

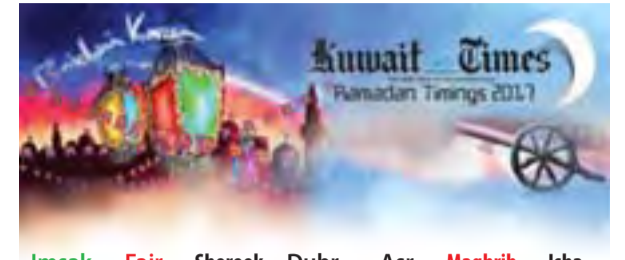
Temperature soars as power consumption hits new record



Britain's May face fury of MPs in battle to keep her job



Iran targets World Cup spot as China, Qatar target survival



Imsak Fajr Shorook Duhr Asr Maghrib Isha  
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150 FILLS  
NO: 17255  
40 PAGES

# US APPEALS COURT BLOCKS CONTROVERSIAL TRAVEL BAN

## ISLAMIC STATE'S LAPTOP BOMB PLOT UNCOVERED



Min 32°  
Max 49°  
High Tide 03:05 & 13:10  
Low Tide 07:59 & 20:55



### PROPHET'S WIFE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

By Tony Braun

Those outside of the Islamic faith hold a variety of views about the treatment of women within an Islamic context. It appears that most of these views are not founded on solid sources. When we look at Islamic values, it is important to look at them in isolation of the actions found within Muslim communities because pure Islamic teachings are often tainted by culture. After all, we aren't robots and our own personalities will affect how we interpret and adhere to a religion.

There are about two billion Muslims in the world with vastly different backgrounds, geography, cultures, ideas, history, etc. Therefore, it is natural that Muslim women would have vastly different experiences depending on their region and upbringing. For example, Muslim women living in China and Muslim women living in Argentina will definitely not have the same privileges or hardships. It is therefore logical to examine Islamic teachings in their pure form without applying some type of cultural filter or lens.

To help understand women's empowerment within Islam, it is very profitable to look at the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) first wife. Khadijah was a wealthy business owner, who proposed to marry the Prophet (PBUH). Already, we can see how empowered she was; she was the one who took the initiative for proposing the marriage. She was also in full control of her wealth and business. My own grandmother did not have the legal right to open a bank

Continued on Page 13



GAZA: A Palestinian man reads verses of the Quran during the month of Ramadan at Al Emari mosque in Gaza. Muslims across the world are observing the holy fasting month of Ramadan, where they refrain from eating, drinking and smoking from dawn to dusk. —AP

### BLAST KILLS SAUDI POLICE

RIYADH: A homemade explosive device has killed a senior Saudi police officer in a Shiite town where deadly violence has flared in recent weeks, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. Major Tariq Al-Alaqi was killed and two other policemen were wounded in the blast late Sunday in Awamiya, the ministry said in a statement. They were patrolling the town's Almosara

neighborhood, where unrest has escalated in recent weeks around a redevelopment project in the old district. Alaqi is at least the fourth person to have been killed in the violence. The Interior Ministry has said criminals involved in the drug and arms trade were implicated in the unrest.

Continued on Page 13



MARYLAND: Two women walk at the 61st Montgomery County Agricultural Fair Gaithersburg, Maryland. The number of obese people has more than doubled in 73 countries since 1980 and has continued to rise in other countries, leading to a large increase in related diseases, according to a wide-scale study. — AFP

### OBESITY 'EPIDEMIC'

1 IN 10 AFFECTED WORLDWIDE

WASHINGTON: More than one in 10 people worldwide are now obese and 2.2 billion are believed to be overweight, fueling a global health crisis that claims millions of lives every year, according to a major new international study released yesterday. Obesity numbers have more than doubled in 73 countries and surged elsewhere around the world since the launch in 1980 of the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Conducted in 195 countries over a 35-year period, the research presented at a conference in Stockholm yesterday is billed as the most comprehensive carried out to date on the subject of obesity. At the conclusion of the study in 2015, 107.7 million children and 603.7 million adults worldwide were deemed to be obese, triggering what its authors described as "a growing and disturbing global public health crisis."

Even though the obesity rate in children remained lower than among adults, it had grown at a faster rate during the study period—a finding experts described as especially "worrisome." "Excess body

weight is one of the most challenging public health problems of our time, affecting nearly one in every three people," said Dr Ashkan Afshin, the paper's lead author and an assistant professor of global health at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"Over the past decade, numerous interventions have been evaluated, but very little evidence exists about their long-term effectiveness," he added, announcing a new 10-year partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization to evaluate global progress in controlling excess weight. A total of 2.2 billion people - 30 percent of the world population—were believed to be either obese or overweight by 2015.

The World Health Organization had estimated the number of overweight people at 1.9 billion in 2014, including more than 600 million who were obese. Excess weight is linked to sharply increased rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some types of cancer.

Continued on Page 13

## MIDEAST RESEARCH CENTER BRINGS 'ENEMIES' TOGETHER

### NORWAY TO BAN THE MUSLIM VEIL

OSLO: The Norwegian government yesterday proposed a bill to ban the full-face Muslim veil in all schools, from nurseries to universities, saying it hinders communication between students and teachers. Norway's ruling coalition of conservative and anti-immigration rightwing parties had promised the ban last year, targeting the full-face veil called the niqab as well as burqas, balaclavas and masks. "We do not want clothes covering the face in nurseries, schools and universities," Minister of Education and Research Torbjorn Roe Isaksen said in a statement.

"These clothes prevent good communication, which is important for students to receive a good education," he added. Norwegian authorities will consult over the coming months with those who could be affected by the draft law. Norwegian media reported the government can count on the support of most parties, saying the bill was expected to pass in the spring of 2018. Local authorities in Norway already have the power to ban the veil in schools, however there is no uniform national policy. At this stage, the bill does not lay out consequences for disregarding the proposed law.

The full-face veil is rather uncommon in Norway, even more so in schools, but the issue comes intermittently back into political debates. The Islamic Council, an umbrella organization representing Muslims, hired a communication manager wearing a niqab, which sparked a heated discussion earlier this year. Legislative elections will take place on September 11 in the Nordic country. "Clothes covering the face, like the niqab and the burqa, have no place in Norwegian schools. It is a fundamental value to be able to communicate with each other," Per Sandberg, interim minister of immigration and integration, said. — AFP

ALLAN: A top-notch research center that brought together Iran, Israel and other Mideast antagonists is launching operations this fall in hopes of boosting scientific discovery with the help of a powerful microscope and opening a window to a better future for a region beset by war, boycotts and closed borders. It's been a tough journey since groundbreaking in 2003, marked by political rows and the 2010 assassination of an Iranian scientist linked to the project.

Perhaps even more threatening were chronic funding shortages, said Khaled Toukan, the Jordanian director of the project, known by its acronym, SESAME. The undertaking was at risk of collapse several times, but has reached a point of no return, he said in an interview. "It is working, and I am surprised," he said of the rare collaboration of eight members that also include Egypt, Turkey, Cyprus, Pakistan and the Palestinian Authority, a self-rule government in parts of the

Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The centerpiece of SESAME is a synchrotron light source - essentially a powerful microscope - that fills a large hangar in the countryside of western Jordan, about 35 kilometers from the capital of Amman. The contraption zaps electrons through a circular tube at near the speed of light, generating intense light beams. Researchers can train these "beam lines" on their subject of study, from cells to materials, in a wide range of disciplines, from medicine and biology to archaeology and environmental science.

The first two lines will start operating by November, and dozens of researchers have applied for "beam time," said Toukan. In all, two dozen lines are to be set up eventually, in hopes of drawing hundreds of researchers from the region. Israel's Science Ministry reported a growing interest in the project among Israeli scientists.

Continued on Page 13



ALLAN: Egyptian physicist Gihan Kamel, 41, works in her lab at the research center known by its acronym, SESAME, in the countryside of western Jordan. — AP





**KUWAIT:** Iraqi figure Dr Ibrahim Mohammad Bahr Al-Ulloum (left) presents a book on Bahr Al-Oloum charity organization's activities to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



**Dr Kamal Al-Shoumer presents an award he received from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologist to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Iraqi figure Dr Ibrahim Mohammad Bahr Al-Ulloum. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Jamal Al-Harbi (center) and Dr Kamal Al-Shoumer.**



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with former President of Egypt's Al-Azhar University Dr Ahmad Omar Hashem.**

# AMIR, MACRON DISCUSS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

## AMIR CONGRATULATES MAY ON FORMING NEW CABINET

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah discussed by phone yesterday the bilateral ties, issues of common interest and regional developments with France's President Emmanuel Macron.

His Highness the Amir once again congratulated the newly-elected president, who was voted into office last month. Meanwhile, Macron expressed utmost appreciation for the kind sentiments expressed by His Highness the Amir and wished the Kuwaiti people further development and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness. Macron's La Republique en Marche party took a 32.2 percent majority in the first of two-round parliamentary elections and is set for a landslide victory if this popularity is carried into the next round.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir sent a cable yesterday to British Prime Minister Theresa May, congratulating her on the formation of the new cabinet. His Highness the Amir wished May further success in running the British government, hoping that both Kuwait and the UK would continue to form and bolster ties on all possible domains. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Separately, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to King of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud,

expressing his sorrow over the terror incident in Qatif governorate which led to the death of a police officer and the injury of others. His Highness the Amir condemned in the strongest terms the heinous terror attack which disturbed peace and security in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, affirming that Kuwait stood against terrorism and its perpetrators. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister expressed similar sentiments in their cables sent to the Saudi King. In other news, Jordanian King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein is set to arrive in Kuwait today on a visit where he will convey his greetings on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan to His Highness the Amir.

### Amir meets Iraqi figure

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received at Bayan Palace yesterday the visiting Iraqi figure Dr Ibrahim Mohammad Bahr Al-Ulloum. During the meeting, Bahr Al-Ulloum presented to His Highness the Amir a book on Bahr Al-Oloum charity organization's activities in 2016-2017. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. Bahr Al-Oloum later visited His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi, who was accompanied by pre-eminent endocrinologist Dr Kamal Al-Shoumer. His

Highness the Amir congratulated Dr Shoumer for being awarded by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologist (AACE), a feat he described as an accomplishment for Kuwait.

Dr Harbi later presented Dr Shoumer to His Highness the Crown Prince; who applauded him for being the recipient of an American Association of Clinical Endocrinologist (AACE) award, an accomplishment he said would propel Kuwait to the upper echelons of the medical arena. Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir received First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince met with the visiting former President of Egypt's Al-Azhar University Dr Ahmad Omar Hashem. His Highness the Crown Prince heaped praise on the Egyptian professor's profound scientific and intellectual contributions. Meanwhile, Dr Hashem commended Kuwait for its efforts to keep global peace and security intact and wished the country continued prosperity and development. The meeting was attended by the head of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Al-Faisal Al-Sabah and head of protocols at His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince received Chief of the National Security Apparatus (NSA) Chairman Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. —KUNA



**His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Iraqi figure Dr Ibrahim Mohammad Bahr Al-Ulloum.**

## PREMIER VISITS ARMY OFFICERS' CLUB



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visits the Army Officers' Club. —KUNA



**His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah signs the guestbook during his visit to the Army Officers' Club.**



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visited the Army Officers' Club on Sunday. On arrival, His Highness the Premier was received by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Chief of the General Staff of Kuwait's Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khedr and senior officials from the Defense Ministry, and the Prime Minister's Diwan as well as top commanders of the Kuwaiti Army. An iftar banquet was held in honor of Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visit the Islamic Sharia Advisory Committee. —KUNA

## SHEIKH NASSER VISITS ISLAMIC SHARIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**KUWAIT:** His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visited Sunday evening headquarters of Supreme Consultative Committee on the Implementation of the Muslim Sharia Law, on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

Dr Mohammad Al-Tabtabaei, Chairman of Committee, said the committee has completed, on the fifth day of Ramadan this year, its review and study of laws and proposed what it deems fit to comply with the provisions of the Islamic Sharia laws. Tabtabaei pointed out that the committee has setup a soothing plan prepared for the completion of Islamic Sharia laws in various aspects of life, educational, social, advocacy, cultural, and ready for all segments of society. The committee completed the plan in a record period, less than a year since the new committee members assumed responsibilities, through adopting an innovative and a practical approach.

Tabtabaei added that it has started a new phase based on tolerance and ease of Islamic teaching, which was awaited by many Kuwaitis for a long time, and only by the grace of Allah and the wise leadership of Kuwait. This was also achieved via fruitful cooperation and high enthusiasm by the members of the committee, their expertise and strict specialization in Sharia law and law in general. In a record period, the committee has established a modern digital legal library for Sharia and for supporting sciences, a digital library that includes all what the committee needs to study ranging from contemporary legal issues and legal aspects, Tabtabaei said.

Tabtabaei added that after this blessed and historical achievement, the committee is ready to harness all its expertise and potentials for the next phase, which is helping the executive authority implement the its plans and goals with the help of the committee. Tabtabaei also praised His Highness Sheikh Nasser for his support to the committee, since its inception. —KUNA



# CABINET DEEPLY ADMIRES AMIR'S CONCILIATION EFFORTS

## MINISTERS DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION ON PLANS FOR KUWAITI ISLANDS, SILK CITY

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet at the weekly regular session yesterday expressed deep appreciation for His Highness the Amir's relentless efforts to tackle differences among brotherly States. The Cabinet expressed great pride and appreciation for the positive and responsible role, relentless efforts made by His Highness the Amir aimed at tackling rifts among the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), according to a statement read by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah following the session. The Cabinet expressed confidence that these blessed efforts would effectively contribute to ensuring success of the efforts for achieving solidarity among the Arab Gulf States at the leaderships and peoples' levels, so they may restore unity and realize aspirations upon which the Gulf Cooperation Council for the Arabian Gulf States was founded. The session, held at Bayan Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, got started with a briefing by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

### Good-will efforts

Sheikh Sabah Khaled informed the ministers about outcome of the good-will and intensive efforts as well as the recent visits paid by His Highness the Amir to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the State of Qatar in the aftermath of the dispute that developed among the sisterly States. The minister talked about contents of the discussions His Highness had held with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, UAE Deputy President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum, the UAE Crown Prince and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. His Highness had examined, during the meetings, history of the brotherly and distinctive relations among the GCC states and means of tackling and containing "the emerging situation in a manner that would safeguard unity and stability of the GCC peoples particularly in shadow of the critical conditions in the region." He also briefed the ministers about the 8th session of the Kuwait-Oman Supreme Commission, which had been held in Kuwait, with attendance of the Omani Official in Charge of Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi.

### Silk City

The Cabinet was informed about a recommendation by the Economic Affairs Commission on plans for the Kuwaiti islands and



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's session yesterday. —KUNA

Madinat Al-Hareer (Silk City). It decided to task the apparatus for developing the city (Al-Sabbiyah) and Boubyan Island, in coordination with the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and other relevant authorities, to take necessary measures and unify the perspective and outlooks and coordinating executive steps for these projects. The commission is also to be advised to conduct feasibility studies, in view of the Supreme Council islands' development plans. The Council was briefed about a recommendation regarding the final report of the economic feasibility study commission for launching a communication satellite. It was referred to the supreme council for examination.

Moreover, the Cabinet examined a recommendation by the commission on the annual report 2016 about the projects of the partnership projects between the private and public sectors. The ministers furthermore examined a report by the Ministry of Justice (April 2017) including information about public funds. —KUNA

## TIGHT BUDGET COULD LIMIT SCHOLARSHIPS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Higher Education is currently sending students on scholarships to ten countries, Australia, France, the UK, the US, Ireland, the UAE, Malta, Canada, Bahrain and New Zealand, assistant undersecretary for scholarships and cultural relations Fatima Al-Sannan said. "The ministry is considering adding more countries as scholarship destinations," she said, noting that it was difficult to predict the total number of students to be accepted in the scholarships

program this year because the ministry only has a limited budget of KD 28 million.

Meanwhile, MP Khalil Abul warned the government of the consequences on what he described as plans to reduce the number of scholarships. Abul stressed that announcing the minimum grades needed to be accepted in the scholarship program proves that the government was still unaware of the significance of human resources. "The government is willing to pay millions on marginal projects yet it reduces the number of scholarships," he underlined.



**KUWAIT:** Workers use newspapers as head covers to protect themselves from the sun while waiting at a bus stop in Kuwait City. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## HEAT BRINGS NEW POWER CONSUMPTION RECORD

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Power consumption rates reached record levels of 13,440 megawatts on Sunday under a temperature that reached a maximum of 49 C degrees, a Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) official said yesterday. The previous record consumption rate, registered on August 15, 2016, was 13,390 megawatts, MEW Undersecretary Mohammad Boshheri said. Kuwait has been affected by a heat wave this week with temperatures exceeding 50 C degrees.

### Home businesses

Applying for a free small business licenses require that the applicant has a post office box, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan stressed. Speaking to reporters at a ghabqa held by the ministry of state for youth affairs following

a coordination meeting by Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) and Kuwait Municipality officials, Roudhan noted that private residential areas will not be affected by home business licenses because they will not be developed into commercial stores. He added that the 'free licenses' will be mainly given for businesses such as software and website designs that can be done by an individual entrepreneur. Roudhan stressed that the new licenses will not be issued for citizens who are already government employees. Meanwhile, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jebri said that the new free licenses will bring joy to the hearts of so many Kuwaiti young men and women.

In other news, Municipal Council member and head of the legal and financial committee Ali Al-Moussa stressed that during its ordinary session held yesterday, the council approved the mobile trucks chart.

## DARTMOUTH COLLEGE AWARDS AUK'S SHEIKHA DANA AL-SABAH WITH HONORARY DOCTORATE

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** US Ivy League member, Dartmouth College, awarded on Sunday Sheikh Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with a Doctorate of Humane Letters for founding Kuwait's first and only liberal arts university. Dartmouth, that is consistently ranked among the world's greatest academic institutions, recognized nine accomplished men and women including Sheikh Dana, the first Arab women, with honorary degrees at the College's 2017 Commencement. During his speech, President Phil Hanlon, acknowledged Al-Sabah's guidance to the institution as Chair of the Board of Trustees with "creativity, integrity, and a deep commitment to pluralism and global learning."

As a devoted partner to Dartmouth, Hanlon said Al-Sabah has enriched the experiences of students, faculty and staff at both institutions through "robust cross-cultural internships, fellowships, and research partnerships." Therefore, for her pioneering spirit, commitment to academic excellence in the liberal arts tradition, and dedication to providing students in Kuwait with the breadth and depth of knowledge required for leadership in the contemporary world, Dartmouth's president proudly awarded her the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. After the ceremony, Al-Sabah, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Kuwait (AUK), told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) she is honored and proud for receiving such distinction from a prestigious institution as Dartmouth College, and being the only Arab today among notable scientists, athletes, philanthropists, artists, entrepreneurs, and journalists.

"I dedicate this distinction to my country, its leader His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, my family, AUK's co-founders and the beautiful dedicated AUK community without whom I would not be here," she said.

She emphasized on the role played by the Government of Kuwait for believing and supporting private universities. In 2001, an Amiri Decree was issued to enable the private sector of investing in establishing institutions of higher education.

Al-Sabah who is also the chairwoman of United Education Co. (UEC), Kuwait's leading

company in the educational sector, said she was first exposed to Liberal Arts Education at Indiana University, Bloomington in 1990, where she took courses in philosophy, literature, art history, and critical thinking.

In 2003, a University based on the American model of Liberal Arts education was established. According to Al-Sabah, their aim was to build a model that inspires intellectual curiosity and critical thinking and that encourages both students and faculty to think across disciplines, ask better questions, and prepare for a world in which change is inevitable, sometimes disrupt-

she added, would not have been possible without Dartmouth's continuous guidance and support throughout their journey from inception to present. "Our partnership is instrumental as we continue to advocate the liberal arts over more conventional forms of education," she said.

Dartmouth College, founded in 1769, in Hanover, New Hampshire, is the international partner institution to the AUK. Both institutions have worked closely together since 2003, when they signed a Memorandum of Understanding that facilitated a series of advisory, consultative,



**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attends a ceremony at Dartmouth College where she was awarded with a Doctorate of Humane Letters for founding Kuwait's first and only liberal arts university. —KUNA

and often unpredictable, especially in the Middle East region.

Thirteen years later, with over 3,500 graduates, many of whom have and are pursuing their higher education in the US, some in Ivy Leagues institution, Al-Sabah said "we find ourselves as the leading institution in the Liberal Arts realm in Kuwait." Such accomplishment,

and cooperative projects. The initial agreement was recently renewed for a third time in April 2013 to extend through 2018. Dartmouth and AUK share a commitment to excellence in higher learning, and the agreement between them reflects AUK's growing stature as a premier academic institution in the Gulf region and beyond. —KUNA

## BLOGGER SENTENCED FOR SPREADING IS IDEOLOGY COURT REDUCES SENTENCE OF PARENTS WHO KILLED DAUGHTER

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The criminal court yesterday sentenced a blogger to five years in prison over charges of joining the Islamic State (IS) terrorist organization, spreading its ideas through social media, possessing weapons, ammunition and psychotropic substances in addition to misuse of mobile phones.

In other news, the appeal court yesterday cancelled a first instance verdict sentencing a Kuwaiti couple to death for killing their own daughter and putting her body in an ice box. In the new verdict, the court sentenced the father to ten years prison and acquitted the mother. The verdict was changed after the defendants' lawyers managed to change the case's description and classification to prove that the mother had nothing to do with the father's crime.

### KD 10,000 theft

A stateless person was arrested for robbery, said security sources, noting that the suspect had attacked a citizen who had just withdrawn KD 10,000 in cash from a local bank and stole the money. The sources added that the suspect was caught by surveillance camera fixed on a neighboring house while running to hop into a vehicle waiting for him. The suspect told police that the escape car's driver was his own brother; who is still at large.

### Power outage

Security forces and patrols were immediately deployed in areas affected by a recent blackout in Hawally to help maintain security and facilitate traffic flows, the Interior Ministry's relation and security media department said. It added that maintenance teams were racing against the clock to solve the problem, and at least had traffic lights running using power generators till the power was reconnected.

### New detour

The Interior Ministry's Traffic General Department announced that, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works (MPW), it will open a detour at the junction of Al-Ghoush Street with Mekrad Al-Mekrad Street in Mubarak Al-Kabeer at the early hours today. Accordingly, the traffic department urged all motorists using the specified leg of the road to be more careful and to follow traffic signs.

### Food safe

Kuwait Municipality's Deputy Director Khalaf Al-Mutairi strongly denied social media reports claiming that inedible foodstuff were allowed into Kuwait and stressed that the imported food department was doing a great job in protecting national food security. He added that the department always makes sure that all food items entering Kuwait from various borders are safe and edible. Meanwhile, Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality teams inspected a

number of stores and restaurants and moved some public property violations. Team leader Nasser Al-Hajri said that the inspection campaigns resulted in confiscating and destroying 12 kilograms of expired chocolates, removing 105 illegal ads and filing four citations involving expired licenses and not having one at all. Hajri added that 11 warnings were filed regarding violating public property.

### Beggars arrested

Within the Interior Ministry's efforts to fight begging during the Holy Month of Ramadan, residency detectives have so far arrested 10 beggars belonging to various nationalities, the ministry's relation and media security department said in a statement, noting that the beggars will be deported while their sponsors will be banned from any further sponsorships.

### Thieves caught

Two citizens were arrested for robbing several co-op branches, said security sources, noting that the case started when one of the suspects was arrested when his attempt to rob a co-op branch failed. The sources explained that the suspect broke down and told police that he had robbed other branches earlier, along with an accomplice he led police to. The suspect also admitted to breaking open a vehicle in Omariya and stealing its contents. A case was filed and the suspects were referred to relevant authorities.



**KUWAIT:** A Kuwait Municipality inspector files a ticket during an inspection campaign in Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

## KAC AND ALAFCO FORMALIZE SALE, LEASEBACK DEAL FOR FOUR AIRCRAFTS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Airways Company (KAC) and ALAFCO Aviation Lease and Finance Company (ALAFCO) have signed an initial agreement for the sale and leaseback of four Boeing B777-300ER aircrafts for a lease term of twelve years.

Sami F Al-Rushaid, Chairman of KAC, stated that "A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to seven qualified companies and consortiums around the world, and Kuwait-based ALAFCO Aviation Lease and Finance Company presented the best offer to KAC. This agreement is beneficial to both companies, and will make available funds that KAC will utilize to take delivery of the remaining three of four new B777-300ER aircraft from the Boeing Company. Kuwait Airways will take delivery of one aircraft per month from June to August 2017. Entering into this sale and leaseback arrangement will enable KAC to diversify its sources of funding and strike a balance between financing and leasing of the Boeing B777-300ER fleet."

Ahmad A Alzabin, Vice Chairman and CEO of ALAFCO, stated that "To be able to support the fleet modernization plan of the national carrier of Kuwait is an important milestone for ALAFCO. This deal marks the beginning of a strategic cooperation between Kuwait Airways and ALAFCO." Alzabin added, "The B777-300ER aircrafts will be financed mostly by Kuwaiti banks, and will have a positive impact on the local economy of Kuwait."





# INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION (IAA), CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL HOST THEIR ANNUAL GHABQA

**KUWAIT:** The International Advertising Association (IAA) and Crowne Plaza hotel hosted a "joint venture Annual Ghabqa" on May 31, 2017 in Al-Baraka Grand Ballroom under the patronage of the Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah. The event was attended by Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Fatima Hussain Al-Essa, Chairperson of Kuwait Journalist Association, Adnan Al-Rashed, Honorary IAA President, Antoine Flouty, Regional Manager of Intercontinental Hotels Group, Walid Kanafani, President of IAA Kuwait Chapter, along with top VIP officials from media, advertising agencies, public relations companies, consultancy firms and market researchers.

Shaikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah thanked IAA and Crowne Plaza by wishing all a Happy Ramadan and appreciate the effort of the IAA to improve the quality of the people working within the Advertising Industry by providing them with the proper seminars, workshops and related trainings.

Over 700 guests attended the event and were welcomed by the Regional Manager of Intercontinental Hotels Group Antoine Flouty, who wished them all a blessed 'Ramadan Kareem' and pointed out some of the major achievements of the Crowne Plaza. Flouty highlighted that the Al-Baraka Grand Ballroom which has been created to satisfy the desires of those who are looking to have their lavish boutique weddings, corporate

affairs and social soirees is created by the world renowned Fauchon Paris.

Walid Kanafani the IAA President of Kuwait Chapter extended his Ramadan wishes to everybody. Kanafani furnished in a full presentation the major IAA achievements and activities during last two years. Kanafani highlighted the participation of IAA Kuwait Chapter in the IAA Leadership Forum in London October 2016 as well as the participation in Excom meeting in Mumbai February 2017 and Dubai Lynx held in March 17 as a major achievement.

Kanafani discussed the success of the major Apprentice conference that IAA Kuwait held in May 2017. The IAA Apprentice Conference was conceived to contribute to the much talked about challenges for the marketing and communications industry in attracting the best and brightest young men and women. The inaugural event brought together junior and senior undergraduate students as well as young industry professional delegates. The program includes presentations, discussions and workshops with regional and international industry professionals, recruiters and clients where students had the chance to listen, practice, network and impress! The central idea is to enhance and empower graduating students with first-hand knowledge of real world industry practice and opportunities in the new communications landscape and top help them get hired.

Kanafani shared with the audience that the



IAA created a campaign to promote advertising. The new IAA 'Case For Advertising' campaign focuses on many of the core benefits that are deeply rooted in marketing communications - that advertising promotes choice; educates; informs; encourages innovation; creates jobs; supports the arts, entertainment and sports; and contributes to the costs of providing news and information. The campaign focus is for consumers and governments to understand the value of advertising

in its many forms, including sponsored content. Advertising - your right to choose this campaign released in Sept 2016.

Finally Kanafani encouraged the audience to join the IAA Kuwait Chapter and reap the benefits of the organization. Walid Kanafani president of IAA Kuwait Chapter honored Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah, Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Fatima Hussain Al-Essa and Antoine Flouty for their support to IAA. In addition Kanafani honored

Soad Haikal, Saad Hijjawi, Geroge Moujaes and Elian Farah for their life time achievement in advertising in Kuwait market for more than 40 years.

All esteemed honored extended their happiness for their participation in the event by welcoming everyone and encouraged all to work as one hand and as a team to improve the productivity in Kuwait. A generous raffle draw by was also amongst the highlight of the event as well as the Oriental Music Band.





KUWAIT

Heritage



This photo shows a part of the Safat Square as seen during the 1950s. Various commercial shops and trucks can be seen. The Safat Square was considered the city center and the vibrant heart of old Kuwait. (Source: 'Kuwait in Black and White' by Basem Al-Loughani, Kuwait, 2008. Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, heritage researcher in the Ministry of Information)



Sayed Ali

THE BEST WAY IS TO DRIVE CAREFULLY

By Ben Garcia

Each of us can contribute to making Kuwait a better place for all of us to live. In our daily deeds and actions, we can find - if we choose to look - opportunities for improving Kuwait's environment. From not littering on the streets, to choosing to be kind and helpful to others, each individual here can have a positive impact on the society as a whole. Kuwait Times wants to know what can you do?

\*\*\*\*\*

Sayed Ali is a 42-year-old Indian national who works as a delivery driver in Kuwait. He has spent the past 20 years away from home, and has two children. Ali had the following to say when asked how he would contribute to make Kuwait a better place.

"I do not know how to answer this question, but as a truck driver living in this beautiful country, I think the best way is to drive carefully. If you are careful, you will not disturb anyone. As a driver, I check the worthiness of my vehicle, and if there is a problem, I tell my boss, so that I do not bother anyone on the road. I strictly follow traffic rules and deliver my goods on time. I started as a light vehicle driver in Kuwait."

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Crime

Report

### GIRL LEAPS TO DEATH FROM 14TH FLOOR

**KUWAIT:** A 22-year-old Egyptian girl put an end to her psychological problem by jumping from the 14th floor of a Salmiya building where she lived with her family. Paramedics recovered her body and sent it to the coroner. An investigation was opened into the case.

**Drug possession**

Jahra police arrested two men and two women under the influence of drugs, and found a mixture of drugs on them. The four were in an abnormal state inside a car parked in front of a restaurant. A security source said the suspects were arrested with shabu (methamphetamine), hashish and paraphernalia. They were sent to concerned authorities.

**Threats**

A man who is abroad for treatment threatened and insulted citizens over the phone, so the people that he threatened filed complaints against him at Rawdha police station. Detectives were able to determine his identity and placed his name on the wanted list.

**Suspect caught**

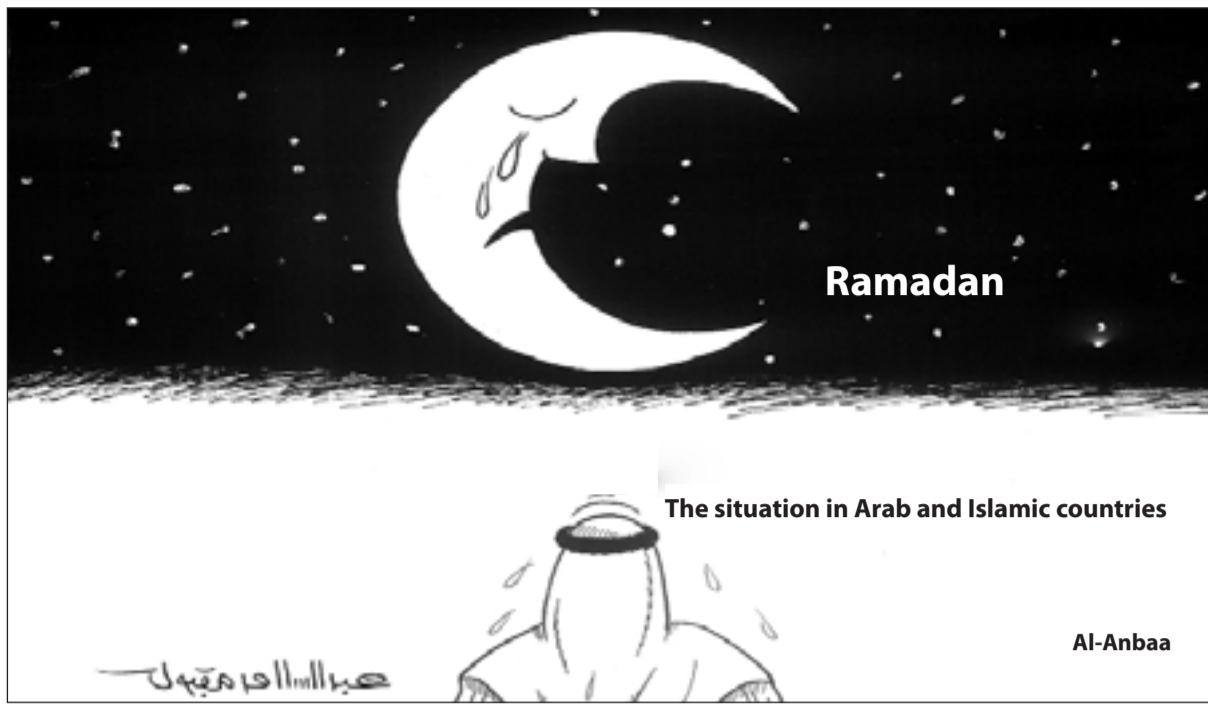
An Egyptian man was arrested at Kuwait International Airport after police discovered that he is wanted for stealing cars, then dismantling and selling them in Salmiya scrap yard. The man was arrested upon his arrival. A citizen had parked his car in front of a garage at night and called the garage's worker to repair it in the morning, but the worker told him the car was missing. The car's owner informed Shuwaikh police afterwards. Capital detectives worked on the case and found out that an Egyptian (1979) had sold it in Salmiya. The man's name was placed on the wanted list, and was arrested upon his arrival. He said he used a tow truck to move the cars.

**Kidnap threat**

Detectives arrested a Pakistani man for threatening to kidnap a woman of the same nationality because she rejected him, and he justified his actions by saying she refused to marry him. The woman told Hawally police about what happened and gave them the details of the alleged suspect. The man did not respond to their calls so detectives were asked to arrest him.

**Drug addicts detained**

A citizen went after two people who were under the influence of drugs during the day in Ramadan. He gave police their location, and both were arrested as police found the 'Spice' drug on them. The citizen who was at a gas station after the Fajr prayer noticed two people who were in an abnormal state, so he called police and went after the two until police arrived and caught them. A security source said officers asked for an ambulance which took the two to hospital to receive treatment, before they were sent to concerned authorities. — *Translated from the Arabic press*



الجريدة

Al-Jarida

### ADVICES FOR US

By Hassan Al-Essa

It is a long journey from Motabba in Sharq to Beirut and London; from the Jafariya and Mubarakiya schools to the American University in Beirut and Oxford University in England through which Hamza Abbas; the first governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, takes us down memory lanes and stops the train at certain childhood stops in Sharq and particularly at Bin Rashdan fabrics store next to his father's. He once flew to Baghdad on a small chopper that got stuck in the sand at the old airport and all passengers had to step down to push it until it could successfully take off.

This goes unlike what happened to the state's economy that seems to have got stuck in sand dunes making the young Hamza, as a central bank governor, step down and try to push the economy through pieces of advice that contradicted the interests of some influential people. Thus, his advice was ignored and the economy's 'plane' is left stuck even further in the sand. Looking through Hamza Abbas' train window, one can see so many people who have passed away while others are still striving and suffering the bitterness of being forgotten. Images of the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah appear several times on Hamza Abbas' time train while he was tidying up and organizing state administrations' budgets and never allowed anyone to violate budget limits when he was the finance minister and prime minister. He used to listen to wise people's advice and kept them in the ministry because they were loyal, faithful and well-experienced people.

None of them violated public funds nor starred as a political icon. Through Abbas' train window, one can also see Dr Fakhry Shehab; the economy professor at Oxford who did so much to have the Kuwait investment office established in London and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development established. He served Kuwait so much in finance and economy. Do any of us still remember such an icon?

The train still goes past several other names including

Faisal Al-Saleh, Hamad Al-Essa, Khalifa Al-Ghunaim, Haidar Al-Shahabi, Hamed Al-Essa, Sulieman Al-Mutawa and Fatima Hussein. Abbas met the love of his life; Lila Ahmad Jassem at the last couple's house and he got married to her. Many others had great impact on this nation's march and, as usual, are long forgotten now. Abbas warned of the bubble called the stock exchange market (also known as Souq Al-Manakh) and the economy based on biddings. He warned of a possible financial disaster but nobody listened.

Fake companies dominated the economy while Hamza and others seemed to be screaming from a distance. Later on, when the bubble burst open and many companies were declared bankrupt, he refused compensations and compromises, but again, none of the decision-makers listened to him. He had enhanced the Dinar's power with a decision on a currencies basket but eventually, the money went to the elite VIP's who devoured huge chunks of the state's present and future funds.

Once again through his work in some financial committee after quitting the central bank with great depression, he warns of the decision to purchase debts after the liberation, which confused everything in a legal deal that resulted in making a few people richer while so many were only silenced by a few gifts. So many popular decisions were made, such as debts' write off and increments tailored in parliament in collaboration with the government to buy some political loyalties and please others before fetus-like deals were made at the expense of children and a future devastated by greed, corruption and abuse of powers while nobody listens or even learns from such fatal mistakes.

'I advised you' is the title of Hamza Abbas' diary in which he was not directing the advice to us because we are not political decision-makers to accept or refuse such advice. He was rather offering advice for our sake. So will anybody ever listen to Hamza Abbas? — *Translated by Kuwait Times*

### ZAIN PARTICIPATES IN CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its humanitarian partnership of the 'Abshiro Bil Khair' campaign launched by Al-Najat Charitable Society. The campaign, aimed at supporting underprivileged families and students in Kuwait, received overwhelming success of over KD 4 million of donations collected in just 12 hours.

Through its humanitarian partnership, Zain invited its customers to contribute and donate to the campaign by sending over a million SMS messages containing a link to the official donation portal to its customer base, considered the largest in Kuwait. The company also communicated the campaign to over 670K followers on its official social media channels. Al-Najat Charitable Society launched its charitable campaign entitled 'Abshiro Bil Khair' in Mall 360, where a large projection screen displayed the online donations progress in real time. The event witnessed the attendance of Al-Najat Society Director Dr Mohammed Al-Ansari and Al-Najat member Omar Al-Thuwaini, as well as social media influencers and humanitarian activists Mohammed Al-Husainan, Abdullah Al-Shajii, and Abdulrahman Al-Bidah.

The campaign lasted for 12 straight hours, from 1 pm - 1 am, and resulted in an overwhelming amount of KD 4 million of donations collected in such a short period of time. A part of the donations will be utilized to support the essential needs of underprivileged families in Kuwait on a monthly basis throughout a full year, while the other part will be utilized to pay the tuition fees of underprivileged students in Kuwait on a monthly basis throughout a full year.

Zain's humanitarian partnership to this campaign comes in line with its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy that seeks to contribute to the welfare of the society in several ways. Zain prides itself on its long track of records and contributions it has put in philanthropic areas. The company strongly believes that such initiatives help infuse a sense of responsibility into members of the society, to help support those who are in need of help.

Zain recently announced the launch of its charitable initiative 'Ya Baghi Al Khair Aqbel' for the second year running, where the company will donate 500 Fils to a charitable organization for every paid bill during the month of Ramadan. During Ramadan of last year, Zain donated over KD 45,000 on behalf of its customers for humanitarian causes. The donation came as part of the first edition of its charitable initiative 'Ya Baghi Al Khair Aqbel', and came in collaboration with Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Association, where the donations were utilized to build a number of water wells at distant locations in Somalia and Kyrgyzstan with the aim of providing clean and safe drinking water to underprivileged families.

This year, Zain will donate 500 Fils (half a KD) each time a customer pays their bill anytime during the Holy Month of Ramadan through one of Zain's electronic or direct channels, including Zain's website, Zain's smartphone app, any of Zain's Quickpay machines, and the company's main branches available throughout the country. The collected donations will be delivered to a charitable organization in Kuwait to support philanthropic projects as well as improve the living conditions of needy families.

Zain stressed that it has always been keen to organize a number of social and humanitarian initiatives during Ramadan to support the various sectors of the Kuwaiti society, and the company is keen on reflecting the religious as well as traditional humanitarian values and principles to enrich the art of giving and to increase bonding between individuals.

### AUB ORGANIZES EMPLOYEE AWARENESS PROGRAM ABOUT HEALTHCARE WHILE FASTING

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) recently organized a health and wellness program for the Bank's employees in coordination with WAPMED TPA Services and Metro Medical Care. The focus of the program was on how to follow a healthy diet and lifestyle while fasting during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The Bank's program aims at providing professional advice by general practitioners and experts in nutrition, to guide staff on how to avoid dehydration and follow beneficial habits during the Holy Month.

The program featured many sections aimed at opening a check-up booth for staff, followed by a seminar on safe fasting and remaining hydrated during Ramadan. The experts from WAPMED shared their advice on how to maintain in good health during the holy month of Ramadan and introduced the employees to a WhatsApp Medication Facility using WhatsApp, which gives them a platform to enquire about health issues that they could face while fasting. They also launched the application for Android phones to provide valuable health tips.

AUB said in a press release: "At AUB, we put a lot of emphasis on staff health, and we realize how important it is to remain healthy while fasting. Therefore, we have given



our staff additional tools to help them cope with any possible health issues.

AUB added, "This initiative reflects the Bank's underlying commitment towards its employees, while providing a healthy environment in the workplace. We continue to involve our employees in a broad range of health and social activities which aims at adding value to their professional and personal lives."



### AUB LAUNCHES 'BREAKING THE FAST' INITIATIVE BY DISTRIBUTING IFTAR MEALS TO FASTING WORKERS

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) launched recently its 'Breaking the fast' initiative, by distributing iftar meals to fasting individuals nearby Al-Amiri Hospital, Mubarak Hospital, Shuwaikh, Qaser Nayf and Mubarkiya. The Bank aims to distribute 1000 meals in five days, where a large number of staff members have volunteered to distribute the meals.

AUB's latest initiative comes as part of its continued efforts to support the local community and drive philan-

thropic activities throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan. Ahli United Bank said in a press release: "It has become a custom of the Bank over the course of the past few years to provide iftar meals to fasting individuals during Ramadan. The Holy Month represents a good opportunity to reinforce the Bank's positive role in the community by being a good corporate citizen and supporting those in need."

The bank's distribution of iftar meals reflects the overall spirit of col-

laboration and social giving, a core element of AUB's strategic efforts in encouraging and promoting social cooperation. Moreover, Ahli United Bank continues to develop its Ramadan social program each year to be able to better provide a range of activities that are in line with the Holy Month's spirit while also driving the Bank's relationship with the wider community. This is also fully in line with Islamic sharia which endorses peace and forgiveness.

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Melania Trump, son Barron move into White House

## ISRAEL TO REDUCE GAZA POWER, FEEDING FEARS OF UNREST



MOSCOW: Protesters hold posters reading "Corruption steals the future" and "Miserable cowardly thief" during an unauthorized opposition rally in central Moscow yesterday. —AFP

# PROTESTERS MARCH ACROSS RUSSIA

## KREMLIN CRITIC NAVALNY DETAINED IN MOSCOW

**MOSCOW:** Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny was detained in Moscow yesterday as he headed to a protest in Moscow, as thousands of his supporters rallied across the country. The demonstration is the second mass action since March 26 called by Navalny, who has announced his intention to run for president next year and has drawn a new generation to the streets through a relentless online campaign. "Alexei has been detained in the stairwell," his wife Yulia wrote on his Twitter account about 40 minutes before the anti-corruption rally called by the Kremlin critic was set to start in the city center. She posted a photo of him getting into a police car in the street outside their home.

Navalny supporters were demonstrating across Russia, with several arrested as police warned organizers against holding an unauthorized rally in Moscow. The 41-year-old's anti-corruption videos have needed the country's most powerful and drawn to the streets crowds unseen since a wave of protests against President Vladimir Putin's reelection to a

third term in 2012. Local media said roughly 3,000 people protested in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk. Smaller rallies also gathered in Krasnoyarsk, Kazan, Tomsk, Vladivostok and many other cities.

Navalny's team have been broadcasting about the various actions from a studio set up in Moscow, but it went off air just as Navalny was being picked up by police. "They turned off the electricity in the studio," said presenter Leonid Volkov in complete darkness shortly before the channel went off air, to come back online after a few minutes. Russian website OVD Info, which operates a hotline and tracks detentions at protest events, said 27 people were detained in other cities before the Moscow protest was set to begin at 2 pm (1100GMT).

### 'We support Navalny'

The wave of protests called by Navalny coincides with public holiday, Russia day, with Putin handing out awards

and holding a reception in the Kremlin. On the eve of the event, which authorities had authorized in central Moscow, Navalny announced the protest was changing location after authorities blocked his efforts to set up a stage and sound equipment. Authorities "are forbidding any contractors from getting us a stage and sound," he wrote on his blog Sunday. "We are cancelling the rally on Sakharov Avenue and moving it to Tverskaya Street," a main thoroughfare to the Kremlin, he said.

Moscow City Hall labelled the decision a "provocation" while the police warned that a different event was being held at Tverskaya and that the protest would clash with festivities. "Any provocative actions by the protesters will be viewed as threat to public order and immediately thwarted," the police said. To mark Russia Day, the City Hall closed off Tverskaya Street to road traffic and set up a chain of events like reenactment of various eras in Russian history, from World War I trenches to a Renaissance fair and sword-fighting.

In surreal scenes, dozens of civilian buses filled by policemen were parked nearby ahead of the unsanctioned rally while ordinary people gawked at actors in period costumes. The mood was tense as some groups of protesters vowed to go to the authorized location and worried doing otherwise could get them arrested. Some protesters however heeded his call to change locations. "We support Navalny," said 16-year-old Yegor with a poster saying "Corruption steals the future". "We want the turnover of power, like in ordinary countries," he said.

The protest on March 26 was the biggest anti-Kremlin event in years and saw hundreds of people detained in the capital, including Navalny himself who subsequently spent 15 days in jail. Navalny called the anti-corruption protesters after releasing a film alleging that Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev controls a vast fortune through a network of foundations. The video has been viewed on YouTube over 22 million times. —AFP

## MAY TO FACE FURY OF OWN MPs

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister Theresa May's future was hanging in the balance yesterday as she prepared for a showdown with angry MPs from her Conservative party following its disastrous performance in last week's election. May's Conservatives unexpectedly lost their majority in parliament in Thursday's snap vote, causing political chaos ahead of Brexit talks with the European Union set to start next week. She was due to face MPs later yesterday, where she could face more demands to quit over her lackluster campaign and decision to call the election in the first place.

The chaos has weighed on the pound, which has plunged almost two percent since Thursday, and London's FTSE stock index, which was down 0.2 percent yesterday. May however has vowed to stay on, and on Sunday unveiled a largely unchanged new cabinet, which was to meet for the first time yesterday. The visibly weakened premier denied she was feeling "shell-shocked" after her election gamble backfired.

"What I'm feeling is that actually there is a job to be done and I think what the public want is to ensure that the government is getting on with that job," May said in an interview with Sky News. Foreign minister Boris Johnson, who was reported by British media to be lining up a leadership bid, insisted May should stay. "The people of Britain have had a bellyful of promises and politicking," he wrote in The Sun tabloid. "Now is the time for delivery - and Theresa May is the right person to continue that vital work." May's party fell eight seats short of retaining its parliamentary majority, and is now in talks with Northern Ireland's ultra-conservative Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) - which won 10 seats - to forge an informal alliance.

### 'Walk away' with no deal

Brexit minister David Davis insisted the government still aimed to take Britain out of the EU single market. "The reason for leaving the single market is because we want to take back control of our borders, they're not com-

patible," he told BBC radio. He also said the government would "walk away" with no deal if talks broke down on ending Britain's four-decade membership of the bloc. But Ruth Davidson, the pro-EU leader of the Conservatives in Scotland, called on May to "reopen" the government's Brexit plans. She warned her 13 MPs "will vote entirely as they believe they should" in parliament, raising doubts the government could secure enough votes to pass a deal taking Britain out of the single market.

