:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX	12:15 AM
CARS 3	2:00 PM	LONDON HEIST	12:30 AM		
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	4:00 PM	FANAR-2		AVENUES-3	
CARS 3	6:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	12:00 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	1:05 PM
LONDON HEIST	8:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	2:00 PM	BABY DRIVER	1:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	10:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	4:45 PM	FRI	
LONDON HEIST	12:30 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	6:45 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	3:50 PM
		WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:35 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	6:30 PM
		WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:20 AM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	9:20 PM
				SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	12:05 AM
SHARQIA-2	12:15 PM	FANAR-3	1:00 PM	360°-1	12:35 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	3:00 PM	RAILROAD TIGERS	3:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	3:25 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	5:45 PM	RAILROAD TIGERS	5:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D	6:20 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	7:45 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	8:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:25 PM
BABY DRIVER	10:00 PM	MUNNA MICHAEL- Hindi	11:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:10 AM
BABY DRIVER	12:15 AM	RAILROAD TIGERS	1:15 AM		
		RAILROAD TIGERS			
SHARQIA-3	1:00 PM	MARINA-1	1:00 PM	360°-2	2:00 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	1:45 PM	CARS 3	3:15 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	3:45 PM	CARS 3	5:30 PM	FRI	
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	6:30 PM	CARS 3	7:45 PM	KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	1:15 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:15 PM	CARS 3	9:45 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	4:00 PM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	12:05 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	11:45 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	6:05 PM
		LONDON HEIST		TISBAH ALA KHAIR	8:05 PM
		SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING		TISBAH ALA KHAIR	10:05 PM
				KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	12:05 AM
MUHALAB-1	12:20 PM	MARINA-2	11:45 AM	360°-3	11:55 AM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:20 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	2:30 PM	MUNNA MICHAEL- Hindi	11:55 AM
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	2:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	4:30 PM	JAGGA JASOOS- Hindi	2:45 PM
FIDAA- Telugu	5:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	6:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	6:10 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	7:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:15 PM	NO FRI+SAT+MON	
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	10:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:05 AM	VIKRAM VEDHA - Tamil	6:10 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	12:05 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		FRI+SAT+MON	
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING				MUNNA MICHAEL- Hindi	9:15 PM
				TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	12:10 AM
MUHALAB-2	11:45 AM	MARINA-3	12:15 PM	AL-KOUT.1	1:15 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	2:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	3:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	3:15 PM
CARS 3	4:45 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	5:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	5:15 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	7:00 PM	BABY DRIVER	8:00 PM	BABY DRIVER	7:30 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:45 PM	BABY DRIVER	10:15 PM	BABY DRIVER	9:45 PM
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:30 AM	BABY DRIVER	12:30 AM	BABY DRIVER	12:05 AM
				BABY DRIVER	
MUHALAB-3	12:00 PM	AVENUES-1	12:00 PM	AL-KOUT.2	11:30 AM
DESPICABLE ME 3	2:00 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	2:50 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	2:15 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	4:00 PM	MUNNA MICHAEL- Hindi	5:55 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	5:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	6:00 PM	JAGGA JASOOS- Hindi	9:05 PM	CARS 3	7:15 PM
BABY DRIVER	8:15 PM	MUNNA MICHAEL- Hindi	11:55 PM	CARS 3	9:30 PM
BABY DRIVER	10:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)		SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	12:15 AM
BABY DRIVER	12:45 AM			SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	
FANAR-1	12:30 PM	AVENUES-2	11:50 AM	AL-KOUT.3	1:00 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX	1:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	
DESPICABLE ME 3	4:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX	4:30 PM		
LONDON HEIST	6:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX	7:15 PM		
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	8:30 PM	BABY DRIVER -2D-4DX	9:45 PM		
TISBAH ALA KHAIR		BABY DRIVER -2D-4DX			

**NOTICE**  
 July 18, 2017

Mr. Shankar Bhagwan Shinde son of late Mr. Sinde Bhagwan Mahar, resident of AT-Post-Moygaon BK, Tal - Jamner, Dist - Jalgaon, Maharashtra 424204 and Ms. Sai Priya Gohil daughter of Mr. Rajan Gohil, resident of FF-5, Phase-1, Ashiana Complex, Mansa devi road, Panchkula - 134 109, Haryana, both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (attachecons@indembkwt.org, welfaresection@indembkwt.org) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 2253125).

*(Sanjeev Saklani)*  
 Attache (Consular) and Marriage Officer.  
 Embassy of India, Kuwait.

Ph.00965-22550171 - 00965-2253125  
 Fax: 00965-22573910  
 Email: attachecons@indembkwt.org  
 welfaresection@indembkwt.org

**ACCOMMODATION**

Sharing accommodation For Filipino ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near gulfmart. Available on July 25, Contact 94418396 or 94033908 24-7-2017

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Yasmin daughter of Asmatulla Kha holder of Indian Passport No. K8489188 and Civil ID No. 293011501371 has changed my name to Yasmin Asmatullah Khan, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5330) 21-7-2017

**PRAYER TIMINGS**

Fajr: 03:32  
 Shorook: 05:03  
 Duh: 11:54  
 Asr: 15:30  
 Maghrib: 18:46  
 Isha: 20:13

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Monday 24/7/2017				Departure Flights on Monday 24/7/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	364	Colombo	14:15
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	618	Doha	14:20
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	KAC	352	Kochi	14:20
KAC	102	London	00:55	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	JZR	903	GYD	14:25
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC	512	Mashhad	14:25
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	645	Muscat	15:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	562	Amman	15:25
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	THY	127	Sharjah	15:35
THY	768	Istanbul	02:35	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	SAW	705	Damascus	15:50
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	RJA	640	Amman	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	KAC	118	New York	16:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	KAC	361	Alexandria	16:50
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:20	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:50	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	THY	1282	Dubai	17:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	744	Dammam	19:05
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	WAN	986	TBS	19:05
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
BAW	157	London	06:05	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	174	Munich	19:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
JZR	557	Alexandria	06:55	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	616	Riyadh	19:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	620	Doha	20:05
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	20:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	AZQ	565	GYD	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	KAC	166	Rome	20:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	168	Paris	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	239	Amman	12:25	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	162	Geneva	22:25
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	BBC	143	Dhaka	22:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	241	Amman	22:55
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	JZR	185	Dubai	23:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:00	RBG	551	Alexandria	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	RBG	555	Alexandria	23:25
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	MSC	405	Sohag	23:30
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30
				FDB	071	Dubai	23:35



## 'Stranger Things' trailer a real 'Thriller'



Nostalgic horror sensation "Stranger Things" unveiled a new trailer set to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" on Saturday as it built buzz for season two at the San Diego Comic-Con fan convention. The Netflix series—about a gang of 1980s children looking for their missing friend—became a break-out hit last year, winning critical acclaim and fame for its cast of young stars, led by Millie Bobby Brown. The trailer starts with the boys—played by Gaten Matarazzo, Finn Wolfhard, Caleb McLaughlin and Noah Schnapp—crowded around 1980s video game "Dragon's Lair."

