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THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017

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condemns  
Israeli violations  
in Jerusalem**



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see friendly  
neighbors, foe  
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## UAE EYES 'NEW RELATIONS IN GULF' AMID QATAR SPAT

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### MP TARGETS SOCIETY WITH QUESTIONS OVER ABDALY CELL

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Islamist opposition MP Mohammad Al-Mutair yesterday sent a series of questions targeting the Social Cultural Society after he claimed some of its members were convicted in the pro-Iran terror cell. The society, with predominantly Shiite members, was established several decades ago. It was closed since the mid-1980s, until it was reopened several years ago.

Mutair said in his questions that the court of cassation ruling convicted some members of the society in the pro-Iran terror cell locally known as the "Abdaly cell". Since the society is registered with the ministry of social affairs and labor, the lawmaker asked for the names of the board of directors of the society and names of its active members.

He asked for a copy of the decision establishing the society, the decision ordering its closure and the decision for reopening it. He also asked for the amount of funds of the society and funds spent by the society in the past five years. Mutair asked if the ministry ever cautioned the society and if its premises is rented or given by the state.

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KUWAIT: Children cool off in a fountain in Souq Mubarakiya in Kuwait City, as the temperatures hover at 40 degrees Celsius at night and 50 degrees Celsius during the day. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

DUBAI/DOHA: A top official in the Arab quartet isolating Qatar said the bloc must "go on without" it and pursue "new regional relationships" - phrases that hint at a more severe break with the tiny energy-rich Gulf state. The United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Relations Anwar Al-Gargash made the comments yesterday on Twitter, saying it's time to think about a "new set of relations in (the) Gulf replacing old ones". "We have to go on without Qatar; a conservative Gulf monarchy, in (a) totally anachronistic place. Promoting policies and values it does not practice," he wrote.

Continued on Page 11

### HALT ON VISAS FOR PARENTS, SIBLINGS

KUWAIT: Security sources said expats cannot bring their parents or siblings on family residence visas even if they are ready to pay the increased health insurance fees for them, until a new fee list that was sent to the National Assembly is approved. They added the new fees will increase exponentially. The sources said the interior ministry has begun imposing increased health insurance on parents and siblings who are already in the country when they renew their residence permits, adding that 1,500 such persons renewed their residencies this month out of 13,000 that are required to do so.

Continued on Page 11



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**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. — KUNA



**His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Kuwait aircraft engineers and pilots union's chief.**

# AMIR, PRIME MINISTER MEET SENIOR OFFICIALS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness Sheikh Sabah received First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister received the Kuwait Aircraft Engineers and Pilots Association chief at Bayan Palace. —KUNA

## KUWAITI DIPLOMAT CONDEMNS ISRAELI VIOLATIONS IN JERUSALEM

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait utterly condemns the continuous Israeli violations against the Palestinian people, namely the recent obstructions set by Israel at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, said a Kuwaiti diplomat late Tuesday. Speaking at a UNSC meeting on the developments in the Middle East and the situation in the Palestinian territories, Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN headquarters in New York Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi warned the international community about the ramifications of the Israeli steps in Jerusalem. He stressed that Tel Aviv was aiming at turning the situation into a conflict with religious connotations.

Kuwait strongly condemns the Israeli violations which are against international laws and norms, said Otaibi, adding that his country will stand oppose any illegal actions that Israel might be planning in the present and in the future. He called on the international community and the UNSC to implement resolutions 478 and 2334, which prohibits Israel from attempting to change the status of Jerusalem. Worshipers have the right to enter Al-Aqsa Mosque and perform prayers there without any restrictions imposed by Israel, said the Kuwaiti diplomat, adding that Tel Aviv must stop its irrational behavior and prevent the situation from further escalating by lifting the unreasonable security measures around Al-Aqsa Mosque. Ambassador Otaibi indicated that Israel was trying to alter history and it was systematically destroying any chances for a two-state solution which will give Palestinians their independent country with East Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with the 1967 borders. —KUNA

## TOP-NOTCH CLINIC PICKED FOR TREATING KUWAITI PATIENTS

**ABU DHABI:** The Ministry of Defense is eager on choosing the most reputable hospitals for treating Kuwaiti patients who need special treatment abroad, the official in charge of treatment abroad Brigadier Emad Aman underlined yesterday. In a statement on the sidelines of his visit to Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, accompanied by Kuwait Ambassador in Abu Dhabi Salah Al-Buajain, Aman expressed admiration of the clinic's world-class services and its highly-qualified staff and sophisticated technologies.

Aman disclosed that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has given clear instructions to make sure that Kuwaiti patients are receiving that best medical services at home and abroad. He pointed out that the goal of his visit to the clinic is to get a first-hand experience about the services offered to the Kuwaiti patients through touring the hospital and meeting both patients and doctors.

He voiced jubilation over Dr Ahmad Al-Duaj, a Kuwaiti national, joining of Cleveland Clinic staff. Aman also noted that he has coordinated with a number of senior doctors at the American Hospital in Dubai to visit Kuwait and carry out a number of surgeries there. Meanwhile, patients affairs official at the Cleveland Clinic Wadha Al-Nuaimi said that 184 Kuwaiti patients have received treatment at the clinic in 2016 and 100 this year. —KUNA



**ABU DHABI:** Official in charge of treatment abroad at Kuwait's Defense Ministry Brigadier Emad Aman visits the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. — KUNA

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# TABLETS DISTRIBUTED TO SIXTH GRADERS NEXT YEAR

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Education Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary Fatima Al-Kandari announced signing a cooperation protocol with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) that will provide tablets to the sixth grade starting next year free of charge. It said that the project will be applied in 12 schools, six for male students and six others for female students, while the Education Ministry will provide the interactive curriculum. Following a meeting with directors of educational zones yesterday, Kandari said that a

new project to measure students' inclinations that was presented by heads of departments and school managers will be applied to the 10th grade at 12 high schools in order to decide the academic, scientific, literary, occupational, and athletic skills of students. Meanwhile, Kandari said that books' distribution has begun in all areas for the coming academic year.

### Canteens

In other news, the Education Ministry announced a new project for school canteens that will be implemented during the new

school year, through which the canteens will be run by small business entrepreneurs. Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs Yousuf Al-Najjar said introducing small businesses in schools has a good benefit for ambitious Kuwaiti youth. He added that a committee was formed to study two projects, the first for canteens. He explained that the project will first be experimented in 24 schools, and in case it succeeds, it will be implemented in all schools. The second project will be the placement of food vending machines by companies in coordination with health and municipality ministries.



## KUWAIT'S 2016-17 BUDGET DEFICIT SHRINKS BY 60.8%: FINANCE MINISTRY

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's final statement of fiscal year (FY) 2016-17 showed deficit shrinking by 5.9 billion Kuwaiti Dinars (KD) (\$19.5 billion), or 60.8 percent than projected deficit reduction of KD 9.7 billion (\$32 billion), a Finance Ministry official said.

Abdulghaffar Al-Awadhi, Assistant Undersecretary of Accounting, elaborated Tuesday on the budget and said actual revenues of ministries and government departments amounted to KD 13.09 billion (\$43.3 billion), an increase of 127.9 percent than projected. He added that projected revenues were KD 10.23 billion (\$33.8 billion) for FY 2016-17.

Al-Awadhi said oil proceeds stood at KD 11.6 billion (\$38.3 billion), an increase of 135.5 percent than projected income that was estimated at KD 8.6 billion (\$28.4 billion). Non-oil revenues for FY 2016-17 registered around KD 1.4 billion (\$4.6 billion), 12.6 percent less than projections.

Al-Awadhi said total expenditures of ministries and government departments reached KD 17.7 billion (\$58.5 billion), which accounted for 93.7 percent of budgetary spending estimates. He said 10 percent of revenues, or KD 1.3 billion (\$4.2 billion), were transferred to the Future Generation Account.

### Consumer Price Index

In other news, Consumer Price Index (CPI) data shown in Kuwait's Central Statistical Bureau's (CSB) monthly report, is

now based on the year 2013, instead of 2007, said an official yesterday. In a press conference, CSB's Assistant Undersecretary for the Statistics Department Muna Al-Daas noted that the task to update the information topped the bureau's to-do-list for the year. On the revised base year of 2013, now found in CPI reports across the Gulf, she said it was in line with international standards and the data has been revised, checked and tabulated by a national workforce.

The official added that CSB issues around 43 special reports on yearly, quarterly and monthly bases, in addition to seven national surveys that have thus far been conducted, focusing on the job market as well as information on development and the oil sector. The various indexes summarize the prices of about 1,400 goods and services, taken from 470 reputable sources from within the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund.

Meanwhile, Huda Al-Sultan, another CSB official, revealed that Kuwait has regularly updated its CPI base year, through enlisting the aid of international specialists who have imparted their knowledge to local experts. According to the report, the CPI in June of this year increased by 0.09 percent, as compared to May of last year, while the annual CPI had risen by 1.35 percent. The CPI examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food and medical care. —KUNA

## 36,075 TRAFFIC TICKETS IN ONE WEEK

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Traffic Department carried out surprise campaigns around Kuwait last

week, which resulted in issuing 36,075 citations, impounding 1,120 vehicles, detaining 59 people and deporting two expatriates for driving without licenses.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met France's Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla yesterday. The two sides discussed bilateral relations along with regional and global developments, according to a Foreign Ministry statement. —KUNA

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In Brief

SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE

**KUWAIT:** Employees in the private and oil sectors can now apply to renew their work permits six months before its expiration date, according to a new amendment published in this week's issue of the national gazette 'Kuwait Al-Youm.' Several documents must be attached to the renewal document, including a valid passport, photocopy of the expiring work permit and civil ID, a copy of the work contract, a copy of the authorized signature and required payments. A work permit is issued for a maximum of three years, according to the law.



OIL PRICE UP TO \$45.90 PB

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 99 cents to \$45.90 per barrel on Tuesday in contrast with \$44.91 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the global scale, the prices were up due to measures by OPEC to speed up the balance between supplies and demands. The price of the Brent crude's future contracts was up by 87 cents to \$49.47 per barrel, the same case for the future contracts of the West Texas Intermediate, which went up by 85 cents to \$47.71 pb. —KUNA



US DOLLAR RATE STABLE AT KD 0.302

**KUWAIT:** The US Dollar's exchange rate was stable at KD 0.302, the same case with the Euro, which stood at KD 0.352, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The bank added that the Sterling Pound and the Japanese Yen also remained unchanged at KD 0.393 and KD 0.002 respectively, while the Swiss Franc was down to KD 0.317. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** Children cool off in a fountain in Kuwait City late Tuesday night, as the temperatures peaked at 40 degrees Celsius at night and 50 degrees Celsius during the day. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,  
management and staff

convey their deepest condolences to

Mr Yousef Ahmad Alzibin

and his family

for the sad demise  
of his father

*May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him*

KAF HONORS 'DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE' ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAM

**WASHINGTON:** The Kuwait America Foundation (KAF) held Tuesday evening a ceremony honoring the 'Do the Write Thing Challenge' 2017 National Student Ambassadors program. Over the 22 years, the challenge has established itself as a successful program aimed at reducing violence in schools and communities across the US. Over two million middle school students have participated in the challenge since its inception and which works with students in 30 communities. On this occasion, the Mayor of Washington, DC Muriel Bowser said: "we are always very happy when we can get private support for public education in Washington, DC."

She added "we are very committed on to making our schools better and making sure our young people have all the skills they need to live a great life," saying "we are grateful for the Kuwait Foundation for supporting this event." As for her message to the young students, Bowser said "I would just tell them that a lot of people come together to support them. We have high expectations for what they do and they make a lot of decisions in

their youth that will determine the opportunities as they become adults," so the challenge "puts the right focus on them."

Meanwhile, KAF Chairman Dr Hassan Al-Ibrahim said that almost 50 students made it this year out of about 75,000 papers submitted of students who have accepted the challenge by making a written personal commitment not to engage in violence and by preparing writings on the causes and solutions to violence. He emphasized the "tremendous" change this challenge is making year after year, saying "we could see how much the program is spreading all over the US." He added "we see the impact the challenge is making, which is able to reach almost two million students so we are very proud and we are at it." "To see the young kids expressing themselves about violence and what they can do about it is really an amazing thing," he remarked.

He indicated that students would also visit the Library of Congress to submit the book of their essays. This year's edition is dedicated to "Refugees and Displaced Persons

Across the World ... who have shown resilience and courage in facing violence and events beyond their control and have taught us that wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness." The book will be placed in the Library of Congress to recognize the student ambassadors and all other students they represent who have accepted the challenge to do something to help create safer, more peaceful society.

Dr Ibrahim concluded saying "I give them (the students) the message of friendship, cooperation, tolerance and kindness." The KAF was founded in 1991 with its core mission, inspired by Kuwait's liberation by allied coalition forces in the Gulf war, to express gratitude for American sacrifice and to strengthen ties between the people of the US and Kuwait. KAF has successfully, since its inception, focused its resources on educational and cultural exchange programs for youth and disadvantaged persons, founding and sponsoring the 'Do the Write Thing Challenge.' —KUNA



**WASHINGTON:** The Mayor of Washington, DC Muriel Bowser (right) is seen with KAF Chairman Dr Hassan Al-Ibrahim during the event. —KUNA

## STUDENT VISA DAYS IN AUGUST AT US EMBASSY

The US Embassy's Consular Section will hold two Student Visa Days on Thursday, August 3 and Thursday, August 17, 2017 to support students currently studying or planning to study in the United States, the embassy announced in a statement released yesterday. The embassy offers dedicated student visa appointments every day, however hundreds of additional appointments will be offered to students applying during the Student Visa Days.

The US Embassy's Consular Section held its first Student Visa Day of 2017, on July 20, helping nearly 250 students apply for their visas and get to their universities on time. Encouraging Kuwaiti students to pursue higher educational opportunities in the US is one of the top priorities of the US Mission. Students should visit [www.ustraveldocs.com](http://www.ustraveldocs.com) to apply for their visa and schedule their interview. Student applicants should bring an original I-20 and a SEVIS receipt to their appointment. Follow us on our social media platforms for updated information.

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KUWAIT: Archive photos showing youths participating in pearl diving trips in past years. —KUNA



## 'DASHA' CEREMONY MARKS 29TH PEARL DIVING TRIP

### 200 KUWAITI YOUNGSTERS TAKE PART IN ANNUAL TRADITION

**KUWAIT:** Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the 29th Pearl Diving Trip will start today with the traditional ceremony of 'Dasha', Arabic for 'start', which represents the beginning of the journey and bidding farewell to family members. At least 200 Kuwaiti youngsters, aged between 14 to 20, are taking part in the event, billed this year as 'One Gulf ... One Fate', who will be using 13 wooden ships, including four donated by His Highness the Amir and nine previously donated by the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

This annual tradition, organized by Kuwait Sea Sports Club, is considered a milestone for reviving the Kuwaiti sea heritage and culture on the national, regional, and international arenas, and it had gained a wide popularity and interest on the public, official, and media levels.

It also represents an opportunity to remind Kuwaiti youngsters of the historic sacrifices made by their fathers and grandfathers, who journeyed and dived into regional seas and oceans, risking their lives to provide good, prosperous life and welfare for their families and country.

#### Rigorous business

In the past, Kuwaitis took up pearl diving, a hard and rigorous occupation and business at that time, to make a good living. They sailed across unknown seaways in the Gulf and other nearby regions hunting for pearl, not knowing the type of risks and dangers facing them. Their voyages would last for at least four months, during which divers search for oysters, and, eventually, recover pearls from the oysters they collect. The most desired targets were the big pearl such as 'Dana,' 'Hasba,' and 'Jawhara,' in addition to the small and, sometimes, medium-sized 'Qumasha' due to their rarity and high commercial value.

Despite its difficulty and dangers, pearl diving has contributed, in a way, in boosting determination and patience inside the Kuwaiti sailors, and empowered them to outdo the job itself to make good and respectful living, and face all life challenges and needs.

It also strengthened the sentiments of brotherhood and cooperation among fellow sailors, and alleviated the feelings of respect, obedience, and loyalty towards their leader, the ship's skipper. Kuwait's revival of such a historic and cultural tradition aims at bolstering those sentiments, skills, and spirits gained and fostered by yesterday's fathers and grandfathers inside today's



youngsters, especially love of their country and loyalty towards their leadership.

#### First trip

The Kuwait Sea Sports Club has organized the first traditional pearl diving trip in 1986, starting with five vessels provided by the Ministry of Information. In 1987, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who strongly supported the event and encouraged more Kuwaiti youth to participate in it, donated seven new vessels to the Club that were made in Kuwait for the second annual journey. In 1990, all of the Club's sea activities, including the pearl diving trips, were halted due to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August, during which the Iraqi soldiers destroyed a number of wooden vessels.

In 1991, the Club resumed its activities after the liberation of the country and organized the fifth pearl diving trip on board of a ship donated by one of Kuwait's old prominent sailors, Captain Rajab Ali. In 1994, the late Amir Shekh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah donated six new vessels to the Club and continued to support the pearl diving trips and events in the following years. —KUNA

## KIB SPONSORS AL-YARMOUK HEALTH CENTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently sponsored the health awareness activities organized by Al-Yarmouk Health Center, which were aimed at introducing the local community to the new vaccinations that have been incorporated into the list of primary vaccinations for children in the State of Kuwait. The Bank's sponsorship of this campaign came as part of its commitment towards strengthening the role of both government and civic society institutions in raising health awareness and promoting a preventative approach to healthcare.

Held during the awareness week for Rotavirus and chicken pox, the campaign covered a large number of health centers across all governorates in the country.

The campaign highlighted the various health benefits of these new vaccinations, detailing the number of vaccinations required as well as their schedules. Additionally, the campaign featured the distribution of a number of health awareness booklets, explaining the various types of vaccinations required for both children and adults.

Meanwhile, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, commented: "We are always keen on participating in activities that aim at serving all segments of the community. As a leading financial institution, KIB has always focused on using its public platforms to shed light on some of the most important healthcare issues facing our society.

The importance of immunization is definitely one of these issues, considering that it is truly a cornerstone of primary health care, and a key component towards ensuring a healthy society in the future."

Additionally, Najia lauded the immense efforts made by the Ministry of Health and its commitment to continuously developing extensive preventive and curative programs to provide top-quality services for the community. He added that the adoption of these new vaccinations provides children with the necessary protection against dangerous diseases, enabling them to live a healthy, safe life throughout all stages by means of proper health care since birth.





**'My husband blamed me': Myanmar's Rohingya abandoned after rapes** Page 9



PARIS: Two young Asian women jump simultaneously for a souvenir picture near the Eiffel Tower at the Palais de Chaillot. —AFP

## PARIS TOURISM REBORN AFTER TERROR DOLDRUMS

ATTACKS ARE AFFECTING TOURISM FOR SHORTER AND SHORTER PERIODS

**PARIS:** High-kicking dancers are entralling full houses again at the Moulin Rouge and art lovers are swarming the Louvre as Paris enjoys a tourism revival after plummeting numbers brought on by terror attacks. Tourists are increasingly refusing to give in to fear of being caught up in a jihadist attack such as the November 2015 bloodbath in the French capital and flocking in droves once more.

In a rebound that began at the end of 2016, Paris saw a record 2.6 million foreign arrivals in the first four months of this year—a 19 percent increase over the same period in 2016. Top Moulin Rouge official Jean-Victor Clerico shakes his head as he looks back at the “black year” of 2016, when the cavernous hall was only three-quarters full on an average night.

The world’s most famous cabaret enjoyed a brief uptick but a series of events—street protests against labor reforms, foul weather, and a truck rampage in the southern city of Nice that

claimed 86 lives—combined “to completely wipe out the recovery,” said. Since then terror attacks have become more frequent and widespread, hitting not just France but also Belgium, Britain and Germany sparking “a kind of fatalism,” said Josette Sicsic, head of Touriscopie, a firm that tracks tourist behavior. As 68-year-old American tourist Rinkie Pollack put it: “If it’s your time, it’s your time.” Visiting from San Diego, California, the retiree said: “There’s nowhere in the world where you’re safe.”

### ‘The world has changed’

Terror attacks “are affecting tourism for shorter and shorter periods”, Sicsic said, adding that people come to Paris telling themselves: “You have to be vigilant, because everyone is aware that the world has changed.” The tourism ministry expects a five to six percent increase in overall arrivals to France this year, for a new record of 89 million visitors in 2017.

The lowest point for Paris came at the end of March 2016 — four and a half months after the Paris attacks, when Islamic State group jihadists targeted ordinary people enjoying an evening out at trendy eateries, a concert hall and the national stadium. The shootings and bombings left 130 people dead and prompted the government to impose a state of emergency—which is still in effect after being renewed several times. Some 14.5 million people visited the capital overall in 2016, a drop of five percent from the previous year.

Last year’s tourist numbers were also affected by social unrest as hundreds of thousands took to the streets around France in sometimes violent protests against labor reforms. In addition, a relentless series of robberies targeting Asians, especially Chinese, since 2013 have been a deterrent. But it is Chinese tourists, as well as Americans, who are expected to set new records this year.

Clerico said “the fear dissipated a little” as attacks mounted in other European countries. Twin suicide attacks in Brussels in March 2016 claimed 32 lives, while December of that year saw a truck ramming at a Christmas market in Berlin that killed 12. The latest vehicle incident was in London in March, when a man ploughed his car into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, killing five.

### ‘Seize the moment’

Nicolas Lefebvre, director of the Paris Tourism Office, like Sicsic and Clerico, said he thought people were becoming inured to terrorism. “The constant repetition of these events—there have been several in a few months, thankfully less deadly—has made them sort of part of the landscape, and it no longer stops people from imagining, thinking about, and organizing a trip to Europe, and to Paris in particular,” he said. Sicsic said potential tourists have concluded

that they “can be hit by a terrorist act in their country of origin or when travelling (so) you can’t keep boycotting Paris, London and so on”. Enjoying a salad on the terrace of a Champs-Élysées restaurant, 25-year-old Alexa Derby said she and her family have “felt pretty safe the whole time we’ve been here.”

Derby, who works as a snorkel boat deckhand in Hawaii, added: “I mean it (terrorism) is definitely on your mind, but what are you going to do? Hide your whole life and not travel?” South African housewife Susan Sobel, 64, visiting Paris for the second time since 2007, said: “You have to seize the moment and hopefully you’ll be safe.” However, Britons are contributing less to the recovery because of a factor that has nothing to do with terrorism: their vote to leave the European Union has dragged down the pound, making travel to the Continent more expensive. —AFP

## HONG KONG MAIDS LURED BY IS RECRUITERS: REPORT

**HONG KONG:** Indonesian maids working in Hong Kong are being radicalized by extremists from the Islamic State group, a security think-tank said in a report yesterday. Around 150,000 of the city’s army of domestic helpers are from Indonesia, the world’s most populous Muslim-majority country. Against a backdrop of growing religious conservatism at home, a small number of militant maids has emerged, according to a report from the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC).

But rights activists and the Indonesian Muslim community in Hong Kong said they were unaware of radicals and fear that reported links with IS would breed unfair suspicion. The IPAC investigation described a “radical fringe” of around 45 Indonesian domestic helpers, who may have been attracted to militant circles by “the search for a sense of community in an unfamiliar environment.”

“Some of these women were drawn by jihadist boyfriends they met online,” says IPAC analyst Nava Nuraniyah. “But some joined ISIS as a path to empowerment.” A string of abuse cases has highlighted the exploitation of maids in Hong Kong by unscrupulous employment agencies which confiscate their passports, claim their wages and keep them in the dark about their rights. But the IPAC report said ill-treat-

ment did not seem to have played a direct role in radicalization, although it had led to the establishment of an Islamic advocacy group to act as a kind of union.

The war in Syria has fuelled interest in militant groups as jihadi social media stoked sympathy for Sunni victims, the report said. It told the story of one woman who turned to radicalism after years of turmoil in her personal life and became a key player in helping Indonesian jihadis get to Syria, sometimes via Hong Kong. A handful of maids ended up going to Syria themselves, said IPAC, a leading think-tank which has published numerous reports on conflicts in Southeast Asia.

### Rising ‘Islamization’ at home

Hong Kong media has previously reported about IS supporters leafletting Indonesian domestic helpers as they gathered in public spaces across the city on Sundays, their day off. One heavily pregnant maid who went missing in 2015 was said to have told friends she was planning to link up with Islamic State militants in Syria alongside her husband, according to the South China Morning Post.

The Indonesian community in Hong Kong has tripled in the past 17 years due to the demand for domestic helpers, and religious teaching and prayer groups have grown alongside it. But Indonesian

migrant rights activist and former domestic helper Eni Lestari said while the threat of extremism was always a possibility, she was unaware of IS supporters among them.

“We are Muslim by religion and we organize a lot of Muslim activities... we don’t do radicalization,” Lestari told AFP. “I think it’s really unfair for the Indonesian domestic worker community to be labeled.” Prayer groups and visits from clerics have become more common in Hong Kong due to rising “Islamisation” in Indonesia, which has also seen more women wearing veils, Lestari said. But helpers were now fearful about organizing religious events as police regularly question them, she added.

Domestic helper Romlah Rosyidah, chairwoman of the Indonesian Migrant Muslim Alliance in Hong Kong, said she worried about the impact reported IS links would have. Her employer had recently asked her if she knew about the radical group, she told AFP. Police also came to watch activities held by members of her group, which include teaching how to pray and read the Koran, she said. “Islam is not extreme,” she added, saying she did not know any IS supporters. Indonesia has long struggled with Islamic militancy and hundreds of radicals from the Southeast Asian state have flocked to fight with IS. —AFP

## GERMAN COURT JAILS ISLAMIST PREACHER

**DUSSELDORF:** One of Germany’s most notorious Islamist preachers, Sven Lau, was sentenced yesterday to five and a half years in jail for backing a terrorist group. The German Salafist convert, who had previously sparked outrage by forming a “sharia police” vigilante group, was convicted for helping to recruit for Jaish Al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar (JMA) or Army of Emigrants and Supporters.

JMA, which includes Chechens, Uzbeks and Tajiks, first emerged in Syria in 2012, is deemed a terrorist organization by Germany. In September 2015, the militants pledged allegiance to the Al-Nusra Front, a rival group of the Islamic State organization. Prosecutors said Lau was the main contact for JMA in the western city of Duesseldorf. The 36-year-old had also travelled to Syria in September 2013 and had purchased night vision equipment for the jihadist group, prosecutors said.

Lau, a former firefighter, had denied the accusations when he was arrested in December 2015. He argued that his trip to Syria was for humanitarian reasons,

despite photos showing him carrying a kalashnikov aboard a tank. Lau has been a controversial figure in Germany, where he sparked outrage with “sharia police” street patrols in the western city of Wuppertal in 2014, telling people to stop drinking, gambling and listening to music.

However, a German court in November ruled the vigilante group did not break the law. The city’s district court ruled that the seven accused members of the group did not breach a ban on political uniforms when they approached people while wearing orange vests bearing the words “Sharia Police”. Judges said there could only be a violation of the law—originally aimed against street movements such as the early Nazi party—if the uniforms were “suggestively militant or intimidating”. Separately, Germany’s anti-terror prosecutors announced yesterday the arrest of three suspected Islamists in the northeastern city of Guestrów. The trio are suspected of having prepared “an act of violence that threatens the security of the state”, said federal prosecutors in a statement, without giving details. —AFP

# DENYING HUSBANDS SEX IS ABUSE, SAYS MALAYSIAN MP

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A Malaysian lawmaker came under fire yesterday for saying that women who deny their husbands sex were subjecting them to "psychological and emotional abuse". Che Mohamad Zulkifly Jusoh, a Muslim MP from the ruling coalition, said during a parliamentary debate on domestic violence that husbands often suffer emotional attacks rather than physical abuse.

"Even though men are said to be physically stronger than women, there are cases where wives hurt or abuse their husbands in an extreme manner," said the lawmaker, a member of the United Malays National Organisation. "Usually, it involves wives cursing their husbands - this is emotional abuse. They insult their husbands and refuse his sexual needs. All these are types of psycho-

logical and emotional abuse." Marina Mahathir, a prominent women's rights activist, said the lawmaker's view was "based on ignorance".  
"Women have a right to say no to sex - this is an old notion that when you marry a woman you own her body," she told AFP. "It does not work that way. It is ridiculous to say men are abused if women say no to sex."

The 58-year-old lawmaker, from Terengganu state in Malaysia's Muslim heartland, also said that denying a Muslim man the chance to marry a second wife amounted to abuse. It is legal for Muslim men in Malaysia to have many as four wives. But they must obtain permission from an Islamic, or shariah, court to marry more than one. More than 60 percent of Malaysia's popu-

lation of over 30 million are Muslim. The MP made the comments Tuesday during a debate on amendments to domestic violence legislation. It is not the first time a lawmaker has sparked controversy with comments about women - a member of Malaysia's ruling coalition said in April that girls as young as nine were "physically and spiritually" ready for marriage. — AFP



**JERUSALEM:** A Palestinian Muslim prays in the old city of Jerusalem yesterday, as a tense standoff is underway between Israel and Muslim worshippers at the city's Al-Aqsa mosque compound. — AFP

## MUSLIM CLERIC: PROTEST TO GO ON DESPITE ISRAELI CONCESSION

**JERUSALEM:** A senior Muslim official in Jerusalem said yesterday that worshippers would not return to a contested shrine until Israel removes the new railings and cameras it installed after a deadly attack there, prolonging a crisis that Israel hoped it had resolved by making concessions at the site.

Ikrema Sabri, head of the Supreme Islamic Committee, said that even after Israel removed metal detectors from the site, more steps are required to restore calm. He said mass prayer protests would continue until the gates of the compound are opened, metal railings and an iron bridge removed and newly installed cameras taken down.

A lawyer working on behalf of the Muslim administration of the holy site would be in touch with Israeli police about it, he added. "We will not enter the mosque until these things are implemented," Sabri told The Associated Press. "Now we are awaiting the response of the police." The demands set off the prospect of a renewed showdown ahead of Friday prayers at the site, when a large number of worshippers arrive for the centerpiece of the Muslim prayer week.

### Worst clashes in years

Israel installed the new security measures earlier this month after Arab gunmen shot and killed two police officers from within the site. It said they were necessary to prevent more attacks, while Palestinians claimed Israel was trying to expand its control over the site. The issue sparked some of the worst street clashes in years and threatened to draw Israel into conflict with other Arab and Muslim nations.

Under intense pressure, Israel removed the metal detectors and said it planned to install sophisticated security cameras instead. But Palestinian politicians and Muslim clerics say that isn't enough and are demanding Israel restore the situation at the shrine in Jerusalem's Old City to what it was before the July 14 deadly attack. In response to that attack, Israel closed the site for two days for weapons searches and installed the metal detectors. The decision quickly triggered Muslim protests amid rumors that Israel was trying to expand its control at the site under the guise of security - a claim Israel strongly denied.

Low-level clashes have continued in and around Jerusalem. The Red Crescent said 13 people were treated Tuesday night after being hit by rubber bullets during protests. The continued standoff highlighted the deep distrust between Israel and the Palestinians when it comes to the shrine - the third-holiest in Islam and the most sacred in Judaism.

The 37-acre compound, known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount, has been a lightning rod for the rival religious and national narratives of the two sides and has triggered major confrontations in the past. The latest development could put Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a tough spot, as he tries to tamp out a wave of unrest that has triggered international pressure while not appearing to his hard-line base as capitulating. His government has faced a growing backlash at home for what critics said was hasty decision-making and embarrassing policy reversals. Even Israel Hayom, a free daily owned by Netanyahu's billionaire patron Sheldon Adelson, denounced Israel's response to the crisis as "feeble and frightened." In an unprecedented headline, the paper - which has been an unequivocal source of support for the prime minister - led with "Netanyahu's demonstration of helplessness."

### Face-saving compromise

In a face-saving compromise, and after Netanyahu spoke to Jordan's King Abdullah II and others, Israel's security Cabinet announced on Monday that in place of the metal detectors, it would employ nonintrusive "advanced technologies" - reportedly smart cameras that can detect hidden objects. The new security system is said to be set up in the next six months at a cost of \$28 million. Netanyahu appeared to be doubling back again yesterday when he instructed police forces to conduct thorough inspections at the site.

Israeli police, meanwhile, acknowledged yesterday that their forces have been preventing journalists from entering parts of Jerusalem's Old City as part of efforts to lower tensions. Reporters have complained this week that they were being blocked from covering the unrest around the shrine while tourists have been able to freely move about the city and film with their mobile phones.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said yesterday that "journalists are being prevented from coming in those specific areas where there have been disturbances and riots." He said it was a decision made by the Jerusalem police district. The Foreign Press Association derided the move, calling it "a kind of innovative censorship that is surprising in a country that prides itself on press freedom."

Israel has also found itself in a new scuffle with Turkey, whose leader President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been among its fiercest critics. On Tuesday, Erdogan accused Israel of using security measures as a pretext to take over holy sites in Jerusalem. Israel's foreign ministry responded by calling the comments "delusional, baseless and distorted." "The days of the Ottoman Empire are over," it said. "He who lives in a palace of glass would be better off not throwing stones."

Netanyahu's office also chimed in, saying it wondered what Erdogan would have to say to Kurds and residents of north Cyprus. "Erdogan is the last one who can preach to Israel," it said in a statement. Yesterday, Turkey's foreign ministry called the Israeli statements "arrogant." — AP

# TRUMP ASSAILS ALASKAN SENATOR WHO OPPOSED HEALTH CARE BILL

'[SHE] LET THE REPUBLICANS, AND OUR COUNTRY, DOWN YESTERDAY. TOO BAD!'

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump accused Alaska Sen Lisa Murkowski, a fellow Republican, of disappointing the country by opposing the GOP effort to demolish the Obama health care law, after initial votes demonstrated the party will be hard pressed to make any sweeping changes in the statute.

Senators planned to vote yesterday on a Republican amendment to repeal much of President Barack Obama's law and give Congress two years to come up with a replacement. But that was expected to be rejected by a combination of solidly opposed Democrats and Republicans unwilling to tear down the law without a replacement in hand. "Now we have to keep working hard," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, said yesterday. "We're determined to do everything we can to succeed. We know our constituents are counting on us."

In an initial GOP setback, the Senate voted 57-43 Tuesday to block a wide-ranging amendment by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky to replace Obama's statute with a more restrictive. Those voting no included nine Republicans, ranging from conservative Mike Lee of Utah to Alaska moderate Murkowski, in a roll call that raised questions about what if any reshaping of Obama's law splintered Republicans can muster votes to achieve. Trump took to Twitter early yesterday to single out Murkowski. "Senator @lisamurkowski of the Great State of Alaska really let the Republicans, and our country, down yesterday. Too bad!" he wrote.

### Tax, insurance cuts

Murkowski, a senator since 2002, was re-elected last fall and has criticized the GOP's proposed cuts in the Medicaid health insurance program for the poor, the disabled and nursing home patients. During the presidential campaign last October, she



**YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio:** US President Donald Trump speaks during a "Make America Great Again" rally at the Covelli Centre. — AFP

said she would not support Trump after tapes were released of him making crude comments about women in 2005.

Tuesday's rejected GOP amendment was centered on language by McConnell erasing Obama's tax penalties on people who don't buy insurance, cutting Medicaid and trimming subsidies for consumers. It included a provision by Ted Cruz, R-Texas, letting insurers sell cut-rate policies with skimpy coverage plus an additional \$100 billion - sought by Midwestern moderates including Rob Portman, R-Ohio - to help states ease out-of-pocket costs for people losing Medicaid. GOP defectors also included Sens. Dean Heller of Nevada, who faces a tough re-election fight next year, and usually steady McConnell allies Bob Corker of Tennessee, Lindsey Graham of South

Carolina and Jerry Moran of Kansas.

Before that defeat, Trump and McConnell had gained a reprieve from what seemed a likely defeat and won a 51-50 vote to begin debating the GOP health care measure, which sits atop the party's legislative priorities. In a day of thrilling political theater, Vice President Mike Pence broke a tie roll call after Sen John McCain returned to the Capitol from his struggle against brain cancer to help push the bill over the top. There were defections from just two of the 52 GOP senators - Murkowski and Maine's Susan Collins - the precise number McConnell could afford to lose and still carry the day.

### 'Skinny bill'

All Democrats voted against even starting debate on legislation to dismantle the

2010 statute that stands as President Obama's landmark domestic achievement. Leaders were openly discussing a "skinny bill" repealing unpopular parts of the statute like its tax penalties on people not buying coverage - a tactic aimed chiefly at letting Senate-House bargainers seek a final compromise later. McConnell's Democratic counterpart, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, saw the GOP's path as bleak.

"It seems the Republican majority is no clearer on what the end game is, because there's no good way out of this," he said. Senators were working their way through 20 hours of debate. At week's end, a "vote-a-rama" of rapid-fire voting on a mountain of amendments was expected before moving to final passage - of something.

Internal GOP differences remain over how broadly to repeal the law, how to reimburse states that would suffer from the bill's Medicaid cuts and whether to let insurers sell cut-rate, bare-bones coverage that falls short of the requirements. While pressure and deal-making helped win over vacillating Republicans to begin debate, they remained fragmented over what to do next. Several pointedly left open the possibility of opposing the final bill if it didn't suit their states.

Even McCain, R-Ariz., who received a warm standing ovation and bipartisan hugs when he returned, said he'd oppose the final bill if it didn't reflect changes to help his state and lambasted the roughshod process his own party was using. He accused party leaders of concocting a plan behind closed doors and "springing it on skeptical members, trying to convince them it's better than nothing, asking us to swallow our doubts and force it past a unified opposition. I don't think that is going to work in the end. And it probably shouldn't." — AP

# SYRIAN CIVILIANS FLEEING IS IN RAQA TURN TO SMUGGLERS

**AIN ISSA:** Civilians fleeing the Islamic State group's Syrian bastion of Raqa are paying smugglers to lead them out of the city safely, only to find themselves caught up in harrowing attacks. Tens of thousands of civilians have fled Raqa and the surrounding province since the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) began an offensive to capture the jihadist stronghold last year.

But the journey is perilous, with IS preventing civilians from abandoning its shrinking territory and enforcing its ban with deadly violence. In the Ain Issa camp, where thousands of people displaced from Raqa have sought refuge, many civilians say they were promised safe passage by smugglers who ended up leading them into deadly situations. Ali, 25, asked around in his village of Qahtaniya, about six kilometers northwest of Raqa, to find a smuggler.

"The smugglers don't reveal their real names, they use false ones. Ours called himself 'Al-Hout' (The Whale)," he said. "I agreed with The Whale on the details and I paid him 222,000 Syrian pounds (\$418)," he said, an amount

that covered him and eight family members, the youngest of them a five-year-old child. On the night of their escape, they left the village in Ali's car at 2:00 am and headed for a rendezvous point where the smuggler and other fleeing civilians were waiting. The smuggler moved ahead of the group and then brought them to a halt.

"We arrived at a place that he told us was safe, and then we came under a barrage of Daesh gunfire," Ali said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. He gunned his car engine and managed to reach a nearby SDF checkpoint safely, but a woman who had joined them at the meeting point was wounded in the attack. "We don't know what happened to her, but the blood of those (who have died fleeing) is on the hands of the smugglers," he said.

### Captured by IS

The Kurdish and Arab fighters of the SDF entered Raqa in June and have since captured more than 40 percent of the city from IS. But the UN estimates that between 20,000 and 50,000 civilians remain trapped inside in dire

conditions. The UN says civilians are paying between 75,000 and 150,000 Syrian pounds (\$150-\$300) per person to smugglers to organize their escape.

When Ahmed al-Hussein, 35, decided to flee Raqa, he agreed to pay a smuggler 70,000 Syrian pounds and hand over his motorbike, worth another 30,000 Syrian pounds, when he reached safety.

"We were a group of 250 people. We were moving for 15 hours until we reached an SDF checkpoint in the Al-Mazeila area, 23 kilometers northwest of Raqa, at the break of dawn," he told AFP.

"As soon as we arrived, the jihadists launched an attack on the area, and we were caught in the crossfire. The smugglers disappeared completely," IS captured him and other civilians and took them to the village of Al-Salihiya, where they beat them and stole their money and identity papers. They also interrogated the civilians, trying to learn who had smuggled them out. "It was impossible because we really had no idea. The smugglers could have been Daesh themselves," he said. — AFP

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# EU COULD SUSPEND POLAND'S VOTING RIGHTS

**BRUSSELS:** The European Union warned Poland yesterday it would "immediately" move to suspend its voting rights in the bloc if it pushes ahead with a mass sacking of Supreme Court judges. President Andrzej Duda's unexpected vetoing of two controversial reforms, including one targeting the Supreme Court, had not ended the risk to the independence of the Polish judiciary, said Brussels.

European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans has given Poland one month to reduce concern about the measures being pushed through by the right-wing government in Warsaw, or face sanctions. The legal reforms have triggered mass street protests in Poland and raised fears for the rule of law in one of the EU's leading eastern former communist states.