### 'Dead woman walking'

Former finance minister George Osborne, who May sacked after taking office following the historic Brexit vote last June, on Sunday said May was now a "dead

woman walking". May has a busy schedule ahead, with the cabinet meeting yesterday and talks with French President Emmanuel Macron the following day. Brexit will likely be on the agenda at the Paris meeting, after May confirmed she will stick to the negotiating timetable.

May tried to reassert her shattered authority at the weekend by announcing her new cabinet - with no changes among her top team. In a surprise move, Michael Gove was appointed environment and agriculture minister less than a year after the prime minister sacked him as justice minister. After the opposition Labour party made hefty election gains by focusing heavily on national issues, May listed areas such as education and housing as top priorities. —AFP



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May (center left) holds the first Cabinet meeting of her new team at 10 Downing Street yesterday. —AFP

## MACRON HEADED FOR A HUGE MAJORITY, TURNOUT A CONCERN

**PARIS:** French voters have put President Emmanuel Macron's party on course for a crushing parliamentary majority, though a record low turnout in the first round of voting raised concerns yesterday over the strength of his future mandate. Projections showed Macron continuing his centrist revolution, with his *Republique en Marche* (Republic on the Move, REM) party and its ally MoDem tipped to win between 400 and 445 seats in the 577-member National Assembly in next Sunday's second round.

Such a share would give Macron - who founded his party just a year ago - one of the biggest parliamentary majorities in the modern French state has seen. "France is back," Prime Minister Edouard Philippe declared triumphantly, calling the result a vote for the president's "confidence, will and daring". But government spokesman Christophe Castaner admitted the 49 percent turnout - the lowest for six decades in such a vote - was "a failure of this election" and that Macron's team would need to reach out to those who stayed away.

### 'Monochrome parliament'

Former prime minister Alain Juppe of the rightwing Republicans said the mass stayaway by voters was a sign of "deep malaise" in the electorate and that a clean sweep by Macron would be bad for democracy. "The stakes of the second round are clear," said the Bordeaux mayor, calling for Republicans voters to turn out in force on Sunday. "Having a monochrome parliament is never good for democratic debate."

Ipsos pollster Frederic Dabi said a virtual monopoly on power would up the ante for Macron. "The French will expect results," he warned. Only four MPs - two of them from Macron's slate - topped the 50 percent mark needed for election at the first round. Official final results showed his year-old REM and allies MoDem winning 32.32 percent, ahead of the right-wing Republicans and its allies on 21.56 percent and the far-right National Front (FN) of Marine Le Pen on 13.20 percent.

The Socialists and their allies secured just 9.51 percent while the radical left and communists were on 13.74 percent. Macron's camp is expected to significantly boost its score in Sunday's second round with voters fed up with mainstream politics keen to try out his team, half of which is composed of rookie politicians. They include Marie Sara, a retired bullfighter, who is running neck-and-neck with FN stalwart Gilbert Collard in southern France, and star mathematician Cedric Villani running for office in the southern Paris suburb of Essonne.

The Republicans - who had hoped to rebound from their humiliation in the presidential vote - are shown trailing in second with a predicted 70-130 seats. The FN, which has long complained that France's winner-takes-all system discriminates against small parties, is meanwhile forecast to garner only between one and 10 seats. The party's result showed it struggling to rebound from Le Pen's bruising defeat by Macron in May's presidential run-off. —AFP



## SET ADRIFT IN SOUTH SUDAN'S WAR, A FAMILY IS REUNITED

**ABUROC, South Sudan:** Their hug is long and moving but awkward as Jorgina, sobbing, strains to embrace her teenage son Emmanuel who has grown taller since South Sudan's war tore them apart. It has been three and a half years since they last saw each other. They've both been shunted to and fro by the relentless fighting. Emmanuel is now a gangly two metre (6.5 ft) tall 17-year-old. He and Jorgina are among thousands of family members who lost sight of each other in the chaos of the civil war in the new African nation that just gained independence from Sudan in 2011.

More than 3.7 million people have been forced to flee their homes since the war started in Dec 2013. That year Emmanuel was attending school in the northern city of Malakal near the Sudanese border, not far from his family home in the town of Kodok. On Dec 24, just days after the fighting began between troops loyal to President Salva Kiir and those backing his former deputy Riek Machar, a rebel offensive on Malakal forced Emmanuel to take flight. "I walked to Kodok. It took me two days. When I arrived... I went to my family," he said. A few days after his return he was sent to buy some food at the market. "When I came back, my parents and relatives were not home."

### 'Nobody showed up'

The small town had been buzzing with rumors of an imminent offensive and while Emmanuel was gone his family, along with many other inhabitants, had dropped everything and fled. "I stayed at home three days. Nobody showed up," he recalled. So he returned to Malakal, where he got wind that his parents may have reached the capital Juba. Using some money given to him by a distant relative, he managed to bargain his way aboard a government

plane which was heading to Juba empty after bringing food to Malakal.

Once in Juba an acquaintance from Kodok put him in touch with a woman named Lena Ngor, who like him was from the Shilluk ethnic group. "I called him to say I would look for his relatives. When I failed to find them, I called him to tell him to stay

with us," the 34-year-old former journalist said. So Emmanuel moved into a large tent in the garden next to her house, but he never returned to school as Ngor, who has four children of her own, could not afford his fees. Nevertheless it is thanks to Lena, via one of her work colleagues, that Emmanuel managed to find out in March that his family had

returned to Kodok. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is working to reunite families, then got involved. In early June the organization had registered 1,800 cases of missing family members - double last year's number - as fighting spread into the southern Equatoria region.

"If we take all the cases of people who approach us, approximately, we manage to restore the contact for half of them. And we organize family reunification only for a small number of them, for the most vulnerable," said ICRC's Celine Croon. Separated families, once identified, mostly communicate by phone, with the ICRC logging 33,000 calls already this year.

### 'The bad things have gone'

Emmanuel was meant to reunite with his family earlier this year but a new government offensive once again forced the residents of Kodok, including his mother, to flee. But the time eventually came for Emmanuel to go home. On the eve of his departure Lena was ambivalent about seeing her "little brother" leave. "I'm going to miss him. He was helping me. I would like to meet his mother and his father one day," she said. Emmanuel made it to Aburoc, a village hosting 10,000 displaced people in early June, and it was at the edge of a small landing strip that he was reunited with his mother and uncle. "I thought I might not see him again, because of this conflict," said his mother, Jorgina Pagam Obur. "I have only two children. And now my child has arrived, all the bad things have gone. I feel very happy and very light," she said. Now she intends to seek refuge in neighboring Sudan, and try to get Emmanuel back into school. But while he may have found his family, the future remains uncertain for the young man who has gone from isolated minor, to displaced teenager and perhaps soon, to refugee. — AFP



**ABUROC, South Sudan:** Emmanuel Samuel, 17, comforts his mother Jorgina Pagam as he reunites with her after landing on June 5, 2017. — AFP

## ISRAEL REDUCES POWER TO GAZA AS ABBAS PRESSURES HAMAS

### HOSPITALS STRUGGLING WITH POWER SHORTAGES

**GAZA/JERUSALEM:** Israel will reduce electricity supplies to the Gaza Strip after the Palestinian Authority limited how much it pays for power to the enclave run by Hamas, Israeli officials said yesterday. The decision by Israel's security cabinet is expected to shorten by 45 minutes the daily average of four hours of power that Gaza's 2 million residents receive from an electricity grid dependent on Israeli supplies, the officials said.

The West Bank-based Palestinian Authority (PA) blamed Hamas's failure to reimburse it for electricity for the reduction in power supplies. But PA spokesman Tareq Rashmawi couched that explanation with a demand that Hamas agree to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' unity initiatives, which include holding the first parliamentary and presidential elections in more than a decade. "We renew the call to the Hamas movement and the de facto government there

to hand over to us all responsibilities of government institutions in Gaza so that the government can provide its best services to our people in Gaza," he said.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said Israel and the Palestinian Authority "will bear responsibility for the grave deterioration" in Gaza's health and environmental situation. Any worsening to Gaza's power crisis - its main electrical plant is offline in a Hamas-PA dispute over taxation - could cause the collapse of health services already reliant on stand-alone generators, many of them in a poor state of repair, Ashraf Al-Qidra, spokesman for the Health Ministry in Gaza, said.

Israel charges the PA 40 million shekels (\$11 million) a month for electricity, deducting that from the transfers of Palestinian tax revenues it collects on behalf of the Authority. Israel does not engage with Hamas, which it considers a terrorist group. Last month, the Palestinian Authority informed Israel that it would cover only 70 percent of the monthly cost of electricity that the Israel Electric Corporation supplies to the Gaza Strip.

At the security cabinet session late on Sunday, ministers decided that Israel would not make up the shortfall, the officials said. "This is a decision by (Abbas) ... Israelis paying Gaza's electricity bill is an impossible situation," Israeli Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan said on Army Radio. Israeli military and security chiefs backed the move, despite concern Hamas could respond by increasing hostilities with Israel. Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip from Abbas's Fatah movement in 2007, and several attempts at reconciliation, most recently in 2014, have failed. Hamas has accused Abbas of trying to turn the screw on them to make political concessions. —Reuters



**GAZA:** A Palestinian family eats dinner by candlelight at their makeshift home in the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip during a power outage on Sunday. — AFP

## SYRIAN ARMY, ALLIES STEP UP BOMBING OF REBELS IN DARAA

**AMMAN:** The Syrian army and Iran-backed militia forces have escalated attacks against a rebel-held part of the southern city of Daraa, a possible prelude to a large-scale campaign to wrest full control of the city, rebels and residents said yesterday. The intensive raids and bombing strikes mainly pounded the southern part of Daraa, strategically located on the border with Jordan and where the uprising against Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad erupted six years ago.

The Syrian army has recently intensified dropping barrel bombs, drums or cylinders packed with shrapnel, and has fired hundreds of so-called elephant rockets on Daraa's old quarter and a former refugee camp nearby, rebels and residents said. The army has not commented on its troop build-up in Daraa or the escalating aerial bombing. State media has long branded the rebels as foreign-backed "terrorists".

More reinforcements from the army and its allies, the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah and Shiite Iraqi militias, are also being rushed to the city from several locations near the capital, Damascus.

Troops were using the Damascus-Deraa highway, a major supply route where well-fortified trenches on both sides of the road have made it more difficult for rebels to mount attacks. "The regime has brought large columns of troops from the elite 4th Armoured Division, and also Hezbollah forces," said Major Issam Al-Rayes, spokesman of the so-called Southern Front grouping of

the Free Syrian Army (FSA) rebels, who are supported by an Arab-Western coalition.

The troops being sent as reinforcements are considered to be the Syrian army's elite division, which has the best training and equipment. Rebels say the troop build-up and relentless aerial bombing in recent weeks pointed to a major campaign for what the FSA rebels see as a decisive battle. "Everything indicates the regime is preparing for a large-scale military campaign in Daraa in which they plan to encircle the city and reach the Jordanian border," Rayes said.

Adham Al-Karad, the commander of the missile brigade in the FSA's Southern Front, said: "Our surveillance shows troop carriers and heavy armor ... if it continues at this same level of reinforcements, this will be very large." The army had stepped up its campaign to regain the Manshiya neighborhood, a strategic district that almost completely fell into rebel hands after four months of street battles.

Rebels stormed Manshiya, the last army foothold in Daraa's rebel-held old quarter, in February to ward off any army attempt to capture a strategic crossing with Jordan. The army's control of the crossing, a once-thriving passenger and commercial gateway with Jordan, would sever the rebel link between the eastern and western parts of the province they control, dealing a major blow to their cause in the south. The Syrian government's strategic goal is to open a direct route from Damascus to the Jordanian border. —Reuters



**DARAA, Syria:** This frame grab from video provided yesterday shows smoke rising over buildings that were hit by Syrian government forces bombardment. — AP

## EGYPT BANS SCORES OF NEWS WEBSITES

**CAIRO:** An often fiery government critic, Egyptian journalist Khaled Al-Balshi has been arrested, had his operations monitored, and staff harassed by police for years. Yet his website Al-Bedaiah, a rare dissident voice in Egypt, had never been touched. On Sunday that changed when it suddenly went blank with no warning after being blocked, part of what Balshi called an unprecedented and far-reaching state crackdown on scores of news websites in recent weeks.

"Let's be clear, the Egyptian websites going through this are dealing with a long-term shutdown - this is not short term," said Balshi from his downtown Cairo office, where four work stations sat idle, because staff feared coming to work in case of arrest. Balshi's website was the 57th blocked since May 24, according to the

Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression, a non-government organization tracking the affected sites through software that monitors outages.

Journalists see the campaign against them as a step toward banning all but the most state-aligned media, effectively reversing the private media boom that flourished in the final decade of former president Hosni Mubarak's rule and which they say helped push him from power in 2011. Though no precise figures on readership are available, Egypt enjoys an active private media that includes widely read print and Web format publications as well as popular late-night talk shows. State newspapers still maintain wide circulation. The spike in censorship has come as a surprise, even to journalists long-accustomed to

reporting within strict red lines in Egypt where direct criticism of the military, the president, and judiciary are considered taboo and punishable by jail time. The government has offered no comment on the reason behind the blockages and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology had no immediate comment.

Makram Mohamed Ahmed, head of the newly formed Supreme Media Council, a state media regulator, told Reuters he believes "the main reason is how much [these websites] deal with the Muslim Brotherhood or express support for terrorism," referring to the Islamist group whose president Mohamed Morsi held office for a year before being ousted in 2013 by the military after mass protests. — Reuters



**DIBSI FARAJ, Syria:** Syrian pro-government forces pray in this village at the entrance of Raqqa province after they entered the area on the western outskirts of the Islamic State (IS) group's Syrian bastion on Sunday. — AFP

## US-BACKED SYRIA FIGHTERS NEAR OLD CITY OF RAQQA

**BEIRUT:** US-backed Syrian fighters battling the Islamic State group pushed closer to the Old City in the jihadist stronghold of Raqqa yesterday, a monitor said. The Kurdish and Arab fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) entered Raqqa for the first time almost a week ago, after months of battle to encircle the northern city. In the east of the city, they hold the Al-Meshleb neighborhood, captured days after the operation inside the city began, and on Sunday they seized their first district in the west, Al-Rumaniya.

Yesterday, fighting was continuing on both fronts, with the SDF advancing quickly in the eastern neighborhood of Al-Senaa, which leads to the Old City of Raqqa, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said. "The SDF forces now control 70 percent of Al-Senaa," next to Al-Meshleb, Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP. "If they take Al-Senaa it will be the most important advance in the battle for Raqqa because it brings them to the center of the city where the most important IS positions are," said Abdel Rahman. "When they have captured Al-Senaa, the real battle will begin." The fighting is expected to become more difficult as the SDF approaches the more densely populated center of the city. "This fight will be tough," SDF fighter Berkhdan Qamishi told AFP on Sunday. "As we get close to the city center, we'll be fighting inside multi-storey buildings. Urban battles are tougher than fighting in villages, but we will fight until we control the whole city."

### 'Huge number of mines'

In the west of the city, meanwhile, SDF forces were battling to enter Hatim, the neighborhood next to Al-Rumaniya, captured on Sunday. The SDF reported "fierce clashes between fighters and the terrorists" on the two fronts and said 23 IS members had been killed, without specifying in which neighborhood or when. An SDF source told AFP that fighters had uncovered a series of tunnels dug by IS jihadists in Al-Meshleb. "We are moving carefully and cautiously to avoid the huge number of mines that IS has planted in the city," the source added. An AFP correspondent inside the west of the city on Sunday said

the approach was littered with mangled motorcycles and unexploded mortar rounds fired by IS. The bodies of several alleged IS fighters could be seen on the empty streets, and SDF fighters appeared on edge over the possibility of IS-planted mines and weaponized drones. The SDF was also advancing outside the city's northern outskirts, where progress has been slower.

After repeated assaults, the SDF seized parts of the heavily fortified Division 17 military base as well as all of an adjacent sugar factory, the Observatory said. IS had been using the base and the factory to defend the northern approach into Raqqa, and the US-led coalition has carried out heavy strikes in the area, destroying most of the factory, the monitor said.

### Civilians trapped

Originally a Syrian army base, Division 17 was seized by IS in 2014 when it took control of swathes of the wider Raqqa province. IS seized Raqqa in 2014, transforming it into the de facto Syrian capital of its self-declared "caliphate". It became infamous as the scene of some of the group's worst atrocities including public beheadings, and it is also thought to have been a hub for the planning of attacks overseas. An estimated 300,000 civilians were believed to have been living under IS rule in Raqqa, including 80,000 displaced from other parts of Syria.

Tens of thousands have fled from the city and its surroundings since the SDF announced their operation to capture Raqqa in November. The United Nations estimates around 160,000 people remain in the city, where conditions have deteriorated, according to activists. "Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently," an anti-IS group, has reported closed bakeries for lack of flour, as well as electricity and water outages. Civilians trapped in Raqqa also face the threat of being caught in the crossfire, with more than 60 killed in the city since the June 6 launch of the SDF operation, according to the Observatory. The monitor said five civilians had been killed between Sunday night and yesterday morning in air strikes and rocket fire on several parts of Raqqa city. — AFP



## UNDER TRUMP, US MILITIAS NOT READY TO LAY DOWN ARMS

**JACKSON, Georgia:** In the woods south of Atlanta, John and Yvette DeMaria are with about a dozen camouflage-wearing, heavily armed Americans huffing and puffing as they scramble to navigate the sprawling piece of property where they train, one weekend a month, to ward off enemies - foreign or domestic. The DeMarias are with the Georgia Security Force militia, whose members are relieved that Donald Trump won the presidency but believe it would be a mistake to lay down their arms just because he is in the White House. So they continue to take to the woods to be ready for whatever may come, whether it's an economic crisis that spawns unrest or Islamist extremists carrying out attacks on American soil.

"I started to realize that I got very angry because the system has been so abused over and over and over again, making rights out of thin air for people who don't deserve to get anything," said John DeMaria, who goes by the nickname Rooster J. While it is impossible to track all the groups that often are no more than a handful of men gathering in woods, experts say that militia activity tends to fall off under Republican presidents and ramp up under Democrats. But just as last year's election upended conventional models, those who watch militias say life in the Trump era may not follow the same patterns.

If anything, it could be a potential powder keg, if those feelings of having a kindred spirit in Trump erupt into a sense of betrayal if he fails to deliver on his promises. "What would

concern me is that nobody gets more angry than a fan spurned," said James Corcoran, a professor at Simmons College in Boston who has watched militias closely for decades and has written extensively about the movement.

The leader of the Georgia Security Force, Chris Hill, remains deeply skeptical of Congress and worries the lawmakers will undermine Trump's agenda: preventing him from building a wall on the Mexico border, repealing "Obamacare" and fulfilling his promise to "Make American Great Again." "Even if President Trump is able to do the things that he wants to do, he's still got Congress to contend with. Congress is the same old dog-and-pony show. All they do is fight. They're never going to grant us more freedom," said Hill, who goes by the nickname General BloodAgent. "A lot of people have let their guard down because he was elected, and I would wholeheartedly say that is a big mistake. ... If anything we should use this time wisely. Like the Good Book says, a wise man prepares, a fool takes his chances."

Modern-day militias began to surge in the 1990s during the Clinton administration, then ebbed during the Bush years. Following a dramatic spike after the 2008 election of President Barack Obama, there are now an estimated 165 militias in the US, according to Ryan Lenz, a senior investigative reporter with the Southern Poverty Law Center. For Hill and his group, the 2008 election was their defining moment, the one that signaled the US was on the wrong track. They believed

Obama wanted to restrict gun rights and forever alter their way of life.

### Political correctness blamed

Yvette DeMaria said she and her husband were looking for "like minds" and found the Georgia Security Force through Facebook and a pastor friend who had traveled to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, with the militia to help out after fires in the Smoky Mountains devastated the region. That act of charity had moved her. Even before Obama was elected, the DeMarias felt the country was heading down the wrong path, with the military and law enforcement no longer cherished or revered. Yvette DeMaria said she believes protesters have been allowed to get out of control after police shootings.

Political correctness has run amok, she said, with politicians and the courts carving out constitutional protections that strayed far from the intent of the nation's forefathers. She laments, for example, the legalization of same-sex marriage and the transgender bathroom issue, believing they amount to a war on her Christian faith. "We cannot be silent anymore. We have voices. We need to rise up. We need to speak up. We need to find like minds," Yvette DeMaria said. "We're going to church every Sunday - but Monday through Saturday, what are we doing?"

She and her husband found their mission and some like-minded people in the militia, which is part of the Three Percenters movement. It derives its name from the belief that

just 3 percent of the colonists rose up to fight the British. They have vowed to resist any government that infringes on the US Constitution. While focused on training, the militia is also social. In the woods, they use hand signals and walkie-talkies to alert the others to where and how many enemies are lurking. They then navigate obstacles made of firehoses, logs and scraps of wood, metal and string to eliminate the threats.

The first two runs are "dry fire" exercises;

the guns aren't loaded. The last exercise of the day involves live rounds in their weapons - from AR-15s to handguns. After the targets are riddled with holes, the militia members gather around a fire at a campsite a short walk away to enjoy music and a barbecue. For Hill, a paragon by day, the Trump election was a defining moment to be celebrated. "We're being called Trump militia. It's something I'm probably going to wear as a badge now," Hill said. "I feel a connection to President Trump." —AP



**JACKSON, Georgia:** Chris Hill stands in the woods during training exercises in the woods on April 1, 2017, with the Georgia Security Force militia. —AP



**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump, and their son Barron Trump walk from Marine One across the South Lawn to the White House on Sunday. —AP

## MELANIA TRUMP, SON BARRON MOVE INTO THE WHITE HOUSE

**WASHINGTON:** The first family is together again under the same roof: The White House. After nearly five months of living apart, President Donald Trump's wife, Melania, announced Sunday that she and the couple's young son have finally moved into the executive mansion at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Mother and son broke with tradition by living at Trump Tower in New York since the inauguration so that Barron, now 11, could finish the school year uninterrupted; the president lived and worked at the White House.

"Looking forward to the memories we'll make in our new home! #Movingday," the first lady tweeted Sunday evening after she and Barron arrived at the White House with Trump. The tweet accompanied a photo of the Washington Monument as seen from the White House Red Room. The president spent the weekend at his private golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, and had said on several occasions that his wife and son would move to the White House after the school year. Trump celebrates his 71st birthday on Wednesday and got his gift a few days early.

Mrs. Trump said last month that Barron will attend a private school in Maryland in the fall, an announcement that answered one of the lingering questions surrounding the Trump family's unusual living arrangement. It also pointed toward a coming move to the White House. One remaining question had to do with a move-in date, and Mrs. Trump answered it Sunday. Her spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham, confirmed the move by email and on Twitter. "It's official! @FLOTUS & Barron have made the move to DC! #WelcomeHome," Grisham tweeted.

Barron will enter the sixth grade at St Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland, in the fall. Trump has four other children - Don Jr, Ivanka, Eric and Tiffany -

among his two ex-wives. Ivanka Trump has taken a White House job as an adviser to her father. Melania Trump stayed largely out of sight during her husband's presidential campaign and was an absent first lady at the outset of the administration, staying in New York and focusing on Barron. But she has slowly been raising her profile at the White House, including joining the president when foreign leaders and their spouses visit, co-hosting the annual Easter Egg Roll and holding some solo events.

She recently accompanied the president on his first foreign trip, a nine-day journey through Saudi Arabia, Israel, Italy and Belgium that marked her first extended turn as first lady in the public spotlight. Now that's she's at the White House full time, pressure will build for her to be seen more and to do more. She said during the campaign that she would work on the issue of cyberbullying as first lady, but she has made no further announcements about the subject.

She also has shown an interest in military veterans and empowering women and girls. "I do think once she's in DC there'll be more pressure for her to be working on something that's her own, that's helping some segment of the population because that's what first ladies are supposed to do," said Jean Harris, professor of political science and women's studies at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. First ladies are also seen as calming influences on presidents. In the case of President Trump, many will be anxious to see whether Mrs. Trump's daily presence will have a positive influence on Trump's behavior and mood, including his often angry tweet storms. The first lady has said she wishes he would give up tweeting. —AP

## PUERTO RICO BACKS STATEHOOD DEMAND IN CONTENTIOUS VOTE

### VOTE MARRED BY LOW TURNOUT

**SAN JUAN:** Puerto Ricans voted overwhelmingly Sunday to become a US state in a non-binding referendum - but the result was marred by an extremely low turnout after opposition parties called for a boycott of the poll. With virtually all results in, 97.2 percent backed statehood, 1.5 percent supported independence and 1.3 percent opted for no change, but just 23 percent of the 2.2 million-strong electorate cast a ballot. Despite the low turnout, Governor Ricardo Rossello vowed to push for the territory to become the 51st US state after casting his vote for statehood.

"We will go before international forums to defend the argument of the importance of Puerto Rico being the first Hispanic state in the United States," Rossello said. An unincorporated US territory under American control since 1898, Puerto Rico lacks sovereign powers - an urgent problem as it grapples with public debt of \$73 billion and its economy stumbles. Rossello, who heads the pro-statehood New Progressive Party, said his government would fight "in Washington and throughout the world" for the Caribbean island territory to be accepted as the 51st US state, and for Puerto Ricans to gain "all the same opportunities" as other American citizens. The US Congress would need to approve any upgrade to statehood.

### 'Send a message to Congress'

The opposition Popular Democratic Party had said "statehood will win by a landslide" because of the boycott by opposition parties, which supported the status quo as a US territory. The Puerto Rican Independence Party had called the vote a "farce". But the Rossello government insists statehood is the answer to the financial crisis hanging over the island of 3.4 million, where some 45 percent of the popula-

tion live in poverty. After the votes were tallied, the Popular Democratic Party called the vote a waste of public money and a stinging humiliation for the government. The ruling party "is a victim of its arrogance, abuse of power and ideological narcissism," said one of its senators, Anibal Jose Torres. But voters backed statehood. "I hope after 100 years of being a territory of the United States, we can send a message to Congress in the US that Puerto Rico is ready to do something with its future," said Marco Rodriguez in Guaynabo.

Puerto Ricans have been US citizens since 1917. But they are not allowed

to vote in presidential or congressional elections unless they reside in the mainland United States. Sunday's referendum was the fifth on the territory's status - dating back to 1967. The Rossello government has been criticized for spending \$7.5 million on the referendum at a time when financial difficulties have forced it to close 163 public schools and cut back in other areas. The question of status is "fundamental" to breaking free from economic turmoil, said Christian Sobrino, chief economic advisor to the government. "It is because Puerto Rico is in an unequal relationship" with the US government that the bankrupt island's

finances are now under a largely US-appointed control board, he told AFP.

### US firms left as tax breaks ended

A former Spanish colony taken over by the US at the end of the 19th century, Puerto Rico has enjoyed broad political autonomy since 1952 as a commonwealth or "free associated state". As American citizens, often proudly so, Puerto Ricans can freely enter the US, live and work. For decades the territory enjoyed a US federal tax exemption that attracted many American companies to set up shop - but those breaks were ended in 2006, prompting firms to leave the island en masse. —AFP



**SAN JUAN:** Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello celebrates the results of a referendum on the status of the island, next to Congresswoman representing Puerto Rico Jennifer Gonzalez (left) at the New Progressive Party headquarters on Sunday. —AP

## VICTIMS OF ORLANDO SHOOTING HONORED AT PREDAWN CEREMONY

**ORLANDO, Florida:** The names of the 49 people killed in a Florida nightclub last June were read aloud early on Monday in a pre-dawn remembrance marking the exact moment a year earlier when a gunman transformed a dance party into a massacre. The private gathering at Orlando's Pulse

nightclub at 2:02 am (0602 GMT) was the first in a series of events at which victims' names will be memorialized with performances, prayers and candlelight vigils across the country on "Orlando United Day."

On the first anniversary of the worst mass

shooting in modern US history, officials asked Americans to join in acts of "love and kindness" to honor victims of the three-hour June 12 rampage at the now-shuttered gay club, including survivors still reeling from emotional and physical wounds. "Following the Pulse tragedy, we showed the world that Orlando would not be defined by the act of a hate-filled killer, but instead defined by our response of love, compassion and unity," Mayor Buddy Dyer wrote in a blog post.

Hundreds gathered outside the club late Sunday and early Monday, including scores of people dressed in white with angels wings and carrying lanterns. The "angels" first appeared in the wake of the tragedy to protect and support family and friends of the victims. "We will make sure the world is a better place because of our 49 angels," WKMG-TV quoted Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs as saying at the service before a performer sang "Over the Rainbow" to close the service as many on hand sobbed. "Everybody's really come together," Matt Heavey, of Orlando, told WKMG. "We kind of embraced differences," he said. "We've embraced diversity that makes this city really go forward."

Many who came to pay respects said they were there for the first time since the shooting, with the tragedy still too raw. The gunman, Omar Mateen, 29, opened fire shortly after the last call for drinks on the club's popular Latin night. He gunned down patrons on the dance floor and sprayed bullets at others covering in bathroom stalls. Holding hostages during his standoff with police, Mateen claimed allegiance to a leader of the Islamic State militant group before he was killed in an exchange of gunfire with authorities. —Reuters



**ORLANDO, Florida:** John Hough visits the memorial setup outside the Pulse gay nightclub yesterday as he remembers the victims of a mass shooting at the club one year ago. —AFP

## PERCEPTIONS OF POLITICAL SPATS MAY INFLUENCE COMEY FUTURE

**WASHINGTON:** So what's next for James Comey? The former FBI director boldly challenged the president who fired him, accused the Trump administration of lying and supplied material that could be used to build a case against President Donald Trump. But after stepping away from the Capitol Hill spotlight, where he's always seemed comfortable, the 56-year-old veteran lawmaker now confronts the same question long faced by Washington officials after their government service. His dry quip at a riveting Senate hearing that he was "between opportunities" vastly understates the career prospects now available to him - not to mention potential benefits from the public's fascination with a man who has commanded respect while drawing outrage from both political parties.

Comey was pilloried for his handling of

the Hillary Clinton email investigation, yet is now seen as a critical cog in the inquiry into possible connections between Russia and the Trump campaign. He may be called upon to provide more detail about his interactions with Trump, which he documented in a series of memos, even as he turns attention to potential opportunities in law, corporate work or perhaps even politics.

"There's some jobs where the controversy would not be a benefit, but that's why I see him ending up in a place where he can be himself," said Evan Barr, a former federal prosecutor in New York City who worked under Comey in the US attorney's office. "If he were the president of a college or an important think tank, he could pursue the issues that mean the most to him and not be worried about trying to make anyone happy." —AFP



## A TALE OF TWO 'INDIGNANTS' CITIES IN SPAIN

**MADRID:** Swept to power in 2015 by Spain's "Indignants" anti-austerity movement, two political novices lead Madrid and Barcelona with the tough task of increasing social spending without generating more debt. Now at the halfway point in their terms as mayor, the reviews are mixed for Madrid's Manuela Carmena, a former judge and Barcelona's Ada Colau, an ex-housing activist.

They've been accused of missteps, but the disaster some had predicted for the two political neophytes bent on reducing inequalities and austerity has not come to pass. "Both cities maintain a positive dynamic, they are functioning normally, I don't see any symptom of a 'red' revolution or blunders," says Jordi Alberich, director of the Economy Circle, an influential, non-partisan organisation that scrutinises economic policies and social progress.

### End of VIP loges

Barcelona says it has raised social spending by 50 percent since June 2015 while Madrid increased it by 22 percent last year. "We have eliminated all sorts of sumptuous spending and privileges," Carmena, 73, told AFP. "This has allowed



**BARCELONA:** Mayor of Madrid Manuela Carmena (left) and Mayor of Barcelona Ada Colau attend the "Fearless Cities" international meeting of municipalities, organized by leftwing party "Barcelona en Comu" on June 9, 2017. — AFP

us to increase social spending a lot while reimbursing our debt," she said. So for example, the city stopped renting out expensive private property for its municipal services, or paying for VIP spaces at

events such as the Madrid Open tennis tournament.

City hall spokeswoman Rita Maestre added as an example that they had also raised taxes on supermarket properties.

According to city hall, Madrid's debt has been reduced by more than €1.7 billion (\$1.9 billion) in less than two years. It nevertheless still stood at €3.8 billion at the end of 2016. Carmena said Madrid had also implemented social measures such as "drastically reducing the price of pre-schools."

But the opposition says the newcomers' inexperience was palpable, pointing to the "disorganization" of the city hall in many areas. "They have decided to give priority to early debt repayment before building a single school or library," Begona Villacis, a Madrid councillor for the center-right Ciudadanos party, told the Huffington Post in January. "They're reducing debt at a cost of doing absolutely nothing because they're incapable of management."

### Housing crisis

Both cities have made the right to appropriate housing a focus. For its part, Barcelona has adopted a series of measures such as building 1,900 units of social housing and aiming for a total of 4,100, or stopping 2,000 planned expulsions of people from homes they cannot afford. But Gerardo Pisarello, Barcelona's

interim mayor while 43-year-old Colau is on maternity leave, says "it's not enough".

Rental prices rose 10 percent last year, and even more in areas popular with the millions of tourists who visit Barcelona every year. In an attempt to regulate mass tourism so that it doesn't become unbearable for locals, Barcelona has increased its control of unlicensed tourist housing. It has also slapped Airbnb with a 600,000-euro fine for promoting them, and banned new hotels from opening in saturated areas.

But Joaquim Forn, spokesman for the conservative PD.Cat party, counters that by suspending the opening of two luxury hotels, Barcelona has lost a thousand jobs. "Their priority is redistribution but not creating wealth, which doesn't make sense," he says.

Both cities also want to be greener. Madrid, for instance, ordered half of private cars off the roads - with some exceptions - in December to fight a particularly bad bout of pollution, a first in Spain. But this too was met with resistance. Miguel Angel Belloso, a columnist in the Expansion daily, slammed Carmena's "totalitarian project" and accused her of "persecuting the car". — AFP

## 'HARD' OR 'SOFT' BREXIT? UK ELECTION CHAOS FIRES DEBATE

### MAY IN WEAKENED POSITION AFTER LOSING MAJORITY

**LONDON:** Supporters of "hard" and "soft" Brexit tried to take advantage of the political chaos in Britain on Monday to promote their visions amid fears that their rivalry could revive old divisions in the Conservative party. Prime Minister Theresa May is in a weakened position after losing her parliamentary majority in last week's snap elec-

tion, leaving her vulnerable to both hardliners and moderates in her party. "May has lost all authority on Brexit and everything else. All options are back on the table," Stephen Barber, associate professor of public policy at London South Bank University, told AFP.



**LONDON:** Britain's Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (Brexit Minister) David Davis arrives to attend a Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street in central London yesterday following the June 8 snap general election in which the ruling Conservatives lost their majority. —AFP

tion, leaving her vulnerable to both hardliners and moderates in her party. "May has lost all authority on Brexit and everything else. All options are back on the table," Stephen Barber, associate professor of public policy at London South Bank University, told AFP.

Under the "hard Brexit" scenario, which has prevailed so far, Britain would leave the European single market and the customs union and curb EU immigration. It would also leave open the option of walking away from the negotiations with no deal in place - a decision that

many businesses warn could be disastrous. Advocates of a "soft Brexit" scenario say Britain could retain access to the European single market like non-EU member Norway and allow certain levels of EU immigration.

Sparrring between the two sides is in full force ahead of the scheduled start of complex negoti-

ations with Brussels next week, with a tight timetable that would see Britain leave the EU in March 2019. Setting the tone, Michael Heseltine, a leading pro-European Conservative told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show on Sunday that "hard Brexit" was "the cancer gnawing at the heart of the Conservative Party."

### 'Soft Brexit'

In the hours immediately after Thursday's embarrassing election setback for the Conservatives, British media reported that

finance minister Philip Hammond had told May she needed to put "jobs first" in any new deal with Brussels. Other powerful critical voices quickly followed. Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson, whose 13 MPs saved May from election disaster, said the government should "think again" about its approach. She has called for an "open Brexit" strategy that would focus on retaining trade ties and has said she wants a role in devising the government's policy.

Scotland voted by 62 percent to remain in the European Union in last year's historic referendum but it wasn't enough to change the overall UK result, with 52 percent in favor of leaving. Arlene Foster, leader of Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, will also have an important voice as the government will have to rely on her party's 10 MPs to effectively govern. While her party supported Brexit, Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU and many residents have voiced concern about the return of border checkpoints which were removed over a decade ago. Foster, who is due to meet May on Tuesday, could insist that Britain stay in the customs union, and that would probably make it easier to keep an open border with the Irish Republic.

### 'Hard Brexit'

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said on Sunday that the plans were unchanged but added it was "very, very important that we're careful about the existing trade that we do with Europe, about access to the single market". He also said that there should be "some agreement on the immigration that we can accept from Europe". Brexit minister David Davis took a harder tone, however, when he took to the airwaves yesterday. "The reason for leaving the single market is because we want to take back control of our borders. They're not compatible," he told BBC radio.

Asked about the possibility of a Norway option, he answered: "We're not going down that route." He also said the government was still open to not accepting a bad deal. "It's important we have the option if it comes down to it to walk away," he said. May's appointment of top Brexit campaigner Michael Gove to the cabinet on Sunday could help bolster the "hard Brexit" view.

Financial Times columnist Wolfgang Munchau warned against overestimating the effect of Britain's election on Brexit strategy, as many of the decisions will depend more on its EU partners. "The degrees of hardness and softness are not unilateral choices to be taken by the UK electorate," he wrote. "The only conclusion I can draw... is that the election has changed absolutely nothing for Brexit". — AFP

## LE PEN'S FAR-RIGHT SURGE LOSES FRANCE MOMENTUM

**PARIS:** Marine Le Pen's far-right National Front suffered a severe setback on Sunday, as her success in reaching the French presidential runoff failed to translate into support in parliamentary polls. Le Pen won 10.7 million votes as she lost to Emmanuel Macron last month, but her party's first-round result on Sunday saw it falling way short of its aim of getting a stronger voice in parliament. The anti-EU, anti-immigration National Front (FN) is on course to win between one and 10 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly in the June 18 runoff. It had been aiming to boost its current two seats to 15.



**Marine Le Pen**

Le Pen blamed what she called a skewed electoral system that encouraged a record low turnout after projections showed that FN candidates scored between 13 and 14 percent of the vote. She pointed to the fact that only around 49 percent of the electorate cast a ballot on Sunday - the lowest level in a parliamentary election in France for six decades. "This catastrophic abstention rate should raise the question of the voting rules which keep millions of our compatriots away from the polling stations," the 48-year-old said.

FN vice president Florian Philippot said the party had "maybe been disappointed by the score and we have paid the price, I think, for a low turnout". The lion's share of the vote, as expected, went to the new centrist party of 39-year-old President Emmanuel Macron, Republique en Marche (Republic on the Move, REM), which could win as many as 445 seats. The FN had set the 15-seat goal in order to qualify as a parliamentary group, a status that gives a party more clout in the National Assembly with seats on committees and a role in setting the agenda.

### 'We are real opposition'

The FN leader is currently a lawmaker in the European Parliament but is hoping to win a legislative seat in France for the first time. She at least made it easily into the run-off in the northern town of Henin-Beaumont against 12 rivals and will fight a political novice from Macron's party, Anne Roquet. Lise Trolin, a 32-year-old saleswoman who was among around 200 FN party stalwarts who gathered to watch the results in the depressed former mining town, tried to put a brave face on the national result. "It's not a failure," she told AFP. "We will be the only opposition force in the assembly because the Macron government is a melting pot of all the other parties. We will be the only force with enough guts to challenge Macron."

Pensioner Marie-Christine Laversin, 57, said while she was disappointed, she thought FN voters would turn out in greater numbers next Sunday. "People don't realize that what they can expect with Emmanuel Macron is that very well-off people will become even wealthier and the poor will get poorer. What I fear a bit with Macron is, if the FN is not in the assembly, we're done for."

Le Pen and the FN have benefitted from a confluence of factors including the 2015 migrant crisis and the string of jihadist attacks that have hit France. The party has a particular populist appeal in France's northern rustbelt, which is dotted with shut-down factories and mines. In the presidential vote, Le Pen aimed to capitalise on the same rejection of traditional politics that swept Donald Trump to the White House and sparked Britain's vote to leave the EU.

She was roundly criticized for a poor performance in a brutal TV debate with Macron days before the presidential runoff that potentially cost her votes. "The National Front has not recovered from the period between the two rounds (of the presidential election) and its successive mess-ups," Brice Teinturier of the Ipsos polling institute said on France 2 TV. Le Pen has spent the past six years since taking charge of the FN trying to expunge the xenophobic, anti-Semitic ethos engendered by her father Jean-Marie Le Pen, who co-founded the party in 1972. Under Marine Le Pen, the FN has consistently improved its electoral scores, notching up records in past regional, European Parliament and presidential elections. — AFP

## FRENCH SOCIALISTS FACE 'UNPRECEDENTED' LOSSES

**PARIS:** For France's Socialists, the pain keeps getting worse. After five years in power under ex-president Francois Hollande, the party now faces a battle to survive after a historic drubbing in parliamentary elections. Projections on Sunday showed it crashing to 15-40 MPs in the new national assembly from 277 currently. Even party boss Jean-Christophe Cambadélis, a 20-year veteran of parliament, lost his seat along with a host of senior figures and former ministers. Cambadélis said the results were "an unprecedented retreat of the left as a whole and the PS (Socialist Party) in particular".

If the projections are confirmed by a second-round of voting next weekend, the collapse would be even worse than in 1993 when the party fell to 56 seats from 278 at the latter end of Socialist president Francois Mitterrand's second term. The reasons are multiple, foremost among them the historic unpopularity of Hollande after his five-year term in power which was marked by high unemployment, terror attacks and infighting in the party. At one point, his approval rating hit 4.0 percent.

The left also went into Sunday's elections deeply divided, with the Socialists, the new far-left party France Insoumise (France Unbound) and the Communist party fielding rival candidates in many constituencies. Opposite them were new faces from President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party Republique En Marche (Republic on the Move, REM) who have siphoned away centre-left voters.

### A 'tornado'

Julien Dray, a senior Socialist leader, said it was "a profound political crisis. Firstly we'll have to see the second round... we need to keep fighting and afterwards we



**Jean-Christophe Cambadélis**

will need to rework completely what was the Socialist identity." The party has gone backwards in every national election since Hollande came to power in 2012, but the presidential election last month and this weekend's parliamentary vote has laid bare the level of disaffection. "The tornado was too strong... the two elections were too close to allow us to really recover," Cambadélis added on Sunday.

In the presidential election, Socialist candidate Benoit Hamon scored a humiliating 6.3 percent in the first round on April 23 after a campaign during which many party heavyweights abandoned him. He also lost his seat on Sunday. Others from the outgoing government to suffer the ignominy of a first-round exit included former interior minister Matthias Fekl and ex-culture minister Aurelie Filippetti. The party has already raised the possibility of having to sell its headquarters in central Paris as it haemorrhages donations and public subsidies which are essential to keep it afloat.

"The results for the Socialists need to be looked at with clarity and we will need to draw the right conclusions," former Socialist prime minister Bernard Cazeneuve said in a statement, adding that the party would need to be "rebuilt on a healthy and renovated basis". During Hollande's term, a profound ideological split in the party between traditional leftwingers attached to the power of the state and more pro-market centrists frequently surfaced and remains unresolved. — AFP

## ITALY'S FIVE STAR SUFFERS SETBACK

**ROME:** Italy's anti-establishment 5-Star Movement suffered a resounding defeat in local elections, results released yesterday even though national polls say it is the country's most popular party. Five-Star candidates came in third or fourth in Parma, Verona, Palermo, L'Aquila, Catanzaro, Lecce, Taranto and Genoa, birthplace of the movement's founder, comic Beppe Grillo. National elections are due in Italy by the first half of next year and could be held as early as this autumn, meaning Sunday's vote in 1,000 towns and cities was an important test of political strength.

Newspaper headlines and pundits pounced on the results, saying the 5-Star might have peaked, but Grillo shot back on yesterday, confidently predicting his group would bounce back. "Everyone is gloating, putting forward rarefied analysis on the death of the 5-Star and the return of a bipolar (political) system," Grillo wrote on his blog. "Convince yourself this is true so you can sleep more soundly. We will continue forward on our path."

The party had hoped to build on last year's election successes, when it took control of 19 large towns and cities, including Rome. But its rule in the capital has been mired in controversy, and its grassroots operations elsewhere have been snarled by internal feuding. Despite its local difficulties, the most recent opinion polls taken ahead of Sunday's vote say the 5-Star would win more than 30 percent in a national race, just ahead of the ruling Democratic Party (PD) led by former prime minister Matteo Renzi.

Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia and the far-right Northern League - long-time allies but with increasingly diverging political agendas - trail with less than 15 percent each. The center-right fared strongly on Sunday where Forza Italia and the League put aside their divisions and ran together, taking the lead in 13 of the 24 main municipal races. A runoff ballot between the two leading candidates is due on June 25.

The only outright winner in a major city on Sunday was Leoluca Orlando, who led the center-left to



**PALERMO:** Leoluca Orlando celebrates after being elected Palermo's mayor early yesterday. —AP

victory in the Sicilian capital Palermo, securing his fifth mandate. An anti-mafia firebrand, Orlando has governed the city for 16 of the past 32 years. Most of the 5-Star candidates would have been new to government. Last year the 5-Star cast its victory in Rome, the nation's capital, as proof it was ready to govern.

But Mayor Virginia Raggi has been dogged by legal scandals since taking office, and she has appeared slow to revive a city hob-

bled by years of corruption and economic decline. Until last week, Italy's main parties had been trying to pass a new proportional electoral law together, but the deal unraveled. Last week, markets appeared wary of more political instability in Italy, which has the euro zone's highest public debt after Greece and has been underperforming, fearing an autumn election could interfere with the presentation of a belt-tightening 2018 budget. —Reuters



## GAS SHORTAGES RISK REVERSING PUSH TO EXPAND PAK FORESTS

**ISLAMABAD:** Each winter, a familiar sight crops up in Islamabad and the nearby bustling city of Rawalpindi: People queuing outside firewood shops, waiting their turn to fill bags or plastic baskets with wood to burn when their household gas supply is disrupted. Gas shortages are increasingly hitting households during the chilly winter months, often when people are trying to prepare dinner or need to heat their homes in the evenings.

"What else can one do other than burning fuelwood, when one does not get gas supplied at his home?" grumbled Muhammad Razaq, a 50-year-old government employee, as he recently collected a load of firewood. Last winter, he said, he needed to buy firewood for cooking and heating water for bathing and dishwashing when no gas was available at his rented home on the outskirts of Islamabad. Summer temperatures have now reduced the need for heating, but environmentalists worry that worsening gas shortages are fueling a new surge of deforestation in the country - and could derail ambitious efforts to plant trees and reverse the country's large-scale forest losses.

"We and our environment will be completely deprived of the environmental and health gains of these afforestation programs by 2030," said Riffat

Naseem Malik of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management at the University of Haripur in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, which is working to replant a billion new trees. "People will be chopping down these trees even more rapidly to meet their domestic energy needs as long as the government fails to stave off the huge gas supply shortfall," he said.

### Turn on the Gas

Gas consumption in Pakistan has grown by more than 80 percent over the last 20 years. As the country's population grows rapidly, the number of domestic gas connections has more than doubled, from around 4 million to 8.4 million, according to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17. Although the government reports that just under 30 percent of households have access to gas, the state-owned Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority estimates domestic gas demand to be 5.8 billion cubic feet per day, compared to production of around 4.1 billion cubic feet - a shortfall of 1.7 billion cubic feet. The authority warned in April this year that by 2030 the gap will rise to as much as 3.9 billion cubic feet per day.

The country is unable to meet demand in part because of inadequate investment in gas explo-

ration in Pakistan, due in part to the country's poor security situation. But experts point to other factors behind the gas shortfall as well, including inadequate maintenance of existing gas pipeline networks, the diversion of large quantities of gas from supplying households to fuelling power plants in order to cut oil import expenses, and a steep rise in the conversion of vehicles to compressed natural gas as a cheap fuel source.