Suddenly Will experiences a vision of the arcade they are in as part of the show's dark alternative world, the "Upside Down." "I saw something... I felt it everywhere," a crying Will later reveals to his worried mother Joyce, played by Winona Ryder. Next the four friends are seen creeping about in "Ghostbusters" costumes, apparently looking for evil spirits, as Vincent Price's ghoulish voiceover for "Thriller" plays in the background. The three-minute trailer ends with Brown's character, the telekinetic Eleven, trying to find her way out of the Upside Down.

The footage was shown as part of a Q&A moderated by Patton Oswalt with executive producers Shawn Levy, and Matt and Ross Duffer, as well as much of the cast. The Duffers said they had always intended the show to be similar to "Spielberg directing a big, fat Stephen King book."

Brown told the 6,000 fans filling San Diego Convention Center's Hall H that playing the enigmatic Eleven was tough because she had so few lines to work with. "I had to express everything with my face which is very hard. But it gets easier when you feel more comfortable with your character," the Emmy nominee said. "The first two episodes—I immediately fell in love with Eleven and Eleven was me. The only thing that was hard was crying. I feel like I'm a happy person in real life so that when I'm crying I would need five minutes to get in the zone." "Stranger Things," which premiered in July last year, has picked up 18 nominations ahead of September's ceremony in recognition of its eight-episode first season. Season two, comprised of nine episodes, drops on October 27. — AFP



Ryan Gosling, from left, Harrison Ford, and Ana de Armas attend the Warner Bros. "Blade Runner" panel on day three of Comic-Con International. — AP

## Ford delights Comic-Con with gruff charm

Harrison Ford is still Harrison Ford, gruff charm and all. The actor delighted and toyed with excited audiences at Comic-Con on Saturday in promotion of "Blade Runner 2049." Ford reprises his role as Rick Deckard in the film, which hits theaters in October.

Ford said he gained a greater understanding of his character in the sequel. But when asked whether or not the film

answers questions about the original, Ford just paused and said that it doesn't matter what he thinks. He closed out the panel with a laugh and a cheer. When an audience member asked if it was Ford's life goal to reboot all of his iconic roles, Ford said, "You bet your (expletive) it is!" — AP

## Amazon meal kits offer easy dinners for a price

Amazon's new ready-to-eat meal package is the perfect recipe for someone who doesn't have enough time to shop and cook, yet has a healthy appetite and a need for balanced meals. These meal kits come with just about everything you need to prepare dinner for two. You can choose from a variety of vegetarian and meat options. For now, Amazon's meal kits are available only in limited markets, including Seattle. There's no major commitment, the way rivals require you to order an entire week of meals at a time. But you pay dearly for the convenience and flexibility, and you must plan ahead, at least for now.

### Ordering the meal

As a competitive athlete who trains a lot, I find generous portions are almost as important as lots of protein. I usually don't eat red meat, and the chicken dish got a few bad reviews, so I went for Togarashi-spiced salmon with soba noodles. It was \$20 for two servings, plus \$10 for delivery. When I tried to place my order Tuesday, Amazon said the only delivery times left that day were for 6 pm to 8 pm. Before confirming the order, though, those slots were gone.

### It was only 11 am

I could have gone to Amazon's pickup location in another part of town, but who has time for that, especially in Seattle traffic? Instead, I chose delivery before 7 am on Wednesday. It arrived before 5:30 a.m., as I headed out for a long morning run.

### From door to kitchen

The meal kit was the size of a loaf of bread, but it came in a heavy bag that resembled a large paper grocery bag. Inside was a silver insulated bag, nestled inside a cardboard frame, and six ice packs. That's a lot of packaging. I chose the delivery option that allowed the driver to leave it at my door, which may explain the extra layers. Each item was individually wrapped and marked. All I needed were a few pots and pans, a knife and some vegetable oil. The recipe also called for a pinch of salt from my kitchen, but I didn't feel the need. The ingredients you had to supply on your own were reasonable, given that most kitchens would have these. Everything else was provided, including some sesame oil in a tiny container to sauté my veggies.

### A meal in a half-hour

I sautéed the asparagus and oyster mushrooms and cooked the salmon. I cooked the soba noodles and edamame together in boiling water, while I warmed the soup base in a separate pot. Once done, I arranged the noodles, edamame and salmon on plates and sprinkled each with asparagus, mushrooms, scallions and sesame seeds. The meal includes a side of pickled ginger.

The recipe was easy to follow. I am an OK cook and have a few special dishes, but I find recipes often take a convoluted path from stove to table. This one had seven easy steps, such as boil the water.



All this took less than 30 minutes, as promised. After about 10 minutes of washing veggies, chopping and opening packets, the cook time was minimal, just 13 minutes. Setting the table and opening the wine were the only other tasks. The servings were surprisingly large and visually appealing. Add a few glasses of white wine, and the meal was the perfect end to a very full day.

### The value

I've been curious about meal kits for some time, but rivals such as Blue Apron and HelloFresh require you to subscribe to ongoing deliveries and pick your meals a week in advance. I wasn't willing to commit to \$60-plus per week for a multi-meal plan without first trying out the concept. Amazon lets you buy as you go, even spontaneously, notwithstanding the limited delivery windows. And the per-serving price is comparable with rivals — with a catch.

Meal kits require membership in both Amazon Prime (\$99 per year) and AmazonFresh (\$15 per month). Those fees along with the \$10 delivery fee should be factored into the overall price of each meal, which range from \$16 to \$20 for two servings. Amazon offers free delivery for orders over \$40, but you lose freshness if you buy multiple meals at once. Instead, you could buy other groceries to qualify. AmazonFresh also has light bulbs and laundry soap. Of course, it's ultimately cheaper just to buy these ingredients separately and assemble the meal yourself. But if you buy a whole tray of mushrooms and throw away all but the two you eat, then it's no longer cheaper. Nor is ordering takeout all the time, not to mention also being less healthy. As someone who's often too busy to cook elaborate meals, I'm hooked.

In fact, knowing I needed a few groceries and dinner, I went on AmazonFresh early Friday and was able to secure an evening delivery. I added milk, juice and bananas to get free delivery. I'm looking forward to roasted cod with cannellini bean ragout and pesto. — AP

Photo shows togarashi-spiced salmon, prepared from one of Amazon's new ready-to-cook meal packages.



In this file photo, actor John Heard, who stars as Alex, rehearses for Steppenwolf Theatre's production of Don DeLillo's play, "Love-Lies-Bleeding," in Chicago. — AP

## John Heard, of 'Home Alone', dies

Actor John Heard, whose many roles included the father in the "Home Alone" series and a corrupt detective in "The Sopranos," has died. He was 71. Heard was found dead Friday in a hotel in Palo Alto, California, the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner's office said Saturday. An investigation which includes a toxicology test is underway to determine the cause of death, but so far there is no evidence of foul play, the office said.

TMZ reported that a representative for Heard said he was staying in the hotel while he recovered from back surgery at Stanford University Medical Center. Heard played Peter McCallister, the father of Kevin, played by Macaulay Culkin, in "Home Alone" and "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York." He said in later interviews that he sought a movie with kids in it so his son, age 5 at the time, could come to the set and have someone to play with.

After it became a big hit, he was reluctant to revisit the role. But his agent convinced him the money was too good to pass up. "I didn't want to be the 'Home Alone' dad for the rest of my life," he told Yahoo News in 2013. He was born March 7, 1946, in Washington, D.C., and grew up performing in local theater. One of his memorable early roles was as a disabled Vietnam War veteran in the 1981 film "Cutter's Way."