"In this past week some things have changed in

Poland and some things have not," Timmermans told reporters after European Commissioners met on the issue for the second week in a row. Dutchman Timmermans said he "must acknowledge and welcome that president Duda has announced his decision to veto two of the four laws" but noted that two had already passed, and that the government would keep trying to push through the others.

Timmermans said the EU "asks the Polish authorities not to take any measure to dismiss or force the retirement of Supreme Court judges. If such a measure is taken the commission is ready to immediately trigger the Article 7 procedure." Article 7 is a never-before-used EU process designed to uphold the rule of law, a so-called "nuclear option" that can freeze a country's right to vote in meetings of EU ministers.

## Government to press ahead

Separately, the European Commission will launch legal action against Poland over one of the reforms that did go through, targeting the country's common courts, Timmermans said. That could lead to Poland being hauled before the bloc's highest court and eventually given a fine. Brussels and Warsaw have been at loggerheads over the legal changes ever since the right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party took power in 2015 and announced reforms to Poland's constitutional court.

This month the government pushed through a bill that would have reinforced political control over the Supreme Court and another allowing parliament to choose members of a body designed to protect the independence of the courts. Duda vetoed those two while signing into law another measure that allows the justice minister to unilaterally replace the chief

justices of the common courts. Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo has insisted that PiS will press ahead with the others.

While the EU's announcement yesterday marks a further raising of the stakes in its confrontation with Poland, the chances are slim that its voting rights could actually be suspended. Populist Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has vowed he would instantly veto any such move by the EU. The EU brought in Article 7 in response to fears about the rule of law in the wave of eastern states like Poland joining after 2004, although it was mainly intended as a backstop or threat that had little chance of being used. EU Justice Commissioner Vera Jourova said Tuesday that the Polish crisis had caused a "very high level of nervousness" about whether it would "affect the whole EU system of mutual recognition of court decisions." — AFP

# US MUSLIMS SEE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS, BUT A SUSPECTED FOE IN WHITE HOUSE

**NEW YORK:** US Muslims say they have experienced widespread suspicion about their faith in the first months of Donald Trump's presidency, but also have received more support from individual Americans, and remain hopeful they can eventually be fully accepted in American society, a new survey finds. Nearly three-quarters of US Muslims view Trump as unfriendly to them, according to a Pew Research Center report released Wednesday. Sixty-two percent say Americans do not view Islam as part of the mainstream after a presidential election that saw a surge in hostility toward Muslims and immigrants.

At the same time, nearly half of Muslims said they had received expressions of encouragement from non-Muslims in the past year, an increase over past polls. And Muslims remain optimistic about their future. Seventy percent believe hard work can bring success in America, a figure largely unchanged for a decade.

"There's a sense among the American Muslim population that others are beginning to understand them and beginning to sympathize with them," said Amaney Jamal, a Princeton University political scientist and adviser to Pew researchers. Prejudice against Muslims has "pushed the average American to say, 'This is really not fair. I'm going to knock on my neighbor's door to see if they're all right,'" Jamal said.

The Pew survey is its third on American Muslims since 2007, and its first since Trump took office Jan. 20. He promised to fight terrorism through "extreme vetting" of refugees and had a plan to temporarily ban travelers from six Muslim-majority countries. The latest poll of 1,001 adults was conducted by phone, both landline and cell-phones, between Jan. 23 and May 2, in English, Arabic, Farsi and Urdu, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 5.8 percentage points.

The last several months have seen an uptick in reports of anti-Muslim harassment, including arson and vandalism at mosques and bullying at schools. In the Pew survey, nearly half of US Muslims say they have faced some discrimination in the last year, such as being treated with distrust, threatened or called an offensive name. That percentage is only a slight increase over previous surveys.

However, the figure is much higher for respondents who said they were more visibly identified as Muslim, for example by a head covering, or hijab, for women. Sixty-four percent of those with a more distinct Muslim identity said they had recently faced some type of discrimination. Still, the survey found evidence of a growing sense of Muslim belonging in the United States. Eighty-nine percent said they were proud to be both Muslim and American and nearly two-thirds said there was no conflict between Islam and democracy.



**NEW YORK:** In this Sunday, Sept 25 2016, photo, marchers carry the national flags of Pakistan, top left, Lebanon, bottom left, Iran, top center, Egypt, bottom center and the American flag, right, during the Muslim Day Parade on Madison Avenue. —AP

## Voter base increases

A larger share of American Muslims told Pew they had registered to vote and actually voted. Forty-four percent of Muslims eligible to vote cast ballots in last year's presidential election, compared to 37 percent in 2007. Those numbers on Muslim voting are compared to 60 percent of eligible voters overall who cast ballots in 2016.

American Muslim leaders, alarmed by anti-Muslim rhetoric in the campaign, made an unprecedented push to register voters in mosques and at community events. Turnout overall was higher after the highly contested 2016 campaign. Muslims overwhelmingly backed Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, who drew 78 percent of their vote compared to 8 percent for Trump.

Following a trend found in other American faith groups, a slight majority of US Muslims now accept homosexuality, a dramatic reversal from a decade ago when 61 percent said same-sex relationships should be discouraged. Pew researchers estimate the number of US

Muslims has been growing by 100,000 per year, reaching 3.35 million, or 1 percent of the American population. Just over half of U.S. Muslims identify as Sunni, while 16 percent say they are Shiite. Nearly six in 10 adult American Muslims were born outside the US.

The largest share of immigrants come from South Asian countries such as Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, while others have come from Iraq, Iran, sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. American-born blacks comprise about 13 percent of all Muslims in America, but their share is shrinking. Overall, eight in 10 are US citizens, according to the survey.

Eight in 10 American Muslims said they were concerned about Islamic extremism, and more than 70 percent said they were very or somewhat concerned about Islamic extremism in the US. However, three of 10 said that most of those arrested recently on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack had been tricked by law enforcement authorities and did not represent a real threat. — AP

# HOLIDAYMAKERS FLEE AS FIRES RAGE IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

**BORMES-LES-MIMOSAS:** Over 10,000 people, including thousands of holidaymakers, were evacuated from campsites and homes in southern France as firefighters yesterday battled the latest in a string of huge blazes along the Mediterranean coast. The new fire broke out Tuesday night after France asked for Europe's help to tackle the flames already raging in several spots on the tinder-dry south, including near the popular Riviera resort of Saint-Tropez. Firefighters are also battling fires on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica and in Portugal.

About 3,000 of those evacuated from the picturesque coastal village of Bormes-les-Mimosas were tourists staying in campgrounds, some of whom ended up spending the night in sleeping bags on the beach. Village mayor Francois Arizzi said between 10,000 and 12,000 people had been moved to public shelters but that some had preferred to sleep in their cars. Lisa Minor, travel editor of British tabloid The Sun, who was in the area on a family holiday, tweeted pictures of orange smoke billowing from a ridge behind her campsite and of bleary-eyed families packed into a beachfront creche. "Sirens still going off. Some info would be nice. Winds still high," she wrote.

## 'Work of arsonists'

The head of the rescue operation, Serge La Vialle, told AFP that more than 550 firefighters backed by five water

bomber aircraft had not yet managed to contain the blaze. "It's moving slowly and even growing a bit," he said. France's Cote d'Azur bulges in July and August as holidaymakers head to the beach.

Bormes-les-Mimosas "doubles or triples its population in summer," a local fire official said. The area is experiencing a particularly hot and dry summer that has made it especially vulnerable to fires. Arizzi told French radio he believed Tuesday night's blaze, which started in a caravan storage depot, was the work of arsonists. Other fires have been blamed on discarded cigarettes. Over 4,000 firefighters and troops backed by 19 water bombers have been mobilised to fight the fires that first began Monday, fanned by strong winds. At least 12 firefighters have been injured and 15 police officers affected by smoke inhalation, according to the authorities. The blazes have devoured around 5,000 hectares (15 square miles) of land along the coast, in the mountainous interior and on the island of Corsica. France on Tuesday asked its EU partners to lend it two extra fire-fighting planes, the first of which arrived quickly from Italy.

A trade unionist denounced what he said was a lack of spare parts preventing all of France's own aircraft required from being put into action. Interior Minister Gerard Collomb announced on Tuesday that France would be adding six more firefighting planes to its fleet. —AFP



**BORMES LES MIMOSAS:** People leave the beach with their belongings as a fire burns a forest behind them. —AFP



**MADRID:** This photo combo made from image grabs of a video feed shows Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy declaring as a witness in a major graft trial involving members of his conservative Popular Party at Spain's High Court. —AFP

# SPANISH PM TAKES STAND AS WITNESS AT CORRUPTION TRIAL

**SAN FERNANDO DE HENARES:** Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy denied yesterday any knowledge of an illegal financing scheme within his conservative Popular Party as he testified as a witness at a major graft trial. It was the first time that a serving prime minister in Spain has testified in a criminal case. The trial centers on a vast kickback scheme that allegedly saw companies shower former PP lawmakers and civil servants with bribes in exchange for contracts and helped fund the party.

Rajoy is not accused of anything himself but was asked to testify because as the party's chief since 2004 — and a high-ranking member before that — he would have knowledge of how the PP operated. "I never dealt with party economic affairs," Rajoy told the court during the proceedings broadcast live on Spanish television. He said there was a "clear separation" between political and economic party matters within the PP and that his responsibilities were always "of the political sort".

Dozens of protesters blew whistles and held banners reading "Make the PP illegal" as Rajoy arrived by car at the National Court compound in San Fernando de Henares on the outskirts of Madrid. Rajoy, 62, had asked to testify by video-conference, saying he was too busy to appear in person, but Spain's High Court ordered him to come. He did not sit in the traditional witness stand in front of the judges, but instead answered questions — sometimes testily — from the elevated platform where the three judges sat. Two former

premiers — Felipe Gonzalez, an ex-Socialist leader, and Adolfo Suarez, prime minister during Spain's transition to democracy — appeared in court in separate trials but they are no longer in office.

## 'Absolutely false'

Altogether, 37 defendants face justice in the case including two former party treasurers and businessman Francisco Correa, the alleged head of the network. Companies would allegedly give him a commission of two to three percent on the value of public contracts. Correa said in court that he would then give politicians involved in awarding contracts some of the money.

His main accomplice was allegedly Luis Barcenas, a former PP manager and treasurer who was once close to Rajoy. Barcenas is accused of setting up a slush fund to top up the salaries of PP leaders. He has said he made payments to top PP members, including Rajoy. During his testimony on Wednesday, Rajoy reiterated that he never met Correa and he dismissed the allegations of secret payments to PP officials as "absolutely false".

Asked in court whether he knew if there was an illegal financing scheme within the party or cash donations from anonymous donors, Rajoy said: "Never." The court appearance was a major embarrassment for Rajoy, who has sought to distance himself from a series of corruption scandals that have hounded the party and contributed to the PP losing its absolute majority in the 2015 election. — AFP

## News

in brief

### Tripoli asks Italy to help fight traffickers in Libyan waters

**ROME:** Libya's UN-backed Prime Minister Fayez Al-Sarraj has appealed to Italy to send ships into Libyan territorial waters to help combat human trafficking, Rome said yesterday. Sarraj "sent a letter requesting the Italian government provide the technical support of Italian naval units in the joint struggle in Libyan waters against human traffickers," Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni said. Gentiloni said the ministry of defence was considering the request and "the options will be discussed with the Libyan authorities and the Italian parliament". Should Italy respond positively, "as I believe is necessary, it could be a very important development in the fight against people trafficking," he added.

### Mumbai building collapse death toll rises to 17

**MUMBAI:** Rescuers stepped up a desperate bid yesterday to find victims buried under the rubble of a collapsed building in Mumbai as the death toll rose to 17. The disaster, which occurred in the northern suburb of Ghatkopar on Tuesday morning, was the latest to shine a spotlight on poor construction standards in India. "Seventeen have died and 28 people have been rescued," Tanaji Kamble, a disaster management spokesman for Mumbai's civic administrative body, told AFP. Some bodies were found during the night. Rescuers, using diggers, sifted through the debris on Wednesday morning in the hope of finding more trapped survivors in the block of apartments.



**MUMBAI:** Rescuers look for survivors on the second day after a five-storey building collapsed in the Ghatkopar area. —AP

### New law on senior judges angers critics of Mugabe

**HARARE:** A bill allowing President Robert Mugabe to appoint senior judges sparked outrage yesterday from Zimbabwean opposition and activists who said it marked a new power-grab by the authoritarian government. The law, which was passed by the lower house on Tuesday, is the first amendment to the 2013 constitution, adopted four years ago by popular vote. "It's a frontal attack on the rule of law," opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) legislator and constitutional law expert Jessie Majome told AFP. "You can't have a bill to concentrate power with the president when the public voted to democratise the process. This is the beginning of the end of the new constitution."

### 17 members of same Indian family found dead in floods

**AHMEDABAD:** Seventeen members of the same Indian family were found dead yesterday as floodwaters receded from a village in Gujarat, officials said, as the death toll from the state-wide disaster climbed above 110. "They seem to have drowned in the floodwaters. The bodies were found buried in muck," A B Parmar, a police inspector at the scene, told AFP, adding the deceased were from the same family. A senior Gujarat government official, Pankaj Kumar, confirmed the discovery of the bodies in Banaskantha district. The death toll from the floods stands at 111, with more than 36,000 people evacuated to safe areas as helicopters try to reach those still stranded.

### 10 hurt as Gabon police end rally for opposition figure

**LIBREVILLE:** Ten people were injured in Libreville Tuesday as Gabon police broke up a rally organized to mark the return of opposition leader Jean Ping following a trip to Europe. The interior ministry said there were "no deaths and no injuries" during the demonstration, according to spokesman Jean-Eric Mangala. But an AFP journalist at the scene saw the injured receiving first aid at Ping's headquarters where the former foreign minister had addressed thousands of his supporters following his return from a European tour. "Two of them suffered deep wounds and had to go for emergency treatment," a volunteer doctor at the scene told AFP.

### 8 dead in building collapse in Lagos

**LAGOS:** A four-storey residential building collapsed in Nigeria's largest city and killed at least eight people, emergency officials and an Associated Press photographer in Lagos said yesterday. Authorities said at least 15 people had been rescued from the rubble of the building that collapsed Tuesday afternoon. Government officials did not immediately say what caused the collapse in a poor neighborhood of the sprawling city of about 21 million people. Rescue efforts continued overnight and into Wednesday morning. An Associated Press photographer at the scene saw three bodies pulled from the rubble Wednesday, hours after emergency officials put the death toll at five. — Agencies



## WANG YI MEETS WITH QATAR FM: TALK ABOUT GULF CRISIS AGAIN

**BEIJING:** Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani of Qatar, who was in China for a working visit, and listened to the views of Qatar on the current Gulf crisis and further expounded China's propositions. Wang Yi expressed that the current tense situation in Gulf region causes widespread concerns in the international community. A stable and harmonious Gulf region conforms to the fundamental interests of countries in this region, and is also the common expectation of the international community. As a mature regional organization, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

has successfully solved many contradictions and differences.

It is believed that the Gulf countries have the capabilities to well manage the current situation and address their differences and contradictions within the GCC framework. At present, all sides should exercise restraint, avoid further deterioration and escalation of the situation, and conduct face-to-face talks as soon as possible, so as to send out a positive signal of sticking to political and diplomatic settlement, and recover confidence of the outside world in the GCC.

Wang Yi said that opposing all forms of terrorism is a broad consensus of the interna-

tional community. All Gulf parties can, on the basis of jointly fighting against terrorism and in the principle of mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, earnestly fulfill respective international obligations, and find a way to resolve the crisis through candid talks in a step-by-step manner, in a bid to reach new consensus of solidarity and harmony among the GCC member states. Wang Yi stated that China appreciates and supports Kuwait's mediation efforts, and calls on the international community to help create necessary conditions and build a sound environment to resolve this crisis at the regional level. As a sincere friend of Arab

countries, China stands ready to play a constructive role in promoting peace talks when needed by all parties.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani said that Qatar highly appreciates and fully endorses China's stance and propositions. Qatar hopes to resolve crises through negotiation and dialogue, and stands ready to launch constructive talks with the parties concerned on the premise of respecting sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and complying with international law, and gradually establish mutual trust, so as to address differences fundamentally. Qatar opposes all

forms of terrorism and extremism, and has taken necessary measures to this end.

Qatar will continue actively participating in international counter-terrorism campaign. China is a great power with considerable influence. Appreciating China's objective and fair stance on the Gulf crisis, Qatar is ready to maintain communication and coordination with China, and hopes China to continuously play a positive role. Both sides also exchanged views on bilateral relations, and agreed to enhance practical cooperation in various fields under the framework of the joint construction of the "Belt and Road" and adopt more measures on facilitating personnel exchanges.



**MAUNGDAW:** This photo taken on July 15, 2017 shows Ayamar Bagon (L), 20, Hasamithaya (C), 18, Laila Bagon (3rd R), 35, and Hasinnar Bagon (R), 20, who claim they were raped by soldiers during a clearance operation last year, holding their children as they speak to reporters near a field in Kyar Gaung Taung village. — AFP

## 'MY HUSBAND BLAMED ME': MYANMAR'S ROHINGYA ABANDONED AFTER RAPES

### 'THEY KNEW I WAS PREGNANT BUT DIDN'T CARE'

**KYAR GAUNG TAUNG:** Rohingya Muslim Ayamar Bagon has lived on handouts since her husband left her after she told him she was gang-raped by Myanmar soldiers in the final month of her pregnancy. She is among scores of women who accuse security forces of sexual abuses during a months-long military 'clearance operation' so brutal the UN fears it may amount to crimes against humanity.

AFP visited the remote region in the north of Rakhine State on a government-run trip this month, the first time foreign media have been officially allowed into the area since the military began hunting militants in October. On the edge of Kyar Gaung Taung village, away from the government minders, a group of Rohingya women described how their lives were shattered the day soldiers came to their homes late last year.

"I was raped close to my due date, in my ninth month of pregnancy. They knew I was pregnant but didn't care," Ayamar Bagon told AFP through a UN translator, clutching her baby daughter to her chest. "My husband blamed me for letting it happen. Because of this, he married another woman and now lives in another village," the 20-year-old added, explaining that she survives on food donations from her neighbors.

Mother-of-two Hasinnar Baygon, 20, said her husband has also threatened to

leave after she was raped by three troops in December. They took turns to violate her while two others stood watch outside her hut, she alleges, adding that she knew they were soldiers because of their uniforms and guns. All the Rohingya men had already fled the village out of fear they would be beaten up by troops, leaving only the women, children and elderly behind.

"My husband told me he is going to leave me. He blamed me for not running away," Baygon said. The government denies the allegations and AFP has not been able to verify their stories or claims from two other women who said they were raped by soldiers. But they echo scores of accounts collected by UN investigators and rights groups from some of the 74,000 Rohingya who have fled to neighboring Bangladesh.

#### 'What can we do?'

The UN believes hundreds may have died in what could be the bloodiest chapter of Buddhist-majority Myanmar's years-long persecution of the 1.2 million Rohingya Muslims who live in Rakhine. Kyar Gaung Taung village was caught up in one of the most brutal episodes in November, when witnesses and state media said dozens of Rohingya were killed as troops swept through the villages.

Myanmar's government has denied almost all claims of abuses and barred a UN fact-finding mission from the area.

Instead they say probes by the military and police, as well as a state-appointed team, are sufficient. "Cases have been filed regarding killings after the investigation. They also looked into allegations of rape," said Brigadier General San Lwin, the head of the border guard police in Rakhine state, adding the investigations were ongoing.

Rohingya from Kyar Gaung Taung said they had lodged three rape cases out of 15 alleged assaults in the village, but nothing has been done. Other women were too scared to report what happened to them, fearing retribution from authorities or being ostracized by their community and husbands. "Some women didn't want to complain for the sake of their pride," said one Rohingya villager, who asked not to be named.

Rights groups have long accused Myanmar's military of using rape as a weapon of war in several ethnic conflicts simmering in the country's borderlands. Fears of Muslim men violating Buddhist women have also long been used to stir sectarian hatred. Allegations Muslims raped Buddhists sparked clashes in 2012 that drove more than 120,000 Rohingya into displacement camps, and deadly riots two years later near Mandalay. Victims of the latest crisis say they hold little hope for justice. "I didn't know them. How can I report them?" said Ayamar Bagon of her rapists. "What can we do?" — AFP

## CARDINAL PELL DENIES ABUSE CHARGES IN AUSTRALIAN COURT

**MELBOURNE:** Vatican finance chief Cardinal George Pell, a top advisor to Pope Francis, denied all charges of historical sexual abuse yesterday at his first appearance in an Australian court over the allegations. The 76-year-old, the number-three figure in the Vatican, returned from Rome earlier this month to face the charges in Melbourne Magistrates Court.

Details of the charges have not been made public although police said they involved "multiple complainants". The former Sydney and Melbourne archbishop has always maintained his innocence. Looking somber and frail, he attended the hearing with his lawyer, top criminal barrister Robert Richter, who told the court his client was not guilty — even though a formal plea was not required at this stage.

"For the avoidance of doubt and because of the interest, I might indicate that Cardinal Pell pleads not guilty to all charges and will maintain the presumed innocence that he has," Richter told the court, national broadcaster ABC reported. Pell, dressed in black and wearing his clerical collar, remained silent throughout with magistrate Duncan Reynolds ruling that evidence needs to be handed to his legal team by September 8, with the next court date set for October 6.

The cleric made no comment as he was escorted by a group of police through a crush of cameras, reporters and photographers into the court, which hears hundreds of cases a week for alleged crimes ranging from theft to murder. Several photographers were knocked over in the melee. Similar scenes greeted his departure after the brief hearing as he was ushered around



**MELBOURNE:** A protestor holds a placard before Vatican finance chief Cardinal George Pell (not pictured) arrives for a hearing at the Melbourne Magistrates Court. — AFP

100 meters down the road to his lawyer's offices surrounded by security, with a handful of supporters shouting "this is a show trial" and "innocent" as he walked past. Protesters were also on hand, with one, Brian Cherie, telling the Melbourne Herald Sun: "We need the truth."

#### Rocked the church

Pell was not required to attend the hearing, but Australia's most powerful Catholic opted to appear, having previously vowed to defend himself and clear his name after a two-year investigation led to him being charged on June 29. "I am innocent of these charges, they are false. The whole idea of sexual abuse is abhorrent to me," he said in Rome last month, claiming he had been the victim of a campaign of "relentless character assassination". Australia's Catholic lead-

ers have spoken out in support, describing Pell as a "thoroughly decent man".

The Archdiocese of Sydney is providing accommodation for him while he fights the charges, but it has said it will not foot his legal bills, which could run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Supporters have set up a fund to help him pay the costs, according to the Institute of Public Affairs, a high-profile conservative Australian think tank.

Despite being unofficially considered the third most powerful cleric in the Vatican, no special arrangements were in place at the court. Pell entered the building through the front door and was screened by security. He has been granted a leave of absence by the Pope, who has made clear the cardinal would not be forced to resign his post as head of the Vatican's powerful economic ministry. — AFP

## 26 AFGHAN SOLDIERS KILLED IN TALEBAN ATTACK IN KANDAHAR

**KANDAHAR:** At least 26 Afghan soldiers have been killed in a Taliban attack on a military base in southern Kandahar province, the defense ministry said yesterday, the latest blow to the country's struggling security forces. The Afghan air force said it carried out strikes backing up soldiers on the ground during the hours-long attack on the base, which began late Tuesday and ended in the early hours yesterday.

At least 13 soldiers were also wounded in the attack, MOD spokesman General Dawlat Waziri said. The Afghan forces "bravely resisted", he added, killing more than 80 insurgents.

The camp was located in the remote Karzali area of Khakrez district, near the border with restive Helmand, where the Taliban hold vast swathes of territory. "We conducted multiple airstrikes killing dozens of them. Our helicopters transported wounded soldiers to hospitals in Kandahar," said General Raziq Shirzai, the provincial air force commander.

One senior army source said up to 12 soldiers are still missing following the assault, which he described as a "very heavy attack". The insurgents stole guns and vehicles as they retreated, he said. Residents described

hearing the airstrikes, and said the attack was launched by a 30-strong convoy carrying "hundreds" of Taliban who assaulted the base from multiple directions. The insurgents claimed the attack via their Twitter account. The resurgent Taliban have been ramping up their campaign against

beleaguered government forces, underscoring rising insecurity in the war-torn country during the summer fighting season when the warmer weather tends to spur an increase in militant attacks.

#### 'Shockingly high' casualties

Afghan security forces-beset by a high death toll, desertions and non-existent "ghost soldiers" on the payroll-have been struggling to beat back the insurgents since US-led NATO troops ended their combat mission in December 2014. Casualties among Afghan security forces soared by 35 percent in 2016, with 6,800 soldiers and police killed, according to US watchdog SIGAR.

The insurgents have carried out more complex attacks against security forces in 2017, with SIGAR describing the year as "shockingly high".

In April at least 135 soldiers are believed to have been killed on a base

outside the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, one of the deadliest ever Taliban attacks on a military installation. Some sources put the toll as high as 200. Meanwhile in early March gunmen disguised as doctors stormed the Sardar Daud Khan hospital-the country's largest military hospital-in Kabul, killing dozens.

The Taliban have a heavy presence in poppy-growing Kandahar province and have launched repeated attacks on security forces there, including multiple assaults on military bases in May which killed dozens of soldiers.

A recent UN report described Kandahar, which lies on the border with Pakistan, as also one of the most dangerous places in the country for civilians. More than 70 villagers were kidnapped by the Taliban over the weekend, officials said. Seven were found dead and some 30 returned, while Afghan police have launched a search and rescue operation for the remainder of the missing.

Afghan forces now control 59.7 percent of the country, up from 57.2 percent the previous quarter, according to SIGAR. But the Taliban and other insurgent groups have also seen their areas of control or influence increase slightly from about 10 percent to 11.1 percent. — AFP

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## Focus

HEZBOLLAH FACES  
TOUGH TERRAIN  
IN BORDER BATTLE

The barren, rocky hilltops that form Hezbollah's new front line with jihadists at the Syrian-Lebanese border were tough to capture and supply. Hezbollah commander Hajj Abu Ali says the experience could prove useful in future battles. Military jeeps and four-wheel-drive trucks make a slow, bruising progress up newly bulldozed dirt tracks to the mountains near the Lebanese town of Arsal to ferry food and supplies to forces there as fighting rages in the valley below. "Each battle has its own difficulties," Abu Ali said, standing on a bombed-out hilltop bunker captured from Nusra Front militants in the area known as Juroud Arsal.

This is the latest front for Hezbollah in its battle with militants to secure Lebanon's Syrian border, part of the wider role the Iran-backed group has played in support of Syria's President Bashar Al-Assad in the six-year-long war in Syria. Hezbollah has made rapid advances against Nusra Front since launching the offensive jointly with the Syrian army on Friday, aiming to clear jihadists out of their last border foothold.

Mortar fire pounded targets in the valley and jets struck on the Syrian side of the border during a media trip to the area on Tuesday. Plumes of grey smoke towered into the sky. "What is tough in some battles is that areas are densely populated, with many civilians. Here you can shell more freely, it's open and there aren't many people. But the terrain is the difficult bit - it's hard to cover ground, and we have to open new roads as we go along," Abu Ali said.

Since the operation began, Nusra Front has almost been vanquished, Hezbollah says, and the next target is a pocket of territory held by Islamic State militants. As Hezbollah battles jihadists in this latest offensive, the Lebanese army has adopted a defensive posture guarding the nearby town of Arsal. A big recipient of US and British military support, it has not taken part. Hezbollah commanders believe the offensive will soon be over, and say the battle is providing valuable experience. "It could help prepare us for future battles," Abu Ali said.

But the battle has been hard fought, mainly because of terrain that was long an ideal base for Nusra Front - Al-Qaeda's former Syria branch and now leader of Islamist alliance, Tahrir Al-Sham - as well as for Islamic State militants and other insurgents. On this particular hilltop, militants had barricaded themselves behind sandbags and dug trenches into the hard stone ground. "It was easy for them to dig in here and shoot at whoever raised their head coming up the hill," Abu Ali said. Hezbollah had lost fighters that way, he said. "We dealt with it using artillery and air strikes. We found eight (insurgent) bodies here. Others fled from the area, some on motorbikes." A blackened stove, an upturned coffee jar and a shredded green tarpaulin roof cover were the only signs left of the Nusra militants.

## Existential Battle

Abu Ali said the fight to capture the surrounding hilltops began at dawn on the first day of the operation and lasted 11 hours. Ten Hezbollah fighters were killed, he said. Security sources say some two dozen Hezbollah fighters have been killed overall, and nearly 150 militants. At a checkpoint further back from the front, Hezbollah fighters urgently waved through an ambulance with blacked out windows returning along the same bumpy dirt track, signposted "to Wadi Al-Kheil", a valley recaptured on Monday. Tanks, tents and a field clinic sat in the shade of apricot trees nearby.

Hezbollah has lost hundreds of fighters including top commanders in Syria. It says the battle there is an existential one to stop extremists spreading to Lebanon. Its Lebanese critics say it has fuelled militant attacks in Lebanon. A Shiite cleric dressed in combat fatigues prayed next to mortar cannon emplacements overlooking the valley on Tuesday. One fighter was confident of victory soon, and dismissive of the enemy. "See that mountain? That's where they were the day before yesterday. Now look where they are," he said, pointing out several kilometres of ground Hezbollah had taken. They are nothing. — Reuters

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## ISRAEL REMOVES METAL DETECTORS AT JERUSALEM HOLY SITE



## IN CHONGQING, BO XILAI'S SUPPORT ENDURES

In this steamy metropolis of more than 30 million people on the banks of the Yangtze River, it doesn't take much to find people who still talk in reverential terms about Bo Xilai, Chongqing's incarcerated and disgraced former Communist Party head who was removed from office more than five years ago. By contrast, it is difficult to find anyone who has similar regard for Sun Zhengcai, who lost the same Chongqing party job earlier this month after being accused by Beijing of failing to rid the city of Bo's influence and legacy.

People remember Bo fondly as a can-do leader who improved law and order, turbo-charged the economy, and rejuvenated dilapidated old city quarters. "Bo did a great job with law and order in the city," said Tan Heping, one of the city's dwindling number of iconic bangbang, or "stick men", who carry loads on bamboo poles up and down the city's steep hillsides. "Sun is nowhere near as impressive, he is far from what Bo Xilai was. I can't see what he has done."

Both Bo and Sun were removed in the months ahead of gatherings of top leaders at the Chinese Communist Party National Congress, which is held every five years and is where major leadership changes are ratified. Sun took over in Chongqing in November 2012 from top party official Zhang Dejiang, who held the position for just eight months after Bo's departure. At the 2012 Congress, Xi Jinping was confirmed as China's national leader and at this autumn's Congress he is widely expected to consolidate his power by moving supporters into key leadership positions, and as a result have a greater say in any succession planning.

## Contender for the Top

The telegenic Bo, regarded widely as one of the most charismatic Chinese politicians of his generation, was a contender for the top leadership before being felled for corruption in a sensational 2012 scandal that also saw his wife jailed for murdering a British businessman. Bo's popularity, ruthlessly ambitious behavior and individualistic

streak had been seen among top officials at the time as a potential threat to the central leadership.

Marrying his overt western-style retail politician charm with a Mao-era propaganda strategy, Bo had bypassed Communist Party messaging to build his own brand. Tapping into public anger at official corruption, he espoused a return to simpler, more traditional Chinese values, and organized mass rallies of tens of thousands singing patriotic revolutionary-era songs amid a sea of red flags.

And with police chief and right-hand man Wang Lijun, he launched a high-profile campaign against Chongqing's deep-rooted organized crime rings. There are no polls to consult but on a recent trip to the city, a Reuters reporter interviewed about a dozen people, from shopkeepers and laborers to coal mine owners and lawyers, and all of them said they were still positive about Bo's reign.

The Chongqing government and the State Council Information Office, which doubles as the Communist Party's spokesman's office, did not respond to requests for comment for this story. "Bo was doing things for us ordinary people, things that you can see," said Wu Hong, a clothing wholesaler. To be sure, there are some in Chongqing who strongly disagree.

## Shakedown

Li Zhuang, a Chongqing lawyer and vehement Bo critic who was jailed for two years and six months after defending suspected mafia bosses, said Bo and Wang's purported organised crime sweep resulted in "large numbers of unjust and false charges" and led to the shakedown of many legitimate and innocent business people. Li, who was contacted by phone, said Sun had done nothing to overturn the verdicts of those he believes were wronged.

But for local coal boss Jin Yihu, even being incarcerated at the height of Bo's crackdown against organized crime in 2011 has failed to dent his admiration. A dispute over the mine's ownership saw a business rival report Jin to police,

claiming he was a mob boss. Jin spent seven months in detention before his name was cleared. "Even then I don't hate him," Jin told Reuters in reference to Bo. "To compare Bo and Sun is to compare heaven and earth."

In what turned out to be an ominous signal for Sun, the party's anti-graft watchdog, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, said in February that Chongqing had failed to rid itself of the "pernicious influence" of Bo. On Monday, confirming an earlier Reuters report, the commission announced that Sun had been formally placed under investigation for "serious violations of discipline", a party euphemism that usually refers to corruption.

Bo received a life sentence in 2013 after being found guilty of bribery, abuse of power and embezzlement. Wang was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2012 on mostly similar charges. Bo's downfall - and President Xi Jinping's tight grip on power - has seen provincial leaders take a much more conservative approach while jockeying for promotion, lest they also be seen as political threats or step out of line.

Sun's conservative leadership style in Chongqing, analysts say, may have been compounded by a belief that he just needed to bide his time, stay low-key and avoid any major accidents. But Sun's esoteric signature plan to re-zone the city into five "functional areas" including an urban core and ecological conservation zone, failed to resonate with many people. "It's impractical and hollow," said Chongqing lawyer Zhou Litai.

## Risk Aversion

Sun's risk aversion was evident in a crackdown on coal mining in the city after a mine explosion last October killed 33 and made national headlines. The Chongqing government responded by forcing all coal mines producing less than 90,000 tonnes a year to halt production, closing 181 mines across the city were shuttered, according to state media reports. Production remains halted, industry sources told Reuters.

## FAIRYTALES OVERCOME NIGHTMARES IN PAJU

A half-hour's drive north of Seoul, along a highway lined with barbed wire, lie two shopping malls the size of several football stadiums, a stone's throw from the world's most militarized border. The malls are in the city of Paju, gateway to the UN truce village of Panmunjom, where military officers from the combatants of the 1950-53 Korean war discuss armistice matters - when the two sides are on speaking terms, which they aren't these days.

"Fairy tales come true in Paju", is the advertising lure from the Korean Tourism Board. But it was nightmares that were all too true here during the Korean war, when Paju featured some of its fiercest battles. Paju is home to the country's only "enemy's cemetery", where the remains of Chinese and North Korean soldiers are buried.

That's all but forgotten history now. On the rooftop of the Lotte Premium Outlet, children and their parents can view North Korea across the Imjin River through binoculars. The mall also features a merry-go-round, cinema, and a mini-train. At Shinsegae Paju Premium Outlet, about a dozen children jump and scream around a fountain inside the mall on a sizzling, July summer day. Just a couple miles away is a village modelled after France's tourism center of Provence, where restaurants, bakeries and clothing shops are decorated like a children's playroom.

Elsewhere in Paju, kids carved wood to make Pinocchio dolls at a museum, while adults tasted wine made of meoru, a Korean wild grape, at a farm. Paju, indeed, shows little signs of the tensions that have arisen since North Korea marked the US July 4th holiday with a successful launch of what it said was an intercontinental ballistic missile. The missile test prompted the United States and South Korea this month to conduct air force bomber exercises in the skies near here.

## Littering Land Mines

But at Paju's Provence Village, Kim Ki-deok, a 41-year-old office worker from south of Seoul and father of a 4-year-old boy, said he doesn't feel any more danger from being close to the border. "If North Korea really wants, they can shoot missiles far away," said Kim. "I feel refreshed and would like to come here again." The sense of insouciance can even be seen at the US military's Camp Bonifas on the outskirts of town, home to a three-hole golf course that Sports Illustrated once called the "world most dangerous golf course" because of the Korean War vintage land mines littering the area. The Korean War, in which the United States fought alongside South Korea and China with the North,

ended in a truce that has yet to be replaced by a peace agreement and has left the two sides technically at war. It means South Koreans have long grown accustomed to living in a doomsday scenario, one that includes up to 10,000 artillery guns pointed toward the South and capable at any moment, in the words of North Korea's propaganda machine, of turning Seoul into a "sea of fire" and a "pile of ashes."

For 30-year-old Park Chol-min, it's nothing more than empty threats. "It's just a show or performance. I think North Korea has a lot more to lose than to gain by turning Seoul into a sea of fire," said the video game producer from Seoul, visiting the Shinsegae mall with his girlfriend to buy her a birthday gift.

## Defence Mechanism

Paju stepped up North Korea-related tourism in the 2000s, when liberal governments launched a "Sunshine Policy" of engagement with North Korea. Foreigners and locals flocked to Panmunjom to see stony-faced North

Korean soldiers on guard and an underground tunnel built by the North, and to Imjingak, which houses the Bridge of Freedom, where prisoners of war were traded at the end of the war. The tourism push took a huge leap late in 2011, when two massive premium outlets run by South Korean retail giants Shinsegae and Lotte opened. More than 12 million visitors went to the two malls last year - more than Seoul's population of 10 million. It was not long after the malls opened, though, when North Korea dramatically stepped up the pace of missile and nuclear tests under Kim Jong Un, who took power in Pyongyang when his father Kim Jong-il died in Dec 2011.

"The tests have not dented visitor interest at all," said a Paju city official in charge of tourism, who asked not to be named. "It has become just part of a daily life, although it is sad to say so." Normalizing the North Korean threat is part of a "defence mechanism" for South Koreans, says Kwak Keum-joo, a psychology professor at Seoul National University. — Reuters



Army soldiers of North Korea (top) and South Korea stand guard at the border villages of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea on July 19, 2017. — AP

# US HOUSE VOTES TO SANCTION RUSSIA, IRAN, NORTH KOREA

WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to impose tough new sanctions on Iran, North Korea and Russia, a move that will antagonize the Kremlin as well as European nations fearing economic ramifications. The measure notably constrains President Donald Trump's ability to waive the penalties. The sanctions package, which passed 419 to three after weeks of negotiations, "tightens the screws on our most dangerous adversaries in order to keep Americans safe," House Speaker Paul Ryan said after the vote.

The measure now heads to the Senate, where there is support for sanctions but debate about whether to include penalties on North Korea. The legislation is the result of a congressional compromise reached last week-end and is aimed at punishing the Kremlin for meddling in the 2016 US presidential election and Russia's annexation of Crimea. "Under Vladimir Putin, Russia has invaded its neighbor Ukraine, seizing its territory and destabilizing its government," House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce said in applauding passage. "Left unchecked, Russia is sure to continue its aggression."

But the bill could end up penalizing European firms that contribute to the development of Russia's energy sector. New sanctions against Iran and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which stands accused of supporting terrorism, and North Korea, for its missile tests, are also included in the bill. Key among the provisions is one that handcuffs the US president by complicating any of the leader's unilateral efforts to ease penalties against Moscow in the future - effectively placing him under Congress's watch.

Trump has faced accusations that his administration had sought to reassure Moscow that sanctions imposed near the end of the Obama administration could be lifted under a President Trump. Initially, Trump resisted the legislation. But faced with near-total consensus among Republican and Democratic lawmakers, the White House blinked, but did not say directly that the billionaire president would sign it into law. "While the President supports tough sanctions on North Korea, Iran and Russia, the White House is reviewing the House legislation and awaits a final legislative package for the president's desk," spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said.

### Veto likely not effective

In mid-June, the Senate voted 98-2 in favor of tough sanctions on Moscow and Tehran, but the text stalled in the House. With the North Korea sanctions now included, the new measure would need to be passed by the Senate before heading to the White House, likely before summer break begins in mid-August. Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer said he wants the new measure passed and sent to Trump's desk "without delay".

US lawmakers, including Republican leaders, have remained wary of the intentions of the billionaire businessman-turned-president - who has called for better relations with Moscow - regarding a relaxation of pressure on Putin. But even if Trump were to veto the legislation, Congress would likely be able to overcome such a blockage with a two-thirds majority in each chamber.

### Russia calls sanctions 'counterproductive'

The Kremlin warned that fresh sanctions on Russia would adversely affect both sides. "We consider such a continuation of the rhetoric of sanctions counter-productive and harmful to the interests of both countries," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday. From Paris to Berlin, the sanctions bill was seen as a unilateral action by Washington that disrupts a carefully crafted order. To date, sanctions against Moscow have been coordinated on both sides of the Atlantic, to maintain a united front.

European Union member states were due to meet Wednesday and discuss the issue - and a possible response. Several European nations, including Germany, are livid because the new law would allow punishing companies working on pipelines from Russia, for example by limiting their access to US banks. The provision could theoretically pave the way for sanctions against European partners in Nord Stream 2, a project to build a pipeline carrying Russian gas across the Baltic that could boost supplies to Germany from 2019.