Mukhtar Ahmed, a former energy adviser to the prime minister, estimates that by 2030 Pakistan's overall demand for energy will increase 350 percent, while the proportion of the country's total energy needs met from domestic sources will fall from 72 percent to 38 percent.

### Less Gas, Fewer Trees?

The gas shortfall has alarmed forest and environment experts in a country where 27,000 hectares of forest are chopped down each year, according to the government's National Forest Policy, published in 2015. A report by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization says that deforestation has averaged 42,000 hectares annually since 1990, reducing the country's forested area by more than 40 percent between 1990 and 2015. Forests now

cover less than 2 percent of Pakistan's land area, one of the lowest levels in the region, the report said.

Conservationists fear worsening gas shortages could reverse recent forest gains from projects such as the ambitious Billion Tree Tsunami project in the northwest province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and the prime minister's Green Pakistan Programme, which aims to plant 100 million trees nationally over a five-year period. The architect of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa project, Malik Amin Aslam, said that the provincial government is working on plans to reduce people's reliance on fuel wood.

### Solar and Hydropower Push

The province is supporting the installation of more than 350 community-based micro-hydropower projects, at a cost of 5 billion Pakistani rupees (\$48 million), to electrify millions of off-grid rural households, he said. The small hydropower plants will generate 35 megawatts of electricity, he said. "The project is already 70 percent completed and, in fact, the ambition has recently been expanded to take it to 1,000 micro-hydro units by 2018. As these remote locations are close to or in the middle of pristine natural forests, this provides a carbon-free alternative to cutting trees," Amin Aslam said. — Reuters

## SHARIF TO BE QUESTIONED OVER FAMILY'S WEALTH

**KARACHI:** Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will be questioned on Thursday by investigators probing how his family obtained its vast wealth, the first time a sitting Pakistani premier has appeared before any investigative agency. Sharif's office yesterday confirmed the prime minister had received a summons by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT), set up by the Supreme Court to investigate corruption claims that surfaced following the Panama Papers leak. It said he would be attending an interview on Thursday.

Pakistan's stock market slumped 4 percent as the news sent shudders through investors, fearful that instability in its fragile democracy would undermine an economy that has shown stronger growth in recent years. Sharif has denied any wrongdoing over his family allegedly using offshore companies to buy luxury flats in a posh London neighborhood, and said his family wealth was acquired legally. His spokesman did not respond to requests for comment over the latest development.

In April, the Supreme Court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to remove Sharif from office on the back of Panama Papers leaks, but it ordered further investigations. The JIT team comprises members of civilian agencies, such as the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), as well as mem-

bers of powerful military bodies, including the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency. The JIT's work has become highly politicized in recent weeks. Sharif's camp has sought to remove two members of the JIT team, and his PML-N party voiced outrage over a leaked photograph taken from security camera footage showing Sharif's son, Hussain, appearing before the JIT.

According to the summons document, seen by Reuters, JIT asked the Prime Minister's office to bring "all relevant record/documents/material" to the interview at its office in the capital, Islamabad on Thursday. "It's a litmus test of our laws that are all citizens are equal in front of law, so we believe that Nawaz Sharif should appear before JIT in this case," said Naeem ul Haque, spokesman for opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

The Supreme Court began investigating Sharif after the main political parties failed to agree on a committee to probe the Panama Papers leaks, and PTI's chairman, Imran Khan, threatened mass protests and to shut down Islamabad. If Sharif survives the JIT probe, opinion polls suggest he is favorite to win the next election, due by June 2018. Sharif, a three-time prime minister, was ousted twice in the 1990s, including by a military coup in 1999, but he swept back to power in an election in 2013. — Agencies



**NOIDA, India:** In this June 8, 2017 photo, Indian boy Brijesh, who claims to be 16 year old but doesn't know his birthday, poses for a photo as he sits on corn stalks next to a busy expressway. — AP

## MILLIONS OF CHILDREN LABOR IN INDIA, SOME IN SWELTERING HEAT

### UNDERGROUND MUMBAI CHILD SEX TRADE A CONCERN

**NOIDA, India:** Every 100 m or so along a busy expressway on the outskirts of New Delhi, you'll find a child selling corn - quite possibly a child too young to be working legally. Twelve-year-old Prakash is one of them. Lolling amid the discarded husks from earlier sales, he doesn't seem bothered by the 40 degree Celsius heat or the buzzing flies. "We all work together and live together," he says, gesturing toward 15 or so other boys working the highway.

Each is dropped off by their employer every morning with a sack full of boiled corn. They spend their days trying to flag down drivers. They don't leave until their sacks are empty, sometimes 12 hours later. Are all as young as Prakash? There's no way to be sure. Each seems to change their age with each answer, often forgetting the number they previously mentioned. Most are careful, however, to use a number above 14 - the legal age in India to work in non-family enterprises. Young men, whom the boys claim are their elder brothers, patrol the highway on motorcycles, ensuring business runs smoothly. They also tell them not to speak to visiting journalists.

Most comply, anxious to keep jobs that pay about \$80 per month - far more than they could earn back home. All the boys have moved to

Noida, southeast of New Delhi, from rural villages in search of work. Yesterday, the World Day Against Child Labor, the International Labour Organization said 168 million children are laborers, or about one in nine children overall. India, in its 2011 census, estimated the country had 8.3 million child laborers. Uttar Pradesh state, where Noida is located, alone accounted for 1.8 million of that total. UNICEF says there has been an overall decline in child labor in India, but that urban areas have seen an increase. Meanwhile, Prakash and the other boys are still selling their corn late in the afternoon. Their sacks are not yet empty.

Separately, the number of children trafficked for sex in the red light districts of Mumbai has dropped sharply, activists said, as they raised concerns over the trade shifting underground to private lodges and residences. A study by the non-governmental International Justice Mission (IJM), Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Mumbai, mapped nearly 10,000 commercial sex workers in more than 1,000 brothels, and about 200 sex workers operating from private establishments.

In brothels, it found the prevalence of minors had dropped to 5.5 percent during the course of the study from 2015 to 2016, from an estimated 40 percent in the past. It found 25 minors in pri-

ate locations. "About six to seven years ago, a customer could talk to a pimp and ask for a young girl. Now, it is not possible. They will first say no, until they establish the customer is not a police informer," said Sanjay Macwan, regional director for India at IJM. "We strongly believe the number of children has gone down."

He credited the drop to police anti-human trafficking units and new laws that have made sexual offences against minors punishable by a maximum of life imprisonment. Macwan said the study was not aimed at tracking a shift of young girls from public to private venues, but it did point to the need for more research. "We need to understand how crime is going into covert spaces. Our biggest challenge was to find girls in private locations," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Some of Asia's oldest and largest red light districts are in Mumbai, a key destination for trafficked women and children. Most are lured from other states and neighboring countries, often with the promise of good jobs in a home or shop. Instead, many are forced into sex work or manual labor. The sex trade has shifted over the past five to 10 years from hot spots such as Kamathipura, Mumbai's oldest red light district, to private lodges and residential areas. — Agencies



**KARACHI:** A Pakistani stockbroker is reflected on a monitor as he watches share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) yesterday. — AFP

## 'NO PLACE FOR THE POOR' IN INDIA'S SMART CITIES

**MUMBAI:** An ambitious government plan to upgrade India's cities risks further marginalizing poor and minority communities and hastening slum evictions, while failing to address the reasons villagers move to urban areas, campaigners said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Smart Cities Mission aims to modernize 100 cities by 2020 with high-speed internet, uninterrupted power and water supply, efficient public transport and living standards comparable to Europe.

But the \$7.5 billion plan does not address the needs and rights of poor women and marginalized groups including minorities and migrants, according to a report by New Delhi-based advocacy group Housing and Land Rights Network, India (HLRN). Nearly 14 million households live in urban slums across India, with a further 3 million living on city streets. The drive for Smart Cities has already triggered evictions of people from slums and informal settlements in cities including Indore, Bhubaneswar, Delhi and Kochi without ade-

quate compensation or alternate accommodation. Plans to spruce up central business districts and build urban rail lines are likely to displace tens of thousands more, the report said. "The premise of the 'smart city' as a relevant model needs a fundamental re-evaluation, given the increasing levels of exclusion, impoverishment, unemployment, homelessness, forced evictions and displacement of the urban poor in our cities," said Shivani Chaudhry, executive director at HLRN.

Officials say India's congested cities - 13 of which are among the 20 most polluted in the world - desperately need a makeover to improve residents' quality of life. "The mission provides the choice to those who live in squalor to live with dignity, in a more hospitable environment with basic infrastructure," said A A Rao, a spokesman for the housing ministry which is overseeing the plan. "In every instance, people are taken on board, and there have been no forced evictions to my knowledge," he said. — Reuters



**MUMBAI:** Indian workers walk past fencing at a construction site for the forthcoming metro train project yesterday. — AFP

## TOURISTS FLEE DARJEELING AS TROUBLE BOILS

**KOLKATA:** Thousands of tourists fled the Indian hill resort of Darjeeling yesterday after local activists demanding the creation of a new Indian state warned that a general strike could degenerate into violence. Hundreds of troops and riot police patrolled the streets of the famed tea-producing resort in eastern India as panicked tourists packed their bags. Riots and arson attacks in Darjeeling last week left 12 people injured and the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) group warned that the weekend that "untoward" events could happen when the general strike started yesterday.

The hills are famous for the Darjeeling tea whose production is jealously guarded. It is also famed for its "toy train" - a 78-km uphill ride from New Jalpaiguri. But the troubles have dealt a major blow to the crucial tourism industry. Pradip Lama, secretary of the Darjeeling Tourist Association of Travel Agents, told AFP that worried visitors - most of them from other parts of India - are leaving and nearly 70 percent of bookings have been cancelled. "Till Sunday, 7,000 tourists left Darjeeling," Lama said.

The GJM wants a new state named Gorkhaland in the hill region, which is now part of West Bengal. Tensions have also risen over a government decision to introduce the Bengali language in schools. Indigenous Gorkhas, who mainly speak Nepali, are furious. "We had heard about the trouble and still reached the hill resort on Friday, hoping that the situation would be normal," Priya Roy, a visitor from the southern city of Bangalore, told AFP. "We have decided to leave Darjeeling after GJM's warning to tourists."

Another tourist said their group's vehicle was mobbed by slogan-shouting protesters who demanded to know their identities. "I clutched at my mother's arm even as she begged with folded hands, pleading with them to let us go,"

Kamalika Chatterjee told AFP. Bimal Gurung, head of the GJM, told AFP his warning to the tourists was "for their own safety" as the events could worsen anytime if his group launches a full-scale campaign for a separate state.

Darjeeling district magistrate Joyoshi Dasgupta said at least a dozen GJM activists had been detained for allegedly instigating the violence. "A group of suspected GJM activists tried to set fire to government offices... on Monday. Security was stepped up in front of all government offices in the hills of Darjeeling as a precautionary measure," Dasgupta said. The GJM denied its members were involved in violence.



**DARJEELING, India:** Indian army personnel stand guard along a street during an indefinite strike called by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) yesterday. — AFP

The Gorkhas have been campaigning for decades for the new state. They say Bengali-speaking outsiders have exploited their resources and imposed their culture and language. A similar agitation in 2007 led to the granting of some administrative powers to local people. Many groups in India have waged similar campaigns to break away from larger states, mostly on linguistic and ethnic grounds or in hopes of economic benefits. The last successful agitation led to the formation of Telangana state in 2014. India is made up of 29 states and seven federally administered territories, which include the capital region New Delhi. — AFP



## THE MAUTE BROTHERS: SOUTHEAST ASIA'S 'TIME BOMB'

**MARAWI CITY, Philippines:** On his Facebook profile page Omorkhayam Romato Maute describes himself as a "Walking Time-Bomb". When a band of militants led by Omorkhayam and one of his brothers over-ran a town in the southern Philippines on May 23, festooning its alleyways with the black banners of Islamic State, the Facebook description seemed appropriate. Governments across Southeast Asia had been bracing for the time when Islamic State, on a back foot in Iraq and Syria, would look to establish a 'caliphate' in Southeast Asia and become a terrifying threat to the region.

"The Middle East seems a long way away but it is not. This is a problem which is amidst us," Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong told Australian radio on Saturday as the battle to re-take Marawi neared the end of the third week, with a death toll of nearly 200. "It is a clear and present danger."

Omorkhayam and Abdullah Maute grew up with several other brothers and sisters in Marawi, a Muslim-majority town in a country where over 90 percent of the population is Christian. Marawi is, historically, the center of Islam on Mindanao, a sprawling island where violent resistance to authority has been a tradition since the era of Spanish colonialism, spurred in recent decades by poverty and the neglect of successive governments.



**MARAWI, Philippines:** A man rides his motorcycle past shuttered shop fronts sprayed with pro-Islamic State group graffiti yesterday. —AFP

As teenagers in the 1990s, the brothers seemed like ordinary young men, said a neighbor of the Maute family: They studied English and the Holy

Quran, and played basketball in the streets. "We still wonder why they fell to the Islamic State," said the neighbor, who was once an Islamist militant himself

and surrendered to the government. "They are good people, religious. When someone gets to memorize the Koran, it's unlikely for them to do wrong. But this is what happened to the brothers."

In the early 2000s, Omorkhayam and Abdullah studied in Egypt and Jordan, respectively, where they became fluent in Arabic. Omorkhayam went to Al-Azhar University in Cairo, where he met the daughter of a conservative Indonesian Islamic cleric. After they married, the couple returned to Indonesia. There, Omorkhayam taught at his father-in-law's school, and in 2011 he settled back in Mindanao.

It may have been then, and not when he was in the Middle East, that Omorkhayam was radicalized. In Cairo "none of his fellow students saw him as having any radical tendencies at all, and photographs show a young man enchanted by his baby daughters and playing with the growing family by the Red Sea," Jakarta-based anti-terrorism expert Sidney Jones wrote in a 2016 report. Little is known about Abdullah's life after he went to Jordan, and it is not clear when he returned to Lanao del Sur, the Mindanao province that includes Marawi. Intelligence sources said there are seven brothers and one half-brother in the family, all but one of whom joined the battle for Marawi. — Reuters



**MARAWI, Philippines:** Local government employees cry as Lano Del Sur Vice Governor Mamintal Adiong (not seen) gives a speech in the provincial capital on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday. — AFP

## PHILIPPINES FLAG RAISED ON I-DAY IN WAR-TORN MARAWI

### BLASTS ROCK BESIEGED CITY

**MARAWI, Philippines:** Filipinos marked their country's Independence Day by raising the national flag yesterday in a southern city where troops pressed assaults to quell a three-week siege by Islamic State group-aligned militants that has left 270 combatants and civilians dead. Many were teary-eyed during the flag-raising ceremonies at the heavily guarded city hall and provincial capital building in Marawi, the heartland of the Islamic faith in the country's south, where hundreds of gunmen went on a deadly rampage on May 23.

Blasts from airstrikes thudded in the distance during the events. While the flag-raising was mainly to mark Independence Day, it also symbolized the reclaiming of city hall and other areas of Marawi by government forces. Policemen roamed a community that troops had wrested back from the militants and festooned abandoned houses with small flags.

Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra fought back tears as he thanked troops, police and volunteers in the crisis that has turned parts of the previously tranquil lakeside city of more than 200,000 people, most of whom have fled the fighting, into a smoldering battlefield. Villager Janisah Ampao, who fled her home with her husband and two children when the fighting broke out last month, felt a sense of relief and pride when she saw the flag being raised at the provincial capital building. She has been living with other evacuees in a nearby government

building that has been turned into an emergency shelter.

"I don't know how we can re-start our lives after the fighting," Ampao said by telephone. "Our city is in ruins, all the people have gone and the stores are closed. I saw on TV that our village has been destroyed." Facing the worst crisis in his yearlong presidency, President Rodrigo Duterte canceled an annual Independence Day diplomatic reception at the presidential palace and skipped a flag-raising ceremony in Manila.

"He doesn't feel like giving a toast, even symbolic, when soldiers are dying and the evacuees and the displaced are in the provinces and in Marawi's margins," Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano told reporters. Philippine flags were also flown at half-staff as the country mourned the killings of 13 marines in a fierce battle in Marawi on Friday. Some of the marines perished in a fire ignited by the militants at the height of the fighting, military officials said. They said 58 soldiers and policemen, 191 militants and 21 civilians have been killed in the three weeks of clashes.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson conveyed independence greetings on behalf of President Donald Trump and the American people, saying the US stands as an ally with the Philippines as it confronts the attacks in Marawi and other terrorist threats. The US military has deployed a spy plane at Manila's request to help provide surveillance to troops battling militants still holed up in

a few buildings in Marawi with an unspecified number of civilian hostages. The tough-talking Duterte took an adversarial stance toward former US President Barack Obama, who had criticized his bloody anti-drug crackdown, but his relations with Trump have been markedly better.

The Marawi siege unfolded after a May 23 army raid failed to capture a top terror suspect, Isnilon Hapilon, who has been designated by the Islamic State group as its leader in Southeast Asia. The raid pre-empted a plot by about 500 gunmen waving Islamic State group-style black flags to capture all of Marawi and kill as many Christians as they could, military officials say. Duterte told reporters Sunday that he decided to declare martial law in the southern third of the country to better stop the gunmen from escaping from Marawi or launching new attacks elsewhere.

While he has warned before that the Islamic State group has gained a foothold in the country's south, Duterte said he was still surprised by the magnitude of the violence in Marawi, adding that he has been told that Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi was behind the Marawi attack. "I did not realize that it was that bad because now it appears that Baghdadi himself, the leader of the ISIS, has specifically ordered terroristic activities here in the Philippines," Duterte said, without elaborating. ISIS is an abbreviation for the Islamic State group. — AP

## MOON SEEKS JAPAN PATIENCE IN RESOLVING 'PAST HISTORY'

**SEOUL:** South Korean President Moon Jae-in said yesterday ties with Japan are being blocked by historical issues that will take time to resolve and he asked for Japan's understanding and cooperation on the issue. Moon's comments were an apparent reference to Korean "comfort women", a Japanese euphemism for women forced to work in the Japanese military's wartime brothels. The issue of the women has plagued bilateral ties between the neighbors for decades.

Moon told the visiting secretary general of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party that the people of South Korea did not accept a deal reached by his conservative predecessor and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2015 to resolve the issue. But Moon, in his talks with Toshihiro Nikai, apparently did not directly address whether he would seek to renegotiate the agreement, in which Japan made an apology to the women, who are now elderly, and promised about one billion yen (\$9.07 million) for a fund to help them.

The two governments agreed under the deal that the issue would be "irreversibly resolved" if both sides fulfilled their obligations. "Both South Korea and Japan should look at this issue directly and understanding is needed that it will take more time (to resolve it)," Moon told Nikai, the South's presidential office said. Moon, who suggested during his successful campaign for a May 9 election that he could try to renegotiate the deal, also said the two countries should not "cling to past history" only to block other developments in their ties.

Moon stressed the importance of cooperation with Japan in efforts to denuclearize

North Korea, which has been ramping up weapons tests since last year in defiance of global sanctions. Nikai said he agreed with Moon and hoped the two countries could move forward together, the South's presidential office said. The meeting came hours after the South's foreign ministry warned Japan to exercise caution when making remarks about bilateral ties, including the issue of the women, following reported comments by Nikai in a meeting with South Korean lawmakers.

### 'Trivial Matters'

During the meeting, Nikai said "those plotting schemes" to block bilateral ties from moving forward should be "eradicated", several Japanese and South Korean media reported. "I don't know if in South Korea there are even a handful, but they must be eradicated," Nikai was quoted as saying. He also expressed hope that the two countries would "get along well" and not to have relations tangled with "trivial matters".

Nikai's office at the Liberal Democratic Party could not confirm his reported comments, which appeared not to include any direct reference to the women who were forced to work in Japanese brothels. But he came under fire from South Korean civic groups for what appeared to be criticism of people who support scrapping the 2015 agreement. "Comments related to relations between South Korea and Japan, including those regarding the comfort women issue, should be made with care," a South Korean foreign ministry official said, in response to Nikai's reported comments. The official declined to be identified citing sensitivity of the issue. — Reuters



**SEOUL:** South Korean President Moon Jae-in shakes hands with Toshihiro Nikai, Secretary General of the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party, during their meeting at the Presidential Blue House yesterday. —AFP

## SINGAPORE DETAINS FIRST EXTREMIST WOMAN CITIZEN

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore said yesterday it has detained an assistant child-care worker suspected of trying to join Islamic State and to find a militant husband in Syria, and was holding her under a tough security law that allows for detention without trial. The detention of the first Singaporean woman for suspected Islamist radicalism comes as concern is growing about the spread of Islamic State in the region. Singapore and its neighbors recently began intelligence cooperation aimed at stemming the movement of militants across their borders.

Singapore has reiterated over the past year that it is a target of Islamist groups and has urged the public to be alert. The suspect, Syaikhah Izzah Zahrah Al Ansari, 22, was detained this month for intending to make her way to Syria to join Islamic State of Iraq and Syria with her child, the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement. "She supported ISIS' use of violence to establish and defend its self-declared 'caliphate', and aspired to live in it," the ministry said, referring to Islamic State.

Izzah, a contract assistant at an infant care center, was radicalized as early as 2013 by online propaganda with links to Islamic State and she shared pro-Islamic State material on social media. She had

also sought a militant husband in Syria, the ministry said, adding that her family had tried to talk her out of her plans but had not handed her in, and had even destroyed evidence against her. "She said that since 2015, she was looking for a Salafi or an ISIS supporter" to marry and settle down with him and her child in Syria," the ministry said.

"She said she would support her husband if he fought for ISIS in Syria as she believed she would reap 'heavenly rewards' if he died in battle. With her 'elevated status' as a martyr's widow, she felt she could easily marry another ISIS fighter in Syria." Her parents, both Quranic teachers, and sister came to know of her radical postings in 2015. After she was placed under investigation, important evidence was destroyed by a family member relating to her plans to join Islamic State, in order to try to cover up her acts, it said.

"They tried on their own to dissuade her but they were unsuccessful. Izzah continued down the path of radicalism. In April 2017, she boasted to a contact that the Singapore authorities had not detected her," the ministry said. It made no mention of any legal action against any of her relatives. — Reuters

## CHINA PLANE MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING

**SYDNEY:** A China Eastern passenger plane has made an emergency landing in Sydney after a huge hole appeared in one of its engine casings and forced it to turn back just after taking off. Terrified passengers described a very loud noise soon after flight MU736 left Sydney Airport for Shanghai at 8.30pm (1030 GMT) on Sunday. Crew cleared seats near the affected engine and turned the flight back. No one aboard the twin-engine Airbus A330 was injured.

China Eastern said the crew found damage in the casing of the air inlet in the left engine. "The crew... decided to return to Sydney Airport immediately," an airline spokeswoman added in an emailed statement to AFP. "The returned aircraft is currently under investigation at Sydney Airport." Images posted on social media showed a large hole ripped in the casing. An unidentified passenger told broadcaster Channel Seven: "We, like, went up in the air and

all of a sudden, I heard like 'z-z-z-z-z' and it was really, really loud. It kind of smelled like burning. "Oh, I was scared. Yes. I was really scared. Our group was terrified." Another passenger told Channel Nine that "the wing to my left just started making a massive amount of noise and they cleared all of the seats".

### Panel detached?

AirlineRatings.com editor Geoffrey Thomas said investigators would be looking at whether the acoustic panelling of the engine had become detached, citing a similar incident in mid-May involving an Egypt Air A330. He said the panel might have come back and been sucked into the engine. Thomas said an Airbus airworthiness directive issued in 2011 and updated in 2014 noted that some operators had found acoustic panelling in the cowl area was disbonding.

"It was a problem that they knew about and airlines had been warned and had been required to inspect their engines and if necessary replace the panels," he added. "Whoever is looking after the maintenance of the engines, whether it is the airline or the engine maker, it's their responsibility." He said the China Eastern incident was unusual and the serious damage to the engine meant it was likely to be replaced. — AFP



**SYDNEY:** A China Eastern Airbus A330 passenger aircraft, which suffered a serious fault to its starboard engine following take-off, sits on the tarmac at Sydney Airport yesterday. —AFP



## MIDEAST RESEARCH CENTER BRINGS 'ENEMIES'...

Continued from Page 1

During a visit to SESAME last week, physicists and engineers, among them an Iranian, an Egyptian and a Palestinian, were working quietly on the beam lines.

Hossein Khosroabadi, 40, a physicist from Tehran, said the secret for getting along is to focus on the science. "If you start talking politics, it makes a problem for us," said the beamline specialist. Egyptian physicist Gihan Kamel, 41, said she hopes SESAME will open doors for women in science. The research center will enable female graduate students and doctoral candidates to conduct their research in the region, sidestepping cultural norms that often deter Arab women from traveling to the West on their own.

Yet even at SESAME, where the pursuit of science is meant to transcend barriers, traditional gender roles creep in, said Kamel, a beamline scientist. As the only woman on the advance team of the project, she said she always has to prove she's good enough for the job. Plans for an advanced regional research center go back to the late 1990s, a hopeful period in which Israelis and Palestinians reached interim peace deals, or Oslo Accords, that were to lead to Palestinian statehood on lands Israel occupied in 1967.

Years of negotiations failed, but SESAME survived. The idea to forge meaningful scientific contacts in the Middle East came from scientists involved with CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, one of the first European organizations established after the devastation of World War II. CERN dwarfs SESAME in many ways, including with a particle accelerator that at 27 kilometers is more than 200 times longer than the one in Jordan. But the idea of science as a tool for breaking down barriers is central to both. Among the early CERN-affiliated scientists who spotted the potential

was Eliezer Rabinovici, a physicist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

After the Oslo Accords, "we thought maybe that's the moment when one can try and establish a bridge of understanding between Israelis and our neighbors, the Arabs," Rabinovici said. Palestinian accelerator physicist Maher Attal, who has been with the project from the start, recalled the elation of scientists over each milestone, including in April when they ramped up the electrons to full speed.

"We were just shouting and shaking hands with each other," said Attal, 43, from the town of Qalqiliya in the West Bank. Scraping together some \$100 million for the first phase of the project was a struggle. Donors included the European Union and member states. Jordan also provided the land and the building. Still missing are a dormitory, offices and a cafeteria. "We only built the core of the facility," said Toukan.

Disagreements are aired at biannual meetings of SESAME's governing council which includes representatives of member countries and observer states such as France, Germany, Britain, Japan, Russia and the United States. UNESCO, the U.N. agency promoting culture and science, is a sponsor. Toukan said things got heated a few times when regional conflicts intruded. He said Israel threatened to walk out when the Palestinians demanded to be listed in the charter as "state of Palestine," in line with a 2012 UN General Assembly upgrade of their status at the world body.

Arab member stations persuaded the Palestinians to hold off in order not to endanger the project, said Toukan. Israel's Science Ministry said it can't comment on the content of closed-door meetings. A deadly clash on the high seas between Israeli troops and Turkish pro-Palestinian activists was also "a very tense moment," Toukan said. — AP

## PROPHET'S WIFE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Continued from Page 1

account or a business in her name until the feminist movement helped change these backwards laws.

Also, in her time, it was considered immoral for a woman to propose to a man. When we look at these two issues, socially and legally, Khadijah was far more empowered than my own grandmother. In addition to that, when the Prophet (PBUH) received the first revelation, he ran home in fear and asked his wife Khadijah to comfort him. She was obviously a strong, caring wife in

whom the Prophet (PBUH) could seek refuge. I would like to encourage those who are interested to read further about the life and times of this amazing, empowered, Muslim woman.

*Courtesy of the TIES Center: The TIES Center is a social and educational hub for expats in Kuwait whose motto is: Tolerance, Information, Empowerment, Solidarity. For more information, please call 252301015/6 or log onto: www.tiescenter.net*

## BLAST KILLS SAUDI POLICE

Continued from Page 1

Last month, gunmen killed two civilians and a rocket-propelled grenade left a policeman dead in the area. The United Nations has urged Saudi Arabia to halt demolition of the 400-year-old Almosara district, which it

says has caused "injury, deaths and material losses to the civilians". Awamiya, in Eastern Province, has seen repeated security incidents in recent years, following protests that began in 2011 and developed into a call for equality. Most of Saudi Arabia's Shiites live in Eastern Province and have long complained of marginalization in the Sunni-ruled kingdom. — AFP

## LAWYER CALLS EL-SISI A 'TRAITOR' OVER ISLANDS

CAIRO: A leading Egyptian rights lawyer widely expected to run in next year's presidential election has called President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi a "traitor" over his government's decision to hand over two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia. Khaled Ali made his comment during a meeting of opposition parties called Sunday to denounce an ongoing review by lawmakers of the April 2016 agreement that surrendered the islands to the Saudis.

A video of his address before the meeting was posted on social media yesterday. He could now face legal consequences for publicly insulting the president. Egypt's government maintains that the islands of Tiran and Sanafir at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba belong to Saudi Arabia but were placed under Egypt's protection in the 1950s in anticipation of Israeli attacks. El-Sisi has repeatedly emphasized that his government would never cede Egyptian territory or keep what belongs to others.

"The president is a traitor and the prime minister is a traitor," said Ali, who unsuccessfully ran in the 2012 presidential elections won by the Islamist Mohammed Morsi.

"Whoever will be content to lower the Egyptian flag on Tiran and Sanafir and raise the Saudi flag in its place is a traitor," said Ali. Already, there is a court case accusing Ali of making an obscene finger gesture on the street outside the courthouse where the transfer of the islands was annulled in January. If convicted in a final ruling, he could face up to six months in prison or a fine.

A conviction would take away Ali's eligibility to run for office, according to his lawyers. He is already seen as a long shot against El-Sisi, who has presided over a widespread crackdown on dissent. Ali and other critics of the agreement argue that the January court ruling was final and should be respected by the 596-seat chamber, which is packed with El-Sisi supporters. He led a team of lawyers who challenged the agreement in court.

Parliament speaker Ali Abdel-Al, a staunch government supporter, has said the legislature has the constitutional right to ratify international agreements. Court rulings running contrary to this principle, he told lawmakers on Sunday, are only of concern to the judiciary. — AP

## OBESITY 'EPIDEMIC'

Continued from Page 1

Four million deaths in 2015 were linked to having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of over 24.5, indicating a person is overweight, or of 30 or more, indicating obesity. BMI is calculated by dividing a person's weight in kilograms by their height in centimeters squared.

Of those deaths, more than 40 percent involved people deemed non-obese—indicating that being overweight, even without being obese, is leading to millions of premature deaths. More than two-thirds of deaths linked to a raised BMI were attributed to cardiovascular diseases, marking a sharp increase since 1990.

Of the world's most populous countries, the rate of obesity among children and young adults was highest in the United States, at 13 percent, while Egypt had the highest rate of obesity among adults, at 35 percent of the population. The lowest rates of adult obesity were in Bangladesh and Vietnam, both at one percent. China and India had the highest number of obese children—respectively 15.3 and 14.4 million.

The United States and China, meanwhile, had the great-

est number of obese adults—respectively 79.4 and 57.3 million. In an editorial accompanying the study, Dr Edward Gregg and Dr Jonathan Shaw, both epidemiologists at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the most worrisome finding was the approximate tripling of obesity in youth and young adults of middle-income countries—namely China, Brazil, and Indonesia. "An early onset of obesity is likely to translate into a high cumulative incidence of type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and chronic kidney disease," they warned.

The study was based on the latest data provided by the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study, which tracks the impact of more than 300 types of pathology and injury in 133 countries. Its chief goal was to understand, on a global scale, what is driving "the current global epidemic of disease" related to high body weight, the authors said. The research was unveiled yesterday at the annual EAT Stockholm Food Forum, which brings together scientists, business leaders and policy makers to address ways to transform the global food system to help solve the challenges of climate, sustainable development and health. — AFP

## US APPEALS COURT BLOCKS CONTROVERSIAL...

Continued from Page 1

The intelligence was so good that the detonation method for the bombs was understood, the Times said, citing two US officials familiar with the operation. Following the US laptop ban, Britain announced a simi-

lar prohibition for flights originating from six countries. Israel's contribution to the intelligence on the laptop bombs became public after President Donald Trump revealed details on it to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in a May 10 White House meeting. Trump's disclosure "infuriated" Israeli officials, according to the Times.— Agencies

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Focus

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN MINNESOTA OFFICER'S MANSLAUGHTER TRIAL

By Amy Forliti and Steve Karnowski

The manslaughter trial of a Minnesota police officer who shot and killed a black motorist last summer will resume Monday with closing arguments. Officer Jeronimo Yanez shot and killed Philando Castile during a traffic stop last July in the Minneapolis suburb of Falcon Heights. Castile's girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, streamed the immediate aftermath live on Facebook, which brought the case extra attention. Here are some highlights of the case:

### What happened

Yanez killed Castile after pulling him over for a broken taillight July 6. After Yanez approached the car, Castile informed him that he was carrying a gun. Squad car video shows him saying, "Sir, I have to tell you, I do have a firearm on me." Things escalated quickly from there, with Yanez opening fire five seconds later and striking the 32-year-old cafeteria worker with five of the seven shots he fired. Reynolds then pulled out her phone and began livestreaming and narrating. Yanez, who is Latino, is charged with second-degree manslaughter, which is punishable by up to 10 years in prison, and two lesser counts of endangering the safety of Reynolds and her daughter for firing his gun into the car near them.

### Trial themes

Prosecutors called several witnesses to try to show Yanez acted recklessly and unreasonably. They repeatedly played the squad car video and pointed out that Yanez never told Castile to "freeze" or stop moving. Prosecution experts testified that if they were told a driver had a gun, they would order him to put his hands on the steering wheel or dashboard, which Yanez did not do. Jeffrey Noble, a use-of-force expert, testified there was "absolutely no reason" to believe Castile was a threat.

The defense said that Yanez, 29, reacted to the presence of a gun and was trained to preserve his own life in the face of imminent danger, pointing out that traffic stops are dangerous and officers need to think quickly. They also suggested that Castile was partly to blame for his death because he was high on marijuana, which prosecutors dispute, and that he disobeyed Yanez's instructions. The defense's own use-of-force experts said they think Yanez was right to shoot.

### Girlfriend a key witness

Reynolds testified that she began recording the aftermath because she feared for her life and wanted to make sure the truth was known. Defense attorneys highlighted inconsistencies in what is said on her video and in statements later to police. Was Castile putting his hands up, like she said in her video, or was it just one hand? Was he reaching for his wallet or unbuckling his seat belt? And was that wallet in his right or left back pocket? She also told several different stories about marijuana in the car, first saying it was hers, later saying in an interview that she and Castile bought it earlier that day, and finally testifying that it was Castile who bought it, not her.

### The officer's own words

After he shot Castile, Yanez is heard on squad car video telling a supervisor variously that he didn't know where Castile's gun was, then that he told Castile to get his hand off it. He told investigators he saw Castile's hand form a C-shaped grip of the sort to grab a thick-gripped pistol. Yanez's backup testified that Yanez told him he saw a gun. Yanez testified Friday that he clearly saw a gun and that Castile ignored his commands to stop pulling it out of his pocket.

His voice choked with emotion as he talked of being "scared to death" and thinking of his wife and baby daughter in the split-second before he fired. As for the recording in which he said he didn't know where the gun was, he explained, "What I meant by that was I didn't know where the gun was up until I saw it in his right thigh area." Defense attorneys also argued that Castile was high on marijuana. But a prosecution expert testified there's no way to tell when Castile last smoked marijuana or whether he was high. — AP

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## QATAR'S TIES WITH IRAN AND ISLAMIST GROUPS

By Aya Batrawy and Sarah El Deeb

The political crisis engulfing Qatar stems from accusations by its Arab neighbors that it supports terrorism. Qatar denies the allegations, but its ties with Iran and embrace of various Islamist groups have brought intense scrutiny, made it a regional outlier and created enough smoke to suggest a fire. Last week, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain severed ties with Qatar amid a slew of punitive measures. On Friday, the four Arab states upped the pressure by naming 59 people and several charities linked to Qatar on a terrorist list.

Governments across the region routinely cite terrorism as justification to clamp down on political opposition and rights activists. Some groups Qatar has backed - such as the Muslim Brotherhood - are seen by many as a legitimate political force. Others, including some hard-line Sunni rebel factions in Syria, are not that different ideologically from groups that Saudi Arabia backs there. Here's a look at the various groups Qatar's accused of supporting and its relationship with them:

### Qaeda and Islamic State

Qatar's Arab neighbors have accused it of backing Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group's ideology across the region, from Syria to the Sinai Peninsula. Experts and groups in Syria say Qatari finances have indirectly propped up militant groups. Similar accusations were leveled at Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries in the early days of Syria's 2011 uprising, but experts say these governments amended their official stances and financing laws.

Some express concern that the row between Saudi Arabia and Qatar could undermine all finances to the Syrian opposition - where, on the ground, the lines are blurred over which groups cooperate with radicals. Hassan Hassan, a Syria expert, said Qatar has never supported Al-Qaeda or IS directly. However, he said Qatar has supported Ahrar Al-Sham, whose founders are linked to Al-Qaeda. For its part, Saudi Arabia once hosted members of Ahrar Al-Sham at a Syrian opposition conference in its capital.

### Muslim Brotherhood

The Islamist Sunni group remains one of the region's most polarizing. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt view it as a direct threat to their rule and deem it a destabilizing force. However, the Brotherhood's offshoots remain active in Jordan and Tunisia. The Brotherhood was elected to power in Egypt after protests toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011 and Qatar aided the Brotherhood-led government in Cairo with billions of dollars. It was a key supporter of the group's offshoots in Syria and Libya. Qatar argues it supported Egypt as a whole, and not one particular faction, when the Brotherhood was in power. Egypt's military ousted the Brotherhood and unleashed a lethal crackdown against its members amid mass protests in 2013. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt outlawed the group and branded it a terrorist organization, accusing it of plotting attacks. Brotherhood affiliates in the Gulf have been arrested. Gulf monarchies also accuse Qatar of providing financial support, a safe haven and even citizenship to Islamist opposition figures from their countries.

### Hamas, the ruler of Gaza

The Palestinian group, an offshoot of Egypt's Brotherhood, is considered a terrorist organization by Israel and its Western allies. The group, which rules the Gaza Strip, has fought three wars with Israel and is seen by some in the Arab world as an armed resistance force against Israeli occupation. Saudi Arabia says Qatar must sever ties with Hamas. Qatar has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in roads, housing and a major hospital in the Gaza Strip offering a lifeline for jobs in the devastated area that is under an Israeli-Egyptian blockade. Its support for the territory makes Qatar one of its few foreign backers. Qatar says its work in Gaza is "purely humanitarian" and its engagement with the group has been in the context of internationally backed peace talks.

### Hostages for ransom

A deal negotiated recently to release kidnapped members of Qatar's ruling family has been a source of anxiety for Gulf leaders, particularly in Saudi Arabia, which views

Iran as its top adversary. Qatar reportedly paid hundreds of millions of dollars to an Iranian-backed Shiite militia that had kidnapped the 26 hostages on Dec. 16, 2015 from a desert camp for falcon hunters in southern Iraq. Egypt has asked the UN Security Council to investigate reports that Qatar "paid up to \$1 billion to a terrorist group active in Iraq" to free the hostages, which would violate UN sanctions.

Qatar says it only supported the Iraqi government financially for its efforts in the release of hostages, and that it did not deal with armed groups there. The deal also allegedly resulted in the evacuation of residents of predominantly Shiite villages in Syria, where Iran's proxies hold sway. Several people close to the negotiations say Qatar also paid a hefty sum to Islamist groups in Syria, including one linked to al-Qaida, for the evacuation of the residents. They told The Associated Press that the talks were probably the region's most complex and sensitive hostage deal.

### Iran, Shiite powerhouse

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain accuse Qatar of supporting Shiite militant groups in both countries. Violence has increased in recent weeks between militants and Saudi security forces in a predominantly Shiite town in the country's east. In Bahrain, the Sunni-led monarchy crushed an uprising by majority Shiites there in 2011 and continues to crack down on peaceful dissent. Bahraini security forces have since been targeted by local Shiite militants.

Saudi Arabia has also accused Qatar of backing Iranian-allied rebels in Yemen, known as Houthis. However, Qatar was a member of a Saudi-led coalition bombing the Houthis in Yemen. Experts say there is no evidence to support the claims, but that the accusations appear to stem from negotiations for a transfer of power in Yemen in 2012. Qatar and Saudi Arabia were in disagreement over how to go about it, and Qatar was accused of trying to sabotage a Saudi-led initiative by working with Houthis. Qatar's ambassador in Washington Meshal bin Hamad Al Thani has said that while the country has ties with Iran and shares with it a vast underwater natural gas field its stance is similar to that of other Gulf Arab states. — AP

## SLOVENIA HIDEOUTS SPILL COLD WAR SECRETS

By Ismet Hajdari

Almost three decades after the end of the Cold War, secrets from the era of espionage and power games are now resurfacing in Slovenia. In Kocevje, a forested region in the south, authorities have opened a massive 1950s bunker - complete with tunnels, narrow passages and chunky blast-resistant steel doors - to the public this month for the first time. Until recently, the existence of the 800-sq-m labyrinth had still been a secret, albeit not a very good one.

"There have always been rumors about it" among locals because of its location on a sealed-off military base, newly-appointed bunker guide Mihael Petrovic said. For the underground tour, visitors are taken from the town of Kocevje to the Skrilje bunker in small vans and asked to leave their mobile phones at the entrance. Those wishing to get a more authentic taste of life under the communist regime can choose to be blindfolded during the 15-minute ride to the hideout.

A portrait of Yugoslav strongman Josip Broz, nicknamed "Tito", sternly watches over streams of tourists as they amble between dusted-off outdated machines, switchboards and screens. Although it is smaller than other bunkers, its mint condition provides an excellent insight into Slovenia's communist past, said Petrovic. "People now have the opportunity to learn about a period of our history that is far too little known," he added.

### Communist elite shelters

Tito ruled over the former Yugoslavia from 1945 until his death in 1980 in Ljubljana, having been named president for life. He oversaw a Socialist regime that

was far from democratic but nevertheless much softer than behind the Iron Curtain. The leader is admired notably for driving out the Nazi German occupying forces in World War II with his partisan fighters and standing up to Russian leader Joseph Stalin. But critics accuse him of being responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of political dissidents.

The traces of his controversial reign remain visible throughout countries that once belonged to the republic, which collapsed in 1990. Up to 50 secret military bunkers were built across Yugoslavia during

the Cold War, according to retired Slovenian army officer Marijan Kranj, who wrote a book on the topic. Tito ordered their construction after he survived a German airborne attack in May 1944 while hiding in a bunker in the Bosnian town of Drvar.

The concrete structures were not only shelters for the communist elite, but also served as arms and ammunition factories, storage rooms and underground air bases. The expertise of Yugoslav engineers was even exported to non-aligned countries including Iraq and Libya, which today still harbor bunkers dating back to communist times.

### Room with a spying view

But other relics from the communist past are surfacing too. An hour's drive west of Kocevje, a fully-equipped surveillance facility was discovered in March at the renowned Hotel Jama, next to Slovenia's famous Postojna cave, where Tito used to regularly stay and host guests. During renovation works, hotel owner Marjan Batagelj noticed a locked iron door at the back of the building. "We couldn't find a key so I had the lock destroyed. We thought we would find a storage room but instead a brand new world emerged, a space that didn't appear on any of the hotel plans," said the 55-year-old, who bought the place six years ago.

Behind the white door were three connected wiretapping rooms featuring dusty 1970s listening equipment and desks with stacks of papers showing city names and numbers. Empty boxes of audio tapes lay piled up inside a cupboard. Batagelj speculated that the rooms were probably built in the late 1960s when the hotel was under construction. "Experts believe it was a key information gathering place for civil and military affairs," he said. "This was one of the most important hotels in former Yugoslavia. Tito liked to bring his guests to the Postojna cave and many of them spent the night in Hotel Jama."

Batagelj said he realized many of his older employees had known about the room for years - agents had to cross the hotel to access it - but never mentioned it. "They were either afraid or too blinded by ideology to speak about it. Even today many think it would have been better not to speak about it at all," he added. Batagelj now hopes to turn the space into a "spying museum". "This is a slice of history and there's no longer any need to hide behind ideological considerations." — AP

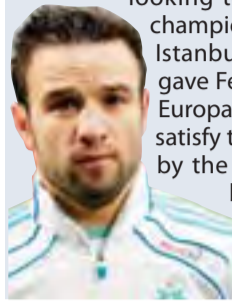


KOCEVJE: A man walks inside of the Skrilje bunker located in a forest 90 meters below the ground on a sealed-off military base near town of Kocevje, Slovenia. — AFP



## SEX-TAPE SCANDAL VICTIM VALBUENA JOIN FENERBAHCE

**ISTANBUL:** Mathieu Valbuena, the France international at the centre of an interminable sex-tape scandal, has agreed to join Istanbul giants Fenerbahce from Lyon, the Turkish club said yesterday. Fenerbahce said in a statement that an agreement in principle had been reached for the 32-year-old attacking midfielder's transfer and the signing would follow later. The Dogan news agency said that Valbuena was already on his way to Istanbul and would undergo a medical today. Fenerbahce are looking to reinforce their side after finishing well behind champions Besiktas and surprise runners-up Basaksehir of Istanbul in the Turkish Super Lig last season. Third place gave Fenerbahce entry to the third qualifying round of the Europa League but only a Super Lig championship would satisfy their fans. Valbuena, whose France career was ended by the sex-tape scandal in which he was the victim of a blackmail attempt, enjoyed a long stint at Marseille up to 2014 before joining Dynamo Moscow and then moving on to Lyon a year later.—AFP



## JINPING TO MEET FIFA BOSS AS CHINA HARBOURS WCUP AMBITION

**BEIJING:** China's football-mad President Xi Jinping will meet with FIFA chief Gianni Infantino in Beijing tomorrow as the world's most populous nation harbours ambitions of hosting the World Cup. Xi will greet the president of football's world governing body Infantino at the palatial Great Hall of the People, the government said, without providing any details about the agenda. The meeting follows widespread speculation that China will bid to host the World Cup either in 2030 or 2034. Xi wants his country to host the global football extravaganza and hopes Chinese national team can one day win the sport's most prestigious trophy. But China, who languish down at 82nd in FIFA's world rankings just below Benin and the tiny Faroe Islands, look certain to miss out on qualification for Russia 2018. China have appeared in just one World Cup, in 2002, where they lost all three group matches and failed to score a goal. Qatar, who are part of the Asian Football Confederation, are due to host the 2022 World Cup, meaning China will not be eligible to bid for the 2026 tournament because of FIFA's policy of rotating between host continental governing bodies.—AFP

## PORTO STARLET SILVA SET FOR AC MILAN SIGNING

**MILAN:** AC Milan are on the verge of capturing Portugal sensation Andre Silva from Porto as the resurgent Serie A giants continue to build for next season. Television pictures early yesterday showed Silva, often described as the "the new Cristiano Ronaldo", on his way to undergo a medical in Milan. The 21-year-old striker was a reported target for a number of top European clubs. But after Milan failed in bids to land Andrea Belotti from Torino and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang from Borussia Dortmund, Silva is now expected to sign for the seven-time European champions. He would become their fourth recruit in as many weeks following the signing of Swiss left-back Ricardo Rodriguez (Wolfsburg), Ivorian Franck Kessie (Atalanta) and Argentinian centre-back Mateo Musaccio. Milan were recently sold to Chinese investors by long-time club owner Silvio Berlusconi in a bid to inject fresh impetus into their attempt to rejoin the elite of European football.—AFP



## AUSTRALIA'S HORWILL TO CAPTAIN HARLEQUINS

**LONDON:** Former Australia captain James Horwill will skipper Harlequins during the 2017/18 season, the English Premiership side announced yesterday.

"I'm very humbled and honoured to be asked to captain such a great club, it's certainly something that I won't be taking lightly," said 32-year-old lock Horwill in a statement issued by the London club.