He was active in film for the next decade, playing Tom Hanks' rival in "Big," actress Geraldine Page's son in "The Trip to Bountiful" and in the movies "The Pelican Brief," "Beaches," "Gladiator," "Rambling Rose" and "After Hours." He earned an Emmy nomination for playing Vin Makazian in "The Sopranos." Heard said in a 2015 interview with The A.V. Club that he got the part after running into series star James Gandolfini in a gym. His time on "The Sopranos" ended like it did for many other actors there — with his character's death. Heard said he approached series creator David Chase and said "Why me? I'm a detective! You can use me forever!" And he told me, "John, there's a rule in television. Somebody has to die that the audience likes." I said, "They like me? How do you know they like me?" He said, "Well, they like you. So we're gonna kill you." "My mother said, 'Why do you have to die in everything?' I said, "You're telling me? I could've made a fortune!"

Other television roles kept Heard busy. He acted in "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," "Elementary," "Prison Break," "Modern Family" and "Entourage." One of his favorite jobs came in the original "Sharknado" television movie in 2013. "I knew it was going to be a cult classic," he told the Baltimore Media Blog last year. "It's just ridiculous. I thought it would replace people calling me the 'Home Alone' dad." — AP



Photos show the ingredients in a togarashi-spiced salmon dish that is one of the choices available as part of Amazon's new ready-to-cook meal packages. — AP photos



Photo shows the packaging of ingredients in a togarashi-spiced salmon dish that is one of the choices available as part of Amazon's new ready-to-cook meal packages.

## Lexus Short Film 'Game' wins the Bronze Lion at Cannes

Lexus and The Weinstein Company have announced that Jeannie Donohoe's film "Game" has won a Bronze Entertainment Lion for Cinema and Theatrical Fiction Film at Cannes Lions. Game, about a young athlete who defies the odds to pursue a sports passion, was one of four films released this year as part of Season 3 of the Lexus Short Films series.

Lexus Short Films aims to engage with film enthusiasts and audiences to develop and nurture a new generation of emerging filmmakers. Now in its fourth season, the series continues to exemplify Lexus and The Weinstein Company's shared commitment to arts and innovation by recognizing and supporting up-and-coming talent. Submissions are now open for Season 4 until August 24th, 2017 at [www.withoutabox.com/LSF](http://www.withoutabox.com/LSF).

"Being recognized with a Cannes Lion in addition to the other film festival awards is an amazing achievement," said Spiros Fotinos, Global Head of Brand Management and Marketing, Lexus. "It reflects the spirit of our Lexus Short Films program, which is to support emerging filmmakers by giving them opportunities to make their career



leap forward. We are thrilled to see such fantastic results."

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, "We would like to congratulate Jeannie Donohoe

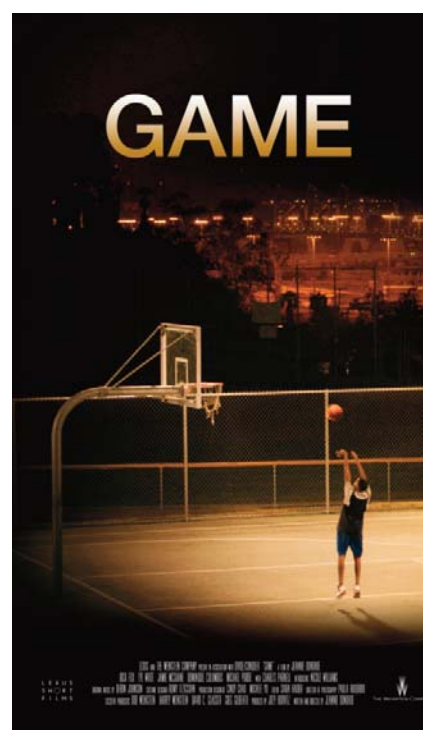


and her team on this fantastic achievement and commend their efforts in creating the beautiful and inspiring piece of cinema that is Game. The Lexus Short Films series is all about providing emerging and talented filmmakers with a platform to bring their creative vision to life and

reach out to the world with their stories. We are thrilled to see that the films emerging from this unique program continue to garner awards and accolades at some of the world's biggest and most prestigious movie festivals. As we celebrate this moment, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our customers for wholeheartedly backing Lexus' ongoing efforts to nurture creativity and innovation."

Game has already won several prestigious film festival awards, such as the Best Short Film at the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, the Audience Choice Award at the Los Angeles Indie Film Festival, the Best Short Live Action Narrative at the Tokyo Lift-Off Film Festival, the Special Jury Prize: Narrative Short at the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival.

All the films from the Lexus Short Films series are available at [www.LexusShortFilms.com](http://www.LexusShortFilms.com) and on Amazon Prime Video.





MUSIC & MOVIES



Moderator Chris Hardwick, foreground right, takes a selfie with from left, Ben Affleck, Ezra Miller, Gal Gadot, and Ray Fisher at the Warner Bros "Justice League" panel on day three of Comic-Con International in San Diego. — AP photos



Ben Affleck speaks at the Warner Bros "Justice League" panel on day three of Comic-Con International.



Moderator Chris Hardwick, left, speaks as Jason Momoa holds his Aquaman trident on stage at the Warner Bros "Justice League" panel on day three of Comic-Con International.

## Ben Affleck to fans: I'm still Batman, despite rumors

**B**en Affleck is still Batman. The actor shot down rumors that he would be hanging up his cape for the stand-alone Batman film, even though he recently ceded directing responsibilities. Speaking to a crowd of about 6,500 fans at San Diego Comic-Con, Affleck unequivocally assured the crowd that he is still starring in "The Batman."

On Friday, the trade publication The Hollywood Reporter published a report that Warner Bros. was working on plans to "usher out Affleck's Batman gracefully" and suggested that it might happen before "The Batman." The report threatened to overshadow Warner Bros.' flashy Hall H presentation on Saturday, which was focused on hyping the studio's big superhero mashup film "Justice League," which hits theaters in

November. "Let me be very clear. I am the luckiest guy in the world. Batman is the coolest part in any universe, DC or Marvel," Affleck said. He wanted to knock down the idea that he wasn't committed to the character, even though he won't be directing.

Affleck praised director Matt Reeves' vision and said he would "be an ape on the ground for Matt Reeves." Reeves recently directed "War for the Planet of the Apes." With the cloud lifted, Affleck and his fellow "Justice League" stars Gal Gadot, Jason Momoa, Ezra Miller and Ray Fisher were left to talk about the upcoming film, which has had its own fair share of upheaval recently when director Zack Snyder exited for personal reasons and Joss Whedon took over the reshoots and

completion of the film. Neither Snyder nor Whedon were at Comic-Con, although Snyder tweeted Friday that he was sending his best to the "Justice League" team.

The footage focused heavily on Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman, who emerged as the clear favorite of the fans in the audience who screamed at every shot of the Amazonian warrior. "Wonder Woman" recently became the highest grossing of the four DC Extended Universe films. Another person missing from the panel was Superman star Henry Cavill. When a young fan asked the actors if he'll show up in the film, Gadot reassured him. "We can't say much but if you love Superman you're going to be very, very happy," she said.