To date, Washington and Brussels had agreed that sanctions would not affect Europe's gas supply. In an apparent concession, the House modified a provision so the bill only targets pipelines originating in Russia, sparing those that merely pass through, such as the Caspian pipeline that carries oil from Kazakhstan to Europe. — AFP

## HALT ON VISAS FOR PARENTS, SIBLINGS

Continued from Page 1

The sources said the decision includes relatives of Kuwaitis and there are no exemptions, except for those with special needs. They said the decision includes non-

Kuwaiti parents and siblings under the sponsorship of citizens and expats, and are required to pay the new health insurance fees to renew their residency permits. The sources said husbands and children of Kuwaiti women are not included in this new regime. — Al-Rai

## UAE EYES 'NEW RELATIONS IN GULF' AMID QATAR...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, Qatar said yesterday that a new blacklist released by Saudi Arabia and its allies came as a "disappointing surprise" in the diplomatic crisis that has split the Gulf. The four Arab governments named 18 organizations and individuals on Tuesday that they accused of links with Islamist extremism and Qatar.

The move by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain came despite mounting international pressure to compromise in their weeks-old boycott of their fellow US ally.

Qatari government communications director Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed Al-Thani said the blacklist had no basis in fact and was aimed at stripping the emirate of its sovereignty. "It comes as a disappointing surprise that the blockading countries are still pursuing this story as part of their smear campaign against Qatar," he said in a statement. "This latest list provides further evidence that the blockading countries are not committed to the fight against terrorism."

"All individuals with links to terrorism in Qatar have been prosecuted. We encourage the blockading countries to spend less time on drafting these fabricated lists and more time on implementing measures to counter the threat of extremism in their own countries." The four governments issued a previous blacklist of 59 individuals

and 12 groups last month. Sheikh Saif said it had been "widely rejected by the international community".

Saudi Arabia and its allies have been boycotting Qatar since June 5 in the region's worst diplomatic crisis in years. They sealed the emirate's only land border, ordered its citizens to leave and closed their airspace and waters to Qatari flights and shipping. They demanded that Qatar break its longstanding ties with the Muslim Brotherhood, blacklisted as a "terror group" by the four governments although not by the international community. They also demanded that it close broadcasting giant Al-Jazeera and a Turkish military base, and fall in line with Saudi-led policy in the region, particularly towards Iran.

Qatar has dismissed the demands as a violation of its sovereignty and has received significant support from its ally Turkey. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who last week spent four days in the region trying to broker a settlement of the crisis, has voiced satisfaction with Qatar's efforts to address any suspicion of terror funding. But after talks with European Union diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini on Tuesday, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry warned that the four governments would accept no compromise in their dispute with Qatar. "We cannot compromise with any form of terrorism, we cannot compromise or enter into any form of negotiations," Shoukry told a press conference. — Agencies



A picture taken in Cairo on July 20, 2017 shows Egyptian Shoukran Rashwan, 75, sitting on the rubble of her house that was demolished on Cairo's Warraq island. — AFP

# EGYPT SQUATTERS LOSE HOMES AS LAND SEIZED

WARRAQ ISLAND, Egypt: Hala Gamal looks at a pile of rubble on Cairo's Warraq island - all that's left of her house after a police operation to evict residents accused of squatting on state land. Gamal, 31, said she had left the Nile island in the capital's north on July 16 to buy breakfast. She returned to find her home destroyed and her children on the street. As part of a government campaign to reclaim hundreds of thousands of hectares of state-owned land, police stormed the island and demolished several homes, sparking clashes that left one resident dead.

The government says about 90,000 people live on the 420 hectare island. In a cabinet report, it promised that "those who have contracts and official papers proving land ownership" would not be affected by demolitions. But Gamal said that was not true in the case of her house, where she lived with her husband, his mother and their four children. "I have all the government papers and stamps that confirm that my husband owns the house," Gamal said. "So why this aggression by the government against simple people like us?"

Ferry owner Nasser Ahmed, 47, said the orders were signed just a day before the demolitions were carried out. "They rushed to implement them the following day without sending a single notice (to residents). They demolished two inhabited houses," he said.

### Nature reserve

Squatters began settling on the island more than 15 years ago, turning what had been agricultural land "into a slum", according to a cabinet report. In May, President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi ordered a campaign to recover state-owned land which had been encroached upon. The authorities said in June that over 800,000 hectares of agricultural and building land had been illegally appropriated, but that the gov-

ernment had retaken control of more than 386,150 hectares. Authorities have carried out similar measures before. In 2012, the military ordered people on Al-Qursaya island, south of Warraq, to leave their homes as they were in a military zone. According to the cabinet, the authorities made several failed attempts to implement demolition orders on Warraq since 2007. But residents say little has been done to protect their rights. "The government promised not to approach inhabited buildings, but they did," Yehia Al-Maghrabi, who was head of the island's municipality for 16 years to 2011, told AFP. "Did the state forget its land for 10 whole years?"

The state owns up to 25 hectares on the island, mostly agricultural land belonging to the religious endowments ministry and the Agricultural Development Authority, Maghrabi said. Farmers living on the agricultural land are there legally and pay rent to the authorities, he added. The remaining state-owned land is home to some 2,500 people, who pay rent to the ADA, he said. Some of their homes have been there for more than 60 years.

In 1998, the Egyptian government issued a decree to classify the island as a nature reserve, a decision Maghrabi derided. "Is it conceivable that there would be a nature reserve with schools, a hospital, a youth center, a police station, and a municipality?" he asked.

Rumors have circulated on social media that the demolitions are meant to make space for a building project. Users published pictures showing designs from 2013 to develop Warraq for commercial purposes. The designs, which had appeared on the website of Emirati-Singaporean company RSB, were removed from the site after the July 16 demolitions. No details were available about who paid for the designs. The government denied the evictions were intended to clear the way for new development. — AFP

## MP TARGETS SOCIETY WITH QUESTIONS OVER...

Continued from Page 1

The lawmaker inquired if the society had any joint activities with the Iranian cultural mission and demanded the administrative and financial reports of the society. He also asked if the ministry provides the society with annual aid. The fact that a number of those convicted in the Abdaly cell are members of the society has promoted a number of MPs to demand action against it.

Meanwhile, MP Nasser Al-Dossari yesterday called on the prime minister to carry out a Cabinet reshuffle to exclude a number of ministers whose performances were below expectation, who have not been cooperating with MPs and have failed to reply to questions posted by lawmakers. The lawmaker expected that at least

three grillings will be filed at the start of the forthcoming term of the Assembly in October if these ministers were not dropped by the premier.

Dossari stressed the importance of passing the law stipulating to naturalize between 2,000 and 4,000 people in an attempt to resolve the chronic crisis of bedoons, or stateless people. The lawmaker expected that the Assembly will debate at the start of the next term a draft law calling to abolish the central agency for bedoons in order to prevent the government from renewing the agency for a fresh term. Dossari said that between 1996 and 2010, as many as 18,000 people were naturalized, many of them bedoons, but since 2010 when the bedoon agency was established, no bedoon was naturalized.



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## ROONEY READY FOR 'EMOTIONAL' EUROPEAN DEBUT WITH EVERTON

**LONDON:** Wayne Rooney says he can't wait to fulfil his childhood dream of playing for Everton in Europe in today's Europa League tie against MFK Ruzomberok. Rooney won the Champions League and Europa League during his trophy-filled spell with Manchester United, but the visit of Slovakian side Ruzomberok to Goodison Park will still rank as one of the more memorable moments of the 31-year-old's glittering career. Rooney, who left Everton to join United in 2004, is a life-long fan of the Merseyside club and his move back to Goodison Park earlier in the close-season will allow him to live out his ambition of wearing the Toffees' blue shirt in continental competition. It may only be a Europa League third-round qualifier, but Rooney is relishing his first competitive home match as an Everton player for 13 years. — AFP



## HEART CHECKS NEEDED, SAYS BRIGHTON'S GOLDSON

**LONDON:** Brighton defender Connor Goldson says clubs should carry out more checks on players in a bid to detect potential heart problems. Goldson, 24, has not played competitively since January after the discovery of a swollen aorta. Former Newcastle midfielder Cheick Tiote died in June after collapsing while training in China, and his fellow Ivorian Eugene Kouame died earlier this month after suffering a heart attack. "You look at Tiote. You never know what can happen. Two players in the last few months is way too many," Goldson told the Times yesterday. "Football needs to do something. Every club needs to check at least once a year. Unfortunately players don't get the scans. I never felt a thing. If my little story can make other clubs think they need to do a test, hopefully it can save other players." Goldson's problem, which was discovered during routine screening by the club, meant he missed the closing stages of the Championship campaign as Chris Hughton's side returned to the top-flight for the first time since 1983. — AFP

## ENGLAND HOCKEY COACH SUFFERS HEART ATTACK

**LONDON:** England women's hockey coach Danny Kerry suffered a heart attack during the recent World League tournament in South Africa and will miss his team's defence of the European title next month. Kerry, who led Great Britain's women to gold medal glory at the 2016 Olympics, was admitted to Millpark Hospital last week after feeling unwell while at the World League semi-final in Johannesburg. The 46-year-old is now returning home but is not expected to be back at work until September, leaving assistant coach David Ralph in charge for the EuroHockey Championship in Amsterdam, which starts on August 18. "I would like to give my huge thanks and debt of gratitude to Dr Ramjee and the wonderful staff at Millpark for the exceptional care I received whilst in hospital," Kerry said. "I would also like to convey how proud I am of how both players and staff continued through the tournament in such a professional manner, particularly during the Saturday I was admitted. I look forward to some extended time with my wonderful family and friends, to recovering, and to returning to the role I love in due course." — AFP



# NEWFOUND LOVE OF MOTORSPORTS BOOM IN CHINA

**ALXA YOUQI:** Trailing enormous plumes of dust, the Silk Way rally cars tore through the Gobi Desert bound for China's Imperial city of Xi'an—fresh evidence of the Middle Kingdom's newfound love of motorsports. From the well-established Chinese Grand Prix to an explosion of kids' karting events, the country which until recently relied more on the bicycle than the internal combustion engine is getting behind the wheel in a big way.

Motorsports are enjoying a boom across China, from the two-week-long Silk Way odyssey to the hundreds of local car rallies, motocross events and touring car championships that take place every year. Just 30 years ago, such events were more or less unheard of in the fast-changing country, which now boasts the world's second-biggest economy after the United States and a growing urban middle class with money to burn on hobbies.

"People have more and more means and free time," said Wang Xudong, chief executive of Zhongshi Huanqiu, a Chinese company that organises motor racing in the country. "And in parallel the Chinese car market is growing." It is hard to believe now, so clogged with traffic are cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, but cars were still rare on Chinese streets three decades ago. With sales of 24.38 million passenger cars last year-up 15 percent in 12 months—China is now the world's largest car market. And since the watershed 2004 Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai—now an annual fixture on the Formula One circuit—motorsports have been on turbocharge. The first Formula E race—auto racing with electric cars—in history took place before 75,000 spectators at Beijing's Bird's Nest Olympic stadium in 2014.

### 'THIRST' FOR MOTORSPORTS

The Silk Way Rally set off on July 7 from Red Square in the heart of Moscow, travelled through Russia's grassy steppes and the great plains and mountains of Kazakhstan before crossing the daunting Gobi. Exhausted racers

crossed the finish line on Saturday in Xi'an, some 9,599 kilometres (6,000 miles) later, with Chinese driver Han Wei coming home third in his Chinese-made Geely car.

The event—co-organised between China and Russia—has ambitions to rival the prestigious Dakar Rally. "The Chinese have a thirst for organising their own events, like what has happened in Europe, but are a few years behind, and they have really become fans of discovery and adventure," Hubert Auriol, former director of the Dakar Rally, told AFP. Auriol was brought in by organisers of the China Grand Rally for his experience and expertise and was race director between 2013 and 2016. "Perhaps we had in mind a somewhat stereotyped image of the hard-working Chinese, but it is like anywhere else in the world: at one point it is about leisure, relaxation and doing something else," Auriol added.

Yang Yulin, a 28-year-old Chinese accountant marveling at the rally cars pounding their way through the Gobi sand, told AFP he was a motorsports fan. "I do karting and I love riding my 4x4 in the dunes," he said.

### POLITICAL WILL

The growing popularity of motorsport in China also owes much to the exploits behind the wheel of writer, blogger and director Han Han, 34, a trendy youth icon and 2012 national rally champion.

Crucially, the Communist authorities also appear to be fans of the sport. In October last year the Chinese government called for "continuous improvement in the organisation of motorsports", urging the creation of new racing circuits and encouraging the staging of rallies and other events. "There is the political will, so behind everything, everything is easily organised," said Auriol, who sees "enormous potential" in the country for the sport. "China is densely populated, so people tend to imagine that there are only cities, but in the north you have gigantic regions with magnificent deserts that are totally suitable to rally-raids."

And a new generation of Chinese drivers is coming, said Wang, the race organiser. "Before, they started to compete in adulthood, but from now on they are trained in karting

(at a young age) and the future is promising," he said. That was echoed by the rally driver Han Wei: "Bit by bit, you'll see, we're getting closer to the international level." — AFP



**SHANGHAI:** This file photo taken on April 9, 2017 shows Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton driving during the Formula One Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai. Trailing enormous plumes of dust, the Silk Way rally cars tore through the Gobi Desert bound for China's Imperial city of Xi'an — fresh evidence of the Middle Kingdom's newfound love of motorsports. — AFP



## IVECO ON PODIUM AGAIN WITH DUTCHMAN TON VAN GENUGTEN AND HIS TRAKKER EVOLUTION SILK WAY RALLY 2017

**KOSTANAY:** The third stage of Silk Way Rally 2017 took the competitors across the border into Kazakhstan after a "special" of about 330 km and a total distance of 876.39 km. The three IVECO trucks completed the last of

the three stages hosted in Russian territory in the top ten of the overall ranking. Once again, Ton Van Genugten was the man of the day as he finished just 3m39s behind the first. He drove carefully without taking risks and this tactic paid off: after the slippery tracks of the first two stages and the amazing passages of across the river, the experienced Dutchman is now in fifth place in the truck category overall ranking.

Gerard De Rooy, behind the wheel of his completely renovated IVECO Powerstar, finished the third stage in 8th position: "I enjoyed very much today's stage from Ufa to Kostanay, even though we had to drive carefully and not as fast as we would have wanted" - said the Team leader.

The third teammate, Artur Ardavichus on board his IVECO Powerstar #310, finished the stage in 3h50m57s, placing the truck in the top ten (in 9th position). For the Kazakh pilot, the new entry in

### TEAM

PETRONAS De Rooy IVECO, this was the first stage run in his country of origin.

Tuesday's 11th, Team PETRONAS de Rooy IVECO will be engaged in the fourth leg, which will take them from Kostanay to Astana. This will be the first stage of the rally raid with two selective sections.

The first part starts on a rather fast soil track and

becomes increasingly difficult as it runs on the banks of a big river and finishes in Kazakh farmland. The second part, also in farmland, is fast. Competitors will then drive 342 km of road sections to reach the capital of Kazakhstan.

### Stage 3 results - Silk Way Rally 2017

1. Sjarhei Viazovich (Maz) 3h33m14s
2. Martin Kolomy (Tatra) +0m55s
3. Ton Van Genugten (IVECO) +3m39s
4. Dmitry Sotnikov (Kamaz) +4m34s
5. Airat Mardeev (Kamaz) +5m27s
6. Gerard De Rooy (IVECO) +17m07s
7. Artur Ardavichus (IVECO) +17m43s

### Overall classification - Silk Way Rally 2017

1. Martin Kolomy (Tatra) 6h45m07s
2. Anton Shibalov (Kamaz) +2m40s
3. Dmitry Sotnikov (Kamaz) +5m13s
4. Airat Mardeev (Kamaz) +8m21s
5. Ton Van Genugten (IVECO) +10m41s
6. Gerard De Rooy (IVECO) +10m47s
7. Artur Ardavichus (IVECO) +12m41s

### Starting order for SS4 - 11th July

- 07.16h Sjarhei Viazovich (Maz)
- 07.22h Martin Kolomy (Tatra)
- 07.24h Ton Van Genugten (IVECO)
- 07.42 Gerard De Rooy (IVECO)
- 07.43 Artur Ardavichus (IVECO).

### BASKETBALL

## PELICANS LOOK GOOD ON PAPER, TIRED OF LOSING

**NEW ORLEANS:** Anthony Davis says a New Orleans Pelicans are "tired of losing" and have the roster to do something about it. That is, if they can find a new offensive scheme that suits their mixture of incumbent starters and recent acquisitions.

"We can't wait for the season to come and try to make some noise here in the loaded West," Davis said Tuesday afternoon while promoting a youth camp he'll host in early August. "We're doing everything, whether it's signing players, trading players ... whatever it is to just try to make sure that we try to be a winning organization," he added. "We have the tools right now to be successful. ... Right now, I think we look good on paper. So we've just got to figure it out."

The Pelicans will likely need the right scheme, good chemistry and good health to contend in the Western Conference, which features defending champion Golden State as well as Houston, Oklahoma City and San Antonio.

Davis is optimistic that could happen. He's been working out this off-season with fellow All-Star big man DeMarcus Cousins, and he fully endorsed the recent signing of veteran point guard Rajon Rondo.

Davis said Rondo's savvy play-making and defensive acumen will

strengthen the New Orleans on both ends while also allowing Jrue Holiday to become more of a scoring threat from the shooting guard spot.

When the Pelicans re-signed Holiday to a five-year, \$126 million contract to open free agency, general manager Dell Demps and coach Alvin Gentry mentioned the possibility of playing Holiday off the ball more, and the acquisition of Rondo should allow that, Davis said.

"When I first heard about Rondo, I thought it was a good situation for us," Davis said. "He knows when to get guys involved, when to make that pass." Davis said Rondo and Holiday also will be a formidable defensive tandem along the perimeter, meaning the Pelicans' All-Star big men should have more chances to protect the rim and rebound. He said Rondo's long arms and big hands help him disrupt drives and passes as well as rebound.

"They're going to give a lot of guards, this year, problems," Davis said. "It's always good when you can add a guy who knows how to play defense." By the time Davis hosts his clinic for kids Aug. 7-8 at the University of New Orleans, he'll have spent a considerable portion of the off-season working out with Cousins, who was acquired in a trade after last season's All-Star game.

As the fellow All-Stars prepare to enter their first full season together, Davis said Cousins is trying to adapt and further develop his game. Coaches and teammates have complemented Cousins this summer on how he looks after committing to a conditioning program that has helped him shed some weight and improve his endurance.

"We know we're going to be the big focal points on every team's scouting report, so we just wanted to get together and work at it together and figure out the things we like to do," Davis said. "He's trying to adapt. He wants to win for sure and we didn't have that much time last year. ... He's trying to do whatever the team asks him to do."

Davis said he's supposed to meet with new assistant coach Chris Finch soon to start discussing the offensive scheme he envisions when New Orleans' top two front-court stars are playing together. Finch could be a good fit because of his recent experience on Denver's staff helping versatile young big men Jusuf Nurkic and Nikola Jokic play effectively as teammates.

Davis said the Pelicans want to emulate "how they ran their offensive package with those two bigs who are very skilled." —AP



Pelicans guard Norris Cole

NFL

## VIRGINIA POLICE CLEAR DALLAS COWBOYS RECEIVER WHITEHEAD

**LOS ANGELES:** A shoplifting charge that prompted the NFL's Dallas Cowboys to cut receiver Lucky Whitehead was a case of mistaken identity, police in Virginia said Tuesday.

"Upon reviewing the June 22, 2017 arrest of an individual named 'Rodney Darnell Whitehead, Jr,' the police department is confident that the man charged with petit larceny, and who is subsequently being sought on an active warrant for failure to appear in court, is not

Lucky Whitehead of the Dallas Cowboys," Prince William County Police Sergeant Jonathan Perok said in a statement.

The department said it regretted the impact its errors had caused Whitehead and his family. The Cowboys, who have seen a string of players arrested since the end of last season, wasted little time in saying Monday they would release Whitehead, a Virginia native, after reports that he was arrested for shoplifting on June 22 and had failed to appear for a

scheduled court date earlier this month.

Whitehead insisted it was a case of mistaken identity, and his agent produced an airplane ticket that showed Whitehead was still in Dallas at the time of the alleged theft. The police said the man who was arrested wasn't carrying identification, but gave his personal information verbally to officers.

Officers checked his information through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles database and used the

photo on file to compare to the man they had in custody. "... Officers acted in good faith that, at the time, the man in custody was the same man matching the information provided. At this point, the police department is also confident in confirming that Mr. Whitehead's identity was falsely provided to police during the investigation," the police statement said.

However, the Cowboys stuck with their decision to shed the 24-year-old,

who spent the first two seasons of his NFL career with Dallas, playing primarily as a kick/punt returner. "We made a decision. We're moving on," team owner Jerry Jones said, according to the Dallas Morning News.

Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said the club determined that a "clean slate" for Whitehead was in the best interest of the team and the player. "He'll have a new opportunity somewhere else," Garrett said. "That's good for him." — AFP



**SAN DIEGO:** New York Mets' Yoenis Cespedes scores from third after hitting an RBI triple as San Diego Padres catcher Hector Sanchez is late with the tag during the seventh inning of a baseball game Tuesday, in San Diego. San Diego Padres first baseman Wil Myers picked up a throwing error on the play. — AP

BASEBALL

## FRAZIER'S RUN-SCORING TRIPLE PLAY HELPS YANKS TOP REDS

**NEW YORK:** Todd Frazier had an unforgettable first at-bat in his home debut at Yankee Stadium, grounding into the major leagues' first run-scoring triple play since 2006 as New York beat the Cincinnati Reds 4-2 Tuesday night. Frazier hit a bases-loaded grounder in the second up the middle, and shortstop Jose Peraza gloved it, stepped on second and threw to first. Didi Gregorius, who had been on second base, held up when the ball was hit, in case it was caught. He was late to advance, and first baseman Joey Votto's throw across the diamond caught him in a rundown. Gregorius was called out for running wide of baseline trying to avoid a tag. Rookie Jordan Montgomery (7-5) held the Reds hitless until Scott Schebler broke an 0-for-20 slump with a leadoff double in the sixth. Montgomery gave up two hits in 6 2/3 innings, and Aroldis Chapman closed for his 12th save. Last-place Cincinnati lost for the 10th time in 12 games as rookie Luis Castillo (1-4) gave up three runs in five innings. Billy Hamilton's bid for a tying extra-base hit in the eighth was thwarted when pinch-runner Zack Cozart, out of the starting lineup to rest his tender quadriceps, hobbled into third.

**MARINERS 6, RED SOX 5, 13 INNINGS**

Jean Segura rolled an RBI single up the middle with two outs in the 13th inning to cap a two-run rally and give the Seattle Mariners a 6-5 victory over the Boston Red Sox. Mitch Haniger walked with one out in the 13th off Doug Fister (0-5), pitching his third inning, and was forced at second on

Ben Gamel's fielder's choice. Guillermo Heredia, who had a three-run homer in the second, singled Gamel to third. Gamel scored on a wild pitch to tie it, with Heredia advancing all the way to third. Mike Zunino then walked. Shortstop Xander Bogaerts fielded Segura's roller behind second, but his off-balance throw was way late. The Red Sox, who stranded two runners in the eighth, ninth and 11th innings, had taken a 5-4 lead in the top half when Sandy Leon singled home Hanley Ramirez with two outs off Tony Zych (5-2). Mike Zunino opened the seventh inning with his 15th home run to bring Seattle even at 4-4.

**CUBS 7, WHITE SOX 2**

Willson Contreras drove in four runs and Carl Edwards Jr. provided some timely relief. Ben Zobrist reached four times from the leadoff spot as the Cubs won for the ninth time in 11 games since the All-Star break. John Lackey (7-9) became the first major leaguer in two years to hit four batters in two years, but managed to get into the sixth inning. The AL-worst White Sox lost for the 10th time in 11 games. Carlos Rodon (1-4) matched a career high with 11 strikeouts and hit a two-run double for his first career hit, but allowed four runs and seven hits in four innings.

**ASTROS 5, PHILLIES 0**

Derek Fisher drove in two runs just hours after arriving in Philadelphia and Charlie Morton (8-4) gave up three hits in seven innings and struck out nine. Jose Altuve

extended his hitting streak to 17 straight games with a sixth-inning double to help the AL West-leading Astros improve to an American League-best 67-33. Houston is 9-0 in interleague play. Houston third baseman Alex Bregman left with discomfort in his right hamstring after tripling and scoring in the third. On Monday, outfielder George Springer departed with a left quadriceps injury that resulted in Fisher's call-up. Nick Pivetta (3-6) allowed five runs and six hits in six innings.

**BREWERS 8, NATIONALS 0**

Travis Shaw, Eric Thames and Manny Pina homered, and Zach Davies (12-4) gave up three hits in 7 2/3 innings. Shaw hit a three-run homer in a four-run fourth, and Thames and Pina connected back-to-back in the fifth off Edwin Jackson (1-1).

**BLUE JAYS 4, ATHLETICS 1**

Cesar Valdez (1-0) allowed one run and five hits over a career-high six innings to win for the first time since defeating Houston in his major league debut on May 3, 2010. Joe Smith and Ryan Tepera each worked one inning. Roberto Osuna finished for his 26th save in 30 chances. With more than half a dozen scouts on hand to monitor his performance ahead of the July 31 trade deadline, Oakland starter Sonny Gray (6-5) allowed four runs, none earned, in six innings.

**RAYS 5, ORIOLES 4**

Tim Beckham's three-run homer capped a five-run second inning off Wade Miley (4-9), and Tampa Bay stopped a five-game losing streak. Rookie Jake Faria (5-1) gave up three runs and seven hits in 7 1/3 innings, and Alex Colome pitched the ninth for his 29th save.

**ROYALS 3, TIGERS 1**

Whit Merrifield homered on the first pitch from Michael Fulmer (10-8), who allowed three runs and eight hits in eight innings. Danny Duffy (7-6) gave up one run and six hits in 6 1/3 innings. Three relievers finished, with Kelvin Herrera pitching a perfect ninth for his 21st save. Detroit loaded the bases in the seventh, but Nicholas Castellanos - in a 0-for-18 slump - grounded into a forceout against Peter Moynlan, ending the threat.

**INDIANS 11, ANGELS 7, 11 INNINGS**

Edwin Encarnacion hit a grand slam in the 11th inning as the Indians, who wasted a seven-run lead, beat the Angels for their fifth straight win. Encarnacion's shot into the

left-field bleachers off Bud Norris capped a strange night for the Indians, who led 7-0 after two innings. But Cleveland couldn't do anything until the 11th, which began with rookie Bradley Zimmer drawing a leadoff walk and stealing second. Zimmer, who hit a grand slam in Cleveland's seven-run second, moved up when Norris unleashed a wild pitch while walking Francisco Lindor. Angels manager Mike Scioscia then walked Michael Brantley and pulled in a fifth infielder before Encarnacion drove Norris' first pitch into the stands.

**RANGERS 10, MARLINS 4**

Joey Gallo homered twice, Mike Napoli and Rougned Odor also went deep, and the Rangers slugged past the Marlins. When Gallo led off the third inning with a towering blast into the second deck of seats, Marlins right fielder and MLB home run co-leader Giancarlo Stanton never even moved. That broke a 1-all tie and put the Rangers ahead to stay. Marlins starter Dan Straily (7-6) gave up a season-high six runs and 10 hits over four innings, including three homers. Cole Hamels (5-1) allowed four runs and six hits over six innings for the win.

**CARDINALS 3, ROCKIES 2**

Harrison Bader doubled leading off the ninth inning for his first major league hit and slid across the plate to score the winning run of his debut on Jedd Gyorko's short sacrifice fly, lifting the Cardinals over the Rockies. The 23-year-old, taken on the third round of the 2015 amateur draft, was brought up before the game when Dexter Fowler was placed on the disabled list with a strained left wrist. Bader doubled down the left-field line against Jake McGee (0-1) leading off the ninth. Bader was batting .403 (29 for 72) with 10 homers against lefties at Triple-A Memphis this year. Greg Garcia sacrificed as Bader took third, and Gyorko hit a fly near the right-field line that Carlos Gonzalez caught 248 feet from the plate. The speedy Bader slid across jubilantly as Gonzalez's one-hop throw went slightly up the third-base line.

**BRAVES 8, DIAMONDBACKS 3**

Mike Foltyniewicz went six strong innings to win again, Kurt Suzuki homered twice and the Braves beat the Diamondbacks. Suzuki's two-run homer off reliever J.J. Hoover (1-1) broke a 2-2 tie and a throwing error by Arizona catcher Chris Iannetta allowed two more to score in a four-run seventh. Suzuki and Johan Camargo hit consecutive homers off Andrew Chafin in the eighth. Matt Kemp also homered and

tripled for Atlanta. Foltyniewicz (9-5) gave up two runs and five hits, striking out nine, to improve to 6-0 in his last nine starts.

**METS 6, PADRES 5**

Yoenis Cespedes had three RBIs and finished a single shy of the cycle to lift the Mets past the Padres. The Mets won for the sixth time in seven games. Cespedes' check-swing triple in the seventh inning was the difference. Facing reliever Phil Maton, Cespedes tried to hold up on a pitch and instead punched it down the right-field line, with Curtis Granderson aboard after an inning-opening single. Granderson scored and Cespedes followed him home on Wil Myers' throwing error for a 6-4 lead. Seth Lugo (5-2) went at least six innings for his third straight start, which has produced two wins. Jose Torres (5-3), who worked 1 2/3 innings, took the loss.

**GIANTS 11, PIRATES 3**

Madison Bumgarner allowed one run over five innings for his first win of the season, and the Giants beat the Pirates. Eduardo Nunez drove in two runs in his final game with San Francisco. The veteran infielder was traded to Boston for two minor leaguers. He was pulled in the fifth inning and was later seen on television shaking hands with several teammates in the Giants' clubhouse. The deal was announced after a few minutes after the final out. Bumgarner (1-4) also singled and scored, Buster Posey had three hits and an RBI and Joe Panik added a bases-loaded triple as struggling San Francisco won for only the fifth time in 16 games. Jameson Taillon (6-4) took the loss, giving up 10 runs in three innings.

**DODGERS 6, TWINS 2**

Chris Taylor hit two run-scoring doubles and the Dodgers became baseball's first team to reach the 70-win mark with a victory over the Twins. Kenta Maeda (9-4) pitched five solid innings for the Dodgers, who have won four straight and 35 of their last 41. After the Twins took a 1-0 lead on Zack Granite's single in the third, the Dodgers took command with four runs against Minnesota starter Jose Berrios (9-4) in the fourth. Joc Pederson doubled off the center-field wall to tie it and Yasiel Puig's RBI single put the Dodgers ahead. Taylor's first double drove in two more. Taylor is 23 for 44 since the All-Star break. His two hits Tuesday gave him four consecutive multi-hit games. Maeda allowed two runs - one earned - and five hits and two walks, striking out four. Josh Ravin threw the final three innings to earn his first career save. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

San Francisco 11, Pittsburgh 3; Seattle 6, Boston 5 (13 innings); LA Dodgers 6, Minnesota 2; NY Mets 6, San Diego 5; Atlanta 8, Arizona 3; St. Louis 3, Colorado 2; Texas 10, Miami 4; Tampa Bay 5, Baltimore 4; Kansas City 3, Detroit 1; Cleveland 11, LA Angels 7 (11 innings); Toronto 4, Oakland 1; NY Yankees 4, Cincinnati 2; Houston 5, Philadelphia 0; Milwaukee 8, Washington 0; Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 2.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	Atlanta	NY Mets	Miami	
Boston	55	47	.539	-	59	39	.602	
NY Yankees	52	46	.531	1	48	51	.485	
Tampa Bay	52	49	.515	2.5	47	51	.480	
Baltimore	48	52	.480	6	45	53	.459	
Toronto	46	54	.460	8	34	64	.347	
Central Division				Central Division				
Cleveland	53	45	.541	-	Milwaukee	54	48	.529
Kansas City	52	47	.525	1.5	Chicago Cubs	52	47	.525
Minnesota	49	50	.495	4.5	Pittsburgh	50	51	.495
Detroit	45	54	.455	8.5	St. Louis	49	51	.490
Chicago White Sox	39	58	.402	13.5	Cincinnati	41	59	.410
Western Division				Western Division				
Houston	67	33	.670	-	LA Dodgers	70	31	.693
Seattle	51	51	.500	17	Arizona	57	43	.570
Texas	49	51	.490	18	Colorado	58	44	.569
LA Angels	49	52	.485	18.5	San Diego	43	57	.430
Oakland	44	56	.440	23	San Francisco	39	63	.382

## PREMIER LEAGUE BIG GUNS RELOAD AS TRANSFER ARMS RACE HEATS UP

**LONDON:** Premier League spending looks certain to shatter all previous records before the current transfer window closes as England's superpowers reload in an increasingly frenzied arms race. Fuelled by lucrative television contracts, currently worth around £8.3 billion (\$10.8bn, 9.3bn euros) and unprecedented revenue streams at home and overseas, the 20 Premier League teams have spent like never before in the weeks since the summer transfer window opened.

Already close to £800 million has been paid for new players, with the single window record spend of £1.2 billion well within reach with over a month before the market closes. Determined to make amends for last season's surprisingly lacklustre debut campaign in the Premier League, which saw Manchester City finish 15 points behind champions

Chelsea, Pep Guardiola has played a key role in driving the market sky high.

City boss Guardiola, backed by his club's Abu Dhabi-based billionaire owners, has embarked on an historically lavish spending spree, including paying £52 million for Monaco's Benjamin Mendy in a world record deal for a defender on Monday.

Mendy's arrival came just days after the £26.5 million capture of Danilo from Real Madrid. England right-back Kyle Walker cost City £50 million from Tottenham as Guardiola took just 10 days to spend £128 million on three full-backs.

A £42 million offer persuaded Monaco to sell Bernardo Silva to City, while Douglas Luiz moved to Eastlands from Vasco Da Gama for £10 million. Throw in Guardiola's £34 million swoop for Benfica goalkeeper Ederson and the

Spaniard has already splashed out £215 million. That eclipsed the record spending total for a British club in a single transfer period, racing past the £168 million mark which, not surprisingly, was also set by Guardiola last season.

City seem certain to shatter the £221.5 million forked out by Real Madrid in the summer of 2009 - which stands as the biggest outlay in one transfer window. Guardiola would love to land £50 million-rated Arsenal forward Alexis Sanchez, who is refusing to extend a contract that expires in 12 months' time, by the time the Premier League begins on August 11.

### ASTRONOMICAL

Keen not to be left behind by City, Chelsea manager Antonio Conte has been pressuring Blues owner Roman Abramovich to back his demand for

major investment ahead of his side's return to the Champions League after a one-year absence.

So far, Chelsea have spent over £120 million, with their headline deals a £58 million move for Real Madrid striker Alvaro Morata and a £34 million swoop for Monaco's Tiemoue Bakayoko. Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho had to pay a British record £75 million to beat his old club Chelsea to the signature of Everton's Belgian forward Romelu Lukaku.

That deal, following the £31 million signing of Benfica's Victor Lindelof, moved United over the £100 million mark. Arsene Wenger's decision to extend his 21-year reign at Arsenal after a turbulent season has persuaded Gunners owner Stan Kroenke to sanction the club record £52 million signing of Lyon striker Alexandre Lacazette.

Liverpool also broke their transfer record, paying £37 million for Roma winger Mohamed Salah. And, in a perfect encapsulation of the Premier League's spending power, even Everton, notoriously careful with their finances in the past, have paid over £90 million as they lured Wayne Rooney, Michael Keane and Jordan Pickford among others to Goodison Park.

Newly promoted Huddersfield and Newcastle have both spent over £30 million already, while only Tottenham and Stoke have yet to get the chequebook out. While some look at the astronomical fees being paid and wonder if the desire of English clubs to flex their financial muscles could one day prove fatal for some of the less historically successful teams, the Premier League's executive chairman Richard Scudamore insists the spree remains sustainable.—AFP

## TOTTENHAM'S LEVY SLAMS 'UNSUSTAINABLE' SPENDING

**LONDON:** Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy has slammed the "unsustainable" spending of Premier League clubs during a frenzied summer transfer window. At least £800 million (\$1.04 billion, 896 million euros) has been spent by English top-flight clubs in the current transfer period and Levy believes the exorbitant spree is bad for the sport.

Manchester United paid a British record £75 million for Everton striker Romelu Lukaku and Manchester City broke the world record fee for a defender with their £52 million swoop for Monaco's Benjamin Mendy. City alone have spent over £200 million on six new players, while Chelsea, Liverpool and Arsenal have all made club record signings since the end of last season.

The Premier League's spending is on course to break the record £1.2 billion mark for a single window, but Tottenham have opted out of the lavish deals, so far failing to make a single signing. Defending Tottenham's ultra-conservative approach, Levy claimed the other 19 Premier League teams were putting their financial health at risk. "We have a duty to manage the club appropriately," Levy said. "Some of the activity that is going on at the moment is just impossible for it to be sustainable."

"Somebody spending £200 million more than they're earning, eventually it catches up with you. And you can't keep doing it." With Tottenham having to spend up to

£800 million on the current redevelopment of their White Hart Lane stadium, Levy acknowledged it was prudent to be more cautious in the transfer market at present. But he denied the stadium costs would stop boss Mauricio Pochettino getting a player he wants as Tottenham look to improve on two successive near-misses in the Premier League title race.

"We have to find the right balance but I can honestly say it is not impacting us on transfer activity because we are not yet in a place where we have found a player that we want to buy who we cannot afford to buy," Levy said. Tottenham sold England defender Kyle Walker to Manchester City for £50 million earlier in the close-season.

Yet Levy believes the success of players like Harry Kane, who has developed into an England striker after coming through the club's youth academy, shows it isn't necessary to reinvest all the Walker funds on new signings when that might stunt the progress of a youngster.

"The academy is important because if we produce our own players we don't have to spend £20 million or £30 million on a player," he said. "An academy player has that affinity with the club and that's what the fans want to see. Unless we find a player who would make a difference, Mauricio Pochettino would rather give one of our academy players a chance, regardless of the financing of the stadium." — AFP



**GALLE:** India's Shikhar Dhawan celebrates scoring a half century during the first day's play of the first Test cricket match between India and Sri Lanka in Galle, Sri Lanka, yesterday. — AP

### CRICKET

## DHAWAN, PUJARA CENTURIES HURT S LANKA IN FIRST TEST

**GALLE:** Shikhar Dhawan smashed a career-best 190 on his Test comeback to lead a brilliant Indian batting assault on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka yesterday. The left-handed opener struck 31 boundaries in a blazing 168-ball knock and Cheteshwar Pujara joined in with an unbeaten 144 to take the visitors to 399-3 at stumps.

The hosts toiled in the Galle field and suffered a major blow when all-rounder Asele Gunaratne broke his thumb trying to take a catch off Dhawan. He is set to undergo a surgery Wednesday and is almost certain to miss the rest of the three-Test series.

Dhawan and Pujara put on 253 for the second wicket-India's highest second-wicket stand against Sri Lanka-after skipper Virat Kohli won the toss and chose to bat under an overcast sky. Dhawan, drafted into the Indian squad at the last moment, said it was a blow to get out so close to a maiden double hundred.

"Of course I was disappointed that I got out for 190, I would have loved to have scored a 200," Dhawan said. "But more than that, I got out at the wrong time. It was the last over before tea. But the way I was playing, I was confident that I could clear the mid-off fielder and I was almost hitting a boundary per over."

"I was in that zone and I backed myself. Unfortunately it didn't go my way," Dhawan was out in the last over before tea when he handed a simple catch off paceman Nuwan Pradeep to Angelo Mathews at mid-off. Kohli was dismissed for three when he tried to pull a chest-high delivery from Pradeep, who took three for 64, but nicked behind instead to Niroshan Dickwella.

Pradeep's appeal was initially turned down but the decision was overturned by the TV umpire when replays showed the ball had grazed Kohli's bat.

### DHAWAN ON SONG

It was a blow but no major problem for India as Dhawan took the opening day honours, celebrating his return to Test cricket with a breathtaking array of shots. It was the second time he had scored a century in a single Test session, having made 187 on his debut against Australia-including 106 in one session. Dhawan scored 126 off just 90 balls between lunch and tea, leaving Virinder Sehwag as the only other Indian batsman to score more runs in a single session. The 31-year-old got a standing ovation from teammates in the dressing room upon completing his fifth Test century.

The innings was especially sweet for Dhawan, who was made to sit out of India's last 11 Tests following a dip in form. Dhawan's

last Test century was at the same venue, during India's 2015 tour of the island nation. India lost the Galle match but went on to win the remaining two games to pocket the series 2-1.

The hosts squandered a golden chance to dismiss Dhawan in his thirties when Gunaratne dropped the batsman at second slip. Medics rushed to attend to Gunaratne, who was writhing in pain before walking off the ground.