"The hard work for us as a squad starts now and we want to make Harlequins as successful as it can be." Quins finished sixth in the 12-strong Premiership last season and so missed out on a place in the top four title-deciding play-offs despite the side boasting several current and ex-internationals. "The exciting thing is, we haven't reached our potential," added Horwill, capped 62 times by the Wallabies.

"We have played well in parts, but we have more to give, both in an individual capacity, and as a group."

Horwill succeeds scrum-half Danny Care who, in common with another former Harlequins captain Chris Robshaw, has often found himself away from the team for large parts of the season because of his England commitments.

Care, appointed Quins captain two years ago, led the Twickenham Stoop-based side to the 2015 European Challenge Cup final and was in charge on the field when they secured a place in the elite European Champions Cup for this first time in three years. "Since Conor (O'Shea, the former Harlequins director of rugby but now the coach of Italy appointed me, it has been a huge honour to captain the club," Care said.

"It's a hard job in itself, but it is made harder when you're away with international commitments for so long, which is why I felt someone who is around all the time should do the job.

"I, alongside the rest of the squad, will fully support James in his new role. He is a fantastic leader and the right man to take the club forward."

Horwill joined Harlequins from the Queensland Reds, a side he played for over 100 times and captained to the 2011 Super Rugby title, in 2015.

He has made 40 appearances for Harlequins, scoring five tries. Horwill captained Australia on 16 occasions, including during the Wallabies' 2013 series loss to the British and Irish Lions.—AFP



**AUCKLAND:** Barrett brothers, from left, Beauden, Scott and Jordie are the first trio of brothers to be selected for an All Blacks squad, speak at a press conference in Auckland, New Zealand, yesterday. The All Blacks will play Samoa on Friday, June 16, ahead of the three test series against the British and Irish Lions.—AP

### RUGBY

## BARRETT BROTHERS TO MAKE ALL BLACKS HISTORY IN LIONS SERIES

**WELLINGTON:** The first trio of brothers to be selected in the same All Blacks team - the Barretts - honed their skills in backyard battles which featured arcane rules, tears and privileges of seniority. Flyhalf Beauden Barrett, lock Scott Barrett and utility back Jordie Barrett - the imposed-upon youngest - spoke in Auckland yesterday about pedigree and sibling rivalry as they prepared for the first test against the British and Irish Lions.

Four trios of brothers have played for the All Blacks in the past. The Brownlies - Maurice, Cyril and Laurie - played for New Zealand in the 1920s but never all in the same team. The Nicholls brothers - Marcus, Harry and Harold - were All Blacks in the same decade but not the same side. Most recently the Whitelocks - Sam, George and Luke - played for New Zealand but not simultaneously. The Barretts made history when they were named last week in the All Blacks' 33-man squad for the Lions series and have some small chance of making a more exclusive place in history if they are to be included in the same team during the three-test series.

The brothers attribute their collective success to pedigree; father Kevin "Smiley" Barrett was a long-serving and famous player for New Zealand's Taranaki province and mother, Robyn, was a noted athlete.

"Mum was a pretty talented athlete and they all say the speed comes from Mum and the size and workrate would come from Dad," Beauden Barrett said. "I guess it's a good mixture, sitting here today.

"Dad was always a forward and worked hard in the pack. We probably got our flair from Mum." Beauden said a learned work ethic had also been part of the brothers' success. They grew up on the family farm in Taranaki province, a dairy farming region in the central North Island, and found time for sport only when chores were done.

"If you live on a farm you appreciate you can work countless hours and there's always work to be done," Beauden Barrett said. "We saw Mum and Dad doing that and coming home to cook us dinner and get us ready for school.

"If you relate that to your rugby, it's always striving to be the best you can be, and that is endless as well."

The brothers developed a typical sibling rivalry in which youngest brother Jordie was at the target of most jokes. He had to accept the nicknames Baby or Bub, though recently the names have become more sophisticated.

"We played all sorts in the backyard but mostly cricket and I was always just trying to match these guys," Jordie said. "The rugby games I was in tears most times and couldn't really participate. "No one was supervising and I think I was hung out to dry there."

Beauden said the rivalry may have hardened the brothers, and deepened their companionship. "Mum would call for dinner and it would always go 10 minutes extra," he said. "It would be most likely him (Jordie) flying at you, getting up crying and he would come back that little bit harder next time." — AP

## COACH CHESTER HAILS WAKEFIELD 'CHARACTER'

**LEEDS:** Chris Chester paid tribute to the character of his Wakefield side as they came from behind to stun Salford Red Devils 34-24.

Trailing heading into the last five minutes, Wakefield crossed twice through Mason Caton-Brown, completing a hat-trick against his former team, and James Batchelor to claim a sixth straight win, much to the delight of head coach Chester.

He said: "I say every week, there's plenty of character in this side. We play for the full 80 minutes. Even with five minutes to go there was belief that we could get over the top of them.

"It was a really good team performance, in tough circumstances. On the whole we probably edged it, we competed really hard in the first half.

"There were some really good individual performances and collectively I thought we were pretty good.

"We had about six fresh bodies and I thought the freshness might help us and I think it did in that last five or ten minutes."

Elsewhere Hull FC coach Lee Radford was fuming at the schedule that saw his side play a third game in nine days, even though they beat Wigan 39-26 on Saturday.

Radford's men ran in six tries, but the 38-year-old was more concerned about the way his players were not being looked after by the schedule makers in Super League.

He said: "This is the most pleasing win of the season because of the circumstances for both teams. It's been an unbelievably difficult period that didn't need to happen.



**PRETORIA:** South Africa's Eben Etzebeth' top right, beats France's captain Yoann Maestri, top left, during a line out for the international rugby union test match between South Africa and France at Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria, South Africa, Saturday.—AP

## LET'S GET PHYSICAL, LIONS PROP TELLS OTAGO

**DUNEDIN:** British and Irish Lions prop Kyle Sinckler wants to get in the faces of the Otago Highlanders today, but without the lack of discipline that has often landed him in trouble.

The Harlequins and England front-rower admitted he has let his aggressive streak get the better of him in the past before receiving a ticking-off from more experienced teammates.

Sinckler's club colleagues Adam Jones and James Horwill told him to calm down or risk his career and it has paid off with the 24-year-old set for his second Lions start in Dunedin.

He said the turning point was a match at Wasps last year when he came on at half-time furious at how poorly his team was playing. "I could've probably been sent off about two or three times in that game.

They sat me down on that Monday after and took it upon themselves to tell me: 'Look you've got to stop it,' he said. "They said it's always me starting the fights and costing the team. "I needed to sit back and think if Adam Jones — 95 caps for Wales, and James Horwill — 62 caps and Australia captain, have gone out of their way to speak to me then I needed to sort myself out."

Sinckler has never made a Test start for England but impressed against the Provincial Barbarians.

### 'PLAY ON THE EDGE'

With another chance to shine against the Highlanders, his combination of power and set-piece technique could yet see him make the Lions side to face the All Blacks.

"I want to be physical, I want to play on the edge and in people's faces, but in the right way, not to the detriment of the team," he said. "That conversation with James and Adam put things in perspective for me.

I'm still growing, still becoming a man, and learning from my mistakes." Sinckler, who has a surprising turn of pace for a 122-kilogramme (19.2-stone) prop forward, played in the backs as a youth and said he may show off some of his old skills in Dunedin.

"I enjoy having the ball in my hands and running lines off number nine and 10," he said.

Lions captain Sam Warburton said the covered roof of the Highlanders' Forsyth Barr stadium should make for a faster game than Saturday's 12-3 win over the Crusaders in Christchurch. "It's a great ground to play in, so I'd imagine the scoreline will be a little bit different to the Crusaders game, it was quite slippery out there," the Welsh flanker said. "I'm sure it's going to be perhaps a little bit quicker, a little bit more ball in play and some more points scored for sure." —AFP



**CHRISTCHURCH:** British and Irish Lions lose forward Taulupe Faletau, centre, throws the ball to teammate Conor Murray, right, as Canterbury Crusaders Matt Todd watches during their match in Christchurch, New Zealand, Saturday.—AP



## KIWIS REACH MATCH POINT IN AMERICA'S CUP CHALLENGER FINALS

**BERMUDA'S GREAT SOUND:** The heart-stopping moments keep coming for Emirates Team New Zealand in the America's Cup eliminations on Bermuda's Great Sound.

The Kiwis overcame a mistake by helmsman Peter Burling and barely held off Sweden's Artemis Racing in a drag race to the finish line of Race 6 Sunday to reach match point in the challenger finals. Emirates Team New Zealand won two of three races Sunday to take a 4-2 lead in the best-of-nine series.

The Kiwis need just one win today to clinch a spot in the America's Cup match against two-time defending champion Oracle Team USA and a chance to atone for their soul-crushing loss in the 2013 match. Team New Zealand had a big lead late in Race 6 when Burling, an

Olympic gold and silver medalist, missed the layline into the bottom mark. The 50-foot catamaran came off its foils and slowed dramatically, allowing Artemis to catch up. The Kiwis regained their speed on the short reach to the finish, had a better angle to the line and won by one second. "I think we definitely owe a few supporters a few beers or something like that," Burling said. "A few guys on the team reckon they lost a few years off their life watching that. It was my stuff-up. Plain and simple, we missed the layline. "We were planning on going through the gate and carrying on for another 18 seconds through the gate and gybing through the finish. We just missed the layline and we weren't quite ready to gybe back and we hadn't really accelerated out of the gybe.

"It was a simple mistake that shows you how tight this racing is," Burling said. "You make one little mistake and a big lead turns into nothing. We're just really happy with the way the boys dug really deep and managed to get that board down and get foiling again to get us to the finish a couple of seconds ahead."

On Tuesday, the Kiwis capped at the start of a semifinal race against Britain's Land Rover BAR, throwing crewmen into the water and causing extensive damage. High winds blew out racing Wednesday, and the Kiwis returned to the course Thursday to close out that series and advance.

Artemis Racing skipper Nathan Outteridge, an Australian who also has won Olympic gold and silver medals, will have to rally again to keep his syndicate

alive. Artemis trailed SoftBank Team Japan 3-1 in semifinals before winning four straight to advance.

"We saw in the semifinals that anything's possible if we just keep chipping away," Outteridge said. "We'll review the footage from today and probably review yesterday's again, and come out tomorrow with a new and improved game plan."

Artemis won Sunday's first race after recovering from a potentially dangerous situation, when it came out of a tack, got high on its foils and then took a nose dive. The boat almost went sideways.

The Kiwis had to bear away and called for a penalty but it was waved off.

Team New Zealand won the second race after passing the Swedes late on leg three and pulling way ahead. Artemis

retired with a daggerboard problem just as the Kiwis crossed the finish line.

Artemis has won the start of all six races. "We're definitely learning a lot about how to come from behind, but at the same time we're making some pretty big improvements in the starting end."

"We're not too worried if we are behind because we've got so much confidence we can run them down. But we'd definitely prefer to be in front."

Four years ago, Team New Zealand reached match point in the America's Cup match at 8-1. Oracle Team USA then staged one of the greatest comebacks in sports, winning eight straight races to retain the Auld Mug. The Kiwis later sacked skipper Dean Barker. The America's Cup match starts Saturday. —AP

## FOR DAVIS LOVE III, A FATHER-SON OUTING AT THE US OPEN

**ERIN:** Davis Love III is making his 24th appearance in the US Open, with one big difference. He'll only have clubs in his hand to clean them, not hit any shots. And for the first time, he'll be wearing shorts at a major championship.

Love is caddying for his son. Davis Love IV, who just finished at Alabama and turned pro, qualified for his first US Open as an alternate from the Georgia sectional qualifier. "I'm excited for him," Love said Sunday afternoon as he watched from some 300 yards away as his son, who goes by "Dru," teed off during a practice round with Ryder Cup captain Jim Furyk. "I've played with a bunch of 19- and 20-year-olds. But it makes me feel old that he's playing."

Dru Love won't officially be in the US Open field until the world ranking is published. The USGA held back six spots for anyone who moved into the top 60 in the world ranking after this week. Chris Wood of England finished right at No. 60, meaning the other five spots are distributed to alternates. The Georgia section, where Love was first alternate, was No. 5 on the list.

The son will have plenty of experience on the bag. Love won the PGA Championship in 1997 at Winged Foot when Dru was only 3. He also is a two-time Ryder Cup captain who will be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame this fall. Love played his first U.S. Open at age 24 in 1988, and he was a runner-up in 1996 at Oakland Hills. The 53-year-old Love has been slowed by a bad back this year and had no intention of trying to qualify for the US Open until he caddied for his son at the

first stage of US Open qualifying and Dru made it to the sectional qualifier.

Love played in the Columbus, Ohio, qualifier and missed out by eight shots. "The main reason I went is because he was going," Love said. "I thought, 'If I don't try and he gets in ... I had to try.'"

Erin Hills was busy for a late afternoon with strong wind. Playing ahead of Love group was two-time U.S. Open champion Ernie Els. Walking off the second tee, he looked back at the green and recognized a longtime colleague in shorts and carrying the bag. "Hey, caddie!" Els called out to Love. "I finally found a job," Love replied.

"Ryder Cup captain. PGA champion. Caddie. I think you finally found something," Els said with that easy smile. Dru Love will be making his second start in a PGA Tour sanctioned event. He played in the 2015 RSM Classic at Sea Island, which his father hosts, and missed the cut.

Love hopes to impart some knowledge gleaned over three decades playing majors, mainly how to prepare and pick out lines off the tee and not to get rattled when something goes wrong, which it often does for everyone at a US Open at some point.

Beneath the instruction was no small amount of pride. Dru Love is the third generation to play in the US Open. Davis Love Jr., a noted teaching pro, played in the US Open six times. Love's entire family is coming to Erin Hills to watch. "It's going to be a lot of fun," Love said. The first order of business? Love has set up an appointment with sports psychologist Bob Rotella on Monday. —AP



**LONG POND:** Ryan Blaney, driver of the #21 Motorcraft/Quick Lane Tire & Auto Center Ford, poses with the trophy in Victory Lane after winning the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Axalta presents the Pocono 400 at Pocono Raceway on Sunday in Long Pond, Pennsylvania. —AFP

### MOTOR RACING

## BLANEY WINS FIRST CAREER NASCAR CUP RACE AT POCONO RACEWAY

**LONG POND:** Ryan Blaney was stationed in victory lane with a headset on as a guest pit reporter just the day before at Pocono Raceway. But to get there again, on his own in the No. 21 Ford, he'd have to zip past a pair of hardened NASCAR champions with just 10 laps left.

Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch may not be ready yet to officially pass the torch to the next generation of drivers. So it's up to young 20-somethings like Blaney to yank that torch - that checkered flag - and knock 'em off their perch.

Driving for owners with roots steeped in NASCAR history, Blaney blazed his way down the stretch past Busch, held off a hard-charging Harvick, and won his first career NASCAR Cup race Sunday at the raceway.

That's career win No. 99 for the Wood Brothers. No. 1 for Blaney, well, that felt pretty good. Blaney, a "Star Wars" nut, was tongue tied when he met actress Daisy Ridley in March. An hour or so after confetti fluttered on him in victory lane, he offered an open invitation to Ridley to join the post-race party.

The bash might last as long as a "Star Wars" marathon. "Maybe she watched the race today," Blaney said. "She better get on a plane right now. It'll actually be going on all night, so she's got plenty of time to get here."

The 23-year-old Blaney, son of NASCAR driver Dave Blaney, grandson of dirt track star Lou Blaney, won for the first time in 68 career starts and partied again in victory lane. He was a guest reporter for Fox during the Xfinity race.

Blaney interviewed Xfinity winner Brad Keselowski in victory lane on Saturday as part of an all-driver broadcast by Fox. Keselowski finished fifth on Sunday and returned the favor by crashing the broadcast and interviewed Blaney.

"What was going through your mind? You're in victory lane, man!" Keselowski said. "I just didn't want to make a mistake," Blaney told Keselowski. "That would have been the worst thing we could do." He was near flawless over those final 10 laps.

"He outran two guys today that are champions," Eddie Wood said.

It was a bit of a throwback for the Woods. Blaney's radio was busted and he had no communication with his team after about the first 40 laps. "It figures the one race we don't have radio communication, we end up winning it," Blaney said. "Maybe we should turn the radio off more often." The Wood Brothers have won at least one race in each of the last six decades, but none since Trevor Bayne won the Daytona 500 in 2011.

Blaney is the 18th driver to win a Cup race with the Wood Brothers. He is also part of a bumper crop of blossoming young talent that his hit NASCAR over the last couple of years. Two of those drivers were in the top 10: rookie Erik Jones was third and Chase Elliott was eighth.

Blaney joined Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Austin Dillon as first-time Cup winners this season.

"We can finally add our name to that group," a beaming Blaney said. Harvick, the 2014 champion, knows the new generation is coming on strong. "These young guys have to get into victory lane to get these fans that don't like me and Kyle," he said. "The younger crowd has to win, and today Ryan was able to do that, so not only is it good for him, but it's good for the whole

sport." Blaney had a brief chat in victory lane with one of his best friends and fellow driver, Darrell Wallace Jr. Wallace finished a lap down in 26th in the first start by a black driver in the Cup series since 2006. He felt ill after the race and needed to go to the medical center. Wallace said he was embarrassed, but fine. "It was really cool,

a really fun day," Wallace said. The Wood Brothers share a technical alliance with team owner Roger Penske and "The Captain" would like to add Blaney to his roster, possibly next year. Next year was a worry for another day. "I like where I'm at," Blaney said. With the Wood Brothers. And, in victory lane. —AFP

### GOLF

## JUTANUGARN BEATS THOMPSON, CHUN IN PLAYOFF AT LPGGA CLASSIC

**CAMBRIDGE:** Ariya Jutanugarn was seated by for pictures as winner of the Manulife LPGA Classic. Lexi Thompson buckled down the stretch and missed a four-foot putt to win in regulation, forcing her to return to the 18th tee with Jutanugarn and Chun for a playoff.

A short time later, Jutanugarn was posing for pictures as winner of the Manulife LPGA Classic. Lexi Thompson buckled down the stretch and missed a four-foot putt to win in regulation, forcing her to return to the 18th tee with Jutanugarn and Chun for a playoff.

Jutanugarn found the rough with her drive but her approach was pin-high and she made a 25-foot birdie putt for her first victory of the season. "I feel great, I feel like I broke through," she said. "I feel like I waited for my first win this year for a while." The 21-year-old from Thailand is a virtual lock to move up one position Monday and knock Lydia Ko off her perch as the world's top-ranked women's player.

Jutanugarn earned \$255,000 of the \$1.7-million purse for the victory. She raised her hand to her mouth in shock after hitting the winning shot.

"I knew it was a good putt," she said. "I didn't know it was going to go in." Jutanugarn is the 13th different winner on the LPGA Tour this season. Her last victory came at the 2016 Canadian Pacific Women's Open.

A five-time winner last year, she had three birdies over a four-hole stretch around the turn at Whistle Bear Golf Club. She closed with six straight pars for a 3-under-par 69 that left her at 17-under 271.

Thompson started the day with a one-shot lead and was up by four strokes after a birdie on No. 9. Four bogeys on the back nine did her in, with the final one coming when she three-putted on No. 18 to finish the round at 72.

"I had like a five-footer, six-footer, and about a four-footer and missed them all," Thompson said of her last three holes. "If I made those I would have won, but that's golf I guess." Chun finished the final round with a 70. Jodi Ewart Shadoff (69) was one shot back in fourth place. Mi Hyang Lee (68) and Laura Gonzalez Escallon (67) were at 14 under.

Brooke Henderson, of nearby Smiths Falls, was the top Canadian. She finished six strokes back in a tie for 11th at a 71. Her round included an eagle, six birdies and six bogeys. "Obviously I'm a little bit disappointed, but (tied for) 11th, I can't complain too much," Henderson said. "I feel like my game is so close

to being so great."

Alena Sharp, of Hamilton, started the day three shots behind Thompson but was unable to make a run. She had a double bogey on her final hole and finished seven strokes back after a 76. Sharp, a co-leader after two rounds, was looking for her first victory in 246 career LPGA Tour starts.

"I played better today than yesterday," she said. "Just hit one bad shot on the last (hole) and didn't make any putts, so it's kind of not sitting well at this moment."

Manulife will not return as a sponsor next season. The LPGA Tour has said it hopes to return to the area and that is searching for a new title sponsor. — AP



**ONTARIO:** Lexi Thompson on the USA waves after making a birdie on the 9th hole during the final round of the LPGA Classic at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge, Ontario on Sunday. — AP

## HAMILTON, VETTEL LOCKED IN GLORIOUS TITLE DUEL

**MONTREAL:** Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel's duel has turned this season's title race into one of the most keenly-anticipated - and most difficult to forecast - in decades.

Not since the heyday of Hamilton's childhood hero Ayrton Senna's intense rivalry with his McLaren team-mate Alain Prost nearly 30 years ago has a battle for glory so comprehensively captured the imagination.

Hamilton and Vettel's razor-sharp competitiveness has lifted performance levels to such a high that veteran paddock observers were left stunned at the Canadian Grand Prix.

London bookmakers have also reflected the close nature of this phenomenal scrap and on Monday installed the pair as joint favourites to win the drivers' championship at 10/11, Hamilton's odds having been cut from 6/4 thanks to his masterful triumph at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve.

Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff admitted to feeling "great" after seeing how Hamilton had inspired his team to claim a one-two triumph - their first this year - that erased the lingering feelings from last month's dismal showing at the Monaco Grand Prix.

Valtteri Bottas followed Hamilton home ahead of Daniel Ricciardo, of Red Bull.

The Australian's team-mate Max Verstappen was forced to retire due to electrical problems after snatching second with an aggressive start that saw him brush with the luckless Vettel, who was forced to make a belated early pit stop for a new front

wing. He came home fourth after a surging drive. Hamilton's victory, built on an equally outstanding 'Senna-esque' lap for his 65th pole position on Saturday, lifted him to within 12 points of Vettel in the drivers' championship while Mercedes regained the lead in the constructors' contest, eight points ahead of Ferrari.

"We have finally taken a 1-2 finish and done so at a track that we expected would be difficult for us - and which certainly was for us last year," said Wolff.

"Lewis delivered a stellar performance this weekend - a pole lap that was almost scary, when you watch the on-board, then a totally dominant race.

"Valtteri struggled in qualifying, but he got everything right in the race to complete a perfect day."

Wolff praised the entire Mercedes team both in Montreal and back at their factory in Brackley, in England, where staff worked tirelessly in a 24/7 effort to solve the problems that had enabled Ferrari to outclass them and score a 1-2 in Monte Carlo where Hamilton was seventh.

"Ever since Monaco, the guys and girls in the factory have been flat out," he said. "We ran the simulator 24/7 for 10 days in a row. Nobody took a weekend off in that group and there are no silver bullets in the sport."

Hamilton, too, was full of gratitude for the team effort and behaved, in Montreal, in a manner that endorsed the view that he has developed into a team-orientated driver, rather than a 'lone wolf'; to more than fill the vacuum created by the retirement of 2016 champion German Nico Rosberg. —AFP



**MONTREAL:** Race winner Lewis Hamilton of Great Britain and Mercedes GP celebrates his win on the podium with second place finisher Valtteri Bottas of Finland and Mercedes GP during the Canadian Formula One Grand Prix at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on Sunday in Montreal, Canada. — AFP





NEW YORK: Baltimore Orioles' J.J. Hardy (2) and Trey Mancini (16) collide while trying to catch a ball hit by New York Yankees' Aaron Hicks for a double during the fifth inning of a baseball game, in New York. — AP

BASEBALL

# AARON JUDGE HITS 2 MORE HOMERS AS YANKEES BEAT ORIOLES

**NEW YORK:** Rookie sensation Aaron Judge hit two more home runs, including a drive that cleared the distant bleachers at Yankee Stadium, and sent New York romping past Baltimore 14-3 Sunday for its fifth straight win. Even by his lofty feats, it was quite a power show by the 6-foot-7 Judge. He leads the majors with 21 homers and tops the AL with 47 RBIs and a .344 batting average. In the sixth, Judge launched a mammoth shot to left-center field that was estimated at 495 feet, the longest homer in the majors this season, according to Statcast. The ball bounced off the bare hands of a fan standing behind a fence beyond the back row of the bleachers. Judge lined a drive into the right-center seats in his next at-bat, and also doubled earlier. Adam Warren (2-1) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings for the win. Baltimore right-hander Kevin Gausman (3-5) was tagged for seven runs and eight hits in 3 1/3 innings.

**CUBS 7, ROCKIES 5**

Addison Russell had a go-ahead home run for his first big contribution since an absence in the wake of a Major League Baseball investigation into domestic abuse allegations, and the Cubs stopped the Rockies' seven-game winning streak. Russell and Kyle Schwarber connected for back-to-back homers off Jordan Lyles (0-2) in the sixth inning. Miguel Montero and Ben Zobrist also went deep, helping the World Series champion Cubs even their record at 31-31. Russell played for the second time since missing the first two games of the series. The MLB investigation began after claims of abuse against his wife were levied in a since-deleted social media post. Carl Edwards Jr. (2-0) won in relief of starter Jake Arrieta. Wade Davis gave up a run in the ninth before getting his 13th save in 13 chances.

**DODGERS 9, REDS 7**

Corey Seager capped Los Angeles' six-run eighth inning with his first career grand slam, helping the Dodgers finish off the sweep. Rookie Cody Bellinger sparked Los Angeles' rally with one-out drive against Austin Brice. Rasiel Iglesias (2-1) replaced Brice with a runner on first and walked three straight batters to force in a run, trimming Cincinnati's lead to 7-5. Seager then hit a drive to center for his ninth homer.

Bellinger also homered in the second and Chase Utley connected in the fifth for the Dodgers, who have won four straight. Luis Avilan (1-1) got the win, and Kenley Jansen got three outs for his 200th career save. Adam Duvall, Scott Schebler, Joey Votto and Devin Mesoraco homered for Cincinnati, which lost 5-4 on Saturday night on Seager's game-ending RBI double.

**RANGERS 5, NATIONALS 1**

Max Scherzer struck out 10 to move past 2,000 for his career, but was outpitched by Austin Bibens-Dirkx as the Rangers completed the sweep of the weekend series. Scherzer (7-4) has 2,005 career strikeouts after fanning at least 10 batters seven times this season. He allowed three runs - two earned - and three hits in 7 1/3 innings. Bibens-Dirkx (2-0) allowed a run and three hits in seven innings in his second career start. Shin-Soo Choo slugged his ninth homer as Texas completed its first road sweep of the season.

**CARDINALS 6, PHILLIES 5**

Dexter Fowler hit a three-run homer for St. Louis, and Adam Wainwright tossed five solid innings. The Cardinals have won three in a row following a season-high seven-game losing streak. Daniel Nava homered for the Phillies, who have dropped five in a row. Philadelphia led 2-0 before Fowler connected against Aaron Nola (3-4) in the fifth inning. It was his ninth homer in his first season with St. Louis. Wainwright (7-4) gave up two runs and six hits, bouncing back nicely from a rough start at Cincinnati on Tuesday. Seung Hwan Oh pitched a rocky ninth inning for his 15th save.

**ANGELS 12, ASTROS 6**

Albert Pujols homered in the first inning and Eric Young Jr. had a career-high four RBIs, helping the Angels rally for the win. Young capped Los Angeles' six-run fifth inning with a tiebreaking three-run shot off Michael Feliz (2-1). He also had an RBI single in the seventh. Rookie Keynan Middleton (1-0) pitched a scoreless fifth for his first career win. George Springer and Yuli Gurriel homered for Houston, and Josh Reddick had three hits.

**METS 2, BRAVES 1**

Seth Lugo pitched seven crisp innings in

his season debut, leading the Mets to the road win. Lugo (1-0) came back from right elbow inflammation that had sidelined him all season, helping Mets starters post a 0.83 ERA over the last five games. He gave up one run and six hits. Lugo also doubled off Jaime Garcia (2-5) and scored in the third for a 2-1 lead. The Mets have won four of five heading into a 14-game stretch against four teams that made the postseason last year. Addison Reed got his 11th save in 13 chances. Dansby Swanson had a sacrifice fly for Atlanta. The Braves have lost 16 of their last 21 home games against the Mets.

**BLUE JAYS 4, MARINERS 0**

Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer for Toronto, and J.A. Happ struck out eight in six innings. Donaldson and the Blue Jays knocked out James Paxton (5-1) after just four innings, handing him his first loss of the season and sending the thousands of Toronto fans from western Canada back north of the border after their team won two of three this weekend. Donaldson finished with three hits, including an RBI single in the fourth for a 3-0 lead. Happ (1 4) allowed six hits in his first win since Sept. 20.

**GIANTS 13, TWINS 8**

Buster Posey had three hits and four RBIs, Hunter Pence added three doubles and scored three times, and the Giants avoided a three-game sweep. Eduardo Nunez also had three hits and scored three times while rookie Austin Slater had three hits and a career-high four RBIs to help the Giants win for the fourth time in 12 games. Josh Osich (1-1) retired three batters for the win. Eduardo Escobar and Byron Buxton homered for Minnesota. Matt Belisle (0-1) got two outs and was charged with four runs and four hits.

**INDIANS 4, WHITE SOX 2**

Carlos Carrasco took a shutout into the sixth and three relievers combined for 3 2/3 scoreless innings, leading Cleveland to the victory. Carrasco (6-3) was pulled after Todd Frazier's two-run double cut Cleveland's lead to one. The right-hander allowed seven hits, struck out four and walked one in 5 1/3 innings. Andrew Miller retired all five batters he faced, striking out three. Bryan Shaw pitched a scoreless eighth and Cody Allen finished for his 15th save, working around a one-out single. The White Sox have dropped nine of 11. Jose Quintana (2-8) allowed three runs in five innings, dropping to 0-4 in his last seven starts.

**PIRATES 3, MARLINS 1**

Ivan Nova pitched six shutout innings, Elias Diaz drove in two runs and the Pirates beat Jeff Locke and the Marlins. Nova (6-4) allowed one hit, struck out four and walked none. Locke (0-2) was charged with three runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings in his first start in Pittsburgh since he signed with Miami in free agency. The left-hander spent the first six years of his career with the Pirates. Ichiro Suzuki hit his second homer for Miami in the eighth. The 43-year-old Suzuki last hit more than one homer in a season in 2013. Felipe Rivero got his second four-out save in as many days.

**DIAMONDBACKS 11, BREWERS 1**

Robbie Ray struck out 12 in 6 2/3 shutout innings, Paul Goldschmidt hit a grand slam

**ROYALS 8, PADRES 3**

Mike Moustakas homered twice for Kansas City, and Jake Junis pitched seven-plus solid innings. Alex Gordon and Eric Hosmer also connected for the Royals, who hit five on Saturday against the Padres. Moustakas hit a three-run home run in the first against rookie Dinelson Lamet (2-2) that gave the Royals an early 4-0 advantage, and a solo homer in the eighth. Junis (2-0) allowed three runs, all on solo homers, and six hits.

**TIGERS 8, RED SOX 3**

Justin Upton hit a grand slam off the right-field foul pole and Nicholas Castellanos hit a two-run homer as the Detroit Tigers averted a sweep with victory over the Red Sox. The Tigers halted a three-game losing streak in a contest that lasted 4 hours, 6 minutes. Boston had won 13 of 19 and seven of eight in Fenway Park. Daniel Norris (3-4) held Boston to two runs over five innings, giving up seven hits with three walks and six strikeouts. Drew Pomeranz (6-4) was tagged for six runs and eight hits in 4 1/3 innings, snapping his career-best three-game winning streak. Hanley Ramirez had an RBI single and Dustin Pedroia a run-scoring double for Boston. The first six innings took just over three hours, sending a large portion of fans streaming for the exits after the final out of the sixth. — APF



SAN FRANCISCO: San Francisco Giants' Denard Span, left, Austin Slater (53) and Hunter Pence celebrates after the team's 13-8 win over the Minnesota Twins in a baseball game Sunday, in San Francisco. — AP

MLB results/standings

Detroit 8, Boston 3; Kansas City 8, San Diego 3; LA Dodgers 9, Cincinnati 7; Arizona 11 Milwaukee 1; Toronto 4, Seattle 0; San Francisco 13 Minnesota 8; Texas 5, Washington 1; Chicago Cubs 7, Colorado 5; St. Louis 6, Philadelphia 5; LA Angels 12, Houston 6; Pittsburgh 3, Miami 1; NY Mets 2, Atlanta 1; Cleveland 4, Chicago White Sox 2; Tampa Bay 5, Oakland 4; NY Yankees 14, Baltimore 3.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division					
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB		
NY Yankees	37	23	.617	-	Washington	38	24	.613	-
Boston	34	2	.548	4	NY Mets	28	33	.459	9.5
Tampa Bay	34	32	.515	6	Miami	27	35	.435	11
Baltimore	31	30	.508	6.5	Atlanta	27	35	.435	11
Toronto	31	32	.492	7.5	Philadelphia	21	40	.344	16.5
Central Division				Central Division					
Minnesota	32	27	.542	-	Milwaukee	33	31	.516	-
Cleveland	31	29	.517	1.5	Chicago Cubs	31	31	.500	1
Detroit	30	32	.484	3.5	St. Louis	29	32	.475	2.5
Kansas City	28	34	.452	5.5	Cincinnati	29	33	.468	3
Chicago White Sox	26	35	.426	7	Pittsburgh	28	35	.444	4.5
Western Division				Western Division					
Houston	44	20	.688	-	Colorado	41	24	.631	-
LA Angels	33	33	.500	12	LA Dodgers	39	25	.609	1.5
Seattle	31	33	.484	13	Arizona	39	26	.600	2
Texas	30	32	.484	13	San Francisco	26	39	.400	.5
Oakland	27	36	.429	16.5	San Diego	24	40	.375	16.5



## ZELLOUS SPARKS LATE RUN AS NEW YORK RALLIES TO BEAT STORM

**NEW YORK:** Tina Charles had 21 points and 14 rebounds and New York used a 12-1 late run to beat the Seattle Storm 94-86 on Sunday. Trailing 83-80 with 3:05 left, Bria Hartley tapped the ball to Shavonte Zellous to hit a 3-pointer that tied it and started the game-ending burst. On the next play she stripped the ball from Jewell Loyd and then converted the layup on the other that made gave New York the lead. A free throw by Alysha Clark got the Storm within 85-84 but Kiah Stokes' putback made it 87-84 with 1:15 left. Seattle then turned it over on the next possession and Zellous converted another layup to seal the win and give New York (6-3) a fourth straight win. Stewart finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Storm (5-4).

Sue Bird finished with a season-high 21 points and Loyd had 19. Sugar Rodgers had 21 points and Zellous had 16 for New York.

### MYSTICS 88, FEVER 70

Elena Delle Donne returned from a one-game absence to score 25 points and lead the Mystics to a victory over the Fever. Delle Donne sat out the Mystics' game on Friday with a groin injury when Washington suffered a 98-73 home loss to the Minnesota Lynx to snap a four-game winning streak. The victory left the Mystics (7-3) a half-game ahead of the New York Liberty in the Eastern Conference. Delle Donne was 9-of-15 shooting, making 4 of 6 from 3-point range.

Krystal Thomas had 14 points and 14 rebounds with Washington holding a 43-23 rebounding edge. Erica Wheeler, making her second start in place of injured Briann January (Achilles tendon strain), scored 15 points for the Fever (4-6). Candice Dupree added 14 points.

### LYNX 91, WINGS 74

Sylvia Fowles scored a season-high 30 points and the Lynx beat the Wings to remain the WNBA's only unbeaten team. Fowles was 14-of-19 shooting in posting her league-leading seventh game this season of at least 20 points for the Lynx (9-0). Maya Moore had five 3-pointers and added 23 points and Rebekkah Brunson added 13 points

and 14 rebounds. The Lynx shot 53 percent and had 30 assists, nine from Seimone Augustus, to go with their 38 field goals. Karima Christmas-Kelly had 21 points for Dallas (4-6), which was just 3 of 17 from the arc and outrebounded 40-24. Minnesota led at halftime by 14. Dallas was within eight late in the third quarter but Brunson restored a 10-point lead with a basket and the Lynx remained in front by double figures. The Wings and WNBA president Lisa Borders celebrated "Nancy Lieberman Day," honoring the Basketball Hall of Fame member at halftime. Lieberman was the first overall pick in 1981 by the Dallas Diamonds of the Women's Professional Basketball League. — AP



**GROS ISLET:** Shai Hope (R) of West Indies hits 4 during the 2nd ODI match between West Indies and Afghanistan at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia, Sunday. — AFP

### CRICKET

## WI STUMBLE TO LOW TARGET TO LEVEL AFGHAN SERIES

**GROS-ISLET:** West Indies overcame a mini collapse on their way to a series-levelling four-wicket victory in a low-scoring second one-day international against Afghanistan in St Lucia on Sunday.

Afghanistan struggled against the extra pace and bounce of the home seam attack, making just 135 off 37.3 overs, the lowest ODI total at the Darren Sammy Stadium.

Shai Hope then scored a patient unbeaten 48 to stave off the threat of Afghan leg-spinner

Rashid Khan and take the home side across the finish line with more than 10 overs but just four wickets to spare after falling at one stage to 98 for five.

Choosing to bat again on the same pitch used for the first match two days earlier, the tourists found the West Indies bowlers to be an entirely different proposition as they adopted a consistent line of short-pitched bowling to the body which exposed the technical inadequacies of most of the Afghan batsmen.

Only Gulbadin Naib, who was last out for a top score of 51, offered any meaningful resistance. His enterprising innings off 73 balls included two sixes and two fours, saving his side from complete humiliation after they were 51 for six when he came to the crease.

Shannon Gabriel, captain Jason Holder and Alzarri Joseph exploited the helpful surface with two wickets each while off-spinner Ashley Nurse wrapped up the innings with two wickets, including Naib to a catch at long-off as he mis-cued another big hit.

"It was a definite change of tactics and it paid off," said Holder. "Now it gets us back on track for the decider on Wednesday and we are confident that we've seen enough of Khan to be more effective against him."

### 'NOT ENOUGH RUNS'

After his match-winning haul of 7 for 18 in the 63-run win for Afghanistan in the first match on Friday—the fourth best ODI figures by a bowler in history—the leg-spinner Khan was again the most potent threat with 3 for 26 from his 10 overs. Naib also chipped in with two wickets from his medium-pace and at 72 for 4 when Jason Mohammed fell, after having been 55 for 1, it looked as if another embarrassing capitulation might follow.

But Roston Chase and Rovman Powell, in the side for the injured Miguel Cummins, hung around long enough with man-of-the-match Hope to see the West Indies to the target, even though it was left to Holder to hit the winning runs. "We struggled against the short-pitched bowling and that is something we will have to work on before the final match," said Afghanistan captain Asghar Stanikzai. — AFP

## KOHLI'S BRUTAL HONESTY BRINGS INDIA TOGETHER

**LONDON:** Virat Kohli says India's Champions Trophy demolition of South Africa was fuelled by his refusal to spare his players from criticism.

Kohli's side crushed South Africa by eight wickets at The Oval in their final Group B fixture to set up a likely semi-final showdown with Bangladesh on Thursday.

India had to win to avoid elimination after slumping to a shock loss against Sri Lanka, a spluttering performance that prompted Kohli to let his team know where they were going wrong.

Rather than sugar-coat his comments to save his players' pride, the India captain made it clear they had to improve and he was delighted with how they responded in the make or break clash on Sunday. "You have to be honest. You have to sometimes say things that hurt. That's what I believe in," he said.

"You have to lay it out in front of them that this is what we did wrong, including me, and we need to take it on the chin and accept it and prove it. That's why we are chosen among millions of people to play at this level. You have to be good enough to do that for the country and you have to be good enough to bounce back, as well.

"You can't do the same mistakes over and over again. That sort of mindset is really helping all of us to come together as a unit and make things happen. It's not about asking two, three players to do it. We are asking everyone to do it and everyone is responding really well.

"Until you have a team effort, you cannot win games, especially in conditions that you are not familiar with. Today was a team performance."

### EXPERIENCED

With India and Bangladesh joining hosts England in the last four and the winner of Monday's Sri Lanka against Pakistan match taking the final semi-final berth, it's been a strong tournament for the teams from the sub continent. Kohli acknowledged the amount of one-day cricket played in the region was a factor, but he has also been impressed with the way India have adapted to the English conditions.

"Maybe because of how much limited-overs cricket we play, I think the players are getting more experienced in difficult situations," he said. "Maybe some of the teams have really surprised the opposition with the way they have batted and bowled in certain situations." South Africa captain AB De Villiers was one of three players run out as his side collapsed to 191 all out.

De Villiers endured a miserable tournament, scoring only 20 runs, while his team came in for heavy criticism after losing twice in three matches. However, the 33-year-old insists he is still the right man to prepare the side for the 2019 World Cup.

"It is always very disappointing when we lose but the way we lost was the most disappointing," he said. "Through soft dismissals we lost our way and that was the part that hurt the most. Run-outs happen but three in one innings is not how we want to play our cricket that is for sure.

"I'm a good captain and I can take this team forward and win the World Cup I believe, I love doing it.

"Not a lot of people believe me but I feel it is pretty close, it is very difficult to say that after a performance like this but that is what I believe in my heart." — AFP



**LONDON:** India's captain Virat Kohli (2nd R) shakes hands with South Africa's David Miller after the ICC Champions Trophy match between South Africa and India at The Oval in London on Sunday. — AFP

### TENNIS

## WILLIS WANTS ANOTHER TASTE OF WIMBLEDON FAIRYTALE

**LONDON:** Marcus Willis who briefly captured the headlines at Wimbledon last year is praying he will be given a wild card for this year's renewal, he told Press Association Sport yesterday.

The 26-year-old Englishman made a mockery of his world ranking of 772 to come through qualifying and then set up a second round meeting with Swiss master Roger Federer on Centre Court—which he lost in straight sets. Willis—who has since married his girlfriend Jenny who was the person who convinced him to carry on plugging away with tennis resulting in the fairytale moment at Wimbledon—said he had thoroughly enjoyed himself despite the loss to Federer.

"It felt like I was on court for about five minutes," said Willis of his unlikely appearance on Centre Court.

"Time flies by when you're having fun—or being beaten up. It's crazy the more you think about it."

Willis, who now has a daughter Martha with Jenny, said he hoped the Wimbledon organisers would recall the media attention he garnered last year when they came to name the wild cards on June 20th.

"I'm not confident but hopeful," he said.

"I'd really appreciate that. It was a big story last year, the media attention is

going to be big, so they might give me one.

"I genuinely think I can win some matches. It would bring back some memories, which would be sweet. If not, I'll try and make my way through qualies again." Willis, who but for a player withdrawing from the pre-qualifying tournament for Wimbledon wouldn't have got his chance, said he had not held high hopes of even reaching the qualifying tournament.

However, three victories earned him a wild card into qualifying proper, where he overcame Yuichi Sugita, Andrey Rublev and Daniil Medvedev—all ranked hundreds of places higher. "I wasn't expecting anything because I hadn't hit a ball on grass," recalled Willis, whose exploits had other side effects with his wedding day featured in society magazine 'Hello'.

"I was hoping to pre-qualify but I had a tough draw there as well so I did really well to get through that. Each match was just a bonus, it was awesome. "I didn't think I was going to win my last round of qualifying. I had a horrible draw, so I was just pleasantly surprised every time I won. "Once I qualified and I came off that court and there were 200 people with microphones, that's when I realised, 'Oh, I've done something here.' And then it was just mental." — AFP

### SOCCER

## DIEGO SOUZA GETS BRAZIL CHANCE AGAINST AUSTRALIA

**MELBOURNE:** Diego Souza will replace injured striker Gabriel Jesus and Philippe Coutinho is line to lead Brazil in today's friendly with Australia in Melbourne.

A replacement had to be found for Manchester City's Jesus, who has returned

home after suffering a fractured eye socket in Brazil's 1-0 Superclasico loss to Argentina at the MCG on Friday.

It will be Souza's chance to impress team manager Tite ahead of next year's World Cup in Russia and represents his first opportunity

to start for Brazil after late substitute appearances in qualifiers against Uruguay and Paraguay this year.

"For me it's great to be called up and to have the opportunity to play," said Souza, who normally plays as an attacking midfielder for Sport Recife. "It will be important to show my best. There are so many centre-forward options in Brazil: Fred, Firmino, Gabriel Jesus, are all looking for a place in the team.

"I've have the dream of maybe being at a World Cup, it's difficult, they're very good players, the competition is great, but I'm enjoying it."

Along with Souza, Brazil are likely to make further team changes with Diego Alves, Rafinha, Rodrigo Caio, Alex Sandro, David Luiz, Giuliano and Douglas Costa all pressing for a start.

Only Thiago Silva, Paulinho and Coutinho are expected to feature from the side that faced Argentina, with the Liverpool midfielder Coutinho in line to captain his country against the Socceroos.

Brazilian reports said that Tite would continue the rotation of captains in the national team with Coutinho to take over the captain's armband after Thiago Silva led the team against Argentina on Friday.

Team coordinator Edu Gaspar, the former Arsenal, Valencia and Brazil midfielder, said his country viewed the Socceroos game as vital 2018 World Cup preparation. — AFP



**MELBOURNE:** Brazil's player David Luiz (C) attends a training session in Melbourne on Sunday, ahead of their international match against Brazil on June 13. — AFP



## HEATON REPLACES HART FOR ENGLAND IN FRANCE

**CROISSY-SUR-SEINE:** Tom Heaton of Burnley will replace Joe Hart in goal for England in today's friendly against France in Paris, manager Gareth Southgate has confirmed.

The 31-year-old Heaton will win his third international cap in the match at the Stade de France, as Hart-criticised following his performance in Saturday's 2-2 draw against Scotland is left out.

Stoke City's Jack Butland will play the second half, as Southgate reiterated that it was always his plan to give someone else a chance in England's final run-out of the season, having named four goalkeepers in his squad.

"It was never my intention to start Hart in this game. Tom Heaton will start and Jack Butland will play the second half," Southgate told reporters after England trained in the leafy Parisian suburb

of Croissy-sur-Seine yesterday. "Tom has had an outstanding season, and we have got to maintain the squad environment, make people feel involved by giving them game time.

"In the past, one or two goalkeepers have given up international football because they have not had that chance, so I am conscious of keeping them involved."

Butland is not long back from a lengthy spell out injured, and the decision to give him a chance for part of the friendly means Southampton's Fraser Forster is the goalkeeper to miss out.

"Jack is coming back from a long lay-off. We think he can also challenge for the number one spot moving forward," added Southgate.

"It is difficult on Fraser, who is also a very good goalkeeper, but with those four and

(Sunderland's) Jordan Pickford and then a couple of lads coming up potentially from the Championship next year, we are very healthy."

### KANE CAPTAIN AGAIN

Harry Kane will once again wear the captain's armband, just as he did at the weekend when his stoppage-time strike rescued a point for England in the World Cup qualifier at Hampden Park.

The Tottenham Hotspur striker, who has won the Premier League's Golden Boot for the past two seasons, will again take advantage of the fact England have no permanent skipper with Wayne Rooney now out of favour.

Southgate said Kane would follow in the footsteps of Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson, currently recovering from injury but who wore

the armband in the manager's first two matches in charge, against Malta and Slovenia last autumn.

"Harry will captain the team. It is probably a similar scenario to October when Jordan Henderson captained the team in the first game and was starting the second so it made sense to keep it as it was, and it's the same with Harry this time," said Southgate, while insisting no long-term decision had been made on the issue.

After Tuesday's game, England are next in action in early September with a World Cup qualifying double-header against Malta and Slovakia.

"I'm not committing to a timescale on that. I'm not in a rush to make that decision. At some point it's something we should do but it's been good to devolve the leadership." — AFP

## RUSSIA EYES WORLD CUP

**MOSCOW:** Alexei Sorokin has the daunting task of making sure Russia is ready to host fans and teams from around the globe at the World Cup in 2018.

One year ahead of the tournament, the CEO of Russia's organising committee is looking to meet construction deadlines and calm security fears as the country gears up for the warm-up Confederations Cup on June 17.