Warner Bros. also teased a bit of "Aquaman," out Dec. 2018,

starring Momoa in the title role. A snippet of footage from the James Wan-directed film, showed fishermen who are quite surprised when something under the water catches on to the hook and starts dragging the boat along. They look underwater to see a fleet of giant ships coasting under the surface. Momoa also teased that Ocean Master would be the film's main villain, though he laughed that he would likely get in trouble for it. The studio didn't go past the 2018 slate of films, however. If Batman and Wonder Woman weren't enough, Marvel Studios is primed to take center stage in Hall H on Saturday evening.—AP

## SPIELBERG DEBUTS 'READY PLAYER ONE' FOOTAGE AT COMIC-CON

**T**housands of fans were treated to a first look at Steven Spielberg's hotly anticipated sci-fi adventure "Ready Player One" at San Diego Comic-Con on Saturday. Starring Tye Sheridan, the movie is based on a 2011 novel about a teenager on a treasure hunt in a virtual reality game, in a world torn by an energy crisis. Footage for the action adventure debuted during Warner Bros' presentation, showing Sheridan as teenage gamer Wade Watts, who finds himself inside VR Oasis.

The preview opened in a futuristic trailer park in Columbus, Ohio where Wade lives, as he puts on the Oasis headset and gloves and is transported into its VR world. "I was born in 2025, but I wish I'd grown up in the 1980s, like all my heroes," he says. Wade is seen going toe-to-toe with Freddy Krueger, standing beside the Iron Giant and racing the DeLorean from "Back to the Future" as he weaves to avoid huge wrecking balls. Spielberg received a huge ovation as he hit the stage in the 6,500-capacity Hall H alongside Ernest Cline, who wrote the novel.

The filmmaker described the book as "the most amazing flash-forward and flash-

back at the same time about a decade I was very involved in, the 1980s." He added that he thought they were going to need "a younger director" to helm the project, despite his own movies featuring heavily. "I grew up watching this man's movies and studying them," said Cline. Spielberg said he had relished directing a sci-fi about the "dystopian" world people would be living in 30 years in the future 2045.

"People are leaving the country and all of a sudden virtual reality gives you a choice, gives you another world to exist in," he said. "And you can do anything in that world—anything you can possibly imagine." He called the universe he created for the movie a "future that is awaiting all of us whether we like it or not." "This movie is going to expose so many people to the concept of virtual reality, and I think it's going to change the speed of adoption," Cline added. Ready Player One opens in the United States on March 30, 2018. — AFP



Justin Theroux and Dave Franco, stars of The LEGO NINJAGO Movie, make an appearance at the LEGO booth at Comic-Con International in San Diego, California. — AP photos



Aurora Ortiz, dressed as Batgirl, poses for a portrait on day three of Comic-Con International on Saturday.

## Comic-Con goes wild for 'Black Panther' at Marvel panel

**"B**lack Panther" stole the show Saturday night at Marvel Studios' Comic-Con presentation, outshining the Ant-Man, Thor and even the ultimate Avengers team-up, "Infinity War." Fans went wild for the exclusive sneak peek at the upcoming superhero pic, featuring star Chadwick Boseman T'Challa intercepting a sketchy vibranium trade between Andy Serkis' Klaw and Martin Freeman's Everett. Set in an elegant, Japanese-inspired casino, the deal goes haywire and T'Challa and his security detail (Lupita Nyong'o and Danai Gurira) jump to action in their evening gowns to retrieve the precious goods.

The clip was followed by the trailer for the film from "Creed" director Ryan Coogler and the 6,500 souls in the audience erupted into deafening cheers at the sight of T'Challa morphing into the Black Panther suit. The film finds T'Challa returning to his home of Wakanda after the death of his father, the king. "He's still mourning his father's death. It's a transition period that gets interrupted, and he's struggling with the type of king he wants to be," said Boseman. Coogler, Boseman, Nyong'o, Gurira, Serkis and more of the cast were on hand in

San Diego to talk about the film, out Feb. 16, 2019.

Nyong'o described her character as a spy who goes undercover to report back to Wakanda about what is going on in the rest of the world. "Wakanda is an isolated nation," Nyong'o said. "The world does not need to know what's going on in Wakanda." Coogler said he'd always had a fondness for comic books, and found "Black Panther" at a pivotal moment. "I grew up as black kid in the Bay Area and grew up with comic books and it didn't matter what color the superheroes were. I read X-Men, I read Spider-Man," Coogler said. Then he started looking for a character that looked like him and he stumbled on Black Panther.

### The goddess of death

Marvel Studios also teased its third "Thor" film, "Thor: Ragnarok," which has quite a different and more irreverent tone from previous installments, and hits theaters in November. "I've played this character five times," Chris Hemsworth told the audience. "Me, personally, I got a little bored and thought we've got to try something a little different... Push the envelope, take it to another level!"

So, they cut his hair, take his hammer away and pit him against Jeff Goldblum and Cate Blanchett. When Blanchett's Hela, the goddess of death, invades Asgard, Thor finds himself on the run and under the control of Goldblum's Grandmaster on Sakaar where he is pitted against the Hulk in a Gladiator tournament. In this film, the Hulk refuses to turn back into Bruce Banner, but he is learning to speak, albeit slowly. "He has the vocabulary of a two year old," Mark Ruffalo said. Marvel also unveiled the "Avengers: Infinity War" footage that the studio had previously shown to audiences at the Disney fan convention, D23, and made a few announcements regarding upcoming films: Michelle Pfeiffer will play Evangeline Lilly's character's mom Janet van Dyne in the "Ant-Man" sequel "Ant-Man and the Wasp" and "Captain Marvel," Marvel's first female-driven superhero movie, will be set in the 1990s. As Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige described it: It's so long ago that Samuel L. Jackson's Nick Fury will have two eyes. — AP



Director Steven Spielberg (left) and writer Ernest Cline attend the Warner Bros. Pictures Presentation during Comic-Con International 2017 at San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California. — AFP

## Film director Emir Kusturica visits Moscow-annexed Crimea

**A**claimed Serbian filmmaker Emir Kusturica yesterday arrived in the Crimean peninsula annexed by Russia from Ukraine to give a concert with his No Smoking Orchestra group. The two-time winner of the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or is set to give a concert in Crimea's Black Sea resort of Yalta. On arrival in the regional capital of Simferopol, he told journalists that "I know Yalta has wonderful scenery and nice girls," Russia's RIA Novosti state news agency reported.

Kusturica last year received a state honor called the Order of Friendship from Russian President Vladimir Putin in a ceremony at the Kremlin, while Russia and Serbia have close cultural ties. Earlier this month Kusturica praised Putin's "gentle nature" in an interview with state-funded RT network, saying that the Kremlin strongman had made the country proud of its history and culture. The director's visit to Crimea defied a clampdown by Ukraine on arts figures who have visited the Black Sea peninsula since Moscow's 2014 annexation.

Ukraine has strict rules on visiting Crimea that only allow visits with permission from Kiev and via certain entry points. Those who fly into Crimea by plane from Moscow as Kusturica did face a ban on entry to Ukraine. Ukraine's security service has said it has issued travel bans on some 140 Russian arts figures over visits to



Emir Kusturica

Crimea or expressing support for Russia's annexation of the peninsula. A music festival in Crimea in August is set to feature German techno band Scooter—massively popular in the ex-Soviet Union in the 1990s—and Russian rock band Leningrad, according to its website. Kusturica told Russian news site Gazeta.ru this month that he is set to make a film based on themes from Fyodor Dostoevsky's novels, which will be shot in China. — AFP

## Michelle Pfeiffer joins 'Ant-Man and the Wasp'



**M**ichelle Pfeiffer is joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Marvel Studios announced Saturday at Comic-Con that Pfeiffer has been cast in the "Ant-Man" sequel "Ant-Man and the Wasp" as Janet van Dyne, who is Hank Pym's missing wife.