The Indians were given an early jolt when

Dhawan's opening partner Abhinav Mukund edged Pradeep behind to Dickwella in the eighth over. Mukund, who opened the batting after Lokesh Rahul was ruled out with illness, made 12. But Dhawan toyed with the toothless Sri Lankan attack, at one point hitting new skipper Rangana Herath for two boundaries on the trot. India handed a Test cap to all-rounder Hardik Pandya and Sri Lanka brought in batsman Danushka Gunathilaka for his debut. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**GALLE, Sri Lanka:** Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the opening Test between India and Sri Lanka at Galle yesterday.

India 1st innings:		Extras (w4, nb3, lb4)	11
S. Dhawan c Mathews b Pradeep	190	Total (for 3 wkts, 90 overs)	399
A. Mukund c Dickwella b Pradeep	12	Still to bat: Yadav, Pandya, Saha, Ashwin, Jadeja, Shami	
C. Pujara not out	144	Fall of wickets: 1-27 (Mukund), 2-280 (Dhawan), 3-286 (Kohli)	
V. Kohli c Dickwella b Pradeep	3	Bowling: Pradeep 18-1-64-3, Kumara 16-0-95-0, Perera 25-1-103-0, Herath 24-4-92-0, Gunathilaka 7-0-41-0.	
A. Rahane not out	39		

## CHINESE CLUBS PAY DEBTS AFTER EXPULSION THREAT

**SHANGHAI:** Ten Chinese Super League clubs say they have paid off debts related to player wages, bonuses and transfers after 13 of them were threatened with expulsion. Shanghai Shenhua, who signed Argentine striker Carlos Tevez in January on what are believed to be among the highest wages in world football, and Oscar's Shanghai SIPG are among the top-tier clubs who say their books are now clean.

The Chinese Football Association (CFA) said in a statement published by one team that the Asian Football Confederation had asked 18 top flight and lower league clubs on July 11 to clear their debts by an August 15 deadline.

The teams were warned that they could be banned from all AFC matches and next season's Chinese league if they failed to send proof of payment by then. As of Wednesday, 10 CSL clubs including Paulinho's Guangzhou Evergrande, big-spending Shanghai SIPG and Shenhua said they had cleared their books of debt.

The CSL has 16 teams and only three had not been sent a debt notice. The debt situation of three other clubs-Fabio Cannavaro's Tianjin Quanjian, Tianjin Teda

and Liaoning Hongyun-was unclear. Reigning CSL champions Evergrande said two of the payments involved were settled in December and January.

"We do not owe any back fees," the club said in a statement late Tuesday on China's Twitter-like Weibo website, amid fears that mass expulsions could wreck the CSL, which has gained in international prominence after a series of big-name signings.

SIPG, who also shelled out on Oscar's Brazilian international team-mate Hulk for a similarly eye-watering sum, said they had paid the fees mentioned by AFC in October last year. "Our club does not have any back fee problem on salary, bonuses and player transfer," SIPG said.

Shenhua said they have paid 90 percent of the fees highlighted by the AFC but the rest was not settled because the other sides never supplied bank account numbers. Shenhua's spokesman said the club have asked lawyers to make contact with the relevant parties about the rest of the payment and downplayed the issue as "a false alarm". The three CSL clubs with no apparent debt were Henan Jianye, Yanbian Fude and Guizhou Hengfeng Zhicheng. — AFP



**LONDON:** England's Ben Stokes (2L) and England's Stuart Broad (2R) play with a football during the England cricket team's training session at The Oval cricket ground in south London yesterday, prior to the start of the third and final Test match against the visiting South Africans. — AFP

## FAR-FLUNG MINNOWS GIVE RUSSIA'S ELITE TRAVEL NIGHTMARE

**MOSCOW:** When SKA Khabarovsk secured their first-ever promotion to Russia's Premier League last May, there was no time to dwell on the loud groans emanating from Moscow and St Petersburg, some seven time zones away.

Instead, fans of the far-eastern club, whose ground is roughly 20 kilometres from the country's border with China, were busy basking in an unlikely achievement. The far-flung minnows reached Russia's top division following a nail-biting shootout victory over Orenburg in the relegation play-offs.

Now the club is the curse of much of

the Russian football elite, which lives in dread of the long-haul visit to the club's 15,000-seater Lenin stadium located 8,300 kilometres away from Moscow. Khabarovsk is an eight-hour flight from the Russian capital and even further from St Petersburg.

"Few people believed we would be successful as Orenburg are a far more wealthy club than we are," Yuri Sobeshchuk, SKA's press spokesman, told AFP by telephone. "Many of the country's small clubs' representatives expressed their gratitude to us, saying they were pleased money doesn't yet decide everything in our football."

Founded in 1946, FC SKA has long lived in the shadow of the city's more famous bandy and ice hockey teams. But now the club can look forward to dates with Russia's most storied clubs, even if the feeling is far from mutual.

"The hopes of our supporters came true. They have finally received a chance to watch the country's top teams live," Sobeshchuk said. "And our first Premier League match with Zenit (St Petersburg), which was sold out in just few hours, showed the serious rise of interest in football in Khabarovsk."

The season-opener marked an inauspicious start to life in the big time as

SKA were beaten 2-0 by Italian Roberto Mancini's Zenit.

### 'EXTEND FAIRYTALE'

After the game the Zenit captain and Mancini's compatriot Domenico Criscito branded the flight to Khabarovsk as "the worst in my life". Khabarovsk is not the most easternmost team to have competed in Russia's top flight, however.

Luch Vladivostok and Okean Nakhodka, who played in the country's elite division in the early 1990s, are both based 100km further east of the club. For fans of Zenit and the Moscow clubs, an away trip to Khabarovsk means a

choice between a lengthy flight and a train journey lasting more than five days.

"I'd like to attend every away game of Spartak (Moscow) but I just cannot afford to buy the plane tickets to Khabarovsk and back," 29-year-old Sergei Trofimov, a supporter of one of the country's most celebrated clubs told AFP.

"It's too expensive. And I will definitely never dare to go there by train." Of course SKA are not to be blamed for their city's distant location but it will be much more convenient without them in the Premier League. Fans of Russia's big hitters might well see their wishes fulfilled come the end of the season. —AFP

## MAN CITY SUMMER SPENDING SPREE NOT OVER: GUARDIOLA

**LOS ANGELES:** Pep Guardiola has confirmed Manchester City are "still looking" to add to their £200 million summer spending spree, although he refused to comment on the possibility of hijacking Real Madrid's move for Kylian Mbappe.

City have been the major shoppers in the transfer market after splashing out a Premier League record total of £200m (223 million euros, \$260 million) to bring Benjamin Mendy, Bernardo Silva, Kyle Walker, Ederson, Danilo and Douglas Luiz to the Etihad.

But it remains likely that they will continue their haul after being strongly linked with moves for Arsenal frontman Alexis Sanchez and Monaco teenage striker Mbappe. Mbappe has been on City's radar throughout the summer, although there have been strong suggestions in Spain that Real have agreed a fee of £160 million (\$210 million, 180 million euros) for the 18-year-old.

Ahead of yesterday's International Champions Cup encounter against Real Madrid, in Los Angeles, Guardiola wasn't being drawn on either. "They are Monaco and Arsenal players, so nothing to say," he said. But he did confirm that City were still looking at options in the market, albeit he was coy on whether another striker was on the agenda.

"We have the two exceptional forwards in Gabriel (Jesus) and Sergio (Aguero)," he said. "We will see. The market finishes on August 31, which is not good for the man-

agers. "The competition (Premier League) starts on the 12th (of August) and the market is still open. That is not good for all the clubs. "We will see until the end of the transfer window." Mendy became City's latest signing earlier this week when the left-back arrived from Monaco in a £52 million (\$67 million, 58 million euros) deal. The 23-year-old is still around a fortnight from featuring in a City shirt due to injury, but Guardiola is delighted to have brought in a defender who made such an impression during Monaco's Champions League campaign last season.

"He can attack inside and outside," Guardiola said. "He's a young player so sometimes you have to pay a bit more for them. "But we have one guy for the next five or six years." Bringing in younger players at the back was clearly on Guardiola's mind this summer after jettisoning the 30-something quartet of Pablo Zabaleta, Gael Clichy, Bacary Sagna and Aleksandar Kolarov to bring in fellow full-backs Mendy, Danilo and Kyle Walker.

City spent £130 million (\$169 million, 145 million euros) on that trio alone, yet Guardiola believes they will offer long-term value for money. "Manchester City didn't invest in their full-backs for six or seven years and all four were 30-31 years old," he said. "We decided to make the squad younger and we tried to get the best full-backs possible. "Dani Alves was free but decided to go to Paris. Kyle, Mendy and Danilo were the best options we had." —AFP

## ROMA WITHSTAND TOTTENHAM FIGHTBACK IN FRIENDLY WIN

**HARRISON:** Roma withstood a dramatic, late Tottenham comeback to send the Premier League team to their first defeat of this pre-season in a bad tempered affair which ended 3-2 in remarkable fashion.

Tackles were flying in all over the pitch and Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino was livid with match officials in the second half, although much of his anger would have been directed at his players who badly underperformed at Red Bull Arena.

Diego Perotti put the Italian team ahead with a penalty on 12 minutes. On 69 minutes, Eusebio Di Francesco's side doubled their lead as sub Kevin Vimmer's cross fell to Turkish midfielder Cengiz Under, whose goal appeared to have sealed the win.

But Harry Winks reduced the arrears on 86 minutes when he prodded home from four yards, and when Vincent Janssen scored in stoppage time, the Premier League team looked to have gained a draw that would have sent the International Champions Cup friendly to a penalty shoot-out.

Moments later, however, Marco Tumminello scored in dramatic fashion to sink the Londoners once and for all. On the day that Daniel Levy, the Tottenham owner, stressed his lack of transfer activity this summer is irrelevant because of the club's thriving youth academy, manager Mauricio Pochettino fielded a number of younger players.

Central defender Cameron Carter-Vickers, left back Kyle Walker-Peters and midfielder Josh Onomah all started for a Spurs team who arrived in New York with a spring in their step following Saturday night's 4-2 win over Paris Saint-Germain in Orlando.

Roma, who lost their previous game to the French champions on penalties, fielded a near full strength side with former Manchester City player Edin Dzeko and Aleksandar Kolarov both renewing acquaintances with the Premier League club. And the Italians controversially took

the lead on 12 minutes through Perotti's penalty. Carter-Vickers was adjudged to have handled a Radja Nainggolan cross and although referee Hilario Grajeda was initially unsure, his assistant indicated the Spurs player did indeed handball in the area allowing Perotti to step up and steer past Michel Vorm.

The English side, cheered on by a strong contingent of supporters, failed to get into their stride and it wasn't until the 24th minute that a chance finally fell their way.

### KANE LEFT FURIOUS

Harry Kane was inches away from a cross before Mousa Dembele hit the bar from close range. Kane, the England striker, had been very quiet but he sprung into life on 36 minutes, powerfully holding off his marker before unleashing a shot from 20 yards which was well saved by Roma's keeper Alisson.

Pochettino removed the three young hopefuls at half-time with only Walker-Peters impressing, yet three minutes after the re-start Kane was left furious after Fazio brought him down in the area only for the referee to dismiss his penalty claims.

The striker's anger spilled over soon after when he smashed into Kostas Manolas, leaving the Roma defender sprawled out on the turf. Manager Pochettino then became embroiled in a lengthy argument with the fourth official, who appeared to try and send the Argentine off before relenting and allowing him to continue sitting on the sidelines.

"It was a situation that we were talking in Spanish, not in English," Pochettino said. "But I believe it was a chat that ok, we were talking and started to speak louder. But for me then I said to him, 'I apologise'. Maybe a bit nervous for some situation on the pitch. But he wanted send me off, but I said 'come on we were talking in Spanish and nobody could understand us.' —AFP



UTRECHT: Germany's midfielder Lina Magull (C) vies with Russia's defender Anna Kozhnikova (L) and Russia's defender Ekaterina Morozova during the UEFA Women's Euro 2017 football match between Russia and Germany at Galgenwaard Stadium in Utrecht on Tuesday. — AFP

### SOCCER

## GERMANY, SWEDEN INTO WOMEN'S EURO Q-FINALS

**DOETINCHEM:** Holders Germany beat Russia 2-0 to set up a women's Euro quarter-final clash with Denmark while Sweden also advanced to the knockout phase despite losing 3-2 to Italy on Tuesday. In Utrecht, Babet Peter scored from the spot on 10 minutes and captain Dzsener Marozsan converted another penalty in the 56th minute to hand a dominant Germany victory.

Peter converted her second penalty in two games after Daria Makarenko brought down Mandy Islacker in the box, while Marozsan punished Margarita Chernomyrdina's foul on Sara Dabritz. In Doetinchem, Daniela Sabatino put Italy ahead on four minutes after Sweden defender Linda Sembrant knocked down a cross for her inside the box.

Lotta Schelin equalised from a penalty following a foul on Stina Blackstenius by Federica Di Criscio, but Sabatino gave Italy the lead again before half-time when she volleyed home a cross from Linda Tucceri Cimini. Blackstenius equalised for Sweden two minutes after the break, firing in a cross from half-time substitute Fridolina Rolfo, but Cristiana Girelli forced in a cross from Barbara Bonansea five minutes from the end.

Sweden still progressed as runners-up despite the defeat and will face hosts Netherlands for a place in the semi-finals. Germany put Russia under heavy pressure early on as newcomer Sara Doorsoun-Khajej tested Russian goalkeeper Tatiana Shcherbak with a long-range blast in the build-up to the penalty.

Bayern Munich midfielder Dabritz had two good chances in the first half but Shcherbak foiled her the first time before she shot narrowly wide of the target. The 19-year-old Shcherbak also tipped Peter's header onto the crossbar on half an hour.

In the second half, Anja Mittag flicked the ball just past the post while Marozsan's volley was repelled by a diving Shcherbak. Peter said she was happy that Germany had made it to the quarter-finals. "We are group winners with seven points and that was our goal from the start," she said. "We had a lot of chances today. Against Denmark there might be less chances, but we will have to try to convert them then." Russian coach Elena Fomina said the game may have been more interesting without the penalties.

"Germany had most of the ball possession and that meant that we were not able to attack and create much danger in front of their goal," she added.

### SUNDHAGE 'DISAPPOINTED'

Sweden were trying to impose themselves, but Italy were more dangerous on the counter-attack, with Bonansea first going close and then seeing her curling strike excellently clawed away by Hedvig Lindahl.

Playing her last international game, Melania Gabbiadini fired into Lindahl and Sabatino then missed with a rebound. In the second half, Sweden stepped up their pressure, with another half-time substitute Lisa Dahlkvist first having her header cleared off the goalline and then steering a low shot wide.

Sembrant headed wide, while Blackstenius slammed her header into the upright on 78 minutes. After Girelli's goal, Sweden were lucky to see Bonansea fail to add a fourth and then have

a stoppage-time shot stopped by Lindahl.

"I'm disappointed the way it turned out," said Sweden coach Pia Sundhage. "(But) at the end of the day we reached the quarter-final and I'm happy about that," she said, praising her team for 25 minutes after the break when Rolfo and

Dahlkvist breathed life into her team.

Italian coach Antonio Cabrini said Italy could build on the result which he hailed as "a very important victory". "I'm happy for the girls because they promised they would give everything on the pitch and they did." — AFP

## BAYERN WON'T JOIN TRANSFER BIDDING WAR 'MADNESS': HOENESS

**SINGAPORE:** Bayern Munich will not enter into a bidding war for star footballers, the German champions' boss Uli Hoeness said, describing skyrocketing transfer prices as "madness".

"I don't want to buy a player for 150 or 200 million euros, I don't want to join in such madness. That's something that we will refuse totally at Bayern," Hoeness told AFP's sports subsidiary SID in Singapore, where the club is on tour for exhibition matches.

The five-time Champions League winner is even willing to lower its ambitions. Hoeness said the Bundesliga giant "could not set as a goal" a victory at the Champions League as long as "such madness is gripping the transfer market".

"Our goal is to be German league champions and to go as far as possible in the German Cup. And to play in the Champions League. We are among the three, four best teams in Europe and any of these three, four teams can win the Champions League," he said.

According to media reports, Paris Saint-Germain is seeking to poach Brazilian forward Neymar from FC Barcelona for 222 million euros (\$256 million). Real Madrid report-

edly has a deal in principle to buy French attacker Kylian Mbappe from Monaco for 180 million euros.

The record transfer fees have been bankrolled by sky-high television rights, and a growing appetite in emerging leagues including China which are seeking to lure stars away with spectacular sums.

In comparison, Bayern has been conservative in the transfer market. Among newcomers are James Rodriguez, who has arrived on loan with a buy option. The club has also recruited 22-year-old French midfielder Corentin Tolisso for 47.5 million euros, bonus included.

Hoeness sounded a warning against a backlash if the inflationary trend continued in the transfer market. "I wonder if spectators will accept this in the long-term and managers too should ask if all this is reasonable," noted the Bayern boss on the sidelines of an SAP event.

Hoeness added that the club would unveil the name of its new sport director "in coming weeks" to fill the post left vacant after Mathias Sammer departed a year ago. German media report that former Dutch international Mark van Bommel and ex-star attacker for Germany, Miroslav Klose, are likely candidates. —AFP



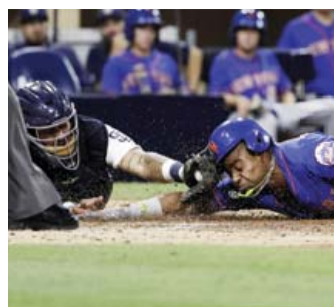
HARRISON: Lukasz Skorupski #28 of Roma stops a shot by Georges-Kevin Nkoudou #14 of Tottenham Hotspur but is unable to stop the rebound as Harry Winks of Tottenham Hotspur scored on the play during the International Champions Cup on Tuesday at Red Bull Arena in Harrison, New Jersey. — AFP



SINGAPORE: Bayern Munich players warm up during their official training session in Singapore yesterday, ahead of the International Champions Cup football match between Bayern Munich and Inter Milan today. — AFP

# Sports

Frazier's run-scoring triple play helps Yankees top Reds



Dhawan, Pujara centuries hurt Sri Lanka in first Test



THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017

GERMANY, SWEDEN INTO WOMEN'S EURO Q-FINALS

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BUDAPEST: (L to R) Australia's Emma McKeon (silver), Italy's Federica Pellegrini (gold) and USA's Katie Ledecky (silver) pose during the podium ceremony for the women's 200m freestyle final during the swimming competition at the 2017 FINA World Championships in Budapest, yesterday.—AFP

## PELEGRINI WINS 200M FREESTYLE WORLD TITLE

### PEATY SEALS BREASTSTROKE DOUBLE WITH 50M GOLD

**BUDAPEST:** Katie Ledecky surged to the wall. Someone else was already there. For the first time ever at the world championships, Ledecky knows what it's like to lose. Bidding to become only the second female swimmer to win six golds at a single worlds, Ledecky settled for silver in the 200-meter freestyle yesterday evening when Italy's Federica Pellegrini surged to a stunning victory on the final lap.

Britain's Adam Peaty narrowly missed breaking his own world record again as he won the men's 50m breaststroke gold at the world championships on Wednesday to complete another sprint double.



## NOVAK DJOKOVIC TO MISS REST OF 2017, INCLUDING US OPEN

**BELGRADE:** Novak Djokovic will sit out the rest of this season because of an injured right elbow, meaning he will miss the US Open and end his streak of participating in 51 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments. "It is the most important for me to recover, to be able to play injury free for as long as possible, to compete in the sport that has given me so much, the sport I love," Djokovic said yesterday. "Of course I want to return to the winning form, to win again, to win the trophies. But now it is not the time to talk about it. At this point, I'm focusing on recovery."

Until now, Djokovic has never missed a major tournament since he entered his first, the 2005 Australian Open. That is the third-longest active run among men and seventh-longest in history. In that time, the 30-year-old Serb has won 12 Grand Slam titles, including the US Open in 2011 and 2015.

"The remarkable series has come to an end," Djokovic said. "My body has its limits, and I have to respect that and be grateful for all that I have achieved so far." He said that Andre Agassi, who he recently began working with on a part-time basis, will be his coach when Djokovic returns to the tour next year. He plans to start with a tuneup tournament ahead of the Australian Open in January.

"He supports my decision to take a break, and remains my head coach," Djokovic said. "He is going to help me get back into shape and

plete another sprint double. Peaty, already a winner over 100m, clocked 25.99 seconds, just 0.04sec short of his record-setting time in Tuesday's semi-finals, with Brazil's Joao Gomes Junior taking silver, 0.53sec behind.

Britain increased their swimming gold medal tally in Budapest to three with Peaty retaining the two titles he won in Kazan in 2015 to add to Ben Proud's victory in the men's 50m butterfly on Monday. South Africa's Cameron van der Burgh, the 2009 and 2013 world champion in the 50m breaststroke, earned bronze at 0.61sec and promptly paid tribute to Peaty's powerful performances. "I think I have to retire and give it a few years and come back when he's older," joked the 29-year-old Van der Burgh.

Pellegrini, the world-record holder, avenged a close defeat at the hands of Ledecky two years ago in Kazan, Russia. This time, it was the Italian touching first in 1 minute, 54.73 seconds. Ledecky and Australia's Emma McKeon tied for the silver at 1:55.18. "I knew it was going to be a tough field and that I'd have to have a really good race and I just didn't really have it today," Ledecky said. "I can't complain really with the silver medal."

While Pellegrini covered her mouth in delight and climbed atop a lane rope to celebrate, Ledecky stared blankly at the scoreboard. She had never seen a "2" beside her name at the world championships.

But there it was in Budapest, where Ledecky's unbeaten streak in the second-biggest swimming competition after the Olympics finally came to an end. "I didn't really feel at the end that I had that extra gear that I normally have," said the 20-year-old from the Washington, D.C., suburbs. "I didn't really see much for the last 50, so I was just trying to put together a good race." Ledecky had been 12 of 12 over the last three championships, including three golds in this stately European capital. But her most audacious schedule yet - six freestyle events covering

distances ranging from 100 meters (on a relay) to 1,500 (the grueling metric mile) - finally caught up with her along the banks of the Danube. Missy Franklin will remain the only female swimmer to win a half-dozen events at worlds, while Ledecky can still take comfort in being the winningest female swimmer overall. Twelve golds leave her trailing only fellow Americans Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte for the most victories. And now she's got one silver, too. "It happens," said Ledecky, who will be a heavy gold medal favorite in her last two events, the 800 free and 4x200 free relay. "It happens to every athlete at some point. I know this race will really motivate me moving forward and the rest of the week as well." Of course, losing to Pellegrini was hardly an embarrassment. The 28-year-old became the first swimmer in the history of the championship to capture seven medals in a single individual event. Pellegrini's incredible run in the 200 free began at the 2005 worlds in Montreal, where she grabbed a silver. She was third in 2007 at Melbourne, then won the event at back-to-back worlds, including a world-record performance in 2009 (1:52.98) that still stands from the rubber-suit era.

Pellegrini was runner-up at the last two

worlds, finishing behind Franklin in 2013 at Barcelona and Ledecky two years ago. Now, the Italian is back on top. "I honestly thought the one to win the race would be Katie," Pellegrini said. "And," she quickly added, "it wasn't."

McKeon got off to a blistering start, making the first turn more than a half-second below the world-record pace, while Ledecky - normally a slow starter because of her distance background - was lagging in fifth. Ledecky rallied to second by the midway point, and was just one-hundredth of a second behind the Aussie when they made the final flip. But the two leaders, having spent so much energy dueling with each other, didn't have anything left for the final lap.

Pellegrini sure did. Her closing 50 was a blistering 28.82 - nearly a full second faster than both Ledecky and McKeon. "Everything seemed to be in slow motion to me in the water," Pellegrini said. "At 150 meters on the turn we were all there, so I closed my eyes. But I didn't think I was ahead in the last strokes. I was seeing the splashes ... ." She paused for a moment, as if trying to convince herself that it really happened. "It's incredible," Pellegrini said. "I didn't believe I would make it. I still can't believe it." — Agencies



Novak Djokovic

## NEYMAR-PSG TRANSFER SAGA DOUBTS GROW IN BARCELONA

**MADRID:** Confusion surrounding the Neymar-Paris Saint-Germain transfer saga was rife in Barcelona yesterday, with the player staying silent on his future. "Doubts, doubts and more doubts," ran the headline on the front page of Catalan daily Sport, above a photo of the striker lost deep in thought. Barca centre-back Gerard Pique had sparked panic after appearing to backtrack on his "he stays" tweet about his team-mate. PSG are trying to lure the 25-year-old Brazilian to France and are ready to pay his 222-million-euro (\$256.8 million) release clause to make him the best-paid and most expensive footballer on the planet. Last week Pique took to social media to say "he's staying"-but when pressed on the matter Tuesday ahead of a pre-season friendly in the United States against Manchester United he was less sure of himself. "It's a personal opinion from the conversation that I had with him and my intuition," Pique said.

"But it's not official," he added. "And it's not for me to say if he's going to stay or not." Fans in the city were not too confident about Neymar's future and seemed to be fed up with the whole saga. "If you are offered double by another company, then you will go," said Salvador Pons, president of the Blaugrana fans' association. "Even if your

colleagues say 'no, don't leave, don't leave'. Even to France, which is not at the same level as the Spanish Liga." Neymar departed the MetLife stadium without addressing reporters after scoring a brace in a 2-1 pre-season friendly win over Juventus in New Jersey on Saturday.

"The situation is eroding confidence at the club," columnist Tomas Andreu wrote in the newspaper Sport. "What really hurts here is the silence of the player himself, which in the end says a great deal."

At the same press conference where Pique spoke, Argentine defender Javier Mascherano said he had told Neymar to carefully weigh up the pros and cons. Mascherano added all the players, including Messi, had spoken to the player to ask him to stay.

New PSG full-back Dani Alves, who took his compatriot Neymar under his wing while at the Camp Nou, posted a message on Instagram seemingly with a message for his former team-mate. "What do you want to be? Where do you want to go? Where do you want to be?" he wrote on Sunday.

"All matters depend on you never forgetting where you came from and who was by your side when you were someone, but the world did not know who you were." —AFP





## OOREDOO KUWAIT LAUNCHES REVAMPED MOBILE APP



KARACHI: Oil tankers park in a terminal amid a countrywide strike by the All Pakistan Oil Tankers Association near a port in the Pakistani city of Karachi yesterday. The Association announced a countrywide strike to protest revised safety regulations for oil tankers, announced by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). —AFP

## UK ECONOMY STUCK IN LOW GEAR AMID BREXIT FEARS

### INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION FLAG AMID UNCERTAINTIES

**LONDON:** Britain's economy hobbled along in the second quarter, barely recovering from a weak start to the year as industrial production and construction flagged amid uncertainties over the country's exit from the European Union.

The economy grew by a quarterly rate of 0.3 percent in April-June, a meager rate that is barely above the 0.2 percent of the first three months of the year, the Office of National Statistics said yesterday.

Economists have been downgrading their forecasts for Britain's economy as the country embarks on the process of leaving the European Union and negotiating new trade relations. Yesterday's figures show that the

economy, which had initially weathered well the uncertainty of the Brexit vote a year ago, is in a new, weaker phase. "It's the underlying trends that matter," said Lucy O'Carroll, Aberdeen Asset Management's chief economist. "They don't look favorable at the moment, given the uncertainties around Brexit and the pressure on household budgets from higher inflation."

The International Monetary Fund this week cut its forecast for British economic growth this year to 1.7 percent from 2.0 percent previously. Others are more pessimistic, with financial services firm PwC expecting 1.5 percent. Ratings agencies Moody's has also warned about prospects for the British economy. Growth in

the second quarter was driven by services, which increased by 0.5 percent compared with 0.1 percent in the first quarter stretching from January to March.

Retail and film production showed improvement, the ONS said. Motion pictures were the second biggest contributor from the services sector, growing by 8.2 percent. Manufacturing swung from 0.3 percent growth in the first quarter to a 0.5 percent decline amid a slowdown in car production. The results also weaken the likelihood that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will raise interest rates from their record lows of 0.25 percent. Though inflation is above the 2 percent target, it moderated in June to 2.6 percent from a near

four-year high of 2.9 percent in May.

"The confirmation of the lackluster performance of the economy so far this year surely also diminishes the chance of an interest rate hike any time soon, especially as growth prospects for coming months have become increasingly skewed to the downside," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit, as he focused on the second quarter.

#### 'Little momentum'

The latest quarterly reading of 0.3-percent growth "confirms that the economy has little momentum because consumers are enduring falling real wages (on high inflation) and businesses are holding back from spending due to

Brexit risk", said Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

British GDP slowed in the first quarter after output of 0.7 percent in the final three months of 2016. British inflation is meanwhile being supported by a Brexit-fueled slump in the pound pushing up import costs—although the annual rate managed a slowdown to 2.6 percent in June from a near four-year high of 2.9 percent in May.

"The good news is that the worst of the exchange rate induced inflation should start to roll off... which can offer support to the key retail and services sectors," said Neil Wilson, senior market analyst at ETX Capital. —Agencies

## INDIA PLANS OVERHAUL OF COLONIAL-ERA LAND TITLES

**MUMBAI:** India is considering updating its colonial-era land records with a system that cuts fraud and protects the poor as mounting wrangles over land crimp economic growth, an official said.

But the overhaul could take decades to come good, he added, despite a growing thirst for land deals in fast-growing India. "Every transaction is imperfect, and the onus of establishing ownership is on the buyer," said S Chockalingam, director of land records in western Maharashtra state.

Chockalingam also has influence on a national level, as he advises the government policy thinktank Niti Aayog on land matters. In an interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, Chockalingam said a system to guarantee land titles should protect buyers from fraud and avoid the sort of lengthy court battles that frequently hold up development plans.

Land records in most Indian states date back to the colonial era. Most land holdings have uncertain ownership, so fraud is rampant and disputes over titles often end up in court.

Protracted legal battles can delay property deals, discourage investors and raise the cost of land. It also hurts the poor, women and minority communities who may lack the resources or the skills needed to engage in such fights. "Right now, it's only a presumptive title and you cannot be 100 percent sure of disputes and claims related to it. The intention is to establish ownership and provide a conclusive title," he said.

Matters related to land and property make up about two-thirds of all civil cases in the country, according to a study released last year. States will study land records, survey maps, transactions and court records to determine the ownership chain and litigation history of every property that is registered with the land titling centre, Chockalingam said. This can be done for new and existing properties, he said Chockalingam. Land records in India are gradually being digitized, and several states are taking steps to speed up land transactions and issue title deeds.

Rajasthan state last year said it would set up an independent authority to verify and guarantee land titles in its cities, as demand for real estate rises on the back of rapid urbanization.

A nationwide biometric database, which has details of most of India's 1.3 billion people, will also help reduce fraud and opacity in land deals, which are now required to be linked to the unique identity number of the buyer and the seller. Distortion to land markets is one of the main barriers to faster growth, accounting for 1.3 percent of lost gross domestic product growth in India every year, according to the McKinsey Global Institute, the research arm of the global consulting firm.

"There are many great challenges to guaranteeing land titles, and worldwide, it has taken countries many years to do it," said Chockalingam. "But we want to take the first step; maybe in 20-30 years, we can guarantee all titles." —Reuters

## FRANCE TO NATIONALIZE STX SHIPYARD IF ITALY SNUBS DEAL

**PARIS:** The French state said yesterday it would nationalize the STX France shipyard if Italy does not accept its offer to split STX's capital equally, putting down a marker on the limits of economic liberalism under new President Emmanuel Macron. The threat raises the stakes in a standoff with Rome over the shipyard's fate, the only one in France with facilities large enough to build aircraft carriers.

Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire said nationalization would give the state more time to find a better shareholder deal, but even if temporary, it would mark the first major state intervention in the corporate world by Macron's government which was elected on a pro-business platform.

Rome rejected the French proposal for ownership of STX France to be split equally between Italian state-owned shipbuilder Fincantieri and Paris. Both Fincantieri Chief Executive Giuseppe Bono and Italian Industry Minister Carlo Calenda raised the prospect that Fincantieri could walk away from the deal if the French government backed away from previously agreed conditions.

"We are Europeans and on STX we cannot accept being treated worse than the Koreans," Bono said at a conference call in reference to the shipyard's previous majority shareholder.

Italian Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan later took a more conciliatory tone, saying Italy was open to changing the terms of the deal, but insisted Fincantieri must have control.

"We have offered to listen to the new government's requirements, but there is no reason why Fincantieri should give up a majority stake and control of the French company."

Fincantieri signed an agreement in May to acquire two-thirds of STX France's shares for 79.5 million euros (\$92.6 million) after earlier reaching an agreement with the former government of President Francois Hollande, whose term ended in May.

The company is being sold off following the collapse of South Korean parent STX, but Fincantieri's bid has raised fears for French jobs at the Saint-Nazaire site on the Atlantic Coast, as well as for French interests. Le Maire said Fincantieri was welcome to invest in STX but on an equal footing with French partners and said that the Italians had until today to make up their minds about the offer on the table.

"If our Italian friends say 'this deal does not work for us, we don't agree with 50/50', the state will exercise its pre-emption rights on STX," Le Maire told franceinfo radio. "We will buy shares, we are majority owners and we will give ourselves time to negotiate a new shareholder pact."

Under an existing pact, the French state has a pre-emption right to buy out shareholders that runs until the end of the month. Le Maire said the cost of buying out STX's other shareholders was "on a scale of tens of millions of euros rather than in the billions of euros". Fincantieri's shares were down 7 percent at

0.975 euros per share at 1128 GMT following the STX France news and after it published first-half earnings.

#### Role of the state

Macron was elected in May on promises to boost growth by lifting constraints on business and his government has since flagged plans to privatize non-strategic state holdings while easing labor regulations. However, it has also not hesitated to lean on carmakers Renault and PSA Peugeot Citroen, in which the state owns stakes, to help a struggling parts maker in a region where jobs are scarce.

Macron has long said that the state can have a key role in the economy and still give entrepreneurs freedom to take risks in business ventures without fear of heavy-handed government interference.

Macron decided after his election to review the terms of Fincantieri's deal to acquire the STX France stake. "We are not happy with the deal negotiated by the previous government because it does not allow French shareholders to keep control of jobs, industrial capacities and regional development," Le Maire said.

The French side has been concerned the Italians would shift projects from Saint-Nazaire to Italy as the shipyard's order book for huge luxury ocean liners is currently brimming over. But the French also have a strategic interest in the shipyard for its capacity to build warships. Le Maire offered to extend naval construction cooperation as part of a 50/50 ownership deal. —Reuters

# AL-JAWHARA MONTHLY KD 125,000 WINNER CHOSEN

**KUWAIT:** NBK Al-Jawhara account holder Ali Bhai Mohamed Ali Anwar has won the KD 125,000 monthly Al-Jawhara draw for July. National Bank of Kuwait announced the exciting news live on Marina FM during the 'Dewaniya' show on 25 July 2017 at 1pm in the presence of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative.

Al-Jawhara account rewards its loyal customers with fabulous money prizes weekly, monthly and quarterly. The prizes are part of NBK's long term strategy to develop lasting and loyal relationships with customers and thank them for

their confidence and trust in NBK. Winners of the Al-Jawhara weekly draws of KD 5,000 prize are: Mohamed Ali Hilal, Abdullah Ismaeil Mousa, and Nuha Nabil Najem.

Al-Jawhara account holders are automatically entered into draws for the KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and KD 250,000 quarterly grand prizes. Every KD 50 deposited into your Al-Jawhara account gives you a chance to be the next lucky winner.

Customers must have a minimum opening balance of KD 400 and a maximum of up to KD 500,000. If no with-

drawal or transfers occur in the account during the required period, customers will get an additional 1 extra chance for each KD 50 held in the account.

"Thank you to National Bank of Kuwait for this amazing prize!" said Ali Bhai Mohamed Ali Anwar, the winner of the monthly Al-Jawhara KD 125,000 prize. "I am a long time customer of NBK and will continue to place my trust in Kuwait's leading bank."

The National Bank of Kuwait offers a variety of cash prizes and rewards as part of its long term focus on building lasting relationships with customers.



# UPAC REPORTS KD 3.46M IN REVENUES FOR Q2 2017

NET PROFIT RISES 19.7% TO REACH 2.29 MILLION

**KUWAIT:** United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), a publicly-listed commercial real estate company, yesterday announced a net profit of KD 2.29 million for the second quarter of 2017, a 19.7 percent increase over the same period last year. UPAC's revenues grew by 6.5 percent to KD 3.46 million, compared to KD 3.25 million during Q2 2016. This strong performance reflects UPAC's commitment to improving operational efficiencies within its existing projects, where the Company is currently operating at full capacity. Growth was driven by the company's income generating projects in Kuwait, where it manages commercial space at the Sheikh Saad Terminal at Kuwait International Airport, and Discovery Mall.

Developments are also underway and according to schedule at Reem Mall in Abu Dhabi, a project being developed in partnership with National Real Estate Company



**Nadia Akil**

Earlier this year, UPAC's Board of Directors approved an increase in the Company's share capital amounting to 31.75 percent of the Company's current capital. UPAC is currently undergoing the mandatory regulatory approval processes with the relevant authorities and once completed, the Company's issued and paid up capital shall amount to KD 13.175 mil-

(NREC). At the end of 2015, UPAC had committed to invest up to KD 68 million to support equity funding into the project. Upon completion, Reem Mall will be a major retail, leisure and entertainment destination covering two million square feet.

lion. This increase will serve to further boost UPAC's liquidity and support current and future planned investments and other growth opportunities within the region.

Nadia Akil, Chief Executive Officer - UPAC said, "I am pleased to report the steady progress UPAC has achieved during the second quarter, which follows the positive trend from previous quarters. Our profits have increased steadily over the period which reflects not only UPAC's focus to optimize and streamline its existing operations in the airport and other properties, but also supports its strategy for future growth opportunities within real estate."

**Q2 2017 Financial Highlights**

- Revenue: KD 3.46million, up 6.5 percent from Q2 2016
- Net Profit: KD 2.29 million, up 19.7 percent from Q2 2016
- Earnings Per Share (EPS) of 23.91 fils

## BOOK AND SAVE WITH ETIHAD AIRWAYS EARLY BIRD BUSINESS CLASS OFFER

**ABU DAABI:** Etihad Airways has launched an Early Bird premium offer with very attractive Business Class fares to many of the airline's worldwide destinations.

Plan early and enjoy breaks to a wide choice of cities including Paris, Bangkok, New York, Los Angeles, the Maldives and Johannesburg.

For those wishing to experience Etihad Airways' award-winning Business Class, fares are bookable until 31 July, for travel between 14 August 2017 and 30 May 2018.

Customers are advised to book early through etihad.com or Etihad Airways' 24/7 contact centre or via a travel agent to ensure access to incredible destina-

tions at the best fares and a choice of travel dates.

Etihad Airways Early Bird Business Class offers from Abu Dhabi International Airport (including return flights and applicable taxes and charges).

Etihad Aviation Group (EAG) is a diversified global aviation and travel group comprising five business divisions - Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, Etihad Airways Engineering, Etihad Airport Services, Hala Group and Airline Equity Partners. The group has minority investments in six airlines: airberlin, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Alitalia, Jet Airways, and Virgin Australia.

## FRANKFURT LEADS PARIS IN RACE TO LURE LONDON BANKERS

**PARIS:** In the competition to attract bankers fleeing London due to Brexit it appears Frankfurt is beating out Paris, although experts say the race is far from run. "In the first wave of relocations Frankfurt clearly has been a step ahead of Paris, which hasn't had much to show," said Nicolas Veron, a fellow at the Brussels think tank Bruegel as well as the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Thousands of well-paid jobs are at stake as banks and other financial companies plan to move out of London some operations and staff that handle European business ahead of Britain exiting the EU in 2019. Several large international banks have already shown their interest in "Manhattan", the nickname given for Frankfurt's financial district which is a stone throw from the river Main that flows through the city, home to the European Central Bank. Among them are US heavyweights Morgan Stanley, Citigroup and Goldman Sachs, Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Daiwa Securities and Nomura, as well as Britain's Standard Chartered.

"But remember that Paris wasn't really on the radar until the end of the electoral cycle this year," said Veron. "There are structural changes underway with the new government but those are very recent and will take time to become credible."

ties not linked to banking, like for example its labour laws," said Nicolas Fleuret, an associate at Deloitte. "Banks also want a modicum of political stability. The beginning of the year, with the French presidential election, fed concerns," he told AFP.

"More generally, comparisons in this area haven't been favourable for France in the past few years." One German financier said France's new business-friendly President Emmanuel Macron arrived on the scene too recently to change people's minds about his country's drawbacks. "Another big drawback for Paris was having a president (François Hollande) who said in his campaign that finance was the enemy" said the financier on condition of anonymity. "The president has changed but for many banks it was too late, they had already made their decisions."

**Jury still out**

But the game is far from over, experts said, noting that numerous banks haven't announced their intentions while many institutions have only planned for a minimum transfer of staff and operations given the lack of visibility on the terms of Britain's relations with the EU after it exits the bloc in 2019. "We know of around a hundred banks searching for a new home for their European operations and only a couple dozen have made their choice," said Hubertus Vaeth, director of Frankfurt Main Finance, the association promoting the city to foreign banks.