**Q: What does it mean for Russia to host the Confederations Cup and World Cup?**

**A:** We were so excited when FIFA entrusted us with holding the World Cup. It's the first time this event will take place in Eastern Europe. And for us it's a great chance to present our country to the entire world the best way. And we will be happy to host all the guests, who decide to attend the events, and to make their stay here pleasant and unforgettable.

**Q: What have been the major challenges in preparing for the Confederations and the World Cups across such a vast country?**

**A:** The preparations for the World Cup are still going on but I can say that we experienced few troubles in our preparations for these events so far. The preparations for the Confederations Cup run smoothly as the four cities that will host the event (Moscow, St Petersburg, Kazan and Sochi) are well-known sporting centres with developed infrastructure and solid experience of staging major events. And they're all ready to receive the large flow of tourists.

**Q: There are serious worries over hooliganism and racism at these events and critics say Russian officials do not take the problems seriously enough. How can Russia ensure safe and enjoyable tournaments for fans?**

**A:** Of course there have been outbreaks of racism in Russia in the past and sometimes they still happen here. However it's

definitely not a steady trend in our country. Russia's multi-ethnic society is not mired in racism. For me it's an obvious fact.

The clashes between the fans in Marseille last year were a kind of ugly deeds. But Russia's authorities have worked out a comprehensive security concept that will act during these football tournaments to avoid any chance of the repetition of such kind of events here. We're confident that the Confederations and World Cups in Russia will be completely safe. We've implemented the special Fan ID, which gives football lovers from all over the world the right to enter the country without a visa and to move between the host cities for free during the events. But this ID will also serve as an additional security measure.

A number of international agreements have been recently signed giving Russia's law enforcement authorities a chance to exchange information with foreign police to identify the worst hooligans and keep them from football venues.

**Q: Critics say that hosting of these major events is a PR stunt Russia's President Vladimir Putin, but offers little for average Russians. How can you ensure there is a lasting, positive legacy from these tournaments?**

**A:** I think it's not fair to say that the hosting of major football tournaments is just a PR move for the Kremlin. Russia has invested huge sums into the preparations for the Confederations and the World Cups. The infrastructure in the host cities was being upgraded anyway but the World Cup has sped up this process a great deal. The preparations for the World Cup have developed not only the football venues and training grounds but the transportation systems, the hotel networks and other facilities in the host cities.

It will definitely be good for people regardless of their relation to football. I believe that you can't argue with these benefits. — AFP



**MEXICO CITY:** Mexico's Hirving Lozano (L) vies with US's Geoff Cameron (R) during their 2018 FIFA World Cup Concacaf qualifier football match in Mexico City, on Sunday. — AFP

## BRADLEY'S STUNNING EARLY GOAL HELPS US TO 1-1 TIE AT MEXICO

**MEXICO CITY:** Michael Bradley watched Hector Moreno's pass to Javier Hernandez in the center circle and thought back to the videos he had seen of the star pushing the ball back. So even before Chicharito tapped the ball toward Hector Herrera, Bradley stepped up.

The US captain knocked the ball toward Mexico's goal, sprinted to catch up and lofted a right-footed chip from about 40 yards over goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa's outstretched arm and under the crossbar. The crowd of 81,000 at Estadio Azteca was stunned. The United States had taken the lead six minutes into Sunday night's World Cup qualifier. "Here you know that if you catch a ball right, that with the thin air the ball's going to really fly," Bradley said.

US coach Bruce Arena changed seven of 11 starters and employed a five-man defense to overcome the 7,820-foot altitude and short recovery time. His team US did not quite soar all night, but Bradley's goal set the tone. Carlos Vela tied it in the 23rd minute on a counterattack with a 23-yard shot that beat goalkeeper Brad Guzan to the near post, but the Americans hung on for a 1-1 tie to gain only their third point at Azteca.

"The bad start in the hex meant that every point now is worth its weight in gold," Bradley said. Mexico leads the final round of the North and Central American and Caribbean region with 14 points, followed by Costa Rica and the US (eight each), Panama (six), Honduras (four) and Trinidad and Tobago (three). The top three advance to next year's World Cup in Russia, and

the fourth-place team faces Asia's No. 5 nation in a playoff.

Panama hosts Honduras today, when Costa Rica hosts Trinidad and Tobago. Quite a turnaround since November, when a 2-1 home loss to Mexico and a 4-0 wipeout in Costa Rica caused the US Soccer Federation to fire coach Jurgen Klinsmann and bring back Arena, the US coach from 1998-2006. "It's going to be very challenging right to end, but I feel good about where we are," Arena said. "We've made up some lost ground, so I feel good about that."

### ADVANTAGE

Herrera nearly put El Tri ahead in the 71st with a 30-yard free kick that rebounded off the crossbar. Three minutes later, Bradley sent a 30-yard shot off a post.

Mexico had only a modest 10-7 advantage in shots at a venue where it usually dominates. Speaking shortly after downpour began in stoppage time, Arena said a key was exploiting his roster's depth and revealed he divulged to players of when training camp opened on May 29 that he planned different lineups and formations for the upcoming qualifiers.

"To repeat the lineup we played on Thursday, we would have struggled big-time in the altitude," Arena said. "We told the team on day one we were going to make seven-to-11 changes for this game. We went with seven. I was close to nine yesterday."

While he employed a standard 4-4-2 formation in the 2-0 home win over Trinidad, Arena

decided as far back as January to start five defenders at Mexico. "We tossed it around in our office with our coaches and they were probably not real supportive of the idea since they maybe don't have enough experience in that formation," Arena said. "I was pretty confident we could implement it. We have very good center backs, and that's the key to that system."

DeAndre Yedlin remained on the right, with Tim Ream and Omar Gonzalez joining Geoff Cameron in the center and 35-year-old DaMarcus Beasley on the left, Beasley, who had not started for the US since October 2015, became the first American to appear in qualifiers of five World Cup cycles.

"Mexico does an unbelievable job in their spacing," Arena said. "They like to open you up and attack the gaps between your back line if you're playing a back four, and we protected all those spaces."

Klinsmann tried a similar tactic during in November's loss to El Tri but quickly abandoned it. "Last time we did this in Columbus, it was a maybe," Gonzalez said. "We didn't know until a couple days before the game and then it was just thrown out there. Now we had two weeks to really prepare."

Arena said 38-year-old Tim Howard remains the Americans' No. 1 goalkeeper, but for this match he preferred Guzan, partly because Howard is coming off surgery to repair the adductor muscle in his right leg, an injury sustained against Mexico last fall that still affects his kicking. — AP



**BLIDA:** Algeria's Yacine Brahimi (R) reacts as Togo's Atchou Koffi Franco (C) and Lalawele Atakora (L) look on during their 2019 African Cup of Nations qualification Group D football match between Algeria and Togo at the Mustapha Tchaker stadium in Blida on Sunday. — AFP

## JORGE SAMPAOLI CHARGED WITH PREVENTING MESSI-LESS WCUP

**BUENOS AIRES:** A year out from the final World Cup of Lionel Messi's prime years, Argentina are just beginning a new era as Jorge Sampaoli attempts to turn around the two-time world champions' faltering qualifying campaign.

Sampaoli's first match in charge since leaving Sevilla to answer his country's call gave cause for optimism as Argentina saw off an under-strength Brazil 1-0 in Melbourne on Friday.

However, there is a long way to go for Sampaoli to turn an underperforming unit into the World Cup contenders they should be based on the talent at their disposal.

"It is a huge confidence boost to beat Brazil because for us it is a derby and, going forward, it will help," said Sampaoli. The 57-year-old has already proven himself as an international boss to Argentina's cost as he led Chile to the Copa America for the first time in 2015 — beating the country of his birth in the final on penalties.

However, he now has four games to ensure Argentina and five-time World Player of the Year Messi don't suffer the embarrassment of missing out on football's biggest stage in Russia next year. With only the top four in South American qualifying automatically booking their place in Russia, Argentina sit fifth, which would only be good enough for a playoff place against the winners of the Oceania confederation.

A 2-0 defeat to Bolivia in March proved the final straw for the Argentina Football

Association's (AFA) patience with coach Edgardo Bauza as he was sacked.

Indeed, Sampaoli will be the third coach to take charge of La Albiceleste in qualifying as former Barcelona boss Gerardo Martino quit following the 2016 Copa America, citing "serious problems" with AFA. Bauza won just three of eight qualifiers in charge, but his case wasn't helped by Messi's absence for a number of key games through injury and suspension.

### MESSI DEPENDANT

Tellingly, Argentina have won five of the six qualifiers Messi has been available for, but just one of the eight the Barcelona star has missed.

Luckily for Sampaoli, Messi's initial four-game ban for swearing at an assistant referee during a 1-0 win over Chile in March was quashed last month, freeing him up to play in the remaining qualifiers against Uruguay, Venezuela, Peru and Ecuador. "He is the best in the world by a long way," said Sampaoli.

Yet, for all his success with Barcelona, including four Champions League titles, Messi, who turns 30 later this month, is yet to win a major international tournament with Argentina having fallen short at the final hurdle in the 2014 World Cup and 2015 and 2016 Copa America. Sampaoli has already started to rebuild the team around his captain with experienced figures like Sergio Aguero and Ezequiel Lavezzi left out of his first squad. — AFP

## WALES DRAW AS SPAIN AND ITALY STAY NECK AND NECK

**PARIS:** Aaron Ramsey's penalty helped Wales to a precious 1-1 draw in Serbia in World Cup qualifying on Sunday as they kept their hopes of a place at the finals in Russia alive.

Chris Coleman's side were missing star man Gareth Bale due to suspension in Belgrade but Arsenal midfielder Ramsey inspired the visitors into a half-time lead when he floated in a 35th-minute penalty, sending goalkeeper Vladimir Stojkovic the wrong way.

Ramsey had helped win the penalty by forcing Stojkovic into a foul just outside the box as the goalkeeper tried to shepherd the ball behind for a goal-kick from Joe Ledley's resulting delivery, Sam Vokes was fouled as he tried to head the ball.

However, substitute Aleksandar Prijovic set up Aleksandar Mitrovic to fire past Wayne Hennessey and equalise in the 73rd minute as Serbia stayed top of qualifying Group D.

"It was a great point. They huffed and puffed a little bit but it wasn't like they were peppering Wayne Hennessey," Coleman told Sky Sports.

"You expect a tough game here. Everything I asked of the players they did it. That's the type of togetherness these boys have got."

Wales are still unbeaten in the group but this was a fifth straight draw and they are third, four points behind both Serbia and the Republic of Ireland, and level on points with Austria in fourth. Only the group winners qualify automatically for next year's finals, with the eight best runners-up in the nine groups going into play-offs for the last four spots.

Ireland came from behind to draw 1-1 with Austria earlier with Stoke City striker Jon Walters volleying in the equaliser with five minutes left in Dublin.

That goal cancelled out Martin Hinteregger's

first-half opener and allowed the Irish to maintain their unbeaten record in qualifying.

It could have been better for Martin O'Neill's side, but there was controversy in the 87th minute as the hosts thought they had won it.

Austrian substitute Florian Grillitsch sliced a corner up into the air inside his own six-yard box and Stefan Lainer helped the ball into his own net under pressure from Shane Duffy on the line.

However, Spanish referee David Fernandez Borbalian disallowed the effort, apparently penalising Duffy for leading with his arm.

"There's nothing wrong with it at all—he's called a foul on Shane Duffy and I can't see it,"

said O'Neill. Ireland are next in action on September 2, when they go to Georgia, who drew 2-2 in Moldova. Those two sides are well adrift at the bottom of the section.

### Costa wins it for Spain

Spain remain level on points with Italy at the top of Group G after grinding out a 2-1 victory away to Macedonia, with Chelsea's Diego Costa scoring what proved to be the winner.

The visitors took a 15th-minute lead as David Silva netted after being brilliantly set up by a combination of Andres Iniesta and Jordi Alba. — AFP



**UDINE:** Italy's forward Andrea Belotti (R) is watched by teammate Antonio Candreva as he leaps for the ball during the FIFA WC 2018 football qualification match between Italy and Liechtenstein at The Dacia Arena Stadium in Udine on Sunday. — AFP



# Sports

**Blaney wins first career NASCAR Cup race at Pocono Raceway**



**Bradley's stunning early goal helps US to 1-1 tie at Mexico**



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WI STUMBLE TO LOW TARGET TO LEVEL AFGHAN SERIES

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NASHVILLE: Phil Kessel #81 of the Pittsburgh Penguins celebrates with the Stanley Cup Trophy after they defeated the Nashville Predators 2-0 in Game Six of the 2017 NHL Stanley Cup Final at the Bridgestone Arena on Sunday in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP

## PENGUINS DOWN PREDATORS TO RETAIN STANLEY CUP

LOS ANGELES: The Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Nashville Predators 2-0 on Sunday to clinch back-to-back Stanley Cup crowns in the first such title defense in nearly 20 years.

Patric Hornqvist fired Pittsburgh into the lead with 1:35 left in the final period to silence a raucous home crowd in Nashville who had roared on their team, who ultimately fell to a 4-2 loss in the series.

Hornqvist's killer blow—which deflected off Pekka Rinne—left Nashville exposed as they chased the game for an equaliser. With the Predators goal empty, it was left to Carl Hagelin to score the coup de grace with a breakaway, triggering wild celebrations on the Penguins bench.

The Penguins became the first team to defend the Stanley Cup since the Detroit Red Wings achieved the feat in 1998. Pittsburgh star Sidney Crosby, who was

named the MVP of the series, said the Penguins had set themselves a goal of emulating Detroit at the start of the season.

"It's pretty special, to be able to share this with this group of guys," Crosby said. "A good chunk of the team were returning but for the new guys it's pretty special."

"This was our goal at the beginning of the year—we knew that it hadn't been done in a long time. So to be able to accomplish it is a great feeling." Crosby said Pittsburgh had been buoyed by their emphatic performance in Game 5, when they romped to a 6-0 win to take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

"I think all playoffs long we got better as the series went on and we tried to do that in this series," Crosby said. Penguins coach Mike Sullivan praised the work ethic of his team. "You don't win championships without character, and I believe we have it in abundance in

our dressing room," Sullivan said.

"This coaching staff is so appreciative of this group of players and what they go through. We push them hard to try to get the best out of them, and these guys embrace every challenge we give them."

But Sullivan reserved special praise for Penguins star and MVP Crosby. "With what Sid has been able to accomplish in his career to this point would put him in the company of the all-time greats," Sullivan said. "He's a guy that just knows how to win. And so he's done it in all different venues, whether it be the NHL and Stanley Cups to the World Cup to the Olympics."

Hornqvist's goal was his fifth of the postseason and came after he collected the puck after Justin Schultz's wide shot.

Nashville made a desperate challenge to overturn the goal for goalie interference, but the call stood after

a review. Hagelin then grabbed the second of his play-off campaign to the dismay of the Bridgestone Arena crowd, already seething after a Predators goal was disallowed in the second period. Towels and pompoms rained down onto the ice as Pittsburgh's players celebrated their win. Predators had already hurled a number of catfish on the ice throughout the game.

Matt Murray stopped 27 shots for Pittsburgh, including four crucial blocks when Nashville failed to make the most of 3:28 of power-play time in the second period. Rinne meanwhile had 27 saves on 28 shots, losing for just the second time on home ice in the playoffs.

Earlier, Nashville appeared to score early in the second period when Colton Sissons jabbed home from a rebound. The officials disallowed the goal however, stating that the whistle had blown before Sissons scored. — AFP

## IRAN TARGETS WORLD CUP SPOT AS CHINA AND QATAR TARGET SURVIVAL

SEOUL: Iran could become just the second team to advance through qualifying for the 2018 World Cup - after Brazil - while China and Qatar could be officially eliminated from contention in Asian qualifiers this week.

Led by former Real Madrid and Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz, Iran has appeared at four World Cups but never managed back-to-back qualifications. Should Iran, four points clear at the top of Group A, defeat Uzbekistan in Tehran in front of what should be a capacity crowd of 100,000 on Monday night, then it will secure a spot with two games remaining.

"We know there is still work to do but we have worked hard to get in a good position," Queiroz, who took the job in 2011, told The Associated Press. "We don't always have the same preparations that other big Asian countries have so it will be a great achievement to make it to the World Cup again."

Iran has conceded just six goals in seven games in the third round of qualification, from which the top two teams in both groups get automatic spots at Russia 2018. The two third-place finishers enter a playoff series.

"It will not be easy against Uzbekistan but we hope we can do it," Queiroz said. "We have been ranked as the No. 1 Asian team by FIFA for over four years and we have more players in Europe than ever before."

Today, South Korea can take a step to a ninth successive World Cup with a win in Qatar. The Taeguk Warriors sit in second, four points below Iran and one above Uzbekistan, but a series of indifferent performances has raised the possibility of missing out on the World Cup for the first time since 1982.

Against Qatar - the recent diplomatic rift in the region meant that Korea traveled from United Arab Emirates to Doha via Kuwait on Saturday - defeat would see the team's German coach Uli Stielike come under increasing pressure.

A 0-0 draw with Iraq in a friendly last week resulted in harsh criticism of the South Koreans, who had no shots on target. "The result was not good against Iraq but the atmosphere in the team is fine," Son Heung-min, who scored 21 goals in the English Premier League season with Tottenham Hotspur. "I also did not play well against Iraq but we are prepping well for Qatar and we all know how important it is."

Qatar, host of the 2022 World Cup, is last in Group A and already unable to finish in the top two in the group. Failure to win will officially end its already slim hopes of taking the playoff spot.

In the other Group A game on Tuesday, Syria hosts China in the neutral venue of Malaysia. Syria has an outside chance of third place and is four points behind Uzbekistan. China must win or its faint hopes of automatic qualification will end, and even the play-offs could be out of reach.

"It is totally within our capabilities to defeat Syria," China coach Marcello Lippi said after his team thrashed the Philippines 8-1 in a friendly last week. "If we lose to Syria both at home and away, then we deserve to be eliminated."

Three teams are level atop Group B with 16 points after Australia defeated Saudi Arabia 3-2 last week. That gives Japan a chance to move three points clear in top spot if it beats Iraq in a game played on neutral turf in Tehran.

Japan will be without Shinji Kagawa of Borussia Dortmund who was injured in a warm-up 1-1 draw against Syria, and coach Vahid Halilhodzic is expecting a tough time in Tehran.

"Everyone in Japan thinks that qualification for the World Cup is going to be no problem," Halilhodzic said. "But I'll warn everyone, it is not going to be easy."

In the other Group B match Thailand, already out of contention, is looking for a first win in this stage at home to United Arab Emirates. — AP



PARIS: France's forward Ousmane Dembele (C) controls the ball during a training session at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, yesterday on the eve of the friendly football match against England. — AFP



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## OIL PRICES DEPRESSED DESPITE OPEC OUTPUT CUT EXTENSION

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DOHA: With the new high-rise buildings of downtown Doha in the background, Qatari women and a man enjoy walking by the sea in Doha. — AP

## QATAR CAN DEFEND ECONOMY AND CURRENCY: FM

### QATAR CENTRAL BANK 'OPERATING NORMALLY DESPITE CRISIS'

**DUBAI:** Qatar can easily defend its economy and currency against sanctions by other Arab states, Qatari finance minister Ali Sherif Al-Emadi told CNBC television in an interview broadcast yesterday.

He added that the countries which had imposed sanctions would also lose money because of the damage to business in the region. "A lot of people think we're the only ones to lose in this... If we're going to lose a dollar, they will lose a dollar also."

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut diplomatic and transport ties a week ago, accusing Doha of backing terrorism. The sanctions have disrupted flows of imports and other materials into Qatar and caused many foreign banks to scale back their business with the country.

But Emadi said the energy sector and economy of the world's top liquefied natural gas exporter were essentially operating as normal and that there had not been a serious impact on supplies of food or other goods. Qatar can import goods from Turkey, the Far East or Europe and it will respond to the crisis by diversifying its economy even more, he told CNBC. The Qatari riyal has come under pressure in the spot and forward foreign exchange markets, but Emadi said neither this nor a near 10 percent plunge in the local stock market was cause for concern.

"Our reserves and investment funds are more than 250 percent of gross domestic product, so I don't think there is any reason that people need to be concerned about what's happening or any speculation on the

Qatari riyal." Asked whether Qatar might need to raise money by selling off stakes in large Western companies held by its sovereign wealth fund, Emadi indicated this was not on the cards at present.

"We are extremely comfortable with our positions, our investments and liquidity in our systems," he said. Prices of Qatar's international bonds have dropped sharply, but in answer to another question, Emadi said he saw no need for the government to step into the market and buy those bonds to support prices.

#### No liquidity crisis

Qatar's Central Bank said yesterday banking transactions at home and abroad were continuing normally despite the diplomatic crisis which has seen several Gulf countries

sever ties with the emirate. In a statement released on the state-run Qatar News Agency (QNA), Central Bank governor Sheikh Abdullah bin Saud Al-Thani dismissed concerns over liquidity levels. "The banking and banking transactions and procedures in the State of Qatar continue to be normal, both at the level of local financial transactions and between the Qatari banking sector and foreign banks," the statement read. It added that the governor "stressed that the liquidity levels in the Qatari banking sector are good and meet all customer requirements". Doha is seeking to reassure customers as it is gripped by the biggest diplomatic crisis to hit the region in years.

Qatar has found itself isolated following a decision last week by Saudi Arabia, the United

Arab Emirates, Bahrain and others to cut ties with Doha over its support for "terrorism", a charge the emirate vehemently rejects. Saudi Arabia on June 5 sealed Qatar's only land border, and the country has been banned from using the airspace of both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Qatari citizens have been ordered to leave the two countries within two weeks. The UAE has also ordered its banks to stop dealing with major Qatari lenders. Rumors have circulated in Doha that some exchanges have been hit by a shortage of dollars, potentially affecting remittances by Qatar's migrant workforce, estimated at more than two million people. The World Bank estimates that expat workers in Qatar sent home \$11.4 billion (10.1 billion euros) in 2015. — Agencies

## NATURAL GAS BUILT QATAR AND NOW IT MAY PROTECT COUNTRY

**DUBAI:** Natural gas built the high-rises of Qatar's capital, put the Al-Jazeera satellite news network on the air and a fleet of passenger jets for its state carrier in the sky. Now, it may be what protects Qatar as it is in the center of the worst diplomatic crisis to strike the Gulf in decades.

As the world's biggest exporter of liquid natural gas, Qatar's supplies keep homes warm in the British winter, fuel Asian markets and even power the electrical grid of the United Arab Emirates, one of the main countries that has cut ties to the energy-rich nation.

So far, its supplies have continued uninterrupted since the diplomatic dispute began last week. Natural gas markets have yet to respond to the rift and prices have remained stable. But Qatar wields a potential economic weapon if the crisis escalates and countries around the world that depend on its supply may find themselves needing to side with the nation that is home to a major US military installation.

"If Qatari gas exports were to be blocked, countries like Britain, Japan, South Korea and China would have an energy crisis and would have to scramble to get their energy elsewhere," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a Seattle-based research fellow at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University who has extensively studied Qatar.

"For any small country, particularly a small country in the Gulf surrounded by much larger and potentially expansionary powers, having international partnerships is a key tool of your external security," he said. "I think that may be what the Qataris are banking on right now."

#### Growth

Qatar, a country of 2.2 million people where citizens make up over 10 percent of the population, discovered the offshore North Field in 1971, the same year it became independent. It took years for engineers to discover the field's vast reserves, which shot Qatar to No. 3 in world rankings, behind Russia and Iran, with which it shares the North Field.

It began exporting natural gas in 1997, just after Qatari Crown Prince Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani seized power from his father, Sheikh Khalifa, in a palace coup. Sheikh Hamad used revenue from the natural gas to pursue a diplomatic path away from Saudi Arabia, long the heavyweight among Gulf countries. Qatar also secured hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup, relying on that money to build stadiums and develop Doha, its capital.

As a hedge, Qatar hosts some 10,000 American soldiers and the forward headquarters of the US military's Central Command. Other nations also operate forces out of Qatar. Its military, numbering around 11,800 troops, is only bigger than Bahrain's.

#### Natural gas

Qatar's shipborne exports of liquid natural gas have continued to travel unhindered out of the Persian Gulf as well, though they could be a target if the crisis escalates. Qatar's biggest Asian clients are Japan, India and South Korea, according to energy research firm Wood Mackenzie. About a third of British gas supplies come from Qatar, which leads Europe.

Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, Qatar Petroleum's president and CEO, said Saturday that he wanted to assure customers "of our determined efforts to continue uninterrupted supplies." A statement from the state-run firm also made a point to note that the UAE, Egypt and Jordan all rely on its natural gas.

Qatar could retaliate by shutting down the undersea Dolphin Energy pipeline, which sends about 2 billion cubic feet (56 million cubic meters) of natural gas a day into the UAE, about a third of its daily need. About 200 million cubic feet (5.66 million cubic meters) of that goes onto Oman.

Dolphin Energy, owned by the Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund called the Mubadala Development Co., French oil giant Total SA and Houston-based Occidental Petroleum, did not respond to a request for comment.

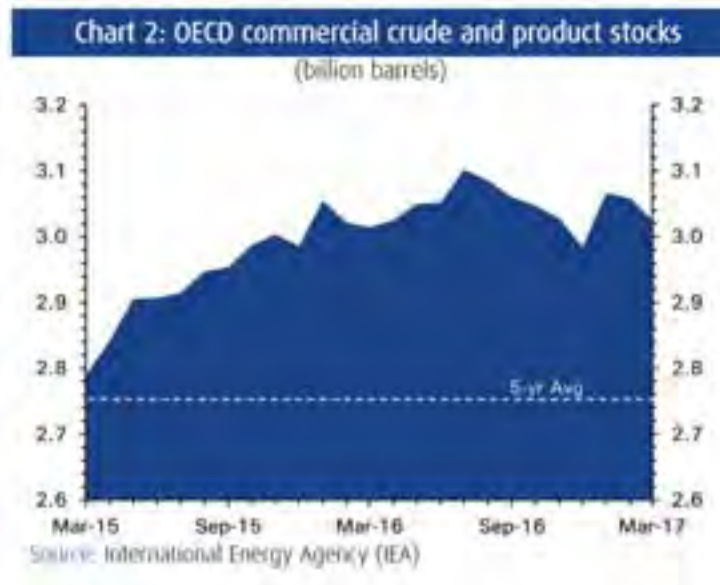
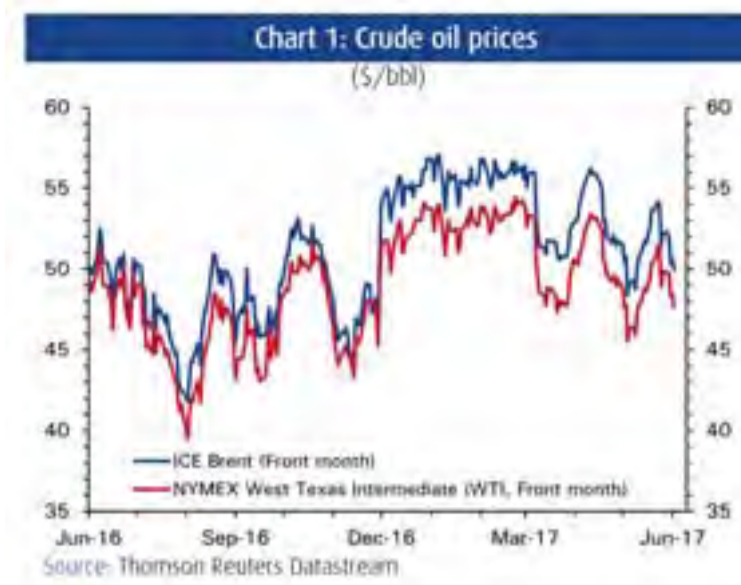
Without that natural gas, electricity plants in Dubai and the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi wouldn't be able to power air conditioners to beat the brutal heat of summer now descending on the desert sheikhdoms, nor run its vital desalination plants producing water. It would take time to import that gas from another source.

"If Qatar was to do anything like that, in Dubai the lights would probably go off," said Christopher Davidson, a professor of Middle East politics at Durham University in Britain. "If this were to happen, it would be such an escalation from Qatar's side, the UAE and Saudi would up the ante even more. ... If they were to do that, I think it would be no holds barred." — AP



DOHA: In this April 4, 2009 file photo, a gas production facility is seen at Ras Laffan, Qatar. Natural gas exports may help Qatar protect it in the ongoing dispute it has with other Arab nations. — AP





# OIL PRICES DEPRESSED DESPITE OPEC OUTPUT CUT EXTENSION

## NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Surveying the oil markets at the start of May, when prices were under pressure and ranging between \$49-\$51 per barrel (bbl), OPEC ministers could be forgiven for believing that a decision to extend their 6-month production cut agreement for an additional 9 months, to March 2018, would be just the prescription to boost the oil price. After all, the agreement achieved a surprisingly high level of compliance, removing almost 1.8 mb/d of crude from the oil market as it nudged it towards a new balance. By the end of the month, however, it was clear that the markets were following a different script, oil prices were on the back foot and OPEC was looking vexed.

Brent dipped below the symbolic \$50 floor to \$49.75/bbl on 2 June, while WTI dropped to \$47.7/bbl. Both price markers have just posted 2 consecutive weeks of losses and were down by around 12 percent year-to-date.

Oil's reversal prompted the Saudi and Russian ministers recently to reaffirm their pledge to bring global crude stocks down to 5-year average levels and to reiterate their commitment to further manage the oil supply after the expiration of their current output cut agreement, in March 2018. But the markets appear immune to the bullish rhetoric, even while supplies are tightening and global and US crude inventories, whose stubbornly high levels were the source of much of the markets' anxieties, are indeed finally beginning to fall. OECD commercial crude and petroleum products stocks declined for the second consecutive month in March, by 32.9 million barrels to 3.03 billion barrels, the

International Energy Agency (IEA) estimated in its May report. While over in the US, commercial crude inventories recorded their steepest decline since December 2016 last week in late May, falling by 6.4 million barrels amid record refinery runs and lower US imports. Indeed, crude stocks in the US have been declining for 8 consecutive weeks, but markets are paying little attention.

Instead, they appear to be primarily focused on the US shale story and the reality that whatever OPEC removes from the markets, shale producers are slowly putting back. The head of Russia's largest oil producer, Rosneft, conceded as much last week when he raised the prospect of US oil companies adding as much as 1.5 mb/d to global supplies within the next year. If realized, this increase would offset more than two thirds of the crude that OPEC and non-OPEC producers are clearing from the market—a sobering thought.

Such is the resurgence of US crude output—production reached 9.3 mb/d by the end of May, 11 percent higher than the low recorded last July—that both OPEC and the IEA have had to repeatedly revise their own estimates of US growth upwards for this year. The IEA's latest forecast has US crude supply increasing by an average of 790,000 b/d in 2017, up 100,000 b/d from its previous report, while OPEC projects US crude rising by 600,000 b/d by the end of the year.

### OPEC compliance

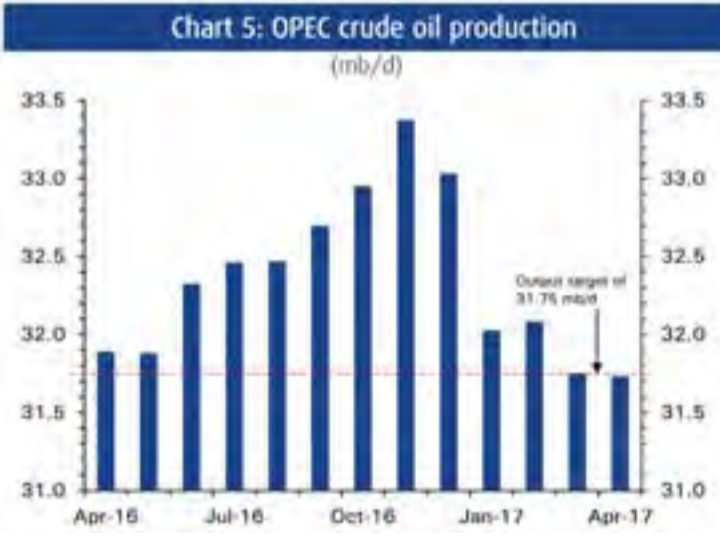
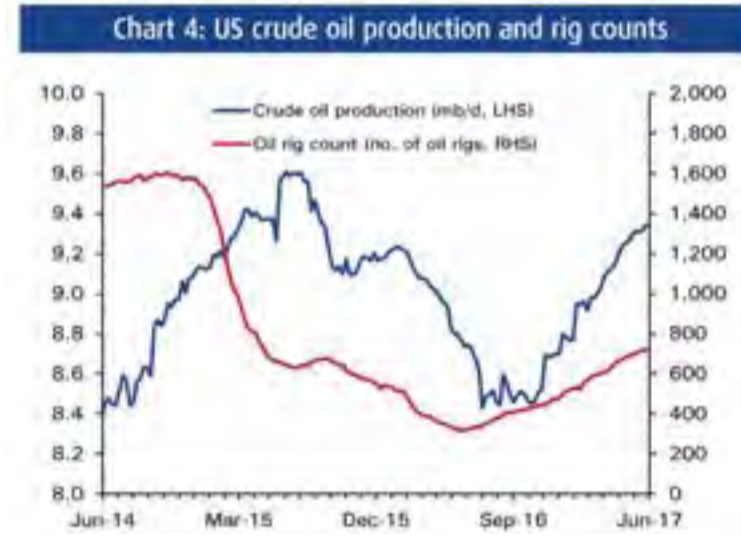
OPEC, for its part, has tried its best to reassure the markets, promising to do "whatever it takes" to

accelerate the drawdown of excess global crude stocks and bring the market to a swift balance. OPEC production in April, according to secondary sources, fell below its target level of 31.75 mb/d to 31.73 mb/d for the first time, achieving a compliance rate of 107 percent. While the UAE finally met its output cut pledge in April, and Iraq inched closer to its quota, declines in Libya and modest supply gains in Nigeria, two countries exempt from the output cut accords, have undoubtedly helped the group attain its aggregate production target. Things may be more complicated over the coming months, with both those countries expected to raise production.

This, along with the above mentioned US shale gains, is part of the reason why the markets were underwhelmed by the 9-month extension; deeper cuts would have had, in hindsight, a more profound effect on market sentiment.

### Market rebalancing

Nevertheless, market rebalancing is underway, with the IEA reporting that the demand/supply balance is expected to end 2Q17 firmly in supply deficit territory. Crude demand is expected to peak in 3Q17, which should see surplus crude stocks drawn down at a faster rate. For 2017 as a whole, the IEA sees demand growing by 1.3 mb/d to 97.9 mb/d, which is a slower rate of growth than 2016's increase of 1.7 mb/d. In the end, while the market's attention has been focused almost exclusively on the supply side of the equation, demand will need to remain robust for oil prices to firm up.



# EXPORTS SURGE PUSHES TURKEY Q1 GROWTH TO 5%

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey's economy grew a stronger-than-expected 5.0 percent in the first quarter of 2017, official data showed yesterday, driven by a surge in export growth. The robust data surprised markets, who had been expecting a consensus of 3.8 percent, and indicated the economy is managing to turn the corner following a slump in the wake of a failed coup last July.

The Turkish economy grew 4.5 percent in the first quarter of 2016, but only 2.9 percent overall in 2016. The growth rate in the last quarter of

2016 stood at 3.5 percent. The official data published by the Turkish Statistics Institute (TUIK) showed that the main driver of the strong first quarter was exports, with exports of goods and services increasing 10.6 percent. "That appears, in part, to have been a result of the weakness of the lira supporting the competitiveness of goods exports," said William Jackson, senior emerging markets economist at Capital Economics in London. The lira has lost over 20 percent against the dollar over the last year,

although it has rallied slightly in recent months. Imports however increased only 0.8 percent.

The strong data will be a boost for the government under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who in April narrowly won a referendum on boosting his powers with the economy a key issue. Economists said the first quarter GDP data suggests that Turkey will grow faster this year than expected, requiring a revision of full year forecasts. Ozgur Altug, chief economist at BGC Partners, said he had revised his 2017 GDP growth forecast from 2.5

percent to 4.7 percent, versus a government forecast of 4.4 percent.

"The data confirmed that the economy managed to recover in the fourth quarter of 2016 and with a faster pace in the first quarter after the failed coup attempt," he said, saying government measures to stimulate activity were now being felt in the data. But he warned that a GDP restatement last year—which saw past data revised—and the discrepancy between monthly and quarterly figures continued to complicate making forecasts. —AFP

# MOON URGES LAWMAKERS TO OKAY \$10BN STIMULUS PLAN

**SEOUL:** South Korean President Moon Jae-In yesterday urged parliament quickly to approve his \$10-billion stimulus plan aimed at tackling youth unemployment, warning the issue could otherwise become a "national disaster".

Moon, who took power in May after the ousting of impeached president Park Geun-Hye, has proposed a 11.2-trillion won (\$10 billion) extra budget aimed at tackling unemployment and strengthening welfare provisions in Asia's fourth-largest economy.

The proposal, which requires parliamentary approval, aims to help create 110,000 jobs—including 71,000 in the public sector—in response to a record-high jobless rate for the under-30s. "Unless we come up with drastic measures, the youth unemployment crisis could develop into a national disaster... creating a lost generation of jobless youth," Moon said in a speech to lawmakers.

"Many say that today's youth will become the first generation whose quality of life will be worse than their parents... the top priority of the extra budget is young South Koreans," he said.

Decades of rapid growth saw the South rise from the ashes of the 1950-53 Korean War to become a member of the OECD group of leading economies, but economic expansion has slowed for the past decade. The jobless rate among

those aged below 30 hit 11.2 percent in April, a record and more than double the rate for the overall working population.

Economic frustrations and inequality in wealth and opportunities were among the factors that fuelled mass protests which saw Park impeached and arrested over corruption.

Moon blamed the lack of quality jobs for rising income inequality. He urged lawmakers to help tackle the double challenge posed by rising unemployment and inequality by passing the extra budget.

"Jobs should be created both by private and public sectors, but I believe that the public sector should come forward first to help accelerate the job creation process," he said.

The latest stimulus plan seeks to create public-sector jobs including firefighters, police and social workers, while offering more aid to women on maternity leave and opening more day care centres and nursing homes for the elderly and dementia patients.

The lack of day care centres and a male-dominated workaholic corporate culture, in which maternity leave is seen as an unaffordable luxury, are blamed for the ever-falling birthrate. The birthrate—one of the world's lowest—led to concerns about the burden of future welfare funding for a rapidly ageing population. — AFP



**JAKARTA:** This handout photo released by Grab Indonesia yesterday shows Ridzki Kramadibrata (left), managing director of online ride-hailing firm Grab Indonesia, posing with a customer (right) prior to taking a helicopter taxi by Grab Indonesia in Jakarta. — AFP

# RIDE-HAILING FIRM GRAB MULLS JAKARTA CHOPPER SERVICE

**JAKARTA:** Indonesian executives weary of Jakarta's notorious traffic jams may in future be able to order a helicopter ride with their smartphones through a new service being considered by ride-hailing firm Grab. The Southeast Asian company conducted a trial run of GrabHeli at the weekend, offering free rides to some customers over the megacity that is home to 10 million inhabitants and some of the world's worst gridlock.

Grab already operates popular services in Indonesia, with its app allowing users to hail rides in private cars or on motorbike taxis. It is locked in fierce competition with local ride-hailing startup Go-Jek and US company Uber for market share. Mediko Azwar, Grab Indonesia's marketing director, told AFP the company was "exploring the possibility" of launching GrabHeli on a commercial basis and a feasibility study was being carried out.

"We see that the public need is there, there are executives who need to move from one point to another in a short peri-

od of time," he added. The plan is still in the early stages, and Azwar did not give details about potential pricing. Jakarta's monster traffic jams are a headache for company executives seeking to dash between meetings, and it is usual for appointments to be postponed or cancelled entirely due to gridlock.

Grab is not the first company to experiment with a helicopter service in Jakarta—in 2015, Uber offered free rides to residents in its so-called UberChopper, but it has yet to roll out the service commercially. And the city's super-rich have turned to helicopters to help them get around the city on occasion in the past, sometimes hiring them at vast expense.

Grab operates in six countries—Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Singapore-headquartered firm's core product platform includes private cars, motorbikes and taxi-hailing services which are rapidly gaining popularity in a region that is home to over 600 million people and a rising middle class. —AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.773
Indian Rupees	4.726
Pakistani Rupees	2.899
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.984
Nepali Rupees	2.956
Singapore Dollar	220.860
Hongkong Dollar	39.992
Bangladesh Taka	3.751
Philippine Peso	6.151
Thai Baht	8.945

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.094
Qatari Riyal	83.523
Omani Riyal	789.761
Bahraini Dinar	807.490
UAE Dirham	82.795

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.726
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	126.360
Jordanian Dinar	428.630
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.026
Syrian Lira	2.167
Morocco Dirham	31.656

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.900
Euro	344.320
Sterling Pound	393.700
Canadian dollar	226.690
Turkish lira	87.130

Swiss Franc	317.220
Australian Dollar	230.660
US Dollar Buying	302.700

GOLD	
20 Gram	261.980
10 Gram	133.910
5 Gram	67.800

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.900
Canadian Dolla	226.475
Sterling Pound	388.545
Euro	342.155
Swiss Frank	295.810
Bahrain Dinar	806.040
UAE Dirhams	83.135
Qatari Riyals	84.355
Saudi Riyals	81.935
Jordanian Dinar	428.545
Egyptian Pound	16.923
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.988
Indian Rupees	4.725
Pakistani Rupees	2.898
Bangladesh Taka	3.772
Philippines Peso	6.140
Cyprus pound	167.715
Japanese Yen	3.755
Syrian Pound	2.420
Nepalese Rupees	3.962
Malaysian Ringgit	72.080

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.135
Thai Bhat	9.910
Turkish Lira	86.480

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.380616	0.390616
Czech Korune	0.004990	0.016990
Danish Krone	0.041735	0.046735
Euro	0.335219	0.344219
Norwegian Krone	0.031780	0.036980
Romanian Leu	0.074603	0.074603
Slovakia	0.009092	0.019092
Swedish Krona	0.030830	0.035830
Swiss Franc	0.307471	0.318471
Turkish Lira	0.080681	0.090981
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.220634	0.232634
New Zealand Dollar	0.211843	0.221843
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.220545	0.229545
Georgina Lari	0.137257	0.137415
US Dollars	0.300150	0.304550
US Dollars Mint	0.300650	0.304550
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003381	0.003969
Chinese Yuan	0.043304	0.046804
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036934	0.039684

Indian Rupee	0.004275	0.004963
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002673	0.002853
Kenyan Shilling	0.002939	0.002939
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067172	0.073172
Nepalese Rupee	0.002976	0.003146
Pakistan Rupee	0.002714	0.003004
Philippine Peso	0.006030	0.006330
Sierra Leone	0.000037	0.000043
Singapore Dollar	0.214391	0.224391
South African Rand	0.017573	0.026073
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001606	0.002188
Taiwan	0.009950	0.010130
Thai Baht	0.008585	0.009135
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.799606	0.808106
Egyptian Pound	0.013995	0.019903
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423764	0.432764
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.00251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019785	0.043785
Nigerian Naira	0.000334	0.000969
Omani Riyal	0.783839	0.789519
Qatar Riyal	0.079280	0.084220
Saudi Riyal	0.080047	0.081347
Syrian Pound	0.001290	0.001510
Tunisian Dinar	0.121479	0.129479
Turkish Lira	0.080681	0.090981
UAE Dirhams	0.081411	0.083111
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069



## IF FED RAISES RATES, CHINA MAY FOLLOW WITH MORE MODEST MOVE

**SHANGHAI:** A small majority of traders in China's financial markets think its central bank will likely raise short-term interest rates this week if the US Federal Reserve hikes its key policy rate, as widely expected, according to a Reuters poll. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) surprised markets in mid-March by raising short- and medium-term interbank rates hours after the Fed raised overnight borrowing costs.

The move prompted some analysts to speculate the PBOC had decided to "synch" its moves with those of the US central bank in a bid to reduce persistent depreciation pressure on the yuan currency against the dollar and discourage capital outflows.

It also dovetailed with China's pledges to tackle risks from an explosive rise in debt.

Six out of 10 traders in China's money, forex and bond markets asked by Reuters said they believed China would move rates up if the Fed did so.

But the size of the move would be more modest, and it would likely be confined to rates on open market operations (OMOs), the traders said.

They did not expect a hike in China's benchmark lending rate, which has been unchanged for nearly two years. The Fed is expected to increase interest rates by another 25 basis points at its June 13-14 meeting. Several increases by the PBOC earlier this year were mainly of 10 basis points, and traders expected any move this week to be of a similar magnitude. Chinese stocks rose modestly after the Fed's March rate increase, which was seen as increasing investors' risk appetite. There was little reaction in Chinese forex and money markets.

"There are huge discrepancies between the benchmark OMO rates and market rates. A slight upward movement would be quite normal," said a Shenzhen-based trader at a Chinese bank.

She said any impact from higher market rates would not quickly filter through into the real economy, though most analysts believe slowly tightening credit and higher financing costs will begin to drag on broader activity in coming months.

However, four of the 10 traders said they did not think a PBOC rate rise was on the cards this week.

**Tightening**  
They argued monetary policy is already tightening as Beijing presses ahead with its "deleveraging" campaign to contain and reduce risks in the financial system, and as banks grow more cautious about lending as they prepare for a rigorous quarterly inspection of their books by the PBOC.

The one-month Shanghai Interbank Offered Rate (SHIBOR) has risen to its highest since April 2015. "This mid-year timeframe is already relatively sensitive, and add to that short-term rates are already not low. To raise rates further would put a lot of pressure on the market," said a trader at a regional bank. "If they really insist on following (the Fed funds rate) higher, the timeframe will probably be pushed back." Uncertainty over policy has also increased after sharp, sudden gains in the yuan in recent weeks, which some analysts believe were engineered by the PBOC as a pre-emptive buffer to flush out short sellers ahead of the expected Fed hike and dampen any resulting depreciation pressure. Market players were split on whether the cen-

tral bank would raise rates on its medium-term lending facility (MLF). The PBOC has been lending at longer maturities, which has increased borrowing costs for banks. One trader at a major Chinese bank said if the central bank decided to raise the OMO rate, it would likely wait to increase the MLF until July when it is likely to renew maturing MLF loans.

June is traditionally a tense month for liquidity in the financial system, as companies pay taxes and banks scramble for funds to meet a quarterly health check.

Analysts say while the PBOC has taken some steps to clarify its intentions, it remains vague in telegraphing rate moves. "Banks want to know what their cost of funding is going to be, so that volatility isn't great in terms of managing their business and liquidity," said Julian Evans-Pritchard, China economist at Capital Economics. Central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan has been historically reluctant to reveal too much about the PBOC's strategies, even likening the bank in an interview with Caixin last year to a chess player unwilling to reveal tricks to an opponent. — Reuters



**PALM BEACH:** In this April 6, 2017 file photo, Ivanka Trump, center, daughter and assistant to US President Donald Trump, is seated with her husband, White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, right, during a dinner with President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, at Mar-a-Lago, in Palm Beach, Fla. —AP

## IVANKA BRAND WINS MORE CHINA TRADEMARKS

**SHANGHAI:** China has granted provisional approval for four additional Ivanka Trump trademarks since April 20, and her brand has continued to seek more intellectual property protection in China, with at least 14 applications filed around the time she took on an official White House role, Chinese public records show.

Trademarks provide essential - and valuable - protection to businesses in China, whether they want to manufacture or sell their goods in the world's second-largest economy, or simply protect their brand against squatters. But critics point to Ivanka Trump's ongoing ownership interest in her fashion and lifestyle brand and say the trademarks, which are granted by the Chinese government, present potential conflicts of interest for the daughter of US President Donald Trump.

All told, Ivanka Trump Marks LLC has at least 24 trademarks that were granted provisional or full approval in China, plus 43 pending marks and three invalid marks, according to Trademark Office database records.