Pfeiffer will be starring alongside returning Ant-Man actors Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly and Michael Douglas in the film. Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige also announced that Randall Park and Laurence Fishburne were joining the sequel. "Ant-Man and the Wasp" will be directed by Peyton Reed and hits theaters on July 6, 2018. — AP

## Michel Franco and Edgar Wright on Venice film panel

**F**ilmmakers Michel Franco and Edgar Wright and actress Rebecca Hall will sit on the jury at the 74th Venice Film Festival, organizers said yesterday. Also among the panelists at one of the most prestigious events in the film calendar will be Hungarian director Ildiko Enyedi, Australian critic David Stratton and Taiwan-born filmmaker Yonfan. Organizers had already announced that the festival, which opens on August 30, will kick off with Oscar-winning US director Alexander Payne's latest movie "Downsizing," and that compatriot Annette Bening will head the Mostra jury.

Mexican-born Franco is best known for his feature length drama "After Lucia", which was nominated for the best foreign language film Oscar in 2012. British filmmaker Wright has worked on several comedies including "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz" starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost, as well as science fiction offering "The World's End" with Martin Freeman. British actress Rebecca Hall has worked with director megastars Christopher Nolan, Steven Spielberg and Woody Allen and appeared alongside Ben Affleck in 2010's "The Town". — AFP

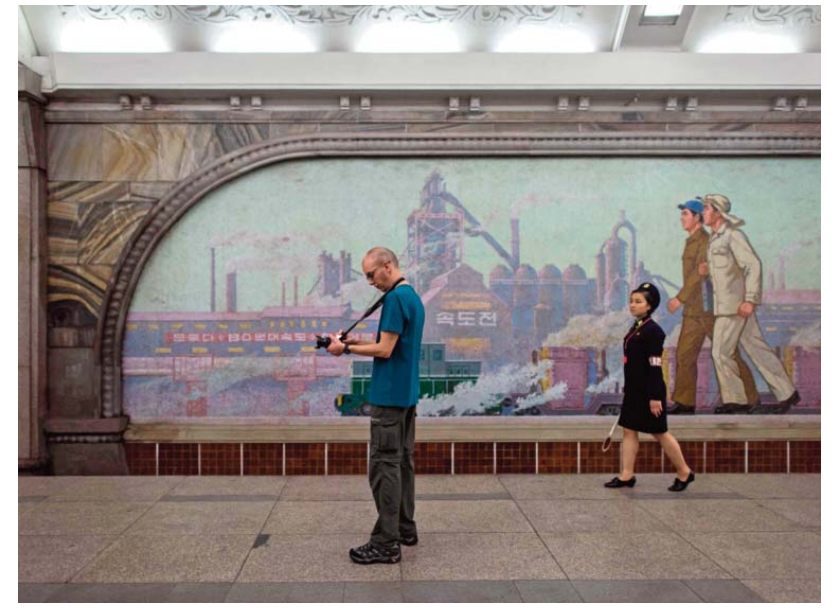




Tourists pose for a group photo before statues of late North Korean leaders Kim Il-Sung (left) and Kim Jong-Il (right), on Mansu hill in Pyongyang. — AFP photos



Tourists take selfie during a visit to a subway station in Pyongyang.



## Last chance to see North Korea for US tourists

The Westerners lined up yesterday before giant statues of North Korea's founder Kim Il-Sung and his son and successor Kim Jong-Il and, on command from their guide, bowed deeply. It is a ritual that the Trump administration intends to stop US tourists performing, with Washington due to impose a ban this week on its citizens holidaying in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as the North is officially known.

"President Kim Il-Sung liberated our country and built a people's paradise on this land," they were told. Call center manager Kyle Myers, 28, from Ireland, said he wanted "to go somewhere very different from what I'm used to" for his first trip to Asia, "to see something that not a lot of people from back home have seen". The mounting tensions in the year since he booked the tour had made him nervous, he said, but he added: "I don't see the threat here for tourists as long as they behave themselves and they follow the rules of the country."

as the potential ramifications for North Koreans who earn their living from tourism, he said, it would "completely eliminate any human interaction between United States citizens and North Korean citizens". Pyongyang's state propaganda about the US was "100 percent negative", he said, but contacts between tourists and locals "work against the idea that foreigners are some kind of monolithic evil force out to undermine the North Koreans".



A tourist poses for a photo before the Taedong river in Pyongyang.

The move comes amid heightened tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile ambitions-it launched a rocket earlier this month which specialists say could reach Alaska or Hawaii-and after the death of US student Otto Warmbier, who had been imprisoned for more than a year by Pyongyang. Warmbier was convicted of crimes against the state and sentenced to 15 years' hard labor for trying to steal a propaganda poster from a Pyongyang hotel. He was sent home in June in a mysterious coma that proved fatal soon afterwards.

Most tourists to North Korea are motivated by curiosity and the desire to experience a different destination. The iconic 20-metre-high (66-foot) statues at Mansu hill look out over Pyongyang and groups of North Koreans in suits and ties arrive regularly to pay their respects. Passing traffic is obliged to slow down. As the tourists reached the platform speakers played "We miss our general", about Kim Jong-Il, the father of current leader Kim Jong-Un.

### 'A little disquieting'

Some of the visitors-who paid from 1,850 euros (\$2,157) for the tour-expressed enthusiasm. Australian IT manager Pallavi Phadke, 43, was among those who placed a bouquet before the statues. It was "a sign of respect", she told AFP. "It's the same as covering your head when you go to a mosque or removing your shoes when you go to a temple. The people seem happy, they certainly don't appear to be oppressed or anything," she said. "They're very proud of their country, they're proud of their history and it's nice to watch them be patriotic."

Many disagree, with the United Nations, multiple Western governments and independent groups accusing Pyongyang of widespread human rights violations. Other tourists were more skeptical. Mark Hill, a writer and editor from Calgary in Canada, compared the statues to "a very grim Mount Rushmore". "It's all very impressive and also a little disquieting," he said. For years the US State Department has warned its citizens against travelling to North Korea, telling them that they are "at serious risk of arrest and long-term detention under North Korea's system of law enforcement", which "imposes unduly harsh sentences for actions that would not be considered crimes in the United States", including showing disrespect to the country's leaders and proselytizing. It is "entirely possible that money spent by tourists in the DPRK" goes to fund its weapons programs, it adds. The ban will go into force 30 days after it is formally declared, said department spokeswoman Heather Nauert, and "US passports will be invalid for travel to, through and in North Korea".

### 'Monolithic evil force'

The vast majority of tourists to North Korea are from China, its sole major ally and key provider of trade and aid. Americans make up around 20 percent of the 4,000 to 5,000 Western tourists who go to the country each year, according to Simon Cockrell of Koryo Tours, the leader in the niche market, which brought Sunday's visitors to Pyongyang. Warmbier's death had already hammered the market. He said, with bookings down 50 percent since then. "It's would-be customers' perceptions that anybody can make a mistake," he told AFP. "And almost everyone in their lives has made some mistake and of course they don't want the consequences of that mistake to be so devastating."