"By the number of announcements, Frankfurt is certainly ahead, but you've got to look into the details of how many jobs are effectively being moved, and most importantly which positions are being moved," said Fleuret. Paris Europlace, the group which is lobbying to attract London banks to the city, is unfazed by the recent announcements in favour of Frankfurt.

"The several dozen jobs announced for Frankfurt don't represent yet a real relocation choice," said Arnaud de Bresson, Paris Europlace's managing director. "When it comes to relocating market operations it is Paris which will be best placed. Paris is the capital of the markets on the continent, while Frankfurt is a city of traditional finance," he said, noting that Paris already counted 150,000 jobs in the finance industry compared 70,000 for its German rival. —AFP

**Political stability**

"Some international banks already have a subsidiary or branch in Frankfurt. It is much easier to use these entities as a base than build one from scratch in an unfamiliar jurisdiction," said one French banker on condition of anonymity.

Paris can at least count on the large French banks bringing back employees when they scale down their operations in London. But it hasn't had any announcements by international banks to show for its efforts since HSBC's announcement last year that it was to relocate a thousand employees to the City of Light.

Even this was a mitigated victory, as HSBC already has a local unit in France, so Paris was always going to be a natural choice for the bank. With competition to attract financial companies stiffening between Frankfurt, Dublin, Luxembourg, and Amsterdam "Paris suffers from nega-



**JAKARTA:** Workers are seen on a building construction site in Jakarta yesterday.—AFP

# GERMAN INDUSTRY SAYS VULNERABLE TO RUSSIA SANCTIONS FALL-OUT

**BERLIN:** Plans under consideration in the US Congress to impose tougher sanctions against Russia would hurt German companies, endanger Germany's energy security and appear to be designed to favour American firms, a German industry association said yesterday.

The US House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday for the plans and to force President Donald Trump to obtain lawmakers' permission before easing any sanctions on Moscow. They must still be approved by the Senate and signed into law by Trump.

The warning issued by the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce mirrors wider European concerns over potential fall-out from the US moves to punish alleged Russian interference in last year's presidential election. The US

proposals could hurt German efforts to make its energy supply more reliable by preventing German companies from working with Russia on pipeline projects, said Volker Treier, the head of the Chamber's international committee.

"One is left with the sense that the United States is looking to its own economic interests," in particular with respect to US oil and gas companies, he said.

Separately, a German Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday it would be unacceptable for the United States to use possible sanctions against Russia as a tool of industrial policy and called for close coordination of proposed sanctions between the European Union and Washington.

Despite tensions with Moscow over its back-

ing for separatists in Ukraine, most of central Europe relies on Russian gas to power its economy, delivered via a laticework of pipelines that require constant maintenance and expansion. Treier called on the European Commission, the EU's executive, to seek clarification from the United States over the the eventual scope of the sanctions.

Earlier on Wednesday Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker said the EU was ready to act "within a matter of days" if the proposed new US sanctions undermined the bloc's energy security. It is unclear how quickly the US bill will make its way to the White House for Trump to sign into law or veto. Trump faces allegations that he benefited from alleged meddling by Moscow in the 2016 election. —Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

**AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.**

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.706
Indian Rupees	4.713
Pakistani Rupees	2.887
Srilankan 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 Franc	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 Baht	10.050
Turkish Lira	86.255

**BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL**

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.387459	0.397459
Czech Korune	0.005538	0.017538
Danish Krone	0.043446	0.048446
Euro	0.347875	0.356875
Norwegian Krone	0.033607	0.038807
Romanian Leu	0.077119	0.077119
Slovakia	0.009034	0.019034
Swedish Krona	0.032707	0.037707
Swiss Franc	0.313455	0.324455
Turkish Lira	0.080695	0.090995
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.231603	0.243603
New Zealand Dollar	0.218518	0.228018
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.236097	0.245097
Georgina Lari	0.136849	0.136849
US Dollars	0.298900	0.303320
US Dollars Mint	0.298900	0.303320
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003385	0.003969
Chinese Yuan	0.043285	0.046785
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036727	0.039477

Indian Rupee	0.004240	0.004928
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002643	0.002823
Kenyan Shilling	0.002910	0.002910
Korean Won	0.000261	0.000276
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067466	0.073466
Nepalese Rupee	0.002978	0.003148
Pakistan Rupee	0.002657	0.002947
Philippine Peso	0.005906	0.006206
Sierra Leone	0.000037	0.000043
Singapore Dollar	0.216994	0.226994
South African Rand	0.017448	0.025948
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001599	0.002179
Taiwan	0.009851	0.010031
Thai Baht	0.008692	0.009242
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796613	0.805113
Egyptian Pound	0.015129	0.021037
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.422755	0.431755
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019654	0.043654
Nigerian Naira	0.000390	0.001025
Omani Riyal	0.780593	0.786273
Qatar Riyal	0.078937	0.083877
Saudi Riyal	0.079713	0.081013
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.122284	0.130284
Turkish Lira	0.080695	0.090995
UAE Dirhams	0.081071	0.082771
Yemeni Riyal	0.000985	0.001065

Buy a new allo line or recharge to win 10 chances for every KD 1 recharge

**MONTHLY \$30,000**

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VIVA

## VIVA MAKES DREAMS A REALITY WITH \$150,000 IN CASH PRIZES WITH PREPAID LINES

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, who makes things "possible" for their customers by transforming experiences, launched an all new draw campaign that allows its prepaid customers to win valuable daily and monthly cash prizes during August 2017.

With a grand total of \$ 150,000 to give away, VIVA gives its customers a wonderful opportunity to win amazing cash prizes of \$ 1,500 daily and \$ 30,000 monthly, throughout the campaign. Customers are automatically entered into the draw once they buy a new "allo" line or recharge their current line through Direct Debit, VIVA website, VIVA's Kiosks, VIVA App or by calling 102. Customers earn 10 chances for each KD 1 they spend, increasing their chances to win the more they spend.

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom

operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things Possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.

## FIRE, SMOKE AND METAL AT NORTH KOREA STEEL PLANT

**CHOLLIMA, North Korea:** A crane moves a giant bucket brimming with 40 tons of molten steel towards a gangway in North Korea's Chollima Steel Complex. Flames, smoke and a shower of sparks erupt as a worker thrusts his temperature gauge into the liquid, its tip glowing white-hot as he withdraws it.

Ratcheted high up through a cavernous mill, which contains six separate furnaces, the steel is poured into a press that extrudes it into ingots weighing hundreds of kilograms each, still glowing red as they plunge into a pool of water to cool. In front of it hang two banners. "Let us produce steel bars regularly at a high level!" reads one. "Single-minded unity!" proclaims the other.

The plant, south-west of the capital Pyongyang, has around 8,000 staff and is one of the biggest in North Korea, operating in a sector vital to the economy of the isolated, sanctions-hit country.

Production has averaged 500,000 tons annually over the past three years, according to deputy chief engineer Kim Gil-Nam. The number is slightly lower than the figures from the 1980s on display in a visitor gallery — 517,944 tons in 1987, for example. He would not be drawn on its full capacity, and whether output was rising or falling, but two of the six furnaces were undergoing maintenance when AFP visited.

Nuclear-armed North Korea, which carried out its first successful launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) this month, is subject to multiple rounds of United Nations sanctions over its atomic and rocket programs, and its creaking state sector suffers perennial shortages of equipment and spare parts.

1960s that can produce the raw material under any sanctions racket," he said. "So although we say we are short of iron on a national level and we are short of this and that, our complex has not really been affected by the sanctions racket by US imperialists." The steel plant was first built in 1939 when Korea was a Japanese colony and occupying authorities concentrated industrial development in the northern part of the country, regarding the south as an agricultural breadbasket. Destroyed in war, it was later rebuilt and expanded by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as the North is officially known, and renamed Chollima after a mythical winged horse that can run 1,000 li-an Asian measure of distance with the Korean version equivalent to around 400 metres-in a day.

A mosaic outside depicts the North's founder Kim Il-Sung giving orders for its reconstruction in 1953, and the concrete block on which he is said to have sat is preserved for posterity in a glass box. When a 10,000-tonne press was installed, the machine was awarded the North's Hero of Labour medal.

**Pride of the people**

Under United Nations Security Council resolution 2321, passed in November last year, North Korean exports of iron and iron ore are banned, unless the transactions are "determined to be exclusively for livelihood purposes" and do not generate revenue for Pyongyang's banned weapons programs. But two-way trade between the North and China, its key ally, business partner and diplomatic protector, jumped in the first five months of this year, despite US President Donald Trump urging Beijing to do more to rein in Pyongyang.

According to figures from Chinese Customs, the country imported just over 100,000 tons of iron and steel from North Korea in the period, worth around \$30 million. The South's central bank estimated this week that the North's economy grew 3.9 percent in 2016 - its fastest pace in 17 years, driven by increasing private-sector activity - with production in heavy and chemical industries up 6.7 percent. —AFP

**Legendary horse**

Pyongyang does not issue any official economic statistics, not even GDP growth, regarding such numbers as state secrets, so no national steel production figures are available. But Kim - who has "Safeguard the country" tattooed on his left forearm, a souvenir of his graduation from middle school - insisted that the plant's operations had not been hit by the measures. "Our great president Kim Il-Sung built a plant in the



**PYONGYANG:** In this photo taken on July 22, 2017, a worker watches as molten steel is transferred from a furnace during production at the Chollima Steel Complex, south-west of Pyongyang. —AFP

## WARBA BANK PARTNERS WITH AL-SAYER TO OFFER FINANCING SOLUTIONS ON LEXUS CARS

BANK'S TEAM WILL BE AVAILABLE AT AVENUES MALL FOR 3 DAYS FROM TODAY

**KUWAIT:** In line with its continued commitment to offering its clients distinctive offers with various strategic partners in order to serve different segments of the customers, especially those looking for the highest levels of well-being, Warba Bank, Kuwait's best investment bank and corporate consultancy institution, announced its cooperation with Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Co the general and exclusive distributor of Lexus cars in the State of Kuwait, to launch a new offer for both the customers and non-customers of Warba Bank involving new 2017 Lexus cars.

This offer is part of the Bank's innovative banking services to provide flexible financing solutions that suit all customer needs and meet their requirements in compliance with the provisions of the Islamic sharia.

In addition to the possibility of paying in installments for all 2017 Lexus cars over 4 years at the same cash price, the customer will receive many other benefits of the offer, including: a discount up to KD 1,000, complimentary insurance for the second year, a 5-year warranty, free maintenance for 5 years or a use distance of 50K km, whichever comes first, with brake replacement, free-of-charge car registration, and third party insurance.

Warba Bank has designed the new offer to meet the wishes of its customers and their preferences regarding the acquisition of luxury cars, which are popular in the Kuwaiti market, especially that they are manufactured to the highest standards of durability and luxury. In order to share the details of the Bank's financing solutions, the Bank has a dedicated sales team, which can be found at all branches of car dealerships. They can answer all customers' enquiries and share with them the Bank's pioneering financing solutions and explain to them the financing advantages offered by the bank.

In addition, the Bank's team will be available in Avenues Mall (Expansion 3) for three days (from Thursday 27 July to Saturday 29 July) to provide all interested parties with sufficient information about the offer, the payment mechanism, and the monthly installments. Customers wishing to enjoy this offer can also enquire about the required documents to complete the procedures.

It is worth mentioning that this is the third cooperation between Warba Bank and Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Co. Both entities previously launched a car purchase financing program called 'Kasseb'. The said program enabled customers to obtain a new financing system for the purchase of cars under negotiat-

ed contracts and pay for them in flexible and innovative installments over a period of five years. They also launched an offer to finance various types of 2017 Land Cruiser cars which had a very positive feedback from Kuwaiti community.

The new partnership between Warba Bank and Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Co, the exclusive agent of Toyota cars in Kuwait, will be added to series of partnerships held by the Bank recently with the most important global car dealerships in Kuwait, within the framework of unique offers with diverse partnerships to serve its customers and increase their options regarding buying new cars, and ease their financial burdens through the financing vehicles service.



**In this Monday, June 12, 2017, photo, a US flag is displayed above a Boeing 787 airplane being built for Norwegian Air Shuttle at Boeing Co's assembly facility, in Everett, Washington. —AP**

## BOEING BEATS PROFIT FORECASTS

**CHICAGO:** Boeing is reporting second-quarter net income of \$1.76 billion, after suffering a loss a year earlier.

The Chicago company had net income of \$2.89 per share. Earnings, adjusted for non-recurring gains, were \$2.55 per share, blowing past the per-share forecast of \$2.32 from

industry analysts, according to a poll by Zacks Investment Research. The airplane builder posted revenue of \$22.74 billion. Boeing expects full-year earnings in the range of \$9.80 to \$10 per share, with revenue of \$90.5 billion to \$92.5 billion. Shares of Boeing Co. have risen 36 percent since the beginning of the year. —AP

## US SALES OF NEW HOMES IMPROVED MODESTLY

**WASHINGTON:** US sales of new homes perked up slightly in June, a sign that more would-be buyers are seeking newly built properties. The Commerce Department said yesterday that new-home sales edged up 0.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 610,000. Sales have registered a healthy 10.9 percent increase so far this year. The gains come amid a broader shortage of homes listed for sale, likely pushing more buyers into new construction. Despite steady growth since the housing bubble began to burst a decade ago, sales of new homes remain below historic averages. Builders are contending with a lack of land for construction, a shortage of workers and rising costs for some materials.

Sales last month advanced in the Midwest and West, but purchases were unchanged in the Northeast and dropped in the South. The June sales report indicates that the price and supply pressures will continue. The median sales price of a new home fell 3.3 percent to \$310,800. But the median obscures the overall trend of new construction toward more expensive homes. Just 13 percent of new homes sold last month cost less than \$200,000, compared to the 17 percent for all of 2016 and 19 percent for 2015.

There have been sales gains in the price range of \$200,000 and \$299,000 that overlaps with the median price for existing homes. But new homes that cost more than \$500,000 are also a growing share of sales.

There were 272,000 new homes on the market in June, the most since June 2009. But that accounts for only 5.4 months' supply based on the current sales rate. The gain in new-home inventory has been insufficient to offset the declines in sales listings of existing homes. The National Association of Realtors said this week that there were 1.96 million existing homes for sale in June, a 7.1 decline from a year ago. —AP

## FIRST IS FLYING WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS

**KUWAIT:** Since The First Wing opened on April 5, the new exclusive check-in area for British Airways' First, Gold Executive Club and oneworld Emerald customers at Heathrow Terminal 5 has welcomed nearly 200,000 travellers through the dedicated security channel leading directly into the Galleries First lounge and Concorde Room.

That's around 1,800 customers a day transferring through The First Wing from check-in to the lounge. The smoothness and convenience of the innovation has resulted in great customer feedback and has also reduced the number of customers travelling through the normal security search areas, delivering a benefit for all fliers.

The airline is continuing to invest in other improvements to First, including a refresh of its flagship Concorde Room at Heathrow Terminal 5 to be unveiled in October 2017. The lounge, which is exclusively for First customers will receive an updated look and feel, as well as improvements to the terrace area.

Additionally new Liberty London washbags will take to the skies at the end of July. The kits feature prints from Liberty's vintage textile archive. The ladies' version features an eye-catching print called 'Indiana' flower pattern in a range of blues, while the male washbag showcases a more understated black and grey paisley design called 'Arundel'.

The gentlemen's washbag features Refinery's revitalising moisturiser, lip balm, deodorant stick and shave gel as well as a razor, brush and comb, toothbrush/toothpaste, eye mask, socks, ear plugs and pen. The ladies' kit includes Aromatherapy Associates triple



rose renewing moisturiser, hydrating hand lotion, renewing cleanser and deodorant stick, along with a lip balm, cotton wool pads, toothbrush/toothpaste, hairbrush and pen.

Alex Cruz, British Airways' chairman and CEO, said: "We know that our First customers are used to the very best in life and have very exacting standards. They rightly expect every part of their journey with us to cater to their needs, so we've focused on areas that we know matter to them. First Wing enables them to maximize their time, whisking from

kerb to lounge through the fast track security channel. And we've paid attention to the details that make a difference on board too, through elements such as the updated Liberty washbags and the ability to pre-order a preferred meal.

"From the feedback we've received from our First fliers, these changes are making a real difference to their experience, driving great customer reaction and there's more to come with the revamped Concorde Room at Terminal 5, due to be unveiled this October."

# OIL BOUNCE, CORPORATE RESULTS KEEP STOCKS HIGH

**LONDON:** Oil's rise back above \$50 a barrel helped prod stock markets higher yesterday, while company results and economic data continued to soothe worries that the world economy may be ripe for another slowdown. European stock markets rose around half a percent, led by energy and commodity-linked firms after Brent crude topped the \$50 mark for the first time since early June and copper added another 1 percent to this week's surge.

A slightly less bullish performance in Asia

pulled the MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 46 countries, off all-time highs overnight. But early in the European session, it was up 0.1 percent on the day, and US stocks futures showed Wall Street should edge higher on opening.

Strong results from energy firms Subsea 7 and Tullow Oil helped European shares, but banks weighed on index-level gains as investors awaited the outcome later yesterday of the Federal Reserve's two-day policy meeting. "The

indications are more positive on the outlook for energy stocks," said Angelo Meda, head of equities at Banor SIM in Milan, adding that firms had reset expectations on valuations and cleaned up their balance sheets.

"The outlook is not so bad (...) We are still missing one component which is the commentary from big oil firms Total, BP, Royal Dutch Shell." The pan-European STOXX 600 gained 0.4 percent, in line with euro zone stocks and blue-chips, as oil and gas stocks gained 0.7 percent.

Germany's Ifo business survey on Tuesday showed confidence soaring to record highs in July amid what its economists described as a 'euphoric' mood in German industry, while US consumer confidence levels jumped to near 16-year highs.

The latter numbers helped the dollar recover some ground in US and Asian trading yesterday, with traders citing a trimming of positions ahead of the Fed meeting, not due until late in the US session.

The dollar, hurt since March by a retreat in expectations for further rises in interest rates this year, gained just over 0.1 percent against both the euro and the euro-dominated basket of currencies most used to measure its broader strength. "Most people have an ultra-benign view of what we will get out of the Fed today," said Koon Chow, a strategist at Swiss private bank UBP.

"The focus is not so much on the next hike but the start of the roll off [reduction of the central bank's balance sheet]. The Fed has already helped us a lot by indicating that when it happens it will be a very gradual process."

## Asia markets up

Asian markets mostly rose yesterday, led by energy giants on rising commodity prices, while traders were also buoyed by strong earnings and positive economic data that saw Wall Street rack up fresh records.

Improving demand and the weakening dollar helped fuel a jump in copper prices to five-month peaks, while oil has also been boosted by a report pointing to low-

er US stockpiles. Both crude contracts jumped three percent Tuesday with traders also cheered by news that global crude producers, meeting in Russia Monday, called for stricter adherence to an agreement to cut output.

Big-name energy firms flew yesterday with BHP up more than three percent and Rio Tinto 2.6 percent higher in Sydney, while Hong Kong-listed CNOOC added 2.3 percent and PetroChina was up more than three percent. Tokyo's Inpex and JXTG Holdings piled on more than one percent.

"Things are looking a little bit better," Michael Loewen, a strategist at Scotiabank in Toronto, told Bloomberg News.

"If we continue to see demand do well and some refined products draws in gasoline and distillates, the market should perform pretty well." But the long-term outlook for oil could be weak without deeper output curbs by OPEC, said Richard Gorry, managing director at industry consultant JBC Asia.

Prices are currently supported by the summer driving season which ramps up demand but that trend will reverse from early September as consumption weakens, he added.

On stock markets Tokyo ended 0.5 percent higher, while Hong Kong added 0.3 percent in the afternoon and Shanghai closed up 0.1 percent.

Sydney ended up 0.9 percent and Singapore was 0.3 percent higher. Manila was up 1.1 percent but there were losses in Seoul and Taipei. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report									
Wednesday 26 July 2017									
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing						
Price Index	▲ 13.23	6,845.76	6,832.53						
Weighted Index	▲ 0.57	417.60	417.03						
KSX 15	▼ -0.65	952.95	953.60						

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
148,294,049	16,853,368	4,395

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	330	—	0.0
NAPESCO	1,080	900	7,861	7,690	23	950	▲ 48.0
ENERGYH	39.0	34.1	842,290	30,003	74	35.3	▼ -2.7
GPI	43.4	42.4	2,152,600	92,514	53	43.0	▲ 0.3
ABAR	90	88	1,750	156	4	89	▲ 1.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>3,004,501</b>	<b>130,362</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1079.79</b>	<b>▲ 21.20</b>
KFOUC	289	289	1,000	289	1	289	— 0.0
BPCO	569	565	87,524	49,758	15	568	▲ 2.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	590	— 0.0
ALQURAIN	353	347	894,074	313,228	59	351	▲ 3.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>982,598</b>	<b>363,275</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1265.87</b>	<b>▲ 5.00</b>
KCEM	492	445	63,100	28,084	6	445	— 0.0
CABLE	430	423	36,981	15,758	10	430	▲ 4.0
SHIP	208	205	383,438	79,058	13	207	▲ 2.0
PCEM	968	968	413	400	3	968	▼ -2.0
PAPER	295	295	50	15	1	295	— 0.0
MRC	118	100	30	3	2	118	▼ -1.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	270	— 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	— 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	— 0.0
NICBM	175	175	21,000	3,675	5	175	— 0.0
EQUIPMENT	51	50	177,900	8,961	14	50	— 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	— 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	61	61	30,865	1,883	5	61	— 0.0
AGLTY	847	845	205,295	173,577	32	847	— 0.0
EDU	342	332	82,604	27,682	13	342	▲ 5.0
CLEANING	51	47.5	2,744	131	2	51	— 0.0
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	— 0.0
KPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	155	— 0.0
HUMANSOFT	4,300	4,295	110,385	474,644	29	4,300	▼ -50.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	195	— 0.0
GFC	80	80	7,100	568	1	80	▲ 0.1
MAYADEEN	29.3	28.4	1,582,400	45,264	33	28.7	— 0.0
CGC	570	565	12,420	7,018	6	565	▲ 3.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	— 0.0
UPAC	715	645	2,509	1,724	3	715	▼ -55.0
ALAFCO	343	343	3,908	1,340	1	343	▼ -5.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	— 0.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	— 0.0
SCEM	84	76	116,509	9,174	6	84	▼ -0.4
GCME	76	75	286,555	21,763	7	76	— 0.0
QIC	75	75	16,415	1,231	1	75	▼ -3.0
FCME	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	— 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	— 0.0
SPEC	95	92	202,884	18,667	19	94	▲ 1.9
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>3,325,505</b>	<b>920,618</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>1905.50</b>	<b>▼ -13.50</b>
PAPCO	90	80	20,000	1,610	10	80	▼ -20.0
CATTL	234	234	1,000	234	1	234	▲ 14.0
DANAH	74	72	252,427	18,396	27	73	▼ -1.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,100	— 0.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>273,427</b>	<b>20,240</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1031.99</b>	<b>▲ 11.40</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	— 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	— 0.0
YIACO	175	175	12,950	2,266	2	175	▼ -5
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>12,950</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1610.51</b>	<b>▼ -5.10</b>
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,350	— 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	28.5	27.9	52,360	1,465	5	28.4	▼ 0
EYAS	830	751	5,560	4,536	11	830	— 0
IFHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	— 0
OULAFUEL	123	120	633,569	77,295	41	121	▼ -2
MUNTAZAHAT	80	74	49,201	3,700	10	77	▼ -1
JAZEERA	505	498	169,672	84,811	11	505	▲ 7
SOOR	125	122	188,925	23,317	30	124	— 0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	— 0
ALRAI	121	118	125,322	15,049	12	120	▼ -2
Jiyad	54	52	40,350	2,107	5	52	▼ -1
Meezan	906	889	389,900	351,173	52	890	▼ -16
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>1,654,859</b>	<b>563,452</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1028.93</b>	<b>▼ -3.30</b>
ZAIN	455	450	1,410,974	637,884	105	455	— 0
OOREDOO	1,170	1,130	3,451	3,960	8	1,170	▲ 18
HITSTELEC	44.5	43.5	3,015,553	132,581	43	44.4	▲ 1
VIVA	810	805	37,615	30,319	39	806	▲ 1
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>4,467,593</b>	<b>804,744</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>612.26</b>	<b>▲ 4.10</b>
NBK	702	698	1,391,196	974,302	44	699	▼ -1
GBK	245	243	415,100	101,252	14	243	▼ -1
CBK	350	350	105,050	36,768	4	350	▲ 2
ABK	320	318	9,100	2,894	2	320	— 0
ALMUTAHED	420	414	4,350	1,817	4	418	▲ 3
KIB	244	243	580,598	141,661	42	244	— 0
BURG	370	361	557,170	205,104	41	361	▼ -6
KFIN	554	547	4,482,237	2,468,038	286	549	— 0
BOUBYAN	415	412	841,862	348,578	57	415	▲ 2
AUB	222	219	6,168,899	1,359,959	135	221	▲ 1
ITHMR	45.2	44.8	934,500	41,947	42	45.0	— 0
WARBANK	270	259	1,817,609	484,948	189	269	▲ 1
<b>Banks</b>			<b>17,307,671</b>	<b>6,167,267</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>956.77</b>	<b>▲ 5.30</b>
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	260	— 0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	— 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	430	— 0.0
WINS	89	78	1,152	93	5	89	▲ 10.9
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	— 0.0
FTI	55	46.5	256,530	12,107	66	47.5	▼ -7.4
WETHAQ	52	47.0	7,000	339	6	52	▲ 4.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 21.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>264,682</b>	<b>12,538</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1033.06</b>	<b>▲ 21.00</b>

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	47.8	47.2	530000	25,195	15	47.4	▼ -0.3
KRE	61	59	3,272,791	196,293	64	60	▲ 1.6
URC	88	88	20	2	1	88	▲ 0.1
NRE	127	126	1,412,651	178,464	15	126	▼ -2.0
SRE	383	383	280,000	107,240	4	383	▼ -2.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	410	— 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	— 0.0
MASSALEH	43.8	40.1	65,050	2,609	3	43.8	▼ -0.1
ARABREC	35.0	34.3	1,303,521	45,304	47	34.8	▲ 0.2
ERESCO	40.5	40.1	407,758	16,427	17	40.1	▼ -0.4
MABANEE	804	790	273,921	218,546	20	804	▲ 14.0
INJAZAT	91	90	9,000	813	2	91	▲ 0.6
INVESTORS	24.8	24.1	10,759,183	264,439	137	24.5	▲ 0.3
IRC	33.9	32.0	3,838,458	127,891	34	33.8	▲ 2.3
ALTIJARIA	82	78	6,229,489	498,393	99	81	▲ 1.6
SANAM	37.0	37.0	4,444	164	1	37.0	▼ -5.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	— 0.0
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	— 0.0
ALAQARIA	41.5	40.5	1,369,900	55,960	52	41.2	▲ 0.2
MAZAYA	119	117	1,990,108	234,883	24	119	▲ 1.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	— 0.0
TLJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	57	— 0.0

# YOKOHAMA'S SPECIAL SUMMER PROMOTION AL-SAYER ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF FIRST DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer (MNSS), one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies held the first raffle draw of the special promotion celebrating Yokohama's 100th Anniversary the Yokohama Center - Canada Dry on 13th July 2017 to announce 10 winners of Yokohama special summer promotion. List of the 10 winners of the promotion are as below:

**Prize Name**  
 First Prize: 10 Gold Coins --Ahmad Abed Matar  
 Second Prize: 5 Gold Coins-- Badr Mahdi Shafaqa  
 Third Prize: 4 Gold Coins-- Mahdi Dawoud  
 Fourth Prize: 2 Gold Coins-- Mahdi Faleh Aldosari  
 Fifth Prize: 2 Gold Coins-- Ahmed Nayef Al-Otaibi  
 Sixth Prize: 2 Gold Coins-- Yazid Salem Al Enezi  
 Seventh Prize: 2 Gold Coins -- Moutlak Moutlak Al-Rashidi  
 Eighth Prize: 2 Gold Coins -Nashir

Ninth Prize: Gold Coins -- Abdul Saegeer Ebrahim  
 Tenth Prize: 2 Gold Coins - Mohammed Mubarak Salem

The draw was organized under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce & Industry - for Consumer protection affairs along with Krishna Kumar General Manager Tires, Oil and Paint (TOP) Division MNSS, Inderal Singh Senior Manager, Tire Sales from Al-Sayer Yokohama and Mohammad Amin Nasimi Senior Manager After-Sales Marketing.

Yokohama special promotion entitles customers to enter one of the upcoming two monthly draws upon purchase of Yokohama tire from an authorized dealer for a chance to win gold coins. Remaining draws of this promotion will be held on 21 August 2017 and 14 September 2017. The last date to enter the draw will be the 10th of the respective month.



Delivering Range Rover award to a winner.



Executive Manager Nuhul Almosalem delivers gold award to a winner.

## KFH DELIVERS TWO 2017 RANGE ROVERS, 3KG OF GOLD PRIZES TO AL-RABEH WINNERS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) delivered two HSE 2017 Range Rovers and 3 KG of gold biscuits of 24 carat with purity of 999.9 for the winners of the 5th draw of Al-Rabeh account.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The winners expressed their happiness and thanks to the bank. The winners are: Mohammad Sulaiman Aldousary- 2017 HSE Range Rover, Latifa Khaled Mudwa- 2017 HSE Range Rover Silver color, and Ahmad Abdullah Alawaisy- 3 KG of gold.

Al-Rabeh salary account is an investment savings account based on Mudaraba sharia principle that gives clients annual profit distributions. Clients can open this account at any of KFH 65 branches around Kuwait. It is noteworthy that the account is offered for clients wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts with the ability to save and invest. Al-Rabeh account is available for individuals in KD and it requires salary transfer as a prerequisite.

With regards to the prizes campaign terms and conditions, customers will have a chance to win remarkable prizes every three months along the year from KFH once they transfer their salary to "AlRabeh" account. KFH gives away two Range Rovers 2017 HSE for the first

two winners and a 3KG of Gold biscuits of 24 carat with purity of 999.9 for the third winner in draws to be held in the months of January, April, July, and October, providing that clients should have deposited 3 salaries in the three months prior to the draw, yet their minimum monthly balance is not less than KD 50 by the end of each month, bearing in mind that each KD 50 in the account entitles clients to one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances to win.

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.

## 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, yesterday. 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 Mehri Agha Shakeeb.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Motaq Dukhain Alsulail, Ebrahim Faisale Alhouli, Faisal Mubarak Alazm, Mohammad Abdullah Alotaibi, Naser

M E Almuadhaf, Fahad Saad Alajmi, Aeshah Saeed Almajed, Mohd Mutlak Al-Tuwari, Zahida Mohamed Hasan, Sabeekeh Abdullah Shabakouh, Ali Mostafa Hamzah, Faleh M K Alhusaini, Najwa Mohammad Alsherbeeni, Yaser Tavana, Abdulwahab adnan Alkhudhair, Fahad Roudhan Roudhan, Zeyad Mostafa Darweesh, Meteb M A Alajmi, Nada Hasan Alsadeq, Husain Ali Hasan, Abdulrahman Mohammed Sadeq, Mohammad Mousa Ahmad, Ahmed Khalil Afifi, Rashid Abdulrahman Mandi, Hussain Safar Radhi.

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.



# OOREDOO KUWAIT LAUNCHES REVAMPED MOBILE APP

## GIVING CUSTOMERS MORE CONTROL AND FLEXIBILITY

**KUWAIT:** Embracing the digital age and delivering products that keep up with the needs of customers, Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, announced the launch of its new mobile app, which enables customers to be in control of their usage at the convenience of their fingertips.

Launching the app is yet another milestone for Ooredoo Kuwait's plans to further embrace digitalization and solidify its position as a leading local telecom service provider.

The new mobile application aims to keep up with the needs and modes of usage of Ooredoo Kuwait customers, and provide them with the best in-class services conveniently at the tap of a finger without the need to speak to customer service agents.

App users are logged in automatically without the need to enter credentials, for convenience and flexibility. It gives customers access to view their real-time usage of data, calls and SMS; purchase packages and plans that better suit their usage and needs; recharge and pay bills conveniently; view their Nojoom points and participating partners with whom they can redeem their points, and activate Ooredoo Passport roaming plans, all conveniently from within My Ooredoo app. The revamped Ooredoo app is available for free on both Android and iOS operating systems.

Ooredoo's operations in Kuwait date back to December 1999 when it launched wireless services as the second operator. The company today provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo Kuwait - which is an enlisted company in the Kuwait

Stock Exchange Market - operates a number of telecom service providers in the region, such as Ooredoo Algeria, Ooredoo Tunisia, Ooredoo Maldives, and Wataniya Palestine. Ooredoo Kuwait is a member of the international Ooredoo Group based in Doha, Qatar.

Our vision: Enabling the Kuwaiti community through digitalization and enriching people's daily experiences.

Our mission: To be a leading one-stop shop, offering comprehensive telecom services to meet all the demands of our customers.

**Our values:**

**Caring:** We care about individuals and respect differences, and we support the communities in which we work through dedication, transparency and high values under all circumstances.

**Connecting:** We strive to build sustainable long-lasting partnerships based on mutual trust.

**Challenging:** Striving to enhance services and continue improving and setting realistic goals to create a positive impact and a real difference.



## BURGAN BANK OFFERS ITS YOUTH ACCOUNT HOLDERS A CHANCE TO WATCH 'THE DARK TOWER' MOVIE

**KUWAIT:** Borgan Bank, in collaboration with Grand Cinemas, announced yesterday that its Youth Account Holders will be offered the exclusivity to watch the first screening of the all-new Fantasy Science Fiction movie "The Dark Tower" for free at the prestigious movie theatre of Grand Cinemas located in Al-Hamra Luxury Centre.

The movie screening will be held on Thursday August 3rd, 2017, wherein each Youth account holder is entitled to two free tickets on one of the two shows, at 5:30 pm or 8:00 pm.

To book the free seats, Youth Account Holders are required to visit Grand Cinemas' box office in Al Hamra Luxury Centre and present their Youth ATM card. The bank strives to reward its Youth account holders with exclusive offers that fit their lifestyle. The Youth Account is dedicated to young individuals, between the ages of 15 to 25, and who seek to attain a successful future. There is no KD limit to open an account, and no minimum balance required to maintain it. Furthermore, account holders receive free prepaid MasterCard and an ATM card, which entitles them to discounts at selective merchants along with an exclusive

discount at Grand Cinemas Theatres, Al-Hamra Luxury Centre and The Gate Mall. To receive regular updates about Borgan Bank's promotions, customers can follow the bank's Instagram page @Borganbankkuwait.

Established in 1977, Borgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Borgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Borgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.



## AL-TIJARI OFFERS ITS CARDHOLDERS SPECIAL DISCOUNT WITH MAIDAN CLINIC

**KUWAIT:** Within its ongoing endeavors to provide special discounts and offers to its customers in cooperation with top notch retailers, stores and health care providers, the Bank announced a 25% discount for its cardholders at all branches of Maidan Clinic on services including preventative, cosmetic & orthodontic services and family dentistry i.e. periodontal, implants, bridges & crowns, scaling & x-rays, conscious sedation and pedodontics.

The discount is offered for all Al-Tijari cardholders when using their debit or credit cards throughout the promotion period that will be valid until 31/12/2017.

Commercial Bank of Kuwait always endeavors to provide its customers with the best offers and discounts in Kuwait as a token of appreciation of their continuous trust in the bank's services and product offerings and this is reflected in its cooperation with the renowned health service providers such as Maidan Clinic which has prominent presence in Kuwait and adopts the best professional standards & advanced technologies in oral & dental medicine.



# TECHNOLOGY POSES CHALLENGE FOR COURT

**WELLINGTON:** US Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts said yesterday he thinks rapidly advancing technology poses one of the biggest challenges for the high court. Speaking at an event at the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, Roberts also repeated his concern that the confirmation process for Supreme Court justices has become too politicized. And he advised that having a written constitution, which some in New Zealand favor for their country, imposed constraints on judges.

Roberts answered questions posed by the university's law dean, Mark Hickford, for about an hour. Hickford did not ask any questions about US President Donald Trump, who has criticized judges including Roberts and imposed a travel ban on people from six mostly Muslim countries that has been challenged in the courts. The Supreme Court

said last week the Trump administration can enforce a ban on refugees but also left in place a weakened travel ban that allows more relatives of Americans to visit. At the New Zealand event, Roberts said technology was a real concern.

"There are devices now that can allow law enforcement to see through walls. Heat imaging and all this kind of thing," he said. "Well, what does that do to a body of law that's developed from common law days in England about when you can search a house?" He said the court had correctly determined that accessing an iPhone was problematic under the constitution's Fourth Amendment. "I'll say it here: would you rather have law enforcement rummaging through your desk drawer at home, or rummaging through your iPhone?" Roberts said.

"I mean, there's much more private information

on the iPhone than in most desk drawers." He said none of the Supreme Court justices are experts in the area and it is going to be a particular challenge for them to make sure they understand the issues and for lawyers to explain them. Asked about the benefits of a written constitution, Roberts said he didn't want to offer advice to New Zealand but that the US Constitution had a constraining purpose and affect.

"The framers of the constitution hoped they were drafting a document that would withstand the test of time, and they used, in many instances, very broad and capacious terms," he said.



John Roberts

"But on the other hand, they can be specific guides as to what we are supposed to look at, and in some cases quite narrowly confining." New Zealand's constitution is not contained in any one document but is derived from laws, legal documents, court decisions and conventions.

Roberts said the US judicial process has become overly politicized, particularly when it comes to the confirmation of Supreme Court justices. "Judges are not politicians, and they shouldn't be scrutinized as if they were," he said. "You're not electing a representative, so you're not entitled to know what their views on political issues are." —AP

## WHY CHINA'S 'SILICON DELTA' WILL LEAD DIGITAL REVOLUTION

By Montgomery Ho, Chief Executive, Guangdong, HSBC



The next game-changing idea in global technology will likely come from China's Silicon Delta, a cluster of cities in Guangdong province where many of the country's most innovative companies are based. It's really just a matter of time. The combination of entrepreneurialism, creativity, market structure, communications infrastructure and sheer scale found in mainland China's technology sector should soon make the country's leadership a reality. The clues are easy to spot, especially in the Pearl River Delta.

Home to some of the world's largest high-tech companies, Shenzhen and the entire Pearl River Delta region has now evolved into a world-leading digital and advanced manufacturing ecosystem. The catalyst for the Silicon Delta's remarkable growth is the rapid uptake of technology in China. According to HSBC's recent Trust in Technology survey, 100 percent of respondents in mainland China own a smartphone, 82 percent of them have used finance programs over social media and 43 percent own a smart speaker device.

It's not surprising that, in April, Shenzhen-based internet firm Tencent became the world's tenth largest listed company, followed by e-commerce giant Alibaba in eleventh place. In the western world, smartphone users have different apps - Whatsapp, Amazon, Facebook, Uber and Airbnb - to cater different needs. In China, Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent - colloquially referred to as BAT - have built universal experiences on a single platform. There's no jumping from one app to another - almost everything you need is built in.

When Tencent's WeChat launched six years ago, it was a mere chat app. Now, WeChat offers social media, payments, dating, news and messaging, among other options, to more than 900 million active users. Think Snapchat, Whatsapp, Skype, Instagram, Paypal, Facebook Live, Yelp, Tinder and Apple Pay all rolled into one. By contrast, WeChat's western counterparts give their users relatively limited experiences on a single platform.

But don't make the mistake of assuming that WeChat has produced a convenient collection of services that are mere facsimiles of those offered by its rivals. Far from it. From their humble beginnings a mere ten years ago, China's internet companies have become leaders in creative thinking in the global technology sector. Using three basic apps, you can get almost anything, do almost anything and meet almost anyone. WeChat can even give you a real-time heat map showing how crowded a shopping mall is before you go there.

Shenzhen: Nexus of venture capitalists

China's increasingly urbanized young people continue to be highly receptive to digital technology and innovation. According to our survey, 90 percent of the respondents in China believe technology makes their life easier and 89 percent agree that advances in technology will make the world a better place. Indeed, Chinese consumers are excited by the potential that new technologies represent. The survey shows that 79 percent prefer to do most things using new technology when they can - in fact people in China (40 percent) are the most enthusiastic adopters of fingerprint technology with India (31 percent) second.

At the other end of the scale, just 9 percent of people in France and Germany and 14 percent Canadians have used fingerprint technology to identify themselves. The 'BAT' and other Chinese technology companies are investing heavily in innovation. They are at the forefront of research into artificial intelligence, a technology predicted to someday have as much impact on our lives as the invention of electricity by powering products from medical devices to self-driving cars and to payment services.

China has also created the physical infrastructure needed to transmit the mass of data generated by its internet giants, which far outstrips those of some developed economies.