At least seven of those provisional approvals were published after March 29, when Ivanka Trump announced she would become a federal employee, serving as an adviser to her father. Four preliminary approvals were published on April 20, May 13 and May 27. If there are no objections, those marks - covering wedding dresses and jewelry among other things - will be registered after 90 days. All were applied for in 2016.

Three additional trademarks for jewelry, bags and spa services were initially published in China's Trademark Gazette on April 6, the same day Ivanka Trump dined with President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago, her

father's resort in Florida, as reported previously by The Associated Press. The record of initial approval for one of them has subsequently disappeared from the database. It was not immediately clear why.

Ivanka Trump Marks LLC also applied for at least 14 new trademarks in China on March 28, the day before she announced her official White House role. A 15th application, with a small typo in the Chinese version of the name of the company, was filed on the same date. The applications, which were first reported by the Wall Street Journal, cover a wide range of goods and services, including real estate and financial services, construction, furniture, carpets, and alcohol except beer. Detailed records of these filings were not available yesterday on the Trademark Office's public online database.

China has defended its handling of trademarks for both Ivanka Trump and Donald Trump as fair and in line with normal legal practice. Ivanka Trump's brand has said the 2017 Chinese trademarks were filed defensively, to protect against squatters using her name.

"The brand has filed, updated, and rigorously protected its international trademarks over the past several years in the normal course of business, especially in regions where trademark infringement is rampant," Abigail Klem, a president of Ivanka Trump's brand, said in a statement.

To address ethical concerns, Ivanka Trump shifted the brand's assets to a family-run trust valued at more than \$50 million and pledged to recuse herself from government issues that present conflicts. She has stepped back from day to day management, but retains her ownership interest in the company. — AP



**ABIDJAN:** A vendor sells langoustines by a main road near the village of N'Zianoua, north of Abidjan, on Sunday. —AFP

## MERKEL SEEKS TO BOOST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT AHEAD OF G20

### BERLIN HOSTS SUMMIT TO DISCUSS 'COMPACT WITH AFRICA'

**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel sought to drum up global support for African development as she hosted African leaders yesterday ahead of next month's Group of 20 summit.

Merkel gathered the leaders of current African Union chair Guinea, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Mali, Tunisia and others in Berlin to discuss a so-called "compact with Africa" to help finance countries' development needs. She acknowledged that "development is only possible if security is assured."

Merkel contrasted Germans' average age of 43 with an average age in Niger and Mali of 15 as she underlined the population pressure African countries face. "If we don't give young people any prospects, if we don't invest in education and qualifications, if we don't strengthen the role of girls and young women, the development agenda won't succeed," she said, noting that if the young have no hope they'll feel they have to seek a life elsewhere.

"By working together with you for your countries, we will create more security for ourselves" and put people smugglers out of business, she added. The German government said yesterday that it had agreed "reform partnerships" with Tunisia, Ivory Coast and Ghana, part of a planned investment of up to 300 million euros (\$335 million) to help African nations.

The programs aim to expand the use of renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and develop the financial and banking sector, the Development Ministry said. It said Tunisia, Ivory Coast and Ghana "stand out by virtue of their reform-oriented policies."

In Africa-whose population is set to double by mid-century-economies need to grow equally fast "and promise a future for young people, which would also help to ease migratory pressures," said Merkel's spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer.

Germany, Europe's largest economy, has taken in more than one million asylum seekers since 2015 — more than half from war-torn Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, but also many thousands from Ethiopia, Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa. Hundreds of thousands more have trekked through the Sahara into lawless Libya, hoping that traffickers there will take them in rickety boats across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. IMF chief Christine Lagarde said that "having people flee from many sub-Saharan countries to reach better shores is not a sustainable response." "Creating the economic circum-



**BERLIN:** (Front from left): The President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the Chairman of the African Union and President of Guinea Alpha Conde, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the President of Tunisia Beji Caid Essebsi, pose for a photo during the conference 'G20 Africa Partnership - Investing in a Common Future' in Berlin yesterday. —AP

stances where people can live, grow, be educated and create value for themselves and their families at home is the way to go," she told business daily Handelsblatt.

### 'Not about hand-outs'

Merkel last year visited major migration transit countries Mali and Niger as well as Ethiopia, the seat of the African Union, and pledged 27 million euros (\$30 million) in aid aiming to stop migrants heading for Europe in the first place.

"The well-being of Africa is in Germany's interest," Merkel said at the time. Critics have dismissed the latest multilateral Africa initiative as a half-hearted effort without a major aid commitment, but organizers say it could help boost prosperity and reduce the mass flight and brain drain, especially of young people. Under the G20 "compacts" plan, an initial seven African nations will pledge reforms to attract more private sector investment. Those countries will then receive technical support from the IMF, World Bank, other development institutions and their G20 partner country, which will also promote the effort to its own industrial sectors. More than 100

banks, companies and other potential investors are expected at the two-day conference.

"This is not about hand-outs or just money or cheap money, but about the opportunity to attract investment, profits and jobs," said a German finance ministry official.

Germany will team up with Ghana, Ivory Coast and Tunisia, while other G20 members will support efforts by Ethiopia, Morocco, Rwanda and Senegal. Germany is offering an additional 300 million euros in support for countries that fight corruption, set up transparent accounting and tax systems and protect human rights, said Development Minister Gerd Mueller. Non-government groups have criticised that the G20 club-whose only member on the continent is South Africa-is offering no bigger financial commitments of its own, and that international trade often hurts African farmers and producers. About 1,000 anti-globalization protesters marched through Berlin on Saturday, waving signs that said "Africa is not for sale" and decrying the conference as a neocolonial grab for African resources at a time Europe wants to slam the door on its migrants. — Agencies

## BUSINESS CONFIDENCE PLUMMETS AS POLITICAL CRISIS GRIPS BRITAIN

**LONDON:** Britain's descent into political crisis just days before Brexit talks begin has sapped confidence among business leaders and infuriated bosses who were already grappling with the fallout from the vote to leave the EU. The failure by Prime Minister Theresa May to win a parliamentary majority in last week's election has pushed the world's fifth largest economy towards a level of political uncertainty not seen since the 1970s. May called the election to secure a mandate for her vision of a "hard Brexit"—driving down migration by taking Britain out of the single market and the customs union.

Instead, she got a hung parliament in which no single party has a majority. Business leaders demanded a re-think. "The UK has had a reputation, earned over the generations, for stability and predictability in its government," a senior executive at a multi-national company listed on the London FTSE 100 told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

"That reputation in 12 months has been destroyed, truly destroyed. First by Brexit and now through this election." A survey by the Institute of Directors (IoD) found only 20 percent of its nearly 700 members were now optimistic about the British economy over the next 12 months, compared with 57 percent who were quite or very pessimistic. The IoD survey, taken after the election, found a negative swing of 34 points in confidence in the economy from its previous survey in May.

"It is hard to overstate what a dramatic impact the current political uncertainty is having on business leaders, and the consequences could - if not addressed immediately - be disastrous for the UK economy," said Stephen Martin, director general of the IoD.

The collapse in confidence, which follows a short-term drop after last year's Brexit vote, coincides with a slowdown in the wider economy that has taken hold since the start of this year, as rising inflation pushes up the price of goods.

Figures from credit card firm Visa showed British consumers turned more cautious even before the shock election result, with households cutting their spending for the first time in nearly four years last month. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) warned there was now a risk businesses would cut back on investment which has largely held up since last year's Brexit vote. —Reuters



**PARIS:** This file photo shows (from left) the chairwoman and CEO of General Motors Company Mary T Barra, the chairman of the managing board of French carmaker Groupe PSA Carlos Tavares and Opel CEO Karl-Thomas Neumann shaking hands during a press conference about the acquisition by PSA of General Motors' European subsidiary, which includes the Opel and Vauxhall brands in Paris. —AFP

## OPEL BOSS QUILTS AHEAD OF PEUGEOT TAKEOVER

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** The chief executive of German carmaker Opel stepped down yesterday, the firm said, but will remain on the board until the group's takeover by France's Peugeot is completed.

Finance chief Michael Lohscheller will take over from Karl-Thomas Neumann as "spokesman" of the board at the General Motors subsidiary from Monday, Opel said in a statement. The move "will secure continuity for the business and for all stakeholders in the carmaker-as well as a seamless transfer of the firm to [Peugeot parent] PSA," the group said.

French manufacturer PSA-which also owns Citroen and DS-agreed in early March to pay some 1.3 billion euros (\$1.46 billion) for Opel, a storied German firm owned by GM for decades, as well its British subsidiary Vauxhall. A former Volkswagen and Continental man highly regarded in the German auto sector, Neumann took the reins in 2013.

But despite the progress Neumann made in winding down overcapacity and

improving the brand's image, Opel/Vauxhall continued to book heavy losses under his leadership.

Opel has lost around \$15 billion since 2000, most recently ending 2016 with \$257 million in the red. The carmaker, based in Rueselsheim south of Frankfurt and with 10 factories employing 38,000 people around Europe, blamed Britain's vote to quit the European Union and the weaker pound sterling for last year's poor performance. German weekly the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung reported Sunday that while Neumann backed Opel's tie-up with PSA, he was concerned that the French firm was not as whole-hearted about electric vehicles as himself, and that the new management would centralise all decision-making in Paris.

Opel and PSA are currently in talks with worker representatives about extending the jobs guarantees secured by employees to cover the new owners. The deal has also yet to receive the green light from competition authorities. — AFP



TECH SELL-OFF SPREADS TO EUROPE AND ASIA, NASDAQ FALLS

LONDON: Technology stocks fell heavily across Europe and Asia yesterday and were set to fall again on Wall Street after the worst day for Apple shares in more than a year...

Alphabet, Facebook and others took a heavy toll on rivals including Samsung and Europe's big chipmakers STMicro and Dialog yesterday.

While year-to-date Nasdaq gains of more than 15 percent have outperformed the wider market, an ebbing of the Trump reflation trade and a slide in US economic surprises deep into negative territory have prompted some investors to review the mix of their portfolios.

reaction in the tech sector to distribute the flows into other sectors," said ABN AMRO Chief Investment Officer Didier Duret. The pan-European STOXX 600 was down 0.8 percent...

bonds closed the gap on Germany. "Macron doing well in the first round of the French parliamentary elections bodes well for him getting a majority," said Lyn Graham-Taylor...

the current political uncertainty is having on business leaders," said Stephen Martin, director general of the Institute of Directors.

Feds up

The G10 economic surprise index, covering the world's 10 leading economies, has dipped below zero for the first time in 8 months.

It is also feeding into dollar weakness. The greenback was a shade lower at 110.040 yen and the dollar index against a basket of currencies nudged down to 97.118...

A survey from one of the UK's biggest business groups showed confidence had been hit hard by the uncertainty left by the election ahead of the start of Brexit negotiations with the EU next week.

May's plans for leaving the bloc had not changed, her spokesman said yesterday. "It is hard to overstate what a dramatic impact

US crude and Brent were both more than 1 percent higher at \$46.41 and \$48.80 a barrel respectively, copper was steady while gold snapped a three-day losing streak to climb to \$1,269 an ounce.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Monday 12 June 2017. Table with columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, Volume, Value (KWD), Number of Trades. Includes sub-sections for Basic Materials, Industrials, Consumer Goods, Health Care, Consumer Services, and Banks.



TOKYO: A man walks past an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian shares were mostly lower yesterday following the drop of technology shares last week on Wall Street. —AP

EYES ON CBS AFTER STERLING SHOCKER

LONDON: The dollar dipped yesterday on the run-in to Wednesday's decision on US interest rates, while Britain's pound was back under pressure after a 2-cent fall following elections which threw Europe's second-largest economy into political chaos.

There was some support for the euro from French and Italian elections but the week was set to be dominated by central bank meetings and UK Prime Minister Theresa May's efforts to form a workable administration after losing her majority.

With a fourth rise in US rates in 18 months now fully priced-in for Wednesday, Bank of America Merrill Lynch's head of G10 currency strategy, Athanasios Vamvakidis, pointed to the chance of a weaker greenback after the meeting.

But he also warned that the Bank of Japan just over 24 hours later might prompt some more retracement of the yen's 4-percent gain since mid-May. "The hike by the Fed is fully priced but the language will be dovish," Vamvakidis said.

The dollar was marginally lower at 110.21 yen, having retreated from Friday's one-week high of 110.815 yen. Against the euro it dipped a quarter percent to \$1.1222, compared to a sev-

en-month low of \$1.1285 set in early June. As May scrambles to pick up the pieces and reunite her Conservative Party before Brexit negotiations due to start next week, the economic signs for the pound continue to worsen.

Figures from credit card firm Visa showed British consumers cut their spending for the first time in nearly four years last month, as households turned more cautious even before the shock election result.

Worries that the process would take Britain out of the lucrative European single market have left the pound around 20 cents weaker than when Britain voted to leave the European Union a year ago.

"Based on parliament as it stands, Theresa May would be able to approve a soft Brexit but not a hard one," said Bank of America Merrill Lynch's Vamvakidis. Sterling fell another half a percent in morning trade, sinking as low as \$1.2681, and 88.45 pence per euro.

"Our forecasts are under review but we have been one of the more bullish houses on the street and it is fairly clear that the risks are to the downside," said Barclays' strategist Hamish Pepper.

"The uncertainty that the result brings means that you have a degree of risk premia re-establishing itself. The currency is vulnerable to that in the near term." —Reuters

GREEK DEBT DEAL 'NOT FAR': FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER

ATHENS: A deal on debt relief for Greece is "not far," France's new finance minister Bruno Le Maire said yesterday ahead of crunch eurozone talks on the issue tomorrow.

"I am optimistic that we will have a good solution. We are not far from agreement," Le Maire said ahead of a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.

"We are really doing our best to find an agreement," he had said earlier after seeing his Greek counterpart Euclid Tsakalotos. "It's difficult. It's complicated," he said.

At the June 15 meeting, Le Maire said he planned to propose a "mechanism" of "flexibility" to lessen Greek debt repayment based on its economic growth. "It's a mechanism which should allow us to revise certain (debt) parameters based on Greek growth," he told reporters.

The issue of debt relief for Greece has sharply divided its international creditors, the European Union and the International Monetary Fund, for months in the latest round of talks.

The impasse has held up a tranche of bailout cash which Greece needs to repay loans in July, and Athens says its fragile recovery has also been impaired. Tsipras has said he will ask EU leaders to resolve the issue at the end of June if no solution

is forthcoming on Thursday. "Piling drama on the problem helps no one," he said yesterday. The Europeans expect Greece's economy to grow strongly and its government to bring in large surpluses in revenue in the coming years, allowing it to pay down its debts.

Macron's position puts him at odds with Germany where Greek debt relief following three different bailouts with public money for the country since 2010 is seen as a vote loser ahead of general elections in September.

Macron explained his thinking about Greece in an interview to the Mediapart website two days before his election. "I am in principle in favour of a concerted restructuring of Greek debt and in keeping Greece in the eurozone. Why? Because the current system is unsustainable," he said. —AFP



# MOODY'S AND KUWAIT CREDIT RATING

## AL-SHALL WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

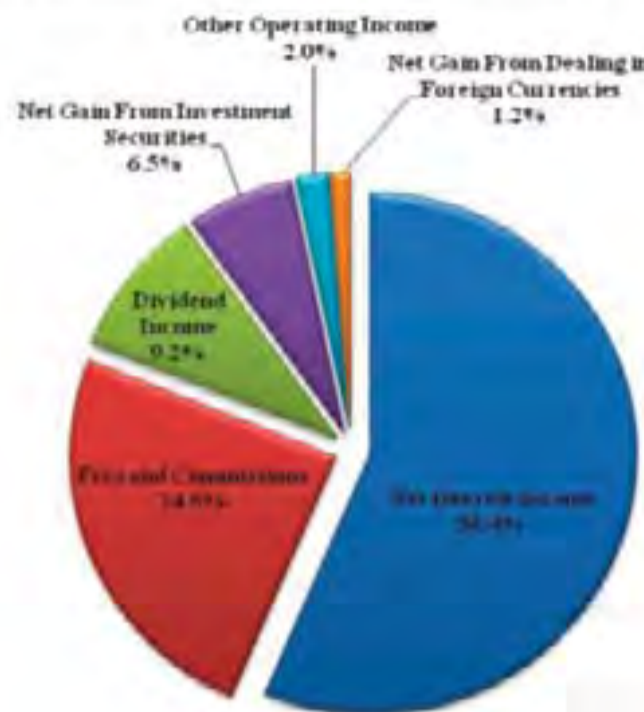
**KUWAIT:** We said repeatedly in our previous reports that reading any economic report by foreign institutions, public or private, about Kuwait, should be aware of that report's aim. They are important reports if we can derive from them more than they deserve or stripping them of any significance is our problem and an inherent weakness in our abilities. Three weeks ago, "Moody's" Credit Rating issued a report on Kuwait which is good report within its purposes. It fixed Kuwait's sovereign rating at Aa2, with a changed future outlook from negative to stable. The audience of that report is Kuwait's current and, more importantly, the potential lenders. The report's content advises the potential creditor to lend Kuwait because it is capable of meeting its obligations towards it. This means a better negotiating position for Kuwait from the perspective of lowering the borrowing cost. Most of the established classification bases depend on two variables. The first is the holding of oil prices after their collapse in early 2016 and the second is the volume of Kuwait's sovereign fund. With rising oil prices the fiscal deficit declined and the sovereign fund is able to cover longer years. In other words, that credit rating, true to its name, means Kuwait is secured if it is lent according to credit terms it required so far, and is able to fulfill its obligations.

We believe that any reading beyond that understanding is misleading. The report is not a testament to the efficiency of Kuwait's financial and economic policies whose quality is governed by their sustainability over the long term; nor is it a vote of confidence on the sagacity of its reform policy as stated in the Government's statement. An example of the accuracy such conclusion is that Kuwait's rating report coincided with issuing lowering the Chinese credit rating although China has achieved real economic growth for the first quarter of this year by 6.9 percent. The official growth data was issued after only 17 days of the end of that quarter despite its mammoth economy of about \$11.2 trillion. That is an evidence of awareness and efficiency. It is worth mentioning that China does not need a certificate of its prudent economic performance. And downgrading its credit rating came due to its high debts in an economy with centralized administration. In other words, its classification came contrary to its economic performance.

### Local market

China didn't care much for that rating because most of its credit needs are met by the local market and to procure local goods and services. Its \$3 trillion sovereign fund remains as contingency reserve. Our purpose is to emphasize that the Kuwait's fiscal policy is unsustainable and that increasing public spending by about 5.3 percent for the current fiscal year compared with the preceding year, despite all promises of restraining public spending, means that its size will exceed KD 35 billion by 2030 when the oil market will be unable to provide its one third. Likewise, Kuwait's economic policy is unsustainable. It is currently unable to accommodate indigenous workforce while the economy is supposed to provide some 400,000 jobs for Kuwaitis by 2030 which is almost impossible if its economic policy continues as is. Feeling satisfied by a false reading of a credit rating report followed by a devastating deluge of populist laws and decrees, parliamentary or governmental,

### Total Operating Incomes in The First Quarter 2017



serves only to accelerate the collusion speed with the wall, i.e. expediting the dangerous consequences of reaching the inability stage to meet the basic needs of the people.

### Trading features at Boursa Kuwait

Kuwait Clearing Company issued its report titled "Trading Volume According to Nationality and Category" from 01/01/2017 to 31/05/2017 published on Boursa Kuwait official website. The report indicated that individuals are still the largest group, their share started to increase and they captured 52.3 percent of total value of sold shares (48.6 percent for the first five months of 2016) and 51.8 percent of total value of purchased shares (44.3 percent for the first five months of 2016). Individual investors sold shares worth KD 1.848 billion and purchased shares worth KD 1.829 billion with a net trading, selling, by KD 19.455 million. The second largest contributor to market liquidity is the clients' accounts (portfolios) which captured 22.2 percent of total value of sold shares (17.4 percent in the same period of 2016) and 21.2 percent of total value of purchased shares (15.4 percent in the same period of 2016). The sector sold shares worth KD 782.561 million and purchased shares worth KD 749.177 million, thus making its net trading, more selling, by KD 33.384 million.

The third contributor, is the corporations and companies sector which captured 19.8 percent of total value of purchased shares (31.3 percent in the same period of 2016) and 18.8 percent of total value of sold shares (25.1 percent in the same period of 2016). The sector purchased shares worth KD 700.400 million and sold shares worth KD 665.362 million with a net trading, more purchasing, by KD 35.038 million. The last contributor to liquidity is the investment funds sector which captured 7.2 percent of total value of purchased shares (9 percent in the same period of 2016) and 6.7 percent of total value of sold shares (8.9 percent in the same period of 2016). This sector purchased shares worth KD 254.390 million and sold shares worth KD 236.589 million, with a net trading, purchasing, by KD 17.801 million.

Boursa Kuwait continues to be a domestic Boursa with the Kuwaiti investors forming the biggest trading group and sold shares worth KD 3.181 billion capturing 90 percent of total value of sold shares (86.7 percent in the same period of 2016) and purchased shares worth KD 3.115 billion, capturing 88.2 percent of total value of purchased shares (86.5 percent in the same period of 2016). Thus, their net trading, the only one selling, scored KD 66.017 million,

2016). As a result, their net trading, more purchasing, scored KD 49.620 million.

Share of GCC investors, out of total value of purchased shares, formed 3.5 percent (3.7 percent in the same period of 2016), worth KD 123.383 million, while value of sold shares formed 3 percent (3.1 percent in the same period of 2016), worth KD 106.986 million, their net trading, purchasing, by about KD 16.397 million.

Relative distribution among nationalities changed from its previous one and became as follows: 89.1 percent for Kuwaitis, 7.6 percent for traders from other nationalities, and 3.3 percent for GCC traders vis-à-vis 86.6 percent, 10 percent and 3.4 percent for Kuwaitis, other nationalities and GCC traders respectively in the same period of 2016. This means that Boursa Kuwait remained a local one with the rise in the share of its investors from local traders. However, the turnout is still higher from investors mainly outside the GCC region than from the inside of the GCC region in which an overtrading of individuals is a dominant factor. Number of active accounts between the end of December 2016 and the end of May 2017 rose by 31 percent (compared to a decrease by -12.3 percent between the end of December 2015 and the end of May 2016). Number of active accounts in the end of May 2017 scored 20,445 accounts, 5.4 percent of total accounts, versus 20,208 accounts in the end of April 2017, 5.4 percent of total accounts for the same month, with a rise of 1.2 percent during May 2017.

### The future of oil - A different perspective

In an article by "Jessica Shankleman" and "Hayley Warren", to "Bloomberg News Agency" on May 31, 2017, they present a different look

puts the future of most citizens at stake. Their future is in the hands of these two authorities and the past few weeks proved that responsibility is beyond their concern.

### CBK financial results

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced results of its operations for the first quarter of the current year, which indicate that the bank's net profits, -after tax deductions-, scored about KD 813 thousand, compared with KD 7.8 million in the same period 2016, reflecting a drop in profits by about KD 7 million, or by 89.5 percent. This drop in the net profits is due to the rise in total provisions by 36.7 percent. Nevertheless, the bank achieved profits prior to deducting provision in the amount of KD 28.95 million, rising by KD 401 thousand, or by 1.4 percent, compared with KD 28.55 million. Therefore, the dominating influence is the rise in provisions.

Total operational incomes increased by KD 1 million, or by 2.7 percent, and scored KD 39.3 million compared with KD 38.2 million in the same period 2016. This resulted from a rise in the item of net gain from investment securities by KD 2.4 million and scored KD 2.6 million, (representing 6.5 percent of total operational incomes) versus KD 204 thousand (0.5 percent of the total). Item of net interests income rose by KD 761 thousand and scored KD 22.2 million, compared with KD 21.4 million. While item of net gain from dealing in foreign currencies decreased by KD 1.8 million and scored KD 463 thousand compared with KD 2.3 million.

Total operational expenses of the bank increased lower value than the rise in total operational income, with KD 621 thousand and scored KD 10.3 million, compared with KD 9.7

	31/03/2017		31/03/2016		Change	
	(Thousand KD)	(Thousand KD)	Value	%		
<b>Total Assets</b>	4,268,573	4,147,403	120,970	2.9%		↑
<b>Total liabilities</b>	3,651,149	3,587,875	63,274	1.8%		↑
<b>Equity attributable to the equity holders of the bank</b>	616,437	558,499	57,938	10.4%		↑
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	39,258	38,236	1,022	2.7%		↑
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	10,305	9,684	621	6.4%		↑
<b>Provision</b>	28,134	20,575	7,559	36.7%		↑
<b>Taxation</b>	6	210	(204)	-97.1%		↓
<b>Net income</b>	813	7,767	(6,954)	-89.5%		↓
<b>Ratios</b>						
<b>**Return on Average Assets (ROA)</b>	0.1%	0.8%				↓
<b>**Return on Average Equity Relevant To The Bank Shareholder (ROE)</b>	0.5%	5.5%				↓
<b>**Return on Capital (ROC)</b>	2.2%	22.0%				↓
<b>*Earnings per share (EPS) - (Fils)</b>	0.5	4.7	(4.2)	-89.4%		↓
<b>Closing price - (Fils)</b>	430	440	(10)	-2.3%		↓
<b>* Price to Earnings Per Share Multiplies (P/E)</b>	215	23.4				
<b>Price to Book Value Multiplies (P/B)</b>	1.0	1.1				

\* Includes Earnings March 31, 2017 on an annual basis  
\*\* Calculated based on the average rate of the financial data at the end of December 2016 and 31 March 2017

The following tables summarize last week's performance of Boursa Kuwait

Description	Week 23		Diff
	08/06/2017	01/06/2017	
Working days	5	5	
AlShall Index (35 Companies)	378.0	383.9	-1.5%
Boursa Kuwait Index (price)	6,783.4	6,813.2	-0.4%
Value Trade (KD)	34,532,176	54,405,981	
Daily average (KD)	6,906,435	10,889,196	-36.6%
Volume Trade (Shares)	185,962,515	298,961,420	
Daily average (Shares)	37,196,503	59,792,284	-37.8%
Transactions	8,211	10,518	
Daily average (Transactions)	1,642	2,104	-21.9%

Most Active Sectors & Companies		
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
<b>Sectors</b>	<b>KD</b>	<b>Market</b>
KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE	4,995,157	14.5%
AHLI UNITED BANK B.U.C	4,182,018	12.1%
AGILITY PUBLIC WAREHOUSING COMPANY	3,477,848	10.1%
NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT	3,338,065	9.7%
MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY K.S.C	2,038,088	5.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,031,177</b>	<b>52.2%</b>
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
<b>Sectors</b>	<b>KD</b>	<b>Market</b>
BANKS SECTOR	14,105,690	40.8%
INDUSTRIALS SECTOR	5,734,016	16.6%
FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR	4,757,481	13.8%
REAL ESTATE SECTOR	3,061,159	8.9%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR	2,650,982	7.7%

ALSHALL INDEX	Week 23		Week 22
	08/06/2017	01/06/2017	
Increased Value (# of Companies)	6	18	
Decreased Value (# of Companies)	22	11	
Unchanged Value (# of Companies)	7	6	
<b>Total Companies</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	

Company Name	THU		DIFF	CLOSE	DIFF
	08/06/2017	01/06/2017			
1 The National Bank Of Kuwait	397.2	403.3	(1.5)	362.9	9.5
2 The Gulf Bank	192.6	194.2	(0.8)	195.0	(1.2)
3 Commercial Bank Of Kuwait	310.5	323.7	(4.1)	349.7	(11.2)
4 Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait	203.0	199.7	1.7	196.4	3.8
5 Kuwait International Bank	255.3	258.4	(1.2)	214.7	18.9
6 Ahli United Bank	413.6	418.4	(1.1)	361.0	14.6
7 Burgan Bank	314.9	315.9	(0.3)	283.4	11.1
8 Kuwait Finance House	1150.8	1164.3	(1.2)	1172.1	(1.8)
<b>Banking Sector</b>	<b>400.6</b>	<b>406.0</b>	<b>(1.3)</b>	<b>379.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>

for the future demand on oil contrary to the main scenario for "OPEC", "Exxon Mobil", "British Petroleum" and "International Energy Agency (IEA)". The basic scenario for "OPEC" and the big oil companies expect growth in demand for oil from its current level of about 93 million barrels per day to about 109-110 million barrels per day by 2040 while

(IEA) estimates it in a basic scenario by about 103.5 million barrels per day for the same period. However, there are three new factors they believe that will reduce the total demand by 2040 and conclude that a major dilemma will hit large government oil companies in oil-exporting countries. The three factors, according to the article, are efficiency in energy utilization, the technological progress in the transport sector which is responsible for 60 percent of oil consumption, and the switching from oil to clean and alternative sources. In details, (IEA) believes that technological progress in the efficiency of fuel burning for all transport means will reduce demand for oil by about 11.6 million barrels a day. This means that this factor will make the overall demand for oil at about 92 million barrels per day by 2040, i.e. to its current level.

The second factor or the widespread use of electric cars and even the auto-driven vehicles -without a driver- reduce demand by about 5.2 million barrels per day bringing the total demand by 2040 to about 87 million barrels per day, less by about 6.5 percent than its current level. And the major negative impact would be to the third factor, or switching to alternative energy sources, including natural gas. This factor may cause the loss of overall demand on oil by about 13.5 million barrels per day by 2040 cutting down about 30 million barrels per day from (IEA's) expected level of demand in its basic scenario. The bottom line is that there are some who believe that the overall demand on oil, even if it increased in the next few years, would lose about 20 million barrels per day from its level this year and would range between about 73 million barrels per day by 2040. This means that growth in oil demand will be negative.

The foregoing shows that the development model adopted by Kuwait over 70 years of oil age which always aims at diversifying income sources has failed. Kuwait is currently more reliant on oil than any other former time. The essential difference between the past and the future is that demand on oil scenarios in the past were in cycles only to end by dominating the positive growth on the negative while future scenarios began betting on the end of an era when oil took the lead for energy sources, ie the end of the oil age. This may take decades but the level of demand and its low prices will not yield income that guarantees political, economic and financial stability. We mentioned in a paragraph of this report risks of uncontrolled fiscal policy supported by the two decision-making authorities: the Executive and the legislature. Continuing financial chaos

million in the same period of 2016. Total provisions increased by KD 7.6 million, or by 36.7 percent, and scored KD 28.1 million, compared with KD 20.6 million. Therefore, the net profit margin dropped to 2.6 percent, compared with 26.3 percent in the same period 2016.

Total bank assets scored KD 4.268 billion, a rise by 3.5 percent, compared with KD 4.125 billion in the end of 2016. It increased by 2.9 percent if compared with the total assets in the first quarter of 2016, that scored KD 4.147 billion. Item of cash and short-term funds increased by KD 135.7 million or by 24.4 percent and scored KD 692.6 million (16.2 percent of total assets) versus KD 556.9 million (13.5 percent of total assets) in the end of December 2016, it also increased by 10.8 percent when compared with the same period of 2016, when it scored KD 625.4 million (15.1 percent of total assets). While loans and advances portfolio dropped by KD 16.5 million, or by 0.7 percent, and scored KD 2.234 billion (52.3 percent of total assets) compared with KD 2.250 billion (54.6 percent of total assets in the end of December 2016).

It however decreased by 2.7 percent if compared with the same period of 2016, when it scored KD 2.296 billion (55.4 percent of total assets). Percentage of total loans and advances to the total deposits scored 64 percent compared with 66.9 percent. Figures indicate that the bank's liabilities (without calculating total equity) increased by KD 129.7 million, or by 3.7 percent, and scored KD 3.651 billion, compared with KD 3.521 billion in the end of 2016. It rose by KD 63.3 million, or by 1.8 percent, if compared with the total in the end of the first quarter of last year. Percentage of total liabilities to total assets scored 85.5 percent compared with 86.5 percent.

Results of analyzing the bank's financial statements calculated on annual basis indicates that all profitability indexes dropped compared with the same period 2016. Average return on equities relevant to the bank shareholders (ROE) dropped to 0.5 percent compared with 5.5 percent. Likewise, the average return on the bank's assets (ROA) decreased to 0.1 percent versus 0.8 percent. The average return on the bank's capital (ROC) decreased to 2.2 percent versus 22 percent. (EPS) dropped to 0.5 fils, compared with 4.7 fils for the same period of 2016. (P/B) scored 1 times compared with 1.1 times.

### Weekly performance of Boursa Kuwait

The performance of Boursa Kuwait for last week was less active compared to the previous one, where all indexes showed a decrease, the traded value index, the traded volume index, number of transactions index, and the general index. AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 378 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing a decrease of about 5.9 points or about 1.5 percent compared with its level last week, while it increased by 15 points or about 4.1 percent compared with the end of 2016.





# MALIBU 2017: THE HIGH-END VEHICLE IN ITS CLASS

## CHEVROLET MALIBU MAINTAINS ITS LEADERSHIP POSITION

**KUWAIT:** 50 years after it was first introduced to the world, the Chevrolet Malibu maintains its leadership position among vehicles of its class all around the world, and specially in its 2017 model. The enhanced overall look and improved performance makes owning a superior vehicle at a very competitive price.

The new Malibu 2017 comes with a strong engine, a chic and comfortable interior, and a bold overall design, building on the features that made the Malibu popular in our part of the world.

Following its campaign last year, 'The car you never expected', which involved people driving and analyzing the features of the car which was completely debagged to be unrecognizable, the Malibu stood out as a car worth high-end vehicles; thanks to its looks and features which comprise the 2.0L 4-cylinder turbocharged engine, 250 HP at 5,300 rpm, 350 Nm at 1,700 rpm FWD, eight-speed auto transmitter.

### Superior performance in its class of vehicles:

Under its hood, the new Malibu 2017 covers a 2.0-liter four-cylinder turbocharged engine generating a power of 250 HP, and a torque value of 350 Nm. The turbo engine is the first on any Chevrolet vehicle introduced in the Middle East. The twin-scroll turbo provides instantaneous response and virtually eliminates the dreaded turbo lag.

The performance further enhances with the eight-speed transmission, enabling the Malibu to hit 100 km/h in under 6.5 seconds, giving drivers the fast and efficient performance they look for. Buyers of this class of cars with high demands will definitely have their investment worth with a superior vehicle from usual small cars in the same segment.

The 245/45 sized tires all-around ensure the Malibu remains on track while the all-around disc brakes provide a confident brake feel. Power transmission from the gas pedal to the road is without a doubt, smooth and highly sought after, particularly in this segment.

As for suspension, the 16 and 17-inch wheels provide a quiet ride, while an upgrade to 18-inch wheels provide a soft ride giving a hint of the road quality, and a more sophisticated look.

The new Malibu also boasts a host of active and passive safety features, which gives greater peace of mind while on the road. A high-strength steel safety cage is provided for the best safety during accident impacts, in addition to a list of features that help minimize accidents. These features include Front Pedestrian Alert, Forward Collision Alert with Following Distance Indicator and Front Park Assist ensure that the beautiful front end of the Malibu remains intact at all times.

Blind Zone Alert, Rear Cross Traffic Alert and Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning guarantee you to remain stress-free at high-

speed and in high-traffic transits. Moreover, IntelliBeam technology ensures drivers get the best road illumination, with the Malibu automatically switching to high beam when it is best.

### Attractive interior features:

The interior of the Malibu was designed to provide a world of comfort. The front leather seats are electrically adjustable and feature cooling; an ideal addition to cope of the local weather. Rear seats are also finished in leather with wide legroom and headroom for a stress-free experience. The leather-clad steering wheel falls into hand easily for ergonomic comfort.

Further enhancing the comfort experience, the Malibu features a full-size panoramic roof, which easily increases cabin airiness when open.

The center console is dominated by an eight-inch touchscreen, equipped with the MyLink infotainment system to connect to iOS and Android devices. Functions such as audio, navigation, comfort settings and many more can be accessed through the steering-mounted control to ensure drivers keep their hands on the steering wheel and remain focused on the road ahead.

### High-end exterior finishing:

The Malibu 2017 received the Chevrolet redesign treatment and design fabric. The look and features are at par with high-end cars at a



very attractive price offering. The overall design of the vehicle stands out as sharper, thanks to its compact dimensions. The front end looks aggressive with well styled grill while the headlamp units are sleek that fit the front-end geometry. The Chevrolet badge is fit between the two-part front grilles which have a chrome lining on their perimeter. The

hood's design strengthens the bold look of the Malibu with a thick A-pillar defining the Malibu from front to the sloping roofline.

The increased wheelbase of the new Malibu ensures that the sloping roof does not hinder rear passenger headroom, and also provides great legroom. Towards the rear, the aggressive lines give way to smoother and simpler look.



# AUDI KUWAIT EMBRACES THE SPIRIT OF GIVING IN RAMADAN

CUSTOMERS ARE OFFERED UP TO KD 6000 CASH BENEFIT



**KUWAIT:** Audi Kuwait, represented by Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company, are geared up for Ramadan and are giving back to car buyers during the Holy Month. Customers who purchase a new Audi throughout Ramadan from Audi Kuwait will receive up to KD 6000 in return depending on their car of choice. In line with the spirit of giving, one of the key pillars of Ramadan, Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company will offer car buyers the option of taking the reward in cash, keeping the money as credit to be used in the company's service center, or using it as a saving on the price of their new car.

"Audi enjoys a strong following in Kuwait and we are honoured to represent a premium brand that has a range of models that appeals to all drivers. This special Ramadan promotion makes it even more appealing and easier to own an Audi," said Tarek Al-Shafie, General Manager of Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company.

The special, enticing offer is available on a range of Audi models, from the compact A3 to the luxury A8, the Q SUV range, featuring the Q2, Q3, Q5 and the seven-seater Q7, the famous Audi TT, plus the Audi Sport RS range, from the RS 3 Sportback through to the powerful and elegant RS 7 sedan.

Featured in the Ramadan offer, the all-new A5 Sportback, which is the epitome of sporting elegance, will turn heads with its eye-catching design that combines the sleek elements of the A5 coupe with the versatility and functionality of a family sedan. The five-door sedan has a new chassis, is lighter than its predecessor and comes with an upgraded innovative infotainment system, and sophisticated interior. It is powered by a turbocharged, 4-cylinder, 2L engine that produces 252hp and 273NM of Torque, going from 0-100kph in 5.3 seconds.

The new Q2, meanwhile, is an all-rounder. The compact SUV is ideal for a run around town or an off-road adventure, with its youthful, broad shoulders and angular style, it exudes confidence. Inside, the driver's seat is sporty but all-round visibility is good, while the Q2 offers the technologies of the full-size class, including a 12.3-inch infotainment screen and optional parking assist features.

The all-new A5 Sportback, Audi Q2 and the full Audi range are available at the Audi Kuwait showroom represented by Fouad Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company. Working hours during the Holy Month of Ramadan are from 10am to 2:00pm and 8:30pm to 11:30pm.

## ETIHAD AIRWAYS APPOINTS NEW GENERAL MANAGER IN OMAN

**KUWAIT:** Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has announced the appointment of Hassan Al-Yousuf as its new General Manager for the Sultanate of Oman. Based at the airline's offices in Muscat, Hassan is responsible for leading Etihad Airways' commercial operations in Oman, as it continues to grow its presence and operations across the region.



Hassan Al-Yousuf

Hassan was previously based in Perth, Australia, as an Assistant General Manager, leading the team in achieving its revenue targets for 2016 and driving collaboration with Etihad Airways' equity partner, Virgin Australia. Hareb Al-Muhairy, Etihad Airways' Senior Vice President Sales in the UAE & GCC, said: "Hassan's promotion is a recognition of his hard work and we are delighted to have him drive our continued commercial success in Oman."

"Etihad Airways is committed to developing and rewarding the hard work of our Emirati aviation leaders." During

his career, Hassan has shown strong commercial, strategic, analytical and leadership skills. Prior to this position, Hassan was a Pricing Manager for the Indian Subcontinent (ISC) and Central Asia, tasked with achieving greater revenue generation for the region.

Hassan is a UAE national and holds a Masters in Business Administration. He joined the airline in December 2010 as a Graduate Manager and brings with him over six years' of aviation experience.

Etihad Airways, which began flying to Muscat in March 2006, currently operates three daily flights between Abu Dhabi and the capital of Oman. The service provides passengers with connections between Oman and the UAE, and wider access to key destinations across Etihad Airways' global network including the Indian Subcontinent, Asia, Europe and North America. The services combine with two new daily services operated by its codeshare partner, Oman Air.

## BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI DRAW

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

### The lucky winners are:

1. Reema Mohammad Al-Nahas
2. Faisal Mohammad Al-Mubarak
3. Moham Ahmad Ali
4. Nadham Ahmad Al-Khayyat
5. Katabjiwala Salma Saifuddin

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

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

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



## MEET THE WORLD'S FIRST AI-BASED VIRTUAL ADVISOR FOR ENTREPRENEURS

**LAS VEGAS:** At Dell EMC World, Circular Board unveiled Alice, the first-ever artificial intelligence platform for women entrepreneurs. Developed in partnership with Dell and Pivotal, Alice is on a mission to make it possible for significantly more female founders to succeed at unprecedented levels. Women-owned businesses currently employ 7.8 million workers in the US and generate \$1.3 trillion in revenue overall, yet only 2% of women entrepreneurs in the US have reached more than \$1 million in revenues. Alice and her partners will work to flip this stat to 98%.

"Alice is a female founder's best mentor, guide and consultant. The current startup ecosystem continues to cycle resources among a very small percentage of well-connected entrepreneurs, making it difficult for less traditional founders to navigate," said Carolyn Rodz, founder and CEO of Circular Board. "Alice instantly filters millions of resources down to the personalized, verified content that enables founders to scale to the highest heights, no matter where they are located or who they know."

### Meet Alice

Driven by data analytics, Alice is a virtual advisor that connects women entrepreneurs in realtime with the resources needed to scale based on startup stage, location, industry, revenue and individual needs. As Alice populates, machine learning will allow her to predict founders' needs to guide them to referrals, events, mentors and access points to capital and ecosystems.

### Alice offers its users the following:

- A conversational user interface to express different areas where women entrepreneurs need help (e.g., financing, legal, marketing, technology).
- Static and machine learning based on user input
- Personalized dashboard with real-time modules based on user activity.
- User profiles with data collection capabilities for personal and company demographics.
- An extensive library of resources, network of global experts and leaders and events calendar.
- Robust search pages with stored results that sort

and filter by location, industry, annual revenue, employee count, years in business and content publication source.

• Bulk and single upload of resource(s) and mentor(s) by trusted partners and the Circular Board team of experts for easy content aggregation and suggestive analytics.

### The relationship with Dell Technologies

In 2016, Circular Board approached Dell with an idea to disrupt the startup world by building an entirely new ecosystem for women founders. Built on its existing commitment to support growing businesses, Dell grabbed a leadership seat at the table to lend its expertise, capital and innovative spirit to create Alice.

"Entrepreneurship is part of Dell's DNA. We're always looking for ways to bring entrepreneurs the best technology solutions to help empower them in the new world of digital transformation," said Karen Quintos, EVP and Chief Customer Officer, Dell. "Through the power of the Dell Technologies net-

work and the expertise of the Circular Board, we're driving innovation to help women entrepreneurs take their businesses to the next level."

Pivotal, the company accelerating digital transformation for startups and enterprises, developed and deployed Alice's software in near record-setting time - just over three months from concept to launch. The Circular Board team successfully adopted Pivotal's next-generation software development methodology, as well as used Pivotal's cloud technology, to ensure machine learning capabilities allow Alice to evolve and continue to provide targeted resources and mentorship for female entrepreneurs.

"Circular Board is leading the way in helping female entrepreneurs turn ideas into fast-growing businesses," says Rob Mee, CEO, Pivotal. "Working with us, the Circular Board team have successfully adopted Pivotal's next-generation methods and technologies to ensure their ecosystem and platform thrives. We're thrilled to be able to help Circular Board on this important mission."

## AXILSPOT ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF ASW120 IN-WALL WIRELESS ACCESS POINT

**DUBAI:** AXILSPOT, a global vendor in enterprise wireless networking, announced availability of its ASW120 In-wall wireless access point in Middle East and Africa to help businesses manage their growing indoor workload congestions, using a secure and reliable network and Internet connectivity device. Customers are being challenged with providing wireless access in an environment with many rooms including RF-blocking walls, floors, and doors, such as hotel, patient rooms, classrooms and apartments.

time, indoor wireless networks are seeing increasing demands on their bandwidth and network performance. Devices such as the ASW120 In-wall wireless access point can go a long way in improving the quality of service, while providing secure access and management." August Chen, Director of Global Sales, points out that the launch of previous AXILSPOT access point and in-wall products have been well received in the region both by business customers and channel partners, due to their innovative features and specifications.

"AXILSPOT continues to innovate its products with the latest MIMO(MU-MIMO)chip capability, dual radio frequency optimization, high-speed bandwidth throughput, multi-port access capability including PoE and USB charging, secure wireless network access and segmentation of the networks based on user groups, amongst others. Plug and play installation, automatic firmware upgrades and configuration settings are being well received by on-site installation teams," added Chen.

The ASW120 is a dual-radio Access Point, with data rate up to 867Mbps on the 5GHz radio and 300Mbps on the 2.4GHz radio. It supports multi-user MIMO (MU-MIMO)to provide simultaneous connectivity for multiple devices, maximizing wireless throughput and improving efficiency. ASW120 features four Gigabit Ethernet ports and USB port, supports Standard PoEoutput, VoIP, IPTV, Telephone, Internet access and USB charging. It can be deployed into any standard electrical outlet box, creating a low profile, secure design and front port access fitting in unobtrusively with in-room furniture replacement. The ASW120 combines Gigabit Ethernet wired and reliable 802.11ac Wave 2 wireless connectivity into a sleek and easy to use device. It is ideal for high-end hotels, medical clinics, classrooms and branch offices, which often require flexible and scalable network deployment options.



Nick Huang, Regional Sales Manager, AXILSPOT



August Chen, Director of Global Sales, AXILSPOT

ASW120 has been purpose-built for high-density and micro-cell environments, offering a cost-effective way for providing high-speed wireless services for multiple users and multiple mobile device in every room.

Commenting on the launch of the product in the region, Nick Huang, Regional Sales Manager, AXILSPOT said, "The ASW120 In-wall wireless access point provides additional versatility for small and large businesses as they are expanding their facilities or trying to improve the quality of service for their wireless network users. With wireless network users accessing multiple applications and using more than one device at the same



AXILSPOT's New ASW120 In-wall Wireless Access Point



## MARISSA MAYER DEPARTS AS YAHOO ENDS ITS RUN

ICONIC SILICON VALLEY COMPANY SELLING CORE INTERNET OPERATIONS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Marissa Mayer was hailed as Yahoo's savior when she took charge of the pioneering internet firm five years ago. But Mayer was unable to stem the decline of the iconic Silicon Valley company, which is set to close a deal on Tuesday selling its core internet operations to telecom giant Verizon. She is likely headed for the exit as Yahoo ends two-decade run as an independent company, getting a departure package worth an estimated \$186 million.

Mayer inherited a company in protracted decline, having lost its leadership as an internet search company to Google and falling behind others like Facebook in serving money-making ads to users. She is the latest in a line of chief executives who tried to reinvent Yahoo, and her experience at rival Google inspired hope. "Marissa inherited a mess, in a company that had already lost its leadership role in search," said Creative Strategies president and analyst Tim Bajarin, who has known Yahoo since its early days.

Mayer, 42, joined Google in 1999 as its 20th employee and led efforts for hit products, including its flagship search product and homepage. At Yahoo, where she became CEO in 2012, she went on a buying spree that included a \$1 billion acquisition of blogging platform Tumblr to reach a younger audience. She also cut more than a thousand jobs. "Buying your way out of a problem like this is rarely going to solve your trouble," analyst Rob Enderle of Enderle Group said of acquisitions racked up at Yahoo. Yahoo's finances have been skewed by its stake in China's Alibaba. It bought a 40 percent stake in Alibaba in 2005 for \$1 billion and its current holding is now worth many times that amount, dwarfing the value of its internet operations.