But Washington's move, he said, was self-defeating. As well



Tourists (right) take photos before the Taedong river in Pyongyang.

"The idea that tourism is somehow sustaining the government is absurd," he added. "The numbers are very low, the revenues are very low." Young Pioneer Tours, the firm which brought Warmbier to the North, had already said it would no longer take US citizens to the country. Among Sunday's tour group was comedy writer Evan Symon, from Los Angeles, who as a result of Washington's ban is likely to be one of the last American tourists to the country for several years. "It's just what happened," he said. "Kind of cool in a way, I guess." — AFP

## London Zoo welcomes a new kind of visitor: Robotic dinosaurs



A tour guide poses with a puppet of a baby T-Rex in London Zoo's new Time Travel Safari exhibit named Zoorassic Park in London.

London Zoo is welcoming a new star attraction this summer: robotic dinosaurs. Visitors will see robotic replicas of Mesozoic-era dinosaurs, including T. Rex and Triceratops, which lived approximately 65 million years ago, at a "time travel safari" exhibit named Zoorassic Park.

The robots make sounds and motions that mimic the real-life dinosaurs. Some even drip water out of their mouths or spray it at passers-by. Information about the dinosaurs' massive extinction is dispersed throughout the display at the zoo in north London. At the end, visitors are "transported" back to modern times with a video on endangered species, recent extinctions and conservation efforts. The exhibition opens Saturday and runs until Sept 3. — AP



A tour guide poses with a replica of a T-Rex in London Zoo's new Time Travel Safari exhibit named Zoorassic Park in London. — AFP photos



This undated artist rendering provided by Pier55 Inc/Heatherwick Studio, shows the proposed redevelopment of Pier 55 in New York City. — AP photos

## Futuristic NY pier project pits billionaire vs billionaire

A crumbling old New York City pier is at the center of an urban renewal effort that's turned into a battle between billionaires. Media mogul Barry Diller and his wife, fashion maven Diane von Furstenberg, have pledged to transform the pier on the Hudson River into a \$250 million futuristic park and entertainment space. One major opponent of the plan is real estate developer Douglas Durst.

He has joined forces with fellow environmentalists who argue that the avant-garde structure will disrupt the river's wildlife. Attorney Richard Emery, who represents the opponents, told The Associated Press that a meeting is planned for Monday to try to reach a settlement and avert a lawsuit against the project. The Hudson River Park Trust plans to proceed with work in mid-August. — AP



In this file photo, fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg, left, and her husband, media mogul Barry Diller, attend the The Museum of Modern Art Film Benefit 2014, in New York.



FEATURES

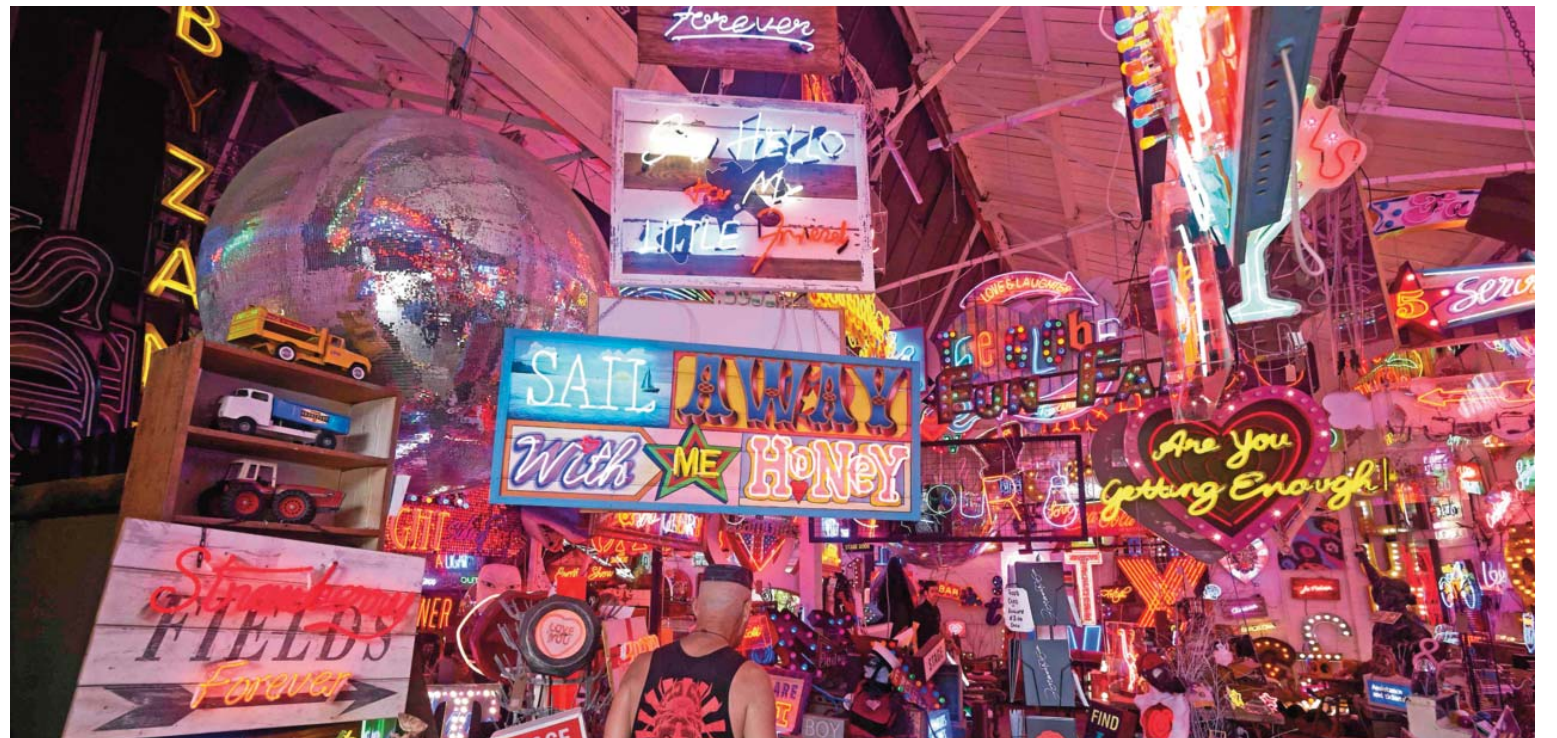


An array of neon lights and signs is displayed inside a Junkyard gallery, cafe and workshop in Walthamstow, East London. — AFP photos

Patrons relax at a Junkyard gallery, cafe and workshop in Walthamstow, East London.