Villages in the most rural provinces enjoy 4G connectivity and faster internet speeds than many European capitals. This has greatly enhanced the experience of online shoppers, whose purchases are brought to their doorsteps by efficient delivery companies along a modern network of highways.

Perhaps most importantly, the sheer size of China, with its 1.38 billion consumers, means that internet and technology companies can scale up rapidly. For promising start-ups, capturing a fraction of users in this vast marketplace attracts venture capital funds on the basis of their potential alone.

This is exactly what is happening in the Pearl River Delta. Inspired by Silicon Valley, Shenzhen has become a nexus of venture capitalists, accelerators and tech giant alumni, ready to build the next successful startup.

All these factors have created a "perfect storm" of innovation that is upending commonly held perceptions. As Chinese internet companies expand globally, whether through acquisitions (such as Chinese travel giant Ctrip buying Skyscanner) or organically (Alibaba's Alipay building a global network of merchants), it appears that the next generation of global internet behemoths will be Made in China. So, if Silicon Valley executives ever find themselves short on ideas, they can always pay a visit to China's Silicon Delta - and I am sure many more will in the years ahead.

## NY EYES 'TEXTALYZER' TO BUST DRIVERS

NEW TECHNOLOGY TO CRACK DOWN RECKLESS DRIVING

**ALBANY:** New York state is set to study the use of a device known as the "textalyzer" that would allow police to determine whether a motorist involved in a serious crash was texting while driving. Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced yesterday that he would direct the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to examine the technology, as well as the privacy and constitutional questions it could raise. "Despite laws to ban cell-phone use while driving, some motorists still continue to insist on texting behind the wheel - placing themselves and others at substantial risk," Cuomo said in a statement provided exclusively to The Associated Press.

"This review will examine the effectiveness of using this new emerging technology to crack down on this reckless behavior and thoroughly evaluate its implications to ensure we protect the safety and privacy of New Yorkers." The device is called the "textalyzer" because of its similarity to the Breathalyzer, which is used to identify drunk drivers. It would allow police to see if a motorist had been texting, emailing or otherwise using his or her cellphone before a serious crash. The "textalyzer" is still some months away from being ready, according to Cellebrite, the Israel-based tech company developing the device.

Privacy and civil liberties groups already have questioned whether the technology's use would violate personal privacy, noting that police often must obtain search warrants before looking at a person's phone.

The committee will hear from supporters and opponents of the technology, law enforcement officials and legal experts before issuing a



NEW YORK: In this file photo, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaks during a news conference to announce the increase in penalties for texting while driving in New York. — AP

report, Cuomo's office said. Particular areas of focus will include the effectiveness of the technology, constitutional and legal issues as well as how the device would be used in practice.

"We were the first state to adopt a motorcycle helmet law, a seat belt law for front-seat passengers and a cell-phone law," said Terri Egan, executive deputy commissioner of the state's Department of Motor Vehicles, who is the acting leader of the committee. "We want to make sure

we consider all the impacts of the technology carefully to best ensure public safety and effective enforcement of the law."

Twelve people were killed and 2,784 were injured in cellphone-related crashes in New York state from 2011-2015, according to figures from the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research. State statistics show 1.2 million tickets for cellphone violations were issued in that same time period. — AP

## OEMs CRITICAL TO HELP VSPs BRING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

**DUBAI:** Dell EMC and leading IT market research and advisory firm IDC's spotlight on digital transformation for VSPs predicts that enterprises who are quick to embrace digital transformation trends will outgrow their competition, with those too slow to react will struggle to survive. The report finds that many digital transformation-related technologies are still in their nascent stages but will have a profound impact across the following verticals in the next three years, and OEMs will be critical in helping VSPs take advantage of these advancements in line with the below findings:

### Healthcare

The coming years in healthcare will focus on the adoption of disruptive technologies, with IDC predicting that: Payers will have saved \$1 billion globally through implementation of robotic process automation (RPA) tools, skill sets and process reengineering by the end of 2018.

60 percent of healthcare applications will collect real-time location data and clinical IoT device data by 2019.

There will be a 50 percent increase in the use of robots in medications, supplies, and food delivery in hospitals by 2019.

### Manufacturing

Digital transformation technologies are already

present in the manufacturing sector and benchmarks of the future will quickly shift from pure productivity to innovation. IDC predicts that:

75 percent of large manufacturers will update their operations with IoT and analytics-based situational awareness by 2019.

60 percent of plant workers at G2000 manufacturers will work alongside robots, 3D printing, AI and AR/VR by 2020.

50 percent of manufacturing supply chains will have an in-house or outsourced capability for direct-to-consumption shipments and home delivery by 2020.

### Telecommunications

The future of telecommunications will be based around virtualized and software-defined networking (SDN) with a huge impact across verticals, leading IDC to predict that:

90 percent of enterprises will leverage communications service provider 'cloud connect' services to access multiple public cloud capabilities by 2018.

More than 65 percent of enterprise UC&C implementations will be cloud-based UC as a Service by 2018.



Dermot O'Connell

Software-defined wide area networks will be adopted by 60 percent of enterprises by 2018.

To stay competitive, VSPs should focus on constantly innovating around their key differentiators and shed as much of other aspects of their business as possible, such as manufacturing, shipping, and support. OEMs often offer customization of their building blocks to fit VSPs' needs and in some instances, OEMs not only supply solution components, but also manufacture, package, and ship the solution itself. As a result, IDC advises businesses to partner with a strong OEM with a digital transformation-ready portfolio in order to emerge as a market leader.

"Digital transformation is quickly becoming the banner term for organizations' innovation strategy. But many are still in the early stages of implementing the changes needed to bring their companies to the next level. This IDC research demonstrates how key it is that organizations understand that they are not alone in tackling this challenge - OEMs can be the answer to meeting the future head on," said Dermot O'Connell, vice president, Dell EMC OEM and IOT Solutions.

# SHOULD YOU BE WORRIED ABOUT THE RISE OF AI?

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Tech titans Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk recently slugged it out online over the possible threat artificial intelligence might one day pose to the human race, although you could be forgiven if you don't see why this seems like a pressing question.

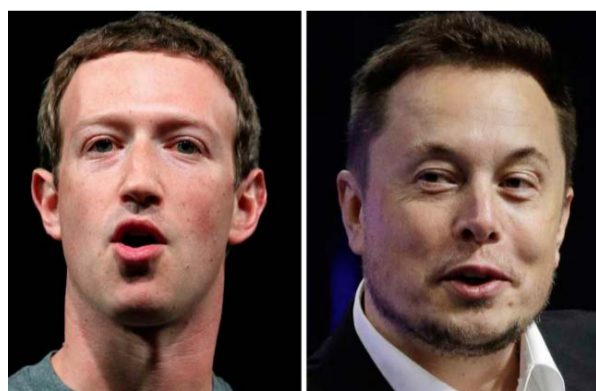
Thanks to AI, computers are learning to do a variety of tasks that have long eluded them - everything from driving cars to detecting cancerous skin lesions to writing news stories. But Musk, the founder of Tesla Motors and SpaceX, worries that AI systems could soon surpass humans, potentially leading to our deliberate (or inadvertent) extinction.

Two weeks ago, Musk warned US governors to get educated and start considering ways to regulate AI in order to ward off the threat. "Once there is awareness, people will be extremely afraid," he said at the time. Zuckerberg, the founder and CEO of Facebook, took exception. In a Facebook Live feed recorded Saturday in front of his barbecue smoker, Zuckerberg hit back at Musk, saying people who "drum up these doomsday scenarios" are "pretty irresponsible." On Tuesday, Musk slammed back on Twitter, writing that "I've talked to Mark about this. His understanding of the subject is limited." Here's a look at what's behind this high-tech flare-up - and what you should and shouldn't be worried about.

### What is AI, anyway?

Back in 1956, scholars gathered at Dartmouth College to begin considering how to build computers that could improve themselves and take on problems that only humans could handle. That's still a workable definition of artificial intelligence. An initial burst of enthusiasm at the time, however, devolved into an "AI winter" lasting many decades as early efforts largely failed to create machines that could think and learn - or even listen, see or speak.

That started changing five years ago. In 2012, a team led by Geoffrey Hinton at the University of Toronto proved that a system using a brain-like neural network could "learn" to recog-



SAN FRANCISCO: This combo of file images shows Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, left, and Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk. — AP

nize images. That same year, a team at Google led by Andrew Ng taught a computer system to recognize cats in YouTube videos - without ever being taught what a cat was. Since then, computers have made enormous strides in vision, speech and complex game analysis. One AI system recently beat the world's top player of the ancient board game Go.

### Here comes terminator's Skynet, maybe

For a computer to become a "general purpose" AI system, it would need to do more than just one simple task like drive, pick up objects, or predict crop yields. Those are the sorts of tasks to which AI systems are largely limited today. But they might not be hobbled for too long. According to Stuart Russell, a computer scientist at the University of California at Berkeley, AI systems may reach a turning point when they gain the ability to understand language at the level of a college student. That, he said, is "pretty likely to happen within the next decade." While that on its own won't produce a robot

overlord, it does mean that AI systems could read "everything the human race has ever written in every language," Russell said. That alone would provide them with far more knowledge than any individual human. The question then is what happens next. One set of futurists believe that such machines could continue learning and expanding their power at an exponential rate, far outstripping humanity in short order. Some dub that potential event a "singularity," a term connoting change far beyond the ability of humans to grasp.

### Near-term concerns

No one knows if the singularity is simply science fiction or not. In the meantime, however, the rise of AI offers plenty of other issues to deal with. AI-driven automation is leading to a resurgence of US manufacturing - but not manufacturing jobs. Self-driving vehicles being tested now could ultimately displace many of the almost 4 million professional truck, bus and cab drivers now working in the US. Human biases can also creep into AI systems. A chatbot released by Microsoft called Tay began tweeting offensive and racist remarks after online trolls baited it with what the company called "inappropriate" comments. Harvard University professor Latanya Sweeney found that searching in Google for names associated with black people more often brought up ads suggesting a criminal arrest. Examples of image-recognition bias abound. "AI is being created by a very elite few, and they have a particular way of thinking that's not necessarily reflective of society as a whole," says Mariya Yao, chief technology officer of AI consultancy TopBots.

### Mitigating harm from AI

In his speech to the governors, Musk urged governors to be proactive, rather than reactive, in regulating AI, although he didn't offer many specifics. And when a conservative Republican governor challenged him on the value of regulation, Musk retreated and said he was mostly asking for government to gain more "insight" into potential issues presented

by AI. Of course, the prosaic use of AI will almost certainly challenge existing legal norms and regulations. When a self-driving car causes a fatal accident, or an AI-driven medical system provides an incorrect medical diagnosis, society will need rules in place for determining legal responsibility and liability. With such immediate challenges ahead, worrying about super intelligent computers "would be a tragic waste of time," said Andrew Moore, dean of the computer science school at Carnegie Mellon University. That's because machines aren't now capable of thinking out of the box in ways they weren't programmed for, he said. "That is something which no one in the field of AI has got any idea about." —AP

## WISCONSIN RETAIL TECH COMPANY OFFERS TO MICROCHIP ITS STAFF

**RIVER FALLS, Wisconsin:** A Wisconsin company is offering to microchip its employees, enabling them to open doors, log onto their computers and purchase break room snacks with a simple swipe of the hand. Three Square Market, also known as 32M, says it expects about 50 employees to take advantage of the technology. The chips are the size of a grain of rice and will be implanted underneath the skin between the thumb and forefinger. 32M provides technology for the self-serve break room market. CEO Todd Westby says in a statement that he expects the chip technology to eventually be used in air travel, public transit and retail. The River Falls-based company is partnering with BioHax International, of Sweden, which according to Three Square Market already has chipped many of its employees. — AP



**THAILAND:** A man nudges a sea turtle into the Gulf of Thailand during the annual turtle conservation release event at the Royal Thai Navy Sea Turtle Conservation Centre in Sattahip yesterday.—AFP

## THAIS FREE 1,066 TURTLES TO CELEBRATE KING'S BIRTHDAY

**CHON BURI, Thailand:** Hundreds of Thai schoolchildren and naval officers sent 1,066 turtles scuttling into the sea yesterday in a ceremony aimed at bringing good fortune to the new King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who turns 65 tomorrow. The sea turtles, seen as symbols of longevity, waddled into the waves off Sattahip naval base in Chonburi province. Many Thai Buddhists view freeing captive animals such as turtles or birds as a way to accrue good karma. "Sea turtles are long-living animals. If we release them, it will help His Majesty to have a long life too," said Eagarat Promlumpug, an officer who helps run the navy's turtle conservation program. The number of freed turtles is seen as auspicious, with the '66'-one more year than the king's age-representing the wish for his

longevity. The centre collects thousands of turtle eggs annually and nurtures the reptiles before releasing them into the Gulf of Thailand. Royal birthdays are met with a flurry of fanfare and religious ceremonies in Thailand, where the monarchy is seen a pillar of moral authority.

Vajiralongkorn's birthday, July 28, was declared a public holiday by the ruling junta after he took the throne late last year. His father Bhumibol Adulyadej, who passed away in October 2016, was worshipped as a near demi-god during his 70-year reign. Vajiralongkorn has yet to attract that level of devotion. All royal family members are shielded from criticism by a draconian defamation law that has landed offenders decades in jail and forces all media in Thailand to self-censor.—AFP



**INDONESIA:** Acehese schoolchildren clad in masks wait for their bus to school while shrouded in thick smoke due to peat forest fires in Meulaboh, Aceh province.—AFP

## DOZENS HOSPITALIZED AS THICK HAZE SPREADS IN INDONESIA

**MEULABOH, Indonesia:** Young children lie in hospital in Aceh province, Indonesia, as thick smoke caused by forest fires forces dozens of people to be treated for lung infections. Some schoolchildren were still able to go to school in Meulaboh yesterday wearing masks but several schools suspended classes so students could stay at home. In the past week, about 35 hotspots-concentrations of fires-have destroyed 70 hectares of forests and other land in Aceh, the national disaster agency said.

"The land fires have been caused by people who clear their land by the traditional slash and burn method, so the fire

spreads," national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purno Nugroho said. People are advised to monitor their land and not to slash and burn, especially since the current dry season makes it easy for forest fires to escalate, Nugroho added. Authorities are trying to put out the blazes and have warned of an escalating threat of forest fires with the dry season expected to continue for several months.

The haze is an annual problem in Indonesia caused by fires set in forest and on carbon-rich peatland in Indonesia to clear land for palm oil and pulpwood plantations.—AFP

# UK TO BAN SALE OF PETROL AND DIESEL CARS BY 2040

**LONDON:** Britain said yesterday it will outlaw the sale of new diesel and petrol cars and vans from 2040 in a bid to cut air pollution but environmental groups said the proposals did not go far enough. Environment minister Michael Gove announced the move as part of the government's keenly-awaited £3 billion air pollution plan, which will demand that councils propose measures by March next year to reduce nitrogen dioxide (NO2) levels. The ban on petrol and diesel cars as well as vans follows a similar proposal by the French government, and will also include hybrid vehicles that have an electric motor and a petrol or diesel engine.

"The Conservatives had a manifesto promise to ensure that by 2050 there would be no diesel or petrol vehicles on the road and today we're confirming that should mean no new diesel or petrol vehicles by 2040," Gove told BBC Radio 4. Britain's High Court demanded that the government produce plans to tackle illegal NO2 pollution, largely caused by diesel emissions, and a draft report was published in May, but the full report was delayed by last month's snap general election.

The government will provide local councils with £255 million to bring NO2 levels to legal levels, with possible solutions including the removal of speed humps, reprogramming traffic lights and changing road layouts. Campaigners want cities to impose entry fees on diesel drivers, but councils will only be allowed to do so if no other measures are available, with ministers wary of "punishing" drivers of cars who bought their vehicles in good faith, according to media reports.

### Jobs warning

"Diesel drivers are not to blame and, to help them switch to cleaner vehicles, the government will consult on a targeted scrappage scheme, one of a number of measures to support motorists affected by local plans," a government spokesman said. Gove added that he did not believe "that it is necessary to bring in charging."



**LONDON:** This file photo shows traffic queues in central London.—AFP

Campaign group ClientEarth warned that health issues "caused by exposure to illegal air pollution are happening now, so we need urgent action." Fellow campaigners Greenpeace also warned that the plans did not do enough to combat the immediate issue of NO2 pollution in cities.

"While this plan makes the right headline-grabbing noises, in reality it means that children across the UK will continue to be exposed to harmful air pollution for years to come, with potentially irreversible impacts," said Areeba Hamid, clean air campaigner at Greenpeace UK. "Providing a long term vision is not enough, (Michael) Gove still needs protect our health right now from toxic fumes polluting our streets." The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said that the move could cost jobs. "Currently demand for alter-

natively fuelled vehicles is growing but still at a very low level as consumer have concern over affordability, range and charging points," said SMMT Chief Executive Mike Hawes.

"Outright bans risk undermining the current market for new cars and our sector which supports over 800,000 jobs across the UK, we could undermine the UK's successful automotive sector if we don't allow enough time for the industry to adjust." Air pollution contributes to the death of more than 40,000 people per year in Britain, according to official figures, with nitrogen dioxide a particular problem. Norway, which is aiming to end the use of all cars running on fossil fuels by 2025, offers generous tax breaks for electric vehicles as well as free parking and the use of bus lanes.—AFP

## WILD NEW ZEALAND RABBITS SURF ON SHEEP TO ESCAPE FLOODWATERS

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand:** Three wild rabbits managed to escape rising floodwaters in New Zealand by clambering aboard a flock of sheep and surfing to safety on their woolly backs. Ferg Horne, 64, says he's been farming since he left school at age 15 and has never seen anything quite like it. He was trudging through pelting rain to rescue a neighbor's 40 sheep from the floodwaters on Saturday at their South Island farm near Dunedin when he spotted some dark shapes from a distance.

He was puzzled because he knew his neighbor, who was away in Russia attending a nephew's wedding, didn't have any black-faced sheep. As he got closer, he thought it might be debris from the storm, which had drenched the area and forced Horne to evacuate his home. Then he saw the bedraggled rabbits hitching a ride - two on one sheep and a third on another sheep. "I couldn't believe it for a start," he said. Nobody else would believe him either without proof, he thought, so he got out his phone to take a photo, an image he figured his grandchildren would enjoy.

In fact, he inadvertently shot a short video. "It's a Samsung or a smartphone or whatever you call it. I swear at it every day," he said. "I'm absolutely useless with technology." Nevertheless, Horne managed to capture the moment. He said the sheep were huddled together on a high spot on the farm, standing in about 8 centimeters of water. He said the rabbits looked like they'd gotten wet but seemed quite comfortable and relaxed atop their mounts.

Rabbits are considered a pest to farmers in New Zealand, and Horne said that typically when he sees one, he shoots it. "But they'd showed so much initiative, I thought they deserved to live, those rabbits," he said. Horne herded the sheep to a patch of dry ground on the farm about 50 meters away. The sheep didn't like it. "As they jumped through the water, the rabbits had a jolly good try at staying on," Horne said.—AP



**SINGAPORE:** Aquarists deliver a cake for Canola, a Singapore-born manatee, to celebrate its third birthday at the River Safari in Singapore yesterday.—AFP

## WITH VEGGIE CAKE, JAZZ, MANATEE CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY IN STYLE

**SINGAPORE:** To the strains of upbeat jazz and with a vegetable cake laid on as a special treat, Canola the Singaporean manatee celebrated her third birthday in style yesterday. The nearly 300-kilogram manatee swam around in a large aquarium as a three-piece jazz band played at a party attended by dozens of schoolchildren. Divers swam in carrying a two-meter high "cake" made of sweet potato leaves and carrot and topped off with a "C" fashioned from cabbage, as the guests sang happy birthday.

The festivities were joined by the other

12 manatees in Canola's herd, who jostled for bites of the cake in the aquarium. Canola is the mascot for the River Safari, a wildlife park in Singapore. She was born there but was raised by River Safari staff after being abandoned by her mother. To emulate the fatty milk produced by nursing manatees, her care takers added canola oil to the formula they fed her-which gave the sea cow her name. The manatee is a marine mammal that has flippers, a flat tail and an egg-shaped head. It is classified as "vulnerable" by protection group the International Union for Conservation of Nature.—AFP

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## AHMADI GOVERNORATE ORGANIZES SEMINAR

Ahmadi governorate, in coordination with the Ministry of Electricity and Water organized a seminar on rationalizing the use of power and water under the patronage of Ahmadi governor Sheikh Fawaz Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in the presence of MEW Undersecretary Eng Mohammad Bu Shehri, Assistant Undersecretary for Water Affairs Eng Khalifa Al-Furaij, Governor Representative Hamid Al-Ibrahim and Director of the Technical Office at the Governorate Ibrahim Al-Foudary.



## GOFSCO RECOGNIZES 85 EMPLOYEES FOR TOP PERFORMANCE, DEDICATION

Gas & Oil Fields Services Company (GOFSCO), one of the largest integrated service providers in Kuwait specializing from the upstream to the downstream oil and gas sector, both onshore and offshore, recently held an awards ceremony to acknowledge the exceptional performance and dedication of their dynamic and long-standing employees that has significantly contributed to the company's best performance and success over the last year.

GOFSCO's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer - Engineer Hussam Ali Marafie commended the employees on playing an integral role in working towards continued growth and evolution in transforming the company into a key player within the industry. Engineer Marafie added that as a company, GOFSCO is committed towards rewarding resourcefulness and ingenuity within their employee

base in order to achieve the company's corporate strategy and vision - to become the region's company of choice among the Oil and Gas sector.

Engineer Marafie added, "On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our staff, particularly those being awarded today for their commitment and loyalty to the company. Their expertise and dedication underpins the continuing

growth and expansion strategy during the year 2016 - 2017 and we look forward to achieving greater milestones together." Employee communication is at the heart of GOFSCO's overall internal and corporate strategy. The company has held a number of events that underline the importance of engaging with its internal audiences to nurture a culture of open dialogue and create proud company ambassadors.

## KUWAIT WINS TIMES NOW 'NRI OF THE YEAR 2017' MIDDLE EAST AWARD

In the Middle East region, Kuwait based Professional Kuppusamy Uthaman of Kuwait Oil Company won the 'NRI of the year 2017' award. He was honored and facilitated in a coveted Times Now NRI of the year 2017 award ceremony held in Grand Hyatt, Mumbai on July 11, 2017. In the Professional category, Uthaman was chosen for the Middle East region (covering Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Jordan) for his exemplary service, professional excellence and making Indian diaspora proud by his profession and prestigious international awards. Uthaman after receiving the award said that he was thrilled to be selected by the jury in a tight race, felt proud and honored to receive this prestigious award among distinguished audience of international achievers and great scientists of ISRO.

last 4 years these awards have gained immense popularity. MK Anand, MD and CEO, Times Network said that this year there were 25000 applicants out of which 5000 made it to the final round. The winners were selected after a grueling 5 tier process conducted by Ernst and Young. Of the 5000 only 300 made it to final round and the jury had a tough time to select 23 winners from among achievers in diverse fields spread across the four geographical boundaries.

The gala event was hosted by TV actor Karan Tacker and television presenter and singer Sophie Choudry. The event was graced by the presence of eminent personalities like Baahubali Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, Baahubali Writer Vijayendra Prasad, Actress Sana Khan, Choreographer Terence Lewis and many more from the TV and Bollywood Industry. This was the first event attended by the newly crowned

Femina Miss India 2017 - Manushi Chhillar, Sana Dua- 1st Runner Up and Priyanka Kumari - 2nd Runner Up.

Apart from giving awards in the six categories there were awards for India's Global Icon and there were also the Special Jury and Global Impact icon awards. It was a hat trick of awards for Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) as A S Kiran Kumar, Indian Space scientist and Chairman of ISRO won the prestigious India's Global Icon award and Kopplli Radhakrishnan former Chairman of ISRO and Myswamy Annadurai, Director of ISRO satellite centre Bangalore, won the Global Indian Awards for Science in recognition of their humungous contributions to Indian space research through Mangalayana and launching of 104 satellites, a first in space technology in the world.

K. Uthaman, hailing from Coimbatore, is a native of Kallappalayam in Tamil Nadu and has spent more than 40 years in the oil/petrochemical industries and has won international recognition in the produced water and oil and gas conferences. He has a passion for saving energy and environment from his childhood days and has been commended with various HSE awards with the recent one being Energy Globe Award 2017 received on World Environment Day on June 5, 2017. He has won Petroleum Economist Honorary Legacy award in London last year and 3 times winner of KOC CEOs prestigious HSSE awards.



## ASSE ORGANIZES TRAINING PROGRAM

To enhance HSE culture in the region and providing a best platform for members to improve their skills and knowledge in HSE profession, American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Kuwait Chapter organized "IOSH Working Safely" training program dated on July 14, 2017, at Best Western Hotel, Mahabola. ASSE Kuwait Chapter is led by Chairman Fadhel Al-Ali, and a non-profit organization which always strives to provide affordable & quality training programs and consultation in the field of Health, Safety and Environment for many companies in Kuwait.

Sunil N Sadanandan, Secretary of ASSE Kuwait chapter briefed about the chapter activities and upcoming programs, Muhammad Alamgir President of ASSE Kuwait chapter term 2017/18 in his welcome

address highlighted the significance of the training courses and appreciated the participants for their interest to learn and enhance their professional development and to get certified by Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (IOSH) of United Kingdom.

Adnan Yousaf, Head of Training Committee, introduced the trainer Aamir Rasheed and thanked the past Presidents and Advisory Committee Members Mohammad K S Mohiuddeen and Rama Krishna Chary, who came forward to encourage the young safety professionals in first training Session of term 2017-18. Aamir Rasheed is a Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner (CMIOSH), Lead Auditor and Tutor of ISO 9001, 14001 and OHSAS 18001, Full Member of IIRSM UK, Lead Tutor of Nebosh IGC, IOSH, HABC Tutor as

well as obtained many International HSE certifications.

Aamir is a Mechanical Engineer and poses 14 years of valuable experience in Oil and Gas, Petrochemical and Construction industries. Currently, he is working as a Safety Engineer in Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and also as Vice President of ASSE KC. The training program was effectively delivered referencing International standards and analyses as well as examples of job related safety situations. Participants who will successfully complete the assessment will receive a certificate from Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH). ASSE Kuwait Chapter will continue its efforts to serve the State of Kuwait and society members in particular, by organizing such important and remarkable events in future.





00:45 Animal Cops Philadelphia  
01:40 The Bronx Zoo  
02:35 Tanked  
03:25 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia  
04:15 Life At Vet University  
05:02 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall  
05:49 Insane Pools: Off The Deep End  
06:36 Call Of The Wildman  
07:00 Call Of The Wildman  
07:25 Life At Vet University  
08:15 The Bronx Zoo  
09:10 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia  
10:05 Tanked  
11:00 Life At Vet University  
11:55 Animal Cops Philadelphia  
12:50 The Bronx Zoo  
13:45 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall  
14:40 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia  
15:35 Tanked  
16:30 Untamed China With Nigel Marven  
17:25 The Lion Queen  
18:20 Wildest Europe  
19:15 Tanked  
20:10 Life At Vet University  
21:05 The Lion Queen  
22:00 Wildest Europe  
22:55 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia  
23:50 Untamed China With Nigel Marven



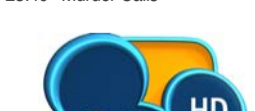
00:00 Escaping Polygamy  
01:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories  
02:00 My Haunted House  
03:00 Psychic Kids: Children Of The Paranormal  
04:00 Escaping Polygamy  
05:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories  
06:00 Evil Up Close  
08:00 The First 48  
09:00 Gangs Of Britain...  
10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
11:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
12:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
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  
23:00 The First 48



00:30 The Big Brain Theory  
01:20 Bondi Vet  
02:10 Kings Of The Wild  
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 How It's Made  
05:00 How It's Made  
05:30 Dirty Jobs  
06:20 Mythbusters  
07:00 Doki  
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild  
07:50 Bad Dog  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:05 How It's Made  
09:30 The Big Brain Theory  
10:20 Mythbusters  
11:10 Bad Dog  
12:00 Ultimate Survival  
12:50 How It's Made  
13:15 How It's Made  
13:40 Dirty Jobs  
14:30 Doki  
14:55 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild  
15:20 Bad Dog  
16:10 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
17:00 Weather Top Tens  
17:50 Storm Chasers  
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds  
19:05 Destroyed In Seconds  
19:30 How It's Made  
19:55 How It's Made  
20:20 Mythbusters  
21:10 Weather Top Tens  
22:00 Storm Chasers  
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds  
23:40 Ultimate Survival



00:30 A Crime To Remember  
01:20 Murder Calls  
02:10 Murder Comes To Town  
03:00 Grave Secrets  
03:48 I Almost Got Away With It  
04:36 I Almost Got Away With It  
05:24 I Almost Got Away With It  
06:12 I Almost Got Away With It  
07:00 Id Kill For You  
07:50 Id Kill For You  
08:40 Id Kill For You  
09:30 Id Kill For You  
10:20 The Locator  
10:45 The Locator  
11:10 Id Kill For You  
12:00 I Almost Got Away With It  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:40 I Almost Got Away With It  
14:30 I Almost Got Away With It  
15:20 The Locator  
15:45 The Locator  
16:10 Love The Way You Lie  
17:00 Southern Fried Homicide  
17:50 Southern Fried Homicide  
18:40 Southern Fried Homicide  
19:30 Southern Fried Homicide  
20:20 The Locator  
21:00 Killer Confessions  
22:10 Murder Comes To Town  
22:50 The Detectives Club: New Orleans  
23:40 Murder Calls



00:00 Hank Zipper  
00:25 Alex & Co.  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Binny And The Ghost  
02:55 Hank Zipper  
03:15 The Hive  
03:20 Hank Zipper  
03:45 Alex & Co.  
04:10 Alex & Co.  
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:00 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  
06:55 Lolo  
07:20 Elena Of Avalor  
07:45 Bunk'd  
08:10 Stuck In The Middle  
08:35 Bizaardvark  
09:00 Austin & Ally  
09:25 Austin & Ally  
09:50 Good Luck Charlie  
10:15 Good Luck Charlie  
10:40 Alex & Co.  
11:05 Lolo  
11:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse  
12:00 Welcome To The Ponks  
12:15 Hank Zipper  
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  
15:40 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  
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
22:50 Lolo  
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:15 Calimero  
00:30 Art Attack  
00:55 Zou  
01:05 Loopidoo  
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:35 Calimero  
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  
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04:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
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05:00 Art Attack  
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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  
09:30 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexit  
09:40 Welcome To Mctuffinsville  
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 Unbungleable  
15:00 Goldie & Bear  
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers  
16:00 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexit  
16:05 A Goofy Fairy Tale  
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  
20:05 The Lion Guard  
20:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
21:00 Goldie & Bear  
21:25 Doc McStuffins  
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
22:00 Sofia The First  
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
22:55 PJ Masks  
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster  
23:35 The Hive  
23:45 Loopidoo



00:20 Wheeler Dealers  
01:05 Blowing Up History  
01:50 Strip The City  
02:35 Sharks And The City: La  
03:20 Fast N' Loud  
04:05 Mega Shippers  
04:50 Gold Rush  
05:35 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Gold Divers  
06:45 Wheeler Dealers  
07:30 Fast N' Loud  
08:15 Mega Shippers  
09:00 Storage Hunters  
09:25 How Do They Do It?  
09:47 How Do They Do It?  
10:10 Blowing Up History  
10:55 Strip The City  
11:40 Made By Destruction  
12:02 Made By Destruction  
12:25 How Do They Do It?  
12:47 Storage Hunters  
13:10 Gold Rush  
13:55 Mega Shippers  
14:40 Gold Divers  
15:25 Fast N' Loud  
15:40 Wheeler Dealers  
16:10 How Do They Do It?  
16:25 How Do They Do It?  
16:40 Storage Hunters  
16:50 Storage Hunters  
17:00 Mega Shippers  
17:40 How Do They Do It?  
18:20 How Do They Do It?  
18:40 How Do They Do It?  
19:10 How Do They Do It?  
20:35 How Do They Do It?  
21:00 Ocean Warriors  
21:50 How Do They Do It?  
22:15 How Do They Do It?  
22:40 Shark Vortex  
23:30 Alien Sharks: Stranger Fins



06:00 Milo Murphy's Law  
06:25 Disney11  
06:50 Mech-X4  
07:15 Right Now Kapow  
07:40 Gravity Falls  
08:05 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
08:10 K.C. Undercover  
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law  
09:00 Supa Strikas  
09:25 Supa Strikas  
09:50 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
10:15 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
10:20 Kickin' It  
10:45 Kickin' It  
11:10 Future-Worm!  
11:35 Lab Rats  
12:00 Lab Rats  
12:30 Atomic Puppet  
12:55 K.C. Undercover  
13:20 K.C. Undercover  
13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
14:15 Future-Worm!  
14:40 Kirby Buckets  
15:00 Lab Rats  
15:30 Walk The Prank  
15:55 Right Now Kapow  
16:25 K.C. Undercover  
16:50 Disney11  
17:15 Mech-X4  
17:40 Milo Murphy's Law  
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
18:10 Gravity Falls  
18:35 Lab Rats  
18:50 Supa Strikas  
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20:20 Mech-X4  
20:45 Disney11  
21:10 Walk The Prank  
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot  
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
21:45 Lab Rats  
22:10 Lab Rats  
22:35 Phineas And Ferb  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



00:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
01:50 El News  
02:50 Celebrity Style Story  
03:50 Botched By Nature  
05:30 Celebrity Style Story  
06:00 The LA Clippers Dance Squad  
06:55 El News  
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
08:10 El News: Daily Pop  
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
10:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
12:00 El News  
12:15 Botched  
15:00 El News  
15:15 El News: Daily Pop  
16:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
17:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
18:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
19:00 El News  
20:00 WAGs Miami  
21:00 WAGs Miami  
22:00 WAGs Miami  
23:00 El News



00:00 Chopped  
01:00 The Great Food Truck Race  
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Chopped  
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
06:00 Barefoot Contessa  
07:00 The Kitchen  
08:00 The Pioneer Woman  
09:00 Sista's Table  
10:00 The Pioneer Woman  
11:00 The Kitchen  
12:00 The Pioneer Woman  
13:00 The Pioneer Woman  
14:00 Sista's Table  
15:00 Sista's Table  
16:45 Poh & Co  
17:15 Poh & Co  
17:40 Fish Of The Day  
18:10 Fearless Chef  
19:05 The Great Food Revolution  
20:00 Sinful Sweets  
20:30 Poh & Co  
21:00 Poh & Co  
21:30 Fish Of The Day  
22:00 Fearless Chef  
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
23:50 Eat Street



00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
01:00 Emmerdale  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Royal Recipes  
03:25 This Is England '90  
04:20 Lewis  
05:15 Seven Days With...  
06:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
07:05 Royal Recipes  
08:00 This Is England '90  
09:00 Lewis  
10:00 Seven Days With...  
10:55 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
11:50 Royal Recipes  
12:45 Emmerdale  
13:15 Coronation Street  
14:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
15:10 Royal Recipes  
16:00 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets  
16:55 Royal Stories  
17:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
17:50 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...  
18:45 Emmerdale  
19:15 Coronation Street  
20:10 Royal Recipes  
21:00 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets  
21:55 Royal Stories  
22:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Coronation Street  
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Discoveries  
01:00 History's Greatest Blunders  
02:00 History's Greatest Blunders  
03:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History  
04:00 Ancient Aliens  
04:30 How 2 Win  
04:30 Serial Killer Earth  
05:20 Ancient Discoveries  
06:10 The Universe  
07:00 History's Greatest Blunders

07:30 History's Greatest Blunders  
08:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History  
09:00 Ancient Aliens  
10:00 How 2 Win  
11:00 The Universe  
12:00 Ancient Discoveries  
13:00 History's Greatest Blunders  
13:30 History's Greatest Blunders  
14:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History  
15:00 Ancient Aliens  
16:00 How 2 Win  
17:00 The Universe  
18:00 Ancient Discoveries  
19:00 History's Greatest Blunders  
19:30 History's Greatest Blunders  
20:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded  
21:00 Ancient Aliens  
22:00 What Really Happened  
23:00 Serial Killer Earth



00:15 Maximum Foodie  
00:45 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt  
01:10 Eat Street  
01:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
02:35 What's For Sale?  
03:00 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt  
03:30 The Food Files  
04:25 The Great Food Revolution  
05:20 Poh & Co  
06:15 Eat Street  
07:10 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
08:05 What's For Sale?  
08:30 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt  
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09:55 The Great Food Revolution  
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12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
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12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
13:35 Eat Street  
14:00 Eat Street  
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20:30 Poh & Co  
21:00 Poh & Co  
21:30 Fish Of The Day  
22:00 Fearless Chef  
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
23:50 Eat Street



00:10 Surgery Ship  
01:00 Invasion Earth  
02:00 The Truth Behind  
03:00 Nazi Megastructures  
04:00 Surgery Ship  
05:00 Doomsday Preppers  
06:00 Science Of Stupid  
06:30 Science Of Stupid  
07:00 World's Most Extreme  
08:00 King Fishers  
09:00 Generals At War  
10:00 Supercar Megabuild  
11:00 Restrepo: Outpost Afghanistan  
12:00 Nazi Megastructures  
13:00 Science Of Stupid  
13:30 Science Of Stupid  
14:00 King Fishers  
15:00 World's Most Extreme  
16:00 Supercar Megabuild  
17:00 Inside  
18:00 Locked Up Abroad  
19:00 World's Most Extreme  
20:00 Supercar Megabuild  
20:50 Inside  
21:40 Locked Up Abroad  
22:30 World's Most Extreme  
23:20 Science Of Stupid  
23:45 Science Of Stupid



00:20 Predator Battleground  
01:10 Monster Fish  
02:00 Croc Labyrinth  
02:50 Rescue Ink  
03:45 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts  
04:40 Extreme Animal Babies Compilations  
05:35 Croc Labyrinth  
06:30 Rescue Ink  
07:25 World's Weirdest Extreme Body Parts  
08:20 Extreme Animal Babies Compilations  
09:15 Wild Case Files  
10:10 World's Deadliest  
11:05 Snakes In The City  
12:00 Australia's Deadliest: Shark Coast  
12:55 Revenge Of The Lioness  
13:50 Rescue Ink

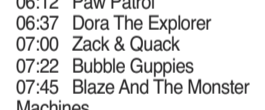
14:45 World's Weirdest: Funny Farms  
15:40 Extreme Animal Babies Compilations  
16:35 Wild Case Files  
17:30 World's Deadliest  
18:25 Snakes In The City  
19:20 World's Weirdest: Funny Farms  
20:10 Extreme Animal Babies Compilations



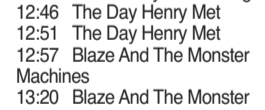
00:12 Henry Danger  
00:36 Get Blake  
01:00 Sanjay And Craig  
01:24 Rabbids Invasion  
01:48 Breadwinners  
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
03:48 Henry Danger  
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
04:36 Breadwinners  
05:00 Breadwinners  
05:24 Game Shakers  
05:48 100 Things To Do Before High School  
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
07:00 The Loud House  
07:24 Rabbids Invasion  
07:48 Get Blake  
08:12 Harvey Beaks  
08:36 Sanjay And Craig  
09:00 Rank The Prank  
09:24 Henry Danger  
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School  
10:12 Game Shakers  
10:36 Regal Academy  
11:00 Winx Club  
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
12:12 The Loud House  
12:36 Breadwinners  
13:00 School Of Rock  
13:24 Hunter Street  
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
14:12 The Thundermans  
14:36 Henry Danger  
15:00 Lost In The West III  
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
16:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
16:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
17:00 Regal Academy  
17:24 Winx Club  
17:48 Hunter Street  
18:12 Henry Danger  
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
19:00 School Of Rock  
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22:12 Breadwinners  
22:36 Harvey Beaks  
23:24 100 Things To Do Before High School  
23:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn



00:02 Max & Ruby  
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:46 The Day Henry Met  
00:51 The Day Henry Met  
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:20 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:42 Zack & Quack  
02:03 Team Umizoomi  
02:26 Olive The Ostrich  
02:31 Olive The Ostrich  
02:35 Paw Patrol  
02:58 Little Charmers  
03:10 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  
05:28 The Day Henry Met  
05:33 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  
08:31 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  
10:42 Zack & Quack  
10:54 Team Umizoomi  
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11:39 Shimmer And Shine  
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13:42 Zack & Quack  
14:04 Team Umizoomi  
14:26 Olive The Ostrich  
14:31 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  
16:32 Shimmer And Shine  
16:54 Dora And Friends  
17:17 Zack & Quack  
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18:00 Rusty Rivets  
18:12 Paw Patrol  
18:37 Dora The Explorer  
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19:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
20:07 Paw Patrol  
20:30 Shimmer And Shine  
20:54 Nella The Princess Knight  
21:16 The Day Henry Met  
21:22 Paw Patrol  
21:45 Rusty Rivets  
21:57 Bubble Guppies  
22:21 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies  
22:43 Zack & Quack  
22:55 Team Umizoomi  
23:18 Shimmer And Shine