It also has a multibillion-dollar stake in Yahoo Japan. These holdings will not be transferred to Verizon but remain in a separate entity named "Altaba."

### Like to dislike

A survey released last month by business insights specialty website Owlser ranked Mayer as the second most disliked chief executive, behind the head of United Airlines. "Career-wise, Marissa is done," Enderle said. "She's rich, so she could certainly fund herself as a venture capitalist but if she doesn't work on her skill set she is going to lose a lot of money as a VC."

Enderle put fault on the Yahoo board, saying Mayer was put in a "very bad spot" and failed to provide a mentor for a job she had never done before. "Like our president, it shows that when you take someone with no idea what they are doing and put them in a job they shouldn't do, it will end badly," Enderle said. Born in a small Wisconsin city, Mayer worked at a grocery store before attending Stanford University, where she studied computer science.

While her intellectual skills qualify her as a

nerd, her blond good looks and star quality have put her on the cover of magazines including Fortune, Vanity Fair and Vogue, where pictures of her featured in a fashion spread. Glamour magazine named her "woman of the year" in 2009 and she has been on several lists of influential tech personalities.

### Pioneered search

Yahoo was one of the first companies that enabled users to find their way online, but lost its role as a leader. It is selling its core internet operations to telecom giant Verizon for \$4.48 billion, capping a long decline from when it had a peak market value of some \$125 billion in 2000. Founded in 1994 by Stanford University students David Filo and Jerry Yang, Yahoo was created as a type of directory for the internet. It was originally called "Jerry and Dave's Guide to the World Wide Web."

Its initial public offering in 1996 was the largest for a tech startup at the time. Based in Sunnyvale, California, Yahoo became the leading "portal" for the internet, with a home page that allowed users to click on categories such as sports, finance and movies, or search for information. "In a way, Yahoo introduced the concept of search," Bajarin said. "They started diversifying with all these content layers and in the process didn't put enough engineering resources in the search engine." — AFP

## BOARD ADOPTS REPORT ON UBER'S CULTURE, SILENT ON CEO LEAVE

**DETROIT:** Uber's Board of Directors has adopted a series of recommendations about the company's corporate culture from former Attorney General Eric Holder, but it was silent late Sunday on whether it would approve a leave of absence for the ride service's embattled CEO. A spokesman confirmed that the board met with Holder and Tammy Albarr-n, both partners with Covington & Burling LLP, a law firm hired to investigate complaints of widespread sexual harassment and other deep-seeded cultural problems at Uber.

Board members voted unanimously to adopt all of the firm's recommendations, which were

to be released to employees today, the spokesman said. He would not comment on any further actions taken by the board, including whether it discussed the future of CEO Travis Kalanick. Multiple media outlets reported Sunday that the board was considering a leave of absence for Kalanick.

Uber Technologies Inc. has been rocked by accusations that its management has fostered a workplace environment where harassment, discrimination and bullying are left unchecked. Uber announced last week that it fired 20 employees for harassment problems after a separate investi-

gation by a different law firm. Under Kalanick, Uber has shaken up the taxi industry in hundreds of cities and turned the San Francisco-based company into the world's most valuable startup. Uber's valuation has climbed to nearly \$70 billion.

But Kalanick has acknowledged his management style needs improvement. The 40-year-old CEO said earlier this year that he needed to "fundamentally change and grow up." In February, former Uber engineer Susan Fowler wrote on a blog that she had been propositioned by her boss in a series of messages on her first day of work and that superiors ignored her complaints. Uber set up a hotline for complaints after that and hired the law firm of Perkins Coie to investigate.

### Federal investigation

That firm checked into 215 complaints, with 57 still under investigation. Uber has been plagued by more than sexual harassment complaints in recent months. It has been threatened by boycotts, sued and subject to a federal investigation that it used a fake version of its app to thwart authorities looking into whether it is breaking local laws.

Kalanick lost his temper earlier this year in an argument with an Uber driver who was complaining about pay, and Kalanick's profanity-laced comments were caught on video. In a March conference call with reporters after that incident, board member Arianna Huffington expressed confidence that Kalanick would evolve into a better leader. But Huffington, a founder of Huffington Post, suggested time might be running out. — AP



NEW YORK: In this March 15, 2017, file photo, a sign marks a pick-up point for the Uber car service at LaGuardia Airport. — AP



NEW YORK: The Pandora Media name appears above a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. — AP

## SIRIUS XM BUYS STAKE IN STREAMING SITE PANDORA

**NEW YORK:** Pandora is raising cash to help it take on Spotify and other streaming music services. The online music service is selling a 19 percent stake in its business to satellite radio company Sirius XM for \$480 million. Pandora will pay a \$22.5 million breakup fee to private equity firm KKR for breaking up a previously agreed \$150 million deal. Pandora, which is based in Oakland, California, will raise another \$200 million selling its Ticketfly ticket service to Eventbrite - a service Pandora bought for \$450 million in 2015.

Pandora works as an internet radio, and most users listen for free. But its financial losses have deepened in the past few years while its user base has been stagnant, and

in March it launched a subscription service that copied the strategy of competitors like Spotify and Apple Music. Like those apps, it can now charge users and then let them pick the songs they want to listen to.

Sirius will be able to pick three people for Pandora's board, one of whom will be chairman. Most of Sirius' listeners are in cars, and by investing in Pandora, it gets entry into the digital radio business. Analysts say there are opportunities for the two companies to collaborate and bundle products. Pandora Media Inc shares rose 10 cents, or 1.2 percent, to close Friday at \$8.52. Shares in New York-based Sirius XM Holdings Inc. dipped 20 cents, or 3.7 percent, to \$5.20. — AP



## NEW ZEALAND OPPOSITION DRAWS IRE TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand's main opposition party yesterday announced plans to almost halve immigration numbers if it wins a September election, with the clampdown focused on international students. Labour Party leader Andrew Little said it was "time for a breather on immigration" in the nation, which has experienced record annual net arrivals of about 70,000 in recent years.

Little said his centre-left party would

cut that by up to 30,000 a year, including slashing an estimated 22,000 student visas. He said the nation of 4.5 million could not cope with existing migration levels. "It's contributed to the housing crisis, put pressure on hospitals and schools and added to congestion on roads," he said. Little said parts of New Zealand's international education sector had become a "back door to residency" which he planned to close if he won the

September 23 national election.

Under the plan, visas for many "low value" courses that do not involve at least a bachelor's degree would be cut. Work visas for international students and recent graduates would also be tightened to stop them taking low-skilled jobs unrelated to their course. Prime Minister Bill English said the policy would have a major impact on the economy, which is growing at a relatively strong three percent annual-

ly. "Slashing immigration-whatever you think of it-slashing it when you need the people to do the jobs that must be done, it doesn't make any sense," he told Radio New Zealand. English also said the crackdown risked jeopardizing the international education sector, New Zealand's fourth-largest export earner. "This is a sector that has been a key part of diversifying our economy, particularly through the difficult times when dairy prices were low," he said.

"It employs 33,000 people and generates NZ\$4.5 billion (\$3.2 billion) in exports."

English took over leadership of the ruling National Party-led coalition in December after the shock resignation of his predecessor John Key. National currently leads Labour 49 percent to 30 percent in opinion polling for the September vote, but the gap narrows to less than one percent if potential coalition partners for Little are factored in. — AFP

## ELEPHANT IN BUDDHIST PROCESSION KILLS MONK

**COLOMBO:** An elephant that was part of a Sri Lankan Buddhist procession attacked and killed a monk, police said yesterday. Police spokesman Priyantha Jayakody said three elephants were walking in the procession Sunday night when one suddenly went on a rampage and attacked the monk. The 25-year-old monk died at a hospital early Monday. Colorfully decorated elephants are an important part of Buddhist religious processions and festivals. Temples and wealthy families often own the animals and rent them out for such events.

However, animal rights activists say the elephants are often kept in inhumane conditions and receive insufficient food.

Authorities say there are about 127 tamed elephants that are used for processions and other religious ceremonies by Sinhalese Buddhists, who make up 70 percent of the island's 20 million people. Having an elephant in the backyard has long been a sign of wealth, privilege and power. For hundreds of years, elephants have been used for such religious activities and as well as for battles by ancient kings. Sri Lanka has about 6,000 elephants, but those in the wild are threatened by habitat loss and degradation. An estimated 200 elephants are killed every year, mainly by farmers trying to protect their crops. In the 19th century there were believed to be up to 14,000 elephants. — AFP

## CHINA PONDERES PUBLIC MORALITY AFTER VIDEO OF GRUESOME DEATH

**BEIJING:** A speeding taxi knocks the pedestrian off her feet, sending her hurtling through the air. Dozens of people stand gawking or walk past, as if the young woman sprawled in the busy intersection simply doesn't exist. A full minute passes, and another speeding vehicle, this time an SUV, tramples the prone woman. Her unconscious body churns under its large wheels like a lumpen sack.

After a grainy video of a traffic accident in the city of Zhumadian surfaced on Chinese social media this past week, the initial reaction was one of outrage directed at the more than 40 pedestrians and drivers who passed within meters of the woman, all failing to offer help. But for many Chinese, the video was something more: a 94-second reminder of their society's deep rot.

Even as China presents itself outwardly as a prosperous rising power, around kitchen tables and in private WeChat groups, Chinese citizens routinely grumble about a nation that's gone bankrupt when it comes to two qualities: "suzhi," or "personal character," and "dixian," literally "bottom line" - or a basic, inviolable sense of right and wrong.

### Unmoored country

Here, the common refrain goes, is an unmoored country where manufacturers knowingly sell toxic baby formula and fraudulent children's vaccines. Restaurants cook with recycled "gutter oil" and grocery stores peddle fake eggs, fake fruit, even fake rice. Many Chinese say they avoid helping people on the street because of widespread stories about extortionists who seek help from passers-by and then feign injuries and demand compensation - perhaps explaining the Zhumadian behavior.

"It's a problem with the entire country: Our moral bottom line has fallen so low," Tian You, a novelist based in the southeastern city of Shenzhen, said by phone. "If I'm truly honest, I wonder, would I myself have dared to help the woman?" After the Zhumadian video surfaced this week, garnering more than 5 million views in its first 24 hours before being censored, local police were forced to disclose that the incident took place weeks earlier, on April 21. The woman, surnamed Ma, died, while the two drivers who hit her were held under investigation, police said, without giving further details.

The news swept through social media and even state media outlets. The Communist Youth League, an influential party organization, circulated the video on its Weibo account, urging its 5 million followers to "reject indifference." An opinion column on china.com, a state media organ, asked citizens to "reflect" on the tragedy. Others used the episode as a starting point to vent about social ills.

"Like the polluted haze facing our country, we see boundless corruption, left-behind children, medical disputes and so forth," a columnist in the Chengdu Economic Daily wrote. "Have our society's morals gotten better or worse in the last 10 years?"

What about our future, are you confident about that? Don't ask me, because I'm not."

### Moral decay

Public concern about China's morals crosses decades and age groups. Ever since China began its free market reforms in the 1980s, older citizens have frequently griped about moral decay and profess nostalgia about a more innocent socialist era, while younger, worldly Chinese wonder why fraud and fake products aren't as rampant in other countries. Chinese scholars say many issues that leave the middle class disillusioned are a result of lagging government regulation and the dislocating forces of swift development.

"In the West, law, faith and morality are a three-legged stool," said Ma Ai, a sociologist at the China University of Political Science and Law. "Our legal system is catching up, but we don't have religion and a new moral system has not established after China transformed away from a traditional, collectivist society."

A debate flared following a similar case in 2011, when an unattended 2-year old was hit by a truck on a busy street in Guangdong province and laid in a pool of blood without any help from bystanders for seven minutes. She died later. In the following years, several cities, including Beijing and Shanghai, enacted Good Samaritan laws. To be sure, examples of bystander apathy are ubiquitous, from the case of Kitty Genovese, the woman stabbed to death in daylight in a New York City apartment complex in 1964, to last year in Chicago, where a man who was knocked unconscious in an assault was run over and killed by a taxi after a group of bystanders walked away from him.

In India, a video showed a man unsuccessfully pleading for help following a road accident that killed his wife and child in 2013. That same year, passers-by refused to stop to help a naked, bleeding gang-rape victim after she was dumped from a bus onto a New Delhi street. The 23-year-old student died of her injuries. But the Chinese have been particularly self-critical on the matter. In 2009, the People's Daily, the Communist Party's official mouthpiece, ran a provocative story with a picture of a dog standing by another injured dog in a busy street and pondered whether humans would do the same. The report was headlined, "Do Chinese people lack compassion?"

### 'Faith and ethics'

A 2014 state media poll found that Chinese thought "lacking faith and ethics" was the No. 1 social problem, followed by "being a bystander or being selfish." Many in China's intelligentsia reject the idea that an ancient strain of Chinese culture that focuses on the immediate family explains modern tragedies like Zhumadian. Confucius, after all, taught the Golden Rule. And Mencius, another revered philosopher, urged his disciples to love others' children and respect others' parents as one would their own.—AFP



**TOKYO** This file photo taken on May 24, 2017 shows 11-year-old female giant panda Shin Shin taking a rest in her cage at Tokyo's Ueno Zoo. — AFP photos

## JAPAN ZOO TOASTS BIRTH OF PANDA CUB, SNUG IN MUM'S FURRY HUG

**TOKYO:** A Japanese zoo celebrated the first birth of a baby panda in five years yesterday, with the tiny cub small enough to fit in the palm of a human hand. Eleven-year-old mum Shin Shin gave birth just before noon, officials at Tokyo's Ueno Zoo said in a statement. Pandas are born pink, hairless and weighing around 100 grams (three-and-a-half ounces) — so small it can be difficult to determine their sex.

"There have been cases where the sex of a panda has been found to be wrongly determined several years after its birth," a zoo spokesman told AFP amid the panda-monium. "It could take a while before we know." Shin Shin, who mated with male Ri Ri in February, had another baby in 2012 the first time at the zoo in 24 years, but the cub died from pneumonia six days later. Footage from a camera inside the panda enclosure showed the moment of birth, when the screeching noises of the tiny baby could clearly be heard as Shin Shin scooped it up with her mouth.

Zoo officials were not immediately able to give exact details about the size and weight of the cub as the proud mum, who tips the scales at 110 kilograms (240 pounds), protectively cuddled her new-born baby. "Most of the time the mother has been cradling her baby so we haven't been able to measure it precisely," a spokeswoman told AFP. "It's almost impossible to see the baby when she's being hugged by mum but we estimate it at about 150 grams."

As a mother-to-be, Shin Shin delighted huge crowds of well-wishers in Tokyo last month as she sat lazily munching on bamboo and playfully rubbed the husks on her furry belly before being moved into confinement. Considered an endangered species, it is estimated fewer than 2,000 giant pandas remain in the wild, in three provinces in south-central China.

### Clumsy lovers

Giant pandas are painfully bashful animals and clumsy lovers, with males often miscalculating when a female is in the mood for love and frequently baffled by the mechanics of mating, according to experts. In the event the cuddly creatures do feel a romantic spark, sex is frequently over too quickly to impregnate the female, who is only receptive to the proposition for two or three days a year between February and May.

Shin Shin's happy news was broadcast on national television and has already had an economic impact on local businesses, with one Chinese restaurant's shares soaring by 38 percent in response. The Totenko chain, whose main outlet is near the zoo, already reported a jump last month on news of a possible pregnancy. The birth could also potentially help thaw the often frosty diplomatic relations between Japan and China as Beijing caught the celebratory mood.

"Giant pandas are always messengers of friendship from China towards other countries," said foreign affairs ministry spokesman Lu Kang. "We also hope giant pandas can play a greater role to promote the affection between Chinese and Japanese people." Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike also expressed her delight, telling local media: "Romance is not just restricted to humans."

Meanwhile, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, the government's top spokesman, showed his softer side as he weighed in on the day's top feel-good story. "It is news that will brighten the whole country," he told a daily news briefing. "I wonder why pandas are so popular. It's probably their cute faces and adorable gestures." —AFP



**TOKYO:** An employee of a department store in Tokyo's Ueno shopping district distributes paper masks showing a baby panda to celebrate the birth of a baby panda at the nearby zoo.

## FLOWER POWER: GARDENING USED AS THERAPY IN POLAND

**RUSKIE PIASKI:** An elderly woman leans over to smell a lush flowerbed of lavender in sprawling gardens surrounding an imposing early 20th-century palace in a pastoral corner of eastern Poland. Slowly a smile lights up her face, erasing her previous stony expression-she suffers from paranoid schizophrenia which often renders her emotionless. The sudden burst of happiness is one of the benefits of horticulture, or garden therapy, as it is better known. She is among 59 female patients at this state-run, mental health care home in the village of Ruskie Piaski who are undergoing the springtime treatment, introduced here in 2014.

"Gardens provide an environment that stimulates many senses; the patient can smell the scents of flowers and plants, touch them, and even get pricked by thorns," says biological scientist Bozena Szewczyk-Taranek, who has created a horticultural therapy training course at the Agricultural University of Krakow, due to start in September. "It also facilitates physical exercise, for example for patients who have problems with balance, they can hop from one stone to another. "But when we have intellectually-impaired patients, we must make sure there are no toxic plants in the gardens like yews, hydrangeas or lily of the valley," she told AFP in an interview.

### Walking on pebbles

The positive influence of a garden on the ill is thought to have already been known in Ancient Egypt, but modern therapy dates back to the 19th century and was used to help soldiers wounded in World War I. While horticultural therapy does not cure mental illness, it can stimulate patients both intellectually and socially, boosting their self-confidence and sense of well-being, experts say.

Even just getting them out of their rooms into the fresh air can help by improving their physical condition. Alina Anasiewicz, the director of the Ruskie Piaski care home which is one of the leading centres in Poland for garden therapy, says she came across it on a 2013 study trip to Switzerland. "We brought home quite a few of the methods we learnt from the Swiss," she told AFP. She points proudly to a fountain, where, on hot days, patients can touch the flowing water

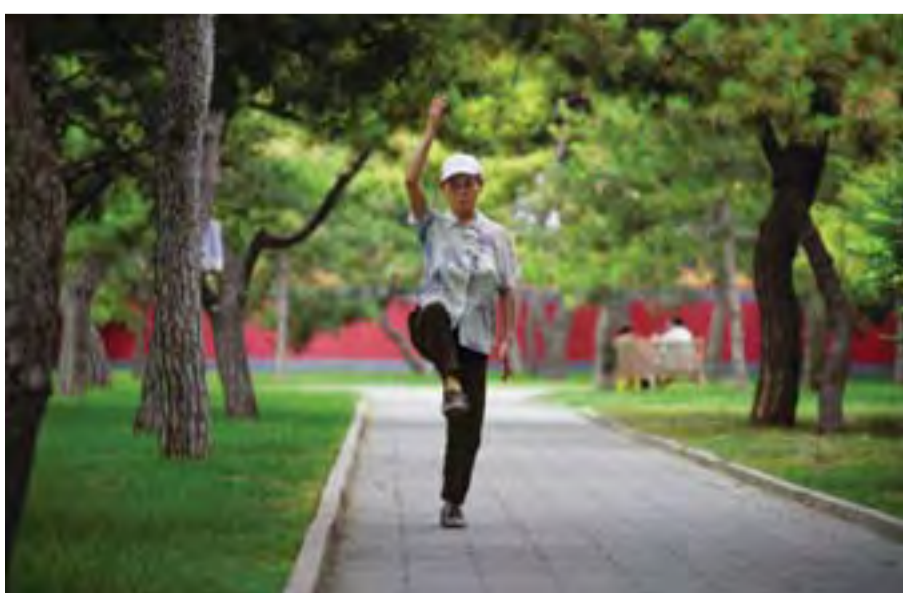
and wade into a small pool with pebbles lining the bottom that tickle their feet.

### 'Changing mentality'

To reach the fountain, patients must walk barefoot along a "sensory path", of gravel, sand and wooden logs, allowing the varied textures to stimulate their senses. On the other side of the palace, three patients are working hard, digging a vegetable garden. Anasiewicz says that later they will also make preserves from the vegetables and berries they grow and harvest. She says that, while the progress made by patients undergoing garden therapy is obvious to her, some of the staff who had been working at the centre for years needed convincing about this novel approach to mental health. "It's sometimes easier to do all the hands-on renovation work for the gardens than to change the mentality of our staff," Anasiewicz told AFP.

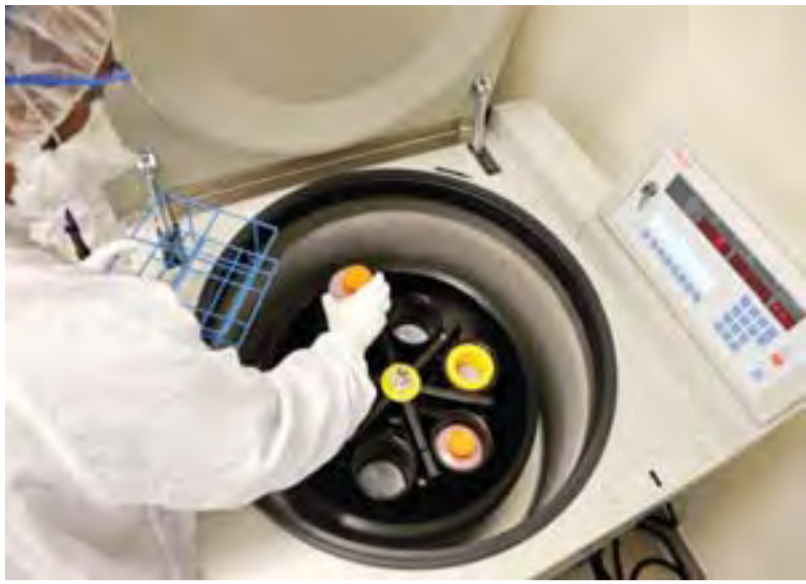
### Closing the gap

In 2013, Switzerland handed her a check for 1.4 million zloty (330,000 euros, \$370,000) to create the therapeutic park, with flower and vegetable gardens as well as an orchard, at the care home. The sum covered 85 percent of the project, with local authorities chipping in the rest. While it is not a member of the European Union, Switzerland set up a financing program a decade ago to help reduce disparities between wealthier old EU members and poorer new ones, such as Poland. It spent a total of 1.3 billion Swiss francs (1.2 billion euros, \$1.4 billion), of which Poland received almost half a billion. The funds were spent on 58 projects across Poland, many focused on health, including the removal of asbestos from the roofs of houses — 131,000 tons in all—and installing hectares of solar panels. Patients at the Ruskie Piaski care home can stay as long as their condition requires medical supervision and are able to leave for family visits or have visitors, but their daily garden therapy can depend on the weather. Staff say that when the weather is bad or in winter, patients are more depressed. One went on a visit to see her family, but asked to return earlier than planned. She'd said simply, "I miss the garden", they explained. — AFP



**BEIJING:** An elderly woman practices tai chi at a park. — AFP





SEATTLE: In this photo taken March 29, 2017, cell production associate Herley Beyene places containers of immune cells in a centrifuge at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. —AP



SEATTLE: The cell processing facility at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.



SEATTLE: A nurse reaches for blood samples taken from a patient receiving a kind of immunotherapy known as CAR-T cell therapy at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

## A NEW FRONTIER IN CANCER CARE: TURNING BLOOD INTO LIVING DRUGS

SEATTLE: Ken Shefveland's body was swollen with cancer, treatment after treatment failing until doctors gambled on a radical approach: They removed some of his immune cells, engineered them into cancer assassins and unleashed them into his bloodstream. Immune therapy is the hottest trend in cancer care and this is its next frontier - creating "living drugs" that grow inside the body into an army that seeks and destroys tumors.

Looking in the mirror, Shefveland saw "the cancer was just melting away." A month later doctors at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center couldn't find any signs of lymphoma in the Vancouver, Washington, man's body. "Today I find out I'm in full remission - how wonderful is that?" said Shefveland with a wide grin, giving his physician a quick embrace.

This experimental therapy marks an entirely new way to treat cancer - if scientists can make it work, safely. Early-stage studies are stirring hope as one-time infusions of supercharged immune cells help a remarkable number of patients with intractable leukemia or lymphoma. "It shows the unbelievable power of your immune system," said Dr. David Maloney, Fred Hutch's medical director for cellular immunotherapy who treated Shefveland with a type called CAR-T cells. "We're talking, really, patients who have no other options, and we're seeing tumors and leukemias disappear over weeks," added immunotherapy scientific director Dr. Stanley Riddell. But, "there's still lots to learn."

### System soldiers

T cells are key immune system soldiers. But cancer can be hard for them to spot, and can put the brakes on an immune attack. Today's popular immunotherapy drugs called "checkpoint inhibitors" release one brake so nearby T cells can strike. The new cellular immunotherapy approach aims to be more potent: Give patients stronger T cells to begin with.

Currently available only in studies at major cancer centers, the first CAR-T cell therapies for a few blood cancers could hit the market later this year. The Food and Drug Administration is evaluating one version developed by the University of Pennsylvania and licensed to Novartis, and another created by the National Cancer Institute and licensed to Kite Pharma.

CAR-T therapy "feels very much like it's ready for prime time" for advanced blood cancers, said Dr. Nick Haining of the Dana-

Farber Cancer Institute and Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, who isn't involved in the development. Now scientists are tackling a tougher next step, what Haining calls "the acid test": Making T cells target far more common cancers - solid tumors like lung, breast or brain cancer. Cancer kills about 600,000 Americans a year, including nearly 45,000 from leukemia and lym-

phoma. "It's a Model A Ford and we need a Lamborghini," said CAR-T researcher Dr. Renier Brentjens of New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, which, like Hutch, has a partnership with Juno. In Seattle, Fred Hutch offered a behind-the-scenes peek at research underway to tackle those challenges. At a recently opened immunotherapy clinic, scientists are taking

anything."

### Genetically engineering cells

The goal: Arm T cells with an artificial receptor, a tracking system that can zero in on identifying markers of cancer cells, known as antigens. For many leukemias and lymphomas, that's an antigen named CD19. Every research group has its own recipe but generally, scientists infect T cells with an inactive virus carrying genetic instructions to grow the desired "chimeric antigen receptor." That CAR will bind to its target cancer cells and rev up for attack.

Millions of copies of engineered cells are grown in incubators, Hutch technicians pulling out precious batches to monitor if they're ready for waiting patients. If they work, those cells will keep multiplying in the body. If they don't, the doctors send blood and other samples back to researchers like Riddell to figure out why.

### What's the data?

Small, early studies in the US made headlines as 60 percent to 90 percent of patients trying CAR-Ts as a last resort for leukemia or lymphoma saw their cancer rapidly decrease or even become undetectable. Last week, Chinese researchers reported similar early findings as 33 of 35 patients with another blood cancer, multiple myeloma, reached some degree of remission within two months. Too few people have been studied so far to know how long such responses will last. A recent review reported up to half of leukemia and lymphoma patients may relapse.

There are long-term survivors. Doug Olson in 2010 received the University of Pennsylvania's CAR-T version for leukemia. The researchers were frank - it had worked in mice but they didn't know what would happen to him. "Sitting here almost seven years later, I can tell you it works," Olson, now 70, told a recent meeting of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Bannick, the Hutch patient treated in 2014, recalls Maloney calling him "the miracle man." He had some lingering side effects that required blood-boosting infusions but says CAR-T is "giving me a second life."

### Scary side effects

"The more side effects you have, that sort of tells everybody it's working," said Shefveland, who was hospitalized soon after his treatment at Hutch when his blood pressure collapsed. His last clear memory for days: "I was having a conversation with a nurse and all of a sudden it was gibberish." As CAR-T cells swarm the cancer,

an immune overreaction called "cytokine release syndrome" can trigger high fevers and plummeting blood pressure and in severe cases organ damage. Some patients also experience confusion, hallucinations or other neurologic symptoms. Treatment is a balancing act to control those symptoms without shutting down the cancer attack. Experienced cancer centers have learned to expect and watch for these problems. "And, most importantly, we've learned how to treat them," said Dr. Len Lichtenfeld of the American Cancer Society, who is watching CAR-T's development.

### Fighting solid tumors will be harder

CAR-Ts cause collateral damage, killing some healthy white blood cells, called B cells, along with cancerous ones because both harbor the same marker. Finding the right target to kill solid tumors but not healthy organ tissue will be even more complicated. "You can live without some normal B cells. You can't live without your lungs," Riddell explained.

Early studies against solid tumors are beginning, targeting different antigens. Time-lapse photos taken through a microscope in Riddell's lab show those new CAR-T cells crawling over aggressive breast cancer, releasing toxic chemicals until tumor cells shrivel and die. CARs aren't the only approach. Researchers also are trying to target markers inside tumor cells rather than on the surface, or even gene mutations that don't form in healthy tissue. "It's ironic that the very mutations that cause the cancer are very likely to be the Achilles heel," NCI's Rosenberg said. And studies are beginning to test CAR-Ts in combination with older immunotherapy drugs, in hopes of overcoming tumor defenses.

### How will patients get the therapies?

If the FDA approves Novartis' or Kite's versions, eligible leukemia and lymphoma patients would be treated at cancer centers experienced with this tricky therapy. Their T cells would be shipped to company factories, engineered, and shipped back. Gradually, more hospitals could offer it.

Because only certain patients would qualify for the first drugs, others would have to search for CAR-T studies to try the treatment. A drug industry report lists 21 CAR-T therapies in development by a dozen companies. "This is the hope of any cancer patient, that if you stay in the game long enough, the next treatment's going to be just around the corner," said Shefveland, the Hutch patient. — AP



SEATTLE: Research technician Ashwini Balakrishnan works in the immunotherapy research lab of Dr. Stanley Riddell.

phoma. "There's a desperate need," said NCI immunotherapy pioneer Dr. Steven Rosenberg, pointing to queries from hundreds of patients for studies that accept only a few.

### Challenges

For all the excitement, there are formidable challenges. Scientists still are unraveling why these living cancer drugs work for some people and not others. Doctors must learn to manage potentially life-threatening side effects from an overstimulated immune system. Also concerning is a small number of deaths from brain swelling, an unexplained complication that forced another company, Juno Therapeutics, to halt development of one CAR-T in its pipeline; Kite recently reported a death, too.

And, made from scratch for every patient using their own blood, this is one of the most customized therapies ever and could cost hundreds of thousands of dol-

lars. "It's a Model A Ford and we need a Lamborghini," said CAR-T researcher Dr. Renier Brentjens of New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, which, like Hutch, has a partnership with Juno. In Seattle, Fred Hutch offered a behind-the-scenes peek at research underway to tackle those challenges. At a recently opened immunotherapy clinic, scientists are taking anything."

### Two long weeks to brew a dose

The first step is much like donating blood. When leukemia patient Claude Bannick entered a Hutch CAR-T study in 2014, nurses hooked him to a machine that filtered out his white blood cells, including the T cells. Technicians raced his bag of cells to a factory-like facility that's kept so sterile they must pull on germ-deflecting suits, booties and masks just to enter. Then came 14 days of wait and worry, as his cells were reprogrammed. Bannick, 67, says he "was almost dead." Chemotherapy, experimental drugs, even a bone marrow transplant had failed, and "I was willing to try

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# ABK HOLDS GHABQA FOR EMPLOYEES IN CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY MONTH



**O**n the occasion of the Holy month of Ramadan and the Banks 50th anniversary, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held a Ghabqa for its employees to celebrate these two joyous events in the midst of a fun-filled atmosphere. The Ghabqa was held on 7 June, 2017 at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel with Group CEO, Mr. Michel Accad opening the evening with a warm message to all staff.

The event was set up to reflect a 50th anniversary theme, and featured delightful entertainment with a Jazz band followed by a Gergian band, along with a Selfie stand, and a sketch artist, provided for ABK staff and management to take home pictures as keepsakes. The Bank also held a series of exciting draws as a means of rewarding its staff members. Prizes included travel tickets to top destinations such as Paris, London, Barcelona, Egypt, India and Dubai, in addition to the latest TV's and mobile phones.

The highlight of the evening was the grand draw for a GMC car, where Mr Ahmad Fadel, a member of the Retail Banking Division team was announced the winner of the grand prize. The employee Ghabqa is one of a series of events rolled out by the Bank in recognition of the Holy month. A few of the Bank's main initiatives this month was the provision of the Holy Quran in braille to the visually impaired, the distribution of food packages to the underprivileged, Gergian celebration with Down Syndrome children, and sponsorship of the Kuwait Youth Basketball Ramadan Tournament.



## KFH TAKES PART IN GERGIAN EVENT FOR KUWAITI ASSOCIATION FOR DOWN SYNDROME

**K**uwait Finance House (KFH) took part in a confectary (Gergian) gathering for the Kuwaiti Association for Down syndrome. This step comes as part of KFH's social responsibility and in continuation of the bank's Ramadan program. KFH PR team visited the children of Kuwaiti Association for Down syndrome and managed to spread joy and happiness among them, yet showed them that the society cares for them.

The event included many activities that had a positive effect on the parents of the children, who believe that such activities organized by prestigious institutions, play a role in strengthening the social ties, while allowing the dis-

abled to beat the odds and blend into the society. In addition, such events boost the confidence of the disabled and help them to be productive individuals and integral part in the society. It is worth noting that KFH has been always keen to hold similar events every year, as part of its social responsibility, which reinforces the values of the society. KFH is eager to support charity, education and health activities; especially that they play a role in the prosperity of the society. Meanwhile, the staff of Kuwaiti Association for Down syndrome and children's guardians hailed this initiative that KFH is keen on taking every year. Also, they lauded its key role in assuming the social responsibility.

## XEROX IN COLLABORATION WITH KRC CELEBRATES THE JOY OF GERGIAN

**I**n the light of the spiritual month of Ramadan Alamana Industries (Xerox - Kuwait) and Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) organized a visit to The Social Care Center to celebrate Gergian with the orphans, handicapped, and elderly. Employees from Xerox had volunteered to spread the happiness of Gergian with the residents of The Social Care Center by giving away treats and organizing fun filled activities in collaboration with KRSC. This community-based activity reinforces the company's human values and strengthens its social role in society. Gergian is a very important event in Kuwait, as it is an old tradition that is loved by both children and adults.

Commenting on this occasion, General Manager of Alamana Industries (Xerox - Kuwait), Ayman Mattar: "As Ramadan is the month of giving back, we were keen to participate alongside KRSC to share the joy of Gergian with the residents of The Social Care Center. Our objective is to put a smile on the children's and elderly's faces by celebrating together with them. Being of such an initiative is in line with the social responsibility to giving back to the community we operate in. KRSC is a well-reputed

non-profit organization that lends a helping hand to all members of the society, and gives us great pleasure to work collaboratively with the organization."

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) is a voluntary humanitarian society that provides assistance to

those in need. Initiatives by KRSC is aimed to support and offer aid to less-fortunate individuals. Its main strategic goals revolve around initiating projects that provide aid to those in need such as orphans, widows, elderly and special needs.







**IWC HOLDS CELEBRATION FOR KUWAITI WOMEN DAY**

Chair person of Kuwait Society for the Ideal Family and chairperson of Al-Fatat Sports Club Sheikh Fraiha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah stressed that Kuwaiti women were capable of facing immense challenges and doing their share in building the society. Speaking to reporters at the sidelines of the club's international women committee celebration of the Kuwaiti Women Day on a special ceremony attended by diplomats and dignitaries, Sheikha Fraiha said that Kuwaiti women had great contributions in various fields. She added that Kuwaiti women had a long glorious history of standing side by side to men and aided them in building Kuwait as it is today. Speaking on the occasion, the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait, Yasser Atef said that women in Kuwait and the Arab world had made great achievements towards getting their rights.



**KAMCO HOLDS HEALTH AWARENESS SESSION**



**K**AMCO Investment Company KSC (Public), a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, held a health awareness session for its employees in collaboration with Salhiya Clinic. The session included free consultations from Salhiya Clinic experts, in addition to health related tips and tests to highlight the importance of preventative medical care and increase risk awareness regarding different health issues.

KAMCO employees attended the awareness session at the Al-Shaheed Tower gym and was carried out by Salhiya Clinic experts. Dietitians Qout Al-Mekhled and Nasser Al-Awath, along with Dr. Abi Shetty and Lab Technician Mohammed Haroon, guided attendees through the variety of health-related activities while providing them with advice on how to balance their daily diets. The health session included diabetes, BMI and BMR tests, in addition to free lifestyle consultations provided by the experts.

Ms Danah Al-Jasem, Vice President and Head of the Marketing Department said, "The successful turnout of this event marks yet another step taken by KAMCO to educate employees and spread awareness regarding common health issues. The level of interaction between KAMCO employees and the Salhiya Clinic experts proved the necessity of such educational initiatives."

Ms Al-Jasem added, "We will continue to utilize our resources to provide employees with wellbeing and lifestyle advice to promote an overall healthy lifestyle. Events such as the Health Awareness Session fall in line with KAMCO's corporate social responsibility agenda, focusing on health, education and the environment to benefit our society. We look forward to more educational and interactive events that are highly beneficial to our employees and the community as a whole."

**Congratulations**



**F**amily and friends would like to bestow their most heart-felt wishes and regards to Talal Heyad Al-Qaruti on the occasion of his graduation from high school.



AM MOVIES ACTION

- 00:15 The Call Up
02:00 Tracers
03:45 Gone In Sixty Seconds
06:00 Code Of Silence
07:45 The Call Up
09:30 Tracers
11:15 Judge Dredd
13:00 Gone In Sixty Seconds
15:00 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
16:45 Dr. No
18:45 Beyond Redemption
20:30 Mad Max: Fury Road
22:30 Taken 3

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 America's Cutest Pets
01:40 Animal Cops Houston
02:35 Tanked
03:25 The Lion Queen
04:15 Preposterous Pets
05:02 Monster Croc Invasion
05:49 Lone Star Law
06:36 Gorilla School
07:25 Preposterous Pets
08:15 Animal Cops Houston
09:10 The Lion Queen
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Preposterous Pets
11:55 America's Cutest Pets
12:50 Lone Star Law
13:45 Monster Croc Invasion
14:40 The Lion Queen
15:35 Tanked
16:20 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
17:25 Dog Rescuers
18:20 Up Close And Dangerous
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
21:05 Dog Rescuers
22:00 Up Close And Dangerous
22:55 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
23:50 Untamed China With Nigel Marven

BBC FIRST

- 00:30 Rillington Place
01:25 Orphan Black
02:10 Spooks
03:05 Spooks
03:55 Casualty
04:50 The Musketeers
06:00 Casualty
06:50 Casualty

- Patrol
09:20 Sweat Inc.
10:10 Bondi Ink
11:00 Life Or Debt
11:50 Catch A Contractor
12:15 Catch A Contractor
12:40 Disaster Date
13:05 Disaster Date
13:30 Lip Sync Battle
13:55 Lip Sync Battle
14:20 Bondi Ink
15:10 Framework
16:00 Nathan For You
16:30 Nathan For You
16:55 Comedy Central Presents Comedy
17:25 Comedy Central Presents Comedy
17:50 Catch A Contractor
18:39 Impractical Jokers
19:03 Disaster Date
19:27 Brotherhood
19:50 Brotherhood
20:13 Sweat Inc.
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 MLE Chowdown: The Turkey Bowl
22:25 Catch A Contractor
23:15 Lip Sync Battle
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family

- 00:30 Nextworld
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
02:10 Dirty Jobs
03:00 What Happened Next?
03:25 What Happened Next?
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Storm Chasers
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Kenny The Shark
07:25 Bear Grylls Survival School
07:50 K9 Cops
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Nextworld
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 America's Cutest Pets
12:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Storm Chasers
14:30 Kenny The Shark
14:55 Bear Grylls Survival School
15:20 K9 Cops
16:10 Nextworld
17:00 Guinness World Records
17:00 Guinness World Records
Smashed New Zealand

- 03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
07:25 Sofia The First
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 PJ Masks
08:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:05 Goldie & Bear
09:35 The Lion Guard
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Little Mermaid
11:25 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
11:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:15 Gummi Bears
12:40 Miles From Tomorrow
13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Unbungleable
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 PJ Masks
15:55 Sofia The First
16:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
16:50 Doc McStuffins
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:05 PJ Masks
18:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
19:05 Goldie & Bear
19:35 Goldie & Bear
20:05 Goldie & Bear
20:35 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
21:00 Gummi Bears
21:25 Sofia The First
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:00 Little Mermaid
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:35 The Hive
23:45 Loopdidoo

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Street Outlaws
01:10 Gold Divers
02:00 Shipwreck Men
02:50 Outback Truckers
03:40 Misfit Garage

- 20:45 Disney11
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
22:35 Boyster
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

EHD

- 00:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
01:50 Botched
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:50 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 La Clippers Dance Squad
06:55 E! News
07:10 La Clippers Dance Squad
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
12:00 E! News
12:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
13:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
14:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
15:00 E! News
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Botched
17:10 Botched
18:05 Botched
19:00 E! News
20:00 Second Wives Club
21:00 Second Wives Club
22:00 Second Wives Club
23:00 E! News
23:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

food

- 00:00 Restaurant: Impossible
01:00 Mystery Diners
01:30 Mystery Diners
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
10:00 Bake With Anna Olson
10:30 Bake With Anna Olson
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Bake With Anna Olson
17:30 Bake With Anna Olson
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Man Fire Food
21:50 Man Fire Food
22:00 The Big Eat - Middle East
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

itv CHOICE

- 00:10 Alphabetical
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
03:25 Jekyll And Hyde
04:20 Shoot The Messenger
05:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
06:10 Alphabetical
07:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?
08:00 Jekyll And Hyde
09:00 Shoot The Messenger
10:00 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
10:55 Alphabetical
11:50 Who's Doing The Dishes?
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Pick Me!
15:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:00 Grantchester
16:55 The Trials Of Jimmy Rose
17:50 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
21:00 Grantchester
21:55 The Trials Of Jimmy Rose
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

HISTORY HD

- 00:20 101 People Who Made The 20th Century
01:10 Sean Bean On Waterloo
02:00 Ultimate Soldier Challenge
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Leepu And Pitbull
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Time Team
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Swamp People
13:30 Ax Men
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Leepu And Pitbull
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:40 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle
18:30 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Ultimate Soldier Challenge
21:50 Alone
22:40 Swamp People
23:30 American Pickers

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
00:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:10 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
01:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
02:35 Places We Go
03:00 Eat Street
03:30 Eat Street
03:55 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
04:25 Street Food Around The World
04:50 Carnival Eats
05:20 Tom's Istanbul Delight
05:45 A Is For Apple
06:15 A Is For Apple
06:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
07:10 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
08:05 Places We Go
08:30 Eat Street
09:00 Eat Street
09:25 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
09:55 Street Food Around The World
10:20 Carnival Eats
10:50 Tom's Istanbul Delight
11:15 A Is For Apple
11:45 A Is For Apple
12:10 A Is For Apple
12:40 A Is For Apple
13:05 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
13:35 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
14:30 Places We Go
14:55 Eat Street
15:25 Eat Street
15:50 Korean Soul Food
16:45 Carnival Eats
17:15 Chocolate Covered
17:40 A Is For Apple
18:10 A Is For Apple
18:35 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
19:05 Eat Street
19:30 Carnival Eats
20:00 Korean Soul Food
21:00 Chocolate Covered
21:30 A Is For Apple
22:00 A Is For Apple
22:25 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
23:50 Andy And Ben Eat Australia

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Scam City
01:00 Lawless Island
02:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
03:00 Border Wars
04:00 Scam City
05:00 World's Toughest Fixes
06:00 Science Of Stupid
06:30 Science Of Stupid
07:00 Brain Games
07:30 Brain Games
08:00 Explorer
09:00 World's Toughest Fixes
10:00 Monster Fish
11:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
12:00 Air Crash Investigation
13:00 Science Of Stupid
13:30 Science Of Stupid
14:00 Brain Games
14:30 Brain Games
15:00 Explorer



BARELY LETHAL ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 16:00 Monster Fish
17:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
18:00 Air Crash Investigation
19:00 Explorer
20:00 Monster Fish
20:50 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
21:40 Air Crash Investigation
22:30 Explorer
23:20 Science Of Stupid
23:45 Science Of Stupid

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Lion Warrior
01:10 Hunter Hunted
02:00 Hyena Queen
02:50 Snake Underworld
03:45 World's Deadliest
04:40 Python Hunters
05:35 Hyena Queen
06:30 Snake Underworld
07:25 World's Deadliest
08:20 Python Hunters
09:15 Extreme Animal Babies
10:10 Wild Survivor
11:05 Python Hunters
12:00 Monster Frog
12:55 Original Fight Club
13:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
14:45 World's Deadliest
15:40 Dangerous Encounters With Brady Barr
16:35 Australia's Deadly Monsters
17:30 America's Deadliest
18:25 Python Hunters
19:20 World's Deadliest
20:10 Dangerous Encounters With Brady Barr
21:00 Australia's Deadly Monsters
21:50 America's Deadliest
22:40 Python Hunters
23:30 Monster Frog

AM MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 01:25 Hocus Pocus
03:05 The Dog Lover
04:50 Secretariat
06:50 A Bug's Life
08:30 The Dog Lover
10:15 The Bextrolls
11:50 Secretariat
13:50 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame II
15:00 Nancy Drew
16:40 The Wild
18:05 Max Keeble's Big Move
19:35 Pirates Code: The Adventures Of Mickey Matson
21:10 Nancy Drew
22:55 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame II

AM MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Hits
01:45 The Longest Yard
03:45 Other Plans
05:15 Accidental Love
07:00 Fun Size
08:30 Other Plans
10:15 Accidental Love
12:00 Fun Size
13:30 Take Care
15:15 The Duff
17:00 Perfect Match
18:30 Ride
20:15 The To Do List
22:00 Life After Beth
23:30 Playing It Cool

AM MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 00:00 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
02:15 The Wave
04:00 Grand Central
05:45 Brooklyn
07:45 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
10:00 The Wave
11:45 Jappeloup
14:00 Brooklyn
16:00 We Are Many
18:00 The Theory Of Everything
20:00 The Blind Side
22:15 Lucky Them

AM MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:00 The Kids From 62+
02:45 Egon And Donc
04:15 The Adventures Of Rocky And Bullwinkle
06:00 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
07:30 Ductales: The Movie
09:00 The Heart Of The Oak
10:15 The Tigger Movie
11:45 The Kids From 62+
13:30 Lego: Scooby Doo Haunted Hollywood
15:00 The Heart Of The Oak
16:30 Marco Macaco

AM MOVIES HD

- 18:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
19:30 Lego: Scooby Doo Haunted Hollywood
21:00 Ductales: The Movie
22:30 Marco Macaco

AM MOVIES HD

- 00:30 Enemy Of The State
02:45 Invictus
05:00 Blown Away
07:00 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water
08:45 Con Air
10:45 Invictus
13:00 Barely Lethal
14:45 Enemy Of The State
17:00 Goosebumps
18:45 War Of The Worlds
20:45 Steve Jobs
22:45 A Night At The Roxbury

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Weird Or What?
02:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
03:00 Cosmic Collisions
03:48 Race To Escape
04:36 Weird Or What?
05:24 Mythbusters
06:12 How Do They Do It?
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Race To Escape
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 NASA's Unexplained Files
09:50 Cosmic Collisions
10:38 Weird Or What?
11:26 Race To Escape
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 NASA's Unexplained Files
13:50 Cosmic Collisions
14:38 Race To Escape
15:26 Weird Or What?
16:14 NASA's Unexplained Files
17:02 Cosmic Collisions
17:50 How Do They Do It?
18:15 Food Factory
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
20:20 NASA's Unexplained Files
21:10 Secret Space Escapes
22:00 Strangest Weather On Earth
22:50 Race To Escape
23:40 Mythbusters

TLC

- 00:20 Married By Mum And Dad
01:10 Return To Amish
02:00 Cake Boss
02:25 Cake Boss
02:50 Say Yes To The Dress
03:35 She's In Charge
04:20 Little People, Big World
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners: Country House...
06:50 Sweet 15: Quincea?era
07:40 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
08:30 Little People, Big World
09:20 Suddenly Rich
10:10 Say Yes To The Dress
11:00 Cake Boss
11:25 Cake Boss
11:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners: Country House...
12:40 Sweet 15: Quincea?era
13:30 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
14:20 Oprah's LifeClass
15:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
16:00 Little People, Big World
16:25 Little People, Big World
16:50 Suddenly Rich
17:40 Say Yes To The Dress
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
18:30 Outdaughered: Busby Quints
19:20 Cake Boss
19:45 Cake Boss
20:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
21:00 My Extreme Excess Skin
21:50 Body Bizarre
22:40 Monsters Inside Me
23:30 My Extreme Excess Skin

TRAVEL

- 00:00 Bizarre Foods America
01:00 Mysteries At The Monument
02:00 Going RV
02:30 Big Time RV
03:00 Robson Green Grand Slam Fishing
04:00 Mysteries At The Museum
05:00 Bizarre Foods America
06:00 Mysteries At The Monument
07:00 House Hunters International
09:00 Going RV
09:30 Big Time RV
10:00 Hotel Impossible
11:00 Mysteries At The Monument
12:00 Texas Flip And Move



MAD MAX: FURY ROAD ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 07:45 New Tricks
08:40 The Musketeers
09:30 Father Brown
10:20 Casualty
11:15 New Tricks
12:10 The Musketeers
13:05 Father Brown
14:00 Casualty
14:50 New Tricks
15:45 The Musketeers
16:40 Father Brown
17:30 Doctors
18:05 Doctors
18:35 Doctors
19:05 New Tricks
20:00 Prime Suspect: Tennison
21:00 Prime Suspect: Tennison
21:50 Spooks
22:45 Spooks
23:40 Doctors

- 17:25 Guinness World Records
Smashed New Zealand
17:50 Guinness World Records
Smashed UK
18:40 What Happened Next?
19:30 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Guinness World Records
Smashed New Zealand
22:00 Guinness World Records
Smashed UK
22:50 What Happened Next?
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

ID

- 00:30 Six Degrees Of Murder
01:20 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
02:10 Adnan Syed: Innocent Or Guilty?
03:00 Murder Chose Me
03:48 I Almost Got Away With It
04:36 California Investigator
05:24 Deadly Affairs
06:12 Southern Fried Homicide
07:00 The Locator
07:25 The Locator
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 California Investigator
09:05 California Investigator
09:30 Deadly Affairs
10:20 Southern Fried Homicide
11:10 Nightmare Next Door
12:00 The Locator
12:25 The Locator
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 California Investigator
14:05 California Investigator
14:30 Deadly Affairs
15:20 Southern Fried Homicide
16:10 Betrayed
17:00 The Locator
17:25 The Locator
17:50 I Almost Got Away With It
18:40 California Investigator
19:05 California Investigator
19:30 Deadly Affairs
20:20 Southern Fried Homicide
21:10 The Detectives Club: New Orleans
22:00 Casey Anthony: An American Murder Mystery
22:50 Grave Secrets
23:40 Who Killed Jane Doe?