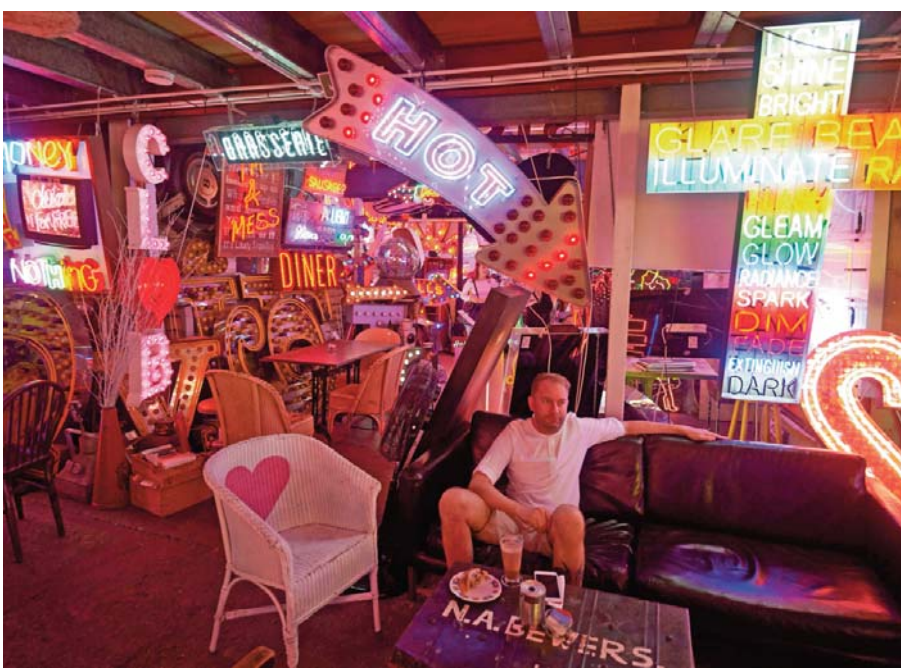
An array of neon lights and signs is displayed inside the Junkyard gallery, cafe and workshop.



An array of neon lights and signs are displayed inside the Junkyard gallery.



An array of neon lights and signs are displayed inside the Junkyard gallery.



A patron relaxes amidst an array of neon lights and signs is displayed inside the Junkyard gallery, cafe and workshop.

## Retro trend lights up London's labyrinth of neon

Whether in search of a glowing skull or a bright red heart, God's Own Junkyard in London is a maze of multicolored neon of all shapes and sizes which is thriving on its retro reputation. In a vast warehouse in the east of the British capital sits Europe's biggest collection of neon signs. "In here we've got 1,400 pieces," said the creative director of God's Own Junkyard, Marcus Bracey, walking through the treasure trove of brightly-illuminated tubes.

Most are for sale—a heart with the British flag emblazoned with "God Save the Queen" across it, for instance, or an enormous pair of bright red lips with a tongue reaching out to the top of an ice cream cone. "We've got a mixture of sex, contemporary art, everything," said Bracey. "From love through lust, everything's here." Some of the signs date back to the 1950s, while others can cost thousands of pounds, such as a cowboy-like Jesus Christ clutching two blue revolvers, which has been sold but never picked up by its new owner.

### From seedy Soho to Hollywood

The hip, disco-like space has evolved from suitably colorful origins through several generations of Bracey's family. The collection of neon was begun by Bracey's grandfather, a former coal miner, in the 1950s. Bracey, 43, jokes that his grandfather "came up from the dark to the light" and found his passion after leaving the mines to work for a lighting company. It was the next generation that developed the business, now based in the up-and-coming east London neighborhood, Walthamstow.

Bracey's late father, Chris, became a major supplier of neon signs to the sex shops of London's Soho district. But, as the neighborhood started to shed its seedy reputation, signs such as the neon-lit shapely figure of a woman, began finding their way to God's Own Junkyard. The family has also produced signs for film shoots, such as the flashing dragon sign used in Ridley Scott's "Blade Runner" in 1982 — Bracey vows he will never sell it. A rainbow sign was also crafted for Stanley Kubrick's 1999 film "Eyes Wide Shut" starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

### Neon 'in our blood'

While the buyers have changed, the technology has hardly evolved. Neon technology was first developed in 1910 by Georges Claude, a French chemist who was looking for a cheaper way to produce oxygen for hospitals. Since his remarkable

finding that different gases produced an array of vivid colors, neon has gone on to conquer the world of advertising. From Paris to New York, it remains "one of the great symbols of the 20th century, signifying in turn the utilitarian conquest of the night" and "electric globalization", wrote philosopher Luis de Miranda in his essay "Being and Neon" on the cultural history of neon signs. But despite a boom in the bright lights, the industry has faced tough times. "In the 1980s, there was a big shrink in demand and neon workshops were all closing. We thought almost it was the end of neon," Bracey said.

"But it has come back," he said, with the help of individual buyers in search of retro designs, which make up 50 percent of his clients. And the future looks bright for God's Own Junkyard. Bracey's two children say the yard provides an exciting and colorful playground and that they are aware of its importance in their family history. "It's always been in our blood, in our DNA!" one of them said. — AFP



An array of neon lights and signs are displayed inside the Junkyard gallery.

## A look at plans for new rides and more at Disney parks

Disney is calling upon the "Guardians of the Galaxy" and a cohort of blockbuster movies to help modernize its amusement parks. Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Bob Chapek unveiled the upcoming attractions at both international and domestic Disney parks during its D23 fan expo in Anaheim, California, on July 15.

Most of the upcoming projects are expected to be completed by Disney World's 50th anniversary in 2021. Here's a recap of some of the big announcements, including a legendary mascot finally getting his own ride.

### Star Wars sleepers

A themed resort will join the family of "Star Wars" attractions at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, including Star Tours and the previously announced Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge land expansion. Chapek emphasized the resort's "100 percent immersive" experience, saying it is Disney's most experiential park concept to date. Guests can become citizens of the Star Wars galaxy, including the chance to dress in proper attire.

### Epcot overhaul

Epcot, Disney World's second-oldest park, is receiving a much-needed update. Chapek said the makeover boosts Epcot's relevance and family appeal. A "Guardians of the Galaxy" ride in Future World will buoy the park's space travel theme, replacing the Universe of Energy attraction closing this summer. Ratatouille: The Adventure ride, which originated at Disneyland Paris, is headed to Epcot's France Pavilion. Shanghai Disneyland's TRON Lightcycle Power Run attraction is also coming stateside, making a second home in the Magic Kingdom.

### Pixar Pier

Pixar Pier is replacing Paradise Pier at Disney California Adventure as an immersive hub for all Pixar characters. The announcement reinforces Disneyland as the premiere location for Pixar, also home to a land themed on "Cars" and a previously announced "Toy Story" land. The forthcoming attractions are expected to open in time for a limited-run Pixar Fest in 2018.

### Mickey Mouse

Mickey Mouse is getting his own ride. Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway will replace The Great Movie Ride at Hollywood Studios, which closes this summer. An opening date for the new attraction was not announced.

### Double the ships

Disney Cruise Line is adding a seventh ship to its roster. Two upcoming ships were announced last year with Chapek unveiling a third is in the works. All three are still early in development but are set to be completed by 2023. They're expected to be slightly larger than the current Disney Cruise Line ships.

### Marvel mania

The "Guardians of the Galaxy" are making a stop in France. Disneyland Paris is reimagining its Disney's Hotel New York with a focus on Tony Stark and his legion of superhero friends. Chapek announced plans for a reimagined Disney's Hotel New York - The Art of Marvel, saying he hopes to make Stark proud. — AP



In this file photo, visitors walk near Sleeping Beauty's Castle at Disneyland Paris, in Marne la Vallee, east of Paris. — AP



# Lifestyle

Retro trend lights up London's labyrinth of neon



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Hot-air balloons fly over Chambley-Bussieres airbase, northeastern France, on July 21, 2017, during the international hot air balloons meeting "Mondial Air Ballons" in Hageville. — AFP

## Princes William, Harry remember their final call with Diana

It was a typical phone call between two boys playing and their mother, who was on vacation in France. It was brief - the boys wanted to get back to playing with their cousins, not spend time on the phone chatting. The brevity of that 1997 call troubles Prince William and Prince Harry to this day - for their mother, Princess Diana, would die in a car crash that night. "Harry and I were in a desperate rush to say goodbye, you know 'see you later'... If I'd known now obviously what was going to happen I wouldn't have been so blasé about it and everything else," William says in a new documentary. "But that phone call sticks in my mind, quite heavily."

Harry tells the filmmakers the final chat is something he will regret until the end of his days. "Looking back on it now, it's incredibly hard. I'll have to sort of deal with that for the rest of my life," Harry said. "Not knowing that was the last time I was going to speak to my mum. How differently that conversation would have panned out if I'd had even the slightest inkling her life was going to be taken that night?" The ITV documentary "Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy" is airing Monday on British TV. Excerpts from the film, and new family photographs, were released yesterday.

The show is one of a series of tributes to Diana expected as the 20th anniversary of her death on August 31, 1997, approaches. It is only in the last year that William and Harry have spoken openly in public about their feelings about the sudden loss of their mother. William - second-in-line for the British throne after his father Prince Charles - was only 15 at the time. Harry was only 12.

The documentary chronicles Diana's charitable works, including her historic outreach to AIDS victims and her campaign to ban land mines. William and Harry also stress their mother's fun-loving side, which they say the public generally didn't see. "Our mother was a total kid through and through. When everybody says to me 'so she was fun, give us an example,' all I can hear is her laugh in my head," says Harry.

William tells a story that reveals the privileged life they led as children - one day, Diana surprised him by having three of

the world's top models waiting for him when he got home from school. "She organized when I came home from school to have Cindy Crawford, Christy Turlington and Naomi Campbell waiting at the top of the stairs. I was probably a 12 or 13-year-old boy who had posters of them on his wall," William said. "I went bright red and didn't know quite what to say. And sort of fumbled and I think pretty much fell down the stairs on the way up." William says he frequently tells his children - Prince George, 4, and Princess Charlotte, 2 - about Diana so she can be a presence in her grandchildren's lives. "She'd be a lovely grandmother. She'd absolutely love it, she'd love the children to bits," he said. — AP



In this photo made available by Kensington Palace from the personal photo album of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, shows the princess and Prince Harry on holiday, and features in the new ITV documentary 'Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy.'



In this photo made available by Kensington Palace from the personal photo album of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, shows the princess holding Prince William whilst pregnant with Prince Harry, and features in the new ITV documentary 'Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy.'



In this photo Princess of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry sit on a picnic bench together and features in the new ITV documentary 'Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy.' — AP photos

### Bizarre News

#### A deformed baby goat goes viral

A baby goat has been born with a "deformations in the head". An image of a kid, which was tragically stillborn, has gone viral online for its unusual appearance, as it was born with a flat nose and mouth, as well as large, bulbous eyes, although the rest of the four-legged animal was "normal." Speaking about her pet to The Metro Online, the owner Gladys Oveido said: "The rest of the baby is normal, it only has deformations in the head. It is unusual what happened."

#### A holiday-goer endures 'nightmare' flight

A holiday-goer endured a "nightmare" flight when a fellow passenger propped their feet on her arm rest. A woman from San Francisco, named Jessie Char, took to social media to document the unsettling scenario she was met with when she boarded a flight only to find the person sitting behind her had wriggled her limbs through the gap and placed her heels on the metal arm of her seat. Jessie shared a photograph on Twitter of the scene, which she captioned: "Today, I flew on the set of a nightmare. (sic)." But the matter got worse as the unknown jet setter then used her foot to open the blind covering a window so she could look out at the views from behind. Jessie continued: "You guys will never guess what happened after that. The left foot reached over and opened a window (sic)."



#### Pringles launch new flavors based on taste of pop stars

Pringles has launched new flavors of its crisps based on the taste of some of music's biggest stars, including Kanye, Little Mix, Stormzy and Jay-Z. The potato chip brand worked with James Wannerton, who has a condition called synesthesia, which means sound and taste are linked, therefore a flavor is experienced whenever music is listened to. They conducted an experiment with James which came up with the results that rapper Kanye tastes like cheesy crisps, The Rolling Stones are like bacon and girl group Little Mix are tangy like salt n' vinegar. James, whose condition means senses that are normally experienced separately, are involuntarily and automatically joined together, said: "Food and music are always intrinsically linked during the summer via festivals, picnics in the park or barbecues in the back garden. This experiment allows us to take great flavors and match them to the music we enjoy during these occasions. "Some genres of music have a very distinctive taste, I find rock and roll has strong notes of cheese and tomato like hot pizza, especially anthem bands like Radiohead. On the other side of the music spectrum, Kanye's tracks is somewhat cheesy - in taste at least but his rap rival Jay Z gives off a meatier, more steak-y flavor. "We hope our experiment will encourage snackers to think about what their favorite tunes might taste of while they're listening to them at beaches, barbecues and festivals this summer." The top ten songs of the summer, with their nearest flavors: Kanye West, 'Gold-digger' - Cheesy Cheese Jay Z, '99 Problems' - Flame Grilled Steak Little Mix, 'Shout Out to My Ex' - Salt n' Vinegar Spice Girls, 'Wannabe' - Paprika Green Day, 'American Idiot' - Pizza Wolfgang Petry, Bronze, Silber und Gold - Prawn Cocktail Radiohead, 'Creep' - Sour Cream and Onion Rolling Stones, 'Start Me Up' - Smokey Bacon Skepta, 'Shutdown' - Barbeque Miles Davis, 'So What' - Cheese and Onion

#### British people look in the cupboard almost 30 times a day

A study has found British people look in the cupboard almost 30 times a day. A study carried out by Appliances Direct has revealed people look in the fridge on average 14 times and the cupboards almost 10 times during 24 hours. The survey, which was carried out on homeowners, has also found out that women are more likely to have a nose at the contents of their kitchen cupboards more than men. However, only 35 percent of those who took part in the research peeked in their cupboards because they were bored and had no intention of rustling up any tasty treats after looking at the contents of their cupboards. Speaking about the outcome of the survey, marketing manager Mark Kelly said: "The data revealed some interesting findings about the nation's snacking practices, especially the number of times people look in the fridge and cupboards just out of habit."



#### Man brings bunch of kale for vegan date

A man treated his vegan date to a bunch of kale from his garden on their second date. A lover posted a picture on Reddit of the bunch of greens she was given by her beau after it came up in conversation on their first romantic meeting that she didn't eat meat or dairy products. She wrote: "I went on a first date the other day, and it came up that I was vegan. "On the second date he brought me a couple bunches of kale from his garden. (sic)" Social media users thought the gift was a great gesture and many have dubbed the man a "keeper". Azrael's Fear replied: "That's really sweet. Keep the guy. He cares enough about your diet, he wants you healthy and alive and cares about you feel about certain subjects you take serious (sic)."

—Bang Showbiz