00:00 Into The Grizzly Maze  
01:35 Ladder 49  
03:30 Rampage: President Down  
05:15 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.  
07:15 6 Ways To SUNDOWN  
09:00 Ladder 49  
10:55 Shanghai Knights  
12:50 Escape  
14:20 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.  
16:20 Larceny  
17:55 Terminator Genisys  
20:05 In The Heart Of The Sea  
22:10 Zero Tolerance



01:15 No Stranger Than Love  
02:50 Fierce Creatures  
04:25 Trust Me  
05:55 Mr. Deeds  
07:35 Yoga Hosers  
09:05 Fierce Creatures  
10:40 Trust Me  
12:10 Mr. Deeds  
13:50 Big Ass Spider!  
15:15 Daddy's Home  
16:55 Valentine's Day  
19:00 National Security  
20:30 Hot Pursuit  
22:00 The Overnight  
23:25 The Parole Officer



01:00 Taxi Driver  
02:55 My Sister  
04:45 Every Thing Will Be Fine  
06:45 La Bamba  
08:35 The Girl  
10:10 Man In The Moon  
11:55 My Sister  
13:45 Boychoir  
15:30 A Birder's Guide To Everything  
17:00 2001: A Space Odyssey  
19:20 Belles Families  
21:20 A Little Chaos  
23:20 The Reluctant Fundamentalist



00:15 The Middle  
00:40 The Middle  
01:05 One Mississippi

01:30 One Mississippi  
01:55 Better Things  
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 The Last Man On Earth  
06:05 The Last Man On Earth  
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  
12:45 Seinfeld  
13:10 The Middle  
13:35 The Middle  
14:25 Two And A Half Men  
14:50 Mom  
15:15 The Last Man On Earth  
15:40 The Last Man On Earth  
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
17:00 Seinfeld  
17:30 Seinfeld  
18:00 The Middle  
18:30 The Middle  
19:00 American Housewife  
19:30 The Mick  
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
21:00 Seinfeld  
21:30 Seinfeld  
22:00 One Mississippi  
22:30 One Mississippi  
23:00 Better Things  
23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:40 Falling Water  
01:30 The Americans  
02:20 Blindsport  
03:20 Once Upon A Time  
05:00 Good Morning America  
07:00 The View  
07:45 The Chew  
08:30 Falling Water  
09:20 Superjail  
10:10 Once Upon A Time  
11:00 Blindsport  
11:45 The Night Shift  
12:30 The View  
13:15 The Chew  
14:00 Live Good Morning America  
16:00 Once Upon A Time  
17:00 Superjail  
18:00 Blindsport  
19:00 The Night Shift  
20:00 The Night Shift  
21:00 Famous In Love  
22:00 Beyond  
23:00 Blindsport  
23:50 Grimm  
OSN Movies Family HD  
00:40 The Haunted Mansion  
02:15 Snow Day  
03:55 Ice Age  
05:25 Stitch! The Movie  
06:35 The Haunted Mansion  
08:15 Snow Day  
09:55 Rataouille  
11:55 Ice Age  
13:25 Brother Bear  
15:00 Toy Story  
16:25 Ice Age 3: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs  
18:05 Peter Pan Live!  
20:25 A Little Game  
22:00 Brother Bear  
23:30 Toy Story



00:00 Into The Grizzly Maze  
01:35 Ladder 49  
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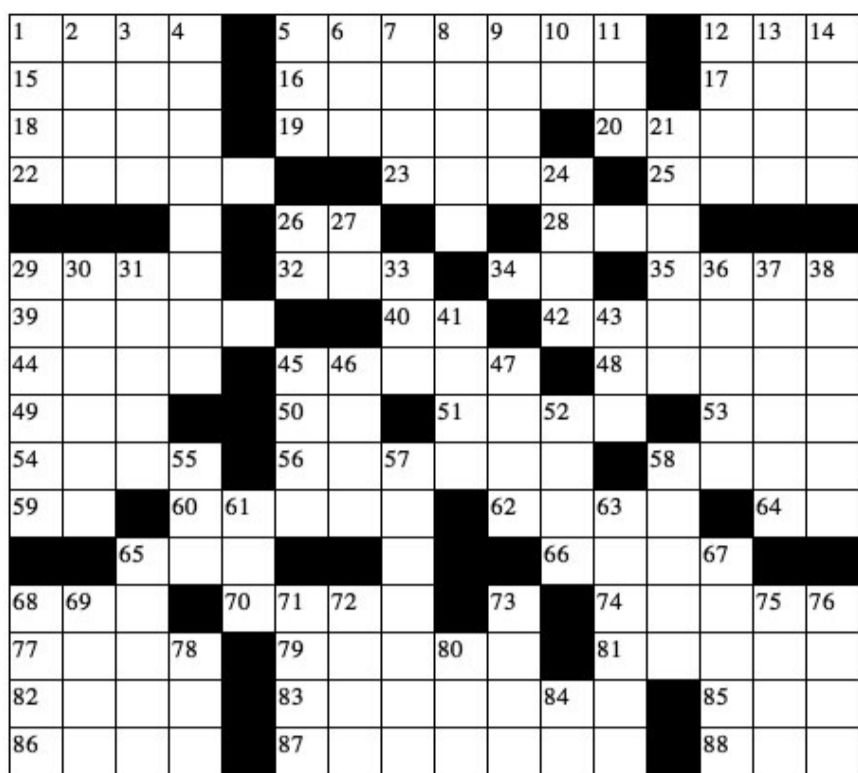


01:10 Bonta  
02:35 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas  
03:45 Vickie And The Treasure Of Gods  
05:25 A.R.C.H.I.E.  
06:55 Paws  
08:20 Oops Noah Is Gone  
09:50 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers  
11:00 Legend Of The Sea  
12:25 Bonta  
13:50 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas  
15:00 Get Squirrelly  
16:25 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers  
17:35 Two Buddies And A Badger  
18:55 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon  
20:15 Get Squirrelly  
21:40 Oops Noah Is Gone  
23:10 Legend Of The Sea



00:00 Wanted  
01:50

CROSSWORD 1670



ACROSS

1. A small cake leavened with yeast.
5. Not angry.
12. A caustic detergent useful for removing grease.
15. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
16. Accumulated earth and stones deposited by a glacier.
17. A tight-fitting headdress.
18. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
19. A means of serving.
20. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
22. Time during which some action is awaited.
23. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
25. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
28. Range of what one can know or understand.
29. Type genus of the Anatidae.
32. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
34. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
35. An inn in some Eastern countries with a large courtyard that provides accommodation for caravans.
39. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
40. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
42. Shrub bearing oval-fruited kumquats.
44. An elementary particle with a negative charge and a half-life of 2 microsecond.
48. The part of the large intestine between the cecum and the rectum.
49. Canadian hockey player (born 1948).
50. (chemistry) P(potential of Hydrogen).
51. Swiss painter influenced by Kandinsky (1879-1940).
53. Japanese ornamental tree with fragrant white or pink blossoms and small yellow fruits.
54. Being or occurring at an advanced period of time or after a usual or expected time.
56. Animal food for browsing or grazing.
59. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
60. A civil or military authority in Turkey or Egypt.
62. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
64. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
66. Noisy talk.
68. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
70. A shop selling delicatessen (as salads or cooked meats).
74. A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
77. A river in central Europe that arises in northwestern Czechoslovakia and flows northward through Germany to empty into the North Sea.
79. The 3rd letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
81. Arranged for pictorial purposes.
82. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
83. A city in southeastern Spain.
85. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
86. The sixth month of the civil year.
87. A bar of sand.
88. A belief (or system of beliefs) accepted as authoritative by some group or school.

DOWN

1. With no effort to conceal.
2. American novelist (1909-1955).
3. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.

4. A resident of Arkansas.
5. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
6. The month following October and preceding December.
7. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
8. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
9. Having the deep slightly brownish color of gold.
10. A radioactive gaseous element formed by the disintegration of radium.
11. An affirmative.
12. A fraudulent business scheme.
13. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
14. (trademark) A tinned luncheon meat made largely from pork.
21. Deciduous dioecious Chinese tree having fan-shaped leaves and fleshy yellow seeds.
24. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
26. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
27. 1/10 gram.
30. Of or relating to the nervous system.
31. Terminate before completion, as of a computer process, a mission, etc..
33. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
36. A board game in which players try to move their pieces into their opponent's bases.
37. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
38. Grandson of Amaterasu and first ruler of Japan.
41. A town and port in northwestern Israel in the eastern Mediterranean.
43. (informal) Of the highest quality.
45. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
46. Title for the former hereditary monarch of Iran.
47. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
52. Suggestive of the supernatural.
55. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
57. Someone who drives a taxi for a living.
58. Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
61. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
63. (New Testament) One of the three sages from the east who came bearing gifts for the infant Jesus.
65. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
67. A river of southwestern Africa that rises in central Angola and flows east and then north (forming part of the border between Angola and Congo) and continuing northwest through Congo to empty into the Congo River on the border between Congo and Republic of the Congo.
69. Wearing or provided with clothing.
71. Oval reproductive body of a fowl (especially a hen) used as food.
72. The basic unit of money on Malta.
73. Loose or flaccid body fat.
75. A transparent optical device used to converge or diverge transmitted light and to form images.
76. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
78. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
80. Either extremity of something that has length.
84. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Elevate your intake of foods or supplements in order to stay alert and clear. You will want to feel good about yourself and the way you do things-this addition to your diet will certainly help your feeling of wellbeing. Be wise in your task to eliminate as much unnecessary stress as you can. Delegate some of your workload and say no when you feel there are unreasonable demands on your time. This is the time of the year to get outside and enjoy nature. Create and plan some fun opportunities to do just that-having fun with friends, co-workers, loved ones, etc., can lift everyone's energies. Work, health, diet and the other things that take care of us if we take care of them can provide a lot of satisfaction as a new life phase begins for you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

As a kind and considerate person, you will probably be helping your mom or sister with a move or some repair or a gardening project soon and you work to find boxes and someone from whom you can borrow a truck with which to be helpful with the project. A weekend move or some other project needs preparation and you have begun to list the things you can do to make that move a little easier. Your schedule at work is tedious and the occasional break in your day creates the distraction to which you take pleasure in contributing your energy. You enjoy helping and you have learned to say no when you are not able to help. You are able to help others see guidelines that they may not have considered. Music is for tonight. Happy birthday!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The team spirit is strong this morning but can easily fall apart later in the day when there is a probability of some jealousy. Perhaps it is only competition that becomes a problem. Because you now know to be aware of this difficulty you can change frustrations to a satisfied result. You are in line to lead others, or perhaps you already lead others. You can handle emotional and personal issues-vulnerable areas-where angels fear to tread. You can eliminate most in-house difficulties. Quite a bit of personal research may be required for a class or just for some project you enjoy. You may find that scrolling through the links on a specific subject you will soon be writing down facts and data that complete your research. Rest early-this is a busy day.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Whatever it is you are doing today brings with it the opportunity to improve situations around you. The job of decorating or plotting out a plan which needs equations and percentages results in successful expressions of your abilities. Your profession shines and encourages others to make a positive impression with the talents they can exhibit. Being musically inclined you may enjoy singing on the trip home-your personality is infectious which invites others to jump in and join you in your music. You meet people easily and enjoy hanging out with your friends in the afternoon and sometimes in the evening. Learn from people who share your talents and you will advance in several areas of your life. You enjoy passing on your own experiences as well.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Yours is the most practical of environments. You can manipulate every idea or situation and put it to good use. Others value you for your ability to make no-nonsense decisions and you may receive compliments along those lines today. Someone will come to you with a just-suppose type of problem. You always seem sensible and will be able to lend good advice. Be careful that you do not become opinionated, however. You are, for the most part, unmoved by tears and feelings. Clear decisions affecting others can be made. You could be a bit restless this afternoon and may enjoy some fun time with friends. Be careful in the choices you make regarding the membership to some new club or group. Exciting new experiences await you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have a definite sense of mission today. Above all, you are progressive and you enjoy putting into practice that which is good for all. Some may find your job most difficult but you tend to enjoy the intricate ways to use your brain. Change and inner growth tends to come through your relationships with both friends and loved ones. Marriage could be very intense and not at all superficial. You may find yourself in a quandary between an environment that is very comfortable and supportive versus a real need to grow and progress. Making these two directions work together may be the big topic today. This evening there is plenty of time to enjoy the company of family. Laughter can be heard where the people gather in your home.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

The aggressiveness you may be feeling this day can be used to push forward with your business plans. When it comes to mental work, you have a perfect gift for research and investigation. You enjoy examining and analyzing, in particular when it comes to psychological and sensitive areas of the mind. Your ability to sift through the dross and come up with what is essential is exceptional. You like to discuss and communicate, again, at a psychological and very personal level. Your mind is often on communication, how you present yourself and come across with others. This afternoon you will be able to spend some relaxing and enjoyable time with loved ones. You may feel unusually affectionate and physical this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Communicating is fun this morning. The mind and all that is mental will be the source of continued change and adjustment. Letters, writing, speaking and all the things that have to do with cognitive work assume great importance. Your mind tends to be full of new and creative ideas and concepts regarding some changes in your work development. The result of your efforts is attention-grabbing and you will find much satisfaction. You may be involved in hours of involved conversation with loved ones over how you will proceed with some changes at home, especially in obtaining a building permit. You have very clear insight, even genius, when it comes to discovering or inventing things. You require no teaching and your timing is perfect.



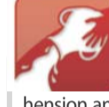
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This seems to be a very superficial morning. It may not be possible for you to comprehend anything remotely meaningful or moving. There is perhaps a sense of the artificial, repetitive and senseless. You cannot seem to begin a project. Perhaps the out-of-doors is calling. Allow yourself some time to develop a working plan. While contemplating the day, you could come up with new ideas for adventure and relaxation-after the chores. This afternoon you seem better able to contend with any previous sluggishness. You are in a great mood this evening and can appreciate your own better qualities. You may see value in an older person or someone in authority. Everything comes together this evening and you are appreciative of life and love, etc.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may feel that you might lose your mind under the current mental pressure; you will not. You will benefit from logical insights, getting to the heart of things. This is a real time to work on your specific projects and to strengthen your career. After the noon break you may find that you need to perform some research at a library or museum. Fresh insight comes to you through mass-media news reports such as broadcasting, publishing, advertising-giving you a whole new perspective on a particular subject. You enjoy and appreciate your life situation. Your system of values may deepen, providing you with a better sense of discrimination and good taste. Romance is a plus this evening. A good beginning is a lovely dinner designed by you.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Conflicts in the workplace can be settled through your intelligent comprehension and reason can be used in order to find positive results. You sense the needs of your customers and finding what fits their needs makes for successful outcomes. Selling property, collecting money and involving yourself in some supervisory activity are all favored today. Your waking time is filled with the job of fulfilling your life and helping others to fulfill theirs. It is important to you, that you do work or express your talents in ways that are heartwarming as well as financially fulfilling. Tonight you and your loved one may decide to venture a guess as to where or what you will be doing in two years, five years, etc. The future begins to take a positive shape.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are conservative and security-conscious and may have suggestions about better protecting important documents or valuables. There is a yearning to broaden your horizons. Law, politics, education, travel and religion are some of the areas where you may talk about having further adventures. Everything works together to bring out your unique traits. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your ideas. There is some indication of restlessness on your part and you may not appreciate someone's unrealistic approach to a situation. This evening you are able to put the finishing touches on some long-awaited creative venture. You would be smart to develop your creations more often and sell them.

Wordsearch Puzzle

More 80's Songs

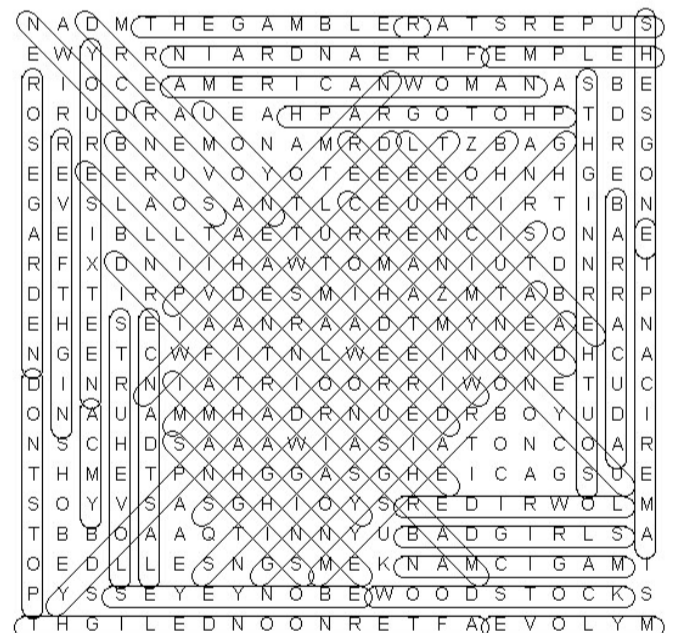
Find and circle all of the 1980's song titles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an Elton John song.



- AFRICA ALWAYS AMERICA BEAT IT BROKEN WINGS CALL ME CONTROL CRUISIN' DOWN UNDER ENDLESS LOVE FAITHFULLY FAME FAST CAR FREEDOM
- GLORIA GUILTY HEARTBREAKER HEAVEN HOLD ME HUMAN HUNGRY HEART INFATUATION KOKOMO LA BAMBA LET'S DANCE MAGIC MANIC MONDAY MONY MONY
- NEVER NOTORIOUS OUR HOUSE PASSION PATIENCE PINK HOUSES PURPLE RAIN ROCK ON SAILING LA BARBA SARA SATISFIED SHOUT SONGBIRD SUKIYAKI
- SUSSUDIO THE FLAME THE LOOK THE ROSE TIME TOO SHY TRUZY TWO HEARTS VACATION VOICES CARRY WE BELONG WHIP IT YOUR LOVE

Yesterday's Solution

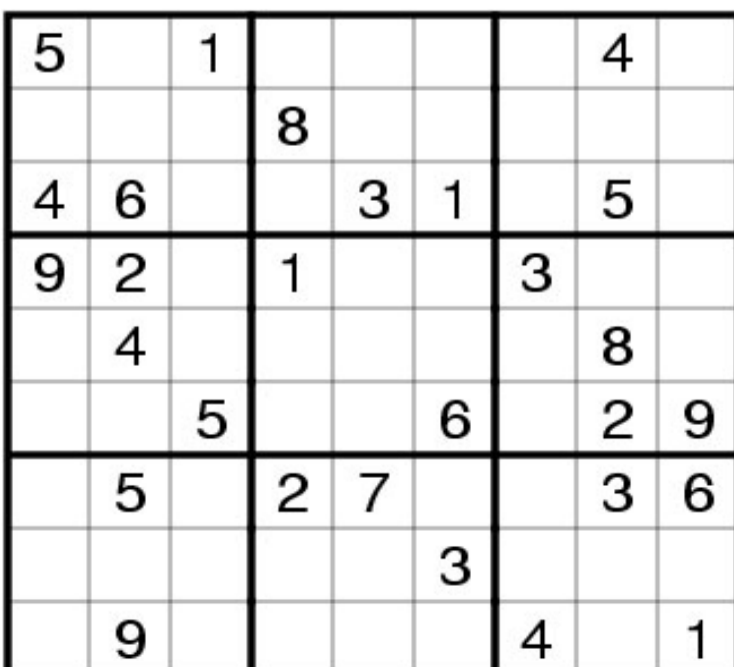
More 70's Songs



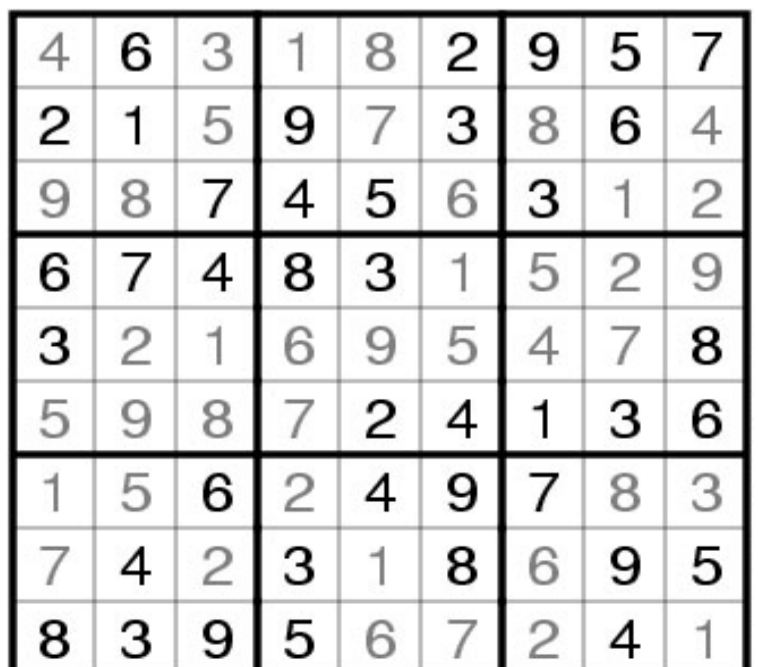
- AFTERNOON DELIGHT AMERICAN PIE AMERICAN WOMAN ANNIE'S SONG BAD GIRLS BARACUDA BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY BROTHER LOUIE CRAZY ON YOU DELTA DAWN DON'T STOP
- DREAM ON DREAM WEAVER DRIFT AWAY EBONY EYES FIRE AND RAIN HELP ME IMAGINE LAST DANCE LET IT BE LOVE HURTS LOW RIDER
- MAGIC MAN MAIN STREET MARGARITAVILLE MY LOVE MY SHARONA NIGHT FEVER PHOTOGRAPH PIANO MAN REUNITED ROSE GARDEN SHADOW DANCING
- SHE'S GONE SIGNS SOUTHERN NIGHTS SUMMER NIGHTS SUNDOWN SUPERSTAR THE GAMBLER WITHOUT YOU WOODSTOCK Y.M.C.A. YOU'RE SIXTEEN

Hidden words: AMERICA BREAD NAZARETH HEART BLONDIE BOSTON CHICAGO ABBA QUEEN KISS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



# CLASSIFIEDS



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 Now you can browse  
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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

### KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (27/07/2017 TO 02/08/2017)

Time	Channel	Programme
8:00 PM	BANK AL HATH	ATOMIC BLONDE
10:15 PM	BANK AL HATH	ATOMIC BLONDE
12:30 AM	BANK AL HATH	ATOMIC BLONDE
1:45 PM	BANK AL HATH	ATOMIC BLONDE
4:15 PM	BANK AL HATH	ATOMIC BLONDE
6:45 PM	BANK AL HATH	ATOMIC BLONDE
9:15 PM	BANK AL HATH	ATOMIC BLONDE
11:45 PM	BANK AL HATH	ATOMIC BLONDE
11:30 AM	FANAR-2	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
2:15 PM	FANAR-2	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
5:00 PM	FANAR-2	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
7:45 PM	FANAR-2	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
10:00 PM	FANAR-2	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
12:45 AM	FANAR-2	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
12:30 PM	FANAR-3	MUBARAKAN - Hindi
1:40 PM	FANAR-3	DESPICABLE ME 3
3:35 PM	FANAR-3	DESPICABLE ME 3
5:30 PM	FANAR-3	MUBARAKAN - Hindi
8:30 PM	FANAR-3	BABY DRIVER
10:45 PM	FANAR-3	BOYKA: UNDISPUTED
12:40 AM	FANAR-3	BOYKA: UNDISPUTED
11:30 AM	FANAR-5	BANK AL HATH
2:00 PM	FANAR-5	DESPICABLE ME 3
4:15 PM	FANAR-5	BABY DRIVER
6:30 PM	FANAR-5	BANK AL HATH
9:00 PM	FANAR-5	BANK AL HATH
11:30 AM	MARINA-1	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
1:30 PM	MARINA-1	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
12:45 PM	MARINA-1	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
3:30 PM	MARINA-1	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING
6:15 PM	MARINA-1	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
8:15 PM	MARINA-1	ATOMIC BLONDE
10:30 PM	MARINA-1	ATOMIC BLONDE
12:45 AM	MARINA-1	ATOMIC BLONDE
12:00 PM	MARINA-2	CARS 3
2:15 PM	MARINA-2	DESPICABLE ME 3
4:15 PM	MARINA-2	CARS 3
6:30 PM	MARINA-2	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
9:15 PM	MARINA-2	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
12:05 AM	MARINA-2	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
1:35 PM	MARINA-2	DESPICABLE ME 3
1:15 PM	MARINA-2	DUNKIRK
3:30 PM	MARINA-2	DUNKIRK
5:45 PM	MARINA-2	DUNKIRK
8:00 PM	MARINA-2	DUNKIRK
10:15 PM	MARINA-2	BABY DRIVER
12:30 AM	MARINA-2	BABY DRIVER
11:30 AM	AVENUES-1	DUNKIRK
12:25 PM	AVENUES-2	DUNKIRK -2D-4DX
2:30 PM	AVENUES-2	DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX
4:30 PM	AVENUES-2	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
7:15 PM	AVENUES-2	ATOMIC BLONDE -2D-4DX
9:45 PM	AVENUES-2	DUNKIRK -2D-4DX
12:05 AM	AVENUES-2	ATOMIC BLONDE -2D-4DX
1:35 PM	AVENUES-3	DESPICABLE ME 3
1:00 PM	AVENUES-3	ATOMIC BLONDE
3:30 PM	AVENUES-3	ATOMIC BLONDE
5:45 PM	AVENUES-3	ATOMIC BLONDE
8:00 PM	AVENUES-3	ATOMIC BLONDE
10:15 PM	AVENUES-3	ATOMIC BLONDE
12:30 AM	AVENUES-3	ATOMIC BLONDE
11:40 AM	AVCARS 3	CARS 3
1:55 PM	AVCARS 3	CARS 3
4:10 PM	AVCARS 3	CARS 3
6:25 PM	AVCARS 3	CARS 3
8:40 PM	AVCARS 3	MUBARAKAN - Hindi
11:40 PM	AVCARS 3	MUBARAKAN - Hindi
12:00 PM	360-1	DUNKIRK
2:15 PM	360-1	DUNKIRK
4:30 PM	360-1	DUNKIRK
6:45 PM	360-1	DUNKIRK
9:15 PM	360-1	DUNKIRK
11:30 PM	360-1	DUNKIRK
11:30 AM	360-2	DESPICABLE ME 3
1:35 PM	360-2	DESPICABLE ME 3
3:35 PM	360-2	DESPICABLE ME 3
5:40 PM	360-2	KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horob Ejbary)
8:20 PM	360-2	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
10:45 PM	360-2	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
12:45 AM	360-2	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
11:40 AM	360-3	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
2:25 PM	360-3	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
5:10 PM	360-3	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
7:55 PM	360-3	DESPICABLE ME 3
9:55 PM	360-3	LONDON HEIST
11:55 PM	360-3	LONDON HEIST

### FOR RENT

**Flats for rent in Kheitan looks at airport road**

- ◆ 3 bedrooms ◆ Saloon
- ◆ Kitchen ◆ 3 bathrooms

**Free services for you and your family**

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### REQUIRED

**A Filipino sales man/woman**

with good skills to work in a food kiosk

Transferable article 18

**Mob: 99121787**

### Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

**1889988**

**EMERGENCY 112**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:34
Shorook:	05:04
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:30
Maghrib:	18:44
Isha:	20:12

### WANTED

Indians or Srilankans

- ★ **SALESMAN**  
Experienced in selling boats and marine equipment.
- ★ **STOREKEEPER**  
Experienced in barcodes, entering data, and accounting.
- ★ **DRIVER**  
With heavy license experienced in towing boats.

All C.V should be sent by  
**Fax : 24849688**

### REQUIRED

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**General Requirements**

- ◆ Experience in Kuwait not less than 3 years.
- ◆ Transferable residence
- ◆ Car and a valid driving license
- ◆ Bilingual (English & Arabic)

**Email CV to [jobkw2013@gmail.com](mailto:jobkw2013@gmail.com)**  
**Call: 97272485 / Fax: 24735554**

## 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 Thursday 27/7/2017				Departure Flights on Thursday 27/7/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	JZR	239	Amman	12:25
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	FEG	933	Sohag	12:55
KAC	102	London	00:15	MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	KAC	514	Tehran	13:10
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	KAC	522	Al Najaf	13:40
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC	792	Madinah	13:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KAC	352	Kochi	14:20
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	618	Doha	14:20
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25
KKK	6506	Kozhikode	01:55	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	562	Amman	15:10
THY	768	Istanbul	02:35	FDB	8053	Dubai	15:25
MEA	406	Beirut	02:50	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	GFA	221	Bahrain	15:30
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	SAW	705	Damascus	15:50
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	JZR	257	Beirut	16:20
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	118	New York	16:25
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:05	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50
JZR	1543	Cairo	04:45	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
THY	1414	TZK	05:05	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	744	Dammam	19:05
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	8511	Dubai	06:25	NIA	161	Cairo	19:15
QTR	206	Doha	06:35	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
KAC	284	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	174	Munich	19:25
KAC	302	Dhaka	06:40	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30
KAC	156	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:45
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	178	Vienna	19:45
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC	620	Doha	20:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	20:20
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	564	Amman	21:00
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	168	Paris	21:05
FDK	803	Damascus	10:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
AHY	5101	GYP	10:15	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:20	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
KAC	774	Riyadh	10:45	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	JZR	241	Amman	22:55
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:15	JZR	185	Dubai	23:00
				MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30
				MSC	405	Sohag	23:30
				FDB	071	Dubai	23:35

MUSIC & MOVIES



Cast and crew of Warner Bros Pictures 'DUNKIRK' attend the Warner Bros Pictures 'DUNKIRK' US premiere at AMC Loews Lincoln Square in New York City. —AP/AFP photos



This image released by Warner Bros Pictures shows Fionn Whitehead in a scene from 'Dunkirk.'



This image released by Warner Bros Pictures shows Tom Hardy in a scene from 'Dunkirk.'

Film review

# Dunkirk: Elevating the cinematic experience

By Aakash Bakaya

How lucky are we to be living in the era of Christopher Nolan. No matter whether you love or despise his work, it's hard to dismiss the massive impact they leave in movie halls across the globe. Nolan has a way of creating thought-provoking narratives that effortlessly intervene with grandiose and epic sequences that simply must be watched on the big screen. He's given me some of my fondest memories in a cinema and his newest film 'Dunkirk' continues that streak.

The first thing you should expect from 'Dunkirk' is that it's attempting to recreate a real-life war story in a truly unique manner. Time will have it compared to other classics of the genre such as 'Apocalypse Now', 'Bridge on the River Kwai' and 'Saving Private Ryan', just to name a few. But here Nolan doesn't try emulating those films by constructing a story around an experience - instead he constructs an experience around a story.

The film's plot revolves around the evacuation of the British army from the French coastal town of Dunkirk during

the initial stages of World War 2. With Nazi Germany ploughing its way through France, the British army is forced to retreat back to its own shores. Our entryway into the story begins a few days into the evacuation, as the desperation to leave is reaching a fever pitch. Thousands of men are stranded on the beach, while the British army is growing reluctant to invest more military power and equipment into what seems like a hopeless cause.

Waiting for rescue doesn't sound like the most gripping of war stories, but 'Dunkirk' will leave you clinging onto your seat for the entire duration of the movie. Nolan builds this tension using one of his best known techniques - the non-linear narrative. After the first 10 minutes, the narrative is divided into three separate but interwoven plotlines. The first shows the perspective from the beachfront, the second from a civilian vessel volunteering to take part in the rescue and the third from the skies, where a British air squadron is sent to deal with German bombers attacking the stranded military personnel.

Free of dialogue

It's not obvious at first what Nolan is attempting to achieve

with this structure, but once the plotlines start connecting, you'll be left astonished at the feat. It's different and daring, especially for a modern big-budget blockbuster, but Nolan always finds an exceptional way of telling his story.

Aside from the narrative structure, special mention must be given to the absolutely stellar sound design of the movie. From the very first gunshot to the earth-shattering impact of bombs landing right next our protagonist, you'll be in awe and more than slightly terrified of what these men had to patiently wait through. Planes screech across the sky like banshees from hell and gunfire reverberates deep within your ear. As for the music, Hans Zimmer's score yet again perfectly captures Nolan's tremendous visuals and action sequences. It's slightly more subtle and more experimental than his previous scores and many times you will think it was just one long single track.

Like the soundtrack, it really does feel like Nolan's most experimental film to date. Even with credits like 'Inception' and 'Interstellar' under his belt, he admits to this fact himself in many interviews regarding the making of 'Dunkirk'. There are long drawn-out sequences almost completely free of dia-

logue and the visuals at times give off an eerie, almost unworldly aspect to the surroundings. There's also no big, climatic battle sequence, nor is there much in the way of exposition. You piece together what's happening solely through its visuals, background details and character emotions, much like a silent film. This approach doesn't hamper the story nor does it prevent the atmosphere from being overwhelmingly suspenseful.

It's funny how the film starts to grow on you. Coming out of the IMAX screening with a friend, we were both so full of praise for it but we also knew that it could possibly not be for everyone. The silent moments might drag on for some and the impact of the story's conclusion could easily vary from inspiring to insipid. But having at those thoughts for a while and replaying those stunning visuals in my head - I can't help but heap an outpouring of accolades 'Dunkirk' so richly deserves. Once again Nolan elevates the cinematic experience and will cement memories that will stay with you long after you leave the theatre.

## Barbara Sinatra, Frank's wife and philanthropist, dies

Barbara Sinatra, the fourth wife of legendary singer Frank Sinatra and a prominent children's advocate and philanthropist who raised millions of dollars to help abused youngsters, died Tuesday. She was 90. Sinatra died of natural causes at her Rancho Mirage, California, home surrounded by family and friends, said John Thoresen, director of the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center.



In this file photo, Barbara Sinatra appears at the National Italian American Foundation's 33rd Anniversary Awards Gala in Washington. — AP

With her husband's help, she founded a nonprofit center in Rancho Mirage in 1986 to provide therapy and other support to young victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. In the years since, Thoresen said, more than 20,000 children have been treated at the center and hundreds of thousands more worldwide through videos it provides.

A former model and Las Vegas showgirl, Barbara Sinatra was a prominent Palm Springs socialite in her own right before she married her husband in 1976, when he was 60 and she 49. They remained wed until his death at 82 in 1998. It was her third marriage, Sinatra's fourth and the most enduring union for both.

She met Sinatra through her second husband, Zeppo Marx of the famous Marx Brothers comedy team. The couple had been close friends and neighbors with Sinatra in Rancho Mirage until she left Marx for the singer in 1973. Frank Sinatra, then single, had previously been

married to his teenage sweetheart Nancy Sinatra, the mother of their children Nancy, Tina and the late Frank Jr.; Ava Gardner, who died in 1990; and Mia Farrow.

Raising funds

A notorious womanizer throughout much of his life, Frank Sinatra didn't ask his fourth wife to marry him until she threatened to leave if he didn't, she recalled in her 2011 memoir, "Lady Blue Eyes: My Life With Frank Sinatra." Both played prominent roles at the children's center after she founded it in 1986.

"Frank would come over and sit and read to the kids," Thoresen said of the sometimes volatile entertainer. "But the best way she used Frank," he added with a chuckle, "was she would say, 'I need a half-million dollars for this, so you do a concert and I get half the money.'"

She remained active at the center until recently, pushing for creation of the video program just last year, raising funds and dropping by often to make sure the children had what they needed, Thoresen said. Already a socialite in the Palm Springs area through her marriage to Marx, Sinatra mingled with such celebrities as Dinah Shore, Marilyn Monroe and Tony Curtis, raising money for numerous charitable causes before establishing the children's center.

Those years were a far cry from earlier, more modest ones she described in her memoir. Born Barbara Blakely in Bosworth, Missouri, she recalled growing up poor and friendless. She moved with her family to Wichita, Kansas, when she was 10 and to Long Beach, California, at 18. It was in Wichita where, like millions of other teenage girls in the 1940s, she fell in love with a voice on the radio. "Frank Sinatra had always been part of my life - from when I first heard the singer everybody was talking about as a 15-year-old butcher's daughter," she said. Her first marriage, to a Sinatra-style singer, was brief as he struggled to find work. They split shortly after the birth of her son and she married Marx in 1959. She is survived by her son, Robert Oliver Marx, and a grand-daughter, Carina Blakeley Marx. Funeral arrangements are pending. — AP

## MTV scraps gender categories as Kendrick leads VMA nods

MTV has rid itself of gender-specific categories as the network revealed nominees Tuesday for this year's Video Music Awards, in which rapper Kendrick Lamar is in the lead. In the age of President Donald Trump and the fierce backlash he has generated among cultural leaders, MTV also announced a new category of "Best Fight Against the System" to recognize activist music. The awards will air worldwide from Los Angeles on August 27. Reflecting its social media push, the music and youth culture network announced the nominations through posts by well-followed figures on Instagram. Lamar, one of the most acclaimed figures in hip-hop, received the most nominations at eight, including Video of the Year for "HUMBLE," an ironic look at fame in which he appears clad as the pope and as Jesus in "The Last Supper."

Tied for second with five nominations are Katy Perry for her sci-fi amusement park fantasy "Chained to the Rhythm" and The Weeknd for his star-studded "Reminder." The Video Music Awards for the first time will not divide by gender with a new Artist of the Year prize incorporating the top male and female categories. The network said in a statement that it was out to "break barriers" and had a positive response when it eliminated gender groups at this year's MTV Movie and TV Awards.

Nominees for Artist of the Year include four men-Lamar and The Weeknd, along with Bruno Mars and Ed Sheeran-and two women, Ariana Grande and Lorde. Virtually all major US awards



In this file photo, Kendrick Lamar performs during the Festival d'ete de Quebec in Quebec City, Canada. — AP

including the Grammys and Oscars have separate male and female categories. The rare awards that mix male and female nominees include the Mercury Prize which, with an arthouse sensibility, recognizes the top British or Irish album each year-and the Juno Awards for Canadian artists.

Serious notes for gala party

Winners in the major categories are determined by voting by fans through the awards' website, vma.mtv.com. The Video Music Awards have usually been more about the spectacle than the ultimate winners, with the network gladly offering a global

platform to celebrities. Pop culture moments of past galas have included Lady Gaga wearing a dress of raw meat, Madonna making out on stage with Britney Spears and Beyonce showing off a baby bump for her first child with Jay-Z.

But taking a serious turn, MTV announced the new "Best Fight Against the System" award to celebrate videos "that inspire viewers to stand up and fight injustice." The nominees include John Legend's "Surefire," whose video dramatizes anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim sentiment in the United States, and the celebratory "Immigrants: We Get the Job Done" from the blockbuster musical "Hamilton."

Other nominees are the diversity-hailing "Black SpiderMan" by biracial rapper Logic, Big Sean's "Light" about overcoming adversity including racial discrimination and Alessia Cara's "Scars to Your Beautiful" about body image. Also in the running is "Stand Up / Stand N Rock #NoDAPL," a hip-hop anthem led by Black Eyed Peas' Taboo to rally against the Dakota Access Pipeline opposed by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe on environmental and cultural grounds. Nominees for Best New Artist-often a sign of fast-rising stardom-were R&B singers SZA and Khalid, rappers Kodak Black and Young M.A., pop songwriter Julia Michaels and Noah Cyrus, the 17-year-old actress and sister of Miley Cyrus who is readying her debut album. — AFP

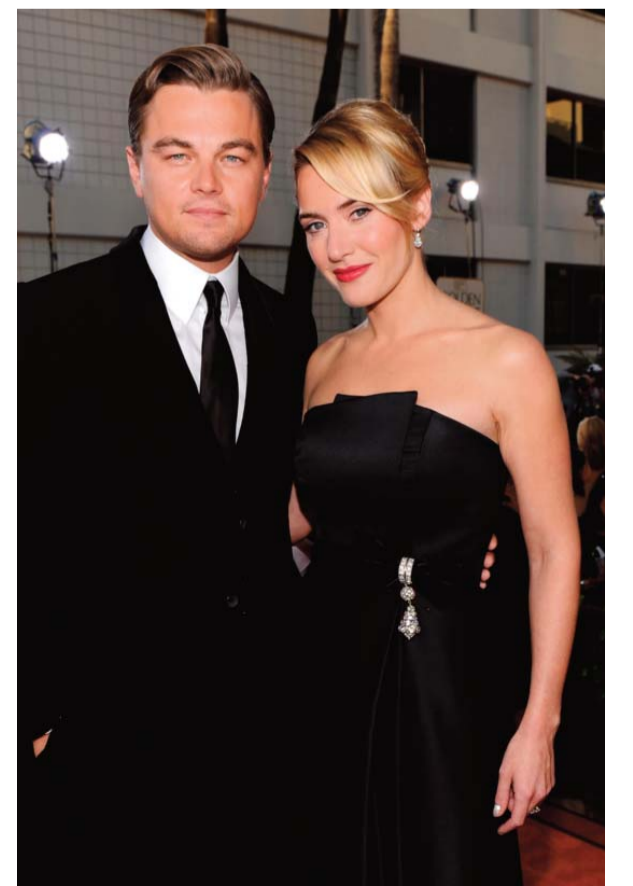
## LEO AND KATE WILL BE YOUR DATE, FOR THE RIGHT PRICE

Ever yearned to swap tales of the sea with "Titanic" stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet? Well strap on your life jacket, because the pair are auctioning off a private dinner in their exclusive company for charity, a spokesman for the actor told AFP on Tuesday. The glamorous date-planned for a restaurant of the winner's choice in New York City in the fall-is among several lots being offered at the star-studded Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation gala in the French resort of Saint-Tropez on Thursday.

The environmentally-minded charity raised \$45 million during its auction last year, according to the Los Angeles Times. Oscar winners DiCaprio, 42, and Winslet, 41, played star-crossed lovers Jack and Rose in James Cameron's 1998 retelling of the sinking of the Titanic, and were reunited in 2009 as a warring couple in "Revolutionary Road." While saving the

planet has been DiCaprio's preoccupation for years, Winslet is involved with charities helping autistic children, as well as organizations for the homeless and disadvantaged people with cancer.

The lot is the latest example of a burgeoning celebrity trend of offering dinner dates or other face-to-face meetings to raise cash for charity. British actor Idris Elba agreed to share Valentine's Day this year with the highest bidder in aid of the "WE. Can Lead" initiative, which provides education for African youngsters. "It is one of the easiest ways for celebrities to contribute," a public relations specialist told AFP on condition of anonymity, adding that it generates huge amounts of cash. — AFP



Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio

## FEATURES

## LEBANESE ROCK SINGER URGES MEN TO CHAMPION WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN MIDDLE EAST

The lead singer of a Lebanese rock band, which has courted controversy for its songs dealing with homophobia and sexism, has urged more men to champion women's rights in the Middle East. Hamed Sinno, the openly gay frontman of Mashrou' Leila, also called for more women in politics and for discriminatory laws to be repealed. "No one is saying that we should arbitrarily just get rid of all men in power and substitute them with women, but there is a question about ... why it is that we still have this many issues with women's representation, with women in government and other rights," he said.

Mashrou' Leila, which is on a world tour, has made headlines for singing about subjects that are largely taboo in the Arabic pop scene, including politics, religion, social justice, and sexual freedom. The group has garnered a loyal following in the Middle East, but has also received death threats on social media and was banned from playing in Jordan last month.

Jordanian parliamentarian Dima Tahboub suggested in media interviews that the ban was linked to Sinno's homosexuality. In a statement on Facebook, Mashrou' Leila said the ban was symptomatic of "the fanatical conservatism that has contributed in making the region increasingly toxic over the last decade". Speaking by phone from New York, Sinno told the Thomson Reuters Foundation there was a lot of work to be done in the struggle for gender equality in the Middle East.

He criticized the lack of female representation in government in the region, wage inequality, women's right to govern their own bodies, and Lebanon's rape laws, which include a provision that allows a rapist to avoid punishment by marrying his victim. The 29-year-old American-Lebanese singer said men should celebrate the achievements of leading women in the Middle East and he praised Muslim feminists, including the writers Mona Eltahawy and Maya Mikdashi, for "disturbing

patriarchal codes". Sinno, who has described his all-male band as "extremely vocal feminists", also said he was fed up of western stereotyping of Middle Eastern women as "passive".

The band's new music video by female Lebanese director Jessy Moussallem - released last week with their song "Roman" - is intended to challenge the way Muslim and Arab women are portrayed, he said. The video shows dozens of women wearing traditional Islamic dress uniting around a powerful central figure who performs a striking contemporary dance wearing an abaya (loose-fitting robe) and hijab. Sinno said the video was a celebration of Muslim women's ability to empower each other. The male members of the band take a backseat in the video. "Having men there not doing anything was basically what the point was," Sinno added. — Reuters



Photo shows Lebanese Rock band Mashrou' Leila.



American Gregory Marshall, 71-years-old, poses in his French made 2 CV (Citroen) automobile modified to look like an American army vehicle at the old railway station in Dracy-Saint-Loup, central France. — AFP photos



American Gregory Marshall poses on a 1910 steam locomotive.



American Gregory Marshall (right) and Gregory Godessart (left) look at the tracks at the old railway station in Dracy-Saint-Loup.

## Quirky US-French museum to offer night on Orient Express

Visitors to a quirky rail museum in France's Burgundy region, the brainchild of US entrepreneur Gregory Marshall, will have a new opportunity to spend a night on the legendary Orient Express. Two carriages and a locomotive from the line created in 1883 to carry the well-heeled from Paris to Constantinople, as Istanbul was then called, are the jewel of Marshall's growing collection of steam trains for a hotel-cum-museum he hopes to open next year.

The Orient Express stopped serving Istanbul in 1977 when the service was shortened and the fabled train made its last journey in December 2009. Dating from 1948, Marshall's Orient Express carriages include a luxurious restaurant car which features a cylinder phonograph among its period highlights-where guests will dine. Marshall's "dream train" project is centred on a disused railway station nestled among century-old oaks and aspens in the village of Dracy-Saint-Loup, population 600.

Once he brings the long-deserted station, built in 1882, back to life, "it'll be great for kids," said the white-haired Marshall, who looks far younger than his 71 years. "I've loved trains since I was a child," said Marshall, a former US Marine who remembers the first toy train set his father gave him when he was five or six years old. "Almost everybody of my age, older, or a little bit younger, has memories of steam locomotives," Marshall said.

"But in regular museums there's no participation, people can't get on (the trains), and really enjoy them, have an adventure." The last locomotive to arrive at the site was a Cockerill from Belgium, taking its place beside a huge steam engine dating from 1916. Marshall's French manager, Gregory Godessart, says guests cannot expect to enjoy all the modern comforts, but just "to have fun spending the night in the Orient Express." So far one of the wagons is practically ready to take paying guests, with Marshall aiming for a spring 2018 opening.

For his own sleeping comfort, Marshall plans a "double-decker" carriage that will be his main residence at the Dracy-Saint-Loup station, which lies on a now defunct line that meanders through Burgundy's Morvan highlands and has not seen a passenger since 2011. Marshall, who made a

fortune from some telecommunications patents, bought the dilapidated building from the French state railway company SNCF in September 2016. He knows his "dream train" project is going to bust the 200,000 euro (\$230,000) budget he set. But he doesn't mind.

over. "I'm not happy if I do the same thing for too long," he said. Marshall has a collection of Citroen's emblematic Deux Chevaux (2CV) cars, including one that he has adapted to look like a World War II-era US army vehicle. One day he hopes to ship over to France the last home of the pioneering avi-



American Gregory Marshall (right) and Gregory Godessart (left) pull a 1910 steam locomotive at the old railway station in Dracy-Saint-Loup, central France.

## Heritage

Formerly active with American heritage groups, Marshall hopes his station and its historic rolling stock will earn a historic classification in France. Marshall is not only about steam trains. An avid pilot, he owns a Piper Lance six-seater, which is parked at the airport in the nearby Burgundy capital Dijon. Before moving to France in 2003, he lived in Boston and Hawaii, as well as California where he was in the celebrated California Highway Patrol.

"Very interesting, very fun, when you're young, you chase bad guys and arrest them, it's an adventure," said Marshall, who was divorced, remarried and is now a wid-

ator Charles Lindbergh, who in 1927 flew nonstop from New York to Paris, which he dismantled several years ago in order to preserve it.

Dracy-Saint-Loup residents are enthused by Marshall's project. Godessart said "a little old lady, 95 years old, who used to take the train with her grandmother" visited the site. While the "dream train" project slowly takes shape, weeds continue to consume the old tracks and the rickety station platform sags in places. "There's still a lot of work to do," Marshall said. — AFP

## Basquiat: A darling of pop culture, but not museums

Jean-Michel Basquiat enjoys a stratospheric following-earlier this year, a 1982 oil painting by the late 20th century great became the most expensive work by a US artist ever sold at auction. But 29 years after his death, his legacy is largely a triumph of popular culture over museums, which have been accused of downplaying his stature.

New York is where the black artist-son of a Haitian father and Puerto Rican mother was born and raised, spent most of his life and drew most of his inspiration. On May 18, it was in the Big Apple that one of his paintings fetched \$110.5 million at Sotheby's, jettisoning him into a pantheon of high-selling greats like Picasso. Yet America's cultural capital has no public monument to him, no institution named after him and has preserved none of his famous graffiti-signed "SAMO".

Other than a plaque nailed to his former atelier in a NoHo back street, his simple gravestone in Green-Wood cemetery is perhaps the only place that tourists, admirers and budding artists can visit in tribute. "There's a lot of interest," says Lisa Alpert, vice president of development and programming at Green-Wood. "They leave things on his grave."

## 'White privilege'?

Out of the more than 2,000 works of art that Basquiat produced, New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) has just 10 drawings and silkscreens, the Whitney has six, the Metropolitan two, the Brooklyn Museum another two and the Guggenheim one. Much of his work fused drawing with painting-it was abstract and figurative, offering biting political commentary on social problems such as poverty, segregation, racism and class divides. Commercially successful in his short life, before his death from an overdose at 27, museums were nonetheless unconvinced that his work had weighty artistic merit.

Friend and artist Michael Holman remembers, for example, an offer by collectors Lenore and Herbert Schorr to donate Basquiats to MoMA and the Whitney in the 1980s, but says the museums declined, not even wanting them for storage. "There's a lot of racism and a lot of white privilege in the idea that only white people are important artists," says Holman.

## Celebrity favorite

Unlike his contemporaries, Basquiat never received a large solo exhibition at a New York museum during his lifetime, says Jordana Moore Saggese, an associate professor at

the California College of the Arts, and the author of the only art history monograph of Basquiat. "Historically there has also been a lack of representations for non-white artists in mainstream institutions," says Saggese, who notes that few undergraduates are even taught much about him. But many critics in the late 1970s and 1980s also championed minimalism and fretted that art in the 80s was too closely aligned to capitalism, she says.

They were "deeply divided over the question of whether an artist could be both commercially successful and critically significant," she told AFP. During his lifetime and even more so now, few museums can afford to acquire Basquiat's work. Instead their best hope is to wait for wealthy collectors to perhaps bequeath his work in the coming decades. Beyond blockbuster exhibitions in cities such as Basel, Paris, Rio de Janeiro and Toronto, Saggese estimates that 85 to 90 percent of Basquiat's work is in the hands of private collectors.



Leonardo DiCaprio, Bono, Jay-Z, Johnny Depp and Tommy Hilfiger are just some of the celebrities to own or have owned a Basquiat. While some New York galleries have bought and sold his work, that is more rare now that his paintings sell for such dizzying sums at auction. Rick Rounick, owner of New York gallery Soho Contemporary Art, said he had nine paintings just a few months ago, but now has only two left. Yet Basquiat's appeal lies far beyond the hallowed institutions of fine art. "With the rapid circulation of images and ideas via social media networks, artists like Basquiat are no longer as dependent on the traditional image machine of art criticism or art history for visibility," ventured Saggese.

## Popular culture

Japanese clothing brand Uniqlo has reproduced Basquiat imagery on T-shirts, sneakers, watches and tote bags in collaboration with MoMA. Urban Decay has also released a set of makeup and accessories with licensed Basquiat imagery. Jay-Z, Kanye West and A\$AP Rocky rap about him. Canadian singer The Weeknd used to sport his hair in Basquiat-style dreadlocks. There are movies and documentaries about him including "Downtown 81," in which the young charismatic artist played himself aged 20.

"One could argue that in the years since his death, Basquiat's presence is more emphatic in popular culture and mass media than in art museums," said Saggese. There's even a children's book, written by Javaka Steptoe and called "The Radiant Child," to introduce him to the next generation. "Children love him because his artwork and their artwork is similar," says Steptoe. "He gives them permission to be what they are." Holman says his friend changed not only the art world, but street art and fashion. "He's given so many young people, especially young people of color, in this city the license to believe that they could be important artists," he said. "He's a hero to young people the way Warhol was to my generation." — AFP

Employees pose with an artwork by US artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, 'untitled (One Eyed Man or Xerox Face)', with an estimated price of 14-18 million GBP (17-21 million EUR; 17-22 million USD), during a photocall ahead of the Impressionist & Modern, Surrealist and Contemporary Art sale at Sotheby's in London.



A street art depicting artist Jean-Michel Basquiat is pictured in Brooklyn, New York.— AFP photos



A woman poses for photo next to a plaque honoring artist Jean-Michel Basquiat outside the studio where he used to work.



A Sotheby's official speaks about an untitled painting by Jean-Michel Basquiat during a media preview.



A blue and a red macaws receive attention from an Ibama worker inside the "flight school" aviary where the animals try to adapt to life in nature, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AFP photos



A blue and red macaws are pictured inside the "flight school" aviary where the animals try to adapt to life in nature.

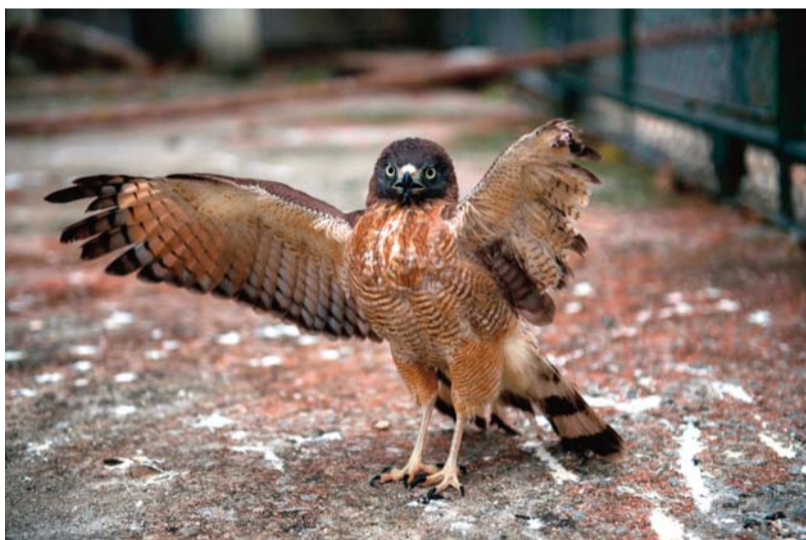


Ariel, an old raccoon, is transported in a cage to the Ibama's Animal Recovery Center in Seropedica, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

# Birds get new wings at Brazil rehab center

'This is a flight school! We train them so they can be ready to live in the wild'

Not a single wing flutters in the Seropedica aviary near Rio de Janeiro, where aras and other parrots are learning how to fly again after they were rescued from traffickers. Nearby, monkeys, turtles, boas and even alligators are also being nursed back to health at the IBAMA treatment center, just a 90-minute drive from Rio. The state-funded entity takes care of wild animals that were hunted, wounded or domesticated, getting them back in shape so they can return to their natural habitat.



A hawk with a damaged wing is being treated at the Ibama's Animal Recovery Center in Seropedica.

Some parrots bear the marks of maltreatment, while others say "Ola" (hello) repeatedly—a sign they were domesticated. In order to strengthen bird wings atrophied from years spent in a cage, veterinarian Taciana Sherlock exercises the animals by placing them on her arm and then shaking it up and down. The majestic blue and yellow ara she is training strains to spread its wings. Some of its feathers were clipped during captivity to limit its mobility, and it doesn't seem ready to take off on its own just yet.

The birds are also encouraged to take flight using two perches set at a distance from one another, with food on either side. "This is a flight school! We train them so they can be ready to live in the wild. We also have to train them to identify predators and find food," the veterinarian explained.

#### Clipping wings

Little by little, the IBAMA team—which hosts some 7,000 animals per year spaces out contact with the birds until they are no longer used to humans. They are then freed in their native habitat, often a forest in another state such as Amazonia. "What they've endured is really cruel,

and it's horrible to see them arrive in such a bad state. But the reward is to see them ready to return to the wild. Last week, we freed 20 aras and toucans who could fly in Goias," a central state, Sherlock exclaimed. Sales of wild animals are banned, but the practice is widespread in Brazil, especially in Rio, home to the world's biggest urban forest. Species native to this region still live nearby, and sometimes in the city itself.

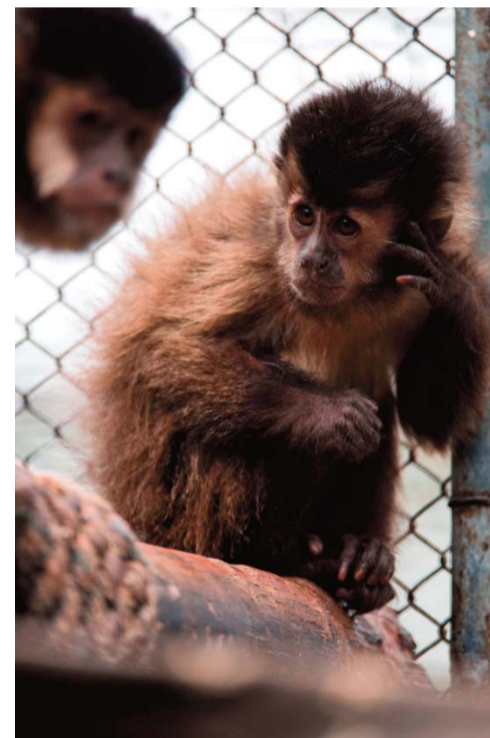
Toucans, snakes and monkeys are a common sight at certain markets. IBAMA estimates that around 38 million animals are caught in the wild each year. Four million of them are sold, in an industry worth some \$2.57 billion. Small birds generate the most revenue, especially song birds. Having a caged bird is a very common practice in Rio's working class neighborhoods, and clandestine bird song competitions are routine. In order to facilitate sales for domestic uses, some traffickers are quick to clip part of the birds' wings, or break some of their bones. The suffering paralyzes the birds, which makes them seem more domesticated.

Environmental police brought more than 300 small birds to the rehabilitation center in mid-July. Roched Seba, founder of the Vida Livre institute, an IBAMA partner, pointed to dozens of small cages on the ground. "Sometimes three of these birds are kept in each mini-compartment, so of course some don't even survive transportation from the forest to the city," said Seba, 31.

#### Learn to fly

"In Brazil, we have the most biodiversity in the world, but people don't know animals and want to domesticate wild species. We need to change minds with better information." Seba works frequently with Sherlock and almost always brings an animal found in Rio each time he comes to the center in Seropedica. But some animals will never be able to safely live outside of captivity again. They have been domesticated to such an extent that they would desperately seek human contact if released, only to be captured once more.

During AFP's visit to the center, a raccoon was dropped off after he was found in a favela. The animal, probably native to Rio's tropical forest, was scared, wounded and practically blind. It will never be able to return to the wild, Seba acknowledged. A small bird with green plumage followed the veterinarians everywhere. "It learned how to fly again here. It's free to go but it stays with us all the time, so it's become our mascot," Seba said. — AFP



A baby monkey born at the Ibama's Animal Recovery Center in Seropedica, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Guilherme, a young raccoon, plays with a worker's shoes at the Animal Recovery Center.



Birds are being treated at the Ibama's Animal Recovery Center in Seropedica, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



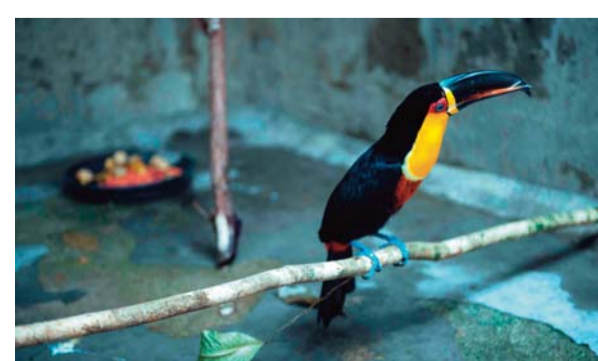
A baby snake is being treated at the Ibama's Animal Recovery Center in Seropedica.



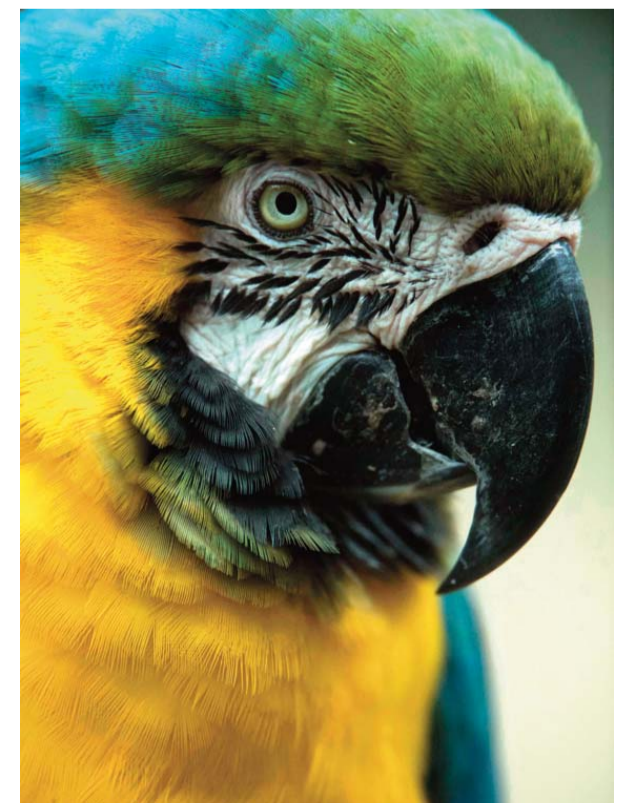
Birds recovered from illegal traders are treated at the Animal Recovery Center of Ibama (Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources) in the city of Seropedica.



Ibama workers examine a blue macaw's wing inside the "flight school" aviary.



A toucan is treated at the Ibama's Animal Recovery Center in Seropedica, state of Rio de Janeiro.



A blue macaw inside the "flight school" aviary.

FEATURES



A rescued dog is being kept in a cage at the Canine Transfer Center in Mexico City.



A rescued dog is held at the Canine Transfer Center in Mexico City.

## Mexico subway is dog's world, but lost pups find a home



A rescued dog kept at the Canine Transfer Center in Mexico City. — AFP photos

**T**hey found Jamai wandering on the tracks of the Mexico City subway, his ear nearly torn off and a terrified look in his eyes. The shaggy brown mutt could have been run over or electrocuted. Instead, he was rescued and taken to a new shelter for lucky dogs like him saved from the bowels of one of the world's largest subway systems. The Mexican capital is a dog's paradise, with sprawling dog parks, hordes of dog walkers, doggie gyms and restaurants that keep food and water bowls outside for dogs.

But for unlucky pooches who get lost in the underground labyrinth of the metro, this megacity of more than 20 million people is a perilous place. Jamai was found on the city's east side, near Jamaica station-hence his name. Now, tail wagging furiously, he jumps, runs and plays with other dogs at the subway's Canine Transfer Center, a shelter launched six months ago and officially inaugurated last week at a spacious, grassy complex in the middle of the city.

His new friends include Panty, rescued at Pantitlan station, and Torny, saved from the revolving inferno of a subway turnstile (or "torniquete"), who is the proud new mom of eight puppies. Staffed by a veterinarian and other specialists and funded mainly by private donations, the Canine Transfer Center has rescued some 20 dogs so far. "It's not the perfect solution, it's not a panacea," said the head of the subway's Civil Protection unit, Edgar Alfredo Abarca, who has also rescued snakes, iguanas and even a family of seven possums from the subway. But "it's better than seeing them run over or electrocuted," he told AFP.

### Smells, noises, crowds

The Mexico City subway is one of the biggest in the world, with 12 lines, 195 stations and more than 1.6 billion passengers a year. It is known for jam-packed cars, abundant shoving and an ample dose of chaos. Since 2013, more than 250 lost dogs have been found inside. Before the center opened, the transit authority would send them to

animal shelters. Now, they have a place all their own, with spacious cages, a large play area and specialist care.

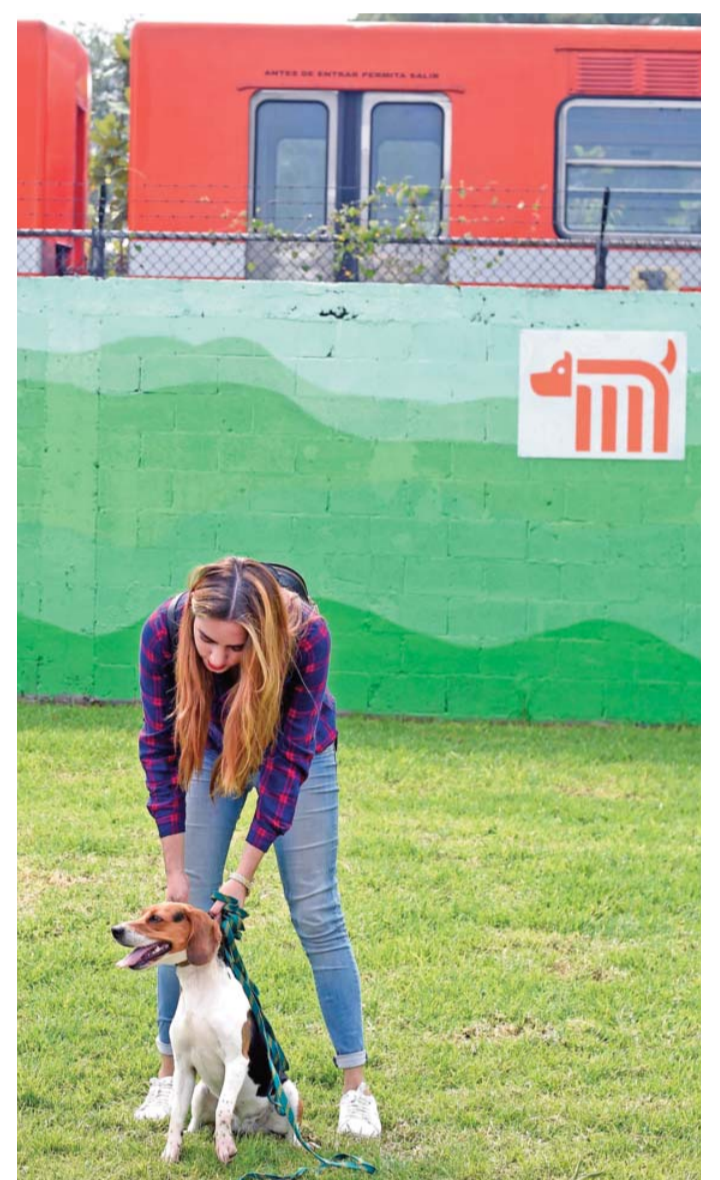
"Jamai was badly injured when he arrived, but in a matter of weeks he started to play and little by little began to trust humans again," said Katia Hernandez, 33, head of training and care at the center. "Seeing that process is the most beautiful part of this job," she said, holding a contented-looking Jamai in her arms. The center's veterinarian, Luis Ortiz, has two theories on how dogs end up lost in the metro.

One is that "the dog follows its owner out of the house without the owner realizing it, and ends up in the subway," where it "smells thousands of different smells, hears noises, voices and steps," and panics, he said. The other is that stray dogs are drawn to the warmth and shelter of the stations-but end up on the tracks, risking serious injury or worse. The Mexico City government estimates there are 1.5 million stray dogs on the streets, though the animal shelter network Animalia puts the figure at twice that.

### Lost and found

The center aims to reunite lost dogs with their owners when possible. It can already boast one success story: Sira the beagle, who ran away from home and spent 10 days in the subway tunnels before a conductor spotted her on the tracks and ground to a screeching halt. That was last week. A local TV channel aired a story about Sira, which is how her owner, Susana Lopez, learned she had been rescued by the center.

"We were so sad until we found out she was here," Lopez said, clutching Sira, who is recovering from an electrical shock she received from the subway rails but is otherwise fine. The center plans to launch an advertising campaign to reunite lost dogs with their owners. And it has already found homes for several whose owners could not be located. — AFP



A rescued dog is held at the Canine Transfer Center as a metropolitan train passes on the background in Mexico City.

## Artist uses Iraq refugees, war veterans in radio project

**I**n 2016, an Iraqi-American artist sat down with Bahjat Abdulwahed - the so-called "Walter Cronkite of Baghdad" - with the idea of launching a radio project that would be part documentary, part radio play and part variety show. Abdulwahed was the voice of Iraqi radio from the late 1950s to the early 1990s, but came to Philadelphia as a refugee in 2009 after receiving death threats from insurgents. "He represented authority and respectability in relationship to the news through many different political changes," said Elizabeth Thomas, curator of "Radio Silence," a public art piece that resulted from the meeting with Abdulwahed.

Thomas had invited artist Michael Rakowitz to Philadelphia to create a project for Mural Arts Philadelphia, which has been expanding its public art reach from murals into new and innovative spaces. After nearly five years of research, Rakowitz distilled his project into a radio broadcast that would involve putting the vivacious and caramel-voiced Abdulwahed back on the air, and using Philadelphia-area Iraqi refugees and local Iraq war veterans as his field reporters. It would feature Iraqi music, remembrances of the country and vintage weather reports from a happier time in Iraq.

"One of the many initial titles was "Desert Home Companion," Rakowitz said, riffing on "A Prairie Home Companion," the radio variety show created by Garrison Keillor. Rakowitz recorded an initial and very informal session with Abdulwahed in his living room in January 2016. Two weeks later, Abdulwahed collapsed. He had to have an emergency tracheostomy and was on life support until he died seven months later.

At Abdulwahed's funeral, his friends urged Rakowitz to continue with the project, to show how much of the country they left behind was slipping away and to help fight cultural amnesia. Rakowitz recalibrated the project, which became "Radio Silence," a 10-part radio broadcast with each episode focusing on a synonym of silence, in homage to Abdulwahed. "The voice of Baghdad had lost his voice," Rakowitz said, calling him a "narrator of Iraq's history." It will be hosted by Rakowitz and features fragments of that first recording session with Abdulwahed, as well as interviews with his wife and other Iraqi refugees living in Philadelphia.

### Exchange ideas

Rakowitz and Thomas also worked with Warrior Writers, a nonprofit based in Philadelphia that helps war veterans work through their experiences using writing and art. The first episode, on speechlessness, will launch Aug 6 is. It will be broadcast on community radio stations

across the country through Prometheus Radio Project. One participant is Jawad Al Amiri, an Iraqi refugee who came to the United States in the 1980s. He said silence in Iraq has been a way of life for many decades.

"Silence is a way of survival. Silence is a decree by the Baath regime, not to tell what you see in front of your eyes. Silence is synonymous with fear. If you tell, you will be put through agony," he said at a preview Tuesday of the live broadcast. He said he saw his own sister poisoned and die and wasn't allowed to speak of it.

When he came to the US in 1981, his father told him: "We send you here for education and to speak for the millions of Iraqis in the land where freedom of speech is practiced." Lawrence Davidson is an Army veteran who served during the Iraq War and works with Warrior Writers also contributed to the project. He said the project is a place to exchange ideas and honestly share feelings with refugees and other veterans. The project kicks off on July 29 with a live broadcast performance on Philadelphia's Independence Mall - what Rakowitz calls the symbolic home of American democracy. It will feature storytelling, food from refugees and discussions from the veterans with Warrior Writers. — AP



File photo shows Iraqi-American artist Michael Rakowitz poses for the media at the National Gallery in London. — AP

## SUMMER HEALTH AND FITNESS GOALS

By The Real Fouz

**S**ummer vacation doesn't always have to be about relaxing and taking time off, it can be the perfect opportunity to set some new health and fitness goals for yourself. I have a few goals to share with you guys that I'm hoping to achieve this summer.

### 1. Eating more fruits and veggies

Summer is one of the best times to start eating healthy. Being outdoors in the heat can cause dehydration, sensitive skin and much more so increasing your fruit and vegetable intake will definitely make your body look and feel its best. Fruits and veggies are also the most refreshing foods to have in the heat and such a quick and easy way to get extra vitamins and nutrients.

### 2. Moving more

More movement means more health which results in more happiness. Try adding in more walking, more taking the stairs, and more exercise. Not only will this tone your body for the summer but it will make you feel amazing too!

### 3. Drink more water

I think we all have the same problem, which is not drinking enough water. I think we sometimes forget how important water is for our overall health, and especially during the warmer months. It will keep your body feeling good, headaches away; keep your weight managed and mood boosted. Drinking more water can also help to clear your skin and boost your immune system.

### 4. Find a new workout you love

Working out doesn't have to be so boring and repetitive anymore. There are so many new and exciting classes that you can enjoy as well as getting in the workout you need. Spin, pilates, yoga, zumba are a few options you can try out but there are so many more! I recently tried out a spinning class, which was so tough, but I felt so amazing afterwards. Make it a goal to try

out some new classes this summer and see which one you enjoy the most!

### 5. Positivity

You might think that a positive attitude has nothing to do with "health and fitness" but feeling positive can have a huge effect on your whole life not only your health and fitness. For me, summer is all about letting loose, having fun, and staying positive.

Setting goals is so important. It helps you stay focused on what you want to achieve and get things done effectively and efficiently! Always start by setting yourself small goals so your not too overwhelmed and then end up not achieving anything

you set out to do. I like to set mini goals for myself and reward myself every time I accomplish a goal. Treat yourself to something on your wish list or take some relaxing time at the salon or spa or even book yourself a weekend getaway as a reward whenever you reach one of your goals. This way will help you stay motivated and excited about what you're doing.

Here's to an amazing summer of accomplishing our goals and having an amazing time!



*Fouz*

# Lifestyle

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Mexico subway is dog's world, but lost pups find a home



This undated handout picture by Bayreuth opera festival released yesterday shows German singer Johannes Martin Kraenzle performing as Sixtus Beckmesser during a rehearsal of the opera "The Master-Singers of Nuremberg" (Meistersinger von Nuernberg) in Bayreuth, southern Germany. — AFP

## Heart rate study tests emotional impact of Shakespeare

In a world where on-screen violence has become commonplace, Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company is turning to science to discover whether the playwright can still make our hearts race more than 400 years on. The renowned theatre company has started measuring the pulse of audience members as they are confronted by some of the most harrowing scenes ever written by Shakespeare in the Roman tragedy "Titus Andronicus". The play, believed to have been written between 1588 and 1593, is a tale of murderous revenge and savagery.

In one scene, a bloodied Lavinia writhes on stage after rapists cut off her hands and tongue. Audience members have been known to pass out or vomit at the play's shocking cruelty during performances. Becky Loftus, head of audience insight at the RSC, is spearheading the innovative study to measure reactions to the English Renaissance writer's work. "It's notoriously Shakespeare's bloodiest play... It can be quite polarising because of the amount of violence in it," Loftus told AFP.

"Are we inured to violence now because of things like (TV show) 'Game of Thrones'?" she said. The comparative study is being carried out in the theatre and at a live-streaming of the play in a cinema in Stratford-upon-Avon, central England where Shakespeare was born in 1564. "Some people feel that it's never as good to be in the cinema, because you don't get the effect of being in the room and having people act in front of you. But then some people say that being in the cinema is like having the best seat in the house and you get the closer view," Loftus said. Many participants in the study, including 60-year-old scientist Sharon Faulkner, said they were more engaged in the theatre. "It appeals to all of your senses. Rather than just visual and hearing, there are the smells. So I think it's much more real," she said.

### 'Basic human instinct'

At a light-hearted briefing before the performance, one group of participants talked about how they were feeling and were asked to take some deep breaths in their theatre seats before the opening scene. Faulkner and fellow volunteer Jamie Megson said theatregoers can be passionate about a performance but are usually unaware of their pulses, as black heart rate monitors were strapped to their wrists. "You get lost in the action of the play, so it's hard to say whether it's been more intense in certain moments than others," said 27-year-old Megson, an English teacher.

Although the full results from the study are not expected until later this year, an initial analysis showed heart rates rising as audience members become aware a moment of violence may be imminent. "The biggest reaction is the fight or flight-basic human instinct," said Pippa Bailey from Ipsos Mori, a research firm that is helping to conduct the study. "When something happens you either stay and you fight or you run when the adrenaline comes," she said.

Participants are monitored during the performance and afterwards take part in an exit interview. "We're doing voice recordings where we will analyse that to see people's emotional engagement in what they're saying" by looking at both the choice of words and the sentiment in their voice, Bailey said. The RSC has previously relied on questionnaires to try and understand the impact of their productions. Megson said he was more affected by the interaction between characters, such as when Lavinia's uncle takes her to her father Titus after the brutal attack, than moments of extreme violence such as severed heads being brought on stage. "It's the acting that's the more shocking element, the emotions that they're showing that's the more intense element, more than the gore and shock factor," he said. — AFP



In a recent undated handout picture released by the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) actors (from left) Sean Hart, Luke MacGregor, Hannah Morrish and Nia Gwynne play their roles as Demetrius, Chiron, Lavinia and Tamora in a production of a play by British author William Shakespeare entitled "Titus Andronicus" at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. — AFP photos



Actor David Troughton plays his role as Titus Andronicus in a production of a play by British author William Shakespeare entitled "Titus Andronicus" at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.

## Banksy work comes top of poll of UK's favorite artworks

A graffiti work of a girl losing a heart-shaped balloon by notorious artist Banksy is Britain's favorite artwork, according to a poll out yesterday. The "Balloon Girl" stencil painting, which appeared on the side of shop in east London in 2002, topped the shortlist of best British artworks, as voted on by 2,000 people. The artwork was removed and sold in 2014 for around £500,000 (\$600,000 euros, \$651,000). John Constable's 1821 pastoral landscape "The Hay Wain" came in second, with Jack Vettriano's 1992 painting "The Singing Butler" coming in third.

JMW Turner's 1839 "The Fighting Temeraire," which depicts a boat being tugged along the Thames, came fourth in the poll, conducted for Samsung TV, while Antony Gormley's 1998 sculpture "The Angel of the North", which looms over a major road to the south of Newcastle, was voted fifth. Three album covers were in the top 20, including Peter Blake's cover for The Beatles' "Sgt Pepper", Hipgnosis and George Hardie's work for Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" and Jamie Reid's "Never Mind the Bollocks" Sex Pistols sleeve. — AFP



This file photo shows a woman takes picture on May 23, 2016, of a piece entitled "Girl with balloon, red" by England-based graffiti artist Banksy, during the "Guerra, Capitalismo & Liberta" (War, Capitalism and Freedom) exhibition at Rome's Palazzo Cipolla. — AFP

### Bizarre News

#### Friends could face fine after making pool in car

Four friends could be slapped with a hefty fine after they made a swimming pool in the back of a pick-up truck during the hot weather. The group of pals were videored in their make-shift pool in Almaty, in south-eastern Kazakhstan, but it looks like their fun is about to come crashing down as police are now on the hunt for the driver as the vehicle was moving on a busy street. According to the Daily Mirror newspaper, the driver could face a substantial fine for putting the lives of his passengers at risk.

#### UFOs spotted above Serbia

A town were spooked when they saw six strange lights in the sky. The unusual sightings were captured by residents in Donji Milanovac in eastern Serbia and led the small area to believe they were being visited by UFOs, the Daily Mirror has reported. The two-minute footage, which was captured on mobiles, was shared online on YouTube and depicts triangular shaped lights flying about in one specific area at 10pm before they shot off into another direction one by one. However, other residents failed to believe the UFO theory and many social media users have claimed the supposed alien visitation were planes or stars.

#### Animal translator in the works

Animal owners could soon be able to converse with their dogs with the use of a pet translator. A group of futurologists at the creative company Next Big Thing believe there is a growing demand for a product that allows pet owners to actually speak to their beloved pets. Speaking about the initiative to The Guardian, Professor Con Slobodchikoff, of North Arizona University, said: "So many people would dearly love to talk to their dog or cat - or at least find out what they are trying to communicate. A lot of people talk to their dogs and share their innermost secrets. "With cats, I'm not sure what they'd have to say. A lot of times it might just be 'you idiot, just feed me and leave me alone.' The professor is fundraising to raise money to

work on a pet translator device as the online retailer is already selling a Human-to-Cat Translator.



#### Woman shocks internet with chocolate and cheese combo

A woman shocked the internet after she put chocolate spread and cheese on a slice of toast. Houda Serfag, 20, took to Twitter to post a picture of her seemingly delicious snack, but caused a stir when people couldn't believe she'd mixed the two culinary delights together on one piece of toast. One shocked follower even went so far as to alert his local police station as he tweeted: "Hi have u seen this @policescotland (sic)" alongside Houda's image of her tasty treat. Before long, Houda's Twitter was inundated with fuming users all questioning her eating habits, but the the young woman insists the controversial food item was simply a "great" experiment. She told Mirror Online: "I honestly just made it out of cravings, [I] love both chocolate and cheese separately so I wondered what it would taste like together. I don't regret it at all. It tastes great, the tanginess of the cheese with the sweetness if the chocolate are a great combo! A great snack for anyone that appreciates sweet and savoury coming together." And for anyone looking to replicate the snack, Houda has a few tips. She added: "White toast is perfect though! I use Nutella and mild cheddar cheese [but] you can use any other milky cheese such as adam and gouda." — Bang Showbiz