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
01:00 It Takes A Killer
01:30 It Takes A Killer
02:00 Cold Case Files
03:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
04:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
05:00 It Takes A Killer
05:30 It Takes A Killer
06:00 I Love You...But I Lied
07:00 I Love You...But I Lied
08:00 Evil Up Close
09:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
10:00 Homicide Hunter
11:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
12:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
13:00 I Love You...But I Lied
14:00 Evil Up Close
15:00 Homicide Hunter
16:00 Crime Stories
17:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
18:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
19:00 Evil Up Close
20:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak
23:00 It Takes A Killer
23:30 It Takes A Killer

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 00:05 Impractical Jokers
00:30 Impractical Jokers
00:55 Nathan For You
01:20 Nathan For You
01:45 Lip Sync Battle
02:10 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Life Or Debt
04:15 Sweat Inc.
05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:55 Catch A Contractor
06:20 Catch A Contractor
06:40 Framework
07:50 Lip Sync Battle
08:05 Lip Sync Battle
08:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On

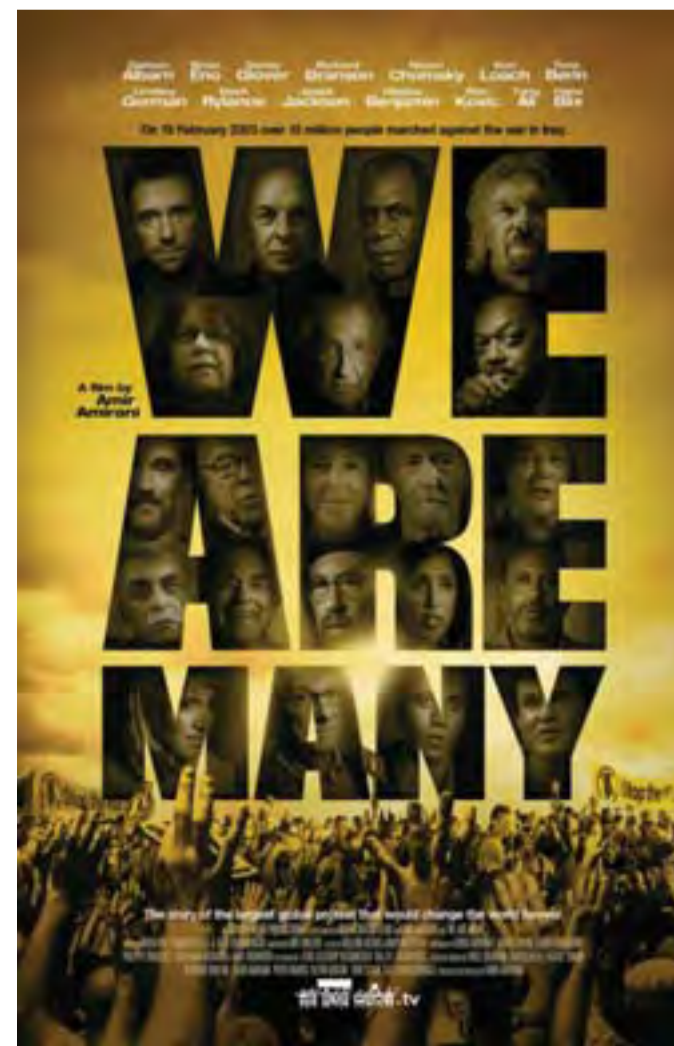
Disney JUNIOR

- 00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo

- 04:30 Garage Gold
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Gold Divers
06:50 Street Outlaws
07:40 Misfit Garage
08:30 What On Earth?
09:20 Garage Gold
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Gold Divers
11:25 Shipwreck Men
12:15 Ice Lake Rebels
13:05 How Do They Do It?
13:30 Garage Gold
13:55 Garage Gold
14:20 Gold Rush
15:10 What On Earth?
16:00 Gold Divers
16:50 Misfit Garage
17:40 Street Outlaws
18:30 How Do They Do It?
18:55 How Do They Do It?
19:20 What On Earth?
20:10 Garage Gold
20:35 Container Wars
21:00 The Island With Bear Grylls
21:50 The Wheel: Survival Games
22:40 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
23:30 Misfit Garage

XHD

- 06:00 Right Now Kapow
06:25 Disney11
06:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
07:15 Milo Murphy's Law
07:25 Danger Mouse
07:40 Supa Strikas
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Counterfeit Cat
09:00 Lab Rats
09:25 Lab Rats
09:50 Future-Worm!
10:20 Pair Of Kings
10:45 Pair Of Kings
11:10 Danger Mouse
11:35 Supa Strikas
12:00 Supa Strikas
12:30 Gravity Falls
12:55 Ametroids
13:20 Atomic Puppet
13:45 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Mighty Med
14:40 Kirby Buckets
15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
15:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
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 Mighty Med
19:00 Atomic Puppet
19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Mech-X4



WE ARE MANY ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL



# CLASSIFIEDS

55th Anniversary

Kuwait Times

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017

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 Now you can browse  
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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO THURSDAY (08/06/2017 TO 15/06/2017)

Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie
10:00 PM	SHARQIA-1 Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)	9:30 PM	MARINA-1 Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	12:45 AM	THE EXCEPTION
12:15 AM	Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	12:15 AM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	9:45 PM	360°- 1 KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD
9:30 PM	SHARQIA-2 Seats-428 Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)	12:30 AM	MARINA-2 Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)	12:30 AM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD
12:30 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:30 AM	Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)	10:15 PM	360°- 2 Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)
9:45 PM	SHARQIA-3 MINIONS (Re Release)	12:05 AM	MARINA-3 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL	12:45 AM	ALIEN: COVENANT
11:45 PM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:05 AM	Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)	9:45 PM	360°- 3 AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
9:30 PM	MUHALAB-1 Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	11:30 PM	AVENUES-1 YO-KAI WATCH: The Movie	11:15 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
11:45 PM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	11:30 PM	ALIEN: COVENANT	12:45 AM	Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)
9:45 PM	MUHALAB-2 RAABTA (Hindi)	10:00 PM	AVENUES-2 MINIONS(Re Release)-3D-4DX	9:30 PM	AL-KOUT.1 Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)
12:45 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:05 AM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD (3D-4DX)	11:45 PM	Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)
10:00 PM	MUHALAB-3 Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)	10:30 PM	AVENUES-3 THE BOSS BABY	9:45 PM	AL-KOUT.2 AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
12:15 AM	Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)	12:30 AM	HERE ALONE	11:15 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
9:30 PM	FANAR-1 RAABTA (Hindi)	10:15 PM	AVENUES-4 ALIEN: COVENANT	12:45 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)
12:30 AM	RAABTA (Hindi)	12:45 AM	Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	10:15 PM	AL-KOUT.3 Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)
10:30 PM	FANAR-2 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL	9:45 PM	AVENUES-5 KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:30 AM	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD
12:30 AM	Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)	12:15 AM	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL	10:00 PM	AL-KOUT.4 Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release)
9:45 PM	FANAR-3 KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	11:30 PM	AVENUES-6 AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:05 AM	Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)
12:15 AM	Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	11:30 PM	Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)	9:45 PM	BAIRAQ-1 MINIONS (Re Release)
9:30 PM	FANAR-4 Min 30 Sana (Re-Release)	9:30 PM	AVENUES-7 Ashan Khargen (Re-Release)	11:45 PM	THE BOSS BABY
12:30 AM	ALIEN: COVENANT	11:45 PM	Laf Wa Dawaran (Re-Release)	10:00 PM	BAIRAQ-2 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL
10:00 PM	FANAR-5 AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	10:15 PM	AVENUES-8 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL	12:05 AM	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL
11:30 PM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:30 AM	Taht Al Tarabeza (Re-Release)	9:30 PM	BAIRAQ-3 RAABTA (Hindi)
1:00 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:45 PM	AVENUES-9 RAABTA (Hindi)	12:30 AM	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)

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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 Tuesday 13/6/2017				Departure Flights on Tuesday 13/6/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	FEG	938	Sohag	13:55
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
IAW	157	Baghdad	00:30	KNE	536	Jeddah	14:55
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	00:45	KAC	615	Bahrain	15:10
KAC	102	London	00:55	QTR	8512	Doha	15:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:30
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	JAD	302	Amman	15:40
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	563	Amman	5:40
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JZR	701	Taif	16:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KAC	513	Tehran	16:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40	JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
FEG	937	Sohag	05:00	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
BAW	157	London	06:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	JZR	124	Bahrain	18:35
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
AAG	142	Sharjah	08:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
SYR	341	Damascus	11:25	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	NIA	0162	Cairo	23:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	795	Madinah	23:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
KNE	529	Jeddah	13:40	QTR	083	Doha	23:20
QTR	8511	Doha	13:45	PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
				KAC	411	Bangkok	23:35



CROSSWORD 1635



ACROSS

1. A lyric poet.
5. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
11. A piece of information about circumstances that exist or events that have occurred.
15. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
16. Grammatical number category referring to two or more items or units.
17. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
18. The state of being decayed or destroyed.
19. An island in the Aegean Sea in the Saronic Gulf.
20. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
21. A rechargeable battery with a nickel cathode and a cadmium anode.
23. (prefix) Coming after.
25. (informal) Being satisfactory or in satisfactory condition.
26. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
28. An industrial city in the Donets Basin.
31. The ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle.
33. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
34. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
35. Small genus of Australian shrubs or trees.
38. (informal) Of the highest quality.
40. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
42. Either extremity of something that has length.
43. Antibacterial drug (trade name Nydravid) used to treat tuberculosis.
44. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc) to enter or escape.
46. A name for the Old Testament God as transliterated from the Hebrew YHWH.
48. An area of ground used for some particular purpose (such as building or farming).
52. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
53. A very prickly woody vine of the eastern United States growing in tangled masses having tough round stems with shiny leathery leaves and small greenish flowers followed by clusters of inedible shiny black berries.
54. Relating to or like or divided into areolae.
56. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
57. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
59. In such a manner as could not be otherwise.
60. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
63. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
67. The capital city of Vietnam.
69. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
72. Large high frilly cap with a full crown.
74. Loose temporary stitches.
76. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
77. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
78. Chop cut from a hog.
81. An open box attached to a long pole handle.
82. A major school of Buddhism teaching personal salvation through one's own efforts.
83. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.

DOWN

1. An outlying farm building for storing grain or animal feed and housing farm animals.
2. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
3. The German state.
4. Fairly small terrestrial ferns of tropical America.
5. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
6. A city in northwestern Syria.
7. A native or inhabitant of Yugoslavia.
8. Bristlelike process near the tip of the antenna of certain flies.
9. A blanket that is used as a cloak or shawl.
10. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
11. A family of languages of the Fula people of west Africa in the sub-Saharan regions from Senegal to Chad.
12. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
13. (Greek mythology) The Muse of history.
14. A metallic tapping sound.
22. An informal term for a father.
24. Warm-blooded egg-laying vertebrates characterized by feathers and forelimbs modified as wings.
27. A Thracian-Phrygian language spoken by the ancient inhabitants of Phrygia and now extinct—preserved only in a few inscriptions.
29. Tall fan palm of Africa and India and Malaysia yielding a hard wood and sweet sap that is a source of palm wine and sugar.
30. Of or relating to near the ear.
32. A mass of ice and snow that permanently covers a large area of land (e.g., the polar regions or a mountain peak).
36. The cardinal number that is the sum of eight and one.
37. Large scissors with strong blades.
39. The 3rd planet from the sun.
41. Long-legged spotted cat of Africa and southwestern Asia having nonretractile claws.
45. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
47. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
49. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
50. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
51. A Russian river.
55. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
58. Obsolete terms for legal insanity.
61. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
62. A metal spike with a hole for a rope.
64. A cord fastened around the neck with an ornamental clasp and worn as a necktie.
65. In bed.
66. The 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
68. A law passed by US Congress to prevent employees from being injured or contracting diseases in the course of their employment.
70. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
71. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
73. Hawaiian dish of taro root pounded to a paste and often allowed to ferment.
75. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
79. A radioactive gaseous element formed by the disintegration of radium.
80. A substance produced by the hypothalamus that is capable of accelerating the secretion of a given hormone by the anterior pituitary gland.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Most likely, your life is fairly full—there is not usually much time for viewing the sunset. However, time seems to have caught up with you—you seem to be in the mood for dreaming and viewing the sunset. Writing poetry now may be a rewarding experience. Others may pull you out of your reverie soon, so enjoy your dreaming and then get back to current business. Friends and responsibilities may not appreciate or agree with your dreamy side just now. There is a yearning to broaden your horizons—perhaps plans for travel. You will find the evening a great time to reflect and understand your own situation, just how you feel about yourself and how your goals are developing. Good things come to you all day long.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Expressing yourself with your relations and with others may not be always smooth; patience, you will be happier with the eventual outcome. You could be preoccupied so much with your professional life you forget to say no to some of the overtime requests. You will want to share some fun time with those family members among whom you enjoy sharing an income. Your friends, partners and relationships mean a lot to you. They are a primary source of strength and you always look to them for support and encouragement. You will be making plans to become more involved with neighbors or family members. You have read an amusing story recently and may find yourself relating it to others this evening. Laughter is contagious and good for all.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may be designing or creating all sorts of ideas to use in teaching, guiding or helping others to quickly learn some new technique this day. Much thought will go into some teaching process. You enjoy mental discipline and may work long and hard at whatever you put your mind to do at this time. You could present or teach anything where substance and content are at issue. Perhaps there are lectures lined up for now; at least some issues to which you have given much research and thought will be of interest to others. Some may find you especially witty and eccentric. You may be able to convey your insights with positive results. You can enjoy and value your own life situation. There is an opportunity to heal a disappointment.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today is not the best time for financial decisions. It is a good time, however, to increase your skills so that you can increase your finances. You can do anything you want to do in this life, if you can manage to get moving in one direction. Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth become important issues now. A fear of asserting yourself can hold you back—as can coming on too strong. The trick is in knowing how to make the most of your personal abilities, working within your limitations instead of feeling hemmed in by them. Round-table conversations bring out your own particular ideas. You are very gifted, having great magnetism and warmth and also a keen and powerful mind. A sense of support makes this a happy time.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There is an emphasis on communication, expression of ideas and the connections between people. What goes on in your mind is the all-important motivation in your life. Not always hot on the follow-up, you may tend to get the ball rolling and then move on to other things. It might be a good idea to work with a team that can follow up what you begin. You can find strength in your ability to gather support and delegate responsibility. Your adaptability prevents you from being the object of some misconceived criticism. It may be hard to keep up with you today. Tonight you may decide to socialize a little, perhaps through dancing, or some other types of entertainment. In the next few days, you will attract many people to you; these are happy times.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Someone in authority may oppose your ideas. His or her agenda just may be a bit behind your thinking. Patience on your part and a typed report on how your changes might be helpful will show you to be the wise one. You may be unable to appreciate his or her attitude or understand his or her problems. It is not that you do not care—mostly, you are progressive and may feel slowed if you have to back up and straighten out a problem he or she should be able to handle. You have a definite sense of mission today. You enjoy putting into practice that which is good for all, and you may find yourself working with different cultures. This is where you enjoy working or helping the most. You may want to travel, inform and teach.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You could be the focus of attention from your superiors, elders or in relation to your work. You may find that you enjoy your responsibilities more than usual. You are at home in the world of concepts and ideas and are able to grasp the gist or whole picture when given just a few facts. If you are not working in a place of business today you could find yourself taking on a new technique or studying new ideas to use in your projects. Perhaps you are attending a lecture. Your innate sensitivity to others molds you for any of the service occupations where you can diagnose or interpret what others are unable to express. You have a fine mind and may suffer from oversensitivity; patience can be a great aid to progress at this time.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a great time to be with others and to work together. Everything points to your taking the initiative. You could feel great support from those around you. Reflective and tactful, you are able to please others. Above all, you are forever charming and gracious, fascinating and mysterious. You could be in charge of coordinating groups or representing groups. You have a knack for putting the feelings of a group into words and may serve as a teacher or spokesperson. Communication is one area where you can find support and backing from friends and co-workers. Subjects about the past may interest you. Social events would be better another time unless they have already been in the plans for today. Watch your finances this week—there is a leak.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This is an excellent day to be with others and to work together. You may be sought after as just the person for a particular job. You exhibit your patient attitude now and you are able to respond and to build upon what is already happening. Change, however, may be in the air. Your own partiality for routine and the traditional may result in your feeling challenged by anything new or different. You could find yourself struggling against change and progress, clinging on to the status quo. Although a conformist, you may surround yourself with partners and friends who are themselves unconventional and offbeat. You are willing to listen to others, take cues and then reflect and build upon that information. You will enjoy the company of friends this afternoon.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your conservative values clash with whatever is unconventional and different. You do not value novelty and do your best to ignore changes. You appreciate tradition and regularity and your value system is dead set against anything new or out of the ordinary. This may be temporary for now. Your path or career may be in a change that involves some outside company. At the most you could experience a shift in physical placement. Some negotiations may be in order. This can be a good time to take stock of where you want to go professionally. A good conversation with those you love is possible this evening. Setting professional as well as personal goals is a good thing. A loved one may have some good ideas for you at this time.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You may be required to put in some overtime work this day or you may find that some personal business needs tending to now. Whatever the case, this is a time during which circumstances bend to your will and things have a way of working out smoothly. Here are real opportunities to complete and work out difficulties and projects that require both long-term effort and a high degree of discipline. Continued success on the career level may point to changing your ideas about how you want to earn your living. A little shopping may be in order this afternoon. This could just be for checking out prices. Spend some time out-of-doors by running, cycling or just being with friends, perhaps some yard work. This will help to balance your energies.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Good news may be pouring in all at once today. Life's problems seem to have easy solutions. You also may benefit from an older person or one in authority. Life just seems to assume a dreamlike stance. People from your own environment—friends and surroundings—give you lots of encouragement for whatever you need to accomplish. You appreciate and discover the beauty in your own life and in those around you. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much just now—enjoy. This is a time of good fortune when things open up in a very natural way for you. Situations seem to create the path for you to take. Opportunities prevail and you may find yourself wanting and able to do almost everything.

WORD SEARCH

Family Ties

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a special occasion for families.



- |             |              |           |            |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| ANCESTOR    | FATHER       | MOTHER    | SISTERS    |
| AUNT        | FOLKS        | NEICE     | SON        |
| BOND        | GENEALOGY    | NEPHEW    | SPOUSE     |
| BROTHERS    | GRANDPARENT  | NEWLYWED  | STEPPARENT |
| CHILDREN    | HALF BROTHER | OFFSPRING | TRIPLETS   |
| CLAN        | HALF SISTER  | PARENTS   | TWINS      |
| COUSINS     | HUSBAND      | PROGENY   | UNCLE      |
| DAD         | KIN          | RELATIONS | WIFE       |
| DAUGHTER    | MARRIAGE     | RELATIVES |            |
| DESCENDANTS | MOM          | SIBLING   |            |

Yesterday's Solution

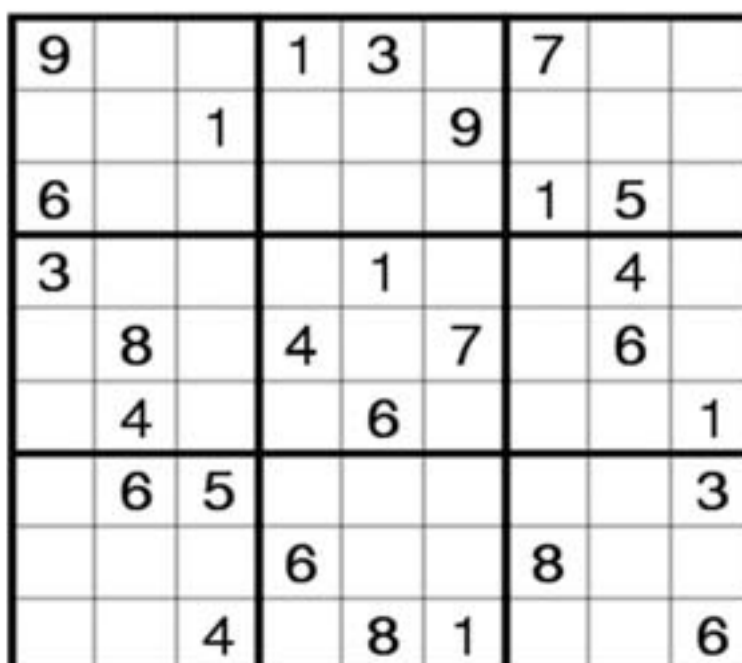
Elvis



- |                |                  |                  |                  |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| AARON          | GOOD LUCK CHARM  | LITTLE SISTER    | STUCK ON YOU     |
| ALL SHOOK UP   | GOSSIP           | LOVE ME TENDER   | SUN RECORDS      |
| BLUE HAWAII    | GRACELAND        | MEMPHIS          | SURRENDER        |
| BURNING LOVE   | GRYATING         | ONE NIGHT        | SUSPICIOUS MINDS |
| CLAMBAKE       | HEARTBREAK HOTEL | PRISCILLA        | THE KING         |
| COLONEL PARKER | HOUND DOG        | RA               | TOO MUCH         |
| DON'T BE CRAZY | IN THE GHETTO    | RETURN TO SENDER | TUPELO           |
| DRAFTED        | JAILHOUSE ROCK   | ROCKABILLY       | U.S. ARMY        |
| G.I. BLUES     | KENTUCKY BAIN    | ROUSTABOUT       | VEANON           |
| GIRL HAPPY     | KING CREOLE      | SHE'S NOT YOU    | VIVA LAS VEGAS   |
| GLADYS         | LISA MARIE       |                  |                  |

The hidden sentence is: YOU CAN DO ANYTHING BUT LAY OFF OF MY BLUE SUEDE SHOES

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

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

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



### PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

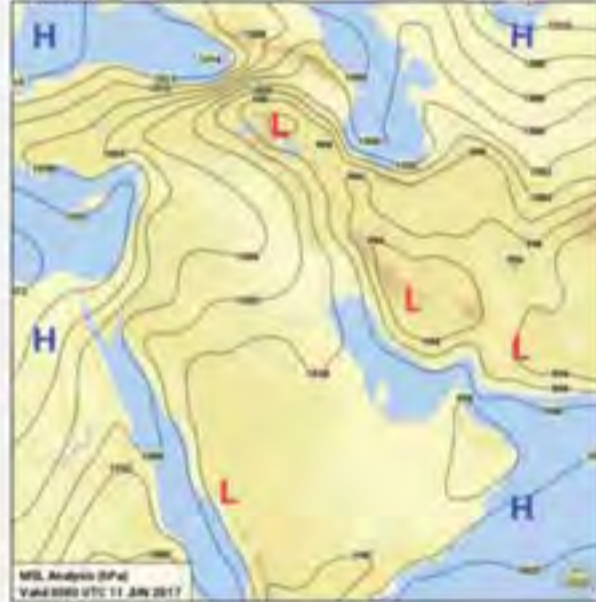
#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 11/06/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 49 °C

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h.  
By Night : Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h.

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	Very hot + with a chance for blowing dust.	Very hot	Very hot	Very hot
Min Temp °C	30	31	30	29
Max Temp °C	49	49	48	47
Wind Direction	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly to variable
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	08 - 26	08 - 35	08 - 26

All times are local time (GMT + 3) unless otherwise stated

#### Warnings & Weather Watches

No warnings or weather watches.

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	37		46	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28		49	
ABDALY	30		50	
BUBYAN	29		48	
JAHRA	32		49	
FAILAKA ISLAND	29		45	
SALMIYAH	39		41	
AHMADI	38		43	
JAL ALTIYAH	31		49	
QAROH ISLAND	30		39	
UMH AL-MARADEH	31		39	
NUWAISIB	30		44	
WAFRA	29		48	
SALMIY	30		47	
MUTRIBA	29		50	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	49
Min Temp (°C)	29
Max Rel Hum (%)	22
Min Rel Hum (%)	06
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	57 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Sunrise 04:48

Sunset 18:47

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:13
Sunrise	04:48
Zuhr	11:47
Aer	15:21
Sunset	18:47
Isha	20:19

## PRIVATE CLINICS



Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
<b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b>	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
<b>General Practitioners</b>	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
<b>Urologists</b>	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
<b>Dermatology</b>	
Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955
<b>Dentists</b>	
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
<b>Neurologists</b>	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
<b>Gastrologists</b>	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:	Internist, Chest & Heart	Consultant Cardiologist
Dr. Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581	Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330	Dr. Mohammed Zubaid
<b>Psychiatrists</b>		Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888	MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC
<b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b>		<b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b>		Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924	Assistant Professor Of Medicine
Dr. Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581	Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321	<b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b>		Head, Division of Cardiology
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539	Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539	Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406	Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406	<b>Rheumatologists:</b>		25339667
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272	Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272	Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288	
Dr. Salem soso	22618787	Dr. Salem soso	22618787	<b>Rheumatologists:</b>		
<b>General Surgeons</b>		<b>General Surgeons</b>		Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044	Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044	<b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b>		
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148	Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148	DR. Mohammed Akkad	24555050 Ext 210	
<b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b>		<b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b>		<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>		
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939	Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939	Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555	
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300	Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300	<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>		
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004	Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004	Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555	
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515	Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515	<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>		
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726					



A W A R D S



The cast and crew of "Dear Evan Hansen" pose in the press room with the award for best musical at the 71st annual Tony Awards on Sunday in New York. — AP/AFP photos



Wendy Orshan and the cast and crew of "Dear Evan Hansen" accept the award for best musical at the 71st annual Tony Awards.

# Intimate, wrenching 'Evan Hansen' takes top honors at Tonys



Ben Platt accepts the award for best performance by an actor in a leading role in a musical for "Dear Evan Hansen".

An intimate, heart-wrenching musical about loneliness, teen angst and suicide in the age of hyper connectivity capped its unlikely journey to Broadway smash by winning top honors at the Tonys. "Dear Evan Hansen," starring 23-year-old Ben Platt in a breakout - and knockout - performance, took six awards Sunday evening at Radio City Music Hall, including best musical and best actor for Platt. It also won best score for its young composers, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, already Oscar winners for the movie "La La Land."

Platt, in his acceptance speech, addressed young people who might be suffering some of the social anxiety faced by his character, high school senior Evan Hansen. "To all young people watching at home, don't waste any time trying to be like anybody else," he said, "because the things that make you strange are the things that make you powerful." Another memorable speech came from the night's other big musical star, Bette Midler, winning best actress (her first competitive Tony) for her lauded turn in "Hello, Dolly!" Midler took the stage in a sequin gown, and made it clear she wouldn't leave the podium until she was good and ready. When the orchestra tried to play her off, she didn't just speak over it - she shot back merrily: "Shut that crap off!"

Her speech provided host Kevin Spacey - who sang, did a little soft-shoe, trotted out his impressions, and was generally game for anything - with his best line of the night. Appearing as his "House of Cards" character Frank Underwood, he wisecracked that he'd better leave, "before Bette Midler thanks anyone else." In the highly competitive drama category, "Oslo," a three-hour play about the 1993 Middle East peace accords by J. T. Rogers, beat out a field that included "A Doll's House, Part 2" by Lucas Hnath, the Pulitzer-winning "Sweat," by Lynn Nottage, and "Indecent" by Paula Vogel. (In a new touch, all four playwrights personally introduced their work.)

**Stranded airline passengers**

Unlike last year, when "Hamilton" dominated the show and won 11 Tonys, the wealth was spread out this time. "Hello, Dolly!" won four, including best musical revival and best featured actor for Broadway veteran Gavin Creel. And best director of a musical went to Christopher Ashley of "Come From Away," the crowd-pleasing show about the people of Gander, Newfoundland, who sheltered thousands of stranded airline passengers on Sept 11. The boisterous "Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812," which had 12 nominations, ended up

winning just two technical awards, for best set and lighting. It was clearly Evan Hansen's night.

The show's writer, Steven Levenson, won for best book of a musical, and Alex Lacamoire earned one for best orchestrations (after winning last year for "Hamilton.") And Rachel Bay Jones won her first Tony - featured actress - for her heartbreaking portrayal of a mother who struggles to understand and help her son, Evan, as he gets caught in a terrible lie that he cannot control. Jones spoke of her many lean years in the business, and thanked her "Nana" for selling her engagement ring so she could come to New York and pursue her dreams. In drama, top acting honors went to Kevin Kline for "Present Laughter" - his third Tony - and to Laurie Metcalf - her first - for "A Doll's House, Part 2." Best director went to Rebecca Taichman for "Indecent."

Kline made a point of thanking the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities, two organizations whose federal funding is threatened under President Donald Trump's administration. Cynthia Nixon won her second Tony, featured actress in a play, for Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes." Nixon was one of the most politically outspoken winners, giving a shout-out to people who refuse to just stand by and watch when bad things happen in the world. Another big name, Danny DeVito, favored for his entertaining work in Arthur Miller's "The Price," lost out to Michael Aronov, for "Oslo."

**Self-deprecating humor**

Other winners included August Wilson's "Jitney," which collected the Tony for best play revival. And in choreography, Andy Blankenbuehler joined his "Hamilton" colleague Lacamoire with a repeat win this year, this time for "Bandstand." Spacey peppered his routines - aided by Whoopi Goldberg and Stephen Colbert, to name a few guests - with a healthy dose of self-deprecating humor, making a storyline out of the fact that he wasn't the first choice for hosting duties. He also played with speculation about his sexual orientation as he sang the Andrew Lloyd Webber song "As If We Never Said Goodbye" from "Sunset Boulevard." Dressed as Glenn Close, who stars in that revival, Spacey sang, "I'm coming out..." and then added, "Of makeup..." Some of his most successful bits, judging by audience reaction, were his much-lauded impressions. How about: His impression of Bill Clinton even caught the fancy of a former vice president in the audience - Joe Biden.



Alex Lacamoire accepts the award for best orchestrations for "Dear Evan Hansen".



Rachel Bay Jones poses in the press room with the award for best performance by an actress in a featured role in a musical for "Dear Evan Hansen".



Michael Aronov accepts the award for best performance by an actor in a featured role in a play for "Oslo".



The cast and crew of "August Wilson's Jitney" pose in the press room with the award for best revival of a play.



Justin Paul, left, and Benj Pasek accept the award for best original score (music and lyrics) written for the theatre for "Dear Evan Hansen".



Kevin Spacey and the cast of "Dear Evan Hansen" perform at the 71st annual Tony Awards.



JT Rogers, foreground, and the cast and crew of "Oslo" accept the award for best play.



A W A R D S

"For a minute, I thought that was really Clinton," Biden said, at the after-party for the award show at the Plaza Hotel. In an interview, he said he had enjoyed both Spacey and the ceremony, even though he hadn't had time to see this year's nominated shows yet. Biden - whose wife, Jill, introduced the military veteran-themed "Bandstand" at the ceremony and got a standing ovation - was clearly a major draw at the party, causing a bottleneck of admiring partygoers begging for selfies with him. He stopped to chat with Keegan-Michael Key and also Josh Groban, the singer who stars in "Natasha, Pierre."

Groban reminded the former vice president that Biden had once told him he has him on his iPod playlist, and he'd never forgotten that. "I still have you on there," Biden said, and quipped, "I probably ruined your reputation." At the party, nominees, celebrities and other guests wandered through the hotel's food stalls, munching on everything from filet mignon to avocado gazpacho to lobster rolls to chocolate macaroons. Groban, who lost out to Platt, said he'd been "pinching myself all night" at being a nominee, and being "part of this Broadway season that has been so vibrant and brilliant. And then to be representing my show and performing tonight - I just had the best time." — AP



Bette Midler accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role in a musical for "Hello, Dolly!"



Scott Rudin, center, and the cast of "Hello, Dolly!" accept the award for best revival of a musical.



Rebecca Taichman, winner of the award for Best Direction of a Play for "Indecent" poses in the press room.

WINNERS

- Best Musical:** "Dear Evan Hansen."
- Best Play:** "Oslo."
- Best Original Score (Music and/or Lyrics):** "Dear Evan Hansen."
- Best Revival of a Play:** "August Wilson's Jitney."
- Best Revival of a Musical:** "Hello, Dolly!"
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Play:** Kevin Kline, "Present Laughter."
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Play:** Laurie Metcalf, "A Doll's House, Part 2."
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play:** Michael Aronov, "Oslo."
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play:** Cynthia Nixon, "Lillian Hellman's The Little Foxes."
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical:** Ben Platt, "Dear Evan Hansen."
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical:** Bette Midler, "Hello, Dolly!"
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Musical:** Gavin Creel, "Hello, Dolly!"
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical:** Rachel Bay Jones, "Dear Evan Hansen."

— AP



Cynthia Nixon accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a featured role in a play for "Lillian Hellman's The Little Foxes".



Kevin Kline accepts the award for best performance by an actor in a leading role in a play for "Present Laughter".



Laurie Metcalf accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role in a play for "A Doll's House, Part 2".



Kevin Spacey performs at the 71st annual Tony Awards.



Cynthia Erivo, left, and Leslie Odum, Jr. perform "New York, New York" with the Rockettes.



James Earl Jones, right, walks on stage to accept the special Tony award for Lifetime Achievement.



Andy Karl and the cast of "Groundhog Day The Musical" perform at the 71st annual Tony Awards.



Gavin Creel, right, accepts the award for best performance by an actor in a featured role in a musical for "Hello, Dolly!"



Ben Platt poses in the press room with the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role in a musical for "Hello, Dolly!"

5 takeaways from the Tonys, including leave Bette alone

**D**on't mess with Bette: It takes real bravado to even attempt to shoo off Bette Midler when she's winning her first competitive Tony. Producers tried on Sunday - and failed miserably. The Divine Miss M, who won best actress for "Hello, Dolly!" was not going to be denied and signaled she was in a feisty mood early: "I'd like to thank all the Tony voters - many of whom I've actually dated," she joked. When the orchestra tried to goose her along with swelling instruments, Midler was not having it. "Shut that crap off!" she said. The orchestra went wisely silent.

**Two presidents:** Host Kevin Spacey managed to portray two US leaders in one telecast - former president Bill Clinton and Frank Underwood, the fictional president he plays on Netflix's political thriller "House of Cards." His Clinton joked about food and his wife's email problems, while his fictional one - accompanied by fictional wife Claire Underwood (Robin Wright) - admitted he wanted to leave before Midler started to thank anyone else.

**No technical snafus:** There were none of the technical or human accidents during the telecast - at least any non-Midler-related - that have marred previous awards shows, including the wrong winner announced at this year's Oscars and sound issues at the Grammys. Spacey talked about the show's accountants and said: "You guys do not have to worry about them tonight, at all!"

**The peril of leading:** After the Tony nominations in May, the smart money must have been on "Natasha,



Kevin Spacey, from left, Michael Kelly and Robin Wright appear as their characters from "House of Cards" as they present Lin-Manuel Miranda with the envelope for best musical.

Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812," which had snapped up a leading 12 nods and looked strong in every category. But a month later, that show was singing the blues. The musical, lifted from Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace," won just two technical awards on Sunday.



Josh Groban and the cast of "Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812" perform at the 71st annual Tony Awards.

**Where's the diversity?:** A year after everyone on Broadway was proud to point to the diversity of the winners, a long list of white men and women walked up to collect their trophies. No person of color won an acting award, though some of the acting categories featured a diverse list

of nominees. Some non-white nominees, like set designer Mimi Lien and orchestrator Alex Lacamoire, won trophies, and the cast of "Jitney" - mostly African-American - helped it win the revival Tony. But might we start seeing #TonysSoWhite? — AP





Models present creations by British designer Vivienne Westwood during her catwalk show at London Fashion Week Men's June 2017 in London yesterday. — AFP

# LONDON FASHION WEEK MEN'S JUNE 2017



British designer Vivienne Westwood acknowledges the applause following a presentation of her latest designs at London Fashion Week Men's June 2017 in London.



Models present creations at the MAN catwalk show during London Fashion Week Men's June 2017 in London.



FEATURES



This Jan 26, 1965 file photo shows Mildred Loving and her husband Richard P. Loving. — AP photos



Phil Hirschkop, one of the two attorneys who defended the Loving case, speaks to the Associated Press at his home in Lorton, Va.



The graves of Richard and Mildred Loving are seen in a rural cemetery near their former home in Caroline County, Virginia.

# 50 years after Loving: Interracial couples still face strife

Fifty years after Mildred and Richard Loving's landmark legal challenge shattered the laws against interracial marriage in the US, some couples of different races still talk of facing discrimination, disapproval and sometimes outright hostility from their fellow Americans. Although the racist laws against mixed marriages are gone, several interracial couples said in interviews they still get nasty looks, insults and sometimes even violence when people find out about their relationships.

"I have not yet counseled an interracial wedding where someone didn't have a problem on the bride's or the groom's side," said the Rev Kimberly D. Lucas of St Margaret's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC. She often counsels engaged interracial couples through the prism of her own 20-year marriage - Lucas is black and her husband, Mark Retherford, is white. "I think for a lot of people it's OK if it's 'out there' and it's other people but when it comes home and it's something that forces them to confront their own internal demons and their own prejudices and assumptions, it's still really hard for people," she said.

### Rural community

Interracial marriages became legal nationwide on June 12, 1967, after the Supreme Court threw out a Virginia law that sent police into the Lovings' bedroom to arrest them just for being who they were: a married black woman and white man. The Lovings were locked up and given a year in a Virginia prison, with the sentence suspended on the condition that they leave Virginia. Their sentence is memorialized on a marker to go up on Monday in Richmond, Virginia, in their honor.

The Supreme Court's unanimous decision struck down the Virginia law and similar statutes in roughly one-third of the states. Some of those laws went beyond black and white, prohibiting marriages between whites and Native Americans, Filipinos, Indians, Asians and in some states "all non-whites." The Lovings, a working-class couple from a deeply rural community, weren't trying to change the world and were media-shy, said one of their lawyers, Philip Hirschkop, now 81 and living in Lorton, Virginia. They simply wanted to be married and raise their children in Virginia.

But when police raided their Central Point home in 1958 and found a pregnant Mildred in bed with her husband and a District of Columbia marriage certificate on the wall, they arrested them, leading the Lovings to plead guilty to cohabitating as man and wife in Virginia. "Neither of them wanted to be involved in the lawsuit, or litigation or taking on a cause. They wanted to raise their children near their family where they were raised themselves," Hirschkop said. But they knew what was at stake in their case. "It's the principle. It's the law. I don't think it's right," Mildred Loving said in archival video footage shown in an HBO documentary. "And if, if we do win, we will be helping a lot of people." Richard Loving died in 1975, Mildred Loving in 2008.

### Hostility from strangers

Since the Loving decision, Americans have increasingly dated and married across racial and ethnic lines. Currently, 11 million people - or 1 out of 10 married people - in the United States have a spouse of a different race or ethnicity, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of US Census

Bureau data. In 2015, 17 percent of newlyweds - or at least 1 in 6 of newly married people - were intermarried, which means they had a spouse of a different race or ethnicity. When the Supreme Court decided the Lovings' case, only 3 percent of newlyweds were intermarried. But interracial couples can still face hostility from strangers and sometimes violence. In the 1980s, Michele Farrell, who is white, was dating an African American man and they decided to look around Port Huron, Michigan, for an apartment together. "I had the woman who was showing the apartment tell us, 'I don't rent to coloreds. I definitely don't rent to mixed couples,'" Farrell said.

In March, a white man fatally stabbed a 66-year-old black man in New York City, telling the Daily News that he'd intended it as "a practice run" in a mission to deter interracial relationships. In August 2016 in Olympia, Washington, Daniel Rowe, who is white, walked up to an interracial couple without speaking, stabbed the 47-year-old black man in the abdomen and knifed his 35-year-old white girlfriend. Rowe's victims survived and he was arrested. And even after the Loving decision, some states tried their best to keep interracial couples from marrying.

### Marriage license

In 1974, Joseph and Martha Rossignol got married at night in Natchez, Mississippi, on a Mississippi River bluff after local officials tried to stop them. But they found a willing priest and went ahead anyway. "We were rejected everywhere we went, because no one wanted to sell us a marriage license," said Martha Rossignol, who has written a book about her experiences then and since as part of a

biracial couple. She's black, he's white. "We just ran into a lot of racism, a lot of issues, a lot of problems. You'd go into a restaurant, people wouldn't want to serve you. When you're walking down the street together, it was like you've got a contagious disease."

But their love survived, Rossignol said, and they returned to Natchez to renew their vows 40 years later. Interracial couples can now be seen in books, television show, movies and commercials. Former President Barack Obama is the product of a mixed marriage, with a white American mother and an African father. Public acceptance is growing, said Kara and William Bundy, who have been married since 1994 and live in Bethesda, Maryland. "To America's credit, from the time that we first got married to now, I've seen much less head turns when we walk by, even in rural settings," said William, who is black. "We do go out for hikes every once in a while, and we don't see that as much any longer. It really is dependent on where you are in the country and also the locale."

Even in the South, interracial couples are common enough that oftentimes no one notices them, even in a state like Virginia, Hirschkop said. "I was sitting in a restaurant and there was a mixed couple sitting at the next table and they were kissing and they were holding hands," he said. "They'd have gotten hung for something like 50 years ago and no one cared - just two people could pursue their lives. That's the best part of it, those quiet moments." — AP

## Vietnam Kite Festival



A food vender walks under flying kites on Tam Thanh beach during an International Kite Festival in Quang Nam province, Vietnam.



Colorful kites are flown on Tam Thanh beach during an International Kite Festival.



A woman carrying lifebuoy rubber tires walks past flying kites on Tam Thanh beach.



A flyer controls his kite as other colorful kites are flown in the sky on Tam Thanh beach.



Colorful kites are flown in the sky on Tam Thanh beach.



Colorful kites are flown in the sky on Tam Thanh beach.



A flyer controls his kite as other colorful kites are flown in the sky on Tam Thanh beach.





Kuwaitis shop at a market during the Holy Month of Ramadan in downtown Kuwait City yesterday. For Muslims across the world, the beginning of the ninth month in the Muslim lunar calendar which marks the start of Ramadan is a time for spiritual reflection, prayers and fasting. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Ali Kassem carries his surfboard out of the water on a beach in the town of Jiyeh.



Ali Kassem, holding his surfboard on a beach in the town of Jiyeh.

## 'Surf Syria': A refugee in Lebanon finds a dream at sea

**A**li Kassem had never seen the sea before he fled his home in Syria for Lebanon, but now he's a regular in the waves and dreams of his own surf school. Dressed in a purple wet suit, the 17-year-old confidently coats his board with wax and smears sunscreen on his face before dashing into the sea. He disappears behind one wave and another until his small figure is barely visible from the beach at all, as though he were headed for the horizon. "When I'm on my board, I feel free. I feel like I'm in another life," the teenager says shyly at a beach in Jiyeh, 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of Beirut.

Kassem is from Aleppo city, though he says he remembers little from his childhood in Syria. His father has worked in Jiyeh for the past 25 years, and after Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011, he decided to bring his family to Lebanon as well. Kassem has two brothers and three sisters, but speaks little about his family and his life before he became a refugee. A third brother died in the conflict, "killed in Aleppo at the beginning of the war," he says, without giving more details. His life now is dominated by surfing. "Surfing is like an art. It allows me to express my personality," he says, his eyes sparkling in his tanned face. "I become someone else. I have more confidence in myself!"

### A makeshift board

Kassem's entry into surfing came through Ali el-Amine, who became his mentor after meeting him in 2015. At the sandy Jiyeh beach, a popular spot for surfers, Amine spotted Kassem trying his luck in the waves with a makeshift board. "He was trying to surf with a piece of polystyrene he had cut into a plank shape," says the 34-year-old, who runs a surf

school in Jiyeh. "He was very thin and wearing nothing but shorts. I was afraid he would drown," he says.

But after watching for a few minutes, Amine's fears began to recede. "He knew exactly what he was doing," he says. Kassem had spent long hours observing surfers in the water at Jiyeh before deciding to try himself. "I didn't know this sport existed. The first time I saw the surfers, I wanted to try it," he says with a smile. Amine decided to take Kassem under his wing, offering him a spot at his surf school and giving him a wet suit and board "on the condition he was good in class and behaved with his parents". And two years later, the guidance has borne fruit, says Amine, who considers Kassem like "a son". "He's better than some people who have been surfing for years," he says.

### 'Surf Syria'

Kassem has stuck with the sport, convinced it can help him "build a better life". During the summer, he works at Amine's school, repairing boards, welcoming customers and helping during lessons. The job provides income that helps his family, along with his father's wages and support from the UN refugee agency. "My family really support me in surfing. They have no problem with it," he says. "Right now I'm teaching my younger brother how to surf, and I'm going to teach my younger sister as well." But, while Kassem says he has become used to life in Lebanon, he still dreams of returning home. His ultimate goal is "to become the first professional surfer in Syria and open a surf school in Latakia when the war is over".

Latakia is a popular seaside destination, and a government stronghold that has been largely



A picture shows 17-year-old Syrian refugee Ali Kassem surfing off the shore of the town of Jiyeh, south of the Lebanese capital Beirut. — AFP

A picture shows 17-year-old Syrian refugee Ali Kassem surfing off the shore of the town of Jiyeh, south of the Lebanese capital Beirut. — AFP



Ali Kassem waxes his surfboard before going surfing on a beach in the town of Jiyeh.



Ali Kassem surfing off the shore of the town of Jiyeh.



Ali Kassem carries his surfboard on a beach in the town of Jiyeh.—AFP